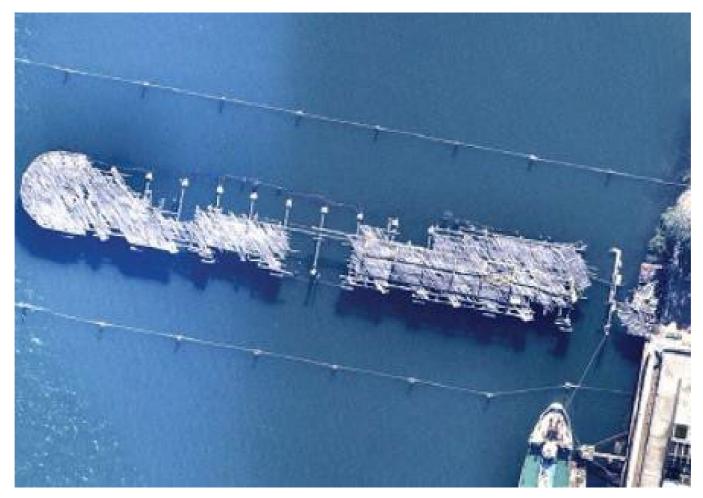
Coal Loader Wharf Vision Survey Report



March 2024



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1. Executive summary

1.1 Document purpose

This Vision Survey Report provides outcomes of engagement activities carried out with stakeholders, the local community and users of the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability to contribute to developing a vision for the future of the Coal Loader Wharf.

1.2 Overview

Transport for NSW (Transport) is progressing plans to make the Coal Loader Wharf safe and provide opportunities for the community to connect, and appreciate, the maritime industrial and Aboriginal heritage of the area.

The Coal Loader Wharf has been deteriorating and adverse weather events have caused parts of the wharf to collapse into the water. Transport needs to make the area safe to allow the potential for re-use or re-interpretation to be safely investigated and assessed.

Transport is working with the community and key stakeholders to develop a shared vision for the future of the Wharf. The Vision Survey was open concurrently with the display of the Make Safe and Retrieval Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the first stage of the Coal Loader Wharf project from Friday 2 December 2022 to Sunday 15 January 2023. Submissions regarding the REF have been considered separately in the Coal Loader Wharf Make Safe and Retrieval Submissions Report.

1.3 The Vision Survey

The Vision Survey sought to understand community values about the Coal Loader Wharf and community views on the future of the Wharf to help Transport develop plans for the site.

Transport's proposed vision, developed with North Sydney Council is:

Respecting the significance of the heritage listed Coal Loader Wharf and precinct, Transport for NSW (Transport) is working with stakeholders on the future use of the wharf that brings together community values and reconnects to the maritime heritage of the area.

1.4 How we engaged

Date	Activity
17 May 2022	Stakeholder briefing with North Sydney Council including providing draft survey and vision statement for comment
29 June 2022	Coal Loader Wharf site visit and timber inspection with Heritage NSW
30 June 2022	Coal Loader Wharf site visit and timber inspection with North Sydney Council
29 November 2022	Stakeholder briefing with North Sydney Council
24 November 2022	Stakeholder briefing with Heritage NSW

Date	Activity
2 December 2022	Project website live
	REF Have Your Say and Vision Survey available online
	Electronic direct mail sent to other key stakeholders and community groups
	Facebook advertising
	Media release issued
	210 community updates distributed in the Waverton/ Wollstonecraft area
	Posters displayed in the Coal Loader Wharf Centre for Sustainability
	Call to action video uploaded to the project website
15 December 2022	Community drop-in session
9 January 2023	Reminder Facebook post "Have Your Say -consultation closing soon"

1.5 Who we heard from

A total of 83 community members completed the Vision Survey. Considering the demographics of the local Waverton area, there was a larger number of respondents in the 45-54 and 65-74 age brackets and fewer from those aged under 35 years (Refer section 4.1.1). More females than males participated and most respondents were residents, with two-thirds identifying they have lived in the area for more than three years.

