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2,300 homes and open space for prime harbourside site

A rundown industrial area will be transformed into a vibrant new residential community with 2,300 homes and new public access along 1.2km of the Sydney Harbour foreshore.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure today released draft plans to revitalise 18.6 ha of government land at Wentworth Point over 20 years.

“These plans will help turn this site into a vibrant community and open space close to transport, infrastructure and jobs,” the Department’s Planning Strategy, Housing and Infrastructure Deputy Director-General Stephen McIntyre said.

“The plans will help us meet Sydney’s housing needs while at the same time create new open space and recreation trails along Sydney Harbour, in line with the aims of our draft Metropolitan Strategy.

Key elements of the plan include:

- a new 3.9 ha peninsula park along with three new pocket parks
- foreshore cycling and walking paths at least 20m wide – opening up this area to public access for the first time
- an 18-classroom school with playing fields by 2017
- upgrades to nearby Hill and Bennelong Rds to accommodate the increased population
- A range of low, mid and high-rise residential buildings
- new maritime uses adjacent to Homebush Bay for rowing/kayaking facility, dry boat storage and supporting retail and businesses

Residents will be able to walk to expanded Sydney Harbour ferry services and take advantage of the proposed bridge across Homebush Bay to access Rhodes railway station. It is also adjacent to the Sydney Olympic Parklands.

“Being surrounded by parklands and water will provide residents with access to a range of recreational activities, with almost one-third of the site set aside as publicly accessible open space,” Mr McIntyre said.

“Additionally, Wentworth Point is close to both the Sydney and Parramatta CBDs, providing residents with good access to jobs and transport.”

The site is currently owned by the NSW Government and is either vacant or contains industrial activities such as machinery storage and a truck depot.

Over time the site is expected to form part of a wider Parramatta River and Homebush Bay cycling and walking trail.

Mr McIntyre said the plans underlined the NSW Government's new approach as part of the new proposed planning system to undertake detailed upfront strategic planning alongside community consultation.

The plans also meet another government objective to better link new housing to nearby infrastructure and services.

Wentworth Point was identified in March as one of eight initial Urban Activation Precincts across Sydney. Plans for North Ryde, Epping and now Wentworth Point have been placed on public exhibition.

These precincts will be able to share in \$50 million in funding to improve local infrastructure including parks and community facilities.

"The Urban Activation Precincts program is one part of a massive housing supply program announced by the NSW Government this year, for up to 172,000 new homes across Sydney," Mr McIntyre said.

"Consultation has been ongoing with Auburn Council and government agencies since January this year and we now welcome the community's input into this fantastic urban renewal project."

A detailed planning report, zoning maps and development control plan for Wentworth Point are on exhibition until 16 August and community information sessions are being held on 25 and 27 July.

Further details of the plans, consultation and meetings are available at:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/wentworthpoint

NOTE TO MEDIA: Detailed artist's impressions and an animation of potential future development at the site can be accessed from the site.

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