

# Observatory Park Draft Plan of Management



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# Reconciliation Statement

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Our vision for reconciliation is a Sydney that values the living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, embraces the truthful reflection of the history and experiences of First Nations peoples, and is dedicated to equity, opportunity and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In taking action, the City strives to reflect the needs and aspirations of Sydney's First Nations communities and recognise their impact and contribution. The City will listen to and elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Source:  
City of Sydney Stretch Reconciliation Plan  
November 2020 – November 2023



# Part A

# Management Framework

# 1. Introduction

## What is a PoM

A Plan of Management (“**PoM**”) is a document which provides a clear set of guidelines for the short and long-term management of a parcel of community land owned by Council or Crown land under Council’s care, control and management.

A PoM outlines how a park, facility or civic space will be used, improved and managed in the future. It identifies Council’s goals and objectives for the land, and establishes the overall direction for its planning, resource management and maintenance.

Under section 37 of the Local Government Act 1993, the PoM must also:

- Describe the condition of the land, any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the adoption of the plan
- Describe the use of the land
- State the purposes for which the land will be used.

This PoM has been prepared in accordance with and seeks adoption under the LG Act and CLM Act.

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## Need for the PoM

The Crown Land Management Act 2016 (“**CLM Act**”) commenced on 1 July 2018, introducing a consolidated, modern piece of legislation to govern the management of Crown land in New South Wales

The CLM Act introduces significant changes to the management of Crown land by councils. Specifically, councils are now required to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land as if it were public land under the Local Government Act 1993 (“**LG Act**”).

Observatory Park (Crown Reserve D.500044) is now treated as “community land” under the LG Act requiring a PoM.

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## Process for preparing the PoM

**Figure 1** on the following page illustrates the process for preparing the PoM that has been undertaken by the City of Sydney.

The process has integrated extensive consultation with the broader community, First Nations stakeholders and other authority stakeholders.

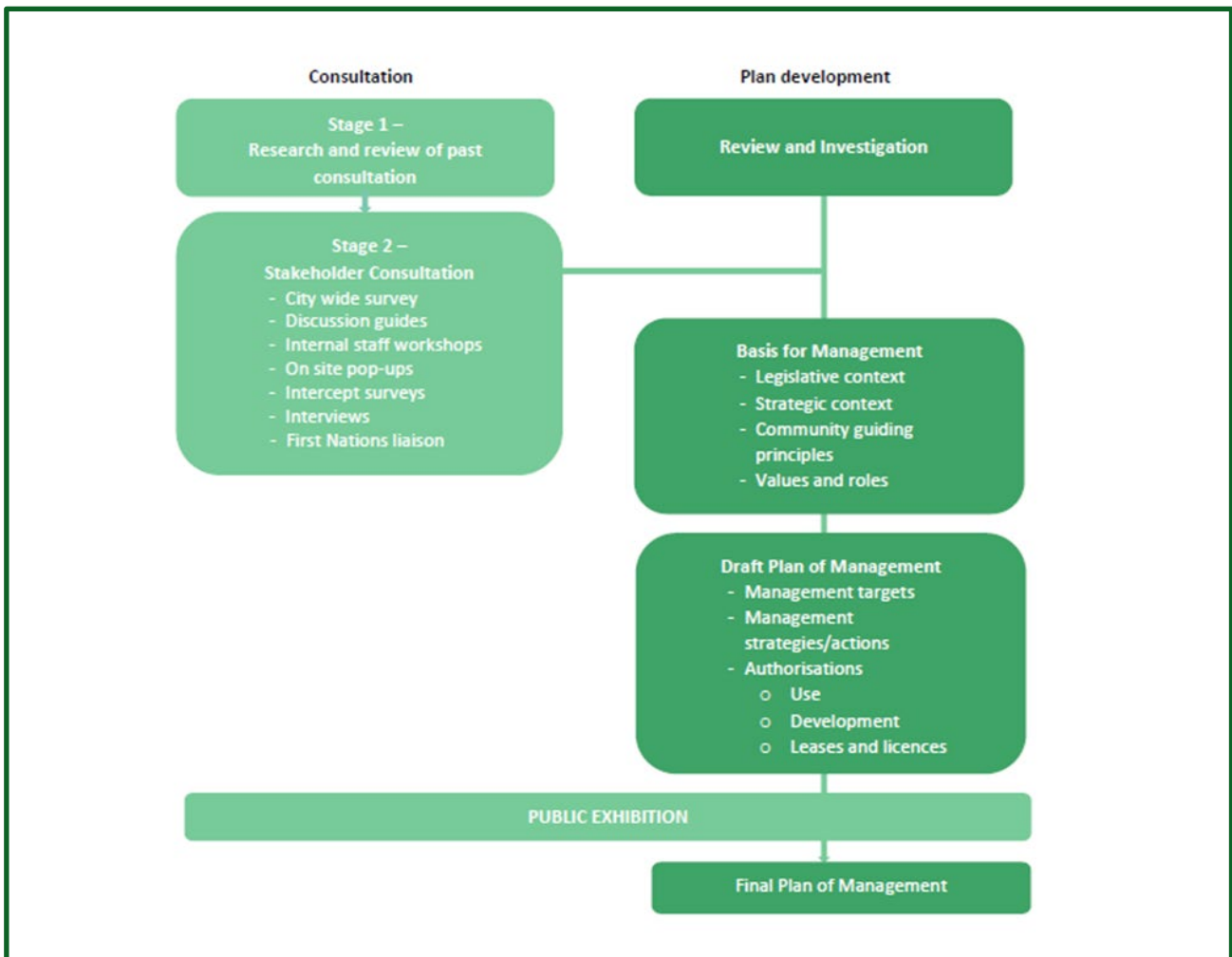
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## Purpose of the PoM

Under section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993, a PoM must:

- Categorise the land in accordance with the legislation
- Contain objectives and performance targets for the management of the land
- Specify the means by which Council proposes to achieve the objectives and performance targets
- Specify how achievement of the objectives and performance targets are to be assessed.

Figure 1. PoM process



## Consultation

### Purpose of the consultation program

The purpose of the community engagement was to understand the community's vision for Crown land spaces, how the community use the land now and how they would like to use the land in the future.

An important aspect of the engagement program was to recognise the important relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to these spaces, strengthen the relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and use the PoMs as an opportunity to further recognise and foster Aboriginal people's custodianship, living culture and connection to these places.

The opportunity to participate in the engagement program was communicated to the community via:

- A letter to local residents from the City of Sydney
- Sydney Your Say web page
- Notification signs in parks
- Decals with QR code on footpaths in parks, reserves and civic spaces
- E-newsletter sent to a targeted stakeholder list.

## The Engagement program

The engagement program consisted of an online survey, intercept surveys and pop-ups at some of the Crown land spaces, a conversation guide and community and staff workshops.

The surveys and pop-up boards sought to gather statistical data around community values and uses of Crown land, and the workshops provided an opportunity for more in depth discussions around Crown land within different locations across the city and specifically with the First Nations community.

Children's activity kits were also sent to schools in the area and provided an opportunity for children in years 3-6 to participate.

Detailed findings of the engagement program are outlined in the separate Crown Reserves Plan of Management Engagement Report February 2021.

## What we heard – community engagement

The community engagement report noted the following highlights:

- **Strong support for the recognition and practice of First Nations peoples continuous connection to Country and important role as caretakers and knowledge holders of these spaces**
- **Public open spaces are important for mental health, wellbeing and provide a place of refuge and sanctuary for all**
- **Open, green and natural public spaces in the city are highly valued and should accommodate the needs of the growing population**
- **Accessible, safe and inclusive open spaces are important for everyone to enjoy**
- **Diverse and unique open spaces that manage our shared spaces fairly**
- **Open spaces that support wildlife and biodiversity**
- **Preserving our open spaces and safeguarding their history for the future**
- **Improving amenities in our open spaces to increase accessibility and support community use**

**City-wide survey:** seek to understand community values and visions for their open spaces (informs both generic and specific Plans of Management)

**Discussion guides:** guided opportunity for regular user groups (e.g schools, sporting clubs) to map values, and places of significance.

**Internal staff workshop:** internal City of Sydney staff workshop



Engagement tools to inform general plans of management

**City-wide survey:** opportunity to comment on general issues in addition to specific parks according to preference.

**Discussion guides:** guided opportunity for regular user groups (e.g schools, sporting clubs) to map values, and places of significance.

**On-site pop-ups/intercept surveys:** pop-ups/intercept surveys in the specific parks at specific times to capture a wide variety of feedback.

**Interviews with key stakeholders:** We will conduct interviews with key external stakeholders.

**Work in partnership with local First Nations leaders and groups:** liaison with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.



Engagement tools to inform specific plans of management

Children told us they value parks because...

**"It has at least one thing everybody likes"**

**"It's just beautiful"**

**"There is space"**

**"They make me happy"**

**"When going outdoors it's nice to be in a place that is well maintained and easy to access"**

**"I like having time with nature"**

**"Everyone's welcome there"**

## What we heard – First Nations engagement

A series of **general principles** for the integration of First Nations input into the management of Crown land in the City of Sydney were identified during the conversations. These included:

- **Access to land as a human right of Indigenous peoples (UN Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)**
- **Recognition and respect for sacred sites and places**
- **Truth telling**
- **Talking about Country helps bring the community together**
- **The environment as living culture**
- **Importance of waterways and wetlands- rivers tell stories**
- **Creating opportunities for Aboriginal economic benefit**
- **First Nations design principles that recognise:**
  - **local cultural knowledge**
  - **sustainability and resilience**

**Putting the principles into action** – potential ways that these principles can be followed through by Council and others were also discussed:

### The environment as living culture

*Imagine having a space like this in Sydney that is real and permanent, not just digital (in response to Brett Leavy's animation – Warrane)*

- Respecting ancestral sites
- Connecting places by Songlines (these include many main roads in Sydney)
- Returning Country to how it was (pre-invasion)
- A holistic approach: not just land but also water, sky, seasons, cultural calendar, plants and animals
- Implement 'Caring for Country' principles (including maintenance, planting, holistic understanding of Country, etc.)
- Important to return the knowledge of waterways and wetlands. Rivers tell stories and are an historical link that have been covered up over time

- Commitment to healing Country
- Designing with Country – a number of participants referred to the work of the State Government Architect

### Language and naming

*The use of language needs to go beyond naming*

- Dual naming in local language based on a geographical feature
- Incorporating Gadigal language into descriptions will help the community better understand the meaning of these places
- Recognising that the first language of this place is the authentic language
- Removal of colonial names of parks

### Decolonising spaces and truth-telling

*We need a different way of looking at 'monuments' – as significant, empowering, culturally correct markers of the truth*

- Trees of significance as monuments
- Sites of significance as monuments
- Take leadership on dealing with colonial artefacts
- Gadigal artists creating new markers of truth

### Visibility

*We are here - this land was never ceded*

- The need to make this more visible in Sydney
- Participants referenced how New Zealand is Indigenous culture, practices and perspectives visible to international visitors
- The potential to push digital notifications when walking on different bits of land (i.e. a notification to acknowledge/welcome to country, when you are close to a sacred site or a burial ground, etc.)
- Permanent acknowledgement in each space that enlivens and engages - not just commemorative

### Significance of Sydney as the site of invasion and first contact

*Make these important places recognisable to Aboriginal people*

- Sydney as the first frontier means it is a critical place for truth-telling and healing trauma



Observatory Park  
Specific Plan of Management

- Recognise the cultural disruption and diaspora in Sydney
- Burial grounds and should be part of truth-telling
- Recognise places of protest

**Practicing and sharing culture and supporting community**

- Returning cultural fishing (e.g. Woolloomooloo and Pyrmont)
- Dedicated spaces to practice culture and interact with the community
- Dedicated ceremonial spaces practical for events
- Maker-spaces (places for creating) that are culturally correct
- Locations to busk, make things, be social and demonstrate culture, and
- Importance of community festivals – Yabun at Victoria Park

**Economic and cultural ownership and management**

- Importance of cultural ownership and intellectual property rights
- Ongoing employment and business opportunities at all levels
- Making, markets, food, trading, learning etc should be able to be practiced somewhere permanently (not a one-off event)
- There are effective working examples of shared arrangements with State Government (DPIE) who work with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council on protecting and managing places
- The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council sought that the City of Sydney provides Crown Land or City-owned sites to MLALC for local Aboriginal community needs of culture, health wellbeing, housing and business
- The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council asked that the City support addressing the issue of underpayment of NSW Aboriginal Land Rights fund of \$500 Million in perpetuity for all Freehold, Leasehold, Pastoral, National Parks, State Forests, Reserves and Parks as well as mineral and water

**Advocacy/leadership/influence**

- Encourage the City of Sydney to take on the hard issues and use position to influence other organisations including other councils and government departments
- Work with other authorities who have ownership over Crown land parcels
- Advocate and work at local, state and federal levels

**Barriers**

Several existing barriers to First Nations peoples cultural and spiritual use of Crown land were raised that the community want to see resolved. These include:

- Red-tape constraints to the economic use of spaces
- Barriers to the practice of living culture.

It is proposed that the City of Sydney continue to engage with the First Nations community to explore avenues to pursue the above principles and actions.

**Section 5** of this plan details a series of “Community Guiding Principles”. It is proposed that ongoing management of Crown and community land pursue these principles.

## Specific feedback related to Observatory Hill

The engagement report identifies the following outcomes specifically related to the subject sites.

### What we heard - Specific POMs snapshot:

## Observatory Hill, Millers Point



### Number of people who commented on this park:



15

people completed the online survey for Observatory Hill, Millers Point (also includes Kent Street Tennis Centre and Watson Road Reserve)

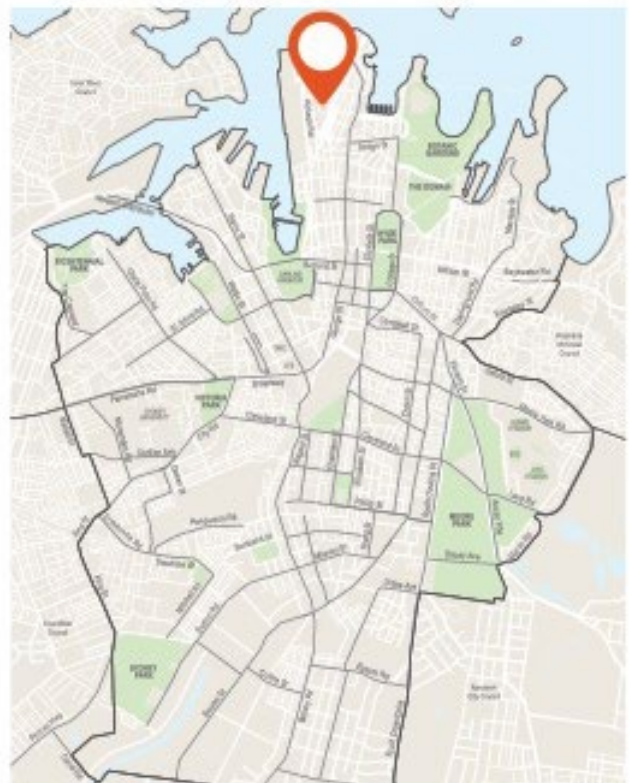


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people completed intercept surveys for Observatory Hill.

### Current visitation to Observatory Hill

- Survey respondents were more likely to live nearby or visit the area (44%; 11 respondents, respectively).
- Approximately one third of survey respondents visit the area daily (32%; 8), followed by respondents who visit occasionally (20%; 5).
- The majority of respondents usually visit Observatory Hill in the afternoon (12pm - 4pm) (52%; 13). This was followed by afternoon/evening (6pm-9pm) (44%; 11).



Observatory Hill, Millers Point

# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

## What people value about Observatory Hill

### Survey

Survey respondents were asked to choose what they value most about Observatory Hill.

Top values as indicated by survey respondents are:

- Its beauty (64%; 16)
- It's a peaceful place (36%; 9)
- It's accessible (36%; 9)
- It's a cultural place (24%; 6)

Participants also told us they value the open space for their dog and that they value this place because it is unceded Aboriginal land.

## Why people value Observatory Hill

Survey respondents were asked why they chose these values. Responses included:

- The sense of community
- Its a great place to meet up and be connected
- Its a "gem" in Sydney
- The cooling harbour breeze
- It has interesting history and heritage

## Respondents told us...

"I love the location for its cooling harbour breeze, lushness and calm within the city. I enjoy visiting here because I live in an apartment nearby and have no balcony."

- Survey respondent

"Green space is important to the soul of a city. Observatory Hill must also be maintained for its historic/heritage significance to Sydney, NSW and Australia!"

- Survey respondent

"Because this area feels like home to me but also has such a variety of special places that I am always finding something or someone new-even after 20 years."

- Survey respondent



"This is a beautiful park with wonderful views and history. It should always remain a park for the people and never given over to private interests. If developers were permitted to scoop up any part of it that would be a blight on our city and a shameful act by us that we allowed it to happen"

- Survey respondent

"In a busy city like Sydney there needs to be areas to reflect, relax and take in the air.... to contemplate, reminisce and relax. These spaces are vital."

- Survey respondent

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

### Current activities at Observatory Hill

Survey respondents were asked what are the main activities they do at Observatory Hill. The majority of respondents enjoy sightseeing and the views (68%; 17 respondents).

This was followed by sitting and relaxing (56%; 14), walking or running (44%; 11) and enjoying nature and walking through to get somewhere else (36%; 9, respectively).

Other activities survey respondents currently do at this park include playing tennis.

### Additional comments about Observatory Hill:

Survey respondents and pop-up participants were asked if there was anything else they would like to share about Observatory Hill, with comments including:

- Don't sell off the tennis court
- This place provides a sense of community
- The park needs drinking water fountains, and
- It's an important part of Sydney's history.

### Future activities at Observatory Hill

Survey respondents were asked to comment on anything else they would like to do in this park in the future, with on participants indicating they would like to have better disability access so they can visit with elderly relatives.

### Respondents told us...

"Observatory Park is a delightful spot and an important part of Sydney's history."

- Survey respondent

"Why change something that is perfect in every way? Observatory Hill is iconic and needs to be left to nature and the way it is today."

- Survey respondent

"It provides a great sense of community - people stop to watch or talk as they walk past. It makes them smile to see people - younger people and even older people exercising. It also encourages others to join in the activity."

- Survey respondent

"The self sown trees along the western fence line should be removed. They are damaging the fence and stone wall and impact on the presentation of the place."

- Survey respondent



## 2. Land description

### Location and description

This Plan of Management includes Observatory Hill, the Kent Street Tennis Centre and Watson Road Reserve – open space contained within the Crown reserve for Observatory Park.

Observatory Hill is located on Upper Fort Street, Millers Point. Situated within the centre of the park is the Sydney Observatory, while the Fort Street School and National Trust SH Erwin Gallery are located to the south. It is an iconic destination providing expansive views over Millers Point to Sydney Harbour.

It is well used for both active and passive recreation by local residents, CBD North worker populations and is a popular destination for tourists and wedding parties.

Wedged in between Observatory Hill and the Cahill Expressway is City-owned greenspace which comprises complementary park elements to support community use of the space and has been included for holistic management of the precinct.

The Kent Street Tennis Centre lies below the western edge of the ridge and is physically separated from the ridgetop park. To the north and below Observatory Hill at ground level is Watson Road Reserve. This dedicated greenspace creates a pedestrian link between Watson Road and Argyle Street.

The table below summarises key land information for the subject sites. A Site Plan has been provided on page 16, refer to **Figure 2**.

**Table 1. Summary land information**

Item	Description
<b>Site Name</b>	Observatory Park
<b>Address</b>	Observatory Hill – 1001 Upper Fort Street, Millers Point Kent Street Tennis Centre – 96-108 Kent Street, Millers Point Watson Road Reserve – 3 Watson Road, Millers Point City-owned community land – 2 Upper Fort Street, Millers Point and 1 Bradfield Highway, Millers Point
<b>Ownership</b>	Crown (The State of New South Wales)
<b>Crown Reserve No., purpose and gazetted date</b>	Dedication 500044, Public Recreation, 29/4/1884
<b>Zoning</b>	RE1 Public Recreation
<b>Area</b>	18,939.99 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Lot &amp; DP</b>	
Crown Reserves	Observatory Park: Observatory Hill - Lot 7003 DP 1071940 Kent Street Tennis Centre - Lot 7003 DP 1071940



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Item	Description
	Watson Road Reserve - Lot 7302 DP 1163733
City-owned community land	Lot 8863 DP 12179782, Lot 1 DP 55195, Lot 1 DP 53540 and Lot 2 DP 909499
Miscellaneous land	Road Reserve managed by the City of Sydney as Roads Authority
<b>Restrictions / easements</b>	n/a
<b>Community land categorisation</b>	
Observatory Hill	Park
Kent Street Tennis Centre	Sportsground
Watson Road Reserve	Park
City-owned land	Park
<b>Condition of land</b>	refer to <b>Table 2</b> for Condition Summary

Figure 2. Site Plan



## Heritage and culture

### Overview

Observatory Park was dedicated for Public Recreation in 1884 and became officially known as Observatory Hill Park in 1887. It was subsequently renamed to Observatory Park in 1976.

From its elevated position, Observatory Hill offers one of the most spectacular vantage points in Sydney Harbour.

The land on which the park lies is within the traditional lands of the Gadigal people. Prior to European arrival Observatory Hill is thought to have been used for its prominent position as a lookout or as a communication point across the harbour and its headlands may have had cultural and practical significance. Diary records of the colonists provide insights into early encounters, between First Nations peoples and the First Fleet arrivals in the vicinity of the park. These records remain an important source for the revival of Sydney Aboriginal language and cultural material.

Subsequent to European occupation of Sydney Cove in 1788, Observatory Park has had significant and ongoing roles in the development of the new colony and city. It represents one of the most important government and / or civic precincts in the city.

From the latter years of the nineteenth century, Observatory Park has been a focus for recreation, a green part of the city highly valued for its environment and views by both residents and visitors.

Key elements of the park include a number of Moreton Bay Fig trees that remain from planting schemes of the 1880's and the Agar Steps, built in 1892. The rotunda dates from 1912 and has been used as model for park improvements in other locations in NSW.

A second phase of park planting occurred in the 1930's after the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Observatory Park contains many buildings which have been adapted for re-use over the decades, along with archaeological sites dating back to the beginnings of European settlement.

The park is of outstanding historical significance and the heart and soul of the Observatory Hill precinct.

### Heritage Context

Listed heritage item:

*Sydney LEP # 1935— 'Observatory Park including Boer War Memorial, Bandstand, fences and landscaping'.*

There are multiple SHR and SLEP items in the vicinity of the subject sites including:

- Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct (SHR 01682)
- Millers Point Conservation Area (SHR 00884)
- Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area (C35)
- Sydney Observatory Group including buildings and their interiors and grounds (No 1934)
- Bureau of Meteorology including interior (No 1936)
- Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior (No 1937)
- Fort Street Primary School site including buildings their interiors, fig trees and grounds (No 1938)
- Watson Road Steps (No 1939)
- National Trust Centre (No 1876).

### History

The continued Aboriginal occupation of Sydney can be traced through the archaeological records to at least 22,000 years ago, with some estimates extending towards 35,000 years. The occupation of the Sydney Basin extended beyond the current shorelines as lower sea levels meant the coast was between 12 and 20 km further east than today. Sydney Harbour formed a vast valley with a central river. Some 1,000 years ago – at the end of the last great ice age – rising sea levels inundated the broad coastal plain forcing the retreat of coastal people over a few generations. The flooding is estimated to have taken up to 1,100 square km of land on the coast and 45 square kilometres within the harbour area itself. This resulted in the addition of 250 kilometres of shoreline shaping Sydney Harbour as it more or less sits today.

The Sydney area supported the Eora Nation, comprising of more than 30 separate clans



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across the region. It is recorded that most clans took their names from their Country, such as the Gadigal along the harbour's southern shore, or the Wangal from Wanne, the lower reaches of Parramatta River, or the Kamaygal from Kamay, Botany Bay). Others, like the Cammeragal from the harbour's northern shore, may have been named for their role in ceremony and law.

It was people from the Sydney Aboriginal groups concentrated around Sydney Cove and the Harbour who initially confronted and made efforts to understand the colonisers and their intentions on Country. It is these Aboriginal people who are described in the surviving colonial accounts. When the eleven ships of the First Fleet with one thousand or so people stepped ashore and set up camp in Sydney Cove in January 1788—having relocated from Botany Bay—it was the people of the Gadigal that they first encountered. The Gadigal were the first people dispossessed by colonists and it is this dispossession that underpins the foundation and growth of the city. In 1789, the smallpox epidemic devastated the Aboriginal population and disrupted clan boundaries in Sydney. Aboriginal people came together in new communities and locations.

The specific cultural attachments and associations that Aboriginal people had over generations with Observatory Hill are not well documented or researched. Yet its elevated and prominent position as a lookout or as a communication point across the harbour and its headlands may have had cultural and practical significance.

Traces of an Aboriginal campsite have been found near the intersection of Cumberland and Essex Streets (approximately 100 metres from Observatory Hill). The campsite was discovered next to the historic Lilyvale Cottage during archaeological excavations carried out in 1989 ahead of the construction of the Shangri-La Hotel. During the excavation some shells became visible, which were found to represent an Aboriginal midden. Radiocarbon dates from the midden show that the campsite at Lilyvale was used fairly recently, about 340 years before the First Fleet arrived in Sydney in 1788. (Source: Sydney Barani 2013 <https://www.sydneybarani.com.au/sites/campsite-lilyvale/>)

Some of the most poignant encounters in the immediate vicinity are those documented

between lieutenant William Dawes and Eora woman Pattyeagarang at the observatory that was established at 'Tarra; now Dawes Point. Pattyeagarang worked with Dawes as he learnt and transcribed her language, correcting his pronunciation and the definitions he recorded. It was Aboriginal women such as Pattyeagarang who were the intermediaries between their people and the colonists, creating pidgin forms of communication essential to the interactions that played out between the two worlds. Pattyeagarang patiently explained the anger felt by Aboriginal people at the arrival of the colonists—the reasons behind why Aboriginal men had wounded the new settlers; the rituals of play, food and fishing.

Dawes' notebooks reveal the way in which Eora women were negotiating the demands of a new society and forming mutually beneficial friendships with convict women and men as well as officers and their wives. The notebooks made by Dawes and Pattyeagarang provide insight into the early contact but also remain an important source for the revival of Sydney Aboriginal language and cultural material today.

The earliest colonial development on Observatory Hill was the construction of a **windmill by Irish convict John Davis in 1796**. The windmill was a stone tower fitted with machinery to grind wheat to make bread. This windmill subsided in 1800 and lost its sails in a storm in **1805. By then another windmill had been built in timber to the south**. These early structures gave rise to the name Windmill Hill, and the district still bears the name Millers Point.

As the highest hill overlooking the settlement of Sydney, this area was the site of **Fort Phillip built in 1800** and named after the colony's first Governor. The fort was armed with four 6-pounder cannons and a gunpowder magazine. The powder magazine was moved to Goat Island in 1833, and **Fort Phillip was partially demolished in 1840**. Upper Fort Street commemorates Fort Phillip.

With the growth in shipping the elevated site was **used as a signal station from 1825**, using flags and semaphore to communicate with ships from the east parapet of the fort. This gave the area the new name of Flagstaff Hill, and it was still referred to by locals as The Flaggie until well into the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. **In 1847 a 2-storey Telegraph House was built** to meet

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increased demands of maritime activity in the port.

In **1825, the colony's second hospital was built on the site**, and after it was **closed in 1848 it was converted into the Fort Street Model School**, famous for its innovative teaching methods. At first it was co-educational, but the boys moved to a new site at Taverner's Hill, Petersham in 1916, where the high school (once again co-educational) still operates. Fort Street Public School remains at Observatory Hill today.

The southern hemisphere was regarded as an important site for astronomical observations so the first observatory was built in Sydney in 1788. **The observatory and astronomer's residence were built in 1857 to 1859**, incorporating a time ball which signalled the time to shipping in the harbour each day. Due to increasing light and pollution the observatory closed in 1982 and is now a public museum which is within the care, control and management of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS).

The **1880's Flagstaff planting scheme** featured Moreton Bay Fig trees many of which remain. The Agar Steps named after Thomas Agars (1810-1862), a local merchant were built in 1892. The park was formerly dedicated as a public recreation reserve in 1884 and became officially known as **Observatory Hill Park in 1887**. The park was subsequently renamed to **Observatory Park in 1976**.

The rotunda within the park dates from 1912 and it was frequently used for musical performances. The rotunda served as something of a model for park improvements in other locations. The Lord Mayor of Lismore left Sydney with plans of the Observatory Hill Rotunda in 1913 following a visit. In 2017, artist, Anri Sala installed his musical work 'The Last Resort' comprised of custom built snare drums in the rotunda as part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Kaldor Public Art Project. The rotunda is regularly used as a venue for functions and events.

A second phase of **planting occurred in c.1932** coinciding with the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, including a grove of palm trees next to its stairs. Observatory Hill contains many buildings which have been adapted for re-use over the decades, along with archaeological sites dating back to the beginnings of European settlement. From its elevated position it also offers one of the most spectacular vantage

points in Sydney. A South African War Memorial 1899-1902 was installed in the park in 1937 commemorating the citizens of NSW who responded to the Empire's call. The stones in the memorial are at least 133 years old. They came from the old demolished Governor Macquarie stores building at Circular Quay. *Source: Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of New South Wales (Taree, NSW), Sat 8 June 1940.*

In 1992, five (5) Moreton Bay Fig trees were planted near the rotunda on the northeast corner of the Observatory boundary to commemorate the visit by Japan Junior Chamber Inc. to promote "The Age of Global Citizenship".

### Statement of Significance

*The Observatory Park is within the traditional Country of the Gadigal people and carries their ancestors stories and values. Given the hill boasts the highest elevation in Sydney Harbour the Gadigal may have used the hill as a communication point and to look across and along the harbour.*

*As a colonial landscape, the park is of outstanding historical significance and a major component of the Observatory Hill precinct. The Observatory is of exceptional significance. Its prominent location and significant uses beside and above the port town and, later, City of Sydney made it a place for a range of changing uses, all of which were important to, and reflected, stages in the growth and development of the colony. These uses included: milling (the first windmill); defence (the first, and still extant, fort fabric); communications (the flagstaff's, first semaphore and first electric telegraph connection); astronomy, meteorology and time keeping.*

*The surviving structures of the Observatory Hill precinct, both above and below ground, evidence 195 years of changing use, technical development and ways of living. As such they are a continuing resource for investigation and public interpretation.*

*Observatory Hill has an association with an extensive array of historical figures most of whom have helped shape its fabric. These include: colonial Governors Hunter, Bligh, Macquarie & Denison; military officers and engineers Barrallier; Bellasis and Minchin; convicts: the as yet unnamed constructors of the mill and fort; architects: Greenway (also a convict), Lewis, Blacket, Weaver, Dawson and Barnet; signallers*



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*and telegraphists such as Jones and the family Moffitt; astronomers: particularly PP King, Scott, Smalley, Russell, Cooke and Wood.*

*The picturesque Italianate character and stylistic interest of the Observatory and residence building, together with the high level of competence of the masonry (brick and stone) of all major structures on the site, combine to create a precinct of unusual quality.*

*Finally, the continued use of the observatory for astronomical observations and the survival of astronomical instruments, equipment and some early furniture although temporarily dispersed, and the retention of most interior spaces, joinery, plasterwork, fireplaces, and supports ensure that the observatory can remain the most intact and longest serving early scientific building in the State (Kerr 1991: 39). The site is also of significance for the relationship of Commonwealth and State powers. It is the site of the first intercolonial conference on meteorology and astronomy. (Pearson et al 1999)*

*The building is an excellent example of a Colonial building erected for scientific purposes and continuing to perform its function at the present time. The structure makes an imposing composition atop the historic hill originally known as Flagstaff Hill and occupies the historic Fort Phillip site (1804-45). It was designed by the colonial architect Alexander Dawson and built in 1858.*

*The elevation of the park, with its harbour and city views and vistas framed by mature Moreton Bay fig (Ficus macrophylla) trees of the surrounding park, make it one of the most pleasant and spectacular locations in Sydney. For locals and visitors alike, the park is a popular spot for passive and active recreation and is a premier location due to its spectacular views of Sydney Harbour.*

### Key heritage features

Significant elements of the park:

- Boer War Memorial
- Agar Steps
- Bandstand Rotunda
- Panoramic views of Sydney Harbour
- Connection to the Sydney Observatory precinct.

The park contains several items listed on the City of Sydney's Significant Tree Register including:

- Nineteen (19) Moreton Bay Figs (Ficus macrophylla)
- One (1) Port Jackson Fig (Ficus Glabrescens) and 2 Port Jackson Fig (Ficus Rubiginosa) at Agar Steps

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## Environment and landscape

The following description has been derived from the Observatory Hill Master Plan 2012 and Draft Plan of Management 1997.

### Pre-existing Physical Characteristics:

The natural topography of the site consisted of a steep rise with several prominent rocky sandstone outcrops and a series of undulating ridges culminating in a peak.

The vegetation types likely to have been found in this area prior to European settlement include:

- Eastern Aspect: Open forest to woodland
- Northern Aspect: Woodland and Scrub
- Western Aspect: Open woodland and scrub
- Typical species being Eucalypts, Angophora, Blackbutt, Banksias, Acacias and Tea Trees.
- The lower slopes are likely to have supported woodland of Scribbly Gum with an open low shrubby understorey comprising banksias, acacias and tea trees.

### Existing Physical Characteristics:

#### Landform, Soil, Drainage

At over 40 metres above sea level, Observatory Hill is the most elevated point in the Sydney CBD. It is located at the crest of the rocky ridge that separates Sydney Cove to the east and Darling Harbour to the west. Its highest point is located near the Observatory at 44.38m. The eastern boundary of the park stops abruptly at the retaining wall of the Bradfield Highway. The western borders of the park slope off sharply and are terminated by a wrought iron fence at the top of sandstone retaining walls. From these areas a panoramic view is afforded of Sydney Harbour.

The southern border is terminated by the Cahill Expressway and the Agar Steps. Beyond this point the landform continues to gradually slope down towards the Natural Trust Centre.

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

The large areas of cutting associated with the Argyle Stairs and the Cahill Expressway have dramatically altered the topography of the site along its eastern edge, isolating the educational buildings from the rest of the precinct and impacting on its park like character and usable recreational areas.

The site's soils are typical of the GyMEA Landscape Group as identified in the Soil Landscapes of Sydney (1:100,000 sheet). Soils are derived from the Hawkesbury Sandstone and typically shallow, discontinuous, and generally sandy and very low in nutrient status and water holding capacity. In 2007 some soil testing was undertaken on site surrounding the mature Fig Trees and the soils were found to consist of a high Magnesium and Calcium ratio which was likely to adversely affect soil compaction and tree phosphorus levels. Recommendations were outlined to rectify nutrient levels.

Drainage is a problem in some areas of the park due to its thin soils over rock and steeply sloping turfed areas along the western and northern areas which have high pedestrian traffic resulting in soil erosion and 'goat tracks' in the lawn, this is especially evident between the Argyle Stairs to the rotunda.

### Microclimates

The exposed nature of the hill has resulted in long term exposure to prevailing winds. The downside of this exposure is the adverse impacts of prevailing south-westerly winter winds which adversely affect visitor amenity and can impact on some plant species. Some protection from winds is provided by the structures and plantings throughout the park.

There is little overshadowing from surrounding areas and as a result the park (areas not impacted by tree shading) is generally exposed to full sunlight throughout the day.

### Vegetation

Tree plantings are typical of Sydney's urban parks of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most plants have significance either due to their age, their unique characteristics, their rarity or be being representative of an era of park plantings.

Many of the remnant figs, being of large mature proportions are registered as significant trees (2004) by the City of Sydney. The tree plantings form an integral component of the city's cultural

heritage of civic planting schemes dating from the Victorian era and are a significant part of the Millers Point landscape.

The 19 Moreton Bay Figs across the park are grouped in four separate and distinctive clusters, they are the most prominent plantings on Observatory Hill. They are clearly visible from many vantage points, including from distant parts of Sydney, including the suburbs of Birchgrove, and North Sydney across the harbour.

The Observatory Hill Tree Management Plan was prepared for the City of Sydney in 2008 as part of a suite of tree management plan for Sydney's iconic 19<sup>th</sup> century parks. While the plan identifies relevant heritage, environmental and arboriculturally data of all the existing trees at the time the report was written, only limited information was included which identifies specific species and some recommendations for new species planting.

### Landscape Character:

The broader Observatory Hill site consists of several distinct zones, these include:

- The parkland to the north
- The Observatory which sits nestled into the parkland
- The central educational zone currently cut off from the site by the Cahill Expressway Cutting (not part of this Plan of Management)
- The National Trust Centre which sits to the southern end of Observatory Hill, is somewhat isolated from other parts of the site and has only limited pedestrian access from adjoining streets (not part of this Plan of Management).

The Kent Street Tennis Centre lies below the western edge of the ridge and is physically separated from the ridgetop park.

Carved into a rock wall base located below Observatory Hill is Watson Road Reserve. A separate greenspace within the Observatory Park Crown reserve, it comprises 3 Moreton Bay Figs and 1 Queensland Lacebark recorded on the City of Sydney's Significant Tree Register. The heritage listed Watson Road Steps form a central pedestrian connection to Argyle Street located at the ground level.

The overall landscape character of the ridgetop parkland derives strongly from the heritage

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

elements and built form present. Juxtaposed to this are the adjoining views to the roadways and CBD buildings to the east and south. Also, the newer educational buildings of the Fort Street Primary School and the Fanny Cohen Hall, sit in contrast to the general Victorian character of the Hill notwithstanding some previously expressed architectural significance of the school building.

### Visual Amenity

The park's views to Central Sydney, the Harbour, North Sydney, Darling Harbour and the inner west suburbs are its prominent feature and would be one of the main reasons people come to use the park. From its many vantage points, visitors can view a panorama that sweeps from the Glebe Island Bridge around to Cockatoo Island, North Sydney, Millers Point and Walsh Bay around to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Observatory provides an opportunity to promote those views and their historic significance. The placement of trees and the ground clearance of the canopies has an effect on the sight lines from the Observatory. Clear sight lines to North Head in the east and to peninsulas along the foreshores of Parramatta River to the west are still required.

Views of the park are gained from as far away as the Falcon Street, Crows Nest entrance to Bradfield Highway. The grassed slopes to the park's northern slopes can be seen from this distance. Crossing the bridge, the park is increasingly visible from vehicles, however travel speeds precludes appreciation of the park's form and provides no clues as to how to access it from the bridge. Because of its elevated position and adjoining buildings, the park is often not visible from the surrounding neighbourhood below or from the neighbouring Rocks Precinct.

### Access and Circulation

A key issue identified in previous studies has been the dangerous mixing of access on Lower Fort Street where the Harbour Bridge cycle path exists. The park is located at a gateway into the city for cycling, with the south exit of the Sydney Harbour Bridge located along its eastern edge.

This cycleway carries large volumes of cyclist traffic in the peak. The current shared path/on-street configuration generates conflicts and safety issues for cyclists, pedestrians, vehicle drivers and residents adjacent the precinct.

Fundamentally, the road and parking system on Observatory Hill is inefficient and poorly legible. The splitting of road access at the Cahill Cutting between the educational precinct and the National Trust is unnecessary and requires a road to the narrow space to the west of the Cahill Cutting, limiting pedestrian and user amenity in this area of potentially high amenity.

Wayfinding and signage both to the precinct and within it are inadequate and sometimes misleading.

Observatory Hill has been identified for capital works upgrades due to the current condition of the pathways across the site, conflict between pedestrian and vehicular activity and the need to consider the ongoing management of the significant trees on the site.

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## Reserve purpose and community use

Crown land is to be used for the original purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved. Multiple uses of reserves are encouraged, where those uses are consistent with the original purpose of the Crown reserve.

The public purpose for Observatory Park Crown reserve is **Public Recreation**.

### Community usage

The Observatory Hill site provides one of the most spectacular vantage points in Sydney to overlook the Sydney Harbour Bridge, enjoying uninterrupted views to the North and Western parts of Sydney. As such it is a much sought-after passive recreation destination for both local and international visitors, as well as local residents. Many visitors are drawn to the site as a wedding venue or for photo opportunities.

It currently has a diverse user group including tourists, school children, wedding parties, local residents, fitness groups and city workers on lunch break. Additional groups frequent the park to visit the National Trust and Sydney Observatory.

An observation survey was undertaken by the City of Sydney in 2012 to ascertain the actual usage numbers and times of use impacting on the site over a seven-day period.

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Key recreational uses identified within the study include:

- Wedding / formal party
- Relaxing on grass
- Photography
- Sitting on benches
- Children playing
- Fitness / training
- Dog exercising
- Standing / looking at views
- Using Rotunda
- Picnicking.

The following observations were also noted:

- Heavy emphasis on weekday fitness training use
- Peak weekday usage from 12.00pm - 1.00pm
- Saturday use heavier in afternoon - with wedding / photography.

Recent user intercept surveys undertaken for the Crown Reserves Plan of Management in 2020, indicate that the most popular activities undertaken in the park by respondents were:

- Enjoy sightseeing and the views
- Sitting and relaxing
- Walking or running for exercise
- Enjoying nature and
- Walking through to get somewhere else
- Other activities include playing tennis

Nearly half of the survey respondents were likely to live nearby or visit the area with nearly a third visiting the park on a daily basis. The most popular time to visit was in the afternoon (12pm-4pm) followed by afternoon/evening (6pm-9pm).

### User amenities

Generally, facilities to the site are not over proliferated and in the case of park furniture, appear to meet user needs. It is important that the range of elements from bollards to fences is consolidated and applied in a unified manner. Public toilets closest to Observatory Hill are currently located on the lower end of Watson Road and are used regularly by taxis and bus drivers in the area both day and night. These toilets have been upgraded in recent years.

### Event use of the park

Observatory Hill has been a venue for a variety of events from small scale community focused events to larger scale ceremonial/ memorial services and festivals. The park is also a popular spot for larger community events such as the New Year's Eve Fireworks. Other events have included exhibitions, filming, launch and promotional events, live performances, media calls, sporting events and wedding ceremonies. Recorded attendances have ranged up to 15,000 people. The City of Sydney registered a total of 23 events between 2015-19.

## Table 2. Usage and condition of facilities and improvements

Facilities	Usage	Condition assessment (source / reference)
<b>Observatory Hill:</b>		
Rotunda	General Public Use Bookings required for event / gathering purposes	Good (2)
Permanent public art Hans Christian Anderson bust	n/a	Good (2) Bronze bust, vertically textured, elliptical sandstone plinth.
Monument / Memorial – South African War Memorial	n/a	Average (3) Sandstone square cairn with curved arms and paved enclosed semicircle with artillery gun

Observatory Park  
Specific Plan of Management

Facilities	Usage	Condition assessment (source / reference)
Footpaths/pavements	General Public Use	Average to Good
Fitness area	General Public Use Fitness group use	Poor (4)
Park Furniture - seating	General Public Use	Average
Park Furniture – water bubblers	General Public Use	Average
Park Furniture - lighting	General Public Use	Average
Park Furniture - fencing	General Public Use	Average
<b>Kent Street Tennis Centre:</b>		
Courts	Pay for use by booking	Good (2)
Fencing	n/a	Good (2)
<b>Watson Road Reserve:</b>		
Park Furniture - seating	General Public Use	Average to Good
Sandstone steps/walling	n/a	Good
Fencing on walling	n/a	Good
<b>City-owned community land:</b>		
Fitness station	General Public Use	Good
Park Furniture - lighting	General Public Use	Average

(#) City of Sydney Asset Assessment - other assessments by general observation for PoM

**Table 3. Existing leases and licences**

Lease / licence	Crown Reserve / Lot and DP	Lease / licence holder	Date commenced Date expiring	Purpose / Comments
Retail Lease	D.500044 / part Lot 7003 DP 1071940	G. E. Hotels Pty Ltd	08/08/2017 Expiry 07/08/2022 5 years	Management of tennis courts. Available for public hire



# 3. Legislative context

## Ownership and management

Observatory Park is a Crown reserve owned by the State of New South Wales. The City of Sydney is the Crown land manager responsible for the management of the Crown reserve. Refer to **Section 2**, pages 14-15 for further property details.

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## Relevant legislation

### Crown Land Management Act 2016

Crown land is governed by the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (“**CLM Act**”). Historically, reserve trust managers were appointed as the custodians of Crown reserves. Upon the introduction of the CLM Act in 2018, the reserve trust regime was abolished. The management of Crown reserves is now delegated to Crown land managers, many of which are local councils.

The Objectives of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 under section 1.3 are identified as:

- Provide for the ownership, use and management of the Crown land of NSW
- Provide clarity concerning the law applicable to Crown land
- Require environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations to be considered in decision-making about Crown land
- Provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of NSW
- Facilitate the use of Crown land by the Aboriginal people of NSW because of the spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of land to Aboriginal people and, where appropriate, to enable the co-management of dedicated or reserved Crown land
- Provide for the management of Crown land having regard to the principles of Crown land management.

### State Environmental Planning Policy – Infrastructure 2007

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (“**ISEPP**”) aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across NSW. The Infrastructure SEPP assists local government and the communities they support by simplifying the process for providing essential infrastructure.

The ISEPP has specific planning provisions and development controls for 25 types of infrastructure works or facilities including roads, emergency services, electricity delivery, parks and other public reserves and telecommunications networks.

The ISEPP outlines the planning rules for such works and facilities, including:

- Where such development can be undertaken
- What type of infrastructure development can be approved by a public authority under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (“**EP&A Act**”) following an environmental assessment (known as ‘development without consent’)
- What type of development can be approved by the relevant local council, Minister for Planning or Department of Planning under Part 4 of the EP&A Act (known as ‘development with consent’)
- What type of development is exempt or complying development.

Of relevance to Observatory Park is Clause 65 that specifies that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent if the development is for the purposes of implementing an adopted Plan of Management. The clause also lists a range of ancillary developments permitted without consent.

Clause 66 provides for a range of exempt developments within a public reserve such as the construction, maintenance and repair of walking tracks, boardwalks, stairways, gates, seats shelters and shade structures.

## Applicable planning controls for the reserve

### Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Local Environmental Plans are statutory planning tools that set controls over development in the area to which they apply and are one of the main instruments for implementing the EP&A Act. They contain zoning controls as well as controls for heritage conservation areas and protected areas, amongst other matters.

Observatory Park is zoned **RE1 – Public Recreation**.

#### 1 Objectives of zone

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- To provide links between open space areas.
- To retain and promote access by members of the public to areas in the public domain including recreation facilities and waterways and other natural features

#### 2 Permitted without consent

Environmental protection works

#### 3 Permitted with consent

Aquaculture; Boat launching ramps; Boat sheds; Charter and tourism boating facilities; Centre-based child care facilities; Community facilities; Electricity generating works; Emergency services facilities; Environmental facilities; Food and drink premises; Horticulture; Information and education facilities; Jetties; Kiosks; Marinas; Markets; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (indoor); Recreation facilities (major); Recreation facilities (outdoor); Registered clubs; Research stations; Respite day care centres; Roads; Roadside stalls; Signage; Water recreation structures; Water recycling facilities; Water supply systems

#### 4 Prohibited

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

## Native Title

On Crown land, Native Title rights and interests must be considered unless Native Title has been extinguished, surrendered, or determined by a court to no longer exist.

Dealings in land or water that affect (impair or extinguish) Native Title are referred to as 'Future Acts' and these acts must be done in compliance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) ("**NT ACT**"). The NT Act specifies procedures that must be followed before future acts can be done legally.

Some examples of acts which may affect Native Title on Crown land managed by the City of Sydney include:

- The construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, tennis courts, grandstands and barbecues
- The construction of extensions to existing buildings
- The construction of new roads
- Installation of infrastructure such as powerlines, sewerage pipes, etc.
- The creation of an easement
- The issue of a lease or licence
- The undertaking of major earthworks.

On Crown land, a future act undertaken by the City of Sydney which is not covered by one of the Future Act subdivisions of the NT Act will be invalid.

Section 8.7 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 requires that written Native Title Manager advice is required before a council Crown land manager does any of the following:

- a. Grants leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements or rights of way over the land
- b. Mortgages the land or allows it to be mortgaged
- c. Imposes, requires or agrees to covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use (or removes or releases, or agrees to remove or release, covenants, conditions, or other restrictions on use) in connection with dealings involving the land
- d. Approves (or submits for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or

permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c). Accordingly, Native Title Manager advice must be obtained prior to the approval (or submittal for approval) of a PoM that allows a dealing in (a)–(c) and the execution of any lease, licence, permit, etc. that may be authorised under that plan.

- e. The City of Sydney Native Title Manager has been and will continue to be consulted in all relevant aspects of Native Title pertaining to the land that is covered by this Plan of Management.

The City's Native Title Manager has been and will continue to be consulted in all relevant aspects of Native Title pertaining to the land that is covered by this Plan of Management.

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## Heritage management

The planning and management of Observatory Park must recognise and adhere to the requirements applicable to Local heritage listings.

# 4. Strategic context

## Past planning and management

Planning and management directions have been established for Observatory Park through past master planning (Observatory Hill Master Plan 2012) and plans of management (Observatory Hill Draft Plan of Management 1997). This Plan of Management references the Observatory Hill Master Plan 2012 as the current planning direction for the Crown reserve and supersedes the Draft Plan of Management 1997.

## Key strategic directions

The following summary is derived from the adopted Master Plan previously discussed and is further supplemented by the Harbour Village North Public Domain Study 2012 and Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016.

### Observatory Hill Master Plan 2012

Key principles:

**Restoration** - Restore park edges whittled away over the years by the encroachment of transport infrastructure.

- Reclaim surplus road area and bus layover detracting from pedestrian environment to frontages of Abraham Mott Hall and Harry Jensen Activity Centre for recreation/ event space and improved playground.
- Improve connections between Educational and Cultural buildings currently separated from open space parkland.
- Reclaim Bradfield Highway area freed up by removal of disused toll booths.

**Green Mantle** - Maximise and consolidate the 'Green Mantle' open space areas across the precinct. Consideration should be given to views and vistas to the precinct.

- Reduce noise and traffic impacts from Bradfield Highway edge which detract from enjoyment of the park.

- Improve usability of the park - Consider options to bridge Cahill Expressway cutting and minimise fencing clutter.
- Buffer the Bradfield Highway along park's eastern edge.
- Long term vision for preserving significant views to and from Observatory Hill.
- Maximise garden bed and turf areas.

**Connections** - Consolidate vehicular access and parking to undesirable eastern edge.

- Rationalised and pedestrian, cycle and vehicular routes.
- Improved visual access and wayfinding to and within Observatory Hill.
- Improved connectivity with surrounding area at locations limited by topography and the Bradfield Highway.
- Potential new access point to the National Trust & Observatory Hill from Kent Street.
- Long term linkage opportunities to surrounding areas e.g. Barangaroo, The Rocks.

### Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016

Strategic directions:

The report notes Observatory Hill is one of the City of Sydney's best vantage points for unobstructed Harbour views, yet the park is fragmented and underused due to poor pedestrian access brought about by busy roads and topography.

Barangaroo is bringing more people into the precinct and will generate additional demand for connections to Observatory Hill.

Key directions highlighted include:

- New toilet facilities
- Refurbishment of Rotunda
- Enhance physical and visual connections between Observatory Hill, Millers Point, Barangaroo

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

- Investigate the feasibility of unifying the park by restore Observatory Hill by providing connections / cover over the Cahill expressway cutting
- Access: east – investigate feasibility of pedestrian bridge over Western Distributor/ lift access from Argyle Street
- Investigate feasibility lift access at key access points to the park
- Connection through High Street, form a larger connection from the park to Barangaroo edge – Agar Steps
- Improve cycle access along eastern side of park from Harbour Bridge to Kent Street underpass.

Other recommended works to include:

- Argyle Street and Kent Street underpass upgrades which will improve access and connectivity to Observatory Hill

Current project status of upgrades:

- New toilet facility - design development underway
- Design assessment of cycle link (completed)
- Refurbishment of Rotunda (completed)

### **Harbour Village North Public Domain Study – 2012**

The study identifies six guiding directions for long term improvements in Harbour Village North that will strengthen its character as a special destination while improving connections to surrounding areas and enriching community life. The following directions directly relate to Observatory Hill:

#### **Improve access, connectivity and wayfinding**

- Improving wayfinding throughout the area, including carefully designed signs, pointers, guides and information will help with navigation and encourage more people to walk the route.

#### **Network of linked open spaces**

- Long term opportunities to consolidate green space at Observatory Hill should also be considered.
- Upgrading and ‘greening’ the existing spaces of the Kent Street underpass would improve

the amenity of these areas and connecting Observatory Hill to Lang Park.

#### **Respect and celebrate Heritage,**

- At Observatory Hill, opportunities to restore the park space after numerous infrastructure encroachments, and improve the setting and interpretation of heritage elements can be explored

#### **Natural environment and Views**

- Significant and historic panoramic views from Observatory Hill to Sydney Harbour are important and must be protected.
- The retention of wide harbour views from existing streets and public domain areas should be maximised with the development of Barangaroo and framed with carefully considered landscape and built form elements.

#### **Strengthen local communities, facilities and recreation**

- Harbour Village North has a strong residential community consisting of public tenants, private owners and leaseholders in a range of building types.
- Observatory Hill and King George V Centre provide popular recreation destinations for workers and residents

**Figure 3** (page 32) is the approved Master Plan for Observatory Hill prepared in 2016 for the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study (Volume 1 The Strategy).

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## **Demographic context**

As part of the Plan of Management process Cred Consulting reviewed the demographic and recreational context of the subject reserve which provides useful background to ongoing planning and management.

Key observations are summarised following:

#### **More residents**

The City of Sydney’s increasing resident population and density will result in more use and capacity pressures on all levels of the open space network, particularly the larger parks that offer opportunities for active sport.



## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

The majority of population growth will be accommodated in various urban renewal areas. This trend will continue over the next 10-15 years.

The planning of urban renewal areas will provide opportunities to increase the open space and recreation facility network provision and provide linkages to the established open space network.

### **More workers and visitors**

In the city centre and other concentrations of workforce population and visitors the quality of public spaces to allow people to lunch sit and socialise as well as provision of larger spaces for lunch time sport and exercise needs to be an important consideration.

### **Increasing density**

Open space provision will be critical to the liveability of higher density urban areas by supporting community well-being, physical activity, social interaction, and a sense of space within an otherwise intensive built environment.

### **More lone persons**

The acceptance for high density housing in order to live close to the city centre and lone person households' places importance on the distribution of the open space network to ensure people have convenient access to a park that serves as a "backyard" and facilitates social interaction and recreation opportunities. Open space planning and management is an important component of the liveability and quality of high density developments.

### **More young and old people**

The age structure profiles increasing in the city of families with young children, young adults, and older people are expected to be heavy users of open space network.

In 2041, 47% of the City of Sydney's residents will be between 18 and 34 years of age. This age group has high participation rates in active sports and recreation, and many reside in new high density urban renewal areas which suggests higher density communities could potential be very active communities and will require opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.

The open space network needs to be flexible and provide a diverse offer of recreational, social,

cultural and creative activities and facilities to cater for various age, cultural and income groups.

### **Total population**

City of Sydney is forecast to grow by 949,824 people or 37% in 2041. The highest growth will be in Green Square-City South, CBD-Harbour, Chinatown-CBD South and Redfern Street villages respectively.

### **Service age structure**

#### ***Decrease in the proportion of 25 to 49 year old people***

While the working age population will remain the largest demographic group to 2041, the proportion of this Local Government Area ("LGA"). The villages with the most significant change in this age group proportion will be King Street (-5%), Glebe Point Road (-4%), Harris Street (-4%), Macleay Street-Woolloomooloo (-4%) and Oxford Street (-4%).

#### ***Increase in the proportion of 60 to 84 year old people***

The proportion of people aged between 60 and 84 years is forecast to increase by 2% in 2041. While the increase in proportion of 60 to 69 year old people is consistent across all villages within the LGA, the increase in proportion of 70 to 84 year old people varies. The villages with the highest increase in proportion of 70 to 84 year old people will be Glebe Point Road (+4%), Crown – Baptist Streets (+3%), Harris Street (+3%), Macleay Street-Woolloomooloo (+3%) and Oxford Street (+3%).

### **Households**

The total number of dwellings in the LGA is forecast to increase by 35%. The villages that will see the highest increase in number of households are CBD-Harbour, Green Square – City South and Redfern Street. Villages including CBD-Harbour and Redfern Street with a high number of Crown lands will cater to an increasing number of households by 2041.

### **Household type**

The overall LGA is forecast to see a high increase in households with one parent families and group households. However, there are variations in forecast household type across the

villages including those within this PoM study area:

- CBD-Harbour and Redfern Street will have a steep increase in one parent families

### **Overnight and daily visitors**

The City of Sydney is Sydney's premier metropolitan core that contains regional and village level services including retail to health, education to entertainment. The Sydney CBD and surrounds are also attractive places for tourists to visit, explore and stay overnight.

Given the diversity of offerings across the LGA, visitors are distributed to places such as Oxford Street, Kings Cross/Darlinghurst, Newtown, the Rocks, Chinatown and Central Station. Accommodation is provided throughout the LGA via short term rental accommodation as well as through traditional hotel and hostel services. The City of Sydney experiences 680,000 daily and overnight visitors for range of purposes and services including:

- Shopping
- Health and education
- Recreation and entertainment
- Accommodation
- Personal business
- Work related business.

It is forecast that this will grow to approximately 860,000 by 2036. (*Source: Infrastructure Baseline Assessment, City of Sydney, 2019*)

### **Social and cultural considerations (as per 2016 census data)**

#### ***Cultural diversity***

47.7% of City of Sydney population are born overseas with top countries of birth being China, United Kingdom and Thailand. Villages areas with highest born overseas rates include Chinatown and CBD South (76%), Harris Street (57.1%) and Green Square and City South (54.7%).

36.1% of City of Sydney population speak a language other than English with top languages being Mandarin, Thai and Cantonese. Village areas with highest percentage of other language speakers include Chinatown and CBD South (71%), Harris Street (47.1%) and Green Square and City South (45.9%).

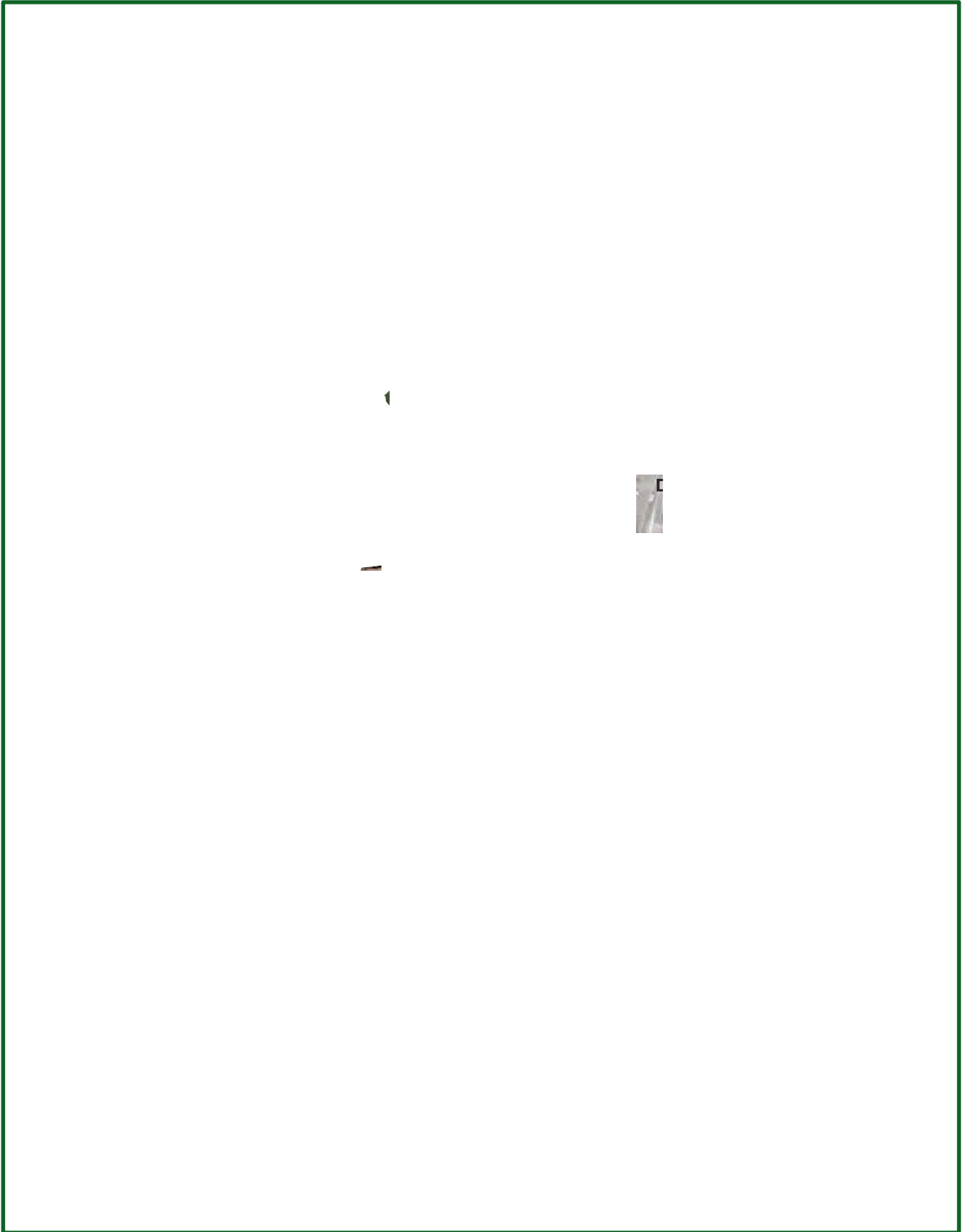
### ***Low-income households***

18.2% of households in City of Sydney LGA are characterised as low-income households. Village areas with highest percentage of low-income households include Redfern Street (29.5%), Chinatown and CBD South (17.5%) and King Street (15.6%).

### ***Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA Index)***

City of Sydney has a SEIFA index 1,027. Village areas with lowest SEIFA scores being Chinatown and CBD South (940.2) and Redfern Street (970.2).

## Figure 3. Master Plan



## City of Sydney Policy and Strategy framework

The City of Sydney has developed an extensive range of policies which provide guidance to Council decision-making. A number of these influence planning and management decision-making for open space and must be referred to in conjunction with this Plan of Management.

The City of Sydney has also developed a range of strategies focused on specific issues. While strategies are high-level guideline documents and usually carry less influence than policies, they can provide important references for planning and management of open space.

Generally, policy guidance for management of specific issues shall take precedence where no guidance is provided in the plan. However, all decision-making, and ongoing management must also have regard to the conservation of the specific park values and application of the core objectives of the applicable community land category/categories.

A summary of the key policies and strategies is provided in the Appendices.

## Future Policy and Strategy guidance

In addition, it is intended that future policy and strategy development should also inform specific aspects of reserve planning and management as applicable.

# 5. Community guiding principles

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The City acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area, and we acknowledge their continued connection to Country. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.

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## Community and place

These are the principles for our plans of management for Crown and community land. They were developed by listening to our communities – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, community gardeners, bushcare contributors, local residents, school children, city workers and visitors. And they reflect their values.

These principles are guided by the world view of Aboriginal people. They reframe our systemic relationship with the land. Since invasion, the relationship between people and land has been disrupted with little respect for the land, animals, waterways, and First Peoples. We've seen the extinction of plants and animals and damage to waterways and land. Aboriginal lives have been lost in trying to protect country. By challenging our approach in this way, we hope to cause no further harm and begin to heal.

The City of Sydney has an important role as caretaker of these places. We will consciously consider these principles in the decisions we make for the Crown and community land we are responsible for. This includes how we maintain, change, and manage this land.

*Aboriginal world view of Country – First Nations workshop participant*

*Country is our identity; spiritually, culturally, physically, and socially. We refer to Country as part of the family. We speak to Country; we sing to Country; and we dance for Country.*

*Increasingly we worry for Country and seek greater protection measures to carry out our cultural obligations to the land and waterways. These are our fundamental rights and cultural responsibilities in protecting country as First Nations People.*

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## We are on Gadigal Country

These principles are founded in the understanding of **Country** in the worldview of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This understanding of Country includes the landscape – land, water and sky, the plants and animals, and the relationship between these. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people responsibility for care of Country and the continuation of these relationships. Country has existed in this place for thousands of generations. Country precedes the colonial boundaries and definitions of 'Crown land'. We acknowledge the responsibility that First Nations People have in the carriage of their living cultures including access to land for practising culture. Crown and community land should bring social, spiritual, and economic benefit to First Nations People.



## We commit to truth-telling and decolonisation

Gadigal Country was never ceded. In managing the Crown and Community land in Gadigal Country, we recognise the significance of this land as the site of invasion.

We work towards telling the history of these places with honesty and acknowledge the negative impacts caused to Country and to the people.

We endeavour to cause no further harm to Aboriginal people and the relationship they hold to the land.

We challenge ourselves to decolonise our approach to managing Crown and community land. This is evident in the decisions we make as we manage these places.

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## We value how important these places are to people's wellbeing

Crown and community land are a place of refuge and respite in an intensely urban environment. These places have cultural and community significance to many people. They are places of shared identity and pride, of community connection and celebration, and of protest and social transformation. They must be welcoming to all people and will provide equity of access to all to enjoy. We strengthen the connections between and within these places.

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## We are guided by Country and strive to heal and care for it

We learn about how this Country has been cared for thousands of generations. We respect the natural landforms, waterways, and endemic species. We work to heal places that have suffered degradation. We support these places to play their role in the health of the whole environment.

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## We protect these places for future generations

We accept our role as caretakers of these places. These places must benefit the community now and in the future. As we face a changing climate and growing population, we make decisions that prepare these places and ensure their continued health into the future.

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## Guiding documents

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Principles of Co-operation with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols

City of Sydney Reconciliation Action Plan 2021

City of Sydney Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy

Design with Country – NSW State Architects

# 6. Basis for Management

## Values and roles of Observatory Park

Community values and roles have guided the development of this Plan of Management. Values are the qualities and roles of Observatory Park that the community wishes to protect, conserve, and enhance. These have been identified through:

- Consideration of past plans of management and master planning for the site
- Past and current community engagement
- Liaison with City of Sydney staff
- Site appraisal.

In brief, these values and roles are identified as:

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### 1.0 Identity Character and Experiencing the Place

- A meaning of the place that resonates with Country
- A place which signposts and celebrates local, natural and cultural history
- The highest point in the Sydney CBD
- A peaceful place providing respite from the CBD

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### 2.0 Access, Connections and Accessibility

- A well-connected space to adjoining neighbourhoods and to district and regional users
  - Wayfinding that seamlessly aids access and use
  - A place that is clear, easy and safe to move around
  - An appropriately lit environment
  - A community destination accessible from the cycle network
  - A place that is not compromised by parking and vehicle access
- 

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### 3.0 Community Use and Activation

- A place of respite for users and adjacent residents
  - A place for daily fitness
  - A place for dog walking and exercise
  - Tennis courts that provide an active heart to the park
  - An iconic tourist destination
  - A place that recognises and celebrates First Nations living culture
  - A place for events
  - A place that is open and usable by all members of community
  - A safe place to visit day and night
- 

### 4.0 Facilities and Built Infrastructure

- A place that provides access to public amenities
  - Park elements that support park use and create an attractive character
  - Underground infrastructure
- 

### 5.0 Environment and Sustainability

- Resilient landscaping to future-proof our greenspaces
  - Landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment
  - A place of diverse habitats
  - A place that is cool, calm and comfortable in summer heat
  - Established plantings which contribute to the park setting and habitat
  - A place exhibiting water sensitive urban design
  - A place exhibiting sustainable energy management
  - A place exhibiting sustainable waste management practices
-

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**6.0 Culture and Heritage**

- A place that represents Aboriginal people and their living culture
- A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage
- A place that provides the community access to cultural expression and awareness through arts and culture
- A place that connects the community to the city's past and present
- A place that provides a canvas for arts and culture

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**7.0 Management and Maintenance**

- Cohesive management of a significant precinct
- A place which is clean, well-maintained and carefully managed
- Facilities that continue to service and meet the community's needs
- Appropriate leases and licences

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## Reflecting Crown reserve purpose

Under the Local Government Act 1993 (“**LG Act**”), all community land is required to be categorised. Where the land is owned by Crown Lands, one or more categories may be assigned that should align with the public purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved. The public purpose for Observatory Park Crown reserve is **Public Recreation**.

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## Current / existing use

In accordance with Crown Lands requirements, the City of Sydney has established initial categorisations for Observatory Park. The application of these categorisations is consistent with the way in which the Crown reserve is currently used and has been endorsed by Crown Lands.

Any change to the initial categorisation to support a future use should be altered via an amendment to the Plan of Management and in accordance requirements under the LG Act.

**Figure 4** maps out the community land categorisations in the context of the Crown reserve and adjacent City-owned community land.

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## Characteristics of the land

The physical characteristics of the land must be considered in applying community land categorisations. Land that possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature should be considered for categorisation as one of the Natural Area categories. In such a case the plan should describe the related characteristics of the land.

For Observatory Park there are no site characteristics that would justify Natural Area categorisation.

Likewise, where land is of Aboriginal or Historical heritage significance Council should consider whether Area of Cultural Significance is applicable. This should consider whether there are heritage listings or controls on the land that address heritage conservation. Where such

protections are not afforded and a site warrants heritage significance, the Area of Cultural Significance category may be applicable.

For Observatory Park, **Section 2** describes the heritage characteristics of the land, and the applicable listings and controls. These will be considered in all management decisions related to the land. The additional layer of Area of Cultural Significance categorisation is not deemed to be required.

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## Proposed community land categorisations

**Table 4** outlines the guidelines for categorisation as listed in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Part 3 - categorisation, use and management of community land for the applicable categories to Observatory Park. Under the guidelines for each category, their interpretation and application to Observatory Park is explained.

In addition, the core objectives and purpose (as outlined in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005) are also listed.

Figure 4. Community land categorisation table

Guidelines for categorisation and application to Observatory Park	Core objectives for management
<b>Sportsground</b> <p>Land should be categorised as a sportsground under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.</p> <p><b>Application</b></p> <p>The Sportsground categorisation applies to the footprint of the Kent Street Tennis Centre and will enable the continued use of the space for active and organised sports.</p>	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and</li><li>(b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.</li></ul>
<b>Park</b> <p>Land should be categorised as a park under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others</p> <p><b>Application</b></p> <p>The Park categorisation applies to the residual greenspace within Observatory Park. The categorisation enables the space to be used and developed to complement social and passive recreational activities.</p>	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and</li><li>(b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and</li><li>(c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.</li></ul>



Figure 4. Community land categorisation map



# 7. Review of the plan

## Lifespan of the plan

If the Plan of Management (“**PoM**”) is to remain relevant in the future it is essential that its implementation is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure any relevant changes are incorporated.

Changes that may need to be addressed include:

- New legislation
- Changes in community values
- Inclusion of additional land
- Project priorities
- Funding resources
- New opportunities for future upgrades.

Given that community expectations and requirements change over time, this plan also needs to have some flexibility to adapt to any changes of circumstance.

## Other triggers for review / update

Should a major development or works be proposed that is not represented in the authorised uses and developments listings, the PoM will require amending.

Should changes in categorisation be proposed, the PoM will require amendment, re-exhibition and the need to undertake a public hearing prior to adoption.

## Process for review

It is recommended that the plan be reviewed in the following sequences and time spans:

**Annually:** monitor progress of PoM

**Every five years:** undertake a review of all values based on revised analysis, issues and amended planning legislation  
review outcomes against survey information, photographic record and register of correspondence  
review and amend the PoM, where required

**Every ten years:** review of the PoM

# Part B

## Management of community land categories



# 8. General requirements

This section sets out the specific requirements for the individual management areas located within Observatory Park and is applicable to all community land categories, as outlined in **Section 6** of this Plan of Management (“**PoM**”).

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## Management Framework

A Management Framework is provided in **Section 9** of this PoM. It provides a decision-making framework for the future management of the Crown reserve and addresses the requirements of section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“**LG Act**”).

### Management targets

The framework sets out management targets that define a series of “desired outcomes” for Observatory Park. The outcomes seek to conserve and enhance the values of Observatory Park and address management challenges and opportunities identified by the community and City of Sydney.

### Means of implementation

In response to the identified management targets, the means of implementation define recommended strategies to be implemented over the life of this PoM.

### Assessment indicators and measurement

A means of assessing the achievement of the identified management targets is provided for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

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## Permitted development and use

Section 36 of the LG Act states that a PoM must expressly authorise any proposed uses and development activities on community land.

The City of Sydney encourages a wide range of uses on community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of the land, where appropriate. The use of community land is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as playground equipment, amenity blocks or food kiosks.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Sportsground and Park and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in **Sections 10-11** within this PoM.

Any proposal for the development and use of buildings, structures and spaces at Observatory Park will be considered on merit and benefits to the community and balanced against physical constraints, the amenity of adjoining residents and land uses.

### Restrictions on management of Crown land

The City of Sydney is the Crown land manager of the Crown reserve described within this PoM in accordance with the legislation and conditions imposed by the minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016. The use and development of the land described in this PoM must:

- Be consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- Consider native title rights and interests and be consistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993
- Consider the inchoate interests of Aboriginal people where an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim exists
- Consider and not be in conflict with any interests and rights granted under the Crown Land Management Act 2016
- Consider any interests held on title.

### **Legislative requirements**

The Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (“**LEP**”) specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land, in accordance with the relevant zoning and associated objectives. Several uses are also set out in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

### **Guidelines and core objectives of the community land category**

Under the LG Act, uses and the development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation, the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives that Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

### **Consistency with Council adopted policies and strategies**

Relevant Council policies and strategies as at the date of adoption of this PoM are identified in the Appendices and have been used to guide the outcomes of this PoM.

Council’s adopted policies and strategies will continue to develop after the preparation of this PoM. Management of Council assets, and their development will consider the existing policies and strategies frameworks at the relevant time.

In addition, activities that involve the representation or depiction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living culture must also adhere to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Protocols.

- Core objectives of the categories that apply to the land
- Crown reserve purpose
- LEP and any other applicable Environmental Planning Instruments
- Applicable master plans, asset management plans and any subsequent detailed design plans.

Consistent with the objectives of this PoM, development activities must also include sustainable initiatives and measures, where feasible.

### **Native Title and Public Works**

Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work or lease or licence activities on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where Native Title is not extinguished, prior to approval, the City of Sydney will ensure that Native Title Manager advice is sought to ensure that the works can be validated under the Native Title Act 1993 and the appropriate native title holders, claimants or NTSCorp will be provided the appropriate procedural rights as required under the Native Title Act 1993.

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## **Assessment and approval of permissible uses and development activities**

The authorisation in a PoM gives ‘in principle’ support for uses and development activities consistent with the objectives for land categorisation to proceed to development assessment under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (“**EP&A Act**”).

This PoM does not in itself imply or grant consent for uses or development activities. Any proposed uses and development activities which are consistent with this PoM must still be referred for development consent and where required, be advertised widely for information and invitation to comment. Any subsequent application for development consent would be supported by and assessed against this PoM.

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## **Buildings and structures**

### **Express authorisation**

This PoM expressly authorises the development of new buildings, structures and civil infrastructure, and the redevelopment / refurbishment of buildings, structures and civil infrastructure which support the desired use of Observatory Park.

Such buildings, structures and civil infrastructure will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes in which it has been dedicated or reserved and will be consistent with the:



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## Prohibited activities

Activities and uses that are inconsistent with the Crown reserve purpose or core objectives associated with the applicable community land category are prohibited.

Certain activities at Observatory Park may also be prohibited by the applicable land use zoning. The City of Sydney may prohibit certain activities from time to time. Prohibited uses will be communicated via City bookings, lease, and licence agreements, or otherwise communicated where prohibited activities may be temporary.

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## Managing impacts on adjoining land uses

Uses and activities permitted at Observatory Park must consider the needs of and impacts on residents, workers and adjoining land uses in terms of accessibility, noise, lighting, traffic and parking.

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## Scale and intensity of use

The scale and intensity of development and activities on Crown and community land is to be generally compatible with the scale and anticipated use of the park, reserve and associated facility.

In particular, the scale and intensity of use will be consistent with the carrying capacity of the land, and any master plan or development consent relating to the land.

### High Intensity use

This PoM specifically authorises activities at Observatory Park which may attract high numbers of people including one-off community events and performances.

Applications for permissible activities will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by Outdoor Venue Management.

The scale and intensity of such activities will be managed by the City of Sydney's booking process and associated conditions of use.

### Informal use

The intensity of use for informal recreational activities across Observatory Park and settings (such as playgrounds, fitness stations and park seating) will be determined by the community use of the site but will be managed to avoid undue impacts on park fabric and environment.

### Commercial uses

Commercial operations for cafes, markets and kiosks that support and encourage community use of the open space, and/or address a community need are to be assessed based on the proposed scale and intensity of use and are authorised subject to compatibility with the objectives identified within this PoM.

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## Funding

Funding is integral to implementing the management targets identified with this PoM and is defined under two categories:

- Capital works involving the construction and development of new facilities and structures
- Maintenance and management of the parks.

The implementation of this PoM is achieved through its linkage with Council's management plan, operational budget, and capital works program.

Council currently funds management and maintenance costs through its annual budget allocation and uses capital funds and 7.11 contributions for capital and nonrecurrent works.

Funding arrangements for the park need to address recurrent costs of management and maintenance, together with capital costs for new facilities or upgrading works. Funding for construction of new facilities is generally through the annual budgeting process, but special projects may be partly funded through New South Wales Government grant allocations, which may involve matching funding from Council.

Sources of funding include but are not limited to:

- 7.11 contributions – utilised for new landscaping and/or facilities complementary to the core management objectives.
- Partnerships – there is an opportunity to develop further partnerships with residents

and interested people in relation to park improvements and ongoing management, such as bush regeneration.

- Park revenue – income from the parks is generated by lease and licence fees, and from applicants for approved functions and events.
- Grants – several state and federal government grants are available to assist with capital works in the parks.

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## What are leases and licences

Leases and licences formalise the use of Crown and community land by groups such as sporting clubs, community groups and schools, or by commercial organisations and individuals providing facilities or services for public use. The occupation of Crown and community land not only applies to the surface of the land but also includes the airspace above and subsurface below.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the park, or associated facilities are proposed. Several licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The City of Sydney's ability to lease or licence Crown reserves managed as community land such as Observatory Park is authorised by section 3.22 of the CLM Act, which requires the preparation of a community land PoM, adopted by Council, to authorise an occupancy or use agreement.

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## Authorisation of leases and licences

Tenure may be granted for exclusive and non-exclusive uses to any organisation for any compatible purpose, as determined by Council, on such terms as Council may provide.

Under section 46 of the LG Act, a lease or licence may only be granted for a maximum term

of 21 years, including options. A lease or licence for a term exceeding 5 years may be granted only by tender unless it is granted to a non-profit organisation. All leases and licences must be publicly notified for a minimum period of 28 days.

To ensure that usage or occupation of the Crown reserve is appropriate for the lease or licence, a council Crown land manager must always consider:

- Compatibility with the Crown reserve purpose and core objectives for the category of the land
- Compatibility with the applicable land zoning
- If development consent is required and has been obtained (and other consents under the EP&A Act and LG Act)
- Environmental and social impacts of the activities to be permitted by the lease or licence
- Appropriate term (period of occupation) of the lease or licence
- Capability of the Crown reserve to support the proposed lease or licence
- Current and future use of the land
- If the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

In addition to the conditions provided within the authorisations, the granting of a lease, licence short-term use or other estate must also:

- Have no negative impact on historical heritage sites or significant fabric
- Not alienate the park or reserve unreasonably
- Be ecologically sustainable
- Have a component of community benefit
- Demonstrate a clear nexus between the activity and the park or reserve
- Not result in overuse of the area or conflict with community use of the area
- Ensure traffic, parking and essential or required vehicular access implications are considered

Observatory Park  
Specific Plan of Management

- Be in accordance with all Council policies and procedures governing the use of open space.

A use agreement (lease, licence, short-term use or other estate) on Crown land may impact Native Title rights and interests. A use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with future act provisions of the Native Title Act 1993, and in accordance with Part 8 of the CLM Act unless Native Title is extinguished. For Crown land, which is not excluded land, this will require written advice from Council's Native Title Manager that it complies with any applicable provisions of the Native Title legislation.

Where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted.

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## Express authorisation of Leases, Licences, Short-term Uses and Other Estates under this Plan of Management

**Sections 10-11** detail the specific authorisations and purposes for which tenure may be granted in accordance with the community land categories for Observatory Park.

The purposes for which tenure may be granted are consistent with existing uses and will enable the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the City of Sydney area.

The following outlines general authorisations applicable under this PoM and an indication of the criteria in which specific activities are to be assessed by the City of Sydney.

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## Access

### **Access for building-related activities including for construction or maintenance purposes**

Access across community land shall be authorised under this PoM provided that (but not limited to):

- The access is of a temporary nature
- In circumstances where proposed works require access and it is associated with an adjoining property, proponents must clearly demonstrate that there are no alternative means of access available to avoid access through community land to undertake the required development works
- A performance bond as prescribed in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges in respect of potential damage to City assets is lodged with the City of Sydney
- All necessary approvals have been obtained
- The City of Sydney is in receipt of proof of suitable insurances including public liability insurance.

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## Temporary structures

### **Land use planning controls**

Under the LEP, the temporary use of community land may be deemed as exempt development if the proposed activity can be authorised under the LG Act and is no more than 52 days in any 12-month period ("**the prescribed period**").

### **Temporary structures for building-related activities including for construction or maintenance purposes**

The City of Sydney may authorise a short-term licence for the placement of temporary building-related structures provided that (but not limited to):

- The use of community land is within the prescribed period
- In circumstances where the proposed works are associated with an adjoining property, proponents must clearly demonstrate that there are no alternative means of placement available to avoid use of community land to undertake the required development or maintenance works including satisfying any safety requirements under the Work, Health and Safety Act 2011
- Building-related structures comply with the City of Sydney's technical requirements
- A performance bond as prescribed in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges in

respect of potential damage to City assets is lodged with the City of Sydney

- All necessary approvals have been obtained
- The City of Sydney is in receipt of proof of suitable insurances including public liability insurance.

Proponents can refer to the following City of Sydney documents as a technical guide for temporary structures until such time as they are revised and adopted:

- Guidelines for Hoardings and Scaffolding 2017
- Draft Code of Practice for Hoisting and Construction Activities in Public Places.

If the City of Sydney is unable to approve short-term licence for these activities, applicants should consider an application under the provisions of the Access to Neighbouring Lands Act 2000.

### **Temporary structures related to events**

The use of community land for the placement of temporary event structures shall be authorised under this PoM provided (but not limited to):

- The use of community land is within the prescribed period
- The event structures comply with City of Sydney's technical requirements, and where required, the relevant standards identified within the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
- A performance bond as prescribed in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges in respect of potential damage to City assets is lodged with the City of Sydney
- All necessary approvals have been obtained
- The City of Sydney is in receipt of proof of suitable insurances including public liability insurance.

process and in line with existing applicable guidelines, policies and legislative requirements, both locally and at a State Government level.

The following criteria is not an exhaustive list but provides guidance on how temporary events and activities are assessed:

- Location including permissible use and compatibility with the relevant land
- Scale and intensity
- Duration and date sensitivity
- Proposed operational times
- Required infrastructure and proposed production design
- Access and logistics requirements
- Environmental impacts
- Proposed signage and/or advertising
- Addressing safety and security requirements.

### **Venues for hire**

The City of Sydney offers a diverse range of indoor and outdoor venues for hire on a short-term or hourly basis that service the community enabling cultural, recreational and social outcomes.

Applications to use venues for hire are to be assessed and approved in accordance with City of Sydney's venue for hire approval process and in line with existing applicable guidelines, policies and legislative requirements.

All applicable fees are outlined in Council's adopted schedule of fees and charges.

### **Banner Hire**

The City of Sydney banner network is used to promote events and activities which are of public interest. Banner campaigns are subject to approval and must comply with the City's Banner Terms and Conditions. All applicable fees are outlined in Council's adopted schedule of fees and charges.

### **Personal trainers**

The City of Sydney encourages all members of its community to use parks and open space responsibly in meeting their health, well-being and fitness needs.

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## **Bookings and events**

### **Temporary events**

Temporary events and activities are to be assessed and approved in accordance with the City of Sydney's temporary event approval

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

The City of Sydney chooses not to charge for the use of its parks and open spaces for outdoor fitness training as it does not wish to create a barrier to participating in physical exercise.

Personal fitness trainers including commercial, not-for-profit and community groups, wishing to train outdoors in Council's local government area are expected to comply with the Outdoor Fitness Training Voluntary Code of Conduct and its criteria for use.

Fitness training groups and activities that are exempt from this Code are:

- Walking groups
- Activities of schools under the supervision or a teacher
- Hirers that have a current booking with the City to use a sports field, oval or court and comply with the City's Terms and Conditions of Use.

Subject to the provisions of Section 47F of the LG Act, an estate in respect of this land category is expressly authorised by this PoM for the purpose of a "public road" where the provision of that road is consistent with the core objectives stated herein and where the road is necessary for the enjoyment of that land.

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## Other Estates

Easements across Crown and community land for the purpose of public utilities, providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground, for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility on the community land shall be authorised by this PoM, and shall be subject to the following criteria:

- There is no feasible alternative to connecting to a facility on the community land
- There is no significant impact on the Crown reserve
- Where the proposal involves the creation of an easement and/or a restriction on the future development potential of the property, compensation is assessed.

In instances where there is an encroachment (existing or proposed) upon public land by a permanent structure, and the structure does not significantly interfere with the functioning of the reserve, the City of Sydney may consider the creation of an easement.

In all cases, the applicant is to be responsible for all costs incurred by the City of Sydney in the creation of the easement.



# 9. Management targets and strategies

The table below outlines the management targets or desired outcomes for Observatory Park, including the means and strategies for their realisation, and means of assessment and review by the City of Sydney.

Ref	Values / Roles	Management Target	Means (strategies for implementation)	Performance Measures
<b>1.0 IDENTITY CHARACTER AND EXPERIENCING THE PLACE</b>				
1.1	A meaning of the place that resonates with Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement a meaning and description that reflects connection to place</li> </ul>	Work with the community to establish a meaning and description that captures the place's connection to Country	Consultation completed Adopted meaning and description
1.2	A place which signposts and celebrates local, natural and cultural history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contribute to the spaces identity and character</li> </ul>	Investigate the inclusion of informative and interpretive elements that reflect the spaces historical identity and natural character	Increased visibility of park identity
1.3	The highest point in the Sydney CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve and enhance views and vistas to the Harbour and surrounds</li> </ul>	Ensure view corridors both to and from Observatory Hill are maintained including consideration of distant vistas especially from the Harbour, Balmain and North Sydney	Monitoring of activities that may inhibit views and vistas
1.4	A peaceful place providing respite from the CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reinstate some of the open space's peaceful beauty and character</li> </ul>	Investigate opportunities to enhance amenity in park Where appropriate, liaise with adjoining landowners and authorities	Targeted user surveys Sustained relationship with adjoining landowners and authorities
<b>2.0 ACCESS, CONNECTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>				
2.1	A well-connected space to adjoining neighbourhoods and to district and regional users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide functional, inviting, accessible and safe routes to the park from adjoining areas</li> </ul>	Review, monitor and work towards improving local access routes for workplace precincts and adjoining residential areas	Maintain records of public comments in relation to park access. Regular review of register to guide future directions
2.2	Wayfinding that seamlessly aids access and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide effective wayfinding and signage for park users and cyclists</li> </ul>	Maintain and upgrade wayfinding and signage in accordance with asset management plan Where required, implement new wayfinding and signage	Increased local use of park, measured by observation Routine surveys, audits and inspections
2.3	A place that is clear, easy and safe to move around	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide functional, attractive and compliant internal circulation routes and path networks</li> </ul>	Maintain and upgrade paths and pavements in accordance with park service levels Where required, implement new pathways to create greater connectivity in park	Path and pavements managed in accordance with Australian Standards Routine surveys, audits and inspections
2.4	An appropriately lit environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide adequate lighting to support desired night access, recreational and leisurely use of open space</li> </ul>	Maintain and renew lighting in accordance with asset management plan Monitor to identify lighting issues and address as require	Lighting maintained in accordance with Australian Standards Routine surveys, audits and inspections

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Ref	Values / Roles	Management Target	Means (strategies for implementation)	Performance Measures
2.5	A community destination accessible from the cycle network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable park to be effectively accessed from cycle network and encourage cycle use</li> </ul>	<p>Investigate the integration of park access to adjoining and potential future cycle corridors</p> <p>Where required, integrate enhanced cycle facilities into park improvements</p>	Increased local use of park by cyclists, measured by surveys and observation
2.6	A place that is not compromised by vehicle access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a balanced approach to parking</li> <li>To provide and manage functional maintenance and emergency access mitigating adverse impacts on park and uses</li> <li>Prevent unauthorised vehicle access</li> </ul>	<p>Manage existing on and off-street parking to ensure efficiency and equity</p> <p>Ensure that permitted use of vehicles in park are regulated and do not affect community use of space</p> <p>Ongoing surveillance and enforcement of open space areas</p> <p>Incorporate educational activities into ongoing management</p>	<p>Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts</p> <p>Improved public safety</p> <p>Management measures carried out</p>
<b>3.0 COMMUNITY USE AND ACTIVATION</b>				
3.1	A place of respite for users and adjacent residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that the park provides a range of flexible and informal use spaces that are attractive and comfortable to be in</li> </ul>	Ensure that park planning, and management maintains and enhances flexible informal use of spaces for broad community benefit	Increased local use of park measured by survey and observation
3.2	A place for daily fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support and manage a sustainable level of fitness activity in the park</li> </ul>	<p>Support the role of the park for fitness activities in accordance with Council's policy framework</p> <p>Monitor to identify management issues and address as required</p>	Maintain records of public comments in relation to fitness activities. Regular review of register to guide future directions
3.3	A place for dog walking and exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide for effective dog exercise in accordance with Companion Animals Act</li> </ul>	<p>Manage off leash dog access to spaces as defined by City's Companion Animals Policy</p> <p>Monitor to identify management issues and address as required</p>	<p>Dog access maintained</p> <p>Reports of conflicts between dogs and other park users</p>
3.4	Tennis courts that provide an active heart to the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and enhance the role of the tennis courts for the residential, school and workforce community</li> </ul>	<p>Maintain and enhance role of tennis courts</p> <p>Regularly monitor services and management under lease agreement</p>	Ongoing review and compliance of lease
3.5	An iconic tourist destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the important ongoing role of the park as a destination for a high volume of tourists</li> </ul>	Consider the role of the park for tourist visitation and activities undertaken in provision of facilities and the balanced management of all uses	Maintain records of public comments in relation to tourism. Regular review of register to guide future direction
3.6	A place that recognises and celebrates First Nations living culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To celebrate First Nations heritage and living culture</li> </ul>	For the pursuit of 'practising living culture', work with the First Nations community to understand the processes and procedures required to enhance access to spaces and facilities	Review existing policies and procedures
3.7	A place for events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To sustainably encourage temporary event use that contributes to local activation and cultural and community outcomes</li> <li>To facilitate the ongoing destination role of the park for weddings and wedding photography</li> </ul>	<p>To facilitate temporary event use that is appropriate to scale of spaces and in consideration of other park uses</p> <p>Manage park events and weddings in accordance with Observatory Hill guidelines</p>	<p>Increased use of park for events appropriate to scale and intensity</p> <p>Ongoing review and compliance of guidelines</p>

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Ref	Values / Roles	Management Target	Means (strategies for implementation)	Performance Measures
3.8	A place that is open and usable by all members of community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the park is managed as part of a coordinated compassionate approach across the city to assisting homeless persons</li> </ul>	Ongoing management of people sleeping rough in the park needs to be in accordance with the City of Sydney's policy on homelessness in public spaces, which 'recognises the right of everyone in the community to use public spaces' (Homelessness Action Plan 2019) and aims to ensure that public space can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone, including people who are homeless	Maintain records of public feedback in relation to people sleeping rough. Regularly review of register to guide future directions
3.9	A safe place to visit day and night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the park and park facilities provide a safe place to visit and pass through, appropriate to intended (and varied) usage times of facilities and access routes</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor ongoing safety and access in park and facilities</p> <p>Coordinate with local police to identify and act on safety issues</p> <p>Where improvements are proposed, ensure that they are designed and maintained in accordance with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles</p>	<p>Percentage of people who feel safe in these spaces</p> <p>Safe spaces with no reported incidents</p> <p>Sustained relationship with local police</p>

### 4.0 FACILITIES AND BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1	A place that provides access to public amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of public toilet facilities for all park users</li> </ul>	Investigate opportunities to implement new toilet facilities	Increased use measured by survey and observation
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#### Park elements

4.2	Park elements that support park use and create an attractive character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support recreational and leisure use of park while avoiding proliferation of elements</li> </ul>	<p>Maintain and renew park furniture and other park elements in accordance with asset management plan</p> <p>Monitor the appropriateness of placement</p> <p>Implement new improvements, where required</p>	<p>Measured against contract KPIs</p> <p>Routine surveys, audits and inspections</p>
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#### Underground Infrastructure

4.3	Underground infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure services infrastructure requirements are effectively integrated into planning and design</li> </ul>	<p>Liaise and coordinate with services authorities to identify amplification and renewal works that may impact spaces</p> <p>Manage to limit impacts on use and facilitate effective make good / integration</p>	Sustained relationship with authorities
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### 5.0 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### Vegetation management and urban ecology

5.1	Resilient landscaping to future-proof our greenspaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To sustain a green landscape for continued community enjoyment</li> </ul>	Maintain and renew horticulture, grass cover and plantings in accordance with park service levels and City guidelines	<p>Improved grass cover condition</p> <p>Measurement and monitoring of vegetation</p> <p>Compliance with park service levels</p>
5.2	Landscaping and planting that reflects the original natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase indigenous plantings within the park landscape</li> </ul>	Where appropriate and site conditions allow, investigate the planting of indigenous species	Increased indigenous plantings
5.3	A place of diverse habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase habitat value of natural and built features</li> </ul>	Investigate the potential to enhance habitat values through areas of built form and natural ground	Monitoring of habitat values

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Ref	Values / Roles	Management Target	Means (strategies for implementation)	Performance Measures
5.4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance ecological importance in open space</li> </ul>	Maintain urban ecology advisory role for proposed works associated with open space  Investigate opportunities to increase community understanding and participation in the preservation of greenspace and ecological elements	Ongoing internal participation in open space works  Increased community participation
<b>Shade and temperature management</b>				
5.5	A place that is cool, calm and comfortable in summer heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve existing shade tree canopy and to selectively extend to create new shade</li> </ul>	Maintain and manage existing tree canopy for ongoing health  Plan for and integrate tree canopy shade in suitable locations across site	Preserved and increased shade cover  Increased use of park measured by observation
5.6	Established plantings which contribute to the park setting and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To effectively maintain and manage the existing tree resources at optimum health for their safe and practical lifespans</li> <li>To effectively plan for succession planting</li> </ul>	Implement tree management including pruning and/or removal of trees and replacement planting in accordance with park service levels and City guidelines  Plan and implement a succession planting program in accordance with tree management plan	Improved tree health and successful establishment of new trees as measured by arborist's survey  Compliance with park service levels and City guidelines  Implemented succession planting and tree management plan
<b>Water management</b>				
5.7	A place exhibiting water sensitive urban design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To effectively manage water use and runoff</li> </ul>	Where feasible, implement water saving initiatives, alternative water sources and install metering to effectively manage water use  Implement water-sensitive urban design to minimise environmental degradation and improve waterway quality	Increased savings in water consumption  Reduced potable water demand for park  Improved water quality
<b>Energy management</b>				
5.8	A place exhibiting sustainable energy management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To effectively manage energy use</li> </ul>	Where feasible, implement energy management initiatives, renewable energy, investigate alternatives to temporary generators and install metering as appropriate to effectively manage energy	Sustainable initiatives implemented  Increased savings in energy consumption  Reduction in open space maintenance post event activities
<b>Waste management</b>				
5.9	A place exhibiting sustainable waste management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A place that maximises the diversion of waste away from landfill</li> </ul>	Ongoing implementation and support of best practice waste management activities	Minimised waste measured against contract KPI's and audits
<b>6.0 CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>				
6.1	A place that represents Aboriginal people and their living culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify and interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the local area</li> </ul>	Consult with Aboriginal people on how to interpret and integrate cultural heritage values in ongoing planning of improvements	Consultation completed  Implementation of processes
6.2	A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To appropriately manage and conserve elements of heritage significance</li> <li>To guide management and design decision making to achieve optimum heritage management outcomes</li> </ul>	Preparation and ongoing implementation of supporting documentation to guide the maintenance of sensitive and significant heritage assets or fabric	Completed supporting documentation

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Ref	Values / Roles	Management Target	Means (strategies for implementation)	Performance Measures
6.3	A place that provides the community access to cultural expression and awareness through arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a canvas for public art and artistic and creative expression that is sustainable in the context of existing character and use</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor existing art pieces for their ongoing role and fit within the park</p> <p>Conserve and manage in accordance with asset management plan</p>	<p>Maintain records of public comments in relation to appropriateness of public art. Regular review of register to guide future directions</p> <p>Measured against contract KPIs</p> <p>Inspections and audits</p>
6.4	A place that connects the community to the city's past and present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable park users to understand the rich and complex layering of natural and cultural values represented on the site and add to the experience and use of the park</li> </ul>	Develop a cohesive framework that recognises Strategies 6.1-6.3	Adoption of supporting framework
6.5	A place that provides a canvas for arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate public art in temporary and permanent forms that complements the park setting and adds to the range of experiences provided</li> </ul>	Consider opportunities to implement temporary and permanent art installations, where appropriate	Increased representation of public art in parks

### 7.0 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

7.1	Cohesive management of a significant precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage ongoing coordinated management between all landowners and managers within the precinct</li> </ul>	Liaise with adjoining landowners and authorities to pursue a collaborative and coordinated approach to precinct management	Sustained relationship with adjoining landowners and authorities
7.2	A place which is clean, well-maintained and carefully managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide well-maintained parklands</li> </ul>	Maintenance programs carried out in accordance with City of Sydney Parks Maintenance Technical Specifications	<p>Regular visitation and condition assessments</p> <p>Measured against contract KPI's and audits</p>
7.3	Facilities that continue to service and meet the community's needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide well-maintained facilities</li> </ul>	Maintain and renew facilities in accordance with asset management plans	<p>Regular visitation and condition assessments</p> <p>Measured against contract KPI's and audits</p>
7.4	Appropriate leases and licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that tenure and permitted use arrangements allow the widest possible community access to open space and are orientated to mutually compatible recreational, sporting, community, educational, cultural and social activities</li> </ul>	All future leases and licences to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Native Title Act 1993	Ongoing review and compliance of leases and licences



# 10. Park category – authorisations

## Table 5. Permissible uses and development activities – Park Category

**Table 5** outlines the permitted uses and development activities of the areas of Observatory Park categorised as Park subject to City of Sydney assessment, approvals and booking/hire systems.

This is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed uses and development activities may still be permitted subject to merit and compatibility with the Crown reserve purpose, core objectives and aims of this Plan of Management.

Uses	Development Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property)</li> <li>– Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage)</li> <li>– Broadcasts associated with any event, concert or public speech</li> <li>– Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables</li> <li>– Casual and informal recreation</li> <li>– Catering and coffee carts</li> <li>– Community, cultural, educational and social uses</li> <li>– Community gardening</li> <li>– Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV)</li> <li>– Conducting a commercial photography session or filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993)</li> <li>– Decorations, displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades, festivals and shows</li> <li>– Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</li> <li>– Engaging in an appropriate trade or business (e.g. community auctions and similar activities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Advertising structures and signage (e.g. banners and signage) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ relate to approved uses/activities</li> <li>○ are discrete and temporary</li> <li>○ complies with Planning requirements</li> <li>○ are approved by the City of Sydney</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables</li> <li>– Community gardening</li> <li>– Development that facilitates community, cultural, educational, recreational and social activities, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adaptive reuse of existing building/structures for a use compatible with the park</li> <li>○ Amenities to facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the park (e.g. seating, shade structures, BBQ, picnic tables, toilets, bike rings)</li> <li>○ Ancillary areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community (e.g. storage and change rooms, car parks)</li> <li>○ Buildings and structures that facilitate the permissible uses and activities (e.g. grandstands, pavilions, fitness equipment, playgrounds, outdoor courts)</li> <li>○ Improving access including active transport, disability access to facilities, amenity and the visual character of the general community area (e.g. fountains, pathways, lighting, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Uses	Development Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Functions (e.g. commemorative services, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities)</li> <li>– Markets</li> <li>– Outreach services</li> <li>– Passive and active recreational activities</li> <li>– Playgroups</li> <li>– Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward</li> <li>– Public art or other cultural installations</li> <li>– Public speeches, meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational programs</li> <li>– Publicly accessible ancillary areas (e.g. toilets)</li> <li>– Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding)</li> <li>– Social events (e.g. weddings, picnics and community gatherings)</li> <li>– Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes</li> <li>– Storage (e.g. ancillary to use of park)</li> <li>– Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)</li> <li>– Venue hire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development that facilitates energy and water efficiencies (e.g. solar lighting and photovoltaic panels, stormwater harvesting and storage, swales, rain gardens, irrigation and reticulation systems)</li> <li>– Environmental management (e.g. remediation and flood mitigation work)</li> <li>– Heritage and cultural interpretation (e.g. memorials and public art)</li> <li>– Markets</li> <li>– Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding)</li> <li>– Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)</li> </ul>

## Table 6. Express authorisation of leases, licences, short-term uses and other estates – Park Category

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that any lease, licence, short-term uses or other estate over community land must be expressly authorised by a Plan of Management. **Table 6** outlines purposes for which tenure may be granted on community land categorised as Park. Licences and approvals for short-term casual use or occupation for a range of uses may also be granted for Observatory Park in accordance with Clause 116 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Any lease, licence or short-term proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and the capacity of the area to support the activity. The below is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed purposes may still be permitted subject to merit.

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Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
<b>Lease (up to 21 years)</b>	Sympathetic, compatible uses may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="485 347 1078 376">– Café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables</li> </ul>
<b>Licence (up to 21 years)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="485 398 1350 465">– Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property)</li> <li data-bbox="485 481 1107 510">– Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables</li> <li data-bbox="485 526 676 555">– Coffee carts</li> <li data-bbox="485 571 1114 600">– Community, cultural, educational and social uses</li> <li data-bbox="485 616 1334 683">– Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</li> <li data-bbox="485 698 1117 728">– Management and operation of community garden</li> <li data-bbox="485 743 628 772">– Markets</li> <li data-bbox="485 788 746 817">– Outreach services</li> <li data-bbox="485 833 1024 862">– Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to use of park)</li> </ul>
<b>Short-term uses (12 months or less)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="485 898 1350 965">– Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property)</li> <li data-bbox="485 981 1350 1048">– Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage)</li> <li data-bbox="485 1064 1286 1093">– Broadcasts associated with any event, concert or public speech</li> <li data-bbox="485 1108 896 1137">– Casual and informal recreation</li> <li data-bbox="485 1153 833 1182">– Catering and coffee carts</li> <li data-bbox="485 1198 1114 1227">– Community, cultural, educational and social uses</li> <li data-bbox="485 1243 794 1272">– Community gardening</li> <li data-bbox="485 1288 1382 1355">– Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV)</li> <li data-bbox="485 1370 1426 1438">– Conducting a commercial photography session or filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993)</li> <li data-bbox="485 1453 1366 1520">– Decorations, displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades, festivals and shows</li> <li data-bbox="485 1536 1334 1603">– Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</li> <li data-bbox="485 1619 1426 1686">– Engaging in an appropriate trade or business (e.g. community auctions and similar activities)</li> <li data-bbox="485 1702 1375 1769">– Functions (e.g. commemorative services, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities)</li> <li data-bbox="485 1785 612 1814">– Kiosks</li> <li data-bbox="485 1830 628 1859">– Markets</li> <li data-bbox="485 1874 746 1904">– Outreach services</li> <li data-bbox="485 1919 667 1948">– Playgroups</li> <li data-bbox="485 1964 1206 1993">– Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward</li> <li data-bbox="485 2009 791 2040">– Public art installations</li> </ul>

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Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Public speeches, meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational programs</li> <li>– Signage</li> <li>– Social events (e.g. weddings, picnics and community gatherings)</li> <li>– Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes</li> <li>– Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to use of park)</li> <li>– Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)</li> <li>– Venue hire</li> </ul>
<b>Other estates</b>	<p>This Plan of Management allows the City of Sydney to grant ‘an estate’ over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p> <p><b>Note: refer Section 8 for Express authorisation of leases, licences, short-term uses and other estates under this Plan of Management.</b></p>

# 11. Sportsground category - authorisations

**Table 7. Permissible uses and development activities – Sportsground Category**

**Table 7** outlines the permitted uses and development activities of the areas of Observatory Park categorised as Sportsground subject to City of Sydney assessment, approvals and booking/hire systems.

This is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed uses and development activities may still be permitted subject to merit and compatibility with the Crown reserve purpose, core objectives and aims of this Plan of Management.

Uses	Development Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property)</li><li>– Active recreational and sporting activities consistent with a recreational area or outdoor facility, for example but not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Marked courts (basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis and netball)</li></ul></li><li>– Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage)</li><li>– Ancillary ceremonies (e.g. rehearsal of opening and closing ceremonies, cheer squads)</li><li>– Broadcasting of sporting fixtures</li><li>– Casual or informal recreation</li><li>– Community, cultural, educational and social uses (e.g. events, gatherings and public meetings)</li><li>– Conducting a commercial photography session or filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993)</li><li>– Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</li><li>– Management and operation of recreational facilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Advertising structures and signage (e.g. banners and signage) that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ relate to approved uses/activities</li><li>○ are discrete and temporary</li><li>○ complies with Planning requirements</li><li>○ are approved by the City of Sydney</li></ul></li><li>– Amenities to facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the recreational area or outdoor facility (e.g. seating, shelters, shade structures, drinking fountains)</li><li>– Development for the purposes of conducting and facilitating organised sport (both amateur and professional)</li><li>– Development for the purposes of improving access including disability access and facilities, amenity and the visual character of the recreational area or outdoor facility (e.g. landscaping, lighting, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas)</li><li>– Development of outdoor recreational facilities that support the permissible uses and activities (e.g. sports fields, skateparks, courts, goal posts, sight screens and fencing)</li><li>– Development that facilitates energy and water efficiencies (e.g. solar lighting and photovoltaic)</li></ul>



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Uses	Development Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Organised and unstructured sporting activities (including fixtures and events)</li> <li>– Seating embankment for spectators along edge of playing field</li> <li>– Shade structures, storage ancillary to recreational uses, community events or gatherings, and public meetings</li> <li>– Shelters, seating and drinking fountains associated with path around perimeter of playing fields</li> <li>– Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding)</li> <li>– Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes</li> <li>– Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)</li> <li>– Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events (e.g. “guest” events for juniors, gala days, club meetings)</li> <li>– Venue hire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>panels, water storage vessels, irrigation and water reticulation systems)</li> <li>– Environmental management (e.g. remediation and flood mitigation work)</li> <li>– Promotion of organised and unstructured recreation activities</li> <li>– Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding)</li> <li>Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)</li> </ul>

## Table 8. Express authorisation of leases, licences, short-term uses and other estates – Sportsground Category

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that any lease, licence, short-term use or other estates over community land must be expressly authorised by a Plan of Management. **Table 8** outlines purposes for which tenure may be granted on community land categorised as Sportsground. Licences and approvals for short-term casual use or occupation for a range of uses may also be granted for Observatory Park in accordance with Clause 116 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Any lease, licence or short-term proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and the capacity of the area to support the activity. The below is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed purposes may still be permitted subject to merit.

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Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
<b>Lease (up to 21 years)</b>	<p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Management and operation of recreational facility or outdoor area</li> </ul>
<b>Licence (up to 21 years)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property)</li> <li>– Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</li> <li>– Management and operation of recreational area or outdoor facility</li> </ul>
<b>Short-term uses (up to 12 months)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property)</li> <li>– Active recreational and sporting activities</li> <li>– Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage)</li> <li>– Ancillary ceremonies (e.g. rehearsal of opening and closing ceremonies, cheer squads, etc.)</li> <li>– Broadcasting or filming of sporting fixtures</li> <li>– Casual or informal recreation</li> <li>– Community, cultural, educational and social uses (e.g. events, gatherings and public meetings)</li> <li>– Conducting a commercial photography session or filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993)</li> <li>– Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</li> <li>– Organised and unstructured sporting activities (including fixtures and events)</li> <li>– Seasonal, one-off, and irregular sporting competitions and training</li> <li>– Signage</li> <li>– Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes</li> <li>– Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)</li> <li>– Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events (e.g. “guest” events for juniors, gala days, club meetings)</li> <li>– Venue hire</li> </ul>
<b>Other estates</b>	<p>This Plan of Management allows the City of Sydney to grant ‘an estate’ over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p> <p><b>Note: refer Section 8 for Express authorisation of leases, licences, short-term uses and other estates under this Plan of Management.</b></p>

# 12. Appendices

## Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Categorisation	This informs the category for the specified land under the Local Government Act 1993  Confined to Park and Sportsground
Community Land	Classification of land under the Local Government Act 1993 requiring a Plan of Management
Council Crown Land Manager	City of Sydney's appointed position under the Crown Land Management Act 2016
Crown Land	Land owned by the State of New South Wales
Crown Reserve	Crown land that has been dedicated or reserved in accordance with legislation
Outreach Services	Voluntary and Professional Services - a service, group or program that provides food and material support, social contact, clinical outreach and critical care to people who are homeless as well as other disadvantaged groups  Mobile voluntary services are not provided from a building or other fixed place but are provided from vehicles or general 'pop up' infrastructure within an outdoor public space
Temporary Structure	Is not designed, installed or constructed to be permanent; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is erected on public land to facilitate demolition, excavation, construction or maintenance work; and site safety/security fencing, scaffolding, cantilevered work platforms and other constructed-related temporary structures; or</li><li>• Is erected on public land to facilitate events activities and involves the installation of stages, platforms, tents, marquees, booths and other events-related temporary structures</li></ul>

## References

- Observatory Hill Plan of Management 1997
- Harbour Village North Public Domain Strategy 2012
- Observatory Hill Master Plan 2012
- Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016
- Crown Reserves Plan of Management Engagement Report February 2021

Refer also to policies and strategies review in this Appendix.

## City of Sydney Policy framework

The City of Sydney has developed an extensive range of policies which provide guidance to decision-making. A number of these influence planning and management decision making for open space.

In some cases, these documents should always guide reserve planning and management having regard for the reserve purpose and core objectives of the community land category.

