MAKEOVER PROPOSED FOR FIRST FLEET PARK

People are invited to comment on an $8.5 million plan to remodel First Fleet Park at West Circular Quay into a new harbourside oasis.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said the proposed project would create free flowing space between The Rocks and Circular Quay, opening up this important recreational location for visitors.

“First Fleet Park is one of Circular Quay’s most popular spots for relaxation with its location between The Rocks, Museum of Contemporary Art, ferry wharves and Circular Quay train station,” the Minister said.

“Under this proposal, pedestrians would be able to easily move between Sydney’s heritage quarter and the harbour’s edge, and there would be more places for park-goers to sit and enjoy the spectacular water views.

“Features of the open-plan design include reintroducing the slope of First Fleet Park up to George Street, which existed between the 1950s and 1980s.

“The lawn area will be expanded by 16 per cent, steps and formal seating installed and native trees planted to provide park-goers with more shade.

“Wide, clear pathways will also improve accessibility for wheelchairs and prams and provide space for events or markets, and a small café or coffee-cart facility will be created.

“Visitors will be able to discover the park’s heritage, including its convict history and indigenous past, through storyboards and design features,” the Minister said.

Sustainability features of the park will include:

- An underground water storage tank that collects, filters and cleans water from the street for use on the park and gardens; and
- Energy-efficient lighting on major pathways and thoroughfares.

The concept design for the park and surrounding promenade was prepared by the Government Architect’s Office, and has provided the basis for a project application, which is now being publicly exhibited.

The community is invited to provide comment on the plan, which can be viewed at www.planning.nsw.gov.au, until Friday 24 December 2010.

Work is planned to start in mid-2011 and take around 12 months to complete.