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Infrastructure NSW
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Bank Street Park, Pyrmont

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 3 concept proposals developed by Infrastructure NSW. We also greatly appreciate the effort put in to collect the thoughts and ideas of members of the local community and other interested parties, including the dragon boaters who have been using this area for many years.

Pyrmont Action Inc members have been involved in discussions about the future of this area of public land since 2003 and strongly supported the inclusion of the sites as a Public Recreation Area with provision of facilities for passive boating within the Bank Street Master Plan approved by the then Minister for Planning in 2006. This Master Plan was rescinded following the election of the Coalition Government, to be replaced with years of consultation associated with the Bays Precinct planning, then the Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct Strategy. Our members were associated with the development of a Great Idea which incorporated the proposed Sydney Heritage Fleet facility, overtaken by yet another proposal for the Blackwattle Bay Marina which was approved as a temporary facility for 5 years. We are delighted that this facility will be re-located elsewhere within the Blackwattle Bay redevelopment.

Our membership has been unable to come to a consensus supporting a particular concept plan but there is support for various elements from both Concept 1 and Concept 3, as follows:

- *1 – 3 Bank Street* – There is general support for a facility on this site to accommodate dragon boat amenities, an office for the commercial marina, a café/bar/restaurant, affordable artists' studios/exhibition space and community space. Whilst a majority of members support the demolition of the existing buildings and their replacement with new buildings on the site, there is a strongly held minority view that the existing structures reflect their historic use as the early fish markets. We recommend that any structure on the site must incorporate solar panels



on the roof, noting that the existing asbestos roofs will need to be removed if it is decided to keep the structures.

- *Green and Natural Park* – Members support retention of the existing native vegetation located in the SW part of the site planted by volunteers from the Pyrmont Heritage Boating Club and Pyrmont-Ultimo Landcare Inc. We also ask that the design of the landscaping keeps hard surfaces to a minimum to facilitate absorption of rainwater which should be collected in storage tanks for use in dry times. There is strong support for a more natural approach to the design of the foreshore area, including creation of a beach for paddling as exists on the W side of Blackwattle Bay along the Glebe foreshore walkway, and re-introduction of mangroves offshore.
- *Dragon Boat Storage* – We support the erection of the dragon boat storage structure near the launching ramp, with the viewing platform on top as depicted in Concept 1.
- *Children's Playground* – We support its location close to the proposed café at 1 – 3 Bank Street.
- The proposed location of the multi-purpose court next to the Bank Street footpath is supported provided it can be accommodated without requiring the removal of existing trees along the S boundary of the site, noting that services are located underground along that boundary.
- *First Nations Recognition* – Blackwattle Bay was an important meeting place of peoples living around the Sydney Harbour. We commend Attachment 28 of the BBSSPS *Connecting with Country Framework for Tjerruing Blackwattle Bay* and recommend that Bangawarra be involved in the design of the proposed park, in particular the choice of plant species of significance to First Nations people. We also ask that the significance of the aquifers traditionally supplying fresh water to those gathering food from the Bay be recognized as the only plaque in place across Bank Street refers to its significance to the early European settlers, ie Tinkers Well (destroyed with the construction of the Burley Griffin incinerator). We also strongly recommend that the park be named Tjerruing Park after the *Calicoma* (or Blackwattle) which existed around the Bay area.
- *1A Bank Street* – We support retention and enhancement of the existing native trees on this site, noting the recommendations in Attachment 27 (BBSSPS) that disturbance of the site be kept to a minimum as this site remains relatively undisturbed and may contain evidence of First Nations' use and occupation of the area.



We would very much like to remain engaged during the more detailed planning of the Park, along with representatives from Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare Inc, in recognition of the many, many volunteer hours we have spent in the long lead-up to these very positive Concept proposals. Again, thanks very much for listening to the many people who participated in the on-site discussions. We look forward to the realisation of our long-sought park – at long last!

Elizabeth Elenius, Convenor

