Overview

The community engagement program designed to inform the Report to the Minister by the Taskforce for the Bays Precinct was developed as an iterative process with the key objectives of achieving:

- Real community input to the Report;
- Shared understanding of the Government’s position on various issues;
- Understanding of the community temperature on the issues;
- Identifying possible tangible actions for the way forward; and
- Outcomes in a short time frame – less than three months.

The consultation process was designed with input from both the Taskforce and the Subcommittee that included the local community Representative and members representing Leichhardt and City of Sydney Councils, SHFA, Department of Planning and Department of Premier and Cabinet and Sydney Ports Corporation.

Originally proposed in two rounds with a feedback session, the design grew to three rounds of three sessions each to ensure that community expectations of the engagement, as expressed by the Community Representative and the local Councils could be met.

It was also agreed that the consultation process be iterative. In this way, outcomes from each session, reported in Overview Reports from each Round, further informed both the work of the Taskforce and the design of the next Round of engagement.
Approach

In order to achieve the objectives of the consultation process, the approach needed to:

- Have a flexible process design (responding to community and agency comments as the process unfolded);
- Specifically target community members who have the knowledge, passion and experience of many years involvement in discussions about the Bays Precinct;
- Define the community as those whose lives may be impacted by future decisions around the precinct (this includes industry, residents, single issue interest groups);
- Provide additional opportunities for comment beyond the workshops;
- Ensure that nonaligned community members were also aware of the discussions being undertaken.

In this context, the following processes were put in place:

- Broad distribution (45,000) of a letterbox drop promotion and promotion through existing networks such as the Leichhardt and City of Sydney newsletters and local community networks.
- Establishment and promotion of an on line presence.
- Consideration of the three rounds as a journey – two rounds of information exchange and then a review to identify actions that might be able to close the gaps.
- Opportunities for workshop participants to discuss information in small groups.
- Opportunities for workshop participants to submit additional information.
- Additional time allocated to Q&A sessions in the last round of workshops.
- Quick turnaround on workshop summary documents.
- Publication of all raw data on the web site.
Outcomes

The outcomes were:

- There is a high level of agreement around the strategic direction for the Bays Precinct.
- It was also clear that there are clear disagreements regarding operational/delivery of strategic principles.
- There is an ongoing, high level of interest and concern about existing leases, confidentiality, leasing process and opportunities for community input in developing the future for the Precinct.
- Shared understanding of the desired outcome.
- A record of many and diverse actions to achieve the best possible outcome for the Bays Precinct.
- A new conversation between the community and government characterized by flexibility and transparency.
- A coordinated approach across agencies.

Detailed outcomes are detailed in the Outcomes Reports from each Round.

Attendance

Overall, there were 317 participating attendees across the 9 workshops. More than half the participants attended two or three of the workshop rounds over the course of the consultation.

Of 146 registered participants (those who RSVP’d prior to a workshop), 121 answered the question regarding their personal demographic background:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local resident</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port/ Maritime/ Industry</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local business owner</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active and passive recreation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four of the local residents also indicated that they work in the local area. Three residents also indicated that they are local business owners. One indicated that they were a resident who also lived and participated in active recreation.