



**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY.**

# **BROKE PARKLANDS**

## **PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Singleton Council is preparing a Plan of Management for McNamara Park, Stewart McTaggart Park and Herbert Park - and is seeking further community input following the July flood event and planning decision regarding the Glendell expansion.

Council invited community input to help prepare the Draft Plan of Management from Monday 23 May until 17 June.

## **WHAT YOU TOLD US LAST TIME**

### **What we did**

- Broke Parklands Plan of Management information on Council's website
- Online survey/feedback form
- Broke Parklands Plan of Management Information Sheet
- Broke Parklands - Broke Crown Reserves Plan of Management background and feedback form
- Information posted on Council's Facebook page
- Direct letterboxing all residences/properties within Broke, as well as all properties within a 2 kilometre radius of the village (with a roadside mailbox)
- Posters installed at multiple locations around all three parks

**T** 02 6578 7290  
**E** [council@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@singleton.nsw.gov.au)  
**W** [singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://singleton.nsw.gov.au)



- Two on-site “drop-in information and discussion kiosks” - Saturday 28 May in McNamara Park and Friday 3 June in Stewart McTaggart Park, for four hours each kiosk
- Focus group with key user groups or known stakeholders (by invitation) held on 1 June

## Input we received

- The online survey attracted 51 responses
- Seven written submissions lodged (completed hardcopy feedback forms or emails)
- 29 people attended the two on-site kiosks, which included offering written comments
- Total response “pool” of 87 submissions
- 13 people (representing eight groups) participated in the Users/Stakeholders Focus Group



## Who responded

- Slightly more females (55%) than males (44%)
- Predominantly middle-aged or older – 43.7% aged 36 to 55 years, 23.0% aged 56 to 70 years and 17.2% 71 years
- Younger adults, adolescents and children were under represented (only 10.3% of respondents were under 25 years of age)
- 15 people (17.2%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Only 6.9% of people identified as having a disability
- Predominantly from Broke and the surrounding areas – 59.8% (52 people) lived in Broke, 2.3% (2 people) in Fordwich, and 4.6% (4) in Milbrodale with a further 11.5% (10 people) participating from elsewhere in the Singleton local government area
- 13.8% (12 people) responded from surrounding local government areas

## What we learned

### USE OF THE PARKS

- Respondents were generally regular, but not heavy, users of the Parks – 12-23% visited at least one of the Parks once a week or more often, only 2-5% said they visited every day
- McNamara Park (23.4% of respondents) and Stewart McTaggart Parks (20.0%) were the most frequently visited
- Herbert Park was considerably less frequently used

### WHAT YOU VALUE ABOUT THE PARKS (140 TOTAL COMMENTS)

- “Free camping” and being “a good place to camp” was the most frequently identified value – 17.1% of all comments
- 10.7% of comments valued the parks’ scenic qualities – as appealing areas or “beautiful places”, green open spaces with trees, and as attractive natural settings
- 10.0% valued the parks’ natural environment, wildlife, Wollombi Brook and its creekside vegetation, and “nature” generally
- Other values (each 5-6% of comments) were:
  - the parks’ low-key and less developed or commercialised character, and their quiet country town setting
  - their tourism role/value
  - as a place for passive leisure/recreation
  - the playground and skate park in Stewart McTaggart Park
  - as a bush regeneration site
  - as a way for people to access Wollombi Brook

### ISSUES OR CHALLENGES YOU IDENTIFIED AT THE PARKS (140 TOTAL COMMENTS)

- 11.6% of all comments identified problems with the provision of toilets – mostly as general observations. However, some comments specifically cited insufficient or poorly located toilets in McNamara Park, and a few felt there was a lack of toilets at Stewart McTaggart Park
- 11.0% of all comments noted the need for more effective native vegetation management and better control of weeds, including improved management/protection of trees and native vegetation from the impacts of campers
- 11.0% of all comments also raised the lack of rubbish bins and waste management issues generally

- Other issues identified (by 5% to 8% of comments) were:
  - the parks are inadequately provided with built facilities/infrastructure and visitor facilities
  - a perceived poor standard of maintenance, or better upkeep and cleaning was required
  - the lack of access to, and provision for recreational use of, Wollombi Brook
  - that Wollombi Brook was overgrown and required a “clean-up”

## **SOLUTIONS OR CHANGES YOU SUGGESTED (279 TOTAL COMMENTS)**

- 7.2% of comments (the 4th most frequent response) said they did not want any changes to the Parks, noting that “it’s good as it is” and there was “nothing to change”
- The most frequently suggested changes, 10.8% of all comments, were that new, additional, larger or upgraded toilets should be provided - again most often as a general comment, although four comments cited McNamara Park specifically and two comments referred to Stewart McTaggart Park
- 8.2% of all comments suggested greater access to and arrangements for recreational use of Wollombi Brook and its creek banks (despite this area being outside the parks’ boundaries). Suggestions included walking paths accessing and alongside the Brook, “cleaning up” or “cleaning out” the Brook to support recreational use, and providing picnic and fishing facilities
- 7.5% of all comments proposed additional rubbish bins, more frequent rubbish collection and the more effective management of waste
- A wide variety of other solutions or changes were suggested, including the following (each with 4-5% of comments):
  - improve biodiversity management and weed control across the parks
  - provide more dedicated/marked walking tracks or shared paths (separate from vehicle tracks)
  - install showers for campers
  - improve the facilities/services in McNamara Park specifically
  - install a dump point for campers’ use
  - upgrade or install additional play/skate/exercise equipment at Stewart McTaggart Park
  - provide gas or wood-fired BBQs
  - install extra and upgraded visitor facilities generally (such as shade shelters)
  - more regular and effective maintenance/management and facility cleaning

## **For more information contact**

For more information or to provide further input to the Plan’s preparation, please contact Alan Ginns at Gondwana Consulting (Singleton Council has engaged consultants Gondwana Consulting to assist in preparing the Plan):

**E** [gwanacon@tpg.com.au](mailto:gwanacon@tpg.com.au)

**T** 02 9913 3720 or **M** 0429 913 300

For information about the Plan of Management project overall, please contact Council’s Coordinator Recreation + Facilities, Amanda McMahon:

**E** [council@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@singleton.nsw.gov.au)

**T** 02 6578 7269