Powlett Street Reserve

Engagement Findings Report – round 2

The purpose of this engagement was to inform the community about the proposed design and delivery of a new design of Powlett Street Reserve and to seek feedback on the draft Concept Design to understand priorities, concerns and suggested improvements before finalising the design. This was the first time the community had seen the new concept plan.

How we engaged

Round 2 engagement commenced on 3 August and closed on 31 August 2026. Approximately **56 people** participated in the following ways:

- **40* people** completed a survey online
- **12 people (approx.)** attended 1 pop-up consultation in the reserve on 19 August.
- **4 people emailed** council officers.

**Note: One IP address was recorded having filled out the online survey 11 times with very similar responses. To ensure data integrity, these survey responses were combined to count as one survey entry.*

The project received **612 visitors** to its Shaping Banyule page.

The project engagement was promoted through the following methods:

- 4 on site signs,
- 906 flyer drops to residents within a 400m walking distance
- social media campaign.

85% of survey respondents were from Heidlberg with an additional 8% from Heidelberg Heights.

Access and Equity

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

- **48.7%** were woman or female, **48.7%** man or male and 2.6% non-binary.
- The two largest age groups were: **32%** aged between 35-49 years and **20%** aged between 50–59 years.
    - In comparison, 16% of the local community (Heidelberg) are aged between 35-49 years (the largest age group in Heidelberg) and 10% of the local community are aged between 50-59 years (ABS 2021 data).
- **9%** identified as living with a disability, including mental illness
- **15%** identified as being a part of the LGBTIQA+ community
- **11%** identified as carers
- **2%** identified as Aboriginal or Torres Straight Island descent.

What we asked

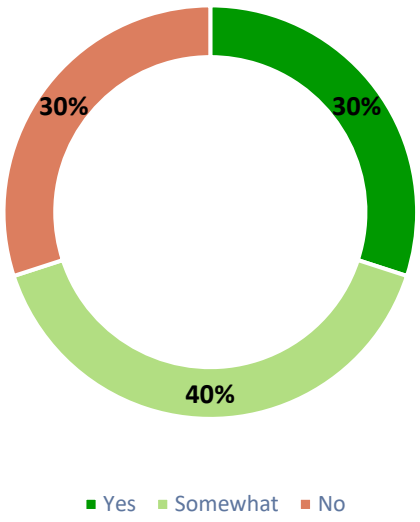
The Shaping Banyule survey asked 3 questions relating to the project. These were:

1. Do you support the Powlett Street Reserve Draft Concept Plan?
    a. Multiple choice, between: Yes, No and Somewhat.
2. Tell us why you chose this answer? (free text)
3. Have we missed anything, or do you have any final comments on the draft Powlett Street Reserve concept plan?

What we heard

The breakdown of answers for question one is depicted in the graph below, with **70% either supporting or somewhat supporting** the Powlett Street Reserve draft concept plan.

Do you support the draft Powlett Street Reserve concept plan?



Council received a wide variety of feedback. The themes below have been identified through reviewing all the feedback (online survey, emails, in person consultation and phone conversations).

Feedback theme 1: Positive response to the design

What we heard	Our response
There was very strong support for the concept plan in the in-person consultation and in the comment / free text sections of the Shaping Banyule survey. 35% (17 respondents) of respondents left a positive comment regarding the concept plan on Shaping Banyule. Some respondents also provided suggestions while supporting the project. This theme had the most comments in the Shaping Banyule responses out of all the themes identified. Of the three emails, two emails described the project positively. *"I love it! What a fabulous use of taxpayers money to beautify an area that is otherwise unused and not attractive."* *"Proposed draft looks great"* *"...would love these proposed changes"*	Feedback noted, acknowledging support for the concept plan often also provided suggested improvements to the design.

Feedback theme 2: Concerns regarding the driveway servicing 16 Powlett Street.

