

Item 11: Community

11.1 Robertson Park Mudgee Master Plan - Post Exhibition Report

REPORT BY THE MANAGER RECREATION SERVICES
TO 17 APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400105, GOV400103

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. receive the report by the Manager Recreation Services on the Robertson Park Mudgee Master Plan - Post Exhibition Report;**
- 2. note that five public submission were received;**
- 3. note the minor amendments made to the draft Master Plan following public submissions received;**
- 4. adopt the Robertson Park Master Plan; and**
- 5. investigate financing options and grant opportunities for staged implementation of Master Plan components.**

Executive summary

At Council's July 2023 meeting, Council resolved to place the draft Robertson Park Mudgee Master Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a post exhibition report and seek Council's approval to adopt the amended Master Plan.

The draft Master Plan has been amended to acknowledge feedback received with respects to reducing the extensive paving and to maintain the authentic format around the Rotunda area. The amended draft Master Plan is attached to this report.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

The purpose of the Robertson Park Master Plan is to direct Council on future developments of the park over the next 10 to 20 year period. The Master Plan is to consider the existing setting and infrastructure within the park, restoring and improving park elements to better reflect contemporary demands and usage.

The draft Master Plan was presented to Council in July 2023 and was permitted to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. This report details the public submissions and presents the final plan for adoption.

Council received five submissions to which a copy of the submissions are provided as Attachment 2. In summary:

- two submissions supported the proposal
- two submissions partially supported the proposal, requesting reconsideration of the amount of hardscaping and plantings around the rotunda
- one submission did not support the masterplan

The exhibition period and subsequent time provided Council officers another opportunity to review the Master Plan contents and future layout of the park with the engaged landscape architects. Amendments made to the Master Plan post public exhibition include:

- Retain traditional circular lines around the Rotunda, reduce paving in the central area and re-establish plantings close to the Rotunda.
- The paved area around the Rotunda highlighted to be either stone or brick in the middle section, granite ring around the outside and a new ring of shade trees.
- Retain a backdrop of large trees parallel to Lovejoy Street to assist with creating a backdrop of the Rotunda when viewing from Market Street.
- Removal of feature paving bands that ran parallel to Lovejoy Street and connect axis directly to central meeting area (mirror path on northern side of Market Street).
- Increase amount of existing forested area around the old bowling green section

As part of the Mudgee Community Preschool submission, a request was put forward to increase the existing portion of land currently made available for the Preschool by 200–250m². Council Officers propose that consideration to an amended MOU be given once a detailed design is undertaken for that section of park and not the proposed conceptual masterplan.

The recommendation of staff is to adopt the amended draft Master Plan and commence investigating financing options and grant opportunities to commence implementing the Master Plan.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging
Strategy	Provide equitable access to a range of places and spaces for all in the community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Community Strategic Plan
Recreation Strategy

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

This resolution does not commit Council to any new expenditure. The Master Plan is conceptual only. It is recommended that Council commence investigating financing options and grant opportunities, noting that a stage implementation approach is highly likely required.

Associated Risks

Not Applicable

PETER RAINES
MANAGER RECREATION SERVICES

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

7 March 2024

Attachments: 1. Roberston Park Draft Masterplan- Post Exhibition Amendments. (separately attached)
2. Roberston Park Draft Masterplan- Exhibition Submissions. (separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER