

9 August 2004

Sydney Harbour Team Leader
Sydney Region East
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources
GPO Box 3927
Sydney 2001.



FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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Dear Sydney Harbour Team Leader,

Submission re: Sydney Harbour Catchment REP and Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area DCP

This letter sets out the comments from Ocean Watch Australia Ltd's (Ocean Watch) in relation to the Sydney Harbour Catchment Regional Environmental Plan (REP) and Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area Development Control Plan (DCP).

Ocean Watch is an environmental, non-government organisation sponsored by the commercial seafood industry to represent the environmental interests of industry with respect to protecting and restoring fish habitats, improving water quality and promoting sustainable fisheries.

We are largely supportive of the controls and provisions outlined in the REP and DCP in terms of promoting beneficial environmental outcomes. However, we bring to your attention a number of concerns and raise the following points for your consideration:

- **The need for provision of riparian buffer zones, critical for protection of aquatic habitat (in terms of shading, natural soil stabilisation, reducing siltation etc).** For example, there needs to be a natural vegetation buffer between the public access zone and Mean High Tide Water Mark referred to in section 5.8 of the DCP.
- **Insufficient protection of aquatic reserves from development.** Aquatic reserves require the same level of protection from the impacts of development as National Parks, particularly in relation to Part 3, Clause 34, 'Development and activities in vicinity of national parks';
- **Clarification is required for Part 4, Clause 45, subclause 2 of the REP** "protection of the natural assets of the site and adjoining land". The "land" should also refer to the land below mean high tide watermark, i.e. the river bed and sea bed, which often supports viable aquatic habitats;
- **Inadequate consultation with commercial fishers** relating to impacts of zoning on access to viable fishing grounds. The fishing industry needs to be consulted in relation to impacts of zoning.

We believe it is important that the above concerns are adequately addressed in the formulation of the final REP and DCP. Please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9660 2262 if you would like to discuss these comments further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Anissa Lawrence
Executive Officer
Ocean Watch Australia Ltd