



Placemaking NSW

## **Ballast Point Park Management Plan**

Public Exhibition

### **Engagement Outcomes Report**

June 2025

## Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgement.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive summary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Engagement overview .....	4
Key insights.....	5
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
About Ballast Point Park.....	6
About the Project .....	7
About the draft Management Plan .....	8
<b>What we heard .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Summary of key findings.....	11
<b>Key themes.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>15</b>

Cover image credit: Brett Boardman | Ballast Point Park

---

## Acknowledgement

As Ballast Point Park, Tallawoladah (The Rocks), Barangaroo and Tumbalong (Darling Harbour) precincts' custodians, Placemaking NSW and the project team recognises that they stand on Aboriginal land, the area we know as Sydney.

We acknowledge Wan and Gadi Countries, their lands, seas and sky, we acknowledge custodians, their kin the Bidjigal, Cabrogal, and Cammeraygal who often visited this Country to connect and share. We offer our respect to their Elders both past and present.

---

# Executive summary

The draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan (draft Plan) was placed on public exhibition to invite community feedback on the future management and use of this significant and much-loved open space.

The community responded positively, with 92% of online form responses expressing support for the draft Plan.

This Engagement Outcomes Report (this Report) summarises the feedback received during the public exhibition period. It highlights the key themes raised by community members and reflects the overall support for the draft Plan, as well as suggestions for ongoing improvement.

---

## Engagement overview

The public exhibition of the draft Management Plan (draft Plan) was open for community feedback from 9 April to 25 May 2025.

In total, 52 participants contributed feedback through the community information session, online form and written submissions. Key themes included improving park amenity and infrastructure, integrating cultural and historical elements, protecting wildlife and ecology, and extending the dog off-leash area.



***“Love the balance between new dog off leash areas and lots of quiet, passive recreation areas. This park is a gem in our community.”*** – Online form response

***“Thank you for the time and energy put into community consultation and consideration of local residents needs along with those of visitors.”*** – Online form response



## Key insights

The online form asked participants if they supported or opposed the draft Plan, demonstrating strong endorsement. In total, 92% of responses support the draft Plan in its current form.

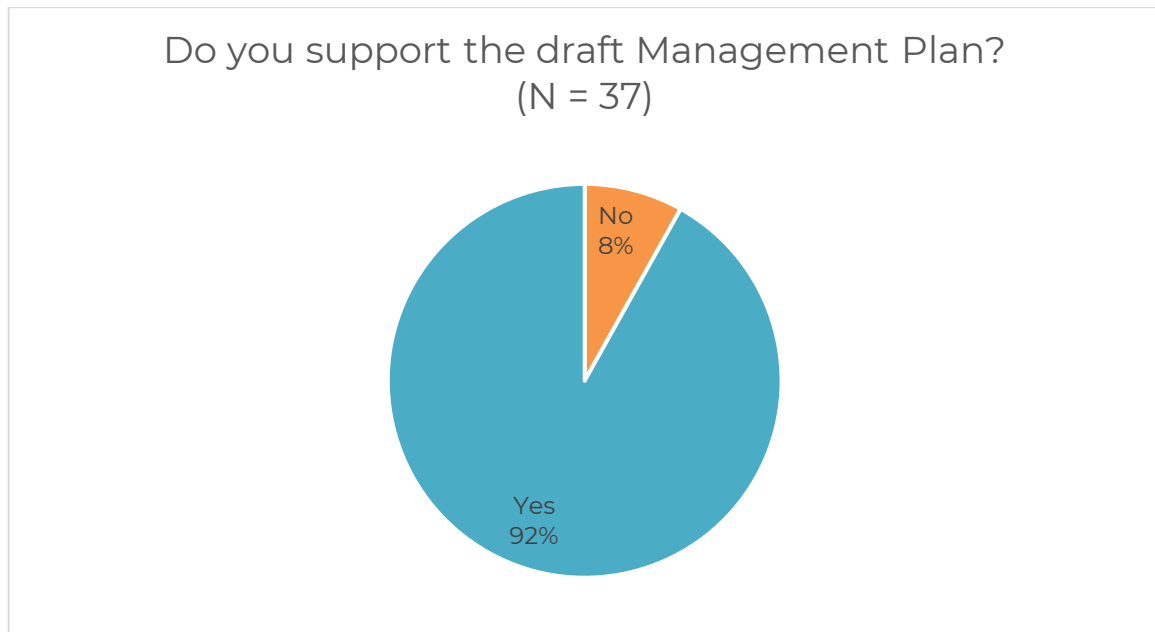


Figure 1: Online form responses to the question “Do you support the draft Management Plan?”

In addition to this positive support for the document, the community shared additional feedback that can be grouped into the following key themes:

- 1. Improving park amenity and infrastructure:** Common suggestions included improved accessibility, additional seating, and more sheltered areas to support diverse park uses in all weather conditions.
- 2. Integrating cultural and historical elements:** Desire to enhance and preserve historical elements, as well as further investigation of First Nations culture and how that's represented in the Park.
- 3. Protection of wildlife and ecology:** Many respondents voiced strong support for initiatives that improve habitats for flora and fauna, with concern about the impact of off-leash dog areas. Some participants requested that off-leash areas be fenced to support this.
- 4. Support for off-leash dog walking areas:** There was strong support for the off-leash dog walking area, with some participants suggesting its extension to other parts of the park, including the lower level and central stairs.

This report provides further detail on community feedback.

# Introduction

This Report details the community feedback collated from the public exhibition of the draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan.

## About Ballast Point Park

Ballast Point is on Wangal Country. Its unique setting holds layers of history and it is an important public space for the community of Balmain and the broader Sydney community.

The Park is a 2.6-hectare site with areas for picnicking and walking along the foreshore as well as spaces to enjoy the spectacular views and historic remains from when the area was originally one of Sydney's major oil distribution sites.



Image source: Placemaking NSW | Ballast Point Park Map

---

## About the Project

Placemaking NSW creates, manages, and cares for many of Sydney's unique iconic harbourside locations, including Ballast Point Park. Placemaking NSW engaged JOC Consulting to deliver community consultation services and a Management Plan that will support the ongoing operation, management, and improvement of the park.

The development of the Management Plan has presented an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the Park since opening in 2009 and identify what Placemaking NSW can do to strengthen what has become a much-loved place for many people.



### **Stage 1 consultation - COMPLETE**

In early 2024, Placemaking NSW invited the community to share their feedback to inform the draft Management Plan.



### **Review of feedback - COMPLETE**

Over 500 people shared feedback, ideas and values that resonated consistently and strongly throughout the consultation period.



### **Specialist studies - COMPLETE**

Specialist advice was sought in areas of urban ecology, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage to inform the Plan.



### **Preparation of the draft Plan - COMPLETE**

The draft Plan was prepared, considering community feedback and specialist studies.



### **Stage 2 consultation - COMPLETE**

Public exhibition to gather feedback on the draft Management Plan.



### **Review of feedback - CURRENT**

Feedback considered for incorporation into the final Plan.



### **Finalisation and adoption - UPCOMING**

Final Ballast Point Park Management Plan adopted by Placemaking NSW.



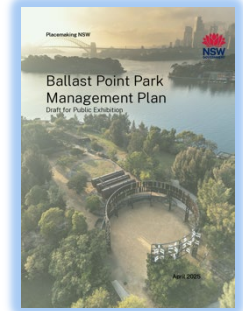
### **Adoption and delivery - UPCOMING**

Placemaking NSW to begin delivering the actions contained within the Plan once it is adopted.

Placemaking NSW is committed to continuous improvement and has listened to the many ideas shared by the community as well as research undertaken to inform the draft Management Plan.

## About the draft Management Plan

This page summarises the key content from the draft Plan that community provided feedback on as part of the consultation. The draft Plan establishes a vision, objectives and actions to ensure that Ballast Point Park continues to thrive for generations to come.



### Ballast Point Park Management Plan in summary

#### Vision

Ballast Point Park is Wangal Country, deeply connected to the Harbour and the rich layers of culture and heritage that define this unique place. It is a resilient park to be cared for and enjoyed by all.

#### Objective 1 Preserve and interpret cultural heritage values

##### Key actions

##### We will:

- Engage with Aboriginal and local communities to integrate cultural knowledge into park management and create meaningful opportunities for involvement and decision-making.
- Conduct heritage assessments to enhance existing interpretation to highlight Aboriginal, industrial and European history.
- Sensitively manage vegetation to celebrate and preserve the Park's unique heritage.

#### Objective 2 Encourage stewardship and ecological awareness

##### We will:

- Adopt a bushland regeneration approach that cares for Country to support wildlife and ecological health.
- Explore opportunities to enhance the connection to Mort Bay Park.
- Explore succession planting and replace trees nearing end-of-life with species that enhance the Park's natural landscape character.

#### Objective 3 Create a welcoming place for all

##### We will:

- Introduce improved arrangements for dog walking and new wildlife protection areas to support both dogs and biodiversity.
- We will provide more diverse seating options including picnic tables, drinking fountains, and bins, and review toilet operating hours.
- Ensure the Park remains a place for passive recreation.

#### Objective 4 Foster a sustainable and resilient future

##### We will:

- Upgrade lighting and explore opportunities to generate power on site to improve the Park's energy efficiency.
- Review waste management practises.
- Enhance access to information online and within the Park.
- Strengthen partnerships to enhance good governance.



## Strategic priorities

The draft Plan includes priorities that seek to:

- Embed cultural management strategies to care for Country
- Regenerate habitats and incorporate wildlife protection areas, infrastructure and habitat creation features
- Review and introduce native plant species better suited to the Park's ecology
- Define designated dog on-leash and off-leash areas and provide a shared off-leash foreshore path to better connect with Mort Bay Park, while protecting sensitive vegetation
- Improve accessibility and navigation within the Park
- Provide more diverse seating options and review other facilities and amenities within the Park
- Continue to maintain and interpret the Park's industrial and Indigenous history

The Park will continue to be used primarily for passive recreation purposes, but the draft Plan acknowledges the seasonal and temporary activations that also bring it to life on special occasions. The Plan does not propose major structural changes but provides a framework to guide future management and improvements.

More information about Ballast Point Park and the draft Plan can be found via: <https://www.darlingharbour.com/editorials/ballast-point-park>.



Image credit: Brett Boardman | Ballast Point Park



***“It is a good and fair plan. I agree with conservation, as long as those areas are fenced off properly.”*** – Online form response



***“Please preserve the history as many of the original structures are looking worn...”*** – Online form response

---

# What we heard

This chapter summarises the feedback received during the public exhibition of the draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan. It presents an overview of the key findings, themes, and community sentiment drawn from all engagement activities. The analysis reflects broad community support for the draft Plan, while also highlighting ideas for refinement and areas where participants offered suggestions or raised concerns.

---

## Summary of key findings

- 92% of online form responses support the draft Management Plan.
- 95% support the four objectives of the draft Management Plan. Comments relating to the objectives include:
  - Support for the objectives overall.
  - Requests to extend the dog off-leash area.
  - Suggestions to fence the conservation areas and dog off-leash areas to protect wildlife and biodiversity.
  - Calls for improved wheelchair and pram accessibility.
  - Requests for enhanced historical and cultural interpretation.
- 86% of online form responses expressed interest in changing or adding actions. While not all of these responses included a comment, many of the suggestions aimed to strengthen existing actions in the plan.
- Suggestions for changing or adding actions are discussed in more detail on the following pages and include:
  - Consider extending the off-leash dog walking area on the lower levels and up the centre stairs.
  - Add detail about how the new off-leash dog walking arrangement will be enforced, including consideration of signage.
  - Request for stronger commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.
  - Consider improved maintenance and waste management strategies, especially those that support community input.
  - Provide further details about implementing park furniture – such as BBQ areas, seating and shelter – without impacting existing green space or views.
  - Reconsider the effectiveness and role of CCTV cameras and lighting upgrades, particularly to avoid potential disturbance to nocturnal wildlife.
  - Add further detail about preserving and enhancing historical elements.



---

# Key themes

The table below outlines the key feedback raised during the consultation period, along with the response from Placemaking NSW.

Theme	Feedback
<b>Park amenity and infrastructure</b>  <u>Mentions = 21</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15 online form</li><li>6 email submissions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Desire for more seating, picnic tables, and shelter, designed to preserve green space and views.</li><li>Requests for improved accessibility features, including pram and wheelchair access.</li><li>Request for general maintenance, particularly at the park's upper level.</li><li>Suggestions to add water refill stations, bin bags, and fishing waste bins.</li><li>Request for additional signage to mark dog off-leash/on-leash areas and contaminates zones, and identify flora and fauna.</li><li>Interest in a coffee cart, nature-based play spaces, and initiatives that support community-led park upkeep.</li><li>Request for safe water access points.</li><li>One participant expressed opposition to a CCTV and children's playground.</li></ul>
<b>Integrating cultural and historical elements</b>  <u>Mentions = 17</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>13 online form</li><li>4 email submissions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support for strengthening the presence of First Nations culture in the park.</li><li>Request for existing interpretive features, such as the Menevia House remains, to be better maintained.</li><li>Desire to preserve and enhance existing historical interpretation using signage and digital tools such as QR codes with audio or video content to engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds.</li><li>Suggestion to liaise with local community groups, ecologists and historians to further investigate and interpret the park's cultural and ecological values.</li><li>Request for greater transparency around how cultural and historical themes are selected for interpretation.</li><li>Request for a Conservation Management Plan to be developed to respect the park's NSW Heritage Listing status.</li><li>Request for the original design principles to be integrated into the Plan and engagement with the Park's original landscape architects to continue.</li><li>Suggestion to update the Plan to reference State legislative protections as part of the Park's heritage listing.</li></ul>



Theme	Feedback
<b>Protection of wildlife and biodiversity</b>  <u>Mentions = 13</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 online form</li> <li>4 email submissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for improving and expanding natural habitats for flora and fauna, including wildlife protection areas, as outlined in the draft Plan.</li> <li>Concerns about off-leash dogs impacting ecology and wildlife, with calls to install fencing around off-leash areas and introduce timed arrangements.</li> <li>Desire for enhanced management of existing plants and trees, in particular management of Casuarinas, non-native species, and trees reaching end-of-life.</li> <li>Suggestion to install environmentally sensitive seawalls to support marine ecosystems.</li> <li>Suggestion to provide water bowls for wildlife and domestic animals.</li> <li>Concerns about the risks fishing waste, particularly discarded hooks, pose to wildlife and dogs</li> <li>Support for wetlands to encourage frog habitats, with concern about effectiveness due to street cats and lack of water source.</li> <li>Suggestion to relocate flying fox boxes further east to minimise impacts on nearby residents.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for the dog off-leash area</b>  <u>Mentions = 12</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 online form</li> <li>1 email submissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments overwhelmingly supported the addition of a designated dog off-leash area, recognising it as a way to balance the needs of various park users.</li> <li>A small number of respondents expressed concern about potential ecological impacts of off-leash areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Extending off-leash dog areas</b>  <u>Mentions = 11</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 online form</li> <li>0 email submissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong interest in extending the off-leash dog area.</li> <li>Suggested locations included the lower level, central steps, and a continuous loop connecting Mort Bay Park to Birchgrove Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Enforcement of dog off-leash areas</b>  <u>Mentions = 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 online form</li> <li>1 email submissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments highlighted the importance of enforcing new dog walking arrangements.</li> <li>Requests for clear signage and information to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners.</li> <li>Suggestion to restrict off-leash access to daylight hours only.</li> <li>Suggestion to fence the perimeter of any dog off-leash area.</li> </ul>
<b>Operational and governance matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest from the community in future involvement through citizen science programs and advisory committees.</li> <li>Concern about bin collection noise occurring between midnight and dawn, with a request to revise the timing to minimise disturbance to nearby residents.</li> <li>Suggestions to undertake a wildlife audit, including data on species like ringtail possums and local bird populations.</li> <li>Interest in improving signage, including offers from community members to assist in content development and design.</li> </ul>

Theme	Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion to establish a Ballast Point Park Community Advisory Group with regular meetings on park use, operations and compliance.</li> <li>• Request to update the Park's address in the Plan and online as the address currently used, 4 Ballast Point Road, is a private residence.</li> <li>• Questions raised regarding the timing, resourcing and budget for delivery of the Plan.</li> <li>• Suggestion to consult with landscape architects to inform the Plan, ongoing management and future planning of Ballast Point Park.</li> <li>• Support for collaboration between Inner West Council and Placemaking NSW, particularly regarding desired biodiversity outcomes.</li> </ul>

*N.B. Mentions per theme have been tallied across engagement activities. Some feedback relates to matters already addressed in the draft Plan; however, these comments have been included to acknowledge community sentiment and represent total feedback. Where a single comment referenced the same theme multiple times, it has been counted as one mention to avoid duplication. Comments from the community information session have not been tallied, as this was an open discussion, but the key themes are included above.*



Image credit: JOC Consulting | Ballast Point Park Community Information Session

---

## Conclusion

The engagement process for the draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan demonstrated strong community support for the vision, objectives and actions outlined in the Plan. Feedback received was constructive, thoughtful and grounded in a shared appreciation for the park's unique character, environmental values and cultural significance.

Placemaking NSW will consider all feedback received during the exhibition period when finalising the Plan. This includes community suggestions to enhance amenity, improve accessibility, protect biodiversity and ensure inclusive use of the park.

All engagement participants will be notified once the final Management Plan is adopted. While some actions are already underway, Placemaking NSW will continue delivering the remaining actions outlined in the Plan. Early initiatives include the installation of a new bin, extended toilet hours, and appointment of a new landscape contractor, which have already received positive feedback from the community. Following adoption, Placemaking NSW will work in partnership with stakeholders and the local community to support the ongoing care and stewardship of Ballast Point Park.



Image credit: Brett Boardman

# APPENDIX A: COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Date	Item	Description	Participants / reach
9 April – 26 May 2025	Project webpage	A dedicated webpage to inform the community about the project and encourage participation in engagement activities.	840
7 May 2025	Community information session	Sessions to report back to the community on how their feedback shaped the Ballast Point Park Management Plan and invite them to provide further input.	8
9 April – 26 May 2025	Online form responses	Online form where community members provided their feedback by sharing their views, ideas, and concerns about the draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan.	37
9 April – 26 May 2025	Written submissions via email	Community members submitted detailed feedback or formal comments by sending written submissions directly via email, offering more in-depth input on the draft plan.	7



---

# APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

---

## Details

**Date:** 7 May 2025, 6pm-7pm.

**Location:** Hannaford Community Centre, 608 Darling Street, Rozelle

**Purpose:** To invite community and present the draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan currently on public exhibition

**Objectives:**

- Report back to the community about how their feedback was considered in the Ballast Point Park Management Plan
- Inform community about the key engagement findings and core pillars of the Management Plan
- Encourage community to provide feedback on the Management Plan via the online survey or making a submission

**Participants:** 8 community members

---

## Notes

**Overall Document feedback**

- Positive feedback on draft document content and finding balance between interest groups
- Readability and accessibility of document
- Appreciation of PMNSW work and commitment to the park
- Interest from community to be involved with future delivery and management (i.e. Citizen Science)
- Review of where 'protecting views' is mentioned in the document and potential interpretation by neighbours to 'cut down trees'
- Review of drey locations and potential impact on neighbouring residential properties
- Interest in a wildlife audit - data, numbers and trends of wildlife species
- Clarification on timeframes for implementation

**Select quotes**

- *"I'd like to commend everyone involved with the Plan. It's clear there has been an attempt to balance the different interests, wildlife, dogs, history"*
- *"It's a very easy document to read"*
- *"It's a world-class park in its variety, there's something for everyone. This plan, is a 10yr plan, and it's trying to catchup on the bits that are worn out, it's not a radical departure from the original vision"*
- *"During COVID, my belief is that the park saved lives. Everyone was using it. There were so many picnics. It was beautiful"*
- *"There's a conflict with the possums' KPIs and the cleaner's KPIs."*
- *"Garbage removal deserves a gold star, the commitment of the new team is obvious"*

## **Issues raised**

Where dogs were discussed:

- Off leash dogs are seen as having a negative impact on wildlife, leading to decline of bird, brush turkey, blue tongue and lizard population.
- Community raised concerns about how off leash dog activity will be managed.
- Fishers and other users of the park have previously responded to dogs off leash in their vicinity.

Where wildlife was discussed:

- Participants were interested in information of animal populations, including ringtail possums, bird species and population trends.
- Observed increase in cockatoo population
- Concerns for welfare of possums, largely due to cleaners removing nests from shade canopy.
- It was noted that animals are entering the park, then being disturbed by human activity causing them to leave.
- The dry environment of the park was discussed, with lack of moisture as a deterrent for frog populations.
- Participants suggested to install more water bowls, serving wildlife as well as dogs.

Where trees and shade were mentioned:

- Participants noted residents of Mort Bay Park have expressed preference to remove trees to preserve water views.
- Participants queried whether future shade canopies would provide rain protection.
- Participants noted shade canopies are currently used by ringtail possums, with concerns about routine cleaning disturbing the nesting.

## **Additional ideas and community involvement**

- Proposal to install signage displaying the park's history, including the origin of the name "Ballast".
- Prompted discussion on signage regarding the sandstone's history, and utilising QR codes to provide additional information.
- Potential involvement by community members to improve signage and establish an informal group to advise on new signs
- Potential involvement by community members in citizen science programs
- Potential walk on site with PMNSW and community members to identify new bin locations and other amenity improvements

## **Other matters**

- Participants asked for clarification on implementation timeframes, particularly whether dates refer to calendar or financial year.
- Positive feedback regarding extended toilet operation hours, notably used by fishers and joggers.
- Increased rubbish removal had positive feedback, and queries about whether more would be implemented.

## APPENDIX C: ONLINE FORM RESPONSES

Do you support the draft Ballast Point Park Management Plan?	Comments
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	Excellent work!
Yes	NA
Yes	Love the balance between new dog off leash areas and lots of quiet, passive recreation areas. This park is a gem in our community.
Yes	NA
Yes	I do support it, it addresses a difficult ongoing issue for local residents, which is the dog access question. We have really had an uncomfortable time with rangers regarding off/on leash areas - if you look on the records, you will see we have been subjected to numerous 'trials' of off-and on-leash at Ballast Point. We're either in trouble, or fine, we never know.
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	It's great to see the extension of the off-leash area from mort bay. Please preserve the history as many of the original structures are looking worn and it's a great plan to take the kids to learn about the area's manufacturing history.
Yes	The draft plan strikes a good balance.
Yes	The draft plan strikes an appropriate balance. I strongly support the designated off leash areas for dogs.
Yes	A good balance for the community as a whole. However, as a dog owner I'd prefer the entire lower level off leash
Yes	NA
Yes	I would like to see the off-leash dog area extended from the current proposal to allow dogs to be walked along the path, either up the steps or up the ramp, through the centre of the park, and out the main gates, or out the gates next to the toilets. This proposed path is away from your identified native animal areas.
Yes	NA
Yes	NA

Yes	NA
Yes	Strongly support the enhancement of indigenous sites and wildlife preservation. Also, the increase in seating and picnic tables. Although not opposed to the increase of off-lease dog walking area, if this impacts on the wildlife preservation, the latter should be prioritised as plenty of space in mort bay to walk off leash
Yes	The additional off leash dog sections are fantastic. But would be great if it could extend up the stairs and out the main gate.
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	<p>The stand-out quality of Ballast Point Park is its rugged beauty. It has a good balance of park amenities with beautiful rustic natural spaces. It has retained a smattering of interesting architectural structures linked to its past, with natural flora weaving around these structures. It is a beautiful space - therefore needs no major changes.</p> <p>Overall "yes", I support the management plan, however some elements are unclear, therefore "no" to some.</p> <p>"Yes": improving the natural habitats for flora &amp; flora</p> <p>"Unknown / No": more diverse seating options (if it displaces the existing green spaces with concrete or man-made structures impeding on this green space).</p> <p>"Unknown / No": If the following leads to any major changes to the park: "integrate cultural knowledge into park management and create meaningful opportunities for involvement and decision making."</p>
Yes	<p>The draft Ballast Point Management Plan acknowledges the need to incorporate engagement with Aboriginal cultural heritage and communities. This is essential and something that was missing from the original plan which strongly emphasised the industrial and European heritage.</p> <p>The draft plan also places enhanced focus on the ecological stewardship required to return the sit to being more of a green headland and home to a diverse eco-system that has regard to plants, animals, and cultural heritage.</p> <p>The proposal to have off-leash and on-leash dog walking areas strikes an appropriate balance and recognises the evolving use of the Park by the local community.</p> <p>The simple act of introducing a bin near the popular fishing area on the lower level of the park has dramatically reduced the incidence of rubbish in the area. It has also reduced the risk of harm to native and domesticated animals from discarded fishhooks and fishing lines. A great example of cooperation between the Inner West Council and Placemaking NSW.</p>



