



## RECREATION STRATEGY 2019 – CONSULTATION SUMMARY

### Background

The Harbour Trust publicly exhibited its *Draft Recreation Strategy 2019* from 29 March to 10 May 2019. The Recreation Strategy examines the use of Harbour Trust land for recreation, discusses needs and constraints, and puts forward opportunities for new/improved/changed recreation facilities.

This summary provides an outline of issues raised in submissions and how these were addressed in the Harbour Trust's consideration of this matter.

### Public Exhibition

#### Notification

The Draft Recreation Strategy was placed on public exhibition from 29 March to 10 May 2019 (six weeks). The Draft Recreation Strategy document was available for viewing on the Harbour Trust website and at the Harbour Trust's Mosman office. The exhibited Draft Recreation Strategy is available [here](#).

The public was invited to comment on the Draft Recreation Strategy through a range of channels, including:

- Notices in newspapers that circulate in the suburbs around Harbour Trust sites (*Sydney Morning Herald, Mosman Daily, Manly Daily, Wentworth Courier, North Shore Times, Northern District Times, Inner West Courier*)
- Direct emails/letters to around 300 stakeholders
- E-newsletters were emailed to interested community members (over 3,300 recipients)

#### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

On 20 February 2018 and 22 May 2018 the Harbour Trust's CAC discussed the Harbour Trust's intention to prepare a Recreation Strategy. An in-depth focus meeting with the CAC was held on 5 March 2018. CAC members also wrote to the Harbour Trust with comments. All comments were considered in the preparation of the draft Recreation Strategy.

CAC members also made submissions during the public exhibition of the draft Recreation Strategy. These submissions are discussed further below.

#### Submissions Received

The Harbour Trust received 48 submissions from interested organisations and individuals (including CAC members) in relation to the public exhibition of the Draft Recreation Strategy. A summary of issues raised in submissions is discussed further below.

## Finalisation of the Recreation Strategy

At its meeting on 22 July 2019, the Harbour Trust Board considered submissions and issues raised by stakeholders and the CAC. The Board agreed to finalise the Recreation Strategy, incorporating some changes that addressed issues raised. Minutes of the Board meeting are available [here](#).

The finalised Recreation Strategy is available on the Harbour Trust’s website [here](#).

Details about suggested opportunities for change are set out in the final Recreation Strategy.

Any proposal for a new recreation activity or facility, or for a change to an existing facility, would need to be supported by an evidence-based needs/impact assessment and be subject to consideration against the Objects of the Harbour Trust Act and the outcomes in the Comprehensive Plan and relevant Management Plan. Where proposals would require changes to the relevant Management Plan, then this would be subject to further community consultation, in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

The Harbour Trust will re-examine the use of Harbour Trust land for recreation within five years of the Recreation Strategy being finalised.

## Consultation Summary

### Key Issues and Changes to the Draft Recreation Strategy

| Issue Raised  | Further Details  | Discussion  |
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| <p><b>Purpose and statutory status of the draft Recreation Strategy</b></p> | <p>Submitters queried the purpose and statutory status of the draft Recreation Strategy.</p> <p>Some submitters considered the draft Recreation Strategy to be inconsistent with some Objects of the Harbour Trust Act and Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>Other submitters suggested some of the Guiding Principles were inconsistent with the Act and Plans, and with each other.</p> <p>Concern that the draft Recreation Strategy suggests some activities that are currently not permissible in Management Plans which may lead to misunderstanding.</p> | <p>The final Recreation Strategy states that it is a not a statutory document – and that its purpose is to review existing facilities and to explore opportunities for potential change that are in accordance with the Act and Comprehensive Plan, in consultation with the community. The Strategy continues that any identified opportunities for change that might require an amendment to a site management plan would be subject to further formal community consultation. <b>Additional text has been included in the final Recreation Strategy to emphasise this message.</b></p> <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy clarifies that the document is identifying ‘opportunities for change’ rather than ‘recommendations’ for recreation on Harbour Trust land.</b></p> <p>The draft Recreation Strategy identified ‘Guiding Principles’ to guide the use of Harbour Trust land for recreation. The principles were derived from the Objects of the Act, and the Comprehensive Plan objectives. While they provided a useful reference tool, they duplicated the Act and Plan, and in doing so could potentially create ambiguity regarding the</p> |

