



Meeting Notes

Meeting for CAC - South Head Representatives

21st June, 2006

Time: 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Woollahra Municipal Council

Present:

- Michael Rolfe
- Robin Derricourt
- Allan Coker (Woollahra Council)
- Jessica Sartor (Trust)
- Sally Hamilton (Trust)
- Nick Hollo (Trust)
- Daniel Sealey (Trust)

Apologies:

- Peter Debnam
- Will Jones
- Peter Poland
- Tony Abbott
- Suzanne Davidson
- Stewart Reed
- Jennie Minnifie
- Gil Walquist
- Gary Stewart
- Robert Tearne

Purpose:

The purpose of the meeting was to update members and discuss:

- Management Plan Progress for Macquarie Lightstation
- Planning day outcomes for Macquarie Lightstation
- Marine Biology Station
- Update members on Harbour Trust activities

Presentation slides are attached.

Management Plan progress for the Lightstation

The main aims of the plan are to expand and open up the park to the east, interpret the original Greenway Lighthouse and conserve the remains of the Compound wall.

There are several intrusive elements such as the pine trees. This issue of tree removal may be controversial. There are other smaller scale things like the power board and light pole which obscure the view to the Lightstation.

A more major proposal is the removal the townhouses. These may be removed in stages or maybe removed in one go.



Existing Leases

Are the townhouse residents on long leases?

- No the townhouse residents are all on short term leases.

Are both the tenants of the houses on 99 year leases?

- The leases are both for 125 years, with approximately 113 left.

Intrusive Elements

The townhouses are particularly intrusive when viewing the light house from the south. The concrete retaining wall and stormwater outlet are also unsightly and prevent access and interpretation of the Greenway wall and the corner pavilion.

The cyclone mesh fencing also detracts from the view of the lighthouse. The Trust is proposing to remove this fence once the stone wall conservation is carried out.

The Trust would like to see exposed rock and native vegetation to the east of the Greenway wall.

Is the fence line the boundary of the Trust?

- The Trust's land goes to the edge of the cliff.

Are the tenants amenable to the removal of the garage of the Head Keeper's Quarters and replacing this behind the house?

- The owner seems to be receptive to the relocation of the garage.

What I would like to see is an 'Estate Fence' that in the distance could hardly be seen.

- The Trust may consider this. However the type of fencing will be guided by the CMP.

Archaeological Elements

Is the rubble pile east of the lighthouse from the original Greenway lighthouse wall?

- It is most probably from the wall. There has been speculation that it could also be from the former engineer's cottage. The Trust wishes to conserve remains of the Greenway Wall and allow for partial reconstruction of the upper courses and depending on costs, the castellations that were there.

What about the Greenway corner pavilions? How will they be considered?

- The Trust would like to interpret the location of the Greenway corner pavilions and compound wall by marking out the footprints.



What was the role of the corner pavilions?

- They were initially used as guard houses but later may have been used as an outhouse/laundry/privy.

What is the possibility of re-erecting the previous Engineers Quarters building as it was?

- It is not possible as part of the original building is within the currently leased area of the Head Keeper's Cottage.

Landscape Elements

There should be some form of heath vegetation planted to the east of the Lightstation. It is important to the interpretation of the site that this area be allowed to regenerate as heath to interpret how it once was.

- The Plan proposes native vegetation and exposed rock ledges. Heath is a much denser planting like that to the north of the site. We envisage something sparser however it needs to be investigated.

How do you edge the heath with the playing fields?

- The playing fields are a considerable distance from the site. We would work out a transition through a landscape plan.

With most off the area off limits now, if you take the fences off you may have a problem with dogs in the area.

- Either side is Council land and the Trust will coordinate with Council in relation to dogs.

In relation to the removal of some bush from the quarry, this may be contentious because bush regeneration has been prolific in the area.

- We may not need to remove all the vegetation. It could be just sufficient pruning and clearing to show that it was a quarry before.

Update on Marine Biology Station

Who did the landscape design for the Marine Biological Station Park?

- Killara Macgregor, a former Trust employee. The detailed design documentation was carried out by Aspect Landscape Architects.

What is the position with the lease?

- The Parliamentary Secretary will advise on the announcement of the lease.

Will the lease be for 125 years?

- No, the lease will be for 25 years.



Is parking an issue for the tenant?

- Yes, the heritage architects of the prospective tenant are developing a proposal consistent with the requirements of the CMP. In particular, retaining the integrity and views to the house from the surroundings.

Has there been pressure on the Trust to put up fences and gates in the park?

- We have had a number of requests. Any new fence and gate on the beach would be set far back from the seating steps. The gates would be closed late at night (11pm) and opened at sunrise.

Planning Update

Where is the Lightstation in terms of priorities for the Trust?

- We are starting the Draft Management Plan now because we want to implement it. However, the land transfer is still being finalised with the Department of Finance and Administration. There is also the archaeological work that needs to be undertaken. The Trust is aiming to have the Management Plan finalised this year.

In the future, could you have open days to the lighthouse without registration?

- We will explore this. We are now starting to review our tours generally to broaden their appeal and accessibility.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm.