



NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010

BARANGAROO, SYDNEY

STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

December 2010

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SUBMITTED TO
Minister for Planning

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APPENDICES

1 INTRODUCTION

This report constitutes a Statement of Environmental Effects and accompanies a development application to the Minister for Planning (the Minister) seeking consent to open part of the Barangaroo site for New Year's Eve celebrations on 31 December 2010. The event is to be a picnic style event catering for a maximum of 15,052 people located within the northern end of the site.

Barangaroo is a State Significant Site listed in Schedule 3 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005 (the Major Development SEPP). For development on such sites with a capital investment value of less than \$5 million, the Minister is the consent authority under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) in accordance with Schedule 6 Part 1 of the Major Development SEPP. The development application for the proposed opening of the site for New Year's Eve is valued at less than \$5 million and is therefore being lodged with the Minister.

The purpose of this report is to:

- describe the components of the proposal;
- discuss the potential environmental effects of the proposal;
- draw conclusions as to the significance of any impacts; and
- make a recommendation to the Minister as to whether the development application should be approved.

This Statement of Environmental Effects report has been prepared by MG Planning Pty Limited on behalf of the Barangaroo Delivery Authority. It should be read in conjunction with the following relevant accompanying material:

Appendix 1	Site layout plan
Appendix 2	Alcohol Management Plan
Appendix 3	Security Operational Plan
Appendix 4	Emergency Management Plan
Appendix 5	Security Crowd Management Plan
Appendix 6	Noise Emission Assessment

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

Barangaroo is located on the north western edge of the Sydney Central Business District, bounded by Sydney Harbour to the west and north; the historic precinct of Millers Point to the north east, and to the south and south-east by a range of new development dominated by large CBD commercial tenants. It has a 1.4 kilometre harbour foreshore frontage, with an eastern street frontage to Hickson Road.

The proposed event area is to be located in the northern section of the site as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

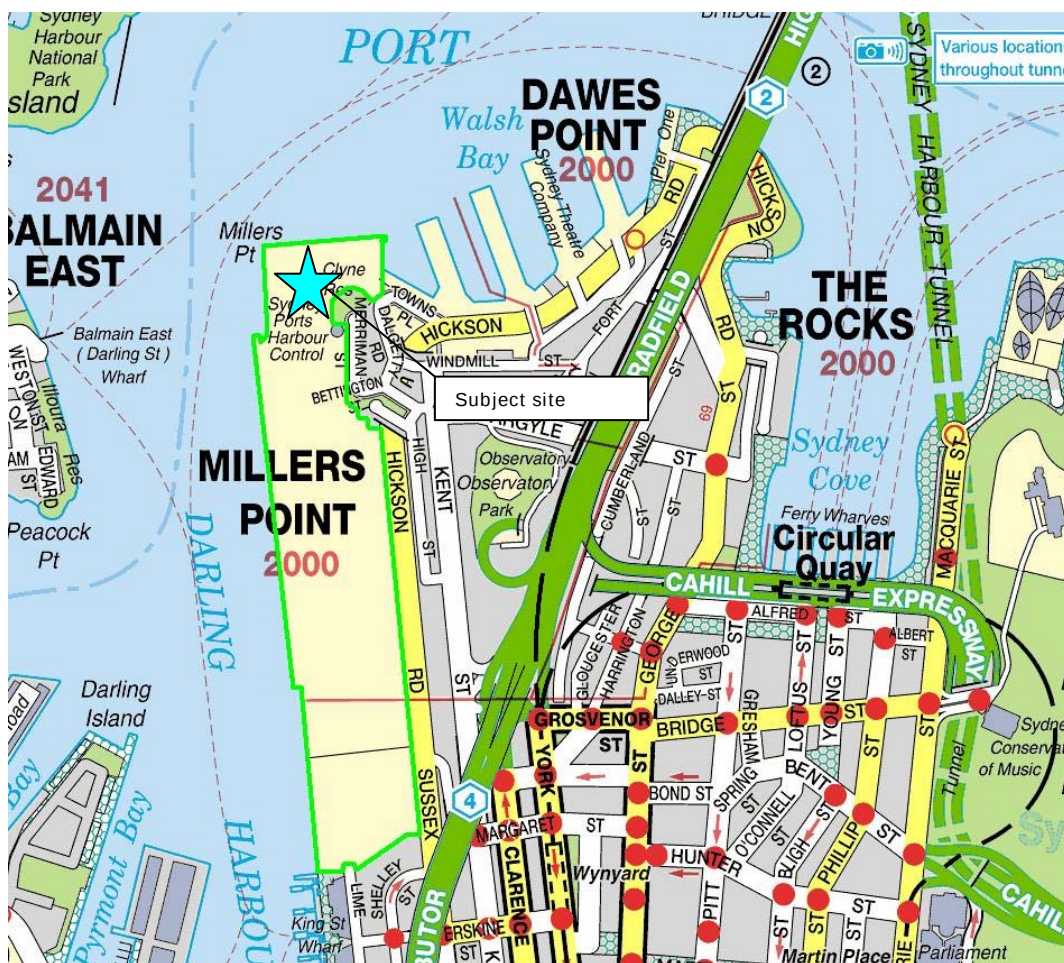


Figure 1: Locality Plan (Source: Australian Cities UBD Digital Street Mapping, 2004)



Figure 2: Aerial view (Source: www.nearmap.com)

2.2 Site Description

The area to be opened for the event is located at the northern end of the Barangaroo site (refer Figure 2). This section of the site affords the best views of fireworks for patrons and is located well away from other uses and activities on the site (for example, Temporary Cruise Passenger Terminal). The area is located on the concrete apron of the wharf and has been cleared of all structures apart from lighting towers.

2.3 Site Ownership

The site of the proposed event is within land owned by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority.

2.4 Surrounding Uses

The western and northern boundaries of the site abut Sydney Harbour. Walsh Bay and the residential precinct of Millers Point are located to the east. The remainder of the Barangaroo site is located to the south, including the Temporary Cruise Passenger Terminal which will not be operative on New Year's Eve this year.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Overview

The development application seeks the Minister's approval to the use of the northern end of the Barangaroo site for New Year's celebrations on 31 December 2010. The event will be open to the public through the purchase of tickets and cater for a maximum of 15,032 patrons. It will be a picnic style event with patrons encouraged to bring rugs and chairs for seating. Lighting will be provided by the existing lighting towers on the site.

Food and alcohol will be available for purchase at the event. Amenities and appropriate security and emergency arrangements will also be in place. Further detail on these matters is provided below.

The area of the site to be used for the event will cover approximately 14,000m². A plan showing the proposed site layout for the event is provided at Appendix 1.

The event will be fenced and a Licensed Security company will be engaged by the Authority for the duration of the event.

3.2 Event Planning

The event has been planned in liaison with the Central Sydney Operations Group (CSOG). The CSOG is convened by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and provides for a forum for cooperation and coordination between government agencies and event organisers. Agencies include NSW Police (Special Events and Sydney Central Commands), NSW Fire Brigade, Ambulance NSW, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA), City of Sydney and NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). This forum and participants have been notified of the Barangaroo event and relevant agencies have provided input into the event planning process. The Barangaroo Delivery Authority will continue to liaise with the CSOG as appropriate.

The RTA, NSW Police, City of Sydney and SHFA have been included in the event planning process and have vast experience in the New Year's Eve operations throughout the City of Sydney. The RTA has outlined a road closure location to be operated by qualified personnel on the evening for a 2 hour period to allow the smooth egress of patrons at the end of the event. The event location and infrastructure is operated within the Barangaroo site and as such traffic impacts are expected to be minimal. In the event that crowds begin to impact on traffic exterior to the venue at the beginning of the event, a staggered opening operation will occur to manage potential impacts.

3.3 Access

Entry and exit to the site will be via Gate 4 off Hickson Road. This access point has ample capacity due to its previous use for port operations. Patrons will only be able to

access the site by foot given road closures that will be put in place as part of the broader RTA traffic management arrangements for New Year's Eve. These are shown in Figure 3.

For security and operational purposes, patrons will be directed to the event area via a fenced walkway, as shown on the plan at Appendix 1. This will ensure patrons cannot access other parts of the site and allow for appropriate security measures to be put in place.

Service vehicles will access the site via Gate 4 and Towns Place but only outside the event hours.

3.4 Hours of Operation

Hours of operation for the event will be from 6.00pm on 31 December 2010 until 12.30am on 1 January 2011.

3.5 Food and Alcohol Service

Food and alcohol will be provided as part of the event. Temporary tents will be erected for this purpose. Food vendors will be located at the north-eastern end of the site whilst service of alcohol will be restricted to the north-western part of the site. As shown on the site layout plan (Appendix 1), the site will be separated into an alcohol free area and alcohol service area which will be appropriately licensed. BYO alcohol will not be permitted onto the site.

An Alcohol Management Plan has been prepared and is provided at Appendix 2. An application for the appropriate liquor licence for the event has been lodged with the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing and any service of alcohol at the event will be subject to the liquor licence being granted.

The food service vendors are being engaged under the City of Sydney approved operator contract for supply of services to New Year's Eve celebrations. Food vendors are all certified with appropriate NSW food safety accreditation as a minimum. To ensure compliance inspectors from the City of Sydney are to review the site during the event.

3.6 Amenities

Bathrooms and associated services will be provided in conformance with requirements for the maximum number of patrons. The supply of these facilities will be through an experienced third party event provided engaged by the SHFA to carry out all additional service for the event period.

NSW Police will be provided with a separate secure bathroom due to their weapon belt security.

