



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Seaforth Oval Reserve Plan of Management – Stage 1

Consultation period: 25 August to 27 September 2023

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1. Summary

A draft Seaforth Oval Reserve Plan of Management (draft PoM) has been prepared to enable Council to improve sport and recreation opportunities to better meet community needs and to incorporate additional Crown land into Seaforth Oval Reserve (the Reserve). Proposed improvements include a new intermediate to advanced level bike park.

From 25 August 2023 to Wednesday 27 September 2023 stage 1 community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken to gather ideas for the draft PoM. This report provides an analysis of the feedback received, responses to key matters raised and includes the verbatim responses (Appendix 1).

The feedback received indicated strong support for the proposed bike park. Many suggestions were received for improving sport and park facilities, the Seaforth Community and Sporting Pavilion (the pavilion), internal roads and carparking, trails, and support for more protection of the Reserve's flora and fauna.




Parking and traffic issues were highlighted in particular during high use times. At these times there is not enough parking, and gridlock entering and exiting the Reserve. Requests were received for more parking capacity and better traffic management.

Respondents not supportive of the proposed bike park cited concerns about possible anti-social behaviour and loss of parking space.

Many respondents commented on how well-used and important this Reserve is to residents, visitors and sporting and community groups for sport, recreation and community activities.

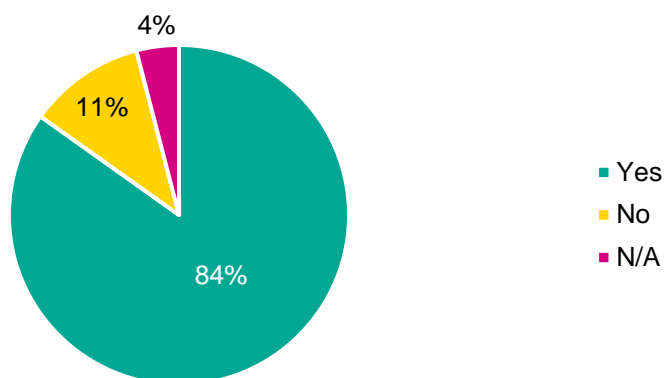
The community's feedback is useful for understanding the current and desired use of the Reserve and has helped guide the preparation of the draft PoM.

1.1. Key outcomes

 Total unique responses	509 ¹	
 How responses were received	Survey Written responses (email/letter) Total responses	Completions: 498 Number received: 14 512
 Online questions	The following questions were asked via the online form	

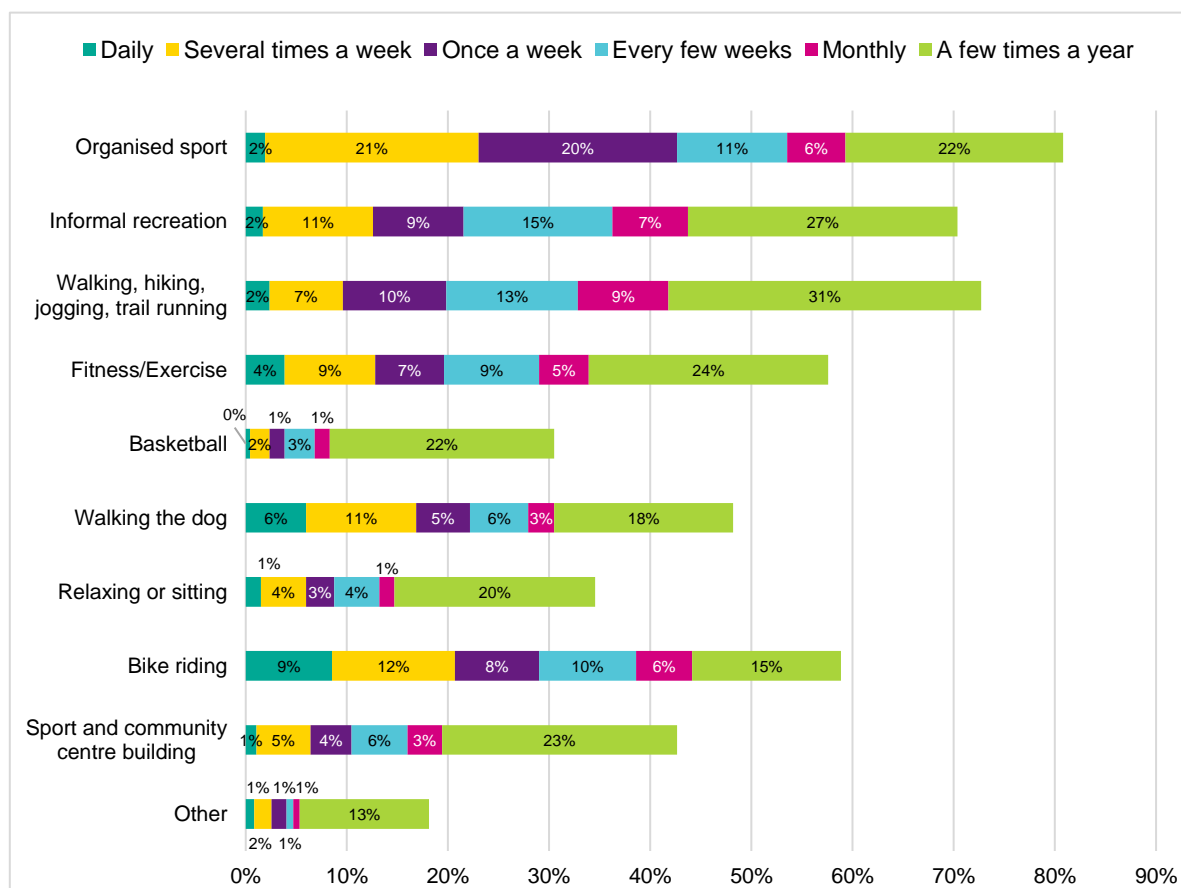
¹ Some survey respondents submitted a written submission in addition to completing the survey – these are counted as one unique submission however all comments have been taken into consideration.

Do you use Seaforth Oval?



