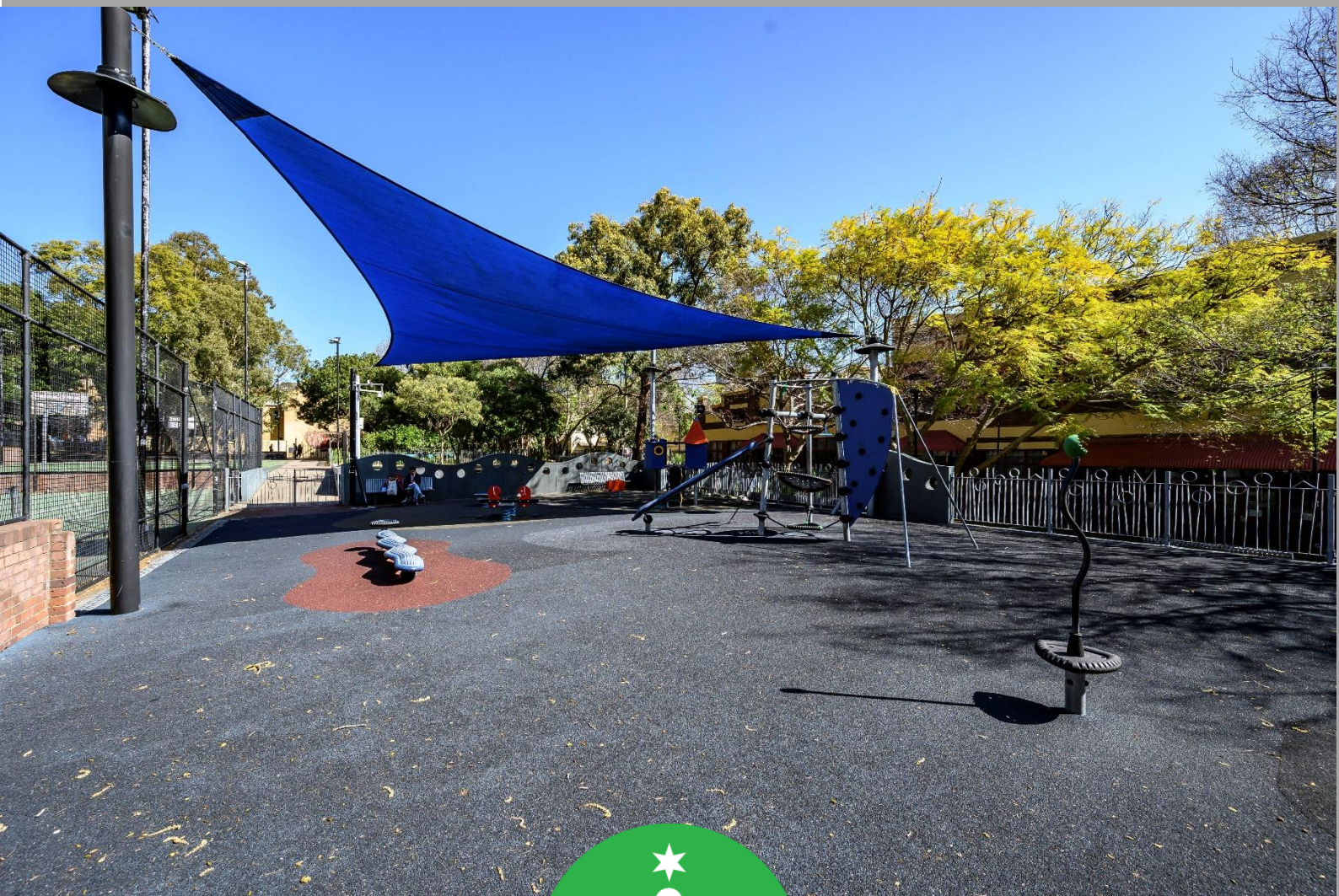


# **Attachment C**

## **Engagement Report**



# Engagement report

Woolloomooloo Park and Playground,  
Woolloomooloo

June 2023

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# Engagement summary

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## Background

The City of Sydney is planning to upgrade Woolloomooloo playground as part of its park upgrade program. We are currently upgrading more than 35 parks across the City, from small pocket parks to larger neighbourhood parks.

