



**HARBOUR TRUST
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
11 NOVEMBER 2021
MEETING NOTES**

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom Video Conference

Present

Cr Carolyn Corrigan - *Mayor of Mosman Council*
Cr Ross Williams - *Mayor of Hunters Hill Council*
Zali Steggall MP - *Member for Warringah*
Cr Michael Regan - *Mayor of Northern Beaches Council*
Sarah Dinning
Colleen Godsell
Geoff Lambert
Jill L'Estrange
Julie Goodsir
Kate Eccles
Kate Evers
Malcolm Moir
Matthew Rafferty
Paul Forward
Peter Lawrence
Beth Lawsen
Robyn Lewis

Apologies

Joseph Carrozzi AM, *Member of the Trust*
Cdr Bernadette Alexander - *HMAS Penguin*
Dave Sharma MP - *Member for Wentworth*
Cr Jilly Gibson - *Mayor of North Sydney Council*
Cr Susan Wynne - *Mayor of Woollahra Council*
Trent Zimmerman MP - *Member for North Sydney*
Mary-Lou Jervis - *Representing Susan Wynne, Mayor for Woollahra*
Sue Heath - *Representing the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Member for Grayndler*

In Attendance

Harbour Trust

Janet Carding, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director - Marketing & Visitor Experience*
Justin Bock, *Director - Strategic Reform*
Daniel Sealey, *Director - Planning*
Libby Bennett, *Director - Projects*
Graham Izod, *Director - Assets and Parklands*
Rebecca Hill, *Head of Marketing and Visitor Experience*
Madeleine Treacy-Maclean, *Stakeholder Engagement Officer*



Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Janet Carding (JC) opened the meeting by making an Acknowledgement of Country.

JC spoke on her first two months since beginning in the role of Executive Director and reflected on her time so far with the Harbour Trust (HT). As a small organisation, the HT has achieved a lot over twenty years.

The pandemic has disrupted the organisation. However, it helped expose what the HT does well and what we need to improve. JC elaborated on the issue of earning trust and building solid foundations. JC noted that the community wants the HT to bring the heritage sites to life, tell more of their stories, and be outward-looking. JC noted she will be reviewing the current stakeholder engagement strategy. JC noted the recent workshops to improve relationships with First Nations people. There will also be some interpretive pilot projects in storytelling next year to increase community engagement opportunities, and the upcoming master planning at Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary will be planned as a collaborative process.

Committee discussion

Kate Evers (KE) noted JC's point on engagement and notes the importance of environmentalism and preservation, which are crucial to the sites.

Julie Goodsir (JG) suggested that an Indigenous community member be invited onto the CAC to provide an Indigenous voice.

KE noted cultural issues within the organisation that, in her opinion, had led to a divergence from the strategic direction. This has led to a lack of morale, and it has been very difficult for the staff. JC acknowledged that it had been a difficult time with a lot of uncertainty and noted it would be critical the HT do some internal work to strike an appropriate balance.

Mayor Carolyn Corrigan (CC) suggested it is a big job and asked if the HT is confident of achieving all its goals when it comes to Cockatoo Island and North Head. JC agreed but celebrating the 20th anniversary has given JC insight into how much has been achieved and can be achieved in the future.

Jill L'Estrange (JE) noted that Cockatoo Island and North Head are large projects and suggested specific site managers and further funding needed from the Government. JC acknowledged this sense of frustration within the community at the speed of progress and mentioned that while long term plans were developed for the future, the pilot projects would provide engagement opportunities.

Beth Lawsen (BL) spoke of the importance of being inclusive to young people and referenced the Endeavour project as an example. JC described how she had set up mechanisms to work with kids and support intergenerational learning in previous roles. The HT will look at these areas and consider what would be appropriate here.



Implementation of Independent Review recommendations

Justin Bock (JB) provided a progress update on the implementation of Independent Review Recommendations and the consultation on Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary concept plans.

Committee Feedback

KE asked how the responses to the recommendations had been prioritised and how prescriptively the recommendations had been followed. JB responded that the HT had implemented the highest priority recommendations first. There have been opportunities to consider the intent of the recommendations and deliver solutions appropriately, which has been made easier with Carolyn McNally joining the board.

Regarding the consultation on the concept plans, JE asked about the summary of the CAC comments and noted the reports shared did not extract and summarise the specific CAC feedback. Kathryn Roberts (KR) responded that the purpose of the summary was to communicate the overall community feedback. In addition, notes of the CAC workshops had been provided directly to the Members of the Trust.

JE noted the summary documentation generally suggested the community endorsed the concept plans but recollected that the CAC did not endorse the draft plans as published without amendments. JE also raised concerns with the weighting attached to the survey and noted that only 46% of the people surveyed have been to Cockatoo Island. JC acknowledged these concerns and said the HT would make sure the CAC continues to be involved going forward as the plans are further developed.

Geoff Lambert (GL) asked whether the HT had given plans to the Treasurer with budget figures based on the concept plans. In response, JC said that Minister Ley's office had requested information, and the HT had provided it. The HT is waiting on the outcome, and there are still live discussions. The process hasn't closed.

Zali Steggle MP (ZS) noted the sub-committees need to be informed on details and figures and that there has been a lack of communication in what the HT needs in terms of funding. ZS asks what HT are pressing the Government for as several sites identified in the review need to be addressed. JC responded that, unfortunately, HT could not disclose further detail on this matter at this time, as it was part of a government budget process, but that overall, the HT is at the start of a pathway. The next stage was to test the feasibility, and that design was at an early stage with the ability to continue to develop.

Working with First Nations stakeholders

Kathryn Roberts (KR) updated the HT work with First Nations stakeholders. KR detailed the overarching building blocks that needed to be established. HT wants to build stronger valued based relationships with First Nations people and organisations.



JC noted that what came through consistently from the recent workshops is that those organisations that have invested in First Nations people are the ones with credibility. As a result, the HT will be investing in First Nations staff. HT will also continue the work we have been doing with cultural awareness for all staff.

Capital Projects

Graham Izod (GI) updated the committee on the backlog capital works program and the 10 Terminal preservation works. The former is a list of high priority projects to be delivered over four years. Overall, there are 27 projects, with eight projects completed so far. In addition, the HT has undertaken 'quick wins' that are small projects that can be delivered quickly at a total cost of 1.5 million dollars. HT was also looking at long term planning for the future when managing its built environment. GI presented a series of slides that showed the projects and their progression, including residential refurbishment.

Libby Bennett (LB) spoke about the officer's cottage building at Cockatoo Island, in which later external layers were removed to uncover convict era sandstone flagging.

GI spoke about the further preservation works that totalled \$1.5 million. They include maintenance that will extend the life of buildings and include removing roofs with possible asbestos. HT has also done a lot of work to rejuvenate the land.

GI gave a brief update on the Sub Base Platypus and 10 Terminal projects.

Bike Tracks and General Business

KE noted that some of the community is lobbying for bike tracks, creating conflict on the use of the parks. KE notes bike paths should be considered in future planning, especially at 10 Terminal.

Daniel Sealey (DS) provided an update on the current use of bikes at Headland Park, noting National Parks, HT and Mosman Council were working together on this issue. CC noted that this issue came out of the blue during the lockdown. The council needs to manage expectations and the needs and wants of the community; it is important things are not done in a reactionary way. One aspect is the need for environmental preservation. The process of developing a bike track at nearby Reid Park would elevate this issue.

Outcomes: HT will continue to work with both Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage bikes to minimise environmental degradation and safety issues.

The meeting closed at 8:00 PM.