

Hornsby Park Draft Master Plan

Engagement Outcomes Report – FINAL DRAFT

Client: Hornsby Shire Council

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DRAFT

Executive summary

The transformation and rehabilitation of Hornsby Quarry and its surrounds, from a disused former mine into a sustainable, recreational park that plays homage to its natural bushland environment, is a once in a generation opportunity.

Recognising Hornsby Shire's future population growth, and increased density close to the CBD and park, this project will also create an open and accessible green space for local residents.

Building on previous engagement and a large body of research and technical studies, **a draft master plan** has been developed to set the future uses across the park.

The draft master plan was exhibited for a total of 6 weeks, between 21 April to 2 June 2021, inclusive.

Feedback was captured through a variety of engagement tools and techniques which have been analysed and are detailed in the following chapters of this report. Below is a high-level overview of what was heard:

- » High level of overall support for the draft master plan as well as the unique feature that Hornsby Park will be for the recreational opportunities and enjoyment it will provide.
- » Universal desire to protect the site's flora and fauna and concern about potential environmental impacts during delivery and operation.
- » A desire to celebrate and educate users about the heritage and unique natural environment of the site.
- » The need to minimise potential operational impacts on neighbouring residents as well as adjacent streets.
- » Universal support for easy access for all users.
- » Protecting and interpreting the diatrema in the Quarry Void; and enabling some kind of water activity in this section of the park.
- » Support for Old Mans Valley being the gateway to the park and concern that the proposed uses might detract from this role. A split in opinion about the sports field and its playing surface.
- » Support for the proposed adaptive reuse of the Crusher plant.
- » General acceptance of people being able to stay overnight at the South Western Platform, with support for camping over accommodation.
- » Support for some form of user fees, with preferential treatment for Hornsby Shire residents.
- » Excitement about the Canopy Skywalk and what a unique feature it would be.

There were also a number of points of conflict in the feedback we heard, and Council will need to balance these in the final master plan. This included:

- » differing preferences for uses of the park; and also, between wanting to enjoy these activities and protect the natural flora and fauna. There was however across the board support for ensuring enough space for passive/informal recreation and enjoyment of the park
- » tension between limiting private vehicle access to the park but also ensuring measures are in place to minimise traffic impacts on local streets. There was a high level of support across all feedback channels for a shuttle bus
- » differing preferences for delivery sequencing.

1 Background

1.1 The site

Hornsby Park comprises approximately 60 hectares of bushland and open space surrounding Hornsby Quarry which is located approximately 1km west from the town centre.

The Quarry itself has been closed for safety reasons since the late 1990's, meaning very few people have had the opportunity to appreciate its astonishing beauty and the natural bushland surrounding it.

Transforming the site into a regional recreational destination will allow residents and visitors to enjoy the stunning landscape, ecological communities and history that make this location so special.

1.2 Development of the draft master plan

The draft master plan sets out the types of suitable uses and activities that Hornsby Shire Council (Council) propose to deliver within the park. The purpose of a master plan is to ensure there is a blueprint for the wide range of recreational opportunities on site to meet the diverse needs of the community.

The draft master plan has been developed after a comprehensive program of technical, geological, environmental studies and investigations were undertaken.

This research provided Council with an understanding of the constraints and possibilities for recreational development. A list of the studies and reports can be found on the [website](#).

Once community feedback has been considered and the draft master plan is finalised and adopted by council, the next step is detailed design of the individual elements within the park. Development applications will then be sought, of which Community consultation is part of the process.

1.3 About the draft master plan

The draft master plan sets out an intention to retain the quarry-ness of the area, whilst conserving and rehabilitating the bushland setting. The draft master plan also looks at a number of opportunities where we can maximise views and lookouts for visitors, through a choice of experiences which range from sports, adventure, social places and quiet areas to reflect in the natural setting. Our aim is for Hornsby Park to cater for and balance the diverse needs of the community, transforming the site and paying tribute to its rich historical and environmental values.

A series of project principles were developed to form the basis of the draft master plan's intentions. These principles are:

- » **Retain the Quarry Experience** - Harness the drama and scale of the park (retain the quarry-ness)
- » **Offer Access for All** - Maximise access throughout park (walk, cycle, shuttle, bus)
- » **Bring Nature to the City Centre** - Conserve and extend the bushland setting as the park framework
- » **Embrace the Storyline** - Bring the rich story of the park to life (interpretation and education)
- » **Celebrate the Landscape** - Maximise views vistas and prospects (lookouts, filtered views, reveals)
- » **Connect the Community** - Focus the park as a place of engagement and interaction (events, families)
- » **Nurture Memories** - Make the park experience memorable (adventure, quiet, social)

As the site is so large, it has been divided into geographical areas. The draft master plan aims to celebrate each area's distinct characteristics, creating a balance of uses across the site. These areas and their distinct characteristics are outlined in the following:

1.3.1 Quarry Void

The establishment of a major parkland oriented on the Eastern quarry wall. Includes a sweeping all access path leading to a large informal recreation lawn and a freshwater lake beneath the southern cliffs

1.3.2 Old Mans Valley

An activated gateway into this world leading premier parkland. It will be a venue for passive and active recreation facilities with a strong focus on meeting local community needs (playing fields/event venue, café, picnic area and major play space with water play).

1.3.3 Crusher Plant

The longer-term vision is to conserve the buildings and deliver additional offerings in partnership with commercial and community enterprises.

1.3.4 South-West Precinct

In the long term, it has potential to provide a unique educational bushland offering or short stay eco accommodation, enabling the community to get up close to the natural environment and learn about the importance of preserving this unique natural environment. The south-west platform may also support adventure recreation pursuits.

1.3.5 Higgins Family Cemetery

The heritage-listed cemetery will become more accessible with the setting and heritage items restored.

Image 1: Hornsby park overview



2 About this report

Elton Consulting was engaged by Council to design and deliver a stakeholder and community engagement program to support the exhibition of Hornsby Park’s draft master plan.

The master plan was exhibited by Council from 21 April to 2 June 2021, inclusive.

The program sought meaningful engagement with the wider community and key stakeholders to inform the further refinement of the master plan.

This engagement builds on previous rounds of engagement that were carried out between 2017 – 2020. They are:

- » 2017 - Plan Your Parkland (2017)
- » 2018 Development of Quarry Landform & EIS
- » 2019 Exhibition of 2019 Quarry DA and Landform EIS & exhibition of response to Submissions.

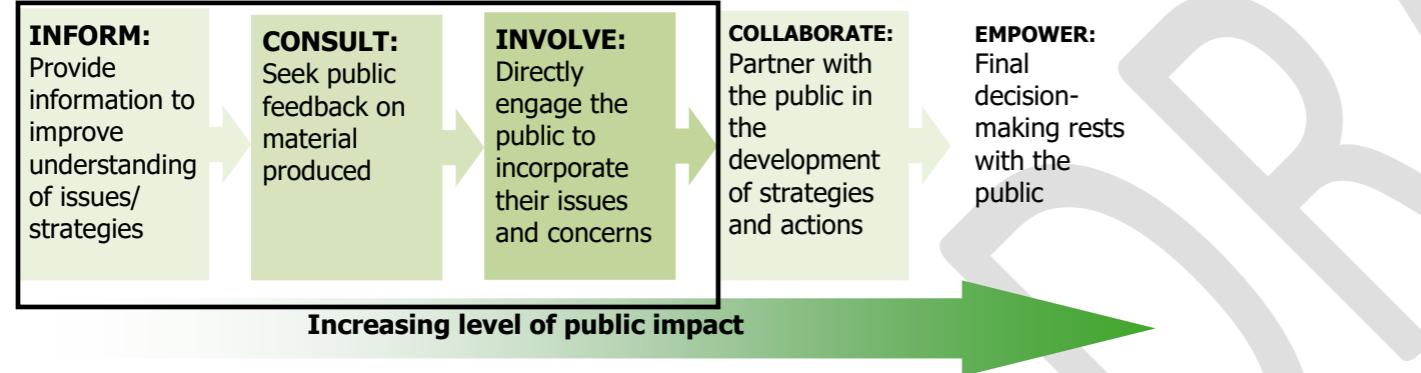
The outcomes of these can be found on the project website.

- » provide a mix of engagement tools and techniques to facilitate a range of views and opinions across the community and involve people who may not usually engage in public forums and debate.

Community consultation was also undertaken for Westleigh Park and its draft master plan at the same time as engagement for Hornsby Park. Outcomes from this consultation can be found in the Westleigh Park engagement report.

2.1 Engagement Approach

The International Association for Public Participation’s (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum is an internationally recognised standard for approaches to engagement. The spectrum was designed by IAP2 to assist with selecting the level of participation that defines the role of the community and stakeholders in the engagement process. Our engagement approach focused on the **Inform to Involve** end of the IAP2 engagement spectrum as illustrated below.



Additional survey work was undertaken to broaden the reach of the engagement process. These surveys targeted a statistically representative number of residents from the broader community. The outcomes of this engagement can be found [at XXXXXXXX \(insert website link or business paper\)](#).

2.2 Engagement objectives

The primary objectives of engagement were to:





- » seek feedback on the elements of the draft master plan
- » encourage the community and stakeholders to have their say about what activities to prioritise to guide Council’s construction works
- » continue to raise awareness and understanding about the project, and







3 Engagement Overview






As this is a long-term project, to maximise the efficacy of consultation, and to provide a clear historical analysis of community sentiment, the engagement program was generally consistent with previous rounds of engagement. To ensure a broad cross section of the community was reached, and to enhance the community’s understanding of what is possible for the site, a number of new engagement tools were also developed and implemented. They included a [fly through](#) and a map-based survey.

To ensure that all rate payers were given the opportunity to participate, engagement was promoted through the rates notice that was issued in April 2021.

A snapshot of the engagement tools and techniques are outlined below, along with the numbers of people engaged. Feedback that was captured through these channels has been analysed thematically. This analysis is outlined in the following chapters of this report.

| Tool/Technique | Description | Reach |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Website</p> | A dedicated project website was established in 2017 to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » continuity of project information » clear, consistent information about the draft master plan and the long-term timeframes » background documents, including the draft master plan » a channel for the submission of feedback, » ability to view the flythrough, and » the promotion of engagement opportunities | » Approx. 10,000 -page views |
|  <p>Fly Through</p> | A 3D 'fly through' was developed to provide the wider community with the ability to visualise what each element of the park may look like based off the draft master plan | » Approx. 10,000 -page views |
|  <p>Rates notice</p> | Promotion of the draft master plan’s public exhibition was included in the rates notice mailed out to all property owners | » Approx. 42,000 residences |
|  <p>Social media posts</p> | Social media stories were posted Facebook promoting exhibition and feedback channels | » 5 posts » 104k reached » 1,644 likes and reactions » 927 comments » 17.362 clicks |

| Tool/Technique | Description | Reach |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>eNews</p> | Inclusion in Councils May edition of its eNewsletter | » Approx. 29,000 email addresses |
|  <p>Council Advisory Committee Briefings</p> | Briefings were given to the following Council Advisory Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hornsby Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Consultative Committee (HATSICC); Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC), Hornsby Shire Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), and Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) | » Attendance 16 people |
|  <p>Emails to stakeholders</p> | Notification of exhibition, feedback channels, and invitation to stakeholder meetings (where relevant) | » Approx. 60 stakeholder groups |
|  <p>Survey</p> | A map-based survey was available online for 4 weeks and was promoted through all Council communication channels | » 634 respondents opened the survey and answered questions » 289 completed the entire survey |
|  <p>Community Deliberative Forum</p> | The Community Deliberative Forum was established to provide independent guidance of engagement outcomes They met at the beginning and at the end of the engagement period. | » 2 x forum meetings » Attendance. 12 |
|  <p>Stakeholder Meetings</p> | Stakeholder groups that had been identified by Council were invited to a meeting to hear information and ask questions about the draft master plan to inform their submission. | » 6 x stakeholder meetings » Attendance approx. 55 |

| Tool/Technique | Description | Reach |
|--|---|---|
| Swing Bys  | Swing bys were held in Hornsby Mall The mall was chosen on its busiest days (Thursday and Saturday) to capture the wider community and those who may not have had time to provide written submissions | 2 x Swing-bys approx. 420 attendees (does not include Ruddock Park) |
| Site Tours  | Three tours were held for residents that live immediately adjacent to the park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Invitations to approximately 250 residences » 74 attendees |
| Written submissions  | Submissions were received by community groups, sporting organisations, residents and people who live outside the shire | » 101 submissions received |
| Postcards, Information boards & Posters  | A suite of collateral supported the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » AO information boards at the swing bys » Postcards that were available to the general public at swing bys | » Various locations |
| Advertising  | Advertisements were published in local and key community newspapers and on electronic display boards at Westfield | » 3x newspapers |

4 What we heard

This chapter provides a thematic analysis of what was heard across all community feedback channels. Quotes from community members are included in *green italicised text* or green breakout boxes. These quotes have been included from the feedback provided at swing-bys, written submissions and survey responses.

Swing bys

Two swing bys were held to provide information and answer questions the community had about the draft master plan.

| Location and date | People engaged |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Hornsby Mall – Saturday 1 May | Approx. 250 people |
| Hornsby Mall – Thursday 13 May | Approx. 170 people |

Written submissions and online survey

Submissions and surveys were accepted during the eight-week period.

Online map-based survey results

Total of **634 survey responses** have informed this report.

It should be noted that some questions on the map allowed for the selection of multiple answers and no question was compulsory, resulting in all questions having a different number of respondents.

Written submissions

101 written submissions were received and analysed.

Written submissions raised multiple opinions and ideas which were analysed through a coding process. This resulted in 923 coded responses which were then grouped into themes. These themes are outlined in this chapter.

Total coded responses across all themes

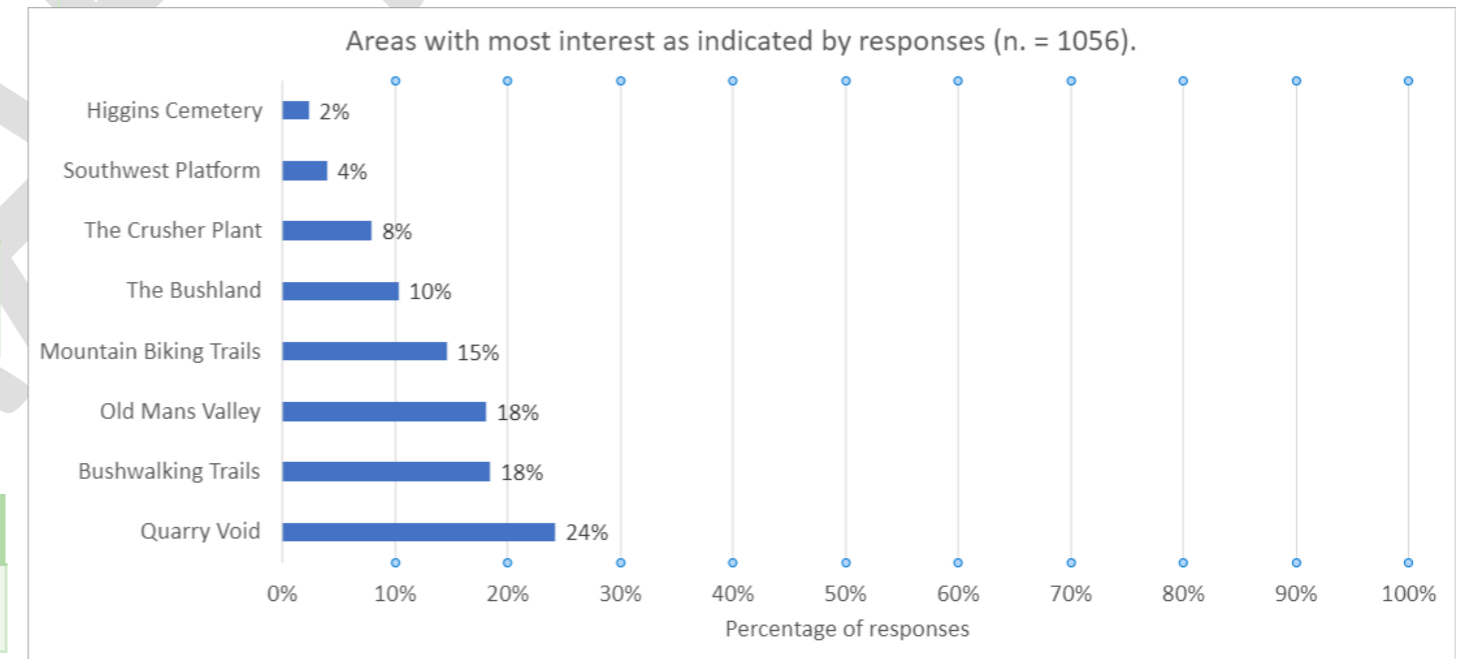
923 coded responses were tallied across all submissions

Master plan

Support for the master plan

Most people who participated in engagement activities were supportive of the draft master plan and the ideas and activities it outlines. There was a great deal of excitement about what a unique feature of Hornsby Shire it could be, with the Community Deliberative Forum seeing it as building on the LGA's reputation as the bushland shire. At the swing-bys, attendees who had seen a recent TV news item about the master plan, Council Facebook posts promoting the engagement, or had watched the master plan fly though on the project website were more inclined to express excitement, and fulsome support for the master plan. It is important to note that people who expressed significant support at the swing-bys were generally not associated with a particular user/stakeholder group. They also had not spent a great deal of time reading the details of the draft master plan. These people, who numbered in their hundreds, also seemed to be focused on the benefits to the wider community that the project will bring.

There were, however, issue-specific and location-specific concerns raised within the feedback (discussed further in relevant sections below). Even without delving into detailed responses across all channels, we can see the tension between active uses of Hornsby Park and environmental management (discussed further below) by looking at the topics which attracted the most response in the survey (as shown in Graph 1 below): bushwalking trails were the second highest topic that people contributed their views, and mountain biking the fourth. As expected, the Quarry Void and Old Mans Valley, where the most activity is proposed, were the first and third most commented on. (Respondents could select multiple options.)



Graph 1: areas of the master plan with most interest, as indicated by survey responses

**In your words: support for the Hornsby Park draft master plan**

Great plans, look amazing

The plans look perfect

Hopefully happens sooner rather than later

Will be a good result for Hornsby

Hornsby needs this bit of oomph

Would be good for Hornsby and attract tourists

Good to see Council dollars going to good use

The plans look great, this is something the area has been missing

Seem like great plans, as long as other projects in the LGA are not having their budget compromised to fund this project

As residents of OMV for over 50 years, my wife and I have an affinity with this area and are pleased with the current plan.

The 2021 Hornsby Park Draft Management Plan by Clouston Associates is a comprehensive document that reflects many aspects that were raised by residents over the years. The plan should enable that part of Old Man's Valley (OMV) which is owned by Hornsby Council, to be passively developed to give enjoyment to many people and preserve this unique asset for posterity

*I am personally very much looking forward to linked up bike trails, picnic areas and bushwalking trails that respect the natural beauty of this lovely location
With an appropriate name, this unique spot will become widely known as an adventure site to escape to and enjoy.*

I am personally very much looking forward to linked up bike trails, picnic areas and bushwalking trails that respect the natural beauty of this lovely location.

I look forward to seeing the site developed into a destination everyone can enjoy.

I am personally very much looking forward to linked up bike trails, picnic areas and bushwalking trails that respect the natural beauty of this lovely location.

Environmental protection

A theme heard strongly across all channels was concern about the potential environmental impacts of delivering Hornsby Park, and the need to prioritise conservation and protection of the site's unique native flora and fauna.

Of the 923 tallied themes recognised within written submissions, 193 (21 percent) raised this theme, making it the most mentioned of all themes recorded and analysed.

