A 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney’s Open Space and Parklands
A Discussion Paper
Acknowledgement of Country
The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society.

Aboriginal people take a holistic view of land, water and culture and see them as one, not in isolation to each other. The 50-year vision for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands is based on the premise upheld by Aboriginal people that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

Prepared by the Place, Design and Public Spaces team within the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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- Greater Sydney Commission
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Blaxland Riverside Park
Public open space and green corridors are vital to creating connected communities and are one of our city’s most precious resources. They are the places we seek out for rest, relaxation, exercise, to gather with friends, and to be on our own. In a time when we’ve experienced restrictions on movement and everyday activities, we’ve come to see just how valuable open spaces and parklands are for our physical and emotional health and promoting the lifestyle valued by Sydneysiders and people across NSW.

Since 1948, we’ve had metropolitan plans for Greater Sydney. Now, for the first time, and with the community, we’re developing a metropolitan vision for our great open spaces and parklands, together with the community, to complement our regional plan, A Metropolis of Three Cities.

The draft 50-year vision for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands is the start of a conversation about the creation of a sustainable network of green space throughout the city. It recognises the importance of parks from an ecological, social, cultural and economic context and of diverse types of open spaces for people and city life. The vision seeks to act now to create a legacy for future generations.

At the same time, we’re establishing a city-wide agency, the Greater Sydney Parklands, to champion the vision and holistically plan for and expand great open spaces and parklands in partnership with communities and local councils.

Importantly the vision responds to the NSW Premier’s Priorities for a better environment through ‘Greener public spaces’ – increasing the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes’ walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023; and ‘Greening our city’ – increasing the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by planting one million trees by 2022.

The vision also supports implementation of Sydney’s Green Grid by taking a whole of city approach to linking the mosaic of waterways, open space and parklands across Greater Sydney.

This discussion paper has been informed by extensive work undertaken by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, including research on community values and attitudes to open space. We now want to hear from the broader community, councils and all other stakeholders as we work towards a shared vision.

We invite your feedback on the draft 50-year vision for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands.

Rob Stokes
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
A 50-YEAR HORIZON

Greater Sydney’s landscape is made up of natural waterways and ridgelines, bushland and protected areas, open spaces and parklands, rural landscapes, the coast and harbours, and urban landscapes. The Nepean River to the west, Hawkesbury River to the north and the Georges and Hacking rivers to the south encircle the city. This landscape has been managed by Aboriginal people as a cultural landscape for thousands of years.

Sydney is known globally for its incredible open space, its harbour, its beaches, its beauty and its unique outdoor lifestyle. Sydney residents and visitors love these places; they provide a natural canvas for memories and daily life. People go to these places to connect with family and friends, to breathe and be healthy, or when they want to be alone with their thoughts. They are fundamental to the city’s DNA.

This discussion paper presents a draft vision that allows us to explore with a wide audience what these open and public spaces mean to individuals and to the city.

The vision recognises that open and public spaces must remain an integral part of the landscape.

We owe much to the foresight of those who came before us. Today’s abundance of open space and parklands is a legacy of good decision-making for many years. These decisions have done more than just provide green spaces for humans and for nature – they have helped to build the foundations for a resilient city.

This is vital in the context of Greater Sydney’s growth and change, the changing climate and the impacts of global trends and challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has reiterated the importance of open space to people’s health and wellbeing.

Now is the right time to think about and act on our aspirations for open spaces and parklands for the next 50 years. We need an inspiring and shared vision to make it happen.

WE OWE MUCH TO THE FORESIGHT OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US. TODAY’S ABUNDANCE OF OPEN SPACE AND PARKLANDS IS A LEGACY OF GOOD DECISION-MAKING FOR MANY YEARS.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

We have created a draft vision and suggested four strategic directions to give life to that vision. This information will be shared and tested with the people who value, use and care about Greater Sydney’s parks and open spaces.

During COVID-19, with the community’s focus on dealing with the pandemic, traditional consultation in the preparation of the draft vision was postponed.

Now we’re presenting a draft of this vision in this discussion paper to formally kickstart the development of a final vision and clear plan to make it happen.

Your feedback will directly inform the final vision. We’d like to hear from councils, individuals and groups who care about the future of Sydney’s open space and parklands. Ultimately, we want to create a vision that speaks to both local needs while considering a metropolitan blue and green grid that extend across council boundaries.

AN AGENCY DEDICATED TO OPEN SPACE

We’ve already taken a bold step in protecting and enhancing Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands. The Greater Sydney Parklands agency will coordinate and manage existing and potentially new NSW Government-owned open spaces and parklands. The agency will bring together the iconic park trusts – Centennial Parklands, Parramatta Park and Western Sydney Parklands – and manage Callan Park and Fernhill Estate.

While taking a metropolitan viewpoint, the agency will also have a local focus, working with councils and communities to plan for and manage open spaces and parklands throughout Greater Sydney’s many neighbourhoods.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will also continue to partner with councils, the community and stakeholders to deliver the Greater Sydney Green Grid and other key planning policies and programs.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We encourage you to provide feedback on the draft vision. You can find out more and share your feedback through the online survey at www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/gsp.
Greater Sydney is cradled by green – encircled by national parks and intersected by diverse open spaces, parklands and waterways.

The city's open spaces stretch to the Blue Mountains, Wollondilly and Hawkesbury in the west, Wyong and Gosford to the north, the Royal National Park to the south, and to the coastline in the east. Beyond Greater Sydney, green and blue corridors connect Sydney with the Central Coast, Newcastle and Wollongong.

People in Sydney love spending their leisure time outdoors; they agree that outdoor recreation is great for physical and mental wellbeing and that open space and parklands help to bring communities together.

We have an opportunity to embrace and enhance open space and parklands in all their diversity across Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three cities to meet the needs of future generations.

Parramatta Park at the heart of the Central River City

**SYDNEYSIDERS LOVE THEIR OPEN SPACES AND PARKLANDS**

- When choosing where to live, Australians rate access to parks and open space more highly than telecommunications and public transport.

  Infrastructure Australia Audit 2019.

- Greener neighbourhoods have higher levels of neighbourhood satisfaction, contributing to overall personal health.

Healthy Built Environment Checklist, NSW Ministry Health 2020.

"More than 90% of Sydney residents live within a 5 to 10 minute walk of green space"
PEOPLE IN THEIR LANDSCAPE

In 2018 close to 7,000 people participated in the Greater Sydney Outdoor Study to share their feedback on the city’s parks and open spaces.

WHAT’S IMPORTANT?

1. **Personal journey**: people enjoy experiences that involve walking, visiting destinations, exercising and exploring.
2. **Personal choice**: people like spaces that provide flexibility and don’t require a membership or schedule.
3. **Diverse expression**: people like spaces that provide opportunities for a variety of recreation activities.
4. **Inclusive recreation**: access for everyone — regardless of their age, culture or ability — is fundamental.
5. **Competing priorities**: people want to know more about when outdoor spaces are available.

WHAT DID PEOPLE TELL US?

- **Sydney’s parklands are really popular**: Many people visit local parklands more than once a week for a range of activities — from jogging, walking and relaxing, to barbecues, picnics and ball games.
- **People love the water**: About 50 per cent of those surveyed enjoy outdoor recreation involving water at least once a week.
- **Feasibility and travel are the biggest barriers**.
- **Outdoor recreation areas are essential**: 70 per cent of respondents consider open space an important factor in their lives.
- **More opportunities**: 60 per cent of people would like to see more outdoor recreation areas near their home or their work.
- **Location of recreation activities**: People can’t always easily get to their preferred recreation activities.
- **Community satisfaction**: There is a high level of satisfaction with larger parks that typically provide a greater range of activities.

A further two surveys — Streets as Shared Spaces and Public Space during COVID-19 — found that:

- **Local public spaces**, local streets, parks, walking tracks and high streets were the most commonly used public spaces during COVID-19.
- **People used these spaces for exercise**, to get outside or for essential activities (such as shopping and accessing services).
- **People appreciated their local parks, local streets and walking tracks most of all**.
- **45 per cent of people spent more time in public space than they did before the COVID-19 restrictions**.

Data from: Tell us about your neighbourhood, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2019; Healthy Built Environment Checklist, NSW Ministry Health 2020; Infrastructure Australia Audit 2019.
Greater Sydney is expected to be home to around 10 million people by 2070. Close to half of all these residents will live west of Parramatta, including in growth corridors to the north and south west.

As we plan for sustainable communities, we also need to rebalance economic and social opportunities across Greater Sydney, including open space and parklands. This is a key focus for the NSW Government.

We are planning to address this rebalance through two visionary strategies:

The Greater Sydney Region Plan seeks a respectful, equitable and sustainable Greater Sydney. It aims to optimise the opportunities of urban development to protect, restore and enhance Sydney’s landscapes, waterways, coastlines, natural areas, tree canopy and open spaces.

