
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus – Sportsfield upgrade

Consultation period: 24 June 2022 and 24 July 2022

Contents

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	2
1.2.	How we engaged	2
1.3.	Who responded.....	3
2.	Background.....	4
3.	Engagement objectives	4
4.	Engagement approach	4
5.	Findings	5
	Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses	6

1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement conducted between 24 June 2022 and 24 July 2022 as part of a proposal to upgrade the sportsfield at Northern Beaches Secondary Campus - Cromer to enable the use of the grounds outside of school hours. The upgrade includes the installation of lighting and improvements to irrigation and drainage.

We wanted to understand community sentiment regarding this proposal, especially in relation to sportsground lighting.

The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposal with many comments citing the anticipated benefits of the broader community having access to school sporting grounds.

Some issues were raised in the feedback, including concerns about parking, security, noise, and environmental sustainability.

1.1. Key outcomes

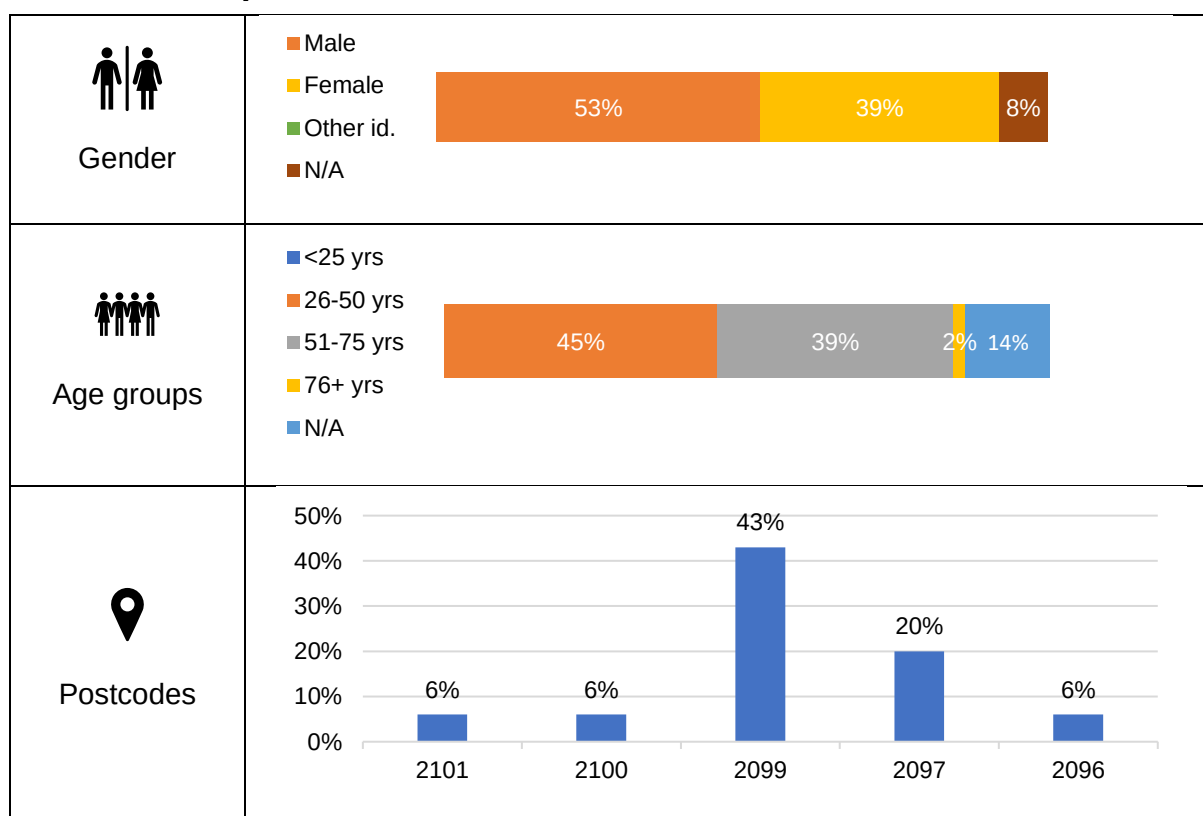
 Total unique responses	55	
 How responses were received	Online Your Say form Written email responses	Completions: 51 Number received: 4
 Feedback themes	Benefit to the broader community Access to community sport Parking	Security Noise Environmental sustainability

