



21 May 2025

**Meeting Notes
Harbour Trust
Community Advisory Committee**

Time: 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Venue: Harbour Trust Head Office (29 Best Avenue, Mosman/ Zoom Video Conference)

Present

Ann Marie Kimber, *Mayor of Mosman*
Sarah Swan, *Mayor of Woollahra*
Kent Browning, *HMAS Penguin*
Erica Griffiths (*Representative for Zali Steggal, Member for Warringah*)
Glyn Evans
Cathy Griffin
Rebecca Cardy
Anne Clarke
Chido Mauwa
Mary Ann Beregi
Yolande Stone
Lisa Trueman
Trudy Phelps

Apologies

Sue Heins, *Mayor of Northern Beaches*
Zac Miles, *Mayor of Hunters Hill*
Zoë Baker, *Mayor of North Sydney*
Jerome Laxale, *Member for Bennelong*

Allegra Spender, *Member for Wentworth*
Jeremy Kenna
Peter Doukas
Linda O'Malley
Sheila Foliaki

In Attendance - Harbour Trust

Tim Entwisle, *Chair of the Trust*
Helen Lochhead, *Member of the Trust*
Terry Bailey, *Member of the Trust*
Janet Carding, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Graham Izod, *Director of Assets & Parklands*
Daniel Sealey, *Director of Planning*
Susan Thompson, *Head of Engagement & Experience*
Eloise Dalmas, *Community Engagement Officer*
Annie Hazelton, *Strategy Officer*

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Executive Director, Janet Carding (JC) gave the Acknowledgement of Country and noted the apologies for the meeting (as above).



2. Member of the Trust update

Tim Entwistle (TE) shared the news of the appointment of the new Minister for Environment and Water, Senator Murray Watt and that an invitation has been extended to Minister Watt to visit the Harbour Trust sites. TE also noted the ALP's election commitment of \$10.2M for swimming and kayaking on Cockatoo Island. TE confirmed that the swimming will be at the former slipway, not at Fitzroy Dock as had been mentioned in a media release. Confirmation of this funding is expected in due course. It was also confirmed that the Liberal Parties' election commitment of additional funds for Mosman Council amenities block will not go ahead.

TE briefly discussed the Harbour Trust's strategic thinking, and that the HT has a specific focus on sustainability and the activation of our sites through the promotion of their heritage values and biodiversity. The Harbour Trust will continue to explore partnerships and activation to meet this objective.

The last Trust meeting on 1 May 2025 discussed workplace health & safety, and approved an updated procurement policy. Some changes to the Directors of the Sydney Harbour Foundation Ltd had been noted, and that it was the intention that in due course funding will be sought for the foundation through various philanthropic avenues. The request to government for Deductible Gift Recipient status is ongoing.

TE mentioned the positive feedback about the first community workshop for the Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh master plan, this workshop was facilitated by Brad Manera and discussed the military heritage of the site.

TE also mentioned a recent interview that Janet Carding undertook with Robin Williams on ABC Radio National on the history of Cockatoo Island and recommended it to CAC members.

3. Executive Director update

JC shared the success of the Cockatoo Island Open Day where 4907 visitors were recorded. The only negative feedback that was received related to the difficulty in getting on and off the island. Additional ferry services are a priority for the Harbour Trust with an additional ferry wharf in the Cockatoo Island Masterplan. The open day was a good model for how other Harbour Trust sites can be activated.

JC noted with sadness the death of John Jeremy, the former CEO of Cockatoo Island Dockyard. John started his career as an apprentice and spent his working life at Cockatoo Island.

----- Not to be included in published notes -----
His research and personal archives have been bequeathed to the Harbour Trust and in due course will be a valuable research resource. A public announcement of this bequest is yet to be made.

A new financial system has been implemented at the Harbour Trust, which represents a major upgrade from what was previously a manual process. This is a key milestone for the Harbour Trust and will lead to improved efficiencies.

As noted by the Chair, stakeholder engagement workshops on Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh are underway, with good feedback from the first two workshops on military heritage and inclusion and accessibility.

An update regarding the tree vandalism that occurred at Horse Paddock Woolwich was provided to the group. The group were notified of the replanting that has commenced in the area to help reestablish the longstanding wildlife



corridor at the site. It was confirmed that with the completion of the new planting the current signage will be removed, and new signage installed that relates to the replanting efforts.

Following an issue raised in the last CAC meeting regarding a potential new path at North Head, JC notified the group that a meeting had been scheduled with NSW National Parks and Wildlife, to discuss the issue. Daniel Sealey (DS) informed the group that he had attended a meeting with Property NSW and Aveo regarding the future use of the old hospital site.

Discussions are ongoing with Schools Infrastructure NSW with no further news regarding the potential EEC at Middle Head.

4. Update from First Nations Advisory Group (“FNAG”)

JC provided an update including the FNAG had decided that an a workshop will be held to discuss First Nation’s interpretation at Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh. Clarence Slockee, an Indigenous landscape designer who has been working with the Harbour Trust will present at this workshop.

The First Nations strategy is currently being finalised, once completed this will be sent to the CAC for information.

The Macquarie Lightstation and Greenway Wall project was discussed at the FNAG meeting and this project is nearing completion. An interpretation panel by the walking track will talk to the changing coastline story, and former Harbour Trust staff member Nick Hollo has been commissioned to illustrate the changes to the coastline since the last ice age. CAC members were positive about this initiative and queried if these prints will be reproduced and available for purchase, as they could prove popular.

ACTION:

- Harbour Trust to explore opportunities for sale of prints of changing coastline.

Rowena Welsh-Jarrett has been commissioned to provide a study on the First Nations cultural heritage of Cockatoo Island / Wareamah including the potential for partnerships and interpretation such as around traditional canoe making.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

5. Update Middle Head Stage 1 Masterplan Implementation

The various community workshops are underway, with the Lead Design Consultant attending each workshop to receive feedback and ideas to incorporate where possible into design. The EPBC referral for the timber barracks will take place later this year, which will include a consultation process by DCCEEW. Once feedback from the EPBC referral is know the design will go out for community consultation by the Harbour Trust.

6. Regular Capital Projects Update – minor works, heritage works, maintenance & infrastructure

Graham Izod (GI) provided the group with an update to current capital projects. The Greenway wall restoration project was discussed with GI confirming a scheduled completion date of end of July 2025.

The crane remediation project was also discussed and is due to commence shortly, with an estimated completion time of 12 months.



The conservation and repair work to the North Head Sanctuary heritage wall and tunnels are ongoing, with the hydraulic services works on the wall having started— these works commenced in March 2025 and are expected to be completed in late 2026. Repair works to the tunnels started in May 2025.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

7. Update on Community Advisory Committee Renewal 2026-2028

As per the CAC Charter appointments to the CAC take place every three years and renewal of the Committee was last undertaken in 2022. This time around the process is commencing earlier to allow for a substantial induction process for any new members and the opportunity for the crossover between committees. The Harbour Trust will seek advice from current members to understand if they are interested in applying for a further term.

It is anticipated that expressions of interest will be sought in July 2025. A skills and diversity matrix will be used to assess applicants.

ACTION:

- Email to be sent to the CAC outlining the EOI process for current CAC members who wish to apply for a second term.

8. Draft 2025-2029 Corporate Plan

Annie Hazelton (AH) discussed the key priorities for 2025-26 in the draft Corporate Plan. A completed draft will be discussed with the Members of the Trust at their June meeting.

The Corporate Plan is a rolling four-year strategic plan and initiatives that are underway roll over from the previous year. It focuses on key priorities and opportunities for the year ahead, including planning for new projects. In response to a question about measures, AH indicated that the priorities are accompanied by a full suite of performance measures in the completed plan.

ACTION:

- Send the draft Corporate Plan priorities to the CAC for their feedback.

9. AOB

An update on Sub Base Platypus was requested, specifically regarding the site's performance now that capital works have completed, it was decided that this would be an agenda item at the next CAC meeting.

ACTION:

- Sub Base Platypus update on performance to be on agenda at next meeting.

Anne Marie Kimber confirmed that Mosman Council is currently out to tender for the amenities block. She also noted that their GM will be retiring from July 1, with recruitment to commence in the next few months.

Progress with the Volunteer Involvement Working Group and the potential sub working groups were noted to the CAC, these sub working groups will respond to key actions as outlined in the Volunteer Strategy.