

Item No: C0518 Item 1

Subject: RICHARD MURDEN RESERVE-PROVISION OF THREE NETBALL COURTS.

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SUMMARY

This report summarises the outcomes of community engagement with regards to the proposed development of three netball courts and supporting infrastructure in the northern section of Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield. The report highlights public support for the project and recommends that the project proceed in 2018/19. Specifically the report recommends the provision of three hard surface dedicated netball facilities, one of which is multipurpose and can also be utilised for basketball.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

1. Council proceed with the detailed design and delivery of three new netball courts with supporting sports training lighting at Richard Murden Reserve Haberfield;
 2. One of the courts be constructed as a multipurpose court to support both basketball and netball;
 3. Council provide public toilets in close proximity to the proposed new courts in 2019/20; and
 4. That Council undertake road line marking to provide parking for up to 30 car spaces along Hawthorne Parade in the area immediately adjacent to the proposed multipurpose court area.
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BACKGROUND

Council is proposing to create new netball courts and facilities in Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield to address an identified need for additional high quality netball training spaces. Council previously investigated developing these facilities at Shields Playground in Darley Road, Leichhardt; however, this option was not pursued due to community concerns.

It was determined that Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield, was the most suitable alternative site. The proposed location of the new netball courts is highlighted in **Attachment 1**.

At the Council meeting on the 23 August 2016, the minutes of the 2 August 2016 LRAC meeting were adopted including the following:

1. The Leichhardt Representation Advisory Committee note Council officers' advice on the suitability of an alternative site for netball court provision in the northern section of Richard Murden Reserve;
2. Work on the preparation of a Development Application for netball courts and public amenities at Shields Playground is put on hold, pending the development of new concept plans and community engagement;

3. Local residents and netball clubs in both Ashfield and Leichhardt are consulted and updated on the alternative option; and
4. The progress of the project be undertaken on the basis that the former Leichhardt LGA netball clubs that were to be provided access be given priority.

Following the adoption of the Council resolution conceptual plans for the proposed new netball courts were developed and a community engagement strategy was developed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a budget of \$782,000 for new netball courts at Richard Murden Reserve. The project construction will be subject to competitive tender.

OTHER STAFF COMMENTS

A Healthier Inner West-Recreation and Needs Study

The draft, Recreation and Needs Study: A Healthier Inner West will shortly be presented to Council. This study, once adopted by Council will provide the evidence base to inform the development of Council policy and strategy in relation to the recreation needs of the Inner West for the next 10 years. In preparation of the study Council officers met with Netball NSW to discuss current facility supply. The engagement processes to date with the community and Netball NSW did not highlight the need for additional match play facilities and the Inner West is served by a number of regional netball facilities in adjacent Council areas. However the need for training facilities is highlighted by the fact that there are no specific netball facilities throughout the former Leichhardt local government area.

Greenway Missing Links Report

The preliminary draft master plan for the Greenway missing links report recommends that Council consider consolidating netball facilities in the southern part of Richard Murden Reserve. Currently there are six courts in this area of the park. The placement of an additional three courts in this area would require further study in terms of the impacts of intensification of use and parking impacts in this area. Costs associated with reconfiguring these existing courts would need to be evaluated as part of the Greenway Master Plan. Community feedback on such a proposal would also need to be undertaken in line with the Greenway Master Plan project.

Traffic Study

As part of the development proposal for the proposed netball courts Council officers engaged GTA Traffic Consultants to assess traffic demand and the likely parking demand associated with the proposed development. The traffic consultants have produced a detailed traffic study report on the impacts of the proposed netball courts in terms of parking demand needs. A full copy of the outcomes of this review is attached as **Attachment 2**. Key findings of the traffic study are highlighted as follows:

Car parking occupancy and turnover/ duration of stay surveys were undertaken by GTA in the following locations:

- Hawthorne Parade between Waratah Street and the existing netball/ basketball courts
- Hawthorne Parade between the existing netball/ basketball courts and Dobroyd Parade
- Tillock Street between Learmonth Street and Waratah Street Waratah Street between Hawthorne Parade and Tillock Street
- Canal Road.

Traffic surveys were undertaken on days when both the existing netball courts at Richard Murden Reserve and Blackmore Oval were being used, during the following periods:

- Wednesday 14 March 2018: 4pm to 8:30pm
- Thursday 15 March 2018: 3:30pm to 9pm.

