

Attachment C

Engagement Report



Engagement report

**Cooper Street and Adelaide Street Reserves,
Surry Hills**

June 2024

Contents

Background	3
Engagement summary	4
Key findings	5
Engagement activities	13

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
- **Cooper Street and Adelaide Street Reserves, Surry Hills**

Engagement summary

From 29 April to 27 May 2024, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve Cooper Street and Adelaide Street Reserves

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 information session 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.
-

Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

We received a total of 42 submissions during the consultation period.

37 via Survey Monkey and 5 via email.

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 362 times during the consultation period.

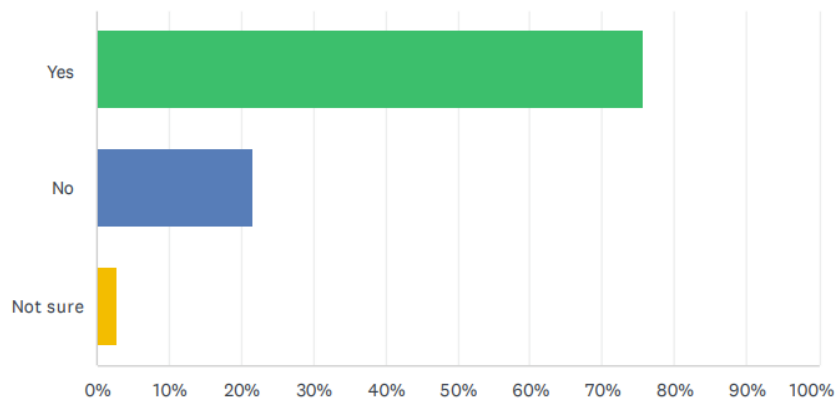
Key findings

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 Cooper Street and Adelaide Street Reserves?

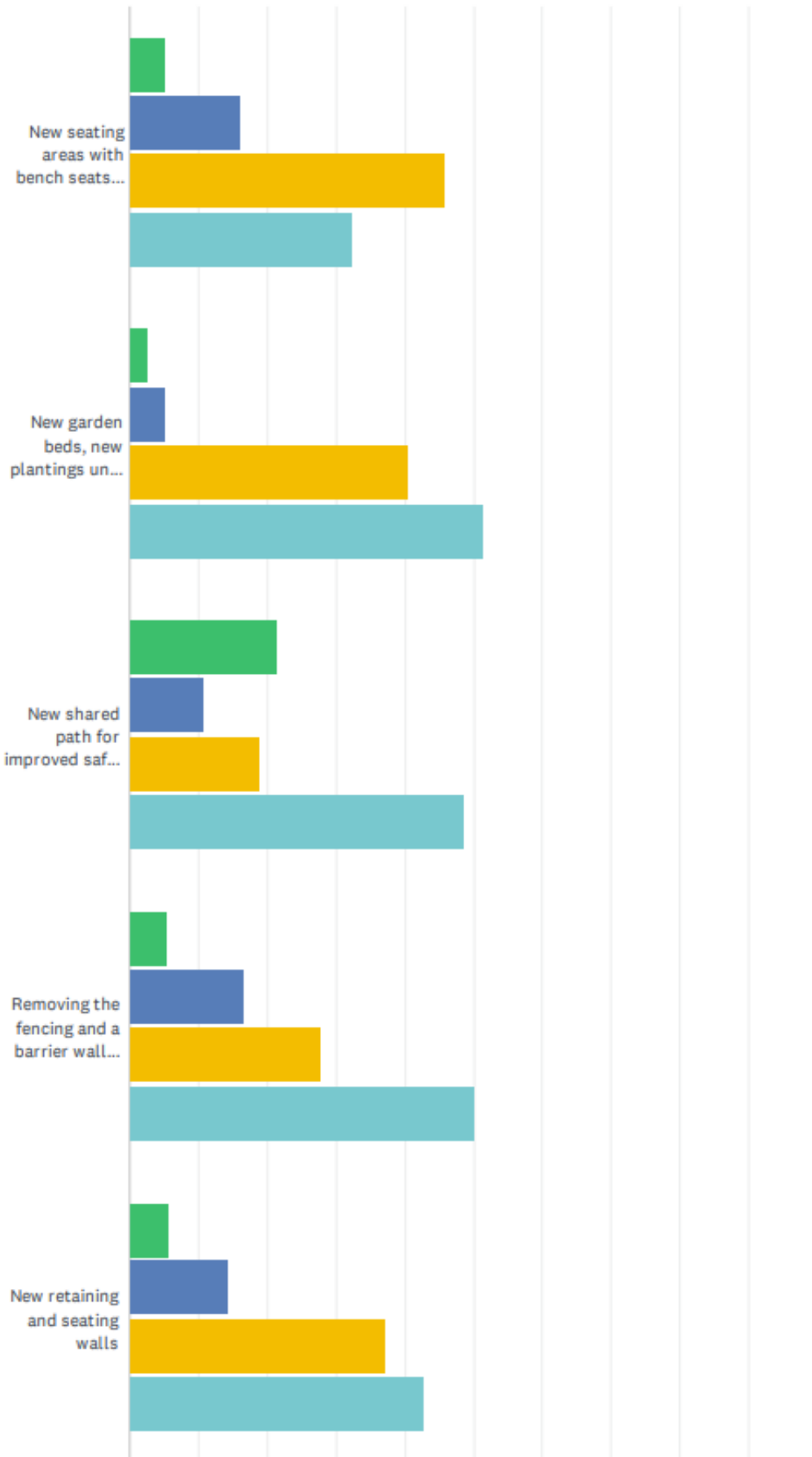
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



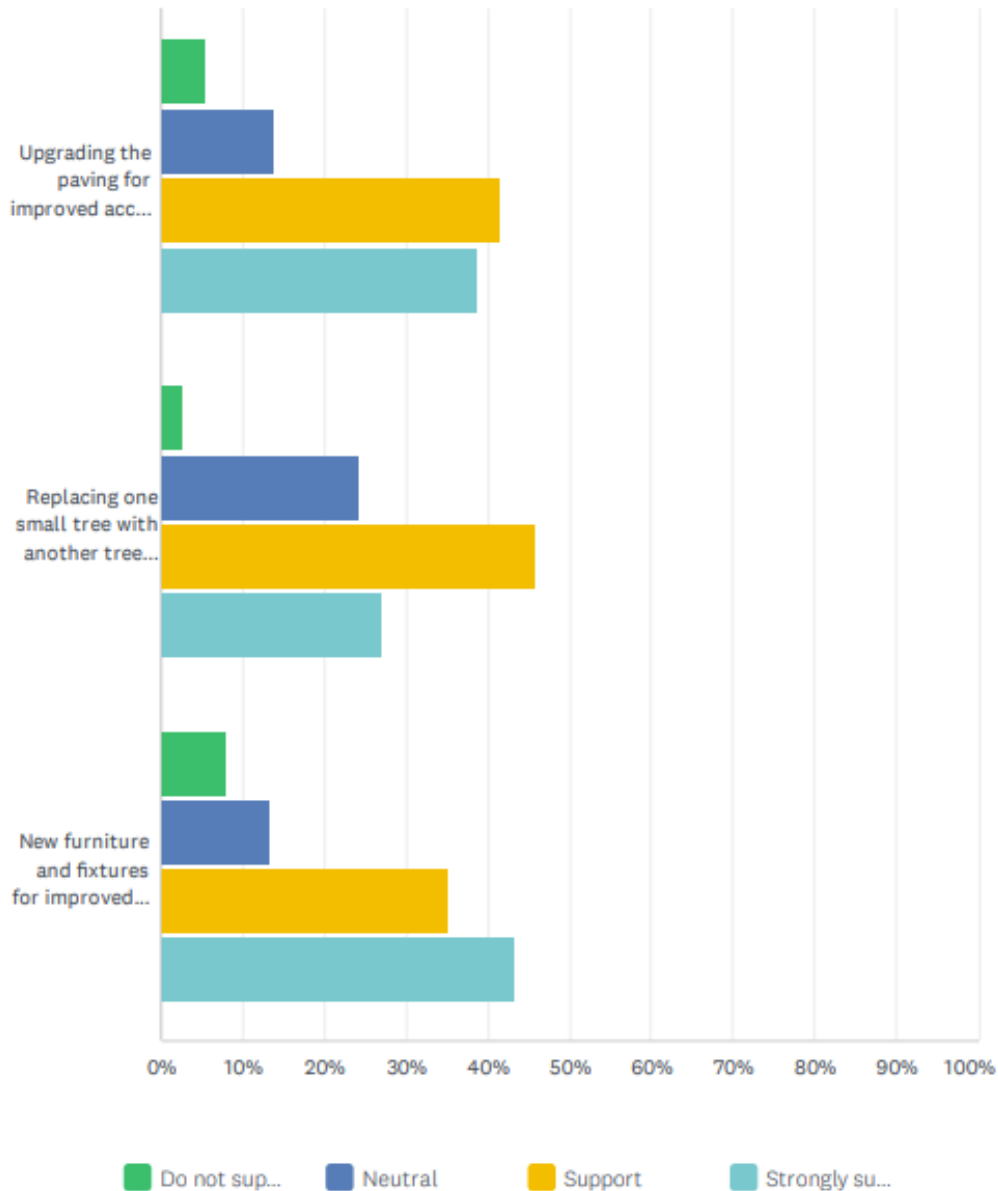
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.68%	28
No	21.62%	8
Not sure	2.70%	1
TOTAL		37

