

# Majors Bay Reserve Masterplan and Passive Recreation Precinct

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT (ROUND 2: 15 June – 3 July 2022)

3 July 2022

## New draft Masterplan



Last revised: 03/07/2022

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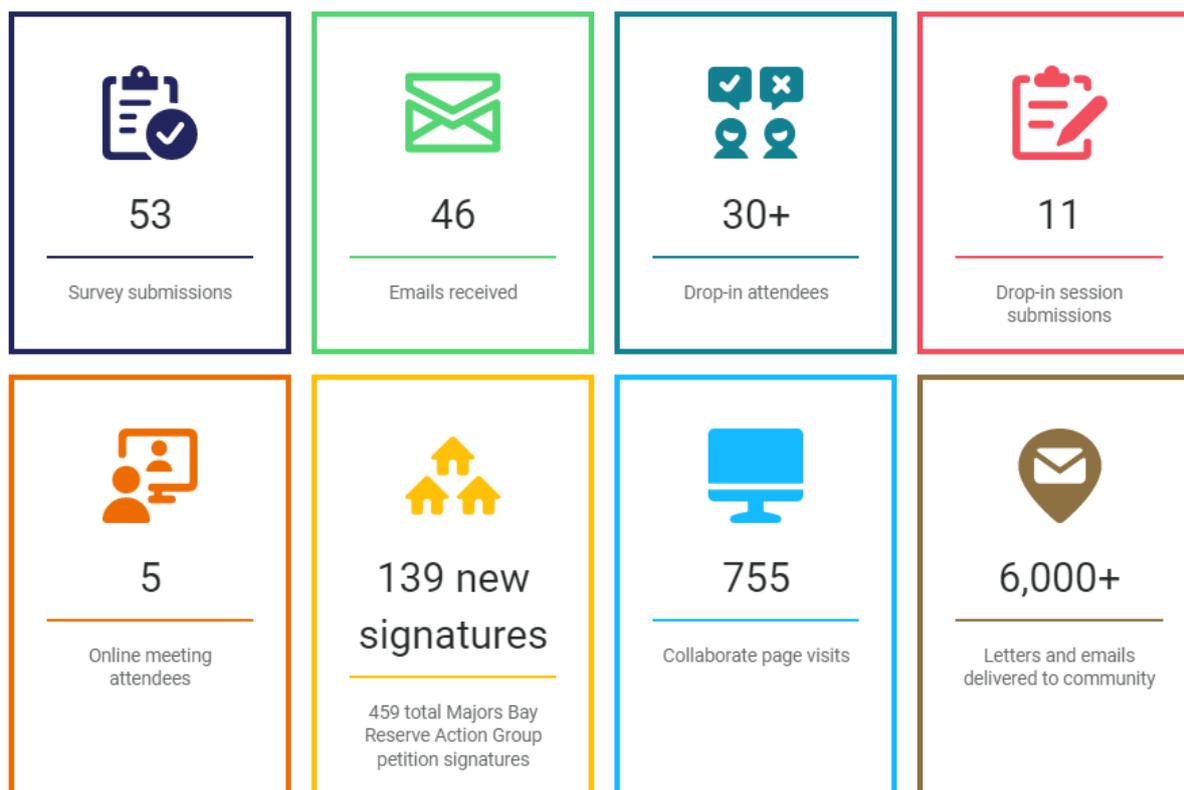
## Introduction

Majors Bay Reserve is one of the most important parcels of public open space within the City of Canada Bay. Its connection with the water, open parklands and sporting grounds makes it unique within the Western Sydney Harbour foreshore.

The City of Canada Bay received \$4.75m funding from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to upgrade the passive recreation opportunities in the reserve. Concurrently, the existing Masterplan for the reserve was adopted in 2000 and requires updating. As part of this project, Council decided to redraft the Masterplan to identify what is possible within the reserve and consult the community, with a view to editing the plan to suit the community's needs and wants for the space. Council will then identify which elements will be constructed with the DPE funding grant, and which elements will be ear marked for future consultation and construction as part of the reserve's long-term Masterplan.

Having considered community feedback from round 1 (please see Community Engagement Report Round 1 – 1 June 2022), Council shared a new draft Masterplan with the community in June 2022. The new draft Masterplan also outlined which items would, if approved, be delivered using the DPE funding grant, and which would be earmarked for future delivery. This report outlines the feedback received.

## Engagement snapshot



## Communication methods and reach

A suite of communication methods was used to inform the community about this consultation and encourage submissions.

