



Meeting summary

Callan Park community trustee board

Meeting 1, 12 May 2025

Monday, 12 May 2025

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Venue: Judith Wright Room, Writing NSW (Garry Owen House), Callan Park 2040

Attendees

CTB members: Keith Irving (Chair), Louisa Larkin, Deborah Lennis, Stephen Conaty, Cr Kerrie Fergusson, Roslyn Burge (online)

GSP staff: Callantha Brigham, Director Strategy, Design and Delivery; David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment and Sustainability; Stephanie Licciardo, Senior Manager Heritage and Culture; Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager

Secretariat: Sophie Drysdale

Apologies: N/A

| Topic | Summary |
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| Welcome and opening Keith Irving, Chair, Callan Park CTB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was opened by the Chair. CTB member Deborah Lennis provided a Welcome of Country. An overview of the previous meeting actions was provided. No declarations of interest were made. |
| Draft GSP Biodiversity Strategy workshop David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment, GSP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP provided an overview of the context for and the process of developing the draft strategy, including the vision, themes, goals and approaches for Callan Park for discussion with the CTB. GSP noted that public exhibition of the draft strategy is planned for mid-2025. The following is a summary of workshop discussion (not a verbatim record). The CTB provided general feedback about the strategy, including the importance of referencing local Aboriginal songlines, travel routes and waterways. CTB queried how areas of mown grasslands with trees might be considered biodiversity. GSP explained there are different types of biodiversity in different typologies throughout the parkland. GSP to ensure clarity within the Strategy on this. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTB was invited to provide feedback on the draft vision, themes, goals, and share what they value most about biodiversity at Callan Park. The following feedback was provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the use of ‘refuge’ in the vision. • Request for Callan Park to be considered as a significant biodiversity refuge, subject to further understanding of what a ‘classification’ of this nature would involve/restricts. • Desire to create a small urban forest within Callan Park to provide a habitat for animals such as possums and owls. • Regarding themes, there were suggestions to change the theme ‘soil and water’ to ‘soil, water and air’, and to change ‘people’ to ‘peoples’. • Include management of feral animals under the ‘protect and conserve’ goal. • Under the ‘restore and expand’ goal, it is important to note that the intention is to maintain the existing tree canopy (in addition to planting mid-storey native species). Additionally, there was a recommendation to develop a program for providing habitat for small birds before removing weeds that are providing their current protection. • Suggestion to include developing a seed stock library in the ‘restore and expand’ goal. • Suggestion to include children’s education programs in the ‘understand and engage’ goal, and to capture the desire to ‘increase fascination and interest’ in nature under this goal. • Suggestion to ‘install a lake’ (potentially using the defunct swimming pool) in the park to attract native creatures and insects. • The funding limitations for implementing the management approaches/actions within the Biodiversity Strategy were acknowledged. • Noted the importance of balancing spending/resources on protecting threatened species and their habitat with other parkland/biodiversity priorities. • Suggestion to engage with Inner West Labour Environment Action Network (LEAN) as a potential provider of quality feedback of the strategy during public consultation. The Parramatta River Catchment Group were also noted as stakeholder. <p>Action: GSP to use feedback provided to update the draft Biodiversity Strategy. Strategy needs to ensure clarity of how less complex biodiversity such as grasslands, sports fields etc is considered.</p> |
| <p>GSP projects, correspondence and DAs update</p> <p>Callantha Brigham, Director Strategy, Design and Delivery, GSP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided an update on projects and approvals, including the draft Plan of Management (PoM), the Access Movement and Parking Strategy (AMPS), Repatriation Ward B (Building 497) refurbishment, the preparation of a draft Foreshore Master Plan, review of the Conservation Management Plan, and the recent Cane Room EOI/RFP. • GSP noted that implementation of the proposed actions within the Companion Animals Management Plan (CAMP) is subject to funding and new water stations are included in asset upgrades. • The CTB provided feedback on the timeframe for AMPS with concerns that the parking and speeding situation in the park is worsening, particularly as the signage regarding infringements is not being adhered to. The parking is also damaging the grass, exacerbated by recent wet weather. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted by some CTB members that it was an oversight service upgrades for the Cane Room were not installed when the amenities were upgraded nearby. • The CTB discussed the GSP's lack of funds to sufficiently upgrade some buildings in Callan Park. There were queries about whether there are heritage grants that could assist with this issue, or whether a community organisation can apply for a grant and get landowner approval. • The CTB agreed that consultation with the CTB about the draft PoM should be prioritised prior to scheduling any additional out-of-session engagements with the CTB on the Foreshore Master Plan or Conservation Management Plan. <p>Action: GSP to provide a response before the next meeting to the query about whether infringements have been charged or if the signs act more as a warning without action.</p> <p>Action: GSP to provide response before the next meeting about whether GSP is discussing the issue of cars monopolising passive recreation spaces with Council and local sporting groups vehicle impacts to recreational spaces.</p> <p>Action: Request for GSP and Council to discuss the potential for additional bins and improved water stations for dogs in the park; and report back to the CTB.</p> <p>Action: GSP to provide information about whether a community organisation can apply for a grant on GSP's behalf.</p> |
| <p>Callan Point update (standing update) Stephanie Licciardo, Senior Manager Heritage and Culture, GSP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP shared information from the previous meeting about Callan Point and how GSP is responding to the CTB's queries and concerns raised. • The CTB noted that the additional on-leash dog sites signs installed in late 2024 are not overtly visible and should be moved to more prominent locations. • Concern was expressed that recent GSP social media posts have been targeted towards dog owners and respecting on-leash areas when the signage isn't currently visible and easy to abide by, and that further efforts are required to communicate other concerns regarding Callan Point, including litter and graffiti. • The CTB suggested GSP work closely with parkland interest groups, including Callan Park Dog Lovers, to ensure alignment of communications and messaging. <p>Action: GSP to review the locations of the recently installed dogs on-leash signs and report back to the CTB.</p> |
| <p>CTB recruitment update Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager, GSP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided an update on the recruitment process and the expected timing for appointment of the new community member. |
| <p>Correspondence and other business / Next steps/meeting, thanks and close Keith Irving, Chair, Callan Park CTB</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTB agreed on Wednesday 11 June 2025 for the PoM workshop. Action: GSP to schedule PoM workshop. • The CTB agreed they are happy with Writing NSW as a venue for meetings. Noting that Meeting 2 should be held in-person to welcome the new community member. Action: GSP to action. • Request to use Microsoft Teams for online meetings. |

