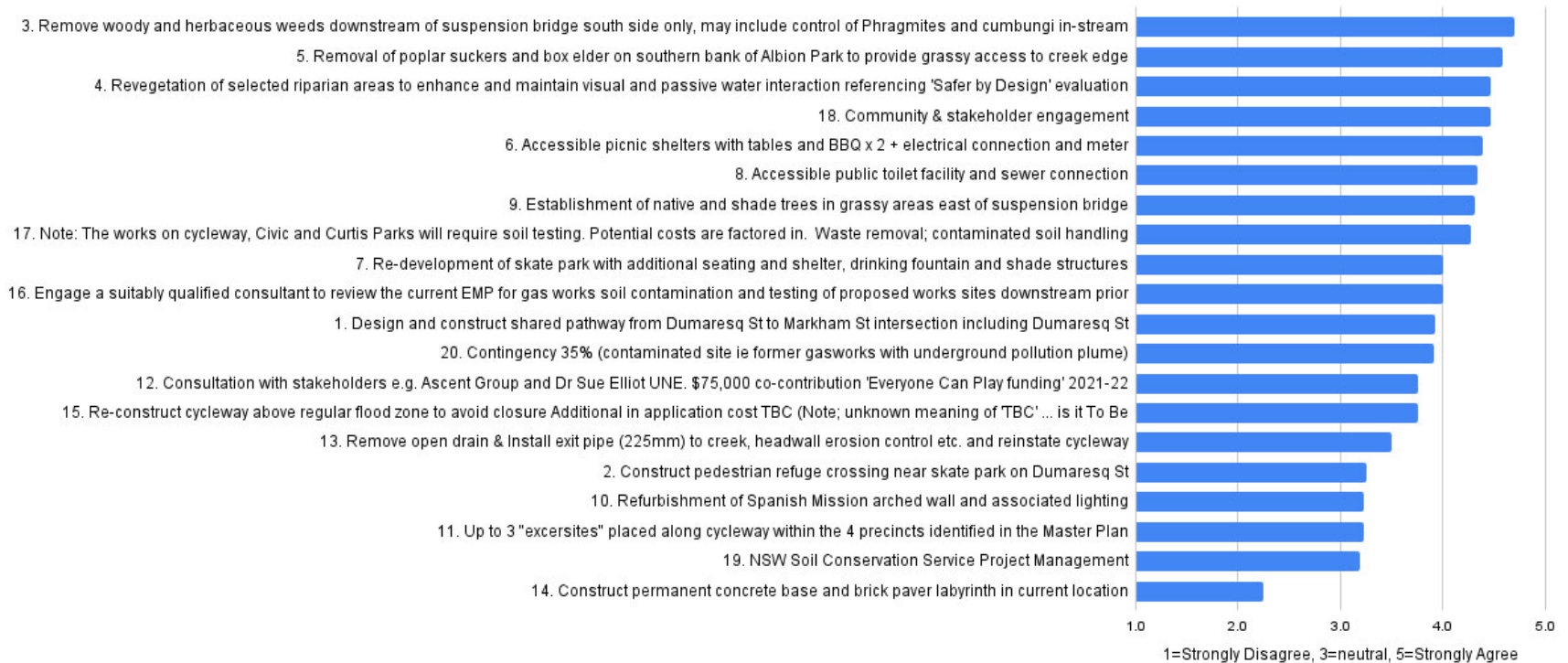


Survey of members of Visions for Armidale Creeklands (November 2021)

Ranking of Agreement with 20 items listed in adopted Work Plan (see Appendix) for Stage1 of Creeklands Master Plan

Ranking of Stage 1 plan items - Visions for Armidale Creeklands members - Nov 2021



Notes

- Highest ranked items relate to vegetation changes.
- Lowest ranked item is for labyrinth.

Text comments received from members in November 2021 survey about plans for Stage 1 of Creeklands Master Plan

Any comments on the re-constructed cycleway (uncosted)?

