
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Little Manly Point playground upgrade and new amenities

Impact level: four

Consultation period: 30 April 2021 to 30 May 2021

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1. Summary

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted from 30 April 2021 to 30 May 2021, as part of a proposal to upgrade the playground and build a new amenities building at Little Manly Point Reserve.

Community feedback indicated that the playground upgrade and proposed amenities building were most welcome, much needed and long overdue.

The majority of respondents supported the concept plans for the playground upgrade and amenities building. There was support for the proposed nature play elements and positive comments about both plans being respectful of the surrounding bushland.

Respondents also provided a range of suggestions, including about how the facilities could be more inclusive and accessible.

1.1. Key outcomes



Total unique
responses received

50



How responses
were received

Your Say comment form

Completions: 47

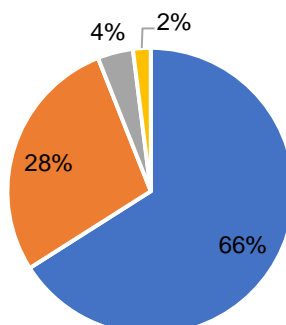
Emailed comments

Received: 3

Do you support the proposed concept plan for the Little Manly Point playground upgrade?

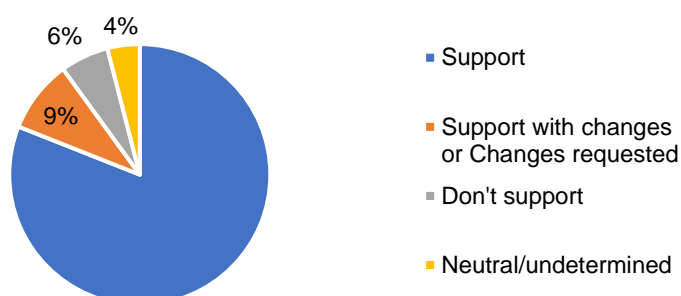



Online sentiment
questions








- Support
- Support with changes or Changes requested
- Don't support
- Neutral/undetermined

Do you support the proposed concept plan for the new amenities building?

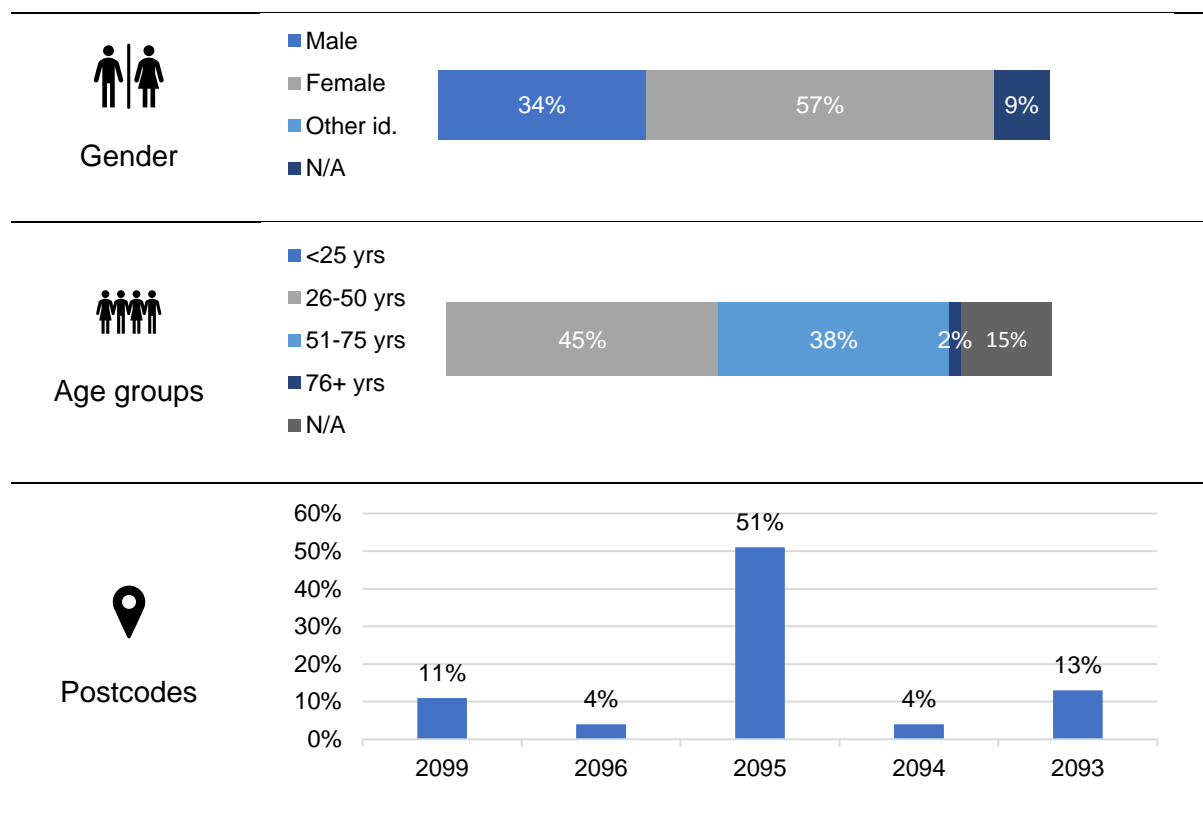


	Long awaited upgrade	Nature play
	Ticks	Softfall material
	Amenities	Inclusive and accessible facilities
	Feedback themes	

1.2. How we engaged

	Visitors: 582	Visits: 752	Av. time onsite: 1m6s
Have Your Say			
	Facebook post: 1		Reach: 6714 Clicks: 189
Social media			
	Flyers: to parts of postcode 2095		Distribution: 300 flyers
Print media and collateral	Site signs used: Yes		Number: 8 signs erected
	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions		Distribution: 20,000 subscribers
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition		Distribution: 150,000 subscribers
	Stakeholder emails: 4 sent		Distribution: approx. 212 recipients per email
	2 onsite drop-in sessions		Attendance: 37
Face-to-face sessions			

1.3. Who responded¹



2. Background

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of Little Manly Point playground upgrade and new amenities project from 30 April 2021 to 30 May 2021.

This project is based on actions from the Little Manly Reserves Landscape Masterplan, adopted in November 2019: 'Upgrade existing playground within existing footprint, with focus on nature-play activities' and 'Proposed public amenities'.

The proposed concept plan for the playground upgrade was developed with the help of a group of residents in Little Manly who started a community working group and have been liaising with Council about this project. This group surveyed 96 people in their community and identified the need to upgrade the playground and to try and remove the tick problem.

The Little Manly Point area is of significant Aboriginal heritage and meetings were held with the Aboriginal Heritage Office to discuss how the heritage could be reflected in the design of the playground.

With the public consultation, we want to make sure the playground upgrade and amenities building meet the needs of the local community.

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

3. Engagement objectives

- Objective 1: build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Objective 2: provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Objective 3: identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Little Manly Point playground upgrade and new amenities project was conducted over a four-week period, from 30 April 2021 to 30 May 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).

A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. The page included the concept plans for the upgraded playground and amenities and some background information about the project.

The project was primarily promoted through onsite signage, flyers to local residents, stakeholder emails, social media, Council's E-News and engagement newsletter. We also promoted the project to local primary schools and to parents of children attending the Manly Community Pre-school.

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 concept plans.

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.

Email and written comments were also invited. Contact details for the project manager were provided as a channel for the community to ask any questions about this project.

We held two onsite drop-in sessions to give community members an opportunity to chat with Council staff about the concept plans.

5. Findings³

Community feedback indicated that the playground upgrade and new amenities building were most welcome and much needed within the reserve.

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/little-manly-point-playground-upgrade-and-new-amenities>

³ Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

We heard from a range of local residents and park users including parents or carers of young children.

The majority of respondents supported the concept plans for the playground upgrade and amenities building. There was support for the proposed nature play elements and positive comments about both plans being respectful of the surrounding bushland.

Respondents provided a variety of suggestions for the playground upgrade, including more seating, an enclosed playground fence, playground equipment suitable for older primary school-aged children, exercise equipment, bike tracks, and a basketball hoop.

With regards to the amenities building, some respondents flagged the need for more accessible and inclusive facilities, with suggestions about Changing Places facilities.

Concerns were raised about the mulch and tick infestations in the playground area. The proposed location of the new amenities building and the potential impact on vegetation and natural habitat were also raised as concerns, along with the potential use of the amenities by overnight campers in the carpark and antisocial behaviour in the park afterhours.

Suggestions and concerns are outlined in table 1 below.

Table 1: Feedback that requested specific changes to the proposed concept plans.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Ticks	This location is known for ticks and people want to know how Council will manage this.	Ticks are generally carried by native animals that forage in low lying vegetation. Council will remove some low vegetation for the new nature play area. As ticks are likely to be in the garden area, we are investigating additional fencing and signage to prevent people accessing the denser vegetation on the western side of the playground.
Softfall material	Loose fill bark is dirty and unsafe. Rubber softfall should be used.	The concept proposed a combination of synthetic and new mulch softfall material. The type of loose fill mulch proposed is compliant with Australian Playground Safety Standards. We are also now using a type of mulch that is cleaner than the more traditional pine bark that has been used in the past. Council has committed to using less rubber softfall into the future as it is expensive and not environmentally sustainable.

Amenities	<p>The new amenities will attract more overnight campers.</p> <p>The proposed location of the new amenities building is not suitable and will impact on views.</p> <p>The proposed location of the new amenities building will have an impact on vegetation and natural habitat.</p>	<p>The amenities will be locked after hours and therefore unlikely to attract overnight campers or increase the incidence of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>The location is considered the most suitable in terms of access to water services and to the rest of the reserve.</p> <p>The building will be nestled into the bushland and will not be visible from adjoining properties.</p> <p>The building has been sensitively designed to minimise the footprint and impact on the existing vegetation.</p> <p>We will extend some native gardens nearby to compensate for vegetation removed during construction.</p> <p>The mature trees close to the building will be protected during construction.</p> <p>The building entry and lighting will be directed toward the public pathway area.</p>
Fence	<p>The fence at the rear of the playground should be replaced.</p> <p>The playground should be fully enclosed.</p>	<p>As per the concept plan, the fence will be replaced around the rear boundary of the playground.</p> <p>A fully enclosed playground fence is not considered a requirement for this location. The playground footprint is small, with safety fencing to be replaced in key locations and good visibility throughout the play zones.</p>
Accessible and inclusive facilities	<p>Changing Places amenities should be included in the new amenities building.</p> <p>Include a baby change table</p>	<p>The amenity block at Little Manly Point is a low-key facility designed to blend into the environment. Changing Places facilities need a large footprint with multiple complimentary facilities. We understand the need for this type of facility and locations are being considered for future projects.</p> <p>As per the concept plan, a baby change table will be installed in one of the new toilets.</p>

Furniture	Install more seating	As per the proposed concept plan, additional furniture, including seating, will be installed around the playground.
Play elements	Request for additional playground equipment such as a flying fox and a bike track or basketball court for the area.	<p>The playground footprint is not large and we are therefore limited with what we can install in this area.</p> <p>The equipment selection aims to cater for a range of children's ages and abilities.</p> <p>A basketball court and bike path were not included as part of the endorsed Masterplan for this reserve and are not within the scope of this project.</p>

