

Attachment E

Engagement Report



Engagement report

Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, Elizabeth Bay
February 2020

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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 2019, we consulted on our stage 14 parks, which include:

- Ernest Pederson Reserve, Glebe
- Fig Lane Park, Ultimo
- Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst
- Clyne Reserve, Millers Point
- James Hilder Reserve, Surry Hills
- Beaconsfield Park, Beaconsfield
- Daniel Dawson Reserve, Alexandria
- Strickland Park, Chippendale
- Hollis Park, Newtown
- Palmerston Avenue Steps & Sarah Peninton Reserve, Glebe
- Cardigan Street Reserve, Glebe
- **Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, Elizabeth Bay**

Engagement summary

From 5 November to 3 December 2019, we asked the community for feedback on plans to improve Lawrence Hargrave Reserve in Elizabeth Bay.

The consultation was an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to provide feedback on the proposed design. Consultation activities included online engagement, a letter to residents, project signage at the park and a community meeting.

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
 - inform any amendments to the proposed concept design
 - determine the level of satisfaction with the proposed concept design.
-

Outcomes from the engagement

Sydney Your Say

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 420 times during the consultation period. This result indicates a high level of interest and that a significant number of people were engaged over the consultation period.

Submissions

We received a total of 28 submissions during the consultation period. This included submissions via an online feedback form, post and the Sydney Your Say email address.

We also received feedback from 5 stakeholders and/or residents during the early consultation phase which took place from 25 February to 11 March 2019.

Key findings

Overview of key findings

The majority of respondents were in favour of the upgrade, with suggestions for changes and additions outlined below. There is strong support for improving the accessibility of the park and many respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining the open green space. Six respondents opposed the proposed table tennis tables. Respondents highlighted the importance of planting species that are native, will attract native bees and help biodiversity.

Rating elements of the park upgrade

Respondents who completed the online feedback form were asked “how important are the following elements of the upgrade to you?” The results are below.

	NOT IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	N/A	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
New accessible ramp entry into reserve	23.08% 6	38.46% 10	30.77% 8	7.69% 2	26
Street frontage area with new seating and planting	23.08% 6	30.77% 8	34.62% 9	11.54% 3	26
New central path	36.00% 9	32.00% 8	20.00% 5	12.00% 3	25
New seating and habitat planting	15.38% 4	34.62% 9	42.31% 11	7.69% 2	26
‘The Green’ –open lawn area	19.23% 5	26.92% 7	50.00% 13	7.69% 2	26
Potential future community garden ‘club-room’	61.54% 16	3.85% 1	19.23% 5	15.38% 4	26

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		
Project Scope/Timing/Budget	Total	City of Sydney Response
General comments recommending that the reserve is retained as it currently is.	4	An asset condition assessment completed in 2018 identified this park is in need of an upgrade.

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Specifically some respondents noted that money could be better spent elsewhere and that the community had already rejected such a proposal (linked with Fitzroy Gardens) in 2010.		<p>This means that works are required to ensure that the reserve meets minimum standards across the LGA.</p> <p>The upgrade aims to address the key issues currently associated with the park which include; accessibility, sightlines, ongoing tree-management, limited seating. It also aims to ensure that the reserve meets both the current needs and evolving needs of the local community.</p>
Additional information requested on the timing of construction.	2	Timing is subject to endorsement of the Scoping Report by Council and completion of detailed design. Construction is estimated to begin in 2021.
Consultation	Total	City of Sydney Response
Some respondents noted it was difficult to accurately respond to one of the survey questions that combined seating, planting and table tennis into one question.	3	We acknowledge that this question was confusing and responses to this question will not be included in the engagement report.
Request an extension and that the project be shelved until all issues resolved and solutions exhibited.	2	<p>All comments received will be considered and reported to Council. Council will decide whether to proceed to detailed design. We will keep all people who made submissions up to date on the project's progress.</p> <p>The concept design was on public exhibition for 29 days, with face to face meeting offered. The activities undertaken to promote the public exhibition are outlined below.</p>
Maintenance	Total	City of Sydney Response
Comment that the park often looks neglected. Request that additional maintenance is carried out especially as it's an off-leash park.	4	The City's maintenance team undertake daily inspections at Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, removing rubbish and providing garden maintenance and lawn mowing as required. The current maintenance regime meets the City's Parks Service Level Agreement.
<p>Request that additional watering/irrigation is considered particularly with reference to the use of the park as an off-leash area, and for the community garden.</p> <p>Two respondents suggested that water-harvesting and rain tanks be considered as part of this upgrade.</p>	3	Water harvesting opportunities will be investigated as part of the detailed design phase.
Proposed Works		