A summary of the key policies and their relationship to open space planning and management are as follows:

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
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### A City for All- youth action plan 2017-2027

<p>Articulates the outcomes that the City wants to achieve for young people, as well as a vision for ensuring that Sydney continues and strengthens its status as a youth-friendly city.</p> <p>This plan applies the framework of social sustainability, which puts people at the heart of cities and recognises that personal wellbeing impacts on, and is impacted by, the collective wellbeing of the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Inclusive: young people have opportunities to succeed</li> <li>– Connected: young people feel connected and welcomed in their community</li> <li>– Liveable: young people live safe and healthy lives</li> <li>– Engaged: young people have a voice and can influence change</li> </ul>	<p>Planning and management of open space must recognise youth as a key existing and potential user of open space facilitating opportunities for youth gather and interact and to undertake activities relevant to a diverse demographic.</p>
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### Asset Management Policy 2016

<p>To ensure that the City has information knowledge and understanding about the long-term and the cumulative consequences of being the custodian of public infrastructure.</p> <p>This is achieved by ensuring that the systems and processes are in place to enable people to determine the most effective and efficient options for delivering infrastructure related services while controlling exposure to risk and loss</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take a lifecycle approach and apply a whole of life</li> <li>2. Sustainable environmental performance</li> <li>3. Best value – balance financial, environmental and social aspects to achieve best value</li> <li>4. Long-term financial plans</li> <li>5. up to date infrastructure asset information to inform decisions</li> <li>6. Sharing of asset data through digital platforms</li> <li>7. Service levels – infrastructure asset service levels will be clearly defined</li> <li>8. Manage risks associated with infrastructure assets; and</li> <li>9. Continuous improvement of asset management practices</li> </ol>	<p>Implementation of park improvements must use the City's established materials and treatments systems where applicable. Maintenance must be systematic and pro-active to optimise the safe useful lifespan of parks materials finishes and elements.</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
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## Community Gardens Policy 2016

<p>Outlines a framework for community gardeners to grow fresh organic produce to supplement their groceries and to develop friendships, socialise with neighbours and to connect with residents in their local community</p> <p>Community gardens connect with vibrant local communities and economies to create a space for people to meet and share knowledge, learn new skills and harvest in a harmonious way. These activities encourage interaction between diverse people in passive recreation and gardening pursuits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promote community gardens as demonstration sites where people can meet, work together, build stronger community relationships and learn about sustainability;</li> <li>– Document and standardise processes, procedures and criteria;</li> <li>– Help increase the number of community gardens according to the City's capacity; community need and availability of appropriate sites;</li> <li>– Clarify the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved;</li> <li>– Support community gardens to become self-managed and encourage community ownership;</li> <li>– Recommend the development of new community gardens on land established for community use as part of proposed park upgrades and developments.</li> <li>– Ensure that there is potential for a community garden within a kilometre (a 15 minute walk) of the dwellings of most city residents;</li> <li>– Promote access for the community to fresh, organic and locally produced herbs, vegetables and fruit;</li> <li>– Ensure gardens are well maintained by the garden members to demonstrate a high standard to the community</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration and implementation of community gardens must be done in accordance with the Community Gardens Policy 2016 in particular the principles and site selection criteria. Creation of a community garden to a specific site must also have regard for conservation of the specific park values and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.</p>
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## Inclusive and accessible public domain policy 2019

<p>Outlines the City's vision is for an inclusive and accessible public domain which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– provides equity of access in the public domain for people with disability,</li> <li>– provides people with disability with more equitable opportunities to participate in employment and social and cultural life in the City of Sydney,</li> <li>– enables people with disability to visit, travel through, explore and enjoy the City's outdoor spaces with independence and dignity, and</li> <li>– enables people with disability to make informed decisions about their journey in the public domain.</li> </ul>	<p>When planning parks and playgrounds, the City adopts a network approach to ensure that within a network of parks within each neighbourhood, a variety of experiences and amenities are provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All City parks, including pocket parks and playgrounds will be designed to include a continuous accessible path of travel to key elements in the park, and ensure that permanent furniture is accessible and inclusive of people with a range of disabilities. Inclusive play elements and play spaces will be strategically located across the City's networks of parks and play spaces.</li> <li>– The design of the City's neighbourhood and iconic parks will consider the inclusion of socially supportive amenities, such as accessible public toilets and on site mobility parking spaces where feasible, taking into account existing amenities nearby</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall implement the vision and principles of the Inclusive and accessible public domain policy 2019, and relevant standards and design codes.</p>
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
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### Markets Policy 2019

Establishes the City of Sydney's approach to approval of markets and the level of commitment it requires from market operators to achieve quality market operations. It aims to facilitate well managed markets that help to support and contribute to local communities, complementing the offerings of local businesses	<p>The City will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– apply a consistent assessment framework to the approval of Market Site Applications and Market Proposals</li> <li>– require Market Operators to demonstrate capacity to meet community needs, contribute to social cohesion, strengthen the local economy, and complement the offerings of local businesses</li> <li>– consult the community about new Market Proposals by providing consultation opportunities for the community to comment.</li> </ul>	Planning design and management of reserves shall implement the principles of the community gardens policy 2019, having regard for conservation of the specific park values and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.
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### Mobile Voluntary Services Policy 2020

<p>Recognises and values the contribution made by mobile voluntary services within the inner city in supporting people experiencing homelessness, food insecurity and disadvantage.</p> <p>The City will work with mobile voluntary services to facilitate the delivery of effective and responsible services that meet the needs and rights of service users, while using public places in a responsible and respectful manner</p>	<p>The Policy seeks to guide the City's role in assisting disadvantaged persons in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ensuring equitable access to public places;</li> <li>– balancing the needs of all users of public places including mobile voluntary services, people experiencing homelessness, pedestrians, local residents and businesses;</li> <li>– providing public places that are clean, safe with high level amenity;</li> <li>– encouraging responsible behaviour by all people in our public places, whilst acting to ensure that disadvantaged people are not discriminated against and are treated with compassion and respect;</li> <li>– investigating and respond to community feedback and complaints about the improper use of public places, and;</li> <li>– considering appropriate action using the City's regulatory powers and the City's Compliance Policy to ensure that public places are safe and accessible to all users</li> </ul>	Planning design and management of reserves shall implement the principles of the mobile voluntary services policy 2019, having regard for conservation of the specific park values and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.
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### Busking & Aboriginal & Torres Street Islander Policy 2019

<p>Outlines the criteria for exemptions for cultural practitioners as well as the criteria for giving or receiving an approval to busk, the conditions of the approval and regulations that apply to busking in the City of Sydney</p>	<p>Key Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sydney has a strong tradition of busking and buskers contribute to a sense of place and the character of the city</li> <li>– Buskers make an important contribution to the cultural life of the city and help build a social city</li> <li>– Buskers contribute to the tourist experience of Sydney and drive foot-traffic</li> </ul>	Planning design and management of reserves shall consider the potential for busking specific to each site, and its related carrying capacity, management of impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Busking is a legitimate means for professional artists and performers to make income.</li> <li>– Busking is a legitimate means for hobbyists, amateur performers, enthusiasts or anyone to express themselves creatively in the public domain.</li> <li>– Busking is an important part of the ecology of the creative industries.</li> <li>– The practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage is a unique and important activity that takes place in the public domain.</li> <li>– Regulation of busking activity should expect nothing more or less of buskers than any other person or group of people using shared public space.</li> <li>– Other users of public space, residents, business owners and workers in the city have a right to quietly enjoy the city's open spaces.</li> </ul>	

### Outdoor Dining Policy 2016

To set out the circumstances and conditions under which Council will issue approvals for outdoor dining on the public footway and other similar public domain areas	<p>To promote public access and well managed outdoor dining on footways and in parks, Council will consider the following (summary of items relevant to open space):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– promote accessibility on the footway by maintaining a consistent and predictable clear path of travel for all users;</li> <li>– manage neighbourhood amenity through minimising additional noise, visual, and other impacts;</li> <li>– consider the appropriateness of applications for approval against Council's adopted guidelines;</li> </ul>	Planning design and management of reserves shall consider the potential for outdoor dining specific to each site, and its related carrying capacity, management of impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.
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### Public Art Policy 2016

To reflect the City's commitment to the development of a tolerant, diverse, prosperous and sustainable city which values its rich natural, cultural and urban heritage	<p>As the most visible and accessible art form, public art plays a role of unprecedented importance in contributing to the poetic dimension of the city. Thriving art and culture are the great indicators of a city's pulse and should have a palpable presence throughout the city. Guiding Principles include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Align significant City Art projects with major Sustainable Sydney 2030 urban design projects</li> <li>2. Recognise and celebrate Aboriginal stories and heritage in public spaces</li> <li>3. Aboriginal artists will foster awareness in the local community of a history and histories of the local land and its original peoples.</li> <li>4. Support local artists and activate city places through temporary art projects</li> <li>5. Support vibrant places in Village Centres with community art and City Art projects</li> </ol>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall consider the potential for public art specific to each site including both temporary and permanent installations.</p> <p>Temporary installations may be preferred generally as these provide a greater level of flexibility and capacity to adapt and evolve the character of spaces.</p> <p>This shall include consideration of the reserves carrying capacity, management of impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Promote high quality public art in private development</li> <li>7. Support stakeholder and government partners to facilitate public art opportunities</li> <li>8. Manage and maintain the City's collection of permanent art works, monuments and memorials</li> <li>9. Initiate and implement programs to communicate, educate and engage the public about City Art</li> </ol> <p>Intended public art outcomes applicable to Crown Reserves include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The integration of art into the fabric of the city in ways that will reflect, respond and give meaning to Sydney's unique environment, history and culturally diverse society.</li> <li>– A commitment to excellence, innovation and diversity in keeping with the aesthetic and cultural significance of the city's public domain and with the dynamic and experimental nature of contemporary art practice.</li> <li>– Nurturing the city as a creative environment in which opportunities for artists and their role in the community can flourish and expand.</li> <li>– Encouragement of a greater contribution by artists to the design and development of the public domain by implementing collaborations between artists, architects, landscape architects, urban designers and planners in relevant Council capital works projects.</li> <li>– Involvement of Sydney's diverse communities in the creative planning process to encourage civic pride and developing the distinct local character of the city's villages.</li> <li>– Increased understanding and enjoyment of public art and an awareness and appreciation of the significant benefits provided by a rich and diverse artistic environment.</li> <li>– Providing a sustainable framework for the care and conservation of the City's unique cultural heritage.</li> <li>– Support/direct any temporary public art projects in accordance with the Public Art Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>objectives of the applicable community land category.</p>

## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
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### Tree Management Policy 2013

<p>The purpose of this policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– establish the City of Sydney's commitment and future strategic direction for tree planting, protection, management and maintenance of its urban forest</li> <li>– address tree management and maintenance issues faced by the City of Sydney</li> <li>– provide a framework for decision making, documentation and standardised processes to ensure consistency in the management of the City of Sydney's urban forest</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the Tree Management Policy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– prioritise the maintenance and protection of the existing tree population</li> <li>– broaden the emphasis of urban tree management to include urban forestry principles, with trees managed as a collective asset, to maximise the benefits canopy cover provides</li> <li>– improve the quality and quantity of City of Sydney's canopy cover</li> <li>– increase species diversity and improve the age spread of the urban forest</li> <li>– recognise and protect trees considered significant due to heritage, cultural, social and ecological criteria</li> <li>– increase awareness and educate the community, developers and Council staff on the value of trees in the urban landscape</li> <li>– enhance the City of Sydney's reputation within the community as a steward and manager of trees.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall recognise the key priority of effective tree management, however where conflicts arise (e.g. poor tree health) decision making is to be guided by the policy.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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### Naming Policy 2018

<p>This policy provides clear direction for the naming of suburbs, roads, parks, open spaces, places and buildings that are owned, operated or managed by the City of Sydney</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Names must be meaningful, clear and concise, and can reflect the location and purpose.</li> <li>2. Names must have local or cultural relevance, reflecting the heritage and history of local people, events, the community or landscape. Names should not refer to or reflect current commercial businesses in that location.</li> <li>3. Dual naming to restore traditional Gadigal names to geographical features is strongly supported. Aboriginal names are encouraged and shall be in the local Gadigal language, chosen in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel.</li> <li>4. Names acknowledging the multicultural nature of our society and gender diversity are encouraged.</li> <li>5. Place names assigned by the Geographical Names Board and road names should not be changed, except where necessary to avoid ambiguity or duplication. These names become part of the historical fabric of a community and should be</li> </ol>	<p>Management of reserves shall consider the potential for dual naming to reflect Gadigal connections, and to contribute to First nations recognition and acknowledgment.</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<p>respected as such.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names that perpetuate the names of eminent persons, such as historical figures, prominent local residents or community identities, may be considered. These names will normally only be applied posthumously, however there may be occasions when a name is suggested which honours a living person. Such a person's contribution to the local community should have been of outstanding benefit to the community. Ownership of the land is not sufficient reason for the application of the owner's name to a geographical feature.</li> <li>The name of a person still holding public office will not be used.</li> <li>Long and clumsily constructed names and names composed of two or more words (for placenames) or more than three words (for roads) should be avoided except where culturally appropriate.</li> <li>Repetition of commonly used names will be avoided.</li> <li>Duplication of road names within the local government area, and within a 10 kilometre radius must be avoided.</li> <li>Names for different parts of the same feature, such as a park or building, will be avoided whenever possible and the one name applied throughout its entire space unless there are very clearly defined boundaries between one space and another or distinct features warranting a separate name.</li> <li>Where names have been changed or corrupted by long established local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form; that spelling which is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.</li> <li>Names considered offensive or likely to give offence should not be used.</li> <li>Names must conform to the principles in the Place Naming Policy and the NSW Addressing User Manual endorsed by the Geographical Names Board, particularly in relation to language, grammar and duplication.</li> <li>The community will be consulted on all naming proposals through public exhibition</li> </ol>	

## City of Sydney Strategy framework

The City of Sydney has also developed a range of strategies focused on specific issues and open space considerations relevant to open space planning and management. While strategies are high-level guideline documents and usually carry less influence than policies, they can provide important references for planning and management decision making for open space.

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
<b>A City for All - Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021</b>		
<p>This plan includes a series of actions designed to actively address barriers faced by people with disability in all age groups. They build on the success of previous plans, and harness new and emerging opportunities</p>	<p>This <i>Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan</i> will set the framework and priorities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– meeting the City's responsibilities under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014, the (Cth) Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010</li> <li>– identifying barriers to inclusion, and developing strategies and actions that will respond to and address those barriers</li> <li>– continuous improvement in relation to inclusion and access for people with disability</li> <li>– achieving outcomes for people with disability and/or caring responsibilities in line with the City of Sydney's Social Sustainability Policy - <i>A City for All</i> and forthcoming action plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Four key directions</b></p> <p>The action plan focuses on four key directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the development of <b>positive community attitudes and behaviours</b> towards people with disability and carers</li> <li>– the creation of more <b>liveable communities</b> for people with disability and carers</li> <li>– the achievement of a higher rate of <b>meaningful employment</b> participation by people with disability and carers through inclusive employment practices</li> <li>– more <b>equitable access to mainstream services</b> for people with disability through better systems and processes.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall implement the relevant directions of the strategy and ensure design and implementation is undertaken in accordance with relevant standards and design codes.</p> <p>This shall include reference to the Inclusive and accessible public domain Policy 2019.</p>

# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
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## Adapting for Climate Change - A long term strategy for the City of Sydney 2019

<p>This strategy sets out the impacts the changing climate will have on our city, the risks these pose and the actions the City of Sydney, businesses and communities must take now, and in the decades to come. This is the City's first adaptation strategy and has been written to raise the issues and opportunities that adapting to climate change will present. As our understanding of the risks and responses develops over time, so the adaptation strategy will evolve in the years to come. This will ensure that the City of Sydney continues to be a resilient and globally competitive place to work and live.</p>	<p>In 2070 in Sydney, the changing climate will likely mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– An increase in average temperatures</li> <li>– An increase in extreme heat days</li> <li>– An increase in air particulates and pollution</li> <li>– An increase in rainfall intensity and storm events – Continued variability in annual rainfall</li> <li>– An increase in bushfire conditions</li> <li>– An increase in drought conditions</li> <li>– An increase in sea levels and the extent of coastal inundation</li> </ul> <p>The plan describes five principles for management actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resilient and long-term: politically sustainable, economically efficient and socially inclusive</li> <li>2. Flexible and dynamic: able to evolve and respond to unexpected trends and consequences</li> <li>3. Based on the most up-to-date data</li> <li>4. Able to harness natural environmental systems</li> <li>5. Delivered via a comprehensive and effective communication strategy.</li> </ol>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the principles of the strategy and will monitor the ongoing development of climate science as applicable to open space management.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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## Wayfinding Strategy Report 2012

<p>A Wayfinding System that allows the delivery of a more legible public domain that encourages people to walk with comfort and confidence around the City of Sydney.</p> <p>The strategy provides a guiding document to inform future design and is supported by separate style guides and element manuals.</p>	<p>For residents, visitors and commuters a coherent wayfinding system throughout the Sydney LGA is paramount. The system requires two conventions – i.e. naming and placement policies; and visual information such as maps and signs.</p> <p>The principal requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Enabling pedestrians to assess and plan (to “understand”) their journeys and find their way about at street level with ease and confidence;</li> <li>– To help build up and reinforce an effective and reliable cognitive map of Sydney for pedestrians;</li> <li>– To create a common and constantly updated central information system flexible enough to be applied in all relevant forms and media, such as maps, signs and websites;</li> <li>– Provide the information overlay to the Liveable Green Network across the City of Sydney local government area.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the principles of the strategy, and any implementation will be guided by the strategy and supported documentation.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
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## Asset Management Plan 2020

Asset management is the combination of management, financial, economic, and engineering and other practices applied to physical assets with the objective of providing the required level of service in the most cost effective manner."

It is a "whole of life" approach that includes planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance and disposal of assets.

This report assessed the City's current resources and evaluated the efficacy of current asset management.

The policy objectives are:

1. Provide infrastructure and services to sustain the City of Sydney communities
2. Implement a life-cycle approach to the management of infrastructure and public assets
3. Ensure that service delivery needs are the primary driver for infrastructure asset management practices
4. Provide a sustainable funding model that provides assets aligned with the City's long-term plans and community needs
5. Develop and implement best value environmentally sustainable asset management practices
6. Provide reliable asset and infrastructure data through supported digital platforms

The plan identifies considerations for management of Parks and open spaces and Trees. The Plan then assesses current performance against identified service levels

Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the principles and systems of the strategy and the associated maintenance service levels as defined by the City.

Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.

## City Centre Public Art Plan 2013

The City Centre Public Art Plan aims to bring inspiring public art with a permanent legacy to Sydney's residents and visitors

### Guiding Principles

- Transforming Sydney with a legacy of permanent public art works
- Supporting events and temporary works of art
- Allowing quality, diversity, inclusivity and fairness
- Working with our history, our stories and our existing public art
- Considering children
- Looking to the future, remaining flexible and being open to change
- Ensuring amenity and sustainability
- Creating partnerships

### Opportunities

- Use our distance as a chance to be original
- Involve artists for successful outcomes
- Use art to make the city more legible and easier to navigate
- Try a variety of art types and approaches
- Share initiatives with government agencies, arts groups, and other countries and leading cities
- Develop local public-private initiatives
- Consider other opportunities

Planning design and management of reserves shall consider the potential for public art specific to each site including both temporary and permanent installations. This shall include reference to the Public Art Policy 2016.

Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.

# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
<b>City North Public Domain Plan 2015</b>		
<p>The Plan outlines ideas for improving City streets and open spaces which can be used as guidelines for future development. It forms part of the overall City Centre Public Domain Plan</p>	<p>Guiding directions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Strengthen north-south streets and encourage east-west pedestrian permeability</li> <li>– Reinforce a connected public space at Circular Quay and create a unified square from the building edge to the water</li> <li>– Reinforce Martin Place as the City's premier civic and public space</li> <li>– Create a linked series of park and garden spaces and upgrade existing open spaces</li> <li>– Support and encourage active building edges and high-quality activation of the public domain</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves in the plan area shall apply the identified principles and strategies (note these have been included where applicable in management targets and Strategies in the PoM.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
<b>City Plan LSPS 2036</b>		
<p>Since 2008, the City of Sydney has been working towards a vision of a green, global and connected city. Sustainable.</p> <p>Sydney 2030 captures this vision and the ambitious environmental, economic, social and cultural goals arising.</p>	<p>The plan reinforces 10 villages, reflecting the historic growth of Sydney. Each has its own character and contributes to the wide diversity of housing, jobs, services and recreation available to residents. The village areas typically have a centre or high street which provides services, fresh food, entertainment options and infrastructure for the community within a 5 to 10-minute walk for most people.</p> <p>The plan identifies the following planning priorities</p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Movement for walkable neighbourhoods and a connected city</li> <li>– Align development and growth with supporting infrastructure</li> <li>– Supporting community wellbeing with social infrastructure</li> </ul> <p><b>Liveability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A creative and socially connected city</li> <li>– Creating great places</li> <li>– New homes for a diverse community</li> <li>– Productivity</li> <li>– Growing a stronger, more competitive Central Sydney</li> <li>– Developing innovative and diverse business clusters in City Fringe</li> <li>– Protecting industrial and urban services in the Southern Enterprise Area and evolving businesses in the Green Square-Mascot Strategic Centre</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Protecting and enhancing the natural environment for a resilient city</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the identified principles and strategies of the LSPS.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>

# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Creating better buildings and places to reduce emissions and waste and use water efficiently</li> <li>– Increasing resilience of people and infrastructure against natural and urban hazards</li> </ul> <p><b>Governance and implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Open, accountable and collaborative planning</li> </ul>	

## Climate Emergency Response 2020

The City of Sydney Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019, stating that climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Sydney.

