

# Community Consultation Report

## Walter Street Reserve Pavilion

### Upgrade

### December 2025



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## **Summary**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Walter Street Reserve is a much-loved local park in Ascot Vale providing a well-used playing field and high-quality sports facilities in a setting of native trees and shrubs. The upgrade of the Walter Street Reserve Pavilion is an important initiative to ensure the Reserve continues to meet the sporting and broader needs of the local community in a functional, aesthetic, ecological and sustainable manner.

Council has developed a proposed concept plan for the upgrade of Walter Street Pavilion. The design approach for the Pavilion Upgrade Concept Plan considered the existing character of the reserve, minimum standards for national/state sporting bodies, and the needs of current sports club tenants and wider community.

The Plan includes an extension and renovation of the existing sporting pavilion, and provides a framework for the relocation, upgrade and replacement of existing elements of the natural and built environment. Some specific elements included in the design are:

- More changerooms and toilets, to cater for the increasing number of junior and female players.
- More modern, female friendly toilets and separate change rooms.
- Internal toilets for spectators and function attendees.
- A new public toilet will be available to reserve users during daylight hours.
- A more functional internal layout.
- Increased circulation and storage space in the kitchen.
- Increased storage space for general club items.
- Multipurpose spaces for use by the wider community outside of sports club allocated hours.
- Relocation and potential upgrades to the existing playground and Community Garden.

From 18 Nov 2024 – 15 Dec 2024, Council undertook consultation to seek feedback about the Pavilion Upgrade Concept Plan, from community members who use the Pavilion, or who have a general interest in improvements to the Reserve. Feedback received during this consultation will inform the completion of this project.

### **1.2 Engagement strategies**

Community members could contribute to the consultation via:

1. A dedicated [Your Say page](#) (Appendix 5.1) which linked people to the online survey (Appendix 5.2), the Design Concept Plans and frequently asked questions.
2. A QR code included on an onsite poster (Appendix 5.3) which linked people to the online survey (and associated information) via the Your Say page.

A total of 116 people participated in the consultation via completion of the online survey or directly emailed feedback.

### **1.3 Key Findings**

The majority of respondents (75%) either supported (16%) or strongly supported (59%) the Pavilion upgrade. Of those who supported the upgrade, most comments noted the need to upgrade the Pavilion toilets and changerooms, with specific mentions of the need for separate and enhanced facilities for females, juniors and girls. Many comments highlighted the importance of upgrading the toilets and changerooms to cater to the increasing number of users. Proposed upgrades to the Pavilion's parking and lighting, community spaces and catering facilities were also welcomed, as was the incorporation of external art/cultural features.

Some respondents expressed concerns about the removal of established trees, emphasising the ecological impact and the importance of preserving the natural environment. Some local residents also expressed concerns about impact of the upgrade on noise and traffic in the area.

Overall feedback about the proposed relocation and upgrade of the playground highlighted the importance of retaining the playground as a valuable community asset.

Specific feedback included the need to ensure that the new playground is safe for children (including some concern the proposed location is unsafe) and that it retains its current size and functionality. There were also suggestions to incorporate additional features into the playground, such as more seating and shaded areas.

In relation to the community garden, while overall sentiment was supportive, there was strong concern about the need for the garden to be adequately equipped and maintained. There was also some uncertainty about the need for and accessibility of the garden and the suitability of the proposed location.

Overall, the feedback was largely positive, with a strong focus on making the Pavilion more functional, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable

## **Methodology**

### **2.1 Key engagement questions**

The survey asked respondents:

- Do you currently use the Pavilion? (Yes/No)
- To what extent do you support the proposed concept design for the Pavilion? (From strongly oppose to strongly support)
- Would you like to provide any comments to support your rating? (Free text)
- Do you currently experience any barriers accessing the facilities within the Pavilion or Reserve? (Free text)
- Do you have any suggestions about the external appearance of the Pavilion? (Free text)
- There may be opportunities to incorporate additional elements into the design. Do you have any suggestions about potential external art/cultural elements, such as a mural? (Free text)
- Are there any specific vegetation or landscaping suggestions you would like to see incorporated into the Reserve? (Free text)
- It is proposed that the current playground will be relocated and replaced as part of this project – what items would you like to see retained? (Free text)
- Do you use the current community garden? (Yes/No)
- A similar sized Community Garden is planned to be relocated on the reserve, do you have any feedback on what this should include? (Free text)

Survey respondents were also asked questions about their demographic characteristics.

### **2.2 Communication**

Council promoted the consultation to local users of the reserve, neighbouring properties, business owners, community groups and the broader community across a range of communication channels, including:

- Your Say webpage
- Posters around the reserve directing community members to Your Say
- Social media posts (Attachment 5.4)
- Letterbox drop and emails – to direct feedback to Your Say
- Direct engagement with existing sport club tenants (via meetings, phone calls and emails – including a reminder email halfway through the consultation period)

## 2.3 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

*Table 1. Consultation participation*

Engagement tool	Engagement Indicator	Participation
Your Say website	Views	781
	Page visits	634
	Unique visitors	498
	Project followers	7
Oline survey (via Your Say website)	Survey responses	<b>90 complete</b> <b>20 partial</b>
Email	Email submissions	<b>5</b>
Letter	Letter submissions	<b>1</b>
<b>Total respondents: 116</b>		

## 2.4 Survey respondent demographics

### 2.4.1 Connection to Moonee Valley

Survey respondents were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley, with the ability to select multiple of the following options:

- I live here
- I work here
- I own property
- I own a business
- I am associated with a business or community group/organisation.

Of the 91 respondents who chose to respond to this question, 83 respondents indicated that they live in Moonee Valley, with 49 indicating they owned property, and 27 indicating they were associated with a business or community group/organisation as depicted in the graph below.

*Figure 1. What is your connection to Moonee Valley?*





## 2.4.2 Type of business, community group or organisation association

Respondents (n=27) who were associated with a business or community group /organisation were asked to identify the name of the business or community group /organisation. 7 unique associations were identified and are listed in the table below.

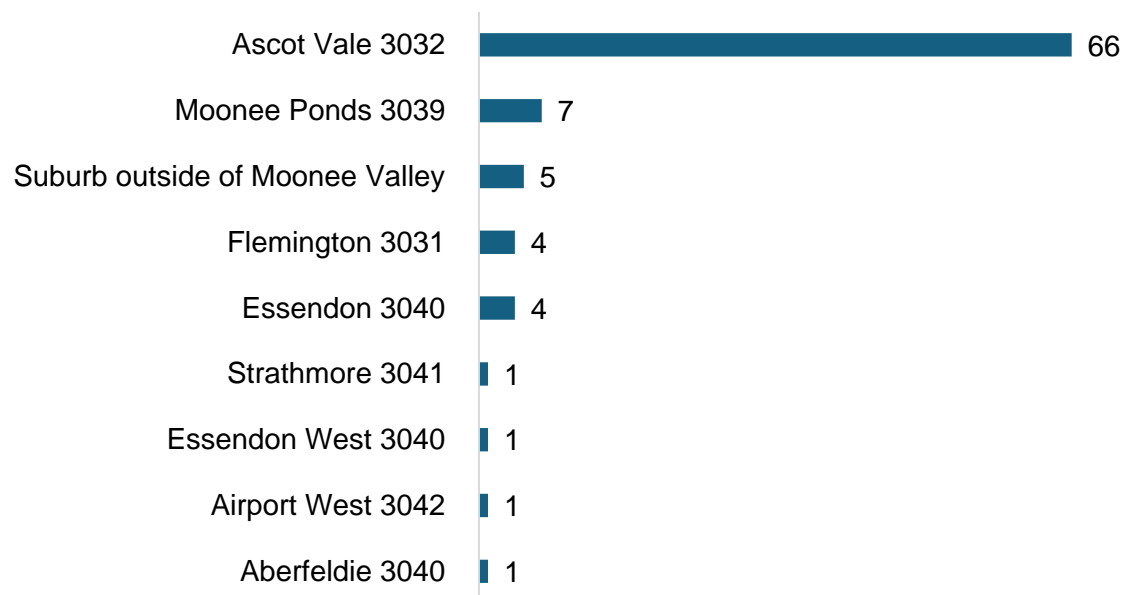
*Table 2. Type of business, community group/organisation association*

<b>Name of business, community group or organisation</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>
Ascot Vale Panthers	19
Union Road Traders	2
Flemington Cricket Club	2
St Bernards FC	1
St Bernards School	1
Moonee Ponds Club	1
Ascot Vale Little Free Pantry	1

## 2.4.3 Suburb of residence

Respondents were asked to identify the suburb they live in. Of those who responded to this question (n=90), the majority were from Ascot Vale (n=66). Other suburbs identified can be seen in the graph below. Of those respondents who identified they lived outside of Moonee Valley, the following suburbs were listed: Coburg; Taylor's Lakes; West Footscray; Maidstone.

*Figure 2. Suburb of residence*

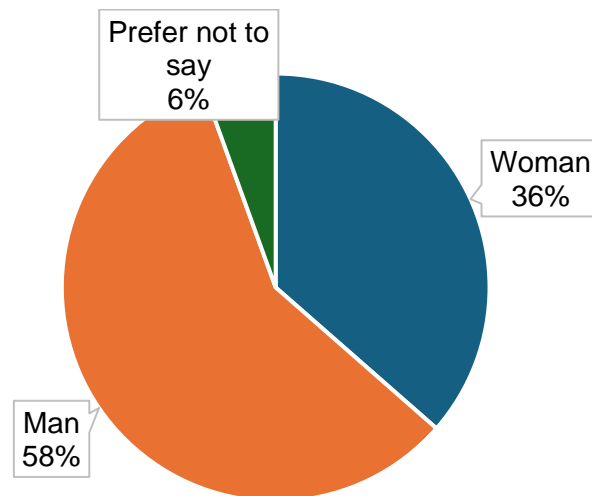




#### 2.4.4 Gender identity

Respondents were asked their gender identity. 90 respondents answered this question. A greater percentage of respondents identified as a man (58%) compared with those who identified as a woman (36%). 6% of respondents (n=5) preferred not to say.

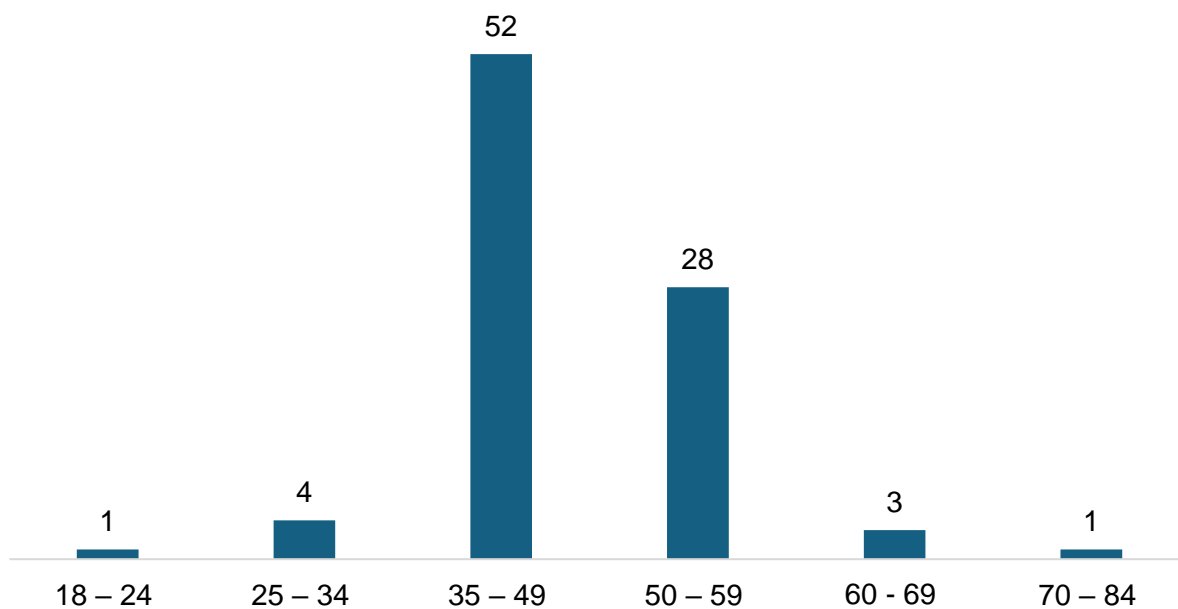
*Figure 3. Gender identity*



### 2.4.5 Age

Respondents were asked to identify which age group they belong to. 90 respondents answered this question, with representation across six age brackets. Most respondents were between 35-49 years old.

*Figure 4. Age group*



## 2.4.6 Language

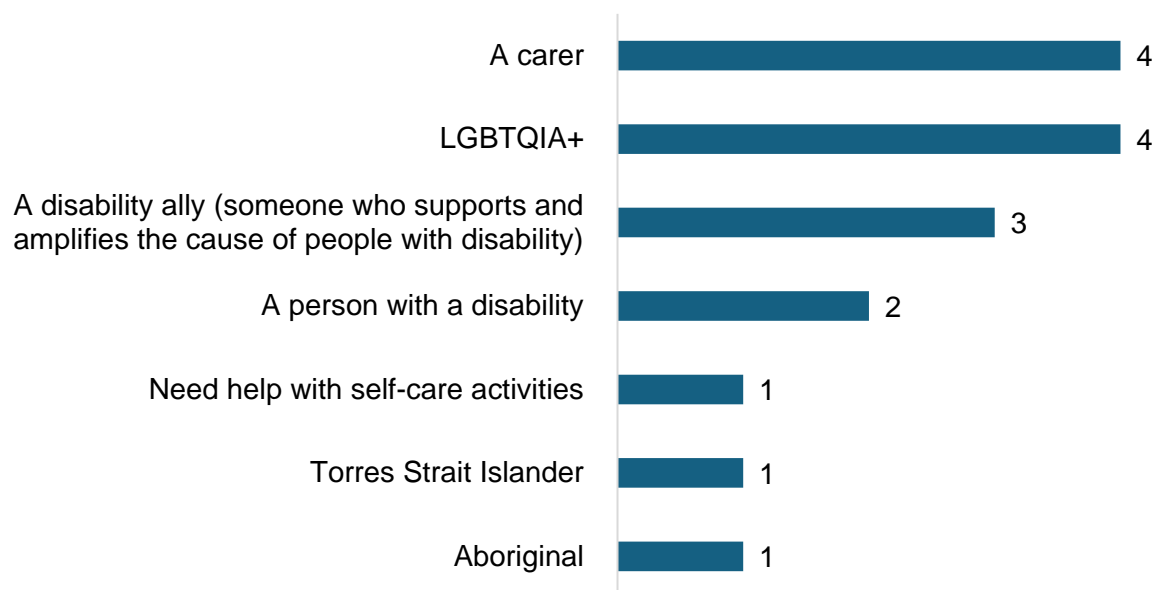
Respondents were asked if they usually speak a language other than English at home. 88 respondents answered this question, with the majority (n=82; 93%) indicating they only speak English at home.

Respondents (n=6) who identified that they usually speak a language other than English at home were asked what language they spoke, with responses including Danish (n=1), Hindi (n=1) and Hungarian (n=1).

## 2.4.7 Additional identifiers

Respondents were asked whether they identify with a range of different options including Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQIA+, person with a disability, a carer, a disability ally, needing assistance with self-care activities/movement and communication.

Figure 5. Additional identifiers

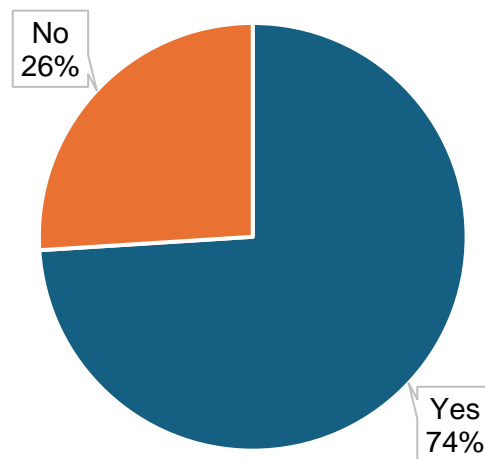


## Findings

### 3.1 Current use of the Pavilion

Participants were asked whether they currently use the Pavilion, with the option of choosing Yes or No. As illustrated in the chart below, 74 respondents said yes (74%) and 26 respondents said No (26%).

*Figure 5. Do you currently use the Pavilion?*



### 3.2 Level of support for the Pavilion concept design

Participants were asked to what extent they support the proposed concept design for the Pavilion, with the option to choose 1 of 5 responses, from strongly oppose to strongly support. As illustrated in the graph below, the majority of respondents indicated strongly support (59%), followed by support (16%) and neutral (12%).

*Figure 6. Level of support for the Pavilion concept design*



### 3.3 Rationale for level of support for the concept design

When asked if they would like to provide any comments regarding their level of support for the proposed concept design for the Pavilion, 72 (65%) participants provided free text comments. Thematic analysis and coding of the comments identified 192 separate mentions. Some comments were assigned more than one code to reflect multiple themes identified within the one comment.

The majority (83%) of comments (n=160) related to rationale for supporting plans to upgrade the Pavilion. The remaining 17% of comments (n=32) expressed opposition or concerns about the proposed upgrade.

#### Rationale for supporting the Pavilion upgrade

As illustrated in the table below, supportive comments were grouped under seven themes. The theme comprising the most (44%) comments (n=70) endorsed the need to upgrade the Pavilion toilets and changerooms. Nearly 30% (n=20) of these comments specifically mentioned the need for separate and enhanced facilities for females, and 17% (n=12) called for these facilities to be more suitable for juniors and girls.

Table 3. Rationale for supporting the Pavilion upgrade

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
Need to upgrade the toilets/ changerooms  (n=70)	<p>Clear endorsement of the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger, more modern toilets and change rooms, including publicly accessible toilets.</li> <li>• Eradication of portable toilets; deemed unacceptable and unsafe for children.</li> <li>• Separate toilets and change rooms for women and girls/juniors.</li> <li>• The importance of the latter to cater for and promote continued growth of the number of women and girls/juniors using the Pavilion.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Changing rooms for girls and women is a basic necessity and should be provided asap to encourage more female athletes!</i></p> <p><i>With the increase in sporting participation and the growth in Females in sport (Football, Cricket, etc) which use this oval, this will ensure there is appropriate change rooms and bathrooms (both in size and functionality) as well as inclusion of female bathrooms and change areas supporting a safe and inclusive environment for children and adults.</i></p>
Generally supportive of upgrading the Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pavilion is no longer fit for purpose for its high level of use.</li> <li>• The upgrade is overdue; the Pavilion is old, in poor</li> </ul>	<p><i>The current pavilion is not fit for purpose for the current sporting clubs and restricts any future growth in community sport.</i></p>

<b>(n=42)</b>	<p>condition, and below the standard of other clubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for the Pavilion to be a community asset to be proud of, which will accommodate current use and attract future participation and growth.</li> <li>• The proposed design is an appropriate use of funding and will be more accessible and inclusive.</li> </ul>	<p><i>It's long overdue. As a footy player myself and travelling to play at other council grounds it's quite apparent how old and unsuitable the current facilities at Walter Street are.</i></p>
<p>Need to enhance catering facilities</p> <p><b>(n=15)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for a proper kitchen with an external service window.</li> <li>• Potential for enhanced club fundraising capacity via improved onsite catering.</li> </ul>	<p><i>The junior's whole canteen is outside and exposed to the elements.</i></p> <p><i>...inadequate catering facilities make it very difficult to enable the football and cricket clubs who use Walter st to raise funds through canteen sales to be self-sufficient NFPs, providing valuable sporting opportunities to our community.</i></p>
<p>Need to enhance the social/ community space</p> <p><b>(n=12)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community space is important for community gatherings and spectating and is currently too small.</li> <li>• Supportive of allowing use of the Pavilion by the wider community.</li> </ul>	<p><i>The update will also provide for an increased social area, safely supporting the sporting clubs' awards and presentation days.</i></p> <p><i>...it [the upgrade] will also ensure support future community events with an extended social and viewing space for local community and events increasing the connection with the community.</i></p>
<p>Need to improve parking / lighting</p> <p><b>(n=7)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are inadequate parking spaces for the number of people using the Pavilion.</li> <li>• Lighting in the carpark is poor and unsafe.</li> </ul>	<p><i>...parking is at an absolute premium often having to park blocks away which I know annoys the local residents.</i></p>
<p>Need to improve other internal spaces</p> <p><b>(n=9)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for a designated space for umpires, adequate storage and an enhanced first aid area.</li> </ul>	<p><i>The umpires' room is also a basic portable which is not great.</i></p>

<p>Suggestions for additional features</p> <p><b>(n=5)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific suggestions beyond the scope of the current proposal, e.g. space for external sponsor signs and internal trophies, basketball/netball hoops, adequate bins, drinking fountains, EV charging.</li> </ul>	<p><i>While I love that cricket and footy are catered to, let's also embrace a netball hoop to be included in the reserve so that our local girls' most popular sport has resources dedicated to it.</i></p> <p><i>These spaces could be community hubs, not just pavilions. ESD [Environmentally Sustainable Design] is essential and including facilities like EV [Electric Vehicle] charging are now pretty rudimentary.</i></p>
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### Rationale for opposing the Pavilion upgrade

Comments expressing opposition or concern about the Pavilion upgrade were grouped under six themes. The most common themes were concerns about tree removal (n=7, 22%) and the playground/child safety (n=7, 22%), followed by concerns about the community garden (n=6, 19%), as summarised below.

Table 4. Rationale for opposing the Pavilion upgrade

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<p>Concerns about tree removal</p> <p><b>(n=7)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposition to removing established trees as part of the upgrade</li> </ul>	<p><i>The three large canopy trees should not be removed! Birds and other animals use those trees, and they cannot be replaced by younger trees and still provide the same environment.</i></p> <p><i>I do not support the removal of 3 established native trees. There is adequate space between the melaleucas and the gum for an entrance way.</i></p>
<p>Playground/child safety concerns</p> <p><b>(n=7)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsupportive of proposed location of playground due to child safety concerns (too far from Pavilion, too close to road and drain).</li> </ul>	<p><i>Any parent in/near the clubhouse cannot supervise children in the playground. It is also proposed to be situated on a 'blind corner' and closer to the storm drain where children currently cannot resist playing.</i></p>



Community garden concerns <b>(n=6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The garden is an unmaintained, underused eyesore, which attracts pests.</li> <li>• Would like the garden to be further away from residential homes and closer to the playground.</li> </ul>	<p><i>I am concerned that moving the current raised community garden beds and its existing compost bins to near the cricket nets will create a harbour for pests such as rodents and mosquitoes and foxes.</i></p> <p><i>I welcome the upgrade but would like to see the community garden closer to the playground, so that gardening parents can keep a closer eye on kids using the playground equipment. With the cricket nets between them, I'll lose line of sight of the kids.</i></p>
Generally unsupportive <b>(n=5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design is unsuitable or lacks detail.</li> <li>• The Pavilion doesn't need upgrading.</li> <li>• Would prefer funding be spent on other facilities.</li> </ul>	<p><i>I believe the current pavilion meets the needs of its current users and there are other parks and pavilions in Moonee Valley that require upgrades.</i></p>
Impact on residents <b>(n=4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern from neighbouring residents about undue noise from Pavilion/ playground users/ unmonitored functions, bright lighting, increased foot traffic/cars, dog poo, rubbish, impact on drainage.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Will having a larger and newer pavilion create more functions? The current football club has many functions on weekends and weeknights at the pavilion and the sound pollution from the pavilion coming into our bedrooms at night is like a nightclub and they often play loud music well past curfew.</i></p> <p><i>Will the building of the new playground disturb any underground structures such as the below storm water drain and if so is that going to create further water works in our area.</i></p>
Accessibility concerns <b>(n=3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about difficulty accessing the Pavilion and Reserve.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Planned extension will create a hard wall to access the park from Walter St.</i></p> <p><i>the secondary access is right near the cricket nets (how stupid from an OHS perspective) it should be central as cater for access to the pavilion.</i></p>

### 3.3 Barriers to accessing the Pavilion/Reserve facilities

When participants were asked if they currently experience any barriers to accessing the facilities within the Pavilion or Reserve, 69 (63%) respondents provided free text comments. Analysis of these comments identified four main themes and 96 separate mentions.

While the majority (78%) of comments (n=75) identified specific access barriers, the remaining comments (22%, n=21) related to participants specifying that they don't currently experience any access barriers. Interestingly, of the respondents who specified they don't experience any access barriers, most (67%, n=14) still supported (n=4), or strongly supported (n=10) the proposed upgrade of the Pavilion. This is consistent with responses to the previous question about participant's rationale for supporting the upgrade, which focused on the functionality rather than accessibility of the Pavilion.

As summarised in the table below, the most commonly identified barriers related to concerns about the functionality and safety of various aspects of the Pavilion (n=34), followed by the accessibility of the Pavilion toilets/changerooms (n=29), and the sense that access to the Pavilion is restricted among/to certain community cohorts (n=12).

Table 5. Barriers to accessing the Pavilion/Reserve facilities

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<b>Specific access barriers (n=75)</b>		
Functionality/ safety barriers  (n=34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate parking/lighting (n=15)</li> <li>• Poor/old design; too small for high volume of users. (n=9)</li> <li>• Safety and maintenance concerns about the Reserve (n=6) (e.g. cricket net near playground, dogs off lead, playground paths, gardens, secure bike parking)</li> <li>• Inadequate catering facilities (n=4)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Parking and the lighting in the car park can be an issue during nighttime training - difficult to see kids.</i></p> <p><i>I'm somewhat scared of walking on the track around the oval, at the point where the cricket nets near the path when there is cricket training on as I feel that I could easily get hit with a cricket ball. It would be good to have some sort of protection there.</i></p>
Toilet/ changeroom barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate toilets/change rooms for females/young people (n=11)</li> </ul>	<p><i>When my two daughters come to watch me play there is no toilets for them to use.</i></p>

<b>(n=29)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate toilets/ change rooms (n=10)</li> <li>• Limited public access to toilets (n=8)</li> </ul>	<p><i>The current facilities don't support young children and teens requiring basic toilets, change rooms...</i></p> <p><i>There are no inside toilets for the social rooms.</i></p>
<p>Restricted access barriers</p> <p><b>(n=12)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Pavilion restricted to sports clubs (n=6)</li> <li>• Poor accessibility for Elderly/ people with disabilities/ small children (n=5)</li> <li>• Restricted access to community garden (n=1)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Seems to be only for sporting groups. Community groups and residents (for family events) should be able to utilise this space.</i></p> <p><i>There is no wheelchair access to the change rooms.</i></p>

### 3.4 External appearance of the Pavilion

When participants were asked if they have any suggestions about the external appearance of the Pavilion, 59 respondents provided free text comments. Analysis of these comments identified 6 themes and 61 separate mentions.

Nearly half (49%) of the comments (n=30) offered specific suggestions about the external appearance of the Pavilion. The remaining 51% (n=31) of the comments either specified the participants had no suggestions (n=17) or related to 'other feedback' (n=14) (already mentioned, or unrelated to the external appearance of the Pavilion).

As summarised in the table below, the most common theme among the specific suggestions related to feedback about the Pavilion being environmentally friendly and sustainable (n=16), with small numbers of suggestions about vegetation (n=5), use of modern, high-quality materials (n=5) and incorporation of external murals, art and signage (n=4).

Table 6. External appearance of the Pavilion

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<b>Specific suggestion (n=30)</b>		
Environmentally friendly/ sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use environmentally sustainable materials.</li> <li>• Design should be in keeping with the</li> </ul>	<i>Facility should be designed to cater for the growing community and use</i>

<b>(n=16)</b>	local/natural environment and biodiversity, flood proof and easy to maintain.	<i>environmentally sound materials that reduce energy consumption.</i>
Vegetation <b>(n=5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain trees and include native plants / planter boxes.</li> </ul>	<i>Retaining all trees and planting as many indigenous plants as possible.</i>
Modern/high quality <b>(n= 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference for use of modern, high-quality materials.</li> </ul>	Modern/fitting in with the locale.
Murals/art/ signs <b>(n=4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate street art or murals</li> </ul>	<i>Murals that show the history of the sporting clubs that use the facilities.</i>  <i>A cool mural or piece of street art would be nice.</i>

### 3.5 External art/cultural design elements

When participants were asked if they have any suggestions about potential external art/cultural design elements, such as a mural, 52 respondents provided free text comments. Analysis of these comments identified 6 themes and 59 separate mentions.

Around 46% of the comments (n=27) either offered specific suggestions about or were generally supportive of incorporating external art/cultural design elements. Of the remaining comments, a similar proportion (44%, n=26) related to 'other feedback' (already provided or unrelated to external art/cultural design elements) (n=15), or specified they had no suggestions (n=11). The remaining 10% (n=6) expressed concern or opposition in relation to a mural.

As summarised in the table below, the most common theme among the specific suggestions related to feedback about the importance of an external mural or public art having a meaningful connection to the local community (n=12), followed by specific preferences for the use of a local or Indigenous artist or design (n=8), and those who were generally supportive of incorporating an external mural or public art into the Pavilion (n=7).

Table 7. External art/cultural design elements

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<b>Specific suggestions / Generally supportive (n=27)</b>		
Mural/public art with a meaningful connection  (n=12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate local sports/heritage/community/environment</li> </ul>	<i>Space for a mural showcasing the Ascot Vale community and landmarks would also be a fantastic addition.</i>
Local/ Indigenous artist/design  (n=8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestions to incorporate local or Indigenous art into the design of the Pavilion.</li> </ul>	<i>Both tenant clubs have a strong stance on inclusivity, Indigenous artwork on the building would be a fantastic link to the effort both clubs are putting in.</i>  <i>something to reflect the Woi-wurrung people would be wonderful.</i>
Generally supportive of a mural/public art  (n=7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great/welcome idea and valuable addition to the community.</li> </ul>	<i>Public art, murals and acknowledgement of First Nations history would be welcome. Pipe makers on the other side of the river is an excellent example</i>
<b>Concerned about / opposed to a mural (n=6)</b>		
Concerned about/opposed to a mural  (n=6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about cost, quality, vandalism, permanency, impact on timeliness of Pavillion upgrade.</li> </ul>	<i>Mural not required, save money and make better use of it.</i>

### 3.6 Vegetation and landscaping within the Reserve

When participants were asked if there are any specific vegetation or landscaping suggestions they would like to see incorporated into the Reserve, 55 respondents provided free text comments. Analysis of these comments identified 7 themes and 63 separate mentions.

Most (63%) of the comments (n=40) offered specific suggestions about vegetation or landscaping. Of the remaining comments, 19% (n=12) specified they had no

suggestions and 17% (n=11) related to 'other feedback' (already provided or unrelated to vegetation or landscaping).

As summarised in the table below, the most common theme among the specific suggestions related to the use of vegetation that is native and in keeping with the local environment (n=13), followed by maximising vegetation and tree cover (n=10) and concerns about tree removal (n=7).

*Table 8. Vegetation and landscaping within the Reserve*

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<b>Specific suggestions (n=40)</b>		
Native vegetation/ in keeping with local environment  (n=13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference for vegetation to be native and hardy/easy to maintain and in keeping with current vegetation and the local environment/biodiversity</li> </ul>	<i>Local indigenous plant life usually survives better with less maintenance. It will be better to have some local flora and fauna.</i>
Maximise vegetation and tree cover  (n=10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise vegetation and tree cover for shade/ wind protection</li> </ul>	<i>More shade trees would be good around the oval.</i>  <i>It's particularly windy from river end in winter, maybe more shrubs back towards wetlands?</i>
Concerns about tree removal  (n=7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about removing large trees which provide canopy cover and suggestion to retain all trees.</li> </ul>	<i>I am concerned about removal of trees as part of this upgrade and urge that taking out mature trees be avoided wherever possible. These trees provide much needed shade and are a great feature of the area.</i>
Other (new) suggestions  (n=7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about weeding, safety (re: bees and slippery synthetic turf), request to avoid obstructing the playing field view, retain</li> </ul>	<i>Lots of kids run around barefoot so please avoid flowering plants near the playground that will attract bees.</i>



	the flood watercourse and incorporate a tactile garden and open grass area for picnics.	
Improve playing/ training surface  (n=3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests that the playing surface be better maintained/ improved.</li> </ul>	<i>Level the grass area at the back as this is used for footy warm up by the teams.</i>

### 3.7 Retention of playground elements

When participants were asked what items they would like to see retained within the relocated and replaced playground, 60 respondents provided free text comments. Analysis of these comments identified 9 themes and 79 separate mentions.

The majority (78%) of the comments (n=62) offered specific suggestions about or were generally supportive of the playground being retained and upgraded. Of the remaining comments, 16% (n=13) expressed negative sentiment about the proposal for the playground, and 7% (n=4) specified and they had no suggestions.

As summarised in the table below, the most common theme was suggestions about specific playground equipment to retain (n=20 mentions), followed by general support for the retention and upgrade of the playground (n=13 mentions) and replicating the existing playground (n=11 mentions). Among the negative sentiment, the most common theme was opposition to the proposed location for the playground (n=10).

Table 9. Retention of playground elements

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<b>Specific suggestions / supportive (n=62)</b>		
Specific equipment suggestions  (n=20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions to retain/upgrade existing play equipment that is well used, and for additional equipment</li> </ul> <p>(Swings/group swing, slide, climbing equipment, sand pit, water play, monkey</p>	<i>Swings, monkey bars, climbing walls and slides. They all get used heavily...</i>



	bars, equipment for younger/older children, flying fox, inground trampolines, more equipment, steppingstones, balance logs, cubby house, see saws, rope climb, bridges)	
Generally supportive of playground retention/upgrade <b>(n=13)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The playground is well used but outdated. It needs to be retained but upgraded to meet the needs of local users.</li> </ul>	<i>I would like to see a significant upgrade of the playground equipment given it is used by many children every day, and particularly when sporting events / training is on.</i>
Replicate the existing playground <b>(n=11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing playground works well and should include the same or similar equipment and capacity when relocated.</li> </ul>	<i>The playground is a great community space, and all elements should be re-purposed in its new location as it is entirely fit for purpose</i>  <i>The size of the playground being maintained and not reduced.</i>
General suggestions <b>(n=5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe, functional, challenging, modern, attractive to kids, active play in nature.</li> </ul>	<i>Playground is old and should be made adventurous. Use of timber or natural colours would be preferred.</i>
Enlarge the playground <b>(n=4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make the playground bigger.</li> </ul>	<i>There are a lot of families around the area. We would love to see it bigger than it currently is.</i>
<b>Unsupportive (n=13)</b>		
Unsupportive of proposed location <b>(n=10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefer to keep the playground closer to the Pavillion.</li> </ul>	<i>It does not need to be relocated as far as it is in the plans. There is sufficient room behind the goals on the oval for this to fit. You should consider that when any events are held at the oval, the playground is full, and it makes sense to be next to the Pavilion so parents and children are close together. If it is moved significantly this won't be possible.</i>

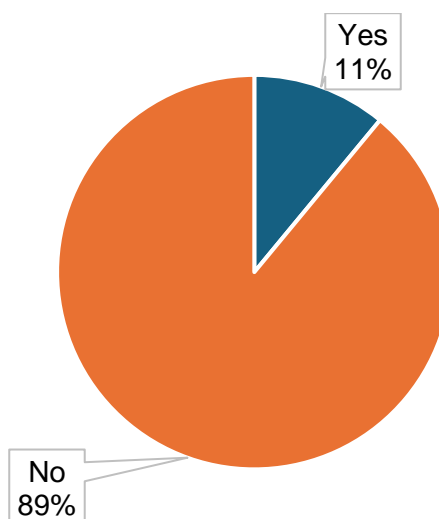
Reduce the size of or question the need for the playground  <b>(n=3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are better playgrounds nearby.</li> </ul>	<i>- could question if required at all. There is a great playground less than 200 meters away in the wetlands - this didn't exist when the current playground was built.</i>

### 3.8 Current use of the Community Garden

Participants were asked whether they use the current Community Garden, with the option of choosing Yes or No.

