



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PUNCH PARK

LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been developed to guide Council and the community in the future development, maintenance and management of Punch Park, Balmain.

Leichhardt Council has established broad objectives in relation to public open space management:

- a) To improve the amenity of open space within the Leichhardt Local Government Area;
- b) To prepare and establish Plans of Management including Landscape Master plans for each area of open space that guides the future development, management and maintenance of its open space facilities;
- c) To actively engage community input in the preparation of Plans of Management for parkland areas and provide informed planning advice to Council;
- d) To reduce ongoing maintenance costs through the improved design and management of facilities;
- e) To implement sustainability principles with consideration of Council's Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan; and
- f) To establish a proposed and documented program for staged improvement works which are prioritised and agreed to by Council.

This Plan of Management also supports the vision and directions outlined in Council's 2020+ Strategic Plan in relation to community well-being; accessibility; and a sustainable environment and specifically the objective to "Plan open space and other developments to increase open space, enhance the natural environment and native biodiversity".

1.2 Overview of Punch Park

Punch Park is located within the densely populated suburb of Balmain and is bounded by Wortley Street, Reynolds Street and Foy Street. Refer to Figure 1 for a location plan and Figure 2 for an aerial photograph of the park. The land is described as Lot 1 of Deposited Plan 797902. The Park is approximately 0.85 hectares in area.

Punch Park is owned by Council and is classified as Community Land.

The site comprises predominately passive open space but also provides for active and structured recreational opportunities in the form of two tennis courts with an ancillary building; and an enclosed children's playground. The parkland is characterised by open grassed areas bordered on the southern edge and diagonally by large mature trees including significant Brush Box trees. There are significant Canary Island Date Palms in the north-eastern corner.

The park is primarily used for passive public recreation, including walking, dog walking, and playing in addition to the active use of the tennis courts. Use of Punch Park for dog walking is governed by Council Policy in relation to leashed and off-leash use.

The Park is located on the southern slope of the peninsula, approximately half way between the ridge and White Bay. The surrounding land uses comprise:

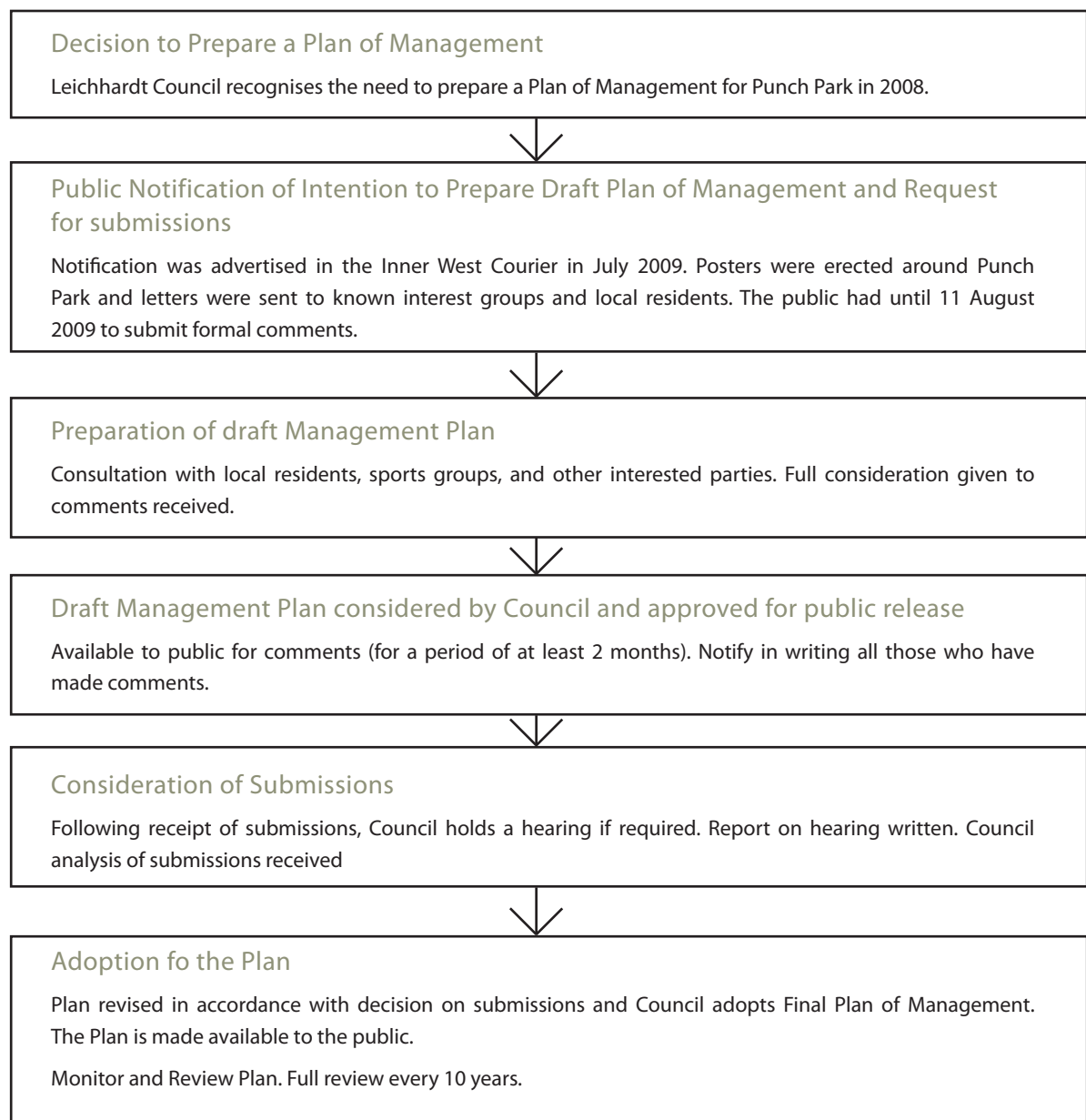
- Single residential dwellings to the north and west across Wortley Street and Reynolds Street;
- Guest house to the east; and
- Multi-unit housing to the south (constructed following the rezoning of previously industrial uses).

Punch Park was formally established as a park when the Borough of Balmain purchased the land in 1887. An aerial

photograph in Section 4.1 (pp22) below below shows Punch Park in 1943. On this date, improvements including the tennis courts, pathways and trees can be seen on the site. This photograph also highlights the historical industrial uses of the Balmain peninsula.

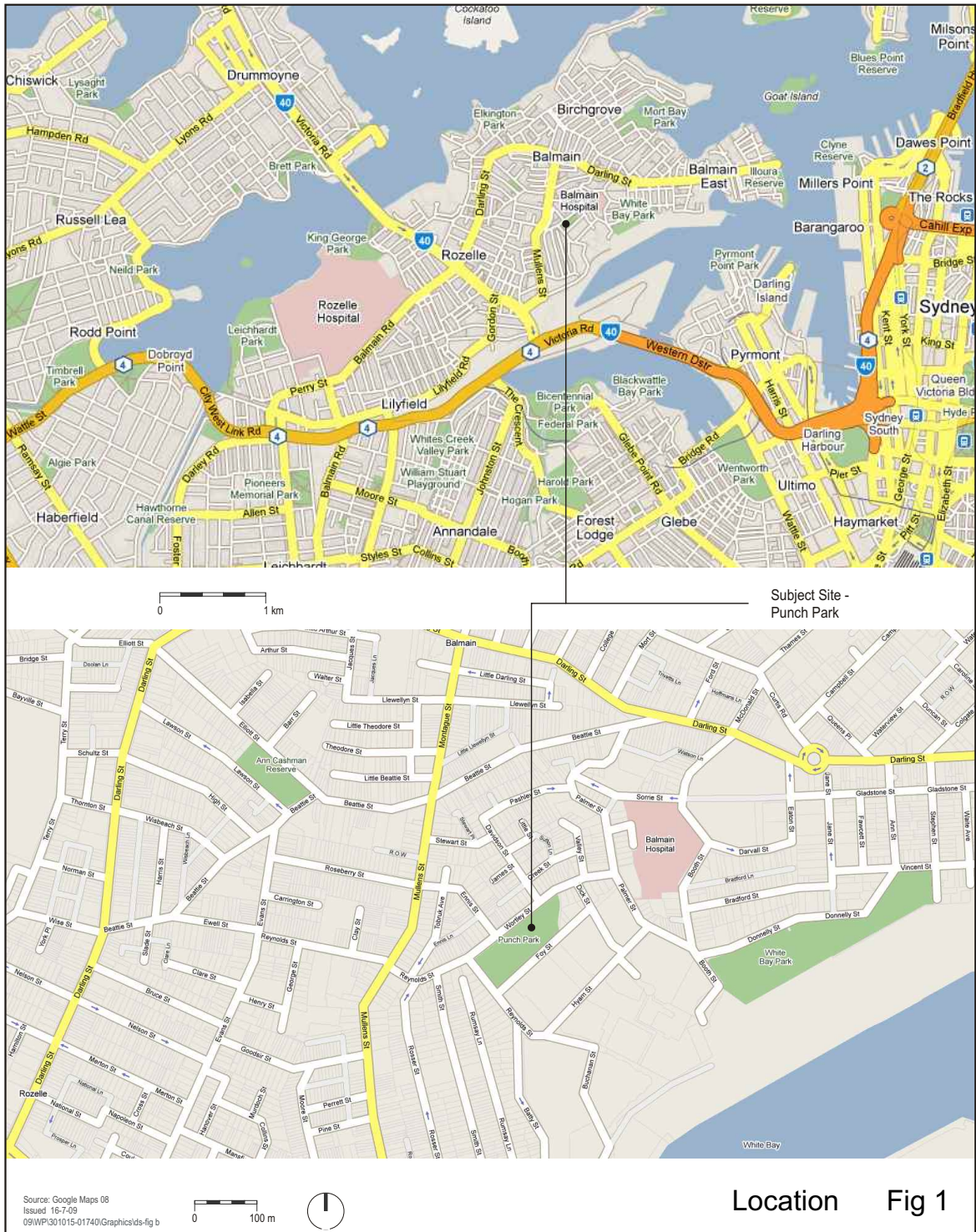


Process to Prepare Punch Park Plan of Management





Aerial view of Punch Park highlighting the tennis courts and formal plantings that form the boundary to the residential streets.





Source: SIX.nsw.gov.au, Bingmaps.com.au
Issued: 21-9-09
09/WP/301015-01740/Graphics/ids-fig b



Site Fig 2

2. Statutory Context

The statutory framework to guide the preparation and operation of the plan of management for Punch Park is primarily set by the:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

In addition, the other legislation, regulations and environmental planning instruments of relevance to the plan of management are:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000
- Companions Animals Act 1998
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992

2.1 Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 (Local Government Act) 1993 is the legal framework for the system of local government in NSW.

Provisions of the Local Government Act relating to plans of management are set out below. These prescribe the content of the plan; categorisation of land and objectives relating to these categories of land; and procedures relating to public notice, exhibition and amendments to the plan.

Integrated Planning

On 1 October 2009 the NSW Government introduced a range of initiatives design to integrate and improve Long Term Strategic Planning within NSW Local Government. The reforms require that Local Government develops a series of inter-related plans comprising a:

- 10-year community strategic plan establishing strategic objectives (local priorities and future aspirations) together with strategies for achieving those objectives;
- Resourcing strategy including asset management planning, a workforce management strategy and long term financial planning. The resourcing strategy is to plan for the resources required to implement the strategies established by the community strategic plan that the council is responsible for; and
- Delivery program for every four years showing how projects and programs are going to be delivered during a council's term in office. The delivery program is to detail the principal activities to be undertaken by the council to implement the strategies established by the community strategic plan within the resources available under the resourcing strategy.

Leichhardt Council is in the process of completing its resourcing strategy and delivery program. The work carried out to date has confirmed the need for infrastructure improvements. In addition to ensuring that all existing assets are maintained Council also has other statutory responsibilities – for example the implementation of its Disability and Discrimination Act Action Plan.

As such in developing a Plan of Management, Council has a responsibility to ensure that the contents of the plan can be funded over a reasonable period of time.

To facilitate this requirement Council staff will be assessing individual elements of the Plan of Management in terms of:

1. Their being a demonstrated need or requirement supported by relevant documentary evidence

2. The likely cost and the cumulative impact on Council's capital works program.
3. The likely delivery date in the context of other items already listed on the Delivery Program. In this regard Council list individual items in one of the following three categories:
 - a. short term (1-5 years)
 - b. medium term (5-15 years)
 - c. long term (15 years plus)

Prescribed Contents for Plan of Management

Clause 36 of the Local Government Act provides that a Council must prepare a plan of management for community land. This clause provides that a plan of management must set out:

- the category of the land,
- the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,
- the means by which the council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets, and
- may require the prior approval of the council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

The plan of management must include a description of the:

- the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
- the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- must:
 - specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
 - specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
 - describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Clause 37 of the Local Government Act provides that a plan of management prepared for land not owned by a



Council:

- (a) must identify the owner of the land, and
- (b) must state whether the land is subject to any trust, estate, interest, dedication, condition, restriction or covenant, and
- (c) must state whether the use or management of the land is subject to any condition or restriction imposed by the owner, and
- (d) must not contain any provisions inconsistent with anything required to be stated by paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

Categorisation and Objectives for Land

Clause 36(4) requires that the land the subject of the plan of management be categorised as one or more of:

- a natural area
- a sportsground
- a park
- an area of cultural significance
- general community use

The classification of Punch Park is discussed in Part 6.

Procedures for Public Notice, Exhibition and Amendments to Plan

Clause 38 of the Local Government Act provides that the Council must put the draft plan of management on exhibition for a period not less than 28 days. A public notice must specify that submissions can be made on the draft plan of management after the day the exhibition period ceases, for a period of not less than 42 days.

Clause 39 of the Local Government Act provides that prior to the public notice being issued on the draft plan of management (Clause 38) the draft plan of management must be submitted to the owner of the land, and to include any provisions required by the owner of the land.

Clause 40 of the Local Government Act provides that after receiving submissions, the Council has the option to amend the plan of management or to adopt it without amendment. Should Council make amendments, it must again exhibit the plan in accordance with Clause 38 this is, unless the amendments are not considered as substantial, in which case, the plan can be adopted without the requirement for further exhibition.

2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) provides for a system of environmental assessment and planning for development in NSW. The Act establishes a hierarchy of planning instruments which zone land and regulate specific types of development across the State.

The EP&A Act is the principal environmental planning legislation controlling the development of land in NSW. All State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and Local Environmental Plans must be consistent with the objects and controls contained within the Act. They include:

- the management, development and conservation of natural and artificial resources,
- the promotion and co-ordination of the orderly and economic use of land,
- protection, provision and co-ordination of communication and utility services,

- provision of public purposes,
- provision and co-ordination of community services and facilities,
- ecological sustainable development, and
- the provision and maintenance of affordable housing.

2.3 State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

Division 12 Parks and other Reserves of the Infrastructure SEPP provides that development is permitted without consent for the following purposes where it is carried out by or on behalf of a council on a public reserve under the control of or vested in the council:

- (a) roads, cycleways, single storey car parks, ticketing facilities and viewing platforms, outdoor recreational facilities, including playing fields, but not including grandstands,
- (c) information facilities such as visitors' centres and information boards,
- (d) lighting, if light spill and artificial sky glow is minimised in accordance with AS/NZS 1158: 2007, Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces.
- (e) landscaping, including irrigation schemes (whether they use recycled or other water),
- (f) amenity facilities,
- (g) maintenance depots,
- (h) environmental management works.

2.4 Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000

The Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000 (LEP) is the primary statutory instrument for controlling land use and development in the local government area of Leichhardt.

Zoning

The subject land is zoned 'Open Space, Recreation and Leisure' (Clause 24) under the LEP.

The objectives of this zone are to:

- (a) to maximise the provision of open space in order to provide a diverse range of settings and recreational opportunities to meet the needs of the community,
- (b) to ensure the equitable distribution of, and access to, open space and recreation facilities,
- (c) to retain, protect and promote public access to foreshore areas and provide links to existing open space,
- (d) to ensure development is compatible with any Parks Plans of Management, Landscape Plans and Bicycle Plan adopted by the Council,
- (e) to conserve and enhance the ecological role of open space, including flora and fauna diversity (including the genetic, species and ecosystem diversity of flora and fauna), habitat corridors and the potential of open space to cleanse air, water and soils,
- (f) to provide opportunities in open space for public art.

Development allowed without development consent in the zone includes for the purpose of:

- ancillary sporting structures

-
- open space embellishment
 - playgrounds
 - recreation areas

Development allowed only with development consent in the zone includes for the purpose of:

- clubs
- community facilities
- community gardens
- jetties
- kiosks
- public amenities
- public transport stops
- recreation facilities
- demolition
- subdivision

All other development outside of these purposes above as defined by the LEP is prohibited in the zone. The LEP defines the types of key development set out above.



PUNCH PARK -
Lot 1 DP 797902

COMPOSITE ZONE MAP
INCLUDING IDO 27, SREP 26 AND LEICHHARDT LEP 2000
ZONING MAP ISSUED APRIL 2003

LEP 2000 ZONING

RESIDENTIAL
BUSINESS
INDUSTRIAL
PUBLIC PURPOSE
OPEN SPACE
OPEN SPACE (TO BE ACQUIRED)
COUNTY ROAD RESERVATION
DEFERRED LAND

SITE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

IDO 27 ZONING

5(A) SPECIAL USES
5(B) RAILWAYS

SREP 26 ZONING

PORTS & EMPLOYMENT
WATERFRONT USE
DEFERRED MATTER

SSP

Leichhardt LEP 2000

Source: Leichhardt Council
Issued: 20-7-09
09/WP/301015-01740/Graphical/ids-fig b

0 100 m



Zoning Fig 3

Conservation Areas and Heritage Items

The Leichhardt Heritage Conservation Map identifies all of Punch Park as a "Landscape" heritage item. It is located in a Conservation Area. Refer to Section 4.2 below for a description of this heritage item.

The objectives in the LEP relating to heritage conservation (Clause 15) are as follows:

- (a) to protect, conserve and enhance the cultural heritage and the evidence of cultural heritage, including places, buildings, works, relics, townscapes, landscapes, trees, potential archaeological sites and conservation areas, and provide measures for their conservation,
- (b) to protect, conserve and enhance the character and identity of the suburbs, places and landscapes of Leichhardt, including the natural, scenic and cultural attributes of the Sydney Harbour foreshore and its creeks and waterways, surface rock, remnant bushland, ridgelines and skylines,
- (c) to prevent undesirable incremental change, including demolition, which reduces the heritage significance of places, conservation areas or heritage items,
- (d) to allow compatible and viable adaptation and re-use of the fabric of heritage significance,
- (e) to ensure the protection of relics and places of Aboriginal cultural significance in liaison with the Aboriginal community.

