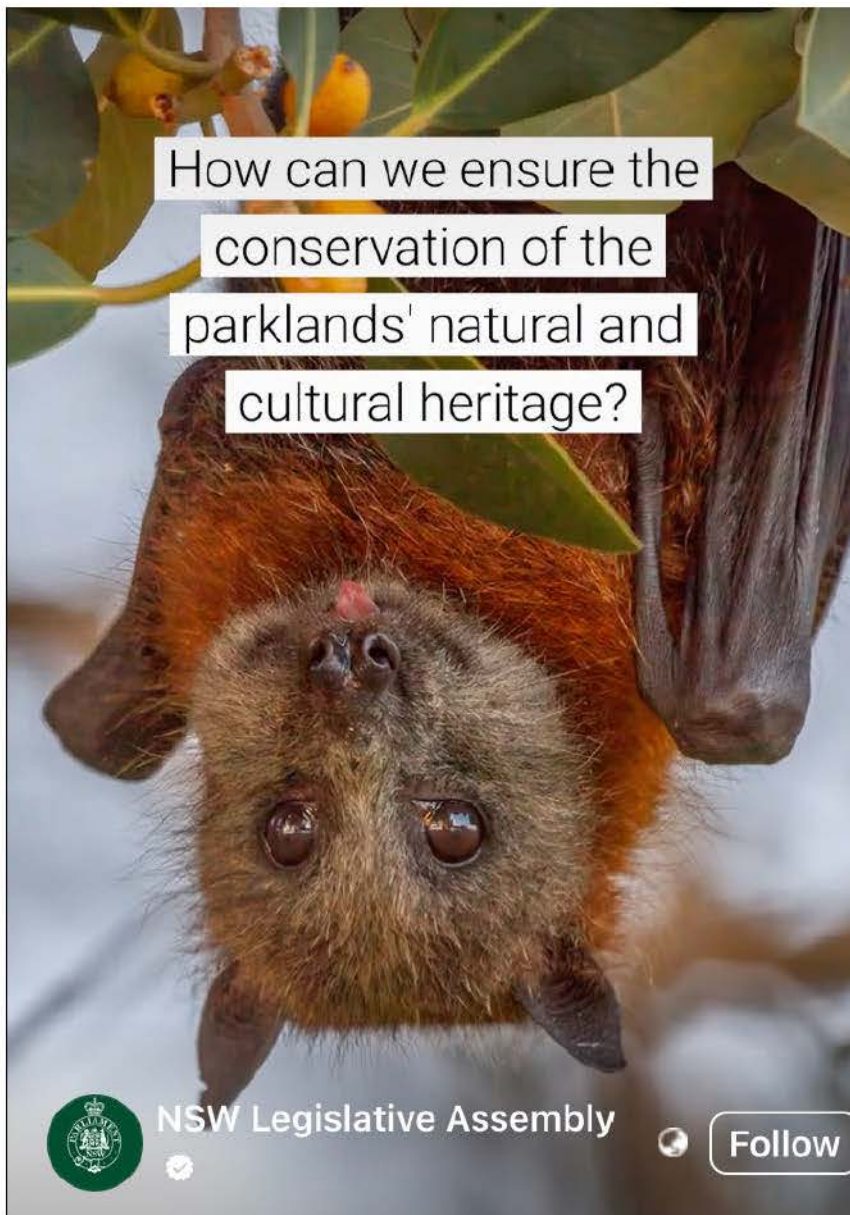


**Submission  
No 5**

## **REVIEW OF THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST ACT 2022**

**Name:** Ms Lynda Newnam

**Date Received:** 14 January 2025



Thank you for establishing this review and for accepting public submissions.

My submission is a plea for more emphasis on the 'voiceless', the non-human species who use the parklands. The animals that live in or pass through Sydney Parklands are often refugees from other places in the Sydney Basin where their original habitat has been destroyed or where other uses have forced them to disperse.

I have provided 3 recommendations as a summary at the conclusion of discussion.

### **LEGISLATION**

The Objects of the 2022 Act (see Appendix A) use terms: 'ecologically sustainable', 'conservation' (of natural heritage), 'connectivity of green corridors'.



**(a) ecologically sustainable parklands for the public,**

**(c) to ensure the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage values of the parklands estate and the protection of the environment within the parklands estate,**

**(d) connectivity of green corridors**

There is nothing about 'havens', safety for wildlife, the caring and stewardship role. Nor is there anything in the Vision, the document which is on the Trust's website.

There is supposedly a collaborative approach. However, does that extend to coordinated care of wildlife. Does National Parks AND WILDLIFE, for example, actually care for/about animals that range between 'their' reserves and Parklands. If they do, then where is the evidence. Ditto for Crown Lands.

*As well as the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Greater Sydney Parklands, key agencies to be involved in collaboration to realise the vision include local councils, **National Parks and Wildlife**, Heritage NSW, Placemaking NSW Advisory Committee, Sydney Water, Water NSW, Property NSW and **Crown Lands**, Transport for NSW, Infrastructure NSW, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Office of Sport, **Environmental Protection Authority**, Western Parkland City Authority and the Greater Sydney Commission. Page 30 of the 50 year Vision <https://www.greatersydneyarklands.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-01/50-year-vision-greater-sydney-open-space-and-parklands.pdf>*

There is no expert on the Trust whose expertise is in ecology. The Board comprises Mr Rose, Ms Kirk-Lennox, Ms Salvatori, Ms Veale, Ms Toohill, Mr French. Human interests are well represented but not non-human species. Some might claim they care but there is no evidence it would be from a priority non-human perspective. Could the Committee recommend the appointment of a scientist to the Board, someone like Professor Kingsford or Professor Keith from the UNSW Centre for Ecosystem Science. The Centre was one of only two scientific institutions that made a submission to the 2022 Henry Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act. My recommendation is not for specific people but for someone with a track record and 'passion' for the task. I imagine that anyone willing to serve in this capacity would need to be assured of organisational support and the value that such participation would bring to conservation and urban wildlife protection.

The tone of a visionary caring culture starts at the top. Then it requires resourcing and recognition. Sydney Parklands need to be recognised as Nature Havens and managed appropriately. The loss of biodiversity throughout Sydney is alarming. It's not appropriate to couple 'natural and cultural heritage' as done in the Act. It diminishes the former. Natural



Heritage needs to be elevated. Even taking a purely human-centred perspective, we can survive without the trappings of ‘cultural heritage’ but we cannot survive without ‘natural heritage’.

### **SYDNEY PARKLANDS MANAGED AS NATURE HAVENS – EXAMPLES OF ‘CHALLENGES’**

I quote Dr Ken Henry<sup>ii</sup>, in an article in the Sydney Morning Herald, 21/12/24, on the challenges of conservation for volunteers in the sector. He was speaking on this occasion on the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, however, the same could be said around NSW and across Sydney.

*Dr Ken Henry is the chairman of Wildlife Recovery Australia, the parent organisation of Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. He said a combination of no government funding, donor fatigue, and an uncertain economic climate – as well as chronic veterinary sector shortages – had created an untenable situation for the organisation. “The relentless demand for wildlife care has forced us to reduce our opening hours to protect the mental and physical health of our veterinary staff and volunteers,” he said. “It’s a hell of a burden the state places upon the veterinary profession. There’s no other profession, none at all, that the state treats in this way.”* <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/this-tiny-sugar-glider-needs-help-but-carers-are-stretched-to-breaking-point-20241218-p5kz7d.html>

I am a member of a Facebook group for bird observations in Sydney’s East. There are regular posts of birds in Centennial Park (CP) and regular surveys undertaken and observations recorded by volunteers. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, a member posted a photograph of an Australian Darter with a beak constriction. The member phoned the CP ranger number as per the CP website. He was told to ring WIRES, i.e. move the ‘problem’ to volunteers. There is nothing unusual about this. When it comes to Government agencies people at the coalface who are poorly resourced/not incentivised/not supported will fob off wildlife issues to volunteer organisations. It is unlikely the ‘fob-off’, ‘cost-shifting’ etc. is recorded. In this case I contacted the facebook member and asked if I could use his photograph and write to the Executive Director of Greater Sydney Parklands, which I did on the 21<sup>st</sup> December – see Appendix B. In that email I outlined the problem and suggested, apart from doing the job as advertised, that the Parklands should maintain records.

I note the 2023-24 Annual Report

<https://www.greatersydneyarklands.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-12/centennial-parklands-annual-report-2023-2024.pdf> There is diversity reporting but nothing on non-human species, survey data, rehabilitation data etc. The Chair’s forward doesn’t emphasize the critical importance for wildlife and this is an example, as I have noted before, of organisational culture and a ‘tone’ which is focussed on humans. Before any committee members suggest ‘that we have National Parks (Nature Reserves/Regional Parks)’ I am not



suggesting that GSP/CP don't continue to be many things to many people – sporting, events etc. rather I am suggesting they can do better at doing and measuring their 'caring' and 'conservation' not only within the parks but also in collaboration with the other landholders who say they are conservationists, 'ecologically sustainable', and all the rest. And they can do a better job of bringing the public along.

## Chair's foreword

Over the last year the public conversation in Sydney has been focused on some of the challenges of a growing city. Issues such as housing supply, the cost of living and community wellbeing have been at the forefront and remind us of the importance of accessible, attractive and sustainable public spaces.

Greater Sydney Parklands has continued to be a vocal advocate for parklands across our city. We have worked closely with the NSW Government and local councils to enhance the understanding of parks and other public spaces as essential and valuable social infrastructure – places that people love and where communities come together.

We're continuing to attract growing numbers, proving the importance of the parklands to the community. Centennial Parklands is Australia's largest community sports precinct, with higher utilisation than ever before and 2.8 million hours booked across 120 playing facilities.

Our community trustee boards met quarterly throughout the financial year, providing valuable advice and a direct link between our work and community need. I would like to thank all members for volunteering their time and sharing their personal knowledge and understanding of our parks.

We've also been in touch with a wide range of community stakeholders at Callan Park, through both the commencement of work on developing a plan of management and the continued restoration of Waterfront Green.

I want to finish by thanking my fellow board members for their excellent advice and guidance over the past 12 months. I also want to thank Chief Executive, Joshua French, and the Greater Sydney Parklands team for their dedication to the parklands estate.

According to the Annual Report in 2021-22 there were 97 staff. In 2023-24 that number had increased to 122, no doubt to keep pace with the growth in population and human demands. Could the committee consider advocacy on behalf of the animals and recommend that a proportion of current and projected go to resourcing, recognition, recording and reporting of work done in meeting the needs of non-human species. It might be that a rehabilitation holding areas are required as well as basic wildlife care training of rangers (similar to requirements for Safety/First Aid training). The protocol might be to do basic triage, recording, and then either release or hand over for intensive rehabilitation to another organisation. From a staff development perspective it might have benefits, also, as fobbing off the public and not having the time and expertise to deal directly with injured wildlife is unlikely to be rewarding.





Last week, the 8<sup>th</sup> January, this photo of 2 juvenile Australian Darters caught in fishing line at Willow Pond was published in the bird group

There are two points to make here: firstly, the need for education through signage/static interpretation as well as the website/social media/workshops and secondly, the importance of the ‘collaboration’ referred to in the 50 year vision eg. where are Darters

located around Sydney, how much of their habitat has been destroyed and is being encroached upon along with other waterbirds/shorebirds. There are a number of agency landholders who could contribute.

My recent engagement with CP is not the first time I have written about wildlife and compliance, and also human safety. In August 2018 I wrote and got nowhere- Appendix C.

Last week the Daily Telegraph published an article that appeared to be supporting an increase in events and event numbers at Centennial Park<sup>iii</sup>.

***NIMBY neighbours thwart plan to lift major event cap at Centennial Park, citing noise concerns, impact on grass. 7<sup>th</sup> January David Barwell***

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-sydney/nimby-neighbours-thwart-plan-to-lift-major-event-cap-at-centennial-park-citing-noise-concerns-impact-on-grass/news-story/291849e871301066a100b6679cd0858e>



**Plan to lift Sydney concert cap in tatters after NIMBY ‘noise’, ‘grass’ battle**

It characterises naysayers as NIMBYs: “A major plan to increase the cap on big events at Centennial Park has been thwarted after backlash from NIMBY neighbours, who feared hordes of festivalgoers would trample the grass and leave locals unable to sleep”.

and includes supportive<sup>iv</sup> comments from CP’s Minister, Planning Minister Paul Scully. *Paul Scully said the NSW Government is committed to bringing “vibrancy back to the NSW economy and community around the clock.....We want NSW to offer a choice of destinations for visitors, locals and workers alike,” he said.*

No mention is made of the potential impact on the wildlife, on CP as a ‘natural haven’. I have copied the comments made on this piece in Appendix E. The majority were not

concerned with CP as a 'haven'. There's a lot of work to be done so the rhetoric matches reality and goes beyond to best practice.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. the appointment of an ecology expert to the Board whose sole focus is on the non-human inhabitants of Sydney Parklands.
2. the development and implementation of a plan which focusses on the support of wildlife and includes measures such as reporting numbers, rescue and rehabilitation activities (see discussion above), and research and other data as required in the Annual Reports.
3. put Wildlife Welfare as a standing agenda item for Board Meetings<sup>v</sup> and establish a Committee of the Board that reports quarterly on Wildlife/Green Corridor/Protection/Welfare collaboration with Government Agencies such as NPWS, LLS, EPA, Environment, Crown Lands, Water NSW, Fisheries, Transport, Sydney Water, Local Councils, and NGOs.



## APPENDIX A: Objects of Act:

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-2022-009>

### 3. Objects

The objects of this Act are as follows—

- (a) to maintain and improve the parklands estate across Greater Sydney and ensure the parklands estate is effectively managed and operated to deliver world-class and **ecologically sustainable parklands for the public**,
- (b) to enable the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust to facilitate a connection to Country for First Nations peoples that—
  - (i) recognises and conserves First Nations peoples’ cultural heritage and values through the use of the parklands estate, and
  - (ii) establishes long-term and mutually beneficial partnerships that give effect to the ongoing relationships of First Nations peoples with Country,
- (c) to **ensure the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage values of the parklands estate and the protection of the environment within the parklands estate**,
- (d) to advocate for a long-term vision to achieve the outcome of quality parklands across Greater Sydney, particularly **connectivity of green corridors** and public access to open space,
- (e) to encourage the use and enjoyment of the parklands estate by the community by promoting and increasing the recreational, historical, scientific, educational, cultural and environmental values of lands within the parklands estate,
- (f) to ensure the parklands estate may be used by the community in a way that is adaptive and recognises and responds to the diverse needs of the community,
- (g) to provide increased opportunity for community engagement to shape regionally significant parklands in response to diverse community needs.



