

Item 2.

Bondi to Manly Walk - Endorsement of Memorandum of Understanding

File No: X013434

Summary

Sydney Harbour is one of the world's best harbours. There are a series of walking tracks along or near the harbour foreshore, which are considered to be some of the best urban coastal walks and could be promoted as such.

The proposed Bondi to Manly Walk is a multi-day walk over 80km in length that traverses the existing coastal and harbour-side walking tracks and paths on public land between Manly and Bondi Beach (refer to Attachment B).

The project has been developed by the Bondi to Manly Supporters (the Supporters), a non-profit Incorporated Association.

The Supporters have been promoting the idea of the walk with the local, state and federal government agencies that manage the public land subject to the proposed route. In order to progress the walk, the Supporters propose that a Memorandum of Understanding be jointly signed with these government agencies, including the City of Sydney.

The Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding document. The intention is to achieve a coordinated commitment across agencies to progress aspects of the walk such as route alignment, wayfinding information, digital promotion and ongoing maintenance of pathways.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment A) has been reviewed and is recommended for endorsement.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council support the idea of establishing the Bondi to Manly Walk;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding to progress the project; and
- (C) City staff work with the Bondi to Manly Supporters Association, Properties NSW and other relevant agencies to ensure coordination and compatibility with the City's endorsed Nature and Culture walk project, including wayfinding and branding.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Bondi to Manly Walk - Draft Memorandum of Understanding
- Attachment B.** Bondi to Manly Walk Indicative Walking Route
- Attachment C.** Resolution of Council - 12 December 2016 - Cultural Ribbon Draft Strategy - Sydney Harbour Nature and Culture Walk

Background

1. The Bondi to Manly Walk is a vision promoted by the Bondi to Manly Supporters (the Supporters), a non-profit Incorporated Association.
2. The Supporters comprise a group of enthusiastic citizens, including retired federal senator, John Faulkner. Destination NSW has championed the walk through its coordination support across various government agencies.
3. The project concept is a multi-day walk over 80km in length that traverses the existing coastal and harbour-side walking tracks and paths on public land managed by City of Sydney, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Royal Botanic Gardens, Properties NSW, Mosman Council, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Waverly Council and Woollahra Council.
4. The proposed route within the City of Sydney (refer to Attachment B) extends along the Harbour foreshore east of the Harbour Bridge to Circular Quay, Royal Botanic Gardens and Woolloomooloo. From Woolloomooloo the route traverses streets in Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay through to Rushcutters Bay Park where it continues into public land managed by Woollahra Council.
5. In December 2017, a meeting convened by Destination NSW along with representatives from local councils and state and federal agencies was held to launch the idea of the walk.
6. The Supporters have continued the promotion of the walk with the above land managers and have prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding as a mechanism to develop a shared understanding and coordination from the relevant agencies on project implementation, promotion and communication.

Proposed Route within City of Sydney

7. The proposed route within the City of Sydney extends along the Harbour foreshore east of the Harbour Bridge to Circular Quay, Royal Botanic Gardens and Woolloomooloo. From Woolloomooloo, the route traverses streets in Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay through to Rushcutters Bay Park, where it continues into public land managed by Woollahra Council.

Draft Memorandum of Understanding

8. The Supporters have prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be jointly endorsed by all relevant government agencies (Attachment A).
9. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding document. The intention is to achieve a co-ordinated commitment across agencies to progress aspects of the walk such as route alignment, wayfinding information, digital promotion and ongoing maintenance of pathways.
10. The Supporters are seeking a joint signing event of the Memorandum of Understanding with all relevant agencies in September 2018.

Cultural Ribbon Strategy - Sydney Harbour's Nature and Culture Walk

11. On 12 December 2016, Council adopted the Cultural Ribbon Strategy - Sydney Harbour's Nature and Culture Walk. This 9km walk extends along the Harbour foreshore from Darling Harbour to Woolloomooloo. The section of the walk east of the Harbour Bridge to Woolloomooloo will overlap with the proposed Bondi to Manly Walk on land largely managed by Properties NSW and Royal Botanic Gardens.
12. The Council resolution included approval for the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with other land management agencies along the proposed route, in particular Properties NSW, as a means of project coordination.
13. A Memorandum of Understanding with Properties NSW was signed on 30 May 2017, and staff from the City and Properties NSW meet regularly to progress the development of the Nature and Culture Walk.
14. A key focus of the Nature and Culture Walk is to bring to the public domain along the foreshore a layer of interpretation that celebrates the living culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Sydney. This aspect of the Nature Culture Walk is strongly aligned to the Eora Journey: Recognition in the Public Domain, which proposes a harbour foreshore walk as a project idea.
15. The Nature and Culture Walk component of the Manly and Bondi walk will provide a richer experience for users in terms of the Eora Journey storytelling and interpretation.
16. In progressing the Bondi to Manly Walk there will be the need for the City and Properties NSW to liaise with the Supporters to ensure alignment in communicating overlapping sections of the walks, in particular wayfinding information and walk identity.
17. It is intended that the City's commitment to the Nature and Culture Walk will take precedence in developing and implementing on-site signage and branding outcomes along these overlapping sections.

Key Implications**Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision**

18. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. The Bondi to Manly Walk proposal is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - Sydney is Australia's premier destination for international tourists with tourism a key driver of the local economy. The project has the potential to become an internationally recognised multi-day walk that encompasses both Sydney Harbour and the eastern suburbs coastline.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - the project will promote a walking recreation experience that will link Australia's two most famous beaches, Bondi to Manly. The project is aligned to the objectives of the City's Liveable Green Network.

- (c) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - by its very nature the location and extent of the project will require close collaboration and partnership with numerous government agencies.

Organisational Impact

19. No major organisational impact is anticipated.

Risks

20. The success of the project will depend on collaboration and buy in by numerous government agencies that traverse the proposed route to progress the project in a coordinated manner.
21. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding will be a mechanism for all government agencies to confirm a shared understanding and implementation of the project in a coordinated manner.

Social / Cultural / Community

22. The section of the Bondi to Manly Walk that overlays with the Nature and Culture Walk will bring to the Harbour foreshore a layer of interpretation that celebrates the living culture of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Sydney.

Economic

23. It is anticipated that proposed activation and promotion proposed as part of this project will have a positive impact on local businesses catering to visitors and tourists, making it one of the "must do" Sydney walks.

Budget Implications

24. The proposed route alignment under the management of the City encompasses existing public footpaths and park pathways. Maintenance of these pathways will be in accordance with the City's current asset management system requirements.
25. It is anticipated that no capital works is required to provide new pathway links or upgrade existing pathways.
26. Existing programs such as wayfinding signage rollout may support the development of this project by including appropriate directional messaging.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

27. The Association has indicated a proposed joint signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in late September 2018.

Public Consultation

28. The Supporters have been consulting and promoting the walk with the relevant government agencies. Broader community promotion about the project has been via the Supporters web and Facebook page. The Supporters have also conducted public pilot walks with to introduce the project idea.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Bridget Smyth, Design Director

Laurie Johnson, Program Manager Public Domain Strategy