



Engagement outcomes report

*Paringa Reserve*

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# Summary

Council engaged the Inner West community for input in the preparation of a 10-year plan for Paringa Reserve, which is to include a Plan of Management and Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out via the engagement platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

Stage 1 was carried out online between 4 November and 3 December 2020. The project page received 415 visits. Of those visitors, 26 left feedback. The questions prompted visitors to express what their relationship with Paringa Reserve was, as well as their frequency of visits and demographic. The questions also asked for opinion and level of support for concept options and the masterplan in general.

The top two issues were human impacts on the natural environment and concern for resident’s privacy/security with some of the proposals within close proximity to bedrooms due to the narrow strip of land.

After listening to community feedback, Council revised the proposals in the Plan of Management. The community could provide feedback on the revised proposals (Stage 2) between 26 May and 23 June 2021. The project page on YSIW was visited by 63 people during this time. Of these, 19 people downloaded the revised proposals. Overall, there were 34 participants across four methods of engagement. Repeat engagement across multiple methods indicates an ongoing conversation between interested members in the community and Council staff. Overall, the community welcome the Plan of Management and engagement efforts – with changes.

The customised container kiosk is the main point of contention. Those who support the kiosk believe it will be a positive contribution to the reserve with social outcomes for residents and commuters if the ferry service is resumed. Those who do not support the kiosk question it’s viability in this location and adverse social and aesthetic impacts on the Reserve. Some participants advocated for a shade structure/rotunda to be considered, giving Council the opportunity to validate demand for a kiosk without the upfront expense.

The top concerns were connections via the proposed stairway to Lockhardt Avenue and parking/traffic control. Residents shared an alternative for stair access to the road via private property and advocated for a revision of the turning circle and a resident parking scheme.

# Background

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. Community engagement is a critical step in the preparation of a Plan of Management, forming one of the first stages of the process. Community feedback is then taken into consideration alongside stakeholders and expert advice to form a draft plan of management and master plan, which is presented for further community input prior to the final document being decided upon by Council.

Inner West Council established a Park Planning Priority List, which nominates which open spaces in greatest need of new or updated Plans of Management. Paringa Reserve has been nominated as high priority within the Inner West council area.

The purpose of engagement was to establish any key issues that the community may have in relation the proposals identified in the draft masterplan, as well as highlighting aspects of the park which are highly valued. Contributors were encouraged to include ideas, comments and suggestions to assist in prioritising the focus of key strategies and outcomes for the future.

# Stage 1

## Promotion

The public exhibition period was promoted by Inner West Council using a number of means, including:

* Social media
* ‘Your Say Inner West’ monthly update
* Council website

## Engagement Methods

The methods of engagement were:

* Online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au through survey
* Written feedback
* As part of council’s response plan to coronavirus COVID-19, no on-site drop-in sessions were able to be held.

# Engagement outcomes

Outcomes of community engagement received through the online survey and written feedback forms have been collated within this report. Feedback to questions has been arranged so that comments which were more common are presented first.

### Online Survey

The online survey was predominantly multiple choice style questions, however respondents were also given the opportunity to submit questions. Quantitative responses to the multiple- choice questions are displayed visually as pie charts on the following pages. One question was received and has been included in the commentary on written feedback on page 6 of this document.

### Respondent demographics

The demographics of respondents were collected through the online survey and is represented in graph form within this report. The most significant age group of respondents was between 50-59 (34.6% of respondents) followed by 35-49 (26.9% of respondents). A single respondent identified that they lived near the reserve, whilst 20% of respondents said that they visited the reserve frequently.

**ONLINE SURVEY**

Question - How often do you visit Paringa Reserve? Question - Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

**5 (20.0%)**

**7 (28.0%)**

**5 (20.0%)**

**8 (32.0%)**

**1 (4.0%)**

**24 (96.0%)**

**Question options**

 **r l r l Fr qu l d l r v r l d**

**Question options**

Question - Do you support the draft plan of management and draft masterplan?

Question - What is your age group?