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Open Green Space	Total	City of Sydney Response
<p>Comments that provision of open green space is important.</p> <p>That it needs to be flexible for low impact community events</p> <p>Should not reduce area for kicking a football</p>	4	<p>A variety of user groups currently utilise the park for a range of purposes. The proposed design allows for these existing uses to be continued alongside each other in public space with significantly improved amenity and safety.</p>
<p>Comment that a significant proportion is being converted to hardscape and reduces the useable green space for both people and as habitat (turf and trees)</p>	3	<p>The existing turf area is divided by large mounds which limits useable space for the community.</p> <p>The proposed design will maximise provision of open lawn which is flexible for both passive recreation such as dog walking and more active activities such as kicking a ball. It will also be suitable for larger community events, such as the annual dog show and community garden events.</p>
<p>Comment that 'activating' this site will conflict with the opportunity for this park to be a peaceful and quiet place.</p> <p>One respondent highlighted the importance of informal, un-programmed spaces suitable for picnics and 'unstructured time'.</p>	4	<p>A perimeter path has been included to ensure that all community members are able to equally access the reserve.</p>
<p>Will this park continue to be off-leash?</p>	1	Yes
<p>Will there still be space for people to play soccer/football on the grass?</p>	1	Yes
Access + Entry	Total	City of Sydney Response
<p>Additional information requested on what 'improved entry' means</p>	2	<p>The stair access from Elizabeth Bay Road is currently in poor condition. The 'improved stair access' will increase safety of the stairs, ensuring that appropriate materials are used, hand-rails are provided and sight-lines are maximised from both within the park and from the street level.</p>
<p>General support for improved accessibility into and within the park.</p> <p>68% of people noted either IMPORTANT OR V. IMPORTANT when asked about the new accessible entry.</p>	1	<p>There is currently no accessible entry to the reserve. It also has limited sense of entry from Elizabeth Bay Road.</p> <p>The proposed works will provide an accessible entry to the park which will enable all community members to access the park. Access required for maintenance and the community garden will also be provided.</p>
<p>Noted the importance of making the entry welcoming</p> <p>65% of people noted either IMPORTANT OR V. IMPORTANT when asked about the works at the street frontage on Elizabeth Bay Road</p>	1	<p>The improvement works will also provide a greater, stronger sense of entry and welcoming from Elizabeth Bay Road through materials, signage, improved paths and site lines.</p>
<p>Request for consideration of the access and connection (both physical and visual) across Elizabeth Bay Road (near Police Station)</p>	2	<p>Streetscape improvement works are not part of the scope for this upgrade.</p>

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Trees/Planting	Total	City of Sydney Response
Additional information requested on what plants are proposed for the orchards and for the tree-planting across the park.	2	<p>The Kings Cross Community Garden Group will help inform this.</p> <p>Species will be selected based on site-specific requirements for shade, habitat and 'food' trees.</p>
Did not support the removal of the casuarinas due to the impact on local habitat	1	<p>Selective removal of trees have been proposed to address structural loading issues on the carpark roof slab, tree condition, removal of tree species that inhibit the growth of others, and improving site function including safety and sightlines.</p>
Supported the removal of the casuarinas	1	
Request that planting considers urban wild-life; species that are native, will attract native bees and generally help with biodiversity	5	<p>The proposed works aim to maximise the useable open space whilst retaining some significant clumps of existing trees.</p> <p>Replacement tree planting is proposed in the concept design, which will provide habitat and amenity/shade.</p> <p>Final species selection will be defined during detailed design.</p>
Table Tennis	Total	City of Sydney Response
<p>Do not support provision of table tennis due to the noise associated in such close proximity to residences</p> <p>1 suggestion to provide chess/draughts as an alternative</p>	6	<p>The proposed design aims to activate the area behind the carpark vents and improve sight lines into the space.</p> <p>The purpose of the table tennis tables is to provide play amenity for all community members to enjoy.</p> <p>The City is open to other options to activate this space and this will be further investigated in detail design phase.</p>
Support provision of table tennis behind the carpark vents to activate the space and provide activities for older community members to use.	2	
Memorials	Total	City of Sydney Response
Request that existing memorials are retained in-situ	3	<p>All memorial plaques will be retained and protected, and remain where they are. The upgrades aim to improve the opportunity for the memorials to be seen and acknowledged by the community.</p> <p>This includes the following memorials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance Day Memorial Garden • Sea King & Kings Cross Bikers memorial
Additional information requested about the 'Memorial Garden'	2	<p>The 'Memorial Garden & Hoop Pine' is an existing garden located at the rear south-western corner of the site, which commemorates local residents who have died as a result of AIDS. It is described as the</p>

