

# **LAWRIE EMMINS RESERVE GATEWAY & YOUTH PRECINCT**

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT**



## PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The western corner of Lawrie Emmins Reserve is being developed into a Gateway and Youth Precinct – in line with the overall Master Plan adopted in 2019 (\* see note below). The open space will comprise a skatepark, sports courts, toilets, shelters, seating areas, tree plantings as well as open, well-maintained lawn for picnics, kick-to-kick and local events.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Seek feedback from the community about the overall proposal.
- Determine how the community would like to use the space.
- Determine how the community is likely to get to the space, and with whom.
- Determine the preferred playground features.
- Gain feedback on the Concept Plan and Imagery – likes, any missed items or other comments. This will inform detailed design.

The consultation was live via The Loop from Monday 20th June - Monday 18th July 2022.



\* **Note:** The Lawrie Emmins Reserve Master Plan (2019) can be viewed [here](#).



## METHODOLOGY:

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

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	<b>596</b> total visitors to the page <b>808</b> page views <b>15</b> new followers
Online survey	<b>20</b> surveys completed
Letter box drop	<b>Letters</b> notifying residents of the project were posted to all residences within 1km of the Reserve
Direct contact from residents	<b>1 resident</b> contacted Council officers via email to give their <b>feedback</b> .
Youth workshop session	<b>8 attendees</b> . A lunchtime workshop was held at Tarneit Senior College in October, to engage with local youth and run through the design.
Skatepark review - YMCA	In November, YMCA (Action Sports area) were consulted via email to review the latest skate park drawings. They confirmed that the design looks good and will cater for a variety of riders.

Communications / marketing activities	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Online promotion (Facebook posts)	<b>3 posts</b> were made via Wyndham City's Facebook page, with a combined total of 573 engagements and 72 link clicks through to The Loop page.

## SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

The following table is a snapshot of feedback received and how it will shape the detailed design.

We Asked	You Said	We did
<p>1. What do you like about the concept design for Lawrie Emmins Reserve Gateway and Youth Precinct?</p>	<p>Feedback was positive, with respondents indicating that they liked the following aspects of the design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ample open space to promote activity / movement and social connection.</li> <li>• Variety of activities and sports are catered for.</li> <li>• Youth / teen focus – providing a meaningful place for them to enjoy.</li> <li>• Modern design.</li> <li>• Suitable location and walkability.</li> <li>• The skate park.</li> <li>• Seating areas.</li> <li>• Native planting and natural areas.</li> <li>• Toilet facilities and ample car parking.</li> </ul>	<p>These features / qualities will remain and have been further developed in the design.</p>
<p>2. Do you live nearby? How would you visit Lawrie Emmins Reserve Gateway and Youth Precinct?</p>	<p>From the 20 responses received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 would walk / run (45%).</li> <li>• 6 would get there by car (20%).</li> <li>• 2 would catch public transport (10%).</li> <li>• 2 would cycle (10%).</li> <li>• 1 would skate (5%).</li> </ul>	<p>Different modes of getting to the reserve are catered for in the proposal - with good pedestrian / cyclist connections and ample parking. Existing bus stops are also nearby – along Sayers Rd and Palmers Rd.</p>

<p>3. Who would you go with to Lawrie Emmins Reserve Gateway and Youth Precinct?</p>	<p>Answers received in order of preference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 with young children (25%).</li> <li>• 11 with friends (21%).</li> <li>• 10 as a family (19%).</li> <li>• 10 with teenage children (19%)</li> <li>• 8 with their dog (16%).</li> </ul>	<p>All options were equally popular, highlighting the diversity of groups and ages that will likely visit the reserve. The design will accommodate many activities that are family, youth, and dog (on lead) friendly – such as enjoying the outdoors, picnics, hanging out, events, group sports, working out etc.</p>
<p>4. If you visit Lawrie Emmins Reserve Gateway and Youth Precinct, what will you want to do?</p>	<p>Answers received in order of preference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hang out with friends (19.9%).</li> <li>• Walk your dog (16.2%).</li> <li>• Work out (15%).</li> <li>• Go to local events (15%)</li> <li>• Ride a bike (13.2%)</li> <li>• Skate / scoot (11.5%)</li> <li>• Climb (9.2%)</li> </ul>	<p>The design provides various opportunities for all activities. Via seating areas, open space for events and passive / active recreation, path networks, sports courts, skate park and potential climbing feature.</p>

<p>5. Is there anything we may have missed in our concept design or things we could do better?</p>	<p><b>Respondents requested that the following items are added to the proposal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis wall.</li> <li>• Tennis court.</li> <li>• Volleyball court.</li> <li>• Football posts to grass area.</li> <li>• Running track with distance markers.</li> <li>• Dog off-leash area.</li> <li>• Dog friendly furniture / fixtures, including drinking bowl, waste bags etc.</li> <li>• Playground - particularly for younger kids.</li> <li>• Water play.</li> <li>• Safety measures, such as CCTV and additional lighting.</li> <li>• Additional car park spaces.</li> <li>• Right-hand turn option from Sayers Rd.</li> <li>• Furniture items such as bike racks and bins.</li> </ul>	<p>Additional sports courts / walls cannot be accommodated due to limited space. The open grass area can be used for informal games of soccer, football etc. For volleyball, in-ground sleeves (for BYO nets) will likely be provided.</p> <p>As per the adopted Lawrie Emmins Reserve Master Plan - a running track is proposed at the future wetland next door (to the east).</p> <p>A dog off-leash area is not appropriate for this area, due to the busy roads nearby and insufficient space for a fenced zone. Dog bowls will be provided with each drinking fountain. Dogs can continue to be walked off-leash further east in the reserve, near the archery range. Dog waste bags are only provided at fenced off-leash areas.</p> <p>As per the adopted Lawrie Emmins Reserve Master Plan – a future playground is proposed to the east. Water play may be considered there. Some existing playgrounds nearby are along Kingsbridge Boulevard and Jupiter Drive.</p> <p>The proposed works include lighting to the carpark, as well as electrical provisions throughout (for future CCTV and further lighting – TBC as part of separate works).</p> <p>The car park layout and entrances have been designed as per Traffic Engineering advice and existing road constraints. Potential overflow parking or additional spaces will be reviewed.</p> <p>These are standard inclusions and will be provided at the site.</p>
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	<p><b>Feedback also highlighted the importance of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connection to nature.</li> <li>• Native flora and habitat / corridors for fauna.</li> <li>• Inclusivity – welcoming people from diverse cultures, abilities, genders, interests etc.</li> <li>• Connection to country.</li> <li>• Shared paths connections - with the Federation Trail and along Sayers Rd.</li> </ul>	<p>While the focus of this site is to provide areas for recreation and socializing, opportunities for planting (including indigenous species) will be maximised. As per the adopted Master Plan for the overall reserve, the future Wetland and Arboretum will provide expansive green space for local plants and fauna.</p> <p>The design / space aims to cater for the community as a whole. Themes of connection to country and diversity will be explored further in the broader reserve (especially in the future Arboretum and Community Precinct) – through artwork, landscape themes, interpretative signage etc. In terms of accessibility, the proposal will have appropriately designed surfaces, seating and activities. The space will also cater for various interests (not just sports / recreation) through the provision of seating and shelter - to socialise, hang out, relax and spend time outside.</p> <p>Good connectivity will be provided within the site. Shared path connections heading east along Sayers Road will be reviewed as the overall Master Plan works progress</p>
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<p><b>6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?</b></p>	<p>Any repeated requests or feedback have been captured under the previous question above.</p> <p>Additional feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries regarding nearby public transport stops.</li> <li>• For the skatepark to be designed by experts.</li> <li>• Robust features and materials to be used.</li> </ul>	<p>We offer the following response:</p> <p>Nearby bus stops include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Along Palmers Road, around 180m south of the reserve.</li> <li>- Along Sayers Rd, around 300m west of the reserve.</li> </ul> <p>The plan has been developed by consultants who specialise in skatepark design. YMCA (Action Sports area) have reviewed the plans.</p> <p>Robust / quality features and materials will be specified for longevity and ease of maintenance.</p>
<p><b>Youth Workshop Summary</b></p> <p>The session entailed a presentation of the design and key features, followed by an open forum to collect feedback.</p>	<p>Key requests / feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating spaces for talking and hanging out.</li> <li>• Study spaces.</li> <li>• Different areas to move around and do a variety of stuff.</li> <li>• Facilities for events and family gatherings.</li> <li>• Tennis / soccer / volleyball.</li> <li>• Play space for younger siblings.</li> </ul>	<p>The space will be well equipped for all of these - with ample seating, shelter, large open spaces, barbeque facilities, toilets and power points.</p> <p>The formal sports courts will cater for basketball and netball.</p> <p>The open grass area can be used for informal games of soccer, football etc. For volleyball, in-ground sleeves (for BYO nets) will likely be provided.</p> <p>As per the adopted Lawrie Emmins Reserve Master Plan – a new playground is proposed further to the east.</p>



## NEXT STEPS:

Feedback has been incorporated into the design process as summarised earlier.

The below table outlines the next steps for the project.

Next Steps	Comments
Stages of the project	<p><u>Detailed design:</u> The design has now been detailed and documented in readiness for Tender in early 2023.</p> <p><u>Construction:</u> Planned to commence in mid-2023. This is the stage of the project where the proposed design is built. Access to the space will be limited during construction.</p>
How can participants stay involved/informed?	<p>Participants can stay informed with updates available on Council's Capital Works Dashboard <a href="https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/capitalworksdashboard">https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/capitalworksdashboard</a>.</p>
Contact details for further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council contact: Ana Stanic</li><li>• Email: <a href="mailto:LandscapeDesign@wyndham.vic.gov.au">LandscapeDesign@wyndham.vic.gov.au</a></li><li>• Phone: 9742 0777 (speak to the Open Space Community Engagement Officer)</li></ul>