



10 September 2020

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Via email: [callan.park@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:callan.park@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Re: Callan Park Draft Land Use Structure Plan - Inner West Council Submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide a submission on the exhibited Callan Park Draft Land Use Structure Plan.

Please find attached a submission from Inner West Council.

Should you require further information please contact Aaron Callaghan, Parks and Recreation Planning Manager on (02) 9392 5634 or email [aaron.callaghan@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aaron.callaghan@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ER' or similar initials.

Elizabeth Richardson  
**Chief Operating Officer, Director Development and Recreation**



## Attachment

# Callan Park Draft Land Use Structure Plan Inner West Council Submission

## **Callan Park - An Introduction**

Callan Park was acquired in the 1870's for the specific purpose of constructing a mental asylum that later became Rozelle Psychiatric Hospital. The hospital closed in April 2008 and its services were relocated to Concord Hospital in Canada Bay. Many buildings on the site are vacant and in various states of disrepair. The public ownership of the site is in the custody of NSW Health with Inner West Council being the planning consent authority. Areas of the site are currently managed by the NSW Department of Planning, Environment and Energy and the Department of Health with the management divided according to precincts.

Key features of Callan Park include:

- Its location on Iron Cove and Sydney Harbour.
- Its role as a regionally significant open space, being the third largest open space in inner Sydney behind Centennial and Moore Parklands (320 hectares) and the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain (64 hectares).
- The whole of the parkland is listed on the State Heritage Register.
- The exceptional heritage landscape buildings of the former Rozelle Hospital located on the site.
- The cultural heritage value of the site in relation to the history of mental health in Australia.
- The waterfront public open spaces, war memorial, landscaping and gardens.
- Remnants of natural bushland and wildlife habitat – one of the few remaining in the inner west of Sydney.
- Aboriginal middens at Callan Point and other Aboriginal cultural heritage features.
- The Iron Cove Bay Run foreshore walking, cycling and running path around Iron Cove (*with connections to Leichhardt Park and the Greenway in the South and King George Park in the North*).
- One of the few remaining beaches in the inner west (Callan Point)
- Ongoing use by State-significant tenants including the NSW headquarters of the NSW Ambulance Service, and several non-government organisations (NGOs).

## **Significant History**

Callan Park has a rich and significant heritage and a complex history. At just over sixty hectares it is one of the largest open spaces in the centre of Sydney. The park has many qualities such as an extensive foreshore, fine heritage buildings, a rich cultural landscape and history of mental health care. The parkland is a site of exceptional architectural and landscape significance. It contains the remains of three highly significant phases of historical development. Three Gentlemen's Estates from the early 1800s were located on the site, as was the largest purpose-built asylum in New South Wales, Callan Park, and the later Broughton Hall Clinic where self-admission mental health treatment was pioneered.

The site was an institution for mental health care for over 150 years, and was the location of the care of returned service personnel since World War I. Callan Park is highly significant as a resource for understanding the historical development of mental health care in Australia.

The foreshore areas of Callan Park are significant as rare open space elements. Callan Point is considered to be the most important Aboriginal archaeological site remaining on the southern shores of Sydney Harbour. Callan Point also contains rare examples of pre-european vegetation and culturally important rock carvings. Figure 1.0 highlights Callan Park in its current format)

**Figure 1.0 Callan Park Present Day**



## Regional Open Space

Callan Park is highly regarded by the Inner West community and is a significant regional open space. Callan Park has a critical role as an urban parkland with unique and defined features. The space as a whole can be interpreted as a modernist wellness sanctuary. This being as the site provides a range of settings and places which advocate for the promotion of the arts, outdoor recreation, ecology, heritage and quiet contemplation. Through its current use and proposed future management, Callan Park will continue to be an important urban parkland which will have an ongoing role in contributing to the mental, physical and social health of the entire community.

## **Land Use Structure Plan**

The Land Use Structure Plan has been developed by the NSW Government as a blueprint for the Inner West's largest urban parkland, Callan Park. Critically the Landscape Structure plan is focused on Callan Point, the Lower Central Slope and the Upper Central Slope. These can also be defined as the main public open space areas or those areas which have significant public recreational value, access and use. Significantly, the most important heritage buildings do not feature in the study, that of Broughton Hall Precinct buildings and the Kirkbride Precinct. The NSW Ambulance Precinct and the Nurses quarters have also been excluded (currently tenanted for health purposes).

The LSP is a high-level conceptual plan to guide Callan Park's revitalisation as an iconic urban parkland, in ways that celebrate the park's unique heritage and waterfront location. The LSP aligns with the [Callan Park \(Special Provisions\) Act 2002](#) which protects Callan Park's open space and buildings from commercial development.

## **Key Proposals and Office Comments**

### **Existing Road Network**

In its current format the park is dominated by roads that transect through the park and provide little connection with the key landscape features. Modern parklands place the movement of pedestrians and cyclists as a key overarching principal with car and service vehicle access limited to key drop of and parking points which support overall use of the park as a whole. The road network as it currently stands can be viewed as intrusive to the site as a whole.

The re-organisation of the road network is supported provided that new infrastructure to support park users with disabilities and the elderly is also carefully considered and provided for. Such facilities are needed to support recreation generally within the park. The reorientation of the road network is supported as it will address broader objectives of reducing car use, promoting cycling and public transport, improving environmental sustainability and stewardship and significantly increasing open space values. Critically, the re-organisation of the Iron Cove Bay Run section within the Waterfront precinct will address long standing safety concerns associated with recreational conflict between cyclists, walkers and joggers and cars. It is noted that emergency access to the Iron Cove Bay Run and the Waterfront will be maintained. It is also advocated that some small-scale parking arrangements adjacent to the Waterfront sporting ground Building B487 should also be considered to support disability user parking and for the elderly to enjoy spectator viewing of local sporting games.

Future circulation within the parkland should be planned and designed to direct visitors to key designations. Where roads are removed these should be replaced with accessible pathways with dedicated and universal way finding and lighting which is consistent throughout the park. Landscaping planting to complement the new pathways should be a key consideration with any new circulation and access routes. Landscape design work should focus on the key concept of a unified parkland with landscape qualities which provide shade, habitat and interest. Car Parking should be minimal with the existing Kirkbride Car Park available for public weekend use and sports training.

As a first step, the new path network way (denoted 7 on Page 69 of the Draft Landscape Structure Plan) should be developed prior to removing car parking on the Waterfront. Lighting to Australian Standards (P3) should also be provided along the new pathway for pedestrian and sporting user access. This should be given a high priority rating given the high winter use of the waterfront sporting area and the need for sporting user safety.

The Land Use Structure Plan highlights that key community priorities include safe and easy walking and cycling movement throughout the park. The Vision & Strategy and Key Moves have captured this priority with Ensuring Safe Access and Movement (p.19) and creating a network of paths that prioritise pedestrians and cyclists (p.22). Limited vehicle access proposed as part of this Key Move will be essential and is supported by Council. Prioritising walking and cycling in condense urban areas necessarily involves reducing the level of service provided to motor vehicles and removing vehicle access from the waterfront and the central slope should be supported. Making the park one way in terms of vehicle movement is recommended along with traffic calming measures. Where shared zones are present vehicle movement should be no more than 10km per hour and in nonshared zones no more than 30km per hour (consistent with Centennial Parklands). Future Parkland management should also consider car free days.

It is noted that two car parks totalling 230 spaces (Wharf Road car parking arrangements and Kirkbride) would provide car parking with access to the waterfront and Central Slope as well as sports fields at Glover Street and Waterfront Drive and the submission supports the proposal to confine car parking to limited areas whereby attractive walking links are provided to sports fields and the waterfront. In the short term the road between Wharf Road and Military Drive would remain open and IWC should support the eventual removal of this link - or emergency access only.

#### **Removal of Identified Intrusive Buildings and Retention (Adaptive Reuse) of Significant Buildings.**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Recommendations of the Landscape Structure Plan Council Officer Support/Non-Support</b>	<b>Council Officer Comment</b>
<b>Callan Point</b>	The removal of Buildings B492, B486, B495 and B493 are supported.	<p>The opportunity to refocus and reveal the heritage significance of Callan Point should be a key first priority in implementing an adopted Landscape Structure plan.</p> <p>As a first step this should include consultation with the representatives of the indigenous community on future governance arrangements for the park.</p> <p>Callan Point heritage significance should be a key focus along with the removal of identified low significance buildings and the undertaking additional habitat planting, way finding and interpretation.</p> <p>The retention and adaptive reuse of the Garry Owen Summer House (B494) is supported</p>

		given its high heritage significance.
<b>Waterfront Green Precinct</b>	The removal of B505 and B514 B499	The opportunity to enlarge and open up the Waterfront Precinct in recognition of its recreational importance and value as an open space setting should be a high priority for any future implementation of the Landscape Structure plan.
	Retention of B497-Adaptive Reuse Supported.	The removal of buildings on the foreshore including the former vacant veterans' buildings (B505 and B514) and secondly the Sports Pavilion (B499) on the Waterfront will enlarge and open up the foreshore area and will also enhance the scenic qualities and view corridors in those areas. Limited car parking spaces should be provided near this building as a drop off point for children and also as a space for less abled and the elderly to enjoy sports viewing.
	Removal of B499	The Sports Pavilion (B499) is currently used by Balmain and District Football Club and new storage arrangements and canteen facilities will need to be found for this club. Adaptive shared reuse of B497 is recommended however this should not be the exclusive domain of one sports club but rather a shared facility for the community as a whole.
	Retain B504	B504 the Refugee Welcome Centre is retained ( <i>Licensed to Inner West Council</i> ).  The Sydney Harbour Bridge Memorial is highlighted in the study as having an improved setting. Inner West Council has invested \$80,000 in restoring this significant monument in the last two years however the site is poorly managed at present and further restoration works are required.
Waterfront Sports Buildings	Recommended retention of B496 and use of the adjoining landscape as a children's' play space is not supported.	Building B496 has no heritage value and blocks a clear link form the waterfront sporting area through to then lower slopes of Bonnyview Cottage. Removing this building will increase the open space values of the park and create a clear connection from the adjoining Bonnyview Garden slopes and Military Road. A far better area for a playspace would be on the former bowling green adjacent to B509. This area has a high level of passive surveillance opportunities which could be complemented by an adaptive reuse of the former bowling green building.
<b>Convalescent Cottages (Ridgeline)</b>	The Repair and Reuse of B401-B404 and B488 is supported	The repair and reuse of these exceptional heritage buildings is supported. The thinning of the Fig Trees on the ridgeline to promote window views of the Waterfront precinct and Iron Cove is also supported as this will add to the amenity of the parkland and the potential reuse options for these buildings.

<b>Wharf Road Gardens</b>	B506 and B507  The recommendation of the draft landscape structure plan for retention of these buildings is not supported. Recommend removal	The Draft Landscape Plan has these buildings retained even though they have no heritage significance and are in very poor condition structurally.  Greater value would be gained from demolition, increasing open space values on the edge of the park and opening view lines. A priority focus for adaptive reuse should be prioritised for heritage significant buildings not those of low value with significant adaptive reuse costs.
<b>Wharf Road Gardens</b>	B509 Support adaptive reuse	Former Blowing Pavilion supported for adaptive reuse. Consider relocating the proposed children's play space to this location to support future adaptive reuse.
<b>Wharf Road Gardens</b>	The Repair and Reuse of B510- Former Air Raid Shelter is supported.	Support restoration and adaptive reuse in the future.
<b>Wharf Road Gardens</b>	Support recommendation for removal of B299, B511  Swimming Pool Retention Recommendation not supported	Buildings are considered intrusive and of low value.  The swimming pool is an intrusive element to the park landscape and is not a heritage feature. This element should be removed and not repurposed. Redeveloping this facility as a pond feature is also not supported. There are already pond and significant water features located in the Broughton Hall Precinct which has greater landscape and biodiversity qualities than the lower central slope area of the park.
<b>Central Green</b>	B201, B202, B209, B208, B207 and B210  Support Removal	These buildings detract considerably from the Central Green and adjoining slopes which are occupied by Bonnyview Cottage an exceptional heritage item on the site. Removal of these buildings is therefore supported to provide greater appreciation and setting for Bonnie View Cottage and significantly the Kirkbride precinct
<b>Central Green</b>	B295  Support Retention	A former air raid Shelter- Support retention and adaptive reuse
<b>Bonnyview Cottage (B205) and Gardens</b>	Support recommendation for retention	B205 is Heritage listed and highly significant to both the park and its landscape. B206 -the associated cottage garage should also be retained and used to support the cottage and its future use.
<b>B207 and B208</b>	Support recommendation for removal	Both these buildings are supported for removal. Both buildings detract from the landscape qualities of the park and importantly from the nearby Kirkbride buildings and sandstone walls which have significant heritage value.
<b>NSW Writers Gardens</b>	B211-213	Heritage listed buildings or buildings considered of high value.

	Support recommendation for retention	
<b>NSW Writers Gardens</b>	B201-204 and B209-B210  Support recommendation for removal	Low value buildings (one of which has significant fire damage), which detract from the landscape qualities of the NSW Writers' Gardens and are detrimental to the heritage listed buildings located in close proximity.
<b>NSW Writers Gardens</b>	B295 Support recommendation for retention	Small Air raid shelter which could be adaptively reused.
<b>Balmain Road Green</b>	B701 and 702  Support recommendation for retention and adaptive reuse.  B706-708 Former Air raid Shelters  Support recommendation for retention and adaptive reuse.  B709-719 former residences and garages adjacent to the Balmain Road sporting Ground  Support recommendation for removal  B2020-222 NSW Ambulance Buildings Support recommendation for retention while in use in their current form. Future use should not be permissible, and their removal should be considered in a broader landscape structure plan in the future for removal.	Highly significant buildings (former stables which predate Kirkbride). Should be considered high priority for restoration and adaptive reuse.        Should be considered as a high priority for removal in terms of increasing the open space qualities of the Balmain Road Green, ongoing vandalism issues and its connection with the adjacent sporting ground.     These modernist buildings detract from the landscape character of the park and have no heritage value. They are also located in close proximity to major heritage items including the stables.
<b>Glover Street Sports Ground</b>	B502 and B503 Support recommendation for retention	B503 should be prioritised as a public toilet to service the sporting ground and the community gardens.
<b>Kirkbride Gardens</b>	B394 (Gatehouse) and B395 (Spanish war memorial) Support recommendation for retention. Recommend full restoration works.	B394 should be restored and redeveloped as are of interest and interpretation.  The Spanish War Memorial (B395) located near the entrance to the park off Balmain Road should be prioritised for greater protection, interpretation and restoration works.  Significantly the main Callan Park entrance gates which are a significant feature of the site have been left out of the draft landscape structure plan and these should be prioritised for restoration works and repurposing.

*\*It should be noted that previous studies including the former Leichhardt Council's Adopted Conservation Management Plan (2011) have advocated the removal of intrusive buildings within Callan Park. The Land Use Structure Plan has been informed by this document.*



### **Future Funding and Governance**

With the release of the Draft Land Use Structure Plan the NSW Government has also announced \$10 million dollars of investment funding for priority improvements within Callan Park. This coincides also with the announcement that Government plan to bring together the management of Sydney's best known and premier parks into one super-agency, the Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP). The move will bring together the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, Parramatta Park Trust, and Western Sydney Parklands Trusts, as well as the parklands of Callan Park and Fernhill Estate. The Department will be headed by Michael Rose, Chairman for the Committee for Sydney. A long-term funding model and financial plan to support Callan Park into the future is strongly recommended, one which is strategically based and includes both capital improvements and maintenance obligations.

### **Local Representation**

Notably the proposed new governance arrangements are unclear in relation to local community representation. Council has previously advocated and lobbied Government for the formation of the Callan Park Trust to oversee the future management, care and control of Callan Park. To date such representation has been unsuccessful.