In 2019/2020, the City consulted the community about plans to upgrade Woolloomooloo playground. The concept design was approved by Council in October 2020.

In late 2022, we conducted further consultation on the proposed design. We invited the community to give us feedback on the updated design. After this phase of consultation, significant changes were made to the design. The amended design was presented back to the community for comment in May 2023.

This report summarises the feedback received during the 2022 and 2023 community consultations.

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## Overview of activities

Following the community's request to undertake further consultation on the approved design, the City undertook extra activities in late 2022 and then in May and June of 2023 to ensure that the community had more opportunities to provide feedback and discuss their issues and concerns with staff.

These consultation activities included:

- 21 November 2022: workshop with Plunkett Street Public School students (20 attendees)
- 25 November 2022: staff attended a Woolloomooloo community BBQ to discuss the design
- 6 December 2022: community workshop at Woolloomooloo playground (approx. 50 attendees)
- 10 May to 8 June 2023: amended concept design on exhibition
- 26 May 2023: staff attended a Woolloomooloo community BBQ to discuss the revised design
- 1 June 2023: community meeting to discuss design and speak to Council officers (approx. 30 attendees)

## 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.



# Engagement Outcomes

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## Summary of engagement activities undertaken in 2023

From 10 May to 8 June 2023, we asked the community for feedback on a revised concept plan to improve Woolloomooloo Playground, Woolloomooloo.

Consultation activities included online engagement, a letter to residents and project signage at the park, attending the community barbeque and a community meeting hosted by the Lord Mayor.

The community meeting was attended by 30 people. We received a total of 16 submissions including 11 completed surveys and 5 email submissions and a petition from students from Plunkett Street Public School. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 248 times during the consultation period.

**The community told us they are strongly supportive of the final concept design and the upgrade would encourage them to use the park more. This was expressed through both the submissions and comments made during the community meeting.**

While outside the scope of the park upgrade, the community is still concerned with traffic safety on Pring Street as well as the location of a new public toilet in the park surrounds. Both these issues are being looked at separately by Council officers.

### Community meeting

The Lord Mayor hosted a community meeting on Thursday 1 June 2023 at the Juanita Nielson Centre, Woolloomooloo. This meeting was an opportunity for the community to view the revised plan, ask City staff questions and provide their feedback. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 residents.

A summary of the issues raised is below:

#### Park and playground

- Suggest installing solar bench seats that could be used to charge mobile phones
- Support to maintain the “Woolloomooloo” text in the playground fence design
- Suggest the City and community work together to create a mural on the inside wall of the playground, honouring the heritage and culture of past and present users. Archived photos could be used
- Request native plants be used in the playground

### Road Safety

- Suggest installing temporary safety measures to Dowling Street/Pring Street, such as planter boxes or rainbow markings to deter children from skating and scooting down entry ramp into Pring Street /Dowling Street
- A request was made to repaint speed limit markings on the road as they have worn off

### Public Toilet

- Concerned about anti-social behaviour in the toilet, such as people playing music and drug use
- Request was made for any new toilet installed in the park to be within line of sight of the playground.

### Dowling Street public domain

- Suggest creating an amphitheatre on Dowling Street between the school and playground.

## Survey results

We received a total of 16 submissions during the consultation period including 11 completed surveys, 4 email submissions and a petition from several school students. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 248 times during the consultation period.

## Survey results

Residents were asked to select how they felt about the various design elements proposed in the park by selecting either; strong support, support, neutral or do not support.

The design elements were:

- A fully fenced playground which is the same size as the existing one
- A play structure with climbing net and slides
- A basket swing and a swing with baby seat, a multi-user seesaw, a springer and spinner, monkey bars, a climbing net carousel and a rock-climbing structure
- Nature play including steppingstones and logs, cluster poles, sandstone boulders and scrambling net
- New plants and trees in playground
- A larger grass area
- Better connection between the playground and the barbecue area
- More seating in both sunny and shaded locations
- Relocated bins
- A new water bubbler and dog bowl

The residents overwhelmingly selected 'strong support' for all the elements in the proposal.

