



**HARBOUR TRUST
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2020**

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Venue: Zoom Video Conference

Present

Zali Steggall MP - *Member for Warringah*
Cdr Bernadette Alexander - *HMAS Penguin*
Cr Carolyn Corrigan - *Mayor of Mosman Council*
Cr Jilly Gibson - *Mayor of North Sydney Council*
Michael Regan - *Mayor of Northern Beaches Council*
Robert Crawford
Sarah Dinning
Kate Eccles
Kate Evers
Colleen Godsell
Julie Goodsir
Geoff Lambert
Beth Lawsen
Robyn Lewis
Jill L'Estrange
John Tropman
Malcolm Moir

Apologies

The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP – *Member for Grayndler*
Dave Sharma MP – *Member for Wentworth*
Trent Zimmerman MP - *Member for North Sydney*
Cr Susan Wynne (Mayor of Woollahra Council)
Stuart Sprott
Rita Chowdhury
Paul Forward
Matt Rafferty

In Attendance

Mary Darwell, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Daniel Sealey, *Director, Planning*
Graham Izod, *Director, Assets and Parklands*
Rebecca Hill, *Head of Marketing and Engagement*
Rebecca Hage, *Media & Stakeholder Engagement Officer*
Claudia Rosario, *Communications & Engagement Manager*

The meeting commenced at 6:00pm on Wednesday 4 November.

1. Executive Director – Welcome and update

Mary Darwell (MD) opened the meeting, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and welcomed the General Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

MD highlighted that the Exposure Draft of the *Sydney Harbour Federation Amendment Bill 2020* is on exhibition until 13 November. The proposed changes to the legislation will:

- Empower the Harbour Trust to operate as an ongoing entity.
- Specify the expertise required for appointment of Members of the Trust.
- Increase the threshold for Ministerial approval of contracts from \$1 million to \$5 million.
- Revise the provisions relating to the approval of leases and licences.

The Department is managing the exhibition process.

MD informed the CAC of the \$40.6m in additional funding that has been provided to the Harbour Trust for strategic planning, priority works and maintenance across all sites. The Harbour Trust is currently working through a scope of works for the funds which are to be spent over a four-year period. This funding is in addition to funds already received throughout 2020.

MD notified the committee that the *Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Governance Framework* is on exhibition for public comment until 7 December 2020. The CAC are invited to provide feedback.

Committee comments:

- *CAC would like to discuss the Exposure Draft and its provisions for leases. This remains a concern amongst members. The Harbour Trust will facilitate an informal meeting for member discussion.*
- *CAC are interested in understanding the breakdown of funds for Cockatoo Island and North Head and if any additional funding will be provided for the 10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project.*

2. North Head

a. North Head Reduction Burn

The Harbour Trust provided an overview and subsequent update of the North Head Hazard Reduction Burn breach that occurred on 17 and 18 October 2020. The CAC were provided briefing material prior to the meeting outlining details of the reduction burn and follow up steps currently being undertaken.

Committee comments:

- *The cause of the fire needs to be investigated formally so a re-occurrence can be prevented. A whole of headland approach needs to be implemented.*
- *CAC enquired if there was a bushfire management plan in place for North Head. Concern that bushfire management plans at other sites are in need of updating.*
- *Concern about onsite water management prior to and during the burn. It was suggested that there was misinformation about the amount of water available to the Royal Fire Service (RFS).*
- *Concern about disruption to businesses caused by the fire.*
- *The proposed telecommunications tower at North Head could have assisted in the evacuation of members of the public during unexpected fire outbreaks.*

Harbour Trust comments:

