

ATTACHMENT F

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
SUMMARY REPORT**

ATTACHMENT F

Attachment F – Summary of Submissions

Submissions in Support (12)

Comment	Response
General support for a community garden – 12.	Noted.
Supported the garden as a part of building a more sustainable society, a place for education and community collaboration – 5.	The social and educational benefits of community gardens are noted in the Community Gardens Policy. These are not site specific and could be achieved at alternate garden sites.
Garden was not very well presented but will be attractive once there has been more support – 1.	Community gardens require maintenance and the establishment of a committed and resilient group. Ideally the group would comprise at least 15-20 active gardeners. A well formed management plan will help achieve this.
Support the use of the garden for community composting – 1.	Community composting is supported by the Community Gardens Policy, but requires training and careful management of the compost system to ensure they don't attract vermin such as cockroaches and rodents. The City provides composting training courses and is preparing Community Composting Guidelines.
Request for picnic/bbq facilities to enhance the space – 1.	The site isn't suitable for public open space nor the provision of picnic/bbq facilities. These types of facilities are better suited to larger parks such as the nearby Harry Noble Reserve where there is less impact on neighbouring residents.

Submissions not in Support (11)

Comment	Response
Preference for the garden to be removed due to the site becoming an untidy and not maintained and a risk to the community – 9.	The site has become over grown and untidy with an accumulation of garden bed making materials. The City has worked with the garden group to reduce risks and to have regular working bees to keep the area safe and tidy, however this has not improved the appearance of the site.
Complaints have been received from the community about cockroaches and vermin from the gardens – 4.	The City has been spraying the site perimeter on a monthly basis since May 2012 to reduce the presence of cockroaches and vermin. This type of assistance has not been required at other community gardens supported by the City.

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<p>The garden is only open to a select few of residents – 3.</p>	<p>It is important for the community garden to be publicly accessible to anyone who would like to join. The unapproved community garden has been fenced and locked with a chain and padlock.</p> <p>It is important that the community garden management plan is well communicated and understood, and makes it easy for volunteers to join in. City staff has discussed this requirement with the community garden group.</p>
<p>How land can be illegally occupied and accessed by a select few and why it can't be a better presented open community space? – 1.</p>	<p>The current community garden has not been approved by Council in accordance with the Community Gardens Policy. The site is not suitable for public open space. There are better opportunities for the provision of open space in Erskineville.</p>
<p>Wanted the site built in to complete the street scape as there are well presented City parks already – 1.</p>	<p>The site could be sold for in-fill housing and the proceeds used for the acquisition or enhancement of other park sites in Erskineville.</p>
<p>Questioned the need for another community garden (Angel Street is close by) – 1.</p>	<p>There are 17 community gardens in the City of Sydney LGA. Angel Street Food Forest is 300m away and the Newtown Community Garden is 600m away in Longdowne Street. There are other open space sites in Erskineville more suitable for community gardening.</p>
<p>Considered the garden unsustainable (has no water) and incapable of producing much of value – 1.</p>	<p>The site would require the establishment of a water supply if it were to be approved as a community garden.</p>
<p>Concerned about the health risks from eating produce impacted by car fumes and the safety to children/seniors alongside such a busy road – 1.</p>	<p>The research on the impacts from car fumes is not conclusive for a site like this, but would be considered to be similar to other areas of Erskineville. Children's safety would be a concern next to such a busy street.</p>
<p>Neighbour is concerned about security as someone climbed the fence using garden items – 1.</p>	<p>The site has very poor passive surveillance and is not well suited as a site for a community garden or public open space uses. The design of the garden could be improved to minimise opportunities to use garden elements to access adjoining properties.</p>