

INQUIRY INTO BARANGAROO SIGHT LINES

Name: Ms Linda Bergin OAM

Date Received: 9 October 2022

Select Committee on Barangaroo Sight Lines

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Select Committee.

By way of background, I have campaigned and advocated for the preservation of significant public heritage lands since 1996, mostly the foreshores of Sydney Harbour. I was the Inaugural and twice President of the Headland Preservation Group, HPG, founded that same year. In 1996, HPG initiated a campaign that ultimately prevented Defence from selling priceless federal lands on Sydney Harbour. The government of John Howard went on to create the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act 2001. I have also previously been employed as Advisor/Research Assistant to 2 Members of the NSW Legislative Council and also a federal Senator. I write regularly about parklands for the Sydney Morning Herald.

I would like to address (e) and (f) in relation to Central Barangaroo.

1. The citizens of Australia and NSW own Central Barangaroo, but their wishes are being ignored. For example, I wrote a Sydney Morning Herald op-ed suggesting the entire site become parkland. Readers were virtually unanimous in agreement, both comments and hundreds of likes on social media.
2. I live in Millers Point. Headland Park, while beautiful, is small and fragmented. There are frequent "events" which intrude on peaceful enjoyment. Headland Park should be combined with Central Barangaroo to create a larger parkland to balance Sydney's parklands on the eastern side of the CBD.
3. This larger park should be legislated by Parliament and independently governed to statutorily protect its (and the surrounding Millers Point and Observatory Hill) natural and cultural heritage values and ensure that it cannot be sold or privatised by future governments.

Yesterday, Minister Anthony Roberts made an unexpected announcement which appears to foretell that the Mod 9 Concept Plan will not proceed in its current form.

Does this present an opportunity for Parliament to take control, once and for all, of this prized land and prevents its sale and development altogether, thereby keeping it entirely in the public domain? I think it does.

Finally, how the apartment tower in Mod 9 came to be, even though it seems unlikely to proceed, seems significant to the sight lines terms of references of the Inquiry.

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Bergin OAM
October 9, 2022