

Tuesday, 9 April 2013

First public access to White Bay in 45 years

The NSW Government today confirmed public access will be provided to part of the White Bay foreshore for the first time in 45 years.

“The Government recognises there is a strong desire from the community to regain access to the White Bay foreshore,” Department of Planning and Infrastructure Director-General Sam Haddad said.

“The Government has made a modification to the cruise terminal’s approval which allows access to the site to be initially from Robert Street, Rozelle.

“This follows extensive consultation with the local community as part of the approval of the new \$57 million White Bay Cruise Passenger Terminal which is now nearing completion.

“Access from Robert Street will allow people to either walk or cycle to the waterfront, adjacent to the new terminal.

“This access point has several advantages. It is safer, it allows disabled access, offers cycling opportunities and is far easier to monitor and secure when the terminal is not being used for port activity.”

Mr Haddad said White Bay has been a commercial shipping port for more than 130 years and remains strategically important to Sydney’s economy.

“We are pleased the public will once again have access to the foreshore and by necessity this access will be restricted to daylight hours. We are listening to the community and where practicable, delivering on their expectations,” Mr Haddad said.

“Additional access points were discussed last year and Sydney Ports has agreed to keep these options open to further consultation with the community and Leichhardt Council.”

Access is restricted when a ship is berthed or during other port activities and may also be limited when the terminal is used for private functions.

“The Government is aware that the community would like a second access point and will continue discussions with the community and Leichhardt Council to consider alternate access options,” Mr Haddad said.

Media contact: Andrew Stevenson (02) 9228 6128