50-YEAR VISION FOR GREATER SYDNEY’S OPEN SPACE AND PARKLANDS

Public feedback on the Draft Vision

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

DECEMBER 2020
SNAPSHOT OF FEEDBACK
Engaging on the draft Vision

On 17 July 2020 the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces announced a draft 50-Year Vision to guide the future of Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands. The Vision was exhibited for public comment from July to September 2020.

Who provided feedback on the draft Vision?

Numerous and diverse members of the community and stakeholders provided feedback on the draft Vision. This included representatives of government agencies, local councils, local Aboriginal land councils, non-government organisations, community, environmental and recreational groups and more than 1,500 Sydneysiders.
Response to the draft Vision and strategic directions

Establishment of a 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands was widely supported by people who participated in the public engagement process. The majority of survey participants agreed it is important to have a clear vision for the next 50 years of Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands. Forum participants and submitters also expressed support for a clear vision to protect and enhance Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands.

Participants expressed strong support for the draft Vision identified in the Open Space Discussion Paper. The majority of survey participants were supportive of the draft Vision. Forum participants and submitters also expressed support for the draft Vision, commenting on the importance of Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

There was a desire for the Vision to more strongly reflect the importance of open space and parklands in relation to:

- maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- mitigating climate change impacts
- supporting human health and wellbeing across physical, mental and spiritual dimensions
- its contribution to culture and heritage with a strong focus on recognising and celebrating Aboriginal culture.

Specific suggestions were also made in relation to the detailed content of the draft Vision, as discussed in this report.

Participants expressed concern that without a clear action plan and adequate resourcing the 50-Year Vision will not be realised. Development of a robust action plan and resourcing strategy was recommended.

There was a high level of overall support for each of the four strategic directions: Strategic Direction 1 – Growing a city of parks for people; Strategic Direction 2 – Connecting neighbourhoods to parks; Strategic Direction 3 – Keeping Sydney green and captivating; and Strategic Direction 4 – Being smart and resilient. More than three quarters of survey participants agreed with the four strategic directions identified in the discussion paper. Forum participants and submitters also expressed support for all four strategic directions.

Participants expressed a desire for the four strategic directions to be refined to provide further detail and a greater focus on key elements. In particular feedback highlighted a desire for the Vision to have a stronger focus on key elements of Strategic Direction 4: Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity; and Mitigating climate change impacts. For instance, through a new fifth strategic direction.

There was overall support for a Greater Sydney Parklands agency. Forum participants and submitters expressed support for a metropolitan approach to planning and advocacy for open space and parklands – across local government boundaries. Feedback highlighted the importance of an integrated approach to planning and management of open space and parklands in close liaison with local councils, local communities and other stakeholders.

Concerns were raised about the Greater Sydney Parklands agency in relation to:

- its overarching role and objectives – with concerns focusing on potential for the reduced protection, over-commercialisation or sale of public open space and parklands
- future governance and decision making – with concerns raised in relation to potential impacts on local level priorities, participation and influence (including in relation to the proposed amalgamation of parkland trusts).
SNAPSHOT OF FEEDBACK

Suggestions focused on:

» a clearly stated commitment for the new agency to preserve and protect Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands

» long term funding by State Government to support realisation of the Vision – including a strategic asset management approach to ensure parks assets are maintained and renewed to meet increasing demand; directing any monetary savings from amalgamation of the parkland trusts to upkeep of the parklands; ensuring funding models for the parklands remove the need for over commercialisation of open space

» opportunities for meaningful and ongoing engagement with the community and stakeholders to support planning for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands – including a governance model that allows for local community input into management of parklands, a strong voice for First Nations peoples, trust board members with relevant expertise, and a key point of contact within the new Greater Sydney Parklands agency to work in partnership with all stakeholders to realise future opportunities.

Next steps

Public feedback on the draft Vision will be considered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in finalising the Vision which will be released in late 2020. You can find out more and sign up to receive updates by visiting www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/gsp.
2 VISION IN CONTEXT
2 VISION IN CONTEXT

About the 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands

On 17 July 2020 the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces announced a draft 50-Year Vision to guide the future of Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands.

The draft Vision and four strategic directions were identified in the Open Space Discussion Paper to start a conversation about the creation of a sustainable network of green space throughout Sydney.

A series of case studies were presented to illustrate each of the strategic directions.

The Discussion Paper and engagement process also discussed establishment of the Greater Sydney Parklands agency to support realisation of the Vision.
3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
Engaging on the draft Vision

The draft 50-Year Vision was publicly exhibited for a period of approximately ten weeks between 17 July and 30 September 2020. The purpose of the engagement process was to present members of the community and other stakeholders with information about the draft 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands and the Greater Sydney Parklands agency, and to provide meaningful opportunities for people to have their say.

More specifically the engagement process sought to:

» Raise awareness of the draft Vision and four strategic directions
» Obtain feedback on the draft Vision and strategic directions
» Identify opportunities to realise the Vision and strategic directions.

What did the process involve?

Given the importance of open space and parklands to all Sydneysiders – including residents, local councils, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, community and environmental groups and others – the engagement process was designed to be inclusive and wide reaching.

