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# Mosman Parks & Bushland Association

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Dear Members and Supporters

The committee and I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

You have not heard from us for a while, but we have not been idle. When I have more time to write, and you have more time to read, I shall send you news of our activities.

In the meantime there are two important issues.

## **1. National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) draft Amendment to the Sydney Harbour National Park (SHNP) Plan of Management.**

This is where you can read about it.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/sydney-harbour-national-park-draft-amendment-to-the-plan-of-management-community-uses>

Currently the SHNP Plan of Management does not allow new buildings at Middle Head. The Amendment to the Plan of Management is to allow the adaptive reuse of the Soldiers' Institute as an Environmental Education Centre AND the construction of a covered outdoor learning area, storage room and toilets for the purposes of education.

We love the idea of the Environmental Education Centre. However we are opposing the construction of the new outdoor building on the grounds that:

1. it will set a dangerous precedent for future new buildings
2. it will put the heritage of this delightful and important precinct at risk
3. we really don't know what is being proposed

I am attaching our submission to the proposal to amend the Plan of Management. If you wish to make your own submissions and I would encourage you to do so, the closing date is 11th January 2023.

## **2. Taronga Zoo and an upgrade to its Aerial Safari**

**(ie the ride from the ferry to the upper part of the zoo) AND a possible extension of the route it takes.**

As members of the Taronga Foundation have explained to us, the upgrade is necessary because the current equipment is old and needs renewing. There will be larger gondolas which will hold more people, larger wheelchairs and prams.

The proposal which is being worked upon and still under discussion, is to expand the route which the sky-safari will take around the zoo. This will entail higher supports for the equipment, possibly 3 terminals for entry points, and viewing platforms. The NSW government would finance the estimated \$81 million cost of the project.

We are much less enthusiastic about this idea. Concerns are: impacts of views from the Harbour, effect on the tree canopy, and the effect on animals.

We are waiting for news of the publication of the Environmental Impact Statement. Once we fully understand the proposal and its environmental impact we will let you know more. Watch for news and information about possible public meetings. Considerable concern has been expressed around the community.

Enjoy our beautiful environment over the holiday period. Let's keep it beautiful. We are so lucky.

With best wishes

Kate Eccles OAM, President

22 Dec 2022