The plan sets science-based targets that guided its work to reduce carbon emissions and make operations more resilient to climate-related hazards

Generally, the City seeks to take bold steps to reduce the city's environmental footprint and promoting transformative change in energy production, resource consumption, water use and climate adaptation in a way that is inclusive and supports a just transition across all communities.

### Principles

- City actions are at a pace and magnitude commensurate with science-based climate observations and models to limit global heating to less than 1.5°C above pre industrial levels
- Actions are inclusive and acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia and the need for a just transition
- All City functions, activities and decision-making will address the climate emergency
- The City can influence others through its networks, functions and activities
- Staff across the organisation are champions of change
- Pro-active, timely communication and reporting are essential to influence and mobilise action
- An empowered community will take positive climate actions and be more resilient to future challenges

### Goals

1. Address climate emergency priorities in our major strategies, projects and service delivery
2. Decarbonise the City's procurement of products, services and assets
3. Empower staff to act more sustainably and become more resilient
4. Streamline governance processes to support significant climate action
5. Use the planning system to support climate emergency priorities
6. Develop, prioritise and embed communications about the climate emergency
7. Support the community to take further action to address the climate emergency
8. Help the community access onsite and offsite renewables, including
9. 100 per cent GreenPower

Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the identified principles and goals for the climate action plan.

Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.



## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Substantially increase the number of existing buildings that achieve net zero energy use and switch to recycled water within 10 years</li> <li>11. Share resources and work collaboratively with other councils</li> <li>12. Collaborate with allies to drive change to state and federal policies and regulations to transition to a zero carbon economy, and ensure sustainable waste and water policies</li> </ul>	

### Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023

<p>Sets out the City of Sydney's contribution to making Sydney a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes the commitment to safety and our areas of focus for the next five years.</p>	<p>Priority areas are as listed</p> <p><b>Safe streets and spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase actual and perceived public safety in city streets and spaces and ensure they are well lit and attractive</li> <li>– Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour</li> <li>– Improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety</li> </ul> <p><b>Crime prevention and response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur</li> <li>– Contribute to reducing domestic and family violence and sexual assault</li> <li>– Contribute to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses</li> </ul> <p><b>Ready and resilient</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure Sydney knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies</li> <li>– Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety</li> <li>– Reduce harm from drugs and alcohol</li> </ul> <p><b>A safe global destination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Sydney</li> <li>– Promote Sydney's Safety Globally</li> <li>– Help international students to live, study and work safely in Sydney</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the identified priority areas of the Community safety Action Plan.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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### Cultural Policy-and-Action-Plan 2014-2024

<p>Plan for how the City of Sydney can unlock the creative potential of its city and its creative community</p>	<p><b>Vision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Creativity in Sydney is visible</li> <li>– Innovation is central to Sydney's creative community</li> <li>– Sydney takes pride in its Aboriginal history, culture and its contemporary expression</li> <li>– Cultural experiences and creative opportunities are valued and accessible</li> <li>– Sydney's diversity is prized and promoted</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the vision, strategic priorities, and founding principles of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sydney welcomes bold ideas, new visions and unexpected connections</li> <li>– Curiosity is encouraged and opportunities for discovery are everywhere</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Precinct distinctiveness and creativity in the public domain</li> <li>– New avenues for creative participation</li> <li>– Sector sustainability: surviving and thriving</li> <li>– Improving access, creating markets</li> <li>– Sharing knowledge</li> <li>– Global engagement</li> </ul> <p><b>Foundation principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Culture and creativity are central to all our lives and to our community's sense of identity and confidence.</li> <li>– Creativity is part of the human condition, and its expression defines and reflects our culture and our community.</li> <li>– Culture reflects, reinforces, and shapes our identity: individual identity, identification with a community and our connections to place.</li> <li>– Aboriginal culture, now globally recognised as the world's oldest continuous living culture, is our city's most unique and enduring asset.</li> <li>– Sydney's citizens and visitors have the right to access and contribute to the city's cultural and creative life and its history and heritage.</li> <li>– Sydney's cultural riches arise from a plethora of diverse activity at all scales, arising from the 200 nationalities that make up our city, and the many diverse communities that form bonds around identity, interests, and place.</li> <li>– Cultural and creative activity contribute to many community concerns and priorities including economic, social, behavioural and environmental objectives through catalysing civic participation, promoting stewardship of place, preserving cultural heritage, exploring the challenges of climate change and supporting economic development.</li> <li>– Initiative, experimentation and enterprise is the bedrock of fermenting a creative culture. Creative risk is a pre-condition of innovation and industry growth.</li> </ul>	

## Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030

Plan for making bicycle transport easier and safer, so it is an attractive and feasible option for more people.	<p><b>Priorities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connecting the network</li> <li>2. Supporting people to ride</li> <li>3. Supporting businesses</li> </ol>	Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the actions of the Cycle
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
Recognises a 2030 target for 10 per cent of all trips in the city to be made by bike.	4. Leadership and advocacy	Plan in particular with regard to Connecting the Network.  Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.

### Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030

The master plan proposes to utilise local water resources in a way that represents a radical departure from current practice. The proposed decentralised water system can provide immediate and significant reductions in mains water consumption by using recycled water to cool and green the City contributing towards climate change adaptation	<b>Priorities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing 10 per cent of mains water demand within the City of Sydney LGA by 2030</li> <li>2. Reducing 25 per cent of mains water demand within the City of Sydney's own buildings and operations by 2030</li> <li>3. Replacing 30 per cent of mains water demand within the City of Sydney LGA with recycled water for non-drinking uses by 2030</li> <li>4. Reducing 50 per cent of sediments and suspended solids and 15 per cent of nutrients currently discharged into the waterways from stormwater run-off generated within the City of Sydney LGA by 2030.</li> </ol>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the priorities of the Master Plan.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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### Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021

The strategy and action plan addresses the areas of impact, including low-carbon city, water sensitive city, climate resilient city, zero waste city, active and connected city and green and cool city	<b>Issue and Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Energy efficiency – existing buildings contribute around 80% of our city's emissions - Improving energy efficiency will lower energy bills and emissions</li> <li>– Renewable energy at building-scale alone is insufficient to reach our city's renewable energy target of at least 33 000 gigawatt hours of electricity to be produced from renewable sources -The City is exploring opportunities to facilitate Environmental Innovation grants, supporting proponents of community renewable energy projects</li> <li>– Energy storage – batteries have been too expensive for most homes and businesses - The city is looking at opportunities for energy storage on our properties and to support its uptake across the city</li> <li>– Low-carbon technology - Waste heat can be converted into cooling via a heat-driven chiller system, and cogeneration and trigeneration low-carbon technology provide opportunities to reduce emissions</li> </ul> <b>Strategies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Design for low water demand and drought resilience</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the priorities of the Strategy.</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Employ water sensitive urban design techniques</li> <li>– Select low water demand plant species</li> <li>– Protect existing healthy trees</li> <li>– Plant well located canopy tree that provides summer shade and light in winter</li> <li>– Supply of quality tree stock</li> <li>– Select local provenance, hardy and resilient plant species</li> <li>– Engage with local Bushcare groups for plant stock/advice</li> <li>– Avoid disturbing existing soil profiles in areas designated for landscaping</li> <li>– Create spaces for community gardens – community gardens are ‘enablers’ creating social connection opportunities for residents, neighbours, businesses</li> <li>– Select residential development plants from BASIX to assist BASIX Water score</li> </ul>	

## Greening Sydney Plan 2012

<p>A greener Sydney can assist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To filter and improve the air we breathe</li> <li>– Provide shade for our houses and streets</li> <li>– Regulate sunlight to our houses and streets</li> <li>– Reduce urban run-off and stormwater pollution</li> <li>– Improve the appearance, economic value and liveability of our Cities</li> <li>– Provide a connection to nature in our Cities</li> </ul>	<p>Establishes a target for expanding the urban forest – increasing canopy cover in the City of Sydney by 50% in the year 2030 and by 70% in the year 2050</p> <p><b>Greener streets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Create a liveable green network of streets by planting all footpath location with trees</li> <li>– Plant trees in unused road space</li> <li>– Central landscaped medians, replacing paving with trees and landscape planting</li> </ul> <p><b>More parks and open space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Acquire more land for public open space, and tree and landscape planting</li> <li>– Balance recreational and functional requirements of parks</li> <li>– Build habitat parks and landscape City streets to promote and support biodiversity</li> </ul> <p><b>Greening new development and private land</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Establish guidelines and standards for provision of open space, landscaping and urban canopy in new development</li> <li>– Promote use of green roofs and green walls on new buildings and development</li> <li>– Investigate provision of a grant program to provide funding for residents and businesses to plant and maintain large canopy trees on their property</li> </ul> <p><b>Green links and urban wildlife corridors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Building wildlife corridors and habitat pockets in residential suburbs</li> </ul>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves shall apply the targets and strategies priorities of the Greening Sydney Plan in particular with regards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conservation and consolidation of tree canopy</li> <li>- Supporting within reserves the continuation broader habitat corridors</li> </ul> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting on stormwater, gas and power easements main road and rail corridors to create green links</li> <li>Undergrounding and aerial bundle cabling (ABC) of electricity services to expand and improve the quality of the urban forest</li> </ul> <p><b>Empowering the community to green our city</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building social capital by empowering the community to work together to protect and strengthen the urban forest and landscape.</li> <li>Supporting volunteer groups to revegetate and maintain green space and urban habitat</li> <li>Developing a Junior Ranger program to encourage children to assist in the maintenance, monitoring and managing of the City's urban parks and landscape</li> <li>Building community gardens to support residents in sustainable food production and community building</li> <li>Establishing a City Farm Sustainability Learning Centre</li> </ul>	

### Harbour North Public Domain Study 2012

Ideas for improving the public areas of the Harbour Village North precinct of the City which are to be used as guidelines for future development	<p>Guiding directions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access connectivity and wayfinding</li> <li>Create a network of linked parks and upgrade existing open spaces</li> <li>Respect and celebrate heritage, conserve and restore Observatory Hill</li> <li>Celebrate landform and harbour views</li> <li>Support Walsh Bay cultural precinct and enhance cultural ribbon connections</li> <li>Strengthen local communities and support local economies</li> </ul> <p>The study notes a series of recommended projects which have been integrated into the PoM as applicable</p>	<p>Planning design and management of reserves in the plan area shall apply the identified principles and strategies (note these have been included where applicable in management targets and Strategies in the PoM).</p> <p>Management shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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### Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015-2017

A RAP is the strategic framework developed by Reconciliation Australia for organisations to document and progress the aims of reconciliation within their sphere of influence. The RAP demonstrates practical actions toward reconciliation. By improving the City's work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the City can become a more innovative, courageous and respectful organisation.	<p><b>Key Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the City's Principles of Cooperation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.</li> <li>Engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the City's projects and decision-making process.</li> <li>Contribute to and strengthen networks within the local government sector to promote reconciliation.</li> </ul>	Management of reserves shall seek to implement the key Actions of the RAP in particular providing a voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Crown reserve management.
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Strengthen networks within the RAP community and promote collaboration and knowledge sharing on reconciliation.</li> <li>– Investigate opportunities to support Recognise: the campaign to create constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</li> <li>– Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and achievements in Sydney through the Eora Journey: Recognition in the Public Domain.</li> <li>– Promote cultural knowledge and understanding by establishing a local cultural centre.</li> <li>– Celebrate and share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through an annual significant event.</li> <li>– Acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories through the naming of places within the City.</li> <li>– Increase knowledge within the broader community of the history, heritage, cultures and social values of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of Sydney.</li> <li>– Show respect to traditional custodians by continuing to implement the City's Protocols for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities including Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country protocols.</li> <li>– Promote economic prosperity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Sydney.</li> <li>– Explore opportunities to increase supplier diversity</li> <li>– Respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through local programs and services.</li> <li>– Increase the effectiveness of the City's grant and sponsorship program for Torres Strait Islander groups, organisations and businesses.</li> </ul>	

### Park Fitness Equipment Plan 2015

Reflects the Council's commitment to establishing a network of outdoor fitness equipment facilities in the local government area, complementing existing installations. The plan identifies sites and equipment for future facilities	<b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase provision of outdoor fitness equipment, so all members of the community are within 800m of outdoor fitness equipment</li> <li>– Encourage greater participation in physical activity to help the public reach their recommended levels of physical activity</li> <li>– Prioritise installation of outdoor fitness equipment to ensure areas with the least fitness equipment are provided for in the next 5 years</li> </ul>	<p>Investigation and potential for fitness equipment in reserves shall be done in consideration of plan recommendations for siting and equipment.</p> <p>Provision of fitness equipment shall also consider impacts on other park values, uses, and neighbours, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category in considering actions.</p>
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage the community, promoting greater social inclusion</li> <li>Ensure best practice planning and design of outdoor fitness equipment facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bourke Street Park, Woolloomooloo - retain</li> <li>Embarkation Park, Potts Point - new facility, Parks Fitness Equipment Program</li> <li>Waterloo Park - new facility, Park Fitness Equipment Program.</li> <li>Turruwul Park - new facility, Park Fitness Equipment Program.</li> <li>Gunyama Park - new facility, Master plan / Capital Upgrade Works.</li> <li>Alexandria Park - new facility, Park Fitness Equipment Program.</li> <li>Sydney Park, St Peters - retain.</li> <li>Perry Park, Alexandria - removal.</li> <li>South Sydney Rotary Park - upgrade facility, Park Fitness Equipment Program.</li> <li>Victoria Park - new facility, Master plan / Capital Works Upgrade.</li> <li>Johnstons Creek Parklands - new facility, Master plan / Capital Works Upgrade. *</li> <li>Bicentennial Park - removal, replaced by new facility at Johnstons Creek Parklands. *</li> <li>Wentworth Park, Glebe – retain</li> <li>Pirrama Park - new facility, Park Fitness Equipment Program</li> <li>Observatory Hill, Millers Point - expanded facility, Park Fitness Equipment Program.</li> </ul>	

### Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan 2014

<p>A vision for the Plan is to restore and conserve resilient urban ecosystems that support a diverse range of locally indigenous flora and fauna species, and in so doing to create a liveable City for all of its inhabitants</p>	<p><b>Strategic Action Plan</b></p> <p>Objectives and targets are identified for the following:</p> <p><b>Locally indigenous vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, expand and improve condition of naturally occurring locally indigenous vegetation, including possible remnants.</li> <li>Increase the extent of bush restoration sites across the LGA and maintain sites in good condition.</li> <li>Re-establish representative patches of the likely original vegetation communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fauna</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance sites that provide habitat for priority fauna species.</li> </ul>	<p>Management of reserves shall seek to implement the key Actions of the Plan where possible.</p> <p>Ecology related actions shall also consider relationship to other park values and uses, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.</p>
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## Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase the distribution and abundance of priority fauna species across the LGA</li> </ul> <p><b>Habitat connections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Improve habitat connectivity across the LGA, particularly between priority sites, and between identified habitat areas in adjoining LGAs.</li> </ul>	

### Urban Forest Strategy 2013

Plan for development and protection of the City's urban forest	<p><b>Motivations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Urban forests play a vital role in the health, social framework and economic sustainability of a city</li> <li>– Trees improve our air, soil and water quality, while also improving mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>– Canopy coverage over paved surfaces is a cost-effective means of mitigating urban heat islands</li> <li>– This will also reduce emissions of hydrocarbons involved in ozone depletion, while increasing pavement longevity</li> <li>– An Urban Forest Strategy will assist the City in managing the conceptual shift from dealing with trees individually, to managing vegetation as a collective and integrated canopy</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Initiatives and Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Prioritise maintenance and protection of existing tree population – maximise benefits received from this asset</li> <li>– Increase average total canopy cover from current 15/5% to 23.35% by 2030, and then to 27.13% by 2050, through targeted programs for trees in streets, parks and private property</li> <li>– Improve age spread of street and park trees by increasing species diversity, while also ensuring the population does not compromise more than 40% for any particular family, 30% for any particular genus, and 10% for any one species</li> <li>– The City will engage and educate the community on the benefits of trees and their management requirements, assisting community participation in the greening of Sydney</li> </ul>	<p>Management of reserves shall seek to implement the key Actions of the Strategy where possible.</p> <p>Tree canopy actions shall also consider relationship to other park values and uses, and the core objectives of the applicable community land category.</p>
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### Water Savings Action Plan 2012

Identifies the actions required to sustainably manage potable water consumption while delivering high quality parks and urban landscape	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Water use is variable</li> <li>– Expectation – Maintenance and water use are directly influenced by expectations for parkland presentation.</li> <li>– Demand – Parks are maintained for the enjoyment and use of the community. Management of parklands and the</li> </ul>	<p>Management of reserves shall seek to implement the key Actions of the Plan where possible.</p> <p>Tree canopy actions shall also consider relationship to other park values and uses, and the</p>
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# Observatory Park Specific Plan of Management

Purpose	Key principles	Implications for the plan of management
	<p>subsequent water use is influenced by the demands on use for parklands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase in irrigated area</li> <li>– Timing of water restrictions – It should be noted that in 2006 when base line figures for 2030 were taken, Sydney Water had rigorous restrictions on water use in parklands.</li> <li>– Accuracy of information-</li> <li>– Specialised technology and consistency of information – Progression in water management has seen the development of a number of tools for managing water use, and subsequently managing data. Consistency in information is essential when measuring water efficiency.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key actions to be delivered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Exceeding the Sustainable Sydney 2030 target of 10% recycled water usage in the City's Parks;</li> <li>– Change of water consumption measurement from an absolute target to a water efficiency measure of litres per square metre;</li> <li>– Installation of smart meters to improve the measurement of non-potable water use at 30 sites;</li> <li>– Set water budgets for the City's top 30 water using parks which allow for average, dry and wet years;</li> <li>– Construct storm water harvesting and treatments systems at Alexandria Park, Waterloo Oval and Pirrama Park (old part);</li> <li>– Connect Erskineville Oval to the Sydney Park water re-use project;</li> <li>– Upgrade irrigations systems at Alexandria Park, Waterloo Oval, Jubilee Oval and Pirrama Park (old part); and,</li> <li>– Implement an irrigation testing and efficiency program on the top 10 water using parks.</li> </ul>	<p>core objectives of the applicable community land category.</p>

