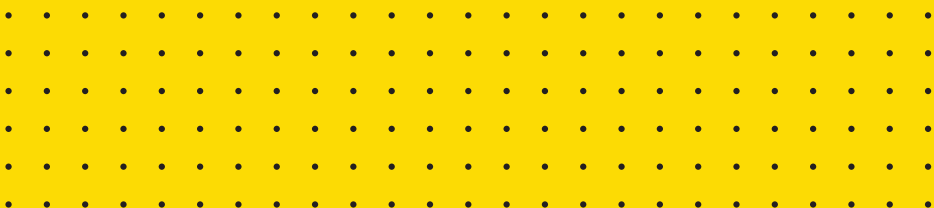




# KOOLUNGA NATIVE RESERVE

## ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT & VALUES PLAN



*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, and pay our respects to their elders past present and emerging, recognising their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.*

Issue	Title	Date	Prepared	Checked
1	Koolunga Native Reserve Engagement 01 Summary Report & Values Plan	01/04/2022	RF	NM/ZC
2	Koolunga Native Reserve Engagement 02 Summary Report & Values Plan	14/10/2022	RF/JV	ZC
3	Koolunga Native Reserve Engagement 02 Summary Report & Values Plan - Final Issue	07/11/2022	RF/JV	ZC
4				

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# KEY TERMS

1. Future Directions Plan:	A landscape plan which reflects the vision for the future of Koolunga Native Reserve.
2. Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve:	A local volunteer group focussing on positive environmental and community outcomes across the entire area of the Koolunga Native Reserve. Volunteers work throughout every month to preserve and enhance the unique flora and fauna of Knox via hands-on activities, community engagement and education, and other projects supporting biodiversity. The group also assists Council at the nearby Wirrianda Reserve and Vaughan Reserve, and provides volunteers to facilitate Council-led community activities.
3. Project Steering Group:	Community group of people who has shown interest and participated in multiple engagement activities.
4. Values Plan:	Graphic representation that highlights the consultation feedback.





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# INTRODUCTION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# 01



# INTRODUCTION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

**Koolunga Native Reserve is located 40Km East of Melbourne CBD, in Ferntree Gully. It is located at the foothills of Dandenong Ranges and it is home to a wide range of fauna and flora species.**

Koolunga Native Reserve is a 6 hectare (15 acre) site identified as a site of biological significance, and it hosts a considerable variety of fauna and flora, with a creek running through the middle. The reserve is recognised by its biological value due to the presence of many rare or threatened indigenous plant species.

The area has previously been used as a daffodil farm and daffodils still appear each year. It is also a very popular place for locals to enjoy the neighbourhood open space, walk their dogs and enjoy the existing creek. The reserve comes under the care of Knox City Council and Friends of Koolunga group, which has been established in 1994 and been active since. The creek is currently managed by Melbourne Water.

This report outlines the process through which the community was engaged to contribute towards shaping the vision and strategic direction of Koolunga Native Reserve to ensure it meets the needs of the current and future community.

The engagement process has helped Council to gain an understanding of the strategic direction required to take to ensure that Koolunga Native Reserve will respond to the needs of the current and future community.

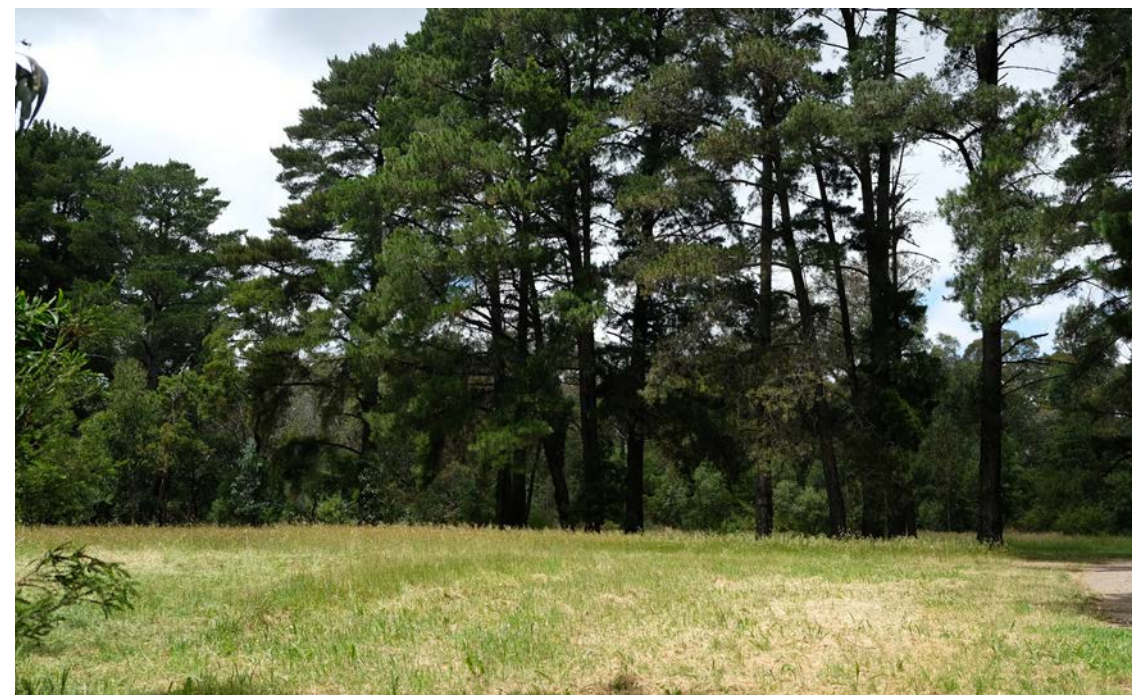
Some specific feedback relates to a previous proposal of a wetland. Although this consultation wasn't to address the inclusion/exclusion of a wetland, we acknowledge that there had been previous consultation about it. Feedback on this occasion has included support as well as opposition.

## Executive Summary

Group GSA was commissioned in September 2021 by Knox City Council to run a number of sessions of community engagement and set a holistic direction for Koolunga Native Reserve, by providing a framework on planning and delivering future upgrades.

### Project Objectives:

- Protect and strengthen Koolunga Native Reserve as a significant biodiversity reserve and a public open space for the local community to enjoy currently and in the future;
- Provide opportunities for the local community to have a say in the future planning for the Reserve;
- Enhance the sense of 'connection to nature' for visitors, respecting the biological significance and the wildlife creek corridor running on site;
- Facilitate the agreed Project Steering Group (PSG) workshops with internal council officers and interested community members;
- Provide input and material for the community consultation including the "Have Your Say" page;
- Develop a high level Values Plan that graphically represents and highlights the consultation feedback;
- Develop a high level Landscape Plan (Future Directions Plan) which articulates a collective vision for the site and the community values.





