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Gabrielle Upton learns about heliport plans from media

GOVERNMENT 13 DEC 12 @ 06:05AM BY ZILKA GROGAN

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An artist's impression of the proposed Sydney Harbour Floating Heliport.



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RESIDENTS were not the only ones kept in the dark about the state government's plans for a floating heliport on Sydney Harbour - it also failed to notify its own MPs.

Vaucluse Liberal MP Gabrielle Upton said she was "very disappointed" she first heard through the media that the heliport would directly impact on her electorate.

Ms Upton, who supports the overall project, said she only found out in a Courier report last week that one of three helicopter operating areas would be east of Shark Island, near Rose Bay.

Ms Upton has urged further consultation, saying she has asked Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Ports Minister Duncan Gay to review the approval process for aquatic licences.

"I don't want to undermine the concept, but the consultation, the knowledge and the information provided about (the heliport) has not been satisfactory," she said.

"I would hope that when there is a licence that has a potential residential impact that the approval process would trigger a broader consultation."

Ms Upton said she had also spoken with North Shore MP Jillian Skinner, who had indicated she had similar concerns.

THE LOCATIONS

- Newcastle Helicopters says the main area of operation will be to the east of Fort Denison, with two secondary areas

used ``as required to accommodate other harbour activities".

- The Shark Island location and a third area next to Bradleys Head will be alternated



5 DEC 12 @ 06:05AM

No consultation over floating Sydney Harbour heliport

THE state government failed to consult with Sydney Harbour's largest aviation operator over heliport plans. 5

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