

Engagement Report

Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment

68 Mary Street, Lilyfield

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	2
SEARs Declaration	3
1.0 Introduction.....	4
1.1 The site	4
1.2 The proposed development.....	5
1.3 Background: Leichhardt Oval Master Plan and engagement.....	5
1.4 Government Funding Partnership	6
2.0 Engagement.....	7
2.1 Engagement objectives and approach	7
2.2 Stakeholders	8
2.3 Government Authority briefings.....	8
2.3.1 Scoping Meeting, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	8
2.3.2 Government Architect NSW	8
2.3.3 Inner West Council	8
2.4 Surrounding Community	9
2.4.1 First Round of Community Engagement (18 November 2022 to 14 March 2023).....	10
2.4.2 Second Round of Community Engagement (26 June to 23 July 2023).....	11
2.5 External Stakeholders.....	11
2.6 Council Transport Advisory Committee	11
3.0 Feedback received	12
3.1 State Design Review Panel	12
3.1.1 Inner West Council	17
3.1.2 Transport for NSW	17
3.2 Surrounding Community	18
3.2.1 Pre Master Plan Feedback.....	18
3.2.2 Post Master Plan Feedback	18
3.3 External Stakeholders.....	19
3.3.1 Stakeholder Presentation (4 July 2023).....	19
3.3.2 Stakeholder Workshop (20 August 2024)	20
3.4 Transport Advisory Committee	22
4.0 Future Engagement and Summary	25

SEARS DECLARATION

This Engagement Report has been prepared by Planning&Co to accompany a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the redevelopment of Leichhardt Oval, at 68 Mary Street, Lilyfield, (the Site).

This engagement report has been prepared in accordance with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects prepared by DPHI (Engagement Guidelines) and to address Item 26 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) (SSD- 85149458) issued 23 June 2025 .

Declaration		
Name	Jack Freckelton	
Professional Qualifications	Grad Dip Plan, B Const Mgt (Bldg) (Hons)	
The undersigned declares that this Engagement Report has been prepared in response to the following SEARs requirements issued for the project on 23 June 2025 for SSD-85149458:		
SEARs item	SEARs Issue and Assessment Requirement	Relevant Section of this Report that addresses SEARs Requirement
26. Engagement	- Detail engagement undertaken and demonstrate how it was consistent with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects. Detail how issues raised and feedback provided have been considered and responded to in the project. In particular, applicants must consult with: - the relevant Department assessment team. - any relevant local councils. - any relevant agencies. - the community. - if the development would have required an approval or authorisation under another Act but for the application of s 4.41 of the EP&A Act or requires an approval or authorisation under another Act to be applied consistently by s 4.42 of the EP&A Act, the agency relevant to that approval or authorisation. - Provide a detailed community engagement table, identifying where the issues raised by the community during engagement have been addressed in the EIS. - Provide a consolidated list of consultation activities with relevant public agencies, authorities and Council including the following details: - dates of consultation. - the contact representative's details including name and title. - information provided by the Applicant as part of the consultation. - details of the information provided to the Applicant in response to the consultation.	This Engagement Report
Signed		
		
Dated	24/11/2025	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Engagement Report has been prepared in support of the SSDA for the Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment at 68 Mary Street, Lilyfield (the **site**). The Engagement Report details engagement undertaken during the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan and SSDA process, identifies how community engagement has informed the final design of the proposed development and summaries the consultation undertaken in accordance with the SEARs requirements.

1.1 The site

The site is Leichhardt Oval, located at 68 Mary Street, Lilyfield. The site is within the Inner West Local Government Area (**LGA**). The site is a part of Lot 120 of DP1279860, which includes the primary Leichhardt Oval, two additional Leichhardt Ovals 2 and 3, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, a section of the 'Bay Run' and other associated public open space.

The site and surrounding context and the area that is the subject of this SSDA as identified in Figure 1.

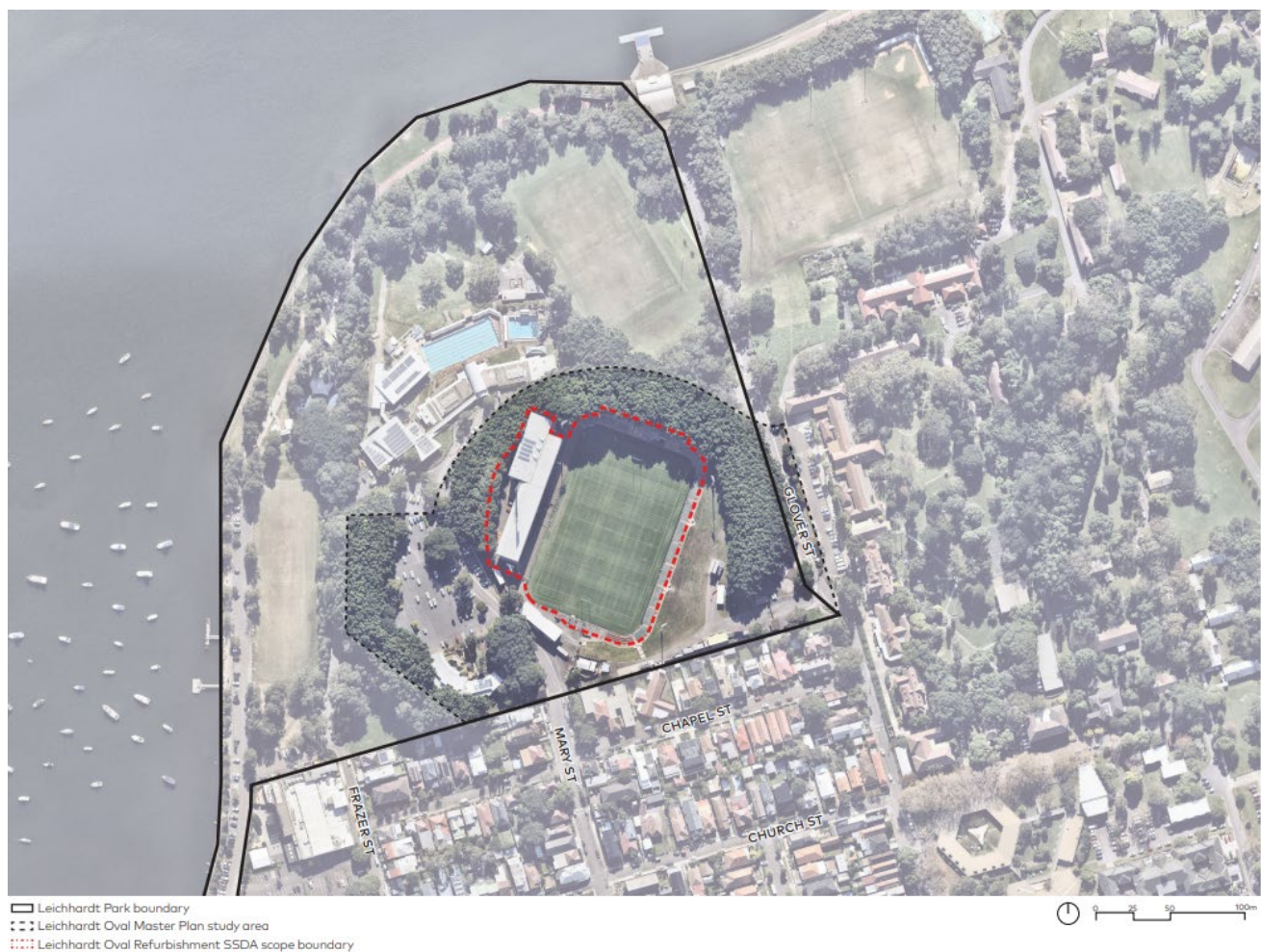


Figure 1: The site and context

Source: Cox

1.2 The proposed development

The SSDA seeks consent for the refurbishment of the existing Leichhardt Oval to provide new and upgraded spectator and player amenities, broadcasting facilities, improved accessibility and increased number of fixed seating (no change to overall spectator capacity), including:

- Upgrades to the existing Western Grandstand, including:
 - Demolition of the existing spectator and player amenities located on the ground floor, existing seating, broadcast areas, hospitality and coaching facilities on level 2, existing stairs at the front of the grandstand and some facade elements.
 - Upgrades to the existing ground floor to provide new player change rooms and facilities, medical facilities, facilities for match officials and coaching staff, spectator amenities, utilities and other ‘match day’ related facilities,
 - Upgrades to and expansion of the mezzanine level within the grandstand to provide a new ‘Grandstand Bar’, gym, spectator amenities, stairs and storage, as well as the relocation of the existing telecommunications server,
 - Upgrades to the existing level 2 to deliver new spectator seating, corporate suites, television and radio broadcasting facilities, spectator amenities and the upgrading of the existing Centurions Lounge corporate area,
 - Improved spectator circulation and egress arrangements to meet standards and general upgrades and maintenance to the existing building.
- The construction of a new ‘Northern Grandstand’, including:
 - Earthworks and modification of existing retaining wall and embankment,
 - A new concourse to provide spectator amenities and food and beverage offerings,
 - New spectator seating to level 1 of the grandstand above the concourse,
 - The removal of 13 trees to facilitate the new grandstand,
- The replacement of existing seating to the lower seating bowl surrounding the playing field to provide greater amenity and improved wheelchair accessibility.

1.3 Background: Leichhardt Oval Master Plan and engagement

The proposed development is guided by the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan, which was developed between 2022 and 2024 by the Inner West Council. The Council sought a comprehensive Master Plan to bring facilities up to modern standards and to ensure the continued prominence of Leichhardt Oval as a premier destination for professional and community sports.

The Master Plan provided a sound basis for the ongoing management of Leichhardt Oval, in identifying and prioritising areas for intervention while working to uphold and preserve the ground’s iconic heritage features. The Master Plan established a clear vision for Leichhardt Oval and sourcing government funding in order to facilitate the necessary developments.

An extensive community engagement process was undertaken during the Master Plan between November 2022 to October 2023. The SSDA the subject of this EIS builds upon the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan, following the recommendations, directions and responding to the engagement outcomes of the masterplan.

The Inner West Council and Cox carried out community engagement regarding the future of Leichhardt Oval, which was built upon to guide the initial concept plans for the site. The community was invited to provide feedback on these concept plans from June to July 2023 with further public exhibition of the refined plans from August to September 2023.

This engagement was used to inform the final Leichhardt Oval Master Plan, which was endorsed by Council and adopted on 10 October 2023. The Master Plan reinforced Council’s overall vision for the Oval and surrounding area, to “provide clear direction to ensure the ongoing and future relevance of Leichhardt Oval as a premier sporting venue which can attract community and high-level events, games and training; and maximises the use of

the ovals assets and spaces, including the functionality of the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and adjacent ovals.”

The principles of the Master Plan are as follows;

- Creating additional amenity and facilities for users to support the growth of Leichhardt Oval and define it as a high standard event, function and conference facility
- Celebrating the history of Inner West sport and rugby league
- Mitigating impacts on the surrounding areas through the development of effective and innovative practices
- Incorporating ESD outcomes
- Protecting the landscape and ecology of the site by retaining significant vegetation and trees and restoring it to surrounding natural ecosystems
- Delivering dedicated pedestrian and cycle paths that provides external links between public transport, the Oval itself, and key destinations and attractors within the site and local context
- Ensuring links within the site are efficient and safe for users

1.4 Government Funding Partnership

In June 2024, the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments formed a funding partnership to secure the future of Leichhardt Oval. This SSDA is as a result of this funding partnership.

A joint media release by the Honourable Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Anika Walls, Federal Minister for Sport and the Honourable Steve Kamper, NSW Minister for Sport on 14 June 2024 described the arrangement and intent behind the funding partnership (emphasis added):

A joint \$40 million investment in Sydney’s historic Leichhardt Oval will deliver critical upgrades to ensure the safety and comfort of competitors and fans.

The Albanese Government recognises the significant contribution Leichhardt Oval has made, and continues to make, to sport in Australia. It is on track to host 120 sporting fixtures in 2024, including both men’s and women’s national rugby league matches and dozens of other sport events including women and girls’ soccer.

It is critical we invest in iconic local sporting venues like Leichhardt Oval for the benefit of players, spectators and the wider community.

These venues are a platform for elite women and girls’ sporting competitions, such as NRLW and Women’s A League. They have formed the pathways for so many athletes to go on to major national and international success.

Leichhardt Oval has become increasingly expensive to maintain and significant upgrades are required to ensure it can continue to host elite, amateur and grassroots sporting events and training.

The \$40 million investment will draw on the Inner West Council’s Leichhardt Oval Masterplan and includes upgrades to:

- ***New female-friendly change rooms.***
- ***Increased seating capacity of 3,000.***
- ***A new northern grandstand.***

*The Commonwealth, State and Local governments have formed a funding partnership to secure the future of Leichhardt Oval. **The Commonwealth is committing \$20 million to the project, with the NSW Government and the Inner West Council investing \$10 million each towards the upgrade.***

We note that the total increase in seating capacity for the proposed development is 3,134 and remains consistent with the above figure provided in the press release.

2.0 ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Engagement objectives and approach

The engagement undertaken was designed to be transparent and fair and allow relevant stakeholders and residents in close proximity to the development, the opportunity to understand the development, its design and the overall planning context for the area.

The purpose of the SSDA is to deliver upon some of the priorities of the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan and therefore is informed by the extensive engagement undertaken by the Inner West Council and Cox. The objectives of the engagement carried out were to seek feedback from the community and stakeholders during two engagement periods, to inform the overall strategic vision and priorities for Leichhardt Oval.

The community were offered the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback through a range of online and in-person engagement methods, providing the opportunity for anonymity to ensure accurate feedback.

The engagement involved various meetings with relevant stakeholders to allow the applicant and stakeholders to discuss organisational priorities for the upgrades planned for Leichhardt Oval.

The first engagement period undertaken provided an opportunity for the community to gain an initial understanding of the project and to identify community priorities. The second engagement period built on the feedback received during initial. The feedback from the second round of engagement was used to refine preliminary design concepts and shape the master plan which guides the SSDA.

Each round of engagement is summarised below:

First Engagement

The first round of engagement was conducted from the 18th of November 2022 to the 14th of March 2023 and reached more than 370 participants. Feedback was used to capture community expectations for the oval and shape initial design concept.

The objectives of the first round of engagement were:

- Enable opportunities to engage with a broad cross-section of the community.
- Create excitement about the opportunity to contribute ideas and aspirations for the future of Leichhardt Oval.
- Identify community priorities in terms of trends and needs.

Second Engagement

The second round of engagement was conducted from the 26th of June to the 23rd of July 2023 and reached more than 200 participants. Feedback was used to refine preliminary design concepts and shape the draft master plan.

The objectives of the second round of engagement were:

- Continue to enable opportunities to engage with a broad cross-section of the community.
- Identify community and stakeholder priorities and concerns regarding the concept designs and whether they are on the right track.
- Create further interest and awareness about the opportunity to contribute ideas and shape the future of Leichhardt Oval.

The engagement approach satisfies the requirements of Section 3 of the Engagement Guidelines, namely:

- Plan early,
- Engagement as early as possible,
- Ensure engagement is effective,
- Ensure engagement is proportionate to the scale and impact of the project,
- Be innovative,

- Be open and transparent about what can be influenced,
- Implement the community participation objectives.

Public Exhibition Period

The public exhibition period was conducted from the 14th of June until the 11th of September. Together with information from the Second Round of Engagement, feedback from public exhibition was used to finalise the Draft Master Plan for implementation.

2.2 Stakeholders

Stakeholders for the Master Plan and this SSDA are summarised into the following stakeholder groups. Specific engagement undertaken with each group are summarised in the following sections.

Table 1: Stakeholders

Government Authorities	• Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure • Inner West Council, Strategic Planning and Development Assessment team • GANSW • Transport for NSW
External Stakeholders	• Sporting Organisations • Venues Live, catering contractor • E-Group Security
Local community	• Landowners • land managers • Surrounding residents
Crime Prevention Stakeholders	• NSW Police – Local Area Command • Inner West Council
Transport Stakeholders	• Inner West Council Transport Advisory Committee

2.3 Government Authority briefings

The following early engagement was carried out between State agencies and Inner West Council regarding the implementation of the Master Plan and SSDA.

2.3.1 Scoping Meeting, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

The project team undertook an initial briefing meeting with DPHI on 28 May 2025 to discuss the proposal. The scoping meeting provided an opportunity for the Council to provide DPHI initial details of the proposed development.

2.3.2 Government Architect NSW

The proposed development engaged with the State Design Review Panel (SDRP) on 8 October 2025. The recommendations of the SDRP are addressed in Section 3.0.

2.3.3 Inner West Council

Engagement with Council's advisory committees and working groups was undertaken as part of the consultation process for the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan between November 2022 and July 2023. Some of the key considerations raised during this engagement included:

- Concerns around the lack of proposed additional carparking;
- Important to provide good walking and cycling access, including bicycle parking, to improve local access;
- Ways to manage pedestrian conflicts at the end of games; and
- Impacts of pedestrian traffic and vehicle parking on residential streets during events.

The works that are encompassed by this proposal have been considered at the Ordinary Meeting of April 2025 and it was resolved that Council endorse the final design concepts and proceed with preparing detailed plans in order to seek planning approval. Responses to the feedback received from Inner West Council during the meeting is provided in Section 6.0.

2.4 Surrounding Community

Community consultation for the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan was carried out across two stages. The following figures show the location of the surrounding residents consulted during these stages.

The methods of promotion and engagement are listed below.

Figure 2 below shows the streets in the local community which were notified for engagement.

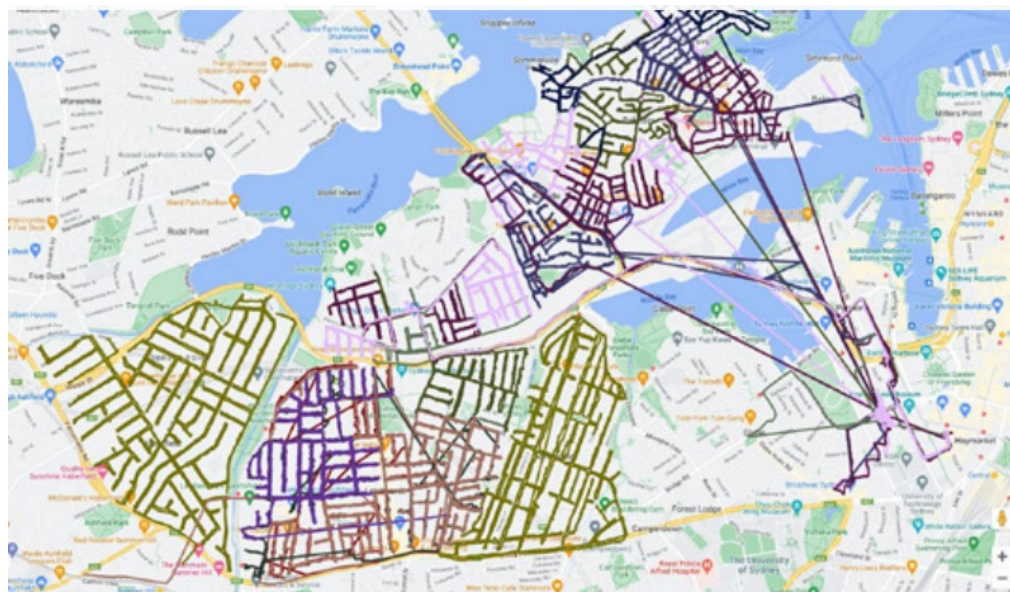


Figure 2: Map of properties distributed engagement materials, Stage 1 and 2

Source: Cox

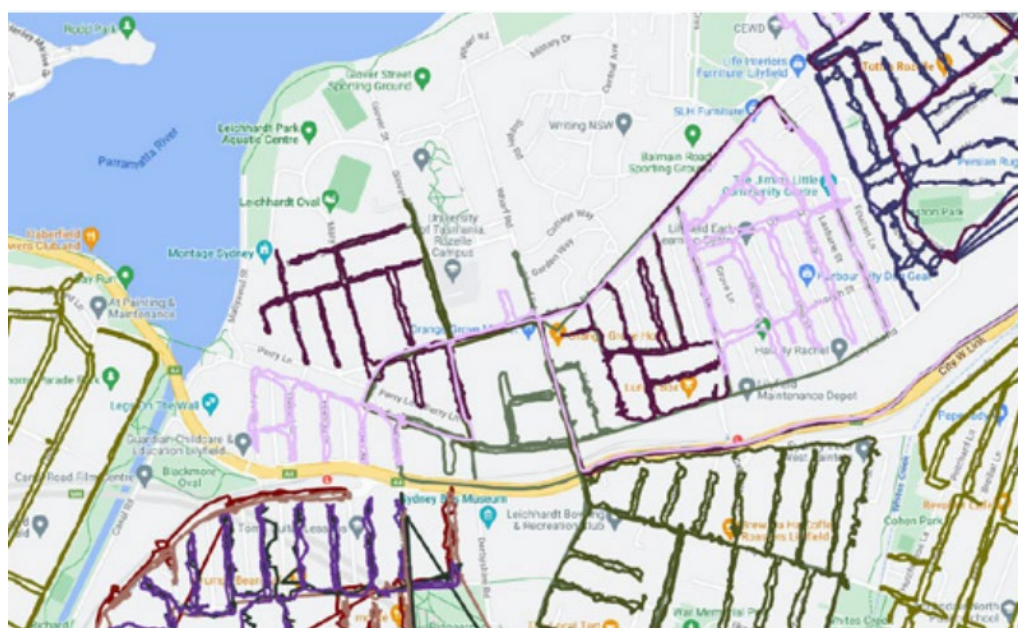


Figure 3: Streets surrounding the Oval engagement material delivered, Stage 1 and 2

Source: Cox

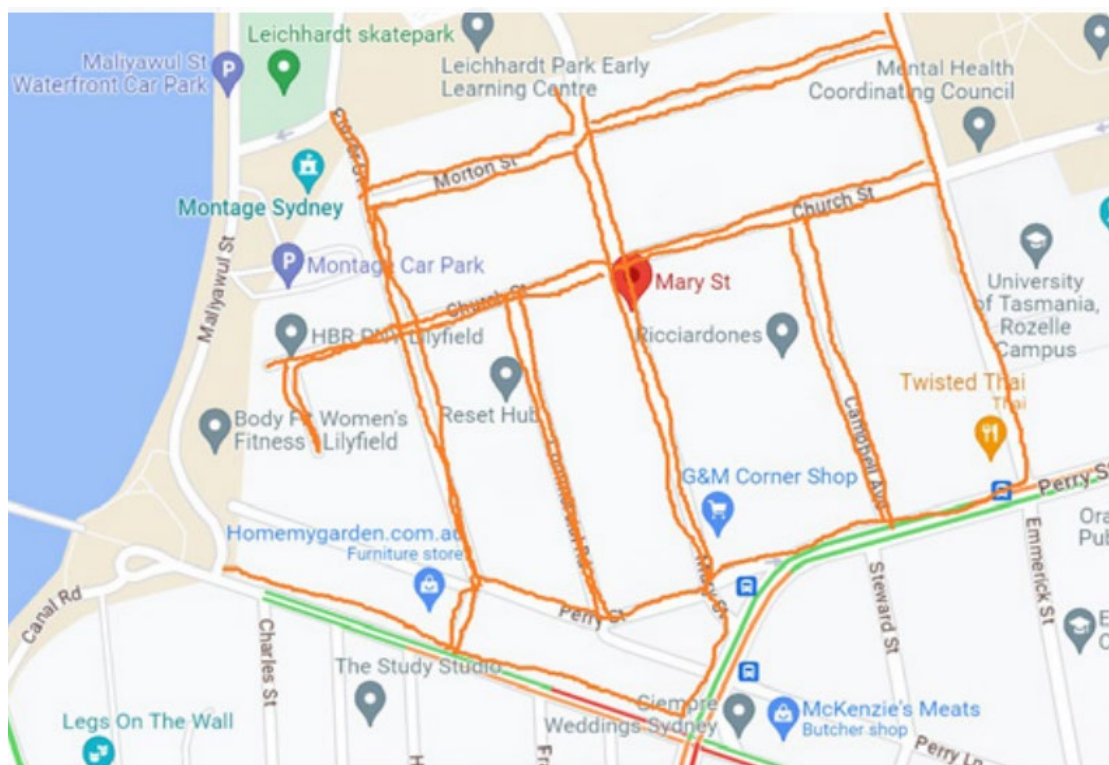


Figure 4: Streets delivered notification material to 27 August 2023

Source: Cox

2.4.1 First Round of Community Engagement (18 November 2022 to 14 March 2023)

The first community engagement process used the following methodology as set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of first community engagement methodology

Method	Summary
Advertising and promotion through print media	• Newsletters • Letter box drops • Flyers • Posters
Advertising and promotion through online media	• Inner West Council web page • Inner West Council social media pages • Emails to Your Say Inner West registered users • Direct Emails to stakeholders • Wests Tigers web page and members mailing list
The engagement was carried out through a variety of methods including; Community - Inner West Have Your Say methods	• Your Say online survey • Your Say online interactive social map • Email submissions • Written submissions • Phone call submissions
Community - In-person methods	• Manned pop-up displays at; ◦ Loyalty Square, Balmain ◦ Norton Street Plaza, Leichhardt ◦ King George Park, Rozelle • Face-to-face surveys • Conducted at two Wests Tigers home games

2.4.2 Second Round of Community Engagement (26 June to 23 July 2023)

The first community engagement process used the following methodology as set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of first community engagement methodology

Method	Summary
Advertising and promotion through print media	• Newsletters • Letter box drops • Flyers
Advertising and promotion through online media	• Inner West Council web page • Inner West Council social media pages • Emails to Your Say Inner West registered users • Direct Emails to stakeholders
The engagement was carried out through a variety of methods including; Community - Inner West Have Your Say methods	• Your Say online survey • Email submissions • Written submissions • Phone call submissions
Community - In-person methods	• Manned pop-up displays at; ○ Loyalty Square, Balmain ○ Norton Street Plaza, Leichhardt ○ King George Park, Rozelle

2.5 External Stakeholders

Consultation with external stakeholders was undertaken as follows:

- Structured interviews with pre-prepared questions and prompts and open discussion,
- Stakeholder Design Charrette (14 March 2023)
- And the second round of engagement including:
- In person presentation of draft concepts.
- In-person design charrette (workshop) on 20 August 2024.

External stakeholder feedback received during the interviews, in-person workshop and design presentations are addressed in Section 3.0.

2.6 Council Transport Advisory Committee

A short presentation was provided for a meeting with the Transport Advisory Committee in February 2023 and members were provided with an overview of the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan Process and invited to provide feedback.

The feedback provided by the Transport Advisory Committee is addressed in Section 3.0.

3.0 FEEDBACK RECEIVED

Engagement with government authorities has informed the final design of the proposed development. The surrounding community has been engaged in a manner that was transparent and informative in accordance with the guidelines.

3.1 State Design Review Panel

Feedback received during the SDRP is addressed in Table 4.

Table 4: Response to SDRP Engagement

Item	SDRP Feedback	Design Response
Connecting with Country	Engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders is acknowledged, and the inclusion of an Aboriginal artist to design the artwork is supported. However, it remains unclear what specific outcomes have emerged from the engagement process, or how these have meaningfully informed the design beyond references to artwork and signage. 1. Develop a deeper understanding of the site by drawing on insights from engagement with local Aboriginal stakeholders to inform the vision and spatial experience of the place. 2. Integrate the outcomes of engagement meaningfully into the Connecting with Country strategy to contribute to a distinctive sense of place. 3. Refer to the Connecting with Country Framework and case studies on the GANSW website for more information and guidance.	Develop: The design team, facilitated by the Inner West Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee (led by Aunty Deborah Lennis and Simon Watts), engaged in a 'Walk on Country' to understand the site's history, archaeology, and identity, fostering a deeper connection to the land. This process informed the design by revealing storytelling opportunities relating to the foreshore's relevance to First Nations people. Integrate: Whilst the site has been significantly disturbed, there are several opportunities that have been identified such as artwork opportunities with the seating bowl, incorporating landscaping cues and seating colour arrangements. Following the walk on Country, we are proposing further consultation along to development the opportunities ideas. Upgrades to facilities additionally encourage flexible use for all users, reflecting community needs. Refer: Guidance for COX's approach to engagement and consultation has been gained from key documents including the Connecting with Country Framework as well as COX's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
Site Strategy and Masterplan	The proposal does not clearly articulate an overarching vision for Leichhardt Oval. While the current scope focuses on targeted upgrades, it is important to frame these works within a long-term masterplan that is informed by the site's heritage, community significance, and future potential. 4. Establish a clear overarching strategy for the site that situates the current works within a long-term masterplan for the precinct. a. Provide a unified vision that integrates built form, public domain, and landscape, supported by a clear staging plan for future works. b. Demonstrate how the proposal enables public access, future adaptability, and a cohesive arrival and spectator experience, both during events and in everyday use.	Establish: The vision for the master plan for Leichhardt Oval is to "provide clear direction to ensure the ongoing and future relevance of Leichhardt Oval as a premier sporting venue which can attract community and high-level events, games, training; and maximises the use of the Oval's assets and spaces". The key principles include: • Creating additional amenity and facilities for users to support the growth of Leichhardt Oval and define it as a high standard event, function and conference facility • Celebrating the history of Inner West sport and rugby league • Mitigating impacts on the surrounding areas through the development of effective and innovative practices

c. Consider connections beyond the site boundary, including arrival and exit routes, wayfinding, and integration with the surrounding urban context, to support increased capacity and accessibility.	• Incorporating ESD outcomes • Protecting the landscape and ecology of the site by retaining significant vegetation and trees and restoring it to surrounding natural ecosystems • Delivering dedicated pedestrian and cycle paths that provides external links between public transport, the Oval itself, and key destinations and attractors within the site and local context • Ensuring links within the site are efficient and safe for users Improving pedestrian access/egress and enhancing the entry experience at connections beyond the sites boundaries, including at key public entries such as Mary Street and Glover Street do not fall within the current scope. The Master Plan summary on pages 24-27 of the SSDA Report presents the proposed long-term vision for Leichhardt Oval under previous the Master Plan scope. The West Concourse which is a major internal link will be modified to improve access and safety, all other concourses have been reviewed and are satisfactory. As per the Master Plan, the visual enclosure created by the canopy of fig trees will be maintained. It also maintains a strong emphasis on the horizontality of the facility to keep it grounded and an appropriate scale. Removal of fig trees to accommodate the new North Grandstand, including 2 that are either dead or diseased will be offset with like for like trees in Leichhardt Park. The history of the Oval will be interpreted and celebrated through inclusions of existing items and fabric that is clearly recognisable with the venue as well as the future Rugby League museum. ESD initiatives are incorporated for improving the environmental outcomes. The design of the additions and refurbishments do not result in adverse environment impacts for the surrounding area and will assist in mitigating the potential impacts from large crowds for major events.
5. Demonstrate how key design decisions align with the long-term vision for the precinct. Clearly explain the rationale behind the location, form, and function of proposed elements to show how the current scope supports the broader strategic intent.	Demonstrate: This proposed refurbishment of Leichhardt Oval delivers important elements that will: • Improve amenity, equity and operational efficiency • Improve access, circulation and safety • Enhance the environment of the stadium • Deliver improved revenue generation opportunities The key driver for upgrading the Lower Seating Bowl is connectivity, accessibility, safety as well as an increase in capacity generated from efficient planning. it is the primary backbone of all of the masterplan projects identified in the wider masterplan. It prioritises public upgrades of the facility.

	The upgrade and expansion of the players, officials, medial, media and operations facilities located in the ground floor of the Western Grandstand was seen a critical item of this project to action to provide equitable modern facilities required at modern sporting facilities. These upgrades were deemed required to remain relevance in comparison to modern stadia. One of the major issues of Leichhardt Oval identified during the masterplan consultation process conducted earlier, was the cost to hirers, seen in on costs of security, PA etc. Combined with this, the state of the facilities in the Western Grandstand were seen as substandard in comparison to other top grounds used by the various codes and fans. The upgrade to the Western Grandstand includes removal of the existing eastern access stairs at the front of the Western Grandstand to increase safety to the lower concourse egress pathway. A new mezzanine entry provides distinct and separate access to the Western Grandstand from the west, separate to the Lower Seating Bowl seats. Multiple tiers of ticketed seating can be offered in the Western Grandstand - from general seats, to open reserve seats (centrally located for best sightlines), and corporate boxes. This allows for a greater return to the hirer, providing different grades of premium tickets for persons seated in the upgraded Western Grandstand. Upgrades to Level 2 corporate suites, and media, operations and coaches' facilities, will bring the stadium up to the technical requirements of modern stadia. The addition of the Northern Grandstand was seen an important inclusion to the masterplan for multiple reasons, it provided up to 3,134 additional general admission public seats without destroying the Hill, which was to be protected as a key public asset adored by patrons. There was no opportunity to see this addition to public seats to the south due to the Keith Barnes Grandstand or western side of the field of play without a complete knockdown rebuild. The addition of the Northern Grandstand also provided significant permanent upgrades for GA facilities including accessible toilets. It was seen as a one chance option to be included due to its difficult location in the masterplan, as to defer the Northern Grandstand would damage money spent on upgrades to the lower seating bowl or the field of play or the Hill to complete this project at a later stage. Whilst the Northern Grandstand does affect trees at this end of the ground as identified in this report, the grandstand will not dominate the remaining canopy behind.
The proposal has not sufficiently demonstrated that the northern stand represents the most appropriate solution for accommodating additional	Test: Increased seating is a Project Brief requirement. The proposed design, with an appropriate number of accessible seating positions, will

	spectator capacity particularly considering its impact on existing trees and its positioning within the site. 6. Test alternative design options to demonstrate that the proposed solution is the most effective in meeting project priorities, including provision of amenity, increased spectator capacity, and improved user experience a. Consider whether the inclusion of the northern stand is the most appropriate response to site conditions, community expectations, and the efficient use of available budget. b. Explore whether additional rows of seating within the bowl, including a localised extension to the lower bowl at the northern end, could achieve similar outcomes to the proposed northern stand in terms of capacity. This may enable the retention of existing trees along the northern edge of the site and reduce the extent of concourse expansion onto Wayne Pearce Hill. c. Assess whether amenities and the food & beverage provision could be more appropriately located elsewhere on the site, such as the southern end, given the spatial constraints of the northern area and the anticipated number of patrons in the southern zone.	provide seats for approximately 50% of the Oval capacity. Fixed seating allows a higher ticket price and improved crowd safety. In the design this has been achieved by the following fixed seating amendments: • Lower seating bowl: +823 seats • West Grandstand: -289 seats • North Grandstand: + 1,722 seats The total fixed seating has increased, but the overall capacity of Leichhardt Oval remains unchanged. Other options considered for the additional seating were: • A new East Stand on the Wayne Pearce Hill, however the public consultation ruled out any development on the Hill • Expanding the West Grandstand further West. This was ruled out through lack of space for servicing and circulation that would result as well as the major impact to the roof and structure • A new South East Grandstand. This was ruled out as the location is currently the position for locating the temporary video scoreboard for NRL Games and other events, being no other location that can be accessed. This is a congested area of site for Event days in relation to the Mary Street entry/exit, further development would further restrict it and potentially render it unsafe In relation to amenities, the general rule is that toilets and food and beverage facilities should be evenly distributed and within approx. 35 metres of the end of each seating aisle. Similarly to the additional seating, other locations for toilets and food and beverage were considered. These locations resulted in an imbalance of distribution and potential increase to congestion and safety concerns due to cross flows during events. Overall, the Northern Grandstand provided the most workable option for additional seating, toilets, and food and beverage offerings.
	7. Improve the arrival experience to create a more welcoming and legible entry sequence. Consider how visitors approach and enter the site, and ensure the design clearly addresses the key threshold conditions and supports intuitive movement and use of the site.	Improve: This SSDA scope is limited to refurbishment of facilities within the site of Leichhardt Oval. New wayfinding will improve the visitor experience and assist in their navigation of the refurbished facilities. No improvements to the Mary Street and Glover Street entries are contemplated as part of this project
Landscape	The planting of replacement trees elsewhere within the park provides limited benefit to the Oval precinct. 8. Provide an arborist report outlining the condition, height, and significance of the trees proposed for removal. 9. Explore opportunities to retain existing trees through selective pruning or design modifications to reduce the extent of tree removal.	Provide: An arborist report was undertaken - refer to Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report by Earthscape Explore: The existing trees have been reviewed for potential pruning rather than removal as well as design modifications. The size and position of the trees, in particular the trunks made it impractical to achieve any development to the North if they were retained in full or part.

	10. Test options to provide replacement planting within the Oval site, with a focus on areas that currently lack shade, such as the south-eastern corner, to improve visitor comfort and usability. These should consider the long-term masterplan for the site.	Test: The Leichhardt Oval site, with its specific program requirements and limited space, has been assessed and no areas have been identified that will allow planting of offset trees without impacting the operations of the venue. As the requirement is to replace the trees like for like, the only practical solution is to locate new fig trees in other parts of Leichhardt Park.
Architecture	11. Ensure the architectural language and character of all proposed built elements contribute to a cohesive identity for the precinct, reinforcing a strong and distinctive sense of place.	Ensure: Currently the only unifying elements around the Oval are the concourse to the lower seating bowl and field fence. The design proposes to develop a language that creates stronger connections and identification of place through: • Emphasis of horizontal lines for Grandstand and concourse edges • New field fence, balustrades and gates to appropriate parts of the Oval detailed as a family of fixtures using welded steel vertical balusters with a galvanised finish • New stadium tilt up seats for all seated areas. Colour scheme to be determined as either an overall graphic or artwork • Colour scheme of light greys and off whites for all viewed fixtures and surfaces • Maintaining the visual enclosure by the canopy of fig trees that encircle the Oval • New structures to be light “canopies” to create verandahs for activities and shelter • Controlled horizontal zones for the temporary advertising signage Continue: The opportunity to continue to develop critical items is supported by the applicant within its budget constraints, including treatments of elevations, provision of clear, safe, accessible circulation and weather protection to new spaces. Testing: The development of the Northern Grandstand and associated concourse areas are based on NCC and the UK Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide) to achieve safe circulation for patrons. A roof to the Northern Grandstand was considered but was rejected due to cost, structural implications, and greater impact on the tree canopy. Sections of the proposed Northern Grandstand at each tree as identified by the point cloud shows its relationship with the trees identified for removal and its effect on the remaining tree canopy behind. Ensure: The proposed design is currently being developed to allow views from the grandstands and lower seating bowl to the field of play to be free from obstruction. Sightlines from the lower seating bowl are to be over the fence line and also free from obstruction.
	12. Continue developing the design of the western grandstand:	
	a. Ensure the southern elevation reflects the prominence of this façade, contributing to the public realm and improving the arrival experience. b. Ensure the mezzanine-level circulation areas are well-lit, and naturally ventilated, particularly in areas that currently appear enclosed. c. Provide weather protection to vertical circulation to ensure safe and comfortable access in all weather conditions.	
	13. If options testing demonstrates the value and appropriateness of the northern stand, continue resolving the design of the northern stand: a. Ensure circulation is sized to accommodate movement and queuing, particularly in areas where movement is constrained and where queuing for amenities may cause congestion. b. Explore opportunities to incorporate a roof structure in future stages to improve usability and comfort. Ensure the current design allows for this addition in the future if not achievable within the current budget. c. Provide sections showing the relationship between the proposed structure and the existing trees. Consider the view from the main gate and ensure the tree canopy remains visible, as it is a valued asset for the community.	
	14. Ensure the design of fencing around the Oval preserves sightlines from adjacent seating, particularly where sponsor signage may be applied.	The design will allow seating bowl sightlines to the field of play to be over the fence line and free from obstruction.

Sustainability and Climate Change	15. Demonstrate how the project considers embodied carbon through design and construction strategies to reduce environmental impact and support long-term sustainability outcomes.	Demonstrate: Carbon emissions to be minimised through adaptive reuse of structure, materials and systems, use of low carbon steel and minimisation of aluminium and consumption of fossil fuels.
	16. Incorporate renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic panels, where feasible. If currently not budgeted for, ensure infrastructure is in place to support future installation.	Incorporate: Roof structure for the Western Grandstand extension to allow for expansion of the existing PV array.
	17. Illustrate how the project will contribute to NSW's Net Zero emissions goal by 2050. Refer to 'NSW, DPIE, Net Zero Plan, Stage 1: 2020-2030' for further information.	Illustrate: The proposed design contributes to sustainability and climate change mitigation measures through ESD opportunities

3.1.1 Inner West Council

The following internal feedback was received from Council's internal access team.

Table 5: Response to internal Council Engagement

Item	SDRP Feedback	Design Response
Access	Concerns around the lack of proposed additional carparking	No changes to the existing parking arrangements at the site are proposed as part of this SSDA. The development aims to encourage public transport usage.
	Important to provide good walking and cycling access, including bicycle parking, to improve local access	The site will continue to be accessible through walking, cycling and public transport.
	Ways to manage pedestrian conflicts at the end of games	Refer to the TIA prepared by Traffix which considers pedestrian movement to and from the site.
	Impacts of pedestrian traffic and vehicle parking on residential streets during events	

3.1.2 Transport for NSW

The following feedback was received from Transport for NSW.

Table 6: Transport for NSW Feedback

Item	Feedback	Response
Opportunities at Leichhardt Oval	Signage and wayfinding	Signage and wayfinding has been provided as part of the proposed development.
	Traffic signals to be priorities and monitored during game-day	Upgrades to traffic signals are outside of the project scope.
Access	Customer Journey Planning team and Major event team could be engaged for game-day at a cost	Noted.
	Walk from public transport and wayfinding can be improved for day and night	Upgrades to wayfinding from surrounding public transport is outside of the project scope.
	Additional buses during major events and people to direct visitors	Noted.
	Ride share option - a location for pick up and guidance	Upgrades to pick up and drop off locations or existing car parking arrangements on the site are outside of the project scope.
	Prioritising crowd management	Noted.

3.2 Surrounding Community

Feedback received from the community is summarised and addressed in the following sections.

3.2.1 Pre Master Plan Feedback

Table 7: Stage 1 and 2 Community Feedback

Item	Feedback	Response
Access and Parking	Public transport being the key mode of access to the site is wanted in addition to improved wayfinding, with a view that additional parking may not be a top priority. It is also noted that the current condition of the oval prevents certain individuals from attending games.	The proposed development will encourage public transport use as part of Council's broader strategies to minimise private vehicle use on match days. No additional parking is proposed as part of the development. The proposed development improves the accessibility of the ground to allow for greater wheelchair access and spectator amenity.
	Pedestrianisation of surrounding streets and dedicated public transport on game days was strongly supported.	The pedestrianisation of any surrounding streets is outside the project scope.
Ground and Facility Upgrades	General renovations to existing stand and seating bowl to address safety and accessibility requirements in addition to increased provision of toilets and food and beverage outlets was supported.	The proposed development includes the refurbishment of the existing stand and seating bowl to address safety and accessibility, and to increase the provision of toilets and food and beverage offerings.
	Upgrading facilities to allow for more local sporting events, also providing change room facilities for female sports.	
	Provision of a northern stand is supported.	
Heritage and Character	Maintain the heritage of the oval, notably the scoreboard, hill and Keith Barnes Stand while incorporating the West Tigers colour scheme into the development.	The proposal maintains the heritage of the site while incorporating orange, white and black into the seating to improve identity.
Environment	Environmental feedback strongly advocated for the retention of the current trees at the ground, with further vegetation planting being a priority.	The proposed northern stand has limited impact on the current trees, with any tree removal being supported by the arborist.
Sustainability	The introduction of sustainability measures should be a priority.	Several opportunities for Ecologically Sustainable Development have been noted including adaptive reuse of the western stand, cross-ventilation, no gas and minimal energy usage.

3.2.2 Post Master Plan Feedback

Table 8: Master Plan Public Exhibition Feedback

Comment	Response
No need for multi storey carpark	Changes to existing car parking is not proposed as part of this SSDA.
Restriction of on-street parking during game-day	
The existing infrastructure will not tolerate further traffic	The proposed development does not propose an increase to the overall capacity of the Oval. Public transport use will be encouraged for all major fixtures.
Access by public transport should be the aim and shuttle buses to be used when big matches are held at the Oval	

Additional games will result in additional traffic congestion and no upper limits have been discussed with residents	Refer to the TIA prepared by Traffix. The proposed development is the refurbishment of the existing Leichhardt Oval. The Oval will continue to be managed by Council with appropriate traffic management and transport plans.
No need for a museum - doesn't represents all sports and it requires evicting the current tenant	A rugby league museum is not proposed as part of this SSDA.
It is a heritage oval and there will be an over-development on the site and would seem to be out of character with the home ground feel of the ground	Refer to Statement of Heritage Impact prepared by Artefact. The proposed development respects the heritage items within the site and the surrounding area.
Remove the red and blue colouring on the seating - Newcastle's colours - and replaced with orange and black for the Wests Tigers colours	Photomontages prepared for the proposed development include a Wests Tigers colour scheme for seating. We note that the photomontages are conceptual and an artists impression only and will be subject to the final design.
The Northern stand results in removal of mature trees	Tree removal is minimal and supported by the AIAR. Tree replacement planting is proposed within Leichhardt Park.
Better if the space was developed for general use by the public as parkland	Noted. The proposed development is the refurbishment of the existing Oval.
The commitment to sustainability appears minimal	Refer to the ESD Report prepared by Aspire which details ESD initiatives for the proposed development. The refurbishment of the existing Western Grandstand and seating bowl is a positive ESD outcome for the Oval.

3.3 External Stakeholders

3.3.1 Stakeholder Presentation (4 July 2023)

Table 9: Stakeholder Presentation Feedback

Item	Particulars	Response
Ground and Facility Upgrades	Strongly support the inclusion of a multi purpose space that could be utilised as a gym/wet weather indoor space for both our male & female pathways programs & local development teams as a priority in any redevelopment of the main grandstand & ground	An area for a future indoor gym is provided on the mezzanine level.
	Rooms that can also be used as larger meeting area for groups for practical & educational purposes across all sports & community users	The corporate and Centurion Lounge areas are of a sufficient size to act as meeting rooms in appropriate circumstances.
	Museum of Inner West Rugby League is a nice to have and would compliment the redevelopment well. Adds to the experience of visiting Leichhardt Oval casually, this will not add to the operational and commercial decision making metrics factored into games are location.	The Museum of Rugby League does not form part of this SSDA.
	Opportunity for the northern grandstand to be converted into a full corporate set up, with suites, floor to ceiling glass and a function room for up to 400.	Noted, however this is outside of the scope of the project and is not proposed as part of this SSDA.
	Additional disabled seats and improved structure will provide greater accessibility and inclusion for fans. The planning and positioning of the perimeter fencing in correlation to the field should consider player safety and allowing for LED installation along the North and South dead ball lines.	Accessible seating is to be provided around the seating bowl as shown in the Architectural Drawings. Perimeter fencing is safe for player and spectators.

	Spectator access and safety is critical. LED lighting is critical for operational requirements, but also for the long-term sustainability of the venue	Major lighting upgrades are outside of the scope and budget of this SSDA.
Accessibility and Movement	Temporary Road Closures to manage traffic and pedestrian safety is critical for spectator arrival and departures from gameday. Spectator safety and experience is critical to fans deciding to attend fixtures, and we believe that this will significantly improve the experience for attendees of larger events.	Mary Street is closed during major events in accordance with existing Council arrangements. No changes to the existing road network surrounding the ground is proposed as part of this SSDA.
Game and event day management	It is critical that corporate offerings are adequately available, including formal sit down dining, indoor corporate suites, casual cocktail function and outdoor corporate boxes.	Flexible corporate offerings are provided as part of the refurbished Western Grandstand.
	Parking concerns.	No changes to the existing car parking arrangements are proposed. There is no increase in overall capacity of the Oval.
	New and upgraded players home and away facilities lowered to pitch level and basement entry for emergency ambulance and broadcast	Accessibility within the players facilities has been improved where possible and where budget has allowed. Refer to the Architectural Drawings prepared by Cox.
	Change rooms must be unisex, have the ability to support 4 teams at a time, with tunnel and operational space to allow adequate movement for operational staff.	The refurbishment of the Western Grandstand includes unisex change facilities and will be able to support 4 teams at a time.
	Adequate Medical and physio facilities are also required to support professional sporting expectations.	Adequate medial and physio facilities are provided as part of the refurbished Western Grandstand.

