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**10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project  
Survey**

The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association (MPBA) appreciates that the Trust is seeking the views of the broader community on this project. Recommendations contained in the report on the Harbour Trust Review acknowledged the community's desire for improved engagement. Controversy over a past proposal for 10 Terminal demonstrated the community's determination that use of this site should be appropriate.

We hope that further engagement will occur at the next stage of the process – when tenants for the various spaces are being considered.

We congratulate the Trust

- on its preliminary consultations as to the level of commercialisation that the community would find acceptable
- and on the engagement of Michael Pender who has found solutions for publicly significant sites in the past

**The 10 Terminal precinct is just such a publicly significant site - central to the headland from both a geographic and a heritage perspective.**

**An Interpretation/Visitors Centre is a MUST.** This is too good an opportunity to miss.

Trust members and staff, past and present, have been resistant to this idea. Cost is presumably a factor along with the management of such a centre. Another argument has been that such centres are old fashioned and that people will not come to them.

The MPBA disagrees. During the Review process, it became glaringly apparent that newer members of the community had no knowledge of the heritage. "What's it all about?" was the question.

The Trust is relying on "digital-led interpretation to focus on themes and stories of Middle Head's national significance and heritage". The heritage of Middle Head and Georges Heights deserves more than story telling. It encompasses Sydney's and our nation's history.

- Aboriginal history: The Review's report notes that many stakeholder responses hoped for better interpretation of Aboriginal history
- Bungaree's farm, somewhere on the headland, is part of the history of Aboriginal and early settler relations
- The military installations on the headland illustrate the defence of Australia. From the 1801 fort on NPWS land, later batteries in the 1870s which reflect changes to warship capabilities, the WWI hospital, and the WWII construction which included the 10 Terminal buildings, the ASOPA buildings



- and the 1950s Barracks buildings - our defence history is here to be seen and experienced on the headland.
- Though not part of the Middle Head Precinct, the Gunners' Barracks, the Golf Course and the controversy it produced, and Chowder Bay would all form part of a heritage interpretation.
- Of special interest to MPBA, of course, is the geological and natural history

If public access is to be maximised, visitors must have something meaningful to come to. There is huge potential for a Visitors' Centre, for tourists, local and international, and for walkers on the Bondi to Manly walk.

Digital and web services, digi-talks are all valuable parts of interpretation, but a physical centre will augment and contextualise their content and provide a starting point for extended exploration.

Suggestions for the Visitors Centre would be

- space for displays, permanent and temporary, relating to all aspects of the headland's heritage and possibly other Trust sites' heritage as well;
- a space for videos, films and digitalks
- a reading area where Trust publications could be read
- a shop, selling items of relevance such as a small take-home illustrated history, pamphlets, publications, cards, photographs, art works and aboriginal items.
- A café within the centre if appropriate, or nearby within the complex

The centre could be manned by paid and volunteer staff. It would not be a museum, but obviously research, film production and curation would be necessary. Other Trust sites could be included without precluding their own on-site interpretations, especially Cockatoo Is which has its own, highly complex, significant and individual needs.

### **Other community uses for buildings**

An education centre for use by schools and others would complement the Visitors' Centre.

Other community uses that could be considered would be the various suggestions offered in the survey, with preference given to those with relevance to the headland. John Cheesman (Mosman Art Gallery) said that there was a need for Aboriginal artists to have somewhere to paint; Alan Toner suggested veteran use, possibly a workshop.

A performance space – for First Nation and community use.

The MPBA recognises the need for ongoing revenue from leasing buildings to provide for future maintenance. However, we are hoping for as much community benefit as possible.

We are pleased that consultation on the adaptive reuse of the 10 Terminal brick buildings has resulted in a modest direction for reuse which does not a single large tenant.



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### **The Barracks Buildings and the Parklands**

We like the creation of parkland and walks and appreciate the care taken to preserve the trees and natural environment.

However, we regret the need to demolish **all** of the three wooden barracks buildings as there are virtually no examples of these buildings remaining and they are part of the heritage context of the 10 Terminal area. If fire regulations make this a necessity, we would like to see the military context of the whole area maintained and interpreted within the parkland. The parade ground could be reinstated perhaps, and the existence of the barracks signified.

A reminder of a practical nature: When a steel perimeter fence around Middle Head Oval is constructed, rabbit proofing the fence and entrance gate should be included in the construction

### **NPWS**

Cooperation and collaboration on the Visitors Centre and the walking tracks must be part of the planning process and future operation.

### **Conclusion**

The reimagining of Middle Head Precinct is a wonderful opportunity to create a hub for visitor experience that will increase public access and create the lively place envisaged by the Trust. The community has great hopes that it can be achieved.



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