

ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENTS

for

BUSINESS PAPER

6.30PM, TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 2023

C1223(1) Item 1 Post Exhibition - Blue-Green Grid Strategy and Implementation Plan

Attachment 2: Engagement Outcomes Report 2

C1223(1) Item 2 Post Exhibition - Macarthur Parade Planning Proposal

Attachment 3: Engagement Outcomes Report - Macarthur Parade 15

C1223(1) Item 3 Post Exhibition - Mackey Park Plan of Management and Masterplan

Attachment 2: Engagement Outcomes Report 36

C1223(1) Item 5 Plan of Management - Elkington Park and Fitzroy Avenue Reserve

Attachment 2: Engagement Outcomes Report 52

C1223(1) Item 6 Peace Reserve (Newtown) Masterplan and Public Domain Works

Attachment 1: Engagement Outcomes Report 62

C1223(1) Item 13 Balmain Town Hall Working Party Report

Attachment 1: Engagement Outcomes Report 71



Public exhibition of Draft Blue-Green Grid Strategy

Engagement Outcomes Report

15 September – 22 October 2023



Contents

Summary	3
Project background	4
Promotion and engagement methods.....	5
Who did we hear from?	6
Summary of feedback.....	6
Next steps.....	13



Summary

Inner West Council has developed a Blue-Green Grid Strategy (the Strategy) to create a network of blue and green connections across the Inner West to help improve accessibility, recreation, biodiversity, and lifestyle for all. The Strategy will provide a plan for how Council can better connect areas of high environmental value, providing more viable areas of habitat and links to scenic landscapes. Early engagement for the Strategy was undertaken in March and April 2023, which provided valuable input for the development of the Strategy.

From 15 September to 22 October 2023, the community was invited to provide feedback on the draft Strategy with the objective of knowing, *did we get it right?*

During the second engagement period 816 people visited the Your Say project page, with 80 contributions in either the interactive map or by survey. The Strategy and associated documents were downloaded a total of 195 times.

Of the 20 participants who completed the online survey, 18 of these supported the project (90%) and 2 were unsure/didn't know (10%).

Key suggestions for amendments included additional opportunities added to links, minor mapping changes to links, suggestions for site-specific interventions and requests for advocacy on particular projects.



Project background

The development of a green grid is a priority under the Greater Sydney Region Plan and the Eastern City District Plan. An action in the Inner West Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) commits Council to the development of a Blue-Green Grid Strategy.

Feedback received from the 2019 LSPS community engagement indicated that development of this Strategy was overwhelmingly supported by the community with over 91% of respondents supporting Council's proposal to develop a Blue-Green Grid.

Council applied for and was successful in receiving matched grant funding as part of NSW Department of Planning and Environment's 2021/22 Metropolitan Greenspace Funding Program.

Early engagement for the Inner West Blue-Green Grid Strategy was undertaken between 16 March and 30 April 2023. Over 400 contributions were made as part of the engagement, which helped inform the drafting of this Strategy. More information about this round of engagement, including the Engagement Outcomes Report can be found at [Planning for the Inner West's Blue-Green Grid](#).

The draft Strategy was prepared and placed on public exhibition for a second round of community consultation from 15 September to 22 October 2023 with the objective of understanding if the community's views had been accurately captured. The following sections will elaborate more on the methods and outcomes of this engagement.



Promotion and engagement methods

The Strategy was promoted through the following channels:

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	816 people viewed the project page 195 downloads of the documents
Emails to key stakeholders	197 registered members on the Your Say Inner West platform and stakeholders from previous engagement
Council's social media	3 Facebook posts 2 Instagram posts - 9,714 people reached - 141 likes, comments, shares
Posters, postcards and digital signage	16 posters on Council noticeboards and in Service Centres 3 hard copies of the strategy at Council Service Centres 800 postcards Digital signage at all council venues

The community provided feedback through the following channels:

Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	20 surveys completed
Interactive map	63 pins from 20 contributors
Direct contact from residents	7 emails from individuals 10 face-to-face conversations 2 pop-ups stalls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leichhardt 7 October Marrickville 15 October



Who did we hear from?

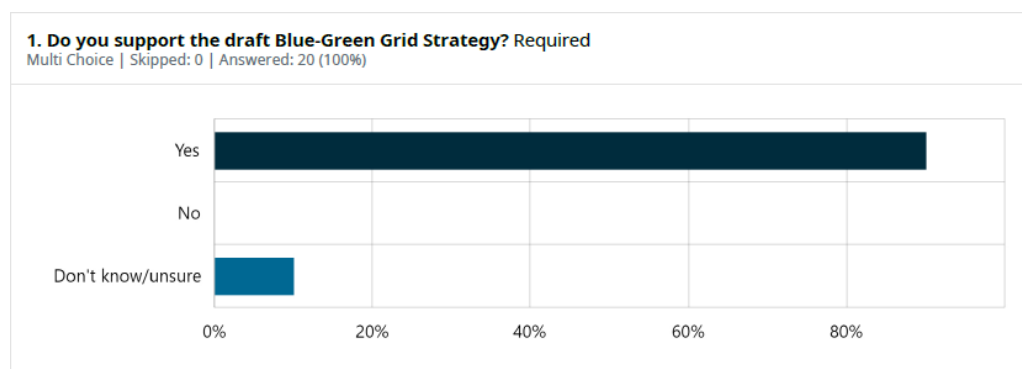
Demographic data was only collected for the YSIW respondents. The top five suburbs where respondents reported residing were:

- Marrickville (27%)
- Stanmore (14%)
- Lewisham (6%)
- Ashfield (6%)
- Dulwich Hill (6%)

Summary of feedback

Written feedback was overwhelmingly positive with community members happy to see this work being undertaken by Council and 90% of YSIW survey respondents said they support the Strategy (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Graph with responses for the question "Do you support the draft Blue-Green Grid Strategy?" where 90% of respondents said 'yes'.



The main themes that emerged from this round of engagement were:

- Mapping changes and corrections to links and other geographical features
- Alternate routes for cycle ways and pedestrian paths
- Suggestions for site-specific interventions such as Water Sensitive Urban Design, additional canopy cover, and pedestrian crossings
- Suggestions for strengthening habitat for local fauna such as multi-layered vegetation for small birds to improve biodiversity outcomes
- More detail on implementation with clearer metrics to evaluate the success of the Strategy



- Requests for advocacy to influence projects or assets held by State government

The table below lists the feedback received through various channels including online through Your Say Inner West, email and face-to-face. The contributions are organised into link feedback or theme specific feedback.

Engagement method: Survey, Interactive Map, Email and Face-to-face.

Table 1: Link specific feedback

Link Number:	You said	Council response
Link 1: Petersham Park to Sydenham Station via Marrickville and Henson Park	Opportunities to incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) on this link to address runoff.	WSUD interventions to be added to the future opportunities for this link.
Link 2: Marrickville Peace Park to Montague Gardens	Suggestion for alternate route for link 2 to take Johnstons Lane pedestrian pathway. Illawarra Road is a preferred link for a separated cycle path.	Link 2 to be adjusted to take Johnstons Lane and future opportunities to be updated to include feedback.
Link 4: Victoria Road to Newtown Station	Increase canopy cover on Enmore Road.	Enmore Road is a State Road managed by the NSW Government. In turn, Council is unable to deliver additional tree canopy along this section of the link. Other opportunities on the link to deliver additional canopy cover can be unlocked with future re-development.
Link 5: Fraser Park Football Club to Newtown Station	Provide separated cycle path and improved crossings connecting links 5 and 7 and along Edinburgh Road to better connect to Enmore Park and Bedwin Street.	Comments noted, Links 7,4, and 9 provide access to Enmore Park. Routes not included in the links are still useable paths to the destination however not shown as Blue-Green Grid links. The crossing at Bedwin Street is serviced by pedestrian crossings

INNER WEST

		and traffic lights; as a busy road this is appropriate.
Link 9: Addison Road from Enmore Park to Bright Street	<p>Continue link all the way to Livingstone Road for better connection to other links.</p> <p>Improve pedestrian crossings and preference for cycleway on Addison Road.</p>	<p>Comments taken into consideration and link 9 to be extended along Addison Road to Livingstone Road, Marrickville. The Strategy does not account for implementation details at this stage, just high-level links.</p> <p>Additional comments to be added to future opportunities.</p>
Link 10: Southern link of Newtown to Croydon Trainline	Opportunities for WSUD, improvement of pedestrian amenity and additional landscaping in the rail corridor.	Feedback noted, Strategy to include this as an opportunity site for WSUD intervention in the future.
Link 12: Parramatta Road	Improve pedestrian movement across Parramatta Road.	Comments noted. Subject of comments are already captured in the existing opportunities for the link.
Link 13: Johnston Street including part of the Crescent	Extend link 13 to Stanmore Station.	Link extension considered; however Council believes it should remain as mapped.
Link 15: white Creek via Cohen Park, Whites Creek Valley and Whites Creek Lane	Possible uncovering of Whites Creek along Whites Creek Lane	Comments noted; opportunities covered in the Strategy adequately cover the comments.
Link 35: The Bay Run Path from Robson Park to Constellation Playground	<p>Link through Callan Park should avoid delivering busy thoroughfares.</p> <p>Do not support plans for swimming spot near Callan Park.</p>	Comments noted; amendments to opportunities for the link have been made.



Link 36: The Cooks to Cove Greenway	<p>Mapping correction for southern end of link to follow Ness Avenue. Improve connection of GreenWay under Old Canterbury Road.</p> <p>Concern for loss of biodiversity in Taverners Hill with development of Paramatta Road Corridor.</p>	<p>Comments to be added to future opportunities and corrections have been made to Strategy maps.</p> <p>The Parramatta Road Corridor Planning Proposal will have its own community consultation. There are no intended changes to the GreenWay on link 36.</p>
Link 37: Norton Street	Improve pedestrian amenity and crossing along this link.	Comments noted; existing opportunities already cover off in improvements to safe pedestrian crossings.
Link 38: Balmain Road at Glover Street to Balmain East Ferry Wharf via Darling Street	Improve pedestrian amenity and crossing along this link.	Comments noted; these opportunities are already covered off in the Strategy.
Link 43: Johnston Creek	<p>Extend link to Stafford Street.</p> <p>Include opportunities unlocked with redevelopment of Camperdown.</p>	<p>Mapping changes taken into consideration and Council has chosen to keep them as mapped.</p> <p>Mention of Camperdown Health Education and Innovation Precinct in Tech Central to be included in future opportunities.</p>
Link 49: Victoria Square Reserve to Summer Hill Village	Pedestrianise southern end of Lackey Street.	Comment to be added to future opportunities
Link 50: Constitution Road to The Parade via Union Street	Opportunities for separated cycleways, additional canopy cover and greenery, and improved pedestrian crossings.	Comments to be added to future opportunities.



Link 55: Yule Street and Porter Avenue	Opportunities for WSUD.	WSUD comment to be added to future opportunities.
Link 59: Northern link of Newtown to Croydon trainline	Improve intersections, pedestrian pathways, and cycle connections.	Comments have been included in the future opportunities for this link. Traffic matters are beyond the scope of this strategy.
Link 60: Palace Street	Improved pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures.	Comments noted; opportunities for improved pedestrian movement and crossings are already included in the Strategy for this link.
Link 61: The Cooks River to Alexandria Canal	Alexandra Canal has been overlooked in the Strategy. HJ Mahoney Memorial Park is a valuable asset for recreation and avoid an established pathway.	Additional information relating to Alexandra Canal has been added to the opportunities.
Link 62: Southern Trainline	Opportunity to deliver GreenWay style link along trainline	There are plans to deliver a link along this path as a priority.
Link 69: Carrington Road	Build a bridge over the rail lines from Sydenham Station to Fraser Park	Delivering major infrastructure is beyond the scope of this strategy.
Link 72: Victoria Road	Council to advocate State government to deliver improvements to Victoria Road	Comment noted; this opportunity and partnership is already described in the Strategy.
Link 75: The Bays Precinct to Blackwattle Bay via Glebe Island Bridge	Council to advocate State government to influence development plans for key areas like White Bay Power Station	Comment noted; these opportunities are already described for this link within the Strategy.
Link 80: New Canterbury Road and Stanmore Road	Opportunity to improve pedestrian and cyclist amenity and safety by delivering a cycle path and additional street trees.	Comments noted; this opportunity and partnership is already described within the Strategy.

INNER WEST

Link 82: Iron Cove Creek Corridor	<p>Considerations should include creek naturalisation, enhancing biodiversity, protecting privacy of private property along this link.</p> <p>Alternate link suggestion along Croydon Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted, these opportunities are already described for this link within the Strategy.</p> <p>While consideration was given to changing the path of link 82 to follow Croydon Road; Council has chosen to keep it as mapped.</p>
Link 90: Australia Street	Connect link to Johnstons Creek.	Extension of link 90 was considered, however it is recommend that the link remain as mapped.
Link 91: Balmain Peninsula Harbour walk	<p>Improve connections through harbourside parks and consider converting Council carparks into green space,</p>	<p>Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is currently undertaking a major project known as the Parramatta to Sydney Foreshore Link. The link program will look to deliver a 91km continuous link between Parramatta Park to the Opera House/Botanical Garden for cyclists and pedestrians. Council will need to work closely with TfNSW on this project work. This will connect many of the open spaces within Balmain East and will contribute to the Tom Uren Trail an existing walking trail within Balmain East which is already host to many parks and waterfront locations.</p> <p>Conversion of Council car parks to other uses such as affordable housing or green spaces is assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p>



Table 2: Theme specific feedback

Theme	You said	Council response
Implementation	<p>Would like to see timely implementation and use of tactical urbanism</p> <p>Clearer measurable targets for success in delivery of links Recommend periodic reviews of the Strategy every 5 years.</p> <p>Needs further mention of other Council strategies that support this one.</p>	<p>Comments noted; Council has created an Implementation Plan for internal use that outlines priority links, costings, and other planning controls that would assist in delivering the Blue-Green Grid. Next steps towards implementing the first of the links would be to secure additional funding, which an endorsed Council strategy would provide a strong justification for.</p>
Ecology and green space	<p>Quality of open space is not adequately captured with describing quantity of Council owned parks in the Strategy</p> <p>Saving existing trees and increasing tree canopy cover in areas affected by higher urban heat should be a priority.</p> <p>Cat curfew should be introduced to help protect native wildlife.</p> <p>More community parklets can serve medium and high-density community.</p> <p>Emphasis on native planting support urban ecology,</p> <p>Deliver low level 'multi-layered', dense and native vegetation to allow for small native birds to thrive.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Open space figures were not intended to communicate that Council has adequate open space. This strategy is intended to go some way to addressing the problem of inadequate access to open space.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan makes recommendations for controls in Council's LEP and DCP that would encourage canopy cover on private property. Council's Urban Forestry team are working to deliver 1000 trees a year to address canopy cover in public spaces and provide residents with free trees once a year to encourage canopy cover on private property.</p>

INNER WEST

		References to multi-layered vegetation has been included in the Strategy to support this outcome.
--	--	---

Next steps

The community feedback provided in this report has informed the final Blue-Green Grid Strategy, allowing refinements to be made to both grid link and opportunities along each of the links.

The final Blue-Green Grid Strategy will be considered by Council for adoption in December 2023.

All community members who provided feedback will be notified when the final Blue-Green Grid Strategy is considered by Council.



Macarthur Parade Planning Proposal

Engagement Outcomes Report

4 September 2023 – 1 October 2023



Contents

Summary	3
Project background	4
Methods of Engagement	4
Response Rates	5
Agency Referral	5
Summary of feedback	6
Appendix 1 – Letters to owners	
Appendix 2 – Inner West Your Say page	



Summary

From 4 September to 1 October 2023, the community was invited to provide feedback on the Macarthur Parade Heritage Listings as part of the statutory consultation period for the Planning Proposal (PP).

The primary intent of the PP is to identify five properties at Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill as heritage items under Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 (Inner West LEP). In particular, the proposed amendment seeks to include the subject sites at 7-13 Macarthur Parade as a new group local heritage item, and the subject site at 3 Macarthur Parade as an individual local heritage item under Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage, and to identify both as 'general' heritage items on the Heritage Map to Inner West LEP 2022 (Sheet HER_005).

During the engagement period 386 people visited the Your Say project page. 48 participants completed the online survey, and a further 13 provided a submission by email.

Of the 61 written submissions. Four of the five property owners provided a submission. 3 Macarthur Parade, being the church, did not provide a submission. The remaining 57 were from interested community parties.

Broadly, 38% of respondents supported the heritage protection. While this represents a minority of respondents, it should be noted that many submissions against the heritage listings did agree the buildings had heritage value and should be conserved, but that this should be done in a way that would not constrain further development on the site in the future.

Key suggestions for amendments include heritage protection:

- that allowed minor development on the site,
- of the dwellings only to allow development in the rear gardens.

The overall level of support from submissions received is summarised as:

Level of support	Number
Very or completely supportive	21
Moderately or slightly supportive	2
Not supportive	38
Total	61



Project background

In 2021, Council engaged specialist consultants GML Heritage to undertake a heritage review of the Inner West. During the project's early phases, five properties on Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill, were identified as having potential heritage significance.

Following the initial identification of potential heritage significance, a detailed heritage assessment was undertaken in early 2023. The Macarthur Parade Heritage Assessment Study (the Heritage Study) was finalised in May 2023, with the recommendation that 7-13 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill be listed as a group heritage item of local significance, and that 3 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill should be listed as an individual heritage item of local significance in Schedule 5 and on the Heritage Map of the Inner West LEP 2022.

The Heritage Study forms the evidence base for the PP and demonstrates the strategic and site-specific merit of the listing. Heritage listing of the properties will preserve local heritage in the Inner West local government area by providing statutory protection and recognition to sites of historical significance.

Methods of Engagement

Statutory consultation is required for a PP of this nature for a minimum period of 10 days in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment 1979 Act*, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* and any requirements of the Gateway Determination.

The public exhibition was also carried out in accordance with the Inner West Community Engagement Strategy 2022-24, including the Community Participation Plan, which recommends conducting public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. The exhibition ran from 4 September 2023 – 1 October 2023.

The public exhibition included:

- Letters to owners of each affected property (see Appendix 1)
- Letters to adjoining owners and occupiers (see Appendix 1)
- A referral to Heritage NSW, as stipulated in the gateway determination for this PP (sent via the NSW Planning Portal website)
- Dedicated project page on the Your Say Inner West website + a notice on Council's general website (see Appendix 2)

Property owners of affected properties and adjoining properties were invited to make submissions via the Inner West Council Your Say page developed for this exhibition period, email, telephone, or mail.



Response Rates

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Your Say Inner West	269 people viewed the project page 119 total downloads of the available documents
Letters to key stakeholders	Approximately 58 letters were sent to the subject site property owners and adjoining property owners, as required by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for a basic PP
Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	48 surveys completed
Direct contact from residents	13 emails from individuals
Phone calls	Approximately 10+ phone calls were taken during the exhibition period, mainly from property owners requesting an update on the PP process.

In total, 61 written responses were received by the Your Say page or email. Of these:

- 31 submissions (52%) were received by Dulwich Hill residents. 17 submissions from within Dulwich Hill supported the heritage listing.
- 30 submissions (48%) were from other suburbs of the Inner West (20), across Sydney (9) or interstate (1). 28 of these submissions from outside Dulwich Hill did not support the heritage listing.
- 8 submitters (13%) had received a letter from Council and thus were the property owners or adjoining or nearby property owners.
- the remaining 53 (87%) are likely to have heard about the PP from the Your Say page or some other means.

Agency Referral

As part of the gateway determination for the proposal, Council was required to refer the PP to Heritage NSW. On 6 September 2023, Heritage NSW responded via the NSW Planning Portal: *We encourage the identification and listing of new heritage items to environmental planning instruments, provided that all necessary due diligence, assessments and notifications have been undertaken. Prior to finalisation of the PP, Council should be satisfied that this is the case. The determination for listing of Local heritage items rests with Council and as such, the Heritage Council of NSW and Heritage NSW do not require further referral or consultation on this PP.*

In response to this comment, Council can confirm the Plan Making process has been followed.



Summary of feedback

This section a summary of submissions by key issue as detailed in the table below. Many submissions are represented multiple times as they touched on multiple issues. Each issue is then further explained and a Council response to the matter is provided.

