

Second Reading

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (Parliamentary Secretary) [11.53 a.m.], on behalf of the Hon. Tony Kelly: I move:
That this bill be now read a second time.

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority Bill 2009 provides for the establishment of a dedicated delivery agency for the Government's major foreshore urban renewal program at Barangaroo. The Barangaroo Delivery Authority will have the task of renewing a vacant 22-hectare slab to become a new quarter of our city with new foreshore access for its people and a new headland park on our harbour. In delivering this outcome, the authority will seek a new world benchmark in urban waterfront renewal in terms of environmental protection, design excellence and community building. Sydney is facing challenges from changes to land use, commerce and demographics. These challenges are being experienced in port cities all over the world, and are being driven by international movements of labour, technology and commerce.

Responses to the challenges that have been created have varied from city to city, as have the quality and success of the results. Sydney's response, when seen in an international context, is exemplary. Management of significant parts of the foreshore by the State Government has seen protection, renewal and reuse of the post-industrial foreshore carried out with benefits that most cities can only dream of. It has created legacies of which we can be proud—the preservation and activation of The Rocks as one of the most intact and attractive heritage precincts in the world, the renewal of Darling Harbour into Sydney's playground giving an integrated part of Sydney life for both visitors and locals alike, the re-emergence of Pyrmont from an abandoned suburb to a modern media and technology hub as well as an enviable living environment, the creation of hectare upon hectare of new foreshore parkland, the completion soon of a 14-kilometre urban foreshore walk, and the remediation of Homebush Bay into Sydney Olympic Park, which was home to the greatest ever Olympic Games and a welcome open space asset for western Sydney—indeed all of New South Wales.

It is a legacy of change that we are proud of and that Barangaroo will build upon. I provide this context because, like all cities, Sydney is in a constant state of reinvention at the push and pull of international external forces. It is our ability to respond positively and proactively to make the most of change that will be critical to Sydney's future. Fortunately for Sydney, the State Government has a clear vision that is guiding the renewal of Barangaroo to unlock a large section of the Sydney foreshore that has been isolated from public use for over a century. We will transform it into a new working central business district precinct that is set in a generous and dignified public domain to secure Sydney's growing financial role in the highly competitive Asia-Pacific region, attracting new global players, investment, knowledge and jobs growth. It will create a new western face of the city, transforming an isolated part of town into a precinct of buildings and parkland that mirrors the city's much-celebrated eastern face.

The project will include the building of 11 hectares of new parks, community and cultural facilities and completion of the State Government's 14-kilometre Sydney Foreshore Walk. It will be a public walkway that is unprecedented in harbour cities worldwide, and it will leverage development of transport infrastructure at this under-served part of Sydney. Barangaroo will tap into the Sydney Metro with pedestrian links to Wynyard and a new station to specifically service the site. There also will be a new ferry terminal, which is being explored to open new access to the harbour. Barangaroo is not the largest urban renewal project in Australia, but undoubtedly is the most prominent and the most important. The position of the site at the foot of the central business district allows a unique nexus between Sydney's environmental, economic and social advantages. No other site is so poised to leverage the future growth of our city, and no other project presents such a public opportunity to provide leadership in sustainable development.

The entire harbour headland is to be transformed. For the first time in over a century the public will have access to the 1.4 kilometres of foreshore land at Barangaroo that has been locked away, physically and psychologically, from our city. We will return this area to a bustling and peopled waterline, activated by living, recreational and working activities and shared by both locals and regional visitors. Supporting the recreational side of this equation will be 11 hectares of foreshore promenade, a public domain and park, not the least of which will be the headland park at the northern end of the site. This aspect of the renewal is nothing less than restoring to Sydney Harbour an entire headland that previously had been razed for industrial use.

The PRESIDENT: Order! At the risk of interrupting a number of conversations, I remind members that they are in the Chamber of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of New South Wales, which has before it important legislation for debate. The Parliamentary Secretary, who is contributing to that debate, should be allowed to continue to do so without having to compete with the audible conversations of members. Members wishing to engage in audible conversation will do so outside the Chamber.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Barangaroo will reinstate, with Balls Head, Blues Point and Ballast Point, the archipelago of green headlands that once defined the western harbour. Centred on Goat Island and reflected in its indigenous name, "Mel-Mel", or "The Eye", this project is one of the most ambitious and significant greening

projects in any harbour anywhere in the world—and of course there is a long way to go. The next stage in the design process will articulate both the built and non-built elements of the headland park and the other public spaces at Barangaroo. It will create public spaces not only of beauty but also of usefulness and relevance to the people of Sydney, none more so than the local residents of Millers Point.

The historic suburb of Millers Point will see its historic headland returned and its street and residents reconnected to the water line. Residents will be able to walk directly into this new parkland and down to the water line, just as they would have a century ago. We are returning Millers Point to the Millers Point community. I acknowledge the support, advice and intellectual rigour that former Prime Minister Keating has provided on this visionary endeavour. Mr Keating is currently the chair of the Barangaroo Public Domain Design Review Panel but his involvement with this project goes back much further.

As a member of the competition jury and a strong public advocate for the project, Mr Keating has helped draw attention, from both within and outside the Government, to the unique opportunity that the renewal of the Barangaroo headland provides to Sydney. That is unsurprising, given Mr Keating's previous integral involvement in securing the protection of Ballast Point and his longstanding public advocacy for the improved planning and development of Sydney harbour. The Government notes and is sincerely grateful for Mr Keating's involvement. This recreational role is balanced with and supported by Barangaroo's emergence as a new financial centre.