



Labor

LABOR'S PLAN

for a

WORLD CLASS

INDIGENOUS

CULTURAL CENTRE

AT BARANGAROO

A message from
LUKE FOLEY, NSW LABOR LEADER

I am pleased to announce Labor's commitment to the construction of a world class Indigenous Cultural Centre at Barangaroo.

The Indigenous Cultural Centre will be the centerpiece of Labor's Arts Infrastructure Fund.

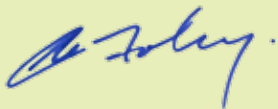
Labor has long understood the pivotal role of cultural institutions in the life of the nation. A healthy cultural life is central to a vibrant and civilised society. Funding and supporting culture is a key Labor value, cutting to the heart of our vision for a dynamic and diverse NSW.

The redevelopment of Barangaroo provides the perfect opportunity to build a cultural centre that reflects the extraordinary contribution of Indigenous people and the complete history of the Australian story.

Barangaroo is the appropriate location for this exciting project as Sydney was the first place of contact with Aboriginal people and is the gateway to the nation.

It will not be a static museum to an idealised past but a place that celebrates a dynamic, living and evolving culture. We look forward to working with the Aboriginal community to imagine, design and deliver Barangaroo's Indigenous Cultural Centre.

Yours sincerely



Luke Foley
NSW Labor Leader



LABOR'S PLAN *to build a* WORLD CLASS INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CENTRE

NSW Labor will start construction of a world class Indigenous Cultural Centre at Barangaroo in its first term of Government.

Until now, there has been no Indigenous cultural centre among Australia's suite of cultural institutions. A major Indigenous cultural centre will help us define our past and shape our future.

Indigenous culture is a fundamental part of our national identity and Labor is committed to building a place which celebrates and cultivates a living and evolving culture that remains one of the most dynamic on the planet.

Sydney is the logical location to have such a centre because NSW has Australia's largest population of Aboriginal people and is the nation's gateway.

The redevelopment of Barangaroo offers the perfect place to create this much-needed centre to showcase Indigenous art, dance, performance, film and literature.

It will be a place of pride for Aboriginal Australians and a space for all Australians and international tourists to enjoy and learn.

Labor is committed to ensuring the facility is designed for purpose, not an afterthought.

The design, location and direction of the project will be done in consultation with local Aboriginal communities. The Labor Deputy Leader, Linda Burney, will lead the team that scopes the project, finalises its design and its governance structure.

The committee will comprise of indigenous people with the relevant expertise working with representatives of appropriate Aboriginal organisations.

There are a number of existing centres to draw inspiration from, such as the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Centre in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York and Te Papa in Wellington, New Zealand.

A NSW Labor Government will develop a funding model for the Indigenous Cultural Centre that includes consideration of private investment, philanthropy, and Federal Government partnerships.



The

CULTURAL LIFE OF THE NATION

Paul Keating's 1994 arts policy Creative Nation was Australia's first cultural policy and recognised that culture was central to Australia's national identity, social health and economic life.

Labor Governments, both State and Federal, have transformed Australia's cultural life and our understanding of ourselves by prioritising cultural funding and institutions as key aspects of building a civilised and vibrant society.

Public consultations about the Barangaroo development showed strong support for a focus on Australia's First People at Barangaroo, and for it to be a place from which to make 'further gains in reconciliation.'

The need for a major Indigenous cultural centre has been long identified by government audits of our cultural offering. The 2011 Arts NSW report 'Planning Sydney's Cultural Facilities' recommended that an Indigenous Cultural Centre should be developed, possibly at Barangaroo. It highlighted a lack of Indigenous cultural experiences for both the people of NSW and tourists.

The concept of a national Indigenous cultural centre was a key recommendation of the Barangaroo Delivery Authority's cultural study report in 2012.

The Labor Party believes such a centre would be a place of respect for the story and lived experience of Aboriginal people and should be much more than a tourist destination: "as much embassy and performance space" as a museum that aims to show respect for Indigenous culture and heritage.

Our aim is to create a living space which reflects the range and depth of Indigenous culture, not a static memorial to the past.

Its success will be determined by genuine Indigenous involvement and curation.

NSW Labor does not commit to any design priorities established by the current Government and will review the location of the centre.

Respect and understanding the oldest continuing culture in human history is critical to closing the gap and engendering reconciliation.



Principles FOR THE CENTRE

1. The governance of the project must be a partnership with Aboriginal people. It must provide management and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people as well as an exhibition and performance space for Aboriginal artists.
2. It should be a world-class facility, with a design that reflects its purpose.
3. The centre should encompass the arts, history and culture of Indigenous Australia. It should actively promote Aboriginal language and culture as something that is living, rather than something in the past.
4. It should play its part in healing and reconciliation by telling the story of the past, present and future from an Aboriginal perspective.
5. The centre should work in partnership with other museums and centres where there are important collections of Aboriginal art and culture. These include the National Museum and National Gallery of Australia, Canberra as well as the Australian Museum in Sydney, the National Gallery in Victoria and the South Australian Museum.



Barangaroo

THE PERSON AND THE PLACE

Barangaroo is the name of Bennelong's wife.

Bennelong (Banelon) was a senior Wangul man of the Eora nation. He played an important role as the first interlocutor between the British and the traditional owners.

Barangaroo was a Camergaleon woman of the Eora nation from around North Harbour. She was a strong leader and skilled fisherwoman who, like many Eora women, spent much of her day in and around the bays, fishing to provide food for her family.

The first fleet diarist, Watkin Tench, wrote of Barangaroo as an intelligent, independent and outspoken woman. She was appalled at the first convict flogging she witnessed and tried to wrestle away the whip to stop it continuing.¹

Barangaroo had two children by her first husband before his death. Her second husband was Bennelong. She gave birth to a daughter, Dilboong, in 1791 and but died some months later and was cremated on the beach with her fishing gear beside her. Bennelong buried her ashes in Governor Philips' garden.

Barangaroo the place forms the backdrop for the oldest living culture – of which she was a part – to be seen, celebrated and enjoyed, preserving the past and giving life to the future of her culture.

The Barangaroo area is Cadigal land, the traditional owners of much of the Sydney city region. Indigenous occupation dates back 6000 years.

In 2003, the State Government announced that the stevedoring wharves at East Darling Harbour would be transformed into a new urban precinct. The site looks over places where Barangaroo lived and worked. The cultural centre will recognise her culture and heritage, how her people were custodians of the land and water and how they were dispossessed.

¹Inga Clendinnen, *Dancing with Strangers*, 2003

