

**ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENTS
FOR
BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026
7:30 PM**

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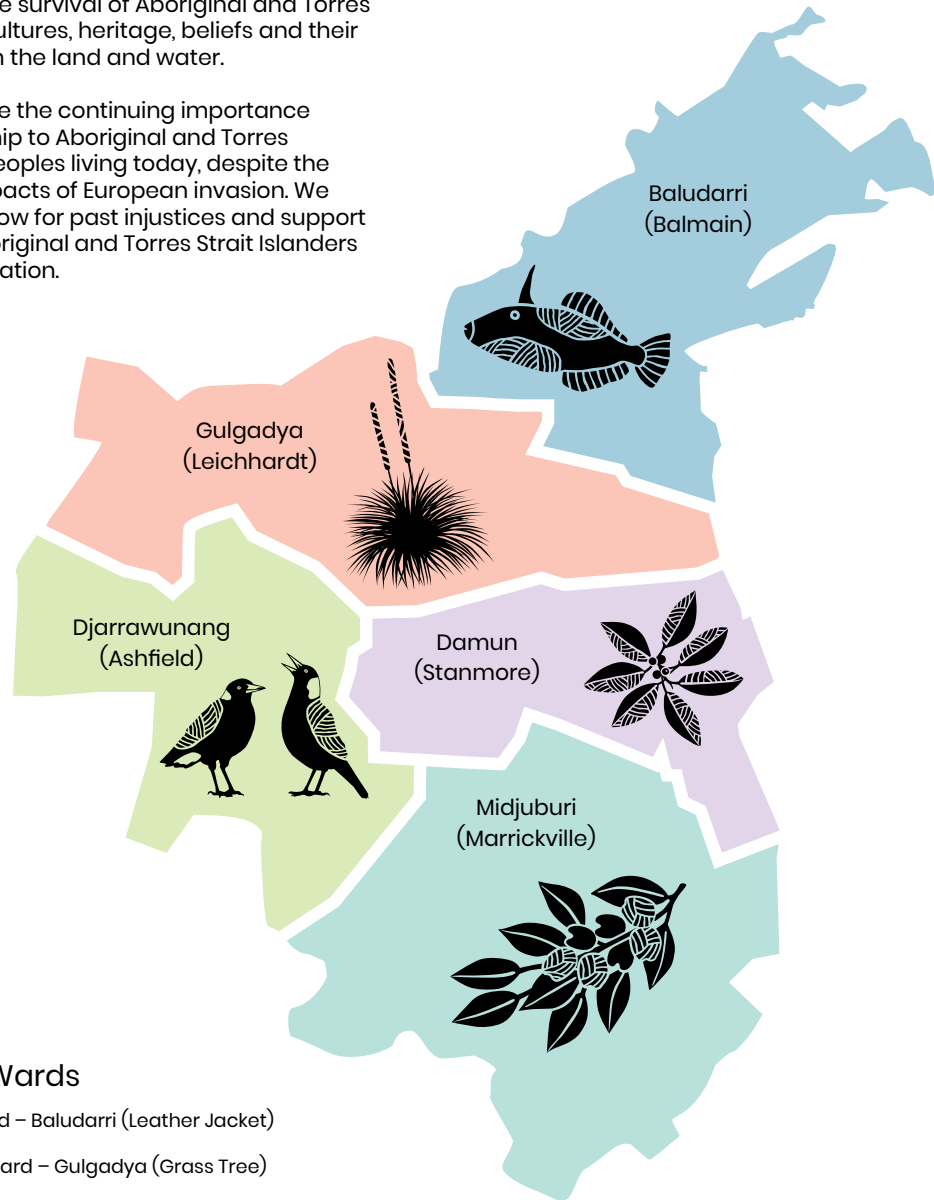
Plan of Management
for Neighbourhood and
Pocket Parks

May 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West Local Government Area is situated. We celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage, beliefs and their relationship with the land and water.

We acknowledge the continuing importance of this relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living today, despite the devastating impacts of European invasion. We express our sorrow for past injustices and support the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to self-determination.



Inner West Wards

- Balmain Ward – Baludarri (Leather Jacket)
- Leichhardt Ward – Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
- Ashfield Ward – Djarrawunang (Magpie)
- Stanmore Ward – Damun (Port Jackson Fig)
- Marrickville Ward – Midjuburi (Lillypilly)

Council Ward Artwork (above): Mumbulla Creative
 Opposite page: Designer - Rhonda Sampson
 Cover image: Michael Frommer

DOCUMENT REGISTER

Date	Revision No.	Revision Details	Approved
30.11.2019	01	Draft Issue 01 - For internal comment	AC
19.04.2023	02	Draft Issue 02 - For internal review	AC
28.06.2023	03	Draft Issue 03 - For council endorsement	AC
06.09.2023	04	Draft Issue 04 - Amendments as per Crown Lands requests	FC
01.11.2023	05	Draft Issue 05 - Amendments as per Crown Lands requests	AC
19.01.2024	06	Draft Issue 06 - Amendments as per Crown Lands requests	FC
02.05.2025	07	Draft Issue 07 - Updates for adoption	AC



Item 3

Attachment 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extensive research in 2018 resulted in the Inner West Council Recreation Needs Study: a Healthier Inner West (RNS 2018). The RNS 2018 was updated in 2021 to include:

- updated population growth data
- recreational demands of workers
- evolved policy context
- State Government owned open space in benchmarking calculations
- adoption of a Planning Catchment

The RNS 2021 identified that the Inner West Council Local Government Area (LGA) has an overall median rate of open space provision per person based on the 2016 population, and the provision differs greatly across planning catchments.

Based on the forecast population growth in the Inner West Council LGA, rate of open space provision per person would decline and become insufficient by 2036.

Parks are identified in the RNS 2021 as the most common types of facilities visited by the Inner West community for recreation.

This Plan of Management covers the majority of neighbourhood and pocket parks within the Inner West LGA on either Council land or Crown land managed by Council.

The neighbourhood and pocket parks provide a highly diverse range of recreation experiences including:

- Passive recreation
- Dog walking
- Community connections

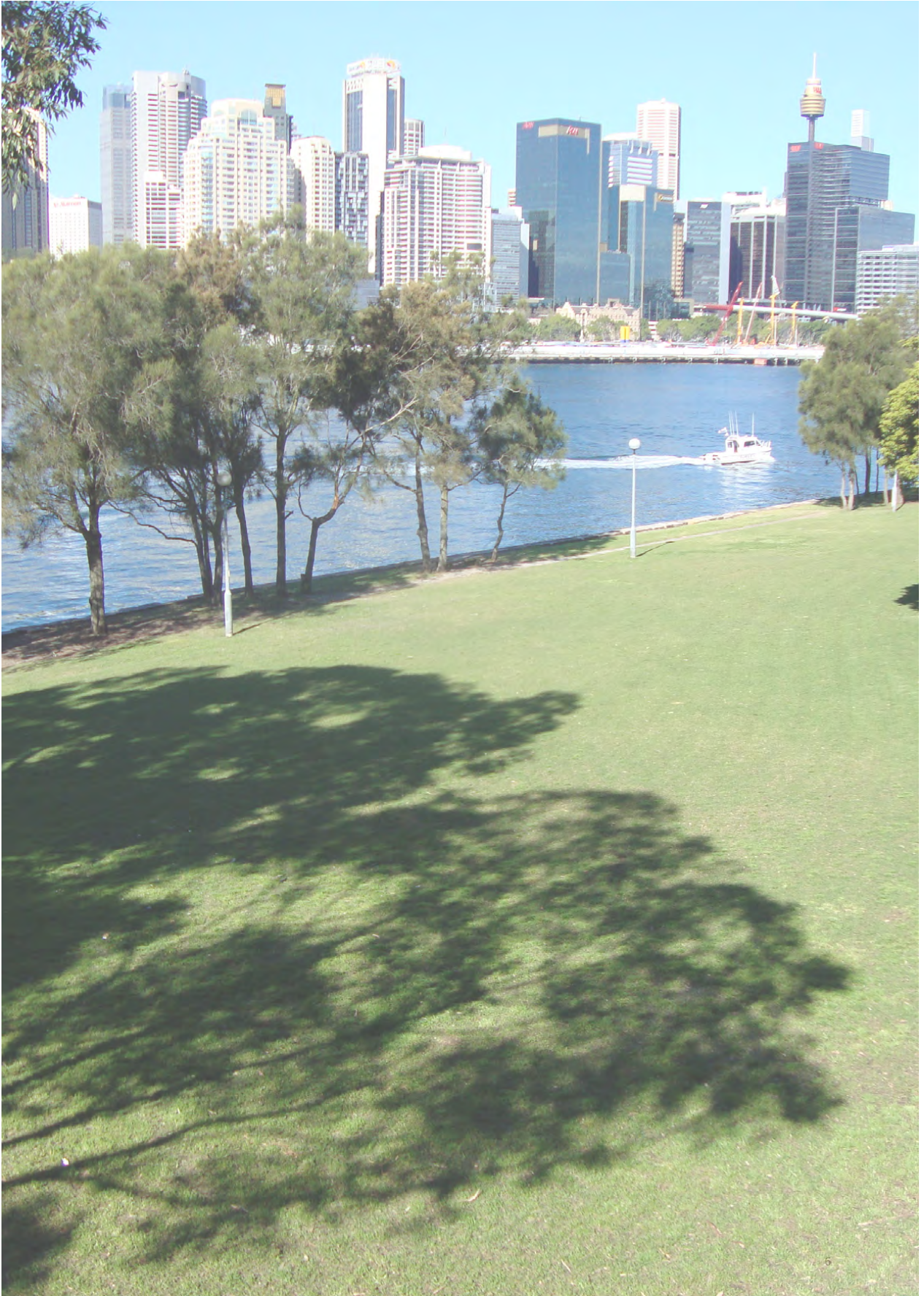
- Picnicking
- Children’s playground
- Cultural events
- Education
- Biodiversity and biodiversity corridors
- Transport corridors
- Exercise
- Relaxation

This Plan of Management outlines the legislative requirements for management of Council’s parks along with key objectives and recommendations which will guide their strategic direction over the next 10 years.

The Plan of Management balances interests of passive and active recreation, biodiversity, stormwater treatment, heritage and pedestrian and cyclist circulation.

It aims to deliver outcomes that facilitate multi-purpose infrastructure which provides a range of recreation experiences and environmental benefits.

The site suggestions have taken consideration of aspects including community engagement outcomes, recreation needs, accessibility, heritage, art, asset maintenance, urban ecology, and cycleway infrastructure.



Item 3

Attachment 1

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Vision Statement

The Inner West Council area enjoys an established and well distributed network of neighbourhood and pocket parks. Council recognises that **quality open space** is a critical component of **attractive** and **liveable** high density urban areas. The ability of Council to significantly expand the urban network of publicly accessible open space is restricted due to the land supply and budget constraints. Therefore, Council's investment in open space in the existing urban area prioritises **improving the existing network of open spaces**.

This **Plan of Management** sets out key principles and priorities to deliver high quality parks and open spaces across the Inner West Local Government Area. Plans of Management are principally concerned with the provision of **high quality open spaces** which are **welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable** areas for community use and interaction. Neighbourhood and pocket parks are valued by the community and will continue to add to the **vibrancy** and to the **character** of the Inner West.

Community involvement in the development of this plan has been essential. Parks are provided for community use and enjoyment, and in this respect, spaces need to be well designed and take account of community needs by responding to the local context.

01 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Plan of Management?

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) requires all Council owned land to be classified as 'community' or 'operational' land.

A Plan of Management (PoM) is required under the Act to be prepared for all public land that is classified as 'community' land. The community land is to be managed in accordance with an adopted PoM.

A PoM is an overarching strategic document informing the planning and management framework of a single or more than one parcel of land. A PoM outlines the current and future use, development, and maintenance of the land.

As required by the Act, a PoM is to identify the category of the land as one or more of the following five categories:

1. Natural area
2. Sportsground
3. Park
4. Area of cultural significance
5. General community use

1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- Provide an integrated approach specific to the management of neighbourhood and pocket parks across the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA).
- Outline the current and future use, development and maintenance of the neighbourhood and pocket parks.
- include measurable and defined deliverables for activating Our Inner West 2036 - Community Strategic Plan (CSP).
- Ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.
- Ensure alignment with relevant council adopted strategies and policies.

This Plan of Management outlines how neighbourhood and pocket parks are to be managed and improved to meet the current and future demands over the next 10 years.

1.3 Change and review of this PoM

This PoM is to be reviewed at 5 (minor review) and 10 years (major review) intervals to ensure it aligns with the changing community needs, and Council strategies and policies.

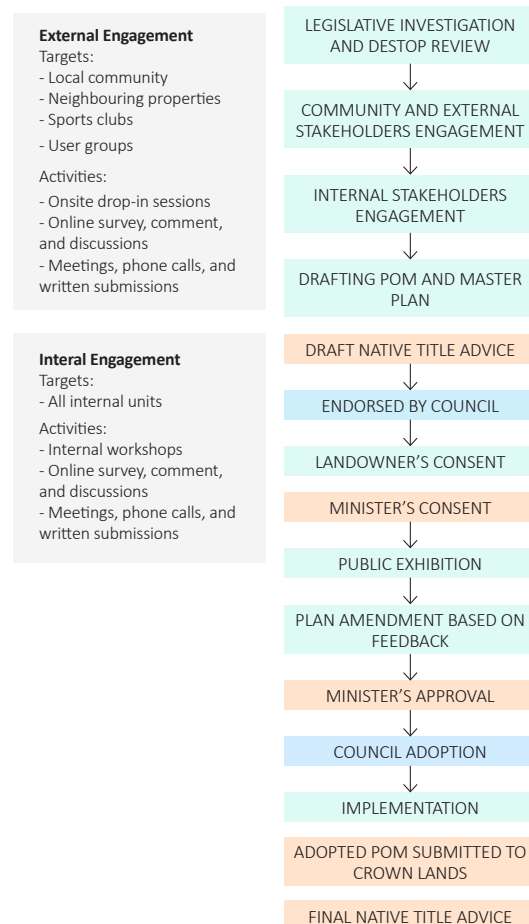
The Appendices related to non-Crown land in this PoM may be updated to

reflect the current schedule of land and their latest conditions. Information regarding Crown land will be updated with consent from the Minister for Crown Lands.

1.4 Process of preparing this PoM

The process of preparing this Plan of Management is outlined in Figure 1.1 as follows. (Note: Steps highlighted in orange apply to Crown land only.)

Figure 1.1 Process of preparing this Plan of Management



01 INTRODUCTION

1.5 Community engagement

To better understand community needs, preferences, and aspirations of the neighbourhood and pocket parks, community engagement was conducted prior to drafting the PoM.

The community engagement was undertaken in July and August 2019 to seek generic feedback on the current and future condition and use of the neighbourhood and pocket parks in the Inner West LGA.







The community engagement was hosted on Your Say Inner West and feedback was collected via interactive maps where community members could drop pins and provide comments. Participants were asked three survey questions to contextualise their comments:

1. How do you use the park?
2. How often do you use the park?
3. What suburb do you live in?








A total of 93 community members provided feedback with 132 pins to mark what could be improved and 49 pins to mark what people loved about parks.

Outlined in the following lists are the overarching themes which emerged from the process. A full copy of the engagement report including detailed feedback on individual parks can be found in Appendix D.

WHAT I LOVE

-  Planting and mature trees are great, especially as they attract local wildlife
-  Fenced playgrounds/parks work well for keeping young children, pets and balls contained
-  Great facilities including dog off-leash areas, doggy bags and bins, bubblers and dog bowls
-  A wonderful mix of uses and user groups facilitated by a variety of passive and active activities in the park
-  A great mix of sun and shade
-  A well-maintained space

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

-  Explore possibilities for dog off-leash areas or off-leash times of the day
-  Better enforcement of on-leash areas
-  Regular maintenance and rubbish bin emptying
-  Cycling or scooter track for kids
-  More plantings generally, in particular along the borders of parks adjacent to busy roads
-  More seating and picnic facilities
-  Community gardens
-  Playground equipment maintenance and refresh
-  Additional shade provision from trees or shade sails
-  Connection of green spaces especially along waterways
-  Diverse active and passive recreation opportunities

1.6 Structure of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into sections as outlined in the Table 1.1 as follows.

Table 1.1 Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1 Introduction	What is a Plan of Management, purpose of the PoM, community engagement overview, and structure of the PoM
2 Land covered by this Plan of Management	Land covered by this PoM and land exempted.
3 Legislative framework	From State to local government level legislations and planning contexts
4 Basis of management	Community land categorisation, guidelines and objectives from legislations, and principles from Council strategic documents
5 Leases and licences	Authorisation of leases, licences, and other estates
6 Land use and development	Permissible uses and developments, scale and intensity of use, use agreements, bookings and events
7 Strategy and action plan	Objectives, design principles and guidelines, action plan, assessment of performance
8 Implementation and review	Implementation and review of this PoM
Appendices	<p>A A schedule of land covered by this PoM</p> <p>B A schedule of definitions for information in Appendix C</p> <p>C Location analysis of parks in each ward, and information for each property listed in Appendix A including both key information required by the Act and additional information to align with Council strategies and operational management.</p> <p>Individual property information is grouped in the following sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Baludarri Ward (Balmain) 2 Gulgadya Ward (Leichhardt) 3 Djarrawunang Ward (Ashfield) 4 Damun Ward (Stanmore) 5 Midjuburi Ward (Marrickville) 6 Crown Land 7 Plaza <p>D Community engagement report</p>

Land covered by this PoM are divided into groups according to the ward in which they are located instead of the planning catchments adopted by the RNS & CANS 2022. The planning catchment each park falls in is identified in Appendix A.

Key Abbreviations

STIF	Sydney Turpentine Iron bark Forest	WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design
SSROC	Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils	ESD	Environmentally Sensitive Design
LGA	Local Government Area	RNS	Recreation Needs Study
CBD	Central Business District	CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CLM Act	Crown Land Management Act 2016	CANS	Community Asset Needs Strategy

02 LAND TO WHICH THIS PLAN APPLIES

2.1 Land covered by this Plan of Management

The Inner West Council has an established and broadly distributed network of neighbourhood and pocket parks. There are a total of 236 properties that are classified as neighbourhood park, pocket park, or plaza across the LGA.

The majority of these parks (qty. 212) are covered in this Plan of Management. A schedule of land covered by this PoM is in Appendix A. Individual property information is in Appendix C.

This PoM sets out key principles and priorities to cohesively deliver high quality parks which are welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable spaces for diverse community use.

2.2 Parks exempted from this Plan of Management

There are some neighbourhood and pocket parks that are covered by specific PoMs for a variety of reasons and are not covered by this Plan of Management for Neighbourhood and Pocket Parks.

A schedule of neighbourhood and pocket parks that are exempted from this PoM is in Table 2.1.

2.3 Crown Land

A number of neighbourhood and pocket parks covered by this PoM are Crown land owned by the State of New South Wales with Council appointed as the Crown Land Manager. Council manages these lands with a consistent approach to the community land.

Crown lands covered by this PoM are prepared for formal endorsement by the Minister in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 2016*.

Property details of individual Crown land reserve are in Appendix C6.

Table 2.1 Neighbourhood and pocket parks exempted from this PoM

Park Name	Suburb	Ward	Crown Land/ Reserve No.
2-8 Weston Street	Balmain East	Balmain	No
Bridgewater Park	Rozelle	Balmain	No
Cooks River Foreshore	Marrickville	Marrickville	No
Dibble Avenue Waterhole	Marrickville	Marrickville	No
Fitzroy Avenue Reserve	Balmain	Balmain	No
Hoskins Park	Dulwich Hill	Ashfield	No
Illoura Reserve	Balmain East	Balmain	No
J.F. Laxton Reserve	Dulwich Hill	Ashfield	No
Kendrick Park	Tempe	Marrickville	No
Lewis Herman Reserve	Ashfield	Ashfield	No
Lookes Avenue Reserve	Balmain East	Balmain	No
Maundrell Park	Petersham	Marrickville	No
Paringa Reserve	Balmain	Balmain	No
Peacock Point	Balmain East	Balmain	No
Punch Park	Balmain	Balmain	No
Richardson's Lookout	Marrickville	Marrickville	Yes/ 500334
Thornton Park	Balmain East	Balmain	No
Tillman Park	Sydenham	Marrickville	No
War Memorial Park	Leichhardt	Balmain	No
Warren Park	Marrickville	Marrickville	No
Weekley Park	Stanmore	Stanmore	Yes/ 500202 & 500205
Yurulbin Park	Birchgrove	Balmain	No

03 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Local Government Act 1993

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) requires all Council owned land to be classified as either ‘operational’ or ‘community’ land.

Operational land comprises land that serves a commercial or operational function (e.g. offices, works depot, car park, sewage pump station, etc), or land that is being retained for commercial or strategic reasons.

Community land generally consists of land that is for general community use, such as public parkland, and must not be sold. The use and management of community land is to be regulated by an adopted Plan of Management.

Requirements of the Act for Council to prepare a Plan of Management are outlined in Table 3.1 as follows.

Table 3.1 Requirements of the Act for a Plan of Management

Requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
The Plan must classify community land into one of the five categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Natural area Sportsground Park Area of cultural significance General community use
The Plan must include objectives and performance targets, the means to achieve the objectives and targets, and the manner to assess the performance.
The Plan must include a description of the condition and the use of the land and of any buildings or other improvements on the land at the date of adoption.
The Plan must specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used.
The Plan must specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.
The Plan describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.
The draft PoM must be exhibited for 28 days and allowed for a submission period for at least 42 days.
Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate over community land if it is expressly authorised in the PoM.

3.2 Crown Land Management Act 2016

Council is the appointed Crown land manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) for all the Crown land covered by this PoM.

Council is to care, control, and manage the land in accordance with the reserve purposes as if they are public land under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The objectives and principles of Crown land management are set out in the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, which can be accessed at: www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

3.3 Native Title Act 1993

The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* may affect use of Crown land, particularly development and granting of tenure. Under the CLM Act, Council is required to obtain written advice from an accredited native title manager on the compliance with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation regarding Council’s dealing and activities on Crown land.

3.4 Local Planning Control

The Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 (LEP) has been in force since 12 August 2022 which applies to the entire LGA. The LEP has zoned majority of lands covered by this PoM in the RE1 Public Recreation with a few exceptions.

Development or uses that are authorised in the PoM may still require a development consent granted pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

3.5 Heritage

A number of parks covered by this PoM are listed heritage items in the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 (LEP). The use and development of heritage items will be regulated by Development Control Plans and/ or more specific Conservation Management Plans and may require consent.

03 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.5 Other Relevant Legislation and Policies

Legislation and policies that are highly relevant to the subject lands are listed as follows.

3.5.1 Federal Telecommunications Act 1997

The federal *Telecommunications Act 1997* permits carriers to enter land to install and maintain low-impact facilities without authorisation in a Plan of Management. Carriers are required to give prior written notice to the owner and occupier of the land before proceeding with the works.

3.5.2 State Government Legislation and Policies

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)

Companion Animals Act 1998

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Heritage Act 1977

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Waste Minimisation Act 1995

Pesticides Act 1999

Retail Leases Act 1994

Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

Water Management Act 2000

Coastal Management Act 2016

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

3.5.3 Inner West Council Planning Instruments and Policies

Our Inner West 2036: The Inner West Community Strategic Plan 2022

Recreation Needs Study: A Healthier Inner West 2021

Community Assets Needs Strategy 2021

Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022

Inner West Comprehensive Development Control Plan (DCP) 2016 for Ashbury, Ashfield, Croydon, Croydon Park, Haberfield, Hurlstone Park and Summer Hill 2017

Leichhardt Development Control Plan 2013

Marrickville Development Control Plan 2011

Our Place Inner West: Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Zero Waste Strategy 2021-2036

Going Places: An Integrated Transport Strategy for the Inner West 2020

Creative Inner West: Cultural Strategy 2022-2025

Community Garden Policy 2020

Dog Off-Leash Areas in Parks Policy 2019

Events in Parks Policy 2018

Events in Parks Guidelines 2018

Land and Property Policy 2019

Weed Management Policy 2019

Inner West Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2021

Inclusion Action Plan (for People with a Disability) 2017-21

Public Toilet Strategy 2022

Climate + Renewables Strategy 2019

Memorial planting and plaques in parks and open space policy 2019

Pesticide Use Notification Plan 219

Busking Policy 2019

