

# Sydney hits it big on golden trifecta

**Paul Nicolaou**



**I**n just the past week Sydney has won a golden trifecta that highlights the magic of living in our magnificent city.

We've celebrated a fantastic TAB Everest, its first as a Group One race; hosted King Charles and Queen Camilla on the King's first visit as sovereign; and now we're experiencing a huge step forward in unleashing the potential of the Moore Park precinct.

Business Sydney is particularly happy with the decision by Premier Chris Minns to call tenders for redevelopment of the Entertainment Quarter as part of an integrated precinct plan.

Last Saturday's Everest thrilled a capacity crowd at Royal Randwick of around 50,000 and lit up the Sydney economy with \$30m of consumer spending.

And full marks to Destination

NSW chair Sally Loane for saying we should keep climbing Everest to increase crowd capacity. It is certainly doable. Back in the 1930s, race meetings at Randwick routinely attracted crowds of more than 100,000.

But it's unleashing the power of EQ and the Moore Park precinct as a whole that is really going to turbocharge Sydney.

The path is being set for EQ to be revitalised into a world-class sports, television and entertainment precinct.

It has the potential to bring enormous benefits both in terms of economic growth and increased opportunities for cultural and recreational activities. Redevelopment of the precinct would create jobs and stimulate the local economy in the tourism, retail and hospitality sectors.

With top-class facilities for sports, television and other forms

of entertainment, the precinct would attract leading performers and events, providing local residents and the wider community with access to a diverse range of high-quality cultural experiences.

This will contribute to the cultural richness of our city and also align with the government's visitor economy strategy.

And that brings us to the pleasure of having the King and Queen in our city spreading a ripple of traditional joy.

It was like having a respected guest visit who lets you know they've enjoyed their stay and loved everything about your home.

It's feel-good stuff at its best.

**Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney**