



Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

FAO:

The Department of Planning and Environment
The Sydney Olympic Park Authority

4 November 2016

Re: Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the growing national advocacy body representing 2500 active and engaged landscape architects, and promoting their crucial role in shaping the world around us. AILA provides its members, based in urban and rural Australia, and overseas, with a wealth of continuing professional development and support services, and positions landscape architects at the forefront of developing the policies that shape our towns, cities and regions. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. Alongside government and allied professions, AILA works to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment. www.aila.org.au

There is much to be commended about the master plan and its approach to increasing density in the area. Apart from anything else, the street trees, green space and incorporation of the existing avenues, will help create a cooler, cleaner more engaging environment that will encourage walking and social outdoor activity.

Above all things Sydney Olympic Park is renowned for its landscape - the design and layout of the area creating landforms, water bodies, avenues, parks, vistas, public art and walking and cycling corridors that have set the benchmark for Olympic venues since. The Park is also a globally significant product of eminent landscape architects collaborating from Sydney, Australia and the wider world and a government commitment to high quality design and stewardship.

In progressing the master plan it is vital that this special landscape asset (and story) is assessed, valued, retained and built in to the design development process and any briefs. The environmental and aesthetic value of 16 years of vegetation growth is significant; however the benefits are greater than that. Around the world it is being seen that the extra, relatively minor, costs of working with the existing natural and cultural asset are having considerable economic benefits to the value of an area or a development. Delegates from the recent visit from the UK Princes Trust Foundation stated that they had observed that a 10% increase in costs in with working with existing built and natural fabric were being offset by a doubling in value of the development. In short people are very interested in clever, well designed adaptive reuse, producing mature, characterful as well as modern outcomes.

Finally AILA supports a sound balance between development and open space. This is a relatively high density development and there is little analysis of how much public space

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is needed to support the total population. This isn't so much about provision of open space within the development footprint, but about better accessibility to existing open space nearby. We would recommend that further analysis is carried out in this respect, so that the Sydney Olympic Park city is future-proofed with sufficient open space to make it a desirable place to live in for the long term.

We would be happy to meet up and talk through these comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gareth Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gareth Collins
NSW Chapter President
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects