

Hyde Park Plan of Management

E-mail and telephone survey of stakeholders
nominated by Council



Prepared for City of Sydney

May 2006



the people
for places
and spaces

Trading name for
Warwick Coombes + Penelope Coombes Pty Ltd
ABN 51 003 077 594

studio 66 / 61 marlborough street
surry hills nsw 2010 australia
tel +61 2 9310 3233 fax +61 2 9310 4705
email p4ps@p4ps.com.au
web www.p4ps.com.au

Introduction

The tender brief nominated specific stakeholders to be included in the Round One consultation. We understand that Council nominated these stakeholders because of a perceived interest in Hyde Park.

This report details the issues/opinions/comments raised by the nominated stakeholders.

Interviews

Organisations contacted by e-mail and telephone were:

- Cross City Tunnel
- Sydney Water
- Department of Planning
- Parks and Leisure Australia
- National Trust of Australia (NSW)
- Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
- Planning Institute of Australia
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Energy Australia
- NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
- The Westfield Group

Method

Early work was undertaken to ascertain appropriate contacts commencing on 27th March. The telephone interviews and e-mail responses were finally completed on 19th May 2006. The process was slow because in some cases the contact person e-mailed colleagues to enable the formulation of a collective response.

Interviewees were first given:

- a description of the objectives of the project
- the purpose of the consultation
- the stages of the consultation already undertaken

Because of the diverse nature of the interviewees a standard questionnaire was not used. Rather interviewees were invited to 'provide any comments or issues related to Hyde Park that you may wish to raise for consideration in the development of the Plan of Management. You are welcome to comment on any aspect of Hyde Park that you feel may be relevant.'

Structure of the Report

We have not attempted to draw together the comments received as each is quite individual to the organisation concerned.

For this reason each interview is reported separately.

Results of the interviews

Responses with comments

Sydney Water

*Judith Peters, Communications Manager, Water Recycling Projects and Steve Baxter, Manager Community Relations
Telephone interviews 17/18 May 2006.*

Sydney Water wants to see a strong emphasis in the Plan of Management (PoM) on:

- actions to reduce water use
- use of recycled water

The Council currently has an exemption to allow watering of some heavy use areas. The PoM should address the issue of heavily used areas with some proactive plans to reduce the need to use water. Mapping of heavily used areas including desire-lines would be helpful.

The same comments apply across the Park including actions to be taken on particular target areas.

Sydney Water is aware of the Clean Up Australia Project to use water from Busby's Bore to irrigate green spaces in the CBD.

Department of Planning (two interviews)

*Simeon King, Urban Designer, Metropolitan Strategy
E-mail 10th May 2006*

Suggested improvements:

1. The College Street footpath - currently very tight with unsightly finishes.
2. Cycle and access improvements. All the roads around the perimeter of Hyde Park are generally very busy; cycling should be encouraged through/across/into the park where possible. Levels and entry points are a problem for such access as is the disconnection between Hyde Park North and Hyde Park South. Narrow parallel pedestrian/cycle bridges should be constructed across Park Street (an idea promoted in earlier PoMs).
3. Improved planting strategy. The current strategy off the main avenues is arboretum in style, with not much consistency or thought into precinct planting. Need to keep adding to the plant stock rather than waiting until everything has reached maturity.
4. Upgrade secondary pathways.
5. Much more seating around the Archibald Fountain. The seating should be almost contiguous on the perimeter of the paving immediately adjacent to the fountain, with a second contiguous outer ring on the outer footpath. The location is a very popular lunchtime and evening place to sit and ponder, and needs a significant and appropriate seating format designed for the space, rather than a dozen standard park benches. There are plenty of good examples in Europe!
6. The Museum Station cafe desperately needs an upgrade to match that of the St James Station cafe. Paving, planting and levels at this corner need a lot of improvement.

Responses with comments ...(cont'd)

Department of Planning ... (cont'd)

*Vivienne Whitfield, Management Team, Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program
Telephone interview*

The Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program is part of the Sharing Sydney Harbour Regional Action Plan. It has been designed to enhance the recreational opportunities of Sydney Harbour and its tributaries for the people of, and visitors to, Sydney. The Access Program is a dollar-for-dollar capital works grant funding scheme administered by a Management team within the Department of Planning.