	I support the earlier and later opening of toilets on the lower level to ensure fishing people have a public convenience to use."
Yes	<p>I note that Ballast Point Park is managed by NSW Gov agency so a Park for Sydney Metro access and use. It also comes under the umbrella of Darling Harbour precinct.</p> <p>With this level of state- and city-wide open space planning recognition, and its primary location along Sydney Harbour this Management Plan is not only necessary but a priority for the people of NSW and Sydney.</p>
Yes	NA
Yes	<p>I think it is very fair in taking into consideration and providing for the needs of all park users. It proposes a pleasant balance of dog off leash areas, while still providing ample space for families to picnic away from dog designated areas. I see this plan as utilising existing structural features of the park such as retaining walls and stairs to clearly and physically establish the boundaries of the off-leash area.</p> <p>I also value the priority to acknowledge the traditional owners and build on the connections to Country.</p>
Yes	NA
Yes	<p>I support the Plan. I have a couple of concerns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. how long this whole process is taking. Surely the short-term actions can be commenced immediately, like the announcement of the extension of the off-leash dog area along to the point, or the need for more seating, bins, water.</li> <li>2. the non-specific "utopia speak" language, like saying an objective is to "explore" something. This is not a statement of commitment to outcomes.</li> </ol>
Yes	The arrangements that include off leash areas for dogs seems good.
Yes	in principle, yes
No	Myself and large group of friends (there's over 30 of us) use the gravel pitch to play Finska every month. We absolutely rely on this large, open gravel space as there is no other area like this in the Inner West. Finska is a growing sport and relies on open gravel pitches to be played!
No	There is too much emphasis on aboriginal matters. The site has been so extensively modified over the last 250 years that there is no remnant evidence of aboriginal presence. Focus of the history since white settlement which can be verified
No	I do not support the free running of dogs off-leash without any containment fencing as proposed in the Ballast Point Management Plan. It is an irresponsible proposal and denies and limits Families, Wildlife and Flora access to the Park.

Do you support the four objectives	Comments
------------------------------------	----------

outlined in the draft Plan?	
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	You had me at “off-leash foreshore”!
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	It is a good and fair plan. I agree with conservation, as long as those areas are fenced off properly. Locals are dog loving people and we have well behaved dogs. The big issue is the influx of casual fishing here - we get fishhooks in our shoes daily. If the council is OK with children and families getting injured by fishhooks, so be it. But the fishermen leave hooks, line and bait here and someone is going to sue eventually.
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	Yes. It is good to have the off leash for dog walking official. It has been unofficial for awhile.
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	I strongly support the four objectives outlined in the draft Plan.
Yes	Objective 3 commits to being “welcoming to all” while the draft plan suggests that due to the parks remoteness and difficulty in accessing it is predominantly used as a local park by local users walking their dogs. This seems strategically contradictory.
Yes	In addition to the proposed improvements, there needs to be better access to each of the various levels within the old oil tank areas for prams, wheelchairs and bikes. The only access for these is via Yeend St which means that the main points of interest are missed for those with prams, wheelchairs etc because the stairs are the only way to move from level to level. By installing ramps in

	addition to the current stairs or replacing stairs with ramps would overcome the current access problems
Yes	<p>The display for the old house that once stood on the point and is supposed to show artefacts recovered has nothing in it at all. Where did they go to?</p> <p>The narrative explaining the history of the house uses writing that is far too small. Please rework the display and use larger writing</p>
Yes	<p>Yes, I do support the 4 x Objectives</p> <p>The Proposed Management Plan Contradicts Several of the Key Objectives. e.g. How can you have dogs off-leash and create a sustainable place for Wildlife? The proposed wildlife Zones are tiny. What ecological expert provided that advice?</p>
Yes	<p>The four objectives have clear intention and are able to be implemented in a complementary fashion. I see it to meet the needs of all park users in a fair manner, while respecting the wildlife.</p> <p>I would like to see a stronger link to First Nations culture in the park, whether through interactive displays or words from the traditional owners in Dharug language featured throughout the park so they may continue to be spoken on Country.</p>
Yes	NA
Yes	<p>Although the issues emphasised in the community consultation process (see the JOC Consulting Report) are not reflected with the same emphasis in the draft Plan objectives.</p> <p>For example,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 61% of park users live within 1 km of the Park, and they clearly strongly support the existing recreational, social, outdoor and health usages for the community, (particularly exercise, dog walking, sightseeing) as well as the deep environmental, heritage and industrial elements.</li> <li>2. On the other hand, the first 2 Plan objectives emphasise searching for possible Aboriginal uses and involving indigenous communities in decision making. Where did this come from? Exploring the history and connection is very appropriate, but assuming it exists waiting to be found is cart before horse.</li> <li>3. the whole site was scoured by Caltex to build its tank farm, then bedrock removed by SHFA to clean up the fuel contamination. Regeneration of the environment on the Point is necessary, but is it appropriate to introduce species that never existed there before? There was (and is) no natural fresh water source on the point.</li> </ol>
Yes	<p>The cultural issues like engaging with traditional owners was not emphasised at the 2 meetings I attended. I think this should have been discussed more in order to explain what was being proposed - mostly the park is used by locals 4-5 times a week with dog owners being the most regular users.</p> <p>It would be good to hear more about the historical research and evidence of aboriginal history in the area. One assumes, of course,</p>

	all harbour foreshores were inhabited by aboriginal groups. What makes Ballast Park unique? More discussion and explication would be good. What sort of money is allocated to the different priorities?
Yes	yes, but the weight towards creating biodiversity/ nature needs to be balanced with human needs/ dog needs etc. This is not a National Park. it is an Inner City park, in the most amazing site with fantastic views and presence.
No	Objective 3 is ambiguous: ""Introduce improved arrangements for dog walking"" as is the comment in Figure 26 ""A balanced approach"". Both of these are non-specific and subjective and need to specify exactly what this involves. The report also states ""There is very strong community demand to extend the existing off-leash arrangements from Mort Bay Park into Ballast Point Park."" Given these comments, my interpretation of improved arrangements means increased off-leash areas, including that of Ballast Point (where everyone has their dogs off leash anyway despite the on-leash rules as common sense prevails).
No	Objective 1: Unknown / No Objective 2: Yes Objective 3: Yes to dog walking, Unknown / No to more installed seating areas Objective 4: Yes solar panels, No: windmill, Unknown / No: don't replace lighting if power replacement is costly or uses uncomfortable cool-white lighting (don't fix & replace what is not broken). No: CCTV - we don't want to feel like we're in communist China. No: additional children playground (the one in Mort Bay is close & sufficient). Natural space is a premium & does not need to be contrived into a natural play area.

