City of Casey

Hallam Dog Friendly Space Playground Upgrade

Community engagement summary report

May 2026

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2 Background

The City of Casey is planning for a new dog-friendly space in Hallam as part of its commitment to creating inclusive and accessible recreational areas for the community. The proposed project responds to the growing number of local dog owners and the increasing demand for dedicated spaces where people can exercise and socialise with their dogs in a safe, controlled environment.

The proposed site for the project is within a council owned reserve known as Hinrichsen Drive Reserve (127–129 Hinrichsen Drive, Hallam) where a dog-friendly space of approximately 0.5 hectares is being considered. The site has been identified as suitable due to its flat topography, capacity to accommodate a dedicated dog park area in line with Council's Dog Friendly Spaces Policy, and its proximity to complementary recreational facilities such as a playground and basketball court. The reserve also provides buffer distances from surrounding properties and includes off-street parking, supporting accessibility and functionality.

In line with Council's Dog Friendly Spaces Policy, these spaces are intended to be fenced areas within larger reserves that support safe off-lead dog exercise while encouraging social interaction and outdoor activity for residents.

Community engagement has been a key part of the project, with residents invited to provide feedback on the suitability of the location and the types of features and amenities that should be included in the design. Community input is intended to directly inform the future layout and functionality of the space, ensuring it meets the needs of both dog owners and the wider community.

Subject to budget approval, the project is proposed for delivery in the 2026/27 financial year.

2.1 Key findings

Community engagement for the proposed Hallam dog-friendly space identified a range of key themes relating to location suitability, design preferences, safety, and broader community use of open space.

Overall, there was general support for Hinrichsen Drive Reserve as a potential location, with 68% of respondents indicating it is suitable.

Feedback on alternative locations and site considerations highlighted interest in other reserves across Hallam and surrounding suburbs, as well as the importance of locating dog-friendly spaces away from residential areas and high-use family spaces. Some respondents emphasised potential impacts such as noise, odour, and safety concerns, particularly for children.

There was strong alignment on the types of features and amenities that should be included. Core infrastructure such as bins, fencing, drinking fountains, and seating received the highest levels of support. Respondents also supported a mix of active and enrichment features, including agility equipment and sensory elements such as dog sniffing spaces.

A consistent theme throughout both survey and qualitative feedback was the need for separated and secure spaces, including designated areas for small and large dogs and spaces for dogs that may not be suited to group interaction. Safety was a key priority, with respondents highlighting the importance of fencing, lighting, visibility, and thoughtful layout to reduce conflict between users.

Design feedback also emphasised comfort and usability, including shade, shelter, drainage, accessible paths, and overall park maintenance. Interest in additional features such as open running areas, enclosed exercise spaces, and training zones was also noted, along with some unique suggestions such as dog wash facilities or water-based features.

Feedback also highlighted concerns about existing dog park infrastructure, particularly Gunns Road dog park. Issues raised included flooding, maintenance, and safety, with some respondents suggesting that Council prioritise improving existing facilities alongside or before developing new ones.

Broader community considerations were also identified. These included the need to balance dog-friendly infrastructure with other space usage types such as children's play and informal recreation, as well as requests for complementary amenities such as playground upgrades, seating, BBQ facilities, lighting, and improved traffic safety around parks. Direct feedback received via email further emphasised concerns about safety, particularly for children, and the importance of careful site planning to minimise conflicts between different park users.

Overall, the findings indicate support for a dog-friendly space in Hallam, with a strong emphasis on safety, inclusive design, appropriate location, and the need to balance the diverse needs of the wider community.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider community feedback and will seek further feedback on the concept designs mid to late 2026, subject to Council funding.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide affected stakeholders, particularly those using Hinrichsen Drive Reserve, Hallam and/or living in streets adjacent to the location and the broader community with the opportunity to provide input into the draft concept design for the dog friendly space.

