Banyan Reserve



CONSULTATION SUMMARY

PLACE

July 2025 | Final

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Banyan Reserve, Carrum Downs







Introduction

Banyan Reserve is identified as a high strategic priority in the Frankston Open Space Strategy and the delivery of the Banyan Reserve is one of Councils key advocacy projects. It is situated in Carrum Downs with a need to transform the space to a multi-use destination that caters for a diverse range of users.

This development will significantly contribute to creating a safe and inclusive environment for play and recreation.

The Frankston Play Strategy identifies Banyan Reserve as a Community Level Playspace with recommendations to design and upgrade playspace for improved play, amenity, shade, and accessibility including BMX/Pump track.

As announced by Attorney General and Minister for Planning, Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP in 2022, the State Government has allocated $1.5 million of budgeted funding through a grant funded from the Community Sport and Recreation Grants initiative towards a new Playspace and Pumptrack at Banyan Reserve in Carrum Downs. This is a remarkable open space investment for the Carrum Downs and Skye communities. The funding will deliver significant improvements to support activation of Banyan Reserve.

Engagement activities were promoted and hosted via multiple methods with various age groups for a new exciting playspace and pump track for Banyan Reserve. This report is a summary of the outcomes of this fantastic community engagement process and basis of our design for the park.



Engagement Approach



Plan – An engagement plan was developed to meet the needs of the project and community outlining the purpose, objectives, and scope of community engagement.

Do – Implement the engagement plan.

The engagement approach included the following-

- 250 post cards distributed to the local residents, Kinder, adjacent aged care & Banyan Fields primary school.
- Four posters installed at the site.
- Online Engagement - Engage Frankston portal (13 March to 13 April 2025)
- Email to nearby aged care facilities.
- Email to Banyan sport clubs
- In-person at Banyan Reserve - pop-up event with Engagement, Youth services, Capital Works Delivery and Urban Design teams facilitating the event.
- Carrum Downs Secondary college - Dotmocracy survey undertaken facilitated by Youth services.
- Banyan Fields Primary school - In-person school engagement undertaken and facilitated by Youth services, Capital Works Delivery, Urban Design teams and PLAYCE landscape Architects.
- Advertising in school newsletter.
- Encouraging all gender participation - particularly focusing on increasing input of women.
- People with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds via online Engage Frankston translation tools.

Report – Engagement outcomes report was displayed on Engage Frankston page outlining the feedback received and findings.

Review – Council and PLAYCE Landscape Architects evaluate the community engagement findings, ensuring that feedback is addressed and closing the loop by finalising the brief of the project based on the recommendations.

Representation





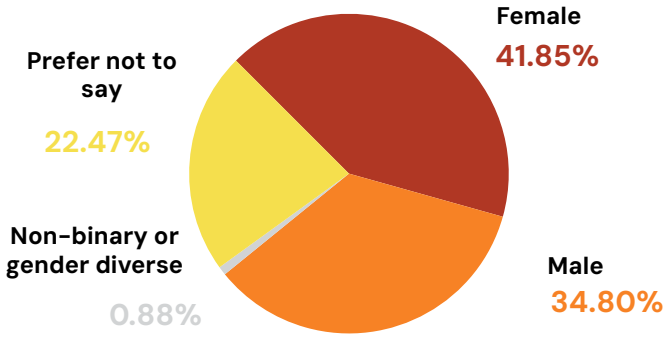
As to the legislated principle noted in the Banyan Reserve Engagement plan, we aimed to achieve a participation target of approximately 150 people, representing 0.5% of the population of Carrum Downs and Skye (based on Profile ID data 2021).

The actual engagement representation outcome was as follows,

- There were 227 contributions to the engagement activity. Of these 48 were online responses and 179
- were through in-person engagement.
- 47 hand drawn Ideas sketches from Banyan Fields Primary School kids
- 232 Dotmocracy responses
- Majority of participants are from Carrum Downs area - 134 responses.
- 95 participants identified as women, 79 as men and 2 as another gender.
- 134 people from target age groups 5-17, 62 responses from other age groups. 34 Participants did not provide their age.

Participants

Gender



Age Group



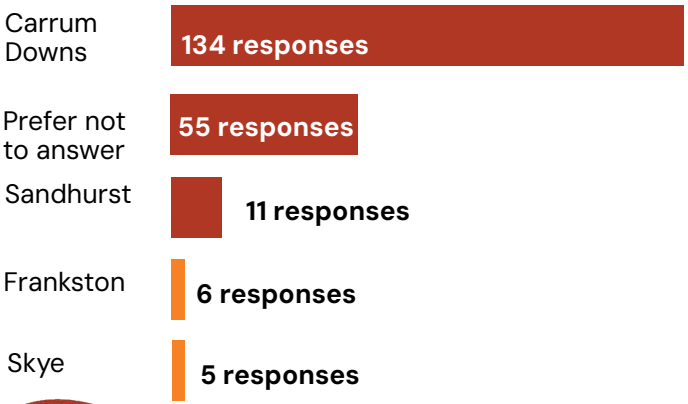
0-4	5-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60-69	70-84	85+	NO ANSWER
0.00%	42.73%	14.98%	2.64%	3.08%	13.66%	3.08%	3.52%	1.32%	0%	14.98%

Travel Methods

How do you get to Banyan Reserve?

1. **Walk** — 84 votes
2. **Car** — 56 responses
3. **Prefer not to say** — 50 responses
4. **Cycle/Ride** — 21 responses
5. **Not applicable** — 16 responses
6. **Public Transport** — 0 responses

Where do you live?



Somewhere else — **5 responses**

City of Casey — **4 responses**

2 responses:

Langwarrin, Seaford

1 responses:

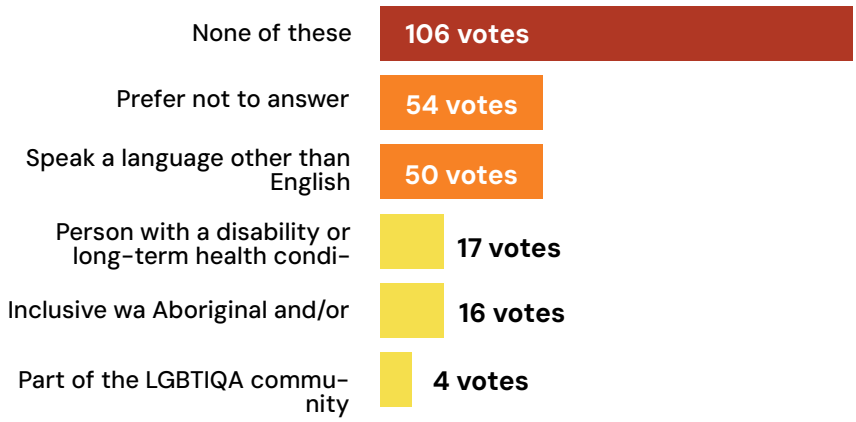
Frankston North, Frankston South, Langwarrin South

0 response:

City of Kingston, City of Greater Dandenong, Mornington Peninsula Shire

Other

Which of the following do you identify with?



What is your favourite reserve and/or playspace to visit (in Frankston City or elsewhere)?

Top 3 reserves:

1. Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve - (15%, 12 responses)
2. Banyan Reserve - (11%, 9 responses)
3. Ballam Park – 6% (5 responses)

Places Mentioned twice:

- Polaris Reserve – 2% (2 responses)
- Officer District Reserve – 2% (2 responses)
- George Pentland Gardens – 2% (2 responses)

