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**Plans released to open up Olympic Park’s Armory for business**

The Newington Armory could build on Sydney Olympic Park’s popularity after new plans have been released to open up the heritage listed site to more people, Minister for Planning Pru Goward announced today.

The plans are now open for public exhibition and would allow for a range of uses like markets, restaurants, cafes and tourist accommodation across different parts of the parklands, including The Armory.

Ms Goward said Sydney Olympic Park was part of Sydney’s cultural offering to the world, but more needed to be done to leverage its potential.

“Olympic Park is one of the key drivers behind Sydney as a global city offering the full cultural buffet of sporting events, artistic ventures and entertainment more widely,” Ms Goward said.

“Already the precinct accommodates about 10 million visitors a year for sports and entertainment purposes, with demand continuing to grow, but the Park has potential beyond the football and concerts.

“With the nearby Blaxland Reserve also generating a lot of weekend visitors, we expect these changes to allow the Armory to explore more opportunities to entertain Sydneysiders and tourists alike – with a number of options up for grabs.”

The Armory, consisting of more than 80 buildings, once housed navy armaments until 1998 and forms part of the State heritage listed Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve Site.

Ms Goward said the Government was keen for public feedback to make the best use of this important site.

“Parts of the Armory are already used for community groups and weekend activities, but these plans mean it could be opened up for restaurants or tourism accommodation,” Ms Goward said.

“Regardless of what direction the precinct heads in, it’s a great opportunity to open up the space while still protecting the heritage value for generations to come.”


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