
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Forestville War Memorial (Poppy Park) Playground Upgrade (Stage 1 of 1)

Impact level: 4

Consultation period: 15 July to 14 August 2022

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1. Summary




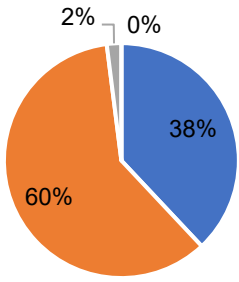

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to upgrade Forestville War Memorial (Poppy Park) Playground and make the playground a more inclusive play environment.

The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed upgrade as many people felt the playground needed refurbishment and new play equipment.

Much of the feedback recommended types of play equipment and requested more challenging and unique equipment for both toddlers and older children.

Some respondents felt that the playground should be upgraded significantly to match larger, regional playgrounds.

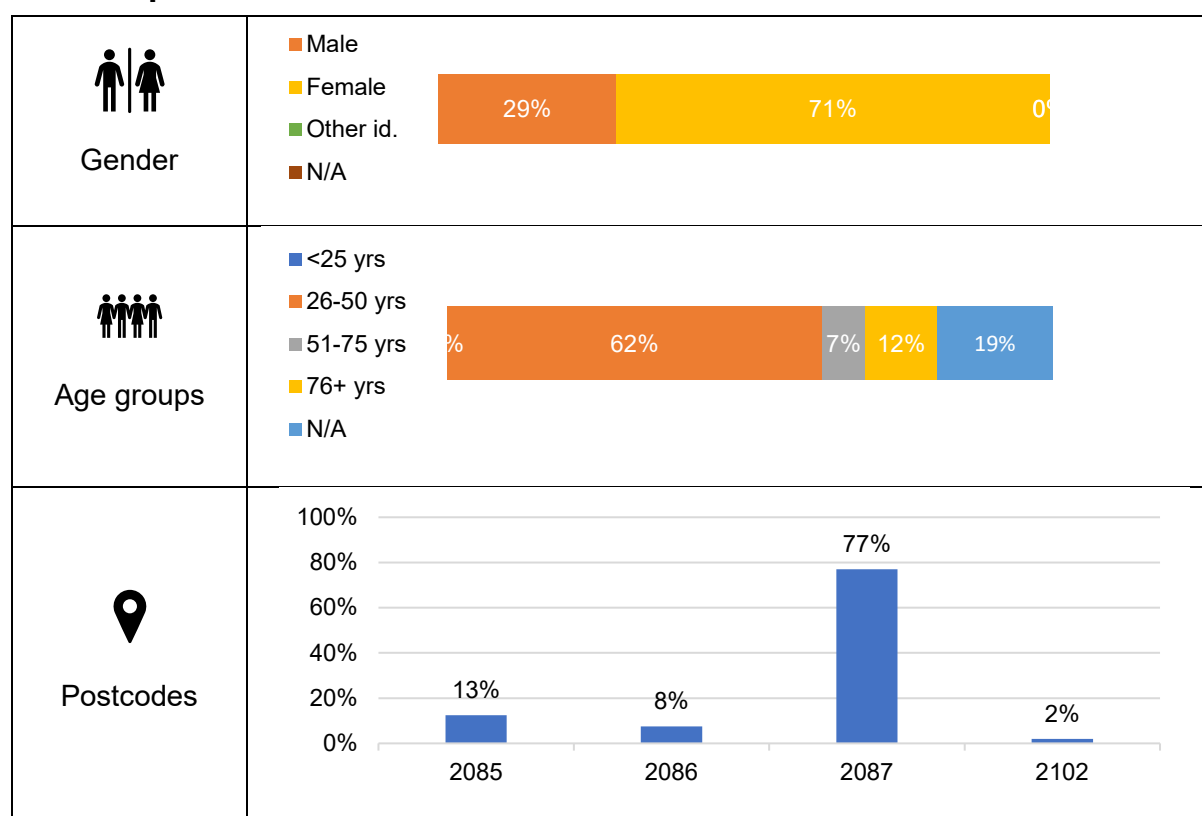
1.1. Key outcomes

 <p>Total unique responses</p>	42	
 <p>How responses were received</p>	Comment form	Completions: 42
 <p>Online sentiment question: Do you support the concept plan to upgrade Forestville Memorial (Poppy Park) Playground?</p>	 <p>■ Support ■ Support with changes ■ Don't support ■ Neutral/undetermined</p> <p>Total responses = 42</p>	
 <p>Feedback themes</p>	<p>Playground size</p> <p>Play equipment – senior</p> <p>Play equipment – recommendations</p>	<p>Site furniture</p> <p>Safety</p>

1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	Visitors: 841	Visits: 1050	Average time onsite: 1 minute
 <p>Print media and collateral</p>	Site signs		Number of signs: 4
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition		Distribution: 22,000 subscribers Distribution: 180,000 subscribers

1.3. 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 the exhibition period of the project.

Forestville War Memorial (Poppy Park) Playground is a district playground that sits within the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields recreational precinct. The playground contains artwork that relates to the war remembrance.

The playground consists of junior and senior play equipment areas along with an open grass mound and native plantings.

Council has received grant funding from NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment's (DPIE) *Everyone Can Play* grant program which supports the creation of inclusive public open spaces for adventure and play. This grant will partially fund the playground upgrade.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- 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

The project's impact level four Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was devised to identify the level of community support for the proposal.

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Forestville War Memorial (Poppy Park) Playground Upgrade was conducted between 15 July to 14 August 2022, providing opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

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 and on-site signage.

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.

Email and written comments were also invited.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the needs of the whole community.

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from residents who use the playground.

5. Findings

The feedback received from residents, parents/carers and children during consultation indicated a majority level of support for the proposed playground upgrade. Respondents who were supportive of the proposal indicated that the playground was important as it was the most prominent playground in the Forestville and Killarney Heights area.

Some respondents felt that the playground should be enlarged to match the size and play value of larger regional playgrounds.

Many respondents suggested types of play equipment that could be included in the upgrade with many suggesting more challenging and interesting equipment for toddlers and older children.

Some respondents requested more seating, shade and had various safety concerns.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Playground size	Some respondents felt that the playground should be enlarged to match the size and play value of larger regional playgrounds as this is the most prominent playground in the Forestville & Killarney Heights area.	The playground is classified as a "District" Playground in Council's hierarchy of playground types. This type of playground is designed to serve an area of 2-5km radius. The size and facilities of this playground are consistent with the district classification. Lionel Watts Reserve Playground is the classified regional playground for this catchment.
Play equipment - senior	Some respondents requested more challenging play equipment to cater for older children and teenagers.	Council aims to provide a range of play equipment to cater for all abilities. There are limitations to the amount of play equipment that we can provide due to space and budget. Exact equipment will be determined during procurement.
Play equipment – recommendations	There were many suggestions for various types of play equipment for all ages. Requests generally asked for more challenging, interesting or unique play equipment.	Council aims to provide a range of play equipment to cater for all abilities. There are limitations to the amount of play equipment that we can provide due to space and budget.



Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
		budget. Exact equipment will be determined during procurement.
Site furniture	There were some requests for upgraded seating areas.	Upgrades to seating and picnic areas are part of the proposal.
Safety	Some respondents highlighted safety concerns such as slippery surfaces and anti-social behaviour.	Hazards will be looked at and addressed as required.

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

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Can a flying-fox be included?	Flying-foxes take up a large amount of space and are hence better suited to larger playgrounds. Specifying a flying-fox may restrict other equipment options. Exact equipment will be determined during procurement. Suppliers will be given the opportunity to provide best play value and best fit for available budget. A flying-fox could be an option submitted if the supplier feels it to be appropriate.
Will the rosemary bushes be retained/updated as these are very much part of the poppy concept?	The rosemary bushes will be retained.
Are toilets still accessible at the nearby rugby building? If so, what hours are they open or does one need to obtain a key?	Male and female toilets are only open for sporting events. An accessible unisex toilet is available adjacent to playground and is open daily from 6am to 7pm. MLAK key is required for afterhours use.
Can you put more play equipment or a balance trail where the existing paved river walk is at the right side on diagram. This space is underused by children in the park.	The dry creek bed is an ANZAC themed sculptural artwork that reflects the theme of the playground and precinct. The procurement process will request for nature play options in the underutilised areas.
Can there be additional play equipment built?	The procurement will request play equipment to fill current play areas as well as further nature play options in underutilised areas.
Are water bubblers available at more than one location?	There is a drinking water fountain within the playground area. This is likely to be upgraded during works and placed outside the playground fence. There are numerous drinking water fountains within the recreational precinct that cater for sports field users.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1	<p>Hello, my kids have used poppy park since they could walk but they've stopped over the past few years as it's really only fun for kids under 7. A lot of teenagers hang out at the tables between poppy park and the rugby club (my kids are 7 & 9). It'd be great if there was more equipment for kids 7 to 16.</p> <p>Some examples of what my kids love are attached & below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - multi-level rope bridges/ structures so bigger kids can climb up, then slide down a long, spiral metal tunnel slide (like The Canopy playground in Lane Cove) - multi-level / mounded ground or structures with large concrete tunnels beneath for bigger kids to climb through, and with indoor climbing structures on them to climb up & over - large round rope swings that 3-4 bigger kids can sit on & swing together as a group - small in-ground trampolines for anyone to jump on, all ages - exercise equipment is also great for adults to use while watching their kids (like at Narrabeen Park) - vertical log poles / nature play is another great structure that even adults can balance on & walk over while watching their kids - an attractive garden and comfy timber seating helps parents stay longer also (which is better for kids (like mine!) who have ADHD - kids with ADHD have a lot of energy to burn so a park with a lot of high energy structures helps us parents to exhaust our kids! 
2	<p>Just want to make sure that the Junior and senior playgrounds are suitable. Currently the junior playground (other than being damaged) isn't very inspiring. Include small slide, area for creative play, interaction. Best example I have seen of this is Memory Park in Mosman</p> 

