



Ms Monica Barone, CEO
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Barone

Re: John Street Reserve as a habitat garden

It is pleasing that the City has conducted extensive consultations with the local community in the vicinity of John Street Reserve to determine preferences for the restoration of the reserve and other issues associated with the concept plan adopted for the reserve and St James Park on 5 December 2011.

Whilst noting some past conflict about possibilities for the reserve, the Glebe Society has also noted the strong preference amongst local residents for a restoration that does not entail a change in use and that includes habitat that encourages small birds, once very common in that location. We understand the results of your consultation also show this preference within the local community.

During 2009 representatives of the society and its Blue Wren subcommittee, together with City officers exhaustively examined the recommendations of the report *Superb Fairy-wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge: a community based conservation project*, 2008, funded by the City of Sydney. One recommendation was for a specially designed habitat demonstration garden, with interpretative signage containing information about Superb Fairy-wrens and their habitat requirements. On 9 October 2009, in his response to the recommendations of this report, Joel Johnson, Manager Parks, Trees & Aquatic Facilities, wrote (your ref 2009/217/267, File S048763):

Recommendation 12: The City is happy to work with the Glebe Society to develop St James Park (note: referring both to St James Park and John Street Reserve) as a habitat demonstration garden.

We would now like to activate Joel Johnson's offer and seek your advice as to how we might proceed. We envisage that a concept plan for a habitat garden for community consideration could be developed with input from representatives of the Blue Wren subcommittee of the Glebe Society, the Friends of John Street Reserve group and local residents, with assistance from an urban ecologist.

We look forward to the long overdue restoration of St James Park and John Street Reserve. They are much loved and used spaces in a congested local community, contributing to enjoyment of nature and the outdoors, peace of mind and community cohesion. The last recorded breeding in the Glebe area of Superb Fairy-wrens was in John Street Reserve. We look forward to seeing it used again by wrens for that purpose.

Yours truly,

John Gray

President
November 12, 2012