The traffic surveys along Hawthorne Parade indicate that parking demands on Hawthorne Parade near the existing netball/ basketball courts are generally low to moderate, with peak demands observed in the evening periods, when the public open space, children's play area, tennis courts and fitness course are expected to be used. The peak demands were corresponded to 59 spaces (40 per cent occupancy) with a minimum of 89 vacancies.

The surveys along streets next to Hawthorne parade indicate that parking demands on Tillock Street and Waratah Street are also generally low to moderate, with peak demands generally observed in the evening periods. The peak demands were corresponded to 36 spaces (73 per cent occupancy) with a minimum of 13 vacancies on Tillock Street and 13 spaces (46 per cent occupancy) with a minimum of 15 vacancies on Waratah Street.

Parking demands on Canal Road are also generally low to moderate, with peak demands generally observed in the evening periods. In terms of evening periods when the Richard Murden Reserve and Blackmore Oval is expected to be used, the peak demands were corresponded to 49 spaces (61 per cent occupancy) with a minimum of 31 vacancies on Canal Road.

For the purposes of the traffic assessment GTA noted that based on best industry practice 10 spaces per court rate has been adopted and considered appropriate for planning and parking management purposes. The proposed three netball courts, could therefore be expected to generate a car parking demand of up to 35 spaces. Based on these findings GTA has recommended that Council line mark up to 35 car spaces along Hawthorne Parade with 2 hour parking restrictions (eastern side of the road only). An image of the proposed extent of the parking restrictions is highlighted in Image 1.0.

Image 1.0 Proposed Parking Restrictions Richard Murden Reserve.



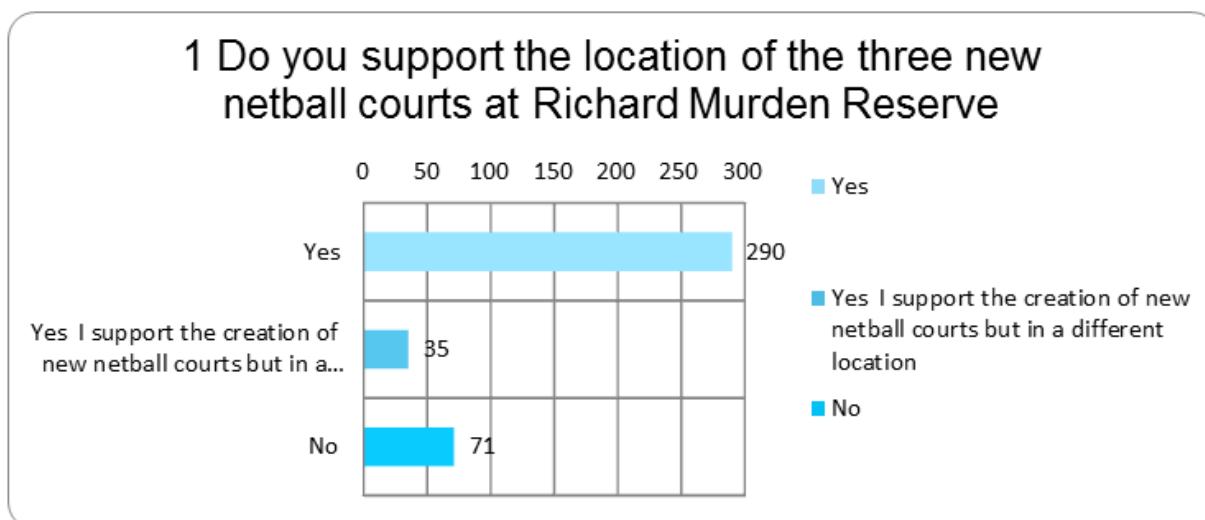
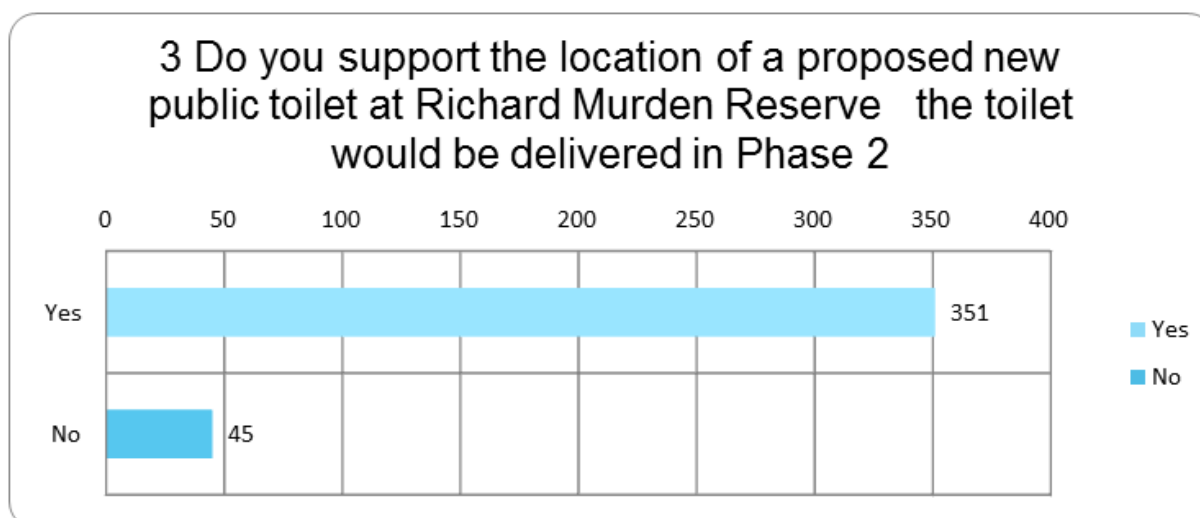
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

