

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: City of Sydney

Date received: 9 April 2024

Thank you for the opportunity provide a submission on the Future of Moore Park South - A proposal to convert part of Moore Park Golf Course to a new park - Discussion Paper. The Council briefing on 18 March 2024 as well as the workshop with City staff on 26 March 2024 on the proposal is also appreciated. The Lord Mayor was also briefed on the proposal as a member of Centennial Park and Moore Park Community Trustee Board.

The following comments are provided for your consideration.

The case for parkland conversion

The City welcomes the Premier's commitment to convert up to 20 hectares of the Moore Park golf course to publicly accessible parkland and the exhibition of the Discussion Paper to encourage local residents and stakeholders to have their say on how they want to use the future park.

A large new parkland provides the opportunity for multi-purpose, informal recreation spaces for walking, cycling, play, and community gatherings that will cater for a broad spectrum of demographic groups.

Since 2020 the City has continuously advocated for the unlocking of existing Crown Land at Moore Park currently allocated for golf use for community parkland use. (Attachment A) The City of Sydney's strategic plan Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision includes The Green City also includes the project idea of unlocking existing Crown Land at Moore Park for wider public use, as shown in Attachment B and Figures 1 and 2.

The Discussion Paper proposal is aligned with the City's directions and deemed a warranted response to increased population growth and density, changing recreation participation trends, community attitudes, and strategic planning directions.

When parkland at Moore Park was allocated for a 9-hole golf course back in 1913 and later extended to 18 holes in 1922, the surrounding land uses were predominantly industrial.

Now on Moore Park's doorstep, the Green Square urban renewal area is transforming a former industrial land to the densest residential area in Australia. By 2036, the population is expected to be around 63,000 people and 22,000 workers. Around 33,000 residents – more than half of the total population – have already moved in.

In addition, the NSW Government's Land and Housing Corporation is undertaking a program of redevelopment of its property assets in nearby Redfern and Waterloo. This will see an additional 14,000 people move into the area.



Figure 1: Artist impression of a new parkland landscape



Figure 2: Artist impression of a new perimeter loop along Dacey Avenue

City community research and consultation

In 2020 the City sought community feedback on the idea of reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course to provide more public space for community recreation. The City's engagement report on advocacy undertaken in previous years has identified strong community support for a parkland conversion. A copy of the engagement report is provided at Attachment C: Engagement Report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course.

Key outcomes of the City engagement activities were:

- Significant local community support for creating more public parkland. The preferred approach was to re-configure the golf course to nine holes.
- Population most strongly in favour of conversion were local residents immediately to the west. Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern, Alexandria, and Surry Hills all recorded over 70% support for more parkland.

- People also suggested opportunities to improve physical links (publicly accessible spaces and paths around and through the golf course) to connect to existing parkland at Centennial and Moore Park.
- Of those supporting the change, the top reasons included: caters for more people, provides more open space for the community and more opportunities for passive recreation, and better for the environment and wildlife.

Parkland conversion location

The City supports allocation of parkland on the western side of the golf course (north of Dacey Ave) defined by Eastern Distributor and suburb of Redfern, as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Parkland conversion location

Key benefits of this location include:

- Use of existing rolling topography and fairway structure, providing interesting park landscape with a network of access pathways and the opportunity to increase canopy cover and habitat;
- Use of pedestrian/cycle bridges at Moore Park Gardens and Charles Street, providing access to the park for Surry Hills, Redfern, Waterloo and Green Square residents; and
- Park perimeter loop and linkages, providing improved access around the park as well as connection to Centennial Park.

Parkland use and recreational facilities

The range of uses and facilities identified in section 4.1 of the Discussion Paper is supported. A large sized format community parkland that is off-leash and supports a range of informal recreation opportunities for walking, recreational cycling, informal play, socialising, and connecting with nature is the most appropriate response to the changing open space and recreation needs of the area.

Ancillary facilities such as BBQ and picnic facilities, toilets, seating for groups and shelters are important to creating multi-purpose spaces that bring communities together and encourage longer stays.

The population of young children in the area is increasing. There is an opportunity to provide a multigenerational playground to meet the needs of this growing population. This should be co-located with ancillary facilities such as toilets and BBQ facilities.

Habitat creation

Moore Park is identified as supporting habitat in the South Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) connected corridors for biodiversity.

Conversion of the nine holes can be made simple by removing the fences and taking advantage of the existing fairway layout including retaining the existing tree canopy. There is an opportunity to increase canopy cover, bushland and habitat, create ecological zones and introduce water for stormwater treatment, and retention systems that will further improve landscape setting of the park.

Increased canopy cover is particularly needed along the fringes with major roads such as Anzac Parade and South Dowling Street where recreational utility is lower.

The City welcomes and encourages continued knowledge sharing and dialogue with the agency on urban canopy expansion, tree management, biodiversity and habitat.

A rethink of golf recreation at Moore Park

The City encourages a new golf offer that attracts use by a broader audience, including children. Considerations should include integration of the club house with play areas and community social spaces, informal golf offers such as adventure and disc golf, and shared car parking arrangements using existing parkland facilities.

Opportunities being explored for night activities at the golf course and driving range needs to consider safety and amenity impacts to neighbouring properties and other park users at nighttime.

Engagement with the golfing community is important to defining a new golf offer and should be conducted through a transparent process.

Access and connectivity

Improving access and connectivity for people to and within Moore Park and across the entire Centennial Parklands will be critical to the success of the new parkland.

People Access to/from Parklands

The City encourages the Agency to collaborate with the City on green connections to the new park and broader Parklands precinct. Alignment of the City's Liveable Green Network and Government's Sydney Green Grid will maximise the connectivity and access of green space for people to use and enjoy.

Active transport should be prioritised over vehicle access and parking.

As identified in the Discussion Paper access for people walking and riding that is safe, well-lit and sign posted is inadequate. Major intersections do not currently prioritise (and sometimes not provide direct connections into the park) for people walking and riding. The NSW Government must improve access between Green Square, Waterloo, and the parklands.

A new bridge should be explored to improve connections to the Waterloo and Green Square area where increased density is greatest.

At signalised pedestrian crossings adequate time must be allowed to give people sufficient time to cross the surrounding multi lane roads.

Integration (and coordination) of the park development with the regional cycle network will also be important to ensure a wider catchment of park users through active transport.

The City knows that more people in Green Square are using bikes for transport, and continuing to build a safe connected network is required to support that growth. In the period between 2014 and 2017, 9% of Green Square residents rode to work or study. Following the City's cycling interventions, this increased to 11% in 2020 and 15% in 2023. This is significant when compared bike trips across Greater Sydney which are less than 1%.

People Access within Parklands

Good circulation paths and loops are required within the park with clear and legible entry portals at Dacey Avenue, South Dowling Street, as well at the existing pedestrian/cycle bridges at Moore Park Gardens and Charles Street. In addition to serving walking, running and rolling, the parkland pathway system should support access for recreational cycling (specifically catering for young riders).

A well-defined perimeter pathway system provides opportunity for a popular recreational asset for walking and exercise similar to Melbourne's Tan Track as well as provide connections to Centennial Park.

Cycleways along Parkland frontage roads

Regional bike routes should be catered for on existing roads (where feasible) and along boundaries (where on roads are not feasible), not within the parkland.

Anzac Parade: The NSW Government must incorporate a regional cycleway as part of the upgrade to the western verge of Anzac Parade.

Dacey Avenue: Serve an existing cycling desire line and provide a regional cycling connection by reconfiguring the existing roadway to provide uni-directional cycleways. During vehicle peak periods, TfNSW is likely to prioritise vehicle through traffic along Dacey Ave, so on-road parking will not be provided, as shown in Figure 4. Outside vehicle peak periods and on weekends, on-street (kerbside) parking can be provided to facilitate regional access by car.



Figure 4: Dacey Avenue configuration

The City has successfully converted the kerbside traffic lanes on Sydney Park Road to allow parking and support access for local and regional visitors driving to the park.

More efficient use of road space should cater for growing access demands without compromising parkland space for vehicle parking.

Existing parking provision in the precinct needs to ensure appropriate parking for people with disabilities and parents with prams without the necessity to add more supply.

Sydney Park case study – the benefits of delivery over time

The City welcomes the opportunity to share its experience on the incremental delivery of Sydney Park. Sydney Park is a 43-hectare, large format park that has been improved as density in the surrounding neighbourhoods has grown.

The evolution of the park over the last 30 years from previous landfill operations has been grounded in the formulation of a strong park vision and masterplan that provides a clear strategy and guide for future park projects and implementation planning. The masterplan establishes the park structure and facility mix of the park including a connected pathway network, water management wetland systems, biodiversity enhancement, regional playground, kiosk, BBQ and toilet facilities, children's cycle track, skate facilities, village green flexible play spaces and off-leash dog areas including a water pool for dogs to play.

The facility mix has been developed over time, providing the opportunity to respond to changing communities' recreational needs in an ongoing way.

City's Community Engagement on the Discussion Paper

The City welcomes public consultation on the future of Moore Park golf course and has encouraged local residents to respond to the Discussion Paper and have their say on how they would like to use the new park. The City's Engagement activities to support the Discussion Paper exhibition include:

- Directing people to the Greater Sydney Parklands 's Have Your Say on the Future of Moore Park webpage through QR codes;
- Sydney Your Say e-newsletter to 6,690 people;
- A flyer delivered to 30,000 local residents in the areas shown in Figure 5; and
- A digital campaign on Facebook and Instagram, targeting local parents, people with social and political interests, and people with outdoor and recreational interests.

As the proposal develops engagement with local residents, stakeholders, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must be ongoing throughout the project. A clear and transparent engagement process should be prepared in consultation with the City.

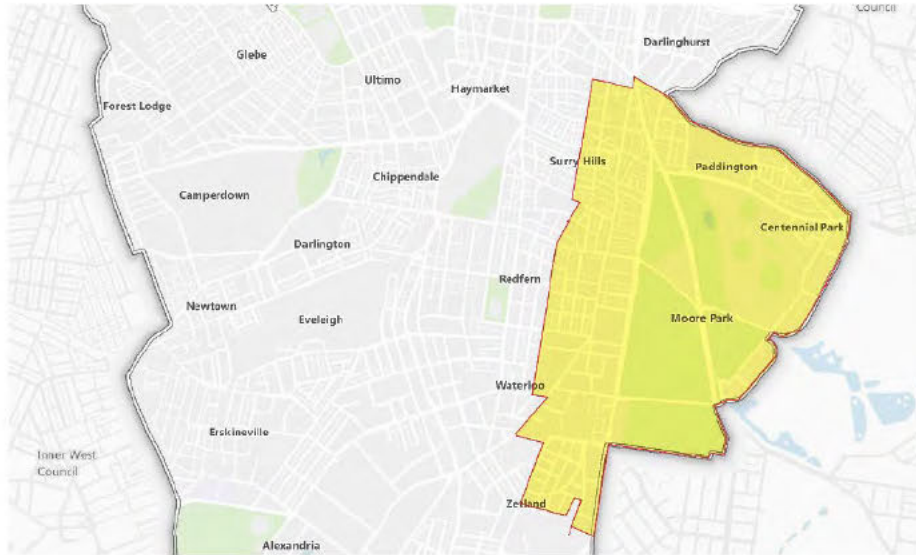


Figure 5: Distribution map of the Moore Park Golf Course Flyer

Implementation timing and funding

The State Government needs to commit to funding the delivery and on-going maintenance of the parkland conversion to ensure community benefits are assured and delivered as soon as possible after the current golf course operating agreement expires in 2026.

Fundamental to this objective is the preparation of a strategic masterplan to allow staging and delivery of improvements over time. Essential first stage works should be removal of fences, delivery of a pathway circulation network and key facilities such as toilets to allow community immediate access and use of the new parkland.

We at the City look forward to collaborating with the Greater Sydney Parklands Agency to progress the new park to delivery.

Attachments

- A. City of Sydney and Business Sydney -Moore Park Golf Course parkland conversion proposal
- B. Extract from Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision
- C. City of Sydney - Engagement Report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Monica Barone PSM
Chief Executive Officer

**City of Submission - The Future of Moore Park South – A
proposal to convert part of Moore Park Golf Course to a
new park - Discussion Paper**

Attachments

**Attachment A - City of Sydney and Business Sydney -
Moore Park Golf Course parkland conversion proposal –
– October 2023**

Moore Park Golf Course parkland conversion proposal



Submission
October 2023

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the
Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

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Aerial view of Moore Park Golf Course adjacent to growing residential communities to the west



Moore Park Golf Course

Key message

A transformation is taking place in Sydney in the areas neighbouring Moore Park.

Once industrial land, the area is increasingly devoted to high density housing with a population that will continue to grow.

In the face of increasing need for open space to support increased density, it's time to reconsider whether an 18-hole golf course remains the best use of precious public parkland.

Since 1995, it has been the policy of successive State Governments to increase housing in the Green Square urban renewal area.

By 2040, up to 80,000 more people will be living in the Green Square and Waterloo area within two kilometres of Moore Park.

It is imperative for such a growing community to have access to open space with parkland that is commensurate to its needs. Moore Park is clearly the solution.

However, over generations, much of the land originally set aside for parkland at Moore Park has been alienated for other purposes.

Our proposal involves the golf course having a smaller footprint reconfigured as a 9-hole course retaining its popular driving range. It would release 18.7 hectares of precious parkland for community open space.

When space at Moore Park was allocated for a golf course in 1913, surrounding land was predominantly industrial. It now borders one of the most densely populated communities in Australia.

And the City of Sydney is working with developers to create community facilities and small parks, playgrounds and a sports field. All are excellent but they can't provide the same recreational opportunities as open parkland.

The NSW Government must deliver the necessary State infrastructure for this growing community including access to parkland.

Reconfiguring the Moore Park Golf Course comes at a time when, in other parts of the world, 18-hole courses are being slimmed down to a modern 9-hole format.

This report recommends the Greater Sydney Parklands reduce the course from 18 holes to nine, making an area of parkland available for a range of community uses for a larger number of people.

Importantly, this proposal would see the club retain the larger portion of the land including its clubhouse, depots, car parking and the popular driving range.

It must also be recognised that as a sport, golf is well catered for in the district with 12 courses, including six that are accessible to the general public, located within a 10-kilometre radius of Moore Park.

In getting the balance of community green space needs right, we have to rethink how we use all of our scarce open space.

St Peters, Erskineville, Alexandria and Newtown have easy access to the wonderful Sydney Park. Paddington and Randwick residents have easy access to Centennial Park.

Under this proposal, Redfern, Waterloo and Green Square residents would have the same easy access to public parkland but at the moment, all they see are high fences covered in danger signs.

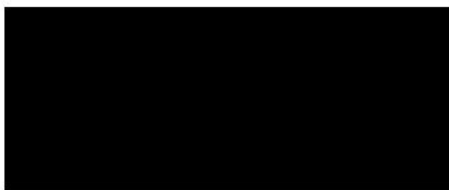
For the thousands of people moving into apartments in the Green Square urban renewal area, Moore Park is their “backyard”.

It is now the NSW Government’s turn to provide much needed open space for this fast-growing community.

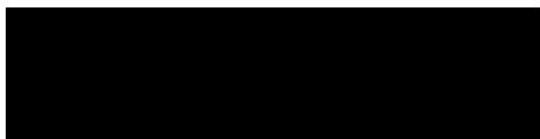
Access to green spaces and parks is also good for the economy. People with access to recreational opportunities and natural beauty are more likely to be satisfied with their surroundings and lifestyle.

This can lead to a happier and more productive workforce, making it easier for businesses to attract and retain talented employees.

Overall, we see this as a question of equity for all and for putting our public land to its best use in the community interest.



Clover Moore AO
Lord Mayor of Sydney



Bob Carr
former Premier of New South Wales



Paul Nicolaou
Executive Director at Business Sydney

Introduction

It is time to prioritise the needs of the growing local community.

Founded 150 years ago, Moore Park is one of Australia's most significant parks. It includes distinctive landscapes, heritage features and 115 hectares of public open space.

At around 45 hectares, Moore Park Golf Course encompasses a significant area of that precious green space with an 18-hole facility, club house, golf driving range, carparking and maintenance depot.

By comparison, the City of Sydney's largest park Sydney Park in St Peter, is approximately 43 hectares.

When space was allocated for a golf course back in 1913 the surrounding land use was predominantly industrial. Now it borders one of the most densely populated communities in Australia.

By 2040, there will be up to 80,000 residents within two kilometres of Moore Park.

Golf requires a huge amount of green space, exclusive of other recreational opportunities. As surrounding density increases so does demand for open space, meaning it has never been a better time to rethink Moore Park Golf Course's contribution to the recreational needs of the area.

The City of Sydney's strategic plan Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision includes The Green City project idea of unlocking existing Crown Land at Moore Park for wider public use.

Our proposal is not to lock out golfers, but to reconfigure the course from 18 holes to nine, which would return up to 18 hectares to public parkland for general recreation, leaving the golfers with at least 25 hectares, the clubhouse, depots, parking and the popular driving range.

The report clearly illustrates the urgency for more publicly accessible green space based on population growth, recreation participation trends, community research, strategic planning directions and ease of implementing the proposal.



- Moore Park green space (115ha)
- Moore Park golf course (45ha)

History

Sydney Common

In 1811 Governor Lachlan Macquarie made a bequest of 405 hectares of land, known as the Sydney Common.

To meet the public's demands, Sydney City Council dedicated 378 acres (153 hectares) of the north-west section of Sydney Common as a space for public recreation.

The area was named Moore Park in 1867 after Charles Moore, the Mayor of Sydney City Council 1867-1869.

The area now known as Moore Park was part of Sydney Common.

The green open space component of Moore Park is now approximately 115 hectares. Over the years, Moore Park has endured a history of encroachment and alienation of green space due to development, professional sport, the Eastern Distributor, Tibby Cotter Bridge and light rail.

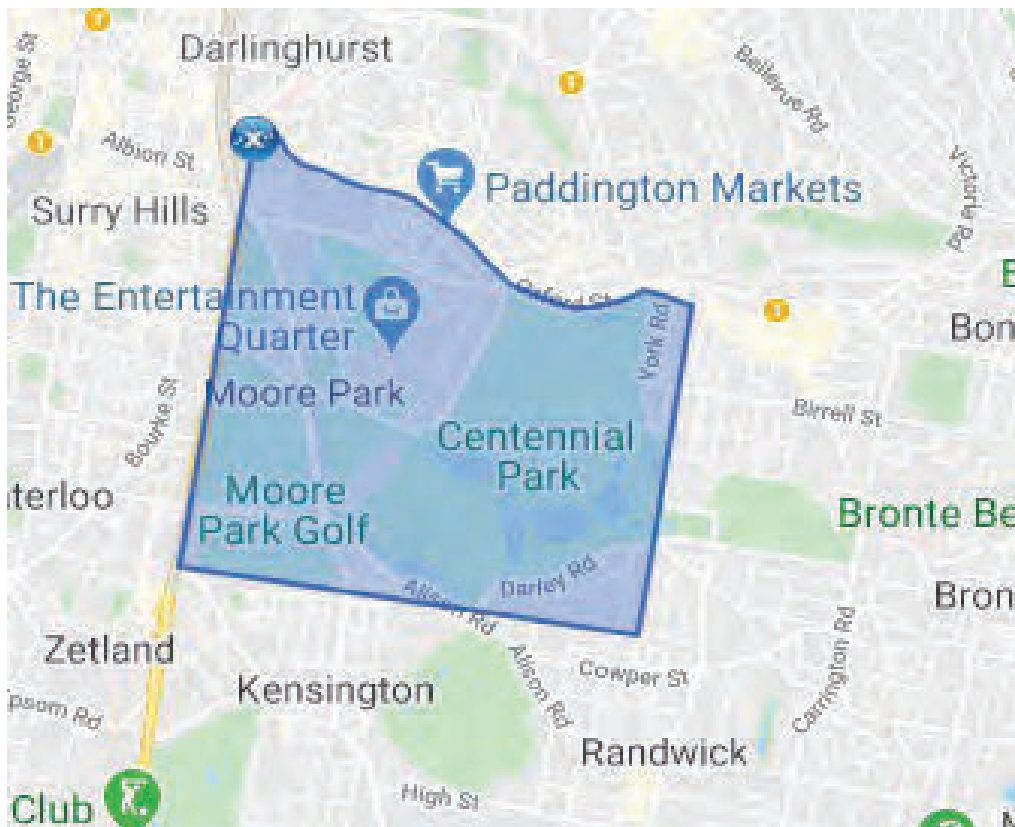
It is imperative to protect what's left of Lachlan Macquarie's 1811 Sydney Common bequest.

Moore Park Golf Course

A 9-hole golf course known as the Moore Park Municipal Golf Links opened in 1913.

In 1922, the course doubled in size to 18 holes with the acquisition of land on the southern side of Dacey Avenue and became Moore Park Golf Course.

In 1996, a three-tiered all weather driving range was added as part of the club's facilities.



Sydney Common boundary (Dictionary of Sydney)



Moore Park Golf Course circa 1930s (City of Sydney Archives)

The proposal

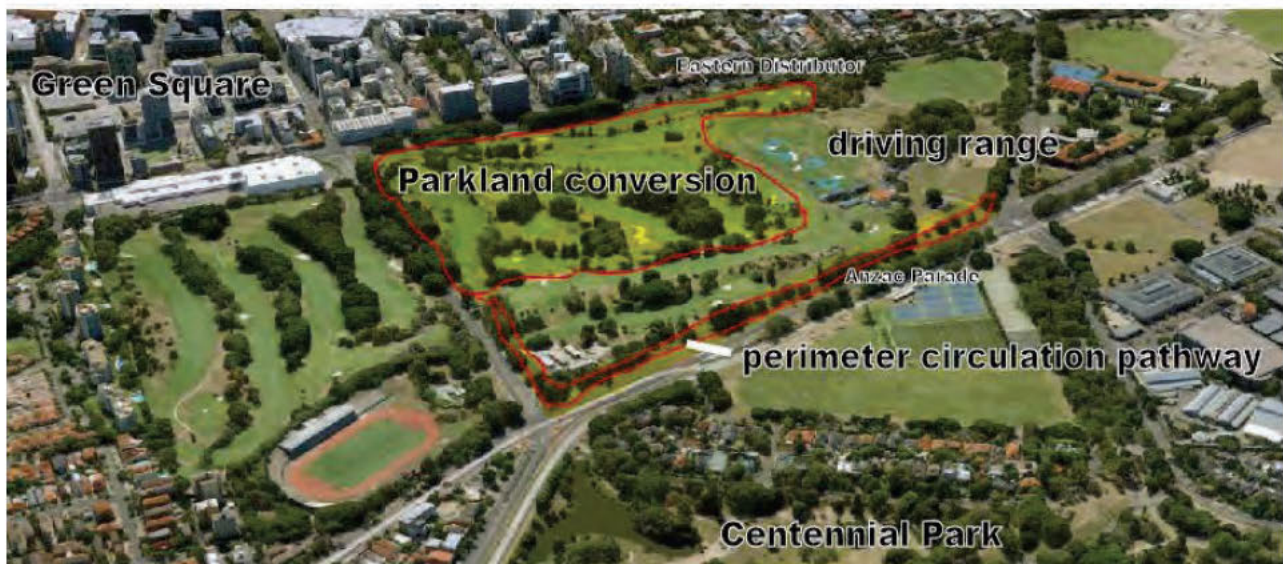
The proposal provides the opportunity for Moore Park to respond to the demands of 21st century recreation and population pressures

The proposal aims to provide green space for community recreation through a reallocation of land currently occupied by the 18-hole golf course. The proposal provides a 9-hole golf facility, retaining the clubhouse, driving range, carparking and maintenance depot.







The proposed parkland conversion is situated on the western side of the golf course (north of Dacey Avenue) defined by Eastern Distributor and suburb of Redfern.

Key features include:

- Parkland gain of approximately 18 hectares, providing a large park format giving people room for casual exercise, walking, socialising and connecting with nature;
- Use of existing rolling topography and fairway structure, providing interesting park landscape with a network of access pathways and the opportunity to increase canopy cover and habitat;
- Use of pedestrian/cycle bridges at Moore Park Gardens and Charles Street, providing easy access to the park for Surry Hills, Redfern, Waterloo and Green Square residents.
- Park perimeter loop and linkages, providing improved access around the park as well as connection to Centennial Park.





	Additional parkland
	New / improved connections for park users
	Existing bridge connections
	Existing pathways
	Existing tree canopy
	Golf fairways

Ease of conversion

The proposal provides a workable and low impact solution for conversion.

Minimal modification of fairways and relocation of greens can be achieved to deliver a 9-hole facility. Key assets such as the driving range, club house, carparking and maintenance depot are retained.

The existing canopy and topography provide a distinctive landscape and would require only minor grading adjustments for accessibility.





More community greenspace by converting golf course from an 18- to 9-hole facility



Perimeter loop for better pedestrian and cycle connectivity

Urgent need

A changing land use context – from industrial to high density residential

When parkland at Moore Park was allocated for a 9-hole golf course back in 1913 and later extended to 18 holes in 1922, the surrounding land uses were predominantly industrial.

Now on Moore Park's doorstep, the Green Square urban renewal area is transforming a former industrial land to the densest residential area in Australia. By 2036, the population is expected to be around 63,000 people and 22,000 workers. Around 33,000 residents – more than half of the total population – have already moved in.

In addition, the NSW Government's Land and Housing Corporation is undertaking a program of redevelopment of its property assets in nearby Redfern and Waterloo. This will see an additional 14,000 people move into the area.

By 2040 up to 80,000 people will be living within 2 kilometres of Moore Park.

The City of Sydney is working with Green Square developers to create 40 urban parks and playgrounds as part of urban renewal. However, small parks do not provide people living in (often small) high-density apartments with the opportunity to stride out, de-stress, renew or commune with nature.



To meet the challenge of increasing population, it is critical to ensure that Moore Park provides the most appropriate allocation of public parkland for multipurpose recreation.



Circa 1930 photo of the area now known as Moore Park. Looking towards South Dowling and Dacey Avenue with industrial and racecourse uses.



— Moore Park Golf Course 2020 with high density residential development

Use pressures on Centennial Parklands

The Centennial Parklands strategic plan - *Moore Park Master Plan 2040* highlights the increasing use pressures generated by population within a 1-kilometre catchment of Moore Park.

31 million people visit Centennial Parklands annually while just 70,000 rounds of golf are played on the course each year (2018/19 Annual Report).

A reconfiguration of the golf course will significantly expand the amount of publicly accessible green space available to serve the needs of a greater number of people.

The recent Covid-19 pandemic has only reinforced the value and popularity of parks for people to gain respite, exercise and contact with nature.

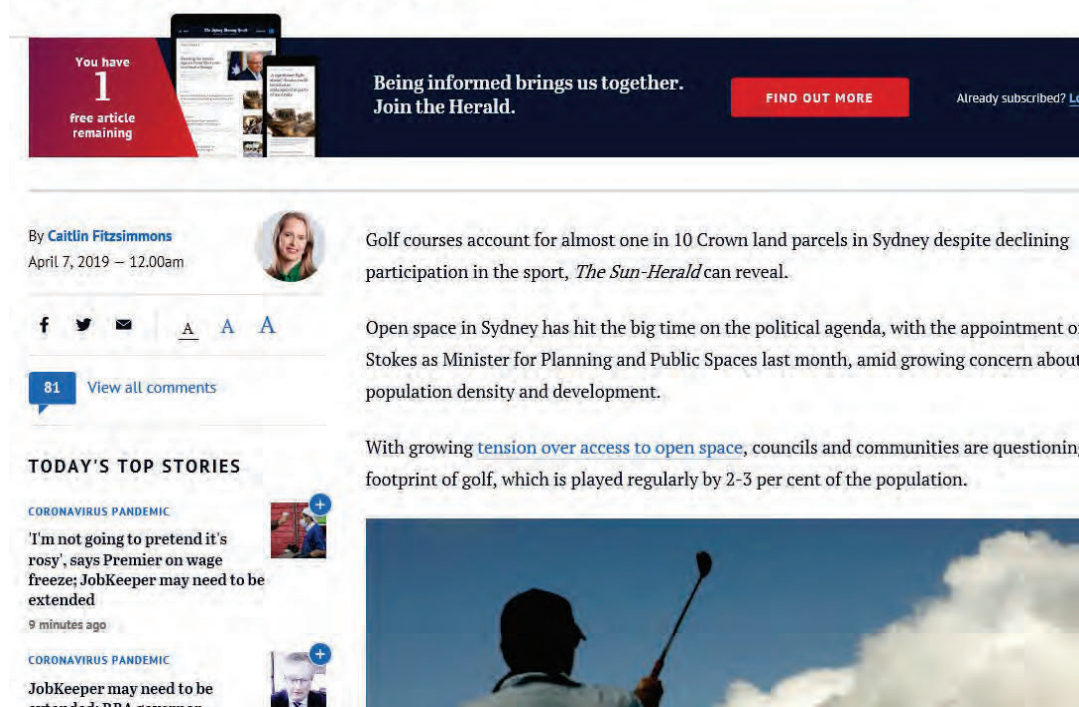
The land currently used to host the Moore Park 18-hole golf course provides minimal contribution to the recreational needs of the growing population surrounding the park.

In built-up inner city areas where land is so expensive, we need to re-evaluate the highest and best use of existing land uses.

“With no sizeable additional green space close to the City, Moore Park must utilise its green space to cope with increasing demands.”

Centennial Parklands. Moore Park 2040. Future Directions. 2017.

'Why aren't they parks?': golf's huge footprint on Sydney's open space



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By [Caitlin Fitzsimmons](#)
April 7, 2019 — 12.00am

Golf courses account for almost one in 10 Crown land parcels in Sydney despite declining participation in the sport, *The Sun-Herald* can reveal.


Open space in Sydney has hit the big time on the political agenda, with the appointment of Stokes as Minister for Planning and Public Spaces last month, amid growing concern about population density and development.

With growing [tension over access to open space](#), councils and communities are questioning the footprint of golf, which is played regularly by 2-3 per cent of the population.

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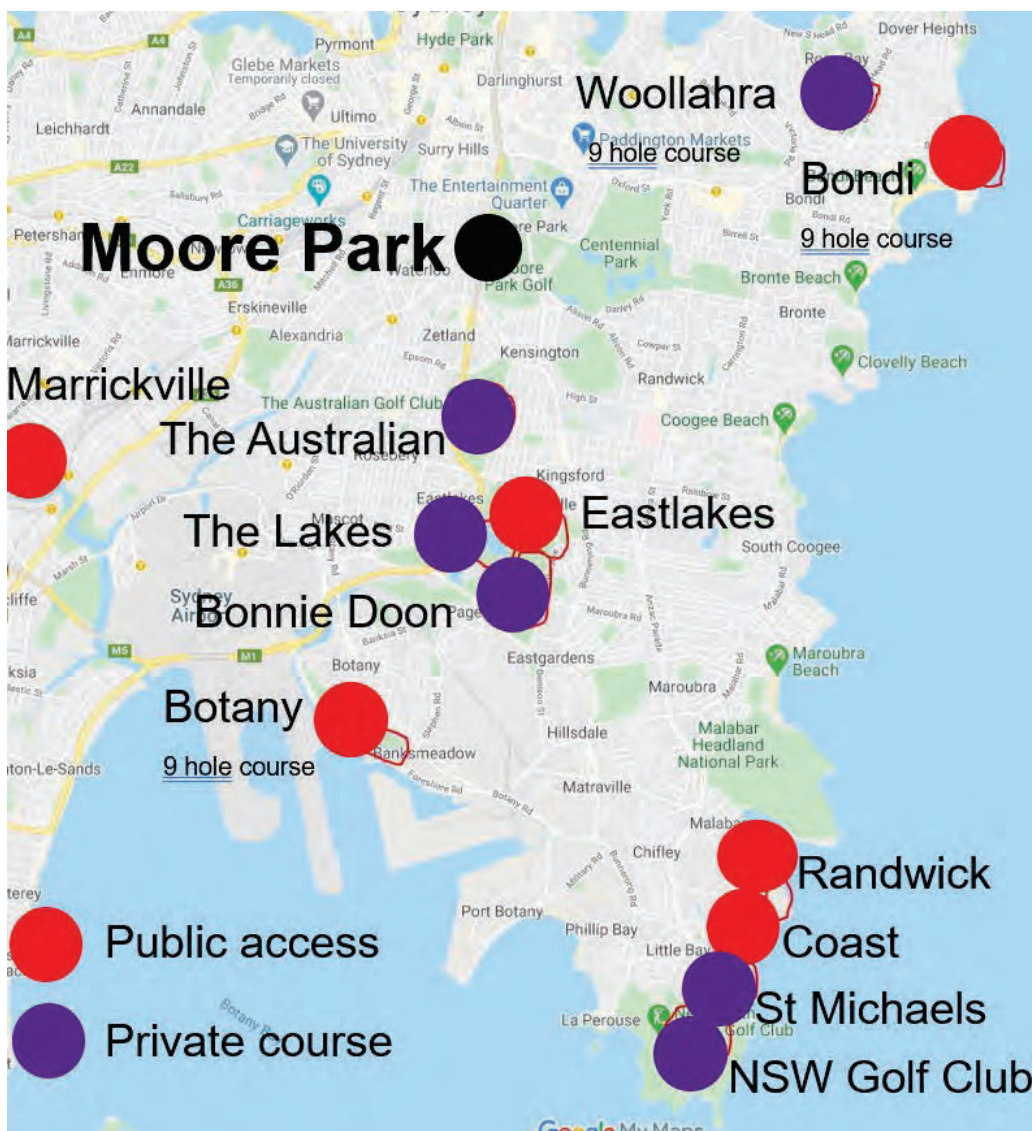
Sydney Morning Herald, 7 April 2009

Golf Course distribution

Golf as a recreational activity is well provided for in the Sydney metropolitan area. Within a 10-kilometre radius of Moore Park there are twelve golf courses (some 9-hole), of which six are accessible to the general public.

Reducing the size of Moore Park Golf Course would be a more equitable use of public open space, providing spaces for casual recreation that appeal to a wider demographic.

With increasing demand for parkland to support a growing Sydney population, the large footprint that golf requires and its low carrying capacity is seriously questioned.



Golf course distribution within 10 kilometres of Moore Park

Recreation trends

The proposal provides a more equitable and diverse allocation of green space for multipurpose recreation.

Community recreational needs and trends are constantly evolving. People are increasingly time-poor, resulting in a demand for informal recreation and non-organised health, fitness and leisure activities.

Many sports now offer condensed formats to attract participation and membership.

In their *2019 Golf Club Participation Report of Australia*, Golf Australia reported a 33 per cent increase in the number of 9-hole competition rounds compared with 2018.

Ausplay and Golf Australia participation data indicates that the main motivation for people playing golf is for social and recreation purposes. This suggests that conversion to a 9-hole facility would not inhibit most participants from using and enjoying a 9-hole facility at Moore Park.

The proposal is compatible with the trend towards casual and social participation in golf.

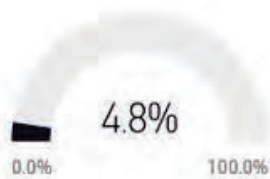
Recreation trend data consistently shows that walking is popular across a broad spectrum of demographic groups. This highlights the importance of large parks for recreation, as well as linkages between green spaces.



Masterplan for Elsternwick Nature Park Reserve envisions the conversion of a decommissioned golf course into a biodiverse parkland and wetland (McGreggor Coxall)



Golf



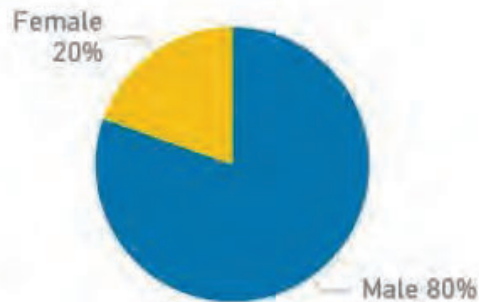
of the Adult 15+ population



of the Children 0-14 population



Adult participation by Gender



Source : AusPlay Sports Participation Data 2019

Community Research

In 2020, the City of Sydney undertook community research and consultation, seeking community feedback on the idea of reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course to provide more public space for community recreation.

This included:

- Random phone survey of 402 households in a 5km radius of the course – August 2020;
- Broad community on-line survey– November/December 2020;

The community was notified of the survey via a letterbox drop and social media.

Letters were sent to over 40 stakeholders including local Members of Parliament, Greater Sydney Parklands, Golf Australia, Golf NSW, Moore Park Golf Course, and Parks and Leisure Australia.

10,299 people completed the online survey making this the largest online survey ever conducted by the City of Sydney.

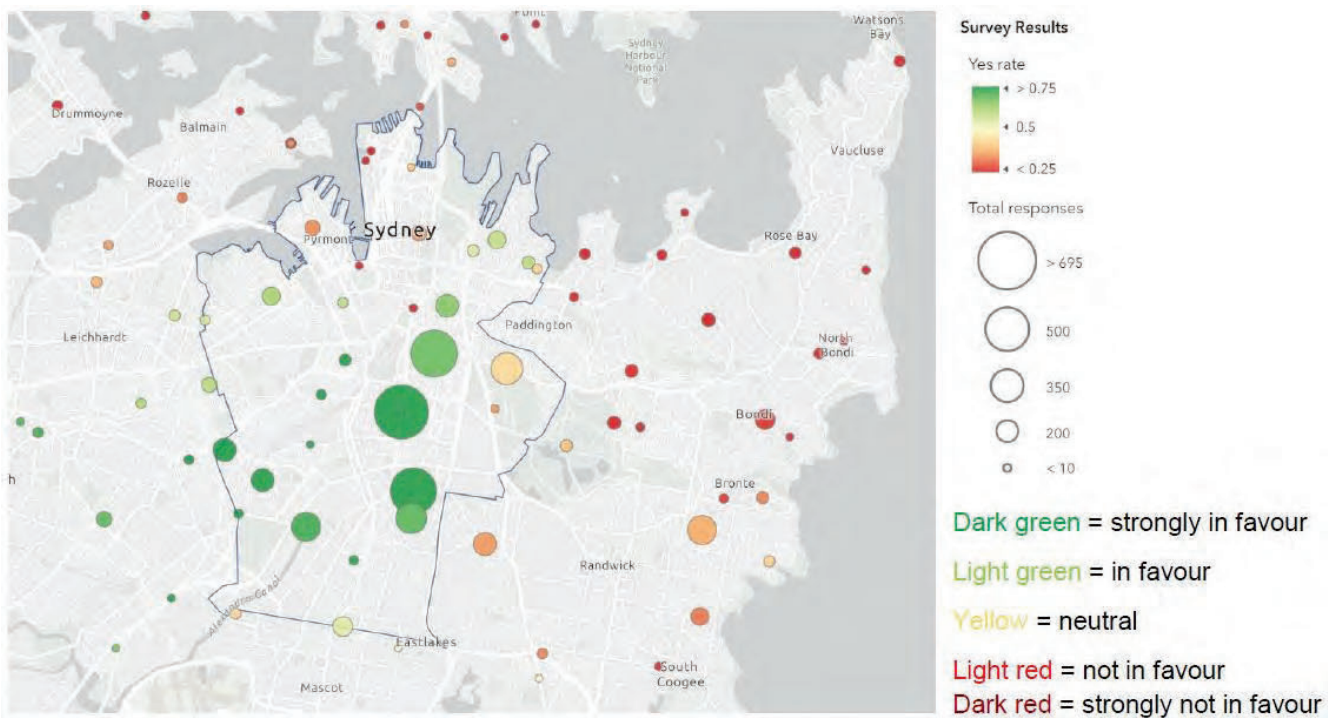
The key outcomes were:

- Phone survey indicated significant community support for creating more public parkland. The preferred approach was to reconfigure the golf course to nine holes.
- 50 per cent of online survey respondents supported a change to the course to create more parkland.
- 49 per cent of online survey respondents wanted to retain the 18-hole course.
- There was a significant difference in the views of men and women – 73 per cent of women supported reducing the course to provide more parkland. 59 per cent of men wanted to retain the 18-hole course.
- Views were strongly shaped by where people live. Respondents living immediately to the west of the course were overwhelming supportive of reconfiguring the course to create more public parkland. Whereas respondents who wanted to retain the 18-hole course are more likely to live in the eastern suburbs and other parts of Sydney.

Comparison between surveys

Overall preference	Phone survey	Online survey
Retain 18-hole course	23%	49%
Reconfigure the course / convert all to parkland	77%	50%

Geographic distribution of online survey responses



Conclusion

Moore Park is public land that is part of the original Governor Macquarie 1811 Sydney Common bequest for the benefit of the people of Sydney. The NSW Government has stewardship over this gift.

For decades, Moore Park has suffered significant losses including the ongoing alienation and reduction in parkland from the Eastern Distributor, light rail, Tibby Cotter Bridge and over five hectares of parkland for event parking.

The NSW Government's urban consolidation policies that respond to continued population growth have necessitated higher residential densities in urban renewal areas such as Green Square.

Repurposing Moore Park Golf Course is an appropriate response to the rapidly changing open space needs of the area and would make optimum use of public parkland.

This proposal provides a fair and reasonable solution to the urgent need for more publicly accessible green space to meet local demand.



References

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- Norman tears up golf's rule book
<https://shark.com/sharkwatch/news/australian-financial-review-09-11-2015/>

Attachment B – Extract from Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

Sustainable Sydney 2030—2050 Continuing the Vision



The City acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of this place we now call Sydney, and we acknowledge their continued connection to Country. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.

Images on front cover (top left to bottom right):

George Street transformation, city centre

Photo: Florian Groehn

Bourke Street cycleway, Surry Hills

Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

bara, Judy Watson, Tarpeian Lawn, 2022

Monument for the Eora above Dubbagullee (Bennelong Point)

Pirrama Park minimal intervention vision

Concept by Andrew Burges Architects

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Open air community room,
Joynton Avenue Creative Centre
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Message from Lord Mayor Clover Moore



When the Independent Team was first elected in 2004 we wanted a plan for Sydney for the long term, and we knew global warming was a reality, that would only worsen as governments and people continued the pretence that it wasn't a threat.

We embarked on the most comprehensive consultation the City of Sydney had ever undertaken. **Sustainable Sydney 2030** was the result. It is a blueprint for a city that is environmentally, economically, socially and culturally sustainable and it is the cornerstone of everything we do and has been updated as circumstances changed. Our vision for a Green, Global and Connected city was adopted and roundly supported by residents and business.

This transformation was built on a foundation of ambitious targets and I will outline key priorities.

Reducing emissions

We made the commitment to reduce emissions in our own operations by 70 per cent by 2030. We did the master plans, set the targets and took action, and have met our goal nine years early in 2021.

Climate action underpins all that we do. We became carbon neutral in 2007 – the first government in Australia to receive this certification. We have converted over 6,000 streetlights to LED – and fast-tracked plans to do the remaining 9,500. We installed 7,081 solar panels across 45 city-owned buildings. We procured one of Australia's largest hybrid and electric vehicle fleets and are trialling electric garbage trucks and street sweepers.

We switched to 100 per cent renewable electricity in July 2020, reducing emissions and saving our ratepayers half a million dollars each year for 10 years. And creating jobs in regional NSW in wind and solar farms at Glen Innes, Wagga and in the Shoalhaven.

Working with partners

Our leading partners include the Better Buildings Partnership, CitySwitch Green Office, the Sustainable Destination Partnership and the Smart Green Apartments program.

The Better Buildings Partnership demonstrates how action on climate change is good for business – and the economy. The Partnership represents 59% commercial office space in the city centre, with members including major building owners like Dexus, Lendlease, Mirvac, GPT as well as the UTS. They committed to our Sustainable Sydney 2030 goal and have already reduced their emissions by 66% and are tracking toward an 83 per cent reduction by 2030. They have reduced water use by 39 per cent since financial year 2006 and are saving \$30 million a year. While partners who own 88 buildings have committed to becoming carbon neutral on or before 2030.

Since 2006, our city workforce has expanded by more than 50% and our population has increased by nearly 60% – in that time emissions have declined by 26% across the city. If it had been business as usual emissions would have increased by 57%.

But urgent action is still required. Our new target is net zero by 2035.

We've installed metropolitan Sydney's largest urban water recycling centre in Green Square, which treats up to 900 thousand litres of stormwater every day to provide recycled water for residents and community facilities in the town centre. We have **20 water harvesting systems in our parks**, which produce 80 thousand litres of non-potable water every day to keep our parks and streets green, and we completed **our largest storm water harvesting system** in Sydney Park wetlands.

Greening Sydney

Greening our city has been a top priority since 2004.

One of our first actions was to purchase land for \$11 million from the State Government to create Pirrama Park in Pyrmont, and in 2011 we negotiated substantial new public parkland in Harold Park as part of the redevelopment of the paceway and we created over 24 hectares of new parkland and have invested \$23 million to transform Sydney Park into a 40-hectare oasis.

We have renewed open spaces from Glebe to Rosebery, Darlinghurst to Beaconsfield. And when the **Drying Green** at Green Square is open, it will be the biggest of more than 40 parks we're delivering together with developers in that urban renewal area.

The quality of our open spaces was internationally recognized with the prestigious Jury Award at the Architizer A+ Awards in New York, one of a number we have won over the past year.

We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. By 2050, urban heating is predicted to increase temperatures between 1.5 and 3 degrees, so it's vital we plan, invest and adapt. We see trees and green spaces as essential infrastructure, as effective and extensive canopy cover can help reduce temperatures on the ground by up to 10 degrees.

We now plan to use **innovation and design to create more planting opportunities** – practical ways to green roofs and walls and 383-kilometre network of laneways and narrow streets – and introduce planning tools to ensure we're greening equitably across the city.

We plan to increase canopy cover by 50 per cent by 2030, and 75 per cent by 2050.

The public domain

(i) Walking and cycling are integral to a sustainable city

Walking and cycling lead to calm, quiet and liveable cities. Public, shared and active transport reduce emissions, congestion, and competition for scarce parking spaces and improve people's health and the city's economy.

Since 2007, 40 per cent of the **bike network** has been built - that's more than 25 kilometres of safe separated cycleways, 60 kilometres of shared paths and 40 kilometres of other infrastructure.

The quality of our **walking environment** is important for maintaining global competitiveness and reputation. Walking is how people experience our city. Our streets and public spaces are the face we show the world.

By 2036 it is predicted that 1.7 million people will visit the city daily and 2 million by 2050. Our current footpaths cannot accommodate that growth in the number of people walking. Our new target is that by 2050, 9 out of 10 people travelling to the city centre, and 2 out of 3 in the rest of our area will travel to work by public transport, walk or cycle.

(ii) Transforming George Street

The central public domain concern outlined in Sustainable Sydney 2030 was that our global city status and competitiveness was severely compromised by the poor quality of our main street - George street which was a noisy, smelly, traffic sewer. Sustainable Sydney 2030 proposed that a light rail running down George street would be the catalyst for CBD transformation and investment.

The State Government signed up to the project. Thank you, Gladys Berejiklian, and thank you Jan Gehl for the inspiration, and the City contributed \$265 million to make George Street the beautiful tree-lined, pedestrian friendly boulevard we see today. This project was supported by a program

of laneway upgrades, millions in grants for arts and activation and a campaign to allow small bars. The CBD of Sydney has truly been transformed and has attracted investment of over \$8 billion along George street alone.

Embedding design excellence

Design excellence has been an integral part of the City's vision for private development, as well as our own projects. The City has won more than 113 national and international awards for our projects over the past 16 years.

In 2007 we established a Design Advisory Panel of architects, landscape architects, and arts and sustainability experts to give advice on major City projects and significant private developments. They have played a major role in raising design standards across the City, while our Public Art Advisory Panel has contributed to a legacy of contemporary public art to enrich the City.

The City of Sydney has embedded design excellence in our practice, our planning controls, and our projects. Since 2004, we have hosted 146 design competitions.

Providing housing for all

Delivering Affordable Housing has been one of our greatest challenges. Even though this is a State responsibility, we have achieved 1,328 homes with almost 400 more in the pipeline. We have invested in projects that support homeless, youth and aged.

Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 maintains 7.5% target for affordable housing. Our commitment to do everything we can to increase the supply of affordable housing continues. We lobby State and Federal Governments to increase the amount of social, affordable and supported housing. We have offered city owned land and property to not-for-profit housing providers and we are currently fighting to maximise social housing at Waterloo in the face of the NSW Government's planned redevelopment which proposes majority housing to be for sale. We don't believe public housing tenants should be pushed to the fringes of Sydney and left without the support of their community and without access to the

services they need. Nor is it good for the efficient running of our cities to have essential workers, the nurses, firemen, police, transport workers and others who keep our city healthy, safe and functioning to be pushed into locations remote from their jobs.

Recognising First Nations

No city vision would be complete without continuing **dedication to the First Nations people of Australia**. Following consultation, Sustainable Sydney 2030 established the Eora Journey as the unifying narrative bringing the elements of Indigenous representation, inclusion and social justice together. Our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan outlines our commitments. **The Eora Journey** in the public domain identifies sites or histories of significance and reveals them so that in time our city's Indigenous story will be fully expressed. Bara in the gardens above the Opera House is complete, modelled on the hooks made from shells by aboriginal woman fishing in the shallows of the harbour.

Supporting cultural life of City of Sydney

The 2030–2050 vision extends future directions and initiatives for Sydney's cultural life which was a key commitment of 2030. We want to build on our successes such as the creation of the Eternity Playhouse in Darlinghurst, the Hayes Theatre in Potts Point and the soon to be opened City of Sydney Creative Studios in Bathurst Street. We are currently proposing planning bonuses to revitalize the iconic Oxford Street precinct and facilitating the development of new cultural precincts in Alexandria. The co-location of a number of creatives also helps stimulate the establishment of further similar cultural uses.

Providing for families and children

For city families and their children we have build or facilitated new childcare; playgrounds, pools, including the award winning Gunyama Aquatic Centre; libraries; youth centres; East Sydney Community & Arts Centre and the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre; three new pool complexes; basketball and tennis courts.

Water Falls by Jennifer Turpin and
Michaelie Crawford
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney



Outcomes

It's worth noting that since 2004, the residential population has increased by 67%, families are now choosing to live in the city. Local jobs had increased by 54.3% and, pre-Covid we had 1.3 million people in our city per day. Our city economy is worth \$132 billion – pre-Covid it was \$138 billion, or 22% of the State's economic activity and 7% of the national GDP.

Future transformative projects

The project ideas we outlined in Sustainable Sydney 2030 provided a catalyst for the transformation that has occurred – most notably the Light Rail and pedestrianisation of George Street. **Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 proposes the next set of projects ideas to continue our global city status.**

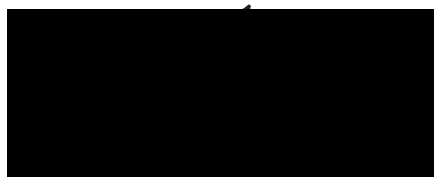
1. There is a strong desire to recognise Sydney's richness and diversity and we are working on Eora Journey – Yananurala (Harbour Walk), a harbour-front walk that shares **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture**.
2. Sydney is home to major national and local cultural institutions, so **supporting our cultural sector** through precinct revitalisation, making affordable creative spaces and establishing a creative land trust is critical to nurturing our creatives. **The Oxford Street precinct** revitalisation around the National Art School would contribute to transforming the area into a major cultural destination.
3. **The harbour is Sydney's greatest single asset** and we are working with Sydney Water to clean outflows into the harbour, in order to enable swimming – a haven for tourists and residents alike!
4. **The Metro provides the opportunity to connect current and future innovation, knowledge and employment centres** across the city and in metropolitan Sydney – we hope to foster an **innovation precinct** to support the economy of the future. The Metro also offers opportunities to **transform key city gateway roads** such as **Oxford Street, Botany Road, and Broadway,**

currently acting as traffic sewers, into green, pedestrian and cycling friendly avenues – making them welcoming entries to the city centre and further greening our city.

5. **Unlocking Spaces such as Moore Park Golf Course** to create large open green space which is critical to the health and well-being of the tens of thousands of new residents in Green Square. By 2050, we will cater for increasing number of pedestrians.
6. **Pedestrianizing Park Street** – to connect Hyde Park and provide a crucial East-West link for pedestrians, in line with Jan Gehl's vision, while **Loftus Street in Circular Quay** is an opportunity to create another pedestrianised street closed to traffic and open to outdoor dining in this crucial tourist hub.
7. **Realising our three city squares at the Quay, Town Hall and Central** now linked by a transformed George Street.

These aspirational projects outlined in Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 will help to continue to realise our green, global and connected vision for Sydney. The Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision inspired and delivered a transformation of Sydney.

With so much already delivered, we are continuing and extending our targets, our ambition and ourselves to continue 2030's vision to 2050.



Lord Mayor
Clover Moore

Vision for the future

Our communities
support our green,
global and connected
city. This is what that
means.



Naba Gumal (detail) by Shannon Foster
Photos: istock

Green

We support a sustainable future where everyone in the city does their part to respond to the climate emergency and contributes to improving environmental conditions on the planet.

It means citizens responsibly reduce their environmental footprint by cutting what they consume, minimising waste and sharing resources.

Business and institutions take the lead in research, investment and innovation to remove carbon and transform our economy.

A regenerative circular economy is driven by new design and manufacturing techniques with producers taking responsibility for their products' life cycle.

The city is naturally cooled by trees and greenery, helping support wellbeing and improving amenity.

Our collective voices and actions influence others, locally and globally.

The city and communities adapt to be resilient to the impacts of the changing climate.

The city is planned so that housing, transport, facilities, infrastructure and open space allow people to be close to their jobs and what they need for daily life.

Global

We support our city being a leader in our region for just and sustainable growth, creativity and innovation. It has a thriving 24-hour economy and opportunities for all.

It means the real history of our country is acknowledged and truth telling elevated to enable us to go forward together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in a true spirit of reconciliation.

Everyone in the city has an opportunity to participate in its economic, social and cultural life and reach their full potential.

Our global orientation and connections keep the city at the forefront of sustainable investment, jobs and businesses as an international gateway and leading destination for talent, business and leisure visitors.

We work collaboratively to enhance Sydney's reputation as a welcoming, diverse, inclusive and safe city that works to restore its natural environment and ecosystems.

Investment and support for creativity and innovation leads to strong economic growth.

New business models diversify our economy and business takes the lead in the transformation to a zero-carbon economy.

Sustained investment in infrastructure, icons, amenities and public space supports the city's thriving cultural life. Curiosity and experimentation are encouraged. Leadership, bold ideas and new talent are rewarded.

Smart, resilient infrastructure supports business investment and services our communities.

Business, government and communities are part of global networks and are active participants in global knowledge exchange.

Connected

We have social, business, cultural and physical connections within the city that allow us to reach our full potential and adapt to changes and withstand adversity. It means people look out for one another and feel safe.

Community cohesion is stronger because of our efforts to learn from, understand and connect with one another.

Communities, particularly children and young people are engaged, use their voices and actively participate in governance and decision-making processes.

People and organisations within the city are prepared for and able to recover from most situations.

Our city celebrates and strengthens its diverse, multicultural communities and everyone feels welcome.

Our lives are enhanced as our diverse communities contribute to the richness of the city's culture, where we record and share our stories, our history and our local creative achievements.

The city's distinctive local neighbourhoods provide strong focal points for community life, enriching experiences, recreation and simply coming together – all essential for health and wellbeing.

We can walk and ride bikes around our city and enjoy good public transport connections to the rest of metropolitan Sydney.

People feel connected to their city and to one another. These connections create the capacity to adapt to change and withstand adversity.

The City of Sydney continues its commitment to lead change through partnership and collaboration with government, the private sector and our communities.

Six guiding principles

These guiding principles, based on values expressed by our communities, will be used by the City of Sydney in its decision-making.



Sydney City Farm in Sydney Park, Alexandria
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

1. We are accountable to the voices and elevate the knowledge and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The City of Sydney strives to reflect the needs and wants of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and recognise their contribution. We will work to authentically strengthen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and help build self-determining communities.

2. We respond to the climate emergency

The City of Sydney responds to the climate emergency by taking bold steps to reduce the city's environmental footprint and transition to a zero-carbon and regenerative economy.

We plan for the sustainable growth of the city. We step lightly on the planet and support biodiversity and nature in the city.

We promote transformative change in energy generation, resource consumption, water use, transport and climate adaptation. We encourage it be done in a way that is equitable and inclusive, with no one being left behind or bearing an unfair burden because of long-term structural change to jobs and industries.

3. We build the resilience of our society and economy

The City of Sydney is a place where partnerships between government, business and communities strengthen the city.

We build resilience in our economy, communities, systems and infrastructure to respond, recover and adapt to a range of shock events and chronic stresses. These include our energy and transport systems failing to cope with extreme weather or other events, and a lack of affordable housing and poorly constructed buildings that fail to meet current safety, quality or sustainability standards.

Among other stresses are that our health services are under pressure and some vulnerable communities may be isolated or experience increasing inequity.

4. Our communities are engaged in the governance of their city

The City of Sydney is a democratic city where people of all ages can influence decisions. People are encouraged to be connected and effective community builders.

5. We lead through stewardship and collaboration

The City of Sydney will lead by facilitating social harmony and inclusion while also acting as a steward of the environment and the economy.

In our role as steward, we are required to understand what our communities value and the values we have in common, then act in line with those shared values.

As steward of this city, we will ensure that we embrace innovation and are prepared for, respond and adapt to change.

Our communities are also impacted by decisions outside our boundaries and we seek to work collaboratively with partners, our neighbours and all levels of government for the benefit of current and future generations.

6. Our organisation is governed responsibly and sustainably

The City of Sydney has a responsibility to balance the needs and interests of current and future generations as it makes decisions.

We will ensure the organisation has the financial capacity to serve our communities now and in the future.

Fairness and equity, including intergenerational equity, underpin all our choices. High ethical standards, transparency, accountability and the involvement of our communities are integral to the governance of the city.



Ten targets to measure progress

- 1. By 2035 we will achieve net zero emissions** in the City of Sydney local area.
- 2. By 2050 there will be a minimum overall green cover of 40%**, including 27% tree canopy cover.
- 3. By 2030 residential potable water use will be reduced to 170 litres a person a day** in the City of Sydney local area. Non-residential potable water use will be reduced by 10% (measured per square metre) from 2018/19 levels.
- 4. By 2030 there will be a 15% reduction in waste generated by each person** based on 2015 levels. And by 2030 there will be 90% recycling and recovery of residential waste, commercial and industrial waste, and construction and demolition waste, which will be maintained at that level to 2050.
- 5. By 2036 there will be approximately 700,000 jobs** in the City of Sydney local area including 200,000 new jobs compared to 2017. An increased proportion of all jobs will be secure jobs.
- 6. By 2036 there will be at least 156,000 private dwellings** and 17,500 non-private dwellings that include boarding houses and student accommodation. Of the private dwellings, **7.5% will be social housing and 7.5% will be affordable housing** with this proportion maintained into the future.
- 7. By 2036 there will be at least 40,000m² of new cultural production floor space** in the City of Sydney local area compared to 2017.
- 8. By 2050 people will use public transport, walk or cycle to travel to and from work.** This includes 9 out of 10 people working in the city centre and 2 out of 3 people working in the rest of the local area.
- 9. By 2030 every resident will be around a 10-minute walk** to what they need for daily life.
- 10. By 2050 community cohesion and social interaction will have increased.** This is based on at least 75% of the local resident population feeling part of the community, agreeing most people can be trusted and believing that when needed, they can get help from their neighbours.

Ten strategic directions

These 10 strategic directions provide a framework for action for each major theme or topic in our 2030–2050 vision.



Scene from Hyde Park, Sydney
Photo: Mark Metcalfe / City of Sydney

Each strategic direction focuses on relevant issues that our communities identified as important as well as contextual information and findings from our research.

1. Responsible governance and stewardship

Our organisation evolves to provide governance and leadership for our city and communities.

2. A leading environmental performer

Our city is part of a decarbonised world. Our communities live in a city that is regenerative and makes a positive contribution to the planet, to society and to individual lives.

3. Public places for all

Our city has more places for people who live, work, invest and visit here. The history of our city and connections to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is evident in our public places. The city centre is inviting, clean and safe by day and night. At its heart are creativity and public art. Our local main streets are thriving hubs with their own distinctive characters.

4. Design excellence and sustainable development

Our city will continue to grow sustainably and with good design. Our communities are inclusive, socially connected and healthy. They live in walkable, well-serviced neighbourhoods that are supported by public transport. We take the impact of climate change into account in the policies that influence development in our city.

5. A city for walking, cycling and public transport

Our city has more public transport and zero-carbon vehicles and more people choose to walk and ride bikes. The city is greener and calmer with more space for people on the streets.

6. An equitable and inclusive city

Everyone feels welcome and can afford to live here if they choose. Everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential in a city that is fair and just.

7. Resilient and diverse communities

Our city and its public places and infrastructure can withstand impacts from a changing climate and emergency situations. We work with communities, businesses and other organisations to strengthen connections and networks, to prepare our city and be able to recover from most situations.

8. A thriving cultural and creative life

We are proud of our city. We are all able to participate in, contribute to and benefit from its cultural life.

9. A transformed and innovative economy

Our city maintains its position locally, nationally and globally as a destination for business, investment and talent. Innovation is central to the economy and transformation has occurred across all industries. Wealth and benefits are shared equitably.

10. Housing for all

This is a city where everyone has a home. Social, affordable and supported housing is available for those who need it. High-quality housing is available for everyone.

Transformative project ideas

Following extensive engagement with our communities, we have developed 10 transformative project ideas.

Developed with prominent architects, landscape architects and urban designers, the ideas demonstrate how future public space and infrastructure projects could achieve our vision for a green, global and connected Sydney by 2050. They propose long-term solutions and communicate creative responses to the opportunities and challenges facing our city.

Many are refreshed ideas from Sustainable Sydney 2030, while some are new. They respond directly to the aspirations of our communities: a city where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their cultures are visible. These ideas will help us become a greener city that is regenerative and innovative with thriving arts and culture.

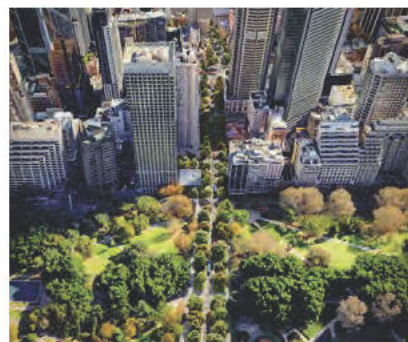
The ideas bring to life the 2030-2050 vision, drawing on the strategic directions and actions to reimagine a future city for all. The project ideas acknowledge that long-term infrastructure and development requires commitment from all levels of government, business communities and our wider residential communities.



1 Eora Journey –
Yananurala



2 Three linked city
squares



3 The green city –
increasing city greening

These ideas illustrate
how our vision for
a future Sydney
could be realised



4 City space improvement
program



5 The water city – making
more of our harbour



6 Connecting
Green Square



7 Metro as
catalyst



8 Building on
housing for all



9 Making space
for culture



10 Reimagining our
community assets

3 The green city

Expanding Sydney's lungs at Moore Park

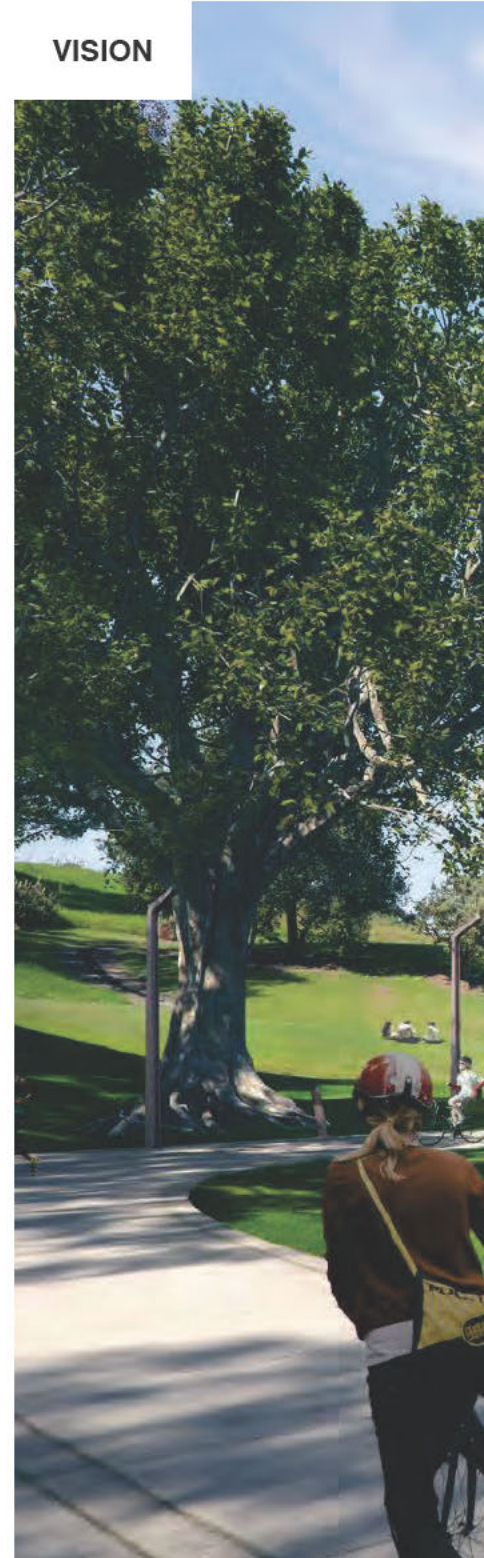
Unlocking existing crown land at Moore Park for wider public use, will facilitate the expansion of Sydney's lungs. We propose to retain Moore Park Golf Club, driving range and maintenance depot, but convert the 18-hole course into a 9-hole course. This could create up to 20ha of extra parkland for our residents. We envisage a 4km cycling and walking track around the edge of Moore Park and the golf course.

The land was originally part of Sydney's second common. The Moore Park Golf Course adjoins the Green Square area. By 2040 there will be up to 90,000 residents within 2km of Moore Park. Large open green space is not only important for the environment, but also a much needed asset for the health of these communities, giving people room to exercise, relax and connect with nature.

NOW



VISION









NOW



Attachment C – City of Sydney: Engagement Report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



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Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

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Overview

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to understand community sentiment to re-allocating community (Crown) land which is currently Moore Park Golf Course to public parkland. The consultation looked at whether, with the increase in demand for public space, the golf course was the best use of public land.

