
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Ashley Parade Reserve, Fairlight – New Playground and Landscaping

Consultation period: 16 September 2022 to 16 October 2022

Contents

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	2
1.2.	How we engaged	3
1.3.	Who responded.....	3
2.	Background.....	4
3.	Engagement objectives.....	4
4.	Engagement approach.....	4
4.1.	Reaching diverse audiences.....	5
5.	Findings	5
	Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses	8




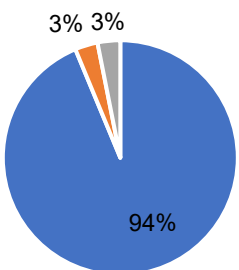

1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement between 16 September to 16 October 2022 as part of a proposal to create a new local park at Ashley Parade Reserve, Fairlight.

The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed new local park with many comments requesting additional recreational elements to what was proposed in the concept plan.

There was only one respondent not in support of the proposal.

1.1. Key outcomes














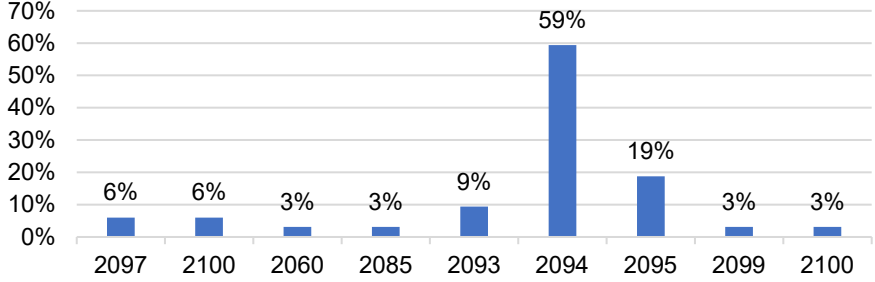
 Total unique responses	33	
 How responses were received	Submission/Comment form Written responses (email)	Completions: 32 Number received: 1
 Online sentiment ¹ :	 Total responses = 32	
 Feedback themes	Play Equipment Alternative Use	Safety & Amenity Aesthetics

¹ The results in the above graph are based on submissions received online only.

1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	Visitors: 696	Visits: 820	Average time onsite: 1 min 23 secs
 <p>Print media and collateral</p>	Mail out: Properties within approximately 200m of Reserve Site signs used: Yes		Distribution: 371 Properties Number of signs: 2
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: 22,000 subscribers Distribution: 180,000 subscribers Distribution: 2

1.3. Who responded²

 <p>Gender</p>	<p>  Male  Female  Other id. </p> 
 <p>Age groups</p>	<p>  <25 yrs  26-50 yrs  51-75 yrs  76+ yrs  N/A </p> 
 <p>Postcodes</p>	

² Demographic data was gathered through the online form, 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.

The site, previously owned by Sydney Water was a former reservoir that was decommissioned in the 1990s. In 2015 the property was rezoned and sold by Sydney Water for residential development with one third of the site becoming a public reserve.

The land was remediated and opened up to the public in 2020 and has since been operating as a vacant park.

Our Parks Asset team has engaged with local residents and the Greater Manly Residents Forum, and based on community consultation, developed the concept plan for wider community engagement.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values
- seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or interested in a project
- communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the planning and decision-making process.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Ashley Parade Reserve, Fairlight – New Playground and Landscaping was conducted between 16 September to 16 October 2022.

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

A project page³ 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 a letter sent to occupiers of local residences, the erection of notification signage on site, and 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, non-support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

³ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ashley-parade-reserve-fairlight>

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A 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 local residents. To ensure they were given the opportunity to view the notification and provide comment, letters were sent to surrounding residents.

5. Findings

The feedback received during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed new local park with only one respondent against the proposal, as they felt the space would be better suited as a community garden.

Many respondents requested additional play equipment or elements in addition to what was proposed in the concept plan.

Some respondents requested different or additional uses for the park including community gardens, unleashed dog exercise areas and bike track.

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
Play Equipment	Some respondents requested more play equipment such as climbing frames to cater for multiple children and abilities. Some respondents requested multiple swings to cater for both toddlers and older children as often siblings will play together.	Ashley Parade Reserve is a small local park and playground with limited space. The play equipment proposed is consistent with the level generally provided in a local playground. Due to the several requests for toddler and multiple swings the single basket swing will be replaced with a double swing set.
Alternative Use	Some respondents requested the park be used for other recreational activities such as unleashed dog exercise area, small bike track or community gardens.	The concept design was developed through discussion with local residents and the Greater Manly Residents Forum. Being a small local park there is limited space. The proposal of a small play area, seating, picnic space and plantings was seen to be the most appropriate use of space for a small park surrounded by residential properties.

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Safety & Amenity	Some respondents requested fencing for children's safety and shade for seating areas.	A gate is planned to be added to the far corner of the play area for safety reasons, however it is not planned to fence the entire playground or park as the risk to safety is low. A shade structure has not been included at this stage due to budget constraints and provision for shade provided by trees.
Aesthetics	Some respondents commented on aesthetics regarding planting, fences and walls.	The project aims to improve the overall amenity and aesthetics of the reserve.

During the consultation/exhibition. Council 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
Perhaps a seat or bench in a shady area could be added?	This may be considered during construction phase if budget and space allows
Could the name of the site be reconsidered?	The park has not been officially named. Ashley Parade Reserve is being used as an interim name. The naming of the reserve is out of scope for this engagement regarding the construction of the park. Naming of the reserve would need to follow Council's Policy on Naming of Reserves.
Can I ask for the play equipment to be suitable for a range of ages please?	Ashley Parade Reserve is a small local park and playground with limited space. The play equipment proposed is consistent with the level generally provided in a local playground. Due to the several requests for toddler and multiple swings the single basket swing will be replaced with a double swing set.
Please let us know if dogs will be allowed in Ashley Parade Reserve.	Dogs are allowed in the reserve, however they would be restricted to the eastern end as NSW law prohibits dogs (both leashed and unleashed) to be within 10m of any children's playground equipment.
Will there be a garbage bin installed?	The request for a garbage bin will be referred to Council's waste team for consideration.


Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Please advise whether existing fencing on north and east boundary will be retained or upgraded. Will it be affected by new planting?	The fencing will be retained. Planting would be placed in front of the fence. The fence may need straightening to adjoin properly to a new gate at the eastern end of the park.
Does the entry have a kid proof gate?	A gate is proposed at the eastern end of the park to ensure children do not run straight out into the access road area. A fence is not proposed at the Ashley Parade entrance. Northern Beaches parks are generally not fenced unless there is a need to reduce a high safety risk.
Would it be possible to paint the wall of the adjoining garage?	Painting of the wall may be considered as a future time. Further consultation would need to be undertaken with adjacent property owners.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1.	<i>No written comment provided</i>
2.	<p>Great to see the Northern Beaches Council undertaking great work to improve community assets. A real pity that Council listened to the minority and installed those useless Garden sit-down modules installed in the Corso and Darley Road which are never used and removed several priceless vehicle parking spaces. I would suggest that at least 1 Disabled parking space be allocated where these modules are located.</p> <p><i>Second submission:</i></p> <p>Would also suggest that the complete area be fenced in with self-closing gates and the new reserve be a leach-off area for animals to also enjoy the area with their owners.</p>
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nice to have another local playground. We recently moved from the City of Sydney LGA where there are a great selection of high quality smaller/pocket parks and it's great to see more being built on the northern beaches. - Please ensure the slide is easily accessible to young children as well as older. Often the embankments are too steep or there is no alternative pathway up which means parents have to carry/assist young children each time they want to go on the slide. This is difficult when you have other children to care for as well. - Enclosed play area would be preferred for safety - It would be nice to see First Nations acknowledgement and history of the site included
4.	<p>The proposal for Ashley Parade Reserve is welcome news for all the young children in our Fairlight area. After seeing the proposed design, I would highly recommend that an additional swing for older children be included in the swing set. Only having a baby swing and the swinging disc will not be enough for the number of children around the area. Also many families have a baby and an older sibling who like to swing together and this makes it easier for parents. I am sure, after we have waited so long for this park to be developed, the council would be able to, at least, offer a few more equipment options. Thank you and we look forward to this proposal going ahead soon.</p>
5.	<p>What a great idea, very happy to have a useable park for local families. Sounds like a big improvement.</p>
6.	<i>No written comment provided</i>
7.	<p>I would like to thank Council for following through with their very suitable designs and I'm sure all of us will enjoy the new park. Perhaps a seat or bench in a shady area could be added?? Regards and thanks again</p> <p><i>Second submission:</i></p> <p>Chatting to the locals I find we are disappointed that the playground is being named after an ordinary street in Fairlight. Manly Council was passionate about retaining the heritage aspects of the Sydney Water site to the point where they insisted that the townhouse developers kept the large concrete retaining water tank walls and the front fence. Perhaps the current Council is unaware of the history of the site???</p> <p>After all the fuss and expense about the interesting heritage, it seems sad that this aspect has been forgotten in the bog standard name for the new playground. We who worked for many years to create the space for public use, always assumed it would be called something like Water Tank Playground. Or at least Fairlight Reservoir Playground. Very grateful that the equipment is finally arriving BUT... what a shame to give it such a boring</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.

