



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/48993

Andrew Hartcher
Key Sites Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

andrew.hartcher@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Hartcher,

Walsh Bay Arts Precinct Stage 2 (SSD 7689) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to the correspondence of 16 November 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI.

Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI provides the following comments and recommendations for consideration in the final assessment of the proposal.

Comment

DPI Fisheries has identified the site as having a long historical and cultural significance as a recreational fishing site. Piers 2 & 3 are unique in that it offers safe and easy access to deep water for anglers from all socio-economic backgrounds, including families with children and disabled fishers. This is seen as important as these opportunities are limited, and only otherwise generally available to those with access to on-water craft. Land-based angling access around Sydney Harbour has gradually been eroded over the past three decades. Piers 2-3 remain the only significant land based options between Circular Quay and Barangaroo.

On page 5 of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct Communications and Stakeholder Management Plan, DPI Fisheries is listed as one of the relevant authorities to be consulted about the project. However, DPI Fisheries is not listed for consultation in section 3 of the Plan dealing with "Delivery Partners", "Business and tourism stakeholders" and "community stakeholders". A reason for this omission is not readily available.

DPI regards effective and meaningful consultation on this proposed development to be a key priority and requests that a relationship manager from within the Infrastructure NSW / Arts NSW project team be appointed to consult with DPI Fisheries and interested stakeholders.

DPI Fisheries has engaged with RMS, Arts NSW and the Walsh Bay Precinct Managers to form a working group to enable continued fishing access at Piers 2-3. To date this has

involved DPI entering into a contract to pay for cleaning costs associated with recreational fishing activity at the site as well as being in the process of drafting a Code of Conduct and other proactive management measures.

DPI is aware of the RMS lease arrangement which allows for an easement providing public access to the concrete "apron" around the wharf structure. We are confident that recreational fishers will be able to share this public space with other members of the public including joggers, bike riders, walkers etc.

DPI is keen to maintain and enhance recreational fishing opportunities as part of the overall Walsh Bay development plan. These could involve providing specific amenities for anglers and/or access involving fishing platforms and other initiatives.

DPI supports the proposal to increase the complexity of marine habitats through the design, including transplanting native kelp and installation of artificial reef units.

Recommendations

- Any approvals for the redevelopment of the site should maintain the existing recreational fishing access and agreements.
- A relationship manager from within the Infrastructure NSW / Arts NSW project team should be appointed to consult with DPI Fisheries and relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs

Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

13 December 2016

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>