

21 June 2021

At the conclusion of the Corporate, Finance, Properties
and Tenders Committee

Environment Committee

Agenda

- 1. Disclosures of Interest**
- 2. Grants and Sponsorship - Round One 2021/22 - Environmental Grants**
- 3. Project Scope - Blackwattle Playground, Glebe**
- 4. Project Scope - Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville**

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1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10.00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

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Item 1.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillors are also required to disclose any non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

This will include receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

Item 2.

Grants and Sponsorship - Round One 2021/22 - Environmental Grants

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city and assist in the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. To achieve the objectives of the Community Recovery Plan and Sustainable Sydney 2030, genuine partnership between government, business and the community is required.

The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, cultural, economic and environmental policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and against broad City objectives and plans. In this way, the City and the community act collaboratively to achieve the goals of the Community Recovery Plan and Sustainable Sydney 2030.

The City advertised the following two environmental grant programs in Round One of the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program for 2021/22:

- Environmental Performance – Innovation; funding is available to assess or demonstrate new technologies or processes that are currently not being implemented in the local market but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource efficiencies that could be rolled out at scale within the local area;
- Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments; funding is available to undertake building performance ratings and certifications, energy audits and assessments to enable a building or facility owner to understand their opportunities to improve environmental performance.

For the Environmental Performance grants, 28 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 21 grants to a total value of \$421,480 for the 2021/22 financial year.

For the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grants Program, 12 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of five grants to a total value of \$257,880 for the 2021/22 financial year.

For the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments Grants Program, 16 eligible applications were received. This report recommends all 16 grants to a total value of \$163,600 for the 2021/22 financial year.

On 22 February 2021, Council adopted a revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines, the priorities set out in the Community Recovery Plan and various other relevant City strategies and action plans.

All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program as per Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applications not recommended for a cash grant for the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program as per Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program as per Attachment C to the subject report noting all grants in this program are recommended;
- (D) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Recommended for Funding - Round One 2021/22 Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Not Recommended for Funding - Round One 2021/22 Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Recommended for Funding - Round One 2021/22 Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city.
2. On 25 February 2021, the City announced Round One of the annual grants program for 2021/22 as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 29 March 2021.
3. The two environmental programs promoted were:
 - (a) Environmental Performance - Innovation; and
 - (b) Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments.
4. Information about the Environmental Grants Program (such as application dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the program through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, What's On, and ArtsHub. Supply Nation, Multicultural NSW, Digest, Sydney University and Haymarket Chamber of Commerce also promoted the program through their networks. Email campaigns were utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs.
5. Following adoption of the revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy on 22 February 2021, the Environmental Performance - Innovation program is open to incorporated for-profit organisations with 200 employees or less, not-for-profits and owners corporations. The Ratings and Assessments program is open to accommodation (including hotels, hostels and serviced apartments) and residential property types.
6. Eleven applications were received this round from for-profit organisations through the Environmental Performance Grant - Innovation program and the following four for-profit organisations are recommended for grant funding:
 - (a) Dempstah Pty Ltd;
 - (b) Givvable Pty Ltd;
 - (c) Leon Energy Pty Ltd; and
 - (d) Seabin Pty Ltd.
7. Fifteen applications were received this round from for-profit organisations and strata plans through the Environmental Performance Grant - Ratings program, all 15 applications are recommended for grant funding inclusive of the following five for-profit organisations (the remainder being strata plans):
 - (a) Aldprop Pty Ltd;
 - (b) Golden Swan Investments (Aust) Pty Ltd;
 - (c) Salter Brothers (Potts Point) Hotel Pty Ltd;
 - (d) The Trustee for Darling Harbour Hotel; and
 - (e) The Trustee for The Schwartz Family Trust (two applications recommended).

8. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding. Some applicants will be required to meet with City staff and further define the strategic outcomes of their project prior to receiving the grant and commencing their project.
9. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.
10. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program is highly competitive. Applications that are not recommended have either not scored as highly against the assessment criteria as the recommended applications or have incomplete or insufficient information. The City's Grants and Sponsorship team provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
11. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined criteria for each grant program as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, a contract is developed, which includes conditions that must be adhered to, and acquitted against.
12. In assessing the grant applications, the assessment panels included in their considerations and recommendations:
 - (a) Community Recovery Plan 2020;
 - (b) Environmental Strategy and Action Plan;
 - (c) Grants and Sponsorship Policy;
 - (d) Sustainable Sydney 2030, and;
 - (e) alignment with other core City strategic policies and action plans.
13. Assessors consider the cash and in-kind contribution from the applicant and other sources in reviewing applications. Applicants are asked to demonstrate a capacity to match the grant investment with other sources of funding or contribute their own cash resources to the project.
14. Applicants are requested to list their project's project partners, confirmed funding sources and the contribution the organisation is making to the project (cash or in-kind) to demonstrate their contribution.

Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

15. The Environmental Performance - Innovation grant program supports the feasibility or demonstration of new technologies or processes that are currently not being implemented in the local market but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource efficiencies that could be rolled out at scale within the local area.
16. Following adoption of the revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy on 22 February 2021, the Environmental Performance - Innovation program for Round One was limited to encompass small and medium businesses only, in addition to not-for-profit entities of all sizes.

17. The assessment panel for the Environmental Performance - Innovation program consisted of members from Sustainability Programs and City Sustainability, with specialist assessors from City Infrastructure and Traffic Operations and City Design.
18. Applicants of the Innovation category were also invited to meet with the assessment panel on 13 April 2021 to present their projects. All applying organisations took up this opportunity.
19. The recommended applications for the Environmental Performance - Innovation grant program are outlined in Attachment A to this report. The applications not recommended are outlined in Attachment B.

Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments grant program

20. The Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments grant program aims to address barriers to the uptake of building performance ratings and assessments across energy, water, waste and other sustainability aspects. Ratings and assessments enable a building owner or facility manager to understand their building's environmental performance and to identify efficiency opportunities. Applicants are required to implement efficiency measures based on the recommendations of the assessments.
21. Following adoption of the revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy on 22 February 2021, the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments grant was amended to limit eligibility to works on buildings within the Residential Strata and Accommodation (Hotel, Hostel and Serviced Apartment) sectors only, regardless of their size or turn-over.
22. Sixteen applications have been received and assessed. All are recommended for support to a value of \$163,600. Nine applications were received from the residential building sector and seven applications were received from the accommodation sector.
23. The assessment panel for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment grant program consisted of members from the City's Sustainability Programs team.
24. The recommended applications for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment grant program are outlined in Attachment C to this report.

Budget

25. The 2020/21 Environmental Performance Program budget is summarised as follows:

Total cash budget	\$850,000
Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$9,897
Total cash amount available for allocation	\$840,103
Total number of eligible applications	28

Total cash requested	\$840,630
Total number of applications recommended for cash support	21
Total amount of funding cash recommended	\$421,480
Amount remaining for subsequent allocation of the program	\$418,623

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

26. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 2 - A Leading Environmental Performer - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to City's endeavours to work with our business and residential communities to reduce greenhouse emissions and potable water use and encourage diversion of waste from landfill across the local government area.

Organisational Impact

27. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Environmental

28. The recommended environmental grants under the Innovation Program will enhance knowledge sharing, skills uptake and capacity in best practice environmental performance, approaches and solutions in the local area.
29. The recommended environmental grants under the Ratings and Assessments Program will provide energy and water savings as a result of improved monitoring and applicants implementing efficiency measures as a condition of the grants.

Financial Implications

30. There are sufficient funds allocated in the Environmental Grants program budget, included in the City's draft operating budget for 2021/21, for the recommended amounts. A total value of \$421,480 in cash is recommended from the 2021/22 draft budget, as follows:
 - (a) Environmental Performance - Innovation grant program - \$257,880; and
 - (b) Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment grant program - \$163,600.

Relevant Legislation

31. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
32. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
 - (a) the funding is part of the following programs:
 - (i) Environmental Performance - Innovation grant program; and
 - (ii) Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments grant program
 - (b) the details of the Environmental Performance grant programs have been included in Council's draft operation plan for financial year 2021/22;
 - (c) the program's proposed budgets do not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2021/22; and
 - (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

33. The funding period for Round One of the Environmental Performance grant program for 2021/22 is for activity taking place from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting in July.

Public Consultation

34. For all Round One 2021/22 programs open to application, two information sessions were held over Zoom on Wednesday 3 March and Friday 5 March 2021. One information session was held at Redfern Community Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants on Thursday 4 March 2021.
- (a) Seventy-seven prospective applicants attended the general information session, followed by individual pillar sessions for advice from City staff about their project proposals and the application process;
 - (b) Five prospective applicants attended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander information session held in person at Redfern Community Centre;
 - (c) Six prospective applicants attended the information session focusing on business grants with a Mandarin translator; and
 - (d) Seventy-four per cent of these attendees advised they had not applied for a City of Sydney grant previously.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Isabella Barker, Grants Officer

Attachment A

**Recommended for Funding
Round One 2021/22 Environmental
Performance – Innovation Grant Program**

Round One 2021/22 Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	Additional Conditions
Dempstah Pty Ltd	Salvation Army Recycled Yarn	A feasibility study to create recycled textile yarn, composed of post-consumer knitwear originally donated to Salvation Army stores around Sydney, diverting it from landfill.	\$20,000	\$20,000	Nil
Givable Pty Ltd	Educating and engaging micro, small & medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) on the Circular Economy and Sustainability Impacts	A demonstration project to develop digital learning modules designed to educate micro, small & medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) on circular economy principles and the potential of recycled materials in an accessible way.	\$65,000	\$65,000	Nil
Good360 Australia Ltd	Good360 Retail surplus Pop up Shop	A demonstration project to create a Pop-up Shop in the inner city to promote awareness of the surplus retail problem for community, retailers and charities while preventing brand-new items going to landfill.	\$80,000	\$40,000	Applicant to provide revised budget, communications, stakeholder engagement and outcomes measurement plan
Leon Energy Pty Ltd	Mechanical battery long duration Flywheel Energy Storage demonstration project	A demonstration project to establish an off-grid capable microgrid for storing renewal energy in an urban environment, using long duration batteries paired with ground mounted solar.	\$80,000	\$53,000	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	Additional Conditions
Seabin Pty Ltd	Smart Cities, Cleaner Oceans program	A demonstration project to deploy a number of Seabins across Sydney harbour, removing floating rubbish, plastic and oils while capturing baseline data about the health of waterways in the harbour.	\$79,880	\$79,880	<p>Applicant to confirm necessary approvals from government bodies for installation of bins in Sydney Harbour</p> <p>Applicant to provide updated project plan including identifying power sources and the recycling of collected waste</p> <p>Applicant to confirm necessary approvals for jetties and platforms to install and launch bins</p>

Attachment B

**Not Recommended for Funding
Round One 2021/22 Environmental
Performance – Innovation Grant Program**

Round One 2021/22 Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

Not Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested
B Merzeo & M.J Triffitt	Implementation of a Waste Assessment Platform	A demonstration project to measure litter composition across ten City of Sydney villages using geo-spatial mapping to inform evidence-based policy, as well as legislative and operational waste strategies.	\$47,000
Cercle Co Pty Ltd	200 George Reusable Coffee Cup Activation	A demonstration project to test providing a circular economy, reusable coffee cup solution to tackle disposable coffee cups within the 200 George Street precinct in Sydney.	\$23,750
Eco It Solutions Pty Ltd	Smart Solar Benches	A demonstration project to install smart benches around the inner city powered by renewable solar energy that provide the free Wi-Fi and phone charging stations to the general public, while also collecting baseline data.	\$80,000
Hector Abrahams Architects Pty Ltd	Climate and Comfort Tool	A feasibility study to build and test sensors and a web platform that monitors building performance data in real time and shares this data with building users.	\$20,000
HydroPoint Pty Limited	Smart Water Kiosk™	A demonstration project to install Smart Water Kiosks around the inner city, providing an alternative to single use plastic and recording a real-time “plastic bottles saved” count for public engagement.	\$80,000
S Cohen & Q.A Seo	Reuse of building and construction materials	A feasibility study to research sustainable methods for deconstruction and reuse of building materials as an alternative to demolition and newbuilds, and connecting online with architects, builders and DIYers who wish to design with less waste.	\$20,000
Zero Positive for Schools Limited	Zero Positive for Apartments	A demonstration project to measure heat, energy, water and waste data in apartment buildings to support the implementation of renewable energy options and positive behavioural change in residents.	\$80,000

Attachment C

**Recommended for Funding
Round One 2021/22 Environmental
Performance – Ratings and Assessment
Grant Program**

Round One 2021/22 Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program

Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	Additional Conditions
Aldprop Pty Ltd	NABERS Energy and Water Rating - 22 Shelley St, Sydney (Ibis King Street Wharf)	A year 2 NABERS energy and water rating for a 91 room hotel to assess energy performance and find opportunities to reduce energy consumption.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Nil
The Owners – Strata Plan 72521	Energy Assessment and NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 14 Macleay St, Elizabeth Bay (Pomeroy Apartments)	An energy assessment and year 1 NABERS energy and water rating for a 8 level, 34 unit apartment building to identify base line energy use and opportunities to reduce energy consumption.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil
Golden Swan Investments (Australia) Pty Ltd	Energy Assessment and Audit Year 1 - 68 Harbour St, Darling Harbour (Holiday Inn)	A year 1 energy assessment and audit (compliant with standard AS 3598) for a 370 room hotel to identify energy use and efficient HVAC solutions.	\$15,000	\$15,000	Nil
Owners of Strata Plan 68110	Energy Assessment and NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 127 Railway Pde, Erskineville (Strata Plan 68110)	An energy assessment and year 1 NABERS energy and water rating and for a 2 level, 42 unit apartment building, looking at energy efficiency opportunities and potential for solar PV.	\$4,600	\$4,600	Nil
Salter Brothers (Potts Point) Hotel Pty Ltd	Energy Assessment and Audit Year 1 - 203 Victoria St, Potts Point (Holiday Inn)	A year 1 energy assessment and audit (compliant with standard AS 3598) for a 288 room hotel to explore opportunities to reduce energy consumption.	\$14,700	\$14,700	Nil
Strata Plan 101043	NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 50 Garden St, Alexandria (The Henderson)	A year 1 NABERS energy and water rating in a 5 level, 25 unit apartment building to identify base line energy use and opportunities to reduce energy consumption.	\$4,900	\$4,900	Nil
Strata Plan 56911	Energy Assessment and NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 155 Kent St, Millers Point (Strata Plan 56911)	An energy assessment and year 1 NABERS energy and water rating for a 26 level, 20 unit apartment building to investigate substantial energy savings through capital works upgrades and centralised air conditioning.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	Additional Conditions
Strata Plan 74760	NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 253 Chalmers Street, Redfern (Strata Plan 74760)	A year 1 NABERS energy and water rating for a 6 level, 104 unit apartment building with an assessment of solar PV and replacement of natural gas hot water heater.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil
Strata Plan 80140	Energy Assessment and NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 1 Grandstand Pde, Zetland (Strata Plan 80140)	An energy assessment and year 1 NABERS rating for 29 level, 202 unit apartment building for LED lighting upgrade in car park and fire stairs.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil
The Owners - Strata Plan 68575	NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 9 Grandstand Pde, Zetland (Centric)	A year 1 NABERS energy and water rating for a 4 level, 62 unit apartment building with an assessment into the feasibility of solar PV.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil
The Owners - Strata Plan 91356	NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 356-368 George St, Waterloo (Strata Plan 91356)	A year 1 NABERS energy and water rating for a 26 level, 151 unit apartment building with detailed feasibility assessment exploring options for solar PV.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil
The Owners - Strata Plan 97459	NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 1 - 15 Lachlan St, Waterloo (The Finery)	A year 1 NABERS energy and water rating for a 4 level, 223 unit mixed use strata scheme apartment building with opportunities for solar and HVAC.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Nil
The Trustee for Darling Harbour Hotel Trust	Energy Assessment and Audit Year 1 - 12 Darling Dr, Sydney (Sofitel Darling Harbour)	A year 1 energy assessment and audit (compliant with standard AS 3598) for a 590 room hotel to advise about the most cost-effective options for minimisation of carbon footprint, energy and maintenance costs.	\$14,700	\$14,700	Nil
The Trustee for The Schwartz Family Trust	NABERS Energy and Water Rating Year 2 - 818-820 George St, Chippendale (Mercure Central)	A year 2 NABERS energy and water rating in a 517 room hotel to asses energy and water performance and find opportunities to reduce energy consumption.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Nil
The Trustee for The Schwartz Family Trust	Energy Assessment and Audit Year 1 - 389 Pitt St, Sydney (Rydges World Square Sydney Hotel)	A year 1 energy assessment and audit (compliant with standard AS 3598) for a 436 room hotel to advise on minimisation of carbon footprint, energy and maintenance costs.	\$14,700	\$14,700	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	Additional Conditions
YWCA Australia	Energy Assessment and Audit Year 1 - 5-11 Wentworth Ave, Sydney (Song Hotel by YWCA Australia)	A year 1 energy assessment and audit (compliant with standard AS 3598) for a 153 room hotel to identify energy use and opportunities to reduce energy consumption.	\$15,000	\$15,000	Nil

Item 3.

Project Scope - Blackwattle Playground, Glebe

File No: X038080

Summary

This report outlines the proposed improvements for Blackwattle Playground at Leichhardt Street, Glebe. Blackwattle Playground has been identified as part of the small parks and playgrounds improvement program.

The objective of the proposal is to provide an improved park and playground which supports the needs for the range of local users including individuals, informal and formal community groups as well as wildlife.

The project brief is to refurbish the play area including; replace end of life equipment and soft fall as required, provide a range of play experiences, improve the entries and access into the park; increase the open turf grass area, provide additional seatings and associated landscape improvements.

The Draft Concept Plan was on public exhibition from 29 March 2021 to 26 April 2021. A letter was distributed in the local area and the proposal was exhibited on the City's website. The proposed works are supported by the community and the response highlighted that an upgrade of this park would increase the current use of the park.

Community feedback was broadly in support of the proposal. Community suggestions will be incorporated as part of the detailed design phase where possible and additional information has been provided as requested.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the scope of improvement works to Blackwattle Playground as described in the subject report and shown in the Draft Concept Plan at Attachment B to the subject report for progression to relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation, tender and construction; and
- (B) note the estimated project forecast as outlined in Confidential Attachment D to the subject report.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Location Plan
- Attachment B.** Draft Concept Plan
- Attachment C.** Engagement Report
- Attachment D.** Financial Implications (Confidential)

Background

1. The City has an ongoing small parks and playgrounds improvement program. The program is for parks which need upgrade or enhancement works, the replacement of end-of-life equipment, and to provide appropriate facilities for local-residents.
2. Blackwattle Playground is a local park located at 47 Leichhardt Street, Glebe on corner of Leichhardt and Oxley Streets; refer Attachment A Location Plan. The park is generally level near the street with a steep slope on the northern side. The Blackwattle Bay foreshore is located on the northern boundary of the park.
3. The 1570sqm park is surrounded by historic residential houses on both sides and 2-3 storey brick apartment buildings. The area is a Heritage Conservation Area C28 - Glebe Point.
4. The land is owned by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and is in the process of being transferred to the City of Sydney. This park has historically been under the care, control and management of the City. Council at its meeting of 18 May 2020 endorsed the transfer of land listed as Blackwattle Playground, Glebe being Lot 2 Deposited Plan 597314 from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to the City of Sydney for nil or nominal consideration.
5. The area that includes Blackwattle Playground is within the traditional homelands of the Gadigal and Wangal people, two of the 29 clan groups of the Sydney metropolitan area that are collectively referred to as the Eora Nation.
6. In 1983 Blackwattle Playground was created from the former industrial land to provide public park and access to the foreshore. The park and playground are located on the former Sylvester Stride's ship-breaking yards. A crane is preserved on the northern boundary to commemorate the maritime industrial history of the area.
7. Blackwattle Playground is within the heritage listed Blackwattle Bay Park including landscaping. The park was designed by Stuart Pittendrigh and Associates in consultation with The Glebe Society and Leichhardt Municipal Council. A heritage impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the planning approvals to ensure the upgrade is consistent and protects the heritage significance.
8. The existing park has two main park areas with a mix of mature native trees which creates an informal park character that reflects the neighbourhood. The northern native habitat area slopes towards the harbour and includes a series of raised timber deck and stairs which provides access to the Glebe foreshore walk. The existing playground, bench seats and some small turf grass areas are located near the street.
9. The park has a mix of 41 mature native and exotic trees including, eucalyptus, angophora, wattle and bottlebrush species. The predominant tree types are River She-oak or Casuarinas. As a result, the garden areas are bare and covered with a fine leaf needle thicket and the park is significantly over-shadowed. Due to the poor sun (solar) access, small areas and shallow soils, the turf grass quality is poor.
10. Blackwattle Playground was identified for an upgrade due to the overall condition of the reserve including the condition of the existing playground. The path layout and central playground location create small unusable grass areas. Currently about half of the open space is fenced-off which greatly reduces the usable areas and enjoyment of the park.

