

Bronte Park and Beach Plan of Management 2017

Community Consultation Report

From: Andrew Chau, Acting Open Space Planning Manager
Subject: Consultation Preliminary Summary
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Date: 16 June 2017



This community consultation report has been prepared to document findings of the community consultation on the *Draft Bronte Park and Beach Plan of Management 2017 (Bronte POM)*.

Consultation Background

This consultation was the final of two rounds of community engagement, the first round ran for 46 days from late July until early September. The final round ran for a period beginning 4 April 2017 until 21 May 2017, a total of 47 days. During this period a total of 190 submissions were received, comprising of 13 paper surveys completed at the Have Your Say Day, 95 completed online surveys, and another 83 submissions received via email or mail.

The onsite Have Your Say Day saw 118 users of the park speak to Council staff, the Have Your Say webpage had 484 visitors, and there have been 100 recorded downloads of the Draft Plan of Management. As this quantity of interaction and interest is larger than the formal submissions, an assumption could be made the majority of website visitors and park users that were informed of the Draft Bronte POM formed no opinion, nor objection to the actions proposed.

The majority of respondents were from the local community living within the Bronte or Waverley postcode, further emphasising the park as a key local destination with a strong community character. This data is a key factor in identifying the dominate user group and ensuring the Bronte POM addresses their concerns and plans for the future.

Data collected from the online survey indicate majority respondents were aged 46 and over (62 percent), followed by people aged 31 to 45 (32 percent), and finally by people aged under 30 (5 percent). The low percentage of engagement by people under the age of 30 should be noted.

Consultation Methodology

Public exhibition of the Draft Bronte POM was endorsed by Council on the 23 March 2017. The exhibition duration was in excess of the 28 days required by the Local Government Act.

The exhibition consultation process included workshops with general stakeholders of Bronte Park and Beach, the Bronte swimming clubs, and the Bronte Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. Consultation with the broader community included a Have Your Say Day at Bronte Park on 29 April, and presentations at the Bronte Beach Precinct and Bronte Precinct meetings.

The consultation was supported by Council's Have Your Say web survey, providing a comparable survey to the first round of feedback received, and a measurable tool for gauging community interest, and demographics.

The Have Your Say Day, and Have Your Say Survey was promoted through multiple mediums to attract a wide sample of the community, these included a flyer letterbox drop to 4,000 households, on site vinyl floor decals, on site corflute signage, posters at local clubs, emails to previous survey respondents, news media advertising, and digital social media.

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To assist in the accessibility of the Draft Bronte POM, physical copies were made available to the public at the Waverley Council Customer Service Centre on Spring Street, Bondi Junction, and the Waverley Council Library on Denison Street, Bondi Junction.

Stakeholder Consultation Summary

Stakeholder workshops were provided to assist in informing the main stakeholders of the Draft Bronte POM, and to provide information regarding the actions proposed. The workshops continued the dialogue previously initiated during the first round of consultation, and allowed for direct feedback and discussion. Stakeholder workshops encouraged participation in the final round of community consultation, whether that be attending Have Your Say Day, completing the online survey, or informing other club members of the Draft Bronte POM.

Swimming Clubs

A workshop took place on 18 April 2017 at the Southern Amenities building in the Club rooms, the workshop invites were organised by Brian Ellison, Co-ordinator of the Bronte Beach Community Clubrooms Group. Council Officers presented the Draft Bronte POM to the members of the swimming clubs, focusing predominantly on the proposed actions for the Community Clubrooms.

Opinions and concerns raised at the workshop are reflected in the community submissions collated in the data presented below.

Bronte Beach Surf Life Saving Club

A workshop took place on 20 April 2017 at the Bronte Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (BBSLC), subsequent meetings took place on 12 May and 19 May 2017 for clarification of the Draft Bronte POM content relating to the BBSLC. The workshop and meetings were organised by Basil Scaffidi, President of BBSLC. Council officers presented the Draft Bronte POM and discussed the items raised by BBSLC.

Opinions and concerns discussed at the workshop and subsequent meetings have been received formally as a submission by BBSLC. Additional independent submissions and survey responses by BBSLC members reflect similar views. All the information has been compiled in the below data and analysis.

All Stakeholders

A workshop inviting all stakeholders of the Bronte Beach and Park took place on 27 April 2017. Stakeholders invited include, State Transit Authority, Roads and Maritime Service, Eastern Suburbs Local Area Command NSW Police, Ambulance NSW, Randwick Waverley Community Transport, Local schools, Bushcare groups, and local community organisations and groups.

Council Officers presented the main actions and key ideas proposed in the Draft Bronte POM, and accepted feedback and participated in discussions highlighting concerns.

Open Community Consultation Findings and Summary

The number of visits (484 visits) to Council's Bronte POM Have Your Say webpage and the combined attendance to the Have Your Say Day suggests there is great community interest and awareness of the Draft Bronte POM.

Of the respondents and submissions, a great number did not fully complete the survey and opted to provide specific comments to the actions proposed, or had provided a signed pro forma response prepared by a third party. This combined with the low number of downloads (compared to

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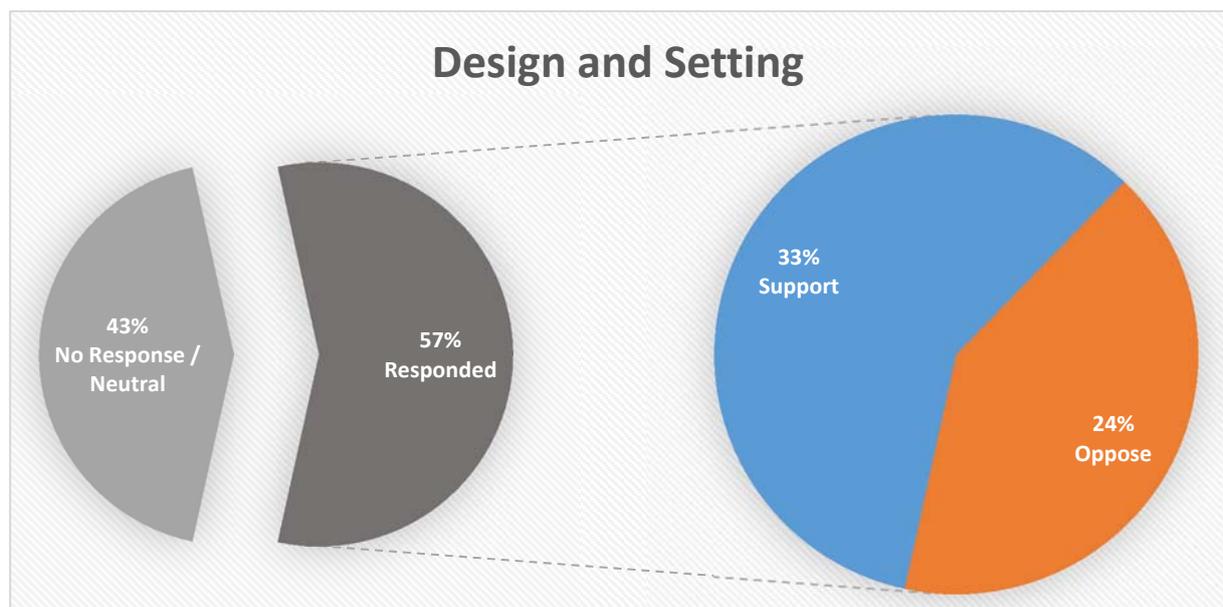
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submissions received) of the Draft Bronte POM suggest that the respondents had not fully read the Plan of Management and were providing feedback based on second hand information.

Across all themes except Design and Setting, the number of 'No Response / Neutral' far outweigh those that had formed an opinion.

Further analysis of the commentary indicates respondents had partial support or opposition to specific actions. These have been collated and tallied to have a better understanding of the needs of the community.

The Plan of Management has been separated into themes for exploring and developing key ideas and actions. This report will follow the order of those themes to allow for easier referencing to actions.



This theme covers the aesthetics of the site, and addresses the future look and feel of the park and beach. In particular, this theme encompasses the building controls for future development of the North and South Amenities buildings, the Surf Lifesaving Club, and the Life Guard Tower.

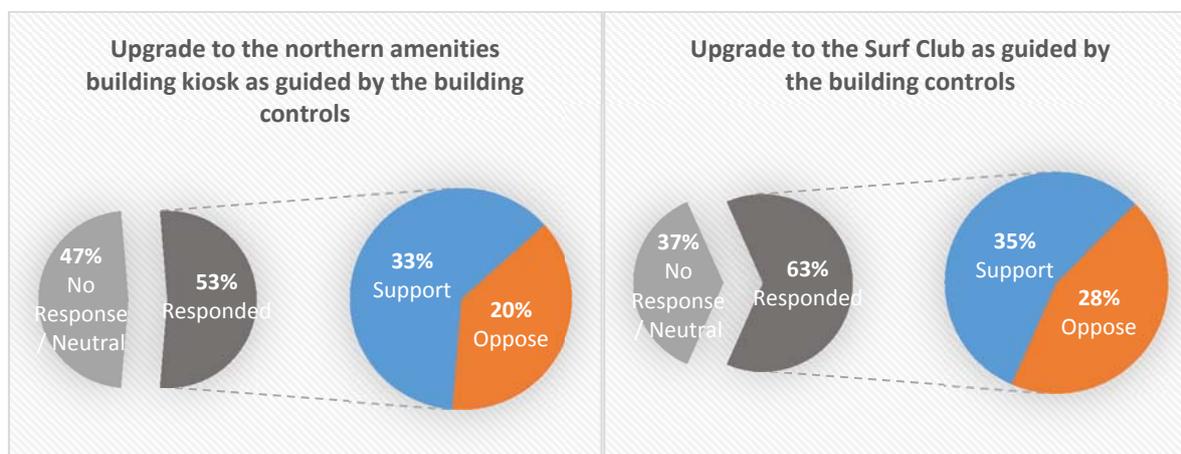
Of the respondents that had formed an opinion, actions proposed in this theme are supported by the majority of respondents.

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Northern Amenities and Surf Lifesaving Club Building Controls.

There is marginal support for the Bronte Beach Surf Lifesaving Club building controls when considering the respondents that had formed an opinion.



No Response	Support	Oppose
91	62	38

No Response	Support	Oppose
71	67	53

General comments discussing specific items of the building controls believed the controls were too lax and allowed for excessive expansion of the Surf Lifesaving Club, in particular the allowance for a second storey above the existing kiosk area, and the potential for encroachment into parkland. These comments were counterbalanced by responses by surf club members opposing the inclusion of any building controls, and to either remove all controls or adopt the proposed predevelopment application building footprint in the Plan of Management.

Further analysis of comments addressing specific items reveal there is strong support for the upgrading of facilities, an increase in building footprint, and allowing a second floor above the kiosk.

	Support	Oppose
Surf Club facility upgrade (irrespective of building controls).	29	12
Northern Amenities upgrade (irrespective of building controls).	40	4
Building controls to allow an increase in building footprint.	39	8
Building controls to allow a second floor above the kiosk.	31	7
Upgrade Forecourt/Plaza area to front of Kiosk.	8	4

Although, it must be noted:

- 29 submissions in support of the surf club facility upgrade have comments supporting the BBSLSC Development Approval.
- 20 of the 29 submissions did not address the Draft Bronte POM at all, but instead only recommended approval of the BBSLSC Development Approval.

These submissions may not have considered the wider impact building upgrades may have on the park and surrounds.

Separate discussions with representatives from the BBSLSC in creating the building controls indicate there are some issues to be addressed in the draft building controls.

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Of note is:

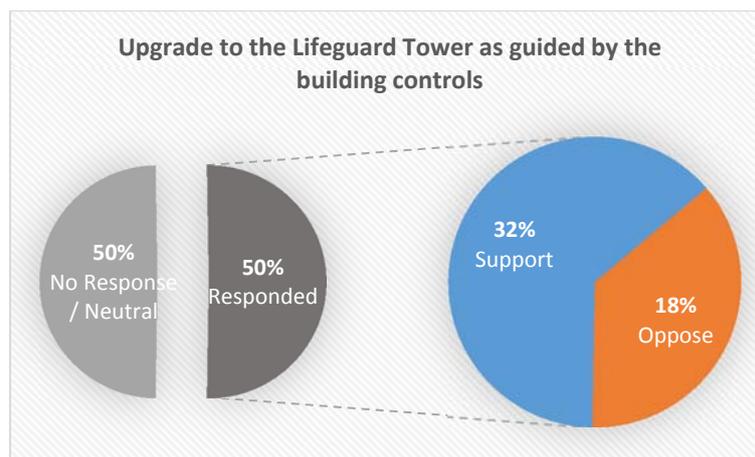
- the exclusion of existing built fabric;
- the unclear definitions of building footprint, rock escarpment, and seawall;
- omissions to exclude access through the setback; and
- omissions of eastern setbacks or access to the beach.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend adopting amendments to address the exclusion of existing building envelope.
- Recommend adopting amendments to clarify definitions of building footprint, rock escarpment, and seawall.
- Recommend adopting amendments to allow for access to the building through setbacks, and direct access to the beach.
- Recommend retaining building controls with above amendments. (refer to attachment for recommended actions – amended text).

