

Merlynston Creek Parklands Masterplan Engagement Summary Report

Prepared for Hume City Council

May 2026

Merlynston Creek Parklands

Draft Masterplan

FEBRUARY 2026



REALM studios

OFFICIAL

WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG COUNTRY

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

Project: Plan	Merlynston Creek Parklands Master	Document Issue: Issue for: Review	Revision: A	Date: 27/05/2026
Document Title:	Engagement Summary Report			
Client:	City of Hume			
Lead Consultant:	REALMstudios			
Date:	27/05/2026			
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Prepared by:

REALMstudios

In collaboration with:



For:



BACKGROUND

Hume City Council is preparing a Masterplan for the Merlynston Creek Parklands.

Merlynston Creek is the main green open space for people living in Dallas and Broadmeadows. It connects parks including Laura Douglas Reserve, Hepburn Street Reserve (Dallas Tennis Hall), Seabrook Reserve, Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery, and Jack Roper Reserve.

However, the Merlynston Creek Parklands lacks continuous connected trails, much of the habitat has been removed over time, the water quality in the creek is poor, and there is no reflection of Traditional Owner values and the different cultural groups of local communities.

A Masterplan will set the long-term vision for the creek and embed ecological, waterway, cultural, heritage, access and community recreational values. It will guide future Council investment and identify priority projects.

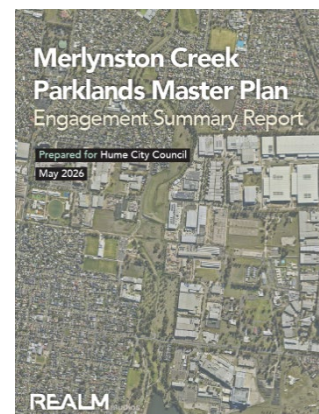


Earlier community engagement

Before preparing the Masterplan, input was sought from community and stakeholders in July-Aug 2025. A total of 267 responses were received.

In summary, there was strong community interest in walking loops, trees and shade, better creek health and ecological outcomes, improving road crossings, better play in Laura Douglas Reserve, removing dogs from Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery, more signage and greater integration of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture.

This input helped shaped the draft Masterplan.



Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Values

Merlynston Creek is located on the Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People. Their Ancestors have cared for and lived on this country since time immemorial. Despite the effects of colonization, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People maintain their responsibility to manage and care for their Country.

Merlynston Creek and the Cultural Landscape it is embedded in is an important part of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country. Waterways and waterscapes hold immense cultural, spiritual and social significance to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People.

To guide the Merlynston Creek Parklands Masterplan, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders set out their priorities for Merlynston Creek Cultural Landscape in *Summary Document - Merlynston Creek Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Assessment (2026) Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation*.



ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Key Engagement Approach

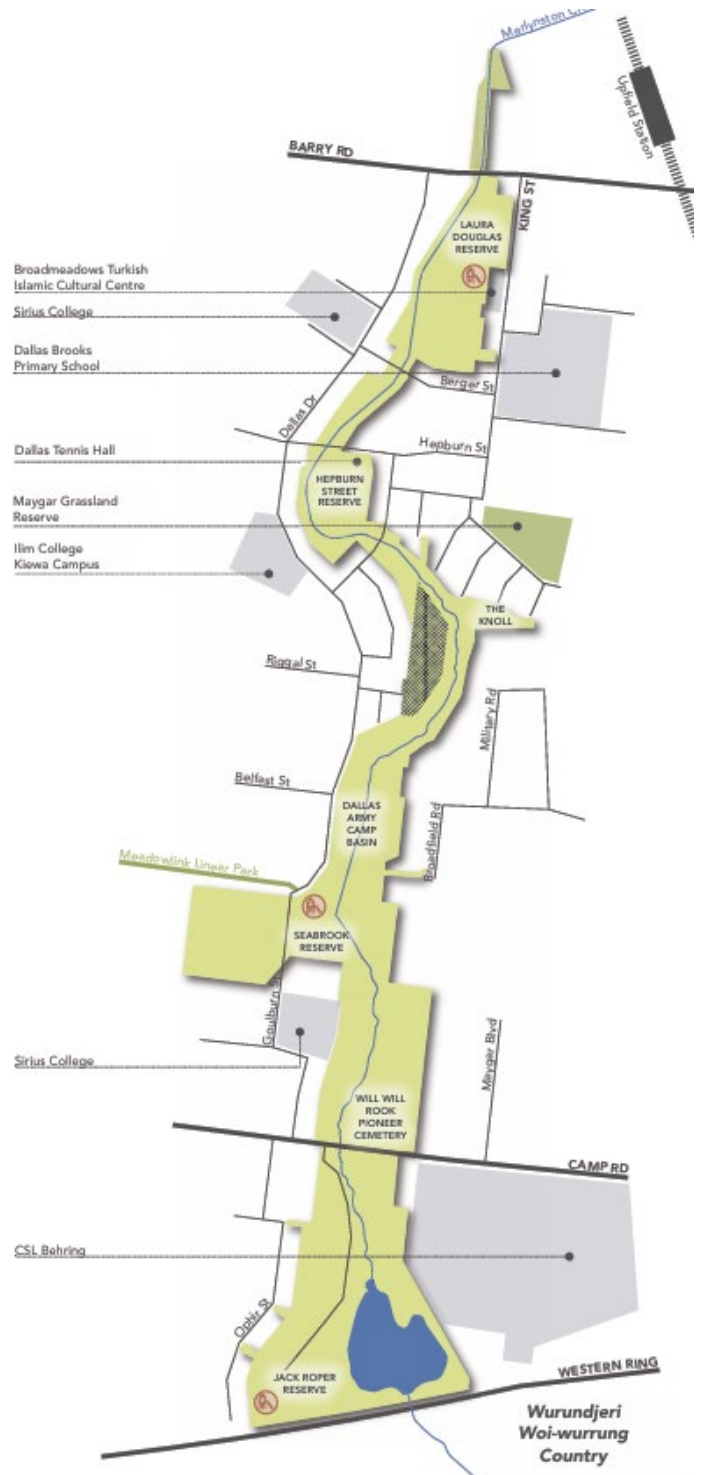
Merlynston Creek Parklands encompasses seven parks. Consultation focused on:

- Merlynston Creek Parklands holistically
- Laura Douglas Reserve in detail. Laura Douglas Reserve is the focus area next due for renewal.

Consultation Activities and Responses

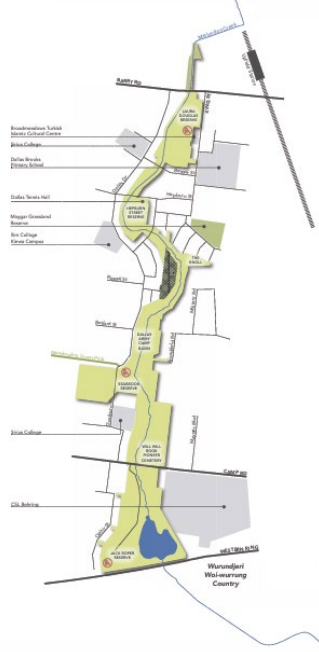
From 27 February to 2 April 2026, consultation was used to understand preferences for future parkland outcomes along Merlynston Creek, and involved:

- **Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung** input has been provided via the Merlynston Creek Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Assessment
- **Online engagement** hosted on Participate Hume: two interactive maps and a survey. The Participate Hume response was very low with only five comments. There were 508 unique visitors to the site.
- **Online presentation** open to the public was available on 10 March 2026 and the project manager was available upon request to speak to schools and community groups. There was no response to any of these opportunities.
- **On-site meeting** was held at Laura Douglas Reserve on 31 March 2026. Over 15 park users were interviewed.
- **Social media promotion** included Facebook and Instagram posts on 27 Feb and 28 March including posts in English and translated into Turkish and Arabic. This reached 6500 peoples with no comments received.
- **Signs and Posters** placed along the parklands in English, Turkish and Arabic
- **Stakeholder submissions** received from Melbourne Water, Department of Transport and Planning, Friends of Will Will Rook Cemetery, Merri Creek Management Committee
- **Individual letters** were sent to 16 landowners located adjacent to the parklands and most directly impacted. Follow up meetings were held with three of these landowners. A letter was received from an NGO based in Riggall St.
- **King Street traders** door knocking on 4th & 31st March received feedback from five businesses



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Merlynston Creek Parklands Draft Masterplan



We're developing a masterplan to improve and connect the parks that surround Merlynston Creek.

We've heard your feedback and have planned for:

- a continuous creekside trail from Barry Road to Jack Roper Reserve
- more shade and walking loops
- new play and picnic areas
- protection of nature, the creek and Wurundjeri values.

We want to hear your thoughts on the draft masterplan, including what you like and what could be improved. Your feedback will help shape the final plan.

Share your feedback in person, or let us know your thoughts online before **Thursday 2 April 2026**.



Scan the QR code to have your say and find out more about the upcoming pop-up session.



HUME CITY COUNCIL

King Street, Dallas'taki Laura Douglas Rezervi'nde iyileştirmeler planlıyoruz



Neler yapıyoruz?

Merlynston Creek Park Alanı Master Planının bir parçası olarak King Street'teki Laura Douglas Rezervi'nde iyileştirmeler planlıyoruz.

Önerilen iyileştirmeler arasında şunlar vardır:

- Yeni bir açık hava alanı
- Oyun alanı
- Yürüyüş parkurları
- Yaya üst geçidi
- Spor alanları.

Görüşlerinizi yaklaşan geçici etkinliğimizde yüz yüze bizimle paylaşabilir ya da aşağıdaki karekodu taratarak düşüncelerinizi çevrim içi olarak iletebilirsiniz.

Görüşlerinizi **2 Nisan 2026 Perşembe** gününe kadar bizimle paylaşmanızı rica ediyoruz.

Görüşlerinizi participate.hume.vic.gov.au adresinden çevrim içi olarak bizimle paylaşın

Açık Alan Stratejisi ekibini 9205 2200 numaralı telefondan arayın



Karekodu taratarak hem daha fazla bilgi edinebilir hem de görüşlerinizi bizimle paylaşabilirsiniz.



Turkish | Türkçe

HUME CITY COUNCIL

مسودة المخطط الرئيسي لـ Merlynston Creek Parklands



نحن نعمل على تطوير مخطط رئيسي لتحسين وربط الحدائق المحيطة بـ Merlynston Creek.

لقد استمعنا إلى تعليقاتكم وخططنا لما يلي:

- مسار متصل على جانبي الجدول من Barry Road إلى محمية Jack Roper Reserve
- المزيد من الظل وحلقات المشي
- مناطق جديدة للعب والنزهات
- حماية الطبيعة والجدول وقيم Wurundjeri.

نريد أن نسمع أفكاركم حول مسودة المخطط الرئيسي، بما في ذلك ما يعجبكم وما يمكن تحسينه.

سوف تساعد تعليقاتكم في تشكيل الخطة النهائية.

شاركوا تعليقاتكم شخصيًا، أو أخبرونا بأفكاركم عبر الإنترنت قبل يوم الخميس 2 نيسان / أبريل 2026.



يرجى مسح رمز الاستجابة السريعة لإبداء آرائكم ومعرفة المزيد حول الجلسة المقبلة القادمة.



Arabic | العربية

HUME CITY COUNCIL

We're planning upgrades to Laura Douglas Reserve in King Street, Dallas



What we're doing

As part of the Merlynston Creek Parklands Masterplan, we're planning upgrades at Laura Douglas Reserve in King Street.

Proposed upgrades include:

- a new outdoor plaza
- play area
- walking loops
- footbridge
- sporting fields.

Share your feedback in person at our upcoming pop-up event, or let us know your thoughts online by scanning the QR code below.

We kindly request that feedback be provided by **Thursday 2 April 2026**.

Let us know online participate.hume.vic.gov.au

Call the Open Space Strategy team 9205 2200



Scan the QR code to find out more and have your say.



Image: Sample of posters displayed between 4 March-2 April in English, Turkish and Arabic

FINDINGS SUMMARY

Community feedback

- » Respondents included people who live / work nearby or regularly use the parklands
- » One third of respondents were **King St traders**. Traders did not have a strong relationship with Laura Douglas Reserve and their emphasis was on carparking closer to their shops, along with more picnic tables and public toilet, and request to solve rubbish dumping.
- » A request for **outdoor event** space was made by the Iranian Chaldian community
- » A large majority supported a **continuous walking and cycling trail** along the creek, with shorter loops for local use.
- » High priority given to **upgraded play spaces, and more sitting and picnic areas**, particularly at Laura Douglas Reserve.
- » Support for improved crossing at **Camp Road**
- » There was support for a walking link to the park for workers from the **factory area** (east side)
- » Support for **information and signage**, including way-finding, heritage interpretation, and opportunities for volunteering from two respondents
- » Concerns raised about **rubbish dumping**, vandalism, and antisocial behaviour.
- » In the Laura Douglas Reserve pop-up session:
 - » 85% were supportive of increasing **play, events and picnic** facilities in northern area.
 - » 69% were supportive of a new **pedestrian footbridge** across the creek.
 - » 53% were supportive of enhancing the **playing fields and pavilions**
 - » 38% were supportive of **naturalising Merlynston Creek**.
 - » If not supportive of the above, all other respondents were 'neutral' or 'did not know'.

Sample size note

The sample size of responses for this round of engagement (18 original responses plus 5 stakeholder responses) was smaller than previous consultation round (267 total)

Stakeholder feedback

- » Five external stakeholders provided feedback
- » Concerns raised from five external stakeholders about potential **impacts of the proposed future road crossing** near Seabrook Reserve. Requests were made for more information and to change the design to allow for riparian, ecological, waterflow, cultural and visitor experience improvements. These concerns were raised by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Melbourne Water, Merri Creek Management Committee, and Friends of Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery. Dept of Transport requested a traffic assessment of the proposal as it will alter signal operations.
- » Four external stakeholders highlighted the need for **stronger ecological protections**, integration with broader habitat corridors, and careful siting of new infrastructure and lighting to avoid impacts on remnant vegetation and threatened species.
- » Two external stakeholders supported **moving the off-leash dog park** and queried where the new location will be.
- » Technical input raised by Melbourne Water for the Dallas Merlynston Creek **Retarding Basin**
- » **Dallas City** has advised that it is supportive of the Laura Douglas Masterplan subject to clarification on how the carparking will work.

Landowner feedback

- » Discussions with the landowner at 13 Merlynston Close Dallas commenced during consultation regarding the future of the parklands
- » Feedback from Broadfield Street industrial bakery confirmed their primary concern is to purchase leased land in the Basin and to avoid subdivision across the Creek as new residents complain of noise from their business.
- » Discussions with CSL Behring confirmed the security and topography challenges are incompatible with supporting a walking loop around Jack Roper lake.
- » Clarification during consultation confirmed that the property boundary for 55 King Street also includes laneway

KEY FINDINGS SNAPSHOTS

Naturalising the Creek

Support for naturalisation of the creek

General support for removal of concrete through the creek channel.

"...encouraged to see a strong emphasis on restoring Merlynston Creek including specific actions to treat stormwater from industrial catchments and reducing pollution in all sections of the waterway."

"The sediment ponds would need constant monitoring, ie rubbish/trash."

Connected walking and cycling trail along the whole length of the creek

"If you build (connected walking and cycling trails) people will use. These improvements are all good for Dallas."

"I like to see new bushwalking facilities across Merlynston Creek with the parks as well."

"I like that the paths will all be linked up."

"There should be a link to the factory area - a lot of people working there said they would walk the path rather than the 5km drive around."

"Walking loops and trees are really important, especially for the elderly."



Image Top Right: Signage at shop front on Kings Street, Dallas

Image Bottom Left: Circular images used during community consultation sessions to discuss opportunities for play, gathering, small markets and events.



Laura Douglas Reserve

Support for recreation facility upgrades within Laura Douglas Reserve

"Happy for park improvement and childrens play."

"We like the plan for us to have events here in the park. We have the Chaldian Iranian and Babylonian New Year Aketo Festival and looking for places to have them. Can you include a stage (8x8m) and four toilets to help with our largest event. And more rubbish bins"

"We find the play equipment is so bland now, no slides, no swings, no colour, just dark green and grey. Just exercise equipment"

"We drive here from Roxburgh Park because this is the best maintained grass, and so open for my toddler to play on. And hot chips - None of the play is suitable."

Sporting facilities:

"I like the new plaza - the new walking paths and the new clubrooms. The clubroom should get fully renovated or changed for a newer and a bigger better clubroom. I would recommend sidewalks around the pitches for better viewing and a stand around the clubroom or on the opposite side of the clubrooms."

Hepburn Reserve and Dallas Tennis Hall

Ecological connection:

"Ecological values must be protected."

"Maygar grasslands...we believe these areas must be protected."

Dallas Retarding Basin

General support for additional paths and natural habitat through this area.

"Must reflect and record the army camp history/heritage."

"This (Dallas retarding basin) was built for a reason, when this once beautiful pristine water way floods. Perhaps show photos of the flooding to indicate to visitors of the danger during extreme flooding."

Will Will Rook Cemetery

Relocating the dog park



Image above: Pop-up engagement session at Laura Douglas Reserve - 31 April 2026

Camp Road Crossing

Potential improvements and general sentiments:

"The traffic lights across Camp Road would be a positive move, not only for foot traffic to cross safely, but for those entering and exiting the small car parking area beside the cemetery."

"Finally, in regards to crossing Camp Road – I would be very happy with simply a set of pedestrian lights that are well marked for bikes and pedestrians. It does indeed feel quite dangerous crossing at the current pedestrian crossing from Jack Roper to the Cemetery – I was in the middle there with my bike for a number of long minutes with trucks and cars going past very close to me without slowing."

Future Road Crossings

Sentiment snapshot:

"Given the intersection with both Golden Sun Moth habitat and the planned creek masterplan corridor, reconsideration of alignment and location (of the proposed road) is strongly recommended."

Jack Roper Reserve

Green space accessibility

"I believe there is a strong need for sound proof fencing along the M80 in Jack Roper Reserve. As Broadmeadows has limited greenspace, the impact of the freeway means that locals are not able to enjoy the full benefits of nature there, which we know is beneficial for mental health."

"The playground there is impacted by the freeway noise and there is some evidence that extended periods next to freeways impacts development and learning which should be considered."

Other Feedback

Community Friends of Group establishment

"I'd also like to suggest the establishment of a 'Friends of Merlynston creek'. I could imagine it being possible to arrange a group planting day for Foundation House clients if such an opportunity presented itself."

Maintenance and dumping concerns

- › Illegal dumping of rubbish and food scraps seen as a persistent issue, particularly around the King Road Shopping strip.
- › General concern about upkeep along the creek.

Additional facilities and upgrades

- › Upgrade of King Road Shopping strip.
- › Creek development to improve visual appeal and tidy the area up.

General support and positivity

- › Several respondents expressed happiness and excitement about council's proposals overall.



Image above: Signage on Will Will Rook bluestone toilets

Images below: Circular images used during community consultation sessions to discuss opportunities for play, gathering, small markets and events.

