

# **Attachment C**

**Engagement Report**



# Engagement report

Arthur Street Reserve, Surry Hills

December 2022

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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 2022, we consulted on our stage 17 parks, which include:

- **Arthur Street Reserve, Surry Hills**
- Douglas Street Park, Redfern
- Minogue Reserve, Glebe
- McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo

# Engagement summary

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## From 25 July to 29 August, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve Arthur Street Reserve and playground, Surry Hills

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.

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## 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.
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## 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 41 times during the consultation period.

# Key findings

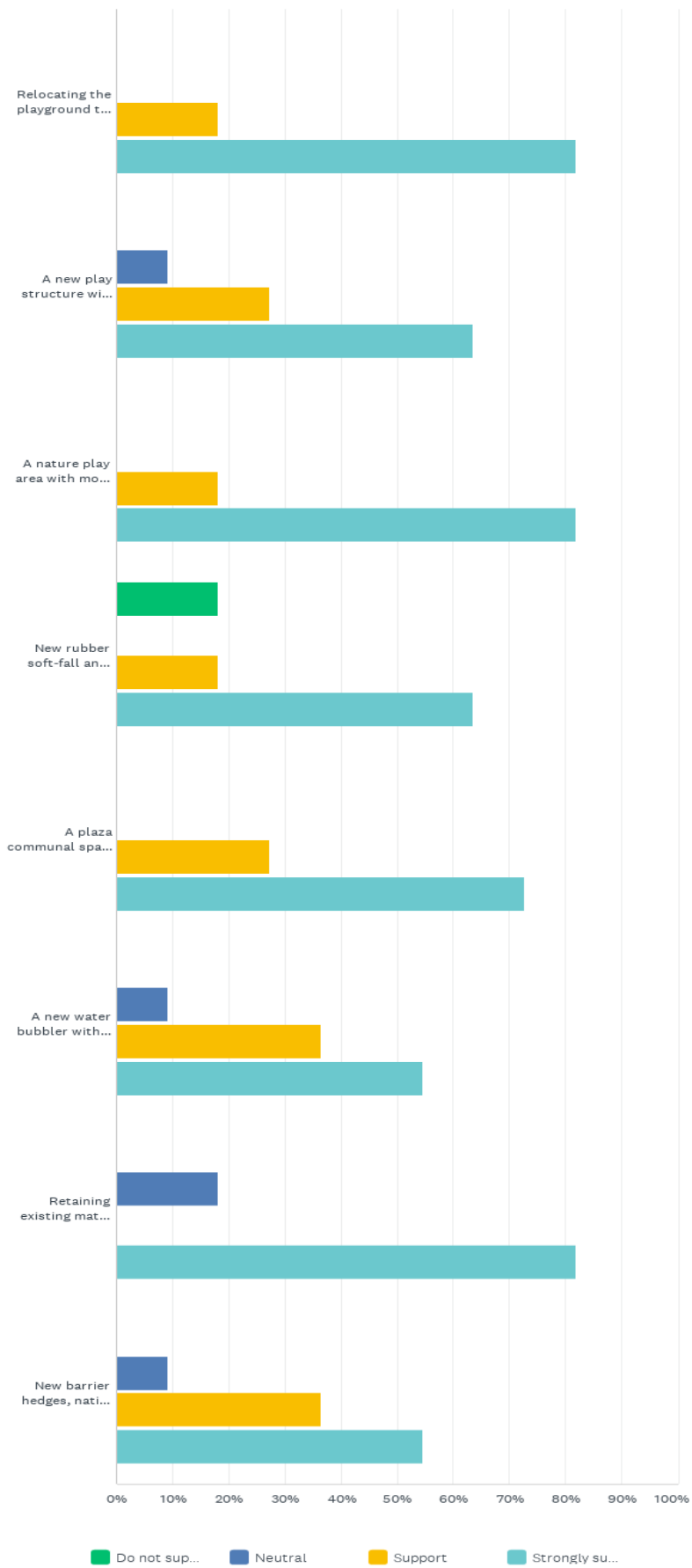
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## Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

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

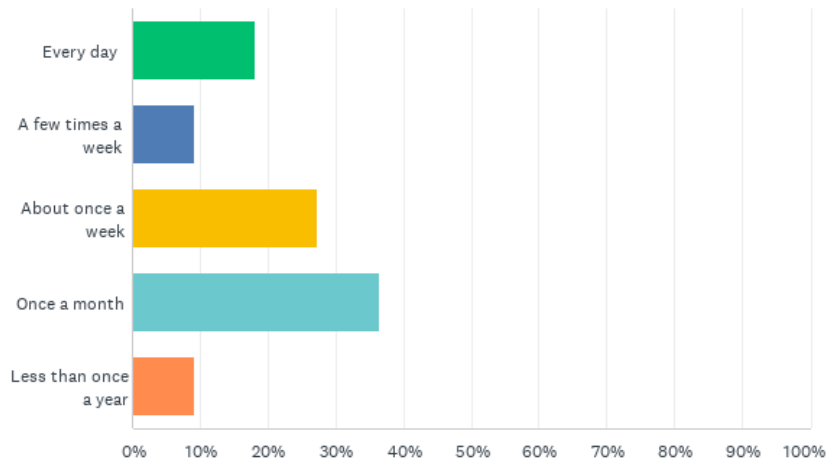
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## Q1 Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

