



Looking across Sydney Harbour from North Head Sanctuary (Source: Harbour Trust)

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

NORTH HEAD SANCTUARY DRAFT MASTER PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2023





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Harbour Trust acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the lands, waters, and sky of Sydney Harbour, including the places under our stewardship. We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Sydney Harbour, including those belonging to the Borogegal, Birrabirrigal, Cammeraygal, Gadigal, Gayamagal, Wallumedegal and Wangal clans.

We acknowledge this Country, now known as Car-rang-gel, the custodianship of its people, and the ongoing connection to culture, lands and waters. We pay our respects to all surrounding clans of the region and honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Project Team recognises we are working within a cultural landscape and understand designing with Country is a privilege that comes with responsibility. We are guided by the inspiration of Country and the knowledge it contains.



1. INTRODUCTION



Aerial view of North Head (Source: sydneyimages.com.au)

The Harbour Trust has created the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master plan for public exhibition. This is a summary document of the draft master plan document.

The North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan focuses on the area of the headland in Manly that's managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (Harbour Trust). The Harbour Trust shares the headland with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Q Station (former North Head Quarantine Station), Sydney Water, Australian Institute of Police Management, and the Manly Health and Wellbeing Precinct (former Manly Hospital). The draft master plan is a detailed examination of the site's cultural and natural heritage values as well as its constraints and opportunities. It presents the Harbour Trust's long-term vision of place.

The draft master plan provides guiding principles for future revitalisation of both the lands and the built assets within the context of the Harbour Trust's North Head Sanctuary Management Plan.

To have your say about the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan, visit www.harbourtrust.gov.au/north-head-consultation and:

- ✓ Review this summary of the draft master plan
- ✓ Review the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan and supporting documents
- ✓ Provide feedback, see page 15 for details

Submit feedback by 5pm
Tuesday 31 October 2023 (AEDT)

1.1 An overview of North Head Sanctuary

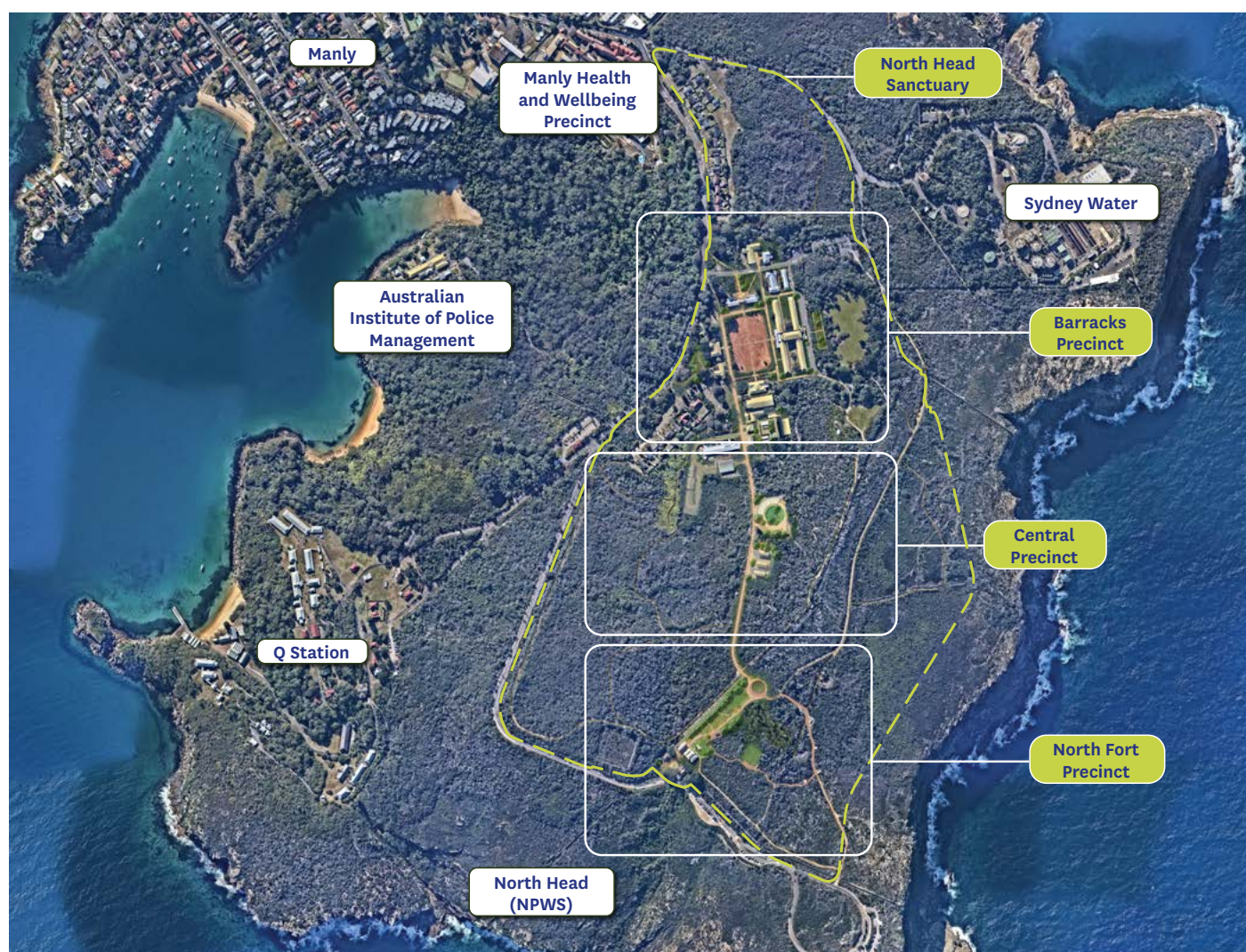
North Head is one of Sydney's great landmarks with a relatively intact and delicate ecosystem. Formed during the last ice age when erosional forces separated the headland from the Hornsby Plateau, North Head is a 'tied island', linked to the mainland by Manly's sandspit.