1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 435	Visits: 670	Average time onsite: 2mins 23secs
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 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2099, 2097 Email to distribution area Site signs used:	Postal distribution: 476 Email distribution: 603 Number of signs: 3
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition Stakeholder email: 4	Distribution: Approx. 23,000 subscribers Distribution: Approx. 180,000 subscribers Distribution: 4
 Key stakeholder engagement	Interviews with key stakeholders: 5	Attendance: 5

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

In 2017 the Northern Beaches Sportsground Strategy identified a shortage of sportsfields on the Northern Beaches. In the short term, this shortfall will be met by using existing sportsgrounds more efficiently and by increasing capacity through actions such as installing lights, improving drainage and reconfiguring the fields.

The strategy also identified opportunities to use school sites for community purposes. As a result, we entered into a 10-year licencing agreement with the Department of Education to use the Northern Beaches Secondary College (NBSC) Cromer Campus for community sport.

As part of the agreement, we will be improving the sportsfield facilities with the installation of four new light posts for additional evening training and competition opportunities.

The lighting proposal is part of the sportsfield upgrade that will include improvements to drainage, irrigation, new turf, repositioning of the goal posts and installing water fountains.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- Build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus - Sportsfield upgrade was conducted between 24 June and 24 July 2022, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to learn about the project and 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. This included an area plan and a lighting plan.

The project was primarily promoted through resident and stakeholder letter and email notifications, site signs and our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to provide comments on the proposal and any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and telephone contact details of the project team were provided should anyone have an enquiry or need support in the consultation process.

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/northern-beaches-secondary-college-cromer-campus-sportsfield-upgrade>

5. Findings

The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposal to upgrade the sportsfield at Northern Beaches Secondary Campus - Cromer and enable the use of the grounds outside of school hours.

Many comments were generally in favour of Council creating new opportunities for the community to engage in sporting activities. Some felt the proposal addressed overuse of existing sportsfields and increased access to community sport. Some of the supportive comments included:

"I welcome the use of school facilities for broader community and sporting purposes."

"Perfect idea to use schools' sports grounds for weekend sport."

Some issues were raised in the feedback, including concerns about parking, security, noise, and environmental sustainability. These are outlined and responded to in the table below.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests, questions and other considerations raised	Council's response
Parking	Concern was raised about the lack of parking in the area.	Allocated use is after school hours when sufficient parking is available on Inman Road and South Creek Road.
Security	Concerns were raised about anti-social behaviour and vandalism to the school and grounds.	Access to the sportsfield is limited to allocated sporting groups. Outside allocated use, the school will be closed and locked.
Hours of use	What will be the additional hours of use?	Proposed evening use under lights for sport training and competition is 5pm to 10pm Monday to Saturday. The proposal will allow for Sunday daytime use of the sportsfield.
Noise	The additional use of the sportsfield will create additional noise and impact on local residents.	The school is situated directly opposite Cromer Park which hosts training on five fields per night. The addition of another field with no nearby residential neighbours will have a negligible impact on noise or any other local amenity.

Environmental sustainability	We need to make sure we maintain an environmentally sustainable turf.	We will improve the quality of the natural sports turf through improved greenkeeping practices such as annual renovation program for aeration, watering and weed management.
Access to toilets	Will there be access to amenities?	The existing sportsfield amenities will be open and available for allocated sporting groups.
Existing user groups	Are the Manly Field archers able to continue using the field?	The field archery club will continue to use the site for club use.
Synthetic field upgrade	Is the field being converted to synthetic?	Council has no current plans to construct a synthetic field at Cromer Secondary College.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment
1	Fully support this proposal - sounds like a win win for the community. Good to share the use of these facilities and provide the level of infrastructure that assists the school and the community.
2	I am pleased to see extra areas being pursued by council for sporting activities. This arrangement will help but I don't believe council is utilising other fields under its control to the full extent. For instance the dog exercise area in Garden Street Narrabeen is under utilised. This particular area could easily provide further (two?) football fields or possibly eight or so netball courts. Parking is already provided in the area and is little used on weekends when adjacent businesses are closed. I suppose the dog lobbie will object, but surely time allocate could be applied. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue
3	Supported, very overdue. All my kids and I play soccer, this will assist with the congestion of fields.
4	Excellent proposal to increase the supply of sports grounds for community use. Both Council and the Dept Education are to be congratulated.
5	This is a very positive action to provide another sporting field for the use of Northern Beaches sports associations. To me, it appears that there are more girls playing competitive sports than 20 years ago. Our council area needs more fields for training and competition plus having more open space for casual use outside organized sport.
6	This a great initiative and with the growth in the sport from young girls to women it will take pressure off the existing fields and any conflict with other codes that share facilities well done
7	Great idea. It would just be good for the amenities to be upgraded before 2028.

