

Community engagement summary report – Dee Why Town Centre Upgrades

Project name	Triangle Park (North), Dee Why
Your Say campaign period	22 March to 23 April 2023
Background	<p>The adopted Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan recommended upgrades to the streets and open spaces of Dee Why Town Centre, integrating these spaces in a way that offers inspiration, promotes health, happiness and well-being of the community and integrates public art elements.</p> <p>The intention is to build a Town Centre that has a community and a cultural focus. Public art, and features that highlight the area's diverse community, are recommended to celebrate the spirit of Dee Why.</p> <p>Triangle Park (North) is one of the final upgrades under phase 1 of the Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan and complements the already upgraded Triangle Park (South) upgrade.</p>

Number of submissions	48
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How we engaged	The project was primarily promoted through Council's Your Say page ¹ , Council's E-News and community engagement newsletter.
Visitors to page	48
Respondent demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36% male • 62% female • 2% prefer not to say
Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of respondents were either in support of the plans as they were or supported the plans with changes. • 4% were not in support of the proposal.

Key themes emerging		
Theme	Summary of theme	Council's response
Open space	Suggestions to consider the use of the space for additional outdoor dining, or for creative and social events, such as busking, pop-up activations.	<p>The booking of outdoor spaces can be done via Council's website, subject to the terms and conditions of the Parks and Recreation Team.</p> <p>Council has a Place Team that work with the community and businesses to utilise areas for community activations.</p>

¹ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/triangle-park-north>

		Extensions for outdoor dining licences need to be made by the individual business via the Council's Property Team.
Plantings	Suggestions to re-consider plant/tree species to be used, are existing plantings able to be re-used or given away to the community.	<p>The selection of plants are in keeping with the Dee Why Town Centre masterplan palette and are selected based on the degree of ongoing maintenance, costs, survival rate, and suitability for a coastal urban town centre.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the relocation of plants is not practical.</p>
Landscape	<p>Reconsider the amount of grass to be removed to make way for accessways.</p> <p>Consider increasing the greenery further, possibly incorporating a community herb garden.</p>	<p>The proposed path widths are to cater for the high pedestrian usage and meet accessibility requirements as identified in the Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan: "<i>accessible and safe places</i>".</p> <p>There is an existing community herb garden provided in nearby Walter Gors Park.</p>
Access and parking	Will additional parking be considered given the upgrades are likely to attract more visitors.	There will be no increase in parking. Parking is available in the nearby public carpark as well as on street parking, and a large underground carpark within the Meriton precinct.
Lighting & safety	<p>Suggestions to consider festoon/festival lighting, thought should be given to light pollution affecting residential properties, and consider lighting that will support safety measures.</p> <p>Consider installing CCTV, thought should be given to how these improvements may attract anti-social behaviour, and how it can be prevented.</p>	<p>The lighting and electrical design will be compliant with the relevant standards.</p> <p>Feature lights to enhance the look and feel of the space and to complement other lighting in Dee Why Town Centre.</p> <p>Installation of CCTV is not in current scope of works, CCTV conduits will be included for the possible future installation.</p>
Maintenance	Timber decking at an adjoining property is in a state of disrepair. Feedback requests Council to repair.	<p>This is not within the scope of the Triangle Park (North) upgrade.</p> <p>Maintenance of existing property is not within the scope</p>

		of this project. The maintenance issues have been referred to Council's Property Team for action.
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Verbatim comments:

