

ITEM 7. HYDE PARK IMPROVEMENT WORKS – PACKAGES 3 AND 4**FILE NO: S109306****SUMMARY**

Hyde Park is Australia's oldest park and culturally significant heritage landscape and is central to many of the city's cultural events.

The 2006 Plan of Management and Masterplan for Hyde Park 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.

A program of improvement works is being progressively undertaken to manage the potential impact of the works on users and events held within the park. The proposed works will renew or replace old infrastructure and provide improvements to access, amenity and better enable the park to cater for its increasing use and popularity as a venue for major cultural activities.

On 23 February 2015, Council endorsed a suite of improvement works in Hyde Park (Packages 1 to 4) for progression to design development. Packages 1 and 2 were also endorsed for progression to construction documentation and tender. Council has since approved construction tenders for Packages 1 and 2.

This report describes the consultation and developed landscape design for Package 3 - Path restoration and entry improvements, including upgrades to event services, in Hyde Park North and Package 4 - Hyde Park South Café setting and Museum Station entry.

The public exhibition material was made available online and displayed on-site. No submissions were received. The design has been informed by the input of key advisory panels to the City.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council endorse the scope of works in Packages 3 and 4 for Hyde Park, which includes but is not limited to the developed design as described in the subject report and shown at Attachment C to the subject report, for progression to detailed design, seeking relevant planning approvals, documentation and tender for construction of the works.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Package 3 - Path restoration and entry improvements public exhibition panel

Attachment B: Package 4 - Hyde Park South Café surrounds public exhibition panel

Attachment C: Developed Design

Attachment D: Financial Implications (Confidential)

(As Attachment D 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 used by some three 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 Heritage Item in the City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan and State Heritage Register.
4. In October 2006, Council adopted the Hyde Park Plan of Management and Masterplan. 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. A program of improvement works are being progressively undertaken to manage the potential impact of the works on users and events held within the park. In brief, the program includes:

(a) Package 1 – Archibald Fountain Planting

These works, completed in August this year, replanted the four Hill's Figs around the Archibald Fountain that had been removed due to poor health.

(b) Package 2 – Pool of Reflection Restoration

Currently under construction, the upgrade to the Pool of Reflection addresses water loss due to leaks, aged and under-sized pump and plant, and failing park fabric, including 27 Poplar trees in poor health. These works will repair the pool walls, replace the damaged tiles, including a new pump and planting of 22 new fastigiated Liriodendron trees. The works are under construction and due for completion by June 2016.

(c) Package 3 – Path restoration and entry improvements including upgrades to event services

These works, subject of this report, renew the secondary path network within Hyde Park North, including the removal of a number of ad-hoc paths and the addition of new paths to improve park connections. The paths will be upgraded to finishes appropriate to the significance of the park. In addition, improvements to the College Street entry opposite St Mary's Cathedral and the entry at the corner of Park and College Streets will enhance access and identity of the park.

(d) Package 4 – Hyde Park South Café setting and Museum Station entry

These works, subject of this report, renew this park entry, which also serves as the setting for the Hyde Park South_Café, and has been developed as an integral partner to the proposed new café building.

6. Future works beyond this current program include the Park Street entry access upgrade, new perimeter paths in Hyde Park South, improved lighting and the like.

7. On 23 February 2015, Council endorsed a suite of improvement works in Hyde Park (Packages 1 to 4) for progression to design development. Packages 1 and 2 were also endorsed for progression to construction documentation and tender. Council has since approved construction tenders for Packages 1 and 2.

DEVELOPED DESIGN

Pathways

8. 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.
9. Whilst the primary paths in Hyde Park 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.
10. 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. The works are overviewed in the Public Exhibition Panel at Attachment A, with more information in the Developed Design at Attachment C.
11. The palette of path materials will be sympathetic to the existing fabric. The secondary paths and kerbs will be upgraded from asphalt to paving and stone to provide an enduring surface that is hard wearing and easily replaced when damaged. In lawn areas, flush kerbs will improve access for park users.

College Street entry opposite St Mary's Cathedral

12. The improvements to the existing College Street entry, opposite Cook and Phillip Park, allow for the planned future relocation of the College Street signalised crossing further north and associated new entry into the park. These more substantial works will only be implemented in the long term, to ensure we do not impact on the health and longevity of the nearby trees. The interim works will improve accessibility and visual permeability into the park.

Park and College Street western entry

13. A new gently graded paved ramp will be added to this entry, providing an accessible route into Hyde Park North from the south-east for the first time.
14. The new ramp and associated sandstone wall will be located on a current discontinued footpath adjacent College Street, and will not impact the current extent of the park. This new entry will link to the new perimeter path proposed in Package 3, to provide direct access into Hyde Park British Lawn and Sandringham Gardens.

Events Services

15. The existing services within the park need to be upgraded, and additional infrastructure is required to improve operations while minimising impacts of events in the parklands.

16. The work will provide improved infrastructure for events, including new water, power, and sewer tap in points, and an upgrade of a number of the sewer lines in Hyde Park North. The existing lighting will be adjusted to align with the path works in the park and will meet the City's lighting level requirements.

Hyde Park South Café Setting and Museum Station entry

17. 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 the Museum Station entry building to provide lift access from the street and Hyde Park to the concourse and platforms. The proposal includes allocating part of the existing café as a lift lobby, and the construction of a new café and outdoor seating area.
18. The heritage setting around the café will also be upgraded as a part of the project. Significant heritage fabric will be retained. New works include landscaping, paths and stairs. These works will provide an accessible route from Museum Station and Liverpool Street to the café and the park. A new paved terrace will accommodate alfresco café seating within a parkland setting.
19. This park entry will be improved to address the new Museum Station building and Hyde Park Café proposal, and improve integration with the street and the park setting.
20. The significant heritage fabric will be retained, including heritage sandstone walls and steps.
21. An outdoor seating area will be implemented that allows level access from the café into the park.
22. Pedestrian access from the Museum Station entry up into the park and the Anzac Memorial will be improved with accessible ramps.

Tree Management

23. The works have been carefully selected and designed to ensure no trees are required to be removed and any impact on existing trees is minimised.
24. The relocation of 16 palms is proposed as part of the works and, as indicated in the public exhibition panel at Attachment B, they will be positioned adjacent to the new path alignment.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

25. The following steps took place to ensure the community was informed about the current recommendation to Council, including:
 - (a) liaison with Heritage Council of NSW for Package 4 - Hyde Park South Café setting and Museum Station entry; and
 - (b) presentation of the Hyde Park South Café and surrounds to the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial Building.

26. Public notification of the Hyde Park South Café upgrade was carried out over two weeks between 13 and 27 October 2015. Notification activities included:
 - (a) a new webpage on sydneyoursay.com.au, including detailed information and designs, where submissions could be made;
 - (b) notification signs with the design and concept plan on display in Hyde Park; and
 - (c) the concept design was displayed at the One Stop Shop in Town Hall House.
27. The Sydneyoursay project page was viewed by 27 individual users and the plans were downloaded 13 times.
28. No submissions were received for the Hyde Park South Café upgrade project.
29. Public notification of the Hyde Park path improvements and upgrade was carried over two weeks between 13 and 27 October 2015. Notification activities included:
 - (a) a new webpage on sydneyoursay.com.au, including detailed information and designs, where submissions could be made;
 - (b) notification signs with the design and concept plan on display in Hyde Park; and
 - (c) the concept design was displayed at the One Stop Shop in Town Hall House.
30. The Sydneyoursay project page was viewed by 49 individual users and the plans were downloaded 25 times.
31. No submissions were received for the Hyde Park path improvements and upgrade project.

Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel

32. On 11 February 2015, the Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel was consulted on the Package 3 path and entry restoration works and the Package 4 Hyde Park South Café surrounds. The Panel recommended the following be considered:
 - (a) Bathurst Street entrance ramp upgrades to be considered in future works program;
 - (b) consider undergrounding the events cabling to remove the need for cable trays;
 - (c) consider wayfinding as part of the project to ensure people are aware of the accessible entries; and
 - (d) increase the ramp gradient from the station lobby to the Hyde Park South Café surrounds from 1:8 to 1:14.

33. In response to the Panel's comments, the design team will:
- (a) review the number and location of the power outlets with the Events Team to reduce the requirement for cable runs as part of the Package 3 events service upgrade;
 - (b) liaise with the Events Team to see how best to remove the need for cable trays in lighting event areas as part of the Hyde Park Lighting Masterplan;
 - (c) deliver wayfinding signage as part of the path restoration and entry upgrade works; and
 - (d) review the ramp grades within the new Hyde Park South Café building to allow for compliant access from the station lobby to the café surrounds.

