

Department of Planning and Environment

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What we heard report: Increasing recreation opportunities at Prospect Reservoir

Public discussion paper

November 2023





Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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What we heard report: Increasing recreation opportunities at Prospect Reservoir

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Executive summary

The NSW Government is exploring opportunities to use existing, natural waterbodies to help beat the heat, particularly in Western Sydney, providing access to cool, green spaces for recreational use.

The *Increasing recreation opportunities at Prospect Reservoir — Public discussion paper* was developed by the Department of Planning and Environment's Water Group in collaboration with a working group of subject matter experts from:

- Blacktown City Council
- Dams Safety NSW
- Department of Primary Industries — Fisheries
- Environment Protection Authority
- Fairfield City Council
- Greater Cities Commission
- Greater Sydney Parklands
- NSW Health
- Office of Sport
- Government Architect NSW
- Places to Swim Program
- Sydney Water
- WaterNSW
- Western Parkland City Authority
- Western Sydney Parklands
- Department of Planning and Environment:
 - Environment and Heritage Group
 - National Parks and Wildlife Service
 - Planning.

The discussion paper was published in August 2023, sharing information about Prospect Reservoir, its current environmental, social, historical and cultural value, and initial ideas on how the site could be improved to increase recreational use. It drew on insights and expertise from key stakeholders including previous studies from the Greater Cities Commission (GCC) and consultation by Sydney Water.

The discussion paper addressed how the area could be best managed to balance the opportunities for increased recreation whilst protecting Sydney's drinking water supply and the significant environmental and cultural values of the area. The following options were raised in the discussion paper:

- expanding and upgrading the current recreation facilities, including, expanded opening hours, improved parking, more seating and picnic areas, play equipment and toilet facilities and new infrastructure
- extending walking and bike-riding tracks
- cultural and heritage experiences
- reuse of buildings on site
- viewing platforms and removal of some fencing
- building offline pools or other aquatic facilities
- in-reservoir swimming (in a contained area)
- kayaking and non-motorised boating access to the reservoir
- recreational fishing.

This report outlines community and stakeholder feedback on the discussion paper sought during the consultation period of 21 August – 30 September 2023.

Feedback from stakeholders and community has informed the next steps for the NSW Government to undertake more detailed analysis of options of increasing recreation at Prospect Reservoir through a feasibility study in 2023/24.

The engagement process conducted was genuine, accessible, transparent, targeted and meaningful. It enabled robust and valuable feedback on the options presented in the discussion paper through:

- 21 targeted stakeholder meetings with key stakeholders who represented community and business groups
- 5 interviews and information sessions with First Nations people
- close to 1, 200 online submissions and survey responses from the wider community and other stakeholders such as individuals, organisations and community groups
- 7 public engagement and online community information sessions.

During the consultation period, over 1,785 people were directly engaged through the above consultation activities.

This report outlines the feedback received through each consultation activity. It also summarises the key insights for consideration in the development of the subsequent feasibility study.

Introduction

There is substantial demand in Western Sydney for more local swimming and recreation opportunities, with about half of local residents enjoying outdoor recreation involving water at least once a week. The largest barrier to accessibility is travel time. As growth of the Western Parkland City continues, demand for recreation areas and water-based recreation opportunities will increase.

Prospect Reservoir is a heritage-listed, 50 gigalitre potable water supply and storage reservoir in the Western Sydney suburb of Prospect, around 30 kilometres west of Sydney's coastline.

Surrounding Prospect are a mix of established residential areas, industrial and commercial precincts and new residential neighbourhoods.

To ensure community and stakeholders had a chance to have their say, the department held a series of engagement events from 20 August until 30 September 2023.

The outcomes of the consultation will be taken into consideration to inform the development of a feasibility study and report, which is expected to be delivered by mid-2024. The feasibility study will explore the different options and costs associated with each option. Funding of the project would then be discussed.

Engagement overview

The public engagement for the discussion paper sought feedback from a range of stakeholders including government, and non-government entities, First Nations people, and the wider community. The department engaged early with key stakeholders through the establishment of the working group to assist the development of the discussion paper, relying on their input to ensure a balanced and broad range of options were included.

From the launch of the public engagement on Sunday 20 August 2023, a dedicated webpage hosted links to the discussion paper and supporting documents, along with details of where engagement activities were taking place and how the public could get involved with the process.

The public engagement ran over six weeks and included a range of events and announcements, communications tools and a diverse feedback, insights and data capturing approach. It included the following key activities:

- sharing information online, including direct communications to subscribers to the department's e-newsletter

- online community information sessions open to the general public
- media activities including social media promotion and online advertising, including in-language materials for culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- stakeholder meetings and briefings with targeted key groups, including a specific First Nations briefing and information sessions
- feedback/data capture via an online survey
- partnering with Blacktown, Cumberland and Fairfield councils to promote the consultation within their local communities.

Stakeholders that were identified, engaged, or communicated with include:

- First Nations peoples, organisations and agencies
- community members
- local councils
- state government departments and agencies, including regulators
- water associations and peak bodies
- neighbouring businesses and properties
- recreational interest groups
- health and education providers
- research organisations and universities.

A summary of the engagement statistics is provided in Figure 1.

The information presented was consistent for all targeted stakeholder meetings.

Submissions were received from water industry stakeholders, recreational sector peak bodies, environmental academics and community groups, researchers, and the public.

Figure 1. Engagement activities at a glance



Engagement methods

The methodology used to engage with key stakeholders and the wider community about the discussion paper aligned with the department's [principles for engagement](#), these are to make engagement:

- **Purposeful:** undertaken with a clear understanding of what was to be achieved and delivering on NSW Government priorities and the department's corporate goals.
- **Inclusive:** identifying and enabling the participation of all relevant stakeholders.
- **Timely:** allowing enough time for meaningful engagement, outlining timeframes up front and conducting engagement activities in an efficient manner.
- **Transparent:** explaining the engagement process, providing information to allow meaningful participation and setting clear expectations around how participants' input would inform outcomes.
- **Respectful:** acknowledging the needs, experience, perspective, and expertise of participants.

Table 1. Engagement activities

Activity	Description	Details of engagement	Reach
First Nations yarns	First Nations stakeholders who operate, live or have a connection to Country within the project area were approached for a targeted stakeholder meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 individual stakeholder meetings with the department • Attendance and presentation at the Western Sydney Koori Interagency Meeting • 2 online feedback sessions with a Darug women’s group 	23 First Nations stakeholders
Online survey	Online survey open to the public to provide feedback on the options being considered in the discussion paper. Questions resulting in both quantitative and qualitative data were included.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey was promoted through a range of channels and available to complete in person at the community pop-up sessions • The survey took approximately 10 minutes to complete 	1,183 completed surveys
Stakeholder interviews	An opportunity for highly impacted stakeholder groups to meet with the department to raise concerns, express interest or identify opportunities and to establish ongoing involvement with the project.	Targeted stakeholders were identified through a mapping exercise and contacted by the stakeholder engagement team via phone and email. Interviews with the department were offered in a face-to-face and virtual capacity.	14 key stakeholder interviews

Activity	Description	Details of engagement	Reach
Online webinars	Online information sharing sessions with the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions directly to the department.	Two online webinars were promoted on the dedicated webpage, via paid advertising, through stakeholder conversations and on distributed factsheets. Both sessions were recorded and are available to watch on the department's website.	58 people attended webinars
Community pop-ups	Activations within the local area, including all three surrounding local government areas, to engage community members, educate and promote survey participation.	Five community pop-ups were promoted on the dedicated webpage, via paid advertising, through stakeholder conversations and on distributed factsheets. Locations were chosen based on proximity to the reservoir and relevance to the project. At least three departmental employees were present at each pop-up.	500 people spoken to across 5 pop-ups
Responsive stakeholder meetings	A meeting requested by the stakeholder or arranged in response to an interaction or feedback from a stakeholder through another channel. Purpose of the meeting was the same as a targeted stakeholder meeting.	Interviews with, or follow up phone calls or emails from, the department. Interviews were face-to-face and virtual.	Seven responsive stakeholder meetings

What we heard – Summary

Understanding how the area is currently used and how the community would like to use it in the future was critical to this consultation. It speaks to the core community values and shapes how the options will be considered in the feasibility study.

This section provides a summary of what we heard during the consultation period across all engagement activities.

Feedback is then reported by each activity in the following sections, going into greater detail of the engagement outcomes.

Why people currently use, or don't use, the site

Current users of the site include traditional custodians, local residents, families, carers, cyclists, disability workers, and parole groups. Darug people use the site as a place to connect, as one of the few remaining untouched spaces in the area. Similarly, others reported visiting the site because of its natural beauty, quietness and open spaces. Their feedback described the site as offering a tranquil setting with shade and water, making it an ideal place to find relief from the heat.

Some individuals and groups said they intentionally go to Prospect Reservoir because it is, generally, not crowded or busy. In a rapidly urbanising Western Sydney, Prospect Reservoir serves as an oasis for those who know about it to unwind, connect with nature and spend quality time outdoors, socialising, exercising or simply cooling down.

Cyclists use the interconnected cycleways as a thoroughfare and occasionally the amenities on site.

Reasons for not using the site include a lack of awareness that it is open for public use, the availability of better playground and picnic facilities at parks in neighbouring suburbs/parks, or general disinterest in parks and recreation.

Feedback on options being considered

The discussion paper identified several recreational opportunities being considered for the reservoir. Detailed below is what we heard across the engagement period categorised by the options identified in the discussion paper.

Expanding and upgrading the current recreation facilities

Improving the existing infrastructure and facilities on site is widely supported. This predominantly focuses on upgrading the children’s playground areas and increasing shaded picnic areas with BBQ access.

There is support for the site opening hours to be expanded, based on the provision of some form of security after dark.

Table 2. Concerns and opportunities for current recreation facilities

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Access – many noted that improving the current recreation facilities would likely lead to increased patronage at the site. This will require improving the roads entering/exiting the site, upgrading parking and traffic management.</p>	<p>Picnic areas – there is strong support for improving the existing picnic infrastructure and the addition of electric BBQs and shade coverings.</p>
<p>Patrol of the site – increased patrol of the site was suggested by many if opening hours were to be expanded.</p>	<p>Shaded areas – there is strong support for additional shaded areas with any infrastructure upgrades.</p>
<p>Crime/enforcement of rules – some participants queried who would be responsible for the enforcement of rules and minimisation of crime, particularly if opening hours were expanded after dark.</p>	<p>Bathrooms – many people noted that more toilet blocks would be needed if patronage at the site is expected to increase. Upgrades to the existing toilet blocks to include security cameras for safety purposes and better accessibility for people with disabilities, the elderly and young families.</p>
<p>Lighting – the need for increased lighting was noted by many so that the park was more accessible in the early morning and later at night. This was also raised in relation to bathroom lighting.</p>	<p>Playgrounds – community interest for upgraded playground areas is strong, including a bike/scooter track for children. Soft flooring and shade covering is considered important.</p>
	<p>Accessibility – upgrading the existing recreation facilities to be more accessible for the elderly and for people with disabilities was a common theme. This includes the addition of ramps and improving footpaths.</p>

Concerns	Opportunities
	<p>Expanded opening hours – cyclists and their representative groups suggested opening the cycleways earlier in the day so the site can be used as a route for commuting.</p>

Extending walking and bike-riding tracks

There is a strong desire for footpaths, and the extension or upgrade of existing cycling tracks and walkways – including walking tracks that are suitable for the elderly.

Table 3. Concerns and opportunities for extending walking and bike-riding tracks

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Safety of cycling tracks – safety concerns were raised if cycling tracks are extended to connect with other parklands as the tracks may intersect with busy roads and cyclists would be required to cross or navigate through traffic.</p>	<p>Walking tracks – many suggested building dedicated walking paths to avoid using the road, as well as extending walking tracks to nearby parklands.</p>
<p>Impact on vegetation – some voiced concern that if footpaths and cycleways were extended on the site it may impact vegetation and the natural biodiversity of the site, particularly plant species within the Cumberland Plain Woodland Nature Reserve that is currently off limits to visitors.</p>	<p>Organised running – strong support for a 5 km track that can be used for Parkrun events.</p>
<p>Impact on kangaroos and other wildlife – increased patronage in currently ‘off limits’ zones may lead to wildlife disturbance and kangaroos retreating from the area.</p>	<p>Raised boardwalks – a raised boardwalk around the reservoir was also a popular suggestion and supported by environmental groups to minimise impact on vegetation.</p>
	<p>Bike riding tracks – opportunity for the extension of bike tracks to the nearby parklands.</p>
	<p>Competitive cycling – interest in opening the area for competitive road racing.</p>

Cultural and heritage experiences

The site is rich in history and a significant place for the Darug people. There is strong support for recognising First Nations people’s rights and interests, as well as ensuring Aboriginal knowledge and experiences are integrated into long-term management of the site – both land and water.

Opening of heritage buildings and education around the engineering history was supported.

Table 4. Concerns and opportunities for cultural and heritage experiences

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Protection of sacred Aboriginal sites – many noted that there needed to be extensive Aboriginal heritage studies conducted to ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance or artefacts were damaged if recreation was to be increased.</p>	<p>Aboriginal heritage – strong support that sites of Aboriginal significance should be acknowledged through storytelling and revitalisation, for example, ceremonial circles.</p>
	<p>Co-design and co-management – partnering with the traditional owners, the Darug people through a collaborative working group.</p>
	<p>Care and connection to Country – re-establishing songlines and education on our responsibilities to care for Country.</p>
	<p>European heritage – revival of the Historical Society that formerly met at the site, including some interest in historical tours. There is interest in opening the heritage buildings on the site for public access.</p>
	<p>Engineering heritage – there is interest in opening an educational facility about the site’s rich engineering history and water treatment process.</p>

Reuse of buildings on site

Feedback focused on the opportunity for future commercial use of the buildings, or public education.

Table 5. Concerns and opportunities for reuse of buildings on site

Concerns	Opportunities
Current ownership of the buildings – there was some concern that attaining use of the buildings from the current owners, Sydney Water, may be challenging.	Educational facilities – community interest in using the existing buildings to educate the public on the cultural and heritage significance of the site.
	Commercial opportunities – interest in business opportunities like an onsite function or conference centre that could be booked for corporate or personal events.
	Café/kiosk – significant support of hospitality opportunities like a café or restaurant, re-purposing buildings on site for this.
	Housing – there is interest from the Darug community to repurpose the buildings to house Darug Traditional Owners in a caring for Country/Aboriginal cultural site manager role.

Viewing platforms and removal of some fencing

Many who knew the site said it was very uninviting in its current form due to the fencing, with some suggesting the removal of fencing from picnic areas.

Viewing and fishing platforms were a popular idea amongst the public and were actively encouraged by multiple fishing groups.

Table 6. Concerns and opportunities for viewing platforms and removal of some fencing

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Risk to water quality – there is concern that water quality will be compromised due to contamination, if human access was more easily accessible or permitted. This concern is a precursor to the concern that water supply will be at risk, as Prospect Reservoir is used a part of Sydney’s drinking water catchment.</p>	<p>Removal of fencing – removing part of the fencing around the reservoir or replacing it with something that aligns better with the site’s heritage was raised. Many people had fond memories of the hill at the dam wall and would like to see the fence moved closer to the reservoir boundary and the hill opened again.</p>
<p>Risk to water security – there was some concern for ‘water terrorism’ with the removal of fencing.</p>	<p>Platforms for fishing activity – fishing groups were very supportive of platforms or decks being built around the reservoir that could be accessed by the elderly and those with a disability.</p>
<p>Litter – there is community concern that removing some fencing will increase the amount of litter in the reservoir, from closer human contact to the water source, as well as from wind and other environmental factors.</p>	

Building offline pools or other aquatic facilities

Low-cost kids waterplay as part of a playground was supported, however, from a cost-benefit perspective, and the fact that there is a waterpark nearby, offline pools were not strongly supported.

An offline pool is a pool built close to, but physically separated from the reservoir that operates as a closed system and therefore not interacting with the water in the reservoir.

Table 7. Concerns and opportunities for building offline pools or other aquatic facilities

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Water quality – there is concern that water quality will be compromised if chemicals from the offline pool went back into the reservoir. This concern is related to the concern that water supply will be at risk, as Prospect Reservoir is used as part of Sydney’s drinking water catchment.</p>	<p>Although a significant number of survey respondents (400+) noted they would like swimming in a pool that is separate from the reservoir, in discussions during other engagement activities, lower-cost options were preferred including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wave pool just off the reservoir • waterplay for children • integration of First Nations learning through water play.
<p>Cost – there was concern around the cost to attend if an offline pool was constructed. Many noting there was already a commercially operated water park close by.</p>	<p>Water safety – designing an offline pool as a water education facility, staffed by lifesaving representatives.</p>
<p>Operational expenditure – there is some belief that the cost to maintain an offline pool would outweigh community benefit.</p>	
<p>Restricted view of the reservoir – there was also concern about the space around the reservoir that an offline pool would use and its potential obstruction of areas with a line of sight of the water.</p>	

In-reservoir swimming (in a contained area)

Many conversations discussed the distance and time spent travelling to swim in natural water sources from Western Sydney. There is a mixed response to opening the reservoir to swim in, with the impact to water quality being the greatest concern.

There is some concern around water safety and how the area would be patrolled.

Table 8. Concerns and opportunities for in-reservoir swimming

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Risk to water quality and supply – there is concern that water quality will be compromised due to contamination if people are allowed into the reservoir. This concern is related to the concern that water supply will be at risk, as Prospect Reservoir is used as part of Sydney’s drinking water catchment.</p>	<p>Reduction in travel time to the beach – strong support for local, accessible natural water bodies.</p>
<p>Financial impacts – there was concern about the costs associated with additional treatment infrastructure required to ensure drinking water quality.</p> <p>Fees – there was concern around the cost for the community to access the reservoir if it was opened for swimming (e.g. entry fees).</p>	<p>Opportunity to cool off with rising temperatures in the area – feedback that the shade and water make the reservoir a place to find relief from high temperatures.</p>
<p>Enforcement of rules – some concern around enforcement of rules, particularly what areas can be accessed.</p>	<p>Opportunity for water safety education – water safety bodies noted this could be an opportunity to provide targeted communications and education to Western Sydney communities, a group who are overrepresented in drowning statistics in NSW.</p>
<p>Risk of drowning/water safety – concern about water safety and the ability to patrol a contained area without motorised vessels.</p>	

Kayaking and non-motorised boating access to the reservoir

Kayaking was strongly supported as a preference to travelling to the Nepean River to launch from. Public interest in this option surrounds being able to cool off or be by the water, without being in it.

Table 9. Concerns and opportunities for kayaking and non-motorised boating access

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Enforcement of rules – concern around enforcement of rules regarding off limits areas and not entering the water from the vessel (if swimming wasn't allowed).</p> <p>There is also some community concern that opening up the reservoir to some types of vessels, and not others will lead to confusion and prohibited vessels on the water.</p>	<p>Other non-motorised vessels – there is community interest in kayaking and other activities like canoeing, dragon boating and stand up paddle boarding at the reservoir as a closer alternative to the Nepean River.</p>
<p>Risk of drowning/water safety – concern about water safety and the ability to patrol a contained area without motorised vessels.</p>	<p>Kayak/canoe hire – the option to hire a kayak or other water vessel on site was suggested.</p>
<p>Negative impact on drinking water quality – there is concern that with this option, there will still be human contact made with the water, which may compromise water quality, due to contamination. This concern is related to the concern that water supply will be at risk, as Prospect Reservoir is used a part of Sydney's drinking water catchment.</p>	<p>Other non-motorised vessels – electric non-petrol boats, rowing, pedal boats and sailing all mentioned.</p>

Fishing

While fishing groups were the main advocates for increasing fishing access, there is community interest in fishing as a recreational activity.

Table 10. Concerns and opportunities for fishing

Concerns	Opportunities
Fish population will be depleted – concern that there will be overfishing if fishing is allowed and the need to have licence enforcement.	Recreational fishing – raised as a popular hobby of Western Sydney population. Interest in developing areas for fishing with platforms/decks.
Negative impact on drinking water quality – there is concern that water quality will be compromised if fishing is allowed, due to the introduction of fish species.	Competitive fishing – interest from local clubs to open areas of the reservoir for competition fishing and should be viewed as a tourism opportunity for the local area, with possible revenue opportunity.
Litter – there is concern that closer access to the reservoir to fish, will lead to littering – including fishing lines, hooks and mess from descaling.	

Additional feedback

This section outlines additional feedback received during the consultation period, outside of the scope of the options being considered within the discussion paper.

Table 11. Concerns and opportunities for out-of-scope matters

Concerns	Opportunities
Cost – the importance of maintaining free access to the site was raised at community pop-up events and in the survey.	Off leash dog area/park and in-reservoir dog beach – this was a popular suggestion coming from existing users of the site, as well as in the survey and webinars.
Public transport – the lack of public transport to the site is viewed as a detractor. Many people who do not currently use the site for this reason would remain	Outdoor gym – free access to gym and fitness infrastructure was raised by some at community pop-ups and in the survey.

Concerns	Opportunities
non-visitors, even with increased recreational opportunities.	
Vandalism – there is some concern that with increased activity on site, there is potential for vandalism and bad behaviour. This is heightened by suggestions of camping or after dark access to the site.	Petting zoo – some interest in an animal enclosure or organised access to interact with the natural wildlife on site.
	Camping – some interest in establishing an overnight campground.
	<p>Alternative sites – there is community sentiment that there are other aquatic sites in Western Sydney that should be considered for increased recreation before opening Prospect Reservoir:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penrith Lakes – the most mentioned alternate site. This site is not government owned. It has onsite parking, water sports and commercial buildings. • Nepean River – numerous existing facilities, including a boat ramp, playgrounds, BBQs, walking tracks, water sports and other amenities. • Lake Parramatta – re-opened for public swimming and aquatic recreation in 2015. It is a popular destination for picnics, non-motorised boating and bush walking. • Local public swimming pools.

This feedback is being used to inform the subsequent feasibility study. It should be noted that:

- Options that do not interface with the water in the reservoir are considered **Phase 1** options. They will be easier to achieve and take a shorter amount of time to implement, as they have little to no impact on water quality.
- Options that involve direct human contact with the water in the reservoir are considered **Phase 2** options. They are more complex and require further assessment of the potential risks to the quality and supply of drinking water.

What we heard – Survey

An online survey was used as a primary engagement method. The aim of the online survey was to:

- use a data capture method that was unbiased, accommodating and accessible to respondents
- allow respondents to be open and honest with their feedback
- provide a snapshot of the current uses of Prospect Reservoir and interest in future uses — including thoughts, opinions, and comments
- use feedback as a baseline to measure and establish further benchmarking.

The department received a total of 1,183 survey responses during the public engagement period. The survey received a wide range of responses from people across different genders (Figure 2), ages (Figure 3), demographics (Figure 4) and locations (Figure 5).

Figure 2. Gender demographics of survey respondents

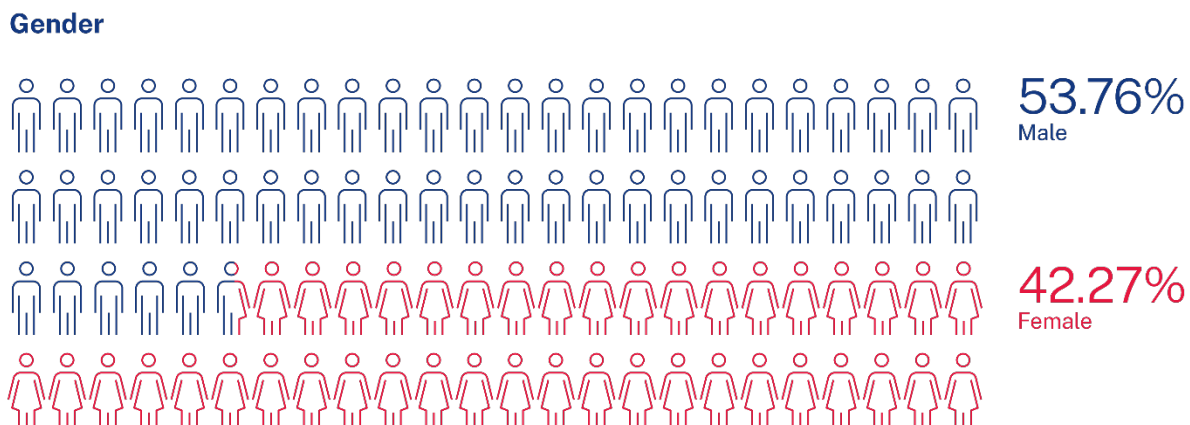


Figure 3. Age demographics of survey respondents

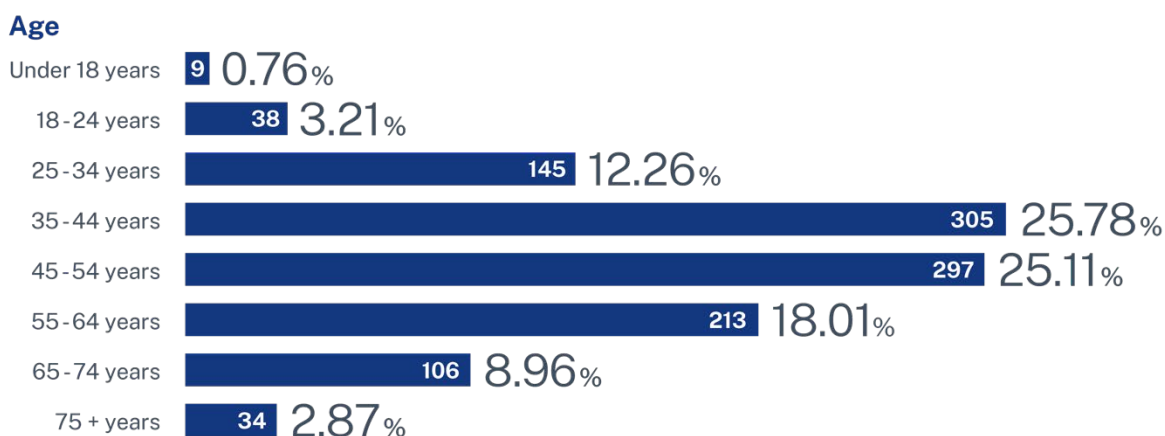


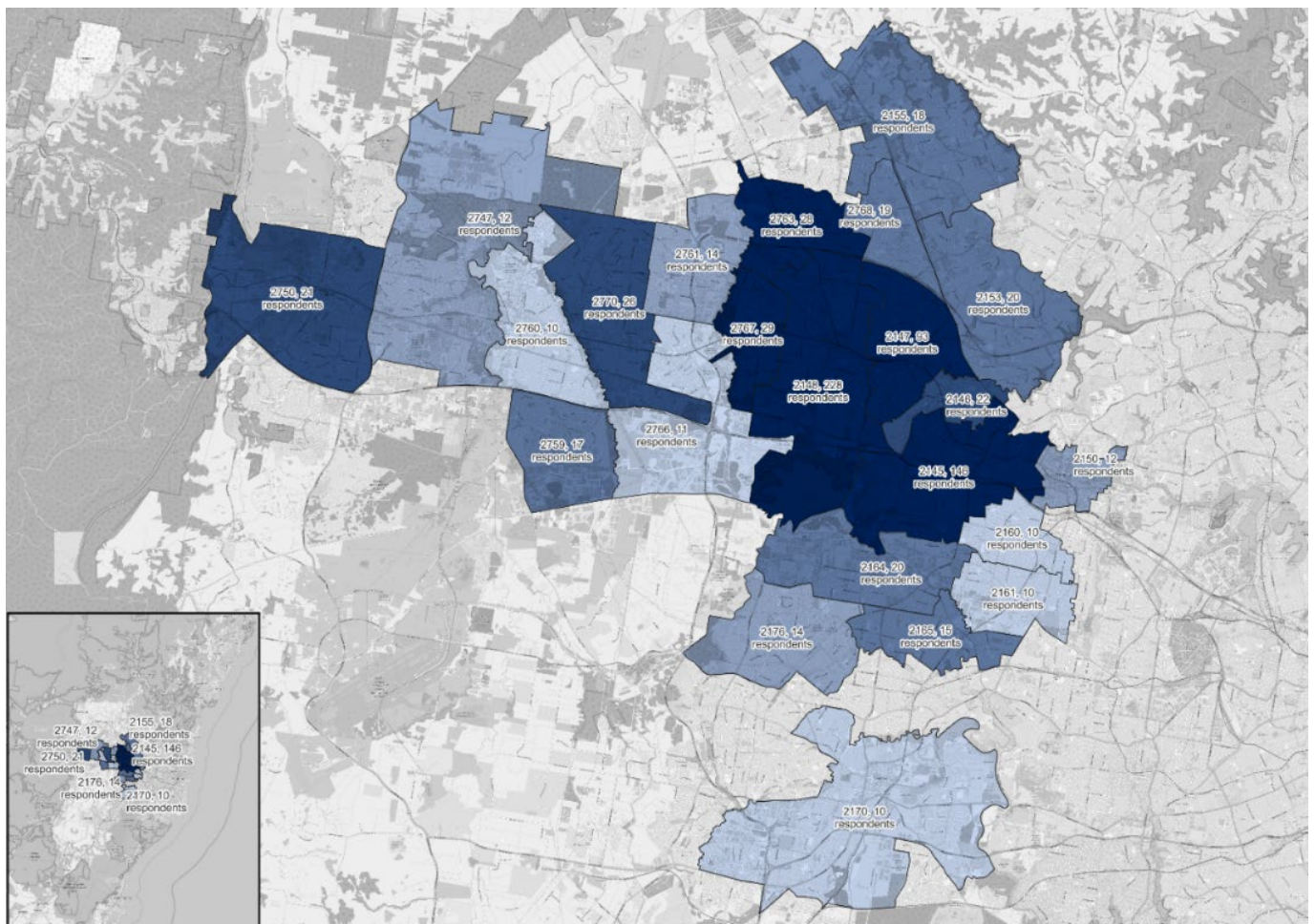
Figure 4. Demographics of survey respondents showing language, disability and Indigenous identification



