

1 March 2021

Ms Clover Moore
Lord Mayor
City of Sydney
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Sydney NSW 2001

Email: cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Lord Mayor Councillor Moore,

Establishment of a Native Plant Nursery

Introduction.

The Glebe Society would like to express its strong support for the establishment of a City Native Plant Nursery. The Society represents approximately 400 members in Glebe and Forest Lodge and has a proud history of promoting the environment, community and heritage. Along with Pyrmont, Glebe's local Bushcare/Landcare groups are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain suitable native plants for their activities, since the Inner West Council Nursery has been unable to supply them. It also remains hard to obtain suitable native plants of specific local provenance, the plants which are most likely to be successfully established and thrive here. Further the ability to source local native flora for planting in the City's parks and reserves demonstrates a commitment to Indigenous sustainable management principles of "Caring for Country". These management practices support the health and well-being of the land ("Country") by recognising their traditional Aboriginal custodianship. Currently, the beauty of Glebe's local and Crown Lands, including the bays' foreshores, has been considerably enhanced by extensive native plantings, but there is much further work to be done.

Possible sites for the City's Native Plant Nursery.

The City could consider the following sites:

1. *Sydney Park with sub-site in Glebe* – no doubt there would be space available at Sydney Park to construct the Nursery. If this site is selected it should be noted, however, that it is at some distance from Glebe/Forest Lodge (and Pyrmont), making accessibility difficult for the collection of plants, except by car journey.

It would be optimal if a site or sub-site for the Council Nursery could be established in Glebe. A site at or near the Council-owned 'Interpreted Sheds' in front of the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator could be investigated for a Glebe outlet of a City Nursery. This would be an appropriate way of celebrating and showcasing native plants in Glebe, as well as a way of commemorating Walter and Marion Griffin, who had a strong commitment to utilising Australian native plants in their Australian design projects.

2. *No. 3 The Crescent, Annandale* - it is a vacant site and was part of the AGL property bought by Leichhardt Municipal Council in the early 90s. We understand that it is now owned by the City of Sydney since the 2003 boundary change. The buildings on the site were demolished including the main AGL building at Nos. 5 - 7 The Crescent and the childcare centre was constructed together with the grassed area attached to it. No. 3 is the vacant land between Pet O and the childcare centre.

Establishment of a Native Plant Nursery Working Group to report to the City.

The Society suggests that the way to proceed with this issue is for the City to establish a Working Group made of representatives from the City together with those from various community stakeholders, which could advise the City on the establishment of a Native Plant Nursery. Its community members could be drawn from the Bushcare/Landcare groups and Community Gardens groups (that are growing native plants as bush tucker) in the local government area as well as the Blue Wren Subcommittee of the Glebe Society. It appears that such a coordinated Group could provide effective and expert advice to the City and would receive enthusiastic community support.

Please let me know if there is any further information I can provide,

Yours sincerely,



Janet Wahlquist
President