



# MORRISON RESERVE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Community Engagement Report

February 2024



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

Yarra Ranges Council has developed a draft Master Plan that provides a 15-year strategic approach to improving community, sport and recreation facilities at Morrison Reserve, Mount Evelyn in response to identified community needs, opportunities and projected population demographics.

Improvements recommended for community consideration include an upgrade to soccer, athletics and court facilities, the path network and park furniture on Council land. The draft Master Plan also recommends an upgrade of the school oval, currently used by community clubs as a secondary ground, and advocacy for a future sports stadium at the Yarra Hills Secondary College.

The proposed upgrade of the playspace and inclusion of a bike park and social spaces have already received external and Council funding.

Early consultation, research and studies have informed the draft plan development. This stage included a literature review, stakeholder and user group discussions, student workshops, stadium feasibility study and synthetic soccer pitch feasibility with schematic design.

The Draft Master Plan was exhibited in August - September 2023 seeking community feedback on whether the proposed improvements had community support. This second engagement period was undertaken through a wide range of formats such as drop-in sessions, letterbox drop, social media promotion and a Shaping Yarra Ranges web-page for the project.

This Engagement Report provides a summary of the feedback provided by the community during the consultation period and offers a snapshot of the revisions based on that feedback. The results have been incorporated into a proposed final Morrison Reserve Master Plan which will seek Council adoption to guide future improvements to the reserve.



## WHO WE SPOKE TO

**Over a 5 week engagement period** (17 August - 24 September 2023) we received feedback from approximately **250 people**. 53% of survey respondents visit the reserve at least once a week, most 2-3 times.



**750 letters were dropped into postboxes of nearby residents** in the Morrison Reserve, Mount Evelyn area to inform the community about the engagement, provide details about the project and the open period for feedback.



**Tenant sports clubs (7), schools (3), community groups (3) and Council's Advisory Groups (5)** were asked to circulate information and opportunity to provide feedback to their members, students and families.



**More than 100 people** in total attended the **six drop-in sessions**. Three held at Morrison Reserve- playspace, school oval, athletics and soccer facilities. A further drop-in sessions was held at the Mount Evelyn Community House, Elizabeth Bridge Reserve and in the main shopping centre.



**Council's Disability and Health & Wellbeing Advisory Groups, Youth, Indigenous and Gender Equity specialists** were consulted and feedback considered reflecting their specific areas of interest.



**1,674 page views** of the Shaping Yarra Ranges Morrison Reserve Draft Master Plan page from **1,062 unique visitors**. There were **184 document downloads**, plus two hand delivered.



**150 conversations** approx. at the drop-in sessions and the street stall. **7 contributions** by emails. **102 contributions** through the Shaping Yarra Ranges Morrison Reserve Master Plan page **from 98 contributors**, **56% from Mount Evelyn**, **15% from Lilydale**.