The LEP contains related provisions concerning the development of heritage items or in the vicinity of heritage items. This requires the consent of Council.

2.5 Companion Animals Act 1998

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 (Companion Animals Act) has as its object, the "effective and responsible care and management of companion animals."

The Companion Animals Act includes responsibilities for dogs in public places and public places where dogs are prohibited.

Clause 13 of the Act ('Responsibilities while dog in public place') sets out;

A dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person.

This section does not apply to a dog accompanied by some competent person in an area declared to be an off-leash area.

Clause 14 sets out that there are some places where dogs are prohibited. These include:

- Children's play areas (within 10 metres of any playing apparatus provided in that public place or part for the use of children);
- Food preparation/consumption areas;
- Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited (for public recreation or the playing of organised games and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited);
- Child care centres.

Leichhardt's Access to Open Space Strategy for Dogs is a strategy that determines levels of access of dogs to open space, in accordance with the Companion Animals Act.



Figure 4: Access to Open Space for Dogs – Punch Park (Source: Leichhardt Council, Access to Open Strategy for Dogs)

Figure 4 above shows the area that is subject to off-leash restrictions on the share, as found in the strategy. Associated with this figure are the following restrictions:

“In recognition of the high level of usage of the potential time-share off-leash area by local schools during weekday afternoon periods it is recommended that the area be on-leash on weekends, public holidays and between 12:30pm to 5pm Monday to Friday.”

In accordance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 (refer to Section 2.5) dogs are prohibited within the enclosed Childrens Playground.

2.6 Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Discrimination Act) sets out to eliminate discrimination against persons with a disability, including in relation to goods, services and facilities and access to premises.

The Discrimination Act sets out provisions relating to “Access to Premises” (Section 23). This makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of their disability by denying access to or use of premises or facilities that are public; or by the path of travel to the premises. Exceptions to this rule include if the making of the access to premises would qualify as ‘justifiable hardship’ on the person who provides the access.

Section 24 of the Discrimination Act sets out provisions relating to goods, services and facilities that make it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of their disability by refusing to provide the person with the goods or services or in the manner in which those goods, services or facilities are provided to the person.

Exceptions to this rule includes if the provision of the goods or services or makes the facilities available would qualify as 'justifiable hardship' on the person who provides the goods or services or makes the facilities available.

Refer to Section 2.7 below for discussion on accessibility requirements.

2.7 Balmain Suburb Profile

The Balmain Suburb Profile describes the existing and desired future character of the valley (Balmain) Distinctive Area that includes the area of Punch Park.

While there are no specific objectives or controls relating to Punch Park or open space or generally, it provides an indication of how the surrounding area may develop.

However there are additional controls set out for the Palmer Street Sub Valley area aiming to prevent removal of mature trees, in which Punch Park is situated. The controls require a development application for removal of mature trees accompanied by an arborist report. If the trees are to be removed, provision is to be made for appropriate replacement trees.

Palmer Street Sub Valley – Existing character:

This area is distinct from the remainder of the Valley Neighbourhood primarily due to the steep topography of the area and the resulting tight, irregular road pattern. This area is bounded by Punch Park and Beattie Street as well as Mullens and Palmer Streets. It is characterised by narrow winding streets, irregular lots, mature trees with dense foliage and a multitude of modest, mostly timber housing styles. As a result of the constraints of this area, the built form is generally tighter and denser with reduced setbacks. A strong unifying characteristic of the area is the closed feel of the topography coupled with the density of tree cover. Also of note in this area are the fine Victorian terraces and (former) corner shop on Wortley Street overlooking Punch Park.

3. Consultation

Preliminary Consultation

Two stages of preliminary public consultation were conducted prior to formal exhibition of the draft plan of management. These consultation stages comprised:

1. Invitation for Written Submissions; and
2. Community Consultation Session prior to development of options.

An additional community consultation session was held during the formal exhibition period.

Invitation for Written Submissions

Residents in the vicinity of Punch Park were notified by a letter drop of the intention of Council to prepare a plan of management for Punch Park and written submissions were invited.

Twenty-five (25) written submissions were received in relation to Punch Park. Of these submissions:

- 22 representations were made by park users
- 1 representation was made by a home owner living in another LGA
- 1 representation made by organisation (Fairplay Tennis)
- 1 representation made by a government agency (NSW Health)

The key issues raised in the written submissions related to:

- Use of the tennis courts including access and hours of operation (multi-use, expansion)
- Play equipment (eg Mort Park facilities), equipment for older children
- Seating, undercover seated area (sun and rain protection)
- "Less is more"
- Park lighting
- Facilities for teenagers
- Fitness equipment
- Dog exercise – off and on-leash areas, fouling – (LCAMP)
- Traffic safety of adjacent roads
- Parking (drop-off zone near the tennis courts)
- Toilets
- Active use (mini soccer, cricket, basketball hoops)

A full summary of the issues raised via written submissions can be found at Appendix 1.

Community Consultation Session

Residents in the vicinity of Punch Park were notified by a letter drop of the community consultation session that was held in Punch Park on 8th August 2009. A number of notices were also erected in the park to notify people about the consultation session. The workshop was held in the park because of good accessibility to surrounding residents and because it gave residents the opportunity to show presenters their issues 'first-hand' in the park.

This community consultation session was attended by approximately 16 members of the public.

The key issues raised in the community consultation session related to:

- The playground should be expanded to be similar to Mort Bay playground.
- There is potential conflict from use of open space by dogs and children.
- The potential for the tennis courts to be used as a potential multi-purpose facility. There was a view that the tennis facility should be added to, and not taking from, the tennis use. An alternate view was that could program for both tennis and multi-purpose on the existing facility.
- There was support for and against the idea of a skate ramp.
- Lighting should be placed along pathways to make it safe to walk through.
- Road calming measures are needed to Wortley Street.
- There is a need to look at the 'durability' of fencing for the playground.
- The 'soft edges' of the park are valued as they don't impede surveillance of the park.

A full summary of the issues raised in the community consultation session can be found at Appendix 2.

In addition to the preliminary consultation with the public, a briefing session was held prior to the draft plan of management being submitted to Council for consideration prior to its exhibition.

During the formal exhibition period, a further consultation meeting was held on-site (6 February 2010). This was attended by 31 residents and two Councillors.

The issues from that meeting are summarised below:

- Suggestion that the rock wall to the southern edge of the park could be lifted and wood chipped so that the area would not continuously need to be whipper-snipped. Alternatively, planting could be used.
- A resident who lives next door to the park is concerned that conversion of a tennis court into a teen zone would generate more noise than tennis currently does. It was suggested that basketball is much noisier than tennis.
- There was a question about one court being converted for multi-purpose use and how would people book for use of the courts and the times of use. The response was that the multi-purpose court could still be booked for tennis. Otherwise, as the gate to the multi-purpose court would not be locked, the court can be used for general use if it is not booked.
- One resident mentioned that he anticipates problems associated with the enlargement of the playground. He didn't think it was based on a survey of use and he is concerned about potential noise generation.
- There was the alternate view that the existing playground is constrained on space and there are often queues to use the toddler swing.
- There was the suggestion that there should not be restrictions on dog off-leash 'on the share' on weekends. It was considered that the increase in size of the playground would reduce the demand for use of the open space.
- There was a question about why there would be a need to remove undergrowth to the edge of Wortley Street when there are good sightlines in some areas.
- There is anti-social behaviour in the park after 9pm, including after midnight and the park needs some supervision. This occurs from people walking home from pubs. It was suggested that some sort of supervision needs to occur of the park to prevent anti-social behaviour. Aaron Callaghan (LMC Council officer) mentioned that a Council Community and Safety Committee exists that has a police representative,

which could examine the issues. Everyone was informed that a community service bus travels to Mara Park on Saturday nights to speak with young people to provide community support. It was suggested that a similar service could be provided at Punch Park.

- It was suggested the playground needs a shade structure. The response was that it is current Council policy to provide shade structures over new playgrounds.
- Aaron Callaghan (LMC Council officer) informed that the new playground will be implemented this year and that there will be separate community consultations for this.
- A number of residents have received letters in the mail regarding a proposed substation at the park. The Council representatives were not aware of this and mentioned this will be investigated.
- It was raised there is the potential to open up the existing amenities/storage building as public toilets. The issue was raised that as the park is not a regional park and only a local park, there is no justification for public toilets since park users live close to the park. It was also suggested that there can be anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets. There was subsequent strong opposition to public toilets amongst those present because of potential associated anti-social behaviour.
- A big issue for the park is that garbage bins are overflowing from the weekend and by Monday are very bad. Garbage collection typically occurs on a Tuesday. It was concluded that greater frequency of garbage removal is required.
- The view was raised that there is little maintenance of vegetation etc in the park. It was suggested that a community working bee be held to ensure there is adequate maintenance of the park. Aaron Callaghan (LMC Council officer) raised the potential for "Friends of Parks" where there is a dedicated officer and associated fundraising activities.
- It was raised that there have been some muggings in the park and Balmain Police station is closed at night. Aaron (Council officer) said that there is a police station proposed next to Pioneers Memorial Park. It was suggested that the more complaints are made to the police, the more likely the park is to go up as a hotspot for the police.

Formal written submissions were also received and are summarised in Appendix 1. The submissions and issues raised have been considered and, where appropriate, a number of changes have been made to the Plan.

4. Historical Context

4.1 Punch Park

A Local History Vertical File at the National Library of Australia titled “Balmain – Parks and Gardens” that is a culmination of newspaper clippings and leaflets, notes:

“Punch Park was purchased by the Borough of Balmain on 14th December, 1887, from William Foy.”

Figure 5 below is an aerial photograph of Punch Park in the year 1943. It shows that on this date, the tennis courts, pathways and trees existed on the site in their current configuration.



Figure 5: Aerial Photograph of Punch Park in 1943. (Source: NSW Department of Lands, Spatial Information Exchange: SKM 2007 from RTA photography)

4.2 Punch Park - Heritage Item

Punch Park is listed as a “landscape” heritage item in the Leichhardt LEP 2000. The details of the listing are set out below.

Description

Open space with mature fig, peripheral planting of Brush Box and diagonal avenue plantations of Brush box and Phoenix Canariensis

Statement of Significance

Environmental amenity. Passive and active recreation venue

Types of Significance: Cultural, Social, Townscape, Aesthetic




5. Present Use and Future Opportunities






5.1 Condition and Use of the Land and Existing Structures





The tables below outline the key site elements of Punch Park, their condition and present use. A brief description and summary outline of the condition of the elements is provided in the table below, incorporating a summary outline of the priority for improvements (having regard for their suitability and condition, and the draft Masterplan incorporated in Section 8).





The priorities for improvements as set out in the table below have been categorised in accordance with the following:

Priority	Timeframe
High (H)	Short (0 - 5 Years)
Medium (M)	Medium term (5 - 15 Years)
Low (L)	Long term (15+ Years)
Regular Maintenance	Ongoing
Not Applicable (N/a)	-

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Buildings	Amenities building associated with tennis courts	Fair - does not conform to accessibility standards. Requires remodelling and substantial upgrade.	L
	Concrete footpaths of varying widths	Fair	L
			
			

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Fences			
	Federation style fencing surrounding existing playground	Poor - fence is falling apart in some areas An expanded playground is to be constructed and this will require new Palisade fencing	H.
	Tennis court enclosure	Fair.	L
Retaining walls			
	Bluestone retaining wall to lower edge at Foy Street. Grading of grass embankments towards Reynolds Street.	Fair. Regular assessment to be made.	L.
			
	Low concrete rendered walls of varying height to northern and western edges of the park	Fair. Requires regular maintenance and repair.	L.

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Signage			
	Regulatory signage relating to dog access.	Fair. Information is inconsistent. Requires review.	H
Park furniture			
	Single post, timber slatted seating. No arm rests.	Fair. Does not meet AS1428 standards for accessibility.	H.
	Large wheeled bins, attached to fixing posts.	Fair	M - H. Refer Section 7.
Children's playground			
	Children's play equipment comprising swing and slide	<p>Fair - outdated appearance and too limited in play options.</p> <p>The existing playground is restricted in size, form and play value.</p> <p>Extend playground and provide for a range of equipment/activities.</p>	M - H.

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Passive open space			
	Well maintained open space, dissected by pedestrian paths, and incorporating pedestrian lighting. Central area utilised for off-leash dog exercise.	Grass cover requires regular maintenance following winter.	Ongoing.
Lighting			
	Two street lights located in the open space areas	Good - but lighting is required to footpaths through park that is lower in height.	M.
Tennis Courts			
	Well maintained and utilised courts. Limited storage and amenities. Opportunity for multiple use of one court - refer to section 8	Lighting to be assessed for light spill.	M.
Stairs			
	Stairs at south-eastern entrance to park	<p>Fair - balustrade and stairs to be assessed for compliance with AS1428.</p> <p>The stairs at south-eastern entrance to park are visually intrusive and detract from the heritage and visual amenity of the park.</p>	H.

5.2 Description of Proposed Future Development and Permissible Uses

The table below describes the purposes for which land at Punch Park may be used; the purpose as relates to future development of the land; and the scale and intensity of the development.

Area/Item	Purposes for which land or buildings are permitted to be used	Purpose for which further development of land will be permitted (lease or licence)	Scale and intensity of permitted use or development
Open Space	Continue use for informal recreation, childrens play, limited off leash dog exercise	General park furniture and landscape improvements. Improvement and expansion fo the children's play area and equipment.	Refer to Masterplan
Tennis courts	Tennis and multi-purpose sports, eg. netball, basketball	Courts provided for tennis/multi-purpose use for use under licence and community use	Refer to Section 8 Masterplan. Limit hours of operation to 9pm for tennis use and 6pm for the multi use court. This is to ensure consistency with existing Council policy relating to sports field management and evening training use where lighting is currently restricted to 9pm.
Tennis building	Storage for play equipment and nets	Redevelop/renovate building	Refer to Masterplan

5.3 Site Accessibility and Operation

Public Transport

Primary public transport to and from the location is provided by buses. The nearest bus service to/from Punch Park is from Mullens Street, Balmain, around 200m from the park, and this is served by route numbers 441 and 442 which run between Balmain East Wharf, where ferries depart to the city via the city centre to Mrs Macquarie's Chair.

There are also regular bus services along Darling Street (routes 445, 432, 433 and 434) that are accessed approximately 800m from the park. The 432, 433 and 434 services run between Snails Bay/Balmain East Wharf via the city to the Rocks, while the 445 service runs from Balmain East Wharf via Leichhardt to Hurlstone Park.

Parking

There is perimeter parallel parking available adjacent to the park along Wortley Street, Foy Street and Reynolds Street.

Pedestrian

Street footpaths are located along Wortley Street and Reynolds Street on the park side. Foy Street is narrower than the other streets and there is no footpath for the length of the park on the park side. The opposite side of the road has a footpath although this is narrow and would not meet access requirements.

According to consultation with park users, cars currently speed along Wortley Street which can make crossing to the park for pedestrians less safe. It is recommended a traffic study should be prepared that addresses community concerns which considers a raised pedestrian crossing and supporting traffic calming measures.

Bicycle

Leichhardt Bicycle Strategy identifies Wortley Street past the park as a "local bicycle route". This route travels east past Balmain Hospital and a school to connect with the identified "strategic bicycle route" towards Balmain East Wharf. The route from the park to the west travels to the retail/commercial hub of Darling Street.

5.5 Trees and Vegetation

Existing Trees and Vegetation

Leichhardt Council does not currently have a Significant Trees Register. Punch Park is listed as a "landscape" heritage item in the Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000. Significant trees in the park comprise *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) and *Phoenix Canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palms). In addition to these trees, there is also a large Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*).

Leichhardt Significant Heritage Tree Management Plan

The Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council's Heritage and Significant Trees (March 2008) categorises Punch Park as a "District Park" and level of heritage significance as "local".



Figure 6: Significant trees, Punch Park: Extract from the Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council's Heritage & Significant Trees 2008 - pp58)

The tables below sets out (1) the recommended maintenance regimes for specific trees across all of the open space areas the subject of the plan and (2) the specific management recommendations relating to Punch Park.

Tree	General Maintenance Requirement	Common pests and diseases
Brush Box	Mulch and remove dead wood.	Fungal pathogens (airborne and soil borne)/ wood boring insects/foliar insects
Moreton Bay Fig	Remove dead wood/prune rubbing and heavily end weighted limbs and mulch	Fungal pathogens (airborne & soil borne)/ foliar insects
Canary Island Date Palm	Remove dead fronds, epiphytes and mulch	Fusarium wilt

Tree Summary of Observations (Source: Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council's Heritage and Significant Trees 2008)

Degree of Soil Compaction	Number of Species and Trees	Tree Age	Tree Health	Tree Condition	Description of Site Specific Works required
Low-Moderate	6 x Phoenix canariensis 26 x Lophostemon confertus 1 x Ficus macrophylla	Mature - refers to a full sized tree with some capacity for further growth	Fair to Good	Fair to good	Succession planting of Lophostemon confertus required. Remove 2 x semi-mature Corymbia maculata specimens planted within avenue of Lophostemon confertus and replant with Lophostemon confertus. Remove epiphytes from Phoenix canariensis specimens as required. Remove dead wood from Ficus macrophylla specimen and apply mulch to CRZ/PRZ of all trees.

Site Specific Tree Management Plan – Punch Park (Source: Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council's Heritage and Significant Trees 2008)

Notes to the latter table:

- "Condition" refers to the tree's form and growth habit
- "Health" refers to the tree's vigour
- It is recommended these maintenance works occur within one year for Punch Park

5.6 Current and Projected Recreational and Open Space Needs

Leichhardt Recreational and Open Space Needs Study

Open Space

The NSW benchmark for open space provision has historically been 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people. When this is applied to the Leichhardt LGA, no suburb in the LGA is in excess of this standard. The average provision of open space in Leichhardt LGA is 1.60 ha /1,000 people (refer to Figure 10 below) or 1.65ha/1,000 people based on 2001 population figures that were used in the Leichhardt Recreational and Open Space Needs Study. When this outcome (based on the 2001 population figure) was compared against other Sydney LGAs the result was low. The highest provision in Leichhardt was Lilyfield (2.56 hectares / 1,000 people) while the lowest is Annandale (0.73 hectares / 1,000 people).

Open Space Provision in Leichhardt LGA

2008/9	
Open space Acquisition (ha)	0
Total open space (ha)	85.57
Total open space (m2)	855700
Population	53,217
Open space per person (m2)	16.08

Source: State of the Environment (SoE) report 2008-09

Punch Park is located in the suburb of Balmain (including Balmain East and Birchgrove). Open space provision in this suburb averages at 1.99 hectares / 1,000 people which is higher than the Leichhardt LGA average.

The report mentions that there are a large number of pocket parks in the LGA that are highly valued by residents. However it was noted that they are limited in their flexibility and should be promoted for 'multi-use'.

Recreational Facilities

Provision of outdoor recreational areas/facilities for young people (aged 14 to 24 years) is lacking across the LGA and is limited to five informal basketball courts and 1 skate facility.

Field surveys conducted of playground facilities revealed that while there was an equitable distribution of playgrounds across the LGA that they were limited to catering for 2-7 years. It was concluded that older primary (7-12 years) and teenagers are not well provided for. The study called for a large-scale "all abilities" playground in the LGA.

The 2005 Recreation and Needs Study sets out that there are 11 tennis courts across Leichhardt LGA. An assessment was made by the study of the adequacy in number of these facilities based on the estimated 2001 population, and the average NSW participation rate in the sport. It concluded that there was a shortfall of 21 tennis courts across the LGA. While the study recognised this number as only a guide, it did conclude that there was a "less than optimum number of facilities for cricket, indoor court sports, soccer and tennis." However, community consultation did not reveal demand for additional tennis courts in the LGA. It recommended that any new tennis courts should ideally also be flexible for netball use (pp 67).

5.7 Management Framework for Tennis and Multipurpose Games Area

Tennis Courts in Leichhardt

In the Leichhardt Local Government Area there are four separate tennis court facilities available for public and private use. These courts are located at Birchgrove Park (6 courts plus Parkview, all of which are leased to a private operator), Cohen Park (unrestricted public access open for public use) and Punch Park which is described below.

Overview of Existing Punch Park Tennis Courts

There are two netted and fenced hard court tennis courts at Punch Park. Both court areas are highly valued by the community and use of them is very popular. Currently the courts must be booked for use through an appointed booking agency.

The hours of use are currently:

- 8am-10pm (Monday to Thursday)
- 8am-7pm Friday to Sunday)

2010/11 Fee and Charges for court access is currently structured as follows:

- Casual \$13.50 per hour (Monday to Thursday)
- Casual \$16.10 per hour (Fridays & Saturdays)
- Casual \$16.10 per hour (Sunday & Public Holidays)
- Permanent \$11.00 per hour (Monday to Thursday)
- Permanent \$13.50 per hour (Friday-Sunday and Public holidays)
- Coaching at any time \$24.10 per hour

Community concerns raised during the plan of management process have focussed on the hours of use, namely the use of the courts on public holidays, and in respect of the 10pm closing time Monday to Thursday. In addition, consultation has highlighted community appreciation of the coaching sessions provided by a private operator.

Council officers have also raised concerns in relation to the hours of court use by private coaching providers. Current coaching clinics are recognised as being valued by the community. Council officers recognises that the services offered by coaching providers do promote tennis as well as active use of the park and promote healthy living within the community, particularly amongst children and young people.

Private versus Public

As a public facility located on public open space, the provision of the courts needs to be recognised as being provided primarily for public use. Consequently there needs to be a genuine level of community access to the courts balanced with the need to provide training needs that can only be undertaken by qualified and experienced tennis coaches. To ensure the courts do not become over privatised due to a lack of clear management the Plan of Management should prescribe a management regime for the courts, their use, access and hire. This is even more important given the master plan for the park, as a result of community consultation, identifies one of the courts becoming a multi purpose court where a range of hard surface sports, including tennis, can be played.

In respect of the management issues above is recommended on the adoption of this Plan of Management that the following new access regulations are adopted by Council:

Access Times

Monday to Friday: 8am-9pm

Saturday to Sunday: 9am-8:30pm

Public Holidays: Times as specified above depending on which day the Monday to Friday public holiday falls.

Access Times - Court 1 (Tennis)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:30am	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use
9:30am	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use
10:30am	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use
11:30am	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Coaching	Public Use
12:30pm	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Coaching	Public Use
1:30pm	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use
2:30pm	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public use	Public use	Public use
3:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
4:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
5:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
6:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
7:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
8:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	CLOSED	CLOSED

- Courts Closed weekdays at 9pm in respect of residential amenity.
- Coaching clinics must be booked.
- Public use also subject to bookings.
- Courts closed 8:30pm Saturdays and Sundays.

Court 1 - out of 87.5 operating hours in the week, 42.5 hours are reserved for coaching leaving 44 hours aside for public bookings.

Access Times - Court 2 (Multi Purpose includes Tennis)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:30am	Public use	Public use	Public use	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use
9:30am	Public use	Public use	Public use	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use
10:30am	Public use	Public use	Public use	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
11:30am	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public Use	Public Use
12:30pm	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public Use	Public Use
1:30pm	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public Use	Public Use
2:30pm	Public use	Coaching	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public Use	Public Use
3:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
4:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
5:30pm	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	Public Use	Public Use
6:30pm	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public Use	Public Use
7:30pm	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public Use	Public Use
8:30pm	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	Public use	CLOSED	CLOSED

- Courts Closed weekdays at 9pm in respect of residential amenity.
- Coaching clinics must be booked.
- Public use also subject to bookings.
- Until the multi purpose games court is constructed all use is subject to bookings. Once constructed coaching, school holiday camps or organised six aside competitions on the multi purpose games area must be pre-booked with Council and not through a private booking agency.
- Courts closed 8:30pm Saturday and Sundays.

Court 2 - out of 87.5 operating hours in the week, 24 hours per week are reserved for coaching leaving 63.5 hours aside for public bookings.

In total there is 175 hours of booking across the 2 courts which can be made, of which 66.5 hours are reserved for coaching clinics.

The rationale behind the prescribed and revised hours of access can be summarised as follows:

- Recognition that tennis coaching is valued by the community.
- Recognition of the need to promote tennis as a sport and use of the park for formal recreation.
- Recognition of the need to safeguard public access to the courts in the evenings and weekends while providing fair and equitable times for commercial access to encourage tennis and the development of tennis skills within the community.
- Recognition of the need to safeguard public access and prevent over commercialisation of the courts for private gain.
- Response to community concerns regarding court closing times and the need to consider residential amenity issues without jeopardising the use of the park as a public recreational space.
- Response to identified community needs to provide legitimate facilities for youth recreation which are multi purpose in function and provision.

In addition to the above it is also recommended that on the adoption of this Plan of Management that Council:

- Investigates the feasibility of in-house booking arrangements, which can be managed on line through the current or future Park Booking System.
- Provides coded gate access for bookings holders utilising the multi games area for toilet access.
- Advertises for expressions of interest for tennis coaching on the courts with the aim of establishing a licence for tennis coaching services for Punch Park tennis courts.

6. Classification of Land

6.1 Categorisation and Objectives for Land

Clause 36(4) of the Local Government Act requires that land subject of a plan of management be categorised as one or more of:

- a natural area
- a sportsground
- a park
- an area of cultural significance
- general community use

According to these classifications, the Punch Park can be categorised as “a park”, and “an area of cultural significance”.

6.2 Core Objectives

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park (Clause 36G) are:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance (Clause 36H) are:

- to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.
- Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:
 - the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance,
 - the restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material,
 - the reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state,
 - the adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact),
 - the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land.

7. Strategy and Action Plan

The following strategies and actions aim to address key ongoing management issues relating to Punch Park and also to outline a long term vision (as incorporated in the Masterplan - Refer to Section 8) for the park. That vision seeks to address accessibility, useability and amenity issues identified through the consultation phases.

7.1 Specific Objectives

The priorities for improvements as set out in the table below have been categorised in accordance with the following:

Priority	Timeframe
Short term	0 - 5 years
Medium term	5 - 15 years
Long term	15+ years
Ongoing	Ongoing

The table below sets out the objectives and performance targets for Punch Park; strategies to achieve the objectives and performance targets; ranks their priority; and provides performance monitoring criteria.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Context			
To value and maintain Punch Park in its current balance of passive open space and sporting facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain Punch Park in accordance with the existing prevailing character and the Master Plan principles (Refer Part 8). 	Ongoing	Maintenance and management of access and use.
Ownership			
In accordance with Council ownership, promote broad community access to facilities and open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing use of the tennis courts and proposed multiuse court to be controlled and managed by Council. Any future leases and licences to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993. 	Ongoing	Greater range of people using the park of all access abilities, providing a range of quality recreational experiences and opportunities for park users.
Use			
The balance of passive recreation provision and active use be maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the current uses within the park with possible use of one tennis court as a multi purpose court for basketball, netball, etc. Upgrade the amenities shed associated with the tennis courts as required. 	Long term	Completion of redevelopment works in accordance with the Master plan.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Sporting Facilities and Amenities			
<p>Upgrade sporting facilities and associated amenities to be of a high standard.</p> <p>Provide new facilities that cater for a broader range of age groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current sporting and recreation facilities but permit one court as multi-purpose for basketball, netball, etc. • Maintain appropriate standard of lighting to the courts. • Extend area of playground and provide new and greater range of play equipment that also caters for older children, and new shade structure. 	Medium term	Completion of redevelopment works in accordance with the Master plan.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Access and Circulation			
<p>Improve all pedestrian paths that reflect key desire lines.</p> <p>Open up the tennis courts for general public access.</p> <p>Enhance accessibility for the full spectrum of the community in terms of the design of facilities/ landscape improvements.</p> <p>Introduce appropriate directional signage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and widen (where indicated on the Master Plan) the current path system in the park. • Promote Foy Street as possible shared zone (through Council's Traffic Committee) to permit gentler grade to provide access from park down to through landscaped connection to White Bay. • Install pedestrian kerb ramp at entrance to landscape connection from Foy Street through to White Bay. • Replace existing bubbler with appropriately located accessible bubbler. • Provide directional signage in accordance with Council's signage strategy. 	Long term	Completion of redevelopment works.
Traffic and Parking			
<p>Improve traffic management for those streets adjacent to the Park including Wortley Street to enable and encourage pedestrian and cycle accessibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate traffic calming measures to Wortley Street including a possible pedestrian crossing to Wortley Street (through Council's Traffic Committee). 	Long term	<p>Reduction in number of safety incidents (reported to police or Council).</p> <p>Observed slower speeds along Wortley Street as measured by survey.</p>

