



SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST

142nd MEETING OF THE TRUST

Held via webinar

Meeting in Public

4 December 2020

MINUTES

True & Correct Record of the 142nd Meeting of the Trust
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

Chair

Minutes of the 142nd meeting of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust held in public via webinar on Friday 4 December 2020.

Present

Mr Joseph Carrozzi	Chair
Ms Jean Hay AM	Deputy Chair
Mr Garth Callender	Member
Ms Sandra Hook	Member
Mr Tim James	Member
Ms Jessica Keen	Member
Mr Michael Rose AM	Member

In attendance

Ms Mary Darwell	Executive Director
<i>Ms Rosemary Southcombe</i>	<i>Secretariat</i>

Members of the public and staff were in attendance (via webinar) to observe the meeting.

Apologies

Ms Josephine Cashman*	Member
-----------------------	--------

* Ms Cashman was an apology due to technical issues preventing remote participation in the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm on Friday 4 December 2020.

1. Welcome to Country

The Chair opened the meeting and introduced Mr Craig Madden from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council who gave his Welcome to Country.

2. Chair Introduction

The Chair thanked Mr Madden for his Welcome to Country.

The Chair welcomed all attendees and thanked the members of the public for their interest in the Harbour Trust and commented that much had happened since the previous Meeting in Public (held in June) – most significantly, the release of the Independent Review of the Harbour Trust (the Review). On behalf of the Trust Members, the Chair thanked the community for its support and interest in the work of the Harbour Trust which has been noticed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department), the Minister and local MPs.

The Chair reported that there is currently much activity in relation to North Head Sanctuary, Cockatoo Island, Sub Base Platypus and 10 Terminal, and commented that the amount of work undertaken by the Harbour Trust's relatively small number of staff has been significant.

3. Executive Director's update

The Executive Director, Ms Mary Darwell, gave a 'Harbour Trust Update' presentation. The following is a summary of the presentation:

Consultation

Five key public consultations during the second half of 2020:

1. North Head Sanctuary (consultation closed 30 November 2020)
2. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (consultation closed 30 November 2020)
3. Sub Base Platypus Torpedo Factory Renewal Project (consultation closing 11 December 2020)
4. 10 Terminal & Parklands Renewal (consultation closing 16 December 2020)
5. Snapper Island (consultation closing 12 February 2021)

Harbour Trust Review - Update

- The Department has completed its consultation on the revised legislation exposure draft.
- Budget announcement (in September 2020) of \$40.6 million, bringing the total support for backlog works and repairs and maintenance to \$47 million (including Markham Close funds). The scoping of packages of work is underway.
- Heritage studies underway for Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary to inform future planning.
- The Department and the Harbour Trust have held exploratory discussions NSW.

COVID-19 Impacts

- Support has been provided by the Harbour Trust to commercial, not for profit and residential tenants who have been impacted by COVID-19.
- Public programming, accommodation on Cockatoo Island and shared facilities closed in March 2020. There was increased cleaning across sites and COVID-19 signage put in place.
- Harbour Trust parklands have remained open throughout the pandemic.
- New digital public programs were introduced online.

2021 Re-opening and Recovery Plans

- Visitor Centres are scheduled to reopen on 2 January 2021 and volunteers will return to their roles on the same date.
- Tours will be recommencing from 4 December 2020 at Sub Base Platypus, with North Head and Cockatoo Island tours recommencing in January 2021.
- COVID-19 safety protocols are in place for Harbour Trust staff.

Major Capital Works

- 1. 10 Terminal and Parklands
 - 2. Torpedo Factory Renewal Project
- Project control group and governance arrangement have been established for both projects.

Minor Capital Works – highlights

- Cockatoo Island
 - Switchboard – waterproofing and make safe works
- North Head Sanctuary - Plotting Room
 - Restoration completed by Volunteer Restoration Team
- Middle Head - Bus Shelter
 - Installation of new bus shelter on Middle Head Road opposite HMAS Penguin
- Chowder Bay - Sewer upgrades
 - Investment in critical infrastructure. Works undertaken at night to reduce impact on tenants and visitors.

- Essential safety and maintenance repairs
 - Fire services works - prioritised
 - Marine projects - scoping underway
 - Complex heritage projects - high level planning

Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2022

Achievements included -

- NAIDOC Week (all digital programs)
 - DigiTalk: Aboriginal Trackers
 - DigiTale: Bungaree: Pioneer, diplomat and leader
 - Children's educational and craft activities
 - Curated music and documentary playlists
- New Partnership: Babana Aboriginal Men's Group
 - Education Day held on Cockatoo Island (Oct 2020) / Mental Health Day (Nov 2020)
 - Additional mental health events to be held across 2021

Partnership highlights

- Biennale of Sydney - total of 20 weeks on Cockatoo Island (COVID-19 safe event protocols were in place)
- Google Arts and Culture - providing Australia-wide access to Harbour Trust sites; joining a global community of 2000 cultural institutions
- Babana Aboriginal Men's Group

North Head Bushfire Recovery

- Impact on the Harbour Trust
 - 62 hectares of bushland across North Head affected
 - The bushfire impacted North Head Sanctuary's ecology, as well as damaging some infrastructure (i.e. raised walking tracks)
 - Australian Wildlife Conservancy has set up feral predator cameras, nesting boxes and artificial refuge tunnels to connect unburnt areas until natural regeneration provides sufficient habitat
 - Initial vegetation clearances of the Anzac Memorial Walk, the Gun Emplacements, and the Avenue of Honour. Vegetation is being cut to make access safe, provide refuges for wildlife, and to create a buffer zone to deter public access to the burnt areas until natural regeneration occurs
 - Access to some areas and tracks are currently restricted
- Resolution Actions
 - Establishment of the North Head Sanctuary Bushfire Recovery Advisory Group – the first meeting is scheduled for 15 December 2020
 - Update of the Bushfire Management Plan for North Head Sanctuary
 - Request to NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service for a formal review of the incident

4. Other Business

Before closing the meeting and moving on to the Questions & Answers Session, the Chair took the opportunity to acknowledge the support the Harbour Trust has received from elected officials, especially during the Review and post-Review. In particular, the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Sussan Ley

MP has given an enormous amount of time in relation to the Harbour Trust and the Department has been very supportive.

The Chair also acknowledged the following elected officials who have shown a strong interest in the Harbour Trust:

- Ms Zali Steggall MP, Member for Warringah
- The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Member for Grayndler
- Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, Member for North Sydney
- Senator Andrew Bragg, Senator for New South Wales
- Mr James Griffin MP, Member for Manly
- The Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

5. Meeting Closure

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 4.00pm

The Meeting in Public was followed by a Question & Answer Session