

## Community Consultation Report

# North Epping Fitness Trail

North Epping



**Parks, Trees and Recreation Branch**

Hornsby Shire Council

296 Peats Ferry Road

Hornsby NSW 2077

**28 July 2025**

## 1. Background

The aim of the North Epping Fitness Trail project is to provide improved community access to regional open space with new pedestrian footpaths connecting North Epping Oval to Lane Cove National Park. The project will be delivered in Two (2) Stages due to availability of funding.

Stage one proposed works include:

- Concrete pedestrian footpath around north and east side of North Epping Oval.
- Footpath to Woodridge Ave, part Malton Road connecting oval path to Lane Cove National Park
- Footpath to part Beck St, part Downes Street connecting oval path to Lane Cove National Park
- Fitness station with couple of outdoor exercise equipment North side of the Oval along the trail.

Funding for the first stage works is from Council's 7.12 contributions plan and a \$150,000 - NSW Government Metropolitan Greenspace Program grant.

Stage two works for an extension to paths near amenities building and additional fitness station is subject to future funding.

The community were invited to review a Landscape Plan and provide their feedback.

## 2. Consultation Methods

Stakeholder	Consultation Method	When	Closing date for comments
Local residents	• Survey on Council's <i>YourSay</i> website	11/03/25	31/03/25
	• Letters mailed to adjoining residents		
	• Facebook Post on Council's Facebook page		
Park visitors	• Notification signage displayed in park		

## 3. Respondents

A total of 45 submissions were received.

- 23 people completed the online survey
- 22 comments were received via email or letters

## 4. Consultation Feedback

The following was the broad categorisation of the respondent preferences:

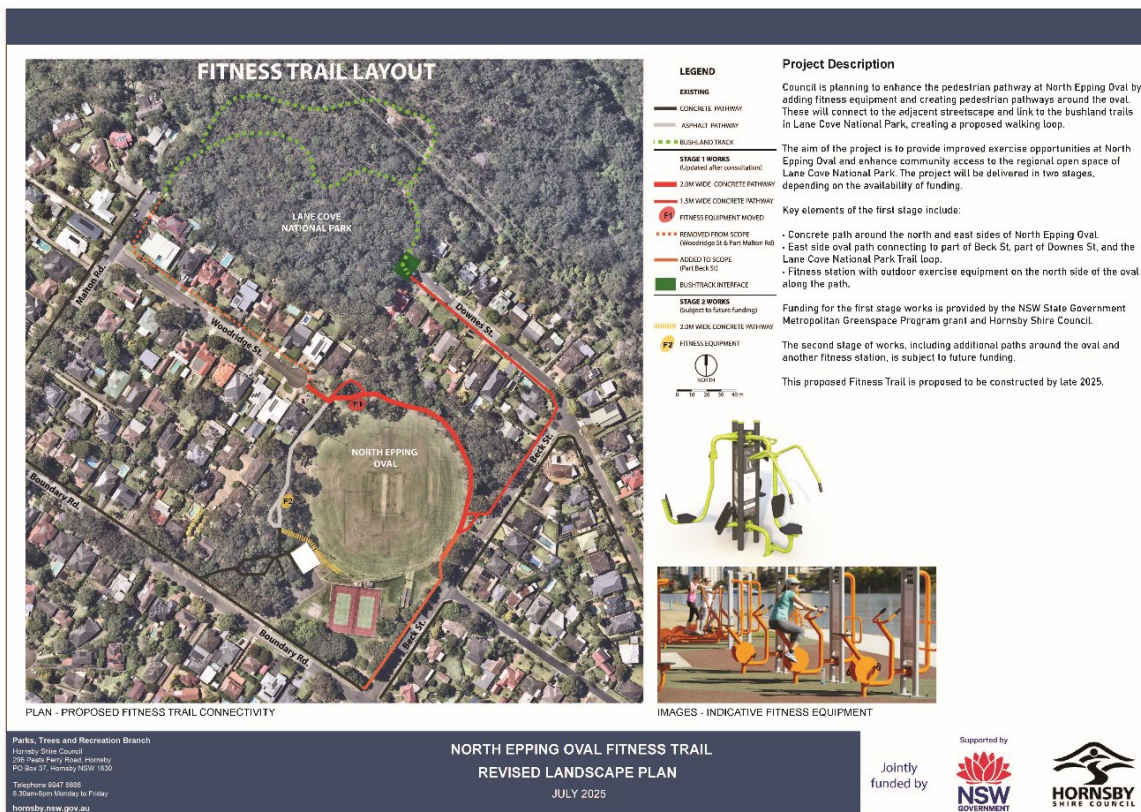
- 10 submissions supported the proposal with some requested for additional works in the area.
- 3 submissions were opposed to pathway works in the area.
- 19 submissions provided a petition letter opposing the pathway along Woodridge Avenue/Malton Road, but supporting the pathway and outdoor fitness equipment in Stage 1 and proposing to complete Stage 2 pathway around the Oval in lieu of the proposed street pathways.

- 3 submissions supported the proposal but requested the fitness equipment to be moved away from the residential houses.
- 3 submissions opposed the pathway works on Downes Street.
- Other comments discussed various issues such as storm water drainage, required upgrade to the club building and requirement of additional facilities that are beyond the scope of this project.

## 5. Consultation Results

Based on the community consultation results received, the following changes are incorporated in the North Epping Fitness Trail proposal.

- Project Grant funding was provided by Department of Planning, Housing and infrastructure (DPHI) to provide a sealed pedestrian link to Lane Cove National Park and create a fitness trail. Based on community response DPHI accepted that a the circuit could still be achieved via a walking route along Woodridge Avenue without the need for a sealed footpath due to the wide verge. As a result Council will remove the concrete footpath from along Woodridge Avenue and part Malton Road. DPHI also agreed that any funds allocated to Woodridge Ave footpath could be redirected to a footpath along the south of Beck Street to meet the existing pathway along Boundary Road.
- The fitness equipment has been moved further away from resident houses and closer to the oval.



## 6. Community submissions and Response Summary

A summary of comments received, and Council's response is provided below (comments are edited from respondents own words).

Item	Community Comments and Suggestions	No. of responses	Council response
1.1	Generally supportive of Fitness Trail Plan	10	Noted
1.2	Not supportive of Fitness Trail Plan	3	Noted
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Form letter / Petition opposing pathways on local streets, supporting pathways around oval</b>		
2.1	Form Letter / Petition opposing the pathway along Woodridge Avenue/Malton Road, but supporting the pathway and outdoor fitness equipment in Stage 1 and proposing to complete Stage 2 pathway around the Oval in lieu of the proposed street pathways.	19*	Project Grant funding was provided by Department of Planning, Housing and infrastructure (DPHI) to provide a sealed pedestrian link to Lane Cove National Park and create a fitness trail. Based on community response DPHI accepted that a the circuit could still be achieved via a walking route along Woodridge Avenue without the need for a sealed footpath due to the wide verge. As a result Council will remove the concrete footpath from along Woodridge Avenue and part Malton Road. DPHI also agreed that any funds allocated to Woodridge Ave footpath could be redirected to a footpath along the south of Beck Street to meet the existing pathway along Boundary Road.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Fitness Equipment location</b>		
3.1	Request the fitness equipment to be moved away from the residential houses.	3	The fitness equipment has been moved further away from resident houses and closer to the oval.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>		
4.1	<b>Downes Street proposed footpath</b> Request remove footpath from Downes Street	3	Project Grant funding was provided by Department of Planning, Housing and infrastructure (DPHI) for this project to provide a sealed pedestrian link to Lane Cove National Park and create a fitness trail. A sealed footpath was retained along the northern side of Downes Street to complete the footpath network along the Southern side of this road. It was also retained to ensure a safe off road connection to the National Park as the road and verge in this area are narrow.

4.2	<b>National Park</b> NPWS do not want more walkers on the trails	4	Council has coordinated the proposed pathway works with NPWS
4.3	<b>Upgrade Amenities building and Facilities</b> Request for amenities building and facilities upgrade.	3	Amenities building and facilities upgrade works is being undertaken as a separate project
4.4	<b>Drainage</b> Stormwater drainage issues were raised by some residents with properties with boundaries along the Oval	3	Stormwater drainage along the boundary is not part of this project scope.
4.5	<b>Project Finance</b> What is the cost / funding available for the project?	4	Grant funds provide \$150,000 for the fitness trail. Council will provide matching funds for pathways works associated with fitness equipment and oval pedestrian paths to complete the circuit.
4.6	<b>Additional facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Off-Leash Dog Park</li> <li>- Pump/ BMX track</li> <li>- BBQ</li> <li>- Tennis / Basketball Courts</li> <li>- Lighting</li> </ul>	5	These requests are beyond the scope of this project.

\*19 submissions were in the made as an identical form letter/petition.