Methods used included:

- Project page on Collaborate Canada Bay: [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mbr\\_precinct](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mbr_precinct)
- Email to all round 1 consultation participants
- Letterbox drop by Council officers to 4,000+ residents in surrounding streets
- Direct email to 83 residents bordering the reserve who have provided email addresses to Council's database
- Collaborate email to 1,886 database – those following Concord and Parks & Recreation topics
- Social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Council e-newsletter
- 6 x on site signs – stickers added with updated information (2 signs were removed since installation)

See appendix A for more detail, including communications reach.

## Engagement methods

### **Online survey**

A Collaborate survey was developed to capture the community's reaction to the draft Masterplan, asking for what they liked, what they did not like, and any additional feedback they had for Council.

Survey questions and full results can be found in the body of this report and in Appendix B.

### **Emails**

All 46 emails sent to Council, the Mayor and Councillors, and to individual Council officers are gathered and reviewed during the consultation reporting process.

A summary of email submission feedback can be found in Appendix C.

### **Drop-in sessions**

Council hosted two drop-in sessions at Majors Bay Reserve between the old Concord RSL car park and the entrance path to the synthetic soccer field on Thursday 23 June 4 – 6pm and Saturday 25 June 2022 10am-12pm.

These drop-ins saw less attendance than round 1, with around 30 people visiting to talk to Council.

A summary of feedback received can be found in the Summary of Results on page 5.

### **Online meeting**

Council conducted a two-long online session to provide an additional opportunity for community to ask questions and receive detailed answers, and for those who are unable to attend face to face events for any reason. This meeting was attended by the project lead, community consultation coordinator, Manager of Parks and Recreation, and open space coordinator.

A report from this meeting can be found in Appendix D.

### **Sporting clubs**

Council did not meet with the sporting clubs this round; however, feedback was received from Concord Baseball Club.

### **Resident group – Majors Bay Reserve Action Committee**

Residents have created an action group to represent their concerns to Council. Council officers have met with this group on a number of occasions to discuss their concerns and will continue to liaise with them. During the first round of consultation, a petition with 320 signatures was submitted to Council on 29 May 2022. The signees stated "I am against the current Masterplan for Majors Bay. I am against overdevelopment of the reserve. Sydney has very few open spaces left, and we should strive to preserve such valuable spaces for future generations".

The same petition was submitted to Council in round 2 on 3 July 2022 with a total of 459 signed across both rounds of consultation.

## Summary of results

These results pertain to the second round of consultation only. For round 1 feedback, please see Community Engagement Report Round 1.

### Overall Results

Council received 110 submissions from the community: 53 surveys, 46 emails and 11 drop-in forms.

Overall, many participants feel the long-term plans for the reserve do not match their vision for the space. Many participants want to maintain as much green space as possible while upgrading joining pathways and planting new trees. While the variety of recreational opportunities the draft Masterplan offers is noted by many participants, adjacent neighbours believe the upgrades will attract too many people to the reserve and destroy the current tranquillity of the place.

<b>1. Top support points overall</b>	<b>Email submissions</b>	<b>Survey feedback</b>	<b>Drop-in sessions</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Removal of Deakin St carpark proposal	23	9	2	34
2. Foreshore boardwalk and access paths	8	17	1	26
3. Dog park maintained in current location	11	8	2	21
4. Planting new trees	6	6	3	15
5. Variety of activities for different ages	3	6	1	10

<b>2. Top opposition points overall</b>	<b>Email submissions</b>	<b>Survey feedback</b>	<b>Drop-in sessions</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Masterplan is still overdeveloped and does not maintain enough existing green space	29	11	4	44
2. New Norman St car park perceived as dangerous to cyclists ( <i>see table 4 below for more information</i> )	12	10	1	23
3. Biodiversity concerns – loss of mature trees	13	6	2	21
4. Parking and traffic pressure not adequately addressed	9	8	2	19
5. Removal of enclosed dog park – want a fence	9	6	2	17

<b>3. Suggestions</b>
1. Maintain multi-purpose courts and remove parkour and pump tracks
2. Include a nature walk or unstructured area instead of item 22 car parking
3. Combine playgrounds into one site – remove 12m tower
4. Biodiversity assessment and parking study needed

## 5. Fence the dog park

### 4. Feedback on the new or updated elements of the Masterplan

- The community supports:
  - The removal of Deakin St carpark proposal
  - Maintenance of the existing dog (unfenced) off-leash area
  - Removal of several picnic shelters
- The Norman Street angled parking concept in the new draft (item 6) was welcomed by some participants, while other participants believe it would be dangerous to cyclists. It should be noted that the Masterplan does not correctly show the median strip that would shield cyclists from parking cars
- Participants also showed concern for the number of mature trees being planned for removal, particularly for proposed parking at item 22 and item 6, due to impact on biodiversity
- The multi-purpose courts being moved closer to Baseball diamonds is a point of concern for Concord Baseball Club, while adjacent residents do not believe it has been moved far enough away from Nullawarra Road.

