

## **Kaynotes details:**

### **Title: Smart Technology and Big Data for Connected Gardens**



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*Executive Director*  
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#### **Abstract:**

Four years ago an opportunity presented itself to the Gardens to look at innovative technology through Smart Nodes to provide solutions in a digital age to the large open spaces. While these form the open space technology lynchpin for the Gardens, the opportunity to improve public space lighting and to program it to support events means that the area continues to remain relevant and leads to greater activation of the space for the people of Sydney. Ultimately by placing remote lighting control in the hands of the people on the ground means that the lighting needs, whether in an emergency, for an event or any other activity, is responsive to the situation.

The implementation of smart lighting technology at the Royal Botanic Gardens has been driven through a combination of factors, namely, the character of the site, the age of the assets, the ongoing costs to pay for power for the site and an opportunity to partner with private enterprise to deliver multi outcomes from single structures

#### **Biography of Denise Ora:**

Ms Ora's background is in strategic marketing, economic development, planning and place making. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), a Graduate in Business Law and is currently completing a Master of Business Law.

Denise has extensive experience working in both complex commercial and regulated government cultural institutions of national significance, both here and in the UK. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Denise was responsible for driving the strategic program for the Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands, leading the award-winning major capital infrastructure program across 1100 hectares, including delivery of The Ian Potter Children's WILD PLAY Garden at Centennial Parklands, the spectacular horticultural display centre 'The Calyx' at Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and the Moore Park Master Plan. Denise was also

instrumental in the successful integration of the Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands operations.

Denise is the first woman appointed as Executive Director to the Royal Botanic Gardens in its 203-year history. The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Domain, Centennial Parklands, Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah receives over 40 million visitors annually.

“It is a privilege to be the first woman to lead these iconic spaces. Our parklands and gardens are not only precious but essential for the improvement and quality of life of our community,” said Denise.

“Our challenge is to not only cater for today but plan for future population and visitation growth over coming decades – and I am excited to take on that challenge. I will lead BGCP into the future, fostering a customer centric, commercially astute and innovative agency that interfaces effectively between communities and public and private entities whilst focussing on - and not forgetting the core attributes of what we are as an organisation - science, conservation, horticulture, education, sport and recreation.”