

Meeting Notes

Meeting for CAC/North Head Sanctuary Foundation - North Head
February 11, 2006

Time: 1.00 – 4.30pm

Venue: Sergeant's Mess, Building 16

Present:

- Deb Mosman (CAC)
- Jennifer McMonnies (CAC)
- Tony Iacona (CAC)
- Ian Freeman (CAC)
- Cecily McGee (CAC)
- Doug Sewell (CAC & NHSF)
- Judy Reizes (CAC & NHSF)
- Jennie Minnifie (CAC)
- David Barr (CAC & NHSF)
- Sue Sacker (CAC & NHSF)
- Judith Halnan (NHSF)
- Mary Johnsen (NHSF)
- Steve Johnston (NHSF)
- Judy Lambert (NHSF)
- Jenny Wilson (NHSF)
- Ann Sharp (NHSF)
- Judith Bennett (NHSF)
- Albert Cuschieri (NHSF)
- Diana Deeley (NHSF)
- Janet Fish (NHSF)
- Nick Hollo (Trust)
- Geoff Bailey (Trust)
- Alex Magarey (Trust)
- Sally Hamilton (Trust)
- Jessica Sartor (Trust)

Apologies:

- Garry Stewart
- Nina Burrige
- Heather Roy
- Angelika Treichler

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Provide an overview of the North Head Management Plan, in particular:
 - Key Planning Studies
 - Outcomes
- Give an update on Sanctuary progress.
- Conduct a workshop with the North Head Sanctuary Foundation (NHSF) and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for members to input towards the NHSF submission.

Introduction

Judy Lambert opened the meeting with an outline of the workshop and introductions of Trust staff. An acknowledgment of country was also made.

Management Plans/Key Planning Studies

Alex Magarey presented:

- Trust Management Plans currently in progress
- Processes involved with the development of Management Plans
- An overview of the consultation process
- A summary of Key Planning Studies for North Head, former School of Artillery
- Details on the Key Planning Studies for:
 1. Transport Management
 2. Flora and Fauna
 3. CMP for the Barracks complex

Outcomes and Integrated Management

Nick Hollo presented an outline of the outcomes proposal in the Draft Management Plan.

- The nature of North Head as a tied Island, with its intact eco systems and sense of isolation makes it an ideal sanctuary.
- Interpret and provide tours of the defence aspects of the site.
- Little change to the buildings. On building 16, for example, a semblance of the axial entrance needs to be created.
- The Parade Ground needs to keep it's special character, it's "Parade Groundness"
- The principal is to keep the military quality but with new uses.
- Options for entry points for car and bus need to retain the Gate house as the entry point.
- Trust plans for the site will work toward Integrated Management through specific projects that will involve other land owners at North Head.

Sanctuary Update

Sally Hamilton gave a summary of progress on several Sanctuary projects. They include:

- Bird Survey by 'Bird's Australia'
- Invertebrate Survey by 'Biotrack'
- Commencement on the Visitor and Education Centre in the gatehouse.

AWC

- Geoff Bailey the Executive Director of the Trust gave a brief explanation of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC).
- AWC is a not for profit conservation agency who have expressed interest in the managing of the natural resources on North Head subject to Board Approval.
- AWC is funded by donations. It currently manages 14 sanctuaries around Australia.
- The North Head Scientific Community would guide the research and outcomes proposed for the site.
- Since the CAC meeting it has been decided that the management of the natural resources at North Head should go to for select tender. This will occur during March/April.

Short term leasing

Sally Hamilton concluded the Trust's presentation explaining that short term leasing, such as those for filming, gym use, the royal carriage builder, will still be undertaken but Expressions of Interest for North Head, former School of Artillery will not be taken until the land tenure issue is resolved and the Management Plan finalised.

Issues Raised

What happens with short term leasing?

- Short term leasing is covered by 'licences' that allow people to use the site for short periods of time for special low impact use.

Given that the Visitor and Education centre is not open yet, how can the public access documents relating to the site such as the CMP for the Barracks Complex?

- The Trust has a Resource Centre at its offices in Middle Head which is open 5 days a week from 9am-5pm. These documents are available here.

Why is the CMP for the Barracks Complex not available yet?

- The document is in draft format and the consultant was not happy to have it seen in this form. The report is now overdue and expected to be received by Friday the 17th February.

What is happening with the land tenure issue?

- The land at North Head is owned by the State Government. The Trust met with the State approximately two years ago and the State explained they were happy to transfer the land subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was drafted and nine months later the response to this was along the lines that the State wanted the right of veto over plans of management and leasing.

However the Trust Act 2001, gives The Trust the power to prepare plans and under that Act the Trust cannot contract out responsibility of this. Therefore the deal with the State government is in question. Discussion with the State government is continuing.

What is the carrying capacity that may visit according to the Transport Management Plan (TMP)? It is noted there will be 200 spaces resulting in 400 people maximum. Will this change?

- It is difficult to devise a number for the different types of usage. In order to devise a TMP there has to be an assignment of buildings to functions. The TMP makes some broad estimations of site usage however there is no absolute 'carrying capacity'.

If for example a college with 200 students uses the buildings, the area will lose the sense of a sanctuary, will it not?

- The Core Area (the built environment) can sustain human activity without this impacting on the sense of sanctuary in the surrounding natural areas.

Is it intended that the Trust will encourage the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) to be incorporated in the Management Plan?

- The Trust has no jurisdiction over the AIPM site. The Trust is seeking all other land owners to work towards integrated management.

North Head Sanctuary Foundation Workshop

Judy Lambert then facilitated a workshop to collect comments to be used in the submission of the North Head Sanctuary foundation for the North Head, former School of Artillery Draft Management Plan. Notes from this part of the meeting are available by contacting the Community Consultation Coordinator on 8969 2177.

Close of Meeting

The meeting/workshop concluded at 4.30 pm.