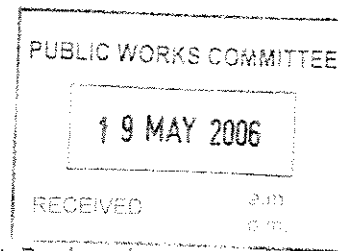


18/5/06

David Bolton
2/11 Willyama Ave.,
Fairlight NSW 2093

Clerk Assistant (Committees)
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

RE: Australian Institute of Police Management Redevelopment, North Head, Manly, NSW.

Please accept this letter as a written submission highlighting issues of concern regarding the redevelopment of the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) Site, North Head, Manly.

The AIPM site may only be 1.7 hectares in area but is located in a heritage-listed, environmentally significant and unique corner of Sydney Harbour on North Head.

"...this beautiful, magnificent, priceless, environmental and heritage treasure." Tony Abbott MP

It is deserving of a 'sensitive' management approach with wholistic consideration of the sites intrinsic qualities – particularly, and significantly, as an integral component of a greater North Head.

Development on North Head has to date been plagued by 'blinkered' piece-meal decision-making through a myriad of government departments, tiers of government, and non-government organisations and it is high time that we as a community looked at the 'big picture' and approached North Head as a single management entity.

❖ BULK AND SCALE OF PROPOSAL

An intensification of activity within the site is reflected by the significant proposed increase in bulk and scale of the new structures.

What justification is there to warrant such an increase?

Has adequate consideration been given to the visual impact as viewed from the surrounding Harbour areas and contiguous National Park bushland?

❖ HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The listing of North Head on the National Heritage List is proof certain of the "specialness" of this island-like entity located "seven miles from Sydney and 1000 thousand miles from care".

How does this proposal go beyond 'lip service' and effectively align with the ideals and principles of Heritage Listing?

What difference does Heritage listing *really* make?

❖ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Including, but certainly not limited to, the following general headings:

- Noise
- Traffic
- Waste
- Sewerage
- Endangered Little Penguin colony
- Endangered Long-Nosed Bandicoot population
- Red-Crowned Toadlet
- Loss of relatively pristine contiguous National Park bushland through fire management buffer zone clearance (especially in south-western corner)

What level of analysis has gone into environmental management issues (e.g. as compared to the NPWS Quarantine Station Mawland proposal and its Conservation Management Plans) for such a significant Heritage-listed North Head site?

❖ LAND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT OF 1979

The abstruse nature of the existing status of land tenure (as well as future usage) needs definitive clarification.

I believe that the AIPM currently advertises its facilities as a conference centre. Can it be guaranteed that future usage of the AIPM site will be solely restricted to the agreed permitted use as a "Police College" and not for any 'other' commercial purpose(s)?

[North Head history reminds us that the St. Patricks Estate (Manly) was once Crown Land granted to the Catholic Church for "Seminary Purposes" but is now being residentially developed in partnership with Lend Lease. Many still ponder why this land grant didn't revert back to the Crown once Seminary usage ceased...]

❖ PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

The effectiveness of the public consultation process (from the perspective of a member of the Manly community) is at best questionable and it was only through the pro-active efforts of Manly Council and the Manly Environment Centre putting together a public display outside Manly Library that the writer became aware of the extent of this proposal.

Is this proposal not significant enough for a public meeting?

❖ CONSISTENCY WITH PROPOSED "NORTH HEAD SANCTUARY"

What is the compatibility with the aims and objectives of the (visionary) proposal for a North Head Sanctuary?

❖ ACCOUNTABILITY

Specifically, who or what government department, will be held accountable for the management of and compliance with ecologically sustainable design and best-practice management principles as well as addressing on-going environmental issues of concern?

It is obvious that we have to meet the needs of growing law enforcement agencies – but does it have to be on nationally significant heritage-listed land...?

Thankyou for your time and consideration on this matter.

Yours sincerely,