**APPENDIX B: Correspondence to Executive Director Greater Sydney Parklands DECEMBER 2024**

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 21 Dec 2024 at 2:59 PM +1100

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** CP Responsibilities for native animals

To Mr Joshua French, Executive Director Greater Sydney Parklands

Dear Mr French,

I write regarding the management of native animals at Centennial Parklands (CP).

I note the following information on selected website pages:

VISIT CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS WILDLIFE

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/visit/environment/animals>

BIRDS

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/visit/environment/birds>

PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE BY KEEPING THEM WILD

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/stories/2023/mother-day>

HELPING INJURED WILDLIFE AT CENTENNIAL PARK

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about-us/planning/environmental-management/helping-injured-wildlife-at-centennial-parklands>



I have copied, below, the text of 'Helping Injured Wildlife', where visitors are directed to report sightings of injured wildlife to CP rangers.

I am a member of a Facebook group where members post photographs of birds in Sydney East. On Friday morning a member posted a photograph of this darter with the comment "Our darter friend here has something stuck around its beak... seen today in Centennial Park down at Randwick Pond near where the martins nest in the tunnel. Wonder if we can get it some assistance?"

I pasted the following in a reply:

"If you come across an injured animal in Centennial Parklands, the first thing you should do is contact a Parklands Ranger. You can reach them

at 0412 718 611 or by visiting the Parklands Office."

The member had already phoned and was told "ring WIRES". This response raised concerns:



Firstly, WIRES is a volunteer organisation. Depending on capacity and capability at the time, responses to the caller may range from a request to 'capture' the animal and take it to a local vet to contacting the landholder. There may be occasions when there is someone available immediately, but it is unpredictable. I would suggest that visitors who have made the effort to report should not be sent on a merry goose chase. The initial report should be sufficient for CP staff to handle going forward, with observations confirmed, recorded and actioned. CP staff may elect to contact WIRES but that would be part of a triage system.

Secondly, CP is a wildlife haven, sanctuary etc. and is advertised as such. Visitors are directed to report sightings and I think it is poor optics not to align statements with action. It is arguably CP's responsibility as an environmental landholder to attend to wildlife in distress and also keep data for wildlife protection planning coordinated not only by CP but also by other agencies which have legislative responsibilities.

Thirdly, it would be useful for signage in CP to address this by stating that injured wildlife should be reported to rangers on 0412718611 (as per webpage).

Please contact me on [REDACTED] to discuss further.

with regards, Lynda Newnam

*Centennial Parklands is not only a beautiful recreational space for visitors, but also a sanctuary and breeding area for a wide variety of wildlife and knowing how to help injured animals can make all the difference in preserving and protecting the park's delicate ecosystem.*

*Centennial Parklands is a beautiful, natural oasis that attracts over 10 million visitors every year. This urban sanctuary is home to a diverse range of wildlife, and visitors can expect to see a variety of animals depending on the time of day and season. However, it's important to remember that these animals are wild and should be respected and observed from a safe distance.*

***In this article, we'll cover some essential information on how to handle injured animals in Centennial Parklands and provide some helpful do's and don'ts for visitors.***

#### ***To touch or not to touch?***

*If you come across an injured animal in Centennial Parklands, the first thing you should do is contact a Parklands Ranger. You can reach them at 0412 718 611 or by visiting the Parklands Office.*

*It's important to note that not all injured animals should be approached by humans, and visitors should not attempt to handle or touch the animal if possible. By contacting a*



*Parklands Ranger, you can ensure that the animal receives the appropriate care and treatment.*

*When reporting an injured animal to a Parklands Ranger, it's essential to provide specific details:*

- **Location** - *In many cases, injured animals are young and still reside in a nest with their mother. By providing the ranger with the exact location of the injured animal, they can ensure that the infant is returned to the nest once it has healed.*
- **Extenuating circumstances** - *Visitors should also report any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the injury, such as rubbish, dogs, foxes, or cars. If possible, visitors should avoid removing obstacles from animals, as this can sometimes make the injury worse. Instead, leave it to the experts if it doesn't seem life-threatening.*

#### ***If you do need to handle an injured animal***

*If you do need to handle an injured animal, it's essential to take some precautions to ensure that your intervention is a help and not a hindrance to the animal's health. By wrapping the whole animal in soft material and placing it in a carton or container, any damaged limbs are immobilized, and the animal is protected from further injury.*

