
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Let's Play! Hard Court - Killarney Heights Oval

Consultation period: 2 February to 1 March 2024

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1. Summary




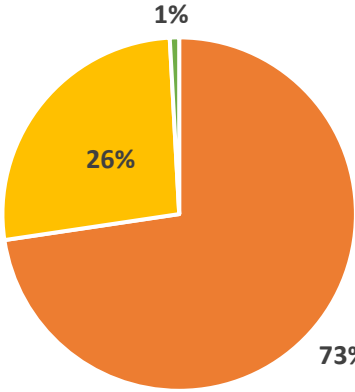

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to create a new basketball facility at Killarney Heights Oval for the community to enjoy.

The feedback collected during consultation revealed a high level of support for the proposed recreation space at Killarney Heights Oval with comments citing the anticipated benefits for locals. There were many requests for a full court or more courts in this location to support local demand.




Feedback also suggested Council should consider installing a drinking fountain, additional trees for shade and line markings for pickleball.

Respondents who were not supportive of the proposal cited loss of green space, loss of parking and noise pollution in the area.

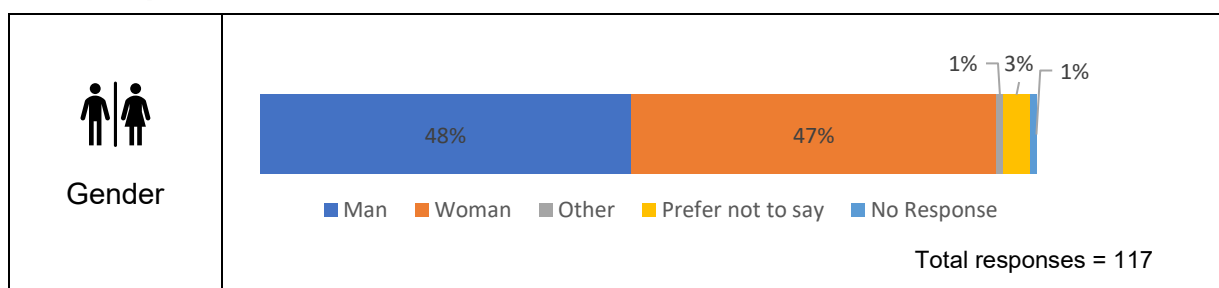
1.1. Key outcomes

 Total unique responses	<h1>121*</h1>	
 How responses were received	Your Say – Survey Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 117 Number received: 4
 Online sentiment question: Do you support the draft concept plan?	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p> ■ Yes ■ Yes with changes ■ No </p> <p>Total responses = 117</p> </div>	
 Feedback themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Court or multiple courts • More shade trees, bins, seating, and a new bubbler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade existing amenities • Drainage

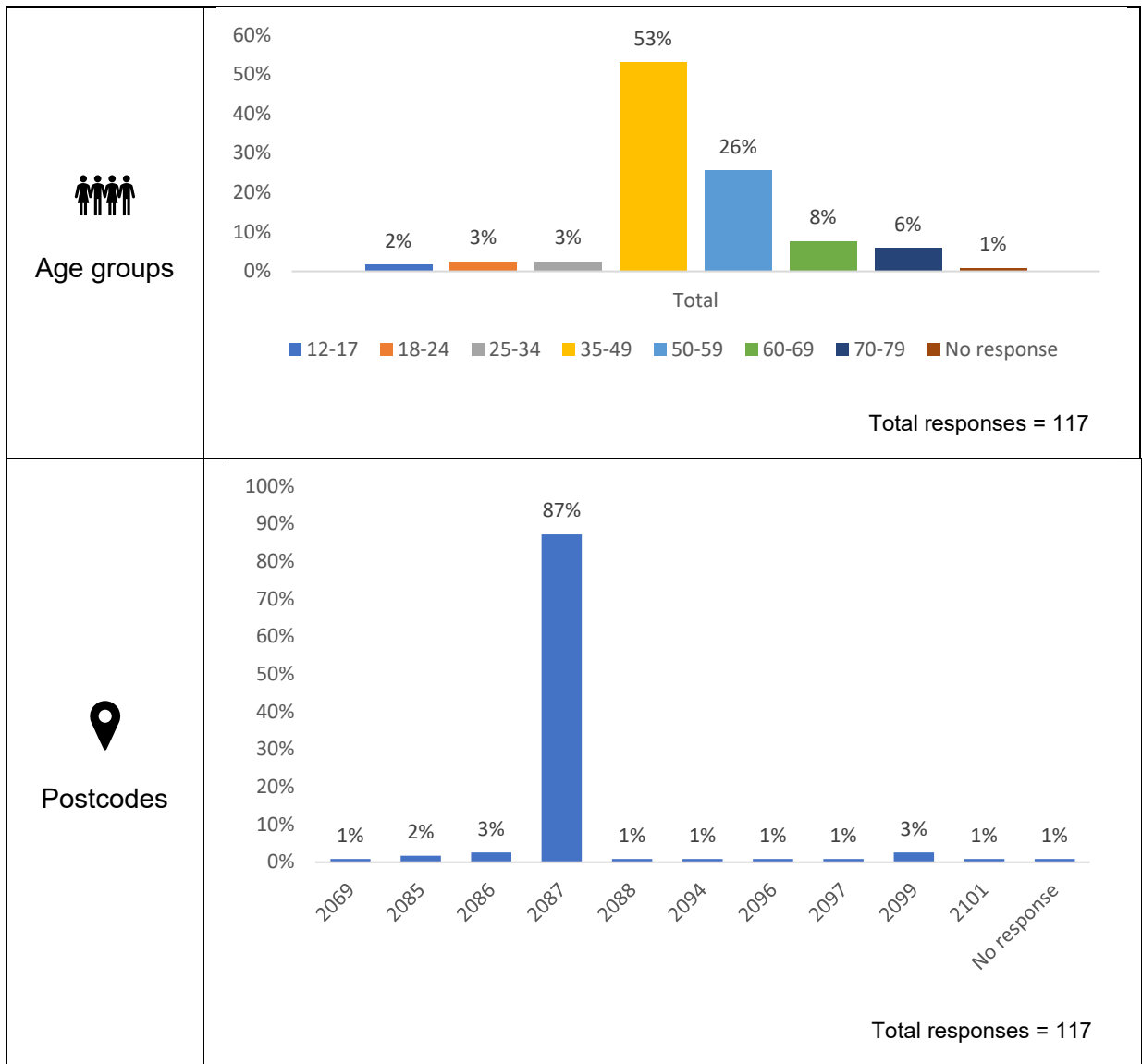
1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 526	Visits: 755	Average time onsite: 2mins 4secs
 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2087 Site signs used: 4		Distribution: 735
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition KALOF e-News: 1 edition		Distribution: 23,000 Distribution: 61,500 Distribution: 1,750
 Key stakeholder engagement	Killarney Heights High School e-newsletter Killarney Heights Public School e-newsletter		Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1

1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail. No demographic data was captured for respondents who contributed feedback in writing.



2. Background

We are looking to create a new recreation space at Killarney Heights Oval for the community to enjoy. Our primary goal is for neighbourhoods to inspire social interaction, inclusion and support health and wellbeing. One of the actions from Let's Play! (our Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy), is to look at improvements for Killarney Heights, including the potential for a new basketball hard court facility.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- provide balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions

- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Let's Play! Hard Court - Killarney Heights Oval was conducted between 2 February and 1 March 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) (2022).

A project page was established on our Have Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was promoted through our regular email newsletter subscribers, youth newsletter, site signage, letterbox drops to neighbouring residents and promoted in the Killarney Heights Public School and Killarney Heights High School e-newsletter to maximise community involvement.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the Have Your Say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited and have been included in the report.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the needs of the whole community.

