

An extraordinary history...



The Cammeragal tribe lived in harmony with the peninsula for thousands of years

1820s Edward Wollstonecraft granted 500acres

1853 Lease by Alexander Berry to shipping companies for goods transport

1877 Lease by NSW Torpedo Corps

1913 Coal Loader site leased to Sydney Coal Bunkering Company

1917 Construction of the Coal Loader commenced. Henry Lawson protests in his poem (*The Sacrifice of Balls Head*)

1920s Anglo Persian Oil Co. commences on site at Berrys Bay

1930 Premier Jack Lang dedicates Balls Head for future generations

From the 1930s Successive waves of volunteers regenerate the Balls Head bushland

1997 Premier Bob Carr dedicates the three peninsula industrial sites to the people of NSW as future parkland

2001 Remediation works completed, former BP site

2005 New parkland on the former BP site opened

Henry Lawson 1917

*"They're taking it, the shipping push,  
As all the rest must go  
That harbour people know,  
The spirit of the past is dead,  
North Sydney has no soul"*

*The State is cutting down Balls Head  
To make a wharf for coal"*

2008  
NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL LAUNCHES THE COAL LOADER CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY



# the Coal Loader

## CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY



North Sydney Council is a recognised leader in sustainability. Over the past decade we have integrated sustainability principles into all our planning and activities and have won several prestigious awards for our holistic approach.

Since 1997, we have been working on the Waverton Peninsula, developing the award-winning BP Park, as well as a Master Plan and detailed development plans for the Coal Loader site.

But we cannot achieve all our goals alone.

We are now seeking sponsors and partners who share our commitment to sustainability and would like to be associated with our exciting new Sustainability Centre.

We have a wide range of partner and sponsorship opportunities to suit both small and large organisations.

For more information phone North Sydney Council on **9936 8100** or email [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)



North Sydney Council is proud to announce the launch of a leading centre for sustainability at the old Coal Loader in Waverton.

The Coal Loader Centre will be a hub for sustainable living and development, home to our existing sustainability programs and the inspiration for many more.

The centre will be a 'grass-roots' place, where people can learn how to reduce their footprint on our planet, yet also a showcase for state-of-the-art technologies for building, energy and water use.

TO ENSURE THE CENTRE IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THINKING IN SUSTAINABILITY, WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTNERS WHO ARE WORLD-LEADERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT TO JOIN US IN THIS EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE VENTURE.

Our partners and sponsors will assist us to develop the site, then work with us to establish innovative sustainability programs, share ideas, undertake research and promote the centre's ongoing operations.



### Learn from the Past Embrace the Future





*"At North Sydney Council, we understand that partnerships with residents, business and other levels of government can achieve so much more than we can alone. And so we are seeking individuals, businesses and government partners who will share our vision for this extraordinary site and help to make it a reality."*  
 Genia McCaffery  
 Mayor

**The Old Coal Loader is a very special site.** Its history is grounded in the most ancient of sustainable cultures – the Australian Aborigines. The Cammeraygal Aboriginal peoples lived in close harmony with the natural environment of the Waverton Peninsula for many thousands of years. Remnants of their existence still survive and will be protected and celebrated as a central part of the new parkland.

Industry on the peninsula dates back to the early 1800s and has included a quarantine station, produce storage, a distillery, wool storage, coal bunkering and distribution, oil storage and distribution, a submarine mining depot, as well as ship-building and repair. Construction of the Coal Loader itself began in 1917 and it operated until the early 1990s, when it was forced to close due to economic and environmental constraints.

**The environment of the peninsula** has always been a concern to both the local and wider Sydney community. In 1917, poet Henry Lawson, then a Waverton resident, wrote passionately of the building of the Coal Loader.

In 1930s, amid further resident protests, Premier Jack Lang dedicated a large area of Balls Head to the people of Sydney for public recreation. Successive waves of community volunteers transformed this derelict land at the end of the peninsula into the thriving bushland we see today.



**Following community uproar** over the future of the remaining industrial sites, Premier Bob Carr announced in 1997 that the Coal Loader and Caltex Sites on Balls Head Bay, together with the BP Oil Storage site on the eastern side of the peninsula, would be returned to the people of NSW as parkland.

Since the Premier's announcement, North Sydney Council has been working hard to transform these areas for public use. Council has already spent \$3.5 million on phase one developing the new parkland on the former BP site. Since the parks opening in 2005 it has won a number of awards for its sustainable design features.