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

Theme	Provide any other comments here
Open Space Use	<p>I think the plans are much needed.</p> <p>My only comment would be to consider a fixed stage area for local artists to be able to come and activate the space and give it a vibe on weekends and afternoons.</p>
Plantings	<p>Hi. All sounds wonderful! I welcome these beautiful changes to triangle park and look forward to helping keep it clean and tidy! Living in the nearby area will be more enjoyable!</p> <p>I have a question. Over the years living next to this park, my neighbours and I have planted many flowering shrubs and plants in the garden beds to help improve our local community scene. One question I would ask is to be updated about any information as it becomes available concerning these plants, and whether they will potentially be moved or removed, or we should relocate ourselves to our own gardens or balconies?</p> <p>We have planted frangipanes, yuccas, azaleas, hibiscus, bromeliads, bird of paradise, native orchids, rosemary, mint, chives, thyme, various succulents and natives. I am happy for them to be included in current design plans which do look absolutely fabulous and look forward to them put into place! However personally I would prefer not to see some of these existing plants wasted or uprooted without a home.</p> <p>We are also content to move them to a new location with a bit of notice, if this is preferred by council and gardeners who will work on the project. We totally understand that our choices have stood in when there was not alot else to look at, and may not be in keeping with upcoming beautiful upgrades between now and September!</p> <p>Please would someone mind to take a few minutes to just advise the best method of dealing with existing plantings which I can say are around two places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hibiscus, bird of paradise, bromeliads, succulents and herbs, next to where the new taxi rank will be placed, (11 on plan) alongside existing ramp to Twist cafe; actually Mary's cafe use these herbs in cooking recipes to serve customers. If there was an option as a suggestion, I would be supportive for a community herb garden being placed here for everyone to enjoy aromas and maybe pick their own fresh herbs. 2) Larger shrubs and trees like frangipanes, azaleas, grevilleas, yuccas, orchids, planted in long garden bed mainly between areas marked on new map as 13, 16, and existing timber decking. Some of these have grown somewhat medium sizes so not sure if they may be left in place to be incorporated into new plans for gardens or whether all is to be replaced with new style fitting in with the concept plans? Either way it would be so great to be notified of updates and decisions made in relation to existing plants, please. <p>Kind regards, [REDACTED]</p>

Open Space Use	My boys love playing football in this park while I have coffee at the local cafes, so glad the grass will be maintained. I like the idea of the seating and table area - I wonder if Twist can use it as an additional outside seating area - or even unofficially.
Open Space Use	Beer Garden vibe would be desirable by many tenants in the Meriton Lighthouse:). A place for small acoustic set, pub lights, outdoor picnic tables to sit w/take away, - kind of like some of the laneways in Manly. Drought resistant plants, succulents...
Plantings	Replace exotic species with endemic or at least native plant species to support native fauna eg birds insects bees butterflies thanks for the opportunity to comment
Access, Landscape	<p>I live in the Lighthouse apartments. I can see that there needs to be an additional path through between Oaks Ave and Howard Ave and this is shown on the plan.</p> <p>However, please maximise the soft landscaping and grassed area and minimise the hard landscaping.</p> <p>I think the hard landscaping should be reviewed and reduced, it should be functional but not lessen grassed areas as there is very little grasses area in this built up urban area of Dee Why.</p> <p>Take out the widened triangular hard stand area at the eastern end near the post office and maximise the grass and plantings.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Plantings	<p>I'm a little concerned about the palm trees to be used in the park. We have a few planted by a neighbour on the boundary fence. As mature plants they do provide shade but when they drop a fond they are really heavy and would certainly hurt anyone in the vicinity who is struck. The other point is that they grow large seed pods annually, which open and drop a large quantity of small, hard, round seeds (like marbles)which small children could put in their mouths. They also germinate easily. There would be plenty of other plants more suitable.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
Lighting	Love the idea of the catenary lighting
Access, Landscape	My kids play football on the grass in front of Mary's and a lot of that grass seems to be removed for a very wide footpath/concrete area which I doubt will be used. Does number 13 on the plan have to be so wide? Can it all be moved back by 1m so the grass area can be extended? And what's the benefit of paving around the trees at number 12?
Other	<p>Great! This upgrade to triangle park will help to make use of a very underutilised space. It will also provide a much more pleasant outlook for the cafes facing onto this park and likely assist their businesses.</p> <p>The next space you could look at is the opposite side of Howard Ave outside the entry to Coles Mall. (This may not be Council land) but it's looking rather run down and uncared for. As a space that groups of people congregate, it really needs a freshen up :)</p>
Parking	As areas are continually developed they will attract more and more people, however the traffic and parking plans don't seem to keep up. A great example of this is in this location (Oaks and Howard Ave) where ALL of the allocated parking spots are only for cars. There is not one single on-street motorbike parking spot there. Not even one!

	<p>2 of the 5 core themes of the Council's Transport Strategy 2038: 1 Accessible & Liveable places and 5. Smart Parking Management, yet the lack of dedicated motorcycle parking in the town centre is contrary to these two objectives as there no accessibility for riders, and providing zero parking spots for a sizeable section of the community cannot be considered 'smart parking management' by any definition.</p> <p>Can we get smart about this and use this development opportunity to add a few on-street parking spaces for motorcycles? The space is exists on both Oaks and Howard for the addition of dedicated motorbike parking, all that is required some paint and a sign.</p>
Maintenance	<p>Timber Boardwalk on eastern side in very poor condition. Needs repair or replacement. Consideration should be given to removing completely to create more open space. Nobody uses this space at present. All it creates is a safety hazard.</p>
Maintenance	<p>The existing decking, which is Council owned property, is in very poor condition and needs urgent work. The railings on the decking stairs are very loose and need replacing.</p>
Maintenance	<p>Could you please consider revising the scope of works to include either replacing or refurbishing the deteriorated hardwood deck in front of [REDACTED]? The deck appears to be in a poor condition, and addressing this issue would ensure the safety and aesthetic appeal of the property. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
Landscape	<p>Looks great. Area needs more shade</p>
Landscape	<p>I would love to see more rock gardens and seating made from smooth large rocks.</p> <p>A community herb garden in the middle would be amazing for locals and the cafes to come and pick and plant together... bring family's together in this area as a green community. I saw this idea up north in a town called Lauieton and it worked well and was well respected by all .</p> <p>Plant more native flowering bushes and plants for the bees. Maybe Stoney range botanical gardens could donate some they have a huge range in their greenhouses.</p> <p>Please remove the fencing from around the trees they look like they are in lock up jail.. maybe add rock type seating around the trees instead. As the black fencing is not a good look.</p> <p>And maybe a low fence line or beach type sculptures to hide the bins area. There is huge potential for this area.</p> <p>It's a nice sunny area , large wooden sun chairs would be awesome to encourage people to have lunch in this area.. I would definitely use this space if it was more friendly to stop and relax...just a few ideas ... Thank you.</p> <p>Kind regards [REDACTED]</p>
Landscape	<p>Thank you for upgrading this area. The proposed green and orange curved seating looks cheap and tacky. A more neutral colour would be better - perhaps wood grain look, even if it's made from alternative materials. Let's make it look enticing and relaxing rather than like a theme park.</p>
Open Space Use	<p>The plan looks great but it would be much appreciated if you have implemented some kind of solution for passive smoking and noise issues around the park.</p> <p>As close residents of the park, we are constantly affected by these issues and hope that they won't get worse when the park has upgraded and more people would use the park or pass by.</p>

	<p>We cannot open our window to enjoy fresh air because of the second-hand smoke and noise coming from the public space including cafes down there.</p> <p>Please consider protecting close residents from second-hand smoke. The plan seems to have more fixed seating in front of our apartment which is really concerned about long term health and mental impact.</p>
	Sounds great.
Landscape	<p>Finally this strange empty space is being improved!</p> <p>It seemed to have no other purpose than being a walk through and was very uninviting from the moment it was built.</p> <p>The plans look good - more seating, eating areas & plants.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Concrete Deck	<p>I have business in this precinct [REDACTED] I'd really really love our patio area directly outside my business and adjoining business painted nicely to make cleaner and more uniform . Perhaps a concrete colour non slip finish which would tie into existing colour scheme and look very smart. Thankyou</p>
	Absolutely agree it will make this space nice and welcoming
Landscape	<p>Looks good to me</p> <p>Any water fountain to get drink from ? Or fill up bottles</p>
Lighting	<p>Please increase low level night time lighting along the Howard avenue edge of the park. At night it remains dark under the tree canopy and driver's need greater visibility of those crossing the road. Additionally, please brighten the area around the pedestrian ramp (near number 11) on the north western corner of the plan (Howard avenue side of park).</p>
Lighting, Access, Landscape	<p>Lighting details are not shown. Dog water stations should be added. The street trees in Howard Ave are too big and need replacement with shrubs. No details on signage are provided. Accessible way finding needs to be added.</p>
Maintenance	<p>I hope the council are either going to replace or repair the decking outside 29 Howard Ave, as it is already in a very tatty state & will look even worse when the proposed work has been completed.</p>
	Great concept. Will really beautiful the space
Landscape	<p>As long as you are not making the grass part smaller and paving over it. Dee why is already becoming a concrete jungle and we saw the horrific effects of flooding 2 years ago. Drains don't work and we need as much green exposure as possible!</p> <p>Also I hope this isn't going to cost \$5m like that terrible park behind the bus stop that isn't maintained and half the vegetation is dying!!!</p>
	<p>Any nature upgrades in the town centre are very welcome.</p> <p>I would also love to see more nature strips and palmtrees in the street crossings and dividers of Pittwater road. It would block noise and make the street look nicer with a pacific, beachy vibe.</p>
Landscape	<p>Replace paving with cobble stones- yes</p> <p>Plant more shade trees - yes</p>

	<p>More seating - yes</p> <p>Less grass - no</p> <p>Paving over current grass areas - no</p> <p>Cement replacing nature - no</p>
Access	<p>I definitely support this proposed upgrade to Triangle Park (North) as it's well overdue for some work and is currently very old and outdated. However, I do have some feedback to provide. Firstly, I strongly believe that this will unfortunately be a target for graffiti just like the existing Walter Gors Park is which is constantly vandalised by teenagers who frequently loiter around there with their antisocial behaviour. I would strongly suggest keeping this in mind with the design, and I would actually strongly recommend installing CCTV camera(s) in the park as part of the upgrade to deter any graffiti attacks.</p> <p>Additionally, I believe that it would be a good idea to maybe build a water refill station in the park upgrade as well. I think that this could be utilised just as much as other ones in the area and it would just be a nice little extra convenient feature to have.</p> <p>I was also thinking, with so much room to work with here, perhaps a 24/7 Zap Stand could be installed to provide around the clock access to an AED. This location is very central in the area and there are no other nearby AEDs that are accessible 24/7 and only during business hours. This could be a life saving installation that Dee Why could very much benefit from, particularly with the location being in such close proximity to so many busy public areas. Walter Gors Park would actually be a very good location candidate for one too, but I thought while this is in the planning stage it would be worth suggesting.</p>
Access	<p>The reasoning for my decision is due to the accessibility for emergency services to my apartment building 23 Howard Avenue. There is no access to the building for any emergency services and I believe that in the unfortunate event there is an emergency, there is no place to park.</p> <p>To add to this, if anyone decides to move in to and from my building there is no access for this either.</p> <p>Please take this into consideration.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Landscape	<p>Great idear but the post office area is a disgrace all there seats along Oaks Avenue are falling apart.At the back where there is a mail loading area which is close to the proposed development the chain link fence is falling down.</p>
Plantings	<p>Submission 1: great to see constant improvements in Dee Why appreciated ! is there any traffic could be diverted away from the beach front area ? cheers for all the good work and forsyth</p> <p>Submission 2: CAN WE HAVE MORE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES PLANTED NOT FOREIGN WATTLES TO COLOUR UP THE AREA</p>

	<p>GUMS TO PROVIDE MORE SHADE</p> <p>BOTTLE BRUSH FOR THE LORRIKEETS</p>
Landscape	<p>Seating and bicycle parking shouldn't be perpendicular to the path of travel as this will inhibit movement of people along the footpath.</p> <p>The southernmost seat at the bottom tip of the triangle should be relocated so it faces away from the neighbouring residential complex. Otherwise this bench doesn't really have any pleasant outlook.</p> <p>Flexible platform seating would be nice to see, gives a place for families to put their things whilst children play. The look and function of it could be similar to what happens at the Dee why town centre development by Meriton. Those timber platforms function as seating as well as informal play which is used a lot today.</p>
	Great to see, the park does need a facelift
Maintenance	<p>Please delete the 4x proposed fixed seating furniture on the elevated timber walkway.</p> <p>There is a risk that people will loiter here at the entrance to the adjacent apartment building. This presents a risk to residents who can not gain entry / exit without confronting people who may be present there. Activity may be screened from the public by dense plantings. Better to place the seating in the lower sections of the park, facing the park.</p>
Landscape	<p>CONCERNS – I do not agree with the large area of paving.</p> <p>Additional Hard Surfaces & Pedestrian Corridor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed 2 metre wide secondary pathway connection Proposed widened landing to base of existing stair access from eateries/shops Proposed 3.6 metre wide main pedestrian pathway with new smart pole lighting <p>The additional hard surfaces on three sides of the Park will encroach on the limited grassed area. In the Concept Plan this encroachment will reduce the grass to a relatively small patch of open space in the centre of the Park. The major portion of the Park will consist of paved surfaces and decks.</p> <p>The Cadastral boundary of the Park encompasses the elevated decks along the east and west sides of the grassed area. The elevated deck to the east is aligned with the pedestrian access corridor (as shown in the cadastral map) between Howard Avenue and Oaks Avenue. The 3.6m wide pathway, which is parallel to the eastern deck, is too wide.</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS</p> <p>Seating on East and West Decks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed fixed seat furniture