- The Harbour Trust has written to NPWS requesting a formal report following the reduction burn.
- The North Head Bushfire Recovery Advisory Group (Group) has been established with representation from the Harbour Trust, NPWS, local elected representatives, government authorities and North Head stakeholder groups to:
 - o Provide a forum for organisations and individuals with:
 - local knowledge or special interests in North Head; or
 - relevant knowledge and expertise in land or bushfire management,to share information in relation to the Bushfire to inform the bushfire recovery effort;
 - o Support the recovery of flora and fauna at North Head following the Bushfire; and
 - o Consider best practice approaches to land and bushfire management for implementation as part of the recovery effort and in the future.
- Harbour Trust water tanks at North Head were at full capacity prior to the commencement of the burn and were managed accordingly throughout. There was no issue with these tanks.
- The Harbour Trust is reviewing the bushfire management plans across multiple sites to assist in prevention.

b. North Head Engagement Project

The Harbour Trust provided a brief overview of 'Hello North Head', the North Head community engagement project, currently underway. To date, 650 surveys have been completed as well as more than 200 text message conversations with objects around North Head.

3. Sub Base Platypus

The Harbour Trust provided an overview of the upcoming exhibition of the *Draft Amendment to the Sub Base Platypus Management Plan and Planning Application – Torpedo Factory Renewal Project*. The exhibition will commence on 18 November and conclude on 11 December.

The Harbour Trust provided an overview of upcoming activations at Sub Base Platypus. These include a food and beverage operator which will commence at the end of November. The Harbour Trust is also launching a historical walking tour for December and January, providing insight into the site's history as First Nations country, gasworks, Torpedo Factory and former naval base, HMAS Platypus.

Committee comments:

- *The CAC are very supportive of the project direction, pleased to see progress on the project.*
- *Broad community sentiment for the project is positive with the community viewing it as a quality, first class development.*
- *Locals are keen for site activation such as a food and beverage operator.*
- *Harbour Trust should engage local schools regarding history tours.*
- *A request has been submitted by North Sydney Council to hold the Australian Citizenship Ceremony at Sub Base Platypus on Australia Day.*

4. 10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project

The Harbour Trust provided an update of the *10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project*, noting the next opportunity for community consultation will occur in the coming weeks. Items on exhibition include the 10 Terminal Project Direction which is supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment and Bushfire Assessment. Consultation on these items will help inform further decision making on the project.

Committee comments:

- *Community appreciates the improved communications from the Harbour Trust regarding consultation on key issues and recommended additional workshops with smaller groups of interested parties.*
- *Enquired about the process to inform the community, suggested placing documents at food and beverage operators around Middle Head.*
- *Enquired about the Expression of Interest process (EOI) and the potential future uses of the site. It was suggested that conference facilities would be good option for the site.*
- *Enquired about the heritage significance of all the buildings, particularly the Barrack buildings earmarked for demolition. To determine if there is community acceptance for demolishing the buildings, the Harbour Trust needs to ensure the community is aware of the heritage value of the barracks buildings as this was not communicated in depth during the review of the Middle Head Management Plan in 2017.*
- *Some members are apprehensive about suggestions to keep the Barrack buildings as there are limited funds and it may deter from the renewal of the 10 Terminal brick buildings.*
- *More funding would mean sacrifices would not be needed and all aspirations could be achieved. Does this additional \$4 million achieve this or can additional funding be investigated?*
- *Enquired about the curatorial process for stories across Middle Head. Given the historical significance of the site, its First Nations and military heritage, it would be great to ensure these stories are collated and incorporated into the interpretation.*
- *Harbour Trust must ensure the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group are effectively engaged throughout the process.*

SUMMARY OF OPEN ACTIONS

	ACTION ITEM	STATUS	DUE DATE
1	Harbour Trust to circulate CfS paper: <i>Sydney Harbour – Our Greatest Asset</i> .	Completed	5 November
2	Harbour Trust to request nominations for the 10 Terminal and Parklands workshop meeting.	Completed. Meeting 1 confirmed for 30 November	5 November
3	Harbour Trust to organise meeting to discuss the <i>Exposure Draft of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Amendment Bill 2020</i>	Completed. Members met 10 November	5 November