COMMUNICATIONS

Community Consultation Report

Bieler Park Randwick playground upgrade

10 April 2025

Randwick City Council
a sense of community

1300 722 542
randwick.nsw.gov.au

Contents

1. Summary 3

2. Community engagement strategy 3

2.1. Background 3

2.2. Objectives 3

2.3. Consultation activities 4

3. Consultation outcomes 4

A. All submissions 6

1. Summary

Randwick Council is replacing some ageing play equipment at the Bieler Park playground on Frenchmans Road, Randwick.

This report presents the feedback from the community on the proposed playground changes.

Key findings:

48 submissions were received, with the majority (41) living close to Bieler Park.

Feedback on the proposed changes is mixed, with many supportive of the changes, though concerns were raised about the removal of swings. The most common themes include maintaining the current swings (17 mentions), adding shade (10 mentions), and incorporating new play equipment such as slides and trampolines.

2. Community engagement strategy

2.1. Background

Randwick Council is replacing some ageing play equipment at the Bieler Park playground on Frenchmans Road, Randwick.

The planned changes include:

- Relocating the swings away from the fig trees and creating a new swing zone with four new swings - two junior seats, a toddler seat and an inclusive seat.
- Creating a nature play area to replace the current swing zone, as the fig trees' roots make the area unsuitable for play equipment that requires a stable ground surface.
- Replacing the climbing frame and spinner with a new climbing structure and seesaw.
- The multi-play equipment (slide and 'cafe') will remain.

2.2. Objectives

The consultation aimed to:

- To inform community about the relocation and reduction of swings.
- To inform community the new play equipment.
- To provide the opportunity for community feedback prior to the work being undertaken.

Consultation Level: Lower-level local area impact.

IAP2 Consultation level**:** Consult - we will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Consultation period

The consultation was open for 4 weeks from 5 February to 5 March 2025.

2.3. Consultation activities

- Dedicated website: Your Say Randwick webpage.
- Letterbox drop: A5 flyer sent to residents surrounding Bieler Park, Randwick
- Signage: A2 posters around the park
- Email campaigns: Sent to Your Say subscribers and Randwick City Precincts.
- Weekly eNews: Featured in Randwick News during the consultation period
- Randwick Council Website: Listed on Current Consultations webpage
- Councillor Notification: Councillors were informed

3. Consultation outcomes

- Website visits: 713
- Document downloads: 259 downloads of the playground plan
- Submissions: 48

3.1. Submissions

3.1.1. Submissions in relation to Bieler Park

- 41 live within the immediate vicinity or a 10-minute walk of Bieler Park.
- 3 live in Randwick
- 3 live outside Randwick but within the LGA
- 1 lives outside the LGA but visits Bieler Park

3.1.2. Submissions summary

The feedback received on the planned changes at Bieler park is mixed, with both supportive and critical comments. While many residents appreciate the upgrade, there is concern about the removal of the swings. Feedback also asks for additional features like shade, more water play, and better seating.

Theme	Description	Number of mentions
Swings	Many opposed to reducing the number of swings – many prefer to keep current swings	17
Shade	A number of requests for shade sails or natural shading over play equipment.	10
Supportive	Support for the planned changes, with some providing suggestions for improvement.	9
Nature play	A few comments about the value of the proposed nature play area	7
Seating	A few requests for more seating	2

Theme	Description	Number of mentions
Other equipment	Requests for other types of play equipment, such as: • slides (12 mentions) • trampolines (5 mentions) • water play (5 mentions) • climbing equipment for older kids (5 mentions) • music equipment (3 mentions) • cubby house (3 mentions) • basketball hoop (2 mentions • liberty swing, bike parking, scooter track, outdoor gym, flying fox, sand pit (1 mention each)	41

A. All submissions

	Submission
1	I think the area where the swings are needs another bench for parents to sit on - there's not enough seating down that end. And very disappointed to see there are no slides included in the new play equipment - climbing is great for the older kids, but for the little kids, a slippery dip is one of their first thrill rides. When my son was tiny, he rode the slides at Bieler Park many times, and loved the little cafe area, pretending to make cupcakes from the leaves. Sad to see you're removing that aspect altogether. Please look into including something for the little babies and toddlers who frequent the park more than the older kids. Little kids can't use that climbing frame at all - what do they have left - one single see-saw and a swing? Not well thought out Randwick Council.
2	Leave as is.
3	Not particularly impressed by the proposal, especially when comparing to the recent Alison Park playground. Reducing the number of swings and adding logs instead of proper play equipment is subpar planning. I would recommend some sort of helterskelter / slide and maybe a trampoline, even water play would be nice.
4	Why is there no provision for a Liberty Swing (which allows for wheelchair bound persons)
5	- Please ensure there is climbing equipment suitable for older children (ages 10-15), especially monkey bars and a higher slide - Please install several in-ground trampolines - Please install a toilet block; this is the biggest downside as there are no toilets anywhere nearby - Please ensure all equipment is covered by UV-resistant shade cloth
6	Great idea to upgrade the equipment and improve the facilities.
7	Great design. Could shade be considered and appropriate seating for adults/guardians. Thanks.
8	Why are you changing something in the community that arguably does not need to be changed? This park has existed for a long time and I doubt is in dire need of replacing. Save the money and just fix whatever is broken instead of relocating and restructuring the entire area. Stop finding useless things to do. Instead, you could look at the disgraceful state of the roads in the community, have a look at cleaning the pavement walk on Coogee Bay Road where all the stains and stinks and rubbish from the weekend seem to be coalescing. I've been collecting evidence of the "lack of attention" certain issues receive compared to the action the local council takes on other things that are, arguably, less important. Good luck.
9	would be great to include large slippery slides and water stations.
10	I'm a child psychologist. Great that this is being updated!! Please include some open-ended play equipment, and remember that risky play reduces anxiety in children in the long term, and leads to better outcomes overall. Also, please consider raising some of the hedges or adding extra planters. People drive so fast on that part of Frenchman's Road, and it really impacts the enjoyment of the playground having cars race by right next to where children are playing.
11	I walk past the area most days and see it is well patronised and the moving of the swings is a good idea. Could you include a recyclables bin to compliment the existing rubbish bin and consider come picnic huts and a barbecue area on the mostly unused section to the east

	Submission
	outside the play area. Would a basketball hoop or similar facility for older children be a possibility there as well?
12	The most important thing for this park is shade. Particularly over the climbing frame (where there is no shade currently). It is too hot in the day for children to be exposed and will reduce the number of parents who visit. Please just make sure where the play equipment is (swings, climbing frame, see saw), that it's protected from the sun.
13	The slide and cafe area also needs an upgrade/to be replaced. They are quite dated and worn (especially the slides) and it seems like an appropriate time to also upgrade that equipment given the rest of the playground is being renovated.
14	Great idea to upgrade this busy playground. Please be aware the current swings are the best in the area with the long swing arms. Please don't replace with short swings! Toilet would be great there also
15	I think it looks fantastic and inclusive of all ages. There are so many more young families now which will use this equipment and it will bring more business to the cafes and shops close by.
16	Overall supportive of the proposal. However, is it possible to provide a shade cover for the existing slide/cafe or the new climbing equipment? Can the fences (wooden and metal) around the park be checked and fixed as required? Also some more/brighter signposting would be good.
17	The first question I had was where is the slide but then I realised the old one is being retained. I query why all this work is being done but the slides and play equipment for the babies can't be replaced at the same time. I have a two year old and six year old and we frequent this park but even though I live a few houses away from this park we often go to other parks out of area because they are bigger and offer more for my kids. The plastic slides are old and ready to be replaced. It also gets very hot as there is no shading. It would be great if the play equipment could be partially shaded somehow. What about an internal trampoline, mini scooter track or even a water/sand feature of some sort? This park has so much space and so much potential to be a place for extended park stays, this work almost seems like a bandaid fix. Utilise the space and expand.
18	I think it looks great overall. Glad that the main frame is being kept. The new climbing frame looks good. However the nature play area looks a bit disappointing. It would be good to have more natural pieces that enable more adventurous play.
19	Yes, Not that this is a park I would use and from my experience of most parks in Randwick Councils area there isn't much equipment for toddlers and under 3-4 yr's olds. Mothers at home with small children wouldn't get any joy out of going to most parks in the area. The picture of equipment for this park only has 1 bucket swing and does it even have a safety chain across the opening? You need some slides for small children. If you need ideas take a look at equipment in parks for the Inner West Council. for example J F Laxton Reserve in Union St, Dulwich Hill and Johnson Park, Constitution Road, Dulwich Hill. While your at it consider some of the dog related signage in these parks also. I look after my 2.5 yr old granddaughter and my local parks are not suitable for her.
20	Access by bike and bike walk is a must. And a bike parking is smaller, quiet, generate 0 degradation and almost no major risk
21	Hi, i like all the changes proposed to the park, ive spoken with a few neighbours about it and we all like to stay fit, we wished there was some sort of outdoor equipment like at Burrows Park at Clovelly there, could be at the other end of the park or near the fig trees, sometimes we walk around the corner to Bieler and train in the park, sometimes use the monkey bars

	Submission
	there also when kids are not playing. Thanks for letting me submit this enquiry and ill miss the big swings! lots of memories as a kid myself.
22	I'm really excited about the upgrade as I like to take my granddaughters aged 3 and 17 months there. The new equipment and plans look great. I hope there will be shade cloth over the equipment.
23	Yes, we visit the park daily and reducing from 6 to 4 swings is not enough. They are always being used and when you have two toddlers or two kids, they can currently go next to each other. Please keep another baby swing and another normal swing. It's currently the best park in Randwick it will be ruined if you reduce the double swing setup for babies and kids.
24	One of the greatest things about the current playground is the tall swings which allow kids (and adults too!) to have a great big swing. I acknowledge these are not in an ideal location and need to be moved. It would be great if the new swings could resemble the existing ones.
25	'I go to this park most days with my children - a 7 year old and a 4 year old. The best thing about it is the swings - 6 swings, all in shade nearly all the time. My older child has additional needs - he is autistic with an intellectual disability. His favourite thing to do is swing and he will regularly swing at Bieler Park for 45 mins and still be reluctant to get off. It helps him to calm down and regulate. Most other playgrounds have only a couple of swings, so Elliot can only have a short swing and then we need to get him off to give other children a turn (a v difficult process in which he gets v agitated). I urge the council to try to maintain the number of swings, including those for older kids, even if you have to relocate the swings due to the figtree roots. The shade is the other stand out feature of the park. Please consider providing a shade canopy if the equipment needs to be moved from under the fig-trees. The top area where the old climbing frame used to be is too exposed and we rarely use that area. Other things you might consider which I suspect would be hit: - a small bike track - a sand and water play area - an elevated see saw like the one in Varna Park, which also spins around
26	I don't know who approved this new plan, don't think any parent would, the swings are the best part of this playground, they are always taken and have a dissent swing length, it it the only playground around with a proper amount of actual swings where kids don't need to wait for ages for their turn. New plan has just one baby swing!!! Their current location is perfect under the trees so there is shade when kids swinging there for long time. Come and check it out for yourself, when the playground if full all the swings are taken with happy kids!!! If you are concerned that the swings are too old, just replace them with exact same ones but new. If you could ask the parents who actually go to this playground my assumption not many would agree to relocate and replace those swings, I definitely not agree with that. And for the replacement of the entertainment area with climbing, cafe and slides - it functions perfectly well. And why is there no slides on the new plan? This by far the best natural playground and I don't see a need for it to be changed, maybe improved a little bit, like installing a climbing net back on, but other than that looks like a total waste of taxpayers money, without benefiting kids!
27	I always wonder if the designers of the children's playground actually have children themselves. Kids of all ages (and also adults) love to go on a swing. Please don't take them

	Submission
	away. There are currently 6 in this park and they are always being used. I would strongly advise you to keep 6 swings, one of which is an accessible swing. The nature play suggestion of raised logs will keep the kids occupied for all of 2 minutes, they're quite ridiculous actually. The geo climbing structure looks interesting and a good upgrade from the spider climbing frame. There needs to be more than one see saw and I would strongly suggest to keep at least one of those spinning poles
28	It would be great to include some element of water play. There is a bubbler outside of the gated area so there is plumbing near by. The Waverly park water play, wild play in Centennial Park and the new park at Lynne park rose bay all do a great job with large and small water play. Sydney is only going to get hotter and children need to Cool off. Please consider putting in a small water element in the park. Really appreciate the upgrade btw!
29	A slippery dip and a ground trampoline would be welcome. That climbing frame looks like an accident waiting to happen and not great for kids under 5 Also - more swings please. They are always in high demand, even with the current set up with 6 swings.
30	Great initiative, please make Frenchmans Road a 40 kmh zone and add traffic calming and a crossing near the playground to make it safer.
31	Thanks for upgrading Bieler Park, which was due given that recent improvements in playgrounds in the area, such as Waverly and Alison's. As father of three and living next to Bieler Park, I would appreciate the following: 1. Include a jumping mat (as Alison's playground), the kids love it! 2. The nature section with logs, it would be great if it's more like a circuit (as Waverly Park) 3. Include some music equipment (I.e drums or xylophones) Thank you again
32	Put an extremely long and fast flying Fox zip line from one end of the park to the other. And some slides, bigger swings. Please put in a half court as the community is lacking facilities for older kids,
33	PLEASE don't take away the slides!!! I've visited this playground almost daily since having my kids - now aged nearly 3yrs and now have a new baby too. The slides and swings have been a god send. Can you consider the design to be more like the slide/climb apparatus that Queens Park has, as well as the great job that Lynne Park in rose bay has now completed. It's appreciated the consideration of a disability swing but honestly the toddler swings get the most use at this playground, and having at least two toddler and two junior swings would be best! A new climbing apparatus is great but the one proposed feels way too complicated for the age range we ever see at this playground. 0-5yrs feels very appropriate age range. Understood the rational for moving the swings - but a better use of that shaded area would be great than just adding 'a few logs' and naming it nature play! A bit more thought on that area would be great. Is it possible to fence off the grass area too - next to the playground so it's more child friendly, and perhaps can be better used by the residents with children - ie to have picnics etc. Hoping the new design can please please re-I Clyde several different slides!? THANKYOU

	Submission
34	Please please do not change the swings. There are 6 currently and reducing to 4 will negatively impact this park. It's the only local park where you can take multiple toddlers to playground and put them on the swings next to each other. The design proposed does not allow 2 toddlers or one toddler and one kid to be on the side by side. Additionally, the swings are always full so by reducing them will cause a lot of dramas. These swings also have good length so can go higher than the surrounding parks. These are in the best spot with plenty of my of room for the kids not to run in front of. The rest of the upgrade is great but please please reconsider the swings.
35	It would be great to have a slide as especially younger kids love slides. Not sure it needs such a big area for nature play with centennial park close by. My kids are normally not too keen on it.
36	Please keep a couple of high swings - our kids (3 and 6) really enjoy being able to swing a bit higher. We mainly come to this park for the swings. Also please have 6 instead of 4 swings as it often gets busy here. I don't mind them being moved forward away from the trees but just don't make them all low ones for small kids. Have a couple of different heights.
37	Challenging climbing frame like the old ropes was great to give older kids some enjoyment. 4 year old feedback: massive slide and cubby house/cafe would be good to maintain.
38	Yes. Please add climbing apparatus for 5 years + kids. More challenging than the one proposed. Add a long slide. Add a cubby house. Thank you!
39	Please ensure the multiplay equipment can be used by all ages I.e those crawling - so no nets to get to slides. Consider including some funky fun shape for this multiplay I.e pirate ship or treehouse. Also consider adding some inground trampolines. Please can you add some shaping to the play equipment.
40	Overall happy with the suggestions, however replacing the current 8 swings with only 4 is not enough. Additionally, shade sails are desperately needed over the areas marked 1 and 2.
41	Yes. I live right opposite the park and have an 18 month old daughter. We are also planning another child this year. The existing park is seriously lacking in shade with the existing slide set being unusable during the sunny afternoons. It would be great if you could provide a shade sail for the new plan, especially as you're moving the swings from under the trees. I saw that you're including a 'disabled' swing in the swing you're proposing - I would like to know if there are any disabled kids in the area that have requested that? I've lived here for 5 years and have never seen one. My only point is that the park gets quite busy and you're taking away a general purpose swing to replace with one which can only be used by disabled kids. If you insist on this option, it would be better to find a swing that can be also used by non disabled kids. Lastly, you haven't included any slides in the new plans, and the climbing frame looks exceedingly minimalist. We have a large variety of ages around here, with many very young kids and young couples moving here. I feels a rethink of the design and possible expansion / additional play equipment would be hugely beneficial for many of the users of the park. Thanks
42	-Two bins: One on each side, people go there and drink and leave their dirty cups or wipes on the floor, maybe having a bin closer it will help to keep the park cleaner? -Sand pit: Is it possible to add a sand pit? Maybe on the fig area? There is some sand, but it gets so dirty and it's full of glass, I have to be cleaning it all the time. -Can we have a shelter? during summer it gets so hot and the slide gets burning hot and if it rains the top to get to the slides get puddles. Thanks

	Submission
43	Please replace the current playstructure (with the slides) with something similar and not the proposed “geo stucture”. The current stucture is great for the younger kids and allows for imagination (is it a castle, mountain etc). The proposed structure is probably cheaper in upkeep but not great for younger kids and is pretty boring for the mind’s eye. Also the seat steps are great for parents to sit and watch. This is a great little every day playground, please do downgrade it with a geo stucture like pictured in the plans. Thank you.
44	I disagree with parts 3 and 4 of the plan. One of the best parts of Bieler playground are the 6 swings. They're shaded for most of the day thanks to their placement. The chain length is the best in the area. Our daughter can swing a good distance safely without having to push hard or risking tipping backwards. I'm often at the park with our 2-year old daughter, and all three child swings are frequently in use at the same time. I've seen older kids talking and playing on 2 of the full-size swings simultaneously. 6 seems the right number. The proposed position of the new swings would necessitate shortening the chain length, making the swing arc smaller. It would also place them in direct sunlight for most of the day, heating the seats and chains. In concert, these would make the swings less fun and less safe. The nature play balance beams could easily be placed in position 3 without reducing the park's utility. However, moving the swings, reducing the swing count to 4 or shortening the chain length would make the park less attractive. I would be fine with replacing 2 of the 6 swing *seats* with more inclusive options. The seat closest to the gate is on a flat surface, so should be accessible and fit for an inclusive seat. One of the baby seats could be replaced with a flat toddler seat.
45	Love the idea of nature play, are concept images available for review? The new climbing frame also looks great, however I believe the new park is missing a larger slide suitable for older children- this is always one of the key draw card for kids, to be able to run obstacle courses across climbing frames (or sorts) and down a good sized slide.
46	Can't you just modify the existing Swing without removing them? Because removing the swings & soft fall may damage major roots or kill the heritage fig trees which the swings are under.
47	We need slippery dips!! One for littlies and a bigger one for 4-8yo Also need more swings (there are already too few) Would LOVE some music makers - like at Alison Rd
48	The current set of swings is one of the best around, allowing big kids to swing, and parents to swing alongside their children. The new configuration looks like it will be not enable more than one bigger kid to swing at a time and their will be even more kids lining up waiting for a turn - or they will be too small of a swing to be enjoyable for any school age children. If the structure is unstable due to the roots, moving is understandable, but all swings are often in use and kids talk about being able to swing high on these swings where others are not as fun. The rest of the new equipment looks great, although some shades over the new climbing equipment would be good.

Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
Randwick NSW 2031

1300 722 542
council@randwick.nsw.gov.au
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

FOLLOW US ONLINE