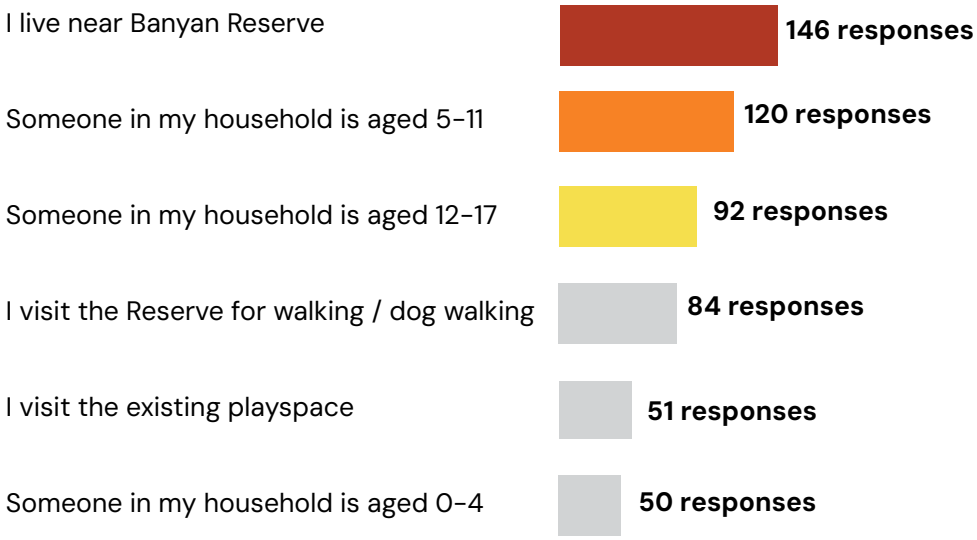
All others individually mentioned once (1%):

- Rowellyn Skate Park
- Marriott Waters
- McClelland Sculpture Park
- Dog off-leash reserves
- Frankston BMX track
- Overport Road dirt jumps
- Wingham Reserve
- Lynbrook
- Jells Park
- Roy Dore Reserve
- The Briars
- Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve
- Heysen Reserve
- Casey Fields
- Sandhurst Adventure Park
- Encore Boulevard Reserve
- Ballarat Park
- Bicentennial Park

Engagement Outcomes – Survey

1. What is your interest in this project?*

** Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 227*



Other:

- I visit the sports oval and/ or pavilion
- I visit the Melbourne Water Retarding Basin
- I use the existing social amenities (e.g. picnic tables)
- Someone in my household is aged 18-24
- Someone in my household requires accessible play options

2. What themes would you like to see for the playspace upgrade?

** Ranking | Skipped: 42 | Answered: 185 (81.5%)*



155 votes

Carrum Downs colourful Community theme

–

Bright playful, contemporary and abstract



147 votes

Nature and Bushland

–

Referencing the trees environment and Local ecology



133 votes

Water Systems

–

Referencing the local water systems, retarding basin and

Importance of conserving water

Recommendations:

The community were given five themes to choose from being, cultural heritage, nature, water systems, colorful and local farming heritage. Those shown above were the top 3. Based on this above survey feedback, the focus of the play pace design will be on colorful and bright contemporary play elements in a natural setting and referencing the reserve's wetland and water systems.

Engagement Outcomes – Survey

3. Is there another theme would like to see throughout this playspace?

** Open-ended question | Skipped: 153 | Answered: 74 (32.6%)*

Top 5 mentioned themes:

1. **Swings and Basket Swings – 8 mentions**
   (requests for swings, two-person swings, basket swings)
2. **Water Play Features – 5 mentions**
   (water spinning, water play, recycled water wheel, sandpit with water)
3. **Parkour / Obstacle Course / Climbing – 5 mentions**
   (obstacle court, parkour, climbing activities)
4. **Ziplines / Flying Fox – 4 mentions**
   (zipline, flying fox, ziplines)
5. **More Space and Shade – 4 mentions**
   (requests for larger space, shaded areas)

"I think it'd be nice to have references or educational material about the Carrum Swamp- things like swamps and fens and marshes really have a gross icky reputation but they're an important part of the environment and there's lots of beautiful things and interesting creatures to

" Swings for two people together!"

" Swings and water, no metal slides, monkey bars "

Recommendations:
Based on the above, the design will ensure there are swings and water play elements within the playspace which ties in with the overarching themes and types of play requested below.

4. What type of ADVENTURE play would you like to see at Banyan Reserve playspace?

** Multi Choice | Skipped: 47 | Answered: 180 (79.3%)*



153 votes

Swings
Basket swing/ inclusive swings with handles and high back / traditional swings



146 votes

Slides
Big slides / Double slide / Junior slides / Tunnel slides



143 votes

Climbing
Ropes / nets /structures

Recommendations:
There is a strong push from the survey to ensure swings, slide and climbing elements are key features of the playspace. Therefore these will be key elements included in the design of the space.

