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SYDNEY HARBOUR ASSOCIATION

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Hippocampus whitei

The Secretary,
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
PO Box 6021
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 2600

HMAS Penguin and Pittwater Annexe Redevelopment, Mosman and Clareville, NSW.

Identification:

1. Sydney Harbour Association is an unincorporated body of individuals interested in Sydney Harbour, having as its primary Objects:

“[T]he promotion of the following principles in relation to development and change affecting Sydney Harbour:

(a) protection and preservation of the natural heritage, assets and ecology of Sydney Harbour and its foreshores;

(b) primacy of the public good over private benefit in development;

(c) facilitation of public access to the waters and foreshores of Sydney Harbour;

(d) protection and enhancement of the visual and recreational amenity of the waterways and foreshores of Sydney Harbour”.

2. This submission is presented to the Committee on behalf of the Sydney Harbour Association by me, Michael Rolfe, President of the Association.

Approach:

3. Consistently with those Objects, we support generally the proposal before the Committee in relation to HMAS Penguin, on Sydney Harbour. We express no opinion on the Clareville works proposals.

4. We recognise that infrastructure installed during World War 11 requires modernisation, amplification, and replacement, as do the structures that have been added to it in the intervening years. The Defence *Project Objective* No. 1, (stated in Defence submission para.21) envisaging *restoration of the existing engineering infrastructure to a fully serviceable condition*, may well be at odds with that practicality. Except where heritage protection considerations are important, we think the *restoration* object should be accorded less priority.

5. The current infrastructure has lasted for a long time. Looking to the future, it would obviously be desirable that new installations might also look to a long life, although we recognise the inevitability of change especially in relation to electronic applications in building management and communications. In that context, we emphasise the need for flexibility in the housing of building services and related installations.

6. As a general principle, the proposal should embody maximal emphasis on renewable resources in its construction and ongoing operation. Solar power applications, and on-site water and waste-water collection and treatment for suitable re-use are obviously important, but provision for them seems rather meagre in the public documentation.

Suggestions:

7. These aspects seem worth further thought:

- The new buildings should be designed to optimise solar access and collection of rainwater.
- Building forms might usefully be reviewed to optimise the benefits of the north-facing aspect.
- Integration of sources of grey water and stormwater, to facilitate provision of a non-potable water supply system.
- The woodlands within HMAS Penguin are important; we favour co-operation and consultation with Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to ensure consistency between the HMAS Penguin land management and that applied to the Trust's Middle Head and Georges Heights lands.