 **( . %)**

**8 (30.8%)**

**16 (61.5%)**

**1 (3. %)**

**2 (7.7%)**

**4 (15.4%)**

**3 (11.5%)**

**7 (26.9%)**

**9 (34.6%)**

**Question options**

**Question options**

Question - Do you identify as someone with a disability? Question - What is your gender?

 **8**

 **88 5**

**1 ( . %)**

**1 ( . %)**

**12 (46.2%)**

**12 (46.2%)**

**Question options**

**Question options**

**M F m**

###### ONLINE SURVEY

Question - How satisfied are you with the concept design?

**3 (11.5%)**

**6 (23.1%)**

**4 (15.4%)**

**7 (26.9%)**

**6 (23.1%)**

**Question options**

**Unsure/don't know Very satisfied Moderately satisfied Slightly satisfied Not satisfied at all**

Question - What is your relationship to Paringa Reserver?

Question – What is your relationship to Paringa Reserve

**Question options**

**I live near the reserve**

Question - Would you like to recieve updates from Inner West Council?

**6 (23.1%)**

**12 (46.2%)**

**8 (30.8%)**

**Question options**

**No thank you Yes, but only for updates on this project Yes, please add me to the monthly mailing list**

**ONLINE SURVEY**

**To what extent do you agree with the following statements:**

**Question options**

**6 1**

**9**

**9**

**7**

**4**

**8**

**2 4**

**1 6**

**9**

**7**

**3**

**2 6**

**5**

**7**

**6**

**7**

**7**

**8**

**3 1**

**5**

**4**

**8**

**8**

**1**

**10**

**7**

**4**

**4 1**

 **Def n tely d sagree**

**When I v s t dur ng the**

**day I feel safe**

**When I v s t n the even ng or at n ght I fee...**

**I feel part of the commun ty when I v s t**

**Par nga reserve s easy**

**to walk around**

**It's easy to f nd**

 **nformat on about**

**Par nga R...**

**Par nga Reserve s well**

**ma nta ned**

**Par nga Reserve meets most of the needs of th...**

 **Somewhat d sagree**

 **Ne ther agree nor d sagree ** **Somewhat agree**

 **Def n tely agree**

### Written Feedback

Input was also received by council in the form of written feedback posted to council to ensure that there were opportunities to provide feedback beyond the online portal. This feedback has been themed and collated with the online feedback

There was written support for the following proposals:

* Removal of the existing dilapidated buildings
* Additional planting

Concerns that were raised in the written submissions included:

* Welfare of birdlife;
* Litter;
* A perceived lack of community consultation;
* Possible contamination of land;
* Light and Noise pollution;
* Concerns regarding rodents;
* Security and safety;
* Privacy to neighbouring homes;
* Ongoing park maintenance;
* Crown Land transition to Community Land;
* Mental health concerns;
* Parking pressures.

# Officer comments in response to public exhibition Stage 1

Council officers reviewed the public submissions which were received as part of the exhibition of the draft plan of management. Responses to specific issues are as follows:

### Welfare of Birdlife

Council supports the continuation of the park as a foreshore location which birdlife

frequent. To this extent council will continue to monitor and manage Paringa Reserve to ensure that recreational uses are not in conflict with ecology needs and that that future planting will be planned to provide habitat and refuge for wildlife. Council encourages local residents to notify organisations including WIRES (wildlife rescue) where injured wildlife are found within the reserve.

###

### Park management and Maintenance

Council will continue to service and inspect the park weekly to ensure litter and general park management maintenance standards are maintained. Where issues arise in relation to increased reports of litter in the park, Council will review its frequency of inspections. Where new facilities are in put in place to encourage and support passive recreational enjoyment of the park, additional litter receptables will be evaluated and where required incorporated into the landscape design to support such use.

###

### Community Consultation

Council has adhered to its adopted Community Engagement Framework in the development of this plan of management and master plan. Council’s Community Engagement Framework guides how Council will engage the community to ensure that a broad range of perspectives are sought and the community has a strong voice in Council’s decision-making. The adopted framework recognises that engagement is a planned practice which should be tailored to particular circumstances, taking into account factors such as complexity, risk, significance, sensitivity, timing or opportunity.