Engagement Outcomes – Survey

5. What type of SENSORY play would you like to see at Banyan Reserve playspace?

** Multi Choice | Skipped: 57 | Answered: 170 (74.9%)*



129 votes

Water Play
hand pump and gates, creek bed with stones



128 votes

Sound Play
music panels, interactive sound



125 votes

Sculptural play
Interactive sculptures with different surfaces and textures for climbing

Recommendations:
From the survey, the sensory elements to be considered for the playspace will include water, sound and sculptural play.

6. Are there any other types of play experiences you would like to see at Banyan Reserve playspace?

** Open-ended question | Skipped: 120 | Answered: 107 (47.1%)*

Top 5 mentioned themes:

1. **Trampolines (7 mentions)**
   – Strong interest in having trampolines as part of the playspace.
2. **Flying Fox / Zipline (6 mentions)**
   – A high demand for dynamic, adventurous play elements.
3. **Basketball Court / Half Court (5 mentions)**
   – Requests for a basketball hoop or half-court facility.
4. **Parkour / Climbing Structures (5 mentions)**
   – Desire for challenging, active play including parkour spaces and climbing opportunities.
5. **Water Play / Splash Park / Water Features (5 mentions)**
   – Interest in water-related play experiences, such as water slides, sprinklers, or splash parks.

" If there is a creek bed, I would love if there was a wooden bridge- one of my favourite things about the reserve near my childhood home was that there was a wooden bridge over the little creek. "

"If sound play, consider using sounds of local insects and animals"

" And please please have plenty of shade sails! Our little ones need all the sun protection possible

Recommendations:
There was a lot of feedback and recommendations for trampolines, flying foxes, basketball court, parkour facilities, and splash parks. We understand these suggestions are based on similar existing facilities in Carrum Downs.

Council has already provided these recommended facilities, in alignment with the Play Strategy, at Sandfield Reserve and Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve. Therefore, these recommendations will not be considered in the design of Banyan Reserve.

Engagement Outcomes – Survey

7. Do you have any feedback or questions about the design of the pump track and scooter loop?

** Open-ended question*

Top 5 mentioned themes:

1. **Jumps, Ramps, and Bumps (21 mentions)**
   Participants requested large jumps, dirt mounds, bumpy sections, and a variety of ramps to enhance excitement and challenge.
2. **Surface Type: Concrete vs Asphalt**
   Asphalt was suggested as a softer and safer alternative, especially for younger users.
3. **Age Inclusivity and Skill Level Separation (9 mentions)**
   Respondents suggested designing the track with different zones or difficulty levels to cater to various age groups and abilities, including younger children and older or more advanced riders.
4. **Supportive Facilities (Seating, Shade, Fencing) (9 mentions)**
   Suggestions included providing seating for parents, shade structures, picnic areas, drinking taps, and fencing for safety and comfort.
5. **BMX and Mountain Bike Suitability (5 mentions)**
   responses advocated for a design suitable for BMX or mountain bikes

Other:

- Design Feedback: Recommendations included making corners wider and safer, ensuring proper directional flow, and adding creative design elements such as colour or artwork.
- Overuse and Conflict Concerns: Some suggested building multiple tracks to avoid overcrowding or raised concerns about misuse by electric scooters and mini bike riders.
- Accessibility: A few respondents asked for the track to be inclusive of wheelchairs and accessible tricycles.

Recommendations:
From the pump track feedback, the overall push was for an asphalt track, with a mix of jumps and ramps to provide for both beginner through to more advanced users. This is in line with the skate strategy recommendations.

8. What are your priorities for possible future upgrades, in addition to the playspace and pump track?

** Multi Choice | Skipped: 45 | Answered: 182 (80.2%)*



163 votes
Shelter with accessible picnic tables and BBQ



161 votes
Public Toilet



144 votes
Broader Park, paths, connections, seating and amenity

Recommendations:
The survey respondents overwhelmingly priortised shelters and picnic tables & bbq and paths and connections. They also voted on the importance of a public toilet which will be considered as a long term addition to the space.

Engagement Outcomes – Survey

9. Do you have another priority for a possible future upgrade to Banyan Reserve?

** Open-ended question | Skipped: 181 | Answered: 46 (20.3%)*

Top 5 mentioned themes:

1. Toilet Upgrades and New Toilets (9 mentions)
Participants highlighted the urgent need for better located, accessible toilets, particularly near the pavilion, playground, and oval, to support both sporting events and family use.
2. Drainage and Oval Improvements (6 mentions)
Many comments pointed to the oval frequently flooding and becoming unusable, suggesting drainage upgrades and tree planting to manage waterlogging and improve year-round access.
3. Exercise and Fitness Equipment (4 mentions)
Respondents requested outdoor fitness stations and bodyweight exercise equipment throughout the reserve, catering for all ages including aged care residents.
4. Dog Management and Safety (4 mentions)
Feedback emphasized maintaining off-leash areas but introducing better separation between dog zones and children's play areas, with fencing, signage, and enforcement.
5. Shade and Shelter (4 mentions)
The need for additional shaded areas, shelters, and seating was raised to enhance comfort for park users.

> *" Absolute necessity to the aMore shelters like at the Carrum Downs Fencing around the play and scooter track better separation to the play space and roads Make it safer for the kids - Concerned about dogs and kids"*

> *" Drainage infrastructure — the space and oval is bordering unusable between August and November."*

Other:

- Improved Pathways and Connectivity
  (Paths connecting to the primary school, Luscombe, crossing points over wetlands/swales, bridges)
- More Bins and Waste Management
  (More rubbish bins, poo bag dispensers, and regular maintenance)
- Playground Upgrades
  (General upgrades, larger play elements, changing rooms near water play)
- Facilities for Teenagers and Older Children
  (Adventure elements like bench swings, bigger slides, teen-friendly spaces)

10. Do you agree with the proposed location for a possible public toilet location?

Skipped: 44 | Answered: 183 (80.6%)



11. What other location would you prefer for any future public toilet?

Open-ended question | Skipped: 220 | Answered: 7 (3.1%)

-
- Upgrade the pavilion and integrate public toilet facilities with the build - like what you have done at other reserves.
- Toilets should be closer to the pavilion
- There is already a toilet block there, but it is locked.

Recommendations:
These questions about future considerations for Banyan Reserve highlighted firstly the strong need in the community for a public toilet whilst also raised the importance of access, more fitness equipment and dog management. When asked about the location of a new toilet where it was shown on the site plan,the majority of respondents were comfortable about this site.

Engagement Outcomes – Dotmocracy

Dotmocracy was used in the on site consultations engage participants to vote for their favorite play and recreational activities. Dotmocracy is a highly interactive method and approach for engagement that allows participants to vote on themes and associated imagery that best captures their interests in what can go in the Banyan Reserve . Dotmocracy presents images to the community for them to vote on with stickers. Participants had stickers to chose images for 5 categories: Playspace Theming, Adventure Play, Sensory Play, Pump Track Ideas, Social Space Ideas. The follow is the top 3 votes for each category.

Playspace Theming



A new identity theme
154 votes



Nature and Bushland theme
40 votes



Natural Watersystem
30 votes

Adventure Play



Climbing

80 votes



Swinging

72 votes



Sliding

33 votes

Sensory Play



Water Play

35 votes



Quiet Play

21 votes



Sound Play

18 votes

Pump Track Ideas



Bike (BMX,MTB), Skate and scooter friendly asphalt pump track with berms

103 votes



Concrete Scooter loop

24 votes



Concrete pump track

15 votes

Social space



Seating along paths adjacent to playspaces and garden areas

10 votes



Lawn / Picnic Space

6 votes



Informal social nodes

5 votes

Recommendations:
The dotmocracy outcomes were very much inline with the responses from the survey. Overall as summarized above, the majority of votes were for a new, brightly coloured themed playspace that contained swinging, climbing and sliding elements as well as water play, quiet areas and music play. Most votes were for an asphalt BMX track and seating along the playspace was considered important.

Engagement Outcomes – Hand drawn sketches

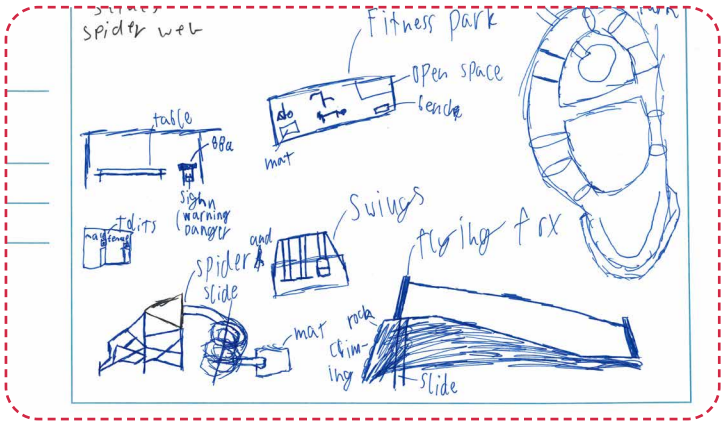
Activity – Design your ideal Playspace

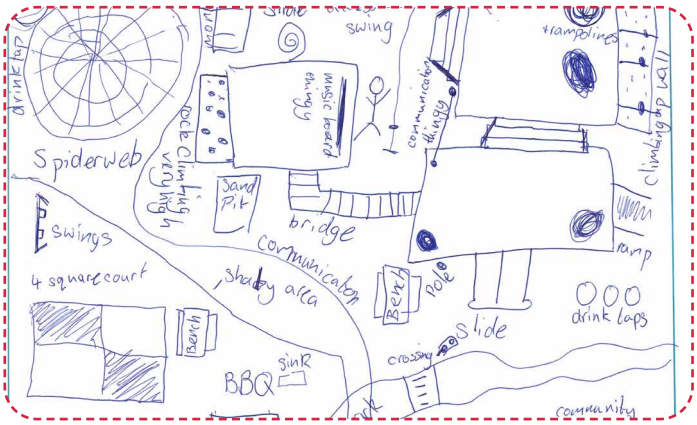
Participants from the primary school engagement were given the opportunity to design their ideal playspace, detailing specific activities and features. This activity provided valuable insights into what children and youth envision for the space, showcasing their creativity and innovative ideas.

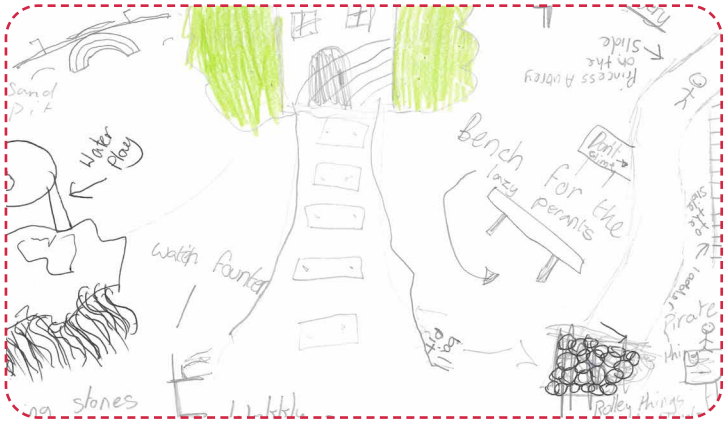
Top 5 key themes mentioned:

