Olympic Leisure Centre Library Consultation Summary

June 2026

Banyule
City Council

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background

On Monday 23 June 2025, Council endorsed a new direction for Olympic Leisure Centre (OLC), including the closure of the ageing aquatic facilities at the end of October 2025. Council also allocated $1.8 million to transform the much-loved community facility into a hub for expanded health, fitness, community and library services.

Community engagement with OLC members and the broader community began soon after the decision. The key message was that OLC will continue to support health, wellbeing and social connection, with the added benefit of a new library service to improve access to learning, literacy and community programs. With library construction due to begin in mid-2026, Council sought feedback in ***March and April 2026*** on the library design, look and feel, including whether the community preferred one larger bookable space or two smaller bookable spaces.

1.2 Engagement Activities

To obtain this input the following structured consultation activities were undertaken:

- Community Survey available on Shaping Banyule and in hard copy
- A community engagement table at the Olympic Park Community Day on Friday 27 March 2026.
- A community engagement self-serve information table at the Olympic Leisure Centre throughout the survey period.
- The survey and dot survey information was also available at Barrbunin Beek for 2 weeks in April.

The Shaping Banyule page provided the link to the online survey, which provided details on the look and feel, and design images of the library and sought feedback on the following questions.

1. Level of agreement with the following statements about the layout. Is the library layout clearly organised and easy to understand, do the spaces look easy to navigate and are they flexible for multiple uses.
2. Preference for meeting room options: One bookable study room and one bookable meeting room or one large bookable meeting room.
3. Support for the design direction in regard to the look and feel of the library design.
4. Further feedback on the library design or layout.

The survey was available online from 16 March 2026 to 19 April 2026. The community could also request a hard copy survey to complete.

An in-person community pop up session was held for community to speak with Council staff and provide feedback and comments on the library design, look and feel at the Olympic Park Community Day on Friday 27 March.

1.3 What we heard – Summary

- Most people preferred two smaller bookable rooms instead of one large room. 59% chose two rooms and 41% chose one room.
- People strongly supported bookable rooms for study, community meetings and small gatherings.
- People generally supported the proposed look and feel. Some wanted more Olympic colours and themes, and good quality materials.
- People said the library should be practical, with enough shelves, comfortable furniture, good lighting and useful technology.

- People said the library should be inclusive, accessible and welcoming for everyone. This includes neurodivergent-friendly spaces and First Nations representation.
- People wanted the library to offer events, classes, Storytime and community workshops.
- People want to see longer hours of operation, not just 30 hours per week.

1.4 Survey Participation and Feedback

The Shaping Banyule survey received ***58 responses,*** The responses were predominately from Heidelberg West (57%), Heidelberg Heights (12%), Heidelberg (7%) and Bellfield (5%) residents. At our community engagement table at the Olympic Park Community Day, OLC and Barr BuninBeek we received ***35*** dot responses to key questions.

