

ATTACHMENT B

**CONSULTATION SUMMARY –
JUNE 2014**

ATTACHMENT B

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2014 Bike Track Survey

Report Prepared for the City of Sydney

July 2014

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1. Research Background and Objectives

1.1 Background

In an effort to meet the needs of the community, the City of Sydney developed plans to build a new childcare facility at the site of the existing bike track within Sydney Park. Given the popularity of the track, the City also developed a new design for a children's bike track network within the parkland.

The City was therefore keen to ensure that feedback on these plans was obtained from a representative cross section of park users which would be one of several inputs into the ultimate decision making process in relation to the bike track development.

1.2 Research objectives

The research requirement therefore was for a quantitative intercept survey to be undertaken on site to ensure that community feedback was able to feed into the design and decision making process.

More specifically, the study covered the following areas:

1. General Park Visitation;

This included reasons why respondents generally visited the park, frequency of visitation, average duration of a visit to Sydney Park, and mode of travel used to access the park.

2. Suggested Improvements to Sydney Park;

This was a measure of what facilities or amenities respondents would like to see improved within Sydney Park.

3. Park Usage with Children;

This included the incidence of park usage with children, and measure of what respondents thought the main priorities should be for children that use the park.

4. The Bike Track Design;

Participants were then told of the general plan to move the existing bike track and replace it with a childcare centre before a measure of respondent priorities was gathered in relation to a new bike track design. Respondents were also given a brief overview of the new bike track design prior to gathering perceptions of various aspects of the design

The questionnaire applied for this study can be found in Appendix A.

2. Research Approach

The study was undertaken by means quantitative survey amongst n=145 Sydney Park visitors aged 18 years and over.

Intercept interviews were conducted on-site over a three day period after the initial bike track design was launched.

Time	Saturday 14 th June	Sunday 15 th June	Wednesday 18 th June
9am – 12pm	X	X	X
12pm – 2pm	X	X	X
2pm – 5pm	X	X	X

Fieldwork therefore took place between and 14th and 18th June 2014.

Detailed Research Findings

3. General Park Usage

- Half of all respondents used the park to walk their dog, while many also visited for their children to use the bike track (38%) or playground (33%).
- The majority were frequent visitors (66% visit at least weekly).
- Most park visits were of between one and two hours.
- Car was the most common means of accessing Sydney Park.



3.1 Reasons for Park Visitation

All respondents were asked to indicate why they normally visited Sydney Park.

Half of all respondents indicated that they visited to walk their dogs (50%), while many also visited specifically for their children (38% to use the existing bike track, and 33% to use the playground).

Just over one in five respondents (21%) also indicated that they exercised at the park.

Table 1: General Reasons for Park Visitation

Reason Given:	Total (n=145) %
Dog walking	50
Children's activities – use of bike track	38
Children's activities – use of playground	33
Exercise (jogging and walking)	21
Meeting / catching up with friends	15
Relaxation	14
Café	14
Enjoying the wildlife / wetlands	12
Picnics	8
Other	5

Base: All respondents (n=145).

