

ITEM 4 POST EXHIBITION - DRAFT KING GEORGE V PARK RECREATION MASTER PLAN

A draft recreation master plan for King George V Park was developed following preliminary community engagement in October to November 2020. Subsequently, the master plan was placed on public exhibition between 5 February 2021 and 5 March 2021 and a series of community engagement initiatives were undertaken seeking community feedback. Findings from this engagement phase have been incorporated in a refined master plan.

This report now seeks Council's adoption of the King George V Recreation Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The King George V Park Recreation Master Plan be adopted.
- 2 The implementation plan be noted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft King George V Park Recreation Master Plan Engagement Report March 2021
- 2 Draft King George V Park Recreation Master Plan

BACKGROUND

King George V Park is an iconic parcel of active and passive open space in Port Kembla.

The lower portion of the park hosts a range of recreation activities including senior cricket ground, cricket training nets, football field, junior cricket ground, local playground, and two hard courts. The sports field park has recently undergone flood lighting, turf wicket and irrigation improvements, making it a popular training and competition facility for cricket and football players.

The Port Kembla Cricket clubhouse is situated in the centre of the park on the western side of the cricket field. The modest building was constructed in the 1960's, is ageing and does not provide contemporary gender equity or accessibility facilities. The park also provides limited storage space for sports and Council's ground maintenance equipment.

The existing playground is well utilised but primarily caters for younger children in the two to eight year age group. The playground is supported by carparking but lacks supporting amenities such as shade, picnic facilities, water refill stations and bike racks.

Public toilet facilities are currently incorporated into the cricket clubhouse building, although there are currently no formal pathways to the amenities, with access from the playground, basketball court and carparks via informal grass tracks.

To help assist in clarifying aspirations for the site a preliminary engagement phase ran from 13 October to 2 November 2020 where community members were invited to share their ideas about King George V Park; how they use it and how it can be improved as a sporting, social and green space.

The findings of this engagement directly informed all aspects of the draft master plan. The resulting draft master plan was aspirational and included the following key elements:

- expanded playground utilising topography of the hill
- new skate path
- new sporting amenities and parking

- upgrading the hardcourts with fencing to cater for other sports
- proposed changes to the pool forecourt area
- new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout
- car parking
- picnic facilities and seating
- meadow/native grass planting on the sloped area of the hill.

PROPOSAL

Following the extensive community engagement process, several changes were made to the plan including:

- Revision of skate path concept and inclusion of a notional skate facility adjacent to multi-sport area (basketball courts)
- Overall reduction in the number of picnic shelters and barbecues shown on plans
- Inclusion of a path hierarchy incorporating a secondary path network (constructed of decomposed granite or other natural material) replacing some concrete paths in the short-medium term
- Replacement of the viewing area with a modest vantage area encompassing seating and integrated art
- In the pool forecourt precinct, retain access for emergency services, utility service vehicles and surf boat storage area
- Removal of the outdoor exercise circuit.

Given the cultural significance of the study area, it is anticipated that the local Aboriginal community will play a key role in contributing to the detailed design and delivery of future upgraded and new facilities in the park as identified in the draft master plan. This will assist residents and visitors gain a deeper understanding of local Aboriginal history and continuing culture, ensuring it is a visible part of the built and natural environment.

It is recommended that the revised draft King George V Recreation Master Plan be endorsed as the key reference point for future enhancement and activation of the precinct development.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Extensive community engagement supporting the development of the draft master plan occurred as part of the Port Kembla Revitalisation Plan and during Phase 1 of the draft recreation master plan in 2020.

The Phase 1 engagement period for the draft recreation master plan ran from 13 October to 2 November 2020. During Phase 1 residents were asked to share their ideas on a range of concepts for improving the park. Community engagement findings were collated in an Engagement Report, which has directly informed the draft master plan. An overview of the community feedback is as follows:

- Culture and history
- Amenities and connections
- Greening and shade
- Sport and recreation
- Children, young people and families
- Improving safety.

The aim of the 2021 engagement was to seek stakeholder and community views on nine key elements of the draft Recreation master plan. The engagement period for Phase 2 ran from 5 February to 5 March 2021. The community was informed about the project through:

- Multiple notices in the Illawarra Mercury
- Media release on Council's website
- Email to previous participants and identified stakeholders
- Posters displayed in some Wentworth Street Port Kembla businesses, Warrawong and Wollongong libraries
- Posters emailed to local schools requesting it be included in their school newsletter
- Facebook
- Signs promoting the engagement placed around the park.

Feedback was received from online survey, email and letters, and through face-to-face meetings including:

- Sporting groups who use the park
- People who live in the Port Kembla area
- Aboriginal Elders and community members
- Community groups (eg Bushcare volunteers)
- Local school children.

Key engagement findings were varied and indicate:

- The proposed sporting amenities, car parking and the upgrading of hardcourts received the most support/highest levels of satisfaction.
- The majority of submissions expressed satisfaction with the proposal to expand the playground, utilising the hill for a new adventure and natural play opportunities, and the proposed meadow/native grass planting.
- Mixed support for the new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout, picnic facilities and seating due to the perceived duplication of the nearby viewing observation deck adjacent to the surf club. However, there was strong support for indigenous art in comments received.
- Changes to the pool forecourt area were supported but with vehicular access for emergency service vehicles and surf club to access boat storage area.
- The skate path was supported by local school children but on balance did not receive support through the online surveys, though many people qualified this by suggesting alternative locations including adjacent to basketball/hardcourt area.

Other views raised in the submissions included that the plan was too busy; requests for only minimal changes or to leave the park as it is. Some residents thought the plan would attract more tourists and have negative impact on locals with extra crowding, noise, litter and traffic.

Detailed findings of the community engagement are included in Attachment 1.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 5 – “We have a healthy community in a liveable city”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2022	Operational Plan 2020-21
Strategy	4 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
5.1.4 Urban areas are created to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community	5.1.4.1 Provide an appropriate and sustainable range of quality passive and active open spaces and facilities	Prepare a landscape masterplan for King George V Oval
	5.1.4.1 Provide an appropriate and sustainable range of quality passive and active open spaces and facilities	Pursue actions outlined in the 2017-2021 Sports Ground & Sporting Facilities Strategy
	5.1.4.1 Provide an appropriate and sustainable range of quality passive and active open spaces and facilities	Implement actions from the Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Strategy in accordance with the strategy implementation plan
1.2.2 Government and community work together to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our environment and future generations	1.2.2.1 Our community is proactively engaged in a range of initiatives that improve the sustainability of our environment	Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Strategy Implementation Plan 2017-21

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The draft master plan has carefully considered the natural values of the site. All proposed initiatives utilise the existing site topography with the aim of avoiding extensive cut and fill exercises and maintenance of current landscape form.

Existing bush regeneration areas will be maintained with targeted improvements to sightlines improving safety along key pedestrian paths. Where new infrastructure intersects with vegetation it is expected that integrated landscape outcomes are achieved enhancing both objectives.

Proposed vegetation removal, if any, would be subject to an environmental assessment and future detailed designs of key aspects of the plan will need to consider Council’s Urban Greening Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is committed to ensuring that our recreation and open space assets are managed sustainably to facilitate the ongoing delivery of priority services for our community and visitors. It is Council’s intention to replace assets before they reach an unsatisfactory condition to ensure that identified service levels are met, service disruptions are minimised, and safety is maintained.

The draft master plan envisages significant works that will provide new and upgraded recreational facilities, additional supporting amenities and extensive planting of native grasses. Future staged delivery of these works will be subject to citywide priorities with potential funding through Council’s annual planning process and external grant programs. In accordance with best practice approaches to asset management planning, Council will also need to consider whole of life costs supporting the proposed initiatives and provide appropriate resources to support planned maintenance and long-term renewal.

Project	Inclusions	Preliminary budgetary estimate**	Programmed
Note: These costs exclude whole of life operating costs. The life cycle cost (LCC) is average cost to provide the service over the longest asset life cycle. It comprises annual maintenance and asset consumption expense, represented by depreciation expense.			
Shared path along Military Road	Deliver a minimum 2.5m wide path along Military Road	\$700,000 budget	21/22 – 22/23 (IDP)
Vegetation management/ native grass planting	Progressive implementation of native grass planting on steep sloped areas Maintenance of existing vegetation Pursue integrated urban greening initiatives	\$20,000 per annum funded operationally	20/21 – 23/24
New sporting amenities precinct	A. \$1.2M New gender-neutral sporting amenities, public amenities B. Circuit walking path around cricket field incorporating seats, bins etc C. New formalised carpark and pathway	A. \$1.2M B. \$250,000 C. \$380,000 TOTAL \$1.83M	Unfunded
Multi sports area	New hardcourt fencing, court resurfacing, seating and shelter	\$150,000	22/23 (IDP)
New picnic facilities adjacent to playground	New picnic shelters, picnic setting, barbecue, water refill station and bins	\$100,000	Unfunded
Play precinct	Expanded playground with embankment slides	\$500,000	Unfunded
Path network	Staged delivery of: A. Primary paths (1km of 1.2m wide concrete path), and B. Secondary paths (800m of gravel/mown grass) as generally shown on plans	A. \$430,000 B. \$120,000	Unfunded
Coastal viewing area	Integrated seating area, paving, artwork, and signage	\$100,000	Unfunded
Pool forecourt area	Pedestrian friendly design maintaining emergency and service vehicle access	TBD subject to further detailed design	Unfunded
Military Road and Cowper Street	New parking arrangements, increased safety of pedestrians	TBD subject to further detailed design	Unfunded
Integrated skate facility	New skate facility sited near multi sports area	TBD subject to further detailed design	Unfunded

CONCLUSION

The draft King George V Park Recreation Master Plan focused on enhancing existing recreational opportunities and improving community access, engagement and usage of the popular park and surrounds. A comprehensive phased community engagement process has been undertaken with findings used to directly develop and refine the master plan.

It is now recommended that the draft King George V Park Recreation Master Plan be adopted.



King George V Park Draft Recreation Master Plan

Engagement Report: Phase 2 – Engagement on
Draft Master Plan

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Background.....	6
Stakeholders	8
Engagement with Aboriginal community.....	9
Results.....	11

The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.

This report is intended to provide a high-level analysis of the most prominent themes and issues. While it's not possible to include all the details of feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to technical experts for review and consideration.

Executive Summary

We invited community members to share their thoughts on the King George V Park Draft Recreation Master Plan (draft Recreation Master Plan). Feedback was sought on how the community use the Park and their levels of satisfaction with the key elements included in the draft Master Plan.

Extensive community engagement has already occurred around the Park precinct as part of the Port Kembla Revitalisation Plan (PKRP) and during Phase 1 of the draft Recreation Master Plan in 2020. The King George V Park Master Plan is listed as an action for delivery in the Port Kembla Revitalisation Plan. The Phase 1 engagement period for the draft Recreation Master Plan ran from 13 October to 2 November 2020. During Phase 1, residents were asked to share their ideas on a range of concepts for improving the Park.

The aim of the 2021 engagement was to seek stakeholder and community views on nine key elements of the Draft Recreation Master Plan. The engagement period for Phase 2 ran from 5 February to 5 March 2021. The community were informed about the project through:

- Multiple notices in the Illawarra Mercury, throughout February
- Media release on Council's website
- Email to previous participants and identified stakeholders
- Posters displayed in some Wentworth Street Port Kembla businesses, Warrawong and Wollongong libraries.
- Posters emailed to local schools requesting it be included in their school newsletter
- Facebook
- Signs promoting the engagement placed around the Park

The community was asked through an online survey and hardcopy feedback forms the reasons they visit King George V Park, their level of satisfaction and comments on the nine key elements of the draft Recreation Master Plan.

We received feedback from a wide range of community members, including:

- Sporting groups who use the Park
- People who live in the Port Kembla area
- Aboriginal Elders and community members
- Community groups (e.g. Bushcare volunteers)
- School children

96 submissions were received via:

- online survey (73),
- email and letters (23).

Feedback was also received through face-to-face meetings and with primary school students.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, limited face to face engagement activities were undertaken. 20-minute information sessions were held with Council staff, to learn about the Draft Recreation Master Plan and provide feedback. 50 people attended information sessions.

The online survey asked residents to rank their level of satisfaction with key elements of the Draft Recreation Master Plan, with an opportunity to provide comments on these elements.

The key elements of the draft Recreation Master Plan included:

- expanded playground
- new skate path
- new sporting amenities and parking
- upgrading the hardcourts with fencing to cater for other sports
- proposed changes to the pool forecourt area
- new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout
- parking for the Park
- picnic facilities and seating
- meadow/native grass planting on the sloped area of the hill.

Those providing feedback via emails, letters, information sessions and face to face meetings provided comments only rather than rating their level of satisfaction with the key elements. The results of the engagement are reported below with the online survey ratings, then the comments from both the survey and other submissions.

Most people completing the survey lived in Port Kembla, visited the park to walk, attend sporting activities, socialising and relaxing and to access the playground.

A detailed summary of comments provided on the nine key elements proposed in the draft Recreation Master Plan is provided in the results section of this report. A summary of feedback from the survey that sought satisfaction levels with the nine key elements is provided here:

- The proposed sporting amenities and car parking and the upgrading the hardcourts) received the most support/highest levels of satisfaction.
- The skate path was opposed by more people than supported, though many people qualified this by suggesting alternative locations for the skate path.
- Satisfaction with sufficient parking in the Park was recorded by nearly as many people, as the combination of those who were opposed or offering no opinion.
- Slightly more people expressed satisfaction with the proposal to expand the playground, utilising the hill for a new adventure and natural play opportunities, and the proposed meadow/native grass planting, than opposed these key elements.
- The results for the new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout, picnic facilities and seating, changes to the pool forecourt area were mostly split between satisfaction and dissatisfaction.
- Slightly more people were overall dissatisfied than satisfied with the Draft Recreation Master Plan.

When taking into consideration online comments and the comments made in emails, letters, information sessions and school sessions, the key element; trees, vegetation and the skate path received the most mentions. Comments on the remaining key elements were also raised in the submissions.

Other views raised in the submissions included: The Plan being too crowded; requests for only minimal changes or to leave the Park as it is. Some residents thought the plan would attract more tourists and have negative impact on locals with extra crowding, noise, litter and traffic. Several suggested the Park be renamed.

Background

Port Kembla is a suburb that is well known for its industry, Aboriginal culture and role in military history. Today, the face of Port Kembla is changing, with a shift away from heavy industry as new residents and businesses establish themselves in the area. The area is home to a thriving artists' community, historic hotels, three beautiful beaches, an ocean pool and five schools (preschool, primary and secondary).

Extensive engagement in 2017 and 2018 informed the development of the Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan 2018 – 2043. The Revitalisation Plan outlines plans for Port Kembla including the Town Centre, Military Road spine, coastal areas, recreational areas and Coomaditchie Lagoon. Recreational areas include King George V Park, Port Kembla Pool and Surf Club.

King George V Park (the Park) sits at the corner of Military Road and Cowper Streets, opposite Port Kembla Beach, between Hill 60 and Coomaditchie Lagoon, and has strong Aboriginal cultural heritage. It is a popular area for both residents and tourists. Traditional Custodian groups and Aboriginal community members were invited to share their ideas for the area during the development of the Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan 2018 – 2043.

