



**HARBOUR TRUST  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY GROUP  
17 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Time:** 11:00am – 12:51pm  
**Venue:** Zoom Video Conference

**Present**

Dennis Foley  
Peter White  
Susan Moylan-Coombs

**Apologies**

Roy Mundine OAM  
Djon Mundine OAM

**In Attendance**

Mary Darwell, *Executive Director*  
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*  
Justin Bock, *Director Strategic Reform*  
Graham Izod, *Director Assets and Parklands*  
Rebecca Hill, *Head of Marketing and Engagement*  
Claudia Rosario, *Communications and Engagement Manager*  
Rebecca Hage, *Media & Stakeholder Engagement Officer*  
Yatu Widders-Hunt, *Cox Inall Ridgeway*

The meeting commenced at 11:00am on Wednesday 17 February.

**1. Welcome**

Mary Darwell (MD) welcomed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) to the meeting. Dennis Foley provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

MD acknowledged this meeting as her final meeting as Executive Director of the Harbour Trust following her resignation and thanked the group for their contribution and support. MD acknowledged the Harbour Trust will be going through a period of reform and with the help of Cox Inall Ridgeway (CIR), the Harbour Trust will strengthen the role of the Advisory Group.

**2. Capital Projects update**

Claudia Rosario (CR), Communications and Engagement Manager, provided an overview of recent community consultation on the major capital works projects: The Torpedo Factory Renewal Project at Sub Base Platypus and 10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project at Middle Head.

### **Torpedo Factory Renewal Project - Sub Base Platypus**

CR provided an overview of feedback received from the recent Public Exhibition of the Torpedo Factory Development Application and Amendment to Management Plan which ran from 12 November until 11 December. There is broad community support including support for the partial demolition of the Torpedo Factory, First Nations and military interpretation and onsite renewable energy features. Community concerns include the loss of heritage fabric, the proposed carparking and construction related concerns.

First Nations consultant, Yerrabingin, is working with the lead design services consultant, GMB, and its landscape architect, Turf, to assist with weaving Indigenous narratives into the foreshore park. Yerrabingin will facilitate a Design Jam at Sub Base Platypus in March, which will bring together a range of First Nations stakeholders to provide input and develop design ideas and concepts. Yerrabingin will reach out directly to the Advisory Group to attend the Design Jam. Following the session, the landscape design will be further developed and presented back to the Advisory Group.

### **10 Terminal Parklands and Renewal Project**

CR provided an overview of feedback received on the Project Direction proposed for the 10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project and identified key community engagement milestones.

The Harbour Trust has engaged Coast History and Heritage to review and deepen the Harbour Trust's existing understanding of the First Nations history of the site, particularly in relation to Bungaree's Farm.

#### ***Committee comments:***

- Peter White: Eager to see the 10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project progress and is interested in how the Harbour Trust will deliver on the aspirations for the site.
- Peter White: Pleased Paul Irish is involved with the project to investigate the history of 10 Terminal.
- Peter White: Harbour Trust should investigate the use and recognition of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP) rather than cultural harvesting and canvassing. Indigenous cultural and intellectual property expert, Terry Janke has completed work in this space and would be a good place to source best practice.

### **3. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Governance Framework Discussion**

The Harbour Trust introduced Cox Inall Ridgeway (CIR), who have been engaged to review the Harbour Trust's approach to First Nations stakeholder relations and engagement with a focus on strengthening relationships and partnerships. This will include a review of the structure and principles for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, specifically a review of the:

- Terms of Reference
- Advisory Group membership
- Role of the Advisory Group

CIR will provide advice in the coming months and highlighted there will be opportunities for the Advisory Group members to provide feedback.

#### ***Committee comments:***

- Dennis Foley: Looking forward to working with CIR and hopes there is effective two-way communication
- Peter White: Important there is interconnection between the role of Advisory Group and Harbour Trust work, ensuring advice and contribution is not siloed.
  - o HT: Highlighted decisions are made through the planning process, acknowledging the challenge to embed broad perspectives across all sites. Working with CIR will help the

Harbour Trust draw on expertise from key First Nations stakeholders without burn out and ensuring a range of information.

#### 4. RAP Performance and RAPWAG update

The Harbour Trust provided an overview of the Harbour Trust RAP Performance to date. Key highlights include the recent partnership with *Babana* as well as updates to a range of induction policies and procedures. The Harbour Trust has also implemented changes to its procurement process, amending it to include further opportunities for First Nations owned suppliers and personnel.

##### **Committee comments:**

- Peter White: Queried if the Harbour Trust's approach to First Nations procurement considered the supply chain.
  - o HT: Has implemented a new procurement policy to align with Commonwealth which includes emphasis on First Nations procurement. There has been a mindset shift within the Harbour Trust with a focus on First Nations procurement, and this will continue to evolve.
- Dennis Foley: NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce is not funded by the Federal Government and is a good option to facilitate smaller contracts.
  - o HT: Noted it will ensure staff are accessing this option.
- Peter White: Great opportunity with capital investment to take advantage of First Nations engagement and procurement.

#### 5. Reform update

The Harbour Trust provided an overview of Reform work currently underway as a response to the Independent Review of the Harbour Trust. Reform work has been split into six packages; Governance, Legislative, Stakeholder, Major Projects, Operating Model & Change and Budget Funding – Backlog Works / R&M.

In terms of Major Projects, management discussed the work on developing a rehabilitation plan for North Head Sanctuary and a refreshed approach for Cockatoo Island (recommendations 19 and 20). It was indicated that we would commence the next stage of engagement on future directions for these sites in April.

##### **Committee comments:**

- Dennis Foley/Susan Moylan-Coombs: Harbour Trust should ensure broad consultation across all key First Nations stakeholders across Sydney, including traditional owners and local communities.
- Peter White: Queried where the touch point is with NSW Government and how this is being communicated back the Advisory Group.
- Peter White: Consideration required for long term sustainability of land management principles. Great opportunity for the Advisory Group to be involved in the development of this.
- Peter White: Request that the Harbour Trust and CIR align meeting schedules and requirements of time. Ensuring First Nations voice are upfront and present. Review if there is a need for more touch points.

**Action:** Susan Moylan-Coombs to provide insight on how to engage with Northern Sydney areas.

#### 6. Other business

**Committee comments**

- Susan Moylan-Coombs: Queried how the Harbour Trust and CIR are planning on engaging with those who have a direct blood connection to traditional lands. First Nations organisations infiltrating Country that is not their own is culturally wrong and this needs to be recognised by the Harbour Trust. The Harbour Trust has a requirement to engage with organisations/ people who are from Country to ensure cultural connectivity and continuity. This is crucial to the evolution of all organisations.

**Action:** Harbour Trust to facilitate face to face meetings where possible.

**Action:** Harbour Trust to review meeting times and engagement required from the advisory group and provide a forward-looking schedule

**Action:** Harbour Trust to provide meeting presentation when minutes are distributed.