1.6 What we heard

There were a number of key themes emerged from the engagement findings from the survey, written submissions and REF submissions and these are summarised as follows:

An engaged local community with passionate and diverse views

Respondents were highly engaged users of the Coal Loader precinct with 41% of respondents visiting at least weekly and 42.5% of respondents participating in active recreation (exercise, bushwalks) and social activities.

Coal Loader Wharf valued for many reasons

They value the Coal Loader for a broad range of reasons, with no clear preference expressed.

Desire to recognise local history

Many respondents expressed support for recognising the local history of the area including its First Nations history in plans for future use.

Access to the waterfront valued over access for water-based activities

Support was also shown for future use for the wharf that enabled access to the waterfront, however there was no mention of providing access for water-based activities such as boating.

• No consensus about the future uses of the wharf

The two most popular responses for future uses were passive recreation (ranked 1 of 8) and improved access to the waterfront (ranked 2 of 8).

Open ended questions about the future use of the wharf drew a wide variety of suggestions, ranging from complete removal of the current wharf structure to the restoration to its original state, through to redevelopment to provide waterfront access and commercial uses.

More detail about what we heard can be read in sections 4. Engagement findings and 5. Key themes.

1.7 Next steps

The aim of the Vision Survey was to better understand community values about the Coal Loader Wharf on the Waverton Peninsula and how the wharf could be re-imagined and/or heritage value retained in the future. Transport will use this feedback along with technical investigations into the condition of the structure and stakeholder needs to inform the future for the Coal Loader Wharf.

Transport will be inviting the community and stakeholders to have their say on these future plans once the site has been made safe for these technical investigations.

2. About the project

The Coal Loader Wharf sits within the Coal Loader precinct of the Waverton Peninsula. Since being decommissioned in the early nineties, the wharf has been deteriorating and recent adverse weather events have caused parts of the wharf to collapse into the water.

In October 2020, Transport committed funding to improve the structure and safety of the wharf. In June 2021, the wharf was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

2.1 The Coal Loader Wharf Project overview

Transport is progressing plans to make the Coal Loader Wharf safe and provide opportunities for the community to connect, and appreciate, the maritime industrial and Aboriginal heritage of the area.

The Coal Loader Wharf was one of the first and longest-operating coal loading facilities in Sydney Harbour. Transport is working with the community and key stakeholders, including North Sydney Council and Heritage NSW, to understand how the wharf can be reimagined and/or the heritage values of the wharf expressed in the future. The Coal Loader Wharf Vision Survey is the first step in this process.

Over recent years, the Coal Loader Wharf has been deteriorating and adverse weather events have caused parts of the wharf to collapse into the water. Transport needs to first make the area safe to minimise potential navigational hazards, caused by floating timber and debris. This will allow the remaining structure to be safely investigated to assess potential future plans.

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the make safe and retrieval work was on public display over the same period as the Vision Survey, from Friday 2 December 2022 to Sunday 15 January 2023.

Submissions regarding the REF have been considered separately in the Coal Loader Wharf Make Safe and Retrieval Submissions Report.

2.2 Vision Survey

Recent feedback from the Waverton Peninsula community values survey has provided important insights into what the community values most about the local area.

These values include:

- preserving the natural beauty
- enhancing existing features
- enabling access to the foreshore for recreation
- supporting recreational activities
- recognising local history and culture
- improving connectivity and accessibility.

To build on this earlier engagement Transport sought feedback from the community on their vision for the future of the wharf specifically. This report details the responses we received to this survey. A copy of the survey is included in Appendix C.

The Vision Survey sought to understand community values about the Coal Loader Wharf to help Transport for NSW develop plans for the site.

Transport's proposed vision, developed with North Sydney Council is:

Respecting the significance of the heritage listed Coal Loader Wharf and precinct, Transport for NSW (Transport) is working with stakeholders on the future use of the wharf that brings together community values and reconnects to the maritime heritage of the area.

3. Engagement activities

A range of community and stakeholder engagement activities were carried out to raise awareness of the Vision Survey and ensure community members had an opportunity to participate.

The Vision Survey was launched concurrently with the Make Safe and Retrieval REF and as such the engagement activities targeted both elements of the project together.

3.1 Stakeholder meetings and briefings

Stakeholder briefings were held with North Sydney Council and Heritage NSW to provide an overview of the Vision Survey and consultation approach as well as the Make Safe and Retrieval REF process.

3.2 Media release

The Member for North Shore announced the 'Have Your Say' period and Vision Survey via her website: Have your say on the future of the Coal Loader Wharf.

3.3 Community update, letterbox distribution and posters

A community update was distributed to 210 households in the Waverton and Wollstonecraft local area. A copy of the Community Update is included in Appendix A. Distribution area is detailed below:

Table 1 Distribution of Community Update by street

2-6 Milray Avenue	1-14 Tryon Avenue
Eastern side of Ross Street (2-20_	2-16 Woolcott Street
3-49 Balls Head Road	2-48 Larkin Street

Posters advertising the REF and Vision Survey were displayed at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, see Appendix B.

3.4 Social media and website

A geo-targeted Facebook advertising campaign was launched on 2 December 2022 with an estimated reach of around 160,000 community members. Suburbs targeted included Waverton, Wollstonecraft, Greenwich and North Sydney. Copies of the Facebook advertisements are available in Appendix D.

The REF Have Your Say and Vision Survey were launched online on 2 December 2022 and open for feedback until 15 January 2023.

3.5 Community drop-in session

A community drop-in session was held on Thursday 15 December 2022 at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability from 11am to 1pm advertised through the Community Update, the project website, Facebook advertising, poster and the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability Facebook page.

There were 14 attendees to the session.

3.6 Email

An email was sent to key stakeholders and community groups informing them of the launch of the 'Have Your Say' period and Vision Survey.

4. Engagement findings

Key feedback and findings from the survey and other activities are presented below. A summary of themes is included in Section 5.

4.1 Vision Survey findings

4.1.1 Demographics of survey respondents

A total of 83 community members completed the Vision Survey across a reasonably diverse age profile, noting less participation from the younger end of the demographic. Compared to 2021 census data of the Waverton local area, there was an overrepresentation from respondents in the 45-54 and 65-74 age brackets, while there was underrepresentation from the 19-24 and 25-35 age groups.

More females than males participated in the survey, with 47 of the 83 respondents identifying as female.

No participants identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Two-thirds of participants stated they had lived in the area for more than three years, with 20 per cent of respondents likely to be visitors to the Waverton area rather than local residents.