The Park offers a range of active recreational opportunities through the playground, cricket pitch, football field and basketball court. The Park also includes some vegetation along the base of the foothill, a very large off-leash dog area with amazing views over Port Kembla Beach, Port Kembla Pool and Perkins Beach. The Park has regular user groups including Port Kembla Cricket Club and Port Kembla Pumas Football Club. A Bushcare group also operates within the reserve and is overseen by Council.

The NSW Government has established the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund to activate, enhance and build community amenity in Port Kembla. Round Four opened in August 2020 with a total of \$2 million available. Successful applications for funding have seen initiatives occurring at King George V Park, including new sports lighting, upgraded sporting infrastructure, installation of small grandstand seating and a shade sail for the playground.

From the engagement for the Revitalisation Plan, the following vision themes arose for the Park.

Vision

“A vibrant and active recreation area, balancing a youth focus with organised sport facilities, catering to people of all ages.”

- Additional trees within the recreational area to provide shading and places to sit and picnic beneath.
- Retain and enhance sporting activities within the precinct.
- Provide paths and routes that improve connections within and through the park paired with lighting and planting.
- New infrastructure provides facilities and activity spaces that cater for youth.

In 2019/2020, Council engaged with young people from Port Kembla Public School, Port Kembla Youth Project and Warrawong High School regarding the upgrade of the basketball court. In addition to basketball court colours, young people were asked their ideas for the western side of the court. Ideas revolved around the following themes;

recreation (e.g., yoga, handball, play equipment, painted games on ground), infrastructure (e.g., seating, bike racks, tables), public art and urban greening (particularly for shade).

Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the start of this engagement period included:

- Local residents
- Traditional Owners
- Aboriginal community members
- Port Kembla Primary School, Kemblawarra Primary School, Five Islands High School and Warrawong High School.
- Neighbourhood Forums
- Multicultural groups
- Sporting groups using the Park
- Previous engagement participants
- Bushcare group

Methods

An updated project page published on Council's Engagement HQ website on 5 February 2021 provided a short video explaining the intent of the engagement and included maps, Frequently Asked Questions, Important Links and a survey tool.

The public exhibition of the draft Recreation Master Plan was advertised through a number of methods including:

- Letters sent to residents in a 1km radius of the Park (approximately 1,300 people)
- Multiple notices in the Illawarra Mercury throughout October
- Media release on Council's website
- Facebook post on 12 February 2021
- Emails promoting the public exhibition were sent to key stakeholders including Neighbourhood Forums and previous participants, with the invitation to share through their networks.

- Posters were displayed at Warrawong and Wollongong libraries and some Wentworth Street Port Kembla businesses, around the Port Kembla Pool and Beach.
- Posters was emailed to local schools for inclusion in their newsletters
- Five signs promoting the engagement were placed around the Park
- Invitation for the community to attend booked, COVID-safe information sessions

Feedback was invited through an online survey, face-to-face meetings, and via the information sessions.

Engagement with Aboriginal community

The approach to engagement in this project was informed by draft guidance documents for how Council engages with Aboriginal community members. The project team consulted with Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer to plan a meaningful and culturally sensitive engagement and to identify Aboriginal organisations and individual community members who the project team should engage with. Traditional Custodians, individual community members and Aboriginal organisations were notified of the project before broader community engagement started and further feedback was sought throughout the engagement period.

The draft engagement guidance placed high importance on face-to-face meetings with community members on a consistent basis (i.e., not just for the life of the project). The project team have ongoing relationships with Aboriginal community members and were able to engage with these community members to discuss the draft Recreation Master Plan and gain feedback.

Meeting Aboriginal community members face-to-face was not appropriate for everyone due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, however some face-to-face meetings were able to occur. Many phone calls, emails, letters and two face-to-face meetings took place with Aboriginal community members during this phase of the project. Face-to-face meetings were held at spaces in the community where Aboriginal community members felt safe and comfortable. Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council facilitated a Walk on Country for Council staff to better understand the Aboriginal history and cultural significance of

the area. The project was also presented to Council's Aboriginal Reference group for their information and comment.

Results

This section provides details on the participation at engagement activities (Table 1), the online participation summary (Table 2) and the feedback received via surveys, feedback forms, emails, (Table 3) information sessions, meetings with Aboriginal Elders and primary school.

Engagement Activity Participation

Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Engagement activity results

Engagement Activities	Participation
Targeted engagement meetings with Aboriginal Elders and community members	12
Attendance at Information Sessions during the exhibition period	50
Schoolchildren participating in zoom sessions (Port Kembla 60, Kemblawarra 12)	72

Online Participation

The usage statistics for the project page on Council's Engagement HQ website appears in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of online participation

Measure and explanation	Usage
Unique Site Visits – Total number of visits to the website	946
Aware – Total number of users who viewed the project page	806
Informed - Total number of users who opened a hyperlink or read a document	365
Engaged – Total number of users who have actively contributed to the project by filling in the feedback form	73

Engagement feedback

The number of submissions received during the exhibition period are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Feedback methods

Feedback methods	Participation
Engagement website survey tool	72
Email/letter submission	23

Feedback was also received and noted at the information sessions, face- to-face meetings and school sessions with two of the four schools that accepted the invitation to participate in the engagement. Attendance at these sessions and meetings has been reported in Table 1 above rather than included in Table 3. The feedback has been incorporated into the results reported in the following sections.

Postcode of people completing the online survey

Most people completing the online survey lived in the Port Kembla area. Residents from Wollongong, Warrawong, Dapto and Cordeaux Heights.

Main reason residents visit King George V Park

People completing the online survey said they visit King George V Park to walk to attend organised sporting activities, socialising and relaxing, access the playground, informal sport/recreational activities like basketball or skating, residents of the area and other reasons such as checking the surf, walking their dog and collecting rubbish.

Satisfaction with proposed key elements of the Draft Master Plan

The online survey asked residents to describe their level of satisfaction with the key elements of the draft Recreation Master Plan and to provide comments.

The key elements of the draft Recreation Master Plan included:

- expanded playground

- new skate path
- new sporting amenities and parking
- upgrading the hardcourts with fencing to cater for other sports
- proposed changes to the pool forecourt area
- new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout
- parking for the Park
- picnic facilities and seating
- meadow/native grass planting on the sloped area of the hill.

Not all key elements of the draft Recreation Master Plan were mentioned in the email and letter submissions received or in the information sessions and school sessions.

Satisfaction levels with the key elements of the draft Recreation Master Plan are covered in the next part of the report. Comments from both the online survey, emails, letters, information sessions and school session appear after the ratings for each of the nine key elements.

New Skate Path

Those completing the survey had mixed views on the new skate path. More people were somewhat or not at all satisfied, than were somewhat or very satisfied with the idea of a new skate path. Some people stated they were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the proposed new skate path.

Comments on the skate path

Comments on the skate path included some support for the skate path as indicated in the Draft, however most people provided an alternative location stating the path was too close to houses and or too close to the existing playground. The basketball courts (or hardcourts), MM Beach, or areas closer to the town centre were suggested as preferred locations. Some said moving the skate path to the basketball courts would make sense and activate that area of the Park. It was suggested the proximity of the Berkeley skate park was a reason to remove the skate path from the draft Recreation Master Plan altogether. Others said the path was too small and a full skate park was warranted.

Upgrading of basketball/hardcourts with fencing to cater for other sports

Most respondents completing the online survey said they were very or somewhat satisfied with upgrading the hardcourts with fencing to cater for other sports. Some people said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with upgrading the hardcourts. Fewer respondents were somewhat or not at all satisfied with the proposed upgrade.

