

## INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SYDNEY HARBOUR FORESHORE AUTHORITY

**Organisation:** Defenders of Sydney Harbour Foreshores  
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**Subject:**

**Summary**

**SUBMISSION FROM  
DEFENDERS OF SYDNEY HARBOUR FORESHORES  
TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY  
INTO SYDNEY HARBOUR FORESHORE AUTHORITY**

Defenders of Sydney Harbour Foreshores is the umbrella committee of community groups which campaigned for nine years to convince the Federal Government to forgo sale and development of the former harbour defence sites and to preserve them as public reserves.

Its members include Friends of Cockatoo Island, Headland Preservation Society {Middle Head/ Georges Heights}, North Head Alliance and Woolwich 2000 {Mort's Dock and adjoining foreshore 'Horse Paddock' }

Defenders are most concerned about the role of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and the way in which it operates.

The public could assume that such an authority had some responsibility for protecting the harbour foreshores and reclaiming areas for public enjoyment.

But the authority's role seems to be entirely that of identifying and selling off foreshores sites for private development or otherwise facilitating development.

The authority's plans and decision are made without any obvious transparency. A Government body making momentous decision about the harbour, Sydney's most important feature, should be required to consult the public about its proposals. The authority does not appear to be accountable to anyone. (It seems from recent reports about the Homebush SuperDome that not even the Premier is kept informed about the authority's actions).

The Government's decision to remove the container wharves from the harbour and the plans for further alienation of Botany Bay foreshores for an extended port, was made in consultation with stevedoring companies, but without public consultation.

Defenders oppose further sale and development of the foreshores. Once sites are sold into multiple strata title properties, as is invariably the case, they are lost to the public forever.

Defenders doubt the proposal of the authority for a public walkway along the foreshores at Millers Point with the removal of the container wharves. It fears the walkway will be a token 10-metre wide strip of bitumen like that at Pymont Point rather than a public reserve.

Millers Point and other lands freed from the wharves should become public reserves. Defenders do not have confidence that the Foreshore Authority is the body to assure that result.

Defenders believe the first priority of a Government foreshore authority should be protection of foreshore lands in public hands.

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