# PROJECT ROAD MAP

## SUMMARY

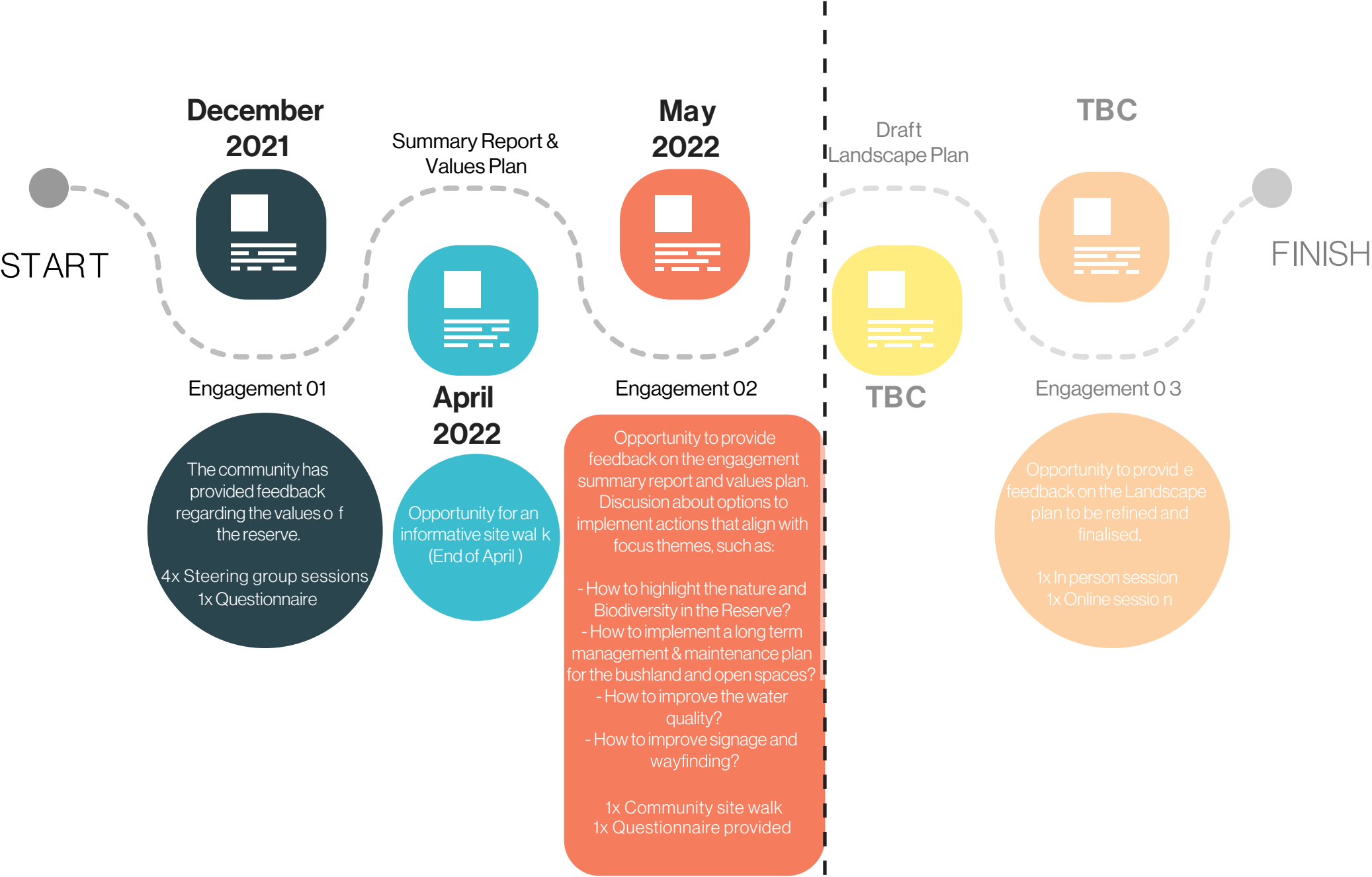
In order to successfully achieve the desired outcomes for this project, all the information collected and recorded during the community engagement process was crucial.

Once the preliminary strategy is approved, a draft plan will be developed for public exhibition and community feedback. Once this is endorsed by the community and council, a final direction plan will be developed.

The diagram on the side shows a road map of all the steps in this process.

The first engagement session discussed six main themes, which are as follows: Values and Uses, Future Focus, Improvements Needed, Habitat Protection, Connection to Nature, and Legibility and Wayfinding.

The second engagement session explored the themes of: Water and Stream Management, Passive Recreation, Accessibility and Wayfinding, Management of Bushfire, Flora and Fauna, and Ongoing Community Engagement.







## SITE AUDIT

# 02

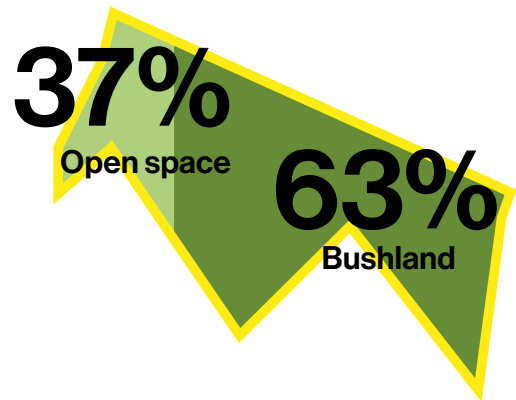


# SITE AUDIT

## SITE WALK & OBSERVATIONS

GroupGSA has undertaken a site audit to better understand current conditions and functioning of the site

As mentioned previously, Koolunga Native reserve 15 acre reserve which consists of bushland and a few open areas of mown grass, with a variety of fauna and flora representing as a site of biological significance. The below diagram represents an approximate percentage of open space vs bushland:



Within the site, there are around two kilometres of walking paths and a creek that runs through it, with a cross over of two bridges. There are information boards throughout the reserve, mainly about the biological variety of the site.

The site offers good open space areas which make it flexible for a range of activities such as passive recreation, ball play, flying kites and dog walking.

The next pages show a visual record of the site audit and an interpretation of its condition and uses.



01/

### Biological Significance

There are a number of natural assets in Koolunga Native Reserve which meet the Victorian Government's 'standard criteria for sites of biological significance': They summarise in the following:

Small populations of two globally-endangered plant species (*Acacia stictophylla* and *Platylobium infecundum*), growing in deteriorating condition;

Patches of endangered vegetation types (Valley Heathy Forest and Swampy Woodland) whose ecological condition is deteriorating;

Valuable patch of Graceful Fescue (*Festuca asperula*), with only nine other valid records of the species in the Port Phillip and Western Port region through history;

Powerful Owls (listed as Vulnerable in Victoria);

Approximately 60 wild, indigenous plant species that are threatened with dying out throughout Knox;

A total of approximately 130 wild, indigenous plant species, which is a large number for a single site in Knox.

02/

### Daffodil Rd Entrance

Daffodil Rd currently holds one of the main connections and entrances to Koolunga Native Reserve.

Located at the North-East side of the Reserve, this area provides an open and visible access to the site, including gravel paths that lead the users to the West and Centre of the reserve.

There is a well visible entrance sign and open grass space that make it look inviting and safe.

In this area, there are a few bins and a seat bench along the path and is currently an underutilised space. This area connects directly to the existing concrete path along Daffodil Rd.

03/

### Pine Trees walk path

At the centre West of the reserve, there is a line of pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) that divide the two major open grass areas on the North side of the reserve.

This row of pine trees is also delineated by an existing gravel path which is a main connection from the Daffodil Rd entrance to the centre of the reserve.

The trees in this section, despite being exotic, represent historical value and provide a sense of identity to the site, as well as shade and shelter to the users and some of the animals on site.

Next to the gravel path, there are also a few existing Mat-Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*).

04/

### North-West Open space

At the North-West side of the reserve, next to the pine trees, there is a large open grass area surrounded by trees and adjacent residents properties.

This area represents high value for the local community users as it holds great flexibility for activities and gathering opportunities.

Currently, this area is in lack of regular maintenance and the grasses are growing quite long in certain times of the year.



# SITE AUDIT



## 05/ Flagstone rock path / Creek overflow drain

At the very West side of the Reserve, there is an existing wire fence and an adjacent rock path stretch, which becomes apart of the creek and helps drain the water at the occurrence of an overflow.

This area represents a low point to the path and its function makes it uneven to walk on, as well as slippery and unsafe at times.



## 06/ Western steps

At the south of the flagstone rock path, there is a number of steps that connect up to the southern section of the gravel path in the reserve.

