

Engagement Summary

Feedback on Cosmos Park Upgrade,
Banksia Beach

October 2023





Acknowledgement

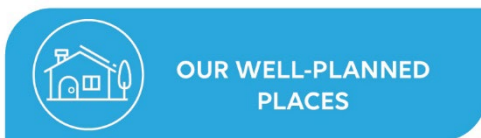
We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Turrbal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways of the Moreton Bay region, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise that the Moreton Bay region has always been a place of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance to First Nations people.

We are committed to working in partnership with Traditional Custodians and other First Nations communities to shape a shared future that celebrates First Nations history and culture as an irreplaceable foundation of our region's collective identity.

Alignment with our roadmap

The Cosmos Park Upgrade, Banksia Beach project is helping to achieve the outcomes of our Corporate Plan 2022–2027 and realise our vision: **Our Moreton Bay. Amazing places. Natural spaces.**

The strategic pillar this project specifically relates to is:



By 2033, our Moreton Bay will be a network of well-planned and connected places and spaces, enhancing lifestyle, accessibility and employment choices.

Read more about Council's Corporate Plan and the pillars that underpin it at moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Reports-Policies/Corporate-Plan

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Enriching a community-focused, coastal park

Creating vibrant and healthy communities is a priority for Council. We are planning to transform Cosmos Park, Banksia Beach into a District Recreation Park that caters for a variety of users, now and into the future.

Cosmos Park is approximately 7,500m² and is an important part of the Banksia Beach community. The park is home to the Bribie Island Croquet Club and Tennis Club and adjoins the Solander Lake Bowls Club. The park currently offers a range of recreation activities and includes a Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) and a large kickabout space.

The size, location and uniqueness of Cosmos Park make it a key recreational site for the community. When the planned upgrades are completed, it will be the first park of District Recreation standard on Bribie Island.

Council prepared a Concept Plan to guide the future development of Cosmos Park. The plan seeks to ensure the park is inclusive for all community members.

Between 9 August and 6 September 2023, we invited community feedback on the overall Draft Concept Plan and the types of play equipment for the new playground.

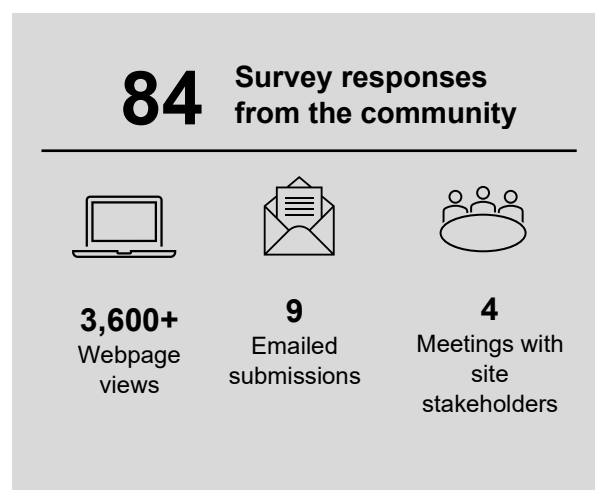
“*[The Concept Plan] is making more of what is a valuable community asset, only parts of which are well utilised at present.*”

Consultation participant

Engagement snapshot

Between 9 August and 6 September 2023, you told us:

- you support the upgrade of Cosmos Park and believe the changes will encourage more people to use the park
- natural features including existing trees are important and the planting of new trees is supported
- the new proposed layout is liked by some while others believe features such as the DOLA should remain in the current location
- the addition of pickleball courts is largely supported and many believe more courts should be added.



How we engaged

We invited stakeholders and community to provide feedback on the Concept Plan for Cosmos Park, as well as the desired style of play for the park using an online survey or email. The concept plan is at Attachment 1. Key site stakeholders were also given the opportunity to meet with the project team and Divisional Councillor during the consultation period.

To enable informed feedback, the Concept Plan was made available online on the Your Say Moreton Bay webpage.

The opportunity to provide feedback was promoted through a boosted, geo-targeted social media post, a letterbox-drop to properties backing onto or immediately adjacent to the park, Council's Your Say Moreton Bay newsletter and Council's Your Say Moreton Bay project webpage.

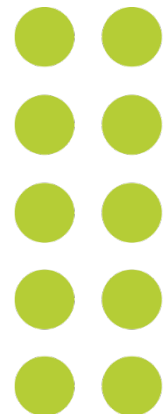
Council officers and the Divisional Councillor held meetings with each site stakeholder group during the consultation period to discuss the project. These groups included the Bribie Island Pickleball Club, Bribie Island Tennis Club, Bribie Island Croquet Club, Solander Lakes Bowls Club and community members representing users of the DOLA.

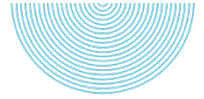
The purpose of these meetings was for officers to give an overview of the Concept Plan and provide the Clubs with the opportunity to clarify aspects of it before making their submissions via the online survey.



The poster features a header with a photograph of a park and the text 'OUR WELL-PLANNED PLACES'. Below this is the title 'COSMOS PARK UPGRADE, BANKSIA BEACH PROJECT UPDATE' and the date 'AUGUST 2023'. The main body of text includes: 'Creating vibrant and healthy communities is a priority for Council. We are transforming Cosmos Park, in Banksia Beach, into a District Recreation Park that caters to a variety of users. District Recreation Parks provide a large park area and informal recreation opportunities for users from several neighbourhoods. Strategically located within easy walking distance of residences, these spaces meet the long-term, ongoing needs of our communities.' It then asks 'What work is proposed?' and lists: 'relocation and upgrade of the dog off-leash area with separate spaces for large and small dogs', 'four new pickleball courts, basketball hoop and key, and outdoor fitness equipment', 'more accessible pathways and connections into and throughout the park including links from Tradewinds Drive and the existing carpark', 'new picnic shelters, seating, softscape and shade tree planting', and 'improvements to drainage.' It also states 'It is anticipated Stage 1 works will commence in mid-2024. Other improvements in the Concept Plan will be delivered in stages over future years, subject to budget allocations.' A 'Have your say' section encourages feedback and provides a QR code and the link 'mbrclink/cosmos-park'. A 'For more information' box lists 'mbrclink/cosmos-park', '07 3205 0555', and 'yoursay@moretonbay.qld.gov.au'. The footer includes 'moretonbay.qld.gov.au' and the 'CITY OF MORETON BAY' logo.

Cosmos Park project update





What we heard

The survey received 84 responses during the four-week consultation period. A further nine emails containing feedback were sent to the Your Say Moreton Bay email address.

Most people who completed the survey live on Bribie Island, with a small number from Godwin Beach. This geographic spread of respondents suggests the park and playground service the immediate community and some neighbouring suburbs.

General observations of feedback

Most survey and email responses were supportive of Cosmos Park being upgraded. Many respondents noted the plan makes greater use of Cosmos Park and provides spaces for recreational activities. Several respondents thought a greater range of facilities would encourage people to become more active and exercise.

Many respondents acknowledged the changes would result in the area being used by more people and noted current toilet and carparking facilities may not be sufficient for increased demand.

Some respondents did not support relocation of the DOLA, commenting the proposed area would not provide sufficient shade and would be difficult to access for those with mobility issues. Some respondents noted current drainage issues.

There was strong support for the addition of pickleball courts however some respondents expressed additional courts beyond those delivered in Stage 1 would be needed to meet demand.

“I think it’s great and really appreciate that you are building the pickleball courts and looking forward to further growth.”

Consultation participant

“I have a strong belief in community connectedness and feel the plan will enhance this. Cosmos Park tends to be underutilised and the inclusion of the pickleball courts and improved facilities should help change this.”

Consultation participant

What is liked about the Concept Plan?

When we asked what was liked about the Concept Plan, the following aspects were highlighted by respondents:

- 25 respondents liked the inclusion of pickleball courts and several of these noted a massive growth in the sport across Moreton Bay
- 17 respondents liked the inclusion of leisure and exercise facilities such as seating, shelters, exercise equipment and basketball key
- seven respondents liked the upgrades to the DOLA and two of these explicitly supported the inclusion of separate large and small dog areas
- eight respondents made positive comments about the addition of pathways including their width for enhanced accessibility
- nine respondents liked the inclusion of a playground/children’s play area
- Seven respondents liked the retention of mature vegetation and planting of more trees
- three respondents liked the relocation of the DOLA, with one saying it is being moved to a more useful location and another saying it is favourable to be further away from tennis and croquet courts due to barking.

What could be improved?

