Mercedes Court Reserve Playground Renewal

Engagement Findings Report

Community engagement took place in three stages:

- Stage 1 – local knowledge gathering (20 April 2026 – 17 May 2026)
- Stage 2 – feedback on draft playground concept (31 August 2026 – 29 September 2026)
- Stage 3 – sharing final playground concept (November 2026)

Below is summary of community engagement across the stages.

Stage 1 – Local knowledge gathering

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 Mercedes Court Reserve, Rosanna. 78 number of people participated in the following ways:

- 36 people completed a survey online
- 15 people dropped a pin on a map to share how they use the space
- 15 adults and 12 children attended a pop up conversation at the playground on 2 May 2026

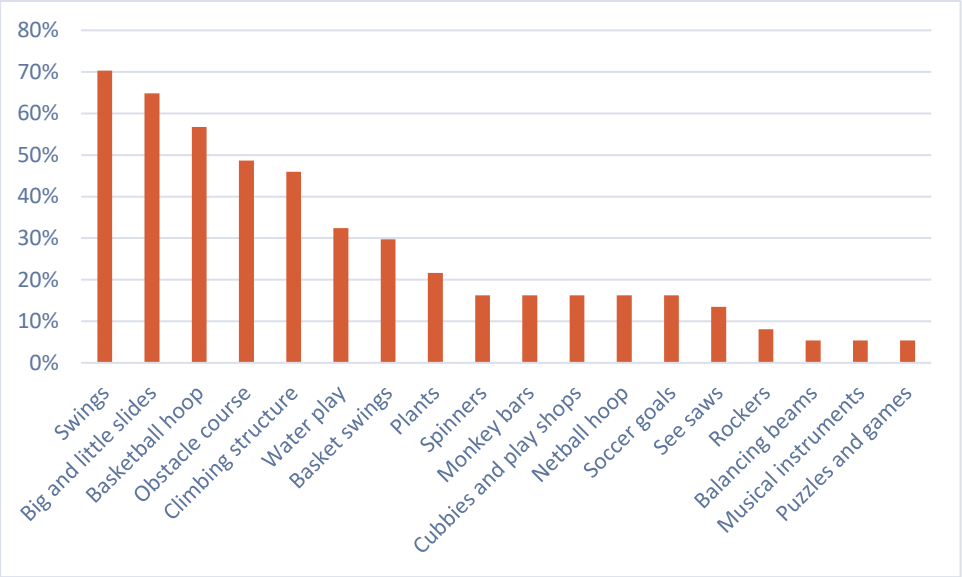
In addition to the above active involvement, 440 people visited the Shaping Banyule page to view the plans and the social media campaign had a reach of 2,900 people.

The project engagement was promoted through the following methods – on site signage, flyer drops to residents within a 800m walking distance, a story in Banyule Banner and a social media campaign and contacting local schools. 92% of the respondents were local, from Rosanna.

What we heard

- 65% of respondents visit the Reserve at least once a week. In comparison, 59% of respondents visit the playground at least once a week.
- 95% of respondents feel safe at the Reserve. Those that don't feel safe, stated it was due to the play equipment being quite old and inability to see dogs behind bushes.
- The most popular ways to use the Reserve and playground are playing at the playground (62%) and passing through – a link between places (51%).
- 81% 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:
    - From McAuley Dr to the playground
    - From Mercedes Ct entrance to the playground
- Respondent's favourites things about the Reserve are:
    - The nature –the mature gum trees and open grassed areas
    - Locality – close to home, primary school and links streets together
    - The quiet community feel
    - The basketball hoop

- 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, chessboard, skate ramp, fitness equipment, turn over bar, bike jumps, flying fox and pyramid net climber



- Respondent's shared the following ideas to better deliver the renewal and understand the Reserve:

Celebrate place and nature:
- Garden beds
- Timber play equipment
- Retain existing trees

Improve play opportunities for all:
- Zoned play spaces for older and younger children
- Chessboard
- Basketball hoop area upgrades
  - Full size basketball court
  - Two hoops
  - Rotate the key so it the ball doesn't run down hill
  - Netball hoop
  - Re-do surfacing
- Utilise the existing hill with a slide or flying fox
- Focus on timber play equipment, nature play and opportunities to get messy
- Prioritise mulch for softfall instead of rubber

Increase amenity for community to gather:
- A picnic shelter with picnic tables and BBQ
- More seating
- Lighting
- Bins
- Fenced dog area
- Upgraded drinking fountain
- Bike racks
- Public Toilet

- A number of residents expressed concerns with activities that create noise, especially at night. This included the basketball hoop, bike riding and any introduction of musical items.

Access and Equity

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

- 68% were woman or female, 32% man or male
- 65% aged between 35-49 years and 8% aged between 12-17 years
- 3% live with a disability, including mental illness
- 5% identify as part of the LGBTIQA+ community
- 19% identified as carers
- 0% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Straight Island descent

Stage 2 – Feedback on draft playground concept

A draft playground concept was developed using stage 1 feedback and shared with community on Shaping Banyule between 31 August 2026 and 29 September 2026. The project was seeking feedback on the draft playground concept to understand what community liked about the concept and what could be improved.

416 people visited the Shaping Banyule project page to view the draft playground concept. Of these, **12 people** made a total of 20 comments on the draft concept. In addition, **six people** emailed / called Council directly regarding the draft concept, which led to one online meeting and one in person meeting between council officers and community members. A community member also contacted their local ward Councillor regarding the project and met with them on site. Community feedback included:

- What people love about the draft concept:
    - "The new design looks great"
    - "Love the upgrade in the playground"
    - "I love all the current elements" in the draft design
    - "This play equipment is a big improvement on what is there currently and will cater to a much wider age range."
    - "This climbing structure is a great addition - my 3.5 year old will love it!"
- What could be made even better:
    - Fitness equipment was included in the design
    - The new picnic table is further away from the basketball court to reduce danger of being hit by balls when sitting at the table
    - Have shade to the new picnic table
    - Add more seating, including seats away from the playground for other park users
    - Ensure the basketball court surface is level to adjacent grass
    - In the play unit, change the net bridge to an enclosed bridge so toddlers can easily and safely cross it
    - Including a see saw / rocking element
    - A sealed path from the playground to McAuly Drive
    - An area for skating / scooting for younger kids
    - More shade for the playground, including the new swing set location
    - Screen residential properties from the playground

This stage of project engagement was promoted through the following methods – on site signage, a social media campaign, emailing followers of the Shaping Banyule project pages, inclusion in the Banyule Banner and contacting a local school.

Stage 3 – Final playground concept

The final playground concept was shared with community in November 2026. Stages 1 and 2 of community engagement have informed the final playground concept. In response to community feedback, the following updates were made to the design:

- The new picnic table was moved away from the basketball court, to under the shade of an existing tree
- A proposed future path to McAuley Drive is shown. It is currently not funded but is an opportunity for the future
- A small rocker has been included in the play offering
- Mature shade trees (install height approx. 4.5m) have been included north of the new swings to provide shade
- Screening trees have been included to the west of the playground

The following community requests were not achievable:

- The following items were not included because they do not align with the scale and size of the playground – fitness equipment and skating / scooting area.
- One additional picnic table is being added to the park, along with informal log and rock seating. Given the extensive existing seating on site, this is considered sufficient.
- The play unit includes a net bridge between elements to filter users by ability. The higher side of the play unit is more risky and designed for older children. Toddlers should not be able to access the higher areas of the play unit. The lower side of the play unit is designed for younger children to access and enjoy. As such, the net bridge has been retained in the design.



Existing conditions at Mercedes Court Reserve (2026)