



GREATER  
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## Meeting summary

# Fernhill Estate community trustee board - Meeting 3, 2025

Date: Tuesday, 23 September 2025

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Venue: Quest Penrith Conference Room, 83 Lord Sheffield Circuit, Penrith

### Attendees

**CTB members:** Shari Driver (Chair), Poonam Naik, Robert Bennett, Peter Harvey, Mayor Todd Carney

**GSP staff:** Kerrie Davies, Senior Manager Operations West and Stephanie Licciardo, Senior Manager Heritage and Culture

**Secretariat:** Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager

**Apologies:** Joshua Staines

**Absent:** Nicholas Leech

Topic	Summary
<b>Welcome and opening</b> Shari Driver, Chair, Fernhill Estate CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting was opened by the Chair. An Acknowledgment of Country was given.</li><li>• No conflicts of interest were declared.</li></ul>
<b>Fernhill Estate asset renewals and upcoming works</b> Kerrie Davies, Senior Manager Operations West, GSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GSP provided an update regarding recent asset renewal works and upcoming asset management works. Key works include access trail remediation, Southern Dam spillway design, and horticulture and access improvements.</li><li>• The CTB raised the following comments and questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The access trail is not a registered fire trail but provides essential access and connection to adjacent properties and trails. Can it also be used as a nature walking trail to meet up with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) trails? GSP advised the Fernhill Master Plan identifies the trails as a pedestrian path/nature trail that is shown to meet up with the NPWS trail.</li><li>- Is the intention for the access trail to become a registered fire trail? No.</li></ul></li></ul>



Topic	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What remediation works are proposed for the access trail? Works will include surface maintenance, drainage and clearing vegetation.</li> <li>- Recognised significant improvements being made on site including horticulture.</li> <li>- Erosion issue remediation works at the northern driveway entrance were noted.</li> <li>- What are the remediation plans for the Northern Dam? Dam wall studies have been undertaken, and the dam is monitored and inspected regularly.</li> <li>- Congratulations were noted by the CTB regarding the recently completed roof restoration works to Fernhill House completed with a limited budget.</li> <li>- What fire mitigation / preparation has been undertaken? GSP is taking an estate-wide approach to the update of its bushfire management strategy, that will be guided by the Cumberland Zone Fire Management Plan. Smoke detectors and CCTV were installed at Fernhill House. Asset Protection Zone extended around the boundary and adjoining properties.</li> <li>- The opportunity for cultural burns was noted to address, non-native species. Cultural burns and hazard reduction to be considered. GSP is part of the local bushfire management committee and is aware of the Fire Sticks program.</li> <li>- An update on the stone bridge restoration was requested, noting that it is an extremely rare example of convict technology. The bridge has been temporarily propped up. A full architectural record was undertaken, a monitoring program is in place, engineer investigations have occurred and a long-term solution including hydraulic stabilisation is being explored to inform future funding requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Plan of Management update and scar tree project</b></p> <p>Stephanie Licciardo, Senior Manager Heritage and Culture, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSP provided an overview of the <i>Fernhill Estate Foundation Plan of Management to 2026</i> (PoM). The lack of substantive investment has meant many of the actions are not complete and remain relevant beyond 2026. It is proposed that the current PoM term be extended until 2028, aligning to the seven-year legislative review timeframe.</li> <li>• GSP provided an overview of the scar tree survey being progressively undertaken across the estate. This is a four-year rolling program, with Stage 1 documentation commencing at Mulgoa Road and Littlefields Creek. The potential for new scar trees for educational and learning experiences will be explored with the parks Aboriginal community.</li> <li>• The CTB raised the following comments and queries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leasing potential to generate income was noted.</li> <li>- Noted the PoM had certain priorities based on premise that Mulgoa Road access would be improved.</li> <li>- Concern regarding the current number limit on car movements per hour into the Estate off Mulgoa Road, that even small scale events such as weddings will have more than maximum number of vehicles.</li> <li>- The CTB noted previous requests for prior DA consent as prior recognition regarding site access and possibility of pursuing existing use rights and temporary event provisions. Concern raised that that the default position is that major events can't be held at Fernhill Estate, however two picnic race</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>days with 1,000 people plus other large events has successfully been held on site with individual traffic management plans per event.</p> <p><b>Action: GSP to provide property leasing update to the CTB.</b></p> <p><b>Action: What is the status of improving access from Mulgoa Road?</b></p> <p><b>Action: The CTB requested more information regarding funding for Fernhill Estate from Western Sydney Parklands Trust.</b></p>
<p><b>GSPT Act review</b></p> <p>Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSP provided an overview of the review of the <i>Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022</i> (GSPT Act), led by a Joint Select Committee of the NSW Parliament who have invited feedback on its report and recommendations. The CTB recommendations were briefly discussed.</li> <li>The CTB raised the following comments and queries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding constraints for Fernhill Estate noted.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GSP to re-send a link to the Joint Select Committee's report.</b></p>
<p><b>Correspondence and other business / Next steps, thanks and close</b></p> <p>Shari Driver, Chair, Fernhill Estate CTB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSP invited feedback on the draft 2024 CTB performance report by 19 September. Any late feedback must be provided by 24 September.</li> <li>GSP discussed two options for the combined Meeting 4 with the opportunity for all 5 CTBs to come together for either a) an in-person all day event or b) online meeting followed by in person function. The Aboriginal cultural awareness training session is supported, and the need to include individual context per parkland was encouraged. With Option B, it was suggested that function part occur in the New Year. The CTB noted the lack of benefit for Fernhill Estate CTB. It was also suggested that the professional photos should be taken at each parkland.</li> <li>Other business: A CTB member raised concerns regarding an umbrella fire management plan, noting that expense should not be spared to protect Fernhill Estate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: What additional equipment is in place e.g. roof sprinklers, water pump etc?</b></p>