

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X099771.002 **DATE:** 19 September 2025

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 7.4 – Project Scope - Green Park Renewal

For Noting

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

Purpose

To provide further information in response to matters raised at the 15 September 2025 Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Background

At the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 15 September 2025, further information was sought on the following:

Services provided by Rough Edges

Rough Edges at 120 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst stopped their lunch service due to resourcing issues and duplication with many other services such as nearby St Canice at 28 Roslyn Street, Rushcutters Bay and Wayside Chapel at 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point (among others) who offer lunches.

Rough Edges do not intend to restart the lunch service as a result at their location on Darlinghurst Road. Rough Edges continue to remain open at 120 Darlinghurst Road in the evenings to provide evening meals and support.

Rough Edges continue to offer daytime programs at their location at Darlinghurst Road, and tea, coffee and biscuits. They have a new caseworker, who will be at the service on Tuesday and Friday during the day, and Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the centre on Darlinghurst Road.

Potential memorial for people sleeping rough (those that have passed away)

During the detailed design phase, the project team will seek input from the local community of people sleeping rough in Green Park in regards to memorial plaques on seats for community members who have passed away and who have strong ties to the park and its community.

Consultation with people sleeping rough at Green Park

Signs were placed in the park advertising the pop-up event. Staff typically do not approach or force people to give feedback. On the 2 trips engagement staff took to the park no people sleeping rough were sighted. Staff typically only engage if they are approached to discuss.

We make it as easy as possible for people to have a chance to give their feedback but do not chase them for feedback.

During the detailed design phase, another meeting in the park can be arranged to hear any specific issues by anyone using this open space.

Formal consultation with St Vincent's

Engagement staff have confirmed that 3 staff from St Vincent's were included on the initial stakeholder list. We received 6 separate submissions from staff associated with St Vincent's Private Hospital (SVPH) as part of the consultation. One of the submissions was on behalf of 5 staff.

St Vincent's staff will be contacted during the detailed design phase of the project specifically to gain feedback on the AIDS Memorial Garden.

Proposed and potential uses of the bandstand / process for previous activation

The proposed restoration provides flexibility for the space to be used by the community in a variety of ways at all times of the day. The upgrade creates a covered and elevated space with views over the park that can be used for small gatherings. The ground level is a confined space that is proposed to house services such as an electrical main switch board, irrigation controller and pump (if required), accessible via a service door.

The restoration of the bandstand to its original form of an open structure will enable the upper floor to be used by all park users directly from the park 24 hours of the day. Access will be via a new external staircase.

Qtopia Sydney occupied the bandstand temporarily for a period of 12 months starting from February 2023 to coincide with Sydney WorldPride. It was used as Sydney Queer Museum, initially forming part of a network of sites opened to coincide with Sydney WorldPride, with subsequent ongoing use for temporary exhibitions and performances. A change of use consent (following a development application (DA)) was granted for temporary use of 12 months only, pending confirmation of a permanent location for the museum elsewhere.

The lower ground of the bandstand served as the entry and a small exhibition space at the back. The low head height and step-down was managed by performance solutions consisting of warning signs and physical protections. The upper level presented an exhibition in the first 3 to 4 months and later staged performances 3 to 4 times a week. The space, connected only by a central internal spiral staircase, was not accessible. A digital screen was setup downstairs delivering upstairs' content as a performance solution.

Design considerations accommodating people sleeping rough (inclusive design / non-hostile environment considerations)

Early advice from staff provided the design team with insight to how the community used the park when visiting the many mobile voluntary services which frequent the edges of the park.

The park upgrade proposes to include a substantial increase in the amount of seating. Currently much of the seating is located near Darlinghurst Road and not easily accessible. Much of the new seating will be located along the path network for easier access. Some additional seats and bins will be installed near Darlinghurst Road where current mobile voluntary services operate each night. The seats are typical seat design with no 'hostile architecture' features.

The proposed bandstand restoration provides access to the upper level via a new staircase. This will provide a new sheltered area accessible at all times of the day..

The proposed design incorporated an array of additional seating along the edges of the park specially arranged to cater for the large amounts of the community who gather in the park. A new drinking fountain will be installed, in addition to the existing heritage fountain at Burton and Victoria Street.

Other local services and amenities in the area

Rough Edges at 120 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst, St Canice at 28 Roslyn Street, Rushcutters Bay, Wayside Chapel at 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point, Hope Street Women's Space at 174 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo, God in the City at Forbes Street, Woolloomooloo, the Reginald Murphy Community Centre at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point and the Mob Connect Hub at the Rex Centre, Potts Point operate within a short distance of Green Park.

In addition, St Vincent's Health Network (formerly Homeless Health) is directly across the road from Green Park. St Vincent's Health Network Registered Nurses regularly engage with clients in Green Park and also see clients that present to the O'Brien Centre, Darlinghurst. The [Urban Health Hub](#) at adjacent Green Park Hotel is currently being renovated to include a Safe Haven Café. Safe Haven Cafés are operated by St Vincent's Hospital and offer support from staff with lived experience, 1:1 support and group work, health education and wellbeing planning and more. It also offers tea, coffee and biscuits. There is also a Safe Haven Café operating at the O'Brien Centre on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays from 5 to 8.30pm and Saturdays and Sundays 12 to 4pm.

Kirketon Road Centre, a NSW Health operated service that provides free and anonymous care to people who experience barriers to accessing health care, operates in the park on Monday to Saturday 6-9pm, often with staff from Wayside Chapel. The Darlinghurst Health Hub, a partnership between St Vincent's and Kirketon Road Centre, operates on Thursdays 10am to 12pm and provides a BBQ in Green Park. Charity services Hands & Feet provide food and clothing on Fridays 10pm and One Meal, who provide food on Saturday and Sunday 6 to 6.45pm also operate in the park.

Memo from Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

Prepared by: James Kidd, Design Manager

Attachments

Attachment A. Green Park - Nearby Services and Amenities Map

Approved

P. M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer