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**Summary of Public Exhibition Outcomes
November 2021**

Public Exhibition Outcomes Report - Crown land draft plans of management



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Overview

The City of Sydney manages 50 Crown land reserves including Hyde Park, Wentworth Park, Victoria Park, Martin Place and many smaller areas. These are special places that help connect our communities and keep our city green.

We've developed proposed plans of management to ensure we look after Crown land reserves based on community, environmental and heritage needs.

Under the new *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, the City of Sydney must develop plans of management for Crown land parks, reserves and civic spaces in our care.

In 2020, we consulted the community on why these places are important.

People value open, green and natural public spaces in the city as places of refuge and sanctuary that support wellbeing and mental health. They want improved amenities to increase accessibility and support safe, inclusive, diverse community use alongside wildlife and biodiversity.

People want to preserve the history and heritage of open spaces for future generations, recognising First Nations peoples' continuous connection to Country.

The feedback from our 2020 consultation was used to inform these proposed plans of management.

The draft plans of management were on public exhibition and open for feedback from 29 September 2021 to 24 November 2021.

This document summarises key findings and outlines activities that took place during the public exhibition of the draft plans of management for Crown land in the City of Sydney area.

All feedback captured in this report will be considered before reporting back to Council.

Engagement summary

From 29 September 2021 to 24 November 2021, we asked the community for feedback on our draft plans of management for Crown land in the City of Sydney area.

Consultation provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to review and comment on the proposed plans of management before being taken to Council for adoption.

Consultation activities included online engagement and stakeholder briefings. The consultation was promoted through email direct marketing.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

Purpose of engagement

Summarise project objectives:

- Gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about the draft plans of management.
- Determine the level of satisfaction with the draft plans.
- Inform the final plans provided for adoption.
- Meet the requirements of a statutory public exhibition.

Outcomes of engagement

In November/December 2020, the City conducted extensive early engagement to inform the development of the plans of management for Crown land parks, reserves and civic spaces under the City's control. The 2020 consultation included First Nations conversations, online community surveys, community workshops, intercept surveys, pop ups and internal staff workshops.

All community members, groups and organisations who participated in the 2020 consultation were notified of the public exhibition of the draft plans of management. Community members and groups who participated in workshops during 2020 were invited to online briefings where the Crown Lands Manager presented how specific community feedback had influenced the development of the draft plans of management. The briefings also included a Q&A session on the draft plans.

City staff met with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Chief Executive Officer Nathan Moran to brief him on the draft plans and record his feedback. Notes from this meeting are included in the submissions table.

Submissions received during the public exhibition on the draft plans align to the community values established by the 2020 consultation, and this report is structured to be consistent with those themes.

Submissions and engagement activity

The City received a total of 26 submissions (via Survey Monkey, email, letter, and phone) during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 643 times during the consultation period.

4 submissions were made on behalf of local community groups/organisations and public authorities, as listed below.

- The Anzac Memorial Trust, NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- The Glebe Society
- Remembrance Driveway Council
- Transport for New South Wales

Representatives from 7 local community groups and organisations attended online briefings, as listed below.

- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Millers Point Resident Action Group
- The Glebe Society
- Blue Wren Subcommittee of the Glebe Society
- The Coalition of Glebe Groups
- The Australian Conservation Foundation (Inner West)
- The Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group

An EDM with details of the public exhibition was sent to a comprehensive list of Crown land stakeholders, including:

- Current leaseholders
- Public Authorities
- Community members and groups who participated in the 2020 consultation
- The City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel members
- Schools
- Community sporting clubs
- Sporting associations
- Community groups
- Resident action groups and associations
- Local chambers of commerce and business partnership groups
- Industry associations (including conservation, history, and diversity)

Summary of engagement activity

Quantity	Description of activity
26	Total submissions received
21	Survey submissions
5	Emailed submissions
7,300	Sydney Your Say EDM subscribers
643	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
384	Document downloads
349	Stakeholder emails
10	People attended online briefings
3	Community briefings were held

Survey snapshot

Figure 1: survey respondents' relationship to the place

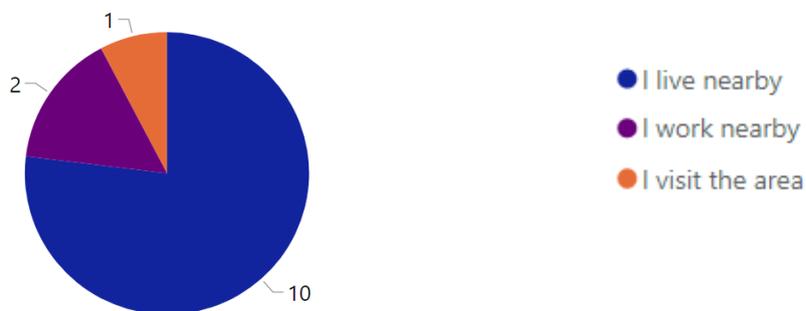


Figure 2: survey respondents' main activities at the place



Key findings

Community feedback indicates overall support for the proposed plans of management and confidence in the City's ability to implement the plans. It aligns with the community values established through consultation in November/December 2020.

Respecting Country

There is strong support for recognising Aboriginal peoples' continuous connection to Country. Community feedback called attention to Aboriginal people's custodianship of Crown and other land, and the importance of land to Aboriginal people. There was also a desire to see spaces returned and dedicated to support the cultural practice, social and economic outcomes for the Aboriginal community.

Facilities and Built Infrastructure

Most comments were about facilities and infrastructure available in parks. People asked for upgrades to seating, lighting, and wayfinding. More automatic toilets were suggested, as well as a new playground and kids bike path. People proposed that their local park host activities like outdoor dining, farmers markets and entertainment for Sunday family picnics.

Maintenance, management, and facilities

Many comments spoke to the impact that maintenance, management, and facilities have on how safe, accessible, and user-friendly Crown land parks and reserves are. Feedback on this topic ranged from general requests to manage maintenance to specific concerns about commercial users and park benches.

