

Concept Plan Feedback Summary Report: Albany Drive Reserve Playspace Design

Executive Summary

This report summarises the community engagement feedback to the draft concept plan for Albany Drive Reserve playspace, Mulgrave.

This site is considered a pocket-level playspace, catering to residents living within 400 metres. Pocket playspaces typically include 3 to 5 items of play equipment for younger age groups, from toddlers to pre-schoolers. They are usually used by nearby residents who spend up to 30 minutes per visit. Amenities are generally limited to bench seating and accessibility features.

Construction of the playspace will be considered as part of the 2025/26 annual budget process.

The key themes of the feedback are outlined below and will be discussed in this report.

1. Play equipment:

Suggestions for more engaging play equipment for older age group, including monkey bars and a larger slide.

2. Cubby house design theme:

A common takeaway from Albany Rise Primary School students was a cubby house theme.

3. Upgrade to include other active recreational spaces:

A significant portion of respondents expressed the need for an active recreational space such as a soccer pitch and basketball court.

This feedback will be carefully considered in the design refinement stage. 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 **18 November to 15 December 2024**.

The key stakeholders targeted were residents living within a 400m radius of the reserve, Albany Rise Primary School, Mulgrave Park Preschool, Councillors and relevant internal departments.

Methods used to contact and engage these stakeholders include:

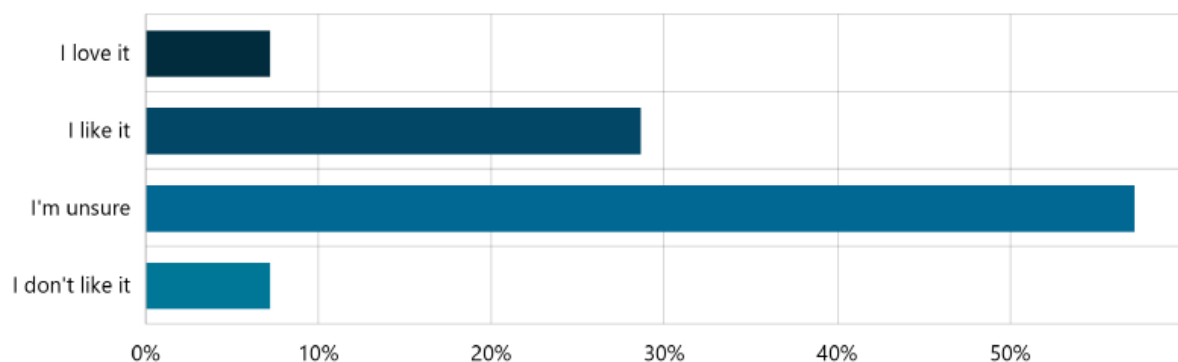
- Council's internal newsletter
- *Monash Bulletin*
- a letter drop to residents within 400m radius

- social media posts on Council’s channels
- a flyer for Mulgrave Park Preschool
- a school visit to Albany Rise Primary School on Wednesday 20 November 2024
- a survey on the Shape Monash engagement platform, and email notification to project followers.

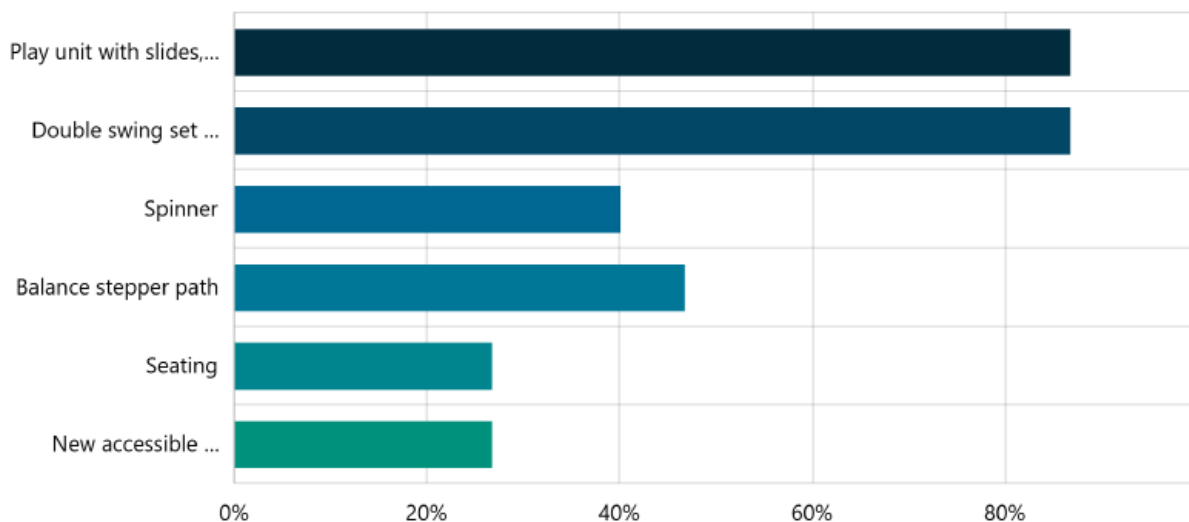
Response to questions

We received 15 responses online, as well as approximately 80 students at our school session. Below is a breakdown of the feedback, as well as Council’s responses to the key themes identified.

Question – How do you/your child feel about the draft concept plan? (online only)



Question – What are your/your child’s favourite elements on the draft concept plan? (online only)



Online survey: We received 15 responses to this question, with both the double swing set and play unit being the most frequently selected, followed by balance stepper path, spinner, seating and accessible concrete path.

Albany Rise Primary School consultation visit: Approximately 80 students from prep, grade 1 and 2 voted for their favourite play equipment. The spinner was the most popular answer, followed by swing set, slide unit, stepper/nature play, accessible concrete path and seating.

Question – Do you have any further feedback on the draft concept plan?

Online survey: 13 respondents answered this question.

A few respondents expressed uncertainty about the proposed upgrades to the Albany Drive Reserve playspace, particularly regarding the provisions for older children and the inclusion of active recreational spaces for soccer and basketball.

The key themes of feedback are addressed below:

Theme	Our response
Play equipment	<i>The service level of this playspace upgrade is targeted at younger age groups, with amenities generally limited to bench seating and accessibility features. However, we can pass on the requested play equipment to the designer for review and possible adjustments to the current layout.</i>
Cubby house design theme	<i>We will work with the designer to consider the inclusion of a cubby house theme into the new playspace.</i>
Upgrade to include other active recreational spaces	<i>For each classification level, Monash has established minimum service levels and provision standards for playspaces. This site is considered a pocket playspace, typically including 3 to 5 pieces of play equipment for toddlers to pre-schoolers group, as outlined in the Playground & Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025-2035. These playspaces are usually used by nearby residents who spend up to 30 minutes per visit. Wellington Reserve, approximately 1km away, has a neighbourhood playspace with active recreational spaces for basketball, cricket, and outdoor fitness equipment.</i>

Albany Rise Primary School consultation visit: students were asked to draw an image depicting one thing they would like to change about the playground equipment. Below are a few of these drawings:







Who we heard from

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

- **Age group:** 50 per cent of respondents completed the survey on behalf of a child. Of these, 60 per cent were pre-school aged or younger, and 35 per cent were secondary school aged. Among the adult respondents, 70 per cent were between 35 and 49 years old.
- **Gender:** 85 per cent of adult respondents who filled out the survey were women. Among those who completed the survey on behalf of a child, 62 per cent were for boys and 35 per cent for girls.
- **Suburb:** Majority of respondents (93 per cent) live in Mulgrave, with the remainder of respondents located in Wheelers Hill.

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback for the concept 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 to refine the design and in line with the project's budget and scope.

The designer will finalise the playground upgrade details by mid-2025. Funding for the construction will be considered by Council as part of the 2025/26 annual budget process. If confirmed, we will share the final concept plan before construction.

- This report, and other updates on the project, will be shared on the Shape Monash project page: <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/playspace-2025-26>