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		Remembrance Day memorial. No changes are proposed to this garden and associated tree. Additional seating and paving is proposed to increase amenity for the annual memorial event.
Seating	Total	City of Sydney Response
Request that seating is comfortable, timber seats with backs (eg. traditional style, with timber and curved back. Similar to seats at entry or in Fitzroy Gardens)	3	Currently, there is limited seating opportunities within Lawrence Hargrave Reserve.
Request that additional seating than currently proposed is provided	1	The proposed upgrade works will provide a variety of seating types including traditional seating (with backrests & armrests), as well as more informal sitting walls.
Comment that the proposed sitting walls will be uncomfortable and potentially attract anti-social behaviour	3	Seating will be provided throughout the reserve, creating opportunities for people to sit in the sun or in the shade.
Request that seating which is protected/sheltered i.e. in the shade	5	A total of 37 new traditional seats are shown on the consultation concept plan, with a significant amount of informal wall seating also provided. This is considered sufficient given the size of the park. Quantities of seats will be reviewed during the detailed design phase to ensure adequate seating opportunities is provided.
Lighting	Total	City of Sydney Response
Request that lighting is considered as part of this proposal to ensure a safe, pleasant environment. Ensure proper lighting for night.	2	A lighting design will be prepared as part of the detailed design phase.
Materials	Total	City of Sydney Response
Support the use of crazy paving	2	Additional information has been provided with regard to materials (see Attachment C).
Comment that the proposal will 'wreck the distinct old world character of the suburb'	1	Materials will include stone paving, stabilised gravel, timber seating and 65 lineal meters of seating walls. Proposed materials will reflect the existing character of the area and support the local scale of the park. All materials will be considered with reference to safety and will meet any relevant standards.
Community Garden and Community Garden Club Room		

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Community Garden	Total	City of Sydney Response
Comment that the area for community garden appears to have shrunk.	1	<p>Stage 1 Community Garden will be increased in size by approximately 100m².</p> <p>Future Stage 2 Works are proposed to be approximately 360m².</p> <p>The proposed orchard will then provide an additional area for community garden activities.</p> <p>Delivery of the community garden expansion will be considered based on available funding and may require staging.</p>
Additional information requested on the proposed bee-hotel, safety considerations, and ongoing maintenance.	2	<p>The bee-hotel and chicken coop are proposed as part of the stage 2 community garden and would be installed and maintained by the Community Garden Group under their Plan of Management requirements.</p> <p>Access to this area of the community garden will be restricted to community garden members only.</p> <p>The bees will be Australian native stingless bees. There is no official bee keeper appointed however the community garden group can delegate that role to someone as needed.</p> <p>Representatives of the community garden group will be required to attend a native bee workshop that the City organises.</p>
Additional information about the proposed chickens – who will look after them?	1	
What access will be provided during construction? Will the works be staged?	1	<p>Maintaining access to the community garden will be prioritised during the construction works through staging, however access may not be possible throughout the entire construction program. Council will liaise with the Kings Cross Community Garden Group regarding this.</p>
Community Garden Club Room	Total	City of Sydney Response
Additional information requested on club-room design and function.	3	<p>The community garden club-room will be investigated as part of a future works package. It currently does not form part of this stage of works.</p>
<p>Do not support inclusion of community garden club-room.</p> <p>2 people requested additional information on the club-room design and function.</p> <p>Percentage of people surveyed who think the community garden 'club-room' is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NOT IMPORTANT 62% - IMPORTANT/V. IMPORTANT 24% - NOT APPLICABLE 14% 	4	

