Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Draft Master Plan Summary of Consultation Outcomes

Public exhibition period: 1 November to 13 December 2023

Overview

The Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Draft Master Plan was publicly exhibited from 1 November to 13 December 2023, and resulted in the Harbour Trust receiving 199 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. This summary report provides an outline of issues raised through the consultation process.

Read the full Consultation Outcomes Report here: **Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Draft Master Plan | Harbour Trust**

Consultation method

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, ferry advertisement, an online recorded webinar, 4 drop-in sessions and a community forum. The community primarily gave feedback via the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) 'Have Your Say' consultation hub.

How did we drive awareness?

1,593,000 people reached through local and metro print advertising

170,264 impressions of digital display advertisements

31,489 people reached through Harbour Trust emails newsletters

30,000 local residents and businesses reached through letterbox newsletter

46,647 impressions through social media coverage

Who did we engage

176 Drop-in sessions and community forum attendees

300 QR code scans on signage/collateral/advertisements

1,334 webpage views of Cockatoo Island / Wareamah content on Harbour Trust website

3,560 webpage views of the DCCEEW 'Have Your Say' consultation hub page

Harbour Trust

Australian Government
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

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

There was strong support for the draft master plan as a whole, with close to 60% of submitters supportive or very supportive of the plan.

Similarly, the 5 core objectives of the draft master plan were all noted to be of significant importance to respondents with almost 90% of respondents saying that 'Conserve, protect and interpret the World Heritage value' was important or very important to them.

There were also very high levels of satisfaction with the response to the 4 historic themes included as part of the draft master plan. More than three quarters of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied that the draft master plan addressed the theme 'Convicts, prisoners and school children'.

59.3%
Overall support for the draft master plan

Importance of the 5 core objectives[1]

89.9%
Conserve, protect and interpret the World Heritage value

88.4%
Rehabilitate the island's waters and built assets for the use and benefit of future generations

79.9%
Enhance the access and connection to the island for Greater Sydney

69.8%
Establish, conserve and protect First Nations values of place

68.3%
Establish Cockatoo Island / Wareamah as a place for tourism, restaurants and cafes, accommodation, events, creativity and employment

Level of satisfaction with the 4 historic themes[2]

76.4%
Convicts, prisoners and school children

73.4%
Natural history

64.3%
Dock working, ship building and defending Australia

59.8%
Connecting with County

1. Respondents rating the core objectives as important or very important   *2. Respondents satisfied or very satisfied with the historic themes*

Support was received about:

- Recreational opportunities such as swimming and kayaking on the island
- The proposed expanded accommodation options, including the relocation of the campground
- The proposed increased food and beverage options, including greater variety of food and more affordable and higher end offerings
- Proposed improvements to visitor experience, including interpretation, activities and events on the island
- Inclusions of proposals to improve access to the island, including the secondary wharf
- Respecting and celebrating the island's heritage

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Submissions that raised concerns noted:	Harbour Trust response to concerns:
The island could become over developed and commericalised	The Harbour Trust is committed to ensuring that Cockatoo Island / Wareamah is a place for all Australian's and will ensure that accommodation and offerings consider a range of price points.
Increased impact on local residents	The Harbour Trust Events and Activation Strategy ensures that activity is compatible with the island's heritage significance, manages impacts on public access, amenity and nearby communities and transport requirements. All activities on the island will comply with NSW EPA Noise Guidelines.
Potential impact of the new ferry wharf on harbour activity	The Harbour Trust will continue to explore this proposal with Transport for NSW to ensure that all navigational and operational considerations are satisfactorily addressed. The draft master plan is indicative, and feedback will be taken on board at design stage. Any detailed proposal for a new wharf would be subject to further community consultation.

The Harbour Trust engaged Story Factory to bring a group of 10 culturally, linguistically and gender diverse young people, with connections to a broad spectrum of communities across Western Sydney and South Western Sydney, to the island to provide feedback on the draft master plan. The key feedback received from this group was:

- ✓ Support for 'First Nations Connecting with Country' layer
- ✓ Support for the improvements to native flora and fauna on the island
- ✓ Support for the 'Convicts, prisoners, and school children' layer of draft master plan

- ✗ Concerns around the proposed hotel accommodation
- 💡 Need to ensure the island is affordable and accessible to all
- 💡 Suggestions for various events and activations that would attract young people to the island

Consultation process

November 2023	December 2023	Early 2024	Mid-2024	Mid-2024
Draft master plan open for public comment	Public consultation closed	**We are here** Internal review	Members of the Trust review	Final master plan published

The full Consultation Outcomes Report, which covers more themes and responses, is available at harbourtrust.gov.au/have-your-say/cockatoo-island-consultation