Submissions table

Subjects/topics raised in submissions

Culture and Heritage	City of Sydney response
<p>Notes from the meeting with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Chief Executive Officer Nathan Moran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council asserts the importance of Aboriginal Land Rights in NSW in relation to Crown land. NSW is Aboriginal land. Following European settlement, colonial and then successive state governments asserted ownership over the land and proceeded to survey and allocate land, and to record and guarantee tenures. This created freehold property rights for settlers. The remainder of the land became Crown land, held in public trust. At the same time, infrastructure was progressively installed on Crown land, including community halls, roads, showgrounds, sports fields and parks. In 1983, the NSW Government introduced the Aboriginal Lands Rights Act in recognition of the impacts of past government decisions as the amount of land set aside for Aboriginal people had been progressively reduced without compensation. The Parliament of NSW created a system of Aboriginal Land Rights to compensate Aboriginal communities for the loss of their land by providing for the return of some Crown land to Aboriginal ownership.• MLALC noted that there have been no successful Aboriginal Land Claims in the Sydney area and requested support from the City of Sydney regarding three undetermined land claims in Federal and Jubilee Parks.• MLALC reinforced the importance of the return and dedication of spaces to support cultural practice, social and economic outcomes for the Aboriginal community. Examples included Customs House and Victoria Park given their cultural and historical significance.• MLALC advised that the organisation is best placed to communicate local Aboriginal significance and history to the community. There are places in the City such as the burial grounds located in Belmore Park that people don't know about, noting that this place requires respect and	<p><i>The City of Sydney has prepared Community Guiding Principles (Section 5 within each Draft Plan of Management) which are founded on the understanding of Country in the worldview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The principles seek to reframe our systemic relationship with the land. The City of Sydney, as a caretaker of land will consciously consider these principles in its ongoing operational and decision-making activities.</i></p> <p><i>Through management targets and strategies established within each Draft Plan of Management, the City of Sydney in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members will seek to identify opportunities that recognise their role as Custodians of Country, further celebrating and reflecting on their heritage and living culture within open space.</i></p> <p><i>The City of Sydney will continue discussions with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding undetermined Aboriginal Land Claims and to pursue opportunities for the shared management of Crown reserves in which the City of Sydney is appointed the Crown land manager.</i></p>

there are no visible aspects within the park that recognise its significance.

- MLALC raised the opportunity for shared management of Crown reserves which would provide a firsthand opportunity to protect Country, share culture and knowledge and be involved in decision-making.
 - A shared management agreement is currently in conversation with Northern Beaches Council which can be shared with the City of Sydney once it is in a finalised state
 - MLALC advised that the day-to-day management activities would lie with Council, while the role of caretaker, historian and the decision-making processes surrounding cultural heritage and artefacts would lie with MLALC
- MLALC noted the significance of Wentworth Park and its connection to water and the linkage to Victoria Park make it an appropriate site for a share-management approach.
- MLALC expressed a desire for a permanent place to practice culture by way of outdoor storytelling and education, suggesting a facility such as a rotunda would support this goal.
- MLALC recognised that Sydney Park was a great example of a redeveloped space that embraces ecology and culture and suggested involving MLALC in cultural sharing in the park.
- MLALC noted their involvement with the redevelopment of the Alexandria Park Community School has seen local knowledge and history woven throughout the facilities creating an immersive experience for all those who visit the campus and pointed to this another good example.

Comments from Aunty Margret Campbell submitted via the survey

General feedback, and regarding the CBD Civic Spaces and General Crown Reserves draft plans of management

The current draft plans of management for crown lands in the city of Sydney is so culturally blind to the cultural needs of Aboriginal residents of Sydney, this blindness in the major impacts on.

This 1st week, emerging from our Covid Lockdown, fellow Aussie's, will again feel FREE of restrictions, across Sydney society, but for Aboriginal Australian's we will continue facing restrictions from all sectors of Sydney society, as evidenced in the data collected from major industry sectors impacting on our generational suffering, mental health, poverty, sickness,

helplessness, and misfortune, across all Australian social determinants.

The greed based Crown Land, administered by NSW and LGA government are perpetrating and maintaining the multiple GAPS of disadvantage across all industry service needs for us.

And, our Aboriginal leadership are disempowered daily in being able to help close the life expectancy Gaps, poverty gaps, health gaps etc, as we continue to “die” earlier than fellow Australians.

Culturally Blinded people of Dreamtime Custodianship from diverse multi-cultural Australian backgrounds, continue to exclude Aboriginal people from LAND that reinforce Dreaming_ism beliefs and values, directly connected with the LIFE BLOOD of LAND, WATERWAYS and SKIES.

We need access to the LAND. Governments at LGA and State level - Stop being greedy and share some of it with Aboriginal people.

Regarding Millers Point draft plan of management

The area historical represents the Ground Zero impact zone of Aboriginal invasion. there is a serious cultural Blindness permeating in this crown landscape area and must urgently address this issue, as it makes a mockery of the Government's all levels reconciliation Action Plans.

Other comments

Recognition of Aboriginal people's custodianship of Crown and other land.

Recognition of waterfront sites (in Glebe) as important places for First Nations people.

Maintenance and management	City of Sydney response
<p>Comments mainly around safe access and accessibility of the places covered but also increased care and maintenance, including rubbish management. Greater use is likely in a post COVID world and that in turn may require greater attention to maintenance and care...including revegetation, planting.</p> <p>Really about maintenance and care for the park, including rubbish management and maintaining the plantings, grass, benches, etc. With the expansion of the Fort Street School and a post COVID world it may well get greater usage, which is a great community asset...but the cycle of maintenance, including revegetation of lawns and plantings may need additional attention, as will sufficient receptacles for rubbish storage by users.</p>	<p><i>The City of Sydney acknowledges that the provision of green, safe, accessible, and well-maintained spaces is critical to ensure continued enjoyment by the community.</i></p> <p><i>Management targets and strategies focusing on each of these key areas have been included for implementation in all of the Draft Plans of Management.</i></p>
<p>I do not want this valuable ancient area to be neglected. Martin Place needs an upgrade.</p>	<p><i>The Martin Place Draft Plan of Management has incorporated management targets and strategies that would see it revitalised and renewed in accordance with the vision contained within the adopted City North Public Domain Plan 2015.</i></p>
<p>Council unfortunately does not properly enforce its own rules with especially at Erskineville Oval which is constantly used by dog owners allowing their dogs on the oval. Then comes the dog excrement and holes. Council should stop “turning a blind eye” to this. Too many dog owners allowing their dogs on the oval (off leash area).</p>	<p><i>Many of the Crown reserves including Erskineville Oval contain off-leash dog areas. Through the applicable Draft Plans of Management, the City of Sydney will continue to manage off-leash dog access to spaces as defined by the City’s Companion Animals Policy, and monitor to identify management issues, addressing where required.</i></p>
<p>Concern over disruptive personal training and outdoor fitness activities in a small park (Beare Park)</p>	<p><i>The City of Sydney chooses not to charge for the use of its parks and open spaces for outdoor fitness training as it does not wish to create a barrier to participating in physical exercise. Personal fitness trainers including commercial, not-for-profit and community groups, wishing to train outdoors in Council’s local government area are expected to comply with the Outdoor Fitness Training Voluntary Code of Conduct and its criteria for use. This is recognised with Section 8 of each draft Plan of Management.</i></p>

Where fitness activities have been identified specifically within a Draft Plan of Management, the City of Sydney will continue to monitor and manage issues, as they are identified.

