

Attachment C

Engagement Report



Engagement report

Ethel Street playground, Erskineville

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 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

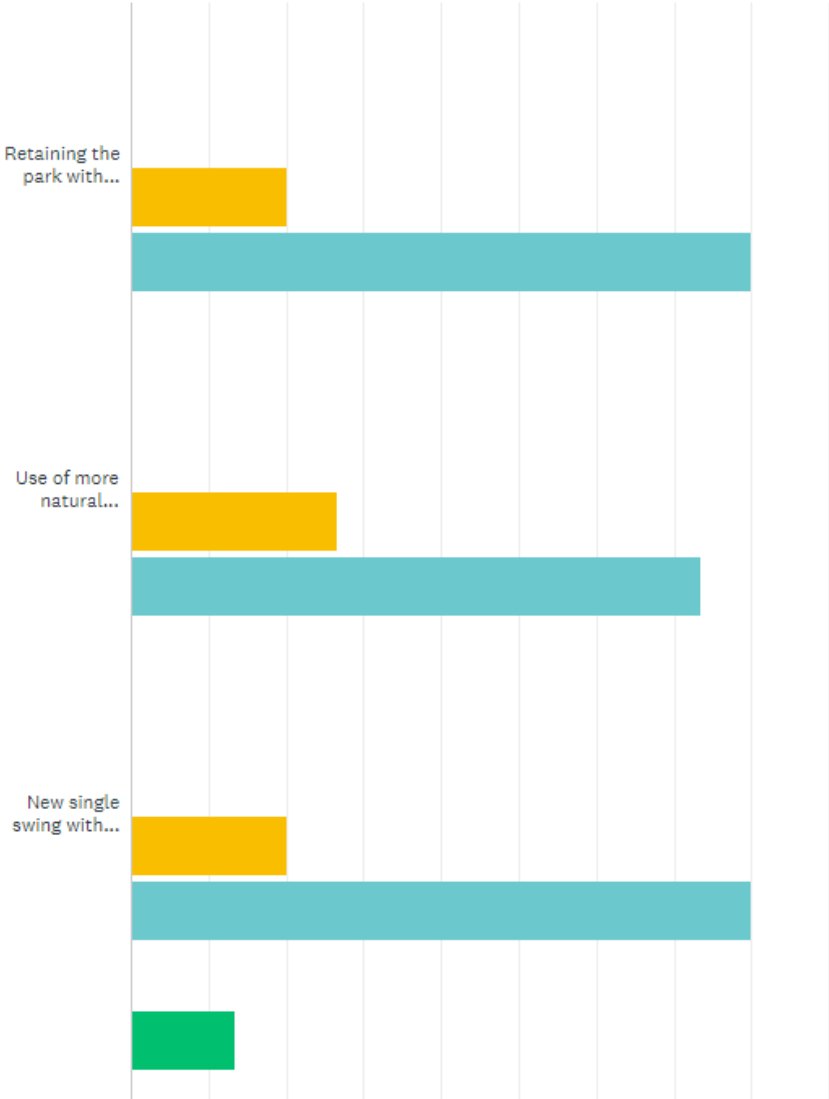
Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

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:

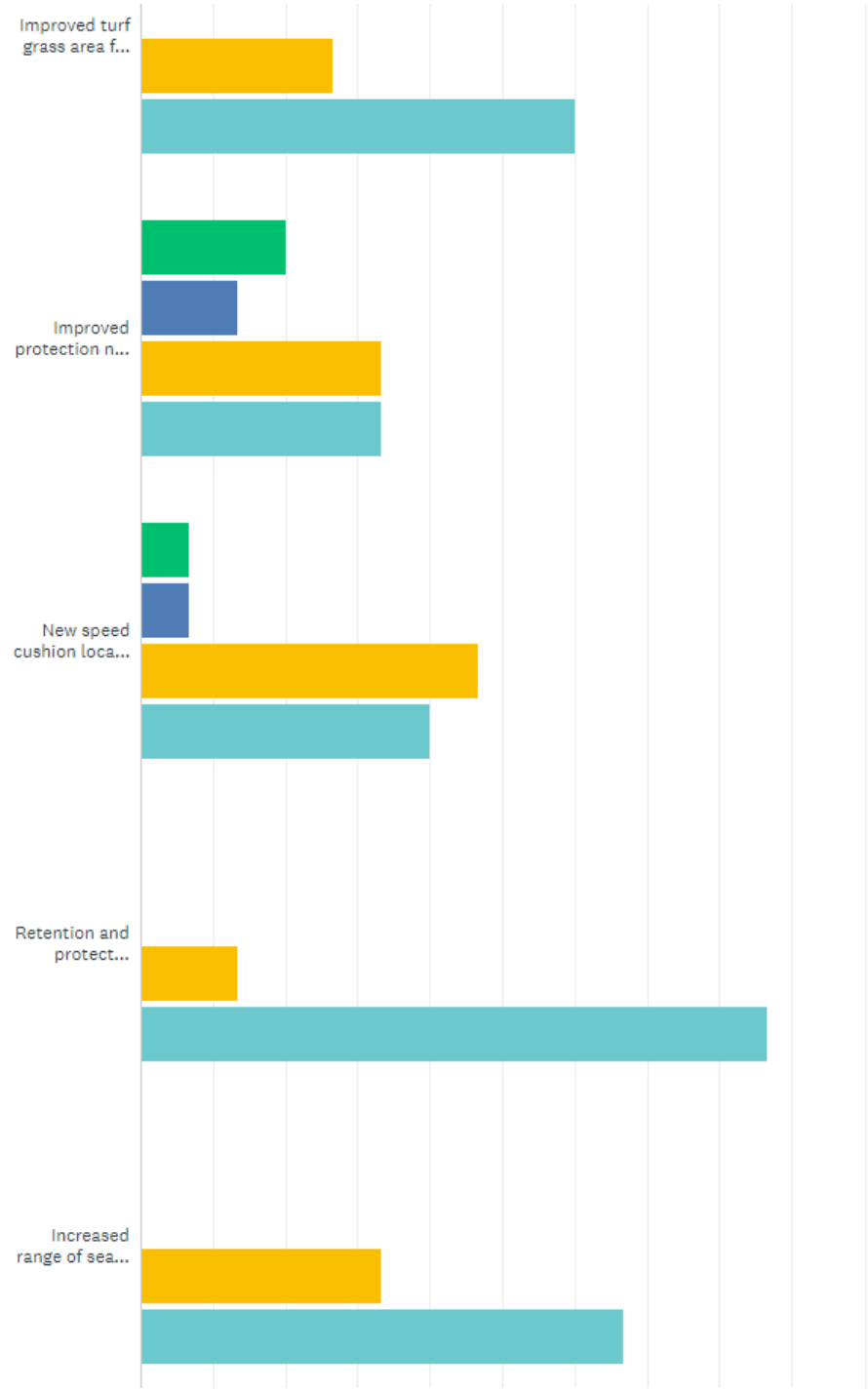
Q1

Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

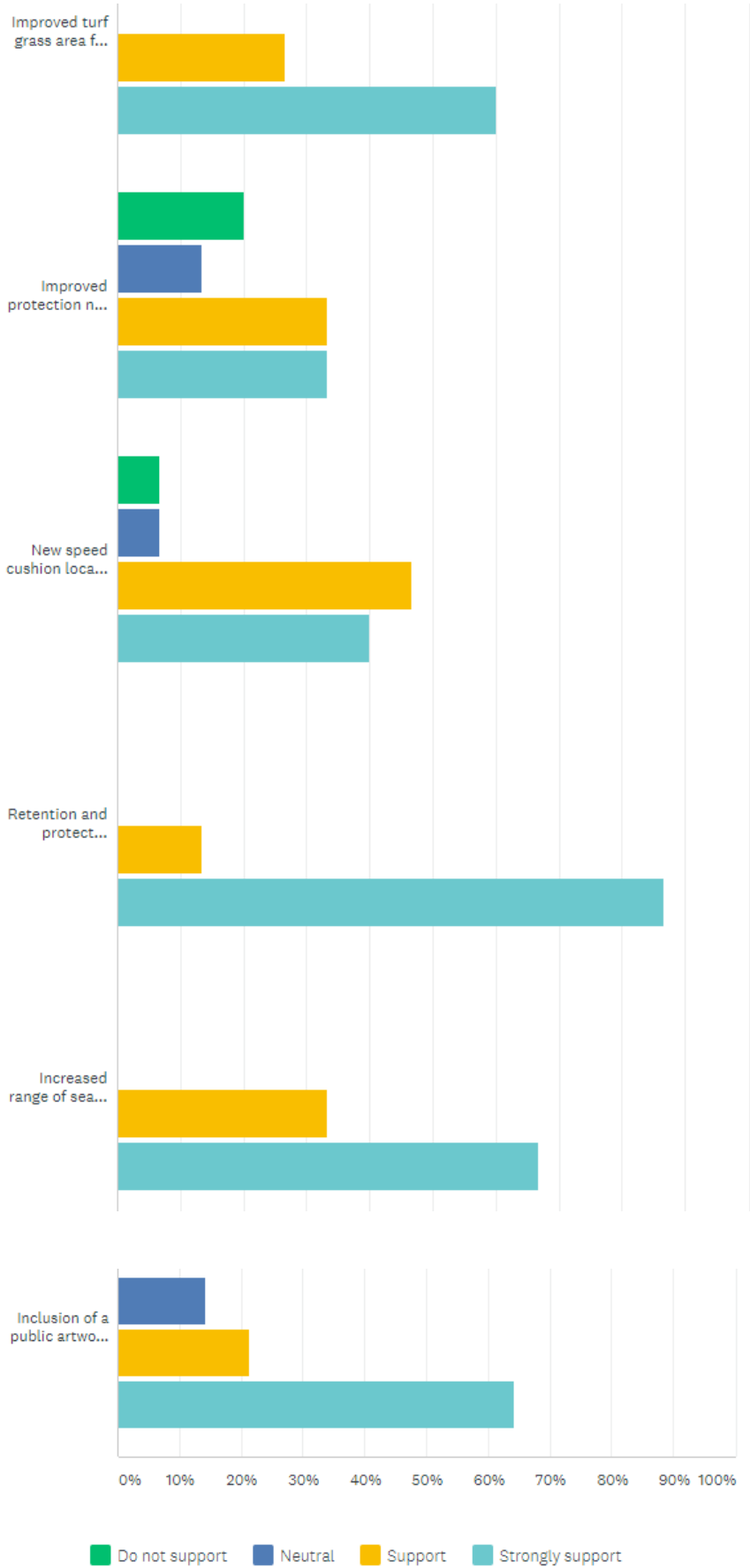
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



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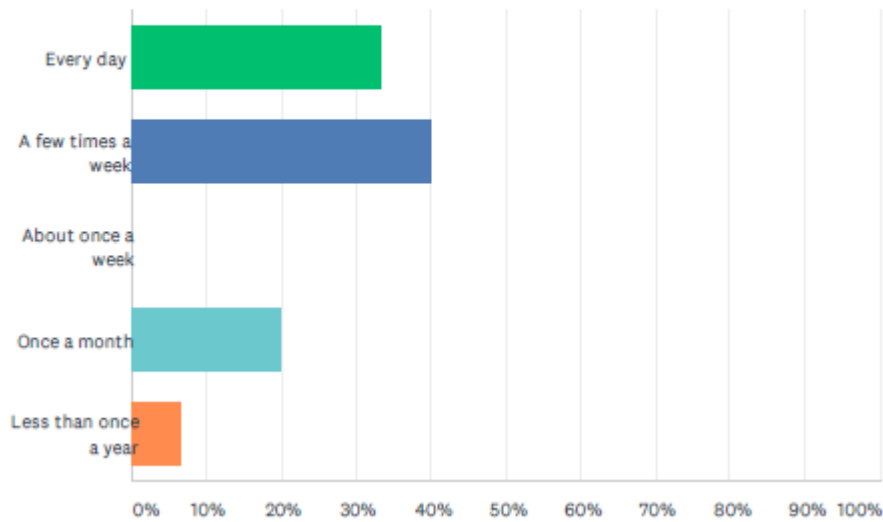


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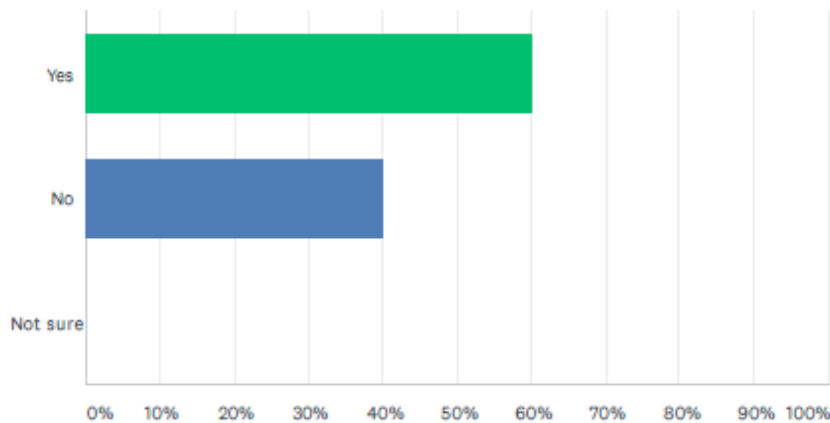
Q2 How often do you currently use the park?

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	

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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.