| Issue Raised   | Further Details   | Discussion  |
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|  |   | <p>process for considering new proposals. <b>As such, the 'Guiding Principles' have been removed from the final Recreation Strategy</b>, and clarification provided that any potential new recreation facilities would be considered against the Objects of the Harbour Trust's Act and the Comprehensive Plan.</p>   |
| <p><b>Guiding Principles</b></p>                           | <p>Submitters suggested the Guiding Principles be amended to incorporate additional reference to the protection of environmental values.</p>  | <p><b>The Guiding Principles have been removed from the final Recreation Strategy (see dot-point above).</b> The protection of environmental values is an object of the Act, and is covered in the Comprehensive Plan.</p>  |
| <p><b>Middle Head Oval – surface of playing field.</b></p> | <p>Submitters expressed concern that the draft Recreation Strategy did not rule out replacing the existing (grass) surface of the playing field with synthetic turf. Some submitters expressed their opposition to the installation of synthetic turf on Middle Head Oval.</p> <p>Some submitters raised concerns about potential adverse environmental impacts of a synthetic surface.</p> <p>Other submitters supported the installation of an all-weather surface.</p> | <p>The draft Recreation Strategy noted that the Management Plan identifies the use of the oval for sport, but does not specify surface type. The draft Recreation Strategy's position to 'await the outcome of Council's monitoring of its new natural surface' reflected an earlier decision by the Harbour Trust to accept a development application from Mosman Council for a synthetic surface.</p> <p><b>The 'opportunity for change' relating to this matter on page 27 of the final Recreation Strategy has been changed, and now states as follows:</b></p> <p><i>"Considerations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Middle Head Management Plan identifies use of oval for sports, does not specify surface type.</i></li> <li>• <i>Middle Head Oval is an attractive space, with a natural surface that allows for multi-function use (sport, walking, occasional helicopter landings).</i></li> <li>• <i>Mosman Council has improved the natural surface.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Harbour Trust's preference is for a natural surface to be retained at Middle Head Oval."</i></li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p><i>"Opportunities for Change</i><br/> <i>Any future review of the Harbour Trust's Management Plan for Middle Head would be subject to community consultation and approval by the Harbour Trust Board."</i></p> <p>This approach reflects the ability of a natural surface to meet a wide range of potential uses, beyond its focus as a playing field, including: as passive open space that is integrated with the</p> |

| Issue Raised  | Further Details   | Discussion   |
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|   |   | wider parkland; for occasional special-event overflow car parking (e.g. Boxing Day Sydney-Hobart yacht race); occasional helicopter landings and training by Defence (which it enjoys a legal right to).   |
| <p><b>Georges Heights Oval – lighting of playing field.</b></p> | <p>The draft Recreation Strategy noted that the current Management Plan does not support floodlighting the playing field, however some submitters expressed concern about the draft Recreation Strategy’s suggestion that the Harbour Trust may consider an application for lights; while some submitters advised they would support such a proposal.</p> | <p>The draft Recreation Strategy noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- while lights would facilitate increased use of the existing field, the current Management Plan prohibits their installation;</li> <li>- Any proposal for lighting would need to be supported by a needs analysis, and examination of options/alternatives, and detailed impact analysis; and</li> <li>- the Harbour Trust’s decision may be to continue to prohibit lighting or commence the process of amending the management plan to accommodate this, which would be subject to community consultation.</li> </ul> <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy has been changed, and now states as follows (page 28):</b></p> <p><i>“Considerations</i><br/><i>The Harbour Trust’s preference is to maintain the prohibition against floodlighting at Georges Heights Oval.”</i></p> <p>and</p> <p><i>“Opportunities for Change</i><br/><i>Any future review of the Harbour Trust’s Management Plan for Georges Heights would be subject to community consultation and approval by the Harbour Trust Board.”</i></p> |
| <p><b>Georges Heights Oval – surface of playing field.</b></p>  | <p>Submitters expressed concern that the draft Recreation Strategy does not rule out replacing the grass surface of the playing field with a synthetic turf. Some submitters expressed their opposition to the installation of synthetic turf on Georges Heights Oval. Other submitters supported the installation of an all-weather surface.</p>         | <p>The draft Recreation Strategy stated that Georges Heights Oval should remain as a natural surface.</p> <p>This approach reflected the ability of a natural surface to meet a wider range of potential uses, beyond its focus as a playing field, including: as passive open space that is integrated with the wider parkland; for occasional special-event overflow car parking.</p> <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy has been changed, and now states as follows (page 28):</b></p> <p><i>“Considerations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Harbour Trust’s preference is for Georges Heights oval to remain as a natural surface.”</i></li> </ul>  |

