NEW CRUISE PASSENGER TERMINAL FOR SYDNEY- FORESHORE ACCESS DELIVERED

Sydney visitors and residents alike will benefit from a new $57 million cruise passenger terminal at White Bay, Planning Minister Tony Kelly announced today.

“The new White Bay Cruise Passenger Terminal will improve public access to the foreshore, minimise the impact on nearby residents and welcome visitors to our city with a first class cruise facility,” he said.

“The White Bay port area has been continuously used for the maritime industry since the mid 19th Century.

“This will be the first time since development that the public will have access to the site”.

“Developing White Bay is part of our commitment of maintaining Sydney as a working harbour, while delivering on the community's desire for greater public access.

“To achieve this, the approval includes a condition that public access to the foreshore of White Bay Wharf No.5 must be maintained during the daytime on non-ship days, and to the greatest extent possible during functions and events.”

Mr Kelly said the cruise-ship terminal would be a major improvement on the existing industrial use of the site, with improvements to the visual amenity and sight-lines to the city.

“The new, lower terminal will preserve some important features of the site’s maritime heritage, including the gantry crane and railway tracks, while also opening up views of the harbour and city,” he said.

The project will support approximately 700 operational jobs and generate an additional 80 jobs during construction.

Mr Kelly said as part of its rigorous assessment and community submissions, the Department of Planning had imposed a number of strict conditions, most significantly to protect community amenity and provide public access to areas of the White Bay precinct.

The project approval includes:

- New cruise ship terminal buildings at White Bay Wharf No.5, to cater for up to 170 ships per year;
- Erection and removal of a temporary passenger terminal at Wharf No.4 as required, to cater for a second cruise ship, approximately 10 times per year;
- Demolishing an old industrial storage shed that is no longer in use;
- A new access road to connect to James Craig Rd;
- A long-term car park with approximately 200 spaces;
- Berthing of cruise ships at White Bay Wharf No.5 and temporary berthing at White Bay Wharf No.4;
- Use of White Bay Wharf No.5 terminal for functions and community events when not in use by cruise ships.

Mr Kelly said in response to public concerns about issues such as traffic and noise, the approval also includes stringent conditions to ensure nearby residents are not impacted.
He noted that the site was already used for shipping activities, and the conditions would minimise additional impacts by:

- Limiting patron numbers for functions to manage noise and traffic issues.
- Limiting noise and operating times for functions;
- Requiring the proponent to upgrade intersections on the non-residential roads of James Craig Rd and The Crescent, which will link to a new access road on the site;
- Managing air quality, including emissions and odours from visiting ships.

“Sydney continues to be Australia’s number one cruise tourism destination, with over 250,000 passengers now passing through Sydney cruise terminals annually,” Mr Kelly said.

“The Australian cruise industry grew by an average of 18 per cent each year from 2002 to 2008..

“The number of cruise ships visiting Sydney is forecast to reach 450 per year by 2025, compared to 120 in 2008/09.

“It is also anticipated that more ships will base themselves in Australia for the summer season in coming years.”

Early preparation works and construction of the cruise passenger terminal is anticipated to commence in February. Further information on the approval can be obtained on the Department of Planning Website www.planning.nsw.gov.au