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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **The Bias of Barangaroo**

The National Trust expressed dismay at the Minister for Planning's decision to approve the fourth modification of the Barangaroo concept plan earlier today.

Scott Woodcock, public relations director for the National Trust, said there has been a comparative absence of objectivity and transparency throughout the entire post-competition process.

"The Minister was never going to refuse the Premier's pet project," Mr Woodcock said. "The Minister even had the Barangaroo plans displayed on the walls of his office."

"The NSW Government is the landowner, project manager, planning consent authority and principle financial beneficiary of the Barangaroo development.

"The Barangaroo decision making process is perceived by many as pre-determined and biased.

"This has been compounded by the disproportionate influence of a past Prime Minister, evoking parallels with Panama hat politics in other states.

"Barangaroo was always intended to inherit the spirit of the working harbour. A cruise ship terminal was required by the Planning Minister to be constructed as a condition of consent on the initial concept plan approval. Instead we are left with an overblown park.

"This is a poor planning outcome with absolutely no respect for area's rich and diverse maritime heritage.

In the approval process, the Minister for Planning has dismissed the City of Sydney's Local Environmental Plan and the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment), both of which are approved by the Minister's own office. Any other applicant would be required to conform to these plans. The Minister is saying that its one rule for the NSW Government and another for everyone else.

The National Trust is committed to the creation of a genuinely sustainable Barangaroo which provides environmental, social and economic benefits. The Trust's alternative concept would retain the cruise ships at Millers Point, before a naturalistic headland, within 750m of The Rocks and with light rail to its back door.

The NSW Government's failure to realise a fine grained development sympathetic to the adjoining Millers Point, the harbour and the overwhelming maritime history of the site is a damning indictment on the process. The National Trust is resolved to fight this approval and achieve a sustainable inclusive Barangaroo.

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