Matters	Comments
1. Restricts future intensification, housing supply and affordability	32
2. Sustainability concerns with having carbon intensive buildings on site	3
3. Supports heritage value, character, and a sense of place	22
4. Limits property owner's ability to modify and extend homes	9
5. Will have a financial or other burden on property owners	5
6. Evidence base - questionable heritage value, substantial changes to heritage building	28
7. Feedback on consultation process	4
8. Listing should be constrained to house to enable rear yard development	18



Key Issue Breakdown

Subject Matter	You said	Council Officer response
Restricts future intensification, housing supply and affordability 32 responses	Many submissions explained that a heritage listing on the subject sites would severely limit the development potential for new housing during a housing affordability crisis. Furthermore, many submissions explained that an amalgamation of the four residential sites could accommodate up to 40+ dwellings, and this would be a better outcome.	<p>Council aims to deliver its housing targets in a timely manner, in accordance with its adopted Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Local Housing Strategy (LHS). Concurrently, the LSPS and LHS require Council to undertake targeted heritage studies to identify new items and areas in conjunction with planning for new housing growth.</p> <p>The land is currently zoned R2 Low Density Residential and although a number of uses are permitted with consent in this zone, they must maintain the character and built form of a low-density residential environment. The proposed listings will not prohibit development opportunities permissible in this zone but will instead require an additional level of assessment and scrutiny – through development assessment rather than complying development. This process will ensure those opportunities adequately retain the identified elements of heritage significance on the properties.</p> <p>The subject properties are within the Dulwich Hill housing investigation area (medium-term), identified in the LHS. The PP has been prepared in collaboration with this ongoing housing investigation and is helping to inform the parameters of the area as the investigation progresses. Officers are satisfied that the proposed listings will not impede the delivery of actions for the overall investigation area outlined in the LHS.</p>
Sustainability concerns with having carbon intensive buildings on site 3 responses	As relatively old buildings, it is likely that the buildings require a substantial amount of energy to be heated or cooled, making them carbon intensive structures. The heritage listing will impact the ability to improve the sustainability rating of the building.	It is not the intention of heritage protection to restrict the use of solar panels or other climate-friendly modifications. The proposed listings will not prohibit such development or refurbishment opportunities but will require additional assessment and scrutiny through development assessment. In some instances where modifications are considered minor in nature, owners may apply for a heritage exemption and not need to obtain formal



Subject Matter	You said	Council Officer response
		<p>consent. This can be discussed in advance with Council's duty planner service.</p> <p>Council's heritage specialists agree that the buildings are not at the end of their lifespan. To demolish and re-develop buildings that are not deemed to be unusable is itself highly carbon intensive.</p>
Supports heritage value, character, and a sense of place 22 responses	The building has inherent historical value to the community. The heritage experts clearly demonstrate how the buildings meet the requirements for a local heritage listing.	<p>Noted. Inner West Council has received advice from two separate independent qualified heritage experts advising that the five subject sites meet the threshold for a local heritage listing.</p> <p>Inner West Council is committed to the protection of heritage. The five subject properties are unique in nature and contribute to the historical and social character of the Dulwich Hill area.</p>
Limits property owner's ability to modify and extend homes 9 responses	A heritage listing will unfairly limit a property owner's ability to modify and extend their home. Particularly, the listing will not enable owners to make any changes to their old homes which may need to be updated due to their age.	<p>Refer to previous responses. Heritage protection does not remove the opportunity for alterations and additions, or other permitted with consent development under the current R2 Low Density Residential zoning.</p> <p>In some instances, where modifications are minor or necessary for the maintenance of the property, owners may apply for a heritage exemption and not need to obtain formal consent.</p>
Will have a financial or other burden on property owners 5 responses	Concerns were also articulated about the financial burden on affected property owners due to the heritage listings.	<p>It is recognised that in some instances older homes require rectification of various issues. Similar maintenance, upgrading and retrofitting situations apply to all older homes regardless of heritage protection and planning makes up a relatively small proportion of overall time and resources required in this process. As outlined above, in instances where modifications are required for the maintenance of a property, heritage exemptions may be issued that remove the requirement to obtain formal development consent.</p>



Subject Matter	You said	Council Officer response
Evidence base – questionable heritage value, substantial changes to heritage building 28 responses	<p>Responses to this topic were broken down into three separate aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The buildings do not have historical value as there are many examples of this building type across the Inner West. 2. The subject buildings have been substantially altered internally and therefore do not have heritage value. 3. The heritage assessment was not conducted by a suitably qualified person and/or is not based on fact. 	<p>The Macarthur Parade Heritage Study (May 2023) follows the methodology outlined in the NSW Heritage Manual (DPE), which contains seven criteria for assessing the significance of places. An item or area satisfies the threshold for state or local heritage significance if it meets one or more of these criteria. The Church Item and the Group Item of four dwellings meet six of the seven criteria.</p> <p>Officers acknowledge that the dwellings proposed for listing have undergone internal change over time. The heritage specialist concluded that it is highly likely that there are remnant elements present within the dwellings and church that contribute to their significance, such as room layouts and or other details.</p>
Feedback on consultation process 4 responses	<p>The process the PP followed meant that owners of the subject sites were uninformed about the decision to heritage list their property.</p>	<p>Council notified property owners about the PP in accordance with the Local Environmental Plan Making Guidelines (DPE) and the PP and associated content have been available for the public to view online on Council's Your Say website. Notices of the related Interim Heritage Orders were also advertised beyond what is required in the relevant legislation.</p> <p>While consultation did not occur before the PP was initiated, community members were still given ample time to engage with Council officers and Councillors throughout the process. Affected property owners and concerned community members have also been able to speak at Council meetings where this matter has been discussed.</p>
Listing should be constrained to house to enable rear yard development 18 responses	<p>While there may be heritage value in the five subject buildings, they are on large lots which could be developed in a way that conserves the buildings while providing extra housing in the rear yard.</p>	<p>Officers have considered this method of development and concluded that it would require a substantial change in planning controls on the subject sites, for limited new housing potential. Irrespective of the proposed listings, the current R2 zoning restricts the range of permissible conventional housing to dwelling houses, secondary dwellings and semi-detached dwellings.</p>

INNER WEST

Subject Matter	You said	Council Officer response
		Any additional standalone housing to the rear of these lots would present serious access challenges without demolishing one of the subject properties. Further, subdivision would result in a serious break from the cadastral pattern of the area and would lead to poor design outcomes. Secondary dwellings do not require subdivision and may be considered in some circumstances, provided the heritage significance of the buildings is retained.



Appendix 1 – Copy of letters to subject site owners and adjoining property owners

Letter to subject site owners:

4 September 2023

<< Property Owner >>
<< Address Line 1 >>
<< Address Line 2 >>

Dear Landowner

Have your say: Proposed heritage listings on Macarthur Parade

We are writing to seek your feedback on a Planning Proposal to list properties on Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill as items of local heritage significance under the *Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022* (Inner West LEP 2022).

The Inner West has a rich cultural heritage of historical places including buildings, streetscapes, Aboriginal sites, trees, parks, and archaeology. These heritage features contribute to the Inner West's distinctive character.

Heritage listing aims to provide ongoing protection and recognition of the heritage significance of these sites.

What has happened so far?

We engaged heritage specialists to carry out an independent review of residential heritage across the Inner West and provide recommendations on potential changes to heritage items and conservation areas.

The heritage specialists concluded that 7, 9, 11 and 13 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill should be considered for listed in the Inner West LEP 2022 as a group heritage item, and that Dulwich Hill Baptist Church, 3 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill, be listed as an individual heritage item.

At its meeting of 20 June 2023, Council resolved to proceed with a Planning Proposal to amend Schedule 5, and the associated Heritage Map, of Inner West LEP 2022 by introducing:

- One new individual heritage item: 3 Macarthur Parade, and
- One new group heritage item: 7-13 Macarthur Parade.

On 3 August 2023, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment issued a 'Gateway Determination' allowing the Planning Proposal to proceed to public exhibition. Council has also been authorised to make the plan following this consultation, with no further review required by the Department.

Page 1 of 4

Page 11 of 21



Your input is important

We are seeking your feedback to understand your level of support and your concerns.
Feedback closes 1 October 2023. This is an opportunity for you to share your input on the Planning Proposal.

Please see below information on:

- How to provide feedback
- What is a Heritage Item?
- What does it mean if I own a heritage listed property?
- Some information on what makes the Macarthur Parade properties historically significant
- An aerial view of the proposed heritage items
- What happens next?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel East
Acting Senior Manager – Strategic Planning

How to provide feedback

Here are the ways you can have your say:

- **Online** – visit Your Say Inner West at <https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/>
- **Mail** – write to us at:
Seth Dias
Inner West Council
PO Box 14
Petersham NSW 2049
- **Email** – seth.dias@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
- **Call us** – on 02 9392 5630 or 02 9392 5864.

What is a Heritage Item?

Heritage Items are places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts (both public and private) that are recognised to have one or more significant heritage values. They are important places or objects from the past which should be conserved so they can be accessed, appreciated, and enjoyed by future generations.

Heritage items can be individually listed, or group listed. When a series of items are group listed it is because their heritage significance is partially due to the collection of buildings. This is the case with the homes at 7-13 Macarthur Parade which are valuable due to their similar appearance and historical significance as part of the subdivided 'Sefton Hall'.



What does it mean if I own a heritage listed property?

Having a heritage listed property does not mean owners are prohibited from making changes to their property, but it will alter the level of scrutiny/assessment required for development. This means a Development Application (DA) will be needed for most interior and exterior works.

Significant demolitions and additions to a house will typically not be supported. Other proposed interior and exterior modifications will be assessed using the relevant provisions of the Inner West LEP 2022 and Development Control Plan.

For works of a minor nature, or for the maintenance of a property, owners may be eligible for an exemption removing the need for formal consent.

As there is often more scrutiny of development on heritage listed sites, owners are encouraged to contact Council's development advisory services when considering changes or when carrying out works. Council offers a complimentary 'duty planner' enquiry line for owners to discuss planning requirements.

What makes these properties on Macarthur Parade significant?

The substantially intact group of Californian Bungalow style houses at Nos. 7-13 Macarthur Parade is of local heritage significance. The surviving residences are from a group of houses erected in the early 1920s fronting Macarthur Parade following the sale and subdivision of the retailer Henry Marcus Clark's substantial suburban residence at Dulwich Hill known as Sefton Hall. Constructed between 1919 and 1922 the surviving houses within the group are of aesthetic significance at a local level and are remarkably homogenous in terms of their architectural style, demonstrating the character of the larger scale Californian Bungalow style residences erected within the Inner West LGA during the interwar years. Although the houses appear to have been erected by different builders, the group demonstrates the degree to which the Californian Bungalow style of architecture had been adopted by speculative house builders in suburban Sydney following the introduction of the style from America just before World War 1.

The Dulwich Hill Baptist Church is of local heritage significance as a substantial Gothic Revival style suburban church built in 1925 to replace an earlier timber school and church in Macarthur Parade. The Dulwich Hill Baptist Church has served the local community for well over a century and has a distinctive presence in the streetscape. A well-designed example of an interwar Gothic Revival style church, the last of the series of Baptist churches erected in the Inner West, including Newtown, Marrickville, [Petersham](#) and Stanmore. A fine example of the work of the Sydney architect Walter Leslie. The construction and dedication of the church represents the work of a series of prominent reverends including Samuel Harrison, David [Morse](#) and W [Cleugh](#) Black who ministered to the Dulwich Hill Baptist congregation. The church has social significance to the current congregation. The choice of site is likely to have been influenced by the presence of the Roman Bath, part of the Sefton Hall complex erected by Marcus Clark. (Macarthur Parade Heritage Study, May 2023).

INNER WEST

Item 2

Aerial view of Planning Proposal land



What happens next?



Planning Proposal considered by Council – 20 June 2023

Council resolved to submit the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). This occurred at the 20 June 2023 Council meeting



Gateway Determination by DPE – 3 August 2023

DPE issued Gateway Determination allowing the proposal to proceed to formal public exhibition. Council received a Gateway Determination to proceed on 6 August 2023.



Public exhibition – We are here – closes 1 October 2023

We will exhibit the Planning Proposal – at this time the proposal becomes a statutory consideration during any development assessment



Post-exhibition review of submissions

All submissions received will be reviewed and a post-exhibition report will be prepared



Final decision by council

Council will consider all submissions and decide if the proposed heritage listings will be adopted

Attachment 3



Letter to adjoining site owners:

4 September 2023

<< Property Owner >>

<< Address Line 1 >>

<< Address Line 2 >>

|

Dear Landowner,

Have your say: Proposed heritage listings on Macarthur Parade

We are writing to seek your feedback on a Planning Proposal to list properties on Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill as items of local heritage significance under the *Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022* (Inner West LEP 2022).

The Inner West has a rich cultural heritage of historical places including buildings, streetscapes, Aboriginal sites, trees, parks, and archaeology. These heritage features contribute to the Inner West's distinctive character.

Heritage listing aims to provide ongoing protection and recognition of the heritage significance of these sites.

What has happened so far?

We engaged heritage specialists to carry out an independent review of residential heritage across the Inner West and provide recommendations on potential changes to heritage items and conservation areas.

The heritage specialists concluded that 7, 9, 11 and 13 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill should be considered for listed in the Inner West LEP 2022 as a group heritage item, and that Dulwich Hill Baptist Church, 3 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill, be listed as an individual heritage item.

At its meeting of 20 June 2023, Council resolved to proceed with a Planning Proposal to amend Schedule 5, and the associated Heritage Map, of Inner West LEP 2022 by introducing:

- One new individual heritage item: 3 Macarthur Parade, and
- One new group heritage item: 7-13 Macarthur Parade.

On 3 August 2023, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment issued a 'Gateway Determination' allowing the Planning Proposal to proceed to public exhibition. Council has also been authorised to make the plan following this consultation, with no further review required by the Department.



Your input is important

We are seeking your feedback to understand your level of support and your concerns.
Feedback closes 1 October 2023. This is an opportunity for you to share your input on the Planning Proposal.

Please see below information on:

- How to provide feedback
- What is a Heritage Item?
- An aerial view of the proposed heritage items
- What happens next?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel East
Acting Senior Manager – Strategic Planning

How to provide feedback

Here are the ways you can have your say:

- **Online** – visit Your Say Inner West at <https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/>
- **Mail** – write to us at:
Seth Dias
Inner West Council
PO Box 14
Petersham NSW 2049
- **Email** – seth.dias@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
- **Call us** – on 02 9392 5630 or 02 9392 5864.

What is a Heritage Item?

Heritage Items are places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts (both public and private) that are recognised to have one or more significant heritage values. They are important places or objects from the past which should be conserved so they can be accessed, appreciated, and enjoyed by future generations.

Heritage items can be individually listed, or group listed. When a series of items are group listed it is because their heritage significance is partially due to the collection of buildings. This is the case with the homes at 7-13 Macarthur Parade which are valuable due to their similar appearance and historical significance as part of the subdivided 'Sefton Hall'.

INNER WEST

Item 2

Aerial view of Planning Proposal land



What happens next?

- ⬇

Planning Proposal considered by Council – 20 June 2023
Council resolved to submit the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). This occurred at the 20 June 2023 Council meeting
- ⬇

Gateway Determination by DPE – 3 August 2023
DPE issued Gateway Determination allowing the proposal to proceed to formal public exhibition. Council received a Gateway Determination to proceed on 6 August 2023.
- ⬇

Public exhibition – We are here – closes 1 October 2023
We will exhibit the Planning Proposal – at this time the proposal becomes a statutory consideration during any development assessment
- ⬇

Post-exhibition review of submissions
All submissions received will be reviewed and a post-exhibition report will be prepared
- ⬇

Final decision by council
Council will consider all submissions and decide if the proposed heritage listings will be adopted

Attachment 3

INNER WEST

Appendix 2 – Inner West Your Say Page

Item 2



Macarthur Parade Heritage Listings Planning Proposal

Celebrating the unique heritage of Dulwich Hill.

[Home](#) / [Macarthur Parade Heritage Listings Planning Proposal](#)

Proposed new heritage listings

Inner West Council seeks your feedback on the proposed heritage listing of properties on Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill.

At its meeting of 20 June 2023, Council resolved to proceed with a Planning Proposal to list five properties on Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill as local heritage items in the *Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022* (Inner West LEP 2022). This includes:

- One individual heritage item: 3 Macarthur Parade, and
- One group heritage item: 7-13 Macarthur Parade.

On 3 August 2023, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment issued a 'Gateway Determination' allowing the Planning Proposal to proceed to public exhibition. Council has also been authorised to make the plan following this consultation, with no further review required by the Department.

Heritage listing aims to provide ongoing protection and recognition of the heritage significance of these sites.

Background

The Inner West has a rich cultural heritage of historical places including buildings, streetscapes, Aboriginal sites, trees, parks, and archaeology. These heritage features contribute to the Inner West's distinctive character.

We engaged heritage specialists to carry out an independent review of residential heritage across the Inner West and provide recommendations on potential changes to heritage items and areas.

The heritage experts concluded that 7, 9, 11 and 13 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill should be considered for listing in the Inner West LEP 2022 as a group heritage item, and that Dulwich Hill Baptist Church, 3 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill be listed as an individual heritage item.

The Planning Proposal is part of the broader Inner West Heritage Program, which is exploring different heritage themes across the Inner West.

Translations



[About Translating and Interpreting Service](#)

Community feedback dates

Monday 4 September – Sunday 1 October 2023

Download to your device

Planning documents

[Macarthur Parade Heritage Listings Planning Proposal](#)

Attachment 3



- Planning documents and other information

Below are links to the Macarthur Parade Heritage Listings Planning Proposal and attachments, including the Macarthur Parade Heritage Study including Inventory Sheets (May 2023), the June 20 Council report, and the Gateway Determination and letter to Council.

- Planning Proposal
- Attachment 1. Extract of GML's Heritage Study (February 2022)
- Attachment 2. Macarthur Parade Heritage Study (May 2023)
- Attachment 3. IHO Gazette Notice - 7, 9, 11, 13 Macarthur Parade (19 May 2022)
- Attachment 4. Council Resolutions and Inner West Local Planning Panel Minute
- Attachment 5. Consistency with State Environmental Planning Policies and Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions (Local Planning Directions)
- Attachment 6. Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 existing and proposed Heritage Map (Sheet HER_005).
- Council Report + Resolution - 20 June 2023
- Gateway Determination
- Gateway Letter to Council



Planning Proposal
PDF (614.02 KB)



Extract of GML's Heritage Study -
Attachment 1
PDF (491.74 KB)



Macarthur Parade Heritage Study -
Attachment 2
PDF (3.10 MB)

[See more](#)

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about this project, contact us below:

Name Seth Dias
Phone 02 9392 5630
Email seth.dias@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Name Jennifer Gavin
Phone 02 9392 5864
Email jennifer.gavin@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

- About the Planning Proposal

The purpose of this Planning Proposal is to explain the intended effect of an amendment to the Inner West LEP 2022. An LEP is a legal instrument that zones land and includes standards and controls to regulate the use and nature of development and the management of land. An LEP can also address matters of heritage conservation.

The amendment to the Inner West LEP 2022 involves the listing of five properties as two local heritage items in Schedule 5 of the Inner West LEP 2022 and the associated Heritage Map. The properties of the local heritage items are listed below:

- 3 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill (Lot 6 DP 7767) - Individual Listing
- 7 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill (Lot 4 DP 7767) - Group Listing
- 9 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill (Lot 3 DP 7767) - Group Listing
- 11 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill (Lot 2 DP 7767) - Group Listing
- 13 Macarthur Parade Dulwich Hill (Lot 1 DP 526818) - Group Listing

A detailed description of the heritage significance of each item is included in the Planning Proposal and the supporting Macarthur Parade Heritage Study and heritage inventory sheets.

Council has been authorised to use its delegation under section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to approve the amendment to the LEP. The Department of Planning and Environment has categorised this Planning Proposal as 'basic' as described in the *Local Environmental Plan Making Guidelines* (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023).

- What is a Heritage Item and what does it mean if I own a heritage listed property?

Heritage items are places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts (both public and private) that are recognised to have one or more significant heritage values. They are important places or objects from the past which should be conserved so they can be accessed, appreciated and enjoyed by future generations.

Heritage items can be individually listed, or group listed. When a series of items are group listed it is because their heritage significance is partially due to the collection of buildings. This is the case with the homes at 7-13 Macarthur Parade which are valuable due to their similar appearance and historical significance as part of the 'Sefton Estate'.

INNER WEST

Item 2

Having a heritage listed property does not mean you are prohibited from making changes to your property, but it will alter the level of scrutiny/assessment required for development. This means you will need to submit a Development Application (DA) for the majority of interior and exterior works you may wish to do.

Significant demolitions and additions to a house will typically not be supported. Other proposed interior and exterior modifications will be assessed using the relevant provisions of the Inner West LEP 2022 and Development Control Plan.

Find out more about works of a minor nature, or for the maintenance of your property, you may be eligible for an exemption and not need to obtain formal consent.

As there is often more scrutiny on development on heritage listed sites, owners are encouraged to contact Council's development advisory services when preparing to carry out works. Council offers a complimentary 'duty planner' enquiry line for you to have a conversation with a planning officer to discuss planning requirements.

If you are currently considering changes on your property or have any development questions please contact our Duty Planner on 02 9392 5000 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Project stages



Planning Proposal considered by Council – 20 June 2023

At its meeting on 20 June 2023 Council resolved to submit the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).



Gateway Determination by DPE – 3 August 2023

DPE issued Gateway Determination allowing the proposal to proceed to formal public exhibition. Council received a Gateway Determination to proceed on 6 August 2023.



Public exhibition

We will exhibit the Planning Proposal – at this time the proposal becomes a statutory consideration during any development assessment.



Post-exhibition review of submissions – We are here

This consultation will close on 1 October 2023. All submissions received will be reviewed and a post-exhibition report will be prepared. All those who provided feedback will be notified when the report is considered by Council.



Final decision by council

Council will consider all submissions and decide if the proposed heritage listings will be adopted. All those who provided feedback will be notified of Council's decision.

[See less](#)


Attachment 3



How to have your say?


Please let us know your feedback by making a submission below.

To provide feedback please create a Your Say account, or login to an existing account.



Join the conversation today
Create an account or log in to share your thoughts and ideas.

[Join](#)
[Log In](#)



Closed

Submissions closed

Other ways to provide feedback

- Mail – write to us:
 - Macarthur Parade Heritage
 - Inner West Council
 - PO Box 14
 - Petersham NSW 2029
- Email – seth.dias@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
- Call us – on 02 9392 5630 or 02 9392 5864
- Call a FREE Interpreter or the National Relay Service, Monday to Friday between 9am-4pm and provide our phone number 02 9392 5630.
 - Free Interpreter call TIS National on 131 450
 - Voice relay call 1300 555 727
 - TTY call 133 677
 - SMS relay call 0423 677 767

Last day to provide feedback is Sunday 1 October 2023.



Mackey Park Plan of Management & Master Plan Public Exhibition

Engagement Outcomes Report

August – October 2023



Contents

Summary	3
Project background	4
Promotion and engagement methods.....	5
Who did we hear from?	6
Summary of feedback.....	7
Next steps.....	16



Summary

From 29 August to 10 October 2023, the draft Mackey Park Plan of Management (PoM) and Master Plan were placed on public exhibition and the community was invited to provide feedback.

During the public exhibition period, there were 1,695 visitors to the Your Say Inner West (YSIW) page and 18 contributions to the online survey. There were 11 representatives who attended the stakeholders meeting from six sports/recreation clubs at Mackey Park.

61% of the 18 contributions to the online survey supported the draft documents.

Key comments received online included supporting improvements to site drainage, lighting, park furniture, and upgrade/renovation to the Concordia Club building.

Two submissions were received in June 2023 prior to the public exhibition after the Council endorsed the draft documents. One was from Cooks River Croquet Club and the other was from a resident. The submissions are included in this report.

Two late submissions were received via email after the public exhibition period is closed and they are from the NSW River Canoe Club and the Concordia Club.



Project background

In September 2022, Council undertook community engagement for the preparation of a new Plan of Management and Master Plan for Mackey Park.

Based on the results, the draft Park Plan of Management and Master Plan for Mackey Park were prepared and presented to Council in the Council meeting on 9 May 2023.

In the meeting, Council endorsed the draft Park Plan of Management and Master Plan for public exhibition for 42 days as required under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Following the Council endorsement, the draft Park Plan of Management and Master Plan were submitted to NSW Crown Lands for review and approval for public exhibition as Mackey Park is on majority Crown land. Crown Lands approved the documents for public exhibition on 9 August 2023.

The public exhibition provided the community with the opportunity to view the draft documents and to provide feedback on them.



Promotion and engagement methods

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,695 visitors to the YSIW page - Page was visited 1,995 times - Documents were downloaded 286 times
Emails to key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18 registered individuals on the YSIW page - 3 individuals previously contacted Council regarding Mackey Park - 6 sports and recreation clubs
Council's social media	<p>Facebook posts x 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7,006 people reached - 395 engagement* <p>Instagram posts x 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3,809 people reached - 75 engagement* <p>* The number of times people engaged with the posts through reactions, comments, shares, views, and clicks</p>
Posters	4 posters installed at the park

Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	18 visitors registered with 17 surveys completed
Stakeholder meeting	11 attendees from 6 sports and recreation clubs
Direct contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 correspondences from individuals - 6 correspondences from organisations/ clubs



Who did we hear from?