Recently Council has advocated through formal Council resolution for local community representation on any future management agency. The Callan Park Special Provisions Act 2002 includes the need for a Community Consultation committee within Part 8 of the Act. Specially, the regulations may establish and provide for the functions and procedures of a community consultation committee for Callan Park. Council officers would advocate that Government considers the establishment of a Park Advisory Board which would as a core responsibility, provide local community representation and advice to the Department on future management and key priorities.

Any future Park advisory committee should be one which can add value to the future protection, management and enhancement of Callan Park and in this respect expertise should be focused on skills sets which includes, heritage expertise, indigenous representation, legal expertise, local Council representation and recreation and health expertise.

### **Broughton Hall Precinct and the Kirkbride Precinct**

Two key areas which have significant heritage value, that of the Broughton Hall Precinct and the Kirkbride Precinct have been excluded from the study area. The adaptive reuse of these facilities is a significant concern especially given the neglected status of Broughton Hall and the recent departure of the College of the Arts from the Kirkbride building. Council staff would strongly advocate that finding tenants for the Kirkbride Building should be a key priority of Government as should the restoration of Broughton Hall which is one of the oldest remaining buildings in the Rozelle and has strong associations with the early development and history of the Rozelle area.

It is strongly recommended that these two priorities are a key feature of the new GPS along with the need for an overall conservation and maintenance program which respects the cultural significance of individual buildings, their precincts and the landscape settings.

The Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002 specifically defines development opportunities on the site in terms of permissible development and uses.

### **Compliance with the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002 No 139**

Council staff have assessed the draft plan from an open space, biodiversity and public domain perspective. Legally the Callan Park Act protects the park from any development that:

1. increases the total built floor space; or
2. reduces the amount of open space; or
3. is used for any purpose other than health facilities or not for profit education or education facilities.

The proposals contained with the proposed landscape structure plan comply with the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002 and importantly they ensure that the park is enhanced for future public enjoyment in accordance with the principal objects of the Act which are, in summary to:

1. ensure that Callan Park remains in public ownership;
2. preserve open space;
3. allow public access for active and passive public recreation;
4. preserve its heritage significance.

### **Urban Forest and Ecology Review**

#### General comments

The Callan Park Landscape Structure Plan is an exciting opportunity to enhance the regional significance of this site. Overall, the plan presents a direction that is supported from an Urban Forest and Ecology perspective. However, the plan doesn't adequately recognise the importance of this site as a biodiversity refuge and as a key part of the urban tree canopy in the Inner West Council area.

Biodiversity issues must be considered in the planning stages of a project to avoid adverse biodiversity impacts, as per the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. The site's biodiversity values are not reflected strongly in the plan, Callan Park is likely to provide important habitat for microbats, some of which may be threatened species, and also there are numerous hollow-bearing trees within the park, which must be protected. The loss of hollow bearing trees is identified as a key threatening process under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Lastly, the landscape plan can consider more measures to create habitat for terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, such as waterway bank naturalisation, additional bush regeneration areas and the introduction of more structural diversity in vegetation.

#### Executive Summary, Page 3

- More focus on biodiversity significance of the park needs to be included in the Executive Summary

#### Paragraph 2

- no mention of Aboriginal heritage sites or remnant trees in the list of assets.

#### Introduction, Page 5

- Communities Priorities: this should reflect Council's position on the park as well, or add Council's Priorities as an extra heading.

#### Background

- Need to include a page about current biodiversity significance and its value.

- Identify key habitat areas, e.g. hollow bearing trees, potential microbat habitat in old buildings.

#### Background, Page 10 – Indigenous Vegetation

- Although there was not much indigenous vegetation visible on the surface, the remnant seed bank in the soil is still considered part of the remnant and that has regenerated in some places since those historical photos were taken (e.g. *Themeda* grassland on Callan Point).
- Remnant trees are highly significant as they are very rare in the inner west. They are a valuable source of seed for future revegetation projects. They also contain natural hollows which are a significant habitat feature. They are significant cultural and natural heritage features as they are representatives of pre-European invasion life.
- The historical photos show grasses, ground covers and small shrubs. Trees are not the only strata that is significant when valuing remnant vegetation.

#### Create a network of pathways, Page 24

- See image below, the location of path at red oval is crucial. It must remove pedestrian traffic from sensitive middens and remnant vegetation (possibly endangered ecological community 'Themeda grassland on seacliffs and coastal headlands') and direct people away from significant Aboriginal sites and bush revegetation areas. A fenced boardwalk would be best here.



- See red polygon below, space should be retained for riparian vegetation between the waterway and the pathways as this is a riparian zone, a buffer area will protect waterway health. Places for people to access the water should be defined spots between riparian vegetation.
- This waterfront area is also a potential biodiversity corridor, especially significant for microbats, but also habitat-friendly edge treatments could enhance aquatic habitat too.



Suggested new vehicle access, Page 25

- There is high conservation value revegetated bush located at red oval, marked below. Car Park should be positioned to avoid damage to this area which council has maintained and improved.



Landscape character areas, Page 27 onwards

- Include more information on flora and fauna under the 'landscape' heading in each Existing Character page, such as locations of remnant trees and understorey vegetation, e.g. Themeda grasslands.

Ideas to achieve the vision at Callan Point, Page 31

- Approve of the path not going through this area (see red oval below) as the negative impacts of over-use should be reduced, this includes trampling of remnant vegetation, soil erosion and compaction, damage to Aboriginal heritage. Fencing should be used to discourage people creating informal pathways over this sensitive area.
- This will be extremely unpopular with park users though, so an education program will be necessary to explain why access is being restricted.
- See yellow circle below, is the location of remnant grasses, ferns and ground covers (possibly endangered ecological community 'Themeda grassland on seacliffs and coastal headlands')



Ideas to achieve the vision at convalescent cottages, Page 34

- This area (red oval below) is being used by mountain bikers building little ramps and tracks. This is actually a good place for this destructive activity to take place as there is no understory vegetation to be ruined. Suggest promoting this location as the right place for mountain biking and discouraging the activity elsewhere.



Ideas to achieve the vision at waterfront sports, Page 37

- The existing canal in this area is perfect for a bank naturalisation project, saltmarsh and/or wetland planting with rocks and different water levels for habitat (see red oval below).
- Places for people to access water's edge should be balanced with places for habitat at water's edge (at yellow oval) similar to this treatment at Barangaroo but with more vegetation.





