

COMMUNICATIONS

Community Consultation Report

Woomera Reserve upgrades

04 January 2024

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1. Summary

Randwick Council is upgrading Woomera Reserve with a new playground, outdoor gym, upgraded basketball court and new footpaths.

A consultation program was undertaken to gather community feedback on the proposed playground designs and outdoor gym concept plan. The community were invited to vote for their preferred playground and comment on the design for the new outdoor gym.

The Your Say Randwick webpage had 1245 visits and 269 engagements. The preferred playground design, as indicated by a quick poll, was option 2. While there was limited participation in the survey for the outdoor gym concept plan, participants were generally supportive, with a few suggestions for additional equipment.

Some community members also requested features such as a walking/bike track, more swings, increased seating, shade, and toilets around the reserve.

Results from the consultation will help finalise the upgrade plans before construction in mid to late 2024.

2. Community engagement strategy

2.1. Background

Randwick Council is upgrading Woomera Reserve with a new playground, outdoor gym, upgraded basketball court and new footpaths.

An initial consultation was conducted in October and November 2022 to collect community input on upgrading the playground in Woomera Reserve. Residents were invited to participate in a brief survey. The survey revealed that 81% of respondents reside within a 10-minute walk of the playground. Children aged zero to 12 years visit the playground equally, with 76% visiting regularly (daily, a few times a week, or weekly). The top five preferred play equipment items identified by respondents were the trampoline, swings, flying fox, play tower, and slide. There is widespread support among respondents for the addition of bike racks, more picnic tables, and an outdoor gym.

Based on this feedback, Council developed two playground designs, a concept plan for a new outdoor gym, upgraded basketball court with line markings, and improved connectivity with a new footpath connecting the playground to Esperance Close and Noora Ave.

2.2. Objectives

- Exhibit the plans for the upgraded playground and new outdoor gym.
- Determine which playground design the community prefers.
- Gather feedback on the outdoor gym concept plan to help finalise the playground.
- Gather community feedback on upgrading the basketball court and constructing new footpaths.

2.3. Consultation period

The consultation was open for 4 weeks from 13 November to 11 December 2023.

The project was assessed as having a lower level, local area impact.

IAP2 Consultation level: Involve

We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

2.4. Consultation activities

Community engagement activities undertaken:

- Dedicated consultation website to view the playground designs and outdoor gym concept plan
- Flyer drop to all mailboxes surrounding the reserve
- Posters on site
- Pop up at the reserve: 28 November 2023
- Email to Your Say subscribers: 15 November 2023
- Randwick News (weekly email): Listed every week during consultation period
- Social media: Facebook and Instagram posts 27 November 2023
- Email to all Randwick City Precincts
- Digital display screens at Randwick City libraries, Des Renford Aquatic Centre and Customer Service Centre
- Listing on Randwick City Council's *Current Consultations* webpage
- Councillor notification

3. Consultation outcomes

The consultation was open from 13 November to 11 December 2023. Residents could engage several ways:

1. Quick poll to choose their preferred playground design.
2. Survey to comment on the outdoor gym concept plan.
3. Comments board to give overall feedback on the upgrades.
4. Submission via email or post to Council.

The consultation generated:

- 1245 visits to the Your Say Randwick website.
- 245 votes using the quick poll for the playground designs.
- 6 surveys completed for the outdoor gym.
- 18 comments and submissions on the overall upgrades.

3.1. Quick Poll results

The quick poll asked participants to vote for one of two playground designs and generated 245 votes.

The results:



Option 1: 119 votes



Option 2: 126 votes

3.2. Survey results – outdoor gym

Six surveys were completed for the outdoor gym.

	Survey results																												
Demographics:	4 respondents are aged 30-44 and 2 respondents are aged over 60																												
Usage:	5 respondents plan to use the gym - Mornings and evenings (before sunset) were identified as the most popular times to use the gym																												
Reasons for using the gym:	Improving general fitness, building muscle and complementing other exercise were common reasons for using the gym																												
Equipment Preferences:	<table><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>Very important/important</th><th>Neither important nor unimportant</th><th>Not at all important/unimportant</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Cardio</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Upper body</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Lower body</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Ab/back strength</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Body Flexibility</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Arm/leg mobility</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr></tbody></table> The preferred type of equipment for the gym were those that promote upper body, abdominal and back strength. Followed closely by arm and leg mobility, lower body strength.	Category	Very important/important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not at all important/unimportant	Cardio	2	2	2	Upper body	6	0	0	Lower body	5	1	0	Ab/back strength	6	0	0	Body Flexibility	4	2	0	Arm/leg mobility	5	1	0
Category	Very important/important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not at all important/unimportant																										
Cardio	2	2	2																										
Upper body	6	0	0																										
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Ab/back strength	6	0	0																										
Body Flexibility	4	2	0																										
Arm/leg mobility	5	1	0																										

	Survey results
Comments:	Requests for different types of equipment were made. All comments are shown below. 1. Most desirable! Definitely needs to be suitable for young to older. Shade a must. Can get pretty hot there. 2. Dead space in the middle. Could you add a step up station or balance beam. 3. Could we pls swap the parallel bars for elbow supported leg/knee raises similar to the equipment installed at Chifley Reserve? But pls note that it needs to have a firm, weatherproof support on the arm rests - having just bare pipe for the arm rests is not usable. 4. Great idea - one higher pull up bar would be good - 2.1m for taller people is still quite low - possibly adding a 2.3 or 2.4m option somewhere also to make it appealing to a wider range of people. 5. I noticed that the kinds of machines included often appeal to men much more than women, i.e. the monkey bars /roman rings that women can't often use due to lower physical strength. I personally would like to see the body twist included in the design as is included in Clovelly but neither in Frenchman's or Malabar's gym. This would appeal more to women and older people living nearby. The hip adductor and abductor machine is extremely popular with the ladies if there was room to include a version of this too - women would flock to it! They want their Beyonce buns of steel.

3.3. Comments and submissions – overall upgrade

18 comments and submissions were received about the upgrade. Key comments include:

- Requests for more swings in the playground and equipment for kids aged 10 – 12 years
- Requests for toilets, more benches and shade, and a bike/walking track around the whole reserve

All comments are listed in the table below.

	Comments
1	Can you please do more than one swing? Love the idea of nest swing which is on both options but can it be like in La Perouse park where there is also another normal swing or 2 (seat swing/baby swing) otherwise it's a parents nightmare negotiating turns.
2	I like the idea of playground 2 best, due to the twin slides, for when you have twins, or two children with you. However, I like the wheelchair accessible trampoline in playground 1 better. Also, option 1 playground is quite high and there is no access via a ladder or stairs for adults to get up to children easily should the child need assistance to get down. If you could fuse option 2 with the option 1 trampoline, I think you have a winning design. Also could there be a few more benches around the area where older adults can sit and watch grandchildren please..
3	Where will the gym be located in relation to the children's play area? Was there going to be a cycle track around the playground or the wider park area for children to ride bikes safely?

	Comments
4	When will the work begin? I thought this was to be complete in 2023?
5	I like option 2 better, it's a lot better for older children the climbing frame. I don't like that option 1 looks unfenced with a sandpit at a dog park. But option 2 I don't think they need a throne, I'm sure there can be something better you could put in that spot, we go to a park to run and play. Also the seesaw I would rather some swings or something else.
6	Are we getting any toilets? It's impossible to plan a big day out or a birthday party without them. Love both designs but option 2 best.
7	Presuming Option 1 will be fenced as well? Agree with need for toilets/amenities close by
8	I like option 1 but would rather have the see saw swing instead of the throne
9	I vote for option one if that is made of natural wood. Let's blend more with our environment What about a climbing wall What about a basketball hoop? There's not enough equipment for the older kids 10-12 They get bored very quickly Playgrounds need to be more older kid friendly What about a flying Fox? Build a natural rock wall for climbing? If not in this park, another. They love the ground trampoline maybe more of them in other parks too
10	Will the playground be fenced? Some young children are very uncomfortable with dogs and some owners find it hard to understand. Even though things are well sign posted some dog owners seem to think the rules don't apply to their dog. Fencing seems to help.
11	Option 2 provides a wider range of options and more easily shared during peak usage
12	Both designs have the same problem: not enough swings. Swings are one of my girls favourite activities and they usually go to them first. There should be a couple of regular swings like there are now!
13	More shade and big trees that will provide shade is VERY important for any outdoor playground. Big trees also allow for loads of imaginative play. Like the nest swing and if space allow, would prefer one that swings and turns in 360degrees. Like the one in sir Joseph banks playground. Have seen kids use them and less boring than just back and forth. Climbing wall or chalkboard wall would be great too.
14	1. Always choose Australian Made. It supports our economy and is lower carbon because it hasn't shipped from the other side of the world. 2. Option 1 is more inclusive. I would have thought there would be more inclusive play given the recent re-publication of "Everyone can play" by the NSW Gov? 3. More things for small kids will help reduce accidents.
15	Don't be fooled 'Australia Made' still ship their parts from other side of the other side of the world. Also, as a neurodivergent I challenge your thought process on 'inclusive' within a play setting, it's a term currently overused, because quite frankly every playground should be for everyone and hey, kindness goes a long way. Randwick needs growth to

	Comments
	help businesses and innovation... option 1 is way too outdated and cheap looking stuff, it's everywhere and it's boring. Option 2 looks modern and for wider age group? Slides look fun, not first pick, but it's certainly best pick of the two. Good luck!
16	Regarding the womera park upgrades, may I suggest come cctv footage and some path lights That park gets awfully dark at night and for some ppl cutting across is an only option with getting to certain streets instead having to go all the way around or for ppl to walk their dogs at night and go via the park With womera also being an off Lesh dog friendly park with the amount of ppl who don't control their dogs and let dog fights happen (my dog has been a victim of 2 attacks) I feel like cctv is a must Also plz consider bathrooms A lot of us live local to the park yes but a lot of people also have health conditions where needing a bathroom and not one being at the park in case of an emergency is off putting, especially if ppl want to have a party for get together at the park there is no where to relieve themselves especially kids who aren't in nappies anymore.
17	I live in Binda cres, so only a 2 min walk from this park and I have 4 children who use this playground a lot! And so very happy it's getting a makeover!! We are away on a family holiday when you have the meeting at the park on the 28th so just wanted have a bit of an input. I do love option 2 best! The climbing frame is much better for older children and still has young children in mind. I was thinking as the outdoor gym is going to have monkey bars maybe in option 2 where the monkey bars are it could be a small flying fox? Love the trampolines!! But maybe instead of a throne and the seesaw you could have more swings or something else - a roll runner or a roundabout in place of the seesaw. Sir Joseph banks has one of the seesaws and it's not a good attraction. From the pictures it looks as though option one isn't fenced with a sandpit? If this is correct this would not be a good idea at all with dogs, they're bound to poo in there. This has such a good opportunity to be such a great park!!
18	I just voted on the playground plans for Womera reserve, my family lives on Esperance Close, so this is awesome. I know it may be too late, but is there anyway to request a path around the whole reserve? It's such a great opportunity for a running/walking track! Thank you

3.5. Social Media



Image: Facebook post

 Facebook posts:

Date	Reach	Reactions
27 Nov 2023	1560	2

 Instagram:

Date	Reach	Likes
27 Nov 2023	803	10

4. Communications material

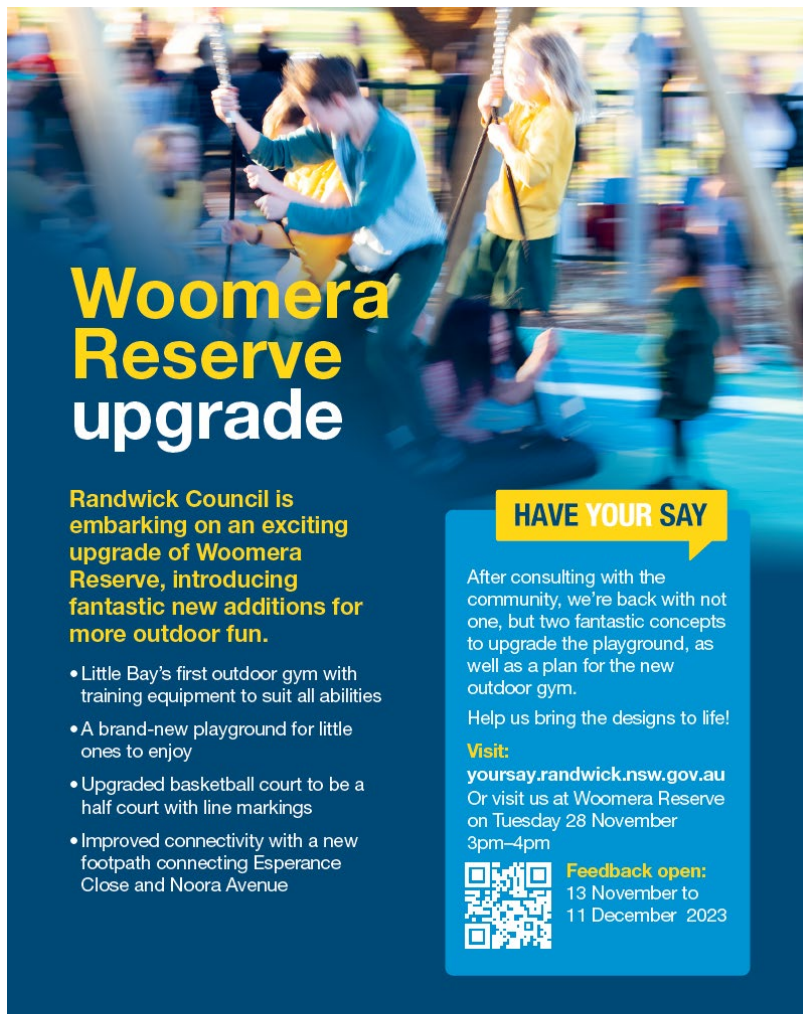


Image: Flyer to surrounding residents

Woomera Reserve upgrade

Randwick Council is embarking on an exciting upgrade of Woomera Reserve, introducing fantastic new additions for more outdoor fun.



- Little Bay's first outdoor gym with training equipment to suit all abilities
- A new playground for little ones to enjoy
- Upgraded basketball court with line markings
- Improved connectivity with a new footpath connecting Esperance Close and Noora Avenue

CAST YOUR VOTE



FOR YOUR
PREFERRED
NEW PLAY
EQUIPMENT



Option 1



Option 2



HAVE YOUR SAY

View the playground designs and outdoor gym concept plan at:

yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au

Or visit us at Woomera Reserve on Tuesday 28 November 3pm–4pm



Feedback open:

13 November to

11 December 2023

