



21 November 2003

Harbour Trust wins major planning award

The NSW division of the Planning Institute of Australia this week awarded the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust the President's Award for excellence in planning.

The Presidents Award recognises an outstanding NSW significant project or person that makes an outstanding contribution to planning generally. It is selected from all the PIA award category winners.

The Harbour Trust received the award for the comprehensive plan that will return redundant Defence and other Commonwealth foreshore lands to the people.

Executive Director of the Harbour Trust, Mr Geoff Bailey said his organisation was thrilled to receive this prestigious award.

"The award is confirmation that we have worked effectively with the community to come up with the best outcomes for these lands," Mr Bailey said.

"The overarching goal of the comprehensive plan is to create a world class foreshore park and ensure that key sites are appropriately protected and developed."

The Harbour Trust's comprehensive plan also received an award in the Environmental Planning and Conservation category of the Planning Institute awards.

The comprehensive plan contains statements of significance for each site, identifies cultural and natural heritage as well as contemporary social values. Its preparation took over two years and involved an extensive community consultation program.

Mr Bailey said the level of support received by the community for the final document is evidence of the success of this strategy.

"The plan addresses the challenges of weaving redundant industrial and defence sites back into the community in a way that is relevant for today," Mr Bailey said.

Since being entered into the Planning Institute awards, the comprehensive plan has been approved by the Federal Government and the Harbour Trust has received \$115.5 million funding over eight years for its implementation.

The Planning Institute awards were presented at a breakfast yesterday at the University of Technology in Sydney.

As winner of the Presidents Award, the Harbour Trust's comprehensive plan will enter the National Planning Institute Awards to be announced in Hobart next February.

ENDS

For more information, contact Kate Langford ph 02 8969 2100 or 0418 625 887