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## **MIDDLE HEAD-DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN (DRAFT AMENDMENT 2)**

Founded in 1964 to protect and preserve the parks, bushland and open space of Mosman, the objectives of the Mosman Parks & Bushland Association remain the same today. Mosman is blessed with a headland of spectacular beauty and national heritage significance right in its midst - a headland *in* Mosman but *for* all its visitors to appreciate and enjoy.

### **Congratulations**

A reading of the Draft Management Plan (Draft Amendment 2) brings an awareness of the many achievements of the Trust in implementing the Comprehensive Plan 2003 and the original Management Plan for Middle Head. The Trust is to be congratulated on its improvements to infrastructure and public access, its work on the natural environment and the conservation of buildings - the ASOPA group in particular.

### **Collaboration with NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service**

We heartily endorse the proposal for a whole headland approach to management and the objective of giving visitors a seamless experience over both land tenures. Cooperation in the broad areas of environmental management, access and interpretation as outlined in Figure 15 is highly desirable for the protection of natural and heritage values of the headland and for visitor enjoyment.

- **Some reservations about the visitor experience where it relates to events and public facilities**

Mosman Parks & Bushland admires the Harbour Trust's objective of increasing "understanding and appreciation of the lands' rich natural and cultural heritage". Working with the NPWS to develop tours and education programs will further this objective and we support the ideas for engagement listed.

We have some reservations however, regarding the enhancement of the visitor experience where it relates to events and the "variety of public facilities to attract new and regular visitors to Middle Head". Events and public facilities which relate to or interpret the environmental, heritage and aesthetic values of the headland have merit, but if their sole or main purpose is to increase visitation they

do not. We are not opposed to increased visitation but an increased head count of visitors for its own sake has no purpose without visitor appreciation of the intrinsic values of the site.

*Our responses below follow (roughly) the order of our submission in June 2016 to the community engagement process prior to making the draft plan.*

### **Parks, Bushland and Open Space**

The proposals for working together for environmental management and improved biodiversity are excellent. Although not mentioned specifically in the Draft Management Plan Amendment, we assume that improving connectivity of bushland areas by creating bush corridors across the tenures will be part of the planning for improved biodiversity.

- **Draft Management Plan Section 9.4 Bushfire Risk**

The 2016 draft Bushfire Management Plan identifies the promotion of biodiversity as well as the reduction of the risk of wildfires in its regime of mosaic burning. This is good. Too often hazard reduction seems to outweigh the consideration of biodiversity.

- **Playing surface on Middle Head Oval**

This is not a matter dealt with by the draft management plan, but Mosman Parks & Bushland remains vehemently opposed to the use of a surface which contravenes all environmental principles including those of the Harbour Trust itself.

### **Public Access draft Management Plan 4.2 Streets and paths.**

Proposals for collaboration on the network of paths, public transport, walking and cycling, coordinated signage, traffic management and parking are all supported. We note the addition to the M H Management Plan of a pathway around the Oval (with lookout), ASOPA and 10 Terminal for people of all abilities. Bushland should not be diminished, natural material near bushland is essential. A path around the heritage areas will enable enjoyment of these features by mobility impaired visitors.

The traffic calmed Middle Head Road to the East of the Chowder Bay Road intersection will be safer for pedestrians and cyclists and is more appropriate in a park where peace and tranquility are desirable.

### **Buildings**

Mosman Parks & Bushland stated in its response in June 2016 to the community engagement process prior to making the draft plan that "for the enhancement of the built environment and landscape, any increase in the built environment is undesirable.....A new building should only be



contemplated if it is essential to the purposes of the park and only where there is no alternative.

- **10 Terminal**

We note that the permissible footprint has not been reduced to the original size and that a building linking the garage buildings may be contemplated. The Association would prefer the footprint to be retained at its current area. However, if the purpose of such a building were beneficial to the Headland, enabled/facilitated reuse of Terminal 10, did not obstruct views to or from the Harbour or detract from the heritage significance of the garages, we would consider its merits before opposing it on principle.

We note that the adaptive reuse of 10 Terminal may now include well-being, cultural activities and small scale retail.

- **Barracks Buildings**

We continue our support for the removal of at least two buildings to create some beautiful parkland as shown in Figs 20-22. We also support the adaptive reuse of one of the Barracks buildings for a pavilion (see the point below)

- **Outcomes 10.2.3 Middle Head Oval, Pavilion and Guardhouse**

The removal of the current pavilion at Middle Head Oval would create a more attractive entry to Middle Head.

Adaptive reuse of the third Barracks Building as a replacement pavilion would be ideal as it would also protect the heritage listed building. The Barracks buildings are part of the existing Commonwealth Heritage listing for the site (10 Terminal and ASOPA). They are important as part of the Headland Park's collection of army accommodation facilities and in their own right as part of the early 50s response to the constrained circumstance of the period.

Replacing the barracks building with a new building in the same or nearby location is not an acceptable option:

- 1) A piece of heritage is lost
- 2) **Outcomes 10.2.5** Although the intention at this stage may be to maintain the same building footprint, there is future danger that a new building could be added to and designed less sympathetically
- 3) The removal of the Guardhouse cafe and including a cafe in an adaptively reused barracks building would create more open space. Including a cafe in a new pavilion may tempt an expanded footprint. The Guardhouse cafe building is not unattractive.

### **Heritage**

The continuation of the defensive ditch will add to the appreciation of the military heritage near the entrance to the NPWS fortified area. We note

that the NPWS plan includes the possibility of a nearby interpretation centre.

#### **Car Parking**

We are particularly pleased that the parking area near 10 Terminal is to be reconfigured and reduced to provide more public open space and open landscape character and that where this cannot occur, softening with planting may be possible.

**Recent planning of possible relevance to planning for Middle Head**  
Draft Coastal SEPP in which metropolitan littoral rainforests are now at last included.

The Greater Sydney Commission's Draft North District Plan and its planning for Green Grids.

We consider that it is important for the Middle Head Management Plan to address and respect the objectives of these two plans. This sends a clear message that planning in Middle Head respects its place within Northern Sydney and beyond.

#### **Thank you**

The Middle Head Draft Management Plan (Amendment 2) reveals many instances where the community's views have been heard and responded to. The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association has appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the planning process.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Eccles

President

11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016