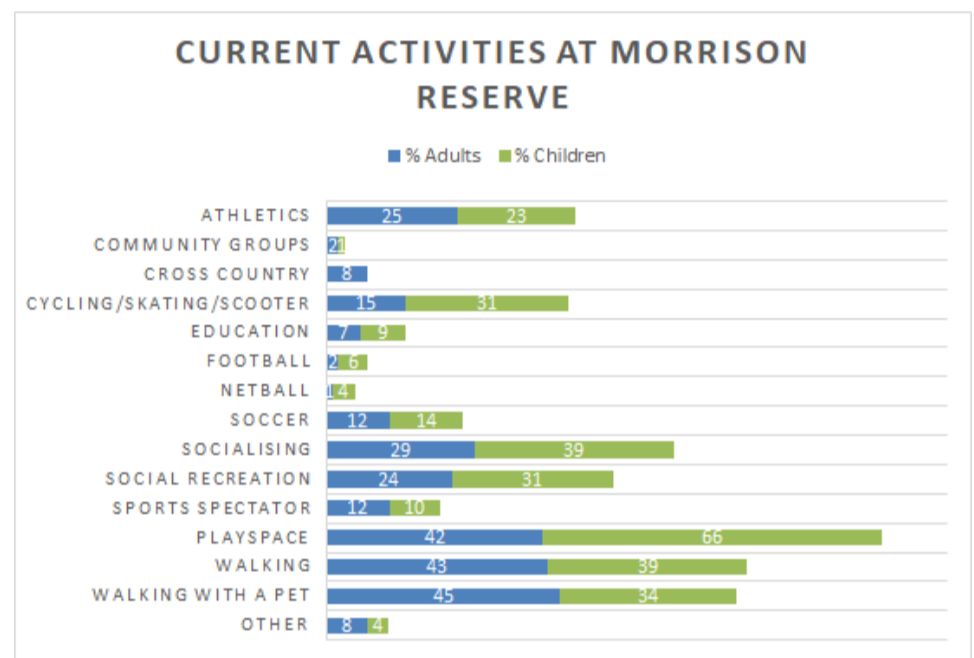
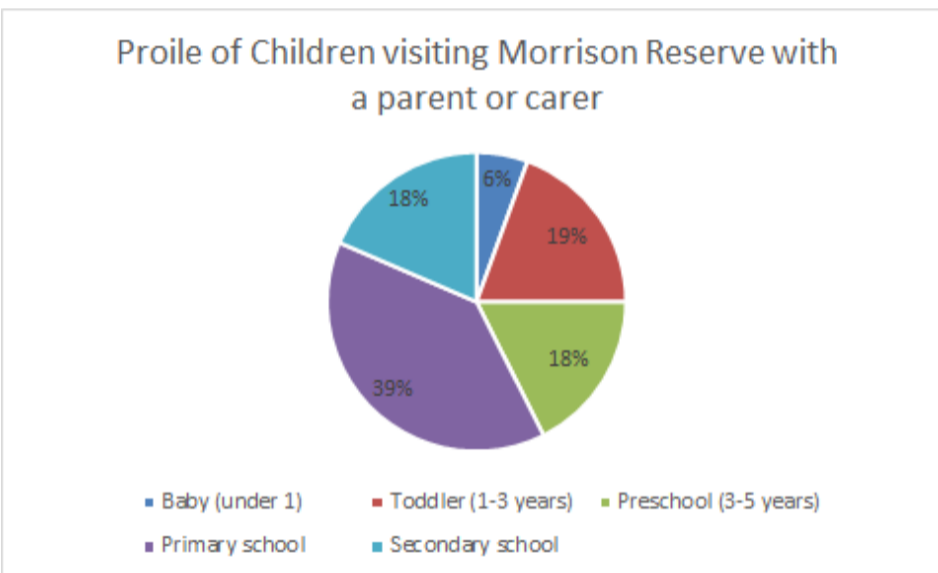
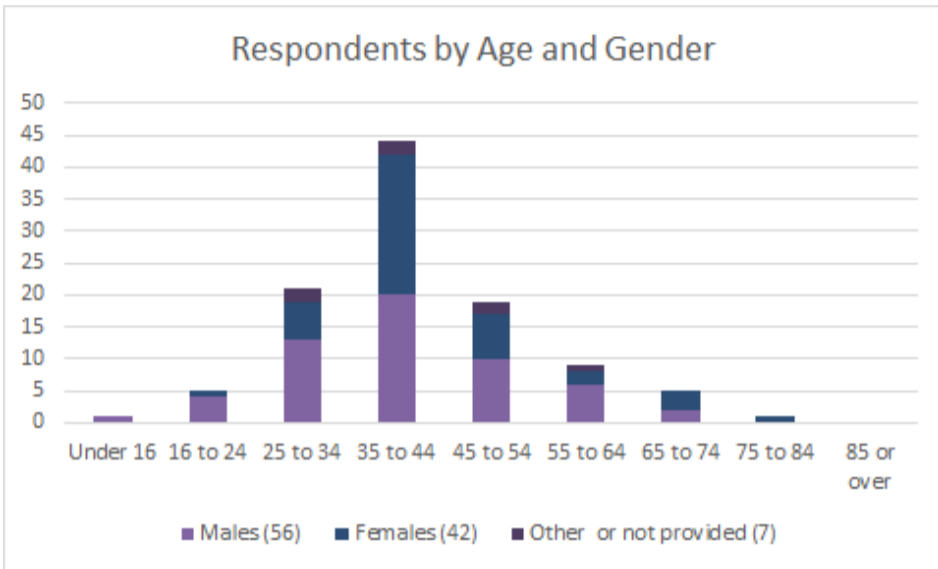
**Website Visitors** came from: Social Media (**44%**); Direct to Shaping Yarra Ranges (**33%**); External Websites (**5%**); Search Engines (**7%**); and Campaigns (**10%**).

# WHAT WE HEARD

We received overwhelming support from the 98 respondents to the survey.