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<p>Two people provided suggestions for the design of the club-room.</p> <p>Shipping container – example at Rose Bay community garden.</p> <p>Covered gazebo to be located at rear of the site with permanent table for gardeners and public.</p>	2	
Additional suggestions		
<p>Request for sculptures/public art.</p> <p>Included 2 requests for reference/acknowledgement of Lawrence Hargrave through sculpture or interpretation.</p> <p>There were also 2 requests for mosaics (examples provided in submissions).</p>	3	<p>Public art is not currently proposed as part of this scope of works, however could be considered as part of a future program of works.</p>
<p>Request for inclusion of bins (including 1 request for recycling/separated waste).</p>	3	<p>Bins will be located at the entry/exits to the reserve. The requirement for any additional bins will be investigated during the detailed design phase.</p> <p>The City currently separates its waste after collection not on site due to the high rate of contamination. This system is currently under review.</p>
<p>Request for consideration of provision of toilets</p>	3	<p>The City has a Public Toilet Strategy which defines the provision of public toilets across the LGA. Public toilets are not currently proposed as part of these improvement works.</p>
<p>Request for inclusion of a drinking fountain</p>	1	<p>A drinking fountain with a dog bowl attachment will be included in the upgrade. Its location will be determined as part of the detail design phase.</p>
<p>Request for inclusion of 2-3 bike racks</p>	1	<p>Bike racks will be included in the upgrade. Their location will be determined as part of the detail design phase.</p>
<p>Request for acknowledgement that the site is located on Gadigal Land and also part of the Kinneil estates, the Tamworth Mansion terraces etc.</p>	1	<p>As part of the proposed works, the existing park signage will be reviewed and updated as required to ensure appropriate acknowledgement and histories are represented.</p> <p>This will be completed as part of the detailed design phase.</p>
<p>Request that community garden policy locates gardens which take advantage of 'ugly urban space, not green space'.</p>	1	<p>The Community Garden Policy is to 'ensure that there is potential for a community garden within a 15 min walk of the dwellings of most city residents' and 'recommend the</p>

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		<p>development of new community gardens on land established for community use as part of proposed park upgrades and developments.</p> <p>This will be dependent on the interest of the local community to support the garden operations’.</p> <p>The provision of a community garden at Lawrence Hargraves is consistent with this.</p>
<p>Request a playground be included as part of the scope of works.</p> <p>Noted by one respondent that Fitzroy Garden Playground is not sufficient for the number of children in the area.</p> <p>Suggestion to include a swing and slide.</p>	2	<p>Fitzroy Garden Playground is 85m from Lawrence Hargrave Reserve and is considered a neighbourhood sized playground providing dynamic, active, imaginative & social play opportunities. Waratah Street Reserve Playground in Rushcutters Bay is 250m from Lawrence Hargrave Reserve and offers additional opportunities for dynamic and active play and sensory nature play. Woolloomooloo Playground and Beare Park Playground are the next closest playgrounds, offering a variety of play opportunities within 450m of Lawrence Hargrave Reserve. While the proposed upgrade works does not include off-the-shelf play items, it does provide a flexible open space for leisure activities and informal unstructured play.</p>
<p>Request that an area for dogs to go to the toilet is provided.</p>	1	<p>The reserve is currently a designated off-leash area. This will be retained after the improvement works. Bins with dog poo bag dispensers will be provided.</p> <p>The City will further investigate options for dog toilet amenities in the design development phase.</p>
<p>Request for inclusion of a compost/seat combination.</p>	1	<p>To be investigated as part of the detailed design phase.</p>
<p>Request for a stage for annual dog -show</p>	1	<p>To be investigated as part of the detailed design phase.</p>
<p>Request for more taps</p>	1	<p>To be investigated as part of the detailed design phase.</p>
<p>Request to reinstate rosemary bush in association with the war memorial. They would like this reinstated for the Annual ceremony held here on 11 November (Remembrance Day).</p>	1	<p>This will be incorporated in the detail design phase.</p>

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Rushcutters Bay Park, Darling Point - put table-tennis here instead	1	Rushcutters Bay Park is outside the scope of works for this project. Suggestion has been passed to the Parks team.
Embarkation Park, Potts Point - consider providing a small swing and slide here.	1	Embarkation Park is outside the scope of works for this project. Suggestion has been passed to the Parks team.
Any small park in Europe or New York - they provide for residents including dogs and not overfilled with equipment. Residents want peace and quiet in these busy areas.	1	Noted. The proposed design will maximise provision of open lawn which is flexible for both passive recreation such as dog walking and more active activities such as kicking a ball.

Engagement activities

Early engagement activities

Several activities were undertaken to engage residents living in the immediate area and key stakeholders to inform the development of the concept design.

1. Early engagement survey

From 25 February to 11 March 2019, adjacent residents and key stakeholders were invited to fill out an early engagement survey or email feedback to the Sydney Your Say email address. Five stakeholders gave feedback, which is captured in the 'key findings' table.