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

3	<p>Upgrading sounds great but it doesn't seem very detailed and what I can read has it looking very similar to what currently is, just newer.</p> <p>As a teacher and a parent of two under 3 and someone who has spent a lot of time at playgrounds with kids of different ages I'd like to recommend some details to the plan.</p> <p>For the younger kids space (near the swings)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imaginative play such as a boat or train with moving parts like a steering wheel (or two!) is always a win 2. Slides! Including more than one height would be great for the really little ones and the bigger toddlers too. 3. Climbing is always loved: Different levels to climb to with varied difficulty in getting there. Easy stairs for the less mobile, angled rope or rock wall type climb for 2-4. Please note that rope webs need to have ropes at the top and bottom- often these steps are too far apart for the little ones to manage on their own. <p>A soft fall crawl mountain for 0-2yo and a larger for 2-4yo would pair so well with slides.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Balance beams/stepping stones- you could possibly use the existing wall for this in some way <p>All ages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water course/ dams and pumps could go well in th existing rock creek space 2. Music spaces- gongs such as glenrose <p>Please note:</p> <p>Things like the abacus and noughts and crosses are a waste of space... kids rarely play with them- they're just not fun so don't waste \$ here.</p> <p>For older kids go high... use netted in high climbing for a safe thrill eg Strathfield park or wild play at centennial park. With a Tall covered slide.</p> <p>Monkey bars and a zip line are always big hits too</p>
4	Can you please include a flying fox ?
5	Really believe that there still needs to be more swings for the older kids not just the new pendulum round swing.
6	This reads as a maintenance call out more then an upgrade. Why not use some imagination and create a new space for the kids. Visit St Ives Showgrounds, or your own NB playgrounds including Tramshed, Warriewood Valley Pkayground rocket park, Lionel Watts.
7	This looks like a huge amount of money 400k for not a lot of change. Will make some builders rich and give the community little. Take a look at the great new parks upgraded in belrose and let's have something like that.
8	<p>The toddler swing that already exists is too low to the ground that toddlers lift their feet up and fall off the back of the swing or don't lift their feet and scrape their feet on the ground...it needs raising up higher off the ground or replacing.</p> <p>Great to see a footpath through the car park being introduced. Maybe treat the footpath as a 'roadway' for scooters/trikes with a pretend fuel rope pump (like at Sydney park).</p> <p>Remove the slippery paved 'leaf' mounds...adults and children often slip on these!</p> <p>Thanks for upgrading this playground and keeping the fence and poppies. 'Poppy park' name should remain.</p> <p>What the kids seem to like at this playground is the mix of climbing net and platforms, making it suitable for confident climbers younger than 4, as well as older kids.</p>