Design Advisory Panel

34. The concept designs for Packages 3 and 4 were presented to the Design Advisory Panel on 8 August and 15 September 2015, and the overall design and heritage approach was discussed.
35. The Panel endorsed the designs and recommended the following be considered:
- (a) essential works should focus on improving accessibility at the critical entries;
 - (b) support the change in material from asphalt to paving;
 - (c) support the flush kerb strategy;
 - (d) modifications to St James entry should be kept to a minimum;
 - (e) long term design for College Street entry to consider pedestrian queuing area, width of threshold and stairs;
 - (f) design of new ramp at the Park Street entry to consider cyclist and pedestrian conflicts;
 - (g) refinement of the landscape elements at Hyde Park South Café, including the stairs to the north of the site.
36. In response to the Panel's comments, the proposed design has been modified to include:
- (a) improved accessibility at the following critical entries – College Street opposite St Mary's Cathedral and the creation of a new ramp access at the corner of College and Park Streets;
 - (b) increased width of the queuing area and stairs to maximise the storage area to the future pedestrian crossing;
 - (c) reduced cyclist / pedestrian conflicts on the proposed Park Street/ College Street ramp through modifications to the entry, improving site lines and additional signage;

- (d) minimal modifications to the St James entry. The design includes implementation of a compliant path from St James Station to Sandringham gardens.
 - (e) modified stairs to the north and west of the Hyde Park South Café building in consultation with the Heritage Consultants.
37. In addition, the City has been liaising with the Anzac Memorial Centenary Project for the purposes of coordinating design within the park.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

38. *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. This report is 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.
 - (b) Direction 5 - A Lively and Engaging City Centre – the proposal will upgrade and include additional services for events within the park.

Organisational Impact

39. The proposal will improve the park's infrastructure, reducing maintenance on the footpaths and event infrastructure.

Risks

40. The risk of disruption to key events is being managed through staging of works and consultation.

Social / Cultural / Community

41. The proposed works will include upgrades to the existing footpath network and to two College Street entries to improve access into and throughout the park. The works will improve the park infrastructure and amenity. An upgrade of existing sewer lines, water and electricity will provide improved facilities for events within the park.

Environmental

42. 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*".

43. Once Council resolves to approve the design, City staff will engage an external planner to consider whether the proposed works require assessment and approval under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. A Review of Environmental Factors will be carried out for the approved proposal to ensure that all environmental impacts have been identified, assessed and, where required, action is identified to manage impacts. The review will identify the likely impacts, note steps to be taken to manage them and assess whether residual impacts of the work are likely to be significant.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

44. An estimate of cost has been prepared based on the developed design. There is sufficient funding in the 2015/2016 capital works budget and future years forward estimate to complete the design and construction for the project (see confidential Attachment D).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

45. Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979 (Part 4 and 5). After design development is completed, the scope of works will be reviewed by a planner to advise on assessment and consent requirements for the project under the EP&A Act. Some of the proposed works may not require planning approval and may be exempt development. The Museum Cafe and associated landscape works will be part of a separate DA submission.
46. 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.
47. Crown Lands Act 1989. Hyde Park is a Crown Reserve. Council is the reserve trust manager.
48. Procurement of consultants and contractors for this project will be in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.
49. Attachment D 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

50. Key milestones for Package 3 (Path restoration and entry improvements including upgrades to event services) are as follows:
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|-------------------------------|----------------|
| (a) Submit Heritage Approvals | Late 2015; |
| (b) Construction Tender | Mid 2016; |
| (c) Commence Construction | Late 2016; and |
| (d) Complete Construction | Early 2018. |

51. Key milestones for Package 4 (Hyde Park South Café setting and Museum Station entry) are as follows:

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|-----|--|-----------------|
| (a) | Commence Detailed Design and Development Application Documentation | Oct 2015; |
| (b) | Lodge Development Application | Feb 2016; |
| (c) | Construction Tender | Late 2016; |
| (d) | Commence Construction | Early 2017; and |
| (e) | Complete Construction | Late 2017. |

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

52. Consultation on the proposal has been undertaken with the public as well as authority stakeholders.
53. Statutory consultation will be undertaken for the landscape works associated with the Museum Station and café setting, as part of a Development Application for the café.
54. Prior to the commencement of construction, the community will be notified by letterbox drop, large format display, and through regular updates on the website.

AMIT CHANAN

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