## 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:

Comments	Total
Incorporate the cultural history of the area through a mural/artwork in the playground	2
Install binoculars in the play space so children can look down Dowling Street towards the wharf	2
Upgrade the tennis and basketball courts as part of the project. Reinstate the snake/eel previously on the basketball court.	2
Change the mural in the tennis court every 5 years like is done with the basketball court	2
Ensure native plants are used in the playground	1
Move the two picnic seating platforms near the BBQ to the edge of the grass area in the shade	1
Make sure there is power for community functions, previously had DJs on the tennis courts.	1
Shift the planting near the swings further back so they do not get trampled by children playing	1
Integrate nature play elements into the garden beds to free up space for more play areas	1
Include a flying fox in the playground	1
Install two more bins in the park	1
Install two more picnic seating platforms around the edges of the grass area under the trees	1
Install planter boxes at the bottom of the sloping pathway at Dowling and Pring Street to stop skateboard and scooter riders from riding onto the road	1
Install toilets	1
Please extend the new seating wall on the basketball court for more seating	1
Include water play elements in the playground	1



Plunkett Street Primary School students petition

A petition was received from several students at Plunkett Street Primary School asking for a 'Hamster Wheel' to be installed in the new playground.

Plunkett Street Primary School

Dear Clover Moore,

Please can we have a hamster wheel in our new playground in Woolloomooloo?  
We can all play in it together.

Mateo  
Gunnantha  
mimi



Ben  
Lora  
N!

Aikeda  
Jannali  
Belynda  
Jaster  
Rocco James  
Samson  
TYVAN  
Alex  
Mika  
Jakkheil  
Raiph  
benjamin  
benji  
JOhe  
Tyrus  
definetly good idea  
Lin the great!!  
ALESSIO  
YAYA  
Agrob  
charlie  
Val  
Savannah  
amazing!  
NEB  
uriah  
Myah

## Community BBQ

Staff attended a community BBQ at Woolloomooloo playground on Friday 26 May. The BBQ was attended by approximately 30 community members and staff were onsite to answer questions about the proposal. Overall, the community were very supportive of the new design and appreciative of the changes that had been made.

Comments from the day are covered in the submission table above.

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## Outcomes from activities undertaken in 2022

### Plunkett Street Public School workshop

Council staff held a workshop with approximately 20 students between the ages of 9 and 12 at Plunkett Street Public school on 21 November 2022.

Students were split into small groups and, with a staff member, given an activity sheet to fill in asking them what they liked in the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

The key themes received from the students were:

- More social play elements that can be used by more than one person at a time such as basket swings, merry go rounds, see saws
- More adventurous play elements such as rock walls, spinners and climbing platforms and flying fox
- Equipment that could be used by children of all ages



Group Name:

Group Members:

Ages:



What we like about the park and playground?

Monkey Bars  
Slides  
Okay — has a lot equipment  
A bit I like the trees  
castle and binoculars  
spinners Fire man pole  
see saws Play towers

What could be better about the park and playground?

Spinner  
flying fox  
Too much equipment  
A bit old  
Zip line  
bubblers ropes  
Dog bowls Shelter  
tube chairs rock wall

Woolloomooloo Playground - Plunkett Street School Consultation

CITY OF SYDNEY



Group Name:

Group Members:

Ages:

What we like about the park and playground?

Side  
See saw  
the wall near the chair  
I like the little house  
I like the pirate ship  
I like how it's not clean :-  
I like the house thing  
I like it but meh.  
Treehouse

What could be better about the park and playground?

Monkey Swing  
Bars  
merry go round  
more hiding spot!!!!  
Chess game Board  
BIG  
Cling bars  
Treehouse  
Flying fox  
trampoline  
100%  
more cleaner  
jumps  
mesh  
jumping castle  
monkey bars  
brig

Woolloomooloo Playground - Plunkett Street School Consultation

CITY OF SYDNEY

## Community workshop

The community workshop was hosted by the Lord Mayor in Woolloomooloo Park on 6 December 2022. It was attended by approximately 50 community members.

City staff provided an overview of the proposed plan. Attendees were split into groups and walked around the park with City staff to discuss various elements of the design. Notes from these discussions are included below.

