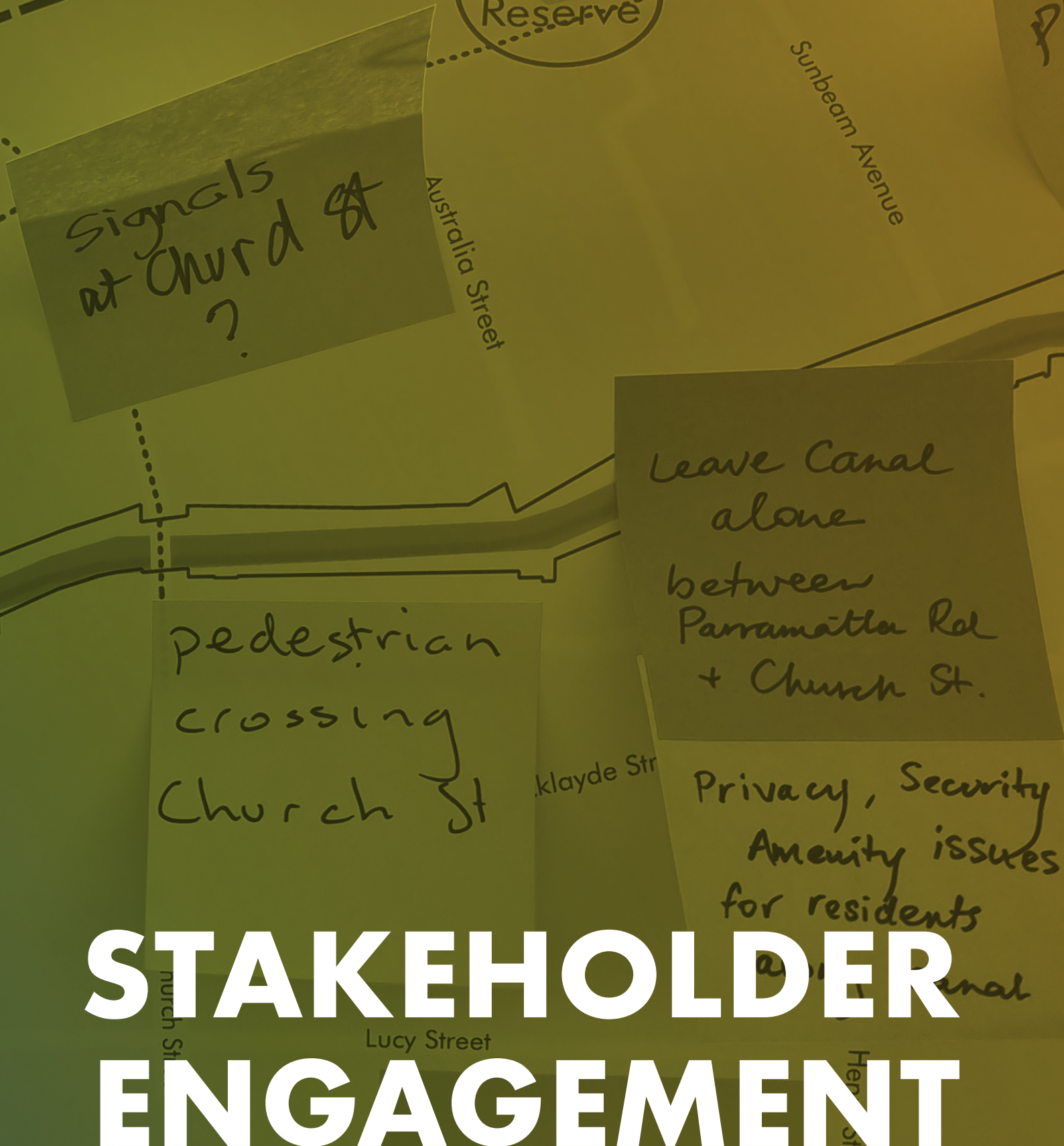






STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

5.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Friends of Iron Cove Creek have played an important role in shaping the vision, and the local community has continued to be engaged throughout the development of this Master Plan.