The engagement program involved presentation and testing of the draft Vision through:

» Public release of the draft 50-Year Vision and Discussion Paper
» Online presence including:
  » Community survey open to all members of the public
  » Email address open to public comments and submissions
» Series of online discussion forums targeting key stakeholders
» Panel survey conducted with an online panel of Sydneysiders.

A public communications campaign was held to promote awareness and participation in the engagement activities. It involved:

» Direct communications with key stakeholders
» Social media campaign and electronic billboard signage.

The communications and engagement activities were conducted using online and digital methods given the Covid-19 context.

For details of the electronic billboard signage see Appendix A.
### Public Engagement

**Who participated?**

Public communications and engagement on the 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands reached diverse Sydneysiders through:

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<thead>
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<th>1,000</th>
<th>5,148</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parkland Roundtables</strong>&lt;br&gt;– Cross-agency decision makers, Diverse voices, Aboriginal voices, Youth voices</td>
<td><strong>Parkland Briefings</strong>&lt;br&gt;– Centennial Park Community Consultative Committee (CCC), Friends of Callan Park, Friends of Parramatta Park, Friends of Fennell and Mulgoa</td>
<td><strong>Panel survey</strong> – 1,000 members of the community from across Sydney’s five districts</td>
<td>5,148 project website hits</td>
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<td><strong>Parkland Conversations</strong>&lt;br&gt;– Western Parkland City councils, Central River City councils, Eastern Harbour City councils, Northern City / Beaches councils</td>
<td><strong>Community survey</strong>&lt;br&gt;– 526 members of the community with an interest in the vision</td>
<td><strong>Submissions</strong> from individuals and organisations</td>
<td>33 social media comments</td>
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For further details of participants see Appendices B to D.
4 WHAT WE HEARD
WHAT WE HEARD

Feedback on the draft Vision

Survey findings

What do you think of the following statement?: “It is important to have a clear vision for the next 50 years for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands” – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (74%) and panel survey (53%) strongly agreed that it is important to have a clear vision for the next 50 years for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands. Another one in five (18%) to one in three (35%) agreed with this statement. Four percent of survey participants disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement and between four and seven percent were neutral.

Indicate your thoughts on the following statement: “The draft 50-Year Vision is how I see Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands 50 years from now” – Opt in Survey only (n=526)

Just over half of all people who participated in the community survey (51%) agreed or strongly agreed that the draft Vision is how they see Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands 50 years from now. Close to one in four disagreed or strongly disagreed and another quarter were neutral.
Which ideas in the draft 50 Year Vision for the future of Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands (shown above) are most important to you? Please choose your top three – Panel Survey only

Panel survey participants were asked which of the ideas in the draft 50-Year Vision they find most important. Close to two thirds of participants highlighted the importance of **parks for people to connect, exercise, reflect and celebrate in** (62%).

The next most commonly identified elements of the draft Vision were: open spaces and parklands that are easy to get to and sustainable (42%); parklands, open spaces and waterways set within Sydney’s landscape (37%); and open spaces and parklands that provide a home for plant and animal life (36%).
Feedback from forums and submissions

Feedback on the draft Vision raised in the forums and submissions was largely supportive. As in the survey, people who provided comment on the draft Vision supported the establishment of a vision to guide planning and management of open space and parklands across Greater Sydney for the next 50 years. The various elements of the draft Vision attracted strong positive feedback; as did the long term and strategic focus of the Vision.

Particular aspects of the draft Vision that received positive feedback were:

» the emphasis on connecting new and existing open space across Greater Sydney’s open space network
» the idea of open space as an important community asset that requires attention and investment
» the focus on maintaining and expanding Greater Sydney’s open space as a priority for future generations
» the consideration of accessibility and inclusivity of open space.

Participants expressed a desire for the Vision to more strongly reflect the importance of open space and parklands in relation to:

» maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
» mitigating climate change impacts
» supporting human health and wellbeing – across physical, mental and spiritual dimensions
» its contribution to culture and heritage – with a strong focus on recognising and celebrating Aboriginal culture.

Concern was raised that without a clear action plan and adequate resourcing the Vision will not be realised. There was strong interest in how the Vision will link to broader local and state government initiatives focused on open space and parklands, and how open space connections and opportunities will be facilitated across council boundaries.

Participants were supportive of the case studies highlighted in the discussion paper – viewing these as good examples of how to realise the Vision and four strategic directions. The inclusion of additional case studies was suggested to highlight elements of the Vision.
In your words...

“The Vision document is about all of us.”

“We need to be cognisant of local needs but also look at open space as a system across Greater Sydney.”

“Having a policy at state level that talks to council policies is helpful.”

“50 years is a long time so it’s important to get the Vision right.”

“[We] need a clear map for implementation highlighting the key opportunities and where to get started.”

“This is an opportunity to ‘bring alive’ Aboriginal legacies and cultural education.”
“We are sceptical of the value of a 50-year vision unless it is backed up by an action plan for at least the first decade and the resourcing necessary to implement that plan.”

“The current COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced how valuable and popular parklands are for people to gain respite, exercise and connect with nature.”

