

COMMUNICATIONS

Community Consultation Report

Hereward Reserve Maroubra playground upgrade

02 July 2026

Contents

1. Summary	3
2. Community engagement strategy	4
2.1. Background	4
2.2. Objectives	4
2.3. Consultation activities	4
3. Consultation outcomes	5
3.1. Submissions	5
3.1.1. Submission Type	5
3.1.2. Submission summary	5
4. Next Steps	6
A. All submissions	7

1. Summary

Randwick City Council is replacing ageing play equipment at the Hereward Reserve playground on the corners of Hereward Street and Severn Street, Maroubra.

This report presents the feedback received from the community on the proposed concept design of the playground upgrade. Consultation for the proposed design was open from 18 May 2026 to 13 June 2026.

A total of 16 submissions were received from the community, with the majority of respondents providing their feedback via the survey on Council's Your Say website.

What we heard:

Feedback on the design of the proposed upgrade was largely positive. Common feedback from the community included:

- Adding new features to the proposed climbing structure
- Changing the orientation of the furniture
- Adding additional accessibility features to the playground.

How we responded:

We have considered all comments received throughout the consultation period.

As a result of community input, Council will include an accessible toddler seat to the swing set and two chin up bars of various heights in the climbing structure. We will also investigate options to add more planting to the playground.

We have also reviewed the location and orientation of furniture at the site and determined that the current location of furniture at the site is the most suitable.

Next steps:

We will now progress with construction of the upgrade, with the upgraded playground set to open by the end of 2026.

2. Community engagement strategy

2.1. Background

Randwick City Council is replacing ageing play equipment at the Hereward Reserve playground in Maroubra.

The proposed changes include:

- New play equipment for a range of ages and abilities, including inclusive fun with a nest swing, challenging climbing set and slide.
- New footpaths to improve accessibility
- New, rubber softfall surfacing
- A reconfigured playground layout to improve safety and avoid debris from overhead trees
- Retaining the existing street libraries, brick walling, ramp and surrounding trees.

2.2. Objectives

The consultation aimed to:

- Inform the playground users and nearby residents of the proposed upgrade
- Exhibit the concept plans to the community
- Gather community feedback on the proposed designs to help inform the final designs
- Assess community sentiment of the proposed designs
- Collect contact details of community members who may want to be involved in future potential activation events.

2.3. Consultation activities

- Dedicated website: Your Say Randwick webpage
- Letterbox drop: A5 flyer sent to residents 300 metres from the playground
- Signage: A2 posters installed around the park
- Email campaigns: Sent to Your Say Randwick 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
- Pop-up event: Council staff were available to answer questions from community members on-site (2 June 2026).

3. Consultation outcomes

- Website visits: 464
- Downloads of the playground concept design: 83
- Total submissions: 16

3.1. Submissions

3.1.1. Submission Type

10 submissions received via the Your Say site

3 submissions received via email

3 submissions received in person at a pop-up event at the playground.

3.1.2. Submission summary

The feedback received on the planned changes were mixed. Whilst many residents appreciate the upgrade, there is concern about some of the playground items.

Theme	Description	Number of mentions
Playground Amenities	Comments on the amenities at the playground that were not the equipment	5
General support	Overall support for the concept design	5
Climbing structure	Comments on the playground structure	5
Suggestions for other equipment	Playground equipment not in the current design was suggested such as: • Monkey bars • Spinning wheel • A seesaw	3
Soft fall	Comments on the soft fall being used in the concept design	2
Swing set	Changes to the swing set were proposed	1
General objection	Overall objections to the concept design	1

As a result of community feedback, we will be adding an accessible toddler seat to the swing set and monkey bars to the climbing structure. We will also investigate planting options within the playground.

Other comments suggesting addition of new equipment or alternative surface treatments were carefully considered by the project team but will not be occurring at the playground in the context of the location, size of the playground and budget of the upgrade.

4. Next Steps

We thank everyone for commenting on the proposed design for the upgraded Hereward reserve playground.

We are currently finalising the design and working towards commencing construction. We will keep the community informed of the anticipated timeline prior to construction commencing.

A. All submissions

All submissions received	
1	A much needed upgrade, thank you. One thing would be nice is to plant some taller trees along the edge of the park to provide some privacy from neighbouring apartment buildings. Recently, one of the trees fell down which exposed one of the buildings more, the replacement of this tree would be nice and would provide shade in summer. Planting natives in the park would also attract wildlife and native trees would bring in native birds.
2	This is a great design for a small play space. It would benefit greatly from stairs up to the multi-play equipment and slide so toddlers can enjoy the play equipment and park.
3	I feel strongly about 2 aspects of this proposed design that I feel need to be addressed: 1. The old playground had a climbing structure and a slide which were more challenging/interesting than this proposal. I would love any new design to keep this interest alive for those children who are at an age where a challenge is necessary and rewarding (and I'm talking about 4 years and up). Please don't make this too simple that would bore a lot of children. The twisty slide was different to most and that old climbing frame was certainly a challenge that my Granddaughter (who is nearly 5 now) was enjoying being able to do more each time she visited. 2. There needs to be more shading for both children and parents. That seat shown in the middle of the playground would be so hot most of the year and the small rocker would not be pleasant for the littlies to sit on in Summer. Thanks
4	Alot more important priorities in the LGA to prioritise limited budget than replacing perfectly functional play equipment.
5	I think it looks very functional and respects and responds to the current usage. The extra swings are a fantastic addition. This playground is currently great because it has climbing frames for older kids. Maybe a climbing frame that is a little taller and a bit more challenging would really suit the ages of the kids who live nearby
6	I don't understand why we are spending council money refurbishing this playground when there is another one on the next block in Duncan st. Have we got money to burn if so please reduce our rates!