Lifeguard Tower

Those that have formed an opinion strongly support the upgrade of the Lifeguard Tower as guided by the building controls in the Draft Bronte POM.



No Response	Support	Oppose
95	61	35

There were minimal specific comments about the Lifeguard Tower. General comments were made regarding the requirements of increasing the level of visibility by having an elevated vantage point for surveillance out to the beach and surf.

Recommended actions / decisions

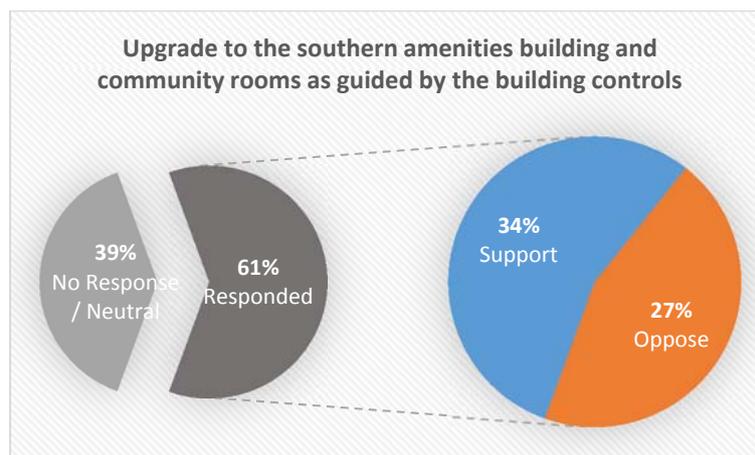
- Recommend retaining the proposed Lifeguard Tower controls, with amendment to include “clear line of sight” to the beach and surf.

Southern Amenities and Community Club Rooms

There is marginal support for the upgrade of the southern amenities building and community rooms as guided by the building controls in the Draft Bronte POM.

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No Response	Support	Oppose
75	64	52

Comments regarding the southern amenities building and community rooms voiced concerns of loss of space and the 'forcing out' of clubs from the building. These concerns were targeted at the potential space loss through the inclusion of a unisex accessible facility, and ambulant toilets for compliance to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Building Code of Australia (BCA). Respondent rationale was that the provision of these facilities in the northern amenities building would relinquish the requirements to include in the southern amenities.

Information sought by Council Officers by independent consultants indicate that the provision of the equal access amenities are required if any upgrade works occur at the southern amenities building.

BCA logic were commissioned in February 2017 to provide a fire and life safety audit of the south amenities building, this report identified technical non-compliance and provided recommendations for achieving compliance. The issues identified include equal access into the toilets and swim clubs, and the necessity of installing an "accessible sanitary facility (equipped with shower)".

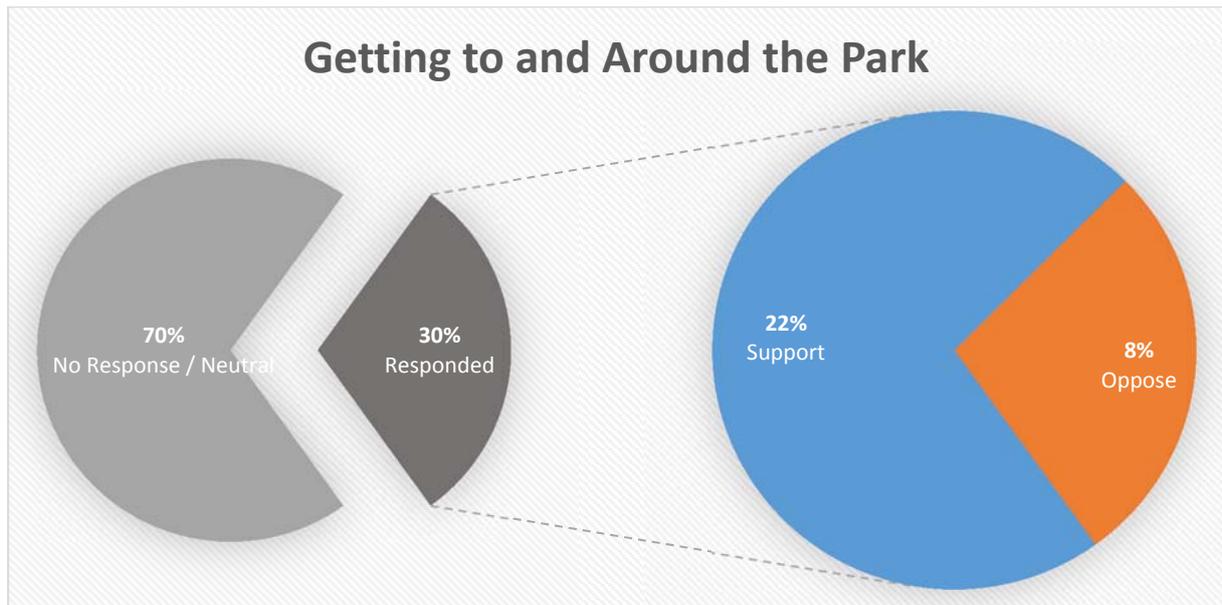
Funktion were commissioned during the development of the Bronte POM to assess the Universal Access requirements and opportunities. The report identifies the need for and recommends the provision of unisex DDA amenities and ambulant toilets in both the north and south buildings.

Additional legal advice was sought regarding Council's obligations under DDA, and BCA. This advice also indicates that Council is required by law to provide DDA amenities. This echoes the recommendations by Funktion and BCA logic, and of the actions in the draft Bronte POM.

The advice also highlights that "Council risks a DDA claim by a disable person unable to access this community space for recreation and sporting purposes".

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend to retain the actions in the Bronte Park and Beach Plan of Management for the provision of DDA and ambulant amenities in the Southern Amenities building.
- Recommend adding action to "Investigate option of constructing an additional independent structure housing DDA amenities adjacent to the Southern Amenities building."
- Recommend to retain the building controls in the Bronte Park and Beach Plan of Management.



