

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **A new Management Plan for the Platypus site in North Sydney**

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has adopted a new Management Plan for its Platypus site on Neutral Bay following extensive community consultation and a six-week public exhibition period.

“Our new Management Plan will guide the revitalisation of Platypus into a vibrant urban foreshore parkland,” said Harbour Trust Acting Executive Director Dr Susan Culverston.

“The Plan provides a firm basis for us to preserve the site’s heritage values while maximising public access to Platypus. Buildings will be refurbished and adapted for new uses compatible with the site’s character and configuration. We plan to build a new foreshore connection to adjoining Kesterton Park and pedestrian access will be provided at various points around the site.”

Dr Culverston said that community consultation had played an important role in the development of the Platypus Management Plan.

“We were pleased with the positive response to our Planning Open Day in May and other community outreach activities. 626 people attended the open day and over 350 people sent in their responses to the survey conducted earlier this year.

“The minor changes made to the Plan respond to community feedback during the public exhibition period and are aimed at further protecting the local environment and amenity, providing more open space and improving public access to Platypus.

“Now that the Plan has been approved, we will gradually open up Platypus to the public, subject to funding availability. We look forward to ongoing community engagement as we undertake the revitalisation of Platypus,” Dr Culverston said.

Located on the foreshore of Neutral Bay and off-limits to the public for over 140 years, Platypus has previously operated as a gasworks (1876-late 1930s), torpedo maintenance factory (1942-1967) and Royal Australian Navy submarine base (1967-1999). HMAS *Platypus* closed as a submarine base in 1999 and the site was transferred from the Department of Defence to the Harbour Trust in 2005. Extensive decontamination works commenced at the site in 2010 and were completed in early 2016.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES: For interviews, images and further information, please contact Murray Black, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust on (02) 8969 2113 or 0407 453 428 or [murray.black@harbourtrust.gov.au](mailto:murray.black@harbourtrust.gov.au)**

*The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is a self-funding agency created by the Australian Government to be responsible for the vision planning and management of former defence and Commonwealth sites around Sydney Harbour. Our ten sites are Cockatoo Island and Snapper Island in Sydney Harbour, Georges Heights, Middle Head and Chowder Bay in Mosman, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Macquarie Lightstation in Vaucluse, the Platypus site in Neutral Bay and the Marine Biological Station in Watsons Bay. These public spaces and parklands offer major events, exhibitions, venue hire, accommodation, tours and business tenancy. [www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au)*