On 29th January 2018 Council launched a public survey on its Your Say Inner West website advertising the proposed netball courts, sports floodlighting, landscaping works and public toilet facilities. A total of 500 flyers were distributed to residential properties within the Haberfield area and the public survey was also advertised in the respective park areas. Local netball clubs were also notified of the public survey. The survey ran through to the 26th February 2018.

A copy of the flyer advertising the conceptual plans and the survey is attached (***refer to Attachment 3***).

In total 873 people viewed the survey project page with a total of 396 people completing the public survey. In addition Council received six written submissions in relation to the survey. A summary of these submissions is attached (***Refer to Attachment 4***)

A total of 73% of all survey respondents supported the development of netball courts in the proposed location. In addition a total of 89% all survey respondents supported the development of public toilets to support use of the new courts. A full summary of survey responses has been summarised in Graphs 1 and 2 below:

Graph 1 Support for the Location of Netball Courts in Richard Murden Reserve.

Graph 2 Support for the Proposed Location of New Public Toilets at Richard Murden Reserve


A breakdown of the survey results by suburb shows the following:

Support for the location at Richard Murden	Local Residents (Haberfield, Lilyfield, Leichhardt)		Other Suburb/ Suburb Not Specified		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Yes	81	53.6	209	85.3	290
Yes, support netball courts but in a different location	22	14.6	13	5.3	35
No	48	31.8	23	9.4	71
Total	151	100.0	245	100	396

Based on the outcomes of the community engagement Council officers are recommending that Council proceed with the development of detailed construction drawings to tender stage for Stage 1 of the project. Design works for Stage 2, the provision of suitable public toilets is also recommended to commence with these works being financially delivered in the 2019/20 financial year.

In addition to the above it is important to note that the public consultation highlighted the popularity of the existing basketball facilities at the park. The loss of these courts was an issue in the public submission process. In this regard Council officers are proposing that one of the proposed new courts is multipurpose in function and design. In this respect should the construction of new courts proceed these will be designed as dual facilities which can be utilised for both basketball and netball.

CONCLUSION

There is demonstrated community support for netball and basketball courts at Richard Murden Reserve. The traffic study demonstrates minimal impacts on local residents in terms of perceived car parking from evening training. In this respect only minimal parking intervention measures and limited parking restrictions are recommended to support future court use.

Moving forward it is recommended that Council proceed with detailed design and delivery of the project in 2018/19. Once completed, this project will assist greatly in addressing key deficiencies in netball provision in the north of the Inner West local government area.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Netball Court Location Map
2. Traffic Study Report
3. Community Engagement Flyer
4. Summary of Written Public Submissions