



# City of Melbourne

## Royal Park Master Plan Refresh

### Stage Two Engagement Findings Report

## Acknowledgement

ChatterBox Projects respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land known as the City of Melbourne/Naarm, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

|                |                                                                                                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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## Partners



## Executive summary

The Draft Royal Park Master Plan has been developed by City of Melbourne ('Council') in partnership with the community, stakeholders, Traditional Owners and other park users through extensive consultation to guide the management of the park for the next 20 years.

Extensive community and stakeholder consultation has been conducted over two stages.

Phase One, which took place from 6 November to 10 December 2023, was supported by a discussion paper and received a broad range of feedback from almost 1,900 community members. This feedback, along with detailed research and analysis by Council, informed the development of the Draft Royal Park Master Plan (Master Plan).

Phase Two, which is the subject of this report, took place over four months, from November 2024 to February 2025.

Phase Three includes addressing concerns raised by the community in Phase 2 and ensuring Council takes the time to get the master plan right.

Council engaged ChatterBox Projects to support the delivery of both Phase One and Phase Two of the engagement. ADSF Research independently analysed the feedback from Phase Two engagement and prepared this report.

This report presents findings from the analysis of the Stage Two engagement feedback.

### Map 1: Map of Royal Park



## Engagement activities - what we did

Stage Two engagement activities included:

- a survey (available in hardcopy, see Appendix 1, and online via Council's online engagement platform [Participate Melbourne](#));
- pop-ups.
- meetings, workshops and information sessions with key stakeholders and the community.
- email and written submissions.

## Participation - how many participants provided feedback

Council's promotional campaign and efforts to inform the community achieved significant reach, including:

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | The engagement activities were effective in obtaining feedback from approximately 1,839 participants in total across all engagement methods |
|    | 1,243 survey responses (online and hard copy)                                                                                               |
|   | 350 participants at the four place-based pop-up engagement events                                                                           |
|  | 37 stakeholders attending workshops                                                                                                         |
|  | 9 community members attending an online information session                                                                                 |
|  | 151 unique written submissions and 425 who signed one of two group submissions                                                              |

## Participation profile - who we heard from

Through the survey form, we heard from:

- majority residents of City of Melbourne (65%);
- all age groups under 90 years, with higher participation by those aged 25 to 39 years (9% aged 25 to 29 years, 15% aged 30 to 34 years, and 12% aged 35 to 39 years);
- a mix of genders (50% men, 42% women, and 2% non-binary/gender diverse/other term); and
- participants with diverse characteristics including:
  - 17% born overseas
  - 17% identify as LGBTIQ+
  - 7% identify as a person with disability or a carer of someone with disability
  - 3% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
  - 1% international students.
- Participants with a variety of connections to Royal Park including visitors (19%), employees of local businesses or organisations located within next to or near Royal Park (6%), and students (2%).

## Key findings

Broad sentiments through comments in the survey, submissions, petitions, workshops and pop-ups included:

- Call for a stronger emphasis within the Master Plan in general for protection of the environment for passive recreation in open space, focusing on this being needed for a growing population to support mental health through connection to nature, and provide space for recreation activities for those who don't play sport:
  - 54% of submissions (81 submissions) emphasised the need for putting nature first.
  - 23% of submissions (34 submissions) talked about the value of the wild bushland character.
  - 20% of survey respondents (250 respondents) wrote a comment about the need to protect or increase the bushland and wild landscape feel of the park.
- Call for stronger biodiversity protections and planning to support the wildlife that live in the park, including avoiding fragmentation of bushland and grassland areas with paths, and keeping the park dark at night:
  - 46% of submissions (70 submissions) raised the need for greater biodiversity planning and coverage.
  - 17% of survey respondents (210 respondents) wrote in a comment about the need to protect space for wildlife and protect/enhance biodiversity, and 12% (148 respondents) wrote in a comment about preserving the dark sky (88 included both of these topics in their comment).
- Contrasting views regarding expansion of formal sports facilities:
  - 54% of submissions (81 submissions) indicated that they didn't want any expansion of sports facilities, with a suggestion that spaces be found for these facilities outside of Royal Park, where they won't be removing or interfering with natural wild spaces.
  - 14% of survey respondents (177 respondents) included a comment calling for less emphasis on or opposition for expanding sports fields.
  - 8% of survey respondents (101 respondents), 7% of submissions (11 submissions) and 426 signatures across 2 petitions supported the expansion of sporting facilities to cater for a growing population.
  - Meetings with sports-related stakeholder groups shared insights that some sports clubs had grown beyond the capacity of the existing infrastructure, and/or were experiencing limitations in current infrastructure.
  - To note: Some attendees at one of the pop-ups were prompted to attend after receiving a non-Council letter about the project, which appeared to exaggerate the extent of proposed sports fields and recreation interventions. After receiving accurate information at the pop-up, these individuals came to view the master plan as more balanced.

- Document scope feedback:
  - 9% of submissions (14 submissions) called for landscape architect design input into the planning of spaces.
  - 9% of submissions (14 submissions) called for more detailed evidence and data regarding passive use of the space and biodiversity values.
  - Other suggestions included integrating elements of the Master Plan to better demonstrate the potential environmental impacts of actions, and ensuring that the Plan can provide guidance for future large scale infrastructure projects (e.g. public transport upgrades).

## Vision feedback

### Vision for Royal Park

The draft 20-year vision for Royal Park is to:

- **Protect** Royal Park as a natural, expansive place where all people feel safe and welcome to experience its unique history and distinctive Australian landscape.
- **Preserve** Royal Park as a place for nature, sport, recreation and storytelling.
- **Invite** Melburnians to embrace its rich and living Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung history and cultural values.

When presented with the draft vision, most survey respondents and pop-up participants said they love it or like it, although written responses in the survey suggest that many respondents were thinking about the overall plan when answering, rather than just the vision component.

**53%**

Love or like it (survey)

Many (43%) of the 578 respondents who rated the vision in a positive manner did not provide any comment to explain their answer. Those who did provide a comment raised a range of topics that they liked (related to the broader plan as well as the vision itself), including support for disc golf (11% of those who loved or liked it), the balance between formal and informal recreation (10%), support for First Nations culture and recognition (9%), expansion of sports facilities (8%), and protection of the environment (6%) and/or biodiversity (4%).

**29%**

Don't or really don't like it (survey)

Of the 312 who said they didn't like the vision the main reasons given were that it didn't provide strong enough protections for bushland (37%) and/or wildlife (34%), with a call for less emphasis on sport (29%) and/or preserving the Dark Sky (24%). 13% (41 survey respondents) of those who did not support wanted to leave the park as is with no changes.

**18%**

Not sure (survey)

Of the 191 respondents who weren't sure how to rate the vision, 18% felt bushland needed to be preserved, 15% had concerns about the consultation process, and 13% wanted less emphasis on sports fields.

**97%**

Positive in pop-ups

At the pop-ups, the general community was very supportive of the vision with 97% of 71 total dots indicating they love it or like it.

Through the submissions, there were 81 individuals (54% of submissions) who suggested that the vision should be prioritising nature and un-structured passive use above development, with more emphasis on links to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values (9 submissions) and delivering holistic biodiversity values across the whole park (70 submissions). Submissions emphasised what they described as extensive use of the space for passive recreation, and the benefits of access to open space and bushland for mental health as well as wildlife.

Through the petitions, 160 people supported the recommendation that "Acknowledge, build and support community stewardship" be added, and 265 showed support for the recommendation that the plan acknowledges the challenges of community sport and increase resources for sport.

## Theme and action feedback

In the survey, respondents were asked to rate their most preferred action under each theme, and then the extent to which they support each action. In the pop-ups, participants were asked to pick their top 2 most important themes, and then their top 7 actions across all actions in the Plan. The following shows a summary of these preferences.

The online survey included a total of two comment boxes (i.e. open-ended survey questions), one question early in the survey focused on the draft vision and a second question towards the end of the survey seeking more general feedback. Many comments provided to the first open ended question related to the draft plan more broadly, rather than the draft vision specifically. Reference to number and/or percentage of comments in survey responses in the following summary refers to comments across both comment boxes provided in the survey combined, to provide a holistic measure of coverage of topics.

### Theme 1: Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination

|            |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>57%</b> | Preferred <i>Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage)</i> (survey) | In the survey comments, there was concern that these actions may not have been developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.<br>Others in the survey comments and submissions suggested that respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and connection should be an overarching principle of the whole document, with consultation with this community informing any decision making and actions relating to the Park. |
| <b>79%</b> | Supported <i>Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage)</i> (survey) | 48% selected this as one of their top 7 actions in the pop-ups.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>64%</b> | Supported <i>Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange</i> (survey)              | 44% selected this as one of their top 7 actions in the pop-ups.<br>Through survey comments and submissions, some indicated that they wanted more information about what this was and how it would work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>32%</b> | Selected Theme 1 as one of the two most important themes in the Plan (pop-ups)                                      | This percentage is based on n=79 participants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### Theme 2: Caring for nature

|            |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>47%</b> | Preferred <i>Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park</i> (survey) | 74% of pop-up respondents selected this action as one of their top 7.<br>70 submissions put forth suggestions that biodiversity should be a holistic layer across the whole park, rather than only in fragmented areas. |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|            |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>36%</b> | Preferred <i>Grow the park by creating more green space</i> (survey)                                                        | <p>53% of pop-up respondents selected this action as one of their top 7.</p> <p>Whilst more than half survey respondents supported this action (63%), 23% were not supportive or really not supportive. The lack of support was mainly from park users (including sports clubs) who emphasised the importance of car parking around Ransford Oval and Poplar Road, and access through Park Street and The Avenue for their recreational pursuits.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>17%</b> | Preferred <i>Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing</i> (survey) | <p>49% of pop-up respondents selected this action as one of their top 7.</p> <p>Whilst in the survey this was preferred less often than the other two actions, it elicited the most support, with 89% of survey respondents indicating they were very supportive or supportive.</p> <p>20% of survey respondents called for a need to better protect the natural environment in the plan, and/or protect and increase space for wildlife. A range of concerns were raised in the submissions specific to Dark Park (limit lighting, 67 submissions), avoiding paved paths (52 submissions) and no additional sports facilities (81 submissions).</p> |
| <b>63%</b> | Selected Theme 2 as one of the two most important themes in the Plan (pop-ups)                                              | This percentage is based on n=79 participants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### Theme 3: Recreation and community wellbeing

|            |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>53%</b> | preferred <i>Improve playspaces in Royal Park</i> (survey)                                                                              | 65% survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, although only 23% of pop-up respondents chose this in their top 7 of all actions within the Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>33%</b> | Preferred <i>Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields and develop associated support facilities at Lawn 7</i> (survey) | <p>Although over half of survey respondents supported this action (52%), there were 13 submissions calling for this area not to be developed (compared to 2 who specifically supported it), primarily due to the potential loss of habitat for animals (including the swift parrot), and net loss of passive use green space across the entire Park.</p> <p>7% of pop-up respondents selected this as one of their top 7 actions in the Plan.</p> |
| <b>32%</b> | Preferred <i>Support other informal recreation uses within the park including disc golf and orienteering</i> (survey)                   | There was a notable contingency of survey respondents who supported disc golf (88 comments, 7%). However, in both the survey (10 comments) and the submissions (11 submissions) a concern was raised about the potential safety of other park users from disc golf, and impact on infrastructure and pathways on the natural elements of the park.                                                                                                |
| <b>32%</b> | Preferred <i>Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area</i> (survey)                                                       | <p>45% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, and 58% selected this as one of their top 7 actions in the pop-ups.</p> <p>However, 34% of survey respondents did not support this action, with some raising concerns about safety (particularly for children) and uncollected dog poo.</p>                                                                                                                       |

**30%** Preferred *Partially re-design the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility* (survey)

49% of survey respondents supported or strongly supported this action (only 25% opposed), and 30% of pop-up participants selected it in their top 7 actions.

Submissions and additional comments suggest that the pedestrian bridge over the rail line is the primary part of this action that is supported, with comments suggesting it will be important that the bridge is designed to be appropriate and safe for all uses (including golf buggies) and not damage the ecosystem. Comments suggest that mini-golf has lesser support (15 survey respondents wrote in a comment against mini golf, compared to 5 comments supporting it).

Through survey comments and submissions, Golf club members and managers were particularly supportive of an upgrade to the clubrooms (to increase usability) and improved infrastructure such as seating and paths. However, there were comments in the survey indicating that further information about the particulars of the mini golf concept would be required to identify whether that would be supported.

**21%** Preferred *create multi-use game areas such as cricket nets, basketball and netball rings* (survey)

42% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, however a similar proportion (43%) were not supportive or really not supportive. 10% of pop-up participants selected this as one of their top 7.

Whilst cricket clubs in Royal Park were supportive of upgrades and extensions to cricket nets for club use (and public access outside of club usage times), there were limited comments in the survey or submissions pertaining to basketball or netball rings.

In the survey, 14% of respondents provided a comment about wanting less of an emphasis on sports, and 81 of the submissions suggested that sports facilities not be extended, with suggestions of a range of alternative locations for these facilities such as Arden precinct and Docklands.

Conversely, 11 submissions and one petition (265 signatories) were supportive of upgrading and/or extending sports facilities to cater for increased need with a growing population.

**38%** Selected Theme 3 as one of the two most important themes in the Plan (pop-ups)

This percentage is based on n=79 participants.

#### Theme 4: Visitor experience

**46%** Preferred *Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park* (survey)

81% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, and 57% selected this as one of their top 7 at the pop-ups.

**18%** Preferred *Safe evening route to public transport* (survey)

69% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, yet only 12% selected it in their top 7 at the pop-ups. 19% of survey respondents were not supportive or really not supportive of this action.

4% of survey respondents wrote in comments in support of more lighting (to improve safety and extend hours of potential use).

|            |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            |                                                                                                                   | <p>However 2% indicated that the safety improvements through lighting are overestimated, and as reported under Theme 2, 12% want to preserve the Dark Sky by limiting any additional lighting, or carefully planning lighting systems so they don't have a negative impact on wildlife.</p> <p>67 submissions mentioned the need for limiting any lighting to maintain a Dark Park. On the topic of lighting, some submissions made suggestions that Dark Sky could be enhanced through better programming of sports field lighting so that it was only in use when the grounds were being used.</p>                |
| <b>18%</b> | Preferred <i>Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe</i> (survey) | <p>76% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, with 28% of pop-up participants selecting it as one of their top 7.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>18%</b> | Preferred <i>Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail</i> (survey)             | <p>69% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, whilst 20% were not supportive or really not supportive. 19% of pop-up respondents selected this as one of their top 7 actions.</p> <p>Capital City Trail was often mentioned in relation to the need for separation of cyclists and pedestrians for improved safety (15 submissions, 18 survey responses). Capital City Trail was also occasionally mentioned in submissions and survey responses when raising concerns about additional lighting or extended infrastructure potentially having a negative impact on wildlife.</p> |
| <b>16%</b> | Selected Theme 4 as one of the two most important themes in the Plan (pop-ups)                                    | <p>This percentage is based on n=79 participants.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Theme 5: Movement to and through the park

|            |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>50%</b> | Preferred <i>Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public</i> (survey) | <p>72% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, with 82% of pop-up respondents selecting this as one of the top 7 actions.</p> <p>The Dark Sky principles were highly valued by many respondents and submissions (67 submissions), although some expressed concerns whether this would be achievable without impacting on wildlife.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>33%</b> | Preferred <i>Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park</i> (survey)              | <p>67% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, with 33% of pop-up respondents selecting this as one of the top 7 actions.</p> <p>Those who were concerned about over-development of the park were broadly against the addition of any additional paths (7% survey respondents and 52 submissions) due to the potential impact on biodiversity through fragmenting of ecological spaces, and potential increases in 'heat island effect'. There was a suggestion that existing paths around the outside of the park could be used for circuits without the need for installing additional lighting infrastructure in the bushland areas. There was particular resistance</p> |

to perceived paved paths through the grass circle (4% survey respondents, 39 submissions).

**17%** Preferred *Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road* (survey)

52% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, with more than a quarter (28%) being unsure. 24% of pop-up respondents selected this as one of the top 7 actions.

**38%** Selected Theme 5 as one of the two most important themes in the Plan (pop-ups)

This percentage is based on n=79 participants.

## Theme 6: Parking, roads and transport

**65%** Preferred *Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park* (survey)

67% of survey respondents were very supportive or supportive of this action, with 11% of pop-up respondents selecting this as one of the top 7 actions.

Whilst this action received broad support through the survey, 7% of survey respondents and many sports group submissions suggested that this could be problematic as it would reduce the ability for their members to attend training and games when they need to carry heavy equipment. Indeed, an independent report by a transport specialist submitted as part of the State Netball and Hockey submission suggested that overflow parking needed to be retained in some areas. Some survey comments and submissions suggested that whilst car parks may not always be full, they will be used during events and popular activities.

Some of those concerned about the protection of nature within the park mentioned not wanting additional paved parking to be added as it could have a negative impact on biodiversity.

**34%** Preferred *Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hr along roads through and around Royal Park* (survey)

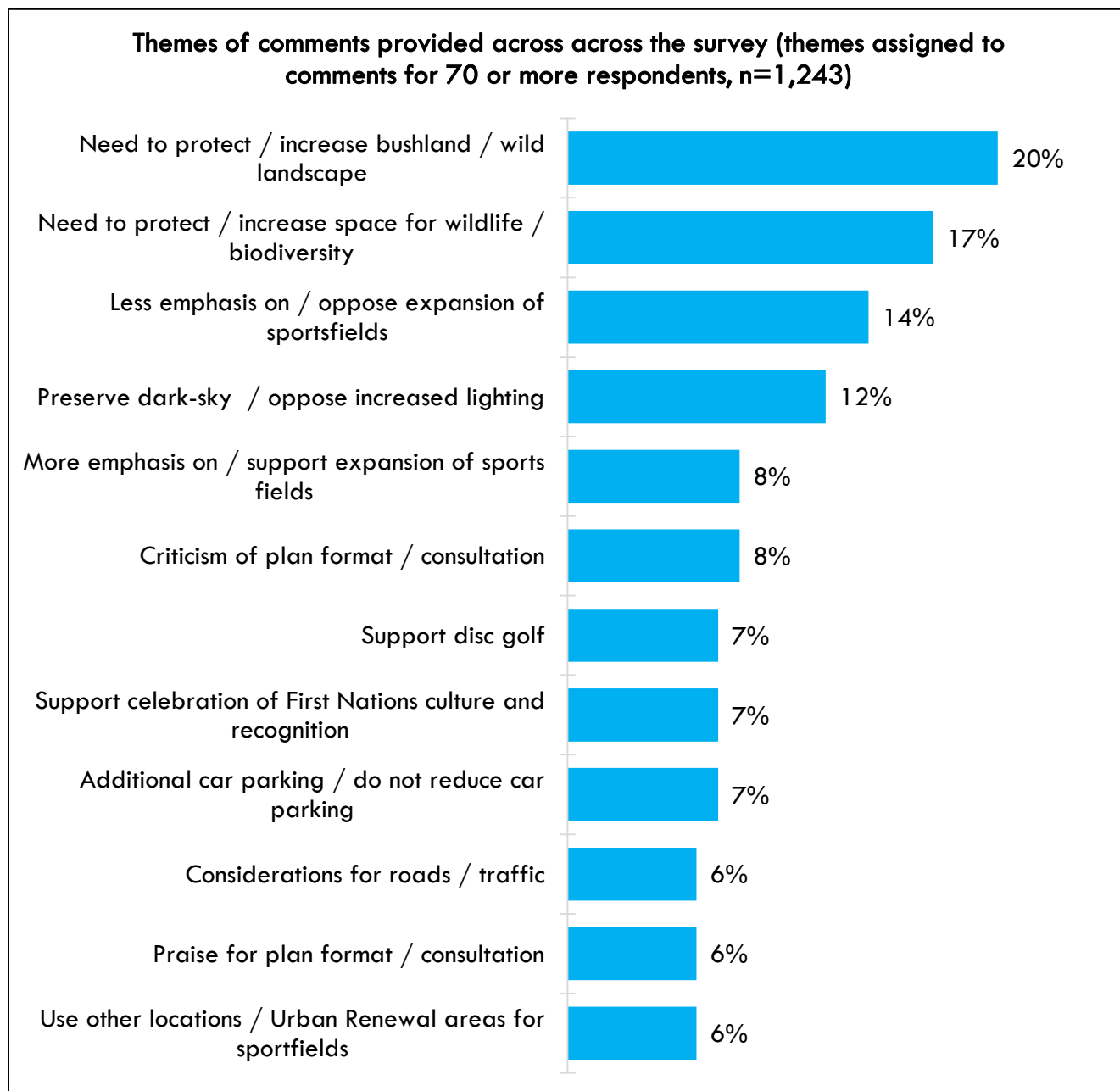
60% of survey responses were very supportive or supportive of this action, with 17% of pop-up respondents selecting this as one of the top 7 actions.

**10%** Selected Theme 6 as one of the two most important themes in the Plan (pop-ups)

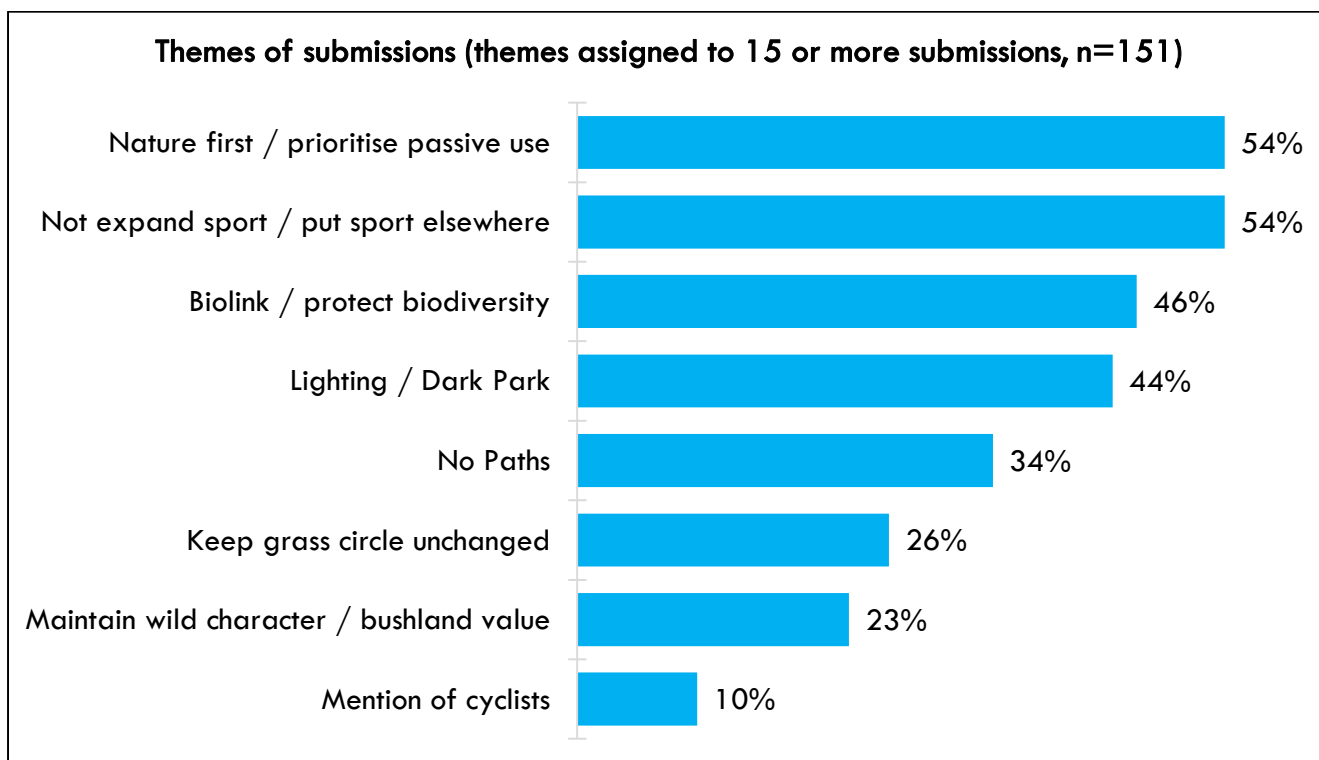
This percentage is based on n=79 participants.

## Written feedback

All comments made in response to the two open-ended questions in the survey were combined and analysed into themes (allowing for multiple themes to be assigned to each comment). Overall, the top themes covered in the survey comments were related to protecting bushland and space for wildlife.



Submissions were also grouped into themes (multiple themes could be assigned per submission), with prioritising nature and not expanding sport being the two most frequently covered topics.



The 2 petitions (425 signatories) covered the following themes:

- **Increasing need for sport facilities:** Acknowledge the challenges community sport will face in building capacity and capability in line with community sporting needs with an increasing population.
- **Enhance cricket facilities:** Including maintenance plans for turf wickets and redevelopment and expansion of caged cricket nets (for cricket only, not multi-use which could reduce access for cricket). One petition also suggested adding a turf wicket at Lawn 7 and perimeter fencing at Walker East and West ovals (265 signatories).
- **Safety:** Concern that the proposed nature play location next to Ransford oval could result in user injury from cricket balls.
- **Car parking:** Keep car parking around Ransford oval as it is required for those transporting heavy sporting equipment.
- **Stewardship:** Suggestion that the principles be revised to recognise the stewardship of sport and community organisations in protecting and preserving its values and making the park a safe and welcoming place (rather than categorising community sport as ‘users’ of the space). “Acknowledge, build and support community stewardship” (one petition with 160 signatories).
- **Appropriate location for sport:** Recognise that Royal Park is the most significant of 5 parkland areas available for community sport, out of a total of 15 parks surrounding the CBD (one petition with 265 signatories).

## Impact

Council acknowledges and values all submissions received during the consultation period. Each submission is being carefully reviewed, and the insights, concerns, and suggestions provided are playing a vital role in shaping the direction of the updated draft master plan. This community input is instrumental in ensuring the revised plan reflects local priorities, addresses key issues, and supports a shared vision for the future of Royal Park.

## Next steps

Council is now reviewing all submissions in detail to identify common themes, priorities, and areas for improvement. This feedback will directly inform revisions to the draft master plan. Once the updated plan is complete, it will be presented to Council for consideration.

Further opportunities for community engagement may be provided before the final plan is adopted. Updates will be shared via Council's Participate Melbourne website and social media channels to keep the community informed throughout the process.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the Stage two community engagement, which will inform the refinement and finalisation of the Draft Royal Park Master Plan.

## 1.2 Project background and context

The City of Melbourne (Council) is reviewing and refreshing the Royal Park Master Plan (Master Plan).

Royal Park has been successfully guided by two master plans, the current Plan developed in 1997 and the previous developed in 1984. Council's goal is to revise and update the current Master Plan, building on its success, while considering new challenges, research, contemporary practice and community values to create a document that will enable Royal Park to be effectively managed and protected for the next 20 years.

Challenges facing Royal Park today include:

- climate change;
- impacts to biodiversity;
- increased visitation numbers as Melbourne's population grows; and
- meeting the growing and changing needs of community members who are seeking out a variety of spaces in Royal Park to be active and connected.

The revised Master Plan aims to address gaps identified in previous documents, such as Aboriginal culture and heritage. Council has been working closely with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to identify Aboriginal cultural values in the park.

There are a range of inputs guiding and informing the refresh of the Master Plan including:

- State and Federal policy and legislation such as:
  - Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978;
  - Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006;
  - The Heritage Act 2017;
  - Planning and Environment Act 1987;
  - Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Victorian);
  - Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth); and
  - Victorian Heritage Register.
- Council adopted strategies, plans and policies such as the current Royal Park Master Plan, Nature in the City Strategy, Climate Change strategies, Parks Policy; and Council's Tree Policy
- Background studies including Conservation Management Plan, Ecology studies, recreation study, water investigations
- Extensive site visits by the project team; and
- Community and stakeholder feedback and ideas.

### 1.2.1 Previous community and stakeholder feedback and ideas

Over the past few years, Council has undertaken several studies and consultation activities to help understand community issues and current challenges relating to Royal Park. This work has included Data in the Park, the Community Safety Project and Intercept Surveys.

Priorities identified in this earlier community feedback include:

- increasing amenities in/ around the park like toilets, shade, play areas etc.;
- protecting open spaces and parks as well as increasing greening;

- improving safety in some locations within the park;
- increasing maintenance; and
- improving spaces for sports, recreation and dog owners.

To build on this feedback, Council undertook further engagement with the community and stakeholders over a five-week period during November and December 2023. Council released a Discussion Paper focused on eight main themes to start a conversation about the future of Royal Park with the community. This stage of engagement focussed on gathering feedback and ideas around the Discussion Paper themes to help inform the development of a refreshed draft Royal Park Master Plan. The findings from this engagement helped inform the development of a draft Master Plan.

Stage two engagement took place from November 2024 to the end of February 2025 and sought community and stakeholder feedback on the Draft Royal Park Master Plan.

This Report presents findings from the analysis of the Stage two community and stakeholder feedback. This feedback will be used to finalise the Master Plan which will be presented to the Future Melbourne Committee for endorsement later in 2025.

### 1.3 Engagement overview

The Stage two engagement was undertaken from November 2024 to February 2025 (10 weeks in total). The engagement program was designed to invite feedback from a broad cross-section of the City of Melbourne community (including specific target populations) on the draft Master Plan vision, themes and actions.

The engagement objectives for Stage two included:

- using a variety of engagement methods to raise awareness of the project and to ensure Council heard from a broad and diverse range of park users;
- educating stakeholders and community about the project to encourage informed and guided conversations using draft Master Plan themes;
- acknowledging and building on previous feedback in relation to Royal Park; and
- sustaining interest and connection to the project with community and stakeholders using a variety of community engagement methods.

The target population for this engagement included:

- park users;
- community groups supporting the park;
- sporting clubs operating within the park;
- landowners, managers, tenants with the park;
- surrounding residents and broader communities; and
- City of Melbourne residents who don't currently use Royal Park.

## 2 Engagement methodology

### 2.1 Engagement activities

ChatterBox Projects was engaged to support Council to Plan and deliver the Stage Two engagement program, to analyse the community and stakeholder feedback, and report the findings.

The following activities were delivered to gather feedback:

- survey (available in hardcopy and online via Council's Participate Melbourne engagement platform – <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/>) – see Appendix 1;
- four place-based pop-ups located across Royal Park;
- one in-person workshop for Royal Park landowners/ managers;
- two online workshops for sports clubs operating within Royal Park;
- one in person workshop with Friends of and specific Royal Park and resident groups;
- one online information session for the general community; and
- email/ written submissions.

This engagement was promoted and supported by a range of communication activities including:

- information on Council's Participate Melbourne engagement platform including a FAQ's, discussion paper, past feedback, and project timeline;
- e-update sent to community members who follow the Royal Park Master Plan page on Participate Melbourne;
- social media posts on Council's social media platforms as well as paid social media advertisements;
- corflute signage placed around Royal Park;
- direct notification/ emails to relevant community groups;
- information placed across Council's communications channels including e-newsletters; and
- posters and postcards placed at key facilities, businesses, and other locations.

#### 2.1.1 Survey

The survey was hosted on Council's *participate* Melbourne page (<https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/royal-park-master-plan-review>). The survey was designed to capture the following information. See Appendix 1 for a copy of the community survey.

- What do you think of the draft vision for Royal Park?
  - If you'd like, tell us why you made that selection
- For each of the 5 themes:
  - Which action do you think is the most important?
  - How supportive are you of these actions?
- If you have any additional feedback on the themes, actions or any general comments on the Draft Royal Park Master Plan, please share them here.

The survey also included a series of questions to gather relevant demographic and personal information.

The survey findings were analysed by demographics to identify *statistically significant variations*. This process uses a statistical technique to identify differences in results that are due to a real reason, rather than just by chance or due to low sample sizes. Where notable variations have been identified by gender or age, these have been included in the analysis.

## 2.12 Place based Pop-ups

The engagement program included four place-based pop-ups:

1. Friday 6 December (Western Oval, Park Street Parkville - Royal Park North)
2. Saturday 7 December (Grasslands Circle - Royal Park)
3. Wednesday 11 December (Poplar Road, Parkville)
4. Saturday 8 February 2025 (Nature Playspace)

The place-based pop-ups were located to capture and intercept community members using the many different areas and spaces across the park. They were held in often busy, high-traffic locations to intercept a high volume of participants as well as a wide range of park users.

Feedback at the pop-ups was gathered via dotmocracy boards (voting with dots to represent priorities), and a voting pod (voting with balls to represent priorities).

**The dotmocracy board** (where participants can place dots on a board to select their priorities) asked:

### What priority actions from the draft Master Plan are you most excited about?

Participants could select up to seven from the following options:

- Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange. (Theme 1)
- Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage). (Theme 1)
- Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park. (Theme 2)
- Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing. (Theme 2)
- Grow the park by creating more green space. Examples include: removing car parking around Ransford Oval, removing some gravel car parking along Poplar Road, closing part of the road at Park Street and The Avenue. (Theme 2)
- Improve playspaces in Royal Park. This includes: new playspace in Royal Park North, including a new public toilet; an expansion of accessible play features at Nature Play in Royal Park South; an update to the playspace in Royal Park West. (Theme 3)
- Create multi-use game areas including cricket nets, basketball and netball rings. (Theme 3)
- Support other informal recreation uses within the park including disc golf and orienteering. (Theme 3)
- Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area. (Theme 3)
- Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility. (Theme 3)
- Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields and develop associated support facilities (like toilets, shelters, pavilions) at Lawn 7 south of the State Netball and Hockey Centre. (Theme 3)
- Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe. (Theme 4)

- Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park like seats, shade structures, drinking fountains, toilets and bins. (Theme 4)
- Provide a safe evening route to public transport by exploring how the path lighting from Urban Camp to existing lit paths within the State Netball and Hockey Centre grounds can be improved. (Theme 5)
- Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail, including lighting, seating, drinking fountains and bike repair stations. (Theme 5)
- Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park. (Theme 5)
- Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public transport. (Theme 5)
- Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road. (Theme 6)
- Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park. (Theme 6)
- Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hour along roads through and around Royal Park. (Theme 6)

### What do you think of the draft vision for Royal Park?

Participants could select one from the following:



The voting pod (where participants can select an option by placing a ball into a tube) asked:

### Which two key themes from the draft Master Plan are the most important to you?

Participants could choose up to two from the following options:

- Celebrating Aboriginal culture
- Caring for nature
- Recreation and community wellbeing
- Visitor experience
- Movement to and through the park
- Parking, roads and transport

This tool provided an interactive way of encouraging the community to think about Royal Park and engage in the project. The pop-up activities reflected the questions in the survey to ensure consistency in data collection and analysis.

Not all pop-up attendees completed all activities, therefore the sample sizes reported throughout will vary.

## 2.1.2 Workshops and information sessions

- Two online workshops were held with sporting clubs on Wednesday 27 November at 6pm (11 participants) and Thursday 28 November at 6pm (13 participants).
- Two in-person information/workshop sessions were delivered on:
  - Friends of groups on Monday 19 November at 6pm, with 9 participants from Friends of Royal Park, Royal Park Protection Group, Protectors of Public Land and Parkville Residents Association;
  - Land owner / managers meeting on Wednesday 27 November at 10am, with 4 participants from the Melbourne Zoo, golf course and state sports centre.

## 2.2 Level of participation and participation profile

The engagement activities were effective in seeking feedback from over 1,800 participants and the overall reach of communications was far greater. An overview of participation outcomes is presented below.

**Table 1. Overview of communication and engagement activities with participation outcomes**

| Engagement activities                    | Participation outcomes                                           |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Survey (online and hard copy)            | 1,243                                                            |
| Written submissions                      | 198 (including 48 with the same text from different individuals) |
| 4 x place-based pop-ups                  | 350 (approximate)                                                |
| 3 x stakeholder workshops and meetings   | 37                                                               |
| 1 x online community information session | 9                                                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>1,837</b>                                                     |

| Communications activities (inform and raise awareness)    |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Visitors to Participate Melbourne project page            | 10,307 |
| Views of the Participate Melbourne project page           | 27,526 |
| Downloads of the Draft Plan or Fact Sheet                 | 5,889  |
| Click through to the project page from social media posts | 1,415  |

Please note: Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity. Not everyone who attended pop-ups completed all activities.

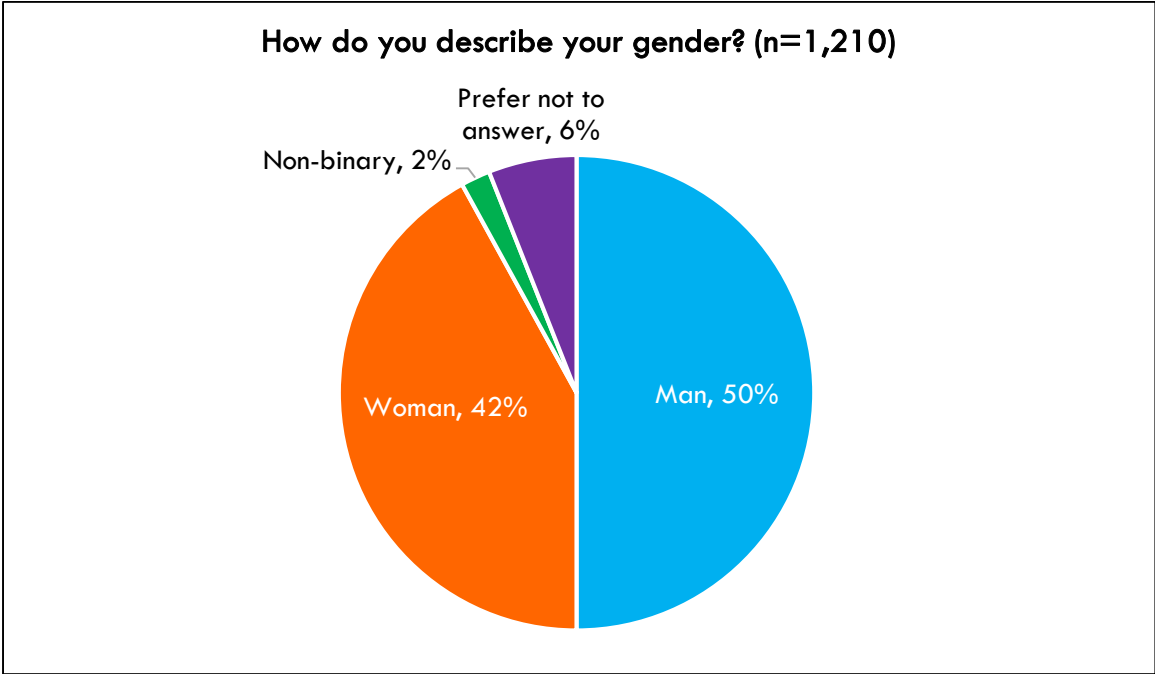
## 2.2.1 Detailed demographic information

Based on the number of interactions online through the survey, written submissions, and in-person through the pop ups and workshops, around 1,839 participants provided feedback during this consultation. The survey was the most comprehensive data gathering activity, capturing demographic information as well as in-depth feedback on key topics of interest. This section of the report presents the demographic profile for participants. Demographic questions in the survey were optional. The sample size for each question (N) is indicated in graph titles. Not all engagement activities captured participant demographic information or the same information, so this profile is mostly based on the survey (combined online, hard copy, and student versions) unless stated otherwise.

This engagement project was not specifically designed to capture a sample with distribution representative of the population distribution. However Appendix 2 shows coverage compared to the City of Melbourne population.

**Gender:** Figure 1 shows participation by men (601 or 50%) and women (510 or 42%). Twenty-three participants (1.9%) identified as non-binary/gender diverse, and 5 (0.4%) use another term.

Figure 1 Gender of participants (Survey)



**Age:** Figure 2 and 3 show all age groups were represented. Many survey respondents were aged 15-34 (30%). Younger voices were also represented and captured via the survey and place-based pop-up engagement (Figure 3). Pop-up activities (Voting pod and Dotmocracy) engaged 36 participants aged under 30 years, noting some individuals may have participated in more than one activity.

Figure 2 Age of participants (Survey)

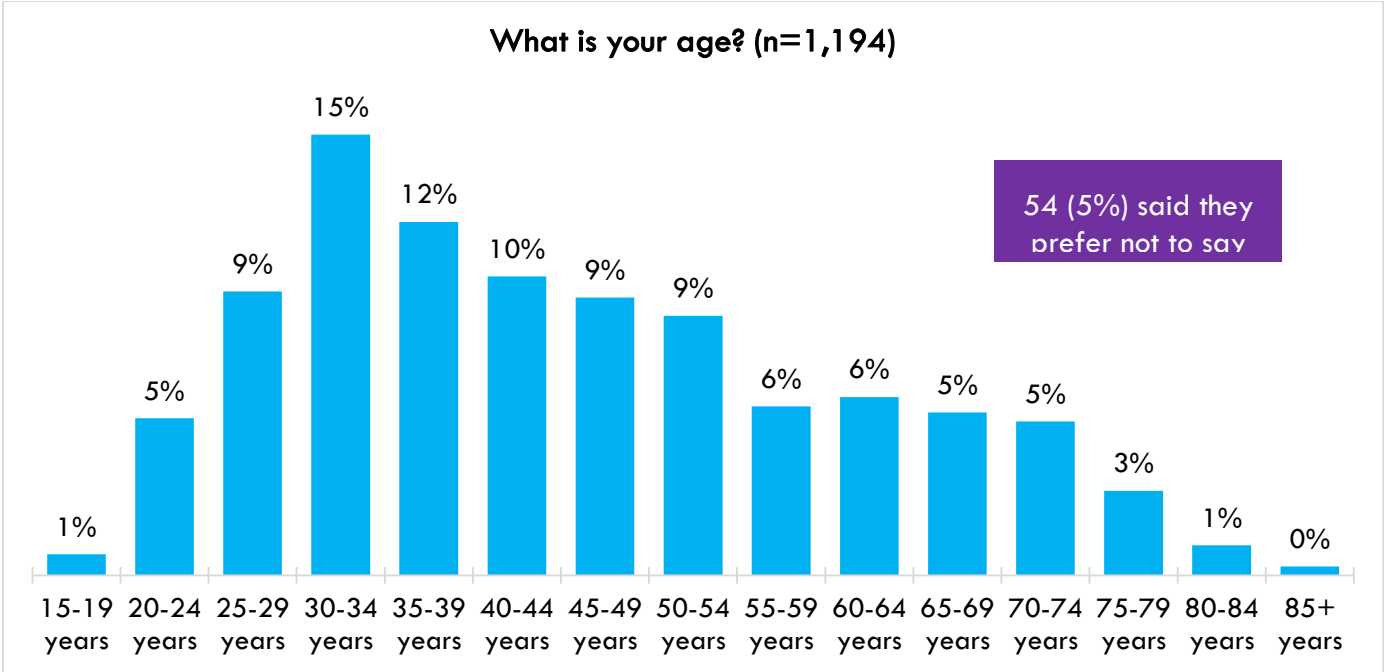
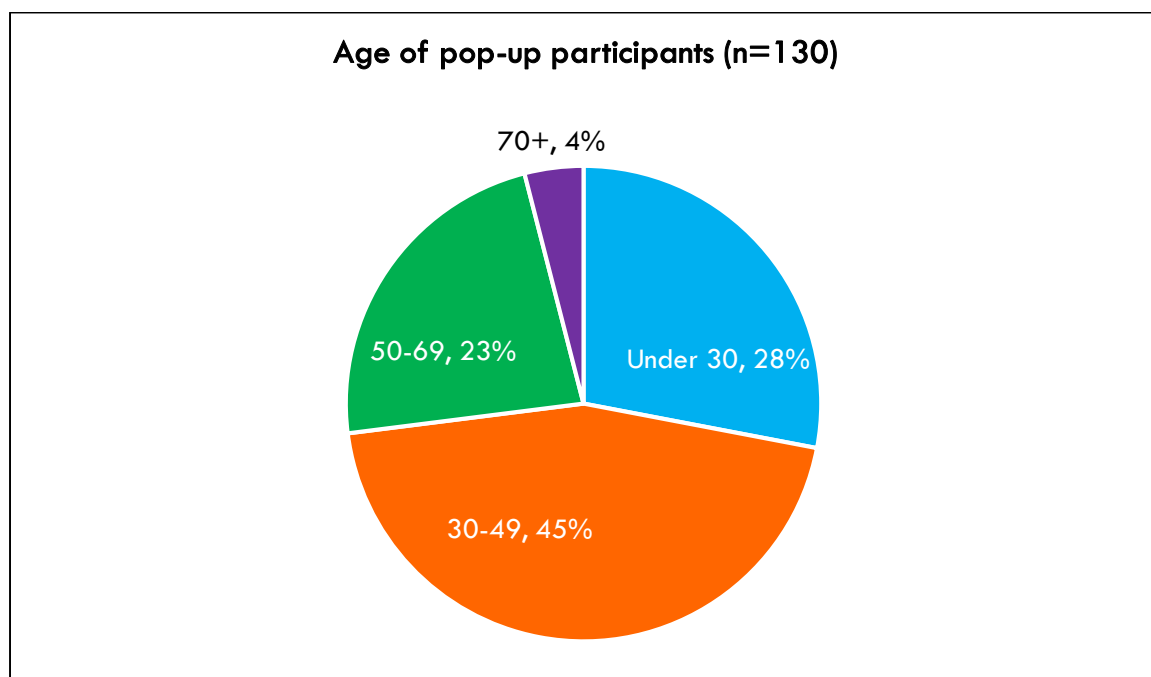
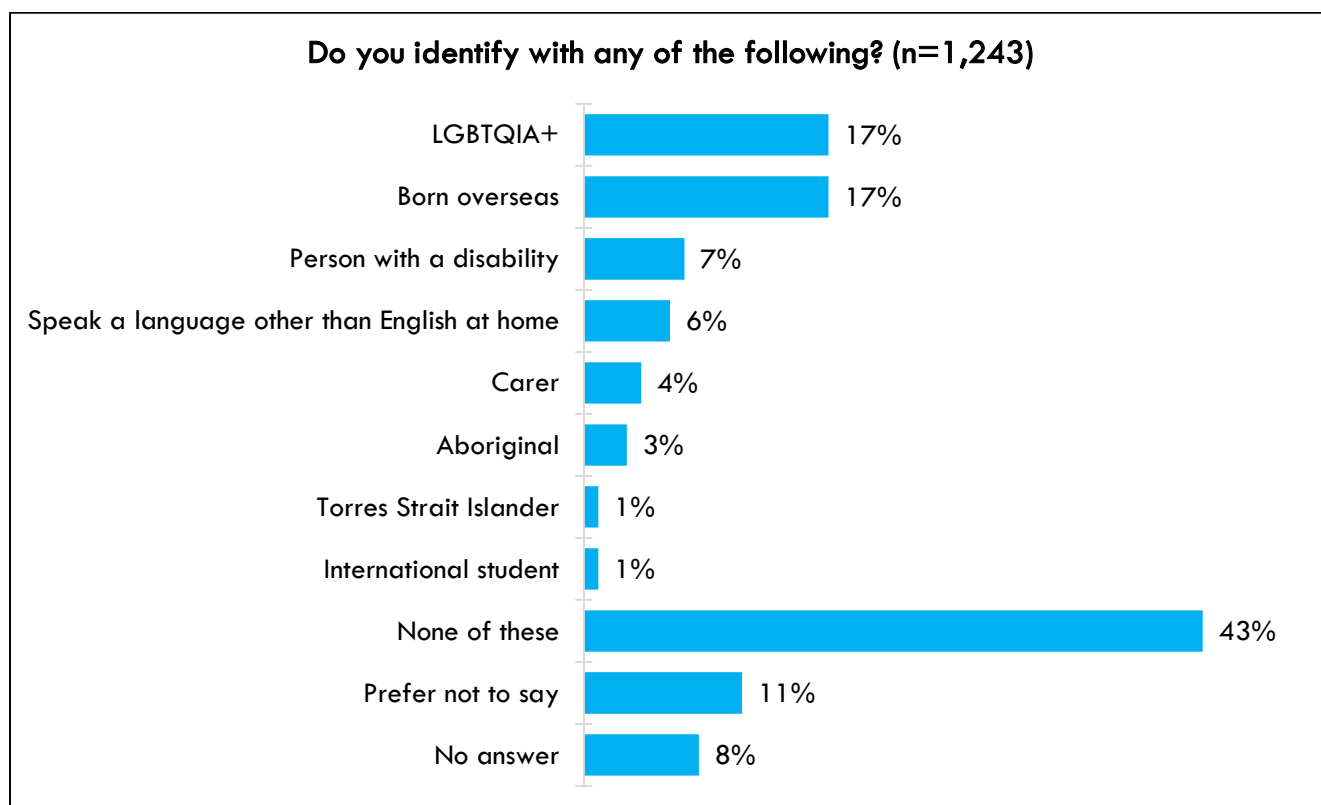


**Figure 3 Age of participants (Pop-ups)**



**Diversity:** Figure 4 shows the diversity characteristics of survey respondents. 1,145 participants provided a response of which 488 selected one or more diversity characteristics. Percentages have been calculated based on all respondents, rather than just those who answered the question, to provide a more accurate proportion for each category. Among the highest representation in these categories were those who identify as LGBTIQ+ (17% of 1,243 respondents) and those born overseas (17%).

**Figure 4 Diversity and other characteristics of participants (Survey)**



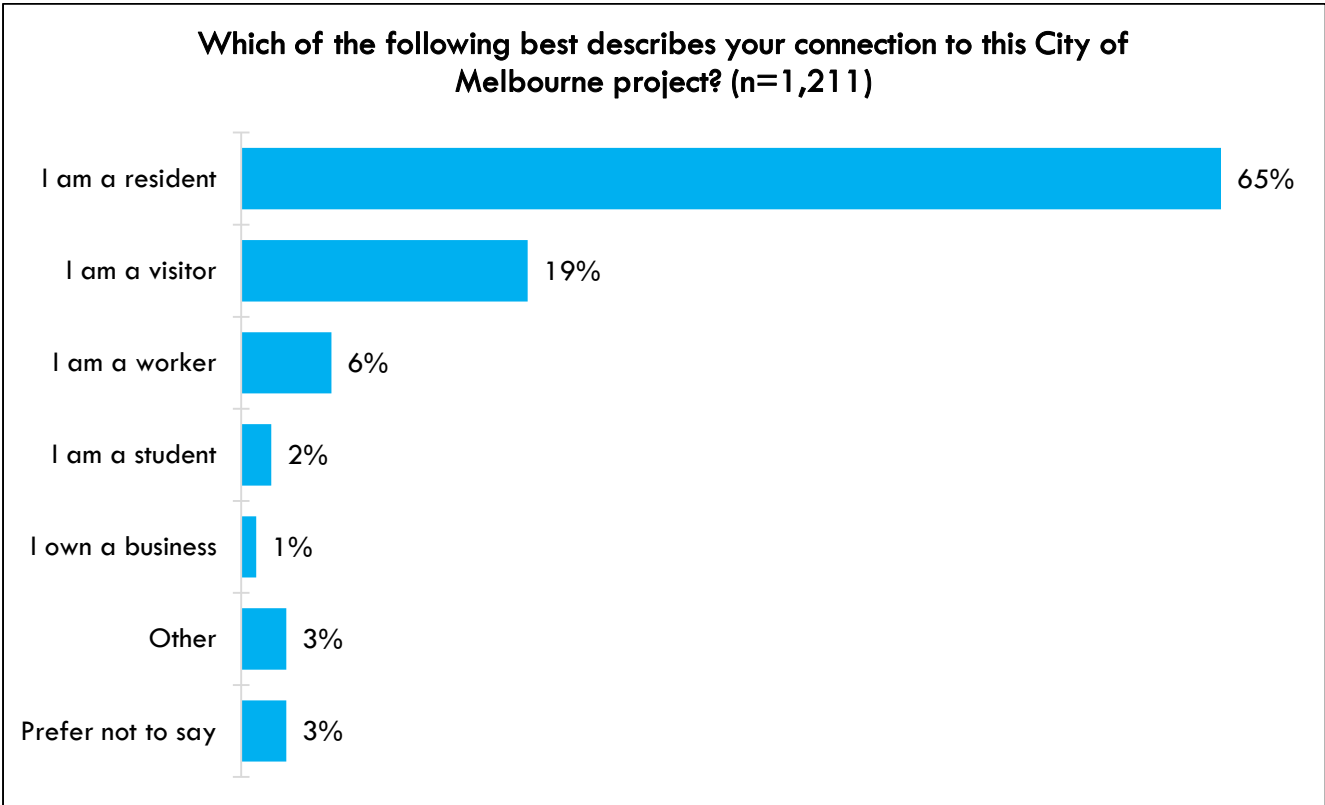
**Connection to project and suburb based on connection to the project:**

The survey asked two related questions with regard to location:

- Which of the following best describes your connection to this City of Melbourne project?; and
- Based on your connection to the project, where do you live/work/own a business/study/visit?

In terms of connection to the project, it should be noted that respondents could only provide a single response to this question, therefore it doesn't capture if multiple categories were relevant (e.g. live and work). Figure 5 shows that most survey respondents (65%) identified as Residents, followed by Visitors (16%), Workers (6%) and Students (2%).

**Figure 5 Connection to this project (Survey)**



74 participants selected “Other” and reported the following connection/s to the project, 32 of which were coded back into the existing answer set (visitor or resident). The remaining answers can be grouped as follows:

- Play sport, member or associated with sporting club (or past) (22 participants)
- Reside nearby Royal Park or in neighbouring area (11)
- Interested in, or value Royal Park (5)
- Other (8) including being part of an environment group, friends impacted by the project, property owner, and used to live in the area.

In terms of suburb based on the connection, most survey respondents (70%) reported a connection to the City of Melbourne municipality (see Figure 6).

**Figure 6 Connection to this project (Survey)**

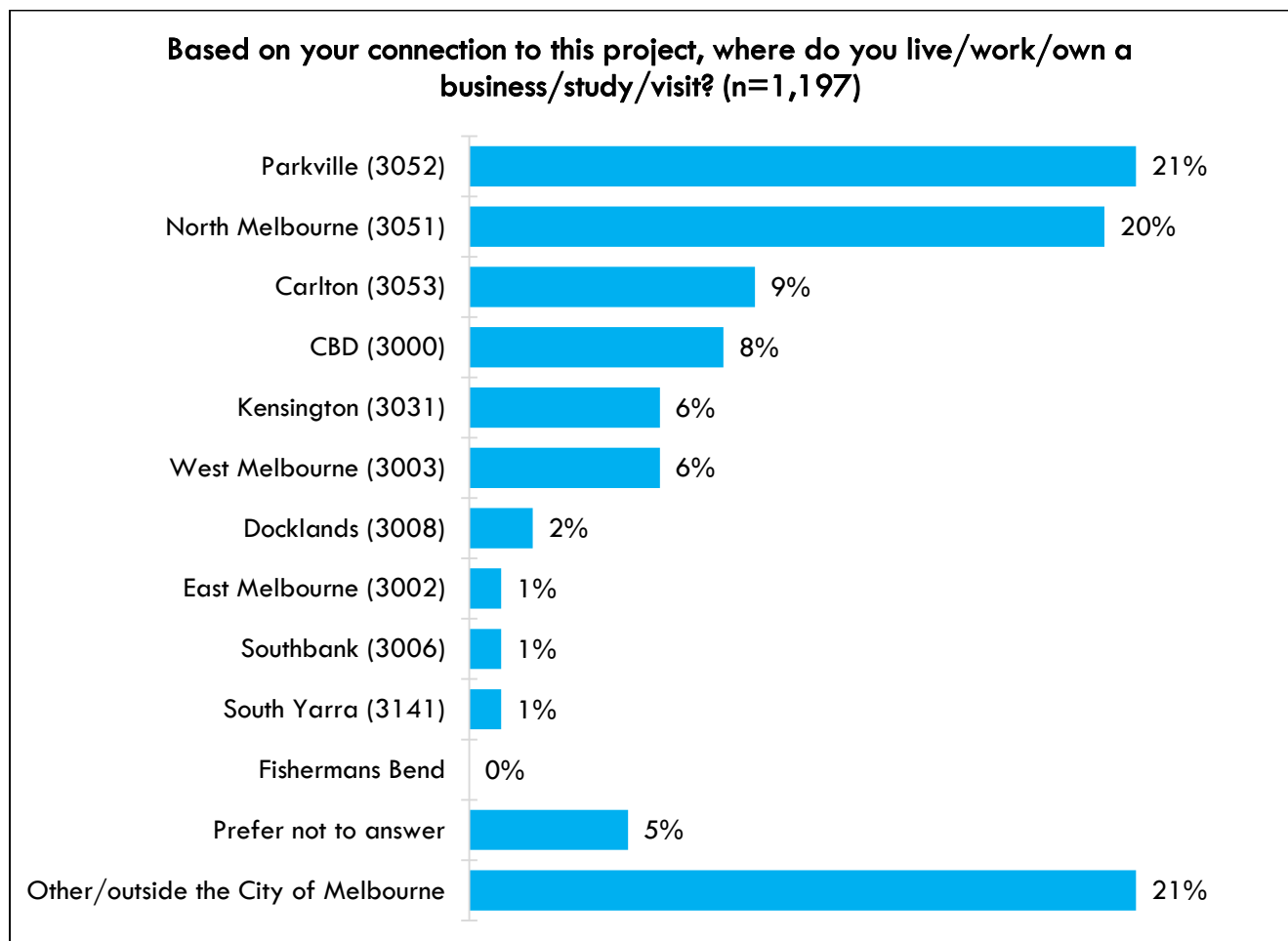


**Table 2: Participant suburb based on connection to project, outside City of Melbourne (Survey)**

|                     |                   |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ascot Vale (10)     | Fitzroy North (3) | Northcote (6)   |
| Ballarat            | Flemington (5)    | Nunawading      |
| Bentleigh           | Footscray (2)     | Oak Park        |
| Bentleigh East (2)  | Glenroy           | Oakleigh East   |
| Black Rock          | Greensborough     | Oakleigh South  |
| Blackburn (2)       | Guildford         | Parkdale        |
| Boronia             | Hawthorn          | Pascoe Vale (3) |
| Brunswick (43)      | Hillside          | Port Melbourne  |
| Brunswick East (3)  | Kangaroo Ground   | Preston         |
| Brunswick South     | Kawarren          | Princes Hill    |
| Brunswick West (21) | Keilor Downs      | Reservoir       |
| Burwood East        | Keilor East       | Richmond (2)    |
| Canberra            | Kew (2)           | Ringwood (2)    |
| Carlton North (4)   | Kilsyth           | Sale            |
| Chelsea             | Kyneton           | Scoresby        |
| City of Maribyrnong | Lilydale          | Seymour         |
| Clayton South (2)   | McKinnon          | South Yarra     |
| Clifton Hill (5)    | Mont Albert North | St Albans       |
| Coburg (10)         | Montmorency (2)   | Sunshine        |
| Coburg North (2)    | Moonee Ponds (2)  | Sunshine West   |
| Collingwood         | Moonee Valley (2) | Thornbury (2)   |
| Creswick            | Mordialloc        | Travancore      |
| Croydon (2)         | Merri-bek         | Truganina       |
| Darebin             | Mount Eliza       | Wangaratta      |
| Doncaster           | Mount Waverly (2) | Werribee (2)    |
| Eltham              | Narre Warren (2)  | Williamstown    |
| Essendon (6)        | Newport (2)       | Yarra           |
| Essendon West       | Niddrie           | Yarra Ranges    |
| Fairfield (2)       | North Fitzroy     | Yarraville (3)  |
| Ferntree Gully      |                   |                 |

Stakeholder meeting participants and submissions represented the following groups and organisations connected to Royal Park (presented in alphabetical order):

1. Archi Soccer
2. Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Vic
3. Brunswick Mudlarks AFL
4. Entomological Society of Victoria
5. Football (Masters)
6. Friends of Merri Creek
7. Friends of Royal Park
8. Friends of Skeleton Creek
9. Golf Course
10. Heritage Victoria
11. Iron Games Fitness
12. LA, former CoM, developed 70s plan
13. Lacrosse Victoria
14. Ladies Golf Club
15. Landscape Architect RMIT
16. Melb Chinese Soccer Association
17. Melb Uni Blacks Football Club
18. Melb Uni Blues Football
19. Melb Uni Rugby
20. Melbourne Chinese Soccer Association
21. Melbourne Disc Golf Club
22. Melbourne University Lacrosse Club
23. Melbourne Zoo
24. Member of Friends of Royal Park
25. Mercantile Cricket Association
26. MU Soccer Club
27. North Park Tennis Club
28. Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee member
29. Parkville Association
30. Parkville Residents Association
31. Parkville Tennis Club
32. Protect our park

33. Protectors of Public Land
34. Reds CC
35. Resident on The Avenue
36. RMIT Landscape Architect lecturer
37. Royal Park Golf Club
38. Royal Park Ladies Golf Club Inc.
39. Royal Park Protection Group
40. Royal Park Veterans Golf Club
41. State Netball and Hockey Centre
42. State Sports Centre
43. Sustainable Population Australia
44. Uni High Football Club
45. Uni Mel Baseball Club
46. Uni Mel Football Club
47. University Blacks FC
48. University of Melbourne Baseball Club
49. UNSW Landscape Architect
50. Veterans Golf
51. West Brunswick Amateur Football Club
52. Youlden Parkville Cricket

### 3 Engagement findings

When exploring these findings, it is important to note:

- Some survey respondents indicated that the survey format was challenging as they found they may support one part of an action but not all of it, and they didn't feel there was adequate space to easily submit concerns or further context to explain their answers. As such, it should be considered that for actions with multiple components, indicated support or lack thereof may be for only a singular component of the action, rather than in its entirety.
- Throughout the engagement period there were two newspaper articles on the topic, as well as a range of community group campaigns to encourage interested parties to participate in the survey and/or provide a written submission. The content of these articles and campaigns correlated with a large number of survey responses and submissions focusing on the following key points:
  - Call for the Plan to focus on maintaining the natural assets of the park for passive recreation and preserving bushland value, specifically focusing on biodiversity across the whole park (not just biolinks areas), finding alternative locations for additional formal sports infrastructure, maintaining Dark Sky (no additional lighting), and not sealing paths (particularly in the grass circle).
  - Upgrading and extending formal sports infrastructure to cater for a growing population.
- Promotion of this consultation and participant recruitment was not distributed through any form of representative sampling. The consultation aimed to reach a broad spectrum of park users and key stakeholders, and therefore can only provide insights into the broad range of views of interested parties aware of the engagement activities. Percentages cannot be extrapolated as being representative of the broader community; instead they report the proportion of those who participated in the various components of the consultation.

### 3.1 Draft vision feedback

This section of the report explores the overall perceptions of the draft vision for Royal Park. Respondents were presented with the following information prior to being asked what they think of the vision.