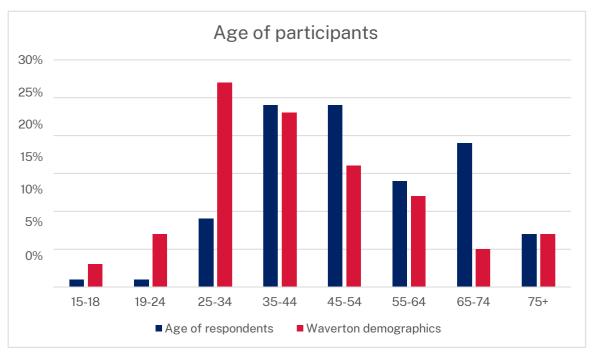


Figure 1 Age of participants against Waverton demographic profile

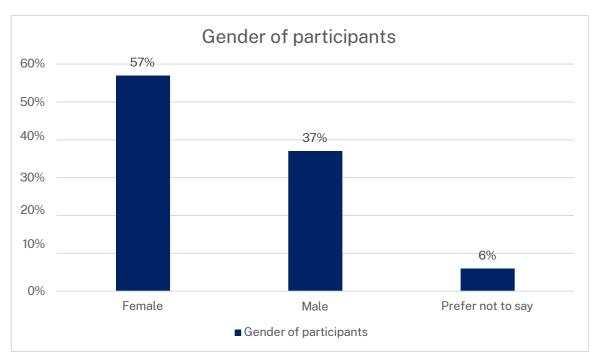


Figure 2 Gender of participants

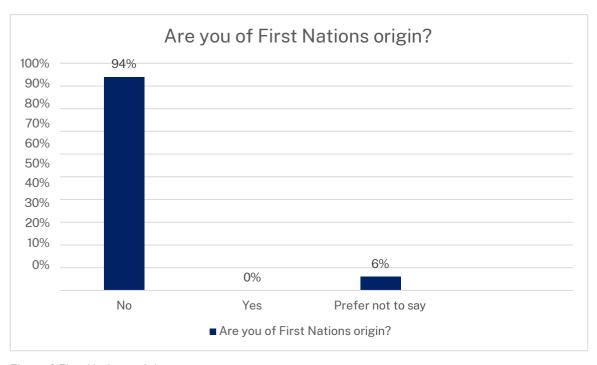


Figure 3 First Nations origin

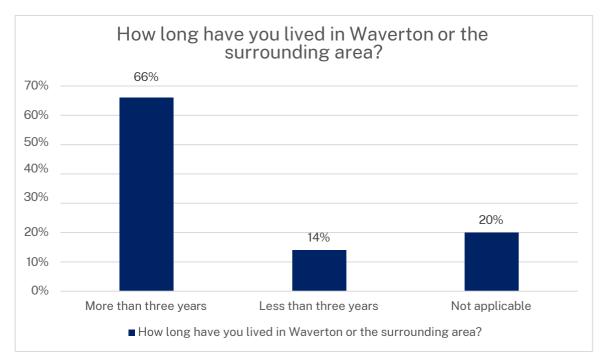


Figure 4 How long have you lived in Waverton?

4.1.2 Relationship to the Coal Loader precinct

Respondents were highly engaged users of the precinct, with around two in five visiting at least weekly, one in five visiting at least monthly, and only 11 per cent visiting less than twice a year.

Survey respondents participate in a wide variety of activities at the Coal Loader precinct and share similar levels of popularity. Respondents were able to select multiple responses. Active and passive recreation and social and cultural experiences were most popular.

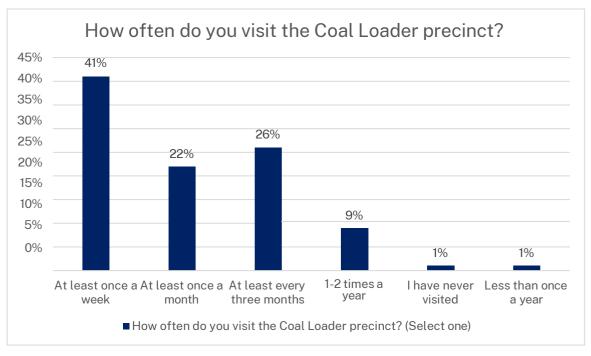


Figure 5 Frequency of visitation to Coal Loader precinct

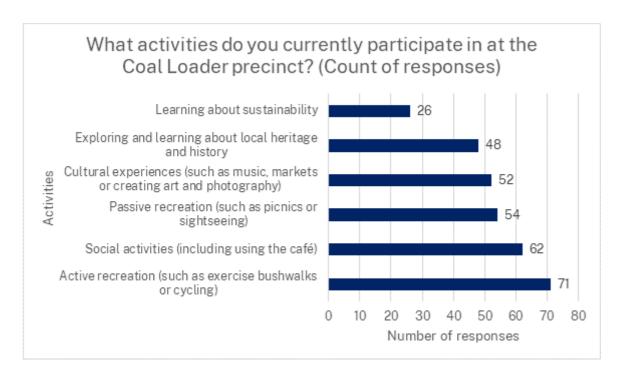


Figure 6 Activities conducted at the Coal Loader precinct

4.1.3 Vision and values

The survey built on the six values identified by respondents of the Waverton Peninsula community values survey, to explore how these findings related to the community's vision for the future of the Coal Loader Wharf.