Council gathers basic demographic information as part of the participant registration process online at Your Say Inner West. We use this information to understand who has responded and whether we need to engage further on the proposal.

Gender

- 47% of respondents were female,
- 47% were male, 3% were non-binary
- 3% preferred not to say

Age

- 65% of respondents were aged between 30 and 49
- 18% were aged between 50 and 69
- 17% participants were aged 70-89

Location

- 47% of respondents were from Marrickville
- 29% respondents were from Tempe

Other participants were from suburbs including Ashfield, Earlwood, Grays Point, Hurlstone Park, and Penshurst.

Connection to Mackey Park

The online survey asked participants to best describe their connection to the park. The two top responses were:

- 71% were residents and
- 29% were people who work nearby

Others include a business owner and other connections that were not identified.



Summary of feedback

Online survey

We asked	You said
Do you support the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan?	61% said yes 17% said no 22% said unsure
18 responses	

Out of 18 respondents, 16 provided detailed comments.

Staff reviewed and themed the comments submitted in the open-ended response sections. Responses to the comments have been provided where appropriate.

The verbatim comments can be found in the Appendix.

You said	Numbers of comments	Council response
Preserve Concordia Club building instead of replacement with new building	7	<p>Council has proposed a consolidated model of redeveloping the existing Club building as a shared community and commercial space (Restaurant) which would be shared by tenants in Mackey Park. This would however be subject to agreement by the Concordia club and through the development of a Memoranda of Understanding and a legal agreement between all parties. Significantly any redevelopment would also require the appointment of a design consortium of respective stakeholders to ensure that the functionality of any new building design spaces is respective of the Concordia Club needs.</p> <p>A multi-purpose space is more efficient use of the park would benefit the wider community as well as ensure that the Concordia Club remained viable into the future as a possible combined Concordia and community Sporting Club.</p>



Redevelopment of Concordia Club building and better utilise the land and service to a wider community	3	Noted. This is included in the draft and Park Plan of Management remains no change.
Upgrade amenities building instead of Concordia Club building for sufficient storage space for football club	1	Council remains the current proposal as it is believed a multi-purpose space is more efficient use of the land and will benefit the wider community.
Dog off leash area	2	Council remains the current proposal that Mackey Park is an on-leash area. Nearby dog off-leash areas within 1.5km include HJ Mahoney Reserve, Tempe Reserve, and McNeilly Park.
Dog on leash in the park	1	Noted. This is included in the draft and Park Plan of Management remains no change.
Improve stormwater management	2	Noted. This is included in the draft and Park Plan of Management remains no change.
Improve lighting along paths	2	Noted. This is included in the draft and Park Plan of Management remains no change.
Provide more bins	2	Noted. This is included in the draft and Park Plan of Management remains no change.
Other improvements including turf renewal for sportsfields, access, a swim site, managing cyclists riding on footpath on the north, interpretation signage of history of site, preservation of fig tree at playground, policies for other uses in the park such as drones, electric toy cars etc	1	<p>A full sportsfield upgrade for Mackey Park is programmed to take place in 2024.</p> <p>Council will undertake further investigation prior to installing additional signage (interpretation, traffic).</p> <p>Fig tree at the playground site is to be retained.</p> <p>A swim site is not proposed as the community engagement results from both initial engagement and public exhibition did not conclude much</p>

INNER WEST

		<p>aspiration from the community for a swim site at Mackey Park.</p> <p>Council will monitor the users' feedback on other uses in the park prior to preparing additional policies.</p>
--	--	--



Emails

Three emails were received from individuals, and key messages are summarised as follows:

You said	Council response
Request for synthetic fields	Synthetic sporting field provision is not proposed for Mackey Park due to insufficient budget for installation and ecological significance of Mackey Park in the Cooks River Corridor.
Request for fully fenced playground with gates	It is proposed in the Master Plan that the playground to be fully fenced with gates.
Not supportive of removing fencing for Concordia Club along Cooks River side	Council remains the current proposal to create a more integrated space of the building area and the Cooks River foreshore with better connection and accessibility. More sympathetic styles of barriers including landscape features will be implemented to improve safety of this shared zone.



Stakeholder Submissions

Six submissions were received from organisations and clubs at Mackey Park, and key messages are summarised as follows:

You said	Council response
CHOICE bushcare Protect and retain existing bushcare site adjacent to the wetland	Park Plan of Management will be updated to clearly annotate the CHOICE bushcare site is to be retained and protected.
Marrickville Cricket Club Supportive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre cricket wicket Sportsfield drainage upgrade New cricket nets A consolidated sports club and storage space Upgrade the toilets Would be good to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 full size cricket nets Lighting to allow cricket net use after dark One office for cricket club exclusive use in the consolidated sports building 	<p>Cricket is traditionally a summer sport. Training is usually during daylight savings.</p> <p>Council have investigated the four full sized cricket nets option. However, this cannot be accommodated due to site space constraints.</p> <p>Council has proposed a consolidated model of redeveloping the existing Club building as a shared community and commercial space (Restaurant) which would be shared by tenants in Mackey Park. This would however be subject to agreement by the Concordia club and through the development of an MOU and a legal agreement between all parties.</p> <p>Significantly any redevelopment would also require the appointment of a design consortium of respective stakeholders to ensure that the functionality of any new building design spaces are respective of the Concordia Club needs.</p> <p>A multi-purpose space is more efficient use of the park would benefit the wider community as well as ensure that the Concordia Club remained</p>



	viable into the future as a possible combined Concordia and community Sporting Club.
Concordia Club Issues to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Concordia Club is a licensed venue and accordingly has to have control over the access to licensed areas and liquor service and storage rooms. - The Concordia Club is a Registered Club so that all entrants to the premises when the Club is open have either to be members or signed in as temporary members. - The commercial kitchen has to be secured to meet hygiene regulations and the controlled storage of foodstuffs. - The bistro area is very frequently at capacity requiring access to the verandahs both for seating and child supervision – this requires a ground floor setting. - Feasibility of reduced footprint of Concordia Club building - Operation of Concordia Club's liquor licensed area - Proposed plaza area blocks access to building delivery and maintenance services - Supportive of amenities block to the west of the building but not the sports club storage spaces - Leasee/ licensee of the building - Club operation during construction of the building 	<p>Council has proposed a consolidated model of redeveloping the existing Club building as a shared community and commercial space (Restaurant) which would be shared by tenants in Mackey Park. This would however be subject to agreement by the Concordia club and through the development of an MOU and a legal agreement between all parties. Significantly any redevelopment would also require the appointment of a design consortium of respective stakeholders to ensure that the functionality of any new building design spaces is respective of the Concordia Club needs.</p> <p>A multi-purpose space is more efficient use of the park would benefit the wider community as well as ensure that the Concordia Club remained viable into the future as a possible combined Concordia and Community Sporting Club.</p>
River Canoe Club of NSW Recommended for consideration:	Parks Planning is working with the Transport team to review the street

INNER WEST

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated review and framework of transports to the PoM with involvement from Council's transport planning team - Coordination between the river foreshore accessible canoe launching facility project and the overall planning of Mackey Park - Feasibility of the indicative vehicle access to clubhouse on Master Plan - Urban water management to improve water quality of Cooks River 	<p>parking around the Mackey Park boundaries.</p> <p>The master plan will be updated incorporating the proposed design of the canoe launching facility and service vehicle access to the clubhouse.</p> <p>Upgrade of wetland is proposed in the Master Plan to improve stormwater quality discharging to Cooks River.</p>
--	--



Stakeholder meeting

A stakeholder meeting with the existing clubs at Mackey Park was held on 23 June 2023 with 11 representatives attending. Participants were presented with the draft Master Plan and Plan of Management and had discussions with Council representatives about their clubs' needs and opportunities.

Key comments are summarised as follows:

Comments	Council response
<p>All clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> asked about Master Plan implementation + budget allocation + timeframe size and capacity of the new building shortage of parking – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> suggestions include timed street parking along park perimeters, improve efficiency of existing Concordia Club parking lighting at car park more disability parking lots request good accessibility to the building request clubs to be on ground floor request lighting at cricket nets support public toilets at new building on ground floor consider truck access for goods delivery to new building – prefer coming from east side of building where the car park is additional bubbler and water refill station 	<p>Mackey Park PoM and Master Plan is aimed to be adopted by Council beginning of 2024 if not by end of 2023. The Master Plan works will be programmed into the Capital Works programme and budgeted for implementation in the next 10 years.</p> <p>Works including full sports field surface and drainage upgrade, and the accessible canoe launching facility are scheduled to take place in 2024.</p> <p>Parking issue is acknowledged, and Council Traffic team will need to investigate further prior to action.</p> <p>Pedestrian plaza around the building is proposed to be accessible.</p> <p>Arrangement of building internal spaces and functions are to be further developed in the design process of the building. Requests regarding space allocation are acknowledged here.</p> <p>Park Plan of Management will be updated to have compliant lighting for the croquet lawns.</p> <p>Services access is proposed via shared pedestrian zones around the building. Park Plan of Management remains no change.</p>



	Park Plan of Management will be updated with additional water fountain in the shared zone.
Concordia Club – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stated the Club has 300 people capacity and request the same capacity in the new amenities building Lease (with Crown Lands) ending 2028. German speaking community is larger than 2,000 people instead of 1,400 stated in presented draft documents. Historical elements the club wants to preserve in the building must be reused. 	<p>Noted status of the Club.</p> <p>Park Plan of Management will be updated with the correct figure of the German community.</p>
Cooks River Croquet Club – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> questioned how IWC is to address that the new amenities building proposed on the Concordia Club land which has a direct lease with Crown and is outside of IWC's control. Suggested leasing the new building spaces to generate income for building maintenance. 	<p>Council is the appointed Crown Land Manager of Mackey Park including the Concordia Club site. Subject to any future agreement Council would facilitate and collaborate closely with all parties regarding any future redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>Suggestion about income is subject to any future agreements which may be implemented.</p>
Cooks River Croquet Club + Croquet NSW + Concordia Club – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croquet lawns to be flood lit for longer use hours 	Park Plan of Management is to be updated with compliant lighting for the croquet lawns.
Marrickville Football Club – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage and be both indoor and outdoor in new building happy with storage/ office stays at current building at corner of Richardson's Cr and Carrington Rd there is currently dog training group on Wed nights before their games on the sports field 	<p>Noted Club's feedback on storage space.</p> <p>Dog use issue is acknowledged, and Council will investigate and monitor reports on this matter.</p>



Next steps

The draft Plan of Management and Master Plan will be finalised with the following amendments:

- Incorporate concept design of accessible canoe/ kayak launching facility
- Add an additional item on the Master Plan for the protection and preservation of the CHOICE bushcare site.
- Add lighting for croquet lawns.
- Additional bubbler and water refill station in pedestrian zone next to building.
- Add a children's play space between the east façade of the Concordia Club building and croquet lawn.
- Add pedestrian lighting for the car park and to the Concordia Club building.
- Amend Concordia Club member number to "2,000" on page 17 in Appendix B.
- Amend text "The croquet lawns are used by two clubs ..." to "The croquet lawns are used by Cooks River Croquet Club..." on page 13 in Appendix A.

The final draft Mackey Park Plan of Management and Master Plan is scheduled to go to Council to consider for adoption at its meeting in November 2023, pending meeting agenda confirmation.

Everyone who participated in the engagement will be notified of the meeting details and informed about how they can attend or apply to speak if they wish.



Elkington Park and Fitzroy Avenue Reserve Plan of Management & Master Plan Public Exhibition Engagement Outcomes Report June – July 2023

Contents

Summary.....	2
Project background.....	3
Promotion and engagement methods.....	4
Who did we hear from?	5
Summary of feedback.....	6
Next steps.....	10



Summary

From 8 June to 24 July 2023, the community was invited to provide feedback on the draft Elkington Park and Fitzroy Ave Reserve Plan of Management (PoM) and Master Plan.

During the engagement period, 523 people visited the Your Say Inner West (YSIW) page, 13 participants completed the online survey and 29 people attended an in-person engagement session.

54% of respondents of the online survey supported the draft documents.

Key comments received online included supporting improving accessibility, supporting repurposing caretaker's cottage for community use, and not supporting planting hedges along car park at Fitzroy Ave Reserve.

Key comments during the in-person engagement session included additional park furniture and facilities, such as seating and bubblers and maintaining an open view of the park.



Project background

In August 2022, Council undertook community engagement for the preparation of a new Plan of Management and Master Plan for Elkington Park and Fitzroy Ave Reserve.

Based on the results, the draft PoM and Master Plan for Elkington Park and Fitzroy Ave Reserve were prepared and presented to Council in the Council meeting on 9 May 2023.

In the meeting, Council endorsed the draft PoM and Master Plan for public exhibition for 42 days as required under the Local Government Act 1993.

The public exhibition allows the community to view the draft documents and to provide feedback on the proposal.



Promotion and engagement methods

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 523 people visited the YSIW page - Page was visited 778 times - Documents were downloaded 130 times
Emails to key stakeholders	422 registered members on the Your Say Inner West platform
Council's social media	<p>Facebook posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6,191 people reached - 31 likes - 7 shares <p>Instagram posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3,347 people reached - 66 likes - 5 shares
Posters	4 posters installed at the park
Letter	500 copies distributed to nearby residences

Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	13 surveys completed
In-person engagement session	29 attendees
Direct contact from residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 emails from individuals - 1 phone call from an individual - 2 letters from individuals



Who did we hear from?

Council gathers basic demographic information as part of the participant registration process online at Your Say Inner West. We use this information to understand who has responded and whether we need to engage further on the proposal.

Gender

46% of respondents were female, 39% were male and 7% preferred not to say or identified with a different term.

Age

62% of respondents were aged between 40 and 59 years old and 30% were aged between 50 and 69. Other participants were aged 70–79 years old. No one under the age of 40 took part in the online survey.

Location

Majority of respondents lived in Balmain (61%). Other suburbs included Marrickville, Rozelle and Croydon.

Connection to Elkington Park and Fitzroy Reserve

The online survey asked participants to best describe their connection to the park. 85% were residents and 15% were visitors.



Summary of feedback

Online survey

We asked	You said
Do you support the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan?	54% said yes 38% said no 8% said unsure
13 responses	

Out of 13 respondents, 100% provided additional comments.

Staff reviewed and themed the comments submitted in the open-ended response sections. Responses to the comments have been provided where appropriate.

The verbatim comments can be found in the Appendix.

You said	Numbers of comments	Council response
Support to improve accessibility	Five	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Support repurposing caretaker's cottage for community use	Four	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Upgrade toilet block	Four	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
No planting hedge along car park at Fitzroy Ave Reserve, concerning about safety issue	Three	Council has amended the draft Master Plan specifying plants are to be at less than 1m mature height to provide clear sightline for passive surveillance.
No need for additional picnic facilities at Fitzroy Ave Reserve and grass area retained for sunbathing, ball games, or picnic	Three	Council has amended the draft Master Plan to propose no additional picnic facilities at Fitzroy Ave Reserve.
Upgrade playground	Three	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Support additional native planting	Three	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.



Emails

Three emails were received, and key messages are summarised as follows:

You said	Council response
Keep open lawn at Fitzroy Ave Reserve and not additional picnic facilities needed	Council has amended the draft Master Plan to propose no additional picnic facilities at Fitzroy Ave Reserve.
Support repurposing the caretaker's cottage to a café	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Objection to proposed works in Master Plan	Noted.
Support for new access from White Street	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Removal of weeds	Noted. This will be referred to Streetscapes team for further investigation.



Letters

Two individual letters were received from nearby residents, and key messages are summarised as follows:

You said	Council response
Concerns about additional lighting and picnic facilities would encourage inappropriate and noisy night-time use of the park.	Noted.
No planting hedge along car park at Fitzroy Ave Reserve. Higher maintenance of rose garden at rotunda.	Council has amended the draft Master Plan specifying plants are to be at less than 1m mature height to provide clear sightline for passive surveillance.



Onsite engagement session

An onsite engagement activity was held at Elkington Park on 24 June 2023 with 29 people attending. Participants used stickers to highlight which key features of the PoM that they supported and did not support. Participants could also add optional comments to share their views.

Key feature of PoM	Support totals	Do not support totals
Item 1 – Upgrade rotunda	4	2
Item 3 – Low native planting along Glassop Street		5
Item 4 – Upgrade caretaker's cottage	3	1
Item 5 – Improve amenities block	4	
Item 6 – New consolidated playground	6	
Item 7 – Upgrade stairs to Dawn Fraser Baths	4	
Item 8 – New bollard lighting	5	
Item 9 – New park entry from White Street	2	
Item 11 – Maintain "shaded gully" and weed control	1	
Item 12 – Maintain/ upgrade furniture	3	
Item 13 – Upgrade picnic area at Fitzroy Ave Reserve		1
Item 15 – Maintain asphalt road to car park	4	
Item 16 – Improve surface of accessible path	2	
Item 18 – New picnic sheltered area at Fitzroy Ave Reserve	2	
Item 19 – New pathway connecting upper and lower paths in Fitzroy Ave Reserve	2	
Item 20 – Understorey planting along Fitzroy Ave car park	1	9

Staff reviewed and themed the comments. Responses to the comments have been provided where appropriate.

The verbatim comments can be found in the Appendix.

You said	Council response
Improve maintenance of vegetation for ecology value and safety	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Maintain open/ harbour views in the park	Noted.
Additional seating, picnic tables, and bubbler	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.
Concern about lack of parking space	Noted. This will be referred to Traffic team for further investigation.
Better play equipment	Noted. This is included in the draft PoM.



Next steps

The draft Plan of Management and Master Plan will be finalised with the following amendments:

- Remove item 18: additional picnic shelters at Fitzroy Avenue Reserve and the proposed new path to the shelters
- Add an additional note in the Master Plan under item 20. Understorey planting along Fitzroy Ave will be species no taller than 1m at mature, low maintenance, and provide gaps/ access from car park to picnic area.
- Add the history of John Booth and the memorial trees in the PoM

The final draft Elkington Park and Fitzroy Ave Reserve Plan of Management and Master Plan is scheduled to go to Council to consider for adoption at its meeting in October 2023.

Everyone who participated in the engagement will be notified of the meeting details and informed about how they can attend or apply to speak if they wish.



Peace Reserve Concept Plan

Engagement Outcomes Report

August – October 2023

Item 6

Attachment 1



Contents

Summary.....	3
Project background.....	4
Promotion and engagement methods.....	5
Who did we hear from?	6
Summary of feedback	7
Next steps	9



Summary

From 29 August to 13 October 2023, the local community was invited to provide feedback on the proposed concept designs for revitalising Peace Reserve in Newtown.

During the engagement period 528 visits to the Your Say project page.

There were 33 total downloads of the documents with 29 downloads of the Master Plans Summary and 4 downloads of the Mayoral notification.

Eleven participants completed the online survey, and 24 people attended a drop-in information session.

Key suggestions for amendments include more seating, keeping natural shade and not reducing canopy, lighting for use during dark hours, and alternative furniture to table tennis.



Project background

Council's Main Streets Program aims to improve the vibrancy and safety of public spaces and local streets. Improving the character of public spaces and local streets make them more inviting for the community as well as reducing crime and improving safety.

Re-imagining the use of public spaces and regenerating them can enhance the lives of the community and assist economic growth by providing settings to attract visitation and local spend and creating places to go to, not move through. Peace Reserve is part of the Main Streets Program and Council has developed a concept plan for the reserve.

The community engagement was to seek feedback on the proposed short-term and long-term concept plans for Peace Reserve.



Promotion and engagement methods

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	594 people viewed the project page 33 downloads of the draft document
Emails to key stakeholders	452 registered members on the Your Say Inner West platform
Letters/Flyers/Postcards	2314
Posters	3 corflutes

Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	11 surveys completed
Direct contact from residents	1 email from individuals



Who did we hear from?

The following list shows the **age range** of contributors

- 45% of respondents were in their 30s
- 18% were in their 60s
- 9% were in their 20s
- 9% were in their 50s

The following list shows the gender breakdown of contributors

- 63% of respondents did not identify their genders
- 45% were stated as male
- 18% were stated as female

The following list shows the breakdown of where respondents live

- 54% Newtown.
- 9% Enmore
- 9% Summer Hill
- 9% Dulwich Hill
- 9% Marrickville



Summary of feedback

Your Say Inner West project page

You said	Council response
More seating	
No reduction of tree canopy/ provide enough natural shade while not overshadowing	
Support furniture upgrade	
Incorporate wayfinding and current use pattern into landscape design	
Public toilet and bins	
Safer crossing from King St and Alice St	
Support kerb blister	
Alternative facility to table tennis	
Colourful surfaces and furniture do not cater for cognitive impaired users	

Email

You said	Council response
Existing trees on western boundary overshadowing adjacent properties	
Existing pavers cause trip hazards	
Oppose kerb blister for loss of car parking space	
Concern about west boundary palisade fencing impacting adjacent properties	
Oppose table tennis setting	
Additional tables and seats might attract inappropriate night use	
Concern lighting impact on adjacent properties	



Onsite information sessions

An onsite information session was held at Peace Reserve on 16 September 2023. 24 community members attended the session.

Concept plans and similar examples/ precedents of proposed items were displayed for viewing on the engagement day. Community members were given stickers to express their support or disagreement with the proposed item.

A summary of items and votes counted for support or not-supportive are listed as follows.

Proposed Item	Yes	No
Refurbishment of garden space	14	0
New seating platform deck	16	0
Overlay of colourful curvilinear forms	0	7
Modular components (seating)	4	0
Modular components (with planter boxes)	4	0
Customised decking seating platform	4	0
Free standing furniture component	0	1
Table tennis with artwork	2	0
Building façade – wall mural	2	0
Building façade – green wall	5	0
Building façade – interactive/ dynamic artwork (element of play)	1	2
Building façade – interactive/ dynamic artwork (lighting)	0	2
Replace existing fence with palisade	0	1
Water refill station	1	0



Next steps

The master plan for Peace Reserve is now being updated in response to the community engagement outcomes. A formal report will be provided to the December 2023 Council meeting outlining the community engagement outcomes, a revised master plan, costings and a forward public domain work program to deliver a refurbished Peace Reserve as part of Council's ongoing commitment to the King Street and Public Domain upgrade program.

INNER WEST

Item 13



Engagement outcomes report –
Your vision for Balmain Town Hall
precinct

Attachment 1

Contents

Summary	3
Background	5
Engagement Methods	6
Promotion	6
Engagement outcomes	7
Part one – Online survey results via Your Say Inner West (82 responses)	7
Part two – Responses received online through the Ideas Wall tool on Your Say Inner West	29
Part three – Feedback received via in-person engagement sessions	31
Part four – Other responses from individuals	33
Appendix of verbatim responses	34
Attachment 1 – Individual submissions PDF	
Attachment 2 – State Library NSW Balmain Library Building Report PDF	

Summary

Council engaged the Balmain community for input into future planning for the Balmain Town Hall Precinct which includes the Library and takes in the Balmain PCYC to the new Balmain Square.

Community engagement was carried out online and face to face. Feedback opened on 4 July and closed 14 August 2022 and included an online survey and ideas wall at Your Say Inner West, a public meeting on 13 July and responses/submissions from other stakeholders/individuals.

The online survey was divided into two parts, participants had the option to complete questions about both the precinct and library or just one section.

Overall the online engagement had 1,079 visitors, 82 people completed surveys and there were 18 posts on the ideas wall.

The Balmain Town Hall public meeting was attended by 64 people.

Feedback has been reviewed, analysed and themed for inclusion in this report. All verbatim comments are contained in an Appendix at the end, with personal details redacted.

The overarching themes emerging from the feedback about the Balmain Town Hall Precinct and the Library are summarised below:

What people like:

- Architectural quality and heritage character
- Central location and gateway to the main shopping strip
- The various spaces within the library
- The access and use of the collection and technology in the library

What would attract people to stay longer?

- Activate the street
- Renewal of the buildings, their settings and the streetscape
- Running events and activities to attract visitors
- Creating a local hub with an arts and cultural focus where people can come together
- Providing increased and affordable spaces for work, study and meeting
- The addition of a café in one of the spaces

What should Council improve?

- Create a new master plan that makes proposals for the whole area
- Create a new focus on the library / town hall / court house
- Improve on the connectivity between the library and the courtyards and outdoor area between the Town Hall and the Courthouse building
- Create a unified street with all buildings activated and contributing to the street.
- Make the library bigger and open it up with outdoor courtyard spaces, particularly on the northern eastern side
- Consider new complementary community use of the depot site. Could be parking, community garden or other community or open space uses.
- Improve the Town Hall facilities including the kitchen, A/V, acoustics and furniture.

Based on the community feedback outlined above, Officers have concluded that to improve the area, Council should prioritise:

- Developing an overall masterplan for the area taking in Council buildings, depot, street and activating all buildings in the area.
- Focusing available resources on existing library / town hall
- Expand the offering of the library by integrating it with the courtyards and outdoor areas
- Consider the current uses within the Town Hall and Depot and whether this is the most optimal outcome for the community
- Consider ways to include exhibition space/ museum and/or arts precinct or community hub/centre
- Running events focused on activating the street and drawing people into the area

Background

At its meeting in April 22 Council resolved the following:

1. Note that there is \$1.4 million allocated to the upgrade of Balmain Town Hall in the 2022/23 Budget;
2. Commence community engagement on this upgrade and expand the scope of the consultation to include the revitalisation of the whole Balmain Town Hall precinct, from Balmain PCYC to the new Balmain Square;
3. Convene a public meeting at Balmain Town Hall to discuss the revitalisation of the precinct and invite the following participants: Council Meeting 12 April 2022 20 a) local artists and volunteers involved in recent activations of the precinct and maintenance of the glasshouse; b) the Member for Balmain; c) the Friends of Balmain Library; d) the Balmain Association; e) representatives of the NSW Government (owner of the Balmain Courthouse) as well as private land owners within the precinct; f) business owners within the precinct; and g) the Balmain / Rozelle Chamber of Commerce.
4. Receive a report on the cost estimates of a main street upgrade of the precinct including improvements to the footpaths, tree planting, public art and new street furniture and enhancement of heritage.

In addition to the above resolution it has been over 11 years since the library has been refurbished and only the 1st stage of the renovation was implemented.

The project was set out in the Delivery Program 18-22 and Operational Plan 2021/22 with budgets planned in the capital works project for 21/22 \$502,000 and 22/23 \$940,000. The Inner West Library also has grant funds that can contribute to new furnishings for the library.

Engagement Methods

The Engagement methods were:

- Online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au via survey and ideas wall tool
- Public meeting held at Balmain Town Hall
- Face to face meeting with Library staff and Friends of Balmain Library and State Library of NSW representatives
- Submissions by post/email

Promotion

The project was promoted through the following channels:

- Council Facebook post July 4 and July 15
- Promotion on Council's Website
- Press release 14 July 'Balmain Town Hall to be revitalised'
- Balmain Ward wide letterbox drop of DL postcard to 18781 households
- Direct email to invited stakeholder list as per Council resolution
- Posters in Balmain library
- Council's electronic newsletter to 19,000
- Library electronic newsletter to 78,000 library users
- Face to face engagement between library customers and library staff

Engagement outcomes

Part one – Online survey results via Your Say Inner West (82 responses)

We asked participants to provide their suburb where they lived.

Balmain/Balmain East/Balmain Peninsula	45
Rozelle	10
Birchgrove	8
Annandale	3
Lilyfield	5
Other/ Prefer not to say	8

We also asked them to select their age group:

18-24	6.10%	5
25-34	3.66%	3
35-44	6.10%	5
45-54	17.07%	14
55-64	20.73%	17
65-74	28.05%	23
75	13.41%	11
Prefer not to say	4.88%	4

Q 2. What do you love about the precinct and what's working well? (56 responses)

Note: In the open-ended questions respondents made multiple comments in their response. Staff have reviewed, analysed and themed the comments. The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Respect for heritage	58.93%	33
Architecture	21.43%	12
Library	19.64%	11
Community atmosphere	16.07%	9
Central location	12.5%	7
Meeting spaces	12.5%	7
Glasshouse	10.71%	6
Telstra Plaza	10.71%	6
Other	10.71%	6
Variety of services	8.93%	5
Civic focus	7.14%	4
Landscaping	5.36%	3
Outdoor seating	3.57%	2
PCYC	3.57%	2
Access to transport	3.57%	2

Q3. What would attract people to stay longer? (54 responses)

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Increase outdoor and library seating	33.33%	18
Cultural activities and displays	29.63%	16
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds (this group specifically identified the glasshouse)	25.93%	14
Modernise the library / improve library layout (includes meeting spaces, power, natural light, children's area)	25.93%	14
Improve utilisation of garden (this includes the library courtyards)	24.07%	13
Landscaping (this was a general response relating to landscaping / greening the entire area)	24.07%	13
Landscape between Courthouse and Town Hall (this group specified the connectivity between the buildings)	16.67%	9
Meeting Spaces	12.96%	7
Cafe in Library, Court House, Glasshouse	11.11%	6
Activate the Courthouse	11.11%	6
Maintenance of building	9.26%	5

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Outdoor play area	7.41%	4
Exhibition space	7.41%	4
Connectivity with the street	7.41%	4
Improve access	5.56%	3
Update shelter shed	5.56%	3
Increase open space	5.56%	3
Reduce/slow traffic	3.7%	2
Glasshouse activations	3.7%	2
Masterplan the area	3.7%	2
Range of spaces	3.7%	2
Signage	3.7%	2
Utilise the Occasional Care Centre	3.7%	2
Improve lighting	3.7%	2
Markets	3.7%	2
Community Atmosphere	3.7%	2
Programs and services	3.7%	2
Not sure	3.7%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: museum, diverse retail, redevelop the PCYC, longer opening hours, water cooler, more promotion, information displays, bicycle rack and public art.

Q4. What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct? (56 Responses)

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Improve library layout / modernise the library	16.07	9
Maintenance of building	39.29%	22
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	26.79%	15
Improve utilisation of courtyard	26.79%	15
Outdoor seating	19.64%	11
Activate the Courthouse	16.07%	9
Access	14.29%	8
Cultural activities and displays	14.29%	8
Landscaping (whole area)	14.29%	8
Improve Town Hall A/V	14.29%	8
Landscape between Courthouse and Town Hall	10.71%	6

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Improve Town Hall	10.71%	6
Connectivity with the street	8.93%	5
Meeting Spaces	8.93%	5
Exhibition space	7.14%	4
Cafe in Library, Court House or Glasshouse	7.14%	4
Community Atmosphere	7.14%	4
Acoustics (Town Hall)	7.14%	4
Glasshouse activations	7.14%	4
Improve toilets	7.14%	4
Relocate Depot	5.36%	3
Remove carparking near Town Hall	5.36%	3
Range of Spaces	5.36%	3
More public/street art	5.36%	3
Shaded Areas	3.57%	2
Community Garden	3.57%	2
Update shelter shed	3.57%	2
Masterplan the area	3.57%	2

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Increased communication about What's On	3.57%	2
Programs and services	3.57%	2
Other	3.57%	2
Town Hall Dome	3.57%	2
Improve footpaths	3.57%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: outdoor play area, signage, reinstate viewing dock, respect the heritage, redevelop the PCYC, access to local studies, markets, museum, bicycle rack, make booking easier, cinema, clock tower bell reactivated, not sure, allocate budget, remove toilets, places to study, reduce/slow traffic and improve meeting room.

Q5. What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct? (52 responses)

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Provide a range of spaces and places to meet, study etc	30.78%	18
Cultural activities and displays	32.69%	17
Exhibition space	19.23%	10

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Maintenance of building	17.31%	9
Landscaping	15.38%	8
Activate the Courthouse	15.38%	8
Relocate Depot	13.46%	7
Access	11.54%	6
Connectivity with the street	11.54%	6
Other	11.54%	6
Modernise the library / improve library layout	11.54%	6
Improve utilisation of garden	9.62%	5
Community atmosphere	9.62%	5
Respect for Heritage	9.62%	5
Improve Town Hall	7.69%	4
Cafe in Library, Court House or Glasshouse	7.69%	4
Landscape between Courthouse and Town Hall	7.69%	4
Reduce/slow traffic	7.69%	4
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	5.77%	3

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Improve Town Hall A/V	5.77%	3
Remove carparking near Town Hall	5.77%	3
Increase open space	5.77%	3
Community Garden	3.85%	2
Increase parking	3.85%	2
Museum	3.85%	2
Programs	3.85%	2
Town Hall Dome	3.85%	2
Expand Library into Town Hall	3.85%	2
Masterplan the area	3.85%	2
Cinema	3.85%	2
Markets	3.85%	2
Diverse retail	3.85%	2
Signage	3.85%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: activate glasshouse, reinstate viewing deck, utilise the Occasional Care Centre, improve meeting room, redevelop PCYC, improve access to transport, purchase the Courthouse, encourage cycling, more public art, recognise Aboriginal heritage.

Q6. Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?

(52 responses)

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Cultural activities and displays	28.85%	15
Provide a range of meeting/study spaces and places	28.85%	15
Activate the Courthouse	15.38%	8
Exhibition space	15.38%	8
Cafe in Library, Court House or Glasshouse	13.46%	7
Community Centre	11.54%	6
Improve utilisation of garden	9.62%	5
Improve Town Hall (including acoustics	9.62%	5
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	7.69%	4
Museum	7.69%	4
Landscaping	5.77%	3
Maintenance of building	5.77%	3
Reinstate Viewing Deck	3.85%	2
Improve Town Hall A/V	3.85%	2

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Don't know	3.85%	2
Other	3.85%	2
Community Atmosphere	3.85%	2
Markets	3.85%	2
Connectivity with the street	3.85%	2
Programs	3.85%	2
Expand Library into Town Hall	3.85%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: relocate depot, access to local studies, utilise the occasion care centre, increase open space, landscape between Courthouse and Town Hall, relocate archives, improve lighting, cinema, community garden, improve meeting room, further consultation and glasshouse activations.

Q7. What construction, activities or events should we focus on? (47 responses)

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Cultural activities and displays	34.04%	16
Exhibition space	12.77%	6
Maintenance of building	12.77%	6

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Landscaping	8.51%	4
Community Centre	8.51%	4
Respect for Heritage	8.51%	4
Other	8.51%	4
Modernise the library / improve library layout	8.51%	4
Programs	6.38%	3
Improve Town Hall including acoustics	6.38%	3
Reduce/slow traffic	4.26%	2
Improve Town Hall A/V	4.26%	2
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	4.26%	2
Affordable meeting rooms	4.26%	2
Improve lighting	4.26%	2
Markets	4.26%	2
Cafe in Library, Court House or Glasshouse	4.26%	2
Community Atmosphere	4.26%	2
Improve utilisation of garden	4.26%	2

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Provide a range of spaces and places to meet and study	4.26%	2
More public / street art	4.26%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: access, increased communication/promotion, cinema, recognise Aboriginal Heritage, relocate Depot, activate the Courthouse, access to local studies, outdoor seating and masterplan the area.

Q9. Do you visit Balmain Library? (65 responses)

Yes	61
No	4

Q10. How often do you visit Balmain Library? (59 responses)

Daily	6.78%	4
Weekly	35.59%	21
At least once a month	28.81%	17
At least every six months	28.81%	17

Q11 Top three reasons I visit Balmain Library are . (58 responses)

Multiple choice option	Number of people who chose this option as one of their top three reasons
Borrow or return an item	46
Pick up a reservation	25
Use a study space	20
Read the newspaper	16
Use the internet	13
Other	13
Attend an adult's program	9
Use a computer or printing service	9
Use a meeting room	9
Access Local History services	8
Attend a children's program	6
Attend a youth program	0

Q12. What do you like about Balmain Library? (58 responses)

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Friendly staff and customer service	31.03%	18
Collection	24.14%	14
Quiet areas	24.14%	14
Range of spaces and places to study	22.41%	13
Community atmosphere	18.97%	11
Central location	13.79%	8
Heritage	10.34%	6
Borrowing and returning	10.34%	6
High quality internet	5.17%	3
Reserving	5.17%	3
Reading newspapers	5.17%	3
Access	5.17%	3
Public computers	5.17%	3
It's perfect how it is	5.17%	3
Comfortable	3.45%	2
Programs	3.45%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: intimate, sensory wall, peaceful, good opening hours, small, bicycle rack, natural light and cultural activities and displays.

Q 13. Rate the following library services (58 responses)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure
Customer service	37.93% 22	50.00% 29	8.62% 5	1.72% 1	1.72% 1
Library collections	21.43% 12	44.64% 25	30.36% 17	0% 0	3.57% 2
Library online resources	21.05% 12	38.60% 22	7.02% 4	5.26% 3	28.07% 16
Programs for children	8.93% 5	21.43% 12	8.93% 5	0% 0	60.71% 34
Programs for adults	7.02% 4	28.07% 16	19.30% 11	5.26% 3	40.35% 23
Computer and internet	15.79% 9	36.84% 21	15.79% 9	3.51% 2	28.07% 16
Printing services	8.77% 5	33.33% 19	14.04% 8	3.51% 2	40.35% 23
Study spaces	5.26% 3	33.33% 19	26.32% 15	15.79% 9	19.30% 11
Local History services	9.09% 5	30.91% 17	9.09% 5	1.82% 1	49.09% 27
Meeting room hire	5.36% 3	25.00% 14	10.71% 6	5.36% 3	53.57% 30

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure
Opening hours	30.91% 17	43.64% 24	16.36% 9	1.82% 1	7.27% 4
Wifi	21.05% 12	36.84% 21	5.26% 3	3.51% 2	33.33% 19

Q14. What would encourage you to visit Balmain Library? (3 responses)

Themes included: longer opening hours, maintenance of building, modernise the library and expand library into the Town Hall.

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Q15. What improvements or changes would you like at Balmain Library?

(58 responses)

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Provide a range of places to study and meet	31.04%	18
Maintenance of building	27.59%	16
Improve access	17.24%	10
Improve library layout	15.52%	9
Collection	10.34%	6
Improve utilisation of garden / courtyard	10.34%	6

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Fix the air conditioning	10.34%	6
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	8.62%	5
Cultural activities and displays	8.62%	5
Modernise the library	8.62%	5
More seating	8.62%	5
Quiet areas	6.9%	4
Technology	6.9%	4
Other	6.9%	4
Improve children's library / separate children's library / separate entrance for children's area	6.9%	4
Programs and services	5.17%	3
More staff	5.17%	3
Improve lighting	5.17%	3
Longer opening hours	5.17%	3
Expand library	5.17%	3
Light modular furniture	3.45%	2
Connectivity with the street	3.45%	2

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Natural light	3.45%	2
Acoustics	3.45%	2
Pram Parking	3.45%	2
Increased communication about What's On	3.45%	2
Programs	3.45%	2
Cafe in Library, Court House or Glasshouse	3.45%	2
Improve customer service	3.45%	2
Local studies	3.45%	2
Respect for heritage	3.45%	2
It's perfect how it is	3.45%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: community atmosphere, improve toilets, remove courtyard trees, signage, bicycle rack, exhibition space, water cooler, community atmosphere and showcase stained glass windows

Q16. How does Balmain Library benefit the community? (55 responses)

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Meeting spaces and places to study	58.18%	32
Collection	38.18%	23
Community atmosphere	34.55%	19
Programs and services	34.55%	19
Quiet, relaxing, peaceful and comfortable	21.81%	12
High quality internet / wifi / public PCs	16.30%	8
Access	12.73%	7
Cultural activities and displays	10.91%	6
Central location	5.45%	3
Friendly staff and customer service	5.45%	3
Local studies	3.64%	2
Reading newspapers	3.64%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: toilets, opening hours and research.

Q 17. A contemporary library is used for a wide variety of purposes. These uses compete for spaces in an already highly utilised community facility.

To help us understand your preferences, please rank the following vibes you would like your library to have. (50 responses)

Rank	Response
First	Social – people gathering in groups chatting and laughing
Second	Quiet – displaying friendly reminders that the library is a quiet place for reading, study and research
Third	Books everywhere – vast collection of books to browse and borrow, book shelves take up most of the space
Fourth	Comfortable – various seating options and inviting open layout with fewer shelves where people can hang out all day
Fifth	Group learning – where you can gather with your peers to prepare for an exam, complete a group assignment, discuss the latest book with your local book club
Sixth	Solitary learning – where you spend time to do your study, research your next local history podcast, prepare your class presentation

Q18. Do you have anything else to share about Balmain Library? (33 responses)

The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Meeting spaces and places to study	21.21%	9
Improve utilisation of garden and landscaping	9.09%	3
Friendly staff and customer service	6.06%	2
Quiet areas	6.06%	2
Community atmosphere	6.06%	2
Larger	6.06%	2
It's perfect how it is	6.06%	2
Technology	6.06%	2
Respect for Heritage	6.06%	2
Exhibition space, cultural activities and display	6.06%	2
Improve lighting	3.03%	1

The following themes were mentioned once: maintain the building, improve collections, café in library/courthouse/glasshouse, relaxing, light furniture, central location, improve access.

Part two – Responses received online through the Ideas Wall tool on Your Say Inner West.

There were 18 posts on the wall made by 8 contributors. The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Community Atmosphere	14.4%	10
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	11.5%	8
Access	8.6%	6
Landscaping (whole area)	5.7%	4
Landscape between Courthouse and Town Hall	5.7%	4
Glasshouse activations	5.7%	4
Outdoor seating	4.3%	3
Activate the Courthouse	4.3%	3
Improve whole precinct	4.3%	3
Cultural activities and displays	4.3%	3
Improve Town Hall	4.3%	3
Improve utilisation of courtyard	2.8%	2
Connectivity with the street	2.8%	2
Repurpose Depot	2.8%	2

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Shaded Areas	2.8%	2
Create a Cinema/theatre	2.8%	2
Exhibition space	1.4%	1
Acoustics (Town Hall)	1.4%	1
Range of Spaces	1.4%	1
Community Garden	1.4%	1
Masterplan the area	1.4%	1
Restore the dome	1.4%	1
Create a co-working space	1.4%	1
Improve footpaths	1.4%	1

The following themes were mentioned once: Exhibition space, Acoustics (Town Hall), Range of Spaces, Community Garden, Masterplan the area, Restore the dome, Create a co-working space, Improve footpaths

Part three – Feedback received via in-person engagement sessions

- a) Public meeting at Balmain Town Hall on Wednesday 13 July 2022. 64 attendees, nine comments received during Q&A session. The verbatim comments are at the back of this document in the Appendix.

Theme	Percentage of theme mentions in total number of comments	Number of theme mentions in comments
Improve community Atmosphere	10.3%	3
Glasshouse activations	10.3%	3
Activate the Courthouse	10.3%	3
Improve the Glasshouse and surrounds	6.8%	2
Improve utilisation of courtyard	6.8%	2

The following themes were mentioned once: Improve Access, Landscaping (whole area), Landscape between Courthouse and Town Hall, Improve whole precinct, Connectivity with the street, Repurpose Depot, Acoustics (Town Hall), Improve AV in Town Hall, Range of Spaces, Community Garden, Restore the dome, Create a museum, Improve parking, Community gardening, Bring back chiming clock on the tower, Refurbish library

- b) Comments received from organisations/groups/stakeholder workshops

Friends of Balmain

A meeting was held with the Friends of Balmain Library on Tuesday 26th July and Library staff. The meeting was a general discussion about the Library service in general, Balmain Library, the project in general.

Comments included fixing up the A/V and kitchen facilities in the Town Hall. The group was encouraged to put in a submission as a group and as individuals. The group submitted comments through the YSIW Ideas Wall tool - see appendix for verbatim report.

State Library of NSW

Public Library Consultants from the State Library of NSW attended the Library on 4 August 2022. Following the meeting they prepared a Library Building report. Recommendations include that Council:

- considers expanding any underutilised indoor and outdoor areas to increase the size of the library;
- considers changes to address the access issues
- relocates the service desk
- provides a range of seating options
- consider the deck area and the indoor / outdoor space close to the Children's area
- considers the use of the smaller rooms and their purposes to encourage optimal use
- upgrades and connects the Town Hall meeting room to the Library to increase space
- refurbishes and improves the condition of the Town Hall and
- provide additional power

The full report is provided as Attachment 1 to this document.

Part four – Other responses from individuals

1. Letter to Council on 14 August contributing an historical article about the history of Balmain Town Hall.
2. Letter to Council requesting involvement in a working group and putting forward the idea that the court house should be repurposed as a museum with mock trials.
3. Letter to Council on 13 July 2022 asking if Council could arrange refurbishment of the clocktower.
4. Letter to Council proposing that Council consider a Public Private Partnership to redevelop not only the Council assets, but the entire precinct in conjunction with the State Government. Indicates that by partnering with the private sector, Council can recover the budget allocation and reinvest the allocated funds towards other Council ventures. Sited examples included the Kiara Lane Precinct in Double Bay providing library and community spaces, supermarket, public parking and active laneways.

Recognises that developing Council and State owned assets within the Balmain Town Hall Precinct is not a simple development proposal. Argues that by adding density to the rear depot site, the proposal could provide relief to the heritage buildings while enabling a commercialised streetscape to activate the area.

Indicates that the aim should be to achieve the best social and economic outcome for the community; delivering housing, economic activity and social spaces for teaching, learning and gathering.

Appendix of verbatim responses

Identifying details have been redacted.

