
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Trafalgar Park Shared Path, Newport

Impact level: Four

Consultation period: Friday 26 Feb 2021 – Sunday 28 March 2021

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1. Summary

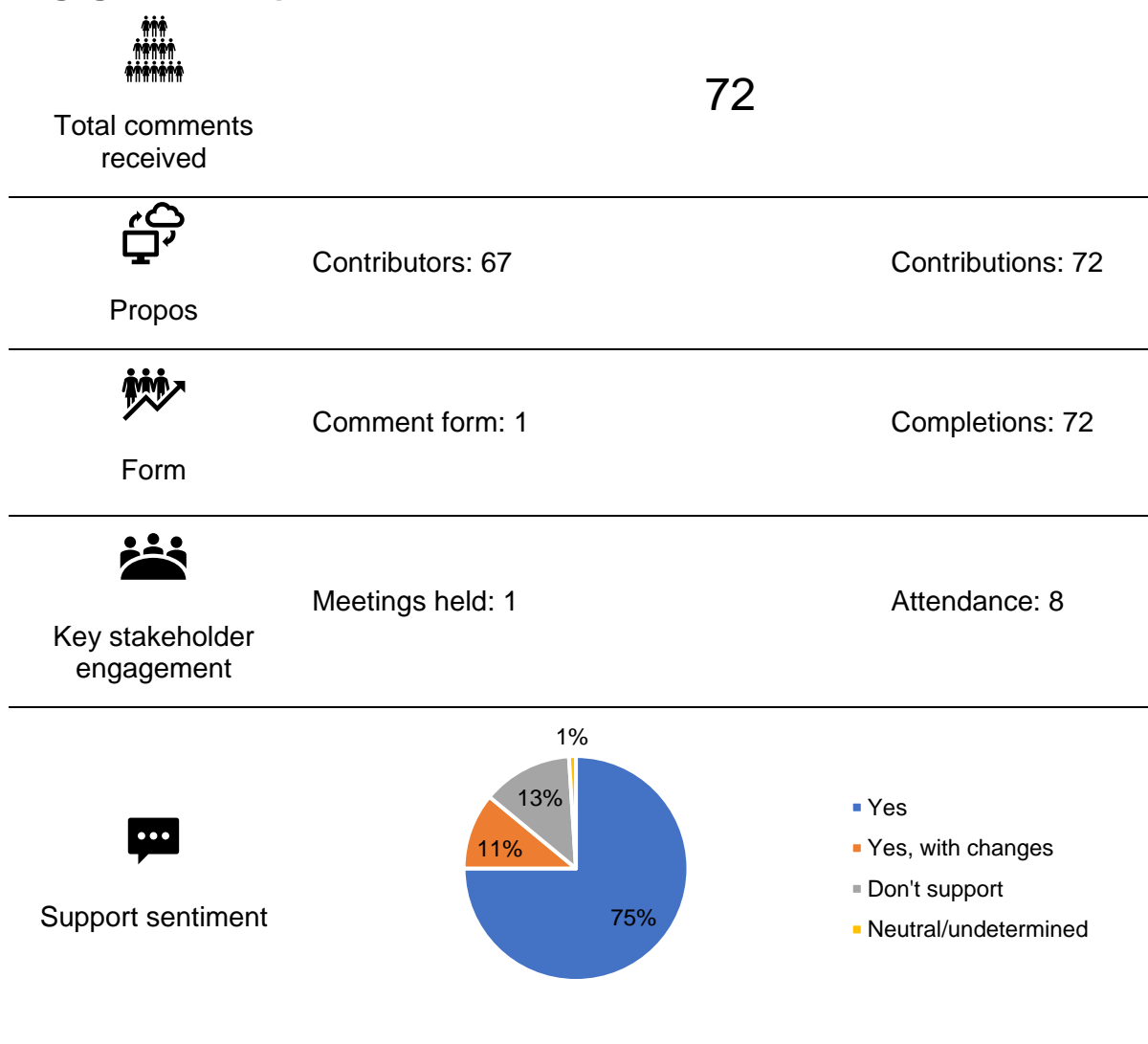
This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Trafalgar Park Shared Path Newport project conducted from 26 February 2021 to 28 March 2021.





The feedback collected during consultation revealed a high level of support for the proposed shared path through Trafalgar Park, Newport with comments citing the anticipated benefits for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly for parents with prams and students commuting to and from school.

