04 APPENDICES



BULLA PARKLANDS

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

APPENDICES

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1 BACKGROUND DOCUMENT REVIEW

The background document review process highlighted a range of key considerations to inform the development of the future Bulla Parklands Master Plan. The review focused on a selection of documents - including Hume City Council strategies, technical design guidelines, and landscape assessments that will shape the planning and treatment of the Bulla Parklands.

The Bulla Parklands Master Plan and its elevation to regional park status within the municipality is identified as a priority action in the Hume City Council Open Space Strategy 2025 Parklands.

To align with the key policy directions of the Open Space Strategy 2025, the documents reviewed were assessed against the 3 key directions; Protect, Optimise and Grow.

These directions are outlined by the strategy as follows:

- Protect - Protect and enhance conservation, heritage and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values. Protect open space from encroaching development, works, interfaces and the impacts of climate change.
- Optimise - Open spaces designed and maintained to provide a mix of visitor experiences in each neighbourhood.
- Grow - New open spaces provided in areas of highest visitor and/or ecological needs, especially along waterways.

The background document review process maps each document against these directions (as illustrated in the diagram below). The following chapter provides a thematic summary of findings from each document reviewed, which together help to guide the development of an integrated, ecologically sensitive, and culturally grounded Master Plan.

The documents reviewed in the following tables all support the directions of Protect, Optimise and Grow to varying degrees. Therefore, the bar charts associated with each document overview shows all three colours, but weighted by the directions the document most aligns with.



How to read the objectives key, examples below:

- This document supports all objectives equally



- This document supports Protect and Optimise primarily



- This document supports Grow primarily



CORE DOCUMENTS

- Hume City Council Open Space Strategy (2025)
- Hume City Council Land and Biodiversity Plan 2023-2030
- Hume City Council Bulla Reserve Management Plan (1999)
- Hume City Council Community Infrastructure Plan 2013-2023
- Hume City Council Hume Bicycle Network Plan (2015)
- Hume City Council Community Vision
- Hume City Council Council Plan 2025-2029
- Hume City Council Council Action Plan 2025/2026
- Hume City Council Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden

GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS

- Hume City Council Trees in Streetscapes and Reserves
- Hume City Council Surface Treatments
- Hume City Council Signage
- Hume City Council Shelters
- Hume City Council Retaining and Feature Walls
- Hume City Council Playspace Design
- Hume City Council Lighting
- Hume City Council Turf Treatments
- Hume City Council Kickabout
- Hume City Council Irrigation
- Hume City Council Integrated Water Management
- Hume City Council Indigenous Landscape Treatments
- Hume City Council Garden Beds and Edging
- Hume City Council Drainage
- Hume City Council Bridges, Boardwalks and Culverts

GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS

- Hume City Council Bollards, Fencing, Gates and Barriers
- Hume City Council Landscape Design Considerations
- Hume City Council Species List

SUBCONSULTANT DOCUMENTS

- Practical Ecology Flora and Fauna Assessment and Impact Analysis Bulla Recreation Reserve (2023)
- Practical Ecology Targeted Survey for Golden Sun Moth Bulla Recreation Reserve (2024)

DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Open Space Strategy 2025	The Open Space Strategy establishes a 20-year vision (to 2045) to improve environmental outcomes, and community health and wellbeing across Hume City. It supports delivery of the Hume Council Plan and responds to emerging challenges including population growth, climate change, equity of access, and increasing maintenance pressures. The Strategy seeks to: • Provide an overview of existing visitor experiences and identify future community needs • Guide the equitable provision of high-quality open space • Respond to climate change and protect the natural environment • Collaborate with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Traditional Owners to support their priorities for Country Implementation will be guided by a 20-year action plan to inform budget allocation and open space contributions. The Strategy applies the Victorian Protect–Optimise–Grow framework from the Open Space for Everyone Strategy.	Vision: Hume's high-quality open space network supports the health and wellbeing of the community while celebrating waterways, natural systems and the cultural values of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Open spaces across Hume will be: • Diverse – Reflecting the needs of a diverse community and celebrating Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural knowledge and connection to Country. • Resilient – Cooler, greener and responsive to climate change, with strengthened biodiversity and habitat links. • Equitable – Fairly distributed in both supply and quality to support all communities. • Accessible – Well connected and inclusive, enabling people of all abilities to enjoy open space. • Multi-functional – Designed to provide amenity, safety, comfort, recreation and environmental benefits. • The Strategy is guided by three key directions: Protect – Optimise – Grow • Protect conservation, heritage and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values, and safeguard open space from encroachment and climate impacts. • Optimise existing parks to enhance their quality, functionality and range of visitor experiences. • Grow the open space network in areas of greatest visitor and ecological need, particularly along waterways. The urban forest strategy supports climate resilience, biodiversity, equity, neighbourhood character, heritage tree protection and community stewardship. By 2050, canopy targets include: • Oasis Areas – 70% canopy cover, supported by irrigation (ideally recycled water), with at least two oasis areas in each urban precinct. • Tree Reserves – 50% canopy cover, prioritising tree growth over built infrastructure. • All Other Reserves – Minimum 20% canopy cover (with many targeting 50%), focusing planting along paths and around play areas to provide shade. • The site is located within Precinct 5 – Rural. Open Space Priorities include: • Protect and enhance conservation values along Deep Creek.

DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Open Space Strategy 2025		• Protect and strengthen Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural landscapes, including waterways, stony rises and opportunities to practice ceremony and care for Country. • Maintain designated off-leash dog areas at Bulla Parklands. • Increase tree canopy and expand irrigation to improve urban cooling, including the creation of potential 70% canopy "oasis areas." Key Strategic Priorities: • Increase the quality and quantity of open space in established suburbs, particularly where access is limited. • Expand park renewal programs to replace ageing infrastructure and improve accessibility for all abilities. • Increase urban forest canopy (currently 4% across Hume; 5.67% in Bulla) to reduce urban heat. • Provide more flexible spaces for events and community gatherings, particularly in Sunbury. • Plan for rising maintenance costs linked to climate change, emergency response and waste management. • Strengthen partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, recognising over 65,000 years of custodianship and supporting self-determination. • Use the Hume Planning Scheme to protect existing parks from encroachment and secure new open space through developer contributions.
 Hume City Council Active Living Plan	The Active Living Plan is a 30 year plan designed to guide future investment, inclusion, and community wellbeing as Hume's population grows. The objective of the document is to provide inclusive access, be a growth response and a strategic document. The key focus areas are indoor and outdoor sports, aquatics and leisure, casual recreation.	Bulla Recreation Reserve: Current master planning for Bulla Parklands is to incorporate: • Upgrade of oval playing surface, • irrigation and drainage • Sports Lighting • Changeroom and officials amenity. • Investigate alternative usage opportunities to re-purpose and activate the asphalt court space • Renew the skate, scooter and BMX Plan to consider recreational bike facilities including pump tracks and mountain biking

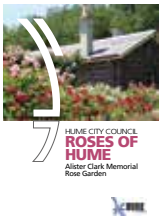
DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Land and Biodiversity Plan 2023-2030	The Land and Biodiversity Plan 2023–2030 provides Council's seven-year strategic framework for protecting, enhancing and managing these values. It outlines priority assets, the relevant planning and policy context, Council's responsibilities, and the impacts of climate change on reserves, biodiversity connectivity, cultural heritage and rural landscapes. The Plan builds on the previous 2015–2019 strategy, continuing unfinished actions and refining priorities.	The Plan is structured around five key themes: • Healthy nature reserves – Improve knowledge of biodiversity, strengthen strategic reserve management, and collaborate with partners to support best-practice land management. • Landscape connectivity for wildlife – Protect and enhance vegetation corridors, work with stakeholders to improve ecological connections, and monitor progress over time. • Urban biodiversity and wellbeing – Strengthen biodiversity within urban areas, create opportunities for community connection to nature, and support safe coexistence with wildlife. • Cultural values and heritage – Protect cultural heritage, support active land management guided by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, and build long-term partnerships and community understanding of Aboriginal cultural significance. • Sustainable rural landscapes – Support rural landholders to manage land sustainably, reduce priority weeds, enhance climate resilience, and increase native vegetation and habitat.
 Hume City Council Bulla Reserve Management Plan 1999	This plan, developed with community input, sets the future direction for Bulla Reserve, balancing development with the protection of historical features, rural character, and recreational facilities. It provides strategic guidance, a framework for grant applications, and direction for efficient Council investment. The reserve features dramatic western slopes, indigenous grasses, stony rises and panoramic views over Deep Creek Valley. Its mix of historical and community facilities has created an ad hoc layout, limiting pedestrian flow and passive recreation. Objectives: • Protect heritage buildings, structures, and natural landscapes • Integrate heritage and indigenous planting • Enhance visitor attractions	Works Recommendations: • Vehicle Circulation & Parking – Retain service track for maintenance vehicles only (locked entry). – Create dedicated, safe church entry from Green Street with shaded parking and pedestrian access. – Manage overflow parking for events and integrate landscaping at T.L.S.S main entry. – Maintain feature timber entry gates; formalise shaded parking for tennis and T.L.S.S visitors. – Improve tennis club carpark with safer circulation, defined bays, and trees; rationalise oval carpark. – Investigate new carpark for Shire Offices (Telstra site) with signage and heritage bridges; consider CFA site as alternative. • Pedestrian & Cycling Circulation – Establish 1.5m shaded shared gravel path through reserve. – Loop 1.2m gravel paths linking main areas, with interpretive signage and ridge-line walks.

DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Bulla Reserve Management Plan 1999	• Create a central community hub with playground, picnic, and open space • Develop safe walking paths to facilities and scenic trails • Rationalise roads and carparks to improve safety and usable parkland • Stage implementation to elevate Bulla Reserve from sub-regional to regional status	– Develop Deep Creek walking track with timber bridge; relocate T.L.S.S fence as needed. • Safety – Remove unserviceable toilets to widen junior oval. – Upgrade tennis/play area with playground and protective mounds. • Design & Community Spaces – Create traditional flowering gardens, heritage-style plantings, and timber seating. – Develop central community hub with shaded picnic/BBQ area, heritage-style shelter, panoramic views. – Construct sub-regional themed playground and informal open space for recreation. – Provide open grass area for events, minor sports upgrades, and half-court basketball/skating facility. • Built Facilities – Integrate CFA building extension and carparking. – Construct small sympathetic public toilet near community hub. – Screen exposed gas cylinders; install timber seating and secure bin corrals. – Consider pedestrian suspension bridge over Deep Creek. • Signage – Install information boards and entry signage reflective of Bulla Reserve's character. – Provide interpretive signage at key locations. • Maintenance – Preserve historic drystone walls; maintain vehicle access for emergency/maintenance. • Planting & Landscaping – Strengthen native screening, avenue plantings, and shade trees around carparks and community areas. – Use indigenous species for revegetation; protect remnant vegetation. – Remove Elm suckers along Deep Creek; maintain clear sightlines.

DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Community Infrastructure Plan	The purpose of this plan is to guide the strategic planning and delivery of community infrastructure across Hume. It assesses the demand for community services and facilities arising from forecast population growth and demographic change over the next 20 years. The plan also considers existing service gaps, legislative and regulatory changes, the condition and use of current facilities, accessibility, and the evolving needs and expectations of service providers and the broader community. Specifically, the plan provides: • A vision and guiding principles for community infrastructure planning in Hume • A framework to prioritise planning and capital investment decisions • Strategic options for the delivery of community facilities, spaces and places	Vision: Deliver a network of community facilities, spaces and places to support the provision of services and community activities Principles: • Our network of community infrastructure will be planned to be: – Responsive to community and service provider needs and expectations – Accessible and well located – Delivered in step with population growth and change • Our community infrastructure will be designed and managed to: – Put the environment and people first – Foster community pride – Be flexible and integrated – Support equitable access
 Hume City Council Hume Bicycle Network Plan 2015	This document establishes a comprehensive municipal-wide cycling network across Hume, incorporating on-road and off-road routes to support both transport and recreation. It formalises cycling as a key mode of travel and promotes a safer, more connected network for all riders. The project will: • Develop a Bicycle Network Plan linking residential areas with key destinations and the regional network • Identify priority routes to inform capital works and funding applications	Six principles guide the development and delivery of the Bicycle Network Plan: • Connectivity: The network will link residential areas with key destinations and form a continuous system with minimal gaps. It will integrate both on-road and off-road facilities and provide a range of route options to cater to different types of cyclists and trip purposes. • Directness: Routes will balance direct travel with appropriate safety levels for intended users. The network will minimise unnecessary detours, reduce travel distances, and improve permeability through new and upgraded connections. • Legibility: Clear signage and wayfinding will be incorporated to improve navigation, strengthen network clarity and address existing gaps. • Pleasantness: Where possible, routes will prioritise scenic, quiet and attractive environments, particularly for recreational and novice riders.

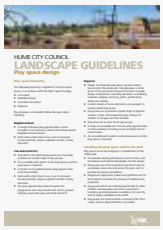
DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Hume Bicycle Network Plan 2015	• Update the Walking and Cycling Strategy Implementation Plan to guide path delivery and upgrades • Inform on-road route designation in redevelopment areas • Identify locations for cycling support facilities across the municipality	The plan will also identify key destinations suitable for end-of-trip facilities. • Safety: Routes will be designed according to user type and confidence levels, ensuring appropriate separation from pedestrians and vehicles. Infrastructure design, including intersections and roundabouts, will prioritise rider safety. • Integration: The network will connect residential areas to major destinations such as activity centres and public transport nodes, while integrating new routes with the existing cycling network.
 Hume City Council Community Vision	Developed by the community for the community, the Vision outlines shared aspirations for Hume City over the next 20 years. It guides Council's strategic direction and decision-making, ensuring focus on what matters most to residents.	Community Vision: A thriving community with a strong sense of belonging. Vision Themes: • Equality, Equity, Inclusion & Connection: Everyone in Hume has access to the support and resources they need. The community is welcoming, diverse, and inclusive, fostering empowerment, resilience, and a sense of belonging. • Well-Connected and Well-Serviced City: Residents and visitors can easily access services, amenities, and transport efficiently. • Environmentally Centred: Decisions prioritise protecting, conserving, and expanding native flora, fauna, parklands, and waterways. • Responsible and Well-Governed City: Council is transparent, strategic, and accountable, engaging with the community and efficiently using resources to achieve the Management Plan vision.