Friends of Iron Cove Creek

The Friends of Iron Cove Creek formed in May 2020 after the idea for a walking and cycling route was listed in Inner West Council's 20 year Integrated Transport Plan. The Friends group released a survey in January 2021, revealing strong interest in the project within the local community. By July 2022 they had received 578 responses to their survey, revealing:

- Overwhelming support (99%) for a dedicated walking and cycling path
- Strong resistance to walking and cycling at Croydon Road and Frederick Street due to traffic.
- Strong support for connecting the Bay Run to Ashfield and Croydon centres.
- Strong support in favour of revitalising the stormwater channel

When Council began to prepare this Master Plan, the project team met representatives of the Friends of Iron Cove Creek on site, to walk key sections of the corridor together and for the project team to hear from the Friends' representatives about:

- Issues and concerns for pedestrians and cyclists navigating the local streets.
- Their vision for the corridor.
- Ideas and opportunities they saw for the Master Plan

Broader community

Inner West Council conducted community engagement between 24 October and 27 November 2022. This included:

- Letterboxing approximately 2,000 properties in the project area
- An online survey on Your Say Inner West, including 8 questions and a map for site-specific comments
- An on-site session in a local park, Bell Reserve.

236 comments were submitted via the online survey, 175 comments were made on the map, 11 emails were received by project staff and approximately 50 people attended the on site session.

Responses indicated:

- 95 percent of respondents support the idea of a walking and cycling path along the canal linking the Bay Run and Ashfield Aquatic Centre.
- 81 percent of respondents identified a preference for a path along the canal rather than on-street facilities.
- The Bay Run and Ashfield Aquatic Centre would be popular destinations, followed by Five Dock (location of a future Metro station) and Croydon shops/station and Ashfield shops/station (Figure 5).
- Popular activities would include dog walking, walking and cycling with children, relaxing in green space and picnic/BBQ-ing (Figure 6).
- Important issues to manage in the project's development would include lighting for safety at night, managing walking and cycling conflicts as well as litter and waste (Figure 7).

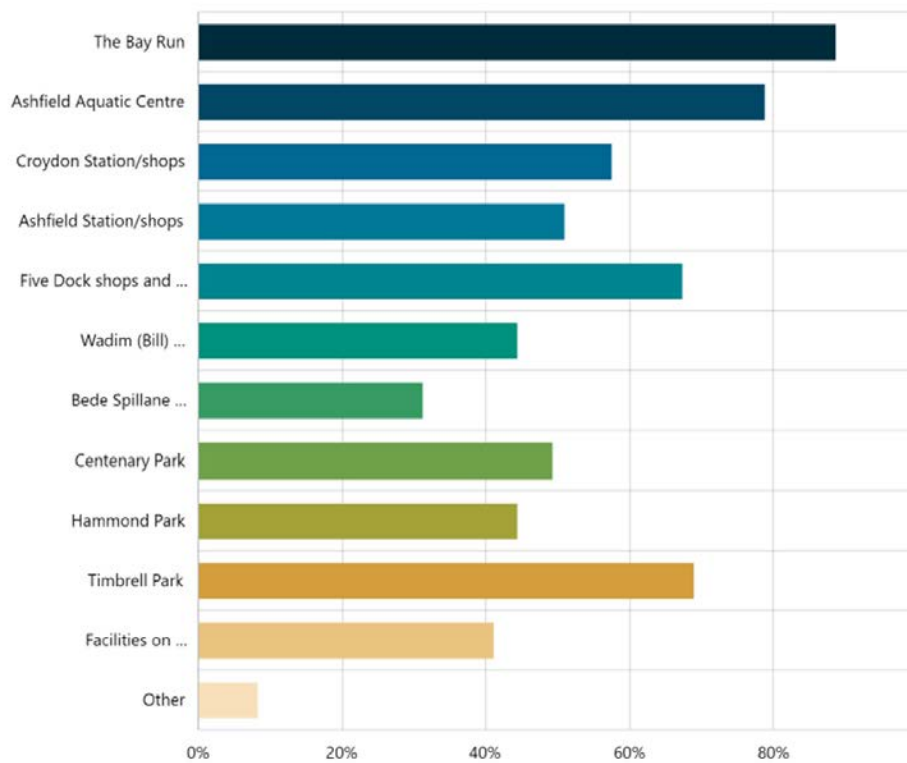


Figure 30: Locations respondents would access using a potential path along the canal

