

ATTACHMENT E

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CONSULTATION REPORT

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR PHASE 1 OF CONSULTATION FOR VICTORIA PARK IMPROVEMENTS, CAMPERDOWN

Background:

The City of Sydney is committed to ensuring that the community has access to excellent parks and playgrounds. As part of that commitment we are proposing a range of improvement works in Victoria Park, Camperdown.

A concept design was developed for the project. It included the following elements:

- Path lighting to improve night-time safety;
- A new perimeter path to improve accessibility and help activate the park;
- Improved and more accessible park entries along City Road;
- New seating, bubblers and park signs;
- A new space for active recreation;
- New wetland reed plants in Northam Lake to filter and clean the water;
- Reticulation of the lake water to improve water quality; and
- New decorative gravel concrete paths on worn dirt tracks.

Community feedback was sought on the concept design from 5 – 11 December 2014.

Community consultation:

Consultation activities included the following:

- A letter was sent to 2400 residents surrounding the park announcing the consultation and the ways in which people could have their say.
- 3000 subscribers to the City's online consultation hub sydneyyoursay.com.au were notified;
- A webpage for the consultation was created on sydneyyoursay.com.au displaying the consultation material and a feedback form for those wishing to make a submission;
- A link to the consultation material was available on the City's website.
- Face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders and local business.
- Consultation with the University of Sydney, Crown Land & local Aboriginal stakeholders.
- Promotion on Koori Radio (with the plan to also be available for public information at the Yabun Festival on 26 January, 2015).

Participation:

The Sydney Your Say webpage was visited by 361 individuals with over 50 per cent downloading the plan. There were 13 written submissions indicating major support. The University of Sydney indicated support for the upgrade and proposed activation. Feedback was also acquired through a meeting with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal owned and operated business Gardeners Lodge Café Manager. They backed the park improvements.

Outcomes:

Victoria Park's proposed upgrade has been well very received by the community and stakeholders. They demonstrated deep engagement with the public domain and a good knowledge of the proposed changes.

Valuable insights were also acquired in relation to the significance of the site for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

11 written submissions strongly supported the improvements to the wetland area and the upgrades to the paths. Some additional comments were also made in regards to the park design.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community input:

Over all there was an appreciation for the proposed upgrade. Waverley Councillor and Chair of ERLGATSIF (Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Forum) Dominic WY Kanak wrote of the importance of the Sacred Fire and Tent Embassy within the park site during the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The Councillor suggested the site where Uncle Ted Guboo Thomas placed a spear in the park grounds, as part of Connection to Country Sites, could be identified, interpreted and celebrated in the upgraded park, and that any new paths should avoid crossing these sites.

The Councillor and also the Gardener's Lodge Manager suggested that the revegetation could include local indigenous plant species. In addition, consideration of dual naming throughout the park and recognition of Gadigal land was requested along with strategically placed signage. This is to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of the park to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the annual Yabun Festival held on 26 January.

Other community input:

In addition to strong support for the upgrades a resident commented that it was great to have netball facilities, whilst another asked if workstations like those at Wentworth and Prince Alfred Parks could be built. One resident suggested the oval perhaps be located away from Sydney University. Another submission proposed shared paths, bike pumps and parking. It was also asked that the BBQs not be placed close to the children's playground and suggested that low hedges could reduce traffic noise. One request was for a designated fenced area for off-leash dogs.