

## Sub Base Platypus nears completion with final design plans for the Torpedo Factory

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The next stage of Sub Base Platypus, one of Sydney's hidden foreshore gems, is nearing completion, with the Harbour Trust releasing the final look and feel for the renewal of the Torpedo Factory.

Sub Base Platypus, managed by the Harbour Trust, is currently being transformed into a contemporary place for community recreation and work, after spending the best part of 150 years as a gasworks, Torpedo Factory and submarine base.

The Torpedo Factory is the largest building at the site, constructed in the early 1940s to house offices and facilities for naval staff, with a large factory for torpedo manufacture and maintenance.

This final stage of the renewal works program will deliver a new foreshore park, public access improvements, a welcoming entry and new public spaces re-imagined and activated.

The Chair of the Harbour Trust, Joseph Carrozzi, said the final design for the Torpedo Factory was the latest instalment into the revitalisation of the historic site, which kicked off in 2010 with a significant program of remediation and decontamination works.

"Since we opened the site up to the public in 2018, we have worked closely with our neighbours and the wider community to develop the appropriate plans for the Torpedo Factory, which is the largest building on the site," Mr Carrozzi said.

"Last year, we held community consultation over a four week period and had strong engagement in the process, which is a testament to the connection the local community has with the site, something we have taken into account in the design, with a mix of open space and urban parkland.

"Sub Base Platypus is an important historical site, with a long and proud submariner and industrial heritage and significance to the Cammeraygal people. The new public space will present the story and history of the place's First Nations, industrial and history related to torpedo manufacturing and maintenance."

The Federal Member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman, MP, said that today marks an important moment for one of Sydney Harbour's most important historical and industrial heritage sites.

"This is a significant moment in the history of Sydney Harbour as Sub Base Platypus enters the final stage of reaching its full potential as a wonderful addition to public open space on the foreshores.

"The works will be funded by the federal government as part of the additional \$62 million allocated to the Trust to enhance and protect Harbour Trust sites. The new park this project will create will be a lasting legacy for future generations and is one of the projects I have been most excited to champion for our area," said Mr Zimmerman.

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Sub Base Platypus has a rich multi-layered history, from Australia's efforts in World War II to triumphs in the Nation's engineering and defence work. Interpretation will focus on the site's natural, First Nations and defence heritage, as well as the ongoing connection to Country.

The Harbour Trust's Sub Base Platypus and First Nations Advisory Committees have provided ongoing input throughout the development of the design. As the project moves towards the works phase, the Harbour Trust will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community is invited to join a drop-in session to learn more about the final design and what the project will deliver. Visit [www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au) to find when the sessions will be held.

The Harbour Trust is also launching an art competition focused on the multi-layered heritage and enduring historic significance of Sub Base Platypus, where children can learn more about the history of the site. Winning entries will be displayed onsite during the works phase, with other entries published on the Harbour Trust website. To find out more visit the [Kids Corner](#) page on the Harbour Trust website.

### **About Sub Base Platypus**

The site is Cammeraygal Country and was once a gasworks providing gas for street lights, homes and businesses on the North Shore of Sydney. As part of the war effort, the site was resumed by the Commonwealth Government in 1942 and became a torpedo manufacturing and maintenance factory as well as a service facility for the naval vessels of the Pacific Fleet. In 1967 the site was commissioned as the base for the Royal Australian Navy's Oberon-class submarines and was named HMAS Platypus. The submarine base was closed in 1998 and the asset was transferred to the Harbour Trust in 2005.

#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

Rebecca Hill

[Rebecca.hill@harbourtrust.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.hill@harbourtrust.gov.au) / 0409 266 248

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