- *Towels are the most appropriate material, but any soft cloth will do.*
- *Remember to cover the head as well, as this will often calm and relax the animal.*
- *Finally, make sure the carton or container is soft and won't damage the animal, and be careful not to bump the box when transporting the 'patient' to the rangers or local WIRES branch.*

#### ***Helpful do's and don'ts***

*In addition to providing helpful tips on how to handle injured animals, there are some essential do's and don'ts that visitors to Centennial Parklands should be aware of.*

##### ***Don't:***

- ***Don't feed animals bread.*** *While visitors may enjoy feeding bread to the ducks and other wildlife, they may not realise that they are actually causing harm. White bread has limited nutrients, and birds and other animals will continue to feast on this easy meal, ignoring their natural food sources and causing an imbalance in the ecological food chain. The bread can also contribute to water pollution, endangering the rich, native aquatic life of the many ponds in the Parklands.*
- ***Don't feed the pigeons.*** *Pigeon populations, particularly near Duck Pond, are on the rise and are a very real pest. They can spread diseases among humans and animals and cause chemical deterioration to the Parklands buildings and infrastructure with their droppings.*

##### ***Do:***

- *Visitors can help protect the wildlife and environment of Centennial Parklands by cleaning up any rubbish they see, particularly plastic products. Every plastic bag is capable of killing a whole range of native wildlife, and its removal will certainly reduce injury to animals.*
- *Visitors should also note the exact details of the location of any injured animals, right down to the specific tree or scrub. Remember to leave your name and phone number with the rangers in case any further information is required.*



## APPENDIX C Correspondence with CENTENNIAL PARK August 2018

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 29 Aug 2018 at 10:10 AM +1000  
**To:** xxxxxxx@cp.nsw.gov.au <xxxxxxx@cp.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Dogs not under control

Hello xxxx, you have not addressed the questions I raised concerning communication, zoning and compliance. I took time to read through the information provided by the Trust on its website and I added photographs to illustrate the problems encountered. Would you like to consider this again. Regards, Lynda Newnam

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**From:** CPMPT VEB Centennial Parklands Mailbox <info@cp.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 9:43 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dogs not under control

Hi Lynda

Thank you for your email, I appreciate you taking the time to bring this matter to my attention.

As you would know, Centennial Parklands is one of the busiest and most diverse public parklands in New South Wales with a variety of different user groups, and there is an expectation for park users to be respectful and observe the rules and regulations.

The safety and enjoyment of all visitors is a priority for Parklands management, and while dogs are welcome in our off leash areas there is an expectation for all pet owners to have their pet under effective control. When there is a clear breach of the Companion Animals Act penalties are imposed, set out by State legislation *Companion Animals Act 1998 (section 13) Responsibilities while dog in public place*. As you are aware, details about on-leash and dog free areas are on our website.

Anyone that encounters dangerous or anti-social behaviour should contact Ranger Services immediately on 0412 718 611. Our rangers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Centennial Parklands is committed to protecting, conserving and enhancing our environment. We have developed a Conservation Management Plan that provides for the development of management plans for flora and fauna and the strengthening of planning controls to ensure the protection of the Parklands environment.



We appreciate your level of interest and care for the Parklands.

XXXXXXXXXX

**Site Manager, Ranger Services**

**Centennial Parklands**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 August 2018 3:27 PM  
**To:** CPMPT VEB Centennial Parklands Mailbox <[info@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@cp.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Dogs not under control

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to report incidences with dogs off-leash which I experienced this morning.

I was in the Kensington Ponds section of the Parklands from around 10am to 11.35am.

I observed dogs running through recently established riparian vegetation with some of the dogs entering the water near swans and other waterfowls. There was a sign stating that this was a Volunteer project in progress and to keep dogs away until it was established (see attached).

At around 11.12 am I was walking around the Martin Road end of Kensington Ponds and encountered 8 medium to large dogs with two women, one carrying a small child. The majority of the dogs were off-leash and I was apprehensive. However, the dogs were kept under control and did not run at me.

About a minute later I encountered another group of about 8 dogs off-leash with about 8 adults. Two of the dogs ran at me quickly and jumped up on me. I saw other dogs running towards me. Adults called out but I was jumped at a second time and I cowed, frightened of being mauled/pushed over/clothes damaged. When it was clear that the dogs were at last responding to their caretakers I walked away quickly, turned briefly and took a photograph which I attach here.

Shortly afterwards I came across a Centennial Parklands employee who was sympathetic. It gave me a chance to recover in safety before I continued to my car parked near the coffee shop.

I don't often visit but this morning was walking around Kensington Ponds to observe wildlife, particularly birds, and to relax before a meeting elsewhere. The experience was threatening not relaxing and I cancelled my meeting as a consequence.

