



Planning for Rozelle Parklands – Your Say Inner West Engagement Outcomes

Planning for Rozelle Parklands

We are developing Plan of Management and revising the Master Plan for this new open space in Inner West, to ensure the plans meet the future needs of our community.



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Translations



About Translating and Interpreting Service

Key Dates

Sunday 17 December 2023
Community comments open

Sunday 18 February 2024
Community comments close

Project stages

- Initial engagement period
Open for comment
- Developing Plan of Management and revising the Master Plan
Community comments and input from other stakeholders will be used to along with research and expert advice to develop the draft documents.

New open space for Inner West

Following years of advocacy from Council and the community, the current NSW Government has agreed to provide an additional \$20 million to Inner West Council to address deficiencies in facilities and amenities at the Rozelle Parklands.

This is a big win for our community.

The Masterplan will consider how the Parklands can be improved over time and where sport and recreational facilities that were deleted from the final plans can be delivered within the parklands or at nearby locations.

This will include an all-weather sporting field, public carparking to relieve pressure on local streets, multi-purpose sports courts and cycling and active transport links around the Parklands.

Additionally in response to Council’s advocacy, the NSW Government has committed to delivering additional facilities within the parkland from March 2024:

- Public toilets adjacent to the children’s play area
- Sporting ground changing rooms, a kiosk and amenities
- Floodlighting for sports training for the two new sporting grounds
- Provision of two multipurpose ball courts for basketball and netball



Executive summary

A total of **505 members of Your Say Inner West** responded to the online survey. The majority identified as 'man or male'. The highest responses were from the 45-49 age group and there was a good spread across all ages. Members who responded mostly lived in Leichhardt/Lilyfield, followed by Rozelle then Balmain/Balmain East/Birchgrove.

The community was asked two quantitative questions (ranking six options for additional items in Rozelle Parklands, and a preferred alternative location for the all-weather sporting field out of a choice of four), and two qualitative (open comments) questions.

Out of six options for additional items in Rozelle Parklands, **Better connections** was the first preference (highest average ranking of the six). **Synthetic surface provision** received the second highest average ranking and was selected as the first preference by over half of respondents. In order, the next highest ranked preferences were Floodlighting of the new ball courts; Provision of dog off leash areas; Indigenous name for the parkland; and Car parking and school bus parking facilities.

The top preference for an alternative location for the all-weather sporting field was **Waterfront Drive Sporting Ground** followed by **Balmain Road Sporting Ground (Callan Park)**, then Easton Park and Leichhardt Oval no.2.

The **key themes** that contributors commented on most about improvements in Rozelle Parklands were:

- Better connections (improved pedestrian and cycling linkages into, through and around parklands)
- Improved amenities (suggestions for new, more or higher-quality items in the Parklands)
- Shade (suggestions including trees and shade structures)
- Playground (suggestions for improvements, particularly water play and shade)

There were 35 comments in support of natural turf, and 15 comments in support of all-weather surface sporting fields in this question.

The key themes of the open comments question were divided support for and against all-weather surfaces, with a majority of comments about Waterfront Drive Sporting Ground.

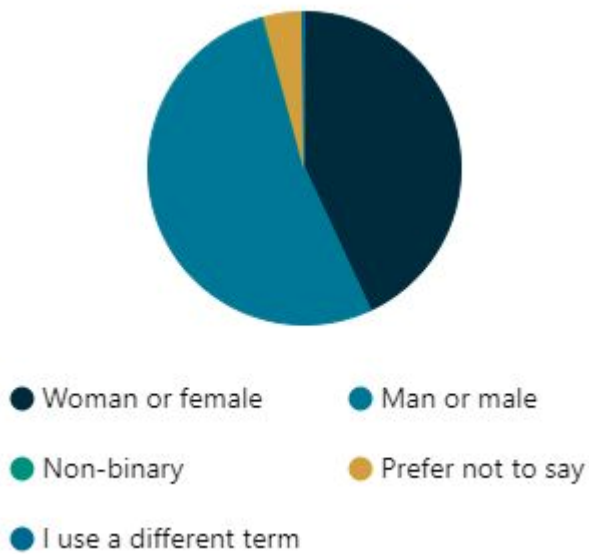
An analysis of the first preferences of people representing sporting clubs is included in question five of the detailed analysis.

Detailed analysis

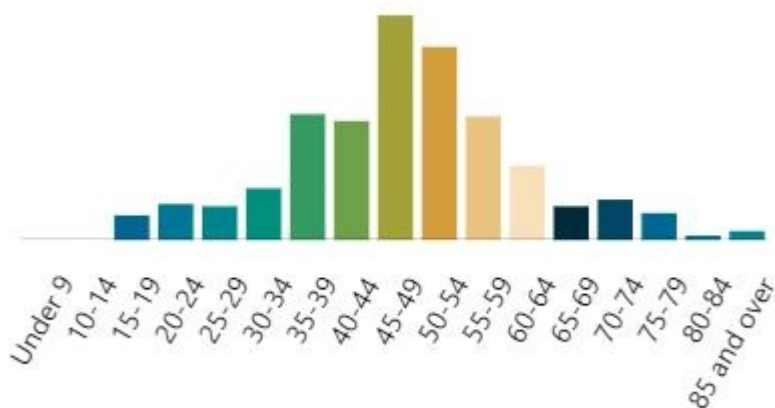
Who did we hear from?

A total of 505 members completed the online survey at Council’s engagement hub, Your Say Inner West.

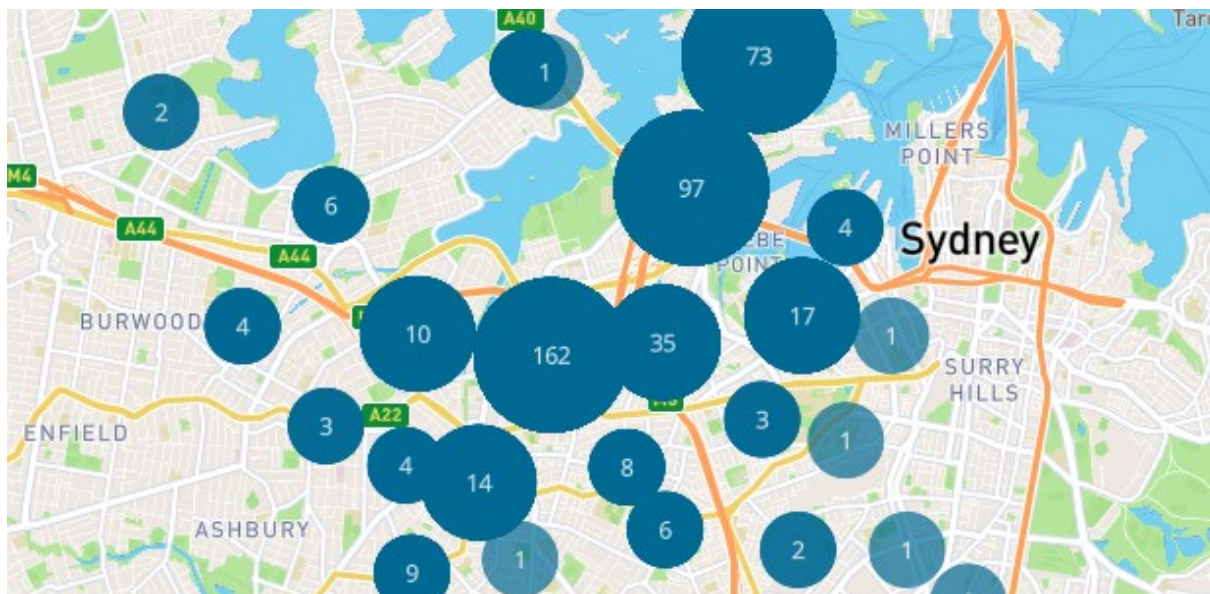
The majority of these identified as man or male (53% or 265 respondents).



There were responses across all ages with most members in the 45-49 age group.



The top five postcodes that contributors live in are Leichhardt/Lilyfield (162 members), Rozelle (97), Balmain, Balmain East and Birchgrove (73), Annandale (35) and Glebe (17). The map below shows where survey contributors live.

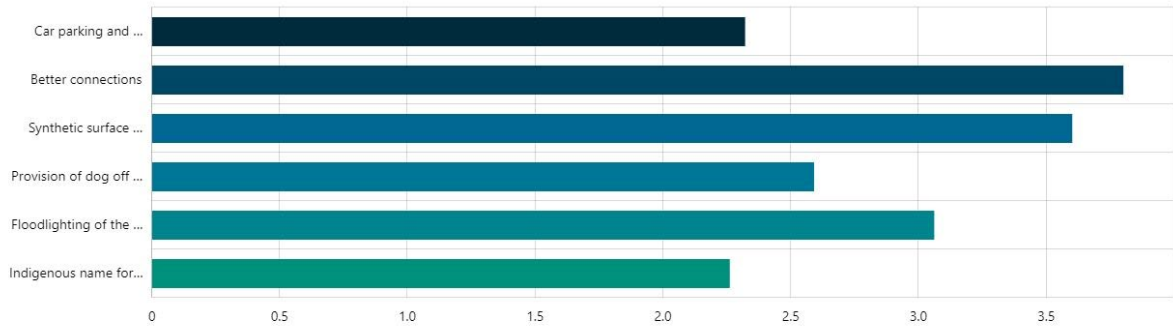


What feedback did we hear?

Q1- What additional items would you like to have in the new parklands?

Respondents were asked to rank the below six options in order of preference. This question was answered by all 505 contributors (required answer) whose preference were ranked as follows:

1. Better connections
2. Synthetic surface provision
3. Floodlighting of the new ball courts
4. Provision of dog off leash areas
5. Indigenous name for the parkland
6. Car parking and school bus parking facilities



Average ranking score for six listed options

The average ranking score is calculated by multiplying the response count for each preference by the weighting for the position, divided by the total response count.

Synthetic surface provision received an average ranking of second place and was selected as the first preference by over half of respondents (53% or 213 respondents).

Q2 - Please list any other items or possible improvement you would like to have in the parklands

Respondents were asked a follow up question to Q1 that allowed open comments. There were 217 responses to this question.



The word cloud represents the key themes of the open comments – the larger the word, the more comments in the theme.

The below table expands on each theme including a description, the overall percentage of comments, number of comments, and indicative comments in the theme.

