

8.1. MM01: Berrys Bay Masterplan

Council, on behalf of the community, has a clear long term vision for Berrys Bay and the Waverton Peninsula, first articulated in the Waverton Peninsula Masterplan (Clouston) 1999. From 30 September to 23 October 2022, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) exhibited a draft “master plan and vision” for Berrys Bay. There was significant community participation in the public exhibition with many submissions supporting the plan.

The Berrys Bay masterplan as finally adopted by the State Government is consistent with the community and Council’s long term vision.

Indeed, the final masterplan is supported by Council and the community.

On 13 February 2023 Council resolved

1. ***THAT Council urgently write to the Premier seeking the immediate transfer of the Berrys Bay foreshore lands held by the State Government to Council prior to the State Election.***

On 6 March 2023, a councillor briefing was held in relation to the Berrys Bay Masterplan. The briefing included reference to the concept plans for Berrys Bay prepared by Sydney Heritage Fleet.

The Sydney Heritage Fleet is the trading name of Sydney Maritime Museum Ltd., a public company. The Fleet restores and operates a number of historic vessels including the barque James Craig.

On 22 February 2021, Council relevantly resolved:

2. ***THAT Council, recognising broad community support for the concept plans provided by the Sydney Heritage Fleet for the Museum of Sydney Harbour as the base for its fleet in Berrys Bay, resolves to work with the Sydney Heritage Fleet and the North Sydney community with a view to making the concept plan a reality.”***

There is strong and broad community support for the TfNSW Berrys Bay Masterplan. Thousands of residents together with North Sydney Council fought long and hard over many, many ears to resist a commercial marina at Berrys Bay.

Circumstances have changed since the resolution of Council on 22 February 2021. The Sydney Heritage Fleet concept plans are inconsistent with the TfNSW Berrys Bay Masterplan and will result in a larger on-water occupation of the Bay than that previously occupied by Woodleys when it was an operating “working waterfront” site. Further, despite the statement in the 22 February 2021 Council resolution, the concept plans do not have “broad community support”. Given that the State Government is committed to delivering the Berrys Bay Masterplan as soon as practicable, I therefore recommend:

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1.THAT Council reiterate its support for the Berrys Bay Masterplan and for the State Government’s commitment to deliver the planned park at Berrys Bay as soon as possible and commencing later this year.

2.THAT Council clarify its position on the Heritage Fleet concept plans by stating that, in the circumstances of paragraph 1 of this resolution, the plans are no longer supported and that Council resources should no longer be devoted to *“work with the Sydney Heritage Fleet and the North Sydney community with a view to making the concept plan a reality”*.

COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR