

ATTACHMENT E–Council’s Response to the Public Listening Sessions

On 18 February 2016, an independent facilitator hosted two Public Listening Sessions. The purpose of the sessions was to provide an alternative forum for members of the public to have their say on the Draft Local Area Plans, within an independent forum, and to verbally provide their feedback to Council in front of members of their community.

The table below summarises Council’s response to the matters raised in the Public Listening Sessions that are specific to the North Central Local Area Plan.

Morning Session

Speakers	Issues	Council Response	Actions
Speakers 1 & 3 [Residents] No. 55A Gascoigne Road in Birrong (Gascoigne Reserve)	Speaker 1 does not support the proposed divestment of Gascoigne Reserve, specifically the loss of a local park which locals currently use for passive and active outdoor activities.	As part of the exhibition, Action G1 proposed to investigate divestment of the property at No. 55A Gascoigne Road (known as Gascoigne Reserve), and to utilise the funds for the purchase and embellishment of new and existing open space. It is also proposed to rezone the property to Zone R2 Low Density Residential and to reclassify to operational land.	No change is proposed.
	Speaker 3 does not support the proposed divestment of Gascoigne Reserve in an area with increasing population density and increasing traffic. This speaker is particularly concerned as the park provides a safe play space for children without adult supervision in an informal park	In response to community feedback, Council reviewed Action G1 and the status of this property. Whilst there is some community concern in relation to the divestment of certain open spaces, the overall objective of the Open Space Strategic Plan is to ensure open space assets are accessible, meet the needs of the community and forms part of the city’s public domain infrastructure.	

	environment that is not dominated by organised sport, and that loss of open space is contrary to Council's own open space planning and creation of liveable, vibrant suburbs.	Council has therefore proposed the divestment of certain open spaces in very specific circumstances. These circumstances include where there is currently a high provision of local and neighbourhood open space; the open space has limited recreational, social or environmental value; or where residents have access to another quality open space asset within 400 metres. Following the review, the property at No. 55A Gascoigne Road continues to meet the specific circumstances outlined above. Action G1 analysed the current supply and distribution of open space in Birrong, and found that dwellings in the area bound by Gascoigne Road, Hill Road, Rodd Street and Wentworth Street are within easy walking distance of the Maluga Passive Park and Jim Ring Reserve. The property at No. 55A Gascoigne Road (known as Gascoigne Reserve) is adjacent to these two good quality parks, and is surplus to future population and recreation needs. The property is 3,358m² in area and is in the shape of a battle-axe lot. Should Council rezone this property to Zone R2 Low Density Residential, the lot size may accommodate dwelling houses, dual occupancy or villas subject to achieving certain lot widths and subject to approval. These development types are consistent with existing development in the surrounding suburban neighbourhood. The DCP contains controls to address amenity and parking. According to Council's records, there is no indication that Council cannot divest this land. It is therefore proposed to continue with the option of divesting this property. However, the proposed rezoning is subject to Council deciding whether to divest this property.	
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Speaker 7 [Resident] Nos. 173–181 Auburn Road in Yagoona	This speaker supports the proposal to rezone the properties at Nos. 173–181 Auburn Road from Zone R2 Low Density Residential to Zone R4 High Density Residential. The increased apartments would assist to retain young people in the area, and to increase business in Yagoona to become a thriving village centre.	This comment is noted.	No change is proposed.
Speaker 8 [Resident] Rookwood Road Neighbourhood Centre	This speaker raises concern the consultation has not been completely transparent and the increased density in the area already occurring is over and above what is approved for the area.	As part of the exhibition, Action L3 reinforced the current structure plan for the Rookwood Road Neighbourhood Centre based on the Hume Highway Corridor Strategy. In terms of consultation, prior to this exhibition, Council used a variety of ways to obtain public feedback during the preparation and exhibition of the Draft Local Area Plan. This included focus groups, drop-in sessions, community workshops and online engagement. Council also held resident panel meetings, specifically in relation to village feel. As part of this exhibition process, Council posted notification letters and placed advertisements in the local newspaper. Council also held Public Listening Sessions, which provided residents and interested people the opportunity to present their views to an independent consultant. The outcome of this work has informed the Local Area Plan.	No change is proposed.