



Hippocampus whitei

SYDNEY HARBOUR ASSOCIATION

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Review of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989: Supplementary submission

This comment supplements our original submission sent on-line on 2 April 2020,

We have recently been advised by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust of its outline proposals for its *10 Terminal and Parklands Renewal Project at Middle Head* in Sydney Harbour. The Ten Terminal precinct is of major National heritage importance in several contexts, including indigenous culture, military history, and natural environmental values.

A related advice from the *Headland Preservation Group* indicates that the \$10m allocated by the Commonwealth Government in 2019 for the 10 Terminal precinct will not be used solely for the restoration of the 10 Terminal building. It will also be used for the demolition of the barracks, construction of a walkway and landscaping. This means that funding for the restoration of 10 Terminal will not be sufficient. HPG estimates, on the basis of figures provided by the Trust, that of the \$10m available only approximately \$4.7 will be allocated to the 10 Terminal building. We assume the balance will be funded by leasing to and partnering with commercial interests, thus diluting the Commonwealth equity and clarity of National purpose.

Our original submission recommended the adoption of principles in relation to Commonwealth Government landholding -

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- The Australian Government should not acquire and hold land unless it ***makes proper and reliable financial provision to enable it to fulfil the purposes for which the land is acquired and held.***
- The Australian Government should ***acquire and hold and protect and maintain lands that have unique and nationally-relevant cultural, environmental, historic and symbolic value for the Australian community, including the foreshores of Sydney Harbour presently administered by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.***

The Ten Terminal/Middle Head matter exemplifies our concerns. We hope that this practical example may help the Reviewers to recognise the importance of ensuring that Commonwealth Government land acquisition for public purposes is undertaken within a realistic public financial framework.

Hylde Rolfe, Secretary

27 September 2020

(Home: [REDACTED]; E: [REDACTED]; T: [REDACTED])

Sydney Harbour Association was established in 2010, as successor body to Sydney Harbour and Foreshores Committee (est. 1979). The Association is an unincorporated body of individuals interested in Sydney Harbour.