



## GLEBE ROWING CLUB INC.

Established 1879

ABN: 25 645 535 237

13 September 2020

Project Leader  
Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

**Subject: Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I represent Glebe Rowing Club, an amateur, volunteer-based rowing club that has operated on the water of Blackwattle Bay since 1879. The Bay is our home and we rely on safe water conditions for our 150 members to continue to use the water.

We support the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy as an important opportunity to consider the needs for the development of the area in a wholistic way. As residents or daily visitors to the area, we support several the Big Moves and proposed action steps set out in the strategy document and agree with some of the Blackwattle Bay sub-precinct priorities. We commend the reference to plans to formalise the Dragon Boating facilities under the Anzac Bridge (number 15 of the Blackwattle Bay place priorities.)

As water users, our members see an opportunity to improve the draft strategy by extending the **Big Move 1** of the strategy to include a suggestion for *a world class water recreational zone to be created on Blackwattle Bay*.

***Why a water recreation zone on Blackwattle Bay is needed***

Recreational water usage is a key feature of the public's use of the Pymont peninsula:

- There are over 1,000 club members across all the rowing, dragon boating and canoeing clubs that make a home on the Bay.
- On a weekend, around 200 people of all ages and physical abilities will be on the water at any one time.
- This presence is growing as more and more people find a new way to find leisure on the water close to work or close to where they live.

**The presence of rowers, dragon boaters and canoeists on Blackwattle Bay is at risk due to the cumulative impact of development around the Bay.** Passive recreational water users are at risk of being forced off the water as on land development around the Bay Peninsula has seen the development (and plans for) wharves, marinas and resulting increased traffic that create safety risks and compromise our current use of the waterway.

Glebe and Sydney University Rowing Club have an official rowing course that was designed and agreed to in consultation with Roads and Maritime Services and Rowing NSW. This rowing course has been in existence for over 20 years and was established to clarify safety lanes for non-motorised vessels around the Bay and avoid risk of collisions with regular and occasional motorised craft in the Bay.

Recently completed development (the Bank Street Marina) approved development (the Sydney Fish Markets) and planned public transport (on-demand ferry routes being piloted) have compelled Rowers and Maritime to change and compromise the width (Bank Street Marina) and length (Fish Markets) of the rowing course and plan for traffic changes that cut across our traffic flows (on-demand ferries).

We have been asked to compromise for these developments. Which we do. The Fish Markets development wharf structure required us to shorten the length of our rowing course by over 45 metres. The Bank Street Marina requires us to narrow the width of the course and take greater risks of facing oncoming traffic. The ferry route requires us to stop halfway down the course to avoid collisions,

There are limits to how many compromises we can make before rowing becomes an unsafe activity. Or it may become impossible for us to afford to provide a safe environment for members.

We feel this situation is approaching. The Blackwattle Bay Master Plan proposed in 2020 includes plans for new or changed motorised boat wharves along the Bank street side of Blackwattle Bay. These plans could see a further increase in motorised traffic, with traffic paths and docking turning circles that cut directly across the rowing course. Due to the cumulative impact of recent on water development, these plans for Bank Street wharves need to be considered within a framework that places importance on the value to community of the public space currently provided by the water of Blackwattle Bay. The kind of wholistic planning framework our members hoped for with the Pyrmont Place Strategy.

### ***How the Pyrmont Place Strategy could help protect public water space***

There is an opportunity for the Pyrmont Place Strategy to ensure that future land development does not crowd out recreational water users. Public space is prioritised in the Strategy as green open space. But what of Blue open public space?

In Direction 10, the Strategy states the need to:

*“open up the foreshore and Wentworth Park for additional open space and improved waterfront access for recreational and cultural uses. This is critical to attracting creative and knowledge-based employers and providing quality places for new and existing residents.”*

As well as opening the foreshore space for a walkway and cycleway and parkland, what about making sure you protect the public use of the open space of the water?

We see an opportunity to extend **Big Move number 1** of the strategy could place importance on the public blue space of the Bay and areas like it if it suggest for the creation of “*A world class harbour foreshore walk and water recreational zone*”.

Simple steps we ask for that would enable a recreational water zone to be created could include:

- 1) **No wash zone** - increased signage and recognition of the “no wash speed zone” inside the Bays and the extension of the speed zone outside the entrance of the Bay
- 2) **Development limits** - A limit on plans to development of marinas and wharves along Banks Street
- 3) **Safety levy** - A safety levy applied to developers of wharves or marinas that can help fund the extra safety measures that recreational clubs will need to take.
- 4) **Glebe Island Bridge** - Careful planning for any changes to the Glebe Island bridge and waterway that factors in the use of the waterway underneath the current Bridge.

### **About Glebe Rowing Club**

Active members	over 150
Community participation programs	Our novice and beginner programs introduce over 60 school age children (including those from Sydney Secondary College) and 50 new adult rowers to the sport every year.
Member diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• active members range from 14 to 75 y.o</li><li>• novice to elite level rowers</li><li>• we have an active LGBTI membership</li><li>• we have a small number of Para rowers</li></ul>
Use of the Bay	Week days, year round (members) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:15am to 8:00am (avge. 8 boats at one time)</li><li>• 4:00pm to 6:00pm (avge. 4 boats at one time)</li></ul> Weekends, year-round (members) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30am to 10:30am (avge. 15 boats at one time)</li></ul> Weekends, 16 weeks a year (Learn-to-Row program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8:00am - 11:00am (avge. 6 boats at one time)</li></ul> JB Sharp regatta in July every year (over 100 rowers using an 8-lane course).
Broader Bay recreational community numbers	Over 1,000 regular users if the rowing clubs, outrigger and Dragon Boat members are combined.

With kind regards,



Nick Galea

Committee Member - Glebe Rowing Club

Bounce Group member - Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy