

New dog park at Berwick Springs Wetland Reserve

Community engagement summary report
April 2025

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2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the new dog park at Berwick Springs Wetland Reserve.

Council sought feedback on the elements required at a new dog-friendly park at Berwick Springs Wetland Reserve from 28 February until 30 March 2025.

We are responding to the increased demand and expectation for dog-friendly spaces within this area.

Three location options were evaluated as potential locations for the dog-friendly park and two were deemed unsuitable due to possible flooding.



Option 1 & 2 – Melbourne Water land

Melbourne Water approved a dog park with secure netting, but City Assets and Planning drainage engineers deemed both sites unsuitable due to flood risks, as shown on the map.

Option 3 – Casey land

The third option, near Berwick Springs Tennis Courts, is viable due to no flooding and amenities like tennis courts, fitness equipment, and a playground, making it the best choice.



As part of our [Dog Friendly Spaces Policy](#) we are committed to include:

- Fencing (with multiple entry/exits)
- Drinking fountain
- Seating
- Bin dispenser
- Landscaping

A project budget of \$450,000 has been allocated from Council's Capital Works Program

2.1 Key findings

Community feedback stated a preferred preference for the future dog friendly park having drinking fountain, bins with waste bags provided and fencing around the space.

In addition there was support for separate spaces for small and large dogs (13 mentions), shade (15 mentions), dog exercise equipment (16) and bins for waste bags.

There was one (1) objection to the dog park. The objector expressed significant distress over Council's decision to proceed with the proposed dog park, citing that their severe dog phobia would make living in close proximity to the park highly distressing and limit their ability to move freely within their neighbourhood

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider community feedback and provide final designs mid 2025 for completion by June 2026.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to give the community the opportunity to share their feedback on the new dog park at Berwick Springs Wetland Reserve.

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

Email to 1856 subscribers of Casey Conversations to advise that the engagement was open for feedback.

Utilising the stories function on our social media platforms.

Casey Catch-Up newsletter to subscribers (69 clicks to page from promotion)

Letters to residents surrounding the location of the site to advise on open consultation.

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including the opportunity to provide Feedback via survey and the Fund It tool.
- 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.

Details**28 February to 30 March 2025****406 visitors****75 contributions****Activity****Casey Conversations Website**

Project information and fund it tool hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations.

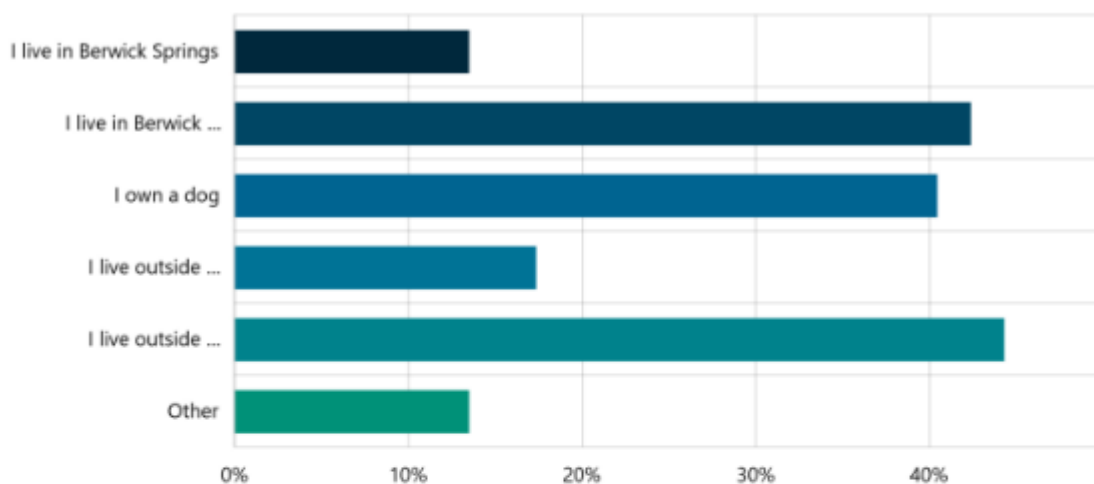
Fund it tool: 22 responses

Survey: 52 contributions

Email: 1 contribution (objection)

3.3 Who we heard from

We asked a question to understand the connection to the Berwick Springs Westland dog-friendly park. From the 52 survey contributions the respondents were mostly living outside Berwick Springs, own a dog and might use the space (23 responses), live in Berwick Springs and own a dog (22 responses) or that they own a dog (21 responses).



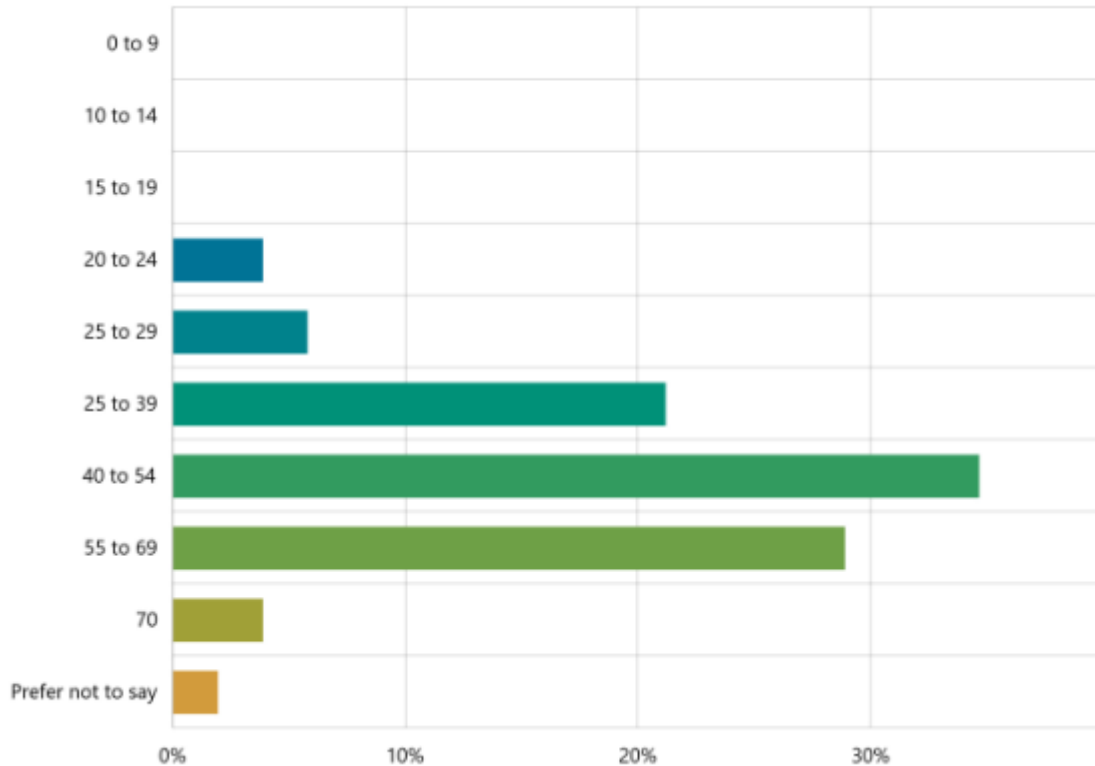
Answer choices	Percent	Count
I live in Berwick Springs	13.46%	7
I live in Berwick Springs and own a dog	42.31%	22
I own a dog	40.38%	21
I live outside Berwick Springs and keen to know what is happening there	17.31%	9
I live outside Berwick Springs, own a dog and might use the space	44.23%	23
Other	13.46%	7

Home suburb

Of the 52 responses to the survey, most people lived in Narre Warren South (19) or Berwick (16), also including responses from people living in Clyde North (4), Clyde (1), Cranbourne (2), Cranbourne North (3), Hampton Park (2). Narre Warren (2), Botanic Ridge (1), Hallam (1) and Cranbourne South (1).

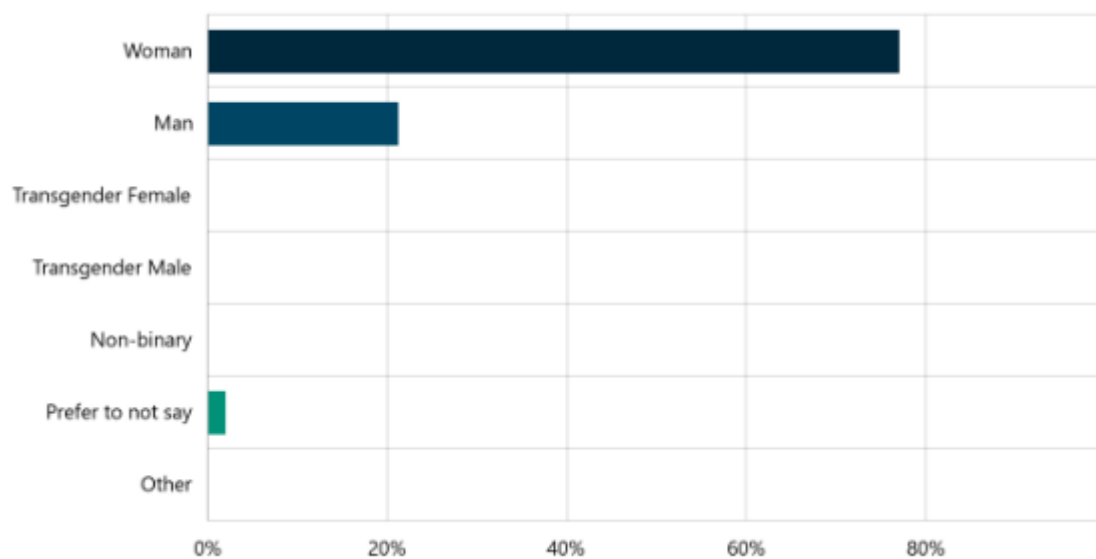
Age group

Of the 52 responses to the survey, most people were aged between 25 and 69.



Gender

Of the 52 responses to the survey 40 respondents were women, 11 were men and 1 preferred not to say.



Diversity

Of the 52 responses we received 42 respondents said none of them applied to them, five (5) selected that they spoke a language other than English at home, two (2) are a person with a disability, one (1) identified as LGBTIQA and three (3) preferred not to say.

Answer choices	Percent	Count
I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	0%	0
I speak a language other than English at home	9.62%	5
I am a person with a disability	3.85%	2
I identify as LGBTIQA	1.92%	1
I'd prefer to not say	5.77%	3
None of these apply to me	80.77%	42

Email contribution

We received one email objection was received during the public consultation period.

The objector was from Berwick Springs. Age and diversity unknown.

4 Consultation findings

Two online tools were used throughout this consultation, a survey and the fund-it tool (to vote for additional elements).

We received 52 responses to the survey and 22 responses to the fund-it tool.

Survey Responses

Below are the two open-ended questions asked in the survey and the themed responses with the number of mentions for each topic.

Question One

Are there any other elements you would like to see at the dog park?

Accessibility

Paved walking path along the fence line suitable for wheelchairs. (1 mention)

Accessibility for wheelchairs (2 mentions)

Landscaping

Planting of tough grass in high traffic areas (1 mention)

Bench seats to be away from the perimeter fence to stop jumping dogs escaping (1 mention)

Plant maples, gum and ornamental trees. (1 mention)

Space/s

Shade (15 mentions)

Consider separate spaces for small and large dogs.(13)

Dog exercise equipment (16)

More than one dog drink station (2 mentions)

Drainage under drinking fountain dog bowl.(1 mention)
Include water play (4 mentions)
Pathway to walk laps (1 mention)
Ball dispenser bin (1 mention)
Location to drop off donations to animal shelters (1 mention)

Fencing

Reduce size of gap at bottom of fence for small dogs (1 mention)
Large fence to keep dogs in (1 mention)

Entrance/Exit points

Leash hooks at the entrance/exit. (1 mention)
Dog run along one of the fence lines for recall training and/or ball throwing.(2
Lighting at entrance/exit for winter months (1 mention)
Additional gate at entry/exit points for safety when arriving/leaving (3 mentions)

Dog waste bags

Additional bins (6 mentions)
Waste bag dispensers for small and large dogs (1 mention)

Signage

Signage at gates to indicate they need to be closed (2 mentions)
Information signage about expectations while visiting (3 mentions)
No smoking signage (1 mention)

Miscellaneous

Drainage (3 mentions)
Drinking fountain for dog owners (1 mention)
Access to parking (3 mentions)
A swing set (1 mention)

Question Two

Would you like to provide any further feedback regarding the Berwick Springs Wetlands dog-friendly park?

Responses themed

- Positive sentiment for the dog park (15)
- Allocated size is good (2)
- Special provision for greyhounds (separate playtime) (2)

Objection received (1) via email

Key concern

The objector expressed significant distress regarding Council's decision to proceed with the proposed dog park. They highlighted that this decision has exacerbated their mental stress, as their severe dog phobia that would make living in close proximity to the park highly distressing and restrict their ability to move freely in their neighbourhood.

Mental Health Impact

The proposed location is believed to negatively affect their living environment and mental well-being.

The objector emphasised that mental health and residential tranquility should be considered equally important as community amenities.

Additional Concerns Raised:

The resident also outlined broader risks associated with the proposed dog park, including:

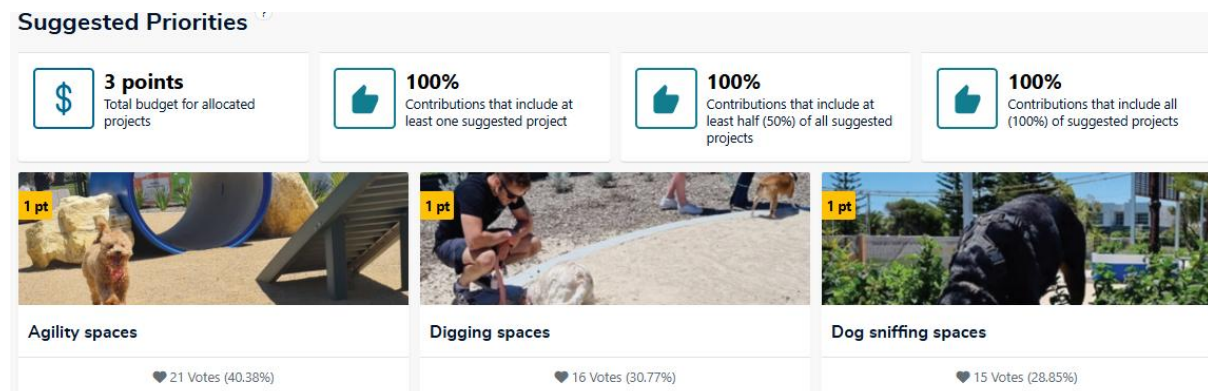
- **Child Safety:** Increased risk of dangerous interactions between unleashed dogs and children near the adjacent playground.
- **Public Safety:** Potential for aggressive or uncontrolled dogs leading to attacks on vulnerable residents.
- **Noise Pollution:** Disruption from barking and dog-related noise.
- **Sanitation Issues:** Concerns about dog waste, odours, and disease spread.
- **Property Devaluation:** Possible reduction in property values due to noise and hygiene concerns.
- **Traffic & Parking:** Increased congestion and pedestrian safety hazards.

Fund it Tool

A fund it tool was used to ask the community ‘*What elements would they like to see in the proposed dog friendly park?*’ Respondents had 3 points to allocate towards three elements.

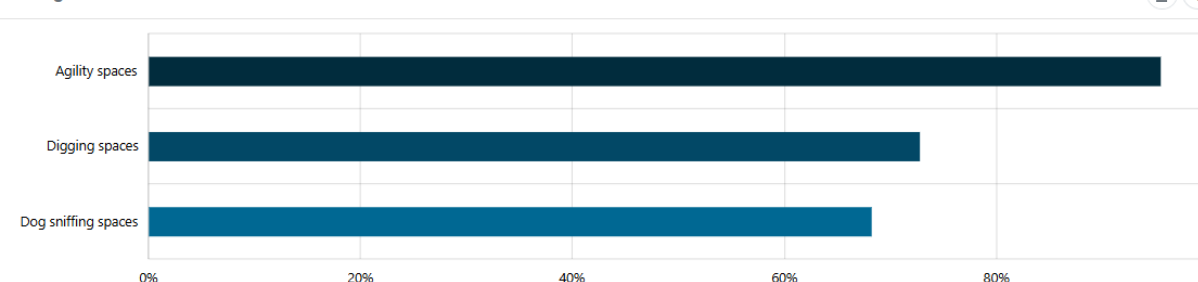
Of the 22 contributions received there were 52 votes.

The votes are shown below.



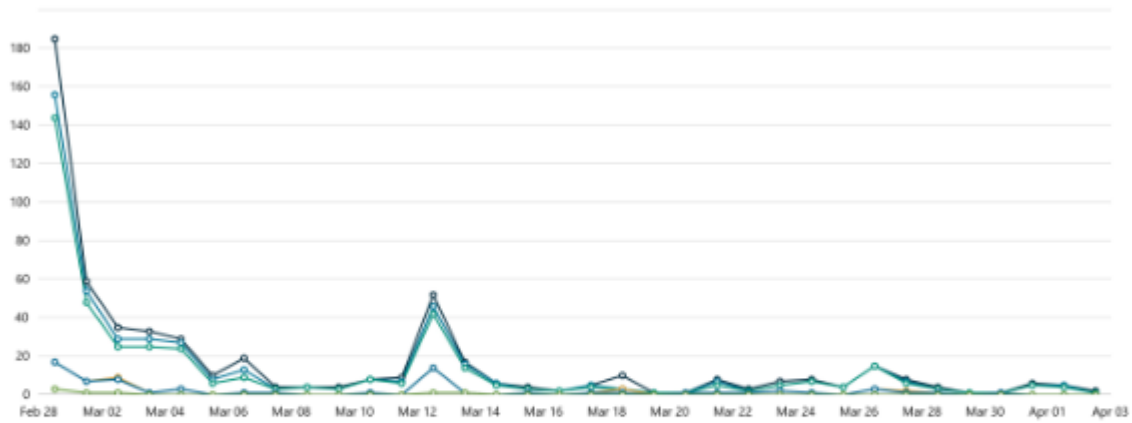
Element	Votes
Agility spaces	21
Digging spaces	16
Dog sniffing spaces	15

Voting Results



5 Consultation evaluation

Casey Conversations project page



569
Views

487
Visits

406
Visitors

73
Contributions

66
Contributors

7
Followers