



Meeting summary

Fernhill Estate community trustee board Meeting 1, 2026

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Venue: Hybrid – Quest Penrith and MS Teams

Attendees

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

GSP staff: Joshua French, Chief Executive; David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment & Sustainability; and Christian Eckardt, Manager Education & Community Programs

Secretariat: Jenny Gleeson, A/Senior Manager Community Engagement

Apologies: Mayor Todd Carney (Observer: Carli Ryan)

Absent: Nicholas Leech

Topic	Summary
<p>Welcome and opening Shari Driver, Chair, Fernhill Estate CTB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was opened by the Chair. An Acknowledgment of Country was given. No conflicts of interest were declared.
<p>Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022 review update Joshua French, Chief Executive, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP provided an overview of the review of the <i>Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022</i> (GSPT Act), undertaken by the Joint Select Committee (JSC) of the NSW Parliament in 2024/25. The draft Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Amendment (Review) Bill 2026 addressing recommendations in the JSC's report was tabled in parliament on 11 February 2026. The Bill is expected to be debated in Parliament in the coming months and remains subject to change. CTB members will be kept informed as progress continues. CTB member comments and queries regarding the draft Bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where will the off-park business hubs/supplementary land be located? Government owned industrial lands that is surplus to government needs, brought into the GSP estate for leasing/incoming generating purposes. Will the off-park land be already developed or require development? They will likely require development. How much of Western Sydney Parklands (WSP) is allocated to on-park business hubs? Under the Plan of Management (PoM) 2% is allocated to business hubs at WSP. Will GSP look to generate revenue from Fernhill Estate where possible? Yes. Revenue and activation? GSP subsidises the cost of programs at Fernhill Estate to deliver education and community programs. GSP will continue to explore partnership opportunities for small scale events and programs at the Estate. Facilitating increased access to Fernhill Estate for First Nations people is a priority. GSP will prepare a First Nations Strategy for Fernhill Estate in the future.

Topic	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTB member comments and queries regarding other matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can Fernhill Estate hold major events as was done in the past? Yes, this is permitted under the PoM, subject to traffic and site management requirements. GSP hasn't received any major event proposals in recent years. - What consideration has been given to the new airport and connections with Fernhill Estate? GSP is exploring opportunities linked to the PoM. • On behalf of the GSPT Board, GSP expressed appreciation for the advice and feedback provided by CTBs, noting that this input is carefully considered by the GSPT Board at each meeting.
<p>Biobanking David Kirkland, Senior Manager Environment & Sustainability, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided an overview of biobanking at Fernhill Estate. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements create legal conservation covenant that requires the landowner to implement a management plan to improve biodiversity. • CTB member comments and queries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is Fernhill Estate lacking in its commitment to meeting biobanking agreements? Noted revenue from the current agreements, established prior to GSP managing the Estate provides less than the actual management costs. GSP allocates additional funds to supplement income from biobank agreements to continue to improve the sites. - Noted unlikely to generate new credits at Fernhill Estate as significant portions are already under agreements. - Noted site decisions must balance biobanking conservation protection and public access and use. PoM outlines land use requirements. - What are the opportunities to improve or add value at Fernhill Estate? Limited uses apply to land set aside for conservation. - Will need to vary current agreement to work in the new access off Mulgoa Road and allow tracks and trails to increase public access. - How much Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) is under biobanking at Fernhill Estate and how much is outside of it? 85% is under biodiversity stewardship agreement, plus some under the equestrian lease. - Noted importance of habitat at Fernhill Estate for the Regional Honeyeater. - Concern regarding loss of native grasses. Suggestion to add a shrub layer near the equestrian lease and or improve native grasses within the lease. - Who will inform the species selection for the new 30ha plus biobanking site at WSP? WSP is mostly CPW so the site will be CPW. - Noted cultural burning to commence in Winter 2026 in WSP.
<p>Community programs update Christian Eckardt, Manager Education & Community Programs, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP provided a recap of recent education and community programs at Fernhill Estate as part of the progressive opening of the Estate to the public. GSP are exploring options for ongoing bird watching tours. Stargazing event planned for Winter 2026. GSP explained how programs and events are promoted. • CTB member comments and queries regarding promotion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CTB appreciates the site activations. The opening up of Fernhill Estate is a key part of Penrith City Council's advocacy strategy. - Appreciate the program offering provides for all ages; how do people with less mobility access the programs and main house? GSP tailors the small group programs and arranges access assistance where required. Assistance can also be arranged by contacting GSP prior to visiting. - Does GSP work closely with Penrith City Council to promote the programs? Yes. Council actively promotes Fernhill Estate events via its channels. - It was suggested that GSP could consider introducing a sub-brand identity for Fernhill Estate to differentiate it from other parks within the GSP estate.



Topic	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestion to promote community programs and events at Fernhill Estate not just via the what's on section of GSP's website i.e. also under the visit section. - Noted opportunity to expand eNewsletter subscribers and social media followers. Suggestion regarding promotion of value proposition also noted. <p>Action: The CTB request opportunity to discuss marketing and promotion with GSP and learn about its advocacy strategy.</p> <p>Action: GSP to redistribute the Communications and Marketing presentation slides from Meeting 2, 2025, including content pillars to CTB members.</p>
<p>Temporary signage refresh Jenny Gleeson, A/Senior Manager Community Engagement, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP outlined the temporary signage replacement, integrating GSP branding. Installation is anticipated for June 2026. Further updated intended for Meeting 2, 2026. • CTB member comments and queries regarding marketing and promotion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggest the new signage includes QR codes taking visitors to GSP's website or providing interpretive information e.g. flora and fauna or historical sketches. - Suggestion to collect oral histories about Fernhill Estate. First Nations stories as well as colonial history e.g. connection with Combewood House. <p>Action: GSP to provide information regarding dual naming.</p>
<p>CTB Improvement Plan Jenny Gleeson, A/Senior Manager Community Engagement, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTB Improvement Plan was first prepared in 2024, collating the opportunities for improvement and CTB member feedback identified through the annual performance reports. The plan was updated in 2025 to include the CTB related recommendations from the GSPT Act review. The actions within the plan are being progressively implemented. • CTB members can provide further feedback into the plan. The draft 2025 performance report/annual self-assessment findings will be presented at the next meeting.
<p>Correspondence and other business / Next steps, thanks and close Shari Driver, Chair, Fernhill Estate CTB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting 2 is scheduled for 9 June 2026; venue to be confirmed. • CTB gave in-principle support for out-of-session meetings and workshops as needed. • JS advised that First Nations CTB representatives will receive a presentation on GSP First Nations projects and initiatives soon and will report back to the CTB. <p>Action: CTB requests timings regarding upcoming strategy development that the CTB can be involved in.</p>