Ideas to achieve vision at waterfront green, Page 40

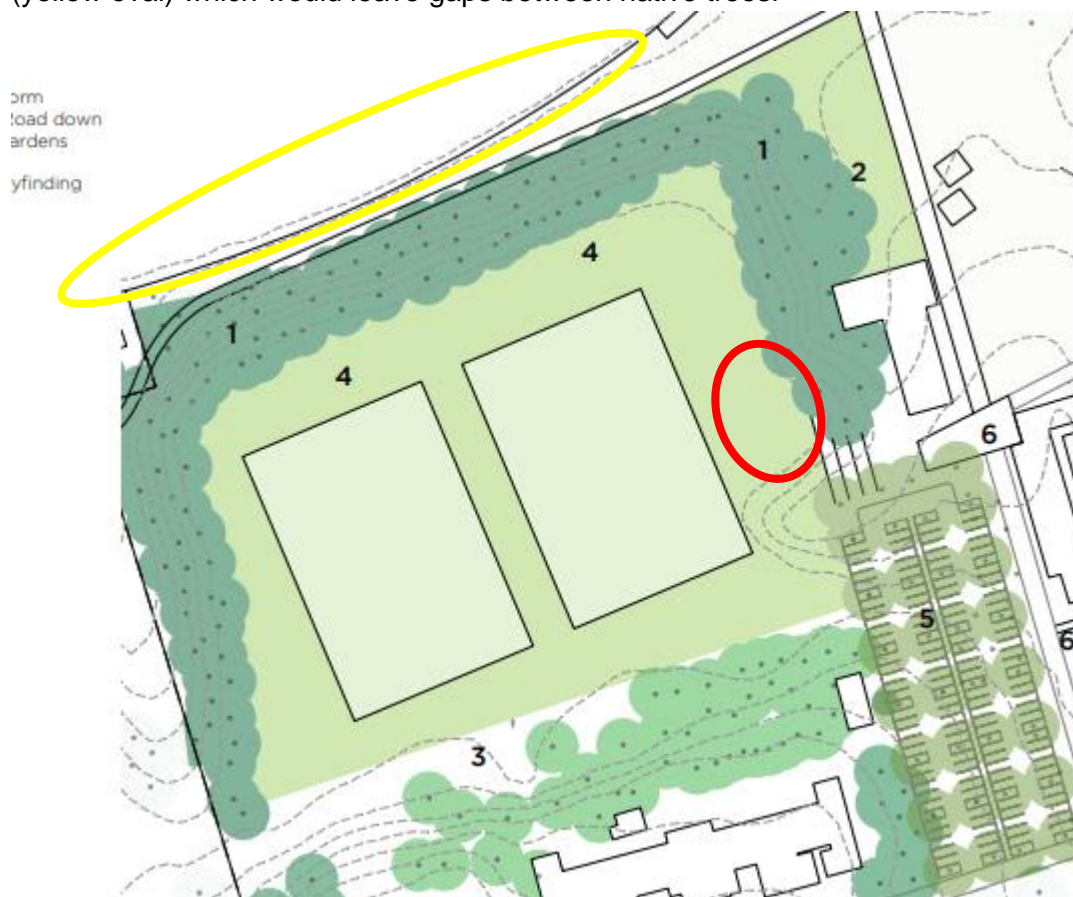
- Places for people to access water's edge balanced with places for habitat at water's edge (at yellow oval) similar to Barangaroo waterfront but with more vegetation.



Ideas to achieve the vision at glover street sports, Page 58

- High conservation value native vegetation at red oval, shown below. Car Park should be located to avoid damage to that area.

- View corridors through to the water could be achieved by removing weed trees (yellow oval) which would leave gaps between native trees.



#### Parkland Activation Plan, Page 65

- Item 5: Harbour swimming area should be moved further from Callan Point to avoid damage to sensitive natural and cultural sites.
- Item 14: Bush regeneration - add more sites along the waters edge to create a biodiversity corridor and habitat steppingstones throughout the site. Waters edge plantings can be kept low to maintain views.

#### Callan Point montage, Page 66

- Include aquatic habitat creation in water edge treatment.

#### **Additional Public Domain Suggestions**

The Draft Landscape Structure Plan can be further enhanced by including the following key recommendations to support the future enhancement and embellishment of Callan Park:

- Development of a public art strategy for the site which identifies key locations and opportunities with a focus on local artists, place making and landscape interventions.
- Development of a lighting strategy for the park is developed with a focus on safety, place-making, site activation, accessibility and preservation of night time fauna.



- An integrated wayfinding and signage strategy is developed for the parkland which considers the landscape and heritage qualities of the parkland.
- The necessary infrastructure is developed to purpose the site as an outdoor learning precinct with a focus on history, landscape, geology and climate change that can actively be used by the community (i.e. a system of outdoor gathering places including furniture, tree species markers, geological and landscape indicators.)
- Opportunities for the perimeter streets, such as Glover Street (possibly even Darling Street), to be integrated into the plan by having enhanced pedestrian amenity in the form of slower speeds, suitable planting (possibly extending the feel of Callan Park into the street and across to the Leichhardt Park playing fields);
- Extension of landscaping into surrounding streets should include use of WSUD and possibly even street trees (within the road carriageway/kerbside parking spaces);
- Examine the opportunity for a separated cycleway running parallel to Darling Street, between the existing heritage stone fence and the line of trees. (This had been investigated by Leichhardt's Bicycle Advisory Committee, and was generally supported, however may have had impacts on the tree roots). The path may need to be elevated at some locations (or for its full length) to avoid damaging the tree roots. This cycleway would fill in a critical gap in the network without jeopardising kerbside parking, which has been a key consideration along Darling Street.
- Retain the future use of the NSW ambulance car park to support access and use of Callan Park
- Hard stand elements should be minimised by incorporating permeable surfaces, landscaping and WSUD wherever possible to soften the visual elements and reduce heat island impact.

