

Attachment C

Engagement Report



Engagement report

Douglas Street Park and Playground, Redfern

February 2023

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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

From 17 October to 11 November, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve Douglas Street park and playground, Redfern.

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.
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Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

We received a total of 3 submissions via Survey Monkey and email during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 107 times during the consultation period.

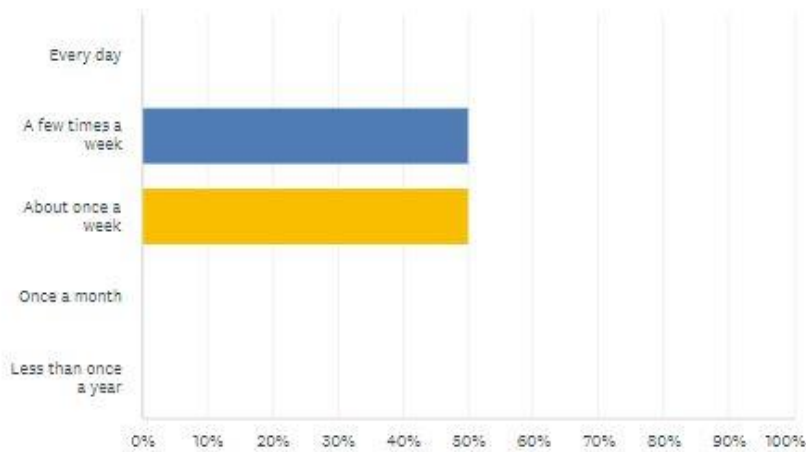
Key findings

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

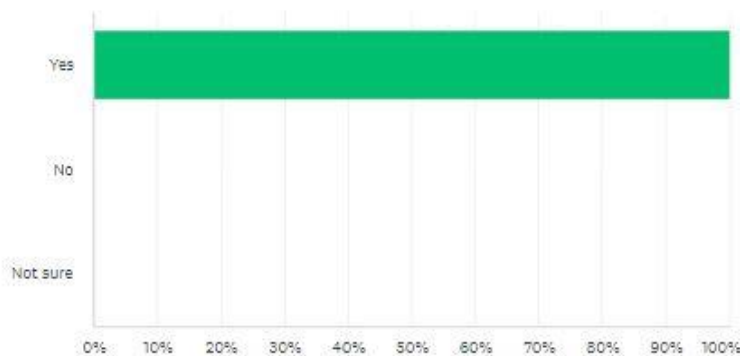
How often do you currently use the park?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0



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

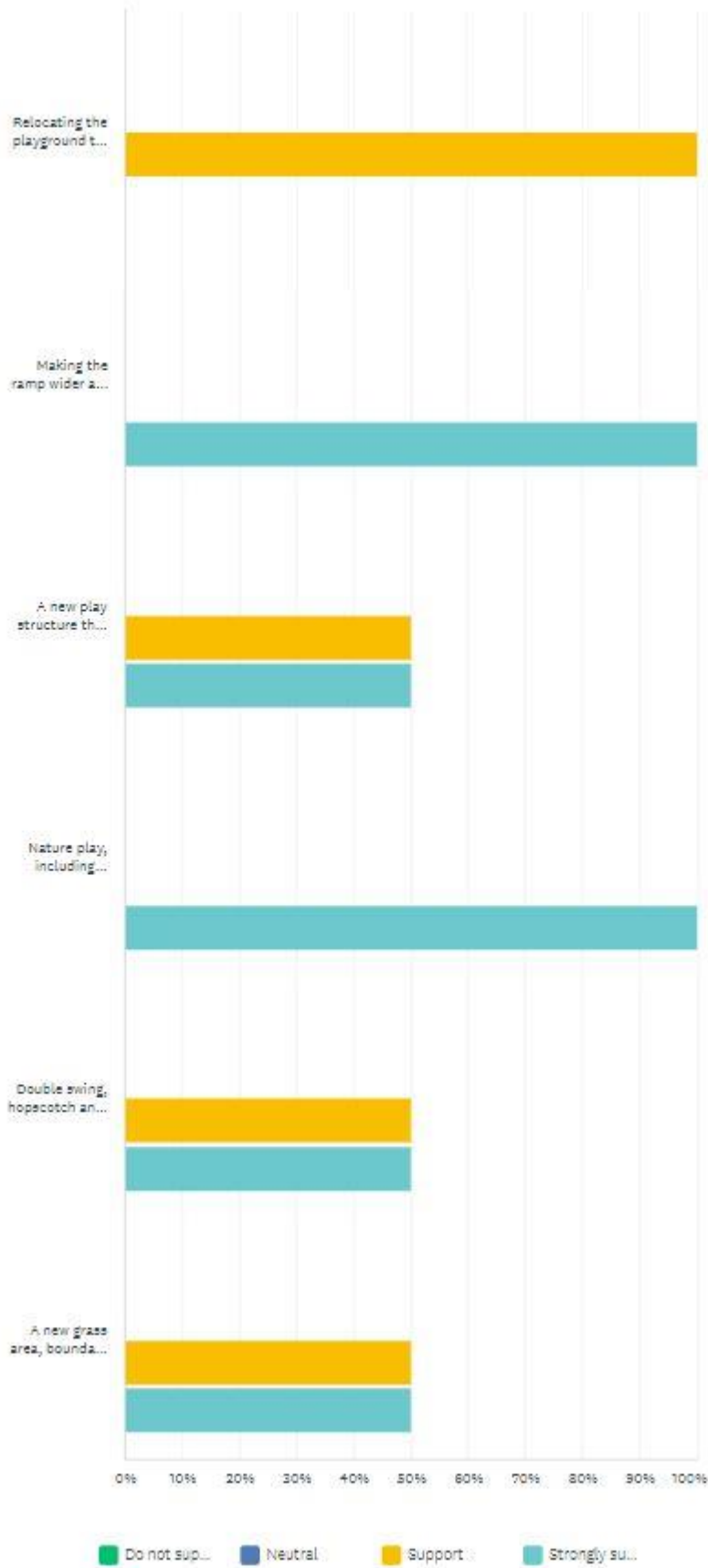
Answered: 2 Skipped: 0



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Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

Answered: 2 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		
Comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
Consider not having new tree plantings and have low level plants instead to encourage sunlight to maintain grass health	1	This will be considered in the design development stage. The proposal includes tree removals along the street front to the park, with the aim to replace trees in the park where possible.
Install new rubbish and sharps bins in the park	1	A bin is not proposed for the concept. We will refer needle finds to Safe City and seek their recommendation on requirements of a sharps bin.
Upgrading lighting so the area can be used at night-time	1	The City's lighting policy includes only lighting main paths of travel through parks. We have carried out a lighting audit and the lights that are non-compliant will be removed.
Remove the proposed tree planting on the Western border of the park as it will cause too much shade on neighbouring properties	1	Concerns noted, and this will be further reviewed in design development stage.
Pruning lower branches of the large gum in the NW corner of the park. It drops dangerous branches and would also allow better sun exposure for the new grass area	1	As part of the ongoing project work, we will look at this tree in detail with the project arborist to prune lower branches. All trees are reviewed annually.
Mosquitos are a large problem in the park and should be addressed	1	This will be investigated in the following design stages.
Would like the new play structure to be of an open design and not have hiding places as there has been an issue with needles in the park	1	The play structure will include different materials such as mesh for side panels to ensure it is visually open.
Do not include bins as they attracted vermin	1	The proposal does not include bins.
Would like bench seating to include arm bars so they cannot be slept on	1	The City's standard benches have arm rests at each end only.
Concern leaf/bark litter from large eucalyptus tree in corner of neighbouring backyard could hinder growth of proposed mass planting to park edges	1	The extent of mass planting and species type will take into consideration the existing trees.

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Dog poo bags should be installed	1	A bin is not proposed.

Pop up information session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 8 November from 4pm to 5:30pm.

Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Several 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 2021 to ask local residents how often they use the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

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

- Park is used by both families for the playground and social gatherings. Adults use park for exercise with number of request for fitness equipment.
- Concern over needle misuse at the park.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 327 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 8 November from 4pm to 5:30pm

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-proposed-design-douglas-street-park-playground-redfern> 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. 327 letters were distributed.

4. Community pop up session

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 8 November from 4pm to 5:30pm

5. Signage

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