

NORTH HEAD SANCTUARY DRAFT MASTER PLAN

FACT SHEET

<p>Why does North Head Sanctuary need a master plan?</p>	<p>A master plan will provide a strategic roadmap to protect and revitalise the North Head Sanctuary’s natural, cultural and built heritage.</p> <p>The draft master plan provides a vision of North Head Sanctuary’s full potential and reflects the values the community has told us are important to them – the environment, First Nations culture and Australian military heritage.</p> <p>Once finalised, it will guide future decisions on projects, priorities and funding and ensure future work complies with the relevant statutory requirements.</p>
<p>What opportunities have the community and other stakeholders had to provide input into the draft master plan?</p>	<p>In response to the Commonwealth’s Independent Review of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, we began community consultation on North Head Sanctuary’s future in October and November 2020.</p> <p>In April–May 2021, we exhibited a draft Concept Plan for North Head Sanctuary for public feedback, supported by an extensive community and stakeholder engagement campaign, which included webinars, workshops, a consultation website, an online survey and community drop-in sessions.</p>
<p>What happens after this consultation finishes?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harbour Trust will review draft master plan feedback and publish a Consultation Outcomes Report. 2. We will finalise the draft master plan, considering the feedback we received during the consultation. 3. We will provide the final document to Members of the Trust for approval in early 2024. 4. Once approved, the Harbour Trust will undertake detailed design work, including architecture, engineering research, interpretation, program development and co-design with First Nations peoples. 5. The outcome of this work will be subject to further public consultation before we implement any of the master plan’s proposals.

<p>When will the master plan be fully implemented?</p>	<p>The North Head Sanctuary Master Plan represents a long-term vision for the site, with implementation spanning 7 to 10 years, subject to funding.</p>
<p>What is the vision for North Head Sanctuary outlined in the draft master plan?</p>	<p>The draft master plan’s vision reflects the community’s values for North Head Sanctuary, refined through consultations dating back to 2020.</p> <p>This vision is to offer an all-inclusive visitor experience for the entire headland, providing opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ encounter a unique natural environment at the edge of the Sydney CBD ▪ celebrate First Nations culture and support continuing cultural connections and practices ▪ discover 20th century military heritage ▪ create an accessible, welcoming destination.
<p>How will the draft master plan improve visitor experience?</p>	<p>The draft master plan seeks to create a harmonious and streamlined visitor experience that shares important stories of the site’s natural environment, First Nations cultural connections and military heritage.</p> <p>This will start when visitors arrive through a new Barracks Precinct entry, where walkers and cyclists are separated from cars, to experience an activated Parade Ground with occasional concerts or markets.</p> <p>Visitors will be encouraged to move through the site via a central shared path featuring newly-created sights to discover. The first is the new Volunteer Restoration Workshop and Makers Place, which showcases on-site production activities.</p> <p>Moving along the path, visitors will arrive at the First Nations cultural space, located at the heart of the headland on the sanctuary's highest point. Next to this will be the Ecology and Environmental Education Centre – created by repurposing existing buildings.</p> <p>Continuing to the North Fort Precinct, visitors will encounter the 'Defence of the Nation' space, which will include camouflaged, underground gun emplacements to evoke the experience of the 1942 attack on Sydney. This immersive experience will continue in the nearby Gun Emplacement and Memorial Walkway Loop and tunnel network.</p> <p>Throughout North Head Sanctuary, we will improve signage with looped walks radiating from the central walkway, encouraging exploration.</p>