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
- Mail out to Hallam residents

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide
  feedback via survey, voting poll 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
8 April – 11 May 2026 **675 visitors** **163 contributions**	**Casey Conversations Website** Project information, online survey and written submission hosted on the engagement platform Casey Conversations. **Online survey:** 78 responses **Voting poll:** 83 responses **Email:** 1 feedback response and 1 objection to the project

4 Who we heard from

78 people shared feedback through an online form

Where participants live

- **31 people (39.74%)** from Hallam
- **14 people (17.95%)** from Hampton Park
- **10 people (12.82%)** from Narre Warren
- **5 people (6.41%)** from Endeavour Hills
- **4 people (5.13%)** from Doveton
- **3 people (3.85%)** from Cranbourne North
- **3 people (3.85%)** from Berwick
- **3 people (3.85%)** from Outside of Casey
- **2 people (2.56%)** from Narre Warren North
- **1 person (1.28%)** from Cranbourne West
- **1 person (1.28%)** from Eumemmerring
- **1 person (1.28%)** from Narre Warren South

Age groups

- **31 people (39.74%)** aged 40–54
- **25 people (32.05%)** aged 30–39
- **12 people (15.38%)** aged 55–69
- **5 people (6.41%)** aged 25–29
- **5 people (6.41%)** aged 20–24

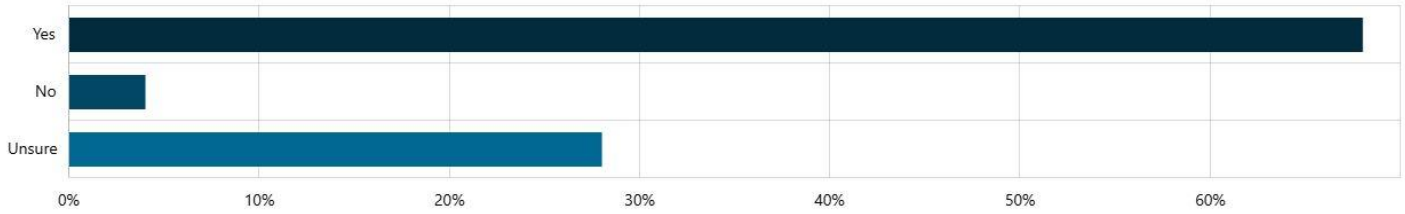
Gender and diversity

• **61 people (78.21%)** identified as female
• **16 people (20.51%)** identified as male
• **1 person (1.28%)** is from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
• **14 people (17.95%)** speak a language other than English at home
• **7 people (8.97%)** are people with a disability
• **6 people (7.69%)** identify as LGBTIQA+
• **4 people (5.13%)** preferred not to say
• **47 people (60.26%)** indicated none of these apply to them

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes that arose in community feedback on the Hallam Dog Friendly Space. 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.

Does the community consider Hinrichsen Drive Reserve a good location for a dog friendly space in Hallam?



Survey results indicate community views on Hinrichsen Drive Reserve as a location for a dog-friendly space. A majority of respondents (68%, 51 people) indicated that the reserve is a suitable location.

A smaller proportion of respondents (28%, 21 people) were unsure, while 4% (3 people) indicated that they did not support the location.

Survey respondents were asked a follow up non-compulsory question to provide their considerations for a location for a dog friendly space in Hallam. 13 responses were captured.