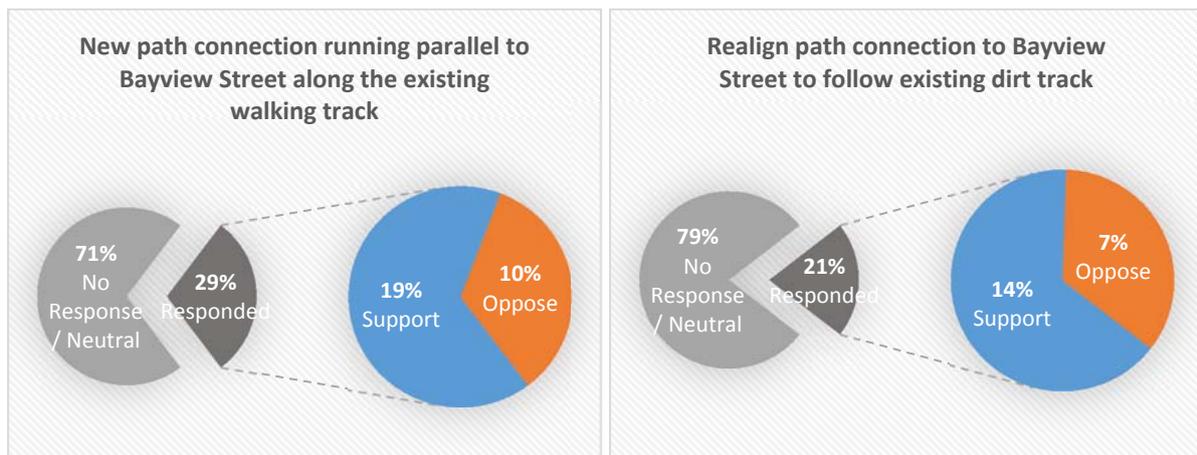
This theme focuses on circulation provisions around and within the Park, including Coastal Walk connections, equal access and DDA compliance.

Of the respondents that formed an opinion, there is strong support for the actions proposed in this theme.

The breakdown of data collected for major ideas show there is sound support of the proposed actions amongst the respondents that had formed an opinion, as the diagram above indicates, majority of respondents did not have a response or did not specify support nor opposition.

Formalisation of tracks and desire lines

There is majority support for the improvements of the existing desire lines through the gully and connecting the trails on the northern edge of the park.

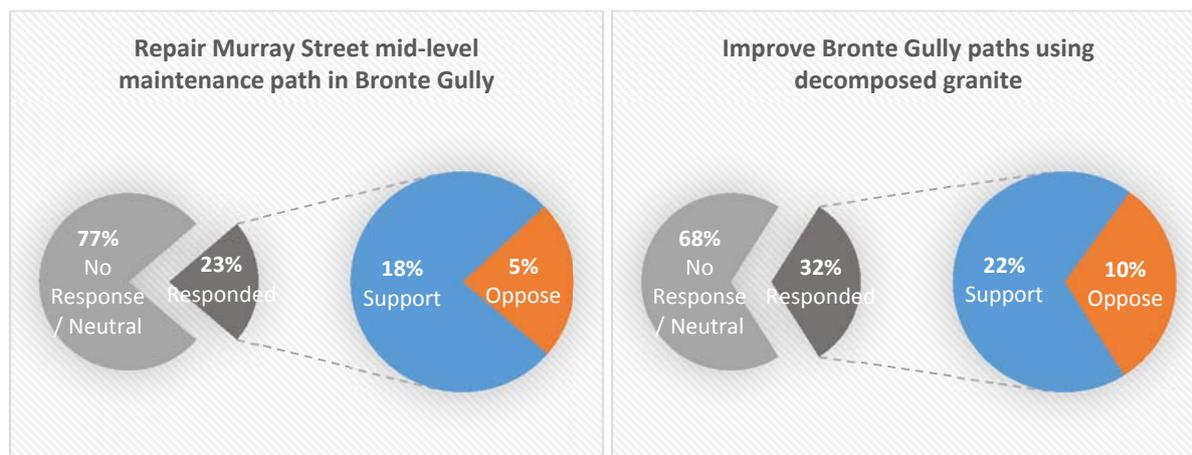


No Response	Support	Oppose
135	37	19

No Response	Support	Oppose
151	26	14

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No Response	Support	Oppose
148	33	10

No Response	Support	Oppose
130	42	19

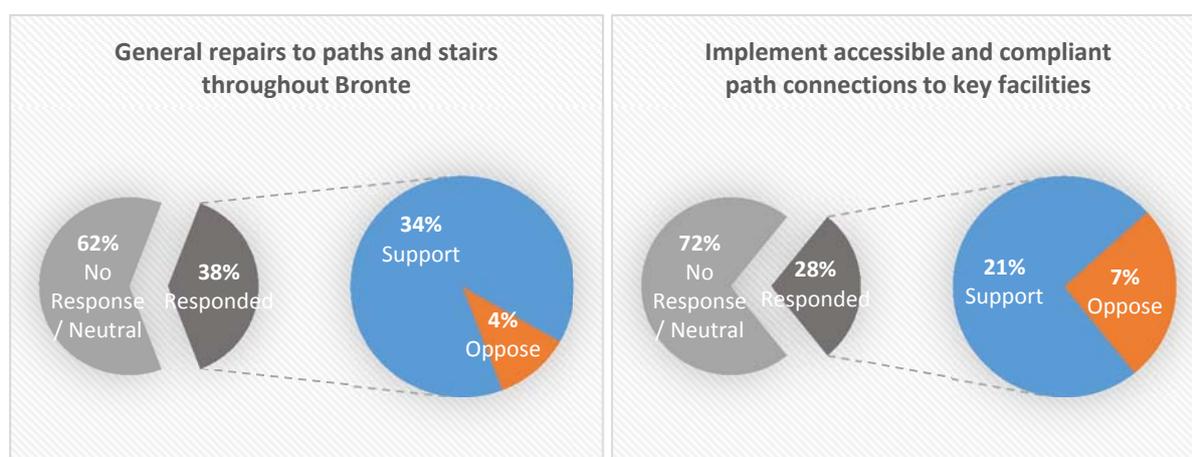
The comments for formalisation of the desire lines and trails raise concerns about the need for formal paths and the effect it will have on the natural elements where these paths are situated. The constant specific concern from the community is the perceived loss of green space.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining action for formalisation of the nominated paths, with amendment to reduce minimal width to 1.5m.

Path upgrades for accessibility and general repair

Of the respondents that formed a position, there is majority support for the improvements of the existing path network throughout the park, including the regrading and widening of paths to meet DDA compliance, the creation of accessible path connections to main facilities, and the improvement of the entrance at Bronte Village Centre. There is also resounding support for the general repair of all paths and stairs across the park.

