

## THE HARBOUR TRUST'S APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*[Note: The following information has been extracted from the Harbour Trust's Comprehensive Plan – a broad strategic plan that communicates the vision for our portfolio of sites and provides a framework for their continued use. See Comprehensive Plan, Chapter Three – Objectives and Policies, pages 30 and 31.]*

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) is central to the Harbour Trust's management, strategic planning and development decision-making. The concept of ESD has been defined as: "*Development that improves the quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that improves the ecological processes on which life depends*" – National Strategy for ESD (1992).

### CORE ESD PRINCIPLES

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* provides the following core principles of ESD:

- Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations.
- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- The principle of inter-generational equity – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.
- The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making.
- Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted.

The Harbour Trust recognises that the implementation of these principles is not straightforward. This is partly because they provide minimal instruction for practical action and contain some ambiguity. The Harbour Trust also recognises that the core objective is to achieve the effective integration and balance of economic, environmental and social considerations.

## THE HARBOUR TRUST'S COMMITMENT

To meet this objective the Harbour Trust will ensure that:

- The natural biological diversity is protected, conserved and interpreted with particular emphasis on threatened species and endangered populations and communities as an integral part of any redevelopment or use of Harbour Trust land sites.
- Harbour Trust sites are accessible to the community and offer a high quality of life for those who live or work at the site and a highly desirable recreation destination.
- Re-use and redevelopment preserves significant areas for open space as a resource for generations to come.
- Development and adaptive re-use achieves reductions in the use of energy from sources, which are non-renewable or emit greenhouse gases in energy generation or consumption compared to previous uses or comparable uses.
- All development and ongoing management activities on Harbour Trust sites maximise the appropriate use of recycled and reused materials and reduce waste generation.
- Development minimises the use of materials, which deplete natural resources or create toxic pollution in their manufacture, use or disposal.
- Buildings to be removed will be reused where possible and where demolition is necessary materials will be recycled, where possible.
- Use of Harbour Trust sites minimises the negative impact on Sydney's air quality and avoids ozone-depleting substances. This includes encouraging the use of public transport, walking or cycling.
- Measures are taken to minimise impact of noise and light pollution on environmental conservation areas and surrounding land uses.
- Any use of the Harbour Trust lands results in improvement to water quality entering the harbour from the site.
- Any development remediates the results of polluting activities of the past and ensures protection of soil and sediments within the developed area.
- It remains accountable in the achievement of ESD by measuring, monitoring and reporting with respect to the key indicators for sustainability and use this information to continually improve policies, plans and practices.
- Contracting and procurement methods are developed, implemented and reviewed so that environmental objectives supporting ESD are adopted by contractors and suppliers.

- Environmental outcomes are achieved through the formation of partnerships and work undertaken with the community, stakeholders and other agencies.
- It adheres to Water Sensitive Urban Design principles when developing any future plans.
- Renewable energies are investigated and, where appropriate, used on Harbour Trust sites.

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