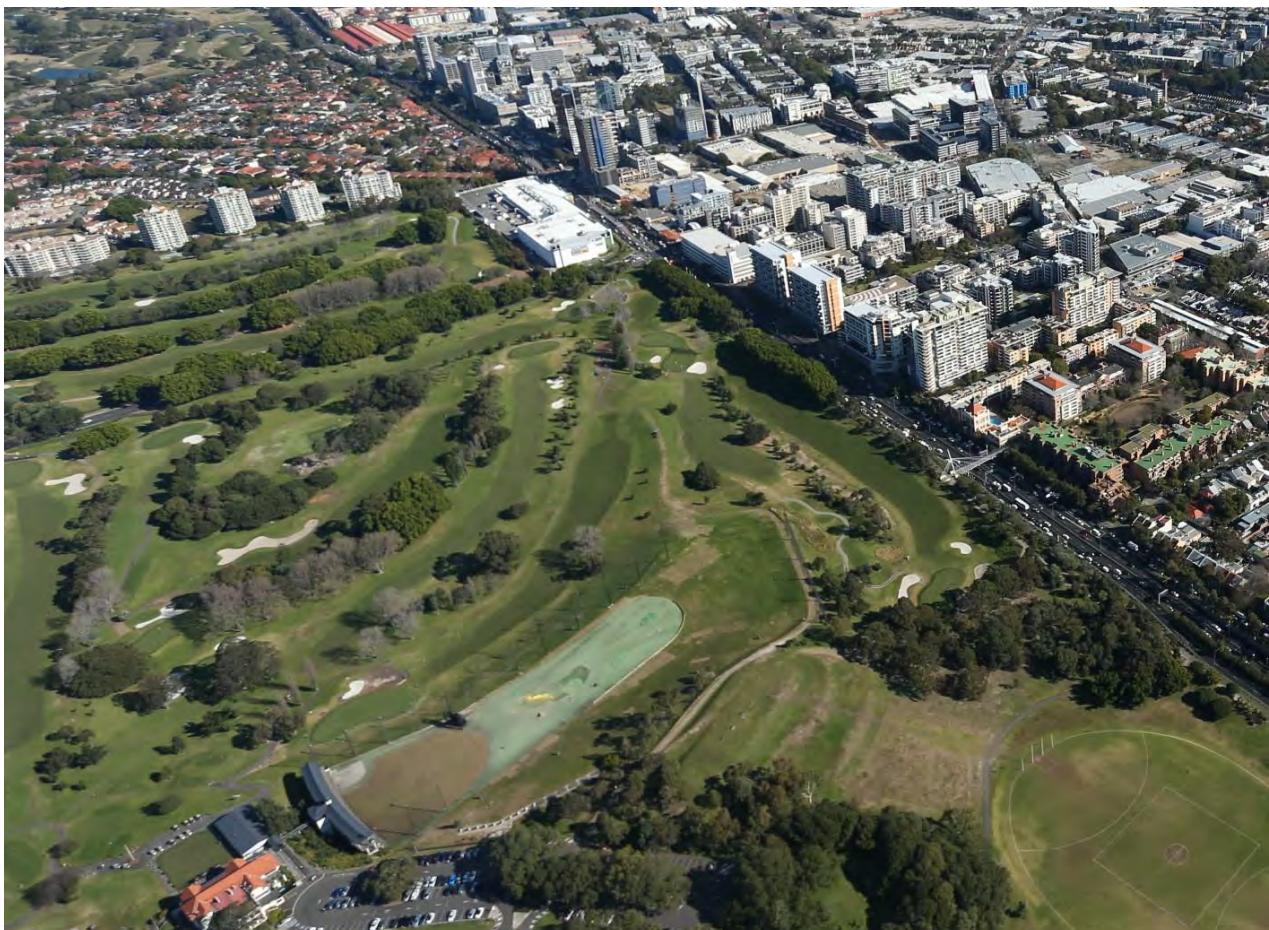




Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



Contents

Overview	4
Purpose of engagement	4
Key findings	5
Randomly selected phone survey results	5
Outcomes of community consultation	5
Comparison between surveys	6
Phone Survey	7
Phone survey methodology and sample	7
Phone survey results	8
How the community use open space	9
Summary of community consultation activities	10
Written feedback	11
Emails and stakeholder letters	11
Online survey results	12
Who participated in the survey?	12
Top line survey results	16
Demographic analysis of results	18
Engagement and communications activities	23
Engagement activities	23
Marketing and communications	24
Appendices	25
Appendix 1 – online survey	25
Appendix 2 – webpage	27
Appendix 3 – flyer	28
Appendix 4 – social media	29
Appendix 5 – stakeholder list	30

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

Appendix 6 – Lord Mayor letter	32
Appendix 7 – CEO letter	35
Appendix 8 – responses from stakeholders	38

Authoring of the report

This report was compiled by the City of Sydney's Strategic Engagement and Community Relations team in line with the City's Community Engagement Strategy and standard engagement and reporting processes.

The phone poll was conducted by Micromex Research - <https://www.micromex.com.au>

The online survey was conducted via the Survey Monkey platform.

The online survey data set was exported from Survey Monkey and graphs of the quantitative data were produced using ArcGIS and Power BI platforms by the City of Sydney's Data Office.

Email submissions and qualitative data from the online survey were analysed by the Strategic Engagement and Community Relations team.

Overview

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to understand community sentiment to re-allocating community (Crown) land which is currently Moore Park Golf Course to public parkland. The consultation looked at whether, with the increase in demand for public space, the golf course was the best use of public land.

In the first phase (August 2020), the City commissioned a randomly selected, demographically representative phone survey of 402 households living within a 5km radius of Moore Park golf course. The survey presented 3 options – reconfigure the course to 9-holes, convert the entire course or retain the 18-hole course and asked respondents which option they preferred.

The results indicated significant community support for creating more public parkland at the site of Moore Park golf course. The preferred approach was to reconfigure the golf course to 9-holes.

In the second phase (November-December 2020), the community was asked for their preference and feedback on three options for Moore Park Golf Course:

- Option 1 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 18ha of new parkland on the western side of the golf course north of Dacey Avenue
- Option 2 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 20ha of new parkland along the western edge of the golf course and south of Dacey Avenue
- Option 3 - Retain the 18-hole golf course

This was a public consultation process that involved an online survey and promotional activities.

Key findings

Randomly selected phone survey results

In August 2020, the City commissioned a randomly selected, demographically representative phone survey of 402 households living within a 5km radius of Moore Park golf course.

The result indicated significant community support for creating more public parkland. The preferred approach was to reconfigure the golf course to 9-holes.

- 47% preferred the option to convert half the course to public parkland
- 30% preferred the option to convert the whole golf course to parkland
- 23% wanted the 18-hole course retained

Older people (65+) and men were more likely to prefer retaining the course. Young people aged 18-34, apartment dwellers and women were more likely to support creating additional parkland.

Significantly, 18% of respondents had used the Moore Park Golf Course facilities in the past year and 50% of them supported changing the course to create more parkland.

The phone survey also asked people what type of open space facilities they used. Public parks are the most frequently used open space with 84% of residents visiting parks at least once every couple of weeks. 81% of respondents stated they never visit golf courses.

Outcomes of community consultation

The key insights for the community consultation conducted in November – December (2020) were:

- The community and stakeholders recognise the importance of public green space as the population of Sydney and the communities of Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern continue to grow.
- The community highly values the public land of Moore Park including the golf course.
- There is significant passion within the community for the future of this highly valued public land. (demonstrated by the significant numbers of surveys 10,299).
- 50% of survey respondents supported a change to the course to create more parkland (18.8% option 1 to reconfigure, 27.7% option 2 to reconfigure and 3.5% who selected ‘other’ as the option and specified more parkland).
- 49% of survey respondents want to retain the 18-hole course.
- The vast majority of those who want to retain the 18-hole use the Moore Park Golf Course facilities. 48% of respondents had used the Moore Park Golf Course facilities in the past year.
- There is a very significant difference in the views of men and women – 73% of women support reducing the course to provide more parkland. 59% of men want to retain the 18-hole course.
- Views are strongly shaped by where people live. Respondents living immediately to the west of the course were overwhelmingly supportive of reconfiguring the course to create more public parkland. Whereas respondents who want to retain the 18-hole course are more likely to live in the eastern suburbs and other parts of Sydney.
- People also suggested opportunities to improve physical links (publicly accessible spaces and paths around and through the golf course) to connect to existing parkland at Centennial and

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Moore Park. Ideas included improving public access through immediate actions such as removing fences and time-share arrangements.

Stakeholders including the Greater Sydney Parklands and the Greater Sydney Commission expressed their interest in working with the City and other agencies and stakeholders to realise their shared commitment to increase public parkland in Sydney. They did not provide feedback on the proposed options but indicated they were interested in the outcomes of the consultation and in sharing their views and insights in the future.

Golfing groups including Golf NSW, Golf Australia and PGA of Australia made submissions expressing their concerns about any change to the 18-hole course.

Of the 72 emailed submissions – 42 argued to retain the 18-hole course, 16 supported reconfiguring the course to 9-holes and 7 argued to convert the entire course to parkland, 7 made other comments.

Comparison between surveys

	Phone survey	Online survey*
Retain 18-hole course	23%	49%
Reconfigure the course / convert all to parkland	77%*	50%

*This includes 30% of respondents who preferred converting the whole course to parkland.

+1% of survey respondents raised other issues but did not support a particular option or approach

There are two significant differences between the outcomes of the random phone survey and the online community consultation survey.

Firstly, the online survey had more than twice as many male respondents as women (67% men and 30% women) whereas the demographically matched sample had 50% of each.

Secondly, many more respondents to the online survey use the Moore Park Golf Course facilities: 48% as opposed to 18% in the random sample.

These significant differences between the two samples correlates with significantly different results to key questions in the survey.

In this case, the methodological difference between the two surveys has resulted in significantly different outcomes. Random phone surveys target a specific demographic sample, in this case a demographic sample of people living within a 5km radius of the golf course. Online, self-selecting surveys attract respondents shaped largely by:

1. those who are motivated to respond
2. those who hear about the survey

The outcomes which were influenced by the methodological difference between the two surveys were mostly likely further exaggerated by the fact that:

1. The online survey was mostly promoted to residents of the City of Sydney.
2. Moore Park golf course directly emailed the survey to their club members.

This suggested that a larger sample size with broader community promotion would have resulted in a narrowing of the difference in the results as the demographic preferences (eg greater support for retaining the course among older people and males) were consistent between the two surveys.

Phone Survey

Phone survey methodology and sample

A total of 402 resident interviews were completed. 388 of the 402 respondents were chosen by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages and SamplePages. The remaining 14 respondents were 'number harvested' via face-to-face intercept at several locations around the City of Sydney LGA.

A sample size of 402 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=402 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.9%.

For the survey under discussion the greatest margin of error is 4.9%. This means, for example, that an answer such as 'yes' (50%) to a question could vary from 45% to 55%.