Online survey responses Q. 2 (56 responses) What do you love about the precinct and what's working well?	
1	<p>The precinct is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centrally located, between Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle - Receives the perfect mix of shade and sun and is sheltered from the wind - A hub of so many important functions: post office, police, library, town hall, PCYC and open space - Located on a public transport hub of buses (441, 442, 433, 445) - A community hub for school kids, parents with young kids and retirees all using the library and study spaces - Located in a hub of cafes, restaurants and retail
2	The new Square on the corner at Montague Street is a credit to the Community, Telstra and the IWC. The concept of a Town Hall Precinct is the logical and excellent extension to the Square.
3	<p>The line of historic buildings including the Fire Station and stone house.</p> <p>The places where people can sit - both alone and for talking with others.</p> <p>An idea to celebrate a community champion would be a statue of Bob from the hardware shop sitting on the seat near the Fire Station ready for a chat - maybe writing the day's thought on his blackboard.</p>
4	The Post Office and Court House Building which has just been repainted and the side balcony of the Post Office has been repaired. What is not working well is the area between the Town Hall and the Police Station which is the council's responsibility.
5	The varied building forms and the mix of building ages
6	I just like coming here to use the computers to view my emails as my internet at home isn't very good. It is much better here at the library. The staff here are also very helpful and willing to assist me whenever I ask. It is a nice communal space for anyone to use and enjoy.
7	Nice heritage building
8	The Precinct is home to the Blamain Library which is home to an environment fit for extensive studying. whenever my home life got too rowdy, i am able to come to the library and complete my work in a safe, quiet setting.

Online survey responses Q. 2 (56 responses) What do you love about the precinct and what's working well?	
9	Its the hub of the area! Working well - the corner of Darling St and Mullens - green space, benches, a real focal point.
10	Love the building itself! Love the heritage it carries
11	Victorian heritage buildings and streetscape retained give area its character. Public buildings in commercial area mean much foot traffic.
12	Heritage architecture, location of public buildings in commercial area
13	The library is great for all ages. The hall is used for local public to have their say in meetings that affect them and used for the arts too. The new Telephone pocket park is great but disappointed the seats face away from each other and some extra planting at the road sides of it to create more of a retreat feeling/less exposed would be great.
14	Victorian facade. Centrality in Balmain. Could reuse the glasdhouse.
15	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
16	The new Telstra Park.
17	Heritage architecture
18	I love the row of grand buildings - especially now the post office corner has reclaimed a bit of breathing space, and with more street furniture, lighting and green, it's possible to stop and soak up the history and interact
19	Architectural integrity of beautiful old buildings. Library is an excellent resource.
20	The services the library and PCYC offer, and their central location. Cafes also help make it a vibrant place. The zebra crossing is very useful for people walking and crossing the street easily too.
21	The Town Hall, post office and library are all beautiful buildings that must be maintained forever. Their history and beauty gives Balmain a wonderful street scape and their interiors are sublime.
22	Hi Inner West Council, I am sorry that I could not attend the meeting about the vision for Balmain Town Hall. It's an amazing space - would be a great concert venue, though would need acoustic advice and treatment as part of the development. A space with a grand piano would be fantastic for the community. Possibly with live recording desk. Available for affordable price for artists - the rentals in Sydney are crippling and

Online survey responses Q. 2 (56 responses) What do you love about the precinct and what's working well?	
	<p>too many \$ that artists apply for go to the rental costs of expensive spaces.</p> <p>I'm going to add that it could also be great as a general purpose contemporary performance space. So think about video, projects, small light setup. Film nights, choir nights, talks ...</p> <p>Better accessibility to get equipment and instruments upstairs.</p> <p>More accessible parking.</p>
23	Attractive buildings
24	Beautiful old building.
25	The heritage of the buildings is good and should be enhanced and restored where needed. Keeping the Post Office integrated to the precinct is preferable. Outdoor areas such as the corner adjacent the phone exchange is excellent and should be complemented.
26	As an avid reader I love the Balmain Library. I also like the new park near the post office.
27	Such an iconic bunch of beautiful buildings of which some of them are now being restored & looked after. Love the recent garden/seating area at the telecommunications corner.
28	I value the services that the Library currently offers now, including book borrowing for adults and children, the availability of newspapers and periodicals, and the large rear children's and teen's area. I also value the glasshouse area and immediate surrounds.
29	beautiful heritage buildings
30	The heritage buildings
31	The Telstra square is a welcome addition to the civic space in the precinct. In the area between the court house and the Balmain Town Hall, the glasshouse creates a beautiful, historical focal point.
32	The way it looks and Its relationship to courthouse and post office.
33	Not much - in need of a complete overhaul. The glasshouse is the exception, because of work executed by volunteers over the last few years
34	The historic architecture that is largely unspoilt. Intimate village feel with character unlike many other soulless suburb centres.
35	Heritage buildings reflecting the history of Balmain
36	Amazing combination of architecture. Three unique expressions of architecture next to each other and with views back to the city. The Post Office, Court House and Town Hall.

Online survey responses Q. 2 (56 responses) What do you love about the precinct and what's working well?	
37	I live close by and use the gym at the pcyc and visit hungry bull everyday. This precinct has its own little culture, it's a community of locals who say hello to each other. It is already great but needs some TLC, an update
38	Community space, historical site, beautiful buildings
39	The open quality of the space with places to sit. The Balmain Library and all its amenities, including talks and sitting spaces and it's general accessibility for all ages. The lovely little greenhouse - I've not been in but I love that it's there amongst it all and you can participate in it.
40	The buildings
41	It's the civic focus for the Balmain Peninsula.
42	I love the fact that it has not been turned into a plastic, highrise building
43	The Post office, courthouse, & Townhall have a great civic presence. The opening up of the post office corner has greatly improved the appearance of the building.
44	PCYC does diminishes the whole streetscape and adds nothing to the concept of "high street" business such as cafes and restaurants all of which have struggled since the pandemic and those that survive the next years of the pandemic need support of passing traffic/trade The library needs to be refurbished including aircon/filters that comply with covid/AASA standards protocols and the small rooms actually used by the community as meeting rooms through a proper booking system. Prior to the pandemic the library was being used by high school students after school hours for study and "drop in" use of meeting rooms where 3-4 students would watch streaming services on their laptops. Great safe place for older kids for homework/study but hey not 2-3 hour use of small closed door rooms for streaming for bored students waiting for parents return home.
45	Traditional "town hall".
46	it's heritage buildings and the streetscape it creates it's uncluttered and set back from road and traffic the glass house is unique

Online survey responses Q. 2 (56 responses) What do you love about the precinct and what's working well?	
47	I like the scale and the ornate Victorian architecture of the PO, Courthouse and Police Station. I also like the few well established trees, along with the glasshouse and little pockets of greenery. The 'shelter shed' adds some sense of community. I liked the quirky old boat outside the PO which has since been removed.
48	The village atmosphere, the people and the parks The history of the area
49	The Heritage buildings. The central location. A science of space.
50	The Library is a valuable community facility. Irreplaceable.
51	The height of the buildings, that they are all linked to the emerging Federation of Australia. Their Historical significant. As landmarks defining the beginning of the Balmain Shopping centre as you moved towards the ferry.
52	I love the way it is currently
53	The town hall building, library and Balmain square are all beautiful buildings and it is a pleasure to have them in our community. The library and its programs are brilliant, and the PCYC has excellent clubs.
54	It is visible and the library is available
55	The beautiful heritage buildings. The unique glass house available for the community.
56	Great central location in a vibrant retail area. Very close to bus services. Post Office is fantastic - location and services.

Online survey responses Q.3 (54 responses) What would attract people to stay longer?	
1	<p>An open air space to "hang out in". People pour out of the PCYC, families, kids, retirees, after their exercise, or whilst waiting for friends and family to finish at the PCYC and have nowhere to go. There are a few cafes which quickly fill. So families shuffle the kids off in their cars and leave the suburb.</p> <p>If the area between the library and the courthouse was reimagined to be a beautiful multi-functional civic centre, people could get take aways and sit, linger, play, wait and socialise. It would turn a weekend PCYC activity into a day out in Balmain.</p> <p>People who already come to the library would have a greater reason to stay. Meet friends, have a bite to eat outdoors in the space, and spend half a day there. An outdoor civic space would greatly extend the footprint of the library in a healthy, covid-safe and truly Balmain kinda way</p>
2	<p>A reason to be in the area alongside the Post Office and the PCYC. The businesses on the north side a reasonably well patronised</p>
3	<p>At public meeting the idea of a museum section in the Court House would attract people.</p> <p>The green section of the driveway between Town Hall and Police Station with Conservatory at its centre could stand a treatment similar to the Post Office mini park would change the character of this section. Unless vehicle access to the Meeting Room could be provided through the depot, retention of the driveway itself would be needed, but plantings may integrate it better with the green.</p>
4	<p>Revitalise the area around the glasshouse with seating similar to the area adjacent to the Telstra building. Flower and shrub plantings would be good also.</p>
5	<p>A public use even commercial use for the frontage between the post office and the police station. There should be a restaurant, tables and chairs there. This is a prime north facing spot on the darling st. ridge - too important to leave as empty. It needs activation with various uses fronting it.</p> <p>Glasshouse should have a Council funded monthly workshop. Gardening advice, seedlings for sale</p>
6	<p>Update landscaping</p>
7	<p>I am not too sure, considering the precinct holds enough chairs and tables for leisure and work, and it is near the local woolies and restaurants, so there is always a place to "fuel back up".</p>

Online survey responses Q.3 (54 responses) What would attract people to stay longer?	
8	More benches, more green space, more open space for people to rest and stay. Currently very disjointed, seen as not a combined, unified space.
9	More desk spaces with adapter might attract more people
10	More public use of precinct for community meetings and events including glasshouse. Shelter shed is used and needs refurbishment.
11	Public use of precinct buildings for events, upgrade of glasshouse and shelter shed
12	<p>More regular and consistent events for locals eg Regular sustainable opportunities to sell or swap preloved clothing in the hall, dances aimed at different ages[there is virtually no opportunity for dancing socially locally] local artists or hobbyists or clubs events to sell their ware[not necessarily weekly or monthly but regular consistent opportunities- eg 3 monthly], Repair workshops etc Cinema nights. A Local Theatre space/nights would be wonderful to have mixed aged arts opportunities.</p> <p>More space for students to study quietly in the library. Access to meeting rooms for meetups or etc- make info and price minimal. The Hannaford centre is oversubscribed so offer some more similar opportunities here too. Especially affordable spaces for teachers offering affordable experiences. Community plant meet and swap in green house, seed saving, learning etc. Community orchard/farm park/green space, garden learning hub at council depot. The community is always growing in size so adding these amenities and spaces is important for the future</p>
13	More seats out the front. Fix up the nearby old shelter. Needs a unifying feel.
14	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
15	Opening the buildings and making them integrate with the street so that you can see people are in them - this will encourage others to enter
16	<p>I think more integrated greenery/shelter and street furniture helps. Relocating the parking so the area around the buildings has a nicer pedestrian flow would definitely encourage more lingering - and give the glass house more potential with better space around it.</p> <p>Utilising the vacant spaces in the buildings for cultural engagement. Activating those buildings will bring life back to the precinct.</p>

Online survey responses Q.3 (54 responses) What would attract people to stay longer?	
17	Re-purpose old courthouse.
18	Slower streets, more bike parking (covered where possible), repurposing kerb side space for parklets and wider footpaths, library spaces with more natural light and greenery, improving the public open space on all sides of the library, and a kids library space that's easier to find.
19	I would love to see the whole Town Hall become a place to visit I've never been inside the court house and I've lived in Balmain for over 40 years. I have of course been to a lot of meetings upstairs in the Town Hall and I know the Library very well but nothing else.
20	Coffee and tea in the glass house, though visual artists might also like that space for exhibition.
21	Seating; cafe
22	Better landscaping at the front and around the building.
23	Vibrant outdoor spaces for the community with space to congregate and spend time engaging. A focal area with a variety of choices for entertainment and eateries.
24	1. Information displays. 2. More public seating. 3. Information brochures advising about current uses and facilities.
25	Redevelopment of the glasshouse/garden area near police station and toilets.
26	More seating. More seating in the library for all users. More and better seating for the area around the glasshouse and immediate surrounds.
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more seating and greenery - removal of the Telstra building eye sorry - kids playground - water fountains - outdoor sculpture and artwork depicting the history of the area (for example an old tug boat or ferry)
28	More places to sit in sunny spots
29	More connected public space with facilities like seating and tables on both the east and west sides of Balmain Town Hall.
30	More events
31	A vibrant remodelling, and longer opening hours and more frequent use of the annexe for art exhibitions

Online survey responses Q.3 (54 responses) What would attract people to stay longer?	
32	Keeping the buildings maintained and cohesive with clear signage. Planted gardens and seating.
33	If the glasshouse was full of begonias as is the one in Cook Park in Orange many more people would come to see its beauty.
34	Cafe with viewing deck back to city.
35	Make it more appealing! Places to sit in the shade, live music in the evenings, outdoor tables, changing art exhibitions etc
36	Using spaces better – shops, cafes, public venue for concerts etc – making the area more lively and vibrant
37	If the precinct were more seamless (at the moment each building and area feels a bit standalone and not really a ‘precinct’) so that you could create spaces and places which could flow into each other. For example, if a part of the back of the Balmain library were opened up so it lead into a garden type area in front of the daycare which could have seated areas alongside play areas. Other paths in the garden could lead to spaces for sitting and reading, playing chess, etc. That whole area has a lovely northern sun which would be taken advantage of.
38	Don't know. Why should people stay longer anyway?
39	Shade from trees Temporary shelter for existing seating
40	A cafe. Restaurants. A dedicated arts precinct that is open all day + at night.
41	More attractive building on the site of the PCYC. Sure have lower ground floor yoga and fitness centre and with side entry to a new medium rise building that should be redeveloped in conjunction with Federal education/health and in conjunction proposal for Balmain Hospital to become a post-grad teaching hospital – partner with overseas uni e.g. Uni of Singapore, which has done a similar thing about 10 years ago.
42	Places to sit. Coffee cart.
43	more seating/plantings chess table
44	People are too busy and too distracted to linger. The shelter shed with seating and tables is great. The new 'corner' subsumed from the old Telecom building is not so people friendly or attractive. It is a busy noisy

Online survey responses Q.3 (54 responses) What would attract people to stay longer?	
	intersection with an uninspiring art installation, and last time I looked the plant wall was full of half dead plants. Tragic.
45	Live music , interesting, diverse shopping. Markets. Lighting of street trees.
46	A cafe in the courtyard of the library. Market stalls selling fresh produce. An art gallery.
47	More garden, parents and young children creative play inside and outside library.
48	as residents? or as Shoppers? or as visitors? Less congestion - moving the buses of the high street back on block and walking to the shops. More open spaces.
49	Actual books, and spaces to read, and comfortable and functional furniture. I was so disappointed when I visited the library as a new Balmain resident. The lack of investment and care is visible. A library with a few books, zero ambience or community feeling.
50	To make it attractive and intersting, just leave it as it is. Maybe do some repairs.
51	Some upgrades to the police station and the grassed area out the front of it (currently unused old chess tables), similar in style to the new space at Balmain Square. Better use of the community hall behind the library.
52	More events, clear signage, community facilities
53	More benches and tables around the area.
54	More green open space - with some covered places if possible. Children's playground.

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
1	<p>Please see my submission (from MyKindCo) on the submission page. I would like to see the spaces around the library including the caretakers garden (what a waste of precious space!) including the space between the library and the courthouse (where there is currently a 7 space car park and library wheelie bins) turned into the open urban civic centre it deserves to be!</p> <p>I believe that a priority, before engaging architects, is to engage urban planners (or put the project out to the Town Planning Uni students as a term project) to realise a MASTERPLAN for the area. After this any and all refurbishment, remediation of buildings such as the Library should follow. Any architects then employed must consult the master plan prior to doing any design work.</p> <p>I believe, aside from some basic refurbishment, the biggest BANG FOR YOUR BUCK will be relocating those seven carpark spots the the side of the library and landscaping this incredible sun-filled outdoor space into a useable space for take away dining, outdoor study/reading area and play area for mums and kids.</p>

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
2	<p>1. The area between the Police Station and the Town Hall This area should be redeveloped to the standard of the Square. The Kathleen Hamer glasshouse should be repaired and made usable and offered to community groups for appropriate uses. The diagonal pathway should be formalised. Car parking near the toilets should be eliminated unless necessary. Gardens and seating would enhance the area – a cool place in summer when the Square is too hot.</p> <p>2. The Town Hall Meeting Room This is an important community facility. It can be made much more usable for meetings and functions. It needs quite a lot of work but I would prioritise these two. A quality audio visual installation with appropriate acoustic treatment of the room Improve the kitchen facilities.</p> <p>3. The Precinct as a whole. The IWC should work with the State Government to open up the Courthouse buildings. A public tour would be a great idea. Traffic calming from Jacques Street to Montague Street including widening the footpath on the north side of Darling Street to allow plantings and increased use of the footpath by restaurants and coffee shops. Ensure 393 Darling Street is developed appropriately</p>
3	<p>More seating. Some covered. Current seating looks tired and is all the same. Need some covered seating space eg behind the greenhouse. The shelter shed needs a renovation?</p>
4	<p>The area adjacent to the library needs to be revamped. The car parking area needs to be removed and replaced with a footpath. This means no cars allowed The bus shelter needs to be removed. Council needs to allocate funding in the budget for all this to happen otherwise this will have been a wasted exercise.</p>
5	<p>Allow / encourage retail (cafe) tenancies between police and post office.</p>

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
6	Separate entrance for small childrens' room in the library. Better acoustics as library is too noisy.
7	i am not too sure on short term priorities
8	Benches. Trees/green space. Revamped library.
9	More study spaces for students (like highschool students or uni students) may need to be prioritized
10	Balmain Town Hall kitchen is very outdated and needs urgent upgrade. Also the sound system is inadequate. Unfortunately, new collapsible tables are too heavy for use by volunteers.
11	Refurbishment of town hall kitchen and updste town hall accoustics Replace current collapsible tables with lighter version for easy movability and occupational healthy and safety ease.
12	Making affordable access for groups, communicating to locals how they can use the spaces and costs to generate interest. A mini city orchard, community garden, farm etc to bring different ages together, cinema and theatre nights. sustainable fashion swaps/selling regularly, decluttering markets, arts and craft hobby markets for locals even if 2/3 times a year. how locals can meet each other too and will bring visitors to Balmain. Needs to go on a calendar so people can prepare and have consistency. Regular Dancing and Cinema nights.
13	Maybe planter boxes. Seating arrangements similar to area near Post Office. Garden on rhs of Town Hall should be redone. Depressing mess now. Do somethng with old depot.
14	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
15	The Post Office Clock to have the chimes restored. So many people that live close to the PO miss hearing the chiming. It has been the subject of several posts on FB in last couple of years.
16	Improve the landscaping around the buildings with gardens so that people can wonder through and sit on benches
17	Revitalising and upgrading the facilities at the Town Hall, as well as improving the booking system. Also starting inquiries with the state government on the potential access/use of the court house The post office is privately owned? Not sure what the options are there.

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
18	Better acoustics in main town hall meeting room upstairs.
19	More (covered) bike parking, slower streets, priority crossings for people walking (especially side streets), less on street car parking and parklets, a more open and inviting library with natural light, improving the public open space on all sides of the library.
20	Open up the whole Town Hall to weekly meetings, such as the Balmain Institute or the Friends of Balmain Book Group. Have general discussions there. Allow it to be used by the locals for meetings.
21	Performing arts space with acoustic treatment
22	Public toilets
23	Restoration of heritage buildings and appropriate landscaping.
24	Dedicated spaces to gather and enjoy the area. Art works installed in keeping with the precinct and seating and cafes usually are a good option.
25	Shade trees or shade awnings. More grass areas.
26	Development of more outdoor seating in the above area. Expanded usage of town hall/courthouse buildings opening for public use.
27	More seating. More seating in the library for all users. More and better seating for the area around the glasshouse and immediate surrounds.
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - painting and repairs of the buildings - public access and revitalisation of the courthouse, potentially as a fresh food market - reinstallation of the town hall dome that was removed decades ago - dedicated local museum space
29	Relocate the council depot and convert to a park Remove the occasional care buildings Fix the town hall and buy some decent furniture and technology Expand the library
30	Relocate the seven parking spaces that are currently on the south of the glasshouse and replace with paving and seating. Make the western side of the Balmain Town Hall permeable by connecting the footpath with the library courtyard and then through to the caretaker's garden.
31	Rationalisation/ beautification of surrounds especially area between town hall and police station. Glasshouse should be

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
	updated/maintained with a community use focus relative to its heritage significance.
32	Maintaining the lawns, opening the annexe, opening up the (barely-used) depot, perhaps converting the office buildings for local creative use. Investing properly in the glasshouse
33	Ensuring the historic buildings are restored and not developed inappropriately or modernised which is not in keeping with the current vernacular.
34	A coffee shop adjacent to the glasshouse would help to beautify the area and bring locals together in an outdoor garden setting which are few and far between in the Balmain area
35	Reopen the public viewing deck and reinstate its original cupola roof with views back to the city on top of the Town Hall. The Town Hall was originally built with this feature and is diminished without it. Also, families can enjoy the viewing deck back to the city as they once did.
36	1. Fix the footpaths - replace the pavers in front of PCYC, continue those large pavers along to at least Jacques St 2. paint the PCYC building which is looking tired, especially the window frames 3. Paint a huge colourful mural line at Rozelle Public School on the wall of the PCYC facing the library 4. Completely replant and improve the small garden area between the library and the pcyc 5. Put down outdoor tables and chairs and a large shady tree there 6. See how we can have live music in the precinct 7. More graffiti! N cute local youth to put street art where possible. It adds the edginess that gives this part of Balmain its unique character
37	Fixing historical buildings that are currently looking shabby and unusable - making spaces open for pop up community spaces - art centre, concerts, etc
38	The Post office and old courthouse building such a beautiful thing which looks so dire and feels like it falling into disrepair.
39	The Balmain Town Hall / Library Precinct on Darling Street should be redeveloped and promoted as a Community Hub which can play an important role in achieving positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the community by providing diverse settings to deliver locally based services, community development opportunities, and space for the

<p>Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?</p>	
	<p>formal and informal development of social networks and relationships. The proposed Balmain Town Hall / Library Hub should contribute to community building by providing: A place for community members to meet to undertake community building projects; A focal point in the community where people with common community interests can gather; A source of information for people on how to access networks, services and other community building resources; A local source of community building support through the accommodation of community development organisations, and A new opportunity for the provision of new and needed services, facilities and amenities into the wider Balmain community.</p> <p>Council should undertake Community Hub Precinct Planning Study, the purpose of which should be, in essence, the provision of multipurpose places where a variety of activities occur, a range of goals are addressed, and different objectives can be pursued.</p> <p>The key to any community hub concept is integration. This can mean both integration of services, programs and activities within a multipurpose community facility or an integration of a range of activity generating uses including community and cultural facilities, shops, transport, public parks and plazas, landscaping, public art and innovative night-time lighting.</p> <p>Community hubs should also provide a valuable link and central location for residents to access local services, activities, support structures, learning options, community information and provide opportunities for social and civic participation.</p> <p>The scope of the proposed Balmain Community Hub Precinct should include four primary objectives: Service coordination and delivery; Place-making; Community building; and Financial sustainability. Service coordination and delivery Hubs can provide a means of accommodating a number of social and community organisations together in the one physical space, with the goal of enhancing both coordination among services and access to them by the community. The emphasis of service coordination is on encouraging collaboration between different organisations to better serve community needs. An additional motivator is to make more efficient use of resources, by sharing common facilities rather than each organisation having its own separate space. Service coordination often involves bringing</p>

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
	community services together in a single location, sometimes as part of some form of multiservice centre.
40	Change the horrible "artwork" on the square wall, and demolish the horrible building it is on Get some decent public toilets
41	Move police etc parking off Darling Street and widen footpath Display seasonal horticultural exhibits in the glasshouse - extremely low value use at present Make access to the lower town hall (meeting room) more attractive Improve access from the south - Little Darling and Little Arthur Streets Improve hotch potch advertising of community uses of the PCYC - external signboards/wayfinding to replace festooned banners over building facade and inside entry vestibule - the building is heritage! Retain a dignified appearance of the streetscape befitting its civic importance Provide public parking in part of the Balmain works depot out the back Put a decent, prominent lift in Balmain Town Hall and fix up the toilets - appalling Make the stage area of the town hall more appealing without destroying its heritage look Install decent audiovisual technology in the town hall Make the police entrance and counter area more inviting
42	Fix the water pooling/drainage issues in the ramp access outside the police station, after many ears of insult to the disabled
43	Cafe. Places to sit. Create a plaza that gets the sun so is active during the day. Rebuild the Town Hall Dome removed during WW2. Renovate the Town Hall to become a great venue that is used all the time eg like Sydney Town Hall.
44	library - as above in the next 1 year while calling for expression of interest for PCYC development and setting up committee to lobby Federal Education Minister & Health Minister in adjoining electorates while PM Albanese is local Federal Minister.

