

Plan of Management



Bigge Park

June 2008

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1. PREAMBLE	4
2. INTRODUCTION	6
2.1 CROWN LAND	6
2.2 PRINCIPLES OF CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT	6
2.3 SCOPE OF THE PLAN	7
2.4 AIM OF THE PLAN	8
2.5 CATEGORISATION	9
2.6 DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES OF AN AREA OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE	9
2.7 DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES OF A PARK	10
3. HISTORY	12
3.1 INDIGENOUS HISTORY	12
3.2 EUROPEAN HISTORY	14
4. HERITAGE	18
4.1 THE T. G. SCOTT MEMORIAL GATEWAY	18
4.2 THE ROTARY COMMEMORATIVE CLOCK TOWER	19
4.3 THE ALEX GRIMSON MEMORIAL MUSIC SHELL	20
4.4 THE LIVERPOOL TOWNSHIP MONUMENT	21
4.5 BASALT ROCK WITH PLAQUE	22
4.6 THE THOMAS MOORE MONUMENT	23
4.7 HERITAGE CONDITION ASSESSMENTS	23
5. THE FUTURE	24
6. BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT	28
6.1 VISION....	28
6.2 ROLE....	28
6.3 VALUE....	29
6.4 RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS AND REPORTS	29
6.5 ASSETS ON BIGGE PARK	30
6.6 PERMITTED LAND USES	31
6.7 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	31
7. MANAGEMENT ISSUES	33
7.1 HERITAGE SUSTAINABILITY	33
7.2 MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT	33
7.3 ACCESS....	34
7.4 PARK HIRE, FEES AND CHARGES	34
7.5 SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT	35
7.6 CRIME PREVENTION	35
7.7 CULTURAL DIVERSITY	36
7.8 IMPACT ON ADJOINING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES	36
7.9 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	37
7.10 VEGETATION	37
7.11 DRAINAGE	37
7.12 AMENITIES	38
7.13 SITE EMBELLISHMENT	38
7.14 CULTURAL USERS	39
7.15 TRANSPORT	39
7.16 EMERGENCY SERVICES	39
7.17 FUTURE PLANNING AND DESIGN	39
7.18 FUNDING RESOURCES	40
8. ACTION PLAN	41
8.1 CORE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS	41
8.2 MONITORING PROGRAM	46

1. Preamble

Bigge Park is of significant historical and cultural importance to the people of Liverpool. It is one of south west Sydney's oldest parks, dating back to 1810, and is considered to be highly representative of Governor Macquarie's early urban plans for the towns he established in NSW. Bigge Park was named by Governor Macquarie in honour of John Thomas Bigge, who was appointed the commissioner of inquiry into the colony of NSW. The park was an integral part of the original town plan for Liverpool and it has retained its primary function as a town square/ central park since the establishment of Liverpool. For many years the park has been the site of most of Liverpool's celebrations and today it provides space for monuments, memorials and ceremonies.

This plan of management for Bigge Park recognises the importance of this historic site and proposes actions to ensure it is well maintained and safe into the future. From time to time proposals will come forward to further embellish the park and these will be reviewed with regard to the provisions within this plan of management.



The Rotary Commemorative Clock Tower in Bigge Park

2. Introduction

This plan of management for Bigge Park has been prepared by Liverpool City Council to provide a framework to guide the future management of this important site.

Bigge Park is Crown Land and the Crown Lands Act 1989 applies to the management of the site. Bigge Park is not subject to the Local Government Act 1993, which requires that a plan of management be prepared for community land. However, due to the historical and civic significance of the site, Council has decided to prepare a plan of management for Bigge Park as if it were community land.

This plan categorises Bigge Park and provides guidance to ensure that future management is consistent with the core objectives of the designated categories.

The preparation of this plan was undertaken under the direction of an internal project control group and through extensive community consultation with the general community and key stakeholders.

2.1 Crown land

Bigge Park is Crown Land that is under the care, control and management of Council. Council manages this land in trust for the Crown, in accordance with the Crown Lands Act 1989. By notification under gazette number 500309, Bigge Park is a reserve for public recreation. Council will work with the relevant government departments to ensure the appropriate management of the crown reserve system.

2.2 Principles of Crown land management

The principles of Crown land management under the Crown Lands Act 1989 are that:

- Environmental protection principles will be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown lands
- The natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible
- Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged

- Where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged
- Where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- Crown land will be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

2.3 Scope of the Plan

This plan of management applies to the area known as Bigge Park.

Bigge Park is bounded by Elizabeth, College, Moore and Bigge Streets in Liverpool. The park contains landscaped gardens, memorials, playground, obelisks, and building assets.

Bigge Park is registered under the State Heritage Inventory as an item of local heritage significance (Listing Number 0251) and is listed in the City Centre Local Environmental Plan (LEP) as an item of Environmental Heritage. The park also forms the core of the Bigge Park Heritage Conservation Area, which is listed as an item of State significance. The park has major historical significance to the city and is used by residents, CBD workers and visitors.

A site plan showing the boundaries of the parcel of land covered by this plan of management is shown below.

The aim of this plan of management for Bigge Park is to provide a framework for the future management of the site that recognises the historical and civic significance of the park to the community.

2.5 Categorisation

For the purpose of this plan of management, the site has been dually categorised as an Area of Cultural Significance and as a Park.

