

ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENTS

for

BUSINESS PAPER

6:30 PM, TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 2024

C1224(1) Item 2 Rozelle Parklands and Easton Park Draft Plans of Management and Masterplans

Attachment 2: Community Engagement Outcomes Report 3

C1224(1) Item 3 Post Exhibition - Draft Biodiversity Strategy

Attachment 1: Biodiversity Strategy Engagement Outcomes Report November 2024 33



EASTON PARK & ROZELLE PARKLANDS

APPENDIX B

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Prepared for

INNER WEST

July 2024

Rev: B

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

EASTON PARK & ROZELLE PARKLANDS

APPENDIX B

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Prepared for Inner West Council by SMM

Rev	Status	Date	By	Checked
A	DRAFT	1/05/2024	IWC	IWC
B	DRAFT	24/07/2024	SJ	MS

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PROJECT TEAM

Landscape Architecture & Urban Design SMM
Community Engagement Inner West Council (IWC)
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SUMMARY

Inner West Council engaged the community on their experiences and enjoyment of Easton Park and Rozelle Parklands. This consultation aimed to develop a 10-year plan, including a Plan of Management and a Master Plan for each park. Community engagement included a drop-in session at Rozelle Parklands and feedback collected through the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

1.2 BACKGROUND

Plans of Management are required for all types of parks on community land. Community engagement is a crucial early step in this process. Community feedback, along with input from stakeholders and experts, helps shape a draft Plan of Management and Master Plan. This draft is then presented for further community input before the council finalizes the document.

Inner West Council has prioritized a list of open spaces for new or updated Plans of Management, identifying those most in need. Easton Park and Rozelle Parklands have been designated a high priority within the Inner West Council area.

The engagement aimed to identify key issues and valued aspects of Easton Park and Rozelle Parklands as perceived by the community. Contributors were encouraged to share ideas, comments, and suggestions to help prioritize key strategies and outcomes for the parks' future.

1.3 ENGAGEMENT METHOD

The methods of engagement were:

- Online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au through survey and user posts
- Drop-in session held in the park

1.4 PROMOTION

The engagement initiative was promoted by a number of means, including:

- Your Say Inner West project page
- On-site signage
- Media release
- Social media
- E-news
- Council website
- Email to identified groups

All promotion collateral directed people to the online submission form on YSIW and to the two park drop-in sessions.

1.5 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES


Outcomes of community engagement have been separated into feedback received at the drop-in sessions and feedback received through the online survey.

The online Rozelle Parklands page received 505 contributions made to online forms + discussion from 17 December 2023 to 18 February 2024. The online survey included ranking and multiple choice questions and essay style questions for more detailed feedback. Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in graphs. Written responses have been themed to create word maps accompanied by summarised responses.

Inner West Council and SMM organized a drop-in engagement session at Rozelle Parklands on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 1pm to 2pm. More than 50 park visitors approached the team and engaging with the material to have their say. The engagement material consisted of two A1 panels, which displayed annotated aerial maps of the Easton Park and Rozelle Parklands to prompt discussion.

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT


Item 2



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Planning for Rozelle Parklands

We are developing Plan of Management and revising the Master Plan for this new open space in Inner West, to ensure the plans meet the future needs of our community.



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Translations




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Key Dates




Sunday 17 December 2023
Community comments open




Sunday 18 February 2024
Community comments close


Project stages



Initial engagement period
Open for comment




Developing Plan of Management and revising the Master Plan
Community comments and input from other stakeholders will be used to along with research and expert advice to develop the draft documents.




Public Exhibition of draft plans

Project updates



18 March 2024
Council Decision – Rozelle Parklands all weather surface sporting field
At its meeting Council noted the report including community feedback and made the following decision.
[Find out more >](#)



29 February 2024
A progress report to Council – Rozelle Parklands
At its meeting on 5 March 2024, Council will consider a progress report on community feedback related to all weather sporting grounds.
[Find out more >](#)

Project details

New open space for Inner West

Following years of advocacy from Council and the community, the current NSW Government has agreed to provide an additional \$20 million to Inner West Council to address deficiencies in facilities and amenities at the Rozelle Parklands.

This is a big win for our community.

The Masterplan will consider how the Parklands can be improved over time and where sport and recreational facilities that were deleted from the final plans can be delivered within the parklands or at nearby locations.

This will include an all-weather sporting field, public carparking to relieve pressure on local streets, multi-purpose sports courts and cycling and active transport links around the Parklands.

Additionally in response to Council's advocacy, the NSW Government has committed to delivering additional facilities within the parkland from March 2024:

- Public toilets adjacent to the children's play area
- Sporting ground changing rooms, a kiosk and amenities
- Floodlighting for sports training for the two new sporting grounds
- Provision of two multipurpose ball courts for basketball and netball

Attachment 2

2. ONLINE SURVEY

2.1 OVERVIEW

A total of **505 members of Your Say Inner West** responded to the online survey. The majority identified as 'man or male'. The highest responses were from the 45-49 age group and there was a good spread across all ages. Members who responded mostly lived in Leichhardt/Lilyfield, followed by Rozelle then Balmain/Balmain East/Birchgrove.

The community was asked two quantitative questions (ranking six options for additional items in Rozelle Parklands, and a preferred alternative location for the all-weather sporting field out of a choice of four), and two qualitative (open comments) questions.

Out of six options for additional items in Rozelle Parklands, **Better connections** was the first preference (highest average ranking of the six). **Synthetic surface provision** received the second highest average ranking and was selected as the first preference by over half of respondents. In order, the next highest ranked preferences were Floodlighting of the new ball courts; Provision of dog off leash areas; Indigenous name for the parkland; and Car parking and school bus parking facilities.

The top preference for an alternative location for the all-weather sporting field was **Waterfront Drive Sporting Ground** followed by **Balmain Road Sporting Ground (Callan Park)**, then Easton Park and Leichhardt Oval no.2.

The **key themes** that contributors commented on most about improvements in Rozelle Parklands were:

- Better connections (improved pedestrian and cycling linkages into, through and around parklands)
- Improved amenities (suggestions for new, more or higher-quality items in the Parklands)
- Shade (suggestions including trees and shade structures)

- Playground (suggestions for improvements, particularly water play and shade)

There were 35 comments in support of natural turf, and 15 comments in support of all-weather surface sporting fields in this question.

The key themes of the open comments question were divided support for and against all-weather surfaces, with a majority of comments about Waterfront Drive Sporting Ground.

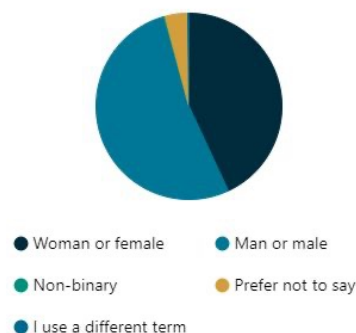
An analysis of the first preferences of people representing sporting clubs is included in question five of the detailed analysis.

2.2 DETAILED ANALYSIS

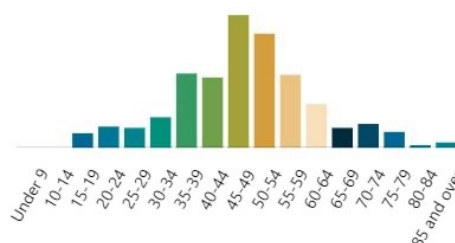
Who did we hear from?

A total of 505 members completed the online survey at Council's engagement hub, Your Say Inner West.

The majority of these identified as man or male

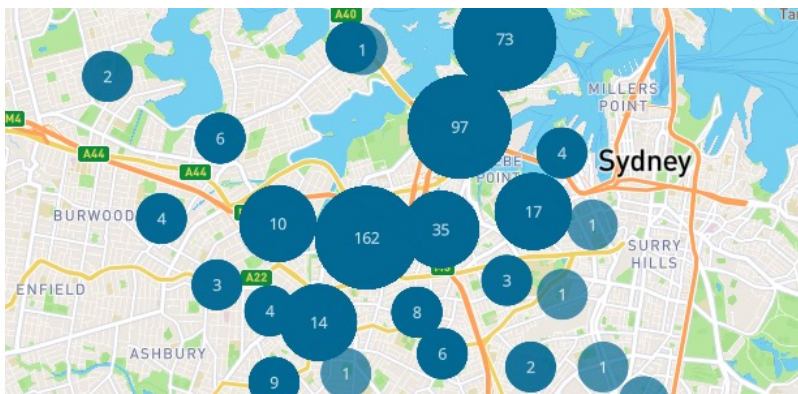


There were responses across all ages with most members in the 45-49 age group.



EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

The top five postcodes that contributors live in are Leichhardt/Lilyfield (162 members), Rozelle (97), Balmain, Balmain East and Birchgrove (73), Annandale (35) and Glebe (17). The map below shows where survey contributors live.



What feedback did we hear?

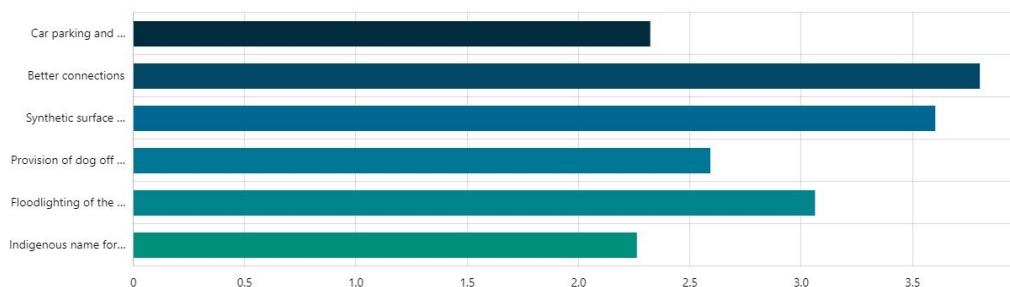
Q1 - What additional items would you like to have in the new parklands?

Respondents were asked to rank the below six options in order of preference. This question was answered by all 505 contributors (required answer) whose preference were ranked as follows:

1. Better connections
2. Synthetic surface provision
3. Floodlighting of the new ball courts
4. Provision of dog off leash areas
5. Indigenous name for the parkland
6. Car parking and school bus parking facilities

The average ranking score is calculated by multiplying the response count for each preference by the weighting for the position, divided by the total response count.

Synthetic surface provision received an average ranking of second place and was selected as the first preference by over half of respondents (53% or 213 respondents).



Average ranking score for six listed options

Q2 - Please list any other items or possible improvement you would like to have in the parklands

Respondents were asked a follow up question to Q1 that allowed open comments. There were 217 responses to this question.

The word cloud represents the key themes of the open comments – the larger the word, the more comments in the theme.



The below table expands on each theme including a description, the overall percentage of comments, number of comments, and indicative comments in the theme.

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Connections Suggestions for improved pedestrian and cycling linkages into, through and around parklands	31.80% /69	Separated bicycle paths, better cycle connection to Lilyfield Road, pedestrian crossing to Easton park, Plan for future linkage with proposed park east of White Bay Power Station, install wayfinding signage at Lilyfield light rail stop, Encourage more walking and cycling by improving connections to the existing street Network particularly those streets on north side of Rozelle parkland, Better connection to eastern park, provide good connections for people walking and cycling from Rozelle. Easton Park is one of 3 priorities for council to work on urgently with TfNSW. The Gordon Street entrance is on an important regional cycle route but it is very dangerous to cross Lilyfield Road here, especially heading north from the Parklands. The entrance at the western end near Ryan St is terrible - a useless temporary ramp, no safe crossing of the road to the northern footpath, no southern footpath, remove u-rails at the Brennan St entrance , raised crossing installed to create safe access to Whites Creek, Redo the pedestrian/cycling markings on the walkway from the Victoria Rd overpass to the ovals by swapping sides ... the cycling path needs to be on the outside (and not the inside path), build Lilyfield Rd cycleway, Better, cycle priority routes from Darley Rd/Balmain Rd and better crossings on Victoria Rd, better bike connections, Cycling to the Parklands is not safe for adults or children, particularly along Lilyfield Road, connectivity between the end of the Parklands and Bay Run be further enhanced with safe, off-road infrastructure, crossing for cyclists travelling east along Lilyfield Road, the temporary, unsafe ramp along Lilyfield Road will need to be replaced with a permanent and safe solution, The new parklands really should be connected to Jubilee

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>Park and to the Bay Run, Ryan St steps need zebra crossing and speed hump, plastic ramps installed opposite Ryan St to allow cyclists to mount the curb however there are double lines which prevent cyclists from crossing legally into the parklands when travelling east along Lilyfield Road, a rise and a bend from Lamb St around to Cecily St limits visibility making it extremely dangerous for pedestrians crossing Lilyfield Road - needs zebra crossing here and speed bumps along Lilyfield Road, errors have been made marking up the pathways. Coming west off the Anzac Bridge towards the City West Link overpass to Lilyfield at Brennan St, the cycling pathway switches from the left, to the right and back to the left, Better access from Lilyfield light rail/south side of Lilyfield rd between Ryan St and Grove - need footpath extension from west entrance to the existing footpath past Light Rail yard driveway, Better bus connections to the park along Lilyfield Rd, Every effort should be made to make the park easily accessible without a car, and not just build more parking, Change bikelanes and pedestrian lanes so that pedestrians are next to the grass, bubblers, toilets etc. At the moment they have to cross the bike lane to access them, better marking of cycle ways. Currently, they are sometimes green, sometimes red, sometimes without colour, I personally have found myself cycling on the walking paths, not realising that they had switched aspects, The crossing is a massive priority as kids cross the roads all the time and the visibility on the road is very limited due to cars parked along the road, Create footpath and walking trail all the way to the city!</p>
Amenities Suggestions for new, more or higher-quality items	19.82% /43	<p>Seating, toilets, Install cafe in heritage building, places for kids to ride bikes, bicycle racks, Please put some EV chargers in any parking you add, fixed tables and chairs for people to enjoy a picnic outdoors, Need stair railing at the Terrace staircase - witnessed a fall today already, Add bouldering (rock climbing) holds to lower wall of smokestacks. This should not be more than 2m in elevation, but would be nice for horizontal bouldering, Security to stop homeless tents under vic rd bridge, Provision of changing room facilities for junior and senior sporting clubs, Bubblers, Netted football goals, There should be a reasonably sized parents / carers room with appropriate facilities and equal access for people of all abilities, cafe - helps with activation and could be a source of revenue for the park to help cover operations, Needs more rubbish bins especially near the children play area and bbq areas, Plenty of storage space for sporting clubs, The heritage buildings on Lilyfield Road to be restored and successfully leased for purposes that allow public access (ie not a function centre), Proper gutter/ramps for disability/bike/pram access to paths, Bike Repair Station, Opportunity for open air cinema and live performance events in Oval area, Ideally, a ping pong table is provided at each end of the parkland, Public toilets should unlock automatically early in the morning (5 / 5:30 am) to allow for early morning running / cycling / walking / training users.</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Shade Suggestions for shade improvements including trees and shade structures	17.51% /38	The main playing field has no shade structures at all, and the adult fitness stations need shade similar to those at Callan park, need shade trees (and no synthetic turf) to address the heat that will result from all the concrete, trees are primarily around the perimeter of the park. If you would like to encourage people to spend time in this park, many more shady trees will be needed, The yarning circle needs a shade structure and tables with benches underneath
Natural turf Anti-all-weather surface	16.13% /35	Only natural surfaces, no synthetic, human health and environmental risks, synthetic is not green space, environmental damage, microplastic release into the environment, listen to experts, not sustainable, trap heat, smell and can cause significant injuries for players, detrimental to the wildlife, cost, reduces access for walkers, if we have to have them please put them here beside a freeway rather than our precious waterfront spaces, stop rain soaking in where falls, can't play cricket on them, drive neighbours bad with over-intensification of formal sport, solution would be to prepare sporting fields with proper drainage similar to what happens in Europe, reduce the usability of the park for residents (with dogs), limits the use of the surface to only a few sports.
Playground Suggestions for playground improvements including shade	12.44% /27	Water play, shade, playground is completely insufficient for the amount of young families in the local community, Shaded play equipment, Don't think new parkland thought about disable kids as there is no play swing etc suitable for them, More shade for the playground; the slide for toddlers is made of metal and part of it is not covered by any shade, so it gets very hot on sunny days that the young kids can get burnt; more play equipment for babies/toddlers; larger basket ball court; toilets with changing tables and kids-friendly facilities near the playground, Large wet splash playground for infants, toddlers and children - similar to the ones in centennial park and other locations around Sydney, more simple play equipment - you have two tiny swings and one slide for small kids, There MUST be a shade cloth erected over the swing set that is already installed. In the hot sun, the black rubber swings were burning! It was a huge oversight that this was missed.
Parking Suggestions for parking and facilities, or comments against expanding parking	6.91% /15	Parking needed on Lilyfield Road, clubs need vehicle access to amenities, 45 degree angle parking, rear to kerb is the RLRAG preferred option along Lilyfield Road, Please put some EV chargers in any parking you add, Leave the parking the way it is on Lilyfield Road, Disabled/Accessible parking required, near west entrance (for access to the wetlands/play area), Narrow lilyfield rd and make angled parking so there is more parking rather than a parking lot, Lilyfield rd needs resurfacing around the works REALLY badly, This area has too much parking, it makes accessing it difficult by more sustainable modes, Parking along Lilyfield road is already hardly used by locals as it has been fully taken over by construction vehicles for the last few years. I would argue that this gives a good indication that we can and will find alternative parking if Lilyfield road loses some parking to a bike path, Ninety degree parking along Lilyfield Road will take more road/cycleway space - and it could create traffic hazards when parking in this manner, Don't take up any usable park space for parking, but slight widening for 90 degree parking on Lilyfield Rd is fine.

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
All-weather	6.91%	More synthetic pitches, Kids are being turned away from sports as there are not enough grounds, sport good for mental health, unlock additional hours, multi-sport site, we spend all year playing on dangerous surfaces that are regularly damaged by dogs, The inner west is totally lacking in providing any all weather facilities for winter sports. There are always issues with drainage on the fields, poor maintenance and damage to surface making them high risk for injuries,
Pro all-weather surface	/15	
Natural spaces	6.45%	I would like to see a significant portion of the parklands devoted to green corridors for wildlife. I would argue against floodlighting and synthetic surfaces, as these are both stressful on birds, insects and animals. If a wetland were possible, even better, natural spaces for children to play, More grassland, the Parklands was a carbon sink, All green space is precious. Spaces for bugs, butterflies & worms to live & thrive, feeding our birds, more emphasis on incorporating local biodiversity protection, More TREE'S!!!! And greenery!!!, more indigenous plantings to support corridors for our native animals, birds, reptiles, insects etc, People would like to utilise the park for quiet enjoyment of wildlife, reading, picnicking and walking. It is a place to breathe and enjoy open green space, bush and wetlands in a busy city area.
Suggestions for more natural spaces, biodiversity	/14	
Other	6.45%	There needs to be more access to athletics tracks in area that are all weather. The King George Oval Track is the only one in the Inner West and does not accommodate all weather access, Provision for food trucks/coffee carts, ability to have concerts/events at the park, Event capabilities at main oval for auditorium style events, Take out the basketball hoop next to the nets at Easton Park. It is dangerous having heavy basketballs bouncing across the path of bowlers running on. Perhaps install a bench and thus create a change room for those using the nets. The run up is also too short for the older player. And that is the case at all inner west net facilities. A chance presents itself to extend the astro run up 5-7 metres and Easton would then become the facility for older/better players in the area, I also prefer more "Neo-Classical", "Victorian" or "Edwardian" designs for our parks, which suit the history of the inner west and its terrace houses etc. I often think "modern" designs quickly become dated and ugly, Commissioning artworks for around the parklands. Adding artworks to the pedestrian overpass (connected to The Crescent Overpass) to block out the view of the road. Make this space more like the New York High Line, Democratic, local access (without tickets or restricted online ballot systems) for celebrations such as NYE and Australia Day, more maps/historical/ecological/cultural information; transparent system for individuals and organisations to book space in the parklands, I would like to create a community garden similar to Glovers community garden and whites creek community garden, One of the aspects of the parklands that struck me is there is too much exposure to the city west link. The parklands should be a sanctuary from the traffic and it would be a nicer experience if there was more separation from the CWL through creating more acoustic/aesthetic bunds, Better signage for keeping bikes off walkways and dogs out of water areas. Fines should apply. People are encouraging their dogs to swim in wetlands!
Uncategorised	/14	

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
On-leash Anti dogs off leash, more enforcement	4.61% /10	Off-leash dog areas will increase the instances of dog on dog attacks, dog on person attacks, and attacks on wildlife who start to inhabit the park, no more off leash areas, Given the damage dogs have done to existing sports fields in the old Leichhardt Council area, it would make sense to bring the rules into line with what is currently in place in the previous Marrickville and Ashfield council areas: no off-leash on sports fields at any time, As with any dog related provision, there needs to be more enforcement. Dog owners are monsters when it comes to their precious fur babies, everyone else's needs are quickly thrown aside, So much irresponsible dog behaviour and dog sh*t on the streets and parks in the Inner West, NO OFF LEASH area to be granted in the Rozelle parklands, as there are plenty of off leash areas in the Inner West at present.
Off-leash Pro dogs off leash, more facilities needed	3.23% /7	Need water bubbler with dog dish, poo bag dispenser, shade, seating, Definitely have a dog off-leash walk like Sydney Park would be great, Dogs have become integral members of our community, and providing off-leash spaces promotes socialization, fosters community bonds, and contributes to the overall well-being of pets and owners, I propose designating much of the park as off-leash areas for dogs, except for children's playgrounds, to accommodate the diverse needs of our residents.
Dogs fenced Pro dogs off leash in fenced area	3.23% /7	A fenced off 'off leash' area should be provided. Dogs should be on leash in the remainder of the parklands, The off leash dog area should be fenced, have shade, seating and water, a separate small and large sized dog fenced area would be ideal like the one located in Five Dock, I wish there were more fenced dog parks, not just off-leash dog areas.
Tennis Suggestions for tennis courts	2.76% /6	The closest tennis courts are at Richard Murden Park, which is a 15 min bike ride/43 min walk away and involves going over a large hill. It would be great to have public park tennis courts closer to where I live in Rozelle Parklands, Tennis courts not just all purpose courts, Preference for Tennis Courts for daytime use for 4 to 80 year old, it was a bit disappointing to hear that the 2 tennis courts were scrapped. Would be good to get those facilities back on the table, There is wasted space there should be a tennis court.
Name Suggestions for names	2.76% /6	Retain the name Rozelle Parklands so that visitors can identify with the location, I would like the name of the waterfront area created with the demolition of two of the veteran's wards to reflect that history as a sign of respect to those who suffered trauma in the first and second world wars. There are many sites within Callan Park that could be given an Aboriginal name to reflect and respect that history. Please consider naming the newly designed waterfront area as Veteran's Green, Indigenous name would be good, but please maintain current geographical name in parallel to enable way finding and searching of local parks. Indigenous artwork & story signs would be nice, Buruwan Parklands would be a good name since the park was destroyed in the development of Westconnex.

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
More lighting Courts lighting, floodlighting	2.76% /6	Flood lighting to ball courts is acceptable. No floodlighting to sports ground, lighting supports park safety and activation of the entire park for the whole community into the night, if some lighting on the small 1/2 court that is already there could be installed that would be much appreciated as my friends and I often play after the sun goes down which is very difficult without any lighting, Lighting for sports fields and courts is a must.
Basketball Suggestions for basketball facilities	2.76% /6	Additional basketball practice hoop (in addition to basketball courts). Existing one number of basketball hoop is insufficient for number of kids/ teens wanting to practice, Larger basketball courts would be great, Public basketball courts are almost never used for full court play. Can the playing area be maximised by installing six half courts?
Asbestos Fix the Asbestos issue	2.30% /5	Thorough removal of asbestos before we even think of bringing our kids back. Shameful.
AFL Suggestions for AFL	2.30% /5	Install permanent goalposts for AFL in main oval, missed opportunity for a senior sized afl ground at this location, Sydney does not have enough full size afl grounds and given rising female participation this would be a great opportunity for Balmain or other club to gain a new home, Please install Australian rules goalposts on the oval during winter, Floodlighting for the AFL field, Make the sporting field a usable AFL field.
Resident impact Negative impacts on residents	2.30% /5	Lighting, noise, access issues if Rozelle has a synthetic field, Floodlighting should be sensitively placed so as to not inconvenience adjacent residents, noise from the huge ventilation fan that is directly opposite the residential block at 47-51 Lilyfield Rd is quite loud, and the ambient noise at our front door is now higher than what it has ever been, A full management plan that addresses parking, noise and light pollution related to the park including a review of parking for the park and in the streets surrounding the park which can expect to be impacted by sporting and other events held in the new parklands, Lighting is needed for night use of the park, but floodlighting will create light pollution and disturb adjacent residents.
Filter Need to filter stacks	2.30% /5	More trees need to be planted to help offset the pollution spewing from the unfiltered stacks, Given there are 3 unfiltered smoke stacks I'd like to see a publicly visible pollution monitor at the park.
Soccer More pitches for soccer	1.38% /3	Please create an all weather football/ soccer field either at Easton park or the new Rozelle parklands. For someone who loves the sport and takes it very seriously we need a field that is consistently in good shape no matter the weather and how often it is used.
Sport-other Volleyball, hockey, pickleball	1.38% /3	Add volleyball court layout to the multi-purpose court area, The artificial surface should cater for field hockey. The Glebe District Hockey Club has been seeking a full-field artificial surface in the local area since the 1980s. Any decision on an artificial surface should be made with the club in mind.

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Cricket	0.92%	please don't remove existing cricket grounds. There are not enough cricket pitches in the Inner West - the Inner West representative cricket teams were forced to play numerous games out of area because there are not enough ground in the area, and the ones that are in area are often in unplayable condition for high level junior cricket, Retain cricket fields please.
Suggestions for cricket	/2	

Q3 - All-weather sporting fields preferences.

Respondents were asked the following question about their preferences for an alternative location for the all-weather sporting field:

The all-weather sporting field that had been promised at the Rozelle Parklands was deleted from the final plans. At Council's insistence the NSW Government has now made funding available for this facility to be delivered at a

nearby location. We are seeking your feedback on the following possible locations for the all-weather field to be delivered: Waterfront Drive (Callan Park), Leichhardt Oval no.2, Easton Park, and Balmain Road playing field (Callan Park). To let us know your preference, rank the list of sporting fields below in order of importance to you.



Average ranking score for four listed alternative locations

Q4 - Any other comments

Respondents were provided with a free text box for other comments. There were 181 responses to this question.

The word cloud represents the key themes of the open comments – the larger the word, the more comments in the theme. People who responded to this question were divided roughly equally to those who overall supported and opposed all-weather surfaces.

The four options for all-weather surfaces

were included as themes. The highest number of comments were about Waterfront Drive which received the highest ranking in question 3. Many respondents were supportive of the all-weather surface here but others were concerned about the environmental or access impacts.

The below table expands on the main themes including, the overall percentage of comments, number of comments, and indicative comments in the theme.



EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Natural turf	40.88% /74	<p>I would like to raise my objection to the use of synthetic pitches on Easton and Callan Park. Both these grounds are used by cricket in the summer months. By changing to synthetic will result in a devastating impact on the sport. We are at capacity with grounds for our sport and with the continued growth if both male and female participation we cannot afford to loose any grounds. In addition these are all purpose fields which enable use by many sports the move to synthetic will reduce the purpose and only support one sport; It is imperative that designated cricket grounds (Easton Park and Waterfront Drive) are kept as turf fields; I have a strong football background, having grown up in England and played and watched football since I was a child. I currently coach three football teams, play football and I am a committee member for the Leichhardt Saints. I do not believe that a synthetic field is required in any of these locations. While these surfaces can potentially be used for training, they are not appropriate for playing matches. Their environmental footprint is extremely poor with plastic particles ending up in our waterways and breathed in during sporting activity. I would prefer to see the council invest in higher quality grass pitches at all four locations. Leichhardt 2 is currently a decent field for rugby, Easton has recently been re-turfed, while Waterfront and Balmain have been poorly maintained for years. I also enjoy walking across these fields, on occasions with my dog. Installing a synthetic field would completely ruin the enjoyment of these natural public areas for the vast majority of residents; I think that all weather surfaces, which are made of nylon, polypropylene or polyethylene, are bad for the environment, and also provide a much harsher surface to play on. These surfaces overheat in hot weather which can make them unusable. Artificial grass contributes to global warming by absorbing significantly more radiation than living grass and, to a lesser extent, by displacing living plants that could remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis. Not a good choice!; Re the synthetic field question. None of the above ideally. It would be better environmentally and financially for the investment to be made in improving the management of ALL the playing fields in the area. The Mick Battam method utilised in Mosman to extend the hours of usage and the condition of playing fields needs to be investigated. It appears to have worked well in their case. Such an investment could prove to involve more hours of usage for more players than a concentrated investment on just one field. Council does need to carefully and fully investigate all the options (not just four) and their financial and environmental implications. A rush to choose one field and one of the possible treatments is not advisable on multiple grounds. Sadly this rather limited and distorted questionnaire is not a good start.; Hybrid or full synthetic grass will become an excuse to stop dog owners using sports fields to exercise their dogs (when sports groups are not using the field). The council should use 100% natural grass turf and focus on maintaining that turf.; Unfortunately the Science says All-weather sports fields are major sources of marine plastic pollution. I am therefore against implementing one.; I would significantly prefer NO all weather sporting field at all. Artificial grass is an environmental disaster. It contains PFAS and other toxic 'forever' chemicals. Synthetic sporting fields break down every time they are played on, releasing microplastics into the environment. The material is very challenging to recycle and will likely end</p>

INNER WEST

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		up in landfill where it will release more microplastics. The fact that all of these 4 options are near waterways makes an all weather option worse unless there are significant mitigation aspects put in place to capture microplastics and have an end of life plan in place for the turf from the get-go.; Synthetic playing surfaces are a lazy alternative to good grass management. They are expensive to install, slippery when wet, are unusable in hot weather, need replacing after 10 years, the list goes on. Invest in better management of natural grass surfaces. The sporting ovals in Callan Park should remain as grass. I cannot bring myself to place them on this listing. Easton Park and Leichhardt Oval 2 seem like the most obvious contenders for all weather surfacing, but there is little information (none) on what the new surface will be. Is it the old-style plastic astroturf, which distributes microplastics throughout the area, or a new organic material? Before asking people to vote, this should be made clear!!;
All-weather	39.23% / 71	Girls footballers are the big losers with lack of all weather pitches in the North of the inner west. Football has the highest participation and should get the priority over less popular sports such as AFL and Rugby League; It's pretty poor that we have the largest junior football club in the southern hemisphere in BDFC and we play on an assortment of pothole filled fields where the grass sadly can't keep up with the traffic and becomes dirt within weeks. Or kids and community deserves better. For those who would advocate prioritising dogs I'd say that there are many green spaces that are not playing fields so they have options and families with kids playing sport do not; Inner West desperately needs an all weather sports field; As the largest Community Club in Australia I believe that Balmain District Football Club deserves an all weather facility at our home ground. With over 3000 playing members (Six from my family alone) and periods of rain many times we are unable to play or are playing on a grass surface that has deteriorated badly from over use.; We need the field to be full regulation size with marking for kids fields also to maximise the utility of the site - ideally there can be 2 regulation size fields to further improve the ROI; Waterfront drive oval is a fantastic community plying field and should be the top contender for the all weather playing field. By the end of each soccer season the field is a dust bowl with diverts that can cause serious player injuries; Balmain district football club is one of the largest in Australia. As a female O35 player, we have very limited access to quality local pitches for training or our games. All of our local fields are in terrible condition with poor drainage and this opens all players, kids and adults alike to injuries.; Callan Park is absolutely horrible to play on. The grass only exists for about one week of the year and every other week it is dirt. It is our home ground and it's embarrassing. An all weather field down there with the new club house would be amazing!; Please instate an all-weather surface and emphasize the importance of Kids sport. If they have these year round surfaces all over other parts of Sydney, what not in ours ?!; Our kids and players aren't getting a fair opportunity. There should be no dogs allowed on a designated game pitch. Constant resurfacing costs council serious money and takes the pitch out of action. The ovals are so heavily subscribed because there is so much desire to play.; The best place for a synthetic sporting field is at the "synthetic" Rozelle Parklands, which is now full of asbestos anyways.