The Sydney Green Grid promotes sustainable development that can maximise people’s quality of life and wellbeing. It recognises the contribution of green space to liveability and proposes the creation and consolidation of a network of high quality green areas and waterways that connect centres, public transport networks and major residential areas. This interconnected network will keep the city cool, encourage healthy lifestyles, protect waterways, enhance biodiversity and ensure ecological resilience.

Greater Sydney as a Metropolis of Three Cities

The emerging Western Parkland City, anchored by the Western Sydney Airport and Aerotropolis, will grow a strong trade, logistics, advanced manufacturing, health, education and science economy. It will be the most connected place in Australia, underpinned by the unique and rich urban, rural and natural environments. The population is projected to grow from 740,000 in 2016 to 1.1 million by 2036.

The Central River City is centred on Greater Parramatta. Capitalising on its location close to the geographic centre of Greater Sydney, the Central River City is predicted to grow substantially from 1.3 million people in 2016 to 1.7 million people by 2036.

The Eastern Harbour City will remain Australia’s global gateway and financial capital with the Harbour CBD its metropolitan centre. Well established, well serviced and highly accessible by its radial rail network, the Eastern Harbour City is projected to grow from 2.4 million people in 2016 to 3.3 million people by 2036.
Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands network is underpinned by visionary thinking. Greater Sydney’s green spaces have been shaped by:

- **The County of Cumberland Plan (1948)**
  - Pioneered the development of Sydney’s green belt and the provision of open space for recreation and as a buffer between land uses.

- **Sydney Region Outline Plan (1968)**
  - Identified the importance of large-scale recreation areas like the Western Sydney Parklands, multi-use corridors, access to water and the visual contribution of open space to a growing city.

- **Sydney Metropolitan Strategy: City of Cities (2005)**
  - Highlighted the need for access to quality open space across Greater Sydney.

- **Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities (2018)**
  - Is the current strategic vision which identifies the importance of the Greater Sydney Green Grid to promote sustainable development and maximise quality of life and community wellbeing.

Greater Sydney as a Cultural Landscape

Greater Sydney’s landscape has been managed by Aboriginal people as a cultural landscape for time immemorial. Some of the traditional Aboriginal names for the three cities of Greater Sydney are:

- ‘Sweetwater Country – Wianamatta’ for the Western Parkland City
- ‘Freshwater Country – Burramatta’ for the Central River City
- ‘Saltwater Country – Warrane’ for the Eastern Harbour City
Since European colonisation, those who have planned for Sydney have thought of open space as being as important to the city as all other elements. Just as in the overseas cities that Sydney’s first planners wished to emulate – places like London or New York – early Sydney was framed by the Domain and Hyde Park; as the city matured, other major open spaces such as Centennial and Parramatta parks were put aside for the people. More recently Western Sydney Parklands was established. These places are today what we refer to as the city’s iconic parks – places that are so important for the city and everyday life. These iconic open spaces are noted on this map.
This discussion paper proposes an aspirational vision and strategic directions for open space and parkland for the next 50 years. How we will incorporate these elements into planning policy, programs, funding streams and implementation processes will be considered in consultation with communities, councils, State agencies and others.

This draft vision considers what we aspire to create. At this stage, it is a conversation starter – and we want to hear your thoughts to bring it to life…

In the next 50 years, Greater Sydney will be:

- A living and breathing city of parks for people to connect, exercise, reflect and celebrate
- A city of immense natural beauty, with incredible parklands, open spaces and waterways within its landscape
- A place where people are custodians and wholeheartedly embrace and care for open space and parklands
- Cool, connected and community-focused through the Greater Sydney Green and Blue Grid
- A city where open spaces and parklands are accessible, meaningful and sustainable, reflecting the stories of the city's ancient and recent past, and enhancing unique landscapes for stories yet to be told
- A place where open spaces and parklands are fundamental to everyday life, nurturing people while supporting a vibrant ecology and providing a home for a rich diversity of flora and fauna in the city and its neighbourhoods
- As much a parkland city as it is a harbour city and river city, where people share access to diverse types of open space and parklands.

**Strategic Directions and Case Studies**

Four strategic directions underpin the 50-year vision for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands:

- 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
- Strategic direction 4: Being smart and resilient

With your feedback these directions will shape the actions we take to realise the vision.

In describing what we mean by each of these strategic directions, we’ve also provided case studies – some of which are underway, some of which are aspirational – to show how State agencies, councils and communities work together to embody the 50-year vision. We will build on these outstanding examples and continue to respond creatively to the challenges and opportunities for Greater Sydney’s open space and parklands.
Greater Sydney’s diverse open spaces and parklands must meet the needs and aspirations of residents and visitors. This means we need to plan for them to be accessible to everyone, and offer flexible and multipurpose green spaces for a range of experiences.

The following opportunities could help us meet this direction:

• adopt Caring for Country principles and practice in the design, delivery and management of open space and parklands
• provide access to Country for Aboriginal people and communities
• increase open space and parklands in areas where people live and work
• provide inclusive and equitable access to open space that reflects local community needs
• work at all levels of government and with the private sector to communicate the value and benefits of open space
• improve facilities in open space and parklands to meet specific cultural needs
• engage at all levels of government to support positive outcomes for people and communities

COUNTRY

Country relates to the nation or cultural group and land that Aboriginal people belong to, yearn for, find healing from and will return to. Country means much more than land, it is a place of origin in cultural, spiritual and literal terms.

Country includes not only land but also skies and waters. It incorporates both the tangible and the intangible, for instance, all the knowledges and cultural practices associated with land.

People are part of Country, and their identity is derived in a large way in relation to Country.

(Daniele Hromek (2019) - Budawang/Yuin, Researcher and spatial designer)
People want to access open space near where they live and work. New and expanded public open space areas will support people’s quality of life, as will better connections to iconic parklands, which will act as green hubs accessed via safe and appealing greenways.

The implementation of the Greater Sydney Green and Blue Grid will also create better connections between open spaces.

**CONNECTING NEIGHBOURHOODS TO PARKS**

The following opportunities could help us meet this direction:

- Improve the quality of open space areas in Western Sydney
- Use surplus public lands for open space and parklands and activate underutilised spaces
- Plan early for open space at a neighbourhood level and implement links under the Greater Sydney Green and Blue Grid, including through public acquisitions
- Identify new ways to provide public open space in high density environments
- Identify opportunities and connections for pedestrians, cyclists and people using public transport to enjoy open spaces, including using local streets as activation places for people
- Connect new neighbourhoods to existing open space areas

**Duck River**

- Providing regional bushland and wildlife habitat, interspersed among sports fields and other open space for both local and regional open space
- Creating opportunities for passive recreation by linking Auburn Botanic Gardens with surrounding greenway pathways and along Duck Creek, a major tributary of Parramatta River
- Protecting wetlands of regional conservation significance - home to three Endangered Ecological Communities and several threatened species
- Expanding access to public open space using former industrial areas and showcasing collaborative planning and management of open space by Cumberland and Parramatta councils

**Paddington Greenway**

- Transforming a forgotten stormwater drain into a leafy pathway to link Rushcutters Park to Trumper Park in Paddington and naturalising Rushcutters Creek
- Providing walking and cycle connections to help reduce car use for the daily commute
- Making better use of public land, including land owned by Sydney Water and Transport for NSW, to provide much needed inner-city green space and connections in highly populated urban areas

**Transforming Sydney’s Showgrounds**

- Transforming redundant showgrounds across Greater Sydney, such as those in Blacktown and Fairfield, to provide recreation facilities
- Repurposing underutilised open space to adapt to new community demands, including links to surrounding green corridors
- Optimising existing public land located adjacent to population growth areas, such as Fairwater in Blacktown
- Looking at the potential for additional showgrounds as many undergo planning and transformation, such as the work on the 30-year vision for Castle Hill Showground

**Imaging**

Imaging

- Duck River
- Paddington Greenway
- Transforming Sydney’s Showgrounds

Strategic directions and case studies
3 Strategic direction

KEEPPING SYDNEY GREEN AND CAPTIVATING

Greater Sydney’s scenic and cultural landscapes are places of profound significance for people’s hearts and minds. Open space and parklands must be remarkable, memorable and distinctive, not only to provide a wonderful and varied outdoor lifestyle for the people who live here, but to help attract local and international visitors to Sydney.

The following opportunities could help us meet this direction:

- Meet the targets under the Premier’s Priorities – Greening our City and Greener Public Places
- Open up public land holdings with rich cultural heritage and landscapes, such as Fernhill Estate in Mulgoa
- Create or improve linear open space connections along waterways, including Sydney Harbour, the Parramatta, Georges, Cooks and Nepean rivers and South and Ropes creeks
- Use place-based planning to enhance diverse landscapes across Greater Sydney

LAKE PARRAMATTA AND DARLING MILLS CREEK

- Providing a green and lush corridor in an extraordinary natural setting, centrally accessible within a suburban area
- Linking a network of tracks through remnant bushland for people in Parramatta North (Cumberland Hospital), Castle Hill and Cherrybrook
- Opening Lake Parramatta for swimming – a unique experience of natural swimming in Western Sydney
- Retaining the site’s scenic and recreation qualities within suburban Western Sydney and optimising new public transport connections including the Sydney Metro Northwest

ECHO POINT, KATOOMBA

- Supporting an internationally recognised tourist destination, one of the most-visited tourist sites in Australia and a dramatic entry to Blue Mountains National Park
- Providing access for the local community and visitors to the dramatic views, character and extensive walking tracks of the Blue Mountains
- Using new infrastructure and facilities to complement natural qualities while minimising the impact of visitors and urban development on World Heritage-listed areas
- Providing NSW Government funding to a Council-led project

FERNHILL ESTATE TO PENRITH LAKES

- Linking Fernhill Estate and Penrith Lakes by the Great River Walk, a seven-kilometre riverside walking track along the Nepean River
- Connecting existing open spaces, including Tench Reserve, improving existing open space and expanding access to new parklands
- Improving and expanding access to quality open space that’s safe and close to home via riverside greenways and walking tracks supporting clean waterways and biodiversity
- Partnering between all levels of government and private landowners to realise connections over time
- Aiming for completion by 2040

KEEPING SYDNEY GREEN AND CAPTIVATING
Greater Sydney’s open spaces and parklands can be climate responsive as they support and sustain biodiversity. Healthy waterways increase people’s access to water and cool the city. They support resilience by being places that foster connections and social networks. Smart and resilient solutions will help us to plan, manage and maintain adaptable open spaces and parklands that meet the needs of the community and the changing environment.

The following opportunities could help us meet this direction:

- **Expand and link key natural areas and habitat corridors throughout Greater Sydney**
- **Protect biodiversity on private lands through private land conservation agreements or other innovative arrangements**
- **Increase tree canopy cover across Greater Sydney to 40 per cent**
- **Use new technologies to develop leading-practice visitor experiences and operations**
- **Use smart technologies in the natural and built environment to gather robust data that supports environmental management and improvements, informs decisions about public spaces and provides information to local communities**

**COOL STREETS**

- **Led by Gallagher Studio, combining scientific research and working with local communities to implement effective street tree plantings that provide shade in heat affected urban areas and absorb carbon emissions**
- **Demonstrating how streets can be cool, green and interconnected**
- **Building on a successful pilot project led by Blacktown City Council in 2016 where residents developed shared visions for tree planting in their street**
- **Helping to deliver the Premier’s Priority for planting 1 million trees by 2022**
- **Providing benefits such as more shade, lower temperatures, energy bill savings and lush green streets as trees mature**

**GEORGES RIVER KOALA CORRIDOR**

- **Supporting a north-south koala movement corridor along the Georges River between Appin and Kentyn**
- **Protecting and managing up to 1800 hectares of koala habitat while providing recreational opportunities for people in the Greater Macarthur Growth Area**
- **Acquiring land under the Regional Open Space program since the 1980s, with 60 per cent of land in public hands and future land unlocked under biodiversity stewardship agreements**
- **Providing both environmental and recreational benefits, including sections in both public and private ownership**

**BARRANGAROO RESERVE**

- **Recycling of one of the city’s oldest industrial sites into a spectacular, six-hectare headland open space**
- **Featuring lookouts, walking and cycling trails, waterside coves, picnic spots and places for quiet contemplation where people can touch the water**
- **Showcasing the transformation of a shipping terminal, closed for public access, using innovative industry-first technology, to create a naturalistic rocky outcrop, parkland and future community indoor space**
- **Enhancing accessibility when Barangaroo Metro station opens in 2024**

**Barangaroo Reserve**

Image: Matthew Delves

**SMART AND RESILIENT**
A way forward

We want to collaborate with all levels of government, stakeholders and the community to refine and realise this vision. A way forward will entail the following focus areas.

### Coordinated Land Use and Management

All levels of government and the private sector need to collaborate to support integrated planning and management of open space and parklands. This will promote city-wide connections, protect unique landscapes, and meet the needs of Sydney’s current and future populations.

This will require us to:

- repurpose existing NSW Government-owned land for open space and parklands, either as part of major infrastructure projects and urban renewal projects or via infrastructure planning such as place-based infrastructure compacts
- identify privately owned land that could become publicly accessible open space and parklands in urban and suburban areas
- create a framework for centralised digital data management to inform planning, acquisition, implementation and management of open space and parklands as part of the Greater Sydney Green Grid and e-planning portal
- use common data and digital tools to visualise the city, consider scenarios over time and coordinate data on land use, flooding, infrastructure and the built environment, housing and climate change
- gather new data using smart technologies to inform strategic planning, land use and management decisions.

### Robust Policy and Planning

Using consistent statutory controls through a strategic and integrated approach to policy and planning will drive better local, regional and city-wide open space and parklands.

This will require us to:

- continue to develop open space strategies and green plans that establish requirements for State significant precincts and other significant projects that cross council boundaries
- support high-level planning frameworks that prioritise requirements for open space and parklands such as Greener Places
- continue to align the Greater Sydney Region Plan and district plans with the 50-year vision as they are updated
- establish the Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)
- implement new ways to promote best practice private investment in planning and provision of open space and parklands through the development process, including the potential for the long-term involvement of the private sector in provision and maintenance of some types of local open space
- develop guidance to help place owners and precinct planners design smart places to better capture data insights.

### Strong Advocacy and Support

Bold leadership must be informed by evidence-based research and evaluation, and be guided by best practice approaches. Embellishment, management and potential acquisition of open space and parklands will require sustainable and streamlined investment.

This will require us to:

- partner with State agencies such as Transport for NSW and Sydney Water to support better outcomes for open space and parklands
- establish a Centre for Excellence for Parklands to build evidence and establish monitoring and analysis programs
- reprioritise and amplify existing grants programs and land acquisition plans across the NSW Government including the Metropolitan Greenspace Program, Streets as Shared Spaces grants program and Parks for People program
- review and coordinate financial contributions schemes such as the Sydney Regional Development Fund and investigate cross-city funding mechanisms used in other states, such as levies and parkland-specific funds, in conjunction with State agencies and local councils.
This Discussion Paper forms the first step in bringing together the many elements of planning for open space and parklands for Greater Sydney. It draws from the activities and strategies that are noted below.

Government strategies, policies and programs
- A Metropolis of Three Cities: greater.sydney/metropolis-of-three
- District plans: greater.sydney/district-plans
- Metropolitan Greenspace Program: planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/infrastructure-funding/Metropolitan-Greenspace-Program
- Premier’s Priorities: nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities

In addition, the NSW Government has other initiatives underway to support the vision including:
- Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)
- Environment SEPP
- NSW Open Space Strategic Plan
- NSW Open Space Guidelines
- NSW Public Spaces Framework and Charter
- Place-based infrastructure compacts
- Strategic Open Space Program
- Urban Greening and Canopy Strategy

RESOURCES

Parreematta River and Parreematta Park

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

- Active open space: land set aside for formal outdoor sports – team sports, training and competition – featuring pea
change rooms, sea
- Bushland: passive open space that includes either natural vegetation or, if altered, vegetation that is similar to natu
rual vegetation. Bushland can include biodiversity corridors, reserv
ational parks and wetlands. Many of these spaces provide m
limited recreation or public access of open space
- Designing with Country: considers how to respond to Aboriginal cultural connections to new projects. It stems from a growing desire to r
emember the value and significance of contemporary culture and Aboriginal heritage
- Greater Sydney: Defined as the 33 local government areas of Bayside, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Burw
Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Hawkesbury, T
Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove Liverpool, Mosman, Northern Beaches, North Sydney, Parrama
Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland, T
Sydney, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollongong and Wollong
- Green space: an area of grass, trees or other vegetation set aside for people to enjoy in an urban or suburban envir
- High quality green space: multifunctional space designed to produce social, environmental, ecological and ec
- Iconic parks: State-owned destination parks within Greater Sydney
- Inclusive access: utilises principles of universal design and accessibility, creating places and spaces for peoples of all ages,
cultural backgrounds and abilities
- Open space and parklands: includes national, regional and local parks; the harbour, beaches, wetlands, creeks and ri
vegetation; playgrounds, playing fields, golf courses or cemeteries as well as the linkages between them, such as green corrido
- Public open space: differentiated into local, district and regional open spaces, reflecting the likely catchment and facilities provided. Local public open space serves a single
- Public open space: differentiated into local, district and regional open spaces, reflecting the likely catchment and facilities provided. Local public open space serves a single
- Smart solutions: using technology to capture data and insights on the built and natural environment
- Greater Sydney Green and Blue Grid: a network of high quality green space and waterways that connects town centres, public transport hubs and major residential areas across Greater Sydney
Planning now for Sydney’s next 50 years...