<p>How will visitors navigate the site?</p>	<p>The draft master plan proposes a central, shared walking and cycling path that connects the Barracks, Central and North Fort precincts, with enhanced signage and limited car access in public spaces.</p> <p>Signage along the main path will help visitors easily locate the walking tracks that lead to North Head Sanctuary's hidden treasures. These tracks will be reconfigured as looped walks that return to the main roadway, improving navigation and encouraging exploration.</p> <p>Visitors will continue to be able to use Scenic Drive and enter the site at the North Fort precinct to start their journey there if they choose.</p>
<p>How will the draft master plan establish North Head Sanctuary's reputation as a walking and cycling destination?</p>	<p>North Head Sanctuary features the only remnants of some types of bushland that once surrounded Sydney Harbour. The draft master plan balances the need to encourage visitors to enjoy this precious place with the need to protect this rare habitat.</p> <p>Our solution is not to build more walkways and cycleways but to better use the ones we already have. We will improve navigation by looping existing tracks to the site's central walkway. This will encourage visitors to explore the harder-to-find tracks that showcase the site's natural values, military history and First Nations culture.</p> <p>The draft master plan also includes options to integrate the site with the rest of North Head, including improving tracks to the Third Quarantine Cemetery and the Q Station.</p>
<p>Does the draft master plan propose any new walking or cycling paths or the removal of existing ones?</p>	<p>The draft master plan does not propose the creation of any new walking or cycling paths, instead we are proposing to enhance the existing paths we have to ensure they meet the needs of walkers and cyclists around the site.</p> <p>Additionally, the draft master plan does not propose the removal of any existing paths. The maps and images used within the draft master plan, highlight the paths and tracks that we believe are able to best support the story telling within the draft master plan. We know that people use and will continue to many different paths and tracks across the headland to access North Head Sanctuary.</p>
<p>How will the draft master plan protect the national significance of our military heritage?</p>	<p>The Harbour Trust's charter is to protect the nationally significant military history at North Head Sanctuary. We have worked closely with the Australian military and military historians to understand the site's significance at both local and national levels to inform our approach to the whole area, particularly the North Fort and the Barracks precincts.</p>

	<p>To open up the ability of the site to tell the story of the ‘Defence of Sydney’ to everyone. We are proposing to collaborate with the Australian War Memorial to create an accessible ‘Defence of Nation’ space, to bring the ‘Defence of Sydney’ story to life. We intend for this to be an interpretive space, not a museum.</p>
<p>Will the redevelopment and the increase in visitors have a negative impact on the site’s ecology and endangered species?</p>	<p>While we aim to attract visitors to the site, the draft master plan does not propose any new walking or cycling tracks. The draft master plan focuses on accelerating the rehabilitation and repair of North Head Sanctuary’s delicate biodiversity, including revegetating 4,000m² of the site with native plants.</p> <p>We will undertake this work with the North Head Sanctuary Foundation and look to form a new partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens to help better understand the site’s biodiversity and what we can do to ensure it thrives.</p>
<p>Has traffic modelling included consideration of the redevelopment of the former Manly Hospital site?</p>	<p>In a 2019 survey, 40 per cent of North Head Sanctuary visitors arrived by car and 40 per cent on foot.</p> <p>We will monitor and work closely with the Manly Health and Wellbeing Precinct master plan, which will include an assessment of potential traffic impacts.</p>
<p>How will the proposal accommodate coach arrivals, which often carry seniors with mobility challenges?</p>	<p>With new signage, the Barracks Precinct will become the ‘front door’ to the headland. The proposal includes a vehicle drop-off zone suitable for coaches and the potential for a proposed shuttle bus system that moves through the entire site.</p>
<p>What options does the draft master plan include for cyclists?</p>	<p>We understand that cycling is a popular mode of travel to the site, and the draft master plan aims to encourage cyclists to enjoy North Head Sanctuary.</p> <p>One of the standout proposals is to consolidate vehicle movements through the site to create a central, shared pedestrian and cyclist path from the Barracks Precinct to North Fort, extending through to the Burragula and Yiningma Lookouts in Sydney Harbour National Park.</p> <p>Rather than building new infrastructure to achieve this, we will better use existing pathways to preserve the area’s sensitive habitat.</p> <p>We will upgrade the main central path to make it more suitable for road bicycles and use signage to ensure pedestrians and cyclists can safely share the thoroughfare.</p> <p>We plan to keep the cycling route that circles North Head Sanctuary.</p> <p>Due to environmental concerns, off-road mountain biking is prohibited in any area of North Head Sanctuary.</p>