### Emails

46 emails

- 1 sporting club email submissions
- 1 resident petition with 459 signatures – 139 new since round 1 submission of petition
- 44 resident email submissions

Council received 44 email submissions from residents. Many of these emails were substantial and detailed submissions that outlined their concerns and ideas regarding the draft Masterplan. Given the quantity and length of these submissions, Council staff have attempted to summarise their key points, while also combining them with the detailed feedback provided via Collaborate Canada Bay online survey (see above table in *Summary of Results*). The summary highlights issues and suggestions that were raised several times within the email submissions.

Council notes that each submission's full detail cannot be comprehensively summarised, and the project team have reviewed the detailed responses provided by the community and will consider all suggestions individually.

A more detailed summary can be found in Appendix B.

### Online survey

#### Top line results – 53 submissions

- 71% of participants live in Concord, 32% live next to the park
- The average satisfaction rating received on the draft masterplan is 2.9 out of a possible 5
- The survey asked open ended questions, and Council officers have tagged the answers into groups. A summary of support and opposition points can be seen in the above table in *Summary of Results*.

The full survey report can be found in Appendix B.

## Drop-in sessions

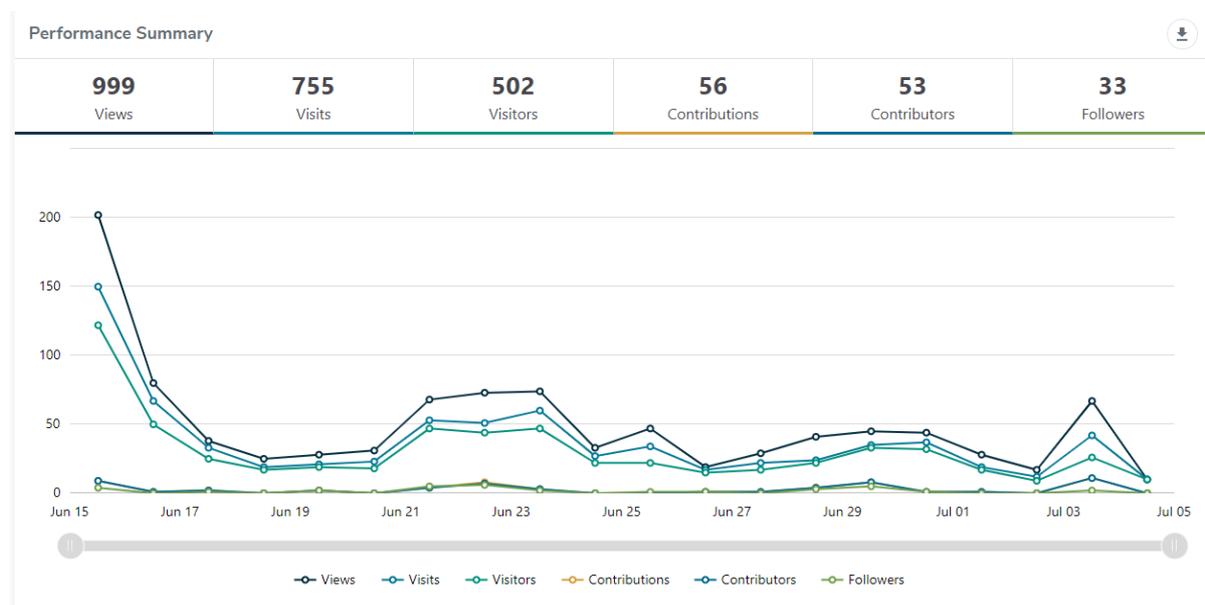
Council's drop-in sessions were attended by less residents in round 2 than in round 1, and fewer submissions were provided on forms provided.

The feedback in 11 forms received is represented in the summary of support and opposition points which can be seen in the above table in *Summary of Results*.

