



Parks for People

## **Phase 1 Engagement Outcomes Report**

Belrose and Frenchs Forest, Northern Beaches

June 2021

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creative urban planners



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All care has been taken to prepare this report for the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

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# Acknowledgement

This document acknowledges that the area of the Northern Beaches is on Aboriginal land where the Traditional Custodians have been caring for Country for more than 70,000 years.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of this land, their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continued rich culture and heritage of all Aboriginal people on this land.

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**“The design should be inclusive and one that incorporates the needs of the community and yet preserves the environmental impact of the area.”**

– Online Survey participant

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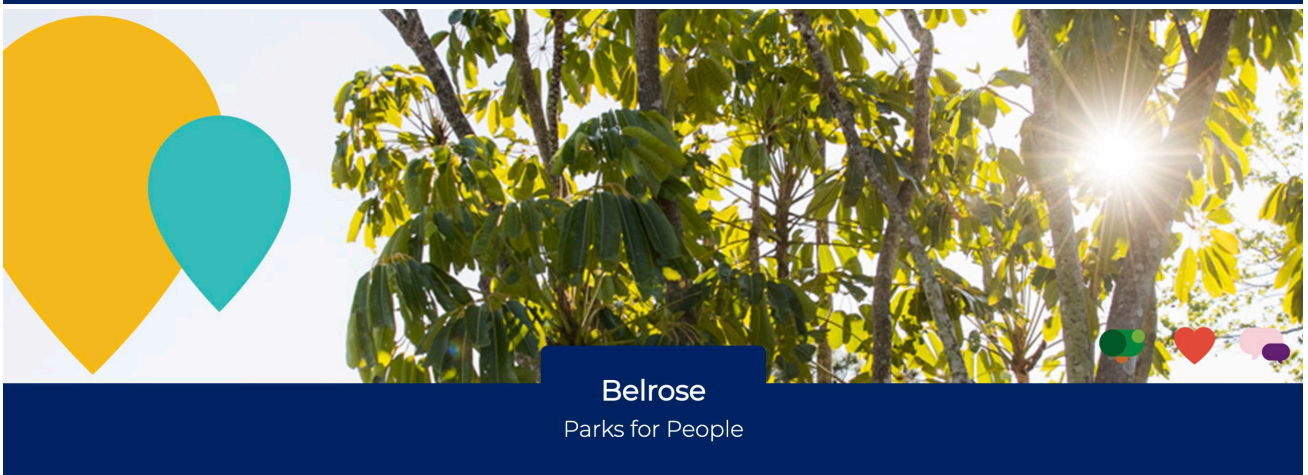
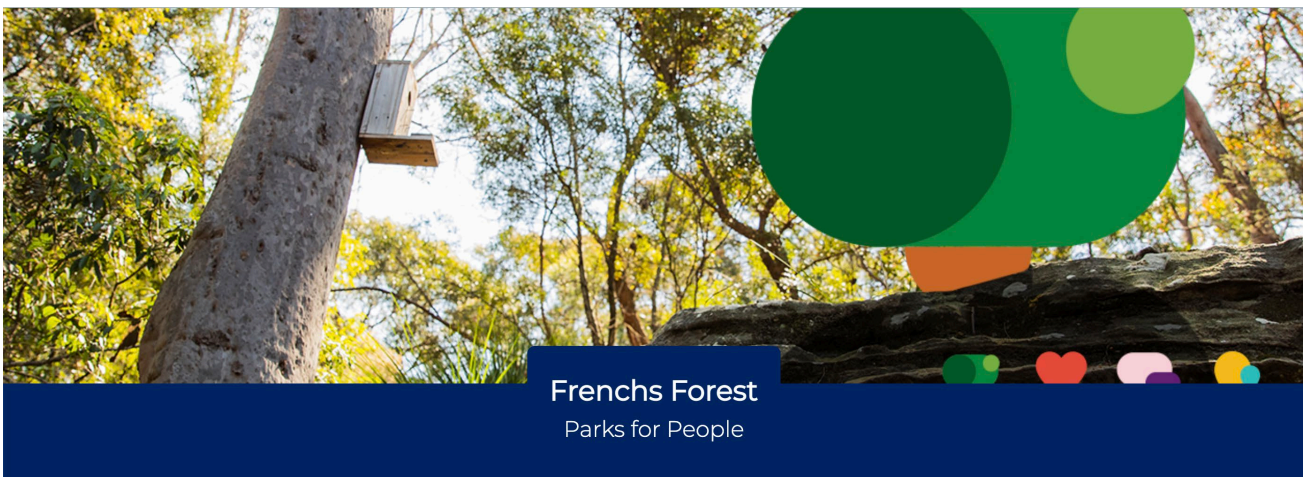
# About the program

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## Background

The upgrades to County Road Reserve, Belrose and Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest are part of the Parks for People Program, an ambitious NSW Government initiative that focuses on the creation of high-quality open space throughout Greater Sydney. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) are working with Northern Beaches Council and the local community to create vibrant spaces that encourage the community to get active and build greater connections.

Each park harbours its own unique identity, however upgrades to these distinctly different open spaces will become an important part of building a network of parks that help improve the wellbeing and lifestyle of residents across the Northern Beaches LGA and beyond.



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## About the project

As the name suggests, the Parks for People programs places the needs of the community at the centre of the design process, to create open spaces that align with community values. As such, Community Engagement is an integral part of delivering the two Northern Beaches projects, to incorporate community feedback at pivotal points in the design process.

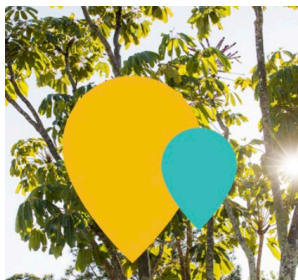
The community engagement for each of the parks will be carried out in three phases:

**Phase One:** Understanding community values and visions for each site

**Phase Two:** Gathering feedback on the draft Concept Design

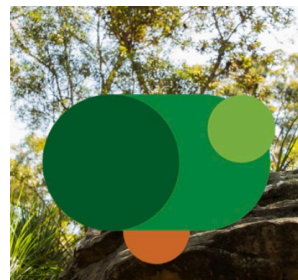
**Phase Three:** Presenting a Concept Design to the community

This report provides a high level summary of the key priorities and ideas that we heard during the Phase 1 engagement. The purpose of the first phase of engagement was to better understand the community's aspirations for each of the parks. It focused on gaining insights around how the community wants to use the space, the facilities needed in the Park to support their desired activities as well as the general community sentiment around the proposed projects. The engagement was motivated by a desire to create a high-quality open space that is aligned with the needs and characteristics of the local community.



### Belrose

Help us create the park that's right for you



### Frenchs Forest

Help us enhance Nandi Reserve

The County Road Reserve is located along the intersection of Forest Way and Seaview Parade in Belrose. It is approximately 2.25 hectares and is used by sporting groups and locals attracted to the green and active space.

This hub of sporting activity sits within a green corridor that connects Garigal National Park with Oxford Creek. The Park contributes to a cooler and healthier Belrose and is an important habitat for local flora and fauna.

Nandi Reserve is adjacent to Nandi Avenue, Frenchs Forest, and stretches approximately 12.24 hectares along Wakehurst Parkway.

Located in the middle of dense bushland, the upgraded park will aim to increase public access to the natural setting and established trees in a sensitive way, which improves public awareness and appreciation for the native flora and fauna.

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## How we engaged

In total, 519 people were engaged during the phase 1 engagement for the two Northern Beaches parks; contributing 330 Survey responses, 189 Social Pinpoint comments and 2 written submissions. The design of the survey questions and engagement approach was guided by a key question: *“How can we create a park that responds to the local community’s needs, whilst reflecting the unique identity of the Northern Beaches, and characteristics of the site?”*

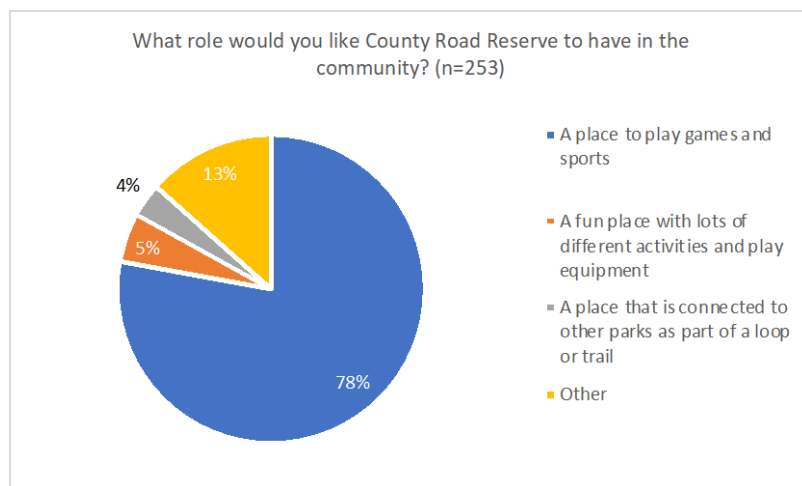
Engagement participants provided detailed insights into their vision for the parks clearly outlining the needs to which the Park should respond, and an extensive list of ideas to help bring their priorities to life.

The following Summary Report provides a high level overview of the priorities, ideas and challenges that were identified by engagement participants during the Phase 1 community engagement. This report will accompany the wider engagement data set, as well as technical reports and site analysis, to help shape a draft Concept Design for each site. This draft Concept Design will be presented to the community for their feedback at a later date.

# What we heard

## County Road Reserve, Belrose

Engagement participants wished to see County Road Reserve become a hub for sports and physical activity - a place defined by a sense of play. When asked *What role would you like County Road Reserve to play in the community?*, 78% of survey participants selected **A place to play games and sport** (a response that was selected over seven times more often than the next most common response).



Participants varied on what sort of play and games best responded to their personal needs, however three priorities emerged from the engagement:

1. A high-quality local sports field
2. A walk/cycle loop
3. A new playground

When participants were asked to consider key barriers to creating a vibrant park that could improve the wellbeing of local residents, they acknowledged the current safety risks of the entry and exist points on Wakehurst Parkway, as well as the surrounding roads being a major barrier for pedestrians accessing the park.

We heard from...

**334**

Community members

Ranging from 18-75+ years of age

70% local residents

27% affiliated with a local sports organisation

**4,778**

Site visits

**254**

Online survey responses

**80**

Interactive map participants

**1**

Stakeholder meeting

**13**

Written submissions

**How would you like to travel to the park?**

**67% Private vehicle**

**56% Walk**

**33% Cycle/bike**



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## Community Priorities

### County Road Reserve, Belrose

Overall, participants were happy with the current features of County Road Reserve, but wished to see improvements that would enable users to access the park easier, stay longer, or take more from their visit to the park. Below are those priorities upgrades that participants wished to see:

#### **Car and Parking Upgrades**

Participants highlighted that the park's intersection with Forest Way was the number one priority area for any upgrades to the County Road Reserve. It was widely acknowledged that the limited parking, and entry and exit from Forest Way posed a safety risk to park users that needed to be addressed irrespective of broader park upgrades – this was the strongest sentiment captured in the Social Pinpoint. Furthermore, many participants highlighted that the difficulty of parking was a major barrier for parents with children who wished to use the park.

#### **A High-Quality Local Sports Field**

When asked to nominate three elements to include in the park upgrades, 83% of survey participants nominated *Sporting Field Upgrades*. The engagement captured comments from a large number of participants who highlighted the shortage of all-weather sporting pitches in the area, and expressed a desire to see the playing field retained, and upgraded with additional lighting, fencing and synthetic turf.

*"I think the contribution that local parks and sports facilities bring to the local community is great. Also the fact that they provide somewhere for children and adults alike to engage in positive healthy sporting activities is wonderful."*

– Survey participant

#### **A Walking and Cycling loop**

The inclusion of a walking/cycling loop that connected to the wider paths in the region was one of the highest priorities for engagement participants. A top three priority from both the survey and the Social Pinpoint, it was commonly noted that any walking/cycling loop could not be created in isolation, but needed to be part of a wider journey, and connected beyond County Road Reserve (particular recommendations have been included in the Ideas section of this chapter).

