



Newsletter – 31st October 2017

On 14th April 2017 and 23rd June 2017 Association members were advised of the activities of the SHHL with reports on our website:

<https://www.sydneyharbourhighline.org.au/>

Summary of activity to June 2017:

- Meetings were held with State & Federal Government Members and the SHHL Association representatives during 2016 and 2017.
- A series of public meetings with local residents were conducted in 2016 and early 2017.
- A formal proposal was submitted by the SHHL Association in February 2017 to Mr Chris Muir, Chief of Staff for the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure.
- Advice received from Mr Muir that *'I can confirm that the Minister and Sydney Trains have agreed that work to create a walking path along the Lavender Bay Spur can commence in the side where tracks have been removed before the active rail line is closed on the other side of the spur.'*
- 20th March 2017 – the Premier and Felicity Wilson guarantee the Lavender Bay rail line will remain in public hands and a committee will be established to investigate creating a scenic walkway.

Activity since June 2017:

Prior to the first Committee meeting discussions took place with Rino Matarazzo, Sydney Trains liaison officer for dealings with the Association, and Howard Collins the Chief Executive of Sydney Trains. Various proposals were then submitted to Sydney Trains as to how the rail corridor may be jointly utilised in future by Sydney Trains and the SHHL.

The first Committee meeting was held on 28th August 2017 and chaired by Felicity Wilson MP, State Member for North Shore. At that Committee meeting were Joan Street representing the Lavender Bay Precinct, Iain Batholomew the Waverton Precinct, David Bowman the SHHL Association, Howard Collins and Rino Matarazzo from Sydney Trains, together with representatives from Transport Heritage NSW, Destination NSW and Heritage NSW.

Felicity Wilson, in an earlier meeting with the Association, confirmed that both the Premier and she agreed that the proposed SHHL will extend from Luna Park's current boundary to Waverton Station. She also advised that the State Government did not require funds from the Federal Government for the project as they had sufficient funding.

At the 1st Committee meeting Ms Wilson reiterated the State Government's support for the project but advised that the Premier's announcement in March did not suggest that the State was prepared to fund the project but only to investigate designs for it.

After the earlier advice from Chris Muir the Association prepared a concept illustration for Stage 1 based on the spoil from McMahons Point Metro shaft being barged to the eastern shore of Lavender Bay and used as fill to create a link to Harbourview Cres by way of a ramp. The concept illustration was tabled at the Committee meeting. **The illustration is on the SHHL website.**

Mr Collins at the Committee meeting confirmed that:

- Sydney Trains currently require use of all lines to the south east boundary and the Association's proposal to remove some of the lines was not acceptable at this time.
- Sydney Trains require continued use of the corridor from Waverton Station to Luna Park on a 7-day a week basis.
- The rail corridor will remain as a RailCorp asset due to the need to retain full use of and control of assets.
- Sydney Trains will share the corridor with the SHHL providing there is a fence segregating the two areas of activity.
- At no part of the line may the walking trail cross the line for ingress or egress purposes.

Since the Committee meeting the Association has written to Sydney Trains and Ms Wilson responding to Mr Collin's specific comments and restrictions.

- *'The restriction on crossing of the line means that until Sydney Trains cease use of the line that, apart from an ingress/ egress point at the far southern end next to the northern boundary of Luna Park, the only other access points are (i) Union Street – the western end where the current entry gates to the rail corridor are located and (ii) Dumbarton Street – to the west of the Victoria Street bridge.*
- *Based on the parameters you provided at the meeting and whilst waiting for feedback from Sydney Trains on their analysis, the Association has proceeded with a concept drawing of the proposed Union Street access. Attached is the illustration which doesn't include any fencing as advice from Sydney Trains is required on this matter. (The concept illustration is now on the SHHL website)*
- *In both these locations on-grade access is achievable to the northern side of the RailCorp land and there will be wheel chair accessibility.*

- *Union Street entry will permit walkers the opportunity to proceed to Berrys Bay and the Coal loader. Dumbarton Street access will provide a connection to the Victoria Street bridge and onto Sawmillers Reserve.*
- *The Association recognises that, although certain safety standards are paramount, it is hoped that the walking trail may be an attractive and functional facility for both residents and tourists.*
- *Proposals by the Association to establish passenger loading at Waverton Station and at Lavender Bay for future heritage train events was rejected.*
- *The Association understands that Rino Matarazzo will represent Sydney Trains for this project and will within several weeks of the 1st Committee meeting complete a high level review including a list of critical decisions.*
- *This review will then lead to a detailed analysis and costing of the project that will be completed within months.*
- *This analysis will be carried out by and at the cost of Sydney Trains. However Sydney Trains do not have the funding for construction of the SHHL walking trail.*

In the case of the SHHL, may we try and arrive at a fence safety solution that recognises the minimal use of the line, the speed of the trains using the line and the fact that for several days each week the line is not used?

Once Sydney Trains has concluded its detailed analysis and costings of all aspects of the project and a timeframe for commencement and completion is agreed, the issue of construction funding is one that the Association and its members will then diligently progress with both State and Federal Governments.'

The next meeting of the Government Committee is due to be held before the end of November. In the meantime discussions are continuing with Sydney Trains to arrive at a workable solution for the dual use of the rail corridor.

There is a need to have a strong membership base not only for funding purposes but when dealing with both State and Federal Governments. With the next State election within the next 18 months the importance of increasing local Association members is obvious. Any assistance you may provide in building up the membership base is most welcome.

Information on membership is available on the SHHL website at <https://www.sydneyharbourhighline.org.au/>

Lavender Bay Santa Train Ride

Although we are awaiting final details for this ride the following assumptions are made based on the February 2017 event.

Date: Sunday 10th December 2017 - confirmed

No of rides: Estimated at 6 rides on the day. Advice on scheduling is awaited.

Estimated Prices: Adults \$15 / Children \$8 / Concession holders \$10

Financial members of the SHHL Association will have priority booking for this event. Those members that are interested in participating should now register their interest through the Association's email address info@sydneyharbourhighline.org.au and booking information once available will be forwarded to you.

It is expected that this information will be to hand from Transport Heritage NSW in the next week at which time the 10 days priority period for SHHL members will commence.

Raffle

If you would prefer to receive a raffle booklet rather than purchase on line then please contact our email address. We need your ongoing support to continue our work.

1st Prize valued at \$5,000

- A unique charcoal sketch of the Sydney Harbour High Line called 'Brigalow's Dream' by acclaimed Australian artist Peter Kingston.

2nd Prize valued at \$3,000

- A three-day luxury cruise departing Sydney, 2 February 2018, on board the incredible Voyager of the Seas.

3rd Prize valued at \$500

- A quintessential Sydney dining experience at one of Sydney's premier harbourside restaurants, Aqua Dining.

Find out more about these prizes and ticket purchases [on our raffle website](#) along with our Terms and Conditions.

Regards



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