



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR SYDNEY'S SOUTH HEAD

Nine historically significant buildings in one of Sydney's most beautiful locations, Gap Bluff and South Head, are seeking a fresh injection of funding and ideas that will increase opportunities for the community to access and enjoy the unique harbour side location.

Environment and Heritage Minister Robyn Parker today announced that the NSW Government is committed to ensuring better and more equitable access to public places rather than restricting access to public assets throughout the state.

"The NSW Government is now inviting Expressions of Interest for the buildings in the hope we can sympathetically revitalise Gap Bluff and South Head while retaining its unique character," Ms Parker said.

"NPWS already manages short stay public accommodation in some of the cottages and delivers conferences, events and function services at two facilities at South Head and Gap Bluff.

"We are now seeking professional management through a new operator or operators for the whole precinct to improve quality of services and grow existing businesses through new and exciting uses.

"Adaptive reuse has been shown to work well in our national parks to help secure the future of our historic buildings by bringing them back to life and properly funding conservation and maintenance of the site, such as places like Q Station in Manly.

"These buildings are a part of our city's history and with the assistance of private sector partnerships we can improve the conservation of amazing places such as this, bringing them back to life and making them more accessible to everyone.

"Given their locations in a spectacular and unique setting we are confident they will present a wonderful opportunity for any number of businesses, from accommodation to restaurants or visitor experiences.

"The NSW Government is committed to retaining the area's character, its heritage listed buildings, and its natural environment.

"I can assure the community we have heard their concerns about excessive noise and possible traffic or parking impacts, all of which will be key elements of negotiations with interested parties.

"We will not consider fast food outlets, high rise buildings or apartments.

“Any plans for the adaptive reuse of this site will also go through an extensive approval process including heritage, environmental and sustainability assessments.

“What we are seeking are creative opportunities that explore new ways of reusing historic buildings in a manner that showcases their history, ensures they are cared for and utilised in sympathetic but practical ways.

“Ultimately this is about giving the community more access to the iconic natural landscape and heritage of the Harbour and making these places more inviting and interesting for more people to enjoy.”

The 9 unique buildings in the Gap Bluff precinct include The Armoury; Gap Cottage and The Officer's Mess at Gap Bluff; the Head Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage and Assistant Lighthouse Keepers' Cottages on South Head; Green Point Cottage; and Constable's Cottage and 33 Cliff Street in Camp Cove.

Expressions of Interest will open today.

The community will have an opportunity to provide comment on any final proposals along with Woollahra Council and local businesses.

Further information on the revitalisation of the Gap Bluff and South Head precinct and the Sydney's Harbour National Park's Plan of Management can be found online at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

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