



Hippocampus whitei

SYDNEY HARBOUR ASSOCIATION

PO Box 265 ROSE BAY NSW 2029

The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House CANBERRA ACT

by electronic transmission

Stage One of the Garden Island (East) Critical Infrastructure Recovery Program, Sydney

A. Identification:

(1) *Sydney Harbour Association* was established in 2010, as successor body to Sydney Harbour and Foreshores Committee (est. 1979). The Association is an unincorporated body of individuals interested in Sydney Harbour. At all times we are concerned to support the objective of the NSW Government as stated in *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005, Clause 2: Aims:*

(1)(a)..... *to ensure that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained*

(i) *as an outstanding natural asset, and*

(ii) *as a public asset of national and heritage significance,*

for existing and future generations.

B. Project commentary:

(2) In keeping with our desire to ensure that Port Jackson is retained as a working harbour in a way that is compatible with its urban location, our Association accepts the need for and desirability of maintenance of the Garden Island naval facilities as an efficient and economic working environment for defence purposes. The present proposal has that flavour, and appears broadly to be appropriate.

(3) Our assessment of the Defence submission to the Committee also indicates that the present proposals appear to address and/ or to intend to address suitably and manage effectively the general environmental issues that inevitably arise from the sensitive location. We have particular concerns relating to the flora and fauna of the near waterway, and assume their protection will be explored in the studies to be presented to the Committee in due course.

(4) Noting that Defence has directed the attention of the NSW Environment Department to the proposal, we strongly recommend that the Committee focus attention on the *Aims* of the NSW Government's *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005* in its consideration of any submission from that Department and – if not initially provided - to seek its carefully considered views on the compatibility of the proposal with those stated *Aims*.

(5) We have no objection to this submission being made public.

Hylde Rolfe, Secretary
22 March 2017
