



Hindmarsh Park Community Consultation Outcomes Report Phase 2

For Kiama Municipal Council
4 November 2022

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1 SUMMARY

This Hindmarsh Park Community Consultation Outcomes Report Phase 2 has been prepared by Civille on behalf of Kiama Municipal Council (KMC) for the Hindmarsh Park Upgrade. The outcomes of the first phase of consultation can be found in the Community Consultations Report Phase 1 (Civille, 2022)

This document provides an overview of the community consultation process and outcomes for Hindmarsh Park Upgrade phase 2 component (Concept Designs).

Input from the community and community stakeholder groups was sought on the proposed concept design upgrades of Hindmarsh Park and Black Beach Reserve. The community was asked what components of the current designs were supported and open ended comments on the concept designs. Input was sought via the following methods:

- An online survey
- Written submissions including via email

From 29 July 2022 to 31 August 2022, the community could provide their input about the concept designs and the features that were included in the Hindmarsh Park upgrade.

A summary of submissions is included below:

- 237 online survey responses were recorded
- 6 stakeholder groups responded via letters/email

2 BACKGROUND

Kiama Municipal Council (KMC) has received funding from the NSW Government's Public Spaces Legacy Program to upgrade Hindmarsh Park and is undertaking the detailed design and documentation for this upgrade. Hindmarsh Park is located in the Kiama CBD in the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA) and is an important public open space that plays an integral role for the community and various stakeholders in the Kiama township.

2.1 PROJECT OUTCOMES

This project seeks to:

- Revitalise facilities in Hindmarsh park
- enhance recreational use of the park
- improve safety and access throughout the park

2.2 PROJECT SCOPE

This project consists of two phases with the following tasks

- Phase 1 – development of the initial concept design for the site
- Phase 2 – development of the detailed concept and detailed designs for the site

These are discussed further in the sections below.

2.2.1 PHASE 1 WHOLE OF SITE CONCEPT DESIGN

To ensure an integrated design approach, the concept design will be developed for the whole of the park and including a portion through to Black beach Reserve. The concept plan will incorporate key components as identified through previous consultation with stakeholders and KMC and further design development by the project team

2.2.2 PHASE 2 DETAILED CONCEPT AND DETAILED DESIGNS

The detailed concept and detailed design will be developed for the key components including the play space upgrade, path upgrades and accessible toilet informed by the consultation with stakeholders and the community and progression of the design with Council.

2.3 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION PRIOR TO THIS PROJECT

Prior to this project, KMC has undertaken consultation for the site as follows

- There has previously been extensive engagement on the Kiama Arts Precinct – this is discussed below
- On the Hindmarsh Park Enhancements project, KMC has so far released two updates on their website:
 - [13 October 2021 news story](#)
 - [Phase 1 community consultation in December 2021 to January 2022](#)

2.3.1 KEY FINDINGS KIAMA ARTS PRECINCT CONSULTATION

Significant past consultation has been undertaken on the Kiama Arts Precinct, which is situated within and around Hindmarsh Park. This has included:

- Mapping Kiama Municipality's Culture (1998)
- Cultural Tourism and the Arts in the Kiama District Business Plan (1999)
- Cultural Needs and Assessment Statement (2000)
- Cultural Needs and Assessment Study (2001)
- Kiama Cultural Centre Overview Study (2002)
- Kiama Charette (2002)
- An assessment of possible 'Place Based' initiatives able to realise Kiama's Economic and Employment Opportunities (2002)
- Kiama Strategic Future Survey (2002)
- Draft Community Facilities Study (2005)
- Kiama Municipality Cultural Plan (2007-2012)
- BERT Cultural Planning Document (2013-2016)
- BISI Cultural Planning document (2017-2020)

These documents have identified the need and desire for community arts spaces within Kiama and have identified the following as primary functions:

- Multifunction indoor theatre/performance place
- Cinema
- Spaces for workshops and classes
- Additional gallery space
- Connection with the park for outdoor performances

2.4 OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The overarching objectives for the community consultation for Hindmarsh Park include:

- identify the community's needs and wishes
- understand the community's vision on the space
- provide the opportunity for the community to offer input to the designs at various stages for the project
- share the concept designs developed and seek feedback from the community on the concept designs and the components included in the concept designs
- ensure the community is informed of the project and its progress.

