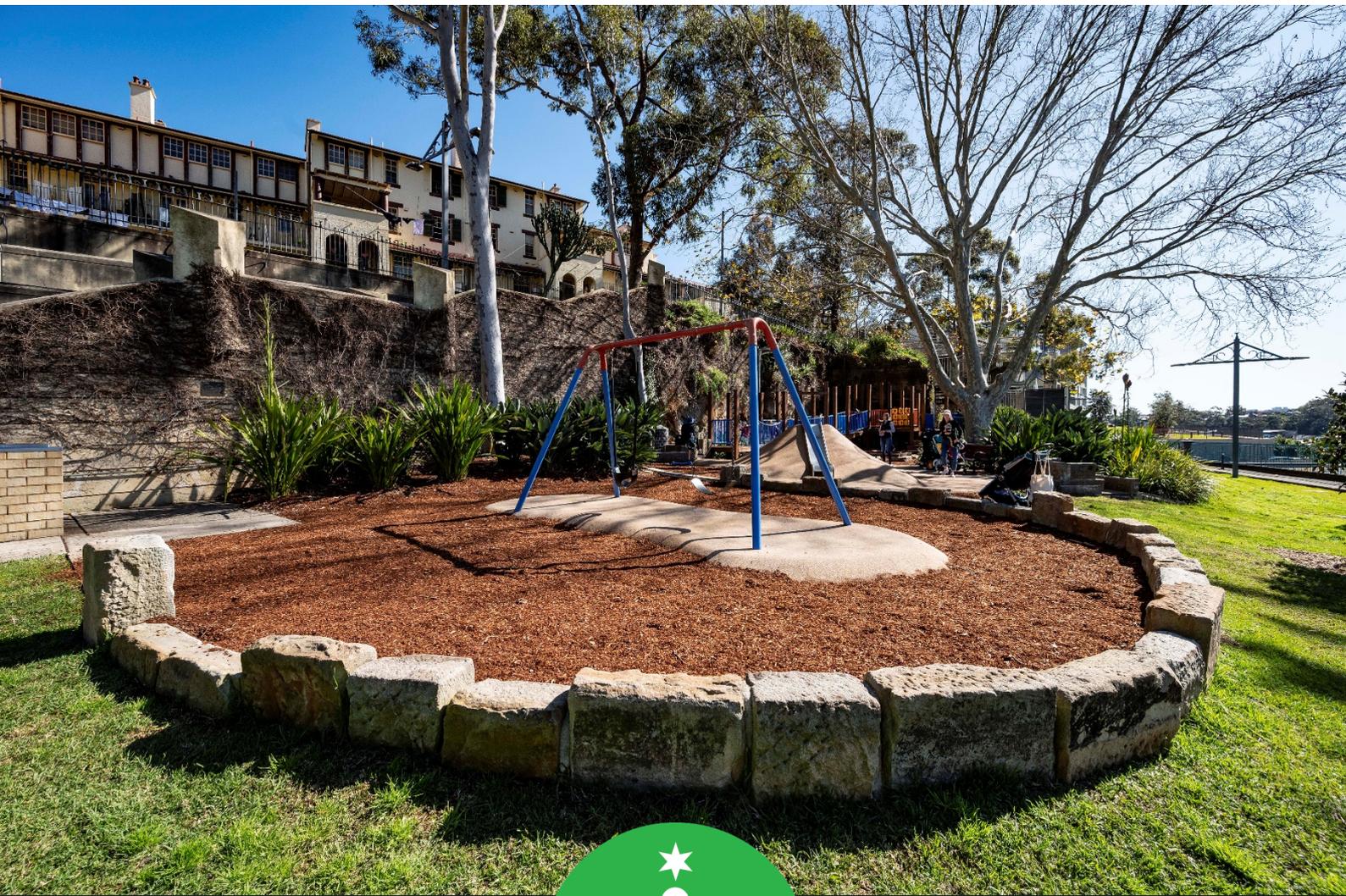


Attachment C

Engagement Report



Engagement report

James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont

November 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 Bay Park, Glebe
- Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville
- **James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont**
- Michael Kelly rest area, Newtown

Engagement summary

From 30 August to 27 September 2021, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve James Watkinson Reserve in Pyrmont

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 43 submissions via Survey Monkey and email during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 799 times during the consultation period.

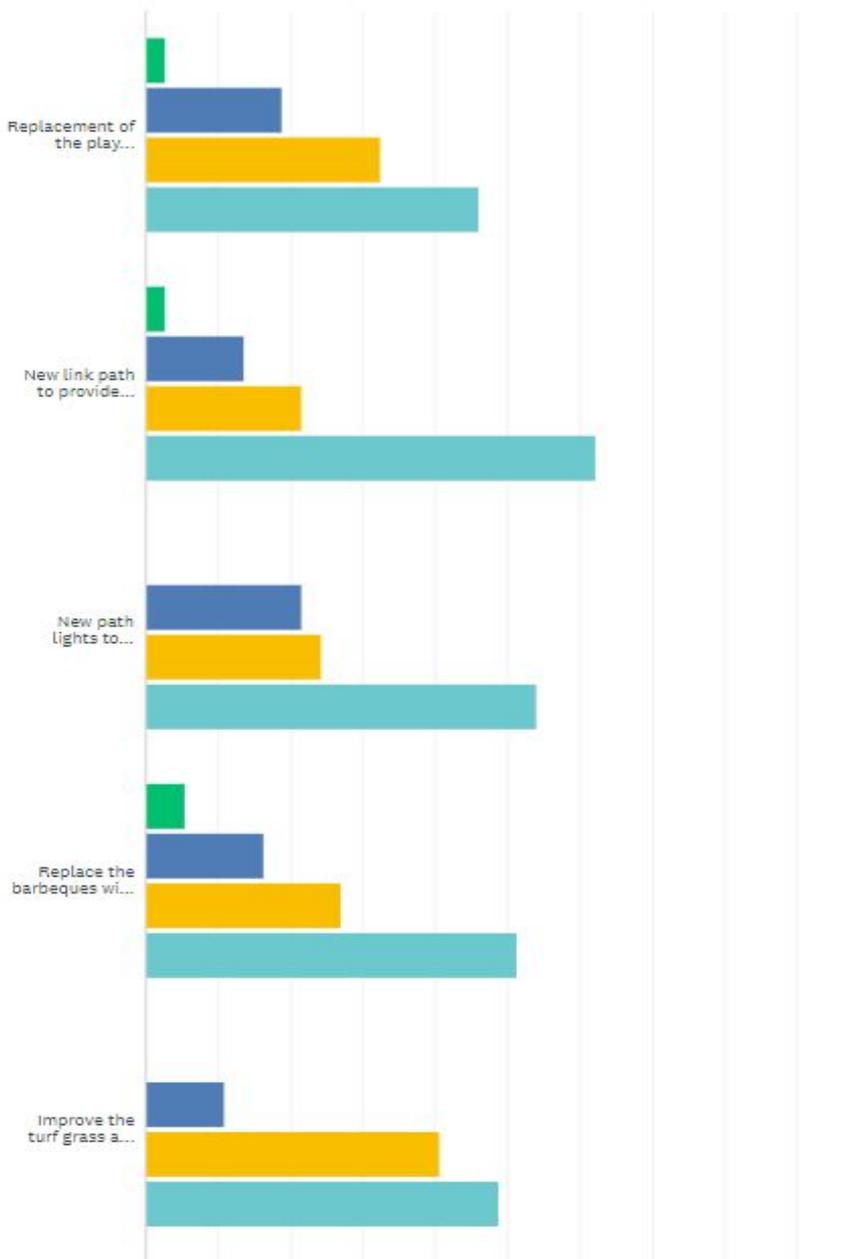
Key findings

Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

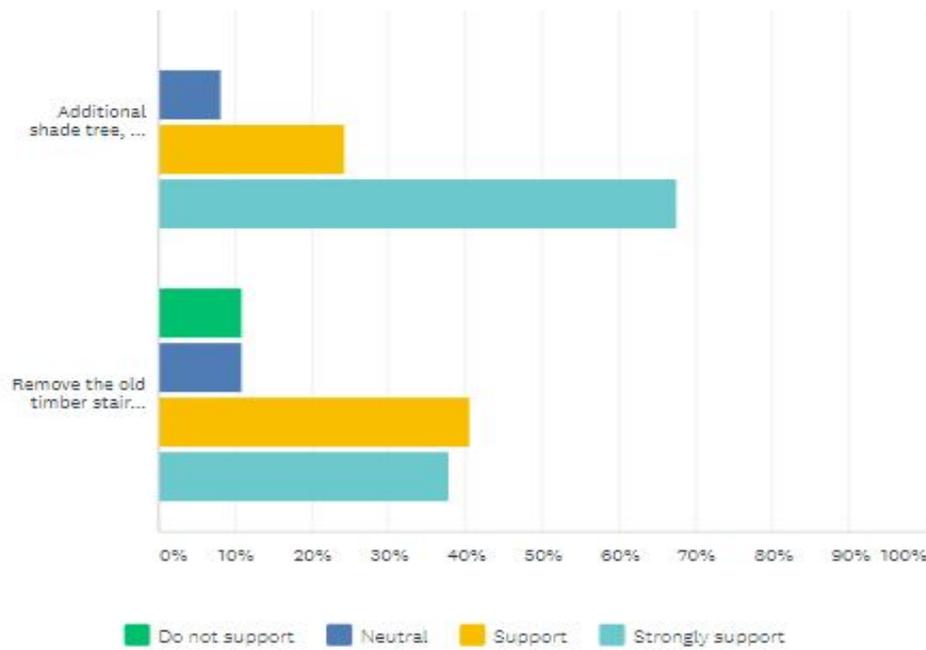
Respondents who completed the online feedback form were asked to rate how important elements of the proposed design were to them. The results are below

Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



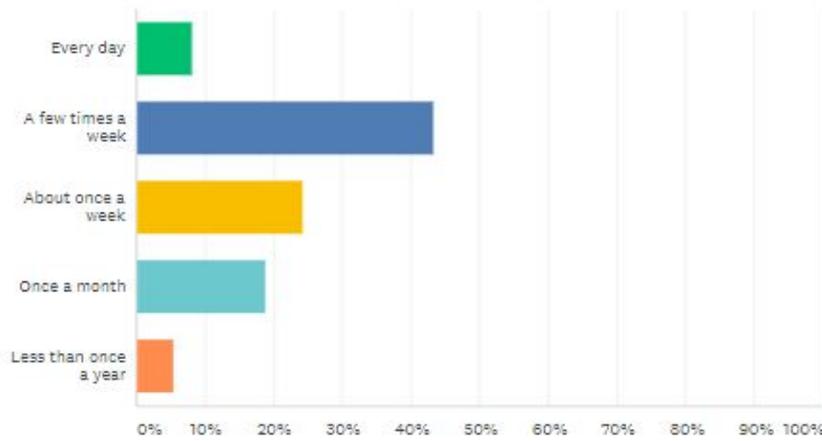
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	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	TOTAL
Replacement of the play equipment which focuses on younger children and includes slides, servery, tunnel, rope climbing challenge and lookout deck, double swings with toddler cradle and bucket seats and nature play area	2.70% 1	18.92% 7	32.43% 12	45.95% 17	37
New link path to provide better access and improve safety	2.70% 1	13.51% 5	21.62% 8	62.16% 23	37
New path lights to improve night-time safety	0.00% 0	21.62% 8	24.32% 9	54.05% 20	37
Replace the barbeques with new accessible facilities, table, and bench seats	5.41% 2	16.22% 6	27.03% 10	51.35% 19	37
Improve the turf grass area for passive recreation and sitting	0.00% 0	10.81% 4	40.54% 15	48.65% 18	37
Additional shade tree, new shrub, and groundcover plantings	0.00% 0	8.11% 3	24.32% 9	67.57% 25	37
Remove the old timber stairs and platform deck structure	10.81% 4	10.81% 4	40.54% 15	37.84% 14	37

How often do you currently use the park?

