

West Mayling Reserve Playground Renewal

Engagement Findings Report

How we engaged

Engagement on the project commenced on 20 April 2026 and closed on 17 May 2026. The project was seeking local knowledge to better plan for and design a new playground at West Mayling Reserve, Watsonia. 32 number of people participated in the following ways:

- 22 people completed a survey online
- 3 people dropped a pin on a map to share how they use the space
- 5 adults and 2 children attended a pop up conversation at the playground on 2 May 2026

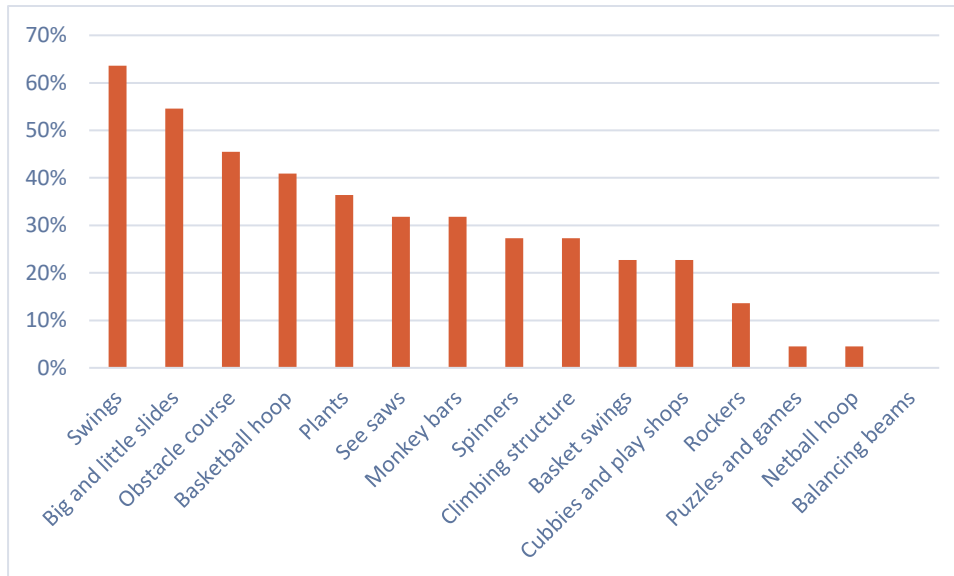
In addition to the above active involvement, 464 people visited the Shaping Banyule page to view the plans and the social media campaign had a reach of 3,377 people.

The project engagement was promoted through the following methods – on site signage, flyer drops to residents within a 400m walking distance, a story in Banyule Banner and a social media campaign. 95% of the respondents were local, from either Watsonia or Macleod.

What we heard

- 80% of respondents visit the Reserve at least once a week. In comparison, 48% of respondents visit the playground at least once a week.
- 81% of respondents feel safe at the Reserve. Those that don't feel safe, stated it was due to lack of lighting, lack of passive surveillance, lack of safe paths and long grass
- The most popular ways to use the Reserve and playground are playing at the playground (62%) and passing through – a link between places (57%). A number of residents suggested that the park is currently underutilised and will be visited more once North East Link bridges are completed.
- 67% of respondents felt there is enough path access to the park. Those that don't feel the park is accessible, suggested the following locations for new paths:
 - Formalising the gravel path and making wider so prams can use it
 - Paths linking all three street frontages
- Respondent's favourites things about the Reserve are:
 - The nature – open grass spaces, the mature gum trees and small hill
 - Locality – close to home and links streets together
 - Potential – for the park to become more active and well used once the North East Link Project is complete

- Respondents were asked to select up to five activities that them, or a child in their life, enjoy the most. Below outlines the results of this questions. Some respondents recommended activities not listed, including sand pit, wooden logs / rocks for balancing and exercise equipment.



- 73% of respondents had no concerns with moving the new playground location to the east, in order to seek existing shade and shift away from North East Link. Concerns raised with moving the playground included:
 - Property owners not wanting the playground closer to their homes
 - Concerns it would affect tree health
- Respondent's shared the following ideas to better deliver the renewal and understand the Reserve:

Celebrate the Reserve and its nature:

- Retain mature gum trees
- Include the small hill as part of the playground
- Include understory planting for biodiversity

Improve play opportunities for younger and older children:

- More equipment for older children, including "larger climbing frames, flying foxes, and obstacle courses that test strength, balance and agility."
- Prioritise timber play pieces and unstructured environments that inspire imaginative play e.g. nature play, dry creek beds, cubbys
- Bike loop around the playground
- Shade

Increase amenity for all community:

- Benches and picnic tables in the playground and in the wider park, prioritising shady locations
- Public toilet
- Include bins with dog poo bags
- Drinking fountain
- More fencing
- BBQ area
- Gated area for dogs

Access and Equity

Of the participants were access and equity attributes were recorded, this was the level of participation:

- 55% were woman or female, 45% man or male
- 57% aged between 35-49 years and 5% aged between 12-17 years
- 5% live with a disability, including mental illness
- 9% identify as part of the LGBTIQ+ community
- 0% identified as carers
- 0% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Straight Island descent

Next Steps

This information will inform the draft concept design for this project, which will be shared with community for feedback in mid 2026.