These steps are simple combination of timber slats risers and compacted gravel fill, with a hand rail to the left side.

These steps are an inevitable response to the existing topography on site and make it possible for users to walk through this area, but not accessible for motor impaired groups.



## 07/ Existing concrete path and signage

Approximately at the centre of the reserve, there is a portion of the path system that is made of concrete which connects of the existing bridges over the creek.

This is the only stretch of the path that is compliant with DDA accessibility requirements for wheelchairs, but is in need of an extension and connection to the park entrance at the South-East boundary of the site.

There is existing signage along the site, but is in need of upgrades.



## 08/ Existing timber bridge

Within the site, there are a few timber bridges that cross over the existing creek.

The bridges are made of timber slats and no balustrades. They provide a link between the North and South sides of the reserve and offer a good experience of the site.

These bridges are currently in acceptable condition but could be improved in terms of maintenance, cleaning and safety.



## 09/ South-centre open space

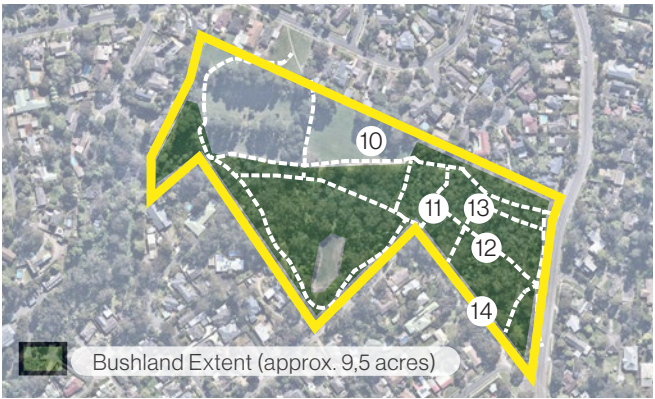
At the South-Centre corner of the site, there is another opening in the landscape, with a flat grass area.

Similar to the other open but smaller areas, but smaller, it offers a variety of opportunities for activities and gathering events.

In proximity with this area, one can find St Elmo Ave entry and the aged care facility..



# SITE AUDIT



## 10/ Secondary paths

Along the site, there are several secondary paths that connect to the main gravel paths and make it fairly easy to navigate through the reserve.

The secondary paths are somewhat informal and offer a more authentic nature experience to the users of the reserve, allowing users to wander freely and explore the site.



## 11/ North-centre open space

At the North-centre of Koolunga reserve, there is another large open grass area, which is one of the main spaces that local residents use for gatherings and other activities.

Due to its openness and size, this space becomes a valuable area of the reserve, which offer the aforementioned flexibility for activities and gatherings, as well as dog walking.



## 12/ Existing Creek

The existing creek along the reserve used to be a rubbish dump place for local residents.

Although this has been dealt with and no longer occurs in the reserve, the creek and its embankments have been left with a low water quality and erosion control.

For the above reasons, the creek is a main point of discussion and one of the elements in the reserve that needs future attention and recovery intervention.



## 13/ Existing amenities

Along the site, there are benches and seats that provide an opportunity for rest and contemplation of the reserve.

These seating elements are made of natural materials such as wood and fit well in the landscape and the environment.

Although discreet and well placed, they lack of arms and backrests, which can improve the safety and usage of these elements for elderly users.



## 14/ Existing Carpark

Along Old Forest Rd, there is an existing informal carpark which allow for approximately 10 cars to park at a time.

This access and parking consist of crushed rock and make the park accessible from Hutton Ave and Forest Rd.

The area presents in good condition but is in need of more signage and indication in order to be more clear for visitors who drive to site.





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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 01

# 03



# ENGAGEMENT RECORD & SESSIONS SUMMARY

## ENGAGEMENT RECORD      SESSIONS SUMMARY

**GroupGSA and Knox City Council responsibilities in recording comments received**

All the feedback documented by Group GSA and Knox City Council or any person(s) acting on our behalf has been recorded during our program/consultation activities.

Input is from written submissions and notes from direct feedback during meetings. The notes capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in this document represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or Council.

All sessions have been carried out similarly, including Introduction to the project, understanding the engagement / connection of the group with the site presentation of a consultation panel and questions, followed by a discussion and expression of opinions.

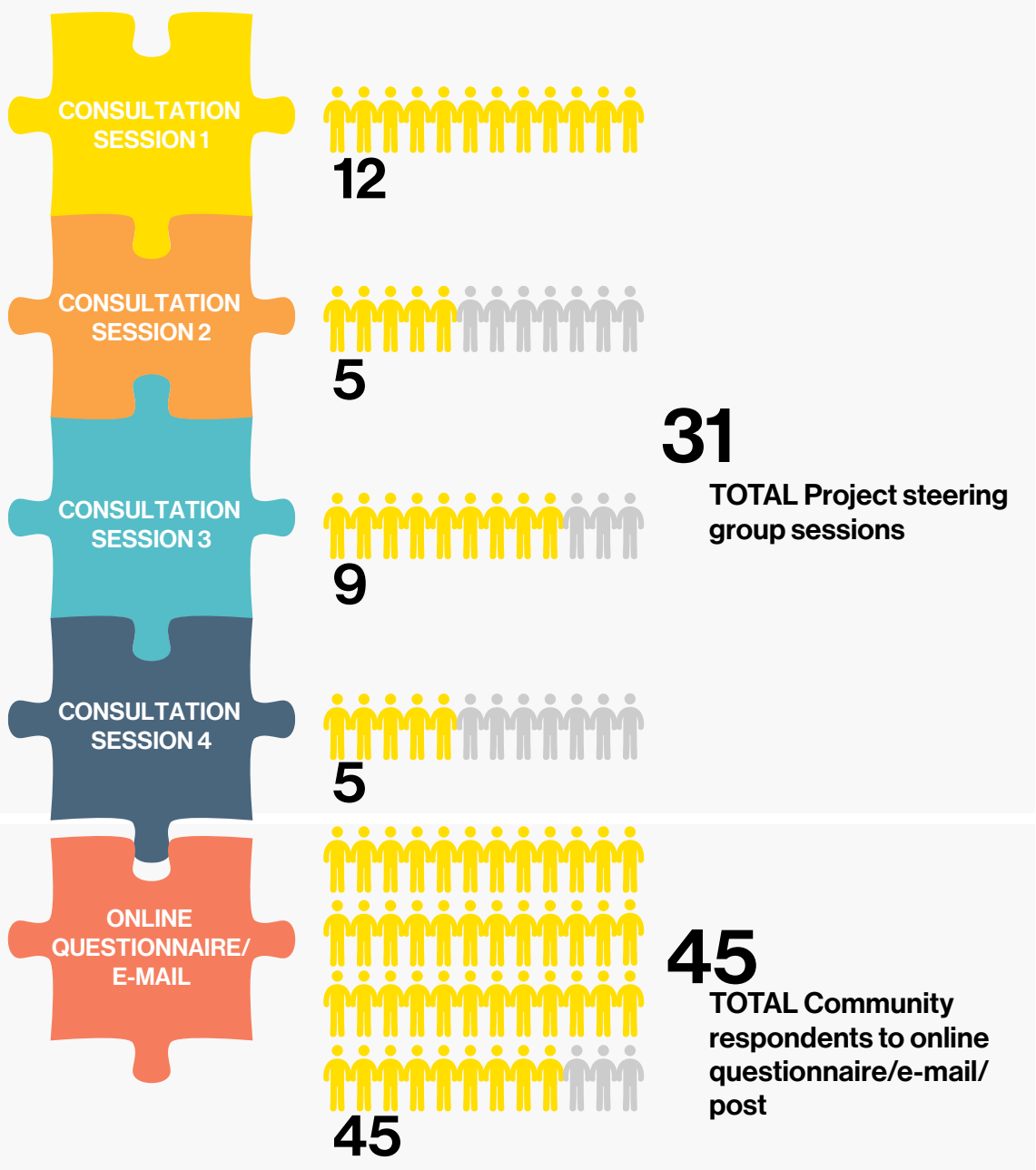
**GroupGSA and Knox City Council have collaboratively organized a number of opportunities for community feedback**

The sessions summarise in the following:

- a. 4x Project Steering group sessions;
- b. 1x Community Questionnaire provided online.

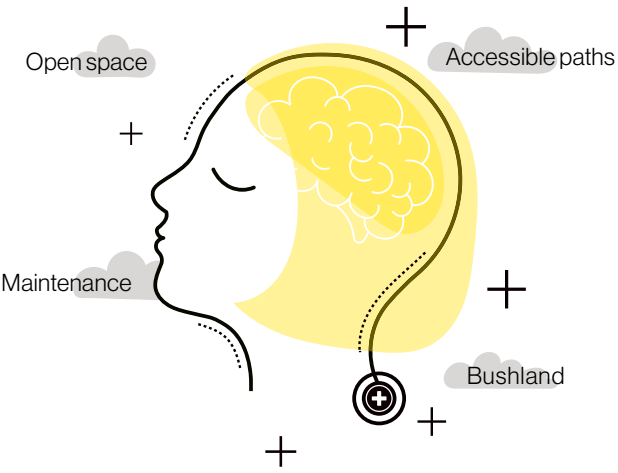
All sessions have been organised in line with government regulations with regards to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The community has also been given the opportunity to provide their comments through the online questionnaire uploaded on to the 'Have Your Say' page, as stated above, and to send through their opinions via e-mail and post if preferred.



**76**  
TOTAL Community participants

### 6 Topics discussed





# ENGAGEMENT FORMAT & ONLINE SESSIONS

## ENGAGEMENT FORMAT

The Community engagement sessions were planned in response to the interest shown by the community in having their ideas and thoughts put forward. These sessions were all held online, always following the Covid-19 government guidelines. Notification of the community engagement activities included direct email and letters.

The consultation structure included:

- Introduction and presentation of hosts,
- Acknowledgement of previous undertaken consultation and understanding of received feedback;
- Aims of the consultation
- Questions and discussion / community opinion.
- General discussion / any other thoughts or concerns,
- Next steps.

To facilitate the discussions and to prompt conversation, a number of specific questions have been put together as per below:

- What do you consider the current values and uses of the Reserve?
- What are the future focus and uses that you envision for the Reserve?
- In developing a plan, where do you think the most improvements can be made: Consider: accessibility, heritage, fauna & flora, water quality, open spaces, weed, fire and pest management.
- What measures do you consider relevant for the Reserve's habitat protection?
- What do you consider important to instigate people's connection to Nature in the Reserve? How do you connect to the environment?
- What are your thoughts on the legibility & wayfinding through the site?

## ONLINE SESSIONS

GroupGSA and Knox City Council organised 4 (four) online sessions with the community as per below:

### CONSULTATION EVENT 1

WHEN: Tuesday 7th December 2021, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

WHERE: Zoom meeting (Online)

WHO: 12x community attendees, 2x GSA attendees, 1 x Council's attendees

### CONSULTATION EVENT 2

WHEN: Wednesday 8th December 2021, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: Zoom meeting (Online)

WHO: 5x community attendees, 2x GSA attendees, 1 x Council's attendees

### CONSULTATION EVENT 3

WHEN: Wednesday 14th December 2021, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

WHERE: Zoom meeting (Online)

WHO: 9x community attendees, 2x GSA attendees, 1 x Council's attendees

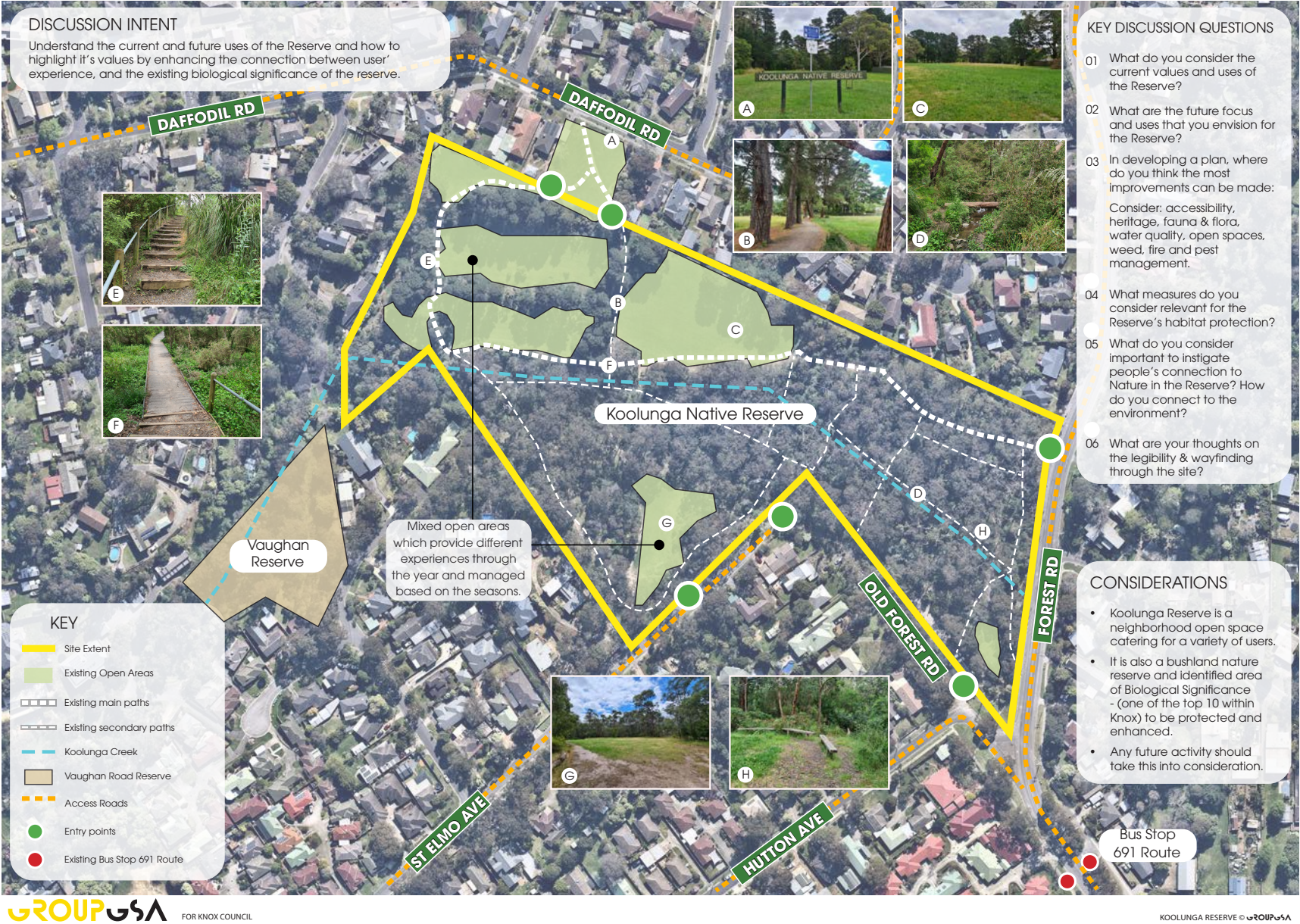
### CONSULTATION EVENT 4

WHEN: Wednesday 16th December 2021, 6:30pm - 7:30pm

WHERE: Zoom meeting (Online)

WHO: 5x community attendees, 2x GSA attendees, 1 x Council's attendees

Figure 1 on the side shows the map and the key discussion questions used during consultation. These questions have also been provided for online feedback.