2.6 Description and Objectives of an Area of Cultural Significance

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 states that land should be categorised as an Area of Cultural Significance if:

- It is an area of historical significance
- Contains important association or position of the land in the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history
- Contains significant landmarks
- Is an area that has contributed to Australia's cultural history or environment through technical or research significance
- Is an area of association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons
- Is of aesthetic significance by strong visual or sensory appeal or cohesion
- The land has been declared an Aboriginal place
- It is significant to Aboriginal people in terms of traditional or contemporary cultures
- It displays physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation
- It is associated with Aboriginal stories
- Contains heritage items dating after European settlement that help to explain the relationship between Aboriginal people and later settlers
- Has creative or technical qualities such as architectural excellence
- Is an area of archaeological significance through evidence of past human activity
- Contains deposits, objects or material that relate to the settlement of the land
- Is an area of social significance because of the association with Aboriginal life after 1788

The Local Government Act 1993 states the core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance as:

- 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.
- A reference in the above subsection to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.

2.7 Description and Objectives of a Park

This site is also categorised as a Park. The Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 states that land is categorised as a park if:

The land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The Local Government Act 1993 states the core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park as:

- 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

3. History

3.1 Indigenous History

The following text is taken from 'Sweetgrass and Cohbra' published by the Liverpool Regional Museum and Dianne Schultz-Tesmar in 2001.

In 1795 when Bass and Flinders first explored the Georges River before the colonisation of the Liverpool area, the Darug, Tharawal and Gandangara tribes lived in the area. These three tribal groups were divided into smaller clans of bands - extended family units consisting of up to sixty people. Each of these clans was named after the area of land where they normally resided, and with which the people had traditional links.

The suffix 'gal' was added to the place name to distinguish the members of that clan. The clan groups around Liverpool were the Cabrogal named after the cohbra (or cahbra) grubs they harvested at the banks of the Georges River especially near Cabramatta Creek.

The main contact between groups was during ceremonial gatherings. There were linguistic and cultural differences, as well as economic ones. There was also a complicated system of kinship and totems, which prevented certain types of contact.

It is difficult to pinpoint exact language barriers as information came from early colonist's explorers and ethnographers trying to interpret Aboriginal languages. It is thought that the Tharawal language was spoken from south of Botany Bay to the area east of the Georges river (Holsworthy area) to as far south as Jervis Bay and the Darug language on the western side of the Georges River, as well as in the area west of Sydney from the Hawkesbury River to Appin and Picton and as far west as the Blue Mountains to the Nattai and Burragorang Valley's and as far south as Goulburn. Current local land Council boundaries differ from these 'traditional' boundaries.

The Cabrogal clan was recognised as one of the 'woods tribes' by Europeans, together with Aborigines living at South Creek, at Cowpastures near Camden, and at Mulgoa near Penrith.

Bass and Flinders favourable reports pleased Governor Hunter who named the area Banks Town and by 1799 he was awarding grants of land in the Holsworthy area and along the Cabramatta Creek.

Drawing by P.H.F. Phelps of the so-called 'Cabramatta Tribe' in Bigge Park, Liverpool in the 1840s with the Liverpool Hospital in the background -

from Sweetarass & Cohbra, Liverpool Regional Museum. p. 10



The 'Cabramatta Tribe' c.1840s by P.H.F. Phelps
Courtesy: Mitchell Library

While the Aboriginal economy was dependent on harvesting resources with only very little modification to the environment, the Europeans quickly set about clearing the land and planting crops which prevented the Aboriginal people from carrying out their traditional hunting of animals and gathering of plant foods.

In 1803 Thomas Moore was commissioned to take timber from the Georges River for shipbuilding. The river also provided water and for nearly two decades it was the primary means of transport back to Sydney. A far cry from the peaceful river on which the Aborigines fished from their bark canoes or dug for yams and collected cohbra grubs near its banks.

When Governor Macquarie first toured the district, he saw much of it in its natural state. The land near Liverpool was generally open forest, as was the country further

west along Cabramatta Creek with eucalypts of medium height, which covered about 30% of the ground surface, with grasses beneath.

Jacques Arago who visited Liverpool in 1819 commented on the immense fires that appeared every evening as settlers cleared their holdings. Alexander Harris and a companion walking to Campbelltown from Liverpool about 1826 experienced a bushfire with bush animals fleeing in terror.

A smallpox epidemic had swept through the Aboriginal population around Sydney in 1789 and 1790 killing thousands of people. The decline in the Aboriginal population in lots of areas meant that many clans were forced to join together to provide mutual protection and to maintain visible social and economic units. By the 1840's lists of blankets issued to Aborigines (known as the Blanket Register or Returns of Natives) told a story of how many Aboriginal people were remaining in Liverpool and how their traditional lives had changed.

3.2 European History

Bigge Park, a prominent feature of the Liverpool City Centre, is considered to be highly representative of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's early urban plans for the towns he established in the fledgling Colony of NSW.

The park was an integral part of the original survey of Liverpool, and has remained as open space since the foundation of the township of Liverpool in 1810, when it formed part of the town commons. As such, Bigge Park provides a direct physical link to the character of the early township, exhibiting a continuity of function that is rare in Liverpool.



Lachlan Macquarie (1762 - 1824), by unknown artist, courtesy of State Library

Today, the historic relevance and value of this State significant heritage item is further enhanced by its location near a number of other important and historic sites in the Liverpool CBD. These include the former Liverpool Hospital (begun 1825, and possibly designed by Francis Greenway), the former Liverpool Court House

(begun in the 1820s), Liverpool Railway Station (1880) and the Dr Pirie Centre (1948).