	<p>Suggest: On the decks, orient fixed seat furniture to face the park rather than buildings and thoroughfare. This would provide a more scenic and expansive outlook.</p> <p>Palm Plantings 10. Proposed avenue palm plantings</p> <p>Palm trees provide little shade; the trees consist of a straight tall trunk with fronds at the top. Instead, plant tree species with branches and a wider canopy that provides shade.</p> <p>Landscaping Plant additional trees and vegetation. This includes around the perimeter of the grassed area to improve the visual amenity of the Park, which currently is quite plain.</p> <p>Central feature Provide a central feature within the Park as a visual focus. For example, a fountain, a garden, a sculpture or playground feature.</p> <p>AGREE with the following features:</p> <p>2. Informal seating area with curved concrete seat wall & feature garden behind</p> <p>9. Proposed fixed bench seat surround to existing trees with feature understorey planting</p> <p>11. Proposed feature gardens with lush plantings</p> <p>17. Curved concrete seat wall at pathway intersection</p>
Lighting	<p>Would be nice to see some festival lighting. CCTV would be good given the issues at Walter Gors.</p> <p>Would also be more visually pleasing if the grey concrete of the retail/cafes deck area next to it could be hidden with some sandstone cladding or something? It looks so industrial and dreary.</p>
Landscape	<p>It is good to see the proposed use of appropriate native plants for this area. The little park will have greater opportunities for use with seating provided. Please consider using materials that are environmentally sustainable and not bright plastic colours, but that tone in with the environment, such as metal and timber for aesthetic appeal and longevity.</p>

Concrete Deck	<p>Thank you Tony for your time and discussion regarding the Triangle Park upgrade.</p> <p>My comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestion to include café's outdoor Council seating areas in this project; new lights, shade structures/ awnings or any other upgrades which could nicely blend and compliment to the area upgrade. - please take into consideration the fact that December and January are peak periods for hospitality small businesses and a construction site on hold will be very damaging to our livelihoods during this months. <p>Thank you [REDACTED]</p>
Timber Deck	Please also repair and paint old hardwood deck in front of shops, they look awful
Access	When walking from Oaks Av thru park to pedestrian crossing in Howard av, can you please put the paving so people don't deviate as they do now and wear out the grass in the process. If you place seating and trees there it will only create a hazard that will be walked around on the grass.
Timber Deck	It'll be nice if there are more than 1 type of seats along the deck, and it'll be even better if the seats face towards the park. Those have lunch can then view towards the park
Landscape	I would like to see a few trees planted on the eastern border.
	This looks incredible - as a resident i am excited to see these changes to beautify the area
Plantings	<p>Trees</p> <p>I don't support palm trees in this context - I suggest using a 'regular' broad canopy tree - deciduous would have the advantage of letting in sunlight in the winter months. Unlike a palm tree, a 'regular' tree has the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide shade to help create a sheltered, congenial place for people to sit and enjoy - screen the less-than-attractive adjacent buildings - can be traced with fairy lights, enhancing the space into the evening
Timber Deck	<p>Al fresco dining</p> <p>Was the original design intention to activate the deck on the eastern side of the square with al fresco dining? If so, it must be absolutely baking given its north-westerly aspect.</p> <p>Until mature trees shade the area (see point above) I suggest that you install shade structures to improve amenity for dining.</p>
Landscape	<p>Name of the park</p> <p>Suggest something a bit more compelling than Triangle Park something indigenous perhaps?</p>
Lighting	I live in [REDACTED] DEE WHY since 2012 and vandalism and midnight noises have been a constant battle here. Now that you are planning to provide free seat and light to some drunk people to gather here and yell and shout and use F word's very loudly, have you asked Dee why police station that how many complains they have revied about this small area? What us your plan to add security?

	<p>Are you going to add CCTV to cover this area? Or some access limitation lets say no entry after 10 pm for example? Or any other measure to control crime and noise?</p> <p>I feel that without considering these issues, you are providing a furnished properly lighted area for midnight gathering without considering countermeasures to minimize noise impact on residential properties adjusted to this park.</p>
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**Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused. *Not every respondent made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question.*

Document administration	
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Status	Draft
Related Projects	Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan
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.