



GREATER
SYDNEY
PARKLANDS

2022-23

Year in review

Acknowledgement of Country

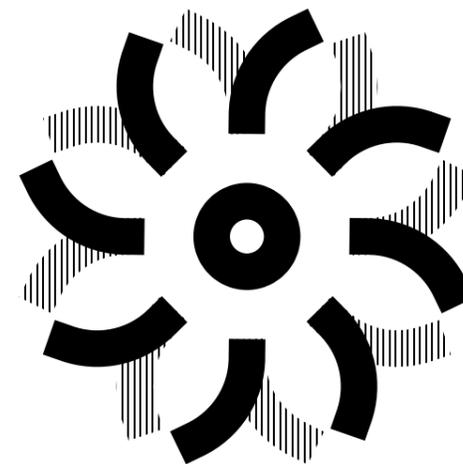
Greater Sydney Parklands acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters and sky upon which the parklands are located and pays respect to the Elders of these lands – past, present and emerging.

We recognise First Nations peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society. We acknowledge the rights and interests of First Nations peoples to be involved in the ongoing management of these traditional lands.

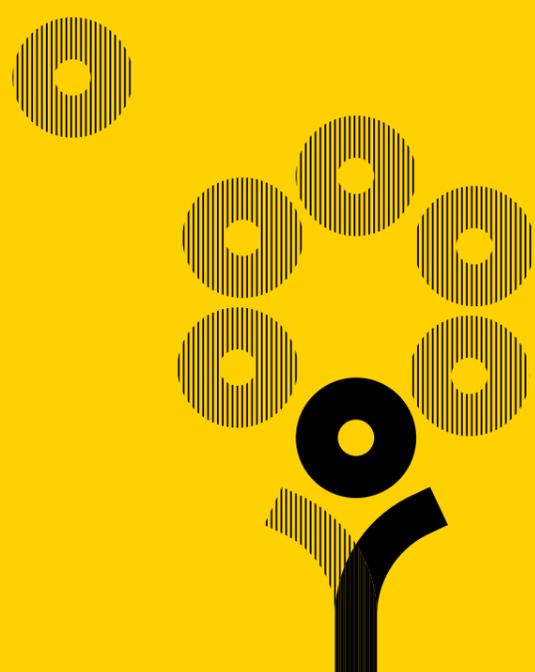
We work in a respectful manner with Traditional Custodians, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and the First Nations communities of Greater Sydney. We support their custodianship of the natural and cultural heritage of parklands so that these are places where First Nations peoples feel socially, culturally and economically included.

Contents

Achievements at a glance	10
About Greater Sydney Parklands	12
Highlight events 2022–23	14
2022–23 in numbers	16
The parklands estate	20
Working with the community	28
Key achievements	32
Looking ahead	42



A city of connected parklands



A city of connected parklands

Our vision is for Greater Sydney to be a city of connected parklands. Our purpose is caring for parklands and connecting communities.

Greater Sydney Parklands is about making a great city even greater. We take a city-wide perspective, based on local knowledge, to care for and nurture Greater Sydney's iconic urban parks.

TO DO THIS, WE FOCUS ON:



ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible, enjoyable, inclusive and engaging places



PARTNERSHIPS

Private and public partnerships



ADVOCACY

Advocating for a connected network of parks and waterways



SUSTAINABILITY

Social, economic and environmental sustainability



GROWTH

Growing the parklands estate

Chair's message

The work of Greater Sydney Parklands is shaped by the four strategic priorities of the NSW Government's *50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney's Open Space and Parklands*, as well as the *Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022*.

These priorities set a clear ambition for Greater Sydney. We want to help realise that ambition by making our parks accessible, connected, protected and cared for.

We work hard to achieve this goal and to welcome the millions of visitors who come to enjoy the extraordinary parklands of Greater Sydney.

Managing and caring for our parks requires a close working relationship between our Greater Sydney Parklands team and our many partners in the community, local government and the NSW Government.

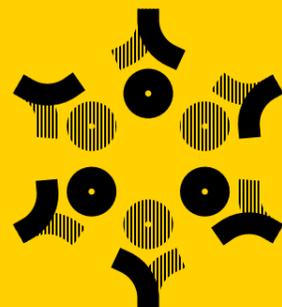
On behalf of the board, I want to acknowledge the enthusiasm with which these partners have been engaging with us.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their contribution to the work of Greater Sydney Parklands. Thanks also to our Chief Executive, Joshua French and to the dedicated team that conserves, enhances and manages our parks, for the benefit of all who love them and use them.



Michael Rose AM

Chair
Greater Sydney Parklands Trust



GUIDED BUSH TUCKER TOUR, CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS



Chief Executive's message

We released our first Reconciliation Action Plan – an important step as we journey toward a sustainable parklands estate where Country is at the heart of our actions.

We also released our Consultation and Engagement Framework. Shaped by community, it is a transparent way for us to show how we will engage with park users, visitors, the wider community and our stakeholders.

Our events and education programs are growing. We are creating new and improved park facilities, and we are leaders in operational excellence in park management.

Over the year, we measured more than 38 million visits across the parklands estate. We increased the number of events, expanded our education programs to new sites, and held open days welcoming the community at Wistaria Gardens and Fernhill Estate.

As a government agency, we now have a stronger corporate planning framework that will directly benefit communities and the natural and cultural environment.

Our commitment to contemporary, sustainable improvements ranges from the award-winning Wylde Mountain Bike (MTB) and BMX facility at Western Sydney Parklands, to the first stages of construction underway to deliver a revitalised waterfront at Callan Park.

I would like to thank my colleagues at Greater Sydney Parklands – a team of passionate and experienced parks professionals – for their dedication and hard work over the last year.



Joshua French

Chief Executive
Greater Sydney Parklands



AUSTRALIA DAY 2023, PARRAMATTA PARK



Achievements at a glance

As we reflect on the year, Greater Sydney Parklands proudly presents a snapshot of our achievements, highlighting a year of remarkable accomplishments driven by our staff and the community to enhance the parklands' beauty, accessibility and community impact.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE



Expanded our First Nations Connections to Country program to foster and build relationships with First Nations communities



Launched our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan at Bungarabee Park in Western Sydney Parklands in June 2023 to coincide with National Reconciliation Week



Undertook restoration works to Callan Park heritage assets including completion of remediation work to the original sandstone entry gates, the adjacent gatehouse at Balmain Road, and Bonnyview (Gardener's Cottage)

COMMUNITY, PROGRAMS, SPORT AND RECREATION



Established five community trustee boards, one for each of our parks



Supported the return of events, education and community programs with more than 260,000 people of all ages enjoying unique outdoor experiences



Celebrated our Science Week project team, which won the Community Champion of the Year award at the inaugural Cities and Active Transport Awards



Saw continued growth in community sport with more than 900,000 registered participants in Centennial Parklands alone



Welcomed more than 550 visitors who registered for Sunday self-guided walking tours at Fernhill Estate

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Completed our Net Zero plans to meet the NSW Government's action on climate change and goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050



Commenced work on our Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan to help manage the risk of climate change to the parklands estate



Planted more than 8,000 trees, shrubs and grasses in Western Sydney Parklands

PARTNERSHIPS



Supported the City of Parramatta in the delivery of the Parramatta Aquatic Centre, which opened in September 2023



Supported various partners who collectively raised \$2.2 million at charity events held across our beautiful parklands



Celebrated the opening of Misc. – the new food and beverage offering for Parramatta Park where visitors can dine in the café and restaurant or host an event on the riverfront



Continued working with our valued parklands partners, including the NSW Office of Sport, Australian Racing Drivers Club, Eastern Creek Speedway, Sydney Zoo and Raging Waters Sydney to expand and enhance our offerings



I sometimes forget that I am actually at work when working at Greater Sydney Parklands. I am fortunate enough to work both in the office and outside, on some really interesting and engaging projects with passionate and considerate individuals from across the agency. It really makes getting up in the morning for work a breeze. I am coming up to one year at Greater Sydney Parklands and hope to stay around for the foreseeable future.

Zach Muldoon
Assistant Project Officer



"I feel incredibly lucky to be able to work in an agency that focuses on providing exceptional open spaces for the community to enjoy. I value the opportunity and experience of managing such a diverse portfolio of parklands.

Kerrie Davies
Senior Manager Operations

About Greater Sydney Parklands

Greater Sydney Parklands is a NSW Government agency dedicated to managing some of Greater Sydney's most iconic urban parklands. We work on behalf of the NSW Government to provide safe, accessible and inclusive parklands for the people of Greater Sydney including residents and visitors.

We are governed by the *Greater Sydney Parklands Act 2022*.

We are led by an independent board and use a combined administration model to care for Greater Sydney's parklands estate, maintain park infrastructure and employ park staff.

The iconic parks that form the parklands estate are:

Centennial Parklands

(Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks)

Callan Park

Parramatta Park

(including Wistaria Gardens)

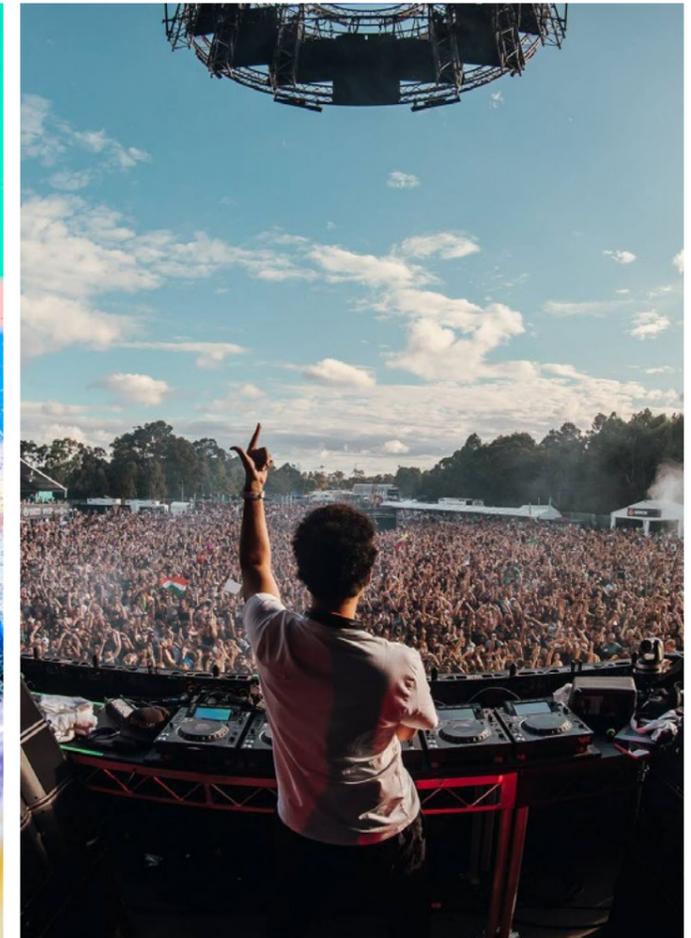
Western Sydney Parklands

Fernhill Estate

As a city-wide parks agency, we advocate for the NSW Government's *50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney's Open Space and Parklands*. Our vision is to create 'a city of connected parklands' by taking a metropolitan planning view while embracing a local perspective.

