

Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast, and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders both past and present.

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## **Executive Summary**

The first of two consultation phases for Tamarama Park and Beach Plan of Management (PoM) was held between 10 May – 7 June 2022. This was used to understand user patterns, gauge community sentiment and gather feedback on the park and beach and the proposed key ideas that were generated through research and analysis, before creating the new PoM.

#### The objectives were to:

- Understand how users use Tamarama Park. Who they are and what they do at the park
- Work with the community and key stakeholders to confirm the list of projects to be included in the PoM
- Clearly define the problems and opportunities within the Tamarama PoM area so participants can understand and engage with the consultation process
- Gather abundant feedback so that the Tamarama PoM is reflective of the community and can be endorsed by Council within the projected timeframe

Overall there were 340 engagements with the consultation period spread across a range of communication channels. These included, a face-to-face Have Your Say Day at Tamarama Park, an online webinar, a meeting with Tamarama Gully residents, posters displayed on site, 5000+ flyers delivered to homes in the immediate area, an advert in The Beast, social media posts on Facebook and Instagram and enewsletters.

#### The purpose of this report is to:

- 1. Provide an overview of the feedback received
- 2. Provide detailed information on the engagement methods used in the first round of consultation
- 3. Make recommendations for both future engagement and key ideas associated with the PoM.

The results and recommendations are highlighted at the end of the report. There were some proposed ideas that were supported by the community, others need more information or investigation and some that needs to be adjusted.

This report will be presented to Council in July 2022, and a second stage consultation will follow, likely in late 2022. The feedback received in both stages of consultation will contribute to finalising the overall Plan.

## **Background**

The current Tamarama Park and Beach PoM was adopted by Council in 2007. Over the last 15 years, several significant capital works have occurred, and many of the projects and actions identified in the current PoM have been addressed or completed. Recreational experiences and expectations have also changed. There is a need to understand how people use the beach and park, and to integrate this feedback into updated plans that reflect the culture and values of the area, for 2022 and beyond.

Much of Tamarama Park is Crown Land and Council is the designated as the Crown Land Manager. Council is required to update the PoM to align with the new Crown Land Management Act which came into effect in 2018.

By updating the Plan of Management for Tamarama Park and Beach, Waverley Council is looking to develop a new vision and set of actions for the clear design and management of Tamarama Park and Beach and meet our obligations under the Act.

## **Consultation dates and objectives**

The community engagement ran between 10 May and 7 June. The consultation objectives were to:

- Understand how users use Tamarama Park. Who they are and what they do at the park
- Work with the community and key stakeholders to confirm the list of projects to be included in the PoM
- Clearly define the problems and opportunities within the Tamarama PoM area so participants can understand and engage with the consultation process
- Gather abundant feedback so that the Tamarama PoM is reflective of the community and can be endorsed by Council within the projected timeframe

## **Communications and engagement overview**

A range of communication and engagement methods were used to encourage the community to provide feedback. The methods aligned with council's Community Engagement Strategy and IAP2's spectrum of participation. Overall, there were 340 engagements with the consultation.

Method	Overview	Date	Statistics and Responses
Have Your Say Day	Waverley Council staff were stationed at Tamarama Park from 8-11am on 14 May 2022 to speak to interested members of the public.	14 May 2022	50 responses via face-to-face conversations
Posters	Appendix A. 5 posters were displayed at the entrances to Tamarama Park and at Tamarama Beach.	May 2022	23 scans of QR code
Flyer	Over 5000 flyers were dropped by hand to residents in the Tamarama area.  Appendix B	w/c 9 May 2022	Over 5000 distributed 50 scans of QR code
Advertising	Advertisement in The Beast. Appendix C.	25 May 2022	Readership of 150,000 60,000 copies printed and distributed 5 scans of QR code

Social media	Facebook Appendix D.	22 May 2022	Facebook insights combined for
posts	22 May – Invitation to attend online	29 May 2022	two posts:
posts	workshop on 25 May.	25 Way 2022	3303 total reach
	29 May – Reminder: one more week to		118 post engagements
	have your say on Tamarama PoM		17 likes
	Instagram Appendix E.	22 May 2022	Instagram insights:
	22 May – Invitation to attend online	29 May 2022	2049 total reach
	workshop on 25 May.		53 post interactions
	29 May – Reminder: one more week to		64 likes
	have your say on Tamarama PoM		
Waverley	Appendix F. Included in Waverley Weekly	12 May 2022	7107 delivered
Weekly e-	e-newsletter.		3373 opened
newsletter			56 unique clicks, and 116 total
			clicks to Tamarama PoM project
			page.
Have Your Say	Appendix F. Included in May edition of	13 May 2022	7284 recipients
Waverley e-	Have Your Say Waverley e-newsletter.		4448 opened
newsletter	, .		
Have Your Say	Council established a dedicated a Have	10 May –	350 total visits to the page
website	Your Say page for the project.	7 June 2022	269 aware visitors
		(inclusive)	27 new registrations
			63 survey responses
Precinct	Community Liaison Coordinator emailed	15 May 2022	2 responses to Precinct
notification	all 13 Precinct Executive Committees		Coordinator's notification of
	promoting the consultation and inviting		consultation period.
	them to provide feedback on the key		•
	ideas proposed.		A further opportunity was given
			to the South Bondi/Tamarama
			Precinct to provide feedback at
			Precinct Meeting on 22 June
			2022.
Online	The community session was promoted	25 May 2022	1 participant
community	through the HYS page, social media and		
info session	emails to stakeholders		
Extra resident	Council officers were asked to hold a	2 June	9 participants
information	second information session Zoom for		+1 Councillor
session	residents around the gully		

## Feedback summary and results

#### Online survey:

350 people visited the Have Your Say site and 63 completed the survey.

The survey was advertised through a range of channels, including site signage, flyers, social media, e-newsletters, and emails to Precincts. The questions were exploratory in nature and aligned with the engagement objectives for round one consultation (stated on page 2).

The survey sought to understand:

- How the spaces were used, length of visits, activities, who goes there and how they move around
- The satisfaction levels of the park and beach
- Levels of support on a range of proposed ideas and specific projects including:

- Seating in the gully
- o Birrell St stairs
- New footpath to Tamarama Marine Drive
- The lookout and connecting path
- o Planting near the Surf Club
- Any ideas the community had for future projects or how to improve Tamarama Park and Beach

#### How the spaces are used, length of visits, activities, who goes there and how they move around.

Of the 63 survey responses:

- 74% (46) indicated that they visit Tamarama Park "daily or most days of the week"
- 56% (35) indicated that they stay 30 minutes 1 hour, 19% (12) stay 1-2 hours, with the remaining 25% staying 2 hours or more
- 62% (39) indicated that they usually go with friends and/or family, while 56% (35) go on their own (this question enabled respondents to tick all boxes that applied).

Of the options of activities, the five most popular were:

- 1. Walking for pleasure or exercise (87%)
- 2. Visiting the beach (73%)
- 3. Swimming (60%)
- 4. Visiting the gully (54%)
- 5. Just walking through to get to destination AND dog walking (52%)

#### Safety and getting around

Most people (63%) said there wasn't anything stopping them getting to or around the park. The other 37% of participants said access to the gully was their main concern. They mentioned the different stairs and the need for repairs, they talked about the wet and muddy gully and asked what Council could do to fix this.

82% of people said they feel safe in all areas of the park and gully although participants kept reiterating, they found the stairs unsafe and hard to use. Improving lighting and pedestrian crossings were suggested as ways to create a safer experience.

Three people spoke about dogs being off-leash in areas they shouldn't be (the beach on the way to Mackenzies Bay and Tamarama Park) and two of the three said there should be a fenced off-leash dog area.

#### Satisfaction of park and beach

Most people (88%) were either satisfied or very satisfied with the park and playground. The natural space, lookouts, coastal walk and kiosk were considered the most valued part of the park and beach. People were satisfied with the park maintenance, playground, seating and council facilities and amenities.

#### Proposed ideas for future projects

Of the ideas suggested for future projects the top three were equally supported by respondents (58%). These were:

- Lighting and upgrade to Birrell St stairs
- Improving the sandstone steps
- Widening the path around the Surf Club.

These three ideas corresponded with the feedback given in access and safety questions and were repeated throughout the responses.

The next most supported idea was a single off-leash dog area (54%).

All the ideas and results can be seen in Appendix H.

#### The lookout and path

The suggestion to formalise a path to the lookout was almost evenly split. Those who said yes (46%) and yes with changes (11%) equaled 57% and no 42%. The changes included:

- Making the path more natural
- Retaining the sandstone steps already there
- Removing the rubbish

Of those who said "no", the number one reason given was that the project was not needed, it will encourage antisocial behaviour and is an overdevelopment of a natural environment.

