



The General Manager, Dominic Johnson  
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**Re: Draft Mosplan and budget**

The Mosman Parks and Bushland Association is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the revised and updated Mosplan. Committee and members also appreciated the overview and presentation given on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Positives:**

Mosplan starts well, with 'Our Place' emphasising Mosman's bays, beaches, headlands, sandstone cliffs, natural bushland areas and foreshore parklands. and beautiful environment.

Community Views prioritise Environmental Conservation/Green Spaces

Promisingly, 'An attractive and sustainable environment' is the third in Council's seven 'Strategic Directions'.

The Association appreciates that Council recognises the importance the community attaches to environmental conservation and to our green spaces, and we have few doubts about Council's vision and its intention to continue to support a healthy environment, our parks and bushland, public accessibility and healthy living.

However, details of strategies to achieve Council's vision and the community's hopes are not outlined in sufficient detail.

**The Documents**

Council wished the current Mosplan documents to be clearer, simpler and more accessible than previous documents. In some respects this has been achieved, but we have some suggestions.

- The document is on the whole well set out and clear. However, we suggest that by discarding some of the strategic detail and specifics that appeared in the previous Mosplan, it has become less useful to the community.
- The Delivery Program lists the major projects, but it is the day to day 'business as usual' aspirations and outcomes that will be difficult for the community to assess. For example, the previous Mosplan lists strategies in its Environment section and within each strategy recurrent programs and projects and key initiatives are listed.
- Difficult to find in the current Mosplan are the expenditure items in the 3 Year Capital Works Programs. Many of these are relevant to the seven Strategic Directions and could be shown in those sections. For example the Open Space Asset Class is of particular to 'Mosman Parks & Bushland'.

- A cross reference to the Asset Management Plans (explained in the Making it Happen Resourcing Strategy) would also be helpful.
- 'Key Expenditure Allocations' make no mention of bushland. It is presumed that the expenditure on open space includes the Bush Regeneration Contracts. A further breakdown of the allocations would be helpful.
- Measuring performance: The key performance indicators are to be the percentage of residents satisfied with aspects of Council's management. This is a valid indicator, but objective measurements of success must be made too. It is presumed that objective measurements will appear in the State of Environment Report but it would be helpful if Mosplan stated what these measurements are and how they will be made.

### **Comments on content**

**Strategic Direction 3 – An attractive and sustainable environment** is of greatest concern to Mosman Parks and Bushland.

- In the delivery of the strategy there is no mention of biodiversity. 'Biodiversity' may be implied in the delivery strategies but it needs to be spelled out. Enhancing biodiversity need not preclude community use but it is an important stand-alone value.
- Priority and extra funding should be applied to improving the environmental standard of any unmade roads that could qualify for an upgraded zoning. This is urgent given the likely changes to the Crown Lands Act
- More detail about many of the 'everyday' services and facilities for the environment should be included:
- Projects by Council on the protection and enhancement of bushland on Council land (even if these are considered 'everyday')
- Programs to inform and encourage private landowners whose land adjoins bushland to manage gardens in a manner that will respect the adjoining bushland.
- Initiatives by Council to assist and lead voluntary work by community members to enhance bushland and the natural environment
- Although mentioned in the Mayor's statement, initiatives of Council to work with NPWS, the Harbour Trust and Taronga Zoo to ensure that bushland is protected and enhanced in those areas.
- Active efforts to lobby the state government in order to protect the Harbour and to protect Mosman's Scenic Protection Zone should be documented.

**Strategic Direction 6 – Well designed, Liveable and Accessible Places**

The Project Bradley's Head Road to the Zoo Footpath extension

Although we do not know the location of this extension, we hope that bushland will not be diminished. The walk from Athol Hall to Athol Wharf could be signposted and upgraded as it passes near Athol Hall, thereby increasing accessibility without losing bushland.

**Strategic Direction 7 – A Healthy and Active Village Lifestyle**

Lacking here is a commitment to maintaining the eco system while maintaining and providing recreational facilities. It is important to maintain a balance between the claims of active recreation. As population increases both passive and active recreation become more important to wellbeing.

Summarising: Mosplan recognises the importance of bushland and the natural environment to the community of Mosman, but the inclusion of further details in the strategies it will use to protect bushland and our foreshores will strengthen this document and the outcomes for the community, present and future.



Kate Eccles  
President  
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