
PENROSE COMMUNITY GARDEN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS REPORT





PROJECT BACKGROUND

Wyndham City Council (WCC) is planning for the development, management and future use of a new Community Garden in Tarneit. The community garden will be constructed at the rear of Penrose Promenade Community Centre as part of a pilot project associated with the Community Garden Policy being developed by Council. It is being funded by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) via its Suburban Revitalisation Program and will be managed by the Pasifika Community Australia Inc. The garden has support from Victoria Police and will be secured with a fence for safety and security.

The first round of public consultation was held between Friday 27 August - Thursday 30 September 2021.

The purpose of the engagement was to:





- Seek feedback from the community about the Community Garden
- Determine how the community will use the Community Garden
- Determine community's interest of possible future events and programs held at the Community Garden
- Gain feedback to inform the concept design of the Community Garden

Due to the COVID19 lockdown and restrictions, engagement methods were limited to the online platform with 2 planned physical engagement activities including an open day on the site having to be cancelled.

A summary of the consultation process and feedback received is provided below.

METHODOLOGY

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools		
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged	Dates
 Project page on The Loop	1,005 views 735 people visited the site	27 August- 30 September 2021
 Online survey	16 responses	27 August- 30 September 2021
 Social Map	46 entries	27 August- 30 September 2021
 Direct Contact from residents	1	27 August- 30 September 2021
Direct Contact with Key Stakeholders – local sports clubs/ State Sporting Associations/ local businesses	Direct email correspondence with the neighbouring Only About Children Childcare Centre, Tarneit P-9 College, Tarneit Gardens Shopping Centre Management, Penrose Kindergarten team, and the body corporate of the apartments (Imperial Owners Corporation Management)	27 August- 30 September 2021



Communications / marketing activities		
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged	Dates
Online promotion (Facebook, website etc)	Wyndham City Facebook – Engagement 186, Reach 24286, Link Clicks 482	September 2021
Postcards <i>postcards were delivered by PCA youth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postcards delivered to local residents and local businesses in a 400m radius catchment Postcards distributed to community centres (Tarneit CLC, Penrose, Arndell Park CC), Tarneit Gardens Shopping Centre 	September 2021
Posters	Posters displayed at Penrose Community Centre, Penrose Kinder, Only About Children Childcare Centre	September 2021
Local Stakeholder Groups	Pasifika Community Australia Inc	September 2021
Media Release or other tools?	Emailed out widely via Council department mailing lists including community centre newsletters	September 2021

Facebook Post



Poster



Postcard



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Provide a high-level snapshot summary of feedback received and intended actions. These could be the key themes / points of agreement/disagreement that emerged through the consultation.

WE ASKED

MAPPING TOOL
- LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE DESIGN BY ADDING A MARKER TO LEAVE YOUR FEEDBACK ABOUT SPECIFIC SPOTS IN THE GARDEN.

YOU SAID

The results show that there was positive feedback in repurposing this “under-utilised” space for a community garden.

The feedback received via the mapping tool and survey focused on 3 main areas;

- Infrastructure Design
- Garden Design
- Activities

There was recognition that the concept plan was well designed and incorporated many valuable features – in particular raised garden beds, new pathways and bench seating along with retention of the existing trees. The feedback highlighted that the community valued this space not only for the purpose of community gardening but as an opportunity for social connection, volunteering and connection with the community and early years centre.

Accessibility to the community garden space was an important theme, highlighting the need for extra wide paths, accessible garden beds, lighting and a child friendly design.

It was evident from the feedback that community saw this space as a place for people of all ages to recreate for extended periods, with infrastructure such as public toilets, good lighting and performance areas noted in the feedback.

Garden Design

A significant theme that emerged from the feedback was the importance of recognising First Nations people and the use of native plants/trees and an Indigenous edible garden within the community garden.

Incorporating food crop producing trees and edible lawns were also suggested.

There was a strong desire to involve the broader community in creating the garden.

WE DID

The feedback will be used to influence the final design.

Accessibility features, the use of native plantation and spaces for social connection will be key components of the design.



WE ASKED**WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU LIKE TO DO AT THE RESERVE?*****people could tick multiple responses***YOU SAID****11****APPRECIATE NATURE****7****WALK, JOG/RUN****4****WALK MY DOG****4****RIDE A BIKE OR SCOOTER FOR LEISURE****2****RIDE A BIKE OR SCOOTER WHEN COMMUTING****WE ASKED****IS THERE ANYTHING MISSING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT THE SITE?****YOU SAID**

The feedback provided a range of suggested additions to the community garden design, including:

**AN AREA FOR FARMERS MARKET/ FOOD SWAP**

- Drink taps
- Pergola/shelter area

**WASTE, COMPOST AND RECYCLE BINS**

- Dog friendly area with water source
- More water tanks

**BIKE RACKS/ BIKE PARKING AREA**

- Water feature / pond
- Tool library / community workspace

**PUBLIC TOILETS**

- Bee hives
- Area for plant propagation and cultivation

WE DID

The feedback indicated a diverse response to features the community would like to see in the community garden. The feedback will influence the final design.

Public Toilets will not be included in this plan as it is not within the project scope however toilets can be accessed from Penrose Community Centre during business hours, and during program and event times that occur afterhours and on weekends. Penrose Community Centre has male, female, and accessible toilets.

Other suggested additions that did not align with the project scope such as a community gym, café and radio station will not be included in this plan.

WE ASKED**WHAT PARTS OF THE PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN DO YOU LIKE?****YOU SAID**

Raised garden beds, new pathways and bench seating along with retention of the existing trees.

WE ASKED**WHAT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN?****YOU SAID**

The feedback highlighted a broad range of activities and events the community would like to see take place at the Community Garden, demonstrating the value of this space as not only a community garden but a place for community to come together.

Many of the suggested activities had a gardening focus such as:

- Gardening information sessions and workshops/short courses
- Cooking demonstrations using the garden produce, food tasting
- Farmers markets and food swaps
- Seed exchange program
- Beekeeping
- Tool Library

Other activities suggested included:

- Community outdoor activities – Tai Chi
- Cultural events, performances and activities (weaving)
- Bicycle repair workshops
- Woodwork classes
- Senior Activities
- Community Education sessions
- Arts and crafts

WE DID

The project team and Pasifika Communities of Australia will use the feedback to create a suite of activities, programs, events and workshops for community members which will include community food swaps, gardening information workshops and cultural activities.



WE ASKED**KEY ENGAGEMENT
QUESTIONS****KEY THEMES FROM RESPONSES**

- Overwhelming Positive feedback in re-purposing this site for a community garden
- Ensuring the space is accessible and child friendly
- Recognises First Nations people and includes Indigenous plants and edibles
- Is a space not only for gardening but broader social connection

WE DID

Provide specific actions that have been or will be considered/adopted as a result.



NEXT STEPS

- Design influenced by feedback
- Implementation of works to commence before the end of the year

Contact details for further information

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