North Head is thought to be a place of great significance to First Nations peoples. Initial investigation appears to suggest the area as a place of gathering and ritual. Land management of the ecosystem was practiced for thousands of years.

It is home to more than 50 nationally and locally significant flora including 10 rare plant species. It is a refuge for

echidnas, reptiles, frogs and more than 100 species of birds. It is one of the few places in Sydney Harbour where the endangered long-nosed bandicoot can be found. But these 74 hectares are home to more than just exquisite native woodland and heathland, they also host a rich history.

In 1833, the Quarantine Station was established and construction of the nearby Third Quarantine Cemetery, in 1881, coincided with the smallpox epidemic. You can see and experience firsthand the extensive military fortifications, tunnels, barracks, military housing and the former School of Artillery. North Head Sanctuary was exclusively used as an active military site in support of the defence of Sydney, from 1936 until 1998.



Master plan overview of connected precincts



Barracks Precinct at North Head Sanctuary (Source: Harbour Trust)

1.2 The values that underpin the draft master plan

The long-term vision of place is defined by core values, key elements, and key objectives.

The North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan aims to maintain local audiences whilst providing an opportunity to increase tourism visitation and adaptive reuse. Given the significance of the site, increasing visitation and engagement with the site from First Nations peoples represents a measure of success for the sanctuary in the future. Stakeholder aspirations also include attracting more families and children to the site, which could be achieved through education or activations. Finally, with more people in Manly working from home post COVID-19, there could be a role for North Head Sanctuary to play in supporting local workers as well as residents.

The core values of North Head Sanctuary are detailed below;

- Natural values – ecology and environmental
- First Nations values of place – reclamation, recognition and redistribution, reflection and regeneration
- Military heritage values of place – active defence and training for defence
- Community values – an iconic place of solace, memory and sanctuary

1.3 About the draft master plan

Generally, the Harbour Trust defines a master plan as two things. It involves:

- Robust analysis of an area to establish key constraints and opportunities.
- The preparation of a design response that carefully references and responds to the above analysis.

The design response helps ensure a coordinated approach to future renewal and is underpinned by a set of key actions and guiding principles. Key actions are further supported by design and delivery strategies. In short, a master plan puts forward a future vision of place.

The North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan has been prepared to provide the guiding principles for future renewal of both the lands and the built assets within the context of the Harbour Trust's North Head Management Plan and the considerable cultural, natural and First Nations significance. It outlines the full potential, rather than what current funding permits, so future decisions on projects and staging can be made strategically.

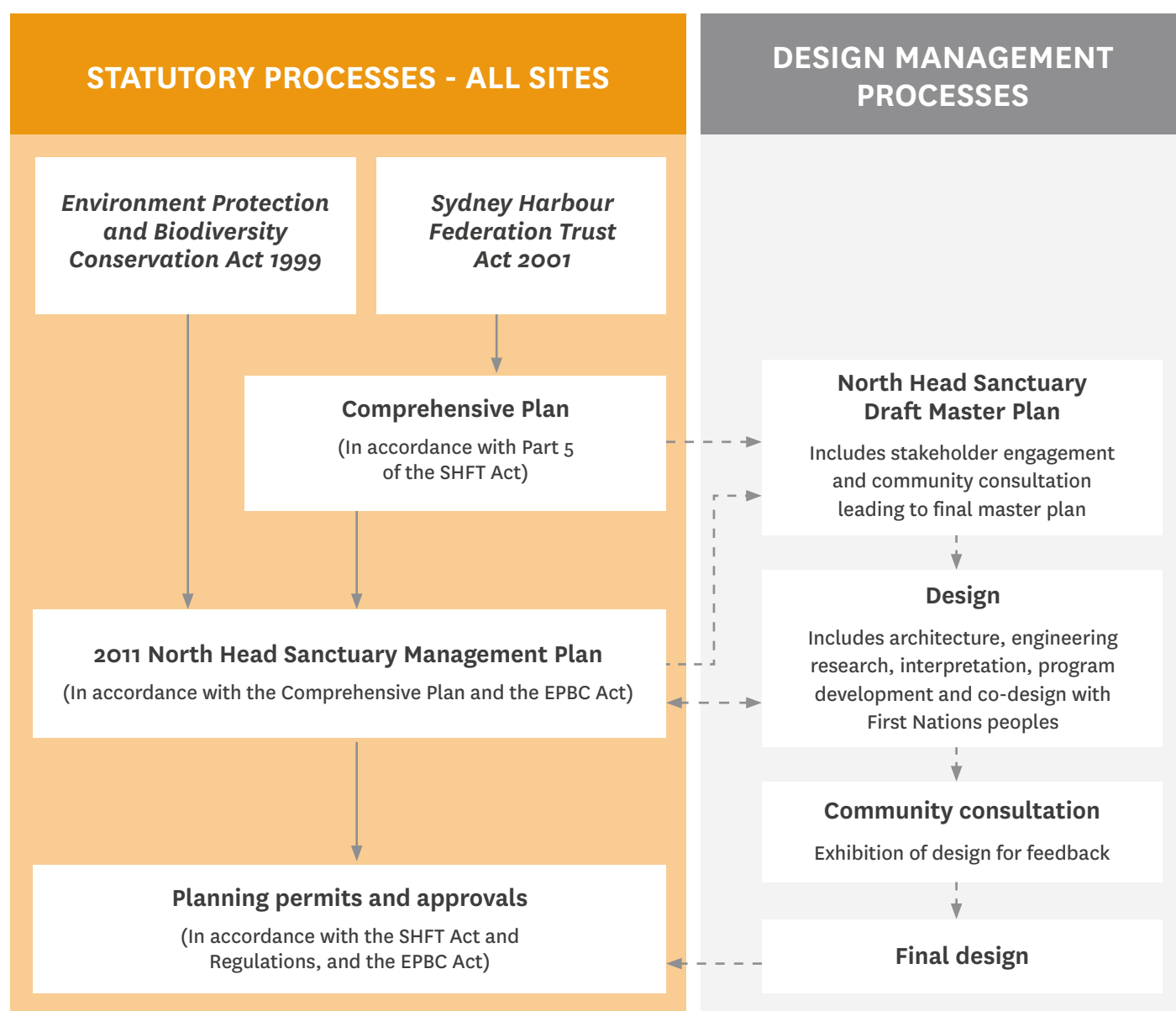


1.4 Statutory framework and the role of the master plan

North Head Sanctuary is designated Commonwealth land. The statutory planning framework and the role of the draft master plan is illustrated in the table below.

The Comprehensive Plan and the 2011 North Head Sanctuary Management Plan are statutory plans which have informed the preparation of the draft master plan. The master plan provides design guidance for future proposals in the precinct. Proposals for implementation must be consistent with the statutory plans, and are subject to the detailed planning approval stage. Significant proposals will be made available for further public consultation.

Harbour Trust Planning Framework



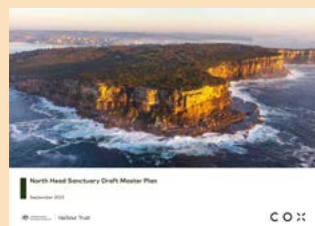
2. WHERE WE ARE NOW

2.1 Timeline of what has been done and where we are now

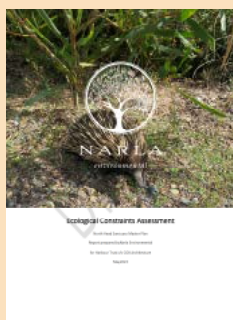


Supporting documents

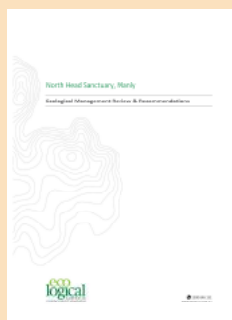
The following documents, research and studies have been developed to support the draft master plan and can be accessed on the Have Your Say webpage at www.harbourtrust.gov.au/north-head-consultation.



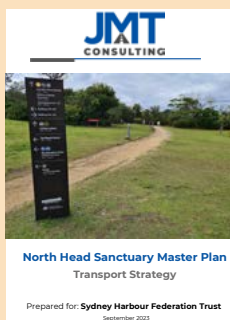
North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan



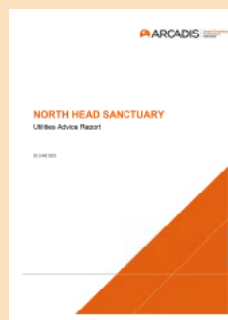
Narla Environmental, Ecological Constraints Assessment



Eco Logical Australia, North Head Sanctuary, Manly: Ecological Management Review & Recommendations



JMT Consulting, North Head Sanctuary Master Plan: Transport Strategy



Arcadis, North Head Sanctuary Utilities Advice Report



Blackash Bushfire Consulting, North Head Sanctuary – Planning for Bushfire Protection



3. KEY OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

The draft master plan outlines the key objectives proposed within the general planning context that guide the design and intent for the vision for the site. The objectives are set out as a broad plan for North Head Sanctuary. The draft master plan seeks to ‘blur’ the boundary of land management between the Harbour Trust and NPWS, seeing the headland as a singular entity and visitor experience.

There is no precedence or order to the actions listed below, they are to be seen as a family of objectives that work together. These distinct, yet interrelated objectives were designed to ensure that short- and long-term planning is aligned with the overall vision of the site.

The draft master plan has proposed to:



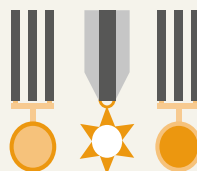
Experience

a unique and beautiful natural environment, on the edge of the city



Celebrate

First Nations culture on Country – supporting continuing cultural connections and practices



Discover

the 20th century military heritage, and the defence of Australia in the Second World War and its aftermath



Create

an accessible and warm welcome for all, and a destination for activities and exploration

3.1 A unique and beautiful natural environment

Ecological protection at North Head Sanctuary is vitally important. The long-term vision sees ongoing protection and enhancement of the nationally significant ecological values that exist on the headland. To support this objective the draft master plan proposes to establish a permanent place of environmental education within the central precinct and further enhanced land rehabilitation across the sanctuary.

The significant vegetation on the site and its proximity to the national park gives it a remarkable character and unique identity. The site encompasses several ecological elements of varying degrees of significance.

These range from connecting green infrastructure such as wildlife corridors to stands of native, urban native, forest, heath and sedgeland vegetation. The draft master plan outlines an opportunity to carefully revegetate approximately 4,000m² of degraded land around the site.

