



# Federation Centenary Fountains Side Garden Consultation Report

The National Capital Authority (NCA) sought community input on the future design of the Federation Centenary Fountains side gardens. Community members were invited to review and provide feedback on three proposed garden concepts.

Each concept was developed by external design consultants to honour the heritage significance of the area while introducing sympathetic revitalisation in the lead-up to the 100-year anniversary of Old Parliament House.

Community participation was facilitated through an online survey, where respondents could rank the three design options in order of preference and provide additional comments.

The consultation was open from **Wednesday 19 November to Wednesday 10 December 2025**.

To raise awareness of the engagement opportunity, the NCA promoted the consultation through:

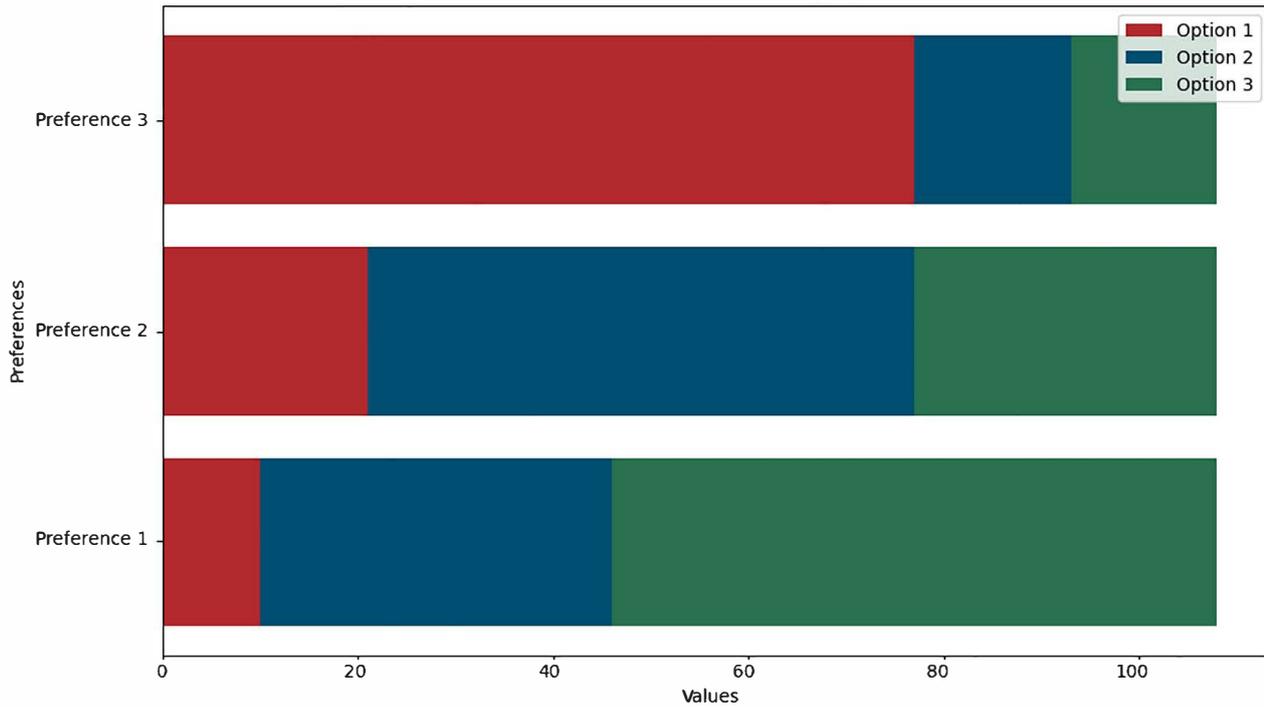
- Social media channels
- Media coverage
- Direct email communication.

Across the 21-day consultation period the NCA received **112 responses**. Of these, **108 participants submitted rankings** sometimes with comments, **while four provided comments only**.

# Results

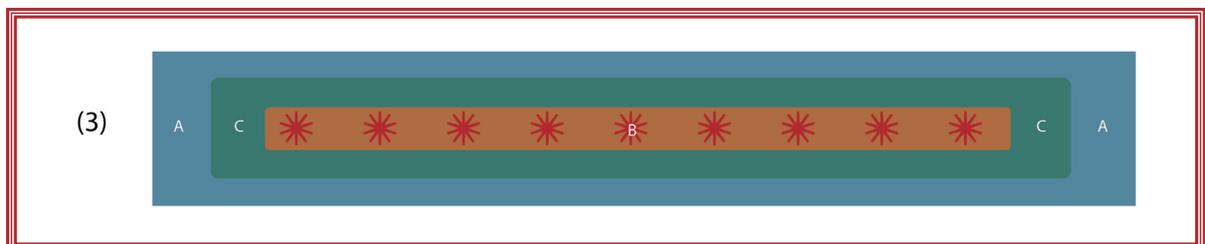
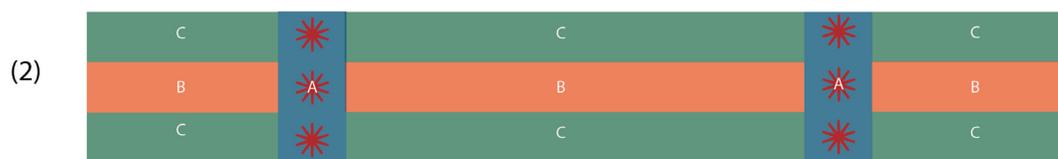
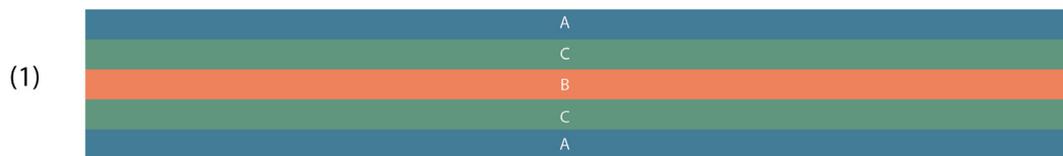
Based on the preferential rankings submitted, **Option 3** received the highest overall score, followed by **Option 2** and then **Option 1**. A detailed results table and graph are provided below.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1st preference	10	36	<b>62</b>
2nd preference	21	<b>56</b>	31
3rd preference	<b>77</b>	16	15



## Garden Bed Layout Designs

Feature Plant \*



## Summary of written feedback

Community feedback on the Federation Centenary Fountains side garden designs reflected a broad mix of support and other suggestions.

Many respondents welcomed the use of native species and how the gardens would enhance the precinct's visual appeal. Option 3 was frequently praised for its height layering, visual interest and long-term maintainability. Some respondents appreciated Option 2 for its stronger connection to the historical appearance of the original fountains.

There were comments expressing dissatisfaction with the specific design options, visual presentation in the consultation materials and with the decision not to restore the original fountains.

### Feedback supporting Option 3

- *I think having a line of the feature grass trees will provide a nice structural element that will outlive the remembrance of the fountains.*
- *So glad you are using native plants!*
- *That precinct is currently horrible, so any change has to be an improvement. But fill in the main pond and add some much needed native shade trees*
- *The row of Xanthorrhoea provides a strong visual link to the past fountain jets.*

*“Absolutely love the selection of plants. So many local species featured. It sounds beautiful.”*

*“I like the way Option 3 builds height to the feature plants in the centre - it will look good from all direction.”*

*“Very much looking forward to seeing these garden beds, a great addition to the area.”*

## **Other suggestions included in feedback**

- *A wider selection should include plants from every state and territory and the plantings more varied than the rigid layouts in all three of the planned options.*
- *Design some of the flowers/plants into music shapes, such as treble and bass clefs, and accidental marks. Have a stave with musical notes on it.*
- *It's completely inappropriate for the NCA to be removing the heritage fountains rather than restoring them to their heritage condition.*
- *More trees for more shade would make the area more pleasant to spend time in.*
- *These should remain fountains as water features are so much nicer than garden beds. There should still be a smaller fountain feature within them if it can't be reverted to a fountain.*
- *This area is in direct sun and gets very hot. In order to make this area more useable, the NCA should consider whether the area can be supplemented with trees/shade. This would also support the longer-term objective of potentially reintroducing water to the area, while limiting evaporation and longer term running costs.*

## **Next Steps**

The National Capital Authority will proceed with creating the landscape Option 3. It is expected that planting will occur in two stages. Stage one will occur in February 2026 with stage two to be completed in September 2026.

## **Contact**

Have any questions?

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