Comments on the proposed upgrading of hardcourts

Numerous positive comments were made about the proposed upgrading of the hardcourts, though comments both for and against the fencing were received. One questioned if fees would be charged, and another asked for more details on the proposed upgrade.

New sporting amenities and car parking

Most respondents completing the online survey said they were very or somewhat satisfied with the proposed new sporting amenities and car parking. Some people said they were somewhat or not at all satisfied with new sporting amenities. Fewer respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with this element of the draft master plan.

Comments on the new sporting amenities and car parking

Most comments on the sporting amenities and car parking were positive. Some comments suggested the new amenities should be built on the existing site rather than the location indicated on the draft Recreation Master Plan. A concern about the new building blocking views was raised. Parking was supported, with some concerns expressed about more concrete car parks. Some felt more parking might be needed than what was shown. Comments on accessible toilets, more fencing to stop cricket balls and upgrading the canteen were also made.

The expanded playground utilising the hill for new adventure and natural play opportunities

Slightly more respondents were somewhat or very satisfied than somewhat or not at all satisfied with the proposal to expand the playground, utilising the hill for new adventure

and nature play opportunities. Few people said there were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the proposed expansion of the playground.

Comments made about the proposal to expand the playground

The inclusion of a giant slide was supported in some submissions, with one suggesting a metal slide would be too hot, though several submissions didn't approve of the slide. A submission was received for a flying fox, water and nature area and one against these features being included. Several comments asked that accessible equipment be installed. Other suggestions included: providing seating, water stations, bike racks and a fence to improved safety. One person thought the area around the playground was too congested.

New contemporary art trail and terraced lookout

There were mixed results for the proposed new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout. Slightly more people were somewhat or very satisfied than somewhat or not at all satisfied with the proposal. Some respondents said they were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the new contemporary art trail and terraced outlook.

Comments on the proposed new contemporary art trail and terraced lookout

Support for contemporary art, particularly indigenous art, was expressed in the comments. Suggestions included signs, artwork about heritage, low height features, ocean and flora and fauna themes. One comment feared the artwork might be vandalised. Some people thought any artwork was a waste of money and only good for tourists. Most comments on the viewing platform were not supportive, saying an additional platform was unnecessary. One submission suggested a viewing platform would be good if it was low in profile and cut into the ground with seating, but no roof.

Sufficient parking

More respondents said they were somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied with the parking as shown on the draft Recreation Master Plan. Fewer people were satisfied (very or somewhat) or didn't have an opinion (neither satisfied or, dissatisfied with the amount of parking proposed).

Comments on the amount of parking proposed in the draft master plan.

Concerns about parking were raised in the comments, stating it was a real issue with the area being too crowded. While the additional parking and traffic calming in the draft Recreation Master Plan was supported, most comments suggested more was needed. Requests for additional disabled parking spaces were made. One submission said more parking was required, without taking any green space away from the Park.

Proposed meadow/native grass planting

More respondents said they were very or somewhat satisfied with the proposed meadow/native grass planting as shown on the draft master plan. Slightly less people were dissatisfied with the proposed meadow/native grass planting. Fewer people said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with this key element of the Draft Master Plan.

Comments on the proposed meadow/native grass planting

A lot of comments were made about trees in the Park. Opinions varied on the need for more trees/vegetation. The lack of tree canopy in Port Kembla and the Urban Greening Plan were mentioned in several submissions. Some said there were too many trees, others said not enough. A request was made not to remove native vegetation to install the big slide. The work of volunteers in planting and maintaining trees in the Park was noted in some comments.

Several comments suggested trying to balance the need for green open space and trees. Suggestions included planting olive trees, planting trees 5-10 metres apart. One comment said to consider mulching in a circle, plant trees in the circle, add seats then continue this process multiple times. This would then provide a mixture of trees and green space.

