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A Wildlife Sanctuary for North Head: Tim Flannery Speaks

Author and scientist Tim Flannery is the keynote speaker at a forum of experts meeting to discuss the creation of a wildlife sanctuary on Sydney's magnificent North Head.

The forum, on 18-19 July, is being hosted by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Harbour Trust Executive Director, Geoff Bailey, said the forum would look at the experiences of sanctuaries and ecological reserves in Australia and New Zealand, discuss issues of sustainable management of North Head as a sanctuary and, more generally, explore the development of criteria required for establishing future ecological reserves.

'The aim of the forum is to bring together experts in the field, landowners at North Head and interested members of the community to discuss issues associated with a sanctuary that would preserve the unique wildlife, habitats and plant communities of this beautiful headland,' Mr Bailey said.

'While the land on North Head has been affected and changed through past use, the survival of its natural form and the absence of large scale urban development means that significant biological diversity survives.

'North Head is the habitat of the Long-nosed Bandicoot and the Little Penguin, both threatened species. Its flora ranges from open scrub to woodland and open forest. The waters between Spring Cove and the Quarantine Station contain amongst the last remaining significant sea grass beds in Sydney Harbour.

The Harbour Trust is responsible for the management of the former School of Artillery on North Head and has been consulting widely with the community over the past two years on future uses of this and its other special sites on the foreshores of Sydney Harbour.

Other landowners on North Head include the Australian Institute of Police Management, North Fort Museum, Sydney Water, the International School of Hotel Management (the former St Patrick's seminary), Manly Hospital and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, which is responsible for the Sydney Harbour National Park and the historic Quarantine Station.

The forum will be held at the former School of Artillery and will include a tour of North Head. The forum's program of speakers is available from the Harbour Trust or visit <http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/topics/conference.html>

The cost of the forum is \$45 and covers registration, a site tour, two lunches, and morning and afternoon teas.

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