“Our city’s parks and gardens are among Sydney’s greatest assets and a resource that belongs to, and benefits, the entire community.”
WHAT WE HEARD

Feedback on the four strategic directions

Survey findings

Please share your thoughts on the following statement: “I agree with the four strategic directions: Growing a city of parks for people; Connecting neighbourhoods to parks; Keeping Sydney green and captivating; Being smart and resilient” – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

Close to three quarters of all people who participated in the community survey (74%) and more than nine in ten (91%) panel survey participants agreed or strongly agreed with the four strategic directions identified in the discussion paper. Between three and eleven percent disagreed or strongly disagreed and another five to 14 percent were neutral.

Feedback from forums and submissions

Overall, feedback on the four strategic directions raised in the forums and submissions was strongly supportive. As in the survey, people who participated in a forum or made a submission generally expressed support for the four strategic directions.

Feedback generally focused on the need for further detail and to ensure the strategic directions capture a wide range of potential opportunities. A small number of participants commented that the strategic directions and opportunities could be further condensed.

Participants expressed a desire for the strategic directions to be refined to provide a stronger focus on key elements. In particular many participants commented on Strategic Direction 4: Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity; and Mitigating climate change impacts. Detailed commentary on the strategic directions is provided in the next sections of this report.

Discussions about the reach and appropriateness of the strategic directions often led to conversations about knowledge and information sharing. Participants asked what information exists about Sydneysider’s current and future open space needs and aspirations, and highlighted the importance of capturing information about local level innovations and case studies that could contribute to the Vision. Participants expressed enthusiasm for the Vision to facilitate conversations and information sharing between stakeholders including councils, government agencies, Aboriginal stakeholder groups, established parkland groups and environmental groups.
Feedback on Strategic Direction 1: Growing a city of parks for people

Survey findings

What is most important to “Grow a city of parks for people across Greater Sydney”? Please choose your top three – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

The elements of Strategic Direction 1 most commonly identified as being important are shown here. Among all survey participants these were: more open space and parklands where people live and work; and access to open space that meets local community needs. Community survey participants also commonly identified Caring for Country principles to create and care for open space and parklands as an important priority. Whereas, panel survey participants identified improved facilities in open space and parklands to meet specific cultural needs as one of their top three priorities.
WHAT WE HEARD

Feedback from forums and submissions

The importance of Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands to Sydneysiders’ quality of life was widely discussed in the forums and submissions. Participants commented on the importance of these spaces to people’s physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing – as places where people can come together and connect, and where they can also spend time on their own. People commented on the increased use and growing demand for open spaces and parklands in the context of Covid-19 – as spaces for people to exercise, relax and socialise safely while practising social distancing.

Feedback on Strategic Direction 1 raised in the forums and submissions focused on:

- Ensuring that open space and parklands meet the needs of diverse members of the community across all ages and abilities – including older people, children and young people and people with disability. Young people were identified as experiencing a ‘move on’ culture and feeling less welcome than other members of the community when using open space.

- The importance of community safety to support use of open space and parklands by diverse users. Comments focused on women including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. They highlighted the importance of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles in the design and delivery of open space and parklands.

- Ensuring Aboriginal people and communities are involved in planning and management of open space and parklands and that these spaces are used to tell the stories of Sydney’s First Peoples. Participants emphasised the importance of embedding Caring for Country principles in all stages of open space planning, design and delivery and providing robust and meaningful opportunities for the involvement of Aboriginal people. Opportunities for people to learn about Aboriginal culture and heritage from Aboriginal knowledge holders including traditional elders and park rangers were discussed.

- Ensuring open space and parklands meet the needs of Sydney’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities, based on a clear understanding – not assumptions – about what these needs may be.

- Using best practice approaches in the creation of new and renewal of existing open space and parklands to successfully meet the needs and aspirations of Sydneysiders and visitors – including learning from local and international exemplars. There was widespread support for enhanced knowledge sharing between government agencies and local councils to support positive open space outcomes and benefit from ‘lessons learned’.

- Concern that the Vision should more strongly reflect the importance of open space and parklands for human health and wellbeing (physical, mental, spiritual). It was suggested that the Vision should more specifically acknowledge the different roles and functions of open space e.g. open space for people to enjoy passively, actively or through organised activities.

- Concern that the Vision should more strongly reflect the importance of open space and parklands for its cultural and heritage values. Feedback highlighted the importance of parklands including Callan Park and Centennial Parklands to Sydney’s past and future. Recognising and respecting the unique qualities and attributes of these spaces was identified as being critical to their ongoing importance to Sydney as it grows.
In your words...

“We need multipurpose spaces. Space that works for older people will work for everybody.”

“...through Covid we have seen the importance of public spaces. If there’s a way we can use ‘desire paths’ as a way forward for the design and management of parklands – voting with your feet – that would be great.”

“The work of the Greater Sydney Parklands agency needs to be based upon the principles that the whole of Sydney (and the state) exists in a landscape of great beauty, complex natural processes and unique heritage and stories, and that the city needs to be considered a Parkland in itself, worthy of protection and enhancement.”
WHAT WE HEARD

“Human access [to open space] should never be at the expense of natural habitats.”

“The significance of ‘Caring for Country’ is that we need to honour our Indigenous knowledge of Australia and allow that to thrive into the future.”

“It is through embedding ‘Caring for Country’ into the planning and governance of open spaces that we create a lasting legacy for future generations.”

“The Vision works well in terms of meeting a diversity of needs.”
Feedback on Strategic Direction 2: Connecting neighbourhoods to parks

Survey findings

What is most important to “Connect neighbourhoods to open space and parks”? Please choose your top three – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

The elements of Strategic Direction 2 most commonly identified as being important are shown here. Among community survey participants these were: using surplus public lands for open space and parklands; planning early for open space at a neighbourhood level; and new ways to provide public open space in high density areas. Whereas panel survey participants identified the top three elements of Strategic Direction 2 as: new ways to provide public open space in high density areas; opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists and people using public transport to enjoy open spaces; and better quality open space in Western Sydney. Connecting new neighbourhoods to existing open space areas attracted a much higher level of support among panel survey participants than those who took part in the community survey.

Focus on active transport

People most likely to select ‘Opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists and people using public transport to enjoy open spaces’
63% of people aged 18-35 vs 46% of those aged 56+

Focus on Western Sydney

People most likely to select ‘Better quality open space areas in Western Sydney’
57% of people in the Western District and 61% of people in the Central District vs 30% of those in Sydney’s North District and 31% in the Eastern District (and 38% in the South District)
WHAT WE HEARD

Feedback from forums and submissions

The importance of an equitable approach to access and connections to Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands was widely discussed. Participants commented on the importance of open space and parklands to meet the needs of Sydney’s neighbourhoods across the city. They discussed the importance of these spaces to meet the needs of residents and workers – particularly those in high density urban environments – as Sydney’s population continues to grow over the next 50 years.

Feedback on Strategic Direction 2 raised in the forums and submissions focused on:

» Strong support for the proposal to connect existing and new open spaces and parklands, with a view to improving the performance and usability of these spaces for people, plant and animal life and the environment more broadly. Potential connections identified included:
  – Fernhill to the Great River Walk and Mulgoa – to serve as a recreational and ecological link
  – Blue Mountains to Fernhill – connecting Cumberland Plain Woodlands with potential East/West and North/South connections
  – Penrith river loops – connecting the Penrith CBD with nearby open space including banks of the Nepean River
  – Queens Park to Bronte Gully
  – Moore Park to Queens Park – with a suggestion that Moore Park golf course be reduced to 9-holes to accommodate linkage
  – Parramatta Park to Mays Hill / Wisteria Gardens – with the suggestion of land bridges
  – Duck River connections to greater river network beyond Sydney
  – Green Square to Centennial Park – with the suggestion of improved wayfinding
  – North Head to Parramatta – completing key connections which are currently missing
  – Great West Walk with the Great River Walk
  – regenerating railway corridors.

» Support for strategic land acquisitions that contribute to the broader network of connected open spaces and the Premier’s Priority to increase the proportion of people living near open space.

» Improving pedestrian and cycle connections to enhance access to open space and parklands, but ensuring that appropriate consideration is given to separating pedestrian and cycle connections where appropriate to increase public safety and desirability.

» Improving public transport access to open space and parklands.

» Prioritising active travel, but ensuring that vehicle access is maintained to key parkland destinations. Participants commented that some members of the community such as older people and people with disability may depend on private vehicle access to access parklands.

» Concern that the Vision should place greater emphasis on improving existing open space and parklands rather than the creation of new open space and parklands (e.g. revitalising Moore Park to improve urban amenity in this high-density location).
WHAT WE HEARD

In your words...

“[The aim is] to be connected so that an experience in nature is not a special destination but part of the everyday.”

“Proximity to open space and parklands is important, but equally or more important is the connectivity of parklands.”

“The green infrastructure network, collectively known as ecosystem services, is absolutely the essence of healthier, safer and more prosperous services city.”

“NSW [Government] should seriously consider repurposing land currently utilised for golf courses, which comprise a significant proportion of open space in the areas with the least open space and which can also create barriers to the development of convenient active transport routes.”
Feedback on Strategic Direction 3: Keeping Sydney green and captivating

Survey findings

What are the best ways to ‘Keep Sydney green and captivating’ for residents and visitors? Please choose your top three – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

The elements of Strategic Direction 3 most commonly identified as being important are shown here. Among all survey participants there was strong support for: create or improve open space areas alongside Sydney Harbour, the city’s rivers and creeks. This was followed by: plan for and enhance the city’s many landscapes in a way that recognises their uniqueness; and open up more places where people can enjoy ‘heritage within the landscape’ (such as old homes and cultural sites). Planting one million trees by 2022 attracted a higher level of support among panel participants than those who took part in the community survey. Support was particularly strong among young people.
Feedback from forums and submissions

Feedback highlighted the strong value placed on open space and parklands by individuals, groups and communities across Greater Sydney. Opportunities to experience and enhance Sydney’s green and blue networks and the scenic qualities of the city’s open space and parklands were widely recognised.

Feedback on Strategic Direction 3 raised in the forums and submissions focused on:

» The importance of a considered approach to planning and management of open space and parklands, to meet diverse and sometimes conflicting uses and priorities. For instance, consideration should be given to ensuring that Sydneysiders have access to open space for active and passive recreation purposes, and also preserving open space areas for their ecological value.

» Maintaining and enhancing the unique qualities of Sydney’s diverse landscapes, in liaison with local councils, local communities and knowledge holders – such as Aboriginal elders, community, environment and heritage groups.

» The importance of access to waterways in all parts of Sydney – including Western Sydney. Discussions highlighted the impacts of climate change – including urban heat and water scarcity – on Greater Sydney’s communities and environment.

» Planting more and appropriate trees to improve the appeal of Sydney’s urban areas, provide shade, help address urban heat and enhance the city’s birdlife.

» Community awareness and education campaigns were proposed to foster participation in open space and parkland projects and encourage stewardship of these spaces.
In your words...

“Open space needs to be captivating, but people have different needs and wants in open space. Some people want natural heritage walks and others need picnic spaces near car parking.”

“The public looks for areas of open space, canopy, green spaces and open access to it.”

“Open space needs to be captivating to draw people to it – this factor is almost more important than connectivity because people need to be motivated to access open space.”

“Keeping Sydney captivating means embracing the unique environment and heritage of open space and parklands in the region.”

“Children and young people love bush and parkland but hate when it’s littered. There’s a want for attractive spaces.”

“Young people want somewhere beautiful that makes them feel safe and relieves anxiety.”
WHAT WE HEARD

Feedback on Strategic Direction 4: Being smart and resilient

Survey findings
What are the best ways to ‘Be smart and resilient’ to meet the future needs of our communities and changing environment? Please choose your top three – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

![Survey results chart]

The elements of Strategic Direction 4 most commonly identified as being important are shown here. Among all survey participants these were: connect natural areas and animal habitats throughout Greater Sydney; increase trees across Greater Sydney; and protect biodiversity on private lands through private land conservation agreements. Use of technology to collect data and develop new visitor experiences attracted higher levels of support from panel survey participants than those who took part in the community survey. Support was particularly strong among young people.

Focus on technology in parks
People most likely to select ‘Use smart technologies to collect data’ 39% of people aged 18-35 vs 24% of those aged 56+
Feedback from forums and submissions

The importance of being smart and resilient to meet the future needs of Sydney’s growing population and changing climate was widely recognised. The environmental aspects of Strategic Direction 4 were far more widely discussed than the ‘smart city’ elements. Participants expressed an appreciation of the growing importance of technology to open space planning and management over the life of the 50-Year Vision.

There were mixed perspectives on the relationship between open space and parklands and environmental resilience, with some participants focusing on how to protect open space from the impacts of climate change and others focusing on how open space can mitigate the effects of climate change. Forum participants and submissions discussed the importance of adaptable open space areas that can withstand climate challenges such as more extreme weather events – for instance through increased use of drought tolerant plantings.

Technology was seen as being useful to develop an evidence base to inform parkland planning and maintenance. Some participants regarded it as an opportunity to increase awareness and enhance the experience of Greater Sydney’s parklands among Sydneysiders and visitors. Others commented on the value of open space and parklands as low or no tech places where people can escape the everyday and enjoy respite from technology. Opportunities for social interaction and learning were highlighted, such as community gardens and parkland experiences led by Aboriginal knowledge holders such as park rangers.

Feedback on Strategic Direction 4 raised in the forums and submissions focused on:

» Concern that the Vision should more strongly reflect the importance of open space and parklands for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

» The importance of open space and parklands for mitigating climate change impacts.

» The importance of future-proofing open space and parklands in the context of climate change.

» Suggested opportunities to use smart technologies for open space planning and management included:
  – Collecting open space user data (relating to active and passive recreation) and using this to inform decision making about needs, demand, gaps, resourcing, expenditure and infrastructure
  – Collecting data on biodiversity, water use and so forth and using this to support climate change mitigation strategies
  – Collecting data on tree growth and temperature resistance in plants and using this to inform long term planting strategies.
In your words...

“All levels of government... have a role in the urgent work of responding to and mitigating the climate crisis. The Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands is no exception. Environmental considerations must be given primacy in all policies and strategies aimed at a sustainable and prosperous future.”

“Parklands need to be resilient and that means parklands may not always be green.”

“[Instead of relying on technology] parklands could use bush rangers as storytellers.”

“Using information collected from the public on the use of parklands will provide insights into the trends and preferences as people interact with open spaces and parklands [to inform decisions].”

“Sometimes keeping it simple is smart.”
WHAT WE HEARD

Further comments on the draft Vision

Survey findings

Please share any comments or suggestions on the draft 50-Year Vision – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

Survey participants commonly provided comments recognising the importance of open space and parklands and in support of the Vision. For instance, discussing its focus on more and improved open space and parklands across Greater Sydney, and commenting on the value of these spaces for a socially connected and environmentally sustainable future.

Participants suggested the Vision should have a greater focus on climate change. Increased recognition of the importance of retaining and enhancing biodiversity was also widely discussed.

Comments proposed a greater focus on human health and wellbeing benefits in the Vision. Participants discussed the importance of an inclusive Vision that meets the needs of diverse members of the community – such as young people and older people.

Comments were made on the text and format of the draft Vision. For instance, some survey participants commented that the Vision should be more specific, whereas others proposed a more concise and accessible Vision statement.

A selection of indicative comments from people who took part in the surveys are shown here.
WHAT WE HEARD

In your words…

“I think it sounds great.”

“Just do it, don’t just talk about it.”