Comment that there is a need for controls around commercial ventures in parks, a need to control the speeds used on the electric forms of transport, and a request for occasional dog free days as dog poop and dogs take over our parks. Accountable for this.

Defined within Sections 10-12 (where applicable) of each Draft Plan of Management, commercial activities are confined to those uses which complement the community use of the open space (e.g. Café, Kiosk, Market, Sports Equipment Hire). Criteria has been established to ensure that any proposed commercial activity complies with the Crown reserve purpose, community land categorisation and delivers an element of community benefit.

Concern that designated areas become very crowded (e.g. dog exercise area, Belmore Park swimming pool), better use of underutilised areas is needed.

As a continued outcome of the Draft Plans of Management, the City of Sydney will continue to monitor competing uses to ensure equitable access is maintained for all of the community, further identifying opportunities to increase activation of under-utilised spaces.

Support for the City of Sydney plans of management, and request that the City retain custodianship of Crown lands within its LGA, as local government is the best tier of government to uphold the best use of Crown land.

The City of Sydney will continue to maintain its appointed responsibility as caretaker of Crown and community land, as required under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Local Government Act 1993.

Facilities and Built Infrastructure

City of Sydney response

This park (Belmore Park) has so much potential and is in a great location for people to visit, access via trains, buses and light rail. The bandstand would be ideal for entertainment and space around for family picnics on the grass. New bench seating and lighting as well as upgrade to the bandstand. I think it could be a wonderful location for public entertainment and gathering. Events could be Sunday afternoons.

The Belmore Park Draft Plan of Management acknowledges the importance of this historical park within its location and cultural context. The plan will seek to activate and improve this space and its facilities in consideration of the opportunities that arise from the Central Station Redevelopment.

Please continue to improve pedestrian links between the parcels of land. Could you link the park (Hyde Park) with a footbridge creating a marvellous uninterrupted greenspace and gateway for pedestrians into the CBD from the south and east? I note that a temporary bridge is installed for the marathon. A wide

Each Draft Plan of Management incorporates management targets and strategies which would seek to improve the connectivity of open space within local precincts and residential areas.

permanent bridge would be a fantastic addition improving pedestrian amenity and safety. It would unite two small parks turning them into one much larger space. In terms of inspiration see some of the stone bridges in Central Park in NYC.

I love the idea of the new playground that provides a fun space and safe space for kids living in the city but concerned that the park (*Cook and Philip Park*) doesn't have the space or facilities to accommodate an additional 300 visitors from outside the area, and thus could become over crowded like the Darling harbour playground / wild play, and thereby stop local city based families attending.

The concept for the City Centre Playground has been designed spatially in terms of equipment/play offering to accommodate large groups (hundreds) of children, at any given time. The design also incorporates new amenities such as a toilet block, seating, shade and other park elements.

Cook and Phillip Park was selected as a suitable location for a playground of this size, as it was determined that it provides the best opportunity to meet current and future community play needs, comprises significant tracts of underutilised open space, its proximity to transport and parking, and major cultural and educational institutions.

Request for improved wayfinding and placement of assets (toilets, water fountains) in Hyde Park

Request to include more automatic toilets, especially in Victoria Park and Wentworth Park

Each Draft Plan of Management incorporates management targets and strategies that monitor and manage wayfinding signage, toilet facilities and park elements. This includes an assessment of placement and the implementation of new elements, where required.

Request for a kids' bike path in Cook and Philip Park

The City of Sydney notes this suggestion and will take it into future consideration in any upgrades of the park, as they may arise.

Concern that benches in Hyde Park are uncomfortable. Request for flat benches used at bus stops to also be used in parks.

The City of Sydney notes this suggestion and will take it into future consideration in the management of park furniture.

Suggestions to plant natives and promote indigenous habitat for birds and animals.

Each Plan of Management incorporates a management target and strategy (5.2) that would seek to increase indigenous plantings within open space, where appropriate and site conditions allow.

Concern that the new fish market and Blackwattle bay development will impact Wentworth Park

The City of Sydney recognises the role of Wentworth Park as significant open space within the greater CBD.

Management targets and strategies (1.3 and 7.1) that would seek to preserve and enhance aspects such as visual and access connections have been included to ensure that the qualities of the park are preserved.

Request to limit shadowing to protect flora and fauna

Where precinct development activities have been identified, management targets and strategies have been incorporated to ensure that the City of Sydney continues to monitor and liaise with the relevant authorities to ensure that the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the open space are preserved.

Community Use and Activation

...greyhound racing to cease. Have that return to the public all the time rather than occasional sport matches. We need more open space not less.

The Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management incorporates management targets and strategies (1.3 and 7.1) that require ongoing liaison with Crown Lands and other State agencies to see the return of the Greyhound Complex to the rest of the park. This proposal has also been recognised within the adopted Pymont Place Strategy.

Request for the area currently leased for greyhound racing to be included in the plan.

Presently, the City of Sydney has no authority to maintain or manage the Greyhound Complex.

Support for cessation of greyhound racing at Wentworth Park and its return to community open space

My feedback is that it (*Wentworth Park*) should stay as it is.

A concept plan of Wentworth Park will be developed based on the footprint of the consolidated park and will address adjoining developments, influences, pressures and opportunities within the Pymont precinct.

Upon appointment as Crown land manager of the Greyhound Complex site, the City of Sydney will revise the Wentworth Park Plan of Management to recognise new management targets and strategies that are reflective of the community's vision of this open space.

These submissions will be provided to the relevant Project Team when

undertaking the Concept Planning exercise.

Green spaces of crown land should be used for farmers markets

Where appropriate, the Draft Plans of Management have permitted the use of open space and associated facilities for markets. Applications are to be assessed in accordance with the Markets Policy adopted at that time and must consider aspects such as scale and intensity, impact to the environment and other competing community uses.

Martin Place is a fantastic spot. There should be more outdoor dining!

The Martin Place Draft Plan of Management has incorporated a management target and strategy (3.2) that would see the activation of appropriate spaces for outdoor dining and seeks to establish guidelines to support this use.

Other

City of Sydney response

Citizens from council areas where parklands fall under Crown Land (State), should have a say. More so as they directly use/impacted from decisions

Community engagement is a necessary component in the ongoing management of Crown and community land. The City of Sydney is required to provide opportunities to engage with the community on decision-making activities that affect the management of the associated land.

Because of the impact of Covid this year and last year the amount of money spent has to be restrained and wild dreams has to be herbed

The City of Sydney notes this submission.

Transport for NSW submission

General:

- TfNSW would continue to support the on-going discussion with Council regarding the place-making

The City of Sydney will continue to liaise and sustain a collaborative relationship with TfNSW on place-making planning adjacent to transport hubs and the

planning adjacent to public transport hubs throughout the local government area (LGA) to ensure the continued connectivity and safety of customers to these hubs is maintained.

ongoing management of identified open space.

