

Community engagement summary report

August 2024

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2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan following a mandatory review in 2024.

In 2020, following extensive consultation with the community, The City of Casey [adopted the Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan](#). The adoption of the Master Plan represents Council's commitment to invest in improving sports reserves and recognising the important role they play for the entire community.

Now in 2024, the Master Plan has gone through the required reviews and updates to reflect current factors and changes needed to ensure the Master Plan is continuously fit for purpose for the growing community throughout the 20 years proposed in the Master Plan.

Some changes include:

- Updated information and data where there have been changes to be in line with 2024 data and strategies.
- Implementation Plan: Updated descriptions, timelines, removal of costs due to ongoing changes and removal of projects which have commenced or been completed.
- Concept Plan:
 - change of scope and location for the Tennis Pavilion,
 - alteration of the decking around the wetlands
 - alteration of the location of the District level play space
 - alteration of the location of the carpark to service AFL/Cricket and Scout Hall on Fountain Dr.
 - Consolidation of further information into the overall wetland project

From 9 April to 21 May 2024, a six-week community engagement process was held to gather community and stakeholder feedback on the overall updates and changes proposed in the updated master plan.

2.1 Key findings

Respondents were generally dissatisfied with the updated Master Plan and were asked to rank their satisfaction out of 10, with 10 being the most satisfied. With an average of 2.46 out of 10 as the response, the general satisfaction towards the plan is not strong.

The majority of the feedback was around the Sport Facility Provision and the Implementation Plan. Some of the main concerns include:

- No clear plan for the Scout Hall
- Suggested plans for incorporating the Scout Hall into a shared space due to Child Safety
- Concerns around the future of the Scout Hall.

All written feedback received were around different aspects of the Scout Hall indicating strong community support for the future of the Scout Hall, with community expressing their views and concerns to Council.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers have been considering community feedback and changes will be implemented in an updated Master Plan.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide affected stakeholders, particularly those who use Max Pawsey Reserve and the broader community with the opportunity to provide input into the updates of the Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan following a mandatory 4 year review.

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

- Council's e-newsletter, Casey Catch up
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media (Facebook and Instagram)

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide feedback via survey, upload a written statement, 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
9 April – 21 May 2024 178 visitors 15 contributions 13 Survey responses	Casey Conversations Website Project information, online survey and written submission hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations. Online survey: 13 responses Written submission: 2 responses
Written statements/ feedback 2 responses	Correspondence Direct feedback provided through Casey Conversations in the form of detailed letters to Council

4 Who we heard from

Survey respondents were asked to qualify their connection to Casey. Respondents included:

- Casey ratepayers or resident
- Casey tenant
- Workers or students in Casey
- People with a disability
- Community volunteers
- Teacher
- Local activity participants
- Veteran

Survey respondents all had a connection to Casey and also in particular the majority had a connection to the Scout Hall.

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on the Max Pawsey Master Plan and Update.

5.1 Concerns for the future of the Scout Hall

The Master Plan states that the option of a shared facility for the Scout Hall could be explored. Some of the feedback and concerns expressed around this includes:

- Lack of a clear of a plan for the Scout Hall
- Sharing facilities will not comply with Child Safety policy and presents risks to children.
- Safety concerns for young people
- With shared facilities, there is the potential of less space for activities and storage
- Additional risks with a shared facility where users will need a working with children check and police check
- The use of a shared space – the Scouts need the hall for the majority of the week
- Scouts need a lot of storage for their equipment so would be a challenge to share space
- Combined spaces such as kitchens would create challenges
- The current design there is no direct vehicle access to the building and the scout group requires trailer storage and direct access for loading / unloading heavy items.
- Removal of the hall will alienate families and communities from a frequently used space
- Concerns around being able to provide a secure environment for activities
- The different needs between a cricket club and a scout club
- A better plan needs to be developed for the future of the Scout Hall with clearer options and direction
- Clearer dates in the Implementation Plan

All of the above points were mentioned multiple times by multiple respondents and were the concerns listed in the written feedback options where respondents were given the opportunity to provide further information.

5.2 Support for the Master Plan

Although there is dissatisfaction with plans for the Scout Hall, respondents also expressed that there are some positives within the Master Plan. This includes:

- 'The upgrade for the area will do wonders for the local community'
- 'I would give the overall plan 9 stars if there were separate buildings for the scouts and football/cricket club'

5.3 Written submission feedback

A total of two written submissions were received regarding Max Pawsey Master Plan review consultation.

5.3.1 Submission 1

Whilst I think that overall the plan is fantastic and the area will definitely benefit from most of the things you propose, I have some issues with the combined community and sports pavilion.

1. What guarantee can you give that the scout group are going to be given equivalent space to what they currently have, especially storage space? I have been involved with groups in the past where the council has developed one facility for multiple users and the key issues were to do with space, whether it be activity, meeting, storage space or height of the roof. The group has a lot of equipment for camping, day events, evening activities, hiking, construction etc and needs large open space for activities, private spaces for meetings and lockable storage for confidential information.

2. Loss of group identity and history - one of the main reasons I joined this particular group was that they have their own hall. Other groups I have worked with are in spaces where they cannot display awards, pennants, flags, photos etc. I fear that if the scout group becomes part of the same building then they will lose this right and therefore feel like visitors in their own home. It is important for the group to be separate so that they don't just disappear into the football club shadows.

3. Child safe issues - it is critical to the running of the group that we are able to provide a child safe environment. For shared toilet facilities we would require an approved adult to go with each child when they go to the toilet. As the adult : child ratio needs to be at least 1:2 this would mean either scheduling toilet breaks so that all the kids can go at once or taking a second child who may not need use the toilet away from the activity they are doing each time one child needs to go. As we are already at the limit in terms of adult: child supervision, this would mean either developing a parent roster just for the toilet or recruiting more leaders.

4. Maintaining a no alcohol zone. It would be difficult to maintain a no-alcohol zone if facilities are shared, e.g. kitchen, toilet, foyer, whilst a function is on in the other end of the building. Leaders have enough on their plates planning and running the activities, supervising the youth members and making sure that this is all done in a safe environment. If you added the risk of being exposed to alcohol or inebriated people to the list, it is placing undue pressure on the leaders.

5. Loss of income. At the meeting the scout leaders had with the council representatives it was mentioned that the groups that we have currently hiring out the hall would need to go through council for the bookings. Does this mean that council gets the income? If so, that would mean the group lost pretty much all of its income and would either need to substantially increase its fundraising efforts (and we all know that it would be the same 6 families attending all of the fundraisers) or they would need to significantly increase their fees.

6. What kind of vehicle access would the scout group get? In the plans the building is right next

to a basketball court and lawns. Could these be driven over to get our trailer in and out? We often need to have vehicles right up next to the hall to load / unload heavy or bulky items. Would there be a garage for our trailer?

7. How would we manage sleepovers? It is a semi regular event to hold sleepovers at the hall. It would be difficult to do this with shared toilet and kitchen facilities. Will there be enough space

for 40 – 50 stretchers?

8. Would we be able to continue our outdoor fire activities? In the past we've taught the Cubs and Scouts about fire safety prior to them going on camp. To do this we've had them light small fires in raised fire drums. This has been done between the hall and the carpark. If all the land around the centre is landscaped, would we still be able to do this?

9. Kitchen facilities – on a regular basis we do activities that require access to the kitchen, whether it be simply for washing up equipment used in activities or for cooking. This has several concerns for us, primarily child safe as with the toilets, but also supervision in general. As it stands currently, a leader can be supervising what is going on in the kitchen whilst also keeping an eye on what is going on in the hall. If the kitchen facilities were separate, then that would require a dedicated leader or two which is not practical given the number of leaders we have in each section. The other concern is access. If we are doing an activity in the hall and require something from the kitchen and it is in another part of the building it would be impractical and would waste time allocated to the activity having to leave the hall every time we need to do something in the kitchen.

10. Leaving items set up in the hall during the day – we often need to leave things set up in the hall during the day, e.g., wet tents that need to dry when we have been rained on at a camp, construction activities that other sections are going to use, craft activities that need to dry. Would we still be able to do this?

11. Ad hoc usage of the hall – if it is a combined facility, which we use at night, would we have access to it during the day, e.g. if we need to get things set up for that evening, or on weekends for events such as ceremonies and group activities?

I hope you will take my feedback into account when you are making further plans. I think the scout group really needs to have more say in whether or not you are going to bulldoze their home.

5.3.2 Submission 2

In the communication with me the council states that:

*You will note that the plan is still to explore opportunities for combining the Scout Hall and Football/Cricket facilities, however what has changed is the timeline for this occur. This has now changed from being a medium term (6-10 years) to a **long-term project (11-20 years)** within the implementation timeline table.*

We understand that there still might be some concern about this from some of your members, however we again stress that this only be considered when building conditions necessitate such a redevelopment and extensive collaboration with all key stakeholders would be essential to thoroughly investigate the feasibility and functionality of such a facility before any decisions are made to pursue this option.

Our concerns as Narre Warren Scout group are:

- Multipurpose space- How will this be allocated as we use the hall 4 out of 5 nights a week. It is impossible to share the space for these activities...

Needs to be completely separate facilities to ensure the safety of our youth members and well as compliance with our Scouts Victoria as well as Australian Government Child Safety regulations.

- What is the end plan for our Scout Hall?

The plan on page 13 still states a " dual purpose major facility incorporating sporting pavilion, community room, scout hall and public toilets access." In line with Victorian Government policies this is not achievable. Separate space for Scouts and leaders required. What this means for us is amalgamating in a multi-purpose pavilion where large numbers of sporting groups would also have access to the toilets, kitchen facilities as well as hall space. As you are aware we like to have sleep overs at the hall, large group functions which I foresee will be extremely difficult in a shared facility. As much as I would love a brand new hall I believe that a shared space will impact and limit the activities that each unit currently participates in, thus making programming adventurous activities in line with Scouts Victoria expectations extremely difficult, if not impossible.

- How will we access the garage for all our camping needs?

Will all our camping and scouting equipment be separate from lenders to the new facility? We require large storage areas to meet the program needs for scouting. This includes trailers, camping equipment as well as crafting and rope storage. Currently we require and regularly use a double garage as well as loft space for further storage of necessary equipment for our youth and leaders.

- Child safety concerns with our youth members (your children).

We have rigorous checks to ensure we are safe to be working with our youth members (5-18year olds) however if other sporting teams are sharing the facility and they don't have these checks they may meet our youth members in the communal toilets/kitchen etc. We will not be meeting Australian Government, Casey Council regulations if this occurs.

Lastly, but not least, the plan details the current Scout Hall is to be knocked down for...

Green grass to grow! That is ridiculous!

Why would you knock down a purpose built safe space functioning to serve the local community youth as well as community groups and replace this for... grass??? We would like the opportunity to work with the council to keep the building, update it to fit in with the new look facilities at Max Pawsey and not knock it down! Not necessary and can be avoided with some teamwork between myself, Scouts Victoria and your Team!

However, you are welcome to take the water tank etc from beside the building anytime you wish as we do not use this. I understand that the Casey Council collects the rain water from our building into this water tank and uses it to water the cricket pitch/ football oval. Please remove this asap.

6 Consultation evaluation

This report presents the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered during community engagement from Tuesday 9 April – Tuesday 21 May 2024.

The consultation was promoted to key stakeholders including previous Casey Conversations project subscribers to Max Pawsey Reserve consultations.

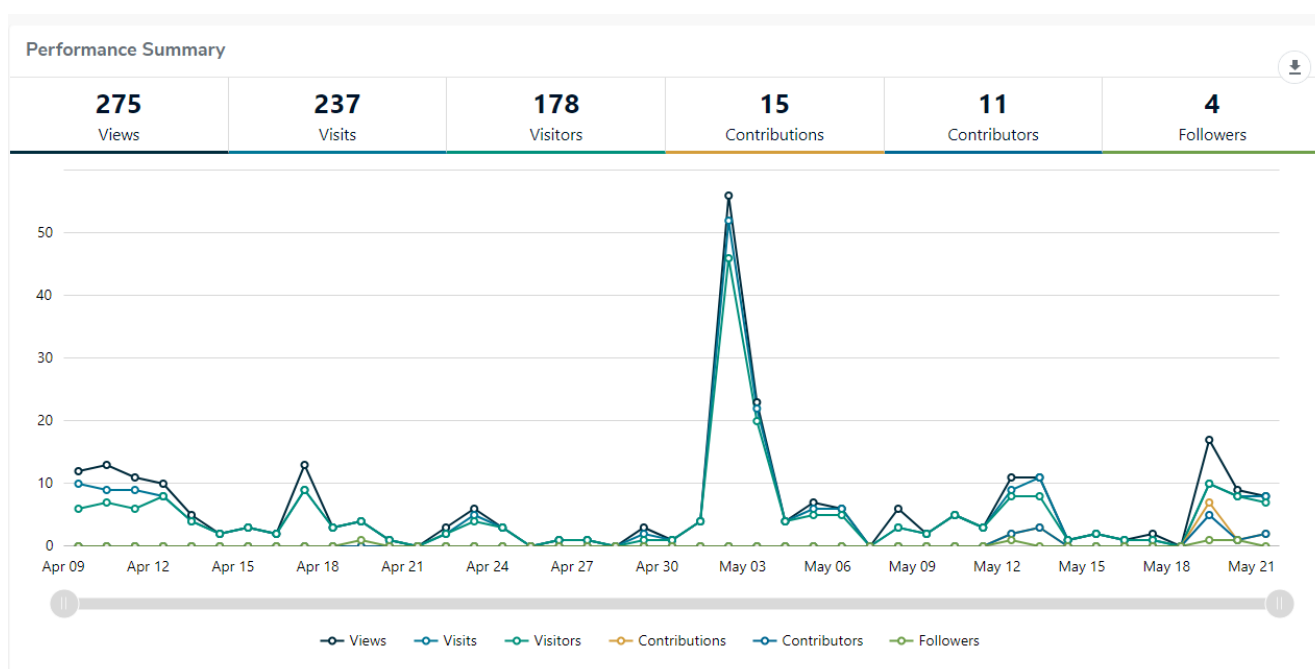
The social media posts and Casey Catch-Up e-newsletter also ensured the wider Casey community was given the opportunity to provide feedback. It also featured as part of Council's paid ad spot in the Berwick Star.

The length of consultation was six weeks, with most responses received towards the end of the consultation period.

The engagement program received a total of 15 contributions, including 13 online surveys completed via Casey Conversations and 2 written submissions uploaded via Casey Conversations.

6.1 Casey Conversations project page

The page received 275 views from a total number of 178 visitors. The peak in visitors was halfway through the engagement and steadied out towards the rest of the campaign.



6.2 Engagement Plan

The engagement plan for this project was published and is available to view at:
[Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan 2024 - Engagement Plan | Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan - 2024 review and updates | Casey Conversations \(Logged in\)](#)