

## **Kick-start the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project with a temporary project in Pymont**

The exponents of the Bays Precinct Project are keen to involve the community in all aspects of planning and implementation. However, a pervasive fear in the community is that this process will put all existing plans and the results of community consultation on hold indefinitely. Frustration and mistrust will grow as long as the Bays Precinct Project is seen as a roadblock rather than a facilitator.

It is vital to engage people – including young people and those who live beyond the Bays - to dispel the suspicion that this is a talk fest that pretends to consult and actually makes decisions behind closed doors.

One way to disarm critics and garner positive support for the project, is to act swiftly to provide something that the community needs, and which is compatible with the larger enterprise.

One such project suggests itself: **the Bank Street Foreshore Park.**

Pymont community representatives have worked and consulted and planned for over a decade to give residents an area of green space and access to the water on Bank Street. In 2004 the state government committed to a park on the area managed by RMS. Meanwhile dragon boaters and others engaged in water sports have lobbied for a community water sports centre in the space managed by SHFA. (See the attached document with details of the location and proposed usage of public recreation land on Bank Street, Pymont.)

RMS has agreed to hand the park area to the City once vacant possession is achieved. SHFA has not yet progressed the proposal for a water sports centre, and is concerned that action in the short term may be premature in the context of the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project.

Urban Growth could persuade SHFA to allow temporary access to dragon boats and other boats for storage, and to the Pymont Heritage Boating Club to use the workshop for their important work with young people.

Alternatively the boats could move temporarily to the area earmarked for the Sydney Heritage Fleet museum. (They were moved "temporarily" to the proposed park area to accommodate the ANZAC Bridge maintenance project.) The Heritage Fleet will not be ready to begin construction until at least 2016.

It is not necessary to wait for vacant possession to begin work on the park. A temporary play area and open space could be made available almost immediately, and "sold" to the community as a first step in the POSITIVE development of the Bays Precinct Project. It could be used to open up the discussion with younger people and families, and begin to develop trust, and a sense of ownership.

There are OHS concerns about asbestos in the SHFA site and soil contamination on the RMS site. But there are temporary, inexpensive ways to deal with these in the short term: spraying the asbestos, laying AstroTurf over the bitumen and concrete. Local residents are willing to work to clear land and provide access to the water, and our community has resources and organisations capable of managing this.

Mary Mortimer

Convenor, Council of Ultimo/Pymont Associations (CUPA)

203/40 Refinery Drive Pymont 2009

Tel: 9518 8681 Mob: 0410 679 204 Fax: 9518 8403

# Bank Street Pyrmont: Proposed Usage of Public Recreation Land - 4 February 2010

This document provides a reference to the location and proposed usage of Public Recreation land on Bank Street, Pyrmont.

## Location

Figure 1 describes the location of land on Bank Street zoned 'Public Recreation'.

## Proposed Usage

Figure 2 illustrates three proposed areas within the Public Recreation land.

The bottom two areas (highlighted in purple and green) comprise a site owned by NSW Maritime that was set aside in the Bank Street Master Plan to become a 9000 sq metre foreshore park.

The top area (highlighted in blue) comprises Number 1 Bank Street owned by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) and a small triangle of land, to the North of Number 1 Bank Street, owned by NSW Maritime.

## Agreements.

A meeting of all stakeholders was held with NSW Maritime on 4 February 2010. Prior to this meeting, NSW Maritime advised that SHFA had agreed in principle to transfer ownership of Number 1 Bank Street to NSW Maritime,

On the assumption that this transfer would occur, broad agreement was reached to the land lease boundaries shown in Figure 2;

- Community Water Sports Centre (CWSC)
- Sydney Heritage Fleet (SHF)
- Public Parkland (GREEN OPEN SPACE).

NSW Maritime further advised that they planned to transfer the 'GREEN OPEN SPACE' area to the City of Sydney Council for care control and management.