*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.

8	Excellent idea to use school grounds for sports used by the community. Community pays through taxes so grounds should be utilised more often. I also suggest if possible for this area, additional path ways for walking/running cycling as this is area is part of a huge over park complex that could accommodate for more activity especial when it rains if there is a 2 to 3 metre wide path way created around the entire park land. Well done on planning to add this field to be used.
9	A long over due and excellent idea. Use of school fields in partnership with community clubs is an excellent idea - more fields, upgrade for the school & brings community together. Win/ win!
10	I support the strategy of using school sites for community purposes and for Council to improve the sportsfield facilities at the (NBSC) Cromer Campus for community sport.
11	I am supportive of this proposal
12	Please make it a synthetic HOCKEY field. We are getting desperate for a HOCKEY field on the Northern Beaches.
13	Agree we need upgrades to fields, only problem when upgraded it only suits certain sports !! How about we do some that help others left behind !! I've been involved in multiple sports for many years and so far upgrades only support a certain few !! It's really not inclusive to other communities.
14	As a mother of 3 children who play a lot of sport I feel it is important to have more fields available in our area... this area is surrounded by factories and will need lights for night time sports games and winter sports.... Lights are also ideal for safety and to help stop vandalism.
15	Fantastic idea. Perfect location with no residents too close by. Parking is plentiful. A welcome improvement to our sporting facilities.
16	Great idea. As a grandparent of an 8 and 6 year old we need more sporting facilities for weekend/after school sport. Unlock the school gates as well!
17	We are writing as a local resident (Manly Warringah District Soccer Football Club) at 101 South Creek Rd Cromer in relation to the proposed sports field and lighting upgrade at Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus. The upgrade fits in nicely with the current usage of the area, which has a strong sporting and community feel. We support the upgrade and enhancements and believe it will be a tremendous asset for the local community and sporting clubs.
18	The upgrade to the sportsfield at Northern Beaches Secondary College - Cromer Campus is a fantastic initiative to assist a major community group in the Cromer area. The school oval is dramatically under-utilised and offers a good avenue to address the issue of a dramatic shortage of sports fields for community sports groups to utilise. The upgrade of drainage will allow two sports (football and archery) to have a better surface and facility while the addition of lights will dramatically increase the usage after hours. The lights should have no impact on local residents as the site is a long way from any residential properties and close to the Cromer Park complex, which already has lighting.
19	This is a great idea, the south middle field at Matts doesn't drain well and another field would stops a lot of the cancellations we experienced in March.
20	There are no residential housing in the adjacent streets, a perfect use of the ground. Please stop wasting time talking about it just get it done. While you are at it fix the drainage of St Matts fields 1 & 2 as they have been closed for half a season,
21	Fully support this!
22	This is amazing def a under utilised field that the community can now access outside of school hours! Great plan for it!
23	Totally support the proposal to upgrade the field with lighting and other improvements and enable CC Strikers football club to be able to use the field for training and match purposes. The club continues to grow with so many juniors coming through that more fields will be required. This is an excellent plan and proposal.
24	It would be so beneficial to the northern beaches kids in sport to have Cromer high school's grounds. A local girl with 2 boys now playing it would be fantastic to add Cromer (Inman rd) to be used regularly.
25	I have just heard about the possible upgrade to the Cromer Campus sports field for community sport use, and think it is a fantastic idea. To have that much space so rarely used is a shame

	when there is a need in our community for more green space for exercise and sports. All school fields should be reviewed for this option.
26	This would be a great thing for local clubs - we need to have sufficient options to train, & be able to offer enough teams for local kids. Sport is a great way to promote community involvement, improve health and to keep them out of trouble. I cant see any negative impact to local area.
27	100% yes. This brings a relatively unused resource (on weekends) up to code and provides another area for local kids and families to stay fit and involved in local community sport. The field is away from residential properties meaning it won't cause problems with noise of people using the oval or vehicle noise leaving the location. A fantastic idea and opportunity to make more use of a local resource
28	100% support this. The more opportunities to get people playing sport day or night is only a good thing for the body and minds of our local people. Thank you NBC and keep up the good work.
29	I support the installation of lights at Cromer High / Inman Park to enable the sports field to be used for training and games at night. It is a great initiative to enable the field to be used by community sporting groups outside school hours given the growing demand for sport and lack of available fields, particularly in wet weather when St Matthews farm and others can be closed. We live in Cromer, my daughter plays soccer with the CC Strikers and attends Cromer High. I would just want to ensure that this proposal does not affect school access to the field during school hours.
30	Absolutely support this. The location will not affect any residential S and is much needed. Almost as much as a hickey tirl that should be prioritised in this area
31	This is a fantastic development, with our local fields already overflowing, this is another much needed upgrade for our local community to enjoy
32	This is a brilliant opportunity to expand the opportunities for community football in our area. Fully supportive of this proposal and know that if successful, more local kids will have the chance to play sport at night, 12 months a year.
33	This will provide a much needed increase in capacity in local sports fields which are the basis of community sport in the local area, and in doing so, take some pressure off St Matthew's Farm, Plateau Park & Truman Reserve which experience heavy use in the winter seasons and often don't have adequate time to recover - causing issues with cancellations of both training & games during periods of wet weather (junior sport gets cancelled, not postponed - so it's the kids that miss out).
34	As part of the local soccer club committee and with my three boys playing too, we know we need more facilities to allow not just my own boys more options for game and training but the whole Club community. CC Strikers player numbers have continued to grow, even through covid times, so the added option of an extra field, with lighting, will benefit the whole local community!
35	Great to see that this is happening. This proposal is of great benefit to the community. Our local sporting teams will have access to another much needed space for training and games. And it is also a huge win for Cromer high school to help bring their grounds into much needed repair and will go a long way in supporting the visual remediation of the school and give the students something to be proud of/promote. Given the industrial location of the area, and the existing sporting infrastructure on the opposite side of the road, I can't imagine any complaints about lighting. What a win for the area! Would be awesome to see this eventuate early 2023, as indicated on the timeline.
36	x
37	This is fantastic news for such an underutilised area. This project will aid in providing further areas for local teams of all ages to train. As a committee member of the CC Strikers football Club we are still seeing growth and this year had over 1600 members. We are finding it difficult to allocate suitable training areas at suitable hours. The inclusion of lighting at Inman Park will enable our club to allocate another area for teams to train. It will enhance facilities for the local community by 1. Increasing the percentage of children and adults participating regularly in sport. 2. Increase the number of facilities designated for outdoor recreation 3. Improve participant retention for sport and active recreation

	Collaroy Cromer Strikers have seen its largest growth in women between the ages of U8-U18. Season 2020 had the strikers players in this age group at 397. In 2017 we had 197 a total increase of 201 players at a 50% increase over that period of time. It has increased again this season It will address the clubs issue in providing enough grounds for teams to train on and enable the club to further its growth and therefore participation in football It will assist in providing more preferable training options for younger teams and the ability to continue to accommodate new members of the community
38	In principle, I support the proposal. It would be good for council to ensure security measures (such as lighting, gates, etc) are suitable elsewhere around the school campus to deter illicit activity whilst the grounds are in use in the evening. Also ensure adequate security measures (lighting, etc) is in place in the designated drop off/collection area to maintain safety of minors. I note recent attempted abductions on the Northern Beaches are a reminder that these issues, although unlikely, are real, and that these risks are to be mitigated.
39	Perfect idea to use schools sports grounds for weekend sport. Parking definitely needs to be addressed. I've seen and photographed council parking rangers booking people for parking in the schools bus stop area on the weekend, when it was not in use. This was during the soccer grandfinals. No other parking was available anywhere in the area. Poor grandparents and friends just trying to support the players.
40	What will happen to the archery club that already use the oval?
41	There needs to be toilet facilities available also. Why aren't these in the proposal?
42	Dear Sir or Madam, thanks for providing an opportunity to make comment. Whilst I appreciate there may be a shortage of viable sports fields we do have an issue with this proposal. Not only are we concerned about the potential light pollution but also the additional noise that will continue into the evening. There is already a sports field close by which has large bright lights and we hear continuous blowing of whistles from early morning through the late evening and over the weekend. This isn't the most pleasant when trying to enjoy our home. Is there anything currently in place for a voting option to see if this is something our local community is happy about? Many thanks
43	I oppose, there are plenty of sports fields on the northern beaches. I don't want the extra lighting or noise this will bring.
44	Good afternoon Cameron. Thank you for the information regarding the sports field upgrade at Cromer Campus. I agree with expanding the use of all council owned sports fields. However if you lived in this area you would be very well aware of the total shortage of car parking during sporting carnivals. The plans seem to have no provision to provide a solution to this situation. The total removal of all "parked" "dumped" trailers from the area would be a good start before any sports field improvements began. Do you know what is going to be done Cameron? Kind regards
45	Hi Cameron As you are aware we are inundated with bright lights every night and getting more lights and sports fields in the area seems like overkill, its enough we have the lights on till sometimes 10 at night, it would be great if they were not on after 9 as some of us have to work and have the lights blaring not only into our loungerooms but our bedrooms as well I hope this is considered Thanks
46	Hi, Thank you for your email. I wonder what time the sports field will be made available for use please? What's the latest time the games will go until and when will the lights go out? Also what additional pressure will the roads have to bear, considering both sports fields will likely be in use? What parking arrangements will be made to ensure no bottlenecks for residents? Will this start funneling more traffic along Parkes Rd?