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Cultural and Heritage Significance			
<p>Recognise and maintain the heritage significance listing of trees in the park.</p> <p>Recognise and reflect the park configuration dating back to its establishment.</p> <p>Interpret the Park's history through signage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain all mature trees in the park and ensure arborist conducts a health check and possible maintenance of significant trees in the park every 5 years. • Maintain the existing stone walling to the Foy Street edge. • Maintain current path system in park. • Introduce interpretive signage at key entry points. 	Long term	<p>Arborist conducts health check and maintenance of significant trees every 5 years.</p> <p>Monitor implementation of Master Plan.</p>
Landscape Character and Visual Amenity			
<p>Recognise that the community values the existing landscape character of the park and its open and simple nature.</p> <p>Improve the visual presentation of the park to the street frontages.</p> <p>Provide a consistent landscape palette across the park and sportsground that would unify it as one park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing mature trees. • Ensure that the grassed open park areas are maintained. • Provide new planter bed between widened path and tennis courts to soften and reduce hard surfaces. • Remove and replace existing planter bed edge as detailed in the Master Plan. • Maintain the existing low street edge walling. • Develop a consistent design approach to new elements including signage, fences, lighting, seats and the like that reflects the Park's existing qualities. 	Long term	<p>Completion of Master Plan recommended improvements.</p> <p>Monitor and maintain grassed areas as required.</p> <p>Monitor and repair walling as required.</p>

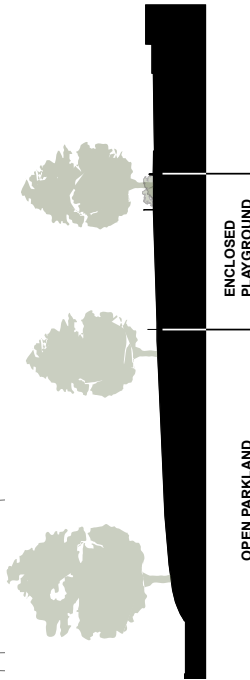
Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Sustainability and Biodiversity			
<p>Promote the use of native indigenous plant species that would contribute to biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote plant species that are drought tolerant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing mature trees. Maintain current native soft planting to northern edge of park. 	Ongoing	Regular monitoring and maintenance of trees and soft landscape areas.
Safety			
<p>Maintain clear sightlines to permit surveillance from surrounding roads to people and property.</p> <p>Promote lighting to key pedestrian desire lines.</p> <p>Provide security of access to property to prevent vandalism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis court facility to be secure with access achieved by provision of combination code upon booking of facility which opens gate. Multi purpose court to be accessible during 7am-9pm. Install new lighting to paths. 	Short term	<p>Introduction of new pedestrian lighting.</p> <p>Park user survey measures perceptions of safety relating to the park.</p>

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Management and Maintenance			
<p>Promote design improvements and management practices that would reduce maintenance costs and promote cost efficiencies.</p> <p>Promote access that reflects the location of the Park within a residential neighbourhood.</p> <p>Provide dog access to park but not at the expense of human needs and safety.</p> <p>Continue Council control of access to tennis/multi purpose courts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain dog access in accordance with LCAMP. Improve the signage relating to dog access and have more regular enforcement of dog access by Council officers. Council to continue the control of bookings for the tennis courts. It is recommended that an online booking facility be provided for 'round-the-clock' bookings. The access times to the tennis court facilities to be between 7am and 9pm with an aim to minimise amenity impacts on neighbouring residents. Introduce a prescribed management framework for management of the tennis and multipurpose games court area. Upgrade tennis court signage. 	Ongoing	<p>Council does not increase annual maintenance costs/budget.</p> <p>Council receives positive comments.</p> <p>Increase in frequency of dog enforcement visits by Council officers recorded.</p> <p>Monitor use of the court facilities to ensure impacts on residents are minimised.</p>

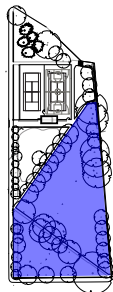
8. Master Plan



Section AA



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. ENTRY
Rationalise entry and regulatory signage consistent with Council's corporate signage strategy. Introduce interpretive signage at key entries. | 5. PLAYGROUND FENCE
Introduce new enclosing palisade fence to the playground, including along the Worley Street boundary. | 9. STORAGE
Upgrade storage & change shed for uses associated with the courts. |
| 2. LANDSCAPE
Protect the prevailing landscape character of tree-lined pathways and edges, open grassed spaces. | 6. MULTI-PURPOSE COURT
Utilise one of the existing tennis courts for casual use at certain times as a multi-purpose ball court. Incorporate separate entrances and ball proof fences. Upgrade lighting as required. | 10. SEATING
Provide comfortable seating within the park and install new bubbler in an accessible and convenient location. |
| 3. EDGE PLANTING
Clarify edge planting along Worley Street to enable good surveillance. | 7. LIGHTING
Maintain and upgrade existing paths incorporating bollard lighting. | 11. DOGS
Maintain dog on-leash & off-leash usage in accordance with Council Policy. |
| 4. EXTEND PLAYGROUND
Develop new toddler playground and introduce play equipment for older children | 8. ACCESS
Widen existing path to ensure compliance for wheelchair accessibility. | |



Dogs Off Leash (Time constrained areas)
Time-share – Area bounded by Worley St, Reynolds St, Foy St and central pathway.
On-leash on weekends, public holidays and between 12.30pm and 5pm Monday to Friday