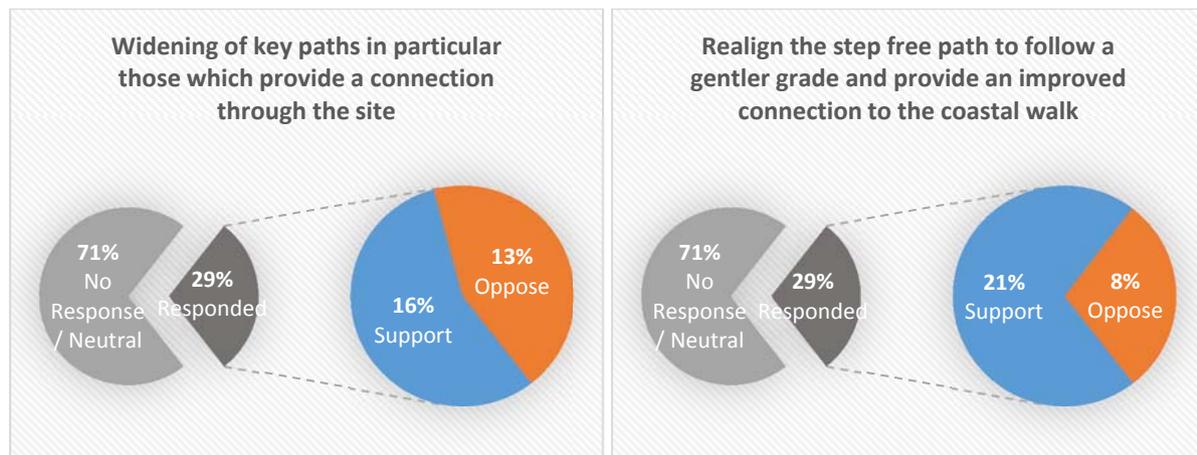


No Response	Support	Oppose
118	65	8

No Response	Support	Oppose
137	40	14

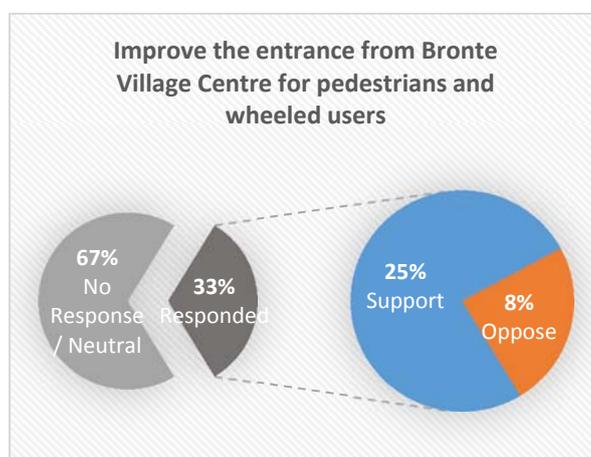
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No Response	Support	Oppose
136	31	24

No Response	Support	Oppose
136	39	16



No Response	Support	Oppose
129	47	15

Comments addressing the upgrading and repair of the Bronte Park and Beach path network commonly voiced the fear of green space loss, and the potential for creating an urbanised parkland with wide concrete paths and plazas. This concern is reflected in the submissions for the widening of key paths, only marginal support was received by the respondents that had formed an opinion.

There have also been comments against the need for equal access and DDA compliance, these views are valid, but are against the legal requirements of Council to provide equal access to facilities.

Discussions and comments also revealed proposed actions and ideas were not clearly identified, for example the extent of shared paths, widened paths, and new paths.

Recommended actions / decisions

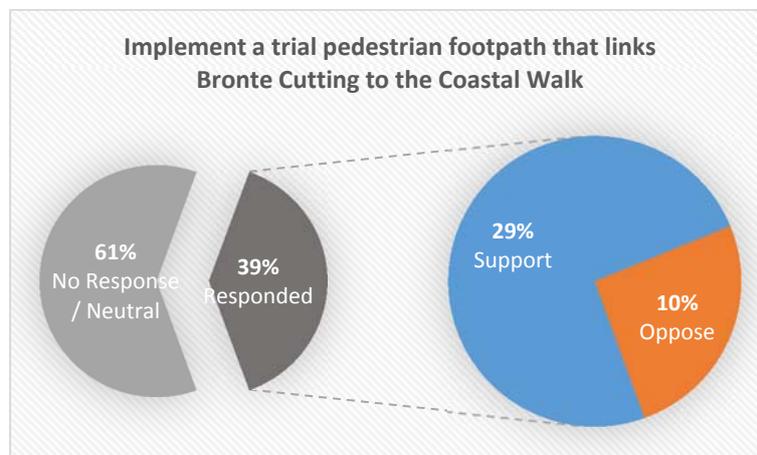
- Recommend to retain all actions in this theme, with amendments to provide clarity in proposed actions, including the revision of figure 6.3 to better show path hierarchy, and ensuring call-outs refer directly to actions proposed.

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Bronte Cutting Pedestrian Footpath Trial

Of the respondents that formed a position, there is majority support for the trial of a pedestrian footpath link from Bronte Cutting to the southern section of the Coastal Walk.

