



The Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association Inc.

www.pbwba.org.au | PO Box 2 Palm Beach NSW 2108

GOVERNOR PHILLIP PARK (GPP).

In support of Motion 34/2025 at Council Meeting held 16th Sept 2025 Establishment of a Governor Phillip Park Community Working Group

We wish to express our support for Motion 34/2025 proposed by Councillor Korzy to establish a Governor Phillip Park Community Working Group.

PBWBA is a community-based group, founded in 1918 with a membership of over 450.

In 1925 PBWBA proposed that the strip of land between Pittwater and the Ocean Beach at Palm Beach be dedicated as a public park. It was subsequently named Governor Phillip Park and this Park is something the Association has fiercely advocated for ever since.

PBWBA was the leader of a public campaign to preserve Governor Phillip Park as a Crown land reserve in perpetuity and the current Council Plan of Management for the Park includes a provision that PBWBA has to be consulted on the plans for the future management of the reserve.

Governor Phillip Park has an iconic role in the history of Sydney, being visited by Governor Phillip in his first months of Governorship. What an asset it is to the Northern Beaches LGA! It is especially popular with families.

After Manly, it is the second most visited area on the Northern Beaches with hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world visiting it every year; some to enjoy the scenery and relax in the beautiful environment, some to picnic, some to walk and exercise, some to surf and swim, some to enjoy the cafes/restaurants and some to visit the adjoining Barrenjoey Headland and Lighthouse. The combination of unique natural and visual features within a relatively small area make Governor Phillip Park one of the most outstanding coastal reserves in New South Wales.

As such, it should be one of Sydney's showpieces but, sadly, it is not. It appears neglected, tired, worn and "unloved" with, among other things, weed infestation, aging infrastructure, potholes, damaged road edges and inadequate wayfinding and information signage. We are really looking forward to a new Plan of Management.

As it has done for over 100 years PBWBA will continue to advocate for the Park on behalf of the community and seek funds for improvements and maintenance from the State and Federal Governments and the Council for this well loved, well used and iconic piece of Crown Land. We firmly believe that all income received from all fees and

charges raised in the Park should be spent within the Park and not subsumed into general revenue.

We support the appointment of a Community working group which would include representatives from diverse backgrounds and expertise in the environment, local history (both indigenous and since 1788), business, arts & culture, tourism, recreation activities, Community groups and Park users etc. We believe this would be an important and constructive part of the development of the new PoM and ensure that it is appropriate and relevant for 2025 and beyond.

We hope that the Working Group would be an ongoing source of advice to the Council once the new PoM has been implemented.

PBWBA

Virginia Christensen (Committee)

September 16th 2025