

## MEDIA RELEASE

17 November 2021

### HARBOUR TRUST CELEBRATES 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH CIVIC EVENT

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust today celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding with a Civic Event recognising the contribution of volunteers and community members at Sergeants Mess, Chowder Bay – one of the first buildings restored and opened for public use by the organisation.

The Harbour Trust is the guardian and the protector of some of Australia’s most culturally and historically significant sites – these sites are rich in history and, in many ways reflect the history of Australia.

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Sussan Ley, MP, said: “The Harbour Trust celebrates 20 years of stewardship with renewed certainty, new levels of financial support from the Commonwealth and an unprecedented opportunity to grow.

“Our work with the Harbour Trust over the last three years has ended uncertainty about its future, enshrined public access to sites, rejuvenated management strategy and seen a \$60 million Commonwealth investment in restoring and preserving sites.

“Throughout the consultation process, I was always impressed by the passion of the community advocates and volunteers who provided valuable input and whose contribution over the last two decades deserves to be acknowledged,” said Minister Ley.

The Chair of the Harbour Trust, Joseph Carrozzi AM, said: “The history of Sydney Harbour is the history of Australia, and Harbour Trust lands demonstrate the heritage of First Nations people and their country, early European settlement, historically important military outposts, and sites of maritime and industrial significance.

“More than 20 years ago, a passionate group of supporters had the foresight to recognise that, the precious sites now managed by the Harbour Trust were an extraordinary treasure that should be protected for future generations.

“Today we recognise and celebrate how the community came together to support the formation of the Harbour Trust; and how they have stayed connected to the organisation helping to shape our sites over our 20 years.

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“As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, it is useful to reflect on our achievements. Some 90 per cent of Harbour Trust land has been opened to the public, and 77 per cent of the built assets that can be re-purposed have already been put into active use. Our lands continue to provide important open space to all receiving 1,796,666 visitors in the past year alone.

The Harbour Trust was founded by a passionate group of supporters who recognised that Sydney Harbour’s 250 kilometres of shoreline were an extraordinary treasure that should be protected for future generations, and the Harbour Trust today, is sustained by the passion and commitment of its community members and volunteers.

The Executive Director of the Harbour Trust, Janet Carding, said: “The Harbour Trust would be nothing without its passionate advocates, including our wonderful and committed volunteers. The community is core to our organisation, and we will retain a strong sense of community and belonging amongst our visitors and stakeholders into the future.

“We look forward to our next 20 years, and are committed to working closely with our stakeholders, and continuing to consult with the community, including our neighbours, in relation to future plans for key Harbour Trust sites.”

– ENDS –

### ABOUT THE HARBOUR TRUST

The Harbour Trust protects and manages some of the most historically significant sites on Sydney Harbour, including Cockatoo Island, North Head Sanctuary, Sub Base Platypus in North Sydney, and Headland Park in Mosman.

The formation of the Harbour Trust followed years of advocacy by community groups adamant that these locations on Sydney Harbour should be maintained as public spaces and kept safe from redevelopment.

In September 1998, the Commonwealth Government announced the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (Harbour Trust) – a statutory agency tasked with rehabilitating former Defence and other Commonwealth lands around Sydney Harbour, conserving their natural and built heritage, and returning them to the people of Australia. In July 2021, the Harbour Trust was formerly established as an ongoing entity with responsibility for important heritage sites on Sydney Harbour.

### MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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