

To: Geoff Reinhard - Planning Manager, Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands.

From: Margaret Hope for Daughters of ANZAC - and their Families.

RE: Submission re Moore Park 2040 Draft Master Plan (MPMP).

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Moore Park Draft Master Plan 2040 and are grateful for the permission given by Geoff Reinhard to lodge a late submission.

While the Draft MPMP addresses seven themes this submission will focus on the Heritage theme.

Background to this submission

During recent months much of the history of Anzac Parade and Moore Park has come to light and I, a daughter of an ANZAC, and the surviving members of my extended family and others have been increasingly perplexed, saddened and even outraged as to why the history that exists between Centennial Parklands, the Obelisk, Anzac Parade and the men who marched along this parade on their way to The Great War –has almost been lost. This is all the more concerning at a time when hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on the Centenary of the Commemoration of World War I, both here and abroad, and so much destruction has been wrought during the building of the light rail and Tibby Cotter Bridge. This has led to the formation of a group called **Daughters of ANZAC - and their Families.**

We now note that there is scant reference in the Draft Master Plan to the fact that Anzac Parade is a commemorative site.

While we would want to preserve and protect all Australian sites, we wish to begin by focusing on ANZAC Parade, the Obelisk, the surrounding park lands and the remaining significant trees which line the Parade, because together they form a unique memorial which has largely been forgotten as one of the most important and significant commemorative sites in Australia. It was here, after all, where the original ANZACS, having marched the length of Anzac Parade from their Randwick barracks, said their last farewells to their families and friends before marching on to board the ships which took them off to war. For one in five it was their last farewell.

This is where the Anzac Day tradition began and grew. It is the place from whence the sons of a very young country, unsure of itself and its place in the world, marched out to fight a distant war and in doing so made a nation in the minds of many Australians. Although the war lasted until 1919, our forebears had the sensitivity to set aside Anzac Parade in 1917 for the memorialisation of the cost of the war. The centre piece was an Obelisk which became the focal point for commemorative events. The surrounding parklands and the large old Moreton Bay fig trees which lined the parade made it a spectacular and peaceful commemorative boulevard.

Recommendations

We believe that by adopting the following recommendations ANZAC Parade and Moore Park can be restored as a commemorative site to the ANZAC legacy.

- 1) **Reinstall the ANZAC Memorial Obelisk at its original 1917 location** at the entrance to the Parade at the intersection with Moore Park Road

It was here where Fathers of ANZACs gathered in 1917 to lay wreaths at the foot of the Obelisk in memory of their sons and where families gathered each Anzac Day around the Obelisk to decorate and lay wreaths in memory of those who had been killed in action. It was later where the soldiers who came back gathered to remember those who would never return and to talk about shared times. It more than any other monument in Sydney embodies a sense of place in much the same way that ANZAC Cove does for many.



The Obelisk could be placed on an elevated plinth in the middle of an existing section of the road that is wide enough to hold it (see photo below). The Obelisk could be lit and with the darkness of the surrounding fields; it would be a very dramatic memorial and entrance to the boulevard named in the diggers' honour. As it was intended. We note that this location would also provide pedestrian access to the Obelisk on memorial days as the median strip runs unbroken up to a nearby set of lights.



2) Preserve permanently the quiet nature of the parklands and green fields on either side of it. In particular we urge and support the protection of the Kippax Lake and surrounds as this was the site where the diggers and their families would gather before heading out to lay wreaths at the Obelisk;

(it should also be noted that the Korean War memorial sits in West Moore Park immediately beside the location of the original Anzac Obelisk. It should equally be accorded **dignity** and preservation of its surrounds);

3) Prohibit the lease of the surrounding parklands to professional sporting groups or high volume amateur sporting groups;

4) Prohibit the installation of synthetic fields, parking and changing room facilities to accommodate such commercial uses;

5) Prohibit the installation of intense night lighting in either East Moore Park or West Moore Park. We urge that not only should the green spaces around this memorial be preserved but the dark spaces too. This area remains (probably more by neglect than design) one of the most dramatically dark spaces close to the CBD. We cannot think of a more fitting location to give dramatic meaning to the epitaph *“At the going down of the sun, we shall remember them”*. Let’s let the sun go down and rise again – unhindered by lighting for light

rail patrons, frenetic netball teams or advertising panels. A single beam on the Obelisk should suffice.

6) Prohibit all advertising that impacts on the memorial, ANZAC Parade and the Parklands.

In summary

The Final Moore Park 2040 Plan must state that Anzac Parade is a commemorative site and that plans to ensure its long-term protection are included. Daughters of ANZAC do not want to build more shrines but we do want to ensure that the Anzac Obelisk is reinstalled at its original 1917 location at the entrance to the Parade, at the intersection with Moore Park Road, and to ensure that the surrounding park lands and the remaining trees lining this commemorative Parade are preserved.

To quote Rod White. State President. NSW RSL. Radio National 20th March 2016.

Mark Davis: I can't think of a more significant Anzac site on Australian soil than this one because they marched there and they returned there. Do you have that same sentiment?

*Rod White: Well, I do. Up until the last of the Anzacs there used to still be gatherings out at the Anzac obelisk, and much of it was in the middle of the road. They would have little gatherings on the side of the road. **So we see it as a memorial grove of trees with the Anzac Parade as a pavement and a memorial called the Anzac obelisk.***

We support opportunities for the community and future generations to engage with the Park's history and heritage but this must include the ANZAC story.

Margaret Hope
Daughters of ANZAC
7th October 2016