



HARBOUR TRUST HARBOUR TRUST ADVISORY GROUPS OUT OF SESSION 8 JULY 2020

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Venue: Zoom Video Conference

Present

Cr Michael Regan - Mayor of Northern Beaches Council
Melina Rohan (*Representing Trent Zimmerman MP*)
Sue Heath (*Representing The Hon Anthony Albanese MP*)
Harrison Martin (*Representing Zali Steggall MP*)
Peter White – *First Nations Advisory Group*
Geoff Lambert
Jill L'Estrange
Julie Goodsir
Kate Eccles
Kate Evers
Malcolm Moir
Matthew Rafferty
Neil Schafer
Paul Forward
Phil Burford
Robert Crawford
Robyn Lewis
Sarah Dinning
Stuart Sprott
Tammy Dodd
Victoria Black

Apologies

Cr Jilly Gibson - Mayor of North Sydney Council
Cr Carolyn Corrigan - Mayor of Mosman Council
Cr Mark Bennett - Mayor of Hunters Hill Council
Peta Garrett (*Representing Zali Steggall MP*)
Cdr Bernadette Alexander – HMAS Penguin
Dennis Foley – *First Nations Advisory Group*
Djon Mundine – *First Nations Advisory Group*
Roy Mundine OAM – *First Nations Advisory Group*
Susan Moylan-Coombs – *First Nations Advisory Group*
Beth Lawsen
Chris Stapleton
Colleen Godsell
John Tropman
Ken Williams
Rita Chowdhury

In Attendance

Joseph Carrozzi, *Chair of the Harbour Trust*
Mary Darwell, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Justin Bock, *Director, Strategy, Finance and Commercial*
Rebecca Hill, *Head of Marketing and Engagement*
Rebecca Hage, *Media & Stakeholder Engagement Officer*

MEETING OUTCOMES

The Harbour Trust engaged all Harbour Trust Advisory Groups in an Out of Session meeting to discuss the outcomes of the Harbour Trust Review and provided opportunity for community feedback.

Welcome and introduction

Joseph Carrozzi (JC), Chair of the Harbour Trust welcomed all advisory group members and provided an overview of the Harbour Trust Review report. He noted the Harbour Trust broadly supported the outcomes of the review. He highlighted the need for a Government commitment to funding and a review of community engagement and governance.

Mary Darwell (MD) thanked the community for their advocacy and involvement in the Review. She discussed the recommendations as broadly falling into four core areas: legislation reform and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NSW, budget matters/ new works, governance / stakeholder issues and reform of the focus of the Harbour Trust given it is to be an ongoing entity.

MD advised that Minister Ley had written to the Chair of the Harbour Trust setting out her expectations and requesting that the Harbour Trust respond with a Statement of Intent. MD explained that this was presently being prepared by the Harbour Trust, and would provide opportunities for engagement with the community, as the outcomes of the review were worked through. There would be further consultation on the leasing policy and on directions for Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary.

A priority area for immediate action is refreshing our approach to community engagement; MD advised that the Harbour Trust will engage a consultant for this work as a priority and will seek the views of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to shape the scope of works. In addition, the Harbour Trust will review its Corporate Plan (the CAC has previously provided comment) in light of the Review report.

Community comments/questions

The Committee were generally pleased with the outcomes of the Independent Review of the Harbour Trust. The Review findings provide a roadmap for the next chapter of the Harbour Trust.

Sue Heath – Representative of The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP:

- Harbour Trust leasing policy needs to be transparent. The review outlines a recommendation for the 25-35 year leases and this concerns the community.

MD advised:

- Under the recommendations of the review, it is proposed that safeguards be put in place where the Harbour Trust must identify where these longer leases would be necessary. There is currently no interest in longer lease opportunities, and leases over 25 years would be rare.

Melina Rohan – Representative of Trent Zimmerman MP:

- Supportive of the Harbour Trust Review and congratulated the Harbour Trust on their work to date. Looking to understand community sentiment.

Harrison Martin – Representative of Zali Steggall MP:

- Following developments at North Head Sanctuary and would like an understanding of timeline of works.

Michael Regan – Mayor of Northern Beaches Council:

- Northern Beaches Council is happy with the outcomes of the Review and look forward to working closely with State and Federal entities to invest in and activate North Head Sanctuary.

- Following a recent tragic death at North Head, security in the area needs to be addressed. The Northern Beaches Safety committee review safety across the headland.
- Northern Beaches Council are willing to assist with resources.

MD advised:

- The Harbour Trust, in conjunction with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), are working to ensure North Head remains safe for visitors. This includes the closed boom gates and increased Ranger and Security patrols. Safety protocols across all Harbour Trust sites are continuously evolving.

Peter White - First Nations Advisory Group

- The Harbour Trust is continuing its journey to greater understanding of First Nations culture. First Nation's voices are being amplified.
- Harbour Trust needs to look at new ways of embedding First Nation knowledge into sites.
- Working with the First Nations Advisory Group to build a deeper understanding of Aboriginal values and to develop the right processes to incorporate messages into the value add of our sites.
- First Nations voice should be incorporated in creating a purpose of place on Harbour Trust sites
- The First Nations Advisory Group should add value to the Harbour Trust and not sit on the sidelines.

Harbour Trust comment:

- JC thanked Peter for his contribution and said the Harbour Trust looks to the First Nations Advisory Group to challenged us as we substantially improve our approach. The Harbour Trust will look to provide an Indigenous cultural area within this tranche. MD noted that the Harbour Trust will work to embed First Nations culture into Harbour Trust business, our RAP is one example of this.

Matthew Rafferty - General Community Advisory Committee

- Indigenous heritage should be a focus
- CI and Snapper: work progressed on both if funding is available
- Leasing policy: requires changes following from recommendations. HT needs to be nimble and respond to changes in the market as long as they fit within the MP of sites.

Harbour Trust comment:

- EJ advised the current draft leasing policy will remain open for feedback and submissions until 5pm Wednesday 15 July 2020. In light of the outcomes of the review, the Harbour Trust will prepare a redraft of the leasing policy. This will include feedback received during the current community consultation process. MD noted the redrafted policy will go through a public consultation process including the CAC for further discussion and further broader consultation.

Sarah Dinning - General Community Advisory Committee

- The review provides an open approach to community and stakeholders
- The outcomes should encourage momentum but there is an understanding that resources are needed.
- Important the Harbour Trust work undertakes a multidimensional approach. The Harbour Trust should assess the key themes of each site from a strategic perspective.
- Harbour Trust to consider a balance between commercial and private investment in order to deliver on each site's Management Plan.
- "Whole of Harbour" approach is required. Harbour Trust sites need to fit within the fabric of the harbour. Public perspective: site ownership is irrelevant. Site management that is consistent with surrounding parklands.

Kate Eccles - General Community Advisory Committee

- Raised the questions of next steps and limited funding provided and if community should respond directly to the Minister.
- Visitation should be more than “counting numbers” for visitation sake and should not be the sole reason for the preservation of the Harbour Trust; public should visit to Harbour Trust sites because of their value and heritage.

MD advised:

- The Harbour Trust will develop a Statement of Intent. Feedback from all advisory groups will be considered in developing this document.

Kate Evers - *General Community Advisory Committee*

- There needs to be significant consultation with community about what will be prioritised with limited resources.
- An assessment of capabilities is required to execute the vision of Harbour Trust. The Harbour Trust needs to review current capabilities and build on them. What can execute within the limited resourcing and what is required following this assessment.
- Increased First Nations voice and cultural interpretation is required. Visitors would appreciate an understanding of Indigenous history and this should be incorporated into every aspect of the Harbour Trust business.
- Enquired whether the Harbour Trust is now obliged to execute all the recommendations of the report or if the Members of the Trust are at liberty to select which items of the review it adopts.

MD confirmed the wording in the Minister’s letter:

“The Government agrees with the reviewers’ key recommendation that the Trust continues as an ongoing Commonwealth entity and broadly accepts all other recommendations subject to more detailed planning and consultation.

The Review makes a number of recommendations regarding the structure and capabilities of the Trust, the way in which it engages with the community and volunteers, and the potential to expand partnerships. I expect that the Trust will consider these recommendations and advise on what actions it will take in response.”

- MD advised that the Harbour Trust has been asked to respond to the Minister’s letter with a Statement of Intent. In general, the Harbour Trust will develop an execution plan that works with current resources, focuses on priority area.

Paul Forward - *General Community Advisory Committee/Sub Base Platypus CAC*

- Advised that CAC continues to have an overloaded agenda, and that while the attitude of the Trust had changed somewhat, he remains concerned that there is a tendency to consult after decisions had made. An example of this was the plan for the circular staircase at Platypus where the foundations had been made. After consultation, the plan was set aside.
- NSW Government engagement: Improved engagement with NSW Government. Many sites adjacent to Harbour Trust sites are managed by the State and community PF would like to move between sites with consistency.

MD noted:

- The Harbour Trust is developing a scope document that will focus of governance and engagement and this will be a part of discussions going forward, agree we need to consult properly and early.
- The Harbour Trust will engage with Minister Stokes as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Julie Goodsir - *General Community Advisory Committee*

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) proposed between NSW Government and Harbour Trust, should be led by the Harbour Trust, not NSW Government. It was also noted

that community has not responded well to historical interpretation and heritage sites implemented and managed by NSW Government.

- Important to represent Indigenous heritage around HT sites. 10 Terminal was earmarked to be an Indigenous military cultural centre.

JC noted:

- Government will lead discussions regarding the MOU with the NSW Government, and that the Harbour Trust will always act in accordance with the Act, policies and plans. MD and JC both agreed the need to develop deeper relationships with First Nation custodians and improve interpretation on sites.

Geoff Lambert - *General Community Advisory Committee*

- North Head Sanctuary Foundation (NHSF) will make a submission on the Leasing Policy but there is uncertainty as to how their organisation fits into the current leasing policy.
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) are working on Indigenous interpretation at North Head; the Harbour Trust should be engaged in these discussions.

MD noted:

- There is significant scope to improve the arrangements in the Harbour Trust Leasing Policy to better support Not for Profit partners.

Jill L'Estrange - *General Community Advisory Committee*

- Concerned about intent of Leasing Policy following the outcomes of the Review
- Funding: raised the question regarding the preference of funding scenarios outlined in the report.
- Interpretation: The Harbour Trust should consider increased interpretation of military history and heritage across Harbour Trust sites.
- North Head and NSW Government: queried the extent of NSW Government involvement in the management of North Head and if the Harbour Trust will use the existing Management Plan to shape that involvement.
- Emergency funding (\$47 million outlined in report): queried if the proposed emergency funding will be distributed amongst the other sites, besides Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary.
- 10 Terminal: once site has been remediated will there be any additional funding to complete the site
- Meetings could take place outside of the Harbour Trust and provide a position to HT.

MD noted:

- Work is required to improve engagement with advisory groups; a scoping document is in development and will be circulated the CAC for comment. JC reiterated that the Harbour Trust will act in accordance with the Act, policies and plans, and that the Management Plan for North Head provided a good foundation for discussions.

Matt Lorrimer – *Sub Base Platypus Community Advisory Committee*

- The Harbour Trust should avoid privatisation and enquired about the master planning across sites and funding. The Harbour Trust should not get carried away with the master planning process and not maintain a "proportionate" connection with a sensible funding request.
- Enquired if the Statement of Intent include a broad-brush timeline for development.

Victoria Black - *Sub Base Platypus Community Advisory Committee*

- As much as practicable, enabling public access and amenity around the foreshore
- Echoing the need to focus on acknowledging and celebrating our Indigenous heritage and greater involvement of our First Nations People.
- The need for a continued focus on active and meaningful community engagement.

- The inclusion of Harbour Trust sites in the development of a wider Sydney Harbour vision. There has long been a need for a shared vision for our Harbour – could the GSC help here

Neil Schafer- *Sub Base Platypus Community Advisory Committee*

- Appreciated the Chair's comments around the need for further community engagement and balance of commerciality across Harbour Trust sites as well as Mary's comments around the process in response to the Review. All 21 Recommendations were very welcomed, especially Recommendations 6, 7 and 8.