Projects within the PoM that are designed to improve pedestrian access to the harbour eg defined walking tracks via the Domain and Botanical Gardens, may be eligible for funding through this program.

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

*Sarah Banning, Conservation Officer for Cemeteries, Parks and Gardens
E-mail response – 18th May 2006*

1. Past observations have shown a lack of co-ordination between City of Sydney staff and other authorities who may need to operate in the park (e.g. water, electricity etc.). In the past they have gone in with no protocols in place to manage/minimise impacts on the tree population. This may have been one of the factors in the current disease problems of the Hills Figs.
2. The Trust believes that block removal and replacement of the existing avenue planting as it becomes necessary is preferred. "It's the only viable way to manage that population."

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

*Suellen Fitzgerald, President, NSW Group
Telephone Interview 10th May 2006*

1. AILA supports the Council in its efforts to develop a new PoM for Hyde Park. AILA recognises Hyde Park's importance as a premier piece of open space. With more residents in the city, Hyde Park will come under increasing pressure.
2. The Council should be aware that AILA is developing a Tree Charter, which will set out for practitioners and all stakeholders some decision making processes for the management of trees.
A draft of the charter, which will address whole of life cycle issues should be available by the end of 2006.

Responses with comments ...(cont'd)

AILA ... (cont'd)

3. The Council should use this opportunity to see the Park as part of a linked suite of open spaces and the PoM should foster cooperation with the bodies responsible for the Domain and the Botanic Gardens.
4. AILA encourages the Council to consider the balance between the cultural heritage of Hyde Park on the one hand and the increasing demands and needs of the growing number of residents on the other.
The Park should not be seen purely as a fixed museum piece.
5. Hyde Park is an important component of the visual and scenic aspects of the city. The PoM should ensure that the views into the Park from the outside and the connections to the Park are maintained.
6. The Park enriches its surrounding areas and has a big impact on that part of the city. The PoM should include processes that consider what impact developments in the city have on the Park.

Energy Australia

Rod Funnell, Manager - Strategy Assessments, Network Division

E-mail – 11th May2006

1. Energy Australia (EA) requires 24 hour access to maintain and repair the cable network installed in Hyde Park. There is a range of cable systems within Hyde Park including a subtransmission cable system which is strategic for the supply of power to a large portion of the Sydney CBD as well as other parts of the City of Sydney area.
2. There should be an assurance that "Dial Before You Dig" enquiries be undertaken before any excavation work is undertaken within the Park.
3. Ground surface finishes should be maintained / provided which facilitate easy and low cost reinstatement following repair work to EA cables.
4. The depth and cover over EA cables is a technical issue that affects the safety and operation of cables; depth /cover of cables should not be altered without EA approval.
5. There should be early notification to EA of any proposed works such as resurfacing of pathways so that EA have the opportunity to replace existing cables or install conduits to allow for future replacement works or to determine if the cables will be affected operationally.
6. It is anticipated that there will be a need for an additional cable system route through the Park within the next five years and it may be prudent for the route to be allocated and for any tree planting (or installation of fixtures etc) to be outside that route.

Responses with comments ...(cont'd)

Parks and Leisure Australia

Stephen Bourke, National President

Telephoned response 9th May 2006

There are no specific issues with the Park.

Some general comments:

1. Perhaps it attempts to serve too many people.
2. The PoM should ensure that one population does not dominate the Park and that it provides facilities for all.

Responses with no specific comments or issues about the Park

Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability

Julia Bridle – Internal Communications Officer

Telephone response - no issues

Cross City Tunnel

Rowena Lennings, Community Relations Manager

Telephoned response – no issues

Planning Institute of Australia

Roxanne Neylon, Managing Director

Telephone response, 9th May 2006

PIA is not concerned with 'small projects such as Hyde Park'.

PPS e-mail was circulated throughout PIA and no response was received.

PIA is not in a position to make a further comment.

NSW Roads and Traffic Authority

Leigh Pickard – Traffic Committee, City of Sydney

Telephone response

The RTA has no issues as the Park is not a vehicle generator.

The Westfield Group

Andrew Robertson – Project Director

Telephone Interview and e-mail 10th May 2006 and subsequently.

Mr Robertson has e-mailed appropriate staff and to date no replies have been received. A supplementary report will be issued if/when replies are received.