



Council Ref: 21/150773 – 21/157053
Your Ref:

12 August 2021

Ms Charlotte Feldman
President
The Darling Point Society
c/- darlingpointsoc@hotmail.com

Dear Ms Feldman

Youth Recreation Facility / Yarranabbe Park Seawall Stairs

I refer to your letter dated 4 August 2021 (letter states 2018) regarding Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park. Your correspondence has been referred to me by the General Manager for response.

Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for Rushcutters Bay Park – Youth Recreation Facility

As previously advised, the Council is following a process which is informed by discussions with staff from Heritage NSW and which respects the State Heritage Listing of Rushcutters Bay Park. That process, which is in four main parts, is as follows;

1. Preparation of a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Sir David Martin Reserve.
2. Preparation of a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the Youth Recreation Facility project.
3. Submission of an application under Section 60 of the NSW Heritage Act to undertake the project.
4. Preparation of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) report for an activity under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Following completion of the draft CMS, Council have now instructed a specialist consultant to commence preparation of the HIS. It is anticipated that this will take around 4 weeks, with a view to reporting both of these to Council in October 2021. The CMS and HIS will be available to the public as part of the agenda distributed prior to the meeting.

If the Council endorses the two documents, the S60 application will be made to the Minister. The S60 will include the CMS and HIS.

In regards to your query about the name of the facility, Council has always approached this project as the Youth Recreation Facility, as it incorporates several types of activity aimed at youth aged 8-14. Although the facility caters for scooter and skateboard riding it also incorporates a basketball hoop to cater for additional users groups.

The Society have previously provided comment on the concept plans during the public exhibition phase. All documents associated with this project including plans are on Council's Your Say website. The link can be found;
<https://yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/youthrearea>

Yarranabbe Park Seawall Stairway

As the Society are aware, this project was proposed as part of the Plan of Management and Master Plan for Yarranabbe Park adopted by Council in 2012. The project was also exhibited to the community and regularly presented to the Yarranabbe Park Steering Committee.

Throughout this process all concepts and design intent of the Northern Plaza upgrade has been very detailed. As a member of the Steering Committee, the Society were provided the plans and relevant documentation (e-mailed on 3 August 2017 and 9 March 2018). Attached to this e-mail are the copies of the plans again.

The proposed upgrade works for Yarranabbe Park Northern Plaza include new seawall harbour access stairs, widened pedestrian pathways and new plaza areas, together with landscaping embellishments and an upgrade of the existing public domain lighting.

The seawall stairs provide an opportunity for people to access the harbour edge and allows the launching of non-motorised recreational vessels like paddleboards and kayaks. The need was determined during the Plan of Management process and included as an action in the Masterplan. The intent of the project is not for a swimming facility as referenced in your letter.

The project was endorsed by Council on 17 June 2019 noting the next step was to proceed with a Development Application. The project was put on hold due to the Interim Heritage Order of Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park.

It is Council's view that the significantly increased park usage during the pandemic illustrates the need to cater for all park users by providing facilities and amenities that encourage all types of outdoor activity. The community will have the opportunity in the coming months to have their say on three documents which will assist the Council in managing our open space into the future. These documents include the Recreation Strategy, Playspace Strategy and the Crown Land Plans of Management.

Yours sincerely



Tom O'Hanlon
Director – Infrastructure & Sustainability