Theme	Percent	Count	Indicative comments
<p>Connections</p> <p>Suggestions for improved pedestrian and cycling linkages into, through and around parklands</p>	31.8%	69	<p>Separated bicycle paths, better cycle connection to Lilyfield Road, pedestrian crossing to Easton park, Plan for future linkage with proposed park east of White Bay Power Station, nstall wayfinding signage at Lilyfield light rail stop, Encourage more walking and cycling by improving connections to the existing street Newtwork particularly those streets on north side of Rozelle parkland, Better connection to eastern park, provide good connections for people walking and cycling from Rozelle. Easton Park is one of 3 priorities for council to work on urgently with TfNSW. The Gordon Street entrance is on an important regional cycle route but it is very dangerous to cross Lilyfield Road here, especially heading north from the Parklands. The entrance at the western end near Ryan St is terrible - a useless temporary ramp, no safe crossing of the road to the northern footpath, no southern footpath, remove u-rails at the Brennan St entrance , raised crossing installed to create safe access to Whites Creek, Redo the pedestrian/cycling markings on the walkway from the Victoria Rd overpass to the ovals by swapping sides ... the cycling path needs to be on the outside (and not the inside path),build Lilyfield Rd cycleway, Better, cycle priority routes from Darley Rd/Balmain Rd and better crossings on Victoria Rd, better bike connections, Cycling to the Parklands is not safe for adults or children, particularly along Lilyfield Road, connectivity between the end of the Parklands and Bay Run be further enhanced with safe, off-road infrastructure, crossing for cyclists travelling east along Lilyfield Road, the temporary, unsafe ramp along Lilyfield Road will need to be replaced with a permanent and safe solution, The new parklands really should be connected to Jubilee Park and to the Bay Run, Ryan St steps need zebra crossing and speed hump, plastic ramps installed opposite Ryan St to allow cyclists to mount the curb however there are double lines which prevent cyclists from crossing legally into the parklands when travelling east along Lilyfield Road, a rise and a bend from Lamb St around to Cecily St limits visibility making it extremely dangerous for pedestrians crossing Lilyfield Road - needs zebra crossing here and speed bumps along Lilyfield Road, errors have been made marking up the pathways. Coming west off the Anzac Bridge towards the City West Link</p>

Theme	Percent	Count	Indicative comments
			<p>overpass to Lilyfield at Brenan St, the cycling pathway switches from the left, to the right and back to the left, Better access from Lilyfield light rail/south side of lilyfield rd between Ryan St and Grove - need footpath extension from west entrance to the existing footpath past Light Rail yard driveway, Better bus connections to the park along Lilyfield Rd, Every effort should be made to make the park easily accessible without a car, and not just build more parking, Change bikelanes and pedestrian lanes so that pedestrians are next to the grass, bubblers, toilets etc. At the moment they have to cross the bike lane to access them, better marking of cycle ways. Currently, they are sometimes green, sometimes red, sometimes without color, I personally have found myself cycling on the walking paths, not realising that they had switched aspects, The crossing is a massive priority as kids cross the roads all the time and the visibility on the road is very limited due to cars parked along the road, Create footpath and walking trail all the way to the city!</p>
<p>Amenities</p> <p>Suggestions for new, more or higher-quality items</p>	19.82%	43	<p>Seating, toilets, Install cafe in heritage building, places for kids to ride bikes, bicycle racks, Please put some EV chargers in any parking you add, fixed tables and chairs for people to enjoy a picnic outdoors, Need stair railing at the Terrace staircase - witnessed a fall today already, Add bouldering (rock climbing) holds to lower wall of smokestacks. This should not be more than 2m in elevation, but would be nice for horizontal bouldering, Security to stop homeless tents under vic rd bridge, Provision of changing room facilities for junior and senior sporting clubs, Bubblers, Netted football goals, There should be a reasonably sized parents / carers room with appropriate facilities and equal access for people of all abilities, cafe - helps with activation and could be a source of revenue for the park to help cover operations, Needs more rubbish bins especially near the childrens play area and bbq areas, Plenty of storage space for sporting clubs, The heritage buildings on Lilyfield Road to be restored and successfully leased for purposes that allow public access (ie not a function centre), Proper gutter/ramps for disability/bike/pram access</p>

Theme	Percent	Count	Indicative comments
			to paths, Bike Repair Station, Opportunity for open air cinema and live performance events in Oval area, Ideally, a ping pong table is provided at each end of the parkland, Public toilets should unlock automatically early in the morning (5 / 5:30 am) to allow for early morning running / cycling / walking / training users.
Shade Suggestions for shade improvements including trees and shade structures	17.51%	38	The main playing field has no shade structures at all, and the adult fitness stations need shade similar to those at Callan park, need shade trees (and no synthetic turf) to address the heat that will result from all the concrete, trees are primarily around the perimeter of the park. If you would like to encourage people to spend time in this park, many more shady trees will be needed, The yarning circle needs a shade structure and tables with benches underneath
Natural turf Anti-all-weather surface	16.13%	35	Only natural surfaces, no synthetic, human health and environmental risks, synthetic is not green space, environmental damage, microplastic release into the environment, listen to experts, not sustainable, trap heat, smell and can cause significant injuries for players, detrimental to the wildlife, cost, reduces access for walkers, if we have to have them please put them here beside a freeway rather than our precious waterfront spaces, stop rain soaking in where falls, can't play cricket on them, drive neighbours bad with over-intensification of formal sport, solution would be to prepare sporting fields with proper drainage similar to what happens in Europe, reduce the usability of the park for residents (with dogs), limits the use of the surface to only a few sports.

Theme	Percent	Count	Indicative comments
<p>Playground</p> <p>Suggestions for playground improvements including shade</p>	12.44%	27	<p>Water play, shade, playground is completely insufficient for the amount of young families in the local community, Shaded play equipment, Don't think new parkland thought about disable kids as there is no play swing etc suitable for them, More shade for the playground; the slide for toddlers is made of metal and part of it is not covered by any shade, so it gets very hot on sunny days that the young kids can get burnt; more play equipment for babies/toddlers; larger basket ball court; toilets with changing tables and kids-friendly facilities near the playground, Large wet splash playground for infants, toddlers and children - similar to the ones in centennial park and other locations around Sydney, more simple play equipment - you have two tiny swings and one slide for small kids, There MUST be a shade cloth erected over the swing set that is already installed. In the hot sun, the black rubber swings were burning! It was a huge oversight that this was missed.</p>
<p>Parking</p> <p>Suggestions for parking and facilities, or comments against expanding parking</p>	6.91%	15	<p>Parking needed on Lilyfield Road, clubs need vehicle access to amenities, 45 degree angle parking, rear to kerb is the RLRA preferred option along Lilyfield Road, Please put some EV chargers in any parking you add, Leave the parking the way it is on Lilyfield Road, Disabled/Accessible parking required, near west entrance (for access to the wetlands/play area), Narrow lilyfield rd and make angled parking so there is more parking rather than a parking lot, Lilyfield rd needs resurfacing around the works REALLY badly, This area has too much parking, it makes accessing it difficult by more sustainable modes, Parking along Lilyfield road is already hardly used by locals as it has been fully taken over by construction vehicles for the last few years. I would argue that this gives a good indication that we can and will find alternative parking if Lilyfield road loses some parking to a bike path, Ninety degree parking along Lilyfield Road will take more road/cycleway space - and it could create traffic hazards when parking in this manner, Don't take up any usable park space for parking, but slight widening for 90 degree parking on Lilyfield Rd is fine.</p>

Theme	Percent	Count	Indicative comments
All-weather Pro all-weather surface	6.91%	15	More synthetic pitches, Kids are being turned away from sports as there are not enough grounds, sport good for mental health, unlock additional hours, multisport site, we spend all year playing on dangerous surfaces that are regularly damaged by dogs, The inner west is totally lacking in providing any all weather facilities for winter sports. There are always issues with drainage on the fields, poor maintenance and damage to surface making them high risk for injuries,
Natural spaces Suggestions for more natural spaces, biodiversity	6.45%	14	I would like to see a significant portion of the parklands devoted to green corridors for wildlife. I would argue against floodlighting and synthetic surfaces, as these are both stressful on birds, insects and animals. If a wetland were possible, even better, natural spaces for children to play, More grassland, the Parklands was a carbon sink, All green space is precious. Spaces for bugs, butterflies & worms to live & thrive, feeding our birds, more emphasis on incorporating local biodiversity protection, More TREE'S!!!! And greenery!!, more indigenous plantings to support corridors for our native animals, birds, reptiles, insects etc, People would like to utilise the park for quiet enjoyment of wildlife, reading, picnicking and walking. It is a place to breathe and enjoy open green space, bush and wetlands in a busy city area.

Theme	Percent	Count	Indicative comments
<p>Other</p> <p>Uncategorised</p>	6.45%	14	<p>There needs to be more access to athletics tracks in area that are all weather. The King George Oval Track is the only one in the Inner West and does not accomodate all weather access, Provision for food trucks/coffee carts, ability to have concerts/events at the park, Event capabilities at main oval for auditorium style events, Take out the basketball hoop next to the nets at Easton Park. It is dangerous having heavy basketballs bouncing across the path of bowlers running on. Perhaps install a bench and thus create a changeroom for those using the nets. The run up is also too short for the older player. And that is the case at all inner west net facilities. A chance presents itself to extend the astro run up 5-7 metres and Easton would then become the facility for older/better players in the area, I also prefer more "Neo-Classical", "Victorian" or "Edwardian" designs for our parks, which suit the history of the inner west and its terrace houses etc. I often think "modern" designs quickly become dated and ugly, Commissioning artworks for around the parklands. Adding artworks to the pedestrian overpass (connected to The Crescent Overpass) to block out the view of the road. Make this space more like the New York High Line, Democratic, local access (without tickets or restricted online ballot systems) for celebrations such as NYE and Australia Day, more maps/historical/ecological/cultural information; transparent system for individuals and organisations to book space in the parklands, I would like to create a community garden similar to Glovers community garden and whites creek community garden, One of the aspects of the parklands that struck me is there is too much exposure to the city west link. The parklands should be a sanctuary from the traffic and it would be a nicer experience if there was more separation from the CWL through creating more acoustic/aesthetic bunds, Better signage for keeping bikes off walkways and dogs out of water areas. Fines should apply. People are encouraging their dogs to swim in wetlands!</p>

<p>On-leash</p> <p>Anti dogs off leash, more enforcement</p>	<p>4.61%</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Off-leash dog areas will increase the instances of dog on dog attacks, dog on person attacks, and attacks on wildlife who start to inhabit the park, no more off leash areas, Given the damage dogs have done to existing sports fields in the old Leichhardt Council area, it would make sense to bring the rules into line with what is currently in place in the previous Marrickville and Ashfield council areas: no off-leash on sports fields at any time, As with any dog related provision, there needs to be more enforcement. Dog owners are monsters when it comes to their precious furbabies, everyone elses needs are quickly thrown aside, So much irresponsible dog behaviour and dog sh*t on the streets and parks in the Inner West, NO OFF LEASH area to be granted in the Rozelle parklands, as there are plenty of off leash areas in the Inner West at present.</p>
<p>Off-leash</p> <p>Pro dogs off leash, more facilities needed</p>	<p>3.23%</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Need water bubbler with dog dish, poo bag dispenser, shade, seating, Definitely have a dog offleash walk like Sydney Park would be great, Dogs have become integral members of our community, and providing off-leash spaces promotes socialization, fosters community bonds, and contributes to the overall well-being of pets and owners, I propose designating much of the park as off-leash areas for dogs, except for children's playgrounds, to accommodate the diverse needs of our residents.</p>
<p>Dogs fenced</p> <p>Pro dogs off leash in fenced area</p>	<p>3.23%</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>A fenced off 'off leash' area should be provided. Dogs should be on leash in the remainder of the parklands, The off leash dog area should be fenced, have shade, seating and water, a separate small and large sized dog fenced area would be ideal like the one located in Five Dock, I wish there were more fenced dog parks, not just off-leash dog areas.</p>
<p>Tennis</p> <p>Suggestions for tennis courts</p>	<p>2.76%</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>The closest tennis courts are at Richard Murden Park, which is a 15 min bike ride/43 min walk away and involves going over a large hill. It would be great to have public park tennis courts closer to where I live in Rozelle Parklands, Tennis courts not just all purpose courts, Preference for Tennis Courts for daytime use for 4 to 80 year olds, it was a bit disappointing to hear that the 2 tennis courts were scrapped. Would be good to get those facilities back on the table, There is wasted space there should be a tennis court.</p>

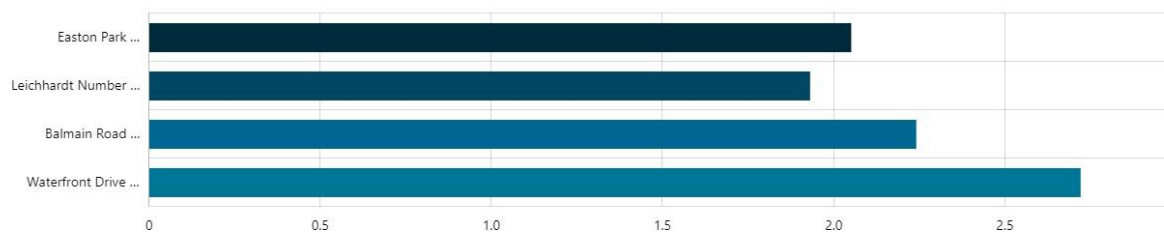
Name Suggestions for names	2.76%	6	Retain the name Rozelle Parklands so that visitors can identify with the location, I would like the name of the waterfront area created with the demolition of two of the veteran's wards to reflect that history as a sign of respect to those who suffered trauma in the first and second world wars. There are many sites within Callan Park that could be given an Aboriginal name to reflect and respect that history. Please consider naming the newly designed waterfront area as Veteran's Green, Indigenous name would be good, but please maintain current geographical name in parallel to enable way finding and searching of local parks. Indigenous artwork & story signs would be nice, Buruwan Parklands would be a good name since the park was destroyed in the development of Westconnex.
More lighting Courts lighting, floodlighting	2.76%	6	Flood lighting to ball courts is acceptable. No floodlighting to sports ground, lighting supports park safety and activation of the entire park for the whole community into the night, if some lighting on the small 1/2 court that is already there could be installed that would be much appreciated as my friends and I often play after the sun goes down which is very difficult without any lighting, Lighting for sports fields and courts is a must.
Basketball Suggestions for basketball facilities	2.76%	6	Additional basketball practice hoop (in addition to basketball courts). Existing one number of basketball hoop is insufficient for number of kids/teens wanting to practice, Larger basketball courts would be great, Public basketball courts are almost never used for full court play. Can the playing area be maximised by installing six half courts?
Asbestos Fix the Asbestos issue	2.3%	5	Thorough removal of asbestos before we even think of bringing our kids back. Shameful.
AFL Suggestions for AFL	2.3%	5	Install permanent goalposts for AFL in main oval, missed opportunity for a senior sized afl ground at this location, Sydney does not have enough full size afl grounds and given rising female participation this would be a great opportunity for Balmain or other club to gain a new home, Please install Australian rules goalposts on the oval during winter, Floodlighting for the AFL field, Make the sporting field a usable AFL field.

Resident impact Negative impacts on residents	2.3%	5	Lighting, noise, access issues if Rozelle has a synthetic field, Floodlighting should be sensitively placed so as to not inconvenience adjacent residents, noise from the huge ventilation fan that is directly opposite the residential block at 47-51 Lilyfield Rd is quite loud, and the ambient noise at our front door is now higher than what it has ever been, A full management plan that addresses parking, noise and light pollution related to the park including a review of parking for the park and in the streets surrounding the park which can expect to be impacted by sporting and other events held in the new parklands, Lighting is needed for night use of the park, but floodlighting will create light pollution and disturb adjacent residents.
Filter Need to filter stacks	2.3%	5	More trees need to be planted to help offset the pollution spewing from the unfiltered stacks, Given there are 3 unfiltered smoke stacks I'd like to see a publicly visible pollution monitor at the park.
Soccer More pitches for soccer	1.38%	3	Please create an all weather football/ soccer field either at Easton park or the new Rozelle parklands. For someone who loves the sport and takes it very seriously we need a field that is consistently in good shape no matter the weather and how often it is used.
Sport-other Volleyball, hockey, pickleball	1.38%	3	Add volleyball court layout to the multi-purpose court area, The artificial surface should cater for field hockey. The Glebe District Hockey Club has been seeking a full-field artificial surface in the local area since the 1980s. Any decision on an artificial surface should be made with the club in mind.
Cricket Suggestions for cricket	0.92%	2	please don't remove existing cricket grounds. There are not enough cricket pitches in the Inner West - the Inner West representative cricket teams were forced to play numerous games out of area because there are not enough ground in the area, and the ones that are in area are often in unplayable condition for high level junior cricket, Retain cricket fields please.

Q3 - All-weather sporting fields preferences.

Respondents were asked the following question about their preferences for an alternative location for the all-weather sporting field:

The all-weather sporting field that had been promised at the Rozelle Parklands was deleted from the final plans. At Council's insistence the NSW Government has now made funding available for this facility to be delivered at a nearby location. We are seeking your feedback on the following possible locations for the all-weather field to be delivered: Waterfront Drive (Callan Park), Leichhardt Oval no.2, Easton Park, and Balmain Road playing field (Callan Park). To let us know your preference, rank the list of sporting fields below in order of importance to you.



Average ranking score for four listed alternative locations

Q4 – Any other comments

Respondents were provided with a free text box for other comments. There were 181 responses to this question.



The word cloud represents the key themes of the open comments – the larger the word, the more comments in the theme. People who responded to this question were divided roughly equally to those who overall supported and opposed all-weather surfaces.

The four options for all-weather surfaces were included as themes. The highest number of comments were about Waterfront Drive which received the highest ranking in question 3. Many respondents were supportive of the all-weather surface here but others were concerned about the environmental or access impacts.

The below table expands on the main themes including, the overall percentage of comments, number of comments, and indicative comments in the theme.

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Natural turf	40.88% 74	<p>I would like to raise my objection to the use of synthetic pitches on Easton and Callan Park. Both these grounds are used by cricket in the summer months. By changing to synthetic will result in a devastating impact on the sport. We are at capacity with grounds for our sport and with the continued growth if both male and female participation we cannot afford to loose any grounds. In addition these are all purpose fields which enable use by many sports the move to synthetic will reduce the purpose and only support one sport; It is imperative that designated cricket grounds (Easton Park and Waterfront Drive) are kept as turf fields; I have a strong football background, having grown up in England and played and watched football since I was a child. I currently coach three football teams, play football and I am a committee member for the Leichhardt Saints. I do not believe that a synthetic field is required in any of these locations. While these surfaces can potentially be used for training, they are not appropriate for playing matches. Their environmental footprint is extremely poor with plastic particles ending up in our waterways and breathed in during sporting activity. I would prefer to see the council invest in higher quality grass pitches at all four locations. Leichhardt 2 is currently a decent field for rugby, Easton has recently been re-turfed, while Waterfront and Balmain have been poorly maintained for years. I also enjoy walking across these fields, on occasions with my dog. Installing a synthetic field would completely ruin the enjoyment of these natural public areas for the vast majority of residents; I think that all weather surfaces, which are made of nylon, polypropylene or polyethylene, are bad for the environment, and also provide a much harsher surface to play on. These surfaces overheat in hot weather which can make them unusable. Artificial grass contributes to global warming by absorbing significantly more radiation than living grass and, to a lesser extent, by displacing living plants that could remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis. Not a good choice!; Re the synthetic field question. None of the above ideally. It would be better environmentally and financially for the investment to be made in improving the management of ALL the playing fields in the area. The Mick Battam method utilised in Mosman to extend the hours of usage and the condition of playing fields needs to be investigated. It appears to have worked well in their case. Such an investment could prove to involve more hours of usage for more players than a concentrated investment on just one field. Council does need to carefully and fully investigate all the options (not just four) and their financial and environmental</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>implications. A rush to choose one field and one of the possible treatments is not advisable on multiple grounds. Sadly this rather limited and distorted questionnaire is not a good start.; Hybrid or full synthetic grass will become an excuse to stop dog owners using sports fields to exercise their dogs (when sports groups are not using the field). The council should use 100% natural grass turf and focus on maintaining that turf.; Unfortunately the Science says All-weather sports fields are major sources of marine plastic pollution. I am therefore against implementing one.; I would significantly prefer NO all weather sporting field at all. Artificial grass is an environmental disaster. It contains PFAS and other toxic 'forever' chemicals. Synthetic sporting fields break down every time they are played on, releasing microplastics into the environment. The material is very challenging to recycle and will likely end up in landfill where it will release more microplastics. The fact that all of these 4 options are near waterways makes an all weather option worse unless there are significant mitigation aspects put in place to capture microplastics and have an end of life plan in place for the turf from the get-go.; Synthetic playing surfaces are a lazy alternative to good grass management. They are expensive to install, slippery when wet, are unusable in hot weather, need replacing after 10 years, the list goes on. Invest in better management of natural grass surfaces. The sporting ovals in Callan Park should remain as grass. I cannot bring myself to place them on this listing. Easton Park and Leichhardt Oval 2 seem like the most obvious contenders for all weather surfacing, but there is little information (none) on what the new surface will be. Is it the old-style plastic astroturf, which distributes microplastics throughout the area, or a new organic material? Before asking people to vote, this should be made clear!!;</p>
All-weather	39.23% / 71	<p>Girls footballers are the big losers with lack of all weather pitches in the North of the inner west. Football has the highest participation and should get the priority over less popular sports such as AFL and Rugby League; It's pretty poor that we have the largest junior football club in the southern hemisphere in BDFC and we play on an assortment of pothole filled fields where the grass sadly can't keep up with the traffic and becomes dirt within weeks. Or kids and community deserves better. For those who would advocate prioritising dogs I'd say that there are many green spaces that are not playing fields so they have options and families with kids playing sport do not; Inner West desperately needs an all weather sports field; As the largest Community Club in Australia I believe that Balmain District</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>Football Club deserves an all weather facility at our home ground. With over 3000 playing members (Six from my family alone) and periods of rain many times we are unable to play or are playing on a grass surface that has deteriorated badly from over use.; We need the field to be full regulation size with marking for kids fields also to maximise the utility of the site - ideally there can be 2 regulation size fields to further improve the ROI;</p> <p>Waterfront drive oval is a fantastic community plying field and should be the top contender for the all weather playing field. By the end of each soccer season the field is a dust bowl with diverts that can cause serious player injuries; Balmain district football club is one of the largest in Australia. As a female O35 player, we have very limited access to quality local pitches for training or our games. All of our local fields are in terrible condition with poor drainage and this opens all players, kids and adults alike to injuries.; Callan Park is absolutely horrible to play on. The grass only exists for about one week of the year and every other week it is dirt. It is our home ground and it's embarrassing. An all weather field down there with the new club house would be amazing!; Please instate an all-weather surface and emphasize the importance of Kids sport. If they have these year round surfaces all over other parts of Sydney, what not in ours ?!; Our kids and players aren't getting a fair opportunity. There should be no dogs allowed on a designated game pitch. Constant resurfacing costs council serious money and takes the pitch out of action. The ovals are so heavily subscribed because there is so much desire to play.; The best place for a synthetic sporting field is at the "synthetic" Rozelle Parklands, which is now full of asbestos anyways. So why not just include an all weather plastic sporting field there; Make it suitable for a hockey pitch / soccer pitch / multiple uses. King George oval could also house multiple pitches of synthetic turf.;</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Waterfront	18.23% / 33	<p>Waterfront makes sense because the Balmain club already use it extensively. And there are lots of options for dog owners and other park users in the same area. Here some reasons why the others don't work - Easton is popular with dog owners, Balmain Rd is small and has no existing facilities, Leichhardt No 2 is the home of rugby; Waterfront Drive is the most suitable site for an all weather playing field as it's next to the clubhouse facilities and there are no nearby residents, this allowing for longer opening hours.; I am very much in favour of a synthetic field, much needed by BDFC, but not at Waterfront oval. Leichhardt 2, Balmain road or Glover st would be my preferred locations.</p> <p>Aesthetically Waterfront would be ruined by a synthetic pitch.; As a resident we are concerns with all year long day usage profile cause by Synthetic field at this location will have with resident access, noise and parking all year. Lighting impact may become an impact if used all year due to limited synthetic facilities in the Inner west council. Best location is waterfront park away from houses and local roads.; Waterfront Drive is the right choice for all weather pitches as they are used constantly and no residents directly impacted; An all-weather field at Waterfront Oval makes so much common sense - it doesn't in any way take away from the amenity of the area, and it doesn't prevent locals from enjoying the huge area that is Callan Park and walking their dogs (I am a dog owner that also goes there). There is no "plastic" grass being asked for, just the chance to better share and make use of our very limited resources.; An all weather field at Waterfront Drive is the most logical location for the field, with no disruption for nearby residents, and close proximity to the new community facility that is being developed at Building 497. The oval is large enough to accommodate a separate grass second pitch, which could still be enjoyed by dog walkers, alongside the many hectares of walking areas that are also available to them through Callan Park.; PLEASE PLEASE provide an all-weather pitch at WFD! BDFC is the biggest soccer club in the country, it's terrible it doesn't have one. The neglect will eventually end up on the news, like the Leichhardt Oval stand collapse last year!;</p> <p>Waterfront is the best option combined with the new toilets and club house for Balmain. Balmain is the largest community football club in Australia and our grounds are dangerous and inadequate.; As a Balmain resident, regular user of Callan Park, Balmain football registered player & currently work within the park at Ambulance HQ. I feel strongly that waterfront oval is the worst place a synthetic pitch should be developed. The whole aesthetic of the local area & serenity of waterfront will be forever</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>changed should a synthetic pitch be developed within the waterfront grounds. There is a risk the pitch will be monopolised by BDFC, and overused though both winter & more concerning, summer months. If waterfront was developed I believe the multi use & therapeutic use of the grounds will be lost forever.; As a local resident, I believe that the ideal location for a new synthetic pitch is the waterfront drive grounds adjacent to the Bay Run. I believe this location is superior for a number of reasons including sufficient parking & it being location some distance from housing. I state this as I assume sport activities including training will take place until late in the evening every night of the week with lighting also burning bright; Waterfront Drive is the most suitable location by far – its use would not impact any existing residents, would use existing floodlighting and would also use the Balmain and District Football Club clubhouse/amenities building next to the field. New grassed space is currently being created nearby where buildings have been demolished so there would be no net loss of grassed area...The field at Waterfront could then be used by Balmain Football Club. The current cricket club use at Waterfront can be relocated to the new Rozelle Parklands oval.; Would love it at waterfront drive, my daughter plays here and a lot of the time her sports were cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. We like Waterford drive, easy parking.</p>
Easton	11.6% 21	<p>My sporting team has trained at Easton Park every year for past six years. But the fields only stayed in safe, playing condition for a few months before they become unfit for play. The ground is unstable and there's so many holes and mud. A team player has injured themselves before from the state of the field. Halfway through the season my team had to move training to Birchgrove cause the field wasn't fit to train on. There's enough space for dogs and grass activities at the Parklands. Created a synthetic pitch at Easton Park. Every year it's the same problem and the only solution is getting a synthetic pitch. People walking dogs can just walk across the road to the Parklands? Have some consideration for the hundreds of players that would utilise the field; Please leave grass in Easton Park, it is a major dog park, and we don't want them banned.; Easton park is especially unsuitable as it is a small local park where residents gather every day to play with their children and dogs. It absolutely is not suitable for artificial turf.; Easton Park is an unsuitable location for this:</p> <p>The park is surrounded by medium density housing. Installing a synthetic field will significantly increase use of the sport field,</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
		<p>resulting in increased noise, parking issues & light pollution for residents.</p> <p>Residents & users will be impacted by the smell of the surface in the heat. It is in the high density housing zone announced by the state government. Every bit of natural green space needs to be retained for additional future residents of the area.; Please keep Easton Park out of this. It took such a long time to finally get the park opened up again and after a few attempts have some grass there , plus benches. We certainly don't want this grass replaced by plastic grass which is not good for the environment anyway. There is a nice community of people who live there and meet in the afternoon, accompanied by their dogs who play with each other. Sometimes some boys are playing football there which is already a nuisance as I can hear them screaming from my place which is up the road, and they are usually leaving a mess in the park which is never cleaned up and can cause a problem for the dogs - ranging from food items to packages and bottles and sticky tapes and bandages etc. They just throw their rubbish on the grass . It would be much better if they were not allowed to play at Easton Park.; Easton park should never be covered in synthetic turf for sports use only. It is the main park for residents in the area and a significant place for family picnics and dog walking, plus the council spent 500k on the real grass - which is now beautiful. It is surrounded by housing and a cool shady spot for summer heatwaves. Making it plastic would be a disaster for the local community!!!; The Rozelle Lilyfield Resident Action Group) has been advocating for the picket fence to be reinstated to Easton Park oval since 1978. This is long overdue.; Pick the fields that can't survive in their location. Easton Park the grass always dies because the trees block the sun. ; Easton Park would impact local residents and has an inadequate amenities building.; I really want to see a new synthetic football pitch at Easton Park. It's a great place for the whole community to play and have fun. The park already has a sporting ground, so adding a football pitch would be awesome. I think it would be a fantastic investment in our health and happiness. I hope you'll consider making Easton Park the home of the all weather sporting field.</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Balmain Road	6.08% 11	<p>I regularly play at Balmain Rd during the winter soccer season and this ground is often in terrible condition and the risk of injuries is high. The inner west is totally lacking in providing any all weather facilities. Strathfield Park is an excellent example of a mixed use ground – both all weather plus grass with excellent facilities for sporting teams. It is an embarrassment when other teams have to play at Balmain Rd.</p> <p>I am also a dog owner and think there is ample space for dogs to play elsewhere in Callan Park; If the council is determined to invest this large amount of taxpayer funds for a minority of the community it should be at the Balmain Road sporting ground; Balmain road sporting ground is one of the worst surfaces in the inner west, I've been playing in the inner west comp for three years and have witnessed multiple ankle injuries on that field due to uneven ground. Would be great to put a synthetic field somewhere that conditions are currently bad, rather than on a grass field that is in good condition.; Has to be Balmain Rd 1st. Waterfront Drive ground is excellent by comparison. I'm a Coach at Leichhardt Saints and also dog owner. I get a good look at all these surfaces.; Balmain road has everyone's dog digging up the surface, so may as well replace it with synthetic field.; Balmain Road is too small and has no amenities building or carparking and would impact nearby residents.; Balmain Road Sporting Ground (Callan Park) should not be touched for a sports stadium development due to being a Conservation Area and as such there a should be an overarching strategy for the use and development of Callan Park, which respects its heritage;</p>
Cricket	4.42% 8	<p>Synthetic grounds must not come at the cost of losing existing cricket grounds. The inner west already has too few cricket grounds – kids are frequently playing on grounds that are too small for their age group already, and spaces for training are highly contended in summer. Waterfront Drive Sporting Ground is one of the few full size grounds for U15 (under 15) for example, and Easton Park is one of the few with reasonable shade for parents, and both already have cricket nets for warm-ups and training adjacent to the playing field. I am aware that the parklands includes a cricket ground with a synthetic wicket, but it lacks shade and cricket nets, and it would be perverse if the outcome of adding this cricket ground was just to lose another, leaving the cricket community no better off than before the additional space and money. Please ensure you consult with the local cricket clubs (e.g. Balmain South Sydney and Leichhardt Wanderers) on plans affecting junior cricket facilities.</p>

Theme	Percent/ Count	Indicative comments
Leichhardt No.2	1.66% 3	Leichhardt No.2 would not have enough space for a suitable amenities building which would need to be built - it would also stop that field being used by rugby league and union clubs - including as a warm up field in association with Leichhardt Oval.; Leichhardt Number 2 Sporting Ground has very poor access not suitable for large numbers of people to access as it currently stands.; Leichhardt No 2 is only feasible location. I know that sporting clubs like them because they are all weather but otherwise question benefits. Kids don't like playing on them, they exclude other uses, generate plastic pollution. Glover street is another option less concerning than places closer to waterfront.

Q5 – Are you representing a sporting club or organisation (required)

Respondents were asked if they were representing a sporting club or organisation.

Response	Number of responses
No – not representing a sporting club or organisation	449
Yes Sporting Club	54
Yes Organisation	2

Feedback from the 56 respondents who stated they represented a sporting club or organisation has been included in the above detailed analysis, and is further segmented below, to show the range of first preferences for the all-weather sporting field alternative location.

Sporting Clubs

Sporting Club	Number of overall responses from club	First preference for all-weather sporting field	Number of first preference responses
AFL NSW/ACT	1	Balmain Road	1
Balmain AFL	1	Waterfront Drive	1
Balmain and District Football Club	35	Waterfront Drive	29
		Easton Park	3
		Balmain Road	2
		Leichhardt 2	1
Glebe District Hockey	1	Easton Park	1
Iron Cove Cricket	2	Leichhardt 2	1
		Balmain Road	1

Leichhardt FC	1	Balmain Road	1
Leichhardt Saints	10	Balmain Road	10
Leichhardt Wanderers and Cygnets	1	Opposed to all-weather sporting fields	1
NSW Football	1	Waterfront Drive	1
Inner West Harbour Cricket Association	1	Leichhardt 2	1

Online responses from organisations

Organisation	First preference for all-weather sporting field
AshBUG	Leichhardt 2
Rozelle Lilyfield Resident Action Group	Opposed to all-weather sporting fields