The brochure that is provided by Centennial Parklands on dogs states that they must be on a leash if within 10 metres of ponds and waterways <https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/getmedia/fb45dba3-fa12-43e4-b3e1-23167117a306/Centennial-Park-Dog-Friendly-Areas-LR.pdf.aspx> , yet the majority of dogs I encountered on my walk around Kensington Ponds this morning were off-leash. The sign about the Volunteer Project implies that they are allowed to be off-leash other than during the rehabilitation period. The map does not include the children's playground exclusion zone in this section of the Parklands and although the zone around the ponds is coded it probably needs to be reinforced elsewhere. I would also suggest looking at the whole precinct as dogs off leash beside a major cycling route (on the Light Rail side of the ponds) has potential for conflict. I have included the sections referred to below.

The brochure on dogs also states that 43% (158 hectares) is designated off-leash. I would like to know how much is dedicated to visitors for walking in peace and safety without fear of being set upon by packs of dogs. How much is conserved for wildlife. How much consideration is given to providing consistent messages about where dogs are allowed unleashed, explaining why it is important to preserve riparian zones undisturbed and even why it is important, regardless of the impact on wildlife, for responsible pet owners not to allow their animals in ponds because of algae blooms.

I would also like to know more about your compliance regime. In reporting this I couldn't find a dedicated email address or phone number for compliance issues.

**I recognise that Centennial Parklands must cater for and address a range of visitor expectations, however, Centennial Park is one of the few remaining wildlife havens in the Eastern Suburbs. As the remaining large and medium backyards decrease in number it becomes even more important as does the Park for visitors seeking natural experiences.**

Regards, Lynda Newnam



### Dogs must be on leash in these areas (see map):

- within 10 metres of ponds and waterways
- on all roads and shared paths, including footpaths and cycle lanes
- in the front lawn of the Superintendents Residence
- within 10 metres of horse access corridor near Robertson Rd Gates

### Dogs are prohibited in these areas (see map):

- within 10 metres of all children's playgrounds
- within 10 metres of the Learners Cycleway
- within 10 metres of Centennial Parklands Childcare Centre
- horse areas including the horse track
- wildlife protection areas including ponds, waterways, the Bird Sanctuary and York Road Bushland
- on playing fields when they are in use
- within 10 metres of Federation Pavilion, as bounded by the stone circle in the lawn (to protect its heritage significance)
- within 10 metres of food preparation and consumption areas at Centennial Parklands Dining, Queens Park Shed, the Ponds Kiosk and BBQ areas. Tethered dogs must be supervised and remain the responsibility of their owner/carer



## **APPENDIX D: Terms of Reference and Committee Composition**

### **VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Wednesday 14 August 2024**

#### **8 JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST**

Mr Ron Hoenig moved, pursuant to notice, That this House

(1) In accordance with section 60 of the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022, a joint select committee, to be known as the Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust, be established.

(2) The Joint Select Committee is to review the Act to determine whether—

(a) the policy objectives of the Act remain valid, and

(b) the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.

(3) The review is to be undertaken as soon as practicable after the period of 2 years from the commencement of this Act.

(4) A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the period of 2 years.

(5) The Committee is to consist of eight members, as follows:

(a) five Legislative Assembly members, and

(b) three Legislative Council members.

(6) That the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee be elected at the first meeting.

(7) Mr Alex Greenwich, Dr David Saliba, Mrs Sally Quinnell, Ms Donna Davis and Mr Mark Hodges be appointed to serve on such Committee as members of the Legislative Assembly.

(8) The Committee have leave to make visits of inspection within the State of New South Wales, and other States and Territories of Australia.

(9) The Committee will have leave to sit during the sitting or any adjournment of the House.

(10) That at any meeting of the Committee four members shall constitute a quorum, but the Committee must meet as a joint committee at all times.

(11) A message be sent acquainting the Legislative Council of the resolution and requesting that it appoint three of its Members to serve on the Committee.

Question put and passed

#### **Legislative Council Minutes No. 70—Thursday 19 September 2024**

#### **16 JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST— MEMBERSHIP**

On the order of the day being read for consideration of the Legislative Assembly's message of Wednesday 14 August 2024 relating to the Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust—

Ms Sharpe moved, without notice:



(1) That this House agrees to the resolution in the Legislative Assembly's message of Wednesday 14 August 2024 relating to the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust, with the following amendment, in which the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly is requested:

In paragraph (5)(b) omit "three Legislative Council members" and insert instead "five Legislative Council members".

(2) That the representatives of the Legislative Council on the Joint Select Committee on the Greater

Sydney Parklands Trust be Mr Borsak, Ms Faehrmann, Ms Munro, Mr Murphy and Mr Primrose.

(3) That this House requests that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly set the time and place of the first meeting.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Ms Sharpe then moved, according to standing order: That a message be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly conveying the terms of the resolution agreed to by the House.