What we heard	Our response
Through the online survey, 17% (8 respondents) left comments concerned with the amount of space the	Council is required to provide vehicle access to the 16 Powlett Street property.

driveway for 16 Powlett Street was taking up or its location. Similar feedback was received through email but was not something those attending the in-person consultation brought up as a concern. *"Driveway makes too much of an impact"* *"If anything the driveway should run along the fence line."* *"A driveway will be an eyesore."*	The current proposed location was identified as the option that would retain the most parkland, avoid the removal of significant trees, and minimise construction costs. Materials to reduce the visual impact of the driveway are being explored as a part of detailed design.

Feedback theme 3: Fencing and dogs

What we heard	Our response
While it was not brought up as often in conversations in the in-person consultation or emails, the online survey received 10% of responses (5 respondents) suggesting a dog park or fenced dog park be provided in the reserve. Fencing was also suggested in the survey, to be provided for children due to safety concerns from traffic on nearby roads, which accounted for 10% of responses (5 respondents). *"A dog off lead area would be good"* *"No fenced dog park?"*	Dog rules within Powlett Street Reserve are governed by Banyule's Council Order made in 2024 for the Control of Dogs and Cats. Where a dog is able to be off lead it must remain under effective control but is prohibited from entering or being within 5m of a playground or BBQ (no BBQs are proposed in this design). While dogs are allowed to be off lead throughout the reserve (aside from any future playground), providing a dedicated fenced dog park would not fit within the reserve and would have to be in very close proximity to any playground. This may pose a danger to young children. A dedicated fenced dog park is not multi-purpose and installing one would likely reduce other uses, especially as the dog park would likely have to take up most of the reserve. For the reasons above, Council will not be creating a dedicated fenced dog park at Powlett Street Reserve, however opportunities for dog facilities such as dog bowls and dog tie up posts, will be considered during detail design. A partial perimeter fence in the southern section of the reserve is provided around the playground to improve safety from the nearby roads.

Feedback theme 4: More tree planting

What we heard	Our response
While not a theme discussed at the in-person consultation or within the emails received, 10% of online survey responses (5 respondents) mentioned a suggestion for more trees within the design. *"The park design should include more large trees and gardens."* *"Needs more trees..."*	Additional trees will be incorporated into the final design to improve canopy cover, amenity and future habitat.

Feedback theme 5: Wanting a more interesting design

What we heard	Our response
While not a theme discussed at the in-person consultation or within the emails received, 8% of online survey responses (4 respondents) mentioned a desire for a more interesting design. Some comments within this theme also asked for more seating or for sports courts. Some comments mentioned a desire for money not to be spent at this reserve. *"There could be more done with the space."* *"The park is too narrow and small to make it a user friendly park."*	Council did not include more elements within the reserve design based off feedback received in community engagement round 1 for there to be minimal changes. Additionally, the reserve size restricts larger park elements that were frequently suggested by those who left negative comments relating to the design. Council will explore how a better design can be created through careful material selection and high-quality finishes through the detail design stage.

Feedback theme 6: Remove seating along the eastern path

What we heard	Our response
While not a theme discussed at the in-person consultation or within the emails received, 6% of online survey responses (3 respondents) mentioned a desire for the removal of the seats along the eastern boundary path to be removed, due to safety / comfort concerns of people being close to people's apartments.	Council will remove these seats from the design. These were initially installed at the request of community members during round 1 community consultation.

Feedback theme 7: More seating

What we heard	Our response
While not a strong theme discussed at the in-person consultation or within the emails received, 6% of online survey responses (3 respondents) mentioned a desire for more seating throughout the reserve.	Council will explore additional seating opportunities in the detailed design stage, noting the removal of seats along the easter boundary path.

Several other themes were identified but these had very small numbers of responses associated with them, these are available upon request.

Next steps

Council will now progress to the detailed design stage for Powlett Street Reserve, making changes to the design based on the round 2 of community engagement.