City of Casey

Proposed Land Acquisition – 191-195 Belgrave-Hallam Rd, Narre Warren North

Community Engagement Summary Report

July 2026

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2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the proposal to purchase land in Narre Warren North to help complete the long-planned Frog Hollow to Lysterfield Park shared user trail.

At the June 2026 Council Meeting, Councillors endorsed the start of community consultation on the potential acquisition of part of the property at 191–195 Belgrave-Hallam Road. The proposal focuses on securing the section of land along Eumemmerring Creek needed to deliver a missing 2.2 kilometre link in the trail.

The Eumemmerring Creek trail has been a long-term priority, connecting Doveton, Eumemmerring and Narre Warren North through to Lysterfield Park. While much of the land for the trail has been already been acquired, this site is the final privately owned parcel needed to create a continuous connection.

Council has been working towards this outcome for more than 20 years and is now exploring the opportunity following an approach from the landowner, who has indicated they are willing to sell part their land. There are no current plans to acquire the full property.

Consultation on this proposal commenced on 18 June 2026 and closed on 16 July 2026. This consultation consisted of an online survey, hosted on Casey Conversations, and welcomed email submissions.

2.1 Key findings

Survey respondents were primarily in support of the proposed land acquisition (96%, 22 participants), with 4%, or one participant in opposition.

Further feedback on the project was themed into emerging categories. The most common of which were support for completing the Eumemmering Creek Trail (13 responses), improved connectivity between suburbs and destinations (10 responses), health, recreation and active transport benefits (8 responses) and strong support for land acquisition / rare opportunity (8 responses).

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will review community feedback and communicate plans for the proposed land acquisition moving forward.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide stakeholders an opportunity to relay their support or objection to the proposed land sale, including the opportunity to provide further detail to support their position.

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

- Casey Conversations landing page
- Detailed FAQs
- Letter to directly affected neighbours
- Media Release promoting community engagement opportunity
- Mention in 'community engagement' section of July Casey Catch Up

Key methods for gathering feedback

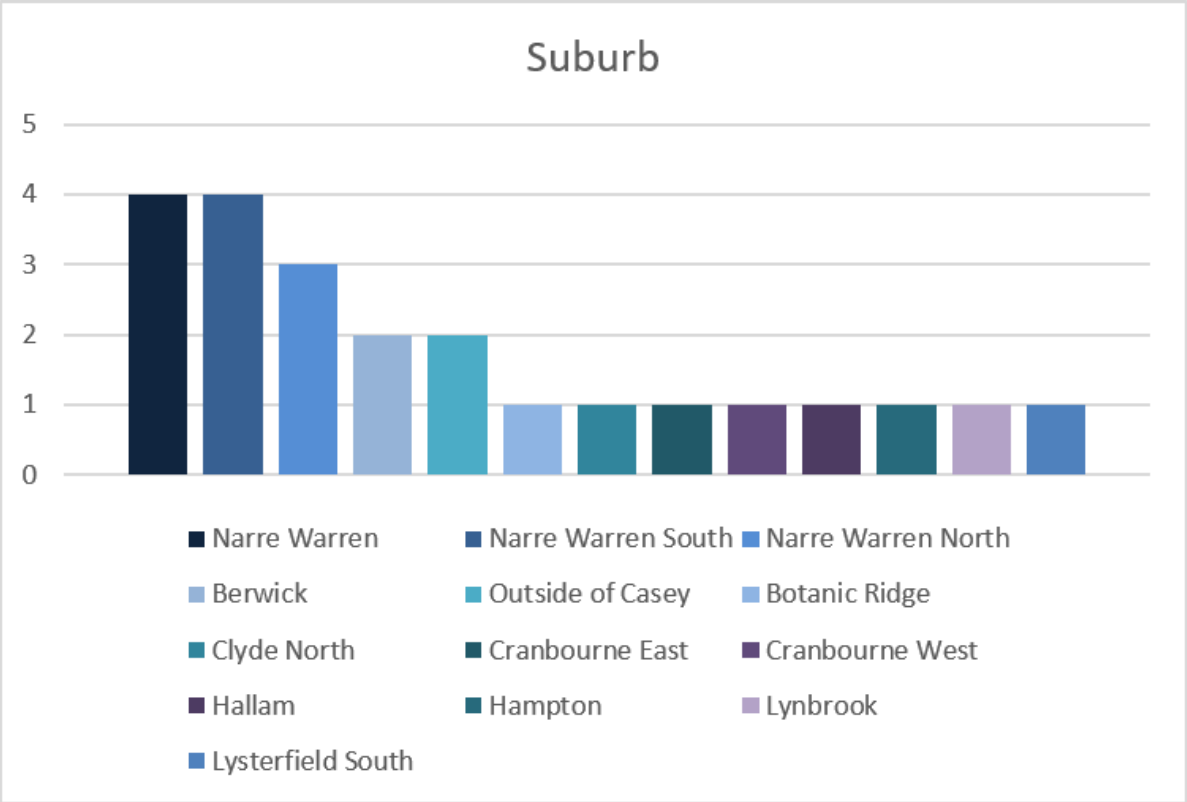
- Online survey submissions through Casey Conversations.
- Contact email address and phone number of Council Officer provided for interested community members to ask for further information or provide feedback
- Printed information available, as required.

Details	Activity
18 June – 16 July 2026 **253 visitors** 23 contributions	**Casey Conversations Website** Project information, online survey hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations. Online survey: 23 responses
2 contributions	**Email submissions** Submissions emailed directly to the Project Lead for consideration.

4 Who we heard from

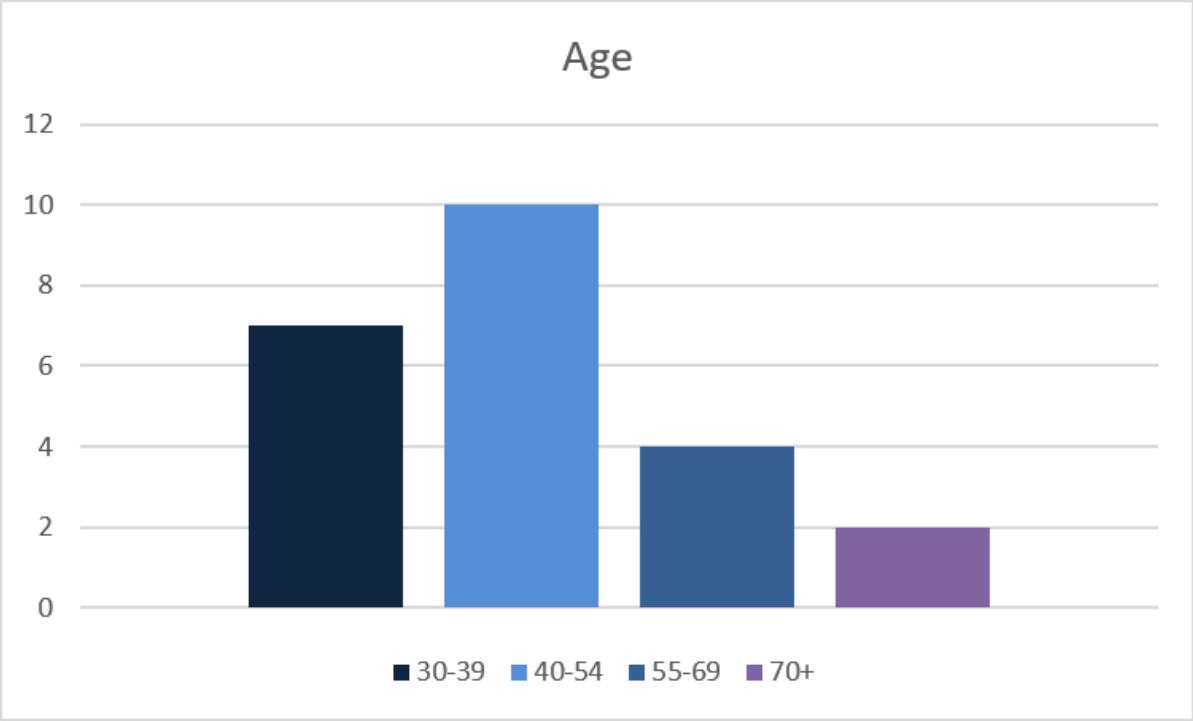
Survey respondents were asked to select their suburb, and results saw a high level of interest from Narre Warren (4) and Narre Warren South (4). Other prominent suburbs were Narre Warren North (3), Berwick (2) and suburbs outside of Casey (2). Figure 1 shows participation by suburb.

Figure 1. Participation by suburb



Survey respondents were asked to select their age range. Of those respondents, those aged between 40 – 54 were the highest represented age group (10), followed by 30 – 39 (7). There were no respondents under the age of 30. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of participation by age group.

Figure 2. Participation by age group



Survey respondents were asked to provide their gender identity. Similar levels of participation were seen from males (12) and females (11).

Of the communities of interest listed in the online survey, five respondents identified as speaking a language other than English at home, a further two identified as a person living with a disability, and one respondent identified as LGBTIQA+.

5 Consultation findings

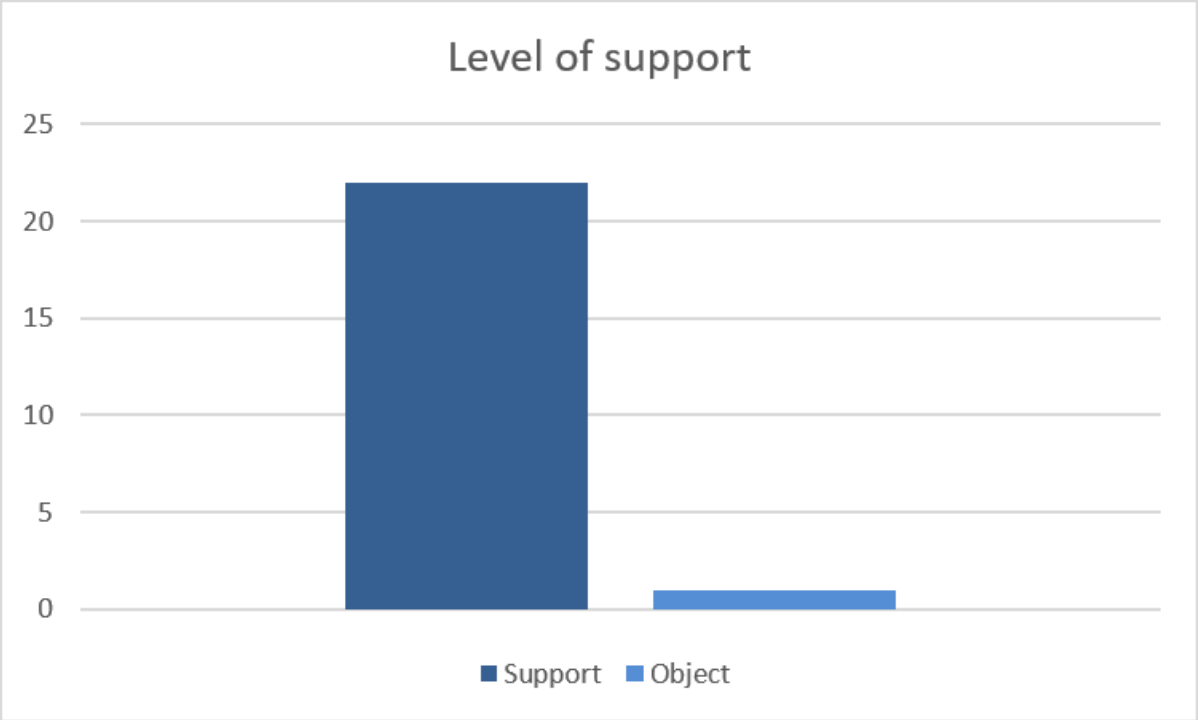
The following section summarises the key findings from the Proposed Land Acquisition consultation. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets.

5.1 Level of support for the Proposed Land Acquisition

Online survey respondents were asked to demonstrate their level of support for the proposed land acquisition at 191-195 Belgrave Hallam Road, Narre Warren. Many respondents were in favour of this upgrade (22), with a further one not in support. Figure 5 demonstrates the level of support for this project.

There were two email submissions as part of this project, with one demonstrating their strong support for the project, and another in support of the broader objectives of the project but with additional notes to consider. These submissions are not reflected in Figure 5. See email submissions for more information.

Figure 5. Level of support for the proposed land acquisition



Respondents were asked if they had any further feedback on the proposed land acquisition. These responses have been categorised into emerging themes below, with the amount of mentions. Of the feedback received, the most prominent theme was support for completing the Eumemmering Creek Trail Link (13), and improved connectivity between suburbs and destinations (10). Table 1 shows a breakdown of respondent feedback by theme.

Table 1. Themed feedback on the Proposed Land Acquisition

Theme	Description
Support for completing the Eumemmerring Creek Trail link (13)	Strong support for acquiring the land to deliver the missing trail connection and create a continuous route to Lysterfield Park.
Improved connectivity between suburbs and destinations (10)	Comments highlighted linking neighbouring suburbs, existing trails, Frog Hollow, Lysterfield Park and broader regional connections.
Health, recreation and active transport benefits (8)	Benefits for walking, cycling, exercise, recreation and increased outdoor activity.
Strong support for land acquisition / rare opportunity (8)	General support for Council purchasing the land and encouragement not to miss the opportunity.
Environmental protection, biodiversity and habitat conservation (7)	Support for preserving green space, protecting flora and fauna, enhancing habitat, and maintaining green corridors.
Public access and community benefit (4)	Increased public access to natural areas and broader community enjoyment of the land.
Regional significance / tourism potential (3)	Recognition that the project would benefit the wider south-east region and potentially attract visitors.
Desire for further information or consultation (2)	Requests to understand the full acquisition plan, impacts on existing facilities, and opportunities for discussion with Council.
Suggestions for additional trail connections (2)	Suggestions to extend connections from Hallam or further integrate surrounding trail networks.
Concerns about impacts on nearby residents (1)	Concerns regarding privacy, safety, noise, loss of rural character, overdevelopment and increased public access.

5.2 Email submissions

Email submission 1

A resident expressed support for the project's broader objectives but raised concerns regarding potential impacts on privacy, security and residential amenity associated with the proposed trail alignment.

The resident requested consideration of measures to support privacy, security and amenity outcomes as part of the project, including fencing, controlled access and landscaping treatments. They also expressed a desire to be kept informed throughout the project.

Email submission 2

Friends of Frog Hollow Inc. expressed strong support for the proposed land acquisition, describing it as the final and critical step required to deliver a long-advocated shared path connection along Eumemmerring Creek. The group referred to the project as the “missing link” and highlighted its significance as a regionally important community and environmental corridor.

The organisation outlined its longstanding involvement in environmental restoration and community engagement activities across Frog Hollow Reserve, Eumemmerring Creek and surrounding areas. As a volunteer not-for-profit group operating for more than 20 years, it noted its contribution to extensive revegetation works, community planting events and environmental education initiatives.

The group emphasised that it has consistently advocated for an off-road trail connection between Frog Hollow Reserve and Lysterfield Lake Park, viewing the proposal as a logical and strategic link that aligns with numerous state, regional and local planning, biodiversity, recreation and environmental strategies.

The submission highlighted a range of anticipated community and environmental benefits, including:

- Connecting Frog Hollow Reserve and Lysterfield Lake Park.
- Improving habitat connectivity for native wildlife.
- Supporting rehabilitation and revegetation of a degraded section of Eumemmerring Creek.
- Enhancing recreational opportunities through expanded walking and cycling trail networks.
- Strengthening connections to broader regional park and trail networks.
- Improving stormwater quality entering downstream waterways.
- Reducing creek bank erosion.

Friends of Frog Hollow Inc. noted that it had supported previous Council efforts to secure the required land and strongly encouraged Council to proceed with the acquisition, describing the current landowner offer as an opportunity that should not be missed.

6 Consultation evaluation

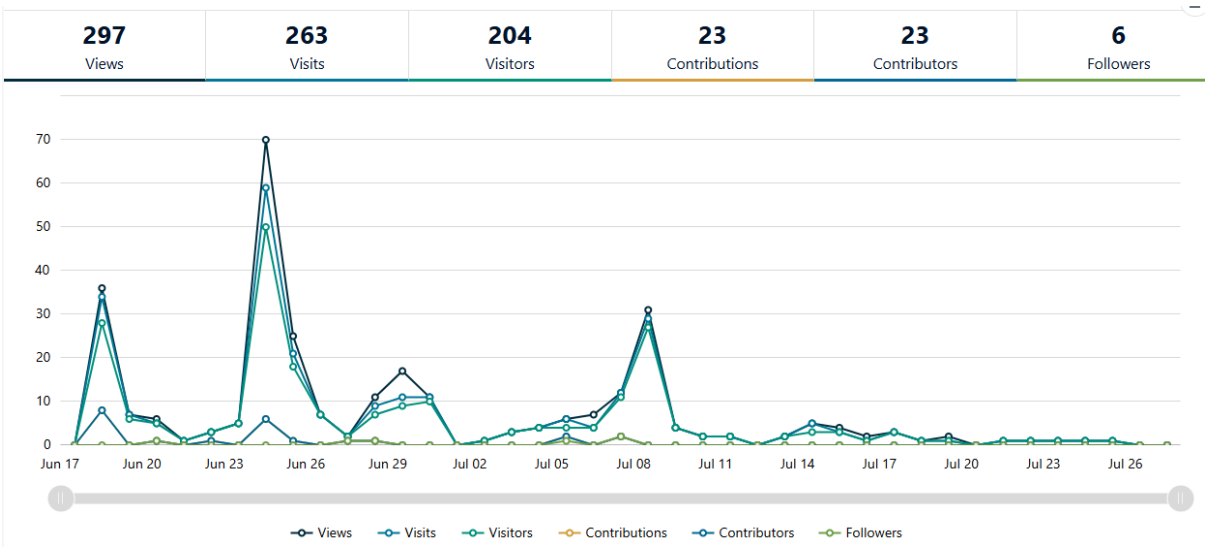
This report presents the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered during community engagement from 18 June to 16 July 2026.

The consultation was promoted to key stakeholders via:

- Casey Conversations landing page
- Letter to directly affected neighbours
- Media Release promoting community engagement opportunity
- Mention in 'community engagement' section of July Casey Catch Up

The engagement program received a total of 25 contributions, in the form of online surveys completed via Casey Conversations, and two email submissions.

6.1 Casey Conversations project page



Engagement targets for the Casey Conversations webpages were that:

- 15% of visits would last at least one active minute (exceeded, 31.94%)
- 10% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (exceeded, 16.73%)
- 5% of visits had at least one contribution made (exceeded, 7.6%)

6.2 Satisfaction with engagement process

Survey respondents were generally satisfied with how easy it was to find the information needed for informed participation. Respondent selections on how easy or difficult this information was to find included: very easy (48%), easy (35%) and neutral (13%). One participant found the information difficult to find.

The primary avenues for hearing of this consultation were social media (36%), direct email (32%) and Council e-news (16%). Other avenues included word of mouth (8%) council staff member (4%) and council website (4%). When asked if there was anything missing, one respondent remarked on the lower likelihood of coming across this information organically - "It is not a natural thing to find."