

## Relevant Information for Council

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**FILE:** X025378 **DATE:** 22 February 2021

**TO:** Lord Mayor and Councillors

**FROM:** Amit Chanan, Director City Projects and Property

**THROUGH:** Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Information Relevant To Item 7.2 – Project Scope - Peace Park Upgrade Chippendale

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### For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

### Purpose

To provide further information on the proposed Peace Park Upgrade.

### Background

At the meeting of the Environment Committee on 15 February 2021, further information was sought on:

#### **Provision of Public Art proposed in the park upgrade**

During community consultation it was noted that some of the community would like more public art in the park.

The revised concept plan notes this desire to have more public art in the park and locates potential areas where a future artwork can be integrated into the park.

It should be noted that there are two community mosaic art works titled *Birds of Peace and Industry*, located on the footpath of Peace Park, Chippendale. They were commissioned by former South Sydney Council in 1995. Marie Stucci was the lead artist, working with children from the Golden Fleece Kindergarten and Darlington Public School.

Continuing this mosaic theme, a further community mosaic could be created on the proposed seating wall elements. Walls will be provided as part of the park upgrade, and the community art project will be included in the City's ongoing program of community art and scheduled for the 2021-2022 financial year. The City's Public Arts staff would meet with interested community members before developing a brief.

### **Use of recycled materials**

The small park upgrades program uses simple, robust and high-quality materials to ensure durability and quality. We reuse and recycle existing furniture such as seats, bin enclosures and other materials such as pavers and fencing where suitable. This will be confirmed through the detailed design and construction phases of the upgrade project.

### **Install a garden bed to Pine/Myrtle Street corner**

As advised during the Environment Committee meeting, a garden bed could not be provided at this location due to utility conflict. However, the revised concept plan will provide barrier protection to this corner to address the safety concerns raised by the speaker.

### **Play Equipment to maximise play experience.**

As noted in the Project Scope (Public Consultation Item 56); as part of design development the project team will review the proposed play equipment to ensure play experience is maximised.

### **Provide thresholds to Myrtle/Pine Street and Buckland/Pine Street**

Works on the surrounding streets do not form part of Small Park upgrade scope. Suggestions made at the Environment Committee meeting will be considered as part of future footpath and streetscape works in the area.

It should be noted that raised crossing on the Buckland/Pine Street corner, was previously investigated and not supported by Transport for NSW on pedestrian safety grounds as it was deemed to have sightline issues for drivers. In addition, raised crossing also impacts on the local stormwater flow paths, causing localised ponding and impacts on adjoining properties.

Further investigations are being undertaken to review if a Continuous Footpath Treatment across Myrtle Street can be provided. If found feasible, these works will be delivered as future streetscape improvement works.

### **Provide a Picnic Table**

As outlined in the Project Scope, the project team are reviewing the provision of a picnic table. Noting concerns were raised during community consultation about people congregating at night.

A range of seating opportunities will be provided as part of the upgrade. These will include seats in sun and shade areas as well as seating with back rests and arm rests and platform benches.

During design development, the project team will review the inclusion of platform benches which is a part of the City's standard furniture suite.

## **Water design and management**

The existing stormwater harvesting and reuse system, will be retained as part of these works. The existing system collects water from a rain garden, treats and reuses it on site. As part of City's sustainability program, two sub-meters have recently been installed (September 2020), to measure the total irrigation use and potable water component. Data from these sub-meters will be used to optimise the system operation and for reporting in the regular Green Report.

As part of design development, the project team are also incorporating the suggestion to install absorption grates along the paths. The design will also be reviewed to ensure soft landscaping areas are set below hard landscaping levels, allowing greater opportunity for water to flow into pervious surfaces.

The upgrade works will also install a permeable surface treatment to the footpath along Buckland Street minimising impervious surfaces in the park and surrounds.

## **Sustainable power**

Peace Park is a well shaded pocket park. The City recently removed a solar light from the park due to poor performance and failure over time. The City's electrical energy is now 100 per cent renewable from wind and solar farms in regional NSW. This arrangement helps grow the renewable sector in NSW.

The City of Sydney has installed energy efficient LEDs in all new park lights, reducing energy use and improving visibility.

## **Public availability of design brief and designs throughout the length of the project, to facilitate community engagement.**

Refer to the Project Scope and Attachment C for public consultation and engagement information.

All requests for information can be lodged through our website at Request City Records (<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/library-information-services/request-city-records>). This process is required to be followed so that staff can ensure all information is provided in accordance with the government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

In pre-consultation, the City received 58 submissions asking to; improve turf surface, improve play offering and fully fencing the play area, improve the shared pathway and Increase park seating.

The draft concept plan went to public consultation for four weeks and the City received 64 submissions. The six main areas of comment including: turf type, tree replacement, shared path alignment, play equipment, mosaic relocation and sustainable initiatives.

A resident workshop group was assembled to review the concept plan and consultation comments.

The revised concept design was exhibited for four weeks and the City received 18 submissions generally in support of the proposed works.

Before the construction phase of the park upgrade commences, an updated plan is sent with the notification letter to surrounding residents.

## **Sustainable Procurement**

The City's Sustainable Procurement Policy applies to all of the City's procurement of goods and services in conjunction with the Procurement and Contract Management Policy. The City is committed to taking a leadership role in sustainable procurement by ensuring that our processes provide due consideration and priority for all relevant social and ethical implications, energy efficiency outcomes, sustainable resource use, and economic opportunities, along with the underlying requirement to achieve value for money outcomes.

Council is committed to supporting local businesses and economic diversity and viability. Our procurement objectives further include:

- Generating local employment (particularly among disadvantaged communities)
- Consider the life cycle impacts of products (purchase, operation and disposal)
- Building relationships and encouraging purchasing from local suppliers, including social enterprises to help build their capacity.

The City's Waste Strategy Action Plan aims to divert 80 per cent of construction and demolition waste generated by the City's own construction projects away from landfill. Once a contractor is engaged, this target is used as a key performance criteria to manage contractor performance.

## **Sustainable initiatives**

There is a strong and active community in Chippendale and that was reflected in the amount and variety of feedback received during consultation for the Peace Park upgrade.

The City knows that residents of Chippendale support sustainable initiatives and that the park is highly utilised and well loved by a variety of community members for play, rest, relaxation and dog exercise.

The City is currently considering potential pilot locations for a Nutrients in Circular Economy (NiCE) project with the University of Technology Sydney, whereby nutrients recovered from wastewater would be used as sustainable fertiliser in local parks. Peace Park's suitability for this pilot project initiative is currently being considered and could provide an ideal opportunity for the local community to work on a pilot with industry experts in nutrient recovery and reuse.

## **Financial Implications**

Following community feedback and early site investigation works completed during the pre-consultation phase, additional works not factored into the original project budget were requested to be undertaken as part of this park upgrade. These include:

- Relocating the playground to enable the best possible turf growth conditions;
- Installation of hybrid turf with associated soil improvement works to ensure best possible turf growth;
- More WSUD measures such as absorption grates and connected aggregate drains;
- Use of recycled bricks;
- Additional play equipment (more swings);

- Additional park seating; and
- The inclusion of walling for future art placement.

**Memo from Amit Chanan, Director City Projects and Property**

Prepared by: Lucy Farley, Design Manager  
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Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**MONICA BARONE**  
Chief Executive Officer