



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

DESIGN REVEALED FOR BARANGAROO HEADLAND PARK

Saturday 10 July, 2010

The NSW Government today released the proposed design for the Barangaroo Headland Park, created by the world's leading landscape architect Peter Walker.

The \$6 billion Barangaroo transformation will be a central feature of Premier Kristina Keneally's official trip to China. (Ms Keneally leaves tomorrow and returns on 17 July.)

The Headland Park will feature a new cultural centre built within the headland, as well as picnic areas, walking paths, water access and tidal pools.

Construction of the Headland Park will commence later this year after consideration of the design by the NSW Department of Planning. It will be completed by 2014.

The park will be funded by development of the southern commercial precinct, meaning it will be delivered at no cost to NSW taxpayers.

The new cultural space, which will be provided under the naturalistic form of headland, is expected to allow for between 10,000 and 20,000sqm in floor area.

This compares to the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra and the Ian Potter Gallery at Federation Square in Melbourne, both of which are 14,000 square metres.

Ms Keneally was joined on site today by Chair of the Barangaroo Design Excellence Review Panel, The Hon. Paul Keating, Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, and world-renowned landscape architect, Peter Walker.

Mr Walker has been leading the design project in conjunction with Australian firm Johnson Pilton Walker since February 2010 - combining the best international and local expertise.

"The magnificent Headland Park will be an asset for Sydney and NSW for generations to come," Ms Keneally said.

"The NSW Government is seizing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the disused industrial site into somewhere people live, work and play.

"The park itself will closely resemble its form before 1836. It will be a space and a place that people of NSW can enjoy, and it is being delivered at no cost to them.

"It will reflect the rugged sandstone topography of the harbour and will include the planting of large Port Jackson fig trees, Angophora, and other native trees.

"This will be a place where people can touch the water, and interact with natural beauty that has not existed on the site for more than 170 years.

"We will work with the community, visual and performing arts organisations and benefactors to determine the most important cultural needs for this landmark site."

Strong support has already been expressed for recognition of Indigenous culture at Barangaroo, and this is being considered alongside other possible uses for the site.

Chair of the Barangaroo Design Excellence Review Panel, The Hon. Paul Keating, said the creation of a grand harbour park is key to the overarching vision for Barangaroo.

“The reinstatement of a green headland at Barangaroo is an historic opportunity to recreate the archipelago of headlands that once defined Sydney’s inner harbour,” Mr Keating said.

“The Headland Park will complement the natural rock edges of our harbour’s parks and islands.

“The Park will have a ‘naturalistic’ form, which will allow the re-connection of Merriman Street with the water’s edge for the first time in over 150 years.”

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the inclusion of the cultural space in plans for the Headland Park will deliver a big win for Sydney and NSW.

“Barangaroo will return the headland to its pre-1836 topography, and construction will allow us to set aside space ideal for cultural or civic use,” Mr Kelly said.

“To have an iconic new harbour headland is a great achievement – to get a major new cultural space at the same time is an extraordinary opportunity.

“The Government is already starting to work with the community about possible cultural activities and facilities to be included in the 22 hectare Barangaroo precinct.”

Mr Kelly said the park on the Northern end of the precinct will be constructed using approximately 350,000 cubic metres of soil from the excavation of the basements for Barangaroo South and the Southern and Northern Coves.

“The Headland Park will be constructed from excavated soil from the southern precinct, which will reduce truck movements and noise,” Mr Kelly said.

“I’m particularly pleased about Peter Walker’s involvement with the project. Peter literally wrote the book on landscape architecture in the second half of the 20th Century.”

Peter Walker described the project as a fantastic opportunity.

“I think this is the most exciting urban project going on in the world today,” Mr Walker said.

“It is a tremendous responsibility to be part of such a large project in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

“We’re very happy to be working on it and are looking forward to doing great things.”

Plans for Headland Park will be forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning, and will be subject to a full public exhibition process.

Funding options for the cultural centre will determined once a final use for the space has been decided. This is subject to consultation with the community and stakeholders.

Background Notes

- Headland Park Barangaroo will become another iconic part of Sydney Harbour and is the centrepiece of the transformation of Barangaroo.
- The 6.7 hectare site is at the northern most point of the Barangaroo site, immediately adjacent to Millers Point and Walsh Bay.

- Currently the site comprises flat concrete wharves which no longer reflect the former foreshore line. The construction of these wharves more than 50 years ago resulted in the removal of the former headland.
- Internationally renowned landscape architect, Peter Walker, was appointed in February as the designer of Headland Park. Peter Walker is recognised as an expert in his field.
- Peter Walker has been involved in numerous international projects including the Millennium Parklands for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, landscape design at Stanford University in California, Novartis Headquarters in Basel Switzerland, Martin Luther King Promenade, San Diego, California, Pixar Studios, Emeryville, California. His work can be viewed at www.pwpla.com
- Mr Walker's role with the Barangaroo Headland Park project includes:
 - Acting as lead landscape design consultant for Headland park design;
 - Preparing an outline plan for other areas of Barangaroo; and
 - Preparing guidelines for the entire public domain area, which will shape the detail including street furniture, lighting, and paving.
- The work of Peter Walker is guided by the principle to deliver an *'iconic park at the northern end of Barangaroo to complement the headland parks of Sydney Harbour including Goat Island, Ballast Point and Balls Head'*.
- The rebuilding of the Headland will be achieved through the reuse of fill from the rest of the Barangaroo as well as sandstone extracted from on site.
- Rebuilding the headland is a sustainable act, which sees the reuse of approximately 350 000 cubic metres of fill taken from works on other parts of the site.
- Within the rebuilt headland will be a 'cultural space' of between 10,000 and 20,000 square metres. The specific use and the funding sources are subject to further consultation.
- Possible uses for the new cultural centre include:
 - An indigenous culture centre;
 - Outdoor performing areas;
 - Artist studios;
 - Galleries; and
 - Education and learning facilities.
- The return to the former natural shoreline, similar to what existed prior to 1836, will enable the public and visitors to enjoy a quiet parkland environment and also touch the harbour.
- In addition, a new harbour cove will also be constructed as part of the Headland Park transformation.
- Headland Park is expected to be completed by 2014.