



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

TERRARA PARK PLAYSPACE, VERMONT SOUTH

PROJECT NO. 254146
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REVISION ISU 1



PREPARED BY



222 Hoddle Street,
Abbotsford,
VIC 3067
T: 03 7032 4300
E: info@jeavons.net.au

PREPARED FOR



Whitehorse City Council

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1.0 Project Overview

Introduction

This Community Consultation Report collates and summarizes the data collected during the consultation period from online surveys, meetings, discussions, and specific user groups.

This report captures the data from Community Engagement Round 1.

The engagement outcomes from Community Engagement Round 2 will be added once completed in April 2026. Refer Table 1 for project timeframes.

Project

Playspace

Terrara Park Reserve is located at 127A Terrara Road, Vermont South. The main objective of this project is to upgrade the existing playspace constructed in 2000 which is reaching the end of its useful life.

The playspace is classified as a 'Neighbourhood' level playspace, requiring a medium sized play space response that:

- Offer a variety of play opportunities that focus on younger children but provide opportunities for older children.
- Cater for several local areas' households and are located within a 10-minute safe walk is on a site that is between 1 and 3 hectares in size.
- Provide play equipment, open run about areas, and bounce-ball areas.
- Provide seating, natural shade and natural landscape features

The playground is situated at the northern edge of Terrara Park, a municipal park spanning approximately 19.9 acres. The park is equipped with amenities including carpark, a sporting pavilion with public accessible toilet, and drinking fountains. It also features a range of active recreation facilities, including cricket and soccer fields with floodlighting, as well as cricket training nets. Terrara Park is also a designated dog off-leash area.

Concurrent Project – Circuit Path

Currently, the park lacks a continuous circuit path. A new gravel circuit path is planned for construction at Terrara Park. The gravel circuit path is scheduled for delivery over the summer period 2025 by Council's Parks & Natural Environment team

The new path will offer year-round benefits by supporting walking, jogging, and general recreational use, while accommodating all user groups. Sufficient open space is available to deliver the path without impacting existing soccer or cricket playing fields.

Project Timeline

An overview of the upcoming key project milestones and indicative timeframe has been provided below for reference.

Table 1: Project Timeframe

Project Key Milestone	Indicative Timeframe
Community Engagement Round #1	Aug 2025
Concept Design	Sept 2025
Melbourne Water Review and Approval	Oct 2025 – April 2026
Community Engagement Round #2	April 2026

2.0 Community Engagement Methodology

Introduction

The community consultation focused on three elements:

- **Playground renewal:** Replace and upgrade the aging play space.
- **Social recreation facilities:** Consideration of new social recreation features including fitness equipment and a half court near the play area.
- **Sports field on-demand lighting:** Enabling the upgraded sports field lighting to be available on-demand for community use.

The consultation will seek to understand the community's preferences regarding the playground design, fitness equipment, and preferred operating hours for sports field on-demand lighting. The feedback will help shape the final playground concept design.

Methodology Overview

Table 2 below summarises the engagement activities that were organised by Council for the general community. The engagement ran from 4 Aug to 31 Aug 2025.

Table 2: Community Engagement Round 1 Activities

Activity	Detail	Timing
Online survey YourSay Whitehorse	Will target general community and stakeholder groups. Link: yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/terrara-park	4 Aug – 31 Aug
Post mail	To adjacent residents/businesses at start of consultation Mailing list includes properties directly adjacent to or have sight lines to Terra Park	1 Aug
Email blast	Blackburn North United Cricket Club Whitehorse United Soccer Club Livingstone Primary School	4 Aug
On-site signage	Signage at key locations within the reserve (secondary entries, sport and recreation facilities)	4 Aug – 31 Aug
Newsletter	Any relevant Council newsletters to target wider community. This depends on timelines and deadlines but may include: • AllSports • YourSay • CommDev • Community Connect e-newsletter • School Focused Youth Services e-newsletter • Sustainability News	Aug 2025
WHN article	To target wider community	Aug
Social media	Two ads on social media:	14 Aug

	Targeting local residents only to get the voice of casual site users (1.7km radius of the site) Targeting whole municipality to capture potential future users if a 'municipal level' play space is added	
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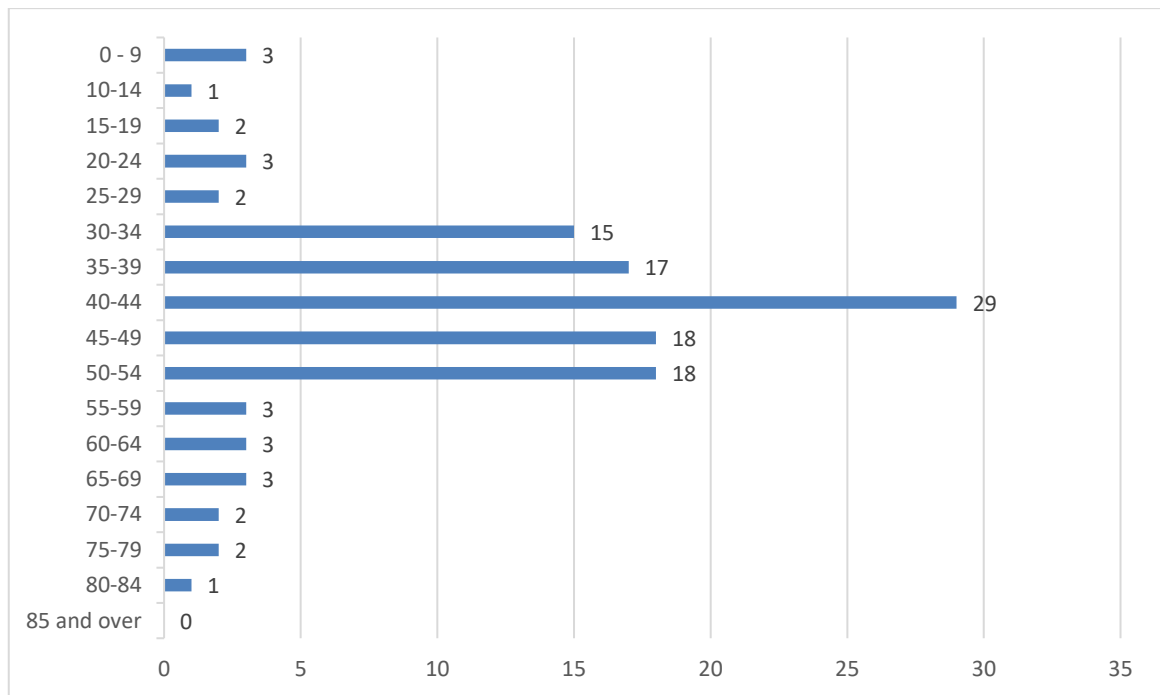
3.0 Respondent Profile

Your Say Whitehorse

A total of 129 contributions were recorded. Refer below for respondent profile breakdown.

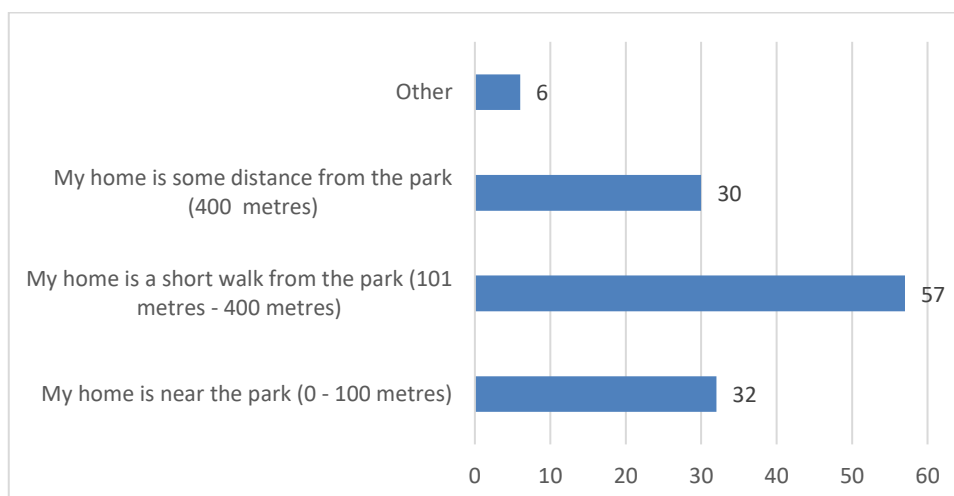
Age group

Respondents from under 9 to 84 years old made up the responses with most respondents between the ages of 30 to 54.



