

Sub Base Platypus Torpedo Factory Renewal Project Consultation Overview

12 November - 11 December 2020

Overview

In 2020, the Harbour Trust put forward a proposal for the Torpedo Factory to deliver a new foreshore park, heritage interpretation, public access improvements, and a welcoming entry to Sub Base Platypus, North Sydney.

To support the proposal, an amendment to the *Platypus Management Plan 2016* and a Planning Application were prepared and placed on public exhibition for feedback.

The majority of feedback received was supportive of the proposal. The Harbour Trust has considered this feedback as part of its planning assessment process and detailed design.

The Torpedo Factory Renewal Project was approved by the Members of the Trust in May 2021. To find out more visit harbourtrust.gov.au.

Consultation Method

The Harbour Trust invited the community to share feedback on the draft amendment to the *Platypus Management Plan 2016* and Planning Application between 12 November to 11 December 2020.

During the four-week consultation period, the community shared feedback by completing an online survey (hosted on the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment's Have Your Say platform), providing a written submission (via email or post) or attending an on-site drop-in session (21 November and 26 November).

This public consultation followed engagement with the Harbour Trust's Advisory Groups to inform the Project Direction and Planning Application. Community feedback on an earlier design concept for the Torpedo Factory also helped shape the Planning Application and draft amendment to the *Platypus Management Plan 2016*.

How did we drive awareness?



2 million+

unique views
through
local media
advertising



104,244

through digital
advertising
(# impressions)



25,811

people reached
through direct
emails



6,000

newsletters
letterbox
dropped to
local residents

Who did we engage with?



80

people
attended
drop-in
sessions



55

people engaged via
the Department's
Have Your Say portal

Who responded?



297

aware
participants
(visits to online
portal)



181

informed
participants
(viewed documents
online)



56

completed
surveys



19

written
submissions

What we heard

The following provides a snapshot of key insights. A detailed summary of feedback, including the Harbour Trust response, is included in the *Consultation Outcomes Report* available at www.harbourtrust.gov.au.

Key insights

The majority of people engaged were supportive of the Planning Application, including 83% of survey respondents (supportive or strongly supportive). Similarly, the majority (80%) of survey respondents were supportive or strongly supportive of the proposed amendment to the *Platypus Management Plan 2016*.

Survey

Planning Application		Amendment to the Management Plan	
Strongly Supportive	69%	Strongly Supportive	69%
Supportive	14%	Supportive	11%
Neutral	0%	Neutral	3%
Unsupportive	4%	Unsupportive	4%
Strongly Unsupportive	13%	Strongly Unsupportive	13%

Feedback on the proposal

SUPPORT	Broad support for the proposal including support for the foreshore park, partial demolition of the Torpedo Factory, larger forecourt at High Street, interpretation of First Nations and defence heritage values, renewable energy features and visitor car parking.
CONSULTATION	Support for consultation process.
CONCERNS	Concerns raised including demolition of the building and loss of heritage fabric, proposed car parking and associated traffic issues on High Street, retention of the southern façade, retention of part of the building instead of full demolition, contamination, public toilets, potential commercial uses in the Torpedo Factory and lack of funding for a pontoon.
CONSTRUCTION	Construction related concerns including noise impacts, construction timeframes, hours of work, and traffic and parking issues.
ALTERNATIVES	Suggested alternatives including retention of the building and adaptive re-use for a range of uses, demolition of the entire building and returning the whole site to its natural state with a focus on First Nations history.
SUGGESTIONS	Other suggestions including effective interpretation, additional uses, signage, shade, native vegetation, additional foreshore links and water-based access.