

Allambie Heights Oval District Playground

Stage 1 Community Engagement Report – Preliminary Community Ideas

December 2018

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1 Background

In 2015, Allambie Heights Oval was identified as a potential location for a district playground to contribute to a diverse range of open space and recreation facilities across the northern beaches.

Council has an approved budget in 2019/20 to develop a concept plan for this project and to build the playground before April 2020.

Community engagement is an essential component of this project.

Council is undertaking a two-stage community engagement process that commenced in August 2018.

Stage 1 engagement was conducted to gather preliminary community ideas for the type of playground desired by the community. Ideas could include:

- New equipment
- Improved access and pathway connections
- Half multi-purpose court

Not included in this project:

- Skate park
- Amenities building upgrade
- Sportsfield upgrade

This report is a summary of the Stage 1 engagement on this project that will inform development of a draft plan for the playground.

Stage 2 engagement will be conducted in early 2019 when the draft playground plan will be publicly exhibited.

2 Engagement Objective

To identify community needs and desires for the Allambie Heights Oval regarding the proposed district playground project.

3 Community engagement approach

Stage 1 community engagement was conducted between 29 August and 14 October 2018.

Council prepared a project webpage on its 'your say' engagement platform with the following content:

- background information including an outline of the proposed elements of the project (playground, multipurpose court, access improvements and connections);
- a list of things outside of the scope of this project (skate park, amenities building upgrade, sportsfield upgrade); and
- an online map upon which to add 'issues to consider' and 'suggestions for improvement'.

The website was visited 802 times and 19 people used the map to add a comment.

An onsite drop in session was held to correspond with Allambie Heights Public School's "Obstacool" event on a Saturday during the engagement period. Fifty members of the community participated in the drop in session.

Ten community members provided comments in writing to the Council email box.

4 Community feedback

Community feedback from the Stage 1 engagement with 79 people is summarised below.

Theme	Community comments/suggestions
Playground/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing of an area for young children near Allambie Road • Equipment gross motor skill and strength development • Monkey bars, uneven balancing poles, etc • There may not be room for sporting equipment and a pathway under the trees • Consider outdoor fitness • Consider access for children of all abilities • Keep natural elements for imaginative play • Consider a flying fox from out of the hillside to the oval • Protect trees and introduce nature play • Use natural tones for equipment rather than bright colours • Consider modular equipment • Consider accessibility for all, perhaps a high backed swing
Cycling/connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage active transport to the oval; have bike racks • Be conscious of multiple users and sports users of the oval when designing pathway • If there is room, install a concrete track to surround the outer oval. • Consider a path connecting the tennis carpark and the oval carpark • Retain/enhance mountain bike access • Improved access for wheelchairs and prams
Multipurpose court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half court supported • Feedback for a 'full sized' basketball half court, rather than a shooting area • Consider a fence to separate kids on the half court from bikes entering the trails at Manly Dam and to stop balls going down into bush • Support for a full sized court at the front of the oval where there are two netball courts with four rings installed • Restore and maintain the netball courts at the Allambie Road side of the oval • Consider handball as an option
Car parking/traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking is busy at school drop off times • No additional parking be added at the cost of open space
General sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing sports allocation
Cricket net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for retention of cricket nets
Dog exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain • Request for extension of hours
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for water stations • Seating along the eastern side of the oval for spectators at sport • Consider vandalism and the potential for antisocial behaviour in the design • Consider shade for all new equipment

Please note that local traffic suggestions made during the exhibition period are outside of the scope of this project and have been referred to Council teams for consideration.

These included:

- Request that Council reconfigure carpark entry away from Flers Street intersection
- Request for a pedestrian crossing across Inglebar Ave (perhaps near Sananander) to encourage more families to walk
- Maintenance of mountain bike trails in Manly Dam
- Oval lighting
- Dog area signage and enforcement

5 Council response

Theme	Council response
Playground/s	The general theme of this playground will be inspired by nature-based play and will incorporate natural elements and challenges There is a definite requirement for a variety of challenges, particularly climbing elements for older primary age kids
Cycling/connections	Access into and through the reserve needs addressing from both sides including carparks, however it is unlikely that a full circuit bike path would fit into the park
Multipurpose court	Council will look at options for an enclosed (fenced) half court
Car parking	It is unlikely that car parking will be addressed in this project given budget constraints – issues have been referred to Council teams for consideration
General sports	No impact on current sports allocation
Cricket net	Cricket nets will be retained
Dog exercise	Off leash dog exercise to be retained There are no plans to change the access hours as part of this project
Others	Water station/s, furniture, bike racks and shade will all be considered in the concept design

6 Next steps

The Allambie Heights community is supportive of this upgrade with new facilities and playground areas being incorporated into the design.

In early 2019, Council will develop draft concept plans for the reserve, with careful consideration made to the limitations of the site, and community wants and needs.

In summary, the key items that will help define the design are:

- Access improvements into and through the reserve from both entry areas, linking of pedestrian networks, amenities and other nearby facilities.
- Playground/s – an enclosed play area for younger children, along with senior equipment with a preference for climbing challenges towards the Scout Hall. Nature-based elements and materials are favoured for this reserve.
- A half multisport court, preferably fenced, that can be utilised for different sporting activities.