Q2 Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



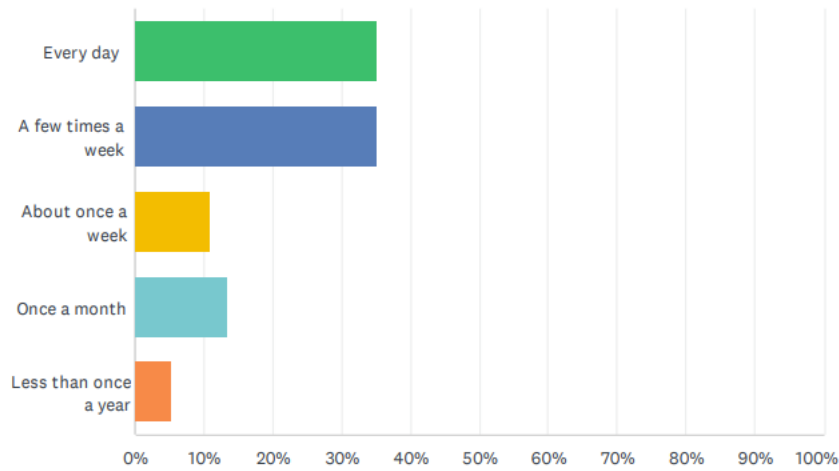
Engagement report



	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	TOTAL
New seating areas with bench seats that offer spaces for relaxing and social interaction	5.41% 2	16.22% 6	45.95% 17	32.43% 12	37
New garden beds, new plantings under the tree canopy for a greener space in Cooper and Adelaide Street Reserves	2.70% 1	5.41% 2	40.54% 15	51.35% 19	37
New shared path for improved safety and access through Cooper Street Reserve	21.62% 8	10.81% 4	18.92% 7	48.65% 18	37
Removing the fencing and a barrier wall for improved access and sightlines	5.56% 2	16.67% 6	27.78% 10	50.00% 18	36
New retaining and seating walls	5.71% 2	14.29% 5	37.14% 13	42.86% 15	35
Upgrading the paving for improved access and safety in Adelaide Street Reserve	5.56% 2	13.89% 5	41.67% 15	38.89% 14	36
Replacing one small tree with another tree nearby in Cooper Street Reserve	2.70% 1	24.32% 9	45.95% 17	27.03% 10	37
New furniture and fixtures for improved comfort and convenience, including bench seats and lighting in both Reserves	8.11% 3	13.51% 5	35.14% 13	43.24% 16	37

Q3 How often do you currently use the space?