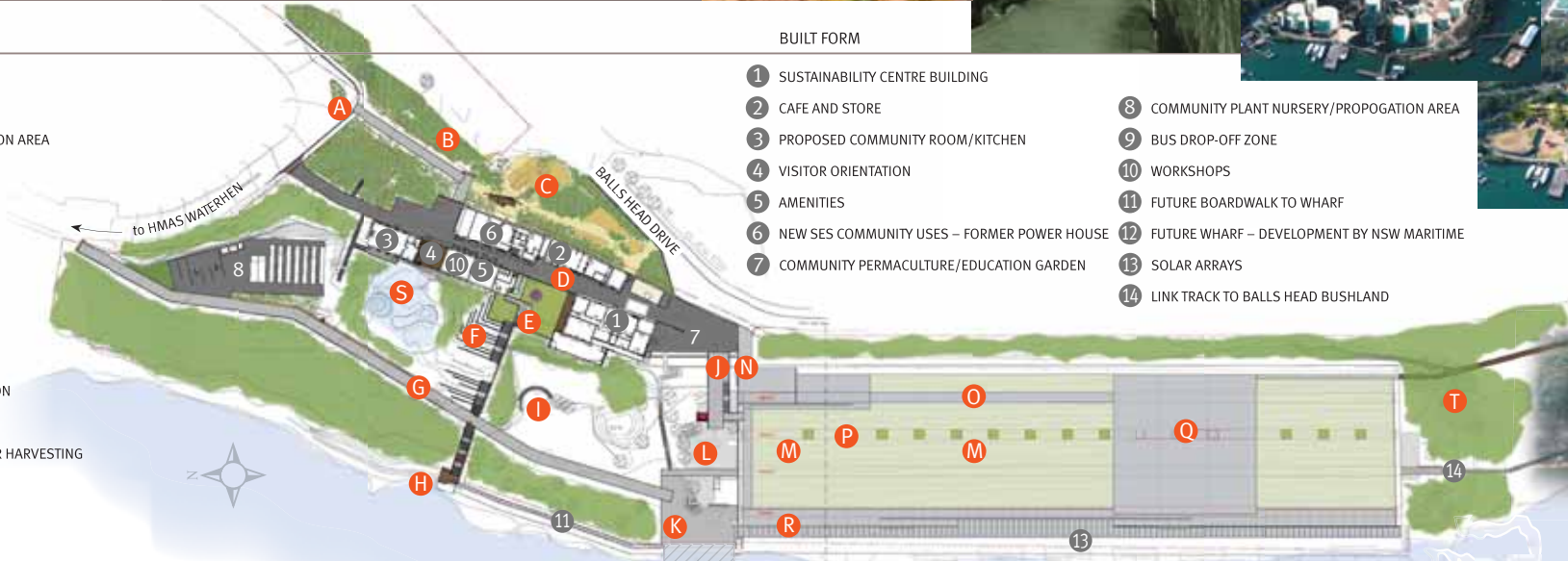


**LANDSCAPE**

- A** MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRY/DROP OFF ZONE
- B** HEATH/BUSH FOODS GARDEN
- C** ABORIGINAL WHALE ENGRAVING/INTERPRETATION AREA
- D** THE UPPER 'STREET'
- E** JACARANDA SQUARE
- F** THE SLOPES – THE HARBOUR LINK STEPS
- G** THE LOWER 'STREET'
- H** WATERS EDGE PLATFORM
- I** AMPHITHEATRE/PICNIC AREA
- J** THE LOOKOUT – LIFT AND STAIR
- K** THE LOWER SQUARE – HERITAGE INTERPRETATION
- L** INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE REMNANTS
- M** THE PLATFORM – 'GREEN ROOF' & STORMWATER HARVESTING
- N** RAMP TO PLATFORM
- O** PEDESTRIAN/VEHICULAR ACCESS PATH
- P** RAIN GARDEN – WATER STORAGE TUNNEL
- Q** 'ACTIVITY' DECK/EVENTS SPACE
- R** THE PLATFORM EDGE – THE HA HA
- S** THE WETLAND
- T** BUSHLAND GARDEN

**BUILT FORM**

- 1** SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE BUILDING
- 2** CAFE AND STORE
- 3** PROPOSED COMMUNITY ROOM/KITCHEN
- 4** VISITOR ORIENTATION
- 5** AMENITIES
- 6** NEW SES COMMUNITY USES – FORMER POWER HOUSE
- 7** COMMUNITY PERMACULTURE/EDUCATION GARDEN
- 8** COMMUNITY PLANT NURSERY/PROPOGATION AREA
- 9** BUS DROP-OFF ZONE
- 10** WORKSHOPS
- 11** FUTURE BOARDWALK TO WHARF
- 12** FUTURE WHARF – DEVELOPMENT BY NSW MARITIME
- 13** SOLAR ARRAYS
- 14** LINK TRACK TO BALLS HEAD BUSHLAND



Sustainability principles are enshrined in the brief for the Coal Loader site and they are guiding the project throughout all stages of its development and operation.

The ancient wisdom of the Aboriginal peoples will integrate with new technologies to create a centre that educates and inspires all who visit.

These technologies include:

- stormwater harvesting, storage, treatment and reuse
- energy and water-saving technology

- best-practice architectural refurbishment of heritage buildings
- creation of a large 'green-roof' on the old coal stockpile platform, irrigated by filtered stormwater stored in the tunnels beneath
- solar technology to offset site power requirements
- low VOC / low toxicity fixtures and finishes
- materials with a high recyclable component

In addition to demonstrating the latest technologies, the Coal Loader will become the base for Council's extensive range of Learning for Sustainability and other existing environment programs. These include

workshops on Aboriginal heritage and bushfoods, Bushcare training, meetings and Adventures, worm farming, composting, recycling and natural cleaning workshops.

Proposed new programs include a community garden and propagation nursery, sustainable arts events, residential planning and development workshops, sustainable design workshops and school and community tours.

But these are just the beginning. We expect the programs and events at the centre to grow and change to meet the needs of the residents, businesses and visitors who use it.