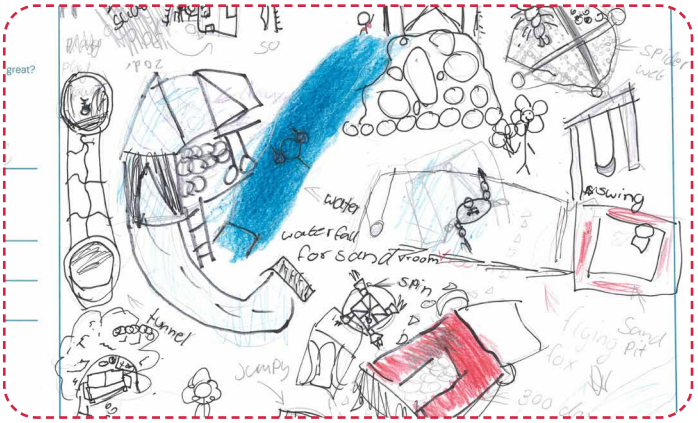
- Multi Sport Court, Basketball Court with linemarkings : 8 mentions
- Swings: 7 mentions
- Spinners and other Motion Play: 7 mentions
- Climbing elements: nets, bars, rocks: 6 mentions
- Skate and other wheel sports elements: 6 mentions

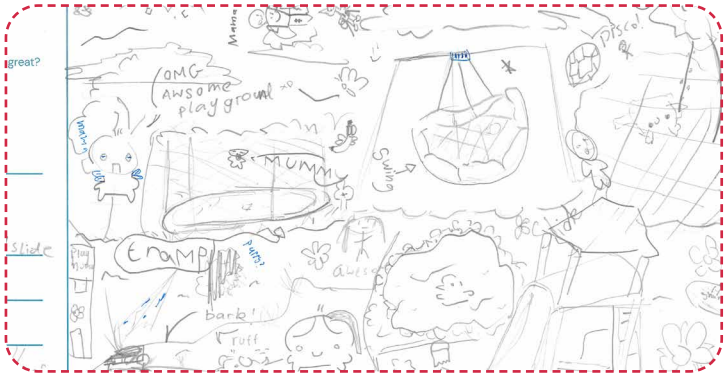
Some examples of the ideas are outlined below.

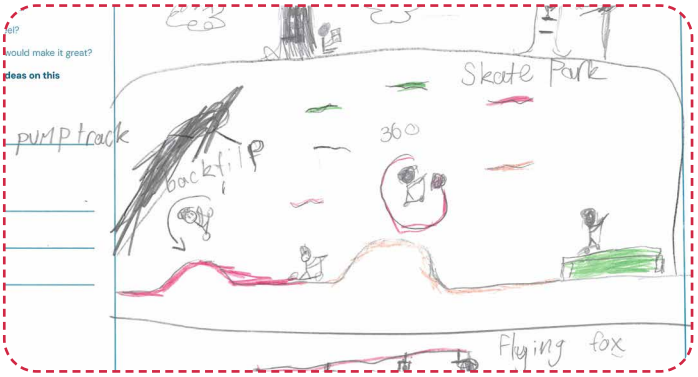












Closing the loop

Overall the engagement process for the Banyan Reserve upgrade was highly successful. It was great to hear from such a large number of people of all ages from the neighborhood on what they believed was most important for this playspace upgrade and pump track for Banyan Reserve.

There were strong consistent themes across both the online and onsite surveys and dotmocracy processes both onsite and at local schools. This was important as whilst not everything completely aligned between groups, generally most people were similar in their thinking and requirements.

This information has been invaluable as there is now a clear design brief for the playspace and pump track that has been guided by the community through this engagement process.

This design brief is as follows;

PLAYSPACE

As outlined throughout this engagement summary, it is clear that that the overriding focus for the playspace design is be colourful and contemporary in a naturalised park environment. Using vibrant and dynamic colours, the key play elements will include swinging areas (social swings), slides and climbing elements.

There will also be natural/water-based elements to encourage sensory and tactile play. There may also may be some sculptural elements to provide a unique wetland character for this new play environment.

PUMP TRACK

The pump track will be designed to have two zones, a beginner area and more advanced track and be constructed from asphalt. It will include berms, rollers and jumps to maximise participation and fun.

AMENITY

A strong focus of the playspace development will be clear access from the road through to the carpark, oval and primary school with a potential defined threshold between the pump track and playspace. There will also be a range of different sheltered seating and picnic areas to allow children, parents, carers and families to congregate along the edges of the recreation and play space and watch and/or participate the precinct accordingly.

The proposed toilet location will also be retained in the location nominated on the plan as part of the consultation and will be considered as part of a long term phased development.