

10 December 2002

Last chance to comment on draft plan for harbour lands

Friday 20 December is the closing date for submissions to the Draft Plan for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust's seven lands.

Executive Director of the Harbour Trust, Geoff Bailey, is encouraging people with an interest in these lands to write to the Harbour Trust over the next few days.

"These lands are community assets and we rely on feedback from the community in our planning," Mr Bailey said.

"We have already received about 40 submissions from individuals, community groups and government agencies plus over 1,000 form letters relating to Mosman Council's proposal for sporting facilities on Trust land.

"The individual submissions generally support the vision we have outlined for the lands, including the creation of a maritime village at Woolwich and a sanctuary for North Head."

Mr Bailey said that issues being raised in the submissions included traffic implications and questions over commercial activity that could occur on the lands.

The Harbour Trust's plan also proposes the creation of a headland park for the former Defence lands at Middle Head-Georges Heights and the revitalisation of Cockatoo Island through maritime activity and a diverse range of other attractions.

Under the Draft Plan, Macquarie Lightstation would continue to operate as a navigational aid with improved education and interpretation activities on the site. The former Marine Biological Station at Watsons Bay would become a residence regularly opened to the public and used in association with marine biology education / leisure activities.

The Draft Plan can be viewed on the Harbour Trust's website (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.

Mr Bailey said submissions could take a variety of forms such as providing the Harbour Trust with additional information on any of the lands, suggestions on improvements for the plan and letters of support or concern about the Draft Plan.

All submissions will be treated as public documents.

Once the exhibition period closes, the Harbour Trust will consider all submissions and finalise the Draft Plan, which will then be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

ENDS

For more information, contact:
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