### **Companion Animal Access**

While not specially related to the principals of the Landscape Structure Plan and more orientated to future governance and management arrangements, Council wishes to highlight and acknowledge the importance of Callan Park to the community as a key destination for local companion animal walkers. The health and wellbeing benefits that companion animal access bring to the park are significant. It well recognised that in urban parklands pets play a vital role in improving a person's mental and physical health, reducing stress, facilitating social interaction and assisting in the creation of a sense of community. Companion Animal owners are an important asset to the park and play an important role in terms of their passive surveillance and knowledge of the different spaces within the parklands. Council's position is that the majority of Callan Park should be designated as an off-leash parkland with the exception of those areas which have been identified as having high biodiversity value or cultural significance. Large open spaces, such as Callan Park need to be both human and pet friendly and the wellness and community benefits that pets bring to parks should be recognised and provided for. Council can play an active partnership role in assisting the future management of the park in this regard.

## **Conclusions**

The landscape structure plan is in the majority supported as it reflects the values and expectations of the local and wider community and other users for future use and enjoyment of Callan Park.

It is strongly recommended that, on the adoption of any landscape structure plan, that a Financial Model is developed for Callan Park along with a new master plan and park plan of management which incorporates and prioritises an adopted capital works program.

The plan developed by Terrior and Tyrrell studio is not a statutory document, nor is it a full-developed master plan for the park as a whole as it does not include the Health or Education Precincts. It is important to note that these areas of the park also contain buildings previously identified in separate studies (including the Callan Park Conservation Management Plan 2011) which have low heritage significance and in some cases are also intrusive to the park.

As such their removal would increase the open space qualities and help to strengthen the vision of a united parkland. While in use however these buildings provide employment opportunities as well a potential future income source for the park and its management framework. The draft landscape structure plan does not prioritise key projects, rather it is seeking community feedback on priorities for creating a future unified parkland with significantly increased open space qualities.

## **Role of Inner West Council**

Council has a significant role to play in the future management of Callan Park not only as the statutory consent authority for any development but also as the largest stakeholder in terms of representing the Inner West community who enjoy unrestricted access to Callan Park. Council has previously attempted to assist Government with planning for the park and its future. On 19 July 2011 Leichhardt Council approved the Callan Park Master Plan, the Callan Park Conservation Management Plan and the Callan Park Plan of Management. These plans, developed after 18 months of community consultation and at a cost of \$600K were formally presented to the NSW State Government on 11 November 2011. The Master documents have never been adopted by the NSW Government however they have been utilised to assist Government in the development of the Land Use Structure Plan.

## **Summary**

### **Key Recommendations**

Council welcomes and supports the adoption of a Landscape Structure Plan for Callan Park subject to the outcomes of community consultation and the development of an updated plan, which considers the following changes:

a) As pursuant to the Section 8 of the Callan Park Act, Government moves forward with the development of a Community Consultation and Advisory Committee to support the Greater Sydney Parklands Agency and that this committee include local community representation with defined skill sets in:

- Heritage
- Sport and recreation
- Indigenous representation

- Public Domain and Open Space Planning.
- Health and Community Well Being.
- Local Council representation.

b) Priority works in removing identified intrusive buildings at Callan Point and within the Waterfront Precinct are prioritised.

c) Realignment of the road network within the park is transitionally planned to align with new footpath, lighting and way finding works.

d) The proposed children's play space in the Waterfront precinct is relocated to the former bowling green to support the future adaptive reuse of B509.

e) The Intrusive former swimming pool is not repurposed but removed and the open space qualities of the park enhanced.

f) The additional low significant building removals as outlined in this submission are reviewed and considered.

g) the key ecology principals and recommendations as submitted by Council are considered and embedded in a revised landscape structure plan.