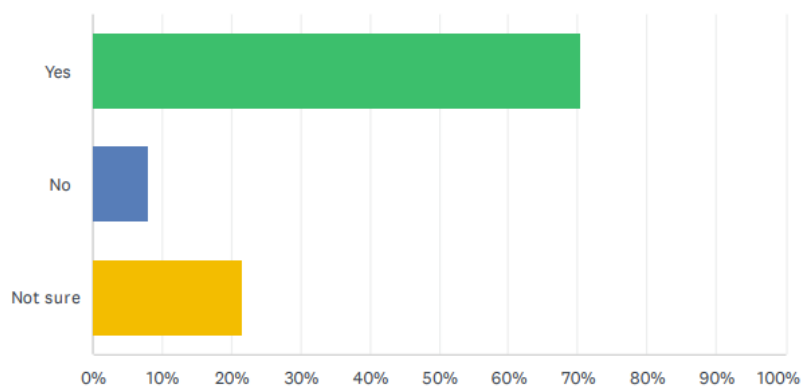
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	35.14%	13
A few times a week	35.14%	13
About once a week	10.81%	4
Once a month	13.51%	5
Less than once a year	5.41%	2
TOTAL		37

Q4 Do you think that the upgrade would change your use of the space?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.27%	26
No	8.11%	3
Not sure	21.62%	8
TOTAL		37

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
Overall support of the reserves upgrades	20	Thank you for your supportive feedback.
Consider different turf species and soil for improved durability under existing trees.	10	The struggling turf under the existing trees will be replaced with planting
Feedback about the Surry Hills to Central Quietway concept design	9	Thank you for your feedback. We have passed on submissions for this consultation to the relevant Sydney Your Say team. All submissions will be considered alongside others made for this consultation.
Install public art in Cooper Street Reserve. Suggestions include mural art and public sculptures.	5	Public art is not in the proposed scope.
Install needle bin	4	We have passed comments to the City's Safe City team. They advise they do weekly sweeps and will review appropriateness of a sharps bin.
Improve aesthetics of the design to preserve the look and feel of the area.	4	The proposed park upgrade works will improve the aesthetics of the park.
Retain current layout out of the paths in Cooper Street Reserve.	3	The revised concept plan has omitted the additional paths dissecting the turf area. The existing paths are proposed to be widened and resurfaced where necessary to increase accessibility.
Consider impacts of DA proposal for 441 Riley Street on reserves design. Concerns with impact of DA to proposed seating, lighting and greening.	3	The DA was reviewed and the concept design still includes the key plaza area to Upper Cooper Street, adjacent to the existing planting buffer. The Lighting and planting will not need modification.
Increase frequency of replacing the dog bag dispenser and removal of dog litter in park.	3	The proposed furniture includes an additional bin with dog bag dispenser.

		Maintenance comments will be passed on to the appropriate teams.
Embed new cultural and/or local significance in the park design.	3	Cultural / historical information will be reviewed during the next stage of the project to ensure any new cultural and/or local significance should be included on the park sign.
Include separation measures between people walking and riding in Cooper Street reserve to prevent collisions and slow down people riding with new path design.	3	The proposed wide and barrier free shared path has improved sightlines for greater legibility and safety The proposed layout encourages cyclists to slow down and decreases the chance of collisions.
Retain existing retaining garden bed wall in Cooper Street Reserve away from the fence of neighbouring childcare facility for better safety.	2	Retaining wall extent and height will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project.
Redesign the path from Cooper St to Adelaide Place to run diagonally across the park. This will better match the natural walking route and prevent new grass from foot traffic.	2	The revised concept plan has omitted the additional paths dissecting the turf area to maximise the green space. The existing street footpath and paths around the turf area are proposed to be widened and resurfaced where necessary to increase accessibility and encourage use.
Install a public street library.	2	A public street library is not in the proposed scope.
Implement new CCTV or other surveillance in park as there is often illegal activity.	2	CCTV is not in the proposed scope.
Include play equipment such as a small water play or swings for children.	2	Structured children's play elements is not in the proposed scope. Initial consultation indicated retention of existing use of the space was important.
New planting suggestions including rhododendrons, azaleas, native flowering plants like proteas and grevilleas.	2	The planting will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project. The final selection will align with the Greening Sydney Strategy.
Keep existing planting on Cooper Street Reserve. It is working well and plants are thriving.	2	The planting will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project. The project aims to retain the majority of existing planting, infilling where required and new garden beds.