### Possible Contamination of Land

In assessing any future development proposal or implementation of master planning concepts which could indirectly result in potential sources of contamination, Council will ensure that technical and management controls are in place to prevent contamination. In undertaking such works Council will also impose appropriate conditions of consent (such as a requirement for monitoring and environmental management plans) to ensure that such controls are applied.

###

### Light and Noise Pollution

To ensure park user safety, Council will only light areas of the park where path connections are provided and in areas which are frequently utilised and enjoyed by the public as key access points and throughfares. Council will not encourage or permit the use of amplified music or sound equipment in Paringa Reserve.

###

### Rodent Management

Council will continue to maintain Paringa Reserve to a high standard. Where issues arise with rodent’s and feral pests in the reserve these will be addressed proactively by Council in line with adopted pest management practices.

###

### Security and safety

Residents are encouraged to report any issues associated with security and safe use of the park to Council. Where new development of the park is proposed, Council will include in its development assessment a safety audit of the proposal and also ensure that any works undertaken comply with safety by design principals.

###

### Privacy to Neighbouring Homes and Mental Health Concerns

Council recognises that Paringa Reserve shares a common boundary with adjacent residential homes and units. The park is however a community resource and as such use of the park is encouraged by Council. Residents who are concerned about privacy issues associated with the park are encouraged to approach Council for advice on landscaping and other means in which privacy can be maintained and improved.

###

### Crown Land transition to Community Land

In the management of its open space areas Council must adhere to the legislative requirement of the Crown lands Act 2016 and the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 as they relate to community land management.

### Parking Pressures

Council realises the need for review of key parking areas within the area. Ensuring that there is a good balance of parking space for park users, residents, businesses, shoppers, commuters and others is a key aim of Council.

Council will continue to monitor car parking in and around Paringa Reserve to ensure that parking spaces are maximised and where possible improve and manage changing parking needs over time.

# Stage 2

## Summary

After listening to community feedback, Council revised the proposals in the Plan of Management. The community could provide feedback on the revised proposals between 26 May and 23 June 2021.

The project page on YSIW was visited by 63 people during this time. Of these, 19 people downloaded the revised proposals. Overall, there were 34 participants across four methods of engagement. Repeat engagement across multiple methods indicates an ongoing conversation between interested members in the community and Council staff. Due to the ongoing nature of these discussions in various formats, it was difficult to accurately quantify specific levels of support.

Overall, the community welcome the Plan of Management and engagement efforts. However, it is reasonable to suggest the common sentiment is ‘yes – with changes’ which the customized container kiosk being the main point of contention.

Those who support the kiosk believe it will be a positive contribution to the reserve with social outcomes for residents and commuters if the ferry service is resumed. Those who do not support the kiosk question it’s viability in this location and adverse social and aesthetic impacts on the Reserve. Some participants advocated for a shade structure/rotunda to be considered, giving Council the opportunity to validate demand for a kiosk without the upfront expense.

Connections via the proposed stairway to Lockhardt Avenue and parking/traffic control were also of top concern. Residents shared an alternative for stair access to the road via private property and advocated for a revision of the turning circle and a resident parking scheme.

## Promotion

The engagement was promoted via:

* Direct email to past participants
* Letters to residents
* Your Say Inner West home page
* Council’s website

## Engagement Methods

### Onsite meeting 1 – meeting with residents regarding initial proposals

On 12 May 2021, an on-site meeting was held between two Council staff members and six residents to discuss their concerns about the initial proposals for Paringa Reserve. Key issues raised included:

* Human impact on natural environment: seating should remain behind the path, plant more trees and eco-friendly/social responsibility clauses in the kiosk contract.
* Impacts on immediate residents’ privacy and security: remove the fitness station, remove the path lighting, and install tangle bins as dogs have been eating hooks.

### Onsite meeting 2 – Drop-in session for revised proposals

On Saturday, 5 June 2021 (11am – 12:30pm) residents were invited to meet with Council staff in Paringa Reserve to discuss the revised proposals. There were 28 attendees who lived in nearby social housing, TOGA development and neighbouring streets. Most attendees had received the letterbox drop that was hand delivered by Council staff. An initial group of 12 had a discussion with Council staff about the revised proposals and their concerns. An additional 16 people joined the drop-in session at various times. They either contributed to the group discussion or waited for one-on-one conversations with staff.

### Feedback form

This was hosted online via Your Say Inner West and paper copies were provided at the drop-in session on Saturday, 5 June 2021. Participants were asked if they supported the revised proposals and to supply comments. Overall, 11 responses were provided online. Approximately five of these were following up previous conversations. There were eight paper forms completed during the on-site engagement on 5 June 2021. Responses from the same individual were counted once in the total participation rate.

### Direct email or phone call

Details to contact Council staff directly was provided online and in the letter distributed to residents in the local area. One email was received as a follow up to discussions at the information session on 5 June 2021.

#

# Engagement Outcomes

### Who did we hear from?

Overall, 34 residents provided feedback on the revised proposals. Participants were predominately from nearby residential blocks, including social housing, TOGA, the new development, and neighbouring streets.

### What did we hear?

Overall, participants welcome a Plan of Management and efforts to engage the community on what they would like to see in the space. This engagement was an ongoing conversation, with an interested group of participants providing feedback through more than one method, often elaborating further on past conversations with staff. Of the 28 who attended the drop-in sessions, approximately 13 followed up with further comments in other formats. For clarity, all sentiments have been themed and qualitatively reported against categories in this document.

**Customised container kiosk**

There were mixed sentiments about the kiosk. It was the proposal that received the most comments. Those who support the kiosk expressed the following:

* If the ferry terminal is reactivated, it will create more demand and foot traffic for a kiosk, supporting a more permanent structure
* The kiosk must cater to the needs of social housing residents – not just $20 smashed avocado, but toasted cheese too
* Kiosk could provide volunteer or paid opportunities to social housing residents and a chance to connect with one another
* Saves climbing up the hill
* The kiosk could be suitable with the right materials to soften it into the landscape

Those who do not support the proposed kiosk raised the following concerns:

* Proximity to residents’ windows
* Clarification about if install or EOI would come first and what happens if there isn’t a suitable tenant identified
* Viability of tenant operating a kiosk in this location
	+ There are other parks and locations that demand a kiosk due to higher visitation/usage
	+ Different approach: a rotunda structure that allows drive-in coffee cart gives Council a chance to validate the demand with a temporary approach. It provides rain protection/shade for park users and commuters if wharf is activated again, and a space for community programming.
* Concerns about attracting anti-social behaviour
	+ Resident noted the area was previously a drug drop off area
	+ Site and area susceptible to vandalism and graffiti
* Concerns about waste management (see next point)

**Waste Management**

* Fishing hook disposal bins are required near the Ferry Wharf, but not along Paringa Reserve itself
* Adequate bins and regular collection schedule
* Residents noted rubbish dumped by cruise operators
* Water rat problem in the area. Need to make sure food scraps are contained.

**Fitness equipment**

There was mixed sentiment about removing the fitness equipment. Support was expressed due to proximity to negative social and environmental impacts (such as proximity to bedrooms). Those who were disappointed looked forward to the facilities.

**Feasibility of stairway to Lockhart Avenue**

Those who do not support the stairway to Lockhart Avenue do so because there is an existing route on private land between buildings three and four up to Laggan Avenue and Elliott Street. Staff went for a walk with residents who pointed it out 50m from the proposed site of a stairwell and that it would require a direct gate to the Reserve and wayfinding signage.

There was concern from some residents about whether the projected number of users would justify the spend. Residents noted any proposed stairs/pathway under the figs will be exposed to bat and possum poo leading to slippery surfaces.