<p>Are there plans to commercialise the site?</p>	<p>The Harbour Trust currently leases spaces at North Head Sanctuary to raise revenue, which we use to maintain the site, preserve heritage buildings and welcome visitors. The Harbour Trust will continue using future revenue to carry out our heritage responsibilities.</p>
<p>What are the main proposals for the Barracks Precinct?</p>	<p>The Barracks Precinct will provide a welcoming gateway to North Head Sanctuary. This will involve modifying the main entrance and separating vehicles and pedestrians.</p> <p>The plan recommends preserving the Parade Ground and restoring the main barracks with the aim of leasing the entire building to a single tenant to maintain its architectural integrity.</p> <p>Other plans include establishing a Restoration Workshop and Makers Place to create a dedicated on-site production hub and rehabilitating the surrounding habitat to support the endangered long-nosed bandicoot.</p>
<p>What kinds of tenants will you be targeting for the main barracks building?</p>	<p>Restoration and future use of this premises remains a consideration of the Harbour Trust. We are open to welcoming a use that can thrive in this unique space, contribute to the beauty of the precinct and contribute to the reinstatement of the building.</p>
<p>What are the main proposals for the Central Precinct?</p>	<p>At the heart of North Head Sanctuary, the Central Precinct will celebrate First Nations culture and the area's unique environment, providing a hub for cultural and educational activities.</p> <p>We will achieve this by working with First Nations peoples to establish a space dedicated to First Nations culture at the site's highest point.</p> <p>The proposal also includes an Ecology and Environmental Centre to centralise the site's environmental functions, including education, the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, biodiversity management, research and the nursery. We will create this centre by repurposing existing buildings.</p>
<p>Is the First Nations cultural space outdoors, or will there be buildings/facilities for First Nations community members to run workshops programs and meet to discuss local cultural issues?</p>	<p>After consultations with local First Nations peoples, including a site walk, we identified the location for the First Nations cultural space as the highest vantage point of North Head Sanctuary.</p> <p>The inclusion of the First Nations cultural space within the draft master plan is indicative only at this stage. The Harbour Trust will work closely with Traditional Owners and the First Nations community to establish the design and use of the space to best suit their needs and wishes.</p>

	<p>Locating this space next to the Ecology and Environmental Centre will create opportunities for sharing First Nations caring for Country land management practices.</p>
<p>What are the main proposals for the North Fort Precinct?</p>	<p>Featuring views across Sydney Harbour, visitors easily grasp the site’s strategic military importance.</p> <p>The plan recommends collaborating with the Australian War Memorial to create a 'Defence of Nation' interpretation space – a partly underground structure reminiscent of a camouflaged gun emplacement – to bring Sydney's defence history to life.</p> <p>The Gun Emplacement and Memorial Walkway Loop (incorporating Australia’s Memorial Walk) will showcase the site's military artefacts to create an immersive experience of the original gun emplacements and tunnel system used in the defence of Sydney.</p> <p>To improve integration with the rest of North Head, the walkway to the Third Quarantine Cemetery will be upgraded with improved linkages to Q Station.</p>
<p>How do I learn more about the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan?</p>	<p>Watch our webinar</p> <p>The Harbour Trust held a 30-minute webinar on Thursday 21 September at 12:30pm with Harbour Trust Executive Director Jane Carding and project architect Joe Agius from Cox Architecture.</p> <p>A recording of the webinar is available on our website.</p> <p>Visit a community drop-in session</p> <p>Talk to us and review the full draft master plan at a community drop-in stall at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Head Sanctuary – Tuesday 26 September in Building 205 (opposite the Visitors Centre at North Fort) between 10.30am and 2.30pm ▪ Manly Corso – Sunday 8 October between 10.00am and 1.00pm. <p>Additional community drop-in sessions at other locations across Sydney will be announced on our website as they are confirmed.</p> <p>Contact us</p> <p>Email Harbour Trust at engagement@harbourtrust.gov.au.</p>
<p>What feedback do you want from the community?</p>	<p>The Harbour Trust manages North Head Sanctuary, and our other sites, for all Australians. Proposals for these sites must reflect community values and are formed in response to input from a diverse cross-section of Australians.</p>

	<p>We would like to hear what the community thinks works and doesn't work within the draft master plan.</p> <p>We will publish your feedback in a Consultation Outcomes Report, which will inform the development of the final draft master plan we provide to Members of the Trust to approve.</p> <p>For details about providing feedback, see the question below.</p>
<p>How do I provide feedback on the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan?</p>	<p>The North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan is online and open for feedback from 19 September to 31 October 2023.</p> <p>Visit our consultation website at www.harbourtrust.gov.au/north-head-consultation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ read the full North Head Sanctuary Master Plan or summary document▪ review supporting documents▪ complete the <i>Have Your Say</i> survey▪ provide feedback. <p>Documents are available to view on our <i>Have Your Say</i> website or in hard copy (during office hours) at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ North Head Sanctuary Visitor Centre, North Head Scenic Drive, Manly NSW 2095▪ Manly Library, 1 Market Pl, Manly NSW 2095▪ Harbour Trust office, Building 28, Best Avenue (off Suakin Drive), Mosman NSW 2088. <p>Please submit your feedback by 5.00pm Tuesday 31 October 2023 (AEDT).</p>