Example: Children's play equipment



Example: Children's play equipment



Example: Ball court fencing

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

PRELIMINARY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – INVITATION FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
1	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 4:30pm onwards around 30 people bring their dogs to the park creating hazards for other users including children. Dog owners frequently breach off-leash time restrictions – have never seen enforcement officer
2	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install adult equipment (cardio type outdoor equipment - arc trainer/elliptical cross trainer type and others) encouraging adult activity and site close to children's playground for surveillance of children.
3	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog killed and near miss of pedestrian due to excessive speed of car along Wortley Street. Children's playground is located 30m from location where dog was killed. Speed bumps should be installed.
4	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequently used by dog owners although most surrounding residents do not have dogs. A segregated area in park is needed to be dedicated to dogs. Safety issue of having children play in same area as dogs off-leash.
5	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park is covered in dog faeces. Current playground is outdated. Proposed playground is poor quality. Developers of White Bay should have been forced to fund infrastructure for park facilities. Recommend reduce size of dog area to allow children's ball games and fence area in north-western corner of site for dogs. Recommend a fenced multi-purpose area that could comprise a mini soccer field, cricket nets, netball/basketball hoops. Children's play area needs to be bigger and make use of currently wasted space.
6	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the peace" Only occasional problems are loud drunks, loud tennis players, lights from tennis courts, and dogs barking. Happy with maintenance, ie. mowing and seating.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
7	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advantageous that the tennis courts are open at night for those people that work during the day. • The lighting and the pin-code to the tennis courts gate makes it a safe option to access at night. • Would not support a reduction in hours of operation of courts. • Recommend establishment of an on-line booking system; variation in booking fees for peak/off-peak times; more courts required; and Fairplay currently provides a good service. • Recommend under-cover seating in park for use by families and picnics. • More lighting needed for park.
8	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value the tennis courts close to their house, which is available for day and night tennis for a fair price. • The next nearest tennis courts are in Birchgrove that are always occupied. • Current courts do not drain well and a new surface should be considered. • Recommend expanding to 4 courts. • Recommend installation of a wall for tennis practice. • Recommend upgrade of play equipment to that similar at Mort Park. • Fairplay Tennis offer a great service.
9	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts are local asset for lifestyle and fitness. • School holiday tennis camps are valued and recommend extending to afternoons. • Recommend upgrade of playground that would include facilities for 8-12 year olds. • Recommend toilet facilities. • Families can utilise the tennis courts and playground simultaneously, so seating should be installed that addresses both facilities.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
10	Precinct Meeting Statement Wortley Street Traffic and Speeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage through-traffic in Wortley and Palmer Streets, for eg.: by no right hand turn into Wortley from Mullens or one-section on Wortley or Mullen Streets. Recommend installing measures to assist reducing traffic speeds, eg. Speed cushions, stop signs, pedestrian crossing or planting in roads to reduce speeds. Would like to reduce risks from traffic to those using playground and make the area more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. There was consensus that speed reduction measures far outweigh potential noise impacts.
11	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support having playground, tennis courts and off-leash area. Would not support loss of tennis facilities as sporting facilities in Balmain are rare. Tennis courts need a simpler booking system. Recommend addition of tennis practice wall. Recommend a "kiss and drive" zone associated with courts to prevent double parking and/or enforcement by Council parking officers. Playground needs a sunshade and more interesting equipment. A sandpit could be installed as the area is fenced from dogs. Recommend a fenced off-leash area to prevent conflict with pedestrians – and this area would be useful for training of dogs. Teenagers require facilities such as skate ramp, graffiti wall, BMX track. Would not support a café as there are too many of these.
12	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground needs more interesting equipment for a variety of ages. Currently it caters only for very young children. The playgrounds in the new park on Epping Road in Eastwood or Mort Bay Park cater well for teenagers. New park in Eastwood created an enclosure for dogs which support in Leichhardt.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
13	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should retain tennis courts as there is a shortage of courts in the area. Courts should be upgraded or expanded to provide 2 more courts. The courts are rarely used during the day. They should be kept open for kids to use them when they are not booked for tennis, to encourage kids to exercise.
14	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long user of tennis courts and park for sport and recreation. Two existing courts should be retained and upgraded for tennis use and an additional 2 tennis courts should be developed. The existing courts are managed well by Fairplay tennis.
15	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park should have facilities that serve the broader community and not just selected age groups in the community. Permit dogs to be off-leash at selected times of the day so children can play without dogs. Expand playground – but not to be a duplicate of Mort Bay Park, but to be unique. Permit one of the tennis courts to be used for multi-purpose activities , for eg. Soccer and basketball – and have a non-line booking facility. Install seating, tables and picnic facilities. Install lighting to replace existing and add in more locations that limits light pollution to improve safety at night. Install pedestrian crossing on Wortley Street. Install more rubbish bins and dog bins with bags. There is no need for additional toilet facilities as all users live near park. Would not like a skate ramp because it would not be visually appealing. A community garden is not desired. The existing landscaping needs colour injected into it. The children's play area is poorly maintained – the gates are often broken. The existing bubbler creates an overflow of water and a mess in its current location – it should be sited outside playground area. Existing vegetation poorly maintained.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
16	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively use the park with dogs and their young children. The passive open space area has area of grass destroyed and there are dog faeces littered everywhere. Recommend pursuing the European and New York model of fencing off areas for use by dogs when off-leash. This enclosed area should include seating and at least one dog drinking fountain and a surface of compacted sand or similar. Support installation of shade cloth and/or planting to playground. Support upgrade to playground but advocate it should be for children of all ages – with equipment such as climbing frames, monkey bars, swings and slides etc. The playground area should be expanded. If an enclosed dog park introduced, a fence to the playground would not be required. Recommend picket fence to entire perimeter to park to beautify. Signage with name of park, its rules, and information on history as to name, etc could be installed. Value the tennis courts and believe they should not be removed or minimised.
17	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the park in its present state and believe it should only continue to serve as a local park and not incorporate facilities that would attract people further than the local area, as there are larger parks that serve this function (Mort Bay, Gladstone Park and Ballast Point Park). Would object to a skate ramp as this is better sited in a different area and would encourage late night anti-social behaviour. Adding further tables or chairs would encourage late-night anti-social behaviour. The two existing tennis courts should be retained as they are well used. Their use at night creates surveillance of park. One tennis court could have basketball hoop or football target wall installed for use when not used by tennis for multi-purpose use. The open space area has the grass worn which turns into a dust bowl or mud bath. This maintenance issue should be addressed in the management plan. Would support a community garden and assist in its establishment and upkeep.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
18	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is valued for sport and recreation and for general respite and greenery. • A quiet area with seating is required. • The tennis courts are sometimes used by large groups including commercial operators. • Noise impacts from facilities must be regulated to reduced impacts on adjacent residences. • The tennis courts should only be used for recreational tennis and not for commercial gain. • The use of the park and its facilities by a group or organisation should have their operations reviewed every 6 month so by Council to ensure that they are respecting the park, meet the needs of users, and operations do not impact detrimentally on residents. • There should be regular monitoring of the park by rangers and ongoing park maintenance.
19	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly value Mort Bay Park and its playground. • Support upgrade to playground at Punch Park – the features should allow children to maximise use of their imagination. • A second seat is needed in the playground. The wall at Mort Park serves this purpose. • Recommend installation of picnic tables under trees. • The park is not suited to further facilities that comprise concrete structures. • Recommend installing sign noting nearest off-leash areas at weekends. • Clarify the conflicting rules shown on signs for interpretative signage. • Recommend dogs should be on-leash at all times in the park. • Should a community working group be established to maintain the park, would volunteer to garden/tidy (but not to organise).
20	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend demolishing existing retaining wall between Foy Street and the park and replace through to Reynolds Street. • Leaves and grass clippings from adjacent lawn mowing accumulate in gutter along Foy Street which the street sweeper is rarely able to remove because of parked cars. • The palm trees drop branches and require more frequent removals as they pose a hazard.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
21	Government stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest application of public open space principles in the Healthy Development Checklist to Punch Park, which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintain and improve access to public open space; – Need safe pedestrian access from Wortley Street; – Ensure public transport stop within 400-500m; – Should accommodate ranges of users and experiences; – Designed to be universally accessible; – Include public art. • Consult the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
22	Owner of nearby property but not resident there	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like further landscaping and planting. • Look at issue of graffiti. • Traffic speed 20-30km over speed limit along Wortley Street – need traffic calming measures to children's safety. • Incorporate art into park.
23	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest accommodating small café within tennis courts building. • Maintenance of park to be managed by third party on behalf of Council, to ensure professional management. • There is no need for substantial planting/landscaping – these funds should be used for a café.
24	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park is under-utilised as it is overrun by dogs that have destroyed the grass area. Areas for dogs on/off leash are not enforced. There needs to be more of a balance between humans and dogs. Suggest enclosed area for dogs off-leash. If not possible, then suggest a fence-off picnic area. • Believe the number of children in the area has been increasing, and that therefore the playground should be improved and expanded. • Believe Ballast Point Park is a good outcome and would like to see similar success for Punch Park.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
25	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts generate too much noise. • The courts are used by children who are not even playing tennis and are not supervised. She was told that motor bikes used the courts on Christmas Day. • The courts seem to be able to be used 365 days a year and create too much noise for surrounding residents without respite. • There is no DA for the courts so Council is illegally operating them. • The entire park should be dedicated as public open space in a surrounding area of high population density. • The court infrastructure is poorly maintained. • The tennis shed should be retained for architectural and heritage reasons and incorporate BBQ's and provide shelter from the rain. • The playground could be relocated on to area of part of the tennis courts. Its' current location is too secluded which makes it not entirely safe. The remaining tennis court area could be converted to grass. • The lower section of the park could have picnic tables. • Suggest fitness stations, a maze (hedge), and a water feature (in lower section of park). • The upper section of the park needs levelling and installation of picnic tables. • Supports dog use of the park but acknowledges that better signage is needed relating to dogs.
26	Club Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers there will be problems with implementation of a multi-purpose court as there is currently full usage of the court for tennis: 3:30pm – 9pm Monday – Thursday and 3:30 – 7:00 Friday & weekends there is coaching and community use. • Recommend a multi-purpose court be developed a top of park with synthetic grass surface and wall for hitting against. • The things that are valued about the park are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – People can walk their dogs – Can learn and play tennis – Can use play equipment in area free of dogs – Ball games can be played in an area that is dog free

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION –

INVITATION FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS DURING EXHIBITION

