



Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

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AILA Landscape Heritage Group

Prof. Emeritus Helen Armstrong AM FAILA, Craig Burton FAILA, Oi Choong FAILA, Matthew Taylor FAILA, Annabel Murray.

Thursday, 23 May 2019

Mr Todd Kitson  
Senior Manager  
Parklands & Public Domain  
Sydney Olympic Park Authority

Dear Mr Kitson,

**RE: Sydney Olympic Park - Parklands Future Directions (draft) - written submission**

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects NSW Committee, the AILA Landscape Heritage Group, was formed to develop an approach to ensuring the diversity and character of cultural landscape heritage of New South Wales is recognised. It identifies landscape, as places of significance, for conservation.

The committee aims to strategically raise awareness within AILA and the general community, of landscape heritage, underpinned by ICOMOS, Burra Charter, NSW State heritage criteria and community values. This founding committee consist of experts in the field of heritage conservation, having amongst the members; many years of heritage expertise in the preparation of proposals for National, State and Local listing, an intimate knowledge of the policies and practice of heritage in NSW, practical experience in the application of policy in the way of Heritage Impact Statements, Heritage Impact Assessments, Heritage Management Plans and, the implementation of works on the ground on National, State and Local listed properties.

The AILA Landscape Heritage study 2018, guided by this Committee, was recently awarded WINNER in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Trust Heritage Awards, 2019. Bicentenary Park and the 1999 Olympic Park, Homebush Bay, Sydney are listed as Significant Landscape Design in Appendix 1., (Burton 2015, p.205) of the AILA Landscape Heritage Report 2018, supported by Heritage NSW, and soon to be included as significant landscape on [AILA.org.au](http://AILA.org.au) and in AILA NSW [state advocacy](#).

While the AILA Landscape Heritage Group was not given the opportunity to attend the workshops, it has considered the materials prepared by David Martin, Landscape Architect and Manager, Public Domain Design, SOPA, relating to the **Parklands Future Directions (Draft)**. The comments and recommendations are set out below.

***The AILA Landscape Heritage Group would appreciate notification in advance of the preparation for exhibition and expect an opportunity to comment prior to finalisation of the strategy.*** In addition to key issues raised in 2016, by the then President of AILA (NSW), Gareth Collins, regarding stronger connection and improved pedestrian and cycle access to the parklands from the SOP Town Centre (and neighbouring residential precincts at Carter Street, Rhodes Pensinsula, Wentworth Point and Newington), AILA seeks recognition of the significance of the design in terms of;

- the Parklands, and Town Centre, as an internationally regarded body of award winning of landscape architecture spanning over 30 years commencing with the planning and design of Bicentennial Park in the mid 1980's which formed a key part of the successful 1993 'Green Games' Olympic bid to the IOC to host the 2000 Summer Games and basis for the post-Games delivery of the Millennium Parklands
- Olympic Parklands as a "high functioning and high value precinct of living green infrastructure", as stated by current President AILA (NSW) Mark Tyrrell, which needs to be respected and protected as the Olympic Peninsula strives to meet NSW Government targets for residential, commercial and population growth and % urban green cover set by the Greater Sydney Commission under the vision for Greater Parramatta to the Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) to become a successful urban hub.
- 'Millennium Markers' as an internationally significant and unique set of large scale land-art forms and their formal naming by the **NSW Geographic Names Board** under consideration as a potential AILA/SOPA 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary partnership initiative for September 2020.
- Critical carrying capacity limits for both recreation (passive and active) and bio-diversity values
- Role and critical value of the Parklands as an internationally recognised and integrated urban parkland system for case studies and growing demand for Technical Tour delegations, particularly from Asia. Awards won by Olympic projects and post-Olympic projects include; Blaxland Riverside Park and the high profile international case study supported and featured online by the Landscape Architecture Foundation <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/sydney-olympic-millennium-parklands>
- Vulnerability to changing climate and the need for a **Parklands Adaptation Plan** to address adaptive responses toward a strategic planning horizon of 2040-2050+
- Need for a **Parklands Active Transport strategy** linked to proposed light rail and metro to reduce growing levels of car dependency for short trip travel from surrounding residential neighbourhoods
- Need for **Parklands : Healthy Parks - Healthy People Strategy** to address high local levels of childhood obesity and the role of the Parklands as a shared backyard for over 75,000 apartment dwellers by 2030 living within a 500m walking distance
- Critical requirement to restore more sustainable levels of NSW Treasury funding to support ageing assets, subject to increasing user demand, stress from changing climate and fiscal recognition of the community benefits of *avoided health costs* from public investment in high value green infrastructure

We look forward to notification of an opportunity to comment on the Draft Parklands Future Directions strategy prior to exhibition,

Yours sincerely,



Mark Tyrrell  
President, (NSW)  
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects