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## **Draft Plan for Sydney Harbour Lands Goes on Display**

The revitalisation of maritime activity on Cockatoo Island, a headland park in Mosman, a maritime village at Woolwich Dock and the creation of an ecological sanctuary at North Head are among plans to be unveiled today for seven lands on Sydney Harbour.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has released its Draft Plan for returning Commonwealth Defence lands to the people.

Chairman of the Harbour Trust, Mr Kevin McCann said the final plan for the sites would be submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, for approval next year.

"We aim to bring these lands to life. For each site, the Draft Plan maximises public access, conserves heritage values and protects the environment," Mr McCann said.

"The people of Sydney and all Australians will have greater opportunities of experiencing Sydney Harbour and its foreshores, from new vantage points on its signature headlands to tours and cultural events on two important islands.

"Cockatoo Island has the potential to become a landmark harbour attraction, combining small-scale boat building, repair and storage, the interpretation of the island's dockyard, convict and industrial school heritage and parkland and spaces for cultural events. We also envisage the adaptive re-use of workshops and buildings for offices and studios.

"The Draft Plan proposes a Headland Park for former defence lands at Middle Head-Georges Height and Chowder Bay. The park would link the elements of these sites with the great natural and cultural assets of the Middle Head plateau. Doubling the area of bushland, creating a network of walking tracks, establishing an Aboriginal Cultural Centre are just some of the outcomes planned, along with recreational and community uses of facilities and buildings.

"The distinctive art deco buildings, parade ground and facilities of the former School of Artillery on North Head lend themselves to activities related to environmental education, health, convalesce, conferences, functions and events. The Draft Plan envisages the possibility of the school becoming part of a North Head ecological sanctuary. The ceremonial past, both Aboriginal and military, would be interpreted and celebrated."

Mr McCann said the Harbour Trust's Draft Plan proposed the creation of a maritime village at Woolwich Dock with maritime activities occurring alongside a café, offices and/or function centre. The adjoining parklands would be upgraded, linked by a network of circuit paths and provide magnificent venues for recreation and community events and views of harbour celebrations.

Under the Draft Plan, Macquarie Lightstation and the former Marine Biological Station on South Head will benefit from ongoing conservation and be opened regularly to the public. The lightstation grounds would be landscaped and the former Marine Biological Station restored for possible use as a residence.

The Harbour Trust intends to restore Snapper Island's facilities and continue its maritime activities.

Mr McCann has requested key stakeholders, community groups and the public to examine the Draft Plan and to make their submissions to the Harbour Trust before 20 December 2002.

Submissions will be incorporated into the final plan. Once the final plan has been approved by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Harbour Trust has until 2011 to implement it.

The Draft Plan is available for viewing on the Harbour Trust's website ([www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au)) and at a number of Local Council offices, libraries and State Government agencies. For locations, see the website or phone the Harbour Trust on 8969 2100. A planning presentation is also on display at the offices of the Harbour Trust, Chowder Bay, Mosman.

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