

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Centennial Parklands was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in March 2000. The listing recognises that Centennial Parklands is of particular significance to New South Wales and enriches the community's understanding of the State's history. Centennial Parklands is also listed on the Register of the National Estate in recognition of its role in the birth of the nation.

Under the NSW Heritage Act 1977, a Conservation Management Plan must be prepared for items listed on the Register. Works undertaken in accordance with a Conservation Management Plan endorsed by the Heritage Council do not require the approvals otherwise required under Section 60 of the Heritage Act. A number of interim exemptions for maintenance works were granted to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Trust) pending the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan.

On 30 March 2001 the Trust commissioned Conybeare Morrison & Partners to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Centennial Parklands. The purpose of the CMP is to set the direction for the conservation management of Centennial Parklands in the context of its role as a living historic place providing a diversity of community needs and uses.

The Conservation Management Plan guides the conservation management of all heritage values of Centennial Parklands. This includes Natural, Indigenous and Cultural heritage.

1.2 Extent of Study Area

The study area covers the area as shown in the State Heritage Register. It includes Centennial Park, Queens Park, Moore Park and Tay Reserve.

Although the former Royal Agricultural Society Showground is part of the landholdings of the Trust, a separate conservation study and planning controls apply to this area, and was therefore not included in this study. Additional Indigenous heritage associated with the former Showground has however been included.

The Trust's landholding on the York Road ESBS remnant is subject to a separate Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) as required by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). The VMP also considers cultural heritage attributes of the site, drawn from the draft CMP. The York Road ESBS remnant is therefore covered only in brief in this document so as to identify the significance of the remnant Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub it contains, thereby linking the CMP with the VMP. Some discussion is given in the thematic history section to the regional context, and to historical associations with lands once part of the Sydney Common.

Conservation details for all Trust lands will be included in the Parklands digital mapping system as part of the implementation of the CMP.

The Study Area is adjacent to, or falls within, the local government areas of South Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra (see Plan of Study Area in **Figure 2 overleaf**).

Figure 2 CMP study area

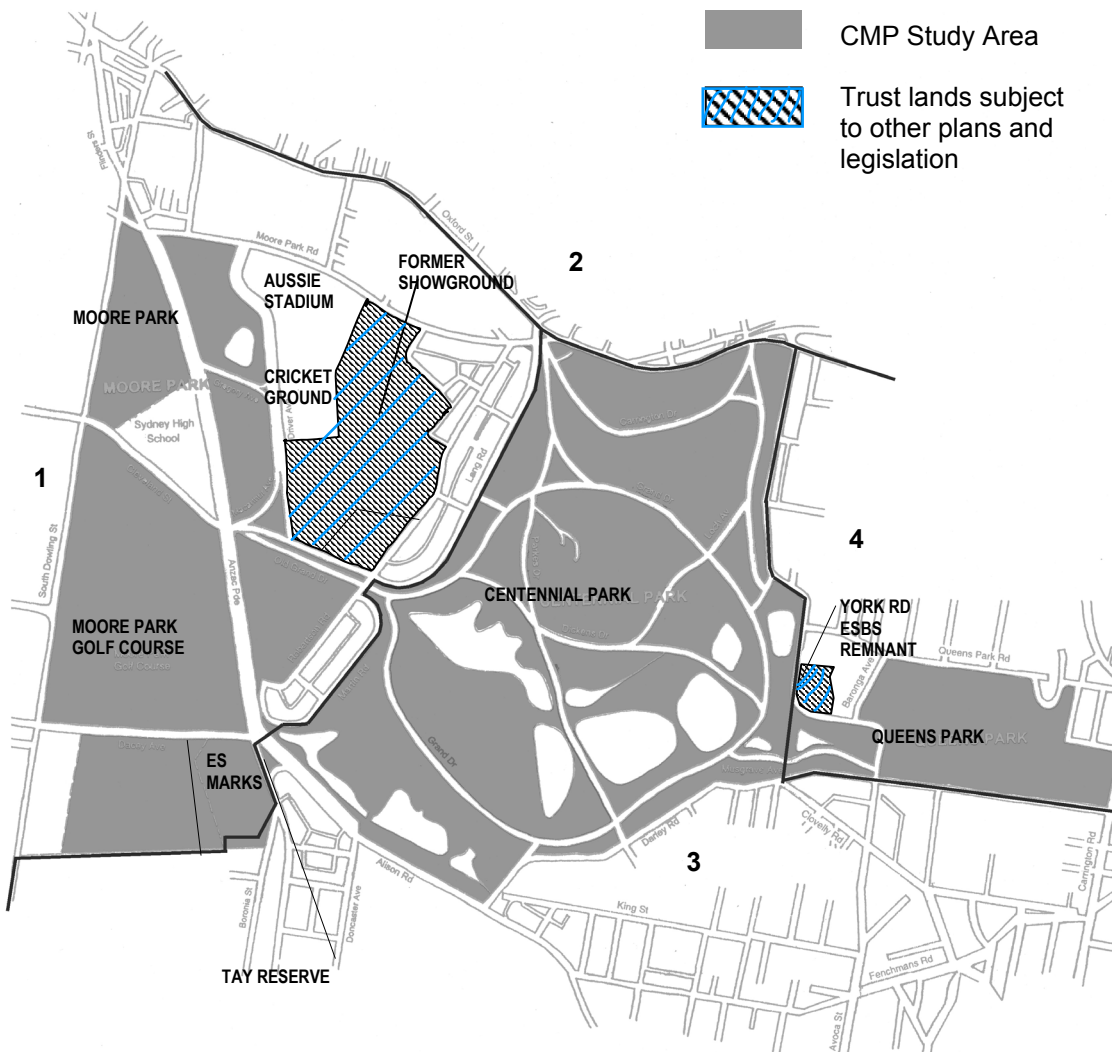


Figure 1: Local Councils areas that are adjacent to or encompass sections of Centennial Parklands

1. South Sydney City Council
2. Woollahra Council
3. Randwick City Council
4. Waverley Municipal Council

Note: Boundaries shown are approximate only.

1.3 Aims

The aims of the Conservation Management Plan are:

- to develop clear principles and policies for managing the heritage significance of Centennial Parklands and individual elements and components
- to provide for the balanced and compatible management of the diverse Natural, Indigenous and Cultural heritage values of the Parklands
- to identify the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust's corporate planning and management frameworks and mechanisms, as well as legislative and other stakeholder requirements
- to recommend amendments to and augmentation of the above to appropriately manage the heritage significance of the Parklands and its components
- to recognise and provide for the frequently competing demands of past and present users, future development needs, recreational demand, event requirements and general operational practices

1.4 Methodology

The methodology used is in accordance with the principles and definitions as set out in the guidelines to the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for The Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance – The Burra Charter*, the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter (2002, 2nd Edition)* published by *The Australian Heritage Commission*, J.S. Kerr's *Conservation Plan*, *The NSW Heritage Manual*, *The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit (1997)* and in accordance with the latest version of The NSW Heritage Office CMP guidelines.

This methodology incorporates the following sections: historic analysis (using State Heritage themes), physical assessment, significance assessment, opportunities and constraints and management policies.

1.5 Limitations

Due to the complexity of the layers of heritage in the Parklands, the Conservation Management Plan is to be treated as a "living document". Additional material will be incorporated into decision-making as it becomes available and is verified. Any material pending endorsement will be identified as such in appendices and in the proposed mapping system.

The Indigenous history and heritage study enabled a preliminary assessment of the place's cultural value to present day Indigenous communities and to people interested in learning about this heritage. A preliminary assessment of the archaeological evidence of known Aboriginal Sites established a starting point for developing site management guidelines in partnership with Sydney's Indigenous Australian communities, with these communities at the centre of the process in line with current best practice in Indigenous Australian heritage management. The Indigenous history and heritage study established the need for further research and development work and recommended that this occur in the context of an ongoing Indigenous Program at Centennial Parklands.

The historical outline within this report provides sufficient background to provide an assessment of the place and relevant policy

recommendations. However, it is not intended to be an exhaustive history of this site. The uses and associations related to Centennial Parklands, and much of the research material is based on secondary, rather than primary material. This report identifies observable and documented social associations with this place.

1.6 Heritage Conservation Terminology

The following terms used in this report are derived from definitions in the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter* and NSW Heritage Office guidelines.

- **Natural significance** means the importance of ecosystems, biodiversity and geodiversity for their existence value for present or future generations, in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value.
- **Indigenous significance** refers to Indigenous heritage value and includes Aboriginal sites showing evidence of Aboriginal occupation and Aboriginal places which are of contemporary or spiritual importance according to Aboriginal culture or custom.
- **Cultural significance** means aesthetic, cultural, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.
- **Fabric** means all the physical material of the place.
- **Built environment** means the collection of man-made structures and surfaces in the place.
- **Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its *Natural, Indigenous and Cultural significance*. It includes protection, maintenance and monitoring. According to circumstance it may involve *preservation, restoration, reconstruction, reinstatement or adaptation* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these. For Indigenous communities, it can include conserving relationships between people and place that embrace spiritual as well as historical values, and protecting Aboriginal Sites in order to protect their significance to people.
- **Preservation** means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- **Maintenance** means upkeep of fabric and places to the standards required by the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*, and does not involve restoration, reconstruction or reinstatement.
- **Restoration** means returning the existing *fabric, habitat or place* to a known earlier state or to an approximation of the natural condition by repairing degradation, removing accretions or introduced species or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
- **Reconstruction** means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.
- **Reinstatement or reintroduction** means to introduce to a place one or more species or elements of habitat or geodiversity that are known to have existed there naturally at a previous time, but that can no longer be found at that place.
- **Adaptation** means modifying a *place* to suit proposed compatible uses.
- **Compatible use** means a use that involves no change to the significant fabric or attributes, changes, which are substantially reversible, or changes which require minimal impact.

1.7 Terms used in this report

Notes on Names

- **Place Names** are used according to the time period of their context.
- **Charles Moore JP** 1820-1895. Mayor of Sydney.
- **Charles Moore** 1820-1905. Director of the Botanical Gardens.

Aboriginal	Refers to Australian Aborigines – the original inhabitants of Australia – term often used interchangeably with ‘Indigenous’. Indigenous is the preferred term in this report, except in reference to existing titles (eg laws, authorities, “sites”).
Australian Natural Heritage Charter	Charter developed by the Australian Natural Heritage Commission for the conservation of natural heritage.
Burra Charter	Charter developed by Australia ICOMOS for the conservation of cultural heritage. Named after the place of signing: Burra, South Australia.
Fox Studios	The studio and entertainment complex on the former Royal Agricultural Society Showground site
Gadi	Also spelt Cadi, Carrahdigang and Cardigang or Cardi. The clan name of the original custodians of the Sydney Peninsula and surrounding areas. The ‘district of Gadi’ was reported to have stretched from South Head west to ‘the cove adjoining the settlement’ (Darling Harbour) – an area that would have included today’s Parklands
Gadigal	‘The people of Gadi’ (suffix ‘gal’ denotes ‘people of’)
Indigenous Australians	The original ‘first nations’ people of Australia and their descendants. Capitalised.
indigenous	The original flora and fauna of Australia. Local indigenous denotes original flora and fauna of the locality. Lower case.
Item	In this CMP, ‘item’ refers to items, elements, flora and fauna, plantings, fabric, spaces, vistas, places, associations and processes.
(Centennial) Parklands	All land owned by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust including Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park, E.S. Marks Athletics Field, Tay Reserve, former Showground and the York Road ESBS remnant.
Pre-colonial	Accepted term for the period prior to the commencement of the colonisation process, which began in the Sydney region in 1788
Post-contact	Accepted term for the period following the establishment of the colony, which began in the Sydney region in 1788
(RAS) Showground	The former Royal Agricultural Society Showground site. Includes Equestrian Centre, Fox Studios and Family Entertainment Precinct., Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries.
Sustainability	Environmental, social and economic sustainability as defined in the <i>National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development</i>

1.8 Abbreviations

ANHC	Australian Natural Heritage Charter
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CDEP	Aboriginal Community Development Employment Program
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
CP&MPT	Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust
DPoM	Draft Plan of Management
DPWS	Department of Public Works & Services
ESBS	Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an endangered ecological community
PlanningNSW	Trading name of the state department responsible for planning. Formerly NSW Dept of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP)
ICOMOS	International Committee on Monuments and Sites
ML	Mitchell Library
RBGS	Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
SHR	State Heritage Register