‘Building Better Cities – Pyrmont’ is a Geography fieldwork program that supports Stage 6 Geography and focuses on the dynamics of urban renewal and urban consolidation in Pyrmont.

The program begins with an introductory presentation on Pyrmont and how it’s renewal and consolidation is helping to achieve the goals of the Sydney Metropolitan Plan 2036 to slow urban sprawl and make Sydney a more compact city.

Students will investigate the outcomes of the urban dynamics of renewal and consolidation in Pyrmont, which has undergone rapid change as a result of these dynamics. Students will also assess the sustainability and liveability of Pyrmont, using ‘best practice’ planning principles, in order to answer a fieldwork question.

The program has three main components:

1. Introductory activities and resources to introduce the students to the fieldwork.
2. A whole day fieldwork experience in Pyrmont and the CBD.
3. Follow up activities to enhance geographical knowledge and skills.
During the fieldwork day, students will:

- Listen to an introductory presentation to orientate them to the study area and the urban dynamics to be examined;
- Consolidate their understanding of geographical inquiry and fieldwork methodology;
- Use a variety of resource materials, including aerial photographs and maps, to show the changing land uses in Pyrmont over time;
- Assess the liveability and sustainability of Pyrmont at three study sites in order to critically assess the effectiveness of best-practice planning principles;
- Complete a land use mapping activity on a public ferry from Pyrmont Bay to Circular Quay, to recognise and classify land use types and urban dynamics along the foreshore; and
- Identify the characteristics of Sydney that contribute to its status as a world city.

Cost: $9 per student

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For more information about this program and other environmental education programs, visit the Observatory Hill EEC website at: