

## OPINION 19

# Let the Bradfield spirit roll on all year

**Paul Nicolaou**



**T**he past week might just be the one where Sydney was given the indelible stamp of being a big-thinking, high-achieving global city.

A week of announcements showed our entrepreneurs, businesses and government are in lock-step to set our wonderful city on the path to success.

A potentially unstoppable momentum that included opening the tender for the Entertainment Quarter redevelopment, lifting the events cap at Royal Randwick and green-lighting Justin Hemmes's ambitious CBD hospitality complex.

And it's significant that much of this dynamic activity came via The Daily Telegraph's Bradfield Oration, the driving force in our city behind the big initiatives that matter. Premier Chris Minns's announcement that the tender process is now open for the Entertainment Quarter was a fantastic step forward.

We have the opportunity to make it part of a bigger vision for the Moore Park precinct connecting with nearby sporting and entertainment venues and the expanded events program at Royal Randwick.

Sydney's vibrancy received another huge boost with the approval of Justin Hemmes's \$56m Merivale development in the CBD transforming heritage buildings along York, Clarence and King streets into a world-class hospitality precinct for up to 10,000 patrons.

This is the confidence building investment Sydney needs right now, one that generates jobs, reactivates the CBD and inspires others to invest in our city.

Sydney thrives on the vision and courage of entrepreneurs, innovators and risk-takers such as Justin Hemmes, Luke Mangan, Anna Polyviou, Christopher Lucas, Con Dedes, Paul Signorelli, Neil Perry and so many others.

Their drive and creativity are the heartbeat of Sydney's arts, hospitality and tourism sectors.

But we cannot take that spirit for granted.

More needs to be done to encourage those willing to pursue big ideas, take risks and invest capital.

If we want Sydney to keep evolving, entertaining and inspiring, let's back those who make it happen – the risk takers, the inspired dreamers, the doers.

They are the ones who make our city wonderful.

**Paul Nicolaou is executive director Business Sydney**