

Attachment C

Engagement Report



Engagement report

Blackwattle Playground, Glebe

June 2021

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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 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

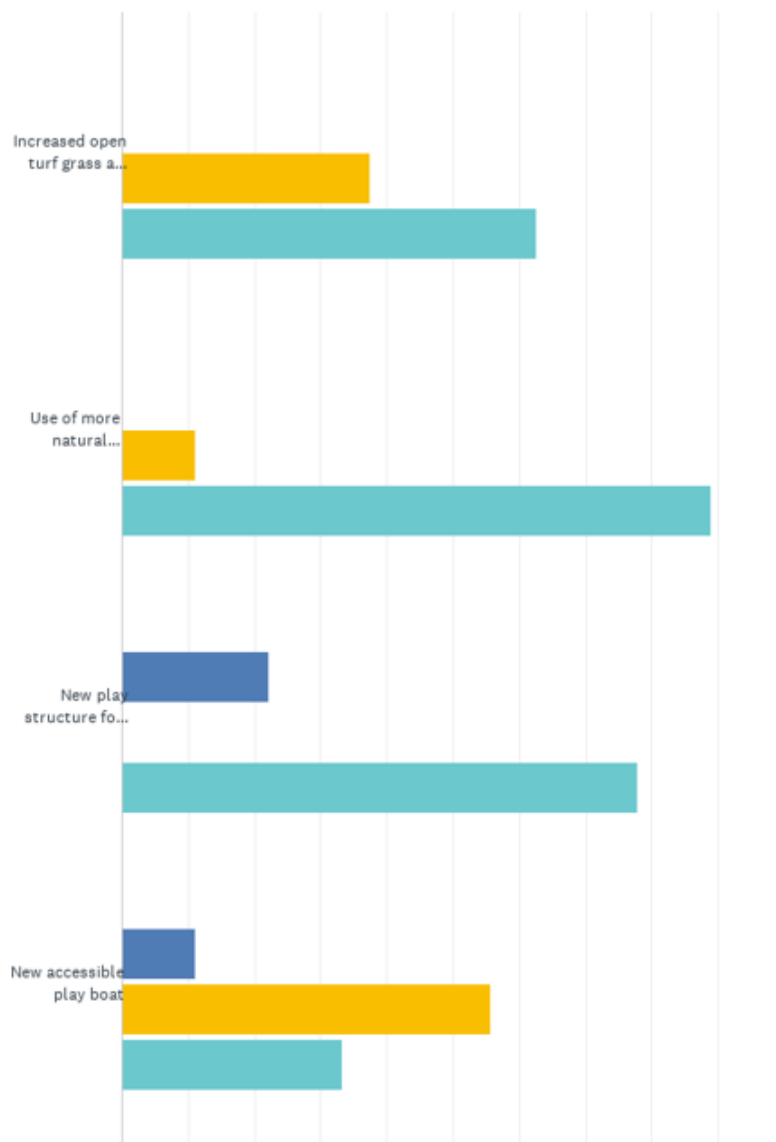
We received a total of 10 submissions via Survey Monkey during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 120 times during the consultation period.

Key findings

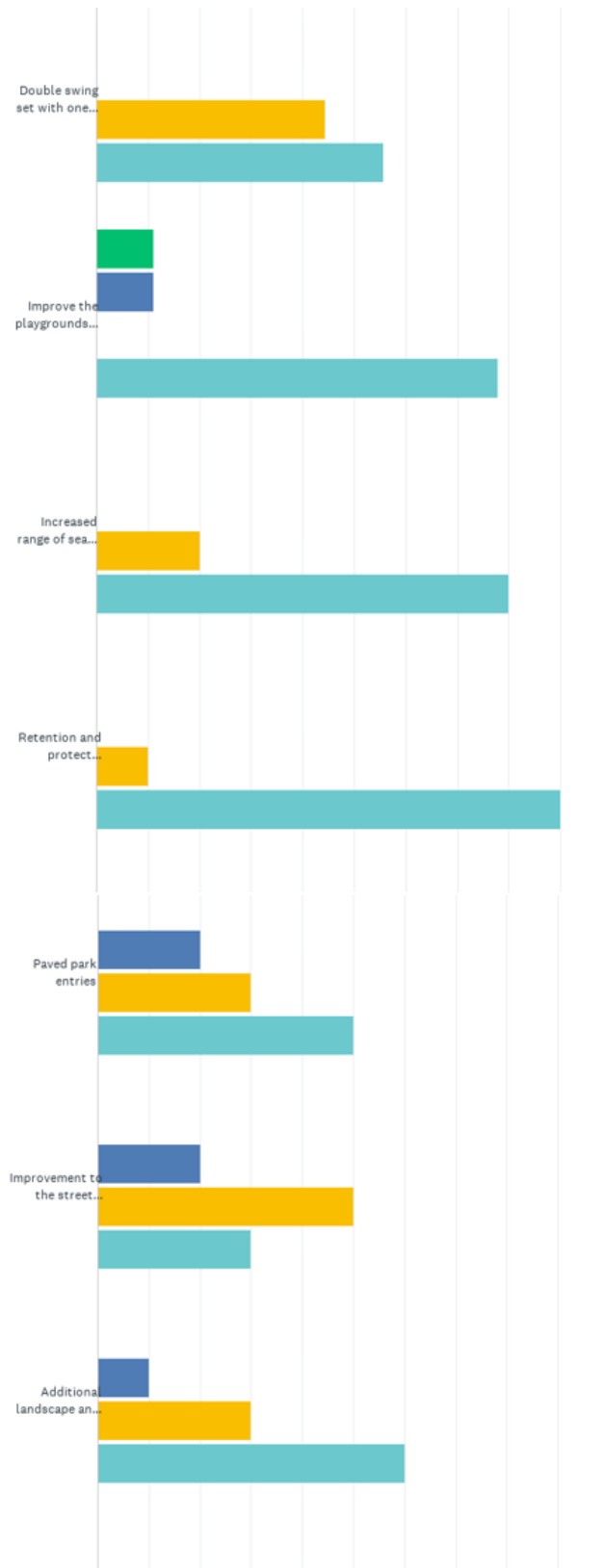
Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

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

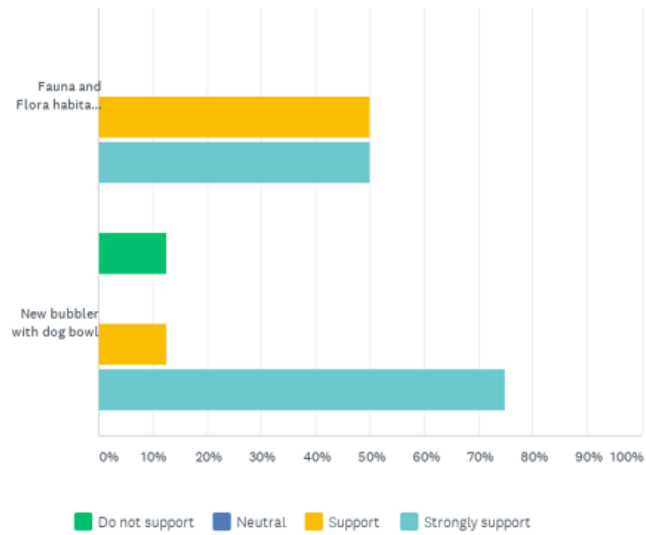
Q1 Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?



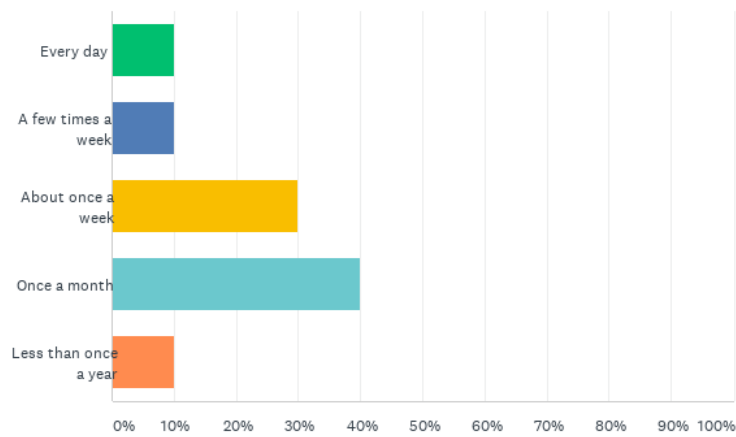
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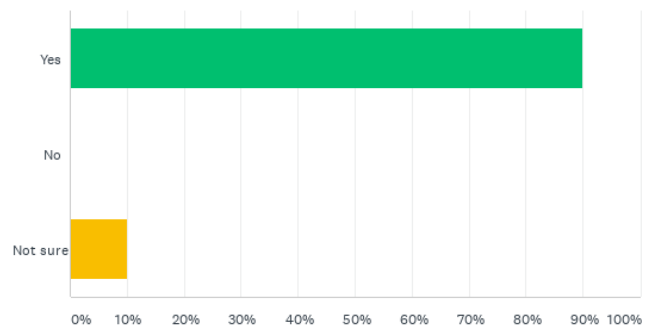
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Q2 How often do you currently use the park?



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.