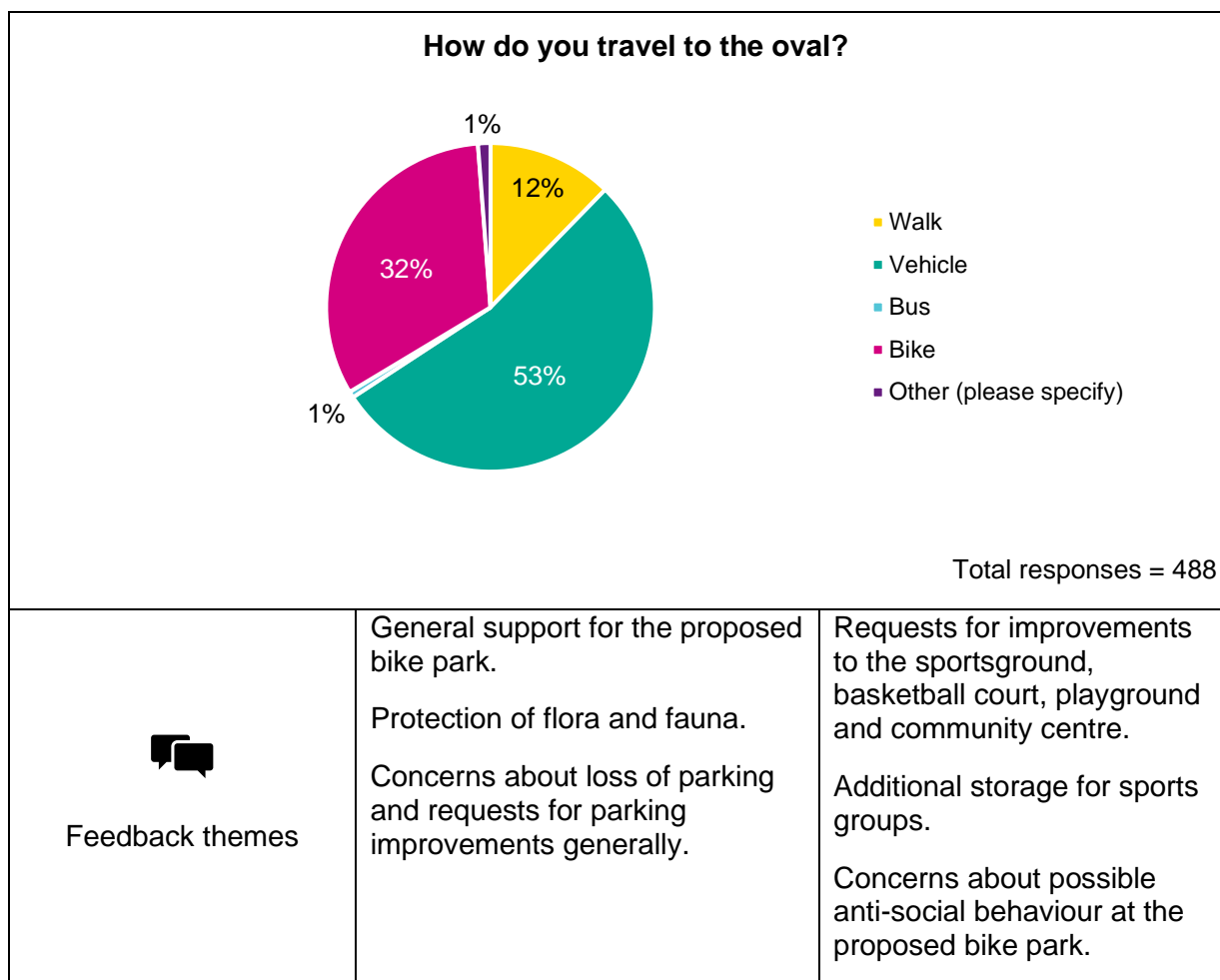
Total responses = 498²

Indicate how often you undertake these activities at the oval?






Total respondents = 469

² This is based on a Yes/No only question and does not account for the 18 respondents that ticked No but then went onto respond to the frequency of their use question in the survey.

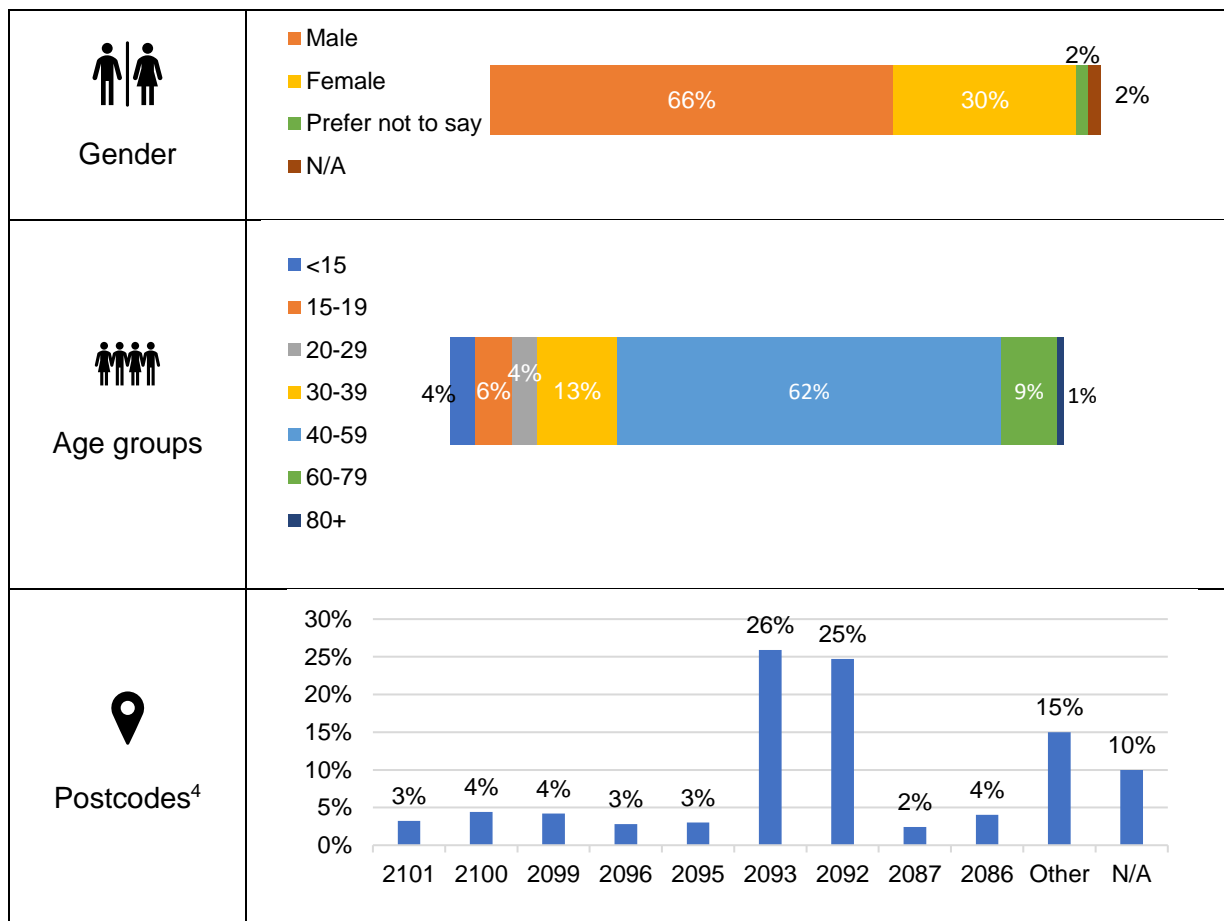


1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 2,367	Visits: 2,944	Average time onsite: 1 min 47 sec
 Social media	Instagram Story – Council Instagram Story – KALOF Instagram Post - KALOF Facebook Post – KALOF		Reach: 1078 views Reach: 164 views Reach: 279 views Reach: 774 views
 Print media and collateral	Council News Story Letterbox drop: postcode 2092 Site signs used: Yes		Number: 1 Distribution: 305 Number of signs: 3

 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 3 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 2 editions KALOF Newsletter (monthly): 1 edition	Distribution: 22,500 subscribers Distribution: 61,500 subscribers Distribution: 1,700
 Key stakeholder engagement	Phone calls – ‘book a time to connect’ Phone calls: National Parks & Wildlife Service (NP&WS) Emails: Sports clubs and associations, local schools, NWPS, resident group, environmental group and other users of the Reserve Response to ‘interest to be involved in the detailed bike park design’	Number: 8 Number: 1 Number: 18 Number: 5

1.3. Who responded³



³ Demographic data was gathered through the online survey by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.

⁴ Other are postcodes with fewer than 10 responses.

2. Background

The purpose of preparing the draft Seaforth Oval Reserve Plan of Management (draft PoM) is to:

- enable a specific area of the Reserve to be used for the construction of an intermediate to advanced level bike park consistent with any Council approval and as per Council's Let's Play! Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2022
- incorporate additional Crown land to the south of the current Reserve into the PoM
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- review and update prior commitments for the Reserve to ensure that the site and facilities continue to meet the needs of the community
- provide a basis for effective day to day decision making
- provide an overview/description of existing assets and facilities and how these facilities will be managed
- set guidelines for permissible uses to guide future activities within the site area
- expressly authorise leases, licences, and other estates
- integrate the interests of Council (as manager) with residents and visitors to the Reserve and future users of the land
- support the implementation of Council's open space, recreation and environmental strategies including the Northern Beaches Community Strategic Plan 2040 (2040 CSP) and Towards 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement (Towards 2040 LSPS).

Following a review of community feedback as outlined in this report, a draft PoM has been developed and is proposed to be placed on public exhibition for community feedback.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- provide accessible information so community members and stakeholders could participate in a meaningful way
- seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or interested in the project
- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- communicate to community and stakeholders how their input will be incorporated into the planning and decision-making process
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values
- provide vulnerable and marginalised groups access to the engagement process.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the development of the draft PoM was conducted between Friday 25 August and Wednesday 27 September 2023. It 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).

An online project page⁵ was established on our Have Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels, on-site signage and a letter box drop. We also contacted the National Parks & Wildlife Service, local schools (Balgowlah North Public School, Seaforth Public School and The Farmhouse Montessori School), sports clubs and associations (football, cricket, little athletics and PSSA – Manly zone), Baringa Residents Group, The Walking Volunteers, Oxfam Trail Walker and other users of the Reserve.

Feedback was captured through an online survey form embedded onto the Have Your say project page. The form included questions that asked respondents how they use the area, how often they use the oval for certain activities, and how they travelled to the Reserve.

An open-field comments box provided stakeholders and community members space to share what they liked most about the oval/reserve, any improvements they thought could be made to the area and any suggestions they had for the proposed bike park.

Email and written comments were also invited. There was a 'book a call' option on the Have Your Say project page to speak to our project team as well as a 'register your interest' to be involved in the bike park working group option.

This engagement did not include a support sentiment question. Quantitative data was collected as indicated in the above graphs. The qualitative data collected during the engagement period was used to complete the theming of feedback received.

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.

In addition to regular channels and engagement techniques to capture a range of views, we used the KALOF (Keep a Look Out For) Facebook and Instagram pages to help reach youth. The Have Your Say project page was also promoted in Council's disability newsletter.

5. Findings

Analysis of the community and stakeholder feedback has highlighted how well-used and important this Reserve is to residents, visitors and sporting and community groups for sport, recreation and community activities.

There was general support for the proposed bike park primarily related to addressing a gap in intermediate to advanced skill level facilities when compared to existing bike parks on the Northern Beaches, as well as providing a safe place to ride and the social, physical and community benefits. Respondents not supportive of the proposed bike park highlighted concerns about possible anti-social behaviour and loss of parking space.

There are concerns over traffic and parking congestion and safety especially during high usage times such as when weekend sport is played. On busy days there are not enough parking spaces and gridlock when entering and exiting the Reserve. Requests were received for more parking spaces, for improving the overflow car park and better traffic management.

⁵ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/plan-management-development-and-bike-park-seaforth-oval>

Other key themes raised through community consultation included:

- ideas for the bike park such as
 - several entry and exit points, tabletops, jumps and berms, a warm-up area, wooden lips and pro-lines, bike tuning / maintenance station, access to water for maintenance and bike wash, storage for maintenance equipment
 - not designing like the Grove bike park, which has been unsuccessful and underutilised
- requests for new sports infrastructure and improvements to existing sports infrastructure such as
 - upgrading sportsfield lighting, drainage and playing surfaces
 - more storage for sports groups
- requests for new park infrastructure and improvements to existing park infrastructure such as
 - upgrading the basketball court and playground
 - more bubblers and park furniture
 - EV charging station
 - dog waste bag dispensers and water bowls
 - upgrading fencing to improve safety
- requests to upgrade the trails within the Reserve and trail signage
- protection of the Reserve's flora and fauna and more tree planting
- enjoy walking my dog at the Reserve

Table 1 below provides a summary of the key themes and staff responses.

Appendix 1 includes the verbatim comments received via Your Say and email submissions received.

Table 1: Seaforth Oval Reserve Plan of Management Stage 1 Community & Stakeholder Engagement - Summary of issues, suggestions, requests, other considerations and responses

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
Support for the proposed bike park and ideas for design	<p>There was strong support for the proposed bike park for reasons including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fills a gap in the availability of a formal intermediate to advanced level bike park on the Northern Beaches provides a safe location for riders encourages physical activity and provides social and community benefits may help reduce bike riding on informal trails in natural areas. <p>A variety of ideas were received for the bike park including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some respondents would like to be involved in the design and or maintenance of the bike park trail builders to be used for design and construction don't design this bike park like the Grove bike park as the Grove has been unsuccessful and underutilised make sure it caters to intermediate to advanced level riders move bike park further south so as not to take up parking space design elements to consider - several entry and exit points, tabletop jumps and berms, warm-up area, wooden lips and pro-lines, bike tuning / maintenance station, access to water for maintenance & bike wash, storage for maintenance equipment signage about safe use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the Seaforth Oval Reserve Plan of Management (PoM) is approved a working group will be formed to assist Council with the design of the bike park. This group will include representatives from riding groups and riders. It is planned to establish a volunteer program to assist with the maintenance of the bike park. Trail building contractors will be considered to assist with the design and/or construction of the bike park as needed. The bike park is planned to be located in the eastern and southern edges of the overflow car park - the bike park will be designed to minimise impact on parking capacity. The bike park design will cater to intermediate to advanced level riders. Signage about safe use of the bike park and etiquette will be included as part of the design. The design elements suggested will be considered. There is a defibrillator on the western side of the Seaforth Community & Sporting Pavilion (the Pavilion). An additional defibrillator will be considered when a need is identified. No additional showers are proposed for the Reserve as there are showers in the Pavilion. There is a public BBQ in the Reserve. An additional BBQ will be considered when a need is identified and if space and funds are available. A new water bubbler will be considered near the bike park when needs are identified, and funds are available.

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support facilities to consider; BBQ, bubbler, defibrillator, viewing platform, seating, showers (near the bike park). 	
Don't support the proposed bike park	<p>A small number of comments received did not support the bike park for reasons including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it's not needed the Reserve is the wrong location for the bike park the location is hidden from view the potential impact on nearby homes from noise the potential for anti-social behaviour such as graffiti and vandalism such as that which occurs regularly at the Grove bike park increased demand for parking construction of the bike park may damage nearby vegetation on-going management and maintenance costs money for this project could be used for a project with greater community benefit or on upgrading existing facilities in the Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consultation with riders a need was identified for an intermediate to advanced level bike park in the southern area of the Northern Beaches. A subsequent review of potential locations identified Seaforth Oval as a suitable location which was then confirmed through adoption of Council's Let's Play! Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2022. Key aspects of the location of the bike park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are no homes on the northern or western boundaries of the location homes situated south of the Reserve are separated from the location by over 5 hectares of bushland (in the Reserve and Garigal National Park) homes situated east of the Reserve are separated from the location by Wakehurst Parkway and well-established vegetation. Consultation has also been undertaken with the Northern Beaches Police Area Command who did not object to this location. It is not anticipated that significant noise will be generated from riders at the bike park. A portion of the bike park is planned to be located in an area south of the overflow car park where Council stores work materials – the bike park will be designed to minimise impact on the parking capacity. Based on recent experience it is assumed most bike park users would ride to the Reserve rather than drive. Construction of the bike park will be undertaken in accordance with all relevant environmental legislation and guidelines.

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is passive surveillance of the bike park from the overflow car park which is well used by sports clubs after 4pm on weekdays and on weekends and at other times used by dog owners. • Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles will inform design of the bike park – consideration will be given to increasing passive surveillance from within the Reserve. • Budgeting for the ongoing maintenance of the bike park would occur through Council's annual budget process. Volunteer maintenance will assist with the cost of the maintenance. • The bike park is included in Council's Delivery Program 2024-2028 for delivery in 24/25 and 25/26. The bike park will be funded by Development Contributions.
Traffic and parking	<p>On busy days at the Reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is not enough parking • may need to park in nearby streets, and it is difficult to walk across Wakehurst Parkway to the Reserve • there is gridlock getting in and out of the Reserve carpark • some people park illegally. <p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the capacity of the parking areas (including the overflow area) to cater for more vehicles • improve the traffic flow through the car park • improve the overflow parking area (including with landscaping) • landscape the quarry (overflow car park area) • design the bike park so that it doesn't impact parking. 	<p>The PoM proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that parking and traffic infrastructure and use patterns are reviewed and opportunities identified to improve road/parking safety, capacity and functionality. The outcomes will be outlined in a Traffic Management Plan which will inform future upgrades of this infrastructure • upgrading the informal carpark (including with landscaping) • to repurpose the area south of the informal carpark which is currently used by Council to store works materials. It is proposed to use this area for a portion of the bike park and additional parking. The materials stored in this area will be relocated • the bike park will be designed to minimise impact on the parking capacity.

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
Trails	<p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve walking trails within the Reserve and provide better trail connectivity with Garigal National Park update trail signs and install new trail signs with maps improve the informal bike trails within the Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking trails within the Reserve will be maintained as needed when resources are available. Trail signage in the Reserve will be reviewed and updated as needed. Trail head signs will include current maps. It is not proposed to formalise trails for mountain bike use within the Reserve. Council provides an 11.2km mountain bike trail at Manly Dam, which is 6km from the Reserve.
Natural environment	<p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more bush and tree planting retain as much bush as possible and protect green spaces protect and conserve the Reserve's flora and fauna. <p>Some concerns were raised about the environmental impact of the bike park including on the Duffys Forest Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) located within the Reserve.</p> <p>Some respondents highly value the natural areas in and around the Reserve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft PoM proposes retaining and enhancing existing bushland areas through tree plantings, and to conserve and extend the tree canopy to create new shade. Landscaping will be considered for the proposed upgrade of the overflow car park area. An environmental assessment has been completed for the proposed bike park which concluded the overall likely impact is not significant. The necessary measures will be implemented. There is an area of Duffys Forest EEC on the Wakehurst Parkway edge of the overflow car park. This area is fenced off.
Pedestrian and riding safety and Connectivity	<p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve safety for walking and riding to and from the Reserve upgrade and realign pedestrian and cycling paths in nearby areas to the Reserve to improve safety and access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PoM proposes a review of pedestrian and riding infrastructure and use patterns and to identify opportunities to improve safety, capacity and functionality. The outcomes will be outlined in a Traffic Management Plan which will inform future upgrades of this infrastructure. The pathways outside the Reserve that connect riders and pedestrians to the Reserve are out of scope for the draft PoM. Nonetheless, improving the safety and access to the Reserve for pedestrians and riders is a priority. This matter has been sent to Council's Transport Network team (to consider improvements to Council paths and access) and Transport for NSW (to consider improvements to NSW paths and access). Proposals arising from any

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
		outcomes are to integrate with the Traffic Management Plan for the Reserve.
Pavilion and park infrastructure	<p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • storage for little athletics equipment such as large jumping mats • more storage space for football equipment • expand and improve the basketball area and install a multi-use hoop for basketball and netball • improve the playground with more equipment and to better cater to toddlers and preschoolers • more bins, park tables, seats and shelters, bbqs, bike racks and water bubblers • improved signs throughout the Reserve including some with trail maps • EV charging station. • improved amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PoM proposes additional storage for sports groups including little athletics and football and expanding and upgrading the existing basketball court when funds are available. • When the playground is due for renewal consideration will be given for new and upgraded equipment including for younger children. • An EV charging station is included as a permitted activity in the PoM. Installation of a station in the Reserve is guided by Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan.
Sportsfields and sporting infrastructure	<p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install additional cricket nets and synthetic pitches • storage for a turf wicket roller and bowling machine • improve lighting for night sport • improve the drainage and level the field • better lighting around perimeter of the sportsfield area for when the field lights are off • grandstand to watch sport • improve the grass hill as a seating area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 2019 new cricket practise nets with 3 synthetic wickets were installed. • In February 2024 one new synthetic cricket wicket was installed and in November 2024 a new turf cricket wicket block was installed. • Given the recent improvement to cricket facilities at the Reserve no additional cricket nets or wickets are planned at this time. • It is proposed to consider storage for equipment used to maintain the cricket wickets. • In June 2024 sportsfield lighting was upgraded. • Sportsfields users are encouraged to vacate the sportsfields at least 15