Question put and passed.

## **VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Thursday 26 September 2024**

### 20 JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST— CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MESSAGE

The order of the day was read.

Mr Ron Hoenig moved, That:

(1) This House agrees with the Legislative Council's amendment to the resolution appointing a Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust.

(2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council of this resolution.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

### **Legislative Council Minutes No. 73—Thursday 26 September 2024**

#### 31 MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST

The President reported receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:

MR PRESIDENT

The Legislative Assembly informs the Legislative Council that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

- (1) This House agrees with the Legislative Council's amendment to the resolution appointing a Joint Select Committee on the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust.
- (2) That a message be sent informing the Legislative Council of this resolution.

Legislative Assembly GREG PIPER 26 September 2024 Speaker

#### **APPENDIX E – COMMENTS IN DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE 7/1/2025**

##### **Eric**

Seriously - over 2,500 special events are held in Central Park NYC each with over 42 Million visitors annually. The park is everybody's and should be used for the enjoyment of everyone not just the locals. I don't get to tell people to leave the beach that I live on and it has more than 12 major events a year! Come on - live and let live people. Enough of the entitled Karen's.

##### **Pedro the elder**

Simple answer is to bulldoze most of the park and build multi-story social housing and leave just enough park for green space. Much better use of the land than open space for the privileged few who see the whole park area as their private backyard.

##### **John**

NIMBYS, really ??? Over to you Chris ..... let's now see what you're made of, or are you all words like your Federal counterparts ????

##### **Kevin**

This is public parkland it's not owned by these Snobs ,increase these events after all isn't it there for all to enjoy, Oh except the Whinging Snobbies.

##### **glamourpuss123**

There are no large, low cost to hire, open spaces left in inner Sydney to stage major music or arts events for extended periods. The Entertainment Quarter at Moore Park is booked solid and theatre producers, music festivals and other entertainment organisations have nowhere to stage their events except in parks out West (where audiences are sparse and won't pay the prices needed to cover costs and that are away from the tourism hubs). Jobs in the industry in NSW are being lost, hotels, bars and restaurants suffer and public servants and politicians ignore the problem. Sydney used to be a thriving major events city for 20 years post Olympics but stimulating the economy is clearly not a priority for those with regular StateGovt pay cheques.

##### **Maxwell**

These festivals are a nightmare. Put them on at Homebush where there are minimal residents, public transport connections, adequate indoor and outdoor venues, easier to police, designed around large crowds. Centennial Park is not a concert venue. Its a park.



It has inadequate public transport due to its location. It's surrounded by residential areas. Why should the residents have to put up with large crowds of festival goers with all the associated challenges of crowd control, noise, rubbish, drug testing, policing etc.

**Brad (the quiet Australian)**

There's probably more people living at Olympic Park than Centennial Park now. Most of Centennial Park comprises row housing and freestanding dwellings, yet Olympic Park has tall blocks of flats, aside from the townhouses that formed the athletes village during the 200 Games. There are also several hotels in the precinct.

What there is a shortage of at Olympic Park (and this was addressed by the previous government) is public transport. A metro train line is under construction and a light rail line is also under construction, so public transport options will more than double once the new trains and trams start rolling, but this is a few years away yet.

The world's longest trams already service Moore Park and Centennial Park.

**Anthony**

How about an elevated stage for every NIMBY complaint. Free concerts

**Paul**

Go and move to the country but that's noisy too, cows and chickens and pigs and ducks and stuff like that. Don't forget the hard working farmers they'll complain about them too. Better still just leave them where they are with their dull boring lives

**Justmyopinion**

Not the grass

**Jim**

Centennial Park is a park not a concert arena. What happened to Sydney Entertainment Centre?

**Edna, our dog.**

They knocked it down years ago and sold the land to developers to put high rise flats up

**William**

No mention in this article about the impact on wildlife.

**Edna, our dog.**

6 days ago

Especially the NIMBYS cats that play allnight with that wildlife.

Just hilarious

**I**

If they don't like move, also stop using funds for there parks and hippy things and bring funding out west. Also bring events out west stop putting money in their pockets

**david**

I think most people miss the main issue Centennial Park is a Park not a concert or sporting venue. Most locals are very supportive of Allianz/SCG etc all increasing concerts etc. The park is not designed with these huge attendance in mind on a regular basis. The Domain is however and it is underutilised. It is well served by metro etc

**Viv**

The city has moved out West since. Move the noisy events out there. We suffer enough noise and traffic in the overcrowded Eastern suburbs

**Kmac**

Hmm, start having concerts around Homebush and Parramatta... That idea may catch on...

**Vince**



Good decision.

**Gary...Pending...Rejected**

So .... The SCG was officially opened in 1886 with activity at the site dating back to 1811. I'm guessing that none of the current inhabitants of the precinct are 214 years old.