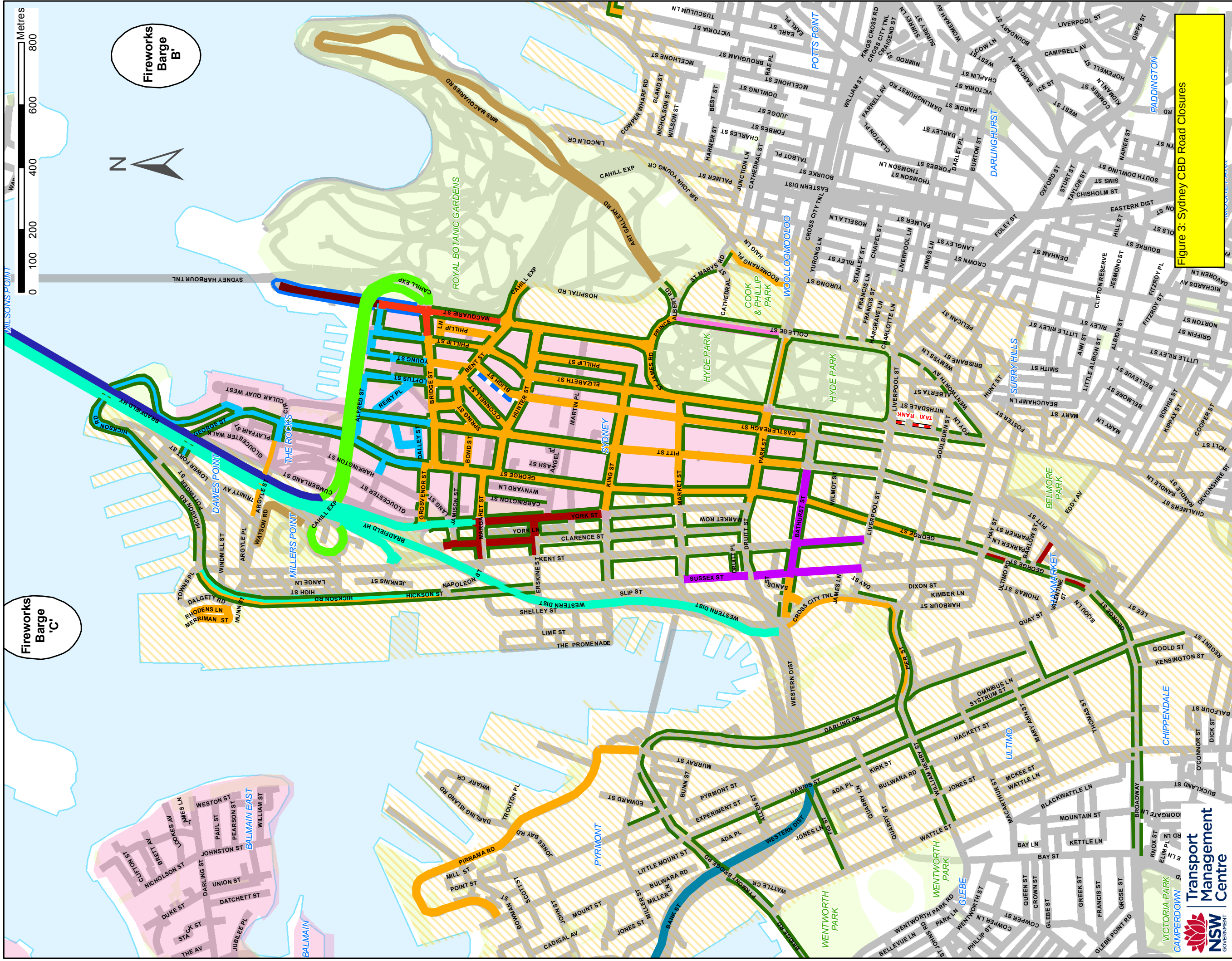


Figure 3: Sydney CBD Road Closures

Sydney CBD & Ultimo/Pyrmont Road Closures, & Special Event Clearways for New Year's Eve 2010/New Year's Day 2011



- Restrictions
- Temporary Parking for Residents
 - No On-Street Parking Zone
 - Restricted On-Street Parking Zone
- Special Event Clearway Times
- 2am 31 Dec 10 to 4am 1 Jan
 - 6am 31 Dec 10 to 4am 1 Jan
 - 6am 31 Dec 10 to 5am 1 Jan - Taxi Rank

- Road Closures
- 5am 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 4pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 6pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 7pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 8:30pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 10am 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 8:30pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 11am 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 11pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 1pm 31 December to 9am 1 January
 - 11pm 31 December to 4am 1 January
 - 8:30pm-9:30pm 31 December then 11:30pm 31 Dec to 1am 1 January
 - 3pm 31 December to 4am 1 January

Road Closure locations and times are subject to change by Police

Map by Transport Operations Systems Section, Transport Management Centre Eveleigh NSW.
Base data © Copyright Department of Lands NSW 2010.
Date issued: November 2010 File: i:19.2 ProjectsNewYearsEve2010-NewYearsEve2010-SydneyCBD-ForCouncil.mxd

3.7 Services

Generators will provide power supply to the site. Water will be available via drinking carts.

3.8 Waste Management

Waste management will be undertaken in conjunction with the SHFA's approved waste management contractor for New Year's Eve celebrations. Waste receptacles will be placed around the event site and serviced by cleaning staff assigned to the event. Waste will be collected to a centrally located skip from the site at an appropriate time.

3.9 Security Management

A Security Operational Plan has been prepared for the event and is provided at Appendix 3. The Plan aims to deliver the following objectives:

- Provide highly visible, safety conscious, motivated event security personnel;
- Provide effective provision of safety, security and logistics services in addition to providing direction to amenities and general information to the public;
- Restrict and confiscate prohibited items from entering the venue;
- Facilitate an organised and efficient entry and egress for the public;
- Implement procedures and resources to effectively manage the expected capacity of the fireworks;
- Provide a pleasant, atmospheric precinct for the enjoyment of all members of the public;
- Minimise risk associated with negative crowd behaviours and crowd crushes; and
- Respond to associated stakeholder security concerns.

