

LEICHHARDT OVAL MASTER PLAN

Engagement Outcomes Report

Revision 2

2022-2023



INNER WEST

COX

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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the enduring spirit of Country—the knowledges, languages, stories, songlines, land, skies, waterways, and Spirit systems. We pay our respects to the Gadigal and Wangal People of the Eora Nation who know this place as their home.

Summary

Council engaged with the Inner West community and a number of stakeholders for input in to the future master planning for Leichhardt Oval.

Separate engagement periods were conducted between November 2022 and July 2023 over two rounds to inform initial design concepts and refine the ongoing direction of preliminary planning.

A broad cross section of the community was reached over the duration of both engagement periods, with feedback received from over 600 residents, spectators, employees, athletes and other vested members from both within and outside the local area.

Feedback collected from the engagement periods have been reviewed, analysed and themed for inclusion within this report and will be used to shape the final design of the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan.

First Round of Engagement Summary

The first round of engagement was conducted from the 18th of November 2022 to the 14th of March 2023 and reached more than 370 participants. Feedback was used to capture community expectations for the oval and shape initial design concept.

Consistent with the conversations throughout the initial engagement period, the analysis of issues and ideas found:

- Transport, traffic, parking and infrastructure provision are core community concerns
- Most of the transport related comments expressed a desire for better access to public and active transport options
- The community is passionate about building stronger neighbourhoods, they want to see better facilities for socialising in the public realm
- Finding environmentally and financially sustainable solutions were strongly expressed

Second Round of Engagement Summary

The second round of engagement was conducted from the 26th of June to the 23rd of July 2023 and reached more than 200 participants. Feedback was used to refine preliminary design concepts and shape the draft master plan.

Consistent with the conversations throughout the initial engagement period, the analysis of issues and ideas found:

- Improving spectator amenities and player facilities is a priority for the community
- Development should continue to retain the ground's heritage and suburban character and not impact any existing trees
- There is a need for traffic management plans and pedestrianisation of local roads during events and games
- There is strong desire to see the ground used for more community sports and events
- Further sustainability measures should be incorporated as part of the master plan

Background

Introduction

Inner West Council (Council) has identified the need to prepare a master plan to establish a cohesive vision for planned upgrades and renovations of facilities at Leichhardt Oval, ensuring that the iconic oval can continue to serve the changing needs of the community and meet the demands of modern professional sporting venues.

The master plan will help to guide Council's decisions around future uses of the site including concurrent upgrade of the adjoining Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and modernisation of grandstand amenities including change rooms, toilets, food outlets and screens. As a long-term planning document, the master plan will establish a framework for future uses and associated capital works, ensuring the continuation of Leichhardt Oval's extensive history of hosting sporting and community events at both the local and professional level.

To inform the preparation of the master plan, Council undertook user experience research to gather feedback from the wider community including current and potential sporting groups that utilise the oval, associated government institutions and relevant interest groups

In addition to Council officers, consultants from Cox Architecture and Arup assisted in the extensive engagement process combining targeted one-on-one interviews with relevant interest groups and broader community engagement across public pop-up sessions, along with online surveys and interactive mapping through the Council's 'Your Say' website.

The following Engagement Outcomes Report summarises the processes, key themes and outcomes of this engagement program.

Project Stages





First Round of Community Engagement



Engagement Methods and Promotion

Engagement Objectives

The initial community engagement process set out to gather meaningful, diverse and bold solutions informed by the community's desires for the future of Leichhardt Oval.

The purpose of the initial engagement process was to create broad awareness about the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan project and seek feedback on direction and priorities to be identified in the Master Plan. The engagement approach generated interest in the project and established a solid foundation for future engagement and collaboration as the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan evolves.

The specific objectives of the engagement were to:

- Enable opportunities to engage with a broad cross-section of the community
- Create excitement about the opportunity to contribute ideas and aspirations for the future of Leichhardt Oval
- Identify community priorities in terms of trends and needs

Engagement Promotion

The engagement process was promoted via a variety of methods and media including;

Advertising and promotion through print media

- Newsletters
- Letter box drops
- Flyers
- Posters

Advertising and promotion through online media

- Inner West Council web page
- Inner West Council social media pages
- Emails to Your Say Inner West registered users
- Direct Emails to stakeholders
- Wests Tigers web page and members mailing list

Engagement Methods

The engagement approach was developed to ensure that community and stakeholders could provide input in to the future of Leichhardt Oval via a variety of methods. These methods are outlined below;

Community - Inner West Have Your Say methods

- Your Say online survey
- Your Say online interactive social map
- Email submissions
- Written submissions
- Phone call submissions

Community - In-person methods

- Manned pop-up displays at;
 - Loyalty Square, Balmain
 - Norton Street Plaza, Leichhardt
 - King George Park, Rozelle
- Face-to-face surveys
 - Conducted at two Wests Tigers home games

External Stakeholders - In-person and online interviews

- Structured interviews with pre-prepared questions and prompts and open discussion

External Stakeholders

- In-person design charrette (workshop)

Engagement Outcomes - Community Pop-ups

Purpose

Outlining the key aspects of the vision and encouraging the community to have their say on the future of Leichhardt Oval

Engagement Approach

The Community Pop-Up stalls provided opportunity for the community to provide feedback on Leichhardt Oval and surrounding uses and to inform patrons who are not familiar with Leichhardt Oval. The manned pop-up stalls were established at;

Loyalty Square, Balmain

- Thursday 1st December - 4:30-7:30pm

Norton Street Plaza, Leichhardt

- Friday 2nd December - 12:00pm-2:00pm

King George Park, Rozelle

- Saturday 3rd December - 10:00am-2:00pm

The contribution and feedback was captured through post-it notes on the day through informal conversation between the community and council officers and consultant team. The feedback then was categorised under key themes.

Engagement Outcomes

Attendance and contribution statistics;

- 240+ total attendees with informal verbal contributions
- 149 written contributions (post-it note comments)

Summarised Comments and Responses

- Parking and access to the site - consider parking needs for everyone
- Pedestrian and public transport access
- Retention of trees, hill and atmosphere on game day
- More food and beverages
- No "shiny plastic stadium"
- Weather protection - cover for rain and sun
- Community, non-sports, cultural events run by Council or others



Engagement Outcomes - Community Pop-ups



Engagement Outcomes - Community Pop-ups

Themed Comments and Responses

Oval and game day facilities	
Covered area for rain	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Retain the heritage and old character - Incorporate the history and heritage of the scoreboard - Maintain history	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Better toilets and catering - better food, beverage and hospitality	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Leave the Hill - maintain the hill	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Stand on the North to wrap around - update the seating on the north and south	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Corporate spaces	✓ ✓
Inner West Museum of sports	✓ ✓
After match area	✓
Better surface for Oval #2	✓
Cover oval and the Hill to allow all year round sports	✓
Cover over Glover Street entrance	✓
Improvement to the current stand	✓
Increase the capacity	✓
Natural grass	✓
New grandstand	✓
Synthetic soccer field for all weather pitch	✓
3 screens at NW and SE end	✓
Public access/uses	
Food and Music Festivals - Carnivals - Spring festival	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Mini theatre/outdoor cinema	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Markets	✓ ✓ ✓
Boutique craft beer festival + game-day in the park	✓ ✓
More opportunity for Rugby - rugby league	✓ ✓
Community access	✓
Cultural events run by Council	✓
Fan Day	✓
Function spaces	✓
Kid access to the ground after play	✓
Picnic and public open space	✓
Pop-up shops in the stands when not in use	✓
Access and Parking	
Public transport - game day shuttle bus - bus zone outside of game day	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Access and parking for the aquatic centre during games	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Connection to Oval #2 and Glover Street -	✓ ✓ ✓

More parking	✓ ✓ ✓
Underground parking	✓ ✓ ✓
Consider the vehicle access parking needs of everyone on all days	✓ ✓
Pedestrian friendly zones, slower traffic speed	✓ ✓
Better parking so it flows better	✓
Traffic control - traffic management	✓
Move away from parking	✓
Walk to the bus as park of the experience	✓
Other sporting facilities/uses	
Women world cup game - Sydney FC women matches	✓ ✓
Cater to more than Wests Tigers	✓
Indigenous footy festivals	✓
Netball courts with light	✓
Running tracks especially for kids with sports in the middle	✓
Secured storage and meeting spaces	✓
Tennis courts	✓
Basketball courts	✓
Environment	
Keep the trees	✓ ✓
Nature walk within the trees - pathways "around the back"	✓ ✓
Enhance the views to the north	✓
More engagement with bay run and oval	✓
Safety	
Pedestrian and emergency access	✓ ✓
Safety upgrades	✓ ✓
Crowd control on the Hill	✓
Other	
All ages	✓
Communication for when the games are on	✓
Create Go Fund Me	✓
Dog park around the outside - open to the public	✓
Don't take away the games for next generations	✓
Major sponsor	✓
Outdoor gym by aquatic centre	✓
Waste control	✓

Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Social Map

Purpose

To capture opportunities, considerations and constraints

Engagement approach

An online interactive mapping interface which allowed users to make comments on particular areas of an aerial image of Leichhardt Oval and to respond to other contributors comments

- 18th November to 18th December 2022
- Hosted on the Your Say Inner West website
 - Social Map Response - 31 contributions by 14 participants and 50 votes on contributions

Categorising Feedback

The Your Say Social Map provides the opportunity for participants from the broader community to provide qualitative feedback and comments on key opportunities to capitalise on or concerns to investigate for the design of the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan.

Participant contributions are placed by the user over points of interest on the site and categorised as opportunities, constraints and considerations for the master plan with corresponding comments attached. Other users are then able to engage with contributions through votes to show their support for design concepts.



	Consideration	Votes
1	Rebuild Latcham Robinson stand , extending it the length of the field and adding a second level Refer to Aldi Field in Washington DC as an example	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
2	It's often hard to see the screen and part of the playing field when on the hill. I suggest having two screens or a larger screen or a better located screen. Also suggest improving the sight lines to the SE part of the playing field.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
3	Why is such an important topic a 'Christmas Consult'? Why can people only agree with a pin and not object it? Why is no information on master planning displayed the Council's customer service centres in Leichhardt?	✓ ✓
4	Keep the hill no matter what! It's the hill that makes the atmosphere at leichhardt amazing, although maybe shade some with cover for early arvo or rainy day games?	✓
5	Parking conditions on all local streets should be changed to prevent parking during events at Leichhardt Oval. It is absolute chaos for residents who can't even get into their streets, let alone park. All spectators should take public transport.	✓
6	New grandstand at the northern end which would connect to current western stand, which could potentially connect to southern stand (eg: Brookvale Oval). Upgraded toilets, food outlets and corporate facilities in western stand.	✓

	Opportunity	Votes
7	Add an iconic welcome to Leichhardt Gate here. Integrate statues of club greats here too.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
8	Suggest pedestrianising more of Mary St on game days. After games it's a little dangerous with pedestrians walking and cars trying to bully their way through the crowd.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
9	A fully accessible bathroom using the 'Changing Places' initiative so that people, regardless of care needs, can have dignity while accessing these new facilities	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
10	When designing a grandstand for the North of Leichhardt oval (LO). Suggest integrating the iconic trees if possible e.g. part of the grandstand being transparent (glazing). The trees surrounding LO are iconic and help provide an intimate experience.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
11	A lot of people access Leichhardt Oval from the water front and walk up an informal path along the fence line. I suggest making this a permanent paved path for access and safety reasons.	✓ ✓ ✓
12	Underground the carpark, extending it beneath the pitch. Create a larger sporting excellence centre that can cater to the local school catchment and the community. Link the swimming pool to the main sports precinct. Have a single side stand for games	✓ ✓ ✓
13	Suggest improving wayfinding and safety (lit path) for pedestrians walking from Rozelle through Callan Park.	✓ ✓
14	Improved parking.	✓ ✓
15	This stand needs demolishing and rebuilding from scratch. The current stand is a health hazard. If there was an emergency, you could not evacuate safely. The stand also needs rebuilding to add needed corporate boxes and event space	✓ ✓
16	As there are many playing fields in the area and an aquatic centre. I suggest this is a great location for local community sporting clubs and a base for the junior Balmain tigers / Wests Tigers or Balmain JRL. Suggest including club buildings here.	✓ ✓
17	Provide clear access to the aquatic centre and improved wayfinding.	✓ ✓
18	Clear wayfinding from the light rail stop to Leichhardt Oval	✓
19	Add an iconic welcome to Leichhardt Gate here. Integrate statues of club greats here too.	✓
20	Suggest linking (or redesigning) the existing stands with any new stands built. Stands should be on the South, West and North sides of the playing field. Providing rain protection for spectators. Any design needs to embrace the heritage items.	✓

Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Social Map

Constraint	Votes
21 What ever you do, DO NOT TOUCH THE TREES.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
22 The oval is located in a local residential area, not in Moore Park with arterial road access. The local area does not support larger crowds. There should be no additional car that further contributes to the traffic chaos at sporting events.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
23 Local streets: We need to think of the local residents, many elderly and families with young children. They live here. Their interests have to come before those who access the area a few times per year from outside areas for sports events.	✓ ✓ ✓
24 Make the site safe for small events, limit the capacity. Do not invest in new grandstands. Wests Tigers should not have any games - Sydney has many good stadiums available now. Council funds should be focused on community sport facilities.	✓ ✓ ✓
25 No more loss of trees! IWC has Sydney's second lowest rate of tree cover. IWC's new tree policy has significantly accelerated canopy loss, well documented in the media. Recently, 45 trees were felled adjacent to the LH Oval for a skate park.	✓ ✓ ✓
26 Has anyone actually seen the gridlock at this intersection on a normal day let alone a match day? There needs to be some serious traffic analysis done because there are only a few ways in and out.	✓
27 If Mary Street was pedestrianised on match days, access would be further reduced for traffic. Leaving access via the bay or Glover Street?	✓
28 These very special, old shady trees should not under any circumstances be removed. They are so important for local birds and animals and provide important shade in summer on a popular route down to the Bay Run.	✓
29 Trees need to be felled to make way for a new north stand.	✓

Summarised Comments and Responses

Environmental Sustainability and Preservation

The most prominent concern continuously raised by participants was the need to preserve and enhance tree coverage on the site, with numerous contributions identifying the clusters of old trees as an iconic part of Leichhardt Oval's identity. Other contributions identified opportunities to incorporate tree canopies into the design to increase shading of pedestrian spaces across the site.

Game-day Traffic Management

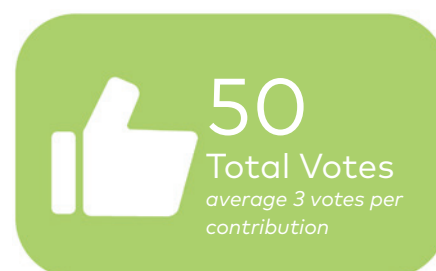
The impacts of game-day traffic were specified in multiple submission outlining increased parking demands, reduced pedestrian accessibility, poor traffic flows and disruption to local residents. Concerns were also raised over the potential for increased spectator capacities being unsustainable for the area and the need to encourage further pedestrianisation and improve public transport connections.

Wayfinding and Accessibility

Pedestrian access to Leichhardt Oval was identified by participants as an issue in the current public domain surrounding the site, with opportunities outlined for improving pedestrian infrastructure and wayfinding, particularly to public transport connections. Other participants also identified considerations for improving navigation and mobility throughout the site with additional lighting and footpaths.

Facilities and Urban Design

Multiple participants identified the need to protect and enhance Leichhardt Oval's heritage character and natural assets within the design of the master plan along with the need for better spectator and player facilities. The need for additional sheltered spectator seating was a prominent concern for participants with consideration for improving amenities such as change-rooms, toilets, food outlets and screens also raised.



Your Say Social Map Engagement Statistics.

Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Social Map



Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Survey

Purpose

To provide an online space for participants to share how they currently interact with the site and outline what they would like to see within the final masterplan.

Engagement approach

Online Survey

- 18th November to 18th December 2022
- Hosted on the Your Say Inner West website
 - Your Say Survey Response - 61 participants

Who did we hear from?

The majority of responses were received from participants living across the Inner West Council Area, accounting for over 70% of overall survey submissions, with 50% of responses recorded from suburbs adjacent to Leichhardt Oval.

Interest and feedback on the project was also received from outside the Inner West area, with participant responses recorded from as far away as Port Stephens some 200km from the site.

Data collected from 'Your Say' survey responses suggests that there is significant interest from both local residents and visiting fans. This is reflective of Leichhardt Oval's role in supporting the broader Inner West community, and its historical significance to professional sporting codes and fans across the State.

Categorising Feedback

Questions used to construct the Your Say surveys looked for feedback across two aspects of the wider communities' views towards Leichhardt Oval, breaking responses into separate categories of how participants currently engage with the site, and how participants would like to see the site improved.

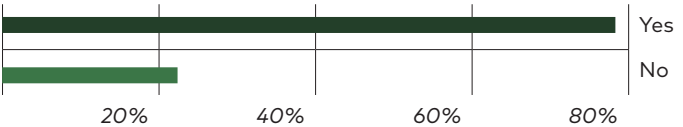
How Participants Currently Engage with the Site

Feedback collected within this category aims to establish an understanding of the broader communities' current perceptions and use of the site, reflecting how Leichhardt Oval in its current state succeeds or under-performs in servicing the community.

How Participants Would Like to See the Site Improved

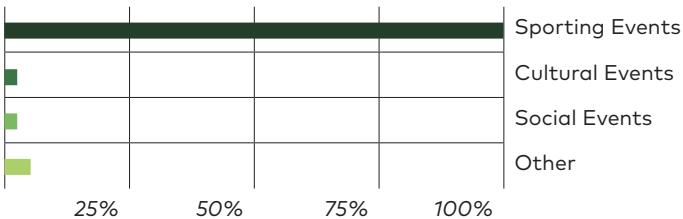
Feedback collected within this category aims to expand upon the previous section to understand how enjoyment and use of the site can be improved. Responses in this section show the gap between how Leichhardt Oval is currently used and the communities' desires for the future of the site.

Do you currently use Leichhardt Oval? (n= 61)



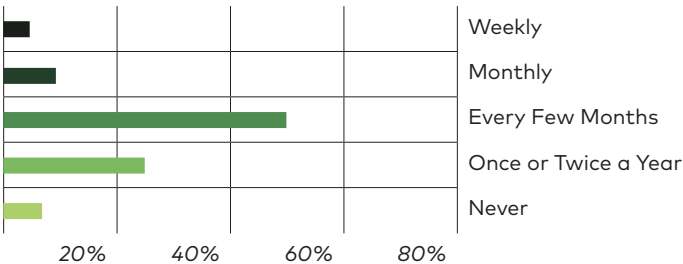
The majority or 77% of respondents currently attend or use Leichhardt Oval is some capacity while 23% stated they do not engage directly with the site

What events bring you to Leichhardt Oval? (n= 47)



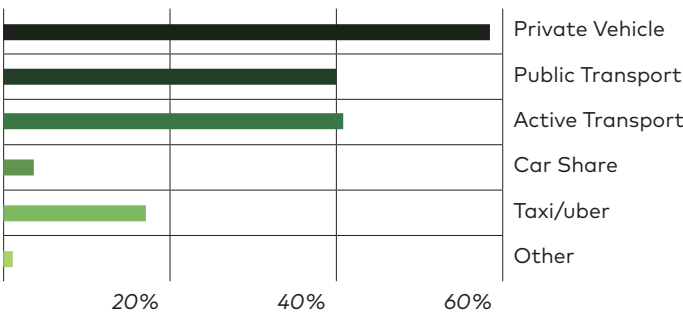
Results showed a clear distinction in the communities' reasons for attending Leichhardt Oval with 100% of respondents selecting sporting events while less than 5% of respondents attended for social, cultural or other events.

How often do you visit Leichhardt Oval? (n= 61)



The majority of respondents had limited interactions with Leichhardt Oval over the course of the year, with 25% of respondents attending only once every 6 to 12 months and over 50% attending every few months. Comparatively the most frequent users who attend weekly or monthly collectively accounted for less than 20% of respondents.

How do you get to/from Leichhardt Oval? (n= 47)



Respondents showed a preference towards private vehicles as the primary transportation method for accessing Leichhardt Oval accounting for 60% of responses, though also indicated high engagement with active and public transport methods that were both selected by over 40% of respondents. Other transportation methods including taxi/Uber were utilised to a lesser degree but were largely considered to not be a desirable transportation method for the majority of respondents.



Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Survey

Summarised Comments and Responses

Better Facilities for Socialising in the Public Realm

Survey responses indicated significant disparity in how participants currently utilise Leichhardt Oval and what events and activities would increase their desire to utilise the space. When asked about how they currently engage with the site, 100% of participants responded to attend sporting events, while less than 4% of participants indicated that they attended for other events or activities. In contrast when asked about what potential events or activities would bring greater patronage to the site, participants responded with equal interest in attending cultural and sporting events, and even greater interest towards attending social events at Leichhardt Oval. Similar sentiments were reiterated in regard to how Leichhardt Oval can be improved, with facility upgrades, food and beverage availability and more diversity of events being the 3 most prominent responses

How the community engages with Leichhardt Oval

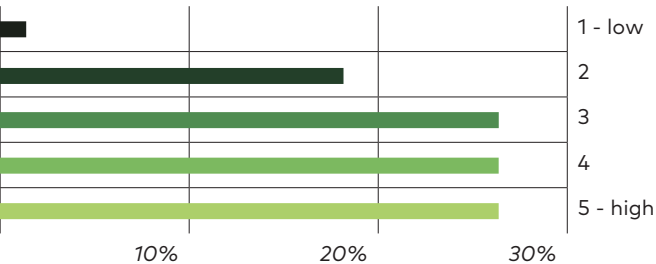
Despite receiving significant community interest during the engagement period, survey responses indicated that the majority of participants often had limited interactions with Leichhardt Oval. Over 20% of participants responded that they don't currently use Leichhardt Oval at all, with further questioning revealing over 50% of participants only visit every few months and 25% only visiting once or twice a year.

Transportation, Traffic and Parking Infrastructure

Concerns surrounding accessing the site and traffic/parking demand was a reoccurring theme across the engagement process, survey responses held consistent sentiments reflecting significant car dependency and a desire for alternative transport methods. Responses to transport mode selection revealed private vehicles were the predominant method of accessing the site, accounting for 60% of responses, while active transport and public transport modes accounted for 40% and 42% of responses. These findings about current transport behaviour correlated to responses to how Leichhardt Oval can be improved, wherein 40% of participants indicated that better public transport connections and improved parking would enhance their experience at Leichhardt Oval.

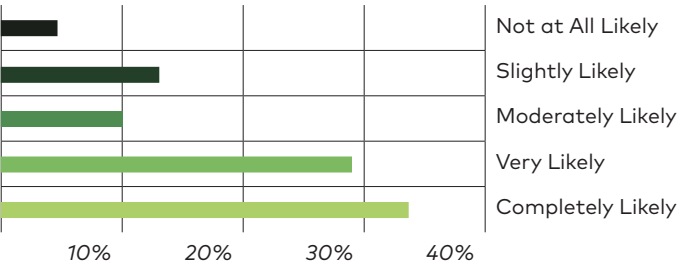
Rate your overall experience of Leichhardt Oval?

(n= 61)



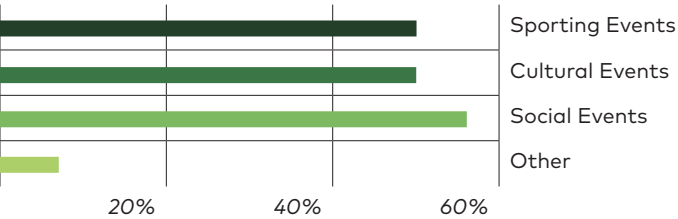
Results showed a relatively even split with a leaning towards more positive perceptions and experiences of Leichhardt Oval, with only 3% of respondents providing the lowest score.

How likely are you to bring friends/family to Leichhardt Oval? (n= 61)



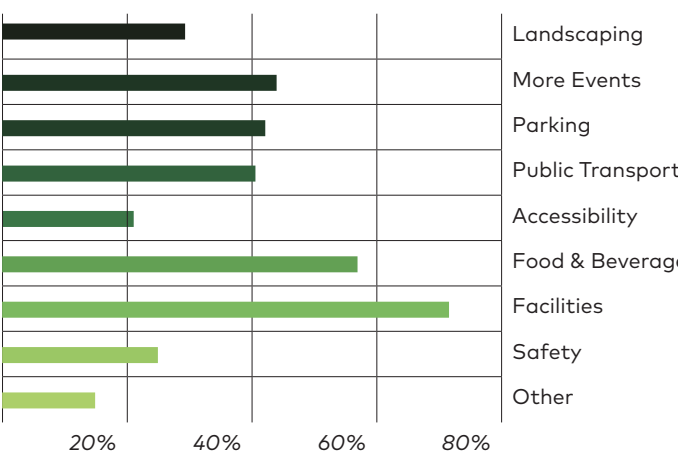
There was a clear interest from the majority of respondents in engaging with Leichhardt Oval in a group setting with close to 70% of respondents stating they were very or completely likely to bring friends or family to Leichhardt Oval. Results show that further consideration is required for how transportation and amenity can be improved to better support families and groups.

What events or activities would bring you to Leichhardt Oval? (n= 47)



Respondents showed a relevantly even split for sporting, cultural and social events as desired activities at Leichhardt Oval with a minor preference for more social events, indicating an interest for greater variety in the types of events and activities at Leichhardt Oval.

How can the site be improved? (n= 61)



Similar themes raised during other engagement sessions were identified by survey respondents with the primary areas identified for improving the site relating to oval facilities and amenity, frequency of events, parking availability and ease and accessibility of transportation.

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

Purpose

To draw out ideas, requirements and ambitions from existing, or prospective, users, providers and custodians of Leichhardt Oval

Engagement approach

- - Kuburlis (catering)
 - Rugby Australia
 - Waratahs Rugby
 - E-Group Security
 - NSWRL
 - APL (A-leagues)
 - Balmain District Junior Rugby League
 - APIA Leichhardt FC
 - Balmain Tigers RLFC
 - Sydney FC
 - Sydney Rugby Union
 - NRL
 - Wests Tigers
 - Transport for NSW
 - NSW Police - Local Area Command

Categorising Feedback

A set of questions was distributed to the external stakeholder to start the conversation at the meetings. These questions were to offer the interviewees an opportunity to inform and drive the direction of the Master Plan. Each group to focus on questions that are relevant to your organisation and your use, or desires for Leichhardt Oval.

These questions largely revolve around the opportunities at Leichhardt Oval

- Where do you see the alignment of Leichhardt Oval with the opportunities with your organisation at the moment? And where would you like to see it in the future?
- Innovation - what can Leichhardt do which makes it unique to others venue and create that "memorable experience"
- Oval event overlay and "marketing" – digital/lighting/wayfinding/special effects
- Non-game day passive brand/image

Access

- Access for the players and coaches requirements?
- On foot access from the bus drop-off and security?
- Club admin access and parking requirements?
- Post-match access for players and club?
- Away-team considerations?

Non-Game day

- Requirements for any non-game day access to the Oval by players or Club
- Planning/Sponsoring any non-game community events
- Public uses / Community / Functions (revenue generation,
- Connections to foreshore / other facilities holistic precinct response
- Indigenous overlay placemaking / story telling

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

Kuburlis

There is limitation to catering on game days due to space for movement and access on site.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval

Pre catered (corporate events etc) is done offsite and brought in to be re-heat

Back of house is lacking, game day limits the back of house access. Paths are a mess, easy wayfinding needed for the movement especially the corporate offices

Northern area that is not serviced with hospitality and is a prime position without a path

On the top portion where most people don't stand because they cant see is great for hospitality

Similar offering throughout the site but differentiate for each tier for the different experience

QR codes to deliver food

Lounge is where all the networking happens, even minor events

Bar in the back, served and 'networking' away from their seats, open up the area for a bar and buffet to get their food and go back to their box

Food options – food trucks for variety event and for larger events (power and water needed). They want the "game day" food.

Access

Delivery needs to be made to the 3 areas

Access around the ground

Access and movement for food trolleys

Non-Game day

Museum with café? More people on daily basis with tours

Other non-sporting events that will utilise the site

Rugby Australia

Rugby Australia see potential opportunity for additional games at Leichhardt Oval once the facilities have been upgraded especially for women's game and to use the space for training throughout the year.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval

General upgrades needed such as change rooms being the challenge which is the operational constraints

Hospitality space needs to be upgraded and currently limited offering

Hiring fee is great, but it's hard to get the revenue in return

Increase the offering and bring it up to specifications such as accessibility and pre-post game offerings

The introduction in the last 5-10 years of women's sports which needs an increase to change room 2-4 more. It allows to run the woman and the men games

LED on the east and north south

The score board (the older score board) is fantastic and used. There is a digital requirement at a large cost

Broadcast capabilities

Connectivity with wifi, upload and download speed, sensitive for world cup

Access

International level needs access, arrival of players, buses and referees

Parking limitation and challenging

Non-Game day

Can be used as a training ground for major tournaments. Has the exclusivity (fence around) and privacy

National competitions – move them around varies venues and growing traction and large profile. Leichhardt suits for the requirements for that event

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

Waratahs Rugby

Upgrade to facilities to allow 4 changes rooms and open up to women's game. Additional upgrade to allow better facilities for easier access and spectators.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval

Opportunities for upgrade to the change room facilities especially women (4 rooms). 4 change room will open up the ability to have many more events

Love the hills – keep if can

Opportunities for upgrade to the corporate facilities and coaches facilities

Parking over the road was great

Suites are important in rugby market for corporate hospitality

Ability with suites for indoor and outdoor would be great

Size of function room is great but with higher specifications and with big screens and AV, no pillars.

Media: Pre-match in the tunnel. Post match to fit 20 odd and desk and backdrop

Best playing surface in Sydney – Retain the playing surface as is

Access

Turn stiles had a few issues for egress – top priority for getting people in and out

Ease of access for the independent medical and room. And location to be half way

Non-Game day

Potentially Captains day but will use new facilities

E-Group Security

The security on site benefits greatly with the control room and the CCTV solution. Some opportunity for access and safety upgrades in regards to pathways around the site.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval

Since council involvement, there has been more structure planning and security plans

CCTV solution - Control room is the best thing that has happened to bring everyone together

Information coming and decisions are made and sending it out

Egress is all at the same time, with intoxication and it is darker.

People can walk anywhere they want

Walkways are kept clear, except the western side

Permanent police and ambulance on site. VIP and coaches all in the back. Need to be in and out at a certain time

The entry doesn't have turn stiles and could benefit for access control. The hand scans depend on wifi which is not great

Access

Messaging has always been to get there early. The 2 streets (Mary and Glover) running too and from the site. Use chapel street now to go from one to another

A lot of people coming from east, Frazer st side and it is slippery when wet

There are traffic control measures, no vehicle access unless approved between the intersection at the aquatic centre and Mary and Chapel St when roads become too busy

Parking is limited, on top of the (east) and mostly full on west. And the WHOS car park and rowing club that are used, players in the rowing club and escorted to site

Limited accessibility and stopping areas for buses

Majority of people coming to Leichhardt are locals and know where and how

The access on the east is limited especially with rain – footpath allows for police and security

A pathways on the north at the top would be great for movement and emergency egress. That path to potentially allow for a vehicle movement

Congestion on the west south corner – to food and because of the movement

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

NSWRL

LO has opportunity to upgrade facilities to allow for female participant training and warm up space. And allowing better access and amenities for VIP spectators and participants.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
Size and access to the facility is great for hosting events
Wish list:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/5 is female participant - Change room facility to align with the growing of the female participant – the requirement to be determined. Facilities that can cater to that Official spaces – referees – own facility for themselves Opportunity to ease of movement between men and females to reduce issues Toilets that are adequate for females 4 change rooms is ideal
Dedicated warm up space/fields – closed facility for the warm up space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor warm up area and not on the field Direct access on the northern end prior to the game Netting within indoor training
Modern recovery facilities - Recovery pools etc - The more access they have, they will use it
Side line seating for weather protection (rain or sun)
Surface is great - Relationship with council has been positive
Wifi – include and easier access to wifi - Ground managers to media and club staff
Netting behind the spectators on north (where trees are) to avoid balls going over
Score board – additional person to manually manage that
LED infrastructure to tap into and access it
Medical rooms – separate for each – a private room and access for the 15min needed before going back out
To allow better corporate events/facilities
VIP, equipment, medical, executives etc managing the movement between the different games – defined access and have access management – technology and electronic would make it easier
Access
Parking is an issue
Better VIP or senior official parking - 20 to 30 spots
Non-Game day
Junior rep program – venue as a training venue and development facility. Standard facility – gymnasium, theatre rep, on-ground filming to capture training, recovery facility
Centre of excellence – running competitions, another facility to allow different groups to run camps and use the facility
Break out space with meeting room and kitchenette for nutrient and other program for their training facility

APL (A-League)

Opportunity for other sporting facilities such as futsal, B-league and additional dressing room.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
Respect the heritage - Maintain the heritage – scoreboard
Double dressing room (4) and identical with 2 referees rooms
Social marketing and need for LED marketing and scoreboard
B league – Seating for 5 thousand would be ideal. Seating under the cover
Catering facilities need to be improved - To be a high class facility – change rooms, toilets, kitchen, corporate boxes
Access
Warm up area consideration or access to LO #2 on the north (tunnel, bridge, gated)
Non-Game day
Indoor futsal facility/centre and LO has the space. 4 international size courts – can be multipurpose
Museum – for all of rugby league. To change to Inner West football to also include football and not just rugby
Opening the oval to general public - No risk, making sure the security that the facility doesn't get vandalised

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

Balmain Tigers RLFC

The oval users can benefit from using the surrounding uses such as the aquatic centre and oval #2. Being able to provide additional back office admin space and demountable for the additional activities needed for players interaction.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
Value the heritage of LO
Use parts of the aquatic centre
Additional games for junior Balmain club teams
Need and use of storage is key
Wish list of gym, recovery centre and kitchen
Back office admin – theatre, meeting rooms. Currently using sheds room, great to have separate meeting room for meetings and chats with players
Junior programs are adaptable
Mary and Glover Street residents to be engaged
Junior rep season which doesn't overlap too much with NRL - To use main and #2 would be great
Access
Non-Game day
Demountable – an area available to put on the site, junior league to run their activities there
Heritage and memorable, lots of visitors to look and experience the oval, like a museum. An interactive merchandise and café - Café and interactive and look at great moments at LO

Sydney FC

Opportunity for women and junior users of the oval, providing facilities for outdoor gathering and for LO to meet the regulation.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
For double header matches - needs the additional change rooms and match officials, media room etc - Need double the space
Media – broadcast suppliers and requirements differ based on type of matches - Fixture itself to determine to size - Photographer and press conference room
Additional change rooms for the team - A League men and women - Tunnel club - Delivery and operational
Medical/first aid room - Preferred on the west
Field requirements - LO meets the regulations
Benches – integrated team benches - Proximity to the action
Making sure where there is seats with numbers/rows, maximise the commercial opportunity, maximise undercover, especially for summer and sun coverage and safety perspective
Maintain the hill
Corporate - Commercialisation, Function room area, flexibility for formal dining - Other facilities not where the corporate sits currently
Field club/BBQ/cocktail style area which creates opportunities
Sponsorship inventory - signage and LED wrap
How will these be operated in the most cost efficient manner - Tie in down the commercial elements - To be operated at a low cost
Access
Parking for the teams and operational and corporate inventory - Area behind the grandstand which keeps the players away from the spectators
Additional access points
Parking, public transport and access to the grounds - Making sure there is suitable plans for parking and traffic management
Turn stiles and ticketing - queue is terrible, no signage and no area to sell tickets
2 gate is not enough - Footprint needs to be looked at to have 10-12 turn stiles
Non-Game day
Fan and corporate on game day and non game day
Access to the facilities for non-match days
Community football clubs and use ground for practical component
School holiday clinic program
Future for women's game and Juniors game

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

Sydney Rugby Union

Opportunity and need for better technology and systems to improve the sound and lighting. Also, the better access such as lifts and wheelchair access.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
LO is a perfect venue for the atmosphere
Lack of protection of undercover for rain
Roof to be improved
Nice with the trees in background and provides shade
Under the grandstand needs improvement. It has all the basics, but needs tweaking up
Having the additional cost of bringing the LED and big screens - Basic technology
Need better sound system
Lighting is fine in terms of quality
Use all 4 change rooms to run the teams in and out of and change rooms for female sports
Access
Spectator experience is that it is easy to get to, buses and trains. Not great experience with bad weather.
Lift access is important and on both ends
Wheelchair access to be improved
Access for players and coaches are fine
Bus coming around and players access is fine
Access behind the stadium is good
Better connection to LO #2, access with security and going out the back way

NRL

Opportunity for improvement to the media and broadcast system and operation with an indoor press box. Consideration to the standards of male and female participation.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
Minimum standards of venues
Media and broadcast perspective - narrow streets and difficulties of that entails - lack of parking in the in the in the area which can lead to significant congestion in terms of the media facilities
Indoor press box press
Congestion around the hospitality area
Ability to have a room for press conferences, media conferences and sort of mix zone media interview areas which are outside the dressing room
Standards for male and female participants
Larger function rooms for small to medium functions
VIP hospitality
A larger goods lift
Access
How a venue can integrate into this surrounds and how you can improve the traffic and transport and parking
The experience of the fan coming in and getting out is more pleasant
Non-Game day
Large spaces undercover where they could be used at night time by PCYC's or basketball courts and other things that could be used more by the community

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

West's Tigers

Improvement players facilities and corporate uses. Also the improvement for spectators such as cover for weather protection and amenities for families.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
Opportunity for an academy at LO
To understand the staging and priorities
Improvements for corporate, female, toilets, food and amenities
2 function areas on the west
Outdoor seating
Potential for corporate box on the north end
Improvement for movement outside of the box and to go in
Placement of merchandise
Desire for a 20k capacity
Standing space for corporates
Access and footpath to the Hill
Families are an emerging market and need to cater for
Cover for weather protection
Warm up field
Media and production area
Recovery area for players
Access
Entrance issues for back of house
Non-Game day
Training session
University/medical/education use

Transport for NSW

Opportunity for a ride share zone and to improve the signage and wayfinding to and from public transport. Prioritising the crowd and movement of pedestrian and vehicles.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval
Signage and wayfinding
Traffic signals to be priorities and monitored during game-day
Access
Customer Journey Planning team and Major event team could be engaged for game-day at a cost
Walk from public transport and wayfinding can be improved for day and night
Additional buses during major events and people to direct visitors
Ride share option - a location for pick up and guidance
Prioritising crowd management

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Interviews

NSW Police LAPC

Improvement to the egress management plan with policy for parking and other options for travel method such as shuttle buses and free travel for ticket holders.

Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval

- Permanent security room for command
- Lack of entrance for services and players - up to 6 buses - limit vehicles
- Designated area for drop-off
- Parking policy to be enforced
- Parking station with shuttle bus
- Free travel with game-day ticket on buses/light rail
- Improvement to amenities such and toilets

Access

- Mary Street as exclusion zone - Chapel Street to re-direct and allowance for one way streets
- Semi permanent vehicle mitigation
- Opportunity for an egress management plan
- Improvement access to City West Link

Engagement Outcomes - Game Day Surveys

Purpose

To engage in-person with attendees at a major sporting event at Leichhardt Oval.

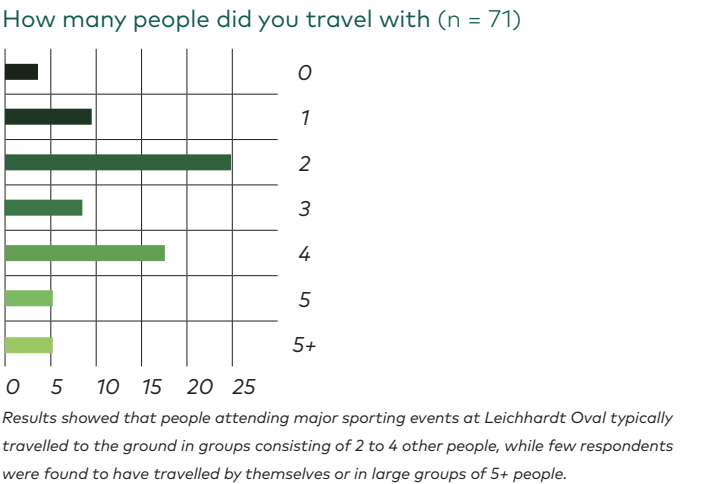
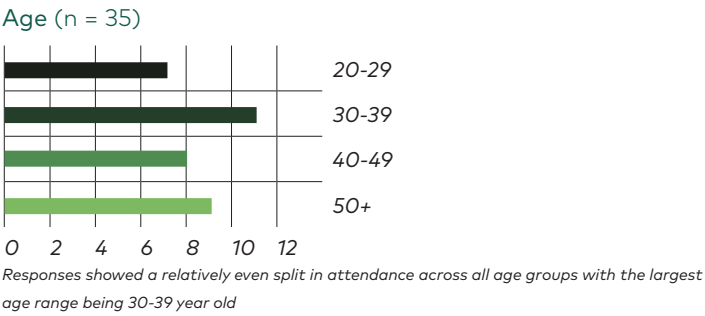
Engagement approach

In-person survey held on two Wests Tigers home games at Leichhardt Oval on the 5th and 12th of March, to understand travel patterns of how the spectators arrived at the game and their method of accessing the Oval.

Categorising Feedback

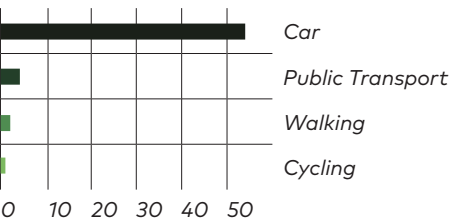
The survey questions were categorised to understand the age group of the spectators to the game, how many they travel with which could give an indication of their choice of travel pattern and their mode of transport to arrive at the game. The other area that the responses helped with understanding the travel pattern was what the preference and future outlook could be for the site in terms of game-day travel pattern.

The survey did include a number of response under "other" and descriptives information. These answers have been omitted from the graphs and summary and the participant numbers for each question is reflective of the amount of responses included in the graph after non-response were removed.



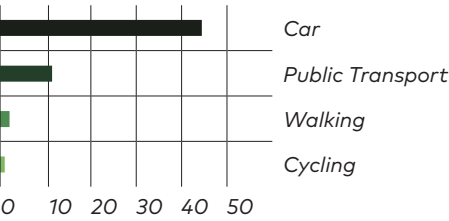
Engagement Outcomes - Game Day Surveys

What main mode of transport did you use to get to the game today? (n = 60)



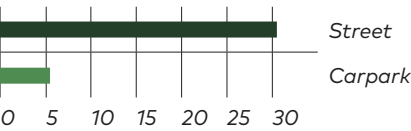
Results showed the overwhelming majority of respondents travelled to the game in private cars with active and public transport alternatives accounting for only a small portion of total responses.

What mode of transport would you prefer to travel by? (n = 58)



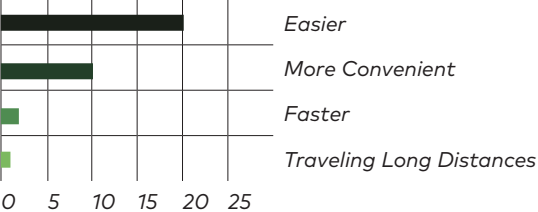
If given the choice for their preferred transport method, the majority of respondents maintained their decision to use private cars with only a small percentage changing their response in support of public transport alternatives. Results also indicated little interest active transport alternatives such as walking and cycling.

If you drove where did you park? (n = 37)



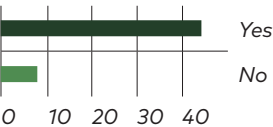
Results showed that the majority of respondents who drove to the oval used street parking rather than carparks around the area, suggesting issues of inaccessibility or insufficient provisions of off street parking.

If you drove why did you drive? (n = 34)



Respondents indicated their preference for driving over other modes of transport was largely due to ease and convince rather than issues of distance or time, suggesting that improving the accessibility and reliability of public and active transport could encourage alternative transport uses.

If you drove would you still drive if you had a 10-minute walk from your parking spot? (n = 52)

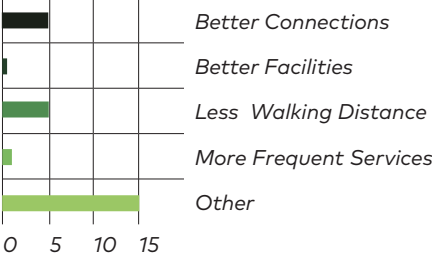


Results showed that respondents were typically not concerned with walking longer distances from parking spaces to access the oval, supported previous suggestions that the preference for driving is due to convenience rather than distance or time.

Summarised Comments and Responses

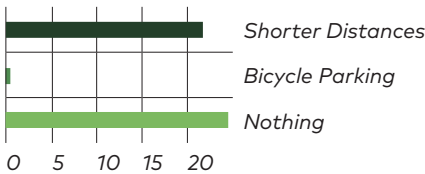
- Majority of attendees we interviewed drove and parked on street
- Supporters mainly parked on street, with some at Aquatic Centre and some at the school which was expensive to park at
- A significant number of people who drove said they would not walk 20 minutes from their car parking space, but would walk up to from 10 minutes
- Public transport users were generally 18-30yrs old
- Some attendees didn't even know there was a light rail station and said they would use it in the future
- Shuttle buses from the light rail would encourage public transport users
- People left the games early to try to avoid traffic congestion
- Pedestrians were walking in the road/crossing the road informally to avoid the queues of pedestrians at the intersections
- The buses were over capacity and pedestrians were spilling out onto the road at the bus stops
- There were lots of bicycles chained to the park fence
- Local residents at the game said there were lots of issues with people parking in their streets during game times
- A few who cycled parked their bikes at the Aquatic centre as there were no facilities available at Leichhardt Oval .

What would encourage you to travel by public transport ? (n = 28)



Results showed that improving bus and light rail accessibility and connections would encourage more respondents to use public transport, supporting previous suggestions that preferences towards private cars is primarily due to their convince and ease.

What would encourage you to walk or cycle? (n = 47)



Results indicated that distance was the primary factor preventing people from walking or cycling to the oval with a number of respondents stating difficulties due to age, physical ailments or travelling with young children. Findings suggest that improving active transport infrastructure and facilities would provide little incentive for respondents to walk or cycle to the oval on game days.

Engagement Outcomes - Stakeholder Design Charrette

Purpose

To provide stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to the overall vision and the scenarios for Leichhardt Oval in a participatory design process

Engagement approach

- Tuesday 14th March at Leichhardt Oval
- External stakeholders: 18
 - E-Group Security
 - Kuburlis
 - NSWRL
 - Balmain District Junior Rugby League
 - Balmain Tigers RLFC
 - NRL
 - Wests Tigers
 - Cox
 - ARUP
 -

Categorising Feedback

The feedback and comments on the day of the charrette was categorised into four categories of access to and from the oval, the grandstand, the Hill and the northern and southern ends of the oval.

Summarised Comments and Responses

Access to/from the Oval

- Primary issue for all stakeholders, operators, lessees and owners
- Conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians is a real safety concern, within the Oval (emergency and service vehicles) and surrounding the Oval (Church Street, Glover Street, Mary Street, City West Link queues on footpaths)

The Grandstand

- Refresh of facade, refresh of corporate area, utilising level changes to provide for grade separation between vehicles and player area behind grandstand

The Hill

- Generally minor updates to the hill to make it more accessible and amenable preferred (stairs to the top of the hill, safety barriers/balustrades, family friendly zone and amenities)

Northern and Southern Ends

- Greatest opportunity to deliver the vision for the Oval. Reinstating and reinforcing Keith Barnes at the South and reorganising amenities behind. Northern end to include new stand, corporates and interaction with the trees.



Transport Advisory Committee

Advisory committees and working groups are part of Council's Community Engagement Framework, providing advice and input to support Council's decision-making and actions.

The Transport Advisory Committee will develop and provide input to:

- Policies, strategies and plans for sustainable transport for a growing population and a changing environment;
- The development of a strategic approach to integrate transport, land use and community development to enhance liveability;
- Implementation of transport planning and policy;
- The development of programs to achieve a balance between sustainable transport and the economic and social vitality of the Inner West LGA

A short presentation was provided for the meeting in February 2023 and members were provided with an overview of the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan Process and invited to provide feedback.

- The "Improved Parking" which at Leichhardt as an Inner West suburb that is already squished for space and with precious few green areas.
- Not to proposed any additional land set aside for parking cars.
- Providing good walking and cycling access (and bicycle parking) would allow locals to access the park.
- For people coming from further away, special bus services from central station would be the best option.
- Consider pedestrian conflict at the end of games.
- Consider whether end of game public transport should be channelled to Glover Street specific pedestrian exit provided there.
- It is essential to consider how the park aquatic centre operates in relation to the Oval.
- Consideration should be given to whether the parking area in Mary St should become a dedicated public transport area on game days.
- Impacts of pedestrians and parking on residential streets is critical when events are held at Leichhardt Oval.
- Capitalising on opportunities to use the facility, to a limited extent (not peak usage) throughout the week is essential however it is important to note the impact of night-time use on adjacent residents.



Second Round of Community Engagement



Engagement Methods and Promotion

Engagement Objectives

The second round of community engagement was conducted to gather feedback from the community and stakeholders regarding draft concept designs and plans prepared for Leichhardt Oval.

Draft plans were preprepared using the information gathered during the first round of engagement and presented to public again to have their say on whether the plans are heading in the right direction.

The purpose of conducting repeat engagement processes was to continue the development of the masterplan with ongoing consultation to ensure that concept designs accurately reflected the priorities and needs of the community.

Repeat engagement also allows for additional opportunities to generate further awareness and interest about the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan project.

The specific objectives of the engagement were to:

- Continue to enable opportunities to engage with a broad cross-section of the community
- Identify community and stakeholder priorities and concerns regarding the concept designs and whether they are on the right track
- Create further interest and awareness about the opportunity to contribute ideas and shape the future of Leichhardt Oval

Engagement Promotion

The engagement process was promoted via a variety of methods and media including;

Advertising and promotion through print media

- Newsletters
- Letter box drops
- Flyers

Advertising and promotion through online media

- Inner West Council web page
- Inner West Council social media pages
- Emails to Your Say Inner West registered users
- Direct Emails to stakeholders

Engagement Methods

The engagement approach was developed to ensure that community and stakeholders could provide input in to the future of Leichhardt Oval via a variety of methods. These methods are outlined below;

Community - Inner West Have Your Say methods

- Your Say online survey
- Email submissions
- Written submissions
- Phone call submissions

Community - In-person methods

- Manned pop-up displays at;
 - Loyalty Square, Balmain
 - Norton Street Plaza, Leichhardt
 - King George Park, Rozelle

External Stakeholders

- In person presentation of draft concepts

Draft Concept Design and Plans

Draft concept designs and plans were developed with community and stakeholder feedback collected during the first round of engagement.