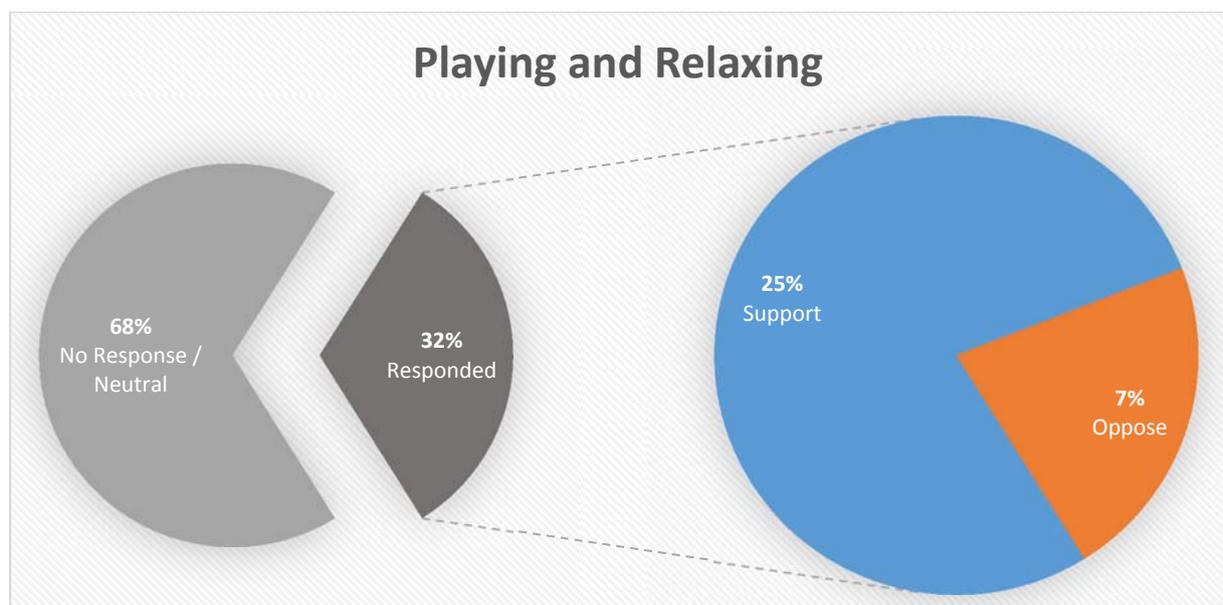


No Response	Support	Oppose
117	55	19

Comments addressing the Bronte Cutting pedestrian footpath trial were mostly supportive and positive to the proposed action. There were commentators concerned for the loss of parking spaces and the potential cascading effect it will have on parking in the area.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining the proposed pedestrian footpath in the Bronte Cutting, with amended action including a trial period as notated by the Figure 6.3.



This theme addresses the supporting amenities within the park, including the provision of shelters, barbeques, seats, and playground.

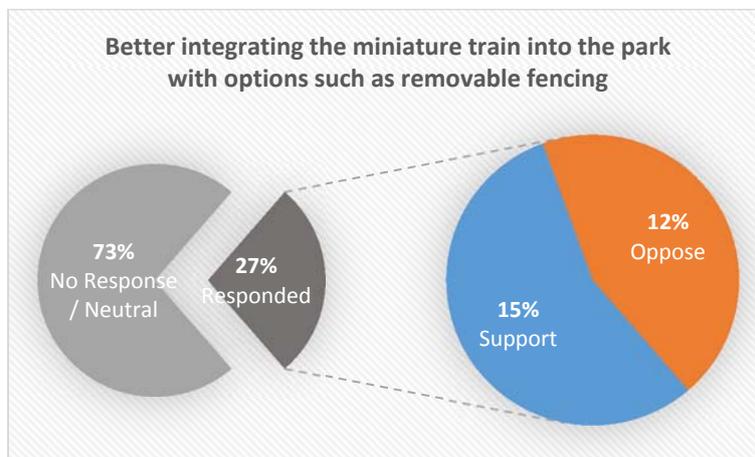
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Of the respondents that had formed an opinion, there is strong support for the actions proposed in this theme.

Miniature Train

Of the respondents that formed a position, there is marginal support of better integration of the train into the landscape.



No Response	Support	Oppose
139	29	23

The comments across all respondents were that the removal of the permanent physical barrier was not supported. Suggestions from the community involved a better fencing structure to integrate with the landscape and aesthetics of the site.

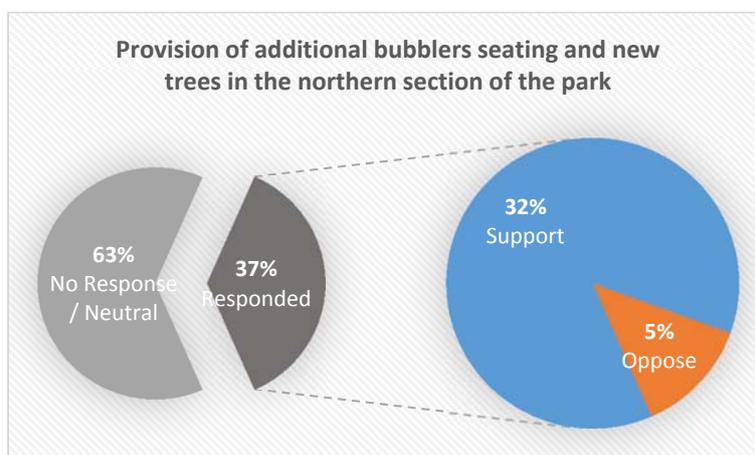
Interestingly, there were comments suggesting the removal of the train from Bronte Park.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining action of better integration of the miniature train, with amendment to include a permanent physical barrier that is conducive to the park and beach character.

Additional bubblers, seating, and trees in the northern park.

Of the respondents that formed an opinion, there is strong support for the additional provision of drinking fountains, seating, and trees in the northern section of the park.



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No Response	Support	Oppose
121	61	9

Further analysis of the comments is required to understand the specific items supported by the community.

The respondent comments indicate:

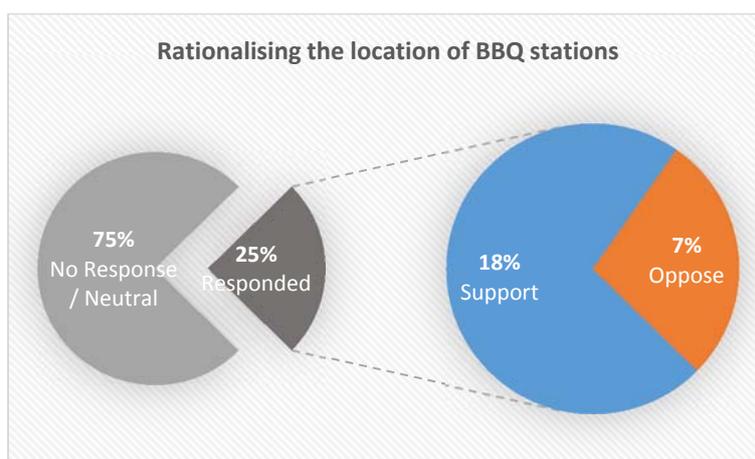
- Strong endorsement for the provision of additional drinking fountains and the inclusion of dog drinking bowls where possible.
- Support for planting new trees within the line of existing trees, only if any new tree does not block existing vistas.
- Some desire for the inclusion of dog bowls to the drinking fountains.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining all actions for provision of additional bubblers, seating, and new trees, with amendments to:
 - Specify the planting of new trees in the northern area to be within the existing line of trees.
 - Specify the planting of new trees in the southern section to be within the existing line of trees adjacent to the shared path.
 - The inclusion of dog bowls to drinking fountains when in proximity to dog off leash areas, or the coastal walk.

Rationalising the location of barbeque stations

Of the respondents that formed an opinion, there is strong support for the rationalisation of the barbeque stations. Comments indicate the support is contingent on a zero net loss of barbeques as a minimum, with an increase of barbeques desired. There are some comments opposing the introduction of barbeques to the northern area, as there is a view that this would change the relaxed character of the area.



