

Attachment C

Engagement Feedback Table

Improving Palmerston Avenue Steps and Sarah Peninton Reserve, Glebe - Engagement Summary

From 17 May to 14 June 2019 we asked the community for feedback on a concept design for a plan to improve Palmerston Avenue Steps and Sarah Peninton Reserve in Glebe. We received a total of 28 submissions during the public exhibition period.

A table of the feedback received is below, with responses from the City provided for each subject raised. We have also included the total amount of times each subject was raised.

Subjects raised in submissions

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
Access	<p>Propose mechanical intervention</p> <p>Suggestions to install a lift, hillside inclinator, or moving pathway to allow safer and easier access up or down the hill.</p>	3	Noted. The suggestion of a lift, hillside inclinator or moving pathway has been assessed not feasible as part of this scope and the impact on Palmerston Avenue Steps is not supported.
	<p>Safety and accessibility (concerns)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steps and whole footpath presently unsafe and non-compliant - Concern concept design does not sufficiently address access and safety issues. - Will it be wheelchair and pram accessible? Please if you put in the ramp, consider consulting an occupational therapist for the acceptable gradient for elderly people. - Better surface finish to prevent accidents. - Plan does not address accessibility issues from Glebe Point Road to light rail. 	4	<p>As part of the park's upgrade we will be providing seating to deliver rest spots along the pathway, make upgrades the stairs and surface material as well as provide handrails to aid accessibility.</p> <p>An access consultant has been engaged and will be consulted throughout the design phases to ensure that accessibility requirements have been considered and can be readily achieved.</p>
	<p>Safety and accessibility (support for existing measures)</p> <p>The existing path has good grip and does not need to be replaced (i.e. removing the current path is a waste of money). The existing path is perfectly placed for people to have the most direct access and that's what locals want.</p>	1	Noted.
	<p>Request additional ramp / stairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for ramp access instead/as well as stairs to Lombard Street - Suggestion to install a switchback pathway may be possible (there is an unattractive one at the Jubilee Park Light Rail Stop) but the park would be carved up 	5	<p>It is acknowledged that the sites topography is steep. The large spatial impact that an accessible ramp to Australian Standards would have on the green-space provision at Palmerston Avenue Steps is not supported.</p> <p>Where possible, ramp access is preferred to provide equitable access for all, including the</p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A ramp would make this area more useable for travellers, the elderly and people with mobility aids. - Suggestion to include a more extensive accessible pathway such as more steps 		<p>weekly waste collection for neighbouring residents.</p> <p>An access consultant has been engaged and will be consulted throughout the design phases to ensure that accessibility requirements have been considered and can be readily achieved.</p>
	<p>Pedestrian crossing</p> <p>Is it necessary to put a pedestrian crossing at the end of a dead-end street that sees the little traffic in the avenue travelling at speeds of less than 8kph? Especially if it takes away more parking spaces.</p>	1	<p>Currently pedestrian access across the road is unmarked but parking bays have been defined to accommodate. The concept includes stamping the asphalt across the road to formalise pedestrian movement.</p> <p>Parking along Keegan Avenue will not be altered as part of this park upgrade.</p>
	<p>Ferry Road connection</p> <p>Will the design provide access From Ferry Road to Glebe Light Rail?</p>	1	<p>No, the upgrade of Palmerston Avenue Steps and Sarah Peninton Reserve does not extend outside of the park's boundary.</p>
	<p>Balustrading (support)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another short railing on the right hand side of these two steps would be invaluable, as the left hand side has no railing due to existing access to adjoining properties. - Support for the provision of balustrading in lower Palmerston Avenue Steps 	3	<p>The concept includes a balustrade on the right hand side of the first set of stairs from Glebe Light Rail Station, extending the handrail provision.</p>
	<p>Pram ramps (concerns)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question the need for a pram ramp - too steep and parents tend to use Marlborough Street instead to get up to Glebe Point Road. - Pram ramps are tokenistic and do nothing to accommodate access for the disabled or prams 	3	<p>Where possible, pram ramps are installed to assist access and movement for all. Installing pram ramps along Palmerston Avenue Steps will improve access for users with bikes, suitcases and neighbouring residents with bins.</p>
	<p>Pram ramp (propose)</p> <p>Comment that a pram ramp was recently removed from Lombard Street which provided accessible access to the footpath adjacent to the park.</p>	1	<p><i>This is not part of the scope for this work.</i></p> <p><i>All feedback received outside the project scope has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</i></p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
Layout	<p>New entry at Lombard St (support)</p> <p>Request to replace the existing timber landing on Lombard St with paving to reduce noise impacts on adjacent house.</p>	2	Noted
	<p>New entry at Lombard St (oppose)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating new stairs at the other side of Lombard street entry doesn't add any value/ is unnecessary. - The new steps do not follow a natural traffic flow - people will want to naturally go straight up the stairs, not divert to the right after having walked up a steep hill. - The new steps will not be well utilised and cannot be justified on a cost-benefit basis. - The upper entry to the new stairs is obscured and blocked by parked cars - Increases hard surfaces at the cost of natural habitat. - The entire new proposed entrance area would be better filled with additional plantings. 	5	<p>The new entry at Lombard Street will improve sightlines and passive surveillance into the park as well as provide secondary access for users and maintenance.</p> <p>The concept retains the mature fig tree while providing alternate access outside of the structural root zone.</p> <p>We have engaged an arborist to assess the trees and provide plans to help guide the upgrade.</p>
	<p>New seating area in upper Palmerston (oppose)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern antisocial behaviour (including smoking and litter) - Increases the amount of hard space vs green space in the park - It is not a sitting park it is a walkway. - The extent of the brick paving in front of the seat is unneeded. - Putting a seat for people under the tree serves no purpose it will give Council a good excuse to cut down the big old tree 	9	<p>A range of seating opportunities throughout the reserve will aid accessibility along the path of travel and deliver spaces for rest and relaxation. Paving extent under seating will be considered during detail design.</p> <p>The concept retains the mature fig tree while providing seating opportunities outside of the structural root zone.</p> <p>We have engaged an arborist to assess the trees and provide plans to help guide the upgrade.</p>
	<p>Propose terracing Palmerston Ave Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The reserve is quite steep and narrow. Without substantial terracing, it is not usable parkland. - Suggestion to terrace Palmerston Avenue Steps 	2	<p>The suggestion of terracing the park was considered by has been assessed not feasible due to a number of factors including existing services and access.</p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
Materials and furniture	Lighting (concerns) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current site is dark - The current lighting is concentrated at the intersection of Keegan and Palmerston Avenues plus another light between Keegan and the end of the park. - Creates sources of high light pollution while leaving parts of the park in complete darkness. A more distributed system of lighting would address these issues. - Improved lighting around the cliff face would make light rail commuters feel safer when using that pathway. 	5	<p>A lighting audit has been undertaken.</p> <p>Where lighting levels are non-compliant, fixtures or fittings owned by The City will be upgraded. Where the asset is not owned by The City, we will notify the asset owner and recommend for upgrade/improvement.</p>
	Proposed seating (concerns) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern seating materials are too hard/cold and have no back (not appropriate for older people) 	2	Noted. This will be included as part of detail design.
	Park activation provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install 1-2 all-weather tables 	1	This is not part of the scope of this project.
	Dog refuse and water tap requests <p>Please provide dog bags on the bins, signage and enforcement in Sarah Peninton Reserve</p>	5	Noted. This will be included as part of detail design.
	Proposed water tap (support) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for adding a tap in lower Palmerston Avenue - In the proposed plans it is not clear whether the existing tap in upper Palmerston Avenue would remain. We strongly ask that this tap be retained, in addition to a new tap being located in lower Palmerston Avenue. - Such a tap is urgently required as Keegan Avenue, which separates the upper and lower sections of the site and the Palmerston Avenue walkway, is especially busy during morning & evening peak hours. - A hose stretching across this roadway (as presently required) is an obvious trip hazard not only for passers-by, but also for our volunteers. 	2	The concept design retains the current tap provision in upper Palmerston and proposes a tap in lower Palmerston.
	Dog bowl request <p>If a new drinking fountain is installed, can it also have the dog sipper at the bottom like the one at Harold Park. These can quite literally be life savers for our K9 friends during summer.</p>	1	Noted. This will be included as part of the detailed design.

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
	<p>Bike rack location (concern)</p> <p>Bike racks are hardly ever used - either not useful to the community, or in the wrong place. Considering the plan the bike racks also seem to protrude across the natural walking line and hence create an obstacle for pedestrians plus they seem to require taking/paving of an area of the garden bed. If the bike racks are 'a requirement' I suggest they be re-located.</p>	1	Noted. This will be included as part of the detailed design.
	<p>Furniture provision (support)</p> <p>Support for the following aspects of the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing new seating, and - providing new bike racks and a bin. 	2	Noted
Planting	<p>Oleander removal (oppose)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - still provide habit for wildlife in the area and the plants soften the view of a brick wall - the 'toxic' trees are not in an area that people access/play - privacy concerns from residents in units on Lombard St. These plants are estimated to be 6-8 metres high. It is unlikely that any replacement plantings would be anywhere near tall enough to provide the privacy we currently enjoy. 	3	<p>Noted. We have engaged an arborist to assess the trees and provide plans to help guide the upgrade.</p> <p>The trees for removal were identified to be in poor condition.</p> <p>Replacement species will be selected to ensure screening to neighbouring residents and light rail corridor is provided.</p> <p>The park's planting palette is to be confirmed during detailed design phase in coordination with The City's urban ecologist and the local Bush Care Group.</p>
	<p>Oleander removal (support)</p> <p>Support for the removal of eight plants of the toxic species Nerium olander which will be replaced by screen plantings</p>	2	Noted.
	<p>Request for additional tree removal (Celtis)</p> <p>The removal of a Celtis sinensis tree in lower Palmerston Avenue is an urgent priority. The tree is an invasive weed. It should then be replaced by a new tree from the Species Planting List recommended by Council.</p>	2	<p>Noted. These trees are not located within Palmerston Avenue Steps.</p> <p>All feedback received outside the project scope and boundary has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>
	<p>Request for additional tree removal (Poplars)</p> <p>Remove the dangerous old dying poplars on the north of the new steps alignment.</p>	1	<p>We have engaged an arborist to assess the trees. The poplar was not identified for removal.</p> <p>The feedback received has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
	<p>Fig tree retention (concern)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern work at upper Palmerston will adversely impact root zone of the large and old fig tree at the top of this park which, I believe, may be listed on Council's significant tree register. - Please do nothing to undermine the health of the giant fig tree. It is one of the few big original trees in the neighbourhood and an important feeding place for flying foxes - I assume that the tree will be cut back to meet the proposed design. Given this is a central part of the upper part of the steps, I'm surprised it's not specifically mentioned. While most residents support retention of the tree, we are aware of the challenges that it presents. Request to provide a clear tree management plan to address this issue. - Concern that putting a seat and new path near Lombard St will put the Fig tree at future risk if deemed too dangerous for humans sit under it due to falling branches. 	4	<p>There are no trees within Palmerston Avenue listed on the City's Significant Tree Register. We have engaged an arborist to assess the trees and provide tree protection measures. The design for upper Palmerston retains the large <i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>.</p>
	<p>Fig tree branch (concern)</p> <p>The artist sketch for the reserve shows that the current large and low hanging branch from the ficus will be removed. Concern that this will affect the privacy of neighbouring units on Lombard St.</p>	1	<p>The park upgrade does not include removing branches from the <i>Ficus rubiginosa</i></p>
	<p>Lombard Street tree removal (concern)</p> <p>If the removal of the four small trees along Lombard Street is necessary to improve sightlines into the park to increase safety, a suitable replacement would be small shrubs growing up to the height of the balustrade along Lombard Street. This would still allow visitors to the park to see a maximum amount of greenery when looking up towards Lombard St, rather than getting a clear view of the cars parked along the street.</p>	2	<p>Noted, this will be considered during design development.</p>
	<p>Upper Palmerston habitat planting extent (concern)</p> <p>Suggestion to plant up all of the grassed sloping area on either side of Keegan Ave to provide habitat for wildlife. Habitat that was lost when the light rail corridor was cleared of lantana approximately 8 years ago (this</p>	4	<p>It has been important for us to strike a balance between providing planting for habitat and bush regeneration as well as providing usable green space for the current and future use of our</p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
	<p>removed fairy wren nesting sites, and has allowed celtis to spread and flourish).</p> <p>Suggested benefits of planting up both sloping areas above and below Keegan Avenue, which are now grassed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stabilise the soil - reduce runoff (during heavy rain the run-off through this park is of very high volume) - provide much needed small bird nesting habitat to replace that lost along the light rail line - provide a pleasing tapestry of planting to look at while walking up or down the footpath. 		<p>small parks as public space for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>We have done this by dedicating upper Palmerston to planting and bush regeneration, retaining the open turf area in lower Palmerston and providing seating for rest and relaxation.</p>
	<p>Slope attenuation</p> <p>Request to improve slope attenuation in lower portion of Palmerston with new retaining solutions (preferably not concrete)</p>	1	Noted. The concept includes slope attenuation throughout the planting areas.
	<p>Proposed planting (support)</p> <p>Support for the following aspects of the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - retaining and protecting existing plantings, and providing supplementary plantings - stabilising garden beds - new screen planting to the light rail boundary 	2	Noted
	<p>Proposed turf extent (support)</p> <p>Lower turf area is fine as it gets sunlight. The upper section under the fig tree is a waste.</p>	1	Noted. The concept for upper Palmerston features planting (not turf) under the Fig tree.
	<p>Planting palette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appears to be just decorative grasses - What consideration for plants that help support native wildlife (bees, birds, possums)? - Why is Council only proposing decorative gardens? - Request to have only natives planted and a range of shrubs, flowering plants and trees. 	1	Planting palette to be confirmed during detail design phase. Planting palette to be established in co-ordination with The City's urban ecologist and the local Bush Care Group.
Play-ground	<p>Playground upgrade request</p> <p>Why are there no plans to update the playground on Bayview Street (within S. Peninton Reserve). It is used daily and often very busy with children from Boughton Street Kindy and families accessing tram stop.</p>	1	Parks are renewed/ upgraded based on asset condition. The playground at Sarah Peninton Reserve is considered fair so has not been scheduled for an upgrade within the next 5 years.
	<p>Playground provision</p> <p>Suggestion for playground upgrade at Sarah Peninton - use its position next to a cliff to turn into a nature based playground.</p>	1	Noted. This is not part of the scope for this work.

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
			We have forwarded your feedback to the relevant teams for consideration.
	<p>Shade structure request</p> <p>Please put some sun shade over the children's play area in Sarah Peninton Reserve. It is extraordinarily hot during the day thus rendering it useless between 11am - 3pm with the play equipment too hot to touch or sit on.</p>	1	<p>This is not part of the scope for this work.</p> <p>All feedback received outside the project scope has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>
Other	<p>Supportive of Palmerston Avenue steps upgrade.</p> <p>Pleased to see the focus of the council on these small areas of green space in the inner city.</p> <p>A welcome addition to the area.</p>	13	Noted.
	<p>Request for storage provision</p> <p>Proposed small shed for tools be placed on the bottom north-western corner of upper Palmerston Avenue. We ask that allowance be made for this.</p>	2	We will investigate the location and provision of storage amenities for the Bush Care Group as part of detailed design.
	<p>Anti-social behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rubbish left by the seat - Smoking on the seat and by the light rail station 		<p>It is noted that there is some anti-social behaviour such as smoking and leaving rubbish that has occurred in the reserve.</p> <p>Its location along a thoroughfare between Glebe Point Road and the light rail is a factor.</p> <p>Regulatory signs are to be reviewed to ensure that they note that this is a non-smoking area.</p> <p>The design of the entry plaza to the light rail and the positioning of bins will be reviewed in detailed design.</p> <p>We encourage residents to report any antisocial behaviour to customer service on 02 9265 9333.</p> <p>The City also works closely with the police to manage antisocial behaviour, especially around alcohol and drug use.</p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
			We encourage residents to report antisocial behaviour of a criminal nature to police.
	<p>Shade / sun provision</p> <p>The upper level of the reserve is nice and shady in summer. The lower level is sunny on cold days.</p>	1	Noted
	<p>Park moniker</p> <p>Incidentally, an old man who grew up in Glebe told me that the steep climb was known to locals as “Monkey Hill”. I suppose they practically had to swing from tree to tree.</p>	1	Noted
	<p>Park watering</p> <p>Council to use council water for its own watering.</p>	1	Noted
	<p>Request replacement of gutter and fence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Please could you give consideration to replacing the crumbling concrete gutter and wire fencing in lower Palmerston adjacent to light rail lands? – Please can you replace the broken concrete culvert that runs downhill between the grass and the garden bed in Palmerston Avenue near the light rail station? 	2	Noted. This will be reviewed as part of design development.
	<p>Community consultation</p> <p>Would like the decisions be in an open forum and submitters be invited.</p>	1	<p>The feedback from community consultation will form part of the scoping report, which will go to the Environment Committee then Council for endorsement.</p> <p>Members of the public can attend and speak at committee meetings. You are also welcome to attend Council meetings but you cannot speak at the Council meeting.</p> <p>Please read the guidelines for speakers to find out how you can be heard by Council.</p>

Category	Subjects raised	Total	City of Sydney response
	<p>Flooding Concerned that flooding is an issue for adjacent residents</p>	1	Noted. This will be reviewed as part of design development.
	<p>Park name request Request to name a section of Palmerston Avenue steps 'Cassius Corner', dedicated to a local dog Cassius, a schnauzer who lived nearby. Cassius passed away beginning of the year and it would be lovely to honour this special dog as the street feels quite empty without him.</p>	1	<p>This is not part of the scope for this work.</p> <p>All feedback received outside the project scope has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>
Outside scope	<p>William Carlton Gardens Why aren't William Carlton Gardens being considered for improvement? Suggestions for improved planting, weeding, extra seating, quality of lighting, safety on footpath at William Carlton Gardens.</p>	2	Parks are renewed/upgraded based on asset condition. William Carlton Gardens asset condition is considered fair so has not been scheduled for an upgrade within the next 5 years.
	<p>Suggestion to remove all weedy celtis trees from the suburb (including 3 mature celtis growing in St James Park Playground on Woolley St and the L-shaped park behind (joining St James Avenue), as well as several planted as street trees in Victoria Rd, Glebe.</p>	1	<p>This is not part of the scope for this work.</p> <p>All feedback received outside the project scope has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>
	<p>Suggestion for Council to remove mature celtis from people's gardens, replacing them with non-weedy, native species.</p>	1	<p>This is not part of the scope for this work.</p> <p>All feedback received outside the project scope has been passed to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>

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 upgrade were to them.

According to this rating, the following three items were considered very important elements of the upgrade: buffer planting to light rail corridor, new habitat planting, and upgrading the Palmerston Avenue Steps pedestrian pathway. The results are below.

	NOT IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
New access stairs to Lombard Street	37.50% 6	43.75% 7	18.75% 3	16
New habitat planting	0.00% 0	50.00% 8	56.25% 9	16
New seating areas	50.00% 8	31.25% 5	18.75% 3	16
Upgrade to Palmerston Avenue pedestrian pathway	6.25% 1	43.75% 7	50.00% 8	16
Marked pedestrian crossing on Keegan Avenue	50.00% 8	25.00% 4	25.00% 4	16
New tap	43.75% 7	31.25% 5	25.00% 4	16
Retained turf area	12.50% 2	50.00% 8	37.50% 6	16
Buffer planting to light rail corridor	18.75% 3	25.00% 4	56.25% 9	16
New entry plaza to light rail station	33.33% 5	26.67% 4	40.00% 6	15
Removal of toxic tree species	25.00% 4	37.50% 6	37.50% 6	16

How important are the following elements of the upgrade to you?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