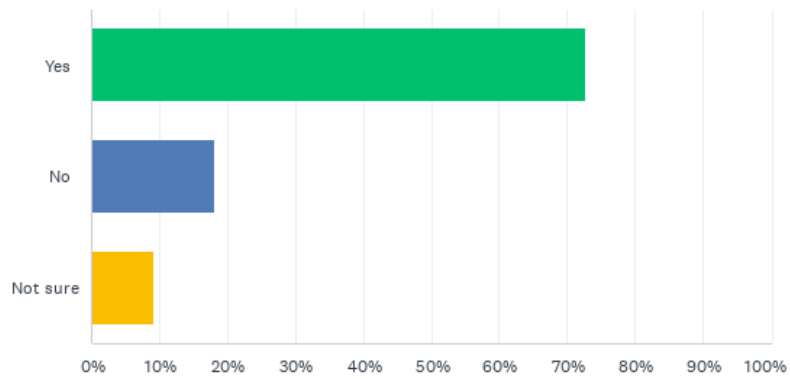


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### Q2 How often do you currently use the park?



### 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
A sunshade over the playground to stop leaves and branches falling over the equipment	2	All trees are inspected annually and can be pruned as needed to improve amenity and reduce the likelihood of branch failure.  Ongoing maintenance of the reserve will include sweeping of leaves.
Would prefer turf to synthetic	2	Synthetic turf relates to the soft-fall required for the play equipment fall zones.  Additional areas of soft planting will be reviewed in design development.
Make sure the play equipment includes ropes and climbing elements to challenge children	1	Proposed equipment includes ropes and climbing elements.
The paved "plaza" be replaced by lawn and more plants. This will retain a greenspace for local residents	1	Additional areas of soft planting will be reviewed in design development.
Retain the hedging, or re-plant new, along the Arthur Street border of the park	1	Hedging is currently proposed along the edge of the play space.
The reserve be made an alcohol-free zone 24/7	1	Noted.
Placing the plaza area at the Southern end of the park will allow the nearby restaurant to monopolise the area with tables and chairs		Relocating the playground to the rear of the reserve enables more open space along Arthur Street frontage.  It is important for the city's open spaces to provide a range of seating opportunities for the community to encourage social interaction
Re-instate the dog poo bag dispenser	1	A dispenser can be added to the refurbished bin.
The large jacaranda in the park is causing the footpath to lift and should be addressed in the design	1	This will be reviewed in design development.
The design should not impede vehicle access to garages in Phelps Lane		Noted.

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The playground should be kept in its current location to minimise the noise impact of surrounding residential properties	1	Relocating the playground to the rear of the reserve enables more open space along Arthur Street frontage. The playground will move approximately 5 metres. Ambient noise from the playground would remain the same.
If any trees are replaced, please replace them with deciduous ones which will allow more sunlight into the park in the winter	1	Currently there are no proposals to replace existing trees.
All park/street lighting to illuminate the park/street and not be directed into the Surry Mews bedrooms	1	Lighting spill will be minimised to ensure no effects on neighbouring properties.  The proposal does not include an upgrade to the existing lighting.
Would like to see the existing equipment relocated rather than replaced	1	The equipment is at the end of its life-cycle and replacement is required.
A barrier fence at the footpath	1	Hedging is currently proposed along the edge of the play space.
New paving along the length of Phelps Lane as well as the Arthur Street footpath as this forms a continuous public domain with the park	1	The scope will include paving along Arthur Street frontage and any requirements to Phelps Lane.
The existing fencing between the park and the bin lane should be upgraded as part of the works	1	This will be investigated during the next stage.
The rubbish bins at the rear of the park attract rodents		The proposal relocates the bins near the street. This will also enable easier pickup.
The park is full of mosquitos and would like this addressed in the design	2	This will be investigated.
Recycling bin should be included	1	The City has one standard bin and sorting for recycling is undertaken off-site.
Install bike parking in the plaza area	1	This can be investigated in design development.
Create area for adult exercise consisting of exercise bars and flat exercise area for basic movements	1	This project is to replace the existing play equipment. The overall reserve is too small to accommodate both play equipment and fixed exercise equipment.  The design will investigate smaller, incidental opportunities for balance and basic movements that can be used by everyone.
As the space is small, there should be no hedging separating seating and play areas	1	Barrier planting will be investigated, noting to maximise the amount of space.

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The proposed plaza area is too large and doesn't make good use of the space	1	The plaza area will continue to be developed during the next phase of design development

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### Pop up information session

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Saturday 6 August from 10am to 11:30am.

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.

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### Pre consultation feedback

Prior to undertaking general community consultation on the proposal, the City undertook some early consultation work in late 2021 to ask local residents how often they use the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

Twelve responses were received during the pre-consultation period. Ideas and suggestions helped to shape the Concept Plan. Key themes from the pre-consultation were:

- Retain the existing mature trees and park character – prune trees to increase sunlight.
- Provide more seats for everyone and increase the range of seating opportunities for picnic, informal dining, and social gathering.
- Provide a community gathering, plaza space.
- Upgrade the playground equipment.
- Maintain the playground size improve the play experience.
- Increase natural materials and nature play.
- Improve the natural turf grass areas
- Maintain a mixture of rubber, synthetic grass and organic mulch soft-fall and natural turf grass areas.

# Engagement activities

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## Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 275 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Saturday 6 August from 10am to 11:30am.

### 1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-proposed-design-arthur-street-reserve-playground-surry-hills> 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. 275 letters were distributed.

### 4. Community pop up session

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Saturday 6 August from 10am to 11:30am. This was attended by approximately 12 residents.

### 5. Signage

Two signs were placed in the park directing people online to leave their feedback.