For more information contact:  
Len Giddings ([lengiddings@hotmail.com](mailto:lengiddings@hotmail.com))

**Figure 1: Public Recreation Land on Bank Street**

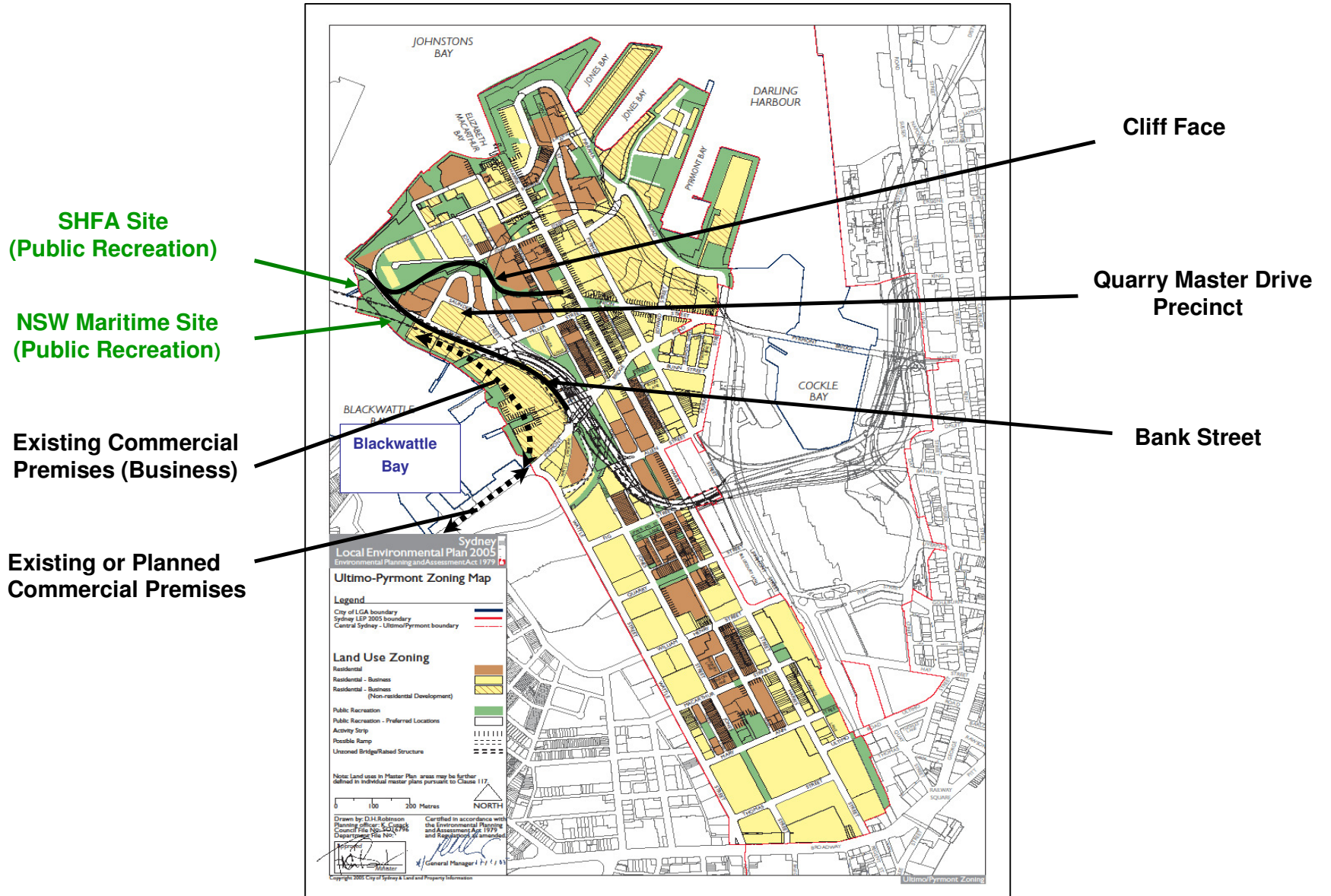




Figure 2: Proposed usage of Public Recreation land on Bank Street (Note. The boundaries are approximated and not to scale)

