

**ITEM 3. HYDE PARK MASTERPLAN IMPLEMENTATION – CONCEPT DESIGN AND PACKAGES 1 TO 4 – PROJECT SCOPE****FILE NO: S109306****SUMMARY**

This report describes the scope for a coordinated suite of conservation and improvement works to Hyde Park. The report outlines the strategy for implementation, which addresses key event dates in Hyde Park North and Hyde Park South.

Hyde Park is Australia's oldest park and culturally significant heritage landscape and is central to many of the city's cultural events. The proposed works replace failing infrastructure and provide improvements to address the impacts on the park caused by its increasing use and popularity.

This work follows the 2006 Plan of Management and Master Plan that identifies a range of priority works for implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council endorse the scope of works in Packages 1 to 4 for Hyde Park Implementation for progression to design development; and
- (B) Council endorse the project scope for Packages 1 and 2 as outlined in the subject report for construction documentation and progression to tender, noting that Packages 3 and 4 will be subject to a further report to Council.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Hyde Park – Plan of Management Masterplan

**Attachment B:** Package 1 – Archibald Fountain Planting

**Attachment C:** Package 2 – Pool of Reflection

**Attachment D:** Package 3 – Path restoration and entry access improvements

**Attachment E:** Package 4 – Hyde Park Café Surrounds

**Attachment F:** Financial Implications (Confidential)

**(As Attachment F is confidential, it will be circulated separately from the Agenda Paper and to Councillors and relevant senior staff only).**

**BACKGROUND**

1. Hyde Park is Australia's oldest park and culturally significant heritage landscape. It is Sydney's most significant park and used by some 3 million local, interstate and international visitors each year, hosting many significant events.
2. Hyde Park is owned by the NSW Government (Crown Land), with the City of Sydney appointed as Trustee Manager for its care, control and management.
3. Hyde Park is listed by The National Trust and is a State Heritage Item in the City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan and State Heritage Register.
4. In October 2006, Council adopted the 2006 Plan of Management and Masterplan (see Attachment A). The Plan of Management identified a range of works to replace failing infrastructure and provide improvements to address the impacts on the park caused by its increasing use and popularity.
5. The 2006 Plan of Management identifies future directions for the park under the following five key themes which provide cues for potential improvements to the park and its management:
  - (a) a culturally significant landscape;
  - (b) a formal landscape;
  - (c) a place for recreation;
  - (d) a natural garden and environment; and
  - (e) a custodial responsibility.

**Project Scope**

6. To reduce the impact on users and events held within the park, the works have been divided into packages and will be implemented in stages (see Attachments B to E).
7. The works packages to be implemented are:

**Package 1 - Archibald Fountain Planting**

- (a) These works have been prioritised by the need to replace the four Hill's Figs around the Archibald Fountain previously removed due to poor health.
- (b) The works will include garden bed preparation, the installation of new sub-surface drainage, irrigation, soil and shrub under-planting. Six new Hill's Figs and one new Moreton Bay Fig will be replanted east of the Archibald Fountain (see Attachment B).

**Package 2 - Pool of Reflection**

- (c) The upgrade to the Pool of Reflection is required to address pool leakages and undersized pumps. The surrounding 27 Poplar trees are in poor health and in poor growing conditions. A 28<sup>th</sup> tree was previously removed due to damage.

- (d) The scope of works will include repairing the pool walls and tiling to address water leaks, improvements to pool maintenance access and increased pump room capacity. The grass embankments adjacent to the pool will be replaced with new garden beds, sub-surface drainage and irrigation to improve growing conditions. Twenty eight new trees will be planted.
- (e) The adjacent pavement will be repaired and new seating installed in line with the Hyde Park Masterplan (see Attachment C).

#### Package 3A - Path restoration and entry access improvements

- (f) The pathways through Hyde Park reflect over 70 years of incremental park works and maintenance, which have somewhat diluted the original, simple, formal principles of the park design.
- (g) Whilst the primary paths of Hyde Park North have been refurbished, much of the secondary path network requires upgrading. Restoring the pathway network will strengthen the quality perception of the park, and the visual and physical connections between key features within the park and around the park boundaries.
- (h) The works include simplifying the secondary paths within Hyde Park North, including the removal of a number of ad-hoc paths. A number of additional paths will be located along the park boundary to improve park connectivity (see Attachment D).
- (i) The College and Park Street entries will be redesigned to address accessibility and improve maintenance access for events. Where required, existing post top lights will be refurbished with new light fittings and relocated to the new path upgrades.
- (j) No trees will be impacted by the proposed works. The works will conserve and preserve the original sandstone walls.

