

# North Head Scenic Area

Summary of community feedback on concept plans



**North Head Scenic Area, in Sydney Harbour National Park, is a diverse site with significant cultural and environmental values.**

The North Head Scenic Area upgrade will enhance the visitor experience and improve visitor access and safety through:

- the reconfiguration of car parks to provide more accessible parking spaces and overflow parking
- extending the open landscaped by reducing carpark areas to provide a space for visitors to enjoy views across the harbour
- the installation of pedestrian crossings and a pedestrian path to improve safety, access and pedestrian circulation
- the installation of a new bus stop to the east of the Bella Vista Café
- improvements to the entry of the Fairfax Walking Track.

This project is funded through the NSW Government's Improving Access to National Parks program to enable the renewal, improvement and enhancement of park visitor facilities, safety and infrastructure. North Head was identified as part of this program, with the project aligning with the outcomes for North Head outlined in the *Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management* (2012).

Concept plans for the North Head Scenic Area were released for community feedback during April and May 2021. We received a number of thoughtful and considered questions and comments which were largely supportive of the project.

We thank everyone who provided a submission. This feedback is a valuable part of the project development. The main themes from these comments have been reviewed with responses to each on the next page. Visit [environment.nsw.gov.au/north-head-scenic-area](https://environment.nsw.gov.au/north-head-scenic-area) for more details.

## Outcomes

These works will improve North Head Scenic Area for all visitors. Increased landscaped open space, pathways, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures, seating, rubbish bins, a new bus stop and shelter, and accessible parking, will deliver a safer and more comfortable experience when visiting.

## Weeds

Poor drainage and accessibility along the steep banks makes weed removal complicated and limited to hand weeding. This requires significant resources including volunteer assistance. More weed removal will be carried out near the carparks within the upgrade area and this will be an ongoing priority.

## Pedestrians & bikes

North Head Scenic Drive will have a 20km/hr speed limit for all vehicles and bikes. Traffic calming devices, flat top speed bumps and separated pedestrian path will increase safety for both pedestrians and bike riders. Bike parking will be included in this upgrade.

## Native animals

This project will support NPWS's efforts in protecting native fauna by introducing traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. Native animals must have the ability to move freely around the headland. Measures such as fencing along the road was not considered appropriate in this setting. This remains an ongoing priority.

## Amenities

Public toilets are located at the Quarantine Station carpark and behind the Bella Vista Café at the North Fort. Extra toilets have not been included as there are no existing services or infrastructure and no suitable location to install new toilets without creating significant environmental impacts.

## Buses

The existing bus stop will be moved to Carpark 1 to make a safer, more comfortable, accessible, and compliant stop. The new location has enough space to provide a shelter, seating and bus pull-in area. It provides clear sightlines and is close to the North Fort entry, café and toilets. Buses will be discouraged from using the carparks as layover areas.

## Landscape improvements

The open landscape areas at Carparks 1 and 2 will be expanded by moving the existing kerb back towards the road and adding retaining structures at the slope. No removal of native vegetation or use of additional fill is planned. Turf species used at similar locations in national parks will be considered with native groundcovers planted where possible. Simple shelters and seating will also be installed.

## Car parking

The carparks will be reconfigured to provide more open landscaped areas and to reduce hard surfaces. A new overflow carpark will be built at the existing bus stop. Overall, there will be a moderate increase of car parking spaces from 42 to 51 across the three carparks.

## Access

North Head Scenic Area will remain open during the construction phase, which will be staged during 2021 and 2022 to limit impacts on visitation. Some temporary restrictions to certain areas will be required for the safety of visitors and the work crew. Check current alerts ([nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts](https://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts)) to plan your visit.