



GREATER  
SYDNEY  
PARKLANDS

## Meeting summary

### Parramatta Park community trustee board

### Meeting 1, 27 May 2025

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Venue: Meeting Room 201, PHIVE Parramatta Square

**CTB members:** Stewart Thompson (Chair), Thelmerie Rudd (online), Cheryl Bates OAM, Cr Dr Diane Colman, Lord Mayor Cr Martin Zaiter

**GSP staff:** Ben Tax, Director Property Services; Kerry Jahangir, Director Finance and Business Services; David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment; Kerrie Davies, Senior Manager Operations West; James White, Senior Manager Property Portfolio Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager

**Secretariat:** Sophie Drysdale

**Apologies:** Mustafa Agha

Topic	Summary
<b>Welcome and opening</b> Stewart Thompson, Chair, Paramatta Park CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting was opened by the Chair. An Acknowledgment of Country was given.</li><li>• New council representatives were welcomed to the board.</li><li>• No conflicts of interest were declared.</li></ul>
<b>Macquarie Street Gatehouse works and future leasing update</b> Ben Tax, Director Property Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GSP provided an update on the planned works for the Macquarie Street Gatehouse and about its future leasing engagement.</li><li>• The CTB raised the following queries and comments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- How much funding was secured. GSP confirmed that \$250,000 was secured for the maintenance works.</li><li>- Whether the Gatehouse will be used as a function venue. GSP is looking for a tenant who can use the space flexibly, noting there are parameters around size and type of events/functions.</li><li>- What the indicative rental income will be. GSP noted rental income will be led by the market.</li><li>- Noted the importance of liaising with the National Trust regarding the works underway and activation at Old Government House.</li></ul></li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whether leases can extend beyond the 10 years maximum identified in the <i>Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001</i>. GSP advised the Act requires leases to up to 10 years, with limited exceptions. GSP is required to undertake a competitive market process.</li> <li>- Recommendation to have an open day for prospective tenderers.</li> <li>- Where will the lease be advertised. GSP confirmed it will be on GSP channels and relevant real estate websites.</li> <li>- Whether GSP can ask real estate agents to send out EOIs. GSP confirmed they will liaise with real estate agents, but that GSP will facilitate the procurement process in accordance with NSW Government requirements.</li> <li>- Noted that due to the venue's small size and use of the outside space being reliant on the weather, consideration should be given to providing an indoor and outdoor offering with weather protection at a future time when further funding is available.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Asset renewal projects</b></p> <p>Kerrie Davies, Senior Manager Operations West, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSP provided an overview and information about the asset renewal funding process for Parramatta Park.</li> <li>• GSP provided an update of the asset renewal works currently being undertaken this financial year at Parramatta Park.</li> <li>• GSP asked CTB members to consider how they can advocate for future funding through their community and stakeholder groups.</li> <li>• The CTB raised the following questions and comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question about why Parramatta Park isn't receiving more funding. GSP will provide further information about the GSP structure and funding model at the upcoming induction session.</li> <li>- Requested a copy of the 2025/26 capital works budget.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GSP to provide new CTB members with further information about the GSP structure and funding model.</b></p> <p><b>Action: GSP to provide information on the 25/26 capital works budget.</b></p>
<p><b>Draft GSP Biodiversity Strategy</b></p> <p>David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSP provided an overview of the context for and the process of developing the strategy, including the vision, themes, goals and approaches for Parramatta Park for discussion with the CTB.</li> <li>• The CTB provided the following feedback about the draft vision and what they value most about biodiversity at Parramatta Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use Dharug language (dual naming) when naming plants, animals etc.</li> <li>- Consider the medicinal uses of plants.</li> <li>- Caring for Country includes sky country, water and country/land (on the surface and under the surface).</li> <li>- Suggestion to consider the Parramatta River as a whole. GSP acknowledged the different land ownership along the river.</li> <li>- Parramatta Park offers a variety of spaces.</li> <li>- Education from pre-school to university.</li> <li>- Will the plan be funded? A CTB member recommended return on investment (ROI) analysis be conducted and estimate costings included for each approach. GSP noted that the proposed approaches have been prioritised in terms of available funding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CTB provided the following feedback on the draft management approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggestion to target some of the approaches to parts of the park to be more achievable with available funding. Identify whether each approach is ongoing/funded or new/unfunded.</li> <li>- Has the flying fox colony increased in size due to habitat loss elsewhere. GSP noted that the abundant food sources in city areas are reducing, resulting in the colonies becoming more stationary and they have less space to move from place to place.</li> <li>- Suggestion for targets, budget required and delivery timing metrics to be included against the approaches to be able to measure success.</li> <li>- Whether there is safety issues associated with any of the approaches. GSP confirmed that any approaches with potential safety issues for staff, contractors and/or park visitors will be carefully managed.</li> <li>- Request for further detail about the approaches and explanation of the supporting/operational plans inter-related to this strategy.</li> <li>- <u>Protect and conserve</u>: change 'undertake' to 'continue' for the second approach.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>CTB recruitment update,</b> Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSP provided an update on the recruitment process and the expected timing for appointment of the new community members.</li> <li>• A CTB member asked whether there is a specific Parramatta Park representative on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust (GSPT) Board, noting that representation is important.</li> <li>• A CTB member asked whether the induction will only be for new members. GSP confirmed all CTB members will be invited to join the online session, and that the session will be recorded.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GSP to provide information on the GSPT Board.</b></p>
<p><b>Correspondence and other business / Next steps, thanks and close</b> Stewart Thompson, Chair, Paramatta Park CTB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTB members present at the meeting agreed to share email addresses with each other.</li> <li>• A CTB member identified an historic boundary stone located in Parramatta Park. GSP will share the information with GSPs Heritage and Culture Team.</li> <li>• A CTB member requested a future agenda item on the Mays Hill Precinct (previously used as a golf course).</li> <li>• The Chair thanked CTB members and closed the meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GSP to share information about the historic boundary stone with GSPs Heritage and Culture Team.</b></p>