Participants ranked the six values in order of preference, with results indicating there was no clear preferred theme. There was a broad range of preferences for what the community values the most, including preserving natural beauty and recognising local history and culture. The only exception was improving connectivity and accessibility, which ranked considerably lower than other options.

The next question focused on potential concepts for the future of the wharf, with participants asked to rank their preferences. Again, there was a high diversity in responses, with no single use receiving an average score of more than 5.5 out of 8. The most popular future uses focused on passive recreation, improved access to the waterfront and environmental sustainability initiatives. Providing access to the foreshore for water-based activities was the least popular response.

The final question asked participants to provide other feedback about potential future priorities and uses for the Wharf. Participants provided a range of open-ended responses. There was a preference expressed for repairing the wharf and preserving the history of the site (18 per cent of open-ended question responses), however 7 per cent of responses suggested complete removal of the wharf. Fewer respondents suggested improving accessibility and water-based transport links (ferry service) and promoting water-based recreation (swimming and kayaking).

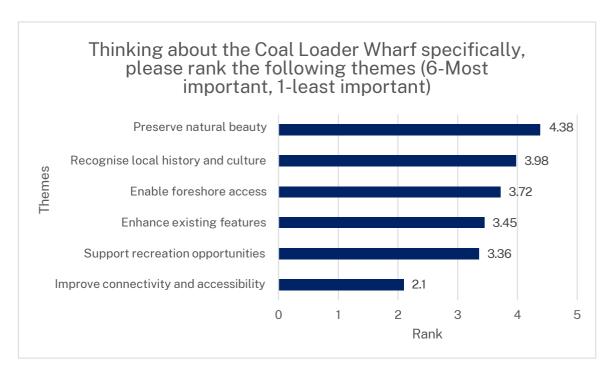


Figure 7 Coal Loader Wharf themes

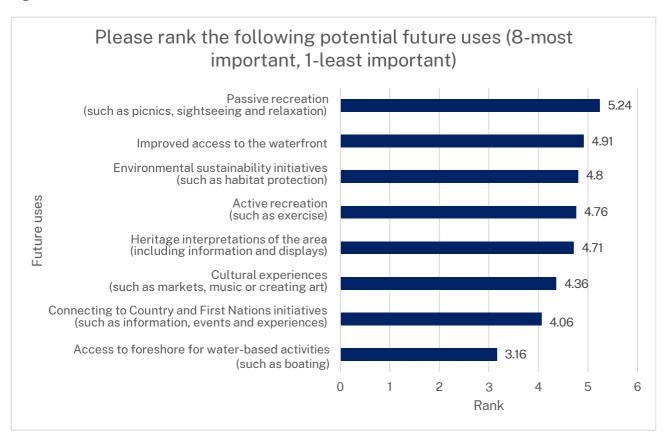


Figure 8 Coal Loader Wharf potential future uses

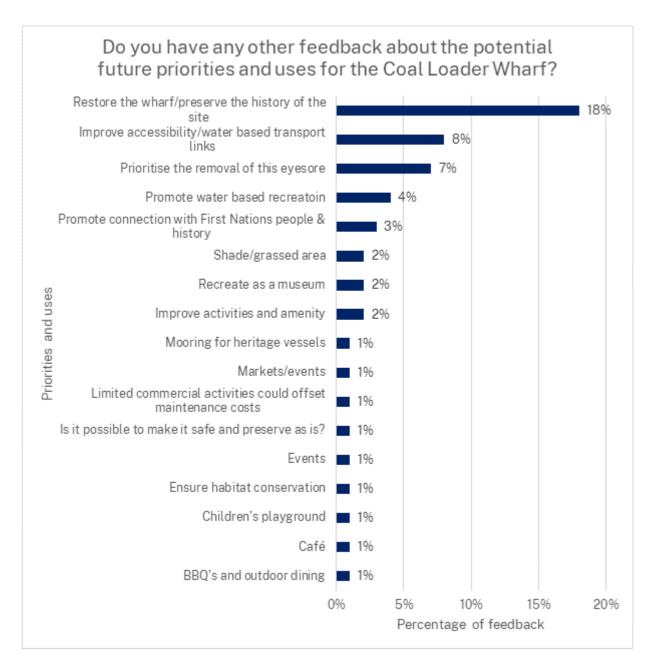


Figure 9 Other feedback about Coal Loader Wharf potential future uses

4.2 Written submissions

One email received expressed support for rebuilding the Coal Loader Wharf to honour its history.

4.3 Community drop-in session

Feedback received during the community drop-in session mainly focused on the neighbouring Western Harbour Tunnel and the Berrys Bay projects. Attendees were provided with the community update and invited to make a submission and fill out the survey online.

4.4 Stakeholder briefings

North Sydney Council and Heritage NSW provided feedback via a REF submission, however, did not provide any specific feedback on the Values Survey beyond expressing they wished to play a role in developing concepts for the wharf's future use.

Transport will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the development phase for the re-use or re-imagining of the wharf.

4.5 Have your say REF feedback

A total of 16 submissions were received in response to the display of the Make Safe and Retrieval REF. This included submissions from Heritage NSW and North Sydney Council, two from community organisations and 12 from the community.

Four respondents were in support of the Make Safe and Retrieval proposal, eight had no objections to the proposal but provided submissions on the future use of the Coal Loader Wharf. Four respondents objected or were not supportive of the proposal.

Of the 16 REF submissions, 15 respondents mentioned the future of the wharf. The matters raised are summarised below:

- 14 respondents provided feedback with reference to heritage. Seven respondents wanted to see the site returned to its original design, while others highlighted the importance of acknowledging the wharf's history, including First Nations, while providing a suitable adaptive use that provided community access.
- Seven respondents provided feedback on maritime issues, with four suggesting public access should be provided to the wharf and a ferry service, with others suggesting the future wharf concept should include a maritime workshop.
- Two respondents with environmental feedback both expressed a preference for removing the Coal Loader.

This feedback has been considered along with the Vision Survey outcomes to inform the key themes in Section 5 that will be considered in the planning for the future of the wharf.

Submissions referring to the make safe and retrieval work are summarised separately in the Coal Loader Wharf Make Safe and Retrieval Submissions Report.

5. Key themes

Several key themes emerged from the engagement findings from the survey, written submissions, and REF submissions and these are summarised as follows:

An engaged local community with passionate and diverse views

Respondents to the survey were highly engaged users of the Coal Loader precinct who participate in a wide variety of activities at the precinct. Many respondents had strong views about future use of the wharf however as detailed below there was no clear consensus.

Coal Loader Wharf valued for many reasons

Of the six themes drawn from the Waverton Peninsula community values survey, there was a broad range of preferences for what the community values most about the Wharf, including preserving natural beauty and recognising local history and culture.

No consensus about the future uses of the wharf

When asked to rank potential future uses of the wharf, there was high diversity in the options selected as preferences. Passive recreation, improved access to the waterfront, environmental sustainability initiatives, active recreation, and heritage interpretations were all popular selections.

When asked to provide other feedback about potential future priorities and use of the wharf, respondents provided a wide range of responses, again highlighting the lack of clear consensus. Reponses ranged from those who felt it should be removed completely, to heritage advocates who felt it should be restored to its original state, through to others who want to see the wharf developed to provide community access and commercial uses such as a café.

Desire to recognise local history

Responses were supportive of the wharf's industrial history, as well as highlight the importance of the site's First Nations History. Fifteen responses mentioned this theme, ranging from concerns about removal of heritage materials and desire to restore the wharf to its original state, through to suggestions the wharf be repurposed to provide foreshore access and information about its local history.

