

New Pearcedale Playground and Skatepark Upgrade

Community engagement summary report
May 2025

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2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the New Pearcedale Playground and Skatepark Upgrade. Council is renewing the Pearcedale Skate Park area and planning for the possible inclusion of a new district level playground. We sought communities' insights and feedback on the existing skatepark, to directly influence the design and features of this exciting project during a five-week engagement period.

2.1 Key findings

The Pearcedale Playground and Skatepark Upgrade consultation engaged nearly 1,000 community members through online and in-person activities, with 166 contributions collected. Feedback came from a broad cross-section of the community, particularly young people, families, and local residents.

Key findings show strong support for a combined skatepark and pump track, with the euro gap, spine, hip, and bowl identified as priority features. The community also supported keeping the bowl but suggested reducing its height and making it more accessible. BMX users requested a larger track with better jumps and improved access.

For the playground, there was strong interest in inclusive features like swings, slides, climbing structures, a flying fox, shaded areas, social spaces, and drinking fountains. When asked about other priorities, the top responses were shade structures, drinking fountains, connecting footpaths, and seating rated higher than fitness equipment, a basketball court, or a pump track alone. Overall, the community values spaces that are active, inclusive, and family-friendly.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider community feedback in the development of a concept design and officers will seek further feedback on the concept design mid to late 2025. Construction is expected to be scheduled throughout 2026.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide the community with the opportunity to provide their feedback on the New Pearcedale Playground and Skatepark Upgrade.

3.2 Consultation process

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media
- Pearcedale Reserve signage
- In person pop up engagement

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide feedback via survey and interactive feedback activities.
- Contact email address and phone number of Council Officer provided for interested community members to ask for further information or provide feedback
- Printed information available, as required.
- In person pop up engagement activities

Details	Activity
17 March – 27 April 2025 996 visitors 136 contributions	Casey Conversations Website Project information, email, online survey and interactive engagement activities hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations.
17 April 2025 30 visitor contributions	In person pop up engagement activities Held at Pearcedale Skatepark with the support of the Casey 360 bus, engagement officer and project lead.

4 Who we heard from

We heard from a wide range of community members, including a high number of young people aged 12 to 18 (46), children under 12 (19), parents and caregivers (42) and wider community members (29). Most respondents were from Pearcedale and surrounding areas

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on New Pearcedale Playground and Skatepark Upgrade. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document.

5.1 Support for actions

Community feedback strongly supports upgrading the skatepark, BMX areas and the inclusion of a district level playground along with adding useful amenities. Respondents want fun and inclusive play features like swings, slides, climbing structures, shaded areas, and drinking fountains. Skaters, scooter riders, and BMX users support a combined skatepark and pump track, with popular features like the euro gap, spine, hip, and bowl. Many also want the existing bowl made safer and more accessible. BMX riders asked for a bigger track with better jumps and easier access from the skatepark. Across all areas, the community asked for shade, lighting, water stations, seating, and better paths.

Item-specific feedback

5.1.1 Playground elements

Community engagement to inform the future development of play equipment has received highly positive feedback from community members. The engagement process focused on gathering ideas and priorities to shape future design decisions. Community members expressed strong support for features such as swings, basket swings, slides, a climbing structure with integrated slides, a flying fox, shaded areas, social spaces, and drinking fountains. Participants emphasised the importance of inclusive, active play opportunities as well as comfortable and accessible amenities for families and caregivers.

5.1.2 Skatepark elements

Community engagement to help inform a future upgrade of the skate facility received enthusiastic and constructive feedback from a wide range of users, including skaters, scooter riders, and BMX riders. As part of the engagement process, the community was asked whether they preferred a full skatepark, a pump track, or a smaller combination of both. The option to include both a skatepark and a pump track received the highest number of votes (56), followed closely by a full skatepark alone (42 votes). Participants shared valuable input on preferred features, with strong support for the halo gap, euro gap, nipple/volcano, spine, quarter ramp, hip, handrail and stairs, bank, bowl, and pyramid. Of these, the euro gap, spine, hip, and bowl received the most positive feedback, identified as key elements for creating a fun, challenging, and versatile space. Overall, the community showed strong support for a modern, versatile skate facility that is fun, inclusive, and suitable for all skill levels and riding styles.

Topic	Community feedback
Existing Bowl	The community feedback expressed that the existing bowl is over-verted and presents challenges for a wide range of users. To address this, it is suggested to remove the existing hip and replace it with an even platform that improves drainage and overall usability. While the community expressed a strong interest in retaining the bowl feature, many suggested reducing its height and exploring a half-bowl design. Suggesting that this would improve accessibility, allow for better flow, and accommodate skaters of varying skill levels.
Additional amenities	Requests to add a drinking fountain and water bottle filling station.
	Requests to add a bike repair kit and air pump station. Request to have a close and accessible bin with working charging benches that are compatible with the latest charging ports.
	Requests to include shade around skate park.
	Requests to include lighting around the skatepark and other areas.

5.1.3 Pump track and BMX jumps

During community engagement, respondents expressed a strong desire for a larger BMX track featuring a variety of jumps, noting that the current pump track is too small to build sufficient speed when riding bikes. Respondents highlighted the need for a track that better accommodates BMX riders of different skill levels, with dirt jumps of varying sizes to enhance usability and progression. There was also significant feedback requesting that the hill separating the existing track from the skatepark be minimised to improve access and visibility between the two areas. The BMX jump setups at Overport Park in Frankston and the new Langwarrin Skatepark were cited as positive examples, with Overport's jumps emerging as a clear favourite among riders for their size, flow, and overall design.

5.1.4 Additional Amenities

In response to the question about what other inclusions are important in the future play space, community members identified shade structures, drinking fountains, a footpath connecting to other areas of the reserve, and additional seating as the top priorities. These features were consistently chosen over options like a pump track, basketball court, and fitness equipment, highlighting a strong preference for comfort, accessibility, and family-friendly amenities that support longer and more enjoyable visits to the space.

6 Consultation evaluation

The survey results for the show broad level of community engagement. Most respondents learned about the consultation through signage, social media and by word of mouth while other sources like council e-news, website and direct email saw a smaller number of responses. The majority found the information easy to access, with 67 finding it very easy and 52 finding it easy, while 6 were neutral. No respondents found it difficult or very difficult to find the information they needed.