



MONA VALE CEMETERY – GUM TREE GROVE MEMORIAL GARDENS

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community Engagement for Memorial Gardens Stage 1: 4 May – 3 June 2018.

Executive Summary

Northern Beaches Council is proposing new memorial gardens at Mona Vale Cemetery. The memorial gardens were identified in the Plan of Management adopted by the Minister of Lands in 2013. The proposed gardens will be located at the eastern side of the cemetery. These gardens will include new memorial positions, paths, sculpture and associated landscaping.

To understand the community's level of support for this proposal community engagement was undertaken from 4 May until 3 June.

- Total engaged: 176 stakeholders and local residents
 - 122 stakeholders
 - 50 neighbouring residents
 - four drop-in attendees
- Total responses: Eight
 - three online comments
 - four emails
 - one phone call

Responses showed interest in the project in relation to the design with 75% of the comments seeking clarification on design elements.

The balance of comments (25%) raised comment regarding vehicle traffic – which is outside the scope of the project – and the protection of existing monuments while work was underway.

Engagement Objective

To inform and consult with local residents, invested and key stakeholders about the proposed memorial gardens at Mona Vale Cemetery.

Seek to understand the potential concerns and impacts of proposed memorial gardens, located under the trees on the eastern side of the cemetery.

Project scope

The proposed gardens will include new memorial positions, paths, sculpture and associated landscaping.



How we engaged

To gauge community support for the gardens, we undertook community consultation from 4 May until 3 June, 2018.

Promotion of the engagement on the project was done via print and online media and targeted mailouts/contact including:

- onsite signage x two
- Northern Beaches Council Webpage
- facebook
- Online feedback via Council's Your Say project page
- A letter box drop to around 50 surrounding homes
- Grave owners directly affected by the proposed work (due to proximity to the grave).

Engagement Method	Numbers	Engagement Outcome
Online comments	Three	Encroachment of gardens Protection of existing monuments during work Additional seating
Letter box drop to surrounding residents	50	one online comment received
Bulk email to stakeholders and some interment right owners in the vicinity with email address	176	one phone call received
Letters/emails or phone calls to directly affected interment right owners	three emails sent; five letters sent four phone calls made	Received 4 responses Met with one grave owner on site to discuss modification to plans 1 letter was <i>Return to Sender</i> A number of grave rights owners failed to respond to letters/emails or phone calls. Further attempts to contact them will be made prior to the commencement of the project.
Direct contact via email or phone to other stakeholders	three calls received	Sent information about gardens to two people
Community Drop in session Tuesday 15 May 9am to 11am	four attendees	Four people attended including two from the cemetery volunteer gardening group



What we heard

Over the engagement period 4 May -3 June, we heard from eight people.

Total comments: Eight

- Six related to elements of the garden design
- One in full support of the project
- One in relation to vehicle access
- Two related to the possibility of garden encroachment near taps and at the aisles.
- Other comments were related to protecting the monuments during construction work and the possibility of providing additional seating and taps in the area.

Of the two comments that voiced concern about the design, one raised it was not in keeping with the history of the site and the other felt there was not sufficient information provided on the project.

Comments: Phone, onsite and email

Community comment	Council response	Theme
The gardens will block access to the tap next to COE - N	Gardens edge will be adjusted to maintain access to the tap	Garden design - encroachment
The gardens are encroaching into the established aisle ways for the grave.	Minor adjustments will be made to the design of the gardens to maintain the aisle next to COE – N	Garden design - encroachment
We have no concerns about the gardens and are pleased that they will preserve the landscaping on this side of the cemetery.		Garden Design
How will existing monuments be protected from damage during works?	Barriers will be erected around work site. Detailed photos to be taken of adjoining grave sites and if necessary physical barriers such as hessian or other material to be placed on or around monumental work. Contractors will be required to engage a suitably qualified Monumental Mason (of Council's choice) to make good any damage.	Monuments
Council should provide additional benches and mobile seating throughout the gardens as well as hubs for equipment such as taps and watering cans that can be shared by all visitors.	Some seating will be provided in later stages of the project – Council will explore expanded seating and water stations in future stages of the work.	Garden Design - seating
Council should engage local artists for sculptural elements	Local artists may be used depending on timeframe and budget for this part of the project	Garden Design - sculpture



Online Comment	Council response	Theme
<p>Thank you for your work and providing the opportunity on making comments.</p> <p>I felt that there was limited information available on the proposed new memorial gardens.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed contemporary sculptures, I believe they should fit within the overall feel and history of the cemetery and not just be included for the sake of it. Will they be designed by local artists? Similarly with the memorial stainless steel cylinders, they do not seem to fit within the overall feel of the cemetery.</p> <p>Thank you for taking my views into consideration.</p>	<p><i>Respondent has been provided with a copy of the design plans and further information about the artistic works and stainless steel cylinders</i></p>	<p>Garden design</p>
<p>Hello, Currently, the part of Fazzolari Ave between the cemetery and proposed works is only one lane wide but accommodating traffic in 2 directions.</p> <p>I understand that the road has been purposefully designed this way, however it would be preferable to have a separate lane for each direction of traffic (i.e. 2 lanes total).</p>	<p><i>This comment does not relate to the garden project. A response has been sent to the respondent.</i></p>	<p>Vehicle traffic</p>
<p>When I purchased a Cremation plot for my mother in 2011 when she had past I also purchased three other plots next to my mother's for myself, partner and sister. At the time of purchase we were informed that a Church/Chapel would be built there where the carpark is now, that's why we picked that area to be next to the Chapel, but since been informed recently that a Chapel is not going to be built -We are very very disappointed as we would have picked a different site, one not next to the carpark.</p> <p>Anyway if somehow the carpark can be hidden by tall trees not the small ones they have put there or a water feature. In regards to the memorial gardens it would be nice to see water features in the cemetery, all around the cemetery not just the memorial gardens and other plants instead of natives as they are not colourful plants.</p>	<p><i>The comment about the Chapel is not within the scope of this project and has been addressed in an earlier response.</i></p> <p><i>Contract Gardener – advised regarding trees near the parking area to grow taller.</i></p> <p><i>Comments about water features will be considered in future design stages of this or other areas within the cemetery, although ongoing maintenance needs and potential for vandalism may render such feature impractical. Comments about the lack of colour using native plants to be referred to Landscape Architect.</i></p>	<p>Garden Design - elements</p>