All submissions received	
7	The new concept is much brighter and lighter. The old playgroud was damp, dark, and uninviting with overhanging trees making for a cold, damp and dark area.
8	1. Rubber floor, made from recycled tyres or similar, has been proven to be toxic. Has council researched this? Sand or similar would be better 2. Shade sails would be great 3. Inclusion of monkey bars in the climbing equipment would be great. There's no monkey bars currently around the area. Also a little shop area. 4. The interactive panel is very rarely used, even with babies. I would suggest a mini climbing & slide like the one at coral sea park. Or any of the other mini equipment. That playground is perfect for little ones. 5. Instead of the rocking horse, a trampoline, seesaw, or small spinning disc would be used more. 6. Pipe telephones (can speak to someone at the other end)
9	1. there have been many studies and reports about the use of plastic based materials in children's playgrounds as ground cover. Please consider using something that is environmentally friendly and that doesn't absorb heat such as woodchip. https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/parenting/kids/hidden-danger-lurking-at-kids-playgrounds-may-be-linked-to-cancer-study/news-story/58db6abf5841ba81b66dd4d42b6c82b2 2. please consider fencing in the area. This playground is right on the road and it is unsafe for children to be running around it without a fence.
10	There should be an in-ground trampoline and a larger slide.
11	Hello! Thank you for sharing the concept design for this playground. I live in the apartment block and have 2 children, age 5 and 7 who use this playground daily. The equipment in the concept seems for much younger children. The climbing equipment is not challenging enough for anyone above toddler age. It would be great to have things like monkey bars and gym bars that older children can enjoy. I have an autistic child who loves this playground but needs to be physically challenged. This equipment just won't cut it. There are a number of neurodivergent children in my building and these kids are highly sensory seeking for movement. I would be looking for equipment that allows:

All submissions received

	Big movement (swings, fast spinning, higher climbing, higher/faster slide) Heavy work/proprioception (more challenging climbing, hanging, pushing, monkey bars) In addition, there are local dogs that constantly run through the playground and there is always dog poo around. The playground needs a fence or some serious enforcement to keep it safe for children. Many thanks again for renovating this playground - I really appreciate it.
12	Thank you! The design looks great – exactly as you had described 😊 Can't wait to see it completed! If that's today we won't be able to make it unfortunately. Only a few thoughts which I can also share online: 1. An extra bin would be a good addition as the nearest which is in the eastern end of the park closer to the cul-de-sac at the top of Severn St 2. A large tree recently fell in roughly the below location and it would be wonderful to see some larger landscaping / replacement trees here for privacy to and from 9 Hereward St (our building) Although not directly related to the playground, there is an electrical box at the top of the park on Hereward St which attracts a huge amount of illegal dumping (below snip from Google Maps). Appreciating this is probably outside your specific remit, I still thought it worth flagging in case Council have any initiatives to address such instances.
13	Hello, We don't use the Les Bridge so have no comment. For the Maroubra site, can you please look at the budget to add a parent and child swing like at Alison road? That will be a great improvement to the current design. Also the seal rockers aren't heavily used at any of the parks we attend. Adding a small inbuilt trampoline will be used more frequently and is good for all ages. South Maroubra Village, please consider an inclusive seat instead of the baby seat as they are more popular / utilized for typically developing child parents and are inclusive for disabled children. I'm unclear why any old style baby chairs are being installed, the sure be inclusive or at a minimum the adult and parent ones. It's lazy designing and exclusive.

All submissions received

	Generally, I would encourage Council to check out this park. The water pumps etc are amazing. Saves us all travelling to the city and other councils. Would be great somewhere like Malabar beach where kids are already getting wet! That would be amazing addition to Randwick Council area. Boongaree shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au I look forward to seeing updated designs.
14	Discussed the upgrade, he expressed concern that the grassed area would be significantly reduced which would impact the community as this grass is very necessary for many dog owners.
15	Discussed the upgrade, advised that there used to be fencing around the playground and asked if this would be reinstated and if shade sails would be installed.
16	Discussed the planned upgrade with a resident who was thrilled and very happy it would be getting a refresh. Also enquired about resident parking permits.