Feedback also suggested Council should consider extending the proposed shared path along surrounding streets to improve overall journey.

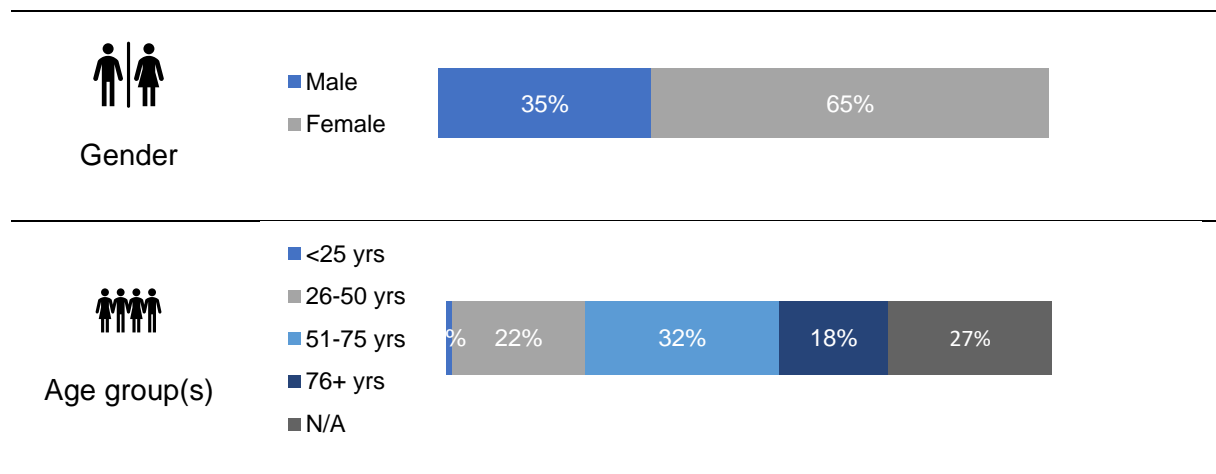
Respondents who were not supportive of the proposal felt that shared paths were generally unsafe. Some residents expressed concerns that a concrete path through the park would impact the current use of open space and change the environmental aesthetics of the area.

1.1. Engagement snapshot

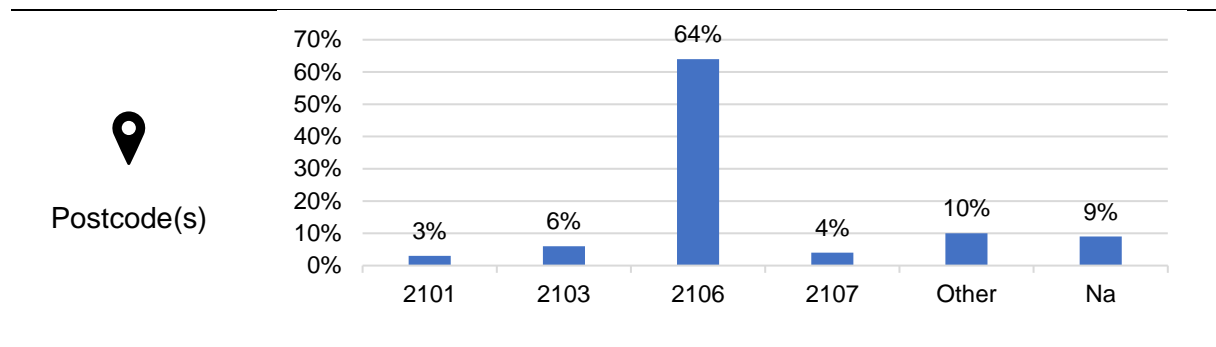


 Feedback themes	Shared path safety	Park maintenance	
	Improved access	Tree protection	
	Aesthetics and design	Change of park use	
	Lighting	Benches and seating	
	Active travel	Path extension	
<hr/>			
 Have Your Say	Visitors: 581	Visits: 696	Av. time onsite: 1m
<hr/>			
 Print media and collateral	Letter drop: Surrounding area, Newport	Distribution: 339	
	Site signs: Yes	Number: 2	
<hr/>			
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 1	Distribution: 20,000 subscribers	

1.2. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



2. Background

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of Council's proposal to build a new shared path through Trafalgar Park, Newport.

The proposal is part of the implementation of Council's commitment to improve the active transport network in-line with directions outlined in Council's Transport Strategy and actions from within the adopted Bike Plan.

Expanding our footpaths and shared path network aims to improve safety and connectivity, making walking and cycling attractive alternatives to cars.

3. Engagement objectives

- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)
- Seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or interested in a project (involve)

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Trafalgar Park shared path, Newport was conducted over a four-week period, from 26 February 2021 to 28 March 2021 and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017). The full documented engagement approach is outlined in the Trafalgar Park Shared Path, Newport Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan February 2021.

A project page was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

5. Findings

The feedback collected during consultation revealed a high level of support for the proposed shared path through Trafalgar Park, Newport with comments citing the anticipated benefits for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly for parents with prams and students commuting to and from school.

75 percent supported the proposal of a shared path with 11 percent supporting the proposal with changes.

Positive feedback was also received regarding Council's efforts to encourage active travel.

Feedback suggested Council should consider extending the proposed shared path along surrounding streets to help improve overall journey.

Respondents who were not supportive of the proposal felt that shared paths were generally unsafe. Some residents expressed concerns that a concrete path through the park would impact the current use of open space and change the environmental aesthetics of the area.

Table 1: Feedback that requested specific changes to the proposal/draft

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Shared path safety	Concerns that shared paths are generally not safe for pedestrians. Suggestions to segregate paths were also raised.	Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety released a discussion paper on shared paths in 2015. The concluding remarks, based on evidence, stated that shared paths represent a relatively low safety risk. It is important that the shared path is designed to be as safe as possible. The level of use predicted within this park does not indicate that there is enough demand for separate cycle path infrastructure.
Aesthetics and design	Concerns that a concrete path would impact the environmental aesthetics of the area. Requests for council to take time to consider further design changes to soften the look of the path through a curved design. Some respondents asking for the use of more natural materials including crushed rock.	The shared path will be coloured 'CCS Canvas Colour, Cove Finish' to assist with blending into the natural area.
Lighting	Inclusion of park lighting as part of the project.	This funding is for Shared Path construction only. Comments have been forwarded onto Council's Parks Maintenance Team

		to consider additional lighting.
Park maintenance	Some respondents flagged that the park currently requires maintenance and more regular maintenance in the future.	Comments have been forwarded onto Councils Parks Maintenance Team.
Tree protection	Request to ensure trees are protected during future works.	Noted. Trees will be protected during construction
Change of use	Concerns that a new concrete path through the reserve would “chop the park into two” and subsequently change the current use of the existing open green space.	The green open space located near the centre of the park will be maintained. The location of the shared path will be constructed along existing tree lines.
Benches and seating	Suggestions to include benches and seating to enhance the use of the space. Particularly for people to eat lunch in the park.	The existing bench seat will be replaced and relocated within the Park. A request for additional seating has been forwarded to Council’s Parks Team.
Path extension	Request to extend the shared path across surrounding streets to improve the overall journey.	Shared paths recently constructed in Gladstone Street and Kalinya Street. Additional shared paths are being considered in surrounding streets, dependant on available funding.

During the consultation/exhibition. Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

Table 2: Questions and Council’s response

Question	Council’s response
When is the path from Newport School along Crescent Road scheduled to be extended to Waterview Street?	The construction of a footpath in Crescent Road has been included as a high priority footpath in The Walking Plan. This footpath has been divided into four stages for construction over the current five-year program. This is based on the ongoing funding of \$3m per year for new footpaths.
When will the footpath on Queens Parade between Newport School and Kalinya Street be repaired and widened?	We are currently investigating the potential renewal of this section of existing footpath. It is currently funding dependant.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