No Response	Support	Oppose
144	34	13

Recommended actions / decisions

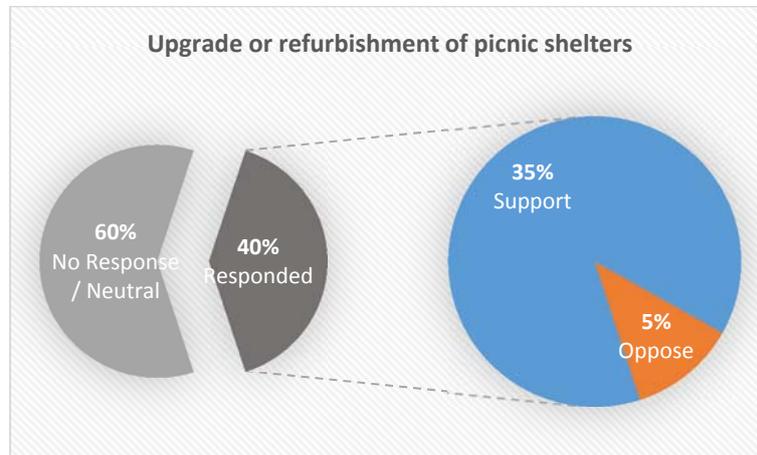
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- Recommend retaining action for rationalisation of the barbeque stations.

Upgrading or refurbishment of picnic shelter

Of the respondents that formed an opinion, there is strong support for the upgrading of the picnic shelters with repair work being a minimum requirement.

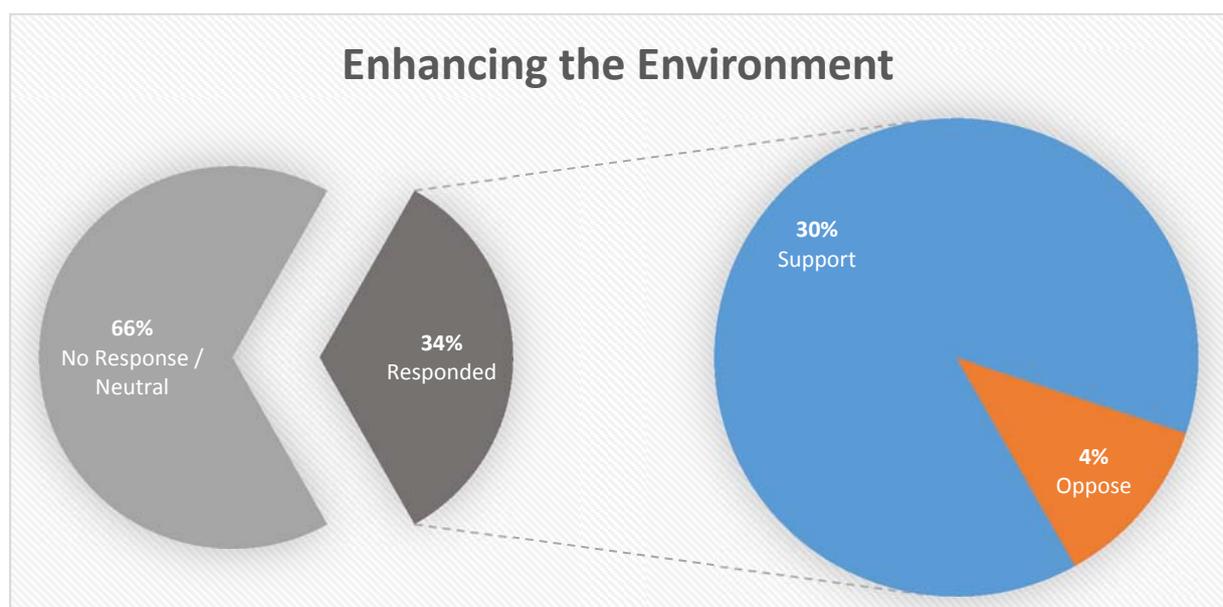


No Response	Support	Oppose
115	67	9

Comments supporting the upgrading of the picnic shelters indicate the new shelters should be complimentary to the character of the park. Reference was made to the new Bondi Park shelters being not of the Bronte character.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining action for investigating the upgrade or refurbishment of picnic shelters.

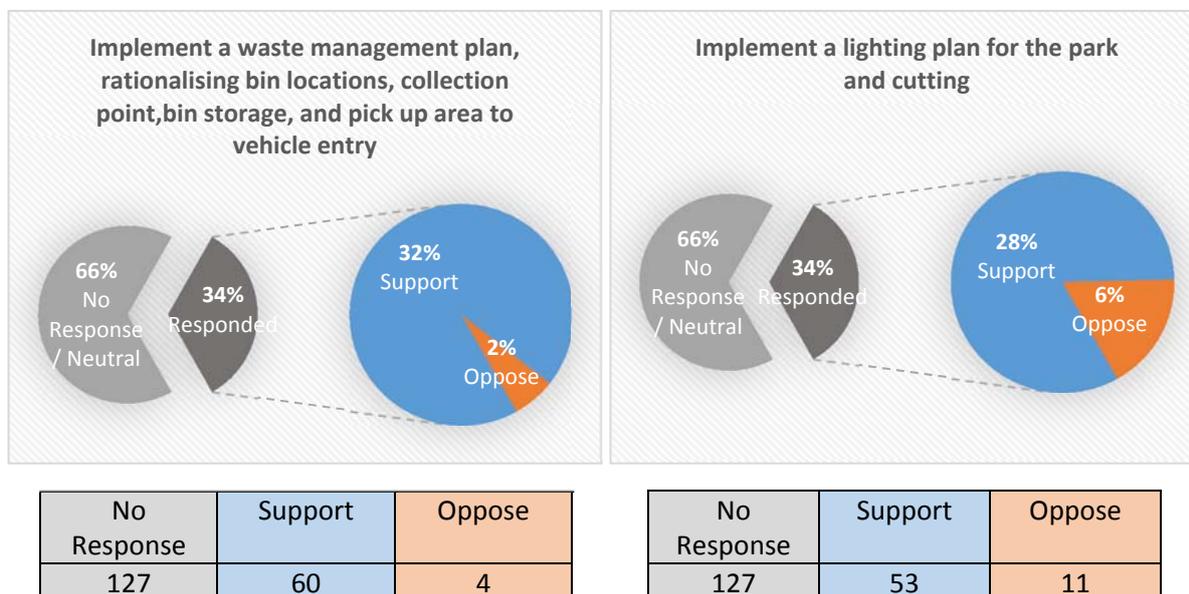


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This theme encompasses the management and improvement of the environment assets of Bronte Park and Beach, including the Bronte Gully and coastal headlands. This theme also includes improving the sustainable practices of managing the site.