There are areas of the site that are deemed to be threatened, with conservation and protection given significant importance within the draft master plan allow the site to be rehabilitated, reinforced and protected through future master planning.

In order to achieve the key objective of a unique and beautiful natural environment, the draft master plan seeks to:

- **Protect** and enhance existing ecology communities and provide opportunities to increase vegetation cover and biodiversity with the use of native/endemic species
- **Plan** for the long-term opportunity to protect the land around the headland
- **Support** North Head Sanctuary's unique natural environment to deliver greater ways for people to interact with the environment
- **Provide** appropriate open space, community infrastructure and leasing opportunities for the site with consideration to education, heritage and Connecting with Country.



Hanging Swamp, North Head Sanctuary (Source: Ian Evans)



3.2 First Nations culture on Country

The establishment of a First Nations place is proposed to be achieved through an ongoing First Nations presence at the heart of the sanctuary and highest point on the headland. Supporting this objective is the proposal to establish a new space within the central precinct to accommodate cultural practice and long-term First Nations education programs.

In order to achieve the key objective of a First Nations place, the draft master plan seeks to:

- **Include** immersive storytelling through carefully curated signage, interpretive displays and interactive elements
- **Celebrate** the culture of Traditional Owners and knowledge holders to place
- **Regenerate** the natural environment by applying traditionally held knowledge and Caring for Country principles.



North Head cliff tops (Source: noBorders - Brayden Howie)



Australia's Memorial Walk, North Head Sanctuary (Source: Harbour Trust)

3.3 Twentieth century military heritage and the defence of Australia in the Second World War

The focus of this objective is restoration, adaptive reuse and activation of key heritage assets within the Barracks and North Fort precincts. The tunnels, fortifications and gun emplacements are significant remnant evidence of the defence of nation, and the draft master plan seeks to enhance the above ground and underground visitor experience with enhanced access and interpretation.

In order to achieve the key objective of 20th century military heritage and the defence of Australia in the Second World War, the draft master plan proposes:

- **To establish** a military loop pathway and enhance the memorial walk to include immersive tunnel tours of the plotting room, observation posts and guns with soundscapes and activations
- **To include** improved interpretation in collaboration with the Australian War Memorial of military heritage and defending Australia
- **To re-activate** a revitalised Parade Ground and the main barracks building.

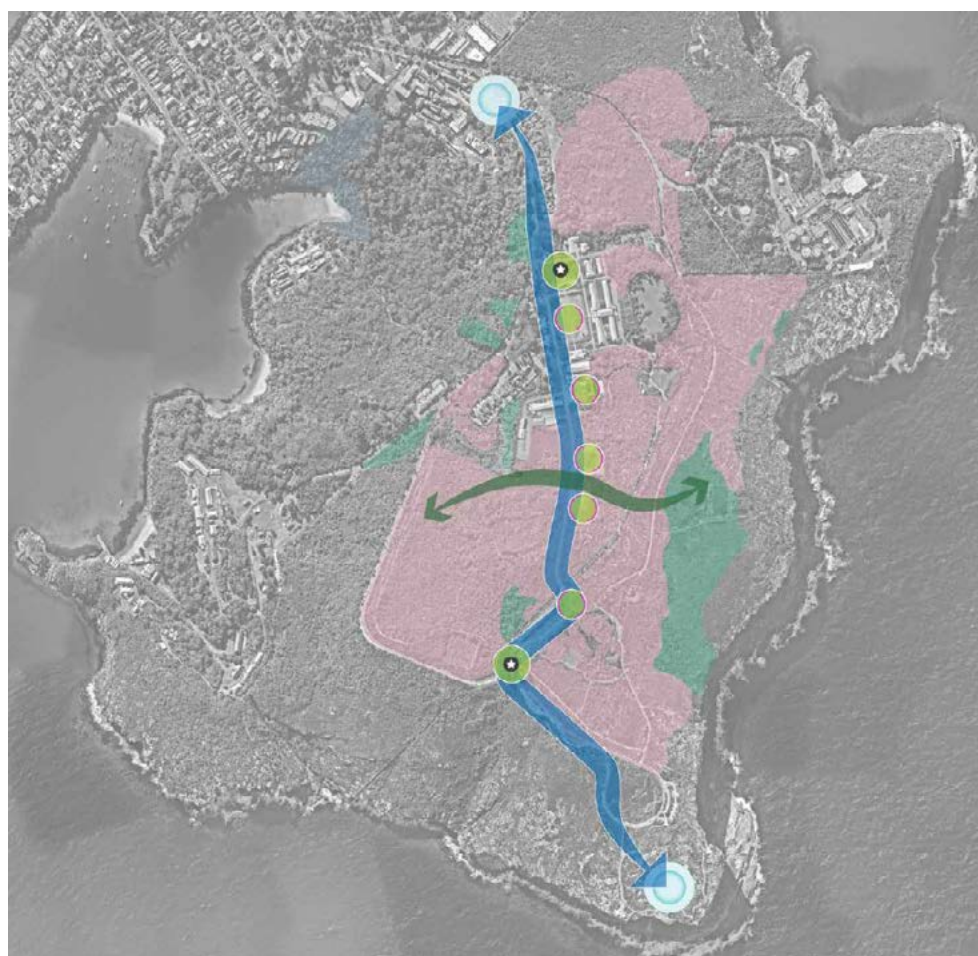
3.4 A consolidated and connected walking place