1	<p>It's a park, to be enjoyed for play or leisure with its natural greenspace beauty, serenity, flora and fauna. It shouldn't be turned into a shortcut thoroughfare for people passing through in a hurry or on wheeled vehicles. A 2.5 metre path right through the middle across the whole park will 'urbanise' the look and feel of the whole park. We need more green oases in our suburbs, not more concrete. For a cycle, walkway and mobility thoroughfare put a path around the outer kerb edge footpath if you must. You could even include a few short 'parking bay' areas then even wheelchairs and mobility scooters could park near the edge and enjoy the beautiful expanse of natural parkland before their eyes.</p>
2	<p>I oppose a bike path through the middle of Trafalgar Park. I live right opposite the park, regularly walk through it and also see from my living area the daily usage patterns of the local community.</p> <p>A park should be a place for the recreation of the whole community, a place to get fresh air, a little exercise and plenty of relaxation. Your proposed path might provide good recreation for cyclists but will be at the expense of all other users of the park.</p> <p>I understand that the chief problem in trying to get this cycleway happening is the steep slope of the park. But the line you've drawn along 'natural desire lines' on your photo to assist safety for cyclists pretty much chops the entire park in half, which is totally unacceptable and very unfair for any other users.</p> <p>The many recreational users of the park during the week include a large number young school children from Newport Public who play there five days a week during lunch time and at other times during the school day. During play time very young children run helter skelter in all directions all over the centre of the park and will not be looking out for cyclists coming down or up the hill. And indeed why should they be constrained at this time in their lives from running in a carefree manner in a natural environment?</p> <p>In winter the kids also jog round and round the park in the early mornings, running across the potential cycle path. Again this is not acceptable for safety reasons.</p> <p>Amongst other things the path presents a trip hazard for anyone moving across it ... including running children.</p> <p>Many mothers use the park to play with their little ones during the day. They sit quietly with their toddlers and can let them roam a bit while they chat. Where the path runs will chop the park up in a way that could endanger them and at the very least will make it a much less relaxing and recreational experience for them.</p> <p>Dog owners use the park to throw balls for their pets every day. A cycle path running through the middle would be dangerous both for running dogs and cyclists. Many dogs chase bicycles too, and it would be a pity if that cause trouble for either cyclists or pet owners.</p> <p>And there are others who just like to sit in the park with a book, or practise their Tai Chi. Why should they have to move to a far corner for a bit of peace and quiet.</p>

*Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

	<p>In other words, a park is a natural environment for peace and recreation, not a thoroughfare. I appreciate the Council's efforts to get these bike tracks networking around the neighbourhood, but Trafalgar Park is not Centennial Park ... it's simply not big enough to allow cycling recreation alongside all the other uses, being only one suburban block in size, with busy roads on all sides already.</p> <p>However, that's not to say that footpaths aren't needed around the park. Here are my suggestions:</p> <p>Instead of a mixed cycleway/footpath across the centre of the park, there should be a good footpath from the pedestrian crossing you've illustrated in your photo of Gladstone Street, around to the right and up King Street, moving the parked cars slightly necessary to accommodate it. At the top of King it can curve through the far corner of the park to the crossing on Queens Pde West. This footpath would carry commuters, local residents and also mothers and kids approaching Newport Public either walking from surrounding houses or parking in Gladstone and walking to the school through the park.</p> <p>In addition, there is a very real need for a footpath running up the side of Trafalgar park next to Stuart Street, to meet the needs of parents who park on Stuart and walk their kids/prams/babies up the hill from there to the school. Often they are forced onto the road itself. Also a footpath along Stuart Street would meet the needs of the weekend crowds who arrive for an afternoon at the Newport ... many park in Stuart Street and need an easy way to walk up to Queens Pde. I see them sinking into the grass in their high heels or walking on the road, which can be quite busy.</p> <p>It has been explained to me during a conversation with Kajal Todd that trees growing along Stuart prevent this ... but actually I've walked it and the path could easily curve in some places, as it does along Gladstone, King and other streets when an established tree is in the way.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my submission. A really hope the bike path doesn't happen and that you find a safe alternative for cyclists in the neighbourhood. Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]</p>
3	<p>Good afternoon, I think the shared path is a great idea for Trafalgar park. I would also like to recommend a pathway be added between the dead end of king street and queens parade.</p> <p>This dead end road (king st) is a key drop off and pick up point for parents dropping their children to school. Which all school children transit bi-daily, It is also a key thoroughfare for residents and locals transiting to the school and shops on Kalinya Street.</p> <p>The current pathway is very eroded, bumpy and covered with large sticks, I will often avoid it while pushing my daughter in the pram and would be impassible for disabled or elderly residents/park users.</p> <p>Please consider adding a short concrete path here as well. Thankyou your time. Please see attached photos of current pathway.</p>
4	It should also link up with other cycleways.
5	Yes I support this proposal. It is a popular route between Gladstone St, Queens Pde West and Beaconsfield St.

