



# HIGGINS RAINGARDEN

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

**The ACT Healthy Waterways program aims to improve the water quality in urban areas using water sensitive urban designs.**

The proposed raingarden at the southern side of Bevan Street Playground near O'Sullivan Street in Higgins, is one of this nature-based solutions that will help improve the water quality of Kippax Creek as well as increase amenity in the area.

This report summarises the feedback we heard from the community on the proposed raingarden in Higgins.

## THE CONVERSATION

We held a conversation online, face to face and directly with stakeholders from 2 May 2023 to 13 June 2023.

### Online survey

An online survey was open during the consultation period on the YourSay website for the community to provide feedback on the proposed raingarden. A total of 75 surveys were completed. Members of the community and stakeholders were also invited to provide feedback via email.

### Community pop-up event

A community pop-up event was held at the Kippax Shopping Centre on 14 May 2023 to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately 32 people during the event.

### Community Information Sessions

A community information session was held at the Belconnen Raiders Club on 16 May 2023 to inform the community and provide an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed raingarden. We spoke to approximately 5 people during the event.

## WHO WE ENGAGED

**The consultation targeted Belconnen residents, families, children, and visitors to the region.**

92% of those who filled out the online survey were Belconnen residents.

Ginninderra Catchment group helped inform the community about events happening around this project. In addition, we presented this project in the Belconnen Community Council monthly meetings.



## Key insights from the community

### Community approved this project strongly.

1. 89% of contributors to YourSay support the construction of this raingarden, 10% of respondents were unsure about it.
2. In general, people mention they would like to see more of these projects around the urban areas, as they are usually community hubs and pockets of biodiversity.
3. People were unsure about the site and how much of the green space the garden is going to take.

### Maintenance/amenity

1. Several people would like to see this asset flourish and for that, maintenance was strongly encouraged.
2. People would like to see local plant species used in this project and bird attracting shrubs.
3. Neighbours would like to keep large old trees that pre-date development as they are important for local birds.
4. People like to see paths through the park and raingarden improved as well as a table and a bench near the raingarden, these features are going to be discussed and considered in the design.

### Risks

1. People were concern about flooding risks, the area becoming wet and risks for dogs going into the raingarden.
2. Respondents mentioned the park is very valued by the community for sports and recreation, thus the location of the raingarden need to consider existing footprint.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engage will help shape the design development of the raingarden in Higgins, noting that:

- All Healthy Waterways projects must demonstrate that they will not increase flood risks.
- Raingardens do not pose drowning risks to dogs or people. While stormwater flows to the surface of the raingarden it quickly percolates into the soil; there is no standing water.
- No trees are slated for removal; six new trees will be added.
- Only local native plants are used for plantings, and several are bird attracting.
- Maintenance funding for this asset has already been secured.
- The provision of a path and benches will be considered for inclusion in the final design.

We look forward to sharing the design within the coming months.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions regarding this project, write to the Healthy Waterways team [HealthyWaterways@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthyWaterways@act.gov.au)



## Key Timings

2 May 2023 – Consultation opened

13 June 2023 – Consultation closed

August 2023 – What We Heard Report released

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**650+**

We received 676 page views  
on YourSay

**45+**

We spoke to 49 individuals  
at multiple face-to-face  
events

**2**

We delivered 2  
presentations to 17  
stakeholders

**478**

We reached 478 people via  
YourSay

**75**

We received 75  
contributions on YourSay

**19,000+**

We reached a social media  
audience of 19,201

**4**

We received 4 items of  
written feedback

**89%**

people engaged were  
supportive of the proposed  
project