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## FEEDBACK FOCUS

# 04



# FEEDBACK FOCUS THEMES

## OBJECTIVES

For the development of a values plan and through the Engagement process 01, we have defined 5 Focus themes that reflect the feedback received and key areas to focus on. These themes have formed the basis of the Values Plan.

In concurrence with these, all the background studies and the feedback summary included in this document will inform the next steps of this process, including another stage of consultation and presenting back the findings from the first stage of consultation accompanied by the values plan.



01/

### Highlight existing nature & biodiversity values

HIGHLIGHT THE LOCAL IDENTITY OF KOOLUNGA BY ENHANCING THE BIOLOGICAL VALUES THROUGH A MANAGEMENT PLAN, EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

02/

### Create a maintenance plan

DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY CARE, RE-VEGETATION, WATER QUALITY CONTROL AS WELL AS FIRE, PEST AND WEED CONTROL

03/

### Retain bushland & open spaces

MAINTAIN FLEXIBLE AND MULTI-USE AREAS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS BUSHLAND TRACKS THAT ALLOW FOR A BALANCE OF PASSIVE AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

04/

### Improve water quality

REHABILITATE AND PROTECT THE CREEK THAT RUNS THROUGH KOOLUNGA RESERVE BY IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY AND MAINTAINING / PROTECTING THE BANKS

05/

### Accessibility, Wayfinding & Parking

PRIORITISE SAFE AND CLEAR PEDESTRIAN FLOW AND INCLUSIVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL LOCAL AGES AND NEEDS, WHILE ENSURING PARKING CAN SUPPORT USERS NEEDS





## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ENGAGEMENT 01

05



# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## OBJECTIVES

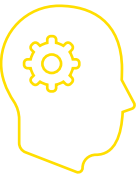
This section includes the summary of feedback and main topics from the community consultations ran over a total of four (4) sessions in December 2021.

This, as well as the online comments received, have formed the basis of the Values plan and subsequently will inform an action plan on implementing long term improvements to Koolunga Native Reserve through a strategy and supporting framework guided by project objectives.

The goals of this consultation was to understand the relevance of the site to the community, as well as how they use it and the opportunities and constraints that it offers to the users.


## FEEDBACK SUMMARY

The following table show a summary of the highlights and ideas on the discussion points undertaken during consultations and on questionnaires.



I appreciate and love the interaction of passive open space and bushland environments in the Reserve

I agree! Both of these elements need to be enhanced with the least amount of changes to the usability of the reserve.



# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TABLE



KEY DISCUSSION TOPIC	COMMENTS	NUMBER OF MENTIONS (OUT OF 71)
CURRENT VALUES AND USES OF THE RESERVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mixture of uses such as walking / dog walking / gathering opportunities as well as bushland walk;</li><li>Great balance between bushland / wilderness and open space;</li><li>Open flexible spaces are quite valuable and offer a variety of opportunities to the community;</li><li>Bike riding, running, exercising, football;</li><li>Passive and active recreation value;</li><li>Significant Native species within the fauna and flora;</li><li>Observation of wild life including birds, flowers, fungi, frogs, etc;</li><li>Historical and educational values for its former uses and biodiversity;</li><li>Safe space for families and children;</li><li>Exploration and hobby opportunities such as photography &amp; film;</li><li>High biological significance;</li><li>Formal and informal values in it's character.</li></ul>	<div>28 / 71</div> <div>24 / 71</div> <div>24 / 71</div> <div>18 / 71</div> <div>14 / 71</div> <div>13 / 71</div> <div>10 / 71</div> <div>8 / 71</div> <div>8 / 71</div> <div>3 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div>
FUTURE FOCUS USES AND VISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plan for improving the water quality is a major need;</li><li>More open spaces if possible;</li><li>Cleaning / bin collection / maintenance to be done more often;</li><li>Interpretative signage including historical and fauna &amp; flora information;</li><li>Rehabilitation of the creek;</li><li>Acknowledgement of the traditional owners;</li><li>Potential community gardens;</li><li>Arts and sculpture could be incorporated.</li></ul>	<div>10 / 71</div> <div>9 / 71</div> <div>8 / 71</div> <div>5 / 71</div> <div>4 / 71</div> <div>3 / 71</div> <div>3 / 71</div> <div>1 / 71</div>
IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED	<div>Maintenance:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fire management plan replacement of some vegetation;</li><li>Improve maintenance by developing a management plan;</li><li>Improve the open grass spaces by mowing more often;</li></ul> <div>Accessibility:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Accessible paths for wheelchairs where possible;</li><li>Potential ramps on approach to bridges;</li><li>Revisit the existing steps to make sure they are to standard;</li><li>Adequate seating close to the nursing home should be provided;</li></ul> <div>Water Quality:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Existing creek needs attention and maintenance ;</li><li>Improve drainage on site;</li><li>Reinforce creek banks and improve water quality;</li><li>Wetland could help improve water quality ;</li></ul> <div>Other:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Perhaps more parking opportunities / parallel parking along Daffodil Rd if possible;</li><li>Drinking fountains with dog bowls ;</li><li>Signage to existing carparks;</li><li>Picnic settings / tables could be added in specific areas;</li><li>Perhaps inclusion of shade structures;</li><li>Perhaps exercising circuit could be offered within the reserve.</li></ul>	<div>4 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div> <div>9 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div> <div>1 / 71</div> <div>7 / 71</div> <div>6 / 71</div> <div>3 / 71</div> <div>1 / 71</div> <div>7 / 71</div> <div>6 / 71</div> <div>4 / 71</div> <div>3 / 71</div> <div>2 / 71</div> <div>1 / 71</div>



# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TABLE



KEY DISCUSSION TOPIC	COMMENTS	NUMBER OF MENTIONS (OUT OF 71)
MEASURES FOR HABITAT PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pest control ie. foxes and weeds;</li><li>Provide supplements to different species such as possum or cockatoo boxes;</li><li>Create a plan to replacement of vegetation;</li><li>Initiatives to ensure dog poop is picked up;</li><li>Integrate new animal and plant species if possible (ideally native);</li><li>Fences in certain areas can help with habitat protection;</li><li>Endangered species to be retained and protected;</li><li>Initiative for local residents to participate in protecting the habitat i.e. birds / possum boxes to put up or trees planting;</li><li>Tree canopy needs to be enhanced and protected;</li><li>A permanent water element would help native species to sustain in the reserve and attract new species, as the existing creek dries in summer.</li></ul>	10 / 71 7 / 71 5 / 71 5 / 71 3 / 71 3 / 71 3 / 71 3 / 71 2 / 71 1 / 71
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Respecting and preserving the bushland;</li><li>Quiet areas with seats and views are great for connecting to nature;</li><li>Accessibility to and within the reserve is key for this connection to happen;</li><li>The balance between the different natural elements is crucial;</li><li>Ability to bring the pets to the reserve;</li><li>Signage that highlights existing biodiversity;</li><li>Keeping the reserve as natural as possible provides a better connection;</li><li>Informative panels about the benefits of nature;</li><li>Using the reserve everyday makes one feel connected to the nature within it;</li><li>The variety of species within the reserve;</li><li>The seasons provide different ways of connecting;</li><li>A walk under the shade of pine trees;</li><li>Being able to lay down on the grass;</li><li>Existing fauna and flora offer peace and solice;</li><li>Minimal man made elements;</li><li>Water presence is important, i.e a lake. ;</li><li>Pine's bark is beautiful.</li></ul>	7 / 71 6 / 71 6 / 71 6 / 71 5 / 71 5 / 71 4 / 71 4 / 71 3 / 71 3 / 71 2 / 71 2 / 71 2 / 71 1 / 71 1 / 71 1 / 71 1 / 71
LEGIBILITY AND WAY-FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>History and interpretative signage / Acknowledgement of traditional owners;</li><li>Signage regarding dogs off leash and dog poop bags/picking;</li><li>More educational/ information panels for users awareness of existing biodiversity and environmental aspects, i.e. vegetation species, orchids flowering time, allergies, etc;</li><li>Current conditions are fine and provide a sense of direction without a large amount of signs, but these could be upgraded and improved for better navigation;</li><li>A map for first time visitors could be good;</li><li>Creating a clear loop trail would be good (1Km loop) ;</li><li>Line marking and signage on carparks needs improvement;</li><li>QR codes with information could be good;</li><li>Night sky constellations signs could be nice to have.</li></ul>	10 / 71 7 / 71 5 / 71 4 / 71 4 / 71 3 / 71 2 / 71 1 / 71 1 / 71
OTHER / GENERAL COMMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Formally include Vaughan Reserve as part of Koolunga reserve;</li><li>Promotion of citizen science monitoring via apps;</li><li>Existing creek's name 'Forest Rd Drain should be renamed to 'Koolunga Creek'.</li></ul>	3 / 71 1 / 71 1 / 71