The second round of engagement allowed the opportunity for the community to review the concept plans and provide feedback on the direction of the project to help shape the final masterplan.

The concept plans were not intended to provide a collective proposal for the redevelopment of Leichhardt Oval but instead offer various options for the upgrade depending on available funding and priorities identified by the community.

Preliminary design options for Leichhardt Oval are outlined in the adjacent plan and identified the following concepts:

Concept A: Museum of Inner West Rugby League

Concept B: Additional northern grandstand

Concept C: New and upgraded lower seating bowl

Concept D: Additional parking and the development of a 2 level car park

Concept E: External works and general improvements to accessibility, amenity and lighting around the oval

Concept F: Upgrades to the western grandstand, offered at separate moderate and major options pending the level of funding:



Leichhardt Oval Draft Master Plan and preliminary concepts - Further explanation of the draft concept designs and plans are outlined in the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan Report available on the council website.

Engagement Outcomes - Community Pop-ups

Purpose

Outlining the key concepts and proposals for Leichhardt Oval and encouraging the community to have their say on whether the draft plans are heading in the right direction.

Engagement Approach

The Community Pop-Up stalls provided opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the draft concept plans for Leichhardt Oval and to inform patrons who are not familiar with the proposed work. The manned pop-up stalls were established at;

Loyalty Square, Balmain

- Thursday 20th July - 4:30-7:30pm

Norton Street Plaza, Leichhardt

- Friday 21st of July - 11:00am-2:00pm

King George Park, Rozelle

- Saturday 22nd of July - 10:00am-1:00pm

The contribution and feedback was captured through post-it notes on the day through informal conversation between the community and council officers and consultant team. The feedback then was categorised under key themes.

Engagement Outcomes

Attendance and contribution statistics;

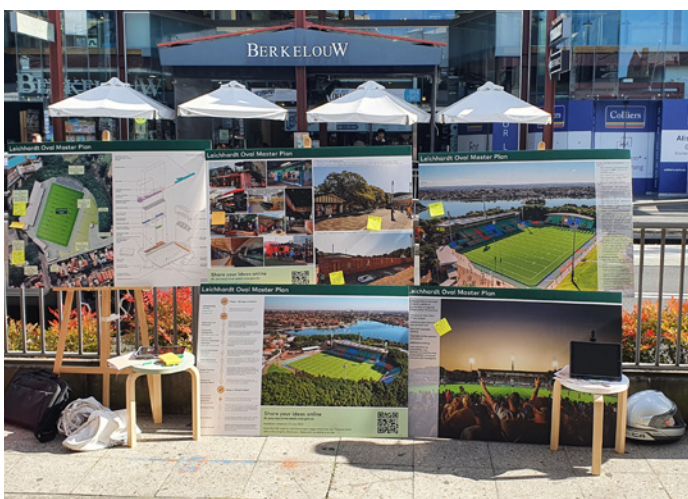
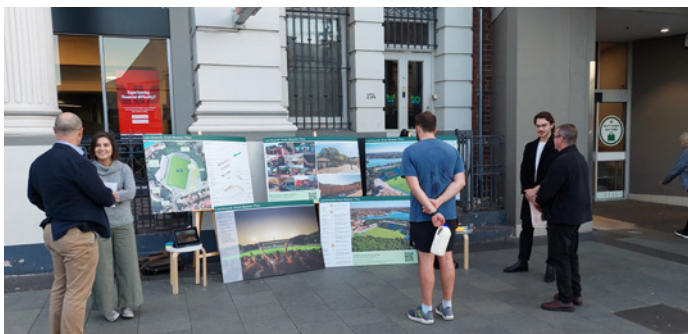
- 100+ total attendees with informal verbal contributions
- 20+ written contributions (post-it note comments)

Summarised Comments and Responses

Feedback showed general support and excitement for the master plan from the community with a continuous sentiment that upgrades for Leichhardt Oval are long overdue.

The prevailing responses of the community included;

- The oval should be used for more community sports and events
- Facilities should be updated to accommodate female athletes
- Proposed developments should not result in the loss of any trees
- Sustainability interventions should be a key design focus
- Public transport should be the primary means of accessing the ground
- Traffic management and pedestrianisation of roads is needed during games and events



Engagement Outcomes - Community Pop-ups

Themed Comments and Responses

Accessibility and parking	
Public transport should be the primary means of accessing the ground	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Improving wayfinding and pedestrian access to public transport connections is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Additional parking is not a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Additional parking is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Better access and parking is needed for the aquatic centre during games	✓ ✓ ✓
Additional parking should not be elevated or above ground level	✓ ✓ ✓
The oval's current conditions prevents me from attending events and games	✓ ✓
Ground and facility upgrades	
More community games and events should be held at the oval	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Upgrading facilities to accommodate female athletes is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Meeting safety requirements and improving spectators and players amenities is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Improved accessibility is greatly needed	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The existing grandstand does not need to be upgraded, only renovated to meet safety and access requirements	✓ ✓ ✓
Provide more family spaces and kid-friendly activities	✓ ✓
Providing further spectator amenities on the hill is a priority	✓ ✓
Traffic and gameday management	
Pedestrianisation of streets and non-resident parking restrictions are necessary for events and games	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Dedicated public transport services for events and gamedays is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The Mary street loop around the oval should be one-way during game days	✓
Heritage and character	
Continue to maintain the hill	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Oval seating should use the West Tigers colour scheme	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Continue to retain the heritage and suburban character	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Environment	
No trees should be lost as part of the development	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Further greening and tree coverage should be implemented within and around the site	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The proposed northern stand should not impact the existing trees	✓ ✓ ✓
Sustainability	
Introducing sustainability measures should be a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Solar panels should be installed on all available roof spaces	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Solar panels and electric vehicle charging should be including added to the existing or proposed carpark	✓ ✓
Museum of sport	
The museum of sport is a great way to preserve the Inner West's sporting history	✓ ✓ ✓
A museum or café is a good way to use the gatekeepers house	✓ ✓
Cost and funding	
Funding should come from sports organisations along with state and federal government, not from council	✓ ✓
Other	
Better communication is needed for when events and games are being held at the oval	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Positive feedback	
Upgrades to the oval are long overdue	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The proposal looks great	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
It would be good to see the oval used for more community uses	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
I would attend more games and use the oval more with the proposed upgrades	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
More West Tigers home games should be played at Leichhardt Oval	✓ ✓ ✓

Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Survey and Feedback

Purpose

To provide an online space for participants to share their thoughts and suggestions for what they would like to see within the final masterplan and whether the concept designs are on the right track.

Engagement approach

Engagement Period

- 26th June to 23rd of July 2023

Online Survey

- Hosted on the Your Say Inner West website
 - Your Say Survey Response - 67 participants

Email Responses

- Community feedback shared directly with council
 - Email Response - 14 participants

Who did we hear from?

- 67 participants responded to the survey during the engagement period.
- 64 participants shared their votes on whether the concept designs were on the right track.
- 53 participants provided comments on the direction of the masterplan and suggestions for what they would like to see changed.
- 13 email responses

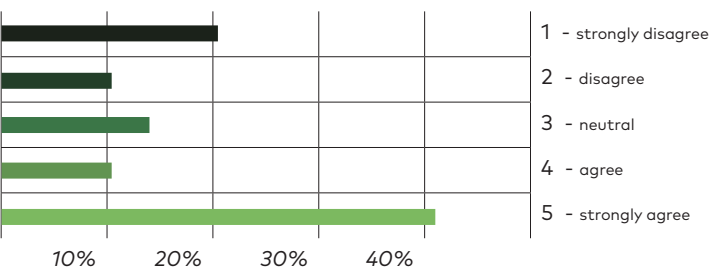
Summarised Comments and Responses

Feedback received through emails and participant comments offered insight towards community priorities and perceptions with reiterated support for separate design concepts and a range of factors for how the direction of the master plan should be amended.

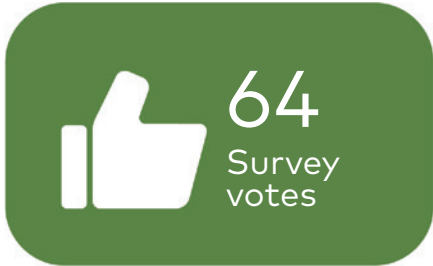
The prevailing responses of the community included

- Upgrades and redevelopment of the oval is overdue and greatly needed
- Investment should be focused towards meeting safety requirements and improving spectators and players amenities
- Facilities should be updated to accommodate female athletes
- Improving public transport connections and services is preferred to providing additional parking
- Additional parking will produce more traffic and further impacts to the surrounding streets
- Proposed developments should not result in the loss of any trees
- Traffic management and pedestrianisation of roads is needed during games and events
- Sustainability interventions should be a key design focus and solar panels should be implemented wherever possible

Are we on the right track with the concept designs? (n= 63)



Results showed general support for the direction of the concept designs from the community though also indicated that a number of participants had concerns about the project, with associated comments left by participants providing clarity towards areas of the draft masterplan that should be modified or deferred.