#### **Upgrade the stairs access at Birrell Street**

62% said yes to the upgrade, 18% said no and 20% said yes but with changes. Those changes included removing the zig zag path

#### Picnic settings in the gully picnic settings

44% said yes to providing seats and picnic settings in the gully, 46% said no and 10% said "yes but with changes", including installing fewer seats.

#### **Buffer planting**

90% of people supported the proposal to provide buffer planting along the park/residential boundary at the fitness station.

#### Widen the footpath on the Coastal Walk

77% supported the widening of the footpath along the Coastal Walk adjacent to the Surf Club.

#### Footpath between steps and Tamarama Marine Drive

60% supported the proposal to create a path connection between the steps and Tamarama Marine Drive, 35% said no and 5% said yes with changes, however their reasons were varied and not focused on the specific question.

#### Any ideas or further information – off-leash dog area and concern about noise

The last questions asked participants if there was anything else they would like the project team to know when developing the PoM. Of the 39 people who provided a comment the two most discussed themes (10 each) were; the support for the off-leash dog area, including from two people who identified as not owning a dog, and the concern about noise in the gully if additional seating was to be provided.

#### Stakeholder meetings

On 25 May, 6pm to 7pm, Waverley Council hosted an online workshop via Zoom. There were five people who registered and only one participant. Council officers spoke to the resident of Tamarama Gully. The topics discussed are listed below:

- Great idea to put tables and chairs in the bottom of the gully.
- Most concerned about the lookout
  - Wanted to make sure it wouldn't look into neighbouring properties
  - Waste of time, hardly anyone comes up the back of the gully

- Some people who walk their dogs go up there but they like the greenery
- Anti-social behaviour teenagers spray paint
- Concern about the cost in relation to the negatives
- You can already see the view from the path
- When it rains it is quite dangerous/there is a large pipe attached to reservoir that can flood quickly
- The stairs to the lookout would need lots of work

During the consultation, a group of residents asked for a specific stakeholder meeting. This took place online on 2 June 2022. There were nine resident participants and the Mayor attended the session.

Theme	Question / statement	Council response
Activities in the park	The gully is a safe and confined area used by young kids. If more amenities are installed in the gully where do the kids go? The Park is used by young adults for parties and BBQs 5 and 9 year olds use the gully for nature/adventure play, kids use slops and	No chance to respond.
Seating in gully	lookout.  Do not want seating or BBQs in the gully  Need to plan better so it doesn't become a compliance issue – want the Gully to be a free play natural area for kids  Larger section for seating doesn't seem like a pod  Concrete slabs will create an eyesore in the Gully  Current seating is enough, any more would take away the magic of the  Group agreed that they don't want any built environment	There will be no BBQs or picnic huts in the Gully
Plan of Management process	Do the Councillors approve the POM after this consultation?	After this consultation Council will present the consultation feedback to Councillors for approval to create the first draft of the POM. The POM will be developed with the first-round feedback and brought back to community again. This is then revised with the community feedback which is then approved by Council and Crown Lands.
Lookout	Will look directly at houses across the Gully and will impact privacy – view shared by a number of residents  If you are just thinking about formalising a path and having a small lookout, then that would be fine	We are looking at formalising the path that is already there for safety. The lookout would be similar to the size it is now and any privacy issues would be considered in the detailed design, if this idea was supported
Birrell St stairs and ramp	Are the seats suggested an access and inclusion requirement?	We are trying to provide step free access and want to provide seating potentially for people with accessibility issues or elderly

		people. Typically, on a stretch of popular pathway you would have seats every 60m.
	It's an assisted walkway, will people realistically use it	It is step free access for prams and the broader community
	Too many ramps	The image shows the maximum number of ramps. We had engineers look at the space, we wanted to make sure we could achieve something practical before coming
	How much of this is legislative	to the community.  We try to achieve compliant access to all our facilities
	Is there an opportunity to walkthrough the plan?	That could occur in detailed design when we came back to the community for consultation.  Council needs to get this into POM so we can go and investigate.
	People with mobility issues should access the Gully via Tamarama Marine Drive.	can go and investigate.
Overdeveloped	Very few places have nature for our enjoyment, all for upgrade and upkeep. It feels like it is overdeveloped.	We will do everything we can to protect the nature in the Gully.  The stairs will take a bit of work to get this done.
	Everyone understands the impact of temporary disruption of construction	done.
Communications	Very unsatisfied with the level of consultation Signs should have been in a better place	Appendix A
and consultation	Will Council be transparent about how many people have participated?	Yes, it will all be provided in the consultation report

#### **Email submissions**

There were 13 written submissions received via email. Bronte, Bronte Beach and Tamarama Precinct submissions were included. The themes have been grouped together below. How many people provided the same feedback is shown in brackets.

#### **Overdevelopment:**

- PoM should be created to protect the gully from overdevelopment (4)
- Overdevelopment increases noise (3)

#### Lookout:

- Support use of suitable sandstone paving materials to maintain heritage status
- Not supportive (3)
- Sandstone steps are heritage, never meant to be compliant

#### Off-leash dog area:

- Supportive (1)
- Not supportive (2)

#### Widening the coastal walk

Supportive (3)

#### The gully:

- Don't overdevelop
- Increased native vegetation planting in the area of the upper section of trackmat parking in the gully, no affect on sculpture by the sea (1)
- Opposed to picnic benches
  - Noise concerns (4)
- No need for extra pathway (1)

#### **New footpath to Tamarama Marine Drive**

- Supportive of new footpath (2)
- New path should be sandstone paved, not rigid concrete paving, along the edge of the planting, if possible, not just randomly through the grass; (1)
- Not needed (1)

#### **Birell St stairs:**

- Support for repairing Birrell St stairs, these are much used for training (4)
- Agree to make safe, but avoid regularising all risers and treads
- Not supportive of extra ramps and seats (2)

#### **Consultation process**

- Disappointment in the consultation process (4)
- Residents said they did not hear about the consultation in the format they would have liked (3)

#### Extra ideas:

- "a lookout with a much better fence at the end of Birrell Street (ie boundary with Tama Park) would be lovely; and accessible for so many people. Please consider as part of this PoM as it is an "edge" which should be treated more robustly. Needs a soft sandstone retaining wall to level off the grass and a replacement post and diagonal rail fence, and maybe a seat"
- "Look at long term regrading of vehicle driveway entry for disability access; use undercroft for any new toilets, storage or other utilities"
- "Check historic photos: an underpass exists between eastern and western parts of the park, under Tama Marine Drive. This would be so nice!"
- "Adjust grade of coastal walk footpath around SLSC building south side to remove steps; ramping should have been considered at the eastern wall side of the new building to achieve disability access all the way around from Marks Park."
- "Add a tennis court to the bottom corner around where the new footpath is now proposed."

#### Have Your Say Day – 14 May 2022

Waverley Council staff were stationed at Tamarama Park from 8am-11am on Saturday 14 May.



Attendees were interested in finding out more about the proposed ideas for the Tamarama Park and Beach PoM, and the team had over 40-50 conversations, almost all classified themselves as locals.

One third had visited specifically after engaging with the Have Your Say Day advertised through other channels. The main goal was to provide passers-by with the flyer and encourage them to participate in the survey. A few people had already completed it. Several participants also took note of the QR code to fill in the more detailed survey in their own time. Due to the time, there were very few tourists.

#### Tamarama kiosk and Surf Club kiosk:

- The café leasee, was spoken to and explained what he should be looking at in the draft PoM.
   He was interested in how it would affect his lease.
- Concern about café at surf club going ahead
- Concern about the service of the current Kiosk

#### Lookout:

- Did not support the viewing platform, because of over-development and anti-social behaviour
- The lookout not well used kids go up to smoke weed
- It is very dangerous after heavy rain water comes from 3 sides and creates a ravine (unsure why council wants to invite people up there)
- Funding for this project could be used elsewhere instead

#### Off-leash dog area:

- Almost all supported an off-leash zone in the Gully
- Lots of dogs off-leash in the park during Have Your Say Day
- People didn't know it wasn't an official off-leash area
- Council should provide water play for dogs (Marks Park would be a good location)

#### The gully:

- Absolutely no picnic huts in the gully but supportive of seating
- Happy with a couple more seats in the Gully along the edges of the lawn
- Didn't want the paths widened as they felt this was over-development
- Don't want the path at the top of the Gully to the lookout

#### **Birell St Stairs:**

- Birrell Street stairs very unsafe, no lighting, very supportive of upgrade
- Council should prioritize Birrell Street stairs upgrade

#### **Fitness station**

- Doesn't use the fitness station at Tama/ don't really care about the screen planting
- Not well designed no high bars and no parallel bars (North Bondi much better)

#### Extra:

- Recognise that Tama is completely different from Bondi and Bronte and want that small feel protected
- Council should fix the wooden steps at the top of the Carlisle St they are falling apart
- Maori flax
  - It is weed and should be removed no memorial! (has been discussed in the Bronte precincts meeting)

## **Recommendations from community consultation**



#### How are the recommendations decided and used?

Council officers analyse quantitative data from the survey with qualitative data from emails, conversations had at Have Your Say Days and info sessions to develop recommendations. These are presented to the project team and senior leadership team who prepare a Council report for Councillors.

Councillors use the Council report recommendations (which may differ from the community consultation, depending on feasibility) to decide the next steps.

#### Key themes from community feedback

The key themes that came out of the community consultation were:

- 1. concern about overdevelopment
- 2. preservation of the natural environment
- 3. important local area, and the specific spaces for different activities should be safeguarded
- 4. access into the park

Specific project/idea	Supported or to investigate	Recommended action and rationale
Provide buffer planting along the park/residential boundary at the fitness station.	Supported	Include in Draft PoM
Create a path connection between the steps and Tamarama Marine Drive	Supported	Include in Draft PoM.
Extra seats and picnic settings in the gully	Investigate	Not supported by directly impacted residents, however, was supported by broader community. It is recommended no picnic settings be installed but to include two seats each with backs and armrests. They should be located at separate areas of the gully, one on the southern side in the upper gully and one near the bottom of the stairs down from Carlisle St on the northern side in the lower gully. This is to support a range of users including elderly, parents with small children playing in the gully etc.
Lookout and stairs	Investigate	If to include in the PoM further consultation will be needed with residents and community as part of detailed concept design development phase. Recommended this is a long term action in the PoM following completion of much needed upgrades to existing gully staircases. Area surrounding gully needs ongoing compliance enforcement to help to manage anti-social behaviour and improve quality of biodiversity.
Lighting and upgrade to Birrell St stairs and ramp	Supported	The repair and upgrade of Birrell St stairs was supported and is recommended as a short-term priority action in the PoM.  The ramps need more investigation and explanation in the next round of consultation.  General misunderstanding of types of users – prams, young kids, elderly, users with mobility

Widening the path around the Surf	Supported	challenges not for disabled compliant access. There was community concern about effect on nature and the amount of seats to be installed. More information needed. Further explanation / clarity around the zig zag ramp design intent, to provide step free access to mobility challenged users and connections to land locked residents, to be included in the next round of consultation. Council will engage residents and community in consultation as part of detailed concept design. Include in Draft PoM as a short-term priority.
Club.		Recommend further stakeholder engagement with Tamarama SLSC on proposal in Stage 2 consultation.  Further consultation with residents and community as part of detailed concept design development phase.
Off-leash dog area	Supported	Overall, there was support for the proposed off-leash dog area. Generally, there was misinformation of having dogs off-leash in the Gully area and potential impacts to environment and bushland areas.  Further explanation / clarity around areas where dogs are permitted and where dogs are prohibited, such as the bushland areas, to be included in Stage 2 consultation.

There are projects (Appendix G) not specifically highlighted in this consultation report. This was due to the even spread of support or neutrality of the feedback. It is recommended the items that align with the key themes of the community feedback be included in the draft PoM.

# Appendix A - Posters displayed on site







# Appendix B - Flyer



### **Flyer Distribution Area**



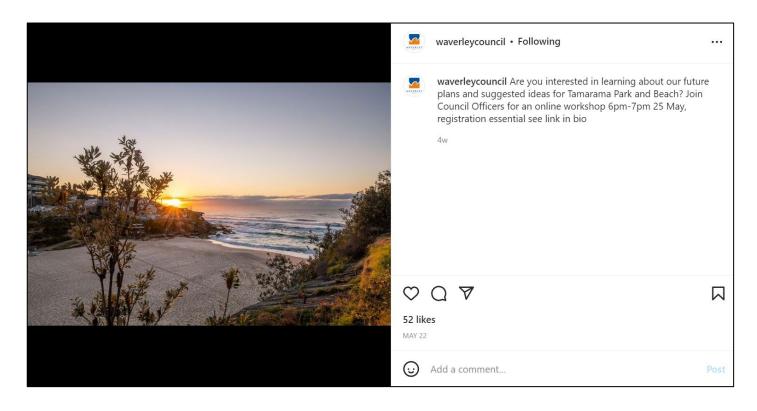
# Appendix C – Advertisement in The Beast



# **Appendix D – Facebook Posts**



# **Appendix E – Instagram Post**



# **Appendix F – eNewsletters**



## Tamarama Park and Beach Plan of Management

We are updating the Plan of Management for Tamarama Park and Beach to guide sustainable use and management over the next decade. The draft plan is open to feedback until 7 June.



# Have Your Say Waverley — May 2022

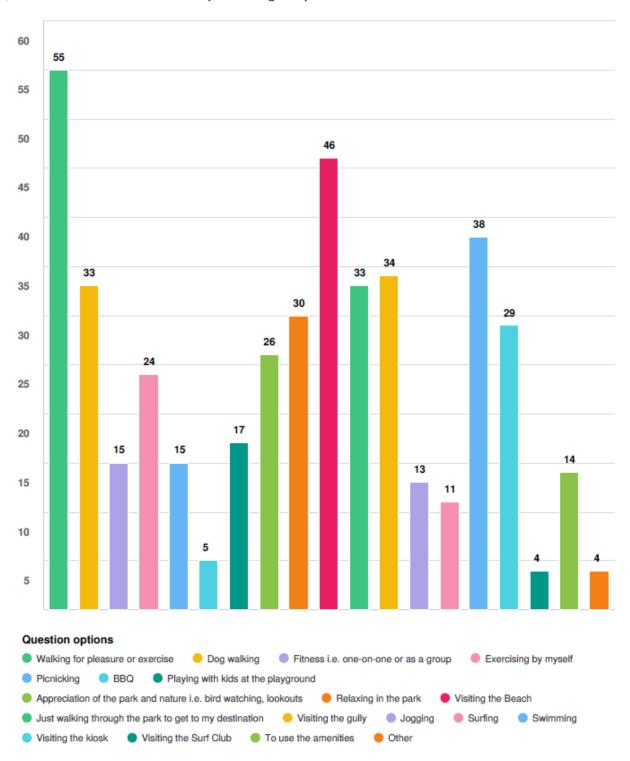
<u>Council live streams all Council meetings</u> and meetings of the Operations and Community Services Committee and the Strategic Planning and Development Committee. The next Council Meeting is 7pm, 17 May 2022. <u>Check out the agenda</u> to see if you want to tune in.

#### PROJECTS OPEN FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

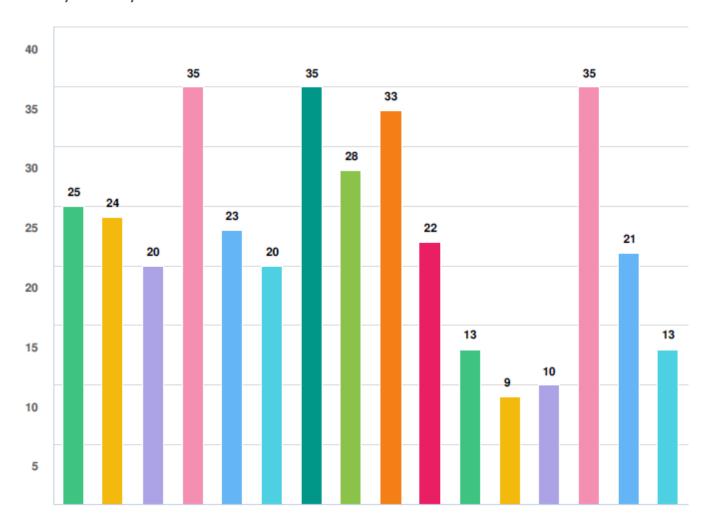
 Before we create the <u>Tamarama Park and Beach Plan of Management</u> we need to hear your feedback on the proposed ideas. Consultation open until 7 June.

# **Appendix G – Survey Snapshot**

Q6 What are all the activities that you are regularly involved in while in Tamarama Park and Beach?



Q15 We have some ideas for park improvements and potential future projects, which ideas do you support? Tick as many boxes as you like.



#### Question options

- Other
   Provide buffer planting between properties and fitness station
- Widen path adjacent Tamarama SLSC to improve pedestrian circulation along Coastal Walk
- Improve access to lookouts and provide seating
  Improve arrival and wayfinding experience
- Provide universal access to BBQs
- Provide path connection to new footpath along Tamarama Marine Drive to improve accessibility
- Provide a single designated dog off-leash area in the Gully Park\*
- Provide heritage interpretation in the Gully (Maori Flax memorial, European and Aboriginal Heritage)
- Improve old sandstone step path to provide safe pedestrian and maintenance access
- Formalised lookout at Tamarama Waterfall with ocean views
   Provide new seating along Birrell Street stairs landings
- Investigate lighting along Birrell Street stairs to improve safety
- Provide seats and picnic settings to lawn area in the Gully near Tamarama Marine Drive
- Provide seats along footpath on Tamarama Marine Drive
- Provide footpath improving accessibility to playground and picnic settings