



FRIENDS OF FERNHILL AND MULGOA VALLEY INC. (FFMV)



<https://www.ffmv.org.au>

Our goals are to “safeguard Fernhill Estate and ensure protection, through legislation, of the Mulgoa Valley as an area of outstanding cultural and natural significance to NSW”.

Recommendations to strengthen the abilities and powers of the community trustee boards

In response to Mr Greenwich’s request that community groups appearing before the Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust provide recommendations to strengthen the community trustee boards, FFMV provides the following comments and suggestions.

The GSPT Act states:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Division 2 COMMUNITY TRUSTEE BOARDS

38 Membership

(4) In recommending persons for appointment as members of a community trustee board, the Trust— a) must be satisfied—

(i) the person has sound knowledge of the relevant parkland including the activities carried out in the parkland,

Information supplied to FFMV suggests that most Fernhill CTB members had not visited Fernhill prior to their appointment and have little knowledge of Fernhill’s heritage and biodiversity. Such knowledge is important as Fernhill Estate is state heritage listed (house and colonial landscape) and its vegetation is covered to a large extent by biobanking agreements.

(ii) the person is able to communicate effectively with local residents, local community groups and other persons who use the relevant parkland,

- There is no contact number or e-mail given by GSP, by which a community member can contact the CTB

- There should be a communication framework provided to CTB members on ways to inform the public of issues, developments, events etc at their local Greater Sydney Parkland
- Agenda for CTB meetings must be set in prior consultation with CTB members to enable the members to canvass issues from their community
- There must be representatives with biodiversity and heritage conservation credentials on CTBs (this is particularly important for Fernhill and Western Sydney Parklands)
- Brief summaries of CTB meetings are provided of topics, but not of the discussion which took place or what was determined
- Surely GSP activities warrant CTB meetings more frequently than 3-4 times per year?
- CTB meetings should be open to observation by the general public
- Recruitment for CTBs should be more widely publicised
- A CTB member must be permitted to share information eg reports tabled at their meetings, with the general public and particularly with community groups such as FFMV

Thanking you for your consideration of these issues.

Submitted on behalf of Friends of Fernhill and Mulgoa Valley Inc. by

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Secretary

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