

Looking after our heritage

A heritage building perched on a headland in northern Sydney is an idyllic location for a training facility, but its history and special location mean that redevelopment can create some unique challenges.

The Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) at North Head in Sydney was built as a quarantine hospital in the early 1900s. It is now managed by the AFP and construction work is underway to modernise the facility while preserving its unique environmental and heritage values.

The AIPM provides a range of policing services for executives from law enforcement jurisdictions across Australia and internationally. Senior police from the UK, New Zealand and other countries have all taken part in courses offered by the AIPM. The redevelopment will help to ensure the site's future as a premier training facility with modern equipment and technology, without compromising its beauty or historic significance.

Because of the heritage value of the buildings and the fact that the AIPM has been declared a State Significant Site under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and as a Controlled Action under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, the redevelopment project has had to meet strict and rigorous conditions from all levels of government.

The AFP has consulted with local residents, Manly Council, NSW State Government departments and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to ensure that all concerns are addressed, and all legislative requirements are met.

Measures are also in place to protect the native flora and fauna at the site now and into the future, including one designed to assist with bushfire management and to protect native fauna while retaining existing trees. A long-term plan is also in place to gradually remove weeds such as lantana from the cliff face and to establish increased numbers of local plants.

The AIPM is expected to re-occupy the site at the end of 2010. In the meantime, AIPM courses are being run at the nearby former Artillery School so there is a minimum of disruption to classes. Tom Rogers is Executive Director of the AIPM and, like his colleagues, is looking forward to the benefits the redevelopment will bring.

"The AIPM provides a unique and multi-jurisdictional leadership development service for Australasian policing," Mr Rogers said.

"We also have strong international links and responsibilities, which also enhances our prime, domestic focus. All of these functions will be significantly enhanced by the redevelopment of our site, and we are genuinely excited by this important project.

"The AIPM has been located at its historic position on North Head for more than 50 years, and the current redevelopment presents a once in a generation chance to modernise our facilities in an ecologically sustainable way.

"We are proud of the way in which we have been able to deliver our services while retaining a focus on being excellent stewards and custodians of the local natural environment. We believe that the project will enable us to ensure sustainable use of the site well into the future."



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01: Executive Director of the AIPM, Tom Rogers **02:** The AIPM **03:** Aerial photo of the Commonwealth Police Training Depot circa 1960 shows the main heritage-listed pavilion buildings.