It covered various concerns including protection of the powerful owl, impact of Mountain Bike trails and other adventure activities such as zip lines, protection of Ecologically Endangered Communities, (Blue Gum Diatreme Forest and Blackbutt Gully Forests), impact of pathways, activation of the site, weed management, the diatreme, and Council's obligations to protect the site's environmental values under various legislation as well as its own plans:

The conservation (and) preservation of the Blue Gum Diatreme Forest and The Blackbutt Gully Forest is paramount.

These proposals will have significant ramifications for conservation and recreation in the Hornsby Shire and we urge council to address potential environmental impacts before progressing

The Quarry and adjacent bushland contain the only critically endangered Blue Gum Diatreme Forest in the world. How we manage it now and into the future will be a direct reflection of the degree to which we as a community actually care about the natural values of our Bushland Shire.

We are extremely concerned about the overdevelopment of the proposed Hornsby Park site which we believe will have potentially disastrous effects on nationally, and internationally, significant geology, fauna and flora.

All wildlife must be protected. For example, Powerful Owls live in the valley behind our home, and we see them in the bush as well as hear their calls at night. Our favourite sounds are the chicks trilling. I understand even black cockatoos have been seen around the rim of the valley. A wide variety of native birds call this place home. Echidnas and wallabies live here too amongst numerous other amazing animals. If any wildlife leaves this valley, it would also be majorly embarrassing publicity for Hornsby Council. After all, is not Hornsby Shire also 'The Bushland Shire'?

There is essentially a lack of protections afforded the park's internationally significant geological formation, being the Quarry diatreme.

Many responses drew attention to areas that are already critically endangered. The northern area was of particular concern especially in relation to the impact on the Blue Gum Diatreme Forest and powerful owls:

Critically endangered ecological communities need to be prioritised. The adjacent bushland to the quarry contains the only Blue Gum Diatreme Forest left, therefore its protection needs to be absolute.

Any trails – bike or pedestrian – that are within this rare forest should be closed and the area revegetated, including the area in the north-east of the site

The recommendation is to reduce all these activities as part of the masterplan and remove them completely from the northern section of the park

A significant number of responses relating to the protection of the site's environmental values specifically pointed out legislation and zoning in place to conserve, restore and protect the environment such as critically endangered bushland and species, reminding Council of its obligations and responsibilities:

It is extraordinarily rare, and Hornsby Council has a legislative responsibility to protect this forest.

Hornsby Council's plans for Hornsby Park dramatically impact on the habitat suitability of this site for Powerful Owls, which mean Council may be in breach of the Biodiversity Conservation Act

The Approved Conservation Advice for the Blue Gum High Forest (approved by Delegate of the Minister, 2014) states that action by managers include:

- *Control and regulate impacts from people, bikes and other vehicles via fencing, signage and determining which existing tracks should be closed or remain open.*

- *Develop and implement appropriate management regimes to prevent further loss or decline of functionally important species and reduction in community integrity.*

A small number of submissions noted that the master plan's proposed weed management plans must be adhered to, to encourage native species and protect endangered species:

The 'Vegetation Management Plan and Habitat Creation and Enhancement Plan' strategy for the site, to remove weeds in a staged mosaic pattern and to revegetate, must be strictly adhered to.

Weed invasion is currently one of the major damaging factors but the 'Vegetation Management Plan and Habitat Creation and Enhancement Plan' contains excellent strategies for vegetation management, and if carried out should result in healthy native communities.

A number of submissions also noted that further environmental assessments and management measures must be developed included a Plan of Management needs to be created for the site and Review of Environmental Factors for the Canopy Skywalk.

In addition to preserving the natural environment, concern was raised that too many visitors to Hornsby Park would detract from the site's natural beauty. Stakeholder meeting attendees specifically raised the impact of more people using the connection between Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park on the sensitive environment currently located here as a key concern.

Other responses mentioned more trees and vegetation was needed to provide additional shade in some locations such as the Quarry Void (discussed further below), with native species specifically mentioned (as were sunshades particularly over playgrounds, also discussed below):

There should be more native rainforest and forest trees planned with irrigation in the open void area than presented and in the open and parking areas. There is too much planned open space. Natural shade can be very desirable in hot weather.

Needs lots of big leafy trees in that centre grass area. Without them it will be a hot shade-less void.

Fauna

As part of the responses related to the site's environmental values and its flora and fauna, many expressed significant concern about the potential impact of the draft master plan on the powerful owls. Although impacts on fauna were not raised as frequently in swing-bys, when it was, the primary concern was similarly regarding the powerful owl:

Powerful Owls are listed as vulnerable in NSW and therefore require protection under Schedule 1 Threatened Species of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

I'm concerned for the powerful owls in the area near the Western hollow

Path on the Northern mound needs to be moved, it is in the area of the Powerful Owl

I object to any features and subsequent management actions that will threaten the Powerful Owl and interfere with their ongoing breeding habits in this locality.

Lookouts must be at least 100 metres from any known Powerful Owl nest.

Dangerous timing to be working the owls- you shouldn't be within 100m of the owls

Other concerns raised included:

- » the impact of noise and light from proposed activities
- » potential loss of hollow bearing trees
- » loss of prey habitat
- » clearing of weed species that the owls like
- » human activity in foraging areas
- » location of the lookouts on the northern mound disturbing breeding owls and leading to people being attacked.

no sports field is constructed and a noise protocol, with a particular focus on the needs of Powerful Owls, must be developed and implemented for all events

Night lighting will disturb the fauna, particularly from the sporting fields when games are played at night

Other concerns related to fauna raised in responses included that timid bird species on the site which are sensitive to human activity may depart and no longer breed in the area.

Celebrating the heritage of the area

Desire was expressed across all channels to adequately acknowledge, celebrate and educate visitors about the Indigenous, non-Indigenous, geological, industrial and scientific history of the area:

Make sure you preserve and celebrate the industrial history, not just natural

A half moon park in honour of the radio telescope that operated sixty years ago

Ginger Meggs story could also be included in a register. His comic strip was renamed Ginger Meggs in April 1922. Perhaps a suitable place could now be found for his bronze statue, which had suggested Council acquire. The child's Play Area could be an appropriate place to commemorate him...

Any Interpretation plans should be prepared by a qualified consultant and referred to the heritage committee for comment. Consideration of technology such as QR codes and the like should be investigated as part of the interpretation strategy

Feedback across all channels suggested that naming the park – as well as locations, pathways and tracks within it – will be important in celebrating the site's history, and this included a high level of support for using Indigenous names:

An indigenous name should be used rather than the current use of "Hornsby Park".

It is requested that an alternative and more appropriate name (possibly an Aboriginal name) be investigated to identify the entire area encompassing Old Mans' Valley and the former quarry parklands so that the heritage significance and identity of Hornsby Park is not diminished.

This unique project needs an appropriate name that will resound with everyone and be remembered.

Celebration and interpretation of the site's Indigenous heritage was a very frequent theme raised across all feedback channels. In addition to the use of Indigenous names, suggestions included shelters and picnic spots to tell Indigenous stories through design, a design by country approach, a yarning circle, somewhere to display artefacts and a cultural walk. Consultation with Indigenous representatives needs to start as early as possible, with ongoing close involvement.

There was a clear appetite from swing-by attendees to learn about the site's history and environmental significance through a range of signage. Council Advisory Committee members were also supportive of potential education opportunities and noted the importance of connected interpretational signage that explains the narrative of the site:

Can you have interpretive signs around – for all the history. Plants, scientific, industrial. Its important visitors understand the significance of the site.

Add signage about the wetlands- information/descriptions etc

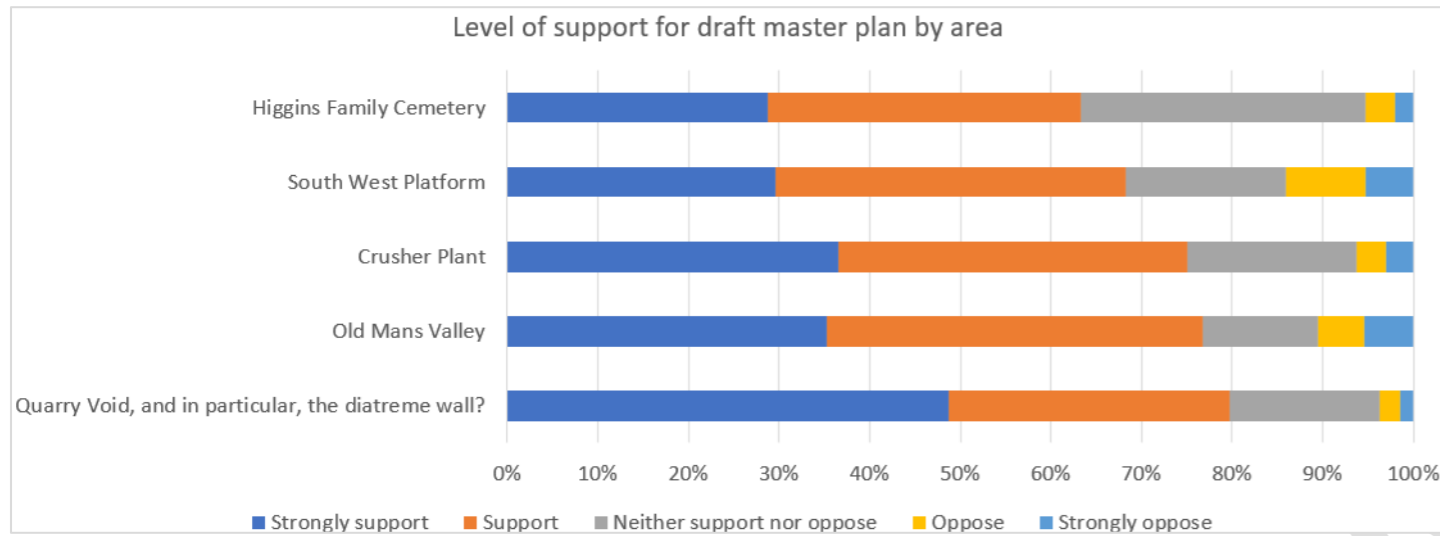
I'd love to know about the plants and animals

The diatreme wall was a specific feature noted across all feedback channels as important to commemorate and enable study opportunities. Submissions advocated for its protection from active recreation, and for its significance to be interpreted so visitors could understand its importance:

We strongly recommend that any Masterplan highlight the Quarry for its international geological significance with signage and displays regarding its geoheritage. We recommend that a required distance to protect the Quarry wall is maintained to avoid any destruction or vandalism. The walls of Hornsby Quarry are quite variable in texture, and likely to be fractured and unstable.

It is unfortunate that there could not be more of the Diatreme eastern face slumping exposed...The original site was reported to be the best example of a diatreme in Australia and is of high value to the [Australian Geological Society] and geology students.

This view was also supported by survey respondents who were asked: *What is your level of support for the draft master plan's proposed celebration of the geological features of the Quarry Void, and in particular, the diatreme wall?* Around 80 per cent of the 351 people who answered this question either strongly supported or supported the master plan's intention to celebrate the site's human and environmental character and history, with only 4 percent opposed or strongly opposed, as seen in Graph 2 below. Of the 351 who responded, 171 strongly supported, 109 supported, 58 neither supported or opposed, 8 opposed and 5 strongly opposed the proposed plans for this area.



Graph 2: survey results showing level of support for the draft master plan by area, including the Quarry Void, and in particular, the diatreme wall.

Image 2: Quarry void including diatreme wall



User experiences

This section discusses feedback received regarding uses of Hornsby Park overall. Uses of specific areas of the park are detailed under the relevant subheadings below.

The topic of how the park should be used raised a number of conflicting preferences that will need to be managed in the final design of the park. This includes:

- » protecting space for passive recreation as well as allowing for active recreation. Although there were differences in the type of recreation preferred, feedback from all channels suggested that the final design needs to ensure there is enough space provided for passive and unstructured recreation
- » enabling bushwalking and mountain biking and ensuring these activities occur in separate spaces/on separate paths. There was support for both activities across all channels
- » balancing adventure recreation, including mountain biking, and protecting the natural environment
- » feedback wanting dog friendly spaces and feedback wanting to prohibit dogs.

Active and passive recreation

The prospect of the park being a center for adventure recreation resonated strongly at the swing bys – much more so than at any other engagement channel. Attendees were struck by the scale of the site, and the opportunities to travel between areas using adventure recreation. This sentiment was echoed at the Community Deliberative Forum which identified adventure recreation as an important element in making Hornsby Park a unique experience, and suggested that such opportunities should be dotted and, where possible, linked across the entire site, while maintaining the integrity of the bush. Members wanted there to be an emphasis on adrenalin-type activities, with suggestions including bungee jumping over the quarry void, zip lines abseiling and high ropes over the water:

Super supportive of adventure recreation pursuits such as zip lines and climbing

There should be a zip line to the crusher plan, then the void

Include rock climbing in the void- you cant rock climb anywhere in Hornsby

Must include sports activities and adventure recreation

Should include rock climbing on the open boulders, this would mean kids can scramble up without having to be harnessed in

Fun in nature, rocks and climbing

The Community Deliberative Forum saw adventure recreation as an important, unique offering of the site and a potential income stream for Council to assist with the park's ongoing costs. Members further expressed that enabling adventure recreation was important in providing activities for young people, and suggested specific engagement with them during detailed design.

In addition to the enthusiasm for adventure recreation expressed at the swing bys, many people also expressed a strong desire to ensure the draft master plan would incorporate enough picnic and informal recreation areas:

The area [Hornsby] needs more picnic and play spaces

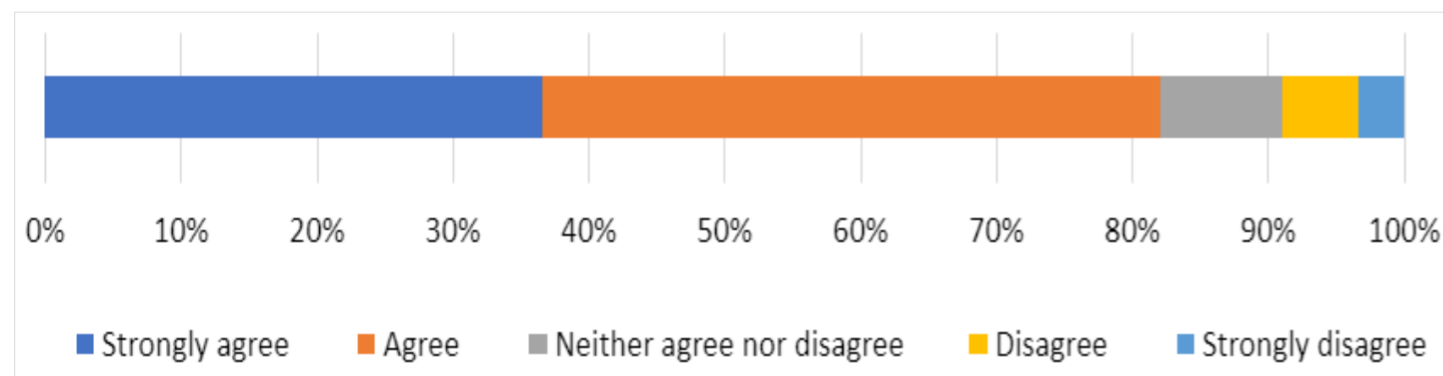
There are lots of young people moving to the area, they need access to open spaces, especially with all the apartments going up

Spaces for community yoga classes, indoors and outdoors

Include a yoga park in the park

Include bird watching facilities

Similarly, survey respondents showed overwhelming support for the balance of active and passive recreation in the draft master plan. Of the 451 respondents to the question *Do you agree that there is a good mix of activities included in the draft master plan? For example, passive recreation (picnicking, walking, BBQs etc.) and active recreation (mountain biking, sport etc.)*, around 82 percent (370 respondents) expressed either support or strong support, as shown in Graph 3 below.



Graph 3: responses to the survey question *Do you agree that there is a good mix of activities included in the draft master plan?* (n=451)

In contrast, submissions tended to favour passive recreation and enjoyment of open space more strongly. Submissions and stakeholder meeting attendees alike raised concerns that not enough space was dedicated to passive enjoyment in the master plan. Similarly, site tour attendees were more supportive of passive recreation over adventure/active recreation such as ziplines, but also expressed the desire for amenities such as cafes and restaurants to be included:

Hornsby Park should be a quiet park, so that the thousands of residents in the proposed high-density apartments adjacent to the park can enjoy quiet time to destress and relax. Studies have shown that green space has many health benefits, including lowering depression and anxiety symptoms. Unit dwellers need this quiet green space for their mental health

There does not seem to be much passive / unstructured play space provided for picnicking and just enjoying the open space. This is a vital need due to the intensification of urban life with high-density units being common nearby the site.

This plan does not cater for the average Hornsby resident, one who wants some peace and quiet, to take the children out, or to gather with friends and family.

There is simply not enough space allocated to play and relaxation in the Hornsby Park Master Plan to provide a regional facility. Residents need a large play and recreational space for relaxing and picnicking. Areas that cater for intergenerational play and play for different age groups, including those catering for teenagers and early twenties age group are needed.

...support more passive recreation spaces [and the] conservation of threatened ecological communities and species

Mountain bike trails

There were varying levels of support for mountain biking heard through the engagement process. However, a theme consistently heard across all channels was the need to protect the natural environment. For some, mountain biking and environmental protection could co-exist, while for others, they could not.

Submissions were weighted towards environmental protection much more than other channels. A petition with 843 signatures provided via the submissions process highlighted the damage caused by mountain bikes to ecologically sensitive bushland such as Sydney Blue Gum Diatreme Forest, Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Duffy's Forest. It noted that mountain bike trails should be moved out of these areas and/or closed:

These forests need to be protected. Mountain bike trails can be built away from critically endangered forests but not within them

This bushland is precious. Please close the tracks

Bikers can ride elsewhere

trail bike riders are not being excluded just restricted to their tracks which do not threaten the environment

A significant number of submissions regarded mountain bikes as a primary impact on biodiversity and ecologically endangered species. Many others expressed the view that mountain biking is incompatible with the protection of the bushland environment and should not be an activity within the park:

Close mountain bike trails in the Blue Gum Diatreme Forest.

Critically endangered ecological communities need to be prioritised. The adjacent bushland to the quarry contains the only Blue Gum Diatreme Forest left, therefore its protection needs to be absolute.

Bike trails do not fit in with any pretence of protection, and therefore must be removed or reduced to the shortest traversing circuits possible. No circuits should operate within them.

Mountain bike riding at night must be PROHIBITED as it disturbs, harms and can kill both prey and the Powerful Owls, as well as other fauna.

A smaller number of submissions expressed support for mountain bike trails, citing that it helped create family connections and provided mental and physical benefits:

The benefit of MTBing [mountain biking] is well known. The current quarry MTB isolates MTB facilities to a very small area of the quarry.

Please retain as much of the mountain bike trails as possible and replace those that are removed and extend them.

Please find a way to maintain and not alter what is already a fantastic facility.

I would love to see more mountain bike trails at this location

Each weekend I see mum's and Dad's out riding and learning to love being outside and being active. Each part of the trail network makes it interesting and enjoyable to ride for riders of all levels. There are very few trail networks that can say that. Please find a way to maintain and not alter what is already a fantastic facility.

Mountain biking provides an opportunity for exercise, is good for mental health, brings the community together and allows riders to connect to nature.

In comparison, feedback received at swing-bys and Community Deliberative Forum discussions were an amalgamation of these two viewpoints, noting that Mountain Biking is an important activity unique to the Hornsby area, and a source of pride (and as a result, the link between Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park and opportunity for use by young families will be important); and their construction in the park should be supported as much as possible while being empathetic to wildlife and natural environment:

Great but I want to know mountain biking won't be diminished; I want more trails, not less and link to Westleigh.