In the first phase (August 2020), the City commissioned a randomly selected, demographically representative phone survey of 402 households living within a 5km radius of Moore Park golf course. The survey presented 3 options – reconfigure the course to 9-holes, convert the entire course or retain the 18-hole course and asked respondents which option they preferred.

The results indicated significant community support for creating more public parkland at the site of Moore Park golf course. The preferred approach was to reconfigure the golf course to 9-holes.

In the second phase (November-December 2020), the community was asked for their preference and feedback on three options for Moore Park Golf Course:

- Option 1 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 18ha of new parkland on the western side of the golf course north of Dacey Avenue
- Option 2 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 20ha of new parkland along the western edge of the golf course and south of Dacey Avenue
- Option 3 - Retain the 18-hole golf course

This was a public consultation process that involved an online survey and promotional activities.

Key findings

Randomly selected phone survey results

In August 2020, the City commissioned a randomly selected, demographically representative phone survey of 402 households living within a 5km radius of Moore Park golf course.

The result indicated significant community support for creating more public parkland. The preferred approach was to reconfigure the golf course to 9-holes.

- 47% preferred the option to convert half the course to public parkland
- 30% preferred the option to convert the whole golf course to parkland
- 23% wanted the 18-hole course retained

Older people (65+) and men were more likely to prefer retaining the course. Young people aged 18-34, apartment dwellers and women were more likely to support creating additional parkland.

Significantly, 18% of respondents had used the Moore Park Golf Course facilities in the past year and 50% of them supported changing the course to create more parkland.

The phone survey also asked people what type of open space facilities they used. Public parks are the most frequently used open space with 84% of residents visiting parks at least once every couple of weeks. 81% of respondents stated they never visit golf courses.

Outcomes of community consultation

The key insights for the community consultation conducted in November – December (2020) were:

- The community and stakeholders recognise the importance of public green space as the population of Sydney and the communities of Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern continue to grow.
- The community highly values the public land of Moore Park including the golf course.
- There is significant passion within the community for the future of this highly valued public land. (demonstrated by the significant numbers of surveys 10,299).
- 50% of survey respondents supported a change to the course to create more parkland (18.8% option 1 to reconfigure, 27.7% option 2 to reconfigure and 3.5% who selected 'other' as the option and specified more parkland).
- 49% of survey respondents want to retain the 18-hole course.
- The vast majority of those who want to retain the 18-hole use the Moore Park Golf Course facilities. 48% of respondents had used the Moore Park Golf Course facilities in the past year.
- There is a very significant difference in the views of men and women – 73% of women support reducing the course to provide more parkland. 59% of men want to retain the 18-hole course.
- Views are strongly shaped by where people live. Respondents living immediately to the west of the course were overwhelmingly supportive of reconfiguring the course to create more public parkland. Whereas respondents who want to retain the 18-hole course are more likely to live in the eastern suburbs and other parts of Sydney.
- People also suggested opportunities to improve physical links (publicly accessible spaces and paths around and through the golf course) to connect to existing parkland at Centennial and

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Moore Park. Ideas included improving public access through immediate actions such as removing fences and time-share arrangements.

Stakeholders including the Greater Sydney Parklands and the Greater Sydney Commission expressed their interest in working with the City and other agencies and stakeholders to realise their shared commitment to increase public parkland in Sydney. They did not provide feedback on the proposed options but indicated they were interested in the outcomes of the consultation and in sharing their views and insights in the future.

Golfing groups including Golf NSW, Golf Australia and PGA of Australia made submissions expressing their concerns about any change to the 18-hole course.

Of the 72 emailed submissions – 42 argued to retain the 18-hole course, 16 supported reconfiguring the course to 9-holes and 7 argued to convert the entire course to parkland, 7 made other comments.

Comparison between surveys

	Phone survey	Online survey*
Retain 18-hole course	23%	49%
Reconfigure the course / convert all to parkland	77%*	50%

*This includes 30% of respondents who preferred converting the whole course to parkland.

+1% of survey respondents raised other issues but did not support a particular option or approach

There are two significant differences between the outcomes of the random phone survey and the online community consultation survey.

Firstly, the online survey had more than twice as many male respondents as women (67% men and 30% women) whereas the demographically matched sample had 50% of each.

Secondly, many more respondents to the online survey use the Moore Park Golf Course facilities: 48% as opposed to 18% in the random sample.

These significant differences between the two samples correlates with significantly different results to key questions in the survey.

In this case, the methodological difference between the two surveys has resulted in significantly different outcomes. Random phone surveys target a specific demographic sample, in this case a demographic sample of people living within a 5km radius of the golf course. Online, self-selecting surveys attract respondents shaped largely by:

1. those who are motivated to respond
2. those who hear about the survey

The outcomes which were influenced by the methodological difference between the two surveys were mostly likely further exaggerated by the fact that:

1. The online survey was mostly promoted to residents of the City of Sydney.
2. Moore Park golf course directly emailed the survey to their club members.

This suggested that a larger sample size with broader community promotion would have resulted in a narrowing of the difference in the results as the demographic preferences (eg greater support for retaining the course among older people and males) were consistent between the two surveys.

Phone Survey

Phone survey methodology and sample

A total of 402 resident interviews were completed. 388 of the 402 respondents were chosen by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages and SamplePages. The remaining 14 respondents were 'number harvested' via face-to-face intercept at several locations around the City of Sydney LGA.

A sample size of 402 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=402 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.9%.

For the survey under discussion the greatest margin of error is 4.9%. This means, for example, that an answer such as 'yes' (50%) to a question could vary from 45% to 55%.

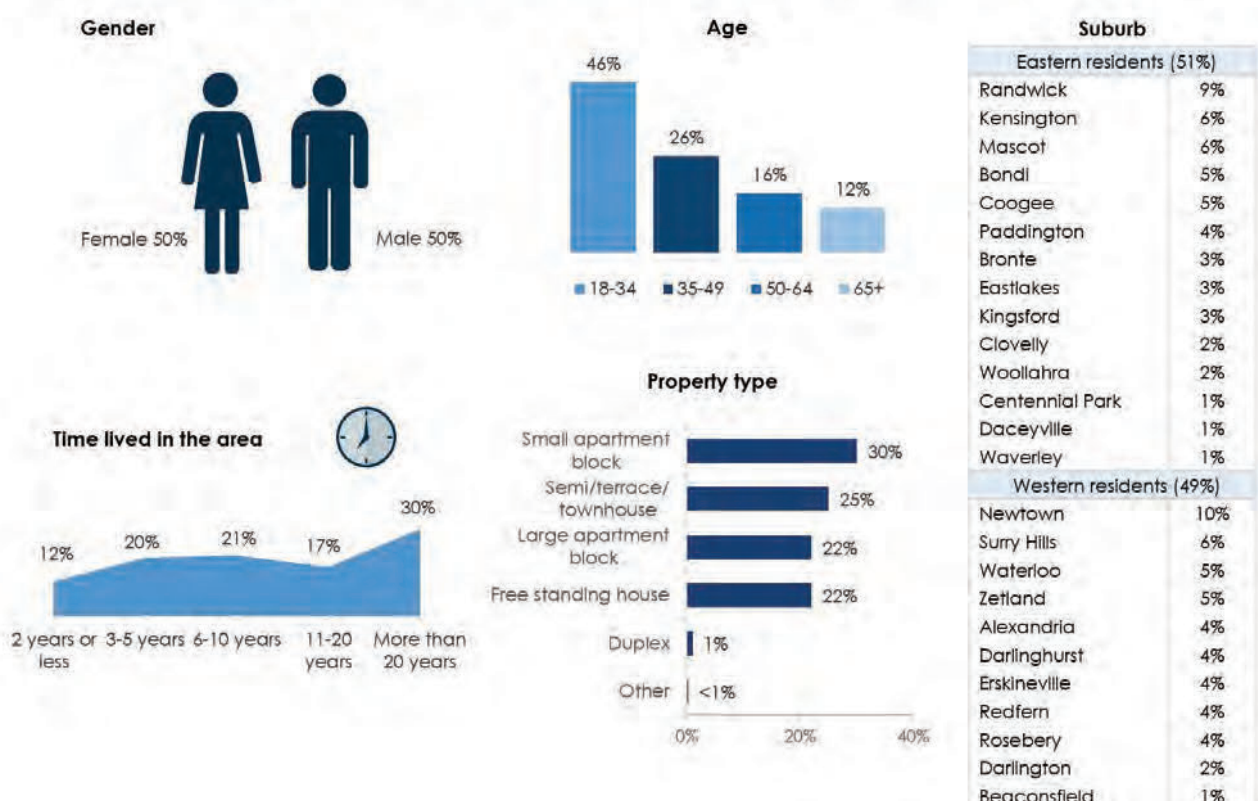
The sample was weighted at a holistic level by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS Census data for each of the 25 targeted suburbs close to Moore Park Golf Course.

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with the AMSRS (Australian Market and Social Research Society) Code of Professional Behaviour.

Participants in this survey were pre-qualified as being over the age of 18 and living in one of the targeted suburbs.

Sample Profile

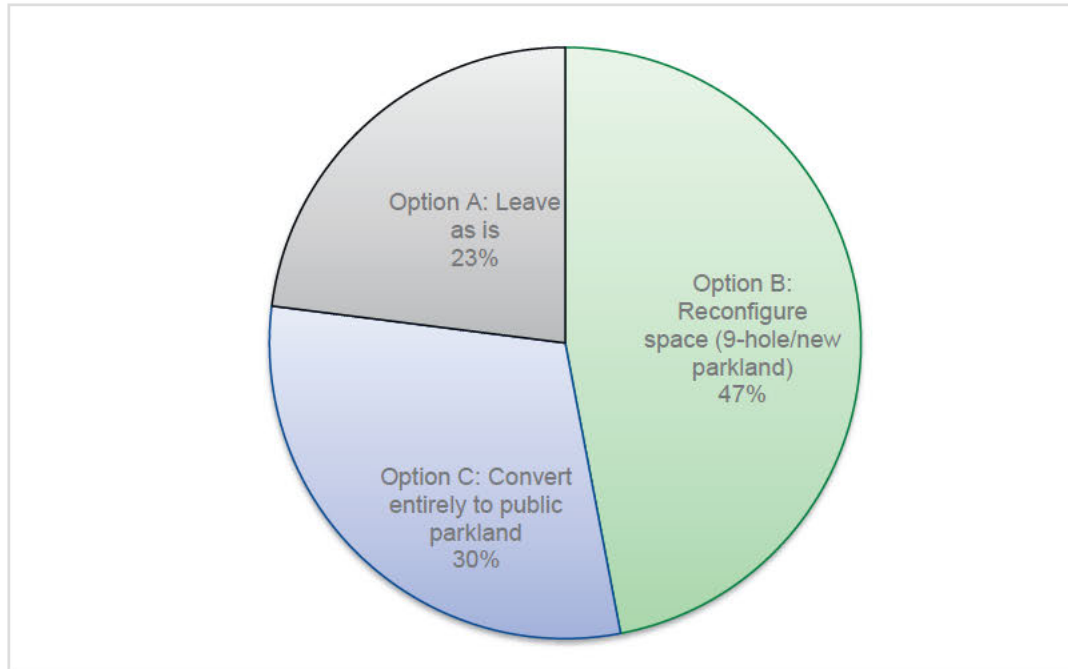
The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS community profile of the 25 suburbs targeted in the survey (suburbs within a 5km radius of Moore Park Golf Course).



Phone survey results

Overall results

The results of the phone survey were clearly in support of creating more public parkland by changing the use of the public land where Moore Park golf course is situated.



The most strongly expressed view was that the option to reconfigure the course was a good compromise that caters for more people.

Reason for preference	N = 401
Option A (No Change) – 23%	
Leave it as is/the golf course is used frequently/opportunity for exercise/not enough golf options close by (e.g. not many 18-hole courses)	15%
There are plenty of parklands/exercise opportunities/public space close by	10%
Do not trust Council/concern for future development and loss of green space	2%
Option B (Change) – 47%	
Good compromise/caters for more people	36%
Golfers can still enjoy the space	11%
Provides more open space for the community/passive recreation	11%
Several golf course close by/less people play golf	4%
Option C (Convert) – 30%	
Provides/there's a need for more public space/more recreational opportunities/more beneficial for the community	22%
There are enough golf courses already/I don't play golf/golf is exclusive and expensive/less people play golf	18%
Better for the environment/wildlife	2%

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Options preferred by gender, age and dwelling type

Male respondents and older people (over 65) were significantly more supportive of leaving the course as it is. Apartment dwellers were significantly more supportive of creating more parkland. There was significantly more support amongst users of Moore Park Golf Course facilities of retaining the 18-hole course. However, 50% of people surveyed who had used the past year preferred an option which created more parkland and reduced the course.

	Overall	Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+	Free standing house	Semi/terrace/townhouse/Duplex	Small apartment block	Large apartment block	Moore Park Golf Course user	Non user
Reconfigure	47%	43%	52%	55%▲	42%	39%	42%	44%	36%▼	57%▲	51%	40%	49%
Convert	30%	28%	31%	29%	31%	34%	23%	25%	33%	25%	36%	10%	34%▲
Leave	23%	29%▲	17%	16%▼	27%	27%	35%▲	31%	31%	18%	13%▼	50%▲	17%
Base	401	203	199	187	104	62	49	86	104	120	90	74	328

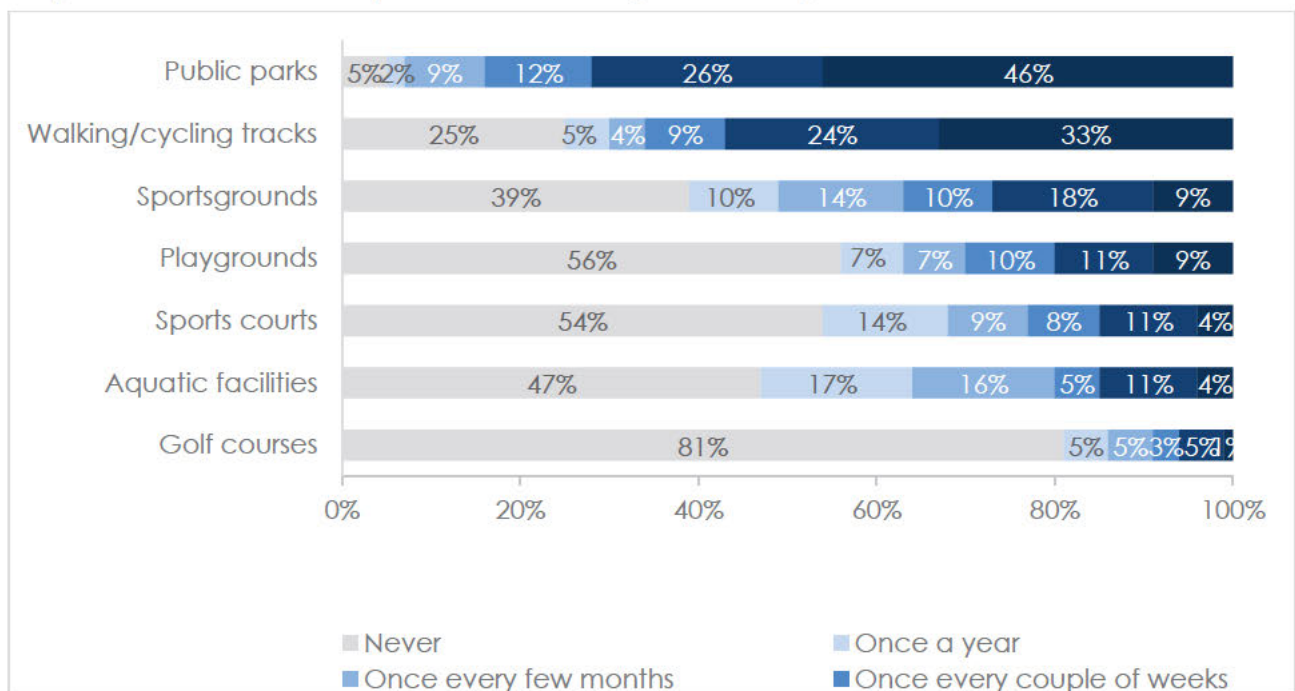
Options preferred by suburb

There was a strong preference for retaining the course in suburbs to the east of the course. However, 73% percent of respondents in these suburbs still preferred options that created more public parkland. There was very little support for retaining the course in suburbs to the west of the course (19%).

	Eastern residents	Western residents
Reconfigure	45%	50%
Convert	28%	31%
Leave	27%	19%
Base	203	198

How the community use open space

The phone survey also asked people what type of open space facilities they used. Public parks are the most frequently used open space with 84% of respondents visiting parks at least once every couple of weeks. 81% of respondents stated they never visit golf courses.



Summary of community consultation activities

The consultation was open from 9 November – 22 December 2020. Community members could provide feedback via a short online survey hosted on the Sydney Your Say website or via email or phone.

Quantity	Description of activity
10,299	Online surveys completed
72	Emailed submissions received from community members
9	Letters received from stakeholders
6	Community group representatives attended a briefing with the Lord Mayor
4	Pop-up information stalls (East Village Shopping Centre and Crystal Street Shops, Waterloo)
40,574	Flyers distributed to Surry Hills, Redfern, Waterloo, Zetland, Centennial Park, Beaconsfield, Rosebery, Alexandria, Paddington and Erskineville
19,859	Pageviews of the consultation webpage
44	Letters sent from the Lord Mayor and CEO to stakeholders

Key documents can be found in the appendices:

- Survey (appendix 1)
- Webpage content (appendix 2)
- Flyer (appendix 3)
- Social media (appendix 4)
- Stakeholder list who received Lord Mayor or CEO letter (appendix 5)
- Lord Mayor letter to stakeholders (appendix 6)
- CEO letter to stakeholders (appendix 7)

Written feedback

Emails and stakeholder letters

Submissions were received from the following stakeholders and can be found in appendix 8.

Strongly in support of retaining the 18-hole course:

- Stuart Fraser, CEO, Golf NSW
- James Sutherland, CEO, Golf Australia (via Stuart Fraser, Golf NSW)
- Gavin Kirkman, CEO, PGA of Australia (to Minister Stokes provided to the City of Sydney by Stuart Fraser)
- The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, Member for Parramatta (via Stuart Fraser, Golf NSW)
- The Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Industry and Trade, Member for Monaro.

Supporting the Government's current framework to create more parkland in Sydney and welcoming dialogue on the issue:

- Greg Woodhams, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Greater Sydney Commission
- Michael Rose AM Chairman, Greater Sydney Parklands
- Suellen Fitzgerald, CEO, Greater Sydney Parklands
- Ursula Gleeson, Parks and Leisure Australia (NSW/ACT)

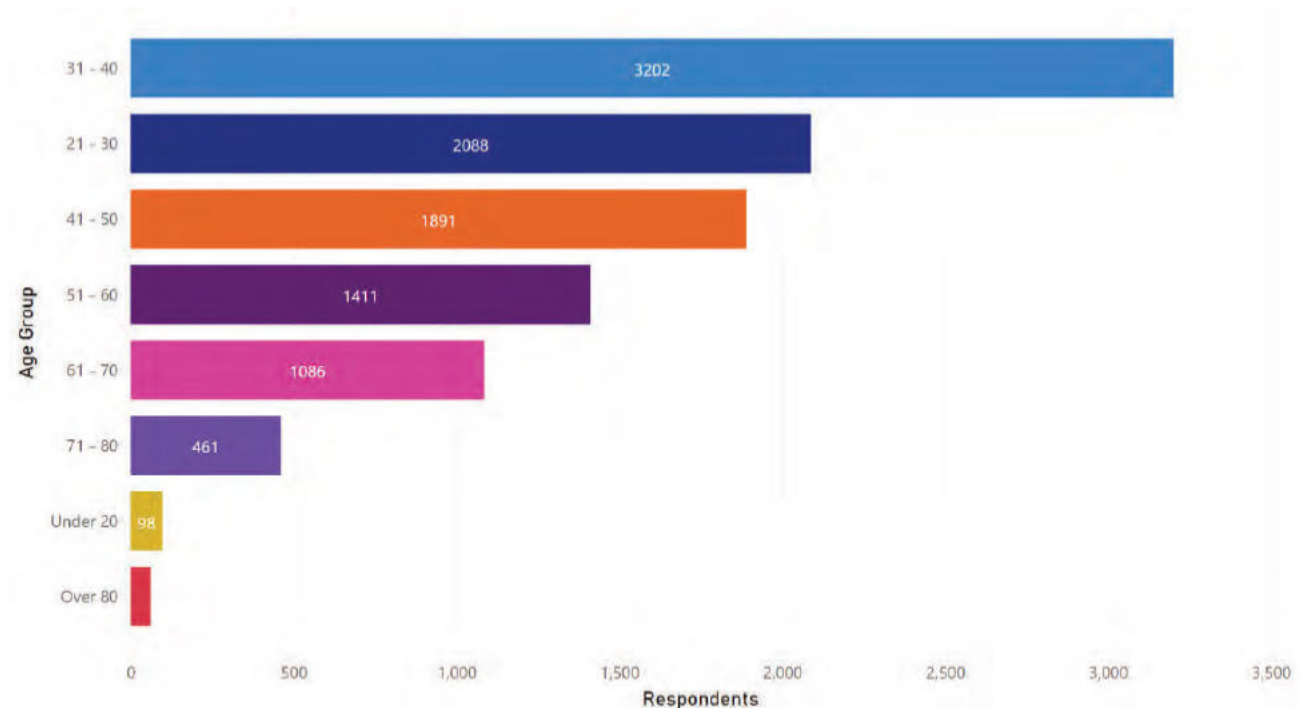
A total of 72 email submissions were received.

Number	Option supported	Reasons
42	Retain 18-hole golf course	A public course; a community asset; already large amounts of existing parkland nearby; well used by a range of community members; it's history; don't want to lose a championship course
16	Reconfigure to 9-holes and create public parkland	Need for more parkland in the area; provides greater community benefit; the area and population has changed
7	Convert all to public parkland	The golf course is not accessible to everyone; potential for a wide variety of uses eg food production
7	Other	Mostly questions about the proposal

Online survey results

Who participated in the survey?

Age breakdown



Respondent age (Moore Park Golf Course survey December 2020)

There was a good spread of ages captured in the survey sample although it was older than the City of Sydney community.

Age	Respondents	City of Sydney*
21 – 30	20%	32%
31 – 40	31%	16%
41 – 50	18%	12%
51 – 60	14%	9%

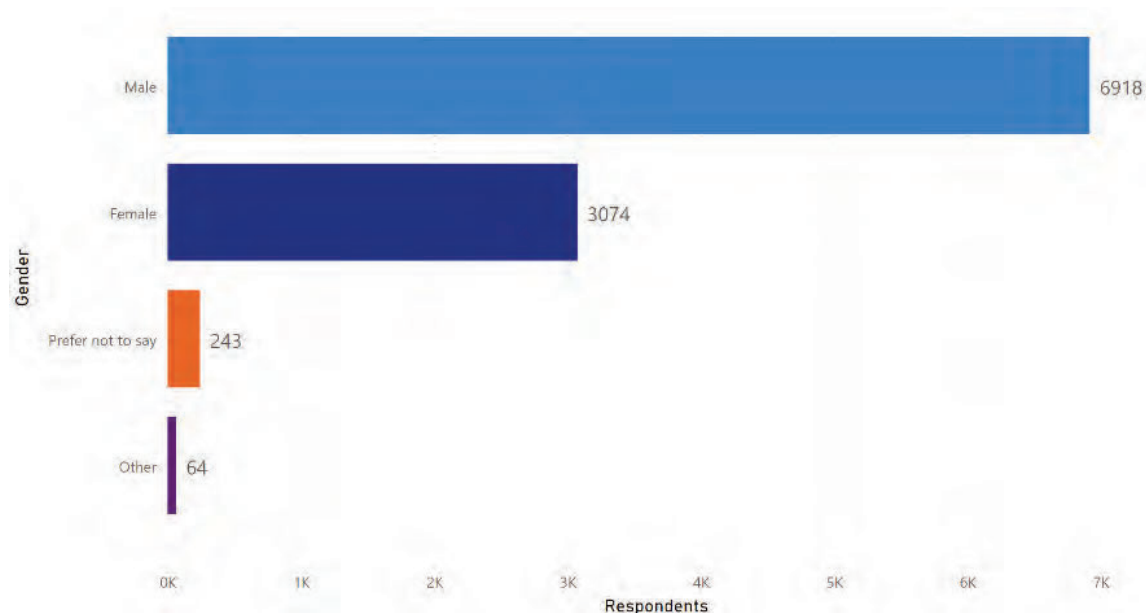
*ABS 2016 census

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Gender breakdown

More than twice as many men as women responded to the survey

- 67% men
- 30% women
- 3% other or preferred not to say

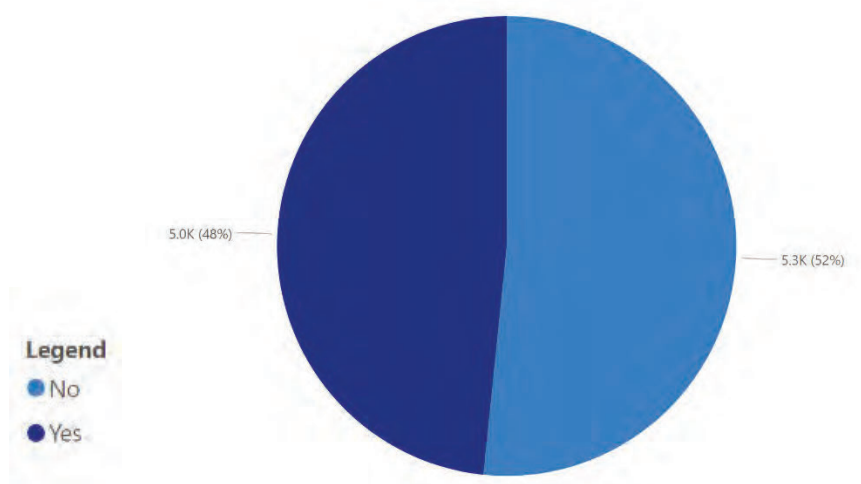


*Respondent identified gender
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)*

Moore Park Golf course users

There was almost a 50/50 split of those who use the golf course and those who don't.

- 48% of those responding had used the Moore Park Golf Course facilities in the past year
- 52% hadn't used the golf course

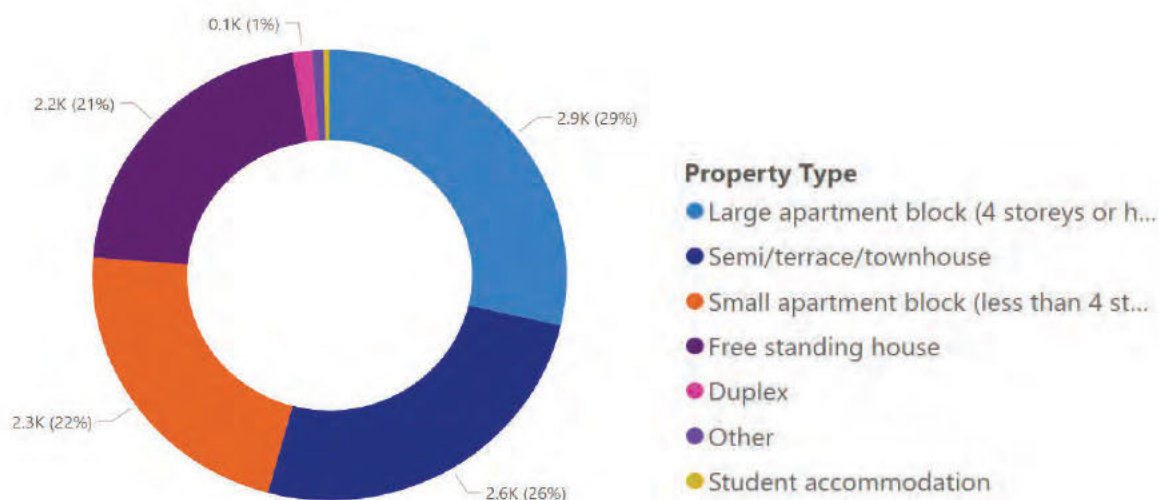


*Respondent use of Moore Park Golf Course
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)*

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Dwelling type

There was a good sample of respondents from different dwelling types. However, the categories of free-standing house or semi-detached/terraces/townhouses were over-represented compared to the housing types in this area of Sydney.



*Respondent dwelling type
(Moore Park Golf Club survey December 2020)*

Dwelling type	Survey	Zetland/Waterloo ⁺	5km radius of Moore Park [*]
Apartments (high density)	51%	88%	52%
Semis/terraces/townhouse/duplex (medium density)	27%	10.7%	26%
Free standing houses	21%	0.2%	22%

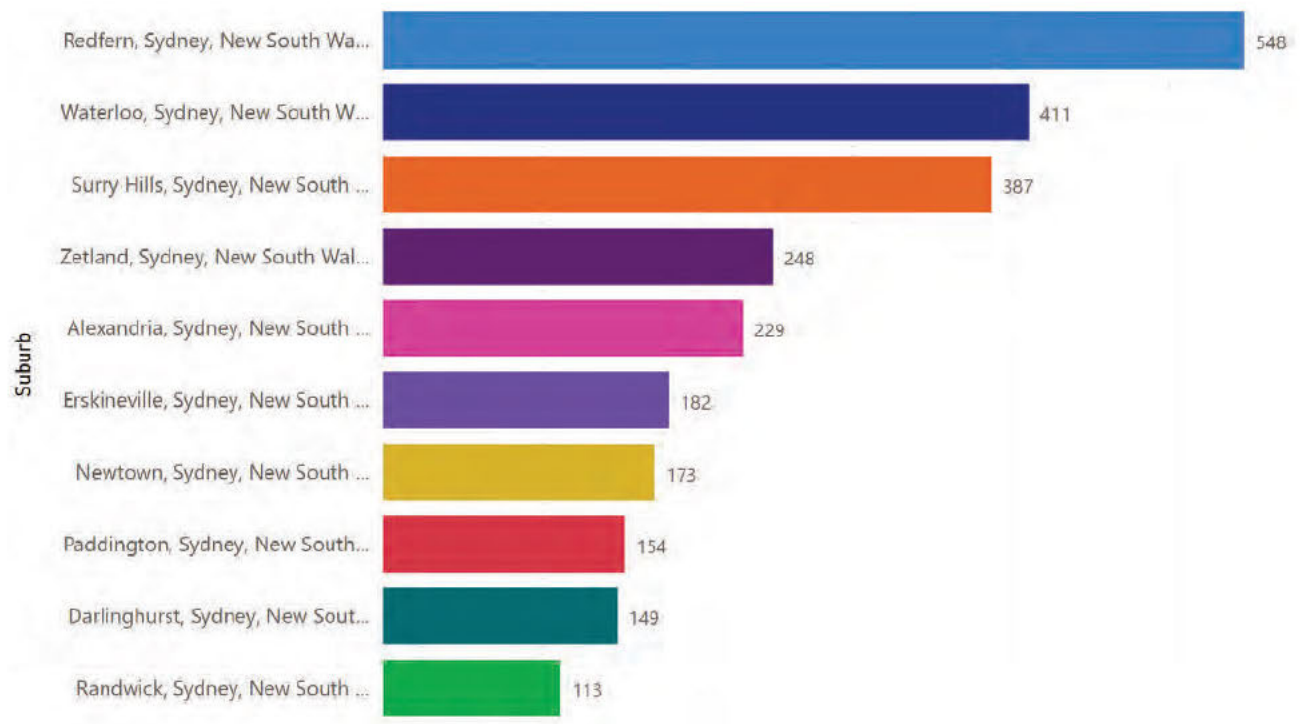
⁺ABS 2016 census

^{*}ABS 2016 census (figure from phone survey report)

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Suburbs breakdown

Most responses came from people who live in suburbs close to the golf course. The graph below shows the top 10 suburbs we received responses from.

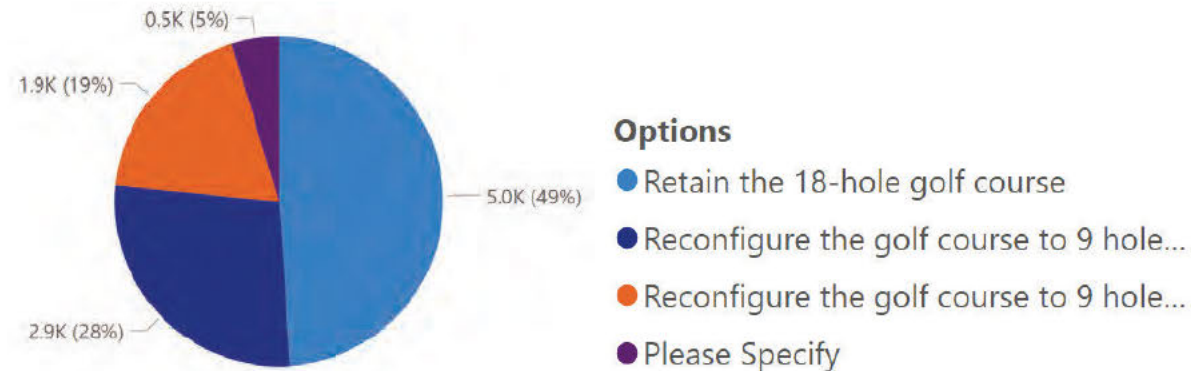


Suburb	% respondents	Number of respondents
Redfern	12%	548
Waterloo	9%	411
Surry Hills	8%	387
Zetland	5%	248
Alexandria	5%	229
Erskineville	4%	182
Newtown	4%	173
Paddington	3%	154
Darlinghurst	3%	149
Randwick	2%	113

Top line survey results

Preferred option

Which option for the future of Moore Park Golf Course do you most strongly support?



Options	Respondents
Retain the 18-hole golf course (option 3)	5036
Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 20ha of new parkland along the western edge of the golf course and south of Dacey Avenue (option 2)	2850
Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 18ha of new parkland along the western side of the golf course north of Dacey Avenue (option 1)	1934
Other (please specify)	479

Reasons for supporting options

Reasons given for retaining the 18-hole golf course focussed on the positive aspects of the facility and the sport in general, as well as the history of the Moore Park Golf Course. As a public course, respondents argued that it is more accessible than other courses.

Reasons given for creating more parkland included the importance of access to public parkland for a growing population. There were some comments for why a particular reconfiguration would work better.

Preference for more parkland compared with retaining the 18-hole course

Overall preference can be organised as support for creating more parkland or retaining the 18-hole golf course. This was evenly distributed.

	Responses	Percentage
More parkland	5147	50%
Retain the golf course	5047	49%
Other	105	1%

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

To achieve a measure of overall preference, the 479 respondents who selected “other” and described their alternative approach were analysed.

This data was coded and the breakdown (provided below) shows that 77 respondents supported reconfiguring the course to 9-holes but didn’t have a preference for which option, 267 supported converting the entire course to parkland and 16 supported keeping the driving range but converting the rest of the course to parkland. Suggestions from the majority of respondents coded as ‘other’ below (105) included ideas for shared use of the 18-hole golf course, alternative sporting facilities and other uses of the land.

11 responses clearly supported retaining the 18-hole course and were coded to option 3 (retaining the 18-hole course). 1 response was coded to option 1 and 2 responses were coded to option 2 as these were clearly in favour of these specific options for reconfiguring the course.

Options 1,2,4,5 and 6 as coded below were added to create a figure of overall preference for more parkland. Options 3 is those preferring to retain the 18-hole golf course.

Option Code	Count	%GT Count
Option 1	1935	18.79%
Option 2	2852	27.69%
Option 3	5047	49.00%
Option 4 Either 1 or 2	77	0.75%
Option 5 All parkland	267	2.59%
Option 6 All parkland but keep driving range	16	0.16%
Other	105	1.02%
Total	10299	100.00%

Demographic analysis of results

The following analysis uses the above data, broken down as follows:

- **More parkland** (all respondents who selected option 1, 2 and 'other' where they are specified approaches to create more parkland)
- **Retain golf course** (all respondents who support retaining the 18-hole golf course)
- **Other** (respondents who did not clearly indicate either of the above preferences or proposed another option altogether)

Preference by age

There was significantly more support for retaining the golf course among older respondents (61 years and over). The following table shows the comparison by age between those supporting options to create more parkland compared to those who want to retain the 18-hole course.

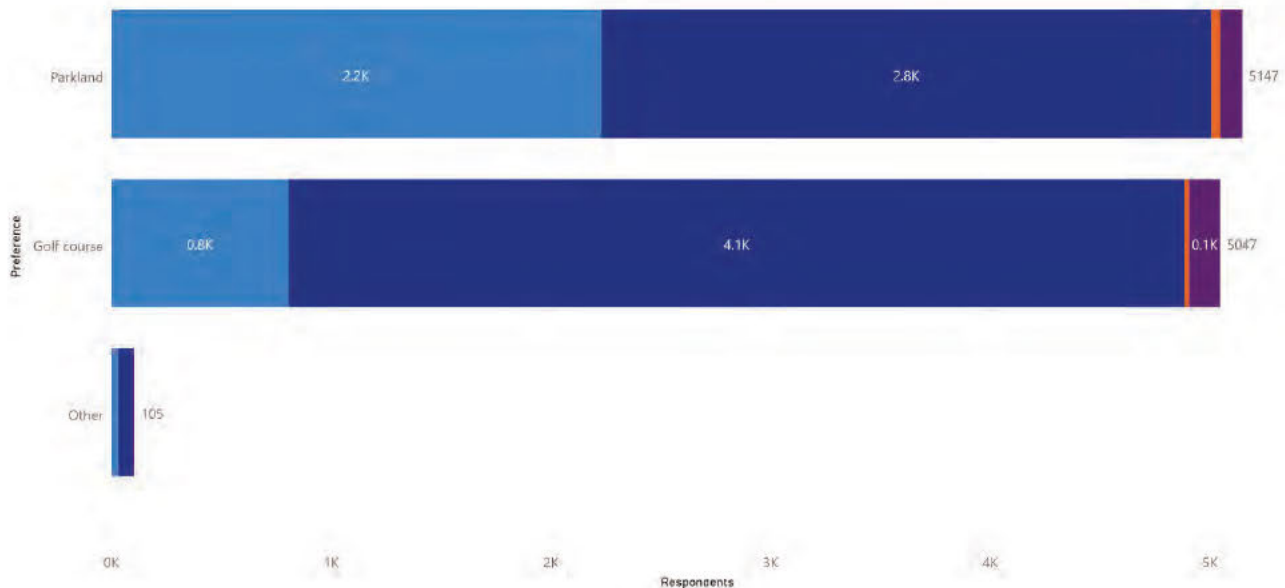
	Age							
Option	-20	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 70	71 - 80	+80
More parkland	57%	57%	56%	51%	44%	34%	29%	37%
Retain golf course	38%	42%	43%	48%	55%	65%	69%	61%

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Preference by gender

The graph below shows the difference in preference between parkland and retaining the course based on gender. Women were more than twice as likely as men to support a change to more parkland.

Gender: Female Male Other Prefer not to say



Preference by gender
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)

Option	Women	Men
More parkland	73% (2.2k)	40% (2.8k)
Retain golf course	26% (0.8k)	59% (4.1k)

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

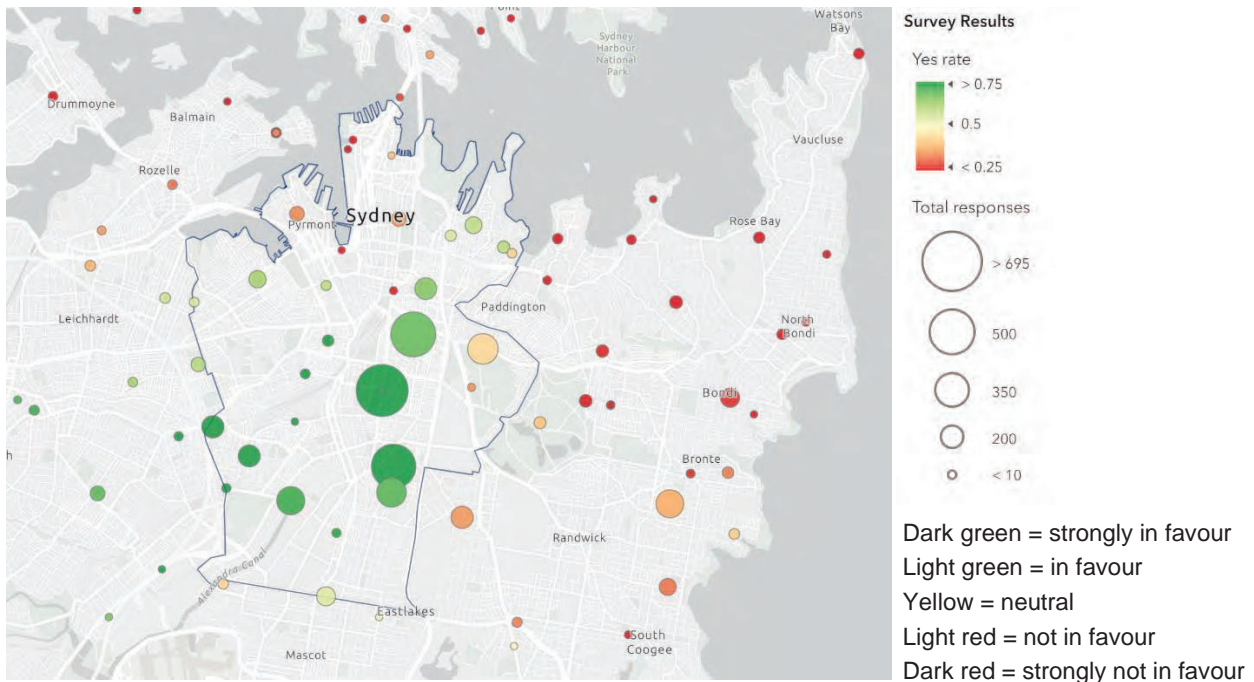
Preference by geographic location

The preference between parkland or retaining the course was strongly influenced by where people live.

The map shows that suburbs immediately to the west of the course strongly supported reconfiguring the course. Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern, Alexandria and Surry Hills all recorded over 70% support for more parkland.

Suburbs to the east including Kensington, Paddington and Randwick showed less support for reconfiguring the course (35-45%)

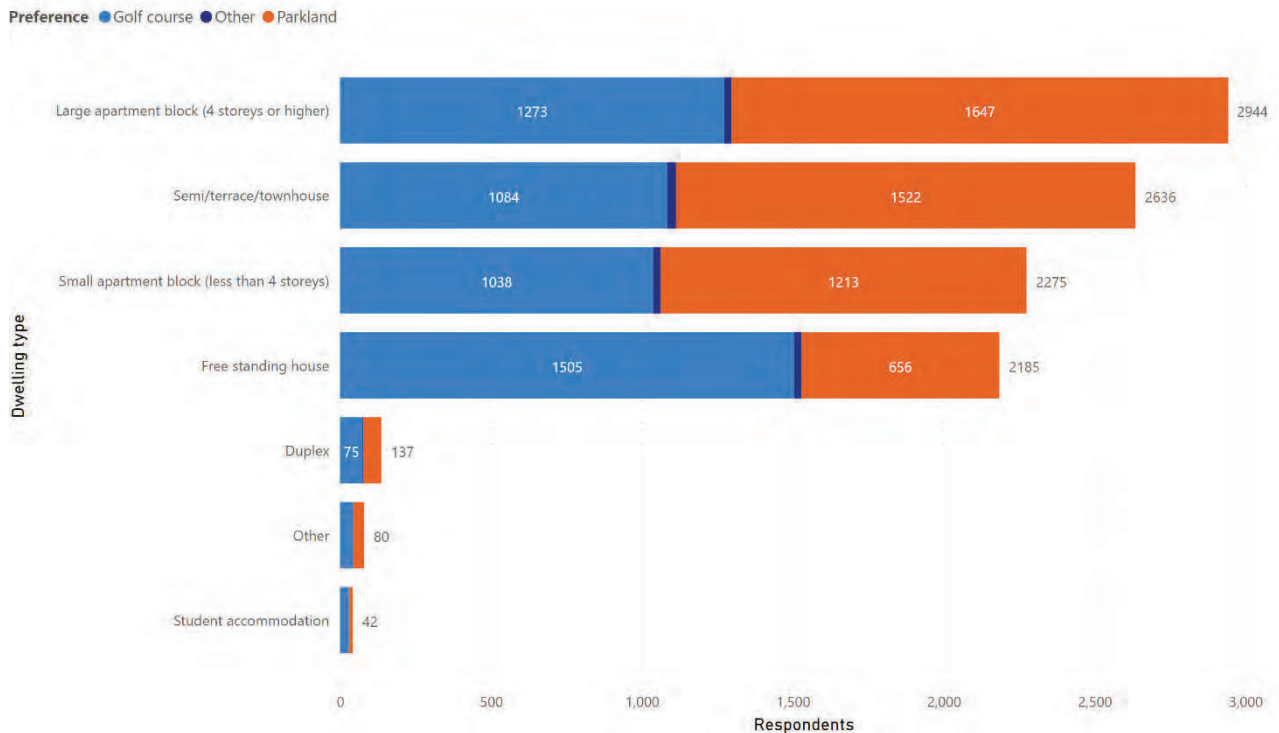
Responses were received in support of retaining the 18-hole course from the eastern suburbs and other parts of Sydney.



Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Preference by dwelling type

Respondents living in large apartments (over 4 storeys) were significantly more supportive of reconfiguring the course to create more parkland compared to people living in free standing houses.



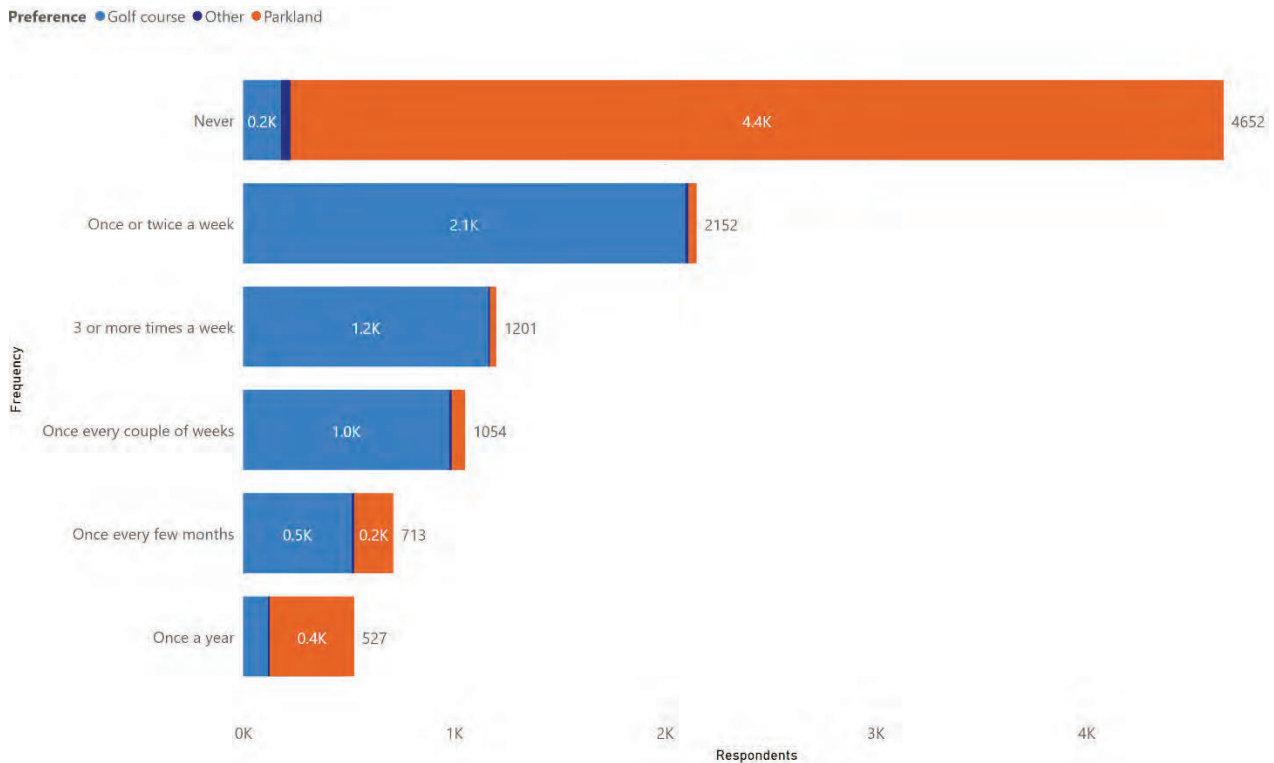
*Preference by respondents' dwelling type
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)*

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Preference by how frequently respondents visit golf courses

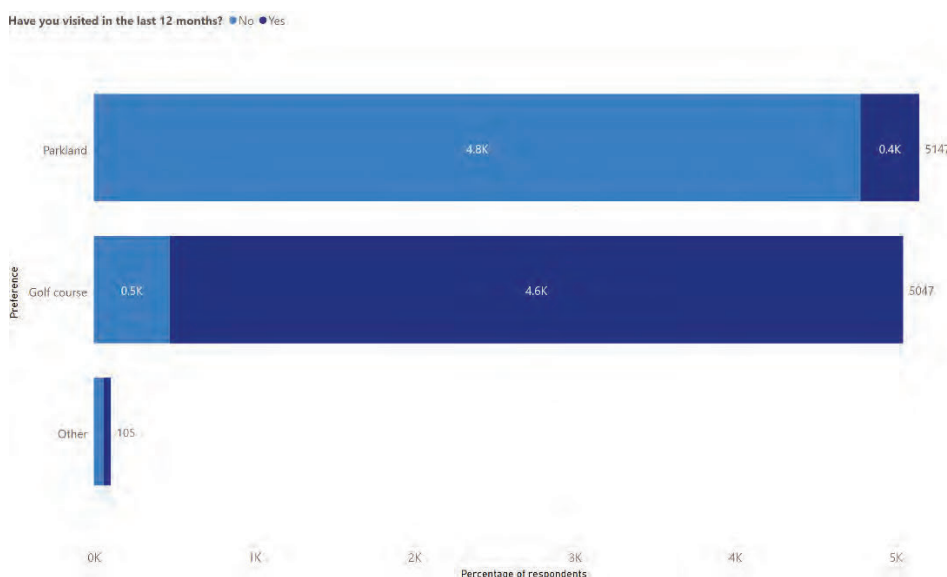
When asked how often respondents visit golf courses, 45% of respondents said they never visit golf courses and 43% said they use golf courses at least once every two weeks.

Regular users of golf courses were most strongly in support of retaining the 18-hole course. Respondents who use golf course facilities once a year or have never golfed were significantly more in favour of reconfiguring the golf course for more public parkland.



Preference by how frequently respondents visit golf course facilities
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)

Respondents who have used Moore Park Golf Course in the past year are much more likely to support retaining the 18-hole golf course.



Preference by whether respondents have visited Moore Park Golf Course in the last year
(Moore Park Golf Course Survey December 2020)

Engagement and communications activities

Engagement activities

Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say [webpage](#) was created. The page included an electronic copy of the survey and other key information about the consultation.

Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

Sydney Your Say e-news

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say November and December 2020 e-newsletters (7,327 subscribers).

Flyer

A flyer was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 40,574 letters were distributed.

Lord Mayor community briefing

Attended by representatives of:

- Centennial Park Residents Association
- Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Working Group
- Paddington Society
- Saving Moore Park Inc
- Friends of Erskineville
- Waterloo Public Housing Action Group

Pop-up information stalls

Pop-up information stalls at East Village Shopping Centre (2) and Crystal Street Shops (2), Waterloo.

Letters to stakeholders

44 stakeholder letters from the Lord Mayor and CEO to stakeholders (including local Members of Parliament, Greater Sydney Parklands, Golf Australia, Golf NSW, Moore Park Golf Course and Parks and Leisure Australia. Letters and list of stakeholders can be found in the appendices)

Marketing and communications


The marketing campaign was live between 9 November to 22 December 2020 and ran across multiple digital platforms and channels only.

The campaigns objective was to drive traffic to the Sydney Your Say [webpage](#) in order to generate submissions to the feedback form (hosted on Survey Monkey). Paid social ads on Facebook and Instagram as well as display and native advertising were used to drive traffic to the consultation [webpage](#):

- 19,859 pageviews of the Sydney Your Say [webpage](#)
- 7,569 conversions to the SurveyMonkey Online Feedback form
- Social channels were the main driver of traffic to the Sydney Your Say [webpage](#) (55%) and clickthrough's to the SurveyMonkey Online Feedback form (64%)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – online survey

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

*** 1. Which option for the future of the Moore Park Golf Course do you most strongly support?**

☐ Option 1 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 18ha of new parkland on the western side of the golf course north of Dacey Avenue

☐ Option 2 - Reconfigure the golf course to 9 holes and create 20ha of new parkland along the western edge of the golf course and south of Dacey Avenue

☐ Option 3 - Retain the 18-hole golf course

☐ Other (please specify)

2. Why do you support this option?

*** 3. How often to you visit or use open space and recreation facilities?**

	3 or more times a week	Once or twice a week	Once every couple of weeks	Once every few months	Once a year	Never
Public parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports grounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aquatic facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/cycling tracks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

*** 4. Have you played golf or used the facilities at Moore Park Golf Course in the last 12 months?**

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

*** 5. Which suburb do you live in?**

*** 6. What type of property do you live in?**

- ☐ Free standing house
☐ Semi/terrace/townhouse
☐ Duplex
☐ Small apartment block (less than 4 storeys)
☐ Large apartment block (4 storeys or higher)
☐ Student accommodation
☐ Other (please specify)

*** 7. Which age group are you in?**

- ☐ Under 20
☐ 21 - 30
☐ 31 - 40
☐ 41 - 50
☐ 51 - 60
☐ 61 - 70
☐ 71 - 80
☐ Over 80

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

* 8. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify)

9. If you would like updates on this project please provide your contact information.

Name

Postcode

Email Address

*** 10. Feedback may be published in publicly available reports at the end of the consultation period. Do you give permission for your name or organisation's name to appear in these reports, with your feedback attributed? We will not publish your email address.**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

The contact information will be held by the City of Sydney and not shared with any third parties, in line with the City's [Privacy Management Plan](#).

Privacy and personal information protection notice

Purpose: Collect community feedback on Moore Park Golf Course public parkland

Recipients: City of Sydney staff/contractors.

Supply: Voluntary.

Access/Correction: City of Sydney, 456 Kent St, Sydney, 9265 9333.

Storage: Council's record management system in line with our [privacy management plan](#). Responses are stored temporarily on a third-party service called SurveyMonkey ([terms of use](#) and [privacy policy](#)).

Appendix 2 – webpage

Available to view here:

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision-setting/creating-more-public-parkland-reconfiguring-moore-park-golf-course

Appendix 3 – flyer

The City proposes reclaiming part of the Moore Park Golf Course for public parkland

Dear Resident:

The City of Sydney is proposing that the Moore Park Golf Course which occupies 45 ha of public land be reduced from 18 holes to 9.

This could return 18 to 20 ha of land to Moore Park for public recreation, critically needed now and for future communities.

Moore Park is part of the Governor Macquarie's first sighted (B1) boulevard of the Sydney Harbour for the benefit of the people of Sydney.

Succeeding decades have seen parkland lost to development, professional sport even associated car parking, and from the Eastern Distributor, light rail and the M100 Centre Bridge.

This progressive shrinking of public parkland has continued at the same time as the **dramatic increase in surrounding population densities** as a result of policy, by successive State Governments since 1994, that has increased housing quotas in the Green Square urban renewal area, formerly the South Sydney industrial area.

The City is seeking to restore some of this lost public land and to address the increasing recreational needs of our growing population. This is a very fair proposal as the Club would retain the largest area of sand, the clubhouse, grounds, parking and the popular driving range.

If you support our proposal, please contact the Minister for Planning & Public Spaces.

Regards,


Lord Mayor of Sydney

Action the City has taken

The City's proposal has been presented by the Lord Mayor to the Hon Rob Stokes, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, to the newly created **Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP)** and to the **Commissioner for Crown Lands**.

In response, the Minister has asked the Greater Sydney Parklands to consider our proposal. Following the GSP's advice, and your response, he will make the decision.

Please take action

If you support the proposal for increased parkland:

- 1 Contact the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces at: bf.ly/contact-minister
- 2 And let the City know your opinion at: sydneyyoursay.com.au


Scan to read more

More parkland for people

Putting our public land to its best use

CITY OF SYDNEY



c1930 photo of the area now known as Moore Park, looking towards the corner of South Dowling Street and Deacy Avenue with industrial and race course uses



Moore Park Golf Course 2002 with high-density residential development

The City's Proposal

- **Land use around Moore Park has changed**
Former industrial uses have been replaced with medium to high rise apartment complexes.
- **Our proposal is about highest and best use**
The Moore Park Golf Course was located on public land in 1913 at a time when the surrounding area was largely industrial with a low residential population. The dramatic demographic change in the area warrants a revaluation of the best use of the public land occupied by the Golf Club.
- **The pressure of population increases in the area**
By 2040 there will be up to 90,000 people living within 2 kms of Moore Park in Green Square and the Redfern and Waterloo housing estates, where the State Government plans to increase the density.
- **Land is needed for recreation**
There is a critical need for additional space for public recreation for this increasing population. The City is working with developers to create 40 new parks and playgrounds in Green Square, but these do not provide the same recreational opportunity as open parkland.
- **The limited land options in the inner city**
In built up inner city areas where land is so expensive we need to re-evaluate the highest and best use of existing land uses.
- **And there are alternatives for golfers**
There are 12 other golf courses in the inner city and eastern Sydney area.

Option 1

18 ha added to public parkland

This option consolidates significant additional parkland adjacent to areas of high-density housing in Redfern/Waterloo. There are already bridges across South Dowling Street to Moore Park, and there is an opportunity for a further walkway to link with Waterloo/Green Square.

Both options improve access around this important parkland, with minimal disruption to the golfing activities.



Option 2

20 ha added to public parkland

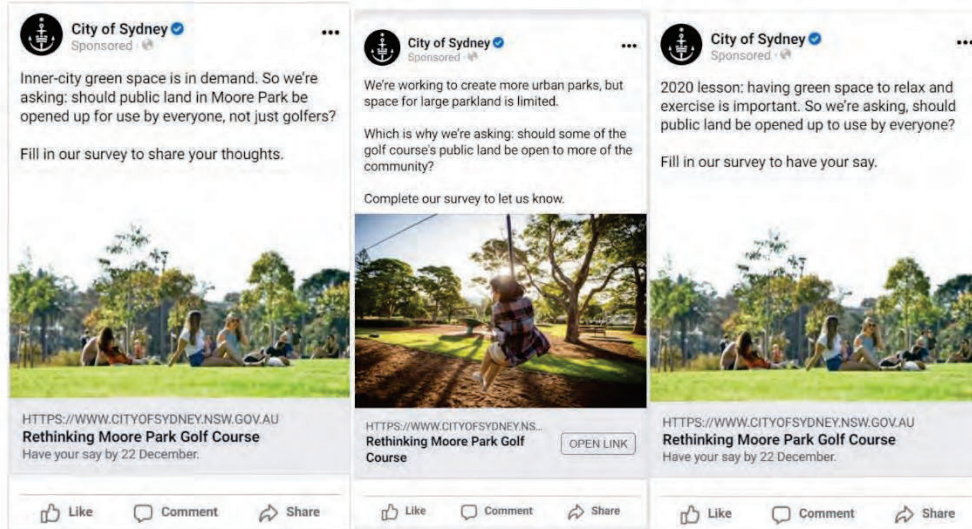
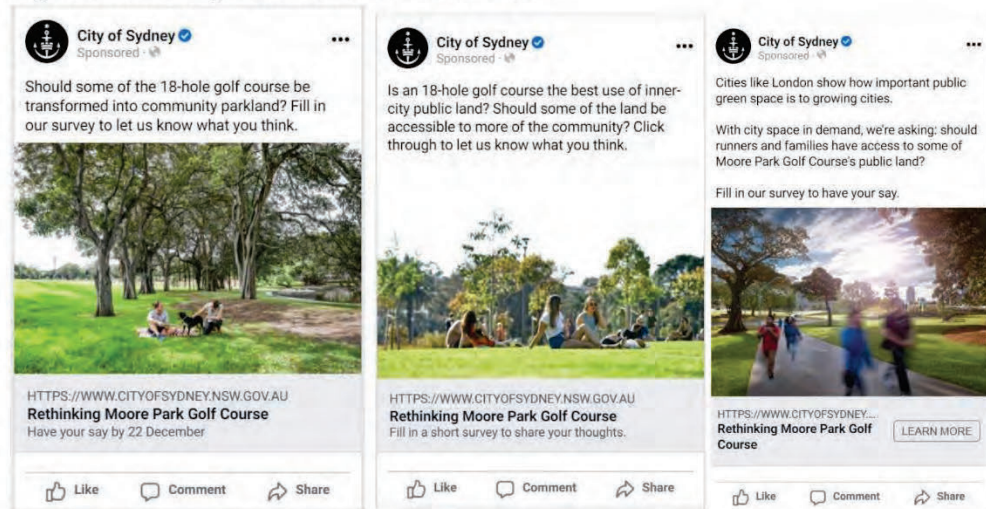
This option restores the area of public land appropriated when the original 9 hole Moore Park Golf Course was expanded to an 18 hole course in 1922.

The parkland is located south of Deacy Avenue, but is not as visible to the high growth areas to the west because of the Supercentre and possible future development.

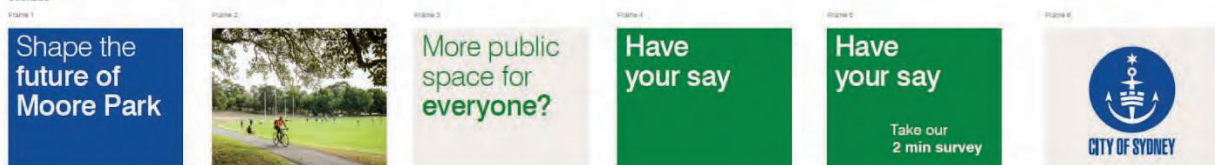


Appendix 4 – social media

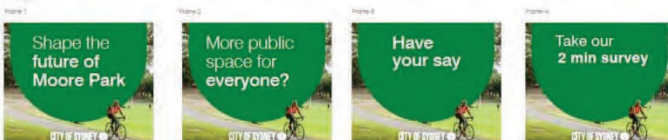
Digital advertising – Moore Park Golf Course



300x250



300x250



Appendix 5 – stakeholder list who received the Lord Mayor or CEO letter

Stakeholder	Role	Organisation
Mr Jeff Angel	Executive Director	Total Environment Centre
Professor Richard Bush	NSW Crown Lands Commissioner	
The Hon. Bob Carr	Industry Professor, Institute for Sustainable Futures	University of Technology Sydney
Professor Kerry Clare	Director	Clare Design
Associate Professor Hazel Easthope	UNSW Scientia Fellow, City Futures Research Centre	UNSW Sydney
The Hon. John Faulkner		
Ms Suellen Fitzgerald	Chief Executive	Greater Sydney Parklands
Mr Peter Fitzsimons	Sydney Morning Herald	
Mr Stuart Fraser	CEO	Golf NSW
Ms Abbie Galvin	Executive Director	Government Architect NSW
Mr Chris Gambion	CEO	Nature Conservation Council
The Hon. Peter Garrett AM		
Ms Ursula Gleeson	CEO	Parks and Leisure Australia
Mr Alex Greenwich, MP	Member for Sydney	Parliament of NSW
Ms Emma Herd	Environment Commissioner	Greater Sydney Commission
Mr Ron Hoenig, MP	Member for Heffron	Parliament of NSW
Mr Richard Johnson	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Mr John Kitney	President	Moore Park Golf Course
Ms Jenny Leong, MP	Member for Newtown	Parliament of NSW
Dr Edgar Liu	Adjunct Senior Research Fellow	Built Environment, UNSW Sydney
Mr Brendon Logan	Director, Projects and Engagement	Office of the Crown Land Commissioner
Ms Kathlyn Loseby	President, NSW chapter	Australian Institute of Architects
Professor Ken Maher	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Professor Elizabeth Mossop	Dean, Faculty of Design Architecture and Building	University of Technology Sydney
Mr Peter Mould	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Professor Rachel Neeson	Professor of Practice, UNSW Built Environment	UNSW Australia
Professor Joel Negin	Professor and Head of School, Sydney School of Public Health	University of Sydney
Ms Helen O'Loughlin	Special Commissioner	Greater Sydney Commission
Dr Marjorie O'Neill, MP	Member for Coogee	Parliament of NSW
The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP	Member for Sydney, NSW	Parliament of Australia
Professor Bill Randolph	Director, City Futures	City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course

Mr Michael Rose AM	Chair	Greater Sydney Parklands
Mr Nicholas Ross	Centennial Park Residents Association	
Dr Neil Runcie	President, Save the Parks Campaign	
Professor David Schlosberg	Director, Sydney Environment Institute	University of Sydney
Mr Dave Sharma, MP	Member for Wentworth, NSW	Parliament of Australia
Professor Marc Steers	Director, Sydney Policy Lab	University of Sydney
Mr James Sutherland	CEO	Golf Australia
Professor Susan Thompson	Professor, UNSW Built Environment	UNSW Australia
The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP		
Che Wall	Member, City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel	
Mr Shaun Walsh	President	Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)
Mr Michael Waterhouse	President	Saving Moore Park Inc
Professor James Weirick	Director, Urban Development and Design	UNSW Australia

Appendix 6 – Lord Mayor letter to stakeholders



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

20 November 2020

Moore Park Golf Course Proposal – putting our public land to its best use

At our October meeting, the City of Sydney Council resolved to support my Lord Mayoral Minute about creating more space for people in a post Covid-19 city.

We are now seeking your views about creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park golf course from an 18-hole to a 9-hole facility.

A Changing City

When space at Moore Park was allocated for a golf course in 1913, the surrounding land was predominantly industrial. This public land is part of the original Governor Macquarie 1811 Sydney Common bequest for the benefit of the people of Sydney. Moore Park now neighbours the Green Square urban renewal area, the densest residential area in Australia. Nearby communities continue to grow. By 2040, there will be up to 90,000 additional people living in Zetland, Redfern and Waterloo within 2km of Moore Park.

The City is creating forty urban parks and playgrounds as part of its urban renewal of Green Square. However, small parks do not provide the opportunity to stride out, de-stress and recharge, or commune with nature for the people nearby who live in high-density apartments. They need large green spaces for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Within a 10km radius of Moore Park there are twelve 18-hole golf courses, including six that are publicly accessible to the general public.

Reconfiguring and increasing public access to Moore Park golf course could deliver up to 20 hectares of new public parkland, providing more equitable access to a significant open space and responding to the needs of this growing community.

Our Proposals

We have developed two potential options to create new parkland:

- Option 1 – approximately 18 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland

This option consolidates significant additional parkland adjacent to areas of high-density housing in Redfern/Waterloo. There are already bridges across South Dowling Street to Moore Park, and there is an opportunity for a further bridge to link with Waterloo/Green Square.

Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Phone 02 9265 9229 Fax 02 9265 9328 cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
C:\M0030 006706 B05E - MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE PROPOSAL

- Option 2 – approximately 20 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland:

This option restores the area of public land appropriated when the original 9-hole Moore Park golf course was expanded to an 18-hole course in 1922. The parkland is located south of Dacey Avenue, but is not as visible to the high growth areas to the west because of the Supa Centa and possible future development.



Option One



Option Two

Both options are fair proposals as the club would retain the larger area of land, its clubhouse, maintenance depots, parking and the popular driving range. These proposals include space for new public paths around the perimeter of the course, as proposed in the Moore Park Master Plan.

Consultation

A preliminary survey was conducted by the City with 400 randomly selected residents who live within a 5km radius of the golf course. That early feedback told us that 77 per cent of respondents supported reducing the size of the golf course to increase public parkland. Given this indication of support, the City felt it appropriate to seek the views of the wider community.

As cities grow and change, many Councils are now reviewing how to meet their community's needs for open space. The importance of public parkland has been even more dramatically highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The consultation will be open until 22 December 2020 on sydneyyoursay.com.au. For more information, visit city.sydney/moore-park-golf-course.

Your contribution to this important consultation is appreciated. We will provide the outcome of consultation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces who will make the final decision.

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

3

I hope that this process will encourage an important public debate about how we put our valuable public parklands to best use for the community.

If you would like a briefing or to speak with a Council officer about this proposal, you can contact Laurence Johnson, Program Manager - Public Domain Strategy, on 9265 9333 or at ljohnson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, you can contact my Policy Advisor, Maria O'Donnell, on 9265 9229 or at modonnell@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

Appendix 7 – CEO letter to stakeholders



City of Sydney
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

+61 2 9265 9333
council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 1591 Sydney NSW 2001
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Moore Park Golf Course Proposal

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We are now seeking your views about creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course from an 18-hole to a 9-hole facility.

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Green, Global, Connected.

- Option 2 – approximately 20 hectares to become publicly accessible parkland

This option restores the area of public land appropriated when the original 9-hole Moore Park Golf Course was expanded to an 18-hole course in 1922. The parkland is located south of Dacey Avenue, but is not as visible to the high-growth areas to the west because of the Supa Centa and possible future development.



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**The consultation will be open until 22 December 2020 on sydneyyoursay.com.au.
For more information, visit city.sydney/moore-park-golf-course.**

Your contribution to this important consultation is appreciated. We will provide the outcome of consultation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, who will make the final decision.

I hope that this process will encourage public debate about how we put our valuable public parklands to best use for the community.

Yours sincerely,



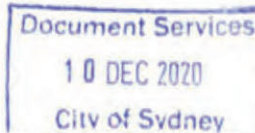
Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 8 – responses from stakeholders



8 December 2020

Councillor Clover Moore
Lord Mayor
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Lord Mayor,

Subject: City of Sydney Council Proposal to Reduce the Size of Moore Park Golf Course

I am writing to you to express Golf NSW' opposition to a proposal by the City of Sydney Council to reduce the size of Moore Park Golf Course.

On 26 of October 2020 I note the successful passing of the "Lord Mayoral Minute" to undertake a community consultation process for a proposal to reduce the size of Moore Park Golf Course from an 18 hole to 9 hole facility.

<https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/documents/s46767/Moore%20Park%20Golf%20Course%20Proposal.pdf>

It is disappointing that information you provided to Council prior to them considering the Minute in many references was inaccurate.

"Today 31 million people visit Centennial Parklands while just 60,000 rounds of golf are played on the Moore Park Golf Course each year".

Current estimates are that 90,000 rounds of golf will be played on the Moore Park Golf Course in 2020, a 50% increase on 2019.

On a side note, it is also estimated there will be 250,000 visitations to the practice facility/driving range in 2020, a 56% increase from the previous year.

"Moore Park Golf Course should no longer be fenced off for the benefit of just one group".

Moore Park is one of the least 'fenced off' golf courses in Sydney, with the course accessible to the public at many locations, and at any given time or day there is a multitude of community accessing the course for dog walking and exercise/recreational purposes.

More than ever the physical and mental health benefits of golf have been evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen an unprecedented increase in the demand for golf.

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



If the Moore Park Golf Course was reduced to 9 holes, it would simply not be able to cope with demand, especially when you consider that the majority of golfer's playing at the facility do so in a social capacity (are not club members).

The catalyst for this proposal is also hard to understand when considerable time, resources, and funding was committed to the Centennial Parklands Master Plan 2040, which clearly maintains the golf course as an 18 hole facility until at least 2040.

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about-us/planning/centennial-park-master-plan-2040>

With the Centennial and Moore Park precincts constituting 360 hectares of parklands, the golf course comprises just 45 hectares (12.5%) of the total green open space available. This would suggest there is ample space outside of the golf course to accommodate future increases in the recreational demand for housing/commercial density.

The City of Sydney Council are not the first Council to review the size and use of public golf course land, and it may be prudent for your Council to harvest some of the learnings from recent positive outcomes such as Marrickville Golf Club (Inner West Council). In this instance a sensible and amicable outcome was achieved for golf, whilst encouraging additional recreational usage of the land.

The high level of public interest in this matter has prompted the NSW Government to support Golf NSW in its endeavours to oppose the proposal, evidenced in this instance by the attached letter of support from the Minister for Sport (Acting).

The NSW Deputy Premier has also provided Golf NSW with a copy of correspondence he sent directly to your office (attached) strongly opposing the proposal.

I have also attached letters of support from Golf Australia and the Professional Golfers Association of Australia, with both organisations testifying to the importance and significance of maintaining Moore Park as an 18 hole championship golfing facility.

I can only hope through this consultative process that the City of Sydney Council get a true community feel for the support in maintaining this historic golfing facility as an 18 hole golf course.

Yours Sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Stuart Fraser.

Stuart Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Golf NSW

cc City of Sydney Councillors

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



17 November 2020

Stuart Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Golf NSW
1A Duncan Street
ARNCLIFFE NSW 2205

Dear Stuart,

On behalf of Golf Australia, I write in support of the retention of 18 holes at the Moore Park Public Golf Course.

Golf Australia is extremely disappointed in the outcome of the recent Sydney City Council vote on the future of Moore Park Golf Course. The Moore Park Golf Course is one of the jewels in the crown of Australian golf. It has been an entry point to the game and an asset to golfers and the Sydney community for generations.

Successful public golf courses are crucial for both the growth and the future of golf in Australia. Whilst traditional and competition golf remain popular with regular participants, it's becoming increasingly clear that recreational and social forms of the game are on the rise. These offers are attractive to younger, often time-poor participants who are keen to have a hit but are unable to afford joining a private club. Enter the public golf course. Many of Australia's best golfers have cut their teeth on a public golf course and there is no doubt that there are many of golf's future champions practising their swing at public facilities around the state.

To the Australian economy, golf contributes \$3.5 billion per year, and brings health benefits to Australia worth around \$132 million, helping to alleviate heart disease, type 2 diabetes and mental health issues. Golf contributes \$527 million of economic benefit to the Sydney Metropolitan Area each year and is a major driver of physical and mental health outcomes to the community, of critical importance in these extraordinary times.

Moore Park is host to more than 59,000 rounds annually, and in this year alone round figures have reached over 90,000 thanks to the game's popularity boom during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Moore Park Golf Course has an incredibly strong history of inclusion and introduction. The facility has long been renowned for growing first hitters into lifelong golfers, delivering over 21,000 lessons per year, and transitioning these golfers from the driving range to the golf course.

On behalf of Golf Australia, I congratulate Golf NSW on your hard work to ensure that 18 holes are retained at one of the world's busiest public golf courses.

There is no doubt that the retention of this facility will not only continue to benefit both golfers and the surrounding local community.

Yours sincerely



JAMES SUTHERLAND
Chief Executive Officer

Level 2, 111 Coventry Street, South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia
Telephone 03 9626 5000 Facsimile 03 9626 5095 Website www.golf.org.au
Reg No. A0048256Z ARBN 116 151 894 ABN 54 116 151 894

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



18 November, 2020

The Hon. Robert Stokes MP
NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
1725 Pittwater Road
MONA VALE NSW 2103

Via email - pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Moore Park Golf Course

The PGA of Australia (PGA) is the peak professional golf body in Australia and as the CEO I am writing to you to support Golf NSW with their submission in opposing the push to downsize one of Australia's busiest and recognised golf courses, Moore Park Golf Course from 18 holes to 9 holes.

Moore Park Golf Course benefits the local community in improving physical and mental health for both women and men, children being active, the senior community being engaged plus an ideal facility for families coming together.

Moore Park Golf Course is a unique innovative golf complex with a Championship golf course and is highly accessible to the general public and in close proximity to the CBD. It has a rich history and has held professional golf tournaments including the NSW Open in 2006 and 1963. Moore Park Golf is complimented by a state of the art practice range and provides coaching and game development for everyone, making it one of the best facilities in Australia.

The PGA of Australia is fully supportive of the Golf NSW submission and opposes the downsizing of this great golf course and community facility.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Kirkman
CEO
PGA of Australia

PGA NATIONAL OFFICE

600 Thompson Road, Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia 3977 | P: +61 3 8320 1911 | F: +61 3 9783 0000 | ABN 46 127 641 829

www.pga.org.au

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education
Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

CRML20/887

Mr Stuart Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Golf NSW
PO Box 195
ARNcliffe NSW 2205

Dear Mr Fraser *Stuart*

I refer to your recent request for a letter of support to maintain the Moore Park Golf course as an 18-hole golfing facility.

Moore Park Golf Course is the State's first public access golf course and the closest public access golf course to the Sydney Central Business District. The 18-hole championship golf course, 60 bay driving range facility and Sydney Golf Academy play an important role in supporting the growth of golf participation from grassroots to elite.

The Moore Park Master Plan 2040 identifies the need for Moore Park Golf Course to maintain its championship length and training facility for future golfers.

The Master Plan also aims to create a more serene environment by improving the integration of the golf course and broader Moore Park precinct, responding to future golf trends by incorporating appropriate new golfing activities in the Moore Park Golf precinct.

I acknowledge there may be opportunities to improve the golf course whilst facilitating improved public access to public parkland, and recognise the important role an 18-hole golf course so close to the Sydney CBD plays in providing community access to sport.

Maintaining the 18-hole championship golf course will deliver on the Moore Park Master Plan 2040 which will ensure the Moore Park Golf Course continues to benefit the golfing and broader Sydney community, and contributes to Australia maintaining its status as one of the world's most desirable golf destination.

I am pleased to support Golf NSW submission to the City of Sydney Council and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP.

The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education
Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

19 NOV 2020

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Industry and Trade

Ms Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
483 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Lord Mayor *Clover*

I write to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any move to reduce the popular Moore Park public golfing facility from its current configuration of 18 holes to just 9.

I have recently been contacted on this issue by a number of industry participants and sporting and recreational stakeholders.

The NSW Department of Planning notes Moore Park is the country's third most-used public golf course, and during consultation on the Moore Park masterplan in 2017, there was strong local support to retain the course as it is.

The club can hardly be described as elitist, given it has a thriving membership base, drawn from many parts of Sydney, coupled with casual rounds of golf from members of the public each year.

The driving range facility also attracts enthusiasts, beginners and casual golfers from across large parts of Sydney, only adding to the course's popularity and appeal – in many other major cities around the world, Moore Park Golf Club would be treasured as a jewel in the crown, and not treated as some soft target for additional green space.

That green space is already used by many people, including dog walkers, early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

I find it more than intriguing that this proposal has been dusted off in the shadows of next year's City of Sydney Local Government elections.

When you also consider existing areas of green space in the immediate vicinity, such as Moore Park, Centennial Park and Sydney Park to name but a few, this attack on Moore Park Golf Club seems more about flexing council's muscle than it is about additional green space.

An 18 hole golf course, open to the public, on the doorstep of the Sydney CBD, is precisely the sort of green space we should be protecting for future generations, not chopping it in half.

The proposal is short-sighted and a knee-jerk reaction to a sharp rise in residential development that you and some members of your council have championed.

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 • P: (02) 8574 5150 • F: (02) 9339 5558 • W: nsw.gov.au/deputypremier

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

The financial viability of Moore Park golf course would be destroyed if it's reduced to nine holes, and that financial return helps make an important contribution to the upkeep and maintenance of surrounding parklands, such as those I have mentioned earlier.

I implore you and Sydney City Council to keep your hands off Moore Park Golf Club.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Industry and Trade

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course

Greater Sydney
Commission



Ref: 20/13166

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
City of Sydney
Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Lord Mayor,

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2020 to Commissioners regarding your consultation on the proposal to convert part of Moore Park Golf Course into public open space. I understand the intent of the proposal is to ensure the growing population of Green Square will have access to larger open space and recreational areas. Commissioners have asked that I answer on their behalf.

As the recent Covid conditions have made apparent, the ability to be able to walk to larger open spaces for both passive and active recreation is important for both physical and mental health and well-being. The Eastern City District Plan's Planning Priority E 18 - Delivering High Quality Open space - notes that there is a need for high quality open space within close proximity to high density neighbourhoods [such as Green Square and Redfern/Waterloo] and that the space needs to be durable, multi-purpose and accessible to a variety of users. Key considerations are the quality, quantity and distribution of open space

The District Plan also notes 'That the future of some larger spaces used for activities such as golf may be uncertain due to declining membership and attendance figures'. Further, 'that any facilities in public ownership should be retained as open space and transitioned to shared open space and facilities, including for organised sports and that the District's Golf courses may offer an opportunity to contribute to additional open space but this will require further investigation and effective collaboration'.

I commend the Council's approach to seek input from the wider community and urge you to continue to collaborate closely with the Centennial and Moore Park Trust. The Trust are major stakeholders in the future of the Moore Park Golf Course and the administrators of the Golf club should explore options available that both recognise the popularity of the golf course and, where appropriate, enable increased public access to open space.

I look forward to reading your final report when it is submitted to the Minister for Planning and Public spaces.

If you require any further information, please contact me at the Commission on 0466 360 199 or by email at greg.woodhams@gsc.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Greg Woodhams
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



**Greater Sydney
Parklands**

22 December 2020

Lord Mayor, Clover Moore
City of Sydney

Dear Lord Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November 2020 seeking the views of the Greater Sydney Parklands Board and the Chief Executive on the City of Sydney's proposals for the reconfiguration of the Moore Park Golf Course.

Unfortunately, we received your letters after the last GSP Board meeting for the year and the Board has not yet had an opportunity to discuss the City's proposals in detail. This means that I am not in a position to share the Board's views with you before the public consultation survey closes. However, Board members are aware of the proposals and have had an opportunity to tour the golf course in order to understand them better and to consider other possible ways to provide better access to public open space.

You will be aware from his recent announcement that Minister Stokes has asked the GSP Board to consider options to provide better public access to open space while retaining the 18-hole golf course. The Board will consider these options and the City of Sydney's proposals at a meeting early in the new year. We will then be in a position to discuss our responses with you.

Greater Sydney Parklands, as a champion for the 50 year vision for Sydney's open space and parklands, recognises that meeting the community's diverse needs for open space is central to achieving equitable access to parklands.

We appreciate the time you and your colleagues have taken to explain the City's proposals and look forward to working with you in the new year to achieve our shared goal of increasing the community's access to parklands and to realise the vision for a network of parks across Sydney.

Yours sincerely



Michael Rose AM
Chairman
Greater Sydney Parklands

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



**Greater Sydney
Parklands**

22 December 2020

Ms Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney

Dear Ms Barone

Thank you for your letter seeking our contribution to your survey on the City's options to reconfigure the Moore Park Golf Course and proposing we meet in the new year to discuss the community's access to open space. I note your survey closes 22 December and will be keen to hear the outcome.

In the meantime, you will be aware from Minister Stokes' recent announcement that he has asked the Greater Sydney Parklands Board to consider options to provide better public access to open space while retaining the 18 hole golf course and the Board will consider these options at a meeting early in the new year.

The Greater Sydney Parklands, as a champion for the 50 year vision for Sydney's open space and parklands, recognises that meeting the community's diverse needs for open space is central to achieving equitable access to parklands.

We look forward to working with the City of Sydney in the new year to achieve our shared goal of increasing the community's access to parklands and finding a regional approach to balancing active sports areas and golf courses with passive recreation parklands. With this objective in mind I suggest that we establish regular high-level meetings between ourselves and our teams and will ask my office to coordinate potential times in 2021.

Our meeting would also provide an opportunity to brief you on our proposal for a multi-agency investigation of an integrated and precinct level approach to traffic and access planning at Moore Park to improve event access and allow for embellishment of Moore Park East for passive recreation and community sports.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact me and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

Yours sincerely



**Suellen Fitzgerald
Chief Executive
Greater Sydney Parklands**

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park
Golf Course



Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: 2020/519032

Moore Park Golf Course Proposal

Dear Ms Barone,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2020, and the opportunity to discuss public open space needs, particularly for those within the City of Sydney LGA.

Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) has a vision for Australia to be the most livable country in the world, renowned for its parks, sport and recreation facilities that provide the foundation for healthy communities and livable towns and cities. As such PLA views all types of open space as valuable to the community as a whole and no leisure activity, active recreation or sport is more important than another. A community's access to social infrastructure and public open space needs to be assessed as a network of integrated options, not just as isolated facility.

We understand the huge shift that has taken place over the past 10-15 years in metropolitan Sydney; with its increasing population and higher density residential areas, putting a strain on all the existing public open spaces.

We applaud council's initiative of creating *forty urban parks and playgrounds as part of its urban renewal of Green Square*. The recent COVID lockdowns all over the world have shown just how important access to green spaces are for the communities mental and physical health.

There are important discussions happening in communities throughout NSW, Australia and internationally and not only for golf courses but many other types of public spaces.

Parks and Leisure Australia
New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory
PO Box 746, Kellyville, NSW 2155
[E plansw@parksleisure.com.au](mailto:plansw@parksleisure.com.au)
PARKSLEISURE.COM.AU

Engagement report on reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course



PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA
(NSW/ACT)

PLA NSW/ACT recommends that in undertaking any assessment consideration should include:

- Community consultation and review of stakeholder needs
- Strategic review of public open space
- Recreation trends locally, nationally, and internationally
- Environmentally sensitive planning and design
- Biodiversity and ecological needs to create robust natural areas
- Inclusion and equity
- Financial sustainability
- Intergovernmental collaboration

PLA NSW/ACT broadly supports the key principles outlined in the NSW Draft Public Spaces Charter together with the methodologies provided in the Draft Greener Spaces Guidelines. Together with other relevant guides, these should be used to further inform the quality independent assessment of the Moore Park proposal.

We understand that Centennial Parklands has undertaken extensive public consultation with their local community in the development of the Moore Park master plan and this should also be considered in the assessment.

We look forward to a collaborative and high-quality outcome for this issue. Parks and Leisure Australia NSW/ACT is happy to provide further input into this process where required.

We have also forwarded a copy of this response to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon Rob Stokes, to highlight the importance of this issue to PLA members and to all those interested in improving the health, wellbeing, and sports performance of our communities.

Regards

On behalf of the NSW/ACT Regional Council
Ursula Gleeson
Executive Office PLA NSW/ACT

Parks and Leisure Australia
New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory
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THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Woollahra Municipal Council

Date received: 29 July 2024

At its meeting of 22 July 2024, Council resolved that I write to you on behalf of the Woollahra Community regarding the proposal by the State Government to repurpose and reduce the Moore Park golf course from 18 holes to 9 holes.

This proposal by your Government will have a detrimental impact on not only a large number of our Woollahra residents, but also residents within the surrounding 10km radius of the Moore Park golf course.

Currently, there is more demand for golf in Sydney than there is supply of accessible facilities. Reducing the Moore Park golf course capacity will disproportionately impact families, older people and those who cannot afford private golf memberships. Moore Park golf course is more than just a sporting facility; it is a community treasure that has been welcoming residents since 1913, providing affordable and accessible golfing opportunities for all.

Moore Park golf course generates over \$15 million in revenue annually, which is vital for the maintenance and upkeep of the Centennial Parklands, which benefits all Sydney residents, plus it attracts over 500,000 visits annually and more than 100,000 rounds of golf are projected to be played during 2024.

It is comprehensible that the alternative landscape plan forward by the Moore Park Golf Club, which maintains the existing 18-hole course, whilst offering 15 hectares of publicly accessible pathways and recreation facilities, is being ignored by your Government.

The loss of revenue from this repurposing will also jeopardise the upkeep of Centennial Parklands, which are essential to the local area.

On behalf of the Woollahra community, I urge you to reconsider your proposal to repurpose and reduce the Moore Park golf course from 18 holes to 9 holes and I urge you to preserve the course as is, or preserve it in some way whereby the 18-hole course can be maintained, for the benefit of the residents of Sydney.

Yours sincerely

Cr Richard Shields
Mayor of Woollahra

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 July 2024 Woollahra Municipal Council resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: 112/24 (Carmichael/Silcocks) THAT Council:

A. Notes recent representations made to Woollahra Council by representatives of the Moore Park Golf Club regarding the NSW Government proposal to reduce the Moore Park Golf Course from 18 holes to 9 holes.

B. Notes in particular the following information provided by the Club:

- Of the more than 500,000 visits to the Moore Park Golf facilities each year, 82 percent are by people who live within 10kms.
- Around 10% of users of the Moore Park facilities reside in the Woollahra LGA.
- A petition to retain the 18-hole course has been signed by 27,000 individuals, 2430 of whom live in the Woollahra LGA.

C. That the Mayor writes to NSW Premier Chris Minns and Paul Scully M.P., Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, requesting urgent re-consideration of the proposal to reduce the Moore Park Public Golf Course from 18 holes to 9 holes.

D. Requests that Councillor Shapiro, on behalf of Woollahra Council present the result of this Notice of Motion to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Community Trustee Board.

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Randwick City Council

Date received: 14 May 2024

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30 April 2024 Randwick City Council resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: (Luxford/Hay) *that Council objects to the proposal to convert Moore Park golf course from an 18-hole golf course to a 9-hole golf course.*

In resolving to object to the conversion of Moore Park golf course, Council has not endorsed the draft submission provided by Council officers.

Council in its objection, is concerned that the reduced capacity of the golf course would not meet community sporting needs and it is one of the few remaining fully public golf courses in the eastern suburbs. It is also considered that there should be further investigation of opportunities to provide other recreational activities in conjunction with the current 18 hole golf course layout.

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Sydney Water

Date received: 10 April 2024

We refer to the Greater Sydney Parkland's discussion paper on the future of Moore Park South and the proposal to covert part or parts of the Moore Park Gold Course to a new park.

In the planning for new uses and landscaping, Sydney Water recommends the following considerations early in the design process:

1. Appropriate management of the interface between green infrastructure and grey infrastructure. A significant drinking water main transects part of the park (to the north of Dacey Ave). In regard to works within proximity of Sydney Water's water main, please take into account our technical guidelines for building over and adjacent to pipe assets early in the design process. For more information, please use the link here <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/content/dam/sydneywater/documents/tech-guidelines-building-over-adjacent-pipe-assets.pdf>.
2. Maximise water sensitive urban design (WSUD) features such as permeable surfaces, rainwater tanks, raingardens, bioretention swales which can hold and filter stormwater. Such features help to hold water in the landscape, sustain vegetation in dry conditions, and ultimately reduce demand on Sydney's drinking water.

Further, partnering with Sydney Water and other water service experts and providers on cost-effective options to recycle water, including stormwater harvesting, for beneficial uses such as toilet flushing and watering green space. Sydney Water would welcome discussion with the Parklands about a range of recycle water options, including stormwater harvesting options, for beneficial uses including watering future green spaces.

Sydney Water operates with City of Sydney Council's Green Square water recycling facility. With Council officers, our teams are exploring opportunities for collaborating with proponents for recycled water in other key regeneration precincts, including Central Station, Circular Quay and Waterloo.

Sydney Water is also collaborating with universities on research that will improve our understanding of urban greening and the role of alternate water sources.

[contact details withheld]

Persephone Rougellis
**Strategic Planning Manager Sustainable and Smart Cities
Strategy and Enterprise Planning**

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Save Moore Park Golf Collective - Golf Australia, PGA of
Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club
Date received: 10 April 2024

The future of

MOORE PARKSOUTH

A park for everyone and the home of public golf



PREPARED BY

GOLF AUSTRALIA

PGA OF AUSTRALIA

GOLF NSW

MOORE PARK GOLF CLUB

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are an industry-leading group of golf, recreational, precinct and planning advisors. Given the increased demand for better golf and recreational facilities and improved community health and well-being outcomes, the Government has an opportunity to be creative and visionary in deciding on the future of Moore Park South.

Moore Park South is an important, historic, and vibrant space for Sydney and the wider NSW community. It incorporates a well-loved golf course that is over 110 years old.

We understand the needs of a growing Sydney for green space, grassroots sport and recreation, and have developed a proposal that:

- **Is considered** and draws on the expertise of leading precinct planners and golf course architects;
- **Aligns with the key success measures** as set out in the Future of Moore Park South Discussion Paper;
- **Values all users** of Moore Park South while maintaining a popular but smaller 18-hole golf course
- **Offers the Government a sustainable and cost-effective model** to unlock and accelerate the delivery of a creative and visionary new public park.

Moore Park South has significant challenges intrinsic to the physical location and space that inhibit the delivery of the NSW Government's proposed plans for the precinct. This submission presents an alternative proposal that capitalises on opportunities at Moore Park and manages the multiple and significant constraints impacting the site.

The proposal has been developed through substantial public consultation that is underpinned by the support of the more than 25,000 individuals who have signed a petition calling for Moore Park to continue to have a full 18-hole course.

We request that the NSW Government rigorously consider the evidence, proposal, and questions presented in this document and understand the substantial community voice supporting golf through consultation.

GOLF PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY BENEFITS & PUBLIC GOLF TRENDS

- Golf participation is booming. In 2023, more than 3.5 million Australians of all ages and abilities hit a golf ball across all its formats. 1.15 million of those people are located in NSW, the highest-participation State in the country.
- 1.682 million Australians played a round of golf, and another 435,000 are golf club members. The majority of casual rounds of golf are played at public golf facilities.
- In 2024 golf is projected to be the most played organised sport in Australia, overtaking soccer.
- A report commissioned by the Australian Golf Industry Council has quantified the substantial Community Benefits of Golf in Australia, with more than \$3.3 billion in benefits to Australians, derived from an estimated \$10.3 billion in expenditure on golf in 2023.
- Economically, more than \$1.4 billion in benefits are provided to players, businesses, industry workers, tourism, and avoided health system costs annually in Australia. Business deals with unmeasured economic benefits are commenced, negotiated and closed on golf courses. Employment demand is high, with shortages beyond the 28,000 full-time equivalent jobs estimated within the golf industry.
- Socially, golf contributes \$1.0 billion in physical health, mental health, and neighbourhood amenity benefits. Participants live five years longer, are 7% happier, and combined golfers walk 19.2 laps of the Earth's equator daily. Importantly, it is a sport that can be played for life by people of all ages, abilities, and genders, generations from three years old to 100 years old, enjoying the benefits of the game.
- Environmentally, there are \$0.9 billion in benefits attributed to much higher and richer biodiversity than public parks, urban cooling, carbon sequestration and water management. There is increased land care by dedicated golf course staff, user groups, and community volunteers passionate about enhancing and protecting the landscape.
- A critical mass of academic research and quality literature demonstrates the positive impact of golf on physical and mental health and well-being. Playing golf meets or exceeds the WHO guidelines on physical activity. Golf

reduces the risk of non-communicable diseases, risk of falls, cognitive decline, and improved mental health.

- The provision of 18-hole playing facilities offers physical activity and exercise opportunities for a wide range of community members, and importantly to those that will not, or cannot, engage in other sources of physical activity or exercise.
- Public golf is at the heart of diversity and inclusion, providing our most vulnerable and diverse community members with access to important social, mental, and physical well-being outcomes.
- Public land used for golf is critical to meeting participation demand. Golf has a history of being questioned as the best use of recreational land. The above evidence and engagement with stakeholders are helping change an inaccurate perception that golf is for the few and is in decline.
- There are outstanding examples of public golf thriving, with councils and operators investing in assets to further increase performance. Wembley Golf Course (Western Australia) is already one of the busiest golf facilities in Australia, and the Town of Cambridge

is investing to further improve the diversity of golf offerings and capacity to support more golf usage.

- The USA is a case study in increased public golf supply, driven primarily through acquisitions and conversions, with municipalities taking over daily fee facilities or private clubs to provide affordable recreation for community residents through golf.
- Recently Monash Council in Melbourne sought to repurpose Oakleigh Public Golf Course into a regional park. After an extensive community consultation in the second half of 2023, Councillors overwhelmingly resolved to retain the Public Golf Course for the foreseeable future, given extremely strong support from users and the community to retain the site for golf.
- In 2021, the Inner West Council retained the 18-hole Marrickville Golf Course after a public consultation that overwhelmingly supported golf's contribution to the community.

MOORE PARK GOLF HISTORY, PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY BENEFITS & ROLE IN PUBLIC GOLF

- Moore Park Golf Course was established in 1913, under the fundamental premise to provide a playing opportunity for golfers who could not afford the fees and restrictions at exclusive private golf clubs that were established from the late 1800's.
- Following the founding of the Moore Park Golf Club in 1920, the course quickly expanded to 18-holes in 1922, to meet the significant demand for affordable and accessible golf. Records demonstrate that in the 1920s the course was already supporting 90,000 rounds of golf annually.
- Today, Moore Park Golf continues to be a vibrant hub of activity and is one of Australia's busiest public golf courses, welcoming more than 500,000 users annually with more than 100,000 rounds of golf projected in 2024.
- More than 80% of rounds are 18-holes, and only 20% are less than 18-holes. The lesser rounds are generally played late in the afternoon at the end of work day.
- 75% of course usage is by the general public, mostly the local community, those learning the game, business people who are not members of courses or looking for a course near the CBD, and tourists and visitors to Sydney due to its accessibility and central location. 25% of course usage is by Moore Park Golf Club members and affiliates of the Club.
- 27,418 students participated in lessons with Sydney Golf Academy in 2022/23, a 78% overall and 74% women's increase compared to 2019.
- Over \$15 million in revenue is reported from Moore Park golf activities.
- The substantial revenue generated by golf supports the funding of many services, assets, and upkeep across the Greater Sydney Parklands portfolio and is a vital revenue stream for NSW Government budgets.
- More than a mere golf course, Moore Park is a community treasure. This sentiment is echoed by the more than 25,000 individuals who have signed a petition to retain its 18-holes. Over 80% of these signatories are residents within the City Of Sydney, Inner West, Canada Bay, Randwick, Waverly, Woollahra and North Sydney Councils, demonstrating the widespread community support for this cherished institution.

- Moore Park is the closest golf course to the Sydney CBD and provides opportunities for business people to use the course and facilities for customer relationship building and team development. The substantial value of the course to the NSW and Australian economy should not be discounted.
- Community Benefits of Golf in Australia has been measured by the Australian Golf Industry Council.
- Economically, there are \$6.2 million in benefits provided to players, businesses, industry workers, and an additional \$105,000 in avoided health system costs annually (for those who are inactive without golf).
- Socially, there is a total of \$5.6 million in benefits, with Moore Park Golf Course round golfers deriving a physical health benefit of around \$902,000 and mental health benefit of \$936,000 per year. Round playing golfers live on average 5 years longer and are 7.1% happier than non-golfers. Moore Park Golf Course also provides a wider amenity benefit of \$3.7 million in breaking up the urban environment.
- Environmentally, the total benefits generated by Moore Park Golf Course is \$3.0 million per year. Moore Park South is part of an already extensive network of open space that together contributes a multitude of green space benefits for Sydney.
- As the purpose of green space, golf courses protect and increase vegetation's complexity more than general parkland. Moore Park Golf Course can contribute significantly to regenerating the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrubland, and engage the community to Caring for Country practices and Connecting Community to Country for future generations.
- Moore Park is the home of public golf in Sydney and, as planned in the early 1900s, has the opportunity to extend golf's widespread benefits for generations to come. The NSW Government should explore the serious questions about the economic, social, health, and environmental impacts of any reduction in Moore Park Golf Course.

THE ALTERNATE PROPOSAL

- Moore Park South can be a **park for everyone and the home for public golf in NSW** without taking away from golf.
- The Save Moore Park Golf Collective (“the Collective”) are recommending an Alternate Proposal to the NSW Government that would position it as a progressive leader in community golf, active recreation, and precinct planning.
- We have developed a **bold, city-shaping vision for world-class recreational and golf facilities for a growing Sydney that allows for the retention of a reduced 18-hole golf course and maximises available open space for active recreation and active transport.**
- The Alternate Proposal is a testament to our commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion and a vision for an innovative and sustainable future.
- The Alternate Proposal is based on a set of key design and economic principles that ensure the delivery meets the key measures of success set out by the NSW Government while also considering the substantial site, precinct, and wider urban development constraints.
- The Alternative Proposal Masterplan provides a narrative of opportunity and justification, details key features and deliverables, and is supported by imagery that the NSW Government can build from and accelerate planning at Moore Park South.
- We have prepared a high-level financial model that demonstrates a sustainable future for active recreation at Moore Park South and delivers a short-term return on investment through increased revenue from golf assets while maintaining the 18-hole golf course.



OUR ASK OF GOVERNMENT

The Collective appreciates the engagement of Greater Sydney Parklands and the broader NSW Government during the consultation period.

The Collective requests that before reaching a final decision on the future of Moore Park South is made:

1. The NSW Government wholeheartedly listens to the overwhelming support for golf, recognising the demand for golf in NSW currently exceeds the supply of available and accessible facilities (particularly in metropolitan Sydney and for public golf).
2. The NSW Government supports the identification and delivery of a home for Golf in NSW, noting that public golf facilities are best suited at the existing location.
3. The NSW Government fairly evaluates this Alternate Proposal against its current preferred option and conducts a Cost-Benefit Analysis that recognises the substantial evidence presented in this document and overwhelming justification for the retention of 18-holes.
4. The NSW Government and Greater Sydney Parklands extends its collaboration with the golf, sport, parks and leisure industries as we work to refine the Alternate Proposal to ensure a Win/Win for the Government, the people of Sydney and the visitor economy.

PARTNERS, CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS, USER GROUPS

There is a collective voice representing community and stakeholder sentiment and outcomes through this submission. The Save Moore Park Collective ("the Collective") includes:

- Golf Australia
- PGA of Australia
- Golf NSW
- Moore Park Golf Club

An extensive number of contributors, supporters and user groups share this sentiment and have shared their support through this submission.

We thank KruseGolf, SportEng, SGS Economics and Planning, Environmental Golf Solutions, and Dr Brad Stenner for their specialist contributions.



THE ALTERNATE PROPOSAL

**A PARK FOR
EVERYONE
AND THE
HOME OF
PUBLIC GOLF**



Two things are certain in a discussion about public golf. Community members play and/or appreciate the space is available for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to play golf as well as enjoy the natural environment created through golf courses; and there are some community members that feel the space could be used differently.

Our Collective believes that Moore Park South can deliver both outcomes, and is recommending to the NSW Government there is an Alternate Proposal that reimagines Moore Park South as **a park for everyone and the home for public golf.**

We have developed **a bold, city shaping vision for world class recreational and golf facilities for a growing Sydney** that allows for the retention of a reduced 18-hole golf course and maximises available open space for active recreation and active transport. In doing so it embraces diversity, equality and inclusion and a vision for an innovative and sustainable future. We believe this concept would position the NSW Government as a leader in community golf and active recreation.

PRINCIPLES

We have developed a Masterplan that demonstrates that all people in the community can access recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing population through:

- Addressing the key measures of success outlined in the Moore Park South Discussion Paper, as well as the substantial site, precinct and wider access constraints.
- Leveraging and enhancing existing infrastructure wherever possible and transforming undeveloped and under-utilised areas of Moore Park South to maximise use of open space and built assets.
- Creating protected, accessible and high amenity recreational, picnic and relaxation areas in the most prime positions of the precinct.
- Incorporating running, walking and cycling tracks that connect the growing centres of Kensington, Zetland and Green Square into the already world class Centennial Parkland tracks (and other planned walkways and cycleways).
- Improving connectivity, integration, efficiency, and safety of the public golf assets to support the significant demand and participation growth in all types of golf, and in doing so creating the “home” of golf in NSW, cementing Moore Park as the leading sports precinct in Australia.
- Introducing indigenous Easter Suburbs Banksia Scrub to Moore Park South to honour the cultural significance of the scrublands, restore biodiversity and enhance community engagement.
- Delivering on the Australian Golf Strategy purpose of ‘more Australians playing More Golf’, along with strategic pillars and enablers including: Tell Our Story Better, Attract New Golfers, Grow Our Core, Attract New Fans & Grow Revenue, and Work Together.
- Applying key strategic planning documents of the NSW Government, neighbouring LGAs, peak bodies and sporting organisations.

KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The Alternate Proposal responds to the Key Measures of Success outlined in the Discussion Paper that enables the NSW Government to demonstrate:

- You are listening to your community, which has prioritised golf at Moore Park South for years. Deliver on this community view, which has been reflected in master plans and community consultation over many years, and what we anticipate you will also hear in 2024.
- You can achieve design and operational excellence, a high-quality outcome, and a lasting legacy for the people of Sydney.

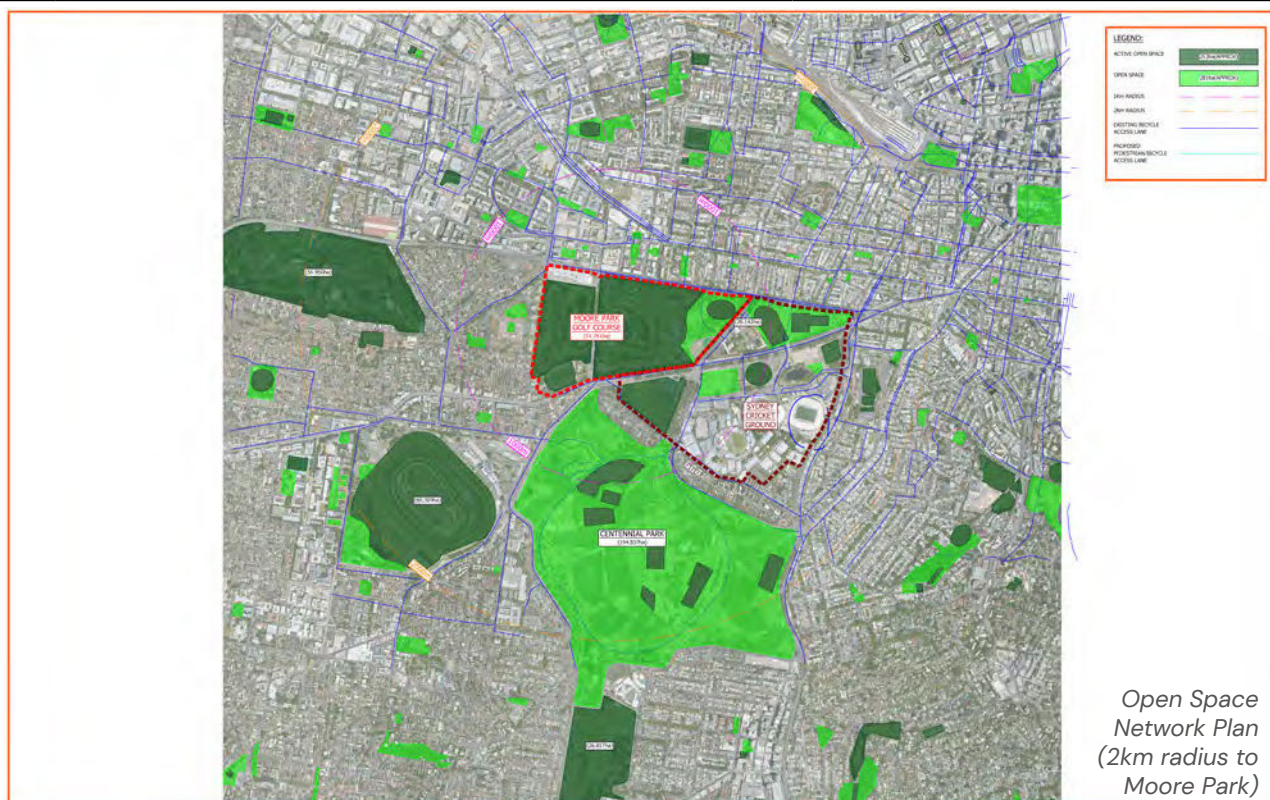
✓	A high quality recreational park of 20 hectares that is easy to access and well connected to Inner and Eastern Sydney.	Presenting a proposal that transforms undeveloped parkland within Moore Park South, of up to 20ha and delivers 3kms of much-needed shared path and cycle connections east-west, to deliver on the vision for high quality parkland without taking away from golf.
✓	A multi-use space which creates a legacy for the diverse needs of a growing city.	
✓	A backyard for residents of Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern, Surry Hills and Kensington.	
✓	A destination which extends the Moore Park visitor experience and retains its status as a sporting and entertainment hub for the community.	
✓	An enhancement of the existing environmental and cultural values of Centennial Parklands, including Caring for Country outcomes.	Caring for Country through planting critically endangered ESBS with IndigiGrow, and educating and engaging young people in culture and Connection to Country.
✓	A future for public golf at Moore Park that retains a minimum 9 hole golf course, the driving range and clubhouse.	Public golf that meets the significantly high demand (currently outweighing supply), through alterations to the 18-hole golf course, practice facilities, driving range and adding mini-golf. Supports the projected 14,000 additional golfers that will move into the surrounding LGA's by 2040.
✓	A sustainable approach which enables operational excellence.	Long term financial sustainability that meets operational excellence, and increases the significant economic, social and environmental benefits of golf, through well designed golf facilities and new active recreation.

SITE, PRECINCT AND WIDER CONSTRAINTS

The Alternate Proposal Masterplan helps the NSW Government and local councils to address the significant site and precinct constraints that impact the way people move around and access facilities.

X	The site is not directly serviced by public transport and bound on all sides by busy roads.	✓	The site is extremely capacity constrained. A new multi-level 500 space car park built into the landscape is proposed to support the entire precinct.
X	Pedestrian access to the site is challenging; crossings at Charles St and Edmund Resch Reserve are inadequate, while major intersections do not prioritise pedestrians or cyclists.	✓	New pedestrian pathways and placement of new recreational spaces on the current 16th hole and driving range are designed to maximise access from Edmund Resch reserve.
X	South Dowling St-Eastern Distributor forms a noisy, unattractive barrier for pedestrians. Current golf holes in the location of the Government's planned park to the north of Dacey Ave, record sound levels of >70 decibels.	✓	New quality recreational space for play, exploration, relaxing, walking, running and fitness have been located in the most protected and least noisy parts of the precinct. The most unattractive and noisy parcels of land are planned to remain golf holes.
X	Dacey Ave is dark, noisy and unattractive to pedestrians and park users, and there are constraints in operating golf on the southern parcel of land.	✓	New pedestrian pathways and realigned, shorter holes create a more attractive user experience and importantly connect people east-west into Centennial Parklands.
X	Golf course fencing provides safety for park users but is a barrier to east-west connectivity.	✓	Through the shortening of holes [16] and adjustments to tee and green complexes [14 & 15], fences can be removed and safety maintained. The minimum safety requirement is 60m from the middle of the fairway to a boundary.
X	Night golf / addition of lighting is only possible north of Dacey Ave. There are numerous illumination constraints south of Dacey Ave and strong opposition from the residents of Raleigh Park	✓	By maintaining 18 holes (and 11 holes north of Dacey Ave), the capacity for >100,000 rounds per year is preserved without the need for lighting. If LED lighting was added to holes north of Dacey Ave, the course has the potential to increase rounds played to >125,000 p.a.

<p>X</p>	<p>Open space is not adequately provided for under current local planning controls. It also does not appear to be zoned accurately providing a false estimate of available open space to support residential developments.</p> <p>A significant proportion of future development is at least 1.5km from Moore Park South.</p> <p>Golf course land at Moore Park South should not be at a detriment for local planning errors.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>The Alternate Proposal and the reductions in the footprint of the 18-hole course is an example of identifying the best sites in the right locations for appropriate, active open space.</p> <p>Walkability to open space is critical and should be within 400 metres of development.</p> <p>It is of utmost importance that parks and open spaces within a 2–3 kilometre radius are appropriately zoned and recognised as valuable open spaces that can deliver better amenity within closer proximity of development.</p> <p>It is a responsibility of local government to ensure that planning controls meet the needs of future communities moving into new residential development in the area.</p>
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STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Alternate Proposal also considers its position as an enabler to the delivery of current NSW and local government strategies and plans.

<p>NSW OFFICE OF SPORT</p> <p>What we do NSW Government</p>	<p>NSW Government has the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to Build Active Communities through their Office for Sport Vision – sport and active recreation creating healthier people, connecting communities and making a stronger NSW.</p> <p>The Alternate Proposal brings the people of NSW the leadership, policies, programs, funding and infrastructure necessary to maximise the social, health and economic benefits realised through sport and active recreation.</p> <p>The shared social outcomes of the NSW Government and the Collective ensure sport and active recreation is an important part of the fabric of our communities. Golf reaches across age, cultural background and demographic groups. Moore Park Golf Course provides grassroot to elite level participation opportunities and is a place with community identity and pride.</p>
<p>NSW HEALTH NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy 2022 – 2032</p> <p>NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy</p>	<p>Importantly this Strategy sets out objectives to increase physical activity and decrease sedentary behaviour.</p> <p>The NSW Government can continue its delivery of the strategic direction focusing on built environments to support active living. Collaborating with the Collective to plan and deliver the Alternate Proposal will demonstrate it is making good on its promise and for a broad cross-section of its community that use Moore Park South for golf and parkland now and the increase in numbers that will use it in the bold, visionary future presented.</p>
<p>City of Sydney Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan 2018 – 2028</p> <p>A city for all – towards a socially just and resilient Sydney</p>	<p>Located in the City of Sydney, Moore Park Golf plays a significant role in delivering the Council’s sustainability policy and action plan 2018–2028, that puts people at the heart of cities. It recognises that personal wellbeing impacts on, and is impacted by, collective wellbeing.</p> <p>Moore Park Golf is the public golf facility in the heart of Sydney that places equality and social justice at its core. Helping the community to be stronger and more resilient through access to an affordable and accessible physical activity that drives community benefits.</p> <p>The Alternate Proposal delivers outcomes for everyone and their collective wellbeing, and does not take away from enormous existing benefits that the golf course provides.</p>

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Alternate Proposal also considers its position as an enabler to the delivery of current NSW and local government strategies and plans.

<p>Woollahra Council</p> <p>Woollahra 2032 – Community Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Council's goal is for a connected harmonious and engaged community. Community identified parks and recreation (96%) and sporting fields (91%) amongst their highest priorities.</p> <p>The Alternate Proposal ensures Moore Park South can deliver on Council's goal and community priority, from outside of its municipal border, providing a place for community engagement in a safe, welcoming environment.</p>
<p>RANDWICK COUNCIL</p> <p>Randwick Community Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Council's vision is our unique coastal environment, our strong sense of community and the sustainability of our natural and built environment. In 10 years, Council wants to have a community that is healthy and active and where everyone has the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation.</p> <p>The Alternate Proposal ensures that Randwick residents can access affordable sport and recreation at the public golf course, staying healthy and active within and just outside of their municipal boundary, with improved walking and cycling connections.</p>
<p>Bayside Council</p> <p>Bayside Strategic Planning</p>	<p>ommunity engagement highlighted the value to the community of public open space and green infrastructure providing places for people to gather, play and recreate as well as providing environmental value.</p> <p>The Alternate Proposal contributes to Bayside's Planning Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide social infrastructure to meet the needs of the Bayside Community – Foster healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities – Manage and enhance the distinctive character of the LGA through good quality urban design, respect for existing character and enhancement of the public realm – Deliver high quality open space (noting an abundance of open space exists in Bayside).

THE ALTERNATE PROPOSAL

THE MASTERPLAN FOR MOORE PARK SOUTH

THE MASTERPLAN FOR MOORE PARK SOUTH

The Masterplan presents **a park for everyone and the home for public golf** through the lens of best practice planning and design for open space and people movement through:

- Active recreation
- Active transport
- Golf course, facilities and a home of public golf
- Caring for Country

The **bold, city shaping vision for world class recreational and golf facilities for a growing Sydney** is achieved by transforming undeveloped parkland, enhancing golf, and connecting people to destinations.

The Masterplan was developed with leading golf course designers KruseGolf and sports engineering designers SportEng, along with the experienced golf, open space, sport, recreation, and precinct planning expert members of the Collective.



ACTIVE RECREATION

Up to 20ha of new quality recreational space is possible, for play, exploration, relaxing, walking, running, and fitness, creating activities for people of all ages. These spaces are in addition to the existing recreational and golf facilities available at Moore Park South, and importantly in the network of existing open spaces located within the residential developments to the west of the Eastern distributor and throughout the Centennial Parklands precincts.



KEY FEATURES:

- Walking and running shared paths (New/upgraded)
- Fitness trail with exercise stations (New)
- Adventure playground (New)
- Dog park (New)
- Skate park, ball half courts, futsal court and seating (New)
- Pump track and riding areas (New)
- Mount Steele – lookout from the highest view point and breathtaking vista with updated seating and amenity (Upgraded)
- Mount Steele – fitness trail formalised through steps (New)
- Mount Steele – accessible pathway (New)
- Mount Steele – terracing overlooking Bat and Ball oval (New)
- New entry arrival zones at key connection points (New)
- Picnic and seating areas with tables, seats, barbeques, shelter, toilets (New)
- Tennis courts located east of Anzac Parade (New)
- AFL/Cricket oval located east of Anzac Parade (New/upgraded, not costed)

ACTIVE TRANSPORT

New cycleways, extensive walking networks, new park entries and reoriented golf holes will improve public access to and through Moore Park South, and improve walking and cycling into the city. Shared pathways have been designed to accommodate all community users, from pedestrians and commuter cyclists to leisurely bike riders and those with mobility devices or prams.



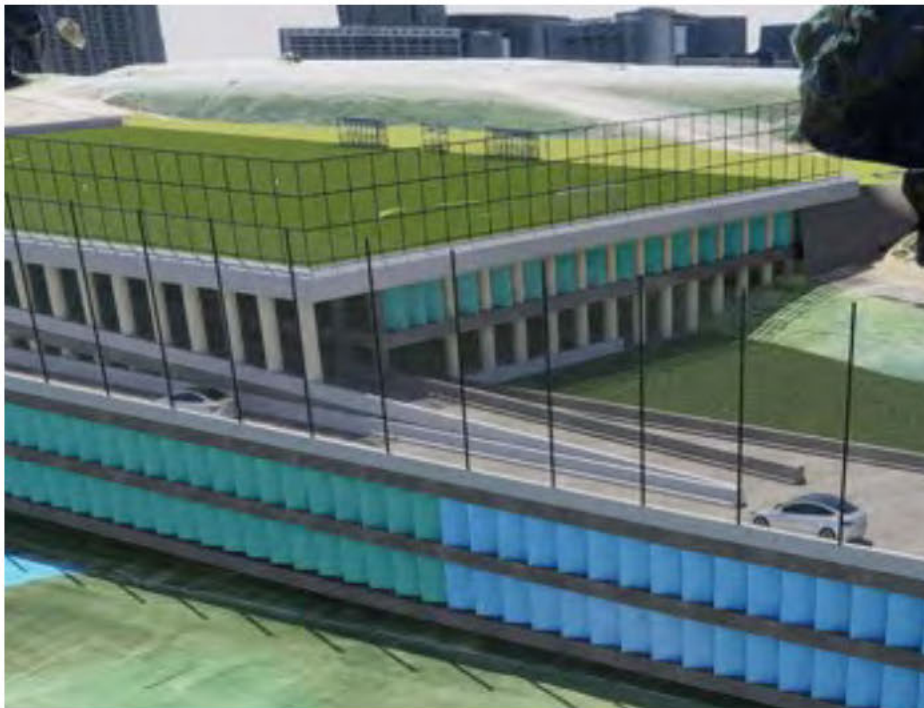
The active transport planning could create light rail connections via a new bridge across Anzac Parade (north of Dacey Ave) and a future pedestrian lift at E.S. Marks, enabling the wider community to reach destinations beyond the precinct and remove cars from congested roads.

KEY FEATURES:

- 3 kilometres of shared path and cycleways (New/upgraded)
- Paths in and surrounding the golf course for walking and cycling and reaching park destinations
- Path and crossing connections to new recreation zones and wider network
- Extend safe cycling access into the broader network for Kensington/ UNSW and Zetland residents where the bulk of new development will occur
- Path and crossing connections to remove the gaps in the network to the south of the golf course
- Connection into the new Oxford St cycleway
- Connected landing points for a new pedestrian bridge across Anzac Parade (north of Dacey Ave) (New, not costed)
- Pedestrian lift at E.S. Marks (New, DA approved for GSP, not costed)

AN ELEGANT CAR PARK SOLUTION FOR MOORE PARK SOUTH

A multi-level car park built into the existing driving range landscape with entry from the current elevated car park. It is estimated that the car park could deliver 500 spaces for the entire precinct and an additional active recreation area could be constructed.



KEY FEATURES:

- Multi-level car park of estimated 500 spaces
- Scoped for either a rooftop activation zone, for example synthetic soccer/futsal pitches, as well as naturalised landscape overlooking the driving range
- Upgraded entrance and exit driveway, with consideration given to access on Cleveland Street.

The car park would provide a solution for the long standing issue of parking in the Moore Park precinct. The replacement of event car spaces at Showground Field would allow for more open space to be transformed and used as active and passive open space. The suggested formalisation of an AFL/Cricket oval on the east of Anzac Parade would help meet the supply and demand needs for these two sports.

Event parking is estimated to generate between up to \$1.5 million in revenue from major events across the Moore Park stadia precincts. Everyday use of the car park is an additional revenue generator for consideration, however it is suggested that this be low cost to not exclude anyone in the community.

The design of the structure would also create an opportunity for additional activation areas, using the rooftop area for engineered solutions for informal or formal sport, and/or more naturalised areas of ESBS.

REDUCED AND IMPROVED GOLF COURSE

The Masterplan's enabler is an 18-hole golf course footprint that is substantially reduced, **freeing up an estimated 7.5 hectares** of golf course land. Together with currently available and underdeveloped open space at Moore Park South the redesign contributes significantly to the nominal figure of 20 hectares promised by the NSW Government.

Improvements focus on creating a better and much safer course. This improves the golf experience for both beginners and experienced golfers.

- **New players are welcomed** at a course designed to provide an engaging and inclusive experience, regardless of their golfing ability.
- The **championship course** status is maintained through design adjustments that offset the reduced course. These adjustments will ensure the course remains a challenging test of golf for the most experienced players and continue to host community-level to National Tour events, along with the many charitable golf days already held throughout the year.
- **Tourists and visitors** continue to play as they pass through Sydney for **leisure** (cue Mark Wahlberg, golf tourists, and holidayers) and **business** (including playing on one-day trips and overnight stays, including to or from the airport).
- Moore Park's reputation as a **sporting destination** is maintained by substantially altering the 18-hole golf course.

KEY FEATURES:

- Reduction to Par 68, from Par 70, by losing 2 par 5 holes
- Estimated reduction of 7.5 hectares in golf course from 511,650m² down to 436,440m²
- Move 1st tee to right
- Remove 2nd hole
- Move 3rd tee behind the current 2nd green, straighten and lengthen the hole, creating a new par 5
- The current 4th hole changed to par 4. Tee moved back, new green.
- New par 3 added into current 4th green
- 5th hole shortened, with the current 5th tee repurposed as a park/lookout
- 6th hole – new tee to back of 5th green. Shortened to Par 4
- 9th hole – remove ladies tee
- 15th hole – shortened with the green moved closer and to the right of the current location
- 16th – shortened to par 4. New green will make way for a repurposed park and access to the precinct.
- 17th – hole lengthened, moving the green closer to the current 15th green
- 18th – tee lowered with the potential to lengthen
- Planting of ESBS and integration of active recreation and nature trails



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PROJECT: MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE MASTERPLAN



PROJECT NO: 12019-00 SKETCH TITLE: MASTERPLAN

SKETCH NO: SE_12019_SKT_001_PORTRAIT

REV: B DATE: 17/04/24 DRAWN BY: RNC SCALE: 1:2000 © A1

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OFF-COURSE GOLF FACILITIES

Off-course facilities are in high demand across Australia and the world. Driving ranges, simulators, and mini golf are growing exponentially, with business models that assist in the financial sustainability of a range of facilities.



KEY FEATURES:

- Driving Range substantially shortened to free up space for new Mount Steel park, ~ 30 more bays constructed to increase usage to meet demand, and technology added to improve the experience.
- A new fun and interactive mini golf course between the Toll House and 10th Green, providing great access to the central amenities.
- Practice Putting Green substantially expanded to support growth in the Sydney Golf Academy's short-game needs.
- Improved public short game / pitching area between holes 12 and 13.

The Moore Park driving range is highly utilised, attracting a diverse combination of local and visiting casual users as well as golf lessons run by PGA Professionals during its operating hours. There is an opportunity to increase the driving range's capacity by installing ~30 additional bays and technology, shortening the range's length, and introducing new netting.

Mini-Golf, a popular entertainment option for social gatherings and a stepping stone to on-course golf, offers a range of benefits. It fosters intergenerational bonding, promotes mental health, and is cost-effective to build, manage, and maintain. Importantly, it promises profitability in the short term, making it a sound investment for Moore Park Golf Course.

As part of our commitment to supporting all golfers, we propose improvements to the short game practice areas. These enhancements will be specifically designed to bolster learning programs, ensuring that Moore Park Golf Course remains a hub for golfers of all levels.

THE HOME OF PUBLIC GOLF IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The NSW Government can secure Moore Park South as the 'Home of Golf' creating an administrative and high-performance hub for the State.

The facility would accommodate industry stakeholders including Golf NSW, the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and Jack Newton Junior Golf (NSW), and Golf Australia.



The facility would centralise the extensive service delivery models of each organisation. Additionally it will promote All Abilities Golf providers and provide administrative support to Deaf Golf NSW and Blind Golf NSW.

The 'Home of Golf' would also incorporate the relocation and expansion of the Australian Golf Heritage Society Museum, currently located at Strathfield Golf Club, where NSW based PGA of Australia staff are located.

Improvements to existing buildings and the construction of proposed new facilities will support the Home of Golf and a range of activities.

KEY FEATURES:

- Meeting and function spaces to be enhanced to support the hosting of additional corporate events, weddings and other celebrations.
- Improved dining and takeaway offerings that leverage the location and output that golf clubs and facilities provide.
- Child care facility relocated from south of Dacey Ave to a new building (land provisioned, not costed) near the clubhouse and new car park.
- Additional built form be considered through a planning exercise for state of the art high performance and community programs.

CARING FOR COUNTRY

Central to the Masterplan is the unique opportunity for ecological restoration, cultural revitalisation and community engagement through reintroducing endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) throughout the golf course.



Lantern Banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*)

Banksia scrub holds deep cultural significance for indigenous communities, serving as a connection to traditional country and ancestral knowledge. By reintroducing these native landscapes, we honor and respect the cultural heritage of the land's original custodians.

The ecological importance of the Banksia scrub in the sandbelt of Moore Park South is of utmost significance. It plays a vital role in maintaining local biodiversity and providing a habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species.

The success of this conservation initiative is possible with the dedicated golf course workforce and indigenous organisation Indigigrow on hand daily to nurture and care for the plants to ensure they survive and thrive.

KEY FEATURES:

- Plant and nurture new ESBS in extensive areas of non-playing spaces surrounding and within the 18 holes. Up to 7.5 hectares have been made available by reducing the golf course size.
- Collaborate with IndigiGrow to ensure that First Nations' voices and perspectives are central to the conservation efforts and sustainable employment.
- Integrate connecting trails for active recreation through the re-vegetated areas, promoting physical activity and an immersive experience in nature.
- Establish educational points through signage to pause and learn the cultural and environmental significance of this endangered species to the area.
- Build climate resilience and biodiversity through indigenous plants, contributing to the overall health and resilience of Greater Sydney Parklands' environment.

SUSTAINABLE, FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MODEL

Maintaining an 18-hole golf facility is pivotal to a sustainable funding model that will support the new Moore Park South recreational facility and the Greater Sydney Parklands into the future.

Estimated Financial Implications	Yr 1 (\$m)	Yr 2 (\$m)	Yr 3 (\$m)	Yr 4 (\$m)	Yr 5 (\$m)	Ongoing (\$m)
Revenue	18.40	19.37	19.86	20.35	20.86	21.38
Expenses	(7.15)	(7.33)	(7.51)	(7.70)	(7.89)	(8.01)
Total Budget Impact	11.25	12.04	12.34	12.65	12.97	13.37
Capital Expenditure	(39.2)	(2.97)	(0.99)	(1.02)	(1.04)	(1.07)

It is estimated that the current NSW Government proposal to repurpose 20ha of golf course and create a “central park” of the scale needed to deliver commensurate benefits and place-based outcomes would have a minimum financial cost to the State budget of >\$200m.

This Alternate Proposal delivers an opportunity for the NSW Government to increase revenues at Moore Park South to fund capital expenditures of the Masterplan. It is projected that major expenditures can be offset within a four-

year horizon and that substantial returns will be provided to the NSW Government to offset recurrent expenditures in the future.

The Alternate Proposal cost estimate is approximately \$40 million in initial capital expenditure. Projections suggest that this investment could be self-funded or budget-neutral by Year 4. These projections are based on the current, and potentially increased, revenue from the 18-hole golf course, driving range, mini-golf and event driven parking fees.

It is worth noting the potential for capital contributions from stakeholders and benefactors. For instance, the Australian Sports Foundation, through the NSW Golf Foundation and Australian Golf Foundation, could be utilised. There is a significant level of interest in financially supporting the Home of Golf outcomes being pursued, with the 18-hole golf course being a crucial element.

Beyond the forecast income (Australians spend of household income on golf, and business to business spend) and the expenditure (capital and operating budgets) outlined above, an important study was completed in 2023 by SGS Economics & Planning for the Australian Golf Industry Council to quantify the community benefits of golf including the economic, social and environmental benefits.

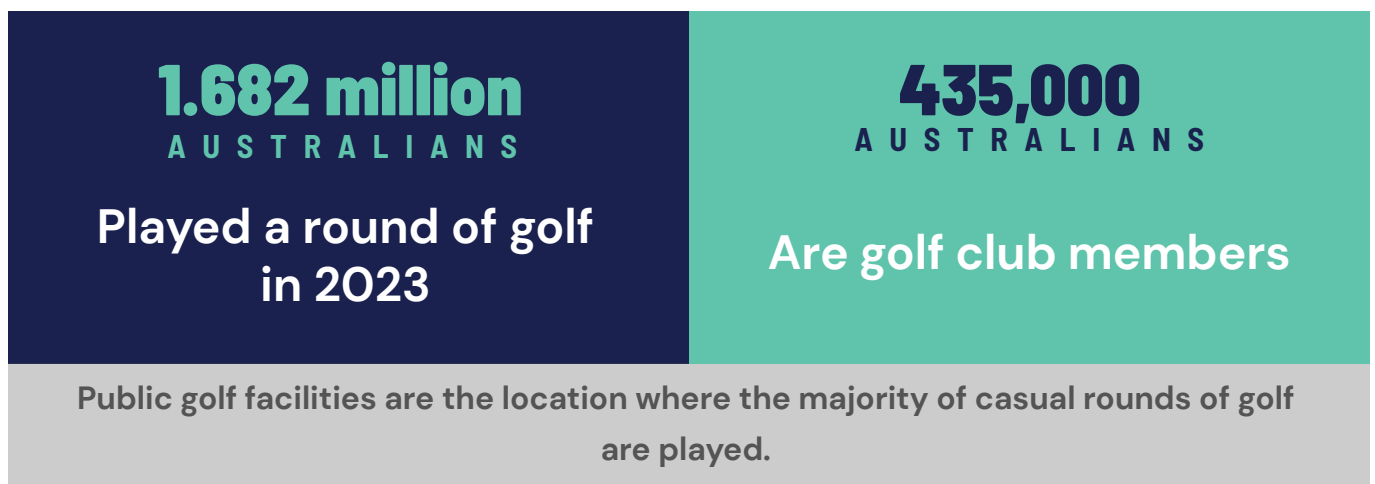
Fully detailed later in this submission, a summary of the additional community benefits of Moore Park Golf are included below and demonstrate the impact of reducing the 18 hole golf course compared to its current or improved benefit.

BENEFIT TYPE	CURRENT BENEFIT	INCREASED CAPACITY	REDUCED CAPACITY
Economic Total	\$6.29 million	\$7.60 million	\$4.31 million
Player	\$2.47 million	\$4.38 million	\$1.84 million
Business	\$3.50 million	\$4.38 million	\$2.22 million
Worker	\$0.22 million	\$0.23 million	\$0.21 million
Health system cost savings	\$0.10 million	\$0.13 million	\$0.04 million
Social Total	\$5.54 million	\$6.00 million	\$4.82 million
Physical Health	\$0.90 million	\$1.13 million	\$0.56 million
Mental Health	\$0.94 million	\$1.17 million	\$0.56 million
Amenity	\$3.70 million	\$3.70 million	\$3.70 million
Environmental Total	\$2.99 million	\$2.99 million	\$2.99 million
TOTAL	\$14.42 million	\$16.58 million	\$12.12 million

GOLF PARTICIPATION

Participation in golf is booming.

More than 3.5 million Australians hit a golf ball in 2023, across all its formats and by people of all abilities and ages, a uniqueness as a sport that stretches across the lifespan. 1.15 million of those people are located in NSW, the highest participation State in the country.

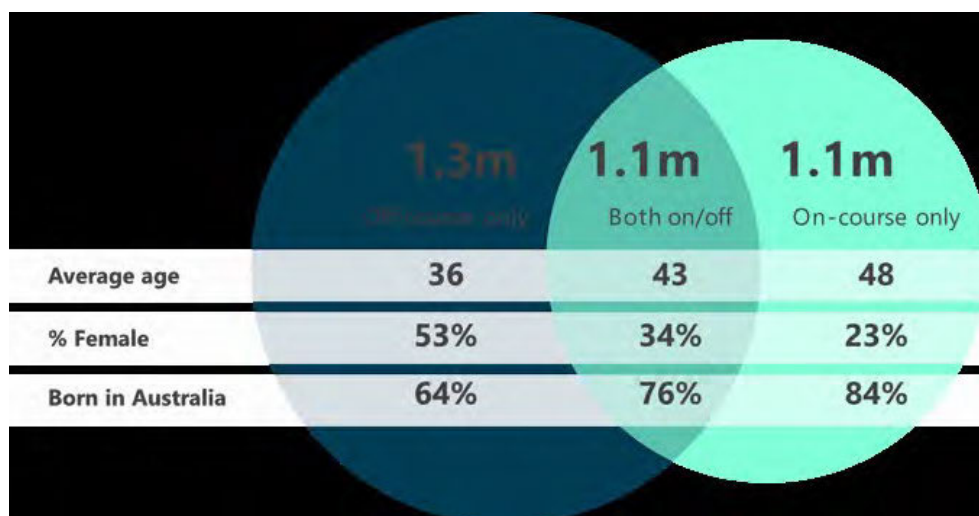


The data comes from a **National Representative Survey** of the Australian adult population and a **Golfer Survey**, led by Golf Australia and Swinburne University, to record golf participation levels and define segments in how people play golf. Quarterly surveys capture and aggregate responses to support evidence based decisions by the Australian Golf industry and our stakeholders.

Of the 3.5 million Australians that play golf, we categorise them as on-course and off-course players:

- 2.2 million Australians play on-course golf, that is rounds of golf at a golf course.
- 2.4 million Australians play off-course at driving ranges, simulators, mini-golf, and alternate forms such as disc golf.

Segmented, participation can be presented by many factors. Below are the key measurables of age, gender and birthplace.



Out of the non-golfing adult market (18-79 years) which is approximately 16.3million people:



Detailed segmentation is presented below, outlining the golfer journey and informing strategic focus areas for the industry.

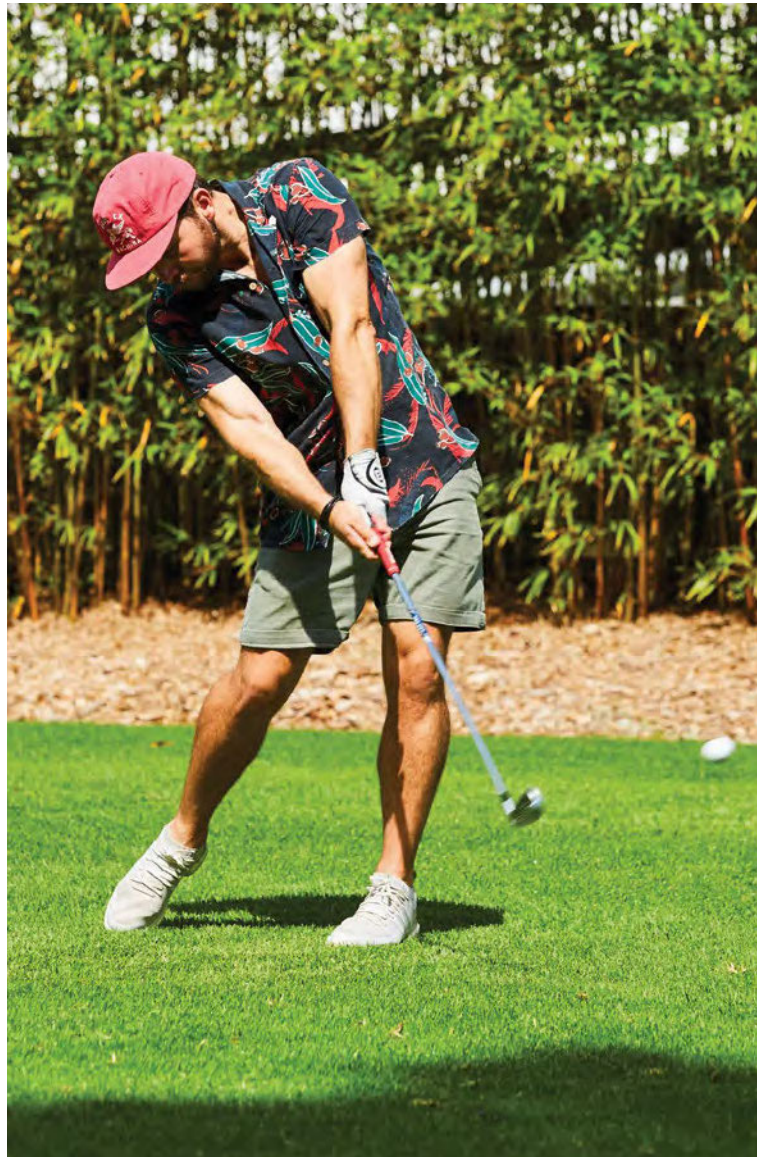


GOLF PARTICIPATION

For reference, Golf Australia's [Participation Report 2022-23](#) reports on the financial year participation in programs and membership across Australia and by each State. NSW continues to be the highest participation State in the country.

Entry level programs have performed extremely well with more people participating than ever before:

- MyGolf for juniors, 33,090 participants (22% increase)
- Get Into Golf for adults, 15,097 participants (39% increase), including 38% increase in total women/girl participants and 19% increase in total programs delivered
- 66% of registrations of people who identified as living with a disability participated in mainstream program offerings.
- All Abilities MyGolf and Get into Golf inclusion programs, 3,896 participants (36% increase), through 86 programs across the year



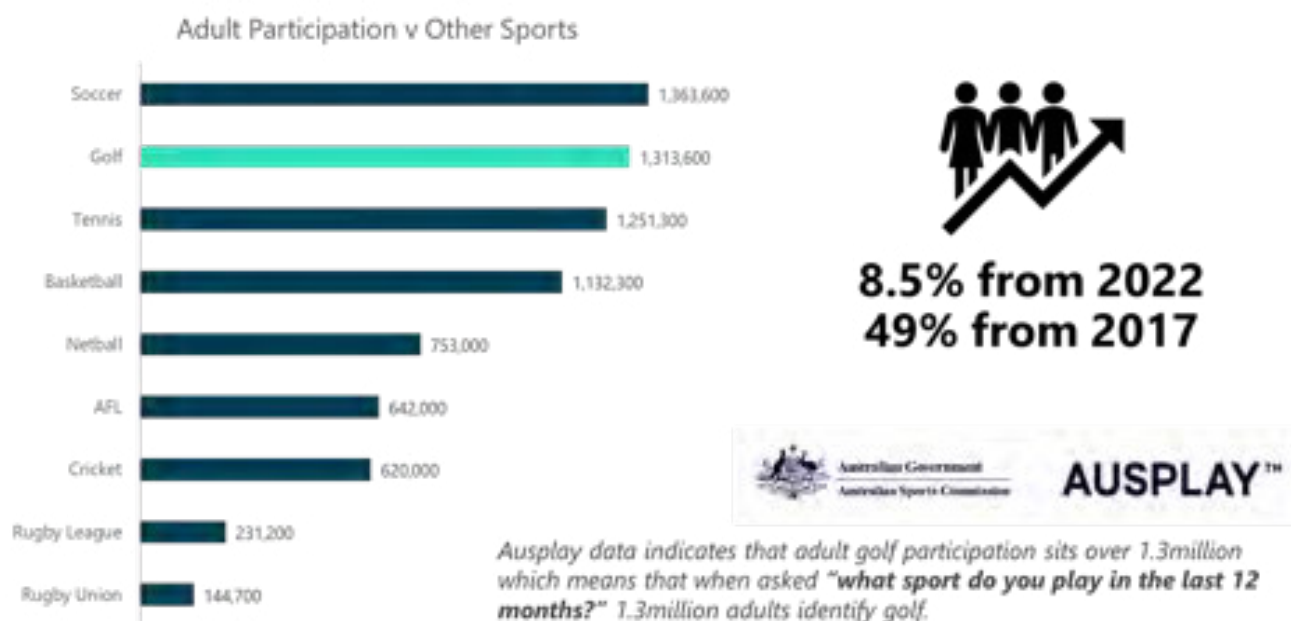
GOLF PARTICIPATION

PGA Professionals lead the delivery of programs, with a pool of 1,663 members and 399 membership pathway members (associates). They are supported by 1,771 Community Instructors who are predominantly a volunteer workforce:

- 5,292 programs were delivered by PGA Professionals and Associates
- 281 programs were co-delivered by PGA Members and Community Instructors
- 46% of community instructors are women/girls
- 280 volunteers from the disability sector have completed training for All Abilities Program deliverers.



GOLF PARTICIPATION



The **2022–23 Ausplay National Participation Survey** by the Australian Sports Commission demonstrates that golf is one of the most participated sport and physical activities in the country. AusPlay is the standardised approach for the Federal Government, where participants define the sport they play at the start of the survey. The Golf Australia/ Swinburne University Study allows people to describe how they engage with golf. The different methodology reflects lower AusPlay reported numbers, however they are relevant and significant when compared to other participation activities as demonstrated below.

- More than 1.313 million participants were recorded in 2022.
- An additional 230,000 people started playing the game compared to pre-pandemic levels, an overall market share of 5.8%.
- That is 49% growth since 2017, from 880,000 in 2019, 1.13m in 2020, 1.21m in 2021 to 1.31m in 2022.
- Men/boys participation has reached 9.4% of the population (over 15), with women/girls participation steady at 2.3%, as is their share of market at 19% of all golfers.
- Golf is the 9th most participated sport and physical activity in Australia, overtaking tennis and following only soccer as an organised sport and active recreation and physical activities, i.e. walking, cycling, fitness.
- Golf is the number one most participated club sport for adults (over 15), and second overall (to football/soccer).

GOLF PARTICIPATION

Beyond physically participating in golf there are many benefits through volunteering. In 2023 there were 6.6 million hours of volunteer work at golf clubs around Australia. This equates to an average of around 13 hours of volunteer time at each golf club per day of the year.

Charity golf days contribute to broader investment in the health and wellbeing of Australians. It is difficult to estimate the full contribution golf makes to charitable donations. Australian golfers participated in an average of 2.8 charity golf days in the last year. There is an estimated spend of \$92 per event per person, equating to a total expenditure of \$152 million to charitable donations. The Cancer Council's Longest Day event has raised more than \$8 million through golf. In the 2022/23 golf clubs raised \$7.4 million for their own purposes, i.e. capital works projects, players and programs.



MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION AND USAGE

Moore Park Golf is one of Australia's busiest Public Golf facilities and a vibrant hub of activity from sun up to close of business every day in the heart of Sydney. More than 500,000 users visit the facility annually, using the public golf course, driving range and clubhouse.



The 18-hole public golf course is forecast to have more than 100,000 rounds of golf in 2024. More than 80% of rounds are 18-hole rounds, and only 20% are less than 18-hole rounds. These shorter rounds are generally late in the afternoon after work hours.

75%
of course usage

is by the general public, mainly by the local community. The majority of postcodes given when booking a casual round come from the Inner Sydney suburbs. Business people who are not members of clubs or are looking for a course on their home community. Tourists and visitors to Sydney also prefer Moore Park due to its accessibility and central location, including to and from Sydney airport.

25%
of course usage

is by Moore Park Golf Club members and affiliates of the Club. Steeped in history, the club is a home for more than 600 members (numbers are capped by the Greater Sydney Parklands). The club runs weekly competitions that members and guests can participate in for a more formalised participation pathway.

MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION

THE SYDNEY GOLF ACADEMY

The Sydney Golf Academy is the most popular golf academy in Sydney, introducing the game in a fun, relaxed and enjoyable learning environment. There are 11 PGA Professionals and Associates employed to provide the best golf programs and lessons, with services delivered by highly trained and experienced Australian coaches.



In 2022/23, 27,418 students received instruction at the Academy

- a 78% overall increase compared to 2019 and,
- most impressively, a 74% increase in women and girls' participation.
- Lessons run from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the evening, creating important employment and participation opportunities at times that suit individuals best.

As the home for junior golf, on average, 33 group junior sessions are taught each week across 4 levels:

- Pee Wee (3–6 years old)
- Junior Beginner (7–12 years old)
- Intermediate (7–12 years old)
- Cadet Level (11–17 years old)

MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION ACCESSIBILITY

Moore Park Golf Course is the most accessible golf course in Sydney for paraplegics. The course has a [ParaGolfer](#), a singular all-terrain special mobility device that lifts people from a sitting position to a standing position so they can swing a golf club. The driving range is also fitted with automated hitting bays.



MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION

NON-GOLFING COMMUNITY

The golf course is essential for many non-golf communities, sports groups, social enterprises, and business organisations. Moore Park Golf provides essential social value and is used extensively for golf charity days and community development programs.



Charitable golf days are held over the 18-hole golf course, enabling organisations to raise funds and awareness for numerous causes. Regular charitable days at Moore Park include:

Mongrel Masters Annual Golf Day

Raising money for men's mental health

State of Mind NRL Charity Golf Day

Raising awareness for mental health

Charity Bounce Golf Day

Raising funds for at-risk young people

UnLtd Charity Golf Day

Social purpose organisation supporting at-risk children and young people

Good Shepherd Golf Day

Australia's oldest charity working to support women and girls experiencing abuse and disadvantage

R U OK Golf Day

Promoting conversations through difficult times

Kids Cancer Foundation Charity Day

Raising funds to help kids fight cancer.

MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION NON-GOLFING COMMUNITY

Green fee vouchers to help fundraising efforts are also regularly distributed. Organisations include:

- Santa Paws
- Save the Children (UNSW)
- Teach for Australia
- Lou's Place (Allens)
- Red Cross
- Neuroblastoma Golf2Cure
- Gardiners Rd Public School
- Deutsche Bank Christmas Charity Drive
- Sydney Boys High



Organisations also use the golf course for community and corporate days for social connection, charitable golf days, team building, and physical activity that brings together teams, clients, members and partners. Examples include:

- Sydney Veterans
- Salvation Army
- Foster House
- Rainbow Golfers.



MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION NON-GOLFING COMMUNITY

The Clontarf Foundation is a national Clublinks partner with an M.O.U in place at Moore Park Golf Course to deliver access to sports and event spaces. The purpose is to aid The Clontarf Foundation in its mission to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem, and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and equip them to participate more meaningfully in society.



Clontarfs School-based Academies from both near (e.g., Matraville, Endeavour, Cranebrook) and far (e.g., Delroy, Carnarvon, The Katherine) have benefited from attending driving range events, group pizza parties, and tennis days that have encouraged and rewarded attendance at The Academies during the school year. Numerous alum groups return, solidifying the growth of the network and bonds of Academy graduates. Moore Park also hosts Clontarf staff groups for planning and development days.

MOORE PARK GOLF PARTICIPATION NON-GOLFING COMMUNITY

Moore Park is the closest golf course to the Sydney CBD. Due to its unique location and public accessibility, it provides opportunities for business people to use the course and facilities for customer relationship building and team development. The substantial value of Moore Park Golf Course to the NSW and Australian economy should not be discounted.



The 18-hole golf course has helped professional golfers in their career pathways, from young beginners to experienced players on tours around the world. The design sets out a championship course that enables local, State and National tournaments to be hosted regularly. The PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Golf Australia, and Jack Newton Junior Golf provide amateur and professional golf tournaments from this public golf course.

As the home of accessible and affordable public golf, Moore Park facilities meet the needs of all participation pathways and journeys.

MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE- THE PEOPLE

Golf is unique. It can be defined as a sport, active recreation or leisure activity that is played by people of all ages and abilities, and for some people it is the main way that they engage in physical exercise.

The numbers presented paint a picture that non-golf stakeholders may not know and often choose not to understand. People involved in golf, in all its forms, are acutely aware of the diversity of participants.

The Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report (2023)¹ demonstrates that:

Half of all Australian adults are currently playing or are interested in playing golf.

60% of on-course golfers are trade, admin, personal services, and sales workers.

The remaining 40% work as full-time as managers and professionals.

More than half of on-course golfers have an annual income of below \$100,000.

The mean age of on-course golfers is 48, for off course players it is 36.

Around 45% of all golfers live with children; 18% are single and live alone.

The average on-course golfer played 21 rounds of golf in the last year.

Men account for 81% of golf club members and 63% of round players.

Women account for 53% of driving range, mini-golf, and other alternative format players.



MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE- THE PEOPLE

Sport and active recreation clubs make sport accessible to the Australian community. This provides a valuable contribution to society including benefits to health and well-being (physical, mental, social), inclusion, participation, volunteering, and community building and development.



Moore Park Golf Club is the fundamental building block creating social connection and assisting in underpinning participation and elite performance pathways for the sport in Sydney. A home to many, the club is steeped in history and through this submission is earnestly advocating for a future that doesn't compromise its tradition and future.

The club provides many people the opportunity to be involved in something greater than just participation. Passionate board and club members contribute to Moore Park Golf Course every day, and enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering.



MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE- THE PEOPLE

Another point of difference for golf, compared to other sports, are the businesses that operate golf courses under contract management arrangements with landowners and as lease holders. Moore Park Golf's contracted manager Clublinks has 20 experience managing public and private golf courses across Australia.



The customer-first and brand-directed approach is demonstrated through the many partnerships, programs and events created and a happier and greater number of customers that engage with Moore Park Golf.

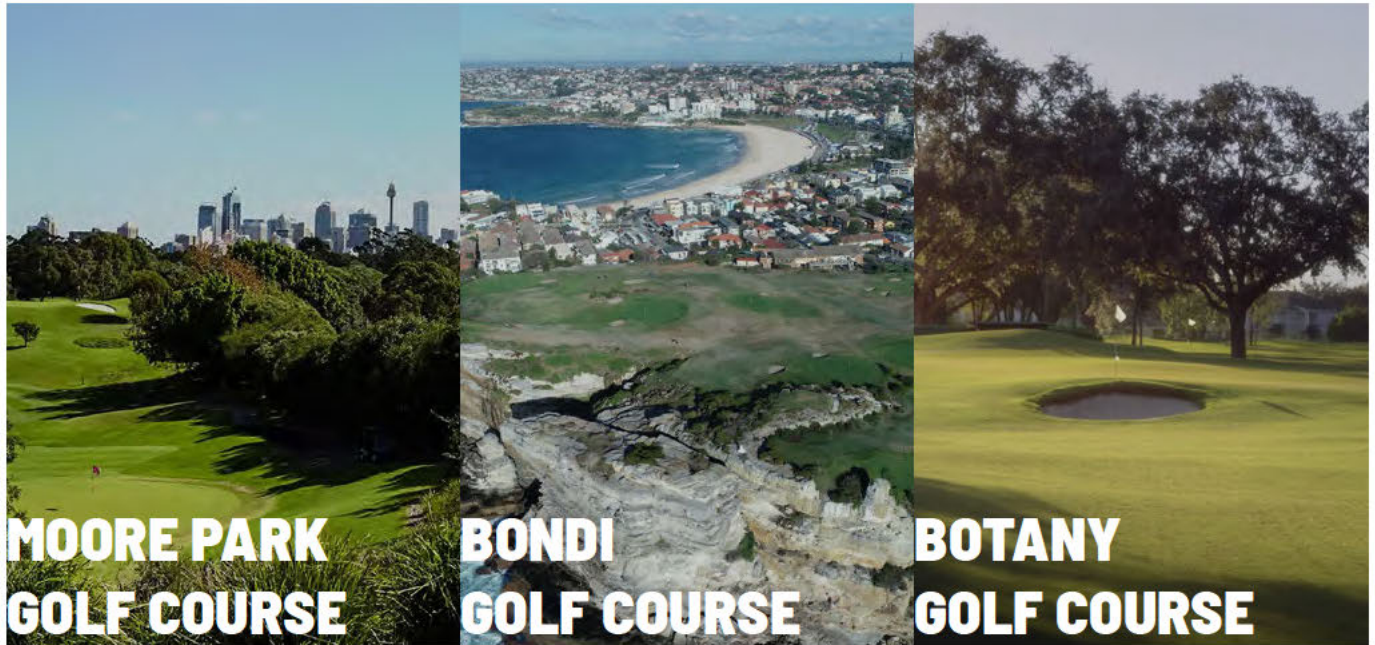
Centred around the historic golf clubhouse is a social hub of people from all walks of life. Moore Park Golf's two dining and takeaway outlets and existing meeting and function rooms support socialising before, during and after activity. The chatter and laughing resounds across the facility, creating an inviting and welcome atmosphere.

These voices, of the diverse community of golfers, are expected to be shared through the NSW Government consultation process and is already evident through commentary on social media channels and through print and digital media.



GOLF IN NSW & SYDNEY'S EASTERN SUBURBS

Sydney's Eastern Suburb clubs are in high demand. Public golf courses include Moore Park, contributing significantly to participation, quality and sustainability, along with Bondi (9-holes) and Botany (9-holes) which are two very basic courses.



There are five member/public access clubs/courses that are predominantly member based but have public access rounds available at certain times. The courses include Eastlake, The Coast, St Michaels, Randwick and Woollahra (9-holes).

Members only clubs are largely inaccessible to the wider community due to their membership requirements, including cost to play, and waiting lists for new member applications. Courses include The Australian, Royal Sydney, Bonnie Doon, The Lakes and NSW golf clubs.

As an ecosystem this is representative of many areas around Australia where public, member/public access and private golf courses meet the needs of the golfer journey. Private and member/public access golf clubs rely on public golf as the starting point for many prospective members.

Public golf courses are intrinsically important as the entry level, and long-term, home of golf for the most diverse golfing community.

GOLF IN NSW & SYDNEY'S EASTERN SUBURBS

Golf NSW is the peak representative body for the sport in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The organisation's role is to raise the level of interest and participation in the game from grassroots golfers to the elite levels, spectators and volunteers and to encourage participation, fellowship, fair play, and the well-being of member clubs and districts.

Golf NSW supports more than 380 clubs, 27 districts, and 165,000 registered (club member) golfers across the State, with the objective of promoting and growing the sport through:

Resources and expertise to support participation, administration, and event management

Advice to strengthen governance, strategy, operations, legal and financial management

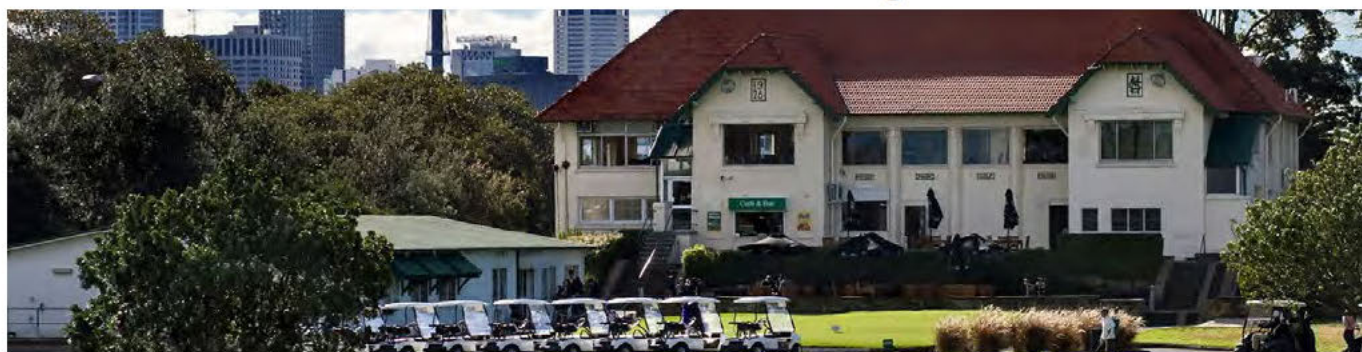
Partnerships and programs that increase interest and demand for the sport

Advocacy of the unique individual and community benefits of the game

Supporting Jack Newton Junior Golf in NSW, in delivering junior development and competition pathways, including at Moore Park Golf Course

Golf NSW also oversees the NSW Golf Foundation – a charitable body that administers and manages grants throughout the NSW golf community. The Foundation awards grants towards participation initiatives, community awareness campaigns, charitable golfing projects, innovative means of promoting golf and disaster relief from floods, fires, drought.

Golf in NSW doesn't currently have a dedicated precinct. The Alternate Proposal recommends that Moore Park South becomes the home of golf for the State.



PUBLIC GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

Public golf facilities are at the heart of diversity and inclusion, providing our most vulnerable and diverse community members access to essential social, mental and physical wellbeing outcomes.



Public land used for golf is critical to meeting participation demand. Golf has a history of being questioned as the best use of land. The above evidence and engagement with stakeholders are helping change an inaccurate perception that golf is for the few and is in decline.

Public golf is not just surviving but thriving, with councils and operators investing in assets to further enhance performance. The majority of rounds, estimated to be between 75–85%, are played by the general public, with the remaining 15–25% contributed through competitive play at clubs located on the course.

Moore Park Public Golf, NSW	Estimated 100,000+ rounds FY24
Wembley Public Golf Course, WA	Estimated 180,000+ rounds FY24 (across 2 x 18 hole courses)
Ringwood Public Golf Course, VIC	Estimated 97,000 rounds FY24
Minnippi Public Golf, QLD	New public golf course FY24
North Adelaide Public Golf, SA	Estimated 160,000 rounds FY24 (across 2 x 18 hole courses)

PUBLIC GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

In some instances, landowners are investigating the best use of land, and here, we see public golf at risk of being changed. In recent cases, the public response to decision-makers has been overwhelming support to maintain golf assets.

Oakleigh Public Golf Course, VIC Monash City Council Decision 27 February 2024	9 hole golf course retained 84% residents supported golf, and majority were Monash residents of golfers and non-golfers who believe it is the best use of land for generations to come
Northcote Golf Course, VIC Darebin City Council Decision May 2023	9 hole golf course retained 2,985 responses supported a golf only outcome, 2,782 supported shared golf/park, 697 park only (6,975 responses)
Marrickville Golf Course Inner West Council Decision August 2021	18-hole golf course retained 67 responses to the online submission form, and 1007 visits to the engagement page. 70% of the responses received supported an 18 hole golf course
Moore Park Public Golf NSW Government Live consultation	Petition to save 18 holes currently has >25,000 signatures



PUBLIC GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

Monash Council in Melbourne is the most recent example of consultation by a landowner seeking community input into the use of land, either golf course or repurposed Oakleigh Public Golf Course into a regional park.. After an [extensive community consultation](#) in the second half of 2023, Councillors overwhelmingly resolved to retain the Public Golf Course for the foreseeable future, given extremely strong support from users and the community to retain the site for golf.

Victoria Park, QLD Brisbane City Council Decision June 2021	Closed 18-hole golf course, 64 hectares Estimated cost of \$250 million to repurpose to non-golf parkland. Impact of financial loss from golf income
Rosny Park, TAS Clarence City Council Decision April 2021	Closed golf course Awaiting future direction. Fenced area that is not being currently utilised. Impact of financial loss from golf income
Elsternwick Golf Course Bayside City Council (Victoria) Decision March 2018	Closed 9 hole public course, to become environmental park 6 years later it is mostly unkept and land, largely fenced off and under-utilised by the community. Impact of financial loss from golf income

Golf's governing bodies acknowledge the increasing demand on public and private land for residential development and other community uses in response to densification. However golf should be seen as a strong community development, economic and environmental contributor and an asset that is financially sustainable (and profitable). Participation is high and the community benefits of golf to those communities is significant.



PUBLIC GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

A recent [case study](#) from the United States of America supports an increased public golf supply, primarily through acquisitions and conversions, driven by municipalities taking over daily fee facilities or private clubs to provide affordable recreation for community residents through golf.

The demand for golf in NSW and Australia outweighs the supply of facilities. We need more golf courses to meet the demand trajectory. Golf Australia's research highlights that many of the 1.3 million Australians playing off-course golf will transition to on-course golf in the coming years. There is a growing number of people taking up the game, including women and girls, juniors, people with a disability, and our largest population group of older adults, who will be reliant on public golf courses to bridge the golfer journey gap. Golf Australia has commissioned further research to quantify the extent of this need.

Recognising that the demand for golf currently exceeds the supply in NSW, particularly in metropolitan Sydney, Moore Park Golf Course must be retained in full. The first new public golf course in Australia opened in February 2024; Minnippi Public Golf (QLD) is already in demand, and participation is booming.

MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE

THE ORIGINAL HOME OF PUBLIC GOLF IN NSW

After years of lobbying and urging by two young Scottish immigrants, brothers Duncan and Charlie McMillan, who lived in nearby Surry Hills, the City of Sydney Council laid out a 9-hole public golf course between Cleveland Street and Dacey Avenue in 1913, making it the birthplace of public golf in NSW.



Original 18 hole course plan (1922) by City Surveyor, Norman Weekes

The fundamental premise, based on the Scottish municipal course model, was to provide a playing opportunity for golfing enthusiasts who could not afford the fees at exclusive private golf clubs.

The course is located on the Sydney Common, a tract of land which had been dedicated in 1811 for the "enjoyment of the people of NSW" (since NSW was the first British colony in Australia, this wording

can be taken in its broadest sense). Even though the location abutted industrial areas and workers' suburbs, agistment of cattle became part of the usage of Moore Park.

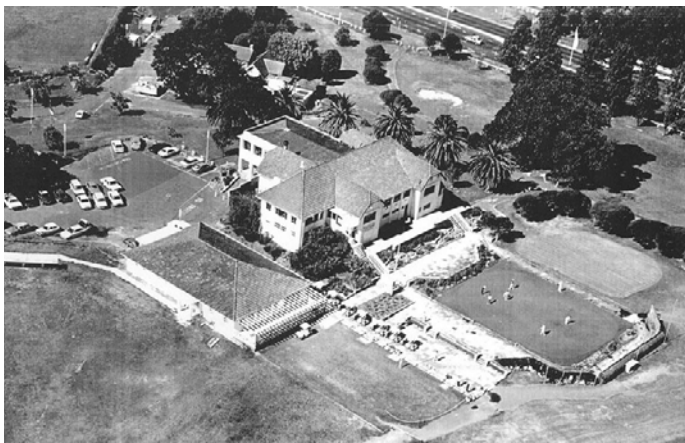
The links-style course enjoyed great popularity, and in 1920 the Moore Park Golf Club was founded. The establishment of the Golf Club and demand to play saw the golf course extended south of Dacey Ave and numbered 18 holes by 1922.

MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE

THE ORIGINAL HOME OF PUBLIC GOLF IN NSW

Anecdotal evidence suggests that one of the guiding principles for affordability was that the cost of membership never exceeded the “price of a suit” (about 35 Shillings in those days).

As an extremely popular playground for men and women golfers, Council records show that towards the end of the 1920s, up to 90,000 rounds were played annually. To this day Moore Park Golf is still consistently rated as one of the busiest courses in Australia with more than 100,000 rounds played annually.



Today, Moore Park remains the birthplace, home and beacon of public golf in NSW, and Australia. The natural hilly topography of the land makes it most suitable for golf (over other forms of active recreation). Moore Park Golf allows for people to access golf, a sport and recreation activity keeping our communities healthy and happy across the lifespan. The fundamental premise remains since its inception – **to provide accessible playing opportunities for those who can not afford more expensive private golf clubs.**

The Moore Park Golf Club continues its traditions by working cooperatively with the Greater Sydney Parklands Trust in planning and administration to achieve the best value for Sydney's golfing public.

The Club is inclusive and supportive of both golfing excellence and golf in the recreational sense and gives equal opportunity to both men and women members of all ages to pursue and enjoy the ancient game of golf in a modern context, as it was set out to do from the early 1900s and continuing on today for 111 years.



MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE

THE ORIGINAL HOME OF PUBLIC GOLF IN NSW

Located in the City of Sydney, Moore Park Golf plays a significant role in delivering on the Council's social sustainability policy and action plan 2018–2028, that puts people at the heart of cities. [A city for all – towards a socially just and resilient Sydney](#) recognises that personal wellbeing impacts on, and is impacted by, collective wellbeing. Moore Park Golf is the public golf facility in the heart of Sydney that places equality and social justice at its core. Helping the community to be stronger and more resilient through access to an affordable and accessible physical activity that drives community benefits, and is provided for by the NSW Government.



Similarly, Randwick Councils [Community Strategic Plan](#) identifies being a community that is healthy and active and a community where everyone has the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation. Woollahra Councils [Community Strategic Plan](#) goal is for a connected, harmonious and engaged community for all ages and abilities with the community strongly valuing sport and recreation. Bayside Councils [Land-use Vision to 2036](#) sets out the provision of social infrastructure to meet the needs of the Bayside Community, fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities

and delivering high quality open space within their already high quality network.

The argument for more open space should not mean a reduction in public golf course land. The appropriate planning of new and management and recognition of existing open space parcels (whether they are currently zoned public open space, special use zone, other zones) is a responsibility of local government, including ensuring that planning controls meet the needs of future communities moving into new residential development, particularly in the City of Sydney.

MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE

THE ORIGINAL HOME OF PUBLIC GOLF IN NSW

Building a strong, inclusive society is a shared responsibility for governments, corporate and community organisations, and the wider community. The NSW Government has the opportunity to work collectively with the golf, sport and parks and leisure industry to continue to provide and enhance accessible golf and open space, in a financially sustainable model, as recommended in the Alternate Proposal.



PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS AND DECISIONS REGARDING MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE

Moore Park Golf Course has been the subject of various consultation processes in the past. The one outcome that has held is that the public 18-hole golf course has strong sentiment from the community, backed up by irrefutable evidence as to its financial sustainability for golf and the park precinct, the community benefits it provides to users, workers, businesses, and government, and the immeasurable human stories of how the course has made millions of people's lives better throughout their lifetime.

The community consistently wants to retain the 18-hole golf course while supporting more public parkland and better connectivity. Best practice precinct and open space planning already exists, developed by Greater Sydney Parklands and the NSW Government

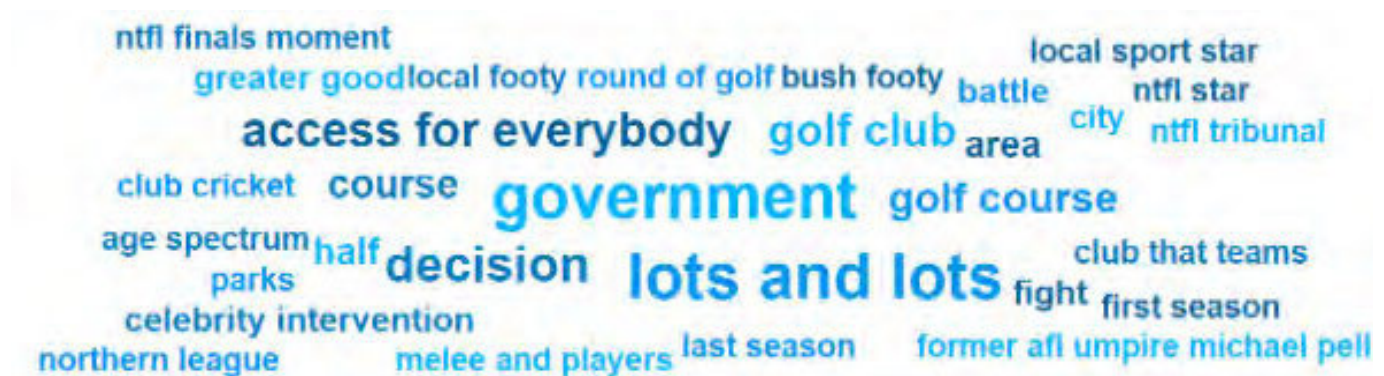
Moore Park Master Plan Public Consultation August to December 2015 O4-consultation-summary.pdf (moorepark.sydney)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 508 surveys, 46 individual submissions, 350 attendees at the 11 pop ups • Strong opposition to any modifications to the golf course by some, believing any changes will have a significant impact on the use of golf course • Big ideas that are consistently reinforced and enhanced in the Alternate Proposal presented in this submission
Moore Park Master Plan Public Exhibition November – December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 responses through formal submissions, online surveys and face to face discussions • What people loved about the Plan: Retention of 18 hole golf course
Moore Park South Master Plan 2020 Moore Park Master Plan 2040 – Centennial Parklands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and strengthening the integrity of the Park • Ensuring equity of access and diversity of leisure experiences • Working in partnership with key stakeholders • Achieving a sustainable organisation that delivers sound business practice and improved revenue
City of Sydney November – December 2020 Creating more public parkland by reconfiguring Moore Park Golf Course – City of Sydney (nsw.gov.au)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,299 online surveys, 72 email submissions, 9 letters • Golfers are keen to see the 18-hole course retained • People are passionate about green space in Sydney and strong community support for more public parkland

Media Reveiw of Current Consultation February to April 2024

Top publications by mentions:

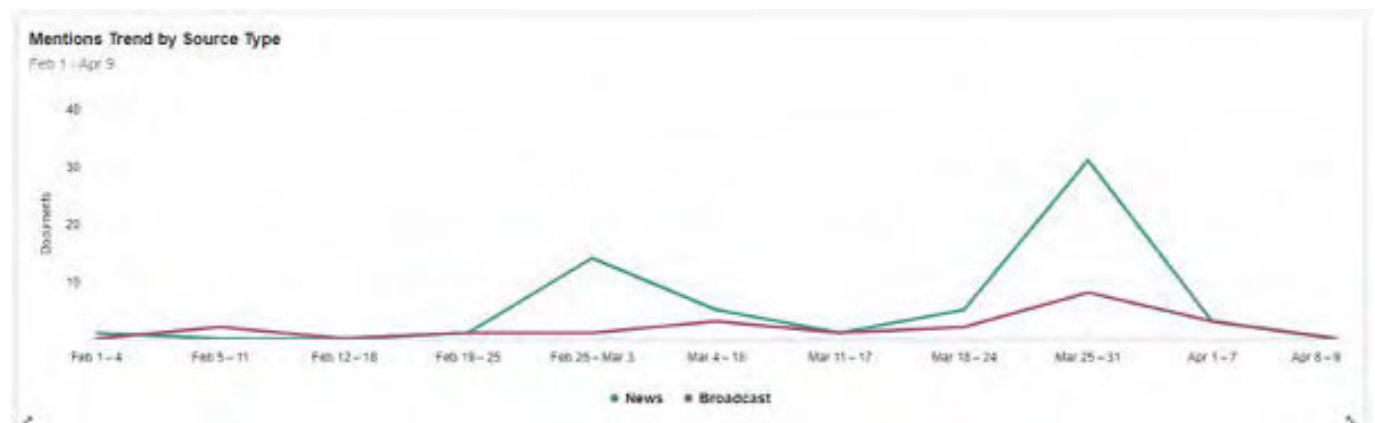
1. Herald Sun (Daily Telegraph, Courier Mail etc).
2. The Age
3. Sydney Morning Herald

Keywords



Mentions Overview

- February spike: Coverage appeared in AFN Daily, NSW Government, Mirage News and The National Tribune discussing the public consultation, asking the community to comment on how they would like to use the new park and how the existing golf offering at Moore Park could be reimaged.
- March spike: Coverage appeared in Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, Sky News, Fox Sports, 9Honey, Channel 7, 9 and 10 News discussing Mark Wahlberg's attendance at MPGC over the Easter Weekend, with a video shared across socials highlighting his plea to save the course.



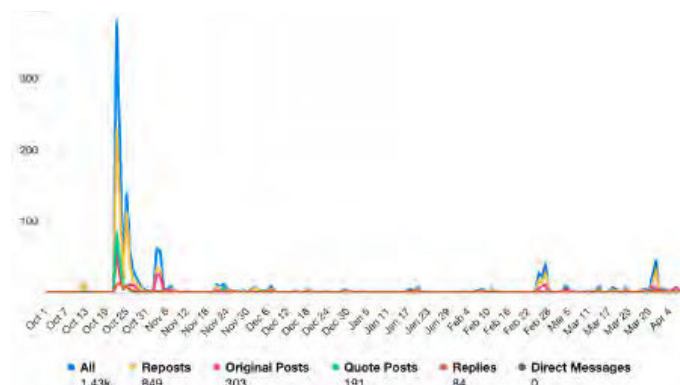
Media Reveiw of Current Consultation February to April 2024

Social Media

In the last 3 months, average engagement on social posts that refer to Moore Park Golf Course is significantly higher than other posts on the news accounts. i.e.

- 9 News average engagements on facebook: 239.
- **9 News Moore Park Posts Engagement: 1174**

X (Twitter) Activity over the last 6 months (since the Minns Government made their announcement).



- *February spike is due to the commencement of the consultation period*
- *March spike is a result of Mark Wahlbergs support/plea video on course*

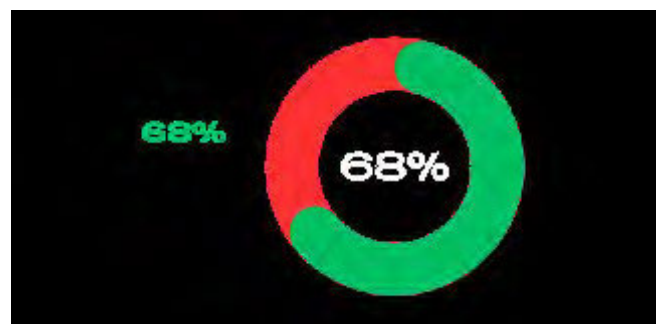
Save Moore Park Golf Course Social Channels

Reach: 504K since February 2024



* Potential Audience Demographics: Interestingly, MPGC Social media has an incredibly high potential female audience.

Sentiment summary – from comments on media articles and government social posts



ntiment is heavily in favour of ‘Saving
Moore Park Golf Course’
Most of the social negative comments are
coming from those who are unaware of golf/
view Moore Park Golf Course as a course for
the rich and not one that is publicly available.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Golf Industry Council commissioned the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia¹ [report](#) in 2023 to demonstrate the substantial benefit golf provides to communities around the country.

Overwhelmingly the report outlines golf's significant contribution of more than \$3.3 billion in total community benefits to Australians every year. The type and scale of benefits are driven by the unique factors of golf:

As a moderate-intensity, yet long-form type of activity, golf supports good physical and mental health for people of all ages through participating in golf

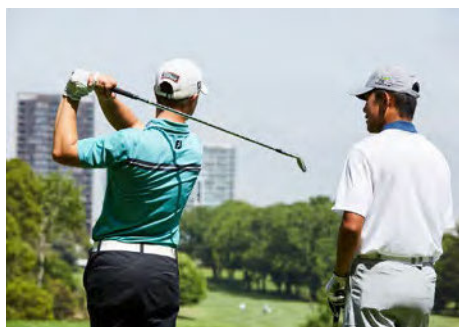
Total expenditure associated with golf is \$10.3 billion annually, much larger than that of other leisure/sport activities. For example, cycling in Australia is associated with \$6.3 billion in annual expenditure, while recreational fishing is associated with \$3.4 billion in annual expenditure. Golf is similar in size to JB Hi-Fi (by annual revenue), and around half the size of Qantas and Telstra

Many golfers base their holidays around golf, which is in high contrast to other leisure/sport activities. Around one-third of total household expenditure on golf is associated with golf tourism

With vegetation that is, on average, more complex and diverse than that of public parks, golf provides important amenity and environmental benefits



SOCIAL BENEFITS OF GOLF



The **social benefits of golf are \$1.0 billion** and include physical and mental health benefits that accrue to golf players, and neighbourhood amenity benefits resulting from the high amenity of golf courses. Golf can be played by people of all ages and abilities, and for some people it is the main way that they engage in physical exercise.



Physical health benefits of \$423 million are associated with golf supporting participants to be physically 'active', as opposed to 'inactive'. This equates to an average annual physical health benefit of around **\$190 per golfer** and an estimated 166,000 Australians are physically active with golf but would be considered inactive without it, helping by improving the immune system and reducing risk factors such as high blood pressure. Daily, Australian golfers walk a combined 19.2 laps of Earth's equator playing rounds of golf.



Mental health benefits of \$439 million are generated by the same outcome, along with social interaction and time spent outdoors which may otherwise not occur. This equates to an average annual benefit of around **\$200 per round golfer**. Round golfers have a subjective health and wellbeing score that is 7.1 percent higher than that of non-golfers. 18 holes of golf goes a long way to a happier, healthier society.



Amenity benefit valued at \$149 million annually provided to locations by the pleasantness and freedom from nuisance that exists there. Golf courses improved neighbourhood amenity is quantified using the increase in residential land value that is generated by golf courses (within around 750 metres).

SOCIAL BENEFITS OF GOLF

MOORE PARK DATA

The social benefits of Moore Park Golf Course are \$6.2 million annually, based on current expenditure and activity at the facility.

Physical health benefits of \$0.90 million at Moore Park Golf Course with each round player receiving an average annual physical health benefit of around **\$190 per golfer**. With 80% of 18-hole rounds of golf at Moore Park Golf Course contributing to the combined 19.2 laps of Earth's equator playing rounds of golf.

Mental health benefits of \$0.94 million are attributed through the exercise, social interaction and time spent outdoors which may otherwise not occur. Moore Park golfers receive an average annual benefit of around **\$200 per round golfer**. The 7% happier golfer is evident in the engaged community vibe at the course everyday.

Amenity benefit valued at \$3.7 million measured by the relative increase in land value (not property value) provided by the pleasantness and freedom from nuisance that exists there. Moore Park Golf Course provides this improved amenity within the parameters of around 750 metres from the course. The report findings note that a similar benefit would be generated by general parklands.



The physical health and mental health benefits of Moore Park South are negatively impacted if an 18 hole golf course is reduced. The majority of physical health benefits come from walking approximately 10,000 steps per 18 hole round. Similarly the mental health benefits are impacted from around 4 hours of 18 hole golf outside in green space, exercising and socialising with people, whether well known friends and family or strangers meeting for the first time with a shared passion for the game.

SOCIAL BENEFITS OF GOLF

MOORE PARK DATA

The impact has been modeled to compare a 9 hole golf course estimated to deliver 40,000 rounds annually and an improved 18 golf course estimated to increase from 100,000 to 125,000+ rounds.

BENEFIT TYPE	CURRENT BENEFIT	IMPROVED 18 HOLE BENEFIT	9 HOLE BENEFIT
Social Total	\$5.54 million	\$6.00 million	\$4.82 million
Physical Health	\$0.90 million	\$1.13 million	\$0.56 million
Mental Health	\$0.94 million	\$1.17 million	\$0.56 million
Amenity	\$3.70 million	\$3.70 million	\$3.70 million



GOLF AND HEALTH RESEARCH

A Golf and Health review undertaken by Dr Brad Stenner, University of South Australia, and commissioned by Golf Australia, supports this submission. There is a critical mass of academic research and quality literature demonstrating the positive impact of golf on physical and mental health and well-being. The evidence of the health benefits of regular participation in golf is clear, with exciting emerging research showing the rehabilitation and community wellbeing prospects of golf.



Regular participation in 18 holes of golf meets or exceeds the physical activity guidelines recommended by WHO, reduces the risk of many cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and improves mental health and general wellbeing. In golf specific populations, golfers have been shown to have lower levels of blood pressure, lower cholesterol, and improved body composition markers. Based on the available data, these health benefits are likely to be obtained directly through

playing golf, as many golf participants do not, or are unable, to play other sports or perform higher intensity exercise. Based on the available data of better dynamic balance, mobility, flexibility and strength, golfers appear to be at significantly less risk of sustaining a life changing fall. Golf is a sustainable source of physical activity for people disability, where other physical activity options such as gym, weight bearing, or other aerobic activity is not possible.

GOLF AND HEALTH RESEARCH

High quality evidence supports the positive impacts of regular participation in golf, particularly important given the higher rates of loneliness and depression in older adults. The community and social nature of golf is an important social support and connection, helping to manage and prevent social isolation and loneliness in an at-risk group within the community.

Available results demonstrate a significant positive effect of playing golf on cognitive health, in both the general population and those recovering from, or living with, cognitive decline.

This current review has highlighted the academic evidence of the positive relationship between playing golf and health and wellbeing. Golf is a sport that is played across the lifespan, across cultures, disability, age and gender. It is inclusive and easily adaptable to enhance participation.



The benefits of golf are clear. Golfers are happier, healthier and have lower risk of many chronic diseases. Playing 18 holes of golf is associated with improved mental health, improved sense of wellbeing and lower levels of psychological distress. Golf contributes to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities alike. Significant health and health related cost benefits are highlighted. The provision of 18 hole playing

facilities, for both regular and occasional golfers alike, continues to offer physical activity and exercise opportunities for a wide range of community members. These community members are often the same people that will not, or cannot, engage in other sources of physical activity or exercise. The value of golf and golf facilities to local communities is far more than the open green space in which they sit.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF GOLF

The economic benefits of golf are **\$1.4 billion annually**. This substantial figure is estimated from the reported \$10.3 billion in expenditure on golf in 2023.

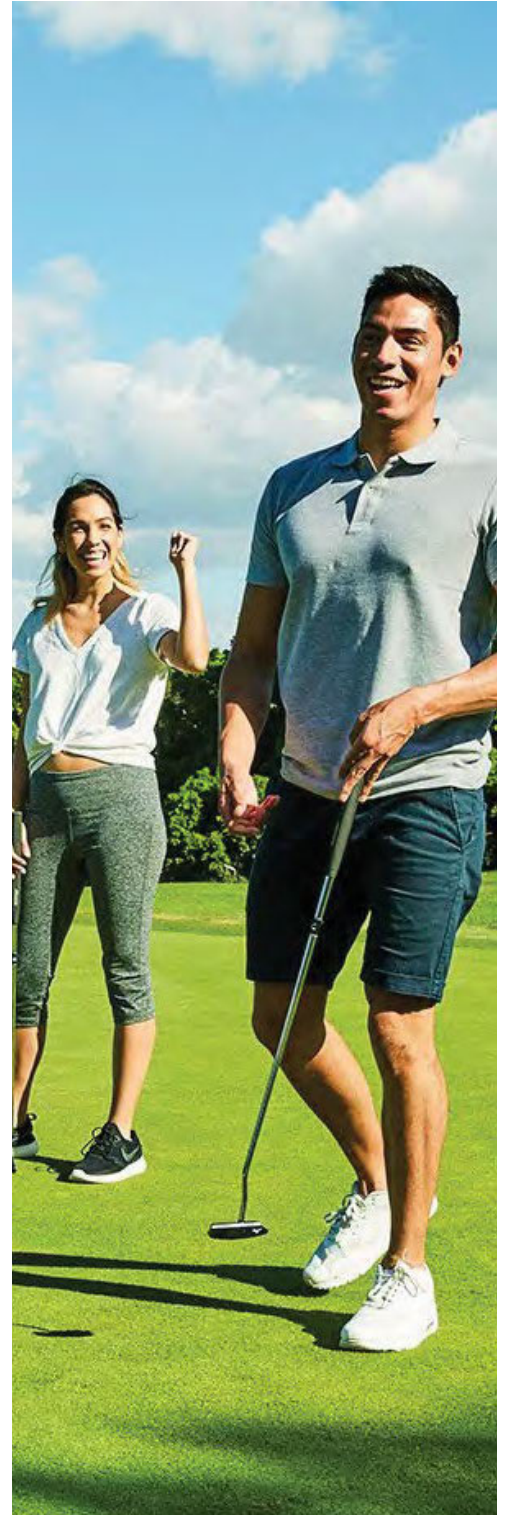
Players derive \$502 million in benefits from golf, evidenced by the time and money they choose to spend engaging in the game and travelling to and from the golf course. Player benefits are the value enjoyed above prices paid, and have been estimated using insights from player travel patterns.

Australian businesses derive \$394 million in benefits from the expenditure made at golf courses and on golf equipment. Business benefits have been quantified by multiplying industry revenues by relevant profitability rates.

Australian workers gain \$122 million in benefit from increased incomes associated with the golf industry. Worker benefits have been estimated by applying relevant unemployment and underemployment rates to the industry workforce.

Golf tourism generates \$336 million in additional benefits to Australian businesses and workers, which were quantified using survey data on expenditure associated with golf-purposed trips.

Australia's health system benefits \$49 million in avoided costs due to golf supporting a healthier society, with an estimated **166,000 Australians kept out of the health system**.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF GOLF

MOORE PARK DATA

The economic benefits of Moore Park Golf are \$6.2 million annually, based on current expenditure and activity at the facility.

Players derive \$2.47 million in benefits annually. An estimated 100,000 rounds of golf and 250,000 buckets of balls are hit at Moore Park Golf Course each year. Although people pay for these activities, the amount paid does not reflect the full economic value that they derive from the activity. Survey analysis undertaken as part of the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia project identified that the average economic value above the value captured by green fees was \$12.70 per round of golf and \$4.80 per driving range visit. These values were applied to generate the cumulative player benefit.

Businesses derive \$3.5 million in benefits annually. As one of the most utilised golf courses in Australia and with complementary offerings such as events and meals, Moore Park Golf Course generates profits of around \$3 to \$4 million each year. This profit supports the activities of Greater Sydney Parklands, which works on behalf of the NSW Government to manage and care for the parklands in Sydney.

Industry workers operating Moore Park Golf gain \$220,000 in benefits. Moore Park Golf employs a total of 68 workers, although the estimated full-time equivalent (FTE) workforce is 38.3 workers (this excludes Greater Sydney Parklands employees that manage and maintain the golf course). These workers are modelled to earn more income through their employment at Moore Park Golf Course than they would earn in the absence of Moore Park Golf Course, and accounts for underemployment and unemployment rates within inner Sydney.

An additional health system cost saving of \$105,000 is generated each year for health system operators due to a healthier Australian population stemming from golf participation at Moore Park Golf Course.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF GOLF

MOORE PARK DATA

Further modeling demonstrates the impact of removing up to 20 hectares of golf course for green space (estimated to be a reduction of 9 holes of golf). Whilst there would be open space benefits for the general community who use the space (the equivalent in our report is Players), the Business and Industry Worker benefits would be compromised.

It is estimated that a 9 hole golf course, performing at its best, would deliver 40,000 rounds annually. The alternate proposal presented in this submission is estimated to increase annual rounds from 100,000 to 125,000+ rounds.

- Impact of removing 20 hectares 9 holes which would likely result in a
- Impact of increasing number of rounds through the Alternate Proposal enhancement to the golf course

BENEFIT TYPE	CURRENT BENEFIT	IMPROVED 18 HOLE BENEFIT	9 HOLE BENEFIT
Economic Total	\$6.29 million	\$7.60 million	\$4.31 million
Player	\$2.47 million	\$2.86 million	\$1.84 million
Business	\$3.50 million	\$4.38 million	\$2.22 million
Worker	\$0.22 million	\$0.23 million	\$0.21 million
Health system cost savings	\$0.10 million	\$0.13 million	\$0.04 million



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF GOLF

Moore Park South is the connection between the growing density of suburbs west of the Eastern Distributor, and the expanse of the incredible Centennial Parklands and Queens Park to the East. Moore Park South has as its purpose, to be the active recreation zone of the 3 park open space complex.

Maintaining the Moore Park Golf Course land as an 18 hole golf course, has significant benefits to this. It will provide an increase in biodiversity as a golf course, bring communities together in active and passive recreation and champion the indigenous history of this land in Sydney.

The opportunity is to showcase the environmental benefits that golf course land brings through:

- Sustainable practice measured against United Nations Sustainability Goals.
- Proven increased biodiversity through golf on this parcel of land
- Attracting over 500,000 unique visitors to and through Moore Park Golf to be connected, educated and inspired by the history of indigenous fauna and flora in this parkland and,
- Providing a vibrant natural bridge between density and open space that is shared, activated, and environmentally measured to ensure Moore Park South promotes harmony to urban life, sport, other recreation and nature.

Golf courses as green open spaces, generate a range of environmental benefits for neighbouring communities and society as a whole. Throughout Australia, they combine to generate **\$890 million in environmental benefits*** through:

- Enhanced preservation of local ecosystems with higher and richer biodiversity than public parks
- Greater thermal comfort, especially in city areas assisting with urban cooling.
- Reduced impact of flooding and stormwater
- Natural filtration and purification of water
- Carbon sequestration in urban areas of increasing density



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF GOLF

The annual environmental benefits of golf course land was assessed thus:

BENEFIT TYPE	CURRENT BENEFIT
Flora and fauna biodiversity	\$354 million
Urban cooling	\$257 million
Flood and stormwater management	\$159 million
Purification	\$114 million
Carbon sequestration	\$6 million

**Community Benefits of Golf in Australia. SGS Economics and Planning 2023*

The total environmental benefit generated by Moore Park Golf Course is **\$3.0 million per annum***. The environmental benefits of golf courses increase in importance in inner urban areas like Moore Park South, where green space is limited and built space is high.

This was calculated using parameter values that apply to parklands. It is **important to note that the benefits of Moore Park Golf Course may exceed this as golf courses provide some environmental benefits that are beyond those of traditional parklands.**

In particular, across 13 urban golf courses, academics at the University of Melbourne undertook an assessment of golf course biodiversity*, and found that:

1. the structural complexity of vegetation on golf courses is around 50–100% higher than that of residential gardens and urban parklands,
2. the beetle and bug abundance on golf courses is six to ten times greater than that within nearby parks,
3. bee species richness on golf courses is around three to four times that of remnant heathlands,
4. there are around 50% more bird species in golf courses than in urban gardens and parks."

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF GOLF



Sweet scented Wattle (Acacia suaveolens)

Moore Park Golf Course as a part of the Moore Park South park, provides or can provide even more important environmental benefits. These are delivered through increased care of the land by:

- highly qualified and environmentally focused golf course staff
- user groups, and community volunteers who can engage in helping protect and enhance landscapes for generations to come.
- maintaining 18 holes of golf on site as the game by design directs walking traffic through assigned holes or pathways. Unlike public parkland where users participate randomly, golf affords the development of sheltered vegetation and habitat for native animals and critters in non-play areas. This protection allows nurturing and caring of young plants and animals when they are most vulnerable, and
- regenerating vegetation areas of native species that reverts these areas back to their original ecosystems.

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and Moore Park South



Moore Park Golf Course can contribute specifically to regenerating Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub which has significant meaning and connection to the indigenous history of this part of Sydney.

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) is an endangered ecosystem found in beach-side suburbs of coastal Sydney and Royal National Park. It was once common on coastal lands between North Head (Car-rang-gel) and Botany Bay. Today, less than 140 hectares remain along the coast. ESBS is listed as critically endangered at both state and national levels.

Clearing, urbanisation, changed fire regimes, weeds and feral animals have reduced the community considerably. Remaining remnants are scattered across Randwick, Botany Bay, Manly, Sutherland Shire and the Royal National Park.

ESBS plants include lantern banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*), old man banksia (*Banksia serrata*), tick bush (*Kunzea ambigua*), cigarette flower (*Epacris longiflora*), coastal tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), sweet-scented wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*) and flannel flower (*Actinotus helianthi*).*

**IndigiGrow Website*

CARING FOR COUNTRY AND CONNECTING COMMUNITY TO COUNTRY BY INTEGRATING GOLF COURSE CONSERVATION AND INDIGENOUS REINGRODUCTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHNACEMENT

In the heart of Moore Park South lies a unique opportunity for environmental conservation and cultural revitalisation. In utilising non-playing areas surrounding and inside the 18 holes of Moore Park Golf Course, the reintroduction of indigenous Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub is a unique opportunity to educate the surrounding Moore Park South community on the ecological and cultural significance of this endangered species to the area.

Firstly, the ecological importance of Banksia scrub in the sandbelt of Moore Park South cannot be overstated. This unique ecosystem plays a vital role in maintaining local biodiversity, providing habitat for various plant and animal species. The restoration of Banksia scrub on and around the golf course land offers a chance to revive this ecosystem, contributing to the overall health and resilience of the entire environment of Greater Sydney Parklands.

Furthermore, Banksia scrub holds deep cultural significance for indigenous communities, serving as a connection to

traditional country and ancestral knowledge. By reintroducing these native landscapes, we honor and respect the cultural heritage of the land's original custodians. Working collaboratively with indigenous organisation IndigiGrow, will ensure that First Nations' voices and perspectives are central to the conservation efforts.



Lantern Banksia (Banksia ericifolia)



CARING FOR COUNTRY AND CONNECTING COMMUNITY TO COUNTRY BY INTEGRATING GOLF COURSE CONSERVATION AND INDIGENOUS REINGRODUCTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHNACEMENT

The integration of active recreational opportunities, such as connecting trails through the re-vegetated areas, adds another dimension to this project. These trails will act as a missing connector for the density of the inner suburbs to the vast open space to the east. These walkways not only promote physical activity, but also will provide an immersive experience in nature, allowing the community to engage with and learn about the surrounding environment and its historical significance to the area.

Additionally, establishing educational points to pause through the Banksia scrub, offers valuable opportunities for environmental education and awareness. This will foster a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the surrounding communities.

As stewards of both the golf course and the environment, the golf workforce plays a crucial role in ensuring the success of this conservation initiative. It is critical that this ecosystem is nurtured and cared for, working with Inidigigrow to ensure initially the younger plants survive and thrive. By course staff and local volunteers incorporating conservation practices into their daily routines, they contribute to the care and protection of critically endangered species within the Banksia scrublands.

Finally, the community stands to benefit greatly from this project, gaining access to green spaces and walking sanctuaries within the urban environment. These natural areas provide opportunities for relaxation, recreation, and reflection, enhancing overall well-being and quality of life.

This program, an integration of golf course conservation and indigenous reintroduction offers a multifaceted approach to environmental enhancement in Moore Park South. By recognising the ecological and cultural significance of Banksia scrublands, engaging with indigenous knowledge and participation, and providing recreational and educational opportunities for the community, we can maintain 18 holes of golf and create a harmonious, sustainable future for golfers and the community.



Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

Profiles of the staff, volunteers and organisations that have partnered and contributed to this submission are outlined below. Extensive lists of additional supporters to the submission and user groups of Moore Park Golf are also included as key advocates for the Alternate Proposal and evidence presented to the NSW Government.

PARTNERS

Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW, Moore Park Golf Club and Save Moore Park Golf Course group are the combined golf industry-leading collective utilising extensive sport, recreational, open space, economic, precinct, planning and public relations expertise to credibly position, advocate and champion golf course land and facility outcomes with government, stakeholders and community.

GOLF AUSTRALIA - NATIONAL SPORTING ORGANISATION

James Sutherland, CEO

CEO of Golf Australia since 2020, has been integral in bringing the golf industry together under the first ever national industry strategy, the Australian Golf Strategy. A qualified Chartered Accountant who has a long and distinguished career in the sports industry having previously been CEO Cricket Australia from 2001 to 2018. Board of AFL's Geelong Football Club, the advisory council to Sport Integrity Australia, and is chairman of PlayHQ. The inaugural chair of the Coalition of Major Participation and Professional Sports – serving that role for 10 years.

Damien de Bohun, General Manager Clubs, Facilities & Places to Play

Golf Australia dynamic leader commenced in 2022. Extensive executive experience within sport and corporate roles. Former A-League chief and Visit Victoria Major Events General Manager, and prior with Cricket Australia and the Leukemia Foundation. Passionately leading a change in the way golf clubs and facilities think using the enormous opportunity afforded to golf through the sheer number of participants playing the game, with customer journey and business acumen at the forefront.

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

GOLF AUSTRALIA - NATIONAL SPORTING ORGANISATION

Carly Goodrich, Head of Government Relations & Corporate Affairs

Submission Author. Extensive experience in Open Space, Sport & Recreation Planning and Infrastructure Development over 15 years in Local Government, prior to current role. Charged with connecting golf and government to work together to realise and extend the enormous Community Benefits golf contributes to Australians everyday.

Tony Craswell, Head of Venue Development.

Submission Author. 30 years PGA Professional, 9 years Director of Golf at public venues and 21 years Head Professional at a Semi Private Golf Club. 30 years active coach of juniors, adults and elderly in various programs. Charged with reimagining golf formats, prioritising public access to and invigorating golf venues to reflect the community and generate participation from more than just golf activity.

Jimmy Emanuel, Media & Communications Adviser

Experienced golf journalist based in Sydney. Passionate about bringing non-golf media engaged with the sport. Strong networking and deep dive interview skills, including for broadcast and media conferences. Former Deputy Editor and current contributor for Golf Australia Magazine.

Wendy Machin, Board Director

Elected to the Golf Australia board in September 2019. Wendy is an experienced non-executive Director, and former politician. She currently Chairs the Boards of the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) and Reflections Holiday Parks. In addition, she is a Director of the NSW Forestry Corporation and Heritage Bank. Wendy has served on a number of other Boards over the last 20 years. This includes the Australian Automotive Association, Destination NSW, National Occupational Licensing Authority and an advisory committee for the ANZ (Olympic) Stadium in Sydney. Wendy was the first woman National Party MP in the NSW Legislative Assembly. Between 1985 and 1996 she served as a Cabinet Minister, Shadow Minister and as Deputy Speaker of the House.

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

PGA of Australia - Professional Member Association

Gavin Kirkman, CEO

Long term, dedicated and highly regarded PGA executive who understands all aspects of the game. Appointed CEO in 2017 having worked in golf since 1985 and the PGA since 2002 in senior management roles covering facility and club management, event and commercial management, member services and development, government relations, governance and sports administration. Previous experience also includes companies Panasonic, Club Corp, Morgan Stanley and RACV. Together with the fellow industry CEOs, steered development of the Australian Golf Strategy

Karen Lunn, CEO WPGA Tour of Australia

A former touring professional who played in Europe (1985–2013), on the LPGA Tour (1994–2002) and in Asia (1998–2005). Serving on the LET board of directors for 14 years included a 10-year stint as chair as well as chair of the players' council. Winner of a major as the 1993 British Women's Open Championship. She has been CEO of the WPGA (and its forerunner, the ALPG), for ten years and first woman Chair of Australian Golf Industry Council. Together with the fellow industry CEOs, steered development of the Australian Golf Strategy.

David Barker, Senior Manager Membership Services

Local understanding and experience of golf in Sydney and NSW, and Australia. A wealth of knowledge and experience working 20 years with the PGA, supporting staff and membership in NSW/ACT, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. Valued contributor to the PGA Senior Executive group. Experienced in change management, bringing the PGA membership on the journey of collaboration and working better together with industry bodies.

Ric Lazar, B.EC (Syd), F.P.R.I.A., Independent Director

Appointed to the board 2010. Former Managing Director of Professional Public Relations one of Australasia's most respected communication consultancies for over 35 years. Richard developed the organisation into Australia's largest PR consultancy group with offices throughout Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and North America. A Fellow of the Public Relations Institute of Australia, he has a longstanding and award winning career in issue management, public affairs, marketing, government and media relations. He has authored the leading Australian and New Zealand text book in this field.

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

Golf NSW - State Sporting Association

Stuart Fraser, CEO

Appointed CEO in 2012, a distinguished golf administration career behind him including the PGA and executive roles with Golf Management Australia, both here in NSW as well as nationally, and CEO of Castle Hill Country Club. Leads the momentum of change and services for the golf industry in NSW.

Bernard Bratusa, Head of Government Relations

Experienced government and corporate relations manager with a demonstrated history working in the sports industry and NSW Government. Skilled in solutions management, corporate and public affairs, speech writing, politics and government. Strong media and communication professional.

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

Moore Park Golf Club and Save Moore Park Golf Course Group

John Janik, President, Moore Park Golf Club

Extensive experience leading and delivering some of Australia's largest and most complicated rail and infrastructure projects. This background has been successfully applied in his role as President of Moore Park Golf Club where he continues to show leadership in fighting to protect public golf for the local community. John has played golf at Moore Park since 2008.

Jackie Crossman, Save Moore Park Golf Course

A distinguished member of the Australasian PR community and Fellow of the Communication and Public Relations Australia (CPRA) with extensive experience in issues and crisis management, social media, event and partnership solutions and media and influencer strategy, relations and interview skills training across a wide spectrum of industries and government. Jackie learned to play golf at Moore Park.

Dominic Le Roy, Save Moore Park Golf Course

Moore Park Golf Club Member, passionate golfer that is new to the sport and an experienced marketing and event strategist. Owner and Creative Director of Designteam – a local business based in Surry Hills, Sydney.

Jared Kendler, Lead, Save Moore Park Golf Course

Submission Author. Extensive experience in economic and strategic place based development and government service design and delivery. Jared previously led the NSW Government department that oversaw the delivery of major economic precincts in NSW, including Sydney's Tech Central and the Westmead Health and Innovation District. Jared also led the development of the 24-hour economy for Sydney. Upon leaving Government, Jared got reacquainted with his golf clubs at Moore Park.

Lucie Quillian, Save Moore Park Golf Course

5-time Moore Park Women's Club Champion and a member of the Club for the last decade, Lucie has played golf her entire life and has keen interest in debunking golfing stereotypes and educating non-golfers in the lifetime benefits of golf.

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

CONTRIBUTORS

In preparing this concept and submission, we have been generously assisted by people who are specialists in their field. These people have given their time and expertise for the simple reason they believe in Moore Park Golf Course – what it does as an 18 hole golf course and what it can achieve beyond those current community benefits and participation outcomes, as the home of public golf.

Harley Kruse, Founder and Golf Course Architect, KruseGolf

Former president of the Society of Australian Golf Course Architects (SAGCA) and highly experienced golf course architect of quality golf courses across the Asia Pacific region, based out of Sydney. Top 5 Best Course Ranking status on courses opened in the following countries – Australia, China, South Korea, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Passionate about meaningful environmental outcomes and caring for country, KruseGolf working alongside IndigiGrow to reestablish the threatened Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrubland flora at golf courses across Sydney.

Dr Brad Stenner, PhD, Researcher Sport and Health, University of South Australia

Sport and health researcher within ARENA (Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity). He is the Australian lead researcher for golf and health and a contributor to the Golf and Health group, a worldwide research group conducting high quality research to evidence the impact of golf on health and wellbeing. Dr Stenner is a member of the research advisory group for EDGA (European Disability Golf Association) contributing to the broader project of inclusive and all abilities golf and classification of disability for golf's bid for inclusion in the Paralympics 2032. Dr Stenner completed the Golf and Health Research Review (2024) to support the collective submission.

Monina Gilbey, Biodiversity Manager, Glenelg Golf Club

A garden designer, an educator, and the Biodiversity Manager at Glenelg Golf Club, passionate about Adelaide's local flora and fauna and the contribution that golf courses make to urban biodiversity. Working with the Glenelg Golf team and a relative newcomer to golf, has raised the national environmental profile of the club and won multiple awards.

Jarrod Hill, Director, SportENG

Specialises in the Planning, Design and Construction inspection of Fields of Play for all sports. For golf, designers work with the golf architect and take responsibility for the engineering, agronomy (grass) and irrigation, focusing on aspects of sustainability and effective operational management. Completed the Masterplan drawings in collaboration with the partners and KruseGolf.

SGS Economics & Planning

An urban and public policy consultancy and certified B Corp with high standards of accountability and transparency. SGS plays a critical role as independent and trusted advisors to provide robust, evidence-based insights helping government, business and community leaders understand how places and communities function, assess what projects and programs work, and plan future places and precincts. Completed the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report (2023) and the Community Benefits of 2Moore Park Golf Course Report (2024) to contribute robust evidence for the contribution the 18 hole golf course provides to the Sydney community.

Kate Torgersen, Founder & Principal, Environmental Golf Solutions

More than 16 years practical experience in the specialist area of environmental sustainability in golf, including projects addressing rewilding at public and private golf courses, with an extensive number of impactful case study projects around Australia.

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

IndigiGrow

IndigiGrow is a key contributor to the regeneration of ESBS at Moore Park Golf Course and Moore Park South. IndigiGrow native plant initiative was created in 2018 and is based at La Perouse Public School Sydney, NSW. IndigiGrow, is a social enterprise from First Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation. It sustains people, land and culture through the propagation & growing of native plants, including bush foods and the critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS).

SUPPORTERS

The Collective have engaged with like minded peak bodies, sport organisations, sports clubs, businesses, golf industry bodies, suppliers, retailers, media, and other organisations, since the NSW Government decision. This includes boards, executive teams, staff and members.

Engagement continues with the following stakeholders:

Sport NSW (Letter of support)

**NSW Golf Course Superintendents (NSWGSCA)
(Letter of support)**

Parks & Leisure Australia

Parks & Leisure NSW/ACT

Alliance of Moore Park Sports

AFL NSW

Sydney Roosters

Aus Cycling

Committee for Sydney

Golf Management Australia

**Australian Sports Turf Management
Association**

Society of Golf Course Architects

Acushnet

Golf Clearance Outlet

Golf Space

Callaway

Drummond Golf

House of Golf

SYDNEY'S EASTERN SUBURB GOLF CLUBS

The ecosystem of public courses, member and public access courses and private golf clubs located in the Eastern suburbs with strong alignment to a positive outcome for Moore Park Golf Course.

Bondi Public Golf

Botany Public Golf

Eastlake Golf Club

The Coast Golf Club

St Michaels Golf Club

Randwick Golf Club

Woollahra Golf Club

The Australian Golf Club

Royal Sydney Golf Club

Bonnie Doon Golf Club

The Lakes Golf Club

NSW Golf Club

Moore Park Golf Collective - Partners, Contributors, Supporters and User Groups for this submission

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The golf and non-golf community have offered support through social media and personal messages. There are literally too many to list here however key highlights are included for reference:

Mark Wahlberg	American Actor
Victor Radley	Sydney Roosters NRL
Harry Cunningham	Sydney Swans
Greg Norman, AO	LIV Golf CEO
Karie Webb, AO	Australian Professional Golfer
Hannah Green	Australian Professional Golfer
Sandy Jamieson	PGA Member, One Golf Director
Daniel Andrews	former Premier of Victoria
Karen Harding	Golf Journalist, freelance writer
Rod Morri	Radio and Podcaster
Rick Young	Journalist
Mike Clayton	Golf Course Architect

USER GROUPS

A non-exhaustive list of current user groups creating social value through Moore Park Golf Course are outlined below, these and many more corporate and community organisations would continue to benefit from the 18 hole course being retained.

Mongrel Masters	Red Cross
NRL Charity Golf Day	Neuroblastoma Golf2Cure
Bounce	Gardiners Rd Public School
UnLtd Charity	Deutsche Bank Christmas
R U OK Golf Day	Charity Drive
Good Shepherd	Sydney Boys High
Kids Cancer Foundation	Sydney Veterans
Santa Paws	Foster House Salvation Army
Save the Children UNSW	Rainbow Golfers
Teach for Australia	The Clontarf Foundation
Lou's Place (Allens)	

SAVE MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE

A passionate group of Sydneysiders formed in response to the NSW government decision about Moore Park South. The group has been supported by Golf Australia, PGA of Australia and Golf NSW, in a range of advocacy and government engagement.

Meeting regularly, the group quickly developed the website [savemooreparkgolfcourse](https://savemooreparkgolfcourse.com.au) to provide information and host a petition to capture widespread sentiment for the 18-hole golf course.

More than **25,000** individuals have signed the petition to retain 18-holes at Moore Park.

Over 80% of these signatories are residents within the City Of Sydney, Inner West, Canada Bay, Randwick, Waverly, Woollahra and North Sydney Councils, demonstrating the widespread community support for this cherished institution.

RESOURCES & REFERENCES LINKS

Below is a summary of resources available or used for this submission.

RESOURCES

- AGIC Community Benefits of Golf in Australia 2023 https://downloads.ctfassets.net/3urhge2ecl20/5qTs4GUfbkAvnOBAPJvzTH/3a23749439c564Of01f08067dbOd52ef/Community_Benefits_of_Golf_in_Australia_Report_2023_.pdf
- AGIC Opportunity Research 2021 https://assets.ctfassets.net/3urhge2ecl20/9uc7oQgtkZ7mCCttE9Ndb/544e3ad966e1907de82c620931933a04/3202_AGIC_Golf_Landscape_Report_-_21.07.21.pdf
- Golf Club Participation Report 2022: https://assets.ctfassets.net/3urhge2ecl20/5kCSXzrysaNfbNfzqnVTFH/4bea2340ff1c11ade6321ec7894e3bOb/2021-22_GA_Participation_FINAL.pdf
- National Golf Foundation Article [Which Way is Municipal Golf Going? | National Golf Foundation \(ngf.org\)](https://www.ngf.org/Which-Way-is-Municipal-Golf-Going/)
- Ecological Vegetation Classes: the Victorian government's NatureKit <https://maps2.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/Html5viewer/index.html?viewer=NatureKit> and https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0033/48696/GipP_EVCs_combined.pdf
- Information on the Paragolfer: www.empowergolf.com.au/equipment
- GEO Foundation: www.sustainable.golfe
- Sports Environment Alliance: www.sportsenvironmentalliance.org/
- Article on Melbourne University study: Australian Turfgrass Management Journal – Volume 16.5 (September–October 2014) by AGCSA – Issuu
- IndigiGrow – [IndigiGrow – Seeds to Success](https://www.indigigrow.com.au/seeds-to-success)
- Article on the Melbourne University Study – [Australian Turfgrass Management Journal – Volume 16.5 \(September–October 2014\) by AGCSA – Issuu](https://www.indigigrow.com.au/australian-turfgrass-management-journal-volume-16-5)
- Article on the Western Sydney University Study on Biodiversity and Carbon – [Australian Turfgrass Management Journal – Volume 17.5 \(September–October 2015\) by AGCSA – Issuu](https://www.indigigrow.com.au/australian-turfgrass-management-journal-volume-17-5)
- Golf Australia GC2030 Document – [GC_2030_Australia_FINAL_1.pdf \(ctfassets.net\)](https://www.golfaustralia.com.au/gc2030-australia-final-1.pdf)
- Environmental Golf Solutions – [environmental golf consultancy \(envirogolf.com.au\)](http://envirogolf.com.au)
- Instagram – [Kate Torgersen \(@environmental_golf_solutions\) | Instagram profile](https://www.instagram.com/@environmental_golf_solutions)
- Operation Pollinator: www.syngenta.com/en/sustainability/operation-pollinator

RESOURCES & REFERENCES LINKS

- The Skink Link Project: [Skink Link Project | City of Monash](#)
- First Green: www.thefirstgreen.org (astma.com.au)
- The Green Shoots program: www.monash.vic.gov.au/Waste-Sustainability/Living-Sustainably/Programs-and-Projects/Green-Shoots-Program
- Sustainability at Woodend GC: www.woodendgolfclub.com.au/about-us/sustainability
- Monash Council Environmental Strategy: [environmental-sustainability-strategy-2016_2026.pdf](#) (monash.vic.gov.au)
- Biodiversity 2037: [Implementing Biodiversity 2037](#) (environment.vic.gov.au)
- Information on bees and pollination: www.beeaware.org.au/pollination/native-bees/
- Green value: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sitecollectiondocuments/valuing-green-guide.pdf
- Community cafes: <https://www.housingfirst.org.au/community-programs/cafe-ed> and <https://berengarra.vic.edu.au/cafe-education-chadstone/>
- Bush Tucker: [Melbourne Bushfood – Native Australian Ingredients](#)
- Kevin Heinze GROW: www.kevinheinzegrow.org.au
- Wicking garden beds: www.sgaonline.org.au/wicking-beds
- Sustainable gardening: <https://www.abs.gov.au/>
- Vertical gardens: www.verticalgardenworld.com.au
- Foodbank: <https://reports.foodbank.org.au/foodbank-hunger-report-2023/>
- Information on Y Waste app:
- <https://www.foodbank.org.au/ywasteconsumerinfo/>
- Understanding food insecurity: <https://aifs.gov.au/resources/policy-and-practice-papers/understanding-food-insecurity-australia>
- The R&A Golf Health project: <https://www.golfandhealth.org/>
- World Alzheimer Report 2023: <https://www.alzint.org>
- Golf in Society: www.golfinociety.com
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (life expectancy and retirement): <https://www.abs.gov.au/>
- Representation of women in sport: www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/kb/women-in-sport
- Golf Australia Get into Golf for women: www.golf.org.au/getintogolf/women
- Muslim women's golf program, City of Whittlesea:

RESOURCES & REFERENCES LINKS

- www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-publications/latest-news/smashing-stereotypes-through-sport
- The R&A Women in Golf Charter: www.randa.org/en/key-projects/women-in-golf-charter
- Golf Australia Vision 2025: [Vision 2025: The future of women and girls in golf | Golf Australia](http://www.golfaustralia.com.au/vision-2025)
- Gove Golf Club, NT: [AGF scholarships helping juniors in Gove get a start in golf](http://www.govegolfclub.com.au/agf-scholarships)
- Protecting the Protectors: <https://protectingtheprotectors.com/>
- Opportunity Research report 2021 (The Nature Report): https://assets.ctfassets.net/3urhge2ecl20/9uc7oQgtkZ7mCCttE9Ndb/544e3ad966e1907de8_2c620931933a04/3202_AGIC_Golf_Landscape_Report_-_21.07.21.pdf
- The Value of Community Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure Report 2020: https://sport.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0030/155685/Value-of-Community-Sport-Infrastructure-FINAL-REPORT.pdf
- AFRIYEA golf program, Uganda: <https://afriyeagolfacademy.com/>
- Heal the Hood golf program, Cape Town: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2233675273322348/>
- Play 9: www.golf.org.au/play9
- Footgolf: www.footgolf.org.au
- Disc golf: www.discgolfvictoria.com
- Golfboarding: www.golfboard.com
- Farahmand B, Broman G, De Faire U, Vågerö D, Ahlbom A. Golf: a game of life and death– reduced mortality in Swedish golf players. Scan J Med and Science in Sports. 2009;19(3):419– 24
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- World Alzheimer Report 2015 – alz.co.uk
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- Ausplay, Australian Sports Commission. The Sport and Physical Activity Landscape (ongoing tracking).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

**COMMISSIONED
CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM EXPERTS
AND HYPER
RELEVANT
ARTICLES**

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES COMMISSIONED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EXPERTS AND HYPER RELEVANT ARTICLES

Four key reports were commissioned to support the Alternate Proposal and submission. One hyper-relevant article has also been included in full given its reference to public golf facilities.

Key data and messages are used throughout the submission.

- SGS Economics & Planning Community Benefits of Moore Park Golf Course
- Stenner, B. The Health Benefits to the Community of Playing Golf 2023
- Torgersen, K. Golf and Nature: Fostering Harmony Between Sport and Environmental Conservation
- Glenelg Golf Club, Monina Gilbey. Sustainable Golf at Glenelg Golf Club
- National Golf Foundation (USA) Article: Which Way is Municipal Golf Going?

Supporting documents and resources submitted as attachments.

Community Benefits of Moore Park Golf Course

Golf Australia

09 April 2024





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OFFICES IN CANBERRA, HOBART, MELBOURNE, AND SYDNEY ON THE COUNTRY OF THE NGAMBRI/NGUNNAWAL/NGARIGO, MUWININA/PALAWA, WURUNDJERI, AND GADIGAL PEOPLES.

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 - Economic benefits 3
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APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Findings Report 8

1. Introduction

Moore Park Golf Course is one of the busiest golf courses in Australia. In 2023/24, it is anticipated to support:

- Around 100,000 rounds of golf (an average of around 275 rounds per day)
- Around 28,000 lessons by Sydney Golf Academy (an average of around 77 lessons each day)
- Around 250,000 buckets of balls being hit on the multi-level driving range (an average of around 685 buckets per day).

In addition, Moore Park Golf Course contains multiple event, entertainment and dining areas, and supports corporate team building events, offsite meetings, conferences, wedding receptions and other special events.

Moore Park Golf Course currently sits on around 45 hectares of land. However, the NSW Government is considering the future use of Moore Park Golf Course, with a proposal to transform 20 hectares into a new public park for Sydney being considered.¹

The purpose of this study is to highlight the annual economic, social and environmental benefits of Moore Park Golf Course via three scenarios:

- **Scenario 1. Current state** – This is as per the above assumptions re: rounds, lessons and buckets of balls hit on the driving range per annum.
- **Scenario 2. Reduced capacity** – A hypothetical scenario whereby 20 hectares of land is repurposed into a new public park and Moore Park Golf Course is shortened to 9 holes. In this scenario, the rounds of golf played at Moore Park Golf Course each year are anticipated to reduce from 100,000 to 60,000.
- **Scenario 3. Increased capacity** – A hypothetical scenario whereby improvements are made to the 18-hole golf course to speed up game times and increase course capacity to enable around 125,000 rounds to be played per annum.

The study draws on previous research commissioned by the Australian Golf Industry Council (AGIC) into the community benefits of golf across Australia, the findings report of which is contained in **Appendix A**.

¹ <https://www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/future-of-moore-park-south>

2. Overview of golf's benefits

Golf generates numerous economic, social and environmental benefits. These are described in the table below. Further detail is provided in **Appendix A**.

Table 1: Benefits of golf

Economic benefits	Player benefits Players derive benefits from golf, evidenced by the time and money they choose to spend engaging in the game and travelling to and from the golf course. Player benefits are the value enjoyed from golf activities above the prices paid for those activities.	Business benefits Businesses benefit from the expenditure made at golf courses and on golf equipment. In this report, business benefits were informed via financial details provided by Moore Park Golf Course. Benefits associated with equipment spend were not captured.	Worker benefits Workers benefit from increased employment and income associated with the golf industry. Worker benefits were estimated by considering unemployment and underemployment rates in inner Sydney and the size of the Moore Park Golf Course workforce.
Social benefits	Physical health benefits Physical activity is associated with numerous health benefits, including reduced risk factors for several chronic illnesses. The physical health benefits were quantified by estimating the number of players who would be considered physically 'inactive' without golf and applying a dollar value to the additional healthy years they gain.	Mental health benefits Golf has been shown to deliver mental health benefits to players, evidenced by a greater average health and wellbeing score among golfers compared to non-golfers. Mental health benefits were quantified by applying a commensurate reduction in the average mental health cost to the number of round golfers at Moore Park Golf Course.	Amenity benefits Golf courses improve neighbourhood amenity, which has been quantified using the increase in residential land value that is generated by golf courses. For Moore Park Golf Course, the average population density of the City of Greater Sydney was used. This is consistent with the approach taken for the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia report.
Environmental benefits	Golf courses are green spaces that generate environmental benefits for neighbouring communities via localised impacts and society more broadly via carbon sequestration. Specific benefits modelled for Moore Park Golf Course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enhanced preservation of local ecosystems – Reduced impact of flooding and stormwater – Carbon reduction via carbon sequestration – Greater thermal comfort, which accounts for the days over 30 degrees in Sydney and the population density around Moore Park Golf Course. These benefits are the same as those generated by parklands. The benefit assumes that the alternate use of Moore Park Golf Course would be built urban form (i.e. buildings, transport infrastructure, public squares, etc).		

3. Quantified benefits of Moore Park Golf Course

The total annual benefit of Moore Park Golf Course in **Scenario 1. Current state** has been modelled to be \$14.82 per annum. This is made up of:

- \$6.19 million of economic benefits
- \$5.64 million of social benefits
- \$2.99 million of environmental benefits.

Scenario 2. Reduced capacity has been modelled to generate benefits of \$12.12 million per annum (\$2.7 million worse than the current state), and **Scenario 3. Increased capacity** has been modelled to generate benefits of \$16.58 million per annum (\$1.76 million better than the current state).

Further details about these benefits are provided below.

Economic benefits

Player benefits

As set out in the introduction, an estimated 100,000 rounds of golf and 250,000 buckets of balls are hit at Moore Park Golf Course each year. Although people pay for these activities, the amount paid does not reflect the full economic value that they derive from the activity. Survey analysis undertaken as part of the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia project identified that the average economic value above the value captured by green fees was:²

- \$12.70 per round of golf (weighted across a mix of 9 and 18 holes)
- \$4.80 per driving range visit

Applying these values to the rounds of golf played at Moore Park Golf Course, and buckets hit at the Moore Park Golf Course driving range in **Scenario 1. Current state**, generates a cumulative player benefit of \$2.47 million per annum.

² This is also termed the 'consumer surplus': the value that an individual or household attaches to personal or household use or consumption of a good or service. This is calculated based on players' (or consumers') willingness to pay (WTP) minus the actual price they pay for entry to golf facilities.

This reduces to \$1.84 million in **Scenario 2. Reduced capacity** and increases to \$2.86 million in **Scenario 3. Increased capacity**. These changes are directly related to the change in player numbers in the two scenarios relative to the current state scenario.

Business benefits

Business benefits are the sum of profits generated by golf-related businesses, or by businesses that support golf activity indirectly (e.g. food and beverage operators at golf courses).

As one of the most utilised golf courses in Australia and with complementary offerings such as events and meals, Moore Park Golf Course generates profits of around \$3 to \$4 million each year in **Scenario 1. Current state**. This profit supports the activities of Greater Sydney Parklands, which works on behalf of the NSW Government to manage and care for the parklands in Sydney. The midpoint of the estimated profit range was taken to derive a business benefit of \$3.50 million per annum.

Scenario 2. Reduced capacity sees a reduction in revenue to around \$2.00 million per annum and a reduction in cost of \$724,000 per annum.³ These changes would yield an overall profit of around \$2.22 million per annum (\$1.28 million worse than the current state).

Scenario 3. Increased capacity sees revenue increase to \$4.38 million per annum (\$0.88 million better than the current state). This change is directly related to the change in the number of golf rounds played relative to the current state scenario.

Worker benefits

Moore Park Golf Course employs a total of 68 workers, although the estimated full-time equivalent (FTE) workforce is 38.3 workers.⁴ These workers are modelled to earn more income through their employment at Moore Park Golf Course than they would earn in the absence of Moore Park Golf Course. Modelling this benefit accounts for underemployment and unemployment rates within inner Sydney.

Operation of Moore Park Golf Course in **Scenario 1. Current state** is modelled to generate worker benefits of around \$0.22 million per annum.

This changes negligibly in **Scenario 2. Reduced capacity** and **Scenario 3. Increased capacity**.

Social benefits

Physical health benefits

Being physically active improves the immune system and reduces risk factors such as high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol. Golf is a moderate-intensity form of exercise that can be played by

³ These values were on advice from the Moore Park Golf Course operator.

⁴ FTE workers is calculated by calculating the total hours worked by all employees, divided by the hours that a full-time worker would work over the same period. Moore Park Golf Course employs 9 FTE workers for golf operations, 5 FTE workers for hospitality, 7 FTE workers for administration, and 49 casual workers which have each been assumed to work 1/3 of the hours of a FTE worker.

people of all ages and abilities; for some people, it is the main way that they engage in physical exercise.

Survey analysis undertaken as part of the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia project found that 0.84 per cent of the Australian 18-79-year-old population is considered 'active' with golf but would be considered 'inactive' without playing golf. Applying this proportion to the Moore Park Golf Course round golfer population⁵ in **Scenario 1. Current state** and applying other parameters (see **Appendix A**) derives a physical health benefit for golfers of around \$0.90 million per annum. An additional health system cost saving of \$0.10 million is generated each year for health system operators due to a healthier Australian population stemming from golf participation.

In **Scenario 2. Reduced capacity**, the health benefits reduce to \$0.56 million for players and to \$0.60 million for the health system cost saving (\$0.40 million worse than the current state per annum).

In **Scenario 3. Increased capacity**, the health benefits increase to \$1.13 million for players and to \$0.13 million for the health system cost saving (\$0.25 million better than the current state per annum).

Mental health benefits

Golf contributes to good mental health via three key outcomes – physical exercise, social interaction, and time spent outdoors/in natural landscapes. These outcomes are associated with improved mood and cognitive function, along with reduced stress and feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Survey analysis undertaken as part of the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia project found that round golfers have a subjective health and wellbeing score that is 7.1 per cent higher than that of non-round golfers. Applying a 7.1 per cent reduction to the average mental health cost of the **Scenario 1. Current state** Moore Park Golf Course round player population generates a mental health benefit of around \$0.94 million per annum.

This has been modelled to change to \$0.56 million in **Scenario 2. Reduced capacity** and increases to \$1.17 million in **Scenario 3. Increased capacity**.

Amenity benefits

In economic terms, neighbourhood amenity is the value provided to a location by the pleasantness and freedom from nuisance that exists there. For the Moore Park Golf Course, amenity was measured by the relative increase in land value (not property value) that is proximate to golf courses, controlling for other variables that affect land value. The total land value was adjusted to calculate an average annual value.

For Moore Park Golf Course, the amenity benefit was found to be \$3.70 million per annum under **all three scenarios**.

⁵ Physical health benefits were only estimated for those who walk during round golf. Those who use golf carts or visit the driving range were not modelled to derive physical health benefits.

Environmental benefits

Golf courses generate important environmental benefits, especially in inner urban areas like Moore Park Golf Course where green space is limited and built space is high. The total environmental benefit generated by Moore Park Golf Course is \$2.99 million per annum under **all three scenarios**.

This was calculated using parameter values that apply to parklands. It is important to note that the benefits of Moore Park Golf Course may exceed this as golf courses provide some environmental benefits that are beyond those of traditional parklands. In particular, across 13 urban golf courses, the University of Melbourne found that:

- The structural complexity of vegetation on golf courses is around 50-100 per cent higher than that of residential gardens and urban parklands. This promotes higher soil invertebrate biodiversity and better soil ecosystem services.
- Beetle and bug abundance on golf courses is roughly 6-10 times greater than that within urban gardens and parks.
- Bee species richness on golf courses is around 3-4 times that of remnant heathlands. This brings higher levels of pollination.
- There are around 50 per cent more bird species on golf courses than in urban gardens and parks, with similarly high levels of bird breeding.

4. Conclusion

A summary of benefits generated per annum across the three scenarios is provided below.

Table 2: Annual benefits of each scenario

Category	Benefit	Scenario 1. Current state	Scenario 2. Reduced capacity	Scenario 3. Increased capacity
Economic benefits	Player benefit (round golf)	\$1.27 million	\$0.76 million	\$1.59 million
	Player benefit (driving range)	\$1.20 million	\$1.08 million	\$1.27 million
	Business benefit	\$3.50 million	\$2.22 million	\$4.38 million
	Worker benefit	\$0.22 million	\$0.21 million	\$0.23 million
Social benefits	Physical health benefit	\$1.00 million	\$0.60 million	\$1.26 million
	Mental health benefit	\$0.94 million	\$0.56 million	\$1.17 million
	Amenity benefit	\$3.70 million	\$3.70 million	\$3.70 million
Environmental benefits	Numerous benefits	\$2.99 million	\$2.99 million	\$2.99 million
TOTAL		\$14.82 million	\$12.12 million	\$16.58 million

Appendix A: Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Findings Report

A photograph of two women on a golf course during the 'golden hour' of sunset. The woman on the left, who is Black, is wearing a dark green tank top and has a golf bag on her back. She is looking down and smiling. The woman on the right, who is white with long blonde curly hair, is wearing a grey t-shirt and is looking up at the first woman, also smiling. The background shows a lush green golf course with trees in the distance, all bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

FINDINGS REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is with my great pleasure to introduce the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report for 2023 on behalf of the Australian Golf Industry Council (AGIC), as its Chair.

As you will see across the following pages, the overwhelming message is that golf is one of the biggest sports in Australia, contributing significant economic, social and environmental benefits to golfers and the Australian community.

This report provides compelling storytelling and support for the game of golf, with benefits based on quantified evidence. The benefits are the flow on effects from the Australian community's spend on golf, golfers leading active and healthy lifestyles and the vital open spaces and environments created by golf courses and facilities. On behalf of the AGIC, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to SGS Economics & Planning for their tireless work on this project and for creating a robust and repeatable methodology that also positions golf as a leader across the sport and recreation industry.

The numbers outlined in this report will perhaps surprise, but they are undeniable. My hope is they will go a long way to change the perception of golf. We now have the evidence to inform decision makers and strengthen partnerships so that together golf can continue to build on the social fabric of a healthy and connected Australia. As well as proof of the community hub culture provided by golf facilities, which like the greater industry, are providing extensive job and business opportunities.

Golf is big, it's different and it's changing, so we hope you share the optimism we have for the sport after reading this report.



Karen Lunn
Chair, AGIC
CEO, WPGA Tour of Australasia



The Australian Golf Industry Council (AGIC) was established in 2006 as a group comprising the key national bodies of the golf industry in Australia, designed to work together for the common good of the game and the industry.

Through the three peak bodies in the PGA of Australia, Golf Australia and WPGA Tour of Australasia, the industry has never been as united as off the back of the inaugural Australian Golf Strategy (2022-2025) and this newly commissioned report.

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SNAPSHOT



THE NUMBERS

\$3.3b

**total annual
benefits of golf**

\$1.4b

The value of economic benefits of golf each year. These benefits accrue to golf players, golf related businesses (including tourism related), golf workers, and the health sector

\$1.0b

The value of social benefits of golf each year. This accrues mainly via physical and mental health benefits (around \$860m of benefits annually), with around \$149m associated with the amenity of golf courses.

\$890m

The value of environmental benefits of golf each year through biodiversity, flood and stormwater protection, water filtration and purification, carbon sequestration and urban cooling.

7.23m

More than one third of Australian adults (37%) visit a golfing facility for meals, drinks and various social, leisure and business activities every year.

\$10.3b

Estimated annual household expenditure associated with golf activities and golf facilities in Australia. \$6.7b of this is associated with expenditure of golf players and community members in their local area, and the remaining \$3.6b is associated with golf tourism.

1,603

Number of places to play across Australia. Made up of 431 9-hole courses, 922 18-hole courses, 53 27-54 hole courses, 184 driving ranges, 115 mini golf courses, and growing number of indoor simulators and entertainment venues.

280m

The kilometres that Australian golfers collectively walk each year to play golf. This equates to over 7,000 laps of the Earth's equator each year

7.1%

Higher score on-course golfers are in subjective health and wellbeing compared to non-round golfers. Club members scored 78.4 (+15.2%) and round players scored 68.4 (+5.2%) compared to average score for adults 63.2 (out of 100).

3.5m

Number of Australian adults (aged 18-79) who play various formats of golf. It comprises around 2.2m on-course golfers (golf club members and round players) and 1.3m people who play alternative formats of golf only (driving range, simulator, mini golf).

1.75m

Estimated number of overnight trips made per annum for the purpose of playing golf. Of this, 1.6m are domestic overnight trips (driving and flying), and over 150,000 are international visitors.

21.3

Average number of on-course golf games played per year for golf members and round players. 2.21m players amass more than 47m rounds of golf every year.

GOLF ACROSS AUSTRALIA

GOLF PLAYERS

Golf is big – golf is one of the largest sports by participation rate in Australia.

Survey findings suggest that around 3.5 million Australians participated in various formats of golf over the previous 12 months.

Golf is different – golf attracts a range of players across diverse demographic cohorts.

As a moderate-intensity form of exercise, and one that can be highly social across the various formats, golf attracts people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

Golf is changing – differences in golf participation across generations suggest a deepening participation base.

HALF OF ALL
AUSTRALIAN
ADULTS ARE
PLAYING OR
INTERESTED IN
PLAYING GOLF.



MORE THAN HALF
OF ON-COURSE
GOLFERS HAVE AN
ANNUAL INCOME OF
BELOW \$100,000.



WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR
53% OF DRIVING RANGE,
MINI-GOLF, AND OTHER
ALTERNATIVE FORMAT
PLAYERS.



MEN ACCOUNT FOR
81% OF GOLF CLUB
MEMBERS AND 63% OF
ROUND PLAYERS.



GOLF ACROSS AUSTRALIA

GOLF BUSINESSES

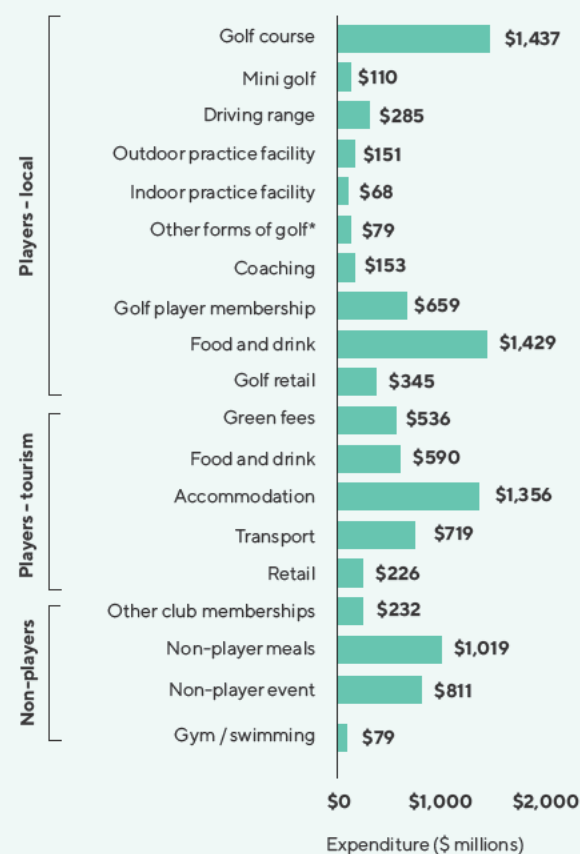
GOLF GENERATES AROUND \$10.3 BILLION PER ANNUM IN HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.

A summary of annual spending by players locally and when travelling is below, along with annual spending of non-golfers at golf club facilities.

GOLF FACILITIES

Golf is played across Australia in a growing number of diverse outdoor and indoor settings, reflecting the way people want to consume the sport. There are at least 1,603 places to play.

431	9-hole courses
922	18-hole courses
53	27-54-hole courses
115	mini golf courses
184	driving ranges



*Other forms of golf includes alternate forms of golf, such as disc golf and footgolf

GOLF'S BENEFITS

Annually, golf generates significantly more expenditure than most other recreational and leisure activities.

Golf activities generate important benefits for golfers and the Australian community. The type and scale of benefits are driven by the unique factors of golf:

- Total expenditure associated with golf is larger than that of other leisure/sport activities. For example, cycling in Australia is associated with \$6.3 billion in annual expenditure, while recreational fishing is associated with \$3.4 billion in annual expenditure. At \$10.3 billion of associated expenditure, golf is similar in size to JB Hi-Fi (by annual revenue), and around half the size of Qantas and Telstra.
- Many golfers base their holidays around golf, which is in high contrast to other leisure/sport activities. Around one-third of total household expenditure on golf is associated with golf tourism.
- As a moderate-intensity, yet long-form type of activity, golf supports good physical and mental health for people of all ages
- With vegetation that is, on average, more complex and diverse than that of public parks, golf provides important amenity and environmental benefits



GOLF'S BENEFITS

GOLF IN AUSTRALIA

DRIVERS OF BENEFITS

Golf generates around \$10.3 billion in expenditure.

Supports people to live active and social lives.

Provides important open space in urban areas.

ANNUAL BENEFITS

Player benefits of \$502 million

Business benefits (profits) of \$394 million

Worker benefits of \$122 million

Tourism benefits of \$336 million

Health system cost savings of \$49 million

Physical health benefits of \$423 million

Mental health benefits of \$439 million

Amenity benefits of \$149 million

Environmental benefits of \$890 million

LEGEND FOR ANNUAL BENEFITS

Economic benefits

Social benefits

Environmental benefits

GOLF'S BENEFITS

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

ECONOMIC BENEFITS TOTAL \$1.4 BILLION PER ANNUM.

There are many nuanced reasons why people choose to engage with golf but ultimately, they do so because they derive value from the sport. Beyond membership fees, green fees and entry fees, it was calculated that Australian golf players derive a collective additional benefit of \$502 million per annum. Across more than 57 million individual participations in golf activities per year, this works out to be a benefit of around \$8.8 per activity.

Additional economic benefits include:

- **\$394 million** in annual benefits for Australian businesses. This benefit is the total estimated profit of businesses from golf-related expenditure

- **\$122 million** in benefits for industry workers each year, which reflects higher levels of employment and higher wages than would be expected in a scenario where the golf sector did not exist
- **\$336 million** in benefits flowing from golf-related tourism.
- **\$49 million** in avoided health system costs due to golf supporting a healthier society, given it is a long-format type of moderate-intensity exercise

SOCIAL BENEFITS

SOCIAL BENEFITS TOTAL \$1.0 BILLION PER ANNUM.

The social benefits of golf include physical and mental health benefits that accrue to golf players, and neighbourhood benefits resulting from the high amenity of golf courses.

Physical health benefits of golf are associated with supporting golf participants to be physically 'active', as opposed to 'inactive'. Mental health benefits are generated by the same outcome, along with social interaction and time spent outdoors which may otherwise not occur. Our analysis finds:

- **166,000** Australians are physically active with golf but would be considered inactive without it. Daily, Australian golfers walk a combined 19.2 laps of Earth's equator
- Annual physical health benefits which accrue to golfers sum to **\$423 million**. This equates to an average annual physical health benefit of around **\$190** per golfer
- Annual mental health benefits which accrue to golfers sum to **\$439 million**. This equates to an average annual benefit of around **\$200** per round golfer
- The neighbourhood amenity benefit of golf courses impacts land prices within around 750 metres of golf courses. The annual amenity benefit was valued at **\$149 million**.

GOLF'S BENEFITS

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TOTAL \$890 MILLION PER ANNUM.

Golf courses provide important environmental benefits, especially in urban areas where green space is limited.

Academics at the University of Melbourne undertook an assessment of golf course biodiversity, and found:

- The structural complexity of vegetation on golf courses is around 50-100% higher than that of residential gardens and urban parklands.
- Beetle and bug abundance on golf courses is 6-10 times greater than that within other nearby parks.
- Bee species richness on golf courses is around 3-4 times that of remnant heathlands.
- There are around 50% more bird species on golf courses than in urban gardens and parks.

BENEFIT TYPE	ANNUAL BENEFIT
Flora and fauna biodiversity	\$354 million
Urban cooling	\$257 million
Flood & stormwater management	\$159 million
Water filtration and purification	\$114 million
Carbon sequestration	\$6 million

GOLF ACROSS AUSTRALIA



PLAYERS

Golf is one of the largest participation sports in Australia. There are many ways that Australians can engage with golf, whether that be through golf courses, or via formats like mini golf, pitch and putt, simulator golf, or other alternative options (off-course golf).

According to Prescience Research findings, golf club members tend to be older and male-oriented, while round players have a wider age range. Young people, women, and families with children are more likely to engage in social and alternative format golf, such as mini golf. These differences across generations suggest a deepening participation base.

2.2 million Australians played on-course golf during the last 12 months, while a further 1.3 million played off-course formats of golf only.

Men account for **81%** of golf club members and **63%** of round players.

Women account for **53%** of driving range, mini-golf, and other alternative format players.

Half of all Australian adults are currently playing or are interested in playing golf.

60% of on-course golfers are trade, admin, personal services, and sales workers.

The remaining **40%** work as full-time as managers and professionals.

More than half of on-course golfers have an annual income of below **\$100,000**.

The mean age of on-course golfers is **48**, for off course players it is **36**.

Around **45%** of all golfers live with children; **18%** are single and live alone.

The average on-course golfer played **21** rounds of golf in the last year.

CLUB MEMBERS

Club members are golf enthusiasts. Based on Prescience Research survey data, club members are the golf segment who spent the most time playing golf (94 per cent had played a round near their home in the last 12 months, with 74 per cent of these playing 20+ times), are the most likely to travel for golf (over 34 per cent), and are willing to spend the most on golf-related equipment and activities.

Club members tend to be older (56 per cent are aged 60+) and male (81 per cent). Most (43 per cent) club members work full-time; however, many (41 per cent) are retired.

ROUND PLAYERS

Round players participate in golf less regularly than club members but are nonetheless an engaged cohort of players. Around 70 per cent said they'd played a round of golf near their home within the last 12 months, and over 12 per cent had traveled to play golf.

Round players tend to be younger than members (59 per cent are under 40). Male players account for 63 per cent of all round players.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Almost 30 per cent of Australians aged 18-29 had participated in some form of golf in the past 12 months. Just over 15 per cent were round players and nearly 6 per cent hit balls at outdoor driving ranges and entertainment venues. Over 8 per cent were interested but not yet playing golf.

Those aged 18-29 are least likely to be club members (accounting for only 8.4 per cent of club members); however, they are most likely to be engaged in all other formats of golf.

Over 36 per cent of all round players are aged 18-29, and young people are also more likely to engage in alternative formats of the game. Among those who played mini-golf, or who played golf at an indoor or outdoor entertainment venue (as opposed to a golf course), over 45 per cent were aged 18-29.

WOMEN

Off-course players are more likely to be women, accounting for 53 per cent of indoor simulator and driving range golf, mini-golf, and other alternative formats of golf.



BUSINESSES

Golf generates approximately **\$10.3 billion** per annum in household expenditure.

PLAYERS

Golf players spend money at golf courses, including on membership fees, entry fees, and food and drink at the course.

In addition, golf players will make external retail purchases to support their participation in golf, such as at sports stores which sell golf clothing and equipment.

Total player expenditure amounts to roughly \$4.7 billion per annum. Around \$2.9 billion of this is associated with golf activities, and the remaining \$1.8 billion is on golf clothing, equipment, and food and drink purchased at golf venues.

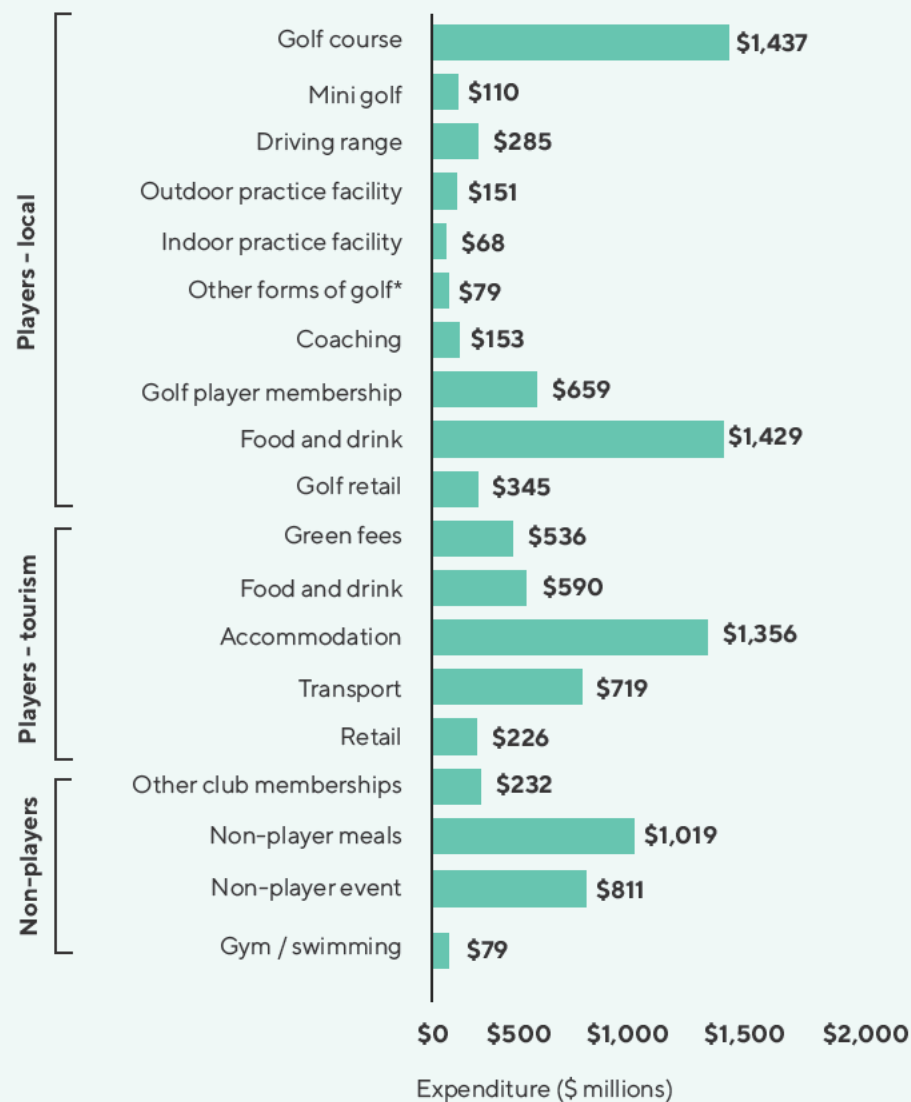


NON-PLAYERS

Non-players will also spend money at golf courses, for example they might eat a meal at a golf course restaurant, visit a golf course for an event like a wedding, or use a golf course gym and swimming pool. Some 37 per cent (or 7.23m) of Australian adults said they visited a golfing facility in the past 12 months. Non player expenditure totals approximately \$2.1 billion per year.

TOURISM

Golf is a key driver of Australia's tourism sector, particularly in some regions of Australia. Many local golfers choose to travel intrastate or interstate to play golf, and many international visitors come to Australia to play golf. Tourists spend money on accommodation, transportation, food and drink, as well as directly at golf facilities on entry fees. Total golf-driven tourism expenditure amounts to approximately \$3.4 billion per annum.



*Other forms of golf includes alternate forms of golf, such as disc golf and foot golf

FACILITIES

There are on-course and off-course golf facilities available across the country.

ON-COURSE FACILITIES

Includes 9 to 54-hole golf courses (and shortened courses i.e., pitch and putt or courses less than 9 holes). Participation includes members and round players.

OFF-COURSE FACILITIES

Includes outdoor driving ranges and entertainment facilities, indoor simulator or practice facilities, indoor or outdoor mini golf courses and putt putt facilities. Participation includes outdoor ball hitters, indoor ball hitters and mini golf players.

431 9-hole courses

922 18-hole courses

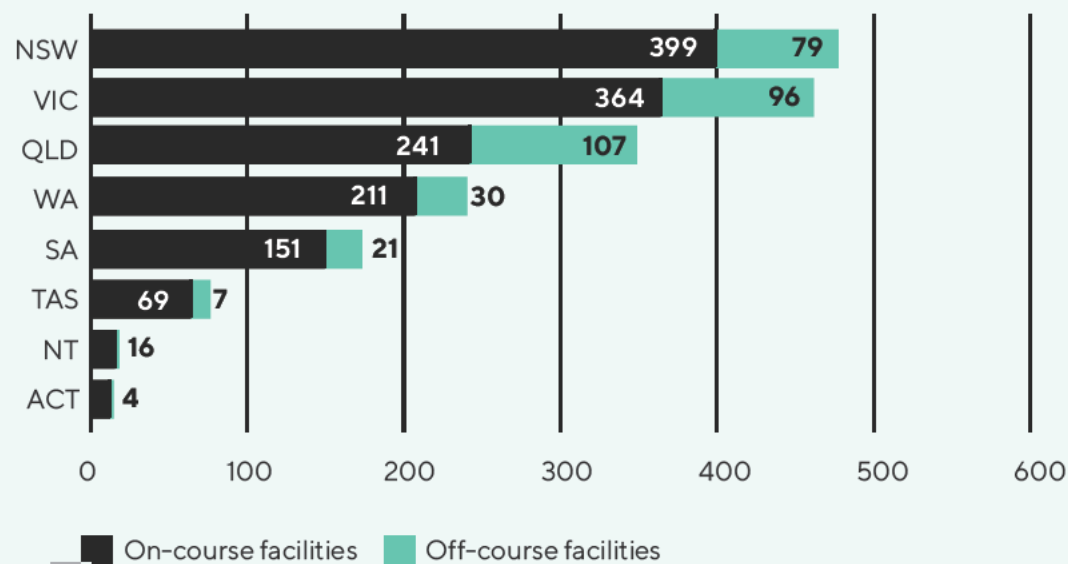
53 27-54-hole courses

115 Mini golf courses

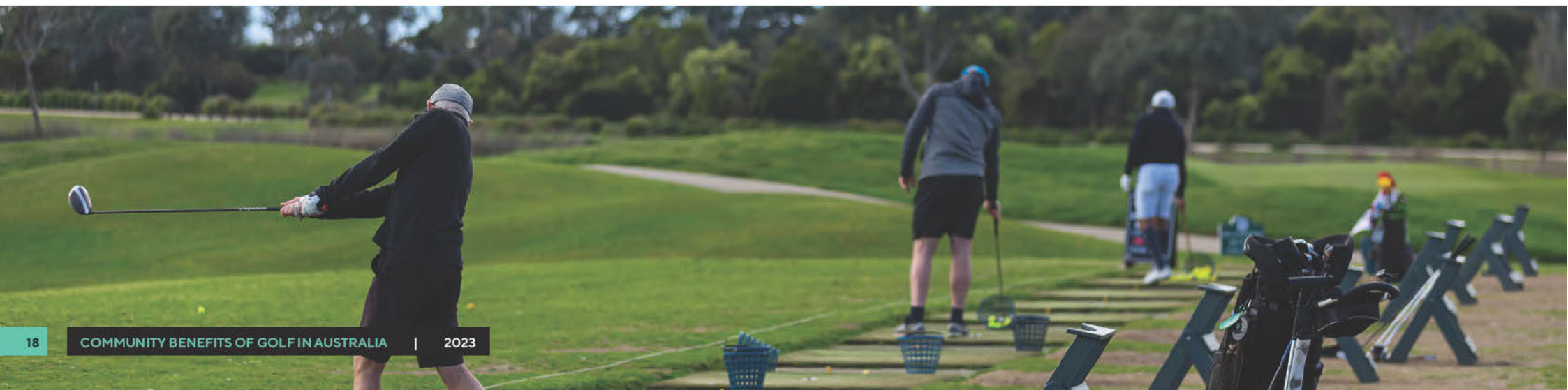
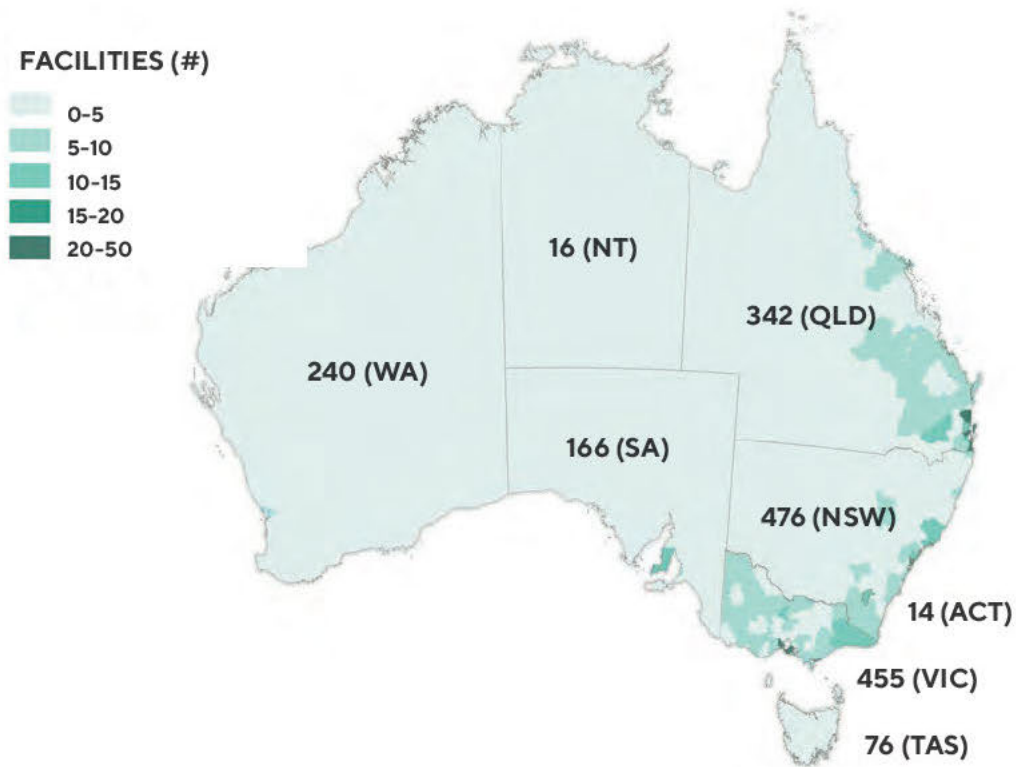
184 Driving ranges

OTHER FACILITY TYPES

Other facility types support alternate forms of golf, such as foot golf and disc golf.



Golf is played across Australia in a growing number of diverse outdoor and indoor settings, reflecting the way people want to consume the sport. Growth in off-course facilities is trending globally in line with participation in all formats. The National Golf Foundation reported that there are now more off-course facilities in the USA than on-course to meet player demand.



COMMUNITY BENEFITS



OVERVIEW

THE BENEFITS OF GOLF

Golf generates numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits.

For this report, the quantified benefits of golf were informed by two key inputs:

- Primary data analysis via a survey of 1,600 golfers and non-golfers across Australia, weighted to be representative of the Australian adult population.
- A desktop review of data and documents provided by AGIC members, as well as industry data and ABS-sourced data.

While the techniques used to quantify benefits are all established and robust, gaps in the available data and the need to use non-market quantification techniques for some benefits means that these results may not perfectly represent the true extent of golf-related benefits. Where exact data was unavailable, estimates were used.

This report is accompanied by a separate technical report, which sets out the rationale, approach and inputs used to profile golf activities and quantify golf community benefits.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Economic benefits include benefits to players, businesses, and workers.

Players derive benefits from golf, evidenced by the time and money they choose to spend engaging in the game and travelling to and from the golf course. Player benefits are the value enjoyed above prices paid, and have been estimated using insights from player travel patterns.

Australian **businesses** benefit from the expenditure made at golf courses and on golf equipment. Business benefits have been quantified by multiplying industry revenues by relevant profitability rates.

Australian **workers** also benefit from increased incomes associated with the golf industry. Worker benefits have been estimated by applying relevant unemployment and underemployment rates to the industry workforce.

Golf **tourism** generates additional benefits to Australian businesses and workers, which were quantified using survey data on expenditure associated with golf-purposed trips.

Australia's **health system** benefits from avoided costs due to golf supporting a healthier society.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Social benefits include improved physical and mental health and increased neighbourhood amenity.

Physical activity is associated with numerous health benefits, including reduced risk factors for several chronic illnesses.

The **physical health benefits** of golf have been quantified by estimating the number of players who would be considered physically 'inactive' without golf and applying a dollar value to the additional healthy years they gain as a result.

Golf has also been shown to deliver mental health benefits to players, evidenced through a greater average health and wellbeing score among golfers. **Mental health benefits** have been quantified by applying a commensurate reduction in the average mental health cost to the portion of Australians who play round golf.

Golf courses improve **neighbourhood amenity**, which has been quantified using the increase in residential land value that is generated by golf courses.

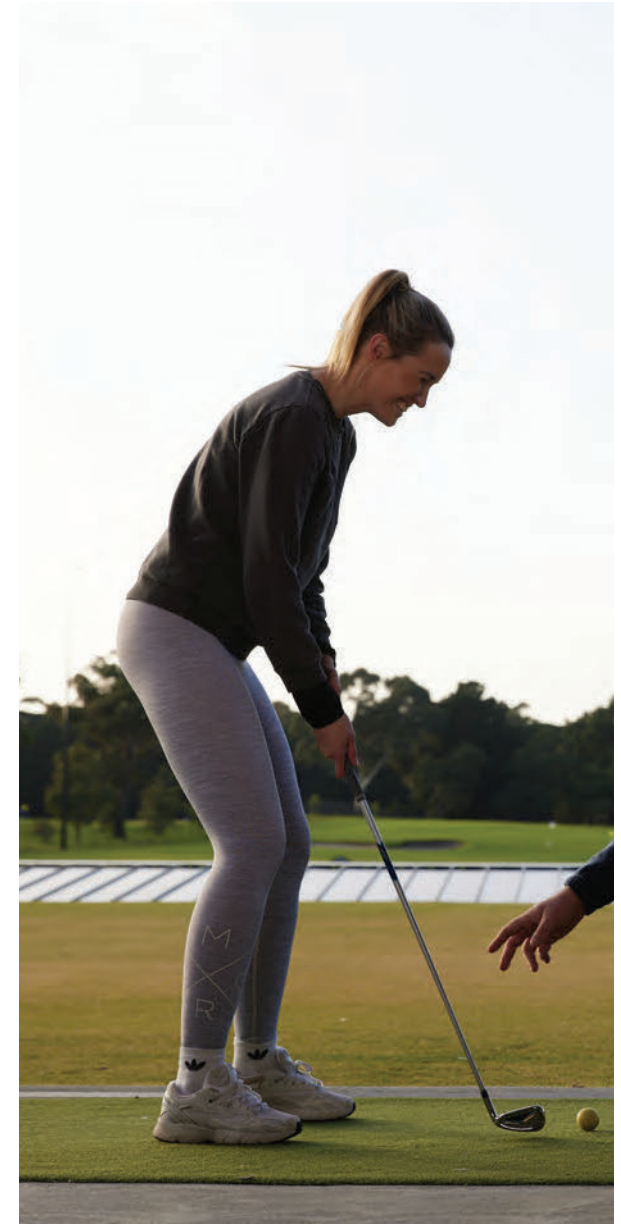
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Golf courses are green spaces that generate environmental benefits for neighbouring communities via localised impacts and society more broadly via carbon sequestration.

As open green spaces, golf courses generate environmental benefits through:

- Enhanced preservation of local ecosystems
- Reduced impact of flooding and stormwater
- Carbon reduction as emissions are absorbed by green spaces
- Greater thermal comfort, especially in city areas where golf courses help with urban cooling.

Environmental benefits were quantified based on values from existing studies, adjusted to account for relevant spatial and environmental differences across Australia's regions.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR PLAYERS

An estimated **3.5 million** Australians played some form of golf in the last 12 months.

The total benefit for players sums to around \$502 million per annum. This equates to an average benefit of around \$8.8 per participation in a golf event.

Although there are many reasons why people may choose to engage with golf, they ultimately do so because they derive value from the sport.

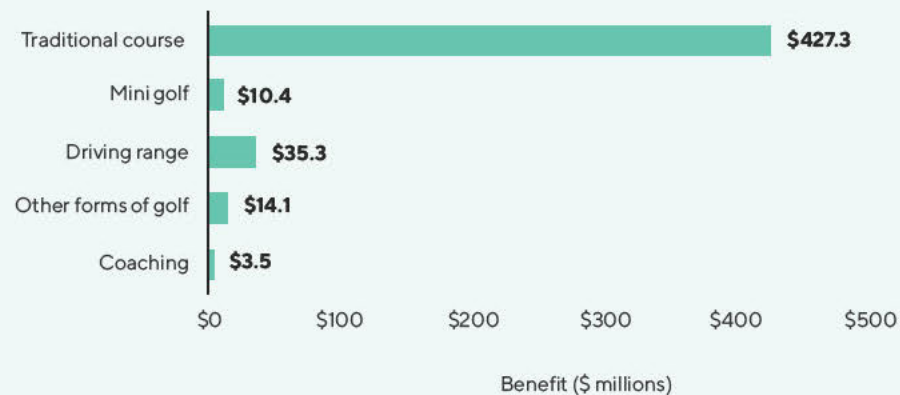
For many, golf represents a personal challenge – a way to develop skills and test themselves against others or by improving their own abilities.

Golf can also be a way to spend time with family and friends. As a long-duration sport that is accessible to people of all ages and abilities, golf allows for conversation and quality time with people we care about.

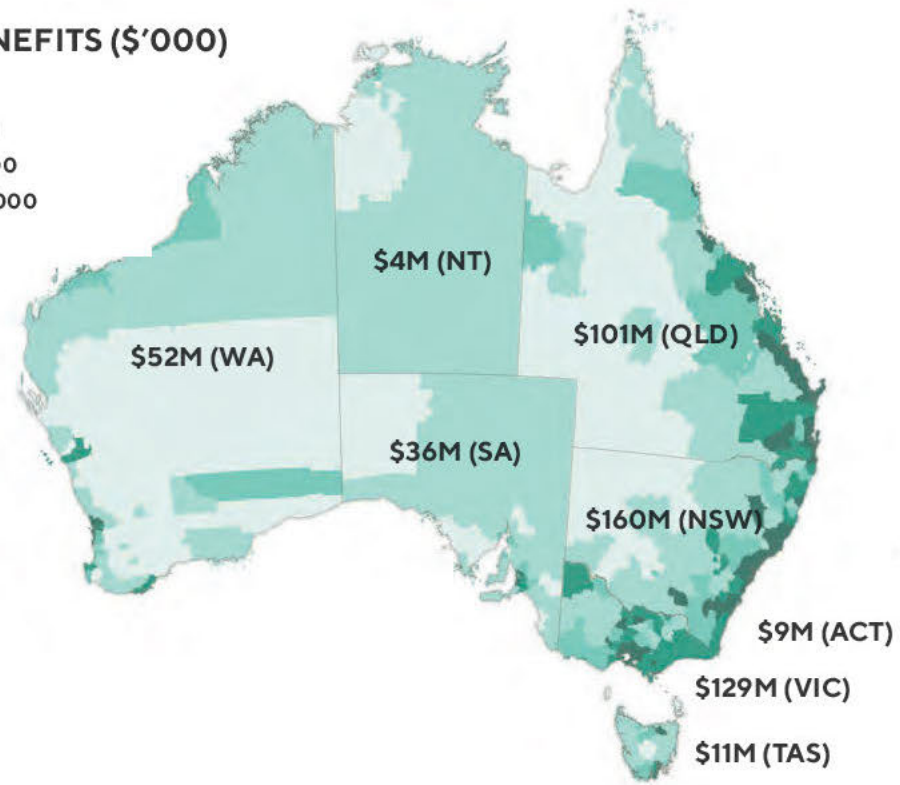
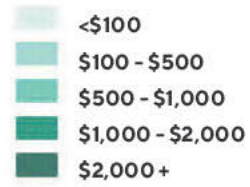
Golf is a way to spend time outdoors. Golf courses are green spaces, typically spanning several kilometres and containing an abundance of trees, birds, and other natural features for players to enjoy.

Due to the amount of walking involved, golf is also a popular way to engage in moderate physical exercise. Golf rounds can take place over several hours, with players walking around 10 kilometres over 18 holes of golf.

The total player value associated with golf in Australia is estimated at around \$502 million. Most of this (88 per cent) comes from golf courses (9–18-hole courses), followed by driving ranges (7 per cent) and mini-golf (2 per cent).



PLAYER BENEFITS (\$'000)



ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

Over **\$6.8 billion** was spent at golf facilities and on golf-related retail in 2023, generating an estimated **\$394 million** in profits for local businesses.

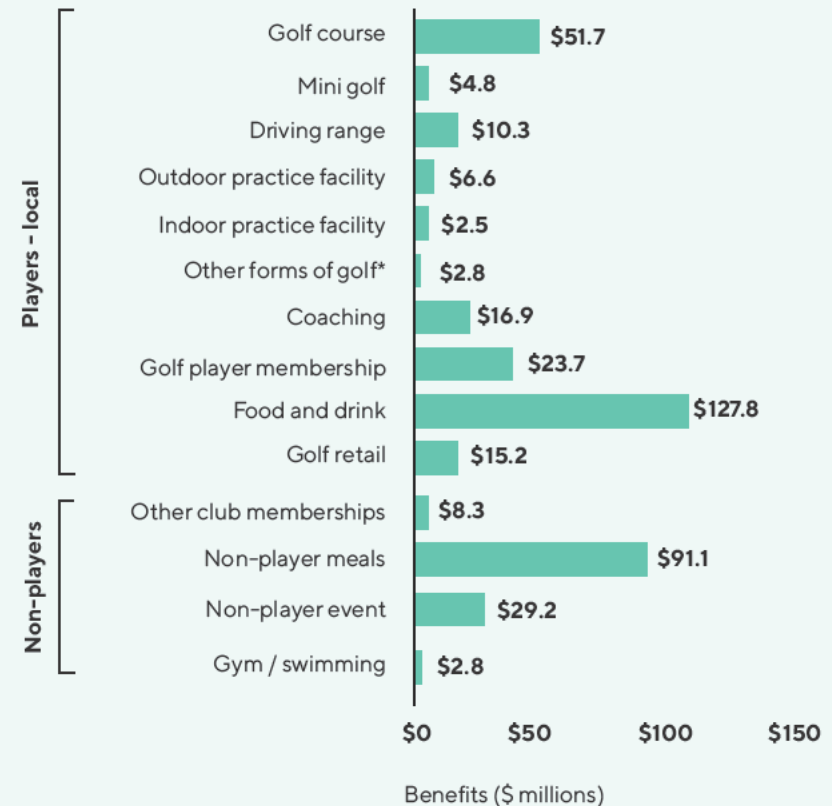
Excluding tourism related spend, over \$6.8 billion was spent at golf facilities and on golf-related activities and items in 2023, generating an estimated \$394 million in profits for local businesses.

Of this, \$127 million came from entry fees and golf club memberships, while \$266 million came from golf-related retail, golf club non-player events, and the purchase of food and drink at golf facilities.

To estimate total profits, revenue associated with golf activities was attributed to ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), and applied to profitability rates published by IBISWorld.

Profitability rates for golf-related industries ranged from 3.6 per cent (for Sports and Physical Recreation Clubs) to 11 per cent (for Sports Instructors). All other industries fell within this range.

Business-to-business (B2B) expenditure ranged from 42 per cent to 79 per cent of golf-related spend, varying by industry. Overall, this amounted to an estimated \$6.4 billion in 2023. B2B expenditure is flow on spending from household expenditure (i.e. it flows after household spend on golf activities), and, therefore, it was not used to calculate business benefits.



*Other forms of golf includes alternate forms of golf, such as disc golf and foot golf

ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM

In addition to the \$394 million of annual benefits associated with golf related expenditure, economic benefits of golf participation accrue via health system cost savings stemming from golf supporting a healthier society. Prescience Research findings indicate that, in the absence of golf, an additional **166,000** Australians would be considered inactive (defined as <150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week).

This has health system benefits, as the health system burden of the average inactive person is around \$295 per annum. Avoiding this cost for 166,000 Australians annually reflects health system cost savings of nearly **\$49 million**.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR INDUSTRY WORKERS

Across Australia, golf is estimated to generate over 27,800 full time equivalent jobs. This creates an annual benefit of **\$122 million** for industry workers each year.

To support golf across Australia, there must be people working in golf clubs and associations, retail workers selling golf equipment in stores, and hospitality workers servicing golf club restaurants.

Without the existence of golf, these workers may have less employment or work in other jobs or industries. The benefit of golf to industry workers is in the additional income they earn as a result of golf, and which they would not have earned if the sport were less prevalent.

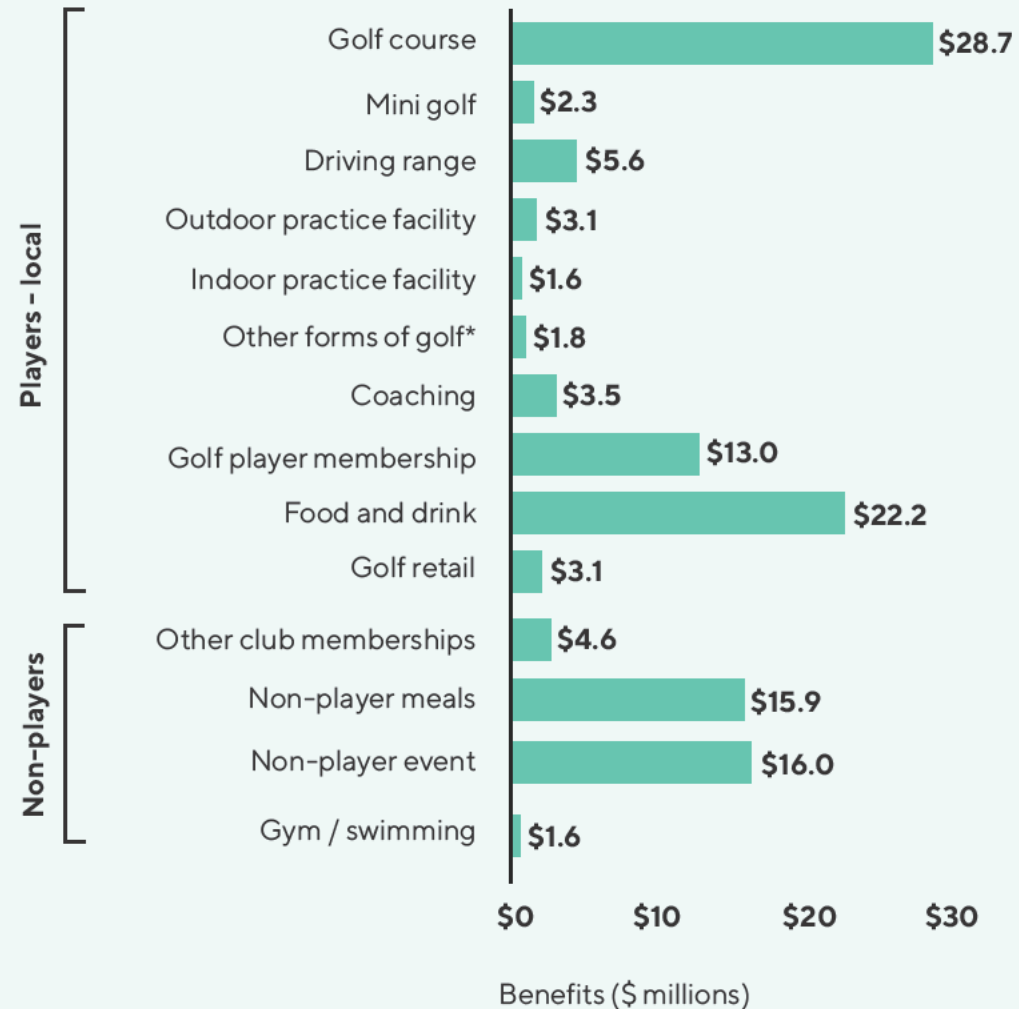
The value of golf in generating income for industry workers is estimated to be **\$122 million** per year. The annual value reflects the higher levels of employment and wages that exist with golf, compared to employment levels and wages that would be expected in a hypothetical scenario where the golf industry does not exist.

The AGIC members and in particular the PGA Learning Hub provide education, training and support for workers and a thriving industry. With PGA Professionals making up approximately 9 per cent of the 27,800 jobs across the entire industry.

Most of the industry worker benefits (\$66 million) come from those employed directly at golf courses (inclusive of player and non-player activities), while \$18 million comes from coaching or alternative formats of golf. Significant benefits also flow to those not directly employed in the golf industry, for example, retail and hospitality workers. An estimated \$38 million in worker benefits will be generated as a result of food and drink consumed while playing golf or at a golf facility.

Golf has one of largest number and wide-ranging jobs of any sport, including:

- Sport Administration
- Director of Golf, Head Professional
- General Manager, CEO, Golf Operations
- Retail, Equipment, Facility Development
- Superintendent and Turf Management
- Coaching, Game Development
- Media and Marketing
- Events, Tourism, Hospitality



*Other forms of golf includes alternate forms of golf, such as disc golf and foot golf

ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM GOLF TOURISM

Each year, 1.6 million domestic trips are made to play golf and 150,000 international tourists visit Australia to play golf. The value of golf tourism to the Australian economy each year has been estimated at **\$336 million**.

When people travel for golf, they spend money on green fees, food, accommodation, and transportation, among other things. These expenditures contribute to business profits and generate employment across the economy.

Most of this (\$140 million) comes from international tourism, with accommodation and food accounting for most international tourist expenditure.

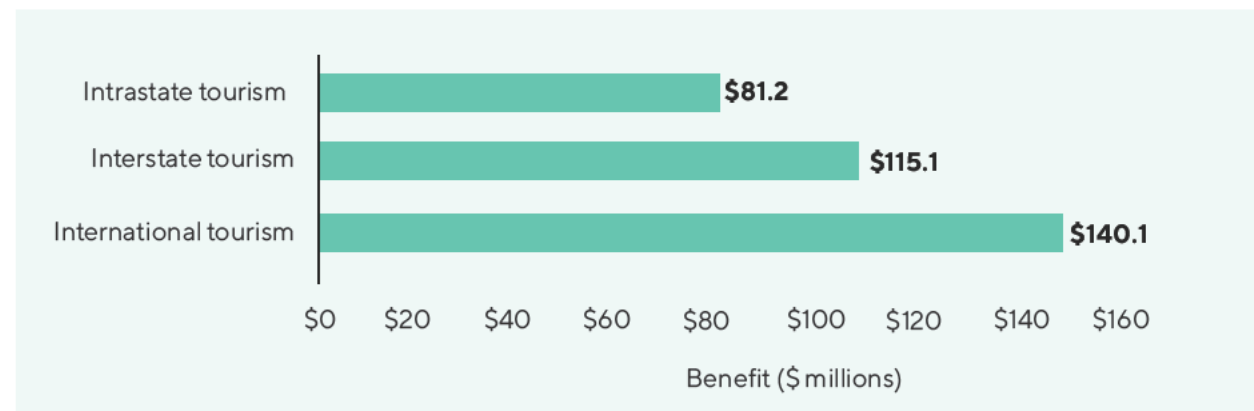
Intrastate and interstate tourism generates \$115 million and \$81 million in benefits, respectively. Most benefits come from accommodation expenditure, followed by food and drink.

According to Tourism Research Australia, most domestic golf tourism is based around short trips of four nights or less. By volume, a majority of golf tourists visit New South Wales, followed by Queensland, and Victoria.

The largest inbound markets include the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and China. The Chinese market has grown considerably over the past decade and represents the highest spending international tourist market.

In addition to players, golf also attracts spectators. An estimated 250,000 golf participants will attend at least one golf event as a spectator throughout the year.

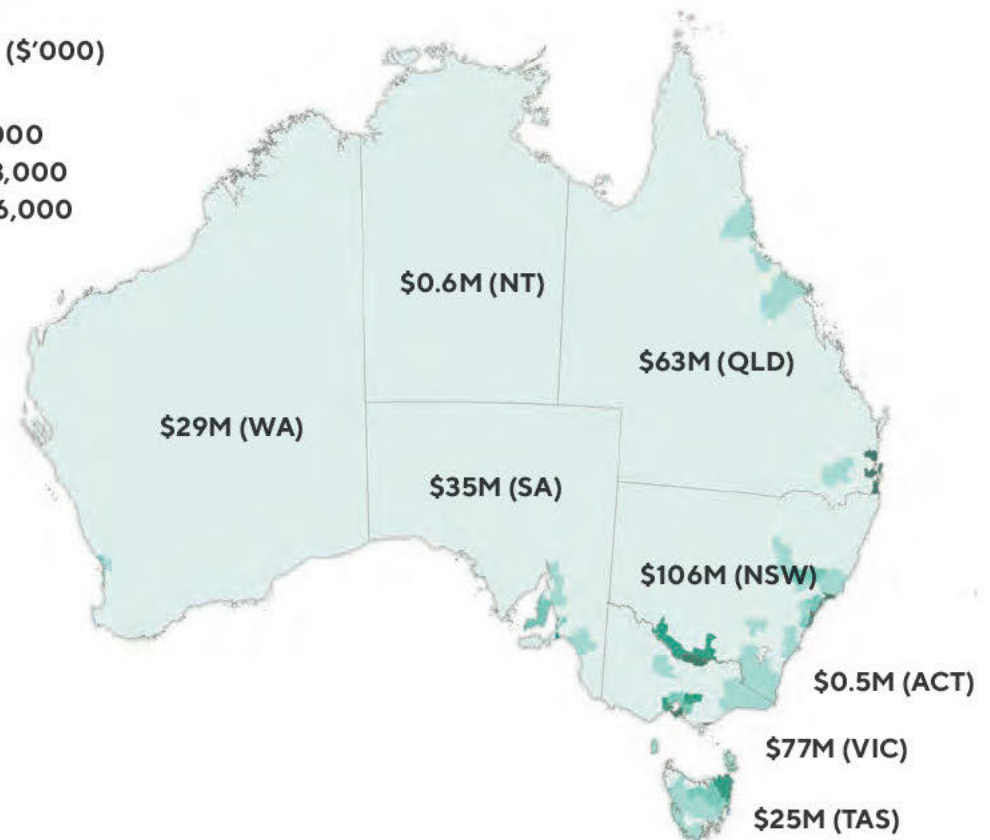
This figure likely understates the total number of golf spectators as it excludes non-players and alternative format players, who also may spectate golf events throughout the year. This figure also does not account for spectators who attended multiple events.



Golf tourism also includes attendance at world-class professional golf events. The Victorian Government undertook an economic impact assessment of the 2023 Vic Open Golf event. They found:

- Total unique attendance was around 10,000 visitors, nearly 600 of which were from interstate and more than 200 of which were from international locations.
- Direct in scope expenditure was \$1.2 million, and the unconstrained economic impact (including flow-on impacts) was \$2.2 million.

GOLF TOURISM (\$'000)



PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFITS

Golf generates health benefits to **2.2 million** Australians due to the distance walked during a round of golf and the swinging, twisting and bending motions that maintain or improve joint mobility. The annual physical health benefit for all golf players is **\$423 million**.

Being physically active improves the immune system and reduces risk factors such as high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol. Golf is a moderate-intensity form of exercise that can be played by people of all ages and abilities.

The health benefits of playing golf are well established, and clearly outlined in [The R&A's Health Benefits of Golf 2016 – 2020 report](#) that outlines a number of key benefits to both physical and mental well-being and falls into line with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) call for action by sports.

The R&A's report, findings of which were published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, states that, on average, golfers live five years longer than non-golfers, and that golf can help prevent and treat 40 major chronic diseases and improve balance and muscle endurance in older people.

Each day, Australian adults play an average of around 128,000 rounds of golf (9 or 18 holes) and, through that, walk a combined 770,000 kilometres. This equates to around 19.2 laps of Earth's equator each day, or just over 7,000 laps of Earth's equator each year. Put another way, the distance walked on Australian golf courses each year is the same as the distance travelled for around 730 round trips between the Earth and our moon.



For some people, golf is the main way they engage in physical exercise. Survey analysis undertaken by Prescience Research found that golf is a key reason that 166,000 Australians are considered 'active'. This is significant, as being 'inactive' is linked with a higher prevalence of disease and ill health.

In particular, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) states that physical inactivity is linked with an increased likelihood of people being affected by heart disease, type 2 diabetes, dementia, bowel cancer, breast cancer, and stroke.

The health cost to individuals of being 'inactive' is measured by the AIHW through a concept of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). Put simply, DALYs is a measure of the healthy years of life lost because of a health condition or disability.

Based on estimates from the AIHW and population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the average physically inactive Australian loses 0.011 DALYs each year due to the associated effects of disease and ill health.

Monetising the lost DALYs using the value of a statistical life year (VSLY) concept derives an average 'inactive' health cost of around \$2,547 per inactive person, per annum.

Avoiding this cost by meeting the definition of 'physically active' because of golf participation is the basis for our monetised benefit.

ALL ELSE EQUAL, AN ADDITIONAL **166,000** AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE CONSIDERED PHYSICALLY INACTIVE WITHOUT GOLF.

THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFIT FOR ALL GOLF PLAYERS IS **\$423 MILLION**.

THIS EQUATES TO AN AVERAGE ANNUAL PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFIT OF AROUND **\$192** PER GOLFER.



MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

Golf contributes to good mental health via three key outcomes. The annual mental health benefit for all golf players is **\$439 million**.

- The **physical exercise** associated with golf releases endorphins and serotonin that improve mood, and regular exercise has been evidenced to reduce stress, depression and anxiety.
- Golf facilitates **social interaction** between friends and community members, thereby reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation that may otherwise occur.
- Golf is undertaken in **natural landscapes** – such environments are linked with reduced stress, improved mood and enhanced cognitive function. Exposure to Vitamin D via time spent outdoors has also been linked with a reduced risk of depression.

Beyond benefits for golfers, golf clubs and their facilities are often community meeting hubs which help to generate a sense of belonging, especially in regional and rural areas where such facilities are lacking. Notably, around **one-third of non-golfing Australians** visited a golf facility in the previous year for social or leisure reasons.

As with the physical health benefits, the mental health benefits of golf can be measured by avoiding DALYs through golf participation.

Across Australia, the average DALYs associated with depressive and anxiety disorders is 0.012. Multiplying this by the VSLY derives an average depressive and anxiety disorder cost of around \$2,800 per adult, per annum.

In addition to academic literature evidencing mental health benefits of physical exercise, social interaction and time spent in natural landscapes, survey analysis undertaken by Prescience Research found that, once controlling for demographic factors such as age, gender and income, **round golfers have a subjective health and wellbeing score that is 7.1 per cent higher than that of non-round golfers** – the average score for adults was 63.2 (out of 100), while for golf club members it was 78.4 (+15.2) and for round players it was 68.4 (+5.2).

The mental health benefit was valued by applying a 7.1 per cent reduction in the average mental health cost for the portion of Australians who play round golf.

Survey analysis found that, over the previous year, Australian golf club members and round golfers performed around **6.6 million** hours of volunteer work at a golf club. This equates to an average of around 13 hours of volunteer time at each golf club per day of the year.

In addition, Australian golfers participated in an average of 0.8 charity golf days over the last year. Such events contribute to broader investment in the health and wellbeing of Australians; for example, over the last three years, The Longest Day golf event has raised over **\$8 million** to support the Cancer Council's research and support programs.

The annual mental health benefit for all golf players is **\$439 million**.

This equates to an average annual mental health benefit of around **\$200** per round golfer.



NEIGHBOURHOOD AMENITY BENEFITS

Across Australia, golf courses generate an annual neighbourhood amenity benefit of **\$149 million**.

In economic terms, neighbourhood amenity is the value provided to a location by the pleasantness and freedom from the nuisance that exists there. For this project, amenity was measured by the relative increase in land value (not property value) that is proximate to golf courses, controlling for other variables that affect land value.

The modelling was informed by a review of available literature, noting that golf-specific literature is limited.

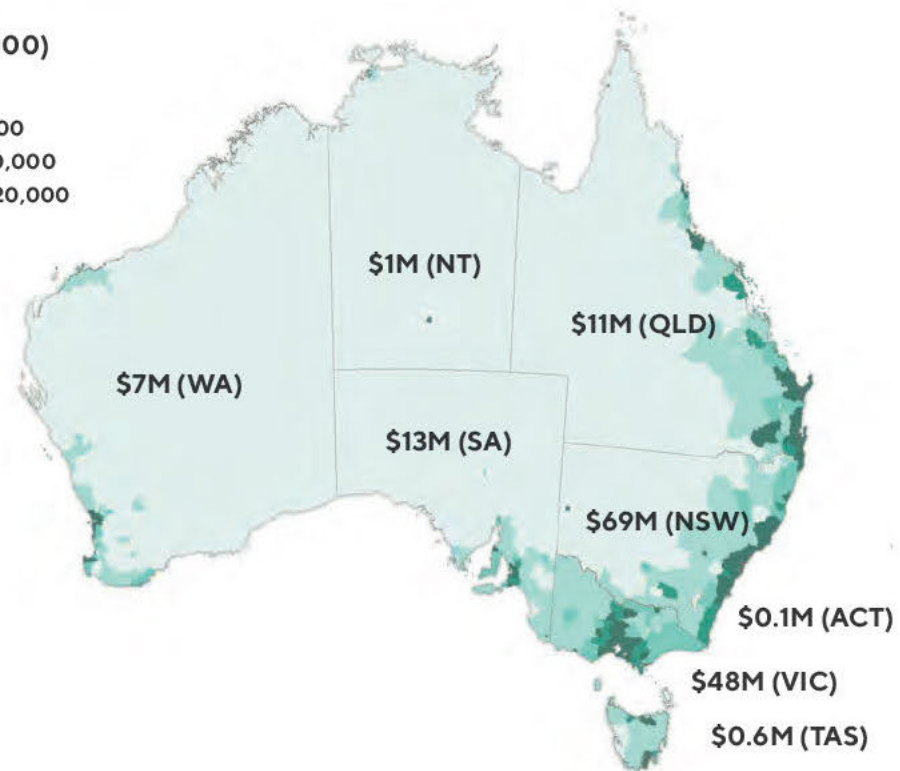
On average, land adjacent to golf courses was found to have a 7.6 per cent premium, and the land value decreases by 0.1 per cent per 10 metres from golf courses.

The annual value of \$149 million removes double counting (proximity to multiple courses) and reflects benefits in urban areas only.



Across Australia, 801 golf courses operate in urban areas and provide neighbourhood amenity uplift.

AMENITY (\$'000)



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Conservation and management of our natural resources is becoming increasingly important.

Golf courses generate important environmental benefits, especially in urban areas where green space is limited and built space is high. In total, there is an estimated 45,000 hectares (450 square kilometres) of golf facilities in urban areas in Australia.

The environmental benefits quantified and explained in this section are:

- Water filtration and purification
- Flood and stormwater protection
- Carbon sequestration
- Urban cooling
- Biodiversity

WATER FILTRATION AND PURIFICATION

Across Australia, water filtration and purification benefits total around **\$114 million** per annum.

Water filtration and purification occur naturally via soil and vegetation. It helps to remove contaminants from water, including bacteria, chemicals or other impurities.

A study undertaken by Parks Victoria calculated that water filtration and purification of metropolitan greenspaces is around \$2,500 per hectare per year in FY24 values. The Australian wide value was calculated by multiplying this unit value by the hectares of golf courses in metropolitan areas.

FLOOD AND STORMWATER PROTECTION

Flood and stormwater protection provide important benefits in urban areas, which total roughly **\$159 million** in Australia each year.

The contoured design and water features of golf courses help to retain or direct excess water. In 2015, Parks Victoria modelled that green space is about double as effective as urban infrastructure in capturing water runoff. In addition, many golf courses will store and re-use rain water.

Golf courses trap and absorb flood and stormwater, assisting to mitigate or alleviate the high costs that increasing climate events are anticipated to cause. This is important, as around 1 in 10 homes in Australia are at risk of flood (Insurance Council of Australia).

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Each year, carbon sequestration services generated by golf courses total around **\$6 million**.

Carbon sequestration is the absorption of carbon dioxide by vegetation. It reduces greenhouse gases within our atmosphere and improves our air and water quality.

An 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen annually to sustain around 85,000 people (Golf Benefits to the Environment, AGIC).

Australia's golf courses and driving ranges produce enough oxygen to sustain around 80 million people.



URBAN COOLING

The urban cooling impact of golf courses provides annual energy cost savings and greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits of **\$12 million**, and annual health benefits of **\$245 million**. These benefits are solely within urban areas, and it is largest in densely populated areas and hot climates.

Construction materials such as steel, brick, concrete and bitumen absorb and retain heat at a higher rate than the organic materials found in natural areas and parklands. This leads to a phenomenon called the urban heat island (UHI) effect, where urban environments can be several degrees higher than that of nearby natural landscapes or parklands.

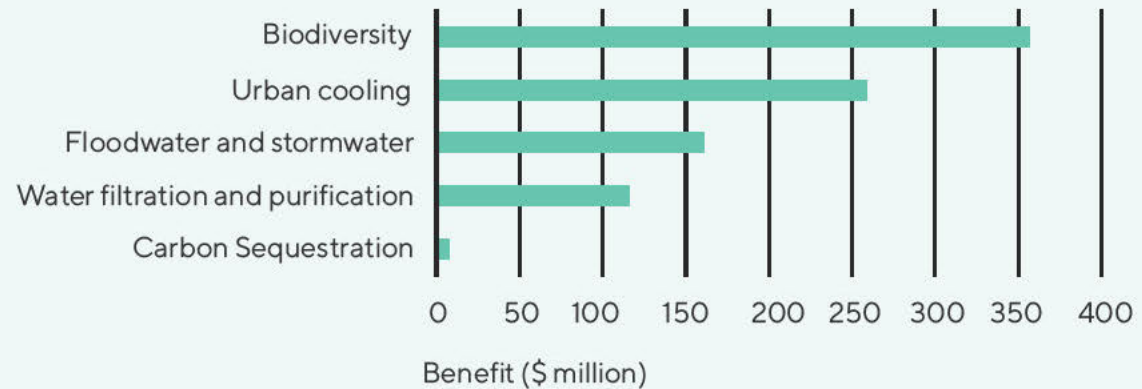
The UHI leads to increased energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and has health implications associated with reduced air quality and an increased prevalence of heat-related diseases.

Breaking the built environment with greenspaces such as golf courses provides benefits to urban residents.

BIODIVERSITY

The biodiversity benefit of golf courses sums to an annual benefit of **\$354 million**. This equates to around \$370,000 per urban golf course.

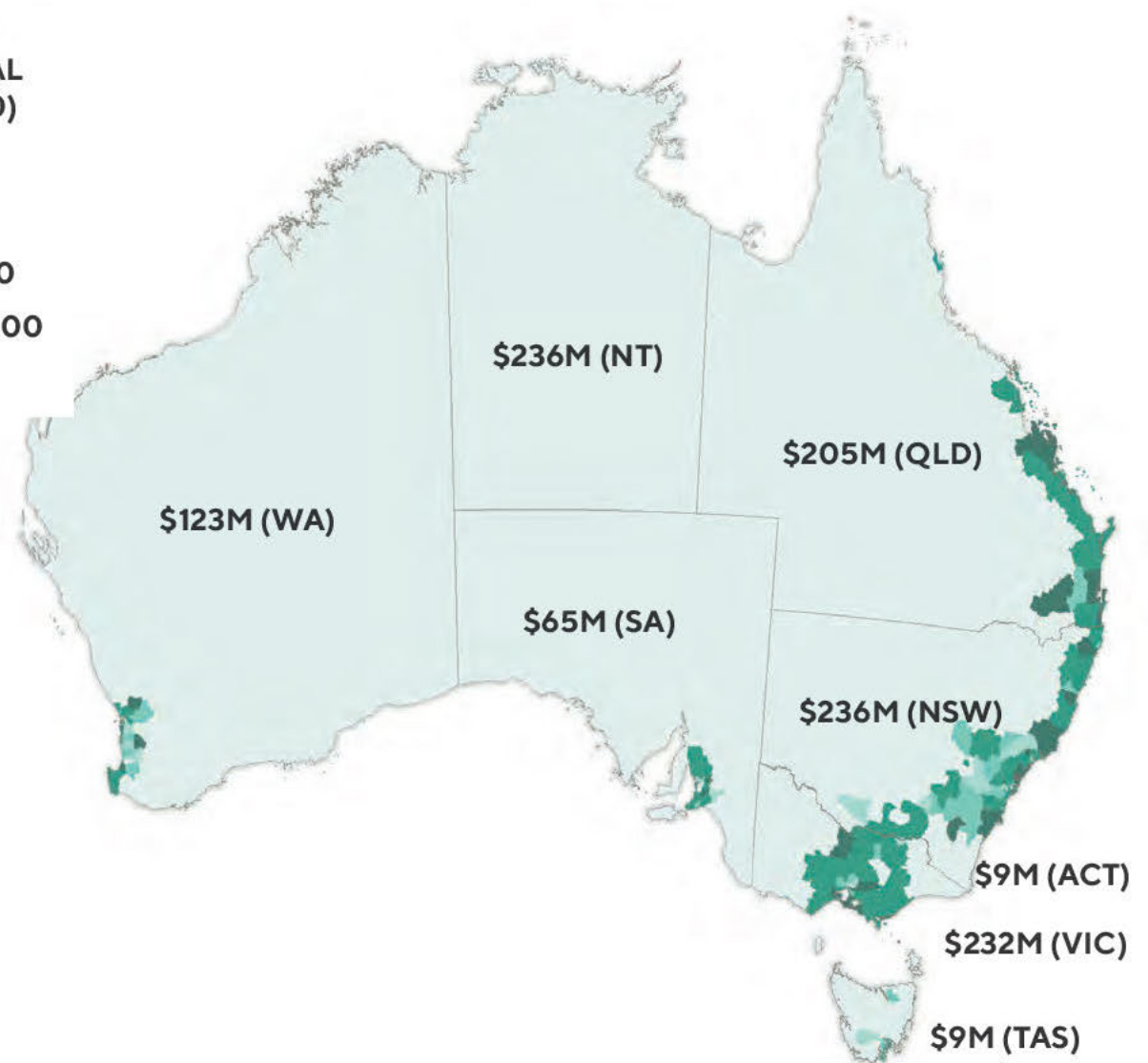
Golf courses can act as wildlife sanctuaries for indigenous flora and fauna. The vast size of golf courses (relative to most urban parks) supports relatively high biodiversity and more resilient ecosystems.



Across a study of 13 golf courses, the University of Melbourne found:

- The structural complexity of vegetation on golf courses is around 50-100% higher than that of residential gardens and urban parklands. This promotes higher soil invertebrate biodiversity and better soil ecosystem services
- Beetle and bug abundance on golf courses is roughly 6-10 times greater than that within urban gardens and parks
- Bee species richness on golf courses is around 3-4 times that of remnant heathlands. This brings higher levels of pollination
- There are around 50% more bird species on golf courses than in urban gardens and parks, with similarly high levels of bird breeding

**ENVIRONMENTAL
BENEFITS (\$'000)**





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Golf and Health Research Review

Prepared for Golf Australia

9th April 2024

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This report has been prepared by Dr Brad Stenner, University of South Australia. Dr Stenner is a sport and health researcher within ARENA (Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity). He is the Australian lead researcher for golf and health and a contributor to the Golf and Health group, a worldwide research group conducting high quality research to evidence the impact of golf on health and wellbeing. Dr Stenner is a member of the research advisory group for EDGA (European Disability Golf Association) contributing to the broader project of inclusive and all abilities golf and classification of disability for golf's bid for inclusion in the Paralympics 2032.

Dr Stenner is an independent researcher with no known conflicts of interest to declare. He has been commissioned by Golf Australia to provide this independent research report. The views expressed in this report are based on the latest available evidence and represent those of the author.

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Background: The importance of physical activity across the lifespan

Achieving the recommended levels of physical activity significantly reduces the risk of many non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, stroke and CVD. Indeed, for adults, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 150mins of moderate intensity physical activity each week, whilst for older adults, WHO recommend 30mins of moderate activity most days, with additional strength/balance activities where possible (WHO: Bull et al., 2020).

Physical inactivity carries significant negative health consequences, with less than 25% of people aged 15 years and over in Australia meeting the national physical activity guidelines (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Whilst participating in aerobic exercise and resistance training can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension, physical inactivity remains a significant issue worldwide. However, despite the known benefits of regular physical activity, people are less likely to meet these targets than ever before, and are more likely to be overweight or obese, have chronic medical conditions that require ongoing care and are more likely to be diagnosed with mental health conditions than ever before (Australian Institute for Health and Welfare, 2022).

Intentional physical activity has been the cornerstone of public health strategies for many decades. Golf, as a source of intentional physical activity, is a sport that is played across the lifespan. It is a sport that many are attracted to at different times in the life, for different reasons. Many of the drivers of participation in golf are related to social networks, community connection, personal achievement and improvement, and a sense of being physical active whilst the exercise itself is not the focus (Stenner et al., 2016; Stenner et al., 2020). Indeed, Australian based research explores the role and importance of golf in adult hood, whereby golf is the only source of physical activity for many, and that without golf, physical activity levels are further reduced, and many would stop exercising altogether (Stenner et al., 2016).

Golf plays a significant role in the lives of over 1,000,000 Australians, the majority of which are regular participants. Many have taken up golf as they are unable to play other sports due to a range of physical and personal factors, such as injury, older age-related physical decline and other sports not easily accommodating these factors. Golf, by design, is easily adaptable for all ages and all abilities, allowing participation in sport into older years and by a wide range of the community, contributing to the health and wellbeing of participants.

The purpose of this report is to provide contemporary evidence of the benefits of playing golf, from a physical, mental, and cognitive health perspective, and providing evidence of the known health-related economic benefit.

METHOD:

The following search strategy provides an example of the rigorous and extensive methodology used to identify the contemporary evidence. Using the authors expertise and knowledge in this area, literature from 2010 onwards was reviewed, including material from published academic papers and grey literature, such as consultancy reports, government, and industry sources.

Table 1. Example of search strategy

Database: EBSCOhost SPORTDiscus, search performed April 2024

S1	Golf	Expanders – apply related word; apply equivalent subjects Search modes – Boolean/Phrase	Results – 124, 597
S2	health OR physical activity OR physical exercise OR exercise OR disease OR Illness OR benefit	Expanders – apply related word; apply equivalent subjects Search modes – Boolean/Phrase	Results – 721, 408
S3	S1 AND S2		Results – 5, 294

KEY FINDINGS:

The benefits of playing golf are the subject of ongoing research and collaboration around the world. The research of Farahmand showed early promise in the role of golf in health and wellbeing, demonstrating that with all other variables being equal, golfers live on average 5 years longer than non-golfers. Since that time the well-publicised scoping review by Murray et al. (2017), and the subsequent 2018 International Consensus Statement on Golf and Health (Murray et al., 2018), has stimulated quality research conducted around the world. The evidence of the health benefits of regular participation in golf is clear, with exciting emerging research showing the rehabilitation and community wellbeing prospects of golf.

Statements on Physical Activity and risk of non-communicable disease

Golfers who walk an 18-hole course complete a total walking distance between 8.7km and 11.25km for 18 holes and can take between 3.5 and 4.5hrs to complete (Luscombe et al., 2017). Based on the available estimates using METS, %HR and VO₂ max, golf is at the lower end of the moderate exercise band (Ainsworth et al., 2011). However, when considering age, fitness levels, pushing buggies and environmental considerations (such as terrain and course location), golf is likely to provide moderate intensity exercise for the vast majority of the participants.

Golfers who play one round of 18 holes per week meet or exceed the weekly physical activity guidelines proposed by WHO (Stenner et al., 2019; Stenner et al., 2023), in turn reducing the risk of many non-communicable disease. The physical activity obtained through playing golf reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, colon, and breast cancer, as well as improving lung function and overall fitness cardiovascular health and fitness. This is a consistent finding across the golf and health related research.

Most recently, Sorbie et al. (2022) systematically reviewed the currently available evidence related to physical health and found good quality evidence of golf contributing to:

1. lower levels of both systolic and diastolic blood pressure
2. improved ratio of HDL to total cholesterol (ie: Lowers cholesterol)
3. improved body composition markers such as lean and fat mass (no significant difference in BMI)

For older adults, golf is often the only source of physical activity. Regularly completing over 200 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity when playing 18 holes of golf, often twice or more per week, golfers will engage in physical activity when playing golf, but will not engage in the same level of physical activity outside of playing golf (Stenner et al., 2016). This is a significant finding, in that the provision and/or location of green space for older adults does not relate to increased physical activity, whereas playing golf in the same green space does.

Regular participation in 18 holes of golf, and thereby meeting or exceeding the physical activity guidelines recommended by WHO, reduces the risk of many cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and improves mental health and general wellbeing. In golf specific populations, golfers have been shown to have lower levels of blood pressure, lower cholesterol, and improved body composition markers. Based on the available data, these health benefits are likely to be obtained directly through playing golf, as many golf participants do not, or are unable, to play other sports or perform higher intensity exercise.

Relationship between golf and physical health

Evidence related to physical health benefits as a result of playing golf is positive. Cross sectional studies have shown golfers are more likely to have greater flexibility and functional reach (Gao et al., 2011), have greater single leg balance (Golfers = 28.1 secs vs Non golfers = 17.1secs) (Tsang & Hui-Chan, 2004) when compared to general population.

When using a 12-week golf program as an intervention strategy with middle aged and ex-service personnel, improvements in dynamic balance were demonstrated (Du Bois et al., 2021) whilst Stockdale et al. (2017) also showed improvements in Timed Up and Go (valid and reliable measure of mobility) testing in older adults, ~14% improvement and ~20% faster respectively.

Emerging evidence suggests golf may have a role in maintaining muscle size and strength (Herrick et al., 2017), under ultrasound imaging of lower limb where significant differences were found between female golfers and non-golfers. Sarcopenia, age related decline in muscle strength and size is a known risk factor for falls in older adults.

Balance and mobility data from Du Bois et al. (2021); Herrick et al. (2017); Stockdale et al. (2017) supports the physical health benefits in golfing and non-golfing populations. Golfers are 20-30% less likely to sustain a fall than the general population (Merom et al., 2012).

For people with chronic conditions, such as osteoarthritis and mobility related issues, golf has been shown to support physical activity levels, improve balance and reduce the risk of falls. Golfers with OA report PA levels almost 4x than non-golfers with OA, and these PA levels are associated with lower BMI, regardless of age and gender (Stenner et al., 2023).

Parkkari et al. (2000) used golf training and participation as intervention and found significant reduction in BMI and sub-maximal aerobic performance in the golfers, when compared to general population controls.

Based on the available data of better dynamic balance, mobility, flexibility and strength, golfers appear to be at significantly less risk of sustaining a life changing fall. Golf is a sustainable source of physical activity for people disability, where other physical activity options such as gym, weight bearing, or other aerobic activity is not possible.

Relationship between golf and mental health

The rate of loneliness, isolation and mental ill health continues to rise in Australia, with 1 in 5 experiencing symptoms within the previous 12 months, and over 40% of Australians experiencing mental ill health in their lifetime (AIHW, ABS National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing 2020-22).

Research strongly suggests playing golf is of significant benefit to the mental health and general wellbeing of participants. Motivators of participation are community and sense of belonging, fun and playing sport in a natural, green environment (Stenner et al 2016, 2019). It is also of significance that golfers chose to play golf in a natural, green environment, but would not choose to do other forms of exercise, such as walking, running or outdoor fitness (Stenner et al, 2016). It is the playing golf that attracts them to exercise, maintaining physical activity levels, not the physical activity in and of itself. The impact of this is seen within the academic literature.

From a mental health perspective, playing golf is associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression as well as low reported psychological distress. Golfers are more likely to report excellent general health, with 91% of golfers reported better than good health, compared to 60% of the general population (Stenner et al, 2019; 2023).

Maintaining physical activity through participation in lower impact golf is important. Many participants take up golf as they are no longer able to participate in other sports such as football, netball, hockey and soccer. These sports play an invaluable role in community support, mental health and overall wellbeing. For people with medical issues that impact on sport participation, such as osteoarthritis, golf is a sport that is safe, sustainable, helps maintain physical activity and contributes to overall health and wellbeing, as well as lower levels of psychological distress. Stenner et al (2023) have shown the significant impact of playing golf for people with osteoarthritis, with lower levels of psychological distress (Kessler 10 score; adjusted mean difference; – 4.0, 95 % CI – 6.5 to – 1.5).

Golf has been shown to have a significant role in the support and recovery for people with mental ill health or substance abuse. Grov and Dahl (2019) report a positive influence of golf through meeting new people, creation of a social meeting place, improved focus and concentration and reduced symptoms. Self-efficacy, self-worth and self-esteem are all improved or benefits are related to playing golf for people with a disability or severe mental health issues (Kim et al, 2011; Carless & Douglass, 2004).

Recent innovation in the use of golf clubs as rehabilitation and community support facilities is showing tremendous impact for people with Dementia and Parkinson's. Data from Golf in Society, provided by Sheffield Hallam University, show participants have improved balance, feel 95% less isolated and > 90% feel happier about their future. Over 80% of their carers feel better supported and more connected as a result of participating in these golf-based programs, whilst 95% report improved mental wellbeing (Golf in Society; Sheffield Hallam University). Hill et al explored the effect of a golf program on people with dementia, carers and staff dementia care facilitates. Golf programs included socialisation, conversation, putting and chipping and driving, followed by adapted play on the course. Golfers reported a sense of freedom and forgetting about their illness, perceived independence, and a sense of belonging with friends and family. For carers, the golf program offered respite, a release of responsibility and sharing the experience (Hill et al., 2021).

For children, golf improves resilience and may contribute to self-esteem, self-efficacy, empathy, and quality of life (Weiss et al., 2016). Through participation in 'The First Tee' program, adolescents and youths developed transferable life skills of emotional management, conflict resolution, help seeking behaviours, and appreciation of diversity, and these benefits are maintained over time (Weiss et al., 2016). Playing golf has also been shown to develop resilience in adolescents, when comparing a 12-week golf program to the same duration soccer program (Schulze, 2019)

The systematic review of Monforte et al. (2021) found high quality evidence of benefits to physical activity levels, improved self-efficacy, and reduced social isolation for people with disability, further demonstrating golf's current impact and future potential to support people with disability.

High quality evidence supports the positive impacts of regular participation in golf, particularly important given the higher rates of loneliness and depression in older adults. The community and social nature of golf is an important social support and connection, helping to manage and prevent social isolation and loneliness in an at-risk group within the community.

Relationship between golf and cognitive health

More recently, golf has become the focus of researchers exploring the cognitive aspect of the game. Golf is much more than a walk in the park, where many complex calculations are performed, requiring cognitive flexibility, working memory, problem solving and executive functioning. Relatively straightforward looking activities, such as working out where to hit the ball, how far to hit it, how much power/strength to use, and adjust based on ground surfaces and impact of wind for example, are far more complicated than what they appear. Improvements in memory and recall for older adults were found in a golf population, and these were significantly greater than that of the general population (Shimada et al., 2018). Improvements in memory, executive function (decision making) attention and learning, increasing by ~10% as a result of participation in golf program (Kanwar et al., 2021). For people recovering following stroke, learning to play golf enhanced sustained attention skills, with no adverse safety risk (Stroehlein et al., 2021). This randomised control trial is evidence of the significant potential for golf to be used as rehabilitation for people with cognitive impairment.

The available results demonstrate a significant positive effect of playing golf on cognitive health, in both the general population and those recovering from, or living with, cognitive decline.

All abilities golf – emerging literature

Golf for people with disability has enjoyed sustained growth over the past 10 years or so. From very humble beginnings, Australian representatives have been at the forefront of development to make golf a sport of choice for people with disabilities. All abilities golf now includes programs, tournaments and pathways for people with a wide range of disability or medical issues that may impact on their ability to play golf. The R&A, together with EDGA (formerly European Disability Golf Association) have a number of current projects exploring the specific health benefits for people with disability. Specific population groups include amputees, vision and hard of hearing, those with neurological and/or spinal cord injury and younger adults with Autism.

Results are emerging, although only a very small number of studies were identified during this search. Kim et al (2011) found that golfers with disability increased perceived self-efficacy, improved overall physical activity and were likely to commit to playing golf in the future, whilst Beukes et al (2023) identified that personal development and a sense of purpose were self-reported benefits of participation for people with visual impairment.

Much work is ongoing, with a significant push in both health benefits and classification of function that will inform the submission for golf's acceptance into future Paralympic events. Studies are being completed by University of South Australia, University of Abertay (UK) and University of Edinburgh (UK), however data/results were not available at the time of this report.

Evidence is limited in specific populations. Self-reported physical activity levels, personal development and sense of purpose were identified. Case studies that provide personal stories are available from R&A and EDGA.

The health economic benefits of golf

The contribution of golf to health, from an economic perspective is a complex process utilising existing data related to best estimate the savings to health budget. In recent years, there have been two publicly accessible reports exploring this topic 1) Australian Golf Industry Council Community Benefits and 2) The Social Value of Golf in the UK report from Sheffield Hallam University.

The overall value and contribution of golf to the local and broader community is has been quantified in the most recent Australian Golf Industry Council Community Benefits project and reporting. From a financial health and wellbeing perspective, it can be estimated in the following two ways:

1. Disability Adjusted Life Years. This is an estimate of health years lost due to the impact of health conditions/disability, which is linked in the available data to meeting/not meeting physical activity levels. According to AGIC recent data, 166,000 Australians would be considered inactive if it weren't for playing golf, and this would have an average health related cost of ~\$2,500 per person, per annum.
2. Estimated health benefits. Using a similar methodology, AGIC consultants have estimated the 'benefits' of golf to be \$192 for physical health, and \$200 for mental health, per person, per year. So total estimated benefit would be approx. \$392 per person, per annum.
3. Sheffield Hallam University have used a Social Return on Investment model, based on sport and physical activity data in England. Utilising physical and mental health diagnosis, or prevention of these based on achieving the recommended amount of physical activity per week, estimates of golf's contribution to this were made. Significantly, playing golf is estimated to have prevented over 15,000 cases of Type 2 Diabetes, > 5000 cases of depression and ~2,600 cases of coronary heart disease/stroke. When combined with other classifications of disease, ~48,000 cases have been prevented, at a cost saving in excess of £175,000,000, approximately £3,500 per person.

Limitations of the review

This current review presents an overview of some of the available research supporting the relationship between golf and health. It is not intended to be a systematic review of all available research, nor contains any subsequent analysis. Study participants, methodology and outcome measures are heterogeneous which prevents any further data pooling and/or meta-analysis.

Despite the rigorous search strategy, not all research may have not been identified and included in this submission.

SUMMARY

This current review has highlighted the academic evidence of the positive relationship between playing golf and health and wellbeing. Golf is a sport that is played across the lifespan, across cultures, disability, age and gender. It is inclusive and easily adaptable to enhance participation.

The results of this review show a critical mass of quality literature, from leading researchers around the world, that demonstrate the impact of golf on regular participants. Playing golf ensures that many Australians meet or exceed the current WHO guidelines on physical activity, and as such, significantly reduces their risk of chronic disease, whilst helping to manage ongoing disease or ill-health. For many, golf is the only form of physical activity they participate in, and without it, the impact on their day-to-day health and wellbeing would be profound.

The benefits of golf are clear. Golfers are happier, healthier and have lower risk of many chronic diseases. Playing 18 holes of golf is associated with improved mental health, improved sense of wellbeing and lower levels of psychological distress. Golf contributes to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities alike. Significant health and health related cost benefits are highlighted.

The provision of 18 hole playing facilities, for both regular and occasional golfers alike, continues to offer physical activity and exercise opportunities for a wide range of community members. These community members are often the same people that will not, or cannot, engage in other sources of physical activity or exercise. The value of golf and golf facilities to local communities is far more than the open green space in which they sit.

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Kate Torgersen, Environmental Golf Solutions (EGS), has over 20 years practical experience in the golf course and conservation industries. The following report outlines the potential environmental and sustainable management of Moore Park Golf Course. Prepared for the collective submission from Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club to the NSW Governments consultation.

Golf and Nature: Fostering Harmony Between Sport and Environmental Conservation

Golf, often associated with lush green fairways and meticulously manicured landscapes, might seem like an unlikely ally to nature. However, this industry has begun to redefine its relationship with the environment, striving to become a champion of ecological conservation and biodiversity preservation.

Historically, golf courses were synonymous with excessive water usage, chemical treatments and habitat destruction. Yet in recent years, a transformative shift has occurred within the industry. Golf courses worldwide, especially those across Australia, are increasingly embracing sustainability and harmonising their existence with nature.

Within five years I have personally grown my business from one day a week to a full-time business employing staff and utilising bushland contractors for specialised work. The demand for specialists providing habitat restoration expertise to golf clubs is at an all-time high.

One of the key strategies adopted by many golf courses is the restoration and preservation of natural habitats. Courses are converting previously mown areas to biodiversity areas introducing indigenous plant species, creating habitats for wildlife and restoring critical ecosystems. The incorporation of native grasslands, wetlands and heathland areas not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also serves as havens for local flora and fauna.

In addition, these spaces have evolved into crucial biodiversity hotspots. From birds, pollinators and butterflies to reptiles and mammals, golf courses often have the most diverse array of species within local communities. They provide sanctuaries for wildlife and act as stepping stones, connecting fragmented habitats in urbanised landscapes.

Studies conducted by numerous universities have shown that Australian golf courses provide major biodiversity value, urban cooling and carbon sequestration. University of Melbourne and Griffith University

researchers examined the biodiversity benefit on golf courses in urban areas. Three years of field collection suggests that across all the fauna groups investigated, there are huge biodiversity benefits from retaining golf courses in the urban landscape. The diversity of fauna in near by residential areas and smaller urban parks is much lower than that in the average golf course.

'The diversity of fauna in nearby residential areas and smaller urban parks is much lower than that in the average golf course.'

They did find several species of fauna in residential areas and small parks but to retain the full suite of fauna species currently in these urban regions, keeping large green spaces such as golf courses with structurally complex vegetation, is critical.

Data from the Melbourne University Study 2011

Environmental stewardship has become a cornerstone of golf's ethos, with courses implementing measures to reduce their ecological footprint. Advanced water management techniques, such as using recycled water, installing efficient irrigation systems, and creating natural water features, are now commonplace. These practices not only conserve water but also help in stormwater management and improve water quality for the surrounding communities. Additionally, the promotion of organic and sustainable turf management practices has gained traction. Integrated pest management, minimal chemical usage and eco-friendly maintenance routines are preserving ecosystems while ensuring playable surfaces.

Golf has the potential to be the leaders in sports sustainability. No other sport has the reach that golf has: Out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), golf can act on at least 11 goals.

A recent report put out by the Australian Golf Industry Council showed that \$890 million is the value of environmental benefits of golf each year through biodiversity, flood and stormwater protection, water filtration and purification, carbon sequestration and urban cooling. Beyond conservation efforts, golf courses contribute to carbon sequestration and

climate change mitigation. Their extensive green spaces, trees and vegetation act as carbon sinks, offsetting carbon emissions and contributing to a healthier environment.

However, this transformation is an ongoing journey. While many courses have made commendable strides, there's room for further innovation and improvement, especially within public facilities. Collaboration with environmental organisations, research institutions and government bodies can lead to the implementation of more sustainable practices and the development of new conservation strategies.

Golf and nature need not exist in conflict. When thoughtfully managed, golf courses can co-exist in harmony with the natural world, offering not just a place for recreation but also functioning as vital ecosystems that support biodiversity, environmental health and local communities.

Rewilding Golf for Future Communities to Enjoy

Rewilding golf courses presents an innovative approach to reshape these landscapes into thriving ecosystems that benefit future communities.

Public golf courses especially have a unique opportunity to shape not only the environmental management of these courses but also shape the new generation of golfers who learn how to play and appreciate the green space on which they play. The concept involves selectively returning portions of courses to a more natural state, re-introducing native vegetation and creating wildlife habitats.

By dedicating areas to rewilding, golf courses can become biodiversity hotspots, offering opportunities for local flora and fauna to flourish. Often these areas obtain more management than neighbouring bushland reserves. These rewilded zones can provide essential ecosystem services, such as improved water retention, enhanced soil health and increased biodiversity, contributing to a healthier environment for surrounding communities.

Moore Park GC has already embarked on this process by becoming one of the first clubs to undertake Syngenta's Operation Pollinator program. Two areas were selected and converted into pollinator plots, utilising species from the local plant community type (PCT) Sydney Coastal Sand Mantle Heath. These species were grown by local community nurseries, Randwick City Council and IndigiGrow. Interpretive signage

informing golfers and walkers about the program and importance of increasing pollinator plantings within urban communities.

These transformed spaces offer residents and visitors the chance to reconnect with nature, fostering a sense of stewardship and appreciation for the natural world while promoting sustainability for generations to come.

Examples:

Environmental Golf Solutions was engaged by the City of Boroondara to conduct a sustainability assessment which led to the design and implementation of Vegetation Management Plan (VMP). The plan would see the conversion of old run-down garden beds, out-of-play mown areas and tee surrounds converted into biodiversity zones. Currently there is approximately 12ha of mown rough at Freeway golf course which the VMP identified could be reduced to 4Ha, allowing 8ha to be converted into biodiversity zones.

This process began in 2022 with the conversion of approximately 1ha and the creation of an education garden for the local community to visit and learn about flora and fauna of that site. Initiatives included creating an information sign located at the education garden and revegetation using indigenous species grown by the local community nursery.

Implementing Rewilding at Moore Park Golf Course

Rewilding areas within Moore Park Golf Course presents a transformative opportunity to convert portions of the landscape into vibrant natural habitats, fostering biodiversity and enhancing ecological resilience. By embracing rewilding practices, the course can reintroduce indigenous species, selected from the local PCT Sydney Coastal Sand Mantle Heath to create wildlife corridors and establish habitats for local flora and fauna. This particular PCT is recognised as part of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS), a threatened ecological community under state and federal legislation. Increasing ESBS species within Moore Park GC will provide valuable connectivity to the little remaining remnants within Centennial Parklands that have become isolated due to clearing.

This approach not only bolsters the course's environmental sustainability but also offers myriad benefits to the community. It provides opportunities for educational programs, nature walks and wildlife observation, engaging residents, and visitors in appreciating and understanding local ecosystems.

Furthermore, rewilding Moore Park Golf Course with indigenous flora can lead to improved soil health, enhanced water retention and increased carbon sequestration, contributing to a healthier environment for the surrounding area while creating a legacy of conservation and ecological stewardship.

In recent years, a transformative shift has occurred within the industry. Golf courses worldwide, especially those across Australia, are increasingly embracing sustainability and harmonizing their existence with nature.

Revegetating the golf course to reintroduce local indigenous plants including over 60,000 m² of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub would have the flow-on effect of not just reinstating local flora and restoring the landscape but encouraging back local fauna such as birds, pollinators, all whilst create carbon sinks and urban cooling.

The proposed design also allows for conversion of 67000 m² of current irrigated/mown land to naturalised areas, reducing water use and maintenance.

By promoting a strong bond between golf and the environment, we not only improve the playing experience but also establish a positive impact on our planet. This dedication to sustainable practices ensures that golf will not only be a game enjoyed on well-maintained landscapes, but also a powerful contributor to preserving our natural world for future generations.

Sustainable Golf at Glenelg Golf Club

Monina Gilbey, Biodiversity Manager, Glenelg Golf Club

Glenelg Golf Club's main objective is to make its club more environmentally and economically sustainable to ensure future members have not only a financially viable club, but a club which minimises its effect on the environment and contributes to local biodiversity.

The Club believes that its work not only lifts the profile of the club but promotes the positive environmental profile of all golf clubs and the sport of golf.

In late 2022, Glenelg Golf Club applied for a National Banksia Sustainability Award. It was the first golf club to apply in 34 years of the award and became finalists in the biodiversity category. Despite not winning the award, it proved that its work is worthy of its status as one of Australia's brightest leaders, changemakers and innovators making a positive impact on the world.

As part of their Banksia Award nomination, Glenelg was required to outline how our environmental activities align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our work, outlined below, demonstrates why Glenelg Golf Club is seen as high-level changemakers and leaders in the biodiversity and environmental sustainability space.

SDG14 - Life Below Water

Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR): the ASR system reduces our reliance on mains water and prevents the nearby airport from flooding if the local creek overflows. It slows the flow of water and reduces pollutants flowing out to the sea. The water ponds create habitat for frogs, turtles, yabbies, native fish and birds.

Class A Water: Course Superintendent, Tim Warren, has negotiated a 50ML contract which will ensure that we have two months of water supply - which creates a backup should the bores of our current Aquifer Storage Recovery system fail or if there is a drier year.

Native Freshwater Fish: Biodiversity Manager, Monina Gilbey has been working with the Nature Glenelg Trust to assess our water

courses and introduce various native fish. During the assessment process, we found one native fish species in one of our water courses.

Course Enhancement Works – irrigation improvements: The club is replacing its ageing irrigation infrastructure, therefore avoiding overwatering and watering of rough – which reduces weeds and chemical inputs and runoff. After completion of six holes, there are already water savings.

Plastic tee collection: Tees are often broken and are found all over the course. The club worked with a local men's shed to make broken tee boxes. Some members are also collecting broken tees as they play and have collected over 3.5kg of plastic.

Reducing plastic tees on the course prevents plastic going into stormwater drains or ending up in our water courses.

Organic fertilisers: Tim Warren has been experimenting with organic fertilisers to reduce reliance on petrochemical based-fertilisers and potential runoff into water hazards and watercourses.

SDG 15: Life on Land

Sustainable agriculture: Glenelg held a world first golf course foraged indigenous foods degustation dinner. Plants from our course were harvested from the course for

the five-course to create the '*Grazing The Course*' degustation dinner.

An Australian first: four golf courses receiving a major government grant: In 2021, Glenelg co-ordinated a project for the four group one (top tier) golf courses in Adelaide to successfully apply for over \$100,000 for a Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant.

Including the in-kind costs from all of the clubs, a local men's shed and Trees for Life, this project is worth more than \$200,000 over four years.

This project aims to create habitat over 250 hectares of land - a larger land space than the recently established 208-hectare Glenthorne National Park. Over 15,000 plants will be planted throughout four courses and connect pockets of habitat within our courses.

The project will establish a plant ark where seeds and cuttings from rare and vulnerable indigenous plants found at some of the golf courses can be shared and preserved at all of four of the courses – creating backup populations and increasing seedstock for indigenous plant projects around Adelaide.

Host site for Adelaide's first coastal invertebrate study: Alex Stolarski from EntoSearch received a Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant to conduct a survey on

coastal invertebrates. The study, which ran for seven months, is the first extensive insect study to be conducted in Adelaide. Insect specimens pinned as part of the study will be donated to the SA Museum where they will provide an insight into the insect profile of Adelaide and provide data for any future insect studies.

The final study results show that Glenelg Golf Club has 344 different insect species - 74 species were found only at our course – and not observed at the other sites during the survey.

Urban Microbat Survey: Glenelg Golf Club was a survey site for four surveys. The survey findings have not yet been finalised, but preliminary data from the summer and spring survey recorded thousands of calls and five bats at Glenelg Golf Club, one of which – the Little Forest Bat – is not often found on the Adelaide Plains.

Habitat planting: Glenelg Golf Club is increasing plantings of *Adriana quadripartita*, *Cullen australasicum* and *Gahnia filum* to create much-needed habitat for the Bitterbush Blue Butterfly, the Chequered Swallowtail and the Yellowish Sedge Skipper - a butterfly being rewilded by Green Adelaide.

Rewilding the Yellowish Sedge Skipper: Biodiversity Manager, Monina has been working with Green Adelaide as the golf course liaison to rewild this butterfly which is extinct in the Adelaide metropolitan area. Green Adelaide have been working for 20 years to reintroduce this butterfly.

Monina has assisted with care of the larvae, releases and follow-up surveys at Royal Adelaide Golf Club. We are planting more of the habitat plant *Gahnia filum* (Chaffy Saw Sedge) for future releases at our club.

Chequered Swallowtail Butterfly preservation: A rare visitor to Adelaide – our course houses its host plant which is classified as endangered on the Adelaide Plains. Monina and a friend from Green Adelaide have been rescuing the caterpillars from wasp predation and raising them at home for later release.

Preserving threatened plant species and protecting indigenous vegetation:

Glenelg Golf Club is one of five sites in Adelaide where the rare *Olearia passeroides* ssp *glutescens* was planted. This species was at a critical point with only two individuals left in Adelaide. The Seed Conservation Centre of SA and Green Adelaide (the former Natural Resource Management Board), collected seed and have propagated plants to try to increase the population of this plant and protect it from becoming extinct.

The course contains also conservation-rated indigenous plants. We are protecting existing – and newly- found plants – as well as planting new stock. The clubhouse garden includes rare plants and various indigenous bulbs, flowering plants and grasses to create habitat for insect pollinators.

Course enhancement works – declared weed tree replacement and naturalised rough: Tree removal - some of which are declared weeds – are being replaced on an almost five to one basis and will lead to tree canopy expansion. Shrub planting will augment the urban refuge for a variety of fauna, provide shade as the temperatures increase and reduce the heat load of our local area.

2.5 hectares of managed turf has been converted into naturalised rough. These areas - one area planted with conservation-rated species - will provide more areas of indigenous vegetation, connecting vegetation pockets and creating more wildlife corridors.

Reduction in plastic use and food miles: we have reduced the use of plastic clamshells in our bistro. Our kitchen garden allows us to only harvest what we need and reduces vegetable plastic wrap as well as food miles and carbon emissions.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

We have formed relationships with many people different organisations. We have worked with:

1. A local Kaurna elder to create a Welcome to Country specific to Glenelg Golf Club and work with him to educate staff about how his ancestors used the land on which the club sits.
2. the City of West Torrens to undertake work on our verge and increase the efficacy of our habitat connectivity project.
3. Green Adelaide and research organisations to conduct biodiversity surveys.
4. The Nature Glenelg Trust to introduce native freshwater fish.
5. Other group one golf courses to swap plant material, create habitat connectivity and control foxes.
6. Trees for Life as a plant growing partner.
7. A local seed collector and Trees for Life to collect and preserve indigenous plant species.
8. A local men's shed to make bird boxes and broken tee boxes.
9. AFRIYEA Golf Academy in Uganda - Monina is in regular contact with staff about their latest projects and is part of an international group to support their work.

The broader benefit has been the environmental legacy building to protect the biodiversity and seedbank of indigenous plants for future generations. Creating a more biodiverse and environmentally sustainable club is not only a gift to our future members, but a sign of their commitment to local urban biodiversity and the long-term protection of local indigenous flora and fauna.

Our programs disprove a common misconception that golf courses are a drain on the environment. We are protecting the remnant indigenous flora that would not survive if the golf course did not exist. Glenelg Golf Club is also providing a home and a safe place to breed for the numerous birds, reptiles, frogs, fish and insects that are found on our course.

The Club believes that it is leading the way in promoting environmental awareness, as well as undertaking a broad range of environmental and sustainability projects. We are recognised nationally and internationally as an outstanding example of a sporting club taking positive action to protect biodiversity and become more sustainable.

Our actions are creating direct sustainability outcomes not only in relation to our own course, but also broader sustainability benefits through the linkages they have created with their community, with other courses in Adelaide and nationally and internationally through the showcasing of their activities. View our programs [here](#).

Glenelg Golf Club is raising the profile of sustainable golf in Australia and promoting the positive work of golf courses.



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Which Way is Municipal Golf Going?

March 28, 2024

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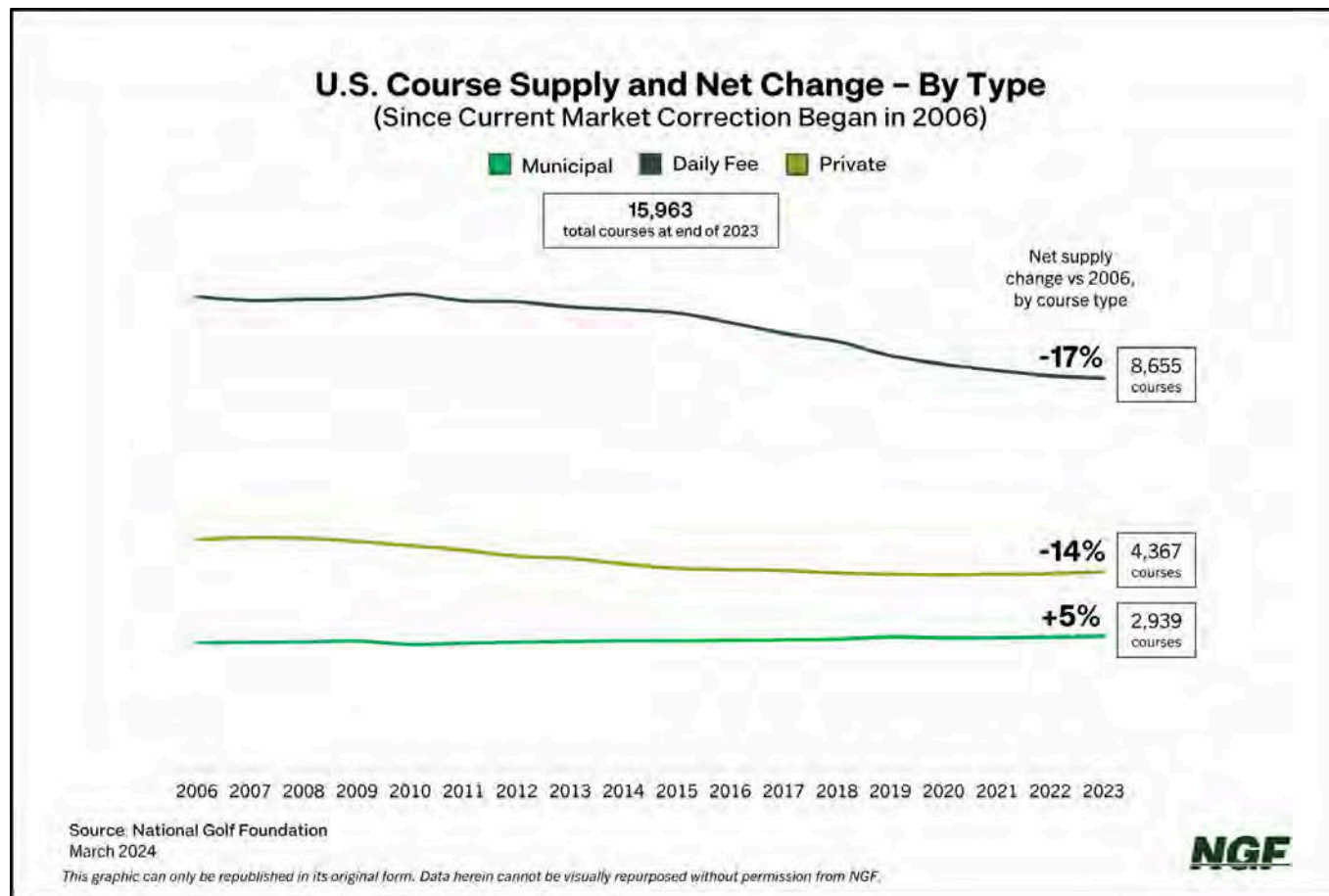
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Many NGF *Fortnight* readers might be surprised to learn that the number of municipal courses nationwide has actually increased over the past two decades.

There's been a net gain of more than 140 muni courses since 2004, amidst a backdrop of a market correction that's contributed to a 13% decline in U.S. golf supply over a 20-year span. The increase is in contrast with the broader reductions and the public/publicized challenges municipal golf encounters in some areas.

Municipal golf – defined as facilities owned or operated by government entities – is not facing an existential threat. In fact, the 2,939 municipal courses currently operating in the U.S. is an all-time high and represents just over 18% of the country's overall golf course supply. One of them, Memorial Park in Houston, which was renovated prior to the pandemic in 2019 and sees over 65,000 rounds played annually, was the site of last week's PGA Tour Houston Open.

The increase in muni supply has been driven primarily through **acquisitions and conversions**, with municipalities taking over daily fee facilities or private clubs to provide affordable recreation for community residents.



This isn't to say municipal golf doesn't have challenges.

There are still high-profile fights for survival... and situations where the essence and economics of municipal golf aren't well understood.

Making a profit isn't necessarily the primary motivation that drives a municipality to offer golf as a recreational amenity. In many situations, a

course is subsidized just like public parks, the county pool, local senior center, tennis complex or basketball facilities.

That said, municipal golf is generally in a better economic situation than pre-pandemic. Many of the recent markets we've been in and studied are looking to reinvest in upgrades at their golf facilities. Some of these courses that were being subsidized by a municipality's general fund suddenly have fund balances they didn't have four years ago. In a recent operator survey, almost three-quarters of municipal facilities indicate they're in "good or excellent" health, a proportion that's up from recent years.

Dire situations are fewer in number, although it's important to note that many aging muni facilities face costly infrastructure improvements or upgrades. In markets with several, or many, public golf options, courses like these on pricey property close to major population centers can draw intense interest for potential development.

While a lack of profitability at some municipal courses isn't surprising, the reality is that close to 75% of all public-agency golf facilities collect enough revenue to cover on-site labor and maintenance expenses.

From an interpretation standpoint, one of the bigger hindrances for muni golf is that there are no standardized accounting principles. This can make it difficult to define profitability within the world of municipal golf. Some municipalities tack on deeper off-course obligations such as administrative overhead, retirement system commitments, depreciation, and other general fund service charges, as well as "below the line" items such as debt service

and capital expenditures, meaning many facilities can fall short of covering all these associated expenses. Others won't.

Municipal golf has a long and storied place in the game's history.

These facilities are often where golfers play for the first time and where golf is most affordable and accessible. If you take a close look at who is playing at your local muni course, chances are you'll find a customer base that looks like a diverse cross-section of local residents of all ages, genders, and ethnic backgrounds.

- In many cases, these munis provide an oasis of open space in areas often choked by over-development.
- On average, the cost of an 18-hole round at muni courses is about 8% less than at non-resort daily fee courses.
- 71% of Core golfers (8+ rounds annually) indicate they had some of their earliest golf experiences at a municipal course.

Municipal golf is vital for the game's future growth, and any reported demise is greatly exaggerated. Right now, the muni golf universe is larger and perhaps healthier than ever.

Next

Fortnight.

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Ship Sticks Secrets to a Hassle-Free Buddies Golf Trip

Whether you're the head planner of your upcoming buddies golf trip or simply along for the ride, we've gathered a few easy ways to keep everyone in your group happy.

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Golf Course Turf, Soil and Water Quality Diagnostic Testing

As humans, we see our primary care physician on a regular basis to proactively evaluate our vital signs. Likewise, a superintendent should perform frequent diagnostic testing on their golf course.

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We've long known that higher launch and lower spin is a powerful combination for generating consistently long and straight tee shots. A key factor in optimizing launch conditions, one often overlooked, is ...

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Contact us

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4577

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ACUSHNET COMPANY

Acushnet Australia

PO Box 112, Braeside, Victoria, 3195

Tel: +61 3 9540 5000 Fax: +61 3 9540 5050

Tuesday, 16 April 2024

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As Managing Director of Acushnet Australia Pty Ltd I write in support of the joint submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective (the Collective).

By way of introduction, Acushnet Australia is the parent company of the premium golf brands Titleist, FootJoy and Scotty Cameron and Vokey. Acushnet is one of the largest golf companies in the world with annual sales exceeding \$2.5 Billion USD.

Acushnet is a company that focuses heavily on developing industry best products in all of the golf categories that we compete within. Further we occupy leading market positions across many key industry categories so are heavily connected with the sport.

We have seen a very strong resurgence within the game of golf across Australia post Covid. Indeed, there are now hundreds of thousands of golfers across NSW and within Sydney each week being physically and mentally active, enjoying time with family, friends and playing golf with people they have never met before teeing it up on that day.

Importantly the Australian Golf Industry and Sydney in particular requires public access, entry level and pathway courses like Moore Park to survive and prosper over time. Moore Park Golf Club is incredibly important as it is a welcoming place where people of all ages and backgrounds skills can learn to enjoy the fantastic game of golf.

Golf is indeed a game that is fantastic to play, fantastic for your mental and physical health and fantastic for building and sustaining friendships.

By re-purposing Moore Park and limiting capacity you will limit the opportunities for hundreds of thousands of beginner golfers to have a place to learn and enjoy the game. Without a place to learn golf, how can they ever love the game and create in some cases golf-based friendships that last a lifetime.

The Australian Golf Industry is working together to demonstrate the value golf provides for the community. We are proud of our contribution to the [Australian Golf Strategy](#) (2022-2025) to set a vision for golf's future and a plan for growth for the entire sport. Our most recent collaboration to develop the [Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report](#) (2023) is a valuable resource to tell our story better to the wide-ranging sectors golf intersects.

ACUSHNET COMPANY

Acushnet Australia

PO Box 112, Braeside, Victoria, 3195

Tel: +61 3 9540 5000 Fax: +61 3 9540 5050

Moore Park Golf Course is an extremely important and busy public golf facility providing significant benefits to the community. Reducing 18-holes of golf will have significant implications that will affect our membership, along with the many people that play golf at the course.

Acushnet Australia supports the **Alternate Proposal** presented by the Collective to the NSW Government. The Alternate Proposal is a solution that makes sure the current golf participants and the non-golfing community have access to high quality green open space to meet their needs.

I congratulate Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club for dedicating the time and expertise to prepare the submission. Company ask you, Premier of NSW to consider the submission as the right way to proceed to retain and improve the 18-hole golf course and create new and improved facilities for recreation at Moore Park South, to benefit the whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a conversation on Moore Park Golf and how any changes will impact our members.

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Arnold
Managing Director
Acushnet Australia Pty Ltd

8 April 2024



The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Re: Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As Chair of the [Australian Golf Industry Council](#) (AGIC) I write in support of the joint submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective (the Collective).

The AGIC was founded in 2006 to provide a forum to help unite the industry on agreed industry wide initiatives. In 2009 AGIC became an incorporated association and has worked together to develop valuable research to position golf as an integral community asset.

The current strategic focus areas of the AGIC are government relations and strategic collaboration. Two significant projects have been completed in recent years that demonstrate our collective commitment to empowering individuals, communities, industry and stakeholders:

- [Australian Golf Strategy](#) (2022-2025) – a clear vision for golf’s future and a plan for growth for the entire sport. Our purpose to inspire more Australians to play more golf, building on our belief that all golf is golf and that all of us can be golfers. **Working together** we will position golf as a sport for life and fun for all.
- [Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report](#) (2023) – demonstrates the substantial economic (\$1.4 billion), social (\$1 billion) and environmental (\$0.9 billion) benefits that golf contributes to everyday Australia, of which NSW benefits the greatest. Partnering with leading consultants SGS Economics & Planning provided robust methodology to quantify and clarify this to serve as a valuable resource to the industry, our partners and stakeholders, and the wide-ranging sectors golf intersects, leading to broader conversations about golf and its place and value in the Australian culture.

In 2024, the AGIC will extend the community benefits report to detail the benefits of golf facility types. The ecosystem of golf incorporates on-course golf at private clubs, member/public access clubs and public golf courses, and driving ranges, simulators, mini-golf, and alternate formats (foot golf, disc golf). These facility types represent how the Australian community participate in golf and engage with golf venues for non-golfing activities (of which more than a third of Australians do every year).

Moore Park Golf Course is an extremely important asset in the heart of Sydney, providing endless benefits to the community. In fact, the course alone provides \$14.82 million in community benefits, including \$6.19 million economic, \$5.64 million social and \$2.99 million environmental benefits. This data is made possible through our 2023 project and continued partnership with SGS Economics & Planning. As one of Australia’s busiest public courses, reducing 18-holes of golf will have significant ramifications.

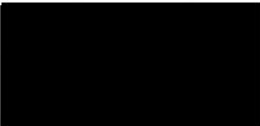
A recent collaboration with [Neighbourlytics](#) shows that Moore Park Golf Course is within the top 4% of places for community amenity around the country (summary attached), which holds true for the invaluable contribution the entire Moore Park precinct currently provides the community as a destination for many diverse leisure and recreation activities.

The **Alternate Proposal** presented by the Collective is an outstanding solution that the NSW Government can adopt and work together with the golf, sport and parks industry to develop in full. It represents our ingrained belief that golf venues provide more for their surrounding communities than what is understood. Best practice design ensures at the 500,000 current golf participants at Moore Park and the non-golfing community have access to green open space to meet their needs.

I extend my regard to the internal and external expertise engaged in preparing the submission and implore you, as Premier of NSW, to consider the Alternate Proposal in its entirety and justifiable defence for 18-hole golf course and new and improved amenity in the abundance of open space available, for the benefit of all.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a conversation on Moore Park South and in particular the contribution golf makes and can continue to provide for generations to come.

Yours sincerely



Karen Lunn

Chair, Australian Golf Industry Council
CEO, WPGA Tour of Australasia

The [AGIC](#) incorporates the following industry bodies:

- Australian Sports Turf Managers Association (ASTMA)
- Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA)
- Golf Australia (GA)
- Golf Management Australia (GMA)
- PGA of Australia (PGA)
- Society of Australian Golf Course Architects (SAGCA)
- Women's Professional Golfers Association Tour of Australasia (WPGA)

STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIAN GOLF 2022 – 2025

OUR PURPOSE

More Australians playing more golf

OUR PHILOSOPHY

All golf is golf and all of us can be golfers

OUR POSITIONING

A sport for life and fun for all

Strategic Pillars

Strategic Enablers

Tell our story better

Attract new golfers

Grow our core

Attract new fans & grow revenue

Work together

Ambition

Golf is seen as a sport for life and fun for all

More Australians playing more golf – in all its forms

Golf clubs and facilities are vibrant, solvent, sustainable community hubs

An exciting summer of golf and new revenue to reinvest in growth

Reduce fragmentation and grow golf as efficiently and collaboratively as possible

What is Success?

Grow golf's audience and address misconception as a sport for few

More golfers having great golf experiences

Healthy clubs and facilities that reflect their communities

Great events and digital products that grow passion and revenue to reinvest

A more aligned, less fragmented industry

What will we do?

Promote the “3Ps” – our purpose, philosophy and positioning – at every opportunity

Rollout national participation programs, embrace off-course facilities and grow golf among women, kids and families

Support clubs and facilities with targeted services and invest in workforce development

Create a compelling ‘Summer of Golf’ with a simplified commercial proposition, and build our digital portfolio

Continue to work together as an industry, removing duplication and silos

AUSTRALIAN
GOLF
STRATEGY



SUMMARY **DEMOGRAPHICS** **ATTRACTORS**
ACTIVITY **MOVEMENT** **ACCESSIBILITY**
K-VALUES **TRENDS**

REPORTS MENU ▾

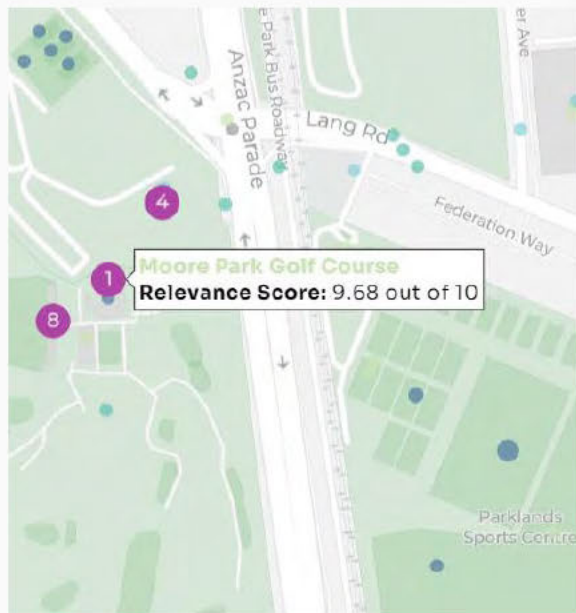
Your standard neighbourhood reports ▾

Generated from Discover (1 of 50)

Moore Park ✕

Your customised reports ▾

Sample reports >



Important places



ANALYST TIPS

Are any local amenities major attractors?

Any local amenity with a relevance score of 9 or higher is within the top 10% of places that share its category across the country. This marks the amenity as an important asset to the neighbourhood's immediate community, as well as also potentially a much wider audience.

Which are the most 'important' local amenities?

Amenities that people love and feel connected to may not always be the 'busiest' locations, but are influential to local people.



Filter to build your stakeholder map and list:

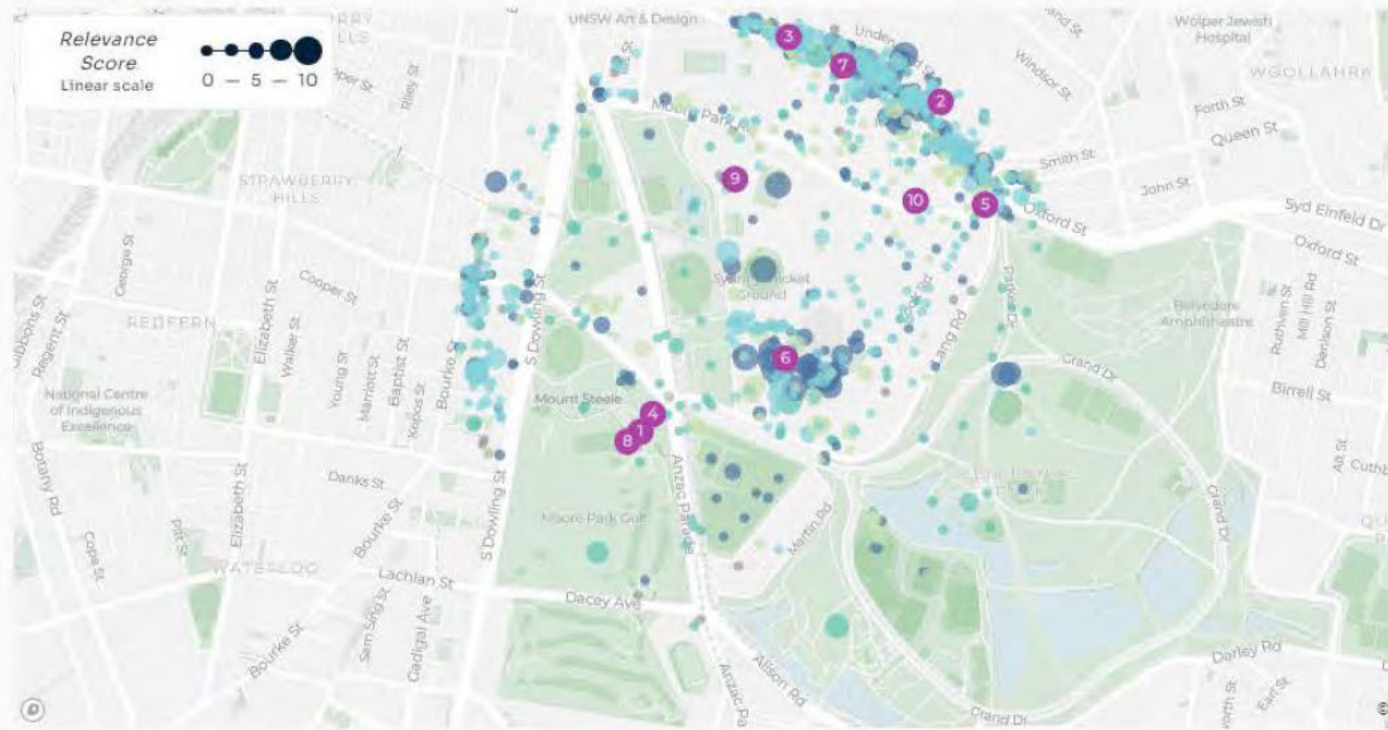
DESTINATIONS

COMMUNITY

BUSINESS & SERVICES

PHYSICAL

Important Places on the map



Other reports available. [Go to Discover](#) → to generate this map for another location.

Most Important Community

140 total across Clubs & Religion, Education, Government & Community Services, and Health & Wellness

Top 9 Community stakeholders

1 Moore Park Golf Course
 (Sport & Fitness Organisation)

4 The Toll House
 (Sport & Fitness Organisation)

5 Combine Air Paddington
 (Sport & Fitness Organisation)

2 Paddington Dentistry
 (Medical & Allied Health Service)

3 Arisoo Spa Paddington
 (Health & Wellbeing Service)

6 Moore Park Golf Driving Range
 (Sport & Fitness Organisation)

7 Paddo RSL
 (Club or Community Association)

8 World Gym Moore Park
 (Sport & Fitness Organisation)

9 Sporting Club of Sydney
 (Sport & Fitness Organisation)



Generate your CSV

Access the complete list of stakeholder filter including address, phone number information.

Most important local places and stakeholders (by subcategory)

16 April 2024

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As CEO of The Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA), I write in support of the joint submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective (the Collective).

ASGA stands as the foremost advocate for brands, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in the sector. Established in 1981, our unwavering commitment lies in fostering the growth of our dynamic industry and championing the interests of our esteemed membership base. Our members play an integral role in the golf industry, serving as major equipment suppliers to the game of golf.

The Australian Golf Industry is working together to demonstrate the value golf provides for the community. We are proud of our contribution to the [Australian Golf Strategy](#) (2022-2025) to set a vision for golf's future and a plan for growth for the entire sport. Our most recent collaboration to develop the [Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report](#) (2023) is a valuable resource to tell our story better to the wide-ranging sectors golf intersects.

Moore Park Golf Course is an extremely important and busy public golf facility providing significant benefits to the community. Reducing 18-holes of golf will have significant implications that will affect our membership, along with the many people that play golf at the course.

ASGA supports the **Alternate Proposal** presented by the Collective to the NSW Government. The Alternate Proposal is a solution that makes sure the current golf participants and the non-golfing community have access to high quality green open space to meet their needs.

I congratulate Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club for dedicating the time and expertise to prepare the submission. I ask you, Premier of NSW to consider the submission as the right way to proceed to retain and improve the 18-hole golf course and create new and improved facilities for recreation at Moore Park South, to benefit the whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a conversation on Moore Park Golf and how any changes will impact our members.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Bajada
Executive Director
Australian Sporting Goods Association

Australian Sports Turf Managers Association
ABN 96 053 205 888
Suite 1 / 752 Blackburn Road
Clayton, Victoria 3168
03 9548 8600 www.agcsa.com.au
RTO# 46011



15 April 2024

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As CEO of the Australian Sports Turf Managers Association, I write in support of the submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective.

Our organisation, the Australian Sports Turf Managers Association (ASTMA), represents over 1,800 sports turf managers as the peak industry body for turf management in Australia including Golf Course Superintendents and other professional Turf Managers employed at Golf Courses. Responsible for the management and production of quality turf playing surfaces at golf courses and sport & recreation facilities across Australia, our members are committed stewards of the environment, and contribute extensively to the ability for the many thousands of individuals that play golf every day – including at Moore Park.

As highlighted by the [Australian Golf Strategy](#) (2022-2025) golf's current performance and future vision outlines a clear plan for growth for the entire sport in understanding its incredibly strong participation rate within Australia. The [Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report](#) (2023) demonstrates clearly the social, economic and environmental benefits that golf courses contribute to local communities; significant benefits that must, in my opinion, be considered in the determination of the future of Moore Park.

Moore Park Golf Course is an extremely important and busy public golf facility providing significant benefits to the community. Reducing 18-holes of golf will have significant implications that will affect not only our membership, but the many people and community groups that play golf at the course.

The Australian Sports Turf Managers Association supports Golf Australia and the Collective, in the proposal advocated to ensure current golf participants and the non-golfing community have access to high quality green open space to meet their needs.

The Australian Sports Turf Managers Association ask you, Premier of NSW to consider the submission to retain (and improve) the 18-hole golf course and create new and improved facilities for recreation at Moore Park South, to benefit the whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this submission on Moore Park Golf Course, and how any changes will impact our members.

Yours sincerely

Mark Unwin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Sports Turf Managers Association

16 April 2024

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As Managing Director of Callaway Golf South Pacific, I write in support of the joint submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective (the Collective).

At Callaway Golf, we enjoy strong partnerships with Key Industry partners who strive for the continued growth of golf in all its forms. Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, and Golf NSW and many more would like to make golfers aware of a potential issue occurring at Moore Park, which will directly impact the industry and so many who play the game. At Callaway we are very aware of the huge health and economic benefits of golf and Moore Park is one of the most important facilities in Sydney.

The Australian Golf Industry is working together to demonstrate the value golf provides for the community. We are proud of our contribution to the Australian Golf Strategy (2022-2025) to set a vision for golf's future and a plan for growth for the entire sport. Our most recent collaboration to develop the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report (2023) is a valuable resource to tell our story better to the wide-ranging sectors golf intersects.

Moore Park Golf Course is an extremely important and busy public golf facility providing significant benefits to the community. Reducing 18-holes of golf will have significant implications that will affect our membership, along with the many people that play golf at the course.

Callaway Golf supports the **Alternate Proposal** presented by the Collective to the NSW Government. The Alternate Proposal is a solution that makes sure the current golf participants and the non-golfing community have access to high quality green open space to meet their needs.

I congratulate Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club for dedicating the time and expertise to prepare the submission. We at Callaway ask you, Premier of NSW to consider the submission as the right way to proceed to retain and improve the 18-hole golf course and create new and improved facilities for recreation at Moore Park South, to benefit the whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a conversation on Moore Park Golf and how any changes will impact our members.

Yours sincerely

Matt Meredith

Callaway Golf South Pacific

Managing Director

Matt Meredith

16 April 2024

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As CEO of The Golf Clearance Outlet, I write in support of the joint submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective (the Collective).

The Golf Clearance Outlet in its 19th year has been providing golfers of all levels the opportunity to access golf equipment at affordable prices. Our business model in particular focuses on beginner golfers who are new to the sport & existing golfers looking for a deal. We support over 100 community golf events Australia wide.

The Australian Golf Industry is working together to demonstrate the value golf provides for the community. We are proud of our contribution to the [Australian Golf Strategy](#) (2022-2025) to set a vision for golf's future and a plan for growth for the entire sport. Our most recent collaboration to develop the [Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report](#) (2023) is a valuable resource to tell our story better to the wide-ranging sectors golf intersects.

Moore Park Golf Course is an extremely important and busy public golf facility providing significant benefits to the community. Reducing 18-holes of golf will have significant implications that will affect our membership, along with the many people that play golf at the course.

The Golf Clearance Outlet supports the **Alternate Proposal** presented by the Collective to the NSW Government. The Alternate Proposal is a solution that makes sure the current golf participants and the non-golfing community have access to high quality green open space to meet their needs.

I congratulate Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club for dedicating the time and expertise to prepare the submission. I ask you, Premier of NSW to consider the submission as the right way to proceed to retain and improve the 18-hole golf course and create new and improved facilities for recreation at Moore Park South, to benefit the whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a conversation on Moore Park Golf and how any changes will impact our members.

Yours sincerely



Sam Colosimo

CEO
The Golf Clearance Outlet

16 April 2024

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of NSW
C/o Greater Sydney Parklands
mooreparksouth@gsp.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Save Moore Park Golf Collective submission to the NSW Government Moore Park South Consultation

As CEO of Golf Management Australia, I write in support of the joint submission by the Save Moore Park Golf Collective (the Collective).

GMA is an association of golf and club managers. Our 450 members across the country are the most senior operators of golf clubs and courses in Australia, witnessing firsthand the huge impact that the sport of golf has on the lives of participants, the local community as well as the economic activity it generates with employment of staff and deployment of goods and services. Golf courses such as Moore Park provide the playing space for golf from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week and 52 weeks a year, something that few sports can do.

The Australian Golf Industry is working together to demonstrate the value golf provides for the community. We are proud of our contribution to the Australian Golf Strategy (2022-2025) to set a vision for golf's future and a plan for growth for the entire sport. Our most recent collaboration to develop the Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report (2023) is a valuable resource to tell our story better to the wide-ranging sectors golf intersects.


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GMA supports the **Alternate Proposal** presented by the Collective to the NSW Government. The Alternate Proposal is a solution that makes sure the current golf participants and the non-golfing community have access to high quality green open space to meet their needs.

I congratulate Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club for dedicating the time and expertise to prepare the submission. GMA ask you, Premier of NSW to consider the submission as the right way to proceed to retain and improve the 18-hole golf course and create new and improved facilities for recreation at Moore Park South, to benefit the whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a conversation on Moore Park Golf and how any changes will impact our members.

Yours sincerely



Paul Vardy
Chief Executive Officer
Golf Management Australia

Golf Management Australia Limited
ABN 28 126 436 404
PO Box 859
CROYDON VIC 3136
www.golfmanagement.com.au



NSW Golf Course Superintendents Association

www.nswgcsa.com.au

Thursday, 10 April 2024

Mr John Janik
President
Moore Park Golf Club
Cleveland Street
Moore Park NSW 2021

Dear John,

As President of the NSWGCSA I have spoken with our Board, and we would like to support the submission that is proposed by your Club and supported by Golf NSW, PGA and Golf Australia.

I have spoken with Stuart Fraser from Golf NSW and confidentiality reviewed the document.

The New South Wales Golf Course Superintendents Association provides development, education and training opportunities for members and Superintendents throughout New South Wales.

The link below is for our website and provides additional information regarding our Association.

www.nswgcsa.com.au

Please contact me on 0422 699 717 if you need to discuss anything.

Regards,



Leon Hennesy
President, NSWGCSA

ABN 63 365 403 933

PO Box 595, Matraville NSW 2036



10 April 2024

The Hon. Paul Scully, MP
Minister for Planning and Open Spaces
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister Scully,

Re: Moore Park Golf

I am writing on behalf of Sport NSW in support of Golf NSW's Alternate Proposal to the NSW Government's intention to repurpose up to 20 hectares of the Moore Park Golf Course into a new central park. Sport NSW supports Golf's position that Moore Park South can be a park for everyone and the home for public golf in NSW without taking away from golf.

Sport NSW is the member-based industry association recognised by the NSW Government as the independent peak body for sport and active recreation in NSW. Sport NSW was established by the industry for the industry in 1991 to provide a strong and united voice for state sporting organisations (SSO), local government authorities (LGA) and other not-for-profit entities actively engaged in the sector.

Our mission is to lead the sector in building connected, healthy and active communities. This is achieved through support, knowledge sharing, recognition, networking and advocacy. We are committed to collaborating with our members and every level of government to ensure that everyone in NSW can enjoy the significant benefits of sport and active recreation.

Sport NSW recognises and is respectful of Moore Park Golf Club's long-term tenure and investment in the precinct. The Alternate Proposal submitted by Golf envisages world-class recreational and golf facilities for a growing Sydney that allows for retention and enhancement of the 18-hole golf course and maximises available open space for active recreation and active transport.

Sport NSW is also supportive of the inclusion of sporting and active recreation facilities within Golf's Alternate Proposal. Further consultation will be required with a range of stakeholders including Sport NSW's Members to determine what sport and active recreation facilities should be prioritised and the most appropriate location.

Sport NSW recognises that the Government will need to invest significantly in the provision of community sporting and active recreation facilities to adequately provide for 690k people currently living within a 5km radius of the Centennial Parklands and the projected additional 100k people who will move into the area by 2041.

Golf's Alternate Proposal has the potential to be a rare win-win-win opportunity for the Government, burgeoning local community and golf. Sport NSW is confident that the Alternate Proposal will effectively achieve the Government's seven core measures of success.

The NSW Government is encouraged to authentically consult directly with Golf and to evaluate their Alternate Proposal against the Government's preferred option and conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis that recognises the substantial evidence presented in Golf's submission.

Yours sincerely,



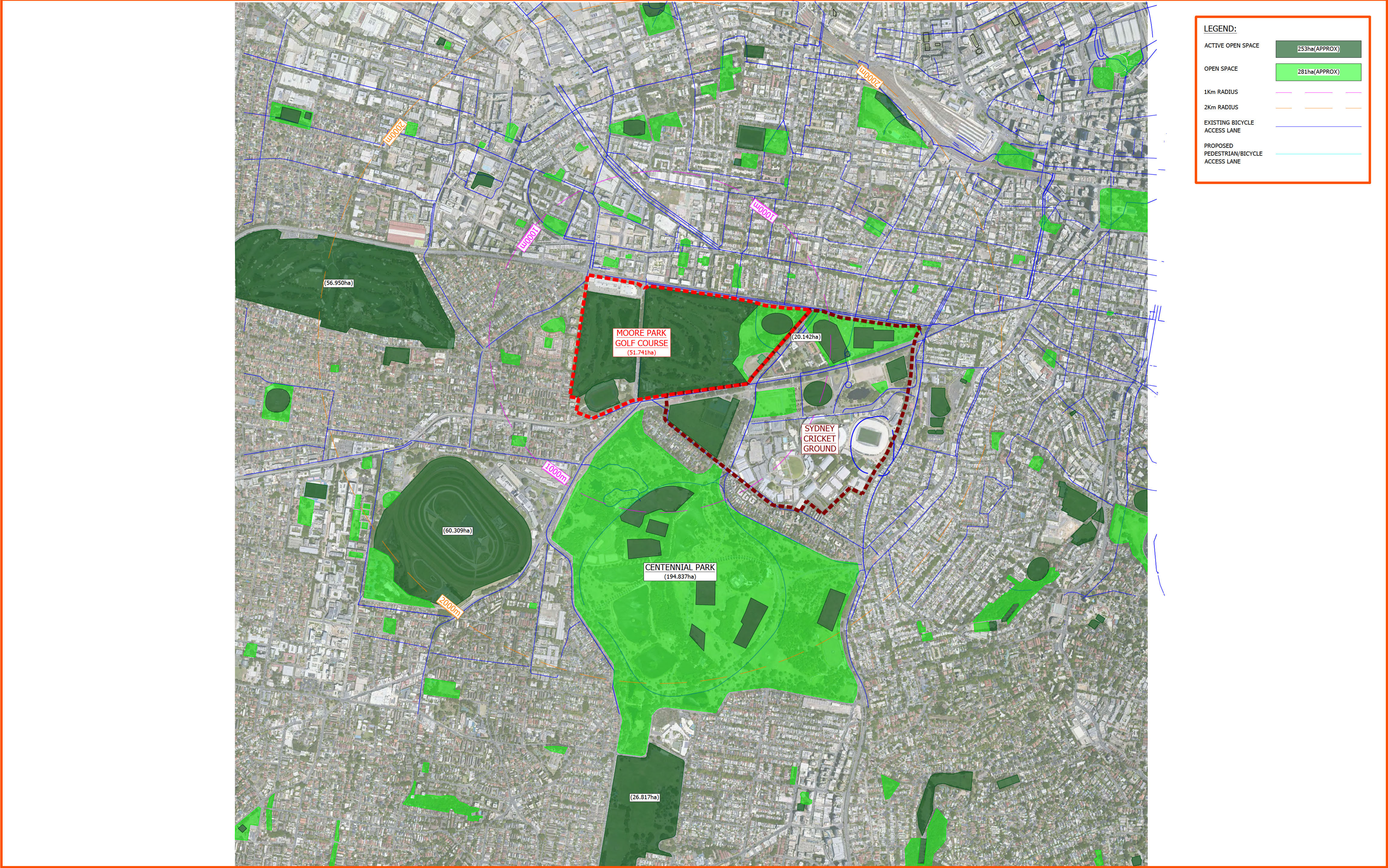
Stuart Hodge
Chief Executive Officer

Leadership Innovation Integrity Inclusion Collaboration











THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Clublinks

Date received: 10 April 2024

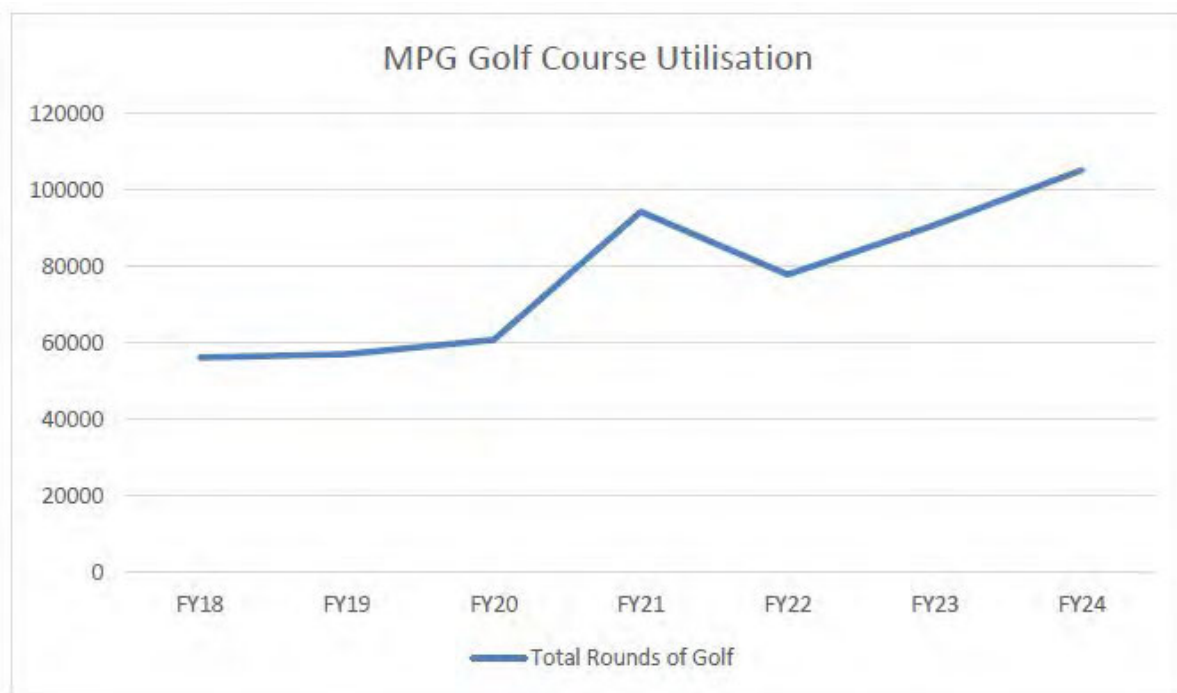
Clublinks has managed golf courses nationwide since 2002 and currently operates nine under varying management models. Our understanding of golf and its community impact is unrivalled and reflected in the strong, longstanding relationships with our contract partners. In 2024 we entered our 15th year as operator of Moore Park Golf, while also awarded a 21-year contract with the City of Perth to continue managing Collier Park Golf. Additionally, Brisbane's first public golf course in over 70-years was entrusted to us for 25-years by Brisbane City Council as we launched Minnipi Golf in September 2023 – a further testament to our standing within the industry.

Clublinks believes the decision to repurpose 20-hectares of Moore Park Golf without considering the holistic fallout of losing 9-holes from Australia's busiest 18-hole golf course to be ***negligent at best***. Particularly when an 18-hole course and state-of-the-art greenspace can coexist and return unprecedented dividends to the local community and economy.

As the Hon. Paul Scully stated, "Parks are places for people to meet, relax, exercise and connect with country" (NSW Gov 2024). No public greenspace in Sydney outperforms Moore Park Golf in these criteria; so why endanger an integral community hub at a large cost for no gain?

Moore Park Golf was founded 111 years ago to serve its surrounding residents. A community oasis born from a barren wasteland. A vehicle for those who choose golf as their outlet to socialise and exercise yet cannot afford the membership or green fees of neighbouring private golf courses. These ideals remain to this day.

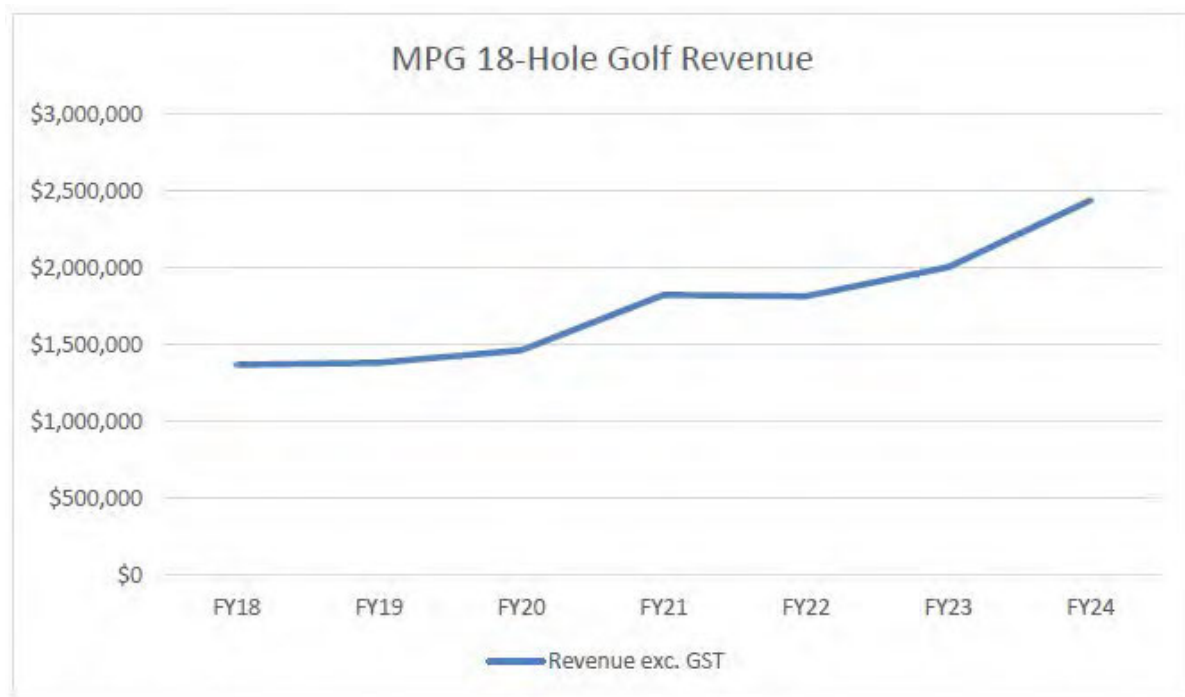
The Moore Park Golf community is a celebration of diversity and true reflection of modern-day Sydney. It is primed to deliver an unprecedented >100k games of golf in FY24, with approximately 80k of those to be 18-hole rounds and 80% played by locals living within a 5km radius. That's 64,000 opportunities each year for locals to spend 4.5-hours connecting with people of all ages, race, gender, and creed.



This community is projected to increase in population by 15% over the next 17-years (NSW Gov 2024), meaning access to recreational and leisure facilities is essential. Considering golf participation in Australia grew by 30% (GA 2023) in the last financial year alone and Moore Park Golf utilisation is booming - reflected in December 2023 and January 2024 recording the highest volume of 18-hole golf rounds in history - it would be remiss to not offer an accessible, high quality, and affordable 18-hole golf course for the local community. For many locals it is their major or only source of physical activity. A game to be played for life that on average increases life expectancy by five-years compared to non-golfers (Murray et al 2016); Moore Park Golf proudly boasts golfers ranging from two to 94 years-of-age. Where else can a complex, network of peers consistently connect with country and each other for such an extended period? These interactions lower anxiety, depression, and psychological distress (AGIC 2023) in a society rife with increasing technological and industrial stressors.

The physical benefits are just as compelling, with one round of golf sufficient to meet or exceed weekly physical activity targets. This reduces the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, dementia, bowel cancer, breast cancer and stroke (AGIC 2023), while improving balance, strength, and muscular function. The annual health benefits as a result are staggering, equating to \$392 per golfer per annum (AGIC 2023); approximately \$5.9M saved by Moore Park golfers each year! No other recreational activity or leisure pastime provides such a varied spectrum of health benefits so desperately needed in a world surging with debilitating ailments.

The Moore Park South proposal won't just affect those who patron the golf course, but those who utilise the existing 360 hectares of surrounding parklands too. The two share a symbiotic relationship with the revenue generated at Moore Park Golf funding 50% of Centennial Parklands' maintenance requirements. Eighteen-hole golf is forecasted to deliver \$2.4M to this cause in FY24, the Moore Park Golf Club membership base a further \$1M, and Corporate Golf Days \$700K. Assuming half the 18-hole revenue will be lost, the 9-hole reduction will immediately cut revenue by \$2.9M before factoring the additional secondary spend loss as a result. This significant financial fallout will be extremely difficult to recoup through any new or existing revenue streams.



We have firsthand experience derived from managing Northcote Golf in Thornbury Victoria, where local council repurposed a quarter of the golf course for public greenspace. This greenspace has since been poorly maintained and severely under-utilised compared to its previous incarnation as golf course land - a result increasingly reported with similar council-led projects nationwide.

No alternate greenspace activation will utilise this land greater than Moore Park Golf. The seven-day, sunrise-to-sunset, multigenerational utilisation of this space for people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic standing is incomparable. It should be celebrated, not disfigured.

Clublinks will operate Moore Park Golf to the highest of quality regardless of composition, but we strongly advocate for retaining an 18-hole golf course for a community that treasures and demands it.

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Anthony Edgar
Chief Operating Officer
Clublinks Management

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Australian Heritage Golf Society Inc.

Date received: 6 April 2024

The Australian Golf Heritage Society Inc (AGHS) has a large number of individual members, Golf Clubs, throughout Australia and Internationally. Part of its charter is the recording and preservation of the history of the game in Australia.

AGHS strongly objects to the reduction of Moore Park Golf course to the proposed 9 hole course for the following reasons;

- It was founded in 1913 and became the first public access golf course in NSW. Preserving the history of the game, via early courses, is paramount.
- Moore Park Golf Course has prided itself on being one of the most accessible courses for the public and the local community, ensuring golfing in Sydney remains a fun and enjoyable experience for players of all abilities.
- Some years ago the whole course was upgraded, at considerable cost, to a championship standard, which has resulted in its popularity.
- In inner Sydney and the Eastern Suburbs there are a number of golf courses, most of which are private. Moore Park provides the opportunity for those not able to join an expensive club a top class course to play at a reasonable cost.
- Many of our Members play the course and such a reduction would result in significant loss of availability of tee times.
- There is already significant open spaces in the surrounding area.

I trust the above views will be seriously considered when the decision on this matter is being taken. Just remember your decision supporting the reduction in space will have irrevocable impacts lasting well into the 22nd century.

Ross Howard
Secretary

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Saving Moore Park Inc.

Date received: 10 April 2024

Future of Moore Park South

Centennial Parkland is seeking the community's views on how it would like to see 20 hectares of Moore Park Golf Course used for the benefit of the community surrounding Moore Park.

Our Association is currently in a state of flux while undergoing a process of renewal. This means we are not in the best position to develop options, test these with the community and then make a detailed submission on this issue. However, we would like to make a few comments.

We do not think asking how this space should be used is the right question when so many other questions remain unresolved. While in principle we support the addition of green space for the community, we are concerned about a number of aspects of this proposal.

What is the community's need?

The focus of the decision is the local community's need. In our view, this need has been created in large part by planning failures by the City of Sydney - its decision to approve large scale developments without adequate provision for green space. The City has done a reasonable job around Green Square but has evidently taken the view that it didn't need to worry about those areas closest to Moore Park.

Which "community"?

We do not question that additional high quality recreational space is needed. However, satisfying it by carving out 20 hectares from the golf course can only come at the expense of another large section of the community - those whose only opportunity to play golf - and so enjoy green space - is on a public golf course.

There is no shortage of private golf courses in Sydney, but membership fees are typically beyond the means of most golfers. With 18 holes Moore Park Golf Course thus meets a very real community need. It is our understanding that people come from all over Sydney to play golf here, demonstrating a very real community need - just a different "community".

What are the financial implications?

Of particular concern is the failure of the Government to spell out the financial implications of the proposal. There are several aspects affecting both recurring revenue and capital expenditure:

- There is a complete lack of transparency as to the level of funding Moore Park Golf Course contributes towards the maintenance of Moore Park. However, we understand from previous Centennial Parklands management that the golf course is overwhelmingly the largest source of revenue required to maintain and enhance the Park. So with the loss of significant revenue from the golf course, where is the revenue going to come from in future? The Government has given no explanation or commitment on this.
- For the past two years Saving Moore Park has been strongly advocating that the Government allocate \$12 million toward the revitalisation of Moore Park East for the community's benefit. To date it has declined to do so. A token amount has been provided, much of it swallowed up in consultancy fees.
- So if the Government is unwilling to commit to sensible funding of the Park's revitalisation, what can the community reasonably expect the Government to contribute towards the capital cost of the proposed 20 hectare redevelopment?
- This is particularly relevant given the capital costs likely to be required to create safe pedestrian access across South Dowling Street by those living west of the park.
- We are also concerned that, having used regulation to override legislation to permit the continuation of car parking on Moore Park for events at the SCG and SFS, albeit for a limited time, with the reduction of revenue from Moore Park Golf Course, the Government will have a financial incentive to continue this car parking well beyond the new dates to which it has committed.
- In short, enhanced access to the golf course area will be at the expense of enhanced access to the other side of the Park. So, it has the potential to become a question of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

What alternatives have been considered?

There are several lower cost and less disruptive alternatives which will provide meaningful access to additional green space for the local community. These include:

- Completion of the cycle path on the northern side of Dacey Avenue, an improvement we have long advocated.
- Providing access to the course on one or two golf-free days each quarter.
- Constructing a cycle path across the course, something which exists at other golf courses in Australia and overseas.
- Provision of dedicated space on a little used section of the course for the provision of an outdoor mini or put-put golf layout.

Conclusion

Having regard for all these considerations, there must be doubt about whether the community really will benefit from the conversion of 20 acres of Moore Park Golf Course into green space. We are therefore unable to provide any sensible assessment of how this space can best serve the community.

Vivienne Skinner
President

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: The Paddington Society

Date received: 10 April 2024

Thank you for inviting our response to this proposal to transform 20 hectares of Moore Park Golf Course into a new public park.

The proposal is strongly supported by the Society as we desperately need more green space in our fast-densifying city.

We have the following suggestions for the new park:

- Context: We ask that Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) first undertakes a Masterplan for green spaces in the precinct which aims to provide a wildlife corridor chain from the Harbour to Botany Bay, including wetlands, Randwick Racecourse and other golf-courses further south. The Masterplan should also look at precinct drainage patterns, flooding control and irrigation.
- The new Park will need good connection to the rest of Moore Park, Centennial Park and the surrounding residential areas, but is currently isolated by major roads. We recommend more pedestrian crossings and bridges/overpasses. The intersection at Dacey Ave and Anzac Parade, and Cleveland St and Anzac Parade, where the new Park will meet Centennial Park and Moore Park, in particular needs to be more pedestrian friendly. A new pedestrian overpass to the Eastern Distributor at around Danks St or Corning Park would also provide connectivity to residential neighbourhoods. Consider too an overpass over Cleveland St linking the new Park with Moore Park proper.
- A landscape design that includes passive recreation, walking, cycling and running tracks, and Child Play, as a priority, since the rest of Moore Park largely caters for organised sport.
- A landscape design that features indigenous history, and endemic species that encourage biodiversity and water sensitive urban design.
- Involve the City of Sydney in the landscape design since it has skilled resources and deep local knowledge.
- The new Park needs a viable funding and maintenance plan that will keep it in public, not commercial, use.
- That Infrastructure NSW prepare a Business Case for the new Park, as they did for the SFS Stadium, to properly value parkland assets, to consider options, and to provide transparency to the community.

We ask the Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure and GSP to consider our suggestions, provide a publicly available 'What we Heard' report, and give us feedback on the development of the design of this project.

Esther Hayter, President
Per Linda Gosling, Vice President

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Paddington Darlinghurst Community Group

Date received: 10 April 2024

In October 2023 the NSW government announced that 20 hectares of Moore Park Golf Course will be transformed into a new public park.

The NSW Government also announced implementation of the proposal will commence after July 2026.

We question this timing- what is the hurry? This is a massive project and must be done correctly if we are to have the success we all strive for.

We are told that guiding this discussion paper are seven core measures of success. They are:

1. high quality recreational park of 20 hectares that is easy to access and well connected to Inner and Eastern Sydney
2. multi-use space which creates a legacy for the diverse needs of a growing city
3. backyard for residents of Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern, Surry Hills and Kensington
4. destination which extends the Moore Park visitor experience and retains its status as a sporting and entertainment hub for the community
5. Enhancement of the existing environmental and cultural values of Centennial Parklands, including Caring for Country outcomes.
6. future for public golf at Moore Park that retains a minimum 9 hole golf course, the driving range and clubhouse
7. sustainable approach which enables operational excellence

Further we are told that “Implementation of the Government's proposal by Greater Sydney Parklands will be informed by community feedback and seek to achieve design and operational excellence to ensure a high quality outcome and lasting legacy for the people of Sydney”.

This planning should not be hurried- to achieve success with all seven core measures is going to take 5 to 10 years at the least.

Let's ensure our planning is long term, not just focused on July 2026

Why?

1. Access & Connectivity- A high quality recreational park in Moore Park South will require easy access with excellent connections to the other parts of Moore Park/Centennial Park and the residents in the surrounding suburbs.

This access and connectivity DOES NOT exist at present. It will require a substantial investment in infrastructure such as pedestrian/cycling overpasses over roads such as;

- South Dowling Street
- Dacey Avenue
- Anzac Parade
- Cleveland St

For instance – a crossing from Dacey Ave, north side, over Anzac Parade to Centennial park needs to cross 9 lanes of traffic, a bus corridor, a shared path and the Light rail tracks.

If done properly all the five “islands” of Moore Park can be connected with each other and with Centennial Park. What a legacy this would be for the people of Sydney- the Tibby Cotter Bridge connecting East and West Moore Park is a good example.

We note that the Moore Park Master plan 2040 finalised in 2017 had as its second Principle

“Better connected and more permeable

Increase public access to and across the Park while breaking down barriers to pedestrian and cyclist flow”

Which is what is needed for the success of the Moore Park South proposal.

But in the past 7 years there has been no increased public access to Moore park- as evidence we highlight the so-called community consultation for the Moore Park East (MPE) landscape plan.

This consultation commenced in Nov 2021 and stage 2 of the works were finalised in March 2024. The Community argued for better connectivity and access around MPE- but nothing happened.

Connectivity and access still blocked by;

- Bus Corridor, which could be shortened, made narrower, given that Bus numbers have been drastically reduced since the Light Rail commenced running.
- Rooster Elite Sports field
- Bus Terminus- gates always locked- why?
- Swans elite Tramway Oval – boundary fence should be altered to allow access around ground and to the Light rail stop

2. Funding

To achieve success with all seven core measures this proposal needs to be adequately funded.

Not just to cover the loss of revenue as a result of halving the current 18 hole Golf Course.

It will need massive Capital investment to;

- Build a high quality recreational park
- Build the connecting infrastructure
- Restructure the existing 18 hole to a 9 hole golf course

Until such funding is assured the existing 18 hole golf course should be retained.

3. Moore Park public Golf Course- a great asset for Sydney

Sydney is very fortunate to have such a high quality 18 hole PUBLIC golf course so close to the CBD

It is not elitist- it is a public course we should be proud of.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney is totally wrong when making statements such as;

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, a long-time supporter of reducing the golf course to nine holes, told a council meeting on Monday night the Moore Park Golf Club was not used by locals from the surrounding area but by wealthy outsiders. "Last time [this issue came up] there was the most amazing campaign from golfers from the north shore and the eastern suburbs, who really like this course," she said. "They drive their very expensive cars... When I was at a meeting of the community board just a week ago, there was even a Rolls-Royce in the car park. "So it's not for people of Redfern and Surry Hills and Waterloo and Green Square. This is being used by people who drive to Moore Park, park in the park and play golf." (SMH 23 Nov 2023)

What is elitist is the NSW government granting of 25 year leases over PUBLIC land of sections of Moore Park East to the major professional football codes.

4. Role of the City of Sydney

The Premier in the announcement on 22 October 2023 said

"The NSW Government will also commence discussions with the City of Sydney on a memorandum of understanding on ongoing maintenance of the new park"

We are concerned about any role of the City of Sydney in the funding and ongoing maintenance & control of this "new parkland"

As residents and ratepayers we have a right to know before any agreements are made, especially in a Council election year

Over the past 20 years when Centennial Parklands have asked the City of Sydney to contribute to the funding of infrastructure such as a Children's Playground the City of Sydney has always declined, despite the Community's needs.

The only real playground in Moore Park was removed from Moore Park West for the construction of the Eastern Distributor in 1999- despite frequent promises a new replacement children's playground has NOT yet been built

SUMMARY

We don't think the proposal is creating NEW parkland – it is just a re-badging or change of use of existing parkland.

The growing communities surrounding Moore Park require and deserve new additional parkland.

We suggest that the following process should be adopted by the NSW government.

- 1. Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) responds to the Discussion Paper and provides a What We Heard Report in 3rd quarter 2024.**
- 2. GSP then prepares a project proposal with estimated costings, on how this transformation of 20 hectares aligns with the seven core measures of success.**
- 3. Given the importance of Moore Park/ Centennial parklands to the people of NSW our members ask that the Government commission Infrastructure NSW, the NSW Government's independent infrastructure advisory agency, to prepare a Business Case to enable it to take final investment decisions on the South Moore Park Proposal as they did for the rebuilding of Allianz Stadium. This would ensure a transparent process that allows all community members/ Government Agencies and major stakeholders to be fully informed**
- 4. The lease for the existing 18 hole golf course be extended for 2 to say 5 years, to allow the necessary planning, community discussion and to allow the necessary access & connectivity infrastructure to be built prior to redevelopment of the parkland**

Our submission can be made available to all and we, our members, look forward to being part of this ongoing discussion.

Will Mrongovious
Convenor

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Raleigh Park Community Association (David Park)

Date received: 5 April 2024

On behalf of the Raleigh Park Community Association, we totally reject to any changes to Moore Park Golf Club with its existing 18 hole golf course.

The proposed night golf section adjoins Raleigh Park Estate which have 6 apartment blocks with over 300 residences that looks directly over the 6th hole fairway. It is totally unimaginable the impact of light pollution, noise/activity of night golf for the residents. As a community there would be over almost 1000 residents in the Raleigh Park Estate.

Attached is a more detailed and broader assessment of our concerns which I hope you take the time to review.

Again from the wider community being involved in a number of consultation meetings there has been no support to the changes purposed.

ATTACHMENT

Overall Concept/Purpose

Changing the existing 18 hole championship golf course to only 9 holes allowing 20 hectares for public space.

Half a million people visit Moore Park (across driving range, golf course and clubhouse) and 82 percent of those people visiting live within 10kms. Of those, 18 hole rounds account for 80% annual revenue.

What Moore Park golf course provides

Moore Park Golf Club provides an 18 hole championship golf course, established in 1913. Access for a large number of visitors mostly local plus its a major tourist attraction given the popularity of golf for tourists and unique that it's in the heart of Sydney.

- Annual visitors over 500,000
- One of the busiest public golf courses in Australia
- Over 80% are regular visitors and live within 10 kms
- Annual revenue over \$15M
- Profits are contributed back to Moore Park trust to fund local sport activities

Location/Transport/Access points

Moore Park South is an island and has no connectivity or pathway to Centennial Park

The proposed park has poor transport/public access and is effectively an island surrounded by major arterial roads of Anzac Pde, Dacey Ave, Southern Cross Drive, Cleveland St. The light rail stop at Moore Park is ineffective and can only bring people from Kingsford or Randwick not beyond enticing people to drive so any new access points would further impact the road transport links plus the cost to construct. Current traffic volumes and noise it creates does not contribute to a peaceful parkland plus it's under a major flight path for Mascot airport.

Given the transport issues its expected the majority of users would drive especially if there were with elderly people, children for picnics or bringing bikes etc.

Construction of new parking facilities will only reduce green space and incur costs.

Again given the expected increase in residents which is West of Moore Park we should create green space closer to that area and not change a golf course to green space which is already highly used 7 days a week. By considering this proposal you are not creating any new green space but reducing it with no real forward planning for the expected increase of residents. Where new residential developments are being built they must create their own green space in that area as a development condition.

There are more and better opportunities on the western area being Zetland/Waterloo side plus redeveloping Redfern oval which is no longer the Rabbitohs home base and use the wider area of that park.

There are a number of older commercial/industrial sites in the western area Beaconsfield, Alexandria that could be converted to new green space zones. The Suttons site at Rosebery with 4.5 hectares of land sold for \$300M recently. Why have we not used this as new public space for the Alexandria/Zetland group of high rise apartments. Any apartments on this land should be low rise and provide a substantial area for green space. Also if there was a major concern for green space why have we allowed this parcel of land to be sold to build more apartments. Forward planning would have been to buy this site and reallocate the funds from the Moore Park South project and have 4.5 hectares of land as new green space.

Better to review new opportunities on the western side plus use the better assess flow to promote Sydney Park a purpose built park with 41 hectares. There are many parks being Turruwul Park, Waterloo Park, Alexandria Park, Erskineville oval, Prince Alfred Park that could be expanded and reassessed. Going wider beyond 5 kms there is substantial facilities all along the entire beach coastline. From the south side there are a large number of green spaces from, Kensington Park, Snape Park, Roland Park, David Phillips sporting field, Heffron Park sporting complex plus Malabar rifle range and headland under underutilised.

Other opportunities would be Randwick racecourse which has a large unused area and could be used in conjunction with the AJC. There is already direct access from light rail, parking plus all facilities for food and toilets.

Economic/Financial cost

Any proposed changes to Moore Park South have not assessed the financial cost.

Earthworks, excavation, access to water for ponds, disruption to the local area, transport, and overall construction period.

Infrastructure facilities in the park some being admin office, bike, walking tracks, toilets, food stations plus a new parking facility effectively taking away green space. The initial cost could be well over \$250M. Also what would be the ongoing cost to maintain this park land.

Currently the revenue generated from Moore Park golf effectively covers all the outgoings in maintaining the golf course land with surplus funds back to Moore Park trust for sporting activities so currently there is no cost to the public. Changing the golf course will reduce revenue.

Environmental/Wildlife

Like all golf courses Moore Park provides important environmental benefits:

Urban cooling, flood and stormwater management, water filtration and purification and carbon sequestration. According to the *Community Benefits of Golf in Australia* report released last week: "Academics at the University of Melbourne undertook an assessment of golf course biodiversity, and found:

The structural complexity of vegetation on golf courses is around 50-100 percent higher than that of residential gardens and urban parklands.

Beetle and bug abundance on golf courses is 6-10 times greater than that within other nearby parks.

Bee species richness on golf courses is around 3-4 times that of remnant heathlands.

There are around 50 percent more bird species on golf courses than in urban gardens and parks.

What will be the wildlife environmental impact in transforming 20 hectares of land plus the surrounding ecosystem. Habitats, wildlife will actually be wiped out. Any proposed night golf facilities would further impact the sensitive nature of our wildlife.

Night Golf

The proposed night golf section adjoins Raleigh Park estate which have 6 apartment blocks with over 300 residences. It is totally unimaginable the impact of light pollution, noise/activity of night golf for the residents. Also with light poles there would be a further impact to nocturnal wildlife.

Summary

Focus on creating new green space not taking away existing green space for no logical reason.

Changing Moore Park golf course will be detrimental to the overall area and really has no forward planning for new residents on the western side on Southern Cross Drive. Focus on creating new green space on the western side.

The location as it stands being an island between major roads links is the most logical and perfect space for a golf course which it has been for over 100 years.

Both the economic and environmental cost would be devastating if this goes forward. Work with Moore Park golf in retaining the 18 hole championship course and look for unused space that might be available for public access.

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Kingston Heath Strata Committee (Owners Corporation of SP 50708)

Date received: 9 April 2024

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Kingston Heath regarding the proposed redevelopment of Moore Park Golf Course. It has come to our attention that Sydney Council is considering the rezoning of this historic 18-hole championship golf course, a decision that has sparked deep concern and dismay within our community.

Since its establishment in 1926, Moore Park Golf Course has been a cherished public asset, providing not only recreational opportunities but also serving as a vital green space for our residents. We are troubled by the lack of transparency surrounding the Council's decision-making process and the failure to fully disclose any potential conflicts of interest with developers.

As residents directly affected by the proposed changes, we urge the Council to engage in a more transparent and inclusive consultation process. The current approach, characterized by limited public engagement and fragmented discussions, does not adequately represent the interests and concerns of our community. We believe that a full council community open forum is essential to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to voice their opinions and explore alternative options for the future of Moore Park Golf Course.

We are particularly concerned about the potential impact of the proposed redevelopment on our community's well-being. The prospect of rezoning the golf course, reducing it to 9 holes, and allowing for further development raises serious concerns about the loss of green space and recreational amenities for residents, especially children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

Furthermore, the proposal to install floodlights for night-time sporting events is deeply troubling. The prospect of constant bright lights penetrating into our homes poses significant health risks, including sleep disturbances, fatigue, headaches, stress, and anxiety, particularly for vulnerable populations. Additionally, the increase in noise associated with night-time activities will further disrupt the peace and tranquillity of our community, potentially leading to additional health issues such as high blood pressure and sleep disturbances.

As a community committed to conservation and environmental stewardship, we are also concerned about the impact of light and noise pollution on local wildlife. Moore Park Golf Course serves as a habitat for a diverse range of wildlife, and the proposed redevelopment threatens to disrupt their natural habitats and behaviours.

Finally, we wish to highlight the logistical challenges posed by the proposed location of the floodlights, which does not allow for adequate vehicle accessibility. This raises concerns about the potential for unauthorized access to our property and the associated safety risks for our residents.

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider the decision to rezone Moore Park Golf Course and to prioritize the interests and well-being of the surrounding community. We implore the Council to uphold transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in its decision-making process and to explore alternative solutions that preserve the integrity and value of this historic public asset.

Thank you for considering our concerns, and we look forward to your response.

Rita Di Napoli on behalf of Owners Corporation of SP. 50708

Kingston Heath Strata Committee Member Community Representative

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: St Andrews Strata Committee: Raleigh Park

Date received: 8 April 2024

On behalf of the owners and residents of St Andrews, 91 Brompton Rd, Kensington 2033 (64 units), we would like to protest against the proposal to have the south portion of the golf course available for night golf.

Our building which is one of 6 buildings on the southern boundary of the golf course directly overlooks the golf course. Having the course lit up at night will have a direct impact on our residents, affecting their sleep as well as the general view from the units.

We respectfully ask that if the project goes ahead as intended, night golf is not incorporated in the plan.

Norman Dusheiko
Chair
St Andrews Strata Committee

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Committee for Sydney

Date received: 10 April 2024

Introduction

The Committee for Sydney is the city's peak advocacy and urban policy think tank. We are an independent, non-partisan organisation with more than 160 members. We are advocates for the whole of Sydney, developing solutions to the most important problems we face. Our goal is to help our city be the best in the world.

Feedback on the proposed changes to Moore Park South

The Committee for Sydney supports the change in use of Moore Park South to expand recreation space, and thanks the Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) for the opportunity to comment.

Accessibility and access

Specifically, we believe this should include investment in improved pedestrian links between the park and surrounding areas, and within the park over major roads.

The lack of pedestrian prioritisation on major intersections at the corners of this space is a wicked problem to solve. With Moore Park cut into five pieces by major roads, stitching it back together should be a consideration for any investment in the future of the precinct. Innovative thinking on options to achieve better porosity across the park – with the dense communities to the west of the park – will be required. While typically grade separation of pedestrians is a poor urban outcome, it's possible these may be required in locations such as the corner of Dacey Avenue and South Dowling Street to resolve what are likely extremely expensive and complex junctions to solve for the scale of pedestrian journeys that a high-quality park will induce.

We recommend an aim to limit, where possible, the amount of car trips taken to access this green space. Vehicle access to Moore Park is already constrained, and becomes even more so during major events at the stadia or Entertainment Quarter – so the conversion of Moore Park South should consider how it can strictly limit the extent to which the change induces car trips. High quality walking and active transport routes will be critical to achieving this.

Multi-use and multi-purpose

The demand on open space in eastern Sydney far exceeds the amount of space available. This results in a need to ensure that all open space that is invested in is looked through the lens of maximising the flexibility and times the space can be used. We encourage the GSP to consider investments that ensure spaces are as adaptable as possible. These include:

- Lighting that extends the times of day spaces can be used, and making spaces safe after dark
- Investing in base-line infrastructure, such as those discussed in our 'Plug and Play City' report, that enable low or no-cost music and performances to be undertaken in the park
- Investing in spaces that are resilient to high-use – enabling the use of spaces for different types of activity across the day, week and year

Investing in spaces that can be used for different activities at different times – for example, a driving range that converts to an AFL field in the evening.

100 year old vision

This is not a simple fix. The broader Moore Park precinct will continue to evolve over coming decades, and the investment required in Moore Park South will likely have to be staggered over many years. Having an approach that recognises the park will never be 'finished' will enable long term investment plans to deliver for local communities that will continue to grow. This long-term vision also brings to the fore the need to care for this Country, and consider the health of the ecosystem that exists and will develop in Moore Park South.

Funding the transformation

To do this transformation well, and deliver a space that provides benefits to local communities of all types, will require significant capital investment. Similarly, ongoing funding to support the park operations will likely be required.

Given the expectation that Greater Sydney Parklands also fund their own operations, the transformation from a (revenue-generating) golf course to parkland, this transformation needs to also be attached to funding from central government to the GSP to enable them to continue to provide excellent parks across the Sydney area, rather than cut services elsewhere to cover revenue gap from removing the Moore Park golf course.

The role of Moore Park South in the wider Moore Park precinct

The Moore Park precinct is incredibly important for Sydney. It provides passive recreation spaces, major venues for entertainment and sport, a cultural and 24-hour centre at the Entertainment Quarter, active recreation spaces for amateur and professional sports, along with having major roads, public transport and active transport routes running through it. In holding these diverse uses, Moore Park lacks a clear brand for its role in the city. In engaging with stakeholders, it is clear to the Committee for Sydney that Moore Park is holding these diverse uses in tension, and – despite millions of visitors a year – there is a sense it is not fulfilling its potential. Wayfinding is confused and different uses are seen as competing for space rather than sharing spaces.

Is Moore Park our premier major events precinct with a world-class pre and post event food, beverage and entertainment offering? Or is the precinct a critical piece of green space? The answer, for the Committee for Sydney, is yes to both, but when tensions arise (for example, in the case of parking on the grass on major events), these roles come into tension.

What is the city missing that Moore Park could contribute to? Are all parts of Moore Park used to their best potential?

In thinking about Moore Park South in isolation, there is a risk we miss the opportunity to consider how the transformation of this component of the broader precinct could contribute

to managing these tensions, or how broader redesign could help deliver a precinct that better delivers for all stakeholders.

