

Waterbush Crescent Upgrade

Community engagement summary report
May 2026

1	Contents	
2	Background	2
2.1	Key findings	2
2.2	Next steps	3
3	Consultation overview	3
3.1	Consultation purpose	3
3.2	Consultation process	3
4	Who we heard from	5
5	Consultation findings	6
5.1	Support for actions	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6	Consultation evaluation	10
6.1	Satisfaction with engagement process	11

2 Background

Council is planning an upgrade to the Waterbush Crescent Reserve, Lyndhurst, as part of its Playground Renewal Program. The project aims to renew the existing local play space to better meet the needs of the surrounding community while remaining within the scope of a district-level reserve.

The consultation sought feedback from the community on how the reserve is currently used and what improvements would enhance the space. Community input will be used to inform future concept designs and ensure the upgraded playground reflects local priorities.

Consultation was open in early 2026 and closed on 19 April 2026.

2.1 Key findings

Community feedback from approximately 53 responses highlighted several consistent and strong themes regarding the future of Waterbush Crescent Reserve.

Overall, respondents expressed that while the park is valued as a local open space, it is currently underutilised due to limited and outdated play opportunities. More than half of respondents referenced the playground as being suited mainly to very young children, with a strong desire to cater for older age groups.

A strong theme across responses was the need for diverse and updated play equipment, with core items such as swings, slides and climbing structures, alongside calls for more dynamic elements such as flying foxes and obstacle-based play. There was also clear interest in multi-use and active recreation spaces, with respondents referencing courts, sports areas or better use of the large grassed spaces.

Safety was one of the most prominent concerns, with mentions of fencing, traffic and proximity to roads. Requests for fencing around the playground were especially consistent, along with concerns about off-leash dogs raised by respondents.

Participants consistently highlighted the need for basic supporting infrastructure improvements, particularly:

- Drinking fountains
- Rubbish bins
- Shade and seating
- BBQ and picnic facilities.

There was also strong interest in broadening the usability of the space, including:

- Facilities for older children and young people
- Informal social and gathering spaces
- Fitness equipment for adults
- Dog-friendly areas

Maintenance issues were also raised frequently including ageing equipment, cleanliness, tree branch hazards, and poor positioning of existing infrastructure.

Overall, the feedback reflects a desire to transform the reserve into a safe, functional and more engaging neighbourhood park, with a balanced mix of play, recreation and social elements for a wide range of users.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider community feedback and will seek further feedback on the concept designs June/July 2026.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide park users and the broader community with an opportunity to contribute ideas and feedback to inform the future upgrade of Waterbush Crescent Reserve.

Community members were asked how they currently use the space, what they value, and what improvements they would like to see included in the future design

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

- Website news story
- Council's e-newsletter, Casey Catch up
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media
- Signage on site

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide feedback via survey, voting poll, upload an image and/or ask a question online
- 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 March – 8 May 2026 410 visitors 53 contributions	Casey Conversations Website Project information, online survey and written submission hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations. Online survey: 35 responses Voting poll: 18 responses

4 Who we heard from

35 people shared feedback through an online form

Where participants live

- **32 people (91.43%)** from Lyndhurst
- **2 people (5.71%)** from Lynbrook
- **1 person (2.86%)** from Hallam

Age groups

- **14 people (40%)** aged 30–39
- **11 people (31.43%)** aged 40–54
- **3 people (8.57%)** aged 25–29
- **2 people (5.71%)** aged 55–69
- **2 people (5.71%)** aged 20–24
- **2 people (5.71%)** aged 15–19
- **1 person (2.86%)** aged 10–14

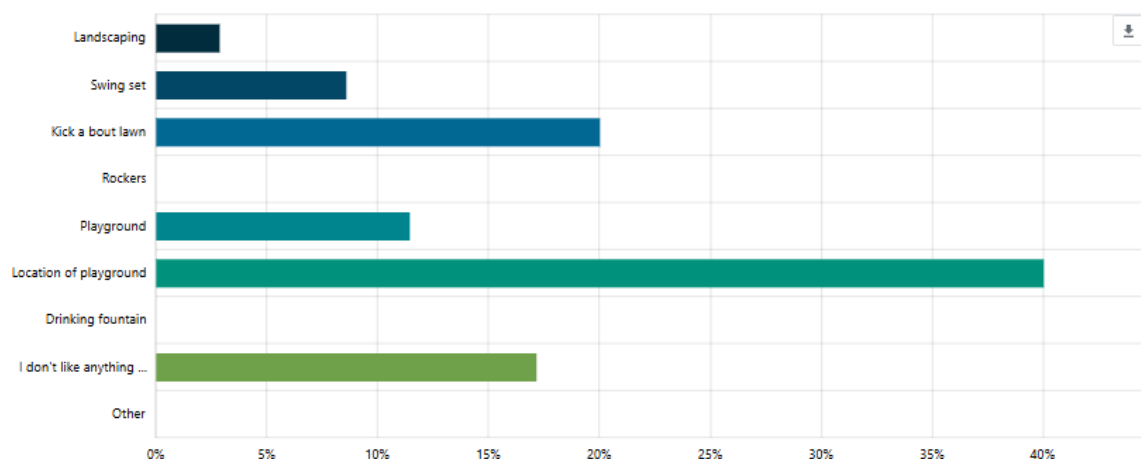
Gender and diversity

- **20 people (57.14%)** identified as women
- **15 people (42.86%)** identified as men
- **5 people (14.29%)** speak a language other than English at home
- **2 people (5.71%)** identified as a person with a disability
- **1 person (2.86%)** identified as LGBTIQ+
- **1 person (2.86%)** identified as being from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background

Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes that arose in community feedback on the Waterbush Reserve. 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 and italics.

What does community like most about the playground or social area as it is now?

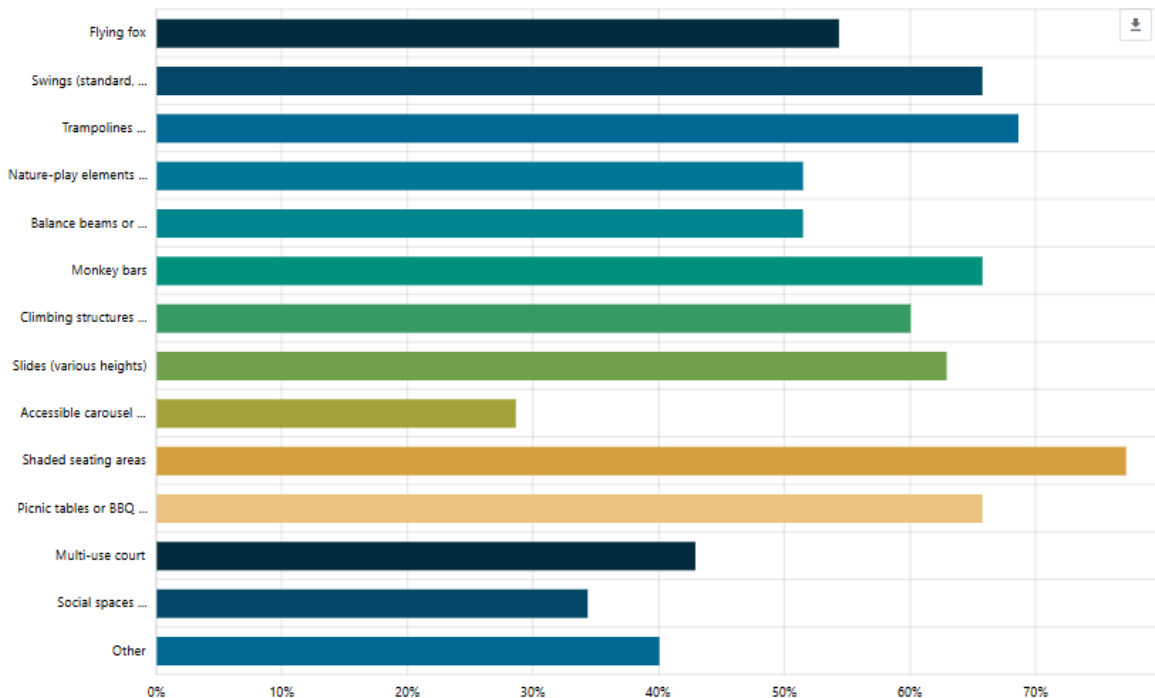


Most respondents identified the playground's location as the feature they value most, with 14 people selecting this option. The kick-about lawn was the next most popular feature, chosen by 7 respondents, highlighting its importance as a space for informal play and recreation.

Four respondents selected the playground more broadly as something they enjoy, while 3 highlighted the swing set as a key feature. A smaller number of respondents (1) indicated that landscaping contributes to the appeal of the space. No respondents selected the rockers or drinking fountain.

Notably, 6 respondents indicated that they do not like anything about the playground as it currently stands, suggesting there is an opportunity for significant improvement to better meet community expectations.

What would the community like included in the new playground?



Shaded seating areas were the most strongly supported feature, identified by 27 respondents, highlighting the importance of comfort and opportunities for supervision and social connection within the space. This was followed by in-ground trampolines (24), swings (23), monkey bars (23) and picnic tables or BBQ facilities (23), all of which reflect a clear preference for a mix of active play and family-friendly amenities.

Slides (22) and climbing structures or nets (21) were also highly valued, reinforcing demand for varied and challenging play experiences. A moderate number of respondents supported the inclusion of a flying fox (19), as well as nature-play elements and balance or obstacle features (18 each), indicating interest in both traditional and more naturalised play opportunities.

Multi-use courts (15) and social spaces such as pavilions (12) received more moderate support, while accessible carousels or spinners were selected by 10 respondents.

A total of 14 respondents selected 'other', suggesting additional features such as water play areas, bike paths with traffic elements, fitness equipment for youth and adults, dog-friendly spaces, improved drinking fountains, better lighting, and increased fencing for safety.

Further suggestions

In addition to the structured survey responses, participants provided a wide range of detailed suggestions that highlight key themes for the future upgrade.

- **Current perceptions of the reserve**

Respondents indicated the reserve has a good location and open space, but is currently limited in appeal due to:

- Ageing or minimal play equipment (20 mentions)
- Lack of facilities (20 mentions)
- Limited activities for older children (25 mentions)

10 respondents noted they travel to other nearby parks that offer better facilities and more engaging play experiences.

- **Preferred improvements and features**

Survey responses indicate strong support for a range of play and park features, including:

Play equipment and active recreation

- Swings, slides and climbing structures (30 mentions)
- Flying fox (10 mentions)
- Nature-based play elements (12 mentions)
- Obstacle and balance play (10 mentions)
- Facilities for older children (e.g. courts, sports elements) (20 mentions)

Amenities and social infrastructure

- Shaded seating and picnic areas (17 mentions)
- BBQ facilities (10 mentions)
- Drinking fountains (15 mentions)
- Additional bins (15 mentions)

Expanded use of space

- Better integration of large grassed areas (17 mentions)
- Informal sports (soccer, cricket, basketball) (18 mentions)
- Adult fitness equipment (10 mentions)

Safety and accessibility

Safety concerns were a key theme, including:

- Requests for fencing around the playground (18 mentions)
- Concerns about proximity to roads and traffic speed (15 mentions)
- Need for improved pedestrian crossings and access (10 mentions)
- Concerns about off-leash dogs in shared spaces (8 mentions)

Accessibility and usability were also highlighted, including:

- Inclusive design (12 mentions)
- Equipment suitable for a wider age range (19 mentions)
- Improved layout and supervision (7 mentions)

Maintenance and condition

Participants raised concerns about the current condition of the reserve, including:

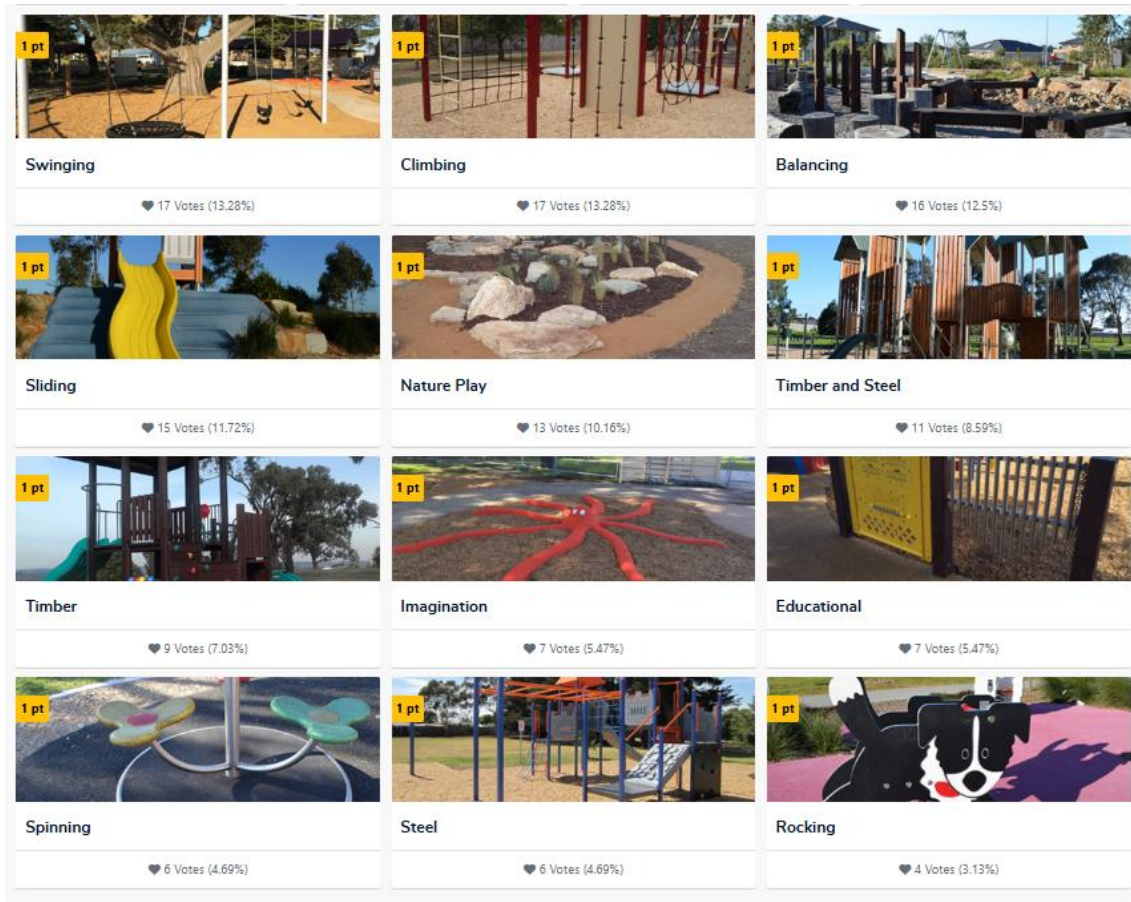
- Ageing and outdated equipment (14 mentions)
- Dirty or poorly located drinking fountains (16 mentions)
- Lack of bins and resulting litter (16 mentions)
- Tree maintenance and falling branches (11 mentions)

Additional community suggestions that are out of scope for this project

- Dog-friendly or fenced off-leash areas (8–10 mentions)
- Social/community features such as book-sharing stations
- Improved lighting for safety (5 mentions)
- Water play (2 mentions)

Voting poll results

Voting poll respondents showed a clear preference for a mix of dynamic and traditional play elements in a future play space. Swinging and climbing were the most popular features, each receiving 17 votes (13.28%), followed closely by balancing with 16 votes (12.5%) and sliding with 15 votes (11.72%). Nature play was also strongly supported (13 votes, 10.16%), alongside timber and steel play elements (11 votes, 8.59%). Additional preferences included timber-only elements (9 votes, 7.03%), imaginative and educational play (7 votes each, 5.47%), and spinning and steel elements (6 votes each, 4.69%). Rocking play elements received lower but still notable support (4 votes, 3.13%), reflecting a broad interest in varied and engaging play experiences.



5 Consultation evaluation

This report presents the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered during community engagement

The consultation was promoted to key stakeholders including Casey Conversations project subscribers.

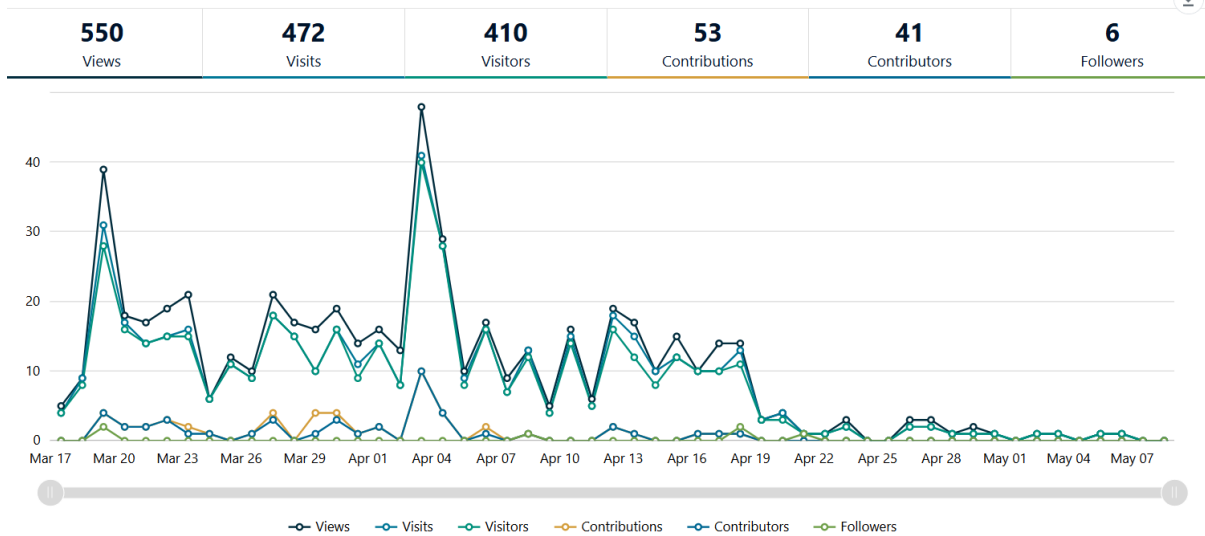
The website news story and Casey Catch-Up e-newsletter also ensured the wider Casey community was given the opportunity to provide feedback.

The length of consultation was four weeks, with most responses received in the first week.

The engagement program received a total of 53 online contributions completed via Casey Conversations

Casey Conversations project page

Performance Summary



5.1 Satisfaction with engagement process

Survey participants were generally satisfied with the consultation process and materials, with a majority of participants selecting they had the required information to participate, and it was very (47.14%) or mostly (31.43%) easy to find/understand. 20% selected neutral and 1.43% was difficult.