It will be nice to keep the MTB trails but the area is full of important biodiversity

I ride the mountain bike trails and I love the nature

No mountain biking in mapped Blue Gum Forest. No trails or track on the North slope

Good that little new track is being built. No impact on Blue Gum Forest important

There is no reason why bike tracks need to go near the quarry

Similarly, while over 75 percent of survey respondents supported or strongly supported mountain biking as an activity in the master plan (compared to the more than 80 per cent who strongly supported or supported bushwalking, as shown in Graph 4 over the page), respondents pointed out the need to simultaneously protect the environment; and the main source of opposition to the activity was based on environmental concerns (as shown in Graph 5 over the page):

Trail network needs to be upgraded, with increased and varied options for riders. MTB popularity has exploded in the last 3yrs, in particular gravity/downhill riding, jump parks and enduro [sic] mountain biking. More professional trail building and maint [sic]

Mountain biking, though a popular pastime, severely damages the environment. A number of proposed bike trails are set to traverse highly endangered floral environments. Mountain biking should be made available in areas that are not causing damage.

The existing mountain bike tracks in the Blue Gum Diatreme Forest and high-quality Blackbutt Forest should be closed down. There are not many walking tracks & these conflict with the mountain bike trails. Council needs to protect the CEEC properly.

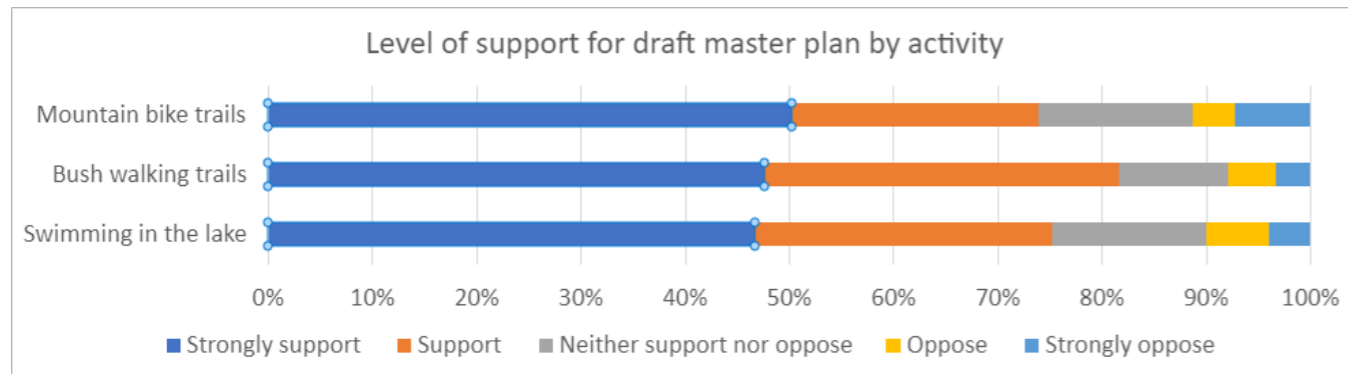
Shared pathways for MTBs and walking are a real concern

Shared paths do not work

Bikes should not be allowed where there is wheelchair access

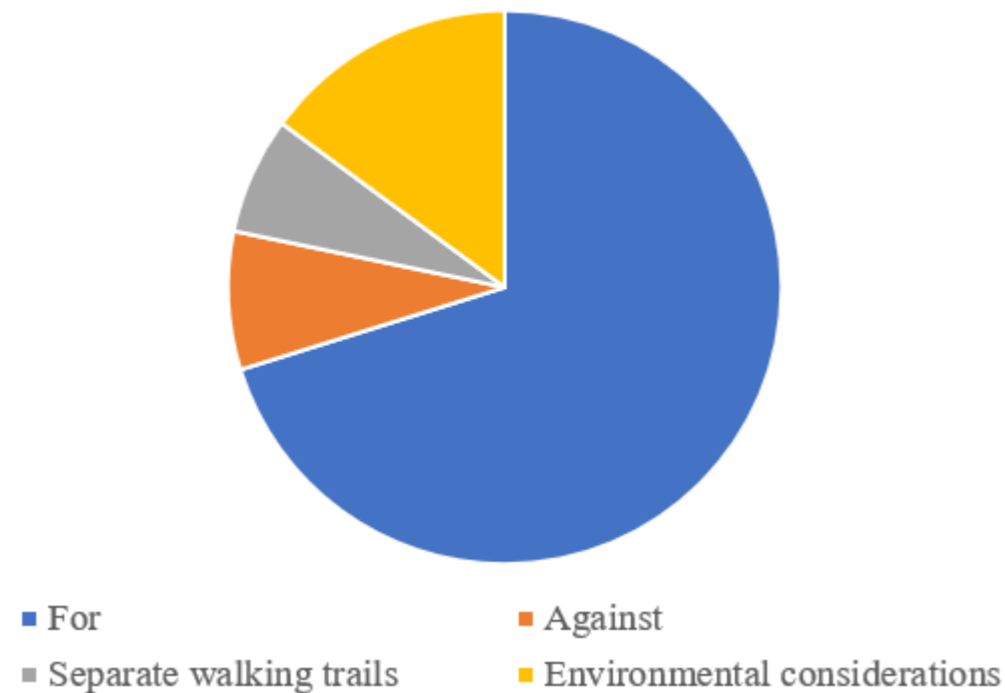
Be aware of conflicts between cyclists and walkers and how this will be managed.

Would be helpful for the trails to be distinctly separate from walking trails to avoid collisions.



Graph 4: survey respondents' level of support for draft master plan activities

Support for Mountain bike trails



Graph 5. Survey respondents' support for mountain bike trails (n=168). 113 respondents were in favour, 13 against, 11 provided neutral comments to separate walking trails and 24 highlighted environmental concerns.

Separation of tracks and trails

There was however overwhelming agreement across all channels, and across bushwalking, environmental and mountain biking communities, that there should be separate pathways for cyclists and walkers:

"The few walking tracks in the Draft Plan conflict with cyclists..... NO SHARED PATHS.

There must be no shared pathways. Mountain bikes already have the use of the vast majority of the site, they don't need any more. There must be NO bikes of any sort allowed on ANY pathways, other than their dedicated trails.

Mountain bike trails should not be disguised as a "shared bicycle /pedestrian pathway"

Image 3: Tracks and trails



Bushwalking

At the swing-bys, many members of local environmental and bush care groups, plus a hand full of members of the general community discussed at length the importance of bushwalking on the site. This was also reflected in written submissions:

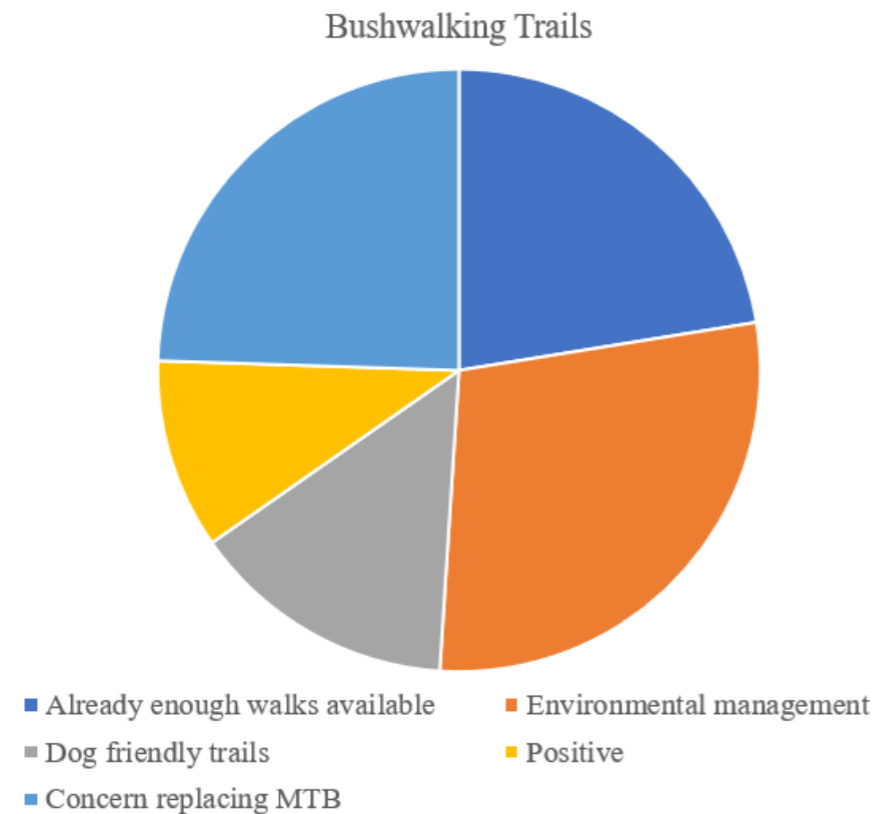
I really support the natural areas, picnic areas and walking tracks

Bushwalking and a connection to the Great Northern Walk is really important

Love the idea, its great for bushwalking. I am looking forward to bushwalking through the park

Walking is very important – a top priority

However, mixed comments towards bushwalking trails came through the survey responses. While just over 80 per cent of respondents supported or strongly supported bushwalking as an activity important to delivery of the park, when asked: do you have any other comments for Council to consider in relation to proposed bushwalking trails for Hornsby Park, more than one-quarter of the 168 respondents to this question said they believed there are already enough bushwalking trails available, as seen in Graph 6 on the following page.



Graph 6: survey responses to do you have any comments for Council to consider in relation to proposed bushwalking trails for Hornsby Park? (n=146)

The majority of the remaining comments did not show any opposition to bushwalking trails but rather provided additional comments to ensure correct environmental management, mountain bike trails maintenance and providing dog-friendly trails:

- Avoid removing the existing OMV mountain bike trails when creating bush walks. The two should co-exist.*
- Walking tracks would be great but should be planned to avoid as much destruction of native flora and fauna as possible.*
- These should be dog friendly.*
- There are hundreds of kilometers [sic] of trails reserved exclusively for walking in Hornsby. Walking causes the same or more damage as mountain bicycling.*

Dogs in the park

A small number of submissions raised the issue of the access for dogs to the park. There was an almost equal split between those in favour and those against dogs in the park:

- I would love to make one suggestion for the park. Could it please include an off-leash dog area of bush trails where owners can walk with their dogs and therefore exercise themselves at the same time. Also, it would be fantastic to use some of the water area for dogs to swim.*
- I could see no reference to dogs allowed in the Draft Plan. I can only hope that means it will be dog free. Surely that would make it more enjoyable for those without dogs, and a benefit to wildlife.*
- If dogs are permitted in Hornsby Park, they must be on-leash.*

When asked for comments for Council to consider in relation to proposed bushwalking trails, 21 per cent of survey respondents suggested dog-friendly trails, as seen in Graph 6 (on the previous page).

Children’s playgrounds

A small number of submissions suggested that there be larger and/or more playgrounds. Planning for intergenerational play, and catering for a range of age groups were suggested. As noted above, a number of submissions noted that sunshades should be included over playgrounds.

- We are always looking for safe places to take the children to enjoy.*
- Children’s playgrounds, areas for families to meet and enjoy nature, without the noise and impact of motorbikes and sporting fields would be a preferred solution for a site with a showcase of unique features such as the quarry diatrema and forest.*
- In the void install another major play facility added to the void – perhaps an adventure/wild play area integrated with the lake.*
- Install playground equipment that prioritises nature play where possible i.e. rocks, wood and water and utilise surrounding bush for exploration trails.*

Impact on neighbours

This section details potential impacts of Hornsby Park on neighbours in addition to those related to the Canopy Skywalk (discussed below).

Neighbouring residents raised concerns at swing-bys and site tours about the potential impacts of the park’s proposed features and operation, and the need to ensure appropriate management measures in the final master plan. Concerns were raised about traffic impacts in a handful of submissions as well; while stakeholder meetings also raised concerns about the impact that activating the park would have on neighbours:

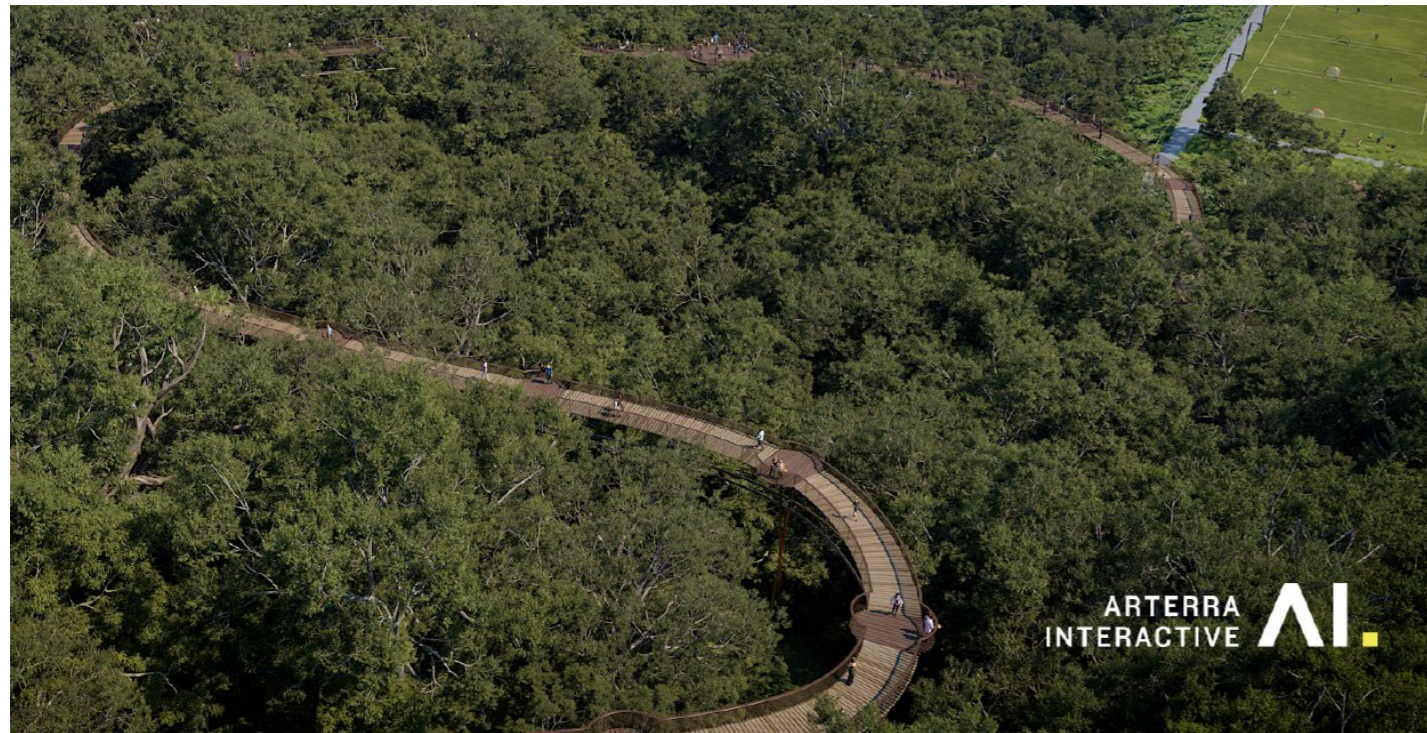
- The valley is an echo chamber.*
- I’m concerned about noise from the amphitheatre.*
- Sporting fields would be incredibly noisy.*
- All of us residents from Dural are concerned about noise.*
- Noise from activities in void and OMV will be a problem for residents. Is this being considered/assessed?*

Specific concerns raised included:

- » Noise resulting from visitors to the site.
- » Increased traffic and congestion on approach roads and in nearby streets, requiring traffic changes, and improving access routes. Specific roads mentioned in submissions included Bridge Quarry and Manor Roads. At the site tours, there was a request to prioritise access from Manor Road. A number of concerns regarding parking impacts on streets adjacent to the park were also raised, these are discussed below.
- » Light spill, including from sporting fields.
- » Security.
- » Potential trespassing on private property, which could be resolved by signage and/or boundary fencing.

Canopy Skywalk

Image 4: Canopy skywalk



While there was excitement about the Canopy Skywalk and the uniqueness it will provide to Hornsby Park, there was also concern about the impact on the privacy of neighbouring residents.

The large numbers of swing-by attendees who had seen the TV news item about the draft master plan expressed a significant appreciation of the Canopy Skywalk and the fact that it would be a unique park entrance. The Community Deliberative Forum considered the skywalk to be extremely important and unanimously agreed that it should be the first piece of infrastructure delivered. The proposed Canopy Skywalk was also positively received by survey respondents. When asked for additional comments on the Canopy Skywalk, more than half of the 163 people who provided comments were in favour of the walkway, with various comments highlighting accessibility and inclusivity benefits. Additional comments emphasised environmental considerations, safety concerns, additional costs, and additional features including shade and signage:

- Canopy walk looks great, Council have done a great work*
- Canopy walk looks particularly cool.*
- Love the idea of the elevated walkway.*
- Canopy Walk is positive because it is less intrusive on biodiversity.*
- You could consider adding bird hides to the canopy walk to watch birds from.*
- I think a skywalk canopy is a nice idea.*
- Plaques giving info on the trees, plants and animals in the area. Perhaps a couple of shady spots for people to rest in as it seems a long walk.*

The community also appreciated that it would provide accessibility for prams, and those with mobility issues:

- I really like how accessible it is.*
- fantastic for wheelchairs, disabled people and those with mobility issues.*
- Low speed cycling should be allowed on the canopy walk, particularly for children.*

This will allow everybody to access the park by the same route, instead of less mobile people being shunted off around the back as usual.

Only 14 per cent of survey respondents were against the skywalk, mostly due to environmental and financial reasons, as shown in Graph 7 over the page. Submissions also expressed concern about potential impacts of the skywalk on the habitat of powerful owls, and some of suggested redesign alternatives:

I do not oppose the skywalk per se, rather the damage that may accrue from such construction and affect on the native fauna.

The impact on the canopy, the wildlife and the view of the bushland will be terrible. Bad idea. Use a moving walkway alongside Old Man's Valley instead.

Will cost too much to maintain.

Neighbouring residents who attended the swing-bys and site tours, as well as almost a quarter of submissions, expressed concern about the potential loss of privacy resulting from the Canopy Skywalk's proximity to neighbouring houses.

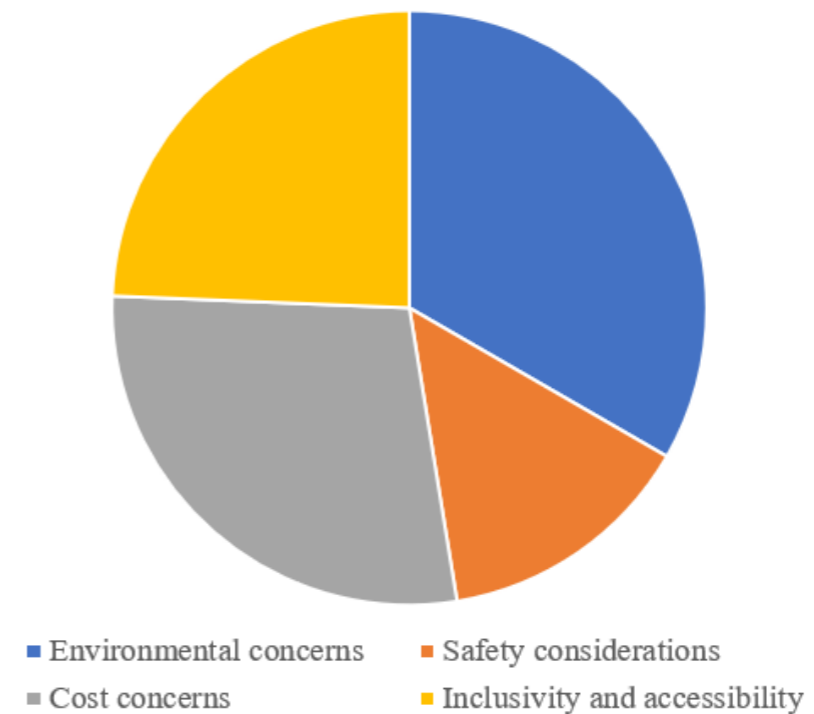
The canopy sky walk is too close to my property. I will lose my privacy.

