

Lighting of the Olympic Cauldron Policy

Purpose of this policy

To set out the circumstances, terms and conditions under which the Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park (the Olympic Cauldron) may be used.

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to all employees, consultants and contractors of the department. It also applies to employees, consultants and contractors of all departmental entities that have people employed in or through the department.

Policy statement

The Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park is of State historic significance as the culmination of the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games on 15 September 2000 and a reminder of Sydney's success and honour in having hosted the Millennium Games. The opening ceremony is considered a triumph of Australian showmanship which was watched by hundreds of millions of people around the world.

The Olympic Cauldron is also of State significance for its associations with the Olympic athletes who participated in the Sydney 2000 Games and particularly with the Aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman, who was chosen to be the final Australian link in the Olympic Torch relay to light the cauldron, thus marking the commencement of the Games. The image of the lit cauldron flowing with fire and water as it rose around Freeman is one of the most memorable images of the Sydney Olympic Games.

The Olympic Cauldron is of State significance for the esteem in which it is held by Australians proud of the success of the Sydney Olympic Games. It is also of social significance to Sydney Olympic Park visitors for its later role as a popular fountain in the Cathy Freeman Park next to the Olympic Stadium. The Olympic Cauldron is of representative and rarity State significance as the only cauldron designed and built to hold an Olympic flame in NSW.

Public Access

- The general public has free access to the Olympic Cauldron to photograph, video etc. for private purposes at all times;
- The water feature and nightly illumination may operate throughout the year.

Lighting of the Olympic Cauldron Flame

The Olympic Cauldron may be lit for significant Olympic occasions as endorsed by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

The Olympic Cauldron may be lit for more than purely Olympic specific occasions provided the event is conducted primarily within Cathy Freeman Park and has a community or special event focus, e.g. Australia Day and Volunteers Day. A small “Olympic” ceremony should precede any such lighting.

There should be no regular or daily lighting of the flame as a tourist attraction because of cost, environmental (excessive fossil fuel use) issues, and concern that overuse will weaken the Olympic Cauldron’s special character.

The Olympic Cauldron should not be lit simply for events at Sydney Olympic Park such as the Royal Easter Show or Stadium and Arena Events.

The CEO or Director, Place Management has delegated authority to approve lighting the Olympic Cauldron flame for non-Olympic related events. In this regard the CEO or the Director, Place Management will have regard for:

- a) the “community” benefits of the occasion;
- b) the AOC’s views;
- c) the need to maintain the integrity of the flame and its special character;
- d) the ‘sense of occasion’;
- e) cost whether funded or not funded by the Authority.

Commercial Use of the Olympic Cauldron

Use of the Olympic Cauldron, with or without the flame, should be limited in its commercial applications to:

- a) Advertising associated with Olympic sponsors only and subject to AOC sign off,
- b) General tourism and Sydney Olympic Park promotional opportunities by Government,
- c) Commercial/merchandise opportunities licensed by the Authority (e.g. postcards, posters, mugs etc.). There must be no third-party advertising, and
- d) Commercial filming (e.g. feature films, infotainment programs, travel documentaries etc. in which there is no third-party advertising).

Any commercial or event use of the Olympic Cauldron in operation is to be in a full cost recovery basis. [Note: the waiving of fees in part or whole will need to be consistent with SOPA’s Fees and Charges policy.]

Contact Officer

Any enquiries relating to this Sydney Olympic Park Policy should be addressed to the Director, Place Management.

Failure to comply with this policy

If you fail to comply with this policy, corrective action may be taken in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct. All employees, and others covered by the code, are expected to adhere to the ethical and behaviour standards outlined in the code.

Review timeframe

SOPA will review this policy no later than 3 years from the date the document is approved. The document may be reviewed earlier in response to post-implementation feedback, changes to legislation, or as necessary.

Related documents

- NSW State Heritage Register – Heritage Item Number 5061184
- SOPA’s Fees and Charges Policy

Policy metadata

Table 1. Policy metadata

Category	Description
Status	Final
Date of approval	September 2023
Approver	Director, Place Management & Stakeholder Engagement
Group	Homes, Property and Development
Division	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Policy owner	Manager, Operations
Branch	Place Management & Stakeholder Engagement
Document location	SOPA Intranet
Next review date	January 2026
Associated procedure	N/A
Any additional applicability	N/A
Superseded document	N/A
Further information	susan.skuodas@sopa.nsw.gov.au
Document Reference	POL02/14

Version control

Table 2. Version Control

Version	Date issued	Change
1	10 July 2002	
2	May 2007	
3	1 November 2010	
	November 2012	Reviewed
	February 2014	Reviewed by GMOS
	February 2015	Reviewed by GMOS
3.1	February 2016	Reviewed by Assistant General Manager, Operations
3.2	February 2017	Reviewed by Acting Director, Major Events and Precinct

Version	Date issued	Change
3.3	June 2018	Reviewed
3.4	September 2019	Reviewed by Director, Place Management
3.5	January 2022	Reviewed by Director, Place Management
3.6	September 2023	Reviewed by Director, Place Management & Stakeholder Engagement