

8.3. MM03 Sub Base Platypus - update

On 13 March 2023, Council considered a notice of motion put forward by Councillor Welch and unanimously resolved:

- 1. THAT North Sydney Council write to the Sydney Harbour Trust, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, and Federal Member Kylie Tink to:
 - a) ask for an update as to when construction on the water-related facilities such as landing pontoons for boats, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards will begin.*
 - b) pursue the possibility of having a 50m Harbour pontoon pool, with night lighting and water features for children at the Sub Base Platypus site.*
 - c) pursue the possibility of having a regional art gallery that would embrace the Harbour at the Sub Base Platypus Site. Council Meeting - 13 March 2023 Minutes Page 35 of 39**
- 2. THAT Council collaborate with the Sydney Harbour Trust to provide improved community facilities on the site.*

Following that Council meeting, I wrote to the Harbour Trust, Minister for the Environment, Tanya Plibersek MP and North Sydney Federal Member, Kylea Tink MP.

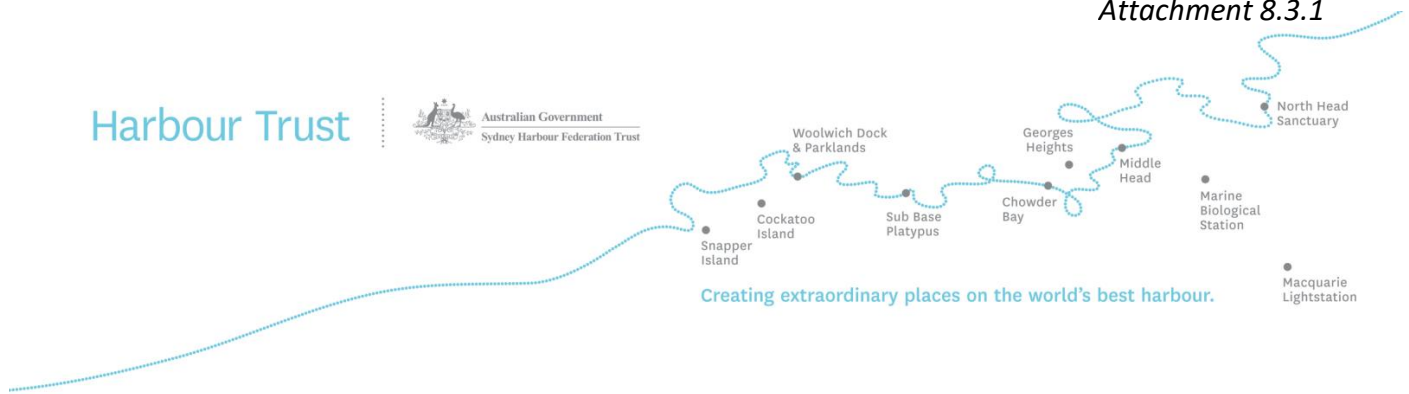
As a result of that correspondence, on 28 April 2023 the General Manager, senior staff and I met with the Chief Executive of the Harbour Trust, Ms Janet Carding together with the team working on Sub Base Platypus.

On 6 July 2023, I received correspondence from the Harbour Trust confirming the matters we discussed (Attachment 1).

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council note the correspondence from Harbour Trust in relation to Sub Base Platypus dated 6 July 2023.
- 2. THAT** Council continue to engage with the Harbour Trust in relation to community uses and activation of the Sub Base Platypus site.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**



6 July 2023

Councillor Zoë Baker
Mayor
North Sydney Council
PO Box 12
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Via email: mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Baker

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you at the North Sydney Council chambers on 28 April 2023, following your letter dated 24 March 2023 regarding the Harbour Trust site of Sub Base Platypus, and seeking an update on the activation of the site for community use.

I would also like to acknowledge the letter from North Sydney Council to the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, also dated 24 March 2023 and the subsequent response that the Minister asked the Harbour Trust to draft on her behalf, on the same matter.

We appreciated the invitation to meet with yourself and key members of your leadership team, and the extension of this invitation to key members of my team so we could update you on progress with the capital works program currently underway at the site, together with our medium- and long-term aspirations to activate the site for community.