We partner with local communities and councils to understand and protect the natural and cultural heritage that makes each park unique, while meeting the needs of our diverse and growing park communities as we work to improve the city's green space and parklands.

We have a seat at the table when major decisions are made to shape how Greater Sydney grows and changes, acknowledging the importance of connected parklands to a global city. Our advocacy across government means that open space and parklands can be considered just as important to Greater Sydney as transport, utilities, and housing which are critical to making Sydney a great place to live, work and visit.



Highlight events 2022

Highlight events 2023

July

August

September

October

January

February

March



Tuff Nutterz
Centennial Park
4,800 attendees

Science in the Scrub
Western Sydney Parklands
8,000 attendees

September in Wistaria
Parramatta Park
4,500 attendees

Listen Out
Centennial Park
21,248 attendees

Tuff Nutterz
Western Sydney Parklands
1,488 attendees

Rainbow of Light
Parramatta Park
100 attendees



Burrumatta NAIDOC
Parramatta Park
500 attendees

Wylde Opening
Western Sydney Parklands
1,300 attendees

Sydney Running Festival
Centennial Park
3,567 attendees

Long Walk Home
Parramatta Park
2,750 attendees

Sydney Symphony Under the Stars
Parramatta Park
11,000 attendees

Australia Day
Parramatta Park
10,000 attendees

Mardi Gras Parade
Moore Park
27,600 attendees

Knotfest
Centennial Park
28,625 attendees

November

December

April

May



Sleep Out
Centennial Park
100 attendees

Walk 4 Brain Cancer
Centennial Park
660 attendees

Moonlight Cinema
Centennial Park
37,354 attendees

Good Things Festival
Centennial Park
24,791 attendees

Anzac Day Dawn Service
Moore Park
400 attendees

WAGEC Walk
Centennial Park
600 attendees

Wings for Life
Centennial Park
1,200 attendees

Mother's Day Classic
Parramatta Park
1,600 attendees



JP Morgan Corporate Challenge
Centennial Park
4,700 attendees

Polo in the City
Centennial Park
1,542 attendees

2022–23 in numbers

Visitation

38m+ visitors across the parklands estate

Education and community programs

62,000 participants in education and community programs

17,000 people attended Science Week events in Centennial Park and Western Sydney Parklands

Community engagement

2,780 submissions received on a range of projects

8,000 returned surveys

112 visitors provided feedback on Wistaria Gardens and surrounds via 656 interactive conversations

Environment

8,000 trees, shrubs and grasses planted in Western Sydney Parklands

163 hollows created in trees at Fernhill Estate

10 beehives installed across our parklands

Sport and recreation

90,000 hours use of fields, wickets, tracks and courts in Centennial Parklands

60,000 visitors to Wylde MTB and BMX – a doubling of previous visitation

91,000 rounds of golf at Moore Park Golf

5 new cricket wickets installed and renewed basketball courts in Parramatta Park

Events and venue bookings

206,000 people attended major events, including 86,000 to music festivals in Centennial Park and Parramatta Park

2,400 people booked shelters, BBQs and lawns for picnics, weddings and other gatherings

\$2.2m raised at charity events held at our parklands

Heritage and culture

We continue to conduct work on the heritage gatehouses in Parramatta Park.

4 adapted for reuse and leasing opportunities **2** already housing local businesses

1,600 visitors to the Discover Fernhill Estate community event in April 2023, which included workshops and tours celebrating First Nations culture and highlighting historical and environmental features

\$600k spent on restoration works to Callan Park heritage assets, including remediation work to the original sandstone entry gates, the adjacent gatehouse at Balmain Road, and Bonnyview Cottage

Satisfaction rates

We continue to improve on our already very high customer satisfaction results.

86% Centennial Parklands

86% Western Sydney Parklands

84% Parramatta Park

**Data for Callan Park and Fernhill Estate not available*

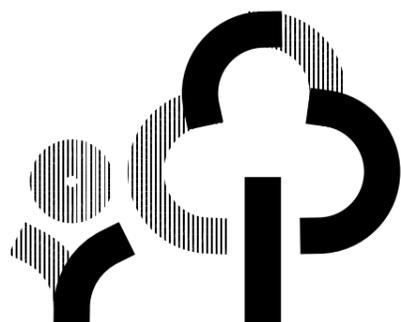
Financials

\$99.92m total generated across all parks and revenue streams

\$11.25m completed investment into the E.S Marks Athletics Field, Queens Park cycleway and Hordern Pavilion at Centennial Parklands

\$2.6m of capital investment to significant infrastructure renewal works at Plough and Harrow, Bungarabee Park, Lizard Log and The Dairy in Western Sydney Parklands

\$2.5m invested into Stage 1 of the People's Loop at Parramatta park



Our board

Our board brings together a group of experts across public policy, business and parklands management.

Each member has the knowledge and skills to advocate to communities and government for the parklands estate. Their expertise guides our work to improve how we plan for, manage and enhance Greater Sydney's open space and parklands.



Michael Rose AM
Chair



Dr. Robert Lang



Ceinwen Kirk-Lennox



Julie Bindon



Kaylie Salvatori



Sharon Veale



Siobhan Toohill



Joshua French
Chief Executive

Our staff

Our people come from a range of backgrounds and form a professional group of individuals dedicated to parks and open spaces.

Our core team of staff – plus our partners and contractors – includes people working in visitor services, events, education, sport and recreation, heritage protection, planning and design, media and

communications, marketing, assets and property, park rangers, horticulturalists and environmental officers.

Together, we're drawing from a diverse skillset that will help achieve the strategic directions of the 50-Year Vision.



“

I have been fortunate enough to have been working for Greater Sydney Parklands for just over a year. I feel incredibly lucky to be part of the Property Services team and contributing to the vision of Greater Sydney Parklands.

My time here has given me the opportunity to gain experience and expand my knowledge in the industry. It has also allowed me to build confidence in my skill sets, and demonstrate my ability to collaborate with external stakeholders and other Greater Sydney Parklands teams and colleagues. I really enjoy being part of such a unique and driven agency that focuses on delivering positive changes to the parklands for the public to enjoy.

”

Jill Bettay
Property Coordinator, Policy and Consents

The parklands estate

Greater Sydney is surrounded by beautiful and diverse open spaces, parklands and waterways.

Across government, we are advocating for the Greater Sydney Blue-Green Grid – an interconnected network of open spaces, bushland, parks and waterways that will keep the city cool, encourage healthy lifestyles, protect waterways, enhance biodiversity and ensure ecological resilience.

Anchoring the Blue-Green Grid are Sydney's national parks and Greater Sydney's parklands estate – the iconic urban parks that are owned and managed by the NSW Government.

We want to connect the parklands estate with the variety of open spaces and parklands across Greater Sydney. To do this, we are continuing to work with the councils surrounding our parks to deliver improved links connecting them to the surrounding community. We are also assessing some parklands for their suitability to become part of the Greater Sydney parklands estate into the future using a framework that includes criteria aligned to the four strategic directions in the 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney's Open Space and Parklands. This ensures that any parks we take on will contribute to achieving the long-term vision for open space and parklands across Greater Sydney.



FERNHILL ESTATE

Fernhill Estate

The 423-hectare Fernhill Estate sits on the edge of the Cumberland Plain within Penrith Local Government Area (LGA). Fernhill Estate is on Dharug Country, close to Gandangara Country, and was part of a vast First Nations estate across the Cumberland Plain prior to the 1800s.

Fernhill House is one of the most significant Greek Revival houses built in the Early Colonial era, complemented by an almost intact estate setting of rural open parklands leading down into the valley below and natural bushland up into the Blue Mountains.

Early pictorial representations of the house and estate show a natural landscape setting for Fernhill House that historical records imply was consciously created and curated from the native woodland of the Cumberland Plain.



BUNGARRIBEE PARK, WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Western Sydney Parklands

Western Sydney Parklands is Australia's largest urban park. With 5,280 hectares of public open space, the parklands stretch for 27km over the LGAs of Blacktown, Liverpool and Fairfield.

Located on the traditional lands of the Gandangara and Dharug people, Western Sydney Parklands is an incredible green corridor that runs through residential and former farming and grazing lands of Western Sydney.

The parklands are 16 times the size of Centennial Parklands and 62 times the size of Parramatta Park. This scale provides for unique land uses and opportunities, from restoring up to 2,000 hectares of native Cumberland Plain woodland to major sports and tourism facilities and revenue-generating business hubs which fund 98 per cent of Western Sydney Parklands and have created a sustainable business model for the next 100 years.



PEOPLE'S LOOP, PARRAMATTA PARK



POP-UP NATURE PLAY, CALLAN PARK

Parramatta Park

Parramatta Park is one of the earliest gazetted public parks in Australia, dedicated as a park in 1857.

Home to the Burramattagal, the park's ancient cultural landscape has provided food, shelter and resources for close to 40,000 years.

It was established in 1858 and is one of the most significant landscapes in Australia.

It's a place for recreation, sport and entertainment, as well as a key resource in telling the stories of Aboriginal and European heritage.

Its 85 hectares of parklands, event venues, sporting facilities, remnant bushland, picnic and play facilities provide valuable open green space for the people of the Central River City and beyond.

It contains Australia's oldest surviving Government House and the oldest intact building of European origin, the Dairy Cottage. Parramatta Park with Old Government House is one of the 11 Australian Convict Sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Register in 2010.

Callan Park

Callan Park is located on the Parramatta River within the Inner West LGA. Greater Sydney Parklands manages 38 of 61 hectares of Callan Park. NSW Health manages the remaining areas.

It is the traditional land of the Gadigal and Wangal people. Callan Park is the site of one of Sydney's first purpose-built mental health facilities following reforms in treatment in the 1870s. The buildings and grounds of the facility remain within the grounds of Callan Park today.

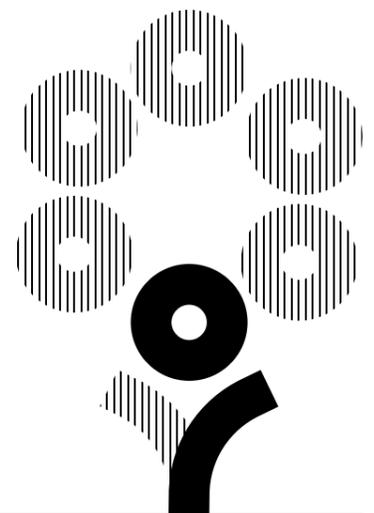
Given this history as a place for healing, respite and care, the Callan Park Landscape Structure Plan proposes a series of parkland improvements that celebrate the unique heritage and picturesque waterfront setting of Callan Park.

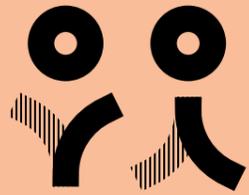


Centennial Parklands

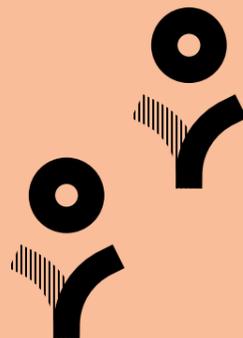
Centennial Parklands is one of the world's leading public urban parklands and covers 369 hectares within the City of Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra LGAs.

Centennial Parklands sits on the traditional lands of the Gadigal and Bidjigal people. They include Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park, offering a range of spaces for organised sports and relaxation for the residents of and visitors to the Eastern Harbour City.





Working with the community



Collaborating with Greater Sydney's communities, councils, state agencies, industry and others will deliver the best outcomes for the parklands estate.

Working with the community

In 2023, we established community trustee boards for each park, in accordance with the *Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Act 2022* to support how we manage and enhance these iconic places.

The community trustee board play an advisory role, representing a range of community interests and local perspectives on park stewardship, activities and usage, and environmental, heritage and cultural issues.

In 2023, 16 community trustee board meetings were held across the five parklands, offering valuable local insights and advice for consideration by the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust.

In 2023, we also released our Consultation and Engagement Framework. This is a transparent framework developed with the community to:

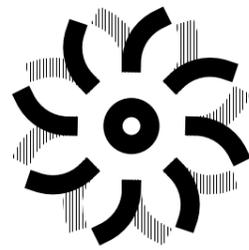
- Guide how we consult and engage with park users and visitors, and the community more generally, on matters relating to the parklands estate
- Build on engagement initiatives, and respond to the requirements for community consultation set out in legislation
- Outline opportunities for people to find out more about and have a say on parkland matters, including the role of the community trustee boards

We engage with people from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds including First Nations people, people with disability, older people, younger people, women and girls, LGBTQI+ people and families.

We work closely with councils and community stakeholders, translating local perspectives when working at a city-wide level.

We partner with First Nations people and communities so that shared decision-making and co-design practices can help us to realise Caring for Country principles.

A snapshot of engagements



MOORE PARK EAST

Centennial Parklands

Moore Park East Landscape Plan on exhibition between July and September 2022. Consultation included pop-up events, webinars, online surveys and briefings with First Nations people, community groups, councils, sporting groups and residents.

We published the *Moore Park East Landscape Plan* and *What We Heard* report in April 2023 and provided responses to community and stakeholder submissions.



GARY OWEN HOUSE

Callan Park

Implementation of the Callan Park Companion Animals Management Plan began with community education.

The Callan Park building activation survey was released which saw over two-thirds of respondents wishing to see heritage buildings brought to life for community-focused cultural facilities.



FERNHILL ESTATE

Fernhill Estate

We worked with Transport for NSW to consult the community and stakeholders on options to improve access to Fernhill Estate from Mulgoa Road. A consultation outcomes report was released in December 2022.



WISTARIA GARDENS

Parramatta Park

The September in Wistaria Gardens event community pop-up stall invited around 100 community members to share their stories of the gardens, allowing us to capture community feedback about our involvement in maintaining the gardens and its potential.

The Hello Wistaria Gardens interactive engagement activation gave people the opportunity to learn about the history of the gardens while allowing us to conduct conversations with 112 visitors via 656 messages.

First Nations cultural heritage mapping of Parramatta Park continued, helping to inform decisions around the ongoing maintenance and restoration of heritage assets.

We commenced a co-design project with First Nations artist Chris Tobin on a pavilion celebrating, protecting and interpreting Aboriginal cosmology and Governor Brisbane's Observatory and Transit Stones in Parramatta Park.

ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE PARKLANDS ESTATE:



7 letterbox drops to **48,750** homes



70 stakeholder briefings



8,000 returned surveys



16 community trustee board meetings



17 community pop-up information sessions



2,780 submissions received on a range of projects



Quarterly meetings with **11** touchpoint local councils

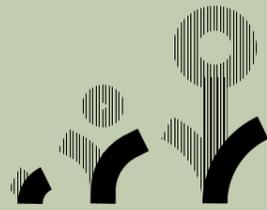


6 webinars with **443** participants on a range of projects

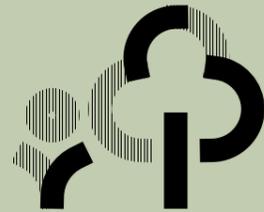
Key achievements

As the key advocate across government for the 50-Year Vision, our work is guided by and measured against the delivery of the vision's four strategic directions.

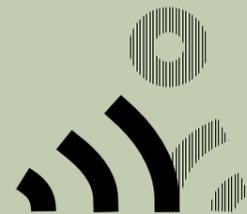
Growing parks for people



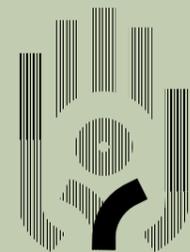
Connecting people to parks



Keeping Sydney green and vibrant

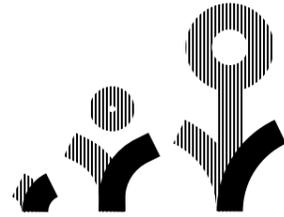


Caring for the environment



WYLDE MTB AND BMX PRECINCT, WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Growing parks for people



We recorded 38.9 million visits across Centennial Parklands, Parramatta Park and Western Sydney Parklands. More than 206,000 people attended 28 major events across our venues, contributing more than \$1.37 million in revenue and raising \$2.2 million for a variety of charities.

Our picnic areas were popular, with 2,400 people booked to celebrate holidays, get married or gather with family and friends.

We invested \$25.8 million across the parklands estate to maintain, upgrade, and develop new facilities.

Extensive works across Centennial Parklands continue to benefit community sport including:

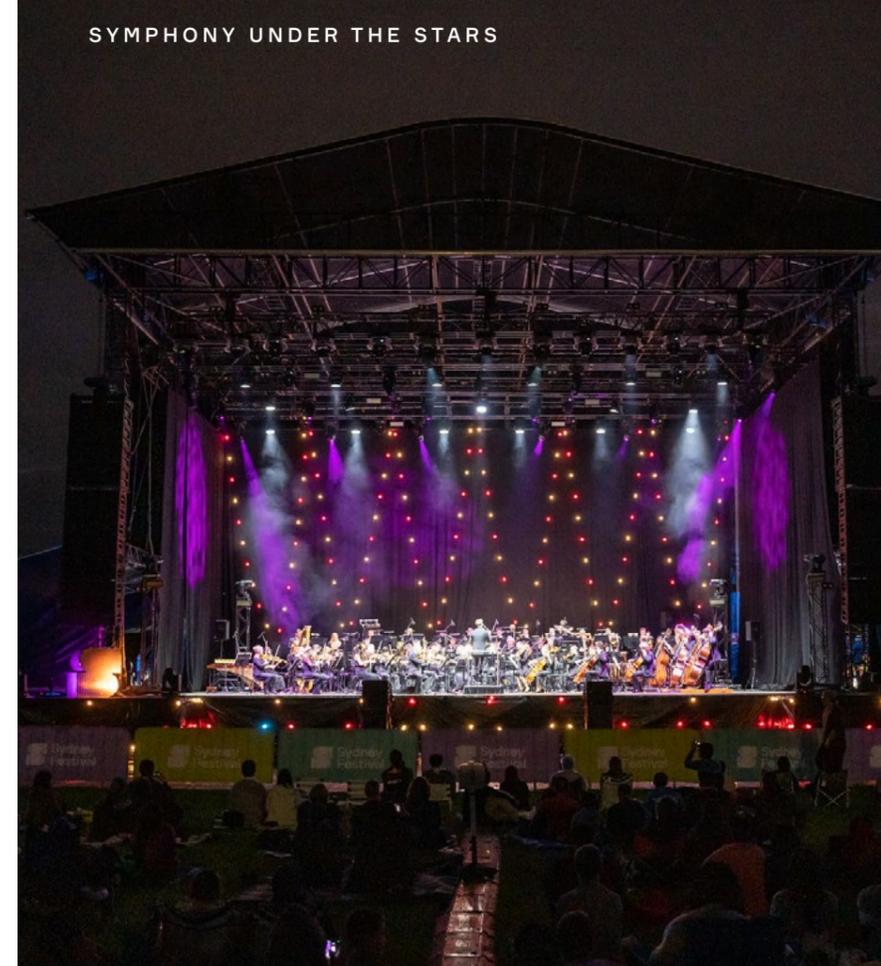
- Completion of the \$4.8 million upgrade to the historic E.S. Marks Athletics Field
- Opening of the \$3.75 million Queens Park cycleway alongside Darley Road
- The new Queens Park amenities building on Baronga Avenue
- The new in-ground irrigation and drainage systems at McKay Sports Fields 2 and 3 to improve the quality of the playing fields

At Parramatta Park, the following works were completed:

- Five new synthetic cricket wickets were installed at the Cattle Paddock and Salters Field
- Basketball courts were renewed at Mays Hill as part of a project to deliver sporting facility upgrades for junior sport
- The finalisation of the irrigation plan for Old Kings Oval
- Field upgrade for Mays Hill Oval, with installation due for completion next financial year



WYLDE MTB AND BMX PRECINCT



SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

WYLDE MTB AND BMX PRECINCT



At Western Sydney Parklands, Wylde MTB and BMX precinct reopened in August 2022. At 86 hectares, it's the largest facility of its kind in the country. Around 1,300 MTB and BMX enthusiasts attended the official opening in August 2022, with people travelling from as far as Terrigal and Lithgow.

The state-of-the-art facility has won numerous awards since opening including:

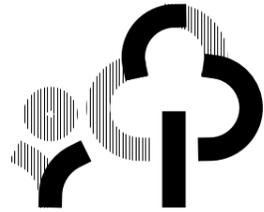
- The NSW Excellence in Construction Award at the Master Builders Association Awards 2023
- The Parks and Open Space Award at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards in 2023
- The Outstanding Sport, Recreation and Tourism Project of the Year at the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue Boomtown! Awards

SYDNEY SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS



Sydney Symphony Under the Stars was held for the 17th consecutive year at Parramatta Park in January 2023. Following a few years of impacts from COVID-19 and severe weather, the event returned to full strength with an estimated 11,000 people filling The Crescent for a magical evening.

Connecting people to parks



The \$2.5 million People's Loop Stage 1 at Parramatta Park opened, and we've begun work on lighting the path between Parramatta CBD and Westmead Health and Innovation Precinct, helping people to feel safer while walking through the park at night.

We officially opened the \$3.75 million Queens Park cycleway alongside Darley Road at the southern edge of Queens Park in August 2022.



We focused on pedestrian and cycle access at Western Sydney Parklands, completing path and bridge replacements at Lizard Log, and undertaking an extensive repair and renewal program across the 60km track network following unprecedented wet weather.

Design works on the Mount Steel Connection Path at Moore Park commenced and were informed by consultation with the Centennial Parklands community trustee board. This will connect people from Waterloo to Moore Park.

NATURE CONNECTION

Our nature education and volunteer programs foster knowledge and create environmental advocates.

Western Sydney Parklands' Greener Wilder West program enabled people to discover a deeper connection with nature through free workshops and programs for all ages. These multi-sensory walks, workshops and activities were delivered in collaboration with Blacktown Arts and other western Sydney community organisations.

Overall, we delivered nature-based education and community programs to more than 63,000 participants across the parklands estate, exceeding pre-COVID numbers.



THE RETURN OF SYDNEY RUNNING FESTIVAL



After three years, in mid-September 2022, we welcomed back the Sydney Running Festival to Centennial Parklands.

This is a huge operation and involves multiple NSW Government agencies and landholders.

Centennial Parklands hosted 10km of the 42km marathon route. With more than 4,500 marathon runners coming through the gates, the event was delivered safely and attracted national and international TV coverage showcasing the parklands.

EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



The Australian Association for Environmental Education awarded our Manager Education and Community Programs, Christian Eckardt, the NSW Government Educator of the Year. The award is given to someone who has made an exemplary contribution to the field of environmental education.

"This recognition reflects the incredible dedication of our education team in fostering the deep connection between our beautiful parklands and its visitors of all ages."

Christian Eckardt
Manager, Education and Community Programs

Keeping Sydney green and vibrant



HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Our First Nations Connections to Country program is fostering relationships with First Nations communities across the parklands estate, helping to facilitate First Nations peoples' ongoing relationship with Country. This included the first dual naming at Centennial Park, Badu Ngura (Lachlan Swamp), which features interpretive signage by artist Jordan Ardler and the Gujaga Foundation that enriches the wetlands walk. The Robertson Road entry was also transformed into a garden using species native to eastern Sydney.

We are bringing some of Callan Park's heritage buildings back to life through reuse strategies which are sympathetic to the cultural heritage of the park and community needs.

We've awarded a lease to the Balmain District Football Club for Repatriation Ward B (Building 497) at Callan Park. This will provide the club with a clubhouse, revitalise the building and create a space for community use.

Our continued program of cultural landscape and built heritage conservation works includes stone repair work to the Bathhouse, and activities to protect and interpret Aboriginal cosmology and Governor Brisbane's Observatory and Transit Stones.

We held a launch event for our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at Bungarribee in Western Sydney Parklands in June to coincide with National Reconciliation Week. The event included a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, and didgeridoo and traditional dance demonstrations, with morning tea provided by a First Nations supplier.

CREATING PUBLIC SPACES AND PLACES

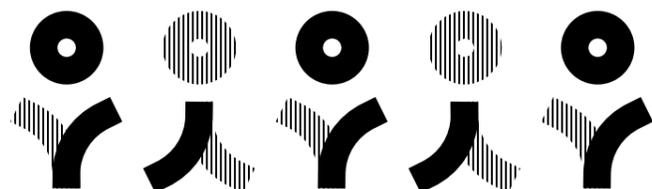
The *Moore Park East Landscape Plan* was released in April 2023 and landscape improvements to the Village Green precinct around Upper Kippax began.

Our work to transform Fernhill Estate from a private property to a public park is ongoing. A key focus is improving access to the estate from Mulgoa Road as well as heritage, maintenance and environmental works.

Callan Park's Waterfront Green is being revitalised to provide more recreational opportunities, picnic areas, open up waterfront views and provide an accessible amenities building for the community.

Western Sydney Parklands continue to grow and develop, with garden bed remediation works throughout Bungarribee Park providing a refreshed, diverse outlook for visitors, while asset renewal works in and around Lizard Log improved access to event spaces.

We started restoration of the Edwardian-era Wistaria Gardens, and the reinstatement of the traditional annual display provided the perfect setting for the 'September in Wistaria Gardens' weekends.



DREW ROBERTS, SHARED KNOWLEDGE ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR

Caring for the environment



BUSHLAND PROTECTION

Around 1,500 hectares of bushland is under regeneration management programs throughout Western Sydney Parklands. We're on track to achieve our goal of a 2,000-hectare bushland corridor by 2040.

OTHER WORKS INCLUDED

- Intensive clearing of riparian weeds along Eastern Creek in Horsley Park
- Work by children and community members to plant 8,000 trees, shrubs and grasses to connect remnants of Cumberland Plain woodland
- Bringing Back the Bush Family Day at Lizard Log, where community members planted around 1,500 native trees including wattle and spotted gums

Our work to rid Fernhill Estate of exotic species continues, including removal of Lantana and other exotic grasses, and will be essential to rehabilitate the natural environment.

Bush regeneration works continued at Parramatta Park, with a renewal of our work with Muru Mittigar to support First Nations employment opportunities. Additional work focused on the removal of Alligator Weed in Domain Creek.

Bushland management activities at Centennial Parklands focused on the Eastern Suburbs Banksia scrub and pond edge vegetation including new plantings and habitat logs at Kensington Pond, supported by the Centennial Parklands Foundation.

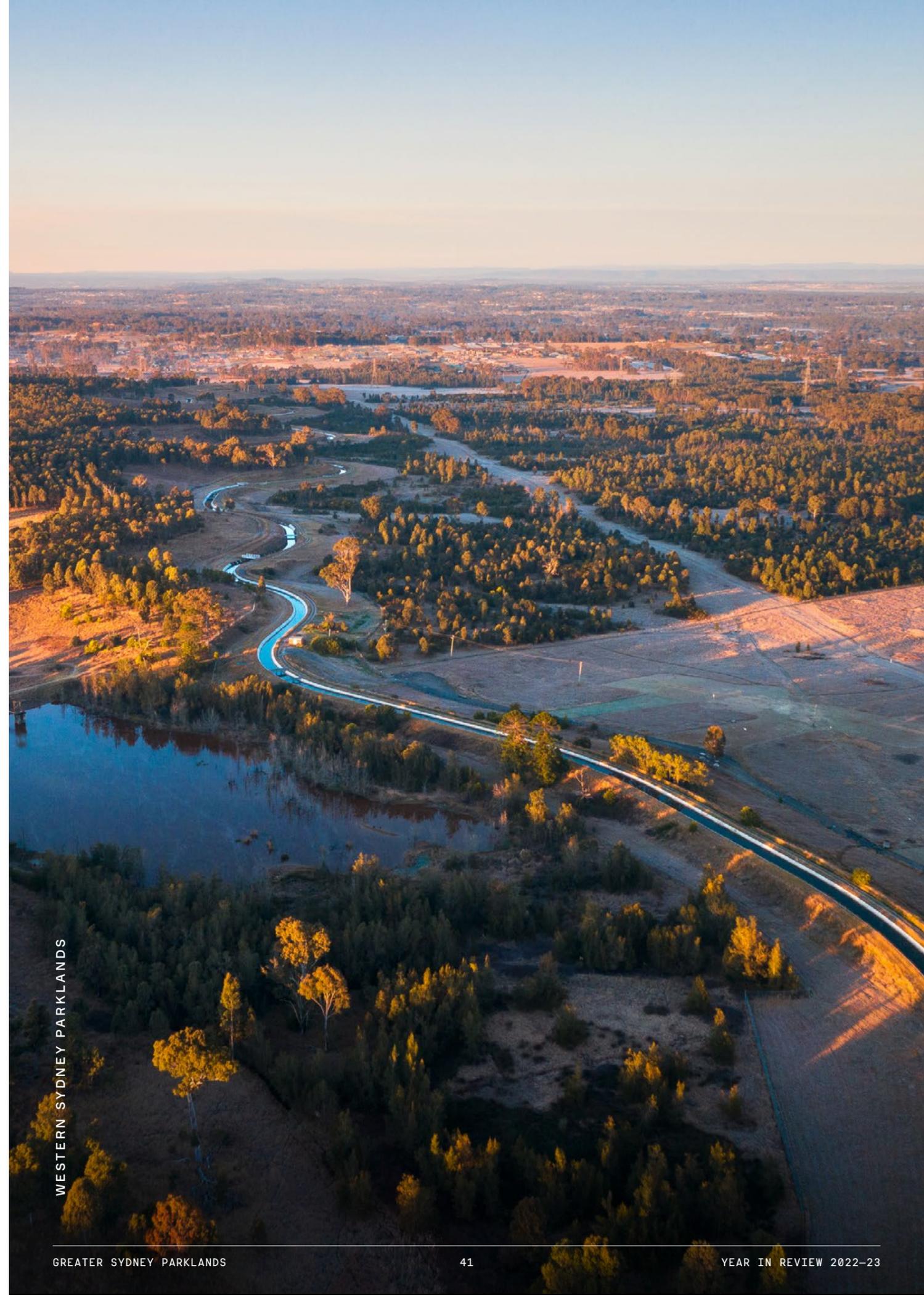
SPECIES PROTECTION

We're seeing a return of native flora and fauna to Western Sydney Parklands, as evidenced by increased activity and sightings.

Habitat improvement works at Fernhill Estate included the creation of more than 165 hollows in trees. We observed Spotted Pardalote, Australian Owlet Nightjar and possums using these new homes, and expect to welcome many more birds and animals to the parklands as the hollows mature.

We're continuing to work with Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) to monitor and manage the Grey-headed Flying-fox camp at Parramatta Park.

The Centennial Parklands Foundation supported the installation of a new floating pontoon at Kippax Lake to assist with providing refuge habitat for urban wildlife.



WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Looking

ahead

Our strategic framework for 2023 to 2028 sets a 5-year vision to create:

A city of connected parklands

As part of that vision, our priorities for the next 12 months are to:

- Support community trustee boards and work to protect and activate the parklands estate in a sustainable way through our Consultation and Engagement Framework
- Develop place-based approaches that improve accessibility and foster enjoyment and partnerships for sustainability
- Elevate our operational excellence through ensuring our parks remain amazing, clean, and well maintained
- Prepare to expand the parklands estate through efficient, effective and scalable operations
- Identify and cultivate key partnerships with state and local agencies and private partnerships to improve the visitor experience and generate revenue
- Create a protected areas of environment program to plan, monitor and evaluate sustainability
- Create programs that protect and enhance our natural and cultural heritage and connect with First Nations culture sustainability
- Look after our people by keeping wellbeing and WHS a key focus among our staff and visitors