Former Liverpool Courthouse (State significant)

3.2.1 John Thomas Bigge

Bigge Park was named by Governor Macquarie in honour of John Thomas Bigge (1780-1843), judge and commissioner of inquiry into the colony of New South Wales.



John Thomas Bigge

It had been determined in London that transportation should be made 'an object of real terror' and that any weakening of this by 'ill considered compassion for convicts' in the humanitarian policies of Governor Macquarie should be reported. To that end, Bigge's royal commission authorized an investigation of 'all the laws, regulations and usages of the settlements', notably those affecting civil administration, management of convicts, development of the courts, the Church, trade, revenue and natural resources. Where existing administration was too

lenient, the commissioner could recommend the establishment of harsher penal settlements. He was also to disclose confidences of the private or public lives of servants of the Crown and leading citizens and officials 'however exalted in rank or sacred in character'. He thus left England in the dual guise of public commissioner of the Crown and of private inquisitor for the government.

Bigge was a professional lawyer, an aristocrat and an academic. His relationship to Macquarie, a professional soldier of humble birth, was a tempestuous one, born of their differences in outlook and compounded by his reports, which were highly critical of the Macquarie administration.

Having served in Trinidad prior to his appointment in New South Wales, Bigge was later given a similar appointment to investigate Cape Colony. He never married and lived a solitary life in retirement until his accidental death in London. He was buried as directed by his will 'without ceremony or superfluous expense'.

3.2.1 Early history of Bigge Park

Originally, Bigge's Square (as it was known), stretched from Elizabeth and Bigge Streets in the north and west, to Scott Street in the south. The Georges River formed a natural eastern boundary. Early in its history, the area

east of what is now College Street was set aside as the site of the District Hospital. The area south of Moore Street was excised when the railway line to Liverpool was constructed in 1855-56.

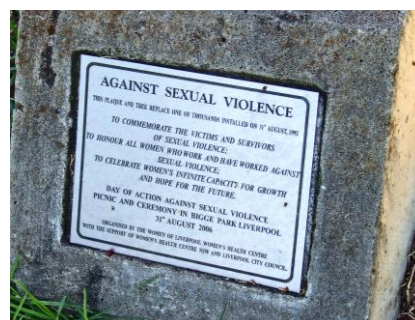
Until 1843, Bigge's Square functioned as a centre for convict punishment. The stock and gallows, and whipping triangles were located within the square, as was the stockade for convict labourers.

The park was known to be a gathering place for Indigenous people. It was also used by inhabitants of the Liverpool Asylum, which was located within the Liverpool hospital. A photograph of the hospital, taken in the late 1800s, shows the area as being open and grassed, with no trees on the eastern side.

3.2.2 *Later history of Bigge Park*

Much of the development of the Park, as it is presently known, took place in the mid 1950s-1970s under the auspices of the Bigge Park Improvement Committee, sponsored by Liverpool City Council. The monuments and memorials within the park date from this period.

Today, the site is a public green space, supporting a variety of vegetation. Surrounding the clock tower are plantings of local importance that commemorate various events and individuals from the Liverpool community.



Commemorative planting markers, (left to right)

- The 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, 6th August 1985.
- Planted by civilian widows. Year of the Tree, December 1983.
- Against Sexual Violence, Day of Action, 31st August 2006.

4. Heritage

There are a number of significant heritage items and monuments in Bigge Park. Each item of interest carries a form of descriptive plaque or tablet which provides an overview of its historic timeframe, significance and purpose.

Recently, Council has provided interpretive signage near the T. G. Scott Memorial Gateway, which is often viewed as the main entrance to the park. The interpretive signage provides some history of the park.

4.1 The T. G. Scott Memorial Gateway

The T.G. Scott Memorial Gateway is a concrete and metal-plate structure, located at the south western entrance of the Park. It was erected in 1956, in a uniquely streamlined style that is unusual in Liverpool. The design and execution exhibit considerable technical ingenuity and bravado.



The T. G. Scott Memorial Gateway

Thomas George Scott is commemorated for 'outstanding continuous service as a Councillor of Nepean Shire Council and to Local Government from 1906-1948.' This period, of more than 40 years, encompassed both World Wars, and would have been witness to major changes and considerable development within the Liverpool district. Nepean Shire Council ceased to exist in 1949 and part of its area was put under Liverpool's jurisdiction.

Two plaques, one on each of the gate 'posts', commemorate Thomas George Scott and the work of the Bigge Park Improvement Committee in overseeing works in the Park during the early 1950s.



The T.G. Scott Memorial Gateway Plaques

4.2 The Rotary Commemorative Clock Tower

The Rotary Commemorative Clock Tower is near the centre of the Park and was erected in 1955 to commemorate the golden (50th) Anniversary of Rotary.



The Rotary Commemorative Clock Tower

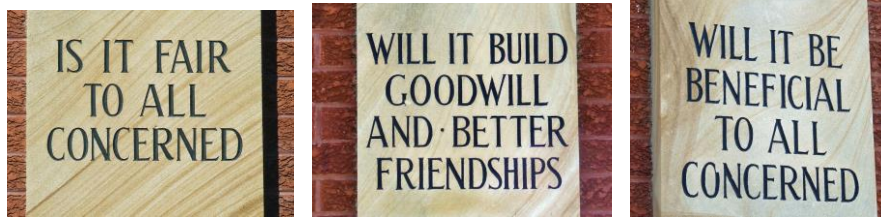
It is essentially of brick construction, partially faced with ornamental sandstone tablets on its four sides and clock faces. Circular terraces of plantings, brickwork, tiled concrete and a low metal-rail fence descend from the base and end with a surrounding paving in the stylised form of the rotary 'wheel'.



The Rotary 'Wheel' and an aerial view of the Rotary Clock Tower

Three of the four tower sides bear inscriptions (the fourth is no longer in evidence). Together, these are known as the four way test:

- *Is it the Truth? (now covered by an access door)*
- *Is it fair to all concerned?*
- *Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*
- *Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*



The Rotary Clock Tower, three of the 'four way test'.

The western face also has a granite tablet attached, which commemorates Rotary's golden anniversary 1905-1955.

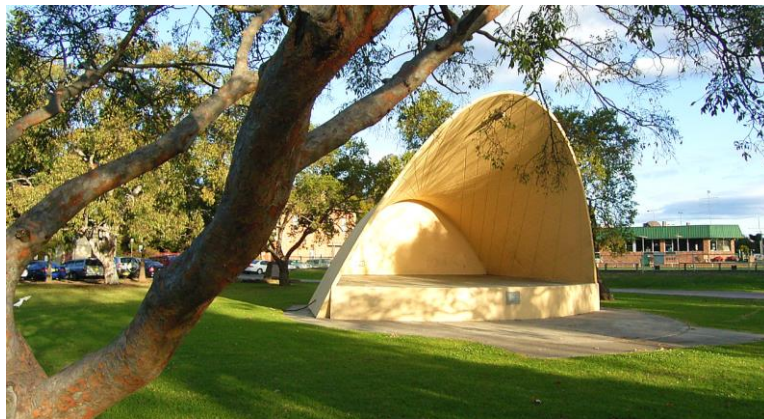


The Rotary Clock Tower Commemorative Tablet

4.3 The Alex Grimson Memorial Music Shell

The Alex Grimson Memorial Music Shell is located east of the Clock Tower. The music shell is an unusual memorial to a former Mayor, erected in 1974. The surgical wing of nearby Liverpool Hospital, from 1983, is also named in honour of the former Mayor.

The music shell is a particularly noteworthy structure, designed by John D. Sim & Associates. It is in the form of a *partial hyperbolic paraboloid* of poured concrete. It displays considerable technical ingenuity in form and execution and may have been influenced in its form language by the Sydney Opera House, which opened the year before.



The Alex Grimson Memorial Music Shell

Centred upon the shell's podium is a commemorative plaque, detailing the many and varied official roles undertaken by Alexander Grimson, and culminating in the words, 'Service Above Self.'



The Alex Grimson Memorial Music Shell Plaque

4.4 The Liverpool Township Monument

The Liverpool Township Monument is a concrete Obelisk, centred upon a circular border of concrete blocks. It is located at the eastern approach to the Park. This monument commemorates 150 years since the founding of the township of Liverpool on the 7th November 1810.



The Liverpool Township Monument

To the western face is attached a granite tablet in the shape of an *isosceles trapezium*. This lists the makeup of the 'Liverpool Municipal Council' in 1960.

The monument was unveiled by Sir Eric Winslow Woodward (1899-1967), army officer and Governor 1957-1965. He assumed office as the thirty-first Governor of New South Wales, and the first to have been born in the State.



The Liverpool Township Monument and nearby Heritage Walk Indicator

4.5 Basalt Rock with Plaque

The Basalt Rock with Plaque is located near to the obelisk.

This memorial was unveiled on Liverpool Heritage Day, 7th November 1980, by Sir Arthur Roden Cutler, VC (1916-2002), army officer, diplomat, ambassador, high commissioner and Governor of NSW from 1965-1981.



Heritage Day Memorial Rock

4.6 The Thomas Moore Monument

The Thomas Moore Monument was formerly used as a drinking water fountain. It is located to the north of the park.

This brick, concrete and sandstone structure was dedicated in 1956 by General Sir John Northcott (1890-1966). General Northcott was an army officer and Governor of NSW from 1946-1957.

The inscription, on weathered sandstone, reads:

TO THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS MOORE JP
1762 - 1840
ORIGINAL LANDOWNER FIRST CITIZEN
AND MAGISTRATE OF LIVERPOOL
DEDICATED 10 - 3 - 1956 BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LIEUTENANT GENERAL
SIR JOHN NORTHCOTT KCMG KCVO CB

4.7 Heritage Condition Assessments

The heritage items described above require ongoing maintenance and improvement. Regular heritage assessments will be completed and an improvement plan will be developed.

5. The future

Under the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy, the NSW Government has identified Liverpool as one of three key regional cities for the Sydney metropolitan area. Liverpool is expected to become the key regional centre for South West Sydney. Liverpool city centre has emerged as the 'capital' of the region, with growing employment and new investment in shopping, business, educational and health premises.

The city centre is now positioned to experience substantial growth due to centrality to the rapidly growing South West Sydney sub-region, stronger infrastructure connections with the rest of metropolitan Sydney, and major public and private projects within the city centre itself.



Revitalising Liverpool City Centre Plan - Parks in the City Centre

The NSW Department of Planning and Council worked together to develop a series of city centre plans that support the development of Liverpool into a regional city, including the:

- Vision for the City Centre
- Local Environment Plan
- Development Control Plan
- Civic Improvement Plan

The city centre plans identify Bigge Park as playing a key role in the development of Liverpool as a regional city. Bigge Park is surrounded by the city centre health and education precinct, is adjacent to the commercial core of the city, and is directly north of the train station. As a result, Bigge Park becomes central open space to these key hubs and will play a key role in

meeting the needs of workers, students and visitors to the city.

As part of the city's development, Bigge Park will continue and grow its prominent place as a key city centre place of significance for public recreation and heritage. The vision for the city centre promotes the enhancement of Bigge Park as significant and valuable open space for the community. A key future action in the vision for the city centre is a plan to regenerate Bigge Park through activities such as tree planting, installing sculptures, cafes and festivals.

The Liverpool City Centre Local Environment Plan identifies Bigge Park as:

- a heritage item
- being within the heritage conservation area of the city

The Liverpool City Centre Civic Improvement Plan's park strategy aims to reinforce the role and function of key parks in the city centre, and includes Bigge Park as one of the main areas of open space. Bigge Park is also identified for its contribution to and enhancement of the natural ecosystem within a predominately built environment.

Bigge Park is one of the key special city projects of the Civic Improvement Plan. The special city projects are considered essential public infrastructure to support future growth, development and the character of the Liverpool city centre. The purpose of the Bigge Park special city project is to reinforce the role of Bigge Park as a major symbolic civic open space in the city centre and improve its functionality and amenity for current and future users.

Eleven planning and design principles have been developed to guide the Bigge Park special city project, including:

1. Retention of commemorative memorials
2. Layout that responds to role of Bigge Park as a major civic park
3. Public art expressing heritage, culture & vitality
4. Landscape design appropriate to surrounding heritage precincts
5. Large open space to accommodate range of civic & festive events

6. Opportunities for various recreation pursuits
7. Water conservation & solar lighting
8. Sense of safety and security with landscaping,
lighting & visibility
9. Enhancement to amenity with gardens
10. Urban furniture, waste management & amenities
11. Shared paths

6. Basis for management

This section is the driving force of this plan and will guide the management of Bigge Park. The basis for management has been developed following the completion of the following tasks:

- The assessment of information received through a process of consultation with local residents, interested parties and users
- The assessment of feedback received from the community and key stakeholders
- A heritage assessment
- Review of past Council plans and policies linked to the park
- An internal review of the management, maintenance and operation of the park

6.1 Vision

Facilitating use of the site as public parkland and as a place of cultural heritage significance.

6.2 Role

The land subject to this plan:

- Provides an important passive recreational role for the local community
- Provides an important open space setting to the vista of the CBD
- Provides an important link to cultural heritage sustainability

Council's role is to deliver a park to the community that will:

- Meet relevant standards and legislative requirements
- Provide an acceptable level of community satisfaction
- Provide a suitable park for passive activities for the diverse community
- Implement best management practices for the park's sustainability

6.3 Value

Bigge Park is an asset to the community of Liverpool and visitors. The park has value in that it:

- Is an integral part of open space
- Has major historical value
- Provides opportunities for a range of informal and passive recreational activities
- Is a buffer to the built environment
- Provides a natural setting and habitat for fauna
- Is of heritage / cultural significant to the Aboriginal community
- Contributes to quality of life
- Facilitates a specific public purpose
- Is accessible to all members of the community
- Is a focal point for the community
- Supports a range of health, play, charitable and fundraising activities
- Supports a range of education, environmental and rehabilitation activities
- Supports a range of social, community, family, religious and cultural activities
- Is in close proximity to and has historical association with other heritage significant sites
- Contributes to the visual amenity of Liverpool

6.4 Relevant policies, plans and reports

Liverpool City Council policies, plans and reports that have relevance to this plan of management are:

- Draft Liverpool Local Environmental Plan 2008
- Liverpool City Centre Local Environmental Plan 2007
- Development Control Plan – Liverpool City Centre
- Liverpool City Centre Civic Improvement Plan
- Liverpool Directions
- Liverpool City Wide Recreation Strategy 2020
- Council *Statement of Commitment*
- Social Plan 2006 – 2008
- Liverpool Disability Action Plan
- Biodiversity Strategy 2003
- Sweetgrass and Cohbra, Liverpool Regional Museum & Diane Schultz- Tesmar 2001
- Georges River Corridor Plan of Management and Masterplan
- Water Conservation Action Plan 2005
- Pesticide use notification plan

Federal and State legislation/policy requirements that have relevance to this plan of management are:

- Crown Lands Act 1989
- NSW Government's Sydney Metropolitan Strategy
- South West Subregion Draft Subregional Strategy
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- NSW Heritage Act 1977
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1999
- Australian Heritage Council 2003
- Local Government (general) Regulations 2000
- Pesticide Regulation 2005

6.5 Assets on Bigge Park

Currently the park has the following assets:

- Border plantings of trees including Tallow wood (*Eucalyptus microcor*), Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Hill's fig (*Fiscus hillii*) and Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*).
- Commemorate planting - Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), 1982 the year of the tree
- Commemorate planting - Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), 1993 to mark the Day of Action against Sexual Violence 31 August of each year
- Garden beds planted out with shrubs and annuals i.e. Rubens (*Photinia glabrens*)
- A Children's Playground
- A Memorial entrance to TG Scott
- A commemorative plaque signifying the opening of the park in 1956
- A war memorial that includes: an obelisk on which is affixed the marble plaques from the former memorial in Memorial Avenue in Macquarie Street, a fountain in the form of a stone cairn surmounted by a cross in the centre of the pool
- A commemorative clock tower erected by the Rotary club on their 50th Anniversary
- A music shell in memory of Mayor Alex Grimson
- A commemorative obelisk to signify the founding of the township of Liverpool
- A basalt rock with a plaque to acknowledge Liverpool Heritage Day
- A brick monument used as a drinking fountain in memory of Thomas Moore
- Paved footpaths
- Mixed lighting
- Garbage bins
- Benches, some donated in 1961 by the Rotary Club

- Retaining wall
- Grassed areas
- Small building (originally toilet block that is now used as a maintenance shed)

6.6 Permitted land uses

The permitted uses of the community land covered by this plan of management are:

- Activities associated with the heritage / cultural significance of the site
- Children's play
- Family and social activities
- Activities associated with healthy lifestyles
- Charity and fundraising activities
- Festivals, events and ceremonies
- Passive recreational activities
- Informal sports and games
- Public art
- Education and rehabilitation services
- Environmental enhancement and protection
- Filming
- Sale of food and beverages
- Car parking
- Roads and vehicular access
- Pedestrian and cycle access
- Signage
- Easements

6.7 Future development

This plan of management permits (subject to the requirements of relevant legislation, the zoning of the land and Council consents) the future development of the land for the following purposes:

- The construction of new facilities for uses permitted by this plan of management
- The reconstruction, rehabilitations and enhancement of existing facilities for uses permitted by this plan of management
- Works for the purposes of ground maintenance, landscaping or gardening
- The upgrading of or improvements to existing facilities for the uses permitted by this plan of management
- Works associated with environmental enhancement and protection

- Works associated with Council adopted strategies, plans and policies
- Works associated with legislative requirements

7. Management issues

During the consultation period, priorities relating to the management of Bigge Park were identified. The consultation for the development of the Generic Plan of Management for Parks also identified priorities relevant to the management of Bigge Park. These are outlined below.

7.1 Heritage sustainability

Bigge Park has both heritage and cultural significance to the community. The park is one of Australia's oldest parks and its heritage significance could be strengthened.

Throughout the park there are many commemorative and memorial sites. It is important to locate these sites, and have attached details, that encourage the community to acknowledge them.

As noted in Section 4.7, regular heritage condition assessments and an improvement plan will need to be developed.

Objectives:

- To enhance recognition of memorials within the park
- To improve visual appearance of memorials
- To enhance the history and past influences of the park

7.2 Maintenance and management

Bigge Park is managed on a regular schedule which involves a daily two hour routine inspection and minor maintenance, which includes waste management and general keeping of the park. The park maintenance also includes scheduled weekly mowing and edging. The park receives top dressing and aeration as required.

Council also receives direct community requests for actioning that include and are not limited to pathway repairs, vandalism, criminal activity reports, tree management and access condition.

The maintenance is increased and influenced during scheduled large scale events that are held at the park.

Routine scheduled works occur in the early hours of the day, when community activity is at a low.

Objectives:

- To provide a safe environment to the community through best maintenance practices
- To comply with occupational health and safety regulations
- To comply with work cover regulations

7.3 Access

Bigge Park is accessed by narrow concrete footpaths on Bigge and Elizabeth streets. These footpaths occur on verges with steep cross falls from kerb to boundary. There is no footpath on the park side of College Street except adjacent to the Bowling Club.

Current access provisions into the park from the Liverpool District Hospital and general footpath access could be improved. In future developments, access to the park would be enhanced if pedestrian crossings and/or pedestrian lights were located at or close to park entrances.

Regular assessments of internal tiled paths under wet conditions promote safe access. It is important that these pathways meet performance criteria for slip resistance in pedestrian paving as specified in the Australian Standards.

It is important that current provisions meet the needs of people with disabilities to access the park. As part of the Disability Action Plan, Council identified that access improvements are required for Bigge Park.

Objectives:

- To increase participation through improving accessibility
- To ensure access into and within the park is maximised for those with a disability

7.4 Park hire, fees and charges

Bigge Park and the infrastructure located within the park cannot be hired out for exclusive use. Council requires insurance and bonds for events that require additional temporary equipment to be erected, such as marquees, jumping castles and specific celebration equipment.

Uses of the park for general community use, such as family gatherings, religious celebration, wellbeing activities or social unions for less than 100 people, do not incur any fees or charges. However, any large scale event requires a Council event application form to be completed for consideration.

Objectives:

- To provide community space for families and social groups to gather for community networking
- To allow for informal leisure at Council facilities for the community and visitors to gather

7.5 Safety and risk management

Safety is perceived as a key priority for the park. The day time environment is considered relatively safe, while concerns about safety increase at night. Improving lighting and minimising 'dark spots' within and around the park would assist in increasing a sense of safety.

This is a significant priority to the community given the night and day nature of use at Liverpool Hospital, transport stations, educational facilities and local business trade.

Objectives:

- To encourage community surveillance and reporting
- To minimise risk for all park users as well as those in surrounding properties
- To provide a park that meets the Australian Standards or recommended guidelines

7.6 Crime prevention

Criminal activity and vandalism of the park are key concerns of the community. The need to implement effective measures to reduce vandalism and increase

personal and community safety is a high priority for both Council and the community.

Council adopts the principle of "crime prevention through environmental design" when planning for new infrastructure, as costs associated with vandalism have the potential of reducing the resources available for park improvements.

Objectives:

- To create a safer and more visible park environment
- To provide the community with a safe environment and discourage vandalism
- To encourage reporting of unacceptable behaviour at the park

7.7 Cultural diversity

The Liverpool community has a diversity of cultures. The central business district is a visual display of the diversity of these cultures. An opportunity exists to utilise Bigge Park as an area to signify the cultural diversity of Liverpool.

Currently the park is a thoroughfare for a high level of pedestrian traffic. If there were more cultural events at the park, it may increase opportunities for community participation due to the high pedestrian thoroughfare.

Objectives:

- To increase cultural activities at the park
- To promote community harmony through participation and attendance

7.8 Impact on adjoining residents and businesses

As development throughout the CBD and surrounding area increases, the park uses may impact on adjoining residents and businesses.

As a buffer to the built environment, the park is a key open space within the central business district.

Objectives:

- To increase the safety of the park
- To encourage permitted passive activities

7.9 Infrastructure improvements

New trends are occurring in children's playgrounds, with a move towards increasing equipment diversity and different levels of provision. Playgrounds with a range of equipment suitable for varying age groups and abilities attract people from a wider geographic area, who utilise the playground for parties, groups and family gatherings.

Council needs to provide infrastructure that will benefit park users. These improvements include seating, bins, shared pathways, formal gardens and playgrounds. The formal gardens should cater for drought and unprecedented climatic conditions. Future recycled infrastructure should be reviewed for use at the park.

Objectives:

- To provide the community with quality open space
- To provide suitable equipment for the diverse community
- To provide infrastructure that is of quality and meets Australian Standards
- To improve the infrastructure with a consistent theme / style

7.10 Vegetation

Bigge Park was planted out by the early 1950's. Many of the plantings have commemorative or memorial meaning. The park would benefit from vegetation planting that is consistent and promotes a style or theme for the park.

The current natural shading of the area is sufficient; however, further design details of the park in relation to tree and hedge planting are required.

Objectives:

- To create a sense of open space within a built environment
- To create a consistency to the current planting theme, using native species where possible
- To provide an aesthetically designed park
- To improve current vegetation

7.11 Drainage

Drainage at the park could be improved. During and after wet weather periods, the park can have pools of water on the footpaths and throughout grassed areas.

Objectives:

- To minimise the remnant effects of wet weather
- To consider alternative designs for dispersion of water

7.12 Amenities

Users of the park stay for short periods or use the park as a thoroughfare, therefore the community has not required regular access to toilets.

During large scale half or full day events, it is recommended that temporary toilets be brought in on a ratio of one for every 100 people.

Increase of the park's use for cultural events may require that consideration be given to improving access to amenities.

Objective:

- To increase access to amenities, as required

7.13 Site embellishment

Embellishment of the park is required to increase its usage and enhance its natural beauty. During future development of the park, it will be necessary for any works to be consistent with a theme or style that represents the park's culture and history. Improvement to the park's assets should also be sympathetic to surrounding buildings.

The development of the park's style and theme will include natural or related colouring of the infrastructure, restoration of memorials, vegetation management and minimal additional development that will affect the available open space.

Objectives:

- To further develop a key city centre park
- To improve the visual appearance of the park
- To retain the park's past historical nature
- To develop a consistent aesthetic appearance to the park

7.14 Cultural users

Bigge Park is often utilised by community organisations for large community events for participation by the broader community. Council also utilises this area for a range of events. As the park contains many memorial and commemorative plaques, plantings and structures, there are events that are held at the park that recognise their placement.

Objectives:

- To support and encourage community events

7.15 Transport

Bigge Park is located next to the city ring road, the major traffic distribution network within the central business district. It was identified through community consultation that there is a need for Bigge Park to include shared pathways.

Objectives:

- To encourage safer alternate transport links throughout the CBD
- To increase pedestrian traffic access to transport links

7.16 Emergency services

It is essential for emergency vehicles to have access to the site at all times. Currently the park has vehicular access through Elizabeth Street. This entrance is gated via the installation of a bollard.

Objective:

- To ensure continued emergency access and procedures

7.17 Future planning and design

The Liverpool community would like access to the park through unstructured, informal passive recreation activities. The future planning of the park needs to provide open space and recreation facilities based on quality outcomes.

If Council is to develop a detailed design plan, then best practice principles in planning, development and management need to be achieved.

Objectives:

- To leave a positive legacy for future generations
- To promote the historical and cultural significance of the park
- To acknowledge the civic importance of the park to Liverpool

7.18 Funding resources

Funding for development of parks typically comes from Council's capital works program or Section 94 development contributions. Council may also apply to external funding sources such as State and Federal grants; however these are often limited and competitive to access. Council's management planning process ensures that a uniform approach is taken to the allocation of available funds to community projects.

Objectives:

- To secure funding for development and maintenance of Bigge Park

8. Action Plan

8.1 Core objectives and targets

The objectives and targets establish a foundation for the maintenance, management and improvement of Bigge Park. The delivery of the actions will be considered in more detail during implementation and priority will be established based on the needs of the community.

Objectives	Targets
8.1.1 Heritage sustainability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance recognition of memorials within the park To improve visual appearance of memorials To enhance the history and past influences of the Park 	Improve historical plaques, memorials and commemorative artefacts throughout the park
	Promote historical significance through promotional fact sheets and tours
	Develop historical links to other local significant sites
	Maintain tree significance and species and establish a consistent planting theme
	Complete regular heritage condition assessments & develop improvement plan
8.1.2 Maintenance and management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a safe environment to the community through best maintenance practices To comply with occupational health and safety regulations To comply with work cover regulations 	Streamline internal communication processes and improve completion timeframe for customer requests
	Maintain a renovation program and maintenance schedule that includes aerating, topdressing and weeding practices
	Complete routine inspection reports during scheduled maintenance
	Engage an arborist to survey and develop an action report for the site
8.1.3 Access	

Objectives	Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase participation through improving accessibility To ensure access into and within the park is maximised for those with a disability 	Apply the principles of Council's Disability Action Plan during restoration and replacement programs
	Review and audit access issues
	Improve signage to and from the park
8.1.4 Park hire, fees and charges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide community space for families and social groups to gather for community networking To allow for informal leisure at Council facilities for the community and visitors to gather 	Apply affordable fees and charges for large scale events
	Apply a nil cross charge in Council for community events
8.1.5 Safety and risk management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage community surveillance and reporting To minimise risk for all park users as well as those in surrounding properties To provide a park that meets the Australian Standards or recommended guidelines 	Apply safer by design principles in future development of the park
	Review infrastructure needs to provide a safer park environment
	Implement a risk assessment process for large scale events
	Complete routine inspections and maintenance cycles to ensure the safety of the park with reference to Parks and Recreation Area Maintenance AUS Spec 6A-2004
8.1.6 Crime prevention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a safer and more visible park environment To provide the community with a safe environment and discourage vandalism To encourage reporting of unacceptable behaviour at the park 	Guide future designs based on crime prevention through environmental design principles
	Install Council signs with contact details for reporting of unacceptable behaviour
	Create visible pedestrian pathways
	Install preferred consistent lighting throughout the park to reduce black spots

Objectives	Targets
8.1.7 Cultural Diversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase cultural activities at the park To promote community harmony through participation and attendance 	Maintain current users and increase use of park for events by local community groups
	Promote activities scheduled at park through available communication tools
	Encourage local tours to visit the site through promotion of the historical significance and linkages to other related sites
	Implement cultural activities which are sensitive to the theme of the park
8.1.8 Impact on adjoining residents and businesses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the safety of the park To encourage permitted passive activities 	Set operating hours according to natural light for small scale events
	Advertise available transport alternatives to access the park during large scale events
8.1.9 Infrastructure Improvements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the community with quality open space To provide suitable equipment for the diverse community To provide infrastructure that is of quality and meets Australian Standards To improve the infrastructure with a consistent theme / style 	Develop a consistent style to the infrastructure of the park
	Deliver infrastructure improvements based on Australian Standards and that will sustain over time
	When replacement is required, consider relocating infrastructure to best suit community needs and requests
8.1.10 Vegetation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a sense of open space within a 	Limit future tree plantings and the variety of species

Objectives	Targets
<p>built environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a consistency to the current planting theme, using native species where possible To provide an aesthetically designed park To improve current vegetation 	<p>Maintain health and improve visual appearance of current plantings through best practice principles</p> <p>Develop an indicative vegetation /landscape maintenance plan through the recommendations of an arborist report</p>
8.1.11 Drainage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the remnant effects of wet weather To consider alternative designs for dispersion of water 	Review current maintenance program to allow for an increase in soil saturation i.e. excessive rain fall
	Review alternate grass species more suitable for park's natural condition
	Design future footpaths to be slightly higher than ground to operate as a natural run off
8.1.12 Amenities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase access to amenities, as required 	Ensure the events hire policy provides for a minimum ratio of toilets to be supplied at large scale events
	Undertake a needs analysis on access to amenities from Bigge Park
8.1.13 Site embellishment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further develop a key city centre park To improve the visual appearance of the park To retain the park's past historical nature To develop a consistent aesthetic appearance to the park 	Highlight the park's historical significance through aesthetically pleasing infrastructure and design which is also consistent with other historical sites
	Promote and incorporate public art
	Develop a concept design plan for the site to create a key city centre park
8.1.14 Cultural users	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and encourage community events 	Promote cultural events at the park through recognising opportunities and partnerships

Objectives	Targets
	Utilise future cultural planning documents to encourage access and opportunities
	Advertise Bigge Park as the preferred CBD cultural event park
8.1.15 Transport	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage safer alternate transport links throughout the CBD To increase pedestrian traffic access to transport links 	Upgrade and promote bike and pedestrian accessibility to park
	Design paths as an alternative safe thoroughfare to transport links
	Increase passive transport participation through signage
8.1.16 Emergency services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure continued emergency access and procedures 	Maintain emergency accessibility to park
	Notify hirers of an emergency evacuation plan for events
	Update and maintain an emergency contact sign in park
8.1.17 Future planning and design	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To leave a positive legacy for future generations To promote the historical and cultural significance of the park To acknowledge the civic importance of the park to Liverpool 	Develop an indicative concept design plan based on community input and best practice principles
	Recognise historical, cultural and civic significance of the park during planning and design phases
	Incorporate public art that reflects the significance of the park, using community cultural development approaches
8.1.18 Funding resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure funding for development and maintenance of Bigge Park 	Seek and apply for funding opportunities that are applicable to the development and management of the park
	Review internal maintenance and management budgets annually
	Develop an indicative five year capital works program for Bigge Park

8.2 Monitoring Program

This plan of management will be evaluated over a five year period and will include:

- A review of the plan of management objectives
- Reports on the progress of implementation
- Recommendations on any alterations or amendments that may be required.

Council's Recreation and Open Space Planner will undertake the process of evaluation. Reports will be presented to the Executive Committee of Council for consideration.