As we noted the capital works are progressing well, albeit behind the originally intended schedule, due to issues that have been beyond our control such as latent site conditions and the inclement weather conditions during the recent La Niña event.

Our vision for Sub Base Platypus is a place that will preserve and honour the stories of the past and have a new purpose with the provision of contemporary community uses and activations, alongside a range of sympathetic business uses.

We are looking forward to completing the works in the former Torpedo Factory which have opened up harbour vistas, a beautiful sandstone escarpment, and public spaces that have not been enjoyed for many years. We are presently finalising the design and the native plantings for the new harbourside open space parkland that the project will deliver. We are confident that Sub Base Platypus will become a highly valued asset for local and broader Sydney communities alike.

Upon opening in late 2023, the project will deliver:

- A major First Nations art commission that will provide the former Torpedo Factory site with a unique identity and will welcome diverse communities.
- An interpretation walkway and entry plaza with heritage objects and historic images honouring the workers and previous uses, such as the women employed at the Torpedo Factory during times of conflict.
- A new public tour offering for members of the public to book, and under the guidance of Harbour Trust guides, walk the site and understand some of the many historical stories.

We aim to commence this new phase for the site with a community launch event including a program of activities for families to enjoy.

In the longer term, we are interested in continuing discussions with the Council to explore further activation of the site including consideration of suitable recreation activities and facilities. In parallel, the Harbour Trust is exploring viable food and beverage tenancy options that will be sustainable on the site.

As we discussed when we met:

- We invite Council's proposals and collaboration on developing a pilot or temporary art event or exhibition in the Retort House. Such an event could take place following completion of the repair and maintenance works that are required to make the structure watertight and secure, and once Council has had the opportunity to review its strategy for art and cultural activity.
- We would be happy to explore the potential for a harbour swimming area through a jointly commissioned study in collaboration with Council to assess feasibility and water quality at the site. This study would not commence until after completion of the current program of building works, for obvious reasons. Further discussions would also need to be held with the relevant authority, Transport for NSW, for any water access.
- We also invite collaboration with Council on the provision of an upgrade to the footpath on High Street, to create a seamless pedestrian entry into the Sub Base Platypus Entry Plaza from High Street.

In respect of other matters:

- In late 2022, the Harbour Trust made an application under the NSW Government's Better Boating Now program for the construction of a kayak pontoon at Sub Base Platypus. We have been advised by the administrators of the funding program that applications will be determined following confirmation of the 2023/2024 NSW Budget. We are hopeful our application will be successful.
- The Harbour Trust currently has a licence from Crown Lands NSW for construction access through the parcel of Crown Land that adjoins the Torpedo Factory. Once works to the Torpedo Factory have concluded, we will recommence discussions with Crown Lands regarding the ongoing management of the land, and opportunities to provide public access from the foreshore park in front of the Torpedo Factory to Kesterton Park.

We imagine Sub Base Platypus as a platform for community engagement and connection as well as a vibrant neighbourhood to work. As the construction and landscaping works conclude and the site is handed back to us from the contractor, we look forward to transitioning into an active waterfront precinct that is enjoyed by locals and its tenants, and provision of a new harbourside destination for visitors from further afield.

Harbour Trust



Finally, a reminder of the standing invitation to attend our regular Community Advisory Committee meetings for either yourself or a nominated delegate to support our connection to the North Sydney community and Council's visibility about our programs and plans. We note that Councillor MaryAnn Beregi attended our Sub Base Platypus project Community Advisory Committee on 24 May 2023 and provided valuable input.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JRC", representing Janet Carding.

Janet Carding
Executive Director

c.c. The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water
Ms Kylea Tink MP, Member for North Sydney



Torpedo Factory Renewal Project

28 April 2023

Harbour Trust



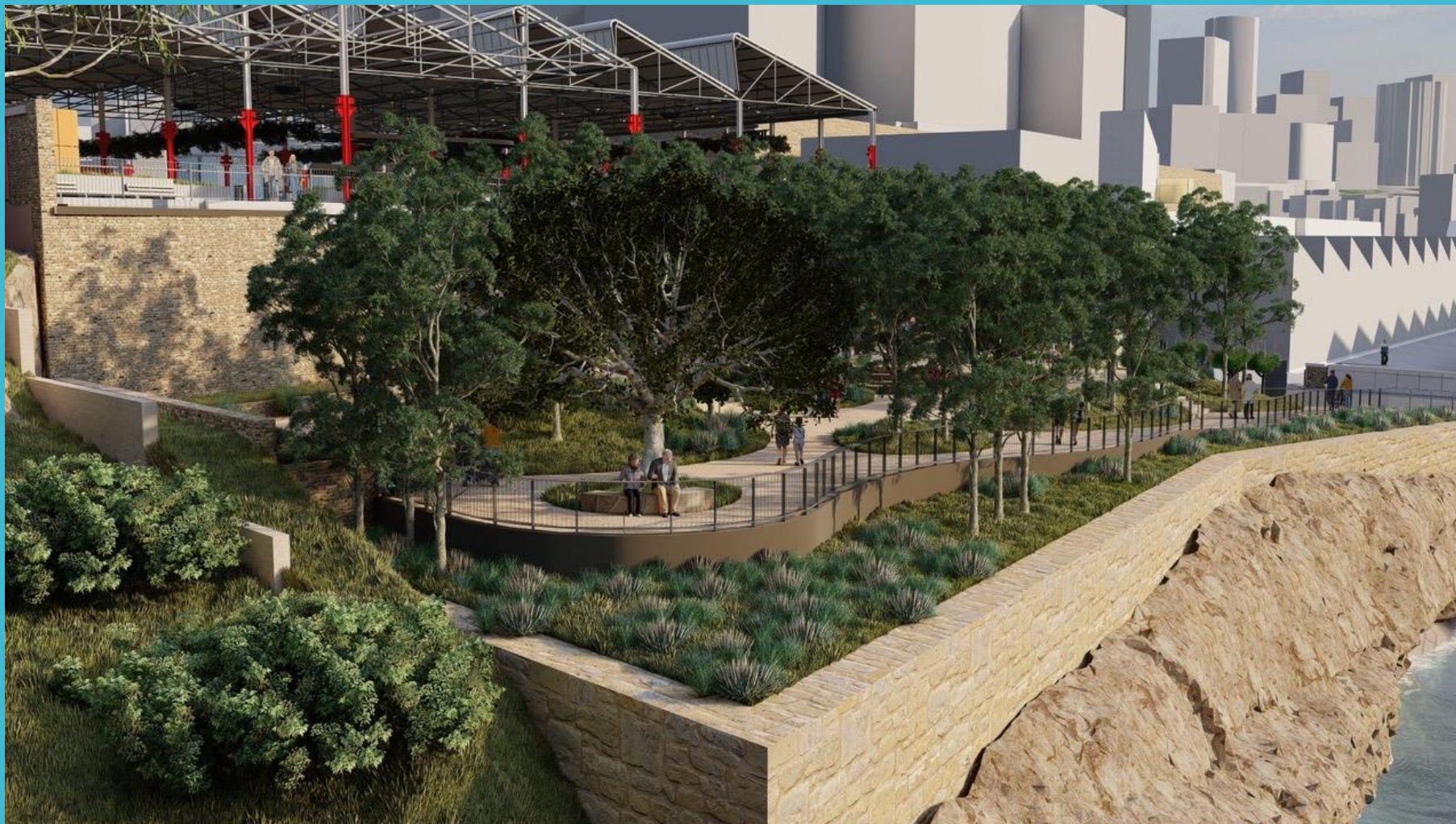
Artist's impression of the site following the completion of the renewal project



