

MEDIA RELEASE

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A Balanced Barangaroo

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) welcomed the Planning Minister's continuing commitment to transparency and accountability in releasing the Barangaroo review report today.

Mr. Scott Woodcock, Policy and Communications Director for the National Trust said "The Trust applauds the Premier's announcement that he will negotiate the removal of the planned hotel from the harbour.

"This is a significant achievement for heritage protection in this state. The hotel in the harbour was an exclamation mark for poor planning and would have stood as a bookend for Blues Point Tower.

The review recognised that the previous government's approval overrode laws prohibiting such a use and that this was not good public policy. Existing planning policy states that 'the public good has precedence over the private good whenever and whatever change is proposed for Sydney Harbour or its foreshores.'

The Trust also welcomed the Premier's pledge to create an inclusive Barangaroo planning process.

"The Trust acknowledges that commercial contracts have not been tendered for central Barangaroo. The Trust concurs with the review that this presents an opportunity to better interpret the site.

Mr. Woodcock said that "The National Trust has maintained that the 200 year unbroken maritime history of Barangaroo should inform the design. Accordingly, The National Trust supports the review's recommendation that 'the deep water berthing adjacent to central Barangaroo should be retained so as not to close off future alternative uses.'

Again this is consistent with planning policy. The *Sydney Harbour Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005* states that 'foreshore sites should be retained so as to preserve the character and functions of a working harbour, in relation to both current and future demand.'

"The National Trust believes the cabinet's consideration of the Barangaroo Review was fair and balanced. The Trust looks forward to working with the NSW Government in building tomorrow's heritage on the shores of the world's greatest harbour.

Media Enquiries – Amelia Frelander – Media and Communications Officer

Ph: 02 9258 0123 Mob: 0402 623 462 Email: afrelander@nationaltrust.com.au