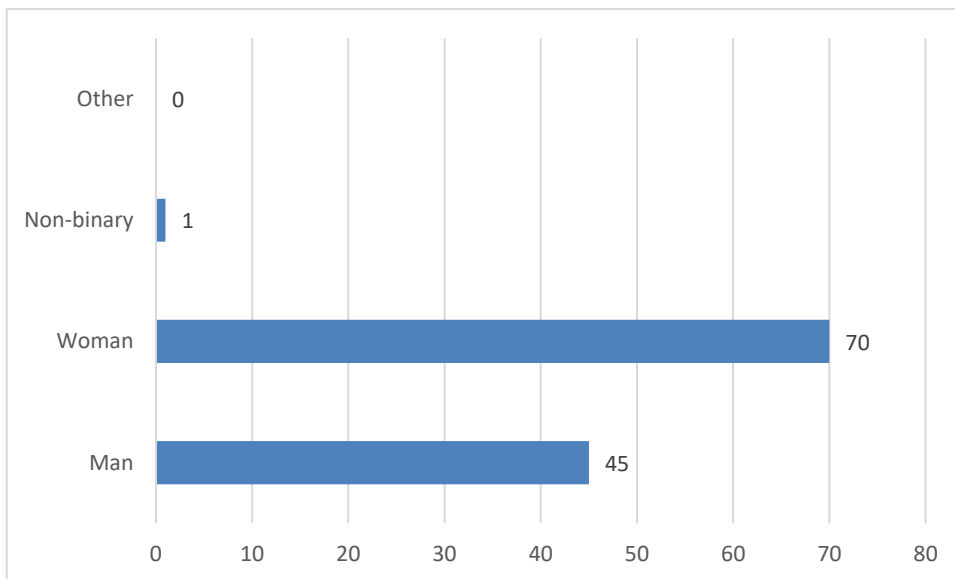
Do you live near Terrara Park

Majority of respondents that live within a 400m walk to the park responded to the survey (89 responses total). Response from users living further from the park was also received (36 responses total).



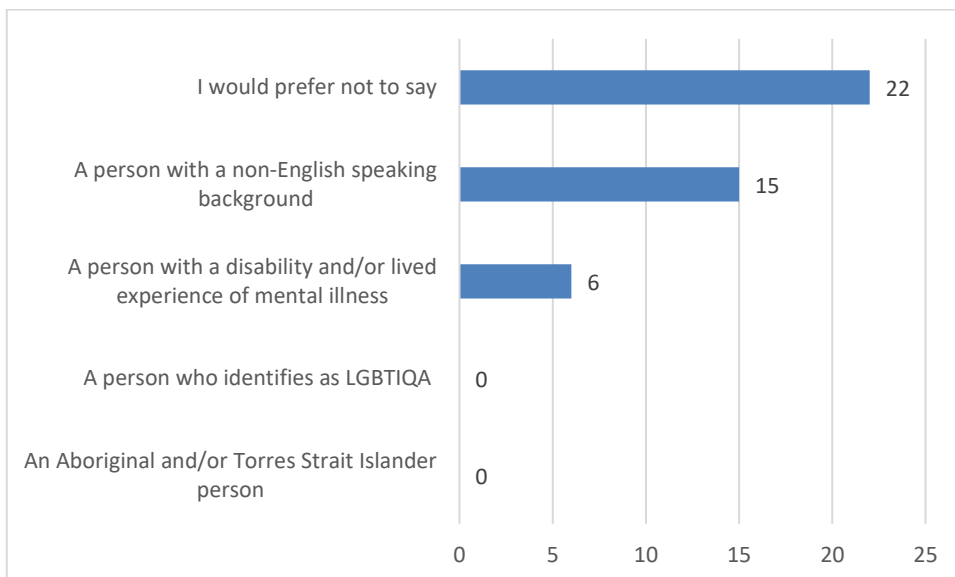
Gender

There was a higher proportion of females (70 responses, 60.3%) to males (45 responses, 38.8%). 1 (0.9%) user responded as non-binary.



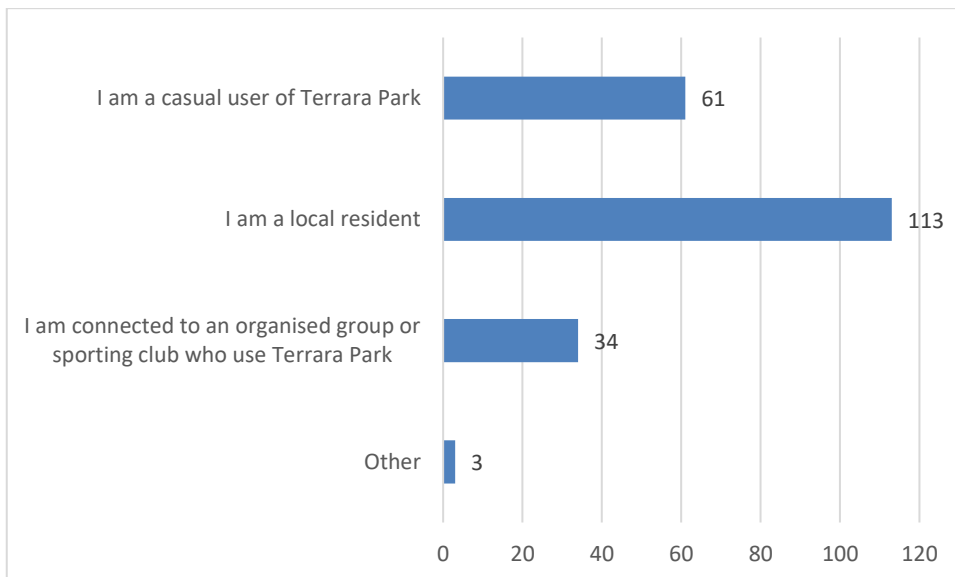
Please select any of the following that describe you

A high majority of users (22 responses) chose not to answer this question. Users with non-english speaking background made up the second highest user group (15 responses) and 6 responses have a disability and/or lived experience of mental illness.



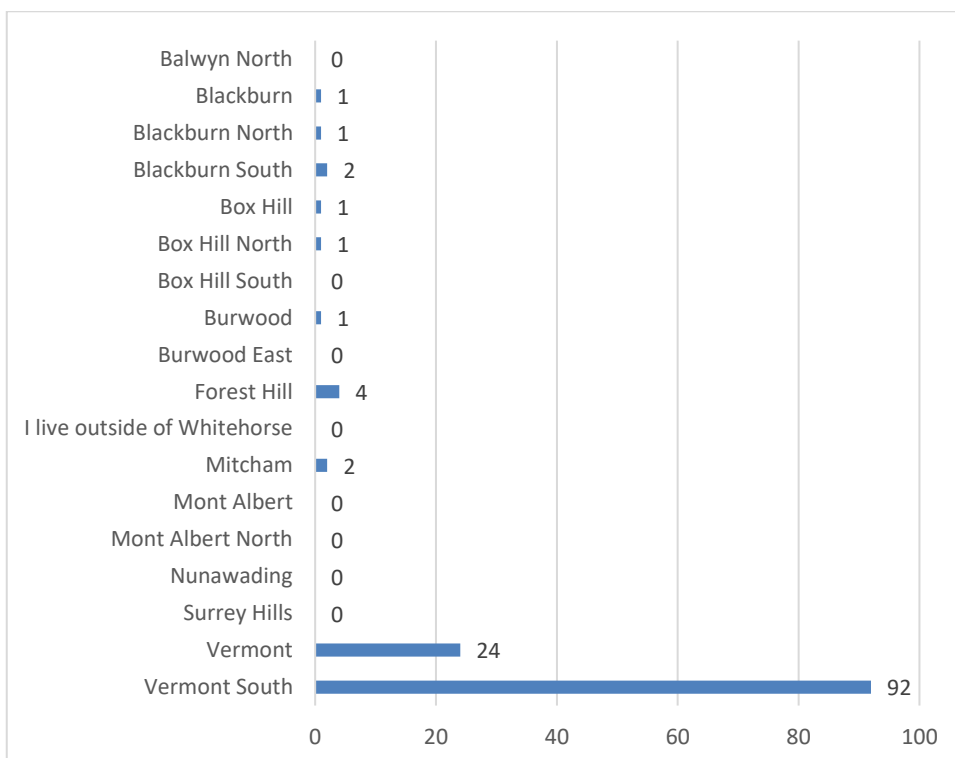
Which of the following represents you

Local residents (113 responses, 54.3%) contributed strongly to the consultation followed by casual users of the park (61 responses, 29.3%) and Sporting group users (34 responses, 16.3%).



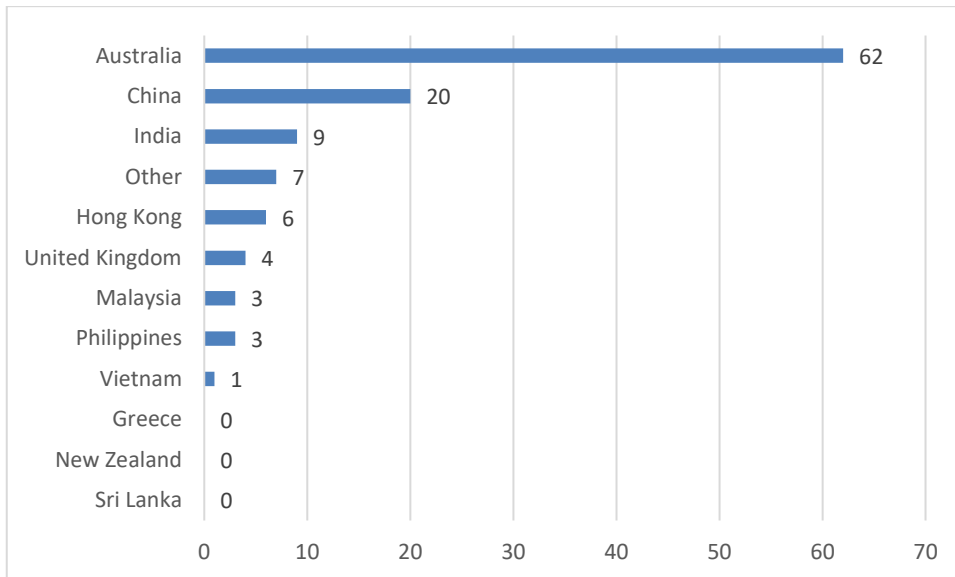
What is your suburb

Majority of the respondents live in Vermont South (92 responses, 79.3%) and Vermont (24 responses, 20.7%).

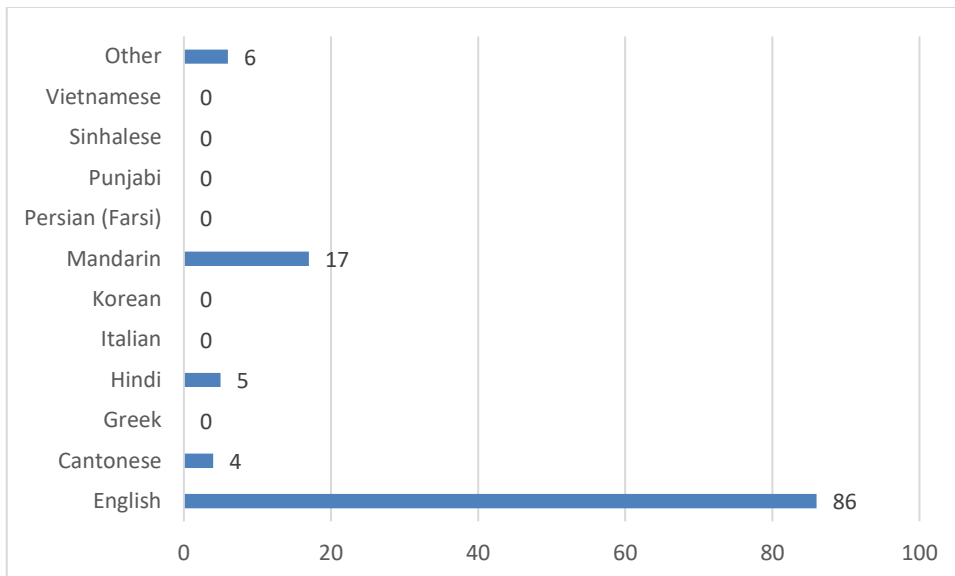


What is your place of birth

Majority of the respondents were born in Australia (62 responses, 63.3%). Users from China (20 responses, 20.4%), India (9 responses, 9.2%) and Other countries (7 responses) rounded up the top respondents.



What is the main language you speak at home



4.0 Playground Renewal Engagement Outcomes

Introduction

Your Say Whitehorse

This section of the community engagement focused on the upgrade of the existing playground.

Two questions were put forward.

- What do you like about the current play space and want in the new play space.
- The following play equipment is suitable for this type of play space. Pick the top four you want in the new play space.

Livingstone Primary School

Council undertook face to face consultation with Livingstone Primary School Year 6's and Junior School Council student leaders (ages ranging from F-6).

There were about 90 students in total.

Three questions were asked.

- What they like about the current play space and want in the new play space?
- The following play equipment is suitable for this type of play space. Pick the top four you want in the new play space.
- Anything else they'd like to see included

Refer below Engagement Summary Outcomes.

Vermont South Early Learning Centre

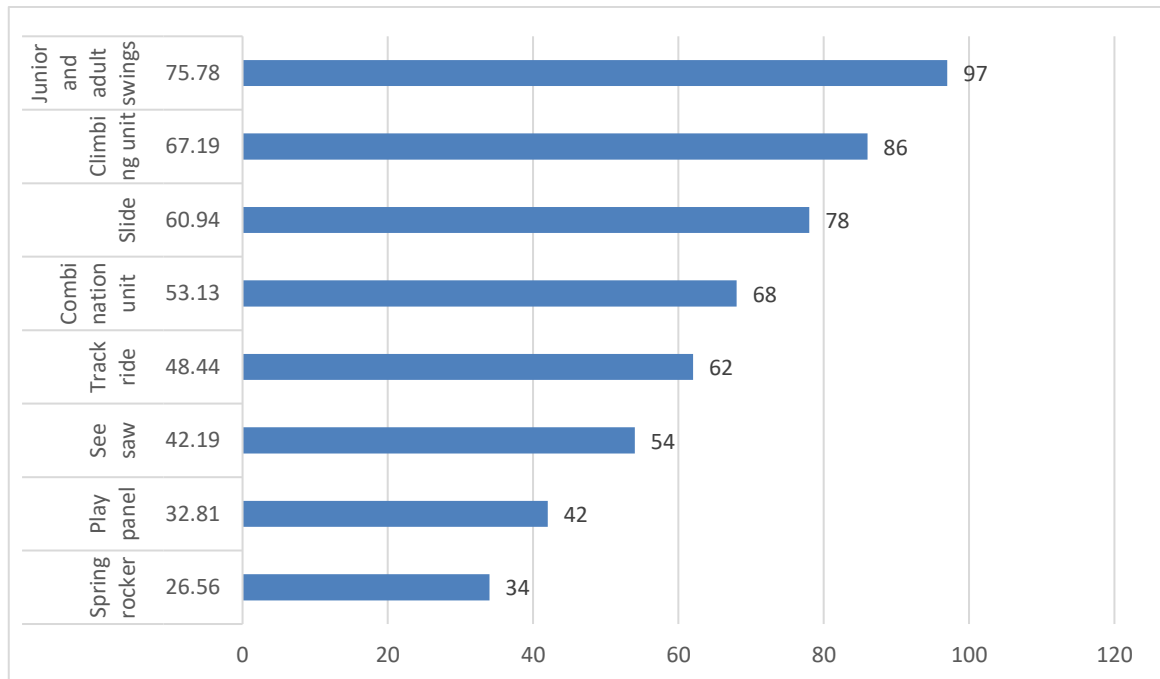
Council consulted with the children at the Early Learning Centre via the centre staff. A collection of 68 images drawn by the children were recorded, along with voting of preferred play equipment based on images.

Refer below for Engagement Summary Outcomes.

