Vin Heffernan Reserve Natureplay

Stage 1 Engagement Findings Report

How we engaged

Engagement on the project commenced on 25 August 2025 and closed on 12 September 2025. The project was seeking local knowledge to better plan for and design a new natureplay at Vin Heffernan Walkway in Heidelberg Heights. 54 people participated in the following ways:

- 31 people completed a survey online
- 11 people dropped a pin on a map to share how they use the space
- 7 adults and 5 children attended a pop up conversation at the playground on 6 September 2025

The project engagement was promoted through the following methods – on site signage, flyer drops to residents within a 400m walking distance, a social media campaign and contacting local schools / pre-schools. 100% of the respondents were from Heidelberg Heights.

What we heard

- 33% of respondents visit the Reserve every week. In comparison, 33% of respondents visit the playground twice a week.
- 83% of respondents feel safe at the Reserve. Those that don't feel safe reported concerns with motor bikes in the reserve.
- The most popular ways to use the Reserve and playground are passing through (67%), playground (55%) and walking/jogging (391%)
- Respondent's favourites things about the Reserve are:
    - The playground is popular for toddlers
    - Proximity and community
    - The lawn and open spaces including path network.
- Respondent's shared the following ideas to better deliver the renewal and understand the Reserve:
    - The nature play is popular however limited. Some traditional pieces of equipment are desired to improve the play value over a broader age demographic
    - Delineation between the open space and path network from the playground
    - Improved lawn area

Access and Equity

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

- 65% were woman or female, 32% man or male and 3% other.
- 67% aged between 35-49 years.
- 6% live with a disability, including mental illness.
- 6% identify as part of the LGBTIQA+ community
- 10% 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 late 2025.

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 10 November 2025 to 30 November 2025. The project was seeking feedback on the draft playground concept to understand what community liked about the concept and what could be improved.

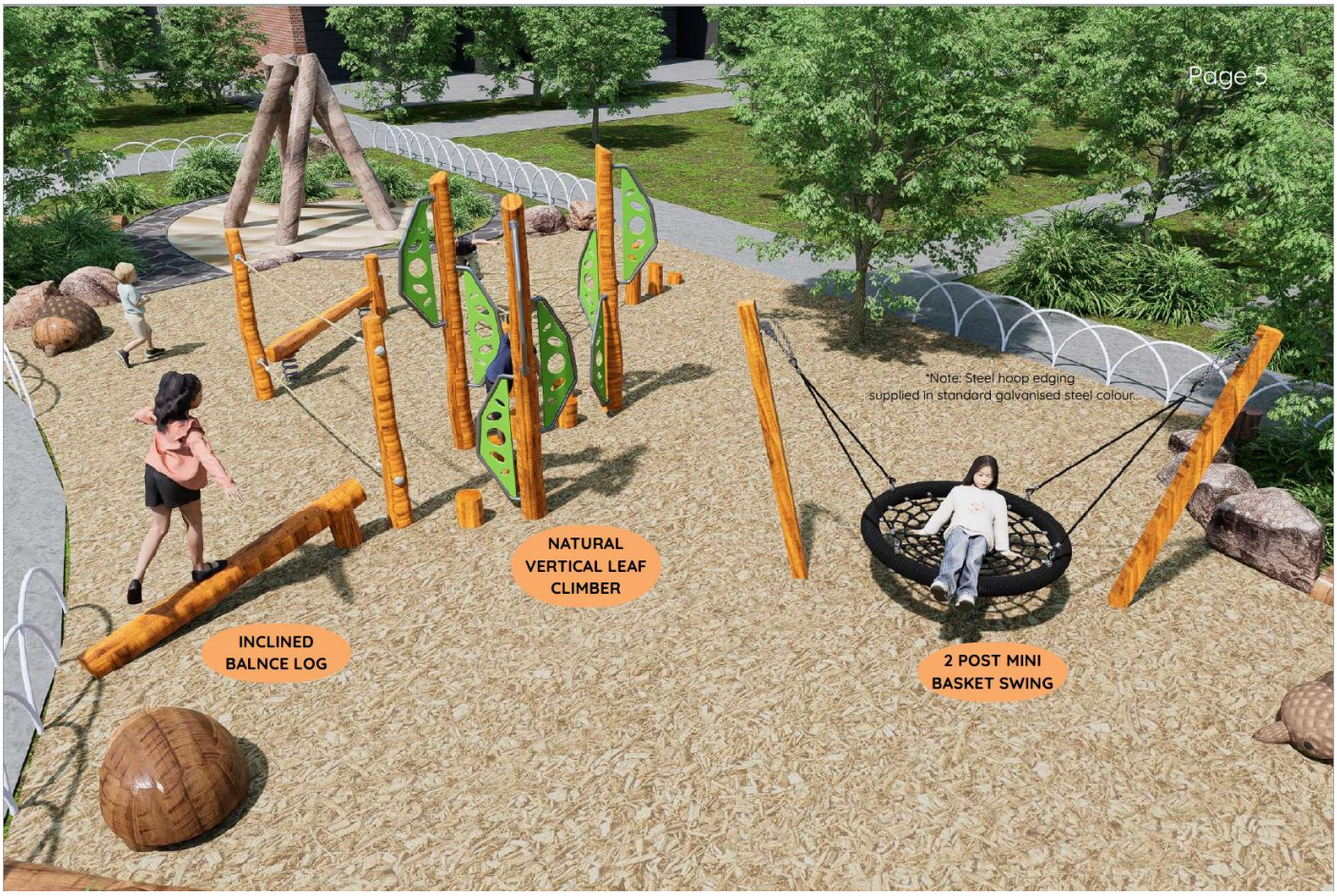
93 people visited the Shaping Banyule project page to view the draft playground concept. Of these, 6 people made a comment on the concept. The themes of the comments were:

- Support for enhancing the area as a nature play and garden space, with positive feedback on informal seating such as logs and requests for additional seating for parents and carers.
- Interest in improving play value through more usable and engaging elements.

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.

Stage 3 – Final playground concept

The final playground concept was shared with the community in **January 2026**, with Stages 1 and 2 of community engagement informing the final design. In response to community feedback, minor refinements were made to the draft concept. As the community broadly supported the proposed plan, Council will proceed with the concept and engage a contractor to deliver the works.




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