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01/02/2024

Bank Street Park

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and considered input to NSW Government delivery of the remaining 1.1-hectare waterside park that surrounds the southern pylons of the ANZAC bridge. And one if not the last significant parcel of public foreshore land meeting public water from Glebe around the Harbour to the Eastern suburbs. We care deeply about this space!

As long-term local residents (work/live/study/sleep) in Pyrmont, we have clear understanding of this site's history. And have taken part in decades of this site's iterations, written years of submissions, attended all the online conversations, plus face-to-face meetings and had many discussions pre and post where we are today. This area is decades in the making.

- This park needs to respectfully be named "Tjerruing Park", in honour of the First Nations people who gathered and used the leaves and flowers of this significant bayside tree – *Callicoma serratifolia*, or Blackwattle. We support the dominant species before European settlement *Callicome serratifolia* be planted throughout the park with appropriate education signage (QR codes).
 - The current and remaining native mangroves planting area must be expanded (further offshore and along shore) to provide a safe breeding ground for fish and other maritime species. Particularly as the construction impacts - Physical and visual pollution: vibration, silt, excessive marine construction traffic, land run off from construction sites for the Blackwattle Bay will cause excessive stress to bay fish and marine species. Blackwattle Bay risks losing its remaining diverse marine habitat and marine life as they are literally being pushed out by human design. The exemplar is Glebe foreshore!
 - Connection to Country and First Nations representation, must include, respect and recognise the waterfront land topography with tributaries. Plus, the First Nations use of this land, gathering at fresh water to trade, clean and eat seafood from the Bay. Simple, artistic and perfect examples to guide the final Bank Street Park design, also achieve providing access to freshwater on the harbour foreshore for wildlife and pollinators, particularly during seasons of extreme temperature fluctuations and increased heat:
- I. The Swellstone water installation located in Fig Lane Park Ultimo. 320-334 Jones Street is meaningful and small in scale. The sculpture draws inspiration from a natural spring that once existed on the Pyrmont Peninsula, known by the local settled community as Tinkers Well.



<https://www.cityartsydney.com.au/artwork/swellstone/>

- II. A water feature of small scale for a small area, is located at the Piccolo Me Cafe, entrance of the Royal Botanic Gardens entrance off Macquarie Street.



<https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/visit/map#/venues/50>

During a recent face-to-face community session, I attended on site to discuss urban wildlife and the need for Toolbox Talks for known Wildlife in the area. The gentleman I was advised to speak with that day about landscaping and I watched a juvenile Magpie bouncing around the remaining natural grass looking for worms and other critters. As we discussed the need for Toolbox Talks for known Wildlife. As I walked away from our discussion, I spotted the juvenile Magpie's adult birds (Parentals) in the large branches of the established park trees intently watching their young. Some of the known large birds living, visiting nesting, feeding at this site/park are: Magpies, Currawongs, Ravens, large birds need large branches and are part of this space's ecosystem.

At that community session, I provided verbal feedback on this development's need to take responsibility for urban wildlife by not just including, but prioritising Urban infrastructure Toolbox Talks for known Wildlife talks for this Parks delivery. From paper to action on the ground, we adamantly support NSW Government to include in the management of impact plan for works in this park to advise the adoption a Toolbox Talk for known Wildlife in the area. (Toolbox talk specific to this site can be provided). This means advising the all workers connected to site (land and water), construction contractors and landscape contractors to also commit and implement Toolbox Talks for known Wildlife in the area. As biodiversity protection and management is necessary for this area.

Pending the season, should arborists remove or do hard pruning of large trees. Active birds' nests should not be removed or the adult birds scared off. One adult bird could be sitting on eggs, while the other adult bird gathers and returns with food. Or feeding young. A full assessment of the trees close to work zones, haulage routes and park land impacted by construction vehicle's and storage areas should be carried out with a representative from WIRES. The Pymont WIRES volunteer worker would also complete a thorough examination (dawn and dusk) of all the trees (all sizes) for skeleton and in use birds' nests.

For your information, a number of large key tenants in Pymont and their construction companies plus, underground network contracting companies for over a decade (here in Pymont) have used a customed to the area toolbox talk for native birds residing in the street trees surrounding construction sites and the associated Pymont local roads used for sites haulage routes. We adamantly support NSW Government to include in the management of impact plan for works in this park to advise the adoption a Toolbox Talk for known Wildlife in the area. (Toolbox talk specific to this site can be provided). The recent Currawong Toolbox Meeting document for one of the Pymont locations for a current utility provider working on roads around Pymont example:

The image shows three pages of a toolbox talk document. The first page is the title page with the subject 'ACTIVE CURRAWONG NEST, BIRD sitting 24/7 on eggs'. The second page contains detailed instructions, a map of the site, and safety warnings. The third page is an attendance sheet.

We also strongly echo that growing public interest is forcing architects to amend designs and switch plain glass for "bird-friendly glass". People are becoming increasingly aware of this issue, and as architects learn that it's important to the public, more and more buildings will be constructed with design elements that help keep birds safe. Buildings with large amounts of glazing, windows where you can see through, or mirrored facades are understood to be responsible for huge numbers of bird deaths each year globally, 'with over a one billion killed in the US and an estimated 100 million bird collisions in the UK'. The majority of these deaths can be prevented by architects amending their designs to protect birds. "Architects can easily have films, ultraviolet patterns, and other innovative designs added to glass windows."

https://www.dezeen.com/2022/08/22/building-collision-bird-deaths-peta/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dezeen Debate 778&utm_content=Dezeen Debate 778+CID_a90b0e79b557d512fb26990b90a6c20a&utm_source=Dezeen Mail&utm_term=Read more

As birds cannot recognise daylight reflections and glass does not appear to them to be solid. If it is clear they see it as the image beyond the glass. Birds can also be caught in building cul-de-sac courtyards – open spaces with closed ends are traps. At night, the problem is light from buildings, it may disorientate birds. Birds are drawn to lights at night. Glass walls then simply act as targets.

NSW Government in this park can make buildings safer for birds by including architectural elements like awnings, screens, grilles, shutters and verandas to deter birds from hitting buildings. Opaque glass also provides a warning. Birds see ultraviolet light, which humans cannot. Some manufacturers are now developing glass with patterns using a mixed UV wavelength range that alerts birds but has no effect on human sight.

New York City passed a bird-friendly law requiring all new buildings and building alterations (at least under 23 metres tall, where most fly) be designed so birds can recognise glass. Windows must be “fitted” using applied labels, dots, stripes and so on. A Zen curtain developed in Brisbane has worked at the University of Queensland. This approach uses an open curtain of ropes strung on the side of buildings. These flutter in the breeze, making patterns and shadows on glass, which birds don’t like.

More common, and best adopted at the design phase of a building, is to mark window glass so birds can see it. Just as we etch images on glass doors to alert people, we can apply a label or decal to a window as a warning to birds. Even using interior blinds semi-open will deter birds.

Birds make cities friendlier as part of the shared environment. The Architects and Designers of this parkland have a responsibility to provide safe flying and security from the effects of human habitation and construction. We strongly support the glazing in this parkland’s buildings to be bird friendly by material choice and design.

- It is unclear, will there be stormwater capture for the parkland, if not why not?
- We request the addition of new combination bubblers for humans and pets (street furniture), throughout this public park.
- A future swimming area (when water quality improves) is something to be very excited for!
- City wide on public land, we are losing trees at an alarming rate and the wildlife that live in them are competing for rapidly diminishing trees that are left. Once the wildlife is gone, they won’t return. The Parks pylons are a missed opportunity for the inclusion of several green walls. Look to One Central Park, Chippendale for exemplary design which redeems negative building materials.
<https://junglefy.com.au/project/one-central-park/>
- We support the maximum number of habitat boxes to be included in the parks design for terrestrial biodiversity. And low-spill lighting choices, near habitat vegetation to reduce disturbance to nocturnal animals - sensitive lighting concepts,
- Feature up-lighting of buildings facades with meaningful historic images (and QR codes – NSW Gov to encourage educational conversations and future victors plus community bonding to the area) should be considered for the repurposing of the current buildings. Again, the up-lighting needs to avoid tree canopies for urban wildlife nesting - sensitive lighting concepts.
- Sensitive lighting concepts for public parks and open community spaces need to be people safe. Walking and bicycle pathway lighting design should be focused down onto the path for safety reasons, seeing oncoming faces is very important. So too is the inclusion of CCTV, for safety, passive security and data collection needs.
- This sizable park needs to install permanent data collecting tech devices, before work commences, during construction and to remain permanently in place. The inclusion of data collection tech devices would recognise and build understanding, trust and collaboration by providing factual information. This tech is for the betterment of the neighbourhood (gives back and contributes to the Community via the City and NSW Government.

Lastly, please strongly consider life between buildings, preserving the current, healthy, large canopy trees and planting many many more large canopy trees in groups supports a diverse ecosystem of pollinating insects, birds, and bats, exceeding the humane population of Sydney. These trees provide a plethora of benefits, including visual stimulation, colour changing movement, wildlife watching, light spill mitigation, cooler ground-level temperatures, and pollution filtering, equating to live/work/sleep/study environmental amenity. Trees support mental health.

- Increasing biodiversity / green spaces with tree canopy's supports better mental health.
- Rising temperatures in cities have documented the links between heat exhaustion and mental health impacts.
- Trees make it cool to walk, run or ride, and sit beneath, all of which are good for mental health.
- Feeling restored and alert. As the vibrant colours, natural shapes and textures, fresh aromas, and rustling of leaves in the breeze all provide you with effortless distraction and relief from whatever it was you might have been thinking about, or even stressing over.
- Studies back this up, demonstrating 'walks through green space have been shown to reduce blood pressure' (4), improve mental acuity, boost memory recall, and reduce feelings of anxiety. The Japanese have a name for this type of experience, shinrin-yoku.
- 'Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings'
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272494402001093>

Your consideration is appreciated.

Local Resident