Install new seating in areas located away from commercial buildings and in Adelaide Street Reserve. Suggestion to consider covered seating.	2	The proposed design provides several new seating areas. Covered seating will not be included in this space. The plaza is well shaded by trees.
Trim trees to allow more light	2	Trimming large trees to open the space can be reviewed with the project arborist.
More trees	1	The reserves currently have considerable canopy cover. One small tree is proposed for removal to enable the works. One new shade tolerant tree is proposed to offset the tree removal.
Extend paving across the street closure section of Adelaide Street.	1	The scope does not include paving the surrounding streets.
Upgrade lighting to deter anti-social behaviour in park and around the neighbouring properties.	1	Park lighting will be upgraded and will include post top lighting to the main paths of travel
Relocate new seating along Adelaide Place to face north and east for more safety and warmth. Increased seating near garden beds may attract more rodents.	1	Existing seating and seating wall is being retained in Adelaide Place
Relocate existing power lines in Adelaide Street Reserve underground to minimise bird droppings.	1	This is not in the proposed scope.
Reduce height of dog bubblers to improve access for smaller dogs.	1	Water bubbler with dog bowl is a proprietary product as part of the Standard suite of City furniture.
Include new community garden on Adelaide Street Reserve with herbs.	1	A community garden is not in the proposed scope.
Install new light by the substation at the beginning of Little Riley and Cooper streets for better safety. The proposed new light is too far from little Riley.	1	Park lighting will be upgraded and will include post top lighting. Final locations will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project.
Include shared pedestrian/vehicle zone on Adelaide Street Reserve to reduce trip hazards and provide safer access than asphalt and guttering.	1	A shared zone will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project.

Include an electric barbeque facility for people who use the park for morning tea and lunch.	1	A BBQ is not in the proposed scope.
Widen the current ring path for two-way access on Cooper Street Reserve. The new design of a single pathway will be unsafe an unsafe passage with the speed of people riding and walking.	1	The current ring path is not compliant, The proposal improves the grades, widens the path of travel and removes the balustrade to sightlines for greater legibility and safety. The proposed layout encourages cyclists to slow down.
New seating in Cooper Street Reserve along Riley Street will encourage anti-social behaviour in a residential area.	1	Initial consultation indicated that additional seating in the space was important. The proposal includes a range of seating opportunities to encourage social interaction.
Plant native shrubs like those used near Haymarket light rail to replace stolen garden bed plants and avoid introducing new species.	1	The planting will be reviewed during the detailed design stage of the project. The final selection will align with the Greening Sydney Strategy.
Install non-slip paving such as pressed gravel in shaded areas.	1	All paving will be compliant with non-slip ratings.
Include screen fencing to minimise visibility of children from the outside for childcare nearby.	1	Screening is not in the proposed scope.

Pop up information session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held on Saturday 18 May from 10:00am to 11:30am.

Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Approximately 9 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.

18 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 antisocial behaviour in parks.
- 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.
- Described as a common thoroughfare from Central Station to Crown Street and a quiet green space to sit in, pass through or walk the dog, stop for a coffee break or lunch with other people or alone.
- Descriptions of the park state as rundown with requests for enhancing the attractiveness of the space through upgraded paving, improved seating, colour, lighting, increased greenery with greater biodiversity value,
- Request for increased amenity, eg improved seating, lighting, bin with dog bag dispenser, better drainage.
- Successful elements to be retained include, mature trees, pleasant open space with good access and a green feel.

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-cooper-street-reserve-adelaide-street-reserve> 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. 700 letters were distributed.

4. Community pop up session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held in Cooper Street Reserve from 10am to 11:30am on Saturday 18 May 2024.

5. Sydney Your Say newsletter

An article was published in the Sydney Your Say newsletter to subscribers on 15 May 2024.