11. Consideration has been given to the provision of play equipment in surrounding parks within a 500 metre radius, to ensure a coordinated network of facilities that caters for a broad range of park users

Draft Concept Plan

12. A concept plan was developed for the works and community consultation was undertaken (refer Attachment B).
13. The concept plan sets the overall layout. The key principles are:
 - (a) provide an accessible, welcoming, and safe park for the community and visitors;
 - (b) sensitively respond to the heritage park character, unique harbour foreshore setting and views and enhance habitat planting areas;
 - (c) provide a local scale play space which improves the play opportunities for local children with a range structured equipment, imaginative and nature play elements;
 - (d) increase the usable area and improve usability by consolidating and better arranging park elements;
 - (e) provide a range of seating opportunities which encourage social interaction; and
 - (f) use simple, robust, high quality materials which reflect the local neighbourhood character.
14. The proposal includes the following works:
 - (a) repairs to the existing timber access stairs and decks;
 - (b) a new low park entry wall and clear entries from the street;
 - (c) relocate the playground and to increase the open turf grass area for passive recreation and improve sun access to the turf grass;
 - (d) a new play structure with slides decks and platforms, swings, inclusive boat and nature play with a maritime theme;
 - (e) the playground will provide inclusive access to the play structure cubby house and servery, and boat imaginary play element;
 - (f) more seats in shade and sun and tables;
 - (g) a new water bubbler with dog bowl; and
 - (h) new groundcover, low shrub and native habitat plantings.

15. The engagement process also identified community interest in exploring ways to provide Indigenous language activity the park. As part of the next stage of the upgrade, an Indigenous Cultural Consultant will be engaged to identify appropriate objects and the Gadigal language activities should be implemented into the project design and delivery.
16. In response to community consultation, the following will be investigated and incorporated where possible in the detailed design as noted on Attachment C.
 - (a) Bike racks will be provided in the footpath.
 - (b) Additional signage will be installed to remind people that dogs are not permitted in the playground and must be on-leash in the Blackwattle Park. A poo bag dispenser will also be provided on the garbage bin.
 - (c) Provide mounds in the playground soft fall and rock scrambling area.
 - (d) Retain the park light near the playground which increased the hours of use and park usability during winter (short daylight hours).
17. The following tree management and planting is proposed as part of the park works:
 - (a) retain and protect all existing trees and planting within the existing bush restoration area;
 - (b) preparation of an Aborigicultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan to inform the detailed design and ensure appropriate construction methodology.
18. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) will be lodged for the works in accordance with the Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979 and the State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure 2007.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

19. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - this project will provide an improved open space infrastructure which meets the needs of a wide variety of user groups and provides opportunities for social interaction.
 - (b) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - this project is part of wider program of ongoing renewal of small parks across the local government area; it will provide improved quality of open space infrastructure.

20. The draft Green Sydney Strategy establishes targets to increase greening and tree canopy in the City. It includes strategic directions to ensure we distribute quality greening fairly across the city so that everyone shares the benefits provided by greening. This project aligns with the following directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 3 – Cool and calm spaces. Two key issues facing most of the city’s residents relate to high urban heat and impacts on physical and mental health.

Greening for All

- (b) Action 4 – Distribute greening equitably. The strategy target is to establish 30 per cent canopy cover, within an area of around 1.6 kilometres to provide key heat and health benefits. The existing tree canopy cover in the park is about 70 per cent which exceeds this target.
- (c) Action 5 – Provide fair access to quality green space. This project will improve access in the park and provides an improved open space infrastructure to meets the needs of a wide variety of users.
- (d) Action 6 – Adapt for climate. This project will provide additional landscape planting and reduces the hard surface areas to reduce heat and increase water infiltration. Furniture and materials will be refurbished or recycled were possible.

Cool Calm Spaces

- (e) Action 8 – Cool the hot spots. Cool streets improve the walkability and liveability of our city. The project will enhance and improve the amenity and usability of an important and well used small park. The tree canopy and planting has been maintained or increased.
- (f) Action 9 – Calm green spaces. The proposed refurbishment provides a range of spaces including an open turf grass area for passive recreation, bench seats and social gatherings.

Organisational Impact

21. This renewal will provide an improved park amenity and play experience for children, their carers and other community members visiting the park. The replacement of non-compliant assets represents a removal/mitigation of risk to the City. The assets will require ongoing maintenance.

Risks

22. Risk of contamination. The park is located on a former industrial site and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) or Remediation Action Plan (RAP) has not been identified. Soil testing is being undertaken to check the existing soil conditions and inform remediation as part of the works.
23. Risks of not implementing the scope of these works include potential failure of play infrastructure and risk to the community. Daily inspections are carried out by the City as per standard parks and playground maintenance operations.
24. Risks of not implementing this scope of works could result in failure to meet community expectations

Social / Cultural / Community

25. Blackwattle Playground is part of a significant network of well-loved pocket parks and larger Glebe foreshore parklands. Improving the amenity and play offering within the park represents an investment in this community, providing opportunities for people of different ages and abilities to use the park alongside each other.
26. An Indigenous Cultural Consultant will be engaged as part of this upgrade process, to ensure that the project contributes to recognising the City's Indigenous heritage, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in the public domain, and enriching local knowledge about the cultural landscape.

Environmental

27. The original vegetation along the Glebe foreshore would have been Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest. The park is connected to the Blackwattle Bay Foreshore Parklands which is identified in the Urban Ecology Strategy Action Plan as a Bush Regeneration site. Protection and enhancement of the existing planting through this works is in line with the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan.

Financial Implications

28. There are sufficient funds in the current year capital budget and future year forward estimate. Current cost estimates and financial implications are detailed in Confidential Attachment D.

Relevant Legislation

29. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
30. Attachment D to the subject report contains confidential commercial information which if disclosed, would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
31. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its rate payers.
32. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
33. State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure 2007.
34. Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.
35. Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
36. Companion Animals Act 1998.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

37. Current Program Dates
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Detailed Design | July - December 2021 |
| (b) Tender | February 2022 |
| (c) Construction Start | May 2022 |
| (d) Construction Completion | January 2023 |

Options

38. Proceed with progression of improvement works as outline in this subject report including relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation, tender and construction.
39. Project does not proceed - this option is not recommended as the current condition of the playground has a number of associated risks and compliance issues.

Public Consultation

40. Community Consultation was undertaken as a two-part process: pre-consultation/early engagement and public consultation/exhibition. For a detailed description of the consultation process and findings - refer to Attachment C.
41. A pre-consultation notification letter/email was issued to residents. Three submissions were received during the pre-consultation period. The purpose of the early community consultation was to seek input from the community about how they use the playground and how the park could be improved
42. The public consultation/exhibition involved the following;
- (a) Letters advertising the online feedback portal were distributed to the Glebe area (within a 500 metre radius around the site). 432 invitations were distributed.
 - (b) A webpage on SydneyYourSay showing the plans for the consultation from 29 March 2021 to 26 April 2021. 120 individual users viewed the page.
 - (c) A pop-up consultation feedback session was held in the park from 5.00-6.00pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021. Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Respondents were also encouraged view the plans and provide feedback on the Have You Say website. Fourteen people attended the session which included nine adults and five children.

43. There were ten submissions received during the consultation period. This included submissions via email and the online feedback form.
44. The proposed works were well supported by the community and the responses highlighted that an upgrade to this park would increase the current use of this park. A summary and response to the key comments and suggestions are:
- (a) Support the relocation of playground to increase the amount of usable grass area for passive recreation (picnics and play) but do not want to encourage active uses and ball sports. The grass area will increase however the slope, size and shape of the area will not be inviting for active sports, and group ball activities so this should not be an issue. Park use will be monitored to ensure disruptive uses are minimised and everyone can enjoy the space.
 - (b) Concerns about increased noise from the playground and the proximity of adjacent residential houses. The proposed playground is a local scale facility and remains about the same size as the existing playground. No increase in noise is anticipated as a result of the playground renewal. Council staff will liaise with the adjacent neighbours to review and adjust the design to minimise impacts.
 - (c) The park is currently overshadowed by mature trees which make the park cold in winter and provide habitat for mosquitos in summer. All trees are inspected annually and pruned as needed to improve amenity and reduce the likelihood of branch or tree failure.
 - (d) Request that gates be installed at the park entries. The proposal includes a new low boundary wall along the street frontage to improve the amenity and reduce access to the street. Seats for parents and carers are also located near the entries to help people supervise children. This will help control egress and significantly improve safety in the park. Fenced playgrounds are provided at HJ Foley Rest Park, Glebe and The Crescent Playground, Annandale, nearby.
 - (e) Concerns about dogs being allowed in the park as they urinate/ defecate in the park. The park is designated on-leash and dogs are not permitted in the playgrounds. The park provides a through link to the Glebe foreshore which is an off-leash area and as such it would be unfeasible to restrict dogs in the park. The park design consolidates the grass into a large area and provide clearly defined spaces manage potential conflicts. Additional signage will be installed to remind people that dogs are not permitted in the playground and must be on-leash in the Blackwattle Park. A poo bag dispenser will also be provided on the garbage bin.
 - (f) Request to include more swings (two seats and one toddler bucket). Swings are the most popular and requested piece of play equipment, but unfortunately, they have a large footprint. Due to space constraints the inclusion of another swing is not possible in this park

- (g) Concerns about path material will difficult for prams and reduce accessibility. The proposed path material is either sandstone or brick paving. The surface finish will even and smooth to ensure the park can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone.
- (h) Request that barbeques be installed on the timber decks. The provision of barbeque and picnic facilities are included in destinations parks with toilets to help accommodates large groups and longer stays. The installation of a barbeque is not supported in this park to help minimise impacts on local residents.

