

Lord Mayor Clover Moore's address

7 May 2023

Hello everyone.

I would also like to acknowledge the City's Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Sylvie Ellsmore and Crs Yvonne Weldon and Shauna Jarrett.

Innovation and Ideas Grants program

The City of Sydney's Innovation and Ideas Grants program is supporting the Glebe's Hill project which will provide us with important information about the area's fauna and flora.

This grants program supports special, innovative projects that address local and global issues and contribute to a sustainable city, thriving economy, vibrant communities and cultural life. It aims to foster innovation, showcase local expertise, and test new ideas.

And the Glebe Society's project has certainly does that all. It is a great community-led initiative, underpinned by a robust partnership with the University of Sydney to investigate an area that will eventually become part of the Johnstons Creek Parklands.

The Glebe's Hill project demonstrates how our grants program can build important partnerships and knowledge sharing between the City, community groups and academic institutions.

It could lead to outcomes that are strongly aligned to the City's vision and plans. Included in our *Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan*, *Greening Sydney* strategy, *Johnstons Creek Parklands Masterplan* and our long-term plan *Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision* which was developed after extensive consultation.

History

Glebe's Hill has been dedicated for public recreation since at least 1973, however there is no evidence of it having been publicly accessible, let alone used for public recreation, over the past 50 years.

There is evidence, however, that it has been used as a council tip, a car park, and a works depot for the construction of the light rail extension, before being used for the stockpiling of spoil material.

The Hill and its slopes were fenced off in 2009 we became aware that it was contaminated.

Vision

The long-term vision for The Hill – that it be remediated and integrated with the surrounding parklands – is outlined in the *Johnstons Creek Parklands Masterplan* which has been adopted by the Council. The masterplan identifies the following opportunities:

- Retention of the man-made hill as an elevated landscape element within the parklands
- Remediation of the site including stabilisation and regrading of slopes to improve visual and physical connections through the parklands, and

- Replanting of native woodland to establish a habitat for native birds and wildlife.

The investigation that the Glebe Society is initiating will provide a baseline on the current state of Glebe Hill's biodiversity which will inform discussions with the State Government for the future planning and funding for the site.

City investments

This area, Glebe and Forest Lodge are an important part of the City of Sydney and since our amalgamation in 2004 we have completed some very important projects; the very popular 2.2 kilometre Glebe Foreshore Walk at a cost of \$19 million, including Bicentennial Park, the Glebe Foreshore Promenade, restoration of historic Bellevue House, Jubilee Park and Federal Park, the historic grandstand, and path upgrades on Pyrmont Bridge Road.

In negotiating the redevelopment of Harold Park, we achieved affordable housing, the preservation and restoration of the Tramsheds – including the new community centre that we are in today – the World War I memorial, and we created a new \$14.2 million park with an amazing playground and The Crescent's \$14.6 million skate park.

To complement the open space, last year we completed a refurbishment of the bridges along Johnstons Creek to reduce the constriction of high water flows.

These much-needed investments in the community and the environment provide you with a beautiful environment and quality recreational amenities.

And there is more to come. The upgrade to Blackwattle Bay Playground is expected to be completed in a few months; and we are building a multi-purpose sports practice field at The Crescent before upgrading Jubilee Oval Park and its amenities.

Community engagement

The Glebe's Hill project supports community involvement in greening the City, which we are proactively encouraging and would like more communities to do the same.

Thank you for initiating such a worthwhile project which will continue to improve this great part of our City.