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**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY
OF SUBMISSIONS**

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

Bourke Street Woolloomooloo Community Garden

20 May to 03 June 2016

Background

In December 2015, the Bourke Street Community garden gained approval for their Matching Grant application to fund materials to expand their existing garden.

The group has worked with the City's Community Gardens Coordinator to develop the updated documents for feedback by the community.

The Bourke Street Community Garden proposes to extend the existing garden of 240 square metres to 417 square metres and also includes space for:

- Raised garden beds for growing vegetables, miniature fruit trees and herbs;
- Composting and soil bays; and
- A sandstone bird bath.
- Subject to a development application, the City may also install a tool shed and a chicken coop.

Community Engagement Objectives

The primary objective of this consultation was to show the proposed design of the extension of the garden and seek feedback. Feedback is required to ensure the gardens are properly utilised and enjoyed while also being accessible and meet the needs of the community.

The level of consultation for this program is considered to be between "Inform" and "Consult" on the City of Sydney's community engagement framework.

Community Engagement Activities

The consultation period ran from 20 May through to 3 June 2016. Community feedback was sought by the following activities;

- Notification letters delivered to 3,000 local residents in the area surrounding the community garden announcing the consultation. The letter included a garden design layout, links to Sydney your say to provide feedback.
- A story on Sydneyyoursay.com.au announcing the consultation, displaying the group's proposed plans (Management plan, garden design layout, Chicken Project Management Plan and Gardeners agreement). An online submission form and City staff emails were provided for people to have their say.
- Copies of the notification letter and garden design layout was displayed on the front fence of the community garden outlining ways people could have their say.

Engaged, Informed and Aware Visitors

Engaged Visitors/Surveys completed	People who completed the survey	5
Informed Visitors	People who downloaded a document, viewed a photo, or visited the key dates page	54

All submissions were in support of the extension to the garden.

A total of 46 people made submissions in support of the extension of the garden;

- 5 surveys were completed on SydneyYourSay
- 18 emails were sent to Community Garden Coordinator Raewyn Broadfoot.
- 23 residents also provided their support in writing to the City

Survey Responses and Submissions received.

In support	Response
<p>I'm a local in the Loo and heard that there is a proposal to have chickens in the community garden. I think this is a gorgeous idea and would add more life to the area.</p> <p>How would I be able to get involved in gardening etc.?</p> <p>I'm in favour of the plans for Bourke St gardens and would welcome chooks in the area.</p> <p>There are plenty of sad chickens available from "Hen Rescue" who need a good home or other chickens as planned by the Gardeners would be fine.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p>	<p>Provided contact details of group coordinator</p>
<p>The Ozanam Learning Centre has been running a six week drawing program at the Garden.</p> <p>This has been a huge success and some of the works made there will be referred to and exhibited at the OLC Art Show at 107 Projects, Redfern (22nd June).</p> <p>Students participating in the OLC have found much pleasure working and drawing in the garden environment.</p> <p>This is a letter to express support for and appreciation of the Bourke Street Community Garden.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I fully support the Bourke street garden extension and development. I am very excited that I will have a space to take my child and teach him how to grow vegetables and look after chickens.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I love the chicken coop! Actually the whole proposal is wonderful and the video is amazing. Sorry I couldn't attend the consultation but no doubt I'll see you in the garden sometime soon! Cannot wait to see bees and chooks in there!</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>I live in Woolloomooloo at one end of Bourke St and work at 120 Bourke St but I'm afraid I don't know where the garden even is - can you tell me?</p> <p>We received the letter about extending it and I think that's an excellent idea.</p> <p>Stakeholder later sent: Ah I see, yes I walk past it every day. Definitely support an extension.</p>	<p>Responded with a map and details of the location</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>I have been the Coordinator of the Bourke St Community Garden since its beginning and I sincerely believe it has made an enormous difference to our community and the interactions that have taken place because of it. We are open to everyone and have a lovely mix of people from all socio economic groups in the 2011 postcode.</p> <p>We have local cafes involved and collect and compost their organic waste, and have close ties with Ozanam Learning Centre and facilitate garden projects and activities onsite for their clients.</p> <p>It has been very satisfying to be a part of the development of the garden but due to demand we do feel we have outgrown the site. The land adjacent to us has been empty for some time and we very much hope to be able to extend and utilise that side. Having chickens is a high priority not only for their eggs and manure but for the positive interaction animals can bring and we are sure they will bring to the local community.</p> <p>To us the Garden has become an essential part of Woolloomooloo. We are organic, self-managed by volunteers, almost self-sustaining and we produce edible produce. The Garden is a place of learning, is social, helps breaks down barriers and is an enjoyable place to 'work' and get ones hands dirty. So many people have commented on how great it is to be able to do something outdoors and gardening is something all ages and genders can participate in. We feel that the Garden will continue to grow as indeed the Community of Woolloomooloo continues to grow too.</p> <p>I am very much in support of the proposal to expand the Bourke St Community Garden both on a personal level and as Coordinator of the Garden.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Great idea!</p> <p>I haven't been involved in the scheme but I live in the area and pass the park a few times a week. I fully support what you are doing.</p> <p>I'm interested in who have been using it? Do the homeless get involved? Or people from the housing commission?</p>	<p>Provide response of 35 members and everyone is welcome.</p>
<p>I have seen how successful the Paddington Garden at Trumper Park is and hopes this benefits Woolloomooloo.</p> <p>I have a friend involved in the Bourke st garden and I think it's a very worthwhile exercise. It brings the community together and encourages a greater awareness of plants.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>I am writing in support of the expansion of the Bourke St Community Garden. Our family of 5 (3 kids) haven't used the garden but walk past it and admire it most days can see this would make a positive contribution to the space, and the community.</p> <p>My daughter has a chicken coop at her pre-school (KU Rushcutters) and a garden and we all help out there. We'd be happy to get involved in one closer to home and get to know more people in our immediate community.</p> <p>Thanks for considering this.</p>	Noted
<p>I wanted to add my support to this very important project. I believe it will add significantly to the spirit and camaraderie of the neighbourhood and to the aesthetic appeal of this great precinct.</p> <p>I hope it gets council support</p>	Noted
<p>I support the proposal to expand the Bourke Street Community Garden as detailed on Your Say website.</p> <p>An expanded community garden is a wonderful concept.</p> <p>It creates greater opportunity for members of the community to engage in gardening activities, it brings community members together in a shared project and importantly retains open space which is a precious commodity in the inner city.</p>	Noted
<p>As residents of Kidman's Terrace, my partner and I are happy to support the proposed extension of the Bourke St community garden including the chicken coup</p>	Noted
<p>Just a quick note to say I am delighted that the Bourke St Community Garden is being extended.</p> <p>I am a member of the community garden and get great joy from the garden.</p> <p>A bigger garden would mean more members, more produce and hopefully chickens! A great outcome for everyone!</p> <p>The community garden has been a wonderful way to meet my neighbours while enjoying a spot of gardening.</p>	Noted
<p>I am writing in response to and in support of the proposed expansion of the Bourke Street Community Garden (BSCG).</p> <p>I am a landscape architect, environmental planner and horticulturalist by profession. I am also a gardener and an altruist by nature, as well as being a local resident. I am hugely supportive of the physical, psychological and social benefits of community gardening and its ability to break down barriers that may otherwise exist in any group of people.</p> <p>Until recently I have been volunteering my services to provide casual Monday afternoon 'gardening classes/workshops' to clients of Ozanam Learning Centre and residents of Matthew Talbott Hostel, however this</p>	Noted

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<p>has been put on hold of late due to a deficiency of space and tasks. The feedback that I have received previously with regard to the gardening classes and workshops has been extremely positive, with people tending to 'open up' and 'socialise' more in the atmosphere of working in a community gardening than they normally would, to the extent that one attendee experienced a life-changing event as a result of 'opening up' about a 30 year illness that had previously dominated his life in a very negative manner, whilst another attendee was offered a position in the landscape industry. Many other 'gardening team' members, who at the time have not had too many positive things in their lives, have also benefited hugely from the classes/workshops and related exercise, and have sincerely thanked me for investing my time into 'them' (as they have seen it) – which has also benefited their feelings of self-worth.</p> <p>I am most excited about the prospect of more space for the Bourke Street Community Garden. Apart from the obvious benefits to people experiencing difficult times in their lives, the benefits to the overall local community should not be underestimated. I am also most effusive about the time, effort and overall support provided by Georgina Bathurst, the BSCG co-ordinator, whose tireless work to date has been priceless!</p> <p>With regard to the prospect of more space being made available, I think this is an excellent idea! In addition, if this additional space is obtained then I would be most happy to discuss with the appropriate person the possibility of utilising some of this space as a community nursery, so that plants can be grown from seed and cuttings and swapped with friends and neighbours, or possibly even sold to raise money for local charities (if permitted) – and I would be most happy to guide those interested in the various methods of plant propagation, which is a very interesting and rewarding pastime.</p> <p>I do hope that the expansion of the Bourke Street Community Garden is able to proceed, for reasons as outlined above. Should you have any questions with regard to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>	
<p>I fully support this initiative. My daughter would love to visit the garden.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I am writing in favour of the proposed garden extension at Bourke Street Community Garden. I think the new space will be a great addition to the community and will really enhance the park area by turning an otherwise of largely unkempt patch of ground into something green and inviting. I think it will encourage more people to be involved with the community garden and will provide more opportunities for them to have their own small growing space, to take part in community's activities, to work with chickens, and to meet other gardeners.</p> <p>I am a current member of the garden and a nearby resident. As an immigrant to Australia, it has been a great way to meet people in the local area and to take part in a worthwhile community project. If I didn't have access to Bourke Street Community Garden, my experience of living in Sydney and in Woolloomooloo would be very different and much less enjoyable.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>I have been a member of the garden for 2 years and enjoy my time in it. I am, however, frustrated by lack of space and lack of plots. There are not enough of either.</p> <p>Other people have felt the same and given up. There are not enough communal plots to plant enough seedlings to get a large enough crop for everyone to share.</p> <p>There are not enough small plots for all the people that want to grow something of their own.</p> <p>Put simply, we need more space and more plots; big and small.</p> <p>The chicken coup is also a great idea as is that of composting bays</p> <p>The garden is a good idea, it gets people together, home owners or otherwise but we need more of everything to keep the interest of more, potential new members.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I think it is a great idea - I have only been involved in the Bourke St Community Garden since last year but I find it to be an excellent group - it's a great way to get more involved and interact with others in the community. It has also made what was previously a neglected space a fantastic and attractive site and I am all for activating the rest of the site.</p> <p>As a local resident I feel this will enable even more people to get involved and will make Bourke St Park much more attractive and useable. It is a welcome improvement to the Woolloomooloo community and further growth and use of the site should be encouraged.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I think that more local community involvement is a great idea.</p> <p>And constructive uses like the garden and raising chickens is a very good thing, especially for inner city kids who do not otherwise have access to these activities.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I support the proposal for the extension to the Bourke Street Community Garden. The garden is a community based initiative in which anyone can participate. This extension will enhance the experience for existing and future participants and allow for a more diverse range of gardening interests to be pursued.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I think this will add to the area and allow more residents to participate and communicate with each other.</p> <p>It will use a space that is now vacant.</p> <p>I hope approval is given for this.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>be great to have more space has a local and business person in the area we love be involved to be sustainable by giving waste for compost and ash from our wood fired garden we would encourage to sponsor or use facilities</p>	<p>Noted</p>