

10 September 2020

A 50-Year Vision for Greater Sydney's Open Space and Parklands A Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the discussion paper on developing a vision for Greater Sydney's Open Space and Parklands. COTA NSW commends the development of an overarching vision that will guide a sustainable and accessible environment for the people of Sydney now and into the future.

As the peak body representing people over 50 in NSW, we conduct community consultations on a regular basis that highlight the issues that are of importance to older people. We note in particular that the strategic direction of *growing a city of parks for people* notes the importance of creating spaces that are inclusive and equitable.

COTA NSW would like to emphasise the importance of utilising the principles of universal design in the future development, design and management of Sydney parklands. In practical terms this translated into the construction of an adequate footpath network, that also provides shade and shelter and adequate toilet facilities. That play areas within parks are designed based on the NSW Planning *Everyone Can Play* guidelines and that people with different levels of physical abilities are provided opportunities to experience a range of recreational options within the parks.

As noted within the *Everyone Can Play* guidelines and relevant to the strategic vision of *connecting neighbourhoods to parks* – this importance of safe connections to parks is highlighted. This includes ensuring that there is a network of connecting footpath infrastructure and access to public transport is nearby. This strategic vision also provides an opportunity for developing connections with local communities through initiatives such as bush care and other volunteer groups that could actively involve older people.

COTA NSW would like to thank NSW Planning for the opportunity to comment on this discussion paper and for the recognition that consideration on the design and public space must include older people and people with disability.

Regards,



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