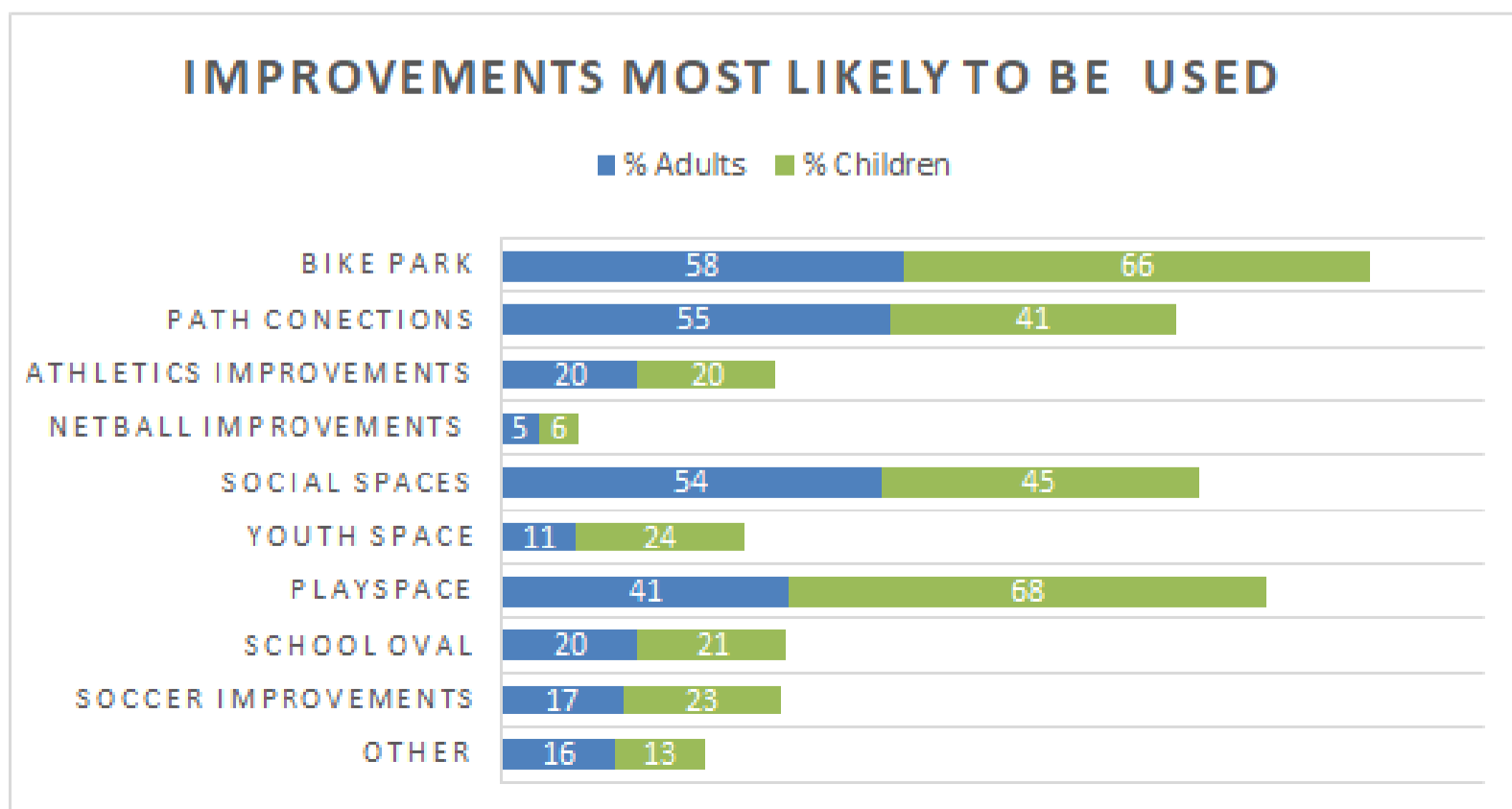
- Overall, 93% supported the proposed changes in the master plan.
- 91% of 70 respondents felt that the improvements proposed would meet the needs of children and young adults in their care.
- 86% of 87 respondents thought the proposed changes would improve accessibility at Morrison Reserve.

## WHO RESPONDED AND WHAT ATTRACTS THEM TO MORRISON RESERVE



## SUPPORT FOR RESERVE IMPROVEMENTS

The community was asked what of the proposed improvements they and the children in their care would likely use. The bike park, playspace, social spaces and path network received the strongest support.





# WHAT WE HEARD:

Feedback from the community and stakeholders has been reviewed and assessed to ensure that the proposed improvements to the Morrison Reserve are appropriate and have broad support. The key themes of comments provided are consistent and supportive with the proposed actions of the master plan and outlined below. Greater detail and design concepts will be presented to the community during the implementation of the Master Plan as funding is secured.

The exception to this is the development of the Youth Activation Space including an upgrade of the playspace, bike park and social infrastructure. The community has already provided their thoughts on the playspace. Further communication on the bike and social aspects will follow in 2024.

## KEY THEMES



Toilets needed

- Improve paths, parking and more park furniture to improve accessibility around the reserve (18)
- General comments supporting the master plan (17)
- Need toilets near the playspace (16)
- Support for the new Youth Activation Space including bike tracks and social nodes (9)
- Support for the new playspace (7)
- Consider impact on site drainage, water flow and catchment
- Landscape / vegetation opportunities.
- Additional suggestions not incorporated in the master plan included a designated dog area (2), outdoor gym (2) and the refresh of the community/school garden (2).



Social areas



Paths



Parking



Traffic Management

## NEXT STEPS

The following key steps will ensure the Morrison Reserve Master Plan provides strategic justification to support future funding applications.

