

Closing The Loop

Burns Place Gosford Conservation Management Plan

Community Engagement

25 June – 23 July 2025

Summary

Between 25 June and 23 July 2025, Central Coast Council placed the Draft Burns Place Gosford Conservation Management Plan on public exhibition to seek community feedback. In addition, Council staff conducted a pop-up session in the park on 10 July. During the public exhibition period 5 written submissions were received and over 30 people provided feedback at the pop-up session.

What we heard and how we responded

Table 1 below captures the themes of feedback received from the community on the Draft Burns Place Gosford Conservation Management Plan and identifies how that feedback has been incorporated into the final document, where appropriate.

Key themes from the online and written submissions include:

- Support for the conservation and maintenance of Burns Place.
- Support for lighting and security upgrades to increase safety.
- Suggested edits for historical accuracy, including additional historical information and recognition of stonemason Randall Dumbrell and artist Margo Lewers.
- Recommendations of traditional conservation methods such as the use of lime mortar for restoration works of significant stone walls and archway.
- The need for the Conservation Management Plan to recognise the significance of the Lewers Fountain and ensure its conservation.

The table (Table 1) generally outlines the main comments and issues captured during the public exhibition period and provides a considered response from the Heritage Consultant preparing the Conservation Management Plan. Where appropriate the Conservation Management Plan was amended to reflect the responses or additional information.

Table 1 Issues and responses

Theme/Issue	Summary of Theme/ example of comments	How has it influenced the Conservation Management Plan
Correct Name of Park	The park is historically known as Burns Place and not Burns Park	Amended. The name was amended throughout the management plan to Burns Place
Needs more emphasis on Lewers Fountain and its significance	Doesn't adequately address the importance of the Lewers Fountain. The grill at the bottom is unsightly and causing rust on the tiles. The grate at the bottom of the fountain is detrimental and degrading to significant art work and causing damage to the base tiles. It should be removed examples provided of similar fountains with no grate A hedge was a long time feature complimentary against the Lewers artwork/fountain and around western perimeter of Burns Place, this should be reinstated.	Report not amended. Swimming Pools Act states that any depth above 30cm/300mm requires a fence. The current grill negates the need for vertical barrier that would likely have more drastic visual impacts, though the grill does have visual and physical impacts with the horizontal fixing point. There is also a policy regarding relocating the fence on top of the fountain in the Conservation Management Plan (Policy 27.5) Report not amended as the policies of CMP speak to future landscaping. Policy 21 relates to landscaped setting, and Policies 21.3 and 21.9 relate to the preference given to reinstating known landscape features.
Lighting needs improving	Need more lighting in the park	Report not amended. The CMP shouldn't provide recommendations on how to improve the day-to-day maintenance and functions of the park, as it is not the role of the CMP to recommend upgrades and beautification. However, any upgrade to lighting is a matter that must be considered by Council and guided by policies of the CMP. Policy 31.6 relates to adequate lighting.

Theme/Issue	Summary of Theme/ example of comments	How has it influenced the Conservation Management Plan
Landscape Maintenance	More focus needs to be given to park maintenance, keeping bushes trimmed and garden beautification.	Report not amended. Park garden maintenance should be addressed in a Plan of Management (PoM) rather than the CMP. Operational and cyclical maintenance matters are separate to CMP. However, in preparing a PoM, the works and activities need to be guided by the policies of the CMP. Preparation of a PoM as referred to on page 66, and other policies throughout relate to specific items and features of the park.
Stonemasonry	The stonemasonry work within the Draft Conservation Plan highlights George Hayward Oliver as probable stonemason, however, documentary evidence supports that Hayward was unlikely involved in the stonemasonry. Also, please see page 21-as second spelling on same line is 'Harward', not Hayward. I believe the stonemasonry likely involved Randall Dumbrell.	Partially amended Amended to include comments regarding potential other stonemason. Spelling amended and an image included accordingly.
Origin of the name	Origin of name Burns Place – William 'Billy' BURNS – namesake Burns Park & Burns Crescent	Amended Name of Park amended throughout
Comparative analysis	Suggestion to refer to Bradys Gully and Pioneer Park Cemeteries	Amended CMP amended to include Bradys Gully
Reference to War Memorial	The Burns Park Memorial Fountain by Lewers is a war memorial; hence the historical associations to war needs to be recognised.	Amended Amended to include use as war memorial in Section 7.4.4
Margo Lewers	Must include Margo Lewers in any heritage interpretation as she is an artist in her own right	Amended

Theme/Issue	Summary of Theme/ example of comments	How has it influenced the Conservation Management Plan
	- Margo & her daughter completed the fountain	
Lights	2 light bases remain, northern light is missing the globe/light fitting, recommends the report note this and recommend reinstatement	Report amended. Recommendation added to retain the light post and recast light fittings to match original, as evidenced in original photographs (Policy 14.6). Additionally, consider reinstatement of original lamp post on top of sandstone piers with enhanced lumens as a first preference (Policy 18.2).
Faux sandstone retaining blocks	Missing capping, future work needs to be more sympathetic to the original 1938 stone work	Report not amended Sandstone retaining wall as referred to in the submission is not original.
Significance Grading	Please provide plan showing significance grading	Amended. Plan now included.

Find out more and stay up to date at
yourvoiceourcoast.com
 November 2025