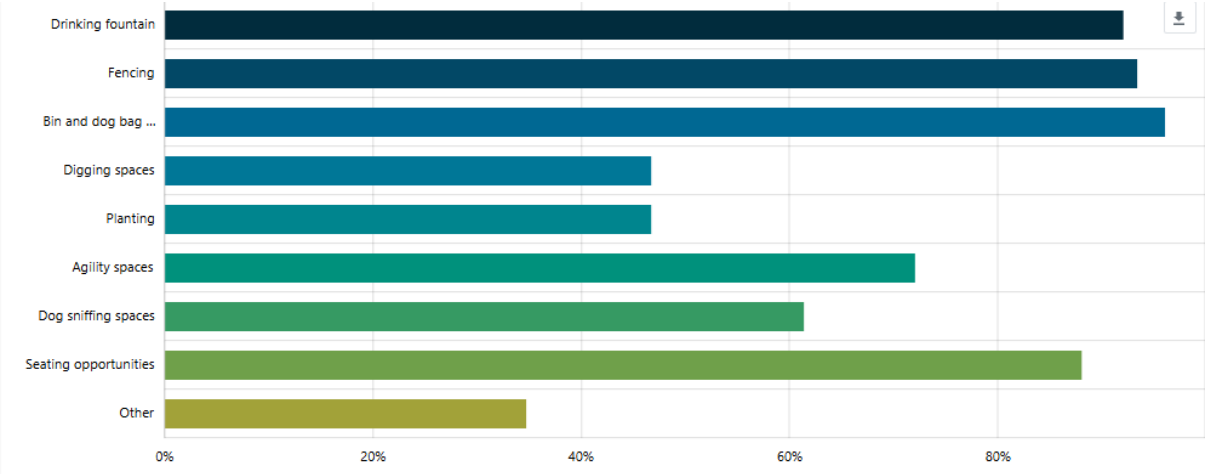
These highlighted a range of alternative locations and considerations. Suggested areas included KM Reedy Reserve, Ern Barker Reserve (including Saffron Drive), land under the Princes Highway powerlines (*2 mentions*), and locations in Hampton Park or Lyndhurst. Some respondents also expressed a general preference for another local park or indicated that Council should determine the most suitable location.

Two comments emphasised the importance of locating the space away from residential properties due to concerns about noise, odour, and nearby traffic. There was also interest in including practical features such as lighting and separate enclosures for different dog types *(2 mentions*).

Feedback also raised concerns about existing facilities, particularly Gunns Road dog park, with respondents noting issues such as flooding, maintenance, and fencing (*2 mentions*). Some suggested prioritising upgrades and improved upkeep of existing parks before developing new ones (*2 mentions*).

A small number of responses reflected competing community priorities, including the need for children's play or sporting facilities in the area, while others noted they were not familiar with the location or were satisfied with existing dog parks nearby.

What would the community like included a dog-friendly space?



Survey responses indicate strong interest in a mix of essential amenities and activity-based features for a dog-friendly space. Core infrastructure was most highly supported, with the bin and dog bag dispenser receiving the highest level of support (96%, 72 people), followed by fencing (93.33%, 70 people) and a drinking fountain (92%, 69 people). Seating opportunities were also highly valued (88%, 66 people).

Active and enrichment elements were also well supported, with agility spaces (72%, 54 people) and dog sniffing spaces (61.33%, 46 people) receiving a majority of responses. Digging spaces and planting both received moderate support (46.67%, 35 people each).

Additional qualitative feedback reinforced several key themes. Many respondents emphasised the need for separate spaces for small and large dogs, as well as areas for dogs that may not be suited to group play. There was also strong interest in safety and accessibility features, including secure fencing, smooth walking paths, and inclusive design for people using mobility aids.

Comfort and usability were recurring priorities, with suggestions for shade, shelter, lighting for winter use, and good drainage to prevent muddy conditions. Respondents also highlighted opportunities for open running space, enclosed exercise areas, and dog training or enrichment zones.

Some further suggestions included a dog swimming pool, dog wash facilities, and non-toxic planting, as well as spaces that could support community activities or events. A small number of respondents noted differing views on specific inclusions, such as dog bag dispensers, reflecting a range of perspectives on responsibility and provision.

Additional community feedback and considerations

Responses provided detailed insights into community expectations, priorities, and concerns for a dog-friendly space, including additional feedback received via direct email submissions.