While this does not require a new masterplan for the precinct, we could encourage the NSW Government to think about its vision for the precinct beyond Moore Park South and steps to consider how this particular reform could catalyse broader change.

To achieve this, seeking the input of the resident organisations of the Moore Park precinct will help ensure the Moore Park South renewal stitches into changes the rest of the precinct is crying out for.

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the discussion paper on Moore Park South. [contact details withheld]

Eamon Waterford
CEO
The Committee for Sydney

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Centennial Parklands Foundation

Date received: 8 April 2024

Centennial Parklands Foundation (the Foundation) is an independent charitable organisation established in 1998 to raise funds, generate awareness and engender community support to protect and enhance the vital green open spaces of Centennial Parklands.

In a usual year Centennial Parklands generates 100% of its operating income. The Centennial Parklands Foundation is depended on to help bridge the funding gap. As such, any initiative or action that puts at risk any part of the revenue received by the Centennial Parklands is of direct interest to our Foundation. Reduced revenue will create a higher burden on our Foundation to generate higher level of fundraising, which, particularly in this more challenging financial environment, is not something that we feel should be added to our burden. As you will no doubt be aware, the Moore Park Golf Course (the Golf Course) is a meaningful tenant and therefore revenue generator for the Parklands.

The Foundation has significant and ambitious goals to generate new and existing projects that align directly with the vision of the Government and the relatively newly established Greater Sydney Parklands' agency. A reduced Parklands revenue based would be significant strain on these plans which would ultimately be a net negative for current and future Parklands' visitors.

We are not, at this stage, taking a view on the merits or otherwise of the proposal by the NSW Government to concern part of the Golf Course to a new park by repurposing 20 hectares and therefore reducing the Course to a 9-hole rather than 18-hole course. We would, however, be seeking to insist that the NSW Government ensure that any and all future "revenue gap" that is create by this proposal is funded by the Government so as to ensure that the Centennial Parklands and therefore indirectly our Foundation are no worse off as a result of the proposal.

We would greatly appreciate a response to this concern in writing. I would be happy and willing to meet with you and your team at any point to discuss this further.

Ilan Israelstram
Chair
Centennial Parklands Foundation

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Bicycle NSW

Date received: 10 April 2024

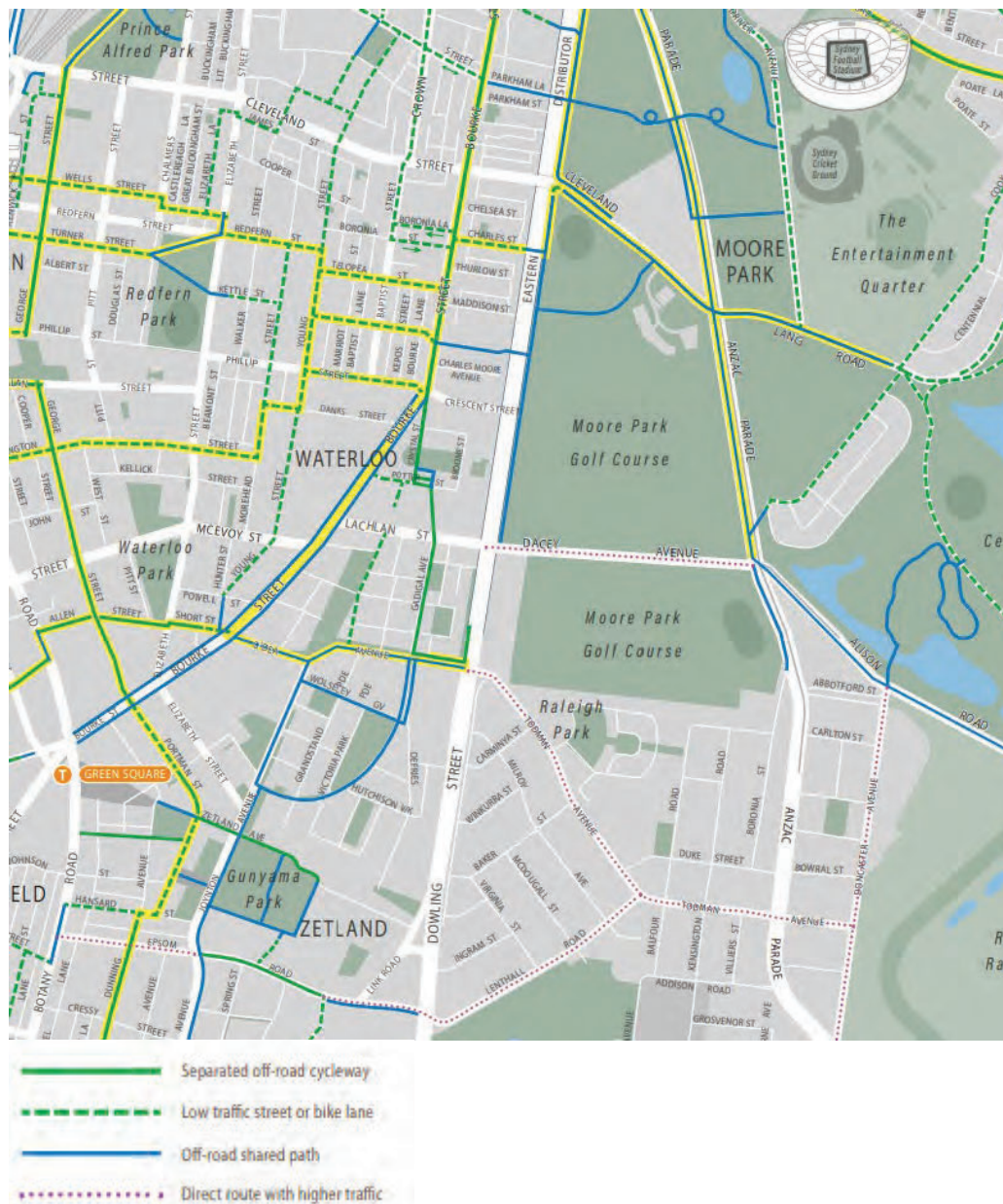
Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the plans for the future of Moore Park South.

Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group in NSW for 48 years and has more than 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups. Our mission is to 'create a better environment for all bicycle riders', and we support improvements to facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. We advocate for new cycling routes to provide connections to jobs, schools and services for daily transport and recreation trips. Bike riding provides a healthy, congestion-reducing, low-carbon form of travel that is quiet, efficient and attractive for all ages with the correct infrastructure design

We believe it is essential to provide high-quality, accessible open space for the community. **Bicycle NSW strongly supports the development of a new public park**, and the deep community engagement currently underway to determine the best possible way forward.

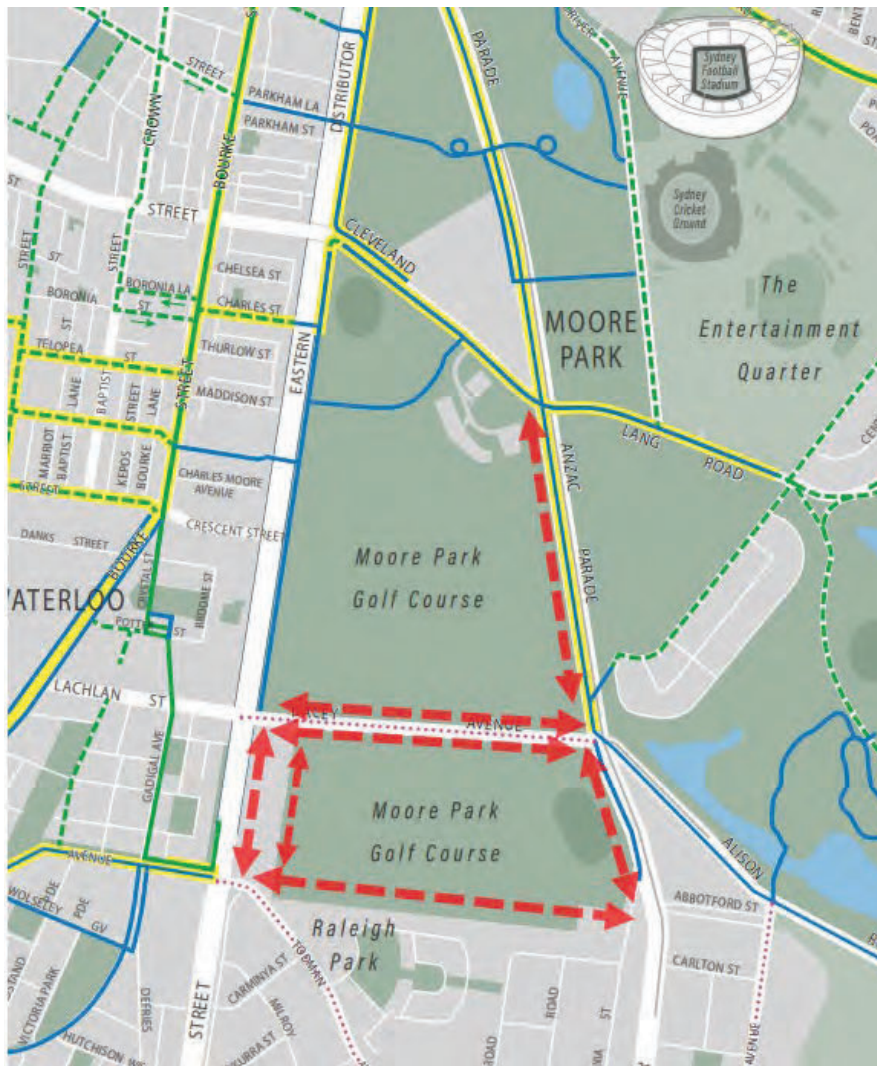
It is encouraging that Principle 02 from the 2017 Moore Park 2040 Master Plan - *Better connected and more permeable - Increase public access to and across the Park while breaking down barriers to pedestrian and cyclist flow* - is front and centre of the discussion paper.

As noted in the [discussion paper](#), Moore Park South is surrounded by arterial roads on three sides and private residential development to the south. There are many barriers to access. The existing at-grade crossings of the arterial roads for pedestrians and cyclists are laborious, often involve crossing multiple legs, and do not prioritise pedestrians or cyclists. It is very difficult to cycle to UNSW and Centennial Park from the booming residential precincts around Green Square if you are not confident mixing with heavy traffic. As shown in this extract from the [City of Sydney Cycleways map](#), there are currently no safe east-west routes across the golf course, and several north-south links are missing.



Recommendations:

- It is essential to focus on access by foot, bike or public transport. We do not want to see more asphalt car parking. The land is too valuable and the need for greenery and tree canopy too pressing.
- New signalised crossings are needed to enable safe access to/from Moore Park South. Marked pedestrian / cycle crossings must be installed on every leg of every intersection, signalised or unsignalised. Forcing people to cross 3 legs instead of one will result in people taking risks to avoid waiting for such a detour.
- **We urge Greater Sydney Parklands to maximise opportunities to incorporate new cycling facilities**, and upgrade existing routes, in and around the new park. The map below highlights missing links in the local and regional bike route network.

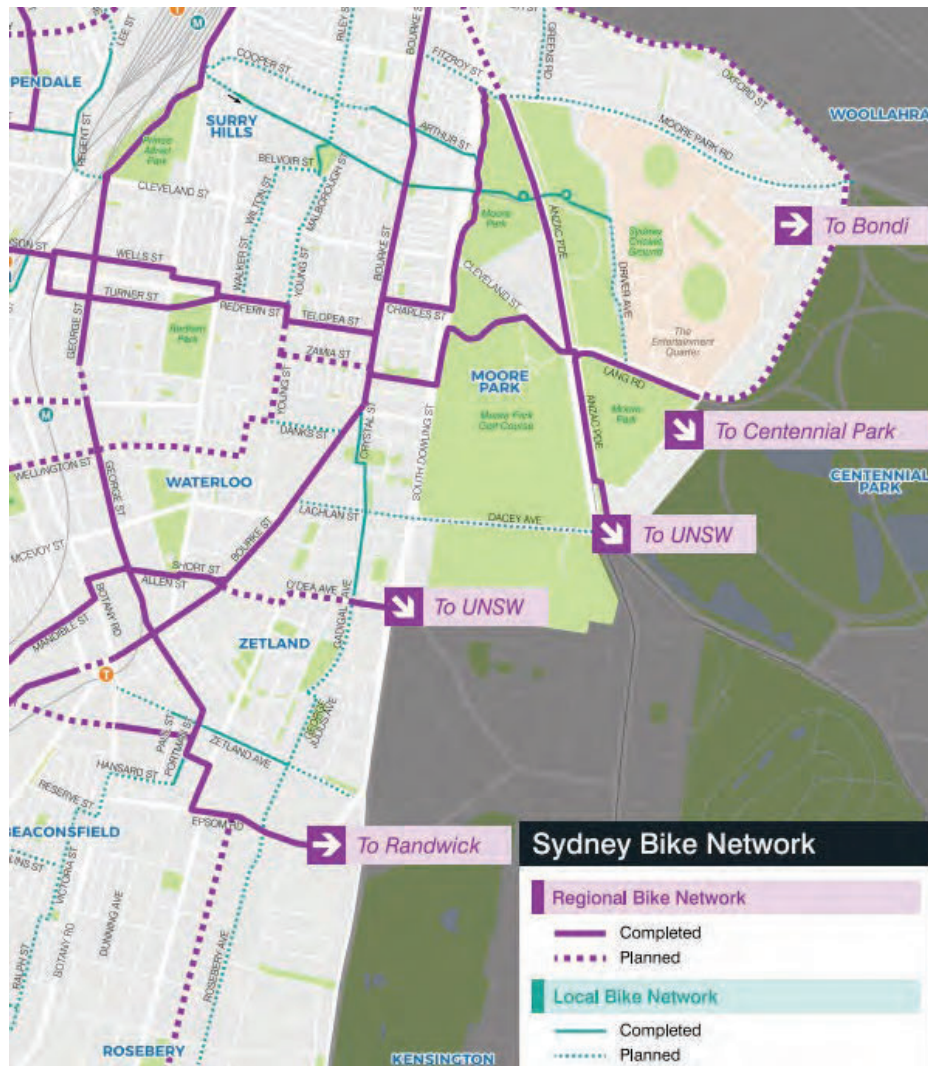


Dacey Avenue is a key priority for a safe cycleway and wider walking paths. This could be achieved by using some space in the park, or reallocating roadscape by reducing or narrowing vehicle lanes. A footpath and cycleway (or possibly a shared path if space is constrained) on both sides of Dacey Avenue would be ideal to maximise connectivity, particularly if the signalised intersections at either end of the road continue to prioritise cars.

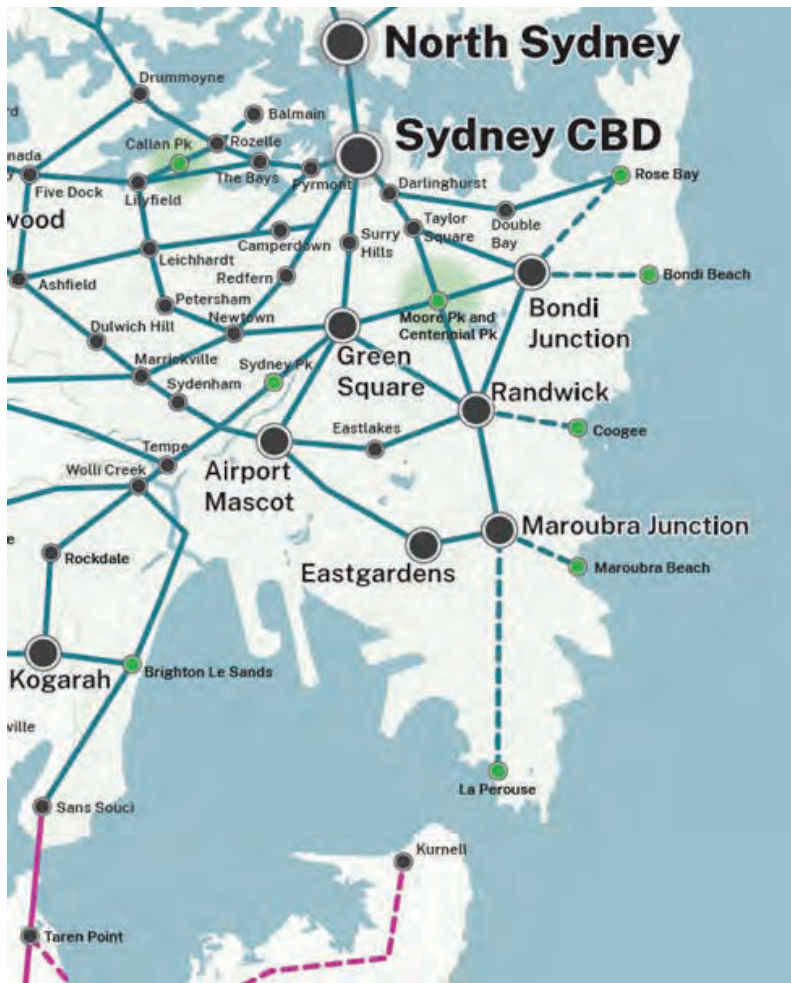
A path along the southern edge of the park should be incorporated into the plans, as well as improved access to the rear of the SupaCentre.

A shared path (or even better, a separated cycleway using existing road space) along the western side of Anzac Parade is also recommended. The high quality path on the eastern side is very difficult to access from Moore Park South. The only mid-block crossing requires multiple light phases for pedestrians and bikes.

City of Sydney has a strategic [bike network map](#) in its [Cycling Strategy and Action Plan](#). It is clear that Dacey Avenue is critical to the future network and a route along the bottom edge of the park would provide an excellent, scenic and leafy alternative to Todman Avenue for riders travelling between O'Dea Avenue (where a cycleway is under construction) to UNSW.



- In 2022, Transport for NSW released the [Eastern Harbour City Strategic Cycleway Corridors](#). The 30 corridors aim to connect key centres such as Randwick, Eastgardens and Maroubra Junction. Exact routes will be subject to detailed design and collaboration with councils and the community. The extract from the network map shows the area relevant to Moore Park South. **New and upgraded paths around the park must contribute to the Green Square - Bondi junction corridor and improve the Taylor Square to Randwick corridor.**



- Please refer to the TfNSW Cycleway Design Toolbox and TfNSW Walking Space Guide for best-practice guidelines on paths widths and intersection details. 3.0m must be the minimum width for shared paths to accommodate the likely volume and variety of users, including many people riding e-bikes for work, leisure, caring duties and commuting.
- Greater Sydney Parklands must ensure that new active transport connections are supported with strategies around safety, passive surveillance and adequate lighting. [Research has found](#) that more than half of women in New South Wales do not feel safe walking afterdark in public spaces. 59% of the women reported either feeling "not so safe", or "not at all safe" in public spaces at night. Also important is the sense that, should something happen, there is a means of escape rather than a sense of entrapment. All paths should be designed so that there are escape routes. Avoid fenced paths with no exit.
- Note that the Greater Sydney Parklands is lucky to have an active and highly experienced ecosystem of advocates living and working in the Moore Park area. Please collaborate closely with WalkSydney, BIKEast, Bike Sydney and Bicycle NSW on projects related to walking and cycling.

Please reach out at any time for help and advice as you develop the active transport strategy for the new park.

Sarah Bickford
Bike Planner

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: BIKEast Incorporated

Date received: 10 April 2024

BIKEast, community cycling representatives from Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is pleased to make a submission on the Moore Park South Parklands.

We believe that providing and maintaining open and accessible space for the community is very important.

We also believe safe, continuous, and connected bike routes will encourage more people to ride their bikes more often – an outcome that is consistent with NSW and Local Government strategies to realise the considerable individual and public benefits of increasing the mode share of active travel (walking and cycling).

As such, BIKEast submits the following comments.

Summary of major points / issues

1. Active transport connections needed on all sides of Moore Park South Parklands (cycling network connections)
2. Implementation of pathway safety measures (lighting, width)
3. Effective wayfinding signage
4. Minimum of 3.0m width for Shared Pathways
5. Safe signalised crossings to enable safe access to/from Moore Park South

Active transport connections needed on all sides of Moore Park South Parklands

Walking and cycling (active transport) connections are needed on all sides of Moore Park South Parklands. This area is a key East/West connector between Sydney's Eastern Suburbs and Inner West, with various significant places (housing, education, health, employment, shopping) spanning this space.

As a key public green open space area, it would align with NSW policies to encourage uptake of active travel to this local location, reducing vehicular congestion.



BIKEast urge Greater Sydney Parklands to incorporate walking and cycling paths – preferably protected cycleways to ensure that this area can be well utilised and safely utilised by people walking and cycling to access these parklands for the various activities.

Cycling network connections

Greater Sydney Parklands must support and add safe active transport infrastructure to current and future routes connecting to surrounding infrastructure and connections. The diagram below highlights missing links in the local and regional bike route network and key intersections for people accessing Moore Park South by bicycle.



City of Sydney cycling map showing disconnect around Moore Park South.

Implementation of pathway safety measures (lighting, width)

Research has found that more than half of women in New South Wales do not feel safe walking afterdark in public spaces. 59% of the women reported either feeling "not so safe", or "not at all safe" in public spaces at night.

"Environmental factors were identified by **commuters** twice as frequently as they were for those out at night recreationally.

While the lack of obvious security either by CCTV or personnel were mentioned, **the main environmental aspect highlighted by participants in both groups was the level of lighting.**

Low lighting levels can exacerbate other physical environment design factors such as the possibility of places where people can hide not just in the shadows but behind walls or vegetation or around corners (blind spots). The ability to be able to see what is ahead and to the side is important for a sense of safety as women move through the city.

Also important is a sense that, should something happen, there is a **means of escape** rather than a sense of entrapment.

In this research, sexual harassment was the main issue impacting on women in Sydney at night.

Typically, women described particular locations as well-known for harassment and assault. While behaviour by men made a place unpleasant, the physical conditions of a location also had a deep effect on perceptions of safety.

Women commuting for work at night warned of areas that were consistently bad and should be avoided.

Never felt safe walking in this area, even if I am not alone. The lighting is terrible and the design of the walkways leaves a lot spots hidden from view.
(Central Station, Age 19)

Committee for Sydney: Safety after dark: Creating a city for women living and working in Sydney (2019)

Safe options (wide, good surface, good lighting) must be provided for options to ensure safety for path users. Path users must be able to see upcoming obstructions / issues with the path ahead. We have heard from members, stories of attempted attacks at night, with women stating "I would take the road, because at least they would find my body".

"Lighting is incredibly important. What we do know is that women choose safety over convenience in the way that they move around a city," she (Transport for NSW Acting Deputy Secretary for Cities and Active Transport, Caroline Butley-Bowdon) said.

BIKEast congratulates Moore Park parklands and supports the recent actions in 2023 to increase lighting for the Football World Cup to improve safety for women moving through the Parklands spaces. All paths should be designed so that there are escape routes if necessary - rather than having fenced paths with no exit.

BIKEast urge Greater Sydney Parklands to ensure that any active transport connections are supported with strategies around safety passive surveillance and adequate lighting.

Effective wayfinding signage

Dacey Ave and Moore Park are critical connectors in this area that will be growing in density. Being near the UNSW, CBD and Health precincts means there may be visitors who may be near to the area. It is important that effective wayfinding signage is installed for people riding bicycles to navigate their way to attractions within or beyond Moore Park South.

Minimum of 3.0m width for Shared Pathways

BIKEast's preference is to have dedicated, protected cycleways to allow different speeds of travel modes easily and safely, however, we understand constraints with utilities and other infrastructure. If shared paths are utilised, BIKEast recommended a 3.0m path width to serve adequately as a shared path. We consider the current TfNSW Guidelines (2.5m minimum) as too narrow, when the safety of pedestrians is realistically considered, particularly now that many businesses are served by electric power-assisted delivery bikes.

This desired path width excludes poles which may obstruct / narrow the path, causing unexpected movement / conflict.



Example of current Dacey Ave narrow footpath obstructed by poles

Safe signalised crossings to enable safe access to/from Moore Park South

We request that marked pedestrian / cycle crossings be installed on every leg of every intersection, signalised or unsignalised. Forcing people to cross 3 legs instead of one will result in people taking risks to avoid waiting for such a detour.

Other adjacent destinations must also be accommodated when considering accessibility. For example, it is currently quite difficult to access Moore Park SupaCenta pick up points by bicycle, resulting in unexpected behaviour which is unsafe and risky.



Poorly maintained refuge style crossings may result in people getting caught on non-standard median or fenced kerb ramp.



Current entrance to SupaCenta must be made accessible to avoid unsafe situations.

Concluding remarks

BIKEast believe the benefits of active travel, including community and worker health as well as reducing traffic congestion, are important to the local community, and should be captured in Moore Park South planning processes going forward. We encourage Greater Sydney Parklands to consider the points we have raised to support and encourage uptake of active, healthy and sustainable transport options to move around our city.

Thank you for taking the time to read our feedback.

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Walk Sydney

Date received: 7 April 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to convert Moore Park Golf Course to public open space on the western and southern flanks.

WalkSydney is the peak body advocating for walking in the Greater Sydney Region. WalkSydney's vision is for walking to be the first choice for short trips around Sydney.

WalkSydney has three key asks:

- *30 km/hr urban default speed*
- *streets that are safe and easy to cross*
- *pedestrian priority over cars*

WalkSydney is a member of the *Better Streets* coalition, an collection of hundreds of community organisations advocating for better streets in Australia.

WalkSydney **supports** the proposal, in particular because it unlocks green space within walking distance for some of the most dense developments in Sydney essential for health and well-being¹:

- of a greater diversity of recreational users other than current users, including children and teenagers. Walking in green and blue environments is a key component of a healthy lifestyle, and major public green space is critical to providing that opportunity.
- returning a major section of the originally dedicated 'People's Park', commercialised for the latter half of its life, to a community asset for the most accessible community use - walking.

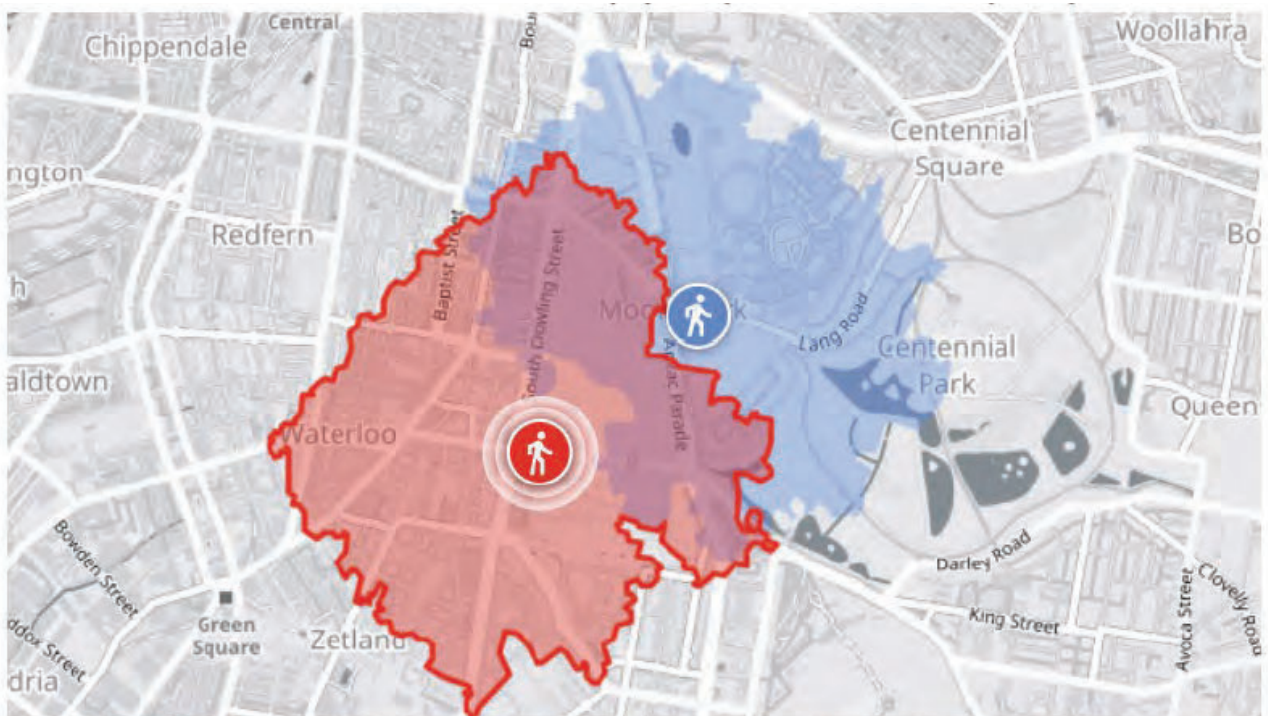
Current challenges and opportunities

- **Accessing the Park:** Accessing the Park is very challenging - crossing South Dowling Streets takes 120 seconds - crossing Anzac Parade takes 130 seconds people are often forced to wait nearly half of a five minute walk standing in a hostile, noisy, polluted traffic intersection for a red signal to turn green for pedestrians, often for as little as 6 seconds.
- **Accessing Centennial Park:** People *drive past the proposed park* to access Centennial Park for exercise (see reason above) and there is an opportunity to make these trips walking or riding all-the-way, if crossings are improved as part of the project, as highlighted by the discussion paper. The severance created by state

¹ Jenny Roe, Layla McCay, Restorative Cities: Urban Design for Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2021

roads are within the State governments control, who claim to have the most adaptable and coordinated traffic systems in the world (SCATS). The system should be used of the benefit of *all users*, not just car drivers. The main benefit is that, unlike Centennial Park main gates, a significant amount of dense residential development lies within 15 minutes' walk of the new parklands, as illustrated below, making it more attractive to walk than drive, *if* their journey within the parkland is barrier-free.

- Poor quality internal and peripheral paths: The path infrastructure around the perimeter has been allowed to fall into disrepair and is generally of poor quality (e.g. Anzac Parade and Dacey Avenue). The perimeter paths do not provide a connected network across or around the exterior of the park, and have even less amenity within the Park. The Park should be accessible at street level from every side including Dacey Avenue and Alison Road.
- Opportunity to connect to nearby cycleways: The catchment of people who could access the Park could be increased with direct connection to nearby cycleways like Bourke Street cycleway.



Potential new walk-all-the-way trips (15 minutes' walk to a park entrance) if the new parkland was perceived to be equivalent to entering Centennial Park - in comparison to the main gates. This would require excellent walking links over Anzac Parade.

WalkSydney recommends the following is done:

- The Western part of the current golf course and the entire area South of Dacey Street is given to public open space, as per the City of Sydney proposal Option 2.
- Improved signal timing on the pedestrian crossings accessing the new parkland from all sides, and particularly the key barrier intersections identified in the discussion paper. Ensure all missing crossings are added to the signalised intersections.
- Improve connectivity to, between the two halves of, the Park at street level by prioritising walking at all signalised crossings facing park entrances and no more than 90 seconds wait time.

- Calm Dacey Avenue and slow traffic, such as by allowing weekend, and interpeak parking on the kerbside lane. This allows you to sweat road assets *and* minimise off-street car park so that land can be used for recreational purposes, such as bike pump track or skate park.
- Make it easier to access the Park by public transport by improving crossing and peripheral paths, to allow reuse of car parking space for other purposes - see above. The staggered crossing at the bus stops north of Robertson Road could be made a single stage pedestrian crossing.
- Improve all the quality of all peripheral paths to a reasonable standard - particularly on Anzac Parade and Dacey Avenue, and ensure there is street level access from every direction.
- Make it easy for people to walk within the park and across any roads, by including the existing golf cart overbridge over Dacey Avenue in the area given to public open space to enable people to move between the western and southern portions of public open space without waiting to cross Dacey Street, or being forced to cross 4 lanes of high speed traffic at an unprotected location. This should be in addition to, not instead of, surface crossings to access the park.

A key project indicator should be reducing the barrier of the long wait times for people walking from the new parkland to Centennial Park across State roads, by:

- reducing crossing length and wait time by making this junction a scramble pedestrian and cycle crossing. This would allow people to walk and ride directly from a new Dacey Road park directly to the park entrance near Fearnley Grounds. As a minimum, TfNSW should use the tools and technology they have to provide different signal timing at different times recognising that weekends and interpeak periods should accommodate a greater range of people. The crossing between Dacey Street and the current Centennial Parklands is a 150m, five-stage crossing across fifteen lanes of traffic and a light rail line, and this is clearly unacceptable for a 'parkland walk'.
- Tree planting to reduce the hostile nature of this intersection. The current landscaping is completely inadequate to provide any shade or shelter while waiting to cross from the north-east.



Missing link between old and new Parklands, which parallels the City of Sydney boundary with Randwick and Kensington

¹ *WalkSydney does not generally recommend overbridges due to the additional effort and distance, as well as safety and inclusivity challenges of this infrastructure. There are only limited circumstances where these crossings work, such as exiting raised stations, or here.*



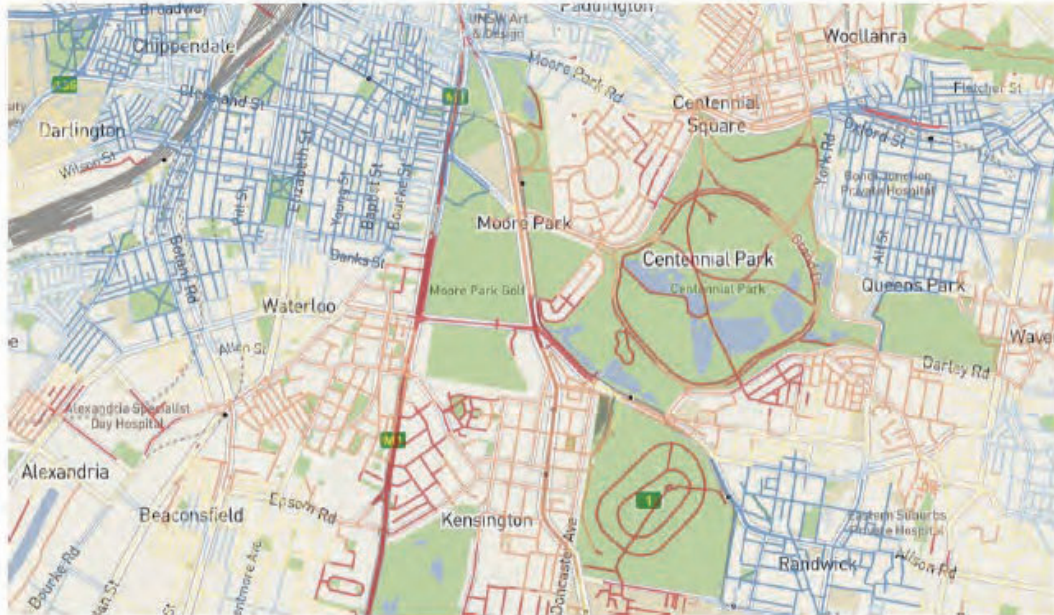
Potential connections through the parklands to make best use of existing overbridges and crossings to join up the Parklands

Additionally, walking and cycle access through to Salisbury / Balfour Roads should be provided to expand the walking catchment in Randwick.

In terms of the specific questions raised, we recommend you prioritise:

- **paths for recreational walking and riding** that connect to the surrounding area. The Park needs a peripheral network of walking and separated cycling facilities, as well as an internal network of loops to explore the Park or access facilities. The standard of these paths must be *reasonable* so that everyone can enjoy the park, not just the fit and able.

- **amenities such as cafes, cycle hire and toilets** close to entrance points to support walking and riding, modeled on The Greenhouse, near Waterloo and Randwick.
- **a community centre** for “local living needs” as there is a deficit within walking distance:



Number of “local living needs” within an 800m walking distance - [NSW Built Environment Indicators](#). Red indicates none.

We look forward to your further consultation on the detailed design of the parklands once you have landed on a concept and the key enabling works on surrounding intersections.

Marc Lane and Tegan Mitchell
President and Board Member, WalkSydney

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Sport NSW

Date received: 9 April 2024

1. Recommendations

1. The NSW Government consults directly with Golf and evaluates their Alternate Proposal against the Government's preferred option and recognises the substantial evidence and benefits presented in Golf's submission.
2. The NSW Government commits to a robust consultation process involving stakeholders including but not limited to state sporting organisations, local sports clubs and LGAs, regarding the community sporting facilities required by the burgeoning local population into the future.
3. The NSW Government substantially funds Golf's Alternate Proposal and community sport facilities identified in the Moore Park 2040 Master Plan. Other funding opportunities identified in Golf's submission should also be considered.

2. About Sport NSW

[Sport NSW](#) is the member-based industry association recognised by the NSW Government as the independent peak body for sport and active recreation in NSW. Sport NSW was established by the industry for the industry in 1991 to provide a strong and united voice for state sporting organisations (SSO), local government authorities (LGA) and other not-for-profit entities actively engaged in the sector.

Our mission is to lead the sector in building connected, healthy and active communities. This is achieved through support, knowledge sharing, recognition, networking and advocacy. We are committed to collaborating with our members and every level of government to ensure that everyone in NSW can enjoy the significant benefits of sport and active recreation.

Sport NSW directly represents more than [130 Members](#), including 90 State Sporting Organisations and 38 LGAs. Indirectly, Sport NSW represents thousands of community-based clubs involved in the delivery, administration, promotion and development of sport and active recreation in NSW.

Sport NSW is a strong, independent, united voice for the sport and active recreation sector. Our programs, services and events aim to lift our members' capacity to deliver quality sport and active recreational experiences for their participants & volunteers.

Sport NSW's strategy is built on four (4) pillars:

1. Advocate
2. Advance
3. Celebrate
4. Engage

This submission is consistent with Sport NSW's commitment to advocate on behalf of our members to build connected, healthy and active communities by providing sport and active recreation opportunities for everyone in NSW.

3. Background

3.1. NSW Government Announcement – A new central park for Sydney

On October 22, 2023, the [NSW Government announced](#) plans to transform 20 hectares of the Moore Park Golf Course into a new public park for Sydney.

The Premier and Minister for Planning and Public Space identified the needs of the growing communities surrounding Moore Park as the catalyst for the Government's decision.

Premier Chris Minns said:

"There is huge demand from residents in the city for a variety of community sporting facilities in the city's inner south, and with further density planned this will only grow."

Currently, there are almost 690,000 people within a 5km radius of Centennial Parklands. Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure population projections estimate that the population will rise by 100,000 people to almost 790,000 in 2041.

[NSW Government has committed \\$2.2b to enabling infrastructure in the 23/23 Budget](#) to support the Government's focus on increasing housing with supporting infrastructure.

The NSW Government will repurpose the current golf course's western boundary and part of the lands north of Dacey Avenue for transformed public open space and retain a minimum 9-hole golf course and the operation of the existing driving range and clubhouse. Implementation of the proposal will commence after the current operating agreement ends in mid-2026.

The announcement aligns with the NSW Government's plan to address the housing crisis ([7 December 2023](#)) by rebalancing housing growth across the state with a focus on well-located homes close to transport, jobs and existing infrastructure.

3.2. Moore Park Golf

Moore Park Golf Course was established in 1913, initially as 9-holes, the fundamental premise was to provide a playing opportunity for golfers who could not afford the fees and restrictions at exclusive private golf clubs. Following the founding of the Moore Park Golf Club in 1920, the course quickly expanded to 18-holes in 1922 to meet the significant demand for affordable and accessible golf.

Moore Park Golf Course has operated on 45 hectares of public land under successive service agreements with the NSW Government. Moore Park Golf is one of Australia's

busiest Public Golf Courses, welcoming more than 500,000 users annually with more than 100,000 rounds of golf projected in 2024.

3.3. Moore Park Master Plan 2040

Developed over two years, Centennial Parklands released the inaugural master plan (Moore Park Master Plan 2040) for the precinct in 2017.

Consultation was undertaken in two stages. Initially, '7 Big Ideas for Moore Park' was exhibited to gather feedback from the public and other stakeholders that informed a draft plan. The draft plan was subsequently exhibited receiving over 700 responses.

The following image from the [Centennial Park](#) website identifies what respondents "loved" about the draft plan including the retention of an 18-hole golf course and greater provision for sporting facilities.



The Moore Park Master Plan sets out a framework for the long-term management (25 years) of the precinct. The Master Plan commits to:

Better places for you to play and train

Schools, community clubs and high-performance sporting teams can look forward to better- maintained grounds and new all-weather fields and courts.

Community Sport

- Introduce new sports related commercial activities and facilities.
- Upgrade E.S. Marks Athletics Field facilities and services.
- Potential for a built edge and address to Anzac Parade at E.S. Marks Athletics Field to create a holistic new sporting and athletics centre. Potential new uses could include indoor sports facilities, fitness centre or allied health and complementary sports medicine opportunities.
- Short-term recreation options for E.S. Marks Athletics Field could include new basketball and multi-purpose sporting courts around the perimeter of the athletics track.

- Potential to upgrade the existing undercover grandstand area and amenities at E.S. Marks Athletics Field
- Upgrade sporting fields in Moore Park West following the construction of Light Rail. Upgrade to consider new lighting, amenities and multi-purpose fields.
- Improve the quality of grass at Moore Park East following the removal of temporary, on- grass event parking, and mark out new sporting fields. Consider new lighting and amenities.
- Consolidate tennis, netball, and basketball courts into a sporting destination at Robertson Road Fields. Consider all-weather, multi-purpose fields and courts at existing non-turfed areas to meet future demand in a flexible way.
- Upgrade/improve amenities at existing high-performance fields in Moore Park East and at Bat and Ball Field.
- Restore and adaptively re-use historic Toll House for new sporting related activities and facilities.
- New fitness stations along a closed pedestrian training circuit.
- Creation of Moore Park Common (a village green) to the north-west of Kippax Lake providing community sporting uses such as cricket.
- High performance fields with equitable community access.

Golf

- Introduce new golfing activities within the Moore Park Golf precinct to meet changing trends of golf in the future.
- Re-configure edges of Moore Park Golf in the long term to allow greater public access at its perimeter while maintaining its championship length.
- Upgrade historically significant Golf House to introduce new sport-related activities and facilities

3.4. NSW Government Consultation

The Government released a [discussion paper in February 2024](#) to guide consultation and has committed to consult directly with the golf club regarding the remaining holes and operation of the clubhouse and driving range.

The Government is seeking feedback to understand:

- How would you like to use the new recreational area within Moore Park?
- What would you like to see and do there?
- What opportunities are there to reimagine golf at Moore Park?
- What, if any, barriers are there for you in accessing this area of open space?
- What else should we be thinking about with this proposed

change?

Seven core measures of success have been identified:

1. A high-quality recreational park of 20 hectares that is easy to access and well-connected to Inner and Eastern Sydney.
2. A multi-use space which creates a legacy for the diverse needs of a growing city.
3. A backyard for residents of Zetland, Waterloo, Redfern, Surry Hills and Kensington.

4. A destination which extends the Moore Park visitor experience and retains its status as a sporting and entertainment hub for the community.
5. An enhancement of the existing environmental and cultural values of Centennial Parklands, including Caring for Country outcomes.
6. A future for public golf at Moore Park that retains a minimum 9-hole golf course, the driving range and clubhouse.
7. A sustainable approach which enables operational excellence.

Sport NSW has actively encouraged relevant Members, including Golf NSW and several other affected State Sporting Organisations to engage in the consultation process and provide submissions.

4. Sport NSW's Response

Sport NSW's response to the NSW Government's request for feedback regarding the announcement in October 2023 to repurpose up to 20 hectares of the existing golf course into a new central park in the heart of Sydney with more green space, grassroots sport and recreation aligns with Golf's (Golf NSW, Golf Australia, Australian PGA and Moore Park Golf Club) Alternate Proposal and the existing provisions identified for Community Sport in the Moore Park Master Plan 2040.

4.1. Golf's Alternate Proposal

Sport NSW recognises and is respectful of Moore Park Golf Club's long-term tenure and investment in the precinct.

Sport NSW supports Golf's position that Moore Park South can be a park for everyone and the home for public golf in NSW without taking away from golf.

The Alternate Proposal submitted by Golf envisages world-class recreational and golf facilities for a growing Sydney that allows for retention and enhancement of the 18-hole golf course and maximises available open space for active recreation and active transport.

Sport NSW is supportive of the inclusion of sporting and active recreation facilities within Golf's Alternate Proposal. Further consultation will be required with a range of stakeholders including Sport NSW's Members to determine what sport and active recreation facilities should be prioritised and where community sport infrastructure should be located.

4.2. Moore Park Master Plan 2040

The Moore Park Master Plan 2040 identifies investment in a myriad of community sports infrastructure located on sites within the precinct external to the existing golf course infrastructure.

Sport NSW recognises that the Government will need to invest significantly in the provision of community sporting and active recreation facilities to adequately provide for 690k people currently living within a 5km radius of the Centennial Parklands and the projected additional 100k people who will move into the area by 2041.

The provision of the community sporting and active recreation facilities contemplated in the Master Plan should be prioritised. Specifics related to the scope and location of

facilities should follow further consultation with stakeholders and robust consideration of Golf's Alternate Proposal.

In conclusion, Golf's Alternate Proposal has the potential to be a rare win-win-win opportunity for the Government, burgeoning local community and golf. Sport NSW is confident that the Alternate Proposal will effectively achieve the Government's seven core measures of success.

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Parks & Leisure Australia (NSW/ACT)

Date received: 10 April 2024

About Parks and Leisure Australia

Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) is the peak industry association for professionals working in the sport, recreation, leisure and parks sectors across Australia.

Our vision: For Australia to be the most liveable country in the world, renowned for its parks, sport and recreation facilities that provide the foundation for healthy communities and liveable towns and cities.

This submission is made on behalf of Parks and Leisure NSW/ACT in response to the above "Have your say" and invitation from Greater Sydney Parklands to respond to the discussion paper on the matter. PLA NSW/ACT organisation recognises the value and importance of public open space to a growing community. We congratulate Greater Sydney Parklands for acknowledging that the provision of open space infrastructure is an important consideration in an area of Sydney where there is a forecast for a significant increase in population into the future.

Public Open Spaces are important because they:

- Extend small living spaces and provide areas for social interaction and economic activities, which improves the development and desirability of a community.
- Benefit our health, help build a sense of community, civic identity and culture, drive economic growth, transform wasted space, and give a city character and enhance architectural diversity.
- Have tremendous environmental benefits, improve mental health, reduce stress, improve concentration, and have physical and social benefits.
- Help lower rates of crime and violence, make space for formal and informal economic activities, and provide services and opportunities to a diversity of users.

Within the discussion paper there is little information that provides detail on the reason for changing the purpose of the existing public open space. Other than to make general statements about a future population increase (*detailed on page 4 of the discussion paper*).

The paper indicates that the proposed changes to Moore Park South are in response to community feedback on how the space could be utilised in the future.

PLA NSW/ACT have concerns with the approach taken on this proposal due to the following reasons:

- The proposal is to repurpose the way valuable existing public open space is being utilised rather than creating additional public open space in response to the expected growth in residents. This approach is inconsistent with best practice open space planning.
- The provision of additional open space infrastructure should be strategically planned, then funded and provided by the future development that will occur.
- The repurposing of Moore Park South does not appear to be supported from an evidence-based perspective, where data has been provided in the discussion paper to confirm that there is a reduction in demand for the current recreational use (golf). No reference is made to the measures for provision detailed in the NSW Government Architects Greener Places Design Guide (draft), which focuses on accessibility and quality of public open space in high density areas, to form the basis for repurposing the area for passive open space.
- There is no confirmation of the funding mechanism and timeframe for delivery of the proposed changes to Moore Park South area and its repurposing for other recreational uses.
- The discussion paper does not clearly articulate how the change in recreational use of Moore Park South is consistent with the Master Plan for Moore Park (2040) and how it relates to the planning for the remainder of the park.
- The repurposing of the existing open space should be supported by data that demonstrates there is an economic, as well as social, benefit to the change. It should also be detailed how the embellishment of the area is to be funded and demonstrates that it delivers the most effective return on investment as part of a plan for delivery of open space infrastructure associated with the future development.
- The discussion paper does not outline any other potential options available to provide local parkland to the incoming population nor whether any other options were examined. It simply identifies the repurposing of a significant portion of Moore Park Golf course. This is a major failing of the paper and fails to demonstrate an open, transparent and comprehensive planning approach to this issue.

It is noted that the discussion paper, feedback has been sought specifically on the matters below. PLA NSW addresses these specifically:

How would you like to use the new recreational area within Moore Park. What would you like to see and do there?

Any change to the way the public open space at Moore Park South is managed should be evidence based and align with a strategic open space plan for the planned population. It should consider issues such as distribution and accessibility consistent with the NSW Government Architects Greener Spaces Design Guide (draft), as well as an analysis on the cost benefit in the broader context of open space provision in the area.

What opportunities are there to reimagine golf at Moore Park?

Should any change to the space be justified based on evidence, it should be detailed to the community the funding mechanism that will be put in place. It should be detailed how this fits into the broader strategic plan for the provision of open space infrastructure associated with the future development. This should include the role and function that all of the Open Space within Centennial Parklands will play in that strategic context. It should also identify the impacts on community use of the golf course as a result of a reduction from 18 to 9 holes including revised hours and availability of use for members and public users, impacts to services, estimated green fees increases due to reduced income and the overall financial viability of the golf facility as a result of the proposed changes. An independent assessment of these issues.

What, if any, barriers are there for you in accessing this area of open space?

The access to Moore Park South, and all open space within the area should be investigated through GIS mapping and open space planned in the area so that the future population has accessibility consistent with the NSW Government Architect's Green Spaces Design Guide (draft). That is there is an open space area of at least 1,500m² (preferably 3,000m²) within 200m of all residential development.

The constraints section of the discussion paper identifies several major challenges in providing local parkland at this site. This includes extremely difficult pedestrian access, major road corridors which effectively create pedestrian barriers, lack of amenity and a lack of permeability with adjoining open space. These barriers are significant and do not reflect best practice in open space planning.

What else should we be thinking about with this proposed change?

Investigations into the alternative options to meet the local open space and recreation needs of the future community need to be documented and shared with the community. This is a vital part of an evidence – based and transparent planning process and is essential to support any proposed repurposing of the existing recreation space at Moore Park South.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper and we look forward to participating further in the process as required.

Simon James
President PLA NSW/ACT

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Alliance of Moore Park Sports (AMPS)

Date received: 10 April 2024

On behalf of the Alliance of Moore Park Sports (AMPS), we welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Moore Park South Discussion Paper.

AMPS is a collective of the sporting clubs and governing bodies that are the tenants of Moore Park stadia, the Sydney Cricket Ground, and the Sydney Football Stadium. AMPS represents a collective voice on the future of the Moore Park precinct and our members include representatives of all levels of sport from grassroots through to the elite. Our members and fans contribute substantially to the vibrancy, culture, and economy of New South Wales and drive consistent and continuous visitation and positive impact on the Moore Park precinct and surrounding communities.

AMPS is strongly supportive of the Moore Park 2040 Masterplan (MP2040), and we agree with the view outlined in the Discussion Paper that any changes to Moore Park South must consider the primary objectives of that masterplan, including:

- Providing solutions for transport and access to the broader Moore Park precinct.
- Maintaining and enhancing green open space to accommodate the changing and increasingly diverse sporting and recreational needs of the community referenced as active recreation.
- Responding to increasing visitation and usage demands enabling Moore Park to become the premier destination for entertainment and sport.

Moore Park is a unique entertainment, sports, and events destination and the most critical challenge for our members and fans is the permeability of the precinct. As the precinct continues to thrive and expand, it becomes increasingly apparent that the existing transport infrastructure is reaching its limits. On major event days, there is a need to move large numbers of visitors through Moore Park, and with the local population expected to rise from 690,000 to 790,000 by 2041, this requirement is going to become more acute.

The most critical access challenge is the east/west movement of visitors, with large arterial roads (Anzac Parade, South Dowling St-Eastern Distributor) running through the precinct and vehicles prioritised ahead of pedestrians and cyclists. It is vital that planning for the reimagined Moore Park South contemplates how to best address this challenge and allow for the area to operate as a singular precinct that can support the facilitation of movement for a large number of people.

Accordingly, AMPS believes that the reimagined Moore Park South must include parking and active transport pathways to facilitate ease of movement through Moore Park South towards Centennial Park and the Stadium Precinct, supporting visitors both during the day and at night.

We also believe an opportunity exists to enhance the proposed open space offering by ensuring that any additional greenspace that becomes available in Moore Park South considers the provision for organised community sport. Moore Park is unique in that it caters for both community and elite sports and the provision of active recreation space for community sport will allow the growing local community to connect with their sporting heroes by playing and training in the same precinct. Community sport is pivotal in fostering positive community outcomes by increasing physical activity and supporting social cohesion, and we believe that this opportunity must be captured through this planning process.

The reimagining of Moore Park South presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure that Moore Park continues to be a vibrant sport and entertainment precinct to serve the needs of the wider Sydney community for decades to come. As key stakeholders in the precinct, we welcome the ability to provide this submission and comment on further details of the proposal once they become available for comment.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further.

Tom Harley
Chair of AMPS



THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Eastern Suburbs Football Association

Date received: 10 April 2024

The Eastern Suburbs Football Association in (ESFA) is the delegated Authority governing football in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney.

Our rapidly growing community enjoy the immeasurable benefits of active organised sport. In 2024 we have recently surpassed 10,000 Winter Season play registrations. We facilitate organised football for males and females aged of 5 through to 85. Over the past 12 months we have seen growth in all age groups of participation. In 2024 we have seen a 16% increase in female participation and a 15% growth in children 12 years and younger. WE continue to see significant growth in Summer Football, in Walking Football (for Seniors) and our operations are only limited by available space.

Unsurprisingly the largest areas of growth in our sport map closely to the building of population centres and active communities. The suburbs closest to Moore Park South are rapidly growing and those communities are seeking organised football parks, facilities and clubs to emerge in their area.

The Eastern Suburbs Football Association wholeheartedly supports the development of open space that will facilitate inclusive sporting opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability. As the largest team-based sport, football has experienced significant growth, particularly in women's participation, and it's essential we adapt and expand our facilities to accommodate increasing demand.

The proposal to repurpose part of Moore Park Golf Course into a new public park presents an exciting opportunity to reassess needs of the local community. By creating more green space for activities like football, football can continue to promote physical activity, social cohesion, and overall well-being among residents.

We, together with our football clubs, bring communities together by providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in football, we foster a sense of belonging and unity within our neighbourhoods.

The transformation of open space will not only benefit football enthusiasts but all families, schools and community groups who seek accessible and inclusive recreational opportunities.

Furthermore, the recent success of the FIFA Women's World Cup has sparked renewed interest in football across the country, with more women and girls eager to join the sport, it's essential that we have adequate facilities to support their participation. By integrating football

fields into the new parkland, we can create welcoming and safe environments where female athletes can thrive and inspire the next generation of players.

We understand the importance of collaboration between community organisations, government and sporting clubs and associations to ensure initiatives of this scale meet the intended aims and interests of all parties. We'd welcome the opportunity to participate in the planning process to help ensure that the football needs of the community are met.

Greg Storey
General Manager
Eastern Suburbs Football Association

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: Football NSW

Date received: 10 April 2024

Football NSW is the state governing body of football (Soccer) in New South Wales. A member-based, we currently have 31 associations throughout the state, 16 of which are in metropolitan Sydney and 15 which are in regional NSW. Recent Federal Government research, 'AusPlay' has put football as the largest team participation sport with some 1.8 million players nationally and over 777,000 players in NSW.

Football is active in every corner of NSW, football transcends race, religion, and gender to create community connections. Football plays an unrivalled role in bringing together the different cultures in Australia. Most pleasingly, the growth of female football in recent years across the state has been remarkable, since 2012 women's participation in football has grown by 41%. Today we see female footballers making up a quarter of all participants across NSW.

Centennial Parklands is in the Eastern Suburbs Football Association (ESFA). ESFA is one of the 31 local football associations across the state, and they are responsible for governance, competition management and the development of grassroots football in the Eastern Suburbs. ESFA is a true community organisation, providing football for girls and boys, men and women from all backgrounds and all abilities. The association has over 9,000 registered participants for the upcoming 2024 winter season. This is growth of almost 20% since 2022.

Not only is winter football thriving, but summer football is also rapidly expanding. In the recent 2023/24 season there were 75,041 participants across NSW. In the 2015/16 season there were 32,041 registered participants. In eight years, summer football has grown by a remarkable 134% demonstrating that participants want to play football in both summer and winter season. Football is now becoming an all-year-round sport for participants with members choosing to play in both seasons or alternatively choosing to participate in one or the other. Summer football is considered a most casual form of the game with participants participating once a week (usually mid-week) without the addition of training.

Football NSW support the proposal to transport Centennial Parklands into open space for the Eastern Suburbs community and Greater Sydney. This initiative aligns with our vision of providing inclusive sporting opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or ability. As the largest team-based sport in NSW and Australia, football has experienced significant growth, particularly in women's participation, and it's imperative that we adapt and expand our facilities to accommodate this increasing demand.

The propose to repurpose part of the Moore Park Golf Course into a new public part presents an exciting opportunity to address the recreational needs of the community. By creating more green space for activities like football, football can continue to promote physical activity, social cohesion, and overall well-being among residents. The Eastern Suburbs Football Association, as the governing body for football in this region, recognises

the importance of providing accessible facilities to support the health and fitness of our community members.

With the population Eastern Suburbs set to increase significantly over the next decade, the demand for recreational facilities will only grow. Football NSW believes that dedicating space within Centennial Parklands to football fields will not only cater to the current needs of the community but also future-proof sporting infrastructure in the Eastern Suburbs. By investing in open spaces that can accommodate football, the government are investing in the health and happiness of eastern suburbs residents for generations to come.

Football is more than just a sport; it's a platform for personal development, social interaction, and community engagement. By providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in football, we foster a sense of belonging and unity within our neighbourhoods. The transformation of Centennial Parklands into open space will not only benefit football enthusiasts but also families, schools, and community groups who seek accessible and inclusive recreational options.

Furthermore, the recent success of the FIFA Women's World Cup has sparked renewed interest in football across the country. With more women and girls eager to join the sport, it's essential that we have adequate facilities to support their participation. By integrating football fields into the new parkland, we can create welcoming and safe environments where female athletes can thrive and inspire the next generation of players.

Football NSW recognises the importance of collaboration between local and state governments, community organisations, and sporting bodies to ensure the success of such initiatives. We are committed to working closely with the NSW Government, and other stakeholders to ensure that the needs of football players and the broader community are met effectively.

In conclusion, Football NSW wholeheartedly supports the transformation of Centennial Parklands into open space for the eastern suburbs' community and Greater Sydney. By dedicating a portion of this iconic green space to sports fields, we can promote physical activity, social inclusion, and community engagement. This initiative aligns with our commitment to providing accessible and inclusive sporting opportunities for all, and we look forward to contributing to its success. Together, we can create a healthier, happier, and more connected community for generations to come.

Daniel Ristic
Manager Government Relations, Funding, and Infrastructure
Football NSW

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: AFL NSW/ACT and Sydney Swans

Date received: 10 April 2024

On behalf of AFL NSW/ACT and Sydney Swans, I welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Moore Park South Discussion Paper.

The AFL has a significant presence in the Moore Park precinct across both community and elite forms of our game. Moore Park is the home of the Sydney Swans AFL and AFLW programs – with home games at the SCG, training at Tramway Oval, and headquarters at the Royal Hall of Industries. From a community and pathway perspective, Bat and Ball Oval within Moore Park South is home to the Moore Park Tigers Junior Australian Football Club, UTS Bats, Sydney Swans Academy male and female programs and plays host to a year-round social AFL Nines competition. To accommodate the surging demand for our game, we run AFL social and junior products all seasons in Centennial Parklands green space.

The AFL is supportive of the Moore Park 2040 Masterplan (MP2040) and we agree with the view outlined in the Discussion paper that any changes to Moore Park South must consider the objectives of that masterplan, including:

- Maintaining and enhancing green open space
- Accommodating the changing and increasingly diverse sporting and recreational needs of visitors referenced as active recreation
- Providing solutions for transport and access to the precinct.

We believe that through this process, consideration must be given to how the Moore Park South precinct can support the future needs of the community and existing stakeholders to ensure that the broader Moore Park precinct maintains its presence as one of Australia's premier public spaces.

Current Challenges

It is important that the planning for Moore Park South ensures that the broader Moore Park precinct does not become a precinct comprised of disparate parks and open space. The plan should allow the area to operate as a singular connected precinct that caters to all members of the community.

There are a number of current challenges for open space access and community activity across inner Sydney. This includes the quality and quantity of existing greenspaces and supporting infrastructure, access to these assets, and the growing population in the region.

We do not agree with the site analysis presented in the Moore Park Discussion Paper that there are sufficient active recreation facilities in and around Moore Park South. Bat and Ball Oval, located to the north of the Golf Course, is currently utilised above its carrying capacity

and has no off field facilities such as changerooms or adequate amenities for players, umpires, officials or volunteers. It is regularly used by three community AFL clubs, as well as school AFL competitions with its current usage averaging 30 hours per week for training and match play. Ball and Ball oval is the only community sporting venue within Moore Park South and we strongly believe that the new recreational area within Moore Park South should include provision for organised sport and recreation as well as passive recreation.

Moore Park plays numerous roles to the local and broader Sydney community. It operates as a backyard for nearby residents, a venue for community sporting clubs and as a unique entertainment, sports and events precinct. Each of these functions draws a variety of user groups to the area and a consistent challenge for each user group is access and functionality of movement throughout the precinct. As outlined in the Discussion Paper, pedestrian access across Moore Park is challenging, with cars and other vehicles prioritised above cyclists and pedestrians. The most critical access challenge is the east/west movement of visitors – with large arterial roads (Anzac Parade, South Dowling St-Eastern Distributor) running through the precinct.

Our View for Moore Park South

This is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver additional greenspace to inner Sydney. We believe there is an opportunity to provide for all stakeholders to ensure that Moore Park continues to be the city's premium passive and active recreation precinct. A reimagined park should include:

- A new, full size oval to support community sport
- Amenities to support community sporting participation, including universally accessible changerooms and storage
- Active transport pathways to facilitate ease of movement through Moore Park South towards Centennial Park and the Stadium Precinct.

Community sporting clubs bring greenspace assets to life and provide consistent and continuous use for a diverse range of participants. An individual participating in community sport will likely utilise the relevant open space up to three times per week for organised competition and training. Sport and active recreation bring people together and participation and community sport can create a sense of belonging and identity within a community. With 58 per cent of the local community consisting of families, and over a quarter of the community speaking a language other than English, provision of community sporting space creates the opportunity for community sporting clubs to cater to these residents and play a critical role in enhancing physical and mental health outcomes, volunteerism and social cohesion.

We fully support the provision of spaces that cater for multiple uses and different sports. As a code, we work with likeminded user groups to maximise the utilisation of greenspace across the city. Some examples include Henson Park in Marrickville which is shared between AFL and Rugby League, or John Fisher Park in Curl Curl which is used by both community AFL and Hockey. The provision of spaces that support multiple community clubs allows a venue to be used more frequently by a more diverse range of participants and fosters an ability for participants to try different sports within their local area.

Additionally, we believe that there are opportunities to provide amenities to support a multitude of uses, including organised sport, community groups, functions and events. This would minimise the built environment and also ensure that any building are frequently utilised and available to all members of the community.

We recognise there will be significant investment required to transform the existing site to meet the needs of the broader community. We believe that, as with other important community and sporting projects, co-contributions from stakeholders in the precinct will be forthcoming to assist the NSW Government deliver the project. As a State Sporting Organisation, we recognise our role is to work collaboratively with Government to create opportunities for more people to be active.

We have a strong track record of co-investment in projects which create participation opportunities across multiple sports and would welcome the opportunity to continue to invest in the broader Moore Park precinct.

The reimagining of Moore Park South presents a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that Moore Park continues to serve the needs of the entire Sydney community for decades to come, and as a key stakeholder in the precinct we are excited to work with you to bring this opportunity to life.

Tiffany Robertson
Head of AFL NSW/ACT

Tom Harley
Chief Executive Officer

THE FUTURE OF MOORE PARK SOUTH – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Name: The Hon. Tanya Pilbersek MP, Federal Member for Sydney

Date received: 9 April 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to convert part of Moore Park golf course into a new park.

I strongly support the NSW government proposal to convert 20 hectares of Moore Park South into a public park, while retaining a 9-hole golf course. I congratulate you and the Premier for the vision you have shown in taking this decision, which I believe will benefit my constituents for generations to come.

South Dowling Street is the boundary of my Federal Electorate and the green space and facilities provided by Moore Park South are much needed and well used by my constituents. This parkland is on the doorstep of my residents who predominantly live in units, town houses and terrace buildings often with little or no green space.

The Sydney Electorate has some of the highest residential density in Australia and the 2021 ABS state that 690,000 residents live within a 5km radius of the Parklands with an expectation of 790,000 in 2041. Sydney electorate residents are happy to live with urban density, but having green spaces to escape to is critical for our physical and emotional wellbeing.

My constituents make good use of the sporting fields and facilities of Moore Park, including the golf course, tennis courts, basketball, football, cricket and playing fields. These provide vital opportunities for fitness and socialising and should be maintained to a high standard. I believe the playing fields would benefit from more shade trees and seating.

For the future of Moore Park South, I strongly support a design that includes restoring wetlands and providing habitat for endemic plants and animals with features such as native grass meadows and increased canopy cover. (Measures to control feral cats and foxes may be necessary to encourage return of native species.) Plantings should encourage beneficial insects such as native bees. I believe a natural looking park suitable for passive recreation would provide a much-needed refuge from the busy and densely populated suburbs nearby.

Such natural features also lend themselves to highlighting First Nations cultural heritage and history of early contact in the area.

A more natural environment would also support nature play for local kids, and water play could be an attractive feature.

Additional picnic shelters, BBQs, toilet facilities and seating is required for those who just wish to sit and enjoy the space, and those attending events and sporting facilities at nearby sports fields. I would also like to see a skateboard park if space permits.

Currently the site is cut off from the community that surrounds it by busy roads, and connectivity with the light rail is clumsy. Better connection to neighbouring suburbs and public transport should be a key feature of the design.

I thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to what I believe will be stand out legacy for you and the Minns Government.

Tanya Pibersek MP
Federal Member of Sydney
Minister for the Environment and Water