

MEDIA RELEASE

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Harbour Trust Chair Kevin McCann, AM, welcomes \$20 million of new funding to open Sydney's Platypus site

Mr Kevin McCann, AM, Chair of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, today welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Cities and the Built Environment, The Hon. Jamie Briggs, MP, that the Australian Government is providing \$20 million to redevelop the Platypus site in Neutral Bay into a public park.

“This announcement by the government will enable our organisation to work towards opening this site for the people of Sydney and Australia.

“The Government had made a long-standing commitment to the Harbour Trust that it would fund the works needed to provide public access to the Platypus site. I am delighted that this commitment has now been honoured by the Turnbull Government.

“Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Defence in 2009, the Government has already provided \$46 million for the Harbour Trust to undertake the decontamination of this site which was a legacy of its industrial use, predominantly as a gasworks. This phase of the project has now been completed within budget.

“However, the site currently remains in a derelict state. This new funding will allow us to undertake additional remediation so that we can provide public access to an important area of Sydney Harbour's foreshore which also has significant military heritage. Our desire is that a place which has been off-limits to the public for over 140 years will ultimately become a much-loved new urban parkland.

“Our job now is to make this site safe and usable for the public. Facilitating public access will be our priority. Although we have not yet finalised our specific plans for this new phase of works, their focus will be on maximising public access in a way that meets the community's needs.

“The works are likely to include such proposed initiatives as constructing pedestrian links to Kesterton Park, building a promenade on the upper level of the RANTME building, upgrading the historic 1887 Retort Building (the site's most important heritage building) and completing the works to the southern wharf which will provide access for the recreational boat-going public.

Harbour Trust



Australian Government
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

“The works at Platypus will be completed in close consultation with the community. The project has involved extensive community consultation from the very beginning, which ensured it secured the close involvement and strong support of the local community,” Mr McCann said.

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For images and further information, please contact Murray Black at the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust on (02) 8969 2113, 0407 453 428 or 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 eight sites are Cockatoo Island and Snapper Island in Sydney Harbour, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, the Platypus site in Neutral Bay, Headland Park and Chowder Bay in Mosman, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, the Marine Biological Station in Watsons Bay and Macquarie Lightstation in Vaucluse. These public spaces and parklands offer major events, exhibitions, venue hire, accommodation, tours and business tenancy. www.harbourtrust.gov.au