



HARBOUR TRUST
SUB BASE PLATYPUS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE
24 May 2023
MEETING NOTES

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Venue: In person at Taylor’s site office at Sub Base Platypus

Present – In person

Councillor Mary Ann Beregi
Paul Forward
Phil Burfurd
Matthew Lorimer
Tammy Dodd
Neil Schafer
Jessica Keen
Ken Williams

Apologies

Mayor Zoe Baker, *Mayor Of North Sydney*
Miles Lockwood

Harbour Trust Attendance – In person

Janet Carding, *Executive Director*
Daniel Sealey, *Director - Planning*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director - Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Graham Izod, *Director - Assets and Parklands*
Libby Bennett, *Director - Projects*
Patrick Lee, *Project Manager - Sub Base Platypus*
Susan Thompson, *Head of Engagement & Experience*
Alastair Fisher, *Community Engagement Officer*
Peter Salib, Taylor Construction, *Contractor – Torpedo Factory Renewal Project*



1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country

The Harbour Trust's (HT) Janet Carding (CD), Executive Director opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and apologies.

JC provided an update from the Executive Director. Noting the recent funding announcement from the government in the Budget after working closely with the Minister, the funding is to be spent over the next 1-2 years with largest amount going to Cockatoo Island (CI), adding that Sub Base Platypus (SBP) will receive funding for maintenance primarily to the Retort House, cliff stabilization and repairs to the Wharf.

Matters for Information

2. Project Update

a) Overview of completed works

Patrick Lee (PL) and Graham Izod (GI) updated the committee on the project status of the Torpedo Factory at SBP. Providing an overview of the completed works following the site visit conducted prior to the meeting. Noting that the design updates had been made to the park following the discovery of additional rock and materials to account for the infill requirements as well as building back from the sea wall.

b) Final Foreshore Park Design

PL noted that there has been architectural input from First Nations consultants on the design and planting of the park, and that the curved linear approach to the design allows for access via ramps wrapping around the park.

Committee Feedback

- Phil Burfurd (PB) asked how high the mature tree heights will be and if they will impact the view over the harbour.

PL noted that what is shown in the renderings are mature tree heights, with trees chosen based on how they could fit into the site.

- Paul Forward (PF) noted that the site looked flat in the renderings.

PL confirmed that other rendering views show the build up of the site which has been done to incorporate the relocated materials on site.

- PB asked if there was an update on the access to the Crown Land.

JC confirmed that discussions will be held following the construction work. Daniel Sealey (DS) noted that due to access requirements and Native Title processes it is necessary to hold off on seeking access until construction is complete but that the design of the site has incorporated possible access in the future.

- Matthew Lorimer (ML) asked about the height difference between the two levels of the site.

PL confirmed that it is 6-7m.



- PF asked about the materials being used on the path around the park.

PL confirmed this will be crushed stone. JC added that the site creates a gathering space which was important for First Nations people.

- GI provided an update on the upcoming work. Noting that the current targets are for the car park to be completed in August and the site completed by December.

Kathryn Roberts (KR) noted that the front of the site will be completed by August which will allow for discussions with North Sydney Council around footpath improvements.

JC confirmed that productive meetings had been held with the Mayor of North Sydney to work together on the community launch of the space and longer-term activations of the site.

Libby Bennett (LB) provided an update on the remediation works to the Retort House to remove hazardous materials to allow for public events. JC noted that the space could be used for small scale pop-up events once this work is completed.

Committee Feedback

- Tammy Dodd (TD) asked for the timelines of this work.

LB confirmed that it is currently in the planning stage which will take 3-4 months with the remediation work taking about 4 months. GI noted that this is subject to delays caused by any unknowns that might be found on site.

- ML asked about the reticulation works for power.

LB confirmed there are existing main supplies to the building which will be reticulated as part of the works. JC added that this will allow for short term pop-up events on the site.

3. First Nations Interpretation - Concepts

Susan Thompson (ST) provided an update on the First Nations artist commissioning process, and announced that Dennis Golding has been commissioned to deliver the artwork on site. Noted that he has developed a site-specific concept. A media release had gone out to this effect earlier in the day.

KR added that there is the desire to work with community such as schools and local First Nations artists throughout the work.

Committee Feedback

CAC members supported the appointment of Dennis and his concept.



Matters for Discussion

4. Activations & Events Strategy – SBP

KR provided an update on activations and events for the site, noting that activations including a general public tour is in development along with discussions with local groups and bodies for how to collaborate and get feedback and to not replicate or compete with existing events. Noted the planning and programming for events during the opening weekend is underway.

Committee Feedback

- PF noted the need to do an audit of existing offerings around the local area to find a gap in what the site can offer the community.
- Mary Ann Beregi (MB) suggested the site could be used to stage performances as it will need to be a destination event due to the lack of passing traffic. Suggested that markets would need careful consideration due to the high amount of markets in the area already.

JC noted that the Harbour Trust would look to partner with groups to put on events rather than running them alone. KR added that it is important for the site to have its own personality.

- MB asked about the restrictions that would be in place for events on the site.

KR confirmed that events would not go later than 10pm on the site due to the proximity to residential properties but the HT is open to discussions outside of these times. Noted that the park access will be 24/7.

- TD noted the community appetite for cafes on site to attract people to stay.

JC agreed but noted the difficulties around this currently as the site is a construction site.

5. Ongoing Operations of the site

DS provided an update on the ongoing operations of the site following completion. Noted that access to the site for pedestrians will be 24/7 with parking between 7am – 9pm and limited to 3 hours with the third hour to be charged. Rangers and security will be on site 24/7 to ensure security.

Committee Feedback

- MB suggested looking into the cost of parking and ways to encourage public transport use.

DS agreed to look into parking costs.

- PF asked about EV charging facilities.

DS noted there will be 4 EV charging spots on site.



- PF requested that light spill be monitored on site.

DS confirmed that lighting will be on at all times to comply with safety standards. PL noted that the current lighting on site has been reduced to 20% following consultants' review.

Meeting closed – 7:00pm