Attendees were asked to fill out a feedback form. A total of 37 feedback forms were received. Of these forms 10 made suggestions relating to the park as a whole, 7 focussed exclusively on the playground and 13 highlighted individual issues.

A majority of people who filled in a form supported changing traffic access to Pring Street and were also happy to delay the playground upgrade to ensure the design better aligned with the views of the community.

Key themes raised during the onsite community workshop:

- Safety and accessibility – provide safe and accessible routes in and around the park
- Pring Street – address safety concerns for pedestrians particularly for school children moving between the school, park and McElhone Steps
- Green space – maximise lawn area and maintain the tree canopy
- Playground design – retain the size of the playground
- Play equipment – increase the type of equipment with more group play opportunities, challenging equipment and natural elements.
- Park amenities – provide more seating and relocate bins and
- Public toilets - install public toilets nearby the park

## Community workshop – feedback forms

What do you like about the existing park:	
Comments	Total
The open grass area around the BBQ/ place for picnics	10
The size and open space in the play area	9
The sense of community/history	7
The free access to tennis and basketball courts	7
The varied play equipment for all ages	5
The community garden	5
The shade and number of trees	4
One access gate with secure fencing/no entry near the roadway	5
The lights at night	2
Integrated playground and exercise equipment	1
The distinct separation between the different areas	1

<b>Suggestions about the design:</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<b>Total</b>
Increase the grass area in the park	10
Maintain the existing grass area around the BBQ	7
Remove the Pring Street entrance to the playground	7
Install permanent toilets closer to the park	4
Maintain/increase the current playground size	4
Integrate more seating into the design	3
Suggestions for new/additional play equipment:	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand pits</li> <li>• Climbing structures</li> <li>• Bucket swing</li> <li>• Multiple slides</li> <li>• Two person swings</li> <li>• Trampolines</li> <li>• Monkey bars</li> </ul>	
Create an amphitheatre on Dowling Street between the playground and the school	3
Extend/integrate the playground into the garden beds on Dowling Street	3
Remove the community garden and create more open space	2
Install shade over the tennis courts	2
Maintain the area as is and only replace the play equipment	2
Include more natural elements in playground equipment	2
Apply a natural tone playground with native elements and cultural inclusions	1
Better security measures to deter anti-social behaviour	1
Minimise access path so as not to take up playground space	1
Install rubbish bins close to the fenced playground area	1

<b>Do you support closing Pring Street:</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	21
No	11
No opinion	5

<b>Are you happy to delay the project to undertake further design changes:</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	22
No	0
No opinion	15



## Community workshop - group discussion feedback

### **Group one – 6 residents**

- **Playground size**
  - Do not want to see a reduction in the playground size.
  - Preference to make playground area as large as possible.
  - Increase playground area by moving playground outwards, perhaps onto Dowling Street
- **Pring Street**
  - Support Pring Street closure
  - Do not support bleachers on Pring Street corner
  - One resident raised concerns about emergency vehicle access in the area if the street was closed
- **Gate locations –**
  - Concern about gate facing Pring Street
  - Preference to have one gate into playground
- **Playground equipment and materials**
  - Preference more social play items - basket swing and 4-person seesaw
  - Would like more natural materials/elements used in the playground design
- **BBQ lawn Area**
  - Maintain the existing grass area around the BBQ
- **Fitness equipment**
  - Divided about fitness area being inside playground – understood best practice but preference to have separate.
- **Bin locations**
  - Would like bins installed closer to the playground so parents can access without leaving the play area.

### **Group two – 4 residents**

- **Playground size**
  - Do not want to see a reduction in the playground size
- **Pring Street**
  - Residents responded they have never seen any conflicts between cars and children at the corner of Pring Street
  - Do not support bleachers on Pring Street corner
- **Gate locations**
  - Would like to see both the gates within the space closer to the southern end/ maybe facing onto Dowling Street
- **Playground equipment and materials**
  - Make sure the equipment is open and easily visible
- **BBQ lawn Area**
  - Maintain the existing grass area around the BBQ
- **Fitness equipment**
  - Would like to see the fitness equipment removed and the space incorporated back into the playground
  - Asked that the fitness equipment be moved to Bourke Street closer to where the older children gather
- **Activation of the Dowling Street**
  - Investigate incorporating the lower terraced/ garden space into the playground
  - The interface with the school is undervalued and the school was open to using the space, noting there was a large hall and kitchen that faced onto the street