## Appendices

### A. Communications reach

**Project page on Collaborate Canada Bay:** [https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mbr\\_precinct](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mbr_precinct)



**Views** - The number of times a Visitor views any page on a Site.

**Visits** - The number of end-user sessions associated with a single Visitor.

**Visitors** - The number of unique public or end-users to a Site. A Visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.

**Contributions** - The total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools.

**Contributors** - The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a Site through the participation tools.

**Followers** - The number of Visitors who have 'subscribed' to a project using the 'Follow' button.

### Social media (Facebook and Instagram)

	No. of posts	Reach	Engagements	Link clicks
Facebook	1	5400	617	*
Instagram	2	760	12	31

### Council newsletters and newsletters

Council newsletter	Reach	Opens	Link clicks
City of Canada Bay News Online	2376	1488	94

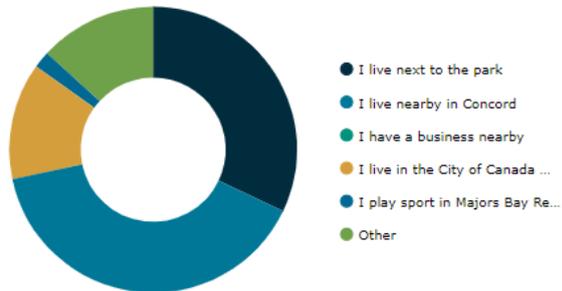
Letter distribution map – 3,833 properties



## B. Online Survey

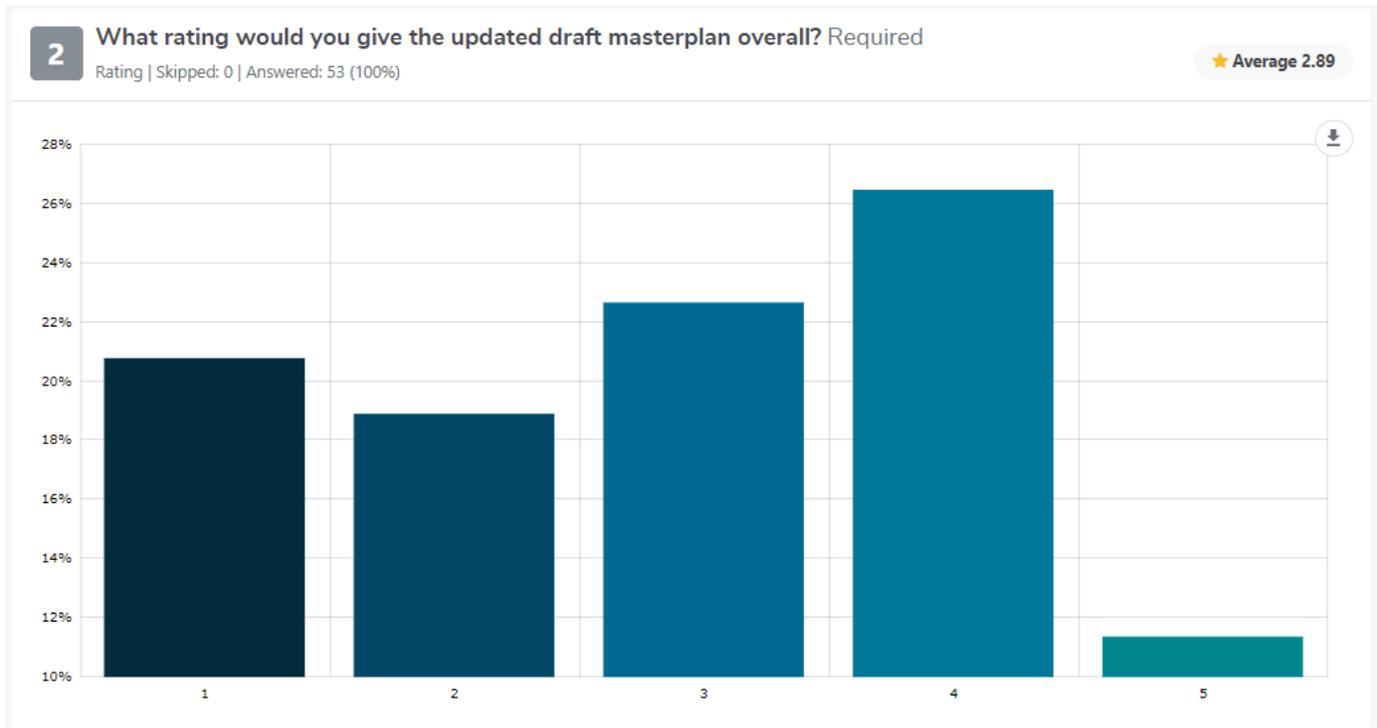
### 1. Which of the following best describes you?

