

Item 9.**Greater Sydney Parklands - Council Nomination for Centennial Parklands Community Trustee Board****File No: S127007.015****Summary**

Greater Sydney Parklands is a NSW Government agency established in July 2020 to manage some of Sydney's most iconic parks: Centennial Parklands (including Moore Park and Queens Park), Western Sydney Parklands, Parramatta Park, Callan Park and Fernhill Estate.

The Greater Sydney Parklands Act 2022 (the Act) created a legislated trust for the Greater Sydney Parklands.

Requirements of the Act include the preparation of a Community Engagement Framework and establishment of community trustee boards for each park that will provide a forum for ongoing community input and consultation.

A community trustee board will be established for Centennial Parklands. The draft terms of reference include provisions for the neighbouring councils to the Parklands (City of Sydney, Randwick City Council, Woollahra Municipal Council and Waverley Council) to nominate representatives as well an invitation to community members to nominate suitable candidates to the Greater Sydney Parklands.

It is recommended that Council nominate and endorse a Council representative to the Centennial Parklands community trustee board.

It is proposed by Greater Sydney Parklands that the community trustee boards will be established by December 2022 and commence operation in early 2023.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) nominate and endorse _____ as the City of Sydney representative to the Centennial Parklands community trustee board; and
- (B) note that representative duties and requirements will be as per the Terms of Reference as finalised by Greater Sydney Parklands.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Draft Greater Sydney Parklands Community Engagement Framework (as exhibited)
- Attachment B.** Terms of Reference - Community Trustee Board for Centennial Parklands (as exhibited)

Background

1. Greater Sydney Parklands is a NSW Government agency established in July 2020 to manage some of Sydney's most iconic parks: Centennial Parklands (including Moore Park and Queens Park), Western Sydney Parklands, Parramatta Park, Callan Park and Fernhill Estate.
2. Combined, Greater Sydney Parklands oversees more than 6,000 hectares of parklands across Sydney, and hosts over 40 million visits each year.

Greater Sydney Parklands Act 2022

3. The Greater Sydney Parklands Act 2022 (the Act) created a legislated trust for the Greater Sydney Parklands which sets out the objectives, function, governance structure, community consultation requirements, financial management requirements and other powers of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust.
4. The Act includes provisions for the progressive removal of on grass carparking at Moore Park East with the final section to be removed by 31 December 2024.
5. Requirements of the Act also include the preparation of a community engagement framework and establishment of community trustee boards to provide one mechanism for ongoing community engagement on the parklands.

Draft Community Consultation Framework

6. Greater Sydney Parklands recently publicly exhibited a draft Consultation and Engagement Framework for Greater Sydney Parklands.
7. The purpose of the consultation and engagement framework is to:
 - (a) provide guidance about how Greater Sydney Parklands will consult and engage with park users and visitors, and the community more generally on matters relating to the Parklands Estate;
 - (b) provide details relating to the establishment and operation of community trustee boards; and
 - (c) highlight the importance on the use of data to drive effective engagement and support robust decision making.

Community Trustee Boards

8. One of the requirements of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 is the establishment and operation of community trustee boards made up of diverse community members that provide advice to Greater Sydney Parklands on parkland matters.
9. The Act also requires a community trustee board to be created for each park, including Centennial Parklands. This will replace the current Centennial Parklands Community Consultative Committee.
10. The draft Terms of Reference include provisions for community members to nominate candidates to Greater Sydney Parklands as well as neighbouring councils to select representatives.

11. The Terms of Reference on how members will be appointed includes a process for ensuring a diversity of local representation and views, in relation to gender, age and cultural background, by First Nations people, as well as including heritage and relevant local council community representatives.
12. It is intended that the community trustee board meet at least four times per year.

Draft Centennial Parklands Community Trustee Board Terms of Reference membership requirements (as exhibited)

13. The draft Centennial Parklands Trustee Board Terms of Reference as exhibited include the following provisions relating to membership.
14. Comprised of seven positions:
 - (a) A member nominated by each relevant local council (City of Sydney, Woollahra, Randwick and Waverley councils) as a community representative. Three council nominated community representatives in total will be selected by the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport.
 - (b) Upon advice of Greater Sydney Parklands at least four other members will be appointed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport, including First Nations and heritage representatives.
15. The implication of the draft exhibited proposed membership arrangement is that if the four councils nominate representatives only three will be appointed Board membership.
16. Council nominated community representatives not selected by the Minister may attend meetings but are not members.