People walking on the canopy sky walk will be able to see into my house.

My neighbour has started a petition – I am really worried about the sky walk. It looks too close to our properties.

Now you want to build an entrance to the Park for visitors whose first impression of the quarry is looking into unit bedrooms on one side, including mine, and a limited view of the bushland on the other.

Canopy Skywalk



Graph 7: Categories of comments received from survey respondents about the Canopy Skywalk (excluding comments simply in support or opposition) (n=163). Environmental considerations were raised in 26 responses, safety considerations in 11, cost concerns in 22 and inclusivity and accessibility in 19.

Access and parking

Image 5: Access overview



There was a high level of agreement across all engagement channels and demographics that it was important for Hornsby Park to be accessible for all users and visitors:

Provide safe, well designed, level walking paths that are suitable for wheelchairs and people with walking aides at relevant sections of the park

The population that visit park often have large extended families that all visit together. Easy access to the park is important for the growing amount of people visiting the park.

Really important for the park to be accessed by people of all abilities.

For too long there has been focus on young, fit and athletic people who can easily access the park and traverse most of the site. The lift and the canopy walk are really good additions to making it more accessible for more people.

You need to make sure there are enough disable parking spots, and there is all weather protection

The Community Deliberative Forum went further and noted Council should be planning for large visitation numbers.

The small number of submissions that highlighted accessibility planning as an important element suggested this could include accessible toilets, wider footpaths, correctly graded paths, playgrounds, parking for private vehicles closer to entrances, and parking for mini-buses:

Will there be anywhere within the park with a fenced in area that special needs school children will be able to enjoy with wheelchair accessible fun rides and close proximity for a school bus to park

There were contradictory responses to the amount of parking proposed in the master plan. On the one hand there was support for limiting cars onsite to Old Mans Valley and the Crusher Plant so that park users don't have to share spaces with cars, and minimising the number of cars entering the park. There was however also concern about high visitor numbers leading to potential traffic impacts on local streets and whether the total number of parking spots proposed can

adequately cater for visitors to avoid these impacts. A couple of submissions suggested underused parking at the nearby Tafe could be used (outside of Tafe hours):

I think it's a good idea to keep cars just at the top.

Don't want the development to bring in lots of cars and congestion.

Don't want to have to share any access roads or trails in the park with cars.

Parking does not seem as though it is sufficient.

Shouldn't have to pay for parking, make it an accessible but not noisy venue.

Parking needs to be accessible and undercover.

Need enough parking.

What will the impact be on the surrounding streets of the extra traffic?

The main proposal that causes me concern is the idea of extra carparking at the end of Quarry road - I would not support this. For example, it was mentioned that there could be an 80-car carpark opened at the Crusher plant site, accessed via Quarry Road and Dural Street. This would significantly increase traffic volume on that road which is the main access route for bike riders going to the Mountain Bike trail...

I would strongly advise council to conduct a projected traffic study (in conjunction with investigating already increased traffic expected for these roads due to the Hornsby West Side development). I imagine that installing separate bike-only lanes, and a separate pedestrian footpath, would be the only feasible way to keep everyone safe if this road traffic increased to the level of 80 additional cars.

Keep vehicular access minimal and away from the site centre.

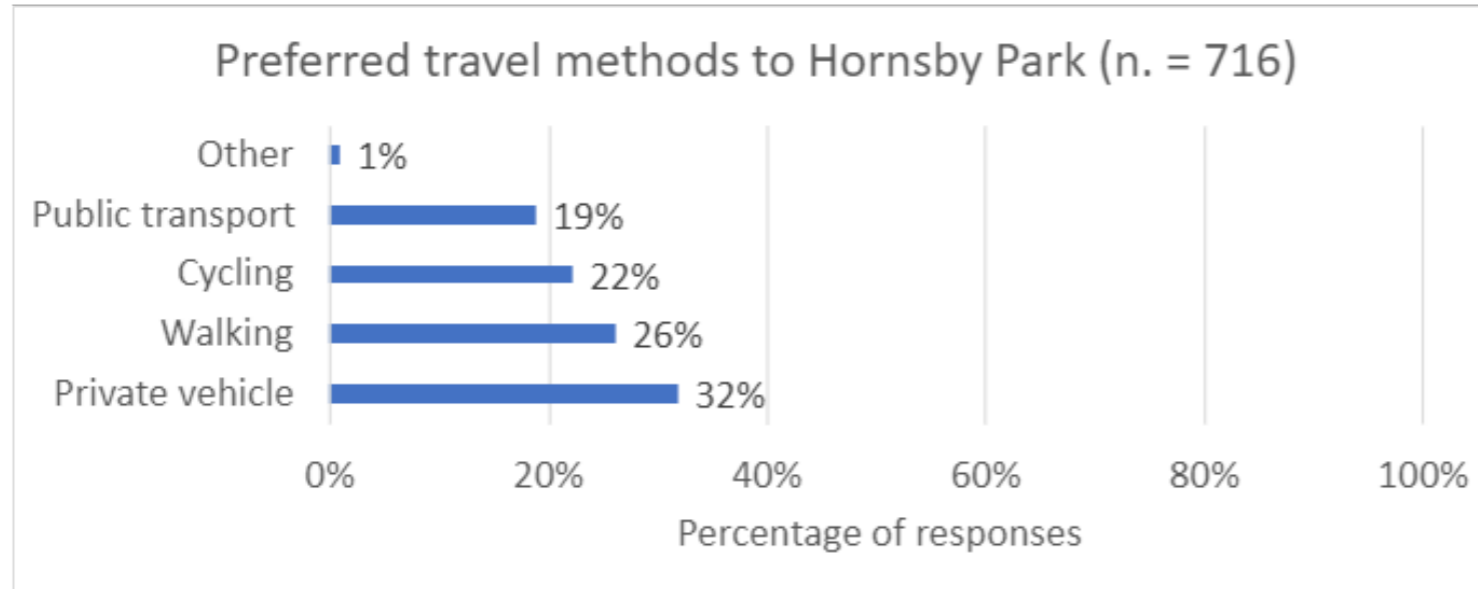
Traffic is a major concern for local residents; it's becoming increasingly difficult to get through to the train station and town centre. The Bridge St entry/exit can be a problem with large numbers of people using this exit which will impact on local traffic and the activity of the fire station. There needs to be another entry/exit access for emergency services; Bridge St access is already steep and problematic for vehicles. A road via the side of Hornsby Aquatic Centre is a better option than Dural St/Quarry Rd as they exit onto Peats Ferry Rd at a narrow point flanked by traffic lights.

Parking appears to be limited within the park. This will lead to disruption, noise and inconvenience for those living in streets close to entry points. These streets are already congested.

...on-site parking should focus on disability and large group access and not attempt to provide sufficient parking for general users of the park. Parking should not extend into bushland or recreational areas.

One suggestion...could be shared parking with TAFE. An existing TAFE car park is positioned on the western side of TAFE which is accessed from Bridge Road near to the OMV/Quarry entrance. Hornsby TAFE has a multi-story [sic] car park that may or may not be extended and/or used on weekends and school holidays. Overflow carparking arrangements or opportunities?

When survey respondents were asked how they would prefer to travel to Hornsby Park, just under a third of nominated car, almost 50 percent chose active transport and 19 per cent nominated public transport, as shown in Graph 8 below. (Respondents could select multiple options.)



Graph 8: survey respondents' preferred travel methods to Hornsby Park

This attitude towards parking could indicate a growing awareness that cars will not be able to access all areas of the park, and an understanding of the park's typography.

Community Deliberative Forum discussions canvassed the following possible solutions to this issue:

- » On demand buses.
- » Promoting car parking areas within and around the Hornsby CBD and encouraging connection with the shuttle bus or walking. Members also reflected how important signage from these areas will be to assist with navigating from the Town Centre to the park's entrances.
- » Using any other under-utilised parking areas.
- » When reflecting on feedback captured via other channels about residents wanting some recognition or preferential treatment in comparison to visitors from outside the LGA (discussed below), the Community Deliberative Forum thought that the only realistic option to explore was free parking.

There was also a high level of support across all channels for the proposed shuttle bus service:

Need shuttle buses, accessibility very important.

I'd pay for a shuttle bus.

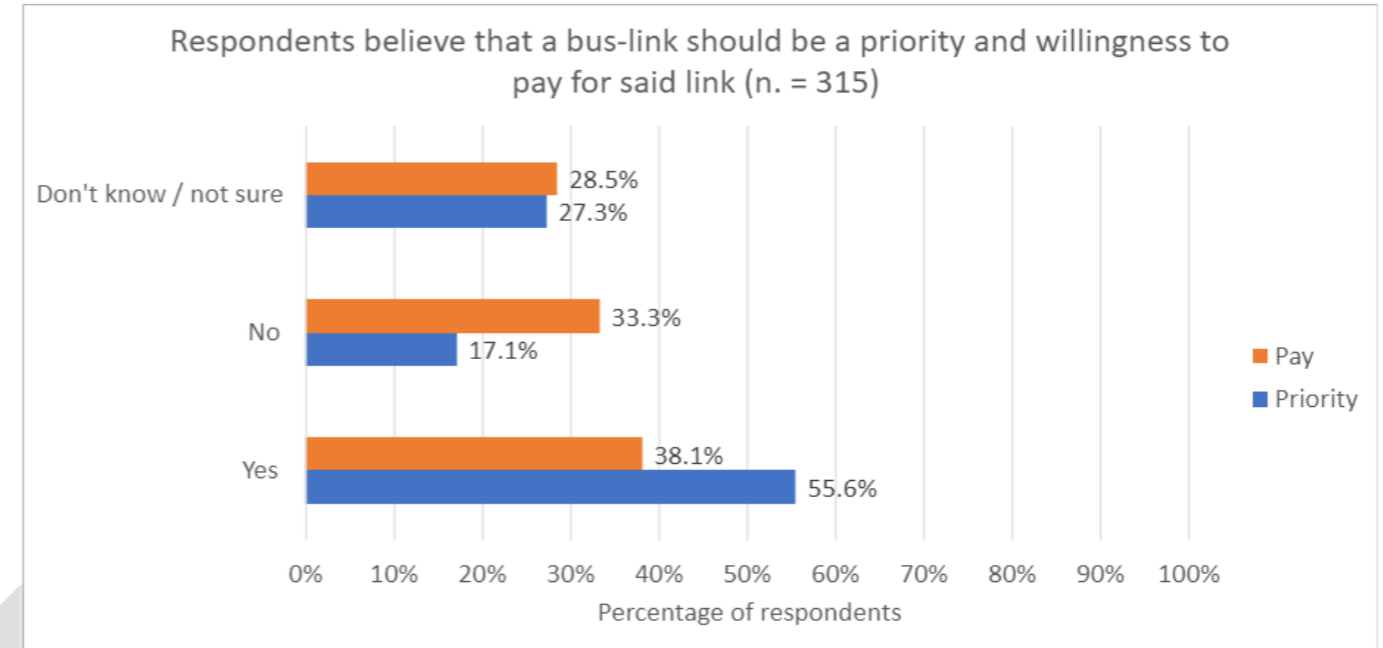
Shuttle bus should definitely be available when the first section opens.

Survey respondents were asked the following two questions:

Considering the diverse range of community members that will visit the site, do you think a bus-link service from Hornsby CBD should be a priority as the parkland is completed?

Noting the size of the site and the dramatic changes in level throughout, if Council were to provide a bus-link/shuttle service across the site, is this something that you would be willing to pay a fee for?

Over 50 percent of respondents supported the prioritisation of a shuttle link and 38 per cent indicated they were willing to pay. In contrast, only 17 percent did not think it was a priority. 33 percent of respondents who indicated that they were not willing to pay for the shuttle, a similar number to those that are willing to pay. Just over a quarter of respondents were unsure if it should be a priority and if they were willing to pay. These responses are shown in Graph 9.



Graph 9: survey responses to the proposed shuttle-bus service

Other considerations

Survey respondents were asked if there was anything else Council should consider in relation to the master plan, and were able to provide multiple responses. The top themes raised are shown Graph 10 over the page (note: a number of other responses were provided, however the graph below shows the top themes) and included activities and amenities (65 responses), parking (20), sports field (34), mountain bike considerations (26), environment, education and culture (29) and access to facilities (22):

Playgrounds with equipment for all ages and abilities. Flying foxes, big climbing structures as well as things for the smaller children and different abilities. Strathfield park is a great example of this.

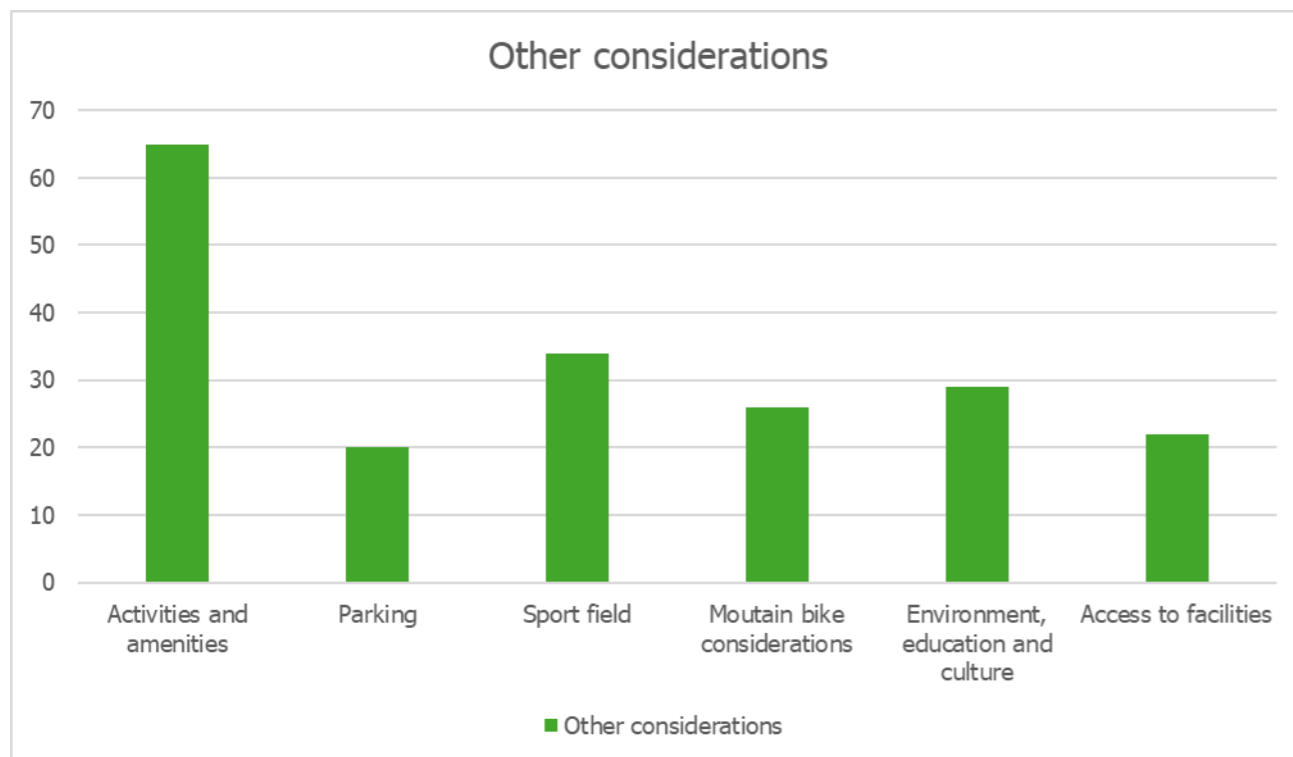
Be ambitious - this has the potential to be a major attraction for Sydney. Including unique and adventurous facilities will attract visitors e.g. canopy walk, luges and zip lines.

Examples of environment, education and culture provided included:

Education centre for native wildlife and vegetation.

Also, where is the consultation with Aboriginal people and elders

Where is this cultural knowledge or perspective being shared on the site? That should be the core of this whole development and is very noticeably absent.



Graph 10: other considerations for the Master Plan provided by survey respondents

Safety

The safety of users and neighbours of the park was raised in many submissions and a small number of people at the swing-bys. Suggestions and questions raised included fencing along lakes and rock edges, overnight security and having CCTV and rangers. Those at stakeholder meetings also asked about park governance including rangers.

CCTV cameras will be needed when new amenities are installed.

How can you prevent access at night?

I don't think it will be safe to swim at night. How will you prevent that?

Will you have park rangers? How will the park be regulated?

I think there should be a safety fence along the edges of the lakes walkways, it could prevent a lot of unwanted tragedy.

We are not in favour of adventure recreation on the quarry rock face due to safety concerns, damage to the face and interaction with other users in the Void.

There are many visible safety issues such as tracks/paths intersecting, absence of high safety fences along trails with high drop areas; that is, people can fall off cliffs...Council must address the behaviour of park users relating to safety particularly in areas shared by cyclists, mountain bikers, walkers, and electric bikers and/or scooter drivers.... and for those managing prams or implements for mobility must mix and cross paths.

Follow the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines by ensuring adequate lighting, eliminating dark and secluded sections and planting either low-lying shrubs or high canopy trees that maintain sight-lines and maximise passive surveillance.

Emergency planning

A small number of submissions noted that proposed plans need to factor in emergency access routes and plans. A similar number noted that fire management plans that include fire retardant materials and mitigation strategies need to be adopted:

Obviously, the area is bushfire prone, so appropriate precautions / constraints must be met. For example, is one lift sufficient to evacuate many people in an emergency, such as a bushfire?

As the park is in [a bushfire zone] all building should be made of bushfire proof materials. A bush fire tower lookout tower should be included.

Sustainability

Although not many submissions raised sustainability, those that did expressed support for sustainable practices and policies including building materials and transport options, and to aspire to carbon neutrality.

Please have the foresight to see what direction humanity is currently headed in regarding climate change. For example, use technology to showcase smart energy with minimal impact.

use sustainable materials throughout the park.

Implement policies which encourage sustainable practices in the park such as recycling, encouraging users to dispose of their own waste, avoiding single use plastics.

All materials and systems (eg toilets) used in Hornsby Park should be environmentally friendly and sustainable. This includes water tanks for recycled water, solar panels on buildings for power, porous road and track surfaces to avoid un-necessary run of [sic]

The Committee recommends the site aspire towards Net Zero Emissions to help achieve Council's target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Events and commercial operators

The Community Deliberative Forum was keen for Hornsby Park to be accessible/activated at night, for example, with concerts at Christmas time. A handful of submissions were opposed to the inclusion of commercial operators, while a smaller number supported commercial operators such as cafes.

... and oppose commercialisation or privatisation of our parks.

Commercial outcomes should not have any harmful impact on the natural values of Hornsby Park and the nearby Berowra Valley National Park.

Privatisation by way of cafes or bike shops or other tourist attractions for profit is completely unacceptable, turning the space into a theme park.

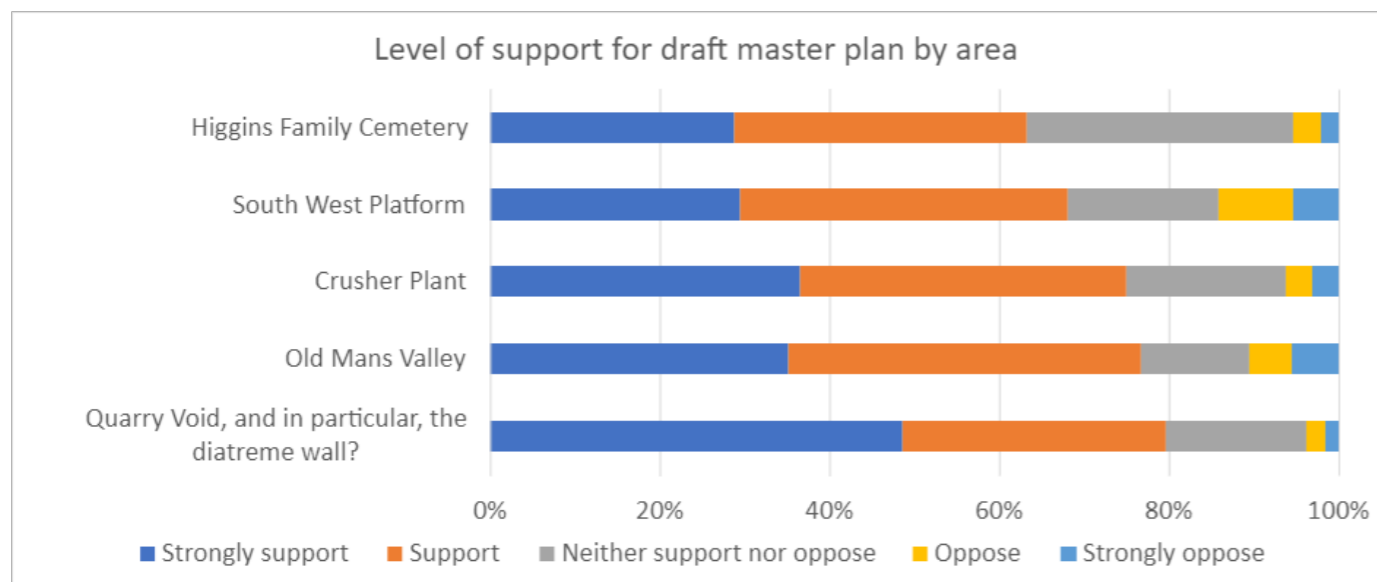
I like the idea of a tree tops style facility which is self sustaining and an effective attractor of families for the local economy.

I note that some of the other assets proposed to be developed may not be self sustaining and I fear that this will result in them becoming a burden on local ratepayers, as the original OMV was. I would really like to avoid additional ongoing construction and maintenance burdens.

Master plan areas

There are distinct activities possible in each area of the park, due to the site's location, environmental constraints, natural features and accessibility. The draft master plan outlined what activities are suitable for each area, and these were presented for feedback at each engagement activity.

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level support for each area of the park as detailed in the draft master plan. As demonstrated below, the majority of respondents supported or strongly supported each of the area's proposed uses and activities, with the Quarry Void attracting the highest endorsement (280 of 351 responses, or around 80 per cent) followed by Old Mans Valley (301 of 392 responses, around 77 percent) and the Crusher Plant (351 of 468 responses, 75 percent), the South West Platform (307 of 450 responses, 68 percent) and Higgins Family cemetery (288 of the 455 responses, around 63 percent), as shown in Graph 11 over the page.



Graph 11: survey respondents' level of support for draft master plan by area (n=2116)

The sections below analyse the feedback heard for each geographical area of the master plan.

Quarry Void

After the Canopy Skywalk, the Quarry Void was the most mentioned feature of the master plan at the swing-bys. Of particular interest to people were the possibility of swimming in the void, the need for shade in the open area and the potential to hold events. In contrast, in written submissions the quarry void only tallied 46 responses, which equates to 5 percent of the total responses. The most frequent response in relation to the Quarry Void was the diatrema wall, with swimming and events also mentioned.

Diatreme

The importance of the diatrema was mentioned in a handful of submissions, with many noting that, as discussed above, it is geologically and ecologically significant. These submissions were focused on protecting it from active recreation or any type of use that would undermine the dramatic and ecologically important feature and prevent appreciation and study:

The Hornsby diatrema is actually part of a chain of probably four diatremes, the related Thornleigh body being aligned but separated by sandstone country rock. It is one of up to a possible 150 such bodies in the Permo-Triassic Sydney Basin and these are generally regarded as of Early to Mid Jurassic in age; not long after the end of Triassic sedimentation. Given the number, variety and extent of these bodies, Sydney Basin is actually one of the world's major diatrema provinces.

The Hornsby diatrema must be protected because of its geological heritage value and overwhelming presence. It creates a unique centrepiece and offers a fantastic educational opportunity to interpret and highlight the geological history of our local area.

The scope of activities proposed should be restricted to those that enable interpretation/education, and to preclude the development of any activities or facilities that are unstructured in nature and are deemed to be intrusive.

We strongly recommend that any Masterplan highlight the Quarry for its international geological significance with signage and displays regarding its geoheritage. We recommend that a required distance to protect the Quarry wall is maintained to avoid any destruction or vandalism. The walls of Hornsby Quarry are quite variable in texture, and likely to be fractured and unstable.

Water activities

Although it was explained to swing-by attendees that swimming would be difficult to enable in the void, the backdrop of the diatrema wall and the possibility of such a unique experience being available in Hornsby was an exciting prospect:

The option to swim would be amazing

Swimming would be great

Swimming should definitely be allowed. At the moment, you have to travel to Parramatta for a freshwater swim

It would be so beautiful

It would put Hornsby on the map

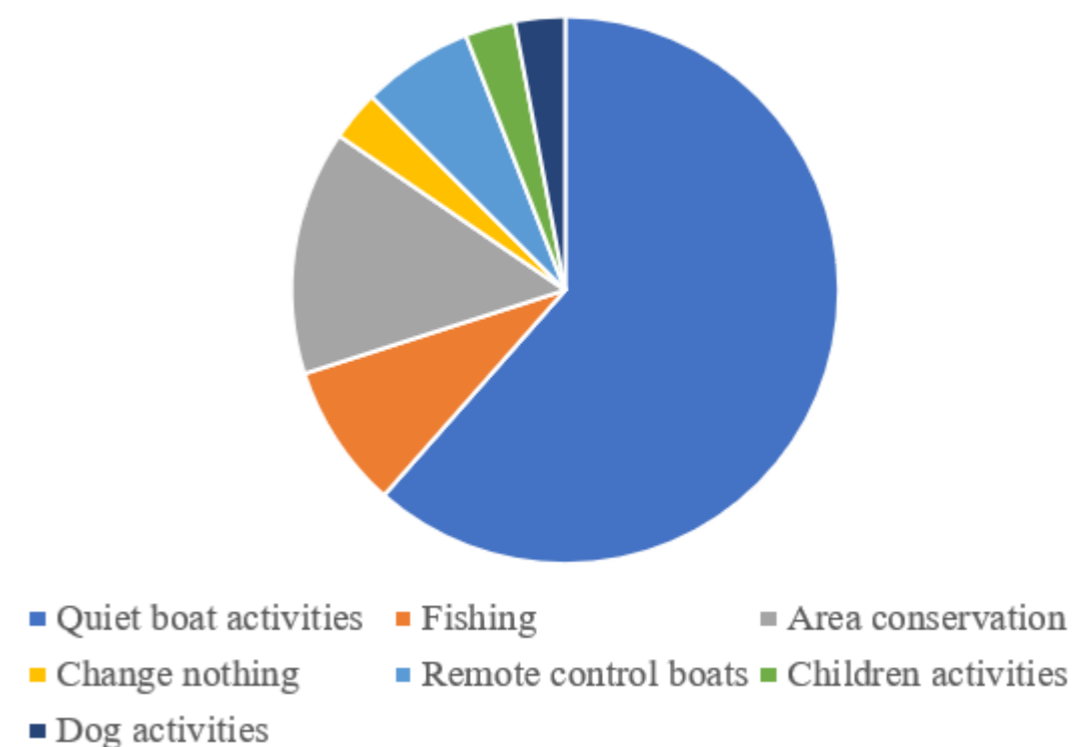
It would be a standout attractive feature to be able to use the water area for outdoor swimming. Popular abroad but rare in Australia

Similarly, when asked if they would support swimming in the Quarry Void lake, around 75 percent of the 603 survey respondents to this question either supported or strongly supported the idea, and it was one of the top three most popular activities nominated across the entire park (along with bushwalking and mountain biking, as seen in Graph 4 earlier in this section). Stakeholder meeting attendees and some submissions also expressed support for the relatively unique ability to be able to swim in the quarry.

In contrast, less than 5 percent of survey respondents were strongly opposed to the prospect. The Community Deliberative Forum did not reach a consensus about swimming in the lake – there was an almost 50/50 divide between those who supported it and those who thought the barriers were too great to overcome in addition to safety implications. Some submissions raised the water temperature as also being an issue, There was however unanimous support for other forms of water activities in the Quarry Void. Swing-by attendees similarly expressed support for other water activities and being able to hire equipment to enjoy the water, such as canoes.

Survey respondents were also asked what uses of the lake they would support other than swimming, and were able to provide multiple responses. The 312 survey respondents to this question nominated similar activities to swing-by attendees and the Community Deliberative Forum, expressing a clear preference for quiet boating activities such as canoeing and other forms of paddle boats, as seen in the Graph 12 below. Around 60 percent of responses suggested quiet boat activities (187 of the 312 responses), 14 percent for area conservation (44 responses), 6 percent for remote control boats (20 responses), 8 percent for fishing (26 responses), 3.5 per cent for children's activities (11 responses), and around 3 per cent for dog activities and change nothing (9 responses).

Uses for the lake



Graph 12: survey responses to the question If swimming isn't possible, what other uses of the lake would you support? (n=312).

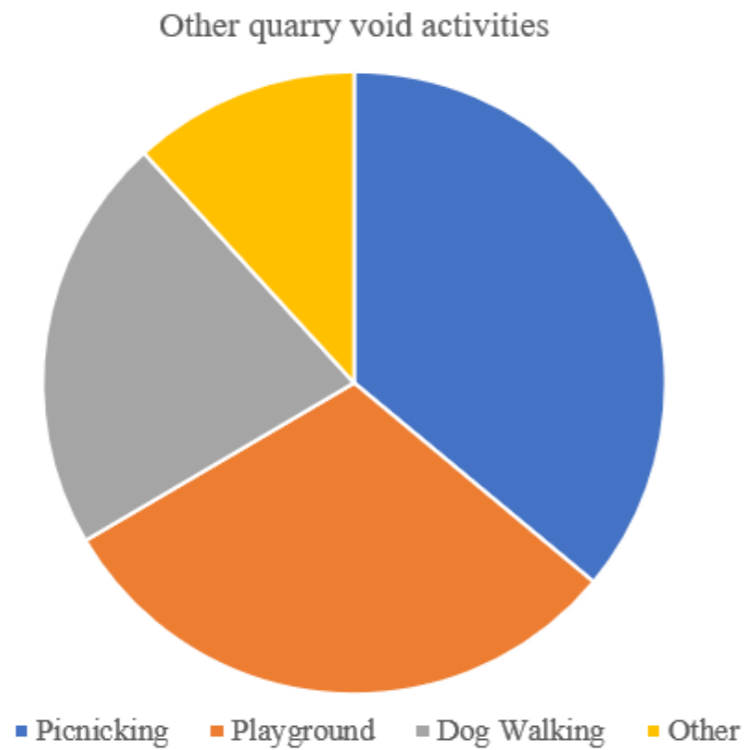
A handful of submissions noted the importance of keeping the water catchment clean and free from debris and potential pollutants. This was particularly important for catchments downstream:

In regards to the lake, if it is to be used for water sports, the water quality would have to be assured, and therefore monitored and maintained. Aquatic plantings will need to be carefully selected and maintained.

Other activities

Those who provided feedback had the opportunity to nominate other potential uses or activities for the Quarry Void, as well as those that should not be allowed. We heard contrasting views.

Reflecting what was heard in response to other sections of the draft master plan, allowing space for passive activities was also important to survey respondents. Respondents were given a list of potential uses and activities from which they could select multiple options. Picnicking attracted the most selections (36 percent), followed by playground (30 percent) and dog walking (22 percent), as shown Graph 13 below.



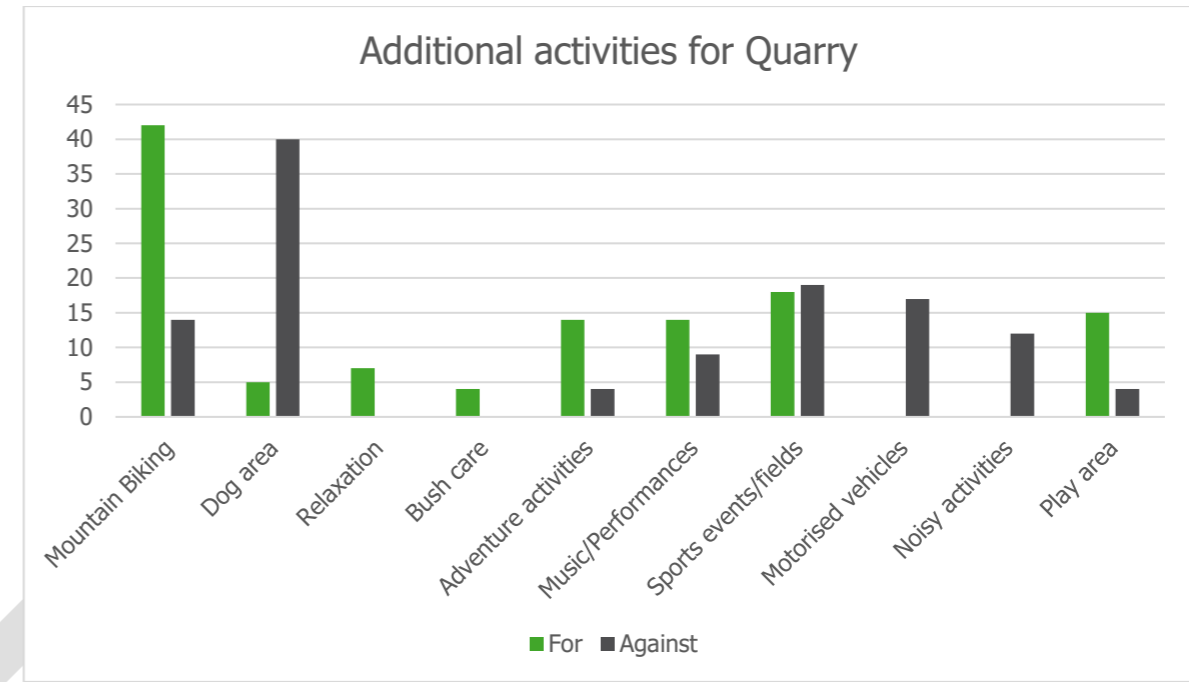
Graph 13: survey responses to the question Are there any other types of uses or activities that you think should be included here?

Those who selected 'other' were given the opportunity to specify activities, and there were 155 responses. Additionally, respondents could specify what type of activities they thought should **not** be included in Quarry Void, by responding to the question *Are there any types of activities you think should not be included here?* with 157 responses provided.

Mountain biking, outdoor music and sports fields were the most supported activities for the quarry, with off-leash dog areas as the least supported:

- No off-leash areas, I'd prefer to keep this location an [on-leash] space to make it safer for families.*
- Music festivals or gatherings of this type should not be allowed.*
- Ad hoc events like Christmas Carols would be magical here!*
- Additional sport fields such as soccer. NOT DOG WALKING – please.*
- Mountain bike trails.*

However, there were contrasting views across all these activities as seen in Graph 14 to the right.



Graph 14: additional activities for the Quarry, nominated by survey respondents

Echoing the 9 percent of survey respondents who nominated music/performance for the Quarry Void, swing-by attendees were very excited about the possibility of events and expressed an interest in a diversity of event types and sizes. Events were also raised by a few submissions, with suggestions including international food markets, summertime events for revenue such as theatre, opera, sculptures in the park. While site tour attendees were also in favour of events in the Quarry Void and saw it as a way to fund maintenance, they expressed a preference for intensive periods rather than frequent. For example, two-week long festivals/concerts rather than sporadically spread out through the year, to minimise impact on neighbours.

- Community activities in the void will be great, we need that.*
- There should be the occasional concert in the void, but not many.*
- Include a stage for film screenings, drama, comedy.*
- Seasonal farmers' markets- make the park a destination.*
- Music concerts for young people – like the sunset sessions that have been on recently.*
- Opera would be amazing here.*
- Also previously noted by myself and my neighbour (on the quarry tour) major theatre/opera events in the quarry void for a few weeks of the year over the summer could raise large sums of money for council.*

There is need for shade

The need for shade in the Quarry was raised across all feedback channels. Images of the open parkland adjacent to the water did not include any landscaping, which drew attention to the concern that it would be very exposed particularly in summer heat. As noted earlier in the chapter, some written submissions suggested more native trees and vegetation to provide additional shade across the park, including the Quarry Void.

- That area looks too exposed. You'd fry in summer .*
- The area needs trees for shading – perhaps deciduous trees?*

Old Mans Valley

Most of the feedback received about this area of the master plan related to the proposed sports fields and other amenities. Of written submissions, Old Mans Valley recorded 151 responses, which equates to 16 per cent of total responses. This was the second highest theme recoded through the analysis of written submissions.

In these responses, significant concern was expressed about the inclusion of a sports field based on its perceived inconsistency with the character of the area and potential operational impacts (53 percent of the responses that mentioned a sports field in written submissions raised concerns, including the proposed use of a synthetic surface). 47 percent of the tallied responses for a sports fields expressed support. There was also strong support for a sports field at swing bys and through the survey.

The proposed use of a synthetic surface was debated across all feedback channels.

Image 6: Old Mans Valley



A gateway to Hornsby Park

The feedback received supported Old Mans Valley being a central point of arrival to Hornsby Park, which was considered important. There was however a split in opinion about whether the proposed uses for this site were appropriate or would detract from its role as a gateway to the park.

Many swing-by attendees and submissions argued that it would be too busy and congested for the proposed uses, especially as it was also the gateway to the park. Some thought that the master plan included too much space for buses/parking and not enough for picnicking. Similarly, the Community Deliberative Forum expressed concerns that overuse of this area was a risk to the arrival experience as this is an important feature of the park and needs to live up to potential:

Whether arriving by vehicle or by the skywalk, visitors are currently dumped into a sports field, an experience one can have anywhere in Sydney. The whole of OMV needs to be redesigned to welcome visitors into a recreational space focused on the contrast from noisy and crowded urban life to a gentle environment informed by soft grass, shading trees and a sense of the endless space stretching out to Berowra Valley National Park.

Old Mans Valley needs to be redesigned to either reduce the size of the sports fields or remove the sports fields and eliminate the vehicular access through the centre so there is adequate open space for picnicking, social relaxing and unstructured play for the thousands of people from units in the surrounding areas.

With all the sport games the area will be too congested. It will hide the natural beauty just behind it

There is too much going on here.

A number of submissions also suggested reducing the pedestrian and orientation plaza so that it does not protrude as far into the site as proposed.

This feedback is however in direct contrast to the survey results. When asked, *What is your level of support for the draft master plan's proposed uses and activities in Old Man's Valley?* three quarters of respondents to this question expressed significant satisfaction (just over 40 percent supported the proposed uses and 35 percent strongly supported them) and 13 percent remained neutral.

Supportive of a sports field and synthetic surface

Swing-by attendees and 71 of the 923 tallied themes within the written submissions supported a sports field in this location, with many advocating for an extended hour use (that is, under lights) and to have a synthetic playing surface: It was also the second most supported activity from the survey response (graph 15) in Old Mans Valley

Sports should be a priority for both sites.

We really need sports fields.

Soccer needs more pitches.

(Our organisation) supports the Hornsby Park masterplan and the inclusion of a football field at Old Man's Valley. preference is that the field is built to the largest possible size, i.e. 105m x 68 m if the venue can accommodate it. The larger sized field increases the training capacity and provides more flexibility with modified fields.

I am writing to show support of synthetic field proposal and floodlights to allow for training and night matches. I believe that this development would support 2,900 local football players and many more users informally and the synthetic fields would allow greater summer usage and ability to play in all weather conditions.

When synthetic fields are delivered in the correct manner, through professional design and construction methodologists that are 'site suitable', their use can be significantly maximised. In many cases, a full-size synthetic playing field, floodlit to match capable standards can deliver up to 2.2 times the utilisation of grass pitches.

I would particularly like to express my support for the proposed synthetic field.

[We] have viewed the quarry flyover and would like to acknowledge our support of the synthetic field proposal with floodlights to support the several 1000's of local players with training, games, general fun and more spaces to get fit and enjoy life.

I am writing to ask that consideration be given to a sporting field (synthetic or otherwise) for soccer in the quarry redevelopment site. I am actively involved in soccer as Both a coach, and player and have seen a huge rise in the sport in recent times and regularly see the joy soccer brings to local youth. I strongly believe it would be a great idea to future proof facilities in regards to the sport.

The provision of a multi-purpose sports field at 'Old Man's Valley' with a preference towards a natural turf playing field and synthetic cricket pitch...

...should see it utilised for 12 months of the year.

An essential feature of this development should be adequate lighting. Most training for our clubs occurs under lights. An appropriate standard of lighting would also allow this venue to be utilised for night games which have become a more common feature of local competitions. Lack of appropriate lighting of the field in this development would lead to a gross underutilisation of the facility.

The inclusion of a sporting amenities building at Old Man's Valley is an essential aspect to footballs operation. It is vital this new venue provides the suitable facilities for the future particularly ensuring facilities are gender neutral. An amenity building on site should include; gender neutral change rooms, gender neutral referees' room, a canteen, a first aid room, public toilets and sufficient storage.

Our association request council to consider the provision of an amenities building and floodlighting.

If a synthetic sports field could be installed this would have so many benefits for the sporting community.

Synthetic grass for the playing fields is a must as natural grass is too hard to maintain.

A handful of submissions noted the importance of having supporting amenities such as toilets, sports equipment storage, change rooms, and function rooms.

As noted above, 51 survey respondents also supported the inclusion of a sports field, with this being the second most popular use of Old Mans Valley nominated. It is important to reiterate that this was an open-ended question, with respondents free to provide any potential uses.

Opposed to a sports field

Feedback received at the swing-bys and in some written submissions gave a strong sense that a sports field isn't considered compatible or appropriate in this area:

Don't need another sports field

Why such a fixation on sports? Where is the space for arts and culture? There should be a community space here for people

Strong opposition to the sporting fields, already plenty in the area

Need more community spaces instead of playing fields

No sportsfield should be constructed and noise protocols, with a particular focus on the needs of Powerful Owls, must be developed and implemented for all events.

Sporting Lobby groups should not be successful in having noise generating team sports being played on any field in this complex, which is to be developed as a Passive Recreation area.

I also have some concerns around sports fields being proposed within the development. As a father of young boys I spend plenty of time at sports fields all around Sydney and those that are least attractive are those in valleys and gulleys with limited sun, such as Tunks Park Northbridge, Blackman Park Lane Cove, and Browns Field Wahroonga. OMV looks and feels very similar to those locations and none of those appear as self sustaining economic attractors.

I wonder if we really need another sports pitch... the area seems well-served by playgrounds and sports fields already

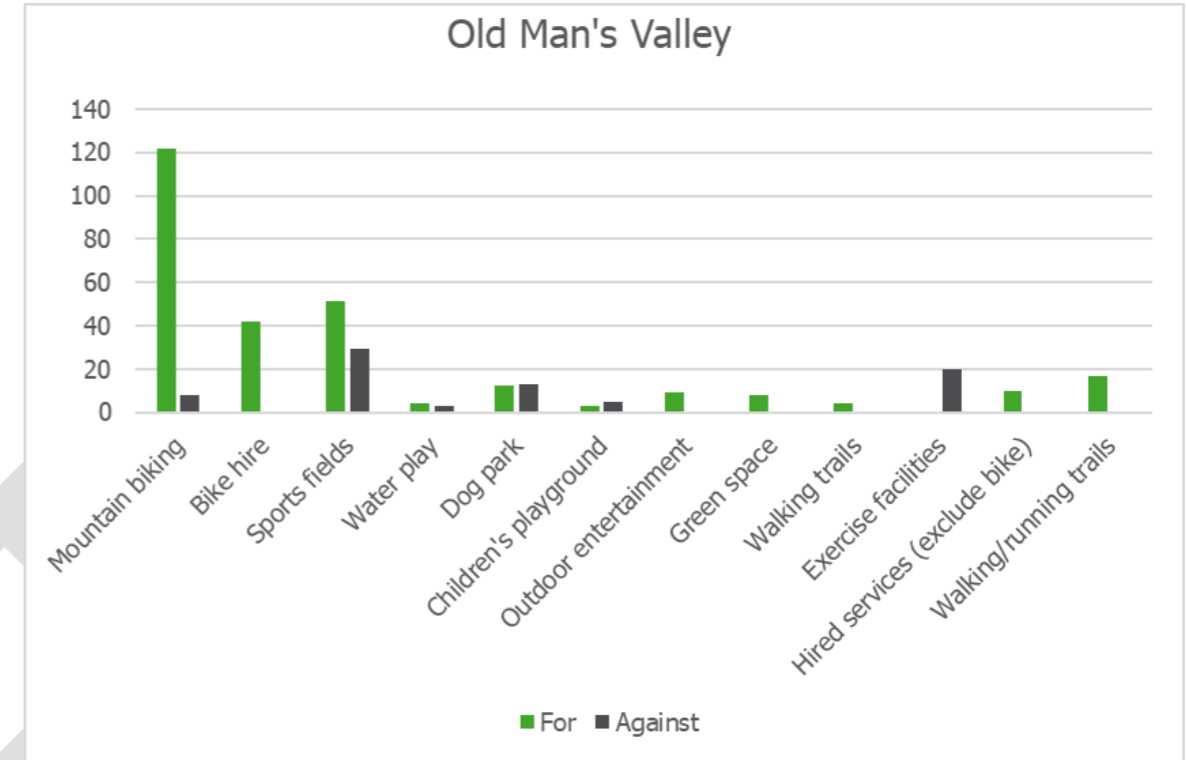
When survey respondents were asked to nominate what types of activities should and should not be included at Old Mans Valley a sports field was the most opposed, accounting for 21 percent of the 140 responses, with particular opposition to synthetic turf:

No sports grounds please, enough sport ovals already. If too many activities it would be crowded and busy. Exclude water play.

Bike hire is a great idea. Shade sails would be lovely.

Recreation area aimed at teens - plenty of playgrounds for pre-schoolers and young kids, very little for older kids.

Categories of responses are shown in Graph 15 to the right.



Graph 15: feedback from survey respondents about what activities should (n=304) and should not be (n=140) included in Old Mans Valley

Submissions opposing the sports field questioned the need for its inclusion in Hornsby Park. Community Deliberative Forum members similarly thought that Old Mans Valley shouldn't be considered as primarily a sporting venue – they saw Westleigh Park as the location where sporting facilities should be concentrated, and Old Mans Valley as a relaxing backyard. They did however acknowledge the Shire's needs for additional sports fields and suggested a compromise: for the field to be dedicated to juniors, so that other important elements could be incorporated such as base for adventure recreation, a café and bike hire.

The alternative preferences for uses of the space put forward by the Community Deliberative Forum and in submissions were passive and informal recreation:

Currently around Hornsby, the only open areas are dedicated to clubs etc so its very hard to find an open space to simply kick a ball

...there should be a large area available for the physically challenged people for their own use as they like to have group gatherings and activities. These facilities would be best placed with shelters and facilities, preferably in the proposed sporting complex area.

The sport field(s)...cater for people to play an organised sport for a couple of hours a week, a practice, and the game. This is a minor amount of most people's time. I would like the sporting field removed to allow for more play and recreation space. Sporting fields are being provided at Westleigh.

Image 7: Sports field at Old Mans Valley



In contrast, when survey respondents were asked the open-ended question Are there any other types of uses or activities that you think should and should not be included here?, mountain biking was the activity most frequently put forward, accounting for 122 of the 304 suggestions provided, and several additional comments requested bike hiring facilities. This was however followed by support for a sports field, with 51 responses (see Graph 15 on the previous page).

Against synthetic surface

Across all channels, opposition was expressed about the use of a synthetic surface for the proposed sports field.

No synthetic field on OMV

Synthetic not appropriate due environmental impacts and heat

Concerned about synthetic surfaces – not good for waste at end of life and not proven for wear and tear plus not good to play on – hot and skin burns

I'm not in favour of a sports ground being included, but if it is then I'm strongly opposed to the use of artificial turf.

The sporting field in Old Mans Valley, close to the suburban area, will have a synthetic turf surface. This makes it unsuitable for general public use and will be a bushfire hazard.

There should be no synthetic surfaces on playing fields as this is expensive to lay, can cause serious injuries from falls, causes issues with water run-off/flooding and as it degrades pollutes local water courses and bushland with plastic particles.

All use of synthetic turf in both master plans should be replaced with natural surfaces, in particular grass, that provide biodiversity value and reduce the negative climate impacts.

Crusher Plant

The general consensus from all feedback channels was that the adaptive reuse of the Crusher Plant building proposed in the draft master plan was an appropriate approach. For example, in response to being asked if they supported the master plan's proposed uses and activities at the crusher plant, over three quarters of the survey respondents who answered the question stated they supported or strongly supported what was outlined in the master plan for this site; and only 19 per cent chose 'neither support nor oppose'.

The suggestions put forward for the Crusher Plant across the swing bys, the small number of submissions that mentioned the site, and the survey (which asked respondents what features they would like to see at the crusher plant and what features they would not like to see) included:

- » adventure recreation. This was nominated by 24 of the 103 survey responses to this question. A specific activity raised in submissions was rock climbing
Great place for adventure rec
- » a café. This was third most popular with survey respondents, attracting around 10 percent of the 103 survey responses to this question:
Café is a good idea at Crusher Plant
A café (serving drinks and light meals) doubling as a tourist information centre seems needed
On the positive side we applaud the provision of a café/restaurant which would serve the community and provide wonderful views of the natural features of the Park [Submission text]
- » cultural facilities (specific examples given in submissions were a museum, arts precinct or gallery)
Cultural pursuits in Crusher Plant and history important. [Swing-by attendee]

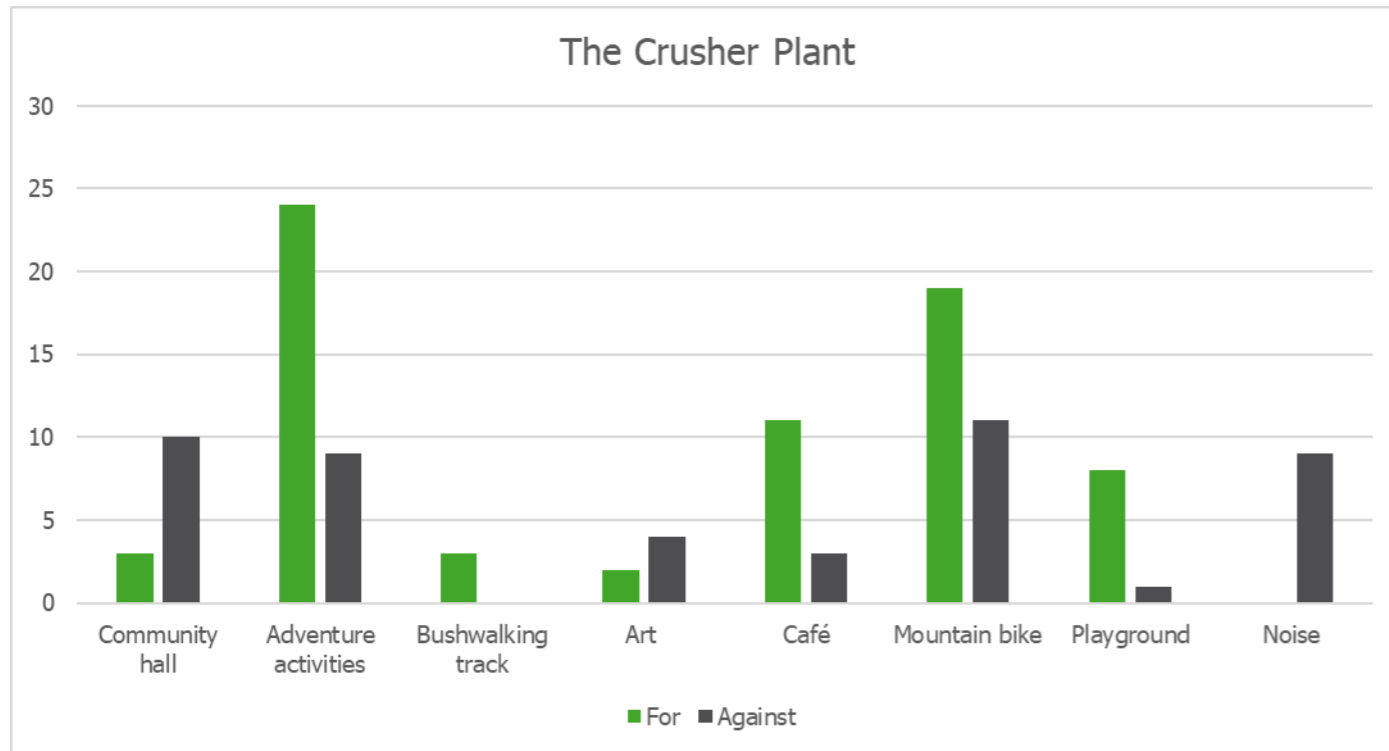
Other suggestions put forward via the submissions included an education centre, community centre, and a native plant nursery. A very small number suggested maintaining its history and ensuring that any uses were aligned to this.

A handful of these submissions were also opposed to any active recreation in this area:

An environment education centre and botanical garden would be appropriate, especially if it can be used to highlight and promote the environmental and sustainability activities being conducted by Hornsby Council

I also consider inappropriate the proposals that are in the section in the draft Management Plan which refer to possible future uses of the Crusher Plant. This would make an excellent Interpretation site for the Park, where a history of the site could be outlined together with photographs etc. There is an enormous depth of history in this area which includes its scientific significance, and these are important matters which should be available as information to the Park's visitors. It could also be used for short term exhibitions. Not every visitor will be focussed on sport or active recreation.

It is interesting to note, that 19 of the 103 survey respondents who provided activities they would like to see at this site, nominated mountain biking. The tension between enabling mountain biking and maintaining the natural environment of Hornsby Park is once again evident as mountain biking also received the highest number of mentions when respondents nominated what activities they would **not** like to see at the Crusher Plant. Of the 114 responses this question, 11 are of the view it isn't appropriate in the area. This was followed by a community hall (in contrast to one of the uses nominated via the submissions) and noisy activities. Survey responses are provided in Graph 16 over the page.



Graph 16: feedback from survey respondents about what activities should (n=103) and should not be (n=114) included at the Crusher Plant

Image 8: Crusher Plant



South Western Platform

There was a mixed response across all channels to the proposals for accommodation at the South Western Platform. It was however clear across all channels, that more support was provided for camping over cabins or 'glamping'.

The survey indicated two thirds of respondents were very comfortable with the proposed uses for the South Western Platform. In response to the question *What is your level of support for the draft master plan's proposed uses and activities at The South Western Platform?* 39 percent 'supported' and 37 per cent 'strongly supported' what was outlined in the draft master plan.

In contrast, there was no clear sentiment either way about the proposed uses for the site at the swing-bys and via submissions. In the submissions that mentioned the proposals for this site, feedback was almost equally weighted between those that supported accommodation and those who opposed it. It is however important to note that only a handful of swing-by attendees discussed it with the project team and only a small number of submissions mentioned it. Similarly, survey respondents preferred camping over accommodation:

- Should include camping on the south west platform*
- Why Ecolodges (boutique accommodation). Contradicts principle of sustainability*
- Camping okay for stargazing (bubble tents) but not boutique accommodation*
- Not convinced that bushwalkers and campers will come to Hornsby Park from the Great North Walk but okay with the suggestion that school groups and other groups might camp there*
- Overnight accommodation in the form of ecolodges is attractive and supportable if it meets and complies with environmental and education requirements. I personally feel that limits on numbers is an essential requirement, and that accommodation must meet strict sustainability criteria. I like the idea of linking these to unique activities being held in the park, which are sympathetic to local residents.*
- Any accommodation and commercial sporting businesses should not be in our parks, but in appropriately zoned areas, such as in the Hornsby business and commercial districts. Our parks should not be commercialised or privatised.*
- With regard to the south west area, the proposal for tourist accommodation is strongly supported. As the northern gateway to Sydney it should be a winner and could provide a useful revenue stream.*
- Overnight camping oriented towards hike in families.*
- Could include a camping site (as opposed to glamping/accommodation).*
- Not a fan of the glamping option, unless it's at secluded site and does not impede on community experience.*

The survey asked respondents to nominate what features/activities they would like to see at this site. Of the 30 responses to this question, the most popular activities nominated were mountain biking and camping.

When asked what activities should not be included at the South Western Platform, the strongest opposition was to overnight accommodation with 50 of the 127 responses (or just under 40 percent) to this question against it. Of these however, several comments tolerated campgrounds as opposed to glamping.

Higgins Cemetery

There was no consistent theme raised about this area of the park across the feedback channels.

While there were mixed feelings about the proposed improved access to the Higgins family cemetery at the swing-bys, attendees agreed that any decisions needed to be made in consultation with family descendants:

- I don't think you should open up the cemetery – it will attract vandals*
- I think it will be great to have improved access near the Cemetery precinct and to connect it to the rest of the site*

You need to work with the family

A very small number of submissions discussed the Higgins Family Cemetery. When it was raised, it was to support and protect the area. Some argued to preserve its isolation and seclusion from general public, referring to its Heritage Listing:

There must be no accessible path through this State heritage listed cemetery and any walks or tours of the grave site must be Council approved and restricted to approved historical research activities.

It seems that a track through the Higgins Family Cemetery is not appropriate and should be rerouted.

Protection should be assured for the Higgins Heritage Cemetery...with a protective fence

There was only one question in the survey about this site, which asked respondents for their level of support towards the proposed improvements. Of the 455 respondents to this question, 63 percent supported or strongly supported the draft master plan and 31 percent nominated that they neither support nor oppose.

Westleigh Connection

The small number of people at swing-bys who wanted more information about the link between Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park were generally very supportive and enthusiastic. Many didn't realise that there is currently a fire trail between these two parks, and could see themselves and their families using the connection:

Wow, the link will be fantastic for my family

What a great idea

The compromise of the track being on the road and through the bush is good

I would definitely ride between the two with my kids

The proposal to link Westleigh and Old Man's Valley trails with a cycling track is very appealing to me, as this would give the ability to ride both trails without risking busy roads, and it would be ideal for this to be bike specific single track wherever possible.

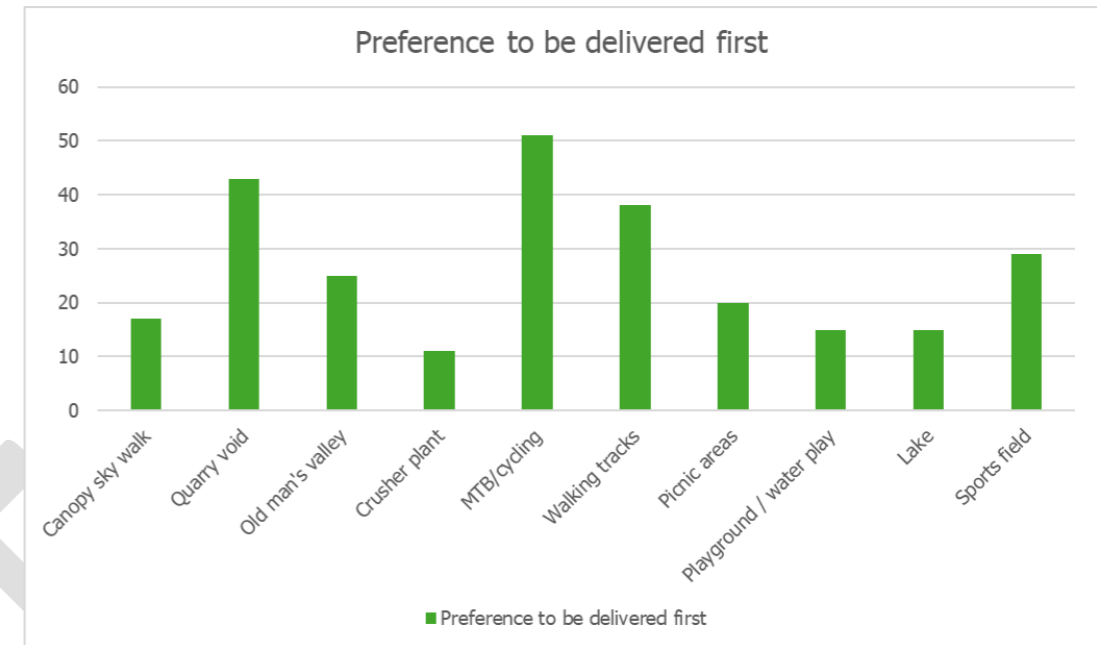
In contrast, of those submissions that mentioned the link between the two parks, the overwhelming majority were against it due to environmental considerations. However, those submissions that did support it, did so on safety considerations, rather than connectivity benefits, as per swing by attendees.

The Hornsby-Westleigh Connection is not supported. If the pressure is overwhelming from sporting groups an alternate route from the end of Valley Road is preferable as it would cause less habitat damage

Sequence of delivery

There was strong feedback from the Community Deliberative Forum and swing-bys that the Canopy Skywalk should be the first piece of infrastructure delivered – in fact there was unanimous agreement among Community Deliberative Forum members on this point. There was a split between members in preferencing either Old Mans Valley or the Quarry Void in terms of sequencing of delivery, and this was reflected at the swing-bys with a relatively equal split between these two sites. Those swing-by attendees who preferred Old Mans Valley generally did so based on participation in organised sport.

The survey results tell a different story, showing a clear preference for mountain biking trails to be delivered first, followed by the Quarry Void. Of the 193 responses to the question *What elements of the overall draft master plan do you like and would like to see delivered first?*, 18 percent of respondents nominated mountain biking trails and 15 percent the Quarry Void. This was followed by walking tracks (13 percent) and the sports field (10 percent). Old Mans Valley attracted 9 percent of responses, followed by 'other' at 8 per cent, picnic areas and amenities at 7 per cent, Canopy Sky Walk at 6 percent, playground and water play at 5 percent and the Lake and Crusher Plant at 4 percent.



Graph 17: survey respondents' preferences for which master plan element should be delivered first.

Additional comments from survey respondents reflecting these sentiments include:

Keep progressing with the mountain biking and cycling facilities. There are NO children that do no LOVE being on bikes!

Really like the emphasis on Bushland conservation and bushwalking. The quarry void is a real star feature and would attract people.

'Pay to play' / residents' benefits

Fees and project cost were not commonly raised in feedback. When submissions canvassed the issue of 'pay for play', the emphasis was on ensuring that if there was to be some type of access fee, rate payers should have preferential treatment. Submissions referenced prior rate surcharge and the fact they have to pay for parking when they visit other areas. Site tour attendees were also curious about entry fees, the cost of the project and increased Council rates.

This sentiment was further also reflected in the survey results. When asked *Would you support or not support investigation into "pay to play" or "user pays" for certain purpose-build, high maintenance facilities*, 62 percent of the 395 respondents selected 'yes'.

When asked to provide reasons for their response, there was an overlap in responses given by those who had selected there should be a fee system as well as those who had selected that there shouldn't. Respondents highlighted when and how charges should be applied. This feedback is outlined in the Graph 18 and Table 1 over the page.

Comments from both the surveys and submissions were incredibly similar:

Public land available for all. No charge to use other council spaces so why target this area?

A playground, picnic areas & parking should be free for the community. If you build a rock-climbing centre etc. then user pays.

This then impacts the access for members of the community who can't afford to pay. We want this to be a space that is welcoming for all.

Perhaps for non-rate payers. Local residents pay rates so should access the park and facilities for free.

If you need for uses to pay for the upkeep I completely agree.

The Park should be restricted for use of Hornsby residents. We paid for it. Other users could be charged an entry fee.

The residents have already paid for this quarry both out of Council Funds and the special levy. It is entirely appropriate to charge fees for Park users (entrance, car parking and other activities) but residents of Hornsby Shire should be rewarded and not charged.

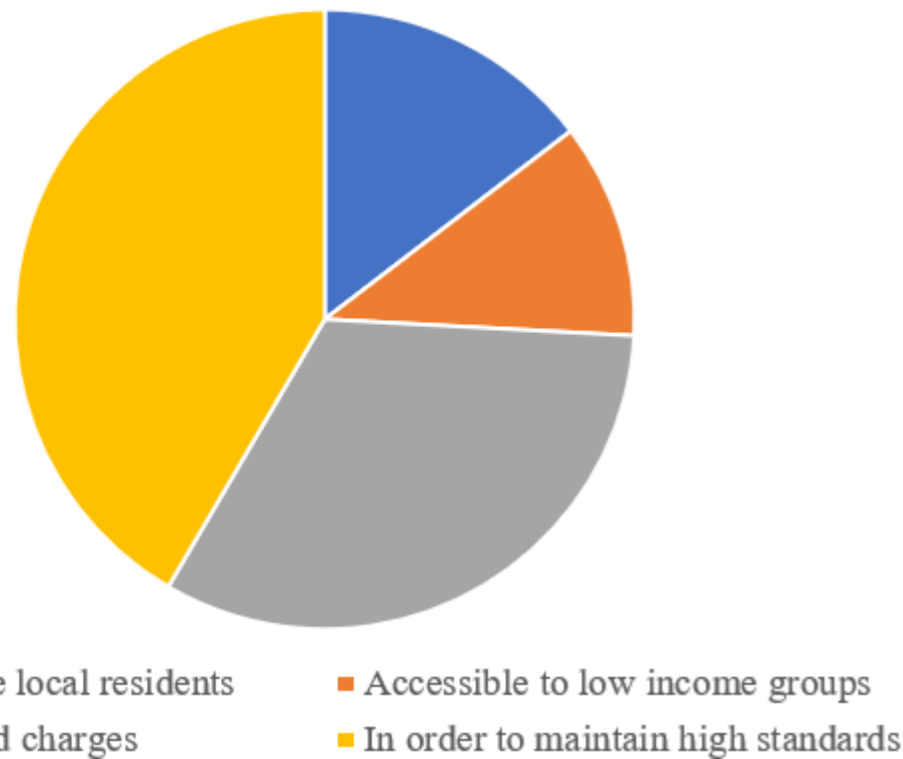
We believe that Hornsby ratepayers and residents do not expect to pay for access to the park nor pay to participate in recreational activities provided in the park. We also suggest that car parking fees should be waived for residents of Hornsby

Access to the park should be free and available to all, including those with disabilities. We believe this should be a public amenity that serves the needs of Hornsby Shire rate payers.

Parking for Hornsby residents should be free in the park via a Parking Pass, as per the Northern Beaches and Manly Councils policies that set a precedent for this. Visitors from outside Hornsby shire should pay, similar to the way we pay when we go to Manly so as to restrict visitors by car and encourage use of public transport.

- » smoke free environment
- » alcohol free environment
- » opposed to the use of drones and kites
- » chess sets
- » opposed to the introduction of e-Bikes
- » support for the variety of paving surfaces
- » further consultation and engagement with additional experts such as those associated with birds, and geologists
- » planning for intergenerational play
- » include parenting rooms in the plans for the park
- » contract local businesses and workforces to build and develop the park, to boost the local economy.
- » need for emergency access routes and plans.
- » fire management plans that include fire retardant materials, and mitigation strategies need to be adopted
- » scooters, bicycles, and skateboards should not be permitted.
- » strategic placement of water fountains, bins, and recycling bins
- » opportunities to promote Aboriginal economic interests and participation in the site.

Pay or play



Graph 18: survey responses to the question of a potential user pays system

| Should not charge | Should charge |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Local residents should not be charged as they already pay rates. » Maintain equal accessibility to low income groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » High maintenance activities such as rock climbing can be charged. » If high standards are maintained a charge is acceptable |

Table 1: survey responses to the question: why would you support the Council investigating "pay to play" or "user pays" for certain purpose-built, high maintenance facilities?

Other themes

There were a number of other themes that were raised on submissions that were not statistically significant to include as a key theme of this report, but are worth noting. They include:

5 Stakeholder Meetings

The purpose of the stakeholder meetings was to support attendees in the drafting of written submissions. This was achieved through presenting the draft master plan, and having a number of the project team members available to answer questions.

Stakeholder meetings were held with Council Advisory Committees, and groups, associations and clubs that have a special interest or existing link to Hornsby Park. Many have been previously and actively engaged since 2017's initial 'Plan Your Parkland' round of engagement. Other groups that previously have not been engaged were selected on the basis of a future use of the park.

In addition to project team members, at every stakeholder meeting a number of senior council officers and executives were in attendance. Many councillors also attended the meetings in the capacity of observers.

5.1 Council Advisory Committees

Two meetings were held with Councils Advisory Committees.

At the first meeting with the Hornsby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (HATSICC), the project was included as an agenda item at a pre-arranged scheduled meeting.

The second was an out of session special purpose meeting for advisory committees that have an active interest in the development of the Park. These committees were - Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC), Hornsby Shire Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), and Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC)

A high-level summary of each meeting is detailed below.

| Committee / Date | People in attendance | Key points |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Hornsby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (HATSICC) – Thursday 29 April | 7 | <p>Indigenous History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Interpretation of indigenous history of the site was considered to be of critical importance. » Recognition that there were many opportunities for an indigenous interpretation including naming of tracks » Suggestions of yarning circle » Suggestion of shelters and picnic spots to tell aboriginal stories through design » Concern that aboriginal consultation needs to occur as early as possible » Supportive of design by country approach » Would like ongoing close involvement » Would like previous work to be considered <p>Natural Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » concern raised about protecting unique species, » would like to see potential mountain bike and bushwalking trail conflicts minimised <p>Adventure recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » People were generally supportive of possible adrenalin and water activities, education, and accommodation ideas » The connection to Westleigh Park was regarded as important |
| Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC), Hornsby Shire Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) – Thursday 6 May | 9 | <p>Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Questions about adequate numbers of parking spaces <p>Quarry Void</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Worried about cost of maintenance of the lift down to the void » Concerned about lack of trees in the quarry void, especially in summer |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Swimming was not considered to be suitable <p>Celebration of heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Indigenous heritage considered of key importance – yarning circle, somewhere to display artefacts, a cultural walk » scientific history (telescope) » crusher plant » importance of connected interpretational signage that explains the narrative of the site |
|--|--|--|

5.2 Special Interest Group Meetings

There were five special interest stakeholder meetings held. Lists of the groups that were represented at the meetings can be found in the appendices. A high level summary of each meeting is detailed below.

| Stakeholder group / Date | People in attendance | Key points |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Environment groups - Monday 10 May | 11 | <p>Swimming in the void</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Support expressed for swimming <p>Natural Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Shade needed in quarry void open area » Impacts of flora and fauna » Impact on the sensitive environment within the connection between Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park with more people potentially using was a key concern <p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A key theme and discussion point around universal access, facilities for disabled, use of shuttle bus to increase accessibility <p>Impacts on neighbours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concern for the impact on neighbours activating the park would have <p>Shared paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A strong opinion that shared paths between bush walkers and Mtn Bikes don't mix <p>Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Requests to access a number of reports and documents <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concerns about keeping people away from the diatrene edge » Park governance including rangers and vandals <p>Passive vs Active recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concern not enough passive spaces » Concern that sports fields undermines the quarryness of the area <p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Interpretation of natural environment and all aspects of the sites history critical importance |
| Mountain bike groups - Tuesday 11 May | 11 | <p>Mountain bike tracks</p> |

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The group focussed their attention on lack of single tracks, » track upgrades to be inline with generational skill changes, » loss of track length, and that proposed tracks will 'fail' to be successful <p>Environmental group preferential treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The group felt that they were being discriminated against, and bushwalking community was favoured » Group was keen to have additional information and documentation about the proposed plan to link to Westleigh Park |
| Hornsby sporting groups - Tuesday 18 May | 12 | <p>Extended hours use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The group was keen to explore night use of the proposed sports field at Old Mans Valley, and to understand if it would be lit. <p>Playing Surface</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » debated properties of turf vs synthetic – the majority of attendees in favour of synthetic and a handful expresses reservations <p>Field dimensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Questions were asked about field dimensions, orientation, size of space outside the field boundaries and how far the synthetic turf would be laid. » Groups were also keen to understand which codes the field would be most appropriate for, and if it would accommodate junior fields <p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Questions were asked about the amenities, and potential use by sporting groups <p>Traffic Congestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The group raised concerns about Bridge Road and the need to address the congestion and the no right turn <p>Priority of delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The group expressed the view that Old Mans valley be delivered first |
| Bush walker groups – Thursday 20 May | 1 | <p>Shared paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Highlighted existing conflicts between mountain bikers and bush walkers, with speed playing a significant role » Solutions discussed include chicanes, improved education, improved signage, » Separating bikers and walkers critical importance » Another potential conflict raised was between e-bikes, cycles, mountain bikers, and pedestrians, and suggested that an engineering solution was needed » Improving education for younger generations will help guide and reinforce bush protection initiatives |

6 Site tours

The purpose of the site tours was to support adjoining neighbours in drafting their written submissions. This was achieved through a 90-minute tour of the site, that visited all the major areas included in the draft master plan. A number of the project team were in attendance at each tour, providing information and answering questions. Three site tours were arranged for residents in Manor Road, Fern Tree Close, Roper Lane, Bridge Road, Peats Ferry Road, Dural Street, Quarry Road, and Frederick Street. Letters were hand delivered to mail boxes inviting residents to the tours. This letter can be found in the appendices. A high-level summary of each site tour is detailed below.

| Date | People in attendance | Key points |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Site tour #1 - Saturday 8 May | 21 | <p>Impacts on neighbours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concern was expressed about the impact of noise, light, security and traffic congestion » There was strong opposition to rock climbing activities and other commercial activities » Request to prioritise access from manor road <p>General support for the draft master plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Aside from impacts, in general there was widespread excitement and support for the uses and activities proposed <p>Natural Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Maintaining and enhancing the bushland area and minimising impact was mentioned as being important, and concern expressed about the impact on fauna during development of the park |
| Site tour #2 - Saturday 13 May | 24 | <p>Financial and maintenance costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Questions around entry fees, cost of project and increased rates were raised <p>Passive vs Active Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased support for passive recreation over adventure/active recreation such as ziplines » Amenities such as cafes and restaurants were considered to be important » Support for water play at Old Mans Valley » Events in the Quarry Void to fund maintenance, however a preference for intensive periods rather than frequent. For example two week long festivals/ concerts rather than sporadically spread out through the year, to minimise impact on neighbours <p>Celebrating the site's history</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Protecting heritage of the site considered extremely important <p>Accessibility and circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Significant interest in the route of the canopy walk, and support for shuttle bus service » Need for clear signage so that people don't trespass on private property » Concerns about car access into certain locations, increased traffic on approach roads, mitigating noise park impacts from increased visitation for nearby residents |
| Site tour #3 - Sunday 23 May | 28 | <p>Impacts on neighbours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concern was expressed about the impact of noise, light, security and traffic congestion on local roads and intersections. <p>Access and circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Significant interest in the paths that would connect all the areas » Specific questions about the route of the canopy sky walk and shuttle bus » Questions about upgrades to nearby roads, route of the canopy walk, and shuttle bus route » Discussion about the danger of shared Mtn Biking and walking paths |

Appendices



Previous engagement

Plan Your Parkland

In 2017, as part of its commitment to creating parklands that are “designed, owned, used and loved by residents”, Hornsby Shire Council contracted Elton Consulting to provide communications and engagement support for its Hornsby Park project. This first phase of engagement resulted in the community being asked to ‘Plan Your Parkland’ by providing their blue-sky aspirations for the site. The engagement approach included:

- » Email to 40,000 residents
- » Letters and emails to stakeholders
- » Project website updates
- » Establishment of a Community Deliberative Forum, which met on three occasions
- » Stakeholder meetings with:
 - > Mountain Bike groups
 - > Bush care & Environmental Groups, and
 - > Presentation at the local business chamber meeting
- » Community swing-bys held in Hornsby Mall that engaged over 600 residents

The main themes heard were:

- » Walking tracks
- » Picnic areas and open spaces
- » Mountain biking
- » Environmental
- » Cafes / restaurants
- » Arts / community / historical facilities

DA preparation engagement

At the conclusion of the ‘Plan Your Parkland’ round of engagement, Council began preparing a Development Application (DA) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the earthworks required to create a safe, and accessible landform. As part of developing the DA and EIS, Council again worked with Elton Consulting to engage the community. The targeted engagement approach included the following:

- » Email to 40,000 residents
- » Letters and emails to stakeholders
- » Project website updates
- » Presentations to:
 - > the Community Deliberative Forum
 - > environmental and bushwalking stakeholder groups
- » 4 Community swing-bys in Hornsby Mall
- » Social media posts
- » Media release

This phase of engagement again demonstrated overwhelming support and understanding around the concept of transforming the quarry into parklands and identified a number of key themes:

1. Accessibility - support for making the site accessible to the public
2. Environment – support for careful management of any impacts to site vegetation, particularly the ecologically endangered communities.
3. Engagement - recognition of Council’s commitment to engagement and support for transparency and openness as the project continues.
4. Geotechnical investigations – acknowledgement that the impacts of mining operations on site stability and safety had been appropriately investigated as part of the EIS process.

DA for Landform Earthworks Public Exhibition Engagement

Council submitted its Development Application (DA) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to independent planners. Once assessed by the independent planners it was sent to the Sydney North Planning Panel for assessment. Assessment of the DA and EIS were required before earthworks can begin to make the quarry site safe, stable and accessible.

The communication and engagement approach was developed and delivered around three focus points:

- » Create a safe, stable, accessible and flexible landform that could accommodate the range of activities the community has identified for the parklands
- » Extent of earthworks required to deliver the required landform objectives
- » Mitigation measures as set out in the EIS to respond to potential impacts on the environment and community during construction

This phase actively engaged:

- » 594 people at four swing-bys in Hornsby Mall
- » 40,000 residents that received an email update
- » 21 residents from Ferntree Close and Manor Road attended site tours

Support for the transformation of the Quarry into a park continued through this engagement phase. People were supportive of Councils approach, keen to know DA and EIS details, as well as ensuring that the natural environment is protected and enhanced.

People expressed interest and opinions about the future uses of the site and having their say.

A5 Postcard



As Hornsby Shire’s population grows, so too does the need for a wide variety of open and green spaces.

To cater for this long-term demand, Council has been drafting master plans for two exciting regional sized parks that will provide a huge range of activities for generations to come.

HORNSBY PARK

We are creating a leisure and nature destination of regional proportions. The site’s historical significance to the area, the dramatic quarry walls, the lake and the ecologically endangered bushland mean this is no ordinary park – it is unique to Hornsby.

Council is seeking the community’s feedback on the draft master plan and park delivery priorities. Have your say by visiting our website hornsbypark.com.au or scan the QR code.

WESTLEIGH PARK

Will be a regional sized, multi-purpose sports and recreational destination delivered over a number of stages. It will be large enough to provide a number of sportsgrounds for a range of activities, as well as informal exercise areas, playgrounds, bushland experiences and mountain bike trails.

A draft master plan has been developed and Council is seeking the community’s feedback. Visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/westleighpark

MEET THE TEAM

Find out more, meet the team, and ask your questions at our Swing-Bys:

Hornsby Mall
Saturday 1 May
Thursday 13 May
11am – 2pm

Ruddock Park,
Westleigh
Saturday 15 May
11am – 2pm



A2 Poster

HAVE YOUR SAY

HORNSBY AND WESTLEIGH PARKS' DRAFT MASTER PLANS



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www.hornsbypark.com.au

Map based survey landing page

Hornsby Park Draft Master Plan Survey

Using an iPad or a smartphone? [Click here before you proceed!](#)


The draft master plan sets out ideas for how the site could be developed. The intention is to retain the quarry-ness of the area, whilst conserving and extending the bushland setting. It also looks at a number of opportunities where we can maximise views and lookouts for visitors, through a choice of experiences which range from adventure, social places and quiet areas to reflect in the natural setting. Our aim is for Hornsby Park to cater for and balance the diverse needs of the community, transforming the site and paying tribute to its rich historical and environmental values.

Hornsby Park is so large and unique that it may be the only one of its kind in the Greater Sydney area for generations to come, if not for ever. The first stage of the park will be open in 2023.

We would like to understand your views on the [draft master plan](#). This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to

1 / 18

>



Map based survey demographics

| What is your age? | % | Count |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| 19 or younger | 3.7% | 17 |
| 20 to 29 | 10.2% | 47 |
| 30 to 39 | 21.6% | 99 |
| 40 to 49 | 30.3% | 139 |
| 50 to 59 | 19.6% | 90 |
| 60 to 69 | 8.7% | 40 |
| 70 or older | 5.9% | 27 |
| Grand Total | 100.0% | 459 |

| What gender do you identify with? | % | Count |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Male | 55.0% | 216 |
| Female | 44.3% | 174 |
| Gender fluid | 0.8% | 3 |
| Grand Total | 100.0% | 393 |

| Do you speak a language other than English at home? | % | Count |
|---|---------------|------------|
| No | 82.3% | 311 |
| Yes | 17.7% | 67 |
| Grand Total | 100.0% | 378 |

| What is your postcode? | % | Count |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 2077 | 48.2% | 132 |
| 2120 | 10.9% | 30 |
| 2079 | 9.1% | 25 |
| 2076 | 5.1% | 14 |
| 2081 | 4.4% | 12 |
| 2082 | 4.4% | 12 |
| 2080 | 2.9% | 8 |
| 2074 | 2.9% | 8 |
| 2119 | 2.6% | 7 |
| 2126 | 1.8% | 5 |
| 2125 | 1.5% | 4 |
| 2073 | 1.1% | 3 |
| 2154 | 0.7% | 2 |
| 2086 | 0.7% | 2 |
| 2069 | 0.7% | 2 |
| 2620 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2118 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2156 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2031 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2015 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2122 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2111 | 0.4% | 1 |
| 2083 | 0.4% | 1 |
| Grand Total | 100.0% | 274 |

A0 Boards

HORNSBY PARK

FROM QUARRY TO PARK

A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION



The quarry void now



The proposed future quarry void

A PARK LIKE NO OTHER

Hornsby Shire Council is in the process of transforming the quarry and its surrounds into a regional destination where the magnificent bush, dramatic quarry walls and the lake will take centre stage to become 'Hornsby Park'. Situated on the doorstep of Hornsby's thriving CBD, at 59 hectares in size, Hornsby Park will be the largest park Council has ever created. Its proportions, diversity of activities and dramatic natural beauty will provide something for everyone.

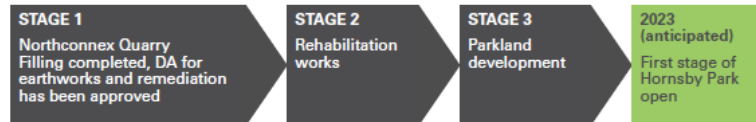
PROGRESS ON SITE

Over one million cubic metres of material from the NorthConnex project has been delivered and will be used to create the foundations of the new parkland. The DA for the re-shaping of the material and other landform and safety works has been approved, and earthworks are expected to start this year.

The NSW Government has allocated \$50 million to create Hornsby Park. Once the final design has been determined, this will fund part of the first stage of works. As further funding becomes available, Council will then continue to construct and deliver the remaining stages of the park.

Hornsby Park is so large and unique that it may be the only one of its kind in the Greater Sydney area for generations to come, if not forever. To ensure the successful delivery of the project, Council is being financially responsible by planning for the long-term resources and funding it will need for ongoing maintenance and renewal.

Funding has also been allocated to create a pedestrian and bike connection between Hornsby and Westleigh Parks, using existing trails.



hornsbypark.com.au

HORNSBY PARK

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

We have now developed a draft master plan, which forms the next phase of planning for the park.



Old Mans Valley: Arrive at the site in a grand forecourt, enjoy distant views down the valley, the bushland surrounds, a cafe, playground, and a generous mix of walks, picnic areas and more active recreation opportunities

DRAFT MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

The draft master plan builds on previous consultation, where we asked you for your high-level ideas on what to see, do and experience at the park. This feedback along with the results of our technical, engineering and biodiversity studies informed a set of principles to guide the development of the draft master plan. The principles are:

- » **Retain the Quarry Experience** – Harness the drama and scale of the park (retain the quarry-ness)
- » **Offer Access for All** – Maximise access throughout the park (walk, cycle, shuttle, bus)
- » **Bring Nature to the City Centre** – Conserve and extend the bushland setting as the park framework
- » **Embrace the Storyline** – Bring the rich story of the park to life (interpretation and education)
- » **Celebrate the Landscape** – Maximise views, vistas and prospects (lookouts, filtered views, reveals)
- » **Connect the Community** – Focus the park as a place of engagement and interaction (events, families)
- » **Nurture Memories** – Make the park experience memorable (adventure, quiet, social).

Previous consultation also informed the development of the earthworks, which are necessary to make the park safe, while minimising the impact on the natural environment.



Hornsby Mall Swing By

hornsbypark.com.au

HORNSBY PARK

POTENTIAL USES AND ACTIVITIES



The draft master plan sets out the types of suitable uses and activities that we propose to deliver within the park.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND USES

- » **Old Mans Valley** – Serving as the activated gateway to the site, providing sporting activities, but will also be a place where there are other passive and active uses.
- » **The Quarry Void** – Picnic areas, BBQs, shade structures and large grassed open spaces providing a relaxed and restful area. The Void will also include a freshwater lake, cascading wetlands and lakeside amenities.
- » **The Crusher Plant** – Acknowledging the unique history of Hornsby Quarry by preserving heritage buildings and adaptively re-using them.
- » **Bushland** – Creating access to bushland areas, including walking trails for the community and education on the importance of conserving the natural environment.
- » **South West Platform** – A site to provide views of the quarry and surrounding bushland as well as the potential for small scale accommodation, adventure recreation and educational opportunities.
- » **Mountain bike trails** – Providing for better connected trails in this already popular mountain biking area, along with a link to Westleigh Park.
- » **Parking and access** – Ensuring a good mix of transport options for locals and visitors including a dramatic ‘canopy skywalk’ that provides access on foot from the Hornsby CBD.

GET INVOLVED

Council is seeking your feedback on the proposed draft master plan and what you would like to see delivered first. Scan the QR code to take our survey or visit the website hornsbypark.com.au to provide your feedback.



hornsbypark.com.au

HORNSBY PARK

ENVIRONMENT



Preserving and enhancing the unique bushland setting



CONSERVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The draft master plan sets out an intention to retain the quarry-ness of the area, whilst conserving and extending the bushland setting. The draft master plan also looks at a number of opportunities where we can maximise views and lookouts for visitors, through a choice of experiences which range from adventure, social places and quiet areas to reflect in the natural setting. Our aim is for Hornsby Park to cater for and balance the diverse needs of the community, transforming the site and paying tribute to its rich historical and environmental values.

It is essential that all future land use and potential activities on the site consider the importance of the surrounding habitat and any immediate biodiversity values. As there is a significant amount of modified land on site, our goal is for most earthworks to take place in this area, reducing the overall impact to the surrounding bushland. Areas across the site that are home to the pristine bushland will be rejuvenated and enhanced.

As part of the Earthworks DA in Stage 1, Council submitted a Biodiversity Offset Strategy which proposed the ongoing conservation of vegetation within the Hornsby Quarry, Old Mans Valley and Hornsby Park lands. The strategy also included a commitment to implement a Vegetation Management Plan and Habitat Creation and Enhancement Plan. The draft master plan has been prepared with these plans in mind and funding has been set aside as part of the overall project costs for the rehabilitation of the natural environment.

This project presents a unique opportunity to create a world leading park that maintains its heritage values, conserves its bushland, and meets the long-term recreational needs of the community.

hornsbypark.com.au

Site tour – email invitation

Dear residents of Manor Road and Ferntree Close

As you are aware, Hornsby Shire Council is in the process of transforming the quarry into a unique destination, where the magnificent bush, dramatic quarry walls and the lake will take centre stage.

Since we have last been in contact, Council has been developing a draft master plan for Hornsby Park.

The draft master plan sets out the types of suitable uses and activities that can be enjoyed within the park. We are now seeking community feedback on the draft master plan and the priorities for its staged delivery.

As part of our wide-ranging community engagement, we would again like to invite residents of Manor Road and Ferntree Close to a site tour. We understand that no single time will suit all residents. For those who are unable to attend, we will take comprehensive notes of what is discussed, and will make them available to any residents who are interested.

Site Tour details:

Option 1:

Sat 8 May

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Option 2:

Sunday 16 May

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Meeting place:

The Crusher Plant at the end of Quarry Road, Hornsby. There is plenty of on street parking in this location. **We need to limit tour numbers to 25**, with a maximum of two residents per address.

The site tour involves a 2 km return walk along sections of uneven ground. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

Trousers, long sleeved shirt and enclosed shoes must be worn when visiting the quarry site. Leeches and ticks may be present.

To secure your tour spot please visit <https://planyourparkland.youcanbook.me> or contact us at planyourparkland@elton.com.au or phone 9272 5577.

Please provide your:

name(s)

address

email

telephone number, and

if you would like to receive notes of the tour.

Due to the limited spaces available for the site visit, an RSVP is necessary to participate.

Please note in the event of inclement weather, we may at short notice need to cancel the tour.

You can also have your say on the draft master plan by visiting the website at hornsbypark.com.au or visit us at our Hornsby Mall swing **hys** on Saturday 1 May and Thursday 13 May between 11am – 2pm.

The draft master plan is on exhibition until 28 May.

Yours sincerely

XX

Hornsby Shire Council

DL Rates Notice

HAVE YOUR SAY | HORNSBY AND WESTLEIGH PARKS' DRAFT MASTER PLANS



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To cater for this long-term demand, ideas have been prepared for how two exciting regional sized parks could be developed to provide a huge range of activities for generations to come.

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e-News

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[View the Exhibition](#)



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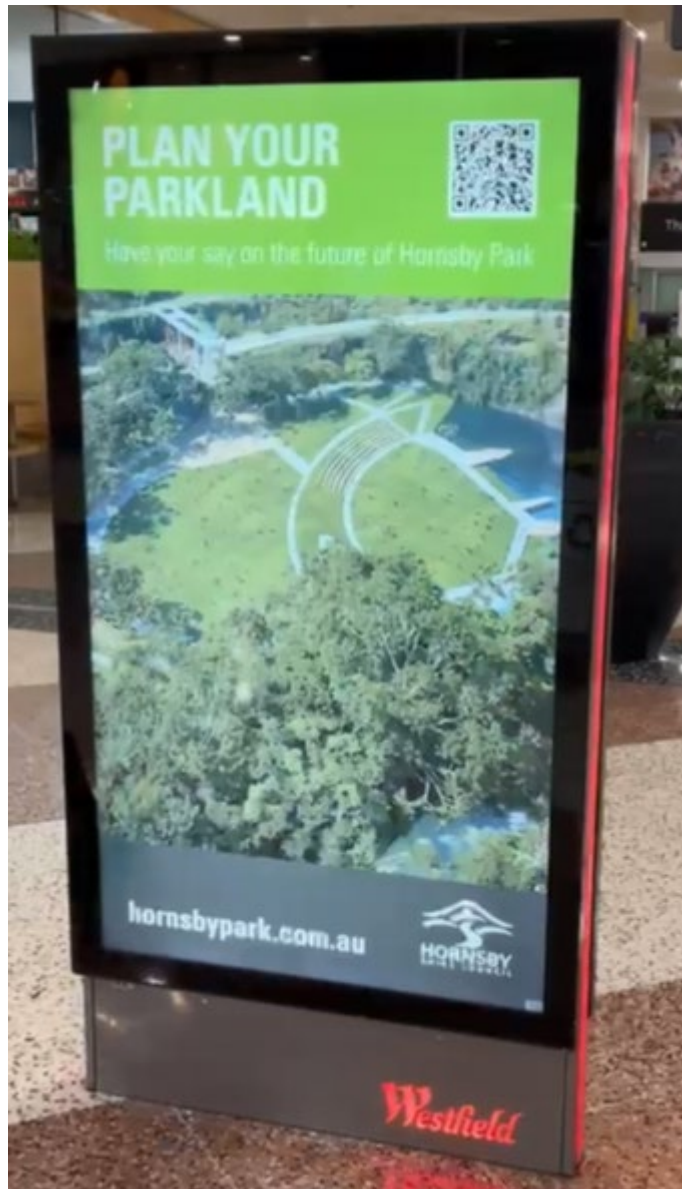


MEET THE TEAM

Find out more, meet the team and ask your questions at our Swing-By in Hornsby Mall: **Thursday 13 May, 11am-2pm**

Or Swing-By and meet the team at Ruddock Park, Westleigh: **Saturday 15 May, 11am-2pm**

Advertising – Council



Media article – Council

Newslocal > Hornsby Advocate

Hornsby Park: Canopy walk part of \$130M park revamp

A \$130m proposal to transform a former quarry into Sydney's latest tourist attraction can be revealed. SEE THE STUNNING IMAGES.



Nicole Pierre [Follow](#)

@NPierre08 [less than 2 min read](#) May 7, 2021 - 8:20AM [Hornsby Advocate](#)

[1 comments](#)



The draft masterplan for the \$130 million redevelopment of Hornsby Park includes an incredible canopy walk, mountain biking trails, climbing facilities, sports grounds and family picnic areas.

Hornsby Park is set to undergo a mega transformation to become one of Sydney's biggest tourist and family destinations.

The draft masterplan for the park's \$130 million revamp has recently been revealed by Hornsby Council.

An incredible canopy walk stretching across the site has been proposed along with mountain biking trails, climbing facilities, sports fields and family picnic areas.

The 59-hectare park and bushland is to be developed into a "landmark recreation destination" for locals, the wider Sydney community and tourists, according to the masterplan.



Proposed lawns and amphitheatre

The quarry void nestled among bushland is currently an abandoned large quarry yet it has been partially filled to make way for the park's development.

Ecotourism accommodation, water activities and impressive lawns for open air events have also been proposed.

Hornsby Shire mayor Philip Ruddock said: "This 50-hectare park is going to be the recreational jewel of the entire region, attracting people from all over Sydney and further afield.

"Like many people, I grew up listening to the explosions at the quarry and I'm thrilled that I will be able to stand among the trees and flowers of the park that will take its place."



The quarry is currently abandoned



The quarry is currently abandoned



It will house an impressive amphitheatre for open air events and concerts

While \$50 million in NSW Government funding has been provided for the park's transformation, there is still a significant \$85 million shortfall.

When asked on how it will be funded, a Hornsby Council spokeswoman said a portion is expected to come from grants and developer contributions.

"Council will vigorously pursue every funding opportunity to deliver the community's vision for Hornsby Park. We expect this will include grants and developer contributions," the council spokeswoman said.

"There's also the potential for private sector involvement to deliver some aspects of the master plan proposals, particularly the adventure recreation and ecotourism accommodation options."



Concept designs for the quarry void



Hornsby Park draft masterplan

Council has had approval to deliver earthworks that is expected to start later this year.

The park's proposed features including recreation facilities and sports fields will require separate approval processes and will be delivered in stages with stage one expected to open in 2024.

Hornsby Quarry was a hard rock quarry operational from the early 1900s and was in use until the late 1990s before it was acquired

More Coverage

[Hills set to be treasure trove for our](#)

Advertorial – Council

Hornsby Advocate, 7 May 2021

Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Post, 9 May 2021

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Post - Issue 9, May, 2021

Have your say



We value your input on local community issues and have several important projects coming up. Please have your say and get involved.



Image: An impression, Hornsby Park

As Hornsby Shire's population grows, so too does the need for a wide variety of open and green spaces. To cater for this long-term demand, ideas have been prepared for how two exciting regionally sized parks could be developed to provide a huge range of activities for generations to come.

Hornsby Park

We are creating a leisure and nature destination of regional proportions. The site's historical significance to the area, the dramatic quarry walls, lake, the ecologically and endangered bushland mean this is no ordinary park – it is unique to Hornsby. Council is seeking the community's feedback on the draft master plan and park delivery priorities.

Have your say by visiting our website hornsbypark.com.au or scan the QR code.



Westleigh Park

Will be a regional sized, multi-purpose sports and recreational destination delivered over a number of stages. It will be large enough to provide a number of sportsgrounds for a range of activities, as well as informal exercise areas, playgrounds, bushland experiences and mountain bike trails. A draft master plan has been developed and Council is seeking the community's feedback.

Visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/westleighpark

Delivery Program and Operational Plan

2021-2022 Delivery Program including the Operational Plan 2021/22

Outlines the Services, Key Initiatives and Capital Projects Council has planned to move towards the community vision in the Community Strategic Plan. The Annual Budget and other financial details including Council's resourcing information, information on rating and domestic waste management are also included.

Fees and Charges 2021/22

Outlines what Council will charge in 2021/22 for services and facilities it provides.

On Public Exhibition until **Monday 17 May**
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/yoursay

Draft Community Engagement Policy and Plan

Outlines Council's commitment to building open, transparent and active relationships with the community, and provides a guide for staff and consultants in the deliverance of best-practice community and stakeholder engagement with high-quality outcomes.

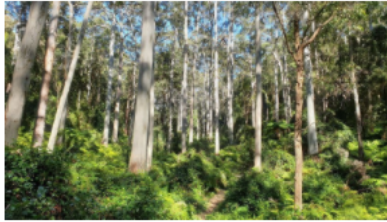
On Public Exhibition until **Friday 28 May**
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/yoursay

Petition

change.org Start a petition My petitions Browse Contributions Log in

[Petition details](#) [Comments](#) [Updates](#)

Protect rare bushland in Berowra Valley



Bob Hughes started this petition to Hornsby Shire Councillors (Hornsby Shire Council) and 1 other

Significant damage is being caused to rare bushland in Berowra Valley by mountain bike trails. Local conservation groups are asking you to sign to support the closure of these trails by Hornsby Council.

Critically Endangered Ecological Communities, Biobanking Sites, areas of heritage as well as areas containing Threatened Species are currently under threat. Hornsby Council is considering sanctioning mountain bike trails in rare bushland.

A special type of Critically Endangered Ecological Community, Sydney Blue Gum Diatreme Forest, occurs nowhere else on earth and grows in the rich soils of the volcanic diatreme from Hornsby Quarry to Westleigh. The Critically Endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and endangered Duffy's Forest are also present, and all are threatened by mountain bike trails. These plant communities form part of a Priority Management Site established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act and are included in the NSW Government Biodiversity Values Map.

Mountain bike trails belong elsewhere, not in this precious bush between Hornsby and Westleigh. Please help us save our fast-disappearing natural heritage.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspeciesapp/ManagementSite.aspx?SiteID=2746>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10094>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10789>

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/your-say>

702 have signed. Let's get to 1,000!



First name

Last name

Email

Sydney, 2000

Australia

Display my name and comment on this petition

[Sign this petition](#)

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Start a petition of your own
This petition starter stood up and took action. Will you do the same?

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