



# Greenwich Community Association Inc

PO Box 5057, Greenwich, NSW 2065

For current committee contact details see [www.greenwich.org.au](http://www.greenwich.org.au)

## **Greenwich Point Wharf upgrade** **Submission**

The Greenwich Community Association Inc (GCA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in respect of the concept plans for the Greenwich Point Wharf upgrade.

The GCA fully supports the objectives of the project to provide accessible public transport options to all.

### **Overview**

The plan on display is described as a “concept design” only.

The information published on the relevant website does not include detail to enable the GCA to make a fully informed submission.

In particular, there is no detail as to dimensions of the lift, proposed lighting of the lift, car parking provision for mobility impaired drivers and proposed protection against prevailing weather conditions.

This submission is made on the basis of the material available on the relevant website.

It is hoped that the design, as refined in response to public submissions, will be available for further community input as part of the Review of Environmental Factors public comment process.

Our comments on the concept design follow.

### **Proposed design compromises wharf accessibility options**

We note that the Greenwich Point Wharf upgrade is part of a wider rollout of improvements to several wharves as part of the government’s Transport Access Program.

The proposed design for Greenwich Point Wharf includes the removal of ramp access to the wharf.

The elimination of the ramp effectively reduces access options for commuters, forcing them to use either the lift or what appears to be a significant number of stairs from street to jetty level.

The retention of a ramp will provide an access option for commuters who do not wish to use the lift or stairs and will serve to mitigate potential congestion on the stairs or in the lift during times of high demand, such as an impending ferry departure from Greenwich Point Wharf.

### **Public safety risk of reliance on lift access only for mobility impaired commuters**

The GCA acknowledges that the incorporation of a lift into the proposed wharf upgrade will address the objectives of the Transport Access Program.

However, it is important that the selection of lift equipment minimises the chance of lift failure in the light of:-

- location of the lift adjacent to salt water with the consequent risk of corrosion of components
- ongoing maintenance of lift including replacement of lighting, cleaning of glass, rubbish removal, etc
- lack of personnel on site to monitor the wharf
- location of lift below street level with consequent risk of vandalism.

In the event that the lift is not operational, the current design, that includes removal of the ramp to the jetty, eliminates alternatives to the lift for mobility impaired commuters.

In such cases, commuters will need to carry their equipment (or be carried themselves, if they are in a wheelchair), up or down what appear to be two flights of stairs to access the lower level of the ramp and then up or down further flights of stairs from the ramp to street level.

The lack of an alternative access in the event of lift failure is a public safety risk and risks undermining the objectives of the upgrade.

### **Potential delays to cyclists and people with children in strollers/ prams if lift is only access point to wharf**

With increasing residential development adjacent to Greenwich Wharf, is it likely that commuter demand for ferry services will increase.

Furthermore, Greenwich Point Wharf is used by many as an access point to Cockatoo Island.

Ferry services to Greenwich Point Wharf are limited. Unlike a train station, a missed ferry can mean a delay of an hour before the next ferry service.

Given that, at this point, the lift will be the only means of access for commuters using mobility aids, cyclists and people with children in strollers, prams etc, it is vital that the capacity and speed of the lift be capable of meeting commuter demand.

In the current design, commuters who miss the ferry by virtue of an inability to get to the wharf will be left with virtually no weather protection while they wait for an hour for the next ferry to arrive.

#### **Car parking for mobility impaired drivers**

It is noted that there is no provision in the design for car parking facilities for mobility impaired commuters.

Given the steep gradient of roads to the wharf, it is important that car parking is located as close as possible to the lift.

#### **Concept design of jetty and pontoon offers minimal weather protection for commuters.**

Greenwich Point Wharf is in a weather exposed location.

The current shelter offers important weather protection to commuters waiting for a ferry to arrive, especially those who have a long wait ahead of them.

The proposed jetty and shelter on the pontoon offer minimal protection against wind and rain.

Furthermore, there appears to be little seating available for commuters on the pontoon.

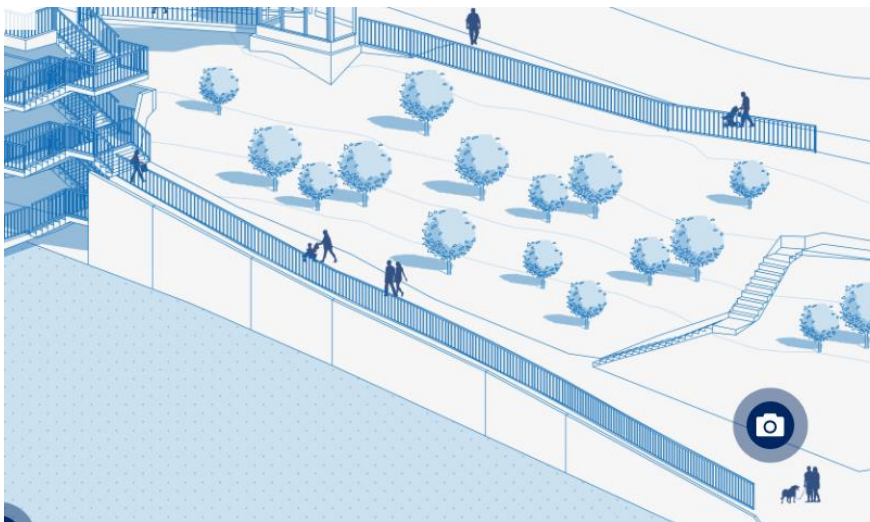
The current shelter serves the community well when the weather is unpleasant and we suggest that consideration should be given to retention of the current structure or one similar adjacent to the lift/jetty.

#### **Design should address natural features of the wharf's location**

The design on the Transport for NSW website indicates that the prominent rock face behind the current wharf will be covered, that the historic stone wall beneath the current ramp will be removed, as will the established trees.

Greenwich Point is designated as a Conservation Area.

It is hoped that the final design of the wharf will incorporate the rocks and stone wall and retain the established trees as they are integral to the character of Greenwich Point.



The GCA is aware that some community members have lodged submissions that outline alternative designs for the Greenwich Point Wharf upgrade.

As an association with a distribution scope of 2000 households, we are happy to host a session in which the project team and community members can further explore these design options.

The GCA hopes that the project design team will work with the community to achieve an outcome for Greenwich Point Wharf that addresses both the objectives of the upgrade and the concerns of the community.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this submission with you.

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