Proposed changes to the Centennial Parklands Community Trustee Board Terms of Reference membership requirements

17. Upon representations from City of Sydney, Woollahra, Randwick and Waverley Councils on the possibility that one of the four council nominated persons might not be appointed Greater Sydney Parklands have indicated the following proposed changes to the Centennial Parklands community trustee board terms of reference.
18. Comprised of 10 positions:
 - (a) A member nominated by each relevant local council (City of Sydney, Woollahra, Randwick and Waverley councils) as a community representative. (4 positions)
 - (b) At least six other members appointed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport, including First Nations and heritage representatives. (6 positions)
19. These changes will need to be approved by the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport and Cabinet.

Membership selection process

20. Members for the community trustee board are recruited from two processes:
- (a) an open Expression of Interest process conducted by Greater Sydney Parklands seeking nominations from suitably qualified community members community members; and
 - (b) members nominated by representative councils.
21. The Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 (the Act) is not prescriptive on the process on how council nominates a representative or the type of person councils should nominate. However, in recommending members for the community trustee board, the Trust must consider diversity, First Nations representation, and be satisfied that:
- (a) the person has sound knowledge of the relevant parkland including the activities carried out in the parkland;
 - (b) the person is able to communicate effectively with local residents, local community groups and other persons who use the relevant parkland; and
 - (c) the overall membership of the board will be reflective of the broad range of views and interests of the community and persons who use the relevant parkland.
22. Council received an invitation letter to nominate a community representative on 16 September 2022 and to submit that nomination to Greater Sydney Parklands by 31 October 2022.

Membership appointment approval

23. The Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport is required to approve appointments to the community trustee board.

Key Implications**Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision**

24. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. 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 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship - The community trustee board will provide a mechanism for advice and input into the management of Centennial Parklands.
 - (b) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - The community trustee board will provide advice and oversight to environmental sustainability and management activities of Centennial Parklands.
 - (c) Direction 3 - Public places for all - The community trustee board will provide advice on public space design proposals and management.

- (d) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - The community trustee board will provide advice on active transport and public transport matters affecting Centennial Parklands.
- (e) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - Community trustee board membership aims to include diverse voices relating to First Nations people, age, gender and cultural background.

Risks

- 25. Changes to the Terms of Reference ensuring the appointment of four neighbouring council nominees will require approval by the Minister and Cabinet. If the Terms of Reference are not amended there is a risk that the City's nominee will not be appointed to the community trustee board.

Social / Cultural / Community

- 26. The community trustee board provides a forum for diverse voices including First Nations, and people of diverse cultural background, age and gender.

Environmental

- 27. The community trustee board provides opportunities for ensuring input into environmental issues and sustainability relating to management of the Parklands.

Financial Implications

- 28. No organisational financial implications anticipated.
- 29. The positions on the community trustee board are not remunerated including payment for any out of pocket expenses.

Relevant Legislation

- 30. Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022.
- 31. Local Government Act 1993.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

- 32. Consultation on the draft Framework closed on 10 October 2022.
- 33. Nominations from council representatives for board membership closes on 31 October 2022. Note that the City has written to the Greater Sydney Parklands seeking a short extension due to the timing of the October Council meeting.
- 34. Greater Sydney Parklands aim to finalise the community consultative framework and establishment of the community trustee board by December 2022.
- 35. The first introductory meeting of the community trustee board is likely to be held in February 2023.

36. A community trustee board member holds office for a period not exceeding five years. Members will be appointed for two years in the first instance.

Options

37. Council nominate an elected member to the Centennial Parklands community trustee board.
38. Council nominate a suitably qualified community member to the Centennial Parklands community trustee board. It is noted that there has not been an adequate opportunity in the time available to undertake an appropriate expression of interest process to assist in identifying appropriate and interested community members.
39. Council choose not to nominate any person to the Centennial Parklands community trustee board. This option is not recommended. The community trustee board provides opportunities to provide advice on Centennial Parkland matters as well as awareness of City activities that are relevant to the Parklands.

Public Consultation

40. Greater Sydney Parklands undertook consultation on the Community Engagement Framework from 18 September to 10 October 2022 as well as a call for expressions of interest for community nominations appointment to the community trustee board from 18 September to 10 October 2022.

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