



Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

Submission to Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park Master Plans

1 June 2021

At its meeting on 14 April 2021, Council resolved to place the Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park Master Plans on public exhibition until 2 June 2021.

During the public exhibition period, consultation was sought with Council's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) at a joint committee meeting held on 6 May with the purpose of advising Council on the vision of the parks and the content of the draft Master Plans. The following comments and recommendations of ESAC are to be considered for inclusion into the draft Master Plans and form a collective ESAC response. ESAC consists of six community representatives and five Councillors who advise Council on environmental sustainability related issues. The comments of ESAC members were consolidated following an extra ordinary committee meeting on 18 May 2021.

The committee would like to commend Council on its vision for public spaces and would like to see that these parks are sustainable in the long term.

Hornsby Park Master Plan

The Hornsby Quarry regeneration project has been an ambitious project from its inception, and the committee is very interested to see it open to the public in 2023. The committee would like to see Hornsby Park demonstrate the sustainability agenda of Council and believe this is a great opportunity to see the actions in the Sustainable Hornsby 2040 Strategy and its supporting documents of the Climate Wise Hornsby Plan, Urban Forest Strategy, Water Sensitive Hornsby Strategy, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Waste Matters Strategy being implemented.

The following table presents the areas of consideration by the committee.

Theme	Recommendations:
Carbon Neutral	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Committee recommends the site aspire towards Net Zero Emissions to help achieve Council's target of net zero emissions by 2050.2. Streetlighting, elevator facilities and any buildings should be powered by renewable energy. Provision of renewable electricity should be made clear on the Master Plan.3. The site could be carbon negative (export power to the grid).
Sustainable Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. E-bikes and electric vehicle charging stations should be made prominent in car-parking areas to establish Hornsby Park as a vision for the future lifestyle of Hornsby residents.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Parking availability will be an issue. There appears to be limited parking onsite. Residents and visitors will want to be able to drive and park at the site. Public transport from west of the Gorge is an issue and may preclude these residents from the site. 6. A Transport Plan is required to look at narrow streets leading to the crusher plant and the impact on residents with minimal street parking. 7. There is a parking station located at the TAFE site that could be extended or built upon to increase the availability of parking. Shared utilisation of the TAFE site afterhours should be investigated. 8. Council should discuss with State Government the opportunity for commuter parking and ability to utilise this during weekend periods as an overflow for Hornsby Park. 9. The site needs to have walkable and accessible routes from car parking areas in Hornsby Town Centre to the park. 10. The park should also be integrated into nearby walks including the Great North Walk by remedying the diversion made to this route due to the Hornsby Rifle 'Danger Area' rezoning.
<p>Education precinct</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Hornsby Park could have a role as an educative hub with the possibility of earning some income while being of benefit to people of all ages. 12. The Crusher Plant could be used as an interpretive, creative, artistic and Education Centre for schools, universities and community groups (STEM and History). The site could be similar to the Coal Loader (North Sydney) https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Environment_Waste/The_Coal_Loader, Melbourne CERES Park (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERES_Community_Environment_Park) and WA Sustainable Built environment National Research Centre (https://sbenrc.com.au/).
<p>Historical links to the site</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Apart from its role as a quarry and therefore an industrial site, many people do not know it has past links to many exciting discoveries provided by the CSIRO Radiophysics Division which had a field station in Old Mans Valley from 1947 to 1952. During this time the CSIRO led the way in low frequency radio astronomy research and monitored emissions from Jupiter the Sun and bounced signals off the moon and led the way in foundation studies of many related areas of research. https://hornsbyshire.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/1742 https://www.atnf.csiro.au/news/newsletter/feb05/shame_about_shain.htm A notable person of that time was Dr. Ruby Payne Scott who was a brilliant astronomer and fought for women's rights. The CSIRO played an important role in both her endeavours and did not require her to resign after they found out that she had married, contrary to public service rules at that time. https://csiropedia.csiro.au/payne-scott-ruby/ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-642-03141-0_6



	<p>This past, along with rural foundations, could be recognised perhaps with an observatory display (maybe CSRO support) or at least some information about these times put into the crusher building which could become a museum with perhaps some meeting rooms for support talks.</p> <p>14. It would be good to include some of Edgeworth David’s Antarctic work.</p> <p>15. Interpretive signage is not enough, a sense of place needs to be established, with historical, educative and engaging activities, after all future sustainability advocates start in places just like this.</p> <p>16. We need to embody the old and new, including Aboriginal history and local bush tucker.</p> <p>17. Consideration should be given to the Heritage value of being at a midpoint of the Great North Walk and how affordable accommodation or rest areas will be highly valued, and with the park being so close to the town centre it may encourage visitors to Hornsby.</p>
<p>Synthetic Turf</p>	<p>18. The use of synthetic turf is not recommended. Synthetic turf can cause plastic pollution in the surrounding environment and increase urban heat island effect.</p> <p>19. The flammability of the surface and risk of toxic fumes needs to be considered if the site was to be in a bushfire.</p> <p>20. A synthetic sports field is not in keeping with the sustainability and natural feel of the area or vision for the site.</p>
<p>Sustainable Products</p>	<p>21. All materials used onsite should be sustainably sourced (from the concrete, park furniture to track and trail construction).</p> <p>22. Materials used within the site need to have a life cycle assessment undertaken, be carbon neutral and sustainable.</p> <p>23. Ability to showcase sustainable products or innovative products.</p>
<p>Tracks and trails</p>	<p>24. Trails should be self-guided and if complex, could be volunteer guided to increase community connections.</p> <p>25. An art’s trail could be established onsite.</p> <p>26. An educative science and biodiversity trail should be established which includes the plants and geology and minerals of the quarry. Combined orientation/maths trails could also be set up which lead children around the park identifying species, structure and so on - the sky is the limit.</p>
<p>Vegetation</p>	<p>27. There appears to be a lack of trees in the grass area in the amphitheatre. This will get hot in summer & therefore people wanting to picnic will not use this space.</p> <p>28. Shadow diagrams are requested to show both summer and winter periods.</p> <p>29. A mixture of deciduous & evergreen trees like Fagan Park would be suitable.</p> <p>30. The site must be able to withstand future climate scenarios.</p> <p>31. Hornsby Park should be seen as a heat refuge for future residents of Hornsby Town Centre.</p>



Swimming	32. Swimming in the lake as a natural swimming hole is desirable.
Adventure recreation and commercialisation	<p>33. Extreme sports to be reconsidered as nature play space areas. Nature based play and engaging kids in sustainability-based play is very important.</p> <p>34. Consider Hornsby Park like Hampstead Heath in London, a natural woodland space for walking, quiet contemplation and some nature time. Westleigh can be the active and sports play space.</p> <p>35. Commercial utilisation of the area needs to be done very sensitively as you don't want commercial creep. Hornsby Park needs to be looked at as the outdoor space to cater for increased development/density within Hornsby Park.</p> <p>36. With Hornsby population growing over the coming years there is a great need for quiet spaces where you can lie and watch clouds or sit and have a picnic without seeing others.</p>
Community gardens	<p>37. Possibility of community scale composting / warm farming onsite or community gardens around the cemetery and historical gardens (i.e. roses onsite).</p> <p>38. Opportunity to link to aboriginal heritage with native bush tucker and indigenous farming practices.</p>

Westleigh Park Master Plan

The committee would like to see Westleigh Park demonstrate the sustainability agenda of Council and believe this is a great opportunity to see the actions in the Sustainable Hornsby 2040 Strategy and its supporting documents of the Climate Wise Hornsby Plan, Urban Forest Strategy, Water Sensitive Hornsby Strategy, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Waste Matters Strategy being implemented.

The following table presents the areas of consideration by the committee.

Synthetic Turf	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of synthetic turf is not recommended. Synthetic turf can cause plastic pollution in the surrounding environment and increase urban heat island effect. 2. The flammability of the surface and risk of toxic fumes needs to be considered if the site was to be in a bushfire. 3. Runoff from the synthetic turf is to be captured.
Sustainable Products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. All materials used onsite should be sustainably sourced (from the concrete, park furniture to track and trail construction). 5. Materials used within the site need to have a life cycle assessment, be carbon neutral and sustainable. 6. Ability to showcase sustainable products or innovative products.



<p>Mountain bike tracks</p>	<p>7. Despite the illegal and damaging nature of the tracks, there is a community of mountain bike riders that could be fostered with consultation and further planning to create a vibrant outdoor cycling community that builds upon the reputation of Hornsby MTB trails. Part of this process would need to ensure that nearby public transport hubs (e.g. Thornleigh Station) have safe and accessible cycle-paths to areas such as Westleigh Park which could attract visitors to the shire and encourage active transport options for local residents.</p>
<p>Indigenous consultation</p>	<p>8. The efforts for indigenous consultation on this project are positive and should be made transparent throughout the planning, construction and ongoing phases of the project. There could be provisions for an educational infographic series placed throughout the development or along newly defined walking trails.</p>
<p>Wildlife corridors</p>	<p>9. Wildlife corridors to be established with Hornsby Park and link to adjoining biobanking area.</p>
<p>Sustainable Transport</p>	<p>10. E-bikes and electric vehicle charging stations should be made prominent in car-parking areas to establish Westleigh Park as a vision for the future lifestyle of Hornsby residents.</p> <p>11. Expanding shared paths and bike paths to improve active transport and linkages to the site.</p> <p>12. Bike infrastructure required for end of trip. Greater links to public transport – trains and buses.</p>