

**SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST
BOARD MEETING IN PUBLIC
GENERAL QUESTIONS
23 JUNE 2017**

Question on the plans for funding the Middle Head Master Plan

The Chair advised, that the Middle Head Management Plan provides for a broad range of outcomes, including bushland management, new paths, the relocation of the sports pavilion, the adaptive reuse of the vacant 10 Terminal buildings, the demolition of the 2-storey barracks, and site interpretation.

These outcomes will be funded in a range of ways: through the Trust's ongoing capital works and maintenance budget (which is funded by revenue-generating activities across the Trust's sites); the leasing of buildings and potential one-off grants.

Question on the existing pathway on Middle Head Rd following competition of new path

The Chair said the existing path adjacent to the road will continue to be available for pedestrian access. This path has the advantage of being lit, facilitating access at all times.

Recently a new path way has been completed linking the Georges Heights artist precinct with Burnt Orange and Middle Head Café. The new path provides a scenic alternative route through bushland, and does not have lighting. Due to the steep terrain, which requires steps, it has not been possible to make the new path wheelchair accessible.

We have in the past considered designating the existing path as a shared path for pedestrians/cyclists, but not pursued it due to the constrained space - making it impossible to provide the minimum 2m wide path - and the steep descent which may encourage high speed cycling, which would be incompatible with pedestrian safety.

Question on the reference in the Middle Head Management Plan to the "achieved" "new pedestrian path along the northern side of Middle Head Road"

The Chair explained that there is an existing pedestrian path adjacent to Middle Head Road. A new path has recently been added that offers a scenic route through bushland connecting the Georges Heights Artist Precinct with Burnt Orange and Middle Head Café, at Middle Head.

Question on the Council's DA for a synthetic field at Middle Head Oval?

The Harbour Trust has advised Mosman Council that it would accept a development application (DA) for Council's proposal to install a synthetic playing surface at MHO. Any such DA will need to be supported by in-depth information to allow a thorough examination of potential environmental issues and impacts. The DA and supporting material will be placed on public exhibition for community input.

It was noted that Council proposes to fund the project through its section 94A *Development Contributions Plan*. In adopting its s.94A Plan, Council decided to undertake the following steps before it lodges a DA for the oval proposal:

- Inviting SIMS (Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences) to advise on environmental impacts
- Obtaining formal tenure of the oval.
- Referring the matter to Council's Audit Committee for a review of the project's risks

The outcomes of SIMS' advice and the Audit Committee's review will inform the Harbour Trust's consideration of the matter.

Issues raised about Georges Heights Child Care Centre

Parent representatives of the Childcare Centre at Georges Heights spoke about their concern over the intended operator of the centre. Parents shared details of concerns and requested the Board review the decision.

The Board advised that they were aware of the issue and that the Harbour Trust Staff had heard the concerns of the parents and were working towards a resolution as a matter of urgency.

Following the Board Meeting the intended operator withdrew from the lease. A new operator was subsequently appointed, and has since taken over operations of the centre.

Questions on the self-funding model of the Harbour Trust and opportunities to seek additional funding

The Chair advised, SHFT's Business Plan, endorsed in 2003 by the Department of Finance and Administration refers to the 'self-funding' aspect of SHFT. Harbour Trust staff have had discussions with the Department and Finance over the past twelve months in relation to funding for capital works, but not in regards to operational funding. Proposals will again be submitted this financial year for capital funding requirements.

The CEO advised that the Harbour Trust is assessing other options such as philanthropy.

Statement that more notice of Board meetings should be given in the future.

The Harbour Trust CEO advised that the Harbour Trust will in future extend the notice period. In future, the Board Meeting in Public will be advertised on the Harbour Trust website, three weeks prior to a meeting, and included in the Harbour Trust email newsletter.

Questions on the Harbour Trust plans for 10 Terminal

The Chair advised that we would like to see the 10T buildings re-purposed in a way which protects their heritage values while making a positive contribution to public access and the amenity of Sydney Harbour.

Last month, the Premier announced funding assistance for Sydney Institute of Marine Science to develop a business case to create the Centre for Urban Marine Innovation at Headland Park.

SIMS has expressed interest in re-purposing the buildings at 10T for the new Centre. As well as delivering internationally significant research outcomes, we feel the concept has strong potential to protect the site's heritage values, encourage public access, engage the community and provide a vehicle for delivering broader educational outcomes for school children. We would encourage SIMS to

engage with NSW Department of Education and HPG in developing the proposal and look forward to working with it.

Question on plans for bus shelter

The Chair advised, the Harbour Trust's programme of works includes the construction of a bus shelter at Middle Head. The timing of this project is subject to funding availability, and to this end the Harbour Trust will explore opportunities for securing funding.