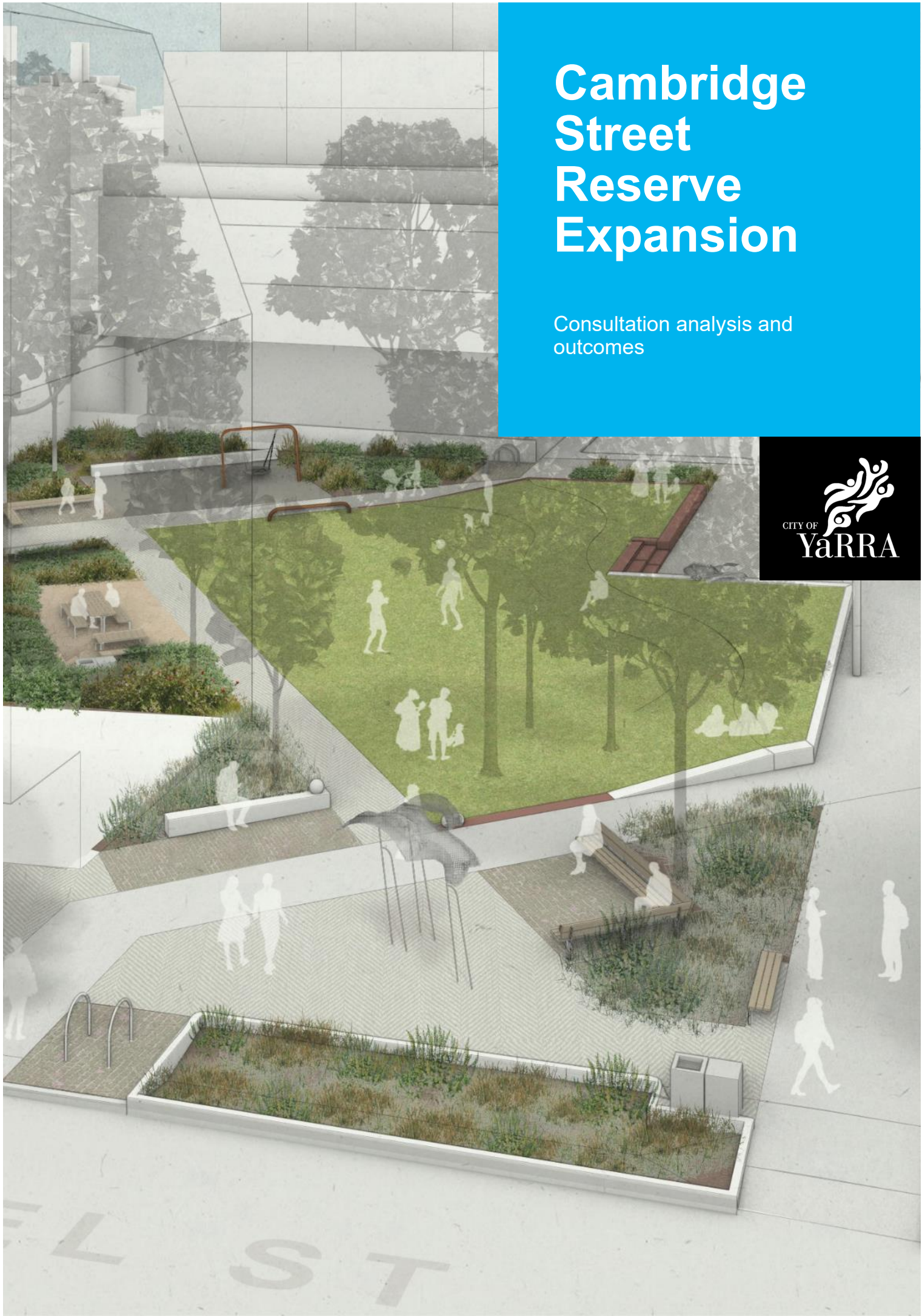


Cambridge Street Reserve Expansion

Consultation analysis and outcomes



Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Introduction

Stage 3 Consultation

Following the announcement to develop two new pocket parks in Collingwood through the Victorian Government Local Parks Program, concept plans for both parks were developed based on community feedback and presented to the broader community for review. An overview of the consultation results and how they have informed the final design is detailed below.

