MEDIA RELEASE

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PLANNING APPROVAL FOR NEW
MAJOR EVENT FACILITIES AT DARLING HARBOUR

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner today welcomed planning approval for the development of new convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities and a major upgrade to the public realm at Darling Harbour.

The facilities, which will cost around $1 billion to build, will ensure Sydney continues to successfully compete on the national and global stage for major events. The facilities will open in December 2016.

The 20-hectare precinct also includes improving the public areas and providing an extra hectare of open public space and creating better connections with Pyrmont/Ulrimo.

“The existing convention and exhibition facilities have served Sydney well for more than 25 years but need renewing so we remain competitive both in Australia and the Asia Pacific,” Mr Stoner said.

“This project will not only enhance the quality of the public space at Darling Harbour, it will also improve connectivity within Sydney’s CBD and the neighbouring suburbs.

“Tumbalong Park will be reinvigorated and expanded by 3,000 square metres, creating a new event space for up to 27,000 people that will be part of the active and vibrant Darling Harbour precinct.

“This development will transform Darling Harbour, and will deliver an estimated $5 billion in economic benefit for NSW over the next 25 years.”

The NSW Government is partnering with the private sector through the “Darling Harbour Live” consortium (Lend Lease, Capella, AEG Ogden and Spotless) to develop, build, operate and maintain the new facilities and upgrade the public realm.

The facilities are being delivered through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) over a 25 year contract. The land will remain owned by the NSW Government through Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

Lend Lease is developing the hotel and a residential/commercial development under two commercial agreements that are separate to the PPP.
“The redevelopment of the entire precinct will contribute substantial direct and indirect economic benefits to Sydney, including 3,700 jobs during construction and ongoing employment for 4,000 people across the precinct,” Mr Stoner said.

The existing convention and exhibition facilities will close in December this year for the three year construction period.

Conventions will be held in various venues across Sydney during construction, while an interim facility for exhibitions is currently being developed at Glebe Island.

The Glebe Island facility, known as “Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island”, will be ready for the start of next year’s exhibition season. The first event is in February 2014.

Media contact: Ben Shine 0431 096 596