**Parking and traffic management**

There are supply/demand parking issues in Elliott Street with one resident requesting a Resident Parking Scheme be introduced. Key issues raised include:

* TOGA development has underground car park that residents and workers don’t necessarily use
* Residents must park in other streets when they can’t get a spot

Requests relating to the dead-end include:

* ‘No through road signage at top of Elliott Street
* Issues with the turning circle: residents noted the need to keep a section of the existing driveway in the turning circle free to allow vehicles to turn
* Would like clarification on dimensions of the driveway and if it can be made bigger to allow service vehicles to park further in and still allow vehicles to turn behind.

Speed management:

* Residents noted vehicles speed down Elliott Street and wanted options such as speed humps.
* Residents noted that the speed hump currently being constructed at Elliott/Darling is in an awkward position and not lit or line marked.

**Interpretive signage**

Residents expressed support for interpretive signage and hope it would include Aboriginal heritage as well as workers and link to Cockatoo Island and Pellegrini’s.

**Park usage**

Residents noted the reserve is used for quiet reflection and activities such as yoga (individuals and small groups). Families/groups visit with picnic blankets. There were concerns that a kiosk would take away open space for these users.

More shade and chairs are required across the park. There is support for new seating to ensure accessibility, with one resident noting example of benches at Foley Park and Peacock Point.

## Officer Comments Stage 2

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Concern | Officer response |
| Park usage | More shade and seating not just for the kiosk, but for park users | These insights will be combined with what we heard in previous engagement activities to help us decide what goes into the Plan of Management.Noted kiosk tenant will provide tables and chairs/shade which will be pack ed up and removed each night and stored in the store room to avoid attracting unwanted use/attention at night. |
| Support for the kiosk | Volunteer and employment opportunities | The revised proposals include social responsibility as part of the tenant’s contract.  |
|  | Anti-social behaviour | Noted the timber slats on the kiosk to deter grafitti and ensure CPTD issues and construction to reduce likelihood/damage through vandalism. |
| Opposition to the kiosk | Viability of kiosk in this location | Council has determined that the development of a kiosk in this location will be undertaken and has endorsed the initiative including community engagement on the concept and future use, demolition of the existing former restaurant building.  |
|  | Proximity of kiosk and gym equipment to residents’ windows | The outdoor gym has since been removed from the POM. Kiosk and amenities limited to existing footprint of Pellegrini's structure. |
|  | Rotunda/pergola and drive in coffee-cart model and other sites/parks have more demand | The proposed temporary kiosk model provides an income stream for Council and can be relocated to another site if it becomes unsustainable in this location. A rotunda-like structure is likely to attract anti-social behavior after hours and is not lockable. Ensuring the design is a robust one and responds to Anti social behavior concerns which have been expressed by residents throughout this engagement is a critical consideration of Council.  |
| Waste Management | Supply and regular collections of bins | We could include in the lease that the operator needs to be sustainable and focused on minimising waste and waste products. Look at options of bin storage (2-3 bins at minimum) and check with Waste about frequency of pickups/emptying. Tenant will also be under the watchful eye of the local residents if they do not comply with waste and resource recovery initiatives/requirements. |
| Fishing hook bins | This can be addressed before the POM is adopted as there are bins available. Parks Team to look at installing one and ensuring that it is cleaned/checked regularly. |
| Fitness Equipment | Whether to add/leave | The outdoor gym has been removed from the POM to respect the concerns of residents about privacy. |
| Feasibility of stairway into Lockhardt Avenue | There is an existing route | This route is on private land. Council will need to follow up with NSW Housing to see if it is possible to have public access and install appropriate wayfinding signage.Not currently accessible for wheelchair users, need to check compliance. |
| Feasibility of the new stairwell | The proposal is for Council to investigate the feasibility of this route with view to remove the dead end. When the time comes, Council officers will have to prepare a report about this for the elected representatives to make a final decision.  |
| Parking and Traffic Management | Request for Resident Parking Scheme | The scheme would apply to all residents in Elliott Street, including those in the TOGA development as per the Leichhardt Parking Policy.  |
| Interpretative signage |  | These contributions have been noted and will be explored with the relevant staff and cultural liaison practices.  |