



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

4 February 2011

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT DELIVERS A VISION FOR BAYS PRECINCT

The NSW Government today released a report on the first stage of its consultation on the future of the Bays Precinct in Sydney's inner west.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said it was clear from the consultation the Bays Precinct needs to continue to balance the aspirations of the local community with the economic development of the State.

"This report reflects the community's desire to retain the maritime character of the precinct and has provided a variety of opinions on how Sydney can continue as a working harbour," Mr Kelly said.

"The report also reflects strong community support for foreshore land to be retained in public ownership and the creation of additional open space.

"Any future land use also needs to consider how the Bays Precinct can both enhance Sydney's role as a global city while protecting the unique and vibrant character of surrounding communities and businesses."

The report brings to an end the first stage of an extensive consultation process managed by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

The process combined broad community input received through online submissions and a community reference group that included local community, business stakeholders and Government agencies.

Member for Balmain, Verity Firth, said the Government recognised the need for early consultation and involvement of the community in the development of ideas to help form planning principles, and the process has encouraged healthy debate on the precinct's future.

"I strongly support and will continue to advocate for the Community Reference Group's principles for the Bays Precinct, Ms Firth said.

"These principles broadly reflect the community's aspirations for the precinct - one of the most important sites for the future of local residents and Sydney as a whole.

"Importantly, the principles call for the retention of land in public ownership to protect this vital asset for future generations," Ms Firth said.

A number of land use opportunities need to be resolved including:

- the White Bay Power Station
- the ongoing role of the import industries currently located at Glebe Island and the concrete batching operations at Blackwattle Bay
- the redevelopment of the Sydney Fish Market site, and
- the future role of Rozelle Rail Yard in the provision of transport infrastructure for the Sydney Region.

Planning principles have been developed from the Stage 1 consultation process for Stage 2 engagement with community, business and industry. The issues will also be addressed through the NSW Government Bays Precinct Taskforce.

A full copy of the report including the planning principles is available on Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's website at www.shfa.nsw.gov.au.