

Feedback Summary Report:

Albany Drive Reserve Playspace Design

Executive Summary

The purpose of this playspace engagement is to consult with residents and seek their feedback on the upcoming upgrade design for Albany Drive Reserve playspace, Mulgrave.

Council has committed to upgrading the playspace based on its current condition and suitability as outlined in the Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy 2025-2035. This engagement aims to gather community input on how the upgrade should be designed. The project seeks to meet the current and future needs of the community and deliver on Council's commitment to provide flexible, sustainable, accessible, and quality community playground facilities.

A concept plan will be prepared, and a second community consultation will occur with the report to follow. Construction of the playspace is planned for 2025-26 pending budget allocation.

There were 30 respondents to the survey. The key themes of the feedback are outlined below and will be discussed further within this report.

1. Seating and shade:

Several respondents highlighted the need for park benches for seating and social gatherings. Additionally, there was a strong desire for these seating areas to be shaded to enhance comfort and usability.

2. Entry upgrades and accessibility:

The community emphasised the importance of improving the visibility and accessibility of the playspace's entry points. With the playspace located near a pre-school and primary school, respondents mentioned that paths to the playspace should accommodate for parents with prams and young children, and enhancing these aspects would maximise community use and ensure a safer and more welcoming environment.

3. Upgrade of play equipment and public toilets:

A significant portion of respondents expressed the need for upgraded play equipment. There was a particular interest in incorporating more diverse play elements such as climbing structures and nature play areas. Several respondents also expressed the need for public toilets that are ambulant, and baby change accessible.

This feedback will be carefully considered in the development of the concept design, ensuring that the upgraded playspace meets the expectations and needs of the community it serves.

Please turn to page 3 of this report to read Council's responses.

Summary of Feedback

Methods of engagement and stakeholders

The consultation period for this engagement ran from 1 July to 4 August 2024.

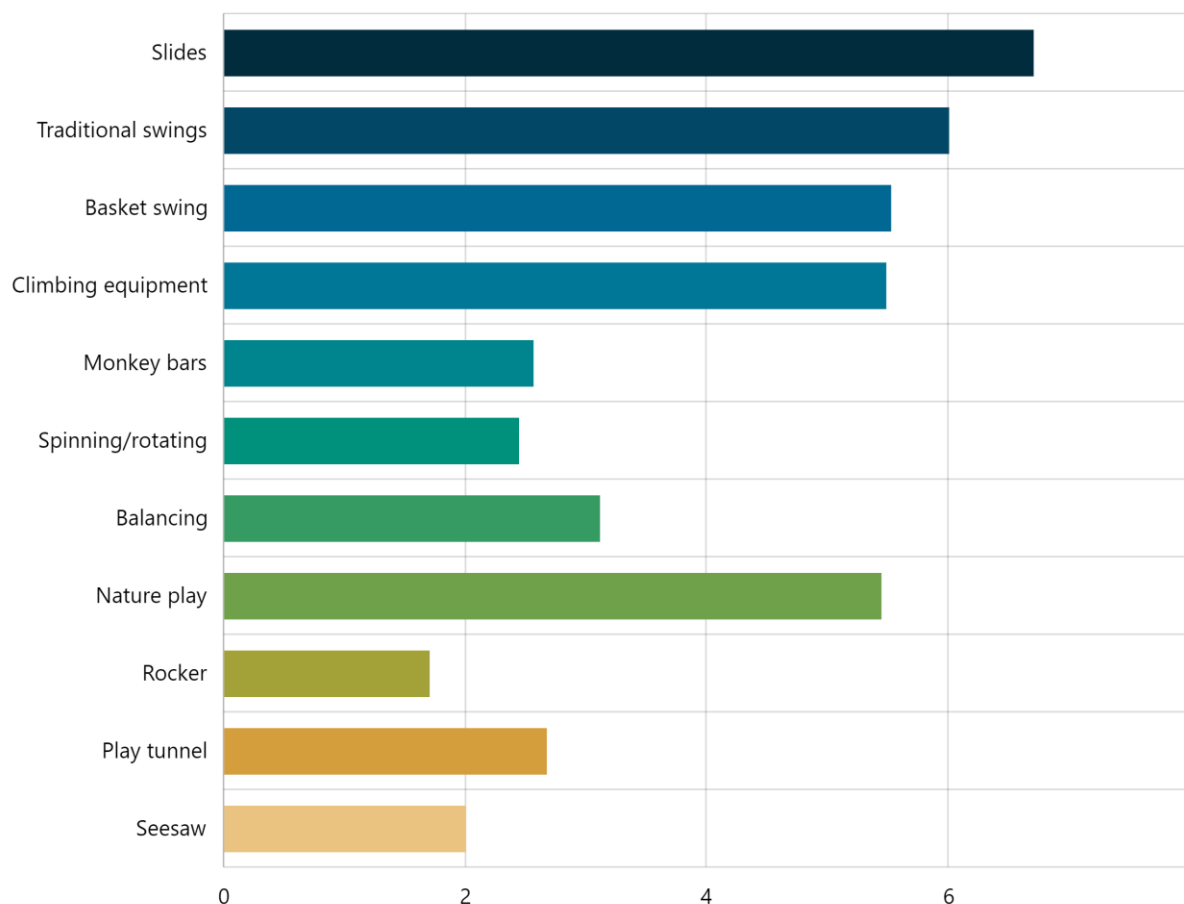
The key stakeholders targeted included broader community residents, Councillors and relevant internal departments.

Various methods of engagement were used to contact and engage with these stakeholders, including Council's internal newsletter, an article in the *Monash Bulletin*, a letter drop to nearby residents, social media posts on Council's channels, a survey on the Shape Monash engagement platform, an onsite consultation session with Council staff held at the playspace on Tuesday 16 July 2024, and a school visit to Albany Rise Primary School on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

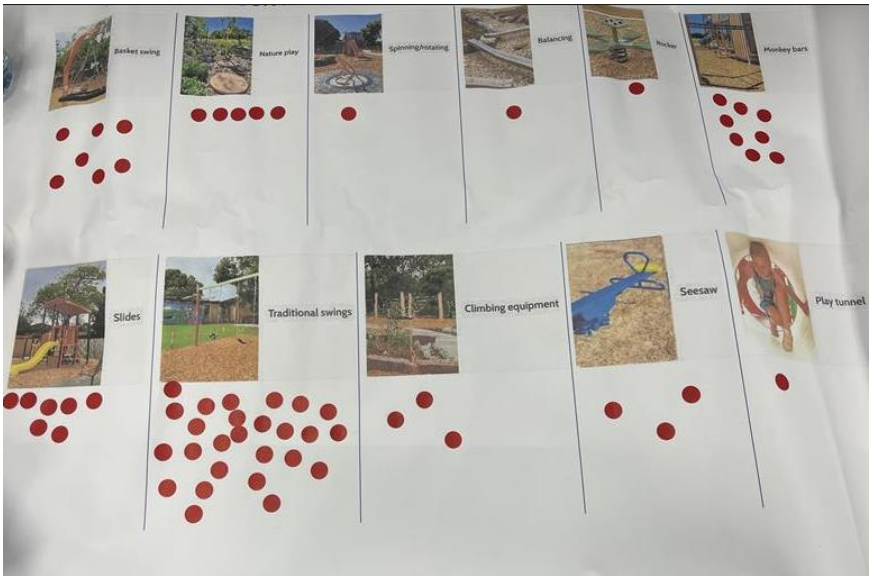
Response to questions

Below is a breakdown of the feedback received from each question, as well as Council's responses to the key themes identified.

Question 1 – Which play elements would work best?



Online survey: We received 27 responses to this question, with slides being the most frequently selected, followed by traditional swings, basket swing, climbing equipment and nature play.



Albany Rise Primary School consultation visit: 64 from foundation, grade 1 and 2 voted for their favourite play equipment, with traditional swings being the most popular answer, followed by monkey bars, basket swing, slide and nature play.

Question 2 – Is there anything you would like to tell us about this playground or its location?

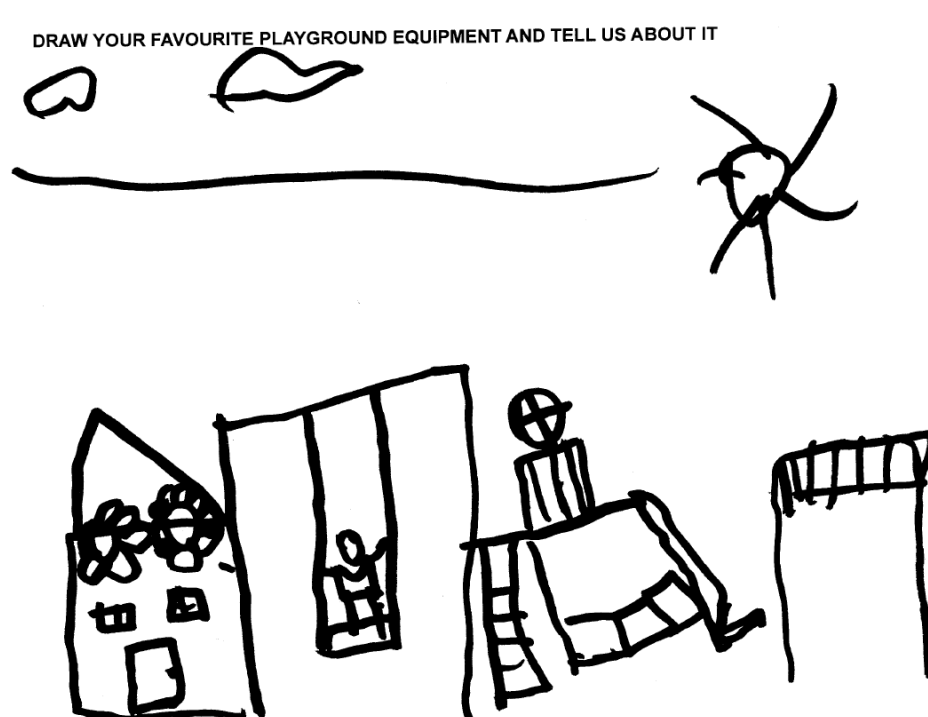
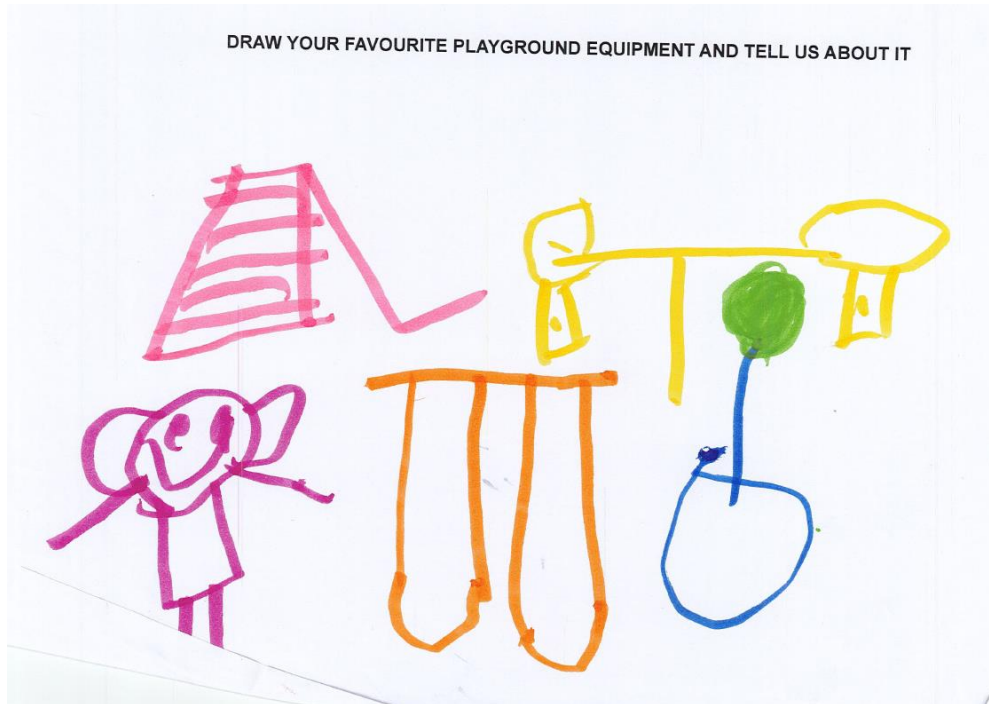
Online survey: 19 respondents answered this question.

All respondents felt positively about the proposed upgrade improvement to Albany Drive Reserve playspace.