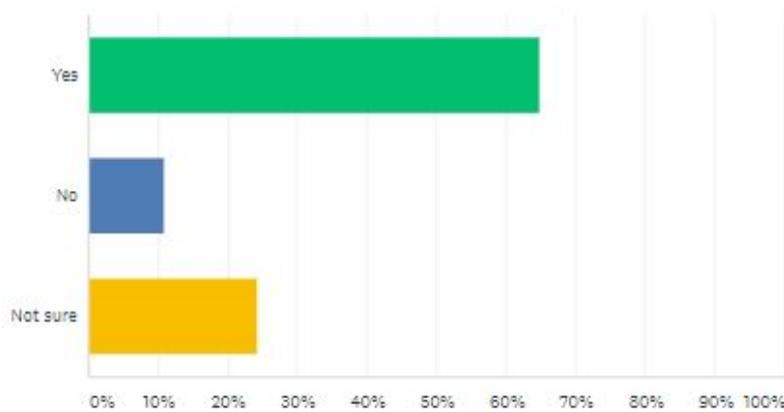
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Every day	8.11% 3
▼ A few times a week	43.24% 16
▼ About once a week	24.32% 9
▼ Once a month	18.92% 7
▼ Less than once a year	5.41% 2
TOTAL	37

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

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	64.86% 24
▼ No	10.81% 4
▼ Not sure	24.32% 9
TOTAL	37

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
Toilets should be installed in the park	11	James Watkinson Reserve is a local scale park. A public toilet is not proposed which is consistent with the City of Sydney Public Toilet Strategy. A public toilet is located nearby in Pyrmont Point Park which is 250m or about 5 minutes' walk . These toilets are also be refurbished in early 2022.
Would like more shade in the reserve	5	The draft Concept Design includes an additional shade trees near the playground and barbeque facilities. The plan provides more seats and a range of seating in the shade.
Entry to the playground from Point Street should be upgraded to make it easier for prams and wheelchairs	4	<p>The park is split over two level, the upper area from Point Street/ Ways Terrace and a lower reserve from Mill Street. The height difference ranges from 5-7m.</p> <p>The provision of an accessible ramp (1:14) has been investigated and would need to be about 82 metres long. This will significantly encroach and reduce the amount of open green spaces and is not recommended.</p> <p>On grade route and accessible entry is via Mill Street which is about 180m or less the 2minutes walk. A new link path has been included to improve access to the playground, barbeque facilities and seating for everyone.</p>
Some seating should remain away from the play space for those who don't have children	4	The draft Concept Plan includes and range of seating opportunities for everyone. Seats and tables located are near the playground, around the park in both shade and in the sun.
New access path is not needed	1	The existing playground, seats and barbeque facilitates are in located grass areas. The aim is to improve access and provide recreation facilities for everyone.

Engagement Report: James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont Renewal