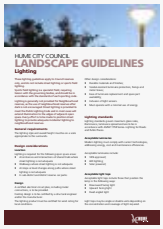
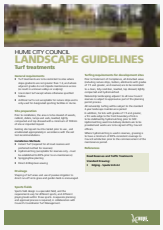
DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Council Plan 2025-2029	The Council Plan 2025–2029 sets Hume City Council's strategic direction, outlining what we aim to achieve over the next four years to progress the long-term Hume Community Vision 2045. The Plan: • Defines Council's priorities and commitments to the community. • Provides a framework to measure progress toward the Community Vision. • Focuses organisational effort on the most important priorities for Council and the community. • Guides Council's work, advocacy, decisions, and use of resources. • Supports advocacy with partners, service providers, and the community. • Provides the strategic context for all other Council strategies, plans, and policies. The Plan identifies four priorities and 11 strategic objectives, each supported by strategies and indicators to track progress. It considers the current and future needs of everyone who lives, works, and plays in Hume, guiding services, projects, and programs delivered by Council.	Priority 1: A liveable city of well-designed and connected places • Inclusive and accessible places: Create vibrant, well-designed spaces that meet community needs and encourage participation, supported by equitable infrastructure and diverse open spaces. • Strong local economy: Support a diversified and resilient local economy. • Safe and well-maintained places: Maintain public spaces to enhance amenity, promote pride, and improve safety for day and night use. Priority 2: A climate-resilient city with a healthy natural environment • Protect and enhance the environment: Safeguard biodiversity and cultural values, work with Traditional Owners, and build community knowledge and capacity for environmental stewardship. • Climate action: Improve the city's and Council's climate resilience, reduce carbon emissions, and support the community to adapt to climate change. Priority 3: A healthy, inclusive, and proud community • Social justice: Address inequalities and advance social justice. • Health and wellbeing: Promote initiatives that improve wellbeing and access to opportunities. • Inclusion and connection: Celebrate diversity and culture, strengthen social connections, and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and self-determination. Priority 4: A well-governed, strategic, and trusted Council • High-performing organisation: Prioritise continuous improvement, safety, and accountability. • Leadership and advocacy: Demonstrate strong leadership and advocacy on behalf of the community. • Community engagement: Remain responsive, engaged, and collaborative with the community.

DOCUMENT CORE	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Hume City Council Council Action Plan 2025/2026	The Council Plan 2025–2029 (our Plan) sets out Council's strategic direction and what we seek to achieve over the next four years under four priorities: • Priority 1: A liveable city of well-designed and connected places • Priority 2: A climate resilient city with a healthy natural environment • Priority 3: A healthy community that is inclusive and proud • Priority 3: A well governed Council that is strategic and trusted	Relevant priorities and strategic objectives: • Priority 1: A liveable city of well-designed and connected places – Strategic Objective 1.1 Inclusive and accessible places – Strategic Objective 1.3 Safe and well-maintained places • Priority 2: A climate-resilient city with a healthy natural environment – Strategic Objective 2.1 Protect and enhance our natural environment – Strategic Objective 2.2 Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change • Priority 3: A healthy, inclusive, and proud community – Strategic Objective 3.3 Celebrate diversity and culture, fostering social connection
 Hume City Council Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden	The Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden is home to the most complete collection of Alister Clark roses in the world. This booklet, produced in 2017, commemorates the 20th anniversary of the garden and provides a brief history of its development to date.	The Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden in Bulla holds the world's most complete collection of Alister Clark roses. Established in 1998 by Hume City Council and local volunteers, the garden honours Australia's most prolific rose breeder. Nestled between historic buildings, it features seasonal roses, native plantings, heritage elements, and visitor amenities, creating a peaceful and vibrant space celebrated locally and internationally.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Trees in Streetscapes and Reserves	General requirements: • Existing trees are to be assessed by a qualified arborist. Recommendations for retention/ removal and works required to maximise public safety and tree longevity are to be made. • Tree planting must comply with Austroads guide Clear Zones: Intersection Site Distances and Clear Zones • Plans must be prepared considering surrounding infrastructure and services, and provision for passive irrigation. • Provide consistent and equal spacing between street trees where possible. • The number of trees to be planted in reserves is to be maximised • Trees in reserves must be located a minimum 3m from paths and obstructions, for mowing purposes but may be planted together in mulched groupings. • Water wells are to only be used in reserve.
 Hume City Council Surface Treatments	Design Guidelines - • Accessibility: – All paving must be DDA compliant in accordance with current Australian Standards. – Paths must provide access to all facilities and furniture within reserves – Junctions of gravel and concrete paths require cement stabilisation of gravel to minimise movement of material causing slip hazards. • Usability: – Where paths intersect, paths are to have splayed corners to accommodate desire lines. – Line marking is required for shared paths and trails, to demarcate spaces and direction of travel for cyclists and pedestrians. – Paths within open space reserves are to integrate with the surrounding path networks. • Location: – Paths are to be located above the 1 in 10 year flood level. – Gravel paths are to be used only above the 1 in 100 year flood level and on grades less than 1:30 (unless particular circumstances prevent this eg: cultural heritage and other site issues). • Legibility: – A consistent surface palette should be used throughout a reserve. – Contrasting materials, texture and material colour can be used to direct movement through a space or indicate a change in usage (such as between shared trails and gathering spaces). Refer to Council's current standard. – Innovative use of hard surfaces such as exposed aggregate, coloured concrete, recycled materials, stencils, varying saw cuts, or sand-blastered imprints are encouraged.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Signage	• The complexity of information, the size of the signs and its placement, will all depend on whether it is intended to be viewed as a pedestrian, or from a vehicle. • A minimum offset of 1m is required from paths and property boundaries. • The sign must be orientated for maximum visibility by its intended audience (pedestrian and/or vehicle) • Adjacent to roads, the location is to comply with the current VicRoads Signing Guidelines. • Braille components should be considered for inclusion in high-use areas • Interpretative or shared trail signage must be placed so it does not detract from the visitors' sightlines • Where possible placement of sign should avoid north and west facing aspects, to avoid fading • The Hume Signage Style Guide 2019 provides all relevant specifications to determine the appropriate size, form and materials for signage, and to develop the artwork including font and layout for most sign types.
 Hume City Council Shelters	General requirements: • One large shelter is preferred, but where suitable multiple smaller shelters may be acceptable in Neighbourhood reserves. • Council encourages innovation and use of tested and approved new technology in design and construction • Shelter design should complement existing features on the site, through form, colour and materials • Shelters must be designed for long-term durability and low maintenance in terms of materials, finishes and construction methods • The minimum roof area for a Sub-District or District Reserve shelter is 10m x 8m ie 80m2 • Council does not support the use of shade sales in open space Design considerations (Location): • Consideration should be given to maximise: – Use in proximity to playgrounds, courts or the main activity node in the park – Passive surveillance – Viewing opportunities – Protection from winds, sun and rain – Optimum shade between 11am and 3pm in summer months

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Retaining and Feature Walls	General requirements: • Retaining or feature walls are to: – Be designed and constructed for long-term durability and low maintenance – Meet the surveillance requirements of the Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria with consideration of future vegetation growth
 Hume City Council Playspace Design	Bulla Parklands is designated as a District Park. Sub-district/district: • Sub-district and district play spaces are to provide activities for a wide range of age groups. • An accessible path system to all social spaces and the play space is required • A choice of accessible/inclusive play opportunities must be provided. • Parks with a high level of use, due to increased housing density, require a greater number of play elements. • The play opportunities extend beyond the playground, and may include hard courts, grassed ball play areas, bike play and skate elements Play spaces are to be designed in consideration of the whole park. • Incorporate existing site features such as trees, rock formations and natural topography into the design. • Play spaces are to be located on prominent sites to encompass views into and across the park, and to provide for passive surveillance. • Playground equipment, towers and platforms are to be located to maintain the privacy of neighbouring properties. • Play spaces which are intended specifically for older children and teenagers are to be in prominent locations, providing passive surveillance for security and to reduce vandalism and graffiti. • Play spaces are to be located a minimum 25m from roads, unless a physical barrier is provided. • Play equipment is to be located where it also allows useful space for other activities in the park, such as ball games, seating and picnic areas. • Elevated play equipment is to be suitably located to avoid overlooking private property. • Activities which may generate noise (eg. basketball courts), are to be located away from residences. Noise attenuating backboards should be used. • Design of park surface levels needs to include the play area. Direct surface water away from playgrounds, and ensure placement of garden beds and paths do not cause undue damming of water in the play spaces. • All play spaces are to include subsurface drainage, connected to the existing stormwater street pits and drains, and drainage infrastructure is to be shown on as-constructed drawings for ongoing maintenance.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Lighting	General requirements: • The lighting style and overall height must be on a scale appropriate to the surrounds. Design considerations (Location): • Lighting is required for the following open space areas: – At entrances and intersections of shared trails where street lighting is not adequate – Walkways where street lighting is not adequate – At steps or level changes along paths where street lighting is not adequate – In sub-district and district reserve car parks
 Hume City Council Turf Treatments	General requirements: • Turf treatments are to be restricted to sites where slope gradients are not greater than 1:4, and where adjacent grades do not impede maintenance access (i.e. result in unmown valleys or scalping) • Use instant turf except where otherwise specified below. • Artificial turf is not acceptable for nature strips and is only used for designated sporting facilities in Hume.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Kickabout	General requirements: • A kickabout must be partially separated from playground equipment, furniture, planting and neighbouring property boundaries, to minimise conflict with other park users and surrounding residents • Seating is to be provided overlooking the kickabout • Where kickabouts are located within 30m of roads, water features or potential hazards, a barrier or fencing is to be used to contain balls, and to discourage movement into the hazard • A kickabout is to be a minimum of 2,000m2, with minimum dimensions of 50m x 40m. The longer axis will preferably run north/south • A kickabout grade is to be no greater than 1:80 • Kickabouts are to be graded to maximise passive irrigation
 Hume City Council Irrigation	• The use of recycled water or stormwater harvesting is actively encouraged, provided the water is not used on edible plants or for drinking, and complies with the Customer Site Management Plan as required by the relevant water provider. • Passive irrigation includes: Shaping paved areas to direct run-off to garden beds and turf, directing roof run-off to garden beds or turf, or capturing for later use. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) can be used as a form of passive irrigation.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Integrated Water Management	Design requirements: • Where possible, retain natural landform and drainage paths, existing vegetation and rock formations to ensure natural hydrology of a site remains stable • On-site infiltration of water should be maximised by limiting the impervious surfaces • Innovative, efficient water reuse systems are encouraged • Outfall drains are to be constructed to slow flows and disguise pipe outlets, so that the waterway retains as natural an appearance as possible • Wetland creation is to provide recreational opportunities, promote landscape amenity and habitat links as well as manage stormwater • Wetlands must be designed to address public safety as well as comply with current Melbourne Water guidelines • Wetlands must have nominated maintenance access points with industrial strength vehicle crossings • All wetland batters steeper than or equal to 1:3 grade are to be planted • No structures are to protrude over water • Where appropriate, islands should be incorporated into the design of wetlands to provide refuge and improve habitat values • Seating and paths are to be located above the 1:10 flood level, and recreational structures such as shelters and playgrounds, are not to be located within the 1:100 year flood level • Rain gardens and Bioretention systems/swales may only be located within reserves, drainage easements and carparks • Council supports the use of buffer strips to the edges of reserves to filter storm water and facilitate passive irrigation • Kerb inlets can be used to facilitate passive irrigation of street trees to meet IWM targets and Council's Urban Forest Strategy tree canopy tree target of 20% • Kerb inlets are to be designed as part of the civil construction plans. Draft streetscape plans are required early in the process to inform civil design. • The use of tree pits in conjunction with structural soil is encouraged in town centres to maximise tree planting and shade, while providing large, paved areas for outdoor dining and active transport • Where surface drainage is used, design is to take into account the prevailing soil conditions, including the properties of Hume's clay soil profile. Appropriately shaped and sized swales or dry creek beds are to be utilised to capture and transport water to an approved point of discharge.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Indigenous Landscape Treatments	• The planting of indigenous vegetation of local provenance should seek to extend and continue vegetative and habitat corridors and linkages, while ensuring that such plantings do not increase or introduce the risk of wildfire • Steep and rocky areas which do not contain existing remnant vegetation or fauna habitat are to be sprayed, mulched and planted out to minimise maintenance • Landscape treatment must address bushfire risks • Only indigenous species of local provenance are to be used in the vicinity of all waterways, grasslands, bushland and environmentally sensitive areas • Introduced species which are known to be a weed risk to conservation reserves must not be used in landscape planting within 400 metres of conservation reserves. • Indigenous street and reserve trees are required in developments that are in close proximity to conservation areas and creek reserves, and may need to be grown in advance. • Interpretive signage must be incorporated where possible, and be in accordance with Hume's Natural Heritage Interpretation Guidelines
 Hume City Council Garden Beds and Edging	• Garden beds are to be a maximum of 3m wide, with a preferred a minimum of 500mm • Garden beds adjacent to lawn are to have continuous fluid lines, rather than corners with harsh angles, for ease of mowing access. • Where trees are planted in garden beds, all understorey planting is to be a minimum of 1m from the base of the tree • Garden beds should not be used on slopes steeper than 1:3. If no alternatives are available, the slope is to be terraced to be a maximum 1m high and should aim to be at least 2m wide • Garden beds are to be mounded a minimum of 150mm using soil with ameliorants, such as compost mixed into the soil. • Plant species and planting locations must consider the ultimate width of plants when established and be set back accordingly from path edges to reduce ongoing maintenance. • Planting density is to aim to achieve minimum 80% canopy closure within two years to suppress weed growth • For designing with garden beds refer to the Landscape Design Considerations section, and Hume's recommended species lists • Edging is used to contain crushed rock or softfall mulch, to define garden beds, and between areas of differing surface treatments. • Preferred edging materials: – Spade edging - between garden beds and turf – Steel edging - to contain gravel – Concrete edging - around playgrounds to contain rubber and softfall mulch

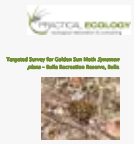
DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Drainage	General requirements: • Drainage may be provided via surface or sub-surface drainage in accordance with Council's engineering standards. Where the site is adjacent to a creek or other Melbourne Water asset, seek advice from Melbourne Water in regard to their requirements. • Where possible, stormwater runoff is to be diverted to passively irrigate vegetated areas or to rainwater tanks, and only directed to the stormwater system as a last resort. This will contribute to Integrated Water Management (IWM) outcomes and minimise the extremes between drought and flooding. Drainage in reserves: • Playground design is to include lateral drainage lines in a herringbone pattern, and all discharge is to be directed to pits and the road reserve drainage system. • Council's preferred approach for reserve drainage is to use a combination of passive irrigation and subsurface drainage. This includes IWM solutions. • Mound placement is to consider the fall of the land, avoiding damming surface flows, and utilising passive irrigation principles to irrigate kickabout spaces etc. The placement of mounds is to prevent undesirable wet areas, but where this is unavoidable the construction of drains must be incorporated into the design. • In addition, reserves should allow for collection of water from shelters into rainwater tanks or passively directed into adjacent garden beds, away from paths and accessible areas (subject to Building Permit requirements). Consideration of stormwater runoff being directed away from downpipes etc, via subsurface herring bone aggregate drainage pipes. • Where surface drainage is used, design is to take into account the prevailing soil conditions, including the properties of Hume's clay soil profile. Appropriately shaped and sized swales or dry creek beds are to be utilised to capture and transport water to an approved point of discharge.
 Hume City Council Bridges, Boardwalks and Culverts	• Bridges are required for pedestrian paths, shared trails and/or maintenance vehicle/ fire truck access across a creek or other water body. Where bridges will be crossed by maintenance vehicles or fire trucks, they must be rated appropriately to be load-bearing. Boardwalks may be used only for pedestrian/shared trails to cross unstable terrain, difficult grades, land subject to erosion, areas of significant or protected vegetation, culturally significant sites, wildlife corridors, or flood zones. Boardwalks may also perform the function of a viewing platform. Culverts are suitable for minor crossings of swales or overland flow paths, where small volumes of ephemeral water are required to be conveyed. General requirements: – Structures must be designed for long term durability and low maintenance. – Design must meet current Australian Standards and where applicable, all Melbourne Water requirements. – Structural Design Certification is required for all bridges and boardwalks and may be required for some culverts. Certification is also required post-construction. – Structures must be of an appropriate size to support both the intended maximum capacity of users and any selected furniture. – The structure is to be at least as wide as the connecting path network. – Where width is restricted, especially for boardwalks, passing places at periodic intervals are to be provided. – The structure and approaches should meet DDA accessibility requirements.

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Bollards, Fencing, Gates and Barriers	• Not all reserves require fencing, and other barrier methods should be considered. Various techniques may be used to achieve alternate barriers, including mounding, garden beds, barrier kerbs, furniture, tree planting, landscape rock placement or a combination of these with sections of fencing or bollards. • General requirements - Where bollards or fencing are used, the following principles apply: – Bollard/fence type is to be uniform across the entire reserve, access way and for adjoining reserves or streetscape areas – For reserves with continuous fencing, minimum 1.5m wide pedestrian access points should be provided at a minimum of 50m intervals – Where a playspace is less than 25m from a road or water body, a safety barrier is required – Industrial lots adjacent to creeks and reserves are to have 1.8m high black cyclone wire fencing, with top and bottom rails, to all reserve boundaries • Shared trail entry treatments – Staggered entries from each direction (may require gates) – Textured surface materials (rumble strips) or path narrowing to indicate a slow point, in conjunction with warning signs for road crossings

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Landscape Design Considerations	Paths: • Consider circuits around the perimeter of the site • Create accessible connections to all seating areas, shelters, playspaces, and existing paths both within and beyond the site • Seating located every 250 metres, installed in an apron extension to the path • Location of bins along the path network, close to the activity areas, accessible to the road and at key entry points • Provide wayfinding and directional signage as appropriate • Provide vehicle exclusion barriers (such as bollards, fencing) • Provide bicycle racks near activity nodes along the path network, and locate to not obstruct access • Shared paths are to include line marking in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6A: Paths for Walking and Cycling Trees: • Tree planting is desirable in all available locations, in accordance with Council's Urban Forest Principles • All existing trees, and trees on properties neighbouring the site to be developed, are to be retained, unless formal approval for removal has been provided by a responsible Council officer • Carparks are to have a minimum of 1 shade tree for every 6 car parks, distributed evenly across the site to ensure maximum shade potential. Optimally, the space allowed for tree planting will be the same size as a single car park. Garden Beds: • Preserve desirable views and vistas through the landscape • Avoid desire lines and shortcuts • Enhance surveillance of open space • Utilise passive irrigation of garden beds • Screening undesirable views Garden beds are to be a maximum of 3m wide and a minimum of 500mm is preferred • Minimise gardenbeds, and consider safety of maintenance staff

DOCUMENT GUIDELINES	APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
 Hume City Council Species List	Recommended Indigenous ground covers include: • Australian Saltbush • Nodding Salt Bush • Ruby Salt Bush • Native Sarsaparilla/Purple Coral Pea Recommended Indigenous grasses and strappy plants include: • Feather Spear Grass • Nobby Club-rush • Spiny-headed Mat-rush • Tussock grass • Velvet Tussock Grass Recommended Indigenous shrubs include: • Gold Dust Wattle • Hedge Wattle • Silver Banksia • Sweet Bursaria • River Bottlebrush • Clustered Everlasting • Rock Correa • Wedge-leaf Hop Bush • Rosemary Grevillea • Woolly Tea-tree • Fragrant Saltbush • Silver Cassia

DOCUMENT SUBCONSULTANT REPORT	SUMMARY	RELEVANT TO STUDY AREA
 Practical Ecology Flora and Fauna Assessment and Impact Analysis Bulla Recreation Reserve 2023	This Flora and Fauna Assessment aims to inform future planning and guide potential development within the reserve. The assessment documents current site conditions and ensures that any future developments consider the ecological values present, with potential impacts appropriately addressed. The Study Area covers approximately 5.86 ha of Crown and Council land used for recreation. It includes a playground, Bulla Village Tennis Club, Jack McKenzie Community Centre, sports oval, and associated infrastructure, with access from Green Street.	Pre-1750s EVC mapping indicates the Study Area was entirely mapped as EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland. Site assessment confirmed the presence of patches of native groundstorey vegetation; however, remnant canopy trees characteristic of this EVC are absent, with most trees being planted. No 'large' or 'scattered' native trees were recorded. Some ground-layer species typical of the Western Basalt Plains (River Red Gum) Grassy Woodland threatened ecological community were identified within designated Habitat Zones. However, the canopy and mid-storey layers — including River Red Gum — are absent. These areas represent highly disturbed and incomplete examples of the community. Vegetation removal associated with this threatened community is subject to the provisions of the FFG Act. Vegetation outside the Habitat Zones is predominantly exotic or planted, including Sugar Gum, Giant Honey-myrtle, Radiata Pine and non-indigenous Wattle species. The Study Area provides fauna habitat in the form of tree canopies with fissures and hollows, large flowering eucalypts, grassy understorey, leaf litter and woody debris. These features support a range of local fauna, including birds, arboreal mammals, invertebrates and potentially reptiles, with flowering and hollow-bearing trees offering nesting and foraging resources. Habitat Zones: • Habitat Zone 1A–N - Distributed across open lawn areas throughout the Study Area, these patches comprise a mix of indigenous and exotic grasses, with no canopy or mid-storey vegetation present. • Habitat Zone 2A–B - Two small patches located to the southwest and northeast of the community centre, containing planted canopy and mid-storey vegetation with a sparse indigenous understorey. • Habitat Zone 3 - A small patch southwest of the community centre containing planted immature canopy trees and shrubs over mulch. No indigenous understorey species were recorded. • Habitat Zones 4A–B - Located along the northern and northeastern boundary, these patches contain indigenous vegetation beneath planted Sugar Gums, along with several high-threat weed species. • Habitat Zones 5A–B - Situated in the northeast corner of the Study Area, these patches contain



Practical Ecology Targeted Survey for Golden Sun Moth Bulla Recreation Reserve 2024

This study was commissioned to conduct a targeted fauna survey for Golden Sun Moth at the Bulla Recreation Reserve, Bulla. The Study Area covers approximately 5.86 ha of Crown and Hume City Council land, commonly used for recreational purposes. It includes a playground, Bulla Village Tennis Club, Jack McKenzie Community Centre, Sunbury Model Railway Club, a sports oval, and associated infrastructure.

The native vegetation within the Study Area represents Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) 55: Plains Grassy Woodland, listed as Endangered in the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion. Indigenous flora observed includes Wallaby Grass, Windmill Grass, and Rough Spear-grass. The remainder of the vegetation consists of exotic species, including grasses and planted non-indigenous trees and shrubs, such as Chilean Needle-grass and Kikuyu.

There are 145 records of Golden Sun Moth within a 5km radius, with the most recent in 2020, approximately 4.3km northeast of the Study Area. No Golden Sun Moth (GSM) have been recorded within the Study Area, although areas of suitable habitat exist.

Other invertebrates detected during the survey include the Common Brown Butterfly, Cabbage White Butterfly, and Common Grass-blue Butterfly.

Suitable GSM habitat in the Study Area was identified by the presence of food sources, including scattered Wallaby Grass and Chilean Needle-grass.

Four days of targeted transect surveys detected no GSM. While a small population cannot be entirely ruled out, the surveys and habitat assessment indicate a low likelihood of occurrence. Key factors include the absence of a continuous movement corridor connecting the Study Area to known GSM populations, the presence of roads and developed areas between the Study Area and recent GSM records, and the species' limited dispersal (adult males rarely fly more than 100m; populations separated by >200m are effectively isolated). Sites from which GSM have gone extinct are unlikely to be recolonised. Based on these findings, any proposed development within the Study Area is unlikely to impact GSM, and a referral under the EPBC Act is considered unnecessary.

2 PROJECT BENCHMARKING

This section outlines a benchmarking analysis of comparable open spaces and parklands across Victoria. The aim is to draw insights from projects of a similar scale and context to help inform the identification of target user groups, guide site layout and function, and support preliminary cost considerations.

The following open spaces have been benchmarked:

WYNDHAM PARK



Figure 84: Wyndham Park play space (Source: Visit Victoria)

SERENDYP SANCTUARY



Figure 85: Serendip Sanctuary sensory garden (Source: Parks Victoria)

MELTON BOTANIC GARDENS



Figure 86: Melton Botanic Garden walk (Source: Melton City Council)

BUNDOORA PARK



Figure 87: Bundoora Park golf course (Source: Bundoora Park Public Golf Course)

JELLS PARK



Figure 88: Jells Park picnic areas (Source: Parks Victoria)

Wyndham Park, Werribee - VIC

DESCRIPTION

Wyndham Park is a large, modern public park in Werribee, a green space situated between the Werribee River and the railway corridor.

It has been redeveloped into a community recreation and events hub, featuring playgrounds, walking and cycling paths, picnic areas, and open green spaces. The park combines natural riverside scenery with facilities for leisure, exercise, and community gatherings.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Diversity of play spaces, both exploratory and relaxed creative play, utilising natural materials and catering to all abilities.
- Smaller play elements scattered close to the play spaces serve as wayfinding and softens the edges of play spaces and zones.
- River banks are rehabilitated and stabilised through native planting.
- Park layout and built form locations ensure Werribee River and its riparian corridor has minimal activity and disruption, protecting local flora and fauna. Subtle zoning is created prioritising passive recreation around the river and more active uses towards the town centre.
- Festivals and concerts are held on site during warmer months.
- Cultural integration and interpretation on site includes signage that reflects the Wadawurrung connection to Werribee River.

CRITERIA

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

SIZE

Approximately 9 ha

GOVERNANCE

Wyndham City Council

KEY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Major spine of Werribee River anchors the site, two bridges link the park across the river into Werribee's town centre and Werribee Station. Walking and cycling tracks connect into the broader open space network and cross the river. Open lawns for picnics and passive recreation are supported by BBQ and picnic facilities.

KEY COMMUNITY FEATURES

The park provides accessible paths and facilities, including play spaces designed for a range of abilities. Events supported on site include community festivals, cultural gatherings and performances.

ON SITE ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES

LEASES, CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ON SITE

N/A

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Informal and formal recreation, community gatherings and events, family outings and picnics, dog-friendly however must stay on-leash.

EVENTS

Festivals and concerts are held regularly at Wyndham Park. LIT at Wyndham Park is a free nightly light festival with installations, projections, walking trails and illuminated art.

HERITAGE, CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL OWNER CONSIDERATIONS

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND RELEVANT CORPORATION

Wadawurrung (Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation)

CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Across the park there is recognition of Traditional Owners through interpretive signage sharing local Aboriginal history and connection to place. Designs reflect Wadawurrung's long-standing connection to Werribee River. Native plant species have been used across the site with an effort to restore the Werribee River edges to its natural state.

HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS & CONTEXT

This land holds deep cultural significance for the Wadawurrung people, with the Werribee River supporting native plants and animals, including platypus and River Red Gums.

ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

ROLE IN REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Local open space and central town park for Werribee. It is the key green space in the growing urban centre filling a gap between smaller neighbourhood parks and larger regional reserves. It's connection to Werribee River makes it a significant part of the larger continuous green spine.

APPROACH TO CONSERVATION & RECREATION BALANCE

Riverbanks have been rehabilitated with native vegetation, stabilising the soil and improving native habitat whilst requiring less irrigation and maintenance. Along the river paths and viewing points have been integrated so users can experience the river whilst ensuring protection of sensitive landscape. Open lawn areas have been located in less sensitive zones to absorb heavy uses such as formal sports and events.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PLAY SPACE OVERVIEW

The nature play space is for relaxed and creative play, with natural materials, imaginative play, sand pits, climbing logs and water play. The adventure playground is for high energy play and includes a tall play tower, climbing frames, swings, flying fox, catered towards older children. Smaller play elements are scattered nearby the major play spaces.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Public toilet, picnic areas including tables and BBQ's, seating, shaded areas, play spaces, outdoor gym, bike repair station, river crossings and shared user paths.

BUILT FORM LANDSCAPE INTERFACES

The park layout has been designed with the proximity to the river in mind. Built form is limited closer the river corridor, with infrastructure designed to withstand periodic flood inundation. The park creates subtle zones, with play grounds and active recreation closer to the town centre and natural vegetation zones along the river edge to reduce impacts on sensitive landscapes.

Serendip Sanctuary, Lara - VIC

DESCRIPTION

Serendip Sanctuary is a conservation focused nature reserve on the edge of Lara, on the outskirts of Geelong. The sanctuary prioritises habitat protection alongside low-impact public access. Wetlands, native grasslands and woodlands support a diversity of wildlife, including kangaroos, emus and water birds. Visitors engage with flora and fauna along walking trails and observation areas with educational signage, tours and programs that highlight ecology and conservation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Activities and facilities support the sanctuary's goals for knowledge sharing and learning.
- Ecological restoration and protection reflects pre-colonial systems of management and supports wildlife movement with consideration to larger regional water and migration networks.
- A sensory garden offers a way of interpreting the site and its vegetation in a unique format.
- Interactive learning and wayfinding is scattered across the site - bird hides, wetland nets and magnifiers.
- Light touch infrastructure is used to keep interventions to a minimum, prioritising the viewing of flora and fauna and creating a sense of submersion in the landscape.
- Picnic areas and amenities with higher activity are kept separate to avoid disruption to native wildlife.
- Parks Victoria run school holiday programs and school excursion groups.
- Visitors are encouraged to understand the sanctuary as part of a much older cultural landscape, connected to broader networks.

CRITERIA

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

SIZE

Approximately 250 ha

GOVERNANCE

Parks Victoria

KEY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Native grasslands make up the majority of the landscape, with open plains dominated by native grasses and wild flowers and prime habitat for grazing animals like kangaroos and ground dwelling birds. These grasslands are heavily protected. There is a system of seasonal wetlands including shallow lakes and marshy areas, habitat for water birds and migratory species. There a scattered areas of eucalypt woodland providing nesting sites amongst open roaming zones where kangaroos and emus often move freely. Bird hides and viewing areas blend into the environment and allow visitors to observe wildlife. Walking trails protect sensitive habitats with minimal hard paving, linking the diversity of landscapes.

KEY COMMUNITY FEATURES

Small on site interpretation and visitor centre with maps, exhibits and information, commonly used for school groups and guided learning visits. There are a range of education programs run on site in partnership with Parks Victoria with nature based learning, guided talks and ranger-led sessions. The sanctuary is free, booking fees only for larger school excursions and education programs.

ON SITE ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES

LEASES, CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ON SITE

The site is controlled by Parks Victoria, however local schools and community groups do assist with planting and restoration projects. In the delivery of minor upgrades and additions to the site, local organisations are engaged in the design process including disability groups, schools and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Wildlife and bird watching is the major attractor of the site, with walking and self guided trails designed for slow exploration. Education and learning programs underpin Serendip Sanctuary with nature engagement activities. Picnic areas are kept separate from to ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife.

EVENTS

Events are focused on the conservation and protection of local flora and fauna. Education events include school holiday ranger led talks and guided wildlife tours. Community conservation activities include tree planting and habitat restoration days and volunteer environmental projects.

HERITAGE, CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL OWNER CONSIDERATIONS

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND RELEVANT CORPORATION

Wadawurrung (Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation)

CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Educational signage acknowledges Wadawurrung history and connection to the land and waters, whilst school programs include traditional ecological learning and educational materials.

HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS & CONTEXT

Visitors are encouraged to understand the sanctuary as part of a much older cultural landscape. The restoration of wetlands and grasslands reflect pre-colonial ecological systems and management techniques.

ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

ROLE IN REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Serendip Sanctuary is closely linked to the You Yangs Regional Park and supports wildlife movement across a broader area. The site protects wetland systems that are part of larger regional water and bird migration networks.

APPROACH TO CONSERVATION & RECREATION BALANCE

Serendip prioritises conservation above any recreational activities on site. Recreation such as walks and nature watching a positioned sensitively across the site, reducing impacts on the ecology and landscape.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PLAY SPACE OVERVIEW

Rather than formal play spaces, Serendip has scattered interactive nature activities such as wetland nets and magnifiers for kids to explore aquatic ecosystems. The sensory garden is designed around touch, smell, sound, sight and taste with edible plants and water features

VISITOR FACILITIES

Public toilets, drinking fountains, seating and rest areas, picnic tables and sheltered areas, free electric BBQs, open lawn spaces for picnics. The visitor centre is small and integrates an education space.

BUILT FORM LANDSCAPE INTERFACES

Built infrastructure is kept minimal with some small shelters for education programs. The visitor centre is the main entry building and an amenities block with public toilets is located near the main picnic area. Some enclosed aviary structures support bird breeding and conservation programs. Light touch infrastructure fosters on site viewing and learning.

Melton Botanic Gardens, Melton - VIC

DESCRIPTION

Melton Botanic Gardens is a developing regional botanic garden in Melbourne's western suburbs, created on former farmland. It showcases Australian native plants, focusing on conservation, education and the restoration of local ecosystems. It is a hybrid parkland, conservation and community space with ongoing planting and maintenance programs supported by volunteers.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Deeply engaged with community through regular working bees lead by 'Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden', enhancing feeling of custodianship.
- Events and community celebrations targeted towards environmentalism and ecology, supporting the goals and maintenance of the gardens.
- Play spaces that reflect the vision of the gardens, unstructured and imaginative play that fosters a connection to the landscape.
- The central amphitheatre functions as the focal hub of the site, supporting events, working bees, ceremonies and guided cultural walks.
- Sharing of cultural knowledge is integrated across the site through educational signage.
- Custodianship, governance and maintenance is guided by 'Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden' and supported by Melton City Council.

CRITERIA

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

SIZE

Approximately 25 ha

GOVERNANCE

Melton City Council

KEY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

The central constructed Darlingsford Lake is a focal point of the site with links to the Ryans Creek corridor. Large open areas are planted with native grasses, suitable for dry climates. Themed botanical collections are scattered across the gardens including Eastern Australian Dryland, Mediterranean Region, South African, Victorian Volcanic Plains, Indigenous Grassland and Pollinator Garden to name a few. Revegetation areas transition former farmland to native vegetation through ongoing indigenous planting. Shared user paths follow the lakes edge and drainage lines across the site, connecting open lawns and picnic clearings and framing views across the landscape.

KEY COMMUNITY FEATURES

A central amphitheatre and event space supports community events, small performances, school activities and local festivals. An on-site nursery supports propagation and community planting days with facilities used by the Friends of Melton Botanic Garden volunteer group.

ON SITE ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES

LEASES, CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ON SITE

The site is controlled by Melton City Council but is developed and run almost entirely by volunteers, the key group being Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden. This community group runs maintenance working bees, tours, events and manages the plant nursery in partnership with Melton City Council. Council manages event uses, with the amphitheatre and open spaces occasionally booked for events. School and youth groups hold informal working bees, e.g. Girl Guides Landcare Planting.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Passive recreation including walking, running and cycling is connected across the botanic trail loop with longer exploratory walks through the themed garden areas. Free BBQ and picnic facilities are available with open lawns and shaded areas. A nature based play space caters to families and dogs are allowed but on-leash only. Nature engagement is integrated in the signage and trails including a 'mini beast trail' and biodiversity spotting. The amphitheatre supports community events, gatherings and performances.

EVENTS

Community celebrations, small local performances, school group presentations and excursions, Welcome to Country ceremonies, guided cultural walks, 'City Nature Challenge' events, environmental awareness days.

HERITAGE, CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL OWNER CONSIDERATIONS

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND RELEVANT CORPORATION

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation)

CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Educational signage acknowledges Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung connections to land, waterways and native species. Interpretation on site highlights plants that were used for food and medicine. There are occasional collaborations with Aboriginal educators and cultural facilitators through council programs. On site public events begin with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony led by a Wurundjeri Woi-wurrungi Elder, sometimes including guided botanical walks.

HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS & CONTEXT

Volcanic plains around Melton were traditionally used for seasonal travel and trade, nearby creeks such as Ryans Creek were important for freshwater access and meeting places. Fire stick farming, a management practice that maintains grassland ecosystems was common across the landscape.

ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

ROLE IN REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Melton Botanic Gardens is a major district park, one of a few established green spaces in a rapidly urbanising area. It sits in a broader network connected along Ryans Creek and its associated linear parks.

APPROACH TO CONSERVATION & RECREATION BALANCE

Recreation is carefully structured around the conservation of ecological planting zones. Habitat areas, creek revitalisation, climate resilient plantings and ecological maintenance are actively functioning restoration areas that need to be protected. As a result pathways, picnic areas, play spaces and the amphitheatre are contained away from sensitive zones.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PLAY SPACE OVERVIEW

Nature integrated play environment including natural materials, sand and water play, sensory play, unstructured and imaginative play all fostering a connection to the landscape.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Public toilets, drinking fountains, picnic tables and sheltered areas, free electric BBQs, open lawn spaces for picnics. Outdoor amphitheatre for events and on site plant nursery run by volunteers with plant sales.

BUILT FORM LANDSCAPE INTERFACES

Gradual transitions between landscape and minimal built form, reduced hard boundaries and low impact structures.

Bundoora Park Precinct, Bundoora - VIC

DESCRIPTION

Bundoora Park is a public open space in the north east of the City of Darebin, about 14km from Melbourne's CBD. It includes Bundoora Park, Bundoora Park Golf Course, Bundoora Park Farm, and Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre. It is a multi-use landscape where conservation, recreation and attractions are integrated within a single metropolitan park setting.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A very unique ecosystem of activities and infrastructure, including the Bundoora Park Farm and the heritage buildings of Larundel Psychiatric Hospital.
- Varying degrees of access across the site, semi-public golf course and farm, limited access conservation areas and public open parklands.
- It is a major hub along the Darebin Creek corridor, linking neighbourhood parks and providing biodiversity and floodplain functions.
- Major conservation efforts around remnant vegetation such as River Red Gum woodlands, rare native grasslands and wetland ecosystems.
- Landscape supports the free roaming of native animals such as kangaroos and birds.
- A hub of facilities and amenities are associated with the Bundoora Park Farm in particular.
- Major landscape assets of Mount Cooper and Darebin Creek shape the layout of the park, connections and access guided by these destinations.

CRITERIA

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

SIZE

Approximately 180 hectares

GOVERNANCE

Darebin City Council

KEY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Urban park with remnant vegetation and ongoing conservation efforts to enhance biodiversity. River Red Gum woodlands, rare native grasslands and wetlands support wildlife such as kangaroos and native birds. Walking and cycling trails connect playgrounds, picnic areas, the golf course and Bundoora Park Farm.

KEY COMMUNITY FEATURES

As one of the major destination parks in the area, Bundoora Park has a range of community focused activities and facilities on offer. Picnic and social spaces for gatherings, several play spaces, children's farm with animals, heritage buildings, shared user trails, fitness stations, public golf course, informal event infrastructure, cafe and kiosk facilities, dog training and exercise areas.

ON SITE ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES

LEASES, CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ON SITE

On site formal leases include Bundoora Park Farm and Bundoora Park Public Golf Course. Some organised groups operating under permits include dog training clubs, cross country training, school sports and informal sporting clubs. Environmental and stewardship groups support habitat restoration, tree planting and education activities.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Everyday recreation such as walking, cycling, picnics, BBQs and social gatherings. Family activities include a number of play spaces and Bundoora Park Farm with animal viewing, displays and children's education programs. Formal recreation opportunities include golf on the public course, cross-country running, field sports and fitness training. Dog walking is allowed but in most areas on-leash with organised dog training and obedience sessions in designated spaces. Nature focused activities include bird watching and environmental education programs. Local events and festivals are held on site. The Mount Cooper lookout offers views across Melbourne with scenic drives through the park.

EVENTS

Events include community farmers markets and gatherings, cross country running events and school competitions, Bundoora Park Farm also holds school holiday programs, private events like birthday parties and hands on animal experiences. Some activities are linked to nearby Bundoora Homestead Art Centre including cultural exhibitions.

HERITAGE, CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL OWNER CONSIDERATIONS

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND RELEVANT CORPORATION

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation)

CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Partnerships with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and the City of Darebin has formed a truth-telling reinterpretation of site. The park is reframed as Country with layered histories, understanding the site's Aboriginal history and the impacts of colonisation. This is embedded through traditional land management practices interpretive signage and storytelling, increased protection of remnant vegetation and occasional Welcome to Country ceremonies, cultural walks and education programs.

HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS & CONTEXT

Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and artefacts are protected across the site, as well as remnant vegetation of threatened ecosystems. Post-colonial heritage of Larundel Psychiatric Hospital has some associated buildings and landscapes remaining.

ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

ROLE IN REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Serves as a key urban green space in Melbourne's north, providing recreational and ecological benefits. It is a major mode in the Darebin Creek corridor and linear park system, linking smaller neighbourhood parks and providing biodiversity and floodplain functions. It functions as a major attractor through the farm, golf course, heritage ties and events.

APPROACH TO CONSERVATION & RECREATION BALANCE

Recreation is the dominant programming of the site overall with conservation concentrated within defined ecological zones. Conservation is focused towards River Red Gum woodland remnants, Victorian Volcanic Plains Grasslands, wetlands and stretches of the Darebin Creek corridor. Recreation occupies the majority of the park with the golf course as an exclusive use zone.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PLAY SPACE OVERVIEW

Larger play spaces are designed for longer visits, including traditional equipment combined with nature inspired elements in open soft fall zones. They are integrated with shaded seating and picnic areas and are situated within the larger recreational landscape.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Public toilets, drinking fountains, picnic tables, sheltered areas, electric and wood BBQs, Cafe and kiosk facilities are associated with Bundoora Park Farm, shared trails, large play spaces, designated event spaces, dog off-leash areas, public golf course and associated clubhouse facilities, creek viewing points and ecological and cultural signage.

BUILT FORM LANDSCAPE INTERFACES

Bundoora Park integrates recreational facilities within native bushland and open parklands. Mount Cooper and Darebin Creek shape the layout, with built elements sited to preserve ecology and maintain connections between recreation and conservation areas.

Jells Park, Wheelers Hill - VIC

DESCRIPTION

Jells Park, nestled in the Dandenong Creek Valley at Wheelers Hill, attracts around a million visitors annually. It features over nine kilometres of walking and cycling trails - including the Dandenong Creek, EastLink, Blind Creek, and Conservation Trails - and forms part of the larger Dandenong Creek wildlife corridor.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Structured group fitness events happen on site regularly, including a long-standing park run.
- Picnic areas and facilities are not isolated to one spot, but instead scattered across the park and regularly co-located with public toilets and shelters.
- Yabbie HIll play space uses the land formations to its advantage, designing play elements into the slopes of the park.
- Large open lawn areas at an accessible grade support community gatherings, Welcome to Country ceremonies, school fetes and charity walks.

CRITERIA

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

SIZE

Approximately 127 hectares

GOVERNANCE

Parks Victoria in partnership with local councils and community groups

KEY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Expansive parklands with a central lake, open meadows, and woodland areas, providing habitat for various species and ecological functions. Centred around Jells Lake, a man-made wetland system created for flood mitigation and recreation. A continuous lake circuit trail connects into the wider Dandenong Creek Trail system. Open lawns offer flexible space that supports informal recreation.

KEY COMMUNITY FEATURES

The social hub of the park is the visitor cafe and kiosk with adjacent seating and sheltered areas. Shelters with associated electric BBQs can be booked with some areas designed for large gatherings. There are designated dog off-leash areas with drinking points and open lawns.

ON SITE ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES

LEASES, CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ON SITE

The cafe is run under council lease. Facilities like BBQs, shelters and event spaces can be booked under permits. Community groups that use the park regularly include running clubs, dog walking and training groups, school and community education groups and occasional community events, fun runs and charity activities.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

Everyday recreational fitness such as walking, running and cycling and structured fitness like group training and social runs. Picnics, social recreation and group gatherings. Family and children focused activities across play spaces, informal grass areas and educational nature exploration. Dog walking with designated off-leash areas. Nature recreation through bird watching and wetland and ecology observation areas. Fishing is permitted in certain areas of Jells Lake.

EVENTS

Occasional community events including charity walks, fun runs, school fetes, local gatherings and seasonal community events.

HERITAGE, CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL OWNER CONSIDERATIONS

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND RELEVANT CORPORATION

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation)

CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Acknowledgement of Country and cultural interpretation of landscape features across the park through signage and storytelling. On larger community event days Welcome to Country ceremonies are held.

HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS & CONTEXT

Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, artefacts and scarred trees are protected across the site. The creek and wetland system is treated as culturally significant landscape. Ecological heritage overlaps with cultural landscape value as Jells Park is part of the Dandenong Creek floodplain system, ensuring protection of the significant wetland and grassland ecosystems of the area.

ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

ROLE IN REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Jells Park is a major regional park in the area with large scale facilities that attract visitors from farther afield. Shared trail systems and corridors connected with the Dandenong Creek make Jells Park a key node in the continuous green corridor.

APPROACH TO CONSERVATION & RECREATION BALANCE

Jells Park balances active recreation with conservation by carefully managing shared-use trails, upgrading sports fields, and implementing environmental strategies to protect biodiversity and natural landscapes. The park aims to offer diverse recreational opportunities while minimising environmental impact and respecting cultural heritage.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PLAY SPACE OVERVIEW

Yabbie Hill is the destination play space of the park, designed as a nature based, story telling play area. Play space zones flow down the sloping hillside along a dry creek bed encouraging exploring. Broad offer of activities including climbing, slides, swings, sand and water play, trampolines, tunnels with interactive learning and sculptures. Wide paths ensure accessibility and an all-abilities play space includes a wheelchair accessible merry-go-round and liberty swing. Jells Park East play space caters to younger kids and offers easier supervision. Waverley Women's play space is a more traditional play space with climbing frames and swings.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Picnic and BBQ areas are scattered across the park around the lake and within the lawns. Each areas is typically co-located with picnic tables, shelters, BBQs, drinking water and nearby toilets. Toilets predominantly include accessible toilets and baby change facilities. Jells Park visitor centre offers park info, toilets and indoor seating, cafe and a kiosk area. Another cafe is located at the lakeside. Several play spaces and open lawns for informal recreation. Jells Park is dog friendly but on-leash only.

BUILT FORM LANDSCAPE INTERFACES

Water edge design to Jells Lake and the wetlands is a mix of accessible open grass edges and ecological buffers of wetland planting, board walks and viewing points controlling movements around the lake. Facilities are clustered into concentrated zones of built form so that larger grassed areas can remain open and accessible.

3 PRELIMINARY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Preliminary stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken to inform the preparation of a Master Plan for Bulla Parklands. The issues, areas of improvement and opportunities identified by the stakeholders and community will be considered as the design, staging, implementation and funding of the Master Plan works progress.

The activities included 'kitchen table' sessions with the key stakeholders who have leases or regularly conduct activities such as the Bohemian markets within the Parklands, a 'Participate Hume' online survey allowing a wider catchment to provide feedback, ideas and an engagement session run at the Parklands on a Sunday that the Miniature Railway was operating.

A series of stakeholder and community engagement sessions were held during Phase 1 and Phase 2. Stakeholders and the community were engaged early to enable the engagement findings to inform the master planning process. The findings from the engagement will shape the project vision, principles and objectives, and build a consensus amongst key decision makers.

The key objectives of the engagement included:



Understanding of issues and opportunities



Listening and knowledge gathering



Trust building between stakeholders



Meaningful and activity-based engagement with community



Engaging with a diversity of users

Engagement Scope

There are some conditions within the existing parklands that have varying capacities for change within the scope of the Master Plan project. These include:

- Existing land tenures and uses
- Heritage structures (i.e. Bulla War Memorial, Former Bulla Shire Hall, St Mary's Anglican Church)
- State and local government controls (i.e. Bulla Road is a Department of Transport and Planning road)

There are also some aspects and projects that were brought up in the engagement process that may, in the future, impact the Parklands but which are outside the area of influence of this project. These include:

- The proposed Bulla Bypass
- The introduction of piped sewage

These elements, along with the wonderful and varied ideas, including ones that Council know they can not fund, have been noted and still contribute to the master plan in varied ways.

Level of Engagement

Levels of Participation (IAP2) - Involve

Working directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that the public have an opportunity for their concerns and ideas to be heard.

PROGRAM OF PRELIMINARY ENGAGEMENT

The program of engagement involved a range of meetings and activities that were held to ensure a broad range of feedback from stakeholders and community members could be heard and collected. The following tables demonstrate the varying engagement processes undertaken in person and online.

Workshop with Council Staff

Date Held	11/03/2026
Engagement method	Online interactive workshop
Purpose of method	Inputs were mapped to establish a well-rounded understanding of the site beyond and landscape and urban design perspective, including maintenance and strategic impacts that are at play. The mapping prompted initial thinking and created a forum for different departments to hear varied visions for the site.
Key engagement questions	• What are the major constraints of the site? • What opportunities does the site have? (e.g. to better support community, enhance tourism, create a cohesive parklands etc) • How do you envision Bulla Parklands in the future? (What role will it play in the community? What activities will it support?)
Stakeholders Attendees	Internal Council stakeholders including; Open Space Planning, Parks, Venues and Operations, Active Living, Property and Leasing, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Strategic Planning, Community Planning, Arts, Culture and Events.
Engagement Materials	Miro board setup - including site map, activity illustrations, sticky notes.

Kitchen Table Workshop 1, 2

Date Held	Week of 23/03/2026
Engagement method	In-person round table discussion
Purpose of method	A round table discussion with minimal presentations to stakeholders. A knowledge gathering session to best understand the constraints, issues, opportunities and visions for the future of the Bulla Parklands for the community that use it most. These sessions helped build trust and allow for an open exchange of information.
Key engagement questions	• On a day to day basis what issues effect your use of the parklands? • What uses and activities would you like to see connect across the site?
Stakeholders Attendees	Bulla Hill Miniature Railway, Bulla Village Tennis Club, Bohemian Market Management, Rose Garden groups, CFA, Sunbury Model Railway Club
Engagement Materials	Print outs - including site map, activity illustrations, sticky notes, markers.

Participate Hume Online Survey

Date Held	24/05/2026 - 6/06/2026
Engagement method	Online Survey
Purpose of method	An online survey created by Hume City Council that focused on the use, character, facilities, visitation, tourism and local needs.
Stakeholders	Public
Engagement Materials	Participate Hume page included: • 'Share your experience and insights' survey. • Bulla Parklands Context Report • Preliminary Issues and Opportunities Paper

Community Engagement in the Parkland

Date Held	17/05/2026
Engagement method	In-person stall presentation, activities and discussions. The engagement was promoted in the community through: • on site signage in key locations • social media posts • Participate Hume webpage • 420 promotional flyers posted to all Bulla residents. and other nearby residents. • promotional flyers on counters at the local shops.
Purpose of method	Engaged with the community and communicated what the Bulla Parklands Master Plan project can influence on site. Outlining clearly the negotiables and non-negotiables of the site. The project team were able to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day informal use of the site. Activity based engagement was used to open up discussion and allow feedback to be easily documented. The community session on Sunday 17 May was timed to coincide with the Bulla Market and Railway running days. The Bulla Market was cancelled due to bad weather conditions. The Miniature Railway continued to run and experienced a day of good attendance enabling the project team to capture information from regional visitors.
Key engagement questions	• How do you use the Bulla Parklands? • What would you like to see at Bulla Parklands in the future?
Stakeholders Attendees	Wider Hume City Council community
Engagement Materials	Print outs - including site map, activity illustrations, list of possible projects, sticky notes, markers.



Figure 89: Social Media Online Survey Story


HUME CITY COUNCIL

Have your say a new Masterplan for Bulla Parklands

Help shape the future of Bulla Parklands

Hume City Council is developing a Draft Masterplan for Bulla Parklands to guide how this important open space is cared for, improved and enjoyed into the future — and we want to hear from you.

Bulla Parklands is a valued public open space area that supports recreation, connection to nature and local, Victorian and cultural heritage.

Get Involved:

In person: Drop by Council's stall at the Bulla Bohemian Market on Sunday 17 May 2026, 9am – 3pm

Online: Scan the QR code or; visit participate.hume.vic.gov.au/bulla-parklands-masterplan to find out more and have your say.

Community feedback will help shape the draft Masterplan.

Consultation closes on 24 May 2026

Figure 90: Community Engagement Poster

PARTICIPATE HUME ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

The qualitative response from the survey was categorised according to the following themes - Experience, Activities and Amenity, Landscape and Ecology, and Community.

These themes were identified through site analysis and earlier discussions with Key Parkland Stakeholders. The site analysis and earlier discussions was captured in the Bulla Parklands Background Report.

EXPERIENCE, ACTIVITIES AND AMENITY

What do you like about the Parklands?

Key Themes	Number of Comments	Summary of Comments
Peaceful Setting	5	• Attracted to the Parklands due to its quiet location, away from freeway and close proximity to nature - Quartz Street Nature Reserve and Gold Hill Nature Reserve.
Gathering Place	1	• An ideal place for people to meet up.
Safety	2	• A family friendly and safe space for kids to play.
Miniature Railway Station	3	• Survey participants like to visit the Parklands when the Miniature Railway Station is open once a month.
Site Size	1	• It's a small park.
Dog Friendly Space	2	• There's space for the dogs to walk and run.
Improvement of Amenities	2	• The Parklands need to maintain their appeal and safety by improving its amenities.
Play	3	• The playground is safe for children to play on.
Views	2	• No specific location or commentary provided.
Sports Facilities	3	• The Parklands offers amenities such as tennis courts, cricket ground.
Market	2	• Interest in the monthly Bohemian Market.
Cultural Heritage	2	• Interested in the Jack McKenzie Hall and the War Memorial.

What would help you visit Bulla Parklands for longer?

Key Themes	Comments
Way-finding	• Storyboards and map showing where the Hume and Hovell monument is located and where the viewing are is for kangaroos and horses, aircraft viewing and native planting areas. • Provide signage with cultural significance.
Gathering Place	• An ideal place for people to meet up.
Activated Spaces	• Provide more engaging activities.
Toilets (Already In Scope)	• No further commentary provided.
No Actions	• "Nothing don't want more people leaving rubbish"

If you could change or add one thing to Bulla Parklands to improve it, what could it be?

Key Themes	Number of Comments	Summary of Comments
Market Day	1	• Provide a variety of market types from farmers to Bohemian markets, to attract more people.
BBQ / Gathering Place	7	• Provide more places for families to gather and sit for meals / picnics. These spaces will enable park attendees to stay longer.
Play	6	• Provide a new, safe, adventure, large and modern playground.
Shaded Areas	3	• Provide shaded areas in preferred locations such as the play and gathering spaces.
Toilets	12	• Providing toilet will enable park attendees to stay longer. • Preferred locations is in area where it won't promote anti social behaviour. • A location near the playground. • Provide toilets that lock at night.
Dog Friendly Space	2	• Provide a fenced dog area.
Improvement of Amenities and Infrastructure	4	• Provide more rubbish bins. • Provide better footpaths. • Provide drinking fountains.

What are your ideas for a new theme and why?

Key Themes	Summary of Comments
Nature Play	• "Nature and co existence with animals". • "More nature themed play would fit better with the surrounding area. The railway is a feature on its own". • "Nature play, not themed, engaging in different ways. A theme limits the space. Trains have no significance in bulla".
Community	• "Something up to date with the growing community"

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY

What do you like about the Parklands?

Key Themes	Number of Comments	Summary of Comments
Do Nothing	1	• "Would be better....to leave it up to nature".
Avoid Excessive Impermeable Surfaces	1	• "The natural aspect of it, it's not urbanised with excessive concreting and "copy/paste" artificial buildings.
Open Space	5	• Appreciation of the existing natural open space without traffic and space for kids to play.

If you could change or add one thing to Bulla Parklands to improve it, what could it be?

Key Themes	Comments
Native Planting	• Incorporate native planting and restoring the natural ecosystem to better protect the environment. • Provide a walking path along the creek and signage about the site's history.
Natural Playscape	• Incorporate natural playscape to get kids into nature and experience the outdoors.

COMMUNITY

What do you like about the Parklands?

Key Themes	Comments
Gathering Places	• "The parklands is the only gathering and recreational space for the community and this makes it very special. I like the multi use aspect of the site and the fact it has a lot of potential to bring the community together and attract visitors".
Scenery	• "It's a great area set aside to enjoy the scenery and the set up to take the grandchildren".
Site Features	• "I have photographed the Rose Garden for the past 16 years. Every season rain hail or shine".
Locality	• "As a long time Sunbury resident its locality and the connection to home".
Community	• The Parklands is a community based area.

If you could change or add one thing to Bulla Parklands to improve it, what could it be?

Key Themes	Comments
Community	• "Something to help bring the community out of their houses, we all spend so much time apart and we don't even know our neighbours, something that people can bring their kids to, or just have a reason to leave the house"

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE PARKLANDS

The feedback below was collected during the community engagement session held on the 17th May 2026 at the Bulla Parklands..

The feedback was categorised according to the following themes identified in the stakeholder engagement and desktop site analysis - Access and Movement, Experience, Activities and Amenity, Landscape and Ecology, Climate and Resilience.

Key Themes	What We Heard
Access and Movement	• Not enough car parking during ANZAC day service. • Conflict between car parking and market space • Cars getting bogged on rainy days. • Lack of signage, resulting in cars parking everywhere • Potentially use the Anglican Church site as another parking area • Structure existing parking and provide more parking • Provide line markings. • Provide cat eyes. • Pedestrian with mobility aids cannot walk in park but only on the Green St path • “When its raining it’s hard to walk with no footpath and when its busy there’s no designated footpath. Feels like I’ll twist my ankle” • Provide pedestrian crossings • The use of gravel as a footpath surface • Provide concreted cycling paths • Walking paths from Rose Garden to playground
Experience, Activity and Amenity	• Conflict between car parking and market space • Lack of signage, resulting in cars parking everywhere • Potentially use the Anglican Church site as another parking area • Structure existing parking and provide more parking • Provide line markings and cat eyes • Pedestrian with mobility aids cannot walk in park but only on the Green St path • “When its raining it’s hard to walk with no footpath and when its busy there’s no designated footpath. Feels like I’ll twist my ankle” • Provide pedestrian crossings • Provide concreted cycling paths • Walking paths from Rose Garden to playground • Go-karting down the hill • More swings • Playgrounds for 6+ years, bridging the age gap • Bigger play space and caters to a wider age range • “Comes for train and markets quite often” • “I like the playground and the nostalgia. I want the use of tan bark instead of soft fall material as its too hot” • Incorporate a nature playground, similar to the CERES program with junior rangers • Include a sandpit

Key Themes	What We Heard
Experience, Activity and Amenity *cont.*	• Designated trading spaces for vendors • Food vans and trailers, one night per week • An area to hold events like car shows • Need more shelter and pavilions • Need more BBQ facilities • Incorporate a dog agility facility • Incorporate nature based learning • "Come to Trap St and the kids can go into the water, I would love that as a goal" • Incorporate binoculars for bird watching and views • Provide educational signage • Provide species names for the Rose Garden • "It's so pretty to sit and walk around the Rose Garden with grandkids, it became an adventure" • Existing buildings are under utilised • Host twilight train sessions (3-7pm)
Landscape and Ecology	• Wayfinding along the walking tracks • Provide information signage to acknowledge Australian planting • Incorporate more native gardens and get community • "When I walk along Deep Creek, I love to look up at the rocks and I really want to know what sort of rocks they are, the geology and all".
Climate and Resilience	• Need signage • Wayfinding along walking tracks • Bigger signage for park and features • Need better drainage on site • Incorporate composting
Community	• Mix of market on different days of the month, growing the local economy • Protecting the heritage bridge that holds significance to the community • Big homeschool community in Sunbury, Mount Macedone and Gisbourne • Loss of community feeling during market days • How does the site attract new members - particularly youth?

SUMMARY OF ALL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This chapter is a summary of all engagement activities. The following themes were identified in the engagement discussions:

- Access and Movement
- Community
- Experience, Activity and Amenity
- Landscape and Ecology
- Climate and Resilience

Overall, the stakeholder and community inputs and feedback show a fairly cohesive and consistent preference for:

- accessible public toilets
- introduction of BBQ areas
- more shade and shelter
- more seating areas
- better designed and managed car parking
- connected walking paths that may include educational signage
- upgraded children's playground
- safer crossing points for pedestrians to access the park
- improved drainage infrastructure
- Improved lighting.

The inputs and feedback place value on:

- the peaceful rural character
- the Miniature Railway as a unique feature
- the existing Community Facility
- views out over the Deep Creek valley
- having a variety of uses including the sports facility, Rose Garden and CFA
- being able to meet up in groups.

The online survey prepared by Hume City Council was open from the 6th May 2026 to the 24th May 2026. A total of 50 responses were received. It's important to note although the survey sample size appears small, it is a reasonably good response for this form of engagement for an area with 250 households.

The survey contained questions identifying:

- The key user groups of the Bulla Parklands.
- Issues and opportunities regarding themes such as access, movement, experience, activity, amenity, climate, resilience and community.
- Suggestions on how to turn Bulla Parklands into a regional destination park.
- The respondents' opinion on the location of the existing War Memorial and the community's view on potentially relocating the War Memorial within the Parklands.

Overall, the survey data shows that:

- 30 out of 50 respondents were Bulla and Sunbury residents.
- A wide range of age groups, starting from 20-24 years to 75-79 years responded.
- The responses show that 16.7% of the respondents visit the parkland everyday, mainly by vehicle or foot with their dogs.
- Significant park attendance occurs during the monthly Market Day.
- Most respondents visit the parkland with their family members.
- 75.9% of the respondents have visited the War Memorial stands and accept its current location.
- A few of the respondents support the relocation of the memorial into the parklands due to traffic safety concerns of the memorial being adjacent to an arterial road

The considerations identified through the key parkland stakeholder, site analysis and community engagement have been grouped into the identified themes and colour coded to align with the following Hume City Council Open Space Strategy key objectives:

- Protect - Protect and enhance conservation, heritage and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values. Protect open space from encroaching development, works, interfaces, and the impacts of climate change.
- Optimise - Open spaces designed and maintained to provide a mix of visitor experiences in each neighbourhood.
- Grow - New open spaces provided in areas of highest visitor and/or ecological needs especially along waterways.

Protect | Optimise | Grow

It's important to note that some of the considerations align with all the objectives but for the sake of this summary, the considerations are colour coded based on the objective that it primarily aligns with.

The size of the circle reflects the popularity / frequency of its mention.

The report includes the detail, further ideas and opportunities in the body and appendix of the report. This information will be considered together with the outputs from the Background Report, Issues and Opportunities Paper to inform the Master Plan.



Figure 91: Preliminary Site Visit

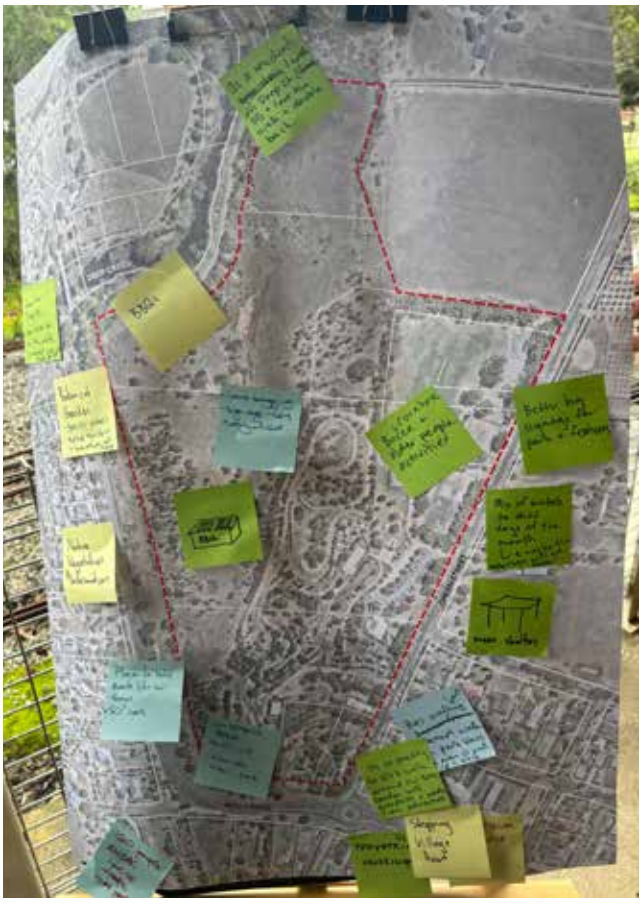
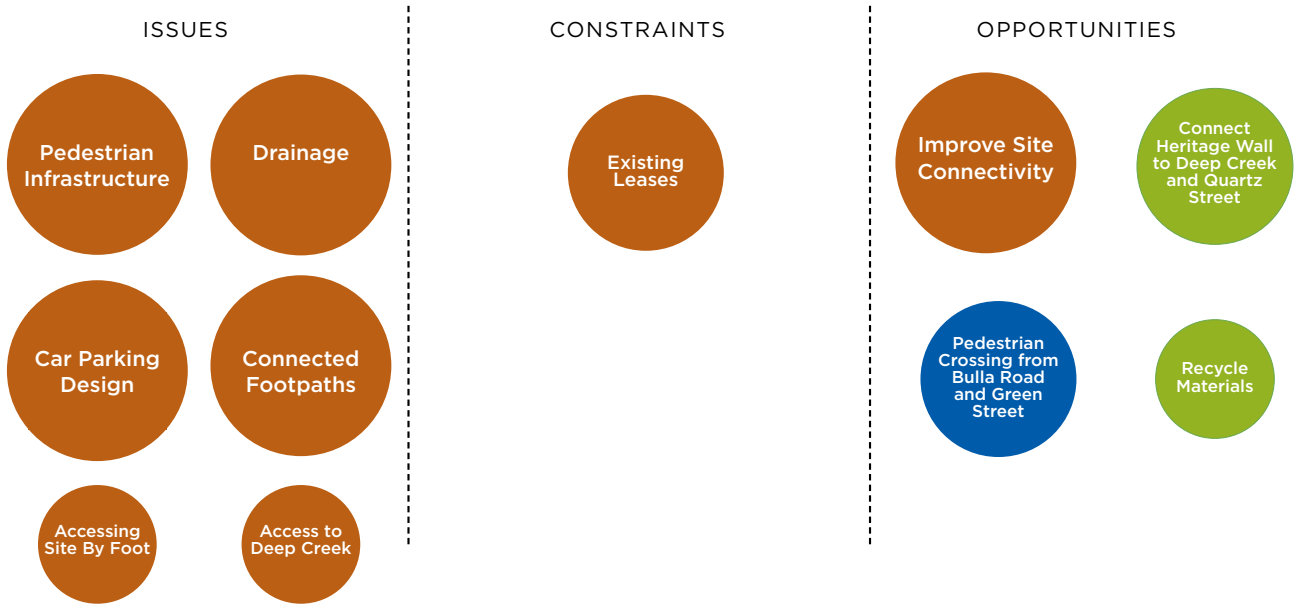
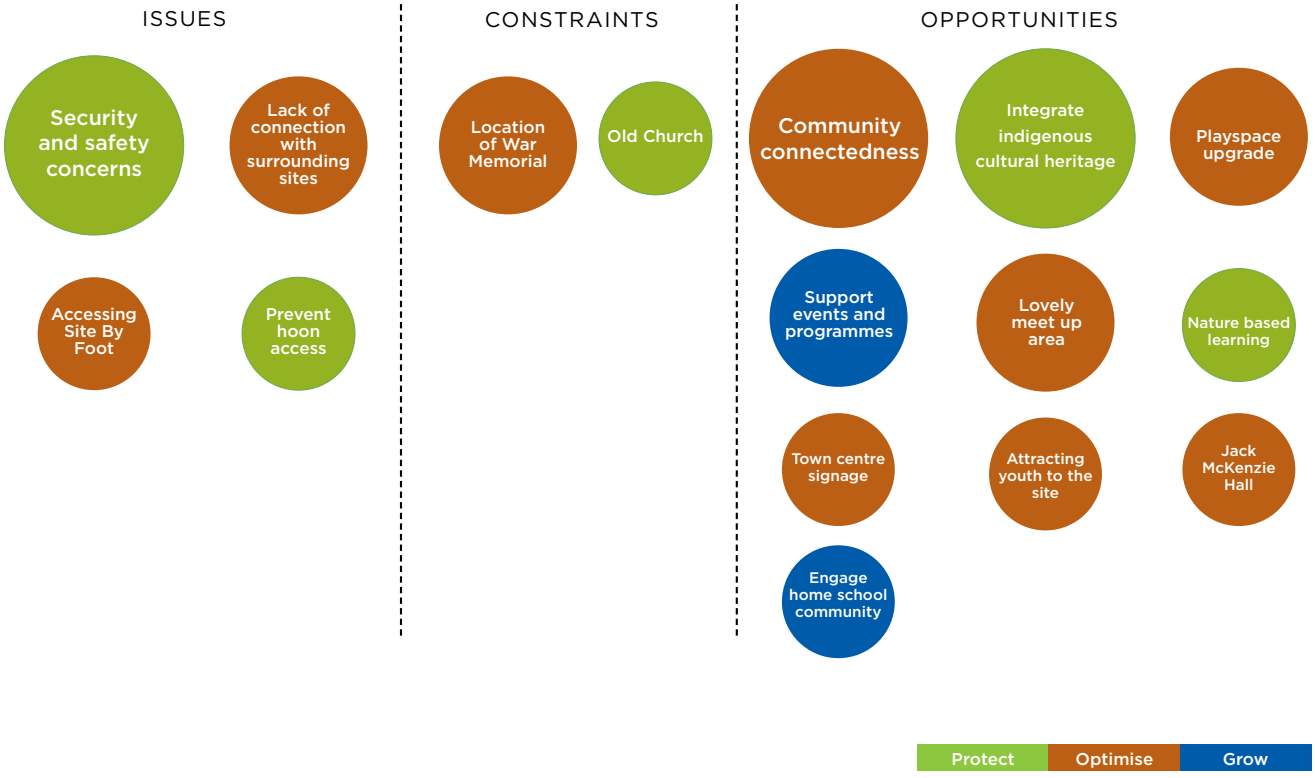


Figure 92: Feedback from In Person Community Session

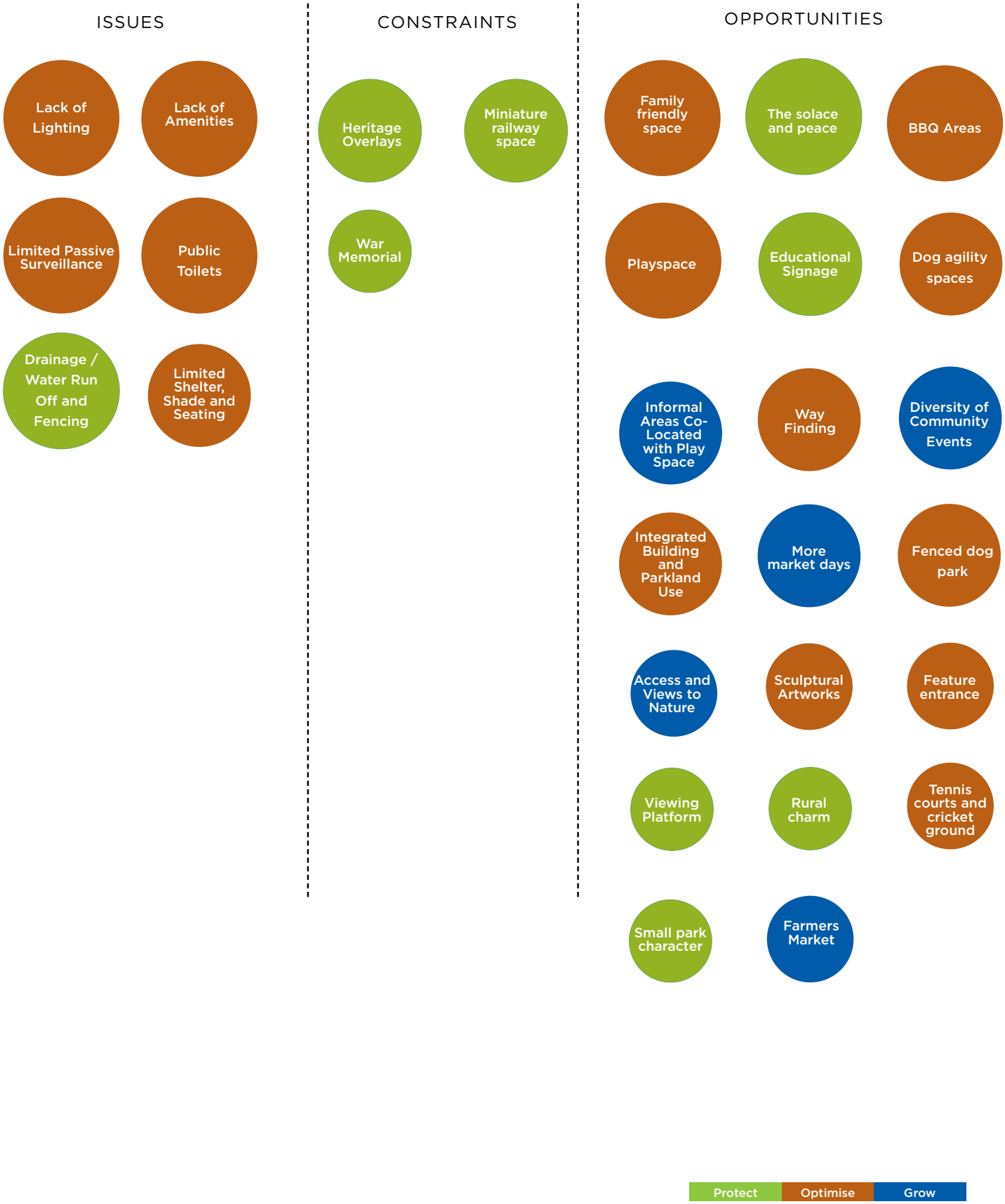
ACCESS AND MOVEMENT THEMED FINDINGS



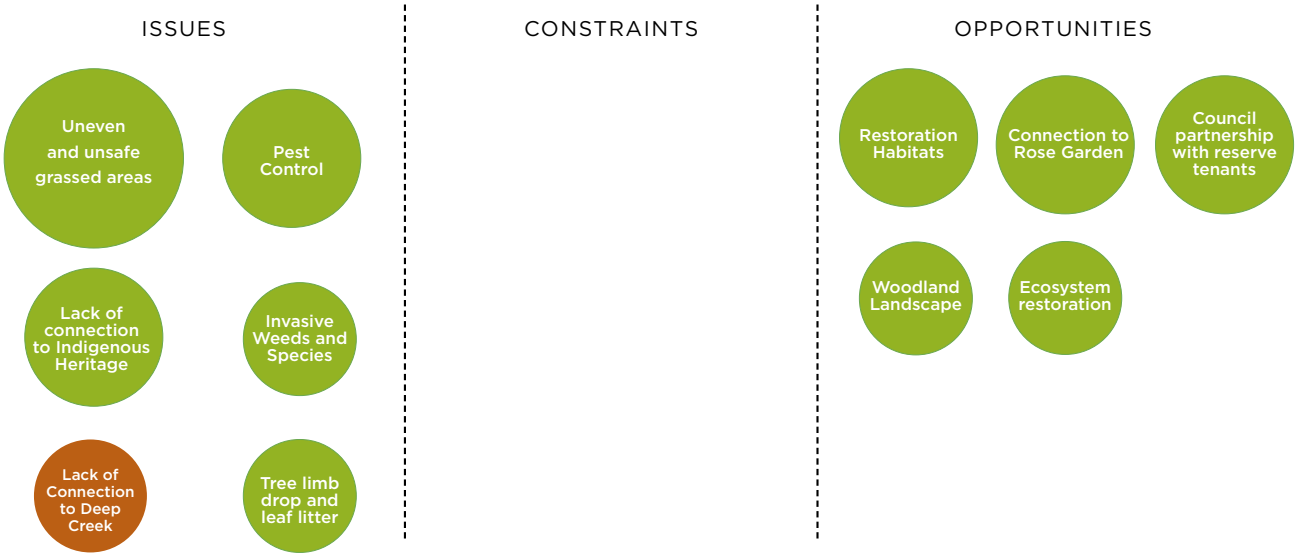
COMMUNITY THEMED FINDINGS



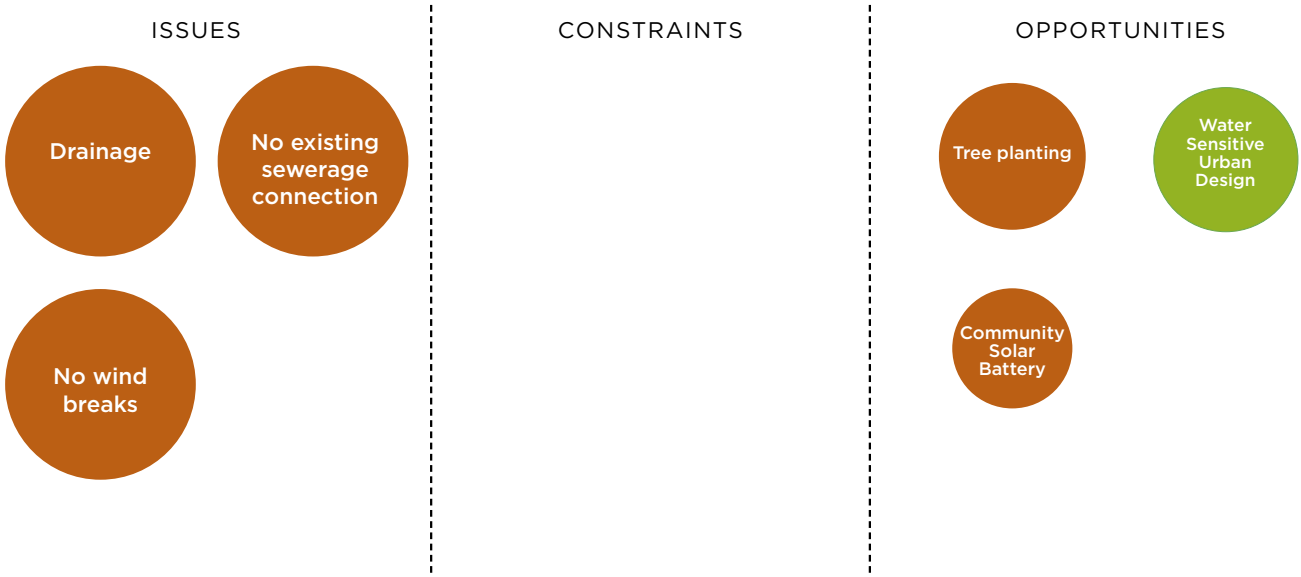
EXPERIENCE, ACTIVITY AND AMENITY THEMED FINDINGS



LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY THEMED FINDINGS



CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE THEMED FINDINGS





ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY

Below are additional comments gathered from the online survey and the in-person community engagement. It's important to capture these comment as they provide useful insights into some unique perspectives and experiences. The comments have been organised into the identified reoccurring themes.

Access and Movement:

- "When its raining it's hard to walk with no footpath and when its busy there's no designated footpath. Feels like I'll twist my ankle".

Experience, Activity and Amenity:

- "Nothing don't want more people leaving rubbish".
- "I have photographed the Rose Garden for the past 16 years. Every season rain hail or shine".
- "The Rose Gardens is looking a bit neglected these days. While I appreciated the natural development, I get the feelings the Busy Bees need some funding, it would be a shame if the Garden became too institutionalised".
- "Comes for train and markets quite often".
- "I like the playground and the nostalgia. I want the use of tan bark instead of soft fall material as its too hot".
- "Come to Trap St and the kids can go into the water, I would love that as a goal".

Landscape and Ecology:

- "Nature and co existence with animals".
- "More nature themed play would fit better with the surrounding area. The railway is a feature on its own".
- "Nature play, not themed, engaging in different ways. A theme limits the space. Trains have no significance in Bulla".
- "Would be better....to leave it up to nature".

Community:

- "Something up to date with the growing community".
- "As a long time Sunbury resident its locality and the connection to home".
- "Something to help bring the community out of their houses, we all spend so much time apart and we don't even know our neighbours, something that people can bring their kids to, or just have a reason to leave the house".

"It's a great area set aside to enjoy the scenery and the set up to take the grand children"

"We like the natural aspect of it, it's not urbanised with excessive concreting and "copy/paste" artificial buildings and the fact it has a lot of potential to bring the community together and attract

"It's so pretty to sit and walk around the Rose Garden with grand kids, it became an adventure"

WHO WE HEARD FROM

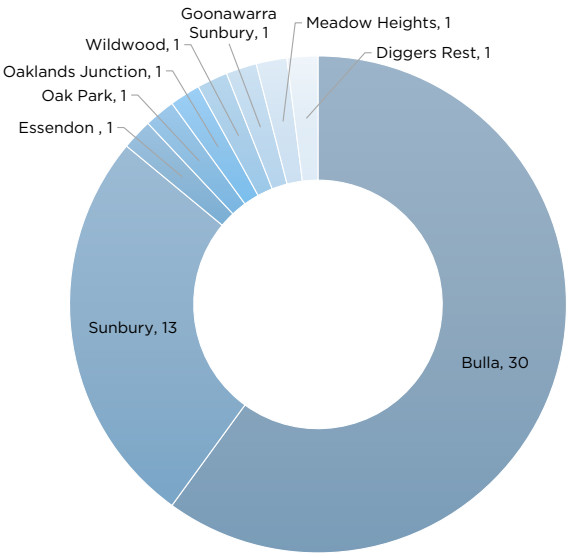


Figure 93: What is the name of the suburb you live in?

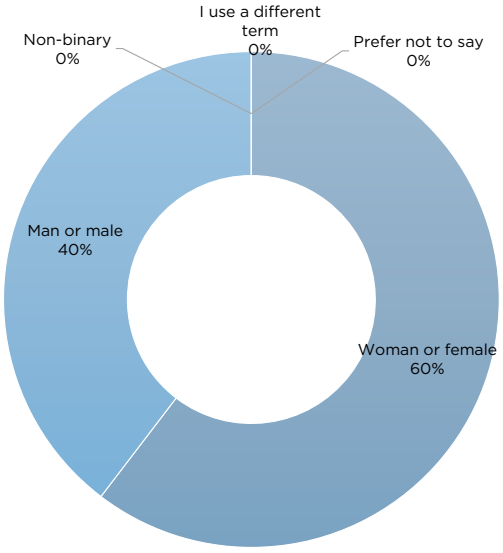


Figure 95: Gender Type

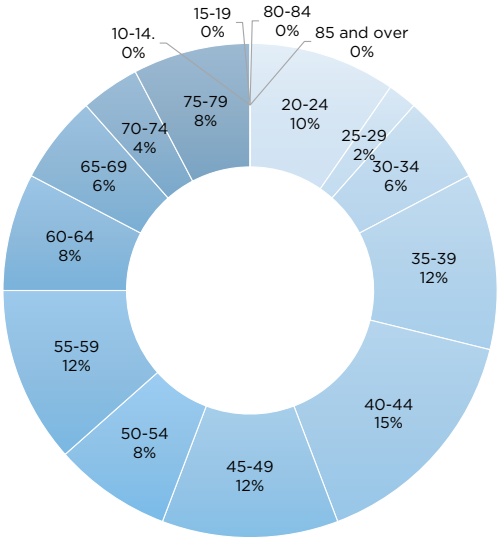


Figure 94: Age Groups

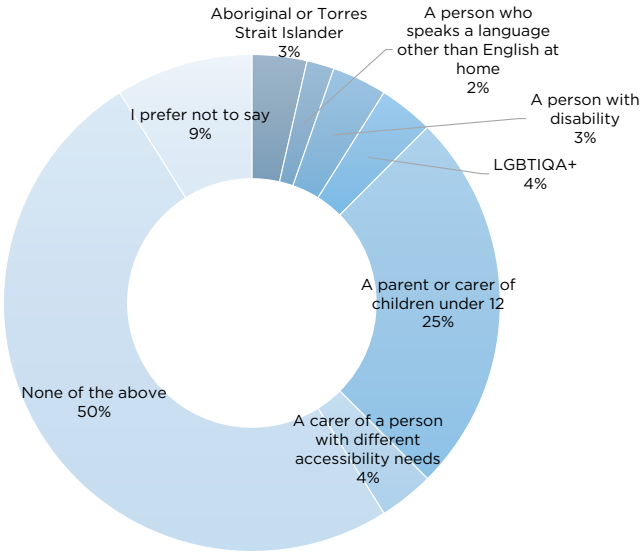


Figure 96: I identify as...

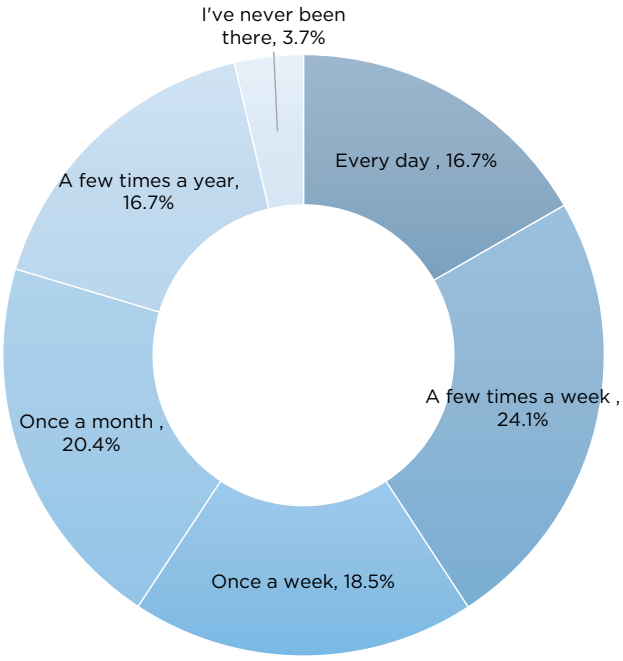


Figure 97: How often do you go to Bulla Parklands?

18.5% of the respondents visit Bulla Parklands once a week.

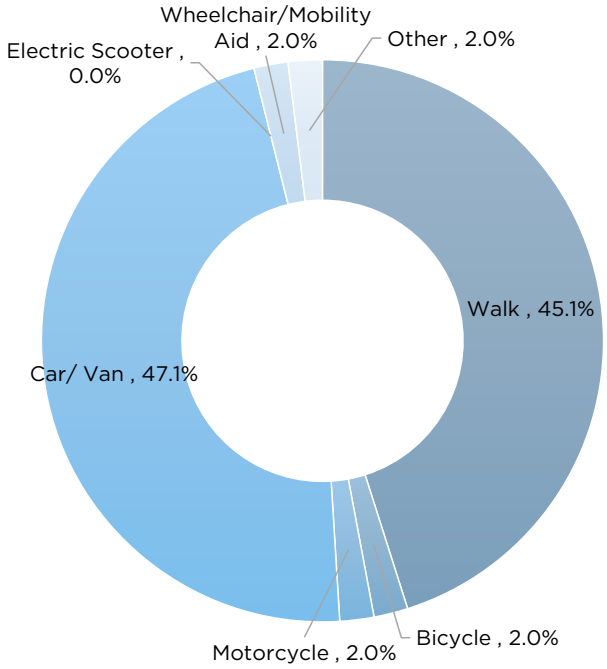


Figure 98: How do you usually get to Bulla Parklands?

47.1% of the respondents drive to Bulla Parklands.

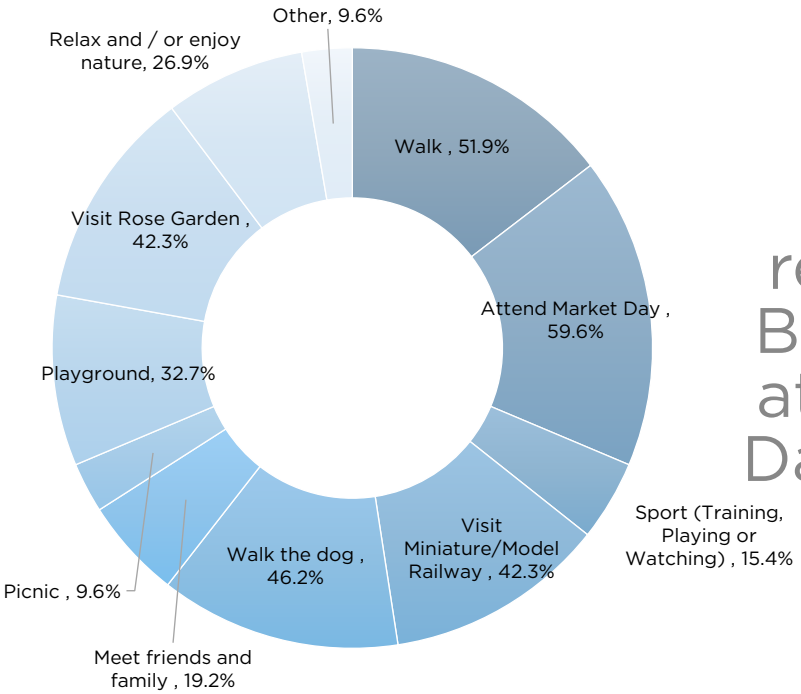


Figure 99: What do you usually like to do at Bulla Parklands?

59.6% of the respondents visit Bulla Parklands to attend the Market Day once a month.

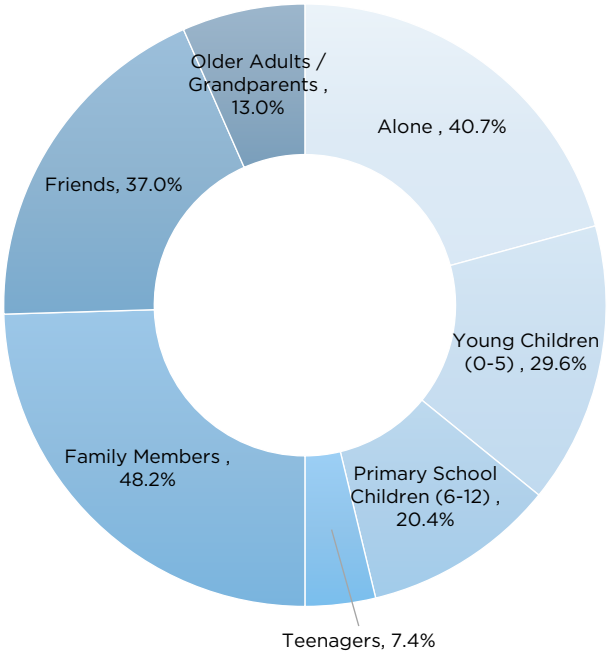
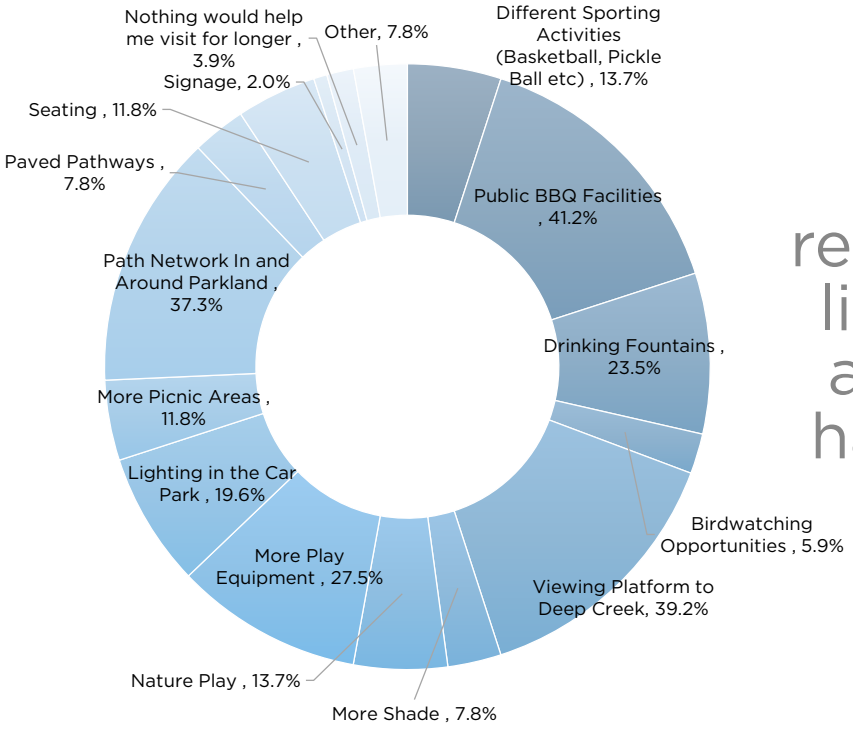


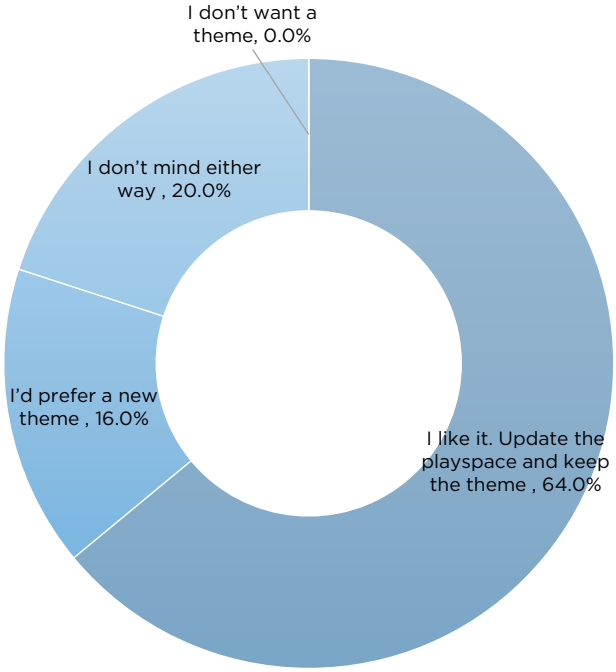
Figure 100: I usually visit with...

48.2% of the respondents visit Bulla Parklands with family members.



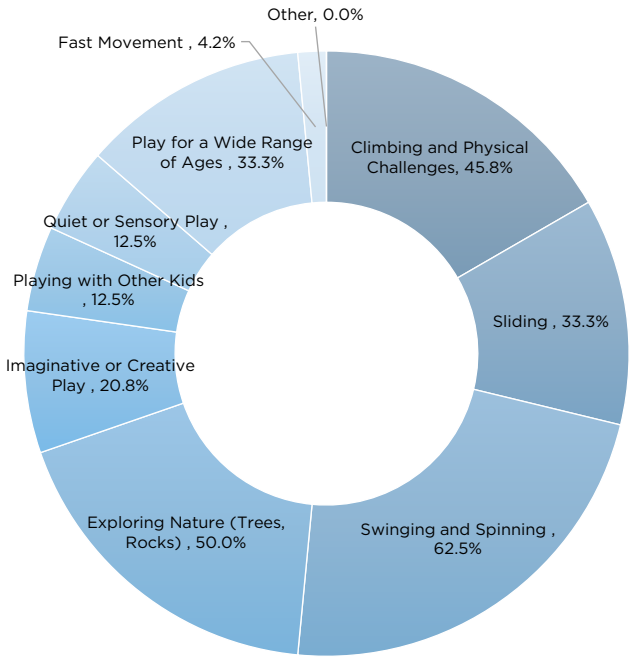
41.2% of the respondents would like BBQ facilities allowing them to have longer visits.

Figure 101: What would help you visit the Bulla Parklands for longer?



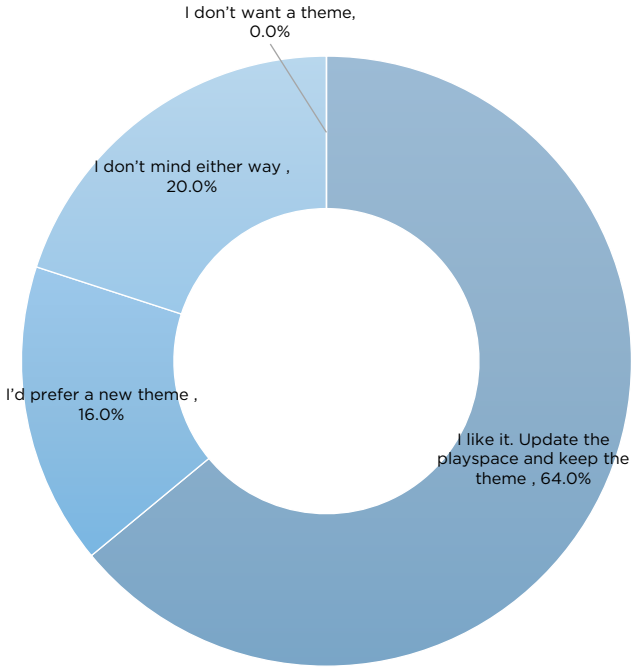
60% of the respondents would like to update and keep the rail theme in the play space.

Figure 102: How do you feel about the rail theme in the playspace?



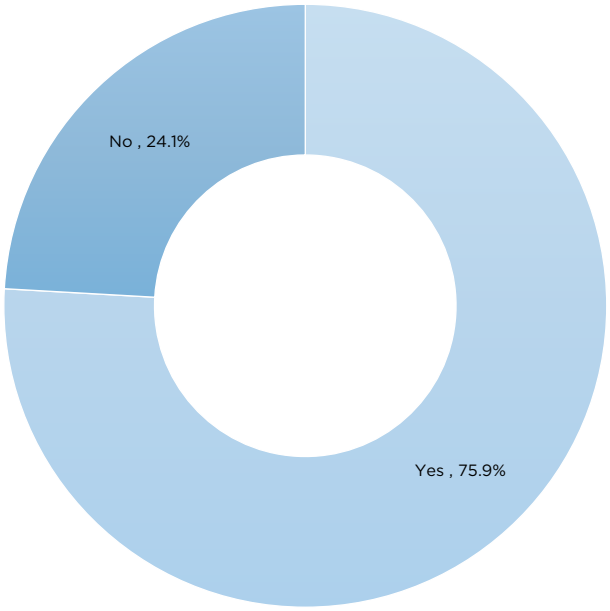
62.5% of the respondents including their children enjoy swinging and spinning play elements.

Figure 103: What kinds of play do you or your children enjoy most in this park?



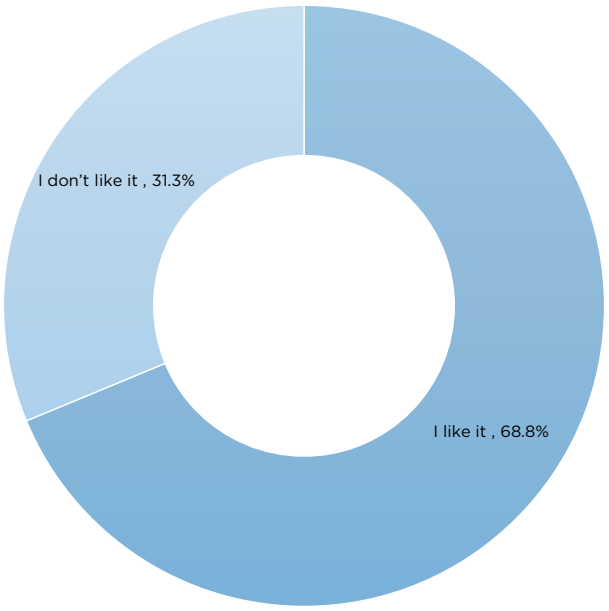
64% of the respondents like the present rail theme, would like to retain it but are open to an update of the space.

Figure 104: How do you feel about the rail theme in the playspace?



75.9% of the respondents have visited the War Memorial.

Figure 105: Have you visited where the War Memorial stands?.



68.8% of the respondents like the current location of the War Memorial.

Figure 106: How do you feel about the current location of the Memorial? .

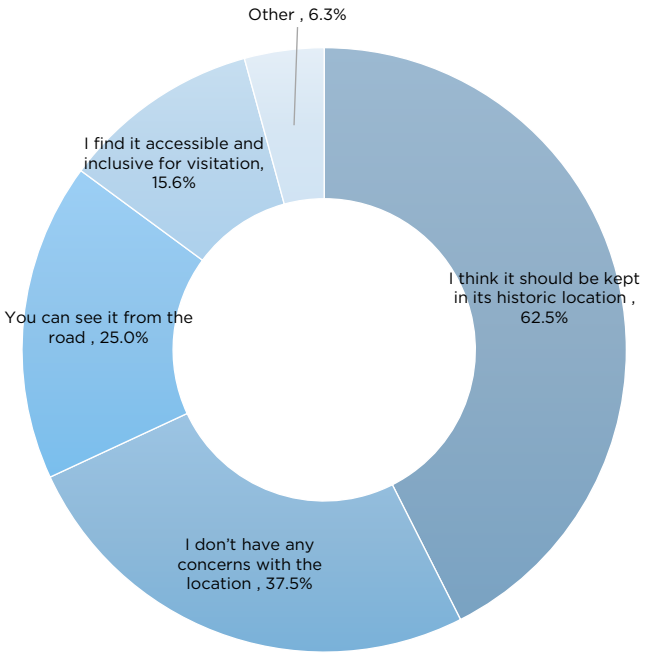


Figure 107: I like the Memorial location because...

62.5% of the respondents prefer for the Memorial to be kept in its current historic location.

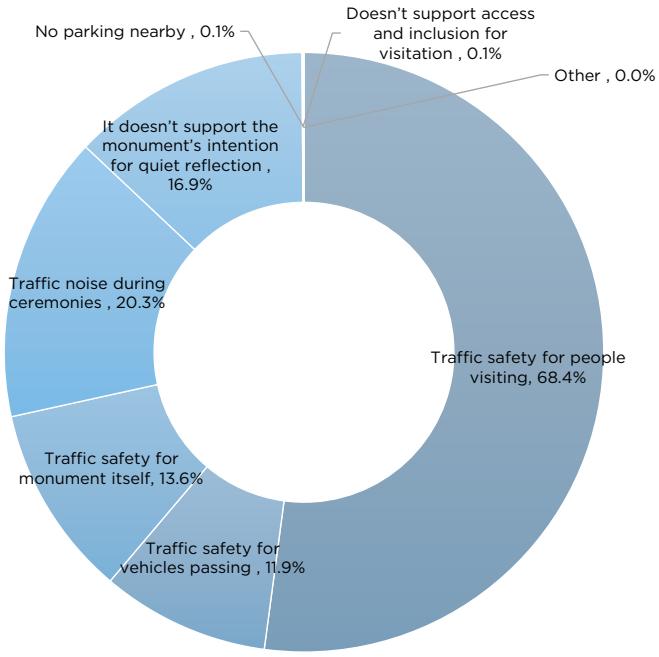


Figure 108: I don't like the Memorial location because...

68.4% of the respondents feel there are traffic safety concerns around the current Memorial location.

4 LEVELS OF SERVICES

Infrastructure Levels of Service - Regional to be read in conjunction with Hume Landscape Guidelines	Primary Open Space Function			
	Sport	(Waterway) Drainage	Social Recreation	Conservation & Cultural Values
Infrastructure				
BBQ Facilities	000	X	000	0
Bicycle Racks	000	0	000	0
Car Parking - Sealed (permeable or passively irrigating adjacent areas)	000	X	000	0
Court - Tennis or Netball	0	X	0	X
Court - Half-Court or Multisport	00	X	0	X
Dog Off Leash Area (subject to location, design and precinct needs criteria)	00	0	00	0
Drinking Fountain/Tap	000	0	000	0
Event Facilities (power, water, shelter, loading area)	000	X	00	X
Outdoor Gathering Facilities (coordinated infrastructure for multiple groups: eg: shelter/s, picnic tables, public toilets, drinking fountain, bbq, car parking)	000	X	000	X
Fencing/Bollards	0	0	0	0
Garden Beds	000	0	000	X
Kickabout Area	0	0	000	0
Lighting – Safety/Timed After Hours	000	0	00	X
Lighting - Sport	000	X	X	X
Outdoor Exercise/Mobility Equipment	0	X	0	X
Paths - Shared - Pedestrian and Cycle - 2-5-3.0m	00	00	00	0
Paths - Primary - Pedestrian 2.0m	00	00	00	00
Paths - Secondary - Pedestrian 1.5m	00	00	00	00
Shelter	000	0	000	0
Play space	000	X	000	X
Play space - Waterplay (reticulated system)	0	X	0	X
Public Art	0	X	0	X
Public toilet (minimum two cubicles)	000	X	000	0
Public Litter Bins	000	0	000	0
Seating - chair with back and arms, bench seats, other	000	00	000	0
Seating – picnic settings	000	0	000	0
Scooter/Bike/Pump Track/Skate Elements	0	X	0	X
Sports - Field	000	X	0	X
Signage - Interpretive/ Wayfinding/ Park Entry/Advisory	000	000	000	000
Tree Canopy	000	000	000	0

All other infrastructure is not permitted unless otherwise agreed

X - Not permitted
0 - May have
00 - Should have
000 - Must have

5 PLANTING PALETTES

ACTIVE RECREATION ZONE PLANTING PALETTE



Tree

Figure 60:
Corymbia maculata
(Spotted Gum)



Tree

Figure 61:
Angophora costata
*(*Smooth-barked Apple Myrtle)



Shrub

Figure 62:
Syzygium fancissii 'Little Gem'
(Dwarf Lilly Pilly)



Shrub

Figure 63:
Dianella caerulea
(Blue Flax Lily)



Ground cover

Figure 64:
Myoporum parvifolium
(Creeping Boobialla / Yareena)



Ground cover

Figure 65:
Scaevola albida 'Mauve Clusters'
(Fan Flower)

SOCIAL RECREATION ZONE PLANTING PALETTE



Tree

Figure 66:
Brachychiton acerifolius
(Illawarra Flame Tree)



Tree

Figure 67:
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
(Green Ash)



Tree

Figure 68:
Tristaniopsis laurina
(Water Gum)



Shrub

Figure 69:
Correa alba
(White Correa)



Shrub

Figure 70:
Chrysocephalum apiculatum
(Common Everlasting)



Shrub

Figure 71:
Anigozanthos flavidus
(Tall Kangaroo Paw)

CONSERVATION ZONE PLANTING PALETTE



Tree

Figure 72:
Eucalyptus camaldulensis
(River Red Gum)



Tree

Figure 73:
Acacia pycnantha
(Golden Wattle)



Grass

Figure 74:
Austrodanthonia racemosa var. racemosa
(Striped Wallaby-grass)



Grass

Figure 75:
Austrostipa mollis
(Supple Spear-grass)



Grass

Figure 76:
Themeda triandra
(Kangaroo Grass



Ground cover

Figure 77:
Diochondra repens
(Kidney-weed)

EVENTS AND POST COLONIAL CULTURE ZONE PLANTING PALETTE



Tree

Figure 78:
Agonis flexuosa
(Willow Myrtle)



Tree

Figure 79:
Pistacia chinensis
(Chinese Pistachio)



Tree

Figure 80:
Lagerstroemia indica
(Crepe Myrtle)



Grass

Figure 81:
Tradescantia pallida
(Purple Heart)



Grass

Figure 82:
Senecio mandraliscae
(Blue Chalk Sticks)



Ground cover

Figure 83:
Stachys byzantina 'Big Ears'
(Lambs Ears)



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