“This would be perfect to interconnect the people of Sydney.”

“Think about climate change too.”

“For there to be open spaces in most crowded places where people can have a break.”

“This is a very important piece of work.”

“It’s good to have a clear vision of the future. Because of this we can plan to have a better future for our children and ourselves.”

“Exciting to bring the past into the future and provide for positive health and connection.”
“It sounds good, but I will need to see details. I just know how Sydney tends to bow to developers at the drop of a hat.”

“I’d love more green space, more accessible playgrounds, lakes and creeks. Bush areas to attract native fauna.”

“Make sure plant and animal life come before the pleasure for humans.”

“It is vital to the sustainability of our city.”

“We need more common space to connect.”

“With the increasing population and urbanisation of Western Sydney it is important to maintain a diverse environmental presence for future generations and our plants and animals to thrive.”
WHAT WE HEARD

“More open spaces and parklands would be an ideal the suggestion for future because it’s essential in building and establishing connections between communities and cultures.”

“I think parks both protected and to meet communal needs should take into consideration native wildlife and plants, having more dedicated space for both.”

“For the 50 year vision – I love the idea of trying to reintroduce more open spaces and parks to allow us to connect more as a community!”

“Maybe add something special or truly Australian! Maybe a bonfire spot, barbecue place or Aboriginal artwork.”

“There must be an abundance of public transport to get to parklands to highlight the environmental sustainability.”
“Ensure parklands and greenery for every suburb. These should be incorporated as part of the design of every suburb and not just restricted to a few suburbs.”

“A great plan for our future, recognising Aboriginal history, caring for our environment and for somewhere we can enjoy with our family and friends.”

“The more parkland we have the better. There is the opportunity for more green links between spaces (think New York High Line or the newish Central-Darling Harbour link), but also for more sheltered spaces in cities. In fine weather it is beautiful outdoors, but more sheltered spaces to eat and relax (sheltered from rain and wind) would improve the city’s liveability.”
What would you like to see done now to protect and improve Sydney’s open spaces and parklands for future generations? (Panel survey only)

Comments from survey participants commonly focused on the themes discussed above. Suggestions ranged from quick and practical improvements through to more long term initiatives. Feedback highlighted the importance of appropriately planning for and caring for open space and parklands, providing facilities that encourage their use, promoting community safety in these spaces, reflecting Aboriginal culture and local identity, supporting community participation and education, and innovative initiatives. A selection of indicative comments from people who participated in the panel survey are shown here.
WHAT WE HEARD

In your words...

“People caring for the parks.”

“I would like to see innovative solutions, such as greenery on skyscrapers.”

“More picnic areas and activities.”

“Make sure they are sustainable and well maintained.”

“Keep it shaded and plenty of seats.”

“Implement more safety features around Sydney and more parks.”

“Stop selling off public sites.”

“More trees and green space, also bigger parks.”

“More trees planted.”

“Add more trees and homes for animals.”
“Use sustainable building materials.”

“More parks and open areas in developing areas like Penrith that are seeing large amounts of growth.”

“Community events to help bring people together.”

“Preserve wildlife and maintain sustainability.”

“Treat the wildlife and the nature with much more respect, control and fine littering heavier, waaaay more than now.”

“Community days in the park educating people on how to better care for the environment.”

“Environment and biodiversity should be prioritised in policy making.”
“Have cultural elements such as Aboriginal designs, but also have an online and physical presence that looks after the parklands and promotes caring for the park on a micro level and wider environment on a macro level.”

“More leisure facilities such as walk/bike tracks and picnic areas.”

“More green space with added facilities (e.g. toilets, BBQs, playgrounds). More trees and plants rather than just grass.”

“Planting a million trees by 2022 seems like an amazing idea that would help protect wildlife and help clean up any pollution offset from cars.”
“Raise people’s awareness about nature and landscape. Plant more trees. Work with the private sector to develop new parks instead of apartments.”

“Talk to younger generations. Involve them in the discussion, we have great ideas.”

“More land needs to be set aside for conservation of native flora and fauna, but people need to be educated about the life we have here and there needs to be ample opportunity for Aboriginal groups to be able to connect to their land and heritage.”
Feedback from forums and submissions

Further feedback raised in forums and submissions on the Vision and Greater Sydney Parklands agency highlighted:

» The importance of clearly articulating how the Vision relates to other NSW Government and local government open space and parklands focused plans, policies and strategies – including use of consistent terminology and definitions.

» The need for broad and targeted communications to amplify and support realisation of the Vision and related opportunities for involvement, noting that cross-agency and local level support will be essential to the success of the Vision.

» The importance of a clear action plan and appropriate resourcing to enable the practical implementation of the Vision over the next five to ten years and beyond.

» The importance of appropriate funding of open space and parkland initiatives under the Vision. There was a strong call for government funding to protect and enhance Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands. The over-commercialisation or sale of public open space and parklands was strongly opposed. There was some support for limited and appropriate commercial activity within parklands to raise funds for their maintenance.

» The importance of recognising the unique qualities of Greater Sydney’s parklands and a nuanced approach to their management. A number of written submissions expressed a strong interest in the future of Callan Park (15 of 43 submissions). Many respondents requested that the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002 be upheld and safeguarded. Submissions included concerns that the unique character of Callan Park – notably the historic structures and legacy of psychiatric care combined with natural parklands – was unlike any of the other spaces overseen by the Greater Sydney Parklands agency.

