

NORTH HEAD SANCTUARY DRAFT CONCEPT

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

1 MAY – 11 JUNE 2021

North Head / Car-rang-gel is a place for quiet reflection, a stunning pocket of natural beauty which holds deep spiritual significance for Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land, the Gayamagal people.

As one First Nations stakeholder shared,

“This is not a burial site by our choosing, it is a ceremonial site, a major Bora site, people would travel here, it was a place of food, gathering and ceremony.”

North Head also holds an important place in Australia’s military history and early settlers’ social history.

Formed in the last ice age, North Head is home to more than fifty nationally and locally significant flora including 10 rare plant species. It’s a refuge for echidnas, reptiles, frogs and more than 100 species of birds. It is one of the few places on earth where the endangered Long-nosed Bandicoot can be found. But these 74 hectares are home to more than just exquisite native woodland and heathland, they also host a rich history.

In 1833 the Quarantine Station was established and construction of the nearby Third Quarantine Cemetery, in 1881, coincided with the smallpox epidemic. You can see and experience firsthand the extensive military fortifications, tunnels, barracks, military housing, and the School of Artillery. North Head Sanctuary was exclusively used as an active military site in support of the defence of Sydney, from 1936 until 1998.

North Head Sanctuary has a character and a story all its own and the Harbour Trust wants to make a way for more people to experience this special pocket of the Harbour landscape.



Background

In 2020, the Harbour Trust consulted the community about the future of North Head Sanctuary. The consultation revealed collective aspirations to preserve and conserve the natural environment, Indigenous culture and military history, with a desire for increased and enhanced opportunities for learning and discovery (see [North Head Sanctuary Consultation Outcomes Report](#)).

Building from these aspirations, the Harbour Trust developed a Draft Concept reinterpreting North Head Sanctuary as an invaluable community destination, rich with nature, history and opportunity.

From early May to June 2021 the Harbour Trust undertook community consultation on the [North Head Sanctuary Draft Concept](#). Through this consultation we asked our community what matters most, and how you perceived the concepts, ideas and vision initially proposed for North Head Sanctuary. This conversation built on previous conversations with the community.



Consultation Method

The engagement process was designed to be inclusive, transparent, structured and meaningful for the local community and broader stakeholders. It included a variety of communication tools to promote awareness, provide information and encourage participation. Multiple and diverse opportunities to engage and provide feedback were incorporated, including a mix of in-situ face-to-face engagements and online COVID-safe activities.

This approach encouraged representation of diverse stakeholder groups and age demographics within the consultation process. Engagement with our First Nations community was undertaken by specialist First Nations engagement practitioners, and involved a survey, one-on-one interviews and yarning sessions.

How did we drive awareness?



8.3+ million

through digital and print advertising



1.6+ million

through 26 news articles



17,344

flyers delivered to

40,000

people

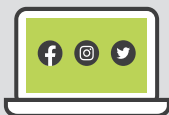


6 eDMS

sent to

103,462

subscribers



34,219

impressions on social media



209

notifications and invites direct to community

Who did we engage with?



152 people engaged at

4 pop up sessions



28

people joined a walk-shop



55

First Nations Stakeholders directly engaged



87

people participated in 8 virtual workshops



24

People attended the webinar with

238

views online



24

people participated in group and one-on-one yarning sessions

Who responded by survey or submission?



219

completed surveys *plus*

33

participating in our first nations specific survey



25

Unique written submissions



515

people participated in a panel survey



What we heard

Clear, common themes emerged from our conversations about the future of North Head Sanctuary. Overwhelmingly, you said you want us to prioritise the natural fauna and flora ensuring its protection. North Head is an incredibly beautiful and unique natural environment, and you recognise that. You want to be able to come to North Head Sanctuary and walk-through nature. You want a space for refuge and sanctuary, whether reflecting on the stories of your ancestors or merely enjoying the peace nature provides.

An opportunity to use this site to link different cultures together on site at a national level.

You highly value our First Nation's people's heritage and wish to celebrate Country and Culture. First Nations peoples asked us to restore and heal Car-rang-gel and acknowledge this location as a significant Aboriginal ceremonial place, a sacred Bora site. They want to see First Nations peoples continuing to practice ceremony and inviting the broader community to participate and experience the power of Country. The First Nations community has asked us to acknowledge the historical significance of the Smallpox epidemic and its impact on the Community as an important start to heal Country and revive the health and wellbeing of Car-rang-gel.

A First Nations stakeholder shared,

“it needs cleansing through traditional ceremony and regeneration, through the revival of cultural practices and First Nations ways of caring for Country.”

Not only is North Head Sanctuary a natural and First Nations significant location, it also hosts important military history. You want to be able to come to North Head Sanctuary and learn about that history and all it entails. The ability to visit it the School of Artillery, the barracks and seeing the military installations and underground tunnels.

You asked us to aim for the right balance and respectful integration of the environment, First Nations' heritage and military past. As one of our stakeholders said

“An opportunity to use this site to link different cultures together on site at a national level. This is a forward-thinking approach to healing”.

The contradiction of the deep, spiritual significance and important modern military history make North Head Sanctuary a unique destination which the Harbour Trust plans to see flourish.

View the [North Head Sanctuary Consultation Outcomes Report](#) and [First Nations North Head Sanctuary Consultation Outcomes Report](#).



IMAGE: eNorth Head Discovery Day, Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony, 2018

Project and consultation stages

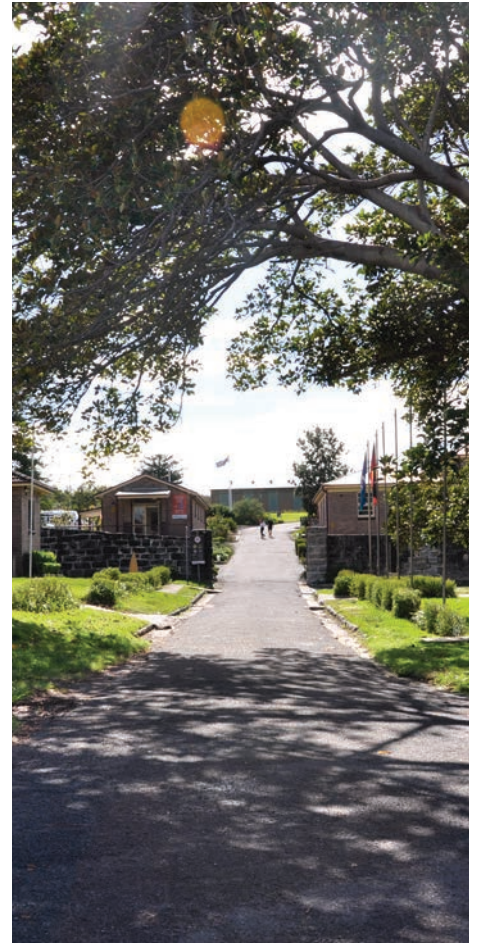
ENGAGE ON CONCEPTS

WE ARE
HERE

INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY

DESIGN PLANNING & STAGING

STATUTORY PROCESSES
& PILOT PROGRAMS



Next steps

The vision we have started to unfold for North Head Sanctuary represents a journey spanning into the future.

We will continue to be guided by you as we mould and shape our final plans, updating and involving you as we go.

Scan the QR code to join our North Head Sanctuary subscriber list to receive the latest updates.