- **Courts**
  - Investigate making the tennis court a more multi use space so it could be used for other ball sports
- **Seating**
  - Install more seating around the playground and BBQ area

### **Group three – 5 residents**

- **Playground size**
  - Do not want to see a reduction in the playground size
  - Preference to make playground area as large as possible
- **Pring Street**
  - One resident strongly opposed the idea of closing Pring Street as it would cause access issues
  - Create a safe crossing point to improve the conditions on the street
- **Gate locations**
  - Concern about gate facing Pring Street.
  - Preference to have one gate but understands safety issues and best practice so would prefer to have two gates if they are not facing Pring Street
- **Playground equipment and materials**
  - Would like a bucket swing installed
  - Would like the fence to be tall enough that children cannot climb over
- **Fitness equipment**
  - Retain the exercise equipment and include dip bars
- **Bin locations**
  - Would like bins installed closer to the playground so parents can access without leaving the play area
- **Community garden**
  - Preference for the community garden to be removed or relocated and substituted for more play area for children

### **Group four – 8-12 residents**

- **Playground size**
  - Do not want to see a reduction in the size of the playground size
  - Extend the playground further south if possible
  - Remove the internal fencing as it reduces the play area
- **Pring Street**
  - Support Pring Street closure
- **Gate locations**
  - Concern about gate facing Pring Street
  - Preference to have one gate into playground
- **Playground equipment and materials**
  - Use a similar material palette to the new Ultimo playground
  - Install more informal seating in the playground area
- **BBQ lawn Area**
  - Maintain the existing grass area around the BBQ
- **Activation of the Dowling Street**
  - Upgrade the public domain generally, retain the trees, retain the ramped walkway, make more usable for the school by making an amphitheatre on the northern section, repave the whole area as it is uneven and tired
- **Fitness equipment**
  - Include female friendly exercise equipment
- **Bin locations**

- Would like bins installed closer to the playground so parents can access without leaving the play area.
- **Community garden**
  - Relocate the community garden to Denis Winston Place to extend the grass area in the park.

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### Plunkett Street Public School Parents and Citizens Association

The Plunkett Street Public School Parents and Citizens Association wrote to the City on 25 November with their feedback on the park design.

They asked the City to:

- Not reduce the size of the playground or the amount of equipment and have it fully enclosed with exercise equipment inside
- Close Pring Street to traffic and remove the proposed Pring Street entrance and bleachers and only have one entrance to the playground
- Remove the pathway alongside the tennis court
- Create an amphitheatre on Dowling Street between the playground and the school
- Maintain the existing grass area around the BBQ
- Integrate seating in the playground amongst the planting
- More play equipment and opportunities for children to play together
- Use more natural materials for the play equipment rather than plastic
- Use soft fall around the swings
- Use an open slide rather than closed design for safety and ease of cleaning
- Maintain the Woolloomooloo letter metal fence around the playground if possible
- Consider how the history and stories from Woolloomooloo residents could be integrated into the playground/park as part of the design

# Engagement activities

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## Overview of activities undertaken to support the consultation

### 1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-proposed-woolloomooloo-playground-upgrade> was created. The page included an electronic copy of the revised concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.

The page was viewed 248 times during the consultation period.

### 2. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to 3,225 residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposed design.

### 3. Community meetings

6 December 2022: community workshop at Woolloomooloo playground (approx. 50 attendees)

June 2023: community meeting to discuss design and speak to Council officers (approx. 30 attendees)

### 4. Children's workshop at Plunkett Street Primary School

A design workshop was held with students at Plunkett Street Primary School on Monday 21 November.

### 5. Community Neighbourhood BBQ

25 November 2022: staff attended a Woolloomooloo community BBQ to discuss the design

26 May 2023: staff attended a Woolloomooloo community BBQ to discuss the revised design

### 6. Signage

Nine signs were placed in the park and the surrounding area informing people of the consultation.