

ITEM 13.2	PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT CLONTARF BEACH MASTERPLAN
REPORTING MANAGER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RECREATION
TRIM FILE REF	2019/224506
ATTACHMENTS	1 ↓ Public Exhibition of Draft Clontarf Beach Masterplan

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To seek endorsement from Council to publicly exhibit the draft Clontarf Beach Masterplan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clontarf Beach is one of the most iconic harbour beaches in Sydney. The area is renowned for its strong natural, cultural and built heritage, its wonderful vistas and the fun that people from all over Sydney enjoy. As its popularity has increased, infrastructure to support use has not been renewed or upgraded to meet current expected levels of service. As a result, the park no longer functions well and consequently does not meet the community's expectations.

To resolve this situation, Council is committed to working with the community to develop a masterplan for this iconic location that will be implemented as part of our forward capital works program. Council has undertaken initial community engagement and technical investigations to prepare the attached draft Masterplan. This included a formal engagement period with the general community in late 2018, ongoing liaison with key stakeholders, and obtaining expert heritage, arboriculture, coastal engineering and civil engineering advice.

The overall vision for Clontarf Reserve is to achieve potential recreational opportunities whilst conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage values for this iconic foreshore open space.

The key features proposed by the draft masterplan to assist in delivering the vision include:

- realigning the car park to the eastern side of the site to create more and contiguous open space
- an expansion of the tidal pool to 50 metres in length
- an upgrade of the playground and installation of additional small toilets adjacent
- Sandstone bleachers overlooking the tidal pool
- better connections between key features
- preservation of the heritage values of the site.

It is proposed to publicly exhibit the draft Masterplan over the month of June and report the recommended final plan back to Council in July 2019.

RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR TRANSPORT AND ASSETS

That Council endorse the draft Clontarf Beach Masterplan for public exhibition for at least 28 days.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Clontarf Beach is one of the most iconic harbour beaches in Sydney. The area is renowned for its strong natural, cultural and built heritage, its wonderful vistas and the fun that people from all over Sydney enjoy. The foreshore park overlooking Middle Harbour, Clontarf Marina and the Spit Bridge is highly valued by the local residents and the broader community as well as day visitors and tourists. It is a popular destination for socialising and picnicking since the 19th century and is a key stopping point on the Manly to Spit Walk.

Key features of the park include:

- the large planted Fig trees and iconic Norfolk Pines, which have been subject to recent vandalism and present ongoing maintenance issues
- Clonny's Restaurant / kiosk facilities, which is a centre-piece facility servicing patrons and users of the park
- variety of grassed picnic areas on the foreshore and surrounds
- recreational facilities including the Victor Chang playground, picnic shelters / table settings, bbqs and amenities building.
- Car parking areas located on either side of the main access road into the park, along Sandy Bay Road, Holmes Avenue and Monash Crescent; also presents a key issue during busy times as there is no public transport option to Clontarf.

The park itself is heritage-listed as well as a number of specific items ie:

- Middle Harbour Syphon, a large concrete aqueduct and pumping station structure owned and operated by Sydney Water, which dissects the open spaces and impedes connectivity physically and visually
- Clontarf tidal rock pool, built in 1949, which is need of critical renewal works to address public safety
- Norfolk Island Pine commemorative tree, which has been vandalised in recent years.

The reserve areas are zoned for the purpose of public recreation and considered regionally significant in terms of natural, visual, social, recreation, cultural, educational, future generational and heritage values.

As its popularity has increased, infrastructure to support use has not been renewed or upgraded to meet current expected levels of service. As a result, the park no longer functions well, does not have enough capacity to meet demand and consequently does not meet the community's expectations.

To resolve this situation, Council is committed to working with the community to develop a masterplan for this iconic location that will be implemented as part of our forward capital works program. The main objectives of this project are to:

- Prepare a Landscape Masterplan for Clontarf Park that will provide planning and design direction for Council to deliver open space recreation improvements for the social and recreational benefits of the community, whilst conserving environmental, cultural heritage and scenic values.
- Address key issues including connectivity, inclusion, accessibility and sustainability for future use and ongoing management of the area.

- Engage with the key external stakeholders including the Clontarf Community Forum and broader community, and incorporate valid feedback in the development of the Landscape Masterplan.

Council has undertaken robust community engagement and technical investigations to prepare the attached draft Masterplan. This included a formal engagement period with the general community in late 2018, ongoing liaison with key stakeholders, and obtaining expert heritage, arboriculture, coastal engineering and civil engineering advice.

The overall vision for Clontarf Reserve is to achieve potential recreational opportunities for this iconic area whilst conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage values for this highly valued foreshore open space.

Issues raised through the consultation and technical investigations include the following:

Issue	Response
The location of car park bisects the open space making the eastern grassed area underutilised and the foreshore area overly congested	Council proposes to realign the car park to the eastern side of the park to provide contiguous parkland across the site. This should have the effect of spreading recreational usage more evenly over the open space and will significantly reduce the risk created by moving vehicles particularly in proximity to the playground.
The interface between the park and tidal pool is poor, unsafe and not conducive of recreation	Council proposes to replace the existing dilapidated seawall with sandstone bleachers. This will create a raised seating area for users of the beach and tidal pool, arrest the erosion of the park and provide safer access to the tidal pool via stairs and an accessible ramp.
The trees are vital to the park and must be protected	Council has designed the masterplan to retain the significant trees on site. While there will be some loss of trees to facilitate the proposed realignment of the car park, these will be offset elsewhere in the park.
The park is too popular and has too much impact on surrounding residents.	Council cannot prevent people from visiting such an attractive destination. Council can mitigate the impacts on residents through designing the park to be more resilient to the use, more efficient car parks to ease congestion and making changes in the surrounding streets to parking arrangements to ease direct impact on residents' ability to move around freely.
The playground is unimaginative and not inclusive	The playground is proposed to be upgraded to make it innovative, inclusive and challenging. Inspiration has been drawn from the surrounding trees and beach.

Issue	Response
Council should provide a commuter wharf	Given Council is a strong advocate of better public transport networks and has a goal to reduce the community's reliance on cars, the works do not inhibit the provisions of a commuter wharf in the future by transport.
The tidal pool should be 50m in length	Council has included an extension of the tidal pool in the draft Masterplan, however this will not be undertaken during the renewal project in 2019/2020.
The toilets are too far away from the playground	Council is proposing a small new unisex toilet block next to the upgraded playground.

To deliver on the vision for the reserve, the key features proposed by the draft masterplan include:

- Realigning the car park to the eastern side of the site to create more and contiguous open space.
- An expansion of the tidal pool to 50 metres in length.
- An upgrade of the playground and installation of additional small toilets adjacent to it.
- Sandstone bleachers overlooking the tidal pool.
- Better connections between key features.
- Preservation of the heritage values of the site.

CONSULTATION

Council has consulted widely during the preparation of the draft masterplan through meetings with key stakeholders groups and a broad community engagement period in late 2018. Over 90 formal responses were received and over 100 people attended two on site information sessions. Council has also addressed the Clontarf Community Forum on two occasions.

Council proposes to engage the community on the draft Masterplan through, but not limited to, the following:

- Feedback through the project's Your Say Northern Beaches web page.
- Promotion through print media and Council's social media platforms.
- Promotion through Council's community engagement register.
- Signs on site.
- Two drop in sessions on site.

TIMING

Council will commence community engagement in June 2019. Should only minor modifications to the draft Masterplan be necessary following community engagement, it is expected that a report to recommend adoption of the Masterplan will be considered by Council in July 2019. Following adoption, Council will issue tenders for the design and construction of the playground upgrade including the construction of a new unisex accessible toilet.

LINK TO COUNCIL STRATEGY

This report relates to the Strategic Plan Community Outcome Places for People Goal 9 – Our community is healthy, active and enjoys a broad range of creative, sporting and recreational opportunities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Stage One, consisting of the upgrade to playground, providing better accessibility to toilets and the construction of sandstone bleachers is included in Council's draft Delivery Program for delivery in the 2019-2020 financial year. \$1.2m in funding has been identified. Future stages including the realigning of the car park and extension of the tidal pool will need to be considered in the 2021-2022 financial year.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Clontarf Beach is a unique and iconic location on the Northern Beaches. It is renowned as one of the best picnic spots for families in Sydney and the proposed works have been designed to better facilitate that usage as well as recognising the needs of the local community who love the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council has gone to great efforts to minimise impacts on the natural environment that could be created by the proposed works. While some trees are proposed to be removed to realign the car park, the new configuration of open space will create the opportunity for additional planting at the site. The significant trees that form an integral part of the landscape character of the site will be protected. The works along the foreshore have been designed to reduce erosion and sediment entering Middle Harbour and the bleachers have been positioned based on coastal engineering advice to minimise the risk of sand movement from the beach.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Council has and continues to engage with the community in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Framework. The greatest risk is a delay in finalising the masterplan, which could put Council's Grant funding through the Stronger Communities Program at risk.





MASTERPLAN PROPOSALS

- 1 **Peronne Avenue / Sandy Bay Rd Intersection**
 - Improve sense of arrival to Clontarf foreshore open space including directional signage, landscape treatment and restoration of Sydney Water structures;
 - Formalise safe pedestrian connections to reserve from Holmes Avenue and Peronne Avenue.
- 2 **Main Park Entry**
 - Improve park entrance with gateway signage and landscape treatment
- 3 **Carpark Layout Modifications**
 - Improve carpark layout to improve traffic congestion, pedestrian safety and create cohesive open space park
 - Widen existing carpark entry & change eastern parking areas to one-way loop systems;
 - Realign main two-way car parking area along southern side of reserve to provide car parking for 200 vehicles (existing car park - 189 vehicles) including 3 accessible spaces (allow for mini-buses) & drop-off and pick-up zone for 3 vehicles
 - Use of permeable paving treatment for parking bays
 - Provide turning area for long vehicles adjacent boat ramp
 - Provide clear, safe pedestrian crossings through car park
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- 4 **Additional parking along Sandy Bay Road**
 - Remove garden beds to gain 2 parking bays adjacent Clontarf Reserve
- 5 **Main Pedestrian Promenade**
 - Provide promenade (3.6m wide), clear, reference alignment of historical roadway, with decorative gravel surface and sandstone edges. Allows for delivery access and emergency / maintenance vehicles.
 - Formal sandstone paved entry with Cook Pine plantings and accent lighting
 - Provide central meeting point with feature Palms and circular seating
 - Provide casual cafe style seating areas either side of promenade
- 6 **Pedestrian Pathway Network**
 - Provide pedestrian pathway (1.5m wide) through reserve connecting park facilities and open spaces, with coloured concrete (exposed aggregate)
 - Upgrade of pole lighting along pathways in keeping with heritage style
- 7 **Improvements to Café / Kiosk**
 - Relocate carparking to provide better building presence and physical and visual connection with open spaces;
 - Provide pedestrian pathways to main entry and for deliveries
 - Renovate existing building (internal and external) and outdoor dining area
- 8 **Playground Upgrade**
 - Provide more inclusive, fun and challenging play space for all ages and abilities, design based on a 'playful' theme, contained areas for sand/sprink and use of rubber and bark chippings for accessibility
 - Modify playground footprint to increase foreshore open space, make use of large Fig Tree shade and redesign shade sail structure to suit
 - Incorporate circular timber seating around base of existing Camphor, Laurel and Fig Tree;
- 9 **Youth Spaces / Fitness Activities**
 - Provide facilities for young people with casual and walked seating, such as ball shooting area, parkour / fitness equipment, dance / performance platform
- 10 **Tidal Pool Renewal**
 - Investigate potential for widening pool (to 50m length) and incorporate accessible boardwalk along one side
- 11 **Foreshore Edge Treatments**
 - Provide pedestrian pathway to foreshore frontage and incorporate beach shower, footwash & drinking facilities
 - Reinstate foreshore edge with sandstone logs south of pool to boat ramp
- 12 **Public Amenities Upgrade**
 - Interim minor works to improve condition of existing amenities, meet current accessibility code, and aesthetics in keeping with style of cafe/kiosk and new park structures
 - Provide new accessible toilet facilities in northern end of reserve near playground (1 existing toilet, 1 accessible toilet)
 - Design 6 toilets, 1 accessible toilet, re-orientated to face central open space, providing male / female change and toilet facilities with central wash basins / breezeaway area, as well as accessible adult change facilities
- 13 **Delimitate boat ramp zone using coloured concrete**
- 14 **Sydney Water Infrastructure (MS003 Syphon & Aqueduct)**
 - Planned restoration to improve visual amenity of heritage-listed structures following bushfire
 - Provide new accessible pedestrian connection of open spaces and viewing area to harbour
 - Potential heritage interpretation / art space for heritage-listed items and Clontarf's natural and cultural heritage
- 15 **Grassed Open Space Facilities**
 - Maintain and enhance existing park features including park furniture, new bbq/outdoor kitchen areas, upgraded / additional picnic shelters, upgraded pole lighting, ongoing maintenance regime to aid upkeep of grassed areas
- 16 **Improve ability to split walk connectivity including high tide access for walk in the future**
 - Clontarf Reserve Land Use Plan of Management

Clontarf Park Landscape Masterplan
and Clontarf Reserve Land Use Plan of Management
and Peninsula Sheet 03 - Clontarf Reserve Plan
boundaries may be updated in the future for sheet 000 @A3

