

Infrastructure NSW

## Consultation Summary Report

October – December 2012

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# 1 Consultation overview

## 1.1 Introduction

Infrastructure NSW, on behalf of the NSW Government, is leading the redevelopment of the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct at Darling Harbour.

Glebe Island Expo is an interim facility planned for Glebe Island in Sydney to support the NSW major events industry while new, state-of-the-art convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities are constructed at Darling Harbour during the period December 2013 to December 2016.

Infrastructure NSW is managing the Glebe Island Expo project for the NSW Government. Tenders were sought from companies to design, build, operate and remove Glebe Island Expo and bids were assessed throughout late November and early December 2012.

Infrastructure NSW announced *Sydney Harbour Expo @Glebe Island* as the preferred tenderer on 20 December 2012. The company was formed by the leading event and equipment hire company, Pages.

## Consultation background

Over the last year, Infrastructure NSW has consulted widely with industry to deliver the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct at Darling Harbour.

Industry has been clear that large exhibitions, requiring 15,000 square metres or more, would create the biggest challenge whilst facilities at Darling Harbour are closed for construction.

Glebe Island Expo forms part of a Sydney-wide solution to keep the large exhibition industry healthy to transition to the new world-class facilities, supporting an industry, which generates more than \$100 million economic

benefit each year for the NSW economy, and is a major employer.

On 17 September 2012, the NSW Government announced Glebe Island Expo, the continued operation of Glebe Island as a working port and an overall interim solution for events while construction takes place at Darling Harbour.

Infrastructure NSW commenced consulting with the community and stakeholders according to the Glebe Island Expo Stakeholder and Community Engagement Approach, prepared in October 2012.

The Glebe Island Expo Stakeholder and Community Engagement Approach lists the stakeholder groups that require engagement from the project team and include:

- community: residents of Leichhardt local government area (LGA) and Pyrmont
- businesses: including local small businesses and business groups
- events industry: businesses directly involved in the industry and their representative bodies
- government: local councils and State Government agencies

## 1.2 Purpose of consultation

While detailed plans for Glebe Island Expo will be developed by *Sydney Harbour Expo @Glebe Island*, Infrastructure NSW has submitted a planning application for an interim exhibition venue.

Community, environmental and amenity issues have been collected by Infrastructure NSW to inform technical studies and the formulation of development proposals for the project. Feedback has been incorporated into the planning application where appropriate. The planning application, including the Environmental Impact Statement will be assessed as part of the planning process by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Members of the community were asked for their feedback on the planning application and the period for public submissions to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure closed on 14 December 2012.

The planning process will continue during the first quarter of 2013. Subject to this approval, Glebe Island Expo is expected to be operating from late 2013 – in advance of construction work starting on the new convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities at Darling Harbour.

### 1.3 This report

This report is to be submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure as part of the assessment of the planning application for Glebe Island Expo.

It details the consultation methodology and key issues raised during this stage of engagement.

## 2 Consultation methodology

The Glebe Island Expo Stakeholder and Community Engagement Approach was developed to guide engagement with the community and stakeholders across three broad project phases:

- planning
- construction
- operation

The planning stage began with the announcement by the NSW Government of its intention to construct the interim facility. The planning phase includes:

- pre-lodgement engagement with industry, local government and community representatives
- lodgement of the planning application
- the formal public exhibition period and statutory consultation
- response to feedback
- planning assessment and eventual approval

The engagement methodology for the planning phase is summarised below.

### 1. One-on-one meetings with key groups and organisations

A series of stakeholder meetings were carried out through August to November 2012 to engage key groups and organisations with a high level of interest in the project, including meetings with:

- Roads and Maritime Services
- Sydney Ports Corporation
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- City of Sydney
- Leichhardt Council

- Balmain/White Bay Precinct Committee
- Lilyfield/Rozelle Precinct Committee
- Annandale/Leichhardt Ward Councillor
- Jackson's Landing Community Association
- Local business owners

### 2. Project website

The Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct project website was launched on 17 April 2012 to provide project information, a dedicated project email address and feedback channels for stakeholders on the Darling Harbour project.

Website updates were completed to add project information, news and feedback channels for the interim facility, Glebe Island Expo, in September 2012 to coincide with the NSW Government announcement.

The website has been updated to announce receipt of bids from companies to design, construct, build, maintain and remove Glebe Island Expo, and also the lodgement of the planning application. The media release announcing the successful tenderer, *Sydney Harbour Expo @Glebe Island* was published on the website on 20 December 2012. It will continue to be updated to coincide with future project stages.

### 3. Project Update

Local neighbours including residents, local businesses and community organisations received *Glebe Island Expo Project Update* newsletters to provide the latest information on the project, the planning process and future milestones.

The first *Glebe Island Expo Project Update* was distributed to homes and businesses in the Darling Harbour area via a letterbox drop.

The *Glebe Island Expo Project Update* contained information about the interim facility planned to support the NSW major events industry, what the facility is expected to offer, a focus on public transport and access to the site, the planning process and timeline, and consultation already underway.

It also contained an invitation to two identical community information sessions, held on Monday 26 November 2012 and Wednesday 28 November 2012. A copy of the newsletter is at Appendix 4.1.

should be considered in the assessment of the planning application. There was also space for general comments and questions on the respondent's profile. Infrastructure NSW received [insert] feedback forms at the sessions, via post and electronically in the week following the second session.

#### **4. Newspaper advertisement**

A newspaper advertisement inviting the community to attend the community information sessions appeared in two local papers during November 2012.

The advertisement was published in the Inner West Courier on Tuesday 20 November, and Tuesday 27 November 2012. It was also published in The Central on Wednesday 21 November 2012.

#### **5. Media release**

A media release was published on the project website on 15 November 2012 and circulated to key media stakeholders to promote the community information sessions. A copy of the media release is at Appendix 4.2

#### **6. Community information sessions**

Two identical community information sessions were held on Monday 26 November and Wednesday 28 November 2012 at The Station community hall Pyrmont, and Balmain Town Hall meeting room respectively. Attended by a total of 31 people, the format of the sessions was informal and 'open house'.

Storyboards with project information were displayed and team members answered questions and heard feedback from participants.

A feedback form was distributed to participants asking questions about what they saw as the important issues that

### 3 Summary issues table

A number of issues were raised by stakeholders during this stage of engagement. A summary issues matrix is below.

