

2.13 View toward Circular Quay from McMahon's Point, Sydney.



the remaining port facilities will vacate Wharves 6–8. This constitutes a major opportunity to add another major residential project to the Sydney waterfront. The project, entitled “The West Village,” involves a new mixed residential and parkland development on the city’s western fringe. Centered on a waterfront square, the development would include residential support facilities such as shops and schools as well as small-scale office activities, recreational facilities and a major waterfront park. The West Village will be accessible via a proposed new heavy rail station near Wynard, extra ferry services, and an additional light rail station. It provides a rare opportunity in Sydney to expand public access to the harbor foreshore and improve the quality of inner city streets by the relocation of container truck traffic.

Connection in the city is hampered most conspicuously by roadways constructed in the 1950s and 1960s. Ironically, by the time the waterfront was recognized as a valuable commodity, Sydney had alienated its prime waterfront strip, along Circular Quay, with the erection of an elevated road and railway. This structure, known as the Cahill Expressway, provides access to the Harbour Bridge, enabling Sydney’s central business district to be linked to the other side of the harbor on the North Shore.

Circular Quay is the symbolic gateway to both the city of Sydney and to Australia. It is here that Captain Phillip and the first fleet landed to establish the penal colony of New South Wales. Today it is flanked by both the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. Despite the symbolism and geography of the Quay, the public space along Alfred Street is constricted and separated from the water by the Cahill Expressway. The City of Sydney has long supported the idea of demolishing the Expressway and reconnecting the city to the water. The idea would involve considerable restructuring to the transportation network of the city. The Boston Central Artery project is one example of a like project. The aim is to liberate Circular Quay from the shadow of the Expressway and reconnect the city with the water edge at the Quay.

The removal of the roadway structure would enable the frontage between Alfred Street and the Quay itself to be transformed into an open