Your Say Survey and email engagement statistics.

Engagement Outcomes - Have Your Say Survey and Feedback

Themed Comments and Responses

Accessibility and parking	
Public transport, cycling and walking should be encouraged instead of driving and parking	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Additional parking is not a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Improved cycling infrastructure is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Additional parking will produce more traffic issues in the surrounding streets	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Proposed cycling routes and connections should be expanded	✓ ✓ ✓
Additional parking spaces are needed for surrounding facilities like the aquatic centre	✓ ✓
Additional parking should not be elevated or above ground level	✓
Ground and facility upgrades	
Meeting safety requirements and improving spectators and players amenities is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Improving women's change room facilities is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Additional sheltered and upgraded seating is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Toilet upgrades should include baby change facilities	✓ ✓
Grandstands should be pram and wheelchair accessible	✓ ✓
Heritage and character	
Oval seating should use the West Tigers colour scheme	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Investment should prioritise the use of the oval as a suburban ground rather than expanding corporate facilities	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The current proposal suitably preserves the oval's iconic suburban character	✓ ✓ ✓
Environment	
No trees should be lost as part of the development - The trees are vital for the environment, anti pollution benefits, ambience, wildlife habitat and the communities general health and well being	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The proposed northern stand should not impact the existing trees	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Further greening and tree coverage should be implemented within and around the site - EIS should accompany this DA because of the intention to extend the footprint and also the negative impact this construction will have on the environment and the local wildlife	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Sustainability	
Further sustainability measures should be taken	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Solar panels should be installed on all available roof spaces	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Solar panels and electric vehicle charging should be including added to the existing or proposed carpark	✓ ✓ ✓
Traffic and gameday management	
Pedestrianisation of streets and non-resident parking restrictions are necessary for events and games	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Dedicated public transport services for events and gamedays is a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Cost and funding	
Money could be better spent elsewhere	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Sporting organisations that will use the ground should help fund the upgrades	✓ ✓
Museum of sport	
The museum of sport is not a priority	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The museum should be incorporated into the existing grandstand	✓ ✓
Other	
Better communication is needed for when games and events are on at the oval	✓ ✓
Measures should be taken to prevent light and noise from impacting neighbouring houses	✓ ✓
Positive feedback	
Upgrades to the oval are long overdue	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
The proposal looks great	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
I would attend more games and use the oval more with the proposed upgrades	✓ ✓ ✓

Engagement Outcomes - External Stakeholder Presentation

Purpose

To convey the concept design direction for Leichhardt Oval with existing or prospective, users, providers and custodians, and to generate feedback towards how the proposed plans currently compliment or need to be modified to further support their requirements.

Engagement approach

- 4th July 2023 presentation
- Conducted in person at the Latchem Robinson Stand by council and consultants
- 11 stakeholder groups attended
 - Wests Tigers
 - NRL
 - NSWRL
 - Balmain Tigers RLFC
 - APL (A-leagues)
 - Sydney FC
 - Sydney Rugby Union
 - APIA Leichhardt FC
 - E-Group Security
 - Kuburlis (catering)
 - Newtown Jets

Categorising Feedback

After the conclusion of the presentation, a collective informal conversation and Q&A session was held to allow stakeholders to share their thoughts on the current concept designs for Leichhardt Oval and identify components that can be address in order to further accommodate the requirements of their organisation.

Stakeholder feedback expressed overall support for the concept plans and identified 3 key areas for additional consideration and interventions categorised under the themes of ground and facility upgrades, accessibility and movement, and game and event day management.

Collective comments received from stakeholders during the presentation included:

Ground and facility upgrades

- Will there be a second set of change rooms and where will they be located?
- Will there be a gym and recovery space?
- Will there be a medical space?
- Will the merchandise stand be a permanent structure and where will it be located?
- How will toilets and food and beverage stalls on the eastern side of the oval be incorporated as part of the hill?
- Will there be permanent LED lights?
- Where will proposed video screens and scoreboards be located?
- Strongly support the inclusion of a multi purpose space that could be utilised as a gym/wet weather indoor space for both our male & female pathways programs & local development teams as a priority in any redevelopment of the main grandstand & ground
- Rooms that can also be used as larger meeting area for groups for practical & educational purposes across all sports & community users
- Museum of Inner West Rugby League is a nice to have and would compliment the redevelopment well. Adds to the experience of visiting Leichhardt Oval casually, this will not add to the operational and commercial decision making metrics factored into games are location.
- Opportunity for the northern granstand to be converted into a full corporate set up, with suites, floor to ceiling glass and a function room for up to 400.
- Additional disabled seats and improved structure will provide greater accessibility and inclusion for fans. The planning and positioning of the perimeter fencing in correlation to the field should consider player safety and allowing for LED installation along the North and South dead ball lines.
- Spectator access and safety is critical. LED lighting is critical for operational requirements, but also for the long term sustainability of the venue



Accessibility and movement

- Is there an emergency mass exit and evacuation plan?
- How will emergency vehicles access and navigate around the site?
- Will there be other gates located at Lauries Lane?
- Will the ramps be accessible?
- Will there be an additional egress gate?
- Fixed turnstile infrastructure needs to be included in the development plan of Leichhardt Oval. This will ensure that there is an accurate count of the number of attendees of the venue ensuring compliance with safety and risk policies, and also ensuring accurate records are maintained.
- Will there be upgrades to the gates?
 - Turn stiles
 - Line markings
 - Data collection mechanisms
- Will there be use of bollards and change in surface type for external walkways?
- Temporary Road Closures to manage traffic and pedestrian safety is critical for spectator arrival and departures from gameday. Spectator safety and experience is critical to fans deciding to attend fixtures, and we believe that this will significantly improve the experience for attendees of larger events.

Game and event day management

- Increased and upgraded corporate facilities are critical to the long term viability of games at Leichhardt Oval. It is critical that corporate offerings are adequately available, including formal sit down dining, indoor corporate suites, casual cocktail function and outdoor corporate boxes.
- Fan experience it one of the biggest things and then in turn with that is the back of house facilities for the hirer, change rooms etc
- Will the capacity of the grounds change? (Currently maximum capacity of 20k)
- Additional undercover grandstand seating at the proposed Northern end will add to the commercial viability of holding at least 5 Wests Tigers home games at Leichhardt Oval. The proportion of seating undercover, as well as the actual number of seats undercover, is a key consideration for spectators and fans as to whether they decide to purchase tickets and attend games.
- What is the capacity and/or % of seats that will be under cover?
- Will the roof on the western stand be expanded?
- Additional car parking is critical to support increased facilities. The current parking infrastructure has significant limitations for hirers with the current configuration. There is an insufficient amount of parking currently available from a purely operational (players, operational staff, broadcasters) and corporate perspective. If there are double or triple headers held at the facility, then these problems are further exacerbated, meaning that the current lack of parking leads to less games being decided to be staged at the facility.
- Parking needs will need to be increased to accommodate expanded corporate facilities. The current capacity of 120 spots will need to be doubled.
- Catering operations, parking and facilities will need to be increased to accommodate expanded corporate facilities.
- Need to consider the extra costs that come in such as catering, signage, first aid, Dr's etc
- Significant need to improve the broadcasting capabilities of the venue
- New and upgraded players home and away facilities lowered to pitch level and basement entry for emergency ambulance and broadcast - Change rooms must be unisex, have the ability to support at least 4 teams at a time, with tunnel and operational space to allow adequate movement for operational staff. Adequate Medical and physio facilities are also required to support professional sporting expectations. The current setup without any development requires ambulances to navigate through the crowd, putting crowd safety at risk and adding unnecessary time and navigation complexities to emergency situations.
- To incorporate merchandise outlets/stalls at the patron access gates, and the most effective design would be to incorporate these on the other side of the proposed heritage wall facing the field of play.

Next Steps



Draft Master Plan - We are here

Feedback gathered from the community is used in conjunction with research and expert advice to aid in the preparation of a draft master plan for the future of Leichhardt Oval.



Public Exhibition

The community is invited to share their thoughts and have their say on the draft master plan.



Finalisation of the Master Plan

Feedback gathered during the public exhibition period is used to refine the final drafts of the master plan which will be put before the elected council for decision.



Adoption and Implementation

The final masterplan will be used to source funding opportunities from state and federal government and direct the allocation of funds towards priority intervention areas identified by the community and stakeholders.

