

A review of stakeholder and community response to the *Macquarie Point Strategic Framework and Masterplan 2015-2030*

Executive summary

There has been a very positive response from both stakeholders and the community to the corporation's *Strategic Framework and Masterplan 2015-2030* (masterplan) during the four-week period it was open to public scrutiny and comment.

It is estimated that 4 500 people visited the masterplan display in the Goods Shed on the Macquarie Point site, which was open for one month from 16 June to 17 July 2015. The timing of the launch coincided with the staging of Dark Park on the site from 12 to 21 June 2015. During the same period, 3 289 people interacted with the masterplan on the corporation's website. A further 4 156 people viewed the masterplan on the website without interacting.

Of the 250 people who responded to a brief questionnaire on the masterplan, 72 per cent or 179 respondents recorded a positive impression.

Only 19 per cent or 47 respondents recorded a negative impression.

Ten per cent were undecided.

The things that impressed people the most were the open and green spaces; the connectivity between old and new, as well as the neighbouring Cenotaph, waterfront and city; the prospect of hotel and convention centre development; the provision of bike paths; and the retention of the rail corridor.

Negative impressions focused on the density of buildings; the paucity of greenspace; a lack of connectivity; concern over the relocation of the wastewater treatment plant; the potential for the site to become an elitist precinct; and restrictive vehicle access.

Written submissions from the general public were largely complimentary, with one notable exception – from a person who saw Macquarie Point becoming “a luxury ghetto for the wealthy”.

Concerns expressed in writing related to the impact on the working port, now and in the future; the scale and intensity of the development; the need for a convention centre on the site; and protection of the rail corridor.

A very detailed submission from the Hobart City Council was again complimentary in its overview of the masterplan, albeit tempered by issues yet to be resolved relating to matters ranging from height restrictions to vehicle access.

The aldermen themselves indicated their wish to see affordable, social housing; a convention centre; additional vehicle access; connectivity for future ferry and water transport terminals; high quality design and environmental standards; and the safeguarding of the Regatta Grounds.

In summary, the results of the public consultation process have demonstrated an overwhelmingly positive response to the masterplan.

Statistical results

Of those who completed the questionnaire, 179 people, or 72 per cent of total respondents, recorded a positive impression of the masterplan.

By comparison only 19 per cent, or 47 respondents, recorded a negative impression, while just 10 per cent, or 24 respondents, were undecided. (No matter what subject people are asked to comment on – whether it is politics or climate change - there is inevitably an undecided group of between 10 per cent and 12 per cent.)

With almost two-thirds of respondents approving of the masterplan, this result can be regarded as overwhelmingly positive.

Overall impression		
50/50	24	10%
Negative	47	19%
Positive	179	72%
Total	250	

While the gender of respondents cannot be cross-tabulated to determine whether support for the masterplan is stronger among women than men, of the respondents who chose to indicate their gender, 58 per cent were females and 36 per cent male. The remainder did not indicate their gender.

Gender demographic		
Female	145	58%
Male	91	36%
None	13	5%
Other	1	0%
Total	250	

Significantly, there was an even spread of respondents in terms of age except for the older age group (ie 66+).

Age demographic		
18 or younger	64	26%
19-34	45	18%
35-49	60	24%
50-65	58	23%
66+	18	7%
None	5	2%
Total	250	

11 August 2015