

# Sydney's icons are calling for you

**Paul Nicolaou**



**W**e must reclaim the Sydney icons that define our city in the eyes of the world.

Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Bondi Beach have been at the forefront of the tempest that culminated in the shocking terrorist attack.

The appalling attack has left our city wounded and our Jewish community in unimaginable pain.

Cities have a heart, a soul and a personality that can be wounded, and severely so. Ours is hurting.

Our iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge should never have been used as platforms for division. Bondi Beach should never have become the site of murderous terror.

But how do we heal our city?

First, we must show strength by supporting Premier Chris Minns and Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon in tightening legislation and enforcing the law.

As individual Sydneysiders, we can quietly reconnect with our city. We must reclaim the iconic locations that are so dear to us.

They are part of our collective identity. Sydney's strength has always come from its people and the shared places that bind us.

Our icons are not distractions from reality – they remind us of who we are and how we project our city to the world.

Let's go out of our way to visit the Opera House. Stroll around its perimeter, taking in vista views of a growing city. The harbour view is itself a source of pride and wonder.

Walk across the Harbour Bridge to celebrate our unity and the vision of civic leaders.

A visit to Bondi Beach can both honour the victims and confirm that Sydneysiders will never bow to hatred or prejudice.

The Royal Botanic Garden allows us to breathe and reflect. A ferry ride to Manly offers charm and perspective.

Reclaiming our iconic places shows strength and reaffirms the character of our city.

Sydney will mourn, reflect and heal, and we will do it together.

**Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney**