



150 CAMBRIDGE ROAD, KILSYTH DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN

Community Engagement Summary Report

June 2024

Consultation Period: 14 May - 11 June 2024

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Yarra Ranges Council has developed a draft Concept Plan that provides a community based approach to improving access to native and indigenous woodlands and recreation facilities at 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth. This was the former site of Yarra Hills Secondary College and prior to that Pembroke Secondary College. The school buildings were removed in 2014.

The Plan developed is in response to the collective vision identified through previous community, advisory and stakeholder group consultation, to understand what was important to retain and include in the future planning of the site. Ideas have been investigated by internal working groups and consultants with expertise to interrogate the merit of issues and opportunities being considered. We also looked at the projected demographics of the area and the importance of catering for the young families making Kilsyth their home. A high community priority was to look to the past to the indigenous culture of the area, opportunity to revegetate with native vegetation and to create a learning environment that could increase our relationship with Country.

The 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth Master Plan aims to support increased use and enjoyment of the area through a return to the woodlands reminiscent of the Kilsyth of the early 1900s, with the inclusion of indigenous and native vegetation and recreation features.

Initial community and stakeholder engagement was conducted through the research and development phase of the draft master plan. The resultant draft 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth Concept Plan was presented to the community for review and feedback in May - June 2024, seeking feedback on whether the proposed improvements addressed the community's needs and concerns. This second engagement period was undertaken through a wide range of formats such as drop-in sessions, letterbox drop, social media.

WHO WE SPOKE TO



Over a 4 week engagement period (14 May - 11 June 2024) we received feedback from approximately 300 people.



600 letters were dropped into local resident mailboxes to inform the community about the engagement, provide a link to details about the project and a survey to capture their plan ratings and feedback.



Project information including a **QR code** linking to the survey, was circulated to **local schools, pre-schools and early learning centres** plus **sports groups** operating from Elizabeth Bridge Reserve, for distribution to their members.



Drop-in sessions (6): at 150 Cambridge Road (3), Elizabeth Bridge Reserve playspace (2) and the oval (1). We chatted to approximately **100 people** providing information, a link to the survey and collecting feedback.



We also sought feedback from **Council's Advisory Groups**, including Indigenous, Disability, Health & Wellbeing, Youth and the Youth Ambassadors.



Ride Yarra Ranges and three other bike groups were invited via email to provide comments. In excess of **3,500 readers** opened the link.

1675 emails were sent to the Kilsyth Community providing information on the proposal and collect feedback.



3,911 page views of the Shaping Yarra Ranges- 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth Masterplan page from **2,941 unique visitors**.



156 contributions through the Shaping Yarra Ranges-150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth Masterplan page **from 152 unique contributors**.

Website visitors came from Direct to Social Media Channels **61%**, Shaping Yarra Ranges **34%**, External Websites **3%** and Search Engines **2%**.

WHAT WE HEARD:

We received responses from a spread of people (age and gender) that primarily live locally to 150 Cambridge Road: in Kilsyth (35%), Mooroolbark (36%) and Montrose (9%). From conversations and comments, most have a close connection and regularly use the adjacent Elizabeth Bridge Reserve for active and passive recreation. Of the 152 contributors to the online survey, an overall rating of four out of five stars for the improvements proposed for 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth.

In addition to the positive verbal feedback to the draft concept plan, 152 survey contributors rated the plan and key elements out of a possible five stars. A snapshot of the survey results follow:

CONCEPT DESIGN ★ RATINGS

Design Feature	Weighted Average (out of 5 stars)
1. Overall Concept Plan	4.0
2. Meandering paths	3.9
3. Gathering and education space	3.7
4. Native Grasslands	3.9
5. Seasonal water feature	3.9
6. Bike jump park	4.3
7. Nature play areas	4.0
8. Upgrade the carpark areas	4.0
9. Picnic area	4.0
10. Multi-purpose half court	3.8
11. Public toilet	4.6



1. Meandering paths through woodland and native grass.



4. Ephemeral water feature / Dry pond



7. Carpark with trees



2. Manna gum, feature tree
Gathering/educational space around the Manna gum



5. Bike jump tracks



8. Picnic shelter, tables and seats.



3. Maintain view to Dandenong Mts.



6. Nature play areas

9. Multi purpose half court

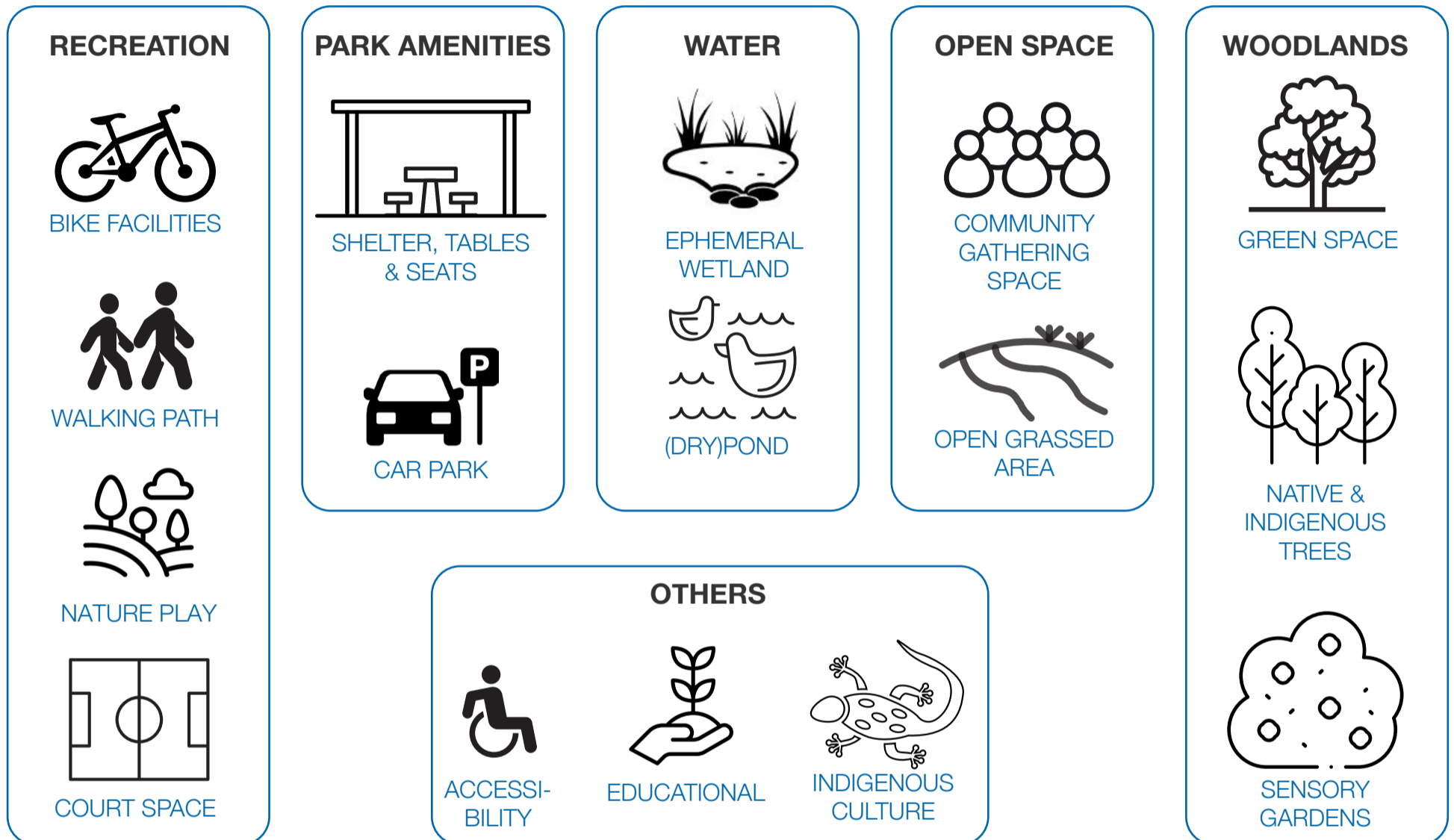
10. Public Toilet

11. Quiet activity area

NEXT STEPS:

After reviewing the community feedback and ratings of the draft concept design and key elements, we confirmed that the proposed concept plan had resounded well with the community and needed no modification prior to embedding in the draft 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth Master Plan, for consideration by Council for adoption.

KEY DESIGN INITIATIVES CONFIRMED



The next steps in the finalisation of the 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth Master Plan are outlined below.