Figure 5 shows that people who live in Western Sydney demonstrated a high level of interest in the survey, making up over 55% of the survey respondents. The postcode with the highest response rate was 2148 which includes: Prospect, Arndell Park, Blacktown, Huntingwood, Kings Park and Marayong. Respondents outside of the three local government areas of Fairfield, Blacktown and Cumberland made up less than half of the respondents.

Further detail on the top 10 postcodes of survey respondents can be found in [Appendix A](#).

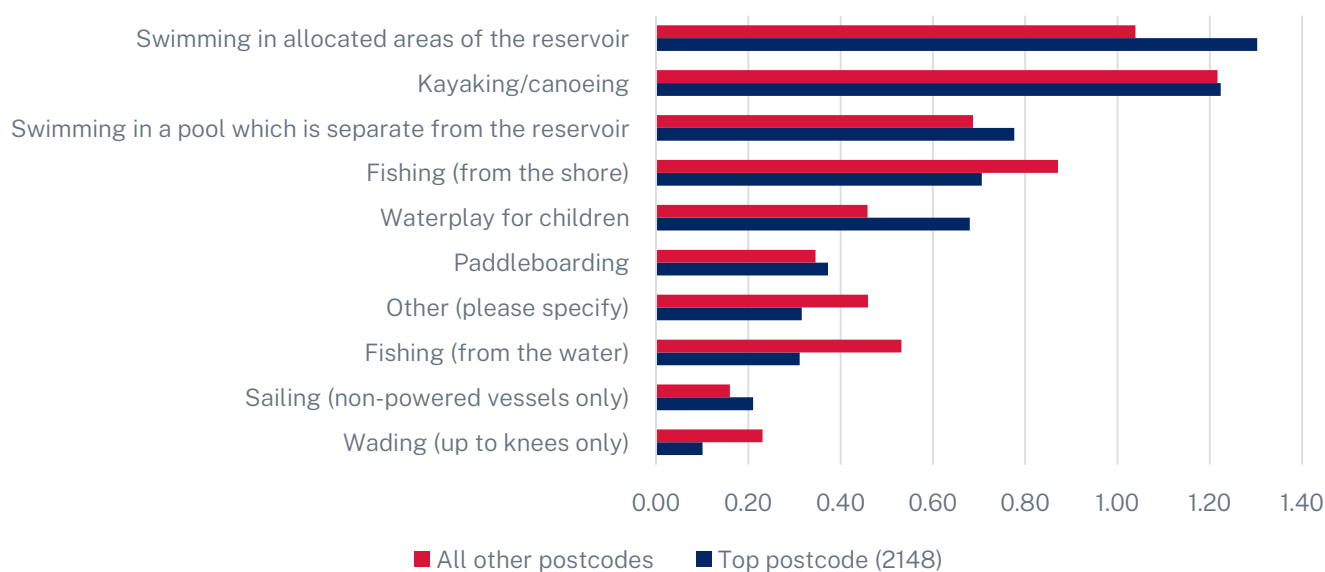
Figure 5. Heatmap of survey respondents by postcode



Using the survey data to compare the results from residents of postcode 2148 with all other postcodes, we found that:

- There is little to no difference in response around concern that recreational activities at Prospect Reservoir may impact the city’s drinking water supply. Fifty-three per cent of respondents from 2148, and 55% of respondents from all other postcodes disagree or strongly disagree that they are concerned about this, while an equal amount (23%) of respondents from 2148 and all other postcodes agree, or strongly agree with the statement.
- Respondents from 2148 ranked upgrades to seating, playground and picnic areas more highly as an improvement that would encourage them to visit or would improve their experience at Prospect Reservoir than other respondents. When asked the same question, respondents from all other postcodes ranked extending walking and/or cycling paths/tracks slightly higher than 2148 residents.
- Minimising environmental and cultural heritage impacts was ranked as a more important priority to respondents from 2148 than all other postcodes.
- Access to the reservoir for swimming and/or non-motorised water activities was rated more highly as a desirable improvement to the site by respondents residing in 2148 than all other postcodes.
- Similarly, when asked which future water-based activities they liked or would consider doing at Prospect Reservoir (Figure 6), swimming in allocated areas of the reservoir was ranked more highly by more respondents from 2148 than all other postcodes.

Figure 6. Survey question: Which future water-based activities would you like or consider doing at Prospect Reservoir?



Current use of the site

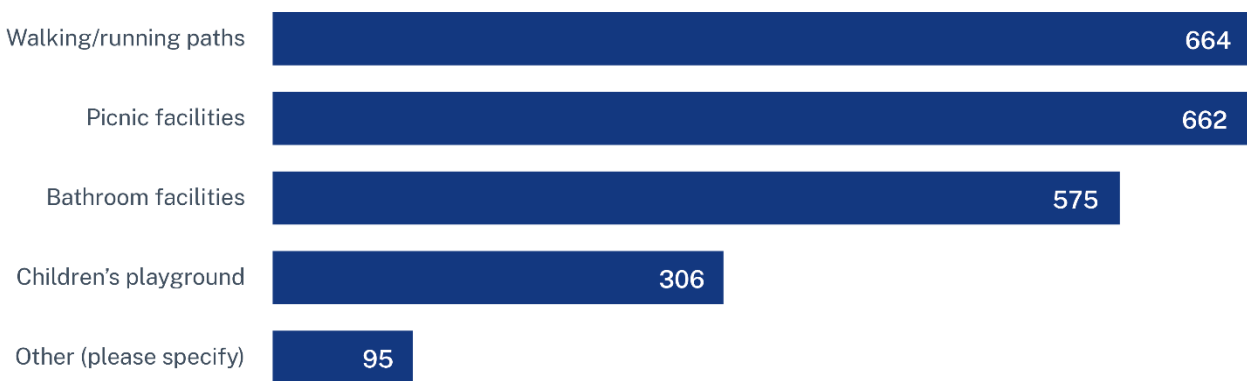
Over 80% of the survey respondents had visited the site. Most (60%) of the respondents had visited the site within the last 12 months and almost 90% within the last five years.

Most (44%) respondents visit the site once a year and only just over 5% visit the site more than once a week.

Over two-thirds of respondents who had not visited the site thought it was closed to the public. Less than 10% had never heard of Prospect Reservoir.

The survey also sought insights on what amenities are currently most used by respondents who visit the site to get a baseline of popular activities. Figure 7 shows that the walking/running paths, picnic facilities and bathroom facilities are of highest use. There was a free text option, and many noted that they used the cycling paths, which appear to have been omitted from the survey.

Figure 7. Responses to survey question 2.6 – what amenities respondents use when visiting Prospect Reservoir



Other questions looked at reasons for visiting the site. The top reasons included:

- 420 respondents typically use the site for exercise
- over 400 respondents use the site for recreation (play, relax)
- close to 300 visit the site because of the natural environment, including, enjoying the wildlife
- 185 respondents said picnicking was their reason for visiting the site.

Future use of site

When the survey asked respondents what they would like to use the site for in the future, this was broken down into land-based and water-based activities. Figure 8 shows that for land-based activities, the priorities remained the same – picnicking (including BBQs), walking, running, bushwalking and cycling.

For water-based activities the most favoured options were kayaking/canoeing, swimming in an allocated area in the reservoir and fishing from the shore (Figure 9).

Figure 8. Responses to survey question 2.7 – top three future land-based activities respondents would like at Prospect Reservoir

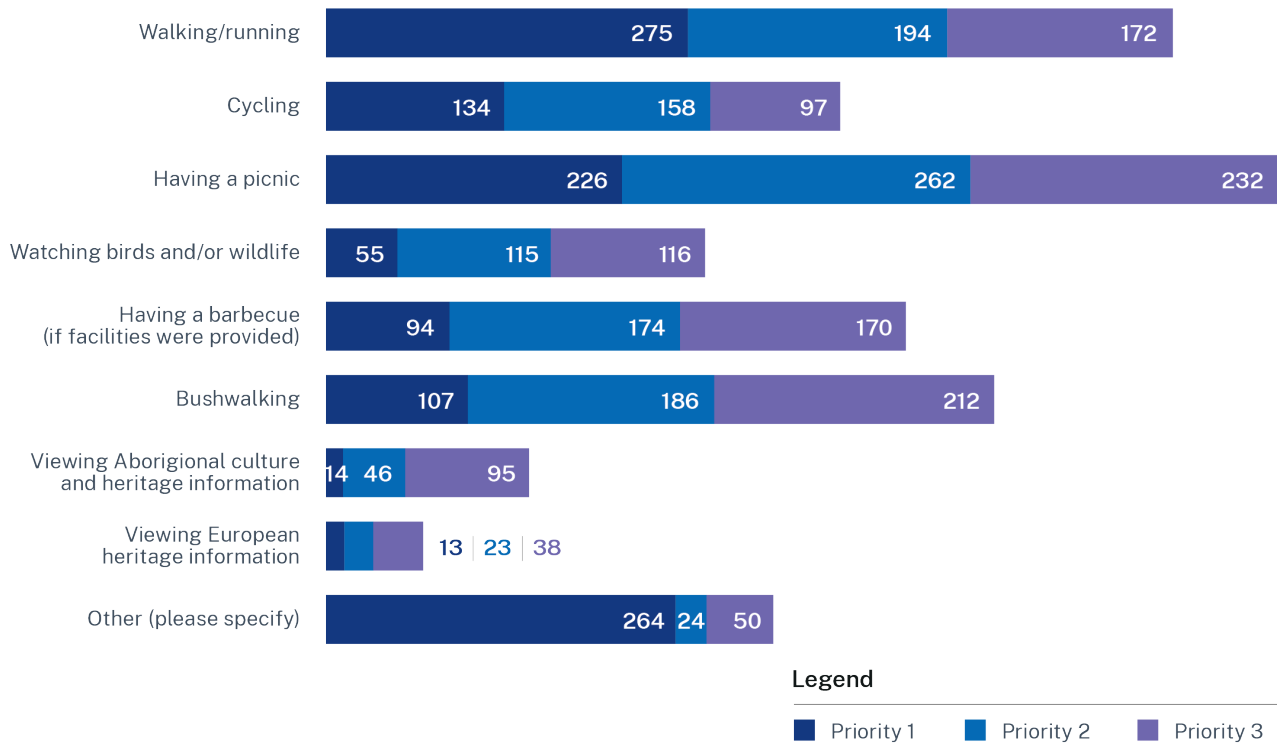
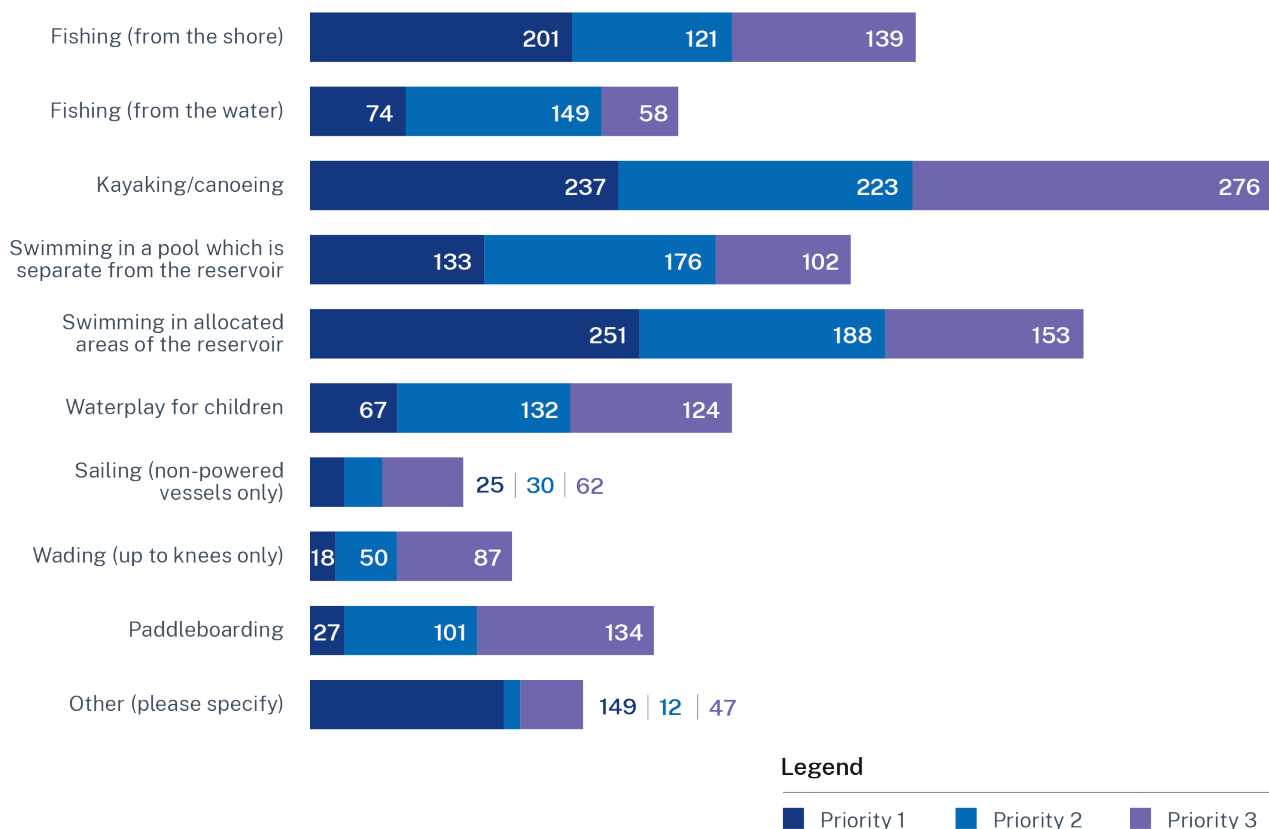


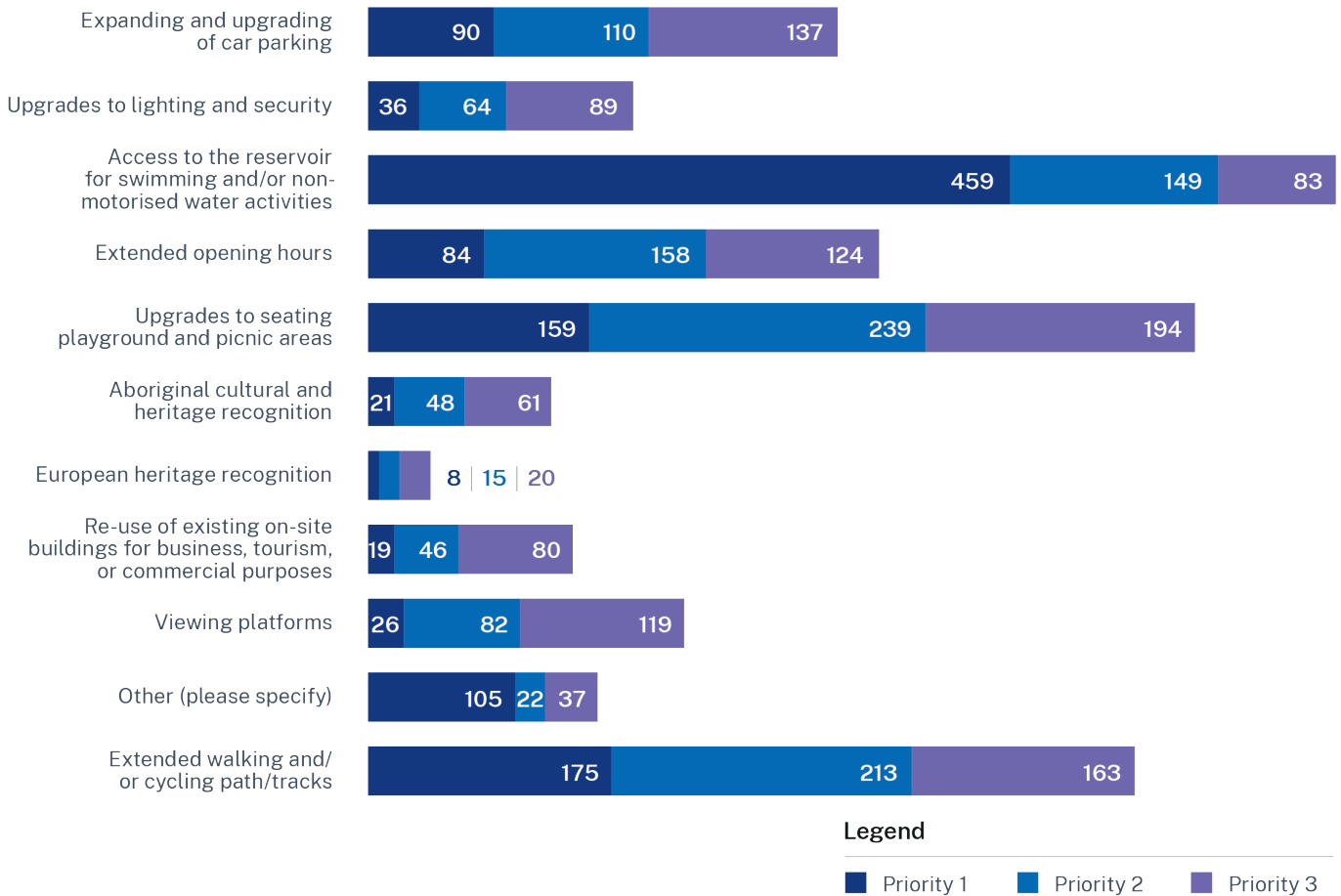
Figure 9. Responses to survey question 2.8 – top three future water-based activities respondents would like at Prospect Reservoir



Opportunities

When asked what improvements would encourage them to visit the site or improve the current experience, survey respondents indicated that access to the reservoir for swimming and/or non-motorised water activities was the top improvement (Figure 10). This was followed by upgrades to seating, playground and picnic facilities and extending walking and/or cycling paths/tracks.

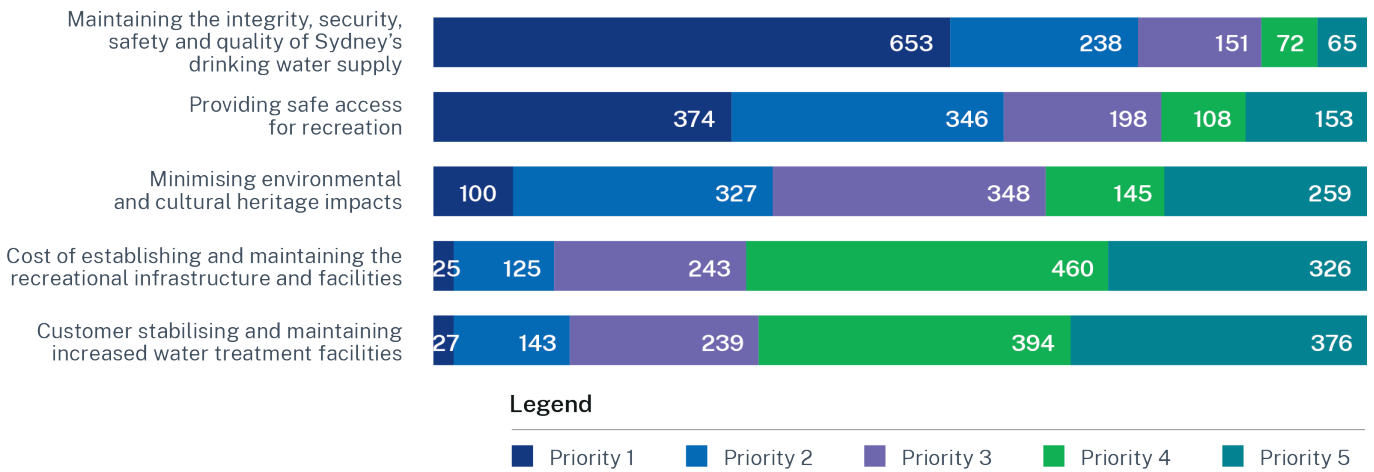
Figure 10. Top improvements survey respondents would like to see at Prospect Reservoir



Concerns

When respondents were asked what the most important factor for the NSW Government was to consider when assessing the options for Prospect Reservoir, maintaining the integrity, security, safety and quality of Sydney’s drinking water supply was selected as the most important factor. Figure 11 shows the results, with providing safe access for recreation being the second highest response.

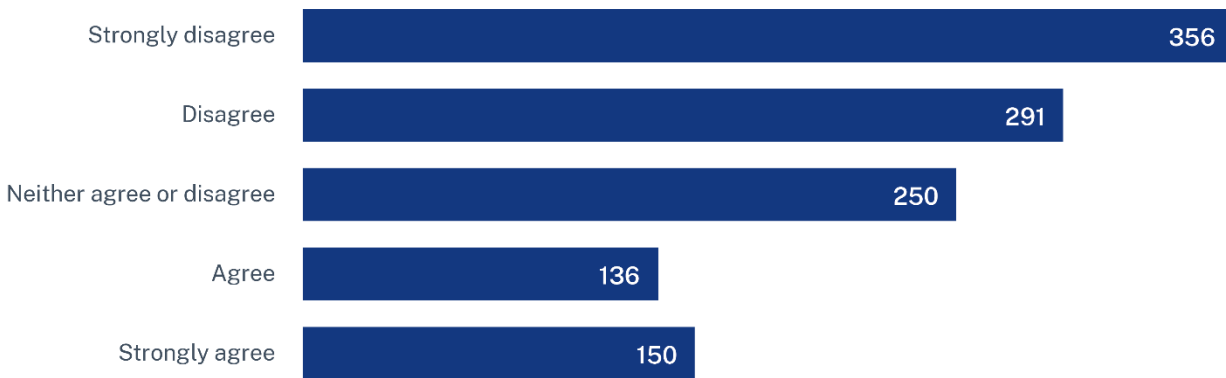
Figure 11. Survey respondents' most important factors for government to consider when assessing options for Prospect Reservoir



However, when asked specifically if they were concerned that recreational activities at Prospect Reservoir may impact the city's drinking water supply, fewer than 25% of survey respondents indicated that they are concerned that it will.

In contrast, 55% of respondents indicated they are not concerned that increased recreational activities at Prospect Reservoir will impact the city's drinking water supply. Of the remaining respondents, 250 (20%) neither agreed nor disagreed that it posed a risk (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Responses to survey question 2.10 about impact on the city's drinking water supply



What we heard – Stakeholder interviews

Key stakeholders were identified for this project as those with regulatory obligations relevant to the site, state government agencies, public interest and advocacy groups, environmental bodies, neighbouring communities and businesses and First Nations groups.

These stakeholder groups were offered an interview with the project team during the consultation period. They had varying interests in the project and represented diverse causes and organisations, some of these organisations were:

- Australian Lifeguard Service NSW
- Blacktown and District Environment Group
- Blacktown and District Historical Society Incorporated
- Botanic Gardens of Sydney
- Business Western Sydney
- Dams Safety NSW
- Parks and Leisure Australia (NSW/ACT)
- Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW
- Royal Lifesaving Society
- Sydney Water Customer and Community Reference Group
- West Region Delivery Team (Sydney Water)
- Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue.

The main themes that emerged from these discussions are explored below.

There is a strong appetite for partnership with the NSW Government

The **Royal Lifesaving Society** and **Surf Lifesaving NSW** both expressed interest in partnering with the NSW Government on this project from a water safety perspective. This presents an opportunity to educate Western Sydney communities on safe water practices, who are overrepresented in drowning statistics in NSW.

Representation from **local running and athletics clubs** showed interest in a designated running track that could be used for a weekly Parkrun.

The **Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW** is supportive of the option for recreational fishing at the reservoir and interested in partnership opportunities with the department to fund facilities and undertake feasibility studies. They view this as an opportunity to promote recreational fishing as a hobby and onboard new fishers in the local area.

“All options on the table”

Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue supports the vision of creating accessible swimming spots for the people of Western Sydney. They are most concerned with the money going towards the best use, whether this means using another location in Western Sydney.

Business Western Sydney, representing most Western Sydney local councils, are supportive of the maximal version of what the discussion paper has offered, particularly in-reservoir swimming. The organisation is in favour of the government’s investment into sophisticating its uses of water bodies for mixed-use, as is happening in Europe.

Parks and Leisure Australia’s NSW/ACT region view Prospect Reservoir as a high-potential site to create better equity to access open, public spaces. They are highly supportive of investment into this project and increasing recreation around the site, including using the site to hold major public events.

Water quality cannot be compromised

Members of **Sydney Water’s Customer and Community Reference Group** that were engaged, voiced the high importance of maintaining high-quality drinking water through upgrades to the treatment process. While most prioritised water quality and supply, some members believed the value of creating better water equity and access to natural waterways for all Sydneysiders should prevail.

The natural environment must be protected

The **Botanic Gardens of Sydney** (NSW Government) are in favour of the Cumberland Plain Woodland receiving more attention through this project, to encourage greater public awareness and protection of the area. They suggested that to protect this reserve measures such as walking tracks need to be installed before increased access to the site is provided.

The **Blacktown and District Environment Group's** main concern is the impact on the environment, particularly the nature reserve. They suggested that access should be limited to certain areas to minimise the impact on vegetation.

Accessibility in design

Disability advocate groups noted that any upgrades to the site should account for equal access to those with a disability and the elderly. As the site is currently frequented by these two demographics, it is important that it remains accessible and additional infrastructure or improvements prioritise accessibility.

Fishing groups mentioned the need for fishing platforms that are safe for the elderly and people with disabilities to use.

Consideration for existing users and neighbouring community and business

Pecky's Disability Services is located within the Prospect Reservoir site, close to Andrew Campbell Reserve. They regularly use the open space with their clients, meaning any changes to park infrastructure could impact how they can use the area in the future. There is concern about appropriate boundary security around their property and traffic management of the site.

Sydney Water's West Region Delivery Team office is located on the Prospect Reservoir site, across from the reservoir itself. While there is no objection to the project at this stage, the options under consideration must consider the potential impacts to the office, including noise, traffic and parking.

What we heard – First Nations

Prospect Reservoir is located on the land of the Darug people, the traditional custodians of the area. The Nature Reserve, including the Eastern Creek Landscape, is an important part of Country for the Darug people. The land is situated within the boundaries of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council and includes significant sites.

This consultation and early stages of planning work considered Country in terms of collaboration and engagement with the local community. The project has been presented as an opportunity to incorporate the knowledge and practices of local Aboriginal communities, pay respect to the land and provide opportunities for the Darug people to share their connection to the history and culture of the site.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up almost 3% of the total survey respondents. Of the 34 identified people, only one responded that there are specific areas of Aboriginal cultural and heritage significance at Prospect Reservoir that should not be open to further recreation.

Most of the survey respondents agree that it is important to maintain access to Prospect Reservoir for cultural purposes. Close to 40% of these respondents would like to see Aboriginal cultural or heritage activities taking place on site. Some of these activities include cultural walks, Darug cultural events, access for men's and women's business, dancing, art, smoking ceremonies, fishing, cultural awareness and education (bush foods, flora and fauna), and youth groups.

Several interviews with First Nations people took place during the consultation period. In addition to these interviews, we spoke with representatives from:

- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation
- Blacktown City Council
- Sydney Water
- Variety of community and health agencies at the Western Sydney Koori Interagency Meeting, hosted by Blacktown City Council.

The key themes from all First Nations engagement activities have been detailed below.

Connection to Country

- There is an opportunity for organisations like the department to build relationships with the Darug people and involve them through storytelling, the revival of local language and naming of places on site.
- Re-establishment of songlines and re-learning responsibilities to care for Country.
- Establishment of seasonal connections to Country by using natural resources produced by the land (planting bush tucker from local areas).
- Inclusion of a Dance or Ceremony Circle as a space away from the public to connect with Country and promote the modern importance of meditation and spirituality, yarning circles, weaving, or community meeting.
- Some Darug women preferred to see the site left untouched as it is, referring to it as a place mob go to when they might be struggling, due to its peace and stillness.

Education

- Educational opportunities should reflect the current school syllabus to encourage school excursions and increased visitation.
- Inclusion of auditory services that allow people to ‘hear’ the language, rather than just read it.
- Incorporation of water into play areas.

Cultural activity

- Cultural Centre to showcase artefacts, and provide a space to do art.
- Cultural Hubs to learn about Aboriginal Spirituality and act as a space to ‘practice’.
- Option for recreation to use traditional canoes (*Nui*) and fishing nets.

Co-design and co-management

- Partnership with Darug Traditional Owners to be part of long-term, regular and in-depth discussions, collaboration and relationship building with the department.
- Establishment of a collaborative working group led by Darug people that is used across all government departments to minimise consultation fatigue within Darug communities.

Repatriation

- Darug clans must be repatriated so they can live, work and carry out cultural practices on Country, and ultimately 'care for Country'. Repatriation requires housing for Darug people on Country, and spaces for them to gather and practice culture.

The submission from Darug Traditional Owners to the Greater Sydney Water Strategy consultation in 2021 was noted to have relevance to this project and could be used as part of this consultation.

What we heard – Webinars

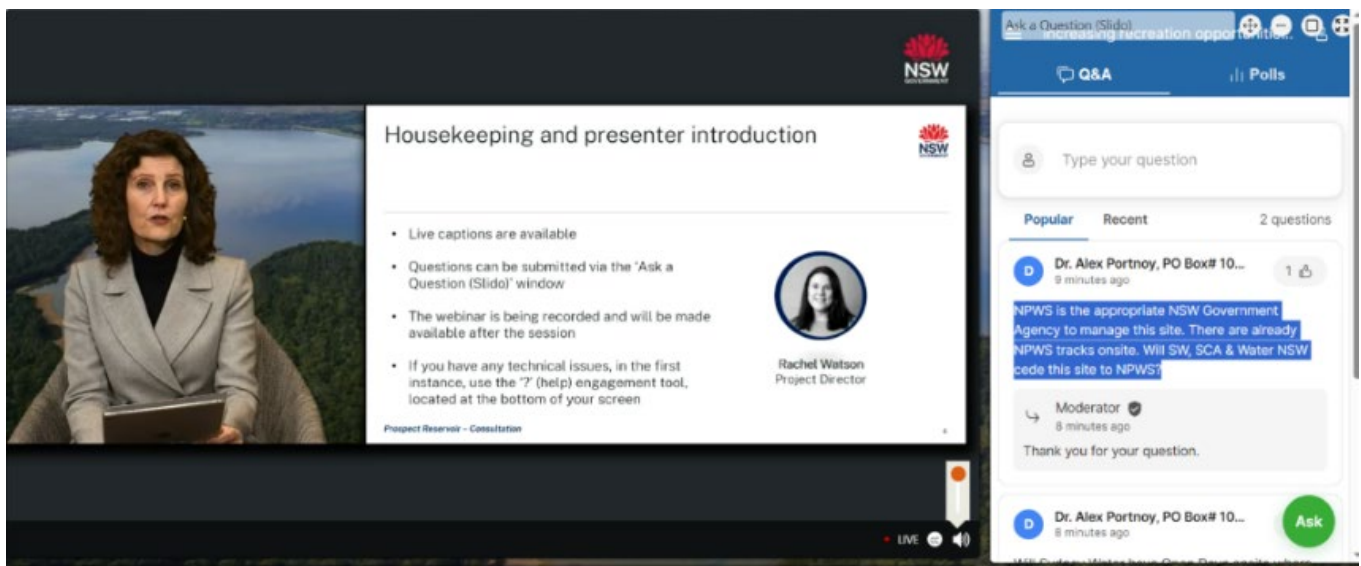
Two online information sessions were held in September 2023 as an opportunity for members of the public and stakeholders to hear from the Project Director and ask questions, suggest ideas, or raise concerns during a dedicated question and answer (Q&A) session. The webinars were advertised through:

- dedicated webpages on the department’s website
- electronic direct mail outs from the department to subscribers
- print and social media advertisements, including advertising to multicultural communities
- digital information kits provided to local government to help amplify the messaging about the consultation
- direct invitations from the department to key stakeholders, including First Nations groups.

The 45-minute sessions provided viewers with a project explanation, including a summary of the site and its key aspects, and a description of the options that are being considered, and those that are not, as outlined in the discussion paper. Sessions were useful to highlight the importance of balancing the requirements of the site and its role in maintaining water quality and storage, with the opportunities that are being considered within the discussion paper. Other factors to be considered are the significance of the site from a cultural, engineering and heritage perspective.

The Q&A session was facilitated and moderated by members of the department’s Communications, Media and Engagement team using *Slido* (Figure 13).

Figure 13. A screenshot of the online webinar and Slido Q&A panel



Over the two webinars, 58 people attended and 29 questions were asked. Table 12 explores the main concerns and opportunities that were raised by the participants during each of the sessions.

Table 12. Concerns and opportunities from webinars

Concerns	Opportunities
<p>Impacts on water supply and quality – concern about contamination of water supply especially from swimming. An independent risk assessment was suggested to ensure water quality is not compromised. Need for this assessment to be made public.</p>	<p>Camping – opportunity for camping like other NPWS sites.</p>
<p>Improvement of active travel to and from site – without public transport options available, cycling tracks and walking tracks should be prioritised as a safe means of access.</p>	<p>Heat refuge – proposed that the reservoir be considered as a heat refuge in responding to the city's extreme heat/heatwaves.</p>
<p>National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) role – NPWS is the appropriate NSW Government agency to manage this site and already has NPWS tracks on site. Future management of the site may be controversial.</p>	<p>Access to Sydney Water heritage buildings – suggestion around open days where the public can enter all buildings, including old Lower Pumping Station, Water Intake & new 1996 Pumping Station.</p>
<p>Fishing – queried whether there are any fish in the reservoir following inflows.</p>	<p>Electric BBQs – suggested more electric BBQ facilities needed.</p>
<p>Water safety due to nature of site, access to first aid – including who is responsible for water safety.</p>	<p>Dog park/beach – increased recreational space for dogs was proposed.</p>
<p>Protection of wildlife and nature reserves – concern for the natural habitat, including animals was raised.</p>	<p>Environment education centre – including learning about the site and waterbody.</p>
<p>Security and management of introduced activities – there is some concern around who will be responsible for the management of introduced recreation activities, for example, enforcement of rules and security of new infrastructure.</p>	<p>Parkrun, walking tracks – interest in these options.</p>
	<p>Cycling tracks – interest in this option.</p>
	<p>Sailing – interest in this option.</p>

What we heard – Community pop-ups

Five community pop up events took place throughout September, allowing members of the public and stakeholders an opportunity to meet the project team, have their say and ask questions. Each of the events were held at various locations across Western Sydney and within the surrounding local government areas of Prospect Reservoir; they were:

- Session 1 – Blacktown Westpoint, Friday 8 September, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
- Session 2 – Wetherill Park Stockland, Friday 15 September, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
- Session 3 – Bungarribee Homestead Park, Saturday 16 September, 9.00 am – 12:00 pm
- Session 4 – Merrylands Stockland, Wednesday 20 September, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
- Session 5 – Prospect Reservoir, Saturday 23 September, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**Due to extreme hot weather in Western Sydney, and the unexpected closure of roads into Prospect Reservoir, two of the pop-ups were rescheduled. The times above reflect these changes.*

Community sentiment at the pop-ups was generally supportive or neutral about the consultation and activities that were being proposed within the discussion paper. There was organised opposition at one of the community pop-ups, with a frequent user of Prospect Reservoir protesting development that would alter the site's current state.

Figure 14. Community pop-up at Westpoint Blacktown



Figure 15. A sign at a pop-up session advocating against options being considered in the discussion paper



Table 13 summarises the key feedback and themes which emerged during the community pop-up sessions.

Table 13. Summary of key feedback and themes from community pop-up sessions

Option	Responses
<p>Expanding and upgrading the current recreation facilities</p>	<p>Picnic areas – there is strong community support for improving the existing picnic infrastructure and the addition of electric BBQs and shade coverings. There were comments that a booking system should be introduced to manage overcrowding which occurs at other local picnic areas.</p> <p>Bathrooms – mixed commentary about the cleanliness of the bathrooms. Most people agreed that more toilet blocks would be needed if patronage at the site is expected to increase. Upgrades to the existing toilet blocks to include security camera for safety purposes and better accessibility for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Playgrounds – community interest for upgraded playground areas is strong. Soft flooring and shade covering is critical. There is also interest in a kid’s water play area and a bike/scooter track.</p> <p>Accessibility – upgrading the existing recreation facilities to be more accessible for the elderly and for people with disabilities was a common theme. This includes the addition of ramps and improving footpaths.</p>