Your Say Whitehorse Engagement Summary

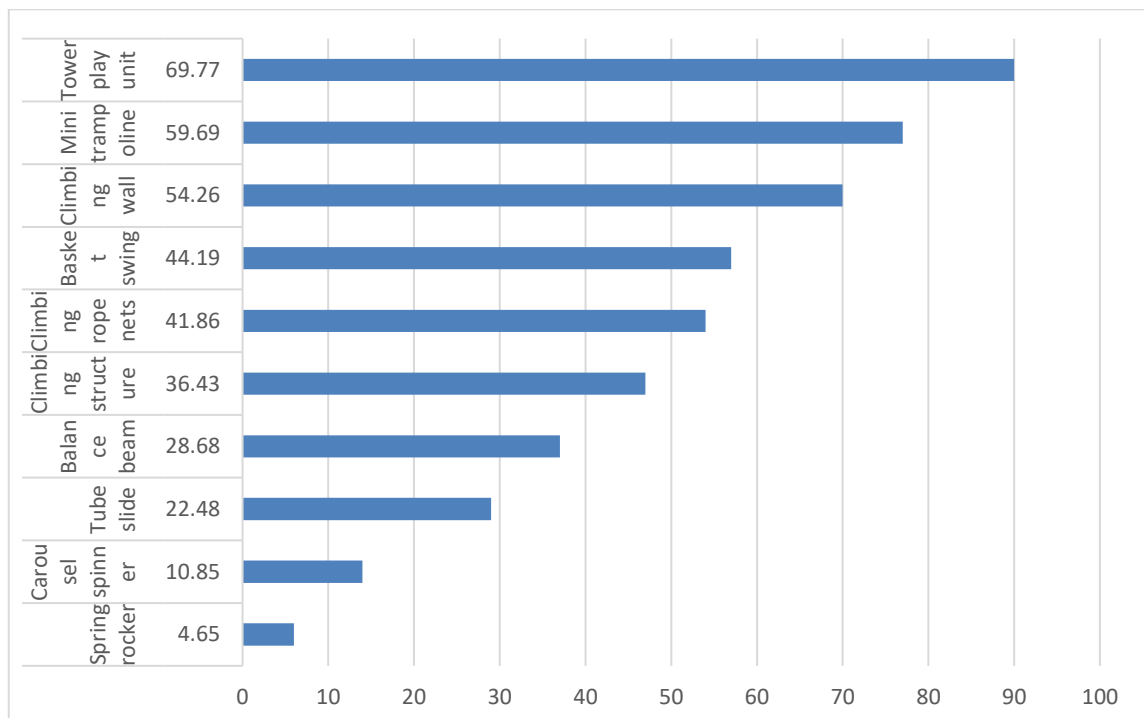
Question: What they like about the current play space and want in the new play space?

Skipped: 1 | Answered: 128 of 129 (99.2%)



Question: The following play equipment is suitable for this type of play space. Pick the top four you want in the new play space.

Skipped: 0 | Answered: 129 of 129 (100%)



Question: Do you have any other comments about the play space upgrade

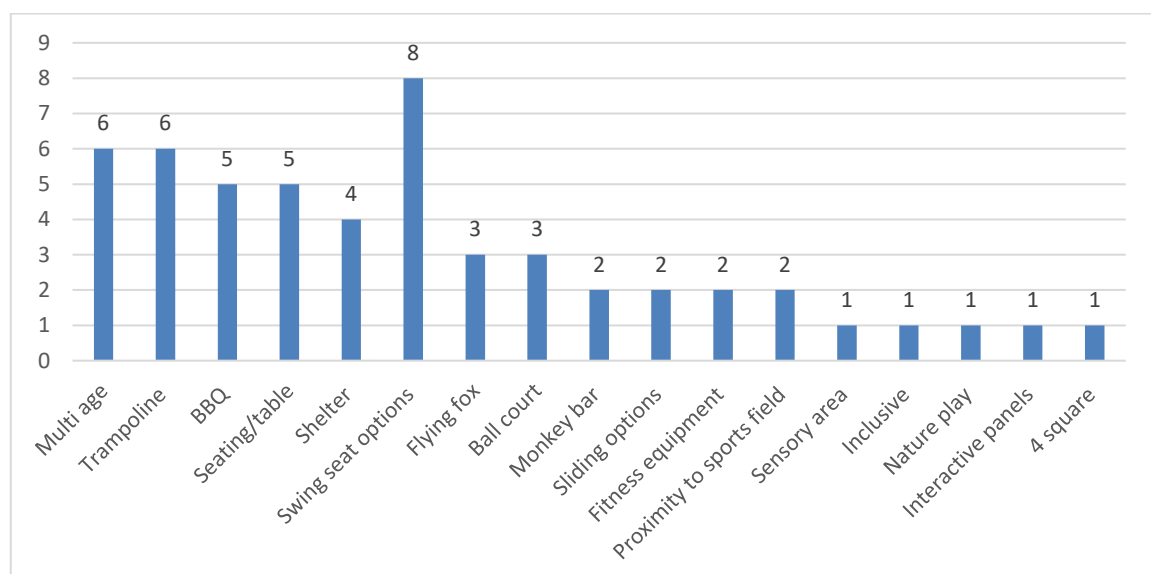
Response

From a total of 129 responses, majority of the respondents (78 responses) provided specific comments to the question above.

Supportive of the idea

In general, majority of the comments were supportive of the proposal to renew the play space. The community would like the design to consider the following play equipment, arranged in number of mentions

- Variety of swing seats (8x)
- Multi age equipment (6x)
- Trampoline (6x)
- Flying fox (3x)
- Sliding options, sensory play, monkey bars (2x)
- Ninja course, nature play, interactive play, sensory, and inclusive play (1x)



Supplementary ideas

The following supplementary suggestions were raised

- Provision of bbq, seating and shelter with proximity to sports field for supervision
- Provision of ball court and outdoor fitness equipment, which is covered in separate consultation questions

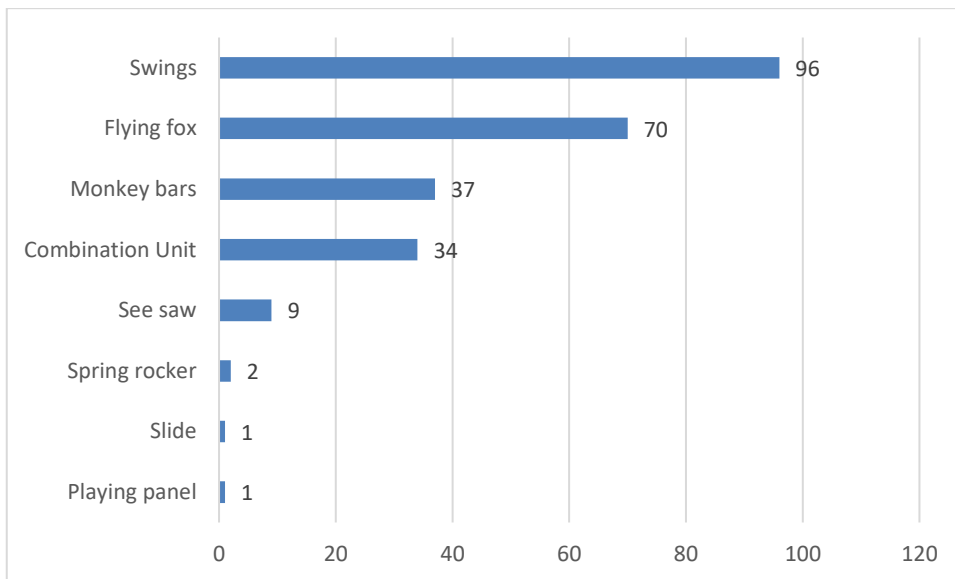
Other ideas

The following ideas were suggested to be not feasible at Terrara Park as it impacts on management, lack of space, proximity to nearby residences, and supervision.

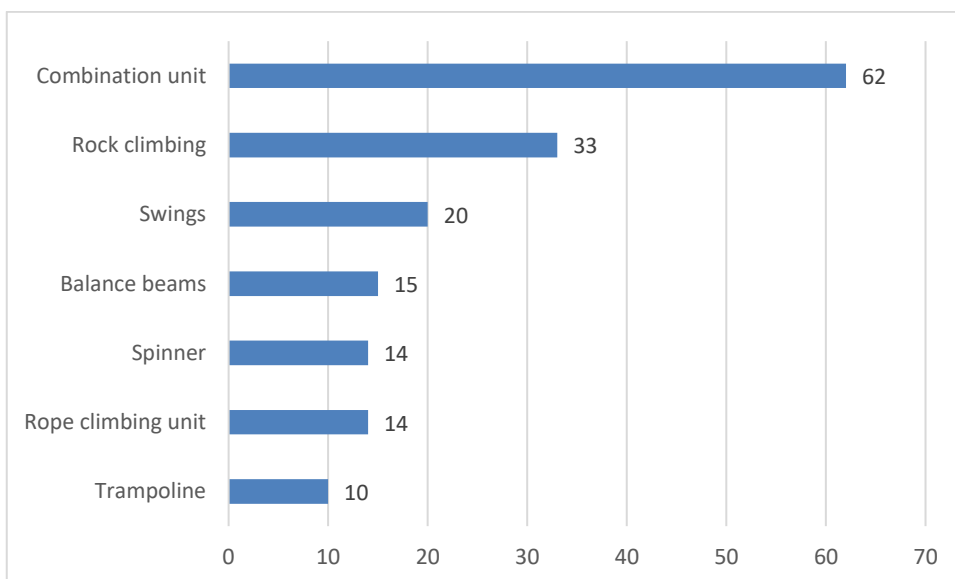
- Pump track
- Skate park
- Fenced off play space
- Bike track
- Sand pit
- Water play

Livingstone Primary School Engagement Outcome

Question: What they like about the current play space and want replaced in the new play space (like for like)?



Question: What new play equip they'd like to see included



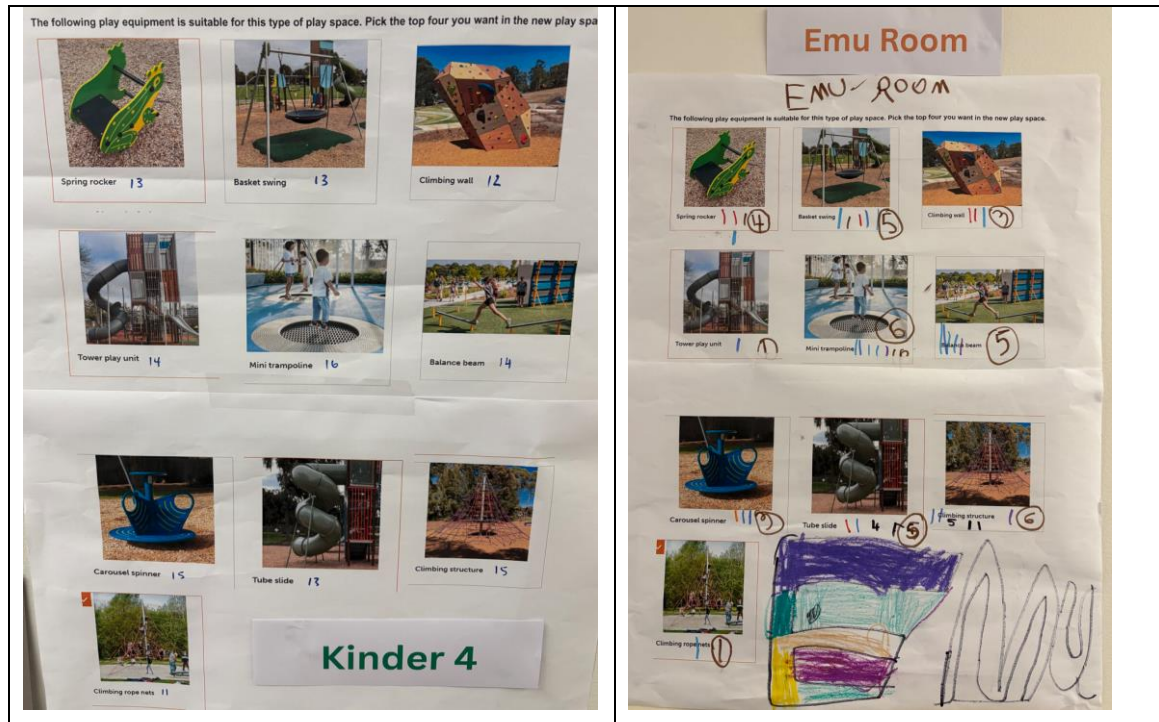
Question: Anything else they'd like to see included

It was recorded that 42 respondents requested for a larger flying fox play equipment. Other specific comments related to the outdoor fitness equipment.

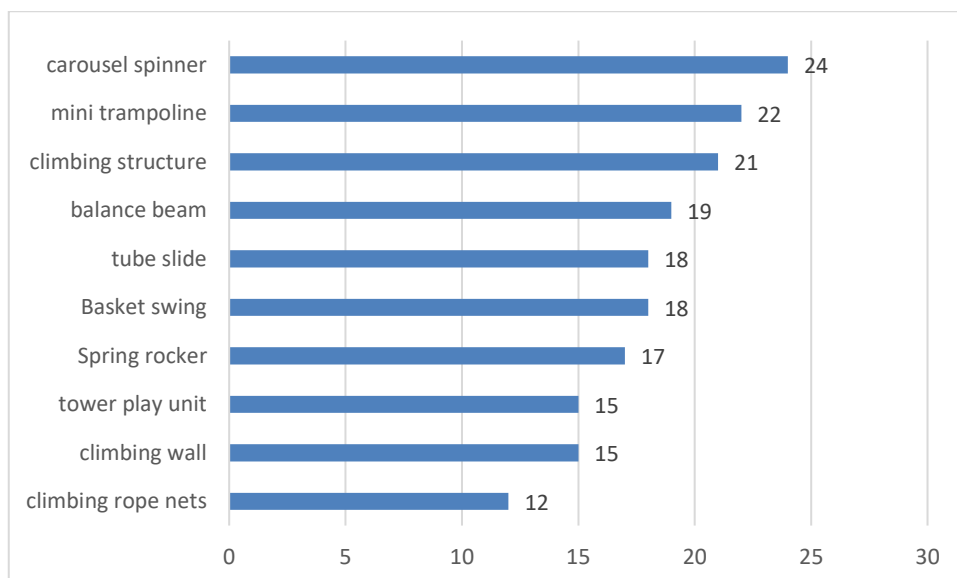
Vermont South Early Learning Centre Engagement Summary

Engagement

Centre staff successfully facilitated the engagement process and captured children's votes and ideas across a range of age groups. In total, 68 children participated, including 16 children from four-year-old kindergarten, 16 from three-year-old kindergarten, 16 children aged three to five years, 12 children aged two to three years, and 8 children aged zero to two years.



Engage outcomes



Outcome Summary

Overview

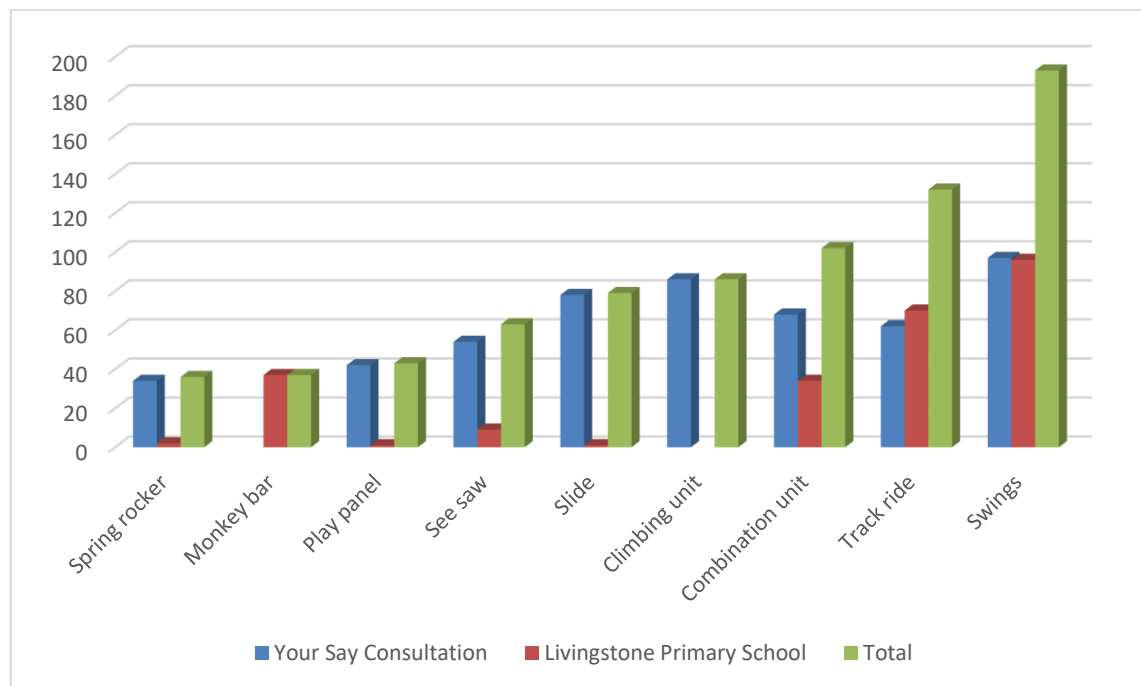
The information presented to the broader community, Livingstone Primary School, and Vermont South Early Learning Centre was tailored to suit each audience. As a result, the data collected across the three groups is not directly comparable.

The summary comparison between the groups reflects these intentional differences, which include:

- variations in the selection of play equipment presented to each group
- differences in how play equipment was described and named

These differences were deliberately designed to align with the target age groups and user contexts, supporting clearer understanding and more meaningful engagement outcomes for each audience.

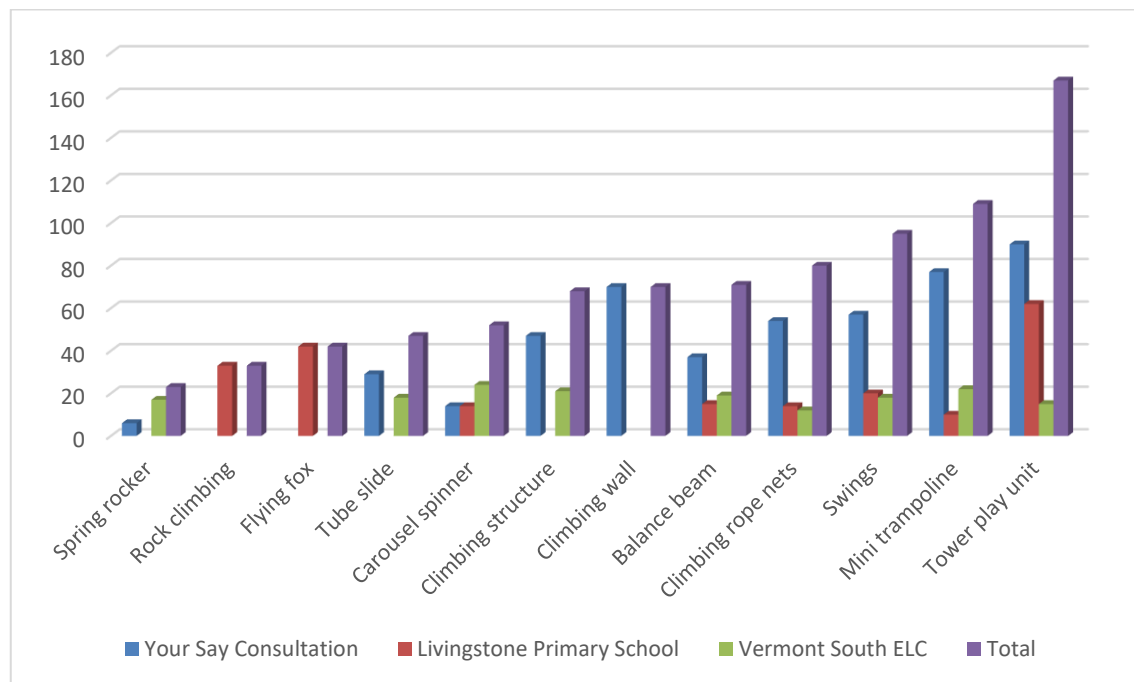
Type of play activity to retain



Analysis

- The climbing unit was not presented as a standalone option to Livingstone Primary School, as it was incorporated within the broader combination unit category.
- Monkey bars were not included as a separate option in the Your Say consultation, as they were considered within other play equipment groupings.
- The term 'flying fox' was used when engaging with Livingstone Primary School, while 'track ride' was used for the broader community and Vermont South Early Learning Centre. This variation in terminology was intentional, with all references relating to the same play experience (track ride).

Type of new play activity to include



Analysis

- A range of climbing-related play options, including climbing structures, climbing walls, rock climbing, spring rockers and tube slides, were selectively presented across the three groups to ensure age-appropriate and context-specific engagement.
- While climbing structures, climbing walls and rock climbing represent different equipment types, they offer a similar core climbing challenge. It is therefore reasonable to interpret responses as indicating a strong preference for climbing-based play experiences rather than a specific equipment item.
- Although a flying fox was not presented as a formal play equipment option, it was strongly and consistently requested by students at Livingstone Primary School, highlighting a clear interest in this type of play experience.

Engagement Summary

Majority of the respondents would be like to see a new play space at Terrara Park. Based on the engagement outcomes, the respondents would like to see a play space that encompasses the following activity, arranged in top 5 descending order:

Current activities to retain	New activities to include
Swings (swinging)	Tower play unit ²
Track ride (gliding) ¹	Mini trampoline (bouncing)
Combination/climbing unit	Swings (swinging)
Sliding	Climbing rope nets (climbing)
See saw (rocking)	Balance beams (balancing)
Play panel (sensory)	Climbing wall/structure (climbing)
	Carousel spinner (spinning)

Notes

1. Track ride is a short version of flying fox. Although flying fox wasn't provided as an option during consultation, it was brought up strongly by the community and should be considered as part of the design, as gliding is raised as activity the community would like to see retained.
2. Tower play unit is the most requested play element in the consultation, however, it presents issue of overlooking on to adjacent nearby properties and a different location for the play space should be carefully considered for its suitability.

5.0 Social Recreation Facilities Engagement

Introduction

Your Say Whitehorse Engagement

This section of the community engagement focused on the idea of providing outdoor fitness equipment and a hardcourt.

Two questions were put forward.

- What types of outdoor fitness equipment would you like to see in Terrara Park? Pick your top four choices.
- We are also considering a multipurpose court between the pavilion and cricket nets. This may include basketball and netball rings. It would be available for casual community use. Do you have any comments about this?

Livingstone Primary School

Council undertook face to face consultation with Livingstone Primary School Year 6's and Junior School Council student leaders (ages ranging from F-6). There were about 90 students in total.

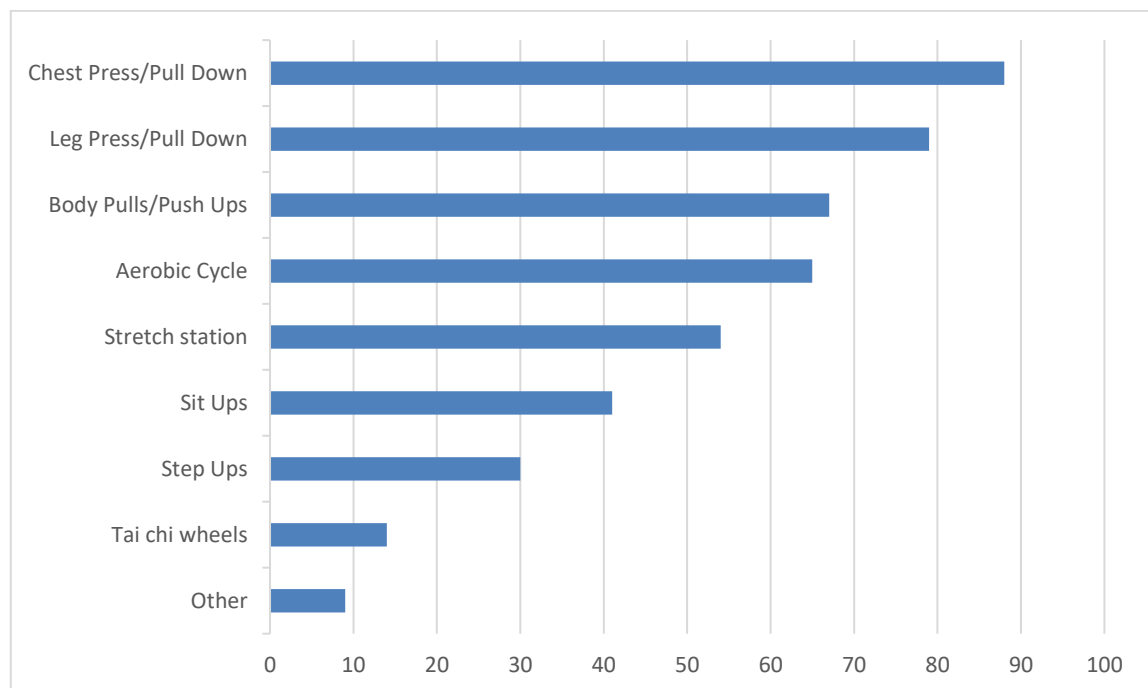
Two questions were asked.

- What outdoor fitness equipment they would like included
- Feedback on a multipurpose court

Your Say Whitehorse Engagement Outcome

Question: What types of outdoor fitness equipment would you like to see in Terrara Park?
Pick your top four choices.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 129 of 129 (100%)



Question: We are also considering a multipurpose court between the pavilion and cricket nets. This may include basketball and netball rings. It would be available for casual community use. Do you have any comments about this?

Response

From a total of 129 responses, majority of the respondents (78 responses) provided specific comments to the question above.

Specific Comments Summary

Supportive of the idea

In general, majority of the comments were supportive of the proposed idea of a ball court for basketball and netball. There was balanced support for basketball and netball rings to be provided.

The community would also like the design to consider

- different height rings to cater for wider age groups
- ensuring there is enough space for different user groups
- allow for learning to ride users
- seating
- supervision between ball court and playground
- lighting for evening/night use – this is covered under on-demand lighting section.

Other comments

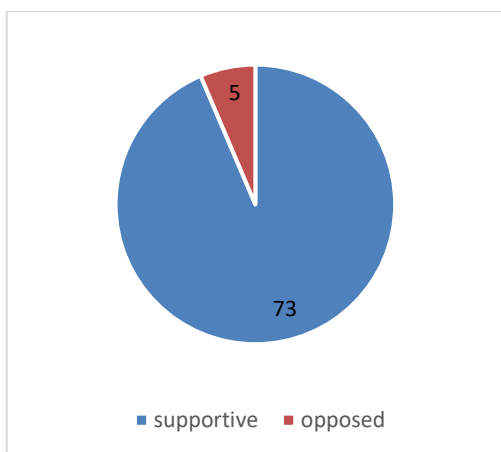
Some members of the public raised other potential ideas as follows:

- Skate ramp
- Outdoor table tennis
- Rebound tennis wall
- Fenced off ball court area

These suggestions may not be feasible for the site as it impacts on management, lack of space, proximity to nearby residences, and supervision.

Against the idea

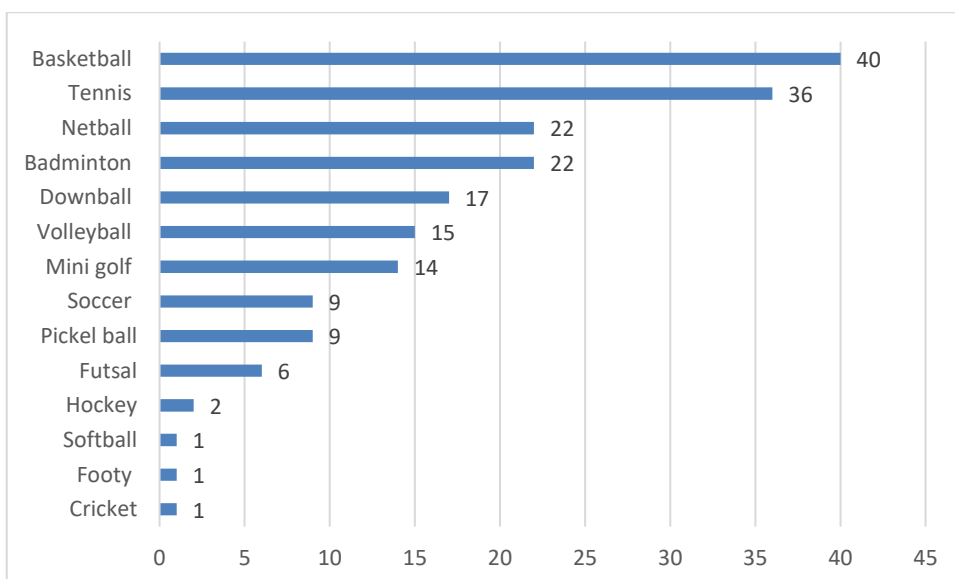
Out of 129 respondents, 5 (3.9%) expressed general opposition to the idea of a new multipurpose court and one respondent (0.8%) raised potential noise issues associated with ball courts.



Livingstone Primary School Engagement Outcome

Feedback on Multipurpose Court

A total of 195 responses were received. 40 respondents (20%) would like to have a basketball court and 36 respondents (18%) would like to have a tennis court. The next popular request was for Netball and Badminton with 22 respondents (11% each).



Question: Any other comments on multi court

None recorded

Engagement Summary

Majority of the consultation outcome supported the inclusion of a ball court and outdoor fitness equipment.

6.0 On Demand Lighting Engagement

Introduction

This section of the community engagement focused on the idea of On Demand Lighting at Terrara Park.

Five questions were put forward.

- What do you think about on-demand lighting at Terrara Park?
- Why don't you support on-demand lighting at Terrara Park? Are there any changes we could make to increase your level of support?
- What times in the early morning would you support on-demand lighting?
- Do you support on-demand lighting for community use in the evening (5pm–9pm)?
- Do you have any other comments about on-demand lighting?

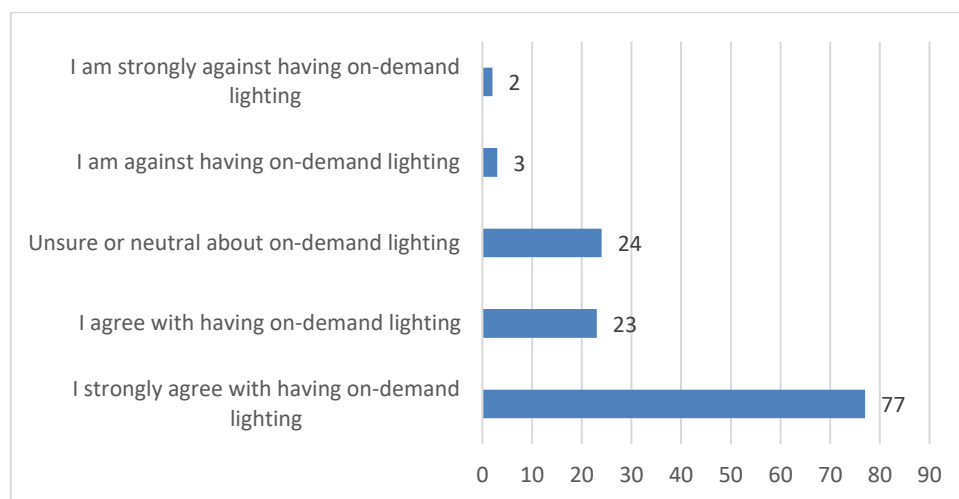
Refer below Engagement Summary Outcomes.

Engagement Summary Outcome

Question: What do you think about on-demand lighting at Terrara Park?

Skipped: 0 | Answered: 129 of 129 (100%)

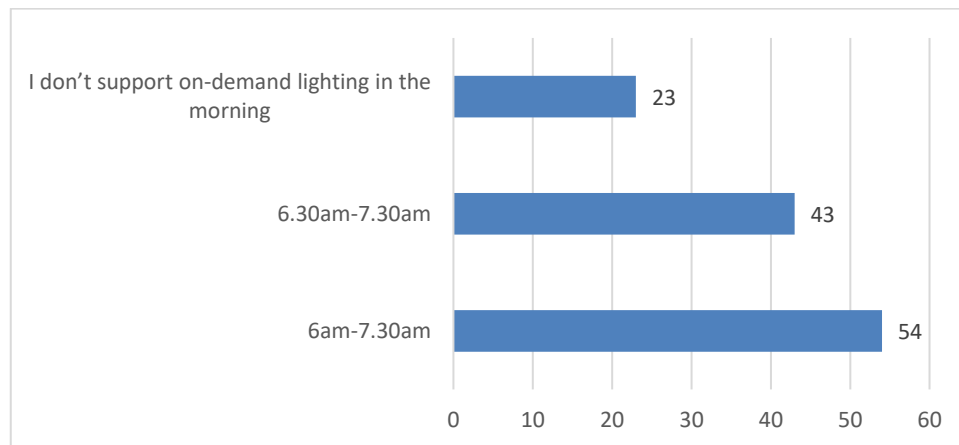
The majority of respondents expressed support for having on-demand lighting, with approximately 77.5% (100 respondents) supportive. A smaller proportion of respondents were neutral (24 respondents, 18.6%), while only 2.3% were against and 1.6% strongly against the proposal.



Question: What times in the early morning would you support on-demand lighting?

Skipped: 9 | Answered: 120 of 129 (93.0%)

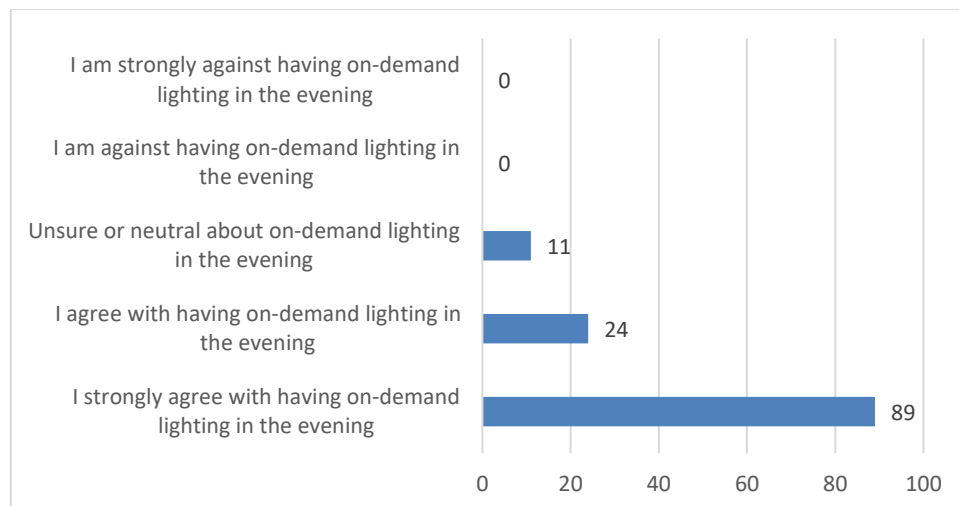
Respondents showed strong support for morning on-demand lighting, with 45.0% supporting a 6:00–7:30 am period and 35.8% supporting a 6:30–7:30 am period. A smaller proportion of respondents (19.2%) did not support morning on-demand lighting.



Do you support on-demand lighting for community use in the evening (5pm–9pm)?

Skipped: 5 | Answered: 4 of 124 (96.1%)

The majority of respondents strongly supported evening on-demand lighting, with approximately 71.8% strongly agreeing and 19.4% agreeing. A smaller proportion were neutral (8.9%), and no respondents opposed the proposal.



Question: Why don't you support on-demand lighting at Terrara Park? Are there any changes we could make to increase your level of support?

Skipped: 125 | Answered: 4 of 129 (3.1%)

Summary of specific comments for the question

- Potential increase in electricity usage and associated costs, with limited night-time use.
- Additional expense that may only benefit a small number of users.
- Potential impacts on native fauna and nearby residents.
- Operational considerations, including restricted hours, safe usage, and the possibility of recovering costs through user charges.

Do you have any other comments about on-demand lighting?

Response

From a total of 129 responses, 32 respondents provided specific comments to the question above, whilst 97 respondents chose to skip the question.

Specific Comments Summary

Supportive of the idea

In general, majority of the comments were supportive of the proposed idea to provide on-demand lighting around the reserve. Majority of comments support lights for evening use.

The community support is based on

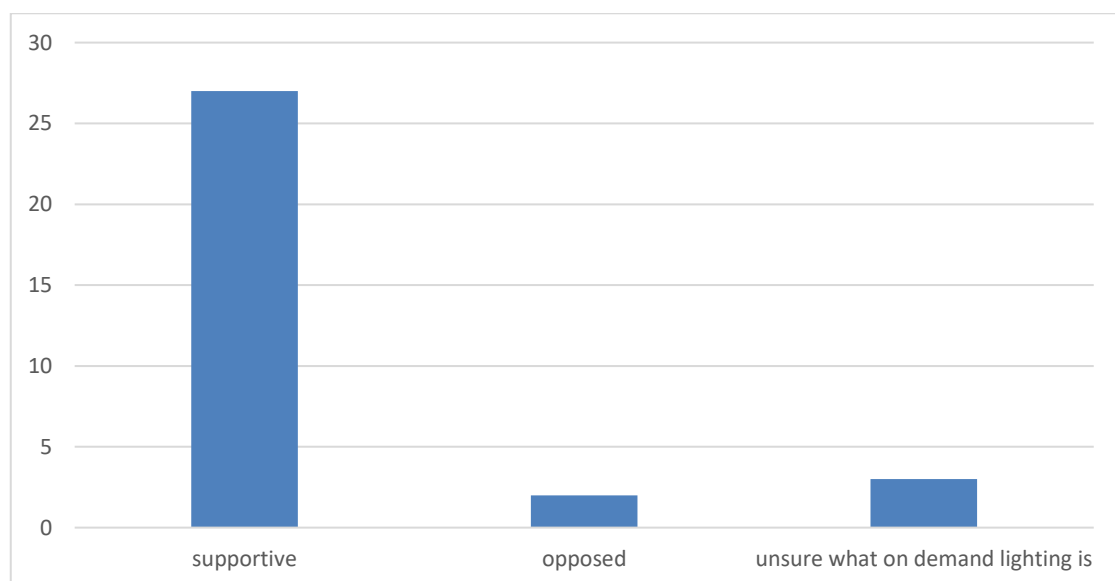
- Lights provides safety for users
- Extends opportunity for outdoor use especially during winter
- Lighting does not disturb adjacent properties and wildlife
- Agreed time

Other comments

Some members of the public were not sure of the term on-demand lighting, and questioned if the lights were triggered by motion sensor. The community would be opposed to the idea of motion sensor trigger lights.

Against the idea

Out of 32 respondents there were 2 comments in total that were opposed to the idea of demand lights. No explanation was provided.



Engagement Summary

Respondents generally supported the introduction of on-demand lighting for both morning and evening use.

- Morning lighting: Support was strongest for the 6:00–7:30 am period (45.0%) and slightly lower for 6:30–7:30 am (35.8%), with 19.2% not supportive.
- Evening lighting: Support was very strong, with 71.8% of respondents strongly agreeing and 19.4% agreeing, while 8.9% were neutral and none opposed.

Some respondents raised considerations related to electricity costs, limited usage, impacts on fauna and nearby residents, and operational management, including restricted hours and potential user charges.

7.0 Summary

Playground Renewal

Renewal of the play space is strongly supported by the community.

The proposed play space design is to consider the following inclusions:

- Inclusive design
- Combination unit that caters for multi age children.
- Swinging
- Gliding (flying fox or track glide)
- Spinning (carousel)
- Rocking (see saw)
- Bouncing (trampoline)

The design should also consider other supplementary elements such as bbq, shelter, seating and sightlines to encourage families to comfortably stay for longer.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment and Ball Court

Majority of the community response were in support for inclusion of a ball court and outdoor fitness equipment at Terrara Park.

The ball court design is to consider multi use opportunities for different sports, as well as users of all abilities and age. Top main demand for the ball court suitable for the site were basketball and netball, with line marking for other younger age users.

Outdoor fitness equipment to provide for upper and lower body exercises, with some low cardio activities, should be considered.

On Demand Lighting

On demand lighting for morning and evening use of the park was supported by majority of the community response.