

Seven Ways Village – Public Domain Upgrade Consultation

Exhibition summary and findings

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Executive Summary

TYRRELLSTUDIO were engaged by Waverley Council to undertake the design of the Seven Ways Streetscape Upgrade. Seven Ways is a community hub in the Bondi Precinct. Council, in collaboration with TYRRELLSTUDIO and MED Consulting, sought input from the Waverley community regarding the final concept design presented in this round of community consultation. The consultation ran between 1 and 31 May 2019 and included seeking feedback from local residents, visitors and businesses in Seven Ways.

During the 30 day exhibition period feedback was sought through a paper based and online survey, focused meetings and briefings, and general submissions.

142 surveys were received during the exhibition period with over 90 % of respondents drawing from the local Bondi and North Bondi areas. Four submissions were also received on the topics of: water management and sustainability, landscape design and cycling provisions.

Over 90% of participants in the survey advised they liked the concept design with the main reasons cited being: the creation of usable space for the community, the look of the finishes and the design concept, and the creation of more green space with additional plantings and trees. Participants also expressed opinions that the upgrade represents a good investment and pedestrianising Warners Lane is a positive outcome for the area. These views mirrored those expressed during an intercept survey at Seven Ways Village in late 2017.

The top issues raised were concerns around traffic, safety, pedestrians, buses and cyclists with suggestions to review the current traffic, road and safety arrangements.

Survey respondents made many suggestions for items that could be included in the design like public art, more play spaces, amenities like a bubbler, dog poles (to tie dogs to), bins and lighting, safety devices like a fence and design elements like natural finishes and flowers.

Survey respondents were also keen to see the space continue to be activated with things like performances, markets and art.

Consultation methodology

Communication to advertise and support the exhibition period included:

- Online – ‘Have your say’ website with a survey, images of the concept and key dates, information on Council’s ‘What’s on’ calendar, a press release on Council’s website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, a web carousel banner linking to the ‘Have your say’ page and an email newsletter.
- Print – flyers distributed to local residents and businesses advertising the ‘Have your say’ days and information night.
- Advertising – Wentworth Courier and The Beast

Consultation activities carried out in the lead up to and during the exhibition included:

- A combined precinct briefing on 28 March 2019 (approximately 10 attendees)
- A briefing for the North Bondi Precinct Committee: 24 April 2019 (8 attendees)
- A business and local residents information night on 1 May 2019 (1 attendee)
- Two ‘Have your say’ days: Friday 3 May, 6:30-9:30am and Saturday 25 May, 6:30-9:30am (approximately 150 attendees)
- An online survey on the ‘Have your say’ website open to the public between 1 and 31 May 2019 (156 visitors)



Surveying the community at a ‘Have your say day’ on Friday 3 May.

Findings

Survey results

A total of 142 surveys were collected during the Seven Ways Upgrade exhibition. A summary of the key findings for each question are below.

SURVEY QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 – DO YOU LIKE WHAT COUNCIL HAS PLANNED FOR THE SEVEN WAYS UPGRADE? WHY/ WHY NOT?

Just over 90 % of respondents said they liked what Council has planned for the Seven Ways upgrade.

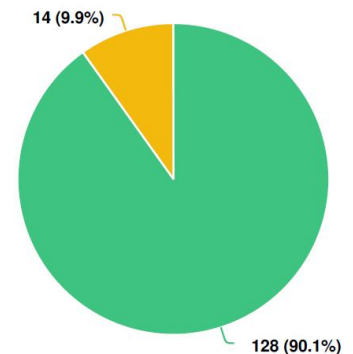
The most common reasons given from 'yes' respondents as to why they support the concept were as follows:

- creating a space that is usable for the community
- the finishes used and the design concept
- creating more green space, additional planting and trees
- it was viewed as a good investment
- the pedestrianising of Warners Lane.

Question options

● Yes ● No

(142 responses, 0 skipped)



Only one comment was given in support of the concept from a 'no' respondents who said they support the closure of Warners Lane for pedestrian use.

Both 'yes' and 'no' respondent raised concerns about road safety, traffic and cycling provisions and parking as their top issues.

SURVEY QUESTION 3 – SHOULD ANYTHING ELSE BE INCLUDED IN THE DESIGN?

A variety of ideas were provided by the community to include in the design with the top responses in order of preference being:

Traffic management and arrangements – cycling lanes and provisions, zebra crossings, speed humps, changes to traffic arrangements and road safety provisions and changes to parking arrangements, a rideshare zone

Public art – sculpture, items that would create interest and maintain character, a mosaic around the ribbon and a water feature, recognition of Aboriginal history

Play spaces – more play spaces for children of all ages including wild play, an elevated play space, creative play and a bike/scooter path

Amenities – a bubbler with a dog bowl, more bins including a recycling bin and dog poles, lighting at night

Safety and security – a fence around the green space and CCTV/monitoring for anti-social behaviour

Design elements – piped music, flower beds, slip resistant pavers, 'natural' finished like wood and harmonising with the local area,

flooding and water management

Trees – comments noted to provide more green space and questioned the suitability of palm trees along Warners Avenue.

SURVEY QUESTION 4 – ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

A variety of other comments were provided by the community in relation to the project with the top responses in order of preference being:

Traffic management and arrangements – parking, traffic and road safety concerns

Expressing satisfaction with the project

Ideas to activate the space – involvement from children, performances, markets, art and painting pavers

Trees – questioning the inclusion of palm trees along Warners Avenue

Cycling – provisions for cyclists including a cycling lane

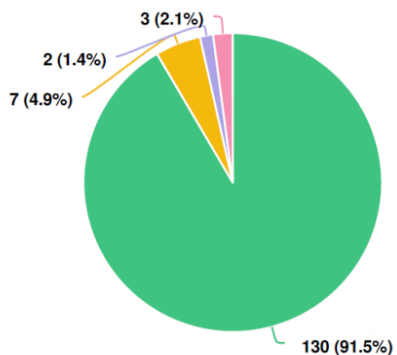
Use of the space – keep the area tidy, provide for dogs, discourage anti-social behavior and provide shade

Water management – provide for rain water irrigation

Design – include a water feature, use slip resistance pavers, have more green and less pavers, include a fence or higher barrier, extend the project scope out further, keep the area rustic, use wood or beachy colours in the design instead of paving, use solar panels, approval of closing Warners Lane and a suggestion that Warners Lane could be narrowed.

SURVEY QUESTION 5 – WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN SEVEN WAYS

Over 90 % of respondents nominated that they were residents from the local area of Bondi and North Bondi. The survey also captured responses from local business owners and employees and visitors.



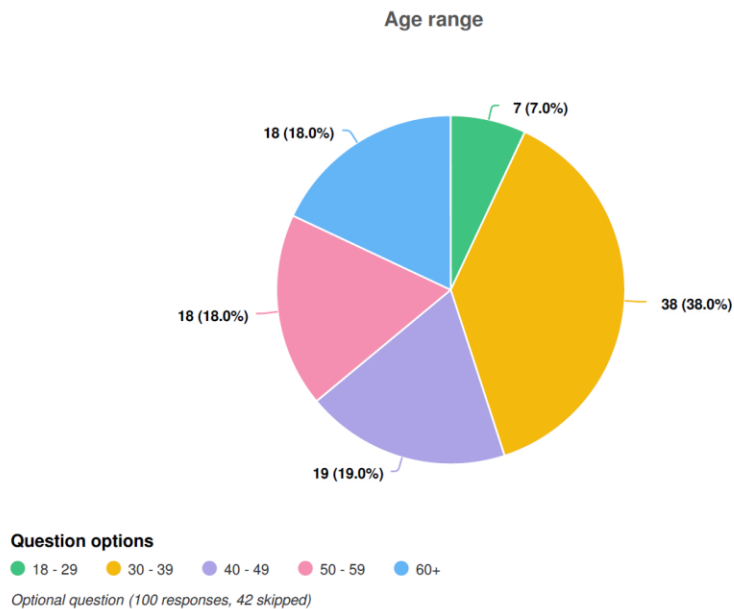
Question options

● I am a local
 ● I like to visit (I am not a local)
 ● I work at Seven Ways
 ● I own a business at Seven Ways

(142 responses, 0 skipped)

SURVEY QUESTION 6 – AGE RANGE

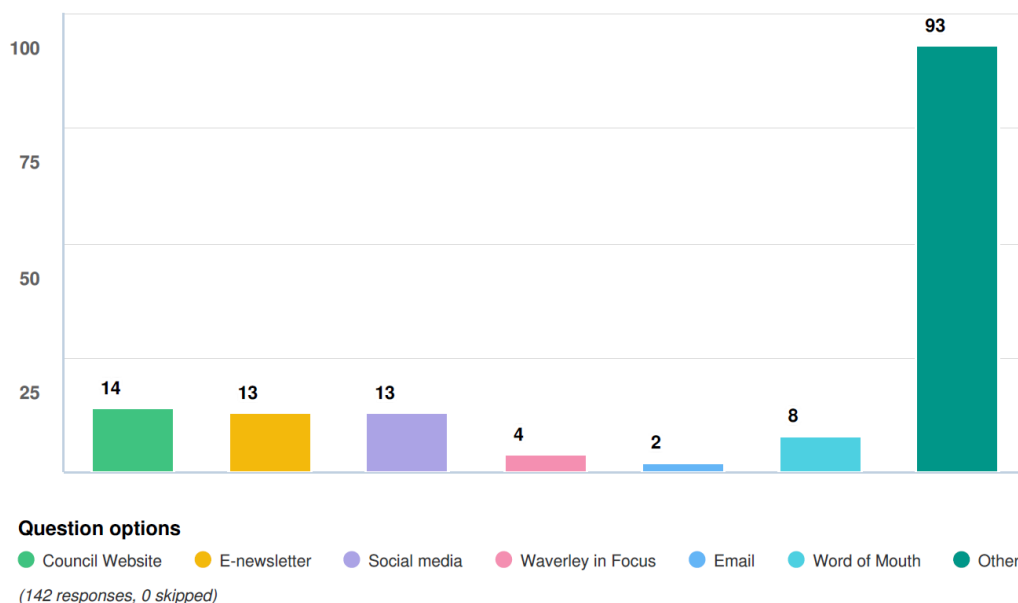
Responses to the survey were received across a good cross section of ages with the largest group being in the 30-39 age range followed fairly evenly by 40-49, 50-49 and 60+. The spread of ages is consistent with the ages profile for Bondi Beach to North Bondi according to the 2016 census.



QUESTION 4 – KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROJECT

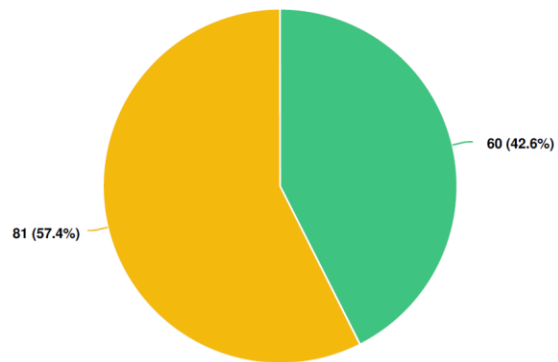
The vast majority of people learned about the upgrade project by walking past one of the 'Have your say' day information sessions. Others found out via the Council website, e-newsletter, social media and email, word of mouth and Waverly in Focus.

How did you hear about this project?



QUESTION 5 – WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE UPDATED AS THIS PROJECT PROGRESSES?

Over 40 % of respondents wanted to be kept updated on the project by receiving emails.

**Question options**

● Yes ● No

Optional question (141 responses, 1 skipped)

Stakeholder meetings

Combined precinct meeting – 28 March 2019

Representative from Waverley Council presented information about the Seven Ways Village Upgrade concept design to 10 members of the North Bondi, Bondi and Bondi Beach Precinct Committees and advised the attendees of the upcoming exhibition period. Positive comments in support of the upgrade were expressed by the attendees and two attendees noted comments outside of the scope of the upgrade project relating to commercial tenancies.

North Bondi Precinct – 24 April 2019

Representatives from Waverley Council presented information about the Seven Ways Village Upgrade concept design to eight members of the North Bondi Precinct Committee and advised the attendees of the upcoming exhibition period during which time specific feedback could be provided for consideration. Positive comments in support of the upgrade were expressed by the attendees and a specific comment was provided about deterring skateboarders.

Resident and business information night – 1 May 2019

One attendee from Ray White came along to the information night to hear about the project and was interested to know about any future plans to upgrade other areas of pavement.

Submissions

Four detailed submissions were received about the project. The key themes and recommendations raised in each submission are summarised below. Each submission made recommendations to tailor technical or design aspects to meet specific needs around water management and sustainability (submission 1), design outcomes (submission 2) and cycling provisions (submission 3 and 4).

SUBMISSION 1

Topic/s: water management and sustainability

Key themes and recommendations:

1. Adopt measures to reduce ocean pollution, lower urban heat and implement water sensitive urban design and to retain, increase and restore the urban tree canopy
2. Adopt measures to keep rainwater on site that falls on or drains to the site during and after construction
3. Adjust project timeline to 2020 to adopt suggestions
5. Aim for design excellence in the area of water sensitive urban design including lowering urban heat and improving energy efficiency
6. Celebrate rainwater for its value to trees, ability to cool soils and make nutrients available to plants and trees
7. Avoid tree removal or defer tree removal for at least five years until the lost shade can be replaced by newly planted trees
8. Plant trees of similar shade potential – do not plant palm trees that provide little shade
9. Install solar powered lighting and irrigation
10. Install raised pedestrians crossings
11. Include water features to dampen noise and deliver amenity
12. Ensure appropriate allocation of public space for community use on Warners Lane
13. Adopt draft design options provided in the submission including applying simple, low cost design solutions
14. Apply sustainability requirements to council contracts

SUBMISSION 2

Topic/s: Pedestrian traffic and activating Seven Ways

Key themes and recommendations:

1. Upgrade the area near 96 Glenayr Avenue by creating high quality green space which complements the commercial business location and offering, stimulating local business.
2. Adopt design principles to work with the natural elements and create more green space
3. Activate the space with art, music, a water fountain, watering holes and spaces for play and imagination, art, murals, coloured benches
4. Use native trees and plantings to attract birds and insects
5. Use permeable pavers and devices to allow trees roots to breathe
6. Use composted soil
7. Implement road safety measures
8. Allow for amenities like recycling bins, a water bubbler, biodegradable dog poo bags and cigarette bins
9. Use a range of lighting like highlights, accent lighting and up-lights but consider local residents and turn off lights at 10pm
10. Install a vegetable/herb garden, a wave design bike racks and sandstone benches

13. Install smooth contoured paving and natural lines and textures or wooden features instead of grey pavers
14. Have a space for artists like a sculpture space

SUBMISSION 3

Topic/s: Cycling provisions in and around Seven Ways

Key themes and recommendations:

1. Provide safety improvements for people riding bikes through the intersection at Seven Ways
2. Provide more protected (off-road) facilities for bikes
3. Install kerb ramps or extensions

SUBMISSION 4

Topic/s: Cycling provisions and design.

Key themes and recommendations:

1. Request for bikeways
2. View expressed that mass planting does not provide an adequate barrier
3. The resident questioned the purpose of the grass mound
4. Preference expressed for curved seating in line with character of Bondi

Conclusion

Over 90% of survey respondents were receptive to an upgrade taking place at Seven Ways. This sentiment was also reflected during briefings with local precinct committees and within the submissions received. Most people were happy to be engaged and provide their ideas with over 40% of survey respondents wanting to be kept up to date on the progress of the project. The survey demonstrated the continuing theme that the community values green space and making spaces more usable.

Individual elements of the concept design were largely well received. The community provided ideas to enhance the design with public art, play spaces, amenities like a bubbler, dog poles, bins and lighting, using some natural finishes like wood, and continuing to activate the space after construction with things like performances, markets and art.

The largest issue overwhelmingly for the community is road safety and concerns about traffic. Several suggestions for traffic improvements were provided including: new zebra crossings, speed humps and stop signs.

It should be noted that throughout concept design, pedestrian crossings and raised intersections were reviewed and allowed for, but the design will not include these due to the lack of pedestrian volumes to warrant pedestrian crossings. The design elements that improve pedestrian movement were well received by the community and any opportunity to review traffic arrangements at Seven Ways following the upgrade would likely receive support from the community.

Next steps

The project team will consider the feedback contained in this report to inform the detailed design of the Seven Ways Upgrade. It is recommended that detailed design outcomes are then reported back to the community noting how input from consultation influenced the design process.