

Attachment C

Engagement Report



Engagement report

Regent Street Reserve, Paddington

June 2024



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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 2023 and 2024, we consulted on our stage 18 parks, which include:

- Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe
- Minogue Reserve, Glebe
- Ada Villa Terrace, Erskineville
- **Regent Street Reserve, Paddington**
- Glebe Street Reserve, Glebe

Engagement summary

From 13 March to 12 April 2024, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve Regent Street Reserve in Paddington.

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 concept design.
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Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

We received a total of 23 submissions during the consultation period.

18 via Survey Monkey and 5 via email.

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 311 times during the consultation period.

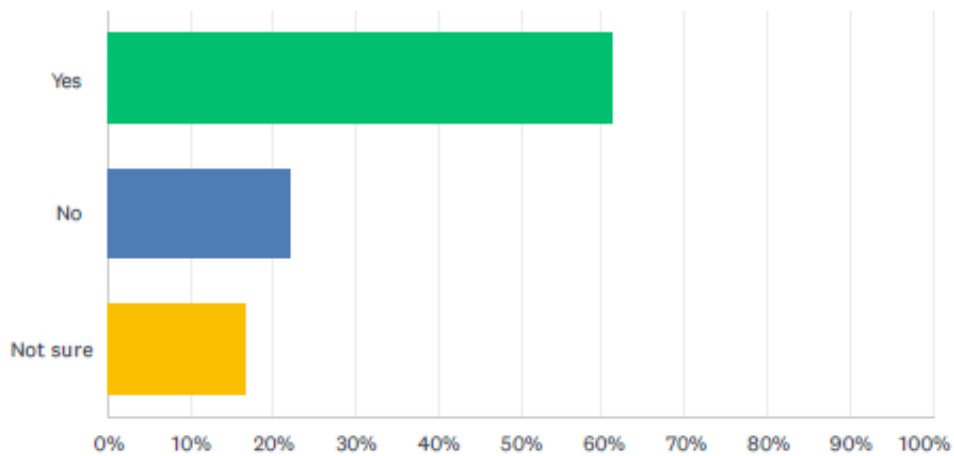
Key findings

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:

Q1 Do you support the proposed improvements to Regent Street Reserve?

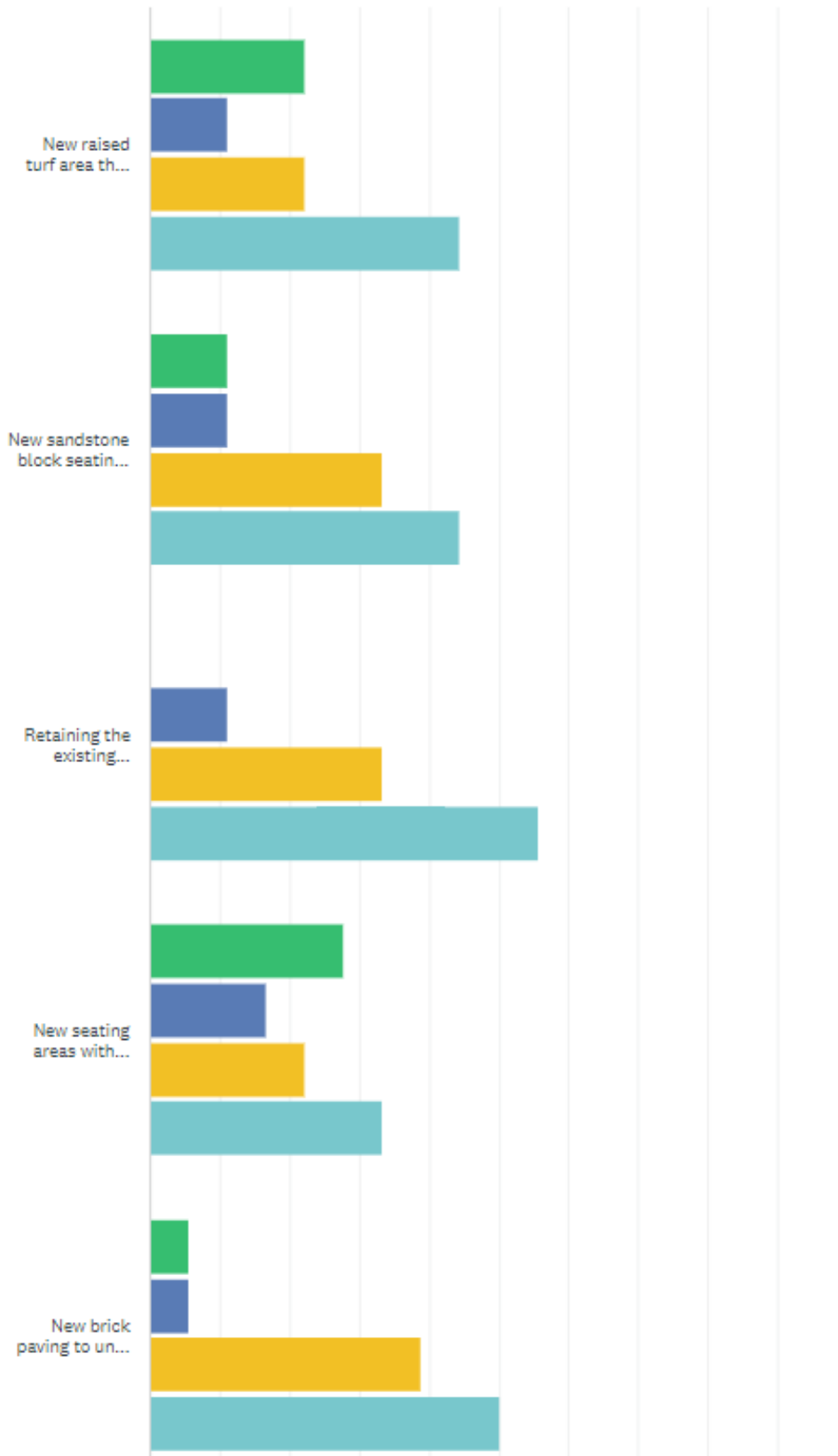
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



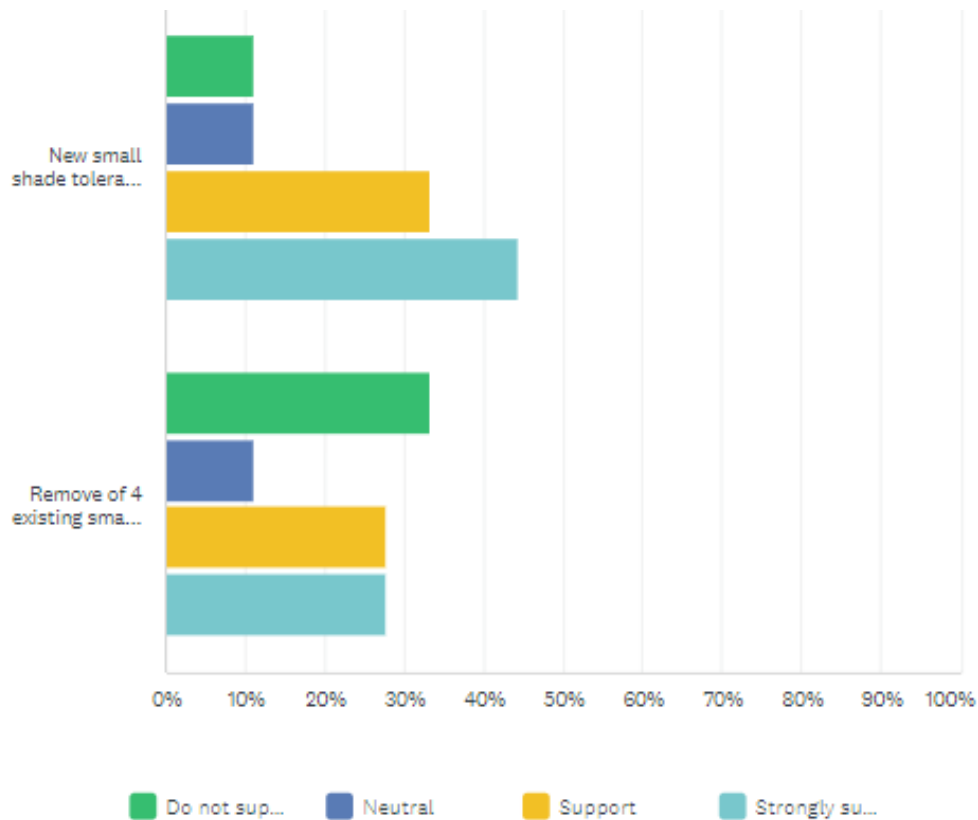
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	61.11%	11
No	22.22%	4
Not sure	16.67%	3
TOTAL		18

Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



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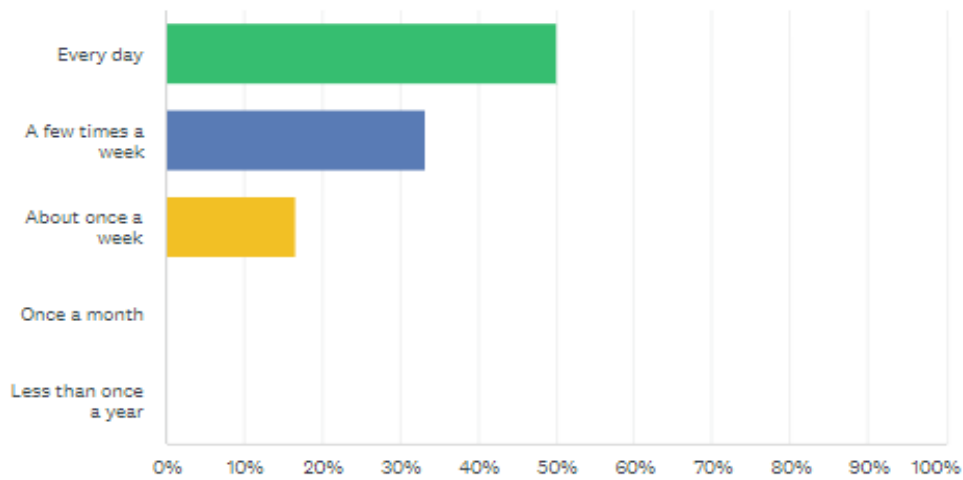


	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	TOTAL
▼ New raised turf area that slopes down to meet pavement adjacent to Oxford Street	22.22% 4	11.11% 2	22.22% 4	44.44% 8	18
▼ New sandstone block seating wall that borders the raised turf area	11.11% 2	11.11% 2	33.33% 6	44.44% 8	18
▼ Retaining the existing sandstone walls	0.00% 0	11.11% 2	33.33% 6	55.56% 10	18
▼ New seating areas with bench seats and cafe style furniture that offer spaces for relaxing and social interaction	27.78% 5	16.67% 3	22.22% 4	33.33% 6	18
▼ New brick paving to unify the space and improve accessibility	5.56% 1	5.56% 1	38.89% 7	50.00% 9	18
▼ New small shade tolerant feature tree to complement the established existing trees	11.11% 2	11.11% 2	33.33% 6	44.44% 8	18
▼ Remove of 4 existing small trees to enable better sight lines and passive surveillance into the park from Regent Street	33.33% 6	11.11% 2	27.78% 5	27.78% 5	18

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How often do you currently use the space?

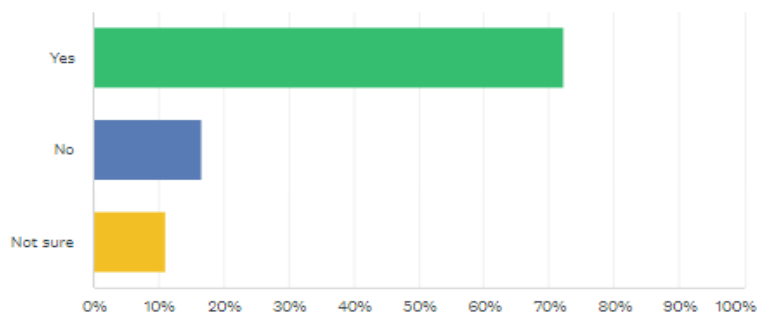
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Every day	50.00% 9
A few times a week	33.33% 6
About once a week	16.67% 3
Once a month	0.00% 0
Less than once a year	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

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

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	72.22% 13
No	16.67% 3
Not sure	11.11% 2
TOTAL	18

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	2 City of Sydney Response
Retain the 4 trees proposed for removal as they create a barrier between Oxford Street and the quieter residential streets	5	The Revised Concept Design will retain 2 small trees. 2 small trees are proposed for removal to improve sight lines and path connections from Regent St into the reserve.
Upgrade lighting in the reserve as the current bollard lighting is not sufficient	5	Park lighting will be upgraded and will include post top lighting. Non-standard existing bollard light is to be removed.
New bench seats and café furniture are unnecessary and will create a rubbish trap	3	The proposal includes a range of seating opportunities to encourage social interaction. Final products, quantities and location will be reviewed during the detailed design phase of the project.
Keep all bench seats and café furniture closer to Oxford Street	3	This will be reviewed in design development.
Reverse the slope of the raised turf area away from Oxford Street and towards Regent Street to make it safer for children playing in the reserve	2	The lawn area bound by low walls on three sides and is gently sloped toward Oxford Street to allow permeability into the reserve and for maintenance access. New garden beds provide a buffer to Oxford Street.
Replace or trim the existing large trees to open the space and create better passive surveillance and allow the grass to grow better	2	Trimming large trees to open the space can be reviewed with the project arborist.
Relocate the dog waste bin in a more central location so it is not near any residential properties	2	Final locations of bins will be reviewed during the detailed design phase of the project.
Install public toilets	2	The park was reviewed as a potential location for a public toilet serving the

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		community in Paddington. However, it was deemed unsuitable.
The new furniture should be 'heritage green' or 'federation green'	2	Colour of furniture will be reviewed during the detailed design phase of the project.
Address the strong sewerage smell at the Oxford Street end of the reserve	1	A cap has been installed to cover the privately owned sewer inspection point.
Include play equipment on the raised turf area	1	Initial consultation indicated retention of existing use of the space was important. Structured children's play elements will not be included in the space.
Better drainage throughout the reserve	1	Improved drainage will be included as part of the scope of works for the project.
Select bird-attracting species for new planting	1	The plants and tree species will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project. The final selection will align with the City's Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, and Greening Sydney Strategy.
Consider large stone pavers in place of herringbone brick paving as there is less chance of them causing a trip hazard if they are dislodged	1	Paving will be reviewed during the detailed design phase of the project. Construction details and laying of bricks consider / address the longevity of the pavement
Select high quality dry-pressed bricks for paving, like Newcombe Street paving or recycled heritage bricks	1	Paving will be reviewed during the detailed design phase of the project.
Make the reserve an Alcohol Prohibited Area	1	Consumption of alcohol is currently prohibited except at approved events. This is noted on the existing park sign.
Fence off the electrical substation to stop park users urinating in the area	1	Substations are required to have clear easements around them which would restrict the use of a fence.
Select a ground cover species that will not need to be replaced as regularly	1	Initial consultation indicated retention of turf was important. The design includes several measures to ensure the success of the turf.
Use native species for the new plantings	1	The plants and tree species will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project. The final selection will align with the City's Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, and Greening Sydney Strategy.

Install sign saying 'no amplified music' to encourage more passive use of the space	1	The wording of the signage will be reviewed during the detailed design phase of the project. But could include: "Please consider our neighbours by keeping the noise level down."
Remove the chain that borders the grass area	1	The chain is proposed to be removed.
Prohibit cycling through the reserve as there are too many blind spots making it dangerous for park users	1	Cycling is permitted in City of Sydney Parks. The Reserve isn't a commuter route and has a low number of cyclists users. Blind spots have been removed from the design to ensure clear lines of sight and reduce the chance of clashes.
Stronger enforcement is needed to make sure dogs are kept on-leash in the reserve	1	Dogs must be on a leash. The existing and proposed signage will indicate this.
The current layout out of the paths works well and does not need to be changed	1	The paths have been modified slightly to ensure the success of the turf.

Pop up information session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 26 March from 4pm to 5:30pm.

Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Approximately 12 residents attended this session.

Feedback from this session is captured in the table above.

Early consultation feedback

Prior to undertaking general community consultation on the proposal, the City undertook some early consultation work in mid-2023 to ask local residents how often they use the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

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

- Concerns with struggling turf under the shade of the exiting trees and due to foot traffic
- Concerns over undesirable behaviour - bird feeding and subsequent mess left by birds, public urination
- Descriptions of the park as generally rundown, with requests for enhancing the attractiveness of the space through upgraded paving, lighting, increased greenery with greater biodiversity value
- Request for increased amenity, eg furniture tables and chairs, lighting, bin with dog bag dispenser, drinking fountain, better drainage

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- Safety issues, including poor lighting at night and perceptions of being enclosed rather than open to the public, with requests to improve sightlines and passive surveillance within the reserve and enhance accessibility throughout the reserve.
- Successful elements to be retained include, mature trees and associated shade, sandstone raised planter walls, barrier provided between Regent and Oxford Streets, seating elements.
- The above elements create a quiet green space to pass through or walk the dog, stop for a coffee break or lunch with other people or alone. A busy thoroughfare for the SFS and SCG and location of the occasional street Christmas party

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-proposed-design-regent-street-reserve-paddington> 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. 495 letters were distributed.

4. Community pop up session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 26 March from 4pm to 5:30pm.

5. Signage

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

6. Stakeholder email

37 stakeholder emails were sent at the start of the consultation to people who had completed surveys during early consultation.