*"This overall location is a strategic link for improved connectivity for outdoor recreation adventure sports, mountain biking, trail running and hiking between East and west"*

– Survey participant

### **Outdoor Gym Equipment**

In line with engagement participants' vision for a park of physical activity and play, Outdoor Gym Equipment was the second most common features that participants wished to include in the park. Nominated by 24% of survey participants as a priority, and a commonly up-voted feature in the Social Pinpoint, community members recognised that the park serves a large number of local residents as a key outdoor exercise destination, and that outdoor gym equipment suitably complimented the Football field.

### **Children's Playground**

When asked to assign a role for the future County Road Reserve, *A fun place with lots of different games and activities* was the second most commonly selected answer in the online survey. Social Pinpoint participants, in particular, highlighted the need for the inclusion of play equipment, with particular attention paid to increasing safety of children, and creating distance between the major roadways and the play areas, to enable parents a sense of security when bringing their children to the park.

### **Valuing the Wildlife Corridor**

Social Pinpoint participants highlighted that County Road Reserve sits within an important wildlife corridor, and that further upgrades should not disregard the importance of this space to local wildlife. Both sporting enthusiasts and those interested in maintaining the ecological value of the site were in agreement that the upgrades should create a greater separation between sporting fields and bushland areas, and highlighted the need for animal friendly fencing that limited the intrusion of people, whilst enabling animals to travel along the corridor.

## Challenges and Opportunities

### County Road Reserve, Belrose

#### Challenges and Issues

The following table provides an overview of the common challenges and issues that were highlighted by the community. The list of issues includes both those that relate to the disruption that the works may cause to neighbouring residents and natural habitats, as well as barrier to achieving the vision that the community has for the park.

Challenge/Issue	What did participants say?
<b><i>Pedestrian and cyclist access</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The park is difficult to access, due to slope and topography, for residents to the East and North East</li><li>▪ Forest Way creates a physical barrier to any pedestrian access from the West</li><li>▪ Residents from the North have no immediate access to the park that isn't along Forest Way</li></ul>
<b><i>Sensitive ecosystems and endangered species</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bushland to the East contains a rare and ecologically sensitive hanging swamp</li><li>▪ Flora and Fauna in Duffy's forest is already under threat from neighbouring suburbs</li></ul>
<b><i>Neighbouring Forest Way</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The current entry and exit from and to Forest Way is considered highly dangerous, further emphasised by the pick-up and drop off of children during peak sporting times</li><li>▪ Insufficient fencing results in balls often colliding with traffic on Forest Way</li></ul>

#### Opportunities and design ideas

The following specific ideas were offered by the engagement participants for further consideration by the design team.

- Although it is outside the scope of this project, a number of participants suggested converting the ambulance station to more high use amenities to support other functions in the park – change rooms and bathrooms. This highlighted the need for greater amenities in the park
- Increased parking and consideration for traffic flows into and out of park area

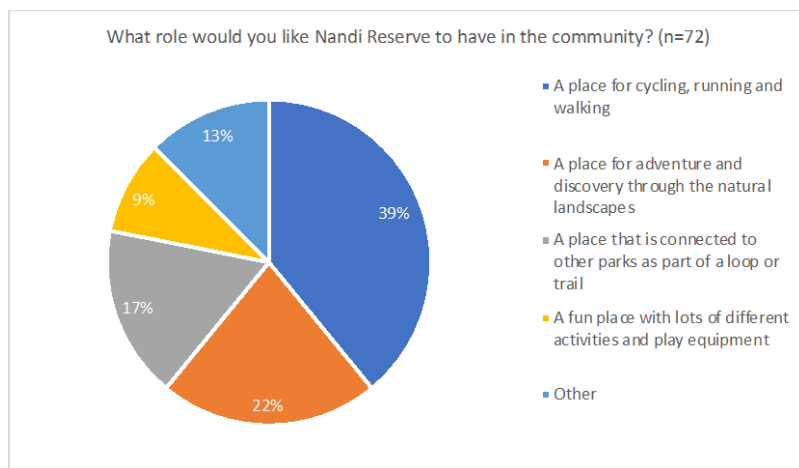
- Upgrades to sports field – lighting, all weather surface, change rooms, and additional fencing
- Inclusion of bathrooms for park users
- Increased parking and consideration for traffic flows into and out of park area
- Walk/bike track with connectivity to The Cascades, Narrabeen Lakes, Middle Harbour, St Ives, and the broader bike trail network to Oxford falls and Garigal.
- Lionel Watts Reserve was commonly acknowledged as an example of a sporting hub that participants wished to see replicated in County Road Reserve.



# What we heard

## Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest

Overall, the natural beauty and ecological importance of Nandi Reserve was greatly valued by engagement participants, who wished to see upgrades that enabled the community to enjoy the health benefits that open spaces afford, whilst enhancing that natural ecosystems in the area. When asked *What role would you like Nandi Reserve to play in the community?* 72 survey participants voted towards a vision for Nandi Reserve that facilitated light exercise and cycling amongst the natural landscape.



This vision aligns with additional data collected across the engagement, where “natural” and “nature” were the most common words captured, and *Native Flora and Fauna* the number 1 theme, topic or story that participants wanted to see expressed in the park.

We heard from...

**185**

Community members

Ranging from 18-75+ years of age

87% local residents

**3,234**

Site visits

**109**

Interactive map participants

**76**

Online survey responses

**11**

Written submissions

**1**

Street meeting with 20-25 attendees

**How would you like to travel to the park?**

**66% Walk**

**45% Cycle/bike**

**20% Private vehicle**

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## Community Priorities

### Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest

Overall, participants were happy with the current features of Nandi Reserve, but wished to see improvements that would enable users to access the park easier, stay longer, or take more from their visit to the park. Below are those priorities upgrades that participants wished to see:

#### Walking and Cycling Loop

The most commonly nominated feature for the upgraded Nandi Reserve was the inclusion of a walking loop and/or bike path. When asked to nominate the top three most important features to include in the park, 67% of survey participants selected *Walking loop*, while 41% select *Mountain bike trails* (73% of whom lived within 10 minutes walk of the park). This sentiment was further reiterated in the Social Pinpoint where a “*bike path for all ages*” was the second most highly voted comment.

The desire to see a mountain biking trail through the bushlands was common across both engagement activities, where participants noted that existing trails in the local area were currently at capacity, and that the sport encouraged riders to embrace ecological sensitivity and appreciation for the natural environment.

Importantly, participants noted that the path/track needed to be connected to a wider pathways and trails network across the LGA, as well as cater to all ages and abilities.

#### Enhancing the Natural Ecosystems

The importance of the natural environment, and the need to preserve and enhance the neighbouring bushland at Nandi Reserve was a top 2 priority across both engagement methods. As an area of natural beauty, and “a known habitat for the Powerful Owl”, the need to preserve the natural ecology of the reserve was the number one up-voted comment from the Social Pinpoint activity. Further aligning with this value, survey participants nominated *Native Regeneration* as the second most important aspect to include in the park design (voted by 45% of participants), closely followed by the need to *Rejuvenate the creek line* (40%).

As a space of such unique environmental importance, survey participants also nominated “Native flora and fauna education” as the number one theme or topic that they wished to see expressed in the design and space of the new park.

*“Apart from a small revamp of the playground, please leave Nandi Reserve alone so that it can act as a Category A wildlife corridor for both threatened and non-threatened species. We have Powerful Owls, Eastern Pygmy Possums and Rosenbergs goanna living and breeding in this reserve. They need somewhere peaceful to be able to survive.”*

– Social Pinpoint comment

### **Nature Inspired Play**

The need to include a place appropriate play space within Nandi Reserve was a top five priority captured during the online survey, nominated by 24% of participants.

Comments relating to such a feature emphasised the importance of including a play space that was inspired by and sensitive to the natural ecosystems on the current site, and encouraged children to use their imagination

### **Traffic and Parking Limitations**

Access to Nandi Reserve was a common issue raised across the engagement. It was widely acknowledged that Nandi Ave was not suitable to handle traffic volumes for a park, and Wakehurst Pkwy and Frenchs Forest Rd were not safe roads to create an entry/exit to the park. Furthermore, participants highlighted that the area was not serviced by public transport links, did not have existing parking facilities, and was not well connected for pedestrians (beyond those that neighboured the Eastern boundary of the site). The below is a Social Pinpoint comment that received considerable support and up-votes:

*“A pedestrian footbridge across Wakehurst Pkway will connect communities (to the West) and provide additional parking options parallel to May Gibbs Way”*

– Social Pinpoint comment

## Challenges and Opportunities

### Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest

#### Challenges and Issues

The following table provides an overview of the common challenges and issues that were highlighted by the community. The list of issues includes both those that relate to the disruption that the works may cause to neighbouring residents and natural habitats, as well as barrier to achieving the vision that the community has for the park.

Challenge/Issue	What did participants say?
<b><i>Preserving natural habitats of threatened species</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Known habitat for threatened Powerful Owl species</li><li>▪ The reserve is currently part of a designated wildlife corridor</li></ul>
<b><i>Managing traffic flow in Nandi Ave and Garie Pl</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ These roads are currently “quiet suburban streets”</li><li>▪ Streets are currently a hub for neighbourhood children's activities</li><li>▪ Existing parking congestion in the street</li><li>▪ Nandi Ave is plagued with blind spots</li><li>▪ The area is not currently serviced by public transport, nor does it have pedestrian connections across Wakehurst or Frenchs Forest Rd</li></ul>
<b><i>Security and privacy for neighbouring houses</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Houses along Nandi Ave currently back onto the reserve without fences or security</li></ul>

#### Opportunities and design ideas

The following specific ideas were offered by the engagement participants for further consideration by the design team.

- Overpass connections from May Gibbs Way to open access to Western and Northern neighbouring suburbs
- Mountain bike trail connected to the wider LGA cycling network
- Active transport connectivity to the park – bike lanes and footpaths
- Walking trail and loop with minimal disruption to wildlife corridor
- Greater connection from Wakehurst Parkway
- A play space inspired by the natural bushland



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# Where to from here

The intention to create an improved park at Nandi Reserve and design upgrades for County Road Reserve has been well received by participants throughout the phase 1 engagement. The collective input of over 500 community members has helped create a shared vision for each of the parks and a wide array of ideas and park elements for consideration by the design team.

These engagement findings, along with the site analysis, environmental reports, and findings of the other project consultants will provide a firm foundation for the development of a draft Concept Design for the parks.

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## Next steps

- The findings from this report will be used to inform the 50% Concept Design to be prepared by lead design consultant; Arcadia Landscape Architecture
- The 50% Concept Design will form the basis of the next phase of engagement which involves the testing of the Park design with the local community via an interactive Design Board (Social Pinpoint ideas wall feature) and online survey.

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## **Appendix A – Social Pinpoint Summary; County Road Reserve, Belrose**



# County Road Reserve

Open for comments from **07 April 2021** to **07 May 2021**

## Engagement snapshot

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4,778

Total Visits

1,689

Unique Users

1:19

Avg Time (min)

291

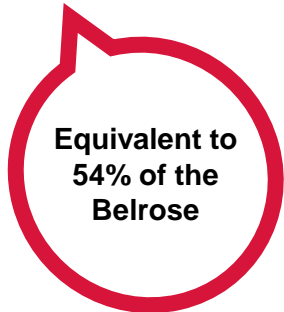
Unique Stakeholders

80

Comments

254

Survey Responses







# Map Results

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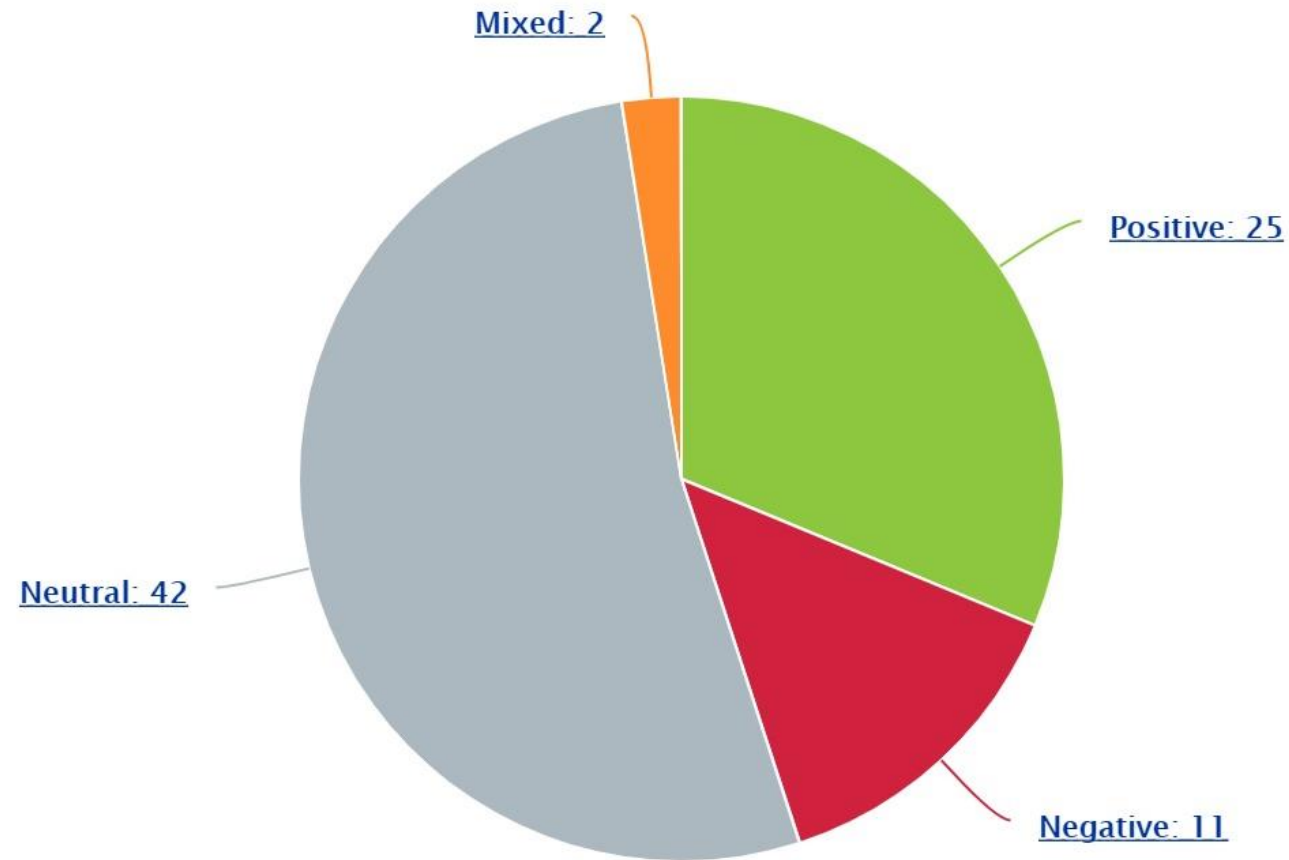
# Map – pins summary

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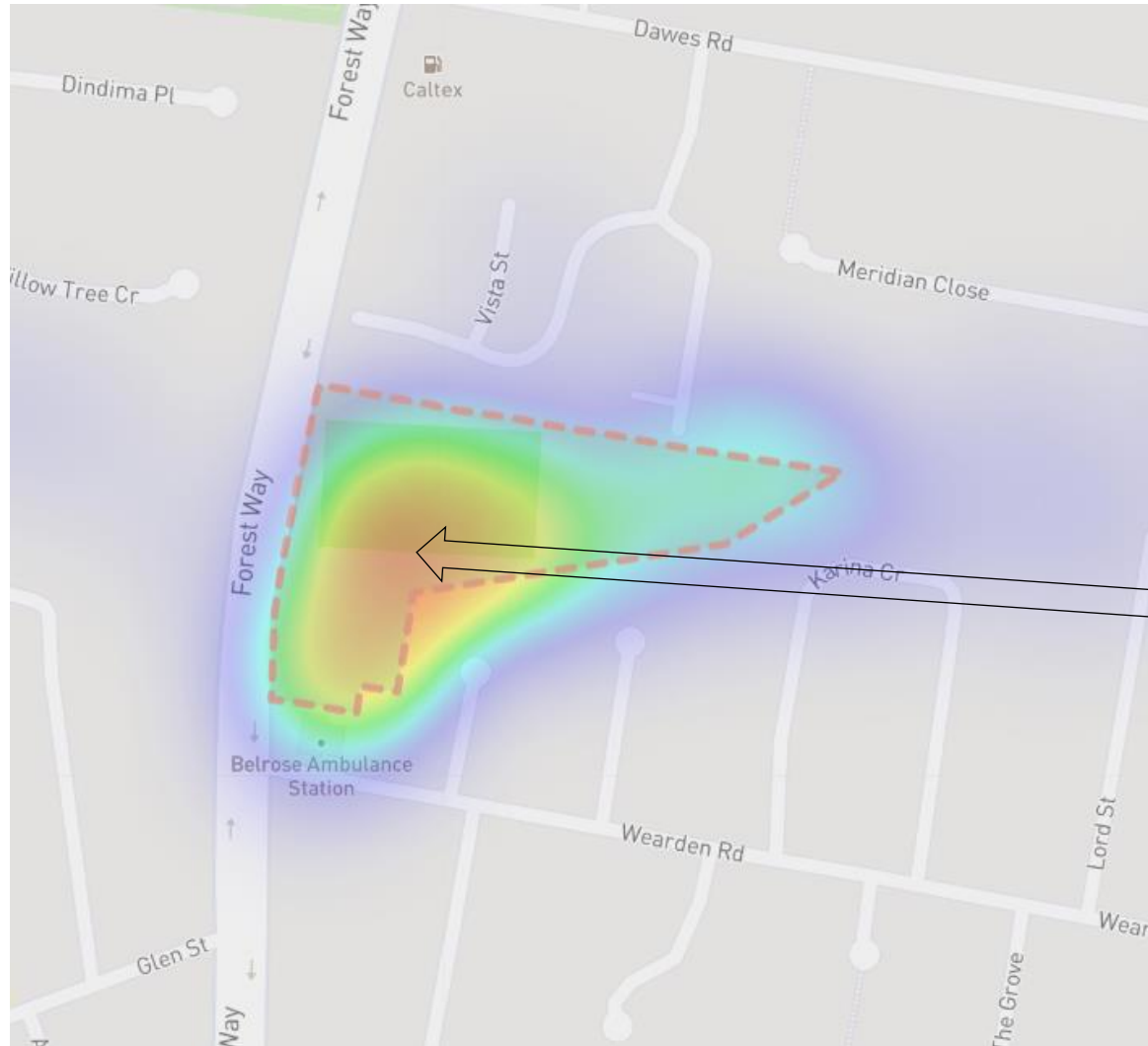


# Sentiment totals

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# Heat Map



Most comments on the map were directed to this area

# Most popular comments

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Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Better entry/exit to parking.	15	0
A walking track and scooter track	10	0
Please consider including this dormant open space (former road corridor) land located opposite County Reserve between Forest Way and Pringle Ave or Hews Reserve. It is heavily overgrown, invaded by exotics with many dead / dying trees, mapped as bushfire prone, plus is constrained from development by a creek line and powerline easement. Its rejuvenation as open space with a shared path would enhance connectivity to Glenrose centre to the south-west.	8	0
Good Morning. Just wanted to leave a comment regarding potential future use/upgrade of the County Road playing field. It would be great if the field: 1. Was retained as a football (soccer) field as it has always been. 2. Was upgraded to a full size (plus) synthetic grass pitch 3. Have higher fencing onto Forestway 4. Have the bushland cleared to the rear and potentially a playground and facilities provided here, and 5. Have improved car-parking.	10	2
Continue the park as a wildlife corridor and walking track to Narrabeen Lakes. What an amazing asset for future generations and the health and wellbeing of the community and beyond. This could be a world class walking route.	7	0



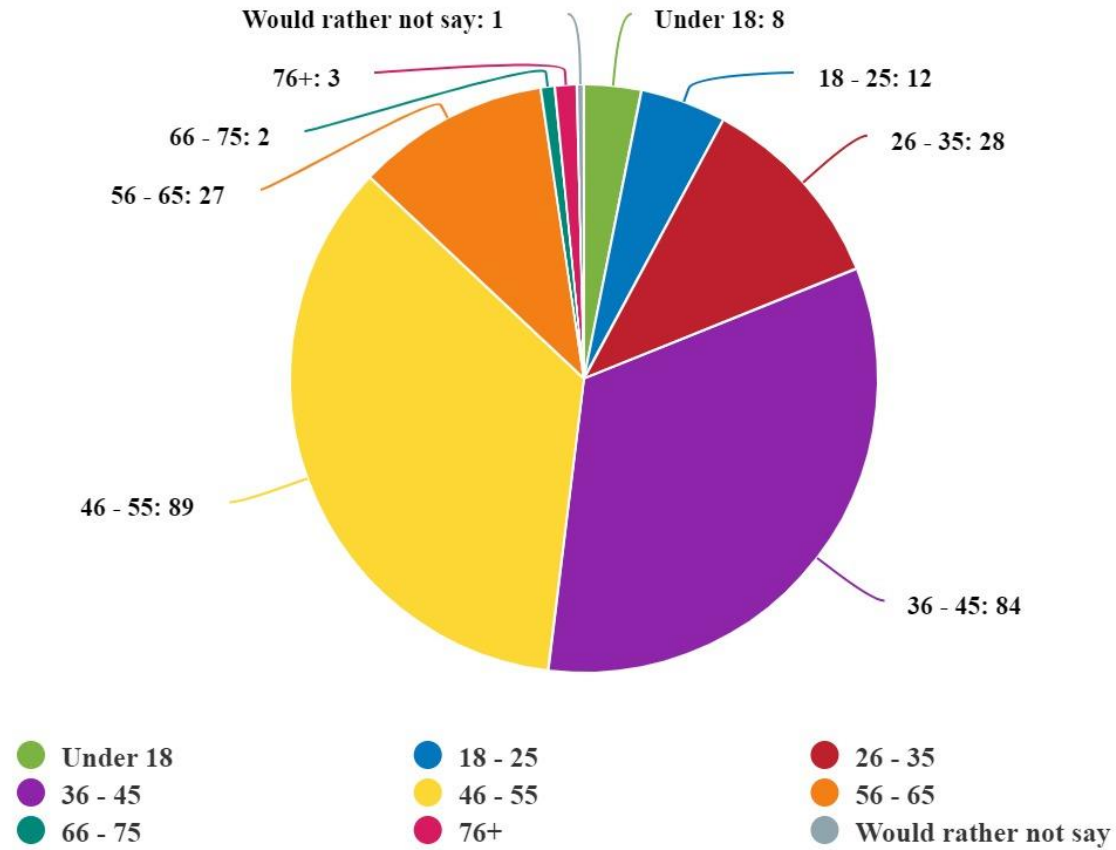
# Survey Results

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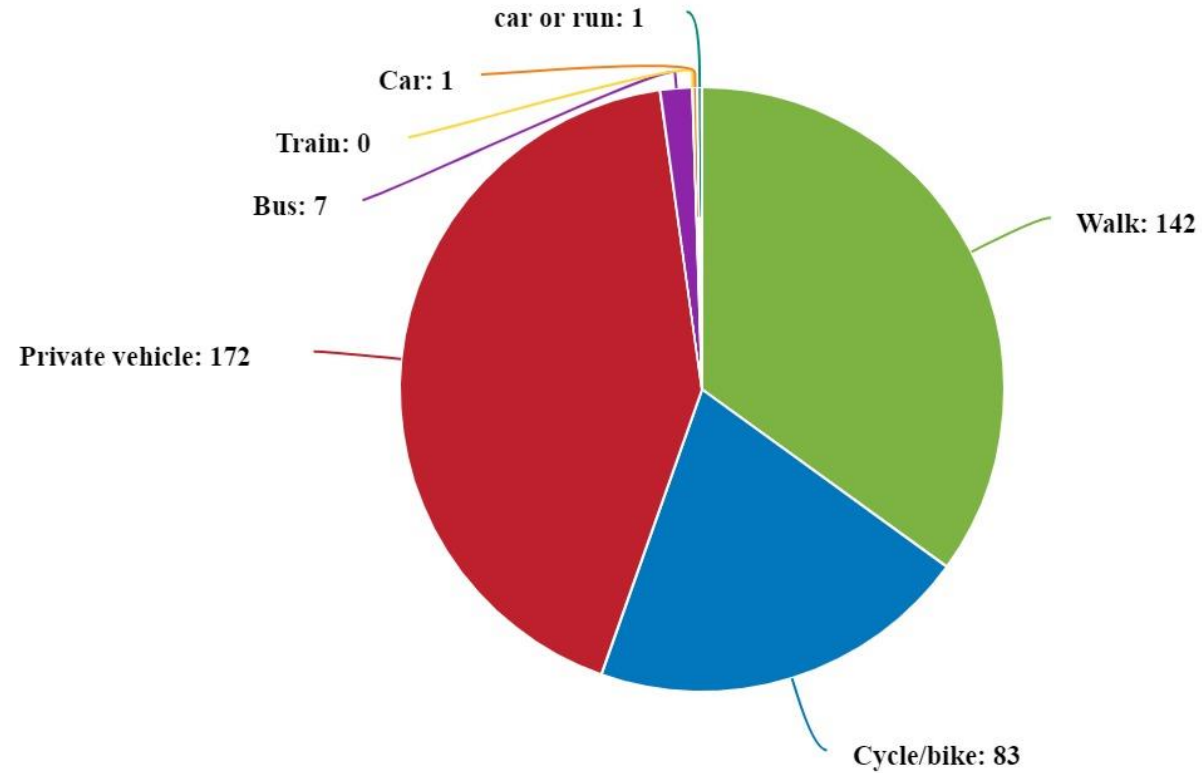
# What is your age?

254 answers



# How do you expect to travel to County Road Reserve?

254 answers



Walk  
Train

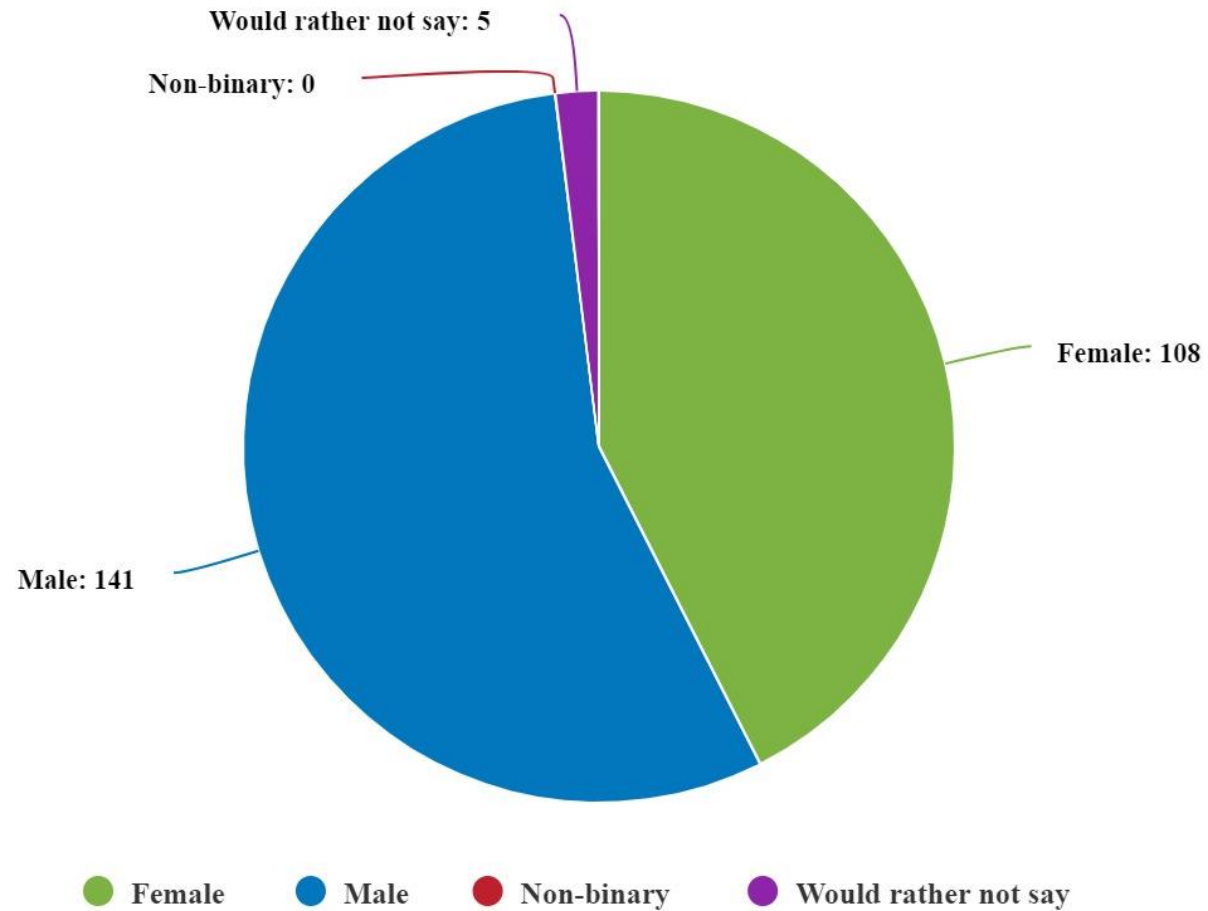
Cycle/bike  
Car

Private vehicle  
car or run

Bus

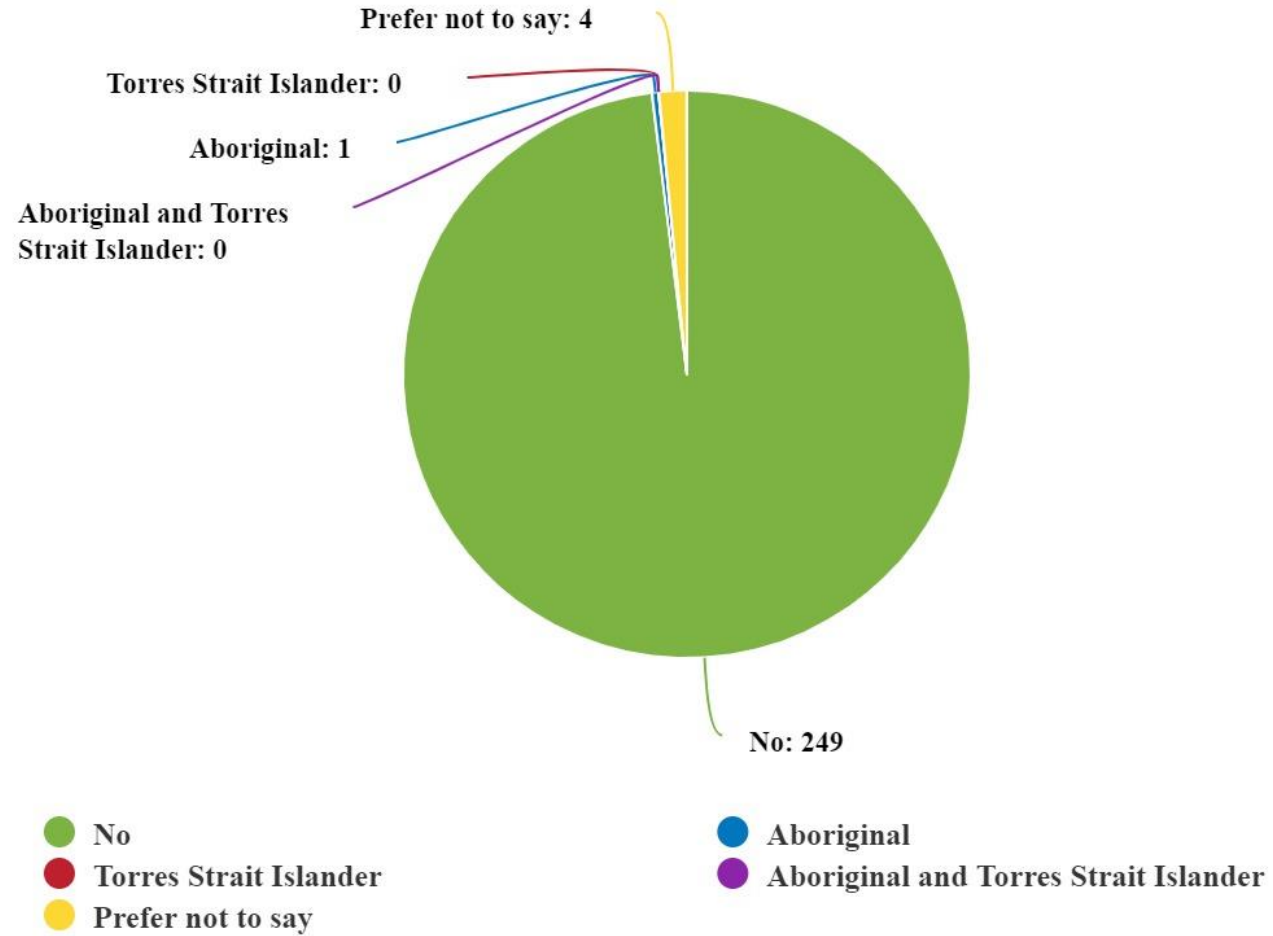
# What gender do you identify with?

254 answers



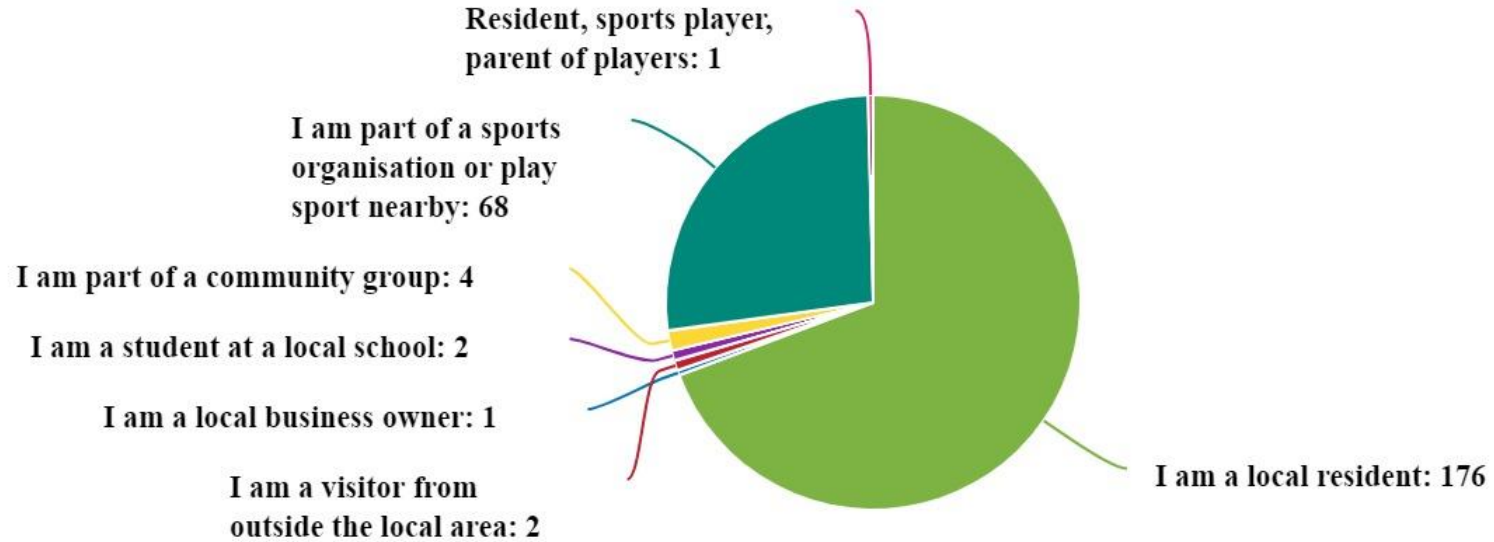
# Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

254 answers



# What best describes you?

254 answers



- I am a local resident
- I am a local business owner
- I am a visitor from outside the local area
- I am a student at a local school
- I am part of a community group
- I am part of a youth group
- I am part of a sports organisation or play sport nearby
- Resident, sports player, parent of players



## Sample of comments

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- *Paved pathway around the extremities of the park like what was done at Lionel Watts. This has been brilliant allowing people of all ages and abilities to exercise on stable ground also allowing for wheelchairs.*
- *A few individual smaller fenced dog play areas for safer play like at St Ives Showground and maybe small cafe - anywhere that's suits in the park.*
- *I would like to see some sort of exercising equipment maybe around the path or near the playing field.*
- *Continue the park as a wildlife corridor and walking track to Narrabeen Lakes. What an amazing asset for future generations and the health and wellbeing of the community and beyond. This could be a world class walking route.*
- *This area is a sensitive environment and has a large amount of water run off during rain events and extended period of seepage after rain events. Any development needs to take into account water management and environment sensitivity should come first. Important to maintain the trees in the area. Wild life e.g. wallabies are frequent users of the area and are sighted multiple times a week.*





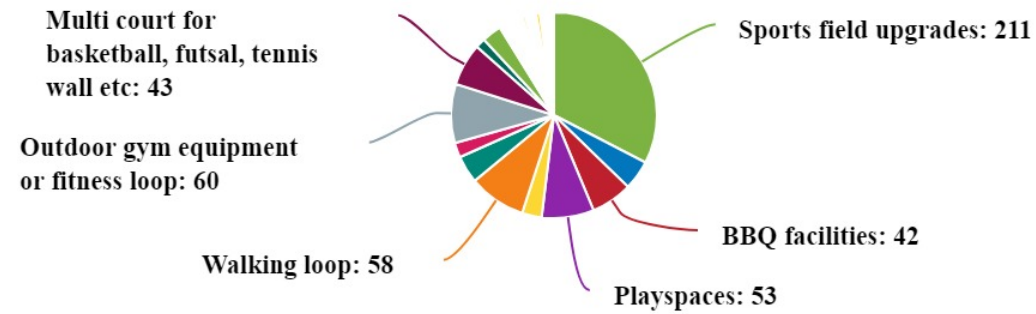
## Sample of comments

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- *It is great that we have an opportunity to upgrade this football pitch into a better facility. Today it has a pitch with no amenities that is used for winter and summer football. I would like to see a synthetic pitch with floodlights, changing and toilet facilities, a AED (Defib) - the standard facilities required for a good football location. This would enhance its facility but remain useful to the football community in winter and summer.*
- *Picnic tables/ seating on the elevated embankment over looking the playing field.*
- *Would like to see an indoor basketball court.*
- *The beaches are unique. Please leave as many trees as possible. A really cool playground for all ages. Some picnic areas to enjoy the day out and BBQ. Some exercise stations for adults perhaps a bike track or scooter track to go around and circle.*
- *A dual walking/bicycle track on the northern side of the County Road Reserve that comes from Forest Way and picks up Seaview Parade, Meridian Close and Lord St would be far more useful than simply connecting Karina Avenue and Lord St. The terrain is too steep for the latter location and there are significant drainage problems.*
- *I love that there are large native trees on the rear perimeter of the park. Lots of kookaburras are here and sometimes black cockatoo.*

# If you were designing the upgrade to County Road Reserve, what are the top three things you would want to include? Tick three boxes (as if you were the designer)

253 answers



- Sports field upgrades
- Picnic areas (with options for family picnics)
- BBQ facilities
- Playspaces
- Cycling paths
- Walking loop
- Mountain bike trails
- Bike track or pump track
- Outdoor gym equipment or fitness loop
- Multi court for basketball, futsal, tennis wall etc

▲ 1/7 ▼

# Have you got any other ideas, suggestions or comments to help the design team?

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## 254 answers

- *Surrounding streets unsuitable for large volumes of user parking (especially on bin days) so important to ensure adequate parking is included in the development.*
- *The bushland adjoining the rear of the oval is one of the last remaining examples of a Duffy's Forest. Although small in area it has an abundant wildlife population. This includes wallabies, echidnas, lizards, snakes, bandicoots, as well as many birds such as kookaburras, rosellas, butcher birds, cockatoos and rare black cockatoos etc. Water is abundant due to the natural springs which run all year round. This bushland needs to be given priority in any improvements made.*
- *The field should retained as a sports field with an all-weather surface, lighting, modern amenities building, paved car park, zap stand (defibrillator) and fencing, landscaping and facilities to integrate the field into the current hill as well as the bushland to the eastern side. There is a wonderful opportunity to increase the capacity of the Northern Beaches sports fields while integrating the field into the local environment.*
- *I'd like to see higher fences each end of this soccer ground so We don't have to chase the ball onto the road or out of the bushes, plus a sealed carpark, and toilets so women can play on this pitch.*

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## **Appendix B – Social Pinpoint Summary; Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest**



# **Nandi Reserve**

Open for comments from **06 April 2021** to **07 May 2021**

## Engagement snapshot

---

3,234

Total Visits

1,041

Unique Users

1:31

Avg Time (min)

129

Unique Stakeholders

109

Comments

76

Survey Responses

Equivalent to  
2.5% of  
Frenchs  
Forest



# Overall word cloud

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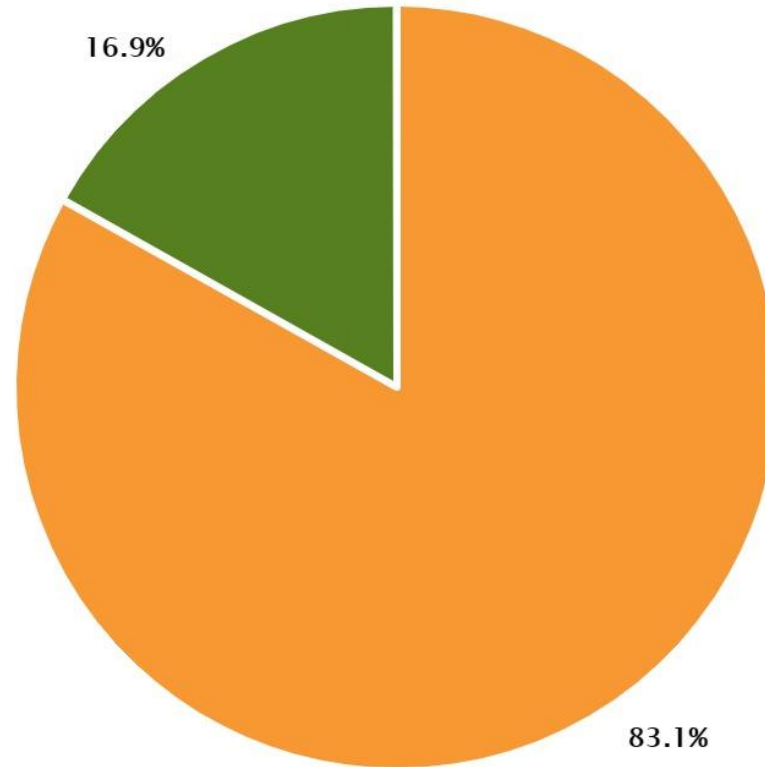


# Map Results

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# Map – pins summary

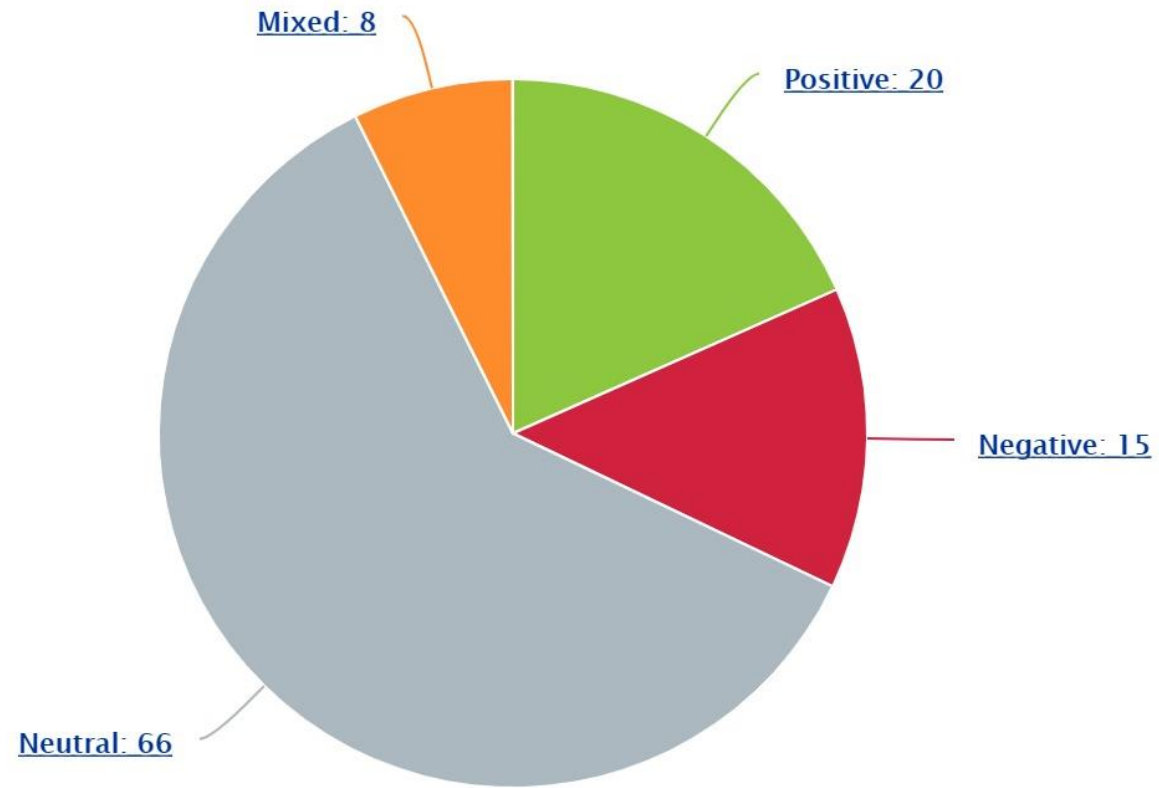
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● What do you want to add? ● What do you want to preserve?

# Sentiment totals

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# Most popular comments

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Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Highly Sensitive area - A known breeding site for Threatened species The Powerful Owl. Opening this area for public access will have detrimental impact on this breeding territory. Need consultation with NPWS and Birdlife Australia prior to planning.	14	0
Add a bike friendly track here so both kids and adults can bike ride in a parts of the reserve. Otherwise kids and adults continue to play in the street nearby.	13	2
Car park. Where will this be? The winding hill to the main length of Nandi avenue is quite dangerous now when vehicles are parked on one or both sides. Where will visitors park and gain access to the proposed park? How will the aboriginal cave and small amount of original art be preserved?	12	1
To make the Nandi traffic problem even worse, the government has removed the one direct bus service #169 (+express) which operated from the top of our street in Frenchs Forest to the City. We have lived in Nandi Avenue since 1969 and this was our only direct service to the city. You have taken it away after adding a 488 bed hospital. Why? Now we have to walk to Forest Way to catch a bus to the city or take two buses. A reliable service. For >50 years!	10	0
Pedestrian footbridge across Wakehurst Parkway will connect communities and provide additional parking options parallel to May Gibbs Way.	9	0

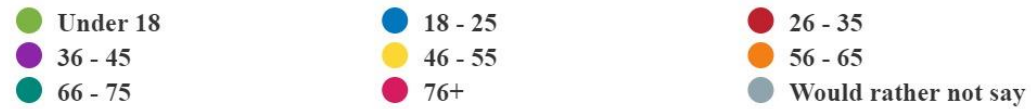
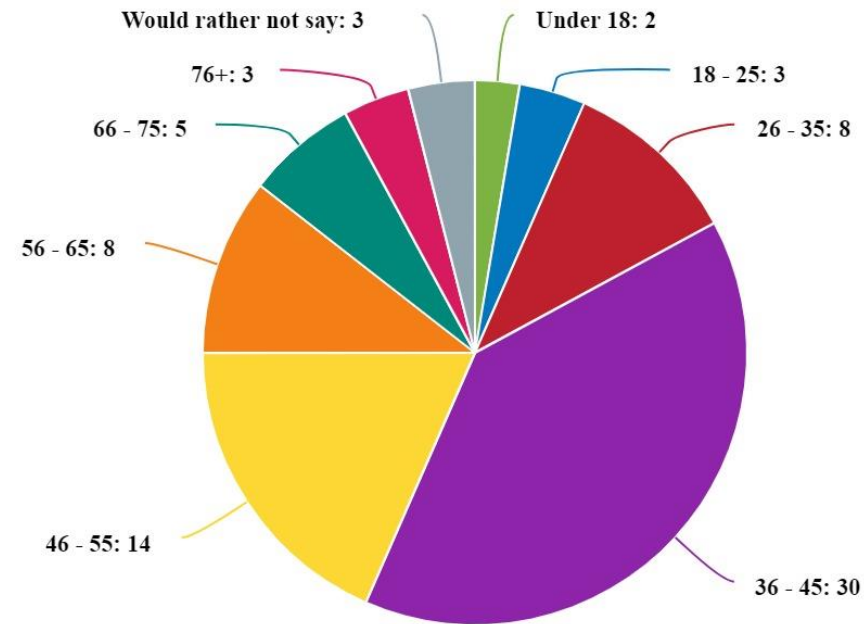


# Survey Results

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# What is your age?

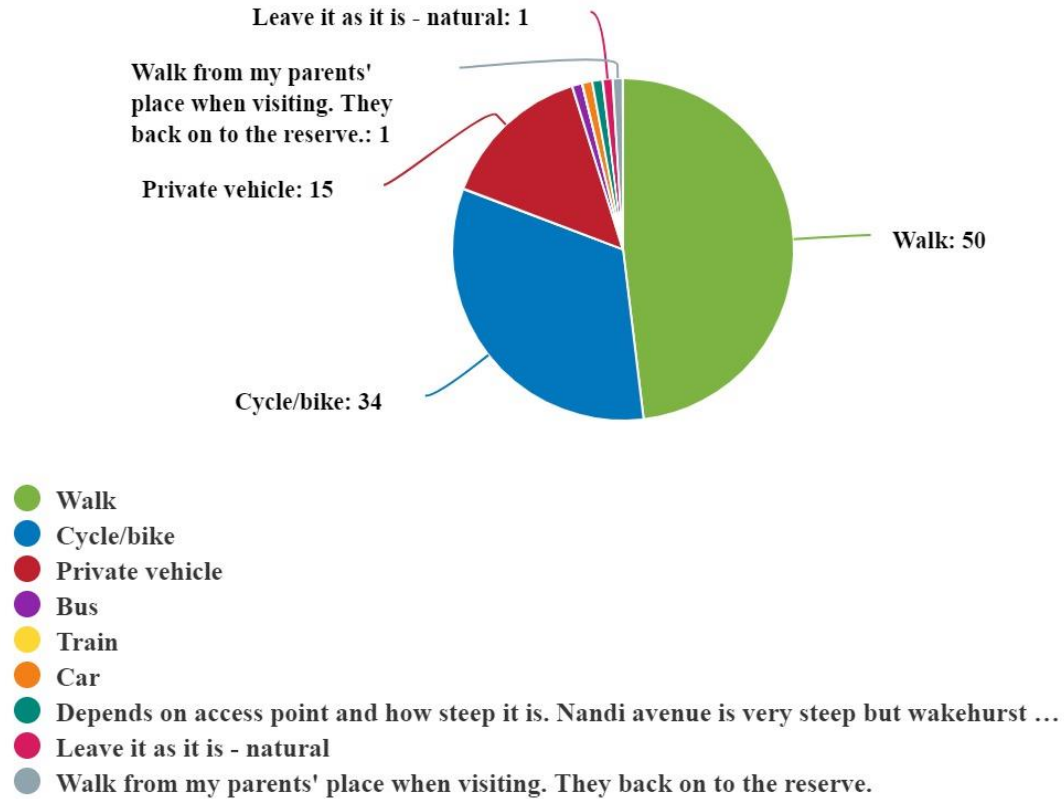
76 answers





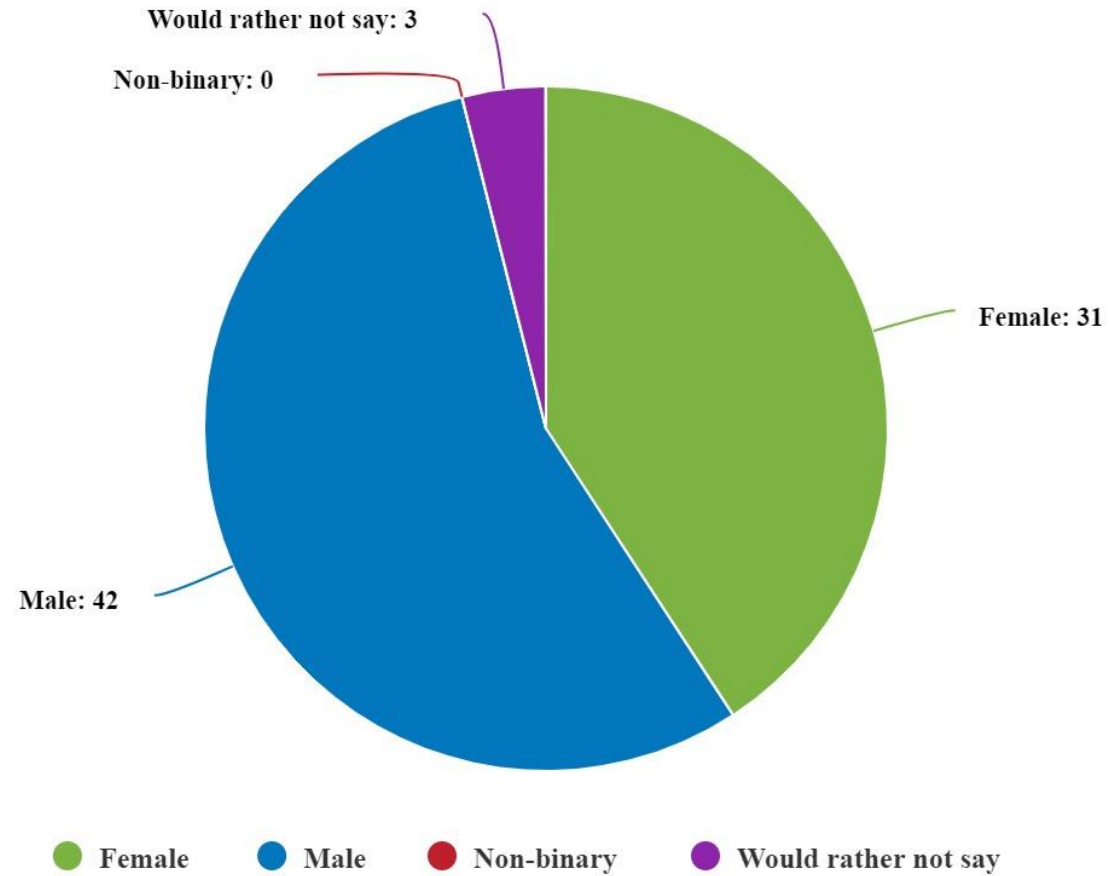
# How do you expect to travel to the new park?

76 answers



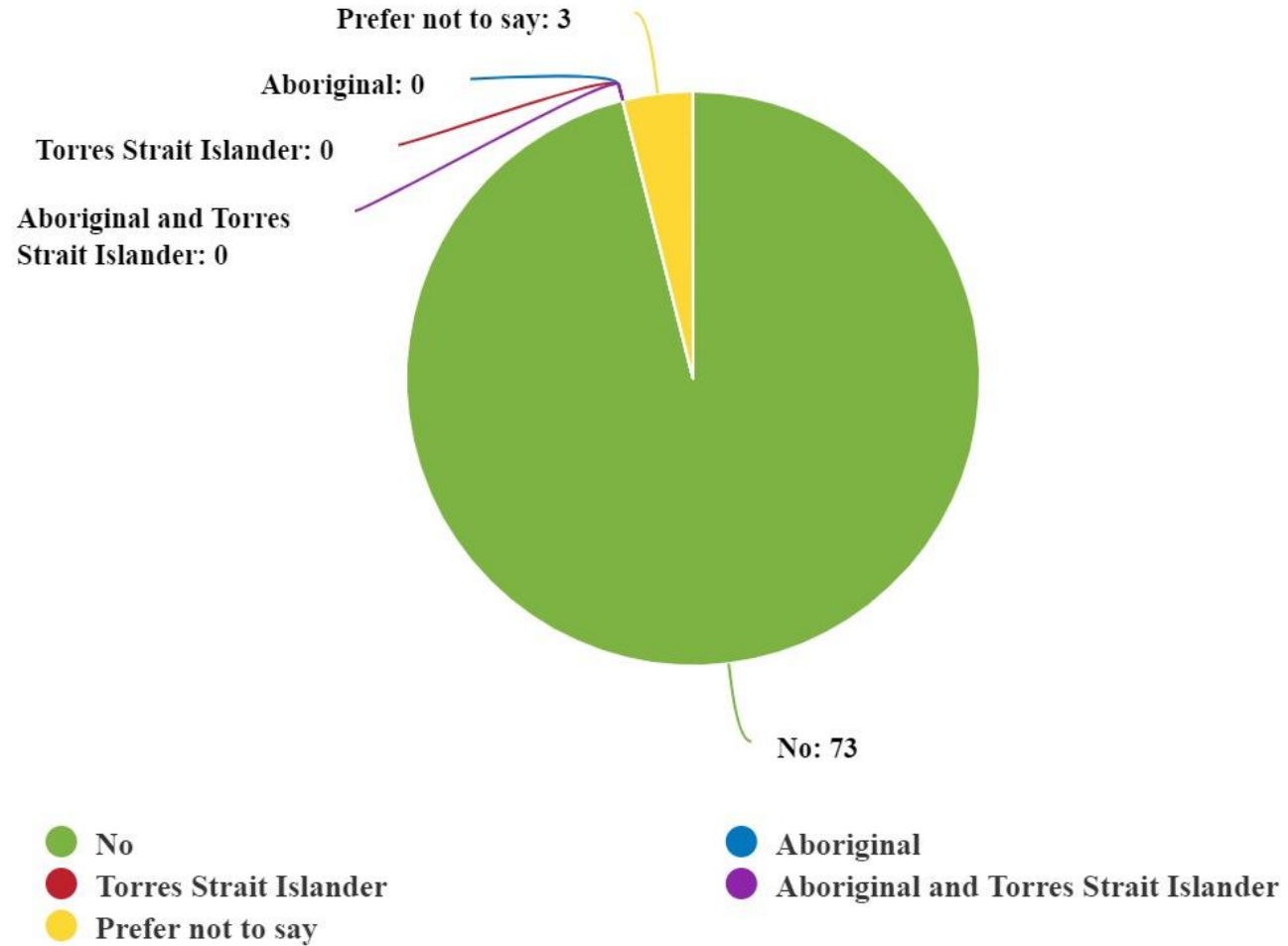
# What gender do you identify with?

