

2018

WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

SOUTHERN PARKLANDS FRAMEWORK

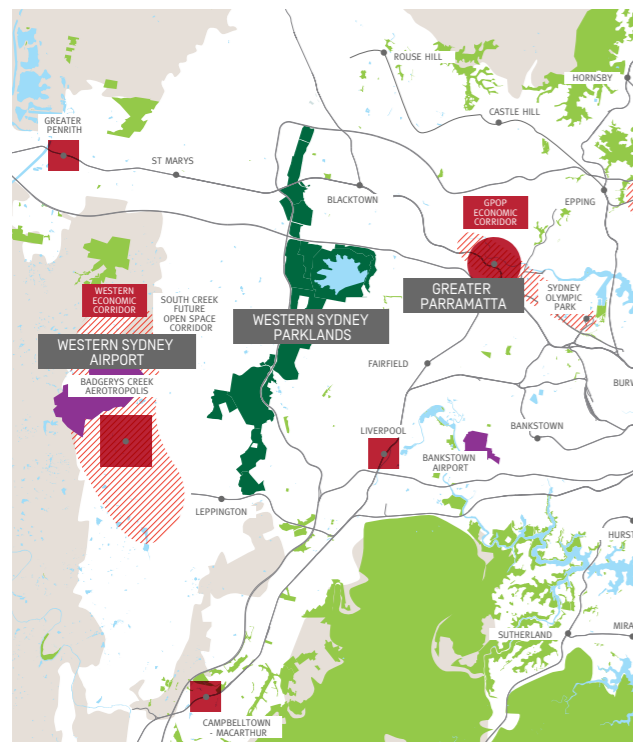




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Be part of the next chapter of Western Sydney's landscape story



- Western Sydney Parklands
- Waterways
- Protected Natural Areas
- Metropolitan Rural Area
- Urban Area
- Metropolitan City Centre
- Metropolitan City Cluster
- Strategic Centre
- Economic Corridor
- Trade Gateway

Western Sydney Parklands is one of the largest urban parks in the world.

It covers 5280 hectares and stretches 27 kilometres from Quakers Hill in the north to Leppington in the south. It's full of popular picnic and recreation areas, walking and cycling tracks, world-class sporting facilities, major tourism facilities and stunning native bushland.

The Southern Parklands makes up about 1500 hectares of that space, from the south of Elizabeth Drive in Cecil Hills down to Bringelly Road in Leppington.

These areas are managed by the Western Sydney Parklands Trust (the Trust). With the city growing and more residential areas appearing, the development of the Southern Parklands has become a priority for the Trust

What does this mean for you?

We want you to know what we're planning. The Trust would like to share some of the amazing initiatives we have in store for developing the Southern Parklands over the next 30 years and beyond.

We're talking opportunities for recreation and relaxation that appeal to everyone from adventure lovers to daydreamers. Walking and cycling paths that reveal a world of changing views. Accommodation, attractions and natural wonders that draw locals and tourists alike. Spaces for urban farming, community facilities and sports facilities. Arts, events, heritage and conservation programmes that enhance the area while protecting its unique landscape and the history of its people. The Southern Parklands will be self funding, with a sustainable business model supported by two business hubs on lands with low environmental and recreational values.

We invite you to step into the new Southern Parklands...

Sydney is growing, and we need a green space that grows with it

Western Sydney Parklands was first identified as part of the Green Belt in the 1968 Sydney Region Outline Plan. Its role? To define the city's edge and provide a space for infrastructure.

But that role is evolving as Greater Sydney continues to expand west.

The Green Belt is being transformed from being a landscape that limits urban growth into one that supports and encourages it through the provision of open spaces and facilities for the community, while continuing to offer infrastructure opportunities.

In the future, the Southern Parklands will become one of the key recreational and community resources for Western Sydney. It will also become an important destination for the new Parkland City, along with South Creek and the Nepean River.

We want to enable the Southern Parklands to reach its full potential as an area that sustainably brings together people, environment, community and culture.



Lizard Log, Western Sydney Parklands.

SOUTHERN PARKLANDS FRAMEWORK



LEGEND

- 1 Adventure sports and structured recreation
- 2 Western Ridges Walk
- 3 Upper Canal linear park
- 4 Shale Hills unstructured recreation hub and dog park
- 5 Community facilities
- 6 Bushland corridor
- 7 Urban farming and rural lands
- 8 Sport and structured recreation
- 9 Business hub
- 10 Tourism
- 11 Cecil Park unstructured recreation
- 12 The Big Ring walkway
- 13 The Lookout
- 14 The Mirror Dam Slice cycleway
- 15 The Slice walkway
- 16 The Blue Seam walkway



The Beauty Spot, Southern Parklands.

A big park needs a big plan



Wylde Mountain Bike Trail, Southern Parklands.



SOUTHERN PARKLANDS

The Southern Parklands is a unique piece of land with many outstanding features. In the midst of the large, flat Cumberland Plain, its ridges and gullies are striking sights. Central to these is the north-south ridge, which defines the site and peaks in the north at the Beauty Spot, where sublime views extend to the Blue Mountains.

The area is also home to some fascinating bodies of water, from mirrored dams that sit on either side of one ridge to the Upper Canal, a snake-like ribbon that unfurls along the land's length.

A park of this scale requires a solid plan for how the land could be used. Our plan works from the land up, fitting the different types of land use to the appropriate landforms. Places to relax, places for adventure, viewing spots and sporting venues, areas of conservation and recreation, spaces for cooling down and even for camping overnight – all these have been considered in terms of where they would fit in the landscape.

The following pages show suggestions for different ways the Parklands could be used for the benefit of all.



PARKLANDS LAND USES



UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION AND EVENTS

The Objective

An enticing array of regional picnic spots and playgrounds, open spaces, nature and water play, walking, cycling and riding tracks, cafes and events areas.

The Plan

To use the most striking landscape features to create and link iconic destinations. The north-south ridge, the Beauty Spot, lakes, dams and beautiful plantings – these sites will become places for events, exercise, exploration and recreation. Walking loops will connect these key spaces, making getting around easy and pleasant for visitors.

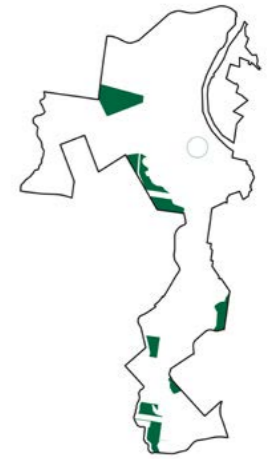
The Opportunities

- major regional destination picnic and recreation hubs at Cecil Hills and Shale Hills.
- nature-based recreation and water-based recreation areas utilising lakes and dams
- an expanded trail network for running, walking and riding
- outdoor event spaces of ranging sizes
- multiple play spaces including an adventure play area and a destination nature play venue
- a range of landscape settings – natural, urban and rural – with motorised and non-motorised access



Woof Fest at Bungarribee Park, Western Sydney Parklands.

Places to play, explore
relax and feel good



ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORTS

The Objective

A variety of regional sports fields and courts, complexes such as elite and community sports training centres and indoor recreation venues.

The Plan

To utilise the flat land lying close to residential areas to offer a range of conveniently located regional sports facilities. This is a great chance to link new, exciting features with popular current ones such as the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail and the Sydney International Shooting Centre.

The Opportunities

- formal sporting facilities, fields, diamonds and outdoor courts
- commercial leisure facilities
- leisure centres providing multiple courts and indoor sport and fitness
- an aquatic centre
- using internal service roads for formal sports events and participation events such as criterium racing and park runs
- off-road cycle sports such as mountain bike and BMX areas

Places to gather for key
events and activities





Badu Dam, Shale Hills.



Leanne Tobis It Starts Here Now: Artist camp, Blacktown Nature Institution 2015.

NATURE

The Objective

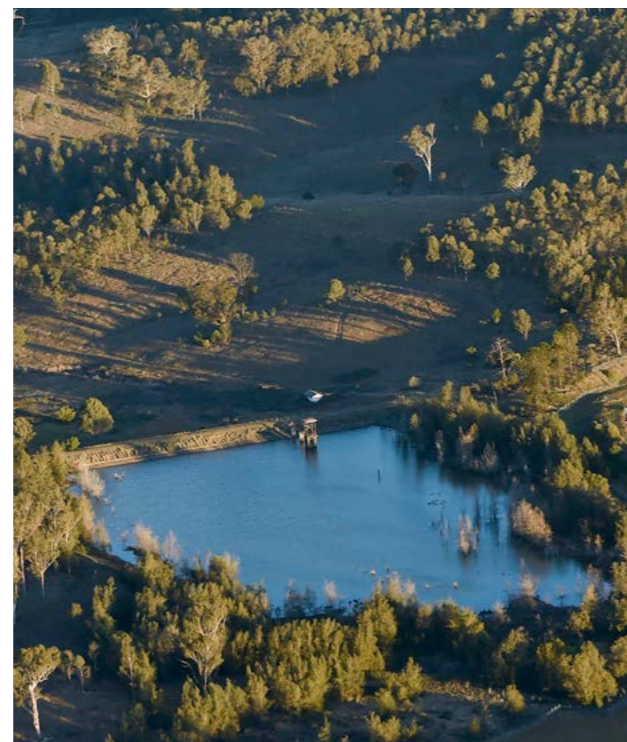
An area of diverse bushland and increased wildlife habitats, a connected bushland corridor that runs the length of the Parklands, larger conservation areas and a better understanding of the Parklands' environmental value.

The Plan

To ensure important environmental areas are connected by the bushland corridor to provide habitat for our native wildlife.

The Opportunities

- continue thoughtful planting that works for high-use areas and opens up the bushland visually, to make people feel welcome and safe
- controlled access with walking trails and an elevated walkway that respect the environment in Kemps Creek Nature Reserve
- events focusing on appreciation of our native vegetation
- encouraging Western Sydney Dry Rainforest species in wetter areas to assist with cooling the landscape



Liverpool Offtake Reservoir (copyright Greater Western commission).

A site of respect —
for place and people

CULTURE

The Objective

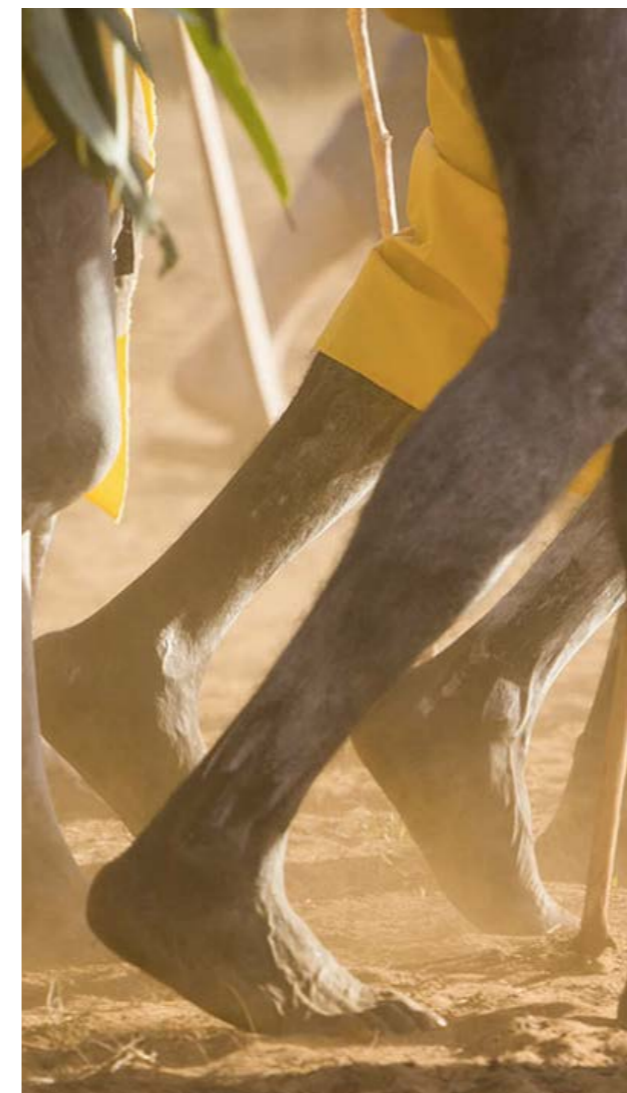
A site of importance for local community, a place to gather and share stories, and memories, a place to learn about and celebrate the Parklands' many layers of history.

The Plan

To work closely with local Aboriginal Land Councils and Aboriginal groups, residents and cultural diverse community groups to raise awareness of the Parklands as a place for all to enjoy. Several key Aboriginal heritage sites already exist in the Parklands, and future projects will ensure that these are respected.

The Opportunities

- undertaking an archaeological survey and due diligence assessment of the area to assess existing sites and identify others
- provide interpretation of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage values in key areas
- work with Aboriginal groups and diverse local communities in delivering projects and programs



Aboriginal Dance Camp, NAISA Dance College.



Artist's impression of Villa accommodation. Designed by CHROFI Architects.



Parklands and public benefits



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Objective

A robust range of educational, medical and seniors' community care services, as well as schools and associated sports and recreation facilities.

The Plan

To use the land around the perimeter of the Southern Parklands for the community's benefit. Community Facilities along 27th Avenue would be useful to Austral, while others could be developed north of Bringelly Road to maintain the landscape's scenic appeal. This is a great chance for the public to see landscape and community care operate in harmony.

Camping, glamping, leisure and adventure—something for everyone

TOURISM

The Objective

A range of attractive accommodation and locations, such as hotels, theme parks, wildlife parks, camping areas, entertainment venues, cinemas, convention and function centres.

The Plan

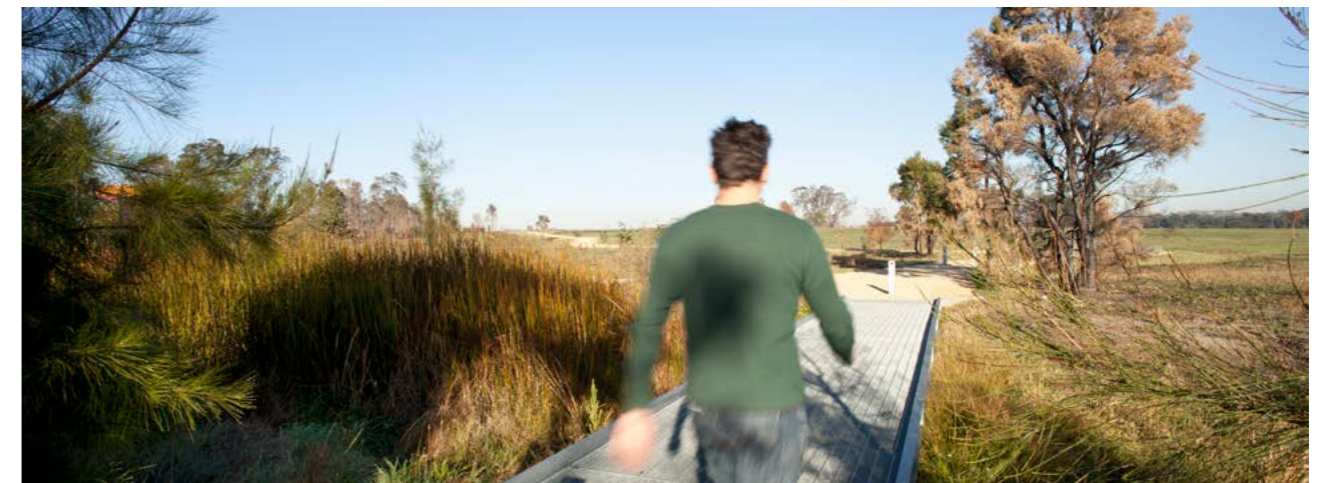
To look at visitor attractions that appeal to everyone, from locals and conference goers to international students, tourists and nature enthusiasts. Accommodation options range from hotels to high-end camping, all offering outstanding views and a chance to engage with nature. Activities are adventure-focused, building on the success of places such as the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail, making the most of the incredible natural surrounds and the impact of the future Western Sydney Airport.

The Opportunities

- attractions that draw on local character – nature, history, culture
- nature-based adventure activities, such as archery, treetop walks, water sports and mountain biking
- cafes and restaurants linked to attractions and accommodation
- pop-up and permanent food and beverage venues for recreation spaces and events
- hotels and serviced apartment facilities
- ecotourism accommodation
- conference venues
- destination holiday parks
- indoor and commercial recreation



Artist's impression of glamping. Designed by CHROFI Architects.



Bungarribee Park, Western Sydney Parklands.

Getting up close and personal with the land



URBAN FARMING AND RURAL

The Objective

Opportunities for grazing, cropping farming, horticulture and viticulture, forestry and farmers' markets.

The Plan

To ensure that the land selected for these opportunities has been previously used for farming, and to save the land with more intact original soil profiles for the bushland corridor. The variety of urban farming activities will provide a education, food sources and activities for Parklands visitors.



Lizard Log, Western Sydney Parklands.



The Bundanon Medieval by Michael & Tim Cohen event, Siteworks.

GETTING AROUND

Roads and Access

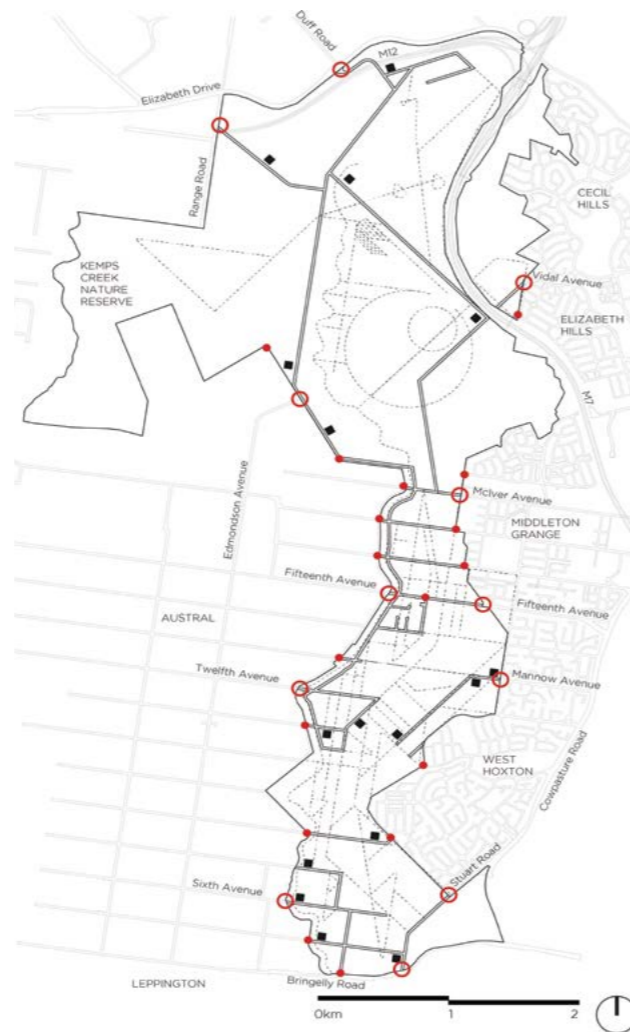
Given the different structures and uses in the Southern Parklands, access via roads will differ accordingly. Major access points link to areas that will be used more intensely, such as key Parklands sites and recreational hubs.

Pedestrian paths

These will cater for different types of walks and walkers. A variety of access points and routes will be on offer, with all routes connecting to the iconic Western Ridges Walk (see page 17). 'Blue Loops' are looped walking tracks that will extend from parking areas to cool water spots. 'Locals Loops' will exist through the Southern Parklands, connecting surrounding residents to the loops within.

Cycle paths

A series of recreational cycle paths will be provided. Wide enough for two-way bicycle flow, they will be separated for most sections, with shared paths at facilities and attractions. Dedicated cycleways in the north include a criterium track for high-speed racing (see page 18) and a commuter cycleway that connects to the M7 (see page 20). In the future, a continuous cycleway could be built adjacent to the Upper Canal (see page 16), offering a great way to experience the Parklands.



ARTS AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Aboriginal Cultural Programme

Valuable opportunity to profile local Aboriginal culture, whether it's through a focus on land practices such as land-burning and bush food or on cultural practices.

Residencies Programme

Foster projects specifically about the Parklands, giving participants the chance to gain a rich understanding of the area as both city and bush experience, day and night-time place.

Commissions Programme

From public art 'objects' to sound installations and performances, well-chosen arts and cultural commissions are a powerful way to reflect the communities, histories and physical character of the Parklands.

Unique art and cultural experiences that inspire creativity and promote curiosity

BUSINESS HUBS

A Sustainable Future

As the Parklands is a self-funded agency, the Parklands' Plan of Management 2030 sets out a key objective to create a sustainable revenue base to develop and manage the Parklands from the establishment of Business Hubs on 2% of the Parklands total area.

The two proposed business hubs in the Southern Parklands are located on the major arterial roads – Bringelly Road and Fifteenth Avenue. Both these Business Hubs already have planning approval and Bringelly Road is under construction. These hubs also contribute to the economy of Western Sydney, providing employment opportunities that will help make the region a great place to live and work.



Huaxin Business Centre in Shanghai, China, by Scenic Architecture.

Inspirations for new infrastructure come from the Parklands' water paths and possibilities, and the lines and curves of the landscape. The ideas over the following pages showcase the power of the Parklands to be a destination that's all about innovation.



Aerial view of the Upper Canal as it passes the Liverpool Offtake Reservoir (copyright Greater Sydney Commission).

The power of water: past, present and future



A gravel track for recreational cycling.

THE UPPER CANAL

This attractive blue ribbon that snakes the Parklands' length is central to Sydney's history.

The canal forms part of the Upper Nepean Scheme, which has been supplying water to the city since 1888. It moves water stored in the Upper Nepean Rivers' catchment dams to the Prospect Reservoir, which supplied much of metropolitan Sydney.

What's so intriguing about the canal is the way it follows the curves of the landscape, becoming almost an imprint of the landscape itself.

Future plans could see the canal as the key feature of an adjacent linear park and cycleway, dotted with picnic spots, fitness stations, playgrounds and other recreational opportunities along its path.

For now, the canal continues to make its mark as a striking feature of the Parklands.

THE WESTERN RIDGES WALK

This extensive walking trail promises to be an iconic new destination for locals and visitors alike.

One of the unique features of the Southern Parklands is the continuous ridge that runs north to south along its full length – about 8.5 kilometres in all. Walkers along this ridge trail can enjoy an ever-changing landscape and some amazing views along the way.

Head south and you pass through areas of farmland, sports fields, accommodation and community facilities. Head north and things get more dramatic as you encounter other walkways, special spaces and lookouts, with a view from the Beauty Spot out to the Blue Mountains.

Walkers can conquer the entire trail in four hours or sample it in sections, thanks to the many entry points that connect it to smaller paths and car parks. And at the end of the walk, there's the chance to stay overnight at a premium campsite or ecolodge.



Western Sydney's iconic walking experience



The Beauty Spot, Southern Parklands.

THE BIG RING

Picture a huge circle sitting in the ridgetop, curving invitingly through the landscape and stretching towards the horizon.

A walk around its 3.3-kilometre circumference will take 30 minutes. For those seeking a new perspective, stairs lead to a pair of lookouts standing 15 metres above ground.

This walkway cleverly encircles a bowl-shaped landform in the centre – function following form to create an unforgettable experience.

The name says it all. The ring’s huge scale reflects the vast landscape of the Parklands. Easy to spot from great distances, it will help visitors make sense of their surroundings.

The Big Ring can become home to a whirl of activities, from festivals and markets to galleries, museums and a range of dining options. Even high-speed cycle racing is on offer – a smaller circle within the ring forms a criterium racing track, while the ring itself provides the perfect viewing stadium for race days.

It’s a place to gather and connect, linked to the landscape while providing a unique focal point within it.



A bold statement linking land and leisure



Artist’s impression of the Big Ring as seen from the north. Designed by TYRRELLSTUDIO.



Pont du Diable at Gignac, France by Rudi Ricciotti.

THE SLICE

Cutting through ridges and spanning gullies, this walkway offers a direct route between destinations while revealing stunning views over the Upper Canal that lies below.

About the same length as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, it offers 1.2 kilometres of shared pedestrian pathway and cycleway via a 30-minute return trip.

Stemming from the active recreation area off Edmonson Avenue in the south, the Slice is a handy link to other areas. The Big Ring sits nearby, while the northern end of the walkway opens onto a grand stepped slope that leads to the Blue Seam and camping facilities. Here, cafes, restaurants, galleries and museums could all add to the experience.

Flanked by the curves of the Upper Canal, the long arc of the Big Ring and the intricate folds of the ridged Parklands, the Slice presents a sharp, striking contrast.



The ultimate link from A to B



Artist's impression of the Mirror Dam Cycleway. Designed by TYRRELLSTUDIO.

THE MIRROR DAM CYCLEWAY

Now, cyclists can enjoy a new experience that takes them cruising through shaded vistas and skimming across sparkling water.