Would like blue lights used so views are not disrupted at night	1	<p>The purpose is to provide path lighting to improve night-time safety.</p> <p>The standard City LED park light fittings are design direct light down to help minimise light spill.</p>
Stairs should not be removed as they are part of the heritage of the park	2	<p>The timber stairs and platform were installed in 1992 and are not a heritage item. The stair structure has reached the end of its life and is in poor condition. Due to structural and safety concerns the stairs have been closed and will be removed.</p> <p>There are three other stair links between the upper and lower reserve areas.</p>
Existing BBQ should be retained with a new one placed in the lower park area	3	<p>The draft Concept Plan retains barbeques at both upper and lower park areas. The barbeque facilities will be replaced with new accessible</p>
Install a water bubbler	3	<p>A water bubbler with dog bowl has been included.</p>
Better cycling access through the park	2	<p>The path connections from Point Street, Way Terrace and Jones Bay Wharf road all include stairs and are not identified as key routes in the City of Sydney Cycling Strategy.</p> <p>An on-grade route and accessible entry is via Mill Street. A new link path has been included to improve access.</p> <p>Additional bike rack will be provided.</p>
A tap should be installed close to the BBQs	2	<p>A water tap will be provided near the barbeques</p>
The reserve should be made a dog-free area	2	<p>James Watkinson Reserve is a designated dog on-leash. Dogs are prohibited from the playgrounds which is clearly defined.</p>
Seating along the path should be moved back slightly so people's legs don't impede the path	1	<p>The new seats will be installed adjacent to the path to ensure a clear path of travel. The path is 2m wide.</p>
A bin with dog waste bags should be installed	1	<p>A garbage bin with dog waste bag will be provided.</p>
Feature lighting should be placed along the sandstone cliff	1	<p>Feature cliff light is proposed and will be included in the project.</p>
A small water feature should be installed in the reserve	1	<p>The inclusion of a water feature is not supported in a local scale park due to the</p>

Engagement Report: James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont Renewal

Play space	Total	City of Sydney Response
The new slide should not be metal as it gets too hot	1	high level of ongoing maintenance and operations The proposed slides are plastic. The play structure been positioned near the tree and shade.
Install a water play element	3	The installation of a water play area is not supported in a small local scale park. Water play areas are appropriate in large parks such Pirrama Park, Pyrmont nearby.
Install a sandpit	3	The inclusion of a children's sandpit will be investigated as part of the nature play area
Fencing around the play space to contain children	2	The inclusion of a fence is not supported in this park. The reserve and playground are enclosed and protected adjacent the sandstone cliff. Sandstone and planted barrier edges are also proposed. The seats are located near the entries for parents and carers.
Replace the bark ground cover for soft fall	2	The playground includes new natural organic mulch and rubber soft-fall surfaces to provide inclusive access, manipulative and nature play experiences
The play area should not be extended at the expense of green space	1	The new loop path between the play space and cliff has needs some adjusts to the layout. The proposed playground size and footprint is about the same as the existing play area.
An area for children to draw with chalk	1	The new loop path and paved area round the playground will provide space for children to draw with chalk on the pavement.
Include an extra swing and slide	1	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
Install an inground trampoline	1	Trampolines have a large footprint and can only be used by one child at a time. Due to space constraints the inclusion of a trampoline is not possible in this park.

Engagement Report: James Watkinson Reserve, Pymont Renewal

Retain the pirate ship theme	1	The new play structure includes are number of imaginary play element and activities including binoculars and steering wheel.
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Zoom consultation session

A Zoom consultation feedback session was held on Wednesday 15 September 2021.

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

Key feedback received during the online session were:

- Additional tables (in lawn ok) separate to bbq and playground desirable
- Improvement to the existing concrete ramp areas to provide on grade connection from Way Terrace
- Concerns about the playground size
- Consider the inclusion of water play and sand pit

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.

Fourteen responses were received including a joint petition by Pymont Community and Pymont Action Inc. during the pre-consultation period. Ideas and suggestions helped to shape the Concept Plan. Key themes from the pre-consultation were:

- The James Watkinson Reserve was saved from development by the Pymont community spear headed by the families in the nearby Way's Terrace
- The children's playground has been refurbished and the park is in good order
- We do not want "improvements" such as toilets which would make it more attractive for commercial letting purposes but less attractive for the community and particularly children
- We are concerned that rate payer's money is being spent on possible "improvements" to the park without justification
- We are happy with our little park where children can regularly visit and play unattended.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/reviced-design-james-watkinson-reserve-pymont> 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. 1,394 letters were distributed.

4. Community Zoom meeting

A Zoom session was held on 15 September. This was attended by seven residents.