

Delivering a naturalistic headland park at Barangaroo

In keeping with the vision for a naturalistic park inspired by the green headlands of Sydney Harbour, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority has lodged a planning application seeking approval to demolish the former Sydney Ports Harbour Control Tower.

“The Authority considered a number of options for the tower, including adaptive reuse for tourism opportunities and artistic interpretation, however due to its limited access, occupational health and safety requirements and significant costs the Authority is seeking planning approval for its demolition,” said CEO of the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, John Tabart.

The Harbour Control Tower was built in 1973/74 for the specific purpose of monitoring shipping on Sydney Harbour. It is a reinforced concrete column, topped by a stainless steel and glass operations area and observation deck. The tower ceased operating when shipping control was relocated to the Sydney Ports Communications Centre in Port Botany.

A heritage interpretation strategy for the former harbour control tower proposes construction of a circular roof opening sensitively integrated into the park’s new cultural space green roof , creating a shaft of light with the same size and shape as the tower’s column,” said Mr Tabart.

The heritage interpretation of this more modern structure will add an additional overlay of maritime heritage to the 1820s stone slipway and 1860s sandstone seawall discovered during recent archaeological digs within the park. The slipway will be incorporated into the new sandstone foreshore while the seawall is being rebuilt and featured within the park.

The Authority is consulting neighbours and other key stakeholders during the planning process and Department of Planning and Environment has today placed the application on exhibition for public comment.

The six hectare waterfront headland park has been designed by world-renowned landscape architect, Peter Walker. Once complete, the Park and foreshore will feature expansive views as well as bush walks, picnic areas, walking paths and tidal pools and will be a stunning addition for residents and visitors to Sydney.

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