6	Very much needed for prams walking to pick up kids from school also for kids riding bikes or scooters
7	Anything that provides more space for people on BIKES which have already taken over this suburb is NOT acceptable.
8	<p>I watch the Newport school children and their parents or carers cross the park to school. It is muddy, uneven and the grass is quickly long and wet. It makes a lot of them walk around the park on the roads.</p> <p>At this time of the year, it is still dark at 6am and the park is dangerous to exercise through because of the uneven terrain.</p>
9	
10	
11	The more shared paths on the northern beaches, the better! I have increased my recreational and (small) grocery shop cycling because of the shared paths I can now use in my area.
12	I think this is a great idea and initiative, it adds improved amenity and a formal pathway to this great space.
13	
14	<p>A few more benches too would be lovely!!</p> <p>Or a few picknick tables for the kids from Newport school as they have sports day in the park once a week , so they can seat down ..</p> <p>Thank you !!!</p>
15	Wonderful idea
16	
17	Please don't paint the track with signs, keep it more natural if possible.
18	The path should not be concrete. Please use permeable materials such as crushed sandstone or decomposed granite.
19	Good idea. Better than it is now. We walk this track often. Perhaps the community hall should be used more for art expos and more social events for the over 55.
20	
21	Lights for night are needed
22	The park also needs weeding (especially round the bases of the trees) and generally clearing up.
23	Yes! Looks great. A great way to encourage more kids to ride and scoot to school. Fully support the project. :)
24	
25	This has been a neglected park for a very long time and any and all improvements are welcome
26	
27	<p>Has been needed since my now adult children walked to the school! My grandchildren are about to complete their schooling days there!!!</p> <p>So yes for everyone who will benefit from being able to walk across this access point safely!!</p>
28	I would prefer to retain the reserve with natural areas without formal hard surfacing through the park.

29	<p>cyclists are not compatible with pedestrian , particularly high volume traffic , particularly adult cyclists and child pedestrians .</p> <p>The commendable concern to facilitate movement by alternatives to cars on the beaches consistently focuses on walkers and cyclists sharing pathways .</p> <p>This is failing the walkers , the notion that cyclists share footpaths and ring warning bells is flawed as anyone who dares the narrabeen lake walk can confirm .</p> <p>Council should be be insisting on separation between pedestrians and bikes or , at the very least , only allowing bicycles at specific times .</p>
30	The pathway plans look good and suit the park area. Also assist parents access to and from the public school.
31	Good idea
32	<p>Pathways are a good idea.</p> <p>When is the long promised path from Newport School along Crescent Road to be extended to Waterview St? It was ready to go before Pittwater Council was amalgamated, with plans and costings. There first stage is excellent but when will the next stage eventuate? I have been asking the same question for 20 years now and will be too old to walk along it if council doesn't hurry up.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>██████████</p>
33	Bikes and pedestrians just don't work together. It's sad but true. Cyclists think they own foot/bike paths and so do pedestrians. The number of incidents I've seen on the shared path along the Manly beachfront is huge. I'm all for bike paths but please put them away from pedestrians and vice-versa.
34	This is FANTASTIC!
35	
36	We use this track daily to walk to and from school and think this is a fantastic idea and much needed. Although we are out of the stroller stage ourselves, I know many parents who do still use one will welcome this new path as currently there is also no footpath along Stuart Street either which is adjacent to the park. This will hugely benefit the majority of those who use the park to get to school whether walking, biking or pushing a stroller.
37	This proposal only makes accessibility easier as long as no community members want to use the footpath on Queens Parade and turn around and go back to same way. When will the narrow, uneven footpath on Queens Parade between Newport School and Kalinya Street be updated and widen and made safe for parents with strollers, children and the general public including the elderly. This footpath is too narrow for the high volume of foot and cycle traffic it caters for each day.
38	
39	Will this eventuate , or just be a proposal like the coastal walk from Newport to Avalon. So many grand plans . The Main Street and footpaths of Newport are absolutely disgraceful.
40	If a speed limit is imposed on bikes. A rider could easily injure or even kill a stray toddler that run in under a bike.
41	
42	Fantastic
43	
44	I grew up in Newport and attended Newport Public School. Those of us coming from Irrubel Rd and from around from Saltpan always used the well trodden track across the park, until, at the age of around 10, we started riding our bikes on the road and up the hill. With the increase in traffic etc it seems to me to allow paved path cycling through the park instead would be an excellent idea.

45	<p>Finally!!! I bounced my kids through that park in a pram multiple times a day going to and from school for years.</p> <p>My only comment would be to watch for the falling branches from the trees - and leave the cricket pitch there is you are able</p>
46	<p>Having watched last week electric bikes on the Manly Beachfront Bike track near the road between North Steyne and Queenscliff, where the bikes were outspeeding the cars limited to 40 km/hr on the road, all it takes for 1 child to step out from their parked car and these idiots could not stop - these bikes were travelling at at least 50 Km/hr given how fast they were outpacing the road cars and they were very heavy electric mountain bikes</p> <p>Melbourne Council has Police Radar Targeting Bike Riders on the Yarra</p> <p>"A blitz on cyclists who speed through Southbank Promenade with hefty \$1652 fines.</p> <p>Victoria Police on Wednesday kicked off a crackdown on riders travelling well above the area's 10km/h speed limit in shared pedestrian space by the Yarra River.</p> <p>No fines have been issued but over the past two days police warned more than 120 cyclists and e-scooters riders.</p> <p>From next week, people who blatantly speed through the area on their bikes could be charged on summons, through a letter in the mail, and asked to appear at court."</p> <p>The Same approach needs to be taken on all shared bike paths in Warringah Council</p>
47	<p>As someone who takes grandchildren to and from the school, I see this is a very positive move: it formalises the existing habitual route; it encourages school pupils to use the pedestrian crossings in both Queen and Gladstone Streets; it lures pedestrian traffic away from narrow, crowded Stuart St (at pre-/post-school times); it leads directly to the existing pathway along Gladstone St. And it's a pleasant walk through nature, away from traffic.</p>
48	
49	<p>When i say yes I say it with reservations.... having watched with dismay the relatively, recent roll-out of concrete paths across Newport for the NBN, around Newport Oval and behind the beach as part of the coastal walkway.</p> <p>Concrete isn't the most pleasing material for paths but it's relatively cheap and very durable. My issue is with the execution. The layout.... which is without exception, in my opinion, plain, damn ugly.... when it didn't need to be.</p> <p>There are pleasing curves that follow the landscape/acknowledge it and there are ugly curves laid carelessly across it. They both cost the same but for some reason we've ended up with the ugly in Newport. Nearly every time. I'm talking aesthetics and what I'm asking for is that someone with a talent for them be involved in the path's layout. Right from the beginning. Before the concrete guys get started because they might be great with concrete but, going on past evidence, they're shit at curves. It's simply not their area of expertise. It's not hard but worth doing as, after all, this path will be with us for years, decades, maybe even centuries.... so please spend a little time at the beginning and, for once, please get it right.</p> <p>PS. My suggestion to help almost instantly anchor the path in the landscape would be to consider mass planting native grasses along much of its length. But please get someone onboard who has landscape design skills.... right from the beginning. It will make all the difference.</p>
50	

51	<p>This has needed to happen for years! I no longer walk from Gladstone to newport school with a pram, but I did for many many years and I see mums still struggle with this on a daily basis.</p> <p>It's such a simple thing, but it would make life so much easier for many people.</p>
52	<p>Especially when it's wet, also Mum's pushing prams, & even a wheel chair !.</p> <p>It will make life easier for a Nana like me on pickup gigs to.....</p>
53	<p>This would be wonderful!</p> <p>I walk my system to school through that park and it would be great to have a footpath.</p>
54	<p>Brilliant idea. That's an awful park to walk through to get to the school every day.</p>
55	<p>Should be ideal if it arcs to the school around the swings etc,</p> <p>██████████</p>
56	<p>This is the best idea!! We walk through this park twice a day and it is horrible to walk through with all the sticks, dirt, long grass and uneven ground!</p>
57	<p>Excellent idea to allow cyclists and walkers to share. Experienced this in Munich decades ago.</p> <p>What needs to be addressed are:</p> <p>Car speeds down Gladstone St, Newport, where traffic furniture is unsuitable because it is a bus route.</p> <p>Discouraging the practice of drivers using the outside lane of main arteries such as Barrenjoey Road when there are up to three lanes each way . . . unless they are intending to turn right. This outside lane driving is extraordinary and driving schools should be reminded. Good topic ██████████</p> <p>██████████</p>
58	<p>It's currently a very rough thoroughfare for our local school and pushing a stroller is very hard work.</p> <p>A shared path would also clean the area up and be user friendly.</p> <p>As a senior I'd appreciate the "stable" walking to avoid falls.</p>
59	
60	<p>Appropriate tree protection measures are put in place no tree loss.</p>
61	<p>This is an excellent idea. Would it be possible to separate bike and walk zones, as children heading home after school could pick up quite a bit of speed cycling down the path?</p>
62	<p>There is an informal access track and the park is easily accessible for both bikes and prams as the site is easy to traverse.</p> <p>Rather than formalising a track leave the park in a more natural state.</p> <p>If the public do want a path create a crushed sandstone track that is more in line with a natural remnant area which Trafalgar Park is still.</p> <p>The natural remnants within this park represent a picture of what used to be in the area prior to urban development and should be maintained and cared for.</p>

