



Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Stage One Upgrade

Engagement Outcomes Report

20 November 2023 – 31 January 2024



Contents

Summary	3
Project background	3
Promotion and engagement methods.....	4
Who did we hear from?	5
Summary of feedback.....	6
Next steps.....	11



Summary

From 20 November 2023 to 31 January 2024, the community was invited to provide feedback on the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade – Stage 1 Concept Layouts.

During the engagement period 1383 people visited the Your Say project page, 28 participants completed the online survey and 11 people provided feedback via email.

57.14% of the online respondents and everyone who provided an email submission supported the proposed concept plans for Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Stage one.

Key comments included the extension of the shade over the mushroom pool, inclusion of water bucket play equipment, seating area and green space.

Project background

In 2020 Council adopted the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Master Plan which guides the upgrades and improvements to this well-loved community asset for the next 10 years. The upgrades have been separated into three stages.

Council has developed a draft concept plan for stage one upgrade and community was invited to provide feedback on support or non-support for the proposed concept layouts.

Consultation with Inner West Council's Access and Inclusion Officer was conducted to ensure the draft designs would appropriately meet the needs of people with disabilities prior to the community consultation period.



Promotion and engagement methods

Promotion method	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on Your Say Inner West	1895 people viewed the project page
Emails to key stakeholders	Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) was issued to all LPAC members, visit pass holders, and Learn to Swim and squads' customers notifying them of the Stage 1 draft designs which included a link to the Your Say project page. This email was issued to 13,427 customers, with 7,655 emails opened, and 810 link clicks.
Council's social media	<p>Facebook and Instagram posts were made on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - November 24, 2023 - December 1, 2023 - December 15, 2023 - December 27, 2023 - January 18, 2024 - January 29, 2024 <p>6 Instagram posts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,941 people reached - 57 likes - 15 shares <p>6 Facebook posts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5,992 people reached - 16 likes - 2 shares
Posters	8 posters at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
Letters/Flyers	6351 notification flyers to properties Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
On-site pop-ups	18 on-site pop-ups were held at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre between 2 December 2023 and 28 January 2024 to provide an opportunity for existing customers to view the plans and provide feedback in person. These stalls were



	<p>held on all days of the week at various times to provide opportunities for a wide range of customers to provide feedback.</p> <p>Customers were provided with a QR code to access the Your Say project page to provide a formal response, as well as post it notes to provide written feedback. Many customers declined to provide formal feedback but expressed satisfaction with the proposed designs. 26 customers provided written feedback via post it notes.</p>
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Engagement method	Stakeholders engaged
Online survey	28 surveys completed
Direct contact from residents	11 emails from individuals

Who did we hear from?

Council gathers basic demographic information as part of the participant registration process online at Your Say Inner West. We use this information to understand who has responded and whether we need to engage further on the proposal.

40% of respondents were in the 40-44 age bracket, 20% aged 65-69 and 20% aged 35-39.

Majority of respondents (60%) lived in Leichhardt, Annandale and Rozelle.



