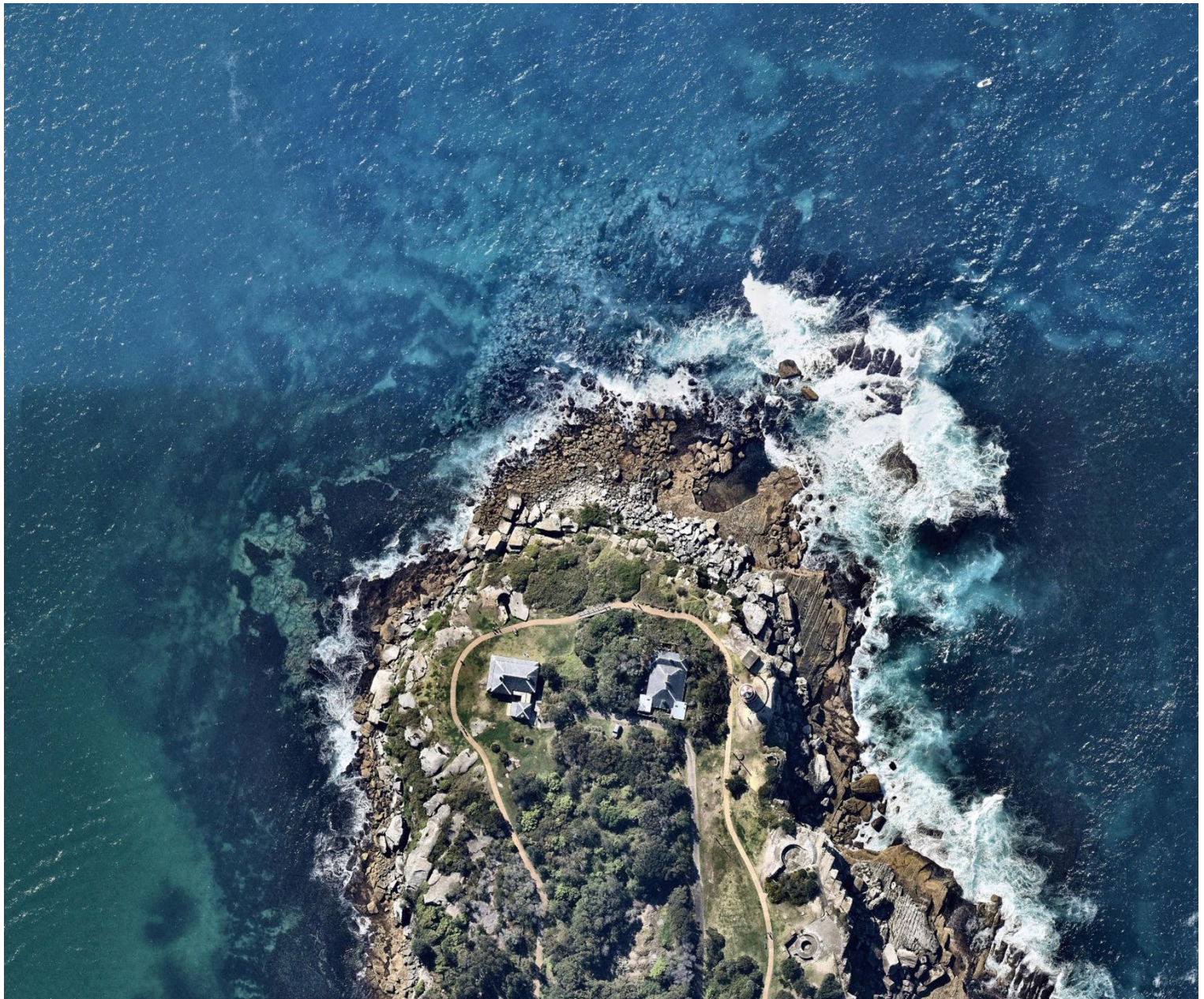




NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

South Head Master Plan

Exhibition submissions report



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1. Background

1.1 Introduction

The draft South Head Master Plan was exhibited from 26 April to 30 May 2022.

The draft master plan was informed by a process of consultation with the local community, stakeholders and relevant agencies, including an initial survey and 2 online workshops.

This document provides an overview of the feedback received on the draft master plan via written submissions from the community, survey data and discussions with the Stakeholder Reference Group.

1.2 The draft South Head Master Plan exhibition

Feedback has been positive, constructive and will help to inform the final master plan and its delivery. Information gathered will also be used to inform ongoing NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) operational management of South Head.

The draft master plan included 10 key initiatives, precinct plans, interpretation concepts and suggested building uses for the site. The exhibition plan invited community input through an online survey and written submissions.

The purpose of the survey was to encourage a high volume of feedback from park visitors, local residents and other stakeholders to inform key elements of the draft master plan, for input into the final master plan. It included questions relating specifically to the Gap Bluff, Camp Cove, Lady Bay, Inner South Head and Green Point precincts, and the site-wide fencing strategy.

Formal submissions and survey free text provided further opportunities for people to provide detailed comments on all elements of the master plan.

Notification of the draft master plan was via:

- email to stakeholders including those who registered through the project website or respondents to the initial feedback survey
- on-park signage
- targeted Facebook posts
- letterbox drop to neighbours
- mailing list and Facebook network of The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, Member for Vaucluse.

The following feedback was received:

- 135 survey responses
- 27 written submissions from a range of individuals, visitors, local government representatives, park stakeholder groups and local action groups.

Written submissions generally supported the results of the survey but expanded upon the reasoning.



Figure 1 Draft master plan exhibition boards at Gap Bluff, Inner South Head and Camp Cove

2. Survey outcomes

2.1 Breakdown of responses

Number of survey responses – 135. Not all questions were mandatory, resulting in minor variations in the number of responses for each question; this has been considered in the analysis. The number and nature of responses to each question are captured in Tables 1–9.

Who responded – Most respondents were from the local community in the Waverley or Woollahra local government areas; a small proportion were from outside the local area.

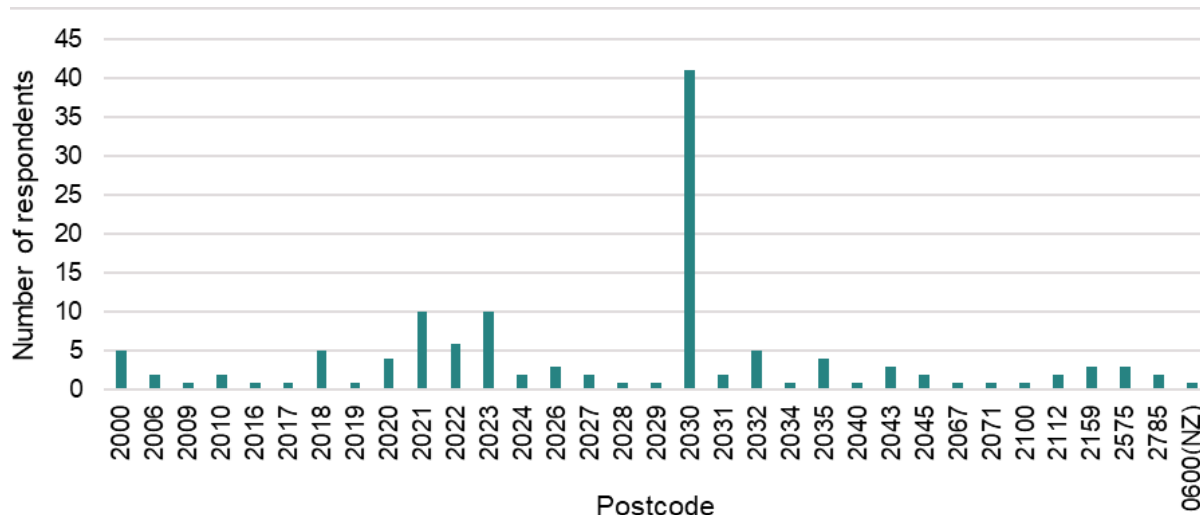


Figure 2 Postcodes of respondents to the survey

2.2 Key outcomes

2.2.1 General

The vision and design drivers that underpinned all other elements of the master plan were well supported.

Do you support the draft South Head Master Plan vision statements?

