City Hill park – People's Panel Session Summary

Session 2: Saturday 27 June 2026

23 members attended

11 project team members and observers attended

Session overview

During the second People's Panel session, members expanded their knowledge through a panel discussion and worked collaboratively to develop draft vision statements for City Hill park.

Guest speakers

Presentations from guest speakers who provided expert insights, including:

Rob Adams, Adams Urban
Topic: The value of green spaces and benchmarking successful public spaces.

Catherine Townsend, ACT Government Architect
Topic: Site design and physical feasibility, trees, landscape and the environment.

Alix Kaucz, National Capital Authority (NCA)
Topic: The role of NCA, Griffin Legacy, National Capital Plan and national significance of City Hill park.

Peta Miskovich, Oculus
Topic: What can and can't be changed (constraints and opportunities) and what is a concept masterplan.

Drafting a vision statement

Panel members developed and refined vision statements, starting with individual vision statements, combining and refining ideas in small groups, and sharing final concepts with the broader panel to identify areas of agreement, disagreement and common aspirations for the park's future.

By the end of the session, the panel had consolidated its ideas into three distinct vision statements that captured their aspirations for City Hill park. These three vision statements were later explored with external stakeholders during the Shared Vision Workshop.

The three agreed draft statements

- In 15 years, we want to see a City Hill park that is an easily accessible and safe green space for all people to go and experience a connection with each other, Country, and honours the original Griffin Plan.
- An active, connected, open natural space that is welcoming, reflects First Nations heritage and Canberra history as bush capital at the heart of the nation.
- City Hill is a park for all visitors to come together and reflect on the cultural and historical significance of Canberra and experience the surrounding views.

Shared vision workshop

The shared vision workshop brought together external stakeholders with 12 People's Panel members to finalise a draft shared vision statement for City Hill park, to refine the final three visions developed during session 2.

Discussion - a draft shared vision statement

We asked the participants:



A shared draft vision statement was refined by the group and formally agreed upon.

This will be further refined by the Ngunnawal group members, who will provide recommendations to the People's Panel for final endorsement and adoption.

Priorities to achieve the vision for City Hill park

Workshop participants were asked to consider what elements were needed in the park to achieve the draft vision.

The following key priorities were identified:

- Improve connectivity and accessibility by strengthening pedestrian and cycling links, providing safer crossings, and reducing the impact of surrounding traffic.
- Create a welcoming and inclusive park with shade, seating, quality amenities, and spaces for recreation, events, learning, and community gathering.
- Celebrate culture, heritage and landscape through First Nations storytelling and recognition, protection of key views, and enhancement of trees, planting, and open green spaces.

Next steps for Session 3

- Consultants will present summaries of the heritage, transport and Ngunnawal perspectives.
- The draft vision will be refined based on feedback from the Ngunnawal group members.
- The panel will develop principles and design objectives to achieve the vision as part of the masterplan framework.