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		So why not just include an all weather plastic sporting field there; Make it suitable for a hockey pitch / soccer pitch / multiple uses. King George oval could also house multiple pitches of synthetic turf;
Waterfront	18.23% / 33	<p>Waterfront makes sense because the Balmain club already use it extensively. And there are lots of options for dog owners and other park users in the same area. Here some reasons why the others don't work - Easton is popular with dog owners, Balmain Rd is small and has no existing facilities, Leichhardt No 2 is the home of rugby; Waterfront Drive is the most suitable site for an all weather playing field as it's next to the clubhouse facilities and there are no nearby residents, this allowing for longer opening hours.; I am very much in favour of a synthetic field, much needed by BDFC, but not at Waterfront oval. Leichhardt 2, Balmain road or Glover st would be my preferred locations. Aesthetically Waterfront would be ruined by a synthetic pitch.; As a resident we are concerns with all year long day usage profile cause by Synthetic field at this location will have with resident access, noise and parking all year. Lighting impact may become an impact if used all year due to limited synthetic facilities in the Inner west council. Best location is waterfront park away from houses and local roads.; Waterfront Drive is the right choice for all weather pitches as they are used constantly and no residents directly impacted; An all-weather field at Waterfront Oval makes so much common sense - it doesn't in any way take away from the amenity of the area, and it doesn't prevent locals from enjoying the huge area that is Callan Park and walking their dogs (I am a dog owner that also goes there). There is no "plastic" grass being asked for, just the chance to better share and make use of our very limited resources.; An all weather field at Waterfront Drive is the most logical location for the field, with no disruption for nearby residents, and close proximity to the new community facility that is being developed at Building 497. The oval is large enough to accommodate a separate grass second pitch, which could still be enjoyed by dog walkers, alongside the many hectares of walking areas that are also available to them through Callan Park.; PLEASE PLEASE provide an all-weather pitch at WFD! BDFC is the biggest soccer club in the country, it's terrible it doesn't have one. The neglect will eventually end up on the news, like the Leichhardt Oval stand collapse last year!; Waterfront is the best option combined with the new toilets and club house for Balmain. Balmain is the largest community football club in Australia and our grounds are dangerous and inadequate.; As a Balmain resident, regular user of Callan Park, Balmain football registered player & currently work within the park at Ambulance HQ. I feel strongly that waterfront oval is the worst place a synthetic pitch should be developed. The whole aesthetic of the local area & serenity of waterfront will be forever changed should a synthetic pitch be developed within the waterfront grounds. There is a risk the pitch will be monopolised by BDFC, and overused though both winter & more concerning, summer months. If waterfront was developed I believe the multi use & therapeutic use of the grounds will be lost forever.; As a local resident, I believe that the ideal location for a new synthetic pitch is the waterfront drive grounds adjacent to the Bay Run. I believe this location is superior for a number of reasons including sufficient parking & it being location some distance from housing. I state this as I</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>assume sport activities including training will take place until late in the evening every night of the week with lighting also burning bright; Waterfront Drive is the most suitable location by far - its use would not impact any existing residents, would use existing floodlighting and would also use the Balmain and District Football Club clubhouse/amenities building next to the field. New grassed space is currently being created nearby where buildings have been demolished so there would be no net loss of grassed area...</p> <p>The field at Waterfront could then be used by Balmain Football Club. The current cricket club use at Waterfront can be relocated to the new Rozelle Parklands oval.; Would love it at waterfront drive, my daughter plays here and a lot of the time her sports were cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. We like Waterford drive, easy parking.</p>
Easton	11.6% /21	<p>My sporting team has trained at Easton Park every year for past six years. But the fields only stayed in safe, playing condition for a few months before they become unfit for play. The ground is unstable and there's so many holes and mud. A team player has injured themselves before from the state of the field. Halfway through the season my team had to move training to Birchgrove cause the field wasn't fit to train on. Theres enough space for dogs and grass activities at the Parklands. Created a synthetic pitch at Easton Park. Every year it's the same problem and the only solution is getting a synthetic pitch. People walking dogs can just walk across the road to the Parklands? Have some consideration for the hundreds of players that would utilise the field; Please leave grass in Easton Park, it is a major dog park, and we don't want them banned.; Easton park is especially unsuitable as it is a small local park where residents gather every day to play with their children and dogs. It absolutely is not suitable for artificial turf.; Easton Park is an unsuitable location for this:</p> <p>The park is surrounded by medium density housing. Installing a synthetic field will significantly increase use of the sport field, resulting in increased noise, parking issues & light pollution for residents.</p> <p>Residents & users will be impacted by the smell of the surface in the heat. It is in the high density housing zone announced by the state government. Every bit of natural green space needs to be retained for additional future residents of the area.; Please keep Easton Park out of this. It took such a long time to finally get the park opened up again and after a few attempts have some grass there , plus benches. We certainly don't want this grass replaced by plastic grass which is not good for the environment anyway. There is a nice community of people who live there and meet in the afternoon, accompanied by their dogs who play with each other. Sometimes some boys are playing football there which is already a nuisance as I can hear them screaming from my place which is up the road, and they are usually leaving a mess in the park which is never cleaned up and can cause a problem for the dogs - ranging from food items to packages and bottles and sticky tapes and bandages etc. They just throw their rubbish on the grass . It would be much better if they were not allowed to play at Easton Park.;Easton park should never be covered in synthetic turf for sports use only. It is surrounded by housing and a cool shady spot for summer</p>

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>heatwaves. Making it plastic would be a disaster for the local community!!!; The Rozelle Lilyfield Resident Action Group) has been advocating for the picket fence to be reinstated to Easton Park oval since 1978. This is long overdue.; Pick the fields that can't survive in their location. Easton Park the grass always dies because the trees block the sun. ; Easton Park would impact local residents and has an inadequate amenities building.; I really want to see a new synthetic football pitch at Easton Park. It's a great place for the whole community to play and have fun. The park already has a sporting ground, so adding a football pitch would be awesome. I think it would be a fantastic investment in our health and happiness. I hope you'll consider making Easton Park the home of the all weather sporting field.</p>
Balmain Road	6.08% /11	<p>I regularly play at Balmain Rd during the winter soccer season and this ground is often in terrible condition and the risk of injuries is high. The inner west is totally lacking in providing any all weather facilities. Strathfield Park is an excellent example of a mixed use ground - both all weather plus grass with excellent facilities for sporting teams. It is an embarrassment when other teams have to play at Balmain Rd.</p> <p>I am also a dog owner and think there is ample space for dogs to play elsewhere in Callan Park; If the council is determined to invest this large amount of taxpayer funds for a minority of the community it should be at the Balmain Road sporting ground; Balmain road sporting ground is one of the worst surfaces in the inner west, I've been playing in the inner west comp for three years and have witnessed multiple ankle injuries on that field due to uneven ground. Would be great to put a synthetic field somewhere that conditions are currently bad, rather than on a grass field that is in good condition.; Has to be Balmain Rd 1st. Waterfront Drive ground is excellent by comparison. I'm a Coach at Leichhardt Saints and also dog owner. I get a good look at all these surfaces.; Balmain road has everyone's dog digging up the surface, so may as well replace it with synthetic field.; Balmain Road is too small and has no amenities building or carparking and would impact nearby residents.; Balmain Road Sporting Ground (Callan Park) should not be touched for a sports stadium development due to being a Conservation Area and as such there should be an overarching strategy for the use and development of Callan Park, which respects its heritage;</p>
Cricket	4.42% /8	<p>Synthetic grounds must not come at the cost of losing existing cricket grounds. The inner west already has too few cricket grounds - kids are frequently playing on grounds that are too small for their age group already, and spaces for training are highly contended in summer. Waterfront Drive Sporting Ground is one of the few full size grounds for U15 (under 15) for example, and Easton Park is one of the few with reasonable shade for parents, and both already have cricket nets for warm-ups and training adjacent to the playing field. I am aware that the parklands includes a cricket ground with a synthetic wicket, but it lacks shade and cricket nets, and it would be perverse if the outcome of adding this cricket ground was just to lose another, leaving the cricket community no better off than before the additional space and money. Please ensure you consult with the local cricket clubs (e.g. Balmain South Sydney and Leichhardt Wanderers) on plans affecting junior cricket facilities.</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Leichhardt No.2	1.66% /3	Leichhardt No.2 would not have enough space for a suitable amenities building which would need to be built - it would also stop that field being used by rugby league and union clubs - including as a warm up field in association with Leichhardt Oval.; Leichhardt Number 2 Sporting Ground has very poor access not suitable for large numbers of people to access as it currently stands.; Leichhardt No 2 is only feasible location. I know that sporting clubs like them because they are all weather but otherwise question benefits. Kids don't like playing on them, they exclude other uses, generate plastic pollution. Glover street is another option less concerning than places closer to waterfront.

Q5 – Are you representing a sporting club or organisation (required)

Respondents were asked if they were representing a sporting club or organisation.

Response	Number of responses
No – not representing a sporting club or organisation	449
Yes Sporting Club	54
Yes Organisation	2

Feedback from the 56 respondents who stated they represented a sporting club or organisation has been included in the above detailed analysis, and is further segmented below, to show the range of first preferences for the all-weather sporting field alternative location.

Sporting Club	Number of overall responses from club	First preference for all-weather sporting field	Number of first preference responses
AFL NSW/ACT	1	Balmain Road	1
Balmain AFL	1	Waterfront Drive	1
Balmain and District Football Club	35	Waterfront Drive	29
		Easton Park	3
		Balmain Road	2
		Leichhardt 2	1
Glebe District Hockey	1	Easton Park	1

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Item 2

Sporting Club	Number of overall responses from club	First preference for all-weather sporting field	Number of first preference responses
Iron Cove Cricket	2	Leichhardt 2	1
		Balmain Road	1
Leichhardt FC	1	Balmain Road	1
Leichhardt Saints	10	Balmain Road	10
Leichhardt Wanderers and Cygnets	1	Opposed to all-weather sporting fields	1
NSW Football	1	Waterfront Drive	1
Inner West Harbour Cricket Association	1	Leichhardt 2	1

Online responses from organisations

Organisation	First preference for all-weather sporting field
AshBUG	Leichhardt 2
Rozelle Lilyfield Resident Action Group	Opposed to all-weather sporting fields

Attachment 2





3. DROP-IN SESSION

3.1 OVERVIEW

Inner West Council and SMM organized a drop-in engagement session at Rozelle Parklands on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 1pm to 2pm. During the session, two A1-sized printed boards with annotated aerial maps were used to engage park users. These boards highlighted the existing features of Easton Park and Rozelle Parklands and proposed potential locations for two new pedestrian crossings on Lilyfield Road.

Park visitors were invited to identify areas and facilities they felt needed improvement by placing post-it notes on the panels.

The session was highly productive, with over 50 park visitors participating and providing their input. The comments collected have been themed and are presented without any specific hierarchy.



EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

3.2 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community feedback has been themed for ease of reference:

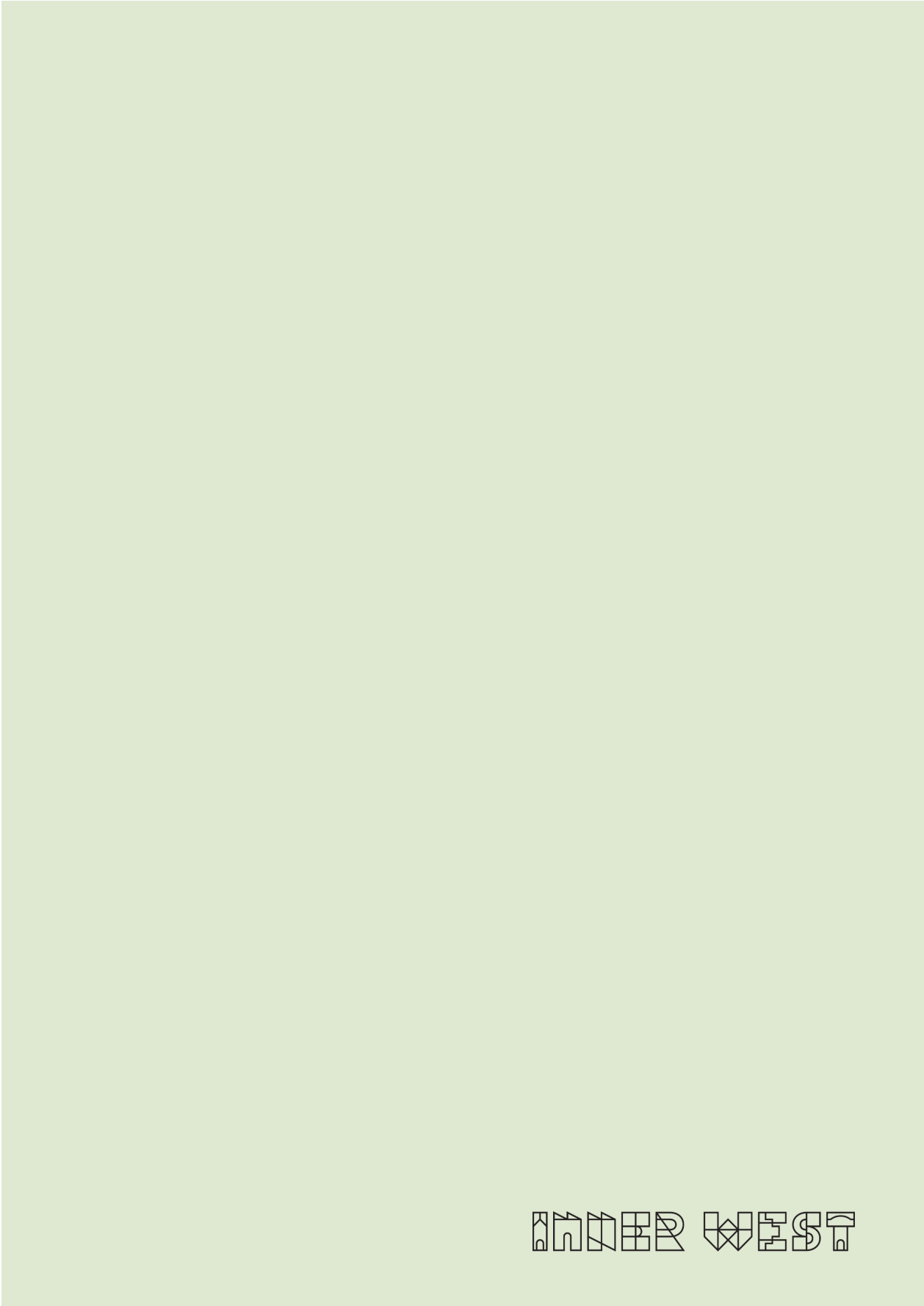
Theme	Community Comments
SURROUNDING STREETS	
Lilyfield Road	Good Spot for crossing (as shown on the plan)
	Barriers to stop people crossing except on pedestrian crossing
	Speed bumps western of new pedestrian crossing
Denison Street	Traffic Calming on Denison Street
Parking	Review timed parking to include evening and weekends
	Require event/sports organisations to promote public transport
	Rangers on road during events
ROZELLE PARKLANDS	
General	Need for cafes
	Need for fenced off-leash dog park area
	A tennis practice wall somewhere / or two
	More exercise, play equipment around. Pickleball court if extra ball court added.
	Will originally proposed multi-court development (Basketball/Netball) go ahead? Expressing hope for local families it does.
Shared Path	Connection to the Bay Run
	Kerb on edge of cycleway
	A walkway to complete a circuit for active transport + exercise linking East from amphitheatre to underpass
	Go slow signs for cyclists. (Currently) go very fast.
	The bike/pedestrian path between Victoria road Ryan Street next to the parklands - needs to have pedestrian on the inside and bikes on the outside
"Buildings (78&84 Lilyfield Rd)"	Council to consider purchasing the buildings for park activation.
	Agreed. Very important.
Sporting Ground	Do not include synthetic grass in the parklands
	Multi surface synth turf for hockey soccer. Full size shareable surface, please!
	No all-weather sporting surface "plastic grass"
	No artificial "all-purpose" turf. We want: natural turf = no polluting + safe for all people/purposes
	Need for sports lighting

Theme	Community Comments
Amphitheatre	<p>"Events in oval (e.g. Cinema) Rules/Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community vs commercial - Days/Hours frequency - Noise levels/ amplified sound - Lighting - Alcohol - Notice to residents" <p>Shade for audience</p> <p>Stage and power infrastructure</p> <p>On site storage</p>
Playground	<p>Keep planting low to maintain clear sight line for monitoring children</p> <p>Low fence around low visibility area of playground (near road, bike path)</p> <p>Label native plants - bush tucker plant walk</p> <p>Montessori play opportunities</p>
Play and Fitness Area	<p>Look at Lane Cove town centre new play area - great facilities + design. More drinking water fountains</p>
Shading	<p>More shading on N.W.Side</p>
Tree & Planting	<p>All path to have shade canopy trees for cooling active transport. Increased diversity of tree species - too many of the same type of trees - only vertical canopy</p> <p>Biodiversity principles implemented in all landscaping plants</p> <p>Green wall of colour + flowering Bougainvillea on the fence next to the motorway</p> <p>Understorey planting for increasing biodiversity - shrubs flowering for butterflies and insects</p> <p>More green and flowering plants on towers please</p>
Park Furniture	<p>Table Tennis similar to those in Camperdown Park (but not oriented east/ west)</p> <p>More seating on road side</p> <p>Need for more seating benches</p>
Underpass	<p>More creative art and succulents under the road (Victoria Road) in the underpass dead zone</p>
Yarning Circle	<p>Informal paths to connect to access way</p>
Public Art	<p>More funding + involvement by art makers, more arts</p>

EASTON PARK AND ROZELLE PARKLANDS
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT

Theme	Community Comments
EASTON PARK	
Sporting Ground	More time for off-leash dog play
	No synthetic grass
	"Natural Turf - Absorbs rainwater - Converts CO2 -> O2 - Suits all sporting codes - Doesn't Pollute - Easy Maintenance - Cheaper than plastic - Environmental friendly - Preferred by dog owners & passive recreators"
Playground	Please can you refresh/redesign the existing play and Easton Park, including the small extra grass space
	Bigger playground, maybe add an adventure playground
Amenity Block	Consult with residents (not just sports clubs) regarding upgrade of amenity block, especially regarding external look
	Please either remove or upgrade the toilets at Easton Park. They are not safe to use and in very poor condition.
Park Furniture	Picnic tables/benches for all abilities
	Table Tennis similar to those in Camperdown Park (next to the playground)





INNER WEST

Item 2

Attachment 2



Inner West Biodiversity Strategy Engagement Outcomes Report

26th September–31st October 2024

Contents

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Summary of feedback	5
Next steps	14



Summary

From the 28th September to 31st October 2024, the local community was invited to provide feedback on the Draft Inner West Biodiversity Strategy 2036.

During the engagement period there were 1871 visits to the Your Say project page.

There were 151 total downloads of the Strategy documents. A total of 36 participants completed the online survey and 30 email submissions were made on the draft Strategy.

An online petition was received which was signed by 164 people, requesting Council to use endemic local plants in verge gardens and streetscapes by 2036.

A total of 51 community members attended the scheduled Biodiversi-Tea sessions which were held at the Annandale Community Nursery and the Marrickville Native Nursery on the 28 September and 16th October 2024. A total of 20 industry stakeholders attended a workshop at Petersham Service Centre on the 15th October 2024.



Project background

The Inner West Biodiversity Strategy 2036 aims to provide the Inner West Community with an achievable plan to improve indigenous biodiversity within our local government area, capitalising and building partnerships with the community and identifying new opportunities for the delivery of programs which enhance our stewardship and care for the environment.

The community engagement process sought community feedback on the draft Strategy, the proposed Action Plan and Council's three main themes *increasing biodiversity, uniting the community and leading by example*.

Promotion and engagement methods

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	1,871 people viewed the project page 151 downloads of the draft document
Emails to key stakeholders	303 outgoing emails to individuals
Posters and/or postcards	7 Council libraries 3 Council Service Centres

Community Engagement Methodology.

Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey/social map/posts on ideas wall/quick poll	36 surveys completed. 30 written submissions were made on the draft strategy.
Direct contact from residents	32 emails from individuals 1 petition received



Who did we hear from?

The following list shows the age range of respondents:

- 20% were aged 50-59
- 17% were aged 75-79
- 15% were aged 65-74
- 14% were aged 55-59
- 14% were aged 40-49
- 14% were aged 30-39
- 9% were aged 20-29

The following list shows the gender breakdown of respondents:

- 50% were stated as woman or female
- 42% were stated as man or male
- 3% were stated as non-binary

The following list shows the breakdown of where respondents live:

- 24% Dulwich Hill
- 15% Marrickville
- 12% Lewisham
- 9% Stanmore
- 6% Ashfield
- 6% Birchgrove
- 6% Enmore
- 6% Haberfield



Summary of feedback

In terms of community engagement feedback and the online community survey the following feedback was received:

Do you support the Biodiversity Strategy? <i>36 Responses</i>	94% Yes 6% Don't know/unsure
Indicate your support for Theme 1: Increase Biodiversity <i>36 Responses</i>	<u>Theme 1 Goals</u> Increase terrestrial biodiversity throughout the Inner West: <i>97% completely or very much support.</i> Increase marine, freshwater, and riparian biodiversity throughout the Inner West: <i>97% completely or very much support.</i> Establish baselines and bridge knowledge gaps: <i>100% completely or very much support</i>
Indicate your support for Theme 2: Unite Community <i>36 Responses</i>	<u>Theme 2 Goals</u> Increase opportunities for people to connect with, and care for, biodiversity in the Inner West: <i>100% completely or very much support.</i> Strengthen the representation and integration of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in the protection of biodiversity: <i>97% completely support.</i>
Indicate your Support for Theme 3: Lead by Example <i>36 Responses</i>	<u>Theme 3 Goals</u> Inner West Council is a leader in supporting urban biodiversity: <i>83% completely or very much support.</i> Strengthen partnerships to improve biodiversity outcomes: <i>97% completely or very much support.</i>



In terms of commentary on the draft strategy the following commentary was received.

We asked	You said	Council response
<p>Is there anything missing from the Strategy?</p> <p><i>31 responses</i></p>	<p>The Strategy should have stronger accountability. 'Explore' or 'investigate' actions are too vague. Targets and performance indicators should be developed to measure and report on progress.</p> <p>The Strategy or Implementation Plan needs to explain how Council will integrate the Strategy into Council's wider policies, processes, and service units that affect biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p>Provide more information and actions for protecting vegetation on private land from urban development (e.g. create stronger planning controls).</p> <p>Provide more planning for managing weeds, such as updating and implementing Council's Weed Policy. Prioritise and plan for reducing the</p>	<p>The Draft Strategy sets out an achievable plan to improve biodiversity and includes a commitment to develop targets (p.7). Explore or investigate is used where the process, permissibility, or feasibility to act must be determined before a commitment to adopt or implement can be made.</p> <p>Methods of integration will be determined as part of the Strategy's implementation. The Strategy contains actions for developing best-practice principles to guide decision-making (3.1.2.1) and for establishing cooperative processes for biodiversity within Council (3.2.1).</p> <p>The Draft Strategy describes the challenge of protecting vegetation on private land (p.29). It includes several actions to promote biodiversity on private land, such as collaborating with private landholders to increase WSUD (1.2.1.1) and investigating planning responses to reduce the decline of habitat and mid-storey vegetation on private land (3.2.1.1)</p> <p>The management of weeds and invasive animals is an ongoing process which will be strategically addressed in the development of the Natural Areas Policy (3.1.1.3). The Strategy contains an action to</p>



	<p>impact of invasive and domestic animals. Remove foxes, myna birds, etc., and prevent pet cats from roaming (e.g. curfew).</p> <p>Plan to increase native planting in laneways, verges, and suitable roads. Increase support for verge gardens. Provide community education and resources for residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens.</p> <p>Provide more community nurseries. Increase funding for citizen science and promote collaboration between volunteer groups.</p>	<p>investigate solutions for reducing the risk domestic animals pose to local wildlife (3.1.1.1) and the threats posed by domestic pets will be part of the threatened species education program (2.1.2.2). Wildlife protection initiatives are also included in Council's Draft Companion Animal Action Plan 2025-2029.</p> <p>Council efforts with community gardens, the Living Streets Program, Bushcare volunteers, and education with local schools provide excellent tools to promote biodiversity in the community. The Strategy contains further actions to increase community education and stewardship of biodiversity in the Inner West (2.1.1 & 2.1.2).</p> <p>A key action in the Strategy is the creation of a new community nursery at Tempe Lands (2.1.1.5). This will include options for increased citizen science and collaboration with Indigenous partners. Further actions to increase and better integrate citizen science are included the Strategy (2.1.1.1 & 2.1.1.2).</p>
<p>Comment on Theme 1 12 responses</p>	<p>Goals should be linked to targets and performance indicators to measure progress. Goals should be linked to timeline for achievement. Review and report progress to community.</p>	<p>The Draft Strategy sets out an achievable plan to improve biodiversity and includes a commitment to develop targets (p.7). The Strategy will be internally reviewed on an annual basis. A progress report will be published with the Strategy's completion in 2036. Progress reports will be submitted</p>



	<p>Council's tree policies and tree removal plans are not consistent with the Strategy's goals. The Strategy's goals. They may not be achievable with increasing construction of apartment buildings.</p> <p>Goals should include soil and invertebrate health. Council should stop using poison to control weeds and ban the use of 2nd generation rodenticide.</p>	<p>annually as part of KPI's for the service unit.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy does not reference or pertain any control mechanisms with regards to Council Tree management Development Control Plan. The Draft Strategy describes the challenge of densification (p.29) and includes several actions to promote biodiversity on private land.</p> <p>The Strategy recognises the Inner West is home to a range of wildlife and has been updated to provide more information about invertebrates. Invertebrate health is promoted by Council's existing policy of not using herbicides in Natural Areas. Herbicides are only used under controlled circumstances in formal parks and not within 50m of waterways.</p>
<p>Comment on Theme 2 <i>16 responses</i></p>	<p>People know their local area and are a great resource for protecting biodiversity. It is crucial that Council partners with the community and provides more opportunities to care for local biodiversity.</p> <p>Support increasing the contribution of Aboriginal knowledge and using biodiversity conservation to recognise and</p>	<p>Council notes the expressed support for community partnerships. Council's Biodiversity Strategy is focussed on building and enhancing community partnerships that will increase stewardship and care for the environment (2.1).</p> <p>Council notes the expressed support for the goals and actions that will strengthen the representation and integration of Aboriginal people and</p>



	<p>empower Aboriginal people. Increase Aboriginal language naming of local species and places. Could provide more information about how Council will integrate Aboriginal knowledge and management.</p> <p>Provide biodiversity education in schools and educate residents about the role of home gardens in climate change risks. Provide more education about the Inner West's indigenous plant species and how to use them in home gardens.</p> <p>Provide more support to bushcare groups e.g. assist in recruiting members, let Callan Park group work 3 days/week.</p>	<p>knowledge in biodiversity conservation. Council's Naming Policy prioritises Aboriginal naming of local places and provides an approved list of Aboriginal names for some local flora and fauna. Appropriate practices of integrating Aboriginal knowledge will be developed as part of implementing the Care for Country priority (2.2.1).</p> <p>Educational partnerships with schools and young people will continue to be a feature of Council's efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity. This includes schools partnering with Council on tree planting and Natural Area restoration. Council's website provides information about the Inner West's indigenous plant species. The Strategy contains further actions that aim to help residents create native habitat in their home gardens (2.1.2).</p> <p>Council continues to develop its volunteer base and resources in support of Natural area management. Callan Park is managed by Greater Sydney Parklands and has its own Bushcare and Natural Area program.</p>
<p>Comment on Theme 3</p> <p><i>15 responses</i></p>	<p>The goal of leadership depends on innovation and integration of biodiversity protection into planning controls and infrastructure development. Planning controls and overlays should be updated e.g.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains an action to investigate planning responses to the loss of habitat and mid-storey vegetation on private land (3.2.1.1). Urban Ecology is currently working with Strategic Planning to update biodiversity maps and controls for Council's new Development Control Plan.</p>

INNER WEST

	<p>LEP/ DCP should include Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design principles.</p> <p>Council should increase collaboration with external partners (e.g. neighbouring Councils) and ensure biodiversity objectives are integrated with planning and engineering processes/teams. Verge gardens need better protection from streetscape maintenance.</p> <p>The goal of leadership requires ambitions targets. Progress must be monitored and publicly reported.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains priorities to promote integration of biodiversity objectives across Council (3.1.2 & 3.2.1), including actions that have shared responsibility for implementation with Strategic Planning and Infrastructure officers. The Strategy contains actions to establish connections with external agencies (3.2.2) and Council will continue working with existing partners on biodiversity initiatives.</p> <p>The Draft Strategy sets out an achievable plan to improve biodiversity and includes a commitment to maintain and develop new targets (p.7). The Strategy will be internally reviewed on an annual basis and annual reporting on Council targets is undertaken as part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting. Progress on the implementation of the strategy will be part of the Parks Planning and Ecology teams key reportable KPI's moving forward.</p>
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You said	Council response
The Strategy's success depends on resourcing the Action Plan. Council should establish a dedicated budget for	The Urban Ecology team has an existing budget which is set by Council each year. The Strategy, once adopted, will support the development of additional resources



<p>implementing the strategy and include that commitment in the Action Plan.</p> <p>The Strategy should have stronger accountability. 'Explore' or 'investigate' actions should demonstrate follow-up outcomes e.g. 'investigate and adopt'. SMART performance indicators should be developed to measure and report on progress. Provide precise timelines for completing actions e.g. 1-3 years.</p> <p>Commit to developing an implementation plan that includes evaluation and a timeline for setting SMART indicators. Provide clear mechanisms for public feedback on implementation plan and annual reviews of the Strategy e.g. include a commitment in Action Plan.</p> <p>Strengthen planning controls to protect vegetation on private land from development and stop the decline in tree canopy and shrub cover. Establish a framework to align development decisions with biodiversity goals and identify requirements or incentives for biodiversity-friendly design in new developments. Update the Tree DCP and Tree Protection Orders to increase protection for mature trees.</p> <p>The strategy's success depends on integration across Council's divisions, especially development planning and infrastructure. The Strategy should identify</p>	<p>for biodiversity initiatives over the life of the plan. Funding for the Action Plan will be progressed as individual actions/projects are developed and implemented. Funding for major projects will be sought through grants streams.</p> <p>The Draft Strategy sets out an achievable plan to improve biodiversity. Explore or investigate is used where the process, permissibility, or feasibility to act must be determined before a commitment to follow-up actions can be made. The Strategy includes a commitment to develop targets (p.7).</p> <p>The Strategy includes a commitment to develop an implementation plan and determine targets for biodiversity (p.7). The Strategy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Strategy contains an action to investigate planning responses to the loss of habitat and mid-storey vegetation on private land (3.2.1.1). Urban Ecology is currently working with Strategic Planning to update biodiversity controls for Council's new Development Control Plan. The Biodiversity Strategy does not have any control mechanisms with regards to Council's Tree Management DCP or Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>Methods for integration will be determined as part of the Strategy's implementation. The Strategy contains actions for developing best-practice</p>
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<p>the processes, principles, or criteria that will guide decision-making and planning frameworks. Biodiversity education and training for staff is essential.</p> <p>Increase planning and management of weeds, pest species, and domestic animals. Include actions for weed management/education and regulating pet control e.g. night curfews for cats, create Wildlife Protection Areas, enforce dog on-leash areas.</p> <p>Expand the scope and sources of species data in the Strategy, and follow-up with local surveys. Expand Potential Priority Biodiversity Areas to include the Johnstons Creek Corridor and a northern extension of Callan Park.</p>	<p>principles to guide decision-making (3.1.2.1) and for establishing cooperative processes for biodiversity within Council (3.2.1). Responsibility for implementing these actions is shared with Strategic Planning and Infrastructure officers.</p> <p>The management of weeds and pest species will be addressed in the Natural Areas Policy (3.1.1.3). The Strategy contains an action to investigate solutions for reducing the risk domestic animals pose to local wildlife (3.1.1.1). Wildlife protection initiatives are also included in Council's Draft Companion Animal Action Plan 2025-2029.</p> <p>The Final Strategy includes updated and expanded species data (including recorded invertebrates). Consultants have been commissioned to conduct a flora and fauna survey of the Inner West. The Potential Priority Biodiversity Area list and map have been updated to include Johnstons Creek and a northern extension of Callan Park.</p>
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Onsite information sessions

General information sessions were held at the Dulwich Hill Festival, Marrickville Music Festival, and Mobile Customer Service Stalls in Ashfield and Balmain.

Presentations, with Q&A, were made to the GreenWay Forum (14/10) and two Biodiversity Teas at the Annandale and Marrickville Community Nurseries (28/9 & 16/10). 51 community members attended these events. Questions/discussion from participants included:

- The loss of tree canopy and shrub cover, and the role of planning and development in removing and protecting green space.
- Protecting wildlife from domestic animals.
- Community education about weeds, threatened species, and domestic animals.
- Strategy reviews and progress reporting.
- Staff education and training, especially to protect verge gardens.

An Industry Stakeholder Workshop was held at Petersham Service Centre on the 15th October. 20 stakeholders attended the workshop, representing external agencies, Council contractors, environmental NGOs, and other partners in Urban Ecology. The workshop had two presentations from Council staff and a group activity for participants. Stakeholders were broken into small groups and given sticky notes to provide feedback on the Strategy. Four questions were provided as prompts for feedback.

Category	You said
What do you most support in the Strategy? <i>26 comments</i>	<p>Increased community education/engagement, including verge gardens, collaboration with volunteer groups, and increased transparency of data.</p> <p>Recognition of aquatic ecosystems and improving water quality. Increasing terrestrial biodiversity, especially mid-storey vegetation.</p> <p>Support priorities for re-defining good decision-making and embedding ecological principles, plus developing internal collaboration and training in Council.</p>
Are there issues that are missing or need to be modified? <i>22 comments</i>	<p>Strengthen actions in Action Plan and develop performance indicators/targets.</p> <p>Strategy's implementation needs funding and planning controls to promote verges & native vegetation.</p>



	Provide more data on invertebrates and actions for weed management.
How does the Strategy align with your organisation's goals, plans, or programs? <i>15 comments</i>	<p>Uniting community through whole-of-catchment lens, increasing citizens science and community's connection to nature, incorporating Indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>Increasing biodiversity by restoring multi-layered vegetation. Ecological monitoring: PRCG has icon/indicators species for monitoring waterway health.</p>
Are there opportunities for collaboration on the Strategy's implementation? <i>9 comments</i>	<p>Designing and monitoring implementation plan + developing on-ground management plans for key sites.</p> <p>Public advocacy, education, and information sharing</p>

Next steps

The Biodiversity Strategy has been updated in response to the community engagement outcomes. A report will be provided to the December 2024 Council meeting outlining the community engagement outcomes and including a revised final version of the Strategy for consideration and formal adoption.