Number	Comment/submission
	<p>name.</p> <p>Who decided the name? We the locals have never been consulted, and were surprised to see the name go up on the corner of Ashley Parade.</p> <p>Please choose something more interesting which reflects the vital heritage of the site. Thanks</p>
8.	<p>Thank you! This is so, so welcome! Can I ask for the play equipment to be suitable for a range of ages please? Some smaller slides and baby swings as well as the ones for older children?</p> <p>Thanks! [name redacted]</p>
9.	<p>I would suggest that given its location a playground and such would not be used. It's not central enough.</p> <p>I would suggest a community garden maybe a better use of the space.</p>
10.	<p>Perhaps change the nest swing to 2 swings. One for small children e.g. under 3 and the other one to have a chain on front</p>
11.	<p>Please let us know if dogs will be allowed in Ashley Parade Reserve. We currently enjoy exercising our dog and throwing a ball around in this little park. Also, will there be a garbage bin installed?</p>
12.	<p>The northern beaches, particularly Fairlight is in desperate need of playground for children of all ages.</p> <p>At the very least one of the grass areas should be made into a small climbing playground to supplement the slide and swings.</p> <p>There is picnic green space just on the beach very close by which people would much prefer to sit at to eat.</p> <p>Playgrounds are in need!</p>
13.	<p>Looks great! Only recommendation might be to add a bin and dog waste bags.</p>
14.	<p>We need an enclosed space where dogs can run off leash that is safe</p>
15.	<p>The design looks good, we have been waiting a long time since we first acquired the space and the original discussion included herb gardens and a climbing gym for children, also a basketball hoop. It would still be good to see some of these things.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
16.	<p>We really need a lot more child friendly amenities in fairlight. Parks are few and far between and the parks that do exist are old and run down/dangerous. Can you add more than just a swing and a slide?? Could a flying fox be possible (the ones that you can sit in for younger kids)? We need far more imaginative play options in playgrounds too - drums, trampolines etc too</p>
17.	<p>A small bike track e.g. a pump track around the outside of the park would become extremely popular and fun with all ages.</p>
18.	<p>The design looks good</p> <p>I would like to see more shade.</p> <p>Native flowering trees and also trees that might provide shade once established.</p> <p>See sun shades tables with seating</p> <p>Also a small bike track for little kids with run bikes and small bikes or even bigger bikes.</p> <p>Not a pump track or anything too hard but just something fun for small kids.</p>
19.	<p>Great idea to activate the area.</p>
20.	<p>Looks very good and worthwhile for community enjoyment.</p>

Number	Comment/submission
21.	BRILLIANT IDEA!!!!!! More green spaces and less bloody apartment/townhouses. Love the plan and its a great use of headspace, make it happen, please!
22.	At last after many years it is great to see that the N.B. Council is back on the ball with this park. I would like to see a BBQ area & more seating/ tables. Could a community garden be included in a section of the park
23.	Looks great but please try to avoid using rubber in the playground due to environmental concerns.
24.	Put up more than one swing. One for big kids and one for babies/toddlers. Trampoline in the ground is also a great idea, I've seen this at little Manlys newish Park. And make sure there is some shade for parents and kids. And fences! This is a must to keep dogs ect out which keeps the park cleaner and obviously keep kids safe inside the park.
25.	Looks a big improvement
26.	I think a climbing feature or some other equipment would provide more interest, good fun and scope for use across a greater age range.
27.	Please advise whether existing fencing on north and east boundary will be retained or upgraded. Will it be affected by new planting. Also can I suggest a mural or planting to cover the ugly garage wall that is currently covered in graffiti.
28.	Fabulous idea!
29.	<i>No written comment provided</i>
30.	<i>No written comment provided</i>
31.	The plan sounds great there doesn't seem to be any shade provided to sun or rain protection. Also does the entry have a kid proof gate.
32.	When the development is undertaken would it be possible to paint the wall of the adjoining garage that faces the park and is an eyesore. Thank you for your consideration. 
33.	Thank you for forwarding the proposed design for the old Fairlight Reservoir site playground.

Number	Comment/submission
	<p>My initial thoughts of the plan is that it looks good.</p> <p>It would be ideal if the swing area incorporates a swing for under 4 year old's and a larger swing for older children.</p> <p>Some months ago I sent an image of an embankment slide located in Marysville, Victoria. It is a very safe facility and delivers a good slide experience for children.</p> <p>I was wondering if the slide in the playground design will be similar to this</p> <p>I will see if any of my colleagues have anything to add to my comments.</p>

Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	26 October 2022
Approval	Content provided and approved by Park Assets Planning, Design & Delivery Team. Responsible manager: Jeremy Smith
Status	Final
Related Projects	Draft Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy
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.