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Part A: Online comments

Number	Comment ⁴
1.	<p>Hello,</p> <p>The playground generally looks good and we can't wait to play there, but a few considerations from an almost daily user with infant:</p> <p>Please could you fence it all in with gates? This will prevent toddlers running off. Especially important and the greater area is a bit of a safety hazard for small kids.</p> <p>Could you include some cool line painting on the pathway around the edge to make it like a pretend road? It's one of the few flat areas in the neighbourhood where kids can learn to ride a bike or scooter.</p> <p>Please consider keeping the bike rack there (can't remember seeing it).</p> <p>Please consider rubber safety matting all over, rather than mulch. Ticks are an issue at the Point and they love the mulch.</p> <p>If the playground is not fenced in, please consider as a minimum upgrading the wire fencing on the steps down on the western side. It's really dangerous for young kids.</p> <p>Please consider installing CCTV on the corner of the toilet block. The current evening drug dealing problem may worsen with the toilet block.</p> <p>Please include sharps disposal at the toilet block. I have found needles in the bushes by the playground. Drug dealing is a problem in the car park there.</p> <p>Please include more dog poo bag stations. Poo is a problem too!</p>

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

⁴ Some people only answered the sentiment question in the online comment form and did not provide further comments.

	Thank you very much!
2.	<p>The new amenities are a great design that will nestle neatly and unobtrusively into the chosen site. The location is good in that it will be visible to all visitors coming into Little Manly Point Park and is close to the majority of activity sites.</p> <p>We welcome the upgrade of the playground which we visit regularly with our grandchildren. The addition of a nature trail will add interest to this area. We would suggest that the area on the western side behind the proposed bench seats and picnic table be cleared of the low vegetation to provide further areas where parents can sit.</p>
3.	I love the new playground concept, I suggest using a different flooring material to the existing playground. The chip bark is not appealing for children or parents. Thank you :)
4.	glad to see the retention of some important trees. Also the recognition of the heritage of the area.
5.	The playground looks great, except for the soft fill rubber, this substance is potentially toxic and is definitely very environmentally unfriendly. Kids pick at it, it gets easily worn and broken by play, the weather degrades it even more and fragments constantly wash into our waterways. Please stop using it!! We are swimming in this stuff, it's disgusting,
6.	I welcome an amenities building at Little Manly.
7.	Little Manly Reserve is a spectacular recreation area. It is extremely popular with large and small groups and desperately needs toilet amenities as too often people are using the surrounding bush land as a toilet.
8.	This is a much needed improvement to a fantastic area in Manly. Well done!
9.	Our child has severe autism and cerebral palsy and this playground is the only one he will go to on the northern beaches. I propose more toddler swings or support swings as that is the only enjoyment kids like this get and when they are busy with other children all the time it's very distressing. Let's include the minority of kids in this community with disabilities!
10.	I would really like a flying fox in the senior section, some video games in the senior and a canteen. Thanks 🙏
11.	In keeping with the lush green feeling of the park and vegetation, I suggest the rubber surface NOT be in bright red or orange – but in more suitable natural colors consistent with the surrounding bush. One of the sails needs to be repaired where it joins the top pole. We frequently take our 10 grand children to the playground.
12.	<p>Ref new toilet block (point 19 on the plan) Upgrade the existing toilets next to the kiosk, which are 2 minutes walk away. Put up signs in the park saying where toilets are.</p> <p>This planned toilets (point 19) is going to encourage more illegal overnight campervans and parties at the old gasworks.</p>
13.	This looks like a great initiative to tidy up and improve a busy little gem on the Manly foreshore. I also appreciate the provision of amenities as it's a long way to any at the moment and the sensitive design of the amenities building looks interesting and

