



Doveton Pool in the Park Playground Design

Community engagement summary report
July 2025



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Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the Doveton Pool in the Park Playground Design.

In 2022, the City of Casey developed the Doveton Pool in the Park Master Plan and sought input from the local community to guide the future use of this valued space.

The project has now progressed to Stage Two, which focuses on the design of a new public park adjacent to Doveton Pool. The new park is proposed to include a District-level playground with a wide variety of play elements and design features that reflect the site's local significance. The community was invited to help shape key elements of the park's development, including the types of play and exercise equipment, design aesthetics, and social gathering spaces.

A range of engagement methods were made available to encourage participation, including an online survey, in-person pop-ups at Autumn Place Community Centre and Doveton College, as well as email, phone, and postal submissions. Materials were also available in printed format upon request.

From 17 May to 29 June 2025, a six-week community engagement process was held to gather community feedback on the proposed future design.

2.1 Key findings

The community engagement process for the proposed Doveton Pool in the Park playground design highlighted strong enthusiasm with 105 online contributions and approximately 180 in person. Many respondents welcoming the idea of a year-round, inclusive play space that offers a variety of recreational features and is easily accessible from local shops and public transport.

The location was seen as a positive step toward improving the area's image and providing a safe space for children and young people. There was a small group (17%) of participants who expressed disappointment around the removal of the kids/toddler pool, with comments emphasising its importance for water safety and community connection, particularly in a culturally diverse area.

Suggestions for improvement to the playground design included adding a multipurpose court, outdoor fitness equipment, shaded seating, social spaces, and features that reflect Indigenous culture. Overall, the community (83%) expressed a strong desire for a well-maintained, welcoming space that supports social gatherings and caters to people of all ages.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will incorporate community feedback into the concept design of the future play space. The detailed design is expected to be shared in late 2025.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026.

Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to gather feedback from community members who use Doveton Pool in the Park, residents of the local area, adjacent school students and parents and the wider City of Casey community.

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
- The Casey Catch up
- Signage and displays
- Local newspaper advertisement
- Letterbox drop to surrounding residents
- 2 community pop ups to discuss the project in detail with Council officers

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide feedback via survey
- 2 community pop ups
- 3 static displays, featuring project information
- 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
17 May – 29 June 2025	Casey Conversations Website
547 visitors	Project information and online survey hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations.
105 contributions	Online survey: 103 responses
	Emails: 2 submissions

5, 13, and 26 June 2025

180 visitors estimated

Community Pop Ups and Conversations

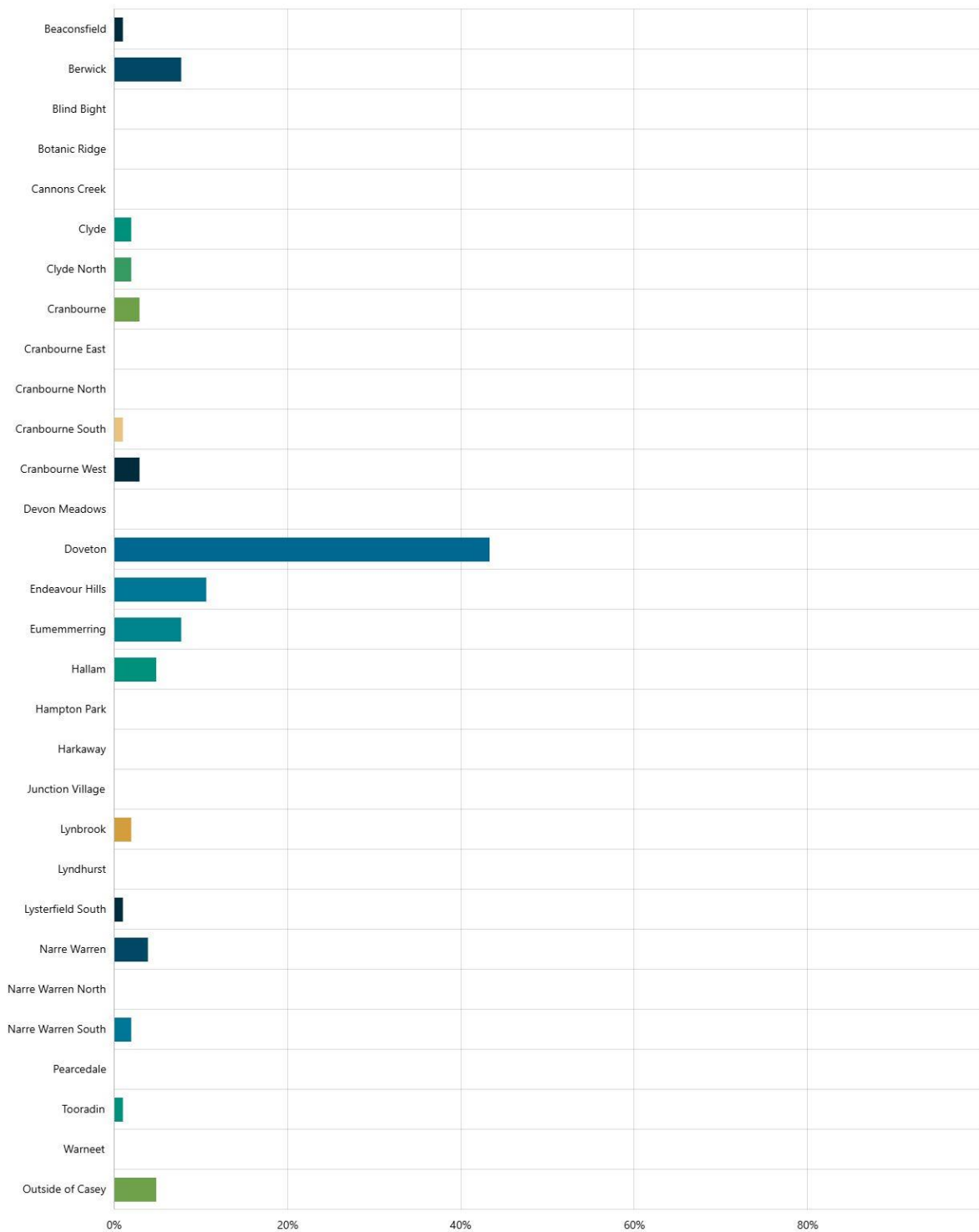
Council project officers were onsite at multiple pop-up locations to answer questions, gather feedback and promote the project.

- Autumn Place Playground
- Doveton College
- Aboriginal Gathering Place

Who we heard from

Number of Survey Responses by Suburb

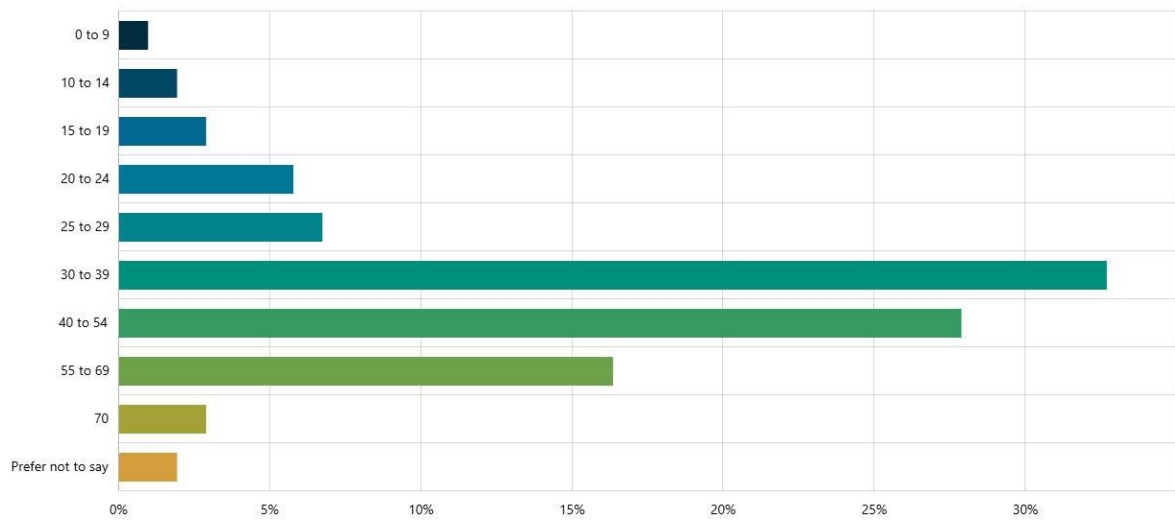
Out of the 103 survey responses, 69 (66.35%) were from Doveton and neighbouring suburbs, including Endeavour Hills. Eumemmerring and Hallam.



Age of Survey Respondents

Survey respondents were asked to provide their age. Children and young people were underrepresented in the survey; however, their feedback was captured through community pop ups.

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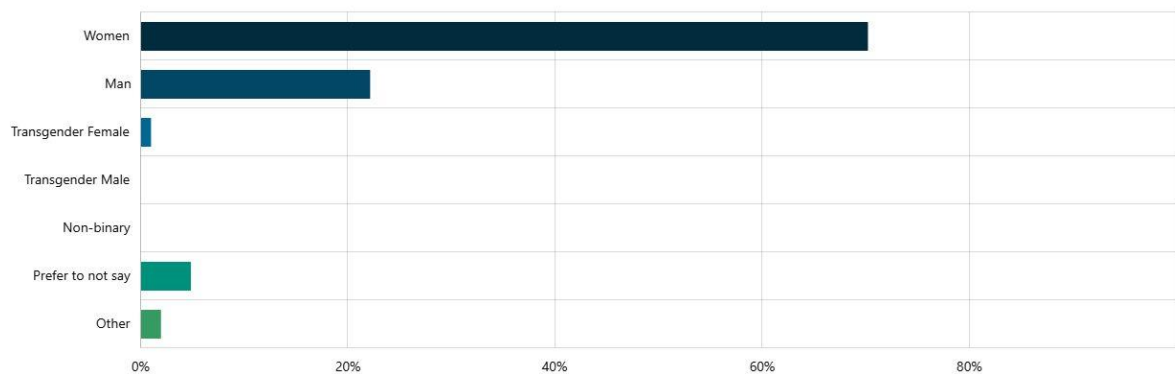
Age selection

Amount

0 to 9	1
10 to 14	2
15 to 19	3
20 to 24	6
25 to 29	7
30 to 39	34
40 to 54	29
55 to 69	17
70+	3
Prefer not to say	2

Gender of Survey Respondents

Survey respondents were asked to provide their gender.



Gender selection

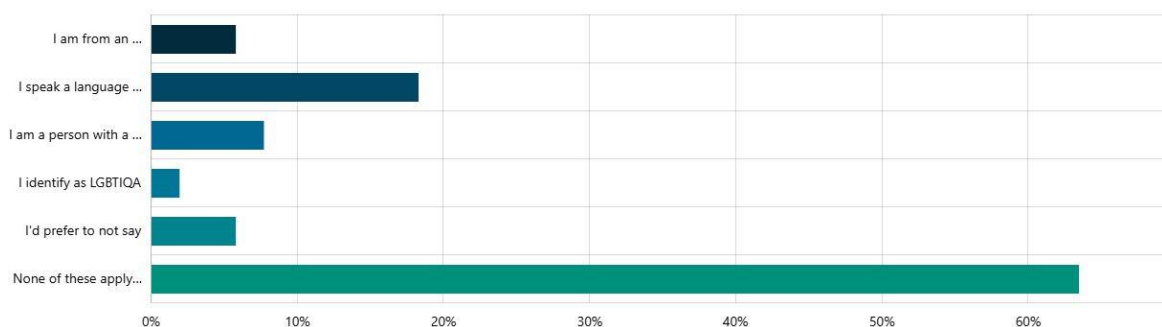
Amount

Woman	73
Man	23

Transgender Female	1
Transgender Male	0
Non-binary	0
Prefer to not say	5
Other	2

Further Demographics of Survey Respondents

Survey respondents were asked to tick as many statements as possible that apply to them. Below graph shows their responses.



Selection	Amount
I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	6
I speak a language other than English at home	19
I am a person with a disability	8
I identify as LGBTIQ	2
Prefer to not say	6
None of these apply to me	66

Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on the design of the new Doveton park and playground. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets. Conversations with community are included in the item specific feedback table.

5.1 Support for actions

The community feedback on the new park and playground design reflects a highly engaged response to the Doveton Pool in the Park site with over 200 participants.

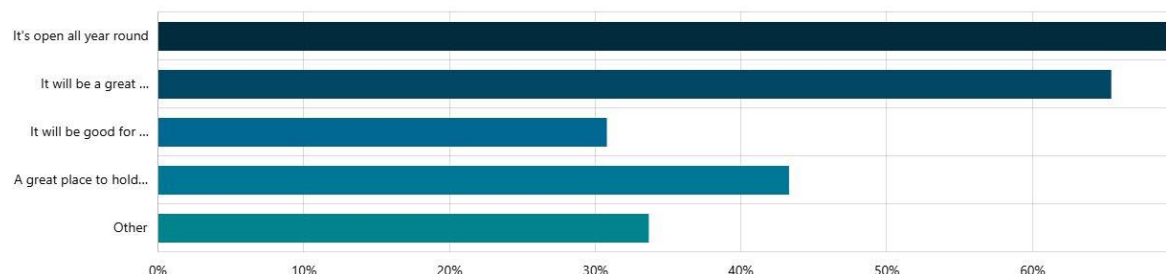
While it's not the focus of this stage of consultation, some community members expressed disappointment regarding the exclusion of a kids/toddler pool and many highlighted the pool's importance for water safety education, particularly in a multicultural and socioeconomically diverse area and provided in person commentary on how excited they were to see it being rebuilt.

Significant positive feedback was recorded, especially during community pop-up sessions. Community appreciated the playspace's location within walking distance of local shops and bus stops. They also noted that having a safe and accessible area for children and young people to use after school hours is a significant improvement, as no similar facilities being currently available nearby.

Some respondents acknowledged the potential for the new space to enhance the image of Doveton and provide a vibrant, inclusive environment, provided it is properly maintained. Suggestions for inclusions to the park included the addition of multi-use courts, educational features related to Indigenous culture, communication boards, all year food and drink sales and improved pedestrian access from surrounding streets.

Some participants raised concern about the perceived misuse of ratepayer funds, with respondents questioning the necessity of the public park and playground given they feel there is a high number of parks in the area already.

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked '*What stands out to you about the new play space?*'



Selection

Amount

It's open all year round

72

It will be a great place to hang out with friends and family

68

It will be good for scootering and playing sports

32

A great place to hold parties and celebrations

45

Other

35

Total

104

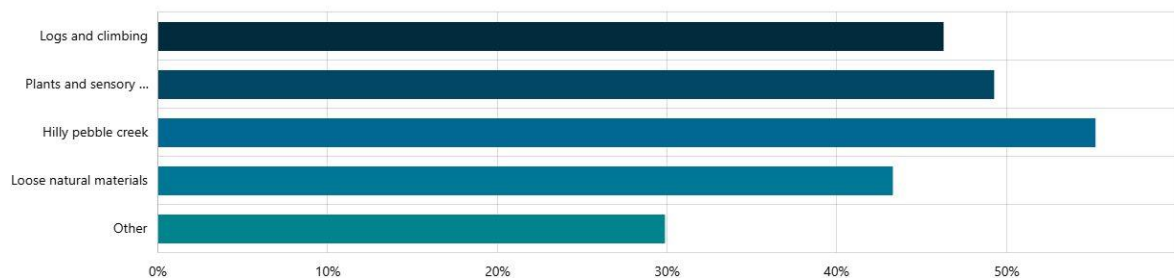
5.2 Item-specific feedback

The online survey was divided into eight key areas, and respondents were able to provide feedback on as many or as few as they wished. The breakdown of responses for each area is as follows:

- Nature play and hill area -16 responses
- Sand/Water play area - 20 responses
- Younger kids play area - 24 responses
- Older kids play area - 29 responses
- Youth active zone - 18 responses
- Picnic and BBQ area - 20 responses
- Places where people can hang out together (Social gathering areas) - 20 responses
- Public art - 10 responses

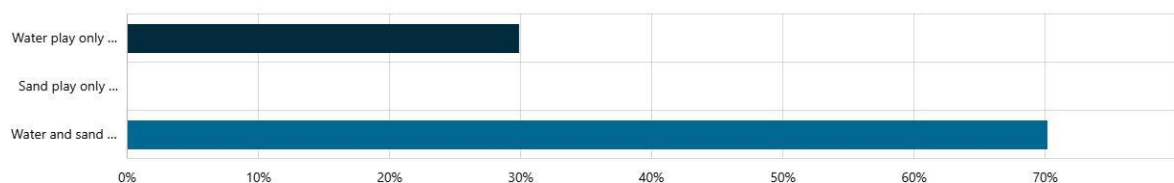
A total of 68 respondents chose to provide their feedback on all eight areas.

Survey respondents were asked ‘What kinds of nature-based play do you like most?’ Multiple selections were available.



Selection	Amount
Logs and climbing	31
Plants and sensory gardens	33
Hilly pebble creek	37
Loose natural materials	29
Other	20
Total	67

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked ‘Which choice do you like most in a water and/or sand play area?’



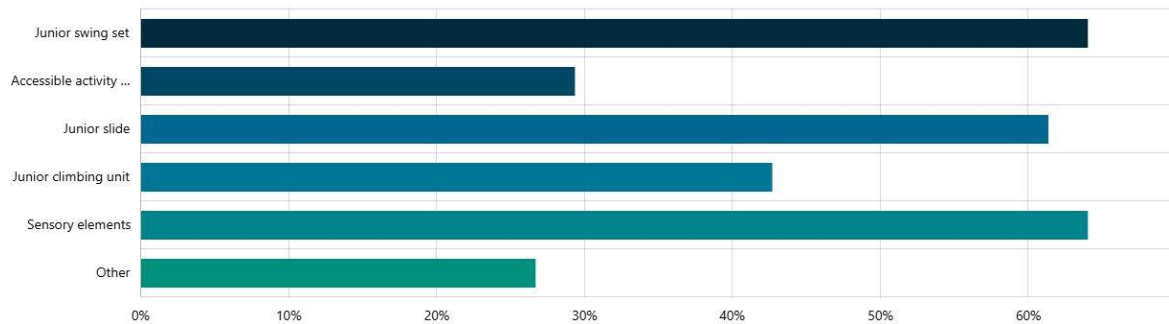
Survey Selection	Amount
Water play only (water pumps and jets)	20
Sand play only (digging and building)	0
Water and sand combined play	47

Total

67

Community pop up feedback suggested a strong preference for water play elements as a small number of community members shared negative sentiment towards sand and its required maintenance and upkeep.

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked ‘What playthings should we put in a younger kid’s area?’ Multiple selections were available.

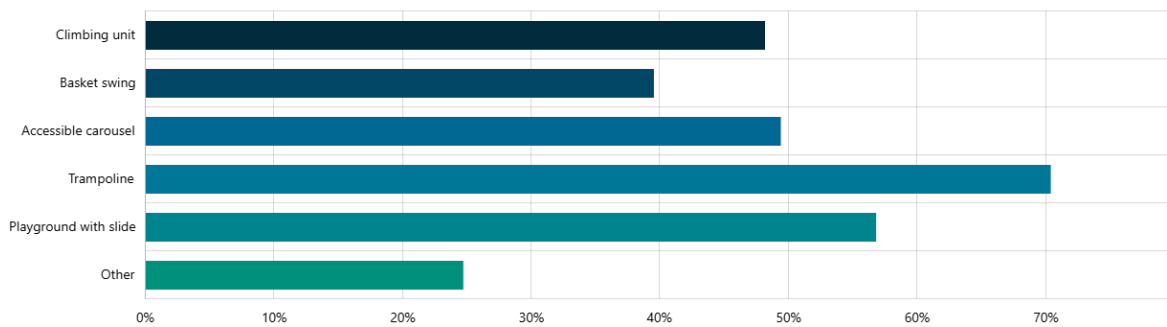


Survey Selection	Amount
Junior swing set	48
Accessible activity panels	22
Junior slide	46
Junior climbing unit	32
Sensory elements	48
Other	20
Total	75

Survey respondents who selected the "Other" option, along with participants in community pop-up conversations, suggested including a parent-and-child swing similar to the one at Autumn Place. There was also feedback to avoid installing a slide like the one currently featured in that park. Respondents emphasised the importance of offering a variety of play options, including nature-based play, and ensuring that equipment is visible to parents, shaded, and supported by nearby seating. A small group of respondents also expressed interest in the inclusion or return of the pool.

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked ‘Which playthings should we put in older kids area?’ Multiple selections were available.

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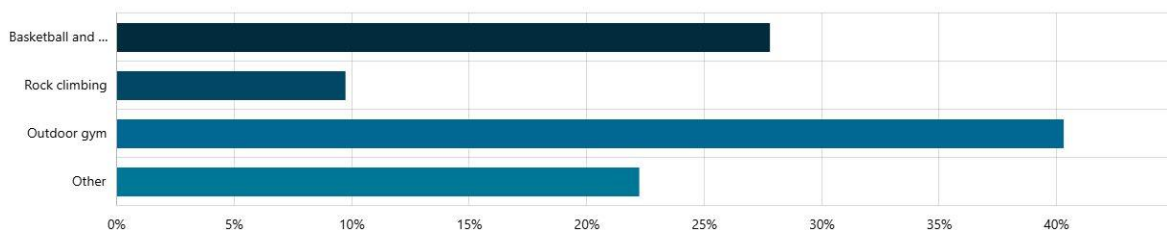
Survey Selection

Amount

Climbing unit	39
Basket swing	32
Accessible carousel	40
Trampoline	57
Playground with slide	46
Other	20
Total	81

Survey respondents who selected the "Other" option, along with participants in community pop-up conversations, suggested including a mix of both challenging/risky and inclusive play elements. Features such as flying foxes with one suggestion to include adult seating were commonly mentioned as ways to make the space more engaging for a wider age range. A small group of respondents also expressed interest in bringing back water slides (12 mentions) and diving boards (3 mentions).

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked ‘Which of the following would you or your family use?’ Multiple selections were available.



Survey Selection

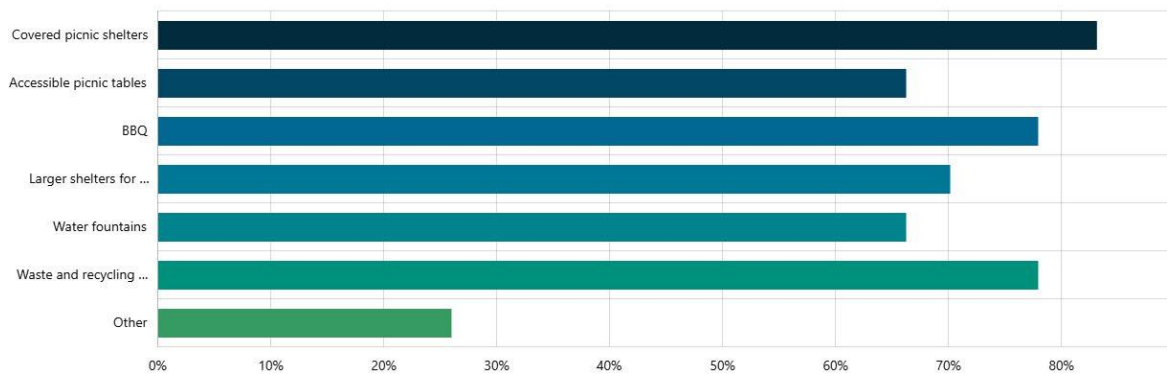
Amount

Basketball and netball court	20
Rock climbing	7
Outdoor gym	29
Other	16
Total	72

Survey respondents who selected the "Other" option, along with participants in community pop-up conversations, expressed strong support for the inclusion of an outdoor gym. The image provided during consultation was well received, with many highlighting the value of a space for outdoor workouts, group fitness, and yoga. This feature was seen as beneficial across all age groups and genders. Additionally, there was a clear preference for a multi-functional sports court that could accommodate a variety of activities, including basketball, netball, soccer, volleyball, and badminton, to ensure the space meets diverse recreational needs.

A few community suggestions were provided to ensure the space looked presentable to create social media content.

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked ‘What would you like in the picnic and BBQ areas?’ Multiple selections were available.

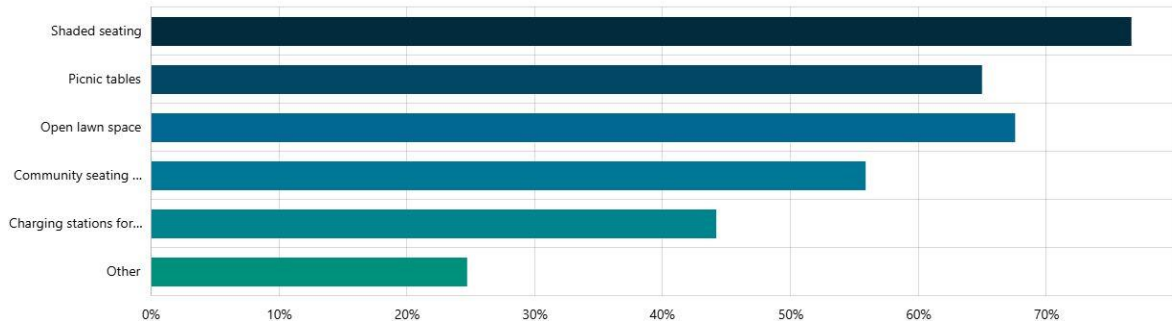


Survey Selection	Amount
Covered picnic shelters	64
Accessible picnic tables	51
BBQ	60
Larger shelters for group events	54
Water fountains	51
Waste and recycling bins	60
Other	20
Total	77

Survey respondents who selected the "Other" option, along with participants in community pop-up conversations, suggested that the space should support cultural celebrations and provide a safe, inclusive environment for diverse community groups and services. These spaces were seen as valuable assets that should be large and flexible enough to accommodate people of all ages and their individual needs. To support safety and usability, suggestions included the installation of lighting, CCTV, and maintaining clear sight lines throughout the area. One community member also

raised a concern about the location of the public toilet, noting its proximity to nearby residential properties.

Survey respondents and pop-up attendees were asked ‘What would you like in social gathering areas?’ Multiple selections were available.



Survey Selection

Amount

Shaded seating

59

Picnic tables

50

Open lawn space

52

Community seating areas

43

Charging stations for devices

34

Other

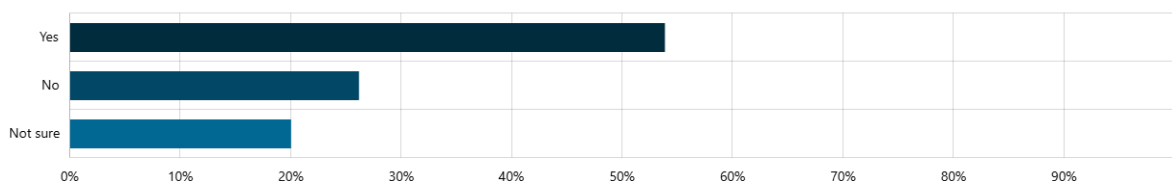
19

Total

77

Community pop-up feedback suggested a strong preference for a space that feels welcoming, inclusive, and reflective of Doveton’s identity. Many people spoke about wanting more than just a playground and were positive to hear that the plans included a place where families can gather, relax, and connect.

Survey respondents were asked ‘Would you like to see public art in the park?’



Survey Selection

Amount

Yes

35

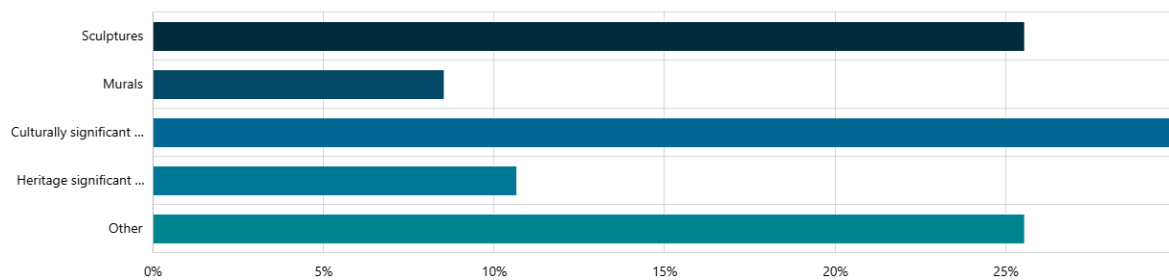
No

17

Not sure

13

Those survey respondents were asked a follow up question regarding '*What type of artwork would you like?*'



Survey Selection	Amount
Sculptures	12
Murals	4
Culturally significant public art	14
Heritage significant public art	5
Other	12
Total	47

Survey respondents who selected the "Other" option suggested incorporating interactive elements into the play space. These included features such as First Nations cultural representation, graffiti-style art, educational components, and artworks created by children. These ideas reflect a desire for the space to be not only recreational but also creative, inclusive, and culturally meaningful.

5.2.1 Doveton Pool in the Park

Respondents shared memories they've made at Doveton Pool in the Park, describing it as more than just a place to swim but a space that brings families together and helps the community stay connected. It also plays a key role in teaching water safety, particularly for culturally diverse families. There were 18 mentions expressing concern to the idea of replacing the kids/toddler pool with a public park/playground, saying it would be a huge loss. Instead, they suggested keeping the toddler pool, improving the slides, renovating the bathrooms, and making it more family friendly.

During community pop-up sessions, council officers provided further information about plans to retain and upgrade the 50-metre pool. This was positively received, with residents expressing support for having both the pool and a public park. The idea of using the park for parties and celebrations was welcomed, and some respondents asked whether there would be easy access between the pool and the new play space.

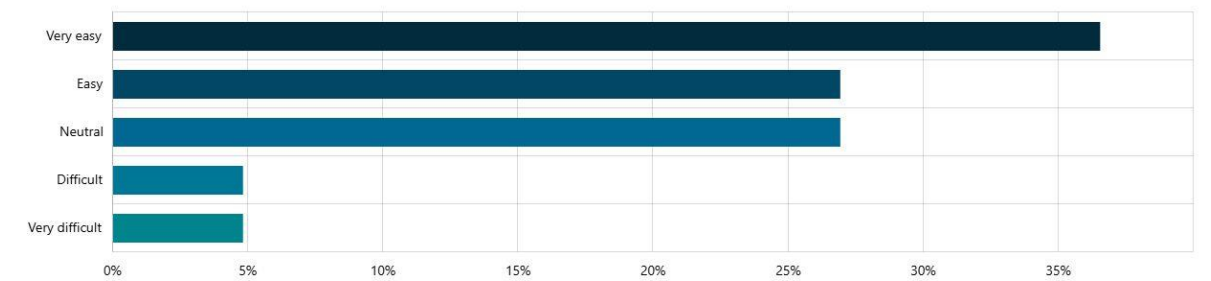
Consultation evaluation

This report presents the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered during the community engagement from 17 May to 29 June 2025.

The engagement was conducted over six weeks and made available through Casey Conversations. It was promoted across the City of Casey using a targeted, localised approach, with project officers engaging in face-to-face conversations at pop-up events and Council-run services.

5.3 Satisfaction with engagement process

Survey participants were asked ‘How easy or difficult was it to find the information you needed?’

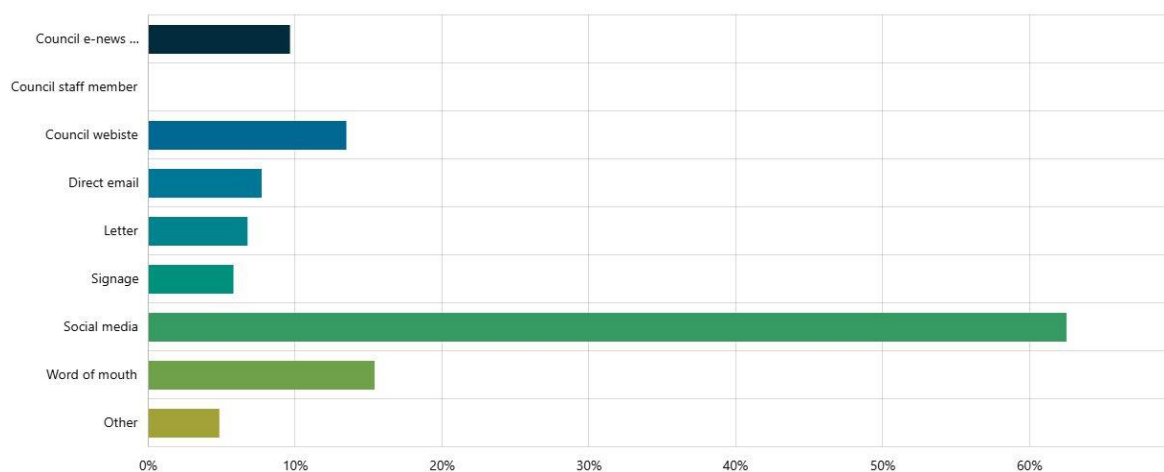


Selection	Amount
Very easy	38
Easy	28
Neutral	28
Difficult	5
Very difficult	5

Survey respondents who selected 'difficult' or 'very difficult,' a follow-up question was asked: 'What was missing?'

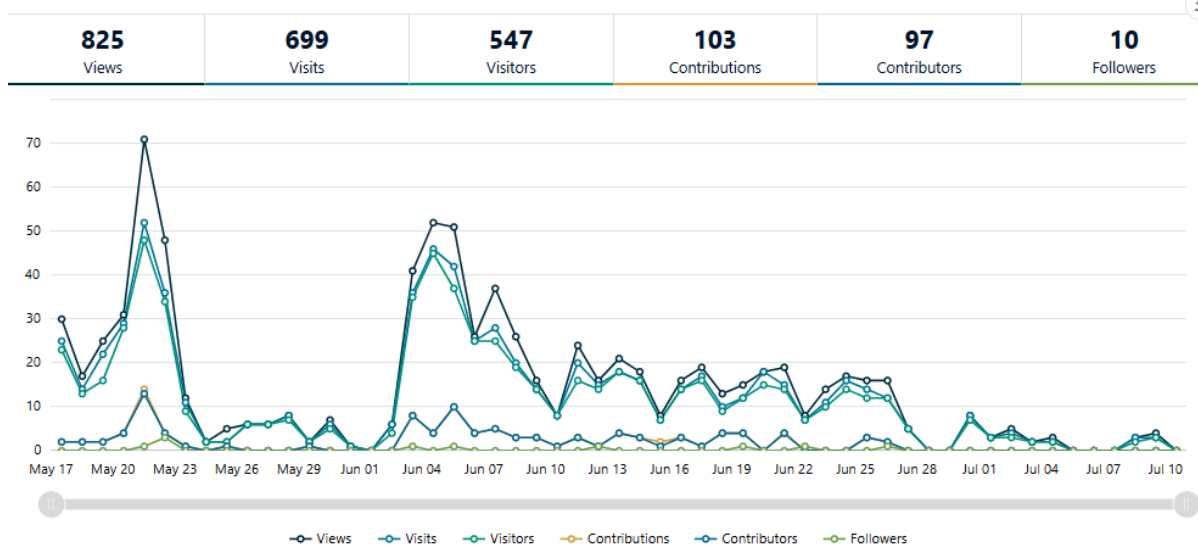
9 of the 10 responses mentioned topics regarding the inclusion of the pool, of these 4 mentioned a small pool and slides.

Survey respondents were asked ‘How did you hear about the consultation on this project?’.



Selection	Amount
Council e-news (Casey Catch UP)	10
Council staff member	0
Council website	14
Direct email	8
Letter	7
Signage	6
Social media	65
Word of mouth	16
Other	5
Total	104

Performance Summary



Appendix

Doveton Pool kids' slides and pool petition

During the engagement period an electronic petition of 2138 signatories was received and tabled at the July 15, 2025, Council meeting. The petition was carried unanimously by Council Councillors, with a response being prepared by the CEO. See Council website for more information.