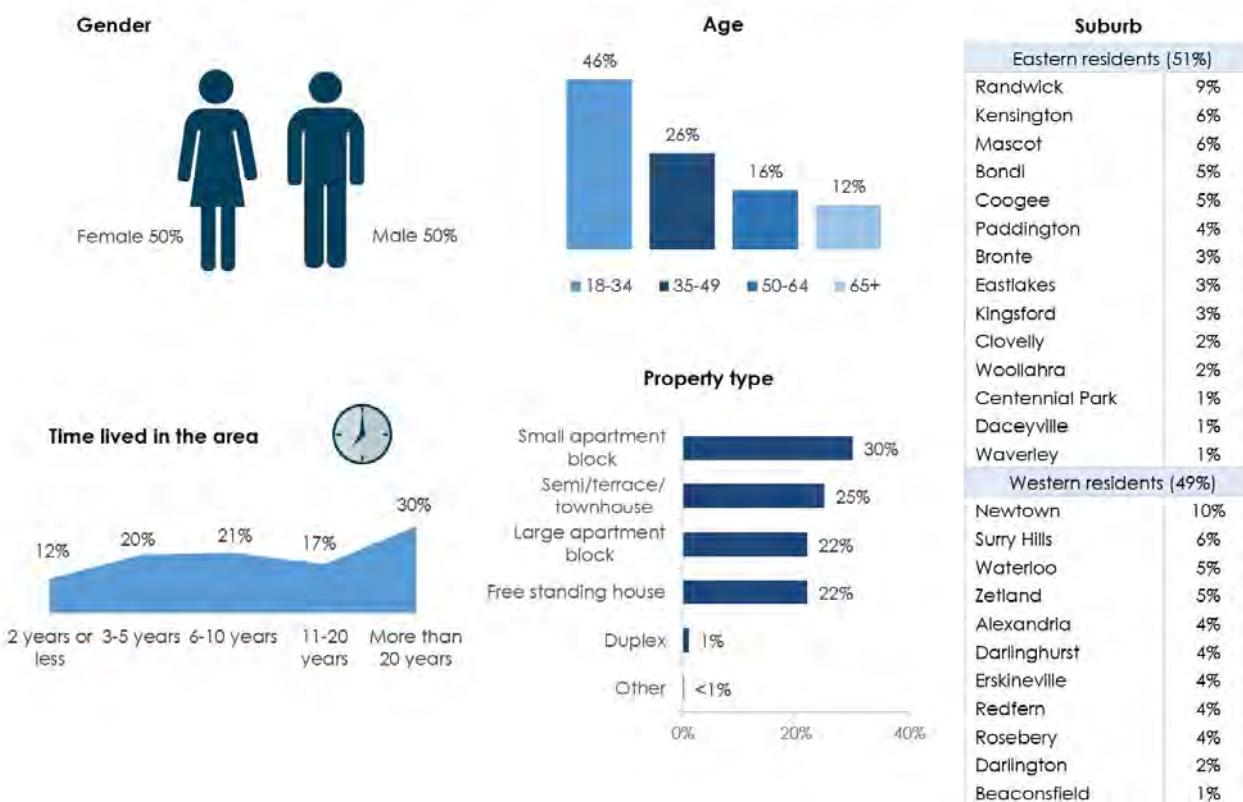
The sample was weighted at a holistic level by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS Census data for each of the 25 targeted suburbs close to Moore Park Golf Course.

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with the AMSRS (Australian Market and Social Research Society) Code of Professional Behaviour.

Participants in this survey were pre-qualified as being over the age of 18 and living in one of the targeted suburbs.

Sample Profile

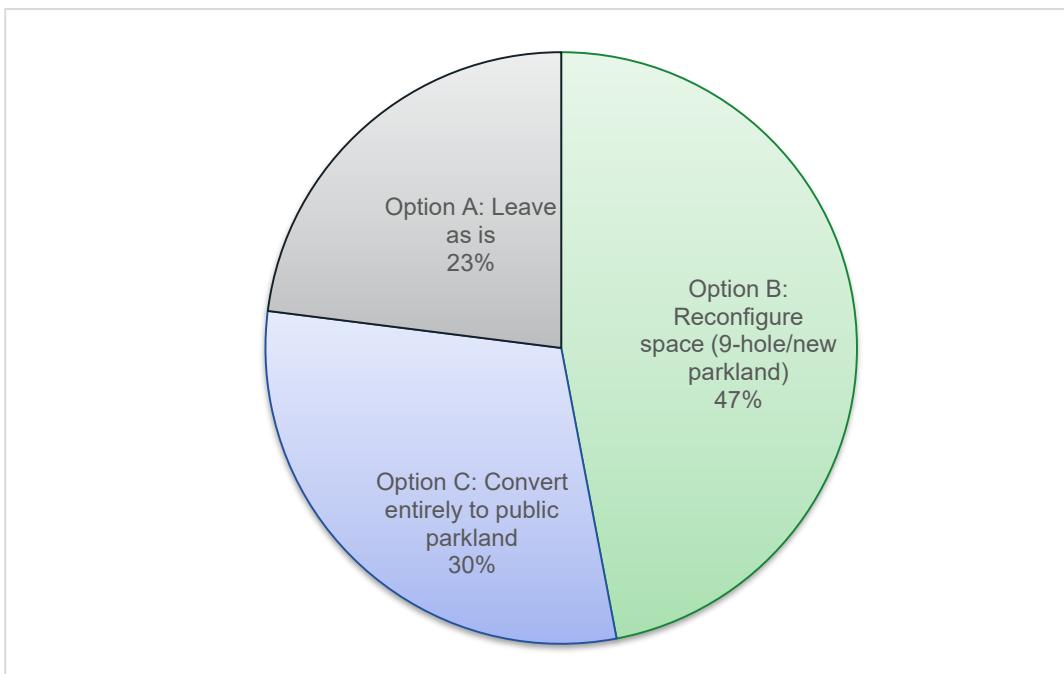
The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS community profile of the 25 suburbs targeted in the survey (suburbs within a 5km radius of Moore Park Golf Course).



Phone survey results

Overall results

The results of the phone survey were clearly in support of creating more public parkland by changing the use of the public land where Moore Park golf course is situated.



The most strongly expressed view was that the option to reconfigure the course was a good comprise that caters for more people.

Reason for preference	N = 401
Option A (No Change) – 23%	
Leave it as is/the golf course is used frequently/opportunity for exercise/not enough golf options close by (e.g. not many 18-hole courses)	15%
There are plenty of parklands/exercise opportunities/public space close by	10%
Do not trust Council/concern for future development and loss of green space	2%
Option B (Change) – 47%	
Good compromise/caters for more people	36%
Golfers can still enjoy the space	11%
Provides more open space for the community/passive recreation	11%
Several golf course close by/less people play golf	4%
Option C (Convert) – 30%	
Provides/there's a need for more public space/more recreational opportunities/more beneficial for the community	22%
There are enough golf courses already/I don't play golf/golf is exclusive and expensive/less people play golf	18%
Better for the environment/wildlife	2%

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Options preferred by gender, age and dwelling type

Male respondents and older people (over 65) were significantly more supportive of leaving the course as it is. Apartment dwellers were significantly more supportive of creating more parkland. There was significantly more support amongst users of Moore Park Golf Course facilities of retaining the 18-hole course. However, 50% of people surveyed who had used the past year preferred an option which created more parkland and reduced the course.

	Overall	Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+	Free standing house	Semi/terrace/townhouse/Duplex	Small apartment block	Large apartment block	Moore Park Golf Course user	Non user
Reconfigure	47%	43%	52%	55%▲	42%	39%	42%	44%	36%▼	57%▲	51%	40%	49%
Convert	30%	28%	31%	29%	31%	34%	23%	25%	33%	25%	36%	10%	34%▲
Leave	23%	29%▲	17%	16%▼	27%	27%	35%▲	31%	31%	18%	13%▼	50%▲	17%
Base	401	203	199	187	104	62	49	86	104	120	90	74	328

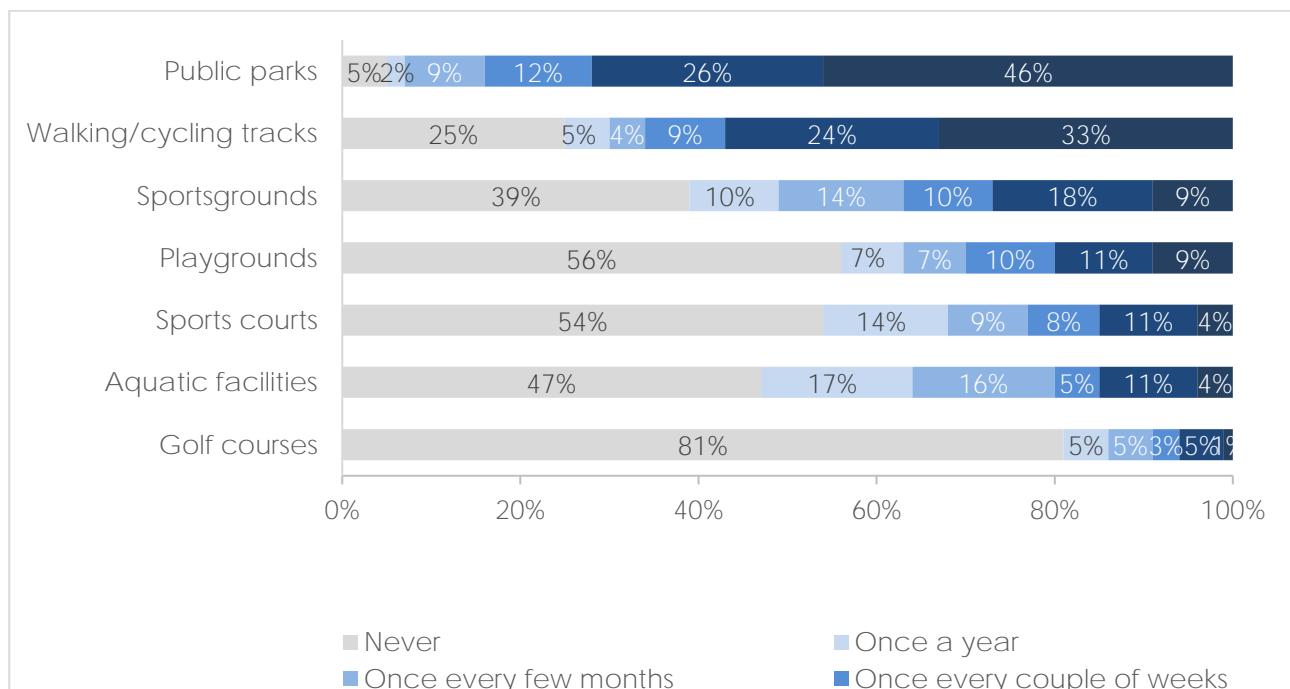
Options preferred by suburb

There was a strong preference for retaining the course in suburbs to the east of the course. However, 73% percent of respondents in these suburbs still preferred options that created more public parkland. There was very little support for retaining the course in suburbs to the west of the course (19%).

	Eastern residents	Western residents
Reconfigure	45%	50%
Convert	28%	31%
Leave	27%	19%
Base	203	198

How the community use open space

The phone survey also asked people what type of open space facilities they used. Public parks are the most frequently used open space with 84% of respondents visiting parks at least once every couple of weeks. 81% of respondents stated they never visit golf courses.



Summary of community consultation activities

The consultation was open from 9 November – 22 December 2020. Community members could provide feedback via a short online survey hosted on the Sydney Your Say website or via email or phone.

Quantity	Description of activity
10,299	Online surveys completed
72	Emailed submissions received from community members
9	Letters received from stakeholders
6	Community group representatives attended a briefing with the Lord Mayor
4	Pop-up information stalls (East Village Shopping Centre and Crystal Street Shops, Waterloo)
40,574	Flyers distributed to Surry Hills, Redfern, Waterloo, Zetland, Centennial Park, Beaconsfield, Rosebery, Alexandria, Paddington and Erskineville
19,859	Pageviews of the consultation webpage
44	Letters sent from the Lord Mayor and CEO to stakeholders

Key documents can be found in the appendices:

- Survey (appendix 1)
- Webpage content (appendix 2)
- Flyer (appendix 3)
- Social media (appendix 4)
- Stakeholder list who received Lord Mayor or CEO letter (appendix 5)
- Lord Mayor letter to stakeholders (appendix 6)
- CEO letter to stakeholders (appendix 7)

Written feedback

Emails and stakeholder letters

Submissions were received from the following stakeholders and can be found in appendix 8.

Strongly in support of retaining the 18-hole course:

- Stuart Fraser, CEO, Golf NSW
- James Sutherland, CEO, Golf Australia (via Stuart Fraser, Golf NSW)
- Gavin Kirkman, CEO, PGA of Australia (to Minister Stokes provided to the City of Sydney by Stuart Fraser)
- The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, Member for Parramatta (via Stuart Fraser, Golf NSW)
- The Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Industry and Trade, Member for Monaro.

Supporting the Government's current framework to create more parkland in Sydney and welcoming dialogue on the issue:

- Greg Woodhams, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Greater Sydney Commission
- Michael Rose AM Chairman, Greater Sydney Parklands
- Suellen Fitzgerald, CEO, Greater Sydney Parklands
- Ursula Gleeson, Parks and Leisure Australia (NSW/ACT)

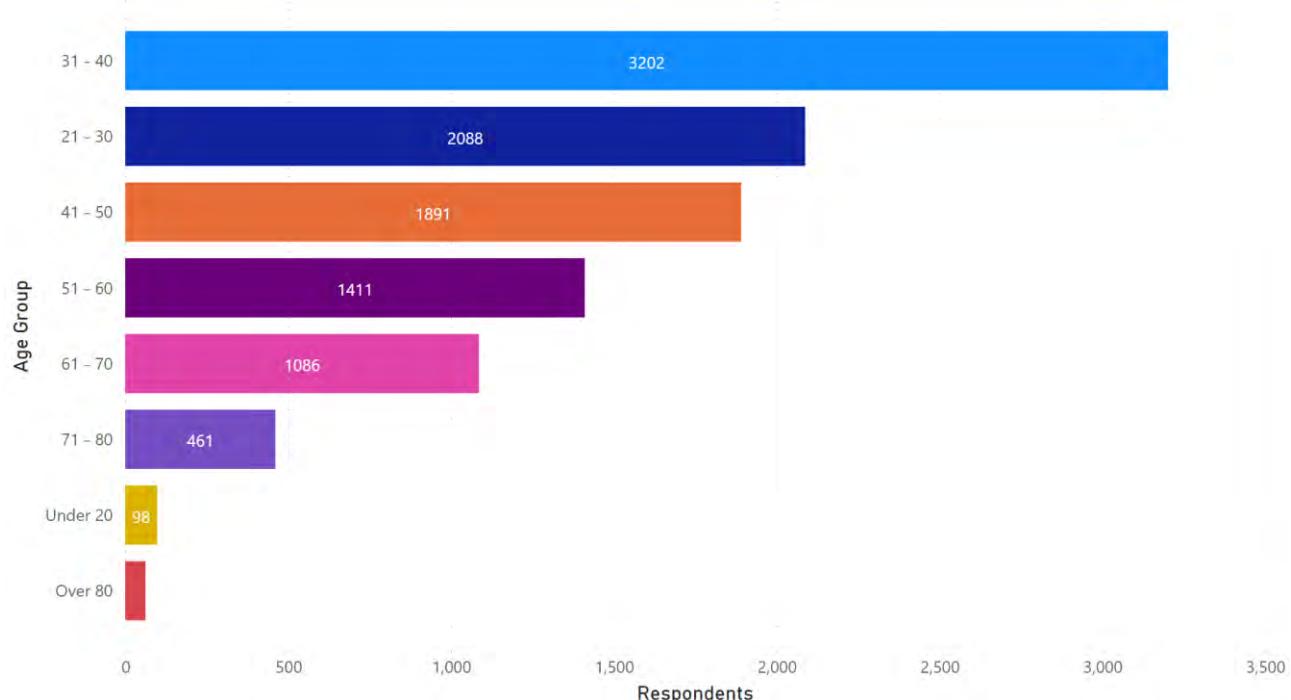
A total of 72 email submissions were received.

Number	Option supported	Reasons
42	Retain 18-hole golf course	A public course; a community asset; already large amounts of existing parkland nearby; well used by a range of community members; it's history; don't want to lose a championship course
16	Reconfigure to 9-holes and create public parkland	Need for more parkland in the area; provides greater community benefit; the area and population has changed
7	Convert all to public parkland	The golf course is not accessible to everyone; potential for a wide variety of uses eg food production
7	Other	Mostly questions about the proposal

Online survey results

Who participated in the survey?

Age breakdown



Respondent age (Moore Park Golf Course survey December 2020)

There was a good spread of ages captured in the survey sample although it was older than the City of Sydney community.

Age	Respondents	City of Sydney*
21 – 30	20%	32%
31 – 40	31%	16%
41 – 50	18%	12%
51 – 60	14%	9%

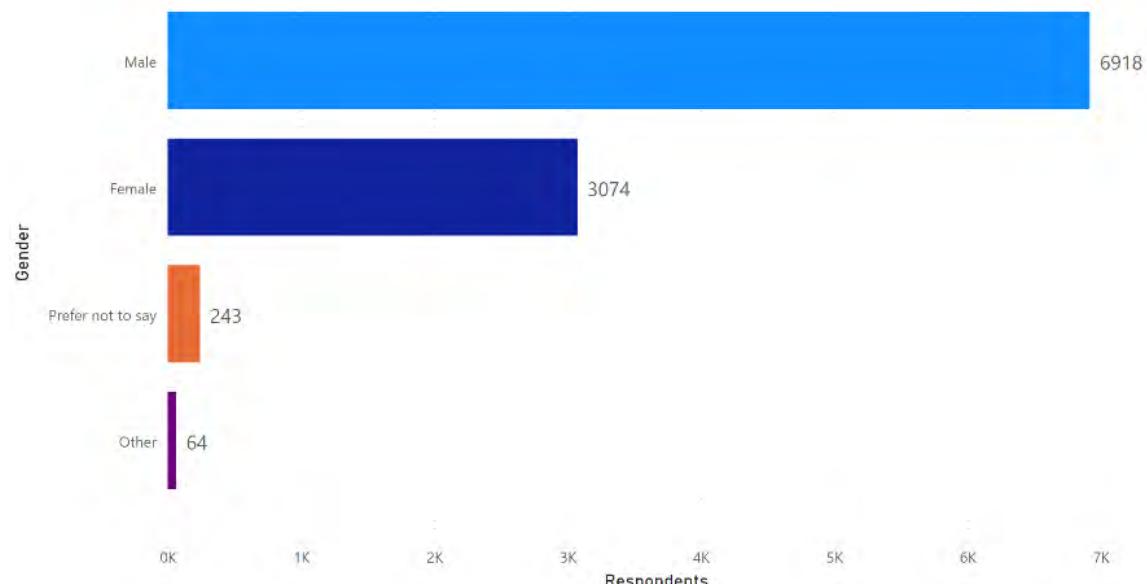
*ABS 2016 census

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Gender breakdown

More than twice as many men as women responded to the survey

- 67% men
- 30% women
- 3% other or preferred not to say

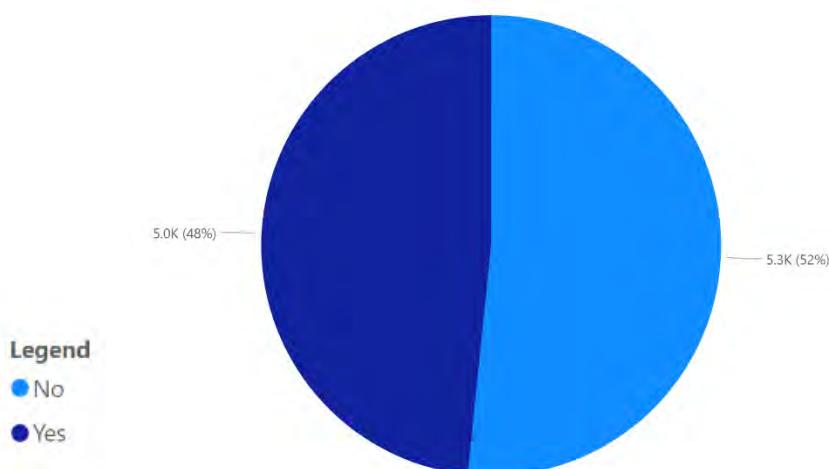


*Respondent identified gender
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)*

Moore Park Golf course users

There was almost a 50/50 split of those who use the golf course and those who don't.

- 48% of those responding had used the Moore Park Golf Course facilities in the past year
- 52% hadn't used the golf course

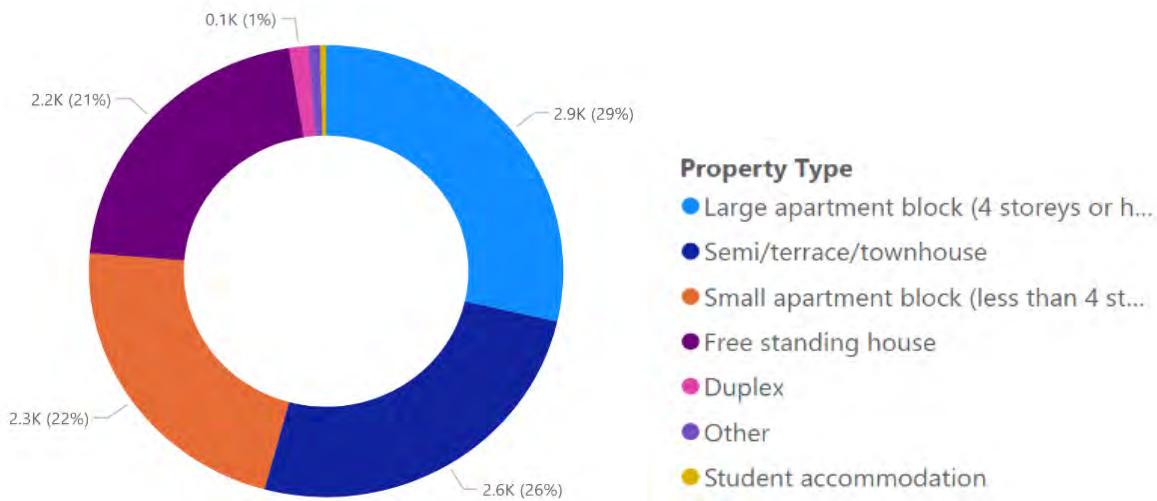


*Respondent use of Moore Park Golf Course
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)*

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Dwelling type

There was a good sample of respondents from different dwelling types. However, the categories of free-standing house or semi-detached/terraces/townhouses were over-represented compared to the housing types in this area of Sydney.



*Respondent dwelling type
(Moore Park Golf Club survey December 2020)*

Dwelling type	Survey	Zetland/Waterloo ⁺	5km radius of Moore Park*
Apartments (high density)	51%	88%	52%
Semis/terraces/townhouse/duplex (medium density)	27%	10.7%	26%
Free standing houses	21%	0.2%	22%

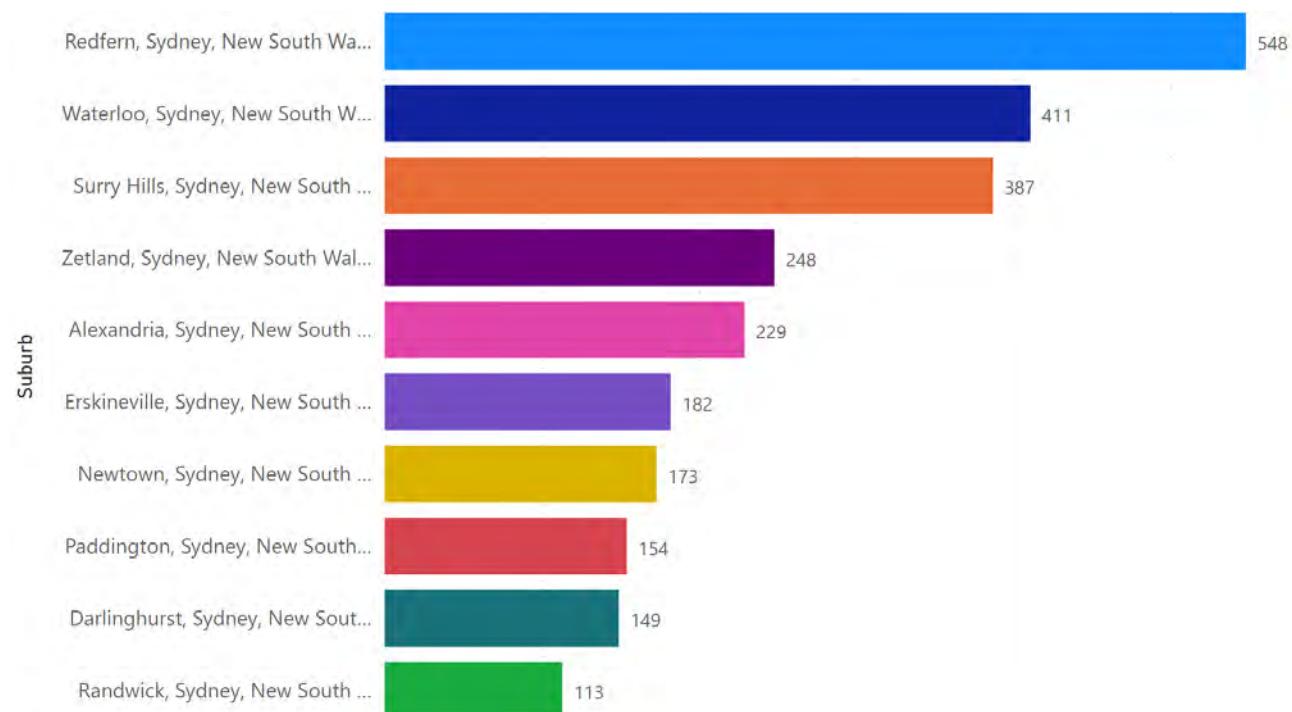
+ABS 2016 census

*ABS 2016 census (figure from phone survey report)

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Suburbs breakdown

Most responses came from people who live in suburbs close to the golf course. The graph below shows the top 10 suburbs we received responses from.

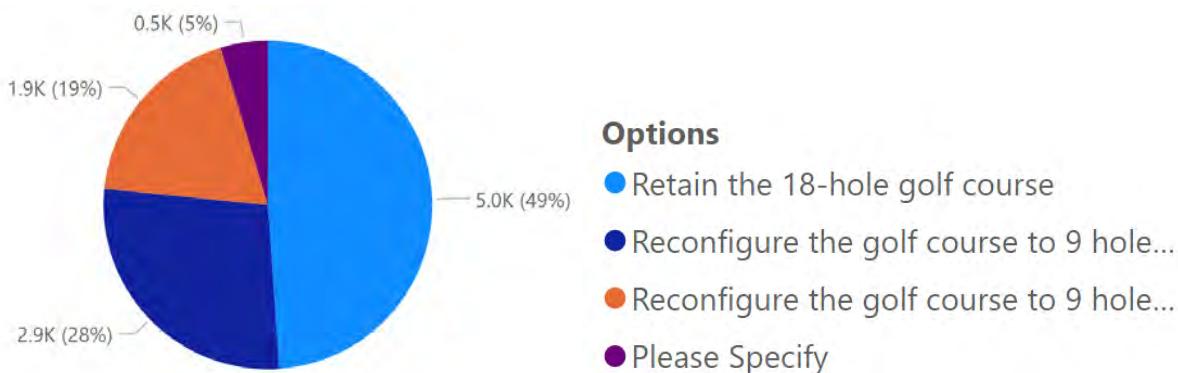


Suburb	% respondents	Number of respondents
Redfern	12%	548
Waterloo	9%	411
Surry Hills	8%	387
Zetland	5%	248
Alexandria	5%	229
Erskineville	4%	182
Newtown	4%	173
Paddington	3%	154
Darlinghurst	3%	149
Randwick	2%	113

Top line survey results

Preferred option

Which option for the future of Moore Park Golf Course do you most strongly support?



Options	Respondents
Retain the 18-hole golf course (option 3)	5036
Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 20ha of new parkland along the western edge of the golf course and south of Dacey Avenue (option 2)	2850
Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 18ha of new parkland along the western side of the golf course north of Dacey Avenue (option 1)	1934
Other (please specify)	479

Reasons for supporting options

Reasons given for retaining the 18-hole golf course focussed on the positive aspects of the facility and the sport in general, as well as the history of the Moore Park Golf Course. As a public course, respondents argued that it is more accessible than other courses.

Reasons given for creating more parkland included the importance of access to public parkland for a growing population. There were some comments for why a particular reconfiguration would work better.

Preference for more parkland compared with retaining the 18-hole course

Overall preference can be organised as support for creating more parkland or retaining the 18-hole golf course. This was evenly distributed.

	Responses	Percentage
More parkland	5147	50%
Retain the golf course	5047	49%
Other	105	1%

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

To achieve a measure of overall preference, the 479 respondents who selected “other” and described their alternative approach were analysed.

This data was coded and the breakdown (provided below) shows that 77 respondents supported reconfiguring the course to 9-holes but didn’t have a preference for which option, 267 supported converting the entire course to parkland and 16 supported keeping the driving range but converting the rest of the course to parkland. Suggestions from the majority of respondents coded as ‘other’ below (105) included ideas for shared use of the 18-hole golf course, alternative sporting facilities and other uses of the land.

11 responses clearly supported retaining the 18-hole course and were coded to option 3 (retaining the 18-hole course). 1 response was coded to option 1 and 2 responses were coded to option 2 as these were clearly in favour of these specific options for reconfiguring the course.

Options 1,2,4,5 and 6 as coded below were added to create a figure of overall preference for more parkland. Options 3 is those preferring to retain the 18-hole golf course.

Option Code	Count	%GT Count
Option 1	1935	18.79%
Option 2	2852	27.69%
Option 3	5047	49.00%
Option 4 Either 1 or 2	77	0.75%
Option 5 All parkland	267	2.59%
Option 6 All parkland but keep driving range	16	0.16%
Other	105	1.02%
Total	10299	100.00%

Demographic analysis of results

The following analysis uses the above data, broken down as follows:

- **More parkland** (all respondents who selected option 1, 2 and ‘other’ where they are specified approaches to create more parkland)
- **Retain golf course** (all respondents who support retaining the 18-hole golf course)
- **Other** (respondents who did not clearly indicate either of the above preferences or proposed another option altogether)

Preference by age

There was significantly more support for retaining the golf course among older respondents (61 years and over). The following table shows the comparison by age between those supporting options to create more parkland compared to those who want to retain the 18-hole course.

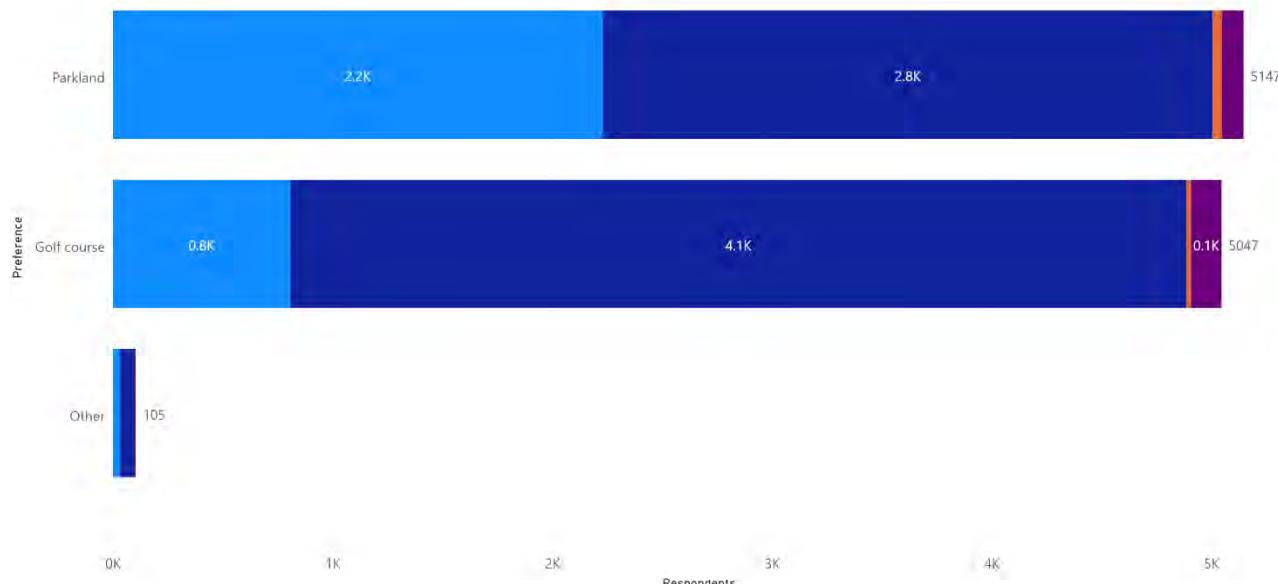
Option	Age							
	-20	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 70	71 - 80	+80
More parkland	57%	57%	56%	51%	44%	34%	29%	37%
Retain golf course	38%	42%	43%	48%	55%	65%	69%	61%

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Preference by gender

The graph below shows the difference in preference between parkland and retaining the course based on gender. Women were more than twice as likely as men to support a change to more parkland.

Gender ● Female ● Male ● Other ● Prefer not to say



Preference by gender
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)

Option	Women	Men
More parkland	73% (2.2k)	40% (2.8k)
Retain golf course	26% (0.8k)	59% (4.1k)

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

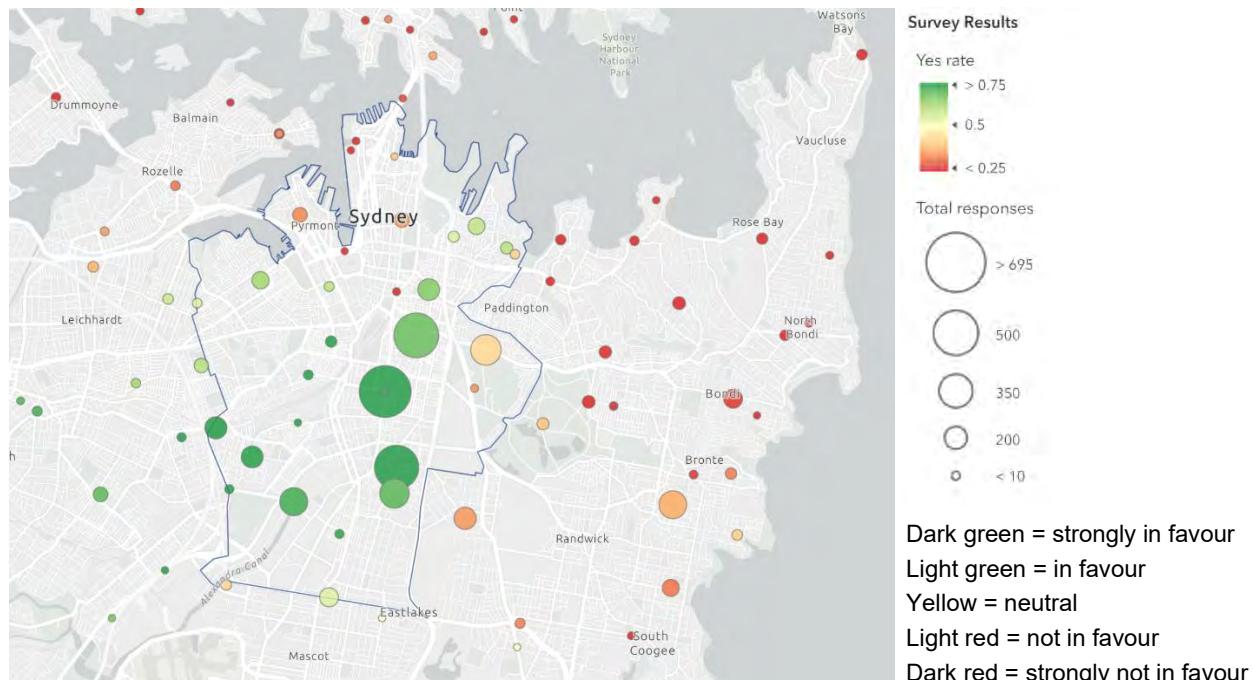
Preference by geographic location

The preference between parkland or retaining the course was strongly influenced by where people live.

The map shows that suburbs immediately to the west of the course strongly supported reconfiguring the course. Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern, Alexandria and Surry Hills all recorded over 70% support for more parkland.

Suburbs to the east including Kensington, Paddington and Randwick showed less support for reconfiguring the course (35-45%)

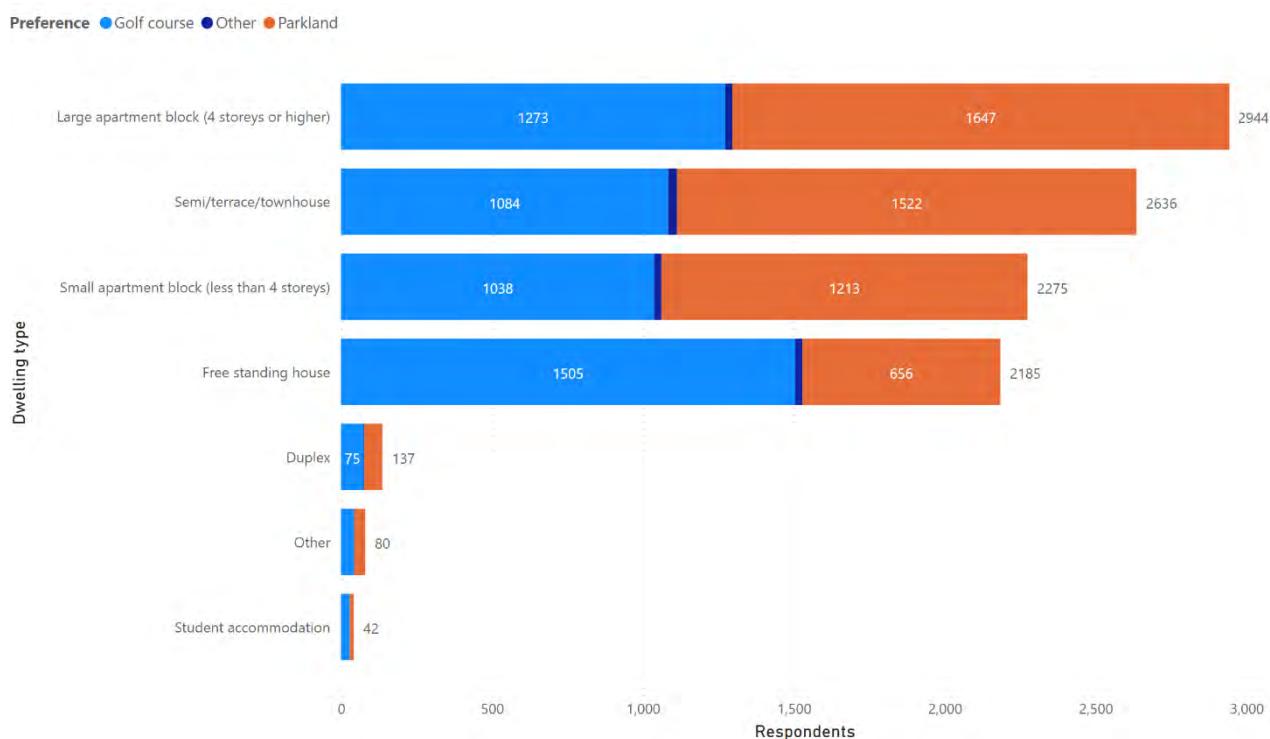
Responses were received in support of retaining the 18-hole course from the eastern suburbs and other parts of Sydney.



Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Preference by dwelling type

Respondents living in large apartments (over 4 storeys) were significantly more supportive of reconfiguring the course to create more parkland compared to people living in free standing houses.



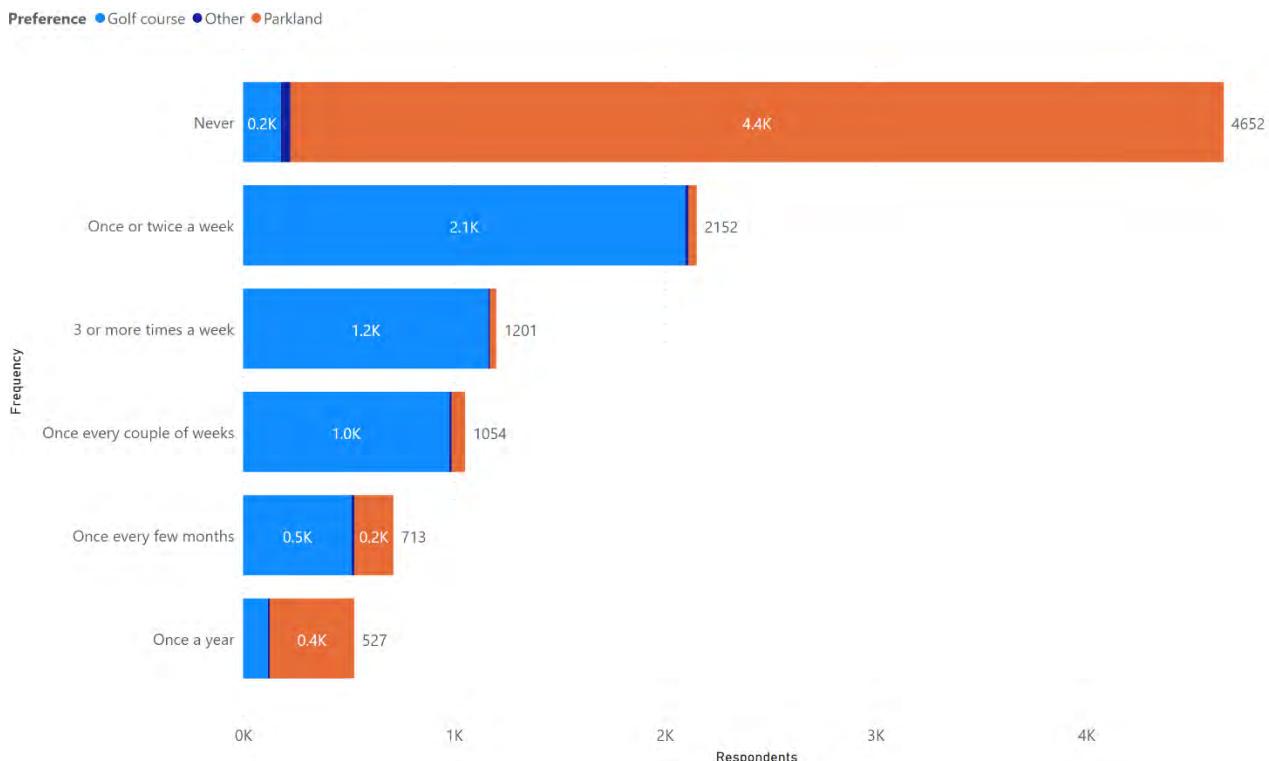
*Preference by respondents' dwelling type
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)*

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Preference by how frequently respondents visit golf courses

When asked how often respondents visit golf courses, 45% of respondents said they never visit golf courses and 43% said they use golf courses at least once every two weeks.

Regular users of golf courses were most strongly in support of retaining the 18-hole course. Respondents who use golf course facilities once a year or have never golfed were significantly more in favour of reconfiguring the golf course for more public parkland.

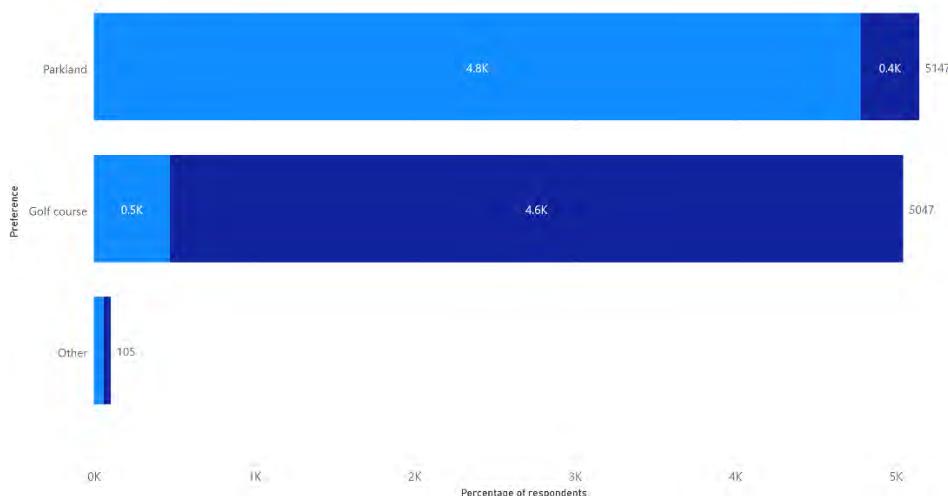


Preference by how frequently respondents visit golf course facilities

(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)

Respondents who have used Moore Park Golf Course in the past year are much more likely to support retaining the 18-hole golf course.

Have you visited in the last 12 months? ● No ● Yes



Preference by whether respondents have visited Moore Park Golf Course in the last year

(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)

Engagement and communications activities

Engagement activities

Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say [webpage](#) was created. The page included an electronic copy of the survey and other key information about the consultation.

Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

Sydney Your Say e-news

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say November and December 2020 e-newsletters (7,327 subscribers).

Flyer

A flyer was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 40,574 letters were distributed.

Lord Mayor community briefing

Attended by representatives of:

- Centennial Park Residents Association
- Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Working Group
- Paddington Society
- Saving Moore Park Inc
- Friends of Erskineville
- Waterloo Public Housing Action Group

Pop-up information stalls

Pop-up information stalls at East Village Shopping Centre (2) and Crystal Street Shops (2), Waterloo.

Letters to stakeholders

44 stakeholder letters from the Lord Mayor and CEO to stakeholders (including local Members of Parliament, Greater Sydney Parklands, Golf Australia, Golf NSW, Moore Park Golf Course and Parks and Leisure Australia. Letters and list of stakeholders can be found in the appendices)

Marketing and communications

The marketing campaign was live between 9 November to 22 December 2020 and ran across multiple digital platforms and channels only.

The campaigns objective was to drive traffic to the Sydney Your Say webpage in order to generate submissions to the feedback form (hosted on Survey Monkey). Paid social ads on Facebook and Instagram as well as display and native advertising were used to drive traffic to the consultation webpage:

- 19,859 pageviews of the Sydney Your Say webpage
- 7,569 conversions to the SurveyMonkey Online Feedback form
- Social channels were the main driver of traffic to the Sydney Your Say webpage (55%) and clickthrough's to the SurveyMonkey Online Feedback form (64%)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – online survey

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

*** 1. Which option for the future of the Moore Park Golf Course do you most strongly support?**

Option 1 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 18ha of new parkland on the western side of the golf course north of Dacey Avenue

Option 2 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 20ha of new parkland along the western edge of the golf course and south of Dacey Avenue

Option 3 - Retain the 18-hole golf course

Other (please specify) _____

2. Why do you support this option?

*** 3. How often do you visit or use open space and recreation facilities?**

	3 or more times a week	Once or twice a week	Once every couple of weeks	Once every few months	Once a year	Never
Public parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports grounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aquatic facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/cycling tracks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

*** 4. Have you played golf or used the facilities at Moore Park Golf Course in the last 12 months?**

- Yes
- No

*** 5. Which suburb do you live in?**

*** 6. What type of property do you live in?**

- Free standing house
- Semi/terrace/townhouse
- Duplex
- Small apartment block (less than 4 storeys)
- Large apartment block (4 storeys or higher)
- Student accommodation
- Other (please specify)

*** 7. Which age group are you in?**

- Under 20
- 21 - 30
- 31 - 40
- 41 - 50
- 51 - 60
- 61 - 70
- 71 - 80
- Over 80

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

*** 8. What is your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

9. If you would like updates on this project please provide your contact information.

Name

Postcode

Email Address

*** 10. Feedback may be published in publicly available reports at the end of the consultation period. Do you give permission for your name or organisation's name to appear in these reports, with your feedback attributed? We will not publish your email address.**

- Yes
- No

The contact information will be held by the City of Sydney and not shared with any third parties, in line with the City's [Privacy Management Plan](#).

Privacy and personal information protection notice

Purpose: Collect community feedback on Moore Park Golf Course public parkland

Recipients: City of Sydney staff/contractors.

Supply: Voluntary.

Access/Correction: City of Sydney, 456 Kent St, Sydney, 9265 9333.

Storage: Council's record management system in line with our [privacy management plan](#). Responses are stored temporarily on a third-party service called SurveyMonkey ([terms of use](#) and [privacy policy](#)).

Appendix 2 – webpage

Available to view here:

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision-setting/creating-more-public-parkland-reconfiguring-moore-park-golf-course

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Appendix 3 – flyer

The City proposes reclaiming part of the Moore Park Golf Course for public parkland

Dear Resident,

The City of Sydney is proposing that the Moore Park Golf Course which occupies 45 ha of public land be reduced from 18 holes to 9. This could return 18 to 20 ha of land to Moore Park for public recreation, critically needed now and for future communities.

Moore Park is part of the Governor Macquarie's far sighted 1811 Survey of the Sydney Common for the benefit of the people of Sydney. Successive decades have seen parkland lost to development.

This progressive shrinking of public parkland has occurred at the same time as the dramatic increase in surrounding population densities. If you support our proposal, please contact the Minister for Planning & Public Spaces.

Regards,
Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

Action the City has taken

The City's proposal has been presented by the Lord Mayor to the Hon Rob Stokes, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, to the newly created Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) and to the Commissioners for Crown Lands. In response, the Minister has asked the Greater Sydney Parklands to consider our proposal. Following the GSP's advice, and your response, he will make the decision.

Please take action

If you support the proposal for increased parkland:

- Contact the Minister for Planning and Public spaces at: bitly/contact-minister
- And let the City know your opinion at: sydneyoursay.com.au

More parkland for people

Putting our public land to its best use

CITY OF SYDNEY

The City's Proposal

- Land use around Moore Park has changed**
Former industrial uses have been replaced with medium to high rise apartment complexes.
- Our proposal is about highest and best use**
The Moore Park Golf Course was located on public land in 1913, at a time when the surrounding area was largely industrial with a low residential population. The dramatic demographic change in the area warrants a revaluation of the best use of the public land occupied by the Golf Club.
- The pressure of population increases in the area**
By 2040 there will be up to 90,000 people living within 2 kms of Moore Park in Green Square and the Reffern and Waterloo housing estates, where the State Government plans to increase the density.
- Land is needed for recreation**
There is a critical need for additional space for public recreation for this increasing population. The City is working with developers to create 40 new parks and playgrounds in Green Square, but these do not provide the same recreational opportunity as open parkland.
- The limited land options in the inner city**
In built up inner city areas where land is so expensive we need to re-evaluate the highest and best use of existing land uses.
- And there are alternatives for golfers**
There are 12 other golf courses in the inner city and eastern Sydney area.

Option 1
18 ha added to public parkland

Option 2
20 ha added to public parkland

This option consolidates significant additional parkland adjacent to areas of high-density housing in Redfern/Waterloo. There are already bridges across South Dowling Street to Moore Park, and there is an opportunity for a further walkway to link with Waterloo/Green Square. Both options improve access around this important parkland, with minimal disruption to the golfing activities.

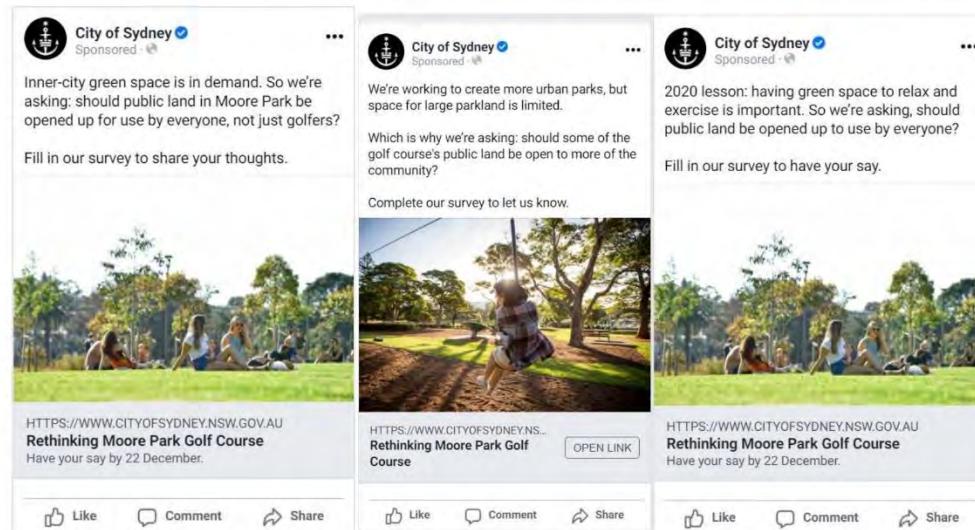
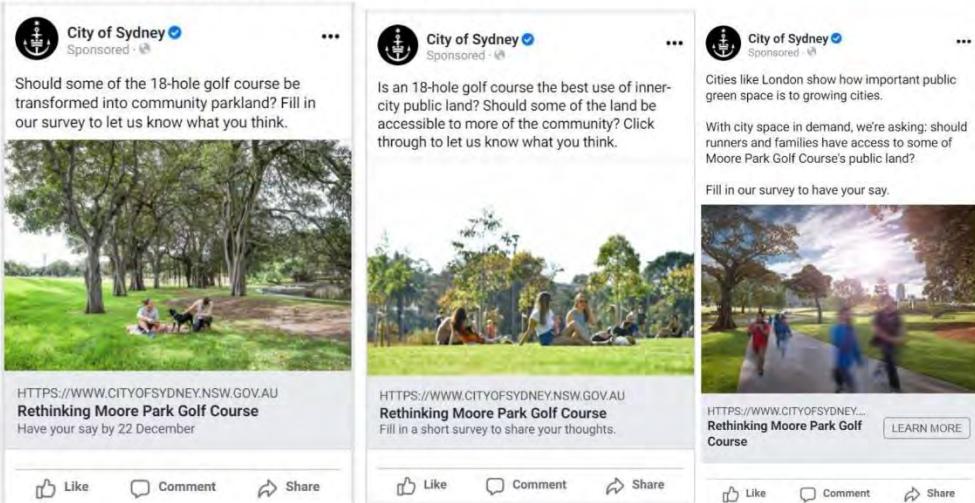
This option restores the area of public land appropriated when the original 9 hole Moore Park Golf Course was expanded to an 18 hole course in 1922. The parkland is located south of Dacey Avenue, but is not as viable to the high growth areas to the west because of the Supercentre and possible future development.

146mm 148mm 148mm 146mm

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Appendix 4 – social media

Digital advertising – Moore Park Golf Course



Appendix 5 – stakeholder list who received the Lord Mayor or CEO letter

Stakeholder	Role	Organisation
Mr Jeff Angel	Executive Director	Total Environment Centre
Professor Richard Bush	NSW Crown Lands Commissioner	
The Hon. Bob Carr	Industry Professor, Institute for Sustainable Futures	University of Technology Sydney
Professor Kerry Clare	Director	Clare Design
Associate Professor Hazel Easthope	UNSW Scientia Fellow, City Futures Research Centre	UNSW Sydney
The Hon. John Faulkner		
Ms Suellen Fitzgerald	Chief Executive	Greater Sydney Parklands
Mr Peter Fitzsimons	Sydney Morning Herald	
Mr Stuart Fraser	CEO	Golf NSW
Ms Abbie Galvin	Executive Director	Government Architect NSW
Mr Chris Gambion	CEO	Nature Conservation Council
The Hon. Peter Garrett AM		
Ms Ursula Gleeson	CEO	Parks and Leisure Australia
Mr Alex Greenwich, MP	Member for Sydney	Parliament of NSW
Ms Emma Herd	Environment Commissioner	Greater Sydney Commission
Mr Ron Hoenig, MP	Member for Heffron	Parliament of NSW
Mr Richard Johnson	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Mr John Kitney	President	Moore Park Golf Course
Ms Jenny Leong, MP	Member for Newtown	Parliament of NSW
Dr Edgar Liu	Adjunct Senior Research Fellow	Built Environment, UNSW Sydney
Mr Brendon Logan	Director, Projects and Engagement	Office of the Crown Land Commissioner
Ms Kathryn Loseby	President, NSW chapter	Australian Institute of Architects
Professor Ken Maher	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Professor Elizabeth Mossop	Dean, Faculty of Design Architecture and Building	University of Technology Sydney
Mr Peter Mould	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Professor Rachel Neeson	Professor of Practice, UNSW Built Environment	UNSW Australia
Professor Joel Negin	Professor and Head of School, Sydney School of Public Health	University of Sydney
Ms Helen O'Loughlin	Special Commissioner	Greater Sydney Commission
Dr Marjorie O'Neill, MP	Member for Coogee	Parliament of NSW
The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP	Member for Sydney, NSW	Parliament of Australia
Professor Bill Randolph	Director, City Futures	City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

**Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course**

Mr Michael Rose AM	Chair	Greater Sydney Parklands
Mr Nicholas Ross	Centennial Park Residents Association	
Dr Neil Runcie	President, Save the Parks Campaign	
Professor David Schlosberg	Director, Sydney Environment Institute	University of Sydney
Mr Dave Sharma, MP	Member for Wentworth, NSW	Parliament of Australia
Professor Marc Steers	Director, Sydney Policy Lab	University of Sydney
Mr James Sutherland	CEO	Golf Australia
Professor Susan Thompson	Professor, UNSW Built Environment	UNSW Australia
The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP		
Che Wall	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Mr Shaun Walsh	President	Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)
Mr Michael Waterhouse	President	Saving Moore Park Inc
Professor James Weirick	Director, Urban Development and Design	UNSW Australia

Appendix 6 – Lord Mayor letter to stakeholders



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

20 November 2020

Moore Park Golf Course Proposal – putting our public land to its best use

At our October meeting, the City of Sydney Council resolved to support my Lord Mayoral Minute about creating more space for people in a post Covid-19 city.

We are now seeking your views about creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park golf course from an 18-hole to a 9-hole facility.

A Changing City

When space at Moore Park was allocated for a golf course in 1913, the surrounding land was predominantly industrial. This public land is part of the original Governor Macquarie 1811 Sydney Common bequest for the benefit of the people of Sydney. Moore Park now neighbours the Green Square urban renewal area, the densest residential area in Australia. Nearby communities continue to grow. By 2040, there will be up to 90,000 additional people living in Zetland, Redfern and Waterloo within 2km of Moore Park.

The City is creating forty urban parks and playgrounds as part of its urban renewal of Green Square. However, small parks do not provide the opportunity to stride out, de-stress and recharge, or commune with nature for the people nearby who live in high-density apartments. They need large green spaces for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Within a 10km radius of Moore Park there are twelve 18-hole golf courses, including six that are publicly accessible to the general public.

Reconfiguring and increasing public access to Moore Park golf course could deliver up to 20 hectares of new public parkland, providing more equitable access to a significant open space and responding to the needs of this growing community.

Our Proposals

We have developed two potential options to create new parkland:

- Option 1 – approximately 18 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland

This option consolidates significant additional parkland adjacent to areas of high-density housing in Redfern/Waterloo. There are already bridges across South Dowling Street to Moore Park, and there is an opportunity for a further bridge to link with Waterloo/Green Square.

Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Phone 02 9265 9229 Fax 02 9265 9328 cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
© 2020 City of Sydney - Moore Park Golf Course Reconfiguration

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

2

- Option 2 – approximately 20 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland:

This option restores the area of public land appropriated when the original 9-hole Moore Park golf course was expanded to an 18-hole course in 1922. The parkland is located south of Dacey Avenue, but is not as visible to the high growth areas to the west because of the Supa Centa and possible future development.



Both options are fair proposals as the club would retain the larger area of land, its clubhouse, maintenance depots, parking and the popular driving range. These proposals include space for new public paths around the perimeter of the course, as proposed in the Moore Park Master Plan.

Consultation

A preliminary survey was conducted by the City with 400 randomly selected residents who live within a 5km radius of the golf course. That early feedback told us that 77 per cent of respondents supported reducing the size of the golf course to increase public parkland. Given this indication of support, the City felt it appropriate to seek the views of the wider community.

As cities grow and change, many Councils are now reviewing how to meet their community's needs for open space. The importance of public parkland has been even more dramatically highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The consultation will be open until 22 December 2020 on sydneyoursay.com.au. For more information, visit city.sydney/moore-park-golf-course.

Your contribution to this important consultation is appreciated. We will provide the outcome of consultation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces who will make the final decision.

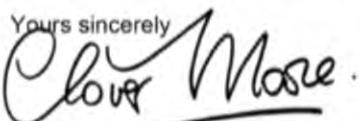
Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

3

I hope that this process will encourage an important public debate about how we put our valuable public parklands to best use for the community.

If you would like a briefing or to speak with a Council officer about this proposal, you can contact Laurence Johnson, Program Manager - Public Domain Strategy, on 9265 9333 or at ljohnson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, you can contact my Policy Advisor, Maria O'Donnell, on 9265 9229 or at modonnell@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

Appendix 7 – CEO letter to stakeholders



City of Sydney
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

+61 2 9265 9333
council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 1591 Sydney NSW 2001
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Moore Park Golf Course Proposal

At its October meeting, the City of Sydney Council resolved to support a Lord Mayoral Minute about creating more space for people in a post Covid-19 city.

We are now seeking your views about creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course from an 18-hole to a 9-hole facility.

A Changing City

When space at Moore Park was allocated for a golf course in 1913, the surrounding land was predominantly industrial. This public land is part of the original Governor Macquarie 1811 Sydney Common bequest for the benefit of the people of Sydney. Moore Park now neighbours the Green Square urban renewal area, the densest residential area in Australia. Nearby communities continue to grow. By 2040, there will be up to 90,000 additional people living in Zetland, Redfern and Waterloo, within 2km of Moore Park.

The City is creating forty urban parks and playgrounds as part of its urban renewal of Green Square. However, small parks do not provide the opportunity to stride out, de-stress and recharge, or commune with nature for the people nearby who live in high-density apartments. They need large green spaces for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Within a 10km radius of Moore Park there are twelve 18-hole golf courses, including six that are accessible to the general public.

Reconfiguring and increasing public access to Moore Park Golf Course could deliver up to 20 hectares of new public parkland, providing more equitable access to a significant open space and responding to the needs of this growing community.

Our Proposals

We have developed two potential options to create new parkland:

- Option 1 – approximately 18 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland

This option consolidates significant additional parkland adjacent to areas of high-density housing in Redfern/Waterloo. There are already bridges across South Dowling Street to Moore Park, and there is an opportunity for a further bridge to link with Waterloo/Green Square.

- Option 2 – approximately 20 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland

This option restores the area of public land appropriated when the original 9-hole Moore Park Golf Course was expanded to an 18-hole course in 1922. The parkland is located south of Dacey Avenue, but is not as visible to the high-growth areas to the west because of the Supa Centa and possible future development.



Option One



Option Two

Both options are fair proposals as the club would retain the larger area of land, its clubhouse, maintenance depots, parking and the popular driving range. These proposals include space for new public paths around the perimeter of the course, as proposed in the Moore Park Master Plan.

Consultation

A preliminary survey was conducted by the City with 400 randomly selected residents who live within a 5km radius of the golf course. That early feedback told us that 77 per cent of respondents supported reducing the size of the golf course to increase public parkland. Given this indication of support, the City felt it appropriate to seek the views of the wider community.

As cities grow and change, many Councils are now reviewing how to meet their community's needs for open space. The importance of public parkland has been even more dramatically highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**The consultation will be open until 22 December 2020 on sydneyoursay.com.au.
For more information, visit city.sydney/moore-park-golf-course.**

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

3

Your contribution to this important consultation is appreciated. We will provide the outcome of consultation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, who will make the final decision.

I hope that this process will encourage public debate about how we put our valuable public parklands to best use for the community.

Yours sincerely,

P. M. Barone

Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 8 – responses from stakeholders



8 December 2020

Councillor Clover Moore
Lord Mayor
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Document Services
10 DEC 2020
City of Sydney

Dear Lord Mayor,

Subject: City of Sydney Council Proposal to Reduce the Size of Moore Park Golf Course

I am writing to you to express Golf NSW' opposition to a proposal by the City of Sydney Council to reduce the size of Moore Park Golf Course.

On 26 of October 2020 I note the successful passing of the "Lord Mayoral Minute' to undertake a community consultation process for a proposal to reduce the size of Moore Park Golf Course from an 18 hole to 9 hole facility.

<https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/documents/s46767/Moore%20Park%20Golf%20Course%20Proposal.pdf>

It is disappointing that information you provided to Council prior to them considering the Minute in many references was inaccurate.

"Today 31 million people visit Centennial Parklands while just 60,000 rounds of golf are played on the Moore Park Golf Course each year".

Current estimates are that 90,000 rounds of golf will be played on the Moore Park Golf Course in 2020, a 50% increase on 2019.

On a side note, it is also estimated there will be 250,000 visitations to the practice facility/driving range in 2020, a 56% increase from the previous year.

"Moore Park Golf Course should no longer be fenced off for the benefit of just one group".

Moore Park is one of the least 'fenced off' golf courses in Sydney, with the course accessible to the public at many locations, and at any given time or day there is a multitude of community accessing the course for dog walking and exercise/recreational purposes.

More than ever the physical and mental health benefits of golf have been evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen an unprecedented increase in the demand for golf.

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



If the Moore Park Golf Course was reduced to 9 holes, it would simply not be able to cope with demand, especially when you consider that the majority of golfer's playing at the facility do so in a social capacity (are not club members).

The catalyst for this proposal is also hard to understand when considerable time, resources, and funding was committed to the Centennial Parklands Master Plan 2040, which clearly maintains the golf course as an 18 hole facility until at least 2040.

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about-us/planning/centennial-park-master-plan-2040>

With the Centennial and Moore Park precincts constituting 360 hectares of parklands, the golf course comprises just 45 hectares (12.5%) of the total green open space available. This would suggest there is ample space outside of the golf course to accommodate future increases in the recreational demand for housing/commercial density.

The City of Sydney Council are not the first Council to review the size and use of public golf course land, and it may be prudent for your Council to harvest some of the learnings from recent positive outcomes such as Marrickville Golf Club (Inner West Council). In this instance a sensible and amicable outcome was achieved for golf, whilst encouraging additional recreational usage of the land.

The high level of public interest in this matter has prompted the NSW Government to support Golf NSW in its endeavours to oppose the proposal, evidenced in this instance by the attached letter of support from the Minister for Sport (Acting).

The NSW Deputy Premier has also provided Golf NSW with a copy of correspondence he sent directly to your office (attached) strongly opposing the proposal.

I have also attached letters of support from Golf Australia and the Professional Golfers Association of Australia, with both organisations testifying to the importance and significance of maintaining Moore Park as an 18 hole championship golfing facility.

I can only hope through this consultative process that the City of Sydney Council get a true community feel for the support in maintaining this historic golfing facility as an 18 hole golf course.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Fraser". It is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Stuart Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Golf NSW

cc City of Sydney Councillors

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



17 November 2020

Stuart Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Golf NSW
1A Duncan Street
ARNCLIFFE NSW 2205

Dear Stuart,

On behalf of Golf Australia, I write in support of the retention of 18 holes at the Moore Park Public Golf Course.

Golf Australia is extremely disappointed in the outcome of the recent Sydney City Council vote on the future of Moore Park Golf Course. The Moore Park Golf Course is one of the jewels in the crown of Australian golf. It has been an entry point to the game and an asset to golfers and the Sydney community for generations.

Successful public golf courses are crucial for both the growth and the future of golf in Australia. Whilst traditional and competition golf remain popular with regular participants, it's becoming increasingly clear that recreational and social forms of the game are on the rise. These offers are attractive to younger, often time-poor participants who are keen to have a hit but are unable to afford joining a private club. Enter the public golf course. Many of Australia's best golfers have cut their teeth on a public golf course and there is no doubt that there are many of golf's future champions practising their swing at public facilities around the state.

To the Australian economy, golf contributes \$3.5 billion per year, and brings health benefits to Australia worth around \$132 million, helping to alleviate heart disease, type 2 diabetes and mental health issues.

Golf contributes \$527 million of economic benefit to the Sydney Metropolitan Area each year and is a major driver of physical and mental health outcomes to the community, of critical importance in these extraordinary times.

Moore Park is host to more than 59,000 rounds annually, and in this year alone round figures have reached over 90,000 thanks to the game's popularity boom during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Moore Park Golf Course has an incredibly strong history of inclusion and introduction. The facility has long been renowned for growing first hitters into lifelong golfers, delivering over 21,000 lessons per year, and transitioning these golfers from the driving range to the golf course.

On behalf of Golf Australia, I congratulate Golf NSW on your hard work to ensure that 18 holes are retained at one of the world's busiest public golf courses.

There is no doubt that the retention of this facility will not only continue to benefit both golfers and the surrounding local community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sutherland".

JAMES SUTHERLAND
Chief Executive Officer

Level 2, 111 Coventry Street, South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia
Telephone 03 9626 5000 Facsimile 03 9626 5095 Website www.golf.org.au
Reg No. A0048256Z ARBN 118 151 894 ABN 54 118 151 894

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



18 November, 2020

The Hon. Robert Stokes MP
NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
1725 Pittwater Road
MONA VALE NSW 2103

Via email - pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Moore Park Golf Course

The PGA of Australia (PGA) is the peak professional golf body in Australia and as the CEO I am writing to you to support Golf NSW with their submission in opposing the push to downsize one of Australia's busiest and recognised golf courses, Moore Park Golf Course from 18 holes to 9 holes.

Moore Park Golf Course benefits the local community in improving physical and mental health for both women and men, children being active, the senior community being engaged plus an ideal facility for families coming together.

Moore Park Golf Course is a unique innovative golf complex with a Championship golf course and is highly accessible to the general public and in close proximity to the CBD. It has a rich history and has held professional golf tournaments including the NSW Open in 2006 and 1963. Moore Park Golf is complimented by a state of the art practice range and provides coaching and game development for everyone, making it one of the best facilities in Australia.

The PGA of Australia is fully supportive of the Golf NSW submission and opposes the downsizing of this great golf course and community facility.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Kirkman
CEO
PGA of Australia

PGA NATIONAL OFFICE

600 Thompson Road, Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia 3977 | P: +61 3 8320 1911 | F: +61 3 9783 0000 | ABN 46 127 641 829

www.pga.org.au

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education
Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

CRML20/887

Mr Stuart Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Golf NSW
PO Box 195
ARNCLIFFE NSW 2205

Dear Mr Fraser

I refer to your recent request for a letter of support to maintain the Moore Park Golf course as an 18-hole golfing facility.

Moore Park Golf Course is the State's first public access golf course and the closest public access golf course to the Sydney Central Business District. The 18-hole championship golf course, 60 bay driving range facility and Sydney Golf Academy play an important role in supporting the growth of golf participation from grassroots to elite.

The Moore Park Master Plan 2040 identifies the need for Moore Park Golf Course to maintain its championship length and training facility for future golfers.

The Master Plan also aims to create a more serene environment by improving the integration of the golf course and broader Moore Park precinct, responding to future golf trends by incorporating appropriate new golfing activities in the Moore Park Golf precinct.

I acknowledge there may be opportunities to improve the golf course whilst facilitating improved public access to public parkland, and recognise the important role an 18-hole golf course so close to the Sydney CBD plays in providing community access to sport.

Maintaining the 18-hole championship golf course will deliver on the Moore Park Master Plan 2040 which will ensure the Moore Park Golf Course continues to benefit the golfing and broader Sydney community, and contributes to Australia maintaining its status as one of the world's most desirable golf destination.

I am pleased to support Golf NSW submission to the City of Sydney Council and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Lee
The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education
Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

19 NOV 2020

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Industry and Trade

Ms Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
483 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Lord Mayor *Clover*

I write to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any move to reduce the popular Moore Park public golfing facility from its current configuration of 18 holes to just 9.

I have recently been contacted on this issue by a number of industry participants and sporting and recreational stakeholders.

The NSW Department of Planning notes Moore Park is the country's third most-used public golf course, and during consultation on the Moore Park masterplan in 2017, there was strong local support to retain the course as it is.

The club can hardly be described as elitist, given it has a thriving membership base, drawn from many parts of Sydney, coupled with casual rounds of golf from members of the public each year.

The driving range facility also attracts enthusiasts, beginners and casual golfers from across large parts of Sydney, only adding to the course's popularity and appeal – in many other major cities around the world, Moore Park Golf Club would be treasured as a jewel in the crown, and not treated as some soft target for additional green space.

That green space is already used by many people, including dog walkers, early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

I find it more than intriguing that this proposal has been dusted off in the shadows of next year's City of Sydney Local Government elections.

When you also consider existing areas of green space in the immediate vicinity, such as Moore Park, Centennial Park and Sydney Park to name but a few, this attack on Moore Park Golf Club seems more about flexing council's muscle than it is about additional green space.

An 18 hole golf course, open to the public, on the doorstep of the Sydney CBD, is precisely the sort of green space we should be protecting for future generations, not chopping it in half.

The proposal is short-sighted and a knee-jerk reaction to a sharp rise in residential development that you and some members of your council have championed.

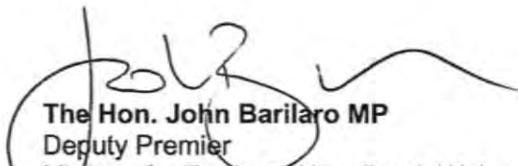
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 • P: (02) 8574 5150 • F: (02) 9339 5558 • W: nsw.gov.au/deputyPremier

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

The financial viability of Moore Park golf course would be destroyed if it's reduced to nine holes, and that financial return helps make an important contribution to the upkeep and maintenance of surrounding parklands, such as those I have mentioned earlier.

I implore you and Sydney City Council to keep your hands off Moore Park Golf Club.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Industry and Trade

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



Ref: 20/13166

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
City of Sydney
Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Lord Mayor,

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2020 to Commissioners regarding your consultation on the proposal to convert part of Moore Park Golf Course into public open space. I understand the intent of the proposal is to ensure the growing population of Green Square will have access to larger open space and recreational areas. Commissioners have asked that I answer on their behalf.

As the recent Covid conditions have made apparent, the ability to walk to larger open spaces for both passive and active recreation is important for both physical and mental health and well-being. The Eastern City District Plan's Planning Priority E 18 - Delivering High Quality Open space - notes that there is a need for high quality open space within close proximity to high density neighbourhoods [such as Green Square and Redfern/Waterloo] and that the space needs to be durable, multi-purpose and accessible to a variety of users. Key considerations are the quality, quantity and distribution of open space

The District Plan also notes 'That the future of some larger spaces used for activities such as golf may be uncertain due to declining membership and attendance figures'. Further, 'that any facilities in public ownership should be retained as open space and transitioned to shared open space and facilities, including for organised sports and that the District's Golf courses may offer an opportunity to contribute to additional open space but this will require further investigation and effective collaboration'.

I commend the Council's approach to seek input from the wider community and urge you to continue to collaborate closely with the Centennial and Moore Park Trust. The Trust are major stakeholders in the future of the Moore Park Golf Course and the administrators of the Golf club should explore options available that both recognise the popularity of the golf course and, where appropriate, enable increased public access to open space.

I look forward to reading your final report when it is submitted to the Minister for Planning and Public spaces.

If you require any further information, please contact me at the Commission

Yours sincerely

Greg Woodhams
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



Greater Sydney
Parklands

22 December 2020

Lord Mayor, Clover Moore
City of Sydney

Dear Lord Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November 2020 seeking the views of the Greater Sydney Parklands Board and the Chief Executive on the City of Sydney's proposals for the reconfiguration of the Moore Park Golf Course.

Unfortunately, we received your letters after the last GSP Board meeting for the year and the Board has not yet had an opportunity to discuss the City's proposals in detail. This means that I am not in a position to share the Board's views with you before the public consultation survey closes. However, Board members are aware of the proposals and have had an opportunity to tour the golf course in order to understand them better and to consider other possible ways to provide better access to public open space.

You will be aware from his recent announcement that Minister Stokes has asked the GSP Board to consider options to provide better public access to open space while retaining the 18-hole golf course. The Board will consider these options and the City of Sydney's proposals at a meeting early in the new year. We will then be in a position to discuss our responses with you.

Greater Sydney Parklands, as a champion for the 50 year vision for Sydney's open space and parklands, recognises that meeting the community's diverse needs for open space is central to achieving equitable access to parklands.

We appreciate the time you and your colleagues have taken to explain the City's proposals and look forward to working with you in the new year to achieve our shared goal of increasing the community's access to parklands and to realise the vision for a network of parks across Sydney.

Yours sincerely

Michael Rose AM
Chairman
Greater Sydney Parklands

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



Greater Sydney
Parklands

22 December 2020

Ms Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney

Dear Ms Barone

Thank you for your letter seeking our contribution to your survey on the City's options to reconfigure the Moore Park Golf Course and proposing we meet in the new year to discuss the community's access to open space. I note your survey closes 22 December and will be keen to hear the outcome.

In the meantime, you will be aware from Minister Stokes' recent announcement that he has asked the Greater Sydney Parklands Board to consider options to provide better public access to open space while retaining the 18 hole golf course and the Board will consider these options at a meeting early in the new year.

The Greater Sydney Parklands, as a champion for the 50 year vision for Sydney's open space and parklands, recognises that meeting the community's diverse needs for open space is central to achieving equitable access to parklands.

We look forward to working with the City of Sydney in the new year to achieve our shared goal of increasing the community's access to parklands and finding a regional approach to balancing active sports areas and golf courses with passive recreation parklands. With this objective in mind I suggest that we establish regular high-level meetings between ourselves and our teams and will ask my office to coordinate potential times in 2021.

Our meeting would also provide an opportunity to brief you on our proposal for a multi-agency investigation of an integrated and precinct level approach to traffic and access planning at Moore Park to improve event access and allow for embellishment of Moore Park East for passive recreation and community sports.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact me and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

Yours sincerely

Suellen Fitzgerald
Chief Executive
Greater Sydney Parklands

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: 2020/519032

Moore Park Golf Course Proposal

Dear Ms Barone,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2020, and the opportunity to discuss public open space needs, particularly for those within the City of Sydney LGA.

Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) has a vision for Australia to be the most livable country in the world, renowned for its parks, sport and recreation facilities that provide the foundation for healthy communities and livable towns and cities. As such PLA views all types of open space as valuable to the community as a whole and no leisure activity, active recreation or sport is more important than another. A community's access to social infrastructure and public open space needs to be assessed as a network of integrated options, not just as isolated facility.

We understand the huge shift that has taken place over the past 10-15 years in metropolitan Sydney; with its increasing population and higher density residential areas, putting a strain on all the existing public open spaces.

We applaud council's initiative of creating *forty urban parks and playgrounds as part of its urban renewal of Green Square*. The recent COVID lockdowns all over the world have shown just how important access to green spaces are for the communities mental and physical health.

There are important discussions happening in communities throughout NSW, Australia and internationally and not only for golf courses but many other types of public spaces.

Parks and Leisure Australia
New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory
PO Box 746, Kellyville, NSW 2155

E plansw@parksleisure.com.au
PARKSLEISURE.COM.AU

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA
(NSW/ACT)

PLA NSW/ACT recommends that in undertaking any assessment consideration should include:

- Community consultation and review of stakeholder needs
- Strategic review of public open space
- Recreation trends locally, nationally, and internationally
- Environmentally sensitive planning and design
- Biodiversity and ecological needs to create robust natural areas
- Inclusion and equity
- Financial sustainability
- Intergovernmental collaboration

PLA NSW/ACT broadly supports the key principles outlined in the NSW Draft Public Spaces Charter together with the methodologies provided in the Draft Greener Spaces Guidelines. Together with other relevant guides, these should be used to further inform the quality independent assessment of the Moore Park proposal.

We understand that Centennial Parklands has undertaken extensive public consultation with their local community in the development of the Moore Park master plan and this should also be considered in the assessment.

We look forward to a collaborative and high-quality outcome for this issue. Parks and Leisure Australia NSW/ACT is happy to provide further input into this process where required.

We have also forwarded a copy of this response to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon Rob Stokes, to highlight the importance of this issue to PLA members and to all those interested in improving the health, wellbeing, and sports performance of our communities.

Regards

Ursula Gleeson

On behalf of the NSW/ACT Regional Council
Ursula Gleeson
Executive Office PLA NSW/ACT

Parks and Leisure Australia
New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory
PO Box 746, Kellyville, NSW 2155

E plansw@aparksleisure.com.au
PARKSLEISURE.COM.AU