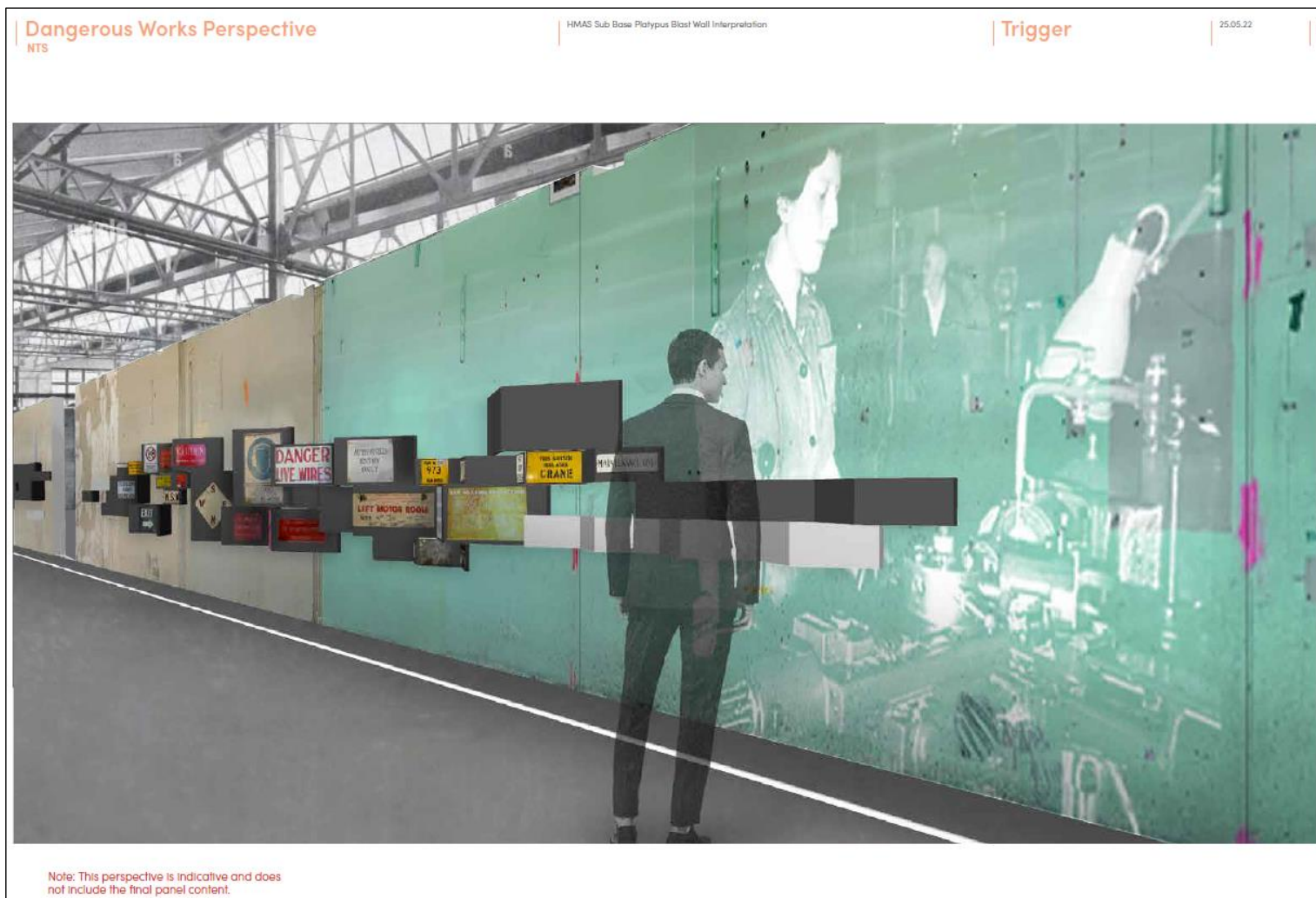
Artist's impression of the new landscaped harbourside public open space parkland