» Clarification was sought about the role, scope and objectives of the Greater Sydney Parklands agency and its relationship to other government agencies, councils, established parkland trusts, communities and other stakeholders.

» Participants expressed a strong desire for future engagement – particularly to ensure that local voices and diverse voices are recognised – in shaping and supporting realisation of the Vision. Concern was expressed about how local community representation would be maintained in the context of the proposed amalgamation of parkland trusts.
WHAT WE HEARD

In your words...

“The parklands don’t need more commercialisation or privatisation – they need recognition and financial support from the NSW Government as places of great benefit. Green spaces are vital to physical and mental health.”

“We need to be cognisant of local needs but also look at open space as a system across Greater Sydney.”

“With the 50-Year Vision, you need to get buy-in and [foster a] sense of responsibility.”

“[We are] concerned that the (untested) management structure being proposed is not suitable for Callan Park. We request urgent clarification regarding the nature and scope of any agreements between DPIE, the GSP and NSW Health and an explanation as to why an holistic management structure for the site has not been enacted, which we believe will be essential to creating a true ‘vision’ for the site.”

“It is useful to align council strategic thinking with the 50-Year Vision – but we can also share solutions to common issues, on a more regular basis, council-to-council.”
Current and future engagement

Survey findings

How do Sydneysiders use open space and parklands?
How do you use Sydney’s open space and parklands? Please select all that apply – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey

People who took part in the surveys commonly use Sydney’s open space and parklands for enjoying nature and for physical and mental health purposes. Key differences in the responses of community survey and panel survey participants were the considerably greater use of parklands for social activities (51% compared with 40% of community survey participants) and cultural activities and events (22% compared with 13%).
What we heard

Are they using open space and parklands more during Covid?

Thinking about the last week, how often have you visited open space or parklands in Greater Sydney? – Panel Survey only

More than 70% of Sydneysiders who participated in the panel survey had visited Sydney’s open space or parklands within the last week. Just under half of all Sydneysiders had done so once or twice. While more than a quarter had done so three or more times.

Thinking about the same time last year (2019), have you visited open spaces and parklands in Greater Sydney…? – Panel Survey only

During Covid people have been more visible in their use of open space and parklands. When asked about their current and previous patterns of visitation, close to a third (31%) of Sydneysiders said they had visited Sydney’s open space and parklands more often this year than last. Close to half reported no change. While another one in four (24%) said they had visited these spaces less often.
Communications preferences

How did you hear about the draft 50-Year Vision? – Selected Choice – Opt in Survey only (n=422)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct notification</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPIE/related Website</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A new agency has been established within government to protect and enhance Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands. What are the best ways to tell you more about Greater Sydney Parklands agency? – Panel Survey only

- A Greater Sydney Parklands website: 65%
- Through my local council: 57%
- Social media: 52%
- Email updates/e-newsletter: 43%
- Online discussions/forums on specific projects or issues: 30%
- Mobile app (access information on your smartphone): 29%
- On site consultation on projects or issues: 24%
- Other: 3%
What’s next?

Public feedback on the draft Vision will be considered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in finalising the Vision. The updated Vision will be released in late 2020.

We encourage all those with an interest in the future of Sydney’s open space and parklands to find out more by visiting www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/gsp. You can also sign up to receive information updates via the website.

Thank you

Thanks go out to all members of the community and other stakeholders who participated in the consultation process to share their feedback and ideas.

All Sydneysiders will play an important role in helping to realise the vision. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment seeks to work closely with Councils, the community and other stakeholders into the future in working towards realising a shared vision for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands.
A ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD SIGNAGE


