

McDermott Avenue Reserve - Engagement Phases

Phase One: *Initial Internal consultation* (completed)

Timing	Mid - late 2020
Type (IAP2)	Involve, collaborate
Objectives	- Understand any issues with the site - Explore opportunities
Actions	- Engage relevant officers to undertake preliminary investigative studies to inform further research. - Preliminary Tree assessment and Environmental assessment undertaken.

Phase Two: *Initial community consultation* (completed)

Timing	November - December 2020
Type (IAP2)	Consult, Involve, Collaborate
Objectives	- Understand the community's vision for the site - Identify issues and opportunities - Identify the items and activities that the community would like to see and do at the site
Actions	- Consultation 3 November – 13 December 2020. - Mail out to 600 residents, inviting participation in an online survey or email comments. - Face-to-face consultation was not possible due to pandemic restrictions at the time. - Feedback sought from Council's Advisory Groups. 406 survey views, 340 responses collated, and key themes identified. Refer to McDermott Reserve Background Research – Initial Community Engagement summary report 2020. - Basis for further research, collaboration and draft master plan development.

Phase Three: *External consultant consultation* (completed)

Timing	2022 - 2024
Type (IAP2)	Consult
Objectives	Provide a detailed assessment of physical conditions to inform further research and master plan development.

Actions	• Feature and Land Survey (July 2022) • Asset condition report – pavilion (March 2023) • Asbestos and Synthetic mineral Fibre Compliance Survey (February 2024) • Environmental assessment – revision (July 2024) • Tree Assessment – revision (July 2024) • Soil Assessment Report (September 2024).
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Phase Four: *General community consultation* (completed)

Timing	February – March 2025
Type (IAP2)	Consult, Involve
Objectives	• Engage with members of the Mooroolbark community, particularly youth and emerging cultures, to confirm current open space sport and recreation preferences.
Actions	• Face -to-face sessions at the Chin Community Festival (22 February 2025 and the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival (16 March 2025). • Engaged with 59 people of wide age ranges and various cultural backgrounds. • 269 responses received. Refer to summary in McDermott Reserve Background Research July 2025.

Phase Five: *Community engagement – report on research and consultation* (completed)

Timing	Mid 2025
Type (IAP2)	Inform
Objectives	• Provide the community with an update on the research and consultation findings so far.
Actions	Update the McDermott Shaping Yarra Ranges page with: • McDermott Avenue Reserve Community Engagement (2020) Summary. • McDermott Avenue Reserve Background Research Report July 2025. • Frequently Asked Questions.

Phase Six: *Further Site investigation* (in progress)

Timing		Late January – February 2026 (insufficient time in December)
Type (IAP2)	Consult	
Objectives	• Provide a detailed assessment of the structural integrity of the retaining wall, including geotechnical soil studies. • Provide recommendations for actions required including any risk mitigation short term.	
Actions	• To be determined once the report is received.	

Phase Seven: *Council consideration of Draft Master Plan* (in progress)

Timing		Late October 2025
Type (IAP2)	Inform, Consult	
Objectives	Council consideration on 28 October 2025 of the findings of research undertaken and the subsequent draft Master Plan developed for community consultation.	
Actions	Assuming the draft Master Plan is supported by Council for community consultation: • Inform the community of the process undertaken to understand the impact of the 2015 resolution to sell the land and the feasibility study undertaken to determine current relevancy and options moving forward. (Access to Council Report).	

Phase Eight: *Community engagement – Draft Master Plan*

Timing		November – December 2025
Type (IAP2)	Inform, Consult, Involve	
Objectives	Seek community feedback to the Draft Master Plan, including concept design proposed for the site (subject to Council determination).	
Actions	• Mail out to local residents • Pop-up sessions on site, shopping centre • Workshop at local schools (TBC) • Advisory group information sessions • Presentations to local cultural groups (TBC).	

Phase Nine: *Engagement report*

Timing		Early February 2026
Type (IAP2)	Inform	
Objectives	• Report back to the community what we heard during consultation. • Provide next steps.	
Actions	• Update the Shaping Yarra Ranges page with the Engagement Summary and next steps.	

Phase Ten: *Master Plan refinement for adoption*

Timing		February - June 2026
Type (IAP2)	Inform	
Objectives	• Refine the draft Master Plan • Council consideration of the final draft Master Plan for adoption. • Report back to the community with the final Master Plan for McDermott Avenue Reserve.	
Actions	• Update the Shaping Yarra Ranges page and Council website with the final Master Plan.	

Council Engagement Commitment

How Council will engage

Deciding the level of engagement

Yarra Ranges Council's community engagement is based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement, illustrated in the table below. This spectrum identifies and defines five levels of engagement and details our promise to the community for each level of engagement.

Levels of engagement may be different for separate phases of a project and for different stakeholders based on interest, influence and impact.

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Community Engagement Goal				
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and or solutions	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	To place final decision making in the hands of the public
Council's promise				
We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen to, and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decisions	We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decisions	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible	We will implement what you decide
Tools for each engagement level may include, but are not limited to:				
Social media, Council website, Media, Newsletters, Emails, SMS,	'Shaping Yarra Ranges', Surveys, Submissions, Roadshow popups,	Focus groups, Workshops, Advisory Committees	Community panels, Stakeholder meetings	Ballots, Delegated decision

*adapted from the IAP2 Spectrum. Copyright © International Association for Public Participation. Please visit www.iap2.org for more information.