Of those that had responded, there is very little opposition to the specific main ideas and actions in this theme.



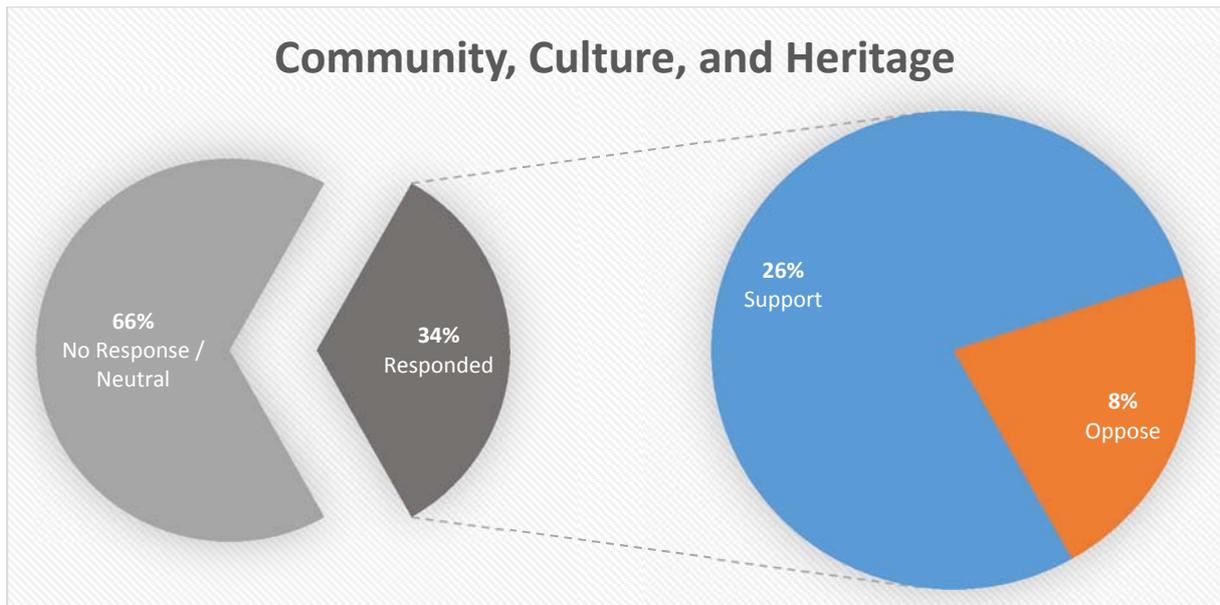
When analysing comments from respondents, the current management of bins is a safety concern in particular the movement of vehicles within the park, and additional lighting in the cutting would be welcomed.

Other suggestions regarding waste management include better signage to improve environmental awareness regarding waste, enforcing local cafes to use less single-use items (plastic cutlery, straws, etc), and creating a plastic free Bronte.

When discussing lighting within the park and cutting, respondents were concerned about the potential for light pollution and over lighting the space.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining all actions within this theme without amendments.

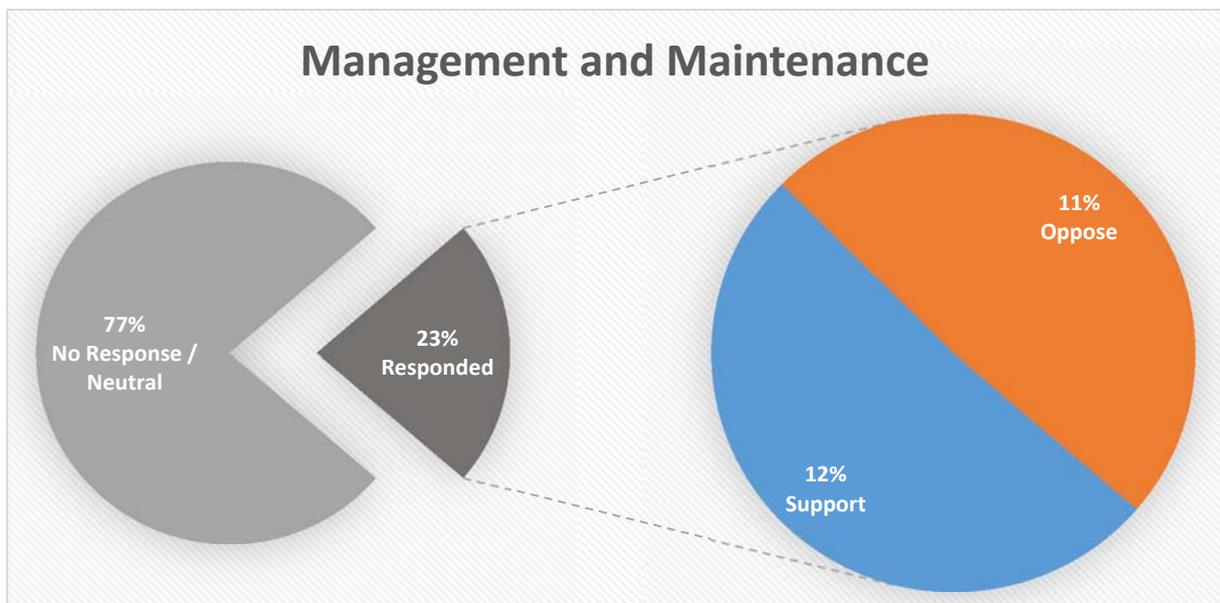


This theme focuses on the continuum of historical and cultural information, the *support of local* clubs, and ensuring the heritage values of the park are not lost.

Comments from the community suggest that there is support for the rationalisation of signage, and the inclusion of historical interpretive sign. The main caveat from the community is that there is not more visual clutter to the park, and designs are conducive to the natural theme of the park.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining actions with no amendments.



This theme addresses the ongoing management and maintenance of the park, and the review of the current practices to ensure efficiency to park staff, and safety to park users. The theme received marginal support from the community that had chosen to respond. However, analysing comments

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reveal a third of the respondents that had opposed the action had suggested better vehicle management within the park, and consideration of restricting vehicle access.

Additionally, comments indicate that there is no support for the relocation of the Bronte Baths Pumphouse. This action was not intentional and should be reworded to indicate the pool pump should be investigated for relocation, and not the pumphouse structure.

Recommended actions / decisions

- Recommend retaining actions for this theme, with amendments to better clarify action.