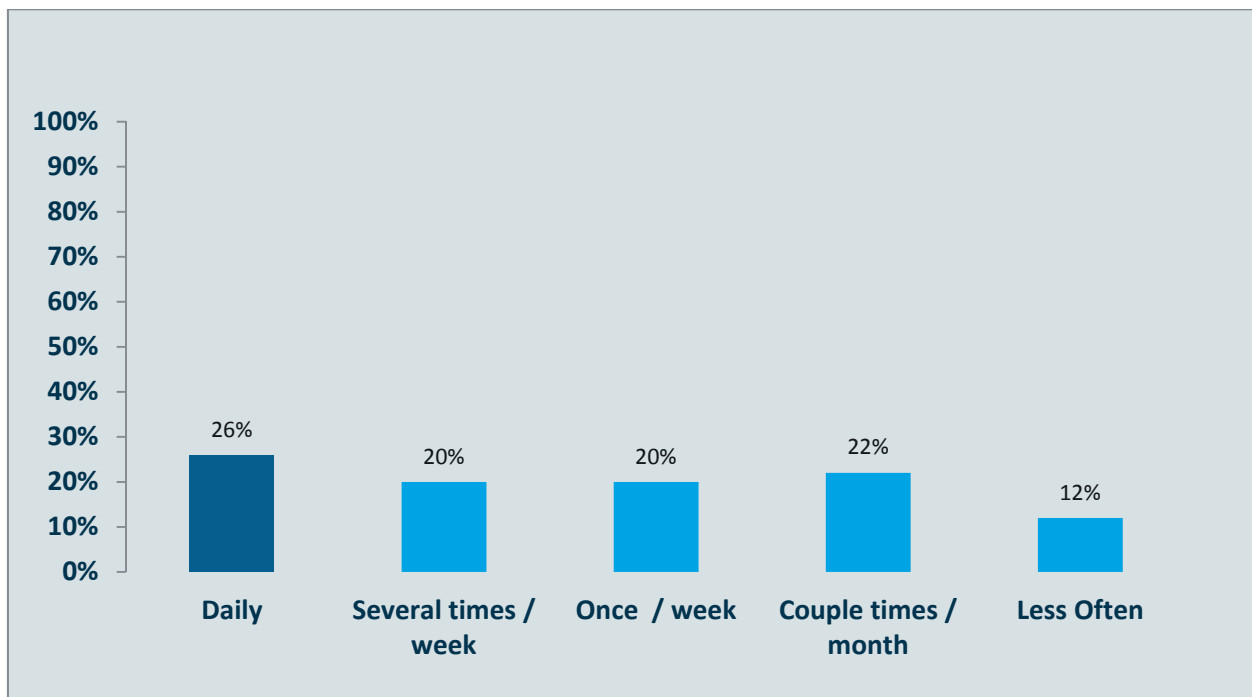
Q1. Why do you normally visit Sydney Park?

3.2 Frequency of Park Visitation

All respondents were asked to indicate how often they visited the park.

Overall it can be seen that the respondents were fairly frequent visitors of Sydney Park – with more than a quarter of all respondents were daily visitors to the park (26%), and a further 40% visiting at least weekly.

Figure 1: Frequency of Park Visitation



Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q7. How often do you generally visit Sydney Park?

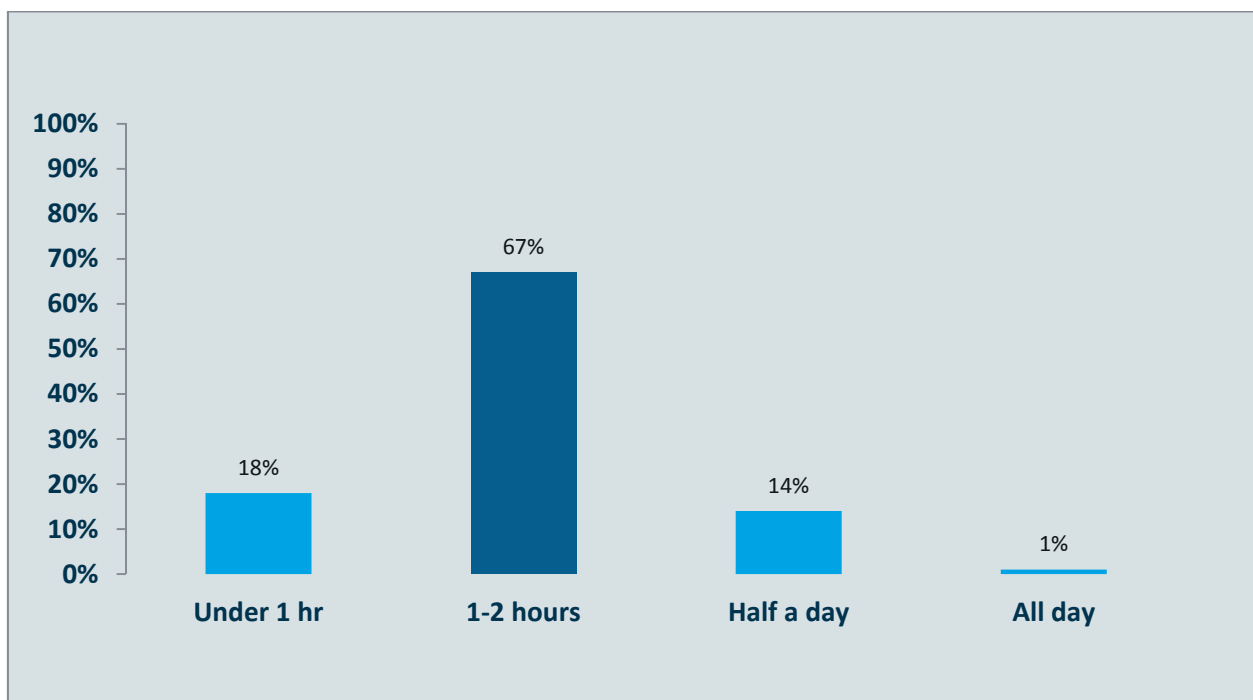
3.3 Duration of Park Visitation

All respondents were asked to indicate how long they generally spend at Sydney Park.

Just over two thirds of all respondents indicated that they normally visit for an hour or two each time (67%).

Short visits (under one hour) were undertaken by under one in five respondents (18%), while half day visits were normally undertaken by 14% of all respondents.

Figure 2: Duration of Park Visitation



Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q8. And on average how long do you visit Sydney Park for?

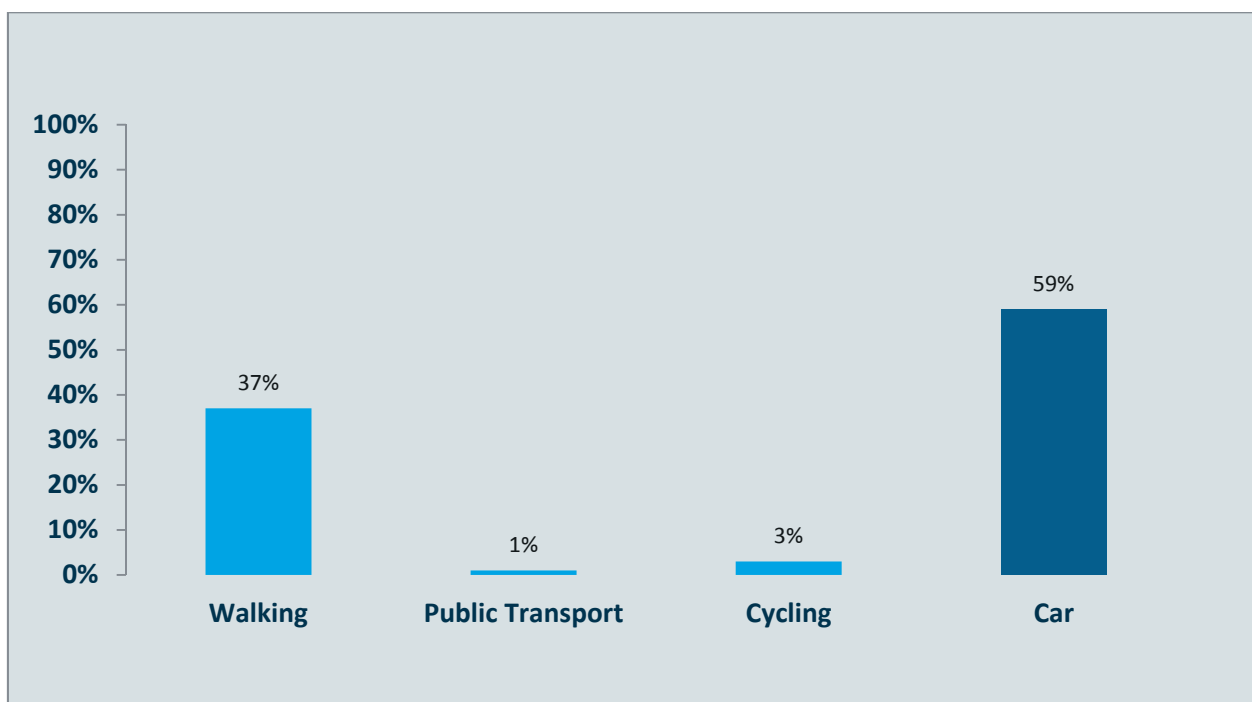
3.4 Mode of Transport Used to Access Sydney Park

All respondents were asked to reveal how they normally travel to Sydney Park.

The majority of all respondents (59%) indicated that they normally get to Sydney Park by car, while almost two in five (37%) walked.

Other modes of transport were less common.

Figure 3: Mode of Transport Used



Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q9. How do you normally get to Sydney Park?

4. Suggested Improvement for Sydney Park

- The majority of respondents would choose to improve the toilets if they had the choice to upgrade any amenity at Sydney Park.
- Other common responses included a call for more shaded areas (30%) or improved parking (18%).



4.1 Amenities Seen to Require Improvement

All respondents were asked to indicate what amenities at the park they would choose to improve.

Just over half of all respondents indicated that they would improve the toilets (52%), while almost a third also felt that more shelter/shade was required (30%).

Less than one in five respondents suggested that parking was the issue that they would address (18%).

Table 2: Suggested Park Improvements

Amenities to Improve:	Total (n=145) %
Toilets	52
Shade / shelter	30
Parking	18
Picnic tables	14
Seating near the playground and bike track	12
Seating near the café	8
Signage	6
A gated area / more fencing	6
More trees / landscaping / flowers	4
More dog facilities (bowls / bins / pools etc.)	4
Lighting	3
Other	19

Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q2. If you could make improvements to Sydney Park, which amenities would you choose to improve?

5. Use of Park with / for Children

- Most respondents visited the park with children (56%).
- Almost two in five respondents felt that the priority should be for children to play in the playground.
- More than a third also felt that learning to ride safely should be a priority for the children using the park.

