

## **Project Scope - Robyn Kemmis Reserve Renewal, Glebe**

**File No: X090842.002**

### **Summary**

This report outlines the proposed scope of works for the park refurbishment at Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe. Robyn Kemmis Reserve has been identified as part of the small parks and playgrounds improvement program.

The project brief is to refurbish the play area including replace end of life equipment and soft-fall as required, provide a range of play experiences, improve access into and through the park, improve the function of the existing turf areas, and provide additional seating and associated landscape improvements.

Consideration has been given to the provision of play equipment in surrounding parks within a 500 metre radius to ensure a coordinated network of facilities that caters for a broad range of park users. Nearby is Victoria Park playground, offering a much larger regional scale playground for younger and school age children. A small pocket park upgrade at Glebe Street Playground in Glebe and the youth focused park upgrade at Minogue Reserve in Glebe are both up for renewal. The proposed park and playground improvement works to Minogue Reserve are the subject of a separate report to February 2024 Council.

The Draft Concept Plan was on public exhibition from 9 October 2023 to 6 November 2023. A letter was distributed in the local area and the proposal was exhibited on the City's website. The proposed works was supported by the community which included additional play equipment, added to provide increased play value. The response highlighted that an upgrade of this park would increase the current use of the park.

In response to the Draft Concept Plan public exhibition, native planting throughout the park has been included in the Revised Draft Concept Plan as shown in Attachment B.

This report recommends that Council endorse the proposed scope of works for the park refurbishment at Robyn Kemmis Reserve.

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) endorses the scope of improvements to the park and playground at Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe as described in the subject report and shown in the Revised Draft Concept Plan as Attachment B to the subject report, for progression to relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation, tender and construction.
- (B) Note the estimated project forecast as outlined in Confidential Attachment D to the subject report.

## Attachments

- Attachment A.** Location Plan and Site Photos
- Attachment B.** Revised Draft Concept Plan
- Attachment C.** Engagement Report
- Attachment D.** Financial Implications (Confidential)

## Background

1. The City has an ongoing small parks and playgrounds improvement program. This program is for parks which need upgrade or enhancement works, the replacement of end of life equipment, and to generally provide appropriate facilities for local residents.
2. Robyn Kemmis Reserve is a local park located 20-40 Franklyn Street, Glebe (refer to Attachment A). The site is approximately 1,364 square metres.
3. The land is owned by the State of New South Wales (Crown land). It is under the care and control of the City.
4. Robyn Kemmis Reserve was identified for an upgrade due to the playground's overall condition, end of life play equipment and soft-fall surfacing.
5. The reserve is characterised by a medium sized playground, community building facility, asphalt footpath, lamp posts along the footpath, outdated BBQ, surrounding fence and mature trees that provide shade coverage throughout the park.
6. The existing play equipment includes a play structure with a climbing net and slide, and a two seat swing set.
7. Consideration has been given to the provision of play equipment in surrounding parks within a 500 metre radius to ensure a coordinated network of facilities that caters for a broad range of park users. Consideration has been given to the small pocket park upgrade at Glebe Street Playground in Glebe and the youth focused park upgrade at Minogue Reserve in Glebe. Additional play equipment will be added to Robyn Kemmis Reserve to provide increased play value.
8. The proposed park and playground improvement works to Minogue Reserve are the subject of a separate report to Council.

## Draft Concept Plan

9. A concept design was developed for the works and community consultation undertaken.
10. Following consultation, feedback from the community has been incorporated into the design.
11. The Draft Concept Design sets the overall layout. The key principles are:
  - (a) Provide an accessible, welcoming and safe park for the community and visitors.
  - (b) Provide a local scale play space which improves the play opportunities for local children with a range of structured equipment, imaginative and nature play elements.
  - (c) Increase the usable area and improve usability by consolidating and better arranging park elements.
  - (d) Use simple, robust, high-quality materials which reflect the local neighbourhood character.

12. The proposal includes the following:
  - (a) New play equipment including a play structure with slides, platforms, climbing ropes and interactive panels, 2 seat swing set, see-saw, springer and stepping pods.
  - (b) Nature play area including a mix of natural sturdy materials.
  - (c) Improved path network throughout the park.
  - (d) More seating throughout the park and around the play area.
  - (e) New water bubbler and bin.
  - (f) Upgraded BBQ.
  - (g) New 700mm high gated boundary fence
  - (h) Enhanced planting areas with new low shrub planting.
  - (i) Widening the existing footpath on Franklyn St to improve pedestrian movement.
13. In response to community consultation the following will be included in the detailed design as noted in the Attachment C:
  - (a) Include more native planting
14. In response to community consultation the following will be further investigated to be included in the detailed design for inclusion as noted in the Attachment C:
  - (a) Include more native habitat planting to create corridors for wildlife
  - (b) Maintain park access for properties with existing gated access into the park.
15. The following tree management and planting is being investigated as part of the park works:
  - (a) Remove one self-seeded weed species tree, *Celtis sinensis* (Chinese Hackberry). Remove *Eucalyptus scoparia* (Wallangarra White Gum), in poor health and at the end of its useful life as recommended in the Pre-Development Tree Assessment Report. Retain and protect all other existing trees.
  - (b) The preparation of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan to inform the detailed design and ensure appropriate construction methodology.
16. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) will be lodged for the works in accordance with the Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979 and the State Environment Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

17. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 3 - Public places for all - this project will provide an improved open space which meets the needs of a variety of users and provides opportunities for social interaction.
  - (b) Direction 4 - Design excellence and sustainable development - Design excellence and sustainable development - this project is part of a wider program of renewal of local small parks and reserves across the city. It will provide an improved quality of open space.
  - (c) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - this project will improve the streetscape and amenity of the area, encouraging walking and active recreation.
  - (d) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - this project will provide public play and gathering spaces for all ages and abilities.

### Organisational Impact

18. Upgrading the playground will provide improved play experience and amenity for children and their carers. The replacement of the play assets represents a mitigation of risk to the City. The assets will require ongoing maintenance.

### Risks

19. Risks of not implementing the scope of these works include potential failure of play infrastructure and risk to the community. Daily inspections are carried out by the City as per the standard parks and playground maintenance operations.
20. Risks of not implementing this scope of works could result in failure to meet community expectations.

### Social / Cultural / Community

21. The site is an important open space within the Glebe area where many people do not have access to backyards or courtyards within their own homes. Improving the amenity and play offering within the park represents an investment in this community, providing opportunities for people of different ages and abilities to use the park alongside each other.

### Environmental

22. Protection and enhancement of the existing planting and trees through this work is in line with the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan

### Financial Implications

23. There are sufficient funds in the Parks Renewal Capital Works 10 year budget to complete all currently programmed small park upgrades..
24. Current project cost estimates and financial implications for the delivery of the Robyn Kemmis Reserve's renewal are detailed in Confidential Attachment D. Construction cost estimates will be confirmed by a Quantity Surveyor prior to tender.

### Relevant Legislation

25. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion of information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
26. Attachment D contains confidential information which, if disclosed would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
27. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.
28. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
29. State Environment Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.
30. Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.
31. Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

### Critical Dates / Time Frames

32. Current Program Dates:
  - (a) Council approval of Concept Design February 2024
  - (b) Detailed Design August 2024
  - (c) Tender October 2024
  - (d) Construction start Early 2025
  - (e) Completion Mid 2025

### Options

33. Proceed with the progression of the improvement works as outlined in this subject report including relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation, tender and construction.

34. Project does not proceed - this option is not recommended as current park and playground equipment is nearing end-of life.

### Public Consultation

35. Community consultation was undertaken as a two-part process; early engagement (pre-consultation) and public consultation / exhibition. For a detailed description of the consultation process and findings refer to Attachment C.
36. An early engagement notification letter/email was issued to residents. Twelve submissions were received during the period. The purpose of the early engagement was to seek input from the community about how they used the playground and how the reserve could be improved.
37. The public consultation involved the following:
- (a) Letters advertising the online feedback portal were distributed to the Glebe area. 1000 letters were distributed.
  - (b) A webpage on SydneyYourSay showing the plans from 9 October 2023 to 6 November 2023. The page included an electronic copy of the Draft Concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.
  - (c) A pop-up consultation feedback session was held in the reserve on Tuesday 14 October from 4pm to 5:30pm. Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Respondents were also encouraged to view the plans and provide feedback on the Sydney Your Say website. 2 people attended the session.
  - (d) An online feedback form.
  - (e) Two signs were placed in the park directing people online to leave their feedback.
38. There were 9 submissions received during the consultation period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 176 times during the consultation period. This included submissions via email and the online feedback form.
39. The proposal was well supported by the community and the responses highlighted that an upgrade to this park would increase the current use of the park. A summary and response to the key comments and suggestions are:
- (a) Support for the updated playground equipment
  - (b) Support for the proposed nature play area
  - (c) Support for the proposed landscape works
  - (d) Two requests to increase habitat planting. In doing so there is an opportunity to create corridors for wildlife. Native plants will be included in detailed design.
  - (e) One submission requested a toilet in the park. This is not part of the scope for this work. There is a public toilet located within 400m at Peter Forysth Auditorium, Glebe.

- (f) One submission requested that the design does not impact on properties that have rear access into the park. Maintaining park access for properties with existing gated access into the park will be investigated.
- (g) One submission requested to reduce some of the existing tree canopy to ensure usability and to help reduce the maintenance effort long term. Part of the existing tree canopy will be trimmed back as recommended in the Pre-Development Tree Assessment Report.

Two trees in the South-West corner of the park are being investigated for removal as recommended in the Pre-Development Tree Assessment Report. One is self-seeded weed species and the other has reached the end of its useful life.

- (h) One submission requested to include outdoor gym equipment in the reserve. This is not part of the scope for this work. This site was not reviewed as part of Council's Park Fitness Equipment Strategy.
40. As a result of the community feedback, the concept design has been revised slightly to include the following:
- (a) Native planting within the park.
41. The Revised Draft Concept Plan can be seen in Attachment B.

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