

Larpet Reserve Sportsground Lighting: Engagement Summary Report

Executive summary

Community Engagement was undertaken from 2 February to 2 March, on the proposal to install sportsground lighting at Larpet Reserve.

The proposal aims to create more opportunities for people to get involved with community sport. Currently the reserve has no lighting, resulting in local sports clubs not being able to train or practice during winter when daylight hours are shorter.

77 responses were received with:

- 65 respondents supported installation of sportsground lighting
- 10 did not
- 2 were unsure.

Respondents highlighted the benefits of having more opportunities for participation in local sports, alongside a smaller number who raised concerns around resourcing, costs and operating hours.

The project will now move to detailed design, with construction subject to confirmation through Council's 2026/27 Capital Works budget.

If the project proceeds to construction, we will keep you updated via Shape Monash. Nearby residents will also be notified before construction commences, with information on the timing of works.

Background

The proposal to install sportsground lighting at Larpent Reserve aims to create more opportunities for people to get involved with community sport. Currently the reserve has no lighting, resulting in local sports clubs not being able to train or practice during winter when daylight hours are shorter.

The proposal included six (6) new lighting poles which will:

- be 20-meters tall to isolate the light more towards the pitch
- be located 14-35 meters from the boundary
- use energy-efficient LED lighting to better direct light towards the pitch, minimise light spill into neighbouring properties and have less impact on wildlife.
- be used on weekdays until 10pm and weekends until 6pm.

How we engaged

Community engagement was conducted from 2 February to 2 March.

Community members were invited to complete an online survey via Shape Monash or email us with their feedback.

A letter was sent to nearby residents within a 400-meter radius of the reserve informing them of the proposal and an invitation to provide their feedback. Residents who had a property bordering the reserve were also offered an opportunity to speak with a Council officer.

Signs were displayed at the reserve, informing users of the consultation period and an email was sent to the tenant sports clubs.

Feedback

The survey asked respondents:

- Whether or not they supported the installation of sportsground lighting
- Their connection to the reserve, and
- How they used the reserve

Who we heard from

We received 77 responses during the consultation period – 75 responses via the Shape Monash survey, and 2 responses via email.

We heard from:

- 45 members involved with a local sporting club

- 39 residents who live nearby, with 6 respondents having a property bordering the reserve
- 30 respondents who use the reserve for recreational and social activities.

Respondents were able to select multiple options, some identified with having multiple connections to the reserve.

When asked how often respondents visited the reserve:

- 12 said daily
- 49 said weekly
- 6 said rarely or never
- 5 said never

When asked on gender:

- 48 respondents were men
- 25 women
- 2 did not respond

What we heard from the community

Community feedback showed strong overall support for the installation of sportsground lighting at Larpent Reserve:

- 65 respondents supported installation of sportsground lighting
- 10 did not
- 2 were unsure.

Respondents highlighted the benefits of having more opportunities for participation in local sports, alongside a smaller number who raised concerns around resourcing, costs and operating hours.

Key themes included:

Community sport and participation

- Lighting would enable year-round use, particularly during winter when daylight hours are limited.
- Strong support from local soccer clubs, parents and players who are inconsistently training at multiple venues.
- More opportunities to participate in sport and recreational activities at the reserve.

Safety at night

- Some respondents noted that having lighting at the reserve would help make them feel safer walking or exercising at the reserve at night.

- Concerns were also raised on increased use of the reserve resulting in additional safety or amenity challenges.

Amenities and operating hours

- Residents living near the reserve expressed concerns about noise, light spill, and extended evening activities. Some suggested changes to the hours of operation.
- A small number of respondents raised concerns about cost to ratepayers, including installation, energy use, maintenance and future upgrades.

How we will consider your feedback

Community consultation indicated strong overall support for this project. Feedback highlighted the value of improved access to winter and evening training, increased safety and visibility after dark, and broader community use of the reserve. At the same time, respondents raised important considerations relating to residential amenity, including operating hours, noise, activity levels near property boundaries, light spill, environmental impacts, and project costs.

The project will proceed, with community feedback informing several key areas of implementation:

1. Operating hours and amenity

Shorter operating times to minimise impacts on nearby residents will be addressed through Council's current review of the Sports Floodlighting Policy. Allowable lighting hours for Larpent Reserve, along with other local reserves, will be reviewed as part of this process, and community feedback on preferred lighting times will be actively considered in the development of the refreshed policy. This approach ensures future operating hours are directly informed by community input and applied consistently across Council-managed sportsgrounds.

2. Lighting design, safety and environmental considerations

In response to concerns about light spill, the current design uses flat-glass luminaires which ensures precise control of light distribution and reducing obtrusive light to surrounding homes. Lighting will also operate at a 4000K colour temperature, selected to reduce blue light emissions and minimise potential impacts on local native wildlife. The design will ensure usability of the reserve while also minimising light spill.

3. Use of the reserve

Council will allocate sport clubs to use the reserve and sportsground lighting based on demand. We will let local residents know in advance of any changes to use of the reserve.

Next steps

This project will now proceed to detailed design. Construction will be subject to Council's 2026/27 Capital Works budget confirmation.

If the project proceeds to construction, we will keep you updated via Shape Monash. Nearby residents will also be notified before construction commences, with information on the timing of works.