

23 May 2007

## MEDIA RELEASE

### WORLD-CLASS MARINE CENTRE HERALDS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Sydney Boathouse in Rozelle Bay has been given the green light to create an \$80 million dry boat storage and boating centre that will provide the community with 24 hour access to the foreshore and a much-needed marine facility for Sydney Harbour.

“Sydney Boathouse is the first significant marine infrastructure to be approved on Sydney Harbour in 30 years, providing vital marine facilities for waterway users, for growth of the industry and for Sydney’s working harbour,” said Roy Privett, General Manager of the Boating Industry Association.

“The approval heralds a significant new era for recreational boat owners and the marine industry,” Mr Privett said.

“The dry boat storage facility meets a pressing need for additional boat storage on Sydney Harbour and will store boats off already congested bays and marinas, and provides an important means of access for people who don’t have the privilege of living on or near the harbour,” Mr Privett said.

James Markham, Director of the developer Rozelle Bay Pty Ltd said the Sydney Boathouse marine infrastructure will be world-class and the 5,000 square metre boating centre will provide much needed waterfront accommodation for the marine industry, which is a big part of the working harbour.

“The boating centre not only caters to the unmet demands of boat owners and boat operators who struggle to find places to store and launch their vessels, it accommodates the needs of other recreational water users and the community,” Mr Markham said.

The development will include a dry boat storage facility for 670 boats, capable of storing recreational power boats of up to 12 metres in length. The boating centre will include service facilities, waterfront commercial offices and marine retail space, which will accommodate a chandlery and high clearance space for a number of boat showrooms. There will also be a restaurant, café and general store. It will create close to 200 jobs during construction and a total of 250 local jobs on completion.

“We’re pleased to have consulted with the local community and are confident the conditions of consent strike the right balance for the boating industry, the community, and the NSW economy,” Mr Markham said.

He noted that a strict but workable Vessel Traffic Management Plan directed boat movements to keep clear from passive recreational craft; determined times of use and volume of boat traffic; and reduced vessel speed for users of the facility to a maximum of four knots to create no wash.

“The commitment to world-class environmental systems at this centre could see it used as model for future designs elsewhere, with dry boat storage being an environmentally sensitive and efficient way of storing boats,” Mr Markham said.

Boat registrations in NSW are growing by 4% each year, with power boats growing fastest at approximately 1,000 new boats per annum in Sydney alone. .. /2

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**SYDNEY  
BOATHOUSE**

There are currently around 8,600 boats stored on Sydney Harbour, with approximately 1,000 boat owners seeking a swing moorings or a berth at a private marina. Others are transported by trailers and launched at a limited number of boat ramps so that their owners can enjoy the harbour.

Construction will begin towards the end of the year and will be opened late next year or early 2009. Expressions of interest are being called for leasing of the marine retail and office space.

[www.sydneyboathouse.com.au](http://www.sydneyboathouse.com.au)

#### **Background Information on Rozelle Bay Dry Boat Storage**

- Two million people per year go boating on Sydney Harbour. Boat registrations are growing at 4% per annum. There are over 200,000 registered vessels in NSW.
- The boating centre will provide vital marine infrastructure as Sydney Harbour has space constraints for marinas and swing moorings (visual pollution and harbour congestion) and street parking of trailers is not encouraged.
- Dry boat storage can efficiently house boats (stacked and stored vertically) that would otherwise spread across the entire width of the bay on swing moorings.
- Dry boat storage removes vessels from the waterways for the 98 to 99% of the time they are not in use.
- There are many benefits for boat owners who store their boats in a dry boat storage facility. These include protection from inclement weather; a reduction in operating costs; no need to antifoul a boat's hull; and security from theft and vandalism.
- Subsequent Rozelle Bay Marine Centre (Sydney Boathouse) market research confirmed the pressing need for boat storage due to 4%pa compound growth of registered boats and nowhere for marine businesses to be housed.
- Rozelle Bay Pty Ltd was announced by NSW Maritime as the successful bidder for the site (27,800 of land and 11,400 sq.m of water) in February 2003.
- The project founders, Gerry Hatton, James Markham, Micheal Fountain and Justin James are boat lovers who were joined by Investec Bank (Australia) Limited and a Markham investment trust as major investors.
- Micheal Fountain Architects Pty Ltd has created a world-class design using a best practice approach to waterfront development.
- Sydney Boathouse undertook an extensive community consultation program in the years leading up to lodging their Major Project Application and also engaged a large number of experts and consultants.
- The Major Project Application was lodged in July 2006 and approved in May 2007.
- The approval is consistent with the NSW Government's commitment to Sydney as a working harbour, stimulating the economy and being Open for Business.
- The site has been a dilapidated industrial area for decades.
- The boating village is designed to enhance the visual attractiveness of the site and district as well as to be a practical marine location.
- Foreshore access is 24 hours a day. The storage facility will operate from 7:00am to 7:00pm weekdays and until 8:00pm weekends. In winter, the centre will close at 6:00pm. On special event occasions like Australia Day, the facility will operate for longer.
- The marine village will feature world-class environmentally sustainable development and management of marine ecology.
- The boating centre will deliver economic benefits for the people of NSW as the precinct will attract local and international businesses and visitors, stimulating the economy.