

REPORT TITLE **BIRKENHEAD NAVAL RESERVE OPEN SPACE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

Report Type	Decision
City Plan Theme	Community Environment & Heritage Placemaking
Report Author	Project Leader - Stormwater (City Assets)
Report Summary	This report considers the results of the community consultation associated with the proposed upgrade of the Birkenhead Naval Reserve, Birkenhead open space.
Attachments	Attachment 1 – Concept Design mark-up following community consultation (Provided under separate cover) Attachment 2 – Community Consultation Summary (Provided under separate cover)

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves that:

1. The Director City Assets' report titled *"Birkenhead Naval Reserve Open Space Community Consultation Summary"* be received and noted.
2. The revised concept design in Attachment 1 be approved for progression to detailed design and subsequent construction with construction completion to be by 31st December 2021.
3. Key Stakeholders be advised of (2) above.
4. As part of the budget review process for 2020/21 and as part of the draft capital budget for 2021/22, \$1.5 million be allocated across the two financial years and the grant income of \$1.5 million be recognised.
5. The Mayor write to the relevant Ministers thanking them for the grant funding recognising the benefits that this project will deliver to the community.

Report

At its meeting on 11 August 2020, Council resolved:

1. *The Director City Assets' report titled "Naval Reserve Birkenhead Concept Plan" be received and noted.*
2. *Further design and community consultation for the reserve upgrade be undertaken in late August 2020, based on a construction budget allowance between \$1,400,000 and \$1,500,000 (excluding stormwater works that have existing budgets).*

3. *Council Administration will prepare a further Council report detailing the outcomes of the community consultation, and discuss opportunities for implementing a finalised reserve upgrade concept plan, timing of works and budget implications.*

Council consulted the wider community via various methods on the proposed Birkenhead Naval Reserve Open Space Upgrade in November 2020. Further detail on the consultation techniques undertaken is provided in the Stakeholder Engagement section below.

At its meeting on 8 December 2020, Council resolved:

1. *The Director City Assets' report titled "State and Federal Grant Funding Projects" be received and noted.*
2. *A grant application is submitted to the Federal Government for the 'Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program' for the following projects:*
 - *Prospect Road streetscape upgrade*
 - *Birkenhead Naval Reserve landscaping & play space*
 - *Lyons/Tarton Roads, Windsor Gardens roundabout construction*
 - *Thomas Turner creek rehabilitation works*

Council has been advised that the grant application has been successful with \$.5 million allocated to the Birkenhead Naval Reserve landscaping & play space.

As noted in the August 2020 council report the proposed upgrade includes; the unification of recreational opportunities at the northern end of the reserve, including play spaces for juniors and seniors, a half sports court, loop path, picnic facilities, interpretative artwork, significantly increased landscaping and provisions for a new toilet facility.

The stormwater basin is proposed to be located at the southern end of the reserve to maximise useable open space as well as allowing for efficient stormwater detention in large storm events.

Council staff consulted with the community on 7 November 2020 via an open day, workshops with key stakeholders and notification via letter to the local community to participate via our webpage. The majority of the responses from the consultation were positive with the community excited that Council are investing in the area and providing a great open space. A location plan showing the concept is provided in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Location plan and concept

The three themes that were mentioned most by the respondents were; the need to maintaining useable open space, utilising native planting and recognising the Aboriginal heritage of the area. Further information is provided in Table 1.

Following community feedback, Council have requested the civil engineering consultant for the detention basin that as part of the detailed design that they look to decrease the depth of the basin thereby increasing the useability of the basin area. This may impact on the flood protection benefits of the basin so will be assessed to determine if it can practically be achieved.

The reserve has been recorded as being a high risk for the discovery of Aboriginal remains so the community and Council Administration feel that representing this Aboriginal heritage link in the landscaping and signage at the reserve is a crucial element in the open space.

Council Administration have met with the landscape architects and the Aboriginal Advisory Panel to discuss how best to include the Aboriginal Heritage of the area in the landscaping of the reserve whilst also embracing the Naval monuments and history. Landscaping options are currently being considered which will include native planting, paths and Aboriginal heritage information signage around the Harbours Board Employees War Memorial. This was something that the Aboriginal Advisory panel demonstrated an interest in, as currently the entrance of the Reserve is dominated by the Naval monuments and a War memorial. Council Administration are currently working with the local RSLs and also the Naval Association regarding how they use the space currently and what space they need when accessing the site for events such as ANZAC day ceremonies.

Based on the feedback, Council Administration have stressed with the landscape architects the importance of native plantings and shade trees being utilised in the reserve.

The play elements and loop path proposed in the concept design was well supported as was the updated basketball court and maintaining the Aussie Rules goal posts.

There was significant interest from the Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group (PAREPG) to incorporate water reuse and also Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features into the detention basin of the open space. Council Administration do not believe that this is a good use of the open space area and that it would detract from the useability of the open space. Council Administration are looking at opportunities to accommodate WSUD in Hughes St and also Walker St as a part of Councils commitment to providing a water sensitive and climate resilient city. This will occur outside of the current Naval Reserve upgrade project scope.

The concept plan has been marked up with proposed changes that have been incorporated following the community consultation and is included as **Attachment 1**.

Cultural Heritage

A Cultural Heritage Audit and subsequent Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been prepared by external consultants in liaison with the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) the City of Port Adelaide Enfield's Aboriginal Advisory Panel and Council staff to sensitively guide heritage management during design and construction works.

Stormwater

The inclusion of a stormwater basin and associated infrastructure at this location is important to address flooding and high tide concerns in this area. Funding has been allocated both this financial year (\$1.9 million) and provisionally next financial year (\$1.5 million) towards this important component of works. Figure 1 shows details of the allocation of stormwater works over the 2 financial years.

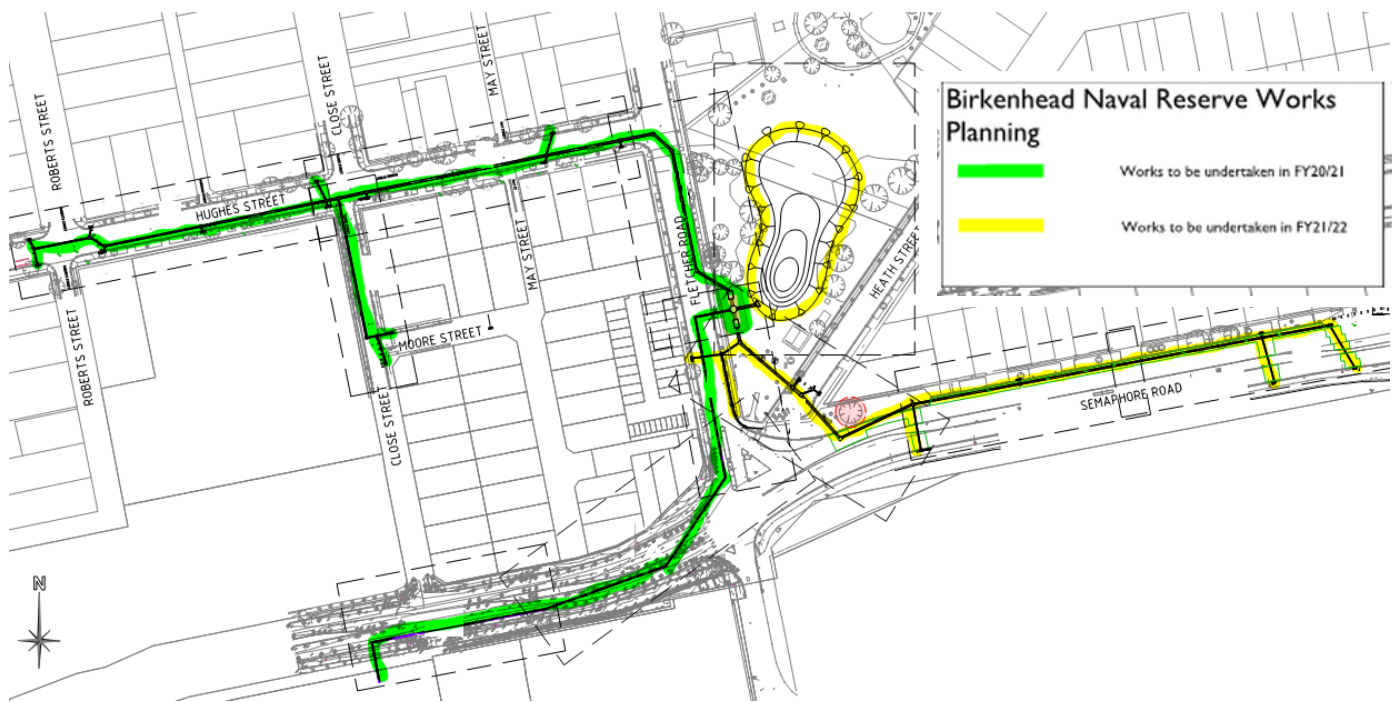


Figure 2 – Scope of stormwater capital works 2020/21-2021/22

City Plan Relationship

The upgrade of Birkenhead Naval Reserve contributes to the City Plan themes of Community, *‘a City that supports community wellbeing’* and Placemaking, *‘a City where people love to be’* by providing an upgrade of the community open space assets where a lack thereof has been identified.

It also contributes to the theme of Environment and Heritage as the open space will reflect the rich Aboriginal and Naval heritage of the area. The proposed upgrade will also work towards increasing shade trees which will aid in urban cooling.

Legislative Context and Related Policies

The Local Government Act requires Council to mitigate the impact and effects of natural hazards (i.e. flooding).

The upgrade of the Naval Reserve open space responds to and aligns with the following:

- Active Recreation Facilities Plan
- Open Space Plan
- Asset Management Plan – Parks
- TS10 - Shade of Playgrounds Policy.

Stakeholder Engagement

The consultation process took the form of the following actions:

- Open day at the Cedarwoods Sale Centre (Semaphore Road) on the 7th November 2020;
- Workshop with local environmental group (PAREPG);
- Meeting with Aboriginal Advisory Committee;
- Webpage and feedback form on the Have Your Say website;

- Direct invite for feedback to known locally active community members, environment groups, local businesses and schools.

Notification of the consultation period was undertaken via; social media (including directed social media marketing), email notifications, mail out and also corflute signs erected in the Reserve.

The mail out was delivered to all homes and businesses within 400m of the reserve, the mail out area is shown in Figure 1. Whilst the direct social media marketing was targeted at anyone within 1km of the reserve. The direct marketing area was bounded by Wills St, Peterhead in the North, Penny St, Semaphore in the West, the Port River in the East and as far as Hart St, Glanville in the South.

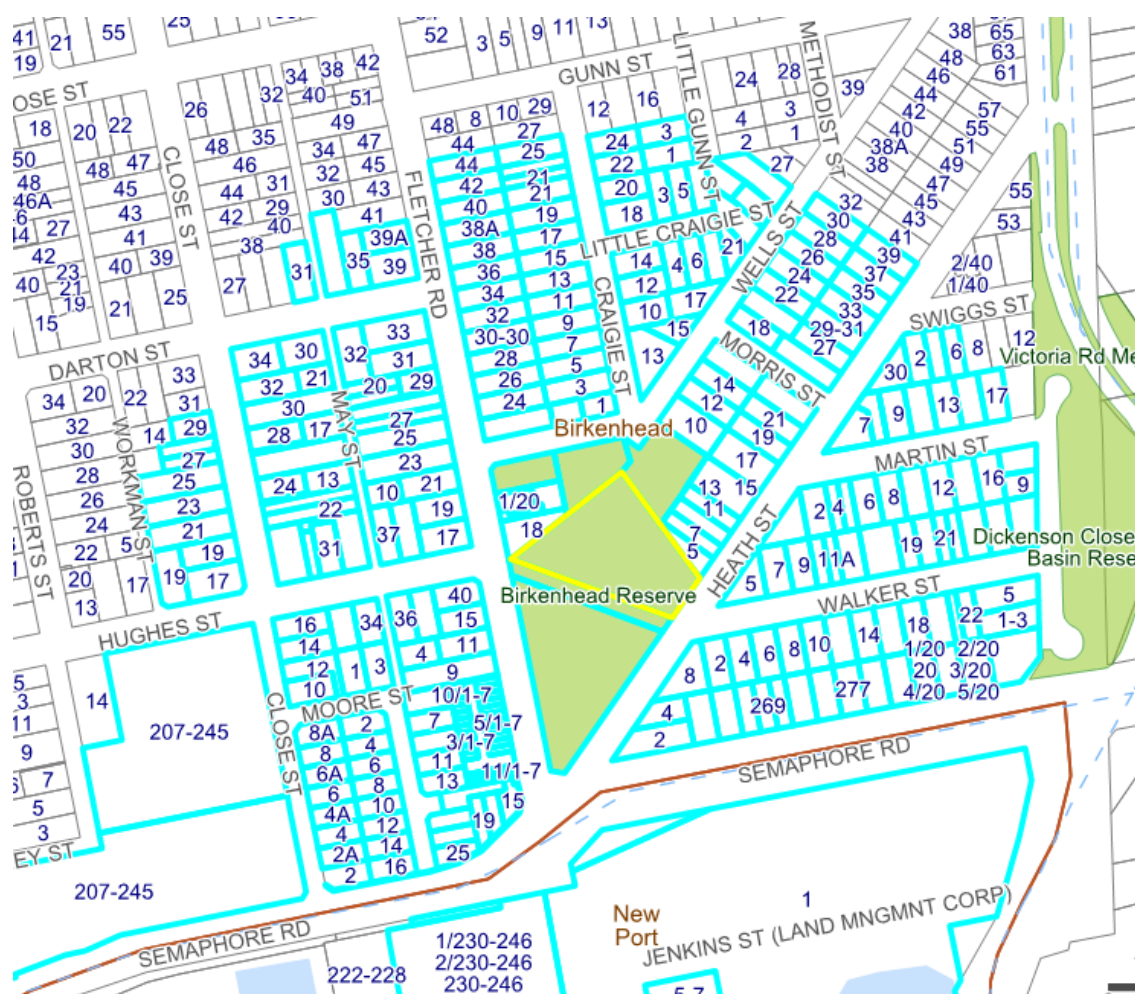


Figure 3 – Consultation mail out area (highlighted)

The consultation period was open for approximately four weeks. During this time the 'Have Your Say' website received 934 views with 28 people providing written responses to the questionnaire. A further twenty people came to the open day and Council Administration also received an additional six direct responses via email or phone call.

An analysis of the consultation responses in regards to the most important (reoccurring) themes are included in Table 1. The full summary has been included as **Attachment 2**.

Rank	Reoccurring Themes	Total
1	Large open useable space	11

2	Native indigenous planting	10
3	Aboriginal and Naval History Recognition	10
4	Biodiversity to improve bird life, bugs, butterflies etc	7
5	Water play/nature play/sand play	7
6	AFL goals	5
7	Basketball Court	5
8	Loop path	5
9	All access and age play spaces	5
10	Picnic Areas and seating	5

Table 1 – Reoccurring themes in community consultation feedback

The feedback from the community will be used to modify the concept design that was presented at the time of consultation, but it is suggested that any additions need to be kept within the allowed budget of \$1.5 million. It should be noted that since the previous report, Council have been advised that \$1.5 million funding has been allocated from the Federal Government for this project (which needs to be spent by 31 December 2021).

Risk Management

It has been highlighted that this project has a high risk of finding Aboriginal remains. To mitigate the time delays that such a discovery would put on the project Council Administration have undertaken a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). The CHMP outlines the procedures to follow in the event that remains or artefacts are found on the site; however the project may still be subjected to time delays while the appropriate steps are taken to manage the reburial or relocation of any artefacts.

There is large community interest on this project so ongoing community consultation throughout the detailed design phase of the project will need to be carefully managed. The time restrictions for project delivery preclude going back out to full community consultation prior to construction. Council Administration are confident that there was a diverse range of feedback from the consultation undertaken in November 2020 that will allow the detailed design to progress accordingly.

Financial Management

As per the 11th August 2020 Council report, a budget of \$1.5 million has been allocated for the upgrade of this open space (excluding stormwater considerations) and an indicative costing for the proposed works is detailed in Table 2. Council received confirmation that the Federal Government will contribute the entirety of these funds to be spent by 31 December 2021.

Birkenhead Naval Reserve is considered a Neighbourhood Recreation Park that would attract people from a radius of 500 metres and typically spend 1 to 2 hours. It was determined that a budget of \$1.5 million would be proportional to its context within the overall open space network and will still achieve a positive outcome for the community.

Works	Cost
Preliminaries & Site Set Up	\$55,300
Site Preparation	\$40,000

Demolition	\$95,000
Earthworks	\$90,000
Paths	\$150,000
Playground	\$180,000
Half Court & AFL Goalposts	\$37,000
Shelter & BBQ	\$60,000
Provision for Future Toilet (Pipe work only)	\$20,000
Park Furniture	\$20,000
Naval Theme Entry Artwork	\$40,000
Kaurna Interpretation Feature	\$40,000
Landscaping	\$120,000
Irrigation	\$11,000
Establishment	\$104,000
Council Staff Overheads	\$152,000
20% Project Contingency	\$232,300
Total	\$1,490,300

Table 2 – Indicative costs for open space component of Naval Reserve upgrade

Funding has successfully been secured under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2. A total sum of \$1.5million was secured and this component of the project must be completed by the 31st December 2021. Based on this deadline there is some urgency on the completion of this project in order to satisfy the grant funding requirements.

The ongoing costs associated with the upgrade of the Birkenhead Naval Reserve are included in Table 3.

Upgrade Cost Summary		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Construction	Capital	\$1,500,000		
Grant Funding	Revenue	\$1,500,000		
Asset Depreciation	Operating	-	\$40,000	\$40,000
Maintenance	Operating	\$43,800	\$82,600	\$82,600

Table 3 – Upgrade Cost Summary

Environmental and Social Impacts

The proposed stormwater works will reduce the extent and frequency of flooding for the surrounding streets and mitigate the impacts of high tides, rising sea levels and climate change.

Open space is important for both the mental and physical health for the Community. Having a cohesive and engaging open space makes it more attractive for residents to spend time outdoors.