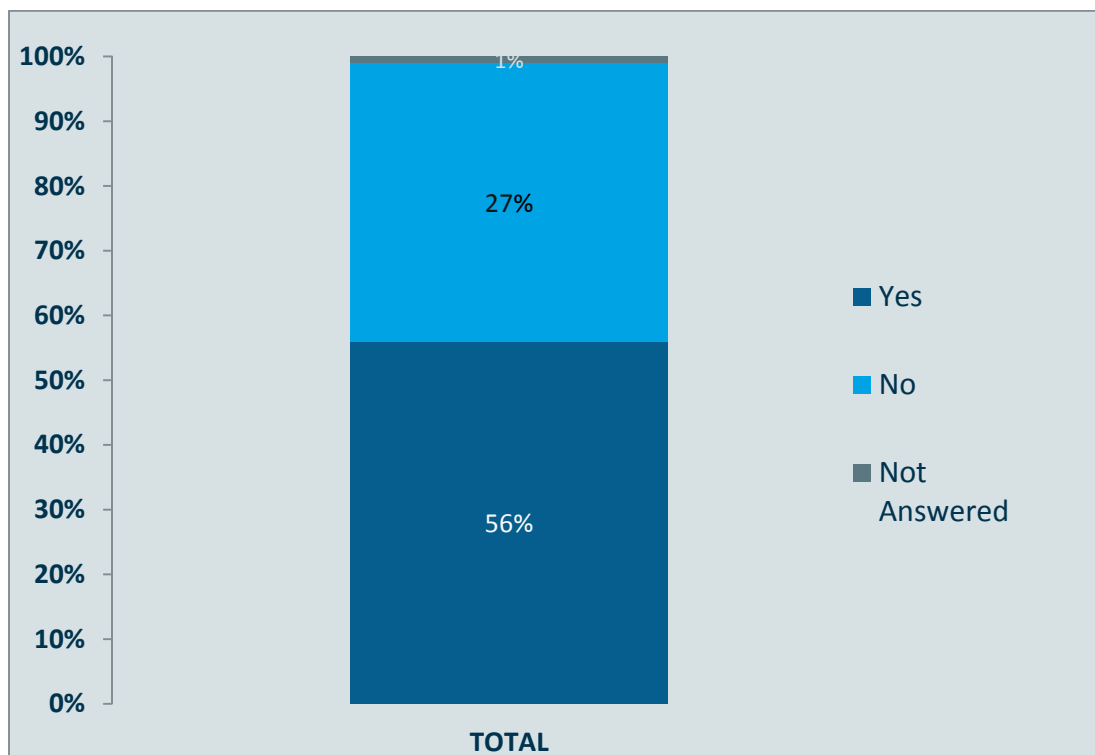


5.1 Incidence of Using the Park with Children

All respondents were asked to indicate if they ever visited Sydney Park with children.

More than a half of all respondents indicated that they visited the Park with children (56%).

Figure 4: Use of Sydney Park with Children



Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q3. Do you ever visit the park with children?

5.2 Perceptions of what the Main Priorities Should be for Children

All respondents were asked to indicate what they thought the main priorities should be for children using the park.

Just under two in five respondents felt that the priority should be for children to play in the playground (37%), while a similar proportion also suggested that learning to ride bikes and/or scooters safely should be a priority (34% of all respondents, but 49% of those that visited the park with children).

One quarter also felt that playing with friends and meeting other children should be a priority for them (25%), while just over one in five thought that it should be about having adventures outdoors (21%).

Table 3: Main Priorities for Children Using the Park

Priority:	Total (n=145) %
Playing at the playground	37
Learning to ride bikes and scooters safely	34
Playing with friends and meeting other children	25
Having adventures in the outdoors	21
Riding at the traffic lights track	17
Riding on challenging / fun bike tracks	15
Exploring nature and learning about the environment	12
Walking the dog	9
Kicking a ball / other games	7
Using their imagination for creative play	6
Visiting the wetlands	6
Having a picnic / party	3
Other	9

Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q4. What would you say are the main priorities for kids using the park?

6. Reactions to the Design Concept

- Respondents felt any new design should be based around creating a safe environment to learn to ride – while also having facilities for parents.
- The majority of respondents reacted positively to each of the concepts – however, around one in five were not in favour.
- The perceived conflict with having an open bike area where dogs were present was the most common issue raised with each.



6.1 Priorities for Design of New Bike Track

All respondents were asked to indicate what they felt the priorities should be for any design of a new bike track at Sydney Park.

The most common response was in relation to having a safe environment to learn to ride (indicated by 32% of all respondents and 28% of those who visited the park with children).

Facilities associated with a new track were also raised as a priority by more than one in five respondents (indicated by 23% of all respondents and 30% of those who visited with children).

Other common responses called for a track suitable for children of different skill levels (17% of all respondents, and 26% of those who visited with children), and one that incorporates fun challenges (16% of all respondents, and 21% of those who visited with children).

Table 4: Priorities for Design of a New Bike Track

Priority:	Total (n=145) %
A safe environment for learning to ride	32
Good facilities (e.g. toilets, seating, shade etc.)	23
Suitable for children of different age and skill levels	17
Fun challenges to develop riding skills	16
Easy to supervise	12
Bike track needs traffic lights / road rules	9
A place to make friends and socialise	8
Easy access	7
A place for all the family (including adults)	6
Opportunities for children to learn and be independent	4
Keep kids and dogs separate	3
Car parking	3
Other	14

Base: All respondents (n=145).

Q5. What do you think the priority should be for the design of the new bike track?

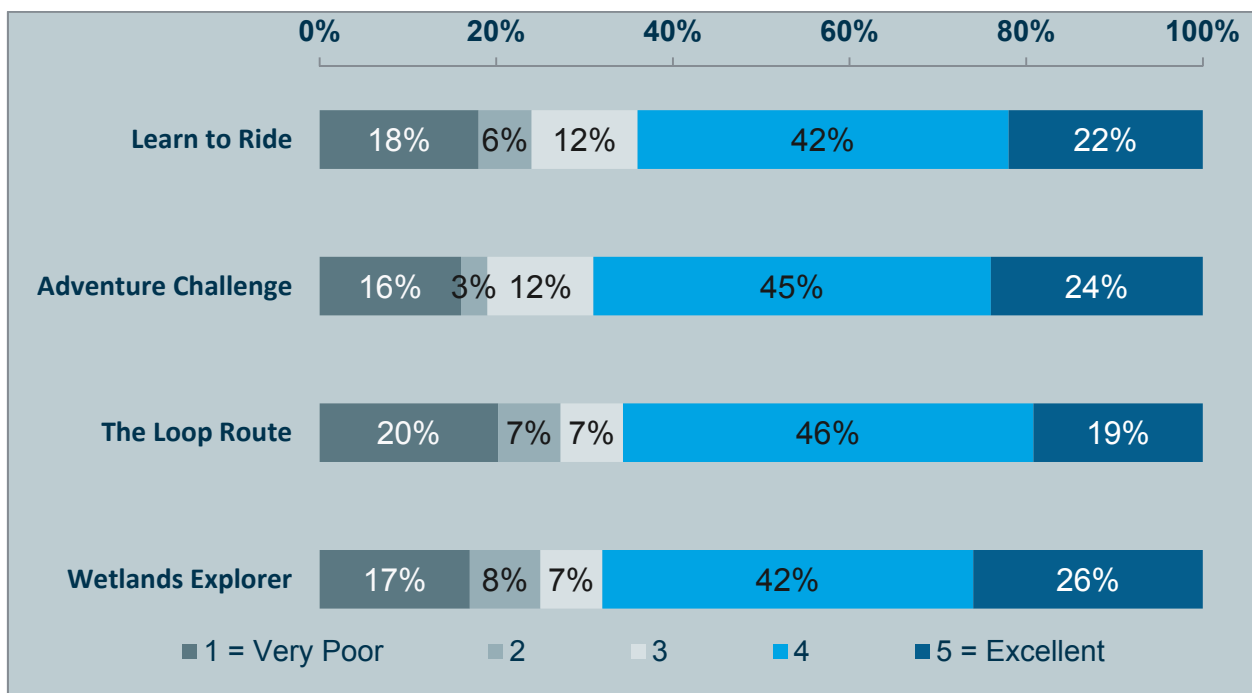
6.2 Perceptions of Different Design Aspects

All respondents were asked to rate each of four different design concepts using a scale from 1 to 5, where a 1 equates to a 'very poor' rating, and a 5 equates to an 'excellent' rating.

All the bike track concepts received high rating with over two thirds of respondents providing a ranking of 4 or 5, with the Adventure Challenge Concept having the highest overall rating (69%). Respondents who visited the park with children were slightly more likely to provide a positive rating of the concepts.

However, just over one in five respondents indicated that each design concept was 'poor' by providing a rating of 1 or 2.

Figure 5: Ratings Given to Bike Track Concept



Base: Respondents who provided a rating

Q6. How would you rate each of the proposed areas on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = VERY POOR and 5 = EXCELLENT?

6.3 Feedback on Different Design Aspects

Respondents who had rated the concepts as 'poor' or 'very poor' were asked to explain why they were of this opinion.