The input provided by the community has informed the designs of the park upgrade and will guide the development of the park.

3 ENGAGEMENT METHODS

The methods of engagement included:

- Online survey
- Written submissions including via email
- Targeted emails, phone conversations and in-person meetings with key stakeholders

3.1 ONLINE SURVEY

Through the Hindmarsh Park online survey, people were asked about what activities, facilities and features that had been included in the concept designs through structured survey questions as well as open-ended questions. The survey also asked a basic demographic questions including age, postcode of residence and gender.

1a → “Do you agree with the inclusion of the following elements in the proposed concept designs for Hindmarsh Park?*

Select as many options that you agree with from the list below



Choose as many as you like

- A Playground upgrade
- B Lighting upgrade
- C Seating and picnic shelter upgrades
- D Path upgrades
- E Additional seating along Terralong Avenue
- F New loop path in Hindmarsh Park
- G Additional tree planting and shade
- H Nothing in particular
- I Other

[Add choice](#)

Figure 1: Example of an online survey question

3.2 TARGETED ENGAGEMENT

Key stakeholders and community members who had included their contact details during Phase 1 consultation were contacted with a direct email, alerting them to the consultation process and offering the opportunity to contact us directly.

Key stakeholders included:

- Key groups with an interest in the park including:
 - Kiama and District Business Chamber
 - Kiama/Jamberoo RSL Sub-Branch
 - Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Hindmarsh Family
 - Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival organiser
 - Kiama Masonic Centre
 - KISS Arts Festival / Laughter House Entertainment
 - R&R Production Services
 - Folk by the Sea
 - Anglican Church
 - Owners of Hindmarsh Park Cottage
- Coordinators and users of Council venues around the park:
- Council committees/other contacts:
- Local schools:

Table 1: Input received from key stakeholders

Stakeholder	Input received
Kiama/Jamberoo Sub-Branch	RSL Various correspondence regarding the upgrades to the memorial arch
Hindmarsh Family	Phone correspondence with Michael Hindmarsh III
Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival	Various correspondence regarding the stage upgrade and timing of construction
Owners of Hindmarsh Park Cottage	Various correspondence regarding landscaping in the vicinity of the cottage
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Correspondence regarding indigenous heritage and AHIP database
Kiama Central Precinct	Correspondence regarding the impact to trees inclusion of parts of the loop path, increase in lighting and impact to fauna. Concerns were raised over the impact of sever weather on the proposed foreshore works

Stakeholder comments are summarised in Section 5.

3.3 PROMOTION

The community engagement was promoted via:

- Kiama Municipal Council Your Say page
- Kiama Municipal Council social media posts including Facebook and Instagram posts
- Press release
- Direct email (including link to newsletter) to recipients who had signed up for updates (mostly

after completing the phase 1 survey)

- Direct email to key stakeholders (refer to Section 3.2)
- Copies of the designs placed in Council's library and Council administrative centre

Most of the online survey website visitors were redirected via Council's social media posts. A smaller portion of the visitors were redirected to the online survey via Council's Your Say page, on site notification posters and search engines.

4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

4.1 WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

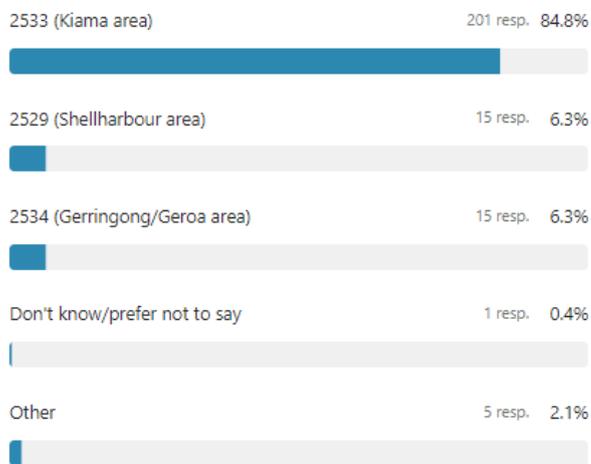
The consultation surveys people were asked to respond to questions about the post code they live in, their age and gender. Results are listed below.

What post code do you live in?

- The majority of respondents (85%) live in the Kiama area.

✓ 2b Post code

237 out of 237 people answered this question

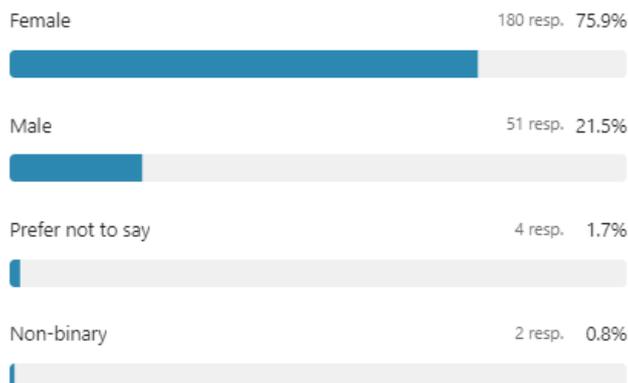


What is your gender?

- The majority of the respondents (76%) are female

✓ 2d Gender

237 out of 237 people answered this question



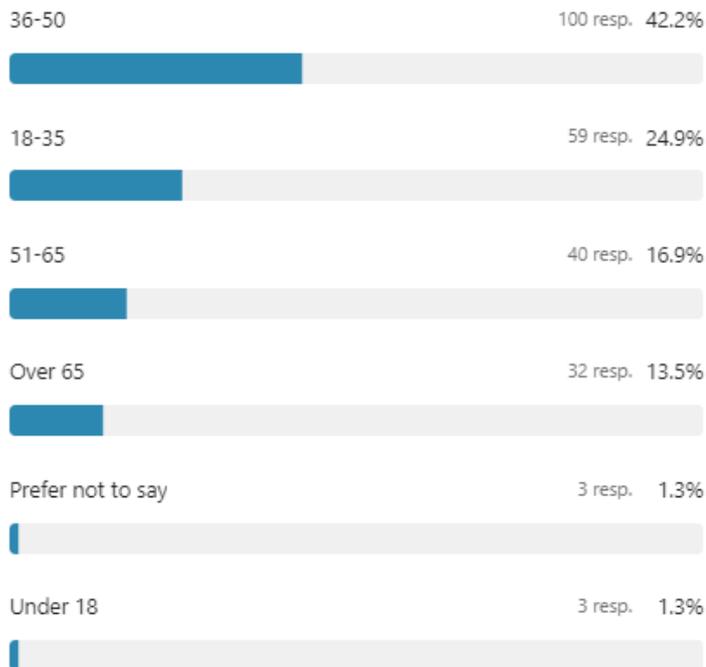
What is your age?

- Of the respondents: 42% are aged between 36-50, 25% are aged between 18-35, and 17% were 51-65

✓ 2c

Age

237 out of 237 people answered this question



4.2 WHAT PARTICIPANTS TOLD US

In the consultation survey, people were asked to respond to questions about the different components of the upgrade.

Hindmarsh Park Upgrade components

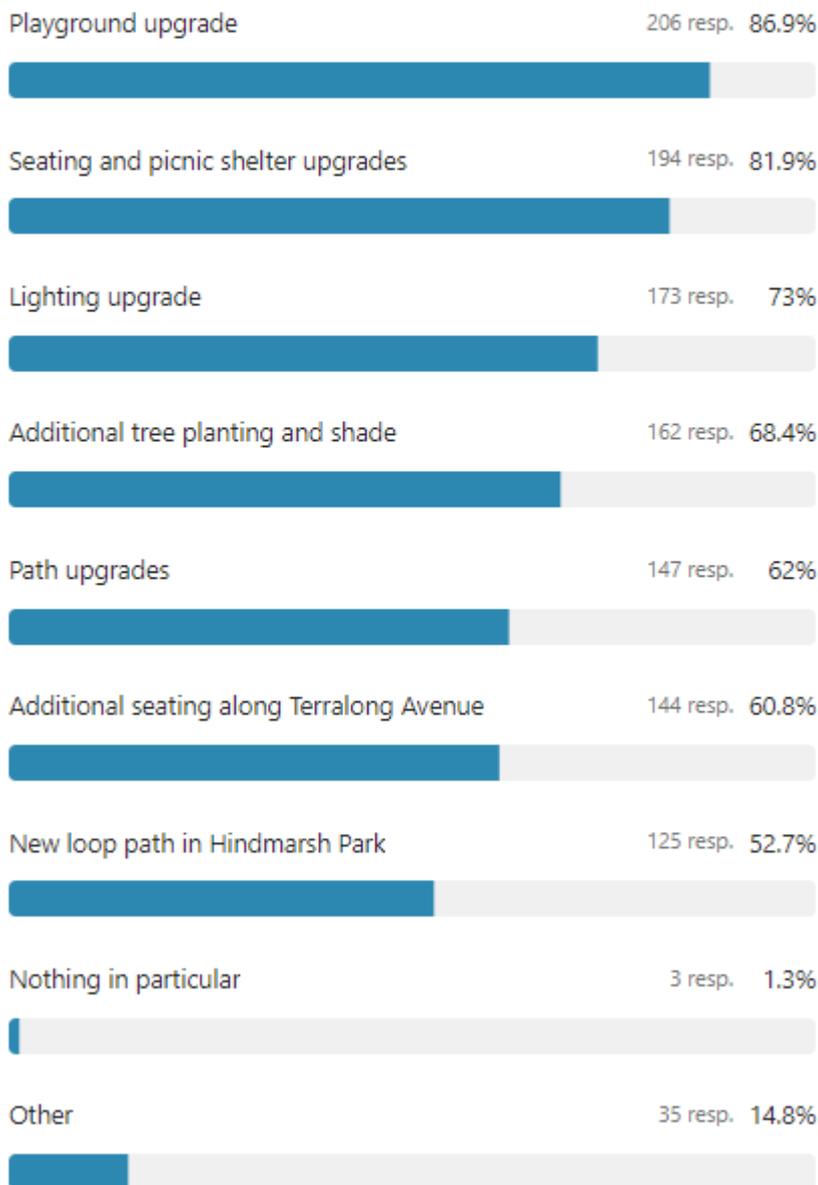
- More than 70% of respondents supported the playground upgrade, seating and shelter upgrades, lighting upgrades and all the upgrade components had majority support.



1a

“Do you agree with the inclusion of the following elements in the proposed concept designs for Hindmarsh Park?”

237 out of 237 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



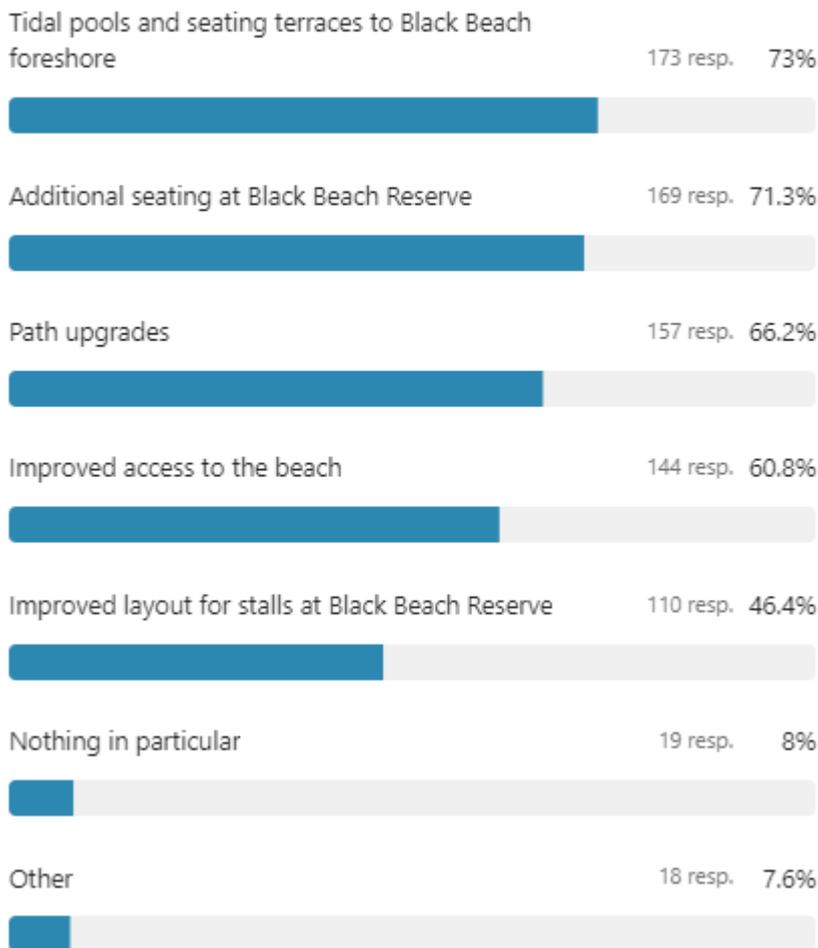
Black Beach Park Upgrades

- More than 70% of respondents supported the tidal pools and seating terraces and additional seating and all the upgrade components had majority support except for the improved layout to stalls for the market (46% support)

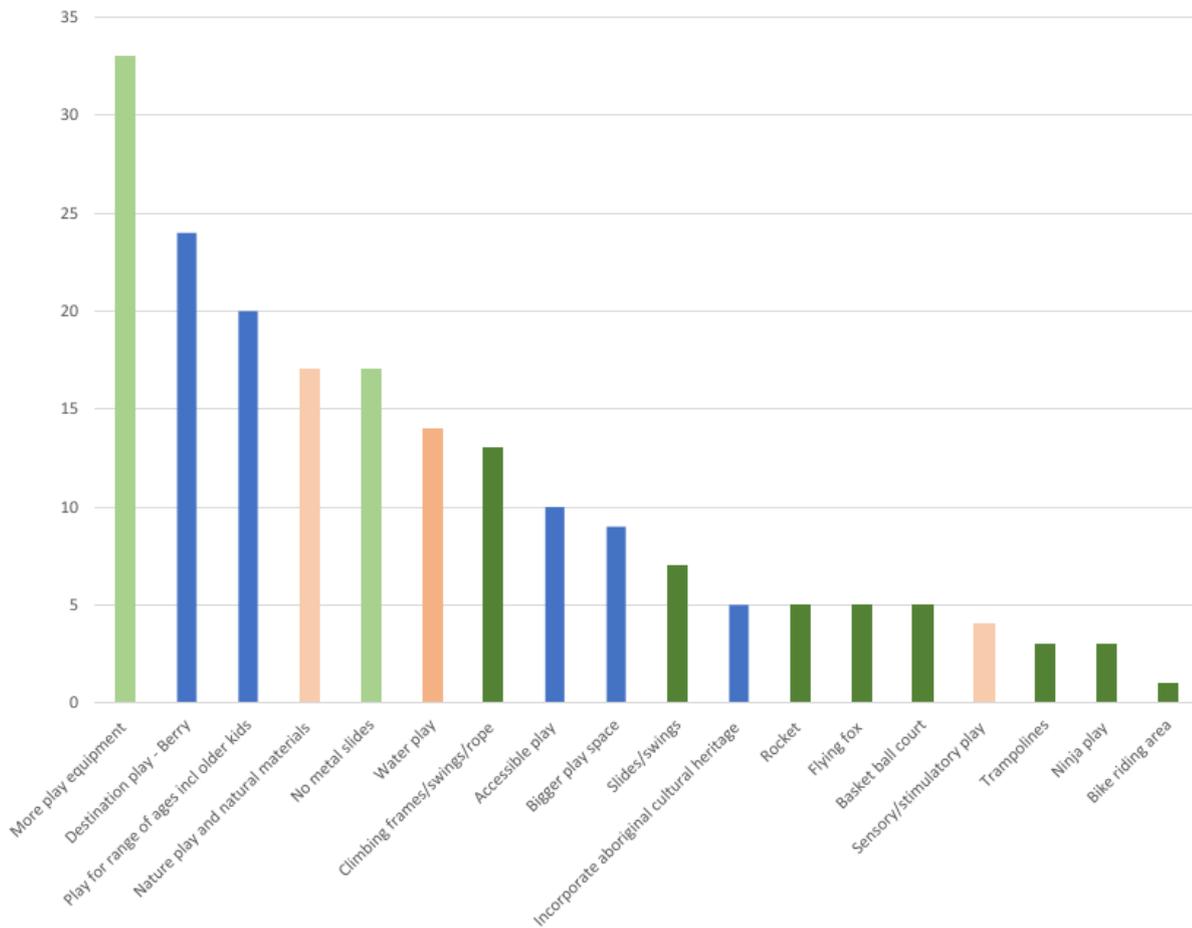
✓ 1b

“Do you agree with the inclusion of the following elements for the proposed concept designs for Black Beach Reserve?”

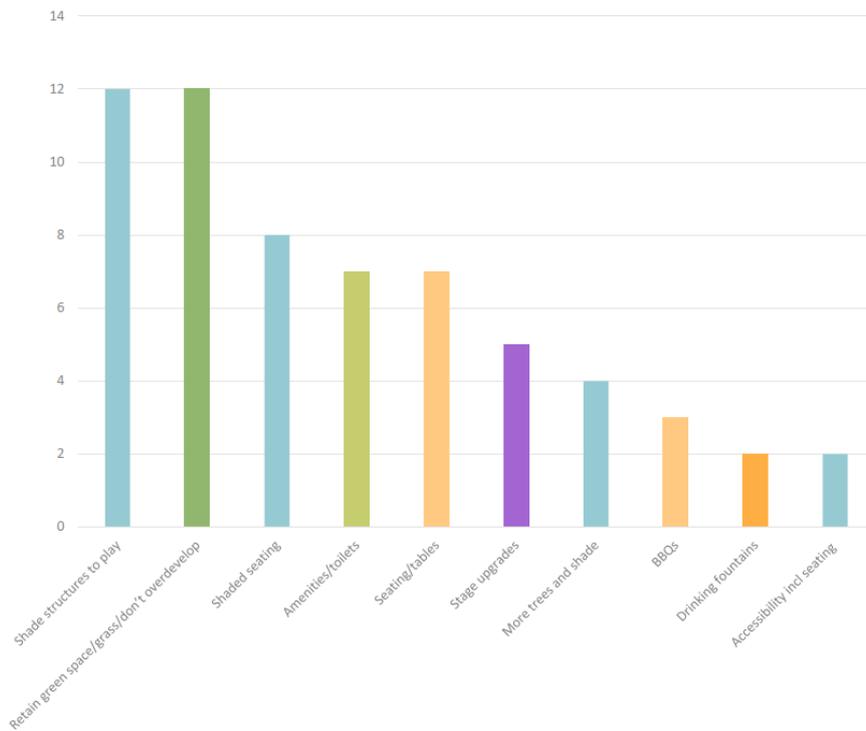
237 out of 237 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



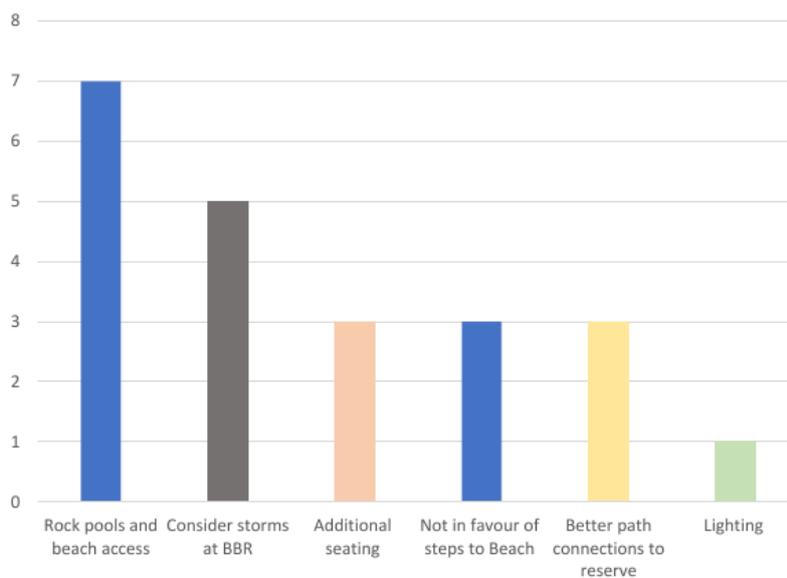
The survey also provided an open ended question for comments on the play space upgrade. A summary of the elements that were raised and the frequency of the times that they were raised have been summarised below for the play space components of the park upgrade at Hindmarsh Park.



The survey also provided an open-ended question for comments on the park overall amenity upgrade at Hindmarsh Park. A summary of the elements that were raised and the frequency of the times that they were raised are shown below.



The survey provided an open ended question for comments on the Black Beach Reserve overall Black Beach Reserve upgrades. A summary of the elements that were raised and the frequency of the times that they were raised are shown below.



5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The following sections summarise the main themes of comments received from those stakeholders who made contact beyond completion of the survey.

5.1 KIAMA CENTRAL PRECINCT

Correspondence from the Kiama Central Precinct regarding the

- impact to trees and removal of existing trees
- inclusion of parts of the loop path,
- increase in lighting and impact to fauna and additional costs
- the impact of severe weather on the proposed foreshore works at Black beach Reserve

5.2 KIAMA BUSINESS CHAMBER

The Kiama Business Chamber outlined several areas for improvement as part of the park upgrade:

- Improved seating and tables
- Improved paths, improving links into and through the park, connecting different parts of the Kiama town centre
- Improved night-time activation, including lighting
- Improved space and facilities for the markets at Black Beach Reserve

The Business Chamber were positive about the existing stage location, but also suggested the possibility to relocate the stage to the area of the existing playground (and relocating the playground to the area of the existing stage).

5.3 KIAMA JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

Kiama Jazz and Blues Festival commented on the existing stage, outlining the key issues that make the current stage unsuitable for their purposes and the possibility of relocating the stage to the area of the existing playground and comments on improvements to the existing stage.

5.4 HINDMARSH PARK COTTAGE

Hindmarsh Park Cottage commented on the landscaping elements around the cottage and concerns raised about impacts on the landscape and views, noise and security impacts to the cottage for elements of the park upgrade that were in close proximity to their property.

5.5 HINDMARSH FAMILY

Michael Hindmarsh III made some general comments about the positive aspects of the park, not to "overdo" its upgrade and to maintain it as a quiet, open green space, in contrast to surrounding streets.

He suggested the potential for stories to be embedded in the landscape, for example as art/sculptural elements, as well as the potential to include interesting locally native trees in the park.

5.1 KIAMA/JAMBEROO RSL SUB-BRANCH

Correspondence included discussion around an extended platform around the eastern side of the Memorial Arch, creating more space for memorial events.

6 INCORPORATION OF FEEDBACK INTO THE DESIGN AND NEXT STEPS

The community input will be used to develop the detailed designs for Hindmarsh Park. A number of design changes have been incorporated into the detailed designs based on the community consultation feedback received. These changes include:

- Inclusion of additional play space items into the play park with the number of play items (more than a dozen, similar to other district scale play spaces)
- Inclusion of play space items with more 'height' and for larger ages into the design
- Inclusion of additional tree planting to the designs
- Removal of metal slides from the design
- Inclusion of additional climbing elements into the design
- Inclusion of additional nature play elements into the design
- Removal of seating, deco path elements in front of Hindmarsh Cottage and retention of lawn directly in front of the cottage
- Incorporation of a western facing stage element to the upgrade of the existing stage design to cater for smaller scale events
- No changes to the western entrance of Joyce Wheatley Centre including retention of existing raised circular planter

The key challenge with including a number of elements of the community feedback are related to:

- The size of Hindmarsh park limiting the amount of play equipment in the park, particularly large playing equipment like flying foxes, in the park. For example compared to other parks in the region such as the new Boogaree Nature Park in Berry, the Hindmarsh Park play space is only a quarter of the size of this play space.
- The diverse uses and values of the park (including generous open space for large scale events, memorial services, existing trees, the Joyce Wheatley Community Centre) limit the amount of play equipment, particularly large playing equipment like flying foxes, in the park
- The heritage nature of the park limiting the scale and size of the play space in the park

The next steps for the project over the next 3 months are to:

- Finalise the detailed drawings for construction
- Tender for construction of the works
- Appoint a contractor to undertake the
- Commence construction works (physical works in the park likely in early 2023)