- The cycle way doesn't get flooded often and the money could be used for other projects along the creek.
- Shared cycle way is very important for safety. Very important. More important than labyrinth. Labyrinth a waste of money and could do a maze with that money.
- Cycleway needs to be above 5 year Average Recurrence Interval but also the roads need to be similarly (say 10 year ARI) designed, as Jessie, Faulkner, Dumaresq and Taylor Sts are closed due to flooding several times a year i.e. ARI less than 6 months. Cycleway needs to be wide for pedestrians too. Rubbish bins need to be provided along the cycleway near road crossings.
- Does this also mean resurfacing the existing sections of the foot path/cycleway that will not be subjected to relocation. Many sections of the path are in a poor condition and are in need of maintenance
- Perhaps not a priority when including establishment of pools, riffles and pumped recycling of water for Dumaresq Creek.
- Need to know the cost before deciding

23. Please provide any additional thoughts you have about the Indicative Costs for any of the items above

- I believe I can make a statement or answer these questions but it won't make any difference to the decisions you have made already and things that have to be done.
- I can't see on a map what you are talking about sometimes so that is difficult also.
- Most people would have no idea about how much each bit of work would cost, especially when there is no itemised scope of work. Also your survey questions are confusing. E.g. "pedestrian access from Dumaresq st to Markham St, including Dumaresq St". Do you have a plan that shows the extent of pedestrian access and which side of the road?
- Concern that one third of costs are for unknown costs.
- Not qualified to comment on costings.
- I have no idea about costs. Please see my comments about calling for tenders in my answer to Q26.
- Where are the provisions for ongoing maintenance and development?
- The council already have all the facilities to do all the work that is required.
- I am unsure of many of the costs - surely there is a way to get tenders to make sure of value for money?

24. What in your view are the best features of this Proposed Implementation Plan for Stage 1?

- The opening up of the creek and make it more attractive to users.
- A crossing to skate park. Shared bike and pathway for safety. I sometimes feel uneasy on the path when bikes are around.
- Eliminate weeds, provide native vegetation, improve access.
- Upgrading of western area of creek which has been a problem area.
- Remediation of contaminated soil and clearance of creek.
- I believe that this section of the creeklands requires the upgrading and modernization of facilities and that many of the works proposed will provide greater opportunities for

users of the creeklands. The removal of weeds and woody weeds from the creek banks will allow greater access and improve stream flow and water quality.

- VERY hard to determine
- All features have some merit and some are essential (eg Gasworks remediation)
- The aim of developing a 'family friendly' precinct that is likely to get more usage of the creeklands.

25. What in your view are the worst features of this Proposed Implementation Plan for Stage 1?

- Upgrading Labyrinth and working on the Spanish arch. I feel are a waste of time and money that could be spent elsewhere.
- Too much cost on exercise stations and fixing crumbling ruins.
- Lack of imagination in terms of the creek itself and no consideration of water management
- Lack of community consultation. Expenditure on exercise stations and labyrinth and concern that expenditure is being syphoned into Council's responsibilities.
- 1) I believe that the plan has missed a great opportunity to provide more water in the landscape by the construction of designed water bodies that are connected to the creek that would not exacerbate flooding and would not become stagnant.
2) I am also disappointed the the plan proposes to use the funding for the construction of a traffic island across Dumaresq Street. Although it is obvious that this structure is required I believe this should be funded through Council's recurrent road budget as it is and has been a safety feature for many years. The foot paths at the causeway on Dumaresq St adjacent to Centro should be the subject of a complete redesign to improve safety and function.
3) Very disappointed that there wasn't a more enlightened vision for the duck pond with a possible enlargement or a second larger pond closer toward the creek with reticulating water.
4) Maybe the maze could have been replaced with an Aboriginal cultural feature and information providing an opportunity to express the importance of the original inhabitants of the area.
5) There is a wealth of knowledge and resources on the European history and use of the creeklands and no provision has been made to provide interpretative displays."
- One of the interesting features is the amount of detail given to infrastructure works rather than consider the environment value of landscape and water flow.
- Anything associated with walkways
- No pools and riffles. No planting of deciduous exotic trees in areas needing shade in summer and sun in winter while providing a highly attractive environment changing with the seasons.
- The lack of any provision for healthy, aerated water to flow continuously through the precinct even during drought times.

26. Please provide any thoughts you have about Council's decision to use NSW Public Works Advisory and the Soil Conservation Service to carry out the design and management of the implementation of Stage 1

- I think that is okay
- I don't know enough to answer this question.
- It seems like an opportunity for government to waste money on themselves.
- need independent advice

- It would be great for Armidale if locals could be involved and employed for all of this work. It might end up being much cheaper.
- I assume with the issues of contamination within the creek and surrounding soils that the SCS is an appropriate organization to carry out the works within the stream bed and be the project managers for the construction phases of the project.
- Any Government Service is certain to waste time, stuff up the investigation and waste money.
- Unfamiliar with details
- I don't have any experience or qualifications to comment, other than to say ALL work, including project management, should go to tender, with a public, clear and appropriate tender process to select all involved.
- I am unsure of their landscape design skills and commitment to listening to the community

27. Any other thoughts, feedback or suggestions?

- Toilets and facilities around skatepark would be great. Maybe more families would use this area then.
- I'm concerned that in making the creek more meandering, the slope of the creek will be made flatter (culvert invert levels across roads are at fixed heights), and therefore very little opportunity to have a "bubbling brook". The creek may become more stagnant.
- Council should be encouraged to establish a community group to consult with on the Creek Lands and other issues within the city. With regards the creek lands this funding is only for stage 1. Why wait for years before getting community input in to planning for stages 2,3 and 4.
- The modern definition of consultation is that administrators make decisions then inform the public. I thought that consultation means consult at the start of the process.
- Nope
- The council should continuously do the required work.
- I hope that Council decides to take a more active role in coordinating things and especially to encourage input from relevant community groups to ensure an outcome that will please the broader community.

Appendix. Rehabilitation Stage 1 Work Plan (adopted by Council on 25 August 2021)

Implementation Plan – Stage 1 – Proposed Works and Indicative Costs

Stage 1	Works	Indicative cost \$
Redevelopment of Active Family Precinct	Design and construct shared pathway from Dumaresq St to Markham St intersection including Dumaresq St	180,000
	Construct pedestrian refuge crossing near skate park on Dumaresq St	8,000
	Remove woody and herbaceous weeds downstream of suspension bridge south side only, may include control of Phragmites and cumbungi in-stream reeds	55,000
	Revegetation of selected riparian areas to enhance and maintain visual and passive water interaction referencing 'Safer by Design' evaluation	37,000
	Removal of poplar suckers and box elder on southern bank of Albion Park to provide grassy access to creek edge	20,000
	Accessible picnic shelters with tables and BBQ x 2 + electrical connection and meter	60,000
	Re-development of skate park with additional seating and shelter, drinking fountain and shade structures	155,000
	Accessible public toilet facility and sewer connection	180,000
	Establishment of native and shade trees in grassy areas east of suspension bridge	8,000
	Waste removal; contaminated soil handling (hazardous material disposal)	129,000
Installation of exercise station fitness course along cycleway	Up to 3 "exercsites" placed along cycleway within the 4 precincts identified in the Master Plan	425,000
Curtis Park playground nature play extension	Consultation with stakeholders e.g. Ascent Group and Dr Sue Elliot UNE. \$75,000 co-contribution 'Everyone Can Play funding' 2021-22	75,000
Family precinct - Original Pool entrance architecture	Refurbishment of Spanish Mission arched wall and associated lighting	80,000
Civic Park – Duck pond	Remove open drain & Install exit pipe (225mm) to creek, headwall erosion control etc. and reinstate cycleway	95,000
	Community & stakeholder engagement	20,000
	NSW Soil Conservation Service Project Management	250,000
	Contingency 35% (contaminated site ie former gasworks with underground pollution plume)	1050000
Civic Park - Labyrinth	Construct permanent concrete base and brick paver labyrinth in current location	88,000
Curtis park	Re-construct cycleway above regular flood zone to avoid closure	Additional in application cost TBC
Environmental Management Plan review and soil contamination testing	Engage a suitably qualified consultant to review the current EMP for gas works soil contamination and testing of proposed works sites downstream prior to Stage 2 works	85,000
Total Cost		\$3,000,000
Note: The works proposed in the Family Precinct will not require soil testing or be subject to the review of the existing EMP. The works on cycleway, Civic and Curtis Parks will require soil testing. Potential costs are factored in.		