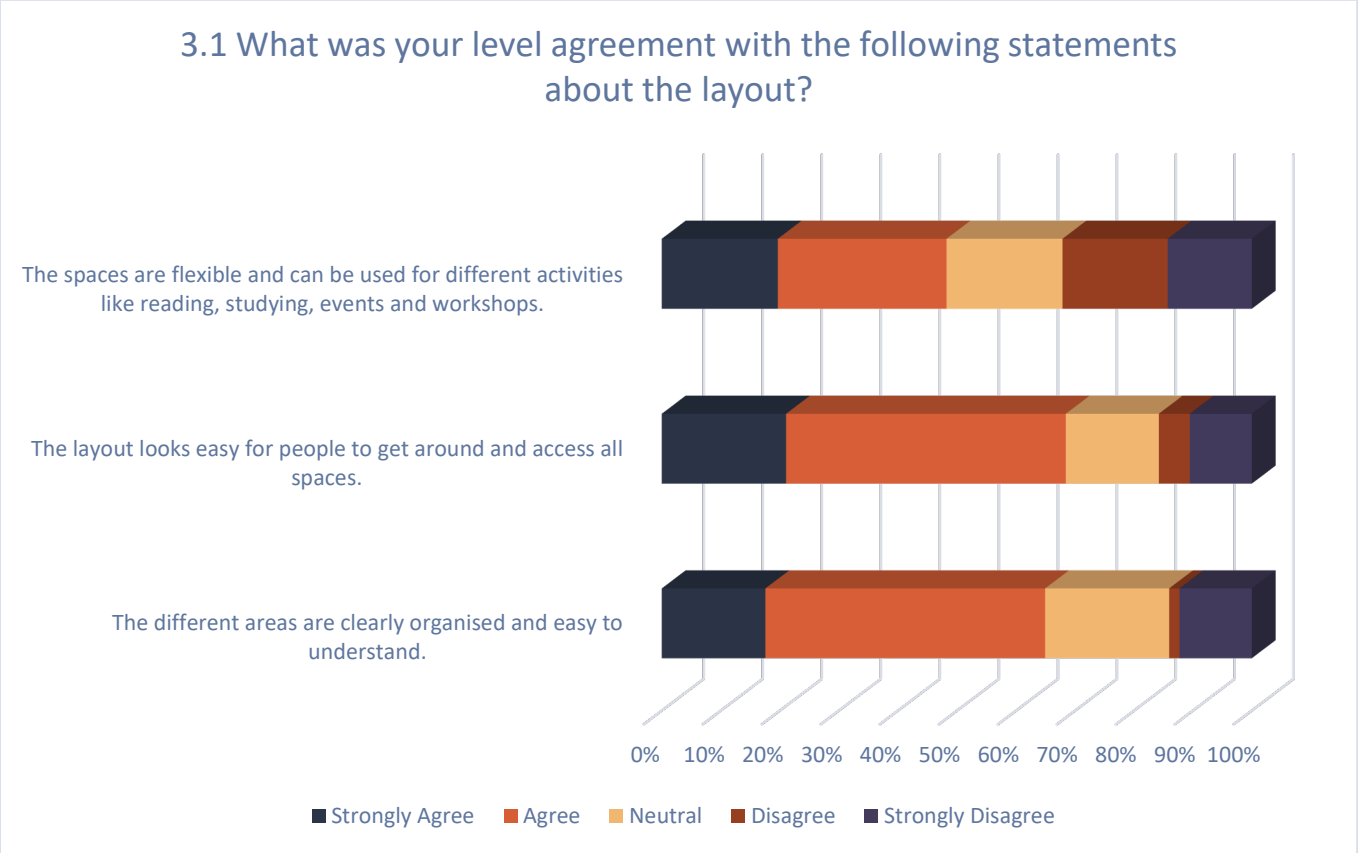
2. Who we heard from

The Shaping Banyule online survey received ***58 responses*** throughout the engagement period and ***35 responses*** in our dot survey.

- Survey responses were from the following age groups, in descending order,
    - 35 – 39 (38%),
    - 60 - 69 (18%)
    - 25 – 34 (15%)
    - 70 – 84 (13%),
    - 50 – 59 (11%)
    - 18 – 24 (5%)
- There was a higher percentage of responses from females (66% of responses received)

3. Findings

3.1 What was your level agreement with the following statements about the layout?



Most people supported the library layout. They said it looked clear and easy to understand. People also thought the space could be used in different ways. Some people were unsure or had concerns. These concerns were mainly about the size of the library, the number of shelves, seating, study spaces and flexible areas.

3.2 Do you have any comments about the layout?

The most common comments about the library layout related to study spaces, children's areas, seating, shelving and flexible event spaces. Study and workspaces were mentioned most often, with 15 comments. This shows strong interest in quiet study areas, laptop benches and non-bookable desks.

Children's areas were mentioned 14 times, with people supporting a separate children's space and activities such as storytime. Seating and furniture were mentioned 12 times, with requests for more comfortable and accessible options. Shelving and books, and flexible event spaces, were each mentioned 10 times. This shows that people want the library to be practical, well stocked and able to support different community uses.

Key comments

- Concerns about limited bookshelves - some say there appear to be fewer shelves than in the Library Bus
- Requests for better natural light
- Need for chairs/desks for those with disabilities; requests for more seating options
- Strong desire for study spaces, long benches for laptops, and more non-bookable study desks
- Praise for separated children's area; suggestions for storytime events and art activities
- Concerns about limited space for events/workshops; requests for flexible, multi-purpose layouts

- Several responses praise the design as "fantastic" and express excitement about the new space
- Requests for gender-neutral and family bathrooms
- Preference for larger meeting room to accommodate community groups (10+ people)
- Requests for screens, projectors, video displays, VR technology, and interactive features

3.3 Bookable meeting rooms; Tell us which option you prefer? Why did you choose this response?

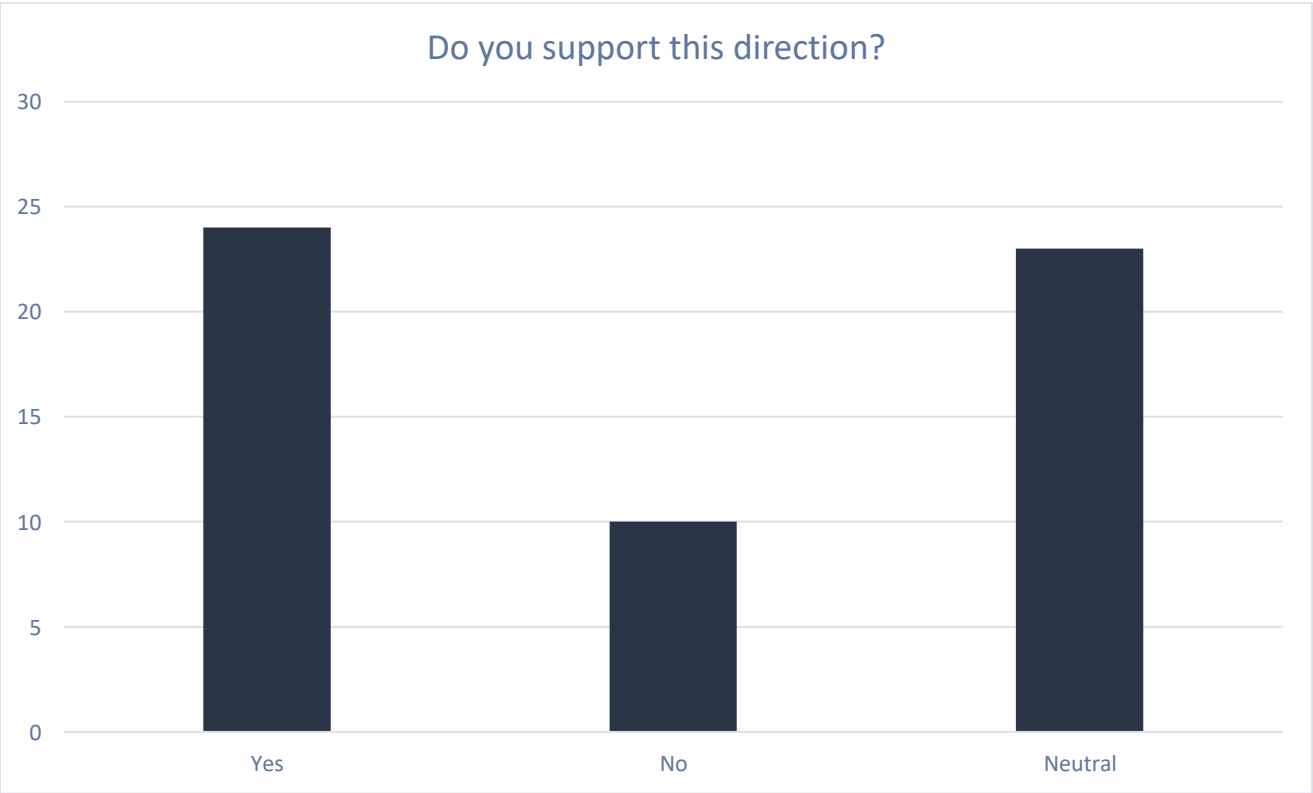
Question 3 asked people to choose a preferred option.

- ***Option 1:*** One bookable study room and one bookable meeting room; or
- ***Option 2:*** One large bookable room

Survey respondents preferred the two bookable rooms option with 59% of votes, compared to one bookable room with 41% of the votes. The reasons for this preference was around the flexibility of having two spaces available.

