Powlett Street Reserve

Engagement Findings Report – Stage 1



Key insights at a glance:

- ***Strong local participation***: Approximately ***116*** people took part, with most respondents living in Heidelberg.
- ***High use of the reserve***: Over half of respondents visit the reserve once a week or more.
- ***Generally positive feelings of safety***: Most respondents feel safe at the reserve, although anti-social behaviour was the main concern raised by those who do not.
- ***Mixed views on relocating play and active areas***: While a majority supported or were open to relocating these areas to the southern end of the reserve, more than a third did not support the change, citing safety and amenity concerns.
- ***Clear priorities for improvements***: Common requests focused on practical upgrades, including more seating, drinking taps, shade, trees, improved accessibility, and addressing existing access issues.

How we engaged

Engagement for the project ran from **1 February to 1 March 2026**.

Stage 1 focused on gathering local knowledge to help inform the planning and design of upgrades to Powlett Street Reserve.

Approximately ***116 people**** participated in the engagement through the following activities:

- ***69 people*** completed a survey online
- ***8 people dropped a pin*** on an interactivemap to share how they use the space
- ***Approximately 35 people*** attended two pop-up conversations in the reserve on 9 and 14 February2026.

3 people contacted council officers by phone***1 group letter*** was received.

The engagement was promoted through on site signage, postcard drops to residents within a 400m walking distance, and a social media campaign. Overall ***94%*** of respondents were from Heidelberg.

* The group letter was counted as one submission, as the exact number of contributors is unknown, but is likely to represent multiple residents.

Access and Equity

- For participants where access and equity information were recorded, the following demographic profile was identified:
    - ***Gender: 47%*** identified as women or female, ***45%*** as men or male and ***8%*** prefer not to say.
    - ***Age: 56%*** were aged between 25-49 years and ***23%*** were aged between 70–84 years.
        - By comparison, ***40.1%*** of the Heidelberg community is aged 25-49 years and ***10.3%*** is aged 70–84 years (ABS 2021).
    - ***Disability: 14%*** identified as living with a disability, including mental illness.
        - This compares to ***6.2%*** of the local community who need assistance due to a disability or have a mental health condition (ABS 2021)
    - ***LGBTIQA+: 11%*** identified as part of the LGBTIQA+ community
    - ***Carers: 11%*** identified as carers
    - ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: 2%*** identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Straight Island descent

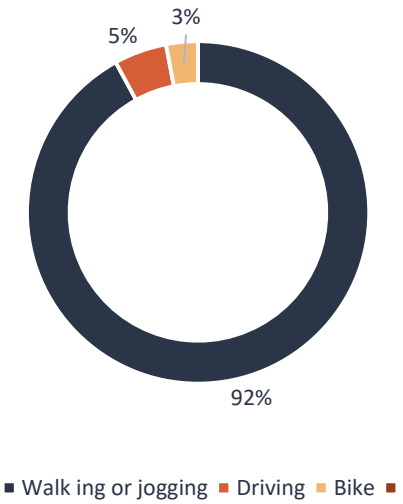
What we heard

The following insights reflect how people use Powlett Street Reserve, how they feel about the space, and their views on proposed changes. Understanding these patterns and perspectives will help identify priorities and informs design decisions for the next stage of the project.

How people use and feel about the reserve

- ***Frequency of visits: 61%*** of respondents visit the reserve once a week or more.
- ***Safety: 80%*** of respondents said they feel safe at the reserve.
    - Those who reported feeling unsafe most commonly cited anti-social behaviour as the reason.

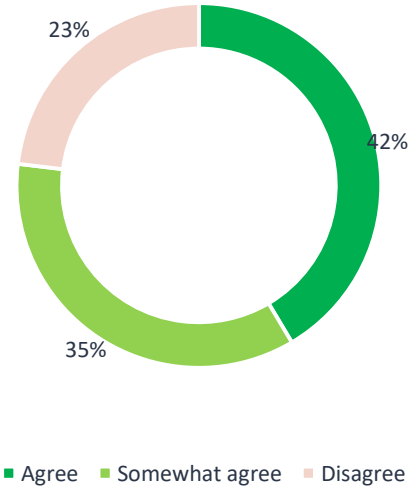
Getting to the reserve



The most popular ways to get to the reserve are:

- Walking or jogging ***92%***
- Driving ***5%***
- Bike ***3%.***

Relocation of proposed of playground and active areas



- The majority of respondents ***(64.6%)*** either agreed ***(41.5%)*** or somewhat agreed ***(23.1%)*** with relocating the proposed playground and active areas to the southern end of the reserve. A further ***35.4%*** or respondents did not support the relocation.

Reasons for agreeing:

- ***18%*** did not provide a reason
- ***10%*** felt the southern end is safer
- ***5%*** felt noise impacts would be lower in the south.

Reasons for somewhat agreeing:

- ***5%*** did not provide a reason
- ***3%*** expressed concerns about potential noise.

Reasons for not supporting the relocation:

- ***15%*** felt the northern end is more pleasant
- ***11%*** had safety concerns about the southern end.

Key themes for written feedback:

The following themes emerged from free text responses provided in the online survey and social map:

- ***13%*** (8 people) – Requested more drinking taps and seating.
- ***13%*** (8 people) – Raised concerns about the existing driveway access to 16 Powlett Street.
- ***11%*** (7 people) – Requested more trees and garden beds.
- ***11%*** (7 people) – Requested improved accessibility throughout the reserve, including more level areas.
- ***11%*** (7 people) – Requested additional bins.
- ***10%*** (6 people) – Requested more shade.
- ***10%*** (6 people) – Requested more indigenous planting.
- ***10%*** (6 people) – Requested minimal changes to the reserve.
- ***8%*** (5 people) – Requested a fenced, off lead dog park.
- ***6%*** (4 people) – Did not want a BBQ.
- ***6%*** (4 people) – Wanted lighting.
- ***6%*** (4 people) – raised concerns about anti-social behaviour.
- ***6%*** (4 people) – requested exercise equipment.

(The remaining themes were raised by three or fewer people and can be provided upon request).

Next Steps

Community feedback will inform the draft concept design for this project. The draft concept design will be shared with the community on Shaping Banyule for feedback in ***mid-2026***.