76 answers



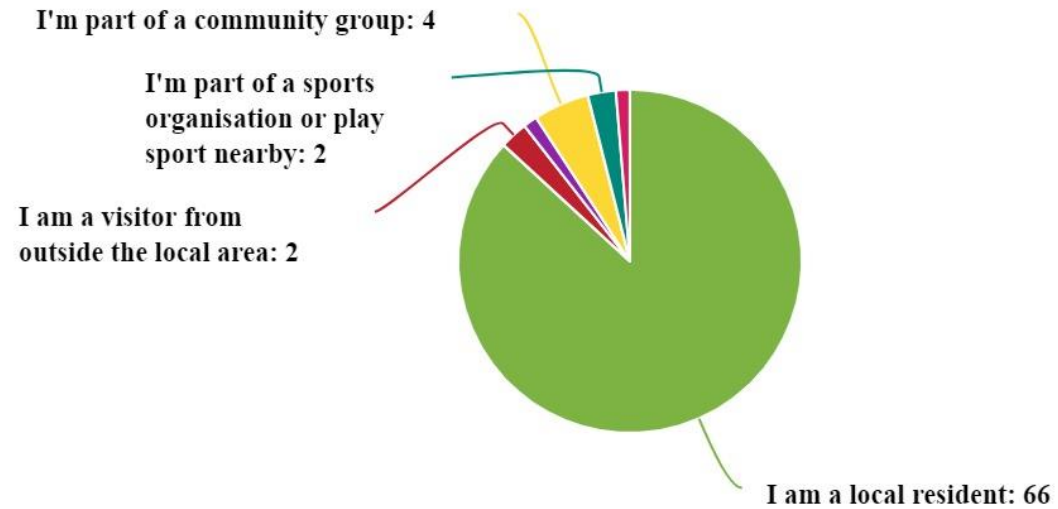
# Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

76 answers



# What best describes you?

76 answers



- I am a local resident
- I am a local business owner
- I am a visitor from outside the local area
- I am a student at a local school
- I'm part of a community group
- I'm part of a youth group
- I'm part of a sports organisation or play sport nearby
- Ex-resident, now occasional visitor



## Sample of comments

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- *Play equipment 2. High play area*
- *Access to nature, wildlife and the opportunity to go outdoors.*
- *Appeal to a wide age range Natural shade/vegetation Large and varied activities Bike tracks suitable for children and adults where technical skills can be developed Big slides and flying foxes*
- *Greenspace, nature and the natural environment. Escape from urban environment. Space to move and be active. Places to be curious and learn about the environment.*
- *I like lots of trees in a natural setting, informal layout, toilet facilities, picnic facilities, a bubbler or tap with drinkable water, good parking nearby (for older people).*
- *Natural character. Wildlife. Narrow meandering trails. Key sights.*





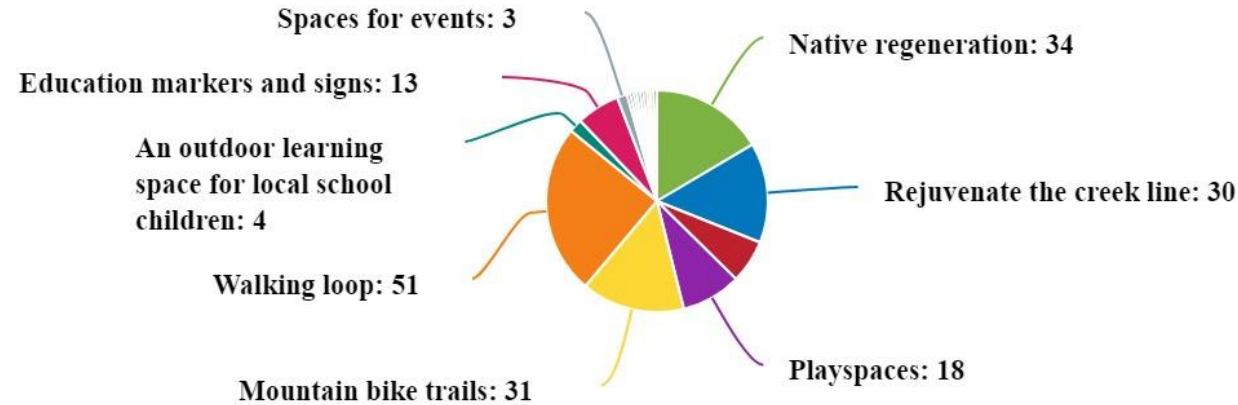
## Sample of comments

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- *Aboriginal heritage and education on local biodiversity*
- *Bicycle access*
- *None. Keep it minimal. Embrace the natural environment. Maybe a few tags on trees or plants to highlight what they are.*
- *The local fauna and flora and why it happens to be in this location ie topography soil / geology etc*
- *The preservation of native landscape. With a growing world we understand the need for expansion. With such expansion human ingenuity can revive the beauty of our landscape. Such as hiding overhead the high voltage powerlines.*
- *The beautiful surrounds of birds and trees.*

# If you were designing the new park, what are the top three things you would want to include? Drag and drop TOP THREE (as if you were the designer)

76 answers



- Native regeneration
- Rejuvenate the creek line
- Picnic areas (with options for family picnics)
- Playspaces
- Mountain bike trails
- Walking loop
- An outdoor learning space for local school children
- Education markers and signs
- Spaces for events

▲ 1/2 ▼

# Have you got any other ideas, suggestions or comments to help the design team?

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## 43 answers

- *A mtb race facility will be well used by locals and surrounding population as well as by schools who are desperate for a race facility. There are numerous specialist mtb trail builders who are developing mtb trails for councils to expand tourism and provide adventurous youth with healthy exercise opportunities outside the usual. There are hundreds of sports fields, hiking trails and picnic areas. There are no facilities for a rapidly growing sport.*
- *High quality access from West of the Wakehurst parkway is critical to the success of this park as that is where the higher density dwellings will be located with the intensification of the hospital precinct.*
- *Driving on Nandi ave is an issue coming down the steep hill causing blind spots, suggest looking at this and having the entry off the wakehurst parkway.*
- *Fox and cat control to benefit wildlife, particularly the resident bandicoots. It should not be called Nandi Reserve. Due to the narrow steep road and lack of parking, access off Nandi Avenue is appropriate and should not be encouraged. I suggest a different access point and a different name. Furthermore, 'Nandi Reserve' is unimaginative and a missed opportunity. Why not a name that speaks to the natural values of the area, such as the resident powerful owls or the bandicoots?*
- *Don't "develop" it.*
- *Dog friendly areas and water bubblers are helpful-local cafe always is attractive.*

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# Appendix C – Stakeholder Meeting Minutes, Nandi Reserve

Engagement: On-site Stakeholder Meeting

Date: Thursday 22 April at 9am - 9.30am

## Notes from meeting

- Nandi Reserve is sensitive territory for Powerful Owls
- There is some turnover of the population at Nandi. Birds can often be lost on the road (Wakehurst Parkway)
- Generations of owls are located at Nandi Reserve
- Important to protect breeding resources
- Nandi Reserve is a known habitat for PO. There are other known habitats across the Northern Beaches
- Powerful Owls will be breeding this year
- Construction timing is important
- Minimise impacts of mountain bikes
- There are education opportunities at Nandi Avenue that feature the Powerful Owl
  - Nocturnal education could be considered
- More nesting could be incorporated into the design or bird boxes
- Interactive learning ie QR codes
- Rehabilitating habitat

## MEETING ENDS

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# Appendix D – Street Meeting Minutes, Nandi Reserve

11 May 2021, 3.30pm

## OVERVIEW OF KEY POINTS

- Community said they had not heard about the Premier Priorities. The team took feedback that the link between the two could be made clearer in the future.
- Community said that the foundation of their community is Nandi Avenue. Please don't stuff up Nandi Ave.
- Community's key concern is access. Should be no access via Nandi Avenue.
- Community recommend engaging with the Fire and Rescue Zone Commander
- Community concerned that more people walking on the site could increase pollution.
- There is also a fire concern from more people on the site. Fire and Rescue NSW are concerned about fire in the 'nandi valley'
- Access – point of access – must know that Nandi Avenue is a dangerous and windy road.
  - Potential way in through Dreadnought Road
- Communicate how maintenance could occur
- Why don't you put all the money at County Road
- Is there an option to vote on the top two concept plans, instead of one?
- Privacy and security is important
- The bushland from Nandi Avenue creates a green buffer with Wakehurst parkway which is very important
- *Can you please change the name?*
- *Community requested a following up meeting*

### **Positives:**

- We've got lots of kids in this area
- We can make it safer that would be good
- We want it done well
- Maintaining buffer zones and access is important
- The wildlife is a joy (Wombats, Echidnas)
- Improved pathways

## NOTES FROM MEETING

### **Why this site?**

Looking at Government owned spaces.

Explained what the P4P project is.

Explained the Premiers Priorities 11 and 12.

*Community said they had not heard about the Premier Priorities. The team took feedback that the link between the two could be made clearer in the future.*

There are no set plans for the site.

*Community said that the foundation of their community is Nandi Avenue. Please don't stuff up Nandi Ave.*

2-4 traffic movements a minute on the weekend.

Project team explained the due diligence studies including the traffic report which will outline what Nandi Avenue could feasibly take in terms of increased traffic and parking; as well as where any entrances or parking could be located.

*Community's key concern is access. Should be no access via Nandi Avenue.*

The project team is currently looking at site constraints and issues. Considering if they can go through Wakehurst Parkway.

*Community recommend engaging with the Fire and Rescue Zone Commander*

### **Is there an option to do nothing?**

Low impact option could be creek restoration; work to improve the environmental quality of the site, a safe ecological response; increase the flora and fauna; Could be bat boxes & habitat for Powerful Owls.

*Community concerned that more people walking on the site could increase pollution.*

*There is also a fire concern from more people on the site. Fire and Rescue NSW are concerned about fire in the 'Nandi valley'*

### **Next steps**

Come up with three schematic options.

### **How will this park be accessed?**

Access – point of access – must know that this is a dangerous and windy road.

Access is very important. Currently there are people on the street carrying out renovations and this has caused a disruption.

### **Vehicle Access**

Retirement village at the top of the hill

Another coming that Council 'apparently' tried to stop

We don't want 'their' traffic

### **How will maintenance occur?**

Council under resourced now (according to group)

Council explained that maintenance will be their responsibility and that they will consider how that works.

There is a fallen tree at the moment that has 'changed' the pathway route.

### **County Road**

The community around County Road have been calling for an upgrade for a 'while now'.  
There is a 'community need' there  
Why don't you put all the money there

### **What is the split of money between the two sites?**

Someone told us '\$7 million for Nandi, \$2 million for County Road'.  
Project team told the group that the split of funding is undetermined.  
Confirmed that the Department/project team had never communicated such figures.

### **Peninsula Living (local magazine)**

'Work to commence in early 2022'  
Project team confirmed that this is the expected timing

### **Concept Plan**

Is there an option to vote on the top two concept plans, instead of one?  
Project team said that this could be an option.

### **Arcadia outlined the list of experts they are working with**

**Bushland Experts** = Quality  
**Firesticks** = cold fire  
**Toolijooa** = for local ecology

### **Can you consider making the creek crossing more safe?**

Project team outlined that they are considering this  
Community confirmed they would like a good pathway

### **Don't destroy what we are trying to protect.**

Privacy and security is important  
The bushland from Nandi Avenue creates a green buffer with Wakehurst parkway which is very important  
Have you seen the bloodwood forest?  
No we haven't seen this but thank you for noting this  
Have you seen the swamp?  
Yes we have seen this

### **Can you please change the name?**

if the site is called 'Nandi Reserve' it signals to people that they should use Nandi Avenue to access the site.



This could be considered. Could have a naming competition during phase 2 or as a question in the survey

Barbara:

There are positives:

- We've got lots of kids in this area
- We can make it safer that would be good
- We want it done well
- There are basic items that need to be done
- Maintaining buffer zones and access is important
- The wildlife is a joy (Wombats, Echidnas).
- How to get into the park? Traffic team
  - Potential way in through Dreadnought Road

**Will the Contour be marked on the 50% Concept?**

The project team confirmed that it would be

Marker pegs have been left by RMS.

There are snakes, leeches.

The road is a blind corner.