TfNSW welcomes the opportunity to work with Council on any future proposals to place-making in the LGA around the transport network; particularly around any proposed works around the transport network's assets, reservations, strata / stratum and / or easements.

Belmore Park:

- TfNSW endorses the strategy in section 9 7.2 for Council to sustain relationships with TfNSW and State Government regarding the Central Precinct Renewal Program.

Johnstons Creek:

- TfNSW notes that Light Rail will continue to be a public transport service with two stops nearby – Jubilee Park and Rozelle Bay both linked directly to the CBD and the Inner West.

As such, TfNSW would like to maintain on-going discussions with Council in relation to the use and maintenance of the arches and hangars under the viaduct.

Wentworth Park

- TfNSW notes that Light Rail will continue to be a public transport service with two stops nearby – Wentworth Park and Glebe both linked directly to the CBD and the Inner West.

As such, TfNSW would like to maintain on-going discussions with Council in relation to the maintenance around the Wentworth Park area.

The Anzac Memorial Trust submission

General Comments (Hyde Park)

- The POM notes that the Anzac Memorial is not recognised within the plan as it is managed separately by the Trust. However, we think it should be noted that the Memorial is an integral component of the landscape and water feature setting, and the public function of the park. The two cannot be treated separately, the management of park and memorial are interrelated.
- We are pleased to see that the CoS is proposing to assess the current signage through the park, particularly in regards to improving the connections and directions for the surrounding cultural

Amendments are being applied to the Hyde Park Draft Plan of Management, where required.

Within the plan, the City of Sydney recognises the role of the Anzac Memorial and the ongoing need to sustain a relationship with the Trust to ensure holistic management of Hyde Park South.

The City of Sydney will present the Hyde Park Plan of Management to Council for adoption later in 2022.

institutions. The Memorial would appreciate if it could be consulted on that signage.

- The plan refers generally to provision for cycling. Should it mention the specific discussions that are underway about bike parking, cycleways, bollards?
- The construction of the Anzac Memorial and Centenary Extension are missing from some of the timelines in the document
- In the early sections of the document the Pool of Reflection is often mentioned but not the Water Cascade. This pattern reverses in the later sections of the document which note the Water Cascade but not the Pool of Reflection
- Under the discussion of the park's demographics we think it would be appropriate to also mention some of the social and behavioural problems in the area. There is significant use of the park by the homeless and people with mental health, drug and alcohol issues. There is regular drug use, assaults and theft. This should also, perhaps, be acknowledged in the discussions of the safety and security of the park.
- The Memorial would appreciate if mention could be made in the Plan that some of the common uses of other areas of the Park are not considered appropriate in the immediate vicinity of the Memorial. These include fitness training, skateboarding, public demonstrations.

Remembrance Driveway Council submission

Macquarie Place has social, cultural environment and historical significance for the City of Sydney and to the citizens of New South Wales. However I have also noted that your draft CBD Civic Space Draft Plan of Management is silent on the fact that that The Remembrance Driveway is a War Memorial, and that Macquarie Place is its point of commencement, marked by a plinth at the corner of Bridge and Loftus Streets Furthermore, there is only one reference to the planting of two plane trees by Her Majesty Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh dedicating the Remembrance Driveway on 5 February 1954. The draft Plan of Management does not reflect that the London Plane Tree planted and dedicated by The Queen has failed, nor describes the strategy to replace the tree.

City of Sydney response

Amendments have been applied to the CBD Civic Spaces Draft Plan of Management to reflect the significance of Macquarie Place Park as a war memorial and reference to the replacement of the London Plane Tree within the heritage overview of the park (see Appendices).

A management target and strategy (5.6) has been incorporated which recognises the importance of established plantings and the need to replace removed trees in accordance with Park Service Levels and City of Sydney guidelines. The replacement of the London Plane Tree is encompassed within this target and does not need to be identified separately.

Glebe Society submission

Comments on the General Crown Reserves Draft Plan of Management, Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management and Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management

1. General comment concerning the Indigenous people's historic habitation of Glebe's Crown Lands

There is general acceptance that Glebe/Forest Lodge is situated on the traditional lands of the Gadigal and Wangal people. In the above three Draft Plans of Management, only the Gadigal people are acknowledged in relation to Glebe/Forest lodge.

Recommendation: All Draft Plans of Management which relate to Glebe/Forest Lodge should be amended to include both the Gadigal *and* Wangal people.

2. General Crown Reserves Draft Plan of Management including Glebe Foreshore Walk East

The Draft Plan of Management for Glebe Foreshore East has been listed separately under General Crown Reserves. However, the report notes that Glebe Foreshore Walk East 'is integrated with Community land to form larger open space and connected to foreshore path network'. (p84)

Recommendation: It is recommended that Glebe Foreshore Walk East be included in the broader Plan of Management for Johnstons Creek Parklands, as it is an integrated extension of it.

We note that that The Walk has been extensively planted with native flora and is well maintained with the recent installation of metal loop fencing helping to protect the flora. The plan of management for the Walk should include a diversity of flora which includes species appropriate for the bay foreshore. From the perspective of establishing and maintaining a biodiversity of flora and fauna it is important to maintain the connectivity and link between the Foreshore Walk East and the other sections of the Bays foreshore plantings. A "native meadow" should be considered as a replacement for some of the grassland in front of the Walter Burley Griffin incinerator.

3. Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management

(a) The proposed Uses and Development activities include 'Community gardening' (p70).

Recommendation: It is recommended that Landcare/Bushcare activities should also be included under Uses and Development activities; we do not support the inclusion of gated community gardens on crown land.

The report notes that the parklands habitat corridor is predominantly found in small pockets of native vegetation and the established tree canopy (p23). By including 'Landcare/Bushcare' activities in addition to 'Community gardening', opportunities to increase biodiversity and the habitat corridor will be enhanced.

(b) The values and roles under *5.0 Environment and Sustainability* concerning vegetation management and urban ecology encapsulate many of the issues of concern to the Glebe and Forest Lodge community. However, the strategies and particularly the performance measures should be strengthened.

Recommendation:

The current plantings just completed along Johnstons Creek are inadequate to achieve good habitat outcomes. Creekside plantings should be enhanced with a dense shrub layer and small native trees planted to replace what has been removed in the creek naturalisation process. More

estuarine species are also needed. Such strategies would help meet the stated role of 5.2 *Landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment.*

Environmental weed management also continues to be poor and is not compliant with best practice bush regeneration. Unless the outcrops of *Celtis sinensis* are managed with urgency this invasive species will continue to dominate. The presence of so many fleshy fruited trees in the parklands is leading to an increase in species such as the aggressive Pied Currawong and reducing fauna diversity, as demonstrated in results of The Glebe Society annual spring bird surveys. The saltmarsh wetland, recognised in the POM as having unique biodiversity values was highly degraded during the naturalisation works and also needs urgent attention.

