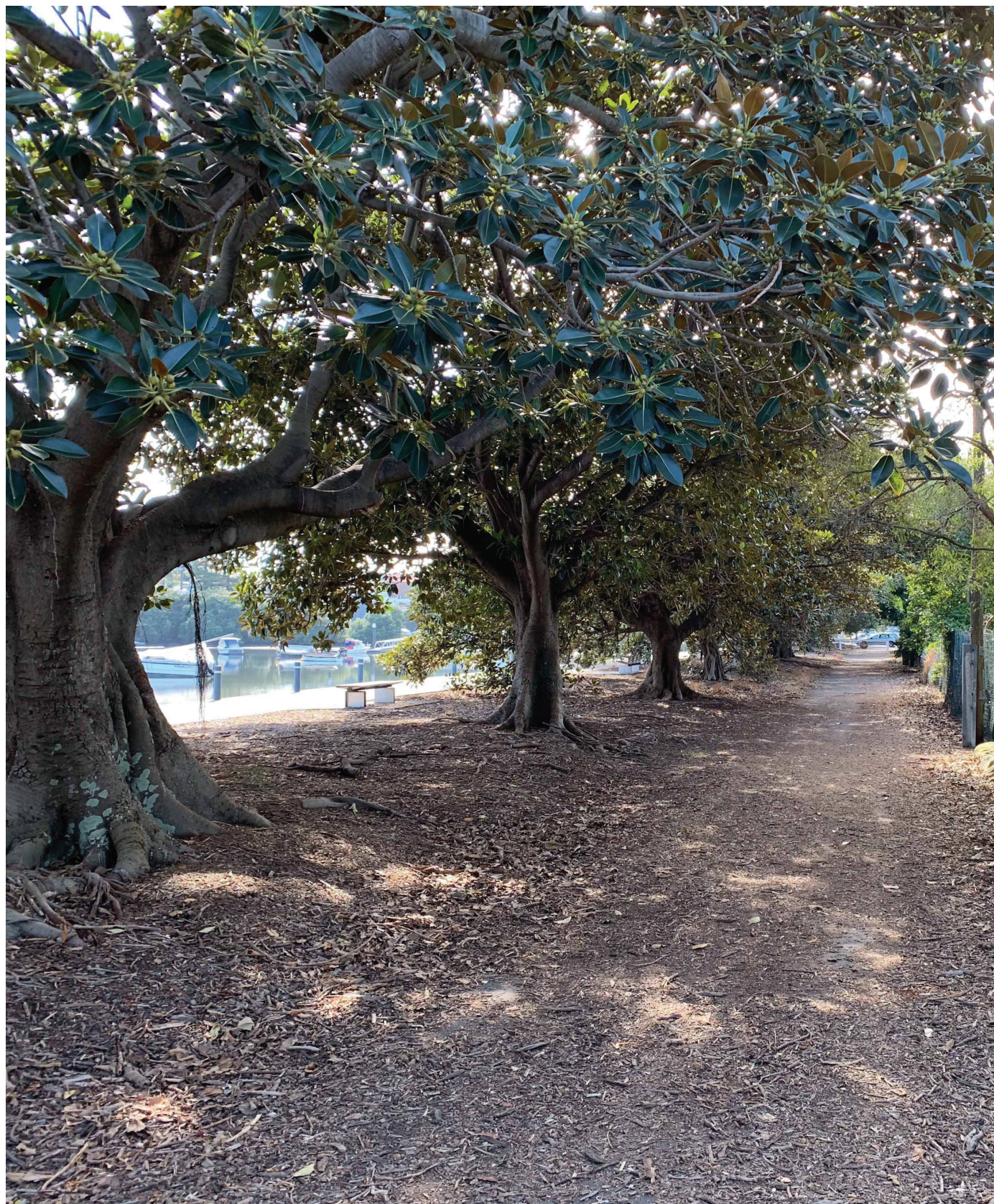


## Attachment 3 - Community Engagement Outcomes

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Riverside pathway, parallel to Princes Highway. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



## OVERVIEW + ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

### 1.0 Introduction

Inner West Council engaged the community on their enjoyment of Tempe Recreation Reserve and Tempe Lands, with a view to the preparation of a ten-year plan for the Reserve, which include a Plan of Management and a Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out via the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW) and two drop-in sessions at Tempe Recreation Reserve.