**1** Which of the following best describes you? Required  
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
I live next to the park	32.08%	17
I live nearby in Concord	39.62%	21
I have a business nearby	0%	0
I live in the City of Canada Bay	13.21%	7
I play sport in Majors Bay Reserve	1.89%	1
Other	13.21%	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>53</b>

2. What rating would you give the draft masterplan overall?



### 3. What do you like about the new draft?

**3** What do you like about the new draft?  
 Long Text | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 50 (94.3%)

Analyse

#### Sentiment



#### Tags



Tag	Percent	Count
Foreshore boardwalk	20%	10
Removal of Deakin St car park	18%	9
Removal of enclosed dog park	16%	8
Access/paths	14%	7
Trees	12%	6
Variety of ages	12%	6
Maintaining green space	12%	6
Recreation space	8%	4
Everything	8%	4
Playgrounds	6%	3

#### 4. What concerns you about the new draft?

##### 4 What concerns do you have about the new draft?

Long Text | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)

Analyse

##### Sentiment



No sentiment data

##### Tags



Tag	Percent	Count
Overdeveloped	20.8%	11
Norman St car parks dangerous	18.9%	10
Parking pressure	15.1%	8
Demolishing trees	11.3%	6
Removal of enclosed dog park	11.3%	6
Access/paths	11.3%	6
Safety	9.4%	5
Norman St carparking	9.4%	5
Youth Zone location	7.5%	4
Cyclists	7.5%	4
Nullawarra traffic/access	7.5%	4
Too much parking	7.5%	4
Maintenance costs	5.7%	3
Playgrounds	5.7%	3

## 5. Do you have any other feedback for Council?

5

Do you have any other feedback for Council?

Long Text | Skipped: 16 | Answered: 37 (69.8%)

Analyse

### Sentiment



No sentiment data

### Tags



Tag	Percent	Count
Overdeveloped	18.9%	7
Parking pressure	13.5%	5
Maintaining green space	13.5%	5
Cyclists	8.1%	3
Nullawarra traffic/access	8.1%	3
Outdoor fitness	5.4%	2
Lighting plan	5.4%	2
Safety	2.7%	1
Norman St car parks dangerous	2.7%	1
Too much parking	2.7%	1
Kayak drop/launch distance	2.7%	1
Foreshore boardwalk	2.7%	1
Access/paths	2.7%	1
Should prioritise other upgrades	2.7%	1
Demolishing trees	2.7%	1
Fenced playground	2.7%	1
Open slides in playground	2.7%	1
Pathway along golf course side of Majors Bay Road	2.7%	1
Drainage	2.7%	1

### C. Email feedback summary

<b>Oppose</b>	
1. Maintain nature / do not overdevelop	29
2. Endangered Flora & Fauna	20
3. Norman St car parking	12
4. Traffic and parking concerns	9
5. Dog park - want it fenced	9
6. Preserve mangroves - kayak launch	9
7. Contamination	8
8. Maintenance costs	8
9. Parkour	8
10. Pump tracks	6
11. Environmental Education Kiosk - Where is it?	5
12. Nullawarra Ave / Nirranda St traffic and access issues	5
13. Basketball courts	5
14. Public parking	5
15. Family play, shelters and amenities block	5
16. Kayak launch - location	4
17. Remove angle parking - Norman St	4
18. 2 Playgrounds	4

<b>Support</b>	
1. Removal of Deakin St carpark	23
2. Foreshore walk and access paths	16
3. Dog park maintained	11
4. Extra planting of trees	7
5. Mangrove boardwalk	5
6. Adventure Playground	4
7. Deakin Street Foreshore Boardwalk	3
8. Variety of activities	3
9. Kayak Launch	3
10. Parkour	3
11. Youth Zone	2
12. Upgrading existing amenities	3
13. Funding maintenance of existing amenities	1
14. Basketball courts	3
15. Picnic tables	1