Are there any actions you would like to change or add?	Comments
Yes	It will be important to enforce the new dog walking rules to ensure on leash areas are respected. My dog has been seriously frightened by aggressive off leash dogs in the past.
Yes	Leash-free weekdays (partial)
Yes	Maybe some rakes & bin bags for us all to help collect tideline garbage.
Yes	Signs that were posted requiring people to control the barking of their dogs is a waste of money. People who don't like dogs barking in a park should not live near a park.
Yes	NA
Yes	Create fishing zones away from the off-leash areas
Yes	Please install BBQ and tables and seating in the expansive flat grassed area in the North East part of the site at some distance from the busy pathway.
Yes	NA



Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	More shelters for sun and rain
Yes	I would like the plan to be more ambitious and continue the off-leash walking pathway either up the ramp or up the stairs, and then on the path out the main gate, or the gate near the toilets. This proposed extension of the off-leash walking pathway would increase the amenity in the park for dog owners, and would also achieve the native wildlife objectives. Please think big when it comes to off lead spaces.
Yes	Off leash area to be extended up the stairs and through to main exit gates.
Yes	NA
Yes	The dog off leash area should be extended up the stairs and on the pathway out the main gates.
Yes	Yes - we need some dog off leash areas. The lower level would be idea.
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	NA
Yes	as above - the no dog section near the tip is not workable - needs to be a dog off leash corridor from Mort Park towards Birchgrove Park
Yes	<p>Ballast Point is a beautiful park: a perfect balance of amenities, rugged nature, beautiful views &amp; connection to history. Please do not change it. Beautiful rock structures, trees &amp; rugged soil terrain, a flat expanse of sand (great for boules). Its wide array of eclectic characteristics makes it a beautiful natural, rugged &amp; interesting space.</p> <p>Based on the draft &amp; to summarize my above feedback:  Fully support  - improved flora &amp; fauna habitat  - dog-walking plans</p> <p>Actions to change or consider in the draft:  - Aboriginal and local communities: so long as there are no major changes to the park as it stands. Happy to incorporate history, but would have to be with a very light touch  - added seating: do not encroach on any existing green or natural space. Natural &amp; green space is precious. Only upgrade existing seating areas, with a minimalist touch (not contrived structures that take away green space or concrete structures that take away sun)  - upgrade lighting: only if necessary. The lighting as-is is fine - it is not too bright, a warm white. It is magical at night, to walk among the nocturnal creatures under the existing lighting. Modern lighting is often too bright, both for these creatures &amp; also for the feeling of the place. Sometimes sustainably marketed lighting might have an overall bigger CO2 footprint in replacing things</p>

	that don't need replacing, while not being as long-lasting. Perhaps lighting changes could be deferred to a later time - CCTV cameras: Don't do this, it would not be nice. There are no crime issues at Ballast Point Park, no need to install cameras. If anything, install one at the basketball court or community garden in Mort Bay where there have been reported incidents. As things stand, Ballast Point feels like a mini reserve, peaceful & at one with nature. Please keep it this way.
Yes	I think there should be some creative signage /public art to designate off-leash and on-leash areas in the Park. By way of example, this could take the form of solar-powered traffic lights featuring illuminated dogs (red and green) designating these different areas, or some other very visible (but playful) sculptural equivalent.
Yes	1. The Plan make a more strategic commitment to inclusiveness as well as DDA mandatory requirements. It does this through direct references to Placemaking NSW's strategic documents and the Inner West Councils DIAP's goals and objectives to deliver open space with best practice disability access and inclusiveness. 2. Review objectives under Goal 3 to be more specific on how "everyone" gets there, plays, stays and connects. 3. The Plan would benefit from undertaking a Great Public Spaces assessment and analysis as developed by NSW Movement and Place Division to support item 2 above. This would be another Appendix in the Management Plan.
Yes	The recent history information and artefacts Menevia needs work. There are no artefacts inside the glass display that proports to showcase the historic house that used to be on the point. This important part of the point's history needs to be highlighted. Also, the writing is too small. When the display is reworked, the wording needs to be larger
Yes	There needs to be better access for prams and wheelchairs. There are too many stairs to access the water. What consideration was given in the past to those with disabled people and parents with prams. It appears no consideration was given to them. There are no ramps, only stairs. Ramps that connect the various levels would solve this problem
Yes	This is not a question of favouring one group over another, but rather a recognition of the Park's primary role as a public ecological space, not a dog run. We must be wise and measured in our priorities.  ANY Off-Leash Dog area, such as the proposed Sea Wall Walkway on Lower Eastern Side must be fenced - use the same fencing that is already there - Black Painted Steel Balustrade and Gates must be installed at the point to keep Off-Leash Dogs out of the Rest of the Park.
Yes	I wish to see the artefacts originally housed in the Minevia House displays returned for locals and visitors to enjoy. These have been removed for a significant amount of time, leaving the place looking incomplete.