### 1.1 Background/ Context

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. Inner West Council has established a parks planning priority list, which nominates which open spaces it feels are in greatest need of new or updated Plans of Management. Tempe Recreation Reserve has been nominated as high priority within the Inner West council area.

### 1.2 Promotion

The engagement initiative was promoted by a number of means, including:

- Your Say Inner West project page
- On-site signage
- Media release
- Social media
- E-news
- Council website
- Email to identified groups

All promotion collateral directed people to the online submission form on YSIW and to the two park drop-in sessions.

### 2.0 Drop-in sessions

Two drop in sessions were held at Tempe Recreation Reserve on consecutive Saturdays, one in the morning and one in the afternoon; 29.06.19, 10am-2pm and 06.07.19, 2pm-4pm.

Printed boards outlined key activities, both existing and proposed, as well as a map indicating the site area. Members of the public were asked to identify the facilities and areas they liked the most, and which facilities and areas they felt had room for improvement. Comments on additional items were also welcomed.

The outdoor sports pitches were closed during both drop-in sessions due to wet weather. Generally the consultation attendees lived locally and had walked or driven to the reserve.

At the second consultation, user groups including the Newtown Jets Juniors, Sydney Morning Cricket Association, Tempe Birdos attended.

Inner West Council's Urban Ecology team also attended site to give their feedback. Their comments have also been included in this summary.



Figure 1. Drop-in session activity board - site map.



Figure 2. Drop-in session activity board.

## DROP IN SESSIONS

## 2.1 Engagement Outcomes

Engagement outcomes have been themed for ease of reference.

## Movement around Tempe Reserve

- Users who took part in the engagement process were all satisfied with the volume of parking at the site, noting that capacity was adequate even when all sports facilities were in use.
- Local residents noted that the junction of Bay Street with Old Street and the Loop Road is unclear. Concerns were raised that unfamiliar users would find it confusing to navigate, leading to potentially hazardous situations.
- Users requested that access to the Canal side path be extended along the foreshore for walking and jogging - past the point which is currently gated.
- Users commented on the under-use of the Tempe Lands area (Zone 4) due to its disconnection from the rest of the site, though conversely many enjoyed the calm environment this created within the wetland area.

## Passive recreational use

- Local users noted that many vehicle campers park overnight in the Reserve. Most did not take issue with this in itself, but were concerned that the already poorly maintained sanitary amenities in the park could not support the load of both recreational users and campers.
- Dog walkers expressed a desire to walk their dogs off leash in a wider area within the park, some expressing a preference for a less isolated off-leash dog park in the lower area of the Reserve. Some dog walkers were frustrated at the perceived domination of the off-leash dog park by professional dog walkers, who bring a lot of dogs to the park restricting availability for non-commercial use.
- Dog walkers also requested more and better maintained dog waste disposal bins and a water play area, citing Sydney Park as good example.

## Café / Community space

- There was a lot of support for the idea of a café and community space. Users expressed a preference for a family and local resident friendly community directed space, with a diverse and active programme incorporating music and arts. Examples of successful venues put forward included Camperdown Commons, Petersham Bowling Club and the Concordia Club.
- A number of users suggested using this as an opportunity to regenerate the bowls club.
- Long term users noted that the site has been used for markets and family friendly festivals in the past - something they would be keen to encourage and facilitate within the Reserve.

## Synthetic Pitches

- Participants in the drop in sessions at Tempe Reserve were either supportive or indifferent to the prospect of synthetic pitches at Tempe Reserve.
- The people who did comment noted that the existing pitches get worn out quickly and are often closed due to rain. These participants speculated that if some pitches were replaced with a synthetic surface the demand would likely increase, making it more difficult for them to secure a spot. Despite this they were supportive of the proposal due to the increased usage synthetic pitches would provide year round and in a wider range of weather conditions.
- A number of participants commented on poor drainage around the site, including on the sports pitches. Some were satisfied that synthetic pitches would overcome these issues, but others were concerned that the drainage issues would persist despite installation of synthetic pitches, and therefore requested that the drainage issues be addressed on a wider scale.
- Some queries were raised as to whether synthetic surfaces are suitable for all sports.
- Participants who use the existing pitches for sports were concerned that the installation period of the synthetic pitches would restrict the ongoing use of the sports pitches and therefore affect their season's play.



Figure 3. Drop-in session activity board.

## DROP IN SESSIONS

### Sense of place

- Frequent visitors to the site, especially local residents emphasised their appreciation of the wetland area, citing it a 'hidden gem' of the city. Users consistently reiterated their pride, appreciation and enjoyment of this area with the main attraction being the absence of intervention and a rare opportunity to enjoy a wild space within the city.
- Users were concerned about the impact that the proposed Sydney Gateway project could have on the Wetlands, apprehensive that its form will dominate and severely impact the peace and quiet of the wetlands. Concern was also expressed about the state and usability of the Wetlands and wider reserve during the construction of the project.
- When prompted, users did not express a strong desire to retain the artwork which covers the sports centre.

### Anti-social behaviour

- Lack of respect for shared facilities within the Reserve, and behaviour which is considered anti-social was raised by a number of users, citing examples including but not limited to - leaving rubbish in the picnic areas, wrapping the picnic shelters with plastic against the wind, and illegal dumping of large unwanted goods in low visibility areas.
- A number of users expressed frustration with trail or quad bike riders driving off road into and around the park-lands and wetlands at high speeds during the day when the Reserve is busy with users and at night, causing danger to themselves and others. Users felt this activity directly impacted their comfort, safety and enjoyment of spaces within the Reserve. From a longer term perspective concern was expressed about damage to the landscape and impact on biodiversity.
- Users noted that picnickers drive cars off road and directly into the Reserve, to park on footpaths and lawns. This was perceived as antisocial and disruptive.

### Water + drainage

- In terms of usability, regular users identified a number of areas around the site which flood and remain waterlogged for a disproportionate time after rainfall. The main problem areas were the turfed area of zone 4, the sports fields in Zone 3, and the north corner of Zone 3. Many users attributed this issue to a high water table and clay rich ground.
- IWC Urban Ecology team flagged the North corner of Zone 1 as an area of lower ground which could be easily manipulated to connect the adjacent naturalised swale and engineered storm-water drain into a drainage system which runs around the Zone 3 sports grounds.

### Biodiversity

- Users were generally very appreciative of concentrated pockets of biodiversity around the Reserve and expressed a desire for more bushland, salt-marsh and encouragement of native flora and fauna. A huge number of positive comments were made in appreciation of the quiet tranquillity and isolation of the wetlands.
- The Tempe Birdos, a local birdwatching group, highlighted that though biodiversity at the site has come a long way in a short space of time it could be even better. They feel that more could be done to encourage and protect small birds, by creation and connection of small bird habitats and biodiversity corridors. The group noted that cats could be detrimental to small bird (and other small animal) environments.
- IWC Urban Ecology team observed that small birds have made attempts to nest within some of the picnic shelters, and suggested that this could be encouraged by being better supported.
- IWC Urban Ecology team noted that the naturalised areas of the reserve (zone 1, zone 4) were attractive areas for bat species due in part to the lack of artificial light after dark.

### Multi-generational use

- Users expressed a desire for provision of family friendly activities such as a family cycle track, a learn to cycle course or interactive water features which could cater to children too old for the play-park and which could be integrated into the park as opposed to segregated to certain zones.
- Users specifically noted that the wetlands and naturalised walking routes were great for multi-generational enjoyment of the Reserve.

### Maintenance

- Responses to the online survey highlighted that many users felt that the Reserve was poorly maintained.
- Users commented that enjoyment of the riverside could be enhanced by council taking time clear rubbish which often washes up onto river bank by changing tides.
- IWC Urban Ecology team were keen to resume maintenance and improve the condition of the Cooks River Valley Garden, which has become abandoned and overgrown in recent years.

### Furniture/ facilities

- Users requested more fresh water stations.
- Users felt that there was room for improvement in the barbecue and picnic facilities and potential for increasing capacity of these facilities, noting that the facilities in Zone 1 received less use than those in Zone 2.
- Toilet amenities were raised as in need of improvements and regular cleaning and maintenance.



ONLINE SURVEY

3.0 Online survey

An online survey was conducted in June and July 2019 through the ‘Your Say Inner West’ (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on a range of questions regarding Tempe Reserve. The survey included multiple-choice and essay style questions and was open for public response for five weeks from 14.06.19 to 19.07.19.

The project page received 522 visits. 231 visitors participated in viewing documents and information, of whom 131 visitors contributed to the online submission form.

Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in the Engagement Outcomes section below. Text based responses to the essay style questions have been grouped into themes, and issues which featured the most prominently have been summarised below.

Eight written responses were made on behalf of organisations - a summary of these submissions can be found at the end of the Engagement Outcomes section.

3.1 Engagement Outcomes

Who did we hear from?

Q: ‘What are the main reasons you visit Tempe Reserve?’  
Please tick all that apply’ (see figure 5 below)

Q: ‘How often do you visit Tempe Reserve?’  
(see figure 6 overleaf)

Q: ‘How did you get to Tempe Reserve?’  
(see figure 7 overleaf)

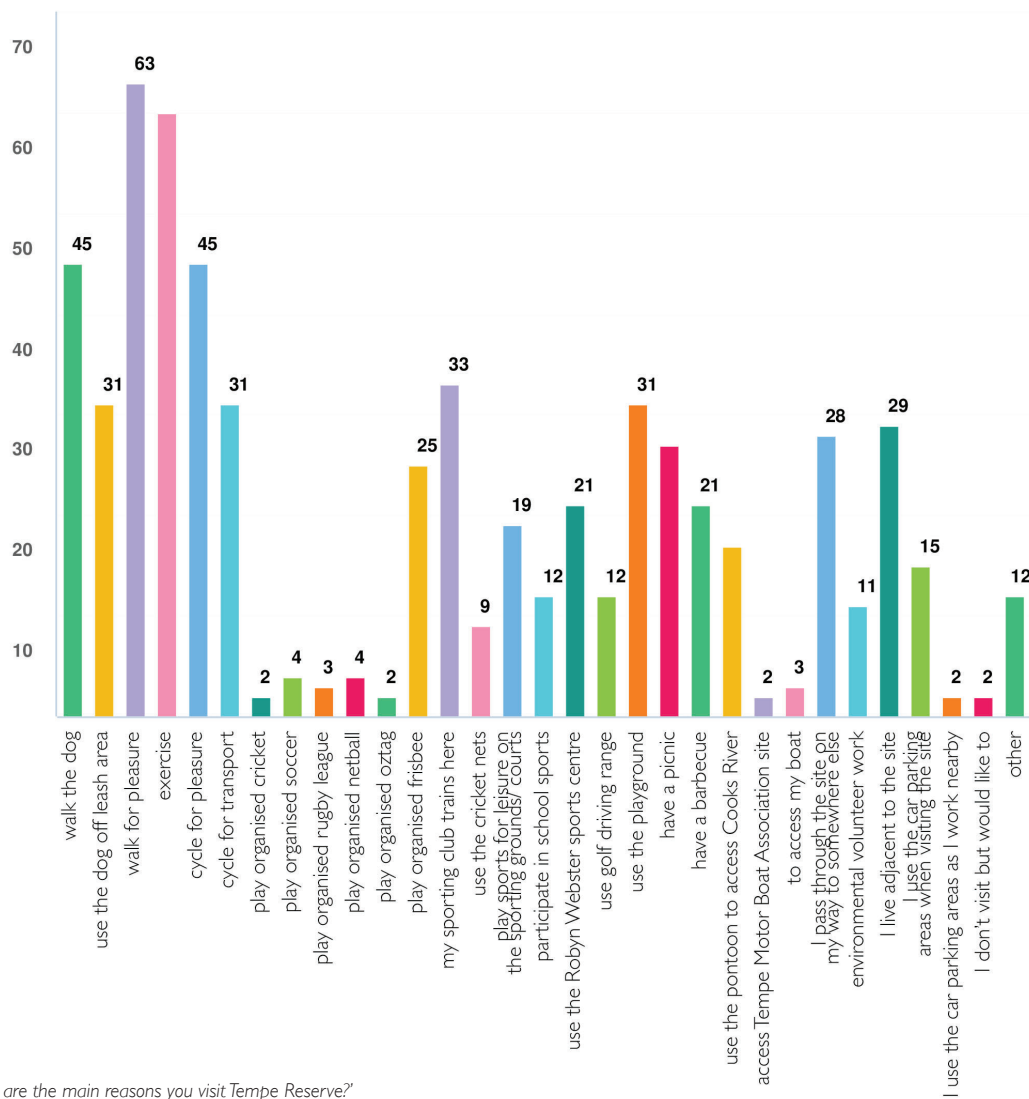


Figure 5. ‘What are the main reasons you visit Tempe Reserve?’

## ONLINE SURVEY

How did these participants feel about Tempe Reserve?

Q: 'To what extent do you agree with the following statements?'

- When I visit during the day I feel safe
- When I visit in the evening or at night I feel safe
- I feel part of the community when I visit
- Tempe Reserve is easy to walk around
- It's easy to find information about Tempe Reserve
- Tempe Reserve caters for all ages
- Tempe Reserve meets the needs of the community
- Tempe Reserve is well maintained
- Tempe Reserve has a nice character

Successful aspects of Tempe Reserve were highlighted by responses to this question:

Users feel safe when they visit Tempe Reserve during the day;

- Users feel part of the community when they visit Tempe Reserve;
- Users find it easy to walk around Tempe Reserve;

Less successful aspects of Tempe Reserve were also highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel substantially less safe in the park after dark than during the day;
- Users find it difficult to find information about Tempe Reserve;
- Users do not feel that the Tempe Reserve is well maintained.

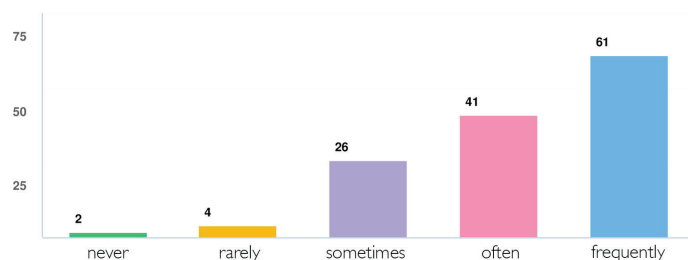


Figure 6. 'How often do you visit Tempe Reserve?'

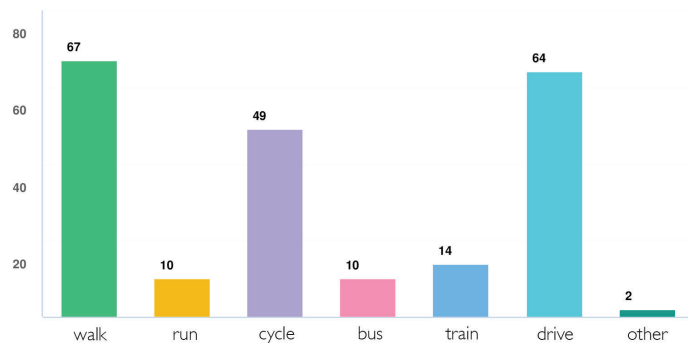


Figure 7. 'How did you get to Tempe Reserve?'

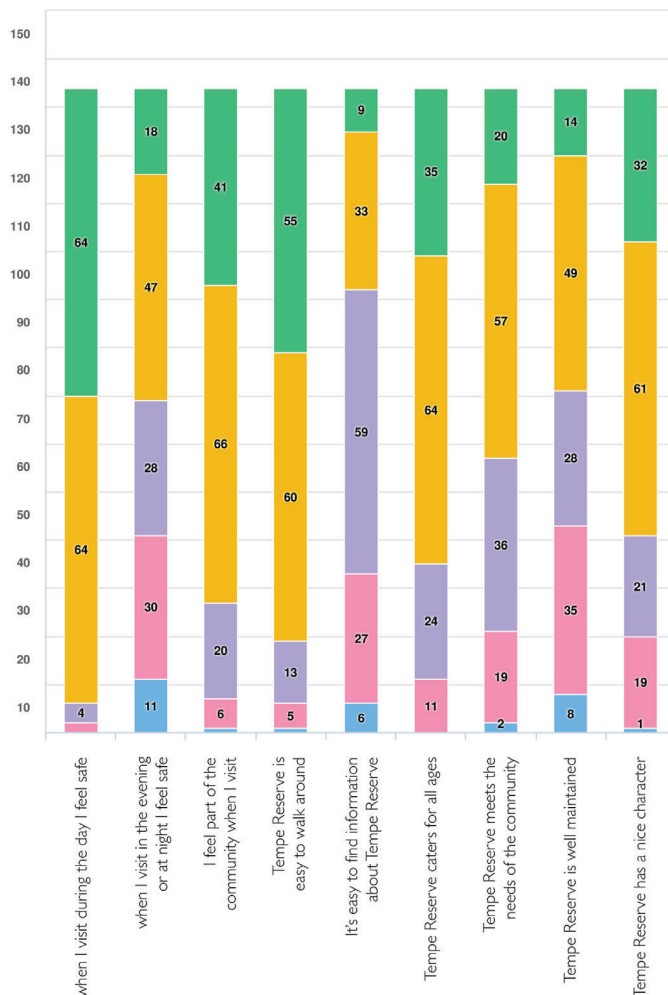


Figure 8. 'To what extent do you agree with the following statements? ...'

strongly agree  
agree  
unsure/ not applicable  
disagree  
strongly disagree

## ONLINE SURVEY

A number of essay style questions were asked, to establish community opinion of Tempe Reserve in more detail.

**Q: 'Please describe what you value about Tempe Reserve. You may like to describe what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.'**

Responses to this question were overwhelmingly positive and emotive, focusing on users' appreciation of the natural environment which they interact with when using Tempe Reserve, with a number of users describing the Reserve as an 'oasis' or 'hidden gem'. A number of users noted the benefit of this open space and park-lands on both their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The root of what users valued most about Tempe Reserve was repeatedly attributed to:

- Diversity of plants and animals;
- The close proximity of a substantial pocket of nature to the built environment;
- The size and scale of open space;
- The wetland area, as an oasis of calm and tranquillity;
- Interaction with water and connection with the waterfront;
- The balance of built area to parkland;
- Availability of open space for use by casual and organised recreation/ exercise.
- The range of activities catered for by the Reserve.

**Q: 'What don't you like about Tempe Reserve?'**

Responses to this question revealed that the main things which respondents disliked about Tempe Reserve was the perceived anti-social treatment of the space by other users, and the physical condition of the Reserve.

- Anti-social use of Tempe Reserve, specifically in the form of cars, motorbikes and trail bikes driving onto various parts of the Reserve, damaging the environment and affecting other users' enjoyment of the space.
- Anti-social use also manifested in the quantity of waste left around the park, impacting the waterways, attracting vermin and discouraging users from visiting Tempe Reserve. Users observed that the majority of the waste was left around the picnic and barbecue areas, speculating that it was due to lack of bins or enforcement encouraging users to clean up after themselves.
- A large proportion of respondents to this question disliked the physical condition of the grounds. Feedback consistently noted that drainage on and around the periphery of the sports fields, and on the lawns of Tempe Lands was very poor, resulting in frequently water-logged ground. The quality of the sports fields was noted to be uneven, with dirt patches and potholes affecting play.

Additional themes of dislike included:

- Poor lighting, operating inconsistently;
- Low quality, level of maintenance and hygiene of amenities;
- Campervans parking in the reserve overnight – users had safety and hygiene concerns with this.
- The disuse of the Jets club, and atmosphere of neglect perpetuated by this.

**Q: 'What improvements would you like to see to Tempe Reserve?'**

Responses to this question mirrored many of the themes which had been highlighted as 'dislikes' in the previous question, and reinforced themes which had been 'liked' in the first essay question. The main area of desired improvement was to upgrade and maintain the Reserve:

- Upgrade and ongoing maintenance of built amenities, including the toilets, changing areas, barbecues, drinking water fountains, and of outdoor sports grounds and lawns.
- Clean up waste and associated pollution both within the Reserve and around its waterfront fringes, followed by implementation of future preventative measures including provision of vermin and Ibis-proof bins for general and dog waste, rubbish socks on water outlets, and active steps to encourage visitors to use these facilities.
- Use of the Jets club site, either by activation of the existing building for a community focussed use such or by giving the site back to the community as parkland.
- Step up the ongoing maintenance of parkland, and promote greater biodiversity by enhancing and increasing the area of natural environments. Respondents emphasised their desire to increase the area of wetlands, garden and native plantings which contribute to small animal habitats and shading for park users.

Additional themes included:

- Reliable and consistent lighting to main routes.
- Improvements in drainage of the sports grounds and park lawns.
- Addition of more off-leash dog areas, to include water and shade, and replacement of the existing off-leash dog area if it becomes displaced by Sydney Gateway project.

**Q: 'What do you think should be the main priority of the park plans?'**

The majority of responses to this question focussed on intangible concepts of inclusivity and community rather than physical improvements. Respondents felt that the main priority of the park plans should be:

- To reflect community needs, making sure that Tempe Reserve considers and accommodates everyone who wants to use it. It should be family friendly, inviting and inclusive to all visitors, nature and types of casual or organised sport and recreation.
- To keep Tempe Reserve open as a public parkland, free for use by all visitors, particularly for an evolving population of apartment dwellers who use the Reserve as an extension of their homes. Users felt that the Reserve should maximise its community use, maintaining and building upon its current assets while retaining its character.

Emphasis was also placed on tangible priorities, many of which were reiterated from previous answers:

- A return to natural habitats where possible; 'wild' as opposed to manicured, and expanding and enhancing natural environments to support more wildlife.
- Use of Jets club as community space or café
- Upgrade in condition and ongoing maintenance of sports grounds.

**Q: 'Do you have any other comments on Tempe Reserve?'**

- Concern that any positive impact of improvements to the Reserve would be undermined and jeopardised by the proposed Sydney Gateway project;
- Concern that the Reserve would become developed or commercialised;
- A number of people expressed concern about the environmental impact of the proposed move towards synthetic turf;
- Some respondents observed that Tempe Reserve was more run down and neglected than other parks in the council area, and speculated that other parks must be receiving more attention and financial support from the council.

## 4.0 Written Responses

Council received eight written responses from organisations during the initial engagement period.

Themes raised in the written responses are summarised below.

### 1. Sydney University Sports and Fitness

Sydney University Sports + Fitness [SUSF], a not for profit organisation established by the University of Sydney to provide sporting services and clubs to University and local communities, expressed a desire to partner with Inner West Council to upgrade the indoor sports facilities at Tempe Recreation Reserve with the intention of increasing capacity and range of available sports. The organisation have outlined their recommendations – any partnership will need to be negotiated with council based on the recommendations made in this Plan of Management.

As the current leasers and operators of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre, SUFS were able to provide statistics on current condition and use of the facilities.

Current regular usage by badminton (42%), soccer (23%), roller skating (19%), volleyball (14%), netball (3%)

Other users – volley and netball competitions, german wheel, Department of Education for galas, rehearsals, and school sports, roller fit and roller derby, biathlon training, futsal.

SUSF believes that to maximise its current usage the indoor sports courts need to be refurbished by renovation of the floor surface and line markings. Installation of scoreboards and stop clocks been enquired after by users.

Basketball is the most enquired about sport at the centre, SUFS recommended that accommodating indoor, outdoor and casual basketball would attract a wide range of users to the facility.

Enquiries by other users for which there is not capacity or facilities to currently accommodate include martial arts, gymnastics, futsal competitions.

The opening hours of the facility are currently restricted by limitations of economic sustainability, whereby it is not sustainable to staff two courts for extended hours. SUSF felt that provision of four courts would create a more sustainable model, allowing the facility to remain open for longer each day. Expansion would also increase its appeal by becoming a competition sized venue for more sports.

### 2. Colony Ultimate Frisbee Club

Colony Ultimate Frisbee Club [CUFC] expressed support for synthetic pitches, to allow training in wet weather and maximise the capacity of the fields. CUFC requested that installation of the synthetic be conducted in low season to minimise disruption to bookings.



## WRITTEN RESPONSES

**3. Newtown Junior Jets RLFC**

Newtown Junior Jets RLFC [NJJ RLFC], who use and maintain the blue painted amenities block (Zone 1) noted that inadequate lighting levels and timing of lighting is an issue, specifically mentioning arrival routes to the Reserve, around the amenities, on and around the sports fields and the routes between these points.

The club currently store their sports equipment in the amenities block, and would like to formalise this use to ensure its continued availability.

In terms of the condition of the amenities block, NJJ RLFC noted that no maintenance or management is undertaken by the council; the amenities are not cleaned and there is no hot water. Plumbing issues, odours and rodent access makes occupation unhygienic. Despite this, the club have successfully improved the standard of the space, and would like to see a renovation of the block which would build on their work to date.

**4. City of Sydney Netball Association Inc**

City of Sydney Netball Association [CSNA] requested upgrades specific to the outdoor netball courts including upgrade the six courts were not recently resurfaced, the court lighting system, the PA system provision, the Robyn Webster kiosk.

The club would like consistent provision for ongoing maintenance to the netball courts, the ability to increase club exposure by posting signage throughout the reserve, and addition of spectator seating around the courts.

CSNA also suggested improvements which would benefit the wider Reserve, including upgraded lighting to facilitate safe access to the Reserve from public transport hubs, improved provision for public and personal transport connections, sufficient public amenities with regular cleaning and maintenance and the continued enhancement of landscaping within the Reserve, specifically around the netball courts.

**5. Inner West Roller Derby League**

Inner West Roller Derby League [IWRDL] outline the current extent of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre at Tempe Recreation Reserve, noting that improvement of facilities to accommodate the sport would fuel increased demand for the facilities by the roller derby community.

IWRDL outlines the physical requirements of roller derby, stating preference for sprung timber floor or polished concrete, over rubberised 'sports court' material. The written response contradicts misconstrued views that roller derby impacts venue flooring.

IWRDL set out their desire to see the upgrade and extension of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre doubling the size and incorporating grandstand seating to enable it to host roller derby host games and tournaments. The written submission proposes that improved facilities at Tempe Reserve could give it the potential to become centre of roller derby in the county, in turn boosting economy of the Inner West Council area.

**6. Skate Victoria Inc**

Skate Victoria [SV] highlighted the progressive and inclusive culture of the sport of roller derby, and expressed support for Inner West Roller Derby League [IWRDL] – an affiliated club of their organisation.

Skate Victoria stated their intention to introduce a number of skating programs in the near future, which would give IWRDL opportunity to attract higher numbers of participants if additional venue space were available.

**7. Sydney Olympic Football Club**

Sydney Olympic Football Club [SOFC] expressed a desire to partner with Inner West Council to upgrade the sports facilities at Tempe Recreation Reserve with the intention of relocating its home grounds to the site. The club outlined their requirements in detail – note that any partnership will need to be negotiated with council based on the recommendations made in this Plan of Management.

**8. Bike East**

Bike East, a bicycle user group representing cyclists in the eastern suburbs, who champion safe, continuous and connected bike routes, identify Tempe Reserve as both an important link in the Sydney cycling network and as a hub for recreational cycling.

In their written response, Bike East highlight the connection to the Cooks River space through Tempe Reserve and the space around Alexandra Canal, and the importance of retaining and developing the route as an open community space and active travel corridor.

Bike East referred a number of to guidelines and initiatives including The Greater Sydney Principal Bicycle Network, which clearly supports bicycle connections between Sydney Airport, Kogarah, Sydenham (Metro coming soon) and Wolli Creek.

Bike East observed that The Sydney Gateway concept design removes existing connectivity used by people walking and cycling around Sydney Airport. Bike East believe that this makes a connection via Tempe Reserve vital to enable the Sydney active travel network.

Bike East noted that many airport staff live in the Inner West, and therefore feel that Inner West council should look to provide transport support for local workers, by providing safe and convenient walking and cycling facilities. They encourage Inner West Council to plan strategic bicycle connections around Tempe Reserve, Sydney Airport and Wolli Creek, to support these residential and commercial growth areas.

Additionally, Bike East noted 'an obvious and missing cycling link' between Airport Drive and Marsh St, and urged Inner West Council to plan for this link, however this area is not covered by scope of the Tempe Recreation Reserve Plan of Management and Masterplan.





**ONLINE PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Together with extensive site analysis (Appendix A), the community engagement outcomes informed a draft Plan of Management and Master Plan for Tempe recreation Reserve and Tempe Lands.

The document was made available to the public in November 2019 through the 'Your Say Inner West' (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on the Plan of Management and Master Plan. The survey included a multiple-choice and essay question and was open for public response for four weeks until 09.12.19.

The public consultation response to the Master Plan and Plan of Management for Tempe Recreation Reserve was very positive, with support from 98% of contributors.

Elements which contributors mentioned specific support for included the provision of a café, tennis courts, cycle links, increased density of flora and enhancement of wildlife corridors.

A large percentage of contributors supported the continued use of an indoor sports facility for roller derby, citing the increasing popularity of the sport with females in particular. Suggestions were volunteered as to how sports court surfaces can be adapted to accommodate roller derby.

Contributors noted specific opposition to synthetic grass, retention of the model auto-sports facility, retention of the motor boat club and the proposal to remove the vehicle access point and pedestrian circuit within the wetland area.

In terms of flora and fauna, commenters highlighted that care should be taken to separate small bird habitats from areas with artificial lighting, sports facilities and areas accessible to dogs. Other suggestions included increasing the volume of shade trees around the reserve, and inclusion of provisions for ongoing maintenance of the natural environment in the Plan of Management.