Online survey responses Q.4 (56 responses) What improvements would you prioritise in the short term (over the next couple years) for Balmain precinct?	
45	Seats, tables, coffee cart.
46	restore/maintain buildings esp care to glass house replant and maintain hanging gadn in Telstra sq planter boxes until more substantial trees planted
47	Stop making everything so corporate and soulless. More trees.
48	Balmain has always been known for its pubs. It has lost so many . Encourage live music. The gathering of the community. Open air cinema in Morts Dock.
49	Accessibility to disable and older people. The space is a bit cluttered with roads, pathways and gardens. Repairs to buildings and painting.
50	Young family activities.
51	Building Maintenances, more street scaping to improve the quality and look of the area.
52	More trees and plants in the precinct to attract birds and other tree loving animals
53	Simple upgrades to the grassed area out the front of the police station, and renovations to the community hall behind the library.
54	Use of all buildings
55	Upgrade the benches and tables along the main street.
56	As long as there is a Masterplan for the area that is shaped by community feedback, I am happy for the project owners to determine the best first steps.

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
1	<p>Overall, we propose a precinct to attract, capture & engage through a hub of community spaces including cultural recognition, collaborative sharing of ideas, innovation and the arts, council initiatives, and social purpose activities. Partnership opportunities are abundant for the precinct and are to be explored to maximise the precinct's potential.</p> <p>ZONE 1: Outdoor Community Space Expand the Library and Town Hall Meeting Rooms into surrounding shared outdoor space Relocate the carpark and waste management to the eastern side of the library, allowing for a vibrant pedestrian and civic space between the buildings capturing visitors to the area Connect and upgrade outdoor spaces around the library (including the caretakers largely underutilised garden), maximising the precinct usable footprint Garden spaces showcasing First Nations representation through native landscape design, public art including sculptural installations and wall murals Allow for the Balmain Association and friends of the Library to curate important historic public artworks for the outdoor spaces Storytelling opportunities for historically influential women through, art, exhibitions and installations</p> <p>ZONE 2: Indoor Collaborative Space Town Hall (above library) as extension of library. Differentiated as a quiet space, house library collection, reading hub, work stations, allowing for more active and social use of the library downstairs. Showcase Balmain Association exhibits etc Regenerate and increase the usability of the Glasshouse by creating an educational, sustainable, innovative, collaborative and programmed space Include in-residence Creative Industries tenure for Town Hall Meeting Room, regular programming and activation Investigate program partnerships with PCYC Repurpose and reimagine Court House into an educational space (eg Mooting as well as school activities) and/or a Creative and Performing</p>

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
	<p>Arts Centre, or arthouse cinema example: Golden Age Cinema in Surry Hills</p> <p>ZONE 3: Community & Collaborative Space Council Depot as hospitality, community leisure and creative in-residence program hub Reimagine the Council Depot as a space for both community and collaboration through "The Grounds" style local hospitality kiosks, green food trucks, seating areas and community garden Repurpose dedicated area as a sustainability and recycling hub- becoming a flagship community circular economy and innovation hub Re-home artist studios to the Depot to have direct interaction with the public and build creative community Consider regular and periodic community activation of the space in the way of community pizza ovens (see Albury City Council), food truck themed takeovers and or open-air cinema and community events such as weddings and birthdays (example Bridge Road School Forest venue hire). Contact us for more details</p> <p>Again MyKindCo has proven records in activation of this precinct through take-over events held in the Glasshouse and Town Hall Meeting room. This included a strong focus on historical local figures, First Nations representation.</p> <p>Securing partnerships, sponsorships and funding forms a large part of our capacity, and we would welcome a meeting with Council to discuss the full extent of our ideas garnered from consultation with local community groups such as the Balmain Association, Friends of the Balmain Library, Inner West Mums, Balmain and Rozelle Carers and Parents, local residents and businesses at large.</p> <p>From MyKindCo</p>
2	Open the Courthouse buildings for community and public activities - Museum of Balmain, performance spaces, cultural displays.

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
3	Usage of the court house for the public. What happens in the building between the Court House and the post office? Corner park to be larger when Telstra releases that extra space. The new small corner park is excellent to meet people and looks attractive. Better signage about historical connections. What about a history festival- block off the road and have period costume and pedestrians on the streets with old fashioned foods on sale in stalls.
4	Lets see how the next 2 years go.
5	Its tempting to focus on the buildings, but the challenges faced by the broader area are mainly commercial. There is a deficiency in the quantity and mix of retail offerings, mainly due to absurdly high rents. This has resulted in further limitations on retail mix and vacancies. Results in further poor retail choice, low foot traffic, no buzz. Need to start with the people. Once a quarter streetmarkets. 4x a yr Sundays 10-3 no cars from Beattie St to PCYC. (busses re-route on Beattie like the trams used to do)
6	Move works depot away and create a new park with lane access to Montague St and Jacques St. Create green walls on Telstra Building and other places.
7	over the next 10 years I would like to see a vast array of parking spots as it is always a bit of a hassle to secure a park close to the library
8	Would love to one day see more space to walk around and rest.
9	N/A
10	Add Courthouse to library. The heritage library building is too small for new uses such as study areas or computer use or comfortable small groups. Pram storage for popular story time is a nightmare. The addition of Courthouse space would be great. Purchase of remaining Telstra building and a covered extension of square would be great.

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
11	Upgrade and find better use for courthouse eg venue for music, art youth etc
12	As Above Gather all the ideas and have a survey with different suggestions for people to vote on. Let them be included in the decision making.
13	Better amalgamation of courthouse and town hall area to be more inviting.
14	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
15	It would be great to imagine it as a cultural hub artist residencies performances music talks venue for workshops Local history museum indoor makers markets
16	Knock down the rest of the phone exchange and extend public space.
17	An open and inviting library, a functional post office / courthouse building, streets that clearly prioritise walking and cycling.
18	I'd love to see films in the Town Hall become a regular feature. The nearest cinema is in Leichhardt and parking is a hassle there so could we please have a Balmain Cinema in the Town Hall?
19	Affordable and accessible parking
20	Community hub
21	Interior spaces that be used safely by young people, eg art, drama, dance workshop spaces
22	Use cases for the area need to be community based with arts and entertainment as a primary objective.
23	Enhancing facilities in town hall, town hall meeting room & library.
24	Breathe more life & energise usage of these areas. Town hall area for live music, exhibitions, plays, historical info on Balmain. Local schools could put on productions, graduations etc.

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - removal of council depot and transformation into a new park - public rooftop access to the courthouse to allow views over precinct - removal of occasional care and replacement with dedicated new child care facility - eventually there should be a genuine town plaza in the precinct
26	Turn the depot into an interactive sculpture park
27	The town hall becomes a key performing arts facility. A council-run visual arts exhibition space is established. Telstra square is extended following the demolition of the remaining Telstra exchange building.
28	Make sure that the relationship (including the paint colours) of the post office, the court house and the town hall) are maintained and developed. Develop an unifying landscape and garden plan from the PO corner to the end of the Town Hall
29	As above, traffic calming reopening the courthouse building
30	That Balmain continues to be a unique historical boutique suburb full of character and respected to that end without high rises and fast food outlets
31	More restoration and use of historical buildings and more beautifying with the use of colourful gardens.
32	I would like to see it become a combination of affordable cafes and shared office space like We-Work.
33	<p>Sell the council lot which houses the tucks and cans etc and make that into a park/cultural centre/arts space</p> <p>Ensure the beautiful court course/post office building gets a stunning renovation with cafes, restaurants, performance spaces and also; a large shared go working space that people can book a desk or meeting room in:</p>

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
34	It would be great to see the precinct retain its historical significance while having a vibrant community space – for Balmain and greater Sydney residents. This could have both private and public components – cafes, restaurants, shops combined with public spaces.
35	A multi-use space for different ages at different times of the day. From the daycare, library to the garden to (say) galleries for local artists (including crafts and other creatives where there could be workshops in arts/crafts etc almost like a Sydney Community College) combined with evening dining options or small bar.
36	<p>Placemaking for the Balmain Town Hall / Library Community Hub</p> <p>Placemaking for this Balmain location should be a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, integration and management of public spaces. Put simply, it involves looking at, listening to, and asking questions of the people who live, work, and play in a particular space, to discover their needs and aspirations. This information is then used to create a common vision for that place. Placemaking capitalises on a local community assets, inspiration, and potential, ultimately creating good public spaces that promote people health, happiness, and wellbeing.</p> <p>Council should undertake a Balmain Town Hall Precinct Placemaking Study / Program that uses urban design to enhance the physical quality, appearance and integration of buildings and public places to reinforce a place's identity and make it a more attractive environment for people to gather and interact with each other. This mix of uses will typically involve integrating community facilities such as libraries and community centres with local shops (including cafe and restaurants), public and/or private transport and often parks, and other service facilities such as health related or State Government support agencies. This element of place making is an extended form of colocation. It involves more than co-location of services in a multipurpose facility and involves greater integration of a variety of people attracting uses.</p>
37	The way things are going, open a soup kitchen

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
38	Put the telephone exchange underground - major waste of prime space - and extend Balmain Square. Move the Balmain works depot to a less important/valuable site to provide parking Free up the spaces between important buildings as much as possible Balmain Square was supposed to be a big idea and ended up a very small idea that took forever - don't repeat the same small thinking and lack of pressure on Telstra Replace the town hall tower
39	Keep It Simple S
40	Create an arts precinct that functions all day + at night. The site is extremely underused- the Town Hall should have a function every night of the week. Theater + cinema- same idea as Paddington Town Hall which has a cinema. Give a theater company a long lease so there is certainty of being able to run a business. Would need to build new facilities + adaptive reuse of some of the existing. Could use some of the adjacent council depot site, with all access still from Darling St.
41	As above - 10years is too too long
42	Open up the ground floor of the town hall, by putting doorways in the eastern side. The building is too small to be of much use. Could you build a big modern annex out the back?
43	Try some permanent plantings rather than gimmicky high maintenance temporary 'plant walls'. The flower tubs along Darling Street were another disaster.
44	I would like to see people not so reliant on cars. More walking, bike riding, electric buses. A Highline type development, like the one in New York, extending from The Bays Precinct . - White Bay - Gladstone Park - Darling Street

Online survey responses Q.5 (52 responses) What are your big ideas for the long term (10+ years) for Balmain precinct?	
45	The courthouse is not required by the legal industry anymore as cases are handled online or at Downing st. Turn the Courthouse into an Art Gallery and tie to NSW Art Gallery or Powerhouse for small exhibition. Move the Police station. It's an old building not fix for purpose and the police could have a new building say in the new Bay district. Use this space for some sort of community purpose. The Council Utilities station at the back of site. - move to Callan Park or Bay district and create a council space for markets like the organic markets in Orange Public school.
46	Art precinct.
47	Move the cars out to a central parking area and use mini buses to move people around. Make it more friendly to walk rather than driving
48	My big idea for Balmain it to maintain the streetscapes as they are, and ensure that the 19th and early 20th century buildings are preserved.
49	The precinct to be a mix of truly public space, community-purposed office space (e.g. potential relocation of some of our local doctors, pharmacist etc) and some limited retail / hospitality - e.g. spaces available to the public to use for community groups, meeting places for local parents groups (partner with the NSW Family Health Centre for this) art galleries, concerts, local school events etc. A permanent art gallery. Extension of the library into an outdoor space. Updates to the PCYC building
50	Community venue for performances of all types. A festival space that open air markets and street party
51	I would like to see the Balmain Precinct area be a vibrant space for community events, in particular cultural, music and art events.
52	Masterplan should include re-purposing the council depot for public open space. While it might be convenient for council workers, it is a poor use compared to an amazing public open space.

Online survey responses Q.6 (52 responses) Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?	
1	Yes, we'd love to see an extension of the Library that functions as a second lounge room outside the home - a co-work space hybrid as such. A place where we can do group study, group collaboration, work, read, have a coffee and read magazines and papers together. Attend seminars and courses. Record our own podcasts and music. We feel that if the council incorporates the outdoor space and incorporates it with the way the buildings are used, and how the buildings open into the spaces, in a clever way, you will have ACTIVE spaces at the group level - so social group work, social reading and chatting, and upstairs in teh town hall or courthouse will be more passive spaces, quieter etc. The courthouse should be used for educational purposes, school plays, mootings, and screenings. As well as performance, theatre and arthouse movies. The DEPOT area should become artists in residence, kiosk cafes, recycling collective educational and innovative space ...
2	Open the Courthouse buildings for community and public activities - Museum of Balmain, performance spaces, cultural displays.
3	Court house could be a community centre. Legal aid centre. Training centre
4	For council the priority is the Town Hall. It is under-utilised. Amateur groups, including musicians, and not for profit organisations should be approached for use.
5	Open the eastern side of the PCYC to the library forecourt. Ground floor activation.
6	Community centre and meeting rooms in the Court House. NSW government to partly fund.
7	i think the current arrangement of buildings is utilized to the best of its abilities, if there was an extra building used, maybe it could hold a small cafe in which i could get coffees by 6 pm
8	Community spaces!
9	N/A

Online survey responses Q.6 (52 responses) Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?	
10	As above, anything that brings community together regularly. Community room smaller than Town Hall, but larger than Small meeting room.
12	Library courtyard space glassed in for all weather use
13	As above- send out a floor plan for people to see what is actually available- size of buildings etc. To get more detailed comments.
14	Possible relocation of Library to court area to give Library more space or allow more library space out the back in depot area.
15	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
16	Make the Glass House a community garden. What is it now used for, and by whom ? Would be fabulous to have a community herb growing centre - particularly for those of us who grow herbs only for the starving possums to demolish.
17	Theatre
18	The court house or (also vacant space in the Post Office?): The Inner West doesn't have a decent gallery space! A local history museum would be great! and how about space for indoor markets? The Town Hall could surely be used for performance, dance, rehearsal, workshop.
19	Create a community space in the former courthouse.
20	Seems like the big courthouse building isn't used much. Could be repurposed for community and non-profit organisations.
21	Any building that's not used daily should get a review. Could it be used by locals for some creative projects
22	Glass house should be a cafe Community centre
23	Don't know
24	A community technology centre. Art municipal gallery with bar restaurant (may be fine dining) the view from the top of the court has to be wonderful.

Online survey responses Q.6 (52 responses) Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?	
25	Survey community for suggestions re town hall (dance classes, gentle exercise groups for seniors, formation of Balmain Community Band, fundraising events for local charities & community groups.
26	See above.
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - perhaps the police should be relocated to an area of less heritage significance - conversion of one of the buildings into a contemporary cinema/theatre space similar to the Valhalla or Dendy Newtown " for an area that prides itself on the arts it is strange that there is no theatre
28	<p>The library should expand through the town hall and the caretakers cottage.</p> <p>The library should have green space.</p>
29	Explore a range of uses for the courthouse, including as a museum and an exhibition space.
	Don't know enough about the availability of spaces to be able to comment. More small meeting rooms easily available to community groups would be good -
30	As above
31	Any community organisations or short term office lets like WeWork. Continuing education for adults learning a wide range of skills like language, artisan crafts and arts and literary pursuits
32	More exhibitions promoting local art and crafts
33	<p>Reinstate Viewing deck on Town Hall.</p> <p>Cafes in some of the buildings.</p> <p>Reopen Courthouse.</p> <p>Convert offices into WeWork like facilities.</p> <p>Do historic tours of the 3 main buildings every Saturday and Sunday 11am for an hour.</p>
34	<p>See above</p> <p>The redevelopment of the courthouse/post office is so important and long overdue</p>

Online survey responses Q.6 (52 responses) Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?	
35	Concerts or other performances in the Town Hall, artist and other creative spaces
36	The town hall (upstairs above the library) needs to be renovated to be more useable. The acoustics are too poor for local performances to be held but it would be the perfect space.
37	New uses should incorporate the development of a Balmain Community Hub that is more than a single multipurpose facility, that accommodates a variety of services, programs and activities, and that is well integrated with other people attracting uses in the local area. A community hub can also be a group of separate buildings that, although physically separate, cluster together to create an activity centre and access point for meeting a diverse range of community needs. The existing buildings should be integrated into a Community Hub that is more than the traditional community or neighbourhood centre. The mix of uses within a hub is more extensive and may include facilities such as a library, as well as services like health care and social support, meeting space for community groups, office accommodation for community organisations, space for community functions and events and possibly some form of enterprise, whether that be commercial or social in nature. Community hubs are also places that encourage social gathering and are designed to provide spaces for people to congregate and meet together in both planned and incidental ways.
38	Not sure. Is the old courthouse still in use? If not, open it up and make it a cultural centre

Online survey responses Q.6 (52 responses) Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?	
39	<p>Move some of Council's administration into the courthouse eg call centre, customer service</p> <p>Reactivate the court room for public meetings and private functions</p> <p>I quite like the library as it is - I thought the initial makeover was very good. If Council sets up a customer service centre in the courthouse then the library entry could be uncluttered</p> <p>Move some library archives (eg local history) and back room functions into the courthouse if that allows public use of the library space to be extended</p> <p>Is caretaker accommodation at the side of the town hall still in use? Is this the best use?</p>
40	As noted above.
41	As above
42	<p>encourage use by local groups esp schools at no cost and let to locals such as dance schools/martial arts tutoring/lessons--at low cost</p> <p>pop up art sales</p> <p>precinct meetings</p>
43	Stop selling public assets!
44	<p>Business owners should be encouraged to upgrade premises. 6 pm free parking for Darling St. Balmain is lacking atmosphere. It is dead. There are too many of the same type of businesses.L</p>
45	<p>Yes. Court House - Art Gallery. Police station- community centre, cafe or restaurant. Utilities Site in rear - community markets. All buildings need to draw people to the site 7 day a week.</p>
46	Public meeting and activity rooms.
47	<p>Government owned or commercial?.</p> <p>remote the childcare centre at the back of the library, which is underutilizes and create a park = open space for community use</p>
49	Not really. Maybe the court house could be re-purposed in the hospitality industry (e.g. budget accommodation and restaurants)
49	A permanent art gallery in the Town Hall building.
50	Arts and education

Online survey responses Q.6 (52 responses) Are there new uses for existing buildings we should consider or advocate for?	
51	The Balmain court house and town hall could include a 'mini' museum to showcase the local history. It could be attached to a room available for hire for community events.
52	Court House - vacant and idle is not a good situation. I would be happy with use split between retail, commercial and public use.

Online survey responses Q. 7 (47 responses) What construction, activities or events should we focus on?	
1	Look at what Albury City Council is doing! Amazing stuff! Community pizza oven that they fire up once a month that can be booked out during other times, music in the park etc Please see the submission made (emailed) by MyKindCo.
2	Traffic calming from Jacques Street to Montague Street including widening the footpath on the north side of Darling Street to allow plantings and increased use of the footpath by restaurants and coffee shops.
3	Community events eg anzac ceremony at Obelisk is a great community event. Something similar for precinct would be great.
4	Revitalising the area around the glasshouse.
5	See above
6	that is a good question, in my opinion, the hosting of a mini art show would be very entertaining, bring in more of the younger generation to the precinct
7	N/A
8	Music theatre library community forums, art galleries, seating outside
9	Library courtyard glassed in for all year use
10	As above - have another survey with suggestions put out to vote on and floor plan with size of rooms, how many, size of depot area etc
11	Very important to give Balmain residents a good meeting place and a real community centre. Also good places for daytime places for older residents.
12	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
13	Not for profit, things for all age groups
14	Unifying the precinct with plantings and street furniture. Upgrade the Town Hall facilities - lighting, heating, PA system, projection screen
15	No more external construction

Online survey responses Q. 7 (47 responses) What construction, activities or events should we focus on?	
16	Redesigning the kerb, rethinking the whole street. Open streets are always great fun and very popular. And think of people of all ages - e.g. kid focussed events and spaces. (ask the kids nearby what they'd like :)
17	Could Balmain please have a Repair Shop/Cafe? There's too many household items (electrical, furniture) being thrown out every week that just requires some expert help to get it in good working order again and there's plenty of retired people in the Balmain area that could offer their services to work there.
18	Acoustic consultation and treatment for Balmain Town Hall as performance space. Flexible seating. Rehearsal and performance spaces for musicians, composers, groups. Affordable and accessible.
19	Free or very inexpensive activities for young people, eg opportunities to play or learn music, drama groups, etc.
20	Renovation of the old buildings to create options for new business to to gain a foothold in the precinct.
21	Energising the precinct as indicated above.
22	Activities and events that focus on local Balmain history for kids and adults.
23	- greatest benefit to greatest people not just those that are squeaky wheels (avoid giving space to sectional interests) - injecting life into the area "as much public access as possible"
24	Things you can actually deliver on your land
25	Run a public consultation on the potential uses of the glasshouse. Following upgrades to the public spaces and buildings, run a local arts festival with commissioned installations and performances to showcase the upgrades.
26	see above
27	As above, parkland for depot plus a community cafe and art space

Online survey responses Q. 7 (47 responses) What construction, activities or events should we focus on?	
28	Limit construction to respect the buildings as they are without imposing modern architecture which will fight with the existing buildings. Enhance through respectful restoration of the current buildings
29	Preserving historical buildings
30	Declare architect and former Mayor, EH Buchanan, birthday and Historic Day for Balmain and celebrate the history of all historic houses and buildings in Balmain. This could be celebrated with a mass walking group from the Town Hall around the neighbourhood to look at significant buildings and back to Town Hall for a wrap up session and perhaps acknowledge and further promote Heritage initiatives with a Top 10 list of historic initiatives for the area.
31	Annual street festival like in other suburbs with music, stalls, food etc to raise money for local migrants and or asylum seekers Id like to see an organisation like Addi Riad in Marrickville in Balmain: there are so many retirees who I think would volunteer
32	Performing arts, art spaces and cultural activities
33	See above.
34	Things that interest the Peninsula community - exhibitions, music, changing library displays of local history etc - not jazzed up and otherwise boring street events.
35	Fix what we have. It we cannot afford it, dont put up rates for it, just wait.
36	As noted above.
37	Library refurbishment/management as above
38	back to balmain type annual festival
49	Getting a weekly market happening again.
40	Please do not include any second-rate, "innovative" sculptures. An aboriginal sculpture would be welcome though - they tend to fit in better with the surrounding environment.

Online survey responses Q. 7 (47 responses) What construction, activities or events should we focus on?	
41	Live music . Markets . Food discovery. Free movies for families in Morts Dock , Gladstone Park, Elkington Park. Lighting of street trees in Darling Street.
42	Art Gallery. Community Markets. Cafes.
43	Library
44	Fix up the Balmain Main Town Hall - loves unloved.
45	Ease of knowing what is on in which building and when
46	Child friendly musical and art events/activities.
47	As above, once there is an approved Masterplan, focus on the most cost and time effective way to deliver the Masterplan.

Online survey responses Q. 12 (58 responses) What do you like about Balmain Library?	
1	Locations, the staff, seeing young and old. Its a quietly social place. I love the front foyer area where there are always retirees reading papers and people watching. That's where I want to be when I'm old. At the moment I'm at story time with my son, but I wish the caretakers garden was open to us to take a break in.
2	Friendly helpful librarians Pleasant quiet space to spend time
3	Friendly staff Good range of books. I especially love audio books and there is a wide range that suits my interests. Old building.
4	Community facility with internet
5	I just like coming here to use the computers to view my emails as my internet at home isn't very good. It is much better here at the library. The staff here are also very helpful and willing to assist me whenever I ask. It is a nice communal space for anyone to use and enjoy. I like the human aspect - interacting with others makes me happy and I enjoy the fact that I'm not surrounded by empty space and plants.
6	Intimate
7	everyone respects the quiet environment at all hours of the day, unlike libraries such as Chatswood or Lane cove
8	Calm and collegial atmosphere, well used public space that is popular, good amount of quiet study space for patrons. I also really like how the spaces are clearly defined - there is a clear study room, a separate children/youth space, a common space. This makes sure noise levels in different areas stay in their respective area, and lets people choose where they would like to be. I like the common area and the fact that people read their newspapers there - it creates a sense of community.
9	It's a nice quiet space for community.
10	Friendly atmosphere Borrowing and returns systems Friendly staff Reservation system New books display
11	Heritage building, available facilities, events, books available, easy return system, reservation system
12	We have one
13	Varied spaces for various uses. Warm comfortable feel.

Online survey responses	
Q. 12 (58 responses)	
What do you like about Balmain Library?	
14	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
15	Friendly helpful staff. Good local place to work with internet.
16	It's small Staff are friendly
17	Great resources, friendly staff
18	The natural light is nice
19	Grandchildren like to play and read in kids section
20	The friendly staff, the auto check in and book reservation process, the bike parking right out front.
21	Homley feel
22	I love the building and I love the quiet. It also has a very good range of books to borrow.
23	Central location It has a toilet
24	space has a productive layout that enables easy access to all sections of the library. With dedicated areas for various activities which as someone who uses the library to study is of upmost importance to have an area that it quiet and for use everyday.
25	I like that there's a few spaces to go, this means that I have plenty of spots to choose that suits what I would like in a study space. But I would like to see a bit more private rooms. There's also a decent amount of books in every section of the library.
26	the energy of the space is simply lovely. a quiet, comfortable vibe thats perfect for studying or simply winding down.
27	Friendly helpful staff.
28	I like the space and layout. The collection is OK.
29	Quiet space but could be made more cosy.
30	Good opening hours, especially at the weekend
31	I value the services that the Library currently offers, including book borrowing for adults and children, the availability of newspapers and periodicals, and the large rear children's and teen's area. I also value the glasshouse area and immediate surrounds.
32	Books for the kids
33	The staff
34	It is a short walk from home.
35	Good location, easy to get to, nice heritage building, very good resources, excellent customer services,
36	Its heritage. It's reasonably quiet - when staff are not talking to one another from different sides of the space!
37	Friendly staff and quiet space

Online survey responses Q. 12 (58 responses) What do you like about Balmain Library?	
38	The range of books and magazines for all ages and it's peaceful.
39	Like having a local library, somewhere stimulating to be, rather than being stuck at home
40	The building is historically beautiful
41	Availability of computers, newspapers and a quiet place to read.
42	It is used for reading and research, aided by competent librarians The kindergarten-type aspect should not intrude upon serious readers
43	reasonable range of facilities for a small library
44	It is wheelchair accessible.
45	Small.
46	the fact that it's there and local
47	Some nice staff. Relaxed and informal atmosphere. Good range of books, plus always new books arriving, even though people no longer read much.
48	The face-to-face service provided by the Librarians
49	The staff are amazing. The location as long as you walk. The historical nature of the building. People come together
50	I mainly go to Book Buddies and I love the children's space. My daughter loves the sensory wall and the large amounts of floor space.
51	When it first open it was a comfortable space. Now a bit tired.
52	It's local
53	Almost everything--the whole place has a great ambience. It is a treat to visit and I wish I lived closer or had transport and could visit more often. As things are, I don't really feel qualified to assess individual library services.
54	It is a quiet community space
55	The children's room, the work spaces, the wide range of books, helpful staff, great technology
56	It is on the street
57	Access to the children's library area.
58	The space is unusual and characterful - nicer in many ways than a glass and concrete modern alternative.

	Online survey responses Q. 14 (3 response) What would encourage you to visit Balmain Library?
1	If I moved to the area
2	Operating hours of Balmain library need to be extended
3	The library needs to be brought into The 21st century. It is small and akin to something in a small country town.

Online survey responses Q. 15 (58 responses) What improvements or changes would you like at Balmain Library?	
1	better gardens and open space to be in that are directly connected to the library! As it stands I have to leave the library to enter the cold shady lonely courtyard to the side of the library. Connect the spaces outside to the library. CUT down some of the figs to allow sun into the courtyard.
2	Librarians' desk would be better placed near the front entrance Doors are heavy and difficult for parents with prams and strollers and the elderly and those with a physical disability. The pickup shelves for reserved books does not need to be next to the librarians' desk and at present it feels as though we are invading their space. Better use could be made of the small courtyard area.
4	Move the desk. The heavy doors are very difficult to push open. Can new books be better displayed? Better lighting. Improve signage. Stained glass windows in childrens section need to be on display- move shelving OR move the windows so they can be seen. The windows were a Friends of the library donation, made by a local artist.
5	Nothing too major - the AC is poorly set up. In some areas its way to hot in winter, too drafty in the front study room.
6	To me the library is perfect as is. I like the old building and the layout of the space. I'm able to find what I'm looking for and it suits my purposes.
7	Separate entrance for small children's room. Improve acoustic, library is too noisy.
8	i would appreciate if it would be open after 7:30, probably to around 8 pm would be super beneficial, that extra 30 minutes would be a great help
9	I would love even more study space - sometimes I can't be confident about getting a table (especially in the afternoons during weekdays). I also would like more bathrooms and a place to fill up my water bottle inside the library. I have noticed that there are limited places for group learning - I would like to see space for this - especially considering that a lot of high school students come here (something we want to maintain!)
10	More study desks would be really helpful. I think it will attract more students

Online survey responses Q. 15 (58 responses) What improvements or changes would you like at Balmain Library?	
11	Movement of customer service desk from back Swinging doors heavy and difficult YA collection not used and could be used for small group study. Air conditioning needs work. Pram parking
12	Change position of library desk to front, easier entry doors, better use of youth section, air conditioning.
13	More study space for students
14	More meeting spaces. Fix air conditioning. More space for kids and prams.
15	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
16	More workstations with ability to charge devices. Currently its impossible to sit at a desk and charge with an Apple charger for Mac as the plug is flush with the desk and won't allow for the charger.
17	Better entrance More information on forthcoming events A more modernized appearance - artworks, brighter colors
18	Take the State Library in Macquarie St as a guide - more natural light. This building is also great as you can see people inside from the street which makes it inviting to go in
19	Id like to know more about whats going on at the library, and the services available.
20	Make the kids and youth sections easier to find. They are very hidden. Rethink and open up the outdoor space on all sides. Have a few more quiet working spaces, as it's often full. Create more natural light, as it's very enclosed. Undercover bike parking would be awesome.
21	More power points to use own device
22	After years and years of using the library I'd really love for parents and young children to access the childrens' area through the back path and doors. The loud noise the parents make (often talking very loudly to their children or friends) coming through the library's main glass doors is a dreadful shock and disturbs all of us who are there to read or study. Occasionally there's a very noisy screaming child allowed to run around the library with absolutely no one asking the parent to "parent" their child. Always amazes us retired folk as much as it does the younger people trying to study.

Online survey responses Q. 15 (58 responses) What improvements or changes would you like at Balmain Library?	
23	Better collection Larger areas for reading
24	possibly the implementation of better desks and seating the the break out rooms of the library as for long periods of time the chairs can become slightly uncomfortable and the desks are often extremely squeaky which can be disrupting.
25	-Bigger selection of books -Private study spaces
26	Maybe more staff.
27	I would like the Library to open on Sundays and for it to extend the opening hours for Mondays and Thursdays until 8 pm.
28	Toilets need an upgrade. More comfortable seating & quiet nooks for reading or study.
29	More seating in the library for all users.
30	Some investment in it! Tired and run down Should be modelled on the marrickville library renovation in terms of a vibrant new space
31	Modern use the look and feel. It is possible to respect heritage in a contemporary way. Open the children's library into the green space and have a deck / outdoor area Remove the large trees and encourage use of the courtyard
32	A wider range of periodicals including literary journals. The current range of periodicals are mostly lifestyle-related.
33	Air conditioning should be in working condition Sliding glass doors at the entrance More study spaces
34	Building needs TLC
35	Children's library needs to be separate from main library. It needs to be transferred to another building. Crying babies in prams plus noisy children need their own space away from main library. Also an adult scrabble group would be great. Marrickville library pre-covid offered activities: Cryptic crossword/Scrabble/Western Mahjong/Eastern Mahjong advertised in a Train Your Brain flyer. Covid seemed to put an end to those terrific free activities to keep older brains active. Balmain library also used to screen movies.
36	More cultural activities
37	A better online catalogue and more seated areas amongst the books.

Online survey responses Q. 15 (58 responses) What improvements or changes would you like at Balmain Library?	
38	See above
39	More staff
40	To increase the available spaces for meetings, interactive spaces, have a coffee on site, different programs.
41	Extend opening hours on Fridays and weekends. Refresh the collection of DVDs to include more blue ray and UHD video discs. Generally refresh the library collection and cull old or rarely borrowed items.
42	stated earlier make the entrance doors more easily accessible for elderly and disabled. They are too heavy.
43	Customer service is extremely variable but very poor too often.
44	As outlined earlier
45	Needs to be bigger.
46	on going maintenance-- more displays eg history
47	The library is okay as is.
48	A Library Technician who can assist with Loans/Returns. My mother has become sight impaired & has stopped using the Library as she can't use the automated Loans/Returns system. More Librarians to assist with reference & general queries
49	Childrens area is really tired. Renew chairs in library area
50	More study/work spaces. My husband and I would like to use the space more for our further study and/or work.
51	Bring back a film group preferably in the afternoon. Dont change the librarians so often. More groups for senior adults. We dont want to go to marrickville or Ashfield
52	Use Surry Hills library as a template. Great space. Great functional meeting rooms. Comfort space. Good collection. Excellent WiFi. Marrickville Library great.
53	Look at Glebe or 5 Dock libraries
54	I think that's a question for people with more professional expertise than I have.
55	I was disappointed in the new Matrrickville library. It was a lost opportunity for easy welcoming pedestrian public access from Marrickville Rd. Instead you have to run a gauntlet of customers queuing and sitting

Online survey responses Q. 15 (58 responses) What improvements or changes would you like at Balmain Library?	
	<p>at the cafe which has been given prime position. Further interior frontage is devoted to windows where people are staring at their laptops and eating food.</p> <p>To access the library I then have to walk down a long wide staircase where the only rails are at each end. I am 73 and walk at least a kilometre to the library and dont appreciate the obstacle course to get in. Then, the only walk way up is up long stairs if you want to access the non fiction section. I liked the layout of the old town hall library much better. I find the loungey seating next to the stairs very off putting, with a sprinkling of young folk looking very self conscious as they gaze at their laptops in full view of everybody. The design seemed to give priority to those using the car park, and to profits for a cafe, rather than a welcoming access to young and old from the main road, instead of a totally blank facade with a cafe at one end. Its like they didnt want anyone to know it was a library. I never see young parents with toddlers in there. Please dont allow the renos to be a pretentious impractical fiasco.</p>
56	just need an upgrade looking old, air con fixed, improvements to the courtyard area to make it more friendly to seat and enjoy the space
57	<p>Make it easier to access historical archives</p> <p>Serve good coffee there.</p>
58	<p>The Children's area be upgraded with an accessible outdoor area.</p> <p>Improve/increase collection</p>

Online survey responses Q.16 (55 responses) How does Balmain Library benefit the community?	
1	In so many ways! A meeting point for young and old! A congregations of youth and elderly.
2	Good for borrowing books, reading newspapers, researching Balmain history. Good programs are provided for adults and children.
3	People who cant afford the internet can access internet at library. Youth can charge devices at library. People who cant afford newspapers can read at library. Gives people somewhere to go outside of their homes. People with limited space in homes can BORROW a book and read and return, dont have to store it at home.,childrens programs appear very popular.m
4	Multiple ways. Its a third room of their house for some. V. Positive
5	I just like coming here to use the computers to view my emails as my internet at home isn't very good. It is much better here at the library. The staff here are also very helpful and willing to assist me whenever I ask. It is a nice communal space for anyone to use and enjoy. I like the human aspect - interacting with others makes me happy and I enjoy the fact that I'm not surrounded by empty space and plants.
6	Good resources and purchase of new books covering politics and current affirs.
7	by creating an environment that is comfortable for everyone to use
8	Libraries are without a doubt the most important community spaces that there can be. Free wifi and a place to sit are very very important. It is also good that the library has long opening hours - I see lots of people coming here after work and after school.
9	By existing! I feel like it's a lovely space for a lot of us to come and spend time as well as getting the work donez
10	It benefits as a library but also as the only free public shelter for residents. It currently the only community hub.
11	Library use snd also free use of internet, meeting place and reading venue, community hub
12	Creates accessible space for everyone to access resources may not have at home
13	Absolutely. Community meeting space.
14	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
15	A good space for reading and working that builds community.

Online survey responses Q.16 (55 responses) How does Balmain Library benefit the community?	
16	It's central position makes it's readily available It is a place where people can have quiet time reading, studying, catching up on news.
17	Great resources and great meeting place
18	Every community needs a library! It's a local meeting place, encouraging local connection and education, investigating local history.
19	Great books, friendly and helpful staff, space to work while kids do ju-jitsu nearby, a great place for downtime and concentration.
20	It's a wonderful place to come in out of the cold and rain or the heat of Summer to take five and relax and enjoy everyday living
21	We all love it! It's a place of refuge and contentment for all the local community. So many great books to discover and read. We'd be lost without it.
22	It has a public toilet
23	allows easy access to a wide range of texts for free which is helpful to those that can't afford to purchase books. Also allows for a dedicated study space which is important for a lot of the community who don't have somewhere they can work distraction free or with internet available.
24	Balmain library helps the community by providing a space where children can learn, enjoy, and make friends. It also includes school students and workers with a place to study or to do their work. Sometimes it's just an overall place to relax and rewind.
25	Reading is a wonderful hobby enjoyed by many Balmain residents. The library makes a valuable contribution to this enjoyment.
26	The Balmain Library benefits the community by enriching our cultural life. It provides a meeting space and resources for all age groups from toddlers to the elderly and including students. The FOBL events are a welcome addition to our local events calendar.
27	Good accessibility to resources etc.
28	Great space for kids but could be much more of a community gathering space
29	Na
30	At a time when education and social contact are being increasingly privatised, it is crucial to have public libraries that enable people to enjoy recreational reading as well as undertake more focussed projects and activities.

Online survey responses Q.16 (55 responses) How does Balmain Library benefit the community?	
31	The library provides resources and services which support the learning, recreational and social needs of the community including for people who cannot travel to the library via home library service
32	An open, democratic soace
33	Cultural and community space
34	Provides a public place for people to gather, learn and relax. It's variety of resources means that it fosters in children in particular a sense for books and learning. Quite a few people also work from there.
35	Not sure as I let my membership lapse years ago when I joined Max Webber Library (which is AMAZING) when I started working in that area of Sydney
36	A community isn't a community without a library where people can hang out. Especially in hard times, which are increasingly upon us.
37	Focal point on Darling Street
38	Provides a quiet place to read , use the internet borrow items of interest.
39	With a place to gain knowledge
40	Provides multiple services to a range of age groups.
41	as a community centre hub
42	What struck me were the people being tutored, or being helped with some complex bureaucratic form. Perhaps you need specific services for tutors and community workers, who in turn support community members..
43	see above uses
44	So many people love to live in front of a screen, so it is good the library has computer facilities. Good, also that there are still enough Inner West readers, so that the bookshelves are not getting too thinned out.
45	Balmain Library is a crucial community service! The Library is no longer a repository for books but also a meeting place for children & young adults. Not only are the Balmain Librarians are professional, friendly & approachable, they hold a vast amount of knowledge
46	An area for study, access to internet, computers, printing etc for everyone. A place to unwind.
47	It is a great space that brings the community together. My mothers group meets there regularly to enjoy Book Buddies, and the space is perfect for our kids.
48	A community space to meet and gather.

Online survey responses Q.16 (55 responses) How does Balmain Library benefit the community?	
49	In a huge number of ways. Every community which has a library shares treasure in my opinion.
50	I always love libraries as community hubs as well as books. I took my children and then grandchildren to activities there, and at one point obtained every text book I needed by inter-library loan for my English masters degree.
51	Access to Information, social spaces, essential part of the community
52	The library is vital for the enrichment of local culture.
53	<p>Balmain library is critical to young families in the area - particularly its reading programs, and the separate space for children to play and read together.</p> <p>In a world where remote work is becoming more prevalent, Balmain library is also critical for residents as a quiet space to work.</p>
54	The Children's program and community talks events.
55	I don't need internet services but some cohorts in the community likely rely on this as their only access. This is a presumption but I'd like to see it tested before removing this service.

Online survey responses	
Q.18	
Do you have anything else to share about Balmain Library?	
1	Please contact us for our detailed ideas. We are a collective of local residents: mykindco
2	Love the historical feeling of our library. Wish there was more natural light in library. More space could be made available by putting archives somewhere eg in council depot buildings or court house. Use the meeting room as part of the library to expand library space, setting up a meeting room in council depot or court house
3	I really want to see the history and character and charm of the building stay.
4	Love this community resource! So much! Thank you.
5	N/A
6	Access to courtyard should be opened and perhaps used as a covered space. Space is the biggest problem generally with all the competing interests and so every space is precious. FOBL donated stain glass windows need to be visible and not obstructed by shelving. FOBL Committee appreciates the hard work of staff and all our efforts are directed to library flourishing.
7	Better use or increase in size of library space
8	Group activity spaces and more study spaces would be good
9	Love it but spaces may need to be reworked.
10	Created for testing purposes only. Please ignore
11	It would be great to see more workstations with ability to charge devices.
12	Thanks for this consultation!
13	Please if nothing else keep it a Quiet space. There's ample cafes and places to go and talk and laugh out loud. There needs to be one community place to go inside and quietly enjoy books.
14	I really like Balmain Library .
15	It is a local and much loved asset.
16	Staff are always helpful & take time to assist in your requests.
17	Na
18	At the library, there used to be exhibitions of local artists works which were popular. I would like to suggest the library organise exhibitions again.
19	Staff don't OWN the precinct
20	Our whole family loves it.



21	<p>I appreciate that it is not your fault that you had the building you are in to work with, and that you are reliant on council (who obviously had little interest in star of the art libraries I went to that one at the forum when it first opened. It was an insult! Never went back) for funds etc.</p> <p>its probably lucky that my two sons weren't very academic when they were in high school as Balmain library not really set up for large groups of students needing study space If I recall correctly your library wasnt even open on Sundays until more recent times. Im 60 and my local library (Gosford) was open on Sundays when I was in high school. In the seventies!</p>
22	The green decor is a bit boring, but I don't really care, as I go there to read.
23	No
24	<p>If it HAS to be used as a public kindergarten/meeting place, then please keep these places separate so those who wish can read and research in peace</p> <p>LOOK UP THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF A LIBRARY - THAT IS WHAT IT SHOULD BE.</p> <p>While you are at it, look up the definition of a Community Centre - they are not the same.</p>
25	no
26	We live in an increasingly noisy, 24/7 switched on world. Cafes, etc. are for socializing and catching up. There are heaps of cafes in Balmain. Keep the Library as a quiet space for self learning, contemplation, reading, etc.
27	PLS employ more qualified Librarians!
28	A Coffee shop please. Those mothers need a coffee shop in the courtyard
29	Please build a bigger library so that ALL of the above purposes are accommodated. They are all so very important in ways that cannot be valued in dollars.
30	What I also love is to rely on the librarys displays, if I dont have a specific book in mind. Very important, so you dont have to search along spines of books. The librarians always display an interesting selection to choose from, so there needs to be room for these displays.
31	no
32	It is quite a small library. It would be great if the library could be expended.

