



22 November 2023

**Meeting Notes
Harbour Trust
Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Time: 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Venue: Harbour Trust Head Office (29 Best Avenue, Mosman/ Zoom Video Conference

Present

Lori Callahan - *Representing Zali Steggall MP*
Lisa Trueman
Carolyn Corrigan - *Mayor of Mosman Council*
Sheila Foliaki
Rebecca Cardy
Chido Mauwa
Glyn Evans
Cathy Griffin
Yolande Stone
Trudy Phelps
CMDR Kent Browning – *HMAS Penguin*
WO Paul Chircop – *HMAS Penguin*

Apologies

Linda O'Malley
Anne Clarke
Sue Heins – *Mayor of Northern Beaches Council*
Jeremy Kenna

In Attendance

Harbour Trust

Janet Carding, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Daniel Sealey, *Director, Planning*
Alastair Fisher, *Community Engagement Officer*

1. Welcome and Apologies

Janet Carding (JC) welcomed attendees to the meeting and read the apologies

Acknowledgement of Country

JC formally opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country

a) Executor Director's Update



JC commented that it was the Harbour Trust’s aim to have a Board member attend the CAC meetings where possible, however its new Board members have not yet been finalised.

JC provided the CAC with an update on work that has been carried out across the Harbour Trust sites recently. This included Building 17 at North Head where works have been carried out to return the building to use as a gymnasium with an Expression of Interest process starting in 2024.

The Straight Tunnel at Cockatoo Island will shortly be re-opened to the public following work to ensure the safety of people using the tunnel. Work is underway to prepare two further heritage cottages on Cockatoo Island for use, Buildings 9 and 20, noting that the work will be carried out in a manner in keeping with the buildings’ heritage.

North Head’s gun emplacements 1 & 2 have been undergoing restoration, with works almost complete and the aim to re-open gun emplacement 2 to the public in the summer. The collapsed wall at North Head has also been restored near the Visitor Centre with discussions ongoing with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding planning approvals for the remaining section.

JC also provided an update on the restoration of the Greenway Wall at Macquarie Light Station. The restoration has been referred to DCCEEW under the EPBC Act to establish whether it is a controlled action and is undergoing a statutory two-week consultation period.

JC provided an update on the Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Draft Master Plan, with the public consultation period having commenced on 1 November 2023 and closing on 13 December 2023.

JC discussed the draft work plan for 2024 with the CAC for input and feedback. Key discussion points are included below and will be considered in a revised work plan for 2024;

- Confirmation that Sub Base Platypus Wirra Birra foreshore park will open Easter 2024.
- A standing meeting agenda on master plans noting that Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary master plans are not funded as of yet.
 - Cockatoo Island Consultation Outcomes Report to be presented in Feb meeting
 - Each quarterly meeting will have an agenda item on the progress of master plan implementation.
- A standing meeting agenda item on the Middle Head /Gubbuh Gubbuh masterplan implementation based on funds that have been allocated to this project
- A standing meeting agenda item on the repairs and maintenance programme for the various precincts and how funds are being expended and communicated to the broader public.
- A standing meeting agenda item on the recent funding of the \$45M and how this money will be expended, understanding that the ambition is for the money to be spent by 30 June 2025.
- The Cockatoo Island interpretation project will be led by a curator, included in this project is the update of the visitor audio guides.
- An update on how the Harbour Trust is engaging with stakeholders, including who we are partnering with.
- A joint workshop between the CAC and First Nations Advisory Group

ACTION



- For next meeting the Committee to be provided an update to the workplan.
- Scheduling of 2024 meetings to be set and sent to all members before Christmas

b) Board Update

JC provided an updated on the appointment of new Members of the Trust. Confirming that Minister Plibersek is close to finalising the Harbour Trust’s new appointments. It is hoped that the Trustees will be finalised before the next Board meeting on 14 December 2023.

JC noted that one new member has recently been appointed; Terry Bailey, a NSW Government appointee. There are 3 other existing members, Alison Page, Chantelle Fonari and Pru Goward.

