



Blackwattle Bay Precinct



# Bank Street Park

May 2023

Phase 2 Consultation Summary

## Acknowledgement of Country

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Infrastructure NSW acknowledges the Wangal and Gadigal, the Traditional and Historical Custodians of the lands and waters spreading across the cultural landscape of Blackwattle Bay. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We recognise the input of Aboriginal people and cultural knowledge into the Master Planning process, and we recognise the value that knowledge gives to the site.

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# About the Bank Street Park

The NSW Government is delivering a new 1.1 hectare park in the Blackwattle Bay Precinct. Located around the southern pylon of the Anzac Bridge, it provides a rare chance to create a new waterfront park that celebrates First Nations living culture together with its iconic harbourside location and maritime history.

## Phase 2 consultation

Phase 2 consultation was undertaken between 23 February and 22 March 2023 and tested three park design concepts with the community. These three design concepts were built on the community needs and aspirations heard from the Phase 1 consultation in August and September 2022. The design team, including Oculus and Greenshoot Consulting, is working to incorporate Aboriginal living culture and design in the preferred concept and to address the community priority of Connection to Country and First Nations representation.

## Park features:



Outdoor  
multipurpose  
court



Outdoor fitness  
station



Inclusive  
play space



Marina operations  
space and kiosk



Storage for dragon  
boats and kayaks



A new harbour  
foreshore walkway



Water access  
for recreational  
water craft



Public  
amenities



# Our engagement

## How we communicated

We adopted a range of different communication channels to reach as many people as possible.



### Emails:

Sent to people subscribed on project mailing list.



### On site:

Nine signs were erected along the perimeter of the new park, and 20 footpath decals with QR codes to the website.



### Website:

An engagement portal with information about how to get involved.



### Drop-ins:

Two on-street information sessions to speak with the project team and receive community feedback.

# Consultation

## Three design concepts

Three design concepts were developed for the park, which took into consideration community priorities highlighted in the Phase 1 consultation, site constraints, identified local infrastructure needs and the requirement for a space that can be enjoyed by all.

Each of the concepts comprises various elements, in different locations. The preferred park design may be a combination of different elements of all three concepts.

The following sections provide a brief overview of each of the three different park concepts, and the feedback heard during consultation, including the survey, drop-in sessions, school workshops and submissions.



*Above: Three-way slider on the website to compare the design concepts.*

## Our reach



3,632 website views



321 survey participants



62 students from School workshops



>100 drop-in participants



5 email submissions

# Design Concepts

## Concept 1

Areas of difference:

- Centralised green space and continuous throughout the park.
- Multi-purpose court located close to the road, prioritising informal recreation and seating at the waters edge.
- Inclusive play space influenced by 'timber yard' - post-industrial themed landscape elements and located in a sunny, central location, close to café and amenities.
- Retain and adaptively reuse the existing north-eastern building and south-eastern building, including a new pedestrian opening and connection.
- Public amenities provided in the 1-3 Bank Street buildings.
- Dragon boat and kayak storage on either side of the bridge pylon.
- A viewing deck above the boat storage with views over the bay.

*Top right: Concept 1 Design plan  
Right: Concept 1 Artist impression*



# Design Concepts

## Concept 2

Areas of difference:

- Series of smaller green spaces continuous throughout the park.
- Multi-purpose court located in the centre of the park, benefiting from views of the bay, partial sun and weather protection from the bridge deck.
- Inclusive play spaces influenced by 'sculptural' - bold and playful, artist-led landscape elements, located under the bridge benefiting from winter sun and summer shade. Located adjacent to an amenities building.
- One of the buildings at 1-3 Bank Street retained and adaptively reused. A separate amenities building provided near inclusive play space.
- Dragon boat storage located next to marina and kayak storage closer to the water access.

*Top right: Concept 2 Design plan  
Right: Concept 2 Artist impression*



# Design Concepts

## Concept 3

Areas of difference:

- Centralised green space and continuous throughout the park.
- Passive recreation priorities at the waters' edge, and active zones towards the road.
- Inclusive play spaces influenced by 'natural' - informal landscape elements incorporating sandstone and timber, located centrally benefiting from winter sun and summer shade. Close to amenities and further from kiosk.
- A new landmark building is located on the site of the existing 1-3 Bank Street buildings, including space for amenities. Pedestrian links between the park and a future Glebe Island Bridge connection.
- Dragon boat and kayak storage on both sides of the bridge pylon.
- Use of sandstone blocks into the water.

*Top right: Concept 3 Design plan  
Right: Concept 3 Artist impression*



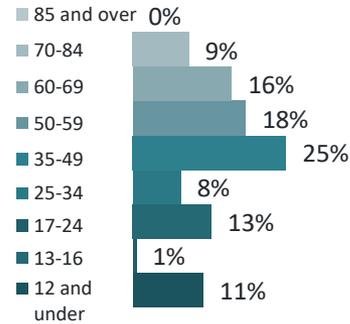
# Participation

The consultation approach aimed to reach a range of audiences to help inform the future park design. The age of respondents and relationship with the park are included on the right. Demographic data was not collected during the drop-in sessions.

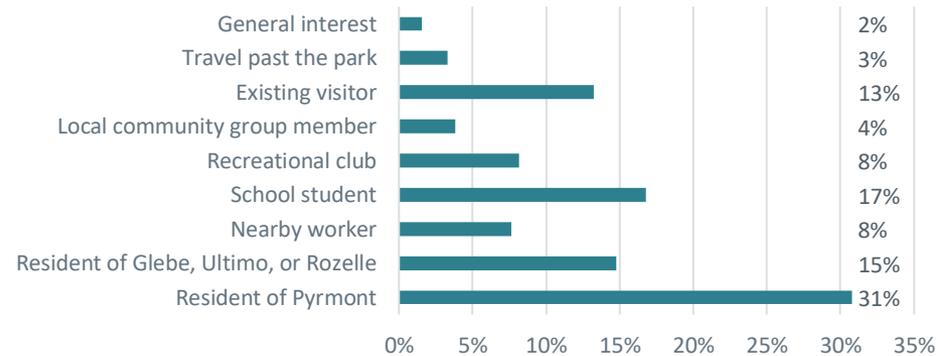
*Below: Student engagement at Ultimo Public School*



## Age of respondents



## Who responded?



# What we heard

Feedback received was reviewed and key considerations summarised. This feedback will be used by the design team to finalise the park design.

The following section includes feedback heard from the survey, drop-in sessions, submissions and school workshops.

## Phase 2 Summary of key considerations

The feedback heard through consultation resulted in the following key considerations for the preferred design concept:

- **Use Design Concept 3 as the framework / inspiration for the final design to best address community priorities.**  
Concept 3 was the preferred design approach from the survey results and feedback heard at the drop-in sessions.
- **Include a new purpose-built community facility.**  
Almost two-thirds of survey participants preferred a new purpose-built facility as shown in Concept 3, and this was also heard at drop-in sessions. Some community members value the existing buildings and want to see them adaptively reused.
- **Prioritise a natural play space theme, with climbing elements.** Nature play theme spaces were favoured by respondents, incorporating nature and climbing elements.
- **Include places for young people to sit and talk in groups, and interesting lighting for night-time use.** Other ideas for young people heard include wireless phone chargers, in-ground trampolines, and curved seating.
- **Storage for dragon boaters close to the ramp, designed to avoid conflicts between promenade users and boat users.** Of the survey respondents identified as a 'member of a recreation boat club', Concept 1 was the preferred concept, where the boat storage was closest to the ramp.
- **Additional design considerations.** Suggestions including providing increased seating, BBQs, increased parking, additional tree canopy cover, information or interpretation about the history of Pymont.

# What we heard

Theme 1:  
**A welcoming and accessible park that caters to different users and activities**

## What we heard:

Concept 3 best meets this community priority (58% of survey responses).

## What respondents liked about Concept 3:

- Active recreation towards Bank Street and prioritising passive recreation closer to the water.
- Accessible walkways and paths that navigate the needs of diverse user groups.
- Shaded and weatherproofed play spaces.

## Other comments:

- Amenities close to youth play spaces.
- Distinction of park uses (as shown in Concept 1).
- Secondary School students preferred the modern design of play spaces and youth hang out spaces (as shown on Concept 2).
- Play spaces located away from the road.
- Addition of art required.

*Below: Pop-up at Union Square*



## Theme 2:

### Consider needs of boating users and water sports

#### What we heard:

Concept 3 best meets this community priority (45% of survey responses). Followed by Concept 1 (36% of survey responses)

#### What respondents liked about Concept 3:

- Location of the dragon boat storage close to water.
- Good access to amenities.

#### Other comments:

- Boat storage close to the ramp (as shown in Concept 1).
- Balance between water-based recreation with peaceful areas.
- Priority for pedestrian access along the waterfront and consideration of interface with boats accessing the water.
- Access to parking.
- Better boat storage for private paddle craft.

## Theme 3:

### Buildings at 1-3 Bank Street

#### What we heard:

Concept 3 best meets this community priority (60% of survey responses). This was followed by Concept 1 (22% of survey responses)

#### What respondents liked about Concept 3:

- Removal of the buildings with no heritage or architectural value.
- A new purpose built facility of a similar height to the existing buildings, with minimal building footprint.

#### Other comments:

- Some respondents who preferred the Concept 2 approach to the buildings (retain two buildings), considered that option as more cost effective.
- Solar panel on the roof.

*Below: Drop-in session at 1-3 Bank Street*



## Theme 4: Green place of respite

### What we heard:

Concept 3 (combined with Concept 1) best meets this community priority (85% of survey responses).

### What respondents liked about Concept 3:

- Options for both passive and active recreation in the shaded area under the bridge.
- Large, continuous open green space.

### Other comments:

- Grouping all green spaces together and prioritising the flow of green spaces.
- Suggestion to provide a green respite at the water's edge.
- Preserving of, and increasing, local flora and fauna.
- Mixed views on dog off-leash areas.
- Addition of more tables, chairs, bubblers and potentially BBQs.
- A community garden.

## Theme 5: Connection to water and enhanced views

### What we heard:

Concept 3 best meets this community priority (65% of survey responses).

### What respondents liked about Concept 3:

- Use of 'natural' themes and inclusion of natural materials to the design of play spaces.
- Connection of sandstone with quarry past of Pymont.
- Sandstone steps into the water allowing people to get close to the water.

### Other comments:

- Access to a lookout with seating, noting it enhances connection with the water (as shown in Concept 1).
- Importance of open and unobstructed views, and prioritising relaxation (Concept 1 and Concept 3).



# Next steps

The park design will continue to be developed in consultation with the community to ensure that the preferred design reflects the needs and desires of future park users.

The process for designing and delivering Bank Street Park is shown below.



Public consultation and design brief

Design team procurement

Design development and consultation

Statutory planning and consultation

Construction

We are here



Consultation on a preferred design concept to follow development application lodgement. **Late-2023**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent engagement for Bank Street Park. We appreciate the generous contributions from community members across Sydney.

We look forward to continuing to engage with community and stakeholders to create an inviting, unique in character, socially inclusive Bank Street Park.

[www.blackwattlebay.insw.com](http://www.blackwattlebay.insw.com)