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
1	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. Value the long swings in the playground area. Support the draft plan of management.
2.	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest the installation of a shade structure over the playground. Currently it is only usable by children after 3pm when it is partly shaded by trees.
3.	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. Support the draft plan of management.
4.	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. Support the draft plan of management.
5.	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the current dog restriction requirements do not allow dogs off-leash on weekends, and the draft plan proposes to maintain this, this does not translate to activities at the park over weekends when off-leash dogs and children coexist happily. Therefore would support off-leash dog access on weekends. There is not a desire of many people to keep dogs and children separate, as some people assert. It would be difficult to take small children to the park at the same time as dogs off-leash without receiving a fine. Given the above points, there should be reconsideration of the off-leash times.
6.	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believe the park proposal is “in harmony with the layout and style of the current park”. Support promoting use of the park by different age groups. Support the multi-purpose option of the second tennis court but would be concerned about associated increases in noise late at night. Suggest restricting multi-purpose use (eg. to 9/10am and 6/7pm 7 days), and then lock the court for tennis users until 10pm. Support the extension to the playground and providing equipment for different age groups. Suggest more trees or shade cloth over it. Suggest fitness stations potentially adjacent to the multi-purpose court. Agree with current plan to not provide public toilets.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
7	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not support converting one court for multi-purpose play as the tennis courts are fully utilised in the evening that the submitter plays tennis. The new line marking would also distract tennis players and there is the issue of the basketball hoop being a physical hazard. - The noise from basketball will distract tennis games in play and basketballs may enter a tennis match in play. - Multi-purpose use is welcomed but it should not be at the expense of a tennis court.
8	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. - Support the draft plan of management.
9	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the initiatives discussed at the consultation workshop. - Strongly support extending kinds playground and incorporating multi age equipment. - Strongly support one multipurpose tennis court. Also further support any other activities in the park that provide for active play especially for young teens and teenagers - Disagree 10pm is fine! –support reduced operating hours of courts. - Strongly support dog area to remain as is and suggest a weekend off leash area be formalised. - Strongly support the history of the park in some plaques : we know locals with some great history/stories etc. - Strongly support keeping all major trees and general park layout.
10	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. - Support the draft plan of management.
11	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. - Support the draft plan of management.
12	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. - Support the draft plan of management.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
13	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support enlargement of playground (and fenced); providing play equipment for older kids; clarifying dog signage and enforcement of dogs; planting groundcovers at western wall edge; current hours for use of tennis courts; use of tennis court for other activities for adolescents; use of the park by school kids; more seats and picnic tables. - Do not support public toilets or increasing off-leash dog use or times. - Believe that the dogs create the bald patch on the grassed area. - Suggest creation of a register of local kids (under 18 or 20) to allow them to book the court and receive an access code like current tennis court users. - Suggest use of WiFi in the park (like in Paris).
14	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the expansion of the children's playground. - Agree with conversion of one tennis court to multi-purpose and being available free of charge to users. - Consideration should be given to leaving the tennis court lights on at weekend nights to deter anti-social behaviour. - Agree with installing lighting to pathways. - Suggest a small bandstand be erected near the tennis courts to provide shelter. - The policy for dogs should be reviewed to allow dogs off-leash in the park on weekends. Recommend the small area behind the tennis courts be dog off-leash at any time as it is hardly used by anyone. - Agree with not having public toilets in the park. - Suggest maintenance of the current hours of operation of the tennis courts.
15	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a parent of children attending the Montessori School, Punch Park serves as a valuable resource for green open space for recreational/sporting activities. - Support the draft plan of management.
16	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support all proposed improvements for the park except the proposal to convert a tennis court to multi-purpose use which they strongly object to. The basis for this view is that there will be extra noise generation and unruly behaviour, and this will impact on the submitter who lives next door to the courts. - Should the multi purpose use court go ahead, suggest terminating the court use at 9pm instead of 10pm.

Submission Number	Category	Issues Raised
17	Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Punch Park is a small park and there are surrounding residences at a higher elevation which means noise from the recreation areas will impact on the amenity of residents. Suggest trees to edges of the park between recreation areas to provide acoustic buffering. - The small size of the park needs to be factored into intensification of recreational uses. Suggest that recreational uses are better accommodated at bigger parks. Punch Park should not be planned for overuse. - Off-leash times for dogs should be sensitive to non-dog owners, especially children. - Tennis courts should not be used for commercial gain; and individuals should have preference over commercial users when there is a shortage of courts. The booking system should not give preference to commercial users. - Noise disturbance from the courts should be minimised by appropriate supervision. The number of people using the courts at any one time should be restricted. - A practice wall situated close to residences is perhaps not appropriate. - A new playground should be sensitive to its heritage context. - There is a lack of detail about the Foy Street share zone. Question if residents have been consulted about the shared zone. - The park needs to be better managed and patrolled to ensure users of the facilities and open space are considerate of others and nearby residents and abide by the park rules and regulations, and that the park is well maintained.

Appendix 2

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSION

Held at Punch Park on 8th August 2009

Attended by approximately 16 people

Key Issues Raised

- The 'dead' space near the tennis courts should be utilised.
- The playground should be expanded to be similar to Mort Bay playground.
- Maintenance of grass in playground – it is allowed to grow too long.
- Use of open space by dogs and children – potential conflict.
- Would like a 'pyramid' climbing frame in the playground.
- No skate ramp / yes to skate ramp – could possibly be sited in 'dead' space.
- Toilets – make available to all.
- Issue of potential multi-purpose facility – should add to tennis facility and not take it away for tennis purposes. Or alternate view - could program for tennis and multi-purpose on existing facility.
- Potential 'anti-social behaviour' - noise if put in skate ramp or open up toilets.
- Currently little problem with late-night drinking etc in park.
- Teenagers need facilities.
- Could site big skate park elsewhere, eg. Mort Park.
- One person's view that tennis courts "do not belong here" as they create noise and in their place should be parkland for "passive use". Others disagreed with this.
- Lighting is an issue – should put lighting along pathways to make it safe to walk through.
- Possibility to incorporate a community garden.
- Park should incorporate picnic tables, water features, and mazes for children.
- The use of tennis courts at night add to surveillance.
- Dogs and children using the same area – dogs want to join in game.
- Children living in White Bay area don't have flat open space and so must come to Punch Park for ball games, etc.
- Tennis courts under-utilised during the day – could use for other activities/programs.
- Punch Park should not be categorised as a "dog park".
- Road calming measures are needed, particularly to Wortley Road:
 - Examples of such measures that could be installed are speed humps, pedestrian crossing, speed cameras or speed cushions;
 - Dog killed on Wortley Street and there have been near misses of children;
 - Speed along Wortley Street is restricted to 40km/hr but cars speed greater than this;
 - Options to narrow road in spots so only one car can pass – "chicane";
 - Wortley Street too dangerous to let children cross;

- Council officer (Aaron) mentioned Council are currently looking at traffic management options for this area – and the issue will soon go to Council's Traffic Committee.
- The playground should have a shade sail.
- Play equipment at Bicentennial Park was cited as a good example.
- There is a need to look at the 'durability' of fencing for the playground and other areas of the park where needed.
- Examples of play equipment desired at the park are 'monkey bars', 'flying fox', and 'spinning donuts'.
- A rubbish bin is needed near the playground.
- Existing trees could be included in the playground area – possibility of moving fence out.
- The 'soft edges' of the park are valued – they don't impede surveillance of the park.

Individual communications outside of Group Session

- There is a need to fence the southern portion of the park for dogs – children can't play ball games with dogs.
- After school there are simultaneously dogs playing and children's ball games in same area – potential for conflict.
- Could include community gardens of 10m x 10m or 10m x 5m in size. There is an existing community garden in Leichhardt that was cited as a good example.
- The age range of kids living in surrounding area that should be catered for in the playground design are babies and kids to 12 or 14 years of age.
- The grass is being worn out in the central passive open space area – this could perhaps be fenced off. There is a view that it is the dogs more than the children which make it a 'dustbowl'.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSION - Exhibition Stage

Held at Punch Park on 6 February 2010

Attended by approximately 33 people

Key Issues Raised

- Suggestion that the rock wall to the southern edge of the park could be lifted and wood chipped so that the area would not continuously need to be whipper-snipped. Alternatively, planting could be used.
- A resident who lives next door to the park is concerned that conversion of a tennis court into a teen zone would generate more noise than tennis currently does. It was suggested that basketball is much noisier than tennis.
- There was a question about one court being converted for multi-purpose use and how would people book for use of the courts and the times of use. The response was that the multi-purpose court could still be booked for tennis. Otherwise, as the gate to the multi-purpose court would not be locked, the court can be used for general use if it is not booked.
- One resident mentioned that he anticipates problems associated with the enlargement of the playground. He didn't think it was based on a survey of use and he is concerned about potential noise generation.
- There was the alternate view that the existing playground is constrained on space and there are often queues

to use the toddler swing.

- There was the suggestion that there should not be restrictions on dog off-leash 'on the share' on weekends. It was considered that the increase in size of the playground would reduce the demand for use of the open space.
- There was a question about why there would be a need to remove undergrowth to the edge of Wortley Street when there are good sightlines in some areas.
- There is anti-social behaviour in the park after 9pm, including after midnight and the park needs some supervision. This occurs from people walking from pubs. It was suggested that some sort of supervision needs to occur of the park to prevent anti-social behaviour. Aaron (Council officer) mentioned that a Council Community and Safety Committee exists that has a police representative, which could examine the issues. Everyone was informed that a community service bus travels to Marr Reserve on Saturday nights to speak with young people to provide community support. It was suggested that a similar service could be provided at Punch Park.
- It was suggested the playground needs a shade structure. The response was that it is current Council policy to provide shade structures over new playgrounds.
- Aaron (Council officer) informed that the new playground will be implemented this year and that there will be separate community consultations for this.
- A number of residents have received letters in the mail regarding a proposed substation at the park. The Council representatives were not aware of this and mentioned this will be investigated.
- It was raised there is the potential to open up the existing amenities/storage building as public toilets. The issue was raised that as the park is not a regional park and only a local park, there is no justification for public toilets since park users live close to the park. It was also suggested that there can be anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets. There was subsequent strong opposition to public toilets amongst those present because of potential associated anti-social behaviour.
- A big issue for the park is that garbage bins are overflowing from the weekend and by Monday are very bad. Garbage collection typically occurs on a Tuesday. It was concluded that greater frequency of garbage removal is required.
- The view was raised that there is little maintenance of vegetation etc in the park. It was suggested that a community working bee be held to ensure there is adequate maintenance of the park. Aaron (Council officer) raised the potential for "Friends of Parks" where there is a dedicated officer and associated fundraising activities.
- It was raised that there have been some muggings in the park and Balmain Police station is closed at night. Aaron (Council officer) said that there is a police station proposed next to Pioneers Memorial Park. It was suggested that the more complaints are made, the more likely the park is to go up as a hotspot for the police.

Appendix 3

Site Survey