2. Email to key stakeholders

Four groups were contacted about the proposal during the early engagement phase, including the Kings Cross Community Garden Group, Friends of Fitzroy Gardens and Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, 2011 Residents Association, and Remembrance Day Group.

3. Letter to residents

During the early engagement phase, a letter about the proposal was distributed to 9 residents living immediately adjacent to the park.

4. Meetings with Kings Cross Community Garden group

On Wednesday 20 March 2019 and Friday 23rd August 2019, the project team met with the Kings Cross Community Garden Group to discuss the project. Feedback from these meetings were fed into the development of the concept design.

Public exhibition activities

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/your-say/park-playground-upgrades/improving-lawrence-hargrave-reserve was created. The page included an electronic copy of the proposed 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. Sydney Your Say e-News

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say November 2019 e-Newsletter (4,070 subscribers).

4. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 4,813 letters were distributed.

5. Notification email

An email was sent to key stakeholders, including the Kings Cross Community Garden Group, Friends of Fitzroy Gardens and Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, 2011 Residents Association, and Remembrance Day Group, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal.

6. On site signage

Two notice boards were installed at Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, inviting people to give feedback on the proposal.

7. Community meeting

A combined community meeting about two projects happening in the area was held at the Rex Centre in Potts Point on 19 November 2019.

Approximately 150 people attended the event. Feedback from this consultation session is incorporated into the submissions table above.

Appendix

Appendix A: concept design and artist impressions



Artist's impression – The tree canopy perspective



Artist's impression – The entry lawn perspective



Artist's impression – 'The Green' perspective

Improving Lawrence Hargrave Reserve



Under review

Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.

We plan to upgrade Lawrence Hargrave Reserve in Elizabeth Bay and invite your feedback on the proposed design.

The upgrade will provide a safe and inclusive park for everyone to enjoy. It will also complement the community garden by improving access and safety.

Quality green open spaces are important for our residents, workers and visitors. Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading over 60 parks in our area. These park upgrades will create better quality open spaces, help keep our city cooler, and support biodiversity.

The proposal for Lawrence Hargrave Reserve will:

- create welcoming park entries and improve access into the park
- improve accessibility with 2 new ramps into the park, staircase upgrades and a new path to the community garden
- provide a range of seating
- increase the useable green space with a new central turf area
- enhance native habitat plantings and biodiversity within the park.

Lawrence Hargrave Reserve is built above Kings Cross car park. To reduce structural and loading impacts on the roof, we'll remove some trees including most of the casuarinas. This will also open up the usable green space and improve safety and sight lines in the park. Trees will be replaced with new mature trees to provide the same amount of canopy coverage.

Community meeting

On Tuesday 19 November from 6pm to 7.30pm, the Lord Mayor and City staff will be at the Rex Centre (58–60 Macleay Street, Potts Point). They'll talk to the community about improvements to [Macleay Street](#) and Lawrence Hargrave Reserve.

How you can give feedback

Key dates

Public consultation period
5 November to 3 December 2019

Community meeting
19 November 2019

Contacts

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Design Manager
[02 9265 9333](tel:0292659333)
sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Related projects

- [Park and playground upgrades](#)
- [Improving Macleay Street, Potts Point](#)

Links

[Online form](#)



[Improving Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, Elizabeth Bay](#)

The reserve's upgrade will provide a safe and inclusive park for everyone to enjoy. Have your say on the proposed design.

[Read more](#)



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5 November 2019

Improving Lawrence Hargrave Reserve

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The proposed design for the park is on the back of this letter. You can give feedback on this proposal **by 5pm on Tuesday 3 December at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-upgrades**

Community meeting on Tuesday 19 November

On Tuesday 19 November from 6pm to 7.30pm the Lord Mayor and City staff will be at the Rex Centre (58-60 Macleay Street, Potts Point). They will talk to the community about the Macleay Street upgrade and improvements to Lawrence Hargrave Reserve.

For more information about the project, please contact Sophie McNamara, Design Manager on 02 9265 9333 or email sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Belinda Graham".

Belinda Graham
Delivery Manager, City Projects and Properties

Green, Global, Connected.

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Have your say

Improving Lawrence Hargrave Reserve

We plan to upgrade the park at Lawrence Hargrave Reserve and invite your feedback on the proposed design.

Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading more than 60 parks across the City of Sydney, 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.

You can view the proposed design and give feedback at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-upgrades

Consultation closes at **5pm on Tuesday 3 December 2019.**

For more information about the project, please contact Sophie McNamara, Design Manager on 02 9265 9333 or email sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au