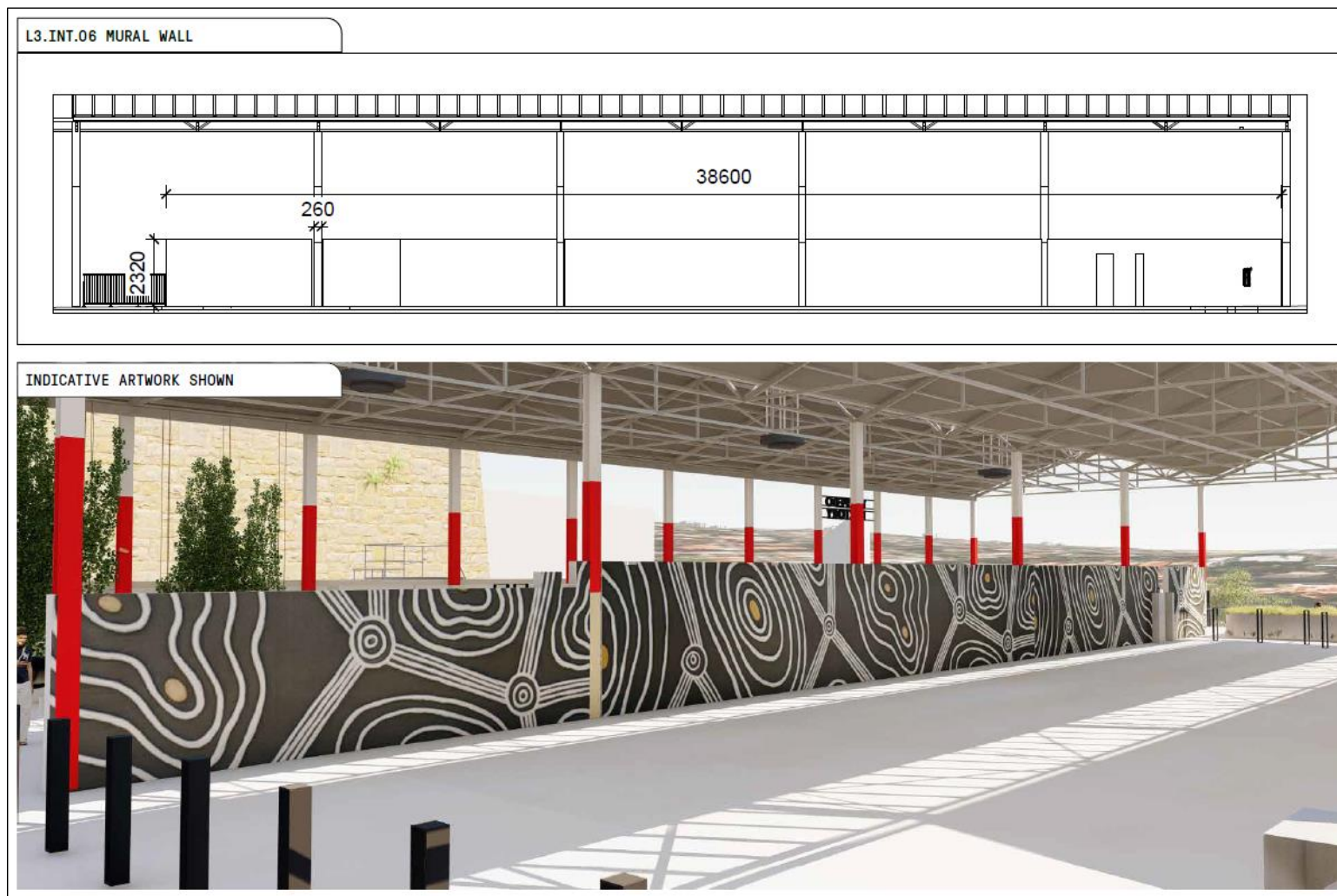
Artist's impression of the landscaped harbourside parkland looking towards North Sydney



Artist's impression of the Interpretation Walkway including site specific stories and heritage signage



Location of the First Nation artists mural on the Blast Wall – **indicative only, not the final artwork**







Location of the First Nation’s artist designed screens – **indicative only, not the final artwork**

L3.INT.09 Metal Screens (south wall)

Proposed black out screens to be installed to southern wall to reduce light spill to neighbouring living spaces and bedrooms. The screens will cover five existing glass block walls and be located only within the 'red zone' of the gantry structure.