#### D. Online meeting report

Date: Monday 27 June, 6 - 8PM

Attendees: 9

- 5 community members
- 4 Council staff

#### Key feedback points and Council response

Feedback/question	Response
Terms of the grant and what is and is not included	The masterplan outlines in brown the items that would come under the Department of Planning and Environment's NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program which focuses on passive recreation amenity. The items outlined in blue are unfunded, but their inclusion in the grant will provide the foundation to seek funding for their implementation
What is the plan for trees in the park?	We are developing a tree strategy with our tree manager and Bushcare leader currently.
What is the parking plan?	A traffic and parking study will be conducted in line with any parking concept developments.
The plan is still overdeveloped	Noted
Remove central playground and Changing Places amenity – move to a different spot where more people can use it	Noted
Do not support 12m tower in playground	Noted
Older people not reflected in the plan	Noted
Youth Zone is too close to Nullawarra Avenue	Noted
Picnic areas will become derelict	Noted
Parkour and pump tracks should go	Noted
Move playground to where the youth zone is	Noted
Keep basketball courts	Noted
Upgrades will attract too many people	Noted
Which amenities are people in the youth zone meant to use?	Council does not develop separate amenities for each user group, so the existing amenities as well as Changing Places amenities will be available to use by all park users.
The Turpentine Forest – why is this not celebrated and retained? It is our heritage and our legacy. Our precolonial history. We should keep more unstructured spaces  There is a lot of 'stuff' hard scaping in the plan. It is also very 'sport centric'. This is an opportunity to design a passive information/educational natural area that extends on the original pre-colonial sydney	Noted.

<p>turpentine forest. This native plant area could act as a buffer to further protect the endangered area and provide an opportunity for people to have a 'nature walk' for times they can't get to the national parks. I understand there's around 1 million allocated for this - this could fund community work and artwork as well as maintenance of the site. There would also be no need to remove any mature trees that are habitat for native birds and animals.</p>	
<p>Unclear on the boundaries of the Concord RSL?</p>	<p>The boundary is outlined on the masterplan. The parking to the south of the RSL is RSL owned, while the parking to the North is Council owned (please note items 13, 22, 30).</p>
<p>Contamination concerns and EPA investigations</p>	<p>We are aware of the contamination on site and will be conducting all relevant environmental studies to manage risk ahead of any construction</p>
<p>Deakin St boardwalk – distance from the back of houses? Seems like a lose/lose situation for park users and homeowners</p>	<p>Foreshore Access Plan</p>
<p>Legacy of true, real open space needs to be considered. Risk mitigation. Progress does not necessarily mean development. Plan more trees instead</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Playground – don't need bright equipment, make it fit in with the natural environment. Why not fake shops or fairy dell / imaginative play, pretend billabong, tree focused, frog pond</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Is there going to be a biodiversity study?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>There is the Walker Estate Act that states the area is to be available to the public.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Thank you - just a thought. With climate change the rising of sea levels has to also be considered. Part of this land is reclaimed. Flooding may be a very real risk.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>I had not realised that the area has so many contaminants. Given El Nina which brings in wet conditions for so many months of the year, if we disturb the area with that much development has this a potential to leak into the area eg Majors Bay Reserve?</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Are there maps of where the 'contaminants' are buried?</p>	<p>It is Councils understanding that much of the reserve is contaminated. Ongoing testing will occur as we deliver on the Masterplan.</p>
<p>Discussion on process – next steps</p>	<p>Consultation will close at 5pm on 3 July. Council team will prepare a report and make final</p>

	changes to a draft Masterplan. This will be presented to Council for consideration. Anyone in the community can attend and speak to the item during the Council meeting ahead of the Council decision.
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## E. Sporting clubs feedback report

### **Submissions**

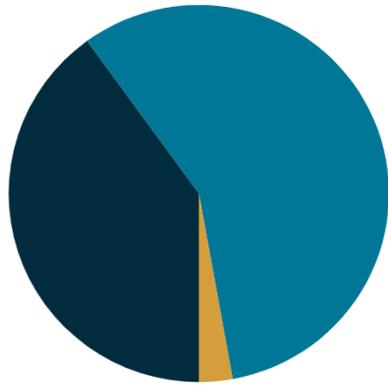
Concord Baseball provided 1 submission to Council during the consultation period which outlined:

1. Marked up Masterplan showing the areas of concern – as well as specific and detailed feedback on the issues and suggested alternatives
2. Photographs of protective fencing at Pioneers Park
3. Layout of an adult and junior baseball diamond.

## F. Survey Respondent Demographics

### Demographics <sup>?</sup>

#### Member Gender



● Male ● Female ● Non-binary ● Prefer not ...

#### Member Age



#### Member Gender by Age