Access to the waterfront valued over access for water-based activities

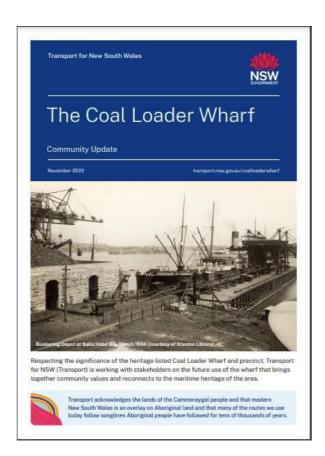
Respondents expressed a preference for being able to use the wharf to access the waterfront. This contrasts with low levels of support for water-based activities such as boating. While it was not suggested as a potential option, eight users (10 per cent) suggested the site is suitable for a public ferry wharf in their open text responses.

6. Next steps

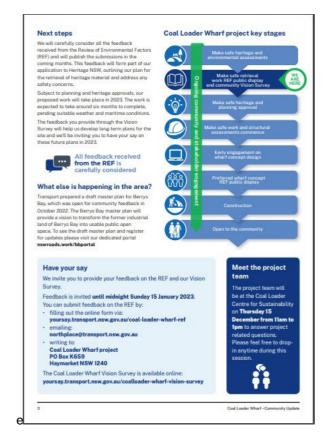
This survey sought to better understand community values about the Coal Loader Wharf and how the heritage values of the wharf could be expressed in the future. Transport will use this feedback along with technical investigations into the condition of the structure to explore options to express the heritage values of the Coal Loader Wharf through heritage interpretation. This will involve the re-imagining of the wharf in a way which integrates heritage, public art and urban design to share the significance of the site and place with the local community and visitors, in interesting, educational and engaging ways. We will explore several options including interpretive signage, public art, reuse of salvaged materials, expressions of Country and creative lighting.

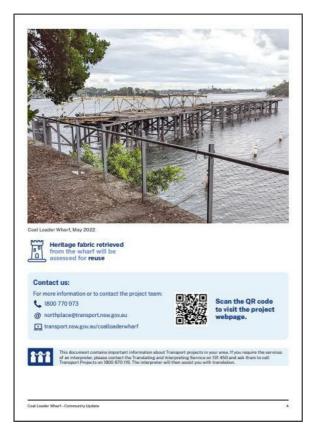
Transport will be inviting the community and stakeholders to have their say on these future plans once the site has been made safe and plans have been developed.

Appendix A - Community Update









Appendix B-Poster

The Coal Loader Wharf

November 2022

transport.nsw.gov.au/coalloaderwharf

Respecting the significance of the heritage listed Coal Loader Wharf and precinct, Transport for NSW (Transport) is working with stakeholders on a future use of the wharf that brings together community values and reconnects to the maritime heritage of the area.

About the Coal Loader Wharf

ring Depot at Balls Head Bay March 1934 (courtesy of Stanton Librar,

The Coal Loader Wharf sits within the Balls Head Coal Loader precinct of the Waverton Peninsula. Since being decommissioned in the early nineties, the wharf has been deteriorating and recent adverse weather events have caused parts of the wharf to collapse into the water.

In October 2020, Transport committed funding to improve the structure and safety of the wharf. In June 2021, the wharf was listed on the NSW State Heritage register.

Make safe and retrieval work

Transport needs to make the area safe from navigational hazards and floating debris. This will allow the remaining structure to be safely investigated to asses its re-use or re-interpretation.

Due to the heritage significance of the wharf, material will be assessed and only removed where there is a risk of future collapse or threat to navigational and personal safety due to its poor condition.

As this safety work is carried out, we will respect the heritage fabric of the structure and where the removal of the heritage fabric cannot be avoided, it will be retrieved and assessed for its re-use. Reusable elements will be salvaged and stored to support the re-imagining of the wharf, in line with the future vision, to best represent its historical and cultural importance.

Have your say

We invite you to provide your feedback on the REF and our Vision Survey.

Feedback is invited until **midnight Sunday 15 January 2023**. You can submit feedback on the REF by:

- · filling out the online form via:
- yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/coal-loader-wharf-ref
 emailing:
- northplace@transport.nsw.gov.a
- writing to:

Coal Loader Wharf project PO Box K659 Haymarket NSW 1240

The Coal Loader Wharf Vision Survey is available

yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/coalloader-wharfvision-survev

Meet the project team

The project team will be at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability on **Thursday 15 December from 11am to 1pm** to answer project related questions.

