

HARBOUR CONTROL TOWER

INTERPRETATION PLAN CONSULTATION REPORT

April 2016



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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Harbour Control Tower (HCT) Interpretation Plan Consultation Report is to summarise the consultation undertaken by Barangaroo Delivery Authority (the Authority) with external stakeholders in relation to the HCT Interpretation Plan.

This consultation was in accordance with the following requirement under condition B41 of Project Application MP10_0048 for Barangaroo Headland Park and Northern Cove – Main Works:

B41 INTERPRETATION PLAN- HARBOUR CONTROL TOWER

Prior to the commencement of demolition works, an Interpretation Plan is to be developed for the Harbour Control Tower site in accordance with the implementation and management guidelines established in Chapter 6 of the Interpretation Strategy prepared by Rintoul Associates dated November 2013. The Interpretation Plan is to be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to the commencement of the demolition works.

Chapter 6 of the Interpretation Strategy included the requirement to undertake consultation with key stakeholders prior to submitting the plan to Department of Planning & Environment for approval.

In accordance with the guidelines established in the Interpretation Strategy, the Authority engaged a heritage professional (GML Heritage) to prepare the Interpretation Plan for the HCT.

2.0 External Consultation Summary

In accordance with Chapter 6 of the interpretation strategy the following external stakeholders were issued with draft Interpretation Plan (dated February 2016).

- Maritime trade unions;
- Port Authority of NSW;
- City of Sydney; and
- Australian National Maritime Museum

In addition, the proposed Interpretation Plan themes and devices were presented to the Millers Point community at the February Barangaroo Community Meeting held on Thursday 18th February at 12pm and 5pm. This meeting is advertised through Barangaroo e-news, social media and Barangaroo's website Baranagroo.com.

External stakeholders comments on the draft Interpretation Plan and the Authority's responses are included in the next section.

3.0 External Stakeholders Comments

3.1 Millers Point Community

At the two presentations held on Thursday 18th February, there were no comments from the Millers Point community.

3.2 Maritime Trade Unions

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) was issued with the draft Interpretation Plan on Friday 12th February 2016 with feedback requested to be provided by 19th February 2016. To date no feedback has been received from the MUA, this is despite repeated efforts from the Authority on 22nd February 2016 and 15th March 2016.

3.3 The Port Authority of NSW

The Port Authority of NSW was issued with the draft Interpretation Plan on Friday 12th February and provided the following comments via email on Friday 26th February:

No	Section	Port Authority of NSW Comment	Authority's Response
1	3.5	I think that the opportunity to utilise these elements as part of the on-site interpretation of the HCT at the Barangaroo public domain should be explored, rather than just marking them for disposal or recycling if they aren't accepted by the Australian Maritime Museum (ref Section 3.5). This could be incorporated in the activation of Merriman Street as discussed in Section 3.8, providing a lasting physical reminder of the tower near or adjacent to where it stood. There would also be the potential of using this location as an opportunity to interpret and display the port and working harbour heritage of Barangaroo and Millers Point over time as discussed in Section 4 of the draft Interpretation Plan.	The HCT was previously stripped of the majority of its furniture by the Port Authority of NSW prior to the sale of the HCT to the Authority. Items remaining which are deemed significant value by the ANMM will be kept.
2	4.2	I support the idea of interpreting the HCT as well as the wider history of this area's history as a working port at the current location of the HCT if possible or at the adjacent Merriman Street entry point through the use of a number of elements such as those discussed in the draft Plan and shown on the Plan in section 4.2.	Noted by the Authority.

3	4.3	I also support the recommendation that “the heritage interpretation for the HCT should form part of the interpretation of the wider maritime history of the site, but also specifically communicate and engage the identified audiences in the history and significance of the HCT.” I would add, though, that it is about the working port history, not just the maritime history. Maritime use tends to mean quite different things to port use and the heritage interpretation of the HCT needs to speak to the working port heritage of Barangaroo and Millers Point.	The Authority has updated relevant references in the Interpretation Plan to read “port and maritime history”.
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3.4 City of Sydney

The City of Sydney was issued with the Interpretation Plan on Friday 12th February 2016 and provided the following comments via email on Thursday 25th February 2016:

No	Section	City of Sydney Comment	Authority's Response
1	N/A	That the City be given a digital and hard copy of the archival recording of the Harbour Control Tower to add to our Archives. The archival recording should be undertaken according to the NSW Heritage Council guidelines. Jpegs of between 5,000 and 10,000KB are preferred.	In accordance with Planning Approval Condition B34A (Archival Documentation), a copy of the Archival documentation is to be submitted to the City of Sydney Archives prior to the commencement of works.
2	N/A	That information on the Harbour Control Tower goes into the Dictionary of Sydney.	A copy of the approved Interpretation Plan will be issued to the Dictionary of Sydney. At the request of the Dictionary of Sydney additional information relating to the Harbour Control Tower can be provided.
3	N/A	That the City be given a role in the approval of the development of the design of the interpretive signage and inlays in Barangaroo Reserve and Merriman Street.	The Authority will seek design approval from the City of Sydney for any interpretative signage and inlays on Merriman St. The Authority will consult with the City of Sydney for any interpretative signage and inlays within Barangaroo Reserve.
4	4.1	That the interpretive signage and inlays in Barangaroo Reserve and Merriman Street are constructed of materials that are long lasting and can withstand the marine air environment, wear and tear from	The design and specification of interpretative elements will ensure selected materials are suitable for the environment. The Authority will seek design approval from the City of Sydney for any interpretative signage and inlays on Merriman St.