Lori Callahan (LC) noted that Zali Steggall has raised concerns about the new Board Members not being appointed yet and the impact this could have on the master plans depending on their views.

JC provided an update from the Board Meeting in October 2023, noting it was focused on updates on community consultation for Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh, Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plans.

JC noted that the Harbour Trust’s commercial properties are experiencing low vacancy rates, less than 10%, and zero vacancies for residential properties.

c) First Nations Advisory Group

JC provided an update from the first meeting of the First Nations Advisory Group that took place on 19 October 2023. Noted that the Group requested for membership announcement when all members were present for a group photo. Meetings will be held four times a year, with Alison Page being the Chair of the group. The intention is that workshops and joint sessions will be explored to create links between the CAC and the First Nations Advisory Group.

JC confirmed it was agreed in the First Nations Advisory Group that the Harbour Trust would develop a First Nations strategy, rather than a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The planning for this is underway with discussions due to occur with the Group at their next meeting to inform the strategy.

Matters for Discussion

1. Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh Master Plan - Process of Finalisation and Next Steps

JC provided an update on the Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh Draft Master Plan, noting that the Master Plan is being updated in line with the feedback received from the consultation. The Master Plan will then be presented to the Board at the meeting in December for their approval or for further amendments.

Cathy Griffin (CG) asked a question about the process and timeline for any decision to demolish the timber buildings. JC noted that the position of the Harbour Trust has not changed and that following approval of the



master plan by the Board the Harbour Trust would then, at a later date, refer the proposed building demolition and creation of parkland to the Minister for consideration under the EPBC Act.

JC provided a progress report on the current work, including an updated conditions audit of the precinct underway that involves above and below ground assets, services conditions, fire protection, sewers, etc.

CG asked about the plans from Mosman Council to upgrade the sports facilities. Carolyn Corrigan (CC) responded that Mosman Council are preparing plans and understood they were awaiting the finalisation of the master plan.

2. North Head Sanctuary draft consultation outcomes

KR provided an update on the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan. Noting that the public consultation closed 2 weeks ago (8 November 2023), with 17 written submissions, 85 responses, of which 71% were supportive. The Master Plan is a 10-year project, involving public interaction with the site and liaison/guidance from the Government.

LC requested that the presentation be shared with CAC members. JC agreed to share the presentation with the CAC and confirmed that the full Consultation Outcomes Report will be published following the December Board meeting, along with any public submissions.

JC confirmed that the Draft Master Plan for North Head Sanctuary will be updated and presented to the Board for approval in early 2024.

3. Draft Guide to Memorials on Harbour Trust land

Daniel Sealey (DS) discussed the draft guide for managing requests for memorials on Harbour Trust land, following a number of requests by various individuals and groups.

DS noted that the development of the guide will require consultation with relevant organisations including the NSW Department of Veterans' Affairs, WRAAC and ASOPA. It was noted that memorials may be for a range of subjects, not just for Defence-related use of the land.

Feedback was sought from the CAC on the draft guide ahead of its finalisation. Key discussion points and recommendations are noted and will be considered in a revised version. The initial feedback received in the meeting included:

- Linking directly to the objectives of the Harbour Trust
- To include a requirement to help further the public's understanding of place
- Strengthening language to avoid ambiguity around approvals and removals
- Clarifications on the definition of a link to the site requirement
- Clarifications on where the cost of establishing and maintaining the memorial sits

4. AOB – Process for Volunteer Strategy

Kathryn Roberts (KR) updated members on the intention to review the Volunteer Program and create a new strategy to better support the current 200 volunteers that support the Harbour Trust to deliver its objectives. Part



of this work is to consult with volunteers and obtain feedback on all aspects of the volunteer programme. An external consultant has been engaged to listen and talk with volunteers and staff and will include a survey, meetings and workshops. The CAC will be advised on the progress and outcome of this work Mid 2024.