Please feel free to drop-in anytime during this session.

Contact us:

For more information or to contact the project team:

1800 770 973

morthplace@transport.nsw.gov.au

transport.nsw.gov.au/coalloaderwharf



Scan the QR code to visit the project webpage.



Transport acknowledges the lands of the Cammeraygal people and that modern New South Wales is an overlay on Aboriginal land and that many of the routes we use today follow songlines Aboriginal people have followed for tens of thousands of years.

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Appendix C - Vision Survey

Survey introduction

Respecting the significance of the heritage listed Coal Loader Wharf and precinct, Transport for NSW is working with stakeholders on a future use of the wharf that brings together community values and reconnects to the maritime heritage of the area.

This survey seeks to better understand what the community values about the Coal Loader Wharf on the Waverton Peninsula and how the wharf could be used in the future. We will use this feedback along with technical investigations into the condition of the structure and stakeholder needs to develop future options for the Coal Loader Wharf. We will share the results of this survey with the community before refining concept designs for further feedback.

The survey will take around 5 minutes to complete.



- How often to you visit the Coal Loader precinct [pop up map required as above]? [select one]
 - At least once a week
 - · At least once a month
 - At least everyone three months
 - 1-2 times a year
 - Less than once a year
 - I have never visited

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- 2. What activities do you currently participate in at the Coal Loader precinct? [select all that apply]
 - Active recreation (such as exercise, bushwalks or cycling)
 - Passive recreation (such as picnics, sightseeing)
 - Cultural experiences (such as music, markets or creating art & photography)
 - Learning about sustainability
 - Exploring and learning about local heritage and history
 - Social activities (including using the café)
 - Other [free text]
- 3. Last year we asked the local community about what they value in the Waverton peninsula area to help inform our future planning. We have used this feedback to develop key themes for the Waverton peninsula, as listed below. Thinking about the Coal Loader Wharf specifically, please rank these themes, with 1 being the most important.
 - Preserve natural beauty
 - Enhance existing features
 - Enable foreshore access
 - Support recreation opportunities
 - Recognise local history and culture
 - Improve connectivity and accessibility
- 4. Feedback from this survey along with technical investigations into the condition of the wharf and stakeholder needs will be used to inform the re-use or re-interpretation of the remaining structure. Please rank the following potential future uses, with 1 being the most important.
 - Active recreation (such as exercise)
 - Passive recreation (such as picnics, sightseeing, relaxation)
 - Cultural experiences (such as markets, music or creating art)
 - Connecting to Country and First Nations initiatives (such as information, events, and experiences)
 - Heritage interpretations of the area (including information and displays)
 - Environmental sustainability initiatives (such as habitat protection)
 - Improved access to the waterfront
 - Access to foreshore for water-based activities (such as boating)
- 5. Do you have any other feedback about potential future priorities and uses for the Coal Loader Wharf? [optional free text response]

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Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

- 6. What is your age group? [select one]
 - Under 15
 - 15-18
 - 19-24
 - 25-34
 - 35-44
 - 45-54
 - 55-64
 - 65-74
 - 75+
- 7. Please select the gender you identify with. [Select one]
 - Female
 - Male
 - Non-binary
 - Prefer not to say
 - Prefer to self-describe [free text]
- 8. Are you of First Nations (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) origin?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to say
- 9. If applicable, how long have you lived in Waverton or the surrounding area? [Select one]
 - Not applicable
 - Less than 3 years
 - More than 3 years

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Appendix D – Social media posts



Figure 10 Facebook post advertising Vision Survey



Figure 11 Reminder Facebook post advertising Vision Survey



Figure 12 Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability post advising of Vision Survey



for non-commercial purposes only, provided acknowledgement is given to Transport for NSW as the source.