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from youth groups. Information was distributed to this demographic via Council's KALOF newsletter, targeted at young people aged 12-24. We also contacted Killarney Heights Public School and Killarney Heights High School requesting they include the project in their school's e-newsletter.

We encouraged community participation and sought feedback on the project through several other activities to attract all the potentially affected people including:

- information was provided on Council's Have Your Say project page
- letterbox drops to neighbouring residents
- displays of onsite notification posters
- Mayor's weekly e-news.

5. Findings

The feedback collected from the consultation provided some key takeaways from the community. 73% of respondents were in full support of the proposal and thought a basketball hard court facility is a great addition to Killarney Heights. This positive feedback was represented by all ages.

26% of respondents supported the proposal but would like to see changes or additions. Changes included making it a full court basketball facility or rotating the position of the basketball court on the oval to allow for this.

Updating the existing amenities at Killarney Heights Oval was requested by several respondents. Feedback showed the community would also like to see more shade trees, bins, a new bubbler and additional seating areas. The current drainage was raised as an issue, with some respondents citing the oval is prone to ponding during and after heavy rainfall.

1% did not support the proposal and didn't see the point for the construction of a hard court.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Full Court or multiple courts	Requests for a full court or multiple courts rather than a half court	A full court was considered however any positioning impacted on the current or future use of the sportsfield. It is also noted that Council has converted two additional courts at Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields to multi-use effectively providing another 4 half courts only 1.2km away.
More shade trees, bins, seating, and a new bubbler	Requests to include more shade trees, seating, bins, and a new bubbler in the final design	Noted. Council will review and consider these requests in the final design, and subject to available budget.
Upgrade existing amenities	Multiple requests for a new or upgraded amenities building	Noted. Consideration of new or upgraded amenities is not within scope of this project. We have forwarded this feedback to Council's Property team for consideration in future amenities planning.
Drainage	Concerns that the area doesn't drain well and suffers from ponding during and after heavy rainfall	These concerns are being considered in the final design to improve drainage across the site and eliminate ponding.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

During the consultation/exhibition, Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Why not a full Court or why not more hard courts?	In future planning for this sportsground, there is insufficient space available for the provision of a full court in this area. Two additional basketball courts have recently been installed close by at Melwood Oval, which will help cater full court requests.
Can the drainage be upgraded at the same time?	Drainage concerns will be addressed if the proposal proceeds.
Does the proposal interfere with the winter sport posts (soccer)?	Considerations in the initial design of the proposed hard courts do not interfere with any existing sports (Soccer or Cricket) and will not affect any future sports.
Can the amenity block be upgraded?	The amenity block is not included in this proposal.
Is it possible to move the cricket nets?	Council is not considering moving the nets.
Will there be a fence limiting entry?	There are no plans for fencing of the hard court area.
Where are the rubbish bins?	A bin enclosure will be included in the final design.

6. Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Comments received via Your Say form

No.	Comment
1	What's the point of just having a section of court. A whole court is more practical and will provide a great opportunity for local kids.
2	1 that area gets very wet so hope drainage will be improved 2 can see lots of balls on top of the cricket practice nets 3 why not a full court. 4 extra seating the other side of the toilet facilities
3	Always great to create more recreational facilities for youth
4	Brilliant. It would be good to take the opportunity to have more than one half-court basketball - 2 or 3 would get more young adults active and engaged
5	Brilliant. Well done council.
6	Couldn't be happier with this proposal
7	Excellent idea- would be better to have 3 or 4 half courts, rather than just one. If only 1 half court it will only accommodate 4-6 small people. Suggest eliminating the viewing area in lieu of another 3 half courts. Possibly a square with 4 overlapping half courts would maximize the utility of the space. This could then accommodate more members of the community. Less likely you would have to wait to use the space.
8	Excellent.
9	Fantastic initiative to keep teens and kids healthy and active.
10	Great concept and idea. Ensure the existing lighting (and end of cricket nets also has some lights for the half court. Not sure you need the chicane fencing. Consider more bench seating, along the path and south of the existing amenities building.
11	Great idea and great design. Well done.
12	Great idea for improving the utility of communal recreational areas. Would be good if the toilet facilities were in scope for an upgrade too.
13	Great idea How about shade trees around the entire oval and lots of outdoor gym equipment near the hardcourt Thanks
14	Great idea!
15	Great idea! Two hoops would be even better (if able to fit, perhaps another one on the other side?) as one will be extremely popular!
16	Great idea, basketball is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia.
17	Great idea... good passive surveillance and a good activator for that area
18	Great initiative from council to provide more playing areas for kids in the community.
19	I have a teenage son who loves basketball and can't wait to use Killarney oval for this.
20	I think this is great and gives us another facility in Killarney. With so many people from different countries in the area, basketball offers an internationally popular sport we all can enjoy.
21	I was born and grew up killarney. I longed for a space like this. Also basketball is my favourite sport. My family still lives there and with the next generation of kids, coming along having a basketball court on Killarney oval will really help keep healthy and happy kids and parents in the area.

*Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

No.	Comment
22	I wish the proposal for the basketball area at Beverley Job Park was even close to this. I hope for more investment in the Narraweena area, similar to the quality of facilities that get proposed in other suburbs
23	I would also like the amenities block refurbished enabling the toilets to available similarly to Melwood Oval.
24	It would be ideal to include a second half court in the design.
25	Just need to make sure this area has good drainage as it is one part of KH oval that when rains, puddles form and linger. To ensure this is used and not ruined due to weather, need good drainage.
26	Looks fantastic and will be a great space for kids who love basketball
27	Love it. Good work! Thanks
28	More shaded areas. More comfortable seating.
29	Strong support for adding a half court (or full court if space and funding permits). It would be really good to have lighting to enable the space to be used for longer hours, particularly in winter when it gets dark early. New shade trees are always welcome. Thank you!
30	The plan is great. It would be lovely to have a basketball court for the young and young at heart to play on. This initiative by the Council will help promote a healthy lifestyle in all ages in this community. We can not wait to see it completed. We hope it gets approved and funded.
31	This area and many other parts of the oval become waterlogged and muddy after moderate to heavy rain. Can the drainage of the oval be upgraded at the same time?
32	This concept is a good idea. But this design is close to the existing toilet amenities which are old and at times smell. Maybe these could be improved as I believe they were to be relocated towards the hill. The only other toilet facilities are near the Netball Courts in the War Memorial Playing Fields.
33	This is a brilliant idea - thank you.
34	This is excellent! It's fantastic to hear about the plans to create a new recreation space at Killarney Heights Oval for the community's enjoyment. The emphasis on fostering social interaction, inclusion, and supporting health and wellbeing aligns perfectly with the needs of the community. The proposed basketball facility sounds exciting, especially with features like the regulation size court, sandstone seating, and additional shade trees for passive recreational opportunities. It would be particularly beneficial to have one in Killarney Heights as it would be closer to the Killarney Heights Community. This proximity would offer convenience for locals, especially children who can decide whether to go here or to Melwood for their recreational activities. I'll be sure to share my thoughts on the proposed design and encourage others to do the same using the provided channels. Thank you for prioritizing community engagement and involvement in this project.
35	This is great!
36	This is wonderful. I also suggested to the principal of KHHS that we approach council about a shared community/school indoor basketball facility on Killarney Oval on the other side of the amenities block and taking some of the school land as well. She was very interested. I believe there is something similar at St Ives High School. Thanks for asking for feedback.
37	This will be a great piece of community infrastructure. However, please prioritise and increase planting large native shade trees around the periphery of the whole oval. With increasing temperatures shade is an absolute necessity, particularly in summer for events and for spectators of local sport games. These trees need to be planted now to provide shade in future years so the local community can continue to enjoy the use of the oval.
38	Very excited by this! Lots of kids in the area who play basketball - great idea!

No.	Comment
39	Water drainage will need attention as it can be very boggy in this location.
40	We need more basketball courts all along the beaches. I am wondering why these courts are so small? Could you not do 2?
41	What a great design and improvement to the oval! There is a great need for this upgrade as the demographic of the area is getting younger and many teens as well as adults play basketball. Having a central court will promote the making of local friendships and connections for the residents.
42	Will enhance the Killarney heights profile
43	Yes please for Basketball courts as so many of the kids play basketball!
44	You could add bins to the area so it is cleaner. Thank you.
45	No further comment provided
46	No further comment provided
47	No further comment provided
48	No further comment provided
49	No further comment provided
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52	No further comment provided
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83	No further comment provided
84	No further comment provided
85	No further comment provided
86	No further comment provided
87	A full court would be ideal but still I'm very happy with this proposal
88	A half court will be a wonderful addition and absolutely support this initiative. However, if a full court could be considered for our local community it, it would be an incredible outlet for our youth. For someone that works in a NFP with young people, diversionary activities are essential at reducing crime in the local area whilst supporting our youth to continue to be outside and active. Thank you for considering further enhancing this project and for all the work you are doing behind the scenes to make this possible.
89	<p>As a concerned resident of Killarney Heights, I would like to bring attention to a few issues related to our local oval. The current draft concept plan, while appreciated, fall short of meeting the needs of our community.</p> <p>Basketball Court: Having only one basketball court is insufficient for an area as large as our oval. With the growing interest in basketball and the increasing number of players, I urge the council to consider expanding the basketball court facilities. Additional courts would not only promote physical activity but also foster a sense of community by encouraging friendly matches and tournaments.</p> <p>Toilet Facilities: Access to clean and functional toilets is essential for any public space. Unfortunately, our oval lacks adequate toilet facilities. I strongly recommend that the council unlock the existing toilets for public use. This would benefit not only basketball players but also other visitors, especially families with young children.</p> <p>Dogs: Many residents utilise the oval as a dog park. While this is understandable, it often leads to conflicts with sports activities and other users. To maintain a harmonious environment, regular ranger patrols are necessary. These patrols can discourage dog owners from allowing their pets to roam freely on the oval. I kindly request that the council allocate resources to ensure consistent monitoring and enforcement.</p>
90	Could you please consider more shading trees near the court; more seating/sahde for cricket and soccer/rugby league field. Current seating near the amenity block is not very welcoming.
91	Fantastic! But why only one 1/2? There is a significant lack of basketball facilities in our area, especially compared to all the local netball courts. Surely at least another 1/2 court could be fit in?
92	Great idea and yes please however would be awesome if it could be a full court!
93	Great initiative to have a basketball court but would be more beneficial to have a full court or more hoops.
94	<p>Hi there</p> <p>Some feedback: 1. The plan doesn't show the location of the northern goal post when it is installed for winter sports (i.e. football/soccer). It will be very close to the proposed court so has this been considered? As a long term football player on this oval the ball regularly ends up hitting the cricket nets or passing beyond the amenities block into the bushes due to wayward shooting attempts so the basketball court users and spectators are likely to be hit by the ball regularly when a game is on, or during training sessions. This could lead to injuries but possibly also confrontations between football players and basketball players. Perhaps a fence the same height as the cricket nets needs to be</p>

No.	Comment
	<p>put in place on the southern side of the proposed basketball court to protect that area? 2. Hopefully drainage will be improved if the court goes ahead in the indicated area. After heavy rain that area is always flooded due to poor drainage along the path by the amenities block. The path is often covered with water and the grass area soaked and takes many days to dry out. The current drainage is inadequate and often blocked with weeds. 3. Would suggest a garbage bin is installed. There is no bin on that side of the oval at all and the area around the amenities block is already often a mess after sports games/events. 4. Item 8 is incorrectly labelled as "Relocated practice soccer posts". The posts are re-located there by Council for storage during summer sport season. They never have been for "practice" and would be impractical to be used in that position anyway.</p> <p>Best regards,</p>
95	<p>Hi</p> <p>We fully support this application as it will be great for the community to have another outlet for exercise and enjoyment. We kindly ask you consider the drainage in this area where the half-court is planned. While drainage was installed some years ago, this area still gets has standing water after a down pour and for several days thereafter. Installing further drainage would mitigate further costs to the council to have to repair the bitumen due to standing water, and also mean that the half-court is able to be used regularly, as opposed to having to wait until any standing water on the court receded.</p> <p>Our second request is that the toilet block (existing amenities) in the diagram be updated and more accessible hours to allow people using the cricket nets and basketball court to access the facilities. The toilet blocks at the Forestville netball courts/soccer club on Melwood Ave (near Melwood Oval) are wonderful and a great example of how the toilets at Killarney Oval could be updated. By updating them, newer water-saving facilities can be installed, better access for disabled people (being more inclusive), and better visibility.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
96	<p>I think adding more courts will be good because that was always the hard part about going to melwood oval to play, sometimes the hoops were taken and there wasn't enough space to play.</p>
97	<p>I think it would be great to have this new facility. Well done to whoever started the plans. I would like to see a water bubbler added - the current one on the oval near the road is inadequate. Also please consider inexpensive additions such as handball squares to the side of the court that will expand the use. Also please install bins as this area is often left like a tip after cricket or soccer games. Maybe consider a few rows of inexpensive aluminium seats on the hill near the path to the high school. The main issue in this whole area though is the amenities which are truly terrible. If there's not enough money to knock and replace I'm sure a refresh would go a long way.</p>
98	<p>I think it's great. I would really recommend taking the opportunity to install bins here too as we do go through phases of rubbish being left behind around the existing club house unfortunately. Or some signs saying 'take your crap home with you' or words to that effect...!</p>
99	<p>Is it possible to fit 2 full courts? There are lots of people/kids sharing one hoop</p>
100	<p>Is it possible to move the cricket nets? Nearer the road and out a whole basketball court in? Would be more functional and used well if a whole one was there. Good idea Support this</p>
101	<p>It is hard to tell from the plans where the football(soccer) goals would be but as they are heavily used, my concern is to make sure there isn't loss of football fields</p>
102	<p>It makes more sense to provide a full size court, given the huge lack of basketball courts on the northern beaches. There is plenty of space to allow this to happen. Providing a full size court would allow it to be used not just for a few people training, but more training groups at the same time, as well as for games. A half court is only usable by (a) a few people at a time and (b) for training/leisure not games.</p>
103	<p>It should be a full basketball court!</p>
104	<p>It's a very good idea but once it is built it will be very popular (as the courts at Melwood are) and only one group or person will be able to use it at a time.</p>

No.	Comment
	If possible, it should be a full basketball court to allow for more people to use it.
105	Please also include exercise equipment (for example A space). The upgrade needs to reach a broader demographic and not just youth. Many seniors can be seen enjoying the recently installed exercise station at Melwood Oval (near community tennis courts). Killarney has an aging community too that regularly utilises the footpath that half circumnavigates the Killarney oval. Ideally, all age groups would be attracted to a new outdoor exercise zone such as this.
106	Please also move the power pole in the outfield so that there can be a full sized cricket outfield. Can also be a hazard as the boundary has to be brought in around it, and could be run into by fielders chasing the ball.
107	The existing amenities block should be updated as it is very old and dilapidated. With a large number of young families in the area, a younger children's playground should also be added to the oval, to make the site an interesting place for children of all ages and families to visit together.
108	The sounds from the oval travels really far in Killarney Heights. It would be my suggestion that if there is lighting provided that it be turned off by 8pm every night.
109	There is enough space for a full size court. A lot of the community will use it and half court is limited in it a use by a few individuals A full court will facilitate more people and game play. The rest is fine. Maybe give the existing amenity a new coat of paint.
110	This is a basic start but it is not enough. Outdoor basketball facilities on the beaches are currently hugely limited despite the fact that it is the fastest growing sport. One hoop is not enough! We need more courts adjacent to each other so kids are not getting in the way of each other and getting injured trying to all share the one hoop. Yes it needs lighting otherwise it's use in darker months is going to be very limited!!!
111	This is a fantastic plan. If possible, an upgrade / refresh of the amenity building and facilities as well would be great. Thank you
112	This is a great idea. However, why not make it a full court, or the half court proposed plus a full court, so that kids can play proper basketball games? There's plenty of space on the other side of the cricket practice nets.
113	This is a great start to improving this sporting precinct...but love to see it taken even further:- More perimeter tree planting, "full circle" walkway with upgrade to fencing, upgrade and potential relocation of the centre cricket pitch (so no longer in the middle of the soccer pitch), relocate the telco tower that impedes the cricket outfield/additional small soccer field, fix the drainage, and a full upgrade (ie replacement) of the existing toilet/change-rooms (with additional covered seating area)
114	This will be amazing for the kids to have exercise and practice. With roof can be more functional for all kinds of weather
115	Where are the rubbish bins. The lack of bins in new developments by northern beaches council is negligent. This needs to be addressed for this and future development.
116	Will there be a fence limiting the entry? Leaving the field open to all public with many entry points is a very big benefit, I like the plan but I oppose to limiting the access be enabling to lock the gate and putting a fence around the oval
117	Would be great if the space could also be used for pickleball - it looks like it would be large enough, just needs appropriate lines.

Comments received via email

No.	Comment
1	Hi Bill This looks great! The proposed site does get very boggy after rain and stays that way for a long time, so would suggest adequate drainage be considered. Cheers
2	I had a call this morning from [REDACTED] from Killarney Heights. She doesn't have the technology to have your say, but she phoned through customer service.

No.	Comment
	She supports the concept.
3	<p>Dear NB Council representative,</p> <p>I am writing to query why an upgrade to the existing amenities block at Killarney Oval is not being included as part of the proposed "Let's Play! Hard Court at Killarney Heights Oval"?</p> <p>Killarney Oval is a high-use green space/local community sports facility that extensively serves a range of different user groups including students at both the public and high schools, local sporting clubs (cricket and soccer), as well as the local community (dog walkers, kids practicing sports with their parents or friends and the annual World Food Festival etc). In short, it's a highly used oval.</p> <p>The proposed addition of a basketball key and half court at Killarney Oval is a great idea that seeks to broaden utilisation of the facility even further. Bravo!</p> <p>However, the existing amenities block at Killarney Oval is in a very dilapidated state and it's certainly not fit for purpose given the upgrade works currently being considered.</p> <p>Is there a reason why the Council has not included an upgrade to the amenities block at Killarney Oval as part of this current proposal?</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>██████████ (Local resident and ratepayer at ██████████, Killarney Heights)</p>

No. Comment

4

[REDACTED]
Forestville, NSW 2087

5 March, 2024

Mr Bill Bevan,
Asset Management Officer
Park Assets – Planning, Design & Delivery,
Northern Beaches Council
725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why 2099

Dear Mr Bevan,

Proposed Basketball Court at Forestville

Thank you for the letter of February 8 which is good news indeed.

For many years I have followed a member of my family in this sport, covering many places in towns up and down NSW and Victoria, even as far as Geelong. What became evident during that time, was the shortage of courts, especially INDOOR COURTS. We were amazed to be told in Victoria, a much smaller State, that the number of courts was vastly greater there than here in NSW. No wonder Victoria has such successful teams.

Warringah Shire (or Northern Beaches) is very large and an Indoor Court erected in the southern area would be of great benefit. I know many people would agree with this. It would be much appreciated if Council would consider this matter.

We look forward to the results of your planning.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	21 May 2024
Approval	Content provided and approved by Park Assets - Planning, Design & Delivery Team. Responsible manager: Lia Skountzos
Status	Final
Related Projects	Let's Play! Hard Court - Winnererremy Bay, Mona Vale
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.