Option	Responses
<p>Extending walking and bike-riding tracks</p>	<p>Walking tracks – a dedicated walking path is needed to avoid using the road. A raised boardwalk around the reservoir was also popular, as well as extending walking tracks to nearby parklands.</p> <p>Bike riding tracks – opportunity for the extension of bike tracks to nearby parklands.</p> <p>Competitive cycling – interest in opening the area for competitive road racing.</p> <p>Organised running – strong support for a 5 km track that can be used for Parkrun events.</p>
<p>Cultural and heritage experiences</p>	<p>Aboriginal heritage – strong support that sites of Aboriginal significance should be acknowledged.</p> <p>European heritage – revival of the historical society that formerly met at the site. There is interest in opening the heritage buildings on the site for public access.</p> <p>Engineering heritage – there is interest in opening an educational facility about the site’s engineering history.</p>
<p>Reuse of buildings on site</p>	<p>Educational facilities – community interest in using the existing buildings to educate the public on the cultural and heritage significance of the site.</p> <p>Commercial opportunities – interest in business opportunities like an onsite function or conference centre that could be booked for corporate or personal events. There is also extensive interest in a café/kiosk or restaurant and re-purposing one of the buildings on site for this.</p>
<p>Viewing platforms and removal of some fencing</p>	<p>Removal of fencing – removing part of the fencing around the reservoir or replacing it with something that aligns better with the site’s heritage was raised. Many people had fond memories of the hill at the dam wall and would like to see the fence moved closer to the reservoir boundary and the hill opened again.</p>

Option	Responses
Building offline pools or other aquatic facilities	<p>There was limited support for an offline pool, separate to the reservoir. However, a water play/park area for children was supported. On-water activities for kids, for example inflatable courses was also mentioned.</p> <p>There was comment that an offline pool or waterplay for children wasn't needed due to the proximity to the Raging Waters water park.</p>
In-reservoir swimming	<p>Many conversations discussed the distance and time spent travelling to swim in natural water sources from Western Sydney. There is mixed response to opening the reservoir to swim, with the majority being supportive, only if the water quality can be maintained and supply wouldn't be affected. There is some concern around water safety and how the area would be patrolled.</p> <p>Those with awareness about the water treatment process were concerned about the expenses that would be associated with additional treatment from swimming in the reservoir.</p>
Kayaking and non-motorised boating access to the reservoir	<p>Kayaking/canoeing – there is community interest in this activity as a closer alternative to the Nepean. The main concern is around safety and the enforcement of rules. An option to hire a kayak on site was suggested.</p> <p>Other non-motorised vessels – electric non-petrol boats, rowing, peddle boats and water vessel hire opportunities all mentioned.</p>
Recreational fishing	<p>Recreational fishing – raised as a popular hobby of Western Sydney population. Interest in developing areas for fishing with platforms/decks.</p> <p>Competitive fishing – interest from local clubs to open areas of the Reservoir for competition fishing, great tourism opportunity for the local area, possible revenue opportunity.</p>

What we heard – Formal submissions

The department also received several formal submissions via email and telephone. A total of 12 people emailed the department's Water Enquiries team regarding this project, and one phone call was received.

Opportunities

The key opportunities explored in these submissions were:

- financial contributions to the project, partnerships
- education on water safety through the Royal Lifesaving Society
- active transport links between the Greater West and the Greater Southwestern Sydney with the middle belt, inner west, eastern and southern suburbs via the Canal Cycleway
- recreational cycling and tourism
- recreational and competitive fishing and tourism.

Concerns

The key concerns raised in these submissions were associated with:

- the impact on drinking water quality
- pollution and litter at the site
- the consultation and engagement process, including claims that the Have Your Say online survey was leading, and that communication around the rescheduling of a community pop-up was lacking
- the unsuitability of the location of the pool depicted in the artist's impression within the discussion paper
- protection of the Cumberland Plain Woodland Nature Reserve, with bushland remaining protected from the public
- preservation of the reservoir and wildlife in its natural state (that is, not in favour of restocking with fish)
- disruption to current users, specifically the elderly and people with disabilities, and noise pollution caused by increased activity disturbing the natural quiet nature of the area

- increased traffic in the area, causing congestion and air pollution
- incorrect information in the discussion paper about Googoong Dam being limited to kayaks only, when in fact motorboats with electric motors are permitted
- financial cost of this project versus suitability of alternative locations being used for recreation, such as local swimming pools, Penrith Lakes and the Nepean River.

Next steps

How we will incorporate feedback

The NSW Government has committed to a feasibility study to identify the best way to allow recreation at Prospect Reservoir, while protecting water quality, cultural values and the environment. The feasibility study will be informed by the feedback gathered through this consultation on the discussion paper.

The discussion paper provided the public with an opportunity to influence the outcomes around the use of Prospect Reservoir, describing the significance of the water body, the need for recreation in, around and on the water body, options to consider for recreational use, for example, swimming, non-motorised watercraft use, bush walking, and possible impacts on the water body and water quality.

Next phase

The feasibility study is underway, with the feedback from this report supporting the order of priority being:

- Options that have no interface with the water in the reservoir (Phase 1). These will be easier to achieve as they have little to no impact on water quality.
- Options that involve direct human contact with the water in the reservoir (Phase 2) are more complex and will require further assessment of the potential risks to the quality and supply of the water.

Further engagement

We understand that consultation is an ongoing process, and we will continue to work with the communities and stakeholders that have already been engaged and any others that should be.

The NSW Government acknowledges the importance of ongoing communication with, and the more effective involvement of, all stakeholders when it comes to making decisions about water in, and for

their communities. This includes Aboriginal communities, environmental groups, industry, local government and the broader community.

Where to go for more information

The Department of Planning and Environment will share all updates on the project website at www.water.nsw.gov.au/prospect-reservoir.

Appendix A – Top 10 postcodes of the online survey respondents

Table 14. Top 10 postcodes of online survey respondents

Postcode	Suburbs	Number of respondents
2148	Arndell Park, Blacktown, Huntingwood, Kings Park, Marayong, Prospect	228
2145	Constitution Hill, Georges Hall, Greystanes, Pemulwuy, Pendle Hill, South Wentworthville, Wentworthville, Westmead	146
2147	Kings Langley, Lalor Park, Seven Hills, Seven Hills West	93
2767	Bungarribee, Doonside, Woodcroft	29
2763	Acacia Gardens, Nirimba Fields, Quakers Hill	28
2770	Bidwill, Blackett, Emerton, Hebersham, Lethbridge Park, Minchinbury, Mount Druitt, Mount Druitt Village	26
2146	Old Toongabbie, Toongabbie, Toongabbie East	22
2750	Emu Heights, Emu Plains, Leonay, Penrith, South Penrith	21
2164	Smithfield, Wetherill Park, Woodpark	20
2153	Baulkham Hills, Bella Vista, Norwest, Winston Hills	20
	All other postcodes	518
	Total	1,151

Note: 32 respondents did not supply their postcode

Appendix B – Our communications

The consultation was promoted via a Ministerial media release, the department’s website, social media channels and newsletter, direct email and local media.

Table 15. Summary of NSW Government communication activities during consultation

Activities	Description	Reach
Media Release	Released on 20 August 2023 by the Minister for Water, Hon. Rose Jackson MLC. Link to Have Your Say website included.	Sent to journalists and media sources to formally launch consultation on this project. Opened 64 times from the website page.
Website	A dedicated webpage on the department’s website with project information, discussion paper, fact sheet, FAQs, video and translation services.	2,072 website views 1,452 active users Engagement rate: 65%
Website	A dedicated NSW Government Have Your Say webpage with project information and links to the department’s website.	1,085 website views. 993 active users.
Social media	LinkedIn post on the department’s profile on 14 September 2023, including a call to action to complete the survey.	120,000 LinkedIn followers
Launch email	Distributed on 21 August 2023. Provided project explanation, links to the discussion paper and survey, schedule of online information sessions and pop-up events. Also provided an option to organise a stakeholder meeting with the project team.	Sent to almost 5,000 recipients, including identified stakeholders.

Activities	Description	Reach
Reminder email	<p>Sent to recipients one week prior to the end of consultation. Call to action to complete survey.</p> <p>Also used to notify of final pop-up event and thank those who had completed the survey.</p>	Sent to over 1,000 recipients; identified stakeholders, new stakeholders, and survey completers.
Water Newsletter	Distributed monthly to a subscription list. Call to action to complete the survey and raise awareness of consultation.	Sent to 4,823 recipients
Paid advertising	<p>4 paid posts on the Department of Planning and Environment’s Facebook page. Call to action to complete survey.</p> <p>26 paid Facebook posts in nine different languages to reach CALD communities.</p> <p>Two X (Twitter) posts from the Department of Planning and Environment – Water account.</p>	<p>44, 000 Facebook followers</p> <p>3, 398 Instagram followers</p> <p>10, 200 Twitter followers (over 900 impressions)</p>
Television	<p>Two short stories aired on Channel 9 News Sydney on 20 August and on 7 September 2023. Call to action was to inform of the upcoming consultation and to attend a community pop-up session.</p> <p>Channel Seven News also aired a story on 7 September 2023 on the public consultation taking place.</p>	<p>Channel 9 News at 6 pm: Average 236, 000 viewers.</p> <p>Channel Seven News: Average 324, 000 viewers.</p>

Appendix C – External promotion of department’s communications

Other departments, agencies and interested stakeholders promoted the consultation online and on social media. Provided below are some examples that extended the organic reach of the promotion.

Table 16. Summary of other agencies' communication activities during consultation

Channel	Owner	Reach
Instagram	NSW Government	11,600 followers.
Facebook	NSW Government	249,000 followers
	Office of Sport	19,000 followers
	Parkrun Sydney (unofficial)	4,900 followers
	Cumberland City Council	29,000 followers
	Blacktown City Council	57,000 followers
	Western Sydney Parklands	28,000 followers
	Hugh McDermott, MP	10,000 followers
	Georges Riverkeeper	2,500 followers
	Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)	1,300 followers
	Mayor of Blacktown Council	4,300 followers
	Warren Kirby MP	645 followers
Kalvin Bigg	Unknown	
Dragon Boats NSW	3,500 followers	
X (Twitter)	Hugh McDermott (MP)	6,175 followers
	WaterNSW	4,038 followers
	Office of Sport	1,046 followers
Newsletter	Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue	Unknown
	Australian Water Association	
	Western Sydney Lakes	
LinkedIn	Many individuals connected to businesses	Unknown