The current maintenance of the vegetation was mentioned in many submissions. The view that trees, overgrown shrubs and the proposed native grassed encouraged vermin was expressed several times. Some submissions refuted vegetation was the issue. Safety and anti-social behaviour were raised in some comments on the maintenance of existing vegetation. Some submissions stated they wanted their views protected rather than more

trees planted. One comment said trees should be planted on the lower part of the hill so views would not be impacted.

One theme that arose during the engagement was the request to keep the green rolling hill as open space. Some people wanted more grassed areas for families, no tree planting on the hill, to keep it as a well maintained and maintain the natural beauty of the area. Several people stated it is the last open green space in Port Kembla. A request that any paths not damage the green space was made. One comment asked that paths be made of just mown grass.

Picnic facilities and seating

Slightly more people were dissatisfied than satisfied with the picnic facilities and seating proposed in the draft Recreation Master Plan. Few people said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with this key element.

Comments made about the proposed picnic facilities and seating

Those who made comments on picnic facilities, BBQ and seating were mainly opposed to any additional facilities. The reasons provided included the large numbers of tourists who arrive early in the morning to claim a shelter, stay late, disturbing residents with excessive noise and leave litter behind. Several submissions said to keep the area as natural as possible. One comment said the picnic shelters should be spread throughout the Park. Some school children thought more shelters were needed.

Proposed changes to pool forecourt area

Slightly more people were dissatisfied or not at all satisfied than somewhat or very satisfied with the proposed changes to the pool forecourt area. Some people were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the proposed changes to the pool forecourt area.

Comments made about the proposed changes to the pool forecourt area

Most people commenting on the proposed changes to the pool forecourt area were opposed to the idea. Reasons stated included that it would block emergency services access, impact on the Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club operations, remove easy access

for people with disability and elderly people visiting the pool and beach, and the area was not considered suitable for social gatherings. One submission stated the forecourt was not part of King George V Park.

Fewer comments were supportive of the proposed changes to the pool forecourt saying they like the plan, supported the additional picnic facility and thought it would be an amazing space for family BBQs and make the area safer. Some residents provided recent photos showing emergency service vehicles in the pool forecourt area and the number of pool and café waste bins on the kerb awaiting collection.

Overall satisfaction with draft Recreation Master Plan – online survey results

The online survey also asked residents to “describe how satisfied are you overall with the draft Recreation Master Plan”

More people said they were overall dissatisfied, (extremely dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied) than satisfied somewhat or strongly satisfied). Some people said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied overall.

Other comments on the draft Recreation Master Plan

Positive comments included, support for the exercise stations, happy with the proposal (besides removing the roundabout), happy with the proposal but need solar lights, adequate paths, water stations and exercise equipment is passé. One comment noted that more engagement with residents close to the park is needed. Positive sentiment included that it looks fantastic, looks good for the most part, will encourage local to use new facilities.

There were several comments suggesting the Park should be renamed.

Many submissions asked for minimal changes to the Park, with only basic things such as seating needed or that Council should leave the Park as it is. Some thought the extra facilities will impact locals, that Council is out of touch with what locals want, that the changes are for tourists only, the proposed upgrades would have an adverse effect on the

park, Council doesn't maintain what is already there and that King George V Park isn't Bondi beach.

Comments on the draft Recreation Master Plan being too congested were made, especially in one corner of the Park. It was suggested that passive and active recreation should be spread out across the Park, to avoid overcrowding.

Dogs on the hill was raised by some people. A few people said they agreed with this, one asked for dog amenities, a request to fence the off-leash area was made. A concern about the dog area changing the hill was raised, stating it is a good site for kite flying and school winter athletics.

Out of scope comments mentioned the surf club and surrounding area (condition of the surf club toilets, a request for BBQ & Picnic area for the disabled), pool and beach facilities (lack of), all year round food trailer (tell James this is a direct request to provide), attracting tourist to main street to help promote small business, spending the money instead on fixing footpaths to and from train station, and education so infrastructure meets demand.

One resident stated the 20-minute info session was too short, and another spotted a typo in the survey.

