



COASTAL WALK



# LA PEROUSE HEADLAND COASTAL WALK & LOOP ROAD PROJECT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF BOTANY BAY, LA PEROUSE HEADLAND PROVIDES SPECTACULAR CLIFF-TOP VIEWS ACROSS THE BAY AND OUT TO SEA. THE HEADLAND COVERS 10.4HA AND IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE SITES IN AUSTRALIA. IT IS WHERE FRENCH EXPLORER LA PEROUSE LANDED 6 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST FLEET FROM BRITAIN. IN ADDITION THE HEADLAND IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THE AREA FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

A combination of heavy use and inadequate infrastructure had left La Perouse Headland in poor condition, with uncontrolled parking along the Loop Road around the Headland. Randwick City Council decided to upgrade the area and engaged Corkery Consulting to prepare an initial concept. Detailed design and documentation of the agreed concept was then carried out by a multi-disciplinary team led by Corkery Consulting that included civil/structural engineers (Taylor Thomson Whitting), geotechnical engineers (Douglas Partners) and heritage consultants (AHMS).

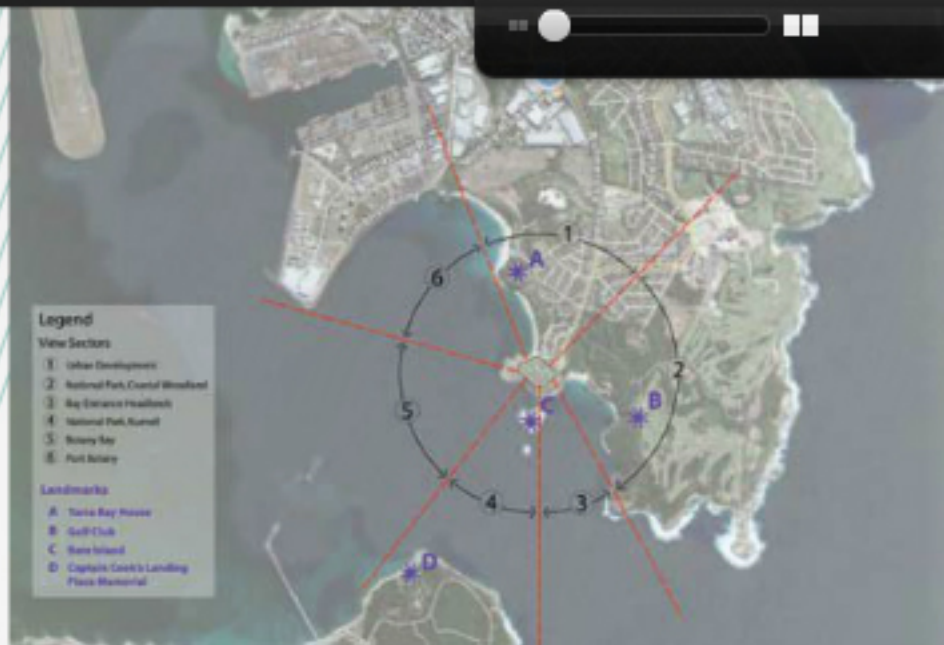
- Key components of the project include:**
- Construction of a 700m section of 3m wide Coastal Walk that provides safe and enjoyable facility for pedestrians with spectacular cliff-top views;
  - Provision of pedestrian crossings from the Coastal Walk to the central area of National Park;
  - Development of a one-way section of road with roundabouts at each end and a 2-way section in front of the commercial centre;



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- Creation of 220 new parking spaces ;
- Installation of 245 pre-cast coloured concrete bollards to separate vehicles and pedestrians while providing seating and forming a unifying urban design element;
- Replanting of indigenous vegetation of ground cover and low shrubs to provide wildlife habitat and a visually diverse and attractive coastal landscape.
- Creation of outdoor dining areas for two cafes associated with the Headland.

The design enhances the setting of heritage structures and sites on La Perouse Headland while avoiding visually competing with them.



Visitors to the Headland enjoy sightseeing, picnicking, walking, cycling, fishing, scuba diving and visiting the Museum.

The new section of Coastal Walk forms a key component of the path system that will ultimately provide a continuous pedestrian connection between Bondi Beach and Botany Bay. It will also connect to the proposed Botany Bay Trail as part of the Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreation Trails Framework.

The design intent was to capture the distinctive colours of freshly exposed sandstone that occurs along the adjoining cliffs. This was achieved through the use of pre-cast concrete elements that allowed the control of forms, dimensions, colour and texture to create an attractive and distinctive new visual character for the Headland.

The highly corrosive coastal environment created by salt spray required careful selection



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of materials. Concrete was selected because of its durability and minimal maintenance requirements. Nearly 600 pre-cast concrete elements were used in the project to form a suite of urban elements that include bollards, wheel stops, separation blocks and sections of kerb.

Pre-cast concrete bollards allowed the spectacular open views from the headland to be maintained while providing seating along the full length of the Coastal Walk. The bollards also provide safe separation between vehicles and pedestrians while allowing movement between parked cars and the Coastal Walk. Pedestrian crossing zones are clearly delineated by clusters of pre-cast bollards turned 45° to the path.

Coloured concrete was used on the Coastal Walk to provide a robust and low maintenance pavement. Exposed aggregate concrete defines a transition space between the row of bollards and wheel stops. Concrete was also used for a section of

curving seating wall adjoining a portion of one of the roundabouts that is used for seating but also provides a crash barrier to protect an existing playground.

The Coastal Walk is a significant new recreation facility that is heavily used for walking and jogging by local residents as well as visitors, which contributes to their health and sense of well-being. Upgrading



the road surface of the Loop Road allows an increasing number of cyclists to travel safely around the Headland.

From a sustainability stand point the use of plant species indigenous to the area combined with a system of planting beds with concrete kerb incorporating gaps that allow stormwater to flow from the road to irrigate the plants. This not only reuses stormwater but also produces water quality improvements and contributes to biodiversity of the Headland.

To avoid disturbing potential archaeological elements within the adjoining area of National Park, the works were contained within the road corridor. Detailed assessment identified potential locations of former structures and sites of cultural heritage significance to ensure they would not be disturbed by the proposed works. Specialist heritage consultants AHMS were engaged to obtain necessary approvals from Heritage NSW and to provide advice on procedures and to carry out periodic site inspections. Douglas Partners were engaged to carry out an assessment of potential soil

contamination along the proposed route of the Coastal Walkway to ensure workers and members of the public would not be exposed to risk during and after the works were completed.

The design provides for future connections to the central area of National Park. The new section of Coastal Walk provides the opportunity for the National Parks Service to install an information and interpretation system in the future that relates to cultural heritage values of the Headland.

By leading the multi-disciplinary design team responsible for this project, Corkery Consulting has demonstrated the key role that landscape architects can play in successfully applying creative design thinking to a major infrastructure project, which typically would be led by engineers, to achieve a distinctive and enjoyable urban design outcome with multiple benefits.



"The robust design solution created by Corkery Consulting not only met all the functional requirements of the project but has created a distinctive

and attractive public open space facility that has become a landmark of the Randwick City Council local government area."



**Client:** Randwick City Council  
**Principal Consultant:** Corkery Consulting Pty. Ltd. (landscape architecture & urban design)  
**Principal Contractor:** KK Civil Engineering  
**Principal Engineer:** Taylor Thomson Whiting (structural, civil and traffic)  
**Specialist Concrete Subcontractor:** Deniz, Hanson Precast  
**Photographer:** Noel Corkery, Deniz



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