

LIVING HERITAGE

Walsh Bay has been a creative arts precinct for the last 30 years, since the Sydney Theatre Company (STC) was first established at Wharf 4/5.

A Heritage Impact Statement has been prepared as part of the EIS to provide an assessment of the heritage impacts of the Stage 2 SSDA.

Walsh Bay comprises ten berths built between 1908 and 1922 for international and interstate shipping, collectively known as the Walsh Bay Wharves. The Walsh Bay Wharves Precinct is listed on the State Heritage Register. Furthermore, the surrounding area is of National Cultural Significance for its historic use and architecture, and as the site of the first European settlement in Australia.

The detailed design for the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct ensures that new uses are carefully inserted into the historic containers, with a clear delineation between original and new fabric. Pier 2/3, the last remaining undeveloped wharf, contains several heritage features which have been retained and incorporated into public areas and significant spaces.

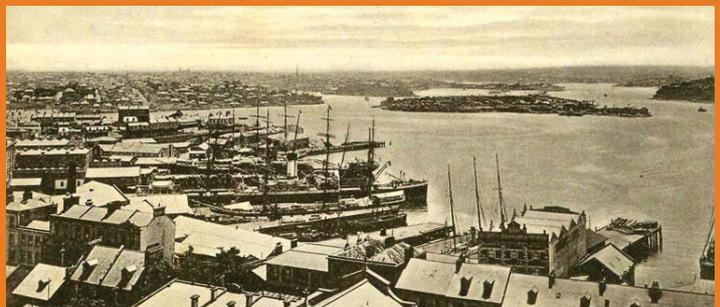
Key features of the proposal include:

- » Retaining the richness of the original fabric, while meeting strict acoustic and energy conservation principles – for instance, concealing new plant within the ridge lines of the twin peaked roofs
- » Planning the audience journey to maximise the experience of the harbour views and heritage architecture.

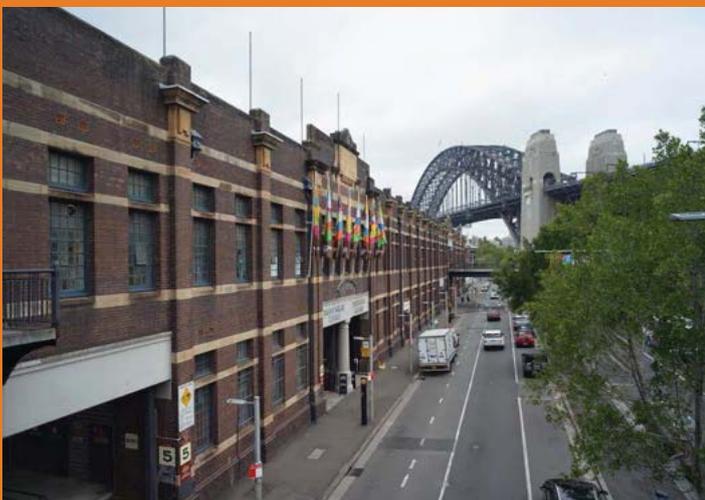
Conservation Management Plans for Pier 2/3 and Wharf 4/5 have previously been prepared. These plans emphasise the important role of the wharves in development of the area as an arts and cultural precinct and its maritime past; and draw attention to opportunities for adaptive reuse to extend their life and usefulness into the future.



Wharf 4/5 viewed from Pier 2/3 western apron



Walsh Bay prior to being rebuilt by the Sydney Harbour Trust, c 1900. Source: Graeme Andrews 'Working Harbour' Collection: 77950



Hickson Road Shore Sheds facade



Pier 2/3 northern elevation