| Issue Raised   | Further Details  | Discussion   |
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|  |  | <p>and</p> <p><i>“Opportunities for Change<br/>Any future review of the Harbour Trust’s<br/>Management Plan for Georges Heights would be<br/>subject to community consultation and approval<br/>by the Harbour Trust Board”.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Drill Hall – lighting of outdoor sports courts.</b></p>                            | <p>Some submitters expressed concern that the installation of floodlights at the outdoor netball courts is inconsistent with the current lease, DA and management plan for the site. Concerns were raised that activation of the courts at night time will result in adverse impacts on the locality (noise, lighting, traffic).</p> <p>Some submitters expressed their opposition to the installation lights at the Drill Hall Precinct. Other submitters support the installation of lights.</p> | <p>The draft Recreation Strategy noted that the current Management Plan prohibits lighting and competition use, and the Plan would need to be amended if a planning application for lights was to be accepted.</p> <p>The draft Recreation Strategy stated that the Harbour Trust may decide to continue to prohibit lighting, or to commence the process of amending the Management Plan.</p> <p>At its meeting 26 June 2019, the Board resolved to continue with the process of amending the Mosman Drill Hall Precinct Management Plan, and to accept a Planning Application from Mosman Council for its proposal to light the three outdoor netball courts at the Mosman Drill Hall precinct.</p> <p><b>Accordingly, the final Recreation Strategy is changed (page 28),</b> as set out below:</p> <p><i>“Consult with the community regarding a draft amendment to the Drill Hall Management Plan which would propose amended controls for the lighting and night- time use of the outdoor netball courts.<br/>Consider a planning application by Mosman Council for its proposal for lighting the Drill Hall courts, if one is received. Any application would be subject to an evidence-based assessment and community consultation.<br/>Following consultation, the draft plan and planning application would be subject to consideration by the Harbour Trust Board”.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Proposals for new recreation facilities, or changes to existing facilities</b></p> | <p>Concern that proposals for new/changed facilities would be inconsistent with the Harbour Trust’s objects, and planned outcomes, and/or present significant impacts on sites’ environmental/heritage values.</p>   | <p>Details about suggested opportunities for change are set out in the final Recreation Strategy.</p> <p>Any proposal for a new recreation activity or facility, or for a change to an existing facility, would need to be supported by an evidence-based needs/impact assessment and be subject to consideration against the Objects of the</p>   |

| Issue Raised   | Further Details  | Discussion  |
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|  | <p>Concern that new outdoor sports fields or courts would be established on Harbour Trust land.</p>  | <p>Harbour Trust Act and the outcomes in the Comprehensive Plan and relevant Management Plan.</p> <p>Where proposals would require changes to the relevant Management Plan, then this would be subject to further community consultation, in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>The final Recreation Strategy does not suggest any opportunities for new outdoor courts and/or fields (other than the potential for simple line-marking to create courts for netball/basketball/futsal on existing hardstand areas on Cockatoo Island).</p> |
| <p><b>Camouflaged Fuel Tanks</b></p>   | <p>Concern that the fuel tanks have been incorrectly identified as an existing recreational facility (given definition of ‘recreation’ on p.8 of the draft Recreation Strategy), rather they have been used for occasional art exhibitions. Submissions expressed both support and concern about using the tanks for recreation.</p> | <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy has been changed – the fuel tanks are not identified as an <u>existing</u> recreation facility.</b></p> <p>The final Recreation Strategy continues to identify the future potential for the tanks to be used for indoor recreation (page 30).</p>   |
| <p><b>Sub Base Platypus - Torpedo Factory (upper level) – installation of courts for active recreation</b></p> | <p>Submitters expressed concern that installation of new courts for active recreation would have an adverse impact on the locality (noise, traffic, parking). Some community members opposed the use of the Torpedo Factory for active recreation.</p>   | <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy has been changed as follows (page 42):</b></p> <p><i>“The Harbour Trust’s preference is for the Torpedo Factory not to be used for formal/organised active sports</i></p> <p><i>The Harbour Trust’s preference is for low impact community uses”</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Sub Base Platypus cliff face – rock climbing</b></p>   | <p>Submitters expressed concern that promotion of rock climbing on the cliff face at Sub Base Platypus could have adverse safety and amenity (noise) impacts.</p>  | <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy has been changed to clarify that rock-climbing is not supported (page 43):</b></p> <p><i>Considerations</i></p> <p><i>The Harbour Trust’s preference is for the cliff face not to be used for rock climbing”</i></p> <p>This approach reflects the considerable challenges related to safety and suitability of the cliff face for climbing.</p>  |
| <p><b>Headland Park – Parking areas/ hardstand/ other areas of open space</b></p>                              | <p>One submitter requested the Harbour Trust consider creating new outdoor sports courts or sporting fields (for netball/ futsal/basketball) on existing parking areas or existing open</p>  | <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy confirms that the Harbour Trust does not support use of these areas for formal/ organised active sports (page 29):</b></p>  |

| Issue Raised  | Further Details   | Discussion  |
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|   | space (or on areas that have been identified for future open space)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Suggested locations are used for parking or open space</i></li> <li>• <i>Use of these areas for formal/ organised active sports is not consistent with Management Plan</i></li> <li>• <i>Excavation for a new surface could impact subsurface contaminants</i></li> <li>• <i>Use of parking areas/hardstands/other areas of open space for new sports fields or new courts for formal/ organised active sport is not supported”</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Horse Paddock – use for playing fields - active recreation</b> | <p>One submitter requested the Harbour Trust reconsider the draft Recreation Strategy’s position on the possibility of a sports field on the Horse Paddock.</p> <p>The draft Recreation Strategy stated that this is not supported due to space limitations, conflict with existing passive use of this space, potential impact to subsurface contaminants if excavation is required, and the potential traffic/parking generation exceeding the site’s capacity.</p> | <p><b>The final Recreation Strategy confirms that the Harbour Trust does not prefer use of the Horse Paddock for formal/ organised active sports (page 45):</b></p> <p><i>“Considerations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Current Management Plan for Woolwich Dock and Parklands states the use of the Horse Paddock is for passive recreation and occasional community events</i></li> <li>• <i>The Harbour Trust’s preference is for the Horse Paddock not to be used for formal/ organised active sports”</i></li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p><i>“Opportunities for Change</i><br/><i>Consider opportunities for passive recreation and occasional community events as they arise”</i></p> |
| <b>Consultation</b>   | Concern there was inadequate notification and time for community consultation.  | The draft Recreation Strategy was exhibited for a period of 6 weeks (29 March-10 May 2019). The community was notified of the exhibition of the draft Recreation Strategy through notices in newspapers, e-newsletters and on the Harbour Trust’s website, and via direct notification (via email or post) to numerous government agencies and other stakeholders, including CAC members.   |
| <b>Corporate Plan</b>   | Concern that the draft Recreation Strategy was inconsistent with what was envisaged in the Corporate Plan   | The Harbour Trust’s 2018-22 Corporate Plan states that the Harbour Trust will ‘create new opportunities for passive and active recreation’ and ‘finalise the Recreation Strategy to facilitate increased active recreation on our sites’. The Strategy serves this purpose.   |
| <b>Facilities for sports</b>                                      | Concern that increasing use of Harbour Trust land for formal sports is inconsistent with the Harbour Trust Act and  | Approximately 90% of all Harbour Trust is open to the public. Around 2% of all Harbour Trust land used for active sports, this includes indoor and outdoor facilities such as ovals and hard  |

| Issue Raised                                  | Further Details  | Discussion   |
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|   | Comprehensive Plan, and object of maximising public access.  | courts. See previous discussion regarding new sports fields.   |
| <b>References to relevant Regional Plans</b>  | Suggestion that the final Recreation Strategy include reference to North and Eastern City District Plans, including the 'Green Grid'.  | <b>The final Recreation Strategy has been changed to include relevant extracts from the North and Eastern City district plans.</b>   |
| <b>Coordination with relevant authorities</b> | Requests that the Harbour Trust continue to engage with relevant authorities to ensure coordinated outcomes.   | The Harbour Trust will continue to engage with relevant authorities.   |
| <b>Boating</b>                                | Consider potential conflict between recreational non-motorised watercraft and larger vessels, including ferries, particularly at Cockatoo island and Sub Base Platypus.  | Noted – this matter will be considered when examining water access.  |
| <b>Fishing</b>                                | Suggest the final Recreation Strategy refer to fishing.  | Noted. Promotion of fishing from Harbour Trust sites is not supported.   |
| <b>Middle Head Oval pavilion</b>              | Both support and concern at prospect of a new pavilion at Middle Head Oval   | Noted. The precinct Management Plan allows for a new pavilion – the Harbour Trust will consider proposals from Mosman Council for a new pavilion, and would consult with the community.  |
| <b>Tennis Courts</b>                          | Concern about possible lighting and conversion of tennis courts to netball courts  | Noted. Change of use, illumination and third-party management of tennis courts would be subject to an evidence-based assessment and studies.   |
| <b>Parade Grounds</b>                         | Concern about using parade grounds for recreation; request for installation of a petanque piste.   | The final Recreation Strategy notes that gravel areas of parade grounds may be suitable for petanque.  |
| <b>Other comments include:</b>                | <p>Review parking arrangements at Woolwich</p> <p>Harbour Trust sites are very suitable for orienteering</p> <p>Concern that "partnerships" excludes volunteer-based, community organisations.</p> <p>Installation of picnic tables and rubbish/recycling facilities – both supported/ concern</p> | <p>The Harbour Trust will review parking arrangements.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>The Harbour Trust values its community partners and the important education, recreation and visitor services they provide.</p> <p>Noted. Installation of benches, tables etc. would be subject to funding. Barbecues would not be placed in areas of high bushfire risk.</p> |

| Issue Raised | Further Details   | Discussion   |
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|              | <p>Support additional outdoor education activities and improvements to paths and signage.</p> <p>Bubblers/drinking fountains and commemorative seats or plaques could be installed in parks and along walking tracks.</p> <p>Recreation activities promoting native flora and fauna and bushland settings should be encouraged.</p> <p>Request removal of Torpedo Factory and other buildings at Sub Base Platypus.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> <p>Provision of additional facilities such as bubblers will be considered, installation will be subject to funding. The Harbour Trust will develop a policy regarding the installation of commemorative seats and plaques.</p> <p>Noted. The final Recreation Strategy identifies opportunities for bush schools/outdoor education/bush tucker programs and working with partners on Harbour Trust lands (see pp 31 and 34). These may be explored further.</p> <p>Comments are noted, however this issue will be considered by the Harbour Trust in its review of feedback related to the Torpedo Factory design concept.</p> |