M7, HORSELY PARK

94,846 VEHICLE TRANSIT PER DAY
132,784 VIEWS PER DAY
50.65% FEMALE
49.35% MALE

AGE GROUP
- 14 YRS: 21%
- 15-65 YRS: 60%
- 66+: 12%

HOME OWNERSHIP
- RENTING: 20%
- MORTGAGE: 40%
- FULLY OWN: 35%

CAR OWNERSHIP
- NONE: 5%
- 1: 23%
- 2: 36%
- 3+: 33%

SCREEN
- SIZE: 92 SQUARE METRES
- PIXEL PITCH: 10mm
- SIDES: 1

EMPLOYMENT
- 88% EMPLOYMENT

CONTENT
- HOURS/DAY: 24HRS
- IMPRESSIONS: 360 MINIMUM PER DAY
- SHARE OF VOICE: 18 CONTENT LOOP
- DWELL TIME: 30 SECONDS

VIEWING
- ABILITY TO SEE: 132,784 MIN. IMPRESSIONS PER DAY
- WEEKLY AUDIENCE: 923,491

LOCATION
- LATITUDE: 33.79189
- LONGITUDE: 150.861979

EiMedia

02 9666 8840
sales@eimedia.com.au
www.eimedia.com.au

SOURCES: Roads and Maritime Services - Traffic Volume 2017
### B FORUM PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROUNDTABLES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CROSS AGENCY DECISION MAKERS</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| One – cross agency decision makers | Office of Sport  
Sydney Water  
Infrastructure NSW  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – all relevant areas  
Greater Sydney Parklands  
Harbour Trust |
| **DIVERSE VOICES** | |
| Two – diverse voices | Australian Institute of Landscape Architects  
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW  
Aged and Community Services NSW & ACT  
Council on the Ageing  
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators  
Walking Volunteers  
Nature Conversation Council of NSW |
| **ABORIGINAL VOICES** | |
| Three – Aboriginal voices | Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council  
Gandangarra Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| **YOUNG VOICES** | |
| Four – Youth voices | Bayside Council  
NSW Advocate for Children and Young People |
| **CONVERSATIONS** | |
| **Western Parkland City** | |
| One – Western Parkland City | Fairfield City Council  
Liverpool City Council  
Penrith City Council  
Wollondilly Shire Council |
<p>| <strong>Central River City</strong> | |
| Two – Central River City | City of Canterbury Bankstown |
| <strong>Eastern Harbour City</strong> | |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three – Eastern Harbour City</td>
<td>Burwood Council</td>
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<td>City of Canada Bay</td>
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<td>City of Sydney</td>
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<td>Inner West Council</td>
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<td>Randwick City Council</td>
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<td>Strathfield Council</td>
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<td>Waverley Council</td>
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<th>Session</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northern city beaches</td>
<td>Hornsby Shire Council</td>
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<td></td>
<td>North Sydney Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Beaches Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City of Willoughby</td>
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<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>Four – Northern City Beaches</td>
<td>Penrith City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friends of Fernhill and Mulgoa Valley</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Birding NSW</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One – Centennial Park Community Consultative Committee</td>
<td>Centennial Park Community Consultative Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saving Moore Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Centennial Park Residents Association</td>
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<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two – Friends of Callan Park</td>
<td>Friends of Callan Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Callan Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parramatta Park Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three – Parramatta Park Trust</td>
<td>Parramatta Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Trust</td>
<td>Penshurst Park Council</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friends of Fernhill and Mulgoa Valley</td>
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<td>Birding NSW</td>
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</table>
C SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Survey type
Participant profile

The total survey sample (n=1,526) comprised 1,000 panel survey participants and 526 community survey, (opt in) participants.

Age
Respondent age – Panel Survey and Opt in Survey and Greater Sydney

The panel survey sought to achieve participation from Sydneysiders of all ages – including young people – given its 50-year focus. While the community survey was open to all members of the community with an interest in the future of Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands. The panel survey achieved a slightly younger profile than that of Greater Sydney (shown in grey), while the opt in community survey attracted participants from older age groups. As shown above, 40% of panel survey participants were 18 to 35 years of age, compared with 15% of those who completed the community survey.
Introduction of the Survey

The panel survey sampling approach was specifically designed to reach Sydneysiders from the city’s **five districts** as follows:

- **Western City:** Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Wollondilly
- **Central City:** Blacktown, Cumberland, Parramatta, The Hills
- **Eastern City:** Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Inner West, Randwick, Strathfield, Woollahra, Waverley, City of Sydney
- **North District:** Hornsby, Hunter’s Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Northern Beaches, Mosman, Willoughby, Ryde, North Sydney
- **South District:** Georges River, Canterbury-Bankstown, Sutherland.

**About participants**

- **I am a resident of Sydney:** 73%
- **I am a recreational user of Sydney’s open space and parklands:** 60%
- **I am a member of a community or environmental group:** 29%
- **I have an academic interest in Sydney’s open space and parklands:** 9%
- **I am an employee or representative of NSW government:** 8%
- **I am an employee or representative of a local NSW council:** 5%
- **I am a representative of a peak body:** 3%
- **I have a commercial interest in Sydney’s open space and parklands:** 3%
- **Other:** 6%

**Panel**

- **Eastern City District:** 12%
- **Western District:** 26%
- **Central City District:** 24%
- **North District:** 19%
- **South District:** 19%

**Opt in**

- **Eastern City District:** 40%
- **Western District:** 22%
- **Central City District:** 15%
- **North District:** 14%
- **South District:** 8%
Household type

Which of the following best describes your household? – Panel Survey only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couple family with children (at home)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single (or lone person) household</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple family without children</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple family with children (who have left home)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group household</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent family</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language

Do you speak a language other than English at home? – Panel Survey only

- No: 71%
- Yes: 29%
## SUBMITTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission number</th>
<th>Submission number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saving Sydney’s Trees</td>
<td>Penrith City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Walking Volunteers</td>
<td>Waverley Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saving Moore Park</td>
<td>Harbour Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Sydney</td>
<td>AILA NSW (Australian Institute of Landscape Architects)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woollahra Council</td>
<td>Friends of Fernhill and Mulgoa Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIKEast</td>
<td>Mulgoa Valley Landcare Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA)</td>
<td>Justice Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inner West Council</td>
<td>Balmain Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arup</td>
<td>Liverpool City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Conservation Council of NSW</td>
<td>Callan Park Dog Lovers Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>HFW Australia</td>
<td>Macquarie University</td>
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<tr>
<td>WaterNSW</td>
<td>(Smart Green Cities)</td>
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<td>Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust</td>
<td>Friends of Callan Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centennial Park Community Consultative Committee</td>
<td>Office of Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEAMAC Property Group</td>
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