Baseline measures and monitoring should begin now and will be essential to ensure habitat values are being enhanced. Performance measures should be quantifiable and include time frames

To increase community understanding and participation, activities such as a community 'Bioblitz', guided by expert ecologists, would also help meet management targets 5.4 and 5.5 and align with recommended Bushcare and Landcare activities.

(c) The Plan of Management refers to the area known locally as "The Hill" and while noting that 'The Hill could be considered to provide biodiversity in its current state' (p23), the report also states 'Where feasible, investigate ways to progress contamination recommendations for The Hill '(p67).

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Plan of Management include the potential for developing The Hill as a safe urban Wildlife Habitat Refuge.

Such a refuge would require only minimal decontamination expense, minor weeding and revegetation, and offer valuable opportunities for research and possible future relocation of threatened species. These latter activities could be supported by the installation of remote sensing cameras.

We note that The Hill is currently fenced off from the surrounding area and cannot be used as a park open space. Its position, fencing and vegetation can provide an environment for abundant wildlife including birds, lizards, bees and small mammals to shelter and flourish. Organisations such as the Australian Wildlife Conservancy have shown that through successful management practices, fenced land areas can offer optimal opportunities for feral animal and weed control, as well as providing a safe haven for native fauna. In the Society's bird surveys (conducted by its Blue Wren Subcommittee) raptors, crested pigeons, brush turkeys and other birds have been identified on this crown land site.

Such a wild habitat refuge would be unique in the local government area and could also provide a safe site for the translocation of bird species, including the blue wren, which are no longer found in Glebe. Other opportunities include ongoing urban habitat research and community engagement through the use of remote sensing cameras installed within the site (similar to the peregrine falcon project at 367 Collins St Melbourne).

(d) The wetlands in Forest Lodge are responsible for filtering storm water from Annandale prior to its release into Johnsons canal. Gross material is caught in a trap before the water enters the wetlands and it is important that the trap be regularly cleaned. The rate of water flow through the wetlands is critical as it must be slow enough to filter contaminants. Also, overtime mud and other debris build-up in the wetlands and obstruct the water channel, which then requires clearing using earth-moving equipment.

Recommendation: a regular maintenance program should be established for the Forest Lodge wetland to ensure that entry trap is regularly cleaned and the water channel is not obstructed.

4. Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management

Background

Wentworth Park is a distinguished place with a rich history including:

1. Pre-colonisation: a pristine bay fed by a freshwater creek



Figure 1. Illustration 1 Joseph Lycett, Blackwattle Bay from Grose's Farm, detail from [Sydney from the Parramatta Road] 1819, SLNSW ML55

2. By 1882 the bay had been reclaimed and developed as a park for active and passive recreation with playing fields set in picturesque walks



Figure 2. Illustration 2 The Glebe, Parish of Petersham, Higginbotham and Robertson, SLNSW Maps/1192a

Above: the park had a landscape plan which integrated active recreation, a football ground and a cricket ground, and passive recreation with picturesque walks and lawns.

Left and above: Originally most of the park was reclaimed land only small sections, principally at the corner of Wattle and William Henry Street had been land pre colonisation, everything else was under water

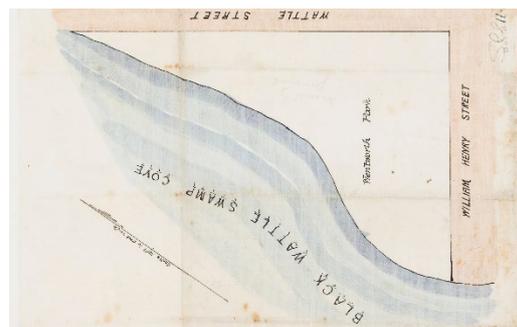


Figure 3. Illustration 3 Ultimo Block 32 John Harris Shanes Park, SLNSW, Z/SP/811.1735/59

3. In the 20th century the original design has been lost. It became a degraded and compromised landscape

For ease of maintenance the gardens were sacrificed, the greyhound track, on the site of the cricket oval, consumed the centre of the park splitting it in two. An enormous grandstand which blocks vistas of Glebe was erected in 1985.



Figure 4. Illustration 4 Aerial view 2020

Recommendations

i. The Greyhound Track

The Glebe Society believes that the licence on the greyhound track must not be renewed when it expires in 2027.

Pleasingly, the State Government's 2020 *Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy* includes the strategy to *facilitate the return of the Wentworth Park greyhound track land and the temporary pop-up school once their terms expire as newly activated, publicly accessible open space as part of a larger and enhanced parkland* (p. 63).

Recommendation: The Wentworth Park Plan of Management must include strategies for a larger and enhanced parkland based on removal of the Greyhound Track

ii. Strategies in the Draft Plan of Management for rehabilitating the park.

The 1991 plan of management included clear desired outcomes for rehabilitating the park:

Landscape Character: *An identifiable character and design for the whole park with a clearly defined boundary, using components of the formal nineteenth century parkland within the constraints imposed by the more recent developments within the park.*

A comparison of Illustrations 2 and 4 above makes it clear why this conclusion was reached. The 1880s scheme tied together the active and passive recreation needs in a pleasing way. There might be other ways of doing this but a previous scheme which was at the vanguard of park design in Sydney in the 1880s is much richer in terms of place making.

The 2021 draft plan has a defined goal which is to improve the park for both active and passive recreation and it identifies that the objectives of recovering pre-colonial significance (*a meaning of the place that resonates with country* [Section 9.1.1]), post-colonial significance (*a place which celebrates local, natural and cultural history* [Section 9.1.2]) and conserving heritage listed items, are important in shaping how this should be done.

However, the management targets and strategies and the performance measures to do this need to be better focussed in order to deliver better outcomes.

Some of the principles in the POM appear to have been adopted from other plans and are not easily applicable to Wentworth Park.

For example Section 5.2 Environment and Sustainability requires *landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment*.

Except for a small area at the corner of William Henry and Wattle streets, the park was originally under water. It had no landscaping and planting.

Does this mean the goal is to have pre-colonial *landscaping and plantings* only in the South-East corner of the park where they originally existed or is it the more generalised objective of having more indigenous plantings, that is intended?

If the latter applies will the plantings be confined to species known to have grown in the area such as *Callicoma serratifolia* (Blackwattle, the plant after which the bay was named) or will plants which are indigenous to other parts of Sydney be used?.

Recommendation: The Plan of Management needs to make it clear what is meant by *landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment*.

iii. Management Targets and Strategies

Good work was done in the 1991 plan in developing a clear overall vision for the park. Two things have happened in the last thirty years.

Firstly, recognition of the need to consult and reflect First Nation's communities in management strategies and secondly to take account of the likelihood, and opportunities arising from, the greyhound track's licence not being renewed after 2027.

Instead of building on the work of the 1991 plan the 2021 draft plan of management seems to be starting again. The result is performance standards and performance measures which are set too low. In short, the plan of management lacks vision. Good *targets and strategies* (something the plan is designed to embrace) cannot be established without an overall goal.

The sections of the plan which need review are:

9. Management targets and strategies

1.1 A meaning of the place that resonates with country

1.2 A place which signposts and celebrates local, natural and cultural heritage

5.2 Landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment

6.2 A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage

The table below sets out the pertinent *Values/Roles, Management Targets/Means* and *Performance Measures* as set out in the plan. The text in red highlights the inadequacies of the targets and strategies.

Ref	Values/Roles	Management Target	Means	Performance Measures
1.1	A meaning of the place that resonates with country	To implement a meaning and description that reflects connection to place	Work with the community to establish a meaning and description that captures the place's connection to country	Community consultation Adopted meaning and description

The plan is trying to put pre-colonial values into a colonial box. That is *country* is being defined by the boundaries of Wentworth Park, a colonial construct. In pre-colonial times Blackwattle Bay was defined by the estuary which starts in Victoria Park (another City of Sydney Crown lands reserve) and of which Lake Northam is a remnant,. First Nations material culture has been found along the route of the creek (now in pipes), for example near Broadway in the vicinity of Mountain Street. This objective should encourage the connection and interpretation of related places in order to make the pre-colonial landscape more legible. The First Nation's people must also be consulted about the significance of topography. The physical connection to the modern Blackwattle Bay is about to be cut off by a wall of masonry (the new fish markets), the Pymont peninsula will be hidden by a mountain of masonry (if the NSW government has its way). Is it important to traditional owners that the hills of Glebe remain low rise so the original topography is legible and the park can be read as reclaimed land? First nations people need to be asked about the significance of topography to Country.

1.2 A place which signposts and celebrates local, natural and cultural history.	To contribute to the spaces identity and character	Investigate the inclusion of informative and interpretative elements that reflect the spaces' historical identity and natural character	Increased visibility of park identity
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It sounds as though the landscape plan from the 1880s which artfully combined active and passive recreation is not going to be used as a basis for the park but will just be *signs on sticks*, how boring! The strategies also fail to bring 1.1 and 1.2 together. There are pre-colonial and post-colonial values and the POM needs to establish a process as to the strategy for bringing them together to achieve an outstanding design

5.2 Landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment	To increase indigenous plantings within the park landscape	Where appropriate and site conditions allow, investigate the planting of indigenous species	Increasing indigenous species
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See the comments on page 2 above. More clarity is needed. It may be that the gardenesque plan of the 1880s can be used to integrate the active and passive parts of the park but be planted with indigenous not introduced species and the previous shoreline on the corner of William Henry and Wattle Street be interpreted.

6.2 A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage	To appropriately manage and conserve elements of heritage significance To guide management and design decision making to achieve	Preparation and ongoing implementation of supporting documentation to guide the maintenance of sensitive and significant heritage assets and fabric	Completed supporting documentation
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optimum heritage
management
outcomes

Wentworth Park is a place of remnant heritage (natural and built), much of the hard and soft landscape which connected those elements – paths, fences around playing fields and plantings has gone. An important goal is recreating in some form the missing elements in order to make the place coherent and improve its amenity. The current focus, which is only on the extant things and not how to put back the connections, rather misses the point

Recommendation: Revised performance measures

Ref	Values/Roles	Management Target	Means	Performance Measures
1.1	A meaning of the place that resonates with country	To implement a meaning and description that reflects connection to place and to connect related sites along the Blackwattle Bay estuary	Work with the community to establish a meaning and description that captures the place's connection to country	Community consultation Adopted meaning, description and vision
1.2	A place which celebrates significant local, natural and cultural history.	To contribute to the spaces identity and character	Adapt components, of the formal nineteenth century parkland taking account of other uses and recognition of Country to give the park a coherent design	The design of the park draws from its distinguished pre-colonial and post-colonial history and is coherent, attractive and practical
5.2	Landscaping and planting which interprets the original natural environment	To increase indigenous plantings within the park landscape	Explore opportunities to use plants which are indigenous to Ultimo and Glebe to recreate the gardenesque layout	A unique park which marries indigenous and post indigenous landscape and plantings

6.2 A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage	To appropriately manage and conserve elements of heritage significance and to identify opportunities to recover missing details of the landscape they sit in in order to guide management and design decision making to achieve optimum heritage management outcomes	Preparation and ongoing implementation of supporting documentation to guide the design of the park and the maintenance of sensitive and significant heritage assets and fabric	Completed supporting documentation
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City of Sydney response to Glebe Society submission

Re: General comment concerning the Indigenous people’s historic habitation of Glebe’s Crown Lands

The City of Sydney notes the recommendation that plans include both the Gadigal and Wangal peoples. The City relies on advice from Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and cultural knowledge holders in these matters.

Re: Johnstons Creek Park draft plans of management

The Draft Plans of Management have been revised to include “community greening”, rather than “community gardening” as a permissible activity. The City of Sydney seeks to provide greening initiatives that encourage community participation and promote education and awareness on greening and the environment. Examples of this may include bushcare / landcare, community gardens, footpath gardens, etc.

The suitability of these initiatives and programs will be assessed on location and managed in accordance with the relevant adopted Council policy and strategy.

As recognised in management targets and strategies 5.4-5.6 (Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management), the City of Sydney will continue to monitor and manage biodiverse areas and habitat corridors in accordance with the adopted Landscape Codes, Bush Restoration and Parks Service Levels.

The City of Sydney notes the importance of the saltmarsh within Federal Park and will continue to maintain and manage it in accordance with best practice guidelines and bush restoration services levels (Strategy 5.6 – Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management).

The City of Sydney notes the recommendation regarding the development of The Hill as an urban Wildlife Habitat Refuge and will reassess the future use of this land once remediation has been progressed.

The Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with those lands encompassed within the adopted 2013 Master Plan. This does not include the Crown reserves or City-owned community land comprised within Glebe Foreshore Walk East.

Re: Wentworth Park draft plan of management

The Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management enables the City of Sydney to maintain existing operational activities whilst preparing a concept design (Management Target 7.1) based on the footprint of the consolidated park (including the Greyhound Complex) and will seek to address adjoining developments, influences, pressures and opportunities within the Pymont precinct in consideration of its historical, cultural and environmental context. This exercise will be completed in consultation with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and community members, the broader community and other identified stakeholders.

The Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management incorporates management targets and strategies (1.3 and 7.1) that require ongoing liaison with Crown Lands and other State agencies to see the return of the Greyhound Complex to the rest of the park. This proposal has also been recognised within the adopted Pymont Place Strategy. Presently, the City of Sydney has no authority to maintain or manage the Greyhound Complex. Upon appointment as Crown land manager of the Greyhound Complex site, the City of Sydney will revise the Wentworth Park Plan of Management to recognise new management targets and strategies that are reflective of the community's vision of this open space.

The Glebe Society's submission will be provided to the relevant Project Team when undertaking the Concept Planning exercise.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement undertaken

Sydney Your Say webpage

A [Sydney Your Say webpage](#) was created. The page included the draft plans of management, a location map of Crown lands in the City of Sydney area, the engagement report from the 2020 consultation, an FAQ page, and a Native Title fact sheet. There were 643 unique views of the Sydney Your Say page and 384 downloads of the draft plans.

Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

Sydney Your Say e-news

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say October 2021 e-newsletters (7,300 subscribers).

Stakeholder notification

Stakeholders were notified of the public exhibition through an e-newsletter. A total of 349 notifications were sent to community organisations, leaseholders, schools, sporting clubs, and people who participated in the 2020 consultation on the draft plans.

Community briefings

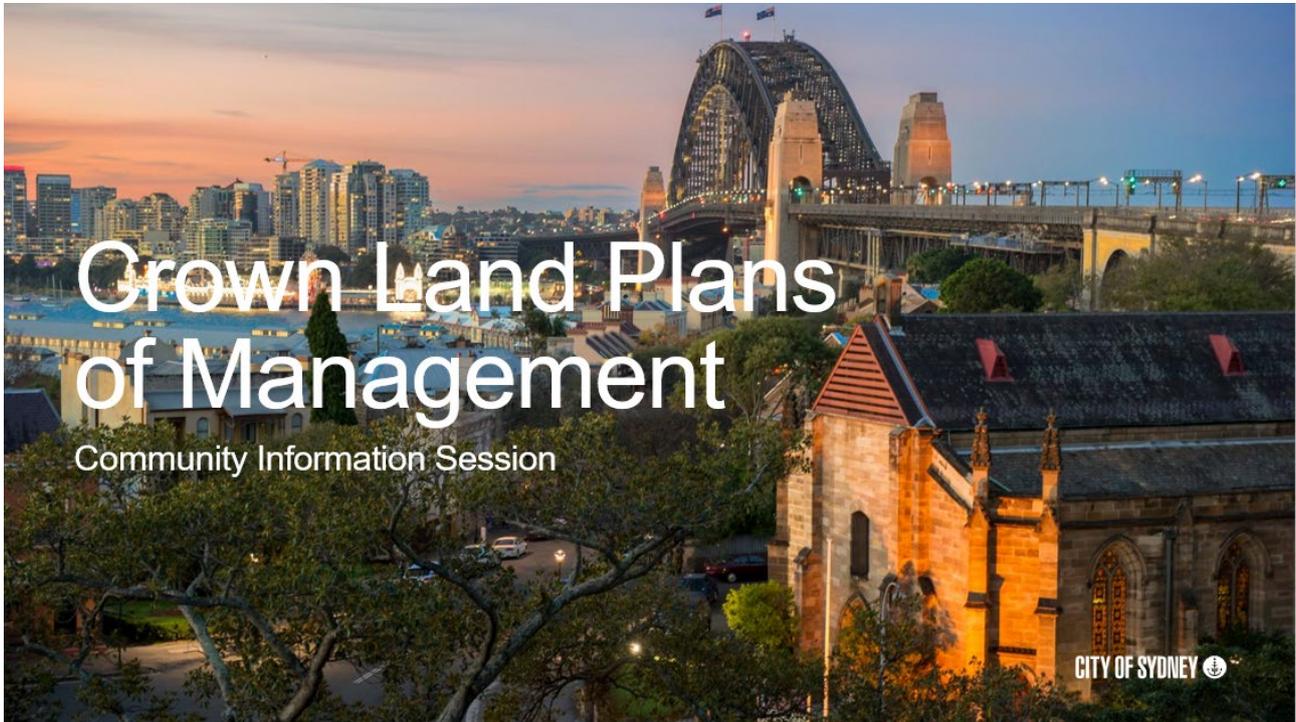
Community members who attended consultation workshops in November 2020 were invited to follow up briefings held on 20 and 21 November. The 2 online sessions were attended by a total of 9 stakeholders representing 6 community groups/organisations. Their feedback has been incorporated into the key findings of this report.

Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) briefing

The City met with MLALC Chief Executive Officer Nathan Moran to provide a briefing on how the community's values and aspirations for Crown land are realised within the draft plans, and how the Community Guiding Principles, guided by the world view of Aboriginal people, have been embedded. Notes from this meeting were shared via email in October 2021, with a confirmation that they would be included in the report as a submission.

Appendix

Appendix A: Community briefing presentation



Why we're doing this and what they are

Crown Land Management Act 2016

- New legislation requiring Councils to manage Crown land as “community land” under Local Government Act 1993

Plans of Management

- All community land is governed by a Plan of Management
 - Operational document outlining current and future uses of land, how they will be managed, maintained and improved in the future
- Management objectives are guided by the community's vision and values

Community Engagement

- Completed November – December 2020
- Required to inform preparation of Plans of Management
- Purpose:
 - Understand how spaces are used
 - What qualities the community values
 - Their vision for these spaces in the future
- Involved:
 - Broad community consultation
 - Focused conversations with First Nations stakeholders, community groups and City of Sydney staff
- Outcomes summarised in Community Engagement Report February 2021

3



Community Engagement Summary of Engagement Activities

Type	Participants
First Nations Community Conversations	13
Online Community Survey	189
Intercept Surveys	126
Pop-ups	126
Conversation Guide	2
Schools Activity Kit	23
Online Community Workshops	37
City of Sydney Internal Staff Workshop	24

4

Consultation Outcomes – What we heard



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What we heard

Millers Point Community

- In addition, the following themes were identified within the Millers Point Community:
 - Holistic management of the precinct
 - Improved access to water
 - Increased community use and activation of spaces
 - Tennis courts
 - Markets
 - Community buildings
 - Playgrounds

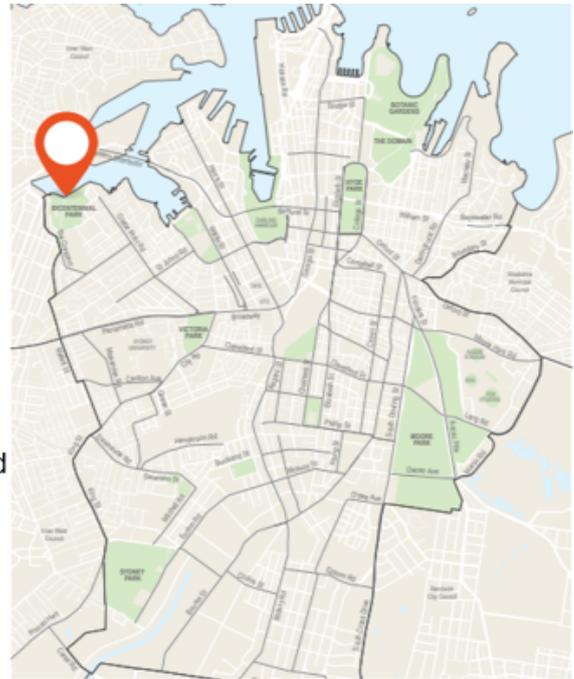
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What we heard

Glebe Community

- In addition, the following themes were identified within the Glebe Community:
 - Importance of the connection to water
 - Preservation of the views and vistas
 - Greater opportunities for community gardens
 - Creating connections between existing open and green spaces
 - Reclamation of the Greyhound Complex at Wentworth Park



Johnstons Creek, Glebe

Crown Land Plans of Management

Established Values – Basis for Management

- Established 7 x Values guided by community feedback
- Underpins the key management areas in all Crown Land Plans of Management
- Represents identified qualities and roles within each space that the community wishes to protect, conserve and enhance



Established Values – Basis for Management

1. Identity, Character and Experiencing the Place
2. Access, Connections and Accessibility
3. Community Use and Activation
4. Facilities and Built Infrastructure
5. Environment and Sustainability
6. Culture and Heritage
7. Maintenance and Management

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Community Guiding Principles

- Established principles to reframe our systemic relationship with the land
- Guided by a world view of Aboriginal people – respect for land, animals, waterways and First Peoples
- Recognises City’s important role as a caretaker of these places
 - Responsibility to cause no further harm in how we maintain, change and manage this land
- Principles are to be considered in ongoing decision-making

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Community Guiding Principles

- We are on Gadigal Country
- We commit to truth-telling and decolonisation
- We value how important these places are to people's wellbeing
- We are guided by Country and strive to heal and care for it
- We protect these places for future generations

10



Management Targets and Strategies

- Key actions the City will undertake to manage these spaces for the community
- Underpinned by values/roles and influenced by the Community Guiding Principles
- Where consistent roles have been identified universally, generic actions have been established
- Unique qualities of individual spaces have been recognised through site specific actions



11

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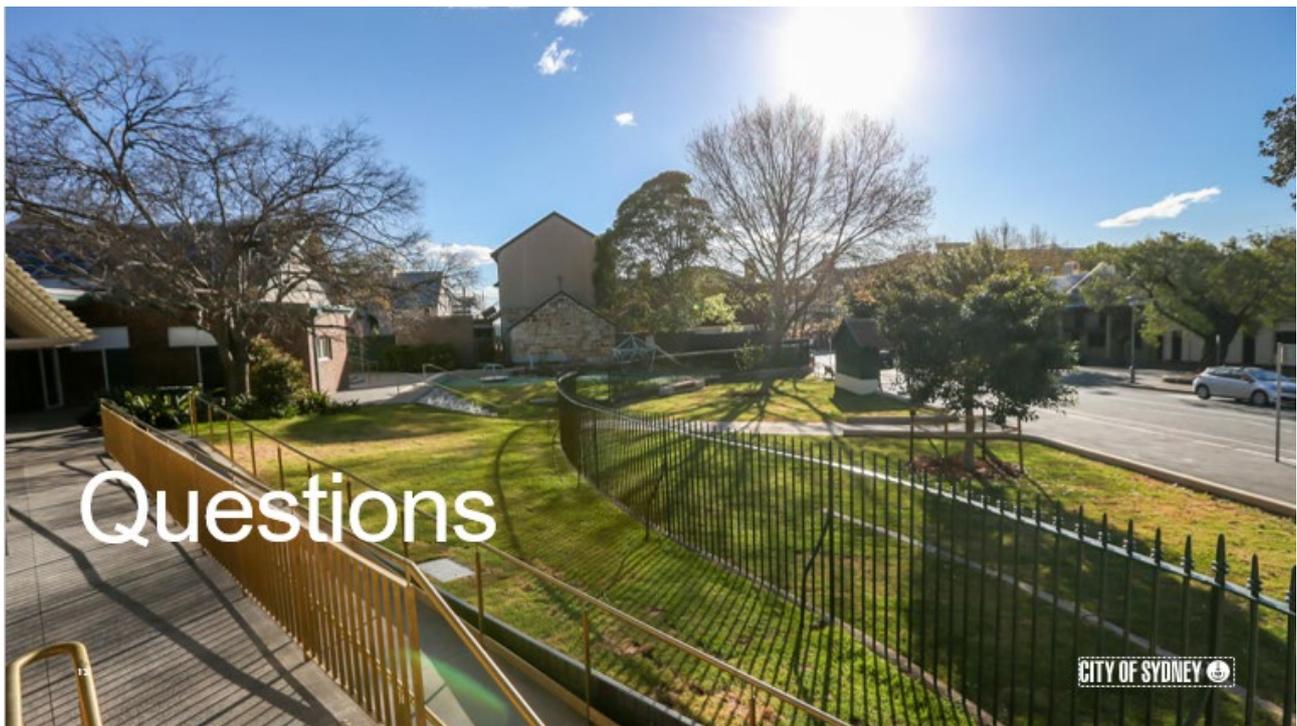
Next Steps

- Public Submissions Close 3 November
- The City will report to Council in November on:
 - Public exhibition outcomes
 - Final Plans of Management for adoption
- Upon Council adoption, City will seek Minister's consent to implement the plans

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* Note that the exhibition was extended to 24 November, with a report to Council in early 2022, and all stakeholders were informed of the extension.



Appendix B: Stakeholder e-news

Sydney Your Say CITY OF SYDNEY



Have your say on proposed plans of management for Crown lands

The City of Sydney manages 48 Crown reserves including Hyde Park, Wentworth Park, Victoria Park, Martin Place and many smaller areas.

In 2020, [we consulted our communities](#) to help us shape new plans of management for Crown land in our local area. We asked why these places are important to you and how they should be managed now and into the future.

Our communities told us that open, green and natural public spaces in the city are highly valued and should be accessible and safe for everyone to enjoy. There's strong support for the recognition and practice of First Nations people's continuous connection to Country.

Your insights and ideas helped to shape the proposed plans of management now open for feedback. Each plan includes community guiding principles that inform how we should approach decision-making to ensure we heal, care and protect Country.

An overview of what our communities wish to protect, conserve, and enhance within the spaces is included in each plan with a description of our strategies to ensure these values are maintained.

The draft plans of management are now on public exhibition, and the public consultation period has been extended for 3 weeks.

[View the proposed plans of management](#) and have your say by Wednesday 24 November.

Follow us



The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

[Unsubscribe](#)

