



THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ANDREW BRAGG
SENATOR FOR NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW LEASE FOR SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST SITES

With \$40.6 million already being rolled out to restore historic Harbour Trust buildings, the Morrison Government has confirmed a future leasing strategy that will ensure the protection of public ownership and access.

The proposed structure will help ensure visitor access to more facilities as they visit the Harbour Trust's historic sites and establish operating frameworks that support the future viability of the Harbour Trust. The leasing structure is contained within legislation being introduced in the House, this week, to establish the Harbour Trust as an ongoing entity.

Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP said that following the Morrison Government's landmark review of the Harbour Trust in 2020, there had been extensive consultation with the Harbour Trust Board, local stakeholders and the State Government to map an integrated approach that will maximise future public access.

"We are ensuring the ongoing future of the Harbour Trust and delivering on our commitment to keep its wonderful sites in public hands," Minister Ley said.

"Under the proposed leasing arrangements, commercial leases for appropriate sites will have a maximum term of 35 years with leases of longer than 25 years subject to a disallowance by Parliament.

"This addresses both community concerns and allows the Harbour Trust the framework it needs to develop commercial partnerships that can enhance public access."

Before proposing a lease beyond 25 years, the Harbour Trust must:

- Develop a statement of reasons explaining why it considers the proposal is consistent with the objectives for Harbour Trust sites of public access and amenity, and the conservation of heritage
- Consult with the community on the proposal, and seek advice from its Community Advisory Committee
- Reflect community feedback in the statement of reasons submitted to Parliament.

Senator for NSW, Senator Andrew Bragg said there was a growing sense of optimism among all parties about the future of the Harbour Trust and the ongoing protection of its former Defence sites on Sydney Harbour.

"The local community is passionate about these sites and with very good reason," Senator Bragg said.

“We have worked closely with all parties to reach a position that protects public access and ensures the Harbour Trust will be able to work with communities and the State Government’s master plan to encourage more people to enjoy its wonderful sites.”

Chair of the Harbour Trust Joseph Carrozzi said: “We welcome the Government’s strong engagement with the Harbour Trust and the community. On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the legislation’s Royal Assent, this legislation reflects a terrific outcome which secures the future of our sites and their use for the community’s benefit.”

Headland Preservation Group President, Jill L’Estrange, said that the new leasing arrangements represented collaboration with the community and a positive step for the Harbour Trust.

“The HPG Committee thanks the Minister for her willingness to engage with and listen to the community voice in respect of the proposed amendments. HPG is of the opinion that the Minister’s willingness to consult has resulted in an outcome which is both beneficial to the community and to the future of the Harbour Trust.”

ENDS

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