Another memorable feature of the Parklands is a pair of twin dams, which sit on the same contour on each side of a central ridge. In a creative piece of landscape design, the projected cycleway cuts through these mirrored dams and two adjacent hills.

This unique gateway to the Southern Parklands takes cyclists from the M7 cycle path on a 15-minute ride directly across the site. It finishes at the Liverpool Offtake Reservoir and can be accessed from the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail or Hinchinbrook Dam.

The cycleway shares links with other Parklands sites including the Western Ridges Walk and Blue Seam pathways.

A visual treat that allows cyclists to experience the changing landscape in constant motion, this is an experience worth travelling for.

A cyclist's dream



Artist's impression of the Blue Seam showing grass terraces for camping and recreation. Designed by TYRRELLSTUDIO.

THE BLUE SEAM

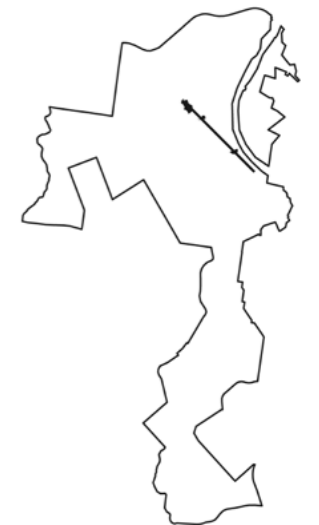
Imagine splashing along a gully, spending the day relaxing on shady waterside terraces or enjoying moonlight cinema over the reflection of shimmering ponds.

The features of this water park will appeal to adventurers, daydreamers and campers alike. Running for a kilometre through a major gully in the Parklands, the Blue Seam is a series of cool spaces that links the Liverpool Offtake Reservoir to Hinchinbrook Dam.

Another highlight of the interconnected Parklands spaces, the Blue Seam links to the adventure sports hub, the Slice, the Big Ring and the Mirror Dam Cycleway.

Opportunities for water play and nature exploration abound, with the terraces by the ponds providing the perfect spot for daytime events or night-time camping.

A celebration of the path of water



THE LOOKOUT

With incredible 360-degree views and an eye-catching design, this structure offers the peak Parklands' experience.

Seamlessly integrated into the highest point of the land, it looks out over the Parklands to the Blue Mountains and cityscape beyond. From here, visitors can also enjoy spotting some of the Parklands' main attractions such as the Big Ring and the end of the Slice as they emerge from the landscape.

For those on the Western Ridges Walk, the Lookout is a triumphant culmination of the trek. For those seeking speedy access, a car park is located close by.

The structure's two levels offer every opportunity to soak in the expansive views. The upper level is open to the sky, while the lower level provides framed vistas within a sheltered space. Here a bar, function room, amenities and a central amphitheatre make the place perfect for any number of events, from weddings to performances to exhibitions.

Sunset viewing and evening drinks with the city lights sparkling beyond ... what could be better?



Artist's impression of the Lookout from above showing the view to the west. Designed by TYRRELLSTUDIO

The jewel in the parkland's crown



Artist's impression of the Lookout upper level. Designed by TYRRELLSTUDIO

Listening to locals for an inclusive framework



Community consultation undertaken for the Framework.

In developing our plans for the Southern Parklands, it was essential that we heard and understood the views and thoughts of the community.

To this end, we sought valuable feedback through focus groups and attendance at local events in the areas adjacent to the Parklands, as well as meetings with representatives of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council.

These are some of the places our community wants its Parklands to be:

- a place that combines bushland and curated natural spaces
- a place that offers shade, shelter and comfort
- a place for gathering and coming together
- a place for camping first-timers and old-timers
- a place of wildlife and natural beauty
- a place to swim in and celebrate water
- a place to walk in, ride in, relax in
- a place to enjoy events
- a place to play, for all ages and activities
- a place to share stories about Country
- a place that offers views of water, land and sky
- a place to connect

a place for all of us

NEXT STEPS

1. Work with Liverpool City Council, State and Federal Government Agencies and the Community to deliver the Framework
2. Set priorities and projects to deliver opportunities outlined in the Framework
3. Prepare master plans for precincts and commence rollout of new activations
4. Continue to conserve, enhance and engage with the important Cumberland Plain Woodland environmental areas
5. Continue community and stakeholder engagement



Prepared by
Western Sydney Parklands Trust.

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