



SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST

164<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TRUST

Meeting in Public

held via in person and via webinar

Thursday 15 June 2023, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

MINUTES

True & Correct Record of the 164<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Trust

Alison Page, Acting Chair

Minutes of the 164<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust held in public (in person and via webinar) on Thursday 15 June 2023.

### Present

Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM	Chair
Mr Brad Manera	Member
Ms Alison Page	Member
Mr Michael Rose AM	Observer

### Apologies

Ms Chantelle Fornari	Member
Prof the Hon Pru Goward	Member
Mr Steven Issa	Member
Ms Carolyn McNally	Member

### In attendance

Members of the public and Harbour Trust staff members were in attendance (in person and via webinar) to observe the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm.

## 1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.

The Chair spoke of last month's major announcement from the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, regarding the \$45.2 million funding to be provided to the Harbour Trust to address a critical backlog of repair works across our sites. The funding is of course very welcome, as is the demonstration of faith in the Harbour Trust by the Minister.

## 2. Executive Director update

The Chair introduced Ms Janet Carding, Executive Director, who spoke to the presentation prepared for the meeting.

The presentation included:

- A summary of the how the \$45.2 million injection of funding announced by the Minister will be applied. The funding will be provided over two years and will be spent on critical maintenance and infrastructure renewal works across all Harbour Trust sites. There are approximately 50 initiatives including marine works, heritage works, building works, residential works, infrastructure services and the maintenance of minor projects.
- An update on the Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh Draft Master Plan. The draft master plan was on public exhibition from 14 March 2023 until 9 May 2023 and 209 unique submissions received. A stakeholder session was held earlier this month to review feedback received and proposed changes to the draft master plan.

Key themes from the public exhibition included:

- Support for: a documented vision for the site; new and improved walking tracks; an interpretation centre; the preservation and adaptive reuse of the 10 Terminal brick barracks precinct; and bushland protection and regeneration.
- Concerns were raised about the relocation of café; relocation of Middle Head oval changing facilities and re-configuration of oval; types and scales of events; and traffic impacts.

The next steps in the process will be for a revised draft master plan to be exhibited for public comment; and a further outcomes report based on further submissions received. Following the exhibition of a revised draft master plan, endorsement would be sought from the Members of the Trust in late 2023. These steps would be followed by design development for any Development Applications (which would also be open for public comment).

- An update on the progress with the Repairs and Maintenance program of which there are 18 separate projects, all of which have been identified as high priority. These include: work on the Chowder Bay and wharf and slipway; landslip repairs at Chowder Bay; repair of the collapsed stone wall at North Head Sanctuary; work on heritage buildings on Cockatoo Island (the Former Free Overseer quarters circa 1839-1869) and the (Former Clerk of Petty Sessions cottage circa 1839-1869); and work on the Cockatoo Island 'straight tunnel' which has been closed since 2022 due to safety concerns. The program also includes an upgrade to the solar panels in the Cockatoo Island Industrial Precinct as the existing system is nearing end of life.

These projects, all of which have different levels of complexity, are underway and are at various stages. The Chair commented on the significant challenges faced by the Harbour Trust's small team in overseeing these projects at time when it is difficult to secure contractors to undertake such works.

Ms Carding introduced two new staff members: Ms Bernadette Or, Chief Operating and Financial Officer; and Mr Alastair Fisher, Community Engagement Officer.

The Chair thanked Ms Carding for her presentation and introduced Ms Alison Page, Member of Trust, as the guest speaker.

### **3. Guest Speaker, Ms Alison Page, Member of the Trust – Presentation 'Designing with Country'**

Member of the Trust, Ms Page, introduced herself. A Walbanga and Wadi Wadi woman from La Perouse, Ms Page is a designer and film producer; an Associate Dean of the Faculty of Design Architecture & Building at UTS; founder of the National Aboriginal Design Agency; and a member of several cultural boards including the National Australia Day Council, and the National Australian Maritime Museum.

During her presentation, 'Designing with Country', Ms Page spoke about the importance of the First Nations worldview that everything starts with Country. Country includes people, animals, plants, rocks, earth, water and air; it also includes the built environment and objects, as climatic conditions determine the style and nature of built structures.

Ms Page spoke to an image showing the how the ridge of Macquarie Street connects to the waterways and homelands of the Gadigal people. The area of Macquarie Street and The Domain remains a place of significance to First Nations peoples from Sydney Harbour and other regions. The cultural landscape of Sydney Harbour, including Harbour Trust sites, incorporates a long and proud history of military and industrial heritage; and the protection of these sites involves not just preserving physical structures but also weaving together First Nations stories and perspectives that speak to all Australians.

### **4. Meeting Closure**

As this was Mr Carrozzi's last meeting as Chair and as a Member of the Trust, he thanked the members of the public in attendance at the meeting for their continued interest in the Harbour Trust and for their advocacy. Mr Carrozzi acknowledged that even though there can at times be disagreement between the Harbour Trust and stakeholders, there is mutual respect. In closing, Mr Carrozzi thanked his fellow Trust Members, the Executive Director and Harbour Trust staff and wished them well for the future.

The Chair closed the meeting.