- Heritage landscapes – 96% agree / 4% disagree
- Adaptive reuse – 89% agree / 7% disagree
- Storytelling – 86% agree / 7% disagree

Do you support the design drivers outlined?

- Healing Country – 87% agree / 3% disagree
- Layers of identity – 79% agree / 3% disagree
- An accessible headland – 92% agree / 6% disagree
- Holistic sustainability – 67% agree / 3% disagree
- A continuing story – 81% agreed / 4% disagree



Figure 3 Exhibition display board for the draft master plan

2.2.2 Gap Bluff

Approximately 120 people responded to the questions posed for Gap Bluff. Landscape planning received positive support, and the proposed building uses, such as an Aboriginal cultural centre, museum, visitor information or education centre for the Armoury, and The Officers Mess, received strong support.



1. Park entry plaza
2. Accessible walkway into park
3. Gap Bluff Road share way
4. The Armoury arrival point
5. The Officers Mess
6. Gap Bluff Lookout
7. Gap Bluff open lawn area
8. Decomposed granite vehicle access into Gap Bluff
9. Practice battery School of Gunnery
10. Upgraded safety fencing within landscape
11. Upgrade carpark and introduce park use fees
12. Retention and minor upgrade of existing lookout

Figure 4 Gap Bluff

Table 1 Survey respondents' support for key items at Gap Bluff

Thinking about Gap Bluff do you agree with the improvements proposed for the following?	Agree	Neither	Disagree
New park entry plaza from Military Road (76)	71%	17%	12%
New accessible walkway to Gap Bluff Road (76)	95%	2%	3%
Gap Bluff lookout open lawn area, plantings and extension of rest area (76)	93%	5%	2%
Gap Bluff replace asphalt with open lawn area and shade trees (76)	94%	3%	3%
Upgrade Military Road car park and introduce park use fee (76)	79%	9%	12%
Gap Bluff Cottage suggested use as NPWS staff residence or for operational needs (76)	46%	23%	31%

Table 2 Survey respondents' support for suggested uses for buildings at Gap Bluff

Survey respondents were asked to tick all Gap Bluff suggested building use options that were appealing					
Armoury (120)	92% Aboriginal cultural centre	56% museum	55% visitor information centre	53% education centre	<25% other uses
Officers Mess (122)	95% Aboriginal cultural centre	60% museum	57% visitor information centre	53% education centre	<25% other uses

2.2.3 Camp Cove

Approximately 115 respondents addressed the questions posed for Camp Cove. Landscape planning received positive support, with the proposed building uses such as cultural and/or ecological tours and support spaces for tourism activities for Constables Cottage and 33 Cliff Street receiving strong support. The survey and submissions generated a mix of views on the proposal to remove the Camp Cove Kiosk.



- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adaptive reuse or removal 33 Cliff Street 2. Accessible cliff walk connection from Hornby Light Road to Lady Bay Drive 3. Paved entry plaza with wayfinding 4. Paved curtilage treatment around Constables Cottage and new toilet block 5. Adaptive reuse of Constables Cottage 6. Spill out lawn and sandstone bleaches in front of Constables Cottage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Interpretation and signage along South Head Heritage Trail, Camp Cove and Constables Cottage 8. Explore landscape improvements Camp Cove beach 9. Stone paving spill out area 10. Passive lawn and shaded rest area 11. Upgrade car parks/introduce park use fees |
|---|--|

Figure 5 Camp Cove

Table 3 Survey respondents’ support for key items at Camp Cove

Thinking about Camp Cove do you agree with the improvements proposed for the following?	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Accessible cliff walk from Hornby Light Road to Lady Bay Drive and access to Camp Cove (90)	96%	0%	4%
Provide new park entry plaza at Camp Cove (90)	81%	13%	6%
Landscape improvements at Camp Cove entrance to the park (90)	87%	10%	3%
Provide lawn and rest area (90)	88%	6%	6%
Upgrade Camp Cove car park and introduce park use fee (90)	75%	8%	17%

Table 4 Survey respondents’ support for suggested uses for buildings at Camp Cove

Survey respondents were asked to tick all Camp Cove suggested building use options that were appealing			
Constables Cottage (118)	92% cultural or ecological tours	21% café	14% kiosk
33 Cliff Street (111)	89% support space for tourism activities	21% removal	5% short stay accommodation

2.2.4 Lady Bay

The proposed Lady Bay landscape planning was well received and supported by the community.



1. Upgrade Lady Bay Drive walkway
2. New tree plantings, seating and turf
3. Revegetate either side of walk
4. Upgrade amenities building
5. Provide a key visitor node
6. New accessible boardwalk over beach
7. Provide signage and interpretation
8. Improved wayfinding and signage
9. Cliff edge fencing and landscaping

Figure 6 Lady Bay

Table 5 Survey respondents' support for key items at Lady Bay

Thinking about Lady Bay do you agree with the improvements proposed for the following?	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Lady Bay Drive walkway upgrade (81)	92%	5%	3%
Upgrade amenities (81)	95%	2%	3%
New accessible boardwalk (81)	92%	3%	5%
Cliff edge fencing and landscaping (81)	86%	5%	9%

2.2.5 Inner South Head

The proposal for Inner South Head landscape planning received positive support, with the proposed building uses such as cultural tourism and education for the Head Light Keepers Cottage being well supported and NPWS staff accommodation or operational support purposes well supported for the Assistant Light Keepers Cottage, with a mixed response on the proposal for the removal of the searchlight shelter. Several comments were received in the survey and written submissions regarding the parade ground, with some suggesting consideration of an accessible lookout.



1. New accessible pathway
2. Revegetate and replant priority areas
3. Reinterpret old parade ground, interpretation and educational signage
4. Upgrade South Head Heritage Trail
5. Provide landscaping along cliff edge and implement low key fencing
6. The Aboriginal community will be consulted to appropriately identify and interpret engravings across the site
7. Balustrades around gun emplacements
8. Tracks to provide opportunities to explore native fauna and flora
9. Consider removal of searchlight shelter

Figure 7 Inner South Head

Table 6 Survey respondents’ support for key items at Inner South Head

Thinking about Inner South Head do you agree with the improvements proposed for the following?	Agree	Neither	Disagree
New accessible pathway (82)	95%	2%	3%
Reinterpret old parade ground (82)	90%	6%	4%
Upgrade the South Head Heritage Trail (82)	95%	2%	3%
Provide balustrades around gun emplacements to keep visitors safe from cliff edges whilst enhancing viewing opportunities (82)	87%	4%	9%
Removal of searchlight shelter due to cliff edge instability (82)	42%	24%	34%

Table 7 Survey respondents’ support for suggested uses for buildings at Inner South Head

Survey respondents were asked to tick all Inner South Head suggested building use options that were appealing			
Head Light Keepers Cottage (117)	82% cultural tourism	73% education activities	9% short stay accommodation
Assistant Light Keepers Cottage (61)	93% staff accommodation or operations	21% short stay accommodation	

2.2.6 Green Point

The proposals for Green Point landscape planning received positive support, with a greater proportion of people supporting the continued use of Green Point Cottage for short stay accommodation. There were mixed views on the introduction of park use fees in this area, but comments in the survey and submissions indicated that this may have been influenced by some confusion about the intention and details of this item.



- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrade path network 2. New paved turning circle share way and introduce park use fees for vehicles 3. First landing place entry plaza 4. Replace existing toilet block 5. Plant new Port Jackson fig for shade | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Replace existing stairs with stone steps incorporating interpretation details 7. Sloping lawns for passive recreation 8. Enhance the unique geology and character of Green Point 9. Create a secondary entrance with new pathway and stairs 10. Potential future connection across beach |
|--|---|

Figure 8 Green Point

Table 8 Survey respondents' support for key items at Green Point

Thinking about Green Point do you agree with the improvements proposed for the following?	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Upgrade path network to create a circuit (62)	86%	10%	4%
Shared zone and arrival area (62)	64%	30%	6%
Introduce park use fee (62)	33%	13%	54%
First landing place entry plaza (62)	78%	13%	9%
New entrance and pathway to access southern side of Green Point (62)	75%	17%	8%
Work with Woollahra Council and Harbour Trust to investigate connection across beach to marine biological station (62)	67%	22%	11%
Green Point cottage suggested use as short stay accommodation (103)	44%	22%	34%

2.2.7 Fencing strategy

The proposed site-wide fencing strategy was well received by the community with most respondents in support of it.



