



19 February 2025

Meeting Notes Harbour Trust Community Advisory Committee

Time: 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Venue: Harbour Trust Head Office (29 Best Avenue, Mosman/ Microsoft Teams)

Present

Michael Randall, *Deputy Mayor of Mosman*
Sarah Swan, *Mayor of Woollahra*
Rebecca Cardy
Chido Mauwa
Glyn Evans
Cathy Griffin
Linda O'Malley
Kent Browning
Erica Griffiths
Mary Ann Beregi
Yolande Stone

Apologies

Sue Heins, *Mayor of Northern Beaches*
Zac Miles, *Mayor of Hunters Hill*
Zoë Baker, *Mayor of North Sydney*
Ann Kimber, *Mayor of Mosman*
Zali Steggall, *Member for Warringah*
Jerome Laxale, *Member for Bennelong*
Allegra Spender, *Member for Wentworth*
Jeremy Kenna
Lisa Trueman
Peter Doukas
Anne Clarke
Trudy Phelps
Sheila Foliaki

In Attendance - Harbour Trust

Janet Carding, *Executive Director*
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience (Acting Chair)*
Terry Bailey, *Member of the Trust*
Helen Lochhead, *Member of the Trust*
Brad Manera, *Member of the Trust*
Susan Thompson, *Head of Engagement & Experience*
Eloise Dalmas, *Community Engagement Officer*
Graham Izod, *Director of Assets & Parklands*
Daniel Sealey, *Director of Planning*

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Welcome and Apologies

Kathryn Roberts (KR) was acting Chair as Janet Carding was joining the meeting online from Sydney Airport. KR gave an Acknowledgement of Country and noted the apologies for this meeting (as above).



2. Member of the Trust update

Terry Bailey (TB), Member of Trust, advised that the February Trust Meeting was held at Woolwich Dock & Parklands on 13 February. The choice of location provided the Members of the Trust with a good opportunity to view the tree vandalism in Horse Paddock, and helped contextualise discussions around the Woolwich Management Plan review.

TB discussed the First Nations Advisory Group (“FNAG”) meeting which also fell on the same day as the Trust meeting, where the Draft First Nations Strategy was discussed. This was endorsed by the FNAG and will go back to the Trust for final approval, this will be presented to the CAC later in the year.

An update on the Harbour Trust’s application for philanthropic status was provided, advising the group that the initial application was rejected but that a second application will be made later in the year. This will be an agenda item for the CAC later in the year.

The Members of the Trust were also presented the Draft Collections Management Policy, with all Trust members supportive of this policy, additional discussions pertaining to this policy will continue, and then it will go to the Trust for final approval.

3. Executive Director update

Janet Carding (JC) reported that Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary master plans have been published and are available on the website.

The Function Centre at North Head Sanctuary needs to be brought up to code prior to reletting. The Gate House at North Head is now vacant following the relocation of the Montessori School. There are currently three premises under renovation at NH that will re-enter leasable stock within 12 months. As of March 2025, all leasable stock is tenanted.

Talks regarding the Schools Infrastructure NSW environmental centre at Middle Head are continuing, it has been noted that there is good overlap between state and Commonwealth objectives surrounding this project.

The seahorse release at Cockatoo Island, a pilot project in partnership with SIMS (Sydney Institute of Marine Science) was delayed due to inopportune conditions. (Note: The seahorses were later released with the Chair of the Trust in attendance on February 26.)

Glyn Evans provided an update on the last Volunteer Involvement Working Group meeting held on the 5th of February. He mentioned that a key goal moving forward will be the creation of sub working groups that focus on communication, volunteer retention and recruitment.

JC was asked if she was aware of NSW NPWS plans for a footpath on North Head Scenic Drive, which she is not. It was agreed that Daniel Sealey (DS) would contact MNPWS for more information.

ACTION:

- 1- Daniel Sealey (DS) to contact NPWS for an update.

4. Update from First Nations Advisory Group (“FNAG”)

The FNAG endorsed the First Nations strategy at their February meeting.



The now determined application by Mosman Council for the new amenities block at Middle Head oval has had a First Nations perspective included, thanks to the Harbour Trust commissioning indigenous landscape designer Clarence Slockee (CS) to consider Middle Head holistically as part of the stage 1 master plan implementation. CS has consulted with Council on how best to incorporate an appropriate landscape design into their development of the site, and met with the FNAG to discuss his approach.

The FNAG meeting on February 13 was held at Woolwich Dock & Parklands, aiding in providing context to the Woolwich Management Plan which is to be reviewed later this year. A report commissioned by Paul Irish regarding the area's relationship with First Nations Peoples.

ACTION:

- 1- Send finalised First Nations Strategy to the group

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

5. Woolwich Tree Vandalism and Woolwich Management Plan

The tree vandalism that occurred in early January 2025 was discussed with the group including updates provided to the community. The area and extent of the vandalism was outlined, including the steps taken by the Trust in response to these acts of vandalism, particularly the erected signage along Alfred St and Edgecliff Rd and the CCTV now installed in Horse Paddock.

It was noted that the investigation with both state and federal police is ongoing. Any developments will be shared with community.

While some neighbouring properties have raised concerns, overall, the actions taken by the Harbour Trust have been well received.

The Woolwich Management Plan was discussed as it is under review. In light of the recent tree vandalism the review of this plan will include a focus on tree management and protections across this site. During the review process the Harbour Trust Planning team will work closely with Hunters Hill Council including commissioning flora and fauna, and traffic management studies. The draft management plan will be set for public consultation later in the year.

Some group members raised current tree management/protection strategies and policies that some LGAs have in place, including tree canopy plans. DS made note of this to consider as part of the review of the Woolwich Management plan.

6. Draft Collections Management Policy

A briefing paper was provided to the group regarding the Draft Collections Management Policy. This policy, in line with the Harbour Trust's corporate plan goals, is a policy that will aid in determining our collection priorities around moveable cultural heritage and archival processes.

While the Harbour Trust is not a collecting institution, it has received various objects through bequests and donations that need to be recorded for their perpetuity. The policy will also provide a framework around the legal process of deaccession and the refusal of objects. This policy will aid in the story telling of our sites and will aid in the creation of potential interpretations and digitisation pieces.



The draft policy was presented to the Members of the Trust on 13 February who have supported it and requested some minor amends. Once which finalised the agreed policy will be shared with the CAC.

Brad Manera noted that an important next step would be Collections Management software Vernon is t software that is used by the ANZAC War Memorial and he would aim to connect the war memorial with the Harbour Trust to discuss their experience. Additionally, the Cultural Gifts Program was mentioned and queried if the Harbour Trust could become a participating institution under the program should DGR status be granted.

7. **Regular Capital Projects Update – minor works, heritage works. Maintenance and infrastructure works**

Graham Izod provided the group with the regular projects update. Outlining that Stage 1 of the Middle Head Masterplan Implementation was back out to tender, with a hope to have a confirmed Lead Design Consultant shortly.

The Patrol Boat wharf project at Cockatoo Island / Wareamah is completed, and resources can now be directed to the restoration of the cranes, in particular, large crane remediation. The contract will be awarded in March 2025, with completion due in 2026.

Chowder Bay Wharf is now fully operational, after works were completed in December 2024.

An update of other works on Cockatoo Island was provided including the industrial precinct, where roofing repairs and solar panel installation works are underway. Buildings 9 and 20 on Cockatoo Island have been decontaminated and restored with a view to being made available for letting.

Works to North Head heritage wall will commence around April. Discussions regarding these restoration works with NPWS have been held, as in places this is a boundary between the two sites.

The Greenway Wall restoration at Macquarie Lightstation continues, with completion anticipated for May 2025. Once all works, including the interpretation piece are complete, the CAC will be invited to attend the site to view the results of this three-year project.

The use of the former Terminal 10 regiment brick barracks at Middle Head was queried, with it confirmed that further restoration of these buildings is not part of Stage 1 project scope due to insufficient funding.

8. **Update - Middle Head Master Plan implementation**

After some delay while the design team was appointed, the workshops to inform the stage 1 works at Middle Head will be scheduled for May 2025. The CAC were asked for their input into the makeup of the three workshops (accessibility, natural heritage, military/defence heritage & values). Invitations for CAC participation in these workshops will be extended in due course.

The meeting closed at 7 pm

Next Meeting: 21 May 2025