



**HARBOUR TRUST
FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY GROUP
3 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Time: 11:00am – 12:01pm
Venue: Zoom Video Conference

Present

Dennis Foley
Peter White
Djon Mundine OAM

Apologies

Susan Moylan-Coombs
Roy Mundine OAM

In Attendance

Mary Darwell, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Michael Pender, *Development Advisor*
Rebecca Hill, *Head of Marketing and Engagement*
Rebecca Hage, *Media & Stakeholder Engagement Officer*
Ben Treble, *Program Manager*
Will Cooper, *Marketing Officer*
Andrew Maiden, *External Engagement Consultant*

The meeting commenced at 11:00am on Thursday 3 September.

1. Welcome

Mary Darwell (MD) invited one of the members of the First Nations Advisory Group, Professor Dennis Foley, to provide a Welcome to Country.

MD provided an update and status report on the Harbour Trust Review and implementation process of the Recommendations provided by the Minister.

The First Nations Advisory Group (AG) enquired about the proposed First Nations contribution outlined in the recommendations and potential funding for the project highlighted in the recommendations. The AG also highlighted it is important the contribution of First Nations people is not used as a “badge”, but that input is incorporated across all facets of Harbour Trust business.

MD highlighted that the Department is seeking advice from the group as to how they should seek feedback from First Nations communities on the process for Harbour Trust Board appointments and the board skill matrix.

Committee feedback:

- The Harbour Trust should consult other First Nations groups including Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council and First Nations people in various cultural fields and through to Western Sydney to ensure a wide spread of feedback.
- The Harbour Trust should consider engaging a voice from Darug country and traditional custodians along the Parramatta River. It is also important to engage those from cultural and heritage backgrounds.
- The Harbour Trust needs to develop a skills matrix with the assistance of the First Nations Advisory Group which relates to other Member of the Trust positions. A skills matrix should include a strong cultural element.

2. Platypus Stage 2 – Additional feedback

Michael Pender (MP) requested the AG provide feedback on the regeneration of open space planned for Platypus Stage 2 following the decision to partially demolish the harbour facing side of the Torpedo Factory. The AG were asked to consider design input and future vision for the space, and state what would be considered reaching excellence for the site.

Committee feedback:

- The Harbour Trust needs to consider who will be using the space from a practicality perspective. The space should represent tranquillity and rest as it was the site of gathering and sustenance for First Nations people more than 250 years ago. In the long term the site should include a tree canopy.
- The space must be named accordingly, representing not only its use but also its place in history. An Indigenous name can connect the space to the sites history and must have meaning.
- The Harbour Trust should consider the heritage of the site, what it looked like prior to First Contact, what the Harbour Trust envisages its use will be and what it can offer society today from a historical and environmental perspective.
- There are few places on Sydney Harbour where you can access the water from the shore – this is an important use for the site.
- The Harbour Trust should consider the First Nations value proposition; connection to land, county and community.
- The AG suggested potential names for the open space; *Nulawa*, meaning “sitting” and *Ngalawa* meaning “to sit”.
- The Harbour Trust should consider the perspective of the harbour 20,000 years ago just as First Nations people did. This will assist with a whole of harbour consciousness.

3. 10 Terminal – Additional Feedback

MP provided a brief overview of the 10 Terminal site, highlighting the Harbour Trust is aiming for a holistic approach for the development of the site. MP requested the AG provide feedback on potential interpretation on the space as well as the buildings, and comment on what would be considered reaching excellence.

Committee feedback:

- The Harbour Trust should consider an Aboriginal cultural centre or museum as was promised during the early days of the Harbour Trust. This cultural centre could incorporate First Nations military contribution and history.
- One of the spaces could be used as an Indigenous art gallery.
- Cultural places should be living spaces as well as performance spaces.
- The Harbour Trust should consider importance of the place; natural and First Nations environment should be considered one in the same. Must be more than just interpretation (not just an art piece) and should include living culture. Visitors should be able to move through the site and engage with people.
- Great opportunity for First Nations people to have a place to call home, share culture and embed history into place. 10 Terminal should be more than just a place to walk or artwork but to be able to move through the site and see First Nations heritage integrated across the whole site.