Figure 9 Fencing strategy

Table 9 Survey respondents' support for the proposed fencing strategy

Key items explored in the survey	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Gap Bluff high webnet mesh safety barrier/balustrading fence (57)	89%	3%	8%
Low key and balustrade fencing at Inner South Head (62)	79%	7%	14%
Cliff edge fencing at Lady Bay (81)	86%	5%	9%
Balustrades around Inner South Head gun emplacement (82)	87%	4%	9%

3. Written submissions and feedback

Written feedback was received via submissions from the community, survey data and discussion with the Stakeholder Reference Group, and the final open-ended question in the survey.

Themes raised in open text questions included:

- lookouts (several highlighted that a new accessible lookout should be considered at the old parade ground) – 65%
- accessibility – 48%
- suggestions for building uses, e.g. visitors centres – 31%
- new/improved rest areas – 11%
- improve visitor experience – 9%
- celebrate/respect heritage and buildings – 5%
- increased wildlife protections – 5%
- nothing, leave it as is – 5%
- improve safety – 3%
- don't remove the kiosk – 3%
- deter dogs and their walkers – 3%
- vehicle traffic within the national park – 1%.

Some submissions raised items that were out of scope for this project, including:

- activities related to Woollahra Municipal Council land
 - local business operations
 - use of Camp Cove beach
 - upgrades to council amenities
- traffic congestion in Watsons Bay (outside of NPWS car parks)
- public transport services
- upgrades to and suggested walkway access through HMAS Watson
- use of and lease of Sydney Harbour Trust buildings
- clothing optional use of Lady Bay beach.

Feedback was also received from the Stakeholder Reference Group, which was mostly positive and supportive. Some themes raised by this group included:

- welcome the creation of a 'stakeholders forum' to meet twice annually
- request for more specificity around the use of buildings
- try to minimise intrusion to the natural landscape when improving accessibility
- generally, try to conserve and protect the natural environment.

4. Contribution to the master plan

Feedback and queries from the community and stakeholders has been considered and will inform the directions of the final master plan.

Feedback suggests community endorsement for most of the proposals in the draft master plan. For the final master plan, some minor changes are envisaged, including providing clarification and better communication of some components of the master plan (e.g. park use fees, shared use zones, the purpose of walkway upgrades linking Camp Cove to Inner South Head).

Table 10 provides a summary of the feedback to be addressed in the final master plan.

Table 10 Summary of feedback to be addressed in the final master plan

Feedback	Master plan response
<p>Park use fees:</p> <p>The master plan explored the introduction of park use fees. There appears to be some confusion and concerns were raised in the feedback that this would be applied to pedestrians entering the national park. This is not the case; if introduced, the fees would apply to vehicle entry only. The survey indicates support for the introduction of park use fees at Gap Bluff and Camp Cove, but less so at Green Point.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPWS will continue to work with Woollahra Municipal Council and adjacent land managers to seek effective solutions to parking that work to ease congestion, support the way our visitors access and engage with the site, service visitor demand and consider reducing impacts to residents. • The final master plan will continue to indicate opportunities to introduce park use fees, where this would assist in management of visitation.
<p>Buildings:</p> <p>The master plan explored potential uses for buildings at South Head. Feedback received has given NPWS a better understanding of what types of uses the community would like to see for these buildings, and this will be considered in planning for their future uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final master plan will retain all the current suggested uses to indicate the scope of potential options. • Examples of where feedback will help guide building uses can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing the business case for upgrade works ○ the terms and conditions applied to building use ○ traffic and parking for building maintenance, servicing and access ○ the parameters outlined in an expression of interest process (if NPWS were to pursue this option for one or more buildings).

5. Thank you

NPWS would like to say a special thank you to those who participated and helped shape the master plan by providing their input into the preliminary workshops, participating in the surveys, providing thoughtful and well considered written responses, and to the representatives on our Stakeholder Reference Group. We were pleased with the support received from the community on the exhibition plan and look forward to implementing the final master plan over the coming years.