Public access in the Bays’ Precinct
for pedestrians, cyclists...... sharing Sydney Harbour

Public access to the foreshore is essential.

The Department of Local Government Website shows that Leichhardt Municipality has the fourth highest population density of all 150 Council areas in NSW. It is only one of five Councils with a population density of 5,000 or more persons per square kilometre.

The other Council which shares the Bays Precinct with Leichhardt Council, Sydney City Council has the second highest population density in NSW at 6,664 persons per sq km. Moreso, Leichhardt Council and its immediate neighbouring Councils are ranked in the top six Councils based on population densities: Sydney City (ranked 2nd), Leichhardt Council (ranked 4th), Ashfield Council (ranked 5th) and Marrickville Council (ranked 6th).

- Open space corridors (20 metres +) are needed for pedestrians and cyclists along the waterfront. This will include extending and connecting existing, adjoining open spaces from Pyrmont with the heritage White Bay Power Station and the Rozelle railway yards to Cameron’s Cove. In particular, the Glebe Island Bridge is a key link for a safe, continuous pathway.

- Disabled and pram access must be mandatory in all aspects of planning, and meet relevant standards and guidelines. Proposed access to the Cruise Ship Terminal / Function Centre does not meet these standards.

- Access creates opportunities for waterfront and passive water-based recreational activities. Sensitive uses are required due to noise impacts and existing pollutants in Rozelle Bay and White Bay.

- Two headland parks at White Bay Wharf 6 and at the tip of Glebe Island (closest to White Bay) would consolidate public access.

- The critical lack of sporting fields, playing courts (e.g. tennis, netball and basketball), a swimming pool, tracks and fitness could be addressed by incorporating public foreshore access.

What access means to Sydney Ports: “Sydney Ports is committed to public access to the foreshore of White Bay 5 (WBS5) on days when the facility is not being used for port operations. This is consistent with the Conditions of Approval. Public access will be in daylight hours.”
Question: Will there still be access to the surrounds when a ship is in? If there is a function, will access to the terminal depend on the operator of the function?

Answer: If White Bay 5 is being used for port operations there will be no public access to the foreshore, in accordance with the Project Approval. If there is a function at White Bay 5, access for the public will be at the discretion of the lessee.

Answer: Access during functions would have to be with the agreement of the lessee, and that there is a limit of 500 people at any one time who may visit the terminal during a function. Note there is a maximum of 50 functions per year, of which some would be public functions and exhibitions.

What Sydney Ports “access” means to you & me:

- If ship arrivals reach the anticipated 150 -170 along with 50 functions, it is possible that no access is provided for 200 - 220 days (based on functions being of one day only - it could be that some functions continue for several days) = exclusion zone
- 2,000 cruise ship passengers using James Craig Rd, Victoria Rd & Anzac Bridge during peak hours = traffic gridlock
- Service vehicles on Robert St = traffic gridlock
- The proposed access path has only ONE entry point. It is steep & offers no link or to other parts of the foreshore = restricted zone

- How will people wishing to utilise public access to White Bay Wharf 5 know when the area is being used for port operations?
- How will people wishing to utilise public access know when the area is being used for functions and, furthermore, which lessees allow public access and how will they advise residents or the broader community of this?

Fact file – key points:

- Useful, public foreshore access should be continued around the Bays’ Precinct (from Woolloomooloo to Balmain East) as a healthy alternative for residents in the 4th most densely populated area in NSW. Links via the heritage Glebe Island Bridge are essential for pedestrians & cyclists.
- 20+ metres along the water’s edge available 24 / 7 is the community definition of foreshore access

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