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Upton calls for comment on the future use of Watsons Bay former Pilot Station

The Member for Vaucluse, Gabrielle Upton MP, today announced the call for public comment on the proposed future use of the former maritime pilot station at Watsons Bay.

Ms Upton said the old building became redundant when Sydney Ports Corporation pilot base relocated to Port Botany in November 2008. It is owned and maintained by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

“While the site is no longer required for port operations, it has maritime significance,” Ms Upton said.

Ms Upton said any future use must be in keeping with a Conservation Management Plan prepared by RMS for the site which includes a requirement to retain and reuse the existing structure.

As a possible future use, the Boating Industry Association of NSW has made representations on behalf of its safety partners – Yachting NSW, Sailability, Marine Rescue NSW, Paddle NSW and the Marine Teachers Association – to establish a boating safety education centre at the site.

“BIA is a not-for-profit collective of boating organisations that want to give young people access to safe boating education at this unique site on Sydney Harbour,” Ms Upton said.

“Community comment is invited on this proposal or any other potential uses that align with the conservation management plan and the maritime legacy of the site.”

Mayor of Woollahra Councillor Susan Wynne welcomed the public consultation on the future use of the site.

“The history of the pilot station has helped define the marine character of Watsons Bay and the potential for its future use is of great community interest,” Cr Wynne said.

“We would encourage the community to lodge their ideas by the end of July.”

Ms Upton said RMS would consider the views of the local community before finalising the proposal.

To comment on the proposal for a safe boating education centre for the former maritime pilot station, or to suggest alternate uses that also align with the conservation management plan, email pilotstation.feedback@rms.nsw.gov.au before COB Tuesday 31 July.

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