As illustrated in the chart below, 82 respondents said no (89%) and 10 respondents said yes (11%).

Figure 5. Do you use the current Community Garden?



### 3.9 Community Garden design

When participants were asked if they have any feedback about what the relocated Community Garden should include, 59 respondents provided free text comments. Analysis of these comments identified 8 themes and 74 separate mentions.

Around 45% of the comments (n=33) were generally supportive of or offered specific suggestions about retaining and relocating the community garden. Of the remaining comments, 30% (n=22) expressed negative sentiment about the garden, and 24% (n=18) specified and they had no suggestions.

As summarised in the table below, the most common theme was generally supportive comments (n=11) followed by suggestions about specific infrastructure the community garden should include (n=10). The predominant negative sentiment questioned the overall need for (n=15) and proposed location (n=8) of the garden.

*Table 10. Community Garden design*

Theme and mentions (n)	Descriptor	Example quotes
<b>Specific suggestions / supportive (n=33)</b>		
Generally supportive <b>(n=11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden is important, enjoyable to walk through, and provides a community feel.</li> </ul>	<i>Community gardens are a great part of the community, and I support such initiatives fully.</i>
Specific infrastructure suggestions <b>(n=10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden needs to be equipped with basic infrastructure (e.g., a nearby tap or watering system, compost bins, storage, raised garden beds.</li> <li>Other suggestions, e.g., gravel paths, a seasonal planting calendar, free food and book library, seating.</li> </ul>	<i>Is a communal compost heap a thing? I'd love to be able to access one if so.</i>  <i>It would be great if it was bigger, so more people would feel like they can participate. It would also be great to have a free food and book library in the reserve, so left over food from the community garden could be made available. And the book/tiny library idea isn't related to the garden, but would be a great location.</i>
Specific plant suggestions <b>(n=4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestions for specific (functional) plants – for consumption or shade.</li> </ul>	<i>Herbs and Lemon Trees - the community love herbs and Lemons!</i>

Adequate maintenance and oversight <b>(n=5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden needs to be adequately maintained, administered and overseen – current community and council involvement is limited, the garden is unsightly and prone to plant damage and litter.</li> </ul>	<i>Building it is just one part of the equation. I facilitate a community garden just like this as the council has a food insecurity plan to activate these areas for those without access to gardens. These models of community collective growing are becoming more popular but need ongoing support.</i>
Accessibility <b>(n=3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden should be more accessible to the broader community, and people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<i>I am strongly opposed to the current community garden being relocated. Where it the suggested relocation is to occur will not be wheelchair accessible.</i>
<b>Unsupportive (n=23)</b>		
Unsupportive of need for the garden <b>(n=15)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questionable overall value/need - not used or well maintained, attracts pests, consider removing/ assess need.</li> </ul>	<i>The community garden has not been used for over 12 months and even when used produced very little ... I question its viability and whether it's really needed..</i>
Unsupportive of proposed location <b>(n=8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed concerns about proposed location (too shady, on flood plain, too close to housing and sports areas, too far from Pavillion, not required at a sports facility).</li> </ul>	<i>The current proposed location is mostly shaded which isn't ideal for the community garden. I'd suggest it's relocated to the other side of the cricket nets between the path/scoreboard and the cricket nets which it will receive far more sunlight.</i>

## Emails

Five emails were received during the consultation period, reflecting five key themes which have been summarised below (in order of mentions):

**Tree Removal and Vegetation:** Concerns about the removal of canopy trees and vegetation. The feedback emphasises the importance of preserving large trees and the negative impact of removing them on the environment and community. There was one suggestion for altering the entrance for Walter Street Reserve so that no trees would be removed.

**Climate Change and Environmental Impact:** The community expresses concerns about climate change and the need for more green spaces to combat the heat island effect. There are mentions of the climate emergency and the importance of increasing tree cover. It was also suggested that the airconditioned pavilion could be used as a climate refuge for locals without air conditioning during hot period.

**Playground and Recreational Facilities:** Feedback includes suggestions for improving playground facilities, such as adding sun protection and keeping it close by the club house for supervision purposes, a basketball half-court and rock/wall climbing facilities. There was also a request for Council to address noise issues and safety issues from the cricket nets.

**Community Amenities and Infrastructure:** There are concerns about the enlargement of the pavilion and its impact on the community, including increased congestion, noise, and loss of amenity.

**Wildlife and Natural Spaces:** The feedback highlights the importance of preserving natural spaces for wildlife and the community, mentioning the return of Tawny Frogmouths and the need for more trees and shrubs.

## **Letters**

One letter was received during the consultation period which reflected the following themes:

**Community Amenities and Infrastructure:** There are concerns about the enlargement of the pavilion and its impact on the community, including increased congestion, noise from out of hours club gatherings, and loss of amenity and privacy for local residents due to the relocation of the toilets.

**Community Garden usefulness:** There was a comment noting that usage of the community garden is low and questioned its viability into the future. It was further suggested that the use of compost bins in an area close to residential houses would increase the risk of vermin.

## **Conclusion**

The majority of respondents supported the upgrade, particularly emphasising the need for modern and separate facilities for female and junior players. Many comments highlighted the importance of upgrading the toilets and changerooms to cater to the increasing number of users. Proposed upgrades to the Pavilion's parking and lighting, community spaces and catering facilities were also welcomed, as was the incorporation of external art/cultural features.

Some respondents expressed concerns about the removal of established trees, emphasising the ecological impact and the importance of preserving the natural environment. Some local residents also expressed concerns about impact of the upgrade on noise and traffic in the area.

Overall feedback about the proposed relocation and upgrade of the playground highlighted the importance of retaining the playground as a valuable community asset.



Specific feedback included the need to ensure that the new playground is safe for children (including some concern the proposed location is unsafe) and that it retains its current size and functionality. There were also suggestions to incorporate additional features into the playground, such as more seating and shaded areas.

In relation to the community garden, while overall sentiment was supportive, there was strong concern about the need for the garden to be adequately equipped and maintained. There was also some uncertainty about the need for and accessibility of the garden and the suitability of the proposed location.

Overall, the feedback was largely positive, with a strong focus on making the Pavilion more functional, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable

## Appendices


### 5.1 Your Say page


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## Walter Street Reserve Pavilion Upgrade

We are seeking community feedback about the proposed concept plan for the Walter Street Reserve Pavilion upgrade.

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Walter Street Reserve is a much-loved local park providing a well-used playing field and high-quality sports facilities in a setting of native trees and shrubs. The upgrade of the Walter Street Reserve Pavilion is an important initiative to ensure the Reserve continues to meet the sporting and broader needs of the local community in a functional, aesthetic, ecological and sustainable manner.

The design approach for the Pavilion Upgrade Concept Plan considered the existing character of the reserve, minimum standards for national/state sporting bodies and the needs of current sports club tenants, and the wider community.

The Plan includes extension and renovation of the existing sporting pavilion, and provides a framework for the relocation, upgrade and replacement of existing elements of the natural and built environment. Some specific elements included in the design are:

- More changerooms and toilets, to cater for the increasing number of junior and female players.
- More modern, female friendly toilets and separate change rooms.
- Internal toilets for spectators and function attendees.
- A new public toilet will be available to reserve users during daylight hours.
- A more functional internal layout.
- Increased circulation and storage space in the kitchen.
- Increased storage space for general club items.
- Multipurpose spaces for use by the wider community outside of sports club allocated hours.
- Relocation and potential upgrades to the existing playground and community garden.

We're keen to hear from community members who use the Pavilion, or who have a general interest in improvements to the Reserve. Have your say today!

## Check out our design concept plans!

[Open our plans](#)

## Have your say!

[Click here for the survey](#)

### Frequently Asked Questions

- ? Why does the pavilion need upgrading?
- ? Who and how many people currently use the pavilion?
- ? How much input can the community provide into the concept design for the pavilion?
- ? Are there any elements in the concept design which can't be changed?
- ? How will the upgrade impact existing vegetation?
- ? How will the upgrade impact the footprint of the existing playground and community garden?

### Timeline

- ★ Consultation open for feedback  
18 November 2024
- ☆ Consultation closes  
15 December 2024
- ☆ Community feedback considered  
January 2025
- ☆ Detailed design completed  
June 2025
- ☆ Construction  
July 2026 - June 2028  
(Subject to Council budget processes)

[See less](#)

### Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about this project, contact us below:

Name: Community Engagement Team  
 Phone: 92438888  
 Email: [yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au)  
 In writing: 9 Kellaway Avenue  
 Moonee Ponds, VIC, 3039



## 5.2 Survey – Walter Street Reserve Pavilion Upgrade

**Your current use of the Pavilion and level of support for the upgrade design**

**1) Do you currently use the Pavilion?\***

☐ Yes

☐ No

**2) To what extent do you support the proposed concept design for the Pavilion? (Please choose one option from the five choices below)\***

☐ Strongly oppose    ☐ Oppose    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Support    ☐ Strongly support

**3) Would you like to provide any comments to support your rating? (Please write your response below)**

**Additional (optional) feedback about the Pavilion**

**4) Do you currently experience any barriers accessing the facilities within the Pavilion or Reserve? (Please write your response below)**

**5) Do you have any suggestions about the external appearance of the Pavilion? (Please write your response below)**

**6) There may be opportunities to incorporate additional elements into the design. Do you have any suggestions about potential external art/cultural elements, such as a mural? (Please write your response below)**

**Additional feedback about the Reserve**

**7) Are there any specific vegetation or landscaping suggestions you would like to see incorporated into the Reserve? (Please write your response below)**

**8) It is proposed that the current playground will be relocated and replaced as part of this project – what items would you like to see retained? (Please write your response below)**

**9) Do you use the current community garden? \***

☐ Yes

☐ No

**10) A similar sized community garden is planned to be relocated on the reserve, do you have any feedback on what this should include? (Please write your response below)**

**11) What is your connection to Moonee Valley?**

☐ I live here

☐ I work here

☐ I study here

☐ I visit here

☐ I own property

☐ I own a business

☐ I am associated with a business or community group / organisation. Please name:

☐ I am a Moonee Valley City Council staff member

**12) Suburb you live in**

**13) To which of the following age groups do you belong?**

☐ Under 18

☐ 18 – 24

☐ 25 – 34

☐ 35 – 49

☐ 50 – 59

☐ 60 - 69

☐ 70 – 84

☐ 85+

**14) Do you identify as:**

☐ Woman

☐ Man

☐ Non-binary

☐ Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Prefer not to say

**15) Do you usually speak a language other than English at home?**

**16) Please indicate if you identify as any of the following (select all that apply):**

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Torres Strait Islander

☐ LGBTQIA+

☐ A person with a disability

☐ A carer

☐ A disability ally (someone who supports and amplifies the cause of people with disability)

☐ Need help with self-care activities

☐ Need help with body movement activities

☐ Need help with communication activities

### 5.3 Onsite poster



## Walter Street Reserve Pavilion Upgrade




Council is currently progressing a design stage for future construction of an extension and refurbishment of the Walter Street Reserve Pavillion.

We are keen to hear feedback from community on the look and feel for this facility. Have your say today!

The renovation of the pavilion will see the facility updated to meet AFL and Cricket Australia guidelines and standards, which will better cater for the growing number of female and junior players at the reserve.











#### Have Your Say

-  03 9243 888
-  [council@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@mvcc.vic.gov.au)
-  [yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au)




## 5.4 Social media posts

Post: 9 December 2024

Graphic	Facebook		Instagram	
<div>Instagram</div> <div> cityofmooneevalley</div> <div></div> <div><div></div><div></div><div>cityofmooneevalley  A little MORE consultation...and a lot MORE action!  ... more</div></div>	Reach	912	Reach	454
	Reactions	9	Reactions	8
	Shares	1	Comments	0
	Comments	0		
	Clicks	5		

Post: 6 December 2024

Graphic	Facebook	
	Reach	3,880
	Reactions	28
	Shares	1
	Comments	1
	Clicks	233