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MEDIA RELEASE

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Barangaroo headland is nothing but a Lend Lease landfill

Research by the National Trust has revealed that the proposed headland design for Barangaroo bears almost no resemblance to the original landform.

It defies good and orderly planning for an application to dump 300,000m³ of excavated material in the absence of an approved headland design.

Scott Woodcock, public relations director for the National Trust, said that the north Barangaroo early works application is simply a plan for a Lend Lease landfill on the shores of Sydney Harbour.

“The Trust’s research reveals that the proposed design contradicts the premier’s claim that it is a ‘historic restoration of a headland park’,” Mr Woodcock said.

“Models of the proposed headland design show that it is the antithesis of the original landscape. The new headland is far too immense and assertive.

“It’s like an Italian marble mansion claiming to be an authentic recreation of an original colonial cottage.

“The current plans also see cruise ship activity permanently removed from Barangaroo, despite Millers Point’s rich maritime heritage and straight edged wharf first built in the mid 1800’s.

“This decision conflicts with the competition brief, the director general’s original requirements and the planning minister’s initial consent conditions for the concept plan.

“And there are now plans for an underground, unfunded and undefined cultural centre the size of the Sydney Opera House beneath the headland park.

“The proposed Barangaroo headland is an architectural, historical and financial disaster. It has become a dumping ground for poor government policy.”

Today, the National Trust presented its submission to the minister for planning. The Trust supports the creation of a headland park and the maximisation of open space. However, it remains opposed to the headland form as described in the development application.

The Trust has asked the planning minister to defer consideration of the application pending a full independent review of the proposed headland design and planned removal of the cruise ships to White Bay.

In June, the National Trust released its alternative concepts for the Barangaroo development. This vision includes an authentic recreation of the pre-European headland with a fully funded passenger terminal built within 750m of The Rocks and city hotels.

Editor’s note: *Images are available on request.*

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