Therefore, I conclude, that complaining about the use of the location of the beating heart of the city's sporting history is something to be ignored.

I hear Mosman is nice.

**Wayne**

Sydney is becoming the sewer of NSW. Who's to blame??? NIMBY'S. which once was a vibrant City now has become a place where the minority overrule the MAJORITY. Who's to blame!???? CHRIS MINNS. He's at top of the tree. So why doesn't he over ride this decision.

**Stuart**

@Wayne mate, how is it s sewer. Plenty around when I go to the city.

**Clair**

They want the city life but the Camden lifestyle. Can't have it both ways

**Philip**

*Planning and Public Spaces Minister Paul Scully has been contacted for comment.*

And to ask him if he even knows where Centennial Park is.

**peterd**

Would anyone expect anything different from inner city folk? If the venue was there before the resident moved in, those complaints should be ignored. If remaining complainants is less than 5% of the number of attendees, complaint should be dismissed.

**Glenn**

The attraction of cities in Europe is that people actually enjoy themselves. Here in Sydney, which we want to called a world class city, so many hurdles put up to appease a few entitled locals who think they are the gate keepers. Who cares if a few bits of grass get trampled? If you want to live near the city you shouldn't have the ability to put the handbrake on people, especially young ones enjoying themselves. There should be 30 events every year. PS I am old but these NIMBYS are bloody annoying.

**Kmac**

You *chose* to live next to a public place. The public place does not belong to you.

**Robin**

Bring back lockdowns! The grass was never trampled and all anti-social behaviour went on behind closed doors. NIMBYs have never been happier

**Marie**

We live next to Accor Stadium, Qudos and the Showground and have none of these problems. We live in a major city, if you want peace and quiet, move to regional Australia.

**Ron**

Pandering to a vocal minority who never use the park anyway. Typical liebor/greens/teal decision.

**Daniel**

Labor and Greens, no. 100% teals though, for sure.

**Jamo Man**



The greens, the fun police, woke and greens win again. Enough of the minority dictating to the majority of Australians

**Daniel**

In what universe is banning festivals "woke"? You can't just say it for everything you don't like. Anyway, betting the NIMBYs were 90% Liberal and Teal voters.

**Elizabeth**

If you don't want to deal with the fall out don't live near a venue. The venues have to be somewhere. Feel free to move.

**King Matt**

Well we did see the mess on the beach on Xmas day that this lot left. It's a genuine concern.

**Kmac**

These concerts and what not have organisers who are responsible for clean ups after. Not a comparable example.

I do agree though, people should clean up after themselves and it is a disgrace when they don't.

**Glenn**

@King Matt yeah thousands of people enjoying themselves, it's called fun. Then it was cleaned up!

**P**

Bring on the election .

**Shaun**

When the hell can someone stand up to these people and just say sorry you brought here, this city is going ahead if you like it or not.

**On HOLD**

Governments pandering to the minority yet again.

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<sup>i</sup> Screenshot from Parliament Video. Grey Headed Flying Fox (GHFF) Camp at CP increased in numbers with the relocation of GHFF from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

<sup>ii</sup> Dr Henry chaired the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 Review <https://www2.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/overview-of-biodiversity-reform/statutory-review-of-the-biodiversity-conservation-act-2016>

<sup>iii</sup> It could have come directly from Ministers' staff as the message and approach is so obvious and the NIMBY characterisation is being used elsewhere in Planning to dismiss environmental and even fire risk concerns.

<sup>iv</sup> It can be interpreted as neutral but in the context would probably be read by the majority as supportive, i.e. the preferred reading. Notwithstanding there is plausible deniability.

<sup>v</sup> I did a quick scan of notes of minutes on website and didn't see wildlife highlighted.



11 February 2025

Ms Lynda Newnam

Email: [REDACTED]

Ref: SF25/9955

Dear Ms Newnam,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 December 2024 regarding the management of native wildlife in Centennial Park.

Our rangers are not permitted to handle injured wildlife, and we rely on rescue volunteer groups including WIRES, Sydney Wildlife Rescue and Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue, who have the skills and experience to provide aid to injured wildlife.

If a visitor to the park finds injured wildlife, they are encouraged to contact WIRES or Sydney Wildlife Rescue and report the matter. If a visitor is unable to contact one of the rescue volunteer groups, they can contact a ranger who will then report the matter. If one of our rangers find injured wildlife within our parks, they will also report it to one of the wildlife rescue organisations.

All relevant pages on the Centennial Parklands website (see below), have been updated with the correct information which now asks visitors to report any injured wildlife to Sydney Wildlife Rescue or WIRES.

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about-us/planning/environmental-management/helping-injured-wildlife-at-centennial-parklands>

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/visit/environment/animals>

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**Joshua French**  
Chief Executive  
Greater Sydney Parklands