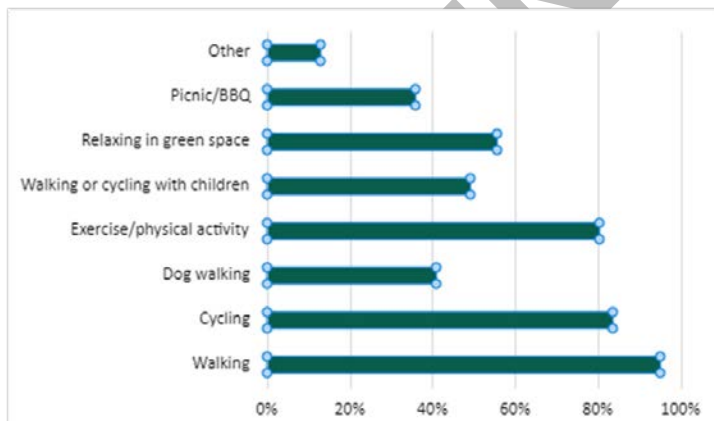


Figure 31: Activities respondents would do on a potential path and public space

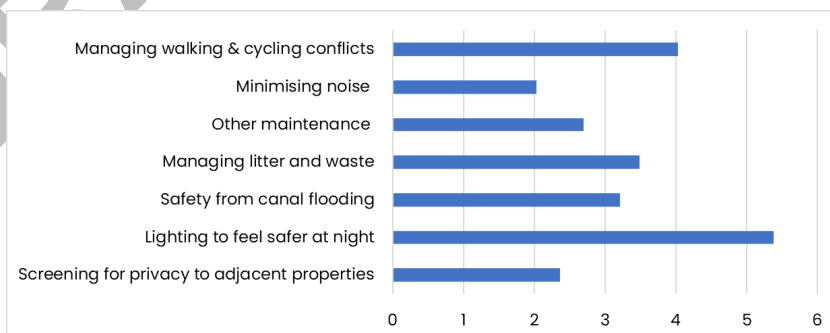


Figure 32: Other concerns to be considered with preparation of the master plan

5.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As part of developing this Master Plan, Council has conducted initial consultation with key stakeholders including relevant NSW Government agencies, Canada Bay Council and teams within Inner West Council.

NSW Government agencies

Engagement was conducted with NSW Government agencies that own and/or control land along the channel, including public roads.

Transport for NSW is responsible for Parramatta Road and Frederick Street. Along Frederick Street there is a historical easement for road widening from the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme developed in the 1940s. Transport for NSW also has long standing ownership of open space adjacent to Jegorow Reserve.

Council met with Transport for NSW and it was explained that with the WestConnex motorway network soon to be opened there would be a period of review to determine the impacts on traffic volumes in surrounding streets before the requirements of roads such as Frederick Street can be assessed. Comments from Transport for NSW about the open space adjacent to Jegorow Reserve were unable to be obtained.

Sydney Water owns the Iron Cove Creek stormwater channel and the land on which this channel sits, including some land on either side of the channel. Sydney Water also owns underground infrastructure within the corridor including water supply and wastewater services such as a water main on the western side of the channel between Etonville Parade and West Street.

Council met with Sydney Water to understand its requirements and approval processes for works within its land and in proximity to its assets. Sydney Water explained that access for maintenance of its assets, including routine maintenance, emergency repairs and future renewal works is a key requirement on which any proposal for works would be assessed.

Local Government agencies

Engagement with staff from Canada Bay Council and Inner West Council focussed on assets and issues owned or controlled by councils such as parks, trees, local roads and local stormwater management.

Iron Cove canal is fed by stormwater infrastructure owned and managed by local government authorities. Staff from Inner West Council's stormwater team provided information about stormwater flow and known flooding issues and Council's coordinator of public trees stated the importance of retaining established trees. Staff from Inner West Council's traffic team provided insights about traffic and car parking on local roads as well as the positioning of a potential traffic filter in Etonville Pde to reduce parking impacts. A meeting with staff from Canada Bay Council's parks and traffic teams provided information about Henley Marine Drive between Parramatta Rd and Ramsay St and planning issues for Timbrell Park.