9	<p>will the rosemary bushes be retained/updated as these are very much part of the poppy concept?</p> <p>the last question is ambiguous as it shows 'no' in the summary when i opted to receive further updates about this upgrade which my Father, Rod, instigated and opened. hence my interest in the rosemary and poppy park generally.</p> <p>many thanks, pax,</p>
10	<p>We went there and some of the baby play area's equipments are broken and seems like the park hasn't been maintained well. The play area is not clean enough for babies to crawl and play. It would be great if the park can be upgraded.</p>
11	<p>Must be gated More junior play equipment like climbing and slides. Challenging but still safe. Bike/scooter track Clean toilets.</p>
12	<p>Whilst the main focus is on repairs, it would be nice to see some musical instruments, climbing frame and a sandpit/ added to the park.</p>
13	<p>Please include toddler climbing equipment as toddlers love to climb. Change the slipperery tiles in the dry creek bed, kids are always slipping on them. Keep the whole playground fenced. Sensory pathways like Lionel watts park. Keep the loop pathway, it's great for scooting,</p>
14	<p>Please add some seating and tables in the shade for people to gather, chat and eat.</p>
15	<p>The area is great for children but needs to be refreshed. I am pleased to see some new areas added. Thank you.</p>
16	<p>Need to think of ways to deter anti social behaviour. We've found broken glass bottles one too many times so we always check before letting our children run free. In its current state, there are many nooks that cannot be surveilled... behind hedges, trees and half walls. New design needs to consider that the park already lacks passive surveillance without dwellings in close proximity. Perhaps a cctv?</p>
17	<p>It all sounds good but would be great to add in some new things too. Maybe a flying fox or an obstacle course or musical play area or inground mini tramps or a little fairy walk with lots of stepping stones and or a balance beam. These are things my kids always love.</p>
18	<p>I am glad to hear you are retaining the fence and large grass areas. Upgrading the equipment is great and very important to remove that smooth, leaf shaped stepping stone thing near the bridge that every kid that has ever gone in that playground has slipped on. Thanks, I love the new design</p>
19	<p>You need something more challenging - look at Willouby park for inspiration. You need monkey bars etc. Also don't use the people that did Killarney shops because it's rubbish- the whole community thinks this...</p>
20	<p>Killarney Heights and forrestville lack a major play area depiste hundreds of new young families moving to the area in the past few years. This rebuild should be more ambitious and larger to reflect the growing family area and to be aligned with similar expenditure on many playgrounds closer to the beach.</p>
21	<p>Monkey bars and a flying fox would be good addition.</p>
22	<p>Would like to see a small nest swing for smaller children (like at Cook St Reserve) as smaller kids often like to have a turn but the large ones are too dangerous for them.</p> <p>Sensory play elements is a must. It will help activate that end of the playground which currently is always empty. Musical elements like you see at Lionel Watts are fantastic and inclusive and are always a hit.</p>
23	<p>There is currently a wooden bridge across some of the rocks - it gets slippery when wet and should be fixed. More sensory play also</p>

24	Thank you for planning this update to Poppy Park. Your diagram does not show toilets and change facilities. Are toilets still accessible at the nearby rugby building? If so, what hours are they open or does one need to obtain a key?
25	Looks good. Can you put more play equipment or a balance trail where the existing paved river walk is at the right side on diagram. This space is underused by children in the park.
26	Additional seating space would be great, eg park benches. Given this is the biggest playground in Forestville and Killarney, more equipment would be suitable (especially given the schools and daycares in the immediate vicinity, with another daycare opening up!) Eg. nature obstacles, counting items, slides to suit various ages.
27	Can there be additional play equipment built? The plans are very similar to what is currently there, which is very limited and mainly just maintenance fixes. Suggestions include a carousel (like Lionel Watts), musical instruments and slides of varying heights.
28	The equipment is so old. There needs to be more play equipment. So many kids use this place everyday. I like the area for small and big kids but there just needs to be more equipment. It is the only big park in forestville and lots of parents meet up to play here and the kids get bored.
29	the much used area is in need of refreshing.
30	Are water bubblers available at more than one location?
31	Don't forget Deakin St Park
32	ensure there are more senior children activities as they tend to use the facility on a more regular basis
33	More play equipment for toddler age group, mound with slide, climbing opportunities. Imaginative play opportunities such as pretend shop, Interactive games etc. Much larger play equipment for 4+ age group, expansive climbing frame, higher slide as well as standard height slide. Water play zone in nature play area. The new playground at Little Manly Point is a great example except with the addition of a seperate large climbing frame and flying fox for big kids.
34	The junior play zone is well loved with the dual seat rocking sidecar/ motorbike; I hope some of these unique play experiences are retained rather than the generic ones installed in most northern beaches parks. Also the upgrade to the climbing frame and slide are vague; again I hope this remains to be unique and different to the standard plastic fixtures seen across the beaches. If anything the existing structure could be extended upwards to include a more adventurous slide.
35	This is a minor upgrade that is disappointing. The area should be expanded to be equivalent to Lionel Watts or Walter Gors with the addition of a proper nature play and water play area. Once again Forestville is being neglected.

Document administration	
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Notes	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.