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## VALUES PLAN

# 06



# VALUES PLAN & FEEDBACK SUMMARY

The following plan highlights the values of the reserve, as well as the observations and ideas stated by participants and it creates the design base as the project progresses

This plan was developed in relation to the focus themes defined after consultation, which best describe existing values and future goals including:

- 01 Highlight existing nature & biodiversity values
- 02 Create a maintenance plan;
- 03 Retain bushland & open spaces;
- 04 Improve water quality;
- 05 Accessibility, Wayfinding & Parking







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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 02

# 07



# ENGAGEMENT RECORD & SESSIONS SUMMARY

## ENGAGEMENT RECORD

**GroupGSA and Knox City Council responsibilities in recording comments received**

All the feedback documented by Group GSA and Knox City Council or any person(s) acting on our behalf has been recorded during our program/consultation activities.

Input is from feedback received during the site walk and responses to the questionnaire provided. The summary captures the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities and material provided.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in this document represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or council.

The site walk has been carried out similarly, including Introduction to the project, understanding the engagement / connection of the group with the site presentation of questionnaire, followed by a discussion and expression of opinions.

## ENGAGEMENT 02 SESSION SUMMARY

### Values Plan and Survey

Following the development of the Koolunga Reserve Values Plan, another Engagement Session was undertaken with the community to further discussions on what is important to them, based on the previously captured feedback and independent investigations on site issues.

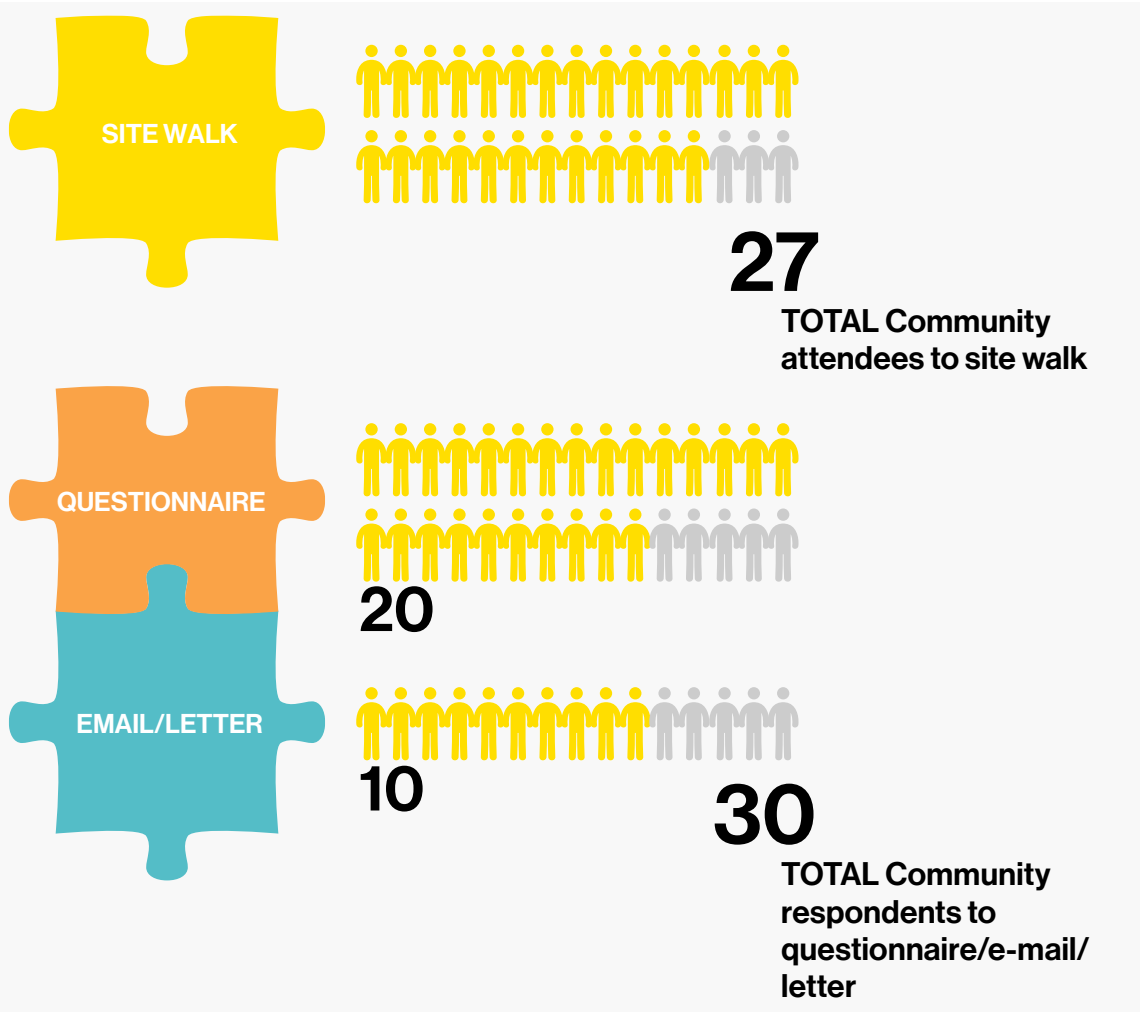
Along with the presentation of the Values Plan, a survey based on the following Key Discussion Topics were given out to participants and made available online for the community to respond to:

- Water and Stream Management;
- Passive Recreation, Accessibility and Wayfinding;
- Management of Bushfire, Flora and Fauna; and
- Ongoing Community Engagement.

Feedback to this survey was received by Council and collated to get an overview of the sentiment from the community respondents. GroupGSA has taken this data and produced a set of infographics on the following pages to highlight the key themes and interests from the community.

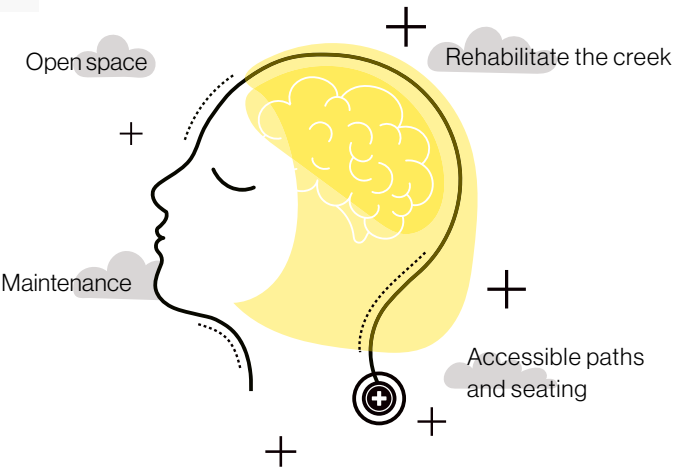
### Questionnaire Results

A total of 20 survey responses were received, with the following results. Please note additional comments received along with the survey results have been reviewed and simplified into key ideas/ concerns.



**57**  
TOTAL Community participants

### 4 Topics discussed

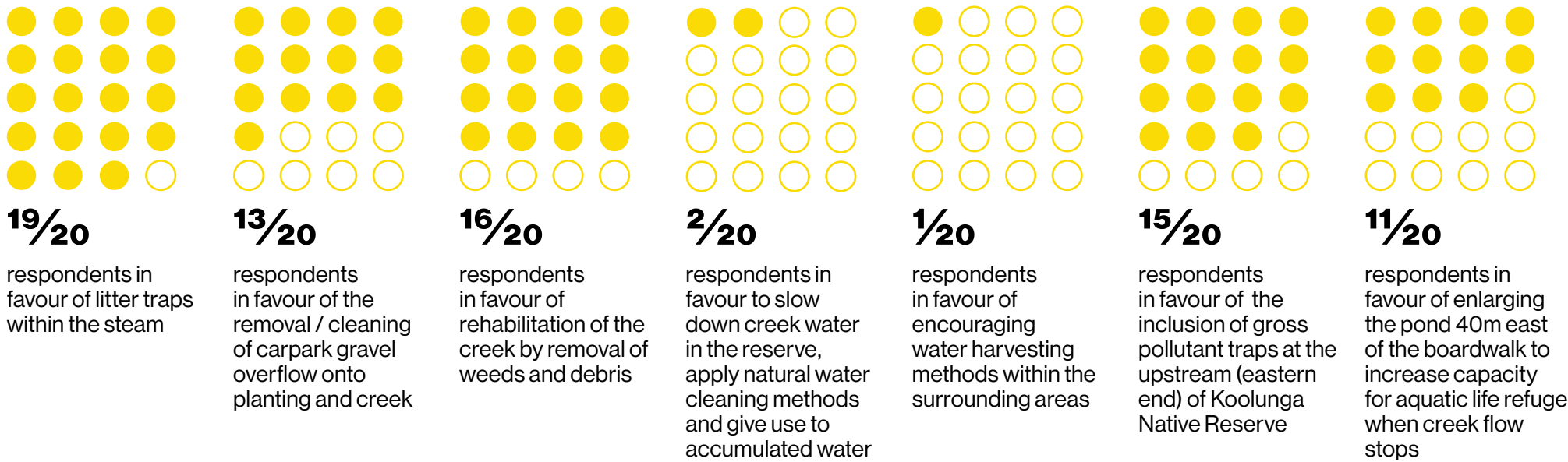


# QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

## A. WATER AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

Q: In preparing a water management plan for the Creek, the goal include: to improve the stream water quality, the stream ecology, make better use of stormwater and even out the present highly erratic stream flows. Please see across some ways to action this:

The graphics below represent the responses received for Water & Stream Management. The solid dots represent the number of respondents (out of 20) in favour of the actions proposed.



### Other suggestions for relevant interventions:

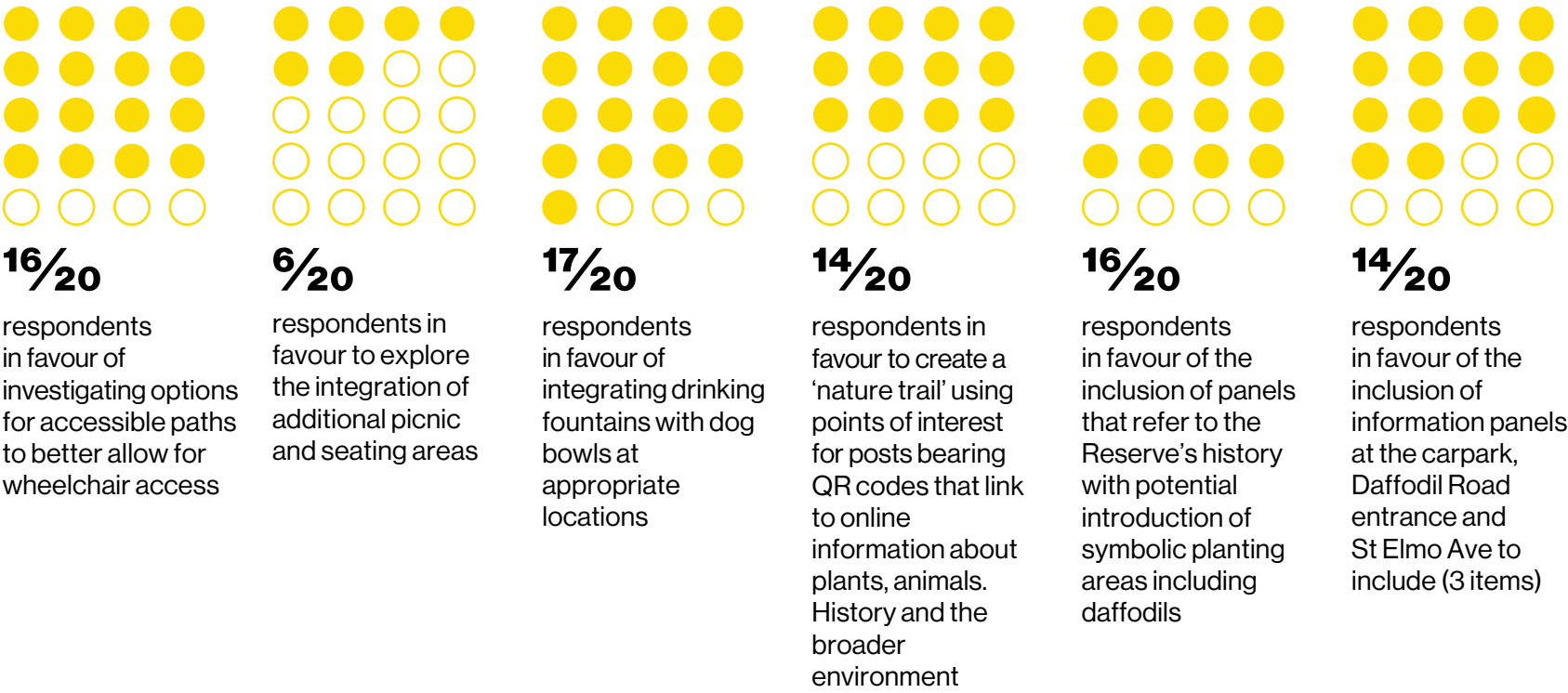


# QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

## B. PASSIVE RECREATION ACCESSIBILITY AND WAYFINDING

Q: For improvements regarding passive recreation, paths and signage, please see across some ways to action this:

The graphics below represent the responses received for Passive Recreation Accessibility and Wayfinding. The solid dots represent the number of respondents (out of 20) in favour of the actions proposed.



Other suggestions for relevant interventions:



Keep interpretive signage and panels subtle. Ensure it is accessible to most users.



Include amenities for dogs / dog owners, such as dog waste bins and bag dispensers, and dog drinking bowls



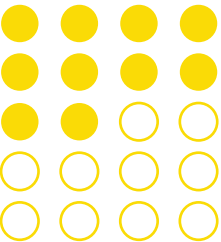
Inclusion of bench seating with back support for improved accessibility

# SURVEY RESULTS

## C. MANAGEMENT OF BUSHFIRE, FLORA AND FAUNA

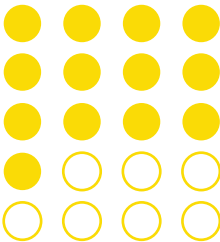
Q: For Fire management, please see across some ways to action this:

The graphics below represent the responses received for Management of Bushfire, Flora and Fauna. The solid dots represent the number of respondents (out of 20) in favour of the actions proposed.



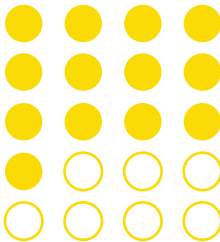
10/20

respondents in favour to extend the firebreak at the rear of Sassafra Ct properties to allow access for firetrucks



13/20

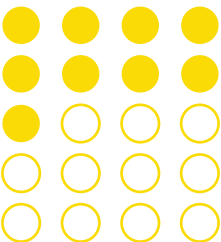
respondents in favour of an arranged prescribed burn in relevant areas



13/20

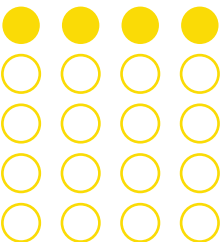
respondents in favour to arrange a filming of the burn explaining logistics, behavior and outcomes to the community

Q: For Flora and Fauna management, please see across some ways to action this:



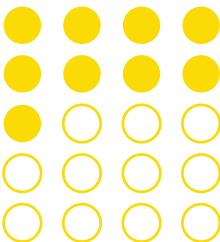
9/20

respondents in favour to plant eucalyptus where there are gaps in the canopy



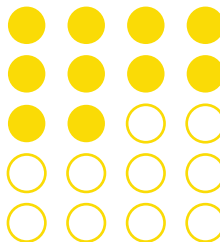
4/20

respondents in favour to transplant some of the common bird orchids from Vaughan Rd reserve into suitable locations in Koolunga reserve



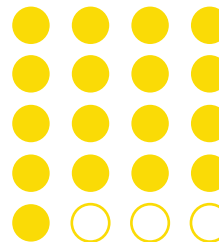
9/20

respondents in favour to plant small amounts of locally threatened species in the reserve



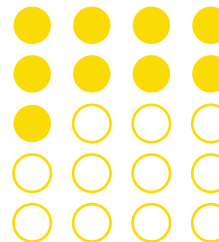
10/20

respondents in favour to increase resources in maintaining the indigenous plants near the dead end of St Elmo Av



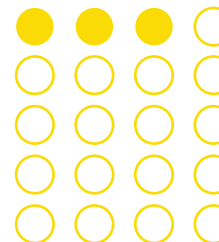
17/20

respondents in favour to increase measurements to control blackberry, wonga vine and other weeds where posing ecological harm



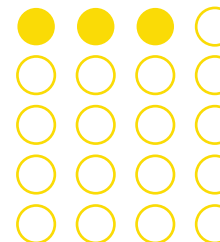
9/20

respondents in favour to establish new plants in the periodically inundated zone along the creek



3/20

respondents in favour to re-vegetate beside the aging pines to provide succession



3/20

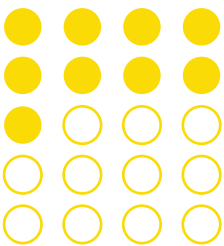
respondents in favour of considering rationalizing the secondary paths networks for a better balance of nature and access

# SURVEY RESULTS

## D. ONGOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

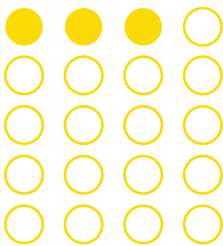
Q: For a continuous engagement on the Koolunga Native Reserve, please see across some ways to action this:

The graphics below represent the responses received for Ongoing Community Engagement. The solid dots represent the number of respondents (out of 20) in favour of the actions proposed.



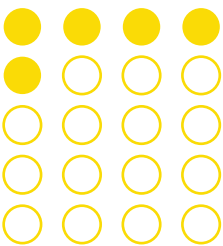
9/20

respondents in favour to conduct periodic guided walks and workshops including Aboriginal perspectives, catchment management issues, climate change and the connection of these with Koolunga Native Reserve and surrounding community



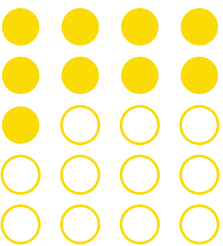
3/20

respondents in favour to help and support dog owners understanding the immediate and long term impacts of dogs off lead in the Reserve



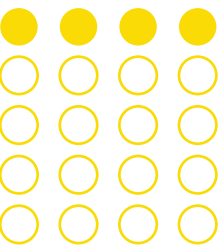
5/20

respondents in favour of offering training opportunities for the Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve if/when needed



9/20

respondents in favour to integrate and highlight historical aspects through community knowledge and feedback



4/20

respondents in favour to increase liaison with the Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve regarding (2 items)





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## FEEDBACK THEMES

# 08



# QUESTIONNAIRE FOCUS THEMES

## OBJECTIVES

For the development of a Values plan and through the Engagement process 02, we have defined 5 themes that reflect the questionnaire focus. The themes on the side will form the basis of the plan development.

The determination of these themes was extremely helpful to define a feedback direction in improving the Reserve conditions.

In addition to these, all the previous feedback from the Engagement process 01, as well as all the online material received will take part of the strategy for the Draft Landscape plan to be developed.



01/

### Water and Stream Management

TO IMPROVE THE STREAM WATER QUALITY, THE STREAM ECOLOGY, MAKE BETTER USE OF STORMWATER AND EVEN OUT THE PRESENT HIGHLY ERRATIC STREAM FLOWS.

02/

### Passive Recreation, Accessibility and Wayfinding

MAINTAIN FLEXIBLE AND MULTI-USE AREAS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS BUSHLAND TRACKS THAT ALLOW FOR A BALANCE OF PASSIVE AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES. IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL USER GROUPS AND ABILITIES.

03/

### Management of Bushfire, Flora and Fauna

DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR BUSHFIRES AND PROTECTION OF FLORA AND FAUNA IN THE RESERVE.

04/

### Aboriginal and European History

HIGHLIGHT THE HISTORY AND KNOWLEDGE OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE, AS WELL AS THIS HISTORIC USAGE OF THE SITE AND SURROUNDINGS DURING EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN THIS LOCATION.

05/

### Ongoing Community Engagement

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ENGAGE WITH OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS TO MANAGE THE NATURE RESERVE.





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## NEXT STEPS

# 09



# NEXT STEPS

## SUMMARY

As previously stated, in order to achieve the desired outcomes for this project with success, the information collected during the site walk and the engagements are of high relevance.

Once the draft plan is developed and shared to the community, the final Engagement 03 process will be held to collect final feedback from the participants, which will help finalise the Landscape plan for endorsement.

For a better understanding of the process, please refer to the diagram on the side with a road map of the steps to follow the first engagement round.

For the next engagement sessions, keep an eye out for dates and times to be announced by council via e-mail / post.

**SYDNEY**

Level 7, 80 William Street  
East Sydney NSW 2011  
Australia

**MELBOURNE**

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Melbourne VIC 3000  
Australia

**BRISBANE**

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Brisbane QLD 4000  
Australia

**PERTH**

Level 2, 307 Murray Street  
Perth WA 6000  
Australia

**SHANGHAI**

Room 407, No. 71, Xi Suzhou Road Jingan District  
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PR China

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19th Floor – Havana Tower, 132 Ham Nghi,  
Ben Thanh Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City  
Vietnam