# Appendix E – Written Submissions

## Submissions Summary – Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest

Number	Summary of key points
1	<p>Major concerns amongst residents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The destruction of native bushland with mature trees, native orchids, wallabies and a natural habitat for insects and birds.</li> <li>• The loss of the green buffer and therefore the sound barrier between residential housing and a major artillery road; Wakehurst Parkway.</li> <li>• The high potential for traffic accidents and parking issues; Nandi Avenue consists of one steep narrow loop road to enter and exit and there are several young families as well as older residents in the street.</li> <li>• Fire Safety: As members of the local Community Fire Unit we have two Mobile Hose Post trailers on the land between homes and the bush. An increased number of members of the public accessing the area will naturally raise the level of fire risk; the dropping of cigarette butts etc. Once again we have just the one access road to get residents in and out of the street.</li> <li>• Security for homes: As there are several homes that back on to Nandi Reserve there will naturally be increased exposure and therefore an increased risk of burglary and theft.</li> <li>• Health Issues: There are large Power Poles and therefore Power Lines running down through the zone from which naturally, for health reasons, members of the public should be kept away.</li> </ul>
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perhaps you don't realise but this area landmarked for a public park is steep inaccessible terrain that had been designated as a green buffer between an arterial road and residential properties.</li> <li>• After putting up with years of disruptions to our local roads while the new hospital was built, we are now to be subjected to a stream of traffic down our narrow cul-de-sac and the potential for members of the public to be stomping around behind our homes.</li> <li>• Apart from this the Frenchs Forest area is already served well with plenty of recreational parks with established walking and cycling tracks in place; Manly Dam and Narrabeen Lake to name just two.</li> <li>• Can I suggest that you take another look at the site's potential overall and shelve the plan altogether?</li> </ul>
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a known current breeding site for our threatened Powerful Owl I am particularly concerned about encouraging more public access to a breeding area, that may negatively affect breeding success.</li> </ul>

4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am asking you if you could please find out and explain to us how you plan to get people into this reserve and where they are going to park. I cannot see the sense in filling out a wish list of what we would like in the reserve if there is no way that people can enter and park safely.</li> <li>Because of the road situation we are all of the opinion that "Nandi Reserve" is NOT suitable for this project and we respectfully ask you find somewhere else to put the park.</li> </ul>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>it looks to me like it is full steam ahead, nowhere are they showing concern about how the people will get to this open space or indeed where they will park when they get there.</li> <li>My 2nd concern is that this is a one way in and out street, if there was a fire nearby it would make evacuation that much harder. We have 2 CFU units in our street because the Rural Fire Service is very concerned, we could be trapped in the event of a bushfire emergency. Having people in the reserve surrounding our properties only adds to the threat of a bushfire because they could drop cigarette butts or accidentally start a fire and we would all have nowhere to go.</li> <li>My 3rd concern is our general safety we back onto the bush and anyone could come out of that bush and jump the fence and rob our house. At the moment the bush is so thick nobody comes around here, but if you open it up there will be all sorts of people hanging around. My husband and I have lived here for 51 years and for all those years we have felt relatively safe, now in the twilight years of our lives if this goes ahead, we will definitely NOT feel safe.</li> </ul>
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first and foremost issue is the road, every one of us has said that the traffic for the Reserve has to have another entrance rather than Nandi Ave. Traffic cannot come down Nandi Ave, the road is steep, narrow and when a car is parked on the hill cars coming up or down cannot pass one another safely. There is no parking in the street as every house has at least 2 cars if not more and that means no parking left in the street.</li> <li>One other issue I will raise is the safety of people if a fire should break out. We only have one way in and out, we have 2 CFU units in the street because we are considered by the Fire dept to be a high-risk area should a fire break out, and people walking around the bush maybe with cigarettes, it only takes one careless person to put everyone else at risk, with the right wind blowing a fire would rip through this valley like wildfire.</li> <li>We have other issues which _____ will outline for you, but they have to give us an alternative for traffic to enter and park. The only alternative is via the Wakehurst Parkway somehow, but my understanding is that the RMS will not allow any roads off the parkway, alternatively down at Oxford falls road, maybe.</li> </ul>
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The single, most discussed topic at the meeting was <b>ACCESS and PARKING</b> and how this will affect residents going to and from their homes on our steep, narrow, winding street which, with parking even on one side becomes a single one way passage where drivers often have to wait to come or go on the hill.</li> <li>Several other topics including, toilets, paths (both street and reserve) wildlife, security and other concerns were also discussed at our meeting.</li> </ul>
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your department has failed miserably, there has been NO collaboration with locals as to what is proposed other than pious platitudes re walking tracks, picnic facilities etc. but nothing as to access to the area, parking, services where are they being placed?</li> <li>You have include a survey to be completed, however the survey is so skewed, that other than a favourable outcome, is the result!</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the area is titled “Nandi Reserve” it has been assumed that the entrance and exit to the reserve will be Nandi Avenue, an avenue which is a cul-de-sac, has a narrow, steep and winding part which at the best of times dangerous to negotiate. There was an accident on these bends, the Police refused to apportion blame as there is/was no dividing line on the bends. Should the parking be at the bottom of the hill, this will only exasperate an already dangerous situation!</li> <li>• You also say “preserving the bushland character of the area”. Unfortunately the area already is dissected by electricity pylons, creating spaces to relax and gather, would only serve to destroy what you are trying to preserve! The reserve as it is, topography and all, is already enjoyed by local children and adults alike!</li> <li>• In my efforts to contact your Department on 1300 305 695, on the first occasion the phone remained unanswered, I held on for ten minutes before I gave up. On the second occasion I held on for close to fifteen minutes before I was answered by _____. He said that he had answered 100’s of calls using this number but he was unable to do anything and was at a loss as to why this number had been given!</li> <li>• As you may have gathered, I am NOT in favour of such proposal that such funding could be better used on Manly Dam or Narrabeen Lagoon.</li> </ul>
9.	<p>Firstly, there are several residents who have lived in the area for a long time and who would prefer that the area be left alone as it is; a remnant patch of bushland acting as a green buffer to reduce noise and pollution between a major arterial road, Wakehurst Parkway and a residential area.</p> <p>If, however the State Govt and Northern Beaches Council is determined to go ahead with a plan then the following was recommended:</p> <p>* <a href="#">No Access to a Walking Track from Nandi Avenue</a></p> <p>Traffic Flow Safety: Nandi Avenue is a narrow steep cul-de-sac only accessible from either Frenchs Forest Road or Bimbadeen Crescent.</p> <p>Fire Safety: There is an active Community Fire Unit in the street with two fire trailers (mobile hose posts) due to the proximity of the bush to the houses.</p> <p>* <a href="#">A 50 metre Buffer Zone between the Creek and a Bushwalking Track</a></p> <p>Security and Privacy: The homes that back on to Nandi Reserve and the bush behind, north of the reserve were not designed to keep members of the public at bay</p> <p>* <a href="#">The Preservation of Native Bush and Wildlife</a></p> <p>We are most concerned with preserving this remnant patch of native bush with its mature trees including angophoras, hakias and banksias as well as xanthorrhoeas and native orchids that almost magically appear throughout the year. There is a Powerful Owl nesting site on location and Kookaburras nest in a gall of a tree adjacent to the park each year.</p>

	<p>The area is frequented by King Parrots, Crested pigeons, Sulphur crested cockatoos, black cockatoos, Boobook owls and and is home to grey fantails, noisy miners and brush turkeys to name a few. There are shy wallabies, bandicoots, ring tailed and brush tailed possums. These must all be preserved.</p> <p>Secondly the zone in question is designated as a green buffer between a major arterial road, Wakehurst parkway and residential houses. Any clearing or thinning out of the bush would increase the noise and air pollution for the residents of Frenchs Forest contrary to the original plan.</p> <p><a href="#">*Our Park for People Desire</a></p> <p>If the Park for People is to be developed then we ask that it be a Bushwalking Track (with no access from Nandi Avenue except to locals) for daylight access only with dogs to be kept on leads.</p> <p>This could be sensitively designed to enhance the public's appreciation of nature with educational signage on trees and plants. We request that there be no light installations as these would adversely affect wildlife and encourage night activity on the track.</p> <p><a href="#">*New Name</a></p> <p>We suggest that the track be given a new name that doesn't include the word Nandi. This would discourage people from assuming that the track could be accessed from Nandi Avenue and could reflect the native bush or indigenous heritage of the area.</p> <p>Perhaps it could be called the Peace Track (from the Peace park)?</p>
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent more traffic on Nandi avenue and parking to gain access to the park</li> <li>• Prevent the cutting down of trees and implement the construction of a noise abatement structure along the Wakehurst Parkway</li> <li>• No consultation with local community. Poor site selection</li> <li>• Ban on motor bikes, alcohol, night time partying, and other activities</li> <li>• No open fires or gas/fires/barbequest in the area</li> <li>• Need a buffer zone to protect privacy and safety of residents</li> </ul>
11.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.No increase in vehicular traffic or parking in either Nandi Aveor Garie Place.</li> <li>2.No access to the extended section of the Nandi Reserve by non-residents via Nandi Ave.</li> <li>3.All access to the extended Reserve to be via Wakehurst Parkway and all vehicular parking to be located adjoining Wakehurst Parkway.</li> <li>4.A native vegetation buffer zone of not less than 100 metres to be maintained between the dwellings abutting the entire length of the existing and extended Nandi Reserve and any publicly accessible areas within that extended Reserve.</li> <li>5.No destruction of existing native trees and other flora and no destruction of existing native habitats of either tree or ground dwelling fauna.</li> <li>6.No construction activities or subsequent recreational activities that may lead to soil erosion or sedimentation in or around Trefoil Creek.</li> <li>7.No public toilet facilities or public lighting to be erected in the extended Reserve.</li> </ol>

- |  |
|--|
| <p>8.No gas BBQ's or any form of naked flame cooking appliances to be allowed within the Reserve due to the extreme bush fire danger.</p> <p>9.Absolutely no motor bikes or motorised trail bikes or similar be permitted within the Reserve.</p> <p>10.The use of high environmental impact 'mountain bikes and the like' be prohibited. Enthusiasts have a brand new multi-million dollar facility at nearby Bear Creek, Belrose if they wish to pursue this activity.</p> <p>11.No organised sporting activities other than family recreation to be permitted within the Reserve.</p> <p>12.Minimal impact walking tracks, nature trails and other minimal impact activities could be beneficial.</p> |
|--|

## Submissions Summary – County Road Reserve, Belrose

Number	Summary of key points
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is great that you are planning open space and parklands in this area but at the same time, you are converting large playing field areas to plastic grass. This is not good for anything except maybe in saved maintenance fees but that will mean people lose their jobs. It is awful stuff. It pollutes waterways, burns users, compromises the environment and looks what it is. Fake.</li> <li>• I just despair at all this 'progress'. When we moved here, there were koalas in the trees. Long gone. As are the trees.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>In making our submission about upgrading the western section to open space parkland we strongly suggest that the following be taken into account:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The western corridor contains sporting fields in Hews Parade and extension of these in the western corridor to provide passive recreation parkland would be identical to that proposed for the eastern corridor.</li> <li>2. Provision of open space parkland throughout the whole of the abandoned Road Corridor, east and west of Forest Way, would provide the suburbs of Belrose, Frenchs Forest and Davidson with a magnificent contribution to the Parks for People project, not only for present residents but also by realising the need to provide passive recreation facilities for the rising population of the area and for future generations.</li> <li>3. The wildlife corridor proposed in the rezoning is necessarily limited in size by the developed land and would be subject to future residents complying with the restriction on their land use but conversion of the whole of the western corridor to parkland would provide a much more effective pathway for wildlife moving from Garigal eastwards. Additionally, it would remove the need for Council Rangers or other authorities to monitor future residents' compliance with the wild life corridor restrictions.</li> <li>4. The work to be undertaken in converting the western corridor to public open space would be minimal in that:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. The substantial drainage work required for drainage resulting from developed properties disturbing the natural drainage system would be unnecessary;</li> <li>4.2. A significant area at the extreme end of the western corridor adjacent to Garigal is already cleared and would require only the addition of a few trees and perhaps park furniture;</li> <li>4.3. The remainder of the western corridor, i.e. the eastern end of it, already has some pathways resulting from residents taking shortcuts through it and these would require minimal work to upgrade them.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>



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