



events in Centennial Parklands

fact sheet

Centennial Parklands is a vibrant regional parklands that exists for the use and enjoyment of the whole community. Every year, the Parklands host over 100 small to large scale community and cultural events.

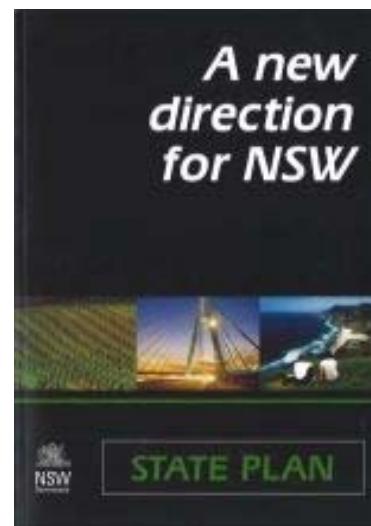
The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Trust) receives numerous enquiries about events from the community, and - on occasion - the media will approach the Trust to make enquiries or promote events that are held. Feedback ranges from complimentary, to concerns about why events are held and their impacts on the community and environment.

The following are some of the more frequently asked questions we receive to assist in gaining a better and more accurate understanding of the role and nature of events in Centennial Parklands.

Why are events held in the Parklands?

The NSW Government, through the NSW State Plan, is committed to Centennial Parklands being a place of diverse leisure, arts, sporting, entertainment and educational experiences for the community. In providing this public asset, the Trust works hard to deliver high quality facilities and amenities, and preserve the beauty of the parklands environment.

The Mission of the Trust is to manage Centennial Parklands as a place of national significance for the enjoyment, social connection and wellbeing of the community.



As a regional parklands, Centennial Parklands has a wide catchment area within Sydney and beyond, and aims to provide diverse activities, events and experiences for people. This is consistent with the aims of the Trust, as outlined in the *Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983*, and the *Centennial Parklands Plan of Management 2006-2016*.

This Act and Plan requires the Trust to balance the many competing needs of the community regarding recreation, leisure, arts, entertainment and educational experiences, stewardship of the environmental values of the Parklands and a strong economic platform. This includes the Parklands hosting community and cultural events each year, including V Festival, Moonlight Cinema, Circus Oz, Ride for Life, Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes and the Sydney Marathon.

On a financial side, Centennial Parklands is widely regarded as invaluable public green space, however there is a high cost of maintaining these lands to the standard expected by the community.

Events, while only a minor part of the Trust's annual revenue (around seven per cent), are an important part of the revenue mix.



Where does revenue from events go?

The Trust is not unlike many other State Government agencies in the park management, arts, cultural and recreation sector that have not been fully funded by government for many years.

In maintaining this State asset for the people of New South Wales, the Trust raises 90 per cent of its operating budget through its diverse assets, with the remaining 10 per cent supplemented from recurrent government funding.

The Trust's main revenue sources are licences and leases relating to the Moore Park Entertainment Precinct, and its businesses (eg Moore Park Golf, Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre).

On a practical level, revenue raised from events, along with supplementary funding from the NSW Government, assists the Trust to:

- Address the day-to-day management needs of the Parklands;
- Care for the landscapes, including planting new trees; and
- Maintain and improve amenities and infrastructure.

What types of events are held in the Parklands?

The majority of events are – and continue to be – charitable/fundraising events. The Trust does not foresee any significant changes to the mix and number of events, including music, into the future.

Of the over 100 events held annually, these vary in character and purpose, including:

- charitable fundraisers (eg Ride for Life, Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes)
- sporting and fitness challenges (eg Sydney Marathon, JP Morgan Corporate Challenge)
- artistic and cultural experiences (eg Moonlight Cinema, Circus Oz, Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras)
- musical and festival (eg Good Vibrations Festival, Parklife, Jack Johnson)

What about impacts on the local community?

The Trust is obliged to work in partnership with key stakeholders in its management of the Parklands, including the local community.

