

Attachment B

Hyde Park Lighting Upgrade Engagement Report



Engagement report

Hyde Park lighting upgrade

December 2022

CITY OF SYDNEY



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Background

Hyde Park is Australia's oldest designated public park and its heritage landscape is central to many of the city's cultural events. These works will renew or replace old lighting and power infrastructure, keeping the park safe and accessible for the thousands of visitors who enjoy the park each day.

A program of works was identified a number of years ago, several package of works have now been completed including: replacing fig trees near the Archibald Fountain, upgrading the Pool of Reflection in front of the Anzac Memorial, restoring paths and access points, and improving the area around the cafe at Museum Engagement summary.

From 18 October to 8 December 2021, we asked the community for feedback on plans to upgrade the lighting and power in Hyde Park as part of the Hyde Park Masterplan and Improvement works.

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 and email during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 248 times during the consultation period.

Key findings

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 comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
Integrate USB sockets or wireless power pads that could be used by locals and tourists to charge phones and other devices when they are using the park	1	The scope of the project is to upgrade the lighting to address safety and provide power for events. Power for locals and tourists is not part of the lighting upgrade.
A more heritage appropriate material other than aluminium should be used for the light posts	1	The light poles have been designed to replicate the original pole profile, the aluminium material addresses ease of maintenance and can be recycled.
Heritage lantern style lights should be used rather than the globe style currently in place	1	The opalescent spheres are consistent with the 1930's Masterplan light pole design.
Lower the lighting levels to create more ambiance in the park	1	The lighting levels have been designed with consideration to both the heritage significance and ambiance of the park and the need to provide a safe park environment.
Light posts should be of dark bronze finish so they are recessive during the day	1	The dark bronze finish was reviewed on site, the colour was not supported by the Heritage Office.
Lighting levels need to be sympathetic to surrounding residential buildings so as not to impact on their amenity. Install lights will no upward spill.	3	The lights within Hyde Park will be reduced in number, the post top lights will be located along paths and provide the same consistent glow of the current path lighting. Mast lights will be installed with downward facing flood lights to provide a soft wash of light to the open lawn areas.
Increasing ground level lighting will lead to increases in anti-social behaviour in the park	1	The City of Sydney organises a yearly survey and ask safety questions as part of the survey. Safety at night regularly features as an issue (either not safe or unknown). The last survey carried out identified 9% of the surveyed group felt the park was unsafe at night. When asked what would make the park feel safer, the group listed increased light levels. Increased lighting levels is

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		paramount to increased perception and actual safety, rather than increasing anti-social behaviour.
Too many mast lights will lead to increased light pollution in the area and disturb nocturnal animals that live in the park	2	An ecologist has been consulted on the lighting proposal; the levels have been designed to reduce impacts on nocturnal animals frequenting the park.
Other	Total	City of Sydney Response
The four lights either side of the Park Street connection between the North and South end need to be reinstated and activated	1	The four entry lights to the stairs on Park Street and the two adjacent the Pool of Reflection at the Anzac Memorial will be upgraded with warm LED lighting.
Bike riders should not be allowed to use the paths in the park	1	<p>City of Sydney policy is that all parks and plazas allow people to ride. For Hyde Park it is particularly important, as paths in Hyde Park allow people to avoid riding on busy roads such as Elizabeth Street.</p> <p>On shared paths, people riding must always give way to people walking. The City of Sydney runs four onsite education sessions a week on shared paths to remind/educate path users about safe and considerate behaviour.</p> <p>The College Street and Liverpool Street cycleways at the eastern and southern end of Hyde Park are due for completion next year. The City expect that these new safe cycleway options will reduce the number of people riding in the park.</p>

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 1092 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/upgrading-lighting-hyde-park> 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. 1092 letters were distributed.

4. Signage

Ten A1 coreflute signs were placed around the park directing the community to the consultation webpage.