Community engagement overview

In August 2020, we invited the community to share their ideas and shape the development of a proposed park expansion at Cambridge Street Reserve.

A Concept Plan was developed from the August 2020 community feedback and presented to the community in May 2021 for comment.

Consultation on the Concept Plan ran from 10 May to 18 June 2021 through Your Say Yarra. An on-site meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the consultation period was extended for two weeks and the community were invited to contact the project manager directly to share their feedback.

The objectives for consulting on the Concept Plan were as follows:

- To understand the level of community support for an expansion of the reserve including a full road closure to the intersection of Peel Street with the associated parking loss.
- Identify any issues/concerns in the design proposal that needed to be reviewed.
- Test if we captured the community feedback appropriately and that the design reflects their values and priorities.

Approximately 2,000 residents and stakeholders were informed about the online consultation through a delivered flyer which outlined ways to obtain more information and provide feedback. Signs were placed on-site informing park users and pedestrians about the project and how to get involved. Key stakeholders who opted to keep up to date about the project were contacted directly and made aware of the community engagement activities.

The online survey asked participants to respond to four main questions about the Concept Plan for Cambridge Street Reserve Expansion Project, dated 13 April 2021. The four key questions posed to participants were as follows:

Q1. What they thought about the following parts of the concept plan:

- **Lawn area** – a space for relaxing as well as a flexible space for games and active play
- **BBQ area** – a picnic space under the shade of gum trees from the original park and with tables, chairs and BBQ.
- **Sculptures** – non-traditional play equipment through the park.
- **Plaza** – paved entry space with informal seating and sculpture, near Peel Street side of park.
- **Laneway access** – safe entry from the lane off Peel Street and adjacent apartments, with accessible footpath and welcoming sculpture.
- **Plants and trees** – combination of tall and upright eucalyptus, existing gums and garden beds.
- **Shady and open areas** – combination of areas for warmer days and to maximise sunlight on cooler days.

Answers to the above areas were structured, requiring participants to select from of the following answers:

Really don't like / Don't like / Not sure/neutral / Like / Really like

Q2. Whether there was anything missing from the design or something we didn't consider?

Q3. Whether they had any concerns about the changes to the space?

Q4. Whether they had any other comments or additional feedback about the design?

Council received **171** individual responses to the survey, with individuals choosing to answer some questions and leaving others blank.

Engagement findings

Overall feedback

The feedback received was overwhelmingly supportive of the design proposal. Many respondents welcomed the change from asphalt to grass. The feedback indicated an understanding of the broader benefits in expanding the park, such as environmental improvements and social connection. Many respondents were also able to see past their own needs and inconvenience to support a design proposal that would provide long term benefits to the area. The feedback received inspired us to change the design theme to 'Close Knit', as the Collingwood community clearly care about each other and the place they live in.

Responses to Q1 What do you think of the draft design?

The following graphs depict the responses to parts of the design participants were asked to respond to.