Description	Stakeholder group	Feedback and comments
<b>Planning process and structure design</b>		
<b>Design and land use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>Roads and Maritime Services</li> <li>Jackson's Landing Community Association</li> <li>Pymont resident</li> <li>Balmain resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and location of services, including air conditioning on site</li> <li>Back of house areas facing Pymont and its residential areas</li> <li>Design and aesthetics for back of house services, including suggestions to landscape the area, and provide acoustic treatments to reduce noise</li> <li>Concerns over height if over two storeys</li> <li>Concern that how the structure may affect views to Balmain from across the water at Pymont</li> <li>Glad to see that Glebe Island is not being used to build more residential houses</li> <li>Open space needed as part of the design</li> <li>Include shops and cafes on site to add activation and amenity to the area</li> <li>Need to include aspects in the design to 'give back' to residents and the community from the 'inconvenience of this interim facility'</li> <li>Concern that appropriate consideration is given to heritage-listed items in the precinct</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to know detail of plans for soil remediation and contamination treatment on site</li> <li>• Recommendation for retention and reactivation of the Glebe Island bridge</li> </ul>
<b>Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyrmont resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in the timeline for the planning and construction phases, in particular when building activity at the site is expected to begin, as concerned at potential noise impacts during construction</li> <li>• Interested in knowing future plans for Glebe Island, including how it will be used after the interim facility is removed</li> <li>• “After removal what happens to the site? Port activities or residential?”</li> <li>• “Is there a sunset clause for Glebe Island Expo?”</li> <li>• “Ensure that there is nothing more permanent than temporary arrangements”</li> <li>• “Why couldn’t construction at Darling Harbour be staged so that some events could be held there”</li> </ul>
<b>Economic impact and employment opportunities – Sydney-wide and locally</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>• Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>• Roads and Maritime Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for Glebe Island Expo to stay at Glebe Island permanently</li> <li>• General recognition of the value created by the exhibition industry, and Glebe Island Expo for the NSW economy, and the employment opportunities it provides</li> <li>• Could align exhibitions with local businesses to share economic impact locally</li> <li>• Acknowledgement that Glebe Island Expo is an important piece of economic infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation and engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leichhardt Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpful to talk about the issues as part of the planning process for the site</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Thank you, it is important to [my] tenants that they know their concerns are being passed on"</li> </ul>
<b>Port uses</b>		
<b>Glebe Island as a working port</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>Roads and Maritime Services</li> <li>Member for Balmain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Glebe Island remains a working port and that port uses are not interrupted during design, construction, operation and removal of Glebe Island Expo</li> <li>The alternate view expressed by members of the community was to revitalise the area with alternate uses.</li> <li>There was support for Glebe Island Expo as an alternate use, if appropriate planning is undertaken and impacts on neighbouring businesses and residents are minimised</li> <li>Concern that the future of Glebe Island is 'not being looked at strategically' in terms of cumulative impact</li> </ul>
<b>Transport and access</b>		
<b>Public and active transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>Roads and Maritime Services</li> <li>Jackson's Landing Community Association</li> <li>Pymont resident</li> <li>Balmain resident</li> <li>Member for Balmain</li> <li>Annandale Precinct Committee</li> <li>Balmain/White Bay Precinct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage Government to look at the Old Glebe Island Bridge and open it up for use by pedestrians and cyclists</li> <li>Provide access to Glebe Island Expo, but also a vital connection between Balmain, Pymont and the City</li> <li>"Glebe Island Bridge could be re-opened for bus and pedestrian traffic, creating access for event traffic and allowing people to walk from the CBD:"</li> <li>Very strong encouragement of a new ferry terminal at Glebe Island, to remain once Glebe Island Expo is removed</li> <li>Questioned adequacy of public transport for providing access to Glebe Island for people travelling from greater Sydney and interstate.</li> </ul>

	Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Any transport plan must include the west – what will people do if they are coming along Victoria Road from Parramatta”</li> <li>• Concern that the facility will put additional pressure on local roads, and there may be a ‘choke point’</li> <li>• Members of the community expressed a desire that the operator place a strong emphasis on public transport for the site</li> <li>• Support for integrated ticketing for all events and ticket costs to be built into event ticket price</li> </ul>
<b>Public access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>• Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>• Roads and Maritime Services;</li> <li>• Balmain/White Bay Precinct Committee;</li> <li>• Rozelle/Lilyfield Precinct Committee</li> <li>• Annandale/Leichhardt Ward Councillor</li> <li>• Jackson’s Landing Community Association</li> <li>• Pyrmont resident</li> <li>• Balmain resident</li> <li>• Member for Balmain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire to open up foreshore and provide open space for users and residents to enjoy</li> <li>• Request for public access to the foreshore at Glebe Island</li> <li>• “Will the port be a secure area during the Expo?”</li> <li>• Suggestion to open Glebe Island bridge for public access – this has been mentioned to RMS as it is under their control</li> <li>• Concern that there is no right turn from the car park onto Robert Street</li> </ul>
<b>Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>• Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of car parking spaces allocated as part of the development application</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads and Maritime Services;</li> <li>• Balmain/White Bay Precinct Committee;</li> <li>• Rozelle/Lilyfield Precinct Committee</li> <li>• Annandale/Leichhardt Ward Councillor</li> <li>• Leichhardt Council</li> <li>• Balmain resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spill over onto local streets</li> <li>• “Too many cars will create traffic problems for local residents”</li> <li>• “What if people are coming from the west of the city... will they go via the CBD or park in local streets?”</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>• Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>• Roads and Maritime Services;</li> <li>• Balmain/White Bay Precinct Committee</li> <li>• Annandale/Leichhardt Ward Councillor</li> <li>• Rozelle/Lilyfield Precinct Committee</li> <li>• Leichhardt Council</li> <li>• Jackson’s Landing Community Association</li> <li>• Balmain resident</li> <li>• Council of Glebe Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of Robert Street to exit the site</li> <li>• “One of the worst intersections in Sydney is Robert Street, exiting to Victoria Road”</li> <li>• “Infrastructure on the corner of City West Link, Victoria Road and Roberts Road needs to be improved”</li> <li>• Impact on the busy Victoria Road</li> <li>• Concern about potential impact of increased traffic, particularly in the morning peak on local roads</li> <li>• Roads of concern are The Crescent, intersection of The Crescent and City West Link and Ross Street</li> <li>• “We want an assurance that cars won’t spill onto the streets of Balmain”</li> <li>• Local roads at capacity ‘night and day</li> <li>• Concern that large trucks may not use Anzac Bridge to access Glebe Island Expo and that vehicles would ‘rat run’ local roads, through Glebe in</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local businesses</li> </ul>	<p>particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about increase in traffic due to Tigers' redevelopment occurring at the same time</li> <li>Ensure that peak hour and events do not coincide to reduce traffic impacts for the community</li> <li>Concern that possible cumulative impacts from increased Cruise Passenger Terminal and Glebe Island Expo traffic at peak hour will impact local residents</li> <li>No support for the traffic study that approved the Cruise Passenger Terminal project</li> <li>Suggestion to include electronic signs advising residents of event days, to prepare them for additional activity</li> <li>Support for the venue not being used for concerts</li> </ul>
<b>Ferry wharf and service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jackson's Landing Community Association</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"There should be an additional ferry stop at Pyrmont"</li> <li>"There needs to be a way that people using Glebe Island Expo can travel directly to Darling Harbour" and that this could be a focal point for public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Operation of Glebe Island Expo</b>		
<b>Acoustic impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leichhardt Council;</li> <li>Sydney Ports Corporation;</li> <li>Roads and Maritime Services</li> <li>Leichhardt Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestion to provide acoustic treatment to dampen potential noise from site, particularly noise that would occur during event set up and pack down outside operating hours</li> </ul>
<b>Events and hours of operation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leichhardt Council</li> <li>Sydney Ports Corporation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting up and packing down and what time this would occur</li> <li>Concern about potential disruption from trucks, and activity during set up</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads and Maritime Services</li> <li>• Balmain/White Bay Precinct Committee</li> <li>• Pyrmont resident</li> <li>• Balmain resident</li> <li>• Annandale/Leichhardt Ward Councillor</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and pack down out of hours</li> <li>• Questions about how many events could neighbouring residents and members of the community expect to be held there</li> <li>• Questions about the types and usual procedures for large exhibitions and events, including how many visitors are expected</li> <li>• “Glebe Island should be considered for smaller events [to limit visitor numbers]”</li> <li>• Discussion about the type of event hosted there and possibility for antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Concern that additional heavy vehicles may impact safety on local roads</li> </ul>
<b>Noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacksons Landing Community Association</li> <li>• Pyrmont resident</li> <li>• Balmain resident</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In particular, issues with boats and air conditioners</li> <li>• Recognise that some noise during construction, and use is to be expected, but that this should be kept at minimum levels</li> <li>• Noise including ‘beepers’ on reversing trucks during set up and pack down is a concern</li> <li>• Potential noise from traffic accessing the site via James Craig Road</li> </ul>
<b>Light</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyrmont resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light spill over to neighbouring and nearby residential areas during operating hours, and late at night while servicing and cleaning</li> <li>• “Existing lighting used by Sydney Ports is bright”</li> </ul>

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