The Security Operational Plan takes into account crowd size, demographics, spatial area, time of operation, alcohol service and licensing factors.

The Plan has been prepared in consultation with NSW Police and submitted for their endorsement. In addition, NSW Police will carry out a separate risk assessment of the event to determine appropriate police resources in conjunction with the event security plan.

It should be noted that the broader security arrangements for New Year's Eve are co-ordinated by the Sydney Central Operations Event Group (refer discussion below).

3.10 Emergency Arrangements

An Emergency Management Plan has been prepared which outlines command and control scenarios, evacuation guidelines and locations, warden and communication delegations. A copy of the Emergency Management Plan is provided at Appendix 4. In addition, a Security Crowd Management Plan has been prepared to ensure appropriate crowd controls are in place (refer Appendix 5).

The NSW Ambulance Service has been engaged to provide services for the maximum expected event crowd. A designated First Aid tent with lighting and seating for staff and patients will be set up within the event area. Should a patient transport be required for medical reasons the rear of the first aid tent backs onto a vehicle parking area and vehicle access point that is separate from the public event area.

4 ASSESSMENT OF PLANNING ISSUES

This section provides an assessment of the planning issues associated with the proposed development in accordance with the relevant matters for consideration under section 79C(1) of the EP&A Act.

4.1 Section 79C(1)(a) Statutory Considerations

The proposed development generally complies with the relevant provisions in the planning instruments as demonstrated below.

4.1.1 State Environmental Planning Policies

State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005

Barangaroo is a State Significant Site under Part 12, Schedule 3 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005. The Minister is the consent authority under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for development of sites with a capital value of less than \$5 million. The development application for the foreshore walkway and associated infrastructure is therefore being lodged with the Minister for consideration.

The proposed event area is predominantly located within the RE1 Public Recreation zone under the Major Development SEPP however a small part of the pedestrian thoroughfare from Hickson Road is zoned B4 Mixed Use. Public entertainment and recreation activities are permitted in both zones with development consent.

There are no other provisions in the Major Development SEPP of relevance to this application.

4.2 Section 79C(1)(b) Environmental Impact

4.2.1 Traffic and Pedestrian Access

In accordance with the RTA's traffic arrangements for New Year's Eve, road closures and Special Event clearways will be in place in the Sydney CBD on Fri 31 Dec 2010 to Sat 1 Jan 2011 to ensure clear progress for New Year's Eve celebrations, as shown in Figure 3. Under these arrangements there will be no public traffic allowed into the Barangaroo site.

Patrons attending New Year's Eve celebrations are encouraged to use public transport. Pedestrian access in the area will be unaffected by the changed traffic conditions.

As a result of the road closures, there will be no public traffic impact associated with the proposed event. In terms of pedestrian traffic, it is expected that most pedestrians will walk via Hickson Road and Napoleon Street to access Wynyard Station and buses along George and Castlereagh Streets. Any impact of pedestrian traffic within the residential areas is therefore expected to be minor and concomitant with normal pedestrian traffic on New Year's Eve.

4.2.2 Noise

A Noise Emission Assessment of the proposed event has been prepared by Acoustic Logic, a copy of which is provided at Appendix 6. The assessment indicates that primary noise emissions during the event will be from:

- Patron noise.
- Noise from the public address system.

The report notes that background music only is proposed in the event area.

The report considers a noise level of approximately 65-70dB(A)Leq(15min) as a reasonable level of a New Years Eve event for patron noise on the basis of the following:

- this level is consistent with acoustic objectives adopted by events such as Jazz in the Domain, in Sydney Domain.
- noise from fire works on the harbour are likely to exceed 75dB(A) at the residences in any event.
- there is some expectation that some level of noise will be generated by activities around the harbour on New Years Eave.