3.3.2 Stakeholder Workshop (20 August 2024)

Table 10: Organisational Priorities Feedback

Item	Particulars	Response
General Comments	We need the ability to host men's and women's events on the same day as the existing infrastructure doesn't support "double headers" for a variety of codes	The refurbishment of the Western Grandstand includes unisex change facilities and will be able to support 4 teams at a time.
	Leichhardt only just meets the minimum requirements for a wide range of stakeholders	The proposed development improve the facilities of the Oval.
	Significant time and costs associated with bump in and bump out relative to other venues	The proposed development provides for new bump in / bump out locations for future use..
Public facilities and upgrades	Location, setting, the hill, trees, and field of play are part of the grounds identity and are to be protected	The identify of the ground including the Oval's location, setting, Wayne Pearce Hill, trees and field of play are retained as part of the proposed development. The proposed removal of 11 trees to facilitate the northern stand will not adversely impact on the Oval's identify.
	Public facilities (bathrooms and food and beverage) need significant upgrades	Public facilities will be updated as part of the SSDA.
	Public transport needs improved crowd control and signage to increase usage	Changes to public transport wayfinding is outside of the scope of this SSDA.

	Upgrades to both entry experiences required	Upgrades to the entries to the ground are outside of the scope of this SSDA.
	DDA compliant access to ground from all modes and ingress points	Refer to the Accessibility Report prepared by Accessibility Solutions.
	Family friendly facilities	Leichhardt Oval will continue to be a family friendly sporting facility.
	Flexible space available for community use out of hours	Flexible corporate offerings are provided as part of the refurbished Western Grandstand.
Game day facilities and upgrades	Pathways and youth teams, youth games, facilities to host before adult fixtures, including a gym and storage for under 19's pathways and Juniors	The refurbishment of the Western Grandstand includes unisex change facilities that will be able to support 4 teams at a time, as well as an area identified for a future gym.
	Dedicated women's facilities and women's change rooms required	Unisex change facilities are proposed as part of the refurbished Western Grandstand.
	4 change rooms required as a minimum to be competitive with other venues	4 change rooms have been provided.
	A further 1,000 seats and associated function area in the existing stand could be revenue generating facilities for Council on non-event days	The proposed development provides an increase in seated capacity of the Oval. Council may seek non-event day activities in the future.
	Convert benches to seat shells	Bench seating is to be replaced with 'stadium style' seating as part of the proposed development.
	The 3 metres at the corners was at the absolute minimum, field size needs to work in relation to proposed new seating rows	Refer to the Architectural Drawings prepared by Cox.
	The current bumped in video screen was considered to be too small for viewing from corporate areas	Noted.
Media	Media Facilities need to be brought up to a modern standard	Media facilities are proposed to be refurbished as part of the proposed development..
	The camera locations for Video Assistant Referee during soccer events needs to be made permanent.	Noted.
Medical	Dedicated and upgraded medical facilities, to include, drug testing facilities, Head Injury Assessment, medical access and operations to medical rooms.	Upgraded medical facility rooms have been provided as part of the proposed development..
	Unencumbered access and egress for emergency vehicles	Emergency vehicles will continue to access the site per existing arrangements. Dedicated parking spaces are provided near the Western Grandstand.
Hirers	Corporate facilities and parking associated with corporate offering	Upgrades to the Western Grandstand include improved corporate areas. Parking for hirers is provided behind the Western Stand.
	Lack of cooking facilities on site reduces the range and quality of food on offer in the corporate areas. Opportunity to seek capital investment from the caterer to minimise capital cost to Council as at other venues	The proposed development includes spatial allowances for future cooking facilities and other 'as needed' facilities.

	Video board upgrade for all attendees and events - we should identify the smallest acceptable size required by various codes and hirers	No changes to the video board are proposed as part of this SSDA.
	Deliver in-ground TV viewing while queuing for food and beverage and toilets within the ground	Noted. Additional TV viewing areas may be provided in the future however do not form part of this SSDA.
	Lighting upgrade to LED sports lights to reduce warm up time and costs	Upgrades to lighting is not proposed as part of this SSDA.
	Permanent Ground announcement PA	Changes to the PA are not proposed as part of this SSDA.
	Permanent LED advertisement boards around the field of play	Permanent LED boards are not proposed as part of this SSDA.
	Multipurpose space for hirers operations	Noted. The Western Grandstand provides flexible spaces for different purposes.
	Reduce staffing requirements associated with lack of permanent facilities including bump in and bump out and event operations.	The Western Grandstand provides areas for bump in and bump out services and event operations.

3.4 Transport Advisory Committee

Table 11: Transport Advisory Committee Feedback

Item	Feedback	Response
Parking	The “Improved Parking” which at Leichhardt as an Inner West suburb that is already squished for space and with precious few green areas.	Changes to the existing spectator car parking are not proposed as part of the SSDA.
	Not to proposed any additional land set aside for parking cars.	The proposed development does not set aside any additional land for parking cars.
	Impacts of pedestrians and parking on residential streets is critical when events are held at Leichhardt Oval.	Refer to the TIA prepared by Traffix and provided as an appendices to the EIS. The TIA provides a parking survey of the surrounding street network during match days. The proposed development does not increase the overall capacity of Leichhardt Oval and is not anticipated to cause any additional short term impacts on pedestrians and parking during events.
Public Transport	For people coming from further away, special bus services from central station would be the best option.	The proposal aims for public transport to be the main mode of transport for game days. No changes to public transport are proposed.
	Consider whether end of game public transport should be channelled to Glover Street specific pedestrian exit provided there.	
	Consideration should be given to whether the parking area in Mary St should become a dedicated public transport area on game days.	No changes to the existing parking or vehicle access is proposed as part of the SSDA.
Pedestrians	Providing good walking and cycling access (and bicycle parking) would allow locals to access the park.	The proposed development seeks to maximise use of existing and planned walking and cycling routes in the local area.
	Consider pedestrian conflict at the end of games.	There is no change to the capacity of the ground and it is not anticipated that the proposed development will result in any pedestrian conflicts at the end of games.

Other	It is essential to consider how the park aquatic centre operates in relation to the Oval.	The final Master Plan considers the aquatic centre as part of Leichhardt Park. The proposed development does not include works to the aquatic centre.
	Capitalising on opportunities to use the facility, to a limited extent (not peak usage) throughout the week is essential however it is important to note the impact of night-time use on adjacent residents.	Noted.

4.0 FUTURE ENGAGEMENT AND SUMMARY

This Engagement Report has been prepared in support of the SSDA for the Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment at 68 Mary Street, Lilyfield. The Engagement Report details engagement undertaken during the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan and SSDA process, identifies how community engagement has informed the final design of the proposed development and summaries the consultation undertaken in accordance with the SEARs requirements.

The proposal will be exhibited in accordance with the EP&A Act and Regulations. Members of the community may provide feedback during this exhibition process. It is also anticipated that the proposed development will be referred to relevant government agencies as required.

The proposed development is as a result of the extensive community consultation undertaken during the Leichhardt Oval Master Plan process. An extensive community engagement process was undertaken during the Master Plan between November 2022 to October 2023.

The proposed development will deliver some of the priorities of the Master Plan, reflecting the priorities of Council and the secured funding for the project. The engagement undertaken to date has informed these priorities and will ensure that the proposed development respects community sentiment and wishes whilst enabling the necessary refurbishment of the Oval.