



**SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST
BOARD MEETING IN PUBLIC
GENERAL QUESTIONS-NOTES OF DISCUSSION
20 December 2017**

Question as to why the Trust agreed to accept a DA for Middle Head Oval

The Chair advised that the Harbour Trust's decision to accept a DA from Mosman Council for the proposed synthetic field was to ensure a fair process and thorough merit-based examination of all issues and considerations. He noted that at its 5 December, 2017 meeting Mosman Council resolved to work towards a best practice natural turf surface at Middle Head Oval, with a commitment to improving the playing surface. The decision to accept a DA will not be rescinded.

Question as to why the Trust decided to accept a DA following its consultant's report that indicated synthetic ovals have a negative impact on the environment

The Chair advised that the preliminary environmental report assessed the relative environmental risks/benefits of synthetic and natural playing surfaces. The report was preliminary in nature and made some assumptions in order to provide an initial environment assessment. A more detailed environmental study would have been required to assess the actual environmental impacts in a more in depth and accurate manner.

Question as to why the Trust is not lobbying Canberra for more funding

The Chair advised that the Harbour Trust is currently undertaking a body of work to develop a sound understanding of the financial challenges facing it and explore potential solutions. These works include:-

- A 10 year Strategic Asset Management Plan that will examine the capital works and maintenance program required across its sites, and strategically prioritise these and align against the long term financial plan
- A Business and Organisational Review that is assessing its business needs and aligning its resources and strategies

Questions about the Trust's strategies to increase visitor numbers for all ages in genuine educational experiences at Middle Head, provide an interpretation centre and optimise its website and the plans for a visitor centre at Middle Head

The Chair advised that the Harbour Trust recently developed Interpretation Strategies for Headland Park and the 3rd Quarantine Cemetery at North Head Sanctuary that will build on existing interpretation work and provide new ways for people to share in the various aspects of the sites' history. The Executive Director noted that the Harbour Trust is looking at website improvements that can be made to increase accessibility, and is working with Destination NSW to assist with promoting what is available. She also noted that a visitor's centre is not earmarked as a priority at this stage.

Question about the adaptation and use of the inclinor at Chowder Bay as a lift and whether it can be hydraulically-operated so as to obviate any need for a permanently-visible structure

The Executive Director noted that access is important for people of all abilities at all sites. She advised that once the concept and lift type are finalised, they will be presented to the community for comment through a formal public exhibition process.

Suggestion regarding transport and technology

This suggestion has been shared with relevant staff for consideration in future planning. The Harbour Trust agrees that there are significant new opportunities, such as car share and user platforms. Headland Park has a regular bus service, route 244 that operates seven days a week. The Harbour Trust does not currently have the resources to build a bus shelter across from Penguin, however, it remains a medium priority.

Statements about concerns with community consultation for Sub Base Platypus renewal and outcomes being achieved

Ms Moy spoke to a note distributed to the Trustees and outlined her concerns.

The Chair advised that significant community consultation was undertaken in order to develop the Platypus Management Plan, which has broad support from the community.

The Manager, Planning & Special Projects provided further detail about the consultation that had occurred to date, and reported that under the Harbour Trust's Management Plan, many of the buildings on the site will be maintained and renovated; while some have already been or will be removed, to create new public space. Once the Management Plan is fully implemented, the gross floor area of the site's buildings will have been reduced by approximately 35% since the site was transferred to the Harbour Trust. Demolished buildings will be replaced with publicly-accessible landscaped green space and plazas.

Request for further information about SIMS/10 Terminal

The Chair reported that SIMS received funding from the NSW Government to undertake a detailed investigation of its proposal to use 10 Terminal. SIMS is consulting with the HPG in the development of the proposal, which includes a secondary education component. The Harbour Trust considers it a good use of the space and is pleased there is a public facing component. SIMS still has some way to go for the proposal to develop, as it requires significant capital funding.

Question about a possible partnership with Qantas for viewing of corporate video on flights

The Executive Director agreed the Harbour Trust video is excellent and promotes the Harbour Trust sites well. The Harbour Trust has shown the video to Destination NSW and will continue to explore opportunities for promotion.