	sympathetic. All in all a really good plan and I look forward to my kids using it when its finished.
14.	Excellent- will be a huge plus for the area
15.	The location selected for the toilet block is an unbelievably poor choice. It's at the crest of the hill, the starting point of the park, taking up echidna habitat. Should move it into the existing actual car park.
16.	Location is stupid. What a terrible spot for it. Put it actually down in the carpark not on the spots with the best views!
17.	Can the new play ground have bright coloured equipment please.
18.	Hi- I'd like to suggest removing the bark all together from the ground and making the whole floor soft, rather than a mix of bark and cushion. Also I'd suggest a fence around the playground for safety. The walls around the edges of the oval are not high and have very loose wire as security. That would not stop anyone falling through that!! Thank you
19.	Impact on wildlife, more seating for parents and carers Anti social behaviour - cameras - use of car parking - ongoing not monitored
20.	maintenance and location of toilets, why not closer to playground?
21.	This upgrade has been required for many years . The new amenities building is well overdue for this park & will be welcomed by all visitors.
22.	Please could you consider adding an adult exercise station in the park. I'm sure there's be plenty of demand as there's always people exercising in there. All it would need is a simple pull up bar and push up bar, similar to the set up at Bondi. I know there's one down at the office wharf beach but this is poorly designed. The pull up bar is too low and the body weight exercises for older people. The one at Bondi is what we should aim for. Thanks!
23.	Hi, I am broadly supportive of the proposed changes, but would like to make suggestions for improved access to both the playground and amenities. I love the work council has been doing to provide more inclusive playgrounds on the northern beaches, and it would be great to see some inclusive equipment included when the final selection is made. For the amenities block, I wonder if it would be useful to enlarge the accessible wc so that it can include a baby change table, so that parents and carers requiring more space can change their babies. It may not be the right strategic location, but I would also love to see council including 'changing places' facilities across the beaches - from the online map, I don't think we have any in our area council yet, and they can make such a difference to individuals and families https://changingplaces.org.au/find-a-toilet/find-changing-places-toilet/
24.	A fence around the park essential to keep young children in and dogs out More unique play items in park for kids would be helpful - like lagoon/ Queenscliff park - that is one of best parks in Sydney Swings further from child play areas - as young children walk into swings and get hit

	It is a very damp area - the choice of wood may not last although the idea of wood is very nice
25.	The playground is old and tired and definitely in need of an upgrade. I just do not want any more of the natural bush in the area removed and also do not want anything installed that would be a magnet for anti-social behaviour and inappropriate gatherings, eg parties for teenagers and/or alcohol consumption.
26.	In the design of the junior play area it is important that the helmsman and captain have line of sight down the harbour rather than have their view blocked by an outlook of a row of trees.
27.	For the love of god, put a fence around the whole playground. Kids run and an enclosed fence is THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
28.	I will prefer a separate boys / girls toilet. I have always send my children to the girls toilet, as that felt safer. Another reason is that the girls toilet is always cleaner than the boys toilet, not so nice to go to the unisex toilet.
29.	<p>Please make it a change bench that older children or an adult could use. Baby fold down change tables are useless to any child over 6 months old and can be extremely dangerous for the child and user. A larger and longer change bench is not only safer, it can be used by older children and adults that still have toileting and changing needs that can't use a toilet. An accessible bathroom does NOT cater for people with disabilities at all. Anyone in a wheelchair that is not ambulant cannot transfer or sit on a toilet safely. Children were nappies typically up to the age of 3, sometimes longer, and children with a disability may wear a nappy all their life. They cannot use a toilet. Change benches and room for a wheelchair need to be standard across the beaches in accessible bathrooms upgrades. I DO NOT WANT TO CHANGE MY 14 YEAR OLD WHO HAS CEREBRAL PALSY ON A BATHROOM FLOOR IN ANY PUBLIC BATHROOM ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES AGAIN PLEASE!!!! Please lead the way and don't just build to code - build to make a difference to every member of your community.</p> <p>Please refer to the CHANGING PLACES website https://changingplaces.org.au/</p>
30.	As there is a lot of wildlife that frequent the areas I would like to start seeing wildlife signs around (slow down wildlife about), and native plants, and water fountains.
31.	<p>Just a thought....for one day.....the old gas cylinder site is circular and not used....perhaps a labyrinth could be constructed on it.....it would be ideal for that.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>grass and pavers....or....sand and dwarf mondo grass or similar.....or.....coloured concrete with a grass border for drainageetc.....</p> <p>.....and it continues the circular theme.....</p>
32.	Great ideas, but have noticed that there are not enough seats for parents to sit on to watch their children play. This especially seems to be the case near the junior play area. Please provide more seating for parents. Also please ensure shade cloth covers all of play area and parents sitting watching kids/ picnic area. Also in the senior kids area, please make this suitable for more grown up kids - ie seven year olds/ eight year