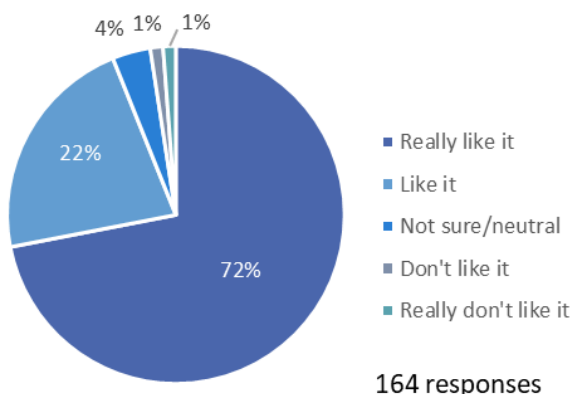


Figure 1 Lawn area

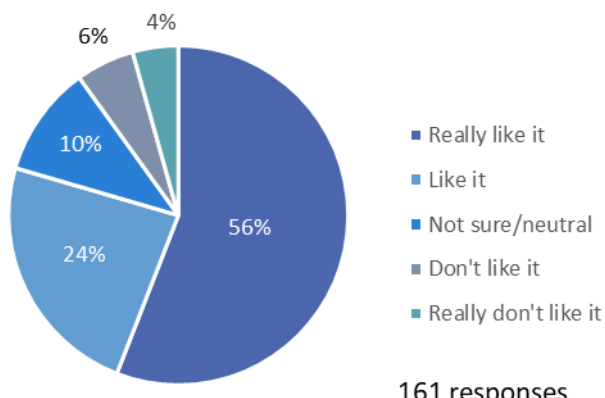


Figure 2 BBQ area

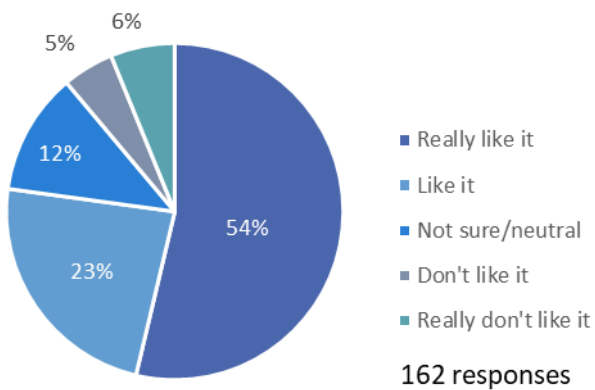


Figure 3 Sculpture / artwork

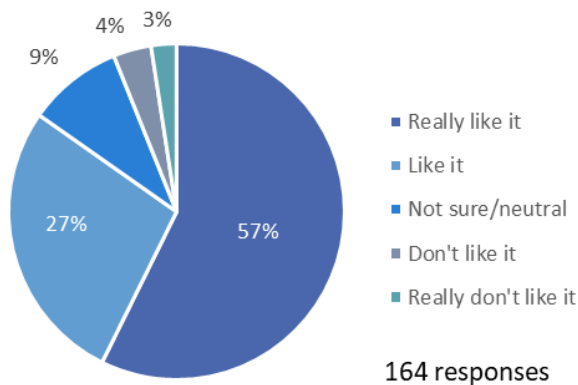


Figure 4 Plaza space on Peel St boundary

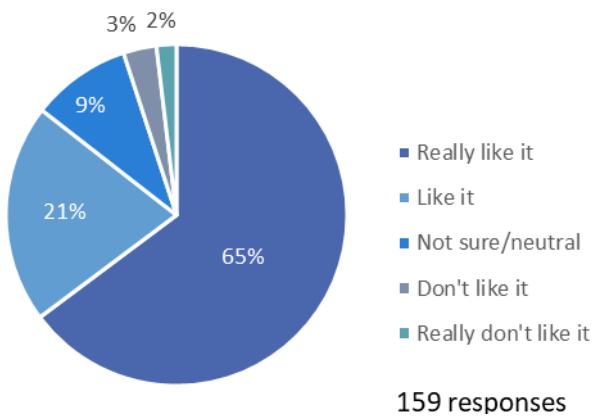


Figure 5 Laneway access with artwork

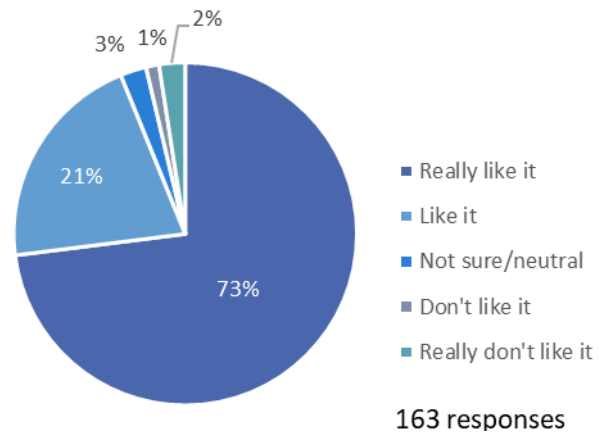


Figure 6 Planting & trees

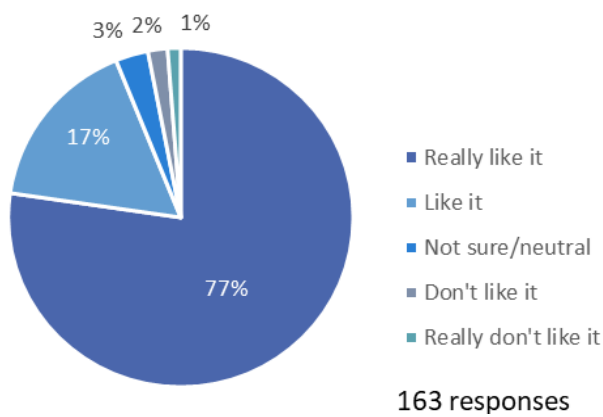


Figure 7 Shady & sunny areas

Responses to Q2 – Is there anything missing from the design or something we didn't consider?

There were **82 individual responses** to this question, with some providing multiple comments or requests within the available text field. For clarity and evaluation, the responses were grouped as follows:

Group	Description
A	Amenity concerns around overshadowing from adjacent built form or trees, people/dog conflict, skateboarders, BBQ impact on adjacent residences
B	Pedestrian/vehicle conflict concerns
C	Requests for specific infrastructure or soft landscaping detail that we hadn't included or was included and maybe harder to interpret in the design
D	Safety issues such as inadequate lighting, visibility through the park, antisocial behaviour
E	Comments outside the scope of the project or question rather than answer/response

Group	Description
F	Place making & positive artwork comments including a request for consideration of indigenous connection to place.
G	No support for parts of the design such as no support for road closure or sculpture art play
H	General positive comment
I	General negative comment
J	Request for bins, concern over rubbish or dog excrement

A total of **100 comments** were extracted from the **82 responses**, with Group C comprising the highest amount of comments.

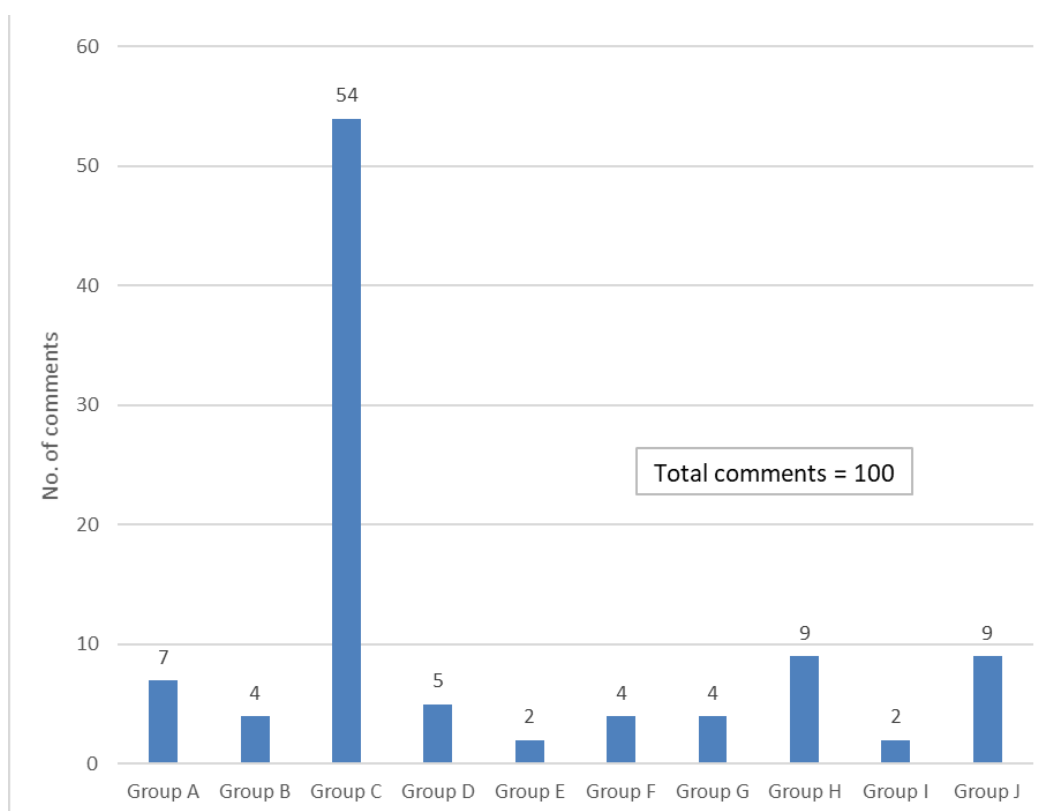


Figure 8 – Q2 Response groups

GROUP C - TOP 6	# of responses
Active transport or bike infrastructure	7
Traditional play equipment	5
Biodiversity or native	5
Dog infrastructure	6
Drinking fountain	5
Edible gardens	7

In response to the comments raised, the following will be incorporated into the final Concept Plan:

- The BBQ has been removed from the design.
- Tree heights and locations will be further reviewed to minimise shade in winter.
- Traditional play equipment, drinking fountain, bike hoops and bins will be included.
- Active transport is supported through the site to ensure bikes can move through Cambridge Street to Peel Street and vice versa. This will be resolved in a Detailed Design.
- Lighting will be included in the design and resolved through a Lighting Plan.
- Planting will consist of native and exotic species, with native plants being the most dominant type of species. Species selection will consider the microclimate and provide seasonal interest of sight, touch and smell.
- Pedestrian and vehicle conflict concerns will be addressed through the Detailed Design.

Responses to Q3 – Do you have any concerns about the changes to the space?

There were **70** responses to this question. The responses were grouped into the following types:

Group	Description	How this will be addressed in the final design
A	Infrastructure needed or design consideration	Consisted of similar comments to those raised in Q2, such as the request for bins and traditional play equipment, as well as making sure that consideration had been given to BBQ smells.
B	Negatives outcomes - noise, illegal parking	The picnic area will be located further away from the residents and without a BBQ may result in shorter, smaller social gatherings.
C	General positive comment	The general intent of the design was well supported and outweighed those who objected to the road closure. For this reason, the extents of the Final Concept Plan will not change.
D	Safety	The same safety concerns were raised as for Q2 and will be considered in the Detailed Design with a Lighting Plan and good visibility through the site.
E	Road closure objection or query on impact	The loss of carparks and negative impact to traffic flow in the area were raised. The closure of the road has been assessed through appropriate parking and traffic modelling with the impact determined to be manageable.
F	Other	Consisted of mixed responses that weren't specifically related to the park design but more of a comment e.g. "My main concern is how slow it will be to implement".
G	General negative	No change to the design.

Figure 9 – Q3 Response group categories and design impact

Q4. Do you have any other comments or additional feedback about the design?

There were **68 responses** to this question.

As with Q2 and Q3, the responses were grouped into categories for analysis. The categories are defined in the table below, with the response to each illustrated in Figure 10.

Group	Description	How this will be addressed in the final design
A	Infrastructure needed or design consideration	A playground area has been included in the final design. A lighting consultant has developed a suitable lighting proposal for the park.
B	Negatives outcomes - noise, illegal parking, BBQ smells	The BBQ area has been removed/
C	General positive comment	Overall footprint and design direction retained with minor modifications to incorporate infrastructure requested to be changed, removed or incorporated.
D	Safety	A lighting consultant has developed a suitable lighting proposal for the park.
E	Road closure objection or query on impact	As the general support still outweighs the negative sentiment around impacts to traffic, the current footprint has been retained.

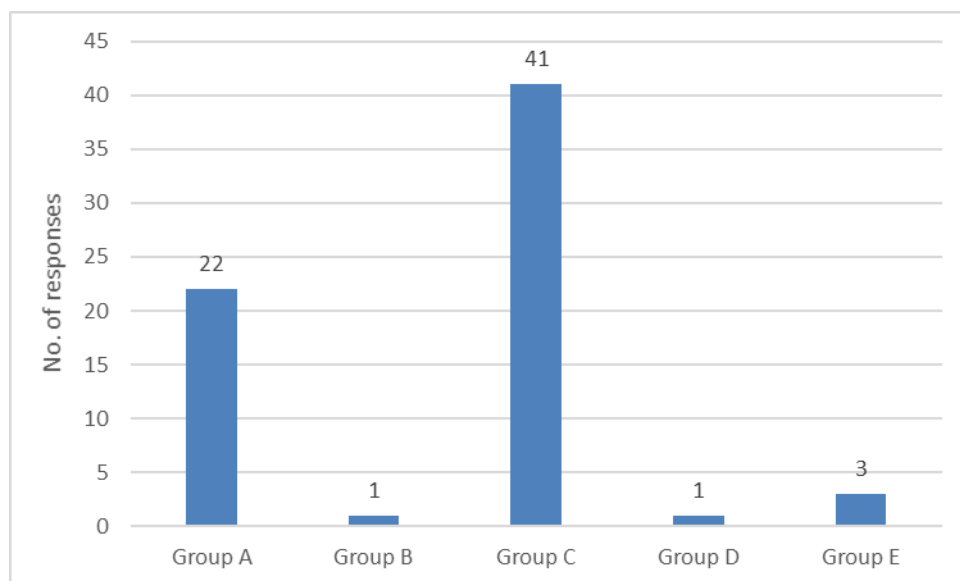


Figure 10 – Q4 Response groups and number of responses

Q5. What is your connection to the area?

Most survey participants lived in the area (129), followed by those that owned a property in the area (39) and worked nearby (20).

Q6. What suburb do you live in?

Most survey participants lived in Collingwood.

Q7. Does anyone in your household have a disability that could affect how they use parks?

Eleven (11) responses selected YES to this question, which is approximately 6% of the total survey participants. There were 7 unique responses were provided as to how their disability could affect how they used the park. Details of the disability noted and how the design responds to the disability is detailed in the table below.

Description of disability and how it affects use	How to address
The current condition of roads and pavements locally make it difficult for people with disabilities to use, and therefore access parks.	Outside scope but will raise the issue with Yarra's engineering teams.
I have very limited mobility - use crutches.	Ensure there are accessible pathways and appropriate surface materials and seats on site.
Mobility issue.	As above.
I'm in a wheelchair and would like an off-leash dog area near my house, I have to travel to Atherton gardens, I would like one locally near my flat in Collingwood.	To discuss with Yarra's Local Laws team.
Social anxiety - family member needs some outdoor peace and quiet but also to feel safe.	<p>The new park design provides a range of seating options and spaces to support passive recreation for different people.</p> <p>Examples of spaces to support smaller social groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating benches tucked into the edge of garden beds, providing a sense of protection from behind. • Corners of the lawn area under trees, grade separated from the path network, and distanced as much as possible from areas that will most likely be used for larger social gatherings.
Sensory deficits, so needs sensory garden for smell, sight and touch to calm anxiety.	To discuss in development of planting plan.
Visual impairment. Changes to surfaces and levels need to be clear.	Agreed.

Next steps

What are we doing with your ideas?

Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas and feedback on the concept plan. We received many considered responses which show sensitivity to the area and broad long-term thinking.

A final concept plan has been developed based on the feedback and is presented on Your Say Yarra.

The main changes from the design concept to the final proposal are:

- Removal of BBQ area but inclusion of social seating area.
- Inclusion of traditional play equipment.
- A review of the plant species selection.
- More resolution of the proposed artwork.
- Inclusion of the lighting plan.

We have retained the proposed full road closure and associated loss in parking, as this was generally supported as part of the design proposal.

What are the next steps?

1. A road discontinuance process will begin in November where there will be another round of community engagement around the permanent road closure at Cambridge Street to the intersection of Peel Street. Council will hear all submissions and decide whether to endorse the final design proposal and associated road discontinuance. This meeting will happen in early 2022, you can opt to stay in touch with the project and have your say as part of that process.
2. If the design and road discontinuance are approved, construction on the new park can begin.
3. It is anticipated construction will take around 4-6 months depending on variables on site.