3.5 Design vision: Do you support this direction?

Question 5 asked whether respondents supported the design vision direction for the library in regard to look, feel, layout and design.



Overall, respondents showed support for the proposed design vision for the library. The graph indicates that most people supported or somewhat supported the direction, suggesting the look, feel, layout and design are generally on the right track.

3.6 Why did you choose this response?

The dot points below summarise common themes in the comments provided relating to why respondents choose their response:

- Respondents express positive views about the design - "looks good", "nice and neutral", "love the idea"
- Some concerns that colours are too subdued; requests for brighter, more vibrant Olympic colours

- Feedback on materials - requests for more timber, natural materials; concerns about fabric seating, flooring
- Mixed views on Olympic theme - some want stronger connection to Olympic colours; others feel it's adequate
- Concerns about space being too small; desire for larger-scale library like Ivanhoe
- Feedback on furniture - requests for chairs with backs, comfortable seating, study desks
- Concerns about lack of natural light; darker colours will make space feel more cramped
- Concerns about safety in the area - drug use, loitering; question value of library without addressing these issues
- Desire for welcoming, comfortable space; some worry modern design may feel intimidating to locals
- Requests for more private study space
- Request for more library hours

While feedback was mostly positive, some respondents wanted the design to feel warmer, brighter and more connected to the Olympic history and local community. This included suggestions for more colour, natural materials, comfortable furniture, natural light and First Nations representation.

3.7 Is there anything else you would like to share about the library design and layout?

Respondents were also invited to share any other comments about the library design and layout, with feedback highlighting what people would like to see considered as the project progresses.

Common themes were:

- The most common theme was about the size and scale of the library, mentioned 12 times, with some people concerned the space may be too small or feel like a “micro-library”.
- The next most common theme was programs, events and classes, mentioned 13 times, showing strong interest in talks, workshops, community activities and a program room.
- Study spaces, book collection and shelving, and ongoing community consultation were each mentioned 9 times, showing that people want the library to be practical, well-stocked, quiet when needed, and shaped by local input.
- Other themes included Olympic heritage, opening hours, lighting, furniture, children’s areas, parking and inclusion.

Overall, the feedback shows strong interest in a welcoming, functional and flexible library that reflects the local community and supports a wide range of uses.

Key comments were:

- Desire for larger library like Ivanhoe or Rosanna; concerns about "micro-library" size
- Requests to honour Olympic Village history with exhibition space and memorabilia display
- Feedback on separated children's section; concerns about supervision and family access
- Requests for multiple study rooms, quiet spaces, and private study nooks
- Opposition to library; preference for pool/aquatic facility to be reinstated
- Requests for ongoing community consultation and input on design decisions
- Requests for program room for talks, events, classes, and community workshops
- Concerns about limited hours (30 hrs/week); requests for weekend/after-school access
- Requests for stackable chairs, bariatric seating, and comfortable furniture options
- Concerns about book storage space; requests for classics section and well-stocked library
- Requests for warm lighting, indoor plants, colour, and natural light improvements
- Positive feedback; excitement about the new library and its potential for community
- Concerns about parking, exterior maintenance, outdoor spaces, and evening safety

- Requests for neurodivergent-friendly features, senior access, and support for vulnerable groups

Olympic Park Community event and consultation table feedback

3.8 Feedback provided on interactive dot surveys at various locations throughout the consultation period.

Space was provided for people to also leave comments on “post it notes” on the dot survey sheets at the Olympic Park Community Event, OLC and Barrbunin Beek. Here are the comments received:

- Need more materials that come from first nations business
- When library is not manned will it be accessible
- Is there an option for a lego table, children love them in libraries
- Optional local first nations businesses should have been included
- How will the space reflect the local community? Will there be opportunity for local artists
- Nooks for children to read together would be great - made with moveable book shelves.
- The color theme is close but should reflect country too
- Bring element of country into space
- Need more sensory friendly spaces
- Prefer to have bookable study room, important for students who need privacy when studying
- It looks very peaceful and calm, it is a great layout
- Integrate some first nations art into the space