	I would like to see a stronger link to First Nations culture in the park, whether through interactive displays or words from the traditional owners in Dharug language featured throughout the park so they may continue to be spoken on Country.
Yes	see above comments,
Yes	See above
	<p>I think being an inner city park, with more dogs in Balmain than children, there needs to be a careful and realistic balance between biodiversity goals and day to day inner city living. I support the addition of an "off lead" area on the base area of the park, but believe this could be extended around to the narrow gravel path on the west, to the stairs and into the "circles" area.. from there dogs could be on lead. This concept would provide a "loop" for dog owners and would not places undue stress on any biodiversity planting areas in my opinion--it needs careful assessment of options--- so please assess it as an option to further explore. The "circles" area lends itself to a fenced dog area as well- with the narrow slot between the two concrete wall pieces and a relatively narrow area to fence at the other end. This would also keep the dogs IN.</p> <p>2. Opportunity to introduce an area for a future cafe/ or coffee cart- we have harbour views/ presence. but few areas in Sydney where you can enjoy it in an informal way with a cup of coffee or other. A meeting place. is needed:) but one that isn't bring your own picnic. People can live in harmony with nature :). Having more people there would also increase any safety concerns but it needs to be low key.</p> <p>3. FISHING- problem with hooks, bait, rubbish being left around. seems to be getting a bit better though. 4.Upper BBQ area near toilet block. consider removing the top of that mound and reshaping the grassed area to reduce the steepness of the access desire line (through the middle to the toilet block). It has been an ongoing issue.</p> <p>5. Provide rain proof canopy to the areas with the current ribbing that has had its time.</p> <p>6. Liaise with IWC to get them onboard in relation to biodiversity plantings:).</p> <p>7. consider removing more Casuarinas-- they block views and restrict planting underneath. Eucalypts etc much better.</p> <p>8. there is opportunity to try to improve the edge of the walls with environmentally friendly sea walls, but I understand this would be long term."</p>
No	Thank you for the time and energy put into community consultation and consideration of local residents needs along with those of visitors.
No	NA
No	NA
No	NA
No	NA

# APPENDIX D: WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS VIA EMAIL

Theme	Summary of feedback
Improvements to park amenity and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests for additional shelters that protect from the sun and the rain, without blocking views.</li> <li>• Requests to update the roofing and flooring materials of the toilet blocks to improve access and durability.</li> <li>• Suggestions for additional picnic tables, seating and BBQ areas.</li> <li>• Requests for drinking fountains for both people and wildlife.</li> <li>• Suggestions to improve lighting and add more bins.</li> <li>• Requests for clear signage and improved wayfinding.</li> <li>• Requests for better barriers and safety measures to prevent accidents near the water's edge.</li> <li>• Calls to install signage and fencing around contaminated areas, such as the sandstone ponds.</li> <li>• Request to install benches for people fishing near the water's edge.</li> </ul>
Integrating cultural and historical elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for enhanced interpretation and storyboarding of First Nations, industrial, and maritime history.</li> <li>• Calls to restore and revitalise existing historical elements, such as the Menevia Wall.</li> <li>• Recommendations to engage local historians and community members in shaping cultural and historical storytelling.</li> <li>• Suggestions to expand interpretation through signage and digital tools like QR codes.</li> <li>• Request for a Conservation Management Plan to be developed to support the Park's heritage listing status.</li> <li>• Suggestion to update the Plan to reflect State legislative protections of the Park's heritage listing.</li> </ul>
Protection of wildlife and ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns around the potential impacts of off-leash dogs on wildlife and ecology.</li> <li>• Calls for designated wildlife zones to be strengthened and physically protected with fencing.</li> <li>• Suggestions to engage ecological and bushland experts to guide vegetation management, focusing on planting native species and controlling invasives.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about introducing frogs due to a lack of suitable water sources and risks from predators.</li> <li>Concern about the proximity of possums and flying foxes close to the boundary, with requests to move boxes further to the east of the Park.</li> </ul>
Dog off-leash areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about the impacts of off-leash dogs on families having picnics and people fishing.</li> <li>Suggestions for clear and visible signage to encourage responsible dog walking behaviour.</li> <li>Suggestions for permanent fencing around the off-leash zones to prevent dogs from entering ecologically sensitive areas.</li> <li>Suggestions for limiting off-leash access to certain times (such as daylight hours only) and increasing ranger patrols, surveillance, and fines to encourage compliance.</li> </ul>
Operational and governance matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request to establish a formal community advisory group to provide ongoing input and feedback on park management, operations, and compliance issues.</li> <li>Request to update the address for Ballast Point Park in the document – remove reference to 4 Ballast Point Road as this is a residential address.</li> <li>Calls for the Plan to include detail around timing, budget and allocated resources for actions.</li> <li>Concern about waste collection occurring late at night and in the early morning, disturbing local residents.</li> </ul>