

Revised Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh Draft Master Plan

Summary of consultation outcomes

Public exhibition period: 24 August – 21 September 2023

Overview

In March 2023 the Harbour Trust commenced public consultation on an initial draft master plan for Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh. Following consideration of the community's feedback, the Harbour Trust revised the draft master plan with a number of changes included.

The revised draft master plan was publicly exhibited from 24 August to 21 September 2023, and resulted in the Harbour Trust receiving 49 unique submissions via written submissions, feedback and/or survey.

The Harbour Trust will carefully consider the community's feedback before any decision is made on finalising the draft plan. The Harbour Trust pays close attention to your feedback, as evidenced by the changes contained in the revised draft master plan.

This summary report provides an outline of issues raised through this current consultation process. Read the full Consultation Outcomes Report here: harbourtrust.gov.au/middle-head-project

Consultation method

The community primarily gave feedback via the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) 'Have Your Say' consultation hub.

The Harbour Trust used a variety of methods to engage with the community and stakeholders. This included advertising in local and metro media, signage across Harbour Trust sites, digital and physical materials, social media advertisements and a drop-in session.

How did we drive awareness?



5.1m+

people reached through local and metro media advertising



15,682

people reached through Harbour Trust email newsletters



16,250

local residents and businesses reached through letterbox newsletter



3,957

impressions through social media coverage

Who did we engage



32

Drop-in session attendees



84

QR code scans of Harbour Trust signage



264

webpage views of Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh content on Harbour Trust website



49

unique submissions

What we heard and the Harbour Trust's response to feedback

There was broad support for the revised draft master plan, in particular for the changes that had been made to address concerns raised in the initial draft plan, but some concerns were raised in submissions about specific issues.

Submissions supported there being no change to Middle Head Oval's configuration, and to the upgrade of the changing facilities in its current location. Some community members questioned the scope of the upgrade – stating that it shouldn't go so far as being a replacement building.

There were divergent views on the timber buildings. There were those who support their removal and replacement with parkland, and those who would like to see at least one retained, to protect the place's heritage values including the sense of a military village.

Other issues raised included concerns about traffic impacts; event impacts; location/interpretation of the Parade Ground; and opportunities for coordinating the Harbour Trust's proposed Interpretation Centre and the Environmental Education Centre that is proposed on NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service land.

Below is a snapshot of the key themes raised during the second public exhibition and the Harbour Trust's response to the concerns.

Support was received about:

- ✓ Retention of the café building/Guard House
- ✓ No change to Middle Head Oval shape – changing facilities to be upgraded in existing location
- ✓ Demolition of the timber buildings to create new open space
- ✓ Greater clarity about the number, type and scale of events
- ✓ No change to the existing roundabout
- ✓ Amendments to the extent of parking and bus drop-off

Many submissions raised concerns on the below key actions

Harbour Trust response to concern:

Removal of the timber buildings

The Harbour Trust notes the range of views submitted regarding the timber buildings. The Harbour Trust's longstanding position is to remove the timber buildings to enable the creation of valuable new community parkland and walking tracks for recreational enjoyment. In response to feedback from the initial draft master plan, the Harbour Trust commissioned further assessment of the timber buildings, with various supporting reports made available as part of the exhibition.

Impact of events

The Harbour Trust acknowledges the sensitivity of the place and its operational constraints (such as limited parking). There is no intention to create a purpose-made venue for large-scale events. Instead, the intention is that open parkland at Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh would be used occasionally (two to three times a year) for events such as heritage open days, or First Nations gatherings. Such events would be within the capacity of the site, including traffic, parking and noise considerations. Specific traffic plans would be prepared for events, to ensure appropriate measures (such as shuttle buses) are put in place measures to minimise traffic impacts.

Changing facilities

The Harbour Trust has noted support for an upgrade, and that there is concern about a new replacement building.

The full Consultation Outcomes Report, which covers more themes and responses, is available at harbourtrust.gov.au/middle-head-project

Consultation process