OVERVIEW	
Artist	[TBC]
Dimensions	2.4m x 40m (10 panels)
Materials	Anodised Aluminium
Graphics	Artist Attribution
Contractor	Metal Fabricator

L3.INT.09 METAL SCREENS

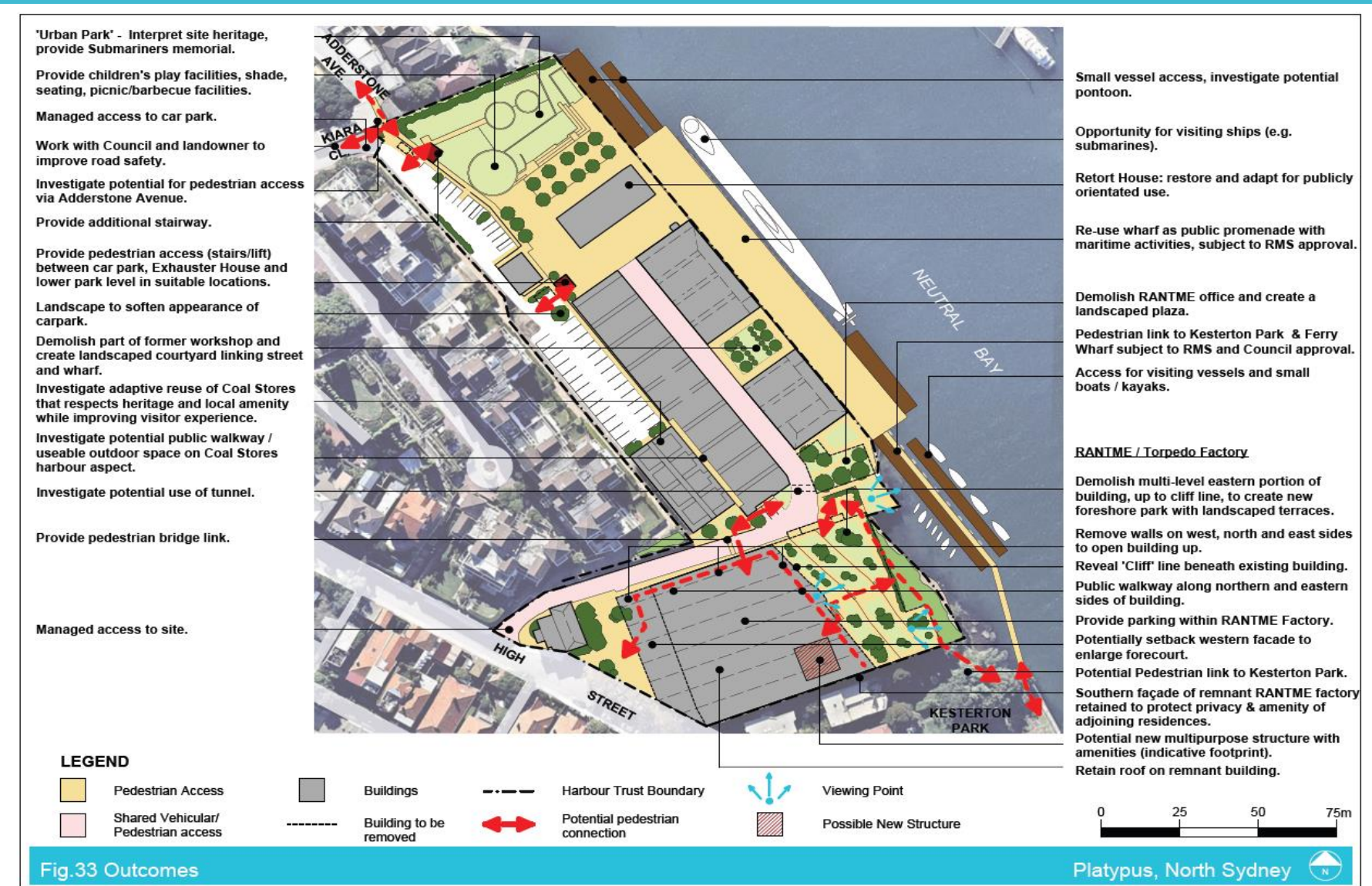


Fig.33 Outcomes