



Parks for People  
**Phase 2 Engagement Outcomes Report**  
Leppington, Liverpool

March 2021

**JOC**CONSULTING  
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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Photography by The Being Group.

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# Acknowledgement of Country

This document acknowledges that Leppington 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.

***“The area is rich in Aboriginal heritage. I think it is important to find a way to incorporate this into the park.”***

– Online Survey participant, Phase 1

***“I would love to see that the space is reflective of the aspirations and values of the traditional custodians of this land.”***

– Social Pinpoint participant, Phase 2

# Executive summary

The New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has commissioned JOC Consulting to assist with the delivery of community engagement for the creation of a new park in Leppington (the Park) as part of the Parks for People Program.

The community's input during the first phase of engagement (October 2020) helped to shape a vision for the future park and guided some of Australia's best designers and landscape architects to create a draft Concept Design that builds on the rich natural, cultural, and social fabric of the area (see below).

This Engagement Outcomes Report presents the results from the second phase of consultation that sought community feedback on the Draft Concept Design. The consultation took place between 8 March 2021 and 22 March 2021 and captured the feedback from over 120 community members.

Overall, participants confirmed that "the design team is on the right track", with only three participants disagreeing with this statement. Participants appreciated that the design retained natural bush elements while providing inclusive and fitness-oriented amenities for park users across an open, spacious site.

Looking at the draft Concept Design for the new park in Leppington, do you think we're on the right track? (n=30)

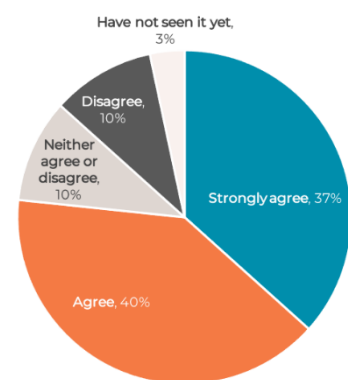


Figure 1: Draft Concept Design presented to the community during Phase 2 engagement



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# What we heard in Phase 1

Phase 1 of engagement was held entirely online in October 2020, capturing feedback through an online survey, an interactive Social Pinpoint map and social media.

## Online COVID-safe engagement hub

**177**

community members participated

- Ranging from 18 to 65 years of age
- 74% female, 25% male
- 99% local residents

### The key main priorities for the community were:



A fun place for people of all ages to play and be active

A place to gather with family, friends, and make connections in a new neighbourhood

A green space that provides a break from the busyness of suburban life

**108**

Interactive map participants

**81**

Online survey responses

### Some of the community's big ideas included:

- Provide shared paths that have capacity to safely accommodate cyclists, recreational riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities
- Create spaces and amenities that respond to the challenge of urban heat
- Co-locate different amenities to encourage intergenerational and new neighbourhood connections
- Celebrate the views from the natural high points of the site

# What we heard in Phase 2

Most importantly, participants felt that the proposed design illustrated an inclusive, multi-purpose park which had something for everyone.

This was emphasised in the community's prioritisation of inclusive play spaces (a theme which was further echoed in participants' preferences for the design of public art and play spaces within the Park). Consistent with ideas and feedback captured in the Phase 1 Engagement, participants valued a park design that provided multiple opportunities to get active and included a walking and cycling loop.

**Figure 2: A word cloud based on common Design Board phrases**



Some participants did note that the engagement materials did not necessarily address how the Park would be connected to the wider local area, including suburbs of Leppington and Austral. As similarly captured in the Phase 1 Engagement, participants expressed their desire for the Park to be connected, acting as an entrance point for both local residents and the Western Parklands City. Therefore, participants considered the new park to be such a valuable asset that they wished to see it service the wider Leppington community, and not just those who consider it their backyard.

## **First Nations Consultation** (see Appendix D)

As part of the development of the Concept Design, Phillips Marler facilitated a series of workshops with Aboriginal people from both Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) (Campbelltown & Liverpool LGA) and Gandangara LALC. The consultation revealed a strong desire to reconnect with culture, through revegetating endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland communities and providing spaces that enable ceremonial, educational and celebrational occasions of cultural significance. In combination with ongoing land management activities, these actions were further seen as opportunities to foster cultural and educational awareness, and ongoing custodianship of the Park and associated programs.

## Online COVID-safe engagement hub

**120+**

community members participated

- Ranging from under 18 to 75 years of age
- 50% female, 47% male
- 55% of carers care for a child
- 57% living within 10 minutes' walk of the site
- 47% speak a language other than English

**4,557**

visits

**1,983**

unique visits

**90**

Design Board participants

**30**

Online survey responses

**1**

Written Submission

**“Play”**

**“Access”**

Most popular words

## Council-led social media campaign with boosted posts

**2,500**

postcards distributed

**2**

EDMs to registered people and local stakeholders

**1**

Liverpool Champion article

# Feedback on the design features

Beyond the high level of support for the overall draft Concept Design, phase two engagement participants were also asked to provide further input on a number of key design features that we heard the community wanted to see during the phase 1 engagement. The following table outlines feedback that was captured for each of these design features on the Design Board.

Design feature	What did the community like?	Additional ideas from the community
<p><b>Activity and play</b></p> <p>(Spaces which cater to children and people of all ages to play and get active)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive play opportunities which cater to a range of abilities and ages</li> <li>Co-located play spaces and BBQ facilities to allow parents/guardians to supervise children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure play areas protect users from the elements. This could include water play and sheltered seating in summer, or a sheltered playground with a solid structure or large sails to cover for winter</li> <li>Provide passive play spaces such as basketball and tennis courts</li> <li>Provide opportunities for teenagers and young adults to play. Ideas included an obstacle course, flying fox, climbing structures and a skating area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Path network and exercise loop</b></p> <p>(Accessible path network for walking, jogging and cycling including a 1km loop with distance markers and fitness equipment nodes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of fitness and outdoor exercise equipment</li> <li>Improved pedestrian access to the park through multiple entrance points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create designated pedestrian and cycling paths, with markings on the pavement</li> <li>Extend the exercise loop to between 2km to 5km</li> <li>Ensure bushes near pathways are well-maintained to avoid issues with overgrowing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Connect with nature</b></p> <p>(Create an interactive, natural landscape with wetland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to connect with the wider Cumberland Plain Woodland forest</li> <li>Increased number of wetlands and water elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrate the natural features of the park by providing seating or a walking loop around wetlands</li> </ul>



<p>elements, regeneration of bushland and walking trails)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plant ornamental trees to bring colour and shade to the Park. Ideas included cherry blossom, Jacaranda, and flowering native shrubs</li> <li>▪ Connect with nature through play that uses the tree canopy landscape. Ideas included treetop walks or an all-ages treehouse</li> </ul>
<p><b>History, art and culture</b>  (Engage and learn about caring for Country and the area's unique history through landforms, materials and public art)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High representation of art and culture, including the history of Leppington</li> <li>▪ Educational aspects which allow children from local schools to visit and learn about the environment (e.g. plaques with Aboriginal history of the area, species of animals)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrate an informal performance space for local artists</li> <li>▪ Create exhibition opportunities that showcase sculptures from the local arts community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Woodland restoration</b>  (Regeneration of the local Cumberland Plain Woodland forest to heal and restore the landscape)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preservation of Cumberland Plain Woodland trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase native plantings and wetlands across the park</li> <li>▪ Explore ways the community can help maintain the Park and establish a sense of shared ownership</li> </ul>

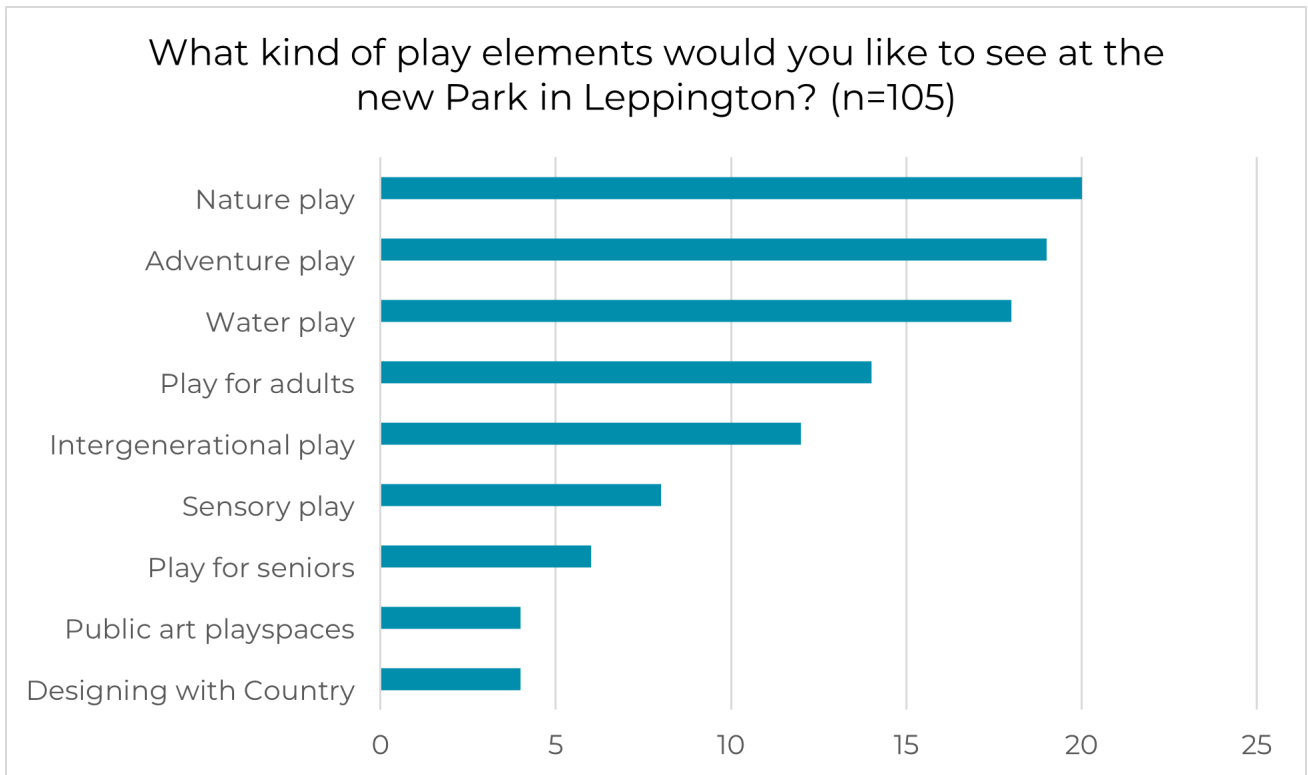
**Gathering all year round**

(Shade from trees and structures to enjoy the park all year round for picnics, gathering and relaxation)

- Provision of natural shade across the park
- Creating a multipurpose park that enables residents, visitors and local schools to use the park year-round
- Making picnic and gathering areas dog-friendly
- Incorporate seating along the walking loop, both in sun and shaded areas
- Include a large off-leash dog area
- Create a tiered outdoor amphitheatre as a gathering place for key festive events
- Include a café kiosk or coffee cart, possibly near play areas to increase casual interactions between park user groups

# Feedback on elements of play

Participants were asked which types of play elements they would like to see in the new Park. *Water play*, *Adventure play* and *Nature play* were the most popular preferences, receiving 20 votes, 19 votes and 18 votes respectively (a point of view that closely mirrors the original insights captured during the phase 1 engagement). *Play for adults* and *Intergenerational play* were also important to participants, receiving a combined total of 26 votes, a further illustration of the community's overall desire to see an accessible, multi-purpose park that provided for the whole community.

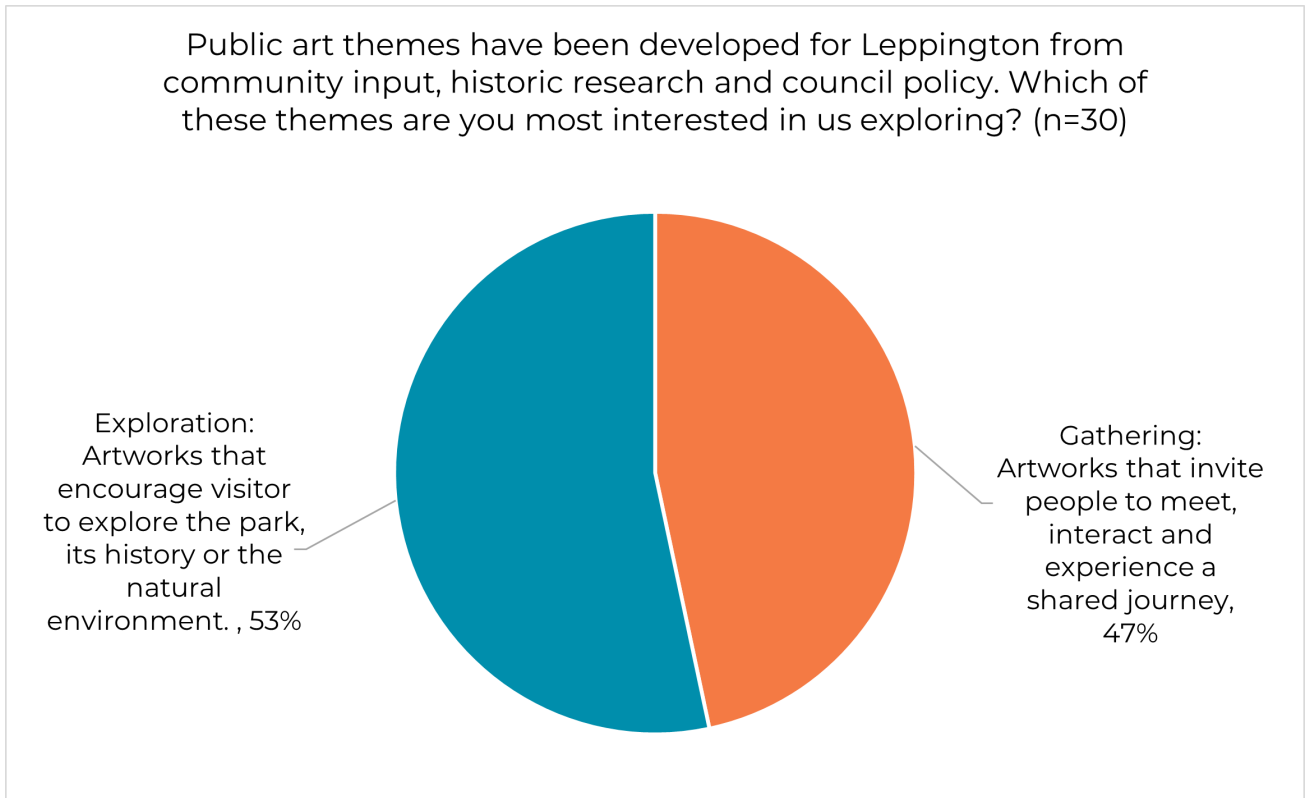


## What we heard during the Phase 1 Community Engagement:

- The inclusion of play was a top three priority for the community
- The inclusion of waterplay, either wholly or an element
- Participants wished to see the inclusion of facilities that encourage residents to get active, including shared paths for pedestrians, runners and cyclists
- The play space should encourage children to explore the landscape and create a sense of discovery

# Feedback on public art

Participants were asked to indicate their preference between two public art themes which have been developed based on community inputs, historic research, and council policy. Preference for these themes was relatively even. In total, 16 participants nominated 'Exploration' and 14 participants nominated 'Gathering' as a public art theme for the new park in Leppington.



Participants were also asked to select which examples of public art best reflect the type of art they would like to see in the Park.



The most popular images (Image 1 - 23 votes and Image 6 – 17 votes) ranged in materials but both featured sculptural art which either represented or incorporated nature-inspired shapes. The top three nominated artworks (Image 1, Image 6 and Image 3) were also all of a large, almost immersive scale. Interestingly, images that depicted functional artworks, such as Image 7 and Image 8, did not receive a particularly high number of votes.

# Issues and considerations

Participants identified the following issues for the design team to consider when finalising the Concept Design:

- **Pedestrian and vehicular access:** Seventeen participants expressed that access points need to be improved and better articulated, ensuring access for all Leppington and Austral residents. Access was seen as important to the North, East and West of the park, providing wheelchair and pram-friendly accessibility. In addition, it was important to participants that parking is provided on site or adjoining, to ensure both visitors and locals can enter the park. These access points were also seen to offer a more seamless experience between Leppington Park and the Western City Parklands.

*“It would be good if the concept plan were to improve access to the north and west, particularly to Cowpasture and Bringelly Road. This will provide a more seamless experience between this park and the Western Sydney Parklands....”*

- **Extent of facilities:** While the inclusion of a walking loop and play areas was met with enthusiasm twelve responses suggested these could be larger; with a longer track following the perimeter of the park, or a regionally significant play area. A longer track was seen to be beneficial long-term, as several participants envisioned the Park accommodating a community park run in the future.

*“Increase the length of the walking/running track. It's great to have it, but 1KM is too short.”*

- **Amenities for comfort and safety:** Ten participants highlighted the importance of providing amenities which enhance their park experience, especially public toilets, water bubblers, lighting at night and CCTV surveillance. It was understood that these measures could also deter crime and improve safety for park users.

*“...Conveniently located public toilets not walking from one side of the park to the other, water bubblers/to refill water bottles (make it COVID-safe), easy and ample parking spots, barbecues and shared areas”*

- **Wetlands:** Eight participants called for increased natural water elements such as wetlands. Many participants recognised the calming properties of water and the opportunity to increase biodiversity of native flora and fauna. It was expressed that within the Liverpool LGA the existing provision of natural water features, such as wetlands, could be improved.

*“Does this mean there will be plenty of water for native animals? I hope so, I'm upset by the lack of water provided for animals in Liverpool.”*

- **Proximity to Antegra Estate:** Two participants noted the adjoining retirement village Antegra Estate. One of which was a resident, these participants desired eased pedestrian access and recommended a secure gate between the Park and the estate.

*“It would be fantastic if we could arrange with a gate from our Estate straight into the park.”*

- **Bush regeneration:** One community submission expressed concern for the indicated Bush regeneration area (marked feature 'F' in the draft Concept Design). The submission highlighted that bush regeneration areas in suburban parks are less likely to be well-maintained, noting the bush area in Wattle Grove Lakeside Park as an example. The participant instead recommended to retain this area as general parkland.

*“Having seen such an area in Wattle Grove Lakeside Park established and more or less abandoned to its own devices, I would strongly recommend against any “bush regeneration” area being established in any suburban parks.”*

## Case studies

Several participants referenced case studies which offered enjoyable park experiences and were relevant to the Leppington Concept Design. These have been consolidated below for consideration:

- *Outdoor calisthenics gym (outdoor gym) – Bondi Beach, NSW*
- *Gungahlin Valley Ponds (wetlands) – Gungahlin, ACT*
- *Willowdale Park (outdoor amphitheatre) – Denham Court, NSW*
- *Former Oatley Bowling Club site (skate park) – Oatley, NSW*
- *Casula Parklands Ninja training circuit (outdoor fitness course) - Casula, NSW*
- *Oran Park Splash Park (water play) - Oran Park, NSW*

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# Where to from here

The vision and draft Design Concept for the new park in Leppington has been well received by participants. Through the course of community engagement, valuable feedback on the draft Concept Design was captured, along with additional design ideas and elements for consideration as Phillips Marler Architects develop a final Concept Design.

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## Next steps

The findings from this report will be used to inform the final plan for the Park in Leppington. In 2021, an online information session will illustrate the key features of the plan and highlight how community input has helped shape the design.

***“I believe spaces like this parkland have the opportunity to educate the community in matters of biodiversity and sustainable living. Apart from bush regeneration, I think it would be great to have an environmental education community initiative located in this space to raise awareness about climate change, water management, waste management, local flora and fauna and Indigenous history.”***  
- Social Pinpoint participant

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# Appendix A – Online Survey Analysis

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## Overview

A total of 30 people participated in the survey.

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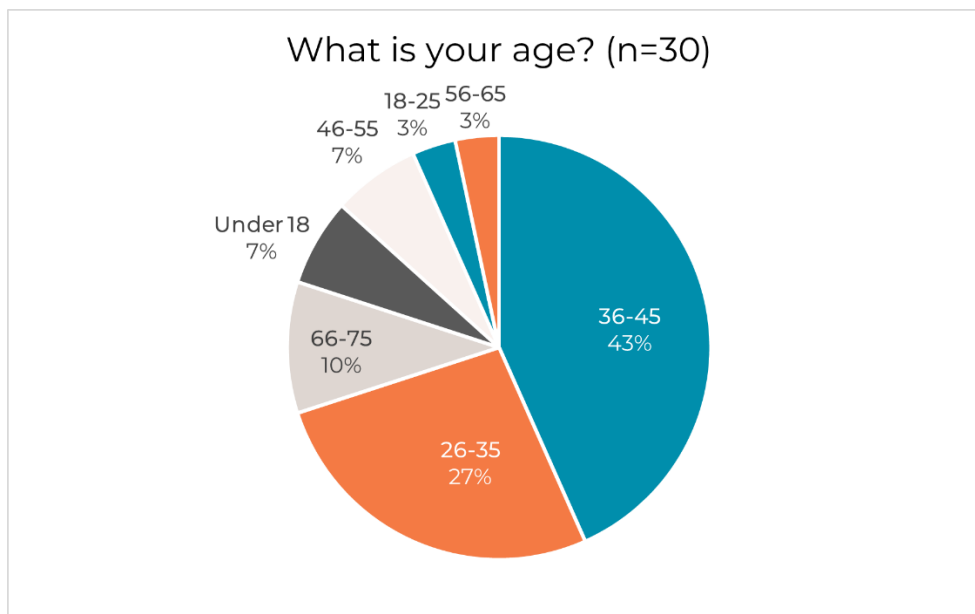
## Demographics

### What gender do you identify with? (Q13)

Half (50%) of participants identified as female and 47% identified as male. One participant preferred to not answer this question.

### What is your age? (Q10)

The largest age group among participants was 36-45 year olds (43%). This was followed by 27% of participants aged 26-35, and 10% aged 66-75. Only one participant was each aged 18-25 and 56-65.





### Where do you live? (insert suburb name or postcode) (Q11)

All participants live in the Liverpool Council area, with just over half (53%) living in Leppington (2170). 17% of participants live in neighbouring Austral (2179), 20% in Denham Court (2565) and 6% in Prestons (2170). One participant lives in West Hoxton (2171) and one in Green Valley/Hinchinbrook/Busby area (2168).

Two participants did not answer this question (n=28).

### Do you live within 10 minutes walk of the Park? (Q12)

57% of participants live within 10 minutes walk of the Park.

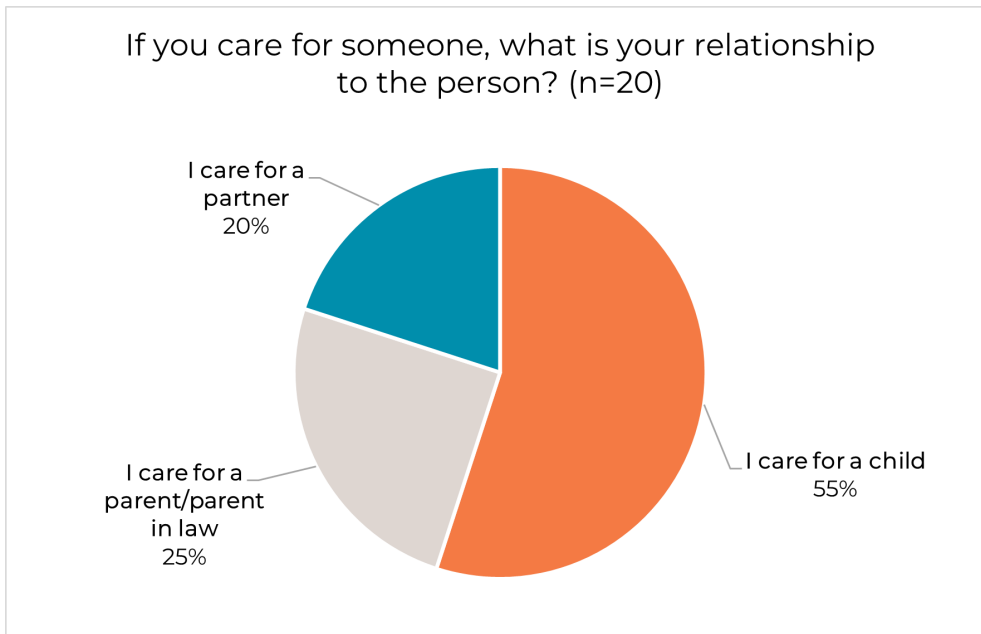
### Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? (Q16)

No participants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Two participants preferred not to answer this question.

### If you care for someone, what is your relationship to the person? (Q17)

43% of participants care for someone. Out of these participants, 55% care for a child, 25% care for a parent/parent in law and 20% care for a partner.

Over a third (37%) of all 30 participants cared for a child. Three participants also each care for a child, parent/parent in law and a partner.



## Do you speak a language other than English at home? Please specify (Q14 & Q15)

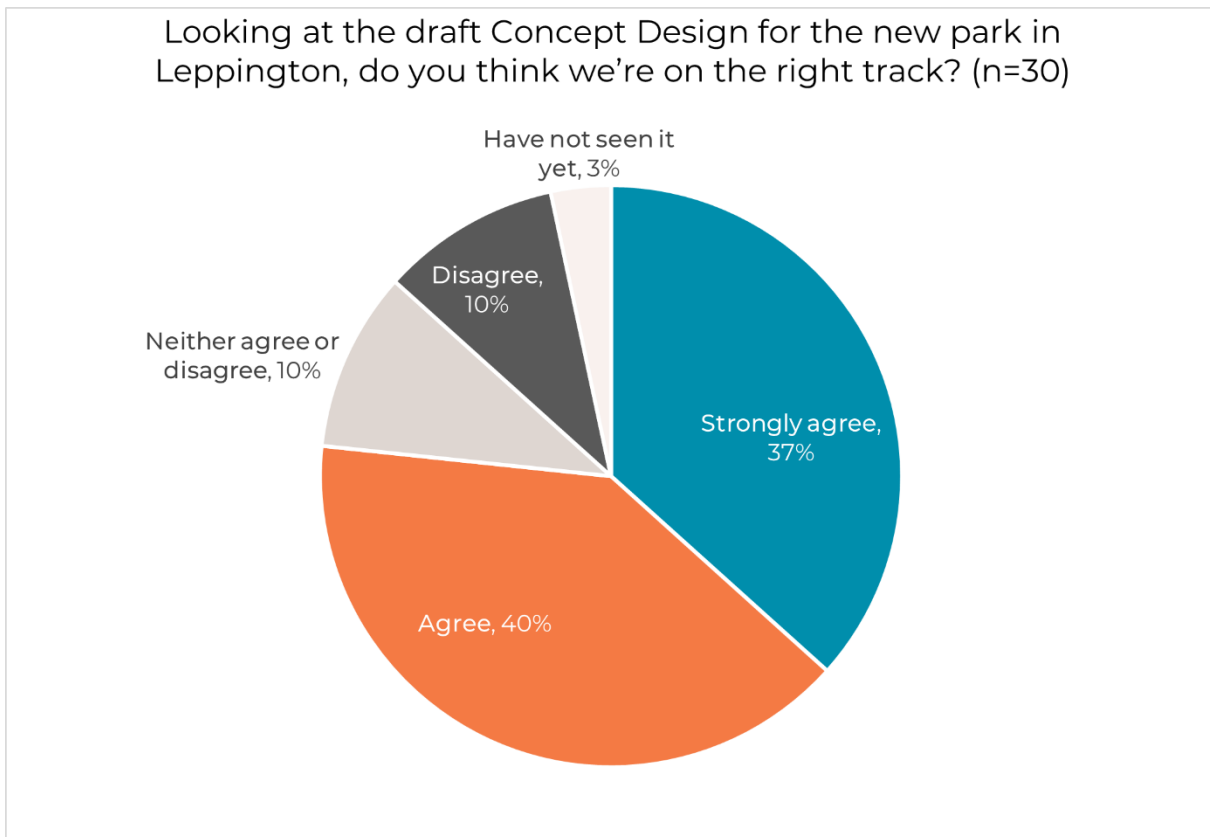
14 participants (47%) spoke a language other than English at home. In order of presence, these languages included Portuguese, Indonesian, Spanish, Arabic, French, Italian, Chinese, Thai, and Khmer.

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## Community aspirations

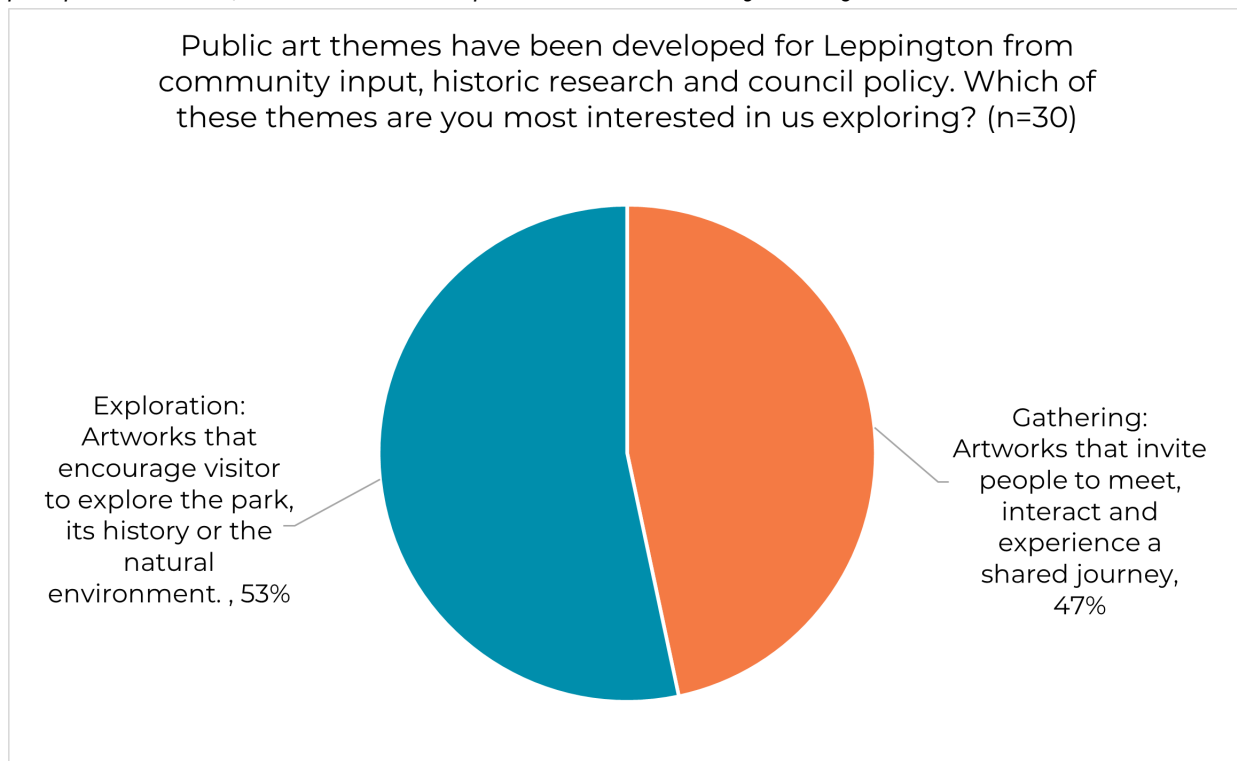
### Looking at the draft Concept Design for the new park in Leppington, do you think we're on the right track? (Q2)

23 participants (77%) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Three participants were undecided, and only three participants disagreed.



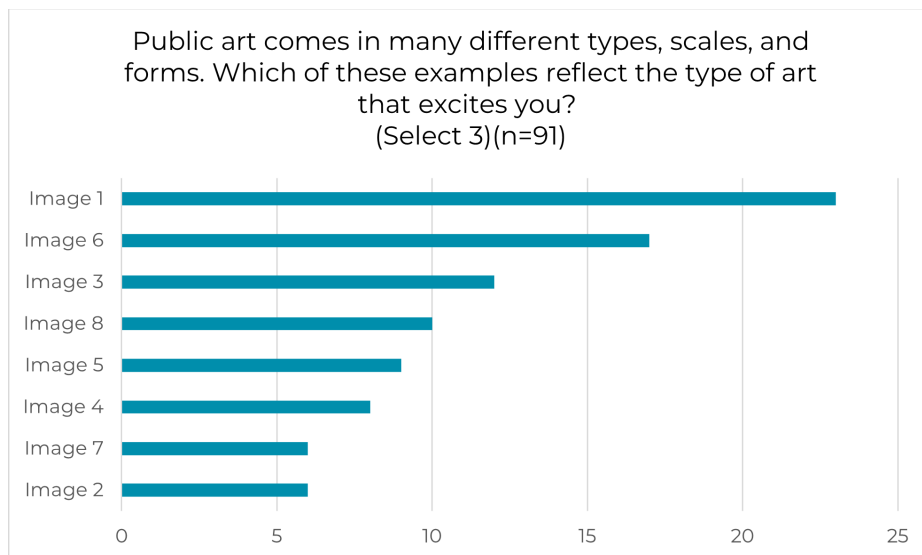
**Public art themes have been developed for Leppington from community input, historic research and council policy. Which of these themes are you most interested in us exploring? (Q5)**

Participants demonstrated a slight preference for public art that explored the theme of exploration. *Exploration: Artworks that encourage visitor to explore the park, its history or the natural environment* received 16 votes, whereas *Gathering: Artworks that invite people to meet, interact and experience a shared journey* received 14 votes.



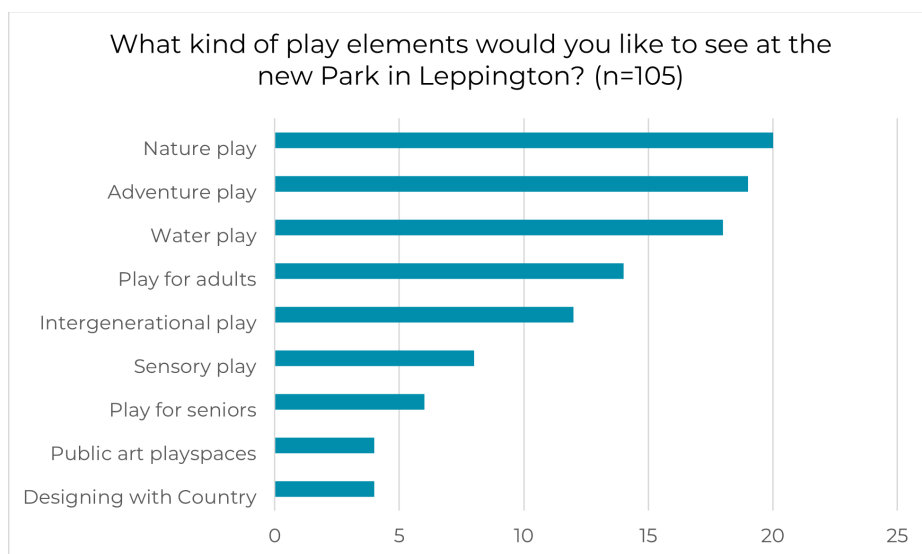
**Public art comes in many different types, scales, and forms. Which of these examples reflect the type of art that excites you? (Select 3) (Q7)**

Image 1 was the most popular selection among participants, followed by Image 6, receiving 40 votes together. Images 2 and 7 were the least popular images, receiving only 6 votes each.



**What kind of play elements would you like to see at the new Park in Leppington? (Q8)**

The majority of participants nominated *Nature play*, *Adventure play* and *Water play* as their preferred type of play element for the new Park, receiving a combined total of 57 votes. Public art play spaces and Designing with Country were the least popular selections, receiving 4 votes each.

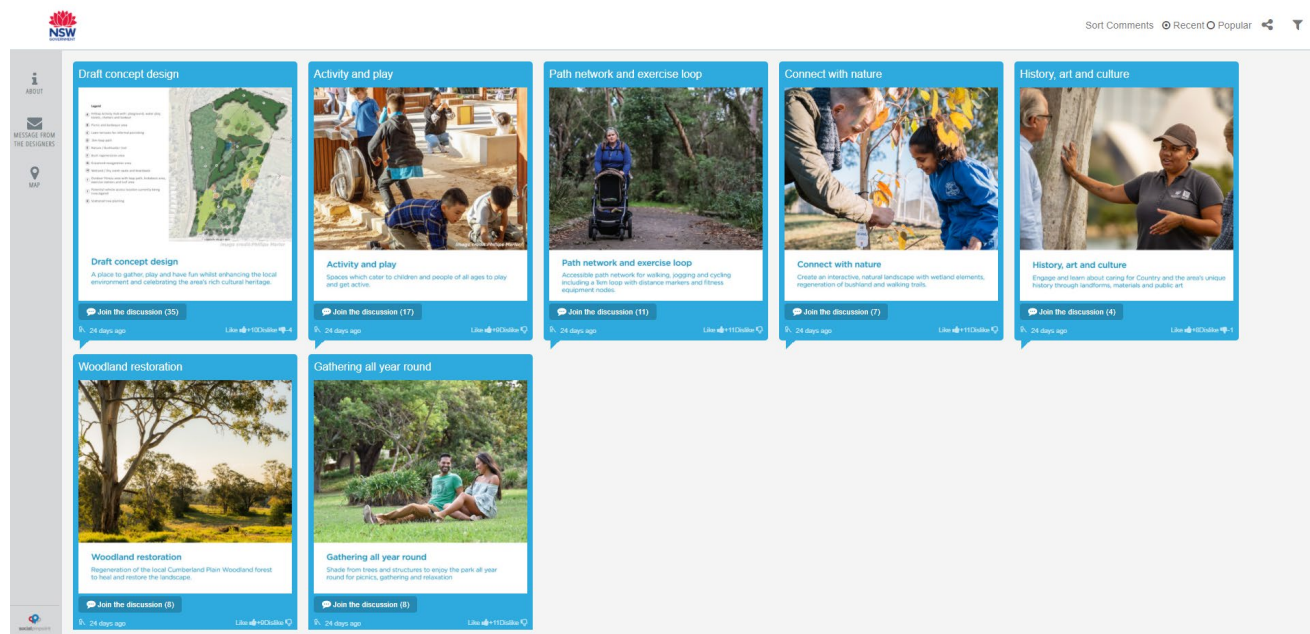


# Appendix B – Social Pinpoint Design Board Analysis

## Overview

A total of 90 responses were recorded on the Design Board:

- 35 (39%) 'Draft Concept Design' comments
- 17 (19%) 'Activity and play' comments
- 11 (12%) 'Path network and exercise loop' comments
- 8 (9%) 'Woodland restoration' comments'
- 8 (9%) 'Gathering all year round' comments
- 7 (8%) 'Connect with nature' comments
- 4 (4%) 'History, art and culture' comments



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## Overall sentiment

Community members were extremely passionate in their responses on the Design Board. The majority of comments had a neutral sentiment, though few were positive especially concerning the need for inclusive play areas.

