



Community Impact:

Following the transformation from disused docklands, Darling harbour rapidly became one of Sydney's key entertainment and most popular tourist precincts. However, the south-eastern part remained under utilised. The 64,000 sqm Darling Quarter project has revitalised this area transforming the former Sega World, an under performing entertainment and retail venue isolated from the CBD and harbour foreshore to a functional, attractive, sustainable precinct that mediates the scale and intensity of the CBD with the open promenades and parklands of Darling Harbour, with a focus on place making and community activation.

In the past, people simply passed through the site and it had few attractors that made people want to spend time there. Today, the precinct is activated by over 6,500 workers in the new commercial buildings and the local community who are engaged via place-making initiatives which ensure long-term social sustainability.

The project has been designed to be an inclusive, free, public space activated by the community day and night.

Initiatives include:

- 4,000 sqm playground: one of the largest illuminated playgrounds integrating interactive water play in an urban landscaped environment in the country.
- A 300 seat children's theatre - the first dedicated to performances for children in Australia
- Community green - an open turf area for people to picnic and relax with programmed initiatives.
- Activated retail terrace
- Interactive digital media façade
- Interpretive text in the Civic Connector paving

Land Use:

Darling Quarter and Commonwealth Bank Place is the winning scheme in a competition held by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, a major NSW government body. The scheme was successful for the urban design principles that reconnect the Sydney city centre to the site and the wider precinct, transforming the under utilised south-eastern part of Darling Harbour.

The site is complex insofar as it needs to address the connection to the city core on the one side and a very important public domain on the other.

Another key challenge of the site was how to place a large office building adjacent to one of the most popular public parks in Sydney. The innovative approach taken was to develop a building which, through its geometry, its form and its materials sat softly and actually helped to define the park, thereby creating strong connections back into the city whilst moving backwards and forwards into Darling Harbour South. From Tumbalong Park it is impossible to register the size of the 59,000m² buildings that accommodate over 6,500 employees.