

COMMUNICATIONS

Community Consultation Report

Yarra Bay Amenities upgrade

05 April 2019

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1. Summary and outcomes

The following report outlines the consultation program undertaken to consult with the community on the planned upgrade of the Yarra Bay Bicentennial Park amenities building.

The community were invited to view the proposed plans and could ask a question or provide feedback to Council from 8 March to 2 April 2019.

The consultation was promoted using posters onsite, notifications in local media, digital and social media, as well as being presented at a *Let's Chat* session on 28 February 2018.

The consultation had over 215 unique visits to the Your Say Randwick webpage and 10 submissions were received and two questions asked online. Feedback from the community confirmed key features of the upgrade should include enhanced safety and security, through CCTV, sensor lighting and improved access, along with more natural light and ventilation. Submissions relating to the area surrounding the amenities block, which are not part of the project, have been passed on to the relevant Council departments to be considered.

2. Community engagement strategy

2.1. Background and objectives

A community consultation program was undertaken to exhibit the plans for the proposed upgrades to the Yarra Bay Bicentennial Park amenities building.

2.2. Consultation period

The consultation was open for 28 days from 8 March to 2 April 2019. The project was assessed as having a lower level local area impact.

The community were asked to view the proposed plans and ask a question or make a submission online or in hard copy (available at all libraries and Customer Service Centre). Submissions were also accepted via email, letter or telephone.

2.3. Consultation activities

Community engagement activities undertaken:

- A dedicated consultation website including an online submission and question and answer option.
- Email to Your Say Randwick subscribers (approx. 4200 recipients) on 7 March 2019
- Posters on site
- Randwick Council advertisement in Southern Courier on 12 March 2019
- Content in Council's Randwick News email sent weekly to 43,000 subscribers on 13 March 2019
- Email to all Resident Precinct groups
- Presentation at community meeting "Lets Chat " on 28 February 2019 at Prince Henry Centre
- Emails to notify external stakeholders about the community consultation period
- Hard copies at all Randwick City Libraries and customer Service Centre
- Listing on Randwick City Council's Current Consultations webpage

3. Examples of community engagement material

3.1. Advertising

Image 1: Southern Courier 12 March 2019

YARRA BAY BICENTENNIAL PARK AMENITIES

We are upgrading the Bicentennial Park amenities building at Yarra Bay. You can view the concept plans online at www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au or at any of our libraries and Customer Service Centre, Frances Street, Randwick. Consultation closes 2 April 2019.

Image 2: eNews article 13 March 2019

• **Yarra Bay Amenities Upgrade**

We're planning to refurbish the existing amenities building at Bicentennial Park. The proposed design will create a brighter, more attractive and generous space. Consultation closes Tuesday 2 April.

[Tell us your thoughts.](#)

3.2. Digital Communications

Image 3: Poster

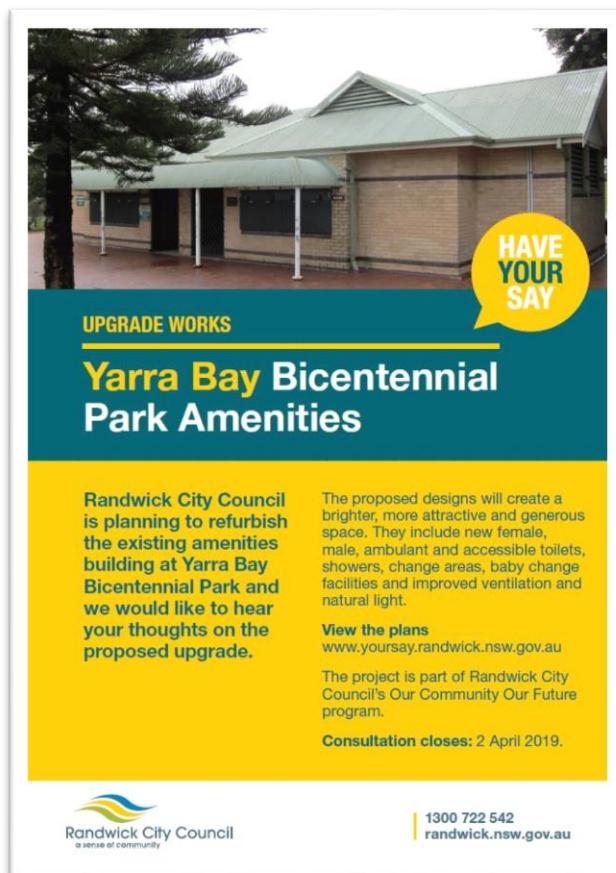
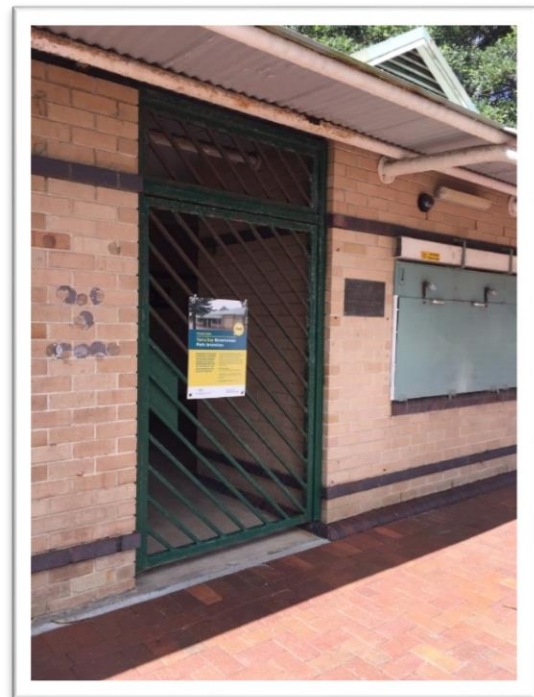


Image 4: Poster on site



4. Dedicated consultation website

A dedicated Your Say Randwick website was created to inform residents of the consultation, exhibit the concept plans and accept submissions on the proposed plans.

The website was launched on 8 March 2019 and was open for 28 days, closing on 2 April 2019.

During this time, the site experienced the following:

- 215 unique visits to the Your Say Randwick webpage
- 10 submissions were received and two questions asked via Your Say Randwick

5. Submissions

Lift the roof to get cross breezes.
CCTV to improve safety.
Render and paint with locally inspired, flora/fauna murals.

The new design looks great however it assumes most people would be accessing the amenities from the oval side of the building.
I believe equal access from the beach and park side should be considered. It is already a bit of a walk from the beach to the amenities and the new plan means an increased walk to the other side of the building.

Water flashing system automatic.
Lights sensors for movement.
Security cameras.
Bigger space and easier access for disabled people.
More showers.
Lockers for changing clothes.

Great idea and very much needed.

Is there anyway fresh water showers could be fitted near to the beach area, like all other Randwick beaches? The amenities block is so far from beach, unlike the old amenities block that was located just off the beach prior to 1988. This would enable people to wash down before leaving the sand area.

The disabled toilet will be trashed as it's the first toilet to see and be used and there's no other place for a family to get ready together. Make a family room in the facility to combat this even if it means reducing the size of the change rooms.

There's a lot of dead space in the current setup so well done utilising this.

The beachfront desperately needs an outdoor shower and somewhere to wash your feet (maybe near the boat ramp) please accommodate this in your revamp.

Please avoid the use of stainless steel toilets and provide toilet seats.

Offer a outdoor showers and a place rinse your feet outside the facility. This will minimise the traipse through of sand into the building, and people will put their footwear on to use the toilets etc sandfree.

Yarra bay amenities upgrade

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The improved Showers and Toilets will be perfect as will the handicapped/disabled facility. The Bicentennial Park is very popular throughout the year and in particular during the warmer period

Kamay parkrun appreciate the support and commitment from Randwick Council for this great Community Event which is conducted every Saturday for runners and walkers and is totally free and available to everyone. We average 80 participants each week with a peak of 150. Running, walking, after-run swim, and improved showers and Toilets at Yarra - what could be better,

Please check our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/kamayparkrun/>, and in particular the photos which demonstrate the great diversity of Kamay parkrun.

I understand a lack of high-end design funds (for our area) is unfortunately directly related to a low-end upgrade.

However; could 'we' somehow create an external finishes pallet which comes closer to an Eastern suburban high-end feel?

Falzonal roofing (in a suitable dark colour) will work, however; leaving the existing yellow external brickwork will attract more of the same low-end after hours visitors.

As we now have the highest speed internet connection to these amenities, it will also be highly desirable to install appropriately directed camera systems to capture the various 'gangs' congregating around the amenities block, following their stolen catch in our area!

There is no doubt the above amenities need updating and it's great that the Council is upgrading them. However I am concerned that in isolation without other improvements to the local area, the improvement will not be enjoyed and may even contribute to issues including those of safety, as outlined below.

Sustainability

It's difficult to see all the detail from the plans so I am hoping that sustainability along with usability are foremost principles in the design particularly as Randwick promotes itself as a sustainable council. It would be reassuring to know that the hot water and power are being

created and powered by solar energy, that grey water is being reused and waste and recycling generated by the buildings activities will be anticipated and managed with as least impact on the environment as possible.

Impact of Upgrade on Local Area

The whole idea of an upgrade of facilities in the absence of changes to the surrounding environment gives rise to substantial concerns. The improved amenities will be attractive to visitors and could increase visitation in the summer which is already at problematic levels.

Safety of Staff & Residents

Year after year on weekends and holidays in summer the area reaches crisis point with visitation overload. During the 2018-19 summer rangers were instructed not to book hundreds of cars parked on grass areas and tree mulch pits, as a result of having experienced particularly aggressive behaviour from booked drivers the summer before. Despite requesting bollards or rocks to be placed around grassed areas to act as a barrier to vehicles being parked on grass areas, it wasn't done and it was therefore deemed unsafe for rangers to repeatedly book so many vehicles en masse every weekend. This in turn was completely frustrating to the Locals in the areas who watched as damage was done to the grass, soil around tree roots compacted from the weight of parked vehicles because they take pride in the area and help to maintain it.

Residents of Baragoola Ave experience difficulty in getting to their homes during that period and on the day before Australia Day this year, needed a fire truck to put out a fire lit by kids in the neighbouring reserve. Had the need arisen on Australia Day a fire truck could not have got in due to the gridlock – which could have been disastrous. Roads should have been closed off at times for safety reasons perhaps via a standard traffic management plan that could be rolled out for heavy visitation days.

Unsocial Behaviour

This year the gate to the back (north side) of the oval was broken which enabled vehicles to park up the slopes of the northern end of the oval for several days until it got fixed. A “No Stopping” sign in Barragoola Ave was knocked down several times and remains so as of the date of writing. Vehicles were double parked behind the bay parking where signage is less than adequate rendering the way in and out of Baragoola Ave and northwards, down to one lane which was disastrous for traffic flows. Vehicles were repeatedly parked contrary to No Parking signage at the turning circle at the end of the northern most parking area. This caused the roadway to be completely surrounded by vehicles causing those parked illegally on the grass to be locked in - unable to exit - as a result of there being no gap on any of the road edges to let them out.

Garbage

Every weekend in summer, the beach and surrounds are left like a garbage tip. Additionally due to the parking issues and traffic management there have been times when outdoor staff can't get a truck into the area to empty overflowing bins.

Cleaning the area is an unfair cost to Randwick Ratepayers – they are not getting any benefits for the huge visitation that causes such negative impacts. The whole situation is getting worse and residents frequently complain to Council staff on the ground that the problems have been ongoing for years and nothing appears to be done about it.

Complementary Improvements

Improving the amenity block without improving the traffic management of the area will only make the situation worse for the locals. Other improvements, to complement the amenity block, that could be considered include:

1. Bollards or rocks to prevent parking on grassed areas
2. Road signage to be more frequently maintained and quicker response to problems be implement
3. Timed 4P parking to create greater turnover give more people the opportunity to enjoy the beach
4. Ideally parking meters be installed rather than 4P even if they operate weekends only or October – April so that the payment can cover the costs to the Council of the visitation impacts
5. A standard traffic plan for road closures in the area be developed to turn away vehicles when the area is full – for safety.
6. Parking area for outdoor and ranger staff to service the area

6. Your Say Questions

- Will external showers be added? Is a dog friendly area going to be included at Yarra Bay so that dogs can have access to the water with their families? It is ridiculous that dogs can't access waterplay in this council area.
- Has any thought been given to making this building as sustainable and safe as possible? For instance is it being positioned to get the best of the sun so that solar hot water could be generated for showers and solar panels could be used to power the building and reduce running costs to the ratepayers? Will any of the water be captured and stored to feed into irrigation of the park area which is highly used over summer? What kind of thought has been given to recycling and waste disposal associated with activities in the building? It's difficult to see any of this from the plans and it would be great to have a building that is.