The following word cloud was created using the most common phrases on the Design Board, to convey the community's feedback for the design of the new Park.



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# Appendix C – Community Submission

**Submission received Monday 15 March 20221**

Hi,

In the concept plan area “F” is designated as a “bush” regeneration area.

Having seen such an area in Wattle Grove Lakeside Park established and more or less abandoned to its own devices, I would strongly recommend against any “bush regeneration” area being established in any suburban parks.

Please retain the area as general parkland so that the parks’ crews can actually maintain the area in good order.

The area in Wattle Grove Lakeside Park is a “dead” zone to visitors, other than occasional the “nature call” visits by patrons and collector of wind blown and “tosser” discarded refuse.

After 15 years of self seeding, numerous Sydney gums keep sprouting and will form into a dense clump of trees in the years ahead, this will undoubtedly happen in the proposed “bush regeneration” zone in Leppington park and future parks also.

Eventually it will be a bush “Degeneration” area, as weeds move in and maintenance schedules fall by the wayside.

I speak from personal experience and observations.

# Appendix D – First Nations Consultation

## 'If we care for Country..., our Country will care for us'

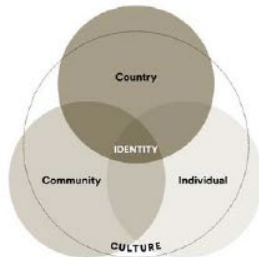
During facilitated workshops, with Aboriginal people from both Tharawal LALC area (Campbelltown & Liverpool LGA) and Gandangara LALC expressed a strong desire to reconnect to culture.

This reconnection was communicated primarily as opportunities to restore natural systems intrinsic to the Aboriginal world view of 'if we care for Country (our Earth Mother), Country will care for us.'



Opportunities to revegetate critically endangered, remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland communities was raised as a way to connect to Country and reconnect to culture whilst providing ongoing cultural experiences.

Regenerating the landscape will enable Aboriginal cultural practices to flourish and reconnecting Aboriginal people with Country.



Source: GANSW - Draft Connecting with Country 2019

## Ceremony and Dance

Aboriginal workshop participants expressed an ambition to have spaces that enable ceremonial, educational and celebrational occasion for environment, art, music and dance of cultural significance.



Corroboree (Source: Mildura Rural City Council 2021)  
<https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Latest-News/Corroboree-to-showcase-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-cultures>

## Fostering Cultural Awareness

Ongoing connection to the Park in revegetation, regeneration and land management activities will provide further opportunities for cross-cultural knowledge sharing and a sense of place.

These activities will further foster cultural awareness, educational opportunities and ongoing custodianship of the park and associated programs.



## Designing with Country and Healing the Land

Preferred Concept Design Presentation  
 New Park at Leppington - Parks for People Program

Date: 18.02.2021  
 Page: 8





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# Appendix E – Liverpool Champion Article

Source: <https://www.liverpoolchampion.com.au/story/7162284/have-your-say-on-incredible-public-space-at-leppington/>

MARCH 11 2021 - 8:58AM

## Have your say on 'incredible public space' at Leppington

Chris Boulous



An activity hub with a playground and water area, a one-kilometre loop path and a nature/bushtucker trail are all part of the draft concept design for the new Leppington Park which is now open for review and feedback.

The new park, to be located on Camden Valley Way, opposite the Forest Lawn Memorial Park, is part of the state government's Parks For People program to secure and improve open space across Sydney.

The draft design has been shaped by first round of community engagement in October 2020.

Camden MP Peter Sidgreaves said the draft concept design was now available on the department's social pinpoint digital engagement platform.

"The people of Leppington, Austral, Edmondson Park and surrounding suburbs will be the custodians and beneficiaries of this wonderful new park so they should be involved in its creation," Mr Sidgreaves said.

"It's now time to consider the draft concept design and allow people to have their say on potential design features for an incredible public space."

Construction on Leppington Park is expected to commence in late-2021 with work scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Have your say at: [dpie.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/leppington-park](https://dpie.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/leppington-park).  
Consultation is open until March 18.

# Appendix F – Liverpool City Council Social Media Post

**Liverpool City Council Australia**  
Published by Daniel Lavorato · March 10 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

Council is planning a new open space for Leppington, working with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Parks for People program.

Initial input from the community has helped shape a draft concept design which incorporates what the community told us about their needs and the ways they want to use the new park.

Discover what features are being planned for the new park from picnic areas to fitness trails and have your say on the latest draft concept desi... See More

**A new park is coming to Leppington!**  
Parks for People

DPIE.MYSOCIALPINPOINT.COM.AU  
**Leppington park page 1**  
The region's beautiful bushland is an important part of its local identity. It is ... [Learn More](#)

16,100 People Reached      3,107 Engagements      [Boost Again](#)

Boosted on March 11 at 7:56 PM      Finishes in 3 days  
By Daniel Lavorato

People Reached	3.3K	Link Clicks	129
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[View Results](#)

👍👎 66      18 Comments, 25 Shares

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