When we asked what could be improved about the Concept Plan, the following aspects were highlighted by respondents:

- 26 respondents said additional toilets are needed and many noted the existing toilet is not well located or maintained
- 21 respondents said additional parking is needed and many of these said the additional parking, currently scheduled for Stage 2, should be implemented in Stage 1
- 11 respondents suggested additional pickleball courts are needed in Stage 1 to meet demand
- 11 respondents said the DOLA should not be relocated and many of these noted the new area does not have sufficient shade and new plantings will take too long to establish. Some respondents also expressed concerns about drainage in the area
- four respondents suggested lighting be included throughout the park
- five respondents suggested the playground be accessible and cater to a range of mobility requirements
- one respondent said the DOLA should remain in its current position and the playground and pickleball courts should be relocated to the space instead. Another respondent agreed the pickleball courts should be located in the area proposed for the DOLA as it would give players better access to Solander Lakes Bowl Club for refreshments
- one respondent said the DOLA should not be increased in size as there is already too much space allocated to it and barking and yelling from the area is disruptive to other users
- one respondent said it would be great to acknowledge cultural heritage in the area

- one respondent said instead of gym equipment a BMX track or skate park should be installed
- one respondent suggested the inclusion of a community notice board
- three respondents suggested the addition of cricket nets and soccer facilities and a basketball court instead of a key.

“Infrastructure must come before expansion. One toilet hidden behind the tennis club and a small and overused carpark which floods in rain are already insufficient.”

Consultation participant

“With improved facilities and pickleball courts, increased dog parks and recreational areas, the car park will not be adequate.”

Consultation participant

“Considering the high number of people currently involved with the Bribie Island Pickleball Club and the high national and local rate of growth of the sport, I believe that double the number of courts will be required.”

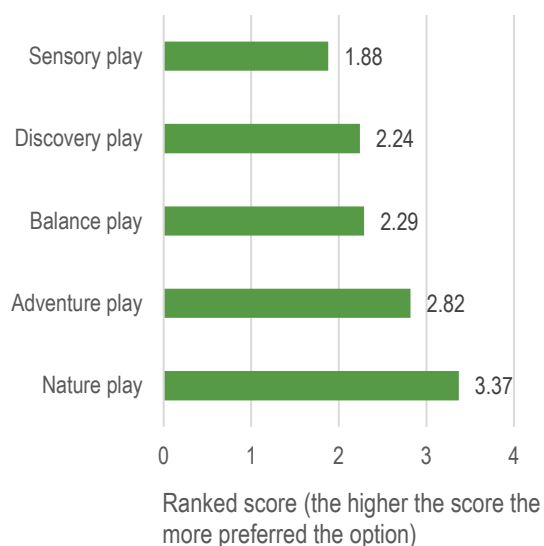
Consultation participant

“How can you justify expansion of the dog park? On the contrary reduce it. Instead put in a playground which may attract young families to the park.”

Consultation participant

Style of play

Respondents were asked to rank their preference for the style of play space they would like to see at Cosmos Park. Nature play was the most popular choice, followed by adventure play, balance play and sensory play.



Meetings with site stakeholders

Face-to-face meetings were held between Council officers, the Divisional Councillor and site sporting stakeholders including the Bribie Island Pickleball Club, Bribie Island Tennis Club, Bribie Island Croquet Club and Solander Lake Bowls Club.

The Clubs all expressed overall support for the Concept Plan. Specific feedback relating to individual leases are being addressed outside of this consultation process.

A meeting was also held with a group of community members representing users of the DOLA. The group provided an alternate concept plan for Council to consider. The concept plan retains the existing DOLA location and suggests establishing the playground in the proposed DOLA location. The group also proposed various types of turf for the DOLA. The group raised concerns

relating to the relocation of the DOLA, including:

- lack of shade in the proposed location and concern about the amount of time new plantings will take to establish
- concerns cooking smells from the Bowls Club will be distressing to dogs
- dogs require trees for sniffing and the new area will not have established trees
- the new location creating noise issues for surrounding properties
- the new location is further from the existing carpark and may present challenges for DOLA users with mobility issues
- the cost of relocation of the DOLA could be saved and diverted to improving the existing DOLA, including improved drainage.

“Relocation of the dog park to an area with no or limited mature trees is a retrograde step for DOLA users. Shade is a health and safe(ty) issue for people and dogs.”
Consultation participant

“Plant mature trees first before even thinking of moving the DOLA.”
Consultation participant

“I would like to see how this park and playground will be accessible to those with mobility challenges, particularly in the playground area.”
Consultation participant

“I love the idea of the basketball and gym area. The wider pathways are great!”
Consultation participant

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and provided feedback on the Concept Plan and style of play options.

We want to deliver a district level park that is responsive your local needs, aspirations and ideas.

Council will consider your feedback alongside best practice landscape design principles, site constraints, project budget and market quotes to determine what equipment will ultimately be installed in the park.

The final designs will be shared on the Your Say Moreton Bay website when they are completed.

“ *I like the vision, the creativity and the research that is behind the Concept Plan. I think the Concept Plan shows that (Council) is planning for a better and bright future for everyone in the community.”*

Consultation participant