	olds too so families of all ages can play in the one area. Please also keep in mind having areas for people to hold birthday parties in for small groups as this will be a key way the park will be used
33.	<p>The plans are looking fabulous - very exciting!</p> <p>A couple of comments:</p> <p>a) The current fence at the eastern end is rusted and ugly - is this being replaced?</p> <p>b) the area is susceptible to ticks - is this design (plants, floor coverings, landscaping maintenance etc) taking this into consideration to manage/eliminate? It would be a shame to invest in such an upgrade if this problem is not mitigated as it will keep the community away (as it currently does).</p> <p>c) Is there a rubber surface which can be used instead of mulch? I feel this may be an issue with ticks. Also if not maintained properly can become messy/be dangerous with broken glass/needles etc.</p>
34.	<p>Retaining the current shade structure is welcomed, however some of the surrounding trees now exceed its height and one eucalyptus tree near the stairs seems to be shedding leaves and branches which are dropping on the shade cloth.</p> <p>There is no mention of replacing the fencing on the eastern side where the 'nature trail' is intended and along the area above the large stone wall to the steps. The current fence is rusted and poorly maintained and unlikely to meet any public infrastructure safety standards. The playground does not need to be fenced right around, however the existing fence should be replaced with appropriate safety fencing at the appropriate height.</p> <p>The area is reputed to be a high tick area and there should be no additional 'embellishments of native plantings' that would increase the opportunity for ticks to attach to children. Council already has difficulty in managing the existing 'native plantings' and the playground area is not considered part of the 'gardens' for the purposes of maintenance so the area is left to become overgrown and uncared for. Please do not plant any additional plants or trees.</p> <p>The proposed location of the picnic table is supported but the surrounding area should be cleared of saplings and lomandra and landscaped to allow for prams to be 'parked' near or behind the table.</p> <p>Why are four swings being considered? The two existing swings seem adequate, although the addition of a separate circular swing similar to the one down on the beach front would be welcome. The current location of the swings is problematic as the baby seat faces north east, straight into the sun. This swing cannot be used early to mid morning because the children on the swing and look straight into the sun. Perhaps consider turning the seat around to face south. Ensure that any new swing does not face into the sun.</p> <p>Moving the bike racks seems a reasonable idea, however bike riders find it is useful to have line of sight of their bike to keep an eye on them. The proposed location should not be located to allow bikes to stick out onto the path, consider making the entry to the racks from the central entry path that leads into the playground. Small kids bikes are often parked there and should be accommodated there in addition to adult bikes.</p> <p>The children currently enjoy the plinth, they enjoy the pictograms and it signals the 'arrival at the playground'. Some play hide and seek around it or use it a 'home base'</p>

	<p>for games.</p> <p>The base of the playground is not mentioned. The current bark washed away in the recent rain. Right down the steps, along the road past the engine piece below and on to the road to the fishing area. The bark also harbours ticks although it is regularly dug up by the turkeys, rabbits, bandicoots and echidnas. Even if the rain is not sustained and as heavy as earlier in the year, the bark gets muddy and often washes onto the surrounding path. The street sweeper comes along and sweeps it up and the playground eventually becomes bare dirt.</p>
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Part B – Emailed comments

Number	Comment
1.	Great to see the amenities block coming on!
2.	It is wonderful to see plans for a toilet at the park. A big thank you.
3.	<p>We hope that the ticks will no longer be able to live in the kid playground area as we've had quite a few over the years.</p> <p>We as a family use the current facilities multiple times a day to walk the dog, have a play after school, ride our bikes and have a picnic in the park. We often need to go home to use the toilet so the bathroom facilities are very welcome. The playground upgrade has the kids super excited and they are already talking about taking turns on the unground trampoline.</p> <p>I'm excited about the amount of equipment proposed. There are many different areas to play and explore.</p>

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