Summary of feedback

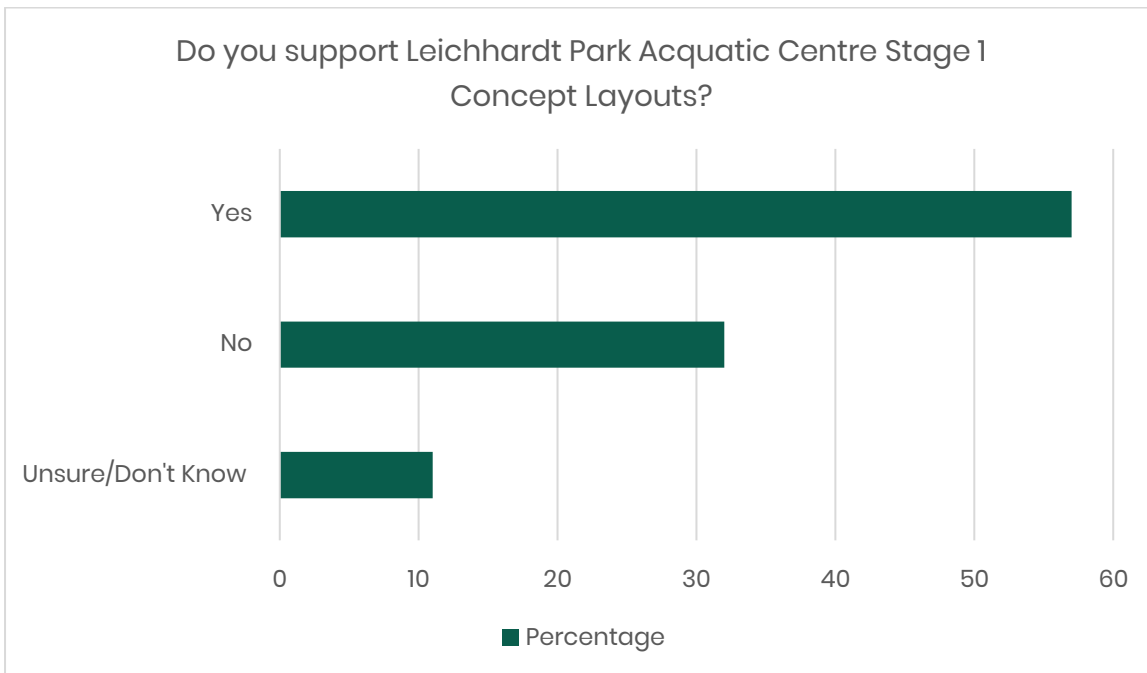
Engagement method: online survey, email, and on-site pop-up sessions

The online survey asked three questions that required a response and one optional question allowing for any comments.

Staff have reviewed and themed all comments received online and via emails. Responses to the comments have been provided where appropriate.

The verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

We asked	You said
Do you support Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre – Stage One Concept Layouts ? <i>39 Responses</i>	57% of online respondents supported the stage 1 upgrade concept layouts.



A total of 28 participants of the online survey provided additional comments and 11 people provided feedback via email. 26 additional comments were provided via post it notes during the on-site pop-up engagement desks. The below table highlights the key



themes of the feedback provided, as well as the number of comments relating to this item. Some responses included multiple items of feedback.

You said	Council response
<p>Requests to retain current depth of mushroom pool, particularly for older children.</p> <p>12 responses</p>	<p>The proposed modification involves a reduction in the depth of the deep side from 1.2 meters to 900 millimetres. This adjustment will allow greater safety outcomes for young children using the mushroom pool, which still retaining a deep end that can be used by slightly older children as well.</p>
<p>Requests to use alternative material to proposed glass fence or remove the fence entirely – additionally noting cleaning requirements, maintenance, air flow concerns, and collision concerns.</p> <p>5 responses</p>	<p>Glass has been chosen as the fence material as this material provides several benefits. The primary benefit of glass fencing is the increased visibility, allowing for improved supervision and safety outcomes. While glass does require cleaning, this is the case for most materials and will be completed by the Aquatic centre staff as part of the regular cleaning schedule for the centre.</p> <p>Using glass fencing will reduce the wind chill factor, helping to provide a more comfortable environment for patrons exiting the pool. The glass fencing will also feature anti-collision decals to prevent incidental impacts with the fence by wildlife.</p> <p>As the facility has several pools with varying opening hours, fencing is a necessary safety requirement around the mushroom pool area. This ensures that families who may be attending outside of the mushroom pool opening hours can safely navigate around the centre.</p>



You said	Council response
<p>Requests for increased shade, including request for shade cloth instead of slats depicted in artists impression</p> <p>13 responses</p>	<p>Shade requirements have been considered in the design as a matter of high importance, and additional shade will be installed over the mushroom pool and splash pad areas.</p> <p>Feedback has been provided to the design company regarding the proposed shade slats in the draft design, and the design has now been changed from the proposed slats to a full PTFE shade cloth material.</p>
<p>Retain mushroom water feature.</p> <p>5 responses</p>	<p>We are pleased to advise that the mushroom water feature, while missing from the artists impressions, will be retained in the final design. The mushroom will be refurbished and repainted, ensuring this iconic LPAC fixture can be enjoyed by our patrons for years to come.</p>
<p>No 'tube/pipe' water features, requests for bucket water feature.</p> <p>3 responses</p>	<p>The additional water features that will be included in the upgrade have yet to be selected, and we will note the preference to not use the pipe style fixtures in the artists impression and note the requests to include a bucket style water feature.</p>
<p>BBQ location safety concerns and a request for roof over area</p> <p>5 responses</p>	<p>The location of the BBQ area has been chosen to ensure that there is adequate distance from the play areas for safety, while still providing line of sight for families supervising their children.</p> <p>The BBQ zone will be situated above the newly constructed slab, replacing the synthetic turf. The proposed location is easily accessible, conveniently positioned adjacent to the Gym building. This positioning offers protection from wind and excessive sun exposure.</p>



You said	Council response
	Due to the positioning of existing buildings, the BBQ area will not be roofed to ensure that smoke can naturally vent away from the play areas.
Reconfigure mushroom pool by switching current deep and shallow ends 1 response	Adjusting the location of the shallow and deep ends of the existing pool would require a complete removal and rebuild of the pool area, rather than the proposed refurbishment. The proposed refurbishment has been selected as the best option to ensure the closure period is minimal, with the least disruption to patrons.
Additional fixed and flexible seating 7 responses	A variety of seating will be provided, including fixed bench seating along the western boundary, as well as a variety of moveable seating options allowing for flexible seating arrangements.
Request for timber batten fencing, not blocking view of greenery 2 responses	Due to the high maintenance requirement of timber, a timber look material will be used instead to provide the same aesthetic outcome while reducing maintenance. A slatted fence will be installed providing views of the adjacent bushland, retaining the connections to nature that are characteristic of the area.
Suggestion to include solar heating of the mushroom pool, noting pool temp can be low on colder days. 1 response	Energy upgrade options will be investigated as part of the future development of the site. The current upgrade will involve improvements to the plant rooms, which will deliver increased efficiency with pool heating.
Comment that artist impressions look closed in with too much white concrete. 1 response	Thank you for your feedback. Please note these images are artists impressions only. These white concrete walls depicted are not part of the design and simply show where the walls of existing buildings are



You said	Council response
	located, no change is planned for these building facades.
<p>Concern the facility will have 'no vibe'. 1 response</p>	<p>Retaining the sense of community that makes LPAC special to our residents is of great importance to us, and we value the contributions of our residents in the design phases to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community.</p>
<p>Leave mushroom pool configuration as it is 3 responses</p>	<p>The overall footprint of the mushroom pool will remain unchanged. However, to enhance functionality, aesthetics, and accessibility for disabled individuals, the shallow end of the mushroom pool will be transformed into a beach-entry style area, as depicted in the plans. This modification will also accommodate the inclusion of play equipment for an improved user experience and safety.</p>
<p>Comment there is no clear movement or circulation strategy 1 response</p>	<p>The proposal addresses circulation and movement within the designated space. The extent of the new splash play area along with the beach entry area ensures sufficient width for the movement of parents, disabled individuals, and visitors along the perimeter through the pathway. The footprint of the mushroom pool will remain unchanged, maintaining the current functional circulation and movement patterns around it. This arrangement has proven effective during peak hours previously.</p>
<p>Comments that a splash pad is not required 5 responses</p>	<p>The addition of a splash pad area provides more opportunities for families with young children to enjoy the centre and enhances LPAC as a destination for families.</p>
<p>Comments requesting additional plants/greenery.</p>	<p>Wherever possible, additional planter boxes will be included in the final design.</p>



You said	Council response
<p>2 responses</p> <p>Concern regarding noise and dust impacts to women’s showers during construction</p> <p>1 response</p>	<p>Inner West Council will ensure safety management plans are in place to ensure risks associated with the construction are considered and appropriate actions are taken to minimise these risks.</p>
<p>Additional comments relating to Stage 2 and 3, or facility maintenance</p> <p>20 responses</p>	<p>Additional comments were received that were out of scope of the Stage 1 proposed works or were related to facility maintenance. Feedback regarding facility maintenance have been passed on to the Centre Manager, and feedback relating to Stage 2 and 3 will be included in the engagement reports once engagement has been completed for these stages.</p>

Next steps

The plans will be finalised where appropriate with the community feedbacks and the revised plans will be presented on this page. Everyone who provided feedback will be notified when the plans are published.