		foot traffic and resistant to vandalism, and be clearly legible. The use of cast bronze would be preferable.	City of Sydney's preference for the use of cast bronze materials is noted.
5	4.1	Inclusion of delivering the Device 5 on page 28 on the surface (ie at park level). There needs to be a commitment to closing over the hole and implementing the oculus within the landscape (eg. as seating) now.	The inclusion of a prominent HCT interpretation device within Barangaroo Reserve such as the oculus structure is not consistent with the Barangaroo Public Art and Cultural Plan which states that the Barangaroo Reserve is the preferred precinct for the prominent "Aboriginal Stories" theme. The physical interpretation devices relating to the HCT within Barangaroo Reserve should not have dominating or overpowering effect, they should be seen as a light touch and subtle in nature. The design of the previously proposed oculus seating is at this time not considered appropriate as the open voids along the Merriman St level are integral to the current interim uses in Cutaway space within Barangaroo Reserve. These voids provide natural light and ventilation (fresh air and smoke relief) to the space and any closure of these voids will impact the useability of the Cutaway space. Opportunities to interpret the footprint of the HCT may be further considered in the event that fit-out works associated with a permanent cultural facility in the Cutaway require closing over the HCT void then.
6	4.1	Device 1 p23 - locating the online and interactive interpretation on the BDA website only could be an issue in the future given the BDA is a delivery authority and may not exist at some point in the future. This information could also go on a website for Sydney Ports Corporation or the Port Authority of NSW. Need to include in the plan that in the event the authority is dissolved that an alternate website will be selected. Additionally this could be available online as a free app that could be downloaded from the BDA website similar to ours at http://www.sydneyculturewalksapp.com/ .	The Authority is currently generating the digital content to support a use in a variety of online and interactive applications. As noted in the Interpretation Plan those devices that are implemented will need to be further scoped and refined prior to finalisation.

3.5 Australian National Maritime Museum

The Australian National Maritime Museum were issued with the draft Interpretation Plan on Thursday 18th February 2016 and provided the following comments via email on Tuesday 1st March 2016.

No	Section	Australian National Maritime Museum Comment	Authority's Response
1	N/A	The Harbour Control Tower is unique and its removal will radically transform the Millers Point landscape and surrounds and reflects the recent transformation of the working harbour. The tower represents the end of a concerted and transformed harbour vessel movement management system that has its roots in the earliest signal stations from around 1790. Its location reminds us of the critical nature of this operation, and the best position to visually monitor vessel traffic as well as wharves. As such, the tower an important item to interpret as part of the Barangaroo site. The Australian National Maritime Museum is currently redeveloping on site interpretation of Sydney Harbour. The museum is interested in assessing any jointly identified items from the tower that cannot be interpreted at Barangaroo for the National Maritime Collection, or other interpretive installations at the museum.	Noted by the Authority. The ANMM undertook a site visit on 29th February Following their visit they have confirmed via email on 14th March items of significance to be kept.
2	2.3	<i>Interpretive themes</i> A section on the broader transformation and loss of the working harbour and its heritage could be included as a theme. This would better situate and contextualise the public debates on the tower. This is also an important theme in maritime heritage and museums around the world.	Interpretation Plan to be updated to include this under one of the current key interpretative themes.
3	3.5	<i>Archival recording and fabric</i>	Archival recording is being provided in accordance with NSW Heritage Branch's Guidelines.

		This section should include any oral histories either done or to be done on the tower workers, noted elsewhere. The photographic record could also be lodged with the ANMM and would add value to its interpretation of any tower material it may collect. The section on salvaging items should include ‘and any other moveable items the ANMM identifies as significant’. ‘.. may be disposed of or recycled’ – should include ‘may be offered to other relevant collecting institutions, or disposed of or recycled.’	The Authority will provide a copy of the photographic record to the ANMM. The Authority will make the following changes to the Interpretation Plan: The Authority will add “and any other moveable items the ANMM identifies as significant” to the Interpretation Plan. The Authority will add “may be offered to other relevant collecting institutions, or disposed of or recycled” to the Interpretation Plan.
4	4.0	<i>Potential interpretive devices</i> The plan considers views FROM the tower. While this is important, it has not been the historical experience of Sydneysiders. Theirs has been views OF the tower. If possible, a digital projection/hologram of the tower should be considered to be shown, possibly only at night on special events. A temporary hologram installation of the tower could be an important interpretive device, as well as a strong visual reminder for concerned stakeholders. This powerful, evocative and occasional interpretive device may need photographing prior to demolition. This could complement or replace any ‘column of light’. Other options could be viewing points where a permanent device shows the tower. These could be simple binocular on a stand type viewing devices. They should show both FROM and OF views. This may replace the need for ‘goggle-type’ devices, be more robust and have a long life-span, easily managed. Also, a Barangaroo heritage app could incorporate a mobile phone being scanned around the site to show the ‘footprint’ of the tower. While the current plan suggests gathering the views FROM the tower, again, views OF the tower should be considered.	The archival recording has documented views OF the HCT. The Authority is currently generating the digital content to support a use in a variety of online and interactive applications. As noted in the Interpretation Plan those devices that are implemented will need to be further scoped and refined prior to finalisation.

		These options would be compatible with the 'daily life' of Barangaroo (3.6).	
5	4.1	<i>Device 4 – Maritime artefacts</i> The ANMM looks forward to the opportunity to assess items from the tower for the National Maritime Collection, or into the museum's interpretations of the working harbour.	Noted by the Authority.

4.0 Final Interpretation Plan

The draft Interpretation Plan was updated based on the Authority's responses noted above to produce the final version of the HCT Interpretation Plan.