

Meeting summary

Fernhill Estate community trustee board

Meeting 1, 20 May 2025

Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

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

Attendees

CTB members: Shari Driver (Chair), Poonam Naik, Peter Harvey, Robert Bennett

GSP staff: David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment; Stephanie Licciardo, Senior Manager Heritage and Culture; Christian Eckardt, Manager Education and Community Programs; Kerry Jahangir, Director Finance and Business Services; Lindsay Banffy, Director Community, Engagement and Partnerships; Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager

Secretariat: Sophie Drysdale

Apologies: Mayor Todd Carney and Nicholas Leech

Topic	Summary
Welcome and opening Shari Driver, Chair, Fernhill Estate CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The meeting was opened by the Chair. An Acknowledgment of Country was provided. – No conflicts of interest were declared. • An overview of the previous meeting actions was provided.
Activations and events planning Christian Eckardt, Manager Education and Community Programs, GSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP recapped the CTB feedback provided at the workshop about activations and events held in March 2024. This has informed planning for community programs commencing from to mid-2025. – GSP provided information about the education and community programs, framework for planning programs, program goals and the next steps for events and activations at Fernhill Estate (including guided and self-guided tours, community programs and children's programs). • GSP and the CTB discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – When will the proposed tours, programs and children's programs at Fernhill Estate commence. GSP confirmed that the current tours offering will be expanded to include themes. The CTB requested to be notified as events are held. – Whether the environmental tours can have a focus on bird watching and involve local bird watching groups. GSP confirmed that tours with a focus on bird life are being explored, including with local groups as a potential partner. – How people using the new picnic tables will transport their picnic items to and from the table locations. The CTB suggested GSP invest in beach wagons for the community use, to transport their belongings to and from the picnic tables. – Which service providers GSP is engaging for the activations and events, and whether the CTB can provide recommendations about local providers. GSP confirmed recommendations from the CTB are welcome. – Whether event and activation opportunities are advertised to service providers or if GSP is tendering for providers. GSP confirmed standard procurement processes are followed including inviting providers through request for quotes.

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	Action: GSP to explore beach wagons for the community to use, or allow the public to bring their own, to transport their belongings to and from the picnic tables.
Heritage Conservation Program - Roof restoration work Stephanie Licciardo, Senior Manager Heritage and Culture, GSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided an overview of the roof restoration works currently being undertaken to Fernhill House as part of the heritage conservation program. – GSP offered a site visit for the CTB to view the restoration works. GSP also proposed including a tour of the estate on the same day. Another date is being explored for a public talk to be open to the community. – GSP and the CTB discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GSP noted beneath the slate roof to the north rear wing there is evidence of an earlier timber shingle roof to a smaller building that was later incorporated into the main house. – GSP was asked if they have information about the date of the earlier building. GSP noted that there is little documentation about rural estates, but by looking at the archaeology of the building, they can estimate it is dated pre-1840s. – Whether additional stakeholders from key groups, such as Friends of Fernhill and Mulgoa Valley, can be invited to the site visit/tour. – Appreciate GSP undertaking photographic record during roof works. Suggestion to add/increase images of the roofing works to the website. Action: GSP to confirm availability with CTB members for the site visit / tour and determine if additional stakeholders will be invited.
Draft GSP Biodiversity Strategy David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment and Sustainability, GSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided an overview of the context for and the process of developing the strategy including the vision, themes, goals and approaches for Fernhill Estate for discussion with the CTB. • The CTB provided the following feedback about the draft vision and what they value most about biodiversity at Fernhill Estate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggestion to split the vision into two sentences, e.g. “A parklands estate where wildlife finds safe refuge in thriving ecosystems. A place where the community provides stewardship through appreciation, engagement and enjoyment.” – Fernhill Estate is unique, fragile and historical. – Its value is that it has remained mostly in its natural state. – Aboriginal, colonial and ecological. – The estate has the look and feel of a national park but provides a wider variety of uses than a national park traditionally does. – Fernhill Estate benefits from the wildlife that use the adjacent national park. • The CTB provided the following feedback about the draft themes and management approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggestion for the planned events and activations to be more clearly reflected in the approaches across the three goals. – Request for greater clarity about the how the approaches have been prioritised. – <u>Protect and Conserve</u>: whether the paths to reduce the impact of foot traffic in sensitive bushland are for people attending site visits or conducting studies. GSP confirmed that the paths are used for both purposes, and it is important to make sure the paths are well set and are not eroding to protect the surrounding bushland. – Suggestion for Penrith City Council to support feral animal control, particularly of Indian Myna, by providing traps and establishing a coordinated management program. – <u>Restore and Expand</u>: suggestion to establish a providence seed collection program. – There was also concern about increasing species at Fernhill Estate when Mulgoa Road poses a hazard for wildlife. It was suggested that an approach is

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	<p>included about the management of and advocating for increased connectivity to protect wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reflect the GSP Education Strategy and Volunteer Strategy in the plan. – Suggested stakeholders to inform during the exhibition period include Cumberland Plain Conservation group, Mulgoa Valley Landcare, Biobanking partners and Bird Life Australia. • The CTB also discussed the implementation of the strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The CTB will consider local and other relevant stakeholders and provide details to GSP. There was a suggestion to engage with the local Westfield and the Penrith Panthers to promote the Estate and for potential funding or sponsorship opportunities. – What the role of Penrith City Council will be in implementing the strategy. GSP noted that Council will be a key partner, alongside NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services and the Cumberland Plains Restoration Group. – The Chair noted Penrith City Council's Community Strategic Plan is on public exhibition until 28 May, and advocates for GSP to make an agency submission to Penrith City Council about Fernhill Estate to include the biodiversity challenges and opportunities. – GSP provided an update regarding the Przewalski's horses relocation project.
CTB recruitment update Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager, GSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided an update on the recruitment process and the expected timing for appointment of the First Nations representative.
Correspondence and other business / Next steps, thanks and close Shari Driver, Chair, Fernhill Estate CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTB members present at the meeting agreed to share email addresses with each other. – CTB to confirm preference for in-person or online for Meeting 2. – CTB noted preference for GSP presenters and CTB members to attend meetings in person.