

Balmain East Wharf upgrade

JUNE 2014

VERSION 4 07.06.14

Environmental and socio-economic impacts



Existing Balmain East Wharf with view to Sydney Harbour Bridge.

NSW Roads and Maritime Services has a statutory responsibility to assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of its infrastructure projects as part of the planning approvals process.

The wharf upgrade will have temporary impacts during construction. These will be carefully managed and measures put in place to minimise these impacts, including:

- Informing customers of alternative transport options
- Minimising the disturbance of sediments and rocks on the harbour bed
- Minimising disturbance to aquatic life
- Minimising temporary noise impacts on nearby residents wherever possible
- Notifying nearby residents and businesses of early morning and night work
- Keeping nearby residents, businesses and customers up-to-date.

The existing wharf structure has no heritage significance however, the wharf has historically been an important transport location and there is heritage significance in the continued usage of the location as a site for a ferry wharf. Regular ferry services between Balmain and the city started in 1844 when Henry Carter Perdriau began the first steam ferry service using a double-ended panel steamer. This significance will be maintained with the recommencement of ferry services on completion of the upgrade.

The highly scenic visual setting also adds to the significance of the wharf. The new wharf design including choice of materials aims to minimise any potential visual impact by using neutral colours and transparent materials which are low in reflectivity and complement the adjacent features of the land and water.



Bells Store, restored in 2012.



Perdriau's ferry "Leipoa" (c. 1880. State of NSW Library).



View along harbour path from wharf.



Existing Balmain East Wharf with view to City and bus stop in foreground.