Sydney’s new era of infrastructure and investment

Sydney has entered an exciting new era of investment and infrastructure development. Projects include Australia’s largest inner-city convention centre complex and an enormous new harbourside residential, office and recreational precinct. There’s a new inner-city light rail network; new hotels, cruise facilities and airport developments; galleries, exhibitions, attractions and events. Destination NSW works closely in partnership with private industry to encourage investment in Sydney and NSW.

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, EXHIBITION AND ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT

Australia’s first fully integrated convention, exhibition and entertainment precinct is to be created at Darling Harbour. The new state-of-the-art, 20-hectare Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP) is due to open in late 2016.

Destination Sydney, a consortium comprising AEG Ogden, Lend Lease, Capella Capital and Spotless, was selected in December 2012 to deliver the project. Lend Lease expects financial close on the project in late 2013, with site works to begin in December 2014.

The new SICEEP facilities will include:

- The largest exhibition space in Australia at 40,000sqm;
- The biggest meeting room space in Australia at 6000sqm, linked to both convention and exhibition areas;
- The biggest Australian convention hall capacity able to accommodate more than 10,000 people over four areas;
- Dedicated banqueting facilities for 2000 people – almost double the current capacity;
- Two new hotels (a 5-star and a 4-star) with a total of 1000 rooms;
- A VIP premium entertainment facility with a capacity of at least 8,000 people, suitable for both international entertainment events and ‘mega’ conferences;
- A huge open air, elevated Event Deck with excellent views perfect for large scale corporate events;

Top: Artist’s impression Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct.
Middle: Artist’s impression Barangaroo.
Bottom: Artist’s impression light rail.
• Latest technology throughout, including wireless connectivity across all facilities.

Additionally, Lend Lease will work with Infrastructure New South Wales to develop a mixed-use site of about five hectares next to the SICEEP site with an anticipated value over AUD $1.5 billion. The mixed-use site includes a landmark hotel of up to 900 rooms and approximately 1400 residential apartments, student accommodation, retail and commercial space.

THE BARANGAROO PROJECT

The Barangaroo Project will transform central Sydney. A vacant 22-hectare wharf on the western harbour foreshore of the Sydney CBD, Barangaroo is destined over the next few years to become the city’s financial and business hub, reborn as a thriving public, residential and commercial precinct, complete with waterfront promenade running the length of the site. Barangaroo incorporates a major new Headland Park and is one of the most ambitious and significant waterfront redevelopments anywhere in the world. Over time, 23,000 people will live and work there, with 33,000 people expected to visit Barangaroo each day by 2020.

Barangaroo is divided into three zones:

1. **Barangaroo South** will be a major new business, tourism, residential and retail precinct opening onto a public waterfront promenade including a new 500 room hotel. The first building is targeted for completion in 2015.

2. **Barangaroo Central** will be a cultural and civic focal point for recreation, relaxation, events, festivals, entertainment and leisure activities. It is currently home to a temporary cruise passenger terminal which will relocate to White Bay.

3. **Headland Park** will be a grand harbour park for Sydney, about six hectares in size. It is scheduled to open in 2015.

Barangaroo will meet 40% of the city’s forecast demand for office space over the next decade and is expected to contribute AUD $1.5 billion per year to the NSW economy. It will increase CBD office space by 3.8% (approximately 320,000 m²). Barangaroo’s economic contribution in terms of additional gross state product is about AUS$2.3 billion, giving a AUD $1.5 billion annual boost to Sydney’s economy from a transformation worth about AUD $6 billion.

ULTRA-LUXURY CROWN CASINO AND HOTEL PROPOSED

Sydney is likely to receive an ultra-luxury hotel at Barangaroo alongside a second casino, courtesy of James Packer’s Crown Group. The Australian billionaire plans to build what he has termed “the best hotel in the world” at Barangaroo. Cost of the project is estimated at AUD $1 billion, with table-only gaming on a restricted basis at the casino used to defray the expense. The proposal requires formal approval by the NSW Government, with a final decision expected early in 2013.

LIGHT RAIL REVOLUTION

Sydney’s famous trams, which last ran 50 years ago, are to run again in sleeker, quieter and ultra-modern form. In its newly released transport plan for the next 20 years, the NSW Government has revealed that it will spend AUD $1.6 billion on a 12-kilometre (7.5-mile) light rail track linking Circular Quay and Central, George Street and Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs, Moore Park and the University of NSW. Construction will begin in 2014.

“This is a once-in-a-generation project to revitalise the centre of Sydney by reducing congestion and offering a fast, attractive public transport option,” NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell declared.

FLOATING HELIPORT FOR SYDNEY HARBOUR

Sydney’s world-famous harbour will be home to a new floating heliport from December 2012 to provide convenient CBD-airport shuttle access for business executives and to attract upscale international visitors to NSW.

The Sydney Harbour Floating Heliport is a new signature experience that will make it easy for visitors to Sydney to enjoy a bird’s-eye view of the harbour. By mid-2013, the heliport will be a purpose-built vessel with meeting rooms, aircraft storage and refuelling facilities.

NEW SYDNEY HARBOUR FACILITIES

Sydney Harbour is Australia’s premier cruise ship destination – and the only port in Australia with two dedicated cruise-passenger terminals. In November 2012, Sydney Harbour was voted best cruise port for the eighth consecutive year by readers of Cruise Passenger magazine. A record 265 cruise ships are visiting Sydney this season, up from last season’s record of 199, and the port already has 302 visits booked for 2013/14.

The Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT) is located at Circular Quay and the Wharf 5 Cruise Passenger Terminal (CPT) is currently located at Barangaroo and will move to White Bay by March 2013.

Sydney Ports’ AUD $87 million infrastructure development program to support the cruise industry will include a new AUD $57 million terminal at White Bay on Sydney Harbour, located near the suburbs of Balmain and Rozelle.
Sydney Ports and the NSW Government are working on the master plan for redeveloping the Overseas Passenger Terminal, “with at least AUD $30 million already allocated to that project”.

Royal Randwick Racecourse is receiving a new five-level grandstand, along with a 170-room, four-star international hotel with 90 balconies and a swimming pool, all overlooking the track. The AUD $150 million redevelopment includes an outdoor tiered amphitheatre known as the ‘Theatre of the Horse’. It’s set to open for the events market in August 2013.

Circular Quay is set for a AUD $300 million revamp. A comprehensive redevelopment plan for the precinct will include a 19-storey residential tower and serviced apartments in Macquarie Street, adjoining the hotel recently rebranded the Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour from the original Quay Grand. The development will complete the original vision for the East Circular Quay precinct by extending the colonnade that runs along East Circular Quay from the Opera House.

The development includes more pedestrian space, a walkway from Circular Quay to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Macquarie Street and more shops and restaurants.

Bondi Beach, Park, and Pavilion are set to become even smarter and cooler. Waverley Council has launched a strategy to identify how best to manage the beach, Wally Weekes Pool, Biddigal Reserve and surrounds over the next decade.

ART DEVELOPMENTS

Following an AUD $53 million redevelopment, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) Sydney has reopened as a major cultural centre for contemporary art and education.

The new John Kaldor Family Gallery at the Art Gallery of NSW is the largest single donation to an Australian public gallery. Its 200 pieces of contemporary art are valued in excess of AUD$35million.

ATTRACTIONS

At Scenic World in the Blue Mountains, a new AUD $ 20 million Scenic Railway is set to open this year. The world’s steepest railway will retain its 52-degree incline. The current train will make its final journey on 13 January 2013.

New developments from Merlin Entertainments Group include the AUD $10 million overhaul of Sydney Aquarium. The famous harbour attraction has reopened as SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium, with 14 themed zones. Infamous waxworks museum Madam Tussauds Sydney opened in April 2012 featuring an all-star cast of characters, many of whom are home-grown Australian legends.

HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS

The Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Darling Harbour, which claims the title of Australia’s largest hotel (682 rooms including 14 suites) plans to add an extra 231 rooms. The AUD $150 million extension will include office, meeting, convention and exhibition space. On completion, the 927-room hotel will become an integral part of the Darling Harbor precinct on the CBD’s western edge. The development proposes a 25-storey hotel and office tower, revitalising vacant land. Completion is slated for 2015.

Other Sydney hotels, including the Shangri-La Hotel Sydney, the 171-room Darling at the Star and the Sheraton on the Park, have commissioned significant upgrades in the past 18 months.

The Star Sydney Events and Entertainment Centre is taking bookings now for events from January 2013. With retractable seating, partitioning walls and adaptable AV equipment, this new Sydney event centre is highly flexible.

Four Seasons Hotel Sydney has embarked on a multi-million dollar refurbishment of its food and beverage operations and public spaces. The Woods, the hotel’s new restaurant, has already opened. The hotel is adding a new bar, four new meeting suites [due to open early in 2013], a refreshed Executive Club and new Business Centre.

QT Sydney has opened on the corner of George and Market Streets in the landmark Gowings building. A funky boutique hotel of 196 rooms, it features themed rooms, quirky uniforms, stylish eccentricity and Art Deco features.

Park Hyatt Sydney has reopened following the largest renovation in its 21-year history, including the addition of three luxury rooftop suites.

Rydges Hotel’s new AUD $68 million, 317-room four-star hotel at the International Terminal at Sydney Airport is due to open June 2013.

The Adina Apartment Hotel Sydney, Bondi [part of the Toga Hospitality group] is due for completion in early 2013, offering 113 one, two and three-bedroom and studio apartment hotel accommodation. Adina Apartment Hotel Mascot is due to open in late 2013 and Adina Apartment Hotel, Royal Randwick Racecourse, a 170 room property, is due to open in 2014.

Baillies Sydney. The creators of Lord Howe Island’s luxurious Cappella Lodge, James and Hayley Baillie, plan a high-end property in Sydney’s CBD. The AUD $6.3 million project, to be called Baillies Sydney, is set to open in late 2013 with rates tipped to range from $1200 to $3000 per night.
The Hydro Majestic, in the Blue Mountains, a classic Edwardian-era property, is due to reopen in 2014 after major redevelopment.

Other new hotels on the way in 2013 include the Adge Hotel and the 1888 Hotel in inner-city Surry Hills. The 59-room Harbour Rocks Hotel, one of Sydney’s earliest boutique hotels, has reopened after a stylish makeover. Sydney’s Hilton hotel now boasts an upmarket executive lounge to match the rest of the five-star hotel’s slick style. And Sebel Pier One in the Rocks has become an over-the-water conference and event venue, with new conference rooms and luxury suites.

**SYDNEY AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS**

Sydney Airport and Destination NSW have joined forces to boost tourism, attract new airlines and increase airline services to Sydney. Sydney Airport has invested AUD $2 billion over the past decade to improve the airport’s quality and capacity. The latest initiative uses facial recognition technology to allow Australian and New Zealand passport holders to clear customs without waiting in line. From about 2019, the airport plans a major change, rearranging the airport layout according to which airline passengers are flying with, rather than where they are flying to.

For more information go to [Sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com)
For images go to [images.destinationnsw.com.au](http://images.destinationnsw.com.au)

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