To this end, the Trust consults widely during the development of its planning documents and corporate priorities. Examples of documents that have undergone extensive consultation in the past few years include:

- Plan of Management 2006-2016
- Corporate Plan 2007-2010
- Transport, Access and Parking Plan
- Park Improvement Plan 2003-2010

In developing these planning framework documents, the Trust takes very seriously the feedback and submissions of local residents and frequent visitors to the Parklands.



Of all the events held in the Parklands that are, generally, considered to have the most impact upon local residents and frequent park visitors, are the music festivals. The Trust has, through regulation and self-regulation placed a cap on these events.

What community consultation has taken place?

The Trust is mindful of the concerns of the local community regarding the impact of sound from events. Sound from the Parklands is regulated by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) - incorporating the former Environment Protection Authority.

Under legislation, the Trust is permitted to host up to eight 'Category 3' events per year, which are amplified music events with audiences exceeding 5,000 people. These are all one-day events and - in the last year - the Trust has held only four such events.

By self-imposing a cap on these events, the Trust is balancing the need of the Parklands with the needs of the local community. In fact, the number of large music events across the Parklands has more or less remained similar over recent years.

In planning for events, the Trust undertakes risk assessments of impacts on Centennial Parklands including environmental, traffic, waste, security and visitor considerations.

Event Planning and operations are undertaken in close liaison with NSW Police, Roads and Traffic Authority, State Transit Authority and local councils, to name a few.

All larger-scale events in the Parklands cease operation at 10.00 pm on event day, in the interests of minimising late night impacts on the neighbours.

The Trust is currently developing a Noise Management Plan (NMP) in consultation with its regulator – DECC – and the community. Detailed information about the draft NMP including noise monitoring procedures, enforcement of noise levels, event sound reports and the community consultation process undertaken during the development of the draft Plan can be found on the Trust's website at www.centennialparklands.com.au.

How are sound levels monitored?

Sound limits are set by the regulator, DECC. During an event, db(A) and db(C) sound levels are measured which cover both environmental and reverberating sound.

Sound engineers monitor sound levels during the event - inside the event site, in the surrounding streets and, when requested, at residents' houses. This information is contained in the residents letter which is sent out prior to an event.

To maximise adherence to sound levels, a sound bond is required to be paid by event organisers. If an exceedence is registered, the event organiser must respond immediately by lowering the sound or lose part or all of their sound bond.

Are residents notified?

Letters to residents advising of an event are generally distributed over several days, two weeks prior to an event. However in some instances these letters may be delayed to ensure the inclusion of all essential information which may affect local residents and assist them in planning their arrangements on event day.



In addition, two dedicated hotlines are set up for any larger-scale event. These hotlines are operational during rehearsals, sound checks, and on the event day from 12.00 pm to 12.00 am.

What about impacts on the parklands?

Centennial Parklands provides more than a role of green space for people. It is also home to a wider range of plants, trees, fish, birds and animals.

The Trust is committed to complying with all legislation regarding the protection of the environment. Prior to any event within the Parklands, the Trust undertakes an impact assessment which considers reasonable impacts on the Parklands and its flora and fauna, as well as visitor access and amenity.

The larger-scale festival-style events average around 10 hectares of space – within the 360 hectares of Parklands. This equates to less than three per cent of the total area of the Parklands.

Event organisers work closely with the Trust to minimise excessive wear and tear or damage on the Parklands and the event agreements require associated costs to repair/rectify affected areas to be covered by the organiser.

The Trust, however, is aware that there are divergent views in the community about the use of public space for events and works with its event organisers to minimise the time and space requirement of each event. A number of practical measures taken to achieve this have included:

- Minimising festival-style events to be only one day in duration;
- Erect temporary fencing during bump-in and bump-out periods however leaving the fencelines open where practical to still allow public access; and
- Restrict the hours of operation for event organisers to erect and remove infrastructure.

Further information

If you have any further questions on the role of events in the Parklands, please contact the Trust:

- by phone: (02) 9339 6699
- by email: info@centennialparklands.com.au
- by [online feedback form](#)