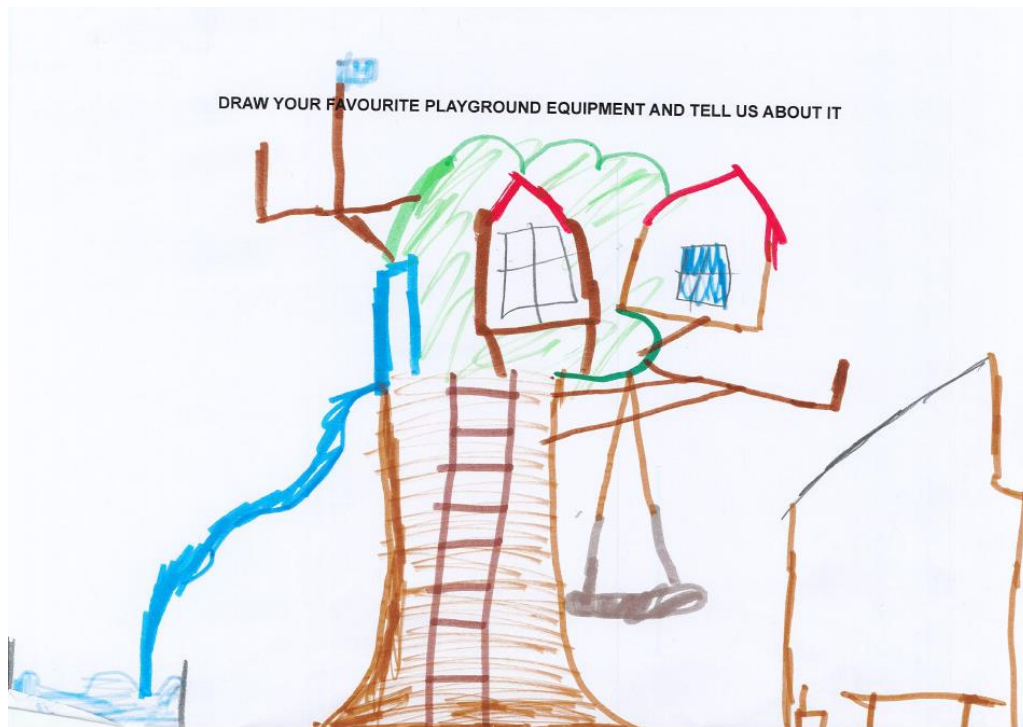
The key themes of feedback are addressed below:

Theme	Our response
Seating and shade	Seating arrangements will be considered in the concept design, within the project scope and budget. Additionally, new trees will be planted to enhance shading, and the design layout will optimise the use of both existing and future shaded areas.
Entry upgrades and accessibility	Design enhancements will focus on upgrading the entry points and paths to the playspace. This will include new playspace signage at entry points and improving accessibility to the playspace, creating a more attractive and inviting environment.
Upgrade play equipment and public toilets	Albany Drive Reserve playspace is classified as a pocket park. As such, it will feature standard service provisions, including 3 to 5 new play pieces, bench seating, accessible features, and a pathway to ensure inclusivity and usability. According to council strategies for Public Toilets and Playspace, a public toilet is not supported at this scale of play development and/or reserve classification. New public toilets are designed for district and regional classification playspaces to serve larger catchment areas and accommodate longer durations of stay.

Albany Rise Primary School consultation visit: 64 students were asked to draw an image depicting their favourite playground equipment. Below are a few of these drawings:







Who we heard from

We asked respondents some demographic questions in the survey, which are summarised below. Please note that data from the Albany Rise Primary School consultation visit is not included.

- **Age group:** 33 per cent of respondents were pre-school aged or younger, 30 per cent were primary school aged, 30 per cent were adults, and 7 per cent were secondary school aged.
- **Gender:** 62 per cent of respondents are women or girls, 34 per cent are men or boys, and less than 5 per cent preferred not to say or skipped this question.
- **Suburb:** Majority of respondents (98 per cent) live in Mulgrave, with the remainder of respondents located in Chadstone and Oakleigh South.

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback for the initial design stage of the Albany Drive Reserve playspace upgrade.

This report, and the underlying feedback, will be used by the project team and the designers for the concept plan, in line with the project's budget and scope.

Once a draft concept plan is prepared, we will share it for a second stage of community consultation. Construction of the playspace is planned for 2025-26, pending budget allocation.

We will share this report, and updates on the project, via the Shape Monash project page: shape.monash.vic.gov.au/playspace-2025-26