#### Package 3B Events Services

- (k) The existing services need to be upgraded and additional infrastructure added to improve operations and service the events held within the park.
- (l) The work will provide enhanced and permanent infrastructure for events, including new water, power and sewer supply points in Hyde Park North and Hyde Park South. The existing lighting will be rationalised, including reducing the number of light poles in the park.

#### Package 4 - Hyde Park Café Surrounds

- (m) Transport for NSW is upgrading the access to Museum Station at the corner of Liverpool Street and Elizabeth Street. This will include the reconfiguration of Museum Station to provide lift access from the street and Hyde Park to the concourse and platforms. The reconfiguration requires part of Hyde Park Café to be allocated as a lift lobby, resulting in the need for the existing café and outdoor seating area to be reconstructed.
- (n) This park entry will be improved to address the altered Museum Station entries and building, Hyde Park Café proposal and integrate with the street and the park setting.

- (o) Future works as part of the Hyde Park Café project will be the subject of a separate report to Council (see Attachment E).

## KEY IMPLICATIONS

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

- 8. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. The improvement works to Hyde Park are aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling – the proposal will upgrade the existing footpath network improving access for pedestrians and cyclists; and
  - (b) Direction 5 - A Lively and Engaging City Centre – the proposal will upgrade and include additional services for events within the park.

### Organisational Impact

- 9. The proposal will improve the park's infrastructure and reduce maintenance on the footpaths and Pool of Reflection.

### Risks

- 10. The risk of disruption to key events is being managed through staging and consultation.

### Social / Cultural / Community

- 11. The proposed works will include additional planting to the Archibald Fountain, an upgrade of the existing footpath network, Pool of Reflection and Museum Station forecourt and Hyde Park Café surrounds. The works will improve the park's infrastructure and amenity. An upgrade of existing sewer lines, water and electricity will provide improved facilities for events within the park.

### Environmental

- 12. The proposal is in line with the goals of the City of Sydney's Environmental Management Plan, which include "*Developing and protecting the City's Urban Forest that will deliver climate change benefits, urban heat island reduction, stormwater benefits, and associated economic and social benefits*".

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- 13. There is sufficient funding allocated in the 2014/15 capital works budget and future years forward estimate to complete the construction of the Hyde Park Plan of Management Implementation Works.
- 14. A preliminary cost summary has been prepared for the project (see confidential Attachment F).

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

15. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (Part 4 and 5). An Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried out to ensure that all environmental impacts have been identified, assessed and, where required, action is identified to manage impacts. Some of the proposed works may not require planning approval, and may be exempt development. The Hyde Park Café and associated landscape works will be part of a separate development application.
16. Heritage Act 1977. A heritage assessment will be prepared to determine requirements under the Heritage Act. Some of the proposed works may not require planning approval, and may be exempt development.
17. Crown Lands Act 1989. Hyde Park is a Crown Reserve. Council is the reserve trust manager.
18. Procurement of consultants and contractors for this project will be in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.
19. Attachment F contains confidential information which, if disclosed, would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

**CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES**

20. Key commencement dates for construction are:
  - (a) Archibald Fountain Planting (Package 1) mid 2015;
  - (b) Pool of Reflection (Package 2) mid 2015;
  - (c) Path Restoration Works (Package 3) late 2015; and
  - (d) Hyde Park Café Surrounds (Package 4) 2017.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

21. The following external engagement activities will be undertaken for the project:
  - (a) meetings with property owners, tenants and service providers;
  - (b) face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders including Anzac Memorial Trust;
  - (c) adjacent and key stakeholders will be sent written notification informing them of the notification period;
  - (d) advertisements will be placed in the City Central newspaper and designs made available online on [sydneyyoursay.com](http://sydneyyoursay.com) and the Town Hall House One Stop Shop; and
  - (e) the Hyde Park website will be updated.

22. Public engagement with adjacent stakeholders commenced in December 2014. The representative for St Mary's Cathedral was consulted on the proposal for Package 1 - Archibald Fountain tree replacement works. There were no concerns with the proposal, apart from potential noise impacts of construction on 2pm Church Services in the Cathedral.
23. Due to the minor nature of the maintenance works, Packages 1 and 2 have not been publicly exhibited. Public information updates will be provided as the designs for Packages 1 and 2 are progressed, planning submissions are prepared and tree removal notifications are displayed.
24. Package 3 will be subject to design development and public consultation prior to reporting to Council for approval mid-year. Package 4 design will be developed in coordination with the design for the Hyde Park Café, and will be reported to Council in late 2015 as an integrated building and park package.
25. Landowner consultation was undertaken with the Department of Lands in January 2015.

**KIM WOODBURY**

Acting Director City Projects and Property

Sarah Scott, Design Manager City Projects