Loop Route Concept

The main reasons for respondents not being satisfied with the Loop Route Concept included:

- The area will be too congested (n=11)
- It's a dog park and the children and dogs should be kept separate (n=8)
- It's not necessary/ the existing track is better (n=5)

Adventure Challenge Concept

The main reasons for respondents not being satisfied with Adventure Challenge Concept were:

- No room for dogs/infringes on dog walking area (n=4)
- It's a dog park and the children should be kept separate (n=3)
- Don't like the location (n=3)
- Don't like the change (n=3)
- No more development needed (n=3)

Learning to Ride Concept

The main reasons for respondents not being satisfied with the Learning to Ride Concept included:

- It's a bad idea to bring children closer to the dog area (n=8)
- It's not necessary the existing track is better (n=5)
- It needs traffic lights and road rules (n=5)

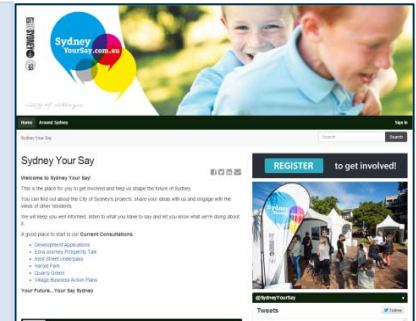
Wetlands Explorer Concept

The main reasons for respondents not being satisfied with the Wetlands Explorer Concept were:

- It's a dog park and the children and dogs should be kept separate (n=6)
- Pedestrians and dogs already use that area quite heavily (n=4)
- It's a waste of money (n=2)
- Don't like the change (n=2)
- No room for dogs (n=2)
- No more development needed (n=2)

7. Other Feedback – from ‘Sydney Your Say’

- 25 different responses were received from the community via the Sydney Your Say website.
- The main issues raised in feedback related to the creation a safe and secure space for the track, making the track bigger to account for its popularity and potential over-congestion, and maintaining some of the features most liked about the current bike track.
- Some also opposed any kind of development in the park.



7.1 Feedback through the Sydney Your Say Site

The most common theme of the feedback received was to ensure that any new bike track development should happen within a secure park area (32%).

Almost one quarter of the responses received also called for a larger bike track area in order to minimise congestion (24%), while the same proportion also made objection to any further development of open space within the park (24%).

One in five responses via this medium also wanted to ensure than any new bike track would maintain the traffic lights and other road rule related facilities (20%).

Table 5: Feedback through the Sydney Your Say website

Feedback:	Total (n=25) %
Make access to\within park safer from every entry of the park	32
The concept design is not large enough \ will intensify crowd and conflict between users	24
Keep big open space \ Stop building on open space \ Don't use unleashed dog areas	24
Keep road rules with signs, traffic lights, crossing etc.	20
More shade \ trees \ sun protection (close to where children play)	16
More toilets are needed	16
Parking to double \ additional parking will be needed	12
Replace the petrol browser with a bike pump	12
It looks great. Just another great design \ initiative	8
Keep gated areas to keep dogs separated from kids	4
It may encroach on the space used by marginalised people	4
It just needs more seating	4
Not what was discussed on the SP Draft Plan	4
Leave the childrens cycle path where it is	4
Why can't the childcare centre be placed to the west of the existing Cycling Centre	4
Upgrade Sydney cycling centre	4
Allow a pop-up style of vendor to set up business	4
They should be built somewhere else	4
Keep Sydney Park Cycling Centre close to childrens cycling track	4
Maintain small concrete square for COS school cycling programmes	4
Skatepark is also needed for teenagers	4

Base: People who gave feedback through the Sydney Your Say website (n=25).

8. Summary of Main Findings

The main outcomes of this brief inquiry can be seen to be:

- The respondents to the survey were relatively diverse – however, there can be seen to be a concentration of dog walkers within the sample, and these respondents tended to react less positively toward the proposed changes.
- Toilets, shade, and parking were the main issues raised in relation to the park as it is at the moment – and these issues should potentially be taken into account in relation to any potential park enhancements/changes planned.
- The social aspect of the bike track appeared to be appreciated by many respondents (allowing children to interact with friends and others their own age), as were the road rule related features of the existing bike track.
- While the majority of respondents reacted positively to each of the four bike track design concepts, there were a segment of park users who reacted against the proposed plans.
 - The main issues raised related to the concern expressed in introducing small children (who are learning to ride) into a section of the park that contains dogs, as well as the general reduction in open space that would result.

Appendix A: Questionnaire

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon, I'm doing a quick survey of Sydney Park users to see what they like about the park at the moment, and to get their reactions to a potential change that is planned. Can you spare a few minutes to answer some questions for me?

Q1. Why do you normally visit Sydney Park? READ OUT. MULTIPLE RESPONSE.

Picnics	1
Children's activities – playground	2
Children's activities – bike track	3
Café	4
Dog waking	5
Exercise (informal – jogging, walking)	6
Exercise (formal – running group, personal training)	7
Catch up with friends	8
Relaxation	9
Meeting friends	10
Enjoying wildlife and the wetlands	11
Bush regeneration activities	12
Other _____	13

Q2. If you could make improvements to Sydney Park which amenities would you choose to improve:

Please choose up to three that are most important to you.

Signage	1
Shade	2
Seating near the café	3
Seating near playground/bike track	4
Picnic tables	5
Parking	6
Toilets	7
Other _____	8

Q3. Do you ever visit the park with children?

No

Yes **IF YES:** What age/s are they:

Child 1 _____

Child 2 _____

Child 3 _____

Child 4 _____

Q4. What would you say are the main priorities for kids using the park? DO NOT READ OUT.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE POSSIBLE

- Playing with friends and meeting other children 1
- Learning to ride bikes and scooters safely 2
- Riding on challenging/fun bike tracks 3
- Having adventures in the outdoors 4
- Exploring nature and learning about the environment 5
- Using their imagination for creative play 6
- Having a picnic/party 7
- Riding at the traffic lights track 8
- Playing at the playground 9
- Visiting other parts of the park e.g. wetlands 10
- Walking the dog 11
- Kicking a ball other games 12
- Other _____ 13

Q5. The existing Bike Track that is used by young children is set to be removed and replaced with a childcare centre. A new bike track for children will then be built between the Playground and Brick Kiln areas (SHOW DIAGRAM)

What do you think the priority should be for the design of the new bike track?

- A place to make friends and socialise 1
- A safe environment for learning to ride 2
- Fun challenges to develop riding skills 3
- Suitable for kids of different ages and skill levels 4
- Easy to supervise 5
- Opportunities for children to learn to be independent 6
- A place for all the family (including adults) 7
- Good facilities (e.g. toilets, seating, shade etc.) 8
- Easy access 9
- Other _____ 10

Q6. The proposed new bike track design will include a flat Learn To Ride track, a larger Adventure Challenge section, a Lop Route that goes around the green field, and a Wetlands Explorer track that goes around the wetlands area of the park. (SHOW DIAGRAM)

Thinking about the new children’s bike track design, how would you rate each of the proposed areas on a scale from 1 to 5, where a 1 = Very Poor, and a 5 = Excellent?

Learn to ride	1	2	3	4	5
IF CODES 1-3: What don’t you like about it?					

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Adventure Challenge	1	2	3	4	5
IF CODES 1-3: What don't you like about it?					
The Loop Route	1	2	3	4	5
IF CODES 1-3: What don't you like about it?					
Wetlands Explorer	1	2	3	4	5
IF CODES 1-3: What don't you like about it?					

Q7. Just to make sure we speak to a good cross section of Park users, can you please tell me how often you generally visit Sydney park?

Daily	1	A couple of times a month	4
Several times a week	2	A few times a year	5
Once a week	3	Less often	6

Q8. And on average how long do you visit Sydney Park for?

Under 1 hour	1	Half a day	3
1 -2 hours	2	All day	4

Q9. How do you normally get to Sydney Park?

Walking	1
Public transport	2
Cycling	3
Car	4
Other _____	5

Q11. What is your post code: _____

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Thank and close 😊