AMIT CHANAN

Director City Projects and Property

Stephen Merchant, Senior Design Manager

Attachment A

<h2>Location Plan</h2>

Blackwattle Playground

Oxley Street, Glebe





Park entry looking north towards Blackwattle Bay – Small unusable grass areas in poor condition



Existing playground and street frontage looking south-west towards Leichhardt and Oxley Streets



Existing timber deck and stair access to the Glebe foreshore walk be repaired



Existing seat, playground and paving looking west – limited and poor understorey shrub plantings

Attachment B







Draft Concept Plan

Proposed improvements

- 01 Retain and protect existing mature trees
- 02 New low wall to street frontage
- 03 Paved park entries
- 04 Realign path to timber stairs and foreshore walk
- 05 Repairs to existing timber stairs and decks
- 06 New large open turf grass area for passive recreation
- 07 New play structure for children 2-10 years old with slides, cubby, climbing nets, bridge and deck.
- 08 New accessible play boat
- 09 Double swing set with one swing for all ages and one bucket cradle swing for toddlers
- 10 New nature play including balance beams, steppers, play tunnel, maritime ropes and buoy.
- 11 Tables and bench seats
- 12 New low terrace walls
- 13 Boundary edge and screen shrub planting
- 14 New habitat barrier fence
- 15 Bush restoration and habitat areas
- 16 New bubbler with dog bowl
- 17 Sandstone boulder rock scramble and stone steps
- 18 Widened footpath to improve accessibility



Key

-  Existing trees
-  Native low shrubs and groundcover planting
-  Turf grass
-  Path
-  Low brick and stone walls
-  Rubber soft-fall
-  Organic soft-fall
-  Timber bench seats
-  Timber table and seats
-  Bin
-  Bush restoration and habitat fence
-  Park Sign
-  Existing Ausgrid Energy substation



Attachment C

<h2>Engagement Report</h2>



Engagement report

Blackwattle Playground, Glebe

June 2021



Contents

Background	3
Engagement summary	4
Key findings	5
Engagement activities	10

Background

Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading more than 60 parks across the City of Sydney area, from small pocket parks to larger local parks.

Quality green open spaces are a high priority for our residents, workers and visitors. This network of park upgrades will create better quality open spaces for everyone to enjoy, help keep our city cooler, and support biodiversity in our local areas.

Prior to finalising the designs, we are consulting the community and stakeholders on these proposed park improvements. In 2021, we consulted on our stage 16 parks, which include:

- Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville
- **Blackwattle Playground, Glebe**
- Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville
- James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont
- Michael Kelly Rest Area, Newtown

Engagement summary

From 29 March to 26 April 2021, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve Blackwattle Playground in Glebe.

Consultation on the plan provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to review and comment on the design.

Consultation activities included online engagement, a letter to residents and project signage at the park.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about the proposed upgrade
 - determine the level of satisfaction with the revised concept design.
-

Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

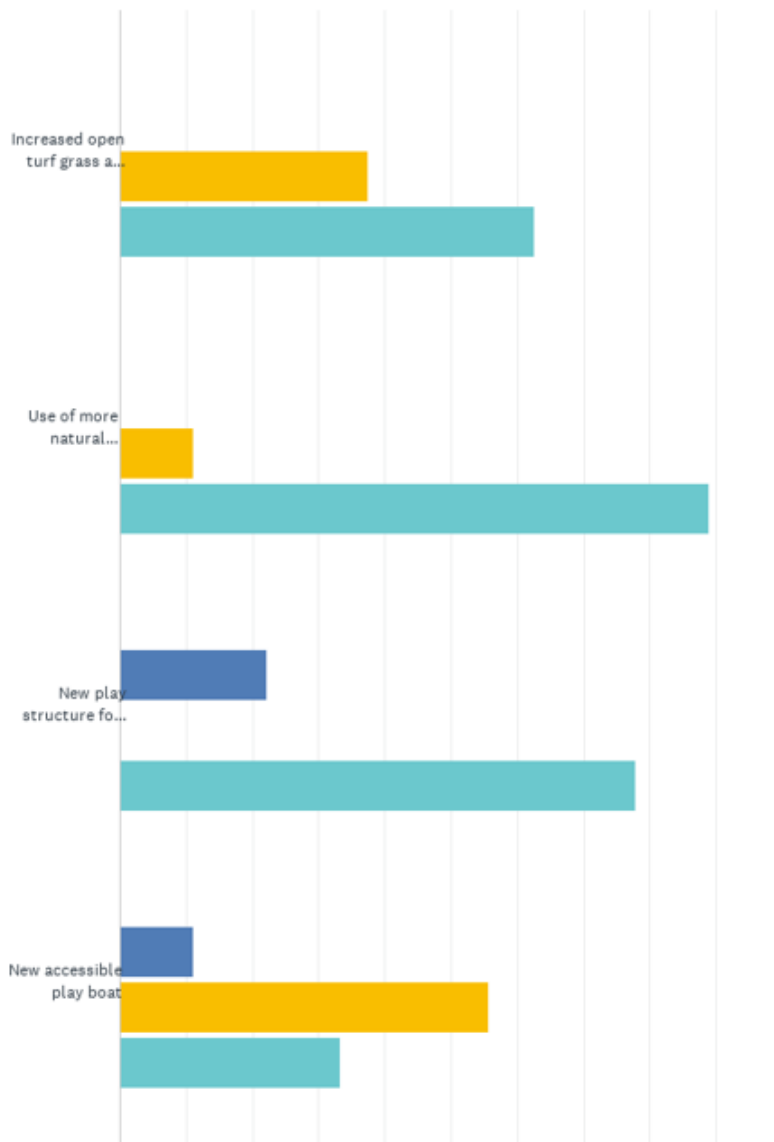
We received a total of 10 submissions via Survey Monkey during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 120 times during the consultation period.

Key findings

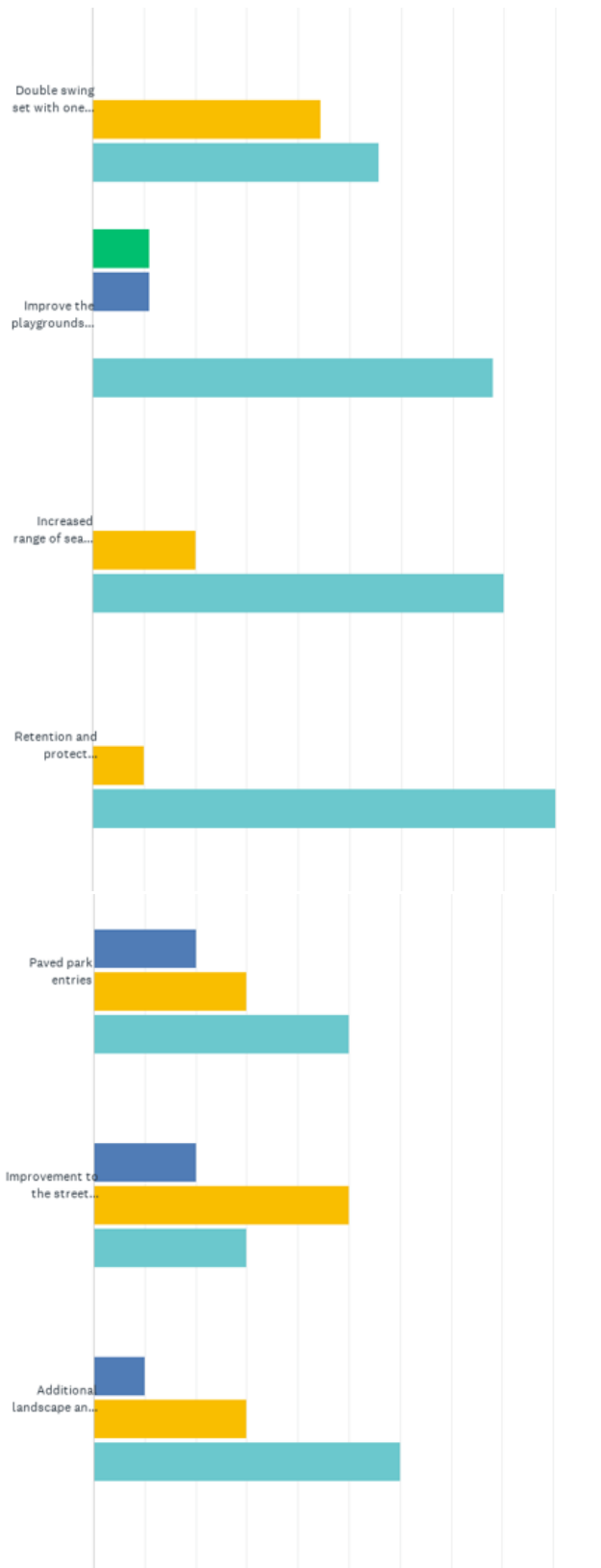
Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

Respondents who completed the online feedback form were asked to rate how important elements of the proposed design were to them. The results are below

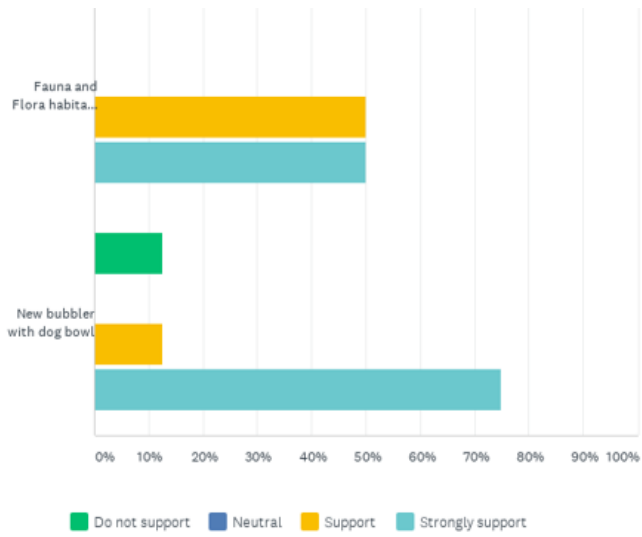
Q1 Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?



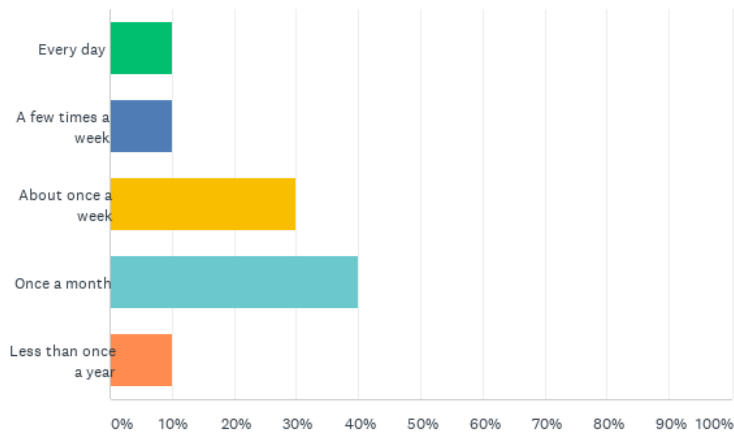
Engagement report



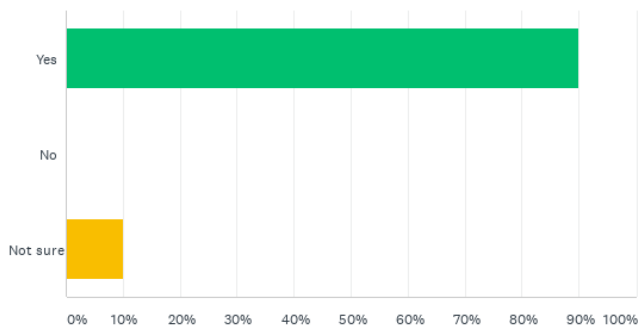
Engagement report



Q2 How often do you currently use the park?



Q3 Do you think that the upgrade would change your use of the park?



Subjects/topics raised in submissions

Several subjects/topics were raised in the feedback received. These were presented as concerns, suggestions and/or requests and are summarised below.

General		
Layout	Total	City of Sydney Response
Provision of low wall with gate to protect children from rushing onto the street.	1	
Request for bike racks.	1	
Ensure park is accessible with a pram. Stepping stone paving looks stylish however difficult to negotiate with a pram.	1	
Suggestion to gate the park with NO DOGS allowed. Issue with dog excrement is affecting enjoyment of the park particularly for users with families. One user recommended a path against the fence to allow dog owners passage to the foreshore where there is a large area for dogs to use.	1	
Include BBQ area and build direct timber stairs from existing deck down to the foreshore walk.	1	
Playspace	Total	City of Sydney Response
Mounting in the soft fall and turf areas and rock scrambling.	1	

Pop-up consultation session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held in the park from 5.00-6.00pm Tuesday on 20 April 2021.

Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Respondents were also encouraged view the plans and provide feedback on the Have You Say website. Fourteen people attended the session which included 9 adults and 5 children.

Overall the feedback was positive and concepts plans are well supported. A summary of the keys comments and suggestions are:

- Support relocation playground to increase the amount of usable grass area for passive recreation (picnics and play). Do not encourage active uses and ball sports
- Some concerns about increased noise from the playground and the proximity of adjacent residential houses

- The park is currently overshadowed by mature trees which make the park cold in winter and provide habitat for mosquitos in summer. Suggest some selective pruning of trees
- Include more swings (two seats and one toddler bucket)
- Slides are good and the bigger the better
- Additional signage needed at the entry stairs from the foreshore about Dogs On-leash near the playground
- Keep the park light near the playground which increased the hours of use and park usability during winter (short daylight hours)

Pre consultation feedback

Prior to undertaking general community consultation on the proposal, the City undertook some early consultation work in late 2020 to ask local residents how often they use the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

Three people responded during this time stating:

- they would like the boat to remain in the design
- more seating should be provided
- children currently enjoy the swing and climbing equipment

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 432 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

A pop-up session was held in the park on 20 April from 5pm to 6pm. This was attended by 9 adults and 5 children.

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-proposed-design-playground-blackwattle-bay-park-glebe> was created. The page included an electronic copy of the revised concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.

2. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

3. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 432 letters were distributed.

4. Community meeting

A pop-up session was held in the park on 20 April from 5pm to 6pm. This was attended by 9 adults and 5 children.

Document is Restricted

Item 4.

Project Scope - Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville

File No: X038090

Summary

This report outlines the proposed improvements for Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville. The playground has been identified as part of the small parks and playgrounds improvement program.

The objective of the proposal is to provide an improved park and playground which supports the needs for the range of local users including individuals, informal and formal community groups.

The project brief is to refurbish the play area including: replace end of life equipment and soft fall as required, increase the range of play experiences, improve safety and access into the park, additional seating, provide a space for social gathering and associated landscape improvements.

The Draft Concept Plan was on public exhibition from 29 March 2021 to 26 April 2021. A letter was distributed in the local area and the proposal was exhibited on the City's website. The proposed works are supported by the community and the response highlighted that an upgrade of this park would increase the current use of the park.

Community feedback was broadly in support of the proposal. Community suggestions will be incorporated as part of the detailed design phase where possible and additional information has been provided as requested.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the scope of improvement works to Ethel Street Playground as described in the subject report and shown in the Draft Concept Plan at Attachment B to the subject report for progression to relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation, tender and construction; and
- (B) note the estimated project forecast as outlined in Confidential Attachment D to the subject report.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Location Plan
- Attachment B.** Draft Concept Plan
- Attachment C.** Engagement Report
- Attachment D.** Financial Implications (Confidential)

Background

1. The City has an ongoing small parks and playgrounds improvement program. The program is for parks which need upgrade or enhancement works, the replacement of end-of-life equipment, and to provide appropriate facilities for local-resident.
2. Ethel Street is a small local sized playground located in a central median in Ethel Street, Erskineville. The playground is surrounded by a 10kmph Shared Zone road and on-street parking. Refer to Attachment A - Location Plan.
3. The park has a very small area of land (125m²) and is surrounded by low density 1-3 storey residential terrace houses and apartment buildings. The area is a Heritage Conservation Area C23 – Kingsclear. The land is owned by City of Sydney and is within the road reserve.
4. The area that includes Erskineville is within the traditional homelands of the Gadigal and Wangal people, two of the 29 clan groups of the Sydney metropolitan area that are collectively referred to as the Eora Nation.
5. Ethel Street (unnamed) is shown on the MacDonalddtown Parish of Petersham Map 1886-1888 and the median is evident in the City of Sydney Aerial Photographic Survey 1949_Image 99. A playground is identified on the City of Sydney Building Surveyors Plans 1949-1972 Section 19 Erskineville. A 1977 photograph of a treeless Ethel Street shows a fenced playground with swing and slide. The playground had a minor refurbishment in 2010 and the Shared Zone was established around the park.
6. Ethel Street Playground is a small local scale play space located in a narrow central median and therefore is very constrained in the type of play opportunity as well as safety considerations. A shared zone around the park prioritises pedestrians and helps improve safety. The park and playground consist of a swing and see-saw and small turf grass and includes a low timber barrier fence, park signage, timber bench seats and concrete stools and low shrub plantings.
7. The small park has a relaxed and informal character that reflects the neighbourhood. The median reserve has a mix of deciduous trees and is in a beautiful treelined street.
8. The original vegetation would have likely been Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. The park has four trees with a mix of exotic trees including Jacarandas, Honey Locust and Plane tree. The surrounding street trees are predominantly small native trees including melaleuca and water gums. Due to overshadowing and compaction the turf grass quality is poor.
9. Ethel Street Playground was identified for an upgrade due to the overall condition of the reserve including the condition of the existing playground. The existing park layout remains generally the same.
10. Consideration has been given to the provision of play equipment in surrounding parks within a 500 metre radius, to ensure a coordinated network of facilities that caters for a broad range of park users.

Draft Concept Plan

11. A concept plan was developed for the works and community consultation was undertaken (refer Attachment B).
12. The concept plan sets the overall layout. The key principles are:
 - (a) provide an accessible, welcoming, and safe park for the community and visitors.
 - (b) provide a local scale play space which improves the play opportunities for local children with a range structured equipment, imaginative and nature play elements.
 - (c) provide a range of seating opportunities which encourage social interaction and local community gatherings; and
 - (d) use simple, robust, high quality materials which reflect the local neighbourhood character.
13. The proposal includes the following works:
 - (a) refurbish the existing park benches and provide a new communal bench;
 - (b) replace existing swing and provide new nature play elements including sandstone boulders, steppingstones, balance beams and timber platform;
 - (c) increase and improve open turf grass area for passive recreation;
 - (d) improve the barrier edge and bollard protection around the park and provide a low fence;
 - (e) a new kerb ramp to provide inclusive access to park facility and playground;
 - (f) additional traffic calming measures including a speed hump and planting island to reduce vehicle speeds near the playground and improve safety;
 - (g) new groundcover and low shrub plantings; and
 - (h) the provision of a plinth for an ongoing program of small public artwork sculptures curated in collaboration with the Tom Bass Studios nearby.
14. In response to the public consultation, the following will be investigated and incorporated where possible in the detailed design as noted on Attachment C
 - (a) a review of the timber barrier rail alignment and infill fence panels alignment, height and design;
 - (b) investigations will be undertaken to identify additional signage and line-marking which can improve safety in the area;
 - (c) adjustments to the speed hump and planted island median to allow pedestrian to cross the road and maximise permissible parking spaces; and
 - (d) reviewing the organic mulch surfaces and edge treatments to minimise material spilling onto the road.

15. The following tree management and planting is proposed as part of the park works:
 - (a) retain and protect all existing trees; and
 - (b) preparation of an Aboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan to inform the detailed design and ensure appropriate construction methodology.
16. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) will be lodged for the works in accordance with the Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979 and the State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure 2007.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

17. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - this project will provide an improved open space infrastructure which meets the needs of a wide variety of user groups and provides opportunities for social interaction.
 - (b) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - this project is part of wider program of ongoing renewal of small parks across the local government area; it will provide improved quality of open space infrastructure.
18. The draft Green Sydney Strategy establishes targets to increase greening and tree canopy in the City. It includes strategic directions to ensure we distribute quality greening fairly across the city so that everyone shares the benefits provided by greening. This project aligns with the following directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 3 – Cool and calm spaces. Two key issues facing most of the city's residents relate to high urban heat and impacts on physical and mental health.

Greening for All

- (b) Action 4 – Distribute greening equitably. The strategy target is to establish 30 per cent canopy cover, within an area of around 1.6 kilometres to provide key heat and health benefits. The existing tree canopy cover in the park is about 70% which exceeds this target.
- (c) Action 5 – Provide fair access to quality green space. This project will improve access in the park and provides an improved open space infrastructure to meets the needs of a wide variety of users.
- (d) Action 6 – Adapt for climate. This project will provide additional landscape planting and reduces the hard surface areas to reduce heat and increase water infiltration. Furniture and materials will be refurbished or recycled were possible.

Cool Calm Spaces

- (e) Action 8 – Cool the hot spots. Cool streets improve the walkability and liveability of our city. The project will enhance and improve the amenity and usability of an important and well used small park. The tree canopy and planting has been maintained or increased.
- (f) Action 9 – Calm green spaces. The proposed refurbishment provides a range of spaces including an open turf grass area for passive recreation, bench seats and social gatherings.

Organisational Impact

- 19. This upgrade will provide an improved park amenity and play experience for children, their carers and other community members visiting the park. The replacement of non-compliant assets represents a removal/mitigation of risk to the City. The assets will require ongoing maintenance.
- 20. The proposal includes a plinth for the potential installation of small public art sculptures in collaboration with the Tom Bass Studios nearby. To enable the installation of sculptures by Tom Bass students as part of their public artwork curriculum, an arrangement that complies with the Roads Act 1993 (NSW) will be considered..

Risks

- 21. Risks of not implementing the scope of these works include potential failure of play infrastructure and risk to the community. Daily inspections are carried out by the City as per standard parks and playground maintenance operations
- 22. Risks of not implementing this scope of works include a failure to meet community expectations.

Social / Cultural / Community

- 23. Ethel Street playground is unique, well used, and an important social space for the local community. Improving the amenity and play offering within the park represents an investment in this community, providing opportunities for people of different ages and abilities to use the park alongside each other.
- 24. The proposal includes the installation of a plinth for the installation of public artwork sculptures by Tom Bass Studio students, subject to a suitable arrangement being established. This will help foster a connection with the surrounding neighbourhood and will be new cultural focal point for the local community.

Environmental

- 25. Enhancement of planting is consistent with the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan and Urban Tree Canopy objectives.

Financial Implications

- 26. There are sufficient funds in the current year capital works budget and future year forward estimates to deliver this project. Current cost estimates and financial implications are detailed in Confidential Attachment D.

Relevant Legislation

27. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
28. Attachment D to the subject report contains confidential commercial information which if disclosed, would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
29. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its rate payers.
30. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
31. State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure 2007.
32. Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.
33. Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
34. Companion Animals Act 1998
35. Roads Act 1993.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

36. Current Program Dates
 - (a) Detailed Design July - December 2021
 - (b) Tender February 2022
 - (c) Construction Start May 2022
 - (d) Construction Completion January 2023

Options

37. Proceed with progression of improvement works as outlined in the subject report including relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation, tender and construction.
38. Project does not proceed - this option is not recommended as the current condition of the playground has a number of associated risks and compliance issues.

Public Consultation

39. Community Consultation was undertaken as a two-part process: pre-consultation/early engagement and public consultation/exhibition. For a detailed description of the consultation process and findings refer to Attachment C
40. A pre-consultation notification letter/email was issued to residents. Eighty-nine submissions were received during the pre-consultation period. The purpose of the early community consultation was to seek input from the community about how they use the playground and how the park could be improved
41. The public consultation/exhibition involved the following:
 - (a) Letters advertising the online feedback portal were distributed to the Erskineville area (within a 500metre radius around the site). Approximately 1133 invitations were distributed.
 - (b) A webpage on SydneyYourSay showing the plans for the consultation from 29 March 2021 to 26 April 2021. 235 individual users viewed the page.
 - (c) An online Zoom consultation feedback session was held in the park from 5.00-6.00pm Wednesday on 21 April 2021. Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Respondents were also encouraged view the plans and provide feedback on the Have You Say website. One person attended the session.
42. There were 15 submissions received during the consultation feedback. This included submissions via an online feedback form, post and the Sydney Your Say email address.
43. The proposed works are supported by the community and the responses highlighted that an upgrade to this park would increase the current use of this park. A summary and response to the key comments is outlined below:
 - (a) Two submissions referred to issues of vehicles hitting the existing fence due to its close location to the road and concerns about feeling caged in by the new fence. The existing playground includes a timber rail which provides a safe barrier between the park users and cars. The provision of additional infill fence panels was identified in the pre-consultation to improve safety for young children. The alignment of the timber barrier rail will be moved away from the kerb to eliminate the likelihood of vehicles hitting the fence. Also the height of the infill fence panels will be reduced to 600mm to minimise the caged feeling and improve the visual amenity.
 - (b) Two submissions related to providing additional traffic directional signage to help people particularly delivery drivers navigate around the narrow streets and reduce volumes around the park. Significant changes to traffic flows in the precinct will need a broader traffic study and modelling which is beyond project brief. Investigations will be undertaken to identify additional signage and line-marking which can improve safety in the area.

- (c) Two submissions suggested the new speed hump and traffic calming measures are not needed due to narrow street widths. The new traffic claiming is proposed in response to community feedback about safety around the playground. The speed hump will help reduce vehicles speeds in the 10km Shared Zone. A review of the speed hump and planted island median design will be undertaken to allow pedestrian to cross the road and maximise permissible parking spaces.
- (d) One submission raised concerns about dogs being allowed in the park as they urinate on the synthetic grass softfall and concrete stools. Community feedback in pre-consultation/early engagement indicates the small grass area is important to residents for dog exercise and toileting. The existing concrete stools will be cleaned and moved out of the turf areas to improve use of the space. The playground is inspected daily and regularly cleaned including softfall. Dogs are not permitted in the playground area.
- (e) One submission suggested additional motor scooter parking be provided on Clara Street. This would change parking configuration in the area is beyond the project requirements. These suggestions have been directed to the City Traffic Area Manager for consideration.

AMIT CHANAN

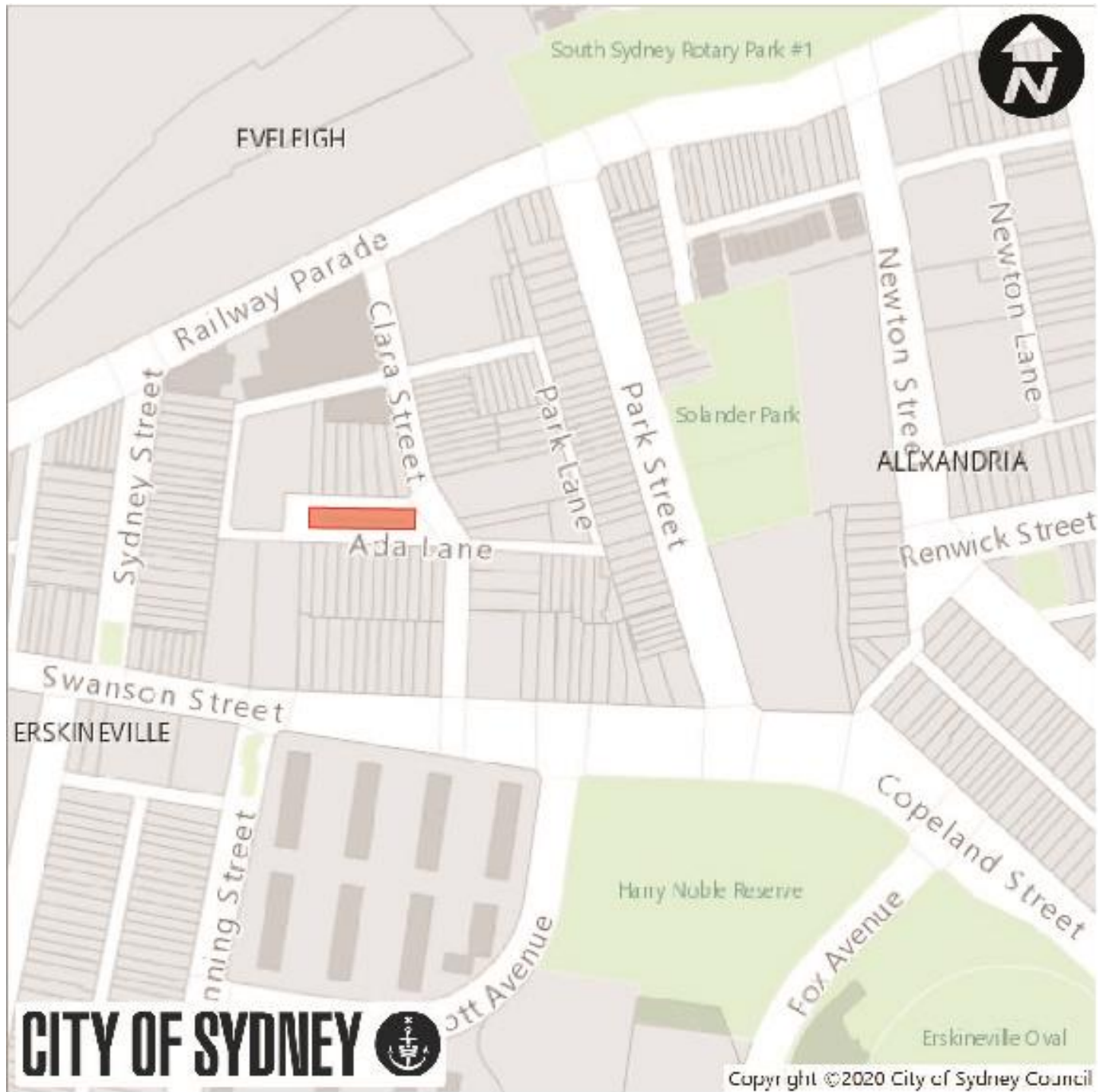
Director City Projects and Property

Stephen Merchant, Senior Design Manager

Attachment A

<h2>Location Plan</h2>

Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville





Ethel Street Playground – looking northwest



Existing worn turf grass areas and swings looking south-west



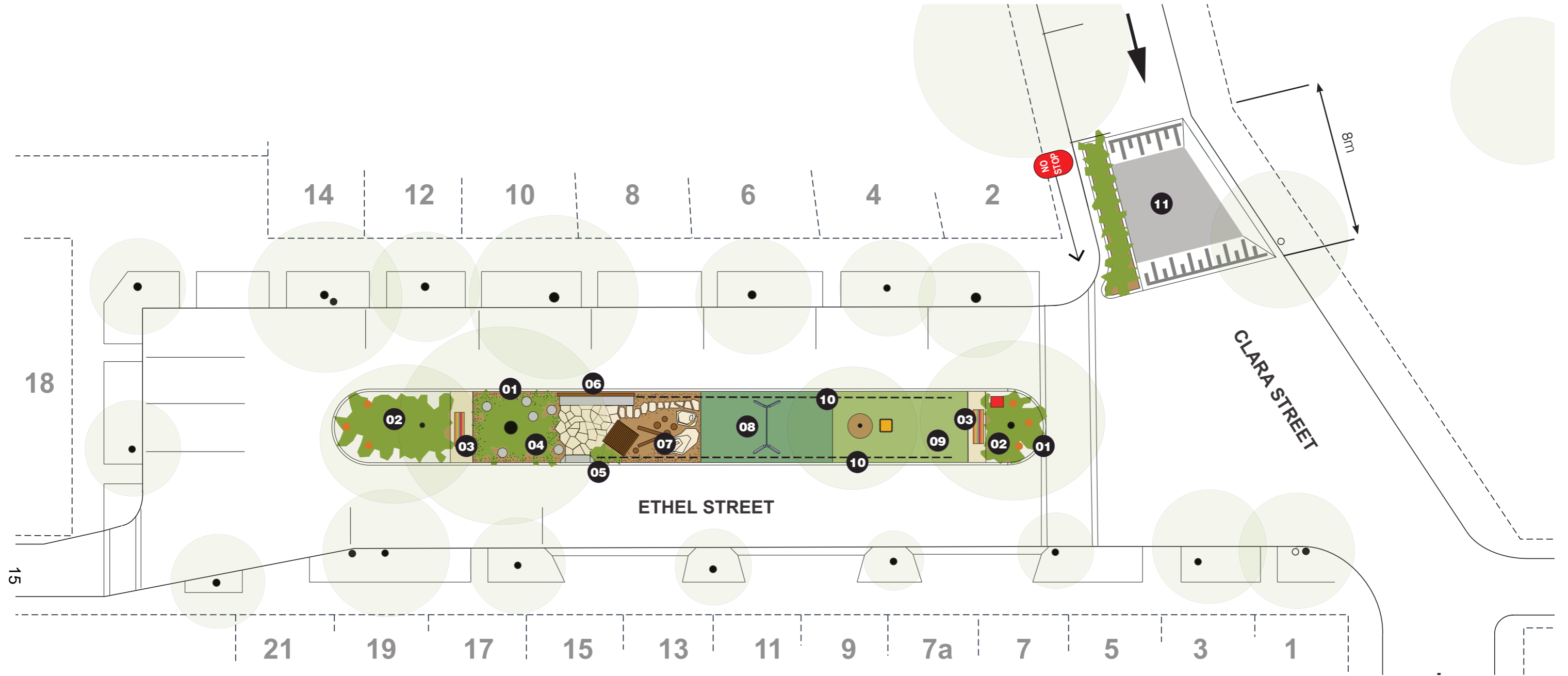
Existing seating and timber barrier rail to be refurbished














Existing bare tree understorey areas looking west

Attachment B

Draft Concept Plan



Key

-  Existing trees
-  Low shrubs and groundcover planting
-  Turf grass
-  Stone paving
-  Synthetic grass or rubber soft-fall
-  Organic mulch soft fall
-  Timber bench seats
-  Barrier fence
-  Park sign
-  Bollards set back from kerb
-  Potential public art collaboration with Tom Bass Studios

Proposed improvements

- 01** Retain and protect existing mature trees
- 02** Additional ground cover planting
- 03** Re-furnished park benches on decomposed gravel
- 04** Relocate existing concrete stools
- 05** New kerb ramp access to park
- 06** New communal bench seat with back-rest
- 07** New nature play including balance beams, steppers, deck platform, and sandstone boulders.
- 08** New single swing and synthetic grass or rubber soft-fall
- 09** Improve existing turf grass area
- 10** Replace and extend the existing barrier with a 750mm high fence
- 11** New speed cushion located within 'No Stopping' zone to reduce vehicle speed near the park.



Ethel Street Playground Upgrade- DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN



THROSBY
FEB 2021

Attachment C

<h2>Engagement Report</h2>



Engagement report

Ethel Street playground, Erskineville

June 2021



Contents

Background	3
Engagement summary	4
Key findings	5
Engagement activities	10

Background

Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading more than 60 parks across the City of Sydney area, from small pocket parks to larger local parks.

Quality green open spaces are a high priority for our residents, workers and visitors. This network of park upgrades will create better quality open spaces for everyone to enjoy, help keep our city cooler, and support biodiversity in our local areas.

Prior to finalising the designs, we are consulting the community and stakeholders on these proposed park improvements. In 2021, we consulted on our stage 16 parks, which include:

- **Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville**
- Blackwattle Playground, Glebe
- Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville
- James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont
- Michael Kelly Rest Area, Newtown

Engagement summary

From 29 March to 26 April 2021, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve Ethel Street playground in Erskineville

Consultation on the plan provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to review and comment on the design.

Consultation activities included online engagement, a letter to residents and project signage at the park.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about the proposed upgrade
 - determine the level of satisfaction with the revised concept design.
-

Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

We received a total of 15 submissions via Survey Monkey during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 235 times during the consultation period.

Key findings

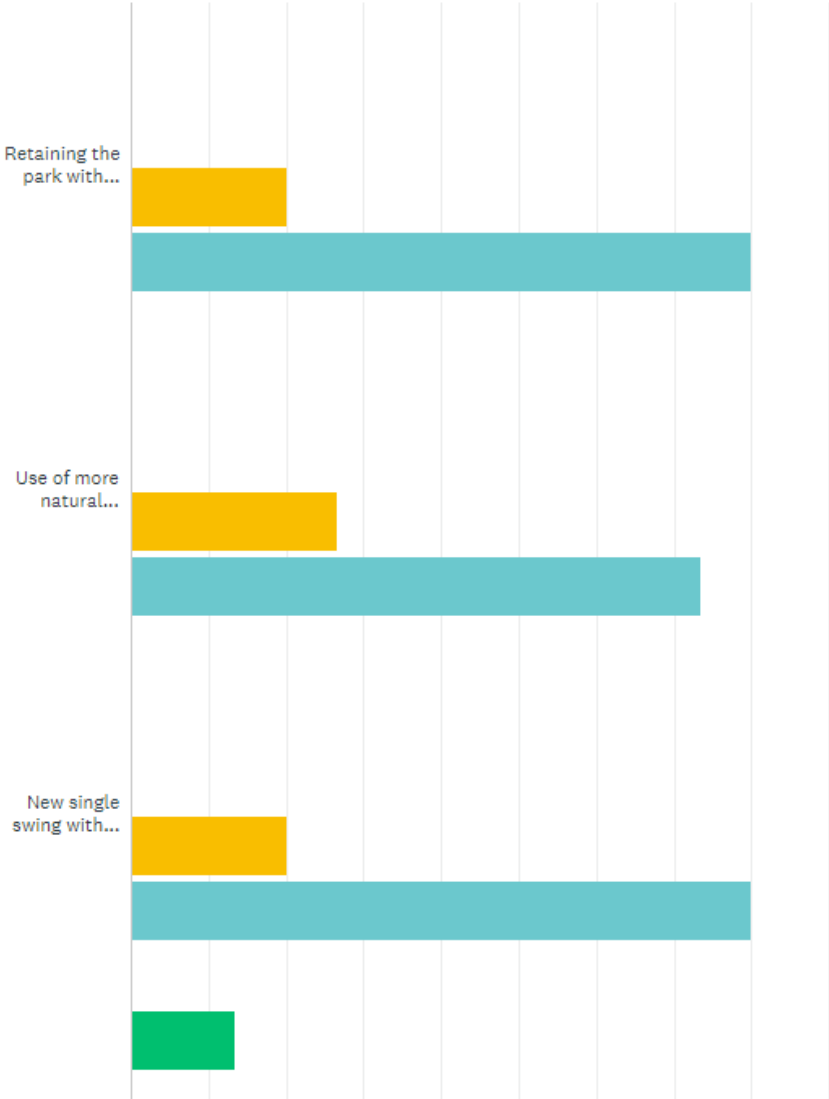
Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

Respondents who completed the online feedback form were asked to rate how important elements of the proposed design were to them. The results are below:

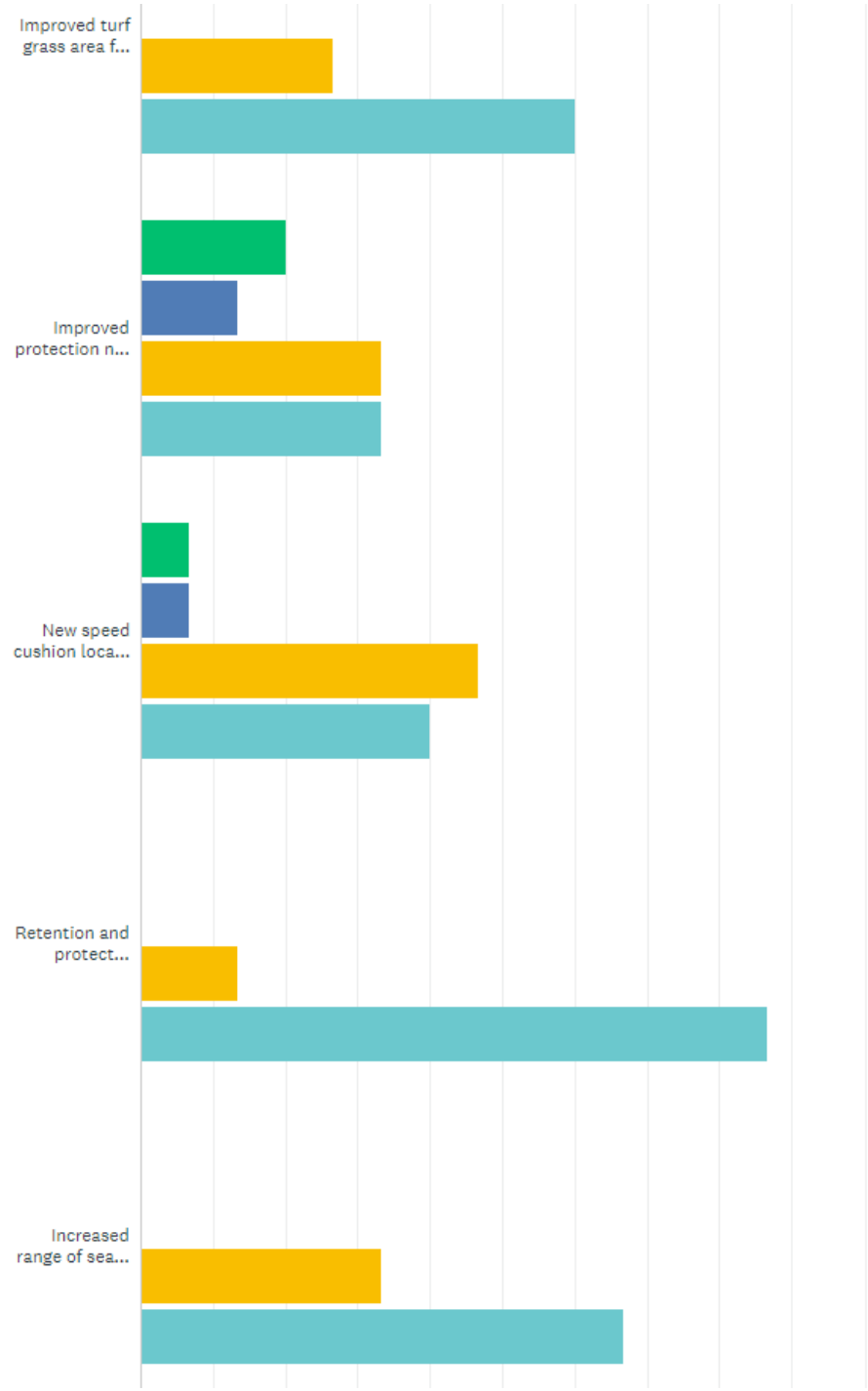
Q1

Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

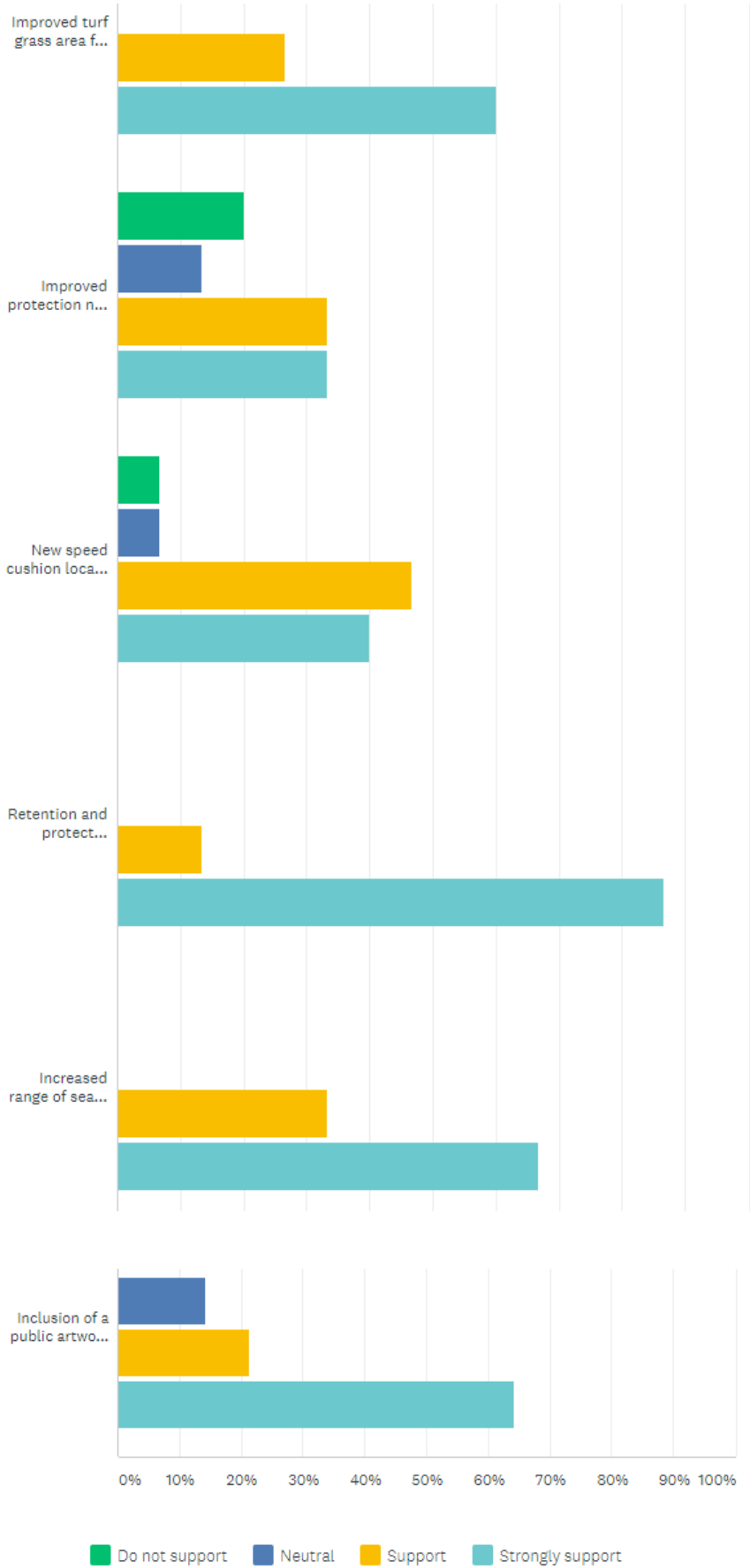
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Engagement report: Improving Ethel Street playground, Erskineville

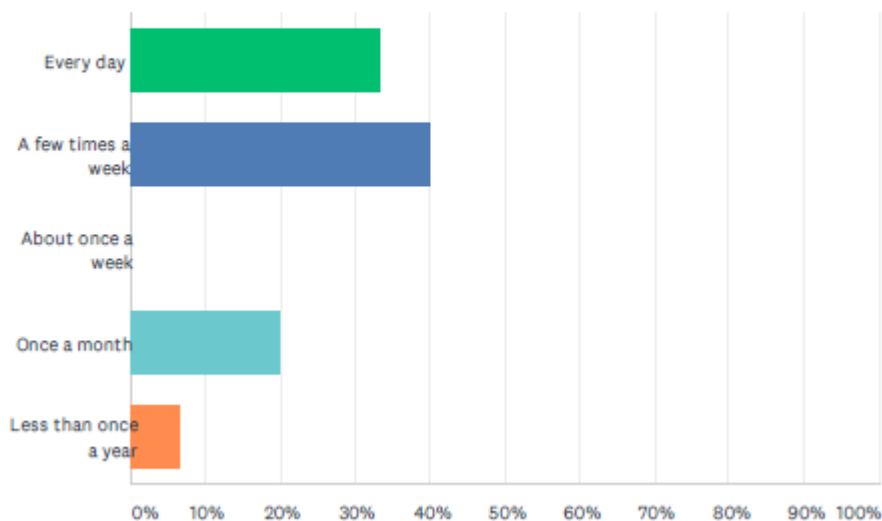


Engagement report: Improving Ethel Street playground, Erskineville



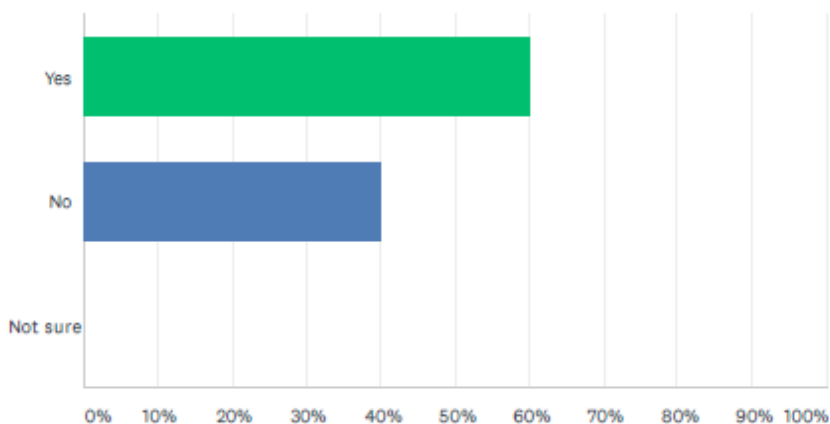
Q2 How often do you currently use the park?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Q3 Do you think that the upgrade would change your use of the park?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Subjects/topics raised in submissions

Several subjects/topics were raised in the feedback received. These were presented as concerns, suggestions and/or requests and are summarised below.

General		
Layout	Total	City of Sydney Response
Provision of direction signage/sign post with arrows to indicate the driver that they can drive	2	

Engagement report: Improving Ethel Street playground, Erskineville

along the lane (behind Sydney street) to access the two-way sections of Clara street		
Provision of parking space for motorbike or scooter on Clara street, under the large Lilipilli tree	1	
Do not enclose the space under the new benches as it will become a breeding ground for mosquitos	1	
No new speed cushion required on Clara or Ethel streets, not require having a new traffic calming island	2	
Use soft fall rather than synthetic turf in the swing area	1	
Bench do not require armrests	1	
Clean the concrete stools regularly	1	
Playspace	Total	City of Sydney Response
Avoid putting fencing around the playground area / no infill fence panels	2	
Avoid causing significant disruption during the refurb time	1	
No dog (leashed or unleashed) being allowed in the park	1	
Use a more permanent surface (such as soft fall or pebble dash) instead of using mulch	2	

Zoom consultation session

A Zoom consultation feedback session was held on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. One resident attended this session.

Feedback from this session is captured in the table above.

Pre consultation feedback

Prior to undertaking general community consultation on the proposal, the City undertook some early consultation work in late 2020 to ask local residents how often they use the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

Eighty-eight responses were received during the pre-consultation period. Ideas and suggestions helped to shape the Concept Plan. Key themes from the pre-consultation were:

- The median park and playground are unique, loved, well used and important social space for the local community and should be retained.
- The playground equipment is old and should be replaced. Use more natural materials and increase play opportunities would be well received.
- The park provides a good mix of spaces and recreation opportunities with seats, play space, flexible open turf grass, shrubs planting and trees.
- Improve the barrier fence and enhancing the traffic calming measures in the surrounding streets.
- Provide more seats and increase the range of seating opportunities for social gatherings.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 1133 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

A Zoom session was held in the park on 21 April. This was attended by one resident.

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-proposed-design-for-ethel-street-playground-erskineville> was created. The page included an electronic copy of the revised concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.

2. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

3. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 1133 letters were distributed.

4. Community Zoom meeting

A Zoom session was held in the park on 21 April. This was attended by one resident.

Document is Restricted