The focus of this objective is to create an accessible and warm welcome for all, and a destination for activities and exploration.

Consolidating vehicle movement to create a walking and cycling place is a key objective of the draft master plan. This is achieved through the establishment of a north to south shared walkway for pedestrians and bicycles from the Barracks Precinct to the North Fort Precinct and the Fairfax walk.

In order to achieve this the draft master plan proposes:

- **To enhance** the entry thresholds of the Barracks Precinct Gate House and North Fort Precinct by creating a sense of place, welcome and orientation places
- **To separate** where possible the pedestrian pathways from vehicular access and implementing a pedestrian only access
- **To activate** along the shared walkway with appropriate functional uses that celebrate the values of the site and utilise the existing assets
- **To encourage** and plan for future sustainable and accessible transport modes, such as a shuttle system through the main shared walkway
- **To consolidate** parking and access to the perimeter of the site
- **To blur** the boundaries between the Harbour Trust and NPWS to create strong, direct and clear connections across North Head Sanctuary.



Overview of the key objectives within this draft master plan

KEY

- The shared walkway – key visitor axis to enhance the access and journey to and from the Fairfax walk and lookouts (Burrigula and Yiningma lookouts)
- East-west connection
- Activated spaces along the shared walkway
- Welcome entry points and sense of arrival at the Barracks Precinct Gate House and North Fort Precinct
- Entry gates to North Head Sanctuary and the Fairfax walk and lookouts
- Wallum Sand Heaths (PCT 664)
- Sydney Coastal Heaths (PCT 1822, 1823)

4. KEY PROPOSALS WITHIN THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

4.1. Barracks Precinct

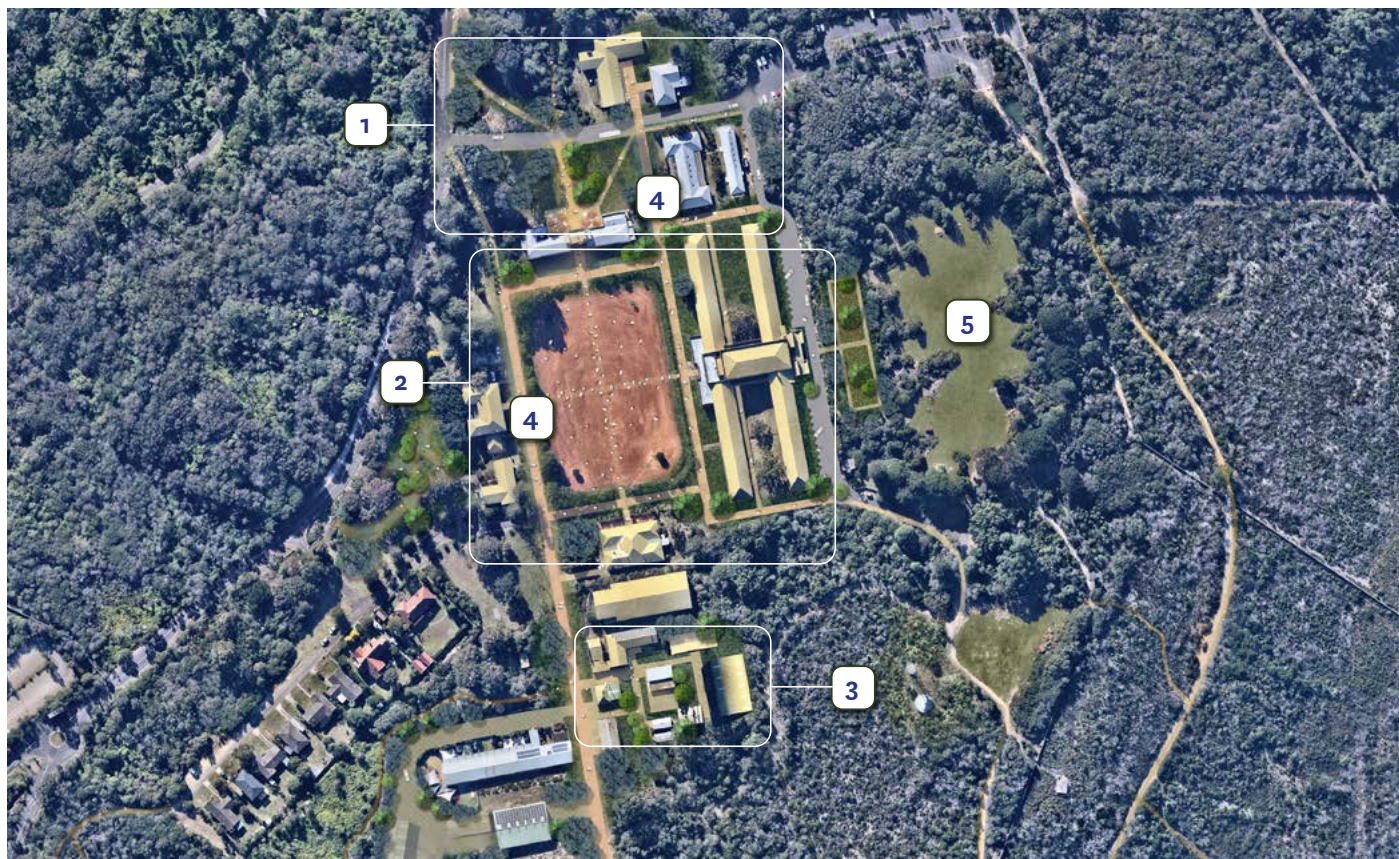
While the majority of the buildings are already reactivated and in use, the changes to the Barracks Precinct focus on providing greater amenities, adaptive reuse of the main barracks building and a defined access point and arrival experience to North Head as a whole.

The proposals outlined in the draft master plan are:

- 1. Reconfiguring the main site entry** to establish a clear welcome and sense of arrival to the site. This will be designed to separate vehicles and pedestrians. Including examination of the existing car parking and entry conditions, strengthening the Gate House as the main pedestrian entryway into the precinct and establishing a pathway from Shelly Beach to link up with the main entry.
- 2. Limited changes to the Parade Ground and restoration of the main barracks building.** This will include examination of providing movable planters and street furniture for day-to-day use on the Parade

Ground, utilisation of the Parade Ground for public events, examination of adaptive reuse and restoration of the main barracks building with an opportunity for single tenant use, and new car parking at the rear.

- 3. Consolidation of the Restoration Workshop and Makers Place,** enhancing the current precinct including on site production, workshops and restoration functions. The relocation of the ARMCO restoration workshop and one existing shed building from the North Fort Precinct to this precinct will be examined.
- 4. Establishing access around the Barracks Precinct as a shared zone.** Pedestrian access through the site will also be prioritised through a series of shared lanes, pedestrian paths and bush trails. These will facilitate the strategic and thematic movement paths through the Barracks Precinct and will form one end of the main movement shared walkway that connects the Barracks and North Fort precincts.
- 5. Habitat and ecological rehabilitation.**



An overview of the key proposed actions within this draft master plan - Barracks Precinct



4.2. Central Precinct

The Central Precinct will be revitalised to create an engaging and activated sanctuary heart that centres itself in Country. The precinct will celebrate the First Nations cultural significance and ecological value, while incorporating a variety of community places where vibrant cultural activities can be ongoing.

This precinct is central to the site, being located on the main access shared walkway that connects the Barracks and North Fort precincts. Hence, perfectly located to form a bridge between these distinct characters to create a cohesive sense of place.

The proposals outlined in the draft master plan are:

1. Activation and amenities along the shared walkway.

There will be public facing activated spaces along the shared walkway with appropriate functional uses that celebrate the values of the site and utilise the existing assets.

2. First Nations cultural space at the heart of the site.

A new space to house First Nations cultural practice, multi-purpose community facilities and dedicated education programs is proposed at the heart and highest point of the site.

3. Ecology and environmental centre.

Adaptive reuse of existing buildings to accommodate the co-location of education, potential North Head Sanctuary Foundation, management of biodiversity, research programs and enhancing the current nursery is proposed.

4. Operational space and site storage facility.

Consolidate operational and back of house functions to this zone.

5. Protect and enhance existing walking paths and important lookouts.

Through signage and wayfinding and creating a journey of experiences.



An overview of the key proposed actions within this draft master plan - Central Precinct



4.3. North Fort Precinct

North Fort Precinct contains the most intact of the 9.2 inch coastal batteries in NSW. It retains the perimeter walling, gun battery, most of the functional support buildings and remnants of the communications network and drainage system directly associated with the Second World War era North Head Fort.

The proposal for the precinct outlined in the draft master plan is to enhance public domain, to rehabilitate the land and in collaboration with the Australian War Memorial, enhance interpretation.

The vantage point from this position will look towards the harbour, allowing visitors to appreciate the surrounding landscape while reflecting on the defence of Sydney stories.

The proposals outlined in the draft master plan are:

1. 'Defence of Nation' interpretation space. Positioned on the crest of the hill, this space will be sensitive to the nature of its surroundings and sense of place. In collaboration with the Australian War Memorial, a new

partly subterranean structure emulating camouflaged gun emplacements and slotting into landscape will contain interpretation that is accessible for all including of the attack on Sydney in 1942.

2. Gun emplacements and memorial walk loop path.

The loop circuit is a heritage walk that incorporates and enhances the Australia's Memorial walk.

3. Enhance interpretation of Third Quarantine Cemetery.

A walking route linking the Third Quarantine Cemetery with the former Quarantine Station will be enhanced to support public access.

4. Enhance the sense of place and arrival. There is an opportunity to clarify the entry to the site and make it more welcoming, enhancing the connection between the café and the potential offering of heritage buildings through sensitive landscaping.

5. Enhance North Fort Precinct through native endemic planting and landscaping to highlight the natural beauty of the surrounding vegetation and area.



An overview of the key proposed actions within this draft master plan - North Fort Precinct



5. NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AND DELIVERY PLAN

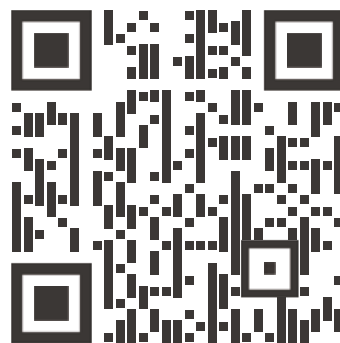
Following the end of this public consultation, the Harbour Trust will review the feedback received and publish a Consultation Outcomes Report before finalising the master plan and submitting it to Members of the Trust to consider and approve. This is likely to take place in early 2024.

Once the master plan is approved by Members of the Trust, the Harbour Trust will undertake detailed design work, including architecture, engineering, research, interpretation, program development and co-design with First Nations peoples. This will then go out to further public consultation ahead of any work being undertaken across the site. It is important to note that the draft master plan outlines the long-term vision for North Head Sanctuary across the next 7 to 10 years, therefore work is not expected to begin in the immediate future and is subject to funding availability.

6. HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say about the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan, visit www.harbourtrust.gov.au/north-head-consultation to provide your feedback online.

Submit your feedback by 5pm
Tuesday 31 October 2023 (AEDT)



Harbour Trust



Australian Government
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust



Creating extraordinary places on the world's best harbour.

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