Predicted noise levels at the nearest residential receivers will achieve the adopted noise goal. Noise from the public address system will be capable of complying with the noise emission goal of 75dB(A)L_{Amax} provided that the recommendations set out in the assessment are adopted (refer Section 6 of the Noise Emission Assessment). The Barangaroo Delivery Authority will comply with these recommendations.

4.2.3 Public Safety

Given the nature and scale of the proposed event at Barangaroo, it is not envisaged that it poses a major risk to public safety. However, as outlined in Section 3, detailed operational measures will be put in place to ensure appropriate crowd management and public safety. These measures are documented in the following plans:

- Alcohol Management Plan (Appendix 2)
- Security Operational Plan (Appendix 3)
- Emergency Management Plan (Appendix 4)
- Security Crowd Management Plan (Appendix 5)

Security and emergency arrangements have been prepared in consultation with the Sydney Central Operations Event Group and the relevant agencies as appropriate. It is therefore considered that all necessary operational measures and contingency arrangements have or will be put in place to protect public safety.

4.2.4 Residential Amenity

It is considered that any impact on surrounding residences from the proposed event will be minor, particularly given the low key nature of the activity and the backdrop of New Year's Eve and general celebrations throughout the CBD and harbour foreshore. There will be no additional public traffic associated with the event and

noise impacts are expected to be within levels reasonable for New Year's Eve, subject to implementation of recommendations in the Noise Emission Assessment report. There may be some additional pedestrian traffic through the residential area of Millers Point but most pedestrian traffic is expected to travel down Hickson Road towards Wynyard Station so any impact on Millers Point will be modest. In addition, the closing time of 12.30am will ensure that patrons will leave the site soon after the midnight fireworks.

4.3 Section 79C(1)(c) Site Suitability

The northern end of the Barangaroo site offers superb views of Sydney Harbour and the New Year's Fireworks and is ideally suited to the proposed event. The site is generally clear of any structures and can be easily accessed and adapted for the event. The site will be fenced to ensure patrons are confined to the event area. The temporary Cruise Passenger Terminal to the south of the site will not be operational on New Year's Eve therefore there will be no potential conflicts between cruise ship activities and the proposed event. As noted above, any impact on the residential areas to the east will be minimal and against the backdrop of general New Year's Eve celebratory activities.

The site is therefore eminently suitable for the proposed event.

4.4 Section 79C(1)(e) Public Interest

The proposed event at Barangaroo is part of Sydney's New Year's Eve celebrations and is open to the public. The proposed event is intended to provide members of the public the opportunity to access a harbour foreshore site to enjoy the New Year's Eve fireworks. Tickets to the event will be priced at affordable levels and based on previous experience it is anticipated that many families will attend.

It is considered that the event will result in minimal environmental impacts. It will not generate additional traffic as roads to and from the site will be closed as part of the broader Sydney CBD traffic management approach for New Year's Eve. Similarly, noise impacts will be reasonable having regard to general background noise levels for the evening.

The opening of the northern end of Barangaroo for New Year's Eve will expand the number of sites available to the public to view Sydney's renowned firework display on New Year's Eve and is therefore considered in the public interest.

5 CONCLUSION

This development application seeks consent to open part of the Barangaroo site for New Year's Eve celebrations on 31 December 2010. The event is to be a picnic style event catering for a maximum of 15,052 people located within the northern end of the site.

The aim of this report has been:

- (a) to describe the proposed development;
- (b) to illustrate that the proposed development complies with relevant statutory and policy documents; and
- (c) to provide an assessment of the likely environmental effects of the proposed development.

The proposal is consistent with the zoning of the site and will have minimal impact on the environment. Having regard to the above assessment it is concluded that the proposed opening of the site for New Year's Eve is appropriate and should therefore be approved by the Minister for Planning.

APPENDIX 1

Site Layout Plan

APPENDIX 2

Alcohol Management Plan

APPENDIX 3

Security Operational Plan

APPENDIX 4

Emergency Management Plan

APPENDIX 5

Security Crowd Management Plan

APPENDIX 6

Noise Emission Assessment