33	I consider myself tech-savvy but I have found the membership process to be unreliable. I'd love membership and borrowings to be app (phone) based.
----	--

Online Ideas Wall posts (18 posts from 8 contributors)			
#	Title	Posts	Votes
1	The Balmain Association	<p>The Balmain Association has not had the resources to provide a formal submission regarding the precinct. However it does support investment in the precinct.</p> <p>The Balmain Town Hall is sadly neglected with peeling paint, tatty curtains on the proscenium, damaged panels on the stage front, dismal acoustics, cheap chairs, and little to entice community use for other than periodic meetings. When compared with facilities in other LGAs it comes a very poor last.</p> <p>The Court House is unused and could be used for community purposes such as a small theatre.</p> <p>the Glass House must be retained and we have already endorsed being named as a memorial to Kathleen Hamey.</p> <p>Several of our members have made individual submissions, in particular that of BA members Lisa Tatman and Ilona Tar as 'mykindco'.</p> <p>We would welcome the opportunity to discuss and to work with IWC and other community groups to develop a revitalised community centre which adds to the rich heritage of the peninsula.</p>	8
2	The Green Depot: Community Hub	<p>The Depot has great potential as an integral part of the Balmain Town Hall Civic centre.</p> <p>We have consulted with local businesses and feel that we have much to offer in our proposal that we would like to present to Council.</p> <p>Again, anything done to the Balmain Library, no matter how big or small, should take into account how the Library will relate to all of the</p>	7

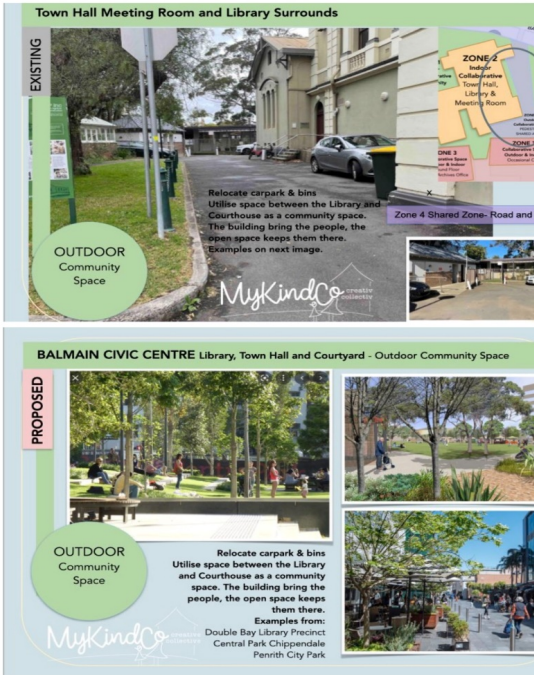
		<p>spaces and building surrounding them, including the Council Depot.</p> <p>MyKindCo is a collective of local Balmain residents with Big Ideas, proven funding, sponsoring and project management. We are Landscape Architects, marketing managers, designers, writers and more. We would love to share our ideas with you.</p> 	
3	COUNCIL GARDEN REPURPOSED AS LIBRARY GARDEN	<p>The council-owned garden to the west to the library is currently under-utilised. It is fenced off and currently inaccessible.</p> <p>Considering the volume of families (mums, dads, carers and grandparents) who frequent the library, this garden has a</p>	7

		<p>massive potential for use by this demographic as an extension to the enjoyment of their library visit.</p> <p>The rear of the library is a modern extension, and so therefore considering perforating this modern architectural addition and allowing for access to the garden from the children's library section would not require too much of the Library refurb budget.</p> <p>The image included here shows how many easy access points there are from the library to this stunning little piece of urban greenery.</p> <p>We would love to see this space filled with those little kids who's mum's have moved heaven and earth to get them out of the house and up to the library for what might be their main social interaction for the day. Those kids, and their mums, carers etc who need a little break from the books, fresh air to recalibrate and revive. A place where they can mingle with young and old who seek a little nature to break up and extend their time at the library.</p> <p>We feel this space could be really magical, useful, purposeful and unique. It links beautifully to the PCYC (if the rear access to the PCYC is reimagined) and lends itself to a place for those using the PCYC to take stock, wait for their friends and maybe even pick up a book.</p> <p>MyKindCo are a collective of local Balmain residents who care deeply about this precinct. I am a landscape architect, children's book illustrator and a mum. My children's book, Nonna's Gnocchi, was launched by Hill of Content in conjunction with an event hosted by the Balmain Library.</p>	
--	--	---	--



		<p>Its with deep affection that I'd like to see a garden along side the children's library area. We would like to share our more detailed ideas with you!</p> <p>EXISTING COUNCIL SPACE AS LIBRARY GARDEN</p> <p>EXISTING</p>  <p>PROPOSED</p> 	
4	Co-Working Space @ Balmain Courthouse (Free for Residents)	<p>Background:</p> <p>Largest figures suggest that 40% of Australians now work from home in same capacity each week.</p> <p>Opportunity:</p> <p>Balmain is populated by a diverse group of people from those that run their own business through to working for some of the world's most famous companies.</p> <p>We share a common passion that is the unique community of Balmain, yet there is not place for us to come together to connect.</p>	4

		<p>People are looking for a space to feed off the energy and general comfort from being in a space with others, not just working from the limited space many have in Balmain.</p> <p>The challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently the library serves a great stop gap for people seeking a communal space to work side by side with their fellow Balmain community. - It is clearly popular given the rooms dedicated to these are always full. - However the nature of working from home needs a tailored environment and importantly should not interrupt the beautiful environment of the library. <p>How Would It Work:</p> <p>The initial investment would revitalise a part of the courthouse into a unique shared workspace, the envy of any LGA in Australia. However the key would be to create a funded model so the space would be free or have minimal charge for the residents of Balmain/Birchgrove/Rozelle.</p> <p>Each month a sponsor would fund the space, for e.g. Telstra and they would be able to put some small commercial messages and even host a night in the space to promote for e.g. their Small Business products and services.</p> <p>The key would be to use corporate partners to fund the space so it is cost neutral, critical will be to make it accessible to all residents no matter their work needs. For e.g. a self funded retiree may love the idea of sitting among like minded people but is not official working as much as wanting a space to remain involved.</p> <p>Summary:</p>	
--	--	--	--

		Co-Working at Balmain Courthouse will provide an inclusive, and progressive space that reflects the changing needs of all Balmain residents.	
5	COMMUNITY SPACE BETWEEN THE LIBRARY AND COURTHOUSE	<p>The amazing area between the Library/Town Hall and Courthouse is a sunny catchment that funnels in from Darling St. There are often people sitting in the dappled shade of the trees, reading the paper, waiting for friends, or catching up with their neighbours.</p> <p>There is much greater potential for this space to be used by the community, and the Library. If we consider the potential of this space when upgrading the Library, we can see that even the internal layout of the library should consider how its interior space could spill out into this amazing civic 'square'. This might require reimagining the location of the (currently very difficult) seven car spots to the side of the library, and the waste management (wheelie bin storage) of the library to allow for this space to live up to its full potential.</p> <p>Included in this image are examples of mixed-use, hard and soft landscaped urban spaces, which, with a little imagination, could be applied in some way to the spaces between the incredible buildings within the Balmain Town Hall precinct.</p> <p>People using the facilities in this precinct (Post Office, Police, Library, Daycare, PCYC, Town Hall Meeting Room, Town Hall, cafes across the road) are much more likely to stay (and spend) in the area if there is somewhere to gather, sit and just be.</p> <p>This space could be as vibrant or as passive and peaceful as the design allows.</p>	7


		<p>MyKindCo are a collective of Balmain residents with Big Ideas. We've considered this area in depth, and we'd love to share our more detailed ideas with you.</p> 	
6	Balmain Town Hall Civic Centre: Masterplan	<p>The Balmain Town Hall and Library upgrade would largely benefit from a masterplan that includes the detailed use of the outdoor spaces that connect these amazing buildings together. In doing so, any work done to the Library, Town Hall or other buildings, be it upgrade or refurbishment, will take into account community access to the surrounding outdoor spaces.</p> <p>Each door, each window, each space within the Library should take into considerations its current, and mostly, its potential relationship to the civic spaces outside. These may be in the form of reading gardens, play spaces, outdoor tables, study areas, gathering spaces etc. The spaces surrounding the library are beautiful sun and shade catchments,</p>	6


		<p>community catchments, sheltered and inviting. They should form part of each and every plan for the indoor spaces.</p> <p>The buildings bring the people together in this space. The library is a hub of social and passive activity for young and old (and a beautiful place for young and old to mix), the post office, and PCYC also bring people to this space with purpose. But where do they go after their errands are run? What would extend their time in this space? What would invite people from all corners of the Inner West to spend a day or half a day in our suburb? The life that open air community spaces give keeps people lingering for longer.</p> <p>It is therefore important to also consider the Council Depot as part of the masterplan for this precinct. It needs to be audited, revolutionised, streamlined and shared with the community in an exciting and dynamic way. It is only with a masterplan can we rationalise even the smallest plan for the Library or any of the buildings in this amazing precinct. What an exciting space for this amazing peninsular community, and for the Inner West as a whole.</p>	
--	--	---	--



		<p>Town Hall Meeting Room and Library Surrounds</p> <p>EXISTING</p>  <p>Relocate carpark & bins Utilise space between the Library and Courthouse as a community space. The building bring the people, the open space keeps them there. Examples on next image.</p> <p>OUTDOOR Community Space</p> <p>BALMAIN CIVIC CENTRE Library, Town Hall and Courtyard - Outdoor Community Space</p> <p>PROPOSED</p>  <p>Relocate carpark & bins Utilise space between the Library and Courthouse as a community space. The building bring the people, the open space keeps them there. Examples from: Double Bay Library Precinct, Central Park Chippendale, Penrith City Park</p> <p>OUTDOOR Community Space</p>	
7	Glasshouse	<p>My idea is that the glasshouse has optimal community use. It could be used for exhibitions of residents' treasured and rare plants, a place to agist plants for a short time if residents go away for a short period, days where gardeners can swap plants, market days where gardeners in the community can sell or give away surplus fruit and verges grown in their gardens and for propagation of rare and interesting plants life orchids and opulent epiphytic plants in addition special events day or night like the light show held a few years ago.</p> <p>Schools in the area could be involved. Most have small gardens. The children could donate produce on days when there is such an activity and become involved in maintaining a school stall.</p>	2

		<p>The garden around the light house needs more planting, mulching and general beautification. Responsibility to maintain would be shared.</p> <p>Some of the activities could have a commercial aspect where the income can be donated to help maintain the glasshouse. However I think that Council would need to provide some funding.</p> <p>Obviously to carry out some or all of what was outlined above would require some coordination so I think a committee to do this could be formed which hopefully could be folded into the existing body which cares for the glass house.</p>	
8	Balmain Town Hall acoustics	I am not aware if this has been discussed, but the acoustics in the Balmain Town Hall are not good. It is an excellent space for a large meeting, but I often find that it is very difficult to clearly hear the speaker	3
9	Ideas Survey feedback for Balmain Library	Refer to my survey response	0
10	Balmain cinema and theatre	One of these historic buildings should be transformed into a cinema or theatre space. For a suburb with a strong connection to the arts it is Strange that there is no such facility. It would be a great community hub and reference historically the nearby former cinema on Rowntree st	6
11	Balmain civic precinct, circa 1907	<p>This is a better copy of the photo in the article "It's Time", Peninsula Observer, no. 306, March 2008.</p> <p>Interesting that the roof of the Post Office tower appears to have lost its finial in this</p>	2

		<p>photograph, and also the slight flare-out at its apex. They reappear in later photos.</p> <p>https://historicphotos.com.au/products/balm-ain-nsw-australia-cl906-sl53</p> 	
12	<p>Peninsula Observer, no. 306, March 2008</p>	<p>https://balmmainassociation.org.au/newsletter/s/contents/306%20200803.pdf</p> 	0

13	Balmain civic precinct on Harbour Bridge opening day, 1932	<p>The Balmain civic precinct sneaks into the corner of an aerial photograph taken by Milton Kent on Harbour Bridge opening day, 1932-03-19. And yes, the Town Hall is finally seen with its octagonal dome. Wouldn't it be a great idea to replace it?</p> <p>This is just a small portion of a photo that follows Darling St all the way down to St. Andrew's.</p> <p>https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/9yM6AVE9/BwNRjWIP2B84y</p> 	0
14	Historical material re Balmain Town Hall dome	<p>The image is a small portion of an aerial photo by Milton Kent, c1948-49, showing the Balmain civic precinct. The Town Hall dome is clearly missing.</p> <p>https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/YEGm8qVn/QOel5DIMK32NZ</p> <p>An article in The Truth, 1938, suggests why the dome may have been demolished. Reporting on the aftermath of a severe storm that hit Sydney, it records "Balmain Town Hall tower damaged and collapse threatened".</p> <p>Truth (Sydney), 1938-12-11 p32: "Other Details of Storm Damage".</p> <p>http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article169097818</p>	0

			
15	Demolition and reconstruction of the roof of the Post Office tower	<p>Could the happy ending for the roof of the Post Office tower be repeated for the Town Hall dome?</p> <p>Sun Herald 1974-05-19, p62: "The Mystery of the Missing Tower Roof: Balmain's Trend-Setting Post Office Has a Problem", by Elwyn Leighton Black.</p> <p>States that the PO tower roof was removed in 1956. Has before-photo of PO with roof and without telephone exchange, and after-photo of PO without roof and with telephone exchange (built 1958).</p> <p>https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=IL5f5cZgq8MC&dat=19740519</p> <p>https://smharchives.smedia.com.au/Olive/APA/smharchive (requires library card)</p> <p>Sydney Morning Herald, 1978-10-25, p11: "Post Office gets back its crown", by Joseph Glascott.</p> <p>States "The cupola [sic] above the [Balmain Post Office] tower was dismantled in 1957". Reinstated "early last week".</p> <p>https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=IL5f5cZgq8MC&dat=19781025</p>	0

		<p>https://smharchives.smedia.com.au/Olive/APA/smharchive (requires library card)</p> <p>OFFICE HAS A PROBLEM</p> <p>G F</p> <p>heri- s fast emo- and nt of most acted</p>  <p>This is how the Balmain Post Office looked until 1956 — the clock tower complete with roof.</p> <p>I that ag the is es- trade, there- it of</p> <p>design- ment ed to justi-</p> <p>redo- irrac- serve nestic ercial more and Bal- water-</p>  <p>Today the tower is roofless and partly obscured by the Telephone Exchange (left). The Court- house is on the right.</p> <p>otted, a de- a be</p> <p>9</p>	
16	Glasshouse saved, c1977	<p>Sydney Morning Herald, 1977-10-20, p10: "Balmain to keep landmark: Glasshouse saved: may get facelift", by Joseph Glascott. Includes a quotable quote from Paul Landa, then Minister for Planning and the Environment: "The Balmain Town Hall precinct will become a very handsome area. It will</p>	1

		certainly contain the most valued civic glasshouse in Australia." https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=IL5f5cZgq8MC&dat=19771020 https://smharchives.smedia.com.au/Olive/APA/smharchive (requires library card)	
17	Restoring the dome of Balmain Town Hall (part 1)	<p>Most Balmain residents are familiar with the Post Office clock tower and the dome on the Balmain Court House, but few are aware that the Balmain Town Hall also once had a dome. Perhaps that is because surprisingly few photos or other representations of it survive.</p> <p>I only became aware of the dome myself in researching on old postcard where three towers/domes are clearly visible on the Balmain skyline. However, once you know about it, the photo of the crisply repainted Balmain Town Hall on your web page presents a stark reminder that the dome is missing.</p> <p>The Balmain Town Hall was designed by Edward Harman Buchanan, a noted architect, Balmain resident, and mayor in 1888-89. Thus he was also the dignitary who opened the building in 1888. The quirky orientation of the building and strategic positioning of the tower formed a striking streetscape, with the Post Office (federal government), Court House (state government) and Town Hall (local government), creating a mixed civic precinct that is rare in NSW.</p> <p>The Town Hall dome, supported by an arcaded storey and topped by a lantern, was dismantled during WWII as a safety precaution, as was the pyramidal roof and arcaded storey of the Post Office tower. However, after the war only the PO tower was reconstructed, though belatedly, in 1978. I have often wondered what happened to the</p>	1

		materials of the Town Hall dome, as when it was dismantled there surely must have been an intention to rebuild it afterwards. However, that never eventuated. (Could the materials still be hiding in some council depot? If not, what happened to them?)	
18	Restoring the dome of Balmain Town Hall (part 2)	<p>(continued)</p> <p>In any case, I am not the first person to suggest the idea of rebuilding the Town Hall dome. Only today, as it happens, quite by chance I discovered an article in Vol. 15 of the Leichhardt Historical Journal, 1986, by Chris McNamara. His article is well researched, from an architectural as well as historical perspective, and presents two proposals as 1988 bicentennial projects: (a) replacing the dome of Balmain Town Hall as a priority, and (b) lopping off the front of the telephone exchange building. Both are aimed at "Completing the Civic Skyline".</p> <p>Chris McNamara's arguments are as persuasive in 2022 as they were in 1986. Now that the telephone exchange has finally been dealt with, the Town Hall dome should become the focus of attention. After all, if Balmain council, with population 22,500 in 1888, could afford to build the whole of the Town Hall as a matter of civic pride, then surely the current council, with population 200,000, can afford to replace its dome.</p> <p>Vol. 15 of the Leichhardt Historical Journal is available from https://web.archive.org/web/20180317173635/https://library.lmc.nsw.gov.au/DIGITAL/EBOOKS/JPEG/lhj15.pdf </p>	2

Public Meeting 13 July 2022 (9 responses)	
#	Response
1	<p>As part of the Inner West Fest last year, to showcase what I thought could happen in this space I applied for an EOI to activate the Balmain Town Hall meeting room and the Glass House as I found it was a very neglected space, even the grounds were overgrown with weeds, the community space of the glass house had very limited members and the town hall meeting room was in great need of maintenance and basically unutilized (except for regular community groups who had regular bookings).</p> <p>In that time I came into the space and turned it into an art gallery space. I used all the funding from a grant of \$10,000 towards activating the space. I had to put in my own hanging system to hang up Archibald winning prize paintings in space with the support of the Harding Miller Foundation and local artists that paint, and local collectors participated and contributed to the actual activation of that space. We had the space open for a week and then we actually had a program of talks that appealed to our demographic here in Balmain and they were very popular. We had workshops in the Glass House. I engaged a paper artist to install the fabric and paper flowers that you can still see in there. It was called Queen Bees of Balmain so it's about putting the matriarchal kind of female leadership of the local community, injecting that into the space and to make it a creative welcoming space for all of our main people to attend.</p> <p>So that was actually a pilot to showcase how simply that space could be activated and how people wanted to see it culturally activated, how the arts improve its health and well-being. Would love to see that continue with the further infrastructure and cultural development of this entire precinct to make it the central heart of Balmain.</p>
2	<p>A museum would be a great idea, a very modern museum with interactive vision explaining key historic events. It could also be kept as a little courthouse that you can have mock trials in. You could do some history on the place and find out any interesting trials that have been held here over the years. They could be recreated.</p> <p>All of the universities have new competitions, they have witness examinations of activities and it seems to me that something like that the council might be able to sponsor a meeting competition</p>

	between the high schools in the inner west area and it could be held here.
3	There's about a dozen buildings constructed by Buchanan in this area. Originally there was a cupola roof on top of the public viewing deck that was made out of timber. You should look to reinstate the cupola on top of the viewing tower. It would make Balmain a place that appeals to children young adults and older people.
4	<p>I'm here today representing the Balmain Rozelle Chamber of Commerce. The chamber would love to see ongoing activations in the whole area as it brings people, both locals people from outside the area.</p> <p>An activation program is imperative. We also need to get parking right, so that people are actually able to park here.</p>
5	<p>When I look at the library and anything we want to do with the buildings, I think about how we can further the footprint to include the outdoor spaces.</p> <p>The Glass House and the little tram depot are a funnel shape that literally draws people in from Darling St It has a beautiful sun catchment as well as shade.</p> <p>There's just so much potential for the entire space around the library to be better utilized.</p> <p>The caretakers garden is not utilized and not accessible to the public. I love seeing the multi-generational sort of interaction at the library. Imagine if that could spill outdoors in wonderful ways.</p> <p>What they've done at Double Bay around the library and even though that's a lot more sort of civic than possibly or urban than possibly being Balmain but there's a lot of ideas in that as well. So I think from my perspective would be asking the council whoever designs, whoever's looking at the buildings,</p> <p>Someone should look at how those outdoor spaces can be activated.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to enable all the parents spilling out with their kids from the PCYC to stop and use the area, as they really have nowhere to go afterwards. They try to get into the cafes but they essentially find it too hard, get in their cars and drive off.</p>

	<p>So for example where there's seven car parks currently, this could be turned into an attractive pedestrian space.</p>
6	<p>You go to Newtown or to Marrickville and they're alive at night they're bringing in people, theatre, the arts, comedy, everything. And outside the factory it's all lit up with lights and heaters and everybody's sitting outside drinking before they go into whatever entertainment. In comparison Balmain is asleep.</p> <p>Would like to open up the court house to help make Balmain more alive.</p> <p>Could we actually have plants and trees that provide fruit and herbs or things for the people who are less well-off in the area and that we can actually grow through food free to give to the less well-off people as well as being something attractive to look at.</p> <p>Regarding bringing more people to the area, a friend of mine used to come over to the Town Hall Pub every Sunday afternoon for the drag show. Can we not bring something like that back to Balmain? Something really fun and colourful that will be really vibrant and it would attract people</p>
7	<p>Lived in Balmain since 1972, a passionate gardener and I love the glass house.</p> <p>Would like to see more activation and use of the glass house, on a regular basis by all the community members.</p> <p>Would like to see some sort of a committee whereby it's used as a space that everybody has access to all the time. Could even be a commercial aspect or a swapping aspect and if could involve schools. There are so many things you could do with that Glass House, it's just fantastic and it's in a great location.</p> <p>A workshop would be a really good thing to have there. I'm a very passionate orchid grower.</p>
8	<p>Would absolutely love to attend an orchid workshop in the Glass House, sounds like a brilliant idea.</p> <p>The Clock Tower used to chime on the hour and that stopped some time ago. Does anyone know why that stopped, and the question for the residents is would you like to see that return? Or was it a</p>

	<p>nuisance, reminding us of getting older every hour, because I really thought that was a charming feature. I would count the chimes every time.</p>
9	<p>Committee of Friends of Balmain Library are disappointed about the plans for refurbishment, repairs, water damage, painting and drainage.</p> <p>The library is too small, and is not used very well</p> <p>We understand that it's used by a lot of mothers and young children . The children section of the library is very very poor in terms of its content, the collection is very small, it's not very well set out.</p> <p>It's very disappointing that the beautiful stained glass windows are mostly no longer visible, they're covered by shelving and not even able to be appreciated by the young users of the library.</p> <p>We wonder too whether there might be some other spaces in the precinct that could be used.</p> <p>We wonder if the upstairs section of the library that's now used I think just for archives could be used as part of the collection, with archives placed elsewhere.</p> <p>The air conditioning in the library is very unsound and uneven</p> <p>There are lots of other things to the library in a practical sense to make it a much more welcome area for people to use. It's not a place that you come to meet friends.</p> <p>Request something is done with the town hall for speaker events. Install of a new sound system.</p>