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • convert some sportsfields to synthetic • concrete circuit track around the sportsfield area for riding, scootering, exercise especially during wet weather (keep people off the field) • bowling machine for cricket/baseball • fully fence the sportsfield area to prevent children from walking onto the internal carpark and then onto Wakehurst Parkway. 	<p>minutes before the lights are required to be turned off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safety audit will be undertaken to determine if safety lighting around the Pavilion needs to be upgraded. • In November 2024 drainage for the sportsfields was upgraded. Annually in the summer the sportsfields are renovated with returfing and other playing surface repairs as needed. • It is not proposed to develop a grandstand at the Reserve. A grandstand is more suitable for regional sportsgrounds such as Cromer Park, and Manly Oval. Seaforth Oval is a Local sportsground. • It is not proposed to convert the natural turf sportsfield area to synthetic. There are other more suitable Regional and District sportsgrounds to consider. • It not Council's role to provide equipment such as bowling machines for sports clubs. • It is not proposed to establish a path around the sportsfields area as this may require reducing the sportsfield playing area to ensure a safe buffer between the path and the fields and or removal of bushland. • The need for, and feasibility of, child safety fencing on the eastern edge of the sportsfield area (that does not impede sport) will be investigated. The sportsfield area is fenced on the north, south and western edges.
Other suggestions / ideas	<p>Other suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) skate park b) two-court indoor facility c) pond or dam to attract wildlife and for dogs to cool off d) café e) drone practice zone or drone platform 	<p>The suggestions and ideas a) to h) are not supported or proposed for the Reserve in the PoM for these reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2022 sets out Council's priorities for new recreation facilities. The Strategy proposes a bike park at this Reserve, it does not propose a skate park • there is increasing demand for more indoor space to play sport on the Northern Beaches. However, the

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
	<p>f) cycling criterium track</p> <p>g) bike riding training facility for young kids</p> <p>h) lookout to enjoy the water views.</p>	<p>Reserve is not a suitable location as this would require the relocation of the long-established sports that use the sportsfields at the Reserve (among other things)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Reserve is not a suitable location to establish a pond or dam given the cost to establish permanent café facilities, a club canteen and mobile vending is preferred. Mobile food vendors may apply to Council for approval to operate at the Reserve there is no identified need for a drone practice zone or drone platform at the Reserve there is no identified need for a cycling criterium track to be established at the Reserve. Further, there is no suitable space within the Reserve for this facility there is no suitable space within the Reserve for a rider training facility views of the water can be seen from some vantage points in Garigal National Park.
Dogs	<p>Suggestions and ideas received include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dog water bowls, more waste bag dispensers (and bags), fencing to prevent dogs running into the internal car park and Wakehurst Parkway more signage about the dog off-leash area and rules such as picking up dog waste dogs to be permitted to walk on a path through the additional Crown land to the Reserve. <p>Some respondents highly value the dog off-leash area at the Reserve and enjoy walking their dogs here regularly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dog water bowl, additional waste bag dispenser(s) (with bags) and updated dog signage will be considered when funds are available. The need for and feasibility of dog safety fencing on the eastern edge of the sportsfield area (that does not impede sport) will be investigated. The sportsfield area is fenced on the north, south and western edges. Council provides 2 fully fenced dog off-leash areas 6km from the Reserve at LM Graham Reserve and Frenchs Forest Showground. The need for and permissibility of dogs to be permitted in the additional Crown land will be investigated.
Events and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pavilion and the Reserve to be used more often including for markets, music events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pavilion and the Reserve can be booked by individuals and groups for community events such as markets and music events. Information about how to

Theme	Summary – What we heard: issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations	Responses
		apply for a booking and the fees and charges is available on Council's website.
Fire trails and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing access from the Reserve to Garigal National Park to assist with access to the fire trails in the park. Water outlets for fire management are in working order for Garigal National Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails and paths in the Reserve that connect with the Garigal National Park will continue to be maintained as required. There are fire hydrants outside the Reserve along Wakehurst Parkway. These hydrants are managed by Sydney Water. This comment will be passed onto Sydney Water for their response.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various maintenance and service requests were received for Pavilion repairs and cleaning, fence repairs, rubbish, trees and for the sportsfield area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maintenance and service matters raised have been responded to.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

To view all verbatim comments, please click the link below:

[Seaforth Oval Reserve Plan of Management - Verbatim responses](#)

* Personal identifying information, and content which is discriminatory, hateful or which may defame, offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate has been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

Document administration	
Version	1.0
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Approval	Content provided and approved by Open Space Planning Team Responsible manager: Manager Open Space Planning
Status	Final
Related Projects	
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.