	This may be somewhat unrelated, but with street cars doing burnouts in the industrial area late in the night I'm hoping having more parked cars in the area will reduce this danger, or will there be more policing to ensure no damage to cars that are parked? Many thanks,
47	Hi I would just like to comment on the turf replacement. Please don't use plastic grass. So bad for everything in the environment. Many thanks
48	Can locals please have access to basketball courts for social/casual use.thanks
49	there is not one turfed hockey pitch on the whole Northern beaches, why not use this opportunity to create a turf pitch for our hockey players.
50	Terrific initiative to open up the old Inman Reserve which was included in Cromer High school back in 1976.
51	I welcome the use of school facilities for broader community / sporting purposes.
52	Any improvement to playing field must NOT BE USE OF PLASTI TURF. Our environment has enough problems without adding the introduction of further micro plastics run off and the inability to 'recycle' old sundamaged plastic turf. Wrong way. Create local jobs by employing local people to maintain environmentally sustainable turf
53	Totally support this development which will provide one additional sporting field in Cromer. The current requirement for more sporting fields in the area is very high resulting in the existing fields being continually overused. As this school field is in the middle of industrial sites the ground lighting should not effect any residents. I can't think of any genuine reason why this development should not go ahead.
54	The inclusion of lighting at Cromer High/Inman Park will enable the club to allocate another area for teams to train. It will enhance facilities for the local community by 1. Increasing the percentage of children and adults participating regularly in sport. 2. Increase the number of facilities designated for outdoor recreation 3. Improve participant retention for sport and active recreation
55	My name is I have been a resident of Northern Beaches Council areas since 1984. I am concerned that Council is continuing to spend tens of millions of dollars on sports fields without having published an updated demand profile in half a decade. I am also very concerned about the continued reliance on the NSW Department of Education. The only data presented since 2018 regarding demand for sportfields is the revenue Council receives for hiring them. Prior to covid this had fallen two years running. It is likely well below those levels at present. Before spending more money on these projects one ought to ask two questions. First, why is demand falling despite the considerable subsidies paid by rate payers? The second question ought to be has the strategy of dealing with Department of Education worked? The \$2.0m synthetic turf field at Narrabeen Sports High built in 2012 has not performed to plan. Demand has been below expectations for a decade. At one point it was the worst performing facility operated by Council. It now requires an expensive refurbishment. The 2018 indoor sports facility announced by Council and the State government for Cromer High school has never been built and is presumably no longer under consideration. The 2021 agreement for Council to spend a further \$3.5m at Narrabeen Sports High to build a second synthetic turf field on the site was broken by the Department after three months. It does not appear that facilities users or ratepayers get any real value out of Councils dealings with the Department. I think this project ought to be rejected unless or until Council makes a much more convincing case that it will not be a waste of money.

Document administration

Version	1.0
Date	2 August 2022

Approval	Content provided and approved by Park Assets - Planning Design & Delivery Team. Responsible manager: Jeremy Smith
Status	Final
Related Projects	Northern Beaches Sportsground 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.