



## Media Release

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### **BUSHLAND AT CHOWDER BAY TO BE IMPROVED**

Improving native bushland at Chowder Bay has required some extra special skill and steady footwork this week, as workers have had to abseil off steep cliffs to remove noxious weeds.

Executive Director of the Interim Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Mr Geoff Bailey said the bushland around the former Army Maritime School has been neglected for too long and is now heavily infested with weeds.

“We have engaged bush regeneration specialists, Total Earth Care, to help improve this valuable remnant of Sydney Harbour vegetation,” Mr Bailey said.

“This is one of many projects we will undertake to improve the environment and maintain buildings and structures on the site while plans are being drawn up for its long term use.”

The future of the Defence lands at Middle Head-Georges Heights as well as five other lands on Sydney Harbour is the subject of an exhibition, titled *Sites Unseen*, on display at the City Exhibition Space in Customs House from 26 May to 5 August. The other sites are the former School of Artillery on North Head, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Cockatoo and Snapper Islands and Macquarie Lighthouse.

Mr Bailey said he hoped the exhibition would encourage discussion and debate by the wider Sydney community on the lands that the Harbour Trust is developing future plans for.

Regeneration at the former Army Maritime School will occur on the steep slopes of the foreshore, leading down to the water from Chowder Bay Road, and also on the hillside adjacent to where the site connects to Clifton Gardens' beach.

Director of Total Earth Care, Andrew McGahey said his crew had a big task ahead of them.

“Many years of neglect has allowed weeds such as Morning Glory, Lantana, Asparagus Fern, Crofton Weed and Potato Vine to establish at Chowder Bay,” Mr McGahey said.

“We will be using a range of techniques to remove these weeds before mulching and planting species native to the area. We are confident that a large number of native plants will also start to reappear through natural regeneration.

“Generally the bushland in this area is very resilient. The exclusion of Chowder Bay from the public for many years means that the vegetation hasn't been too badly disturbed.”

After the initial weeding and planting is completed, follow-up maintenance and weeding will occur to make sure the bushland and grounds at Chowder Bay remain free from weeds.

Total Earth Care has worked in the area for many years, doing rehabilitation for Department of Defence on Georges Heights, along Middle Head Road and around HMAS Penguin.

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For more information, contact:

Kate Langford, Public Information Officer on ph (02) 8969 2100