

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bondi Pavilion set to be restored to its former glory

Waverley Council today released a concept design by award-winning heritage architects Tonkin Zulaikha Greer for the conservation and upgrade of one of Sydney's most iconic landmarks – Bondi Pavilion.

Estimated to cost around \$38 million, the conservation and upgrade project aims to protect and celebrate Bondi Pavilion's heritage whilst creating contemporary and flexible cultural, community and commercial facilities and spaces.

The Mayor of Waverley, Sally Betts said the concept design provided Waverley Council with an amazing opportunity to restore and improve the once grand Bondi Pavilion.

"We absolutely love Bondi Pavilion, but know the grand old lady needs a lot of love and work to restore her to her former beauty. Bondi is Australia's window to the world and if we don't make this Pavilion the best it can be we are doing our children and our children's children a disservice. This is what the community demands of us," Mayor Betts said.

"This design concept provides us with an amazing opportunity to do just that – restores the Pavilion to its architectural roots whilst reconnecting it with the beach, park and Campbell Parade."

Mayor Betts said some of the exciting features of the design included the restoration of the grand entrance from Campbell Parade, which is currently a carpark; the inclusion of a contemporary new, flexible theatre space, which can function as a state-of-the-art-theatre with retractable seating for 200 patrons; expanded exhibition and community areas; and a mix of spaces on the first floor that might be used for café and restaurant space and meeting and function rooms.

"Let's talk about the toilets! There are more toilets for everyone. Women's public toilets have doubled in this design. There are more change rooms and more family spaces. There are also dedicated toilets for tenancies and the theatre space."

Award-winning architect Peter Tonkin said he thought the concept design is a celebration of such an Australian icon and in keeping with the wonderful heritage of the building.

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“This building is a precious heritage landmark, and the project will conserve and reinstate so much of its heritage character – and remove intrusive modern additions,” he said. “At the same time, we want this building to be a vibrant hub for the community, whether that’s visiting art exhibition spaces, relaxing in the beautiful courtyard gardens, dining at a restaurant or enjoying a theatre performance.”

The concept design will be put to Council on Tuesday 15 December before it goes to community consultation on Friday 18 December. Consultation will run until Sunday 14 February.

For more information about the concept design and the project, visit www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipavilion

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