



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister
for the Environment and Heritage

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
Member for Warringah

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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PLANNED FOR SYDNEY'S NORTH HEAD

The site of the former School of Artillery on North Head in Sydney will soon become home to a new wildlife sanctuary as part of a major land transfer announced today.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Greg Hunt, said the North Head site has been transferred from State to Commonwealth control.

Mr Hunt announced the transfer of the land with New South Wales Environment Minister, Bob Debus, and Federal Member for Warringah, Tony Abbott, at the site today.

Under the agreement, the 72 hectare School of Artillery site will be managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and preserved for public use.

“This will effectively give the go ahead to the Trust to implement a new management plan for the former artillery school site and surrounding areas,” Mr Hunt said.

“The Trust will create a sanctuary on North Head which will focus on the fauna, flora and geology of this iconic location.

“It has commissioned the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to prepare a management plan for the sanctuary.

“This is a once in a century decision to preserve and create a sanctuary on some of Australia’s finest coastal land for future generations. I congratulate Tony Abbott and everyone else involved in the fight to preserve North Head for the public for all time.

“North Head landholders will be consulted as part of efforts to protect and conserve the natural heritage of this unique part of Sydney.”

Mr Abbott said the plan will consider issues such as the re-introduction of native species, public access and the need for fencing to protect local fauna and flora.

“The indigenous and military heritage of the school would be conserved and interpreted under the Trust’s plan,” Mr Abbott said.

“The cultural history of North Head is as important as the natural assets of the headland.

“North Head has been used by both Aboriginal and European peoples as a place of isolation and special purpose. Aboriginal uses included burial, healing and medicine.

“The military presence here dates from the 1930s and underlines the strategic significance of this location.

“The adaptive re-use of the School of Artillery’s buildings and facilities will complement the proposed sanctuary. At the same time, public access to the site will be enhanced.”

Mr Hunt said North Head had the potential to become a world class place of respite and peace, learning and leisure.

“Such potential within easy reach of Manly, the city and other parts of Sydney would enhance the already iconic status of the harbour,” he said.

“The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust will work with National Parks and Wildlife Service and other landholders to achieve an outcome commensurate with North Head’s historic significance.”

Editors: For more information about the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, go to www.harbourtrust.gov.au/

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