A consistent theme across responses was the preference for separate, fenced areas for different dog sizes and temperaments, with many respondents highlighting safety concerns and past negative experiences with uncontrolled dogs. There was strong emphasis on creating a space where dogs can exercise freely while minimising risk to other dogs and park users.

Concerns were also raised about the impact of dog parks on other park users, particularly families with children. One email submission highlighted safety concerns following a recent dog attack in the area and noted that some community members may avoid the park if dogs are introduced. Suggestions included locating dog facilities away from high-use family areas or considering alternative locations such as larger reserves.

Feedback also reinforced the importance of maintaining and upgrading existing facilities, particularly Gunns Road dog park, with respondents noting issues such as poor drainage, flooding, and inadequate maintenance. Some suggested that improvements to existing parks should be prioritised before developing new ones.

Design and amenity considerations focused on comfort, safety, and usability, with frequent mentions of shade, shelter, seating, lighting, good drainage, and accessible walking paths. Respondents also suggested practical additions such as car parking, BBQ facilities, upgraded playgrounds, and additional picnic areas, reflecting broader community use of open space.

There was also interest in enhanced features, including agility equipment, training areas, enclosed exercise spaces, and specialised facilities for certain dog types. Some respondents suggested more unique elements such as dog swimming areas or exercise equipment.

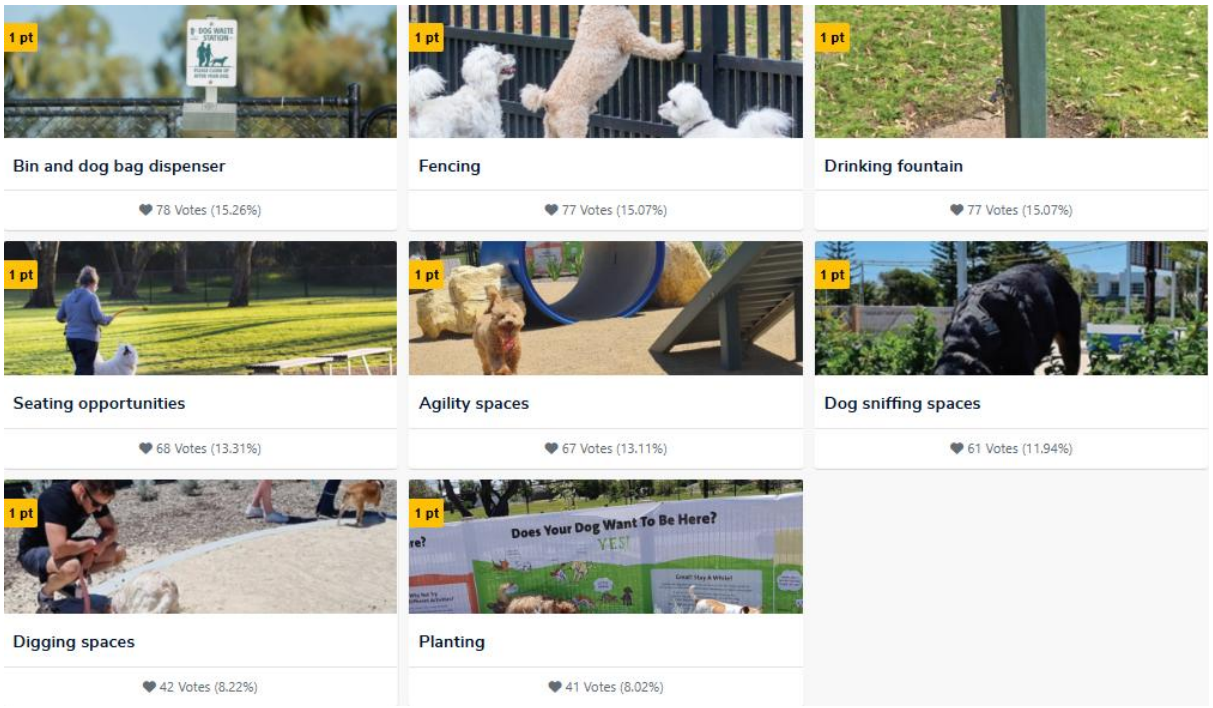
Broader community infrastructure concerns were also raised, including the need for traffic calming measures (e.g. speed humps), improved lighting, and safer street conditions around parks. Additionally, some respondents highlighted competing land use priorities, particularly the need to ensure sufficient space for children’s play and informal recreation.

Overall, the feedback reflects a balance of support for dog-friendly facilities alongside concerns about safety, location suitability, maintenance of existing assets, and the need to accommodate a wide range of community uses.

Voting poll results

Respondents showed a clear preference for practical and supportive amenities in a future dog park space. Waste management features were the most popular, with the bin and dog bag dispenser receiving 78 votes. Fencing and a drinking fountain closely followed, each with 77 votes.

Seating opportunities (68 votes) and agility spaces (67 votes) were also strongly supported. Dog sniffing spaces received 61 votes, reflecting interest in sensory experiences for pets, while digging spaces (42 votes) and planting (41 votes) attracted comparatively less support, though still valued by a portion of respondents.



6 Consultation evaluation

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

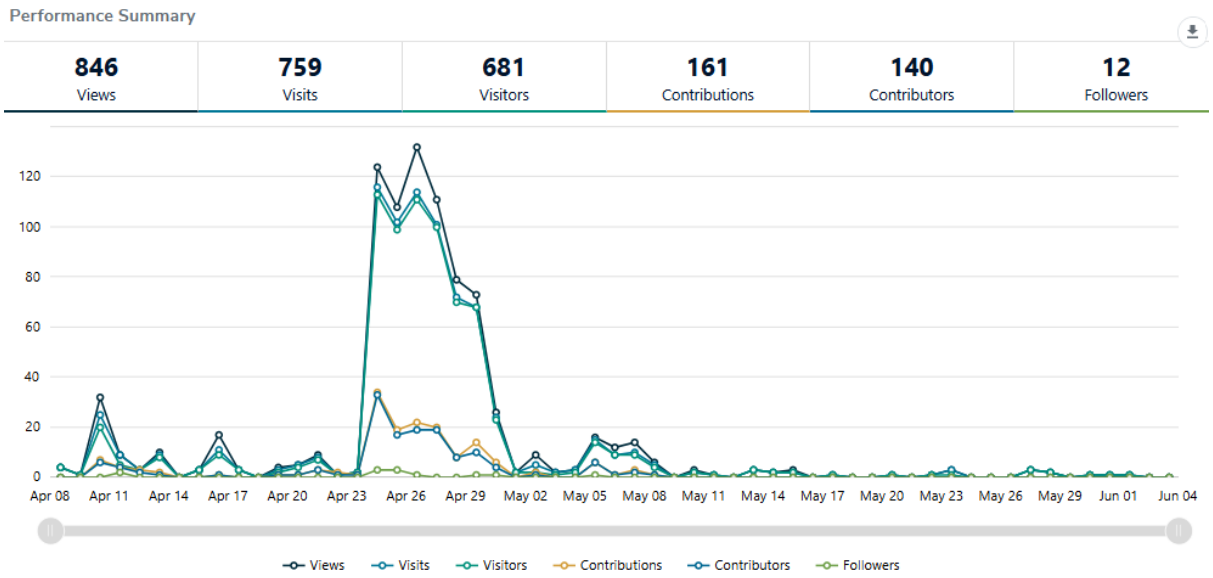
The consultation was promoted to key stakeholders including Casey Conversations project subscribers.

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 161 online contributions completed via Casey Conversations

Casey Conversations project page



6.1 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 (34.62%) or mostly (30.77%) easy to find/understand. 29.49% selected neutral and 5.12% was difficult or very difficult.