



Petersham Park Community Garden Proposal

Engagement Outcomes Report

9 February – 9 March 2026



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Summary

From Monday 9 February to Monday 9 March 2026, the community was asked whether they supported the proposal from local community group, Petersham Park Community Garden Inc, to establish a community garden in Petersham Park.

The proposed location of the garden is in the eastern corner adjacent to the Station Street entry to the park.

During the engagement period 360 people visited the Your Say project page with 37 people completing the online survey. Four people provided feedback via email, and 28 people spoke to Council officers at the pop-up information sessions.

Of the 69 respondents, 65 (94%) supported the Petersham Park Community Garden proposal, three (4%) opposed to the proposal and one (2%) expressed neither support nor opposition.



Project background

BACKGROUND

In January 2024, a group of residents approached Council seeking to establish a community garden in Petersham Park. The group, now an incorporated association (Petersham Park Community Garden Inc), has worked through the procedure required to establish a new community garden on Council land, under Council's Community Gardens Policy (2024).

Staff have met regularly with the group since their initial enquiry, to enable them to successfully establish the community garden and to ensure it is appropriately governed, designed and managed in line with the objectives of Council's Community Gardens Policy.

The Community Gardens Policy sets out that Council may support the establishment of community gardens on Council land where it can be demonstrated that there is wide support for a community garden in a particular location.

The purpose of this engagement was to gauge the level of community support for the proposal to establish a community garden in the eastern corner of Petersham Park, along Station Street.



Promotion and engagement methods

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	360 people viewed the project page
Emails to key stakeholders	1307 registered members on the Your Say Inner West platform
Letters to residents	61 households letterbox dropped, 4 neighbouring businesses/venues visited
Posters and/or postcards	7 posters displayed across Park and neighbouring businesses/venues
On-site pop-up information session	28 park users / local residents during 2 pop-up information sessions

Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	37 surveys completed
Direct contact from residents	4 emails from individuals



Summary of feedback

Engagement method: Online survey

The Your Say Inner West (YSIW) project page was promoted to 1307 people who are registered in the Your Say Inner West platform when the exhibition period opened. Thirty-seven people completed the online survey.

We asked	You said
Do you support the Petersham Park Community Garden proposal?	95% (n=35) support the proposal 5% (n=2) do not support the proposal

Engagement method: On-site information sessions

The on-site pop-up information sessions were scheduled to reach park users. The weekday session was scheduled to coincide with the Magic Yellow Bus's weekly visit to Petersham Park. The weekend session was scheduled to capture other park users such as weekend pool visitors, playground visitors, café customers, and sports club participants. Both on-site sessions captured many people walking their dogs.

The pop-up was located within the proposed community garden site, directly adjacent to the footpath connecting the Station Street entrance to the pool, café and playground. It was clearly identifiable as an Inner West Council stand.

Materials on display included a large paper map of the Inner West LGA showing the locations of existing community gardens in relation to Petersham Park, an indicative site plan for the proposed garden, photographs of other community gardens on Council land, and copies of Council's *Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines*.

The project team explained the proposal to community members, answered questions, and invited feedback by asking the same question used in the online survey, which they recorded on the day.

Two sessions were held:

- Wednesday 25 February from 10:30–11:30am
- Saturday 28 February from 10–11am

Over the two sessions staff spoke with 28 community members.



We asked	You said
Do you support the Petersham Park Community Garden proposal?	96% (n=27) support the proposal 0% (n=0) do not support the proposal 4% (n=1) did not provide a direct Yes/No response to the question

Engagement method: email

Four people emailed their feedback to Council. It is not known how the people who responded by email heard about the proposal (e.g. YSIW alert, on-site poster, letterbox drop, word of mouth).

You said
75% (n=3) strongly support or support the proposal 25% (n=1) strongly oppose the proposal



Next steps

This engagement identified strong community support for the establishment of a community garden in the eastern corner of Petersham Park. Council staff recommend that the proposal be supported and for Council to formalise an agreement with Petersham Park Community Garden Inc through a licence.

All community members who provided feedback will be notified when the licence is placed on public exhibition.