63	Yes, if sensitivity to the park environment is paramount. The path should be discreet and as unobtrusive as possible.
64	
65	Thank you Northern Beaches Council for this wonderful proposed shared pathway through Trafalgar Park, Newport, an awesome, intelligent addition to a near excellent off-road shared pathway network on the Northern Beaches. Well done.
66	
67	Upgrade the children's playground too would be good
68	In my experience of the lagoon path / other shared paths I can see a disaster. There is no way that some of the people who ride bikes respect the space requirements of people and any wildlife. Plus they ignore signs. They don't share they just barge through. I take photos and am often surprised by the lack of care shown to others by bike riders. Maybe some education on speed. Why would you put a bike path through a park. It should be a peaceful place. Put the shared path around the park not through it.
69	
70	A pathway should be added through the Queens Pde nature strip. It's extremely dangerous with debris and protruding tree roots. This area is used regularly by kids going to school, dog walkers or others cutting through to Trafalgar Park. I look forward to an early reply. [REDACTED]
71	Gosh. This would be fantastic!! I can recall bumping over tree roots riding my bike to and from Newport school decades ago and now fast forward a fair few years and I battle the uneven terrain pushing my granddaughter up the park in a stroller with the wheels always getting caught. Connecting the two crossings is an awesome idea. Can't wait for this project to happen.
72	Is there any other pram- safe surface material other than concrete available? Concrete is an unnatural hard edge introduction to a natural setting. I see the need to create a surface suitable for pushers and prams, but regret the choice of concrete.
73	<p>Dear Kajal</p> <p>I refer to [REDACTED] - Proposed Share Path - Trafalgar Park, Newport and would like to draw your attention to the fact that pedestrians are using the path along Queens Parade to access Gladstone street.</p> <p>I have previously submitted requests to council to improve the Queens Parade sidewalk access to Trafalgar Park and Gladstone Street.</p> <p>I enclose images of where the path is being actively worn away by constant pedestrian traffic. I live overlooking the Park and nobody ever crosses directly across the Park for Access to Gladstone Street as per your concept plan attached to Project Information literature.</p> <p>Why is council ignoring the preferred paths taken by pedestrians as is shown in worn out sidewalks that are becoming dangerous due to exposed tree roots slippery clay type surface soil? Please refer to images attached.</p> <p>Access by pedestrians is sought via King street and along the edge of the park you just need to have a look and one can visually see where the pedestrians need or seek access to the Gladstone street pedestrian crossing, in addition King Street needs sidewalk and path improvement a lot of children use this King Street Cul de Sac area when their parents drop them off for school. It really does require some street scape and safety improvements.</p> <p>Your attention to the requirements and needs of both residents and visitor pedestrians would be appreciated, as shown in the images pedestrians have used their feet to vote for their preferred access paths.</p>

Please also note that at the existing crossing in Queens Parade the car park at this Queens Parade pedestrian crossing is being used as boat and trailer parking. Boats and Trailers are being left in this “school/public” car park on a permanent basis. To the degree that council is unable to properly mow the grass around the Stuart Street Bays of this car park or indeed the road surface of this area which all needs upgrades?
Please could this issue also be addressed.?

Thank you



Document administration

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Related Projects	Northern Beaches Bike Plan Transport Strategy