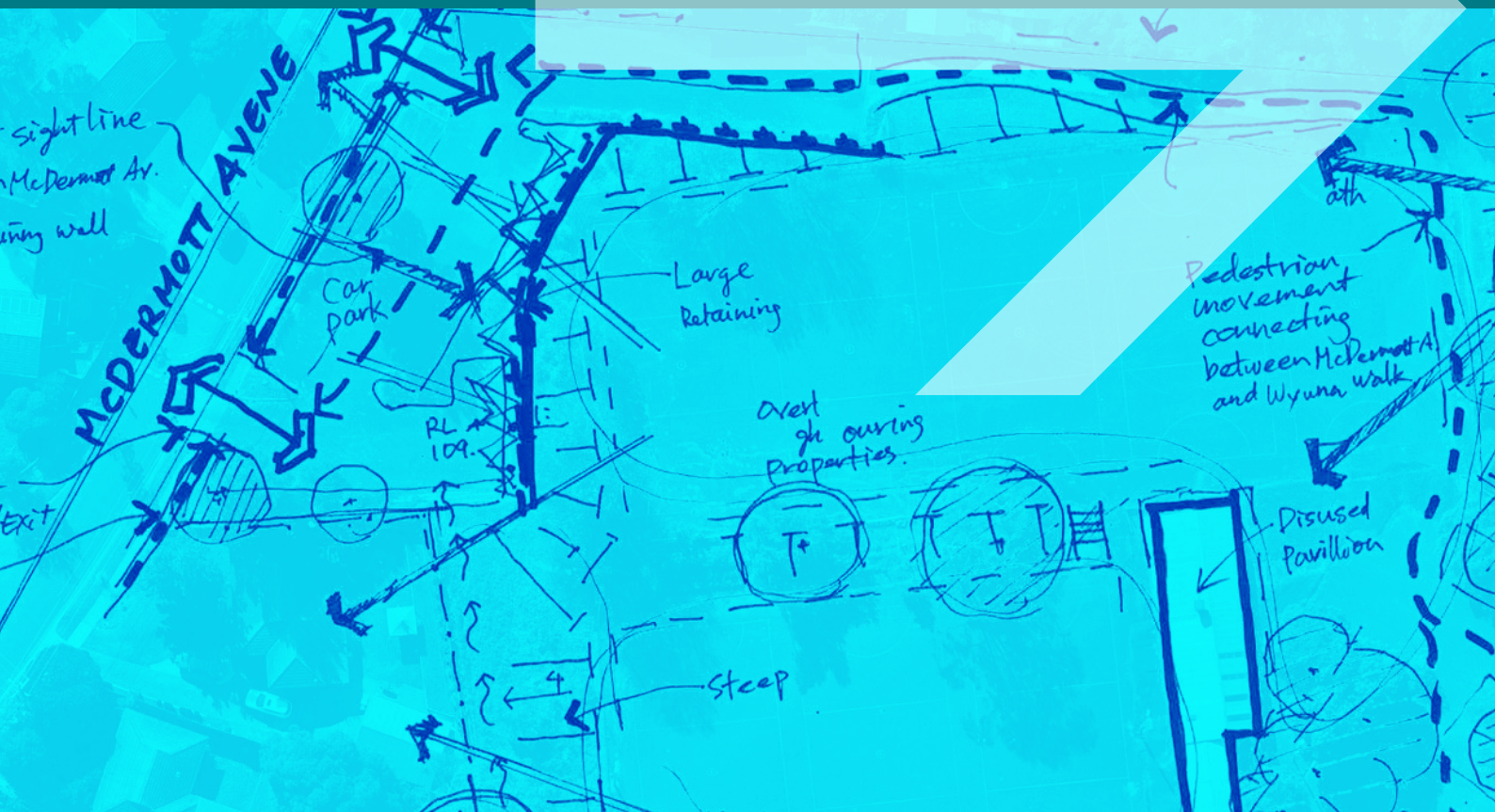


# McDermott Avenue Reserve Mooroolbark Master Plan



## Community Engagement Report

Community feedback to Draft Master Plan  
November – December 2025

# Project Background

Historically, McDermott Avenue Reserve was the home of local netball clubs, however in 2015 they were relocated into a new Netball Centre at Pinks Reserve. At this time, Council resolved to prepare the entire property at 52 McDermott Avenue Reserve, Mooroolbark for rezoning with the intention to sell the land for housing.

Since then, recent research has shown that there is a lack of open space in the area, and a Neighbourhood Level open space (approx. 1.4 hectares) is needed to meet community needs.

On 28 October 2025 Council supported the recommendation to proceed with a new resolution to retain the land for open space, with a small portion of the site preserved for further investigation of housing opportunities (approx. 0.3 hectares).

A draft Master Plan has been prepared based on site analysis and community feedback and was exhibited to the public for feedback from 11 November until 14 December 2025. This report presents the results of community engagement with the draft McDermott Avenue Reserve Master Plan.



# How we engaged



- 4.5 week engagement period for McDermott Avenue Reserve Master Plan was undertaken (11 November – 14 December 2025)



- 650 letters were delivered to residents in the immediate area of McDermott Avenue Reserve to advertise the community engagement period and direct the community to the Shaping Yarra Ranges website.



- 7 Pop-Up engagement sessions were held with exposure to over 250 people and 136 contributions. (18 November – McDermott Avenue Reserve, 23 November – Kilsyth Festival, 24 November – Mooroolbark Library, 25 November – Burmese Playgroup, 3 December – Shop 16 Market Day, 4 December – Mooroolbark Community Centre (Gymbaroo), 10 December – McDermott Avenue Reserve).



- 2326 views of the McDermott Avenue Reserve Shaping Yarra Ranges website with 70 individual contributors.



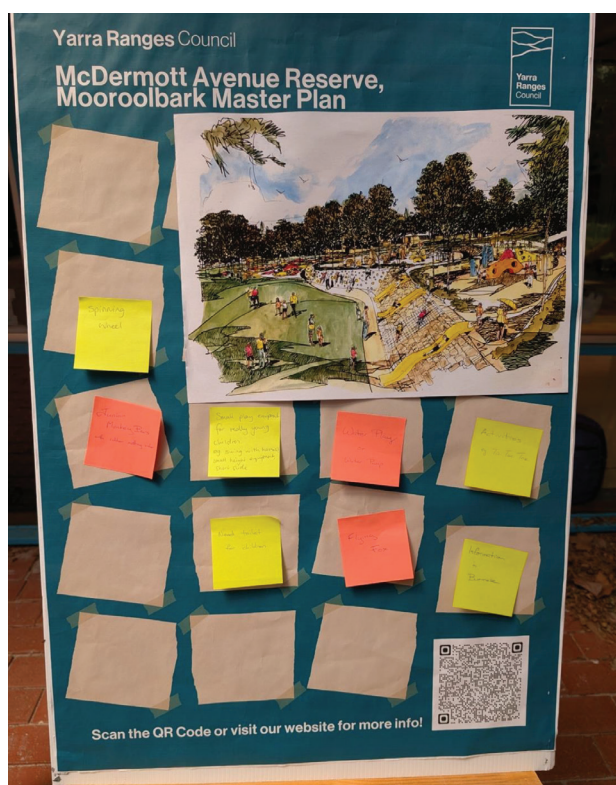
- Social media campaign notifying about the engagement period and directing people to the Shaping Yarra Ranges website. (5514 views on Facebook, 571 views on Instagram).



- Promotion through the Yarra Ranges e-newsletter in addition to poster advertisements in the local community.



- Email distribution to Council Advisory Groups and local schools (Mooroolbark College, Bimbadeen Primary, Mooroolbark Pre School) directing people to the Shaping Yarra Ranges website.



# What we heard

During the community engagement period we received responses from a diverse representation of the community that primarily live locally to 52 McDermott Avenue.

## Snapshot of Survey Participants



Survey participants **ranged in age** from **under 16** to **over 85** years of age.

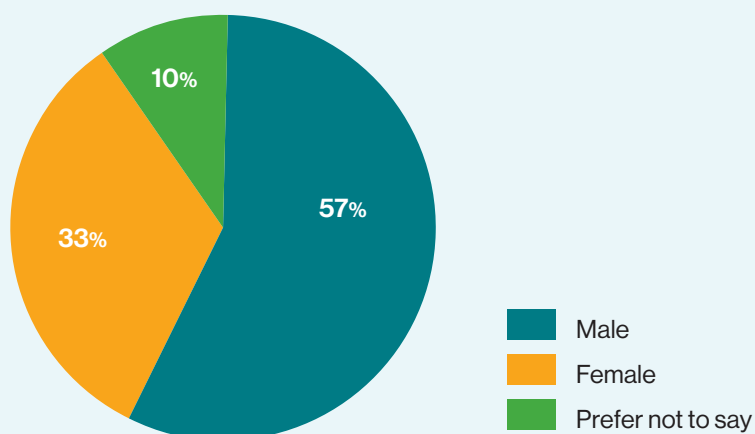


Survey participants included people from **a range of backgrounds and perspectives** which included people who identify as an unpaid carer, as a migrant or refugee, as culturally and linguistically diverse, as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



**73%** of survey participants **live in Mooroolbark**.

## Gender of Survey Participants



# What we heard ?

## Theme 1

### Park Activities

41%

*"Seniors activity park"*

## Theme 2

### Paths

16%

*"Love walking. A circuit would help - I'd walk there"*

## Theme 3

### Playspace

15%

*"Equipment for disabled children to use the playground"*

## Theme 4

### Park Infrastructure

15%

*"BBQ not required for maintenance reasons people can BYO"*

## Theme 5

### Park Safety

6%

*"Lighting for security"*

## Theme 6

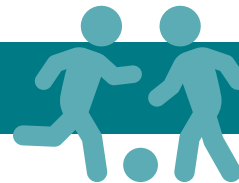
### Other Feedback

7%

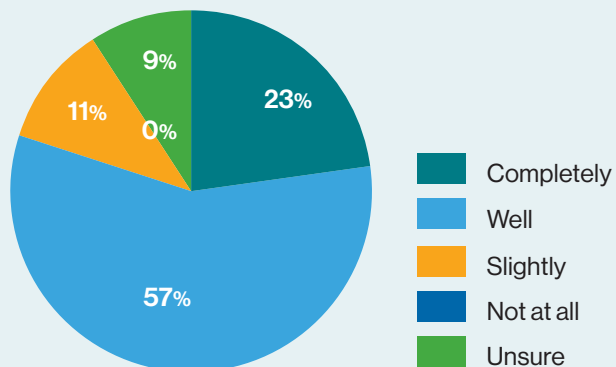
*"Houses are fine in the corner"*

*"Area for housing is a terrible idea"*

# Theme 1 Park Activities



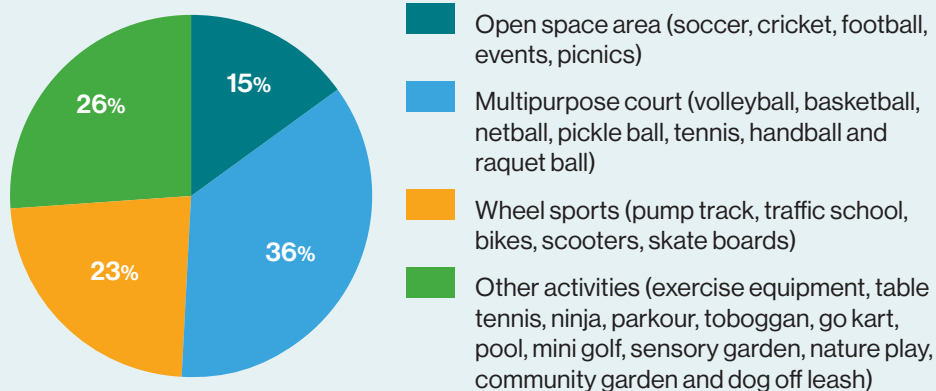
Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan provides interactive elements such as a sensory garden. Here's what they said:



***"Bikes and scooters  
- like Bayswater  
Train Park"***

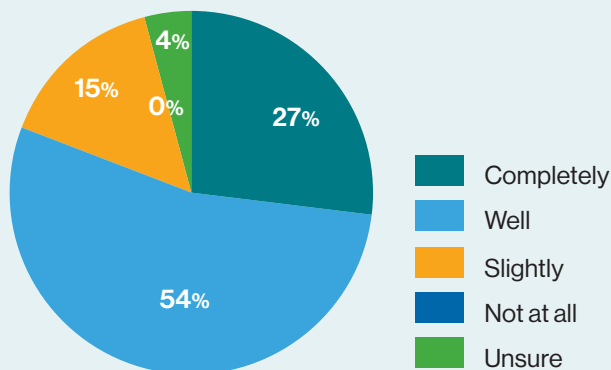


41% of comments related to park activities that people would like to see.

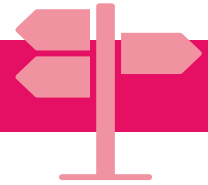


Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan provides somewhere to picnic with friends and family. Here's what they said:

***"In open space  
grass - football and  
soccer goals"***

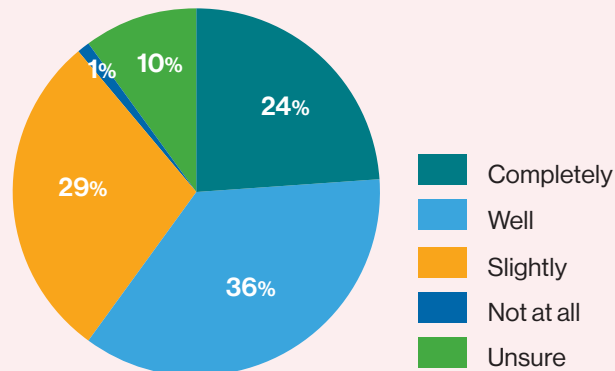


## Theme 2 Paths



Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan provides places to walk and ride. Here's what they said:

16% of all comments related to paths within the reserve. There was strong support for a perimeter walking track and spaces for kids to learn to ride.



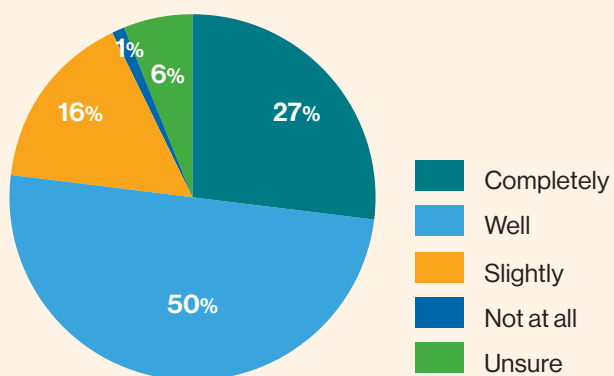
## Theme 3 Playspace



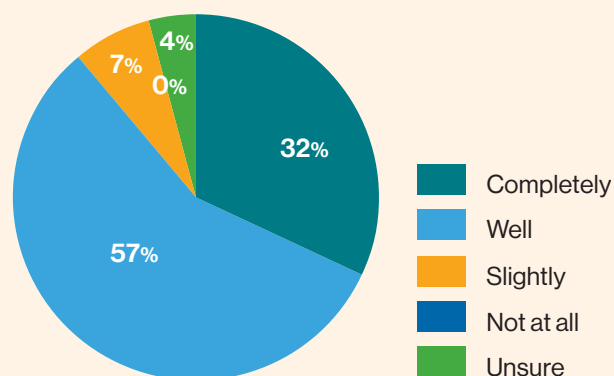
15% of all comments were in relation to the playspace. The community presented strong themes for water play, climbing equipment and accessible play equipment for all ages and abilities. Community enthusiasm for water play is acknowledged and valued. This feedback will be assessed to ensure alignment with Council's strategic priorities.



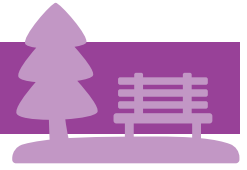
Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan addresses places for multipurpose play. Here's what they said:



Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan addresses climbing elements. Here's what they said:

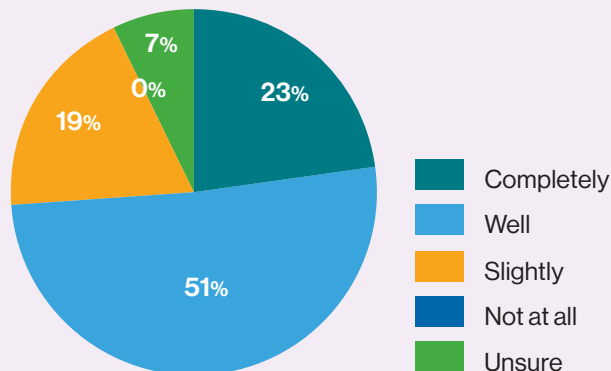


## Theme 4 Park Infrastructure



Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan provides social spaces for users e.g. barbecues, seating etc. Here's what they said:

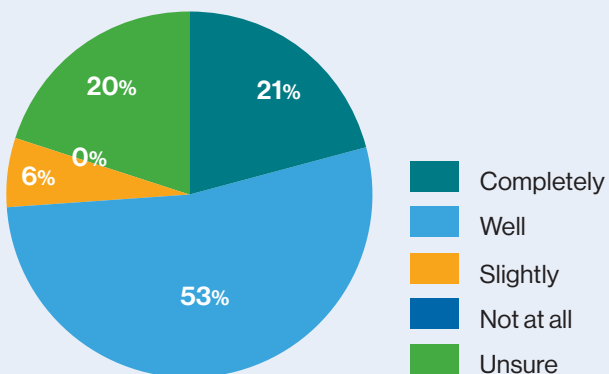
15% of all comments received were related to Park Infrastructure. A strong theme was a request for more seating. There were conflicting views on the need for toilets and barbecues within the reserve.



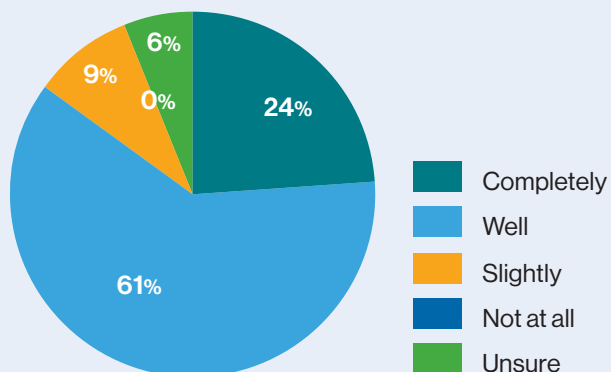
## Theme 5 Park Safety



Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan caters for visibility through the space. Here's what they said:



Survey participants were asked how well the Master Plan creates a welcoming, lively and safe space. Here's what they said:



6% of survey participant comments related to safety within the park. The themes raised by community included lighting, safe playspaces, anti-social deterrents.

***"Targeted lighting"***

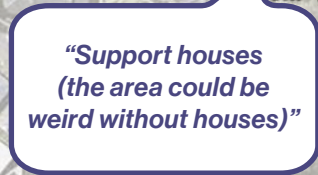


***"Consider security options to minimise antisocial behaviour for surrounding houses"***

***"Surveillance"***



A tall, slender, vertically oriented wooden sculpture with a twisted, organic form, standing on a large, flat rock in a grassy field with trees in the background. The sculpture is made of light-colored wood with visible grain and some darker, possibly charred or stained, areas. It has a long, thin, curved shape that tapers slightly towards the top. The background shows a dense forest of green trees and foliage.



## Next steps

The feedback from the exhibition of McDermott Avenue Reserve Master Plan is being assessed to ensure the Master Plan captures the aspirations of the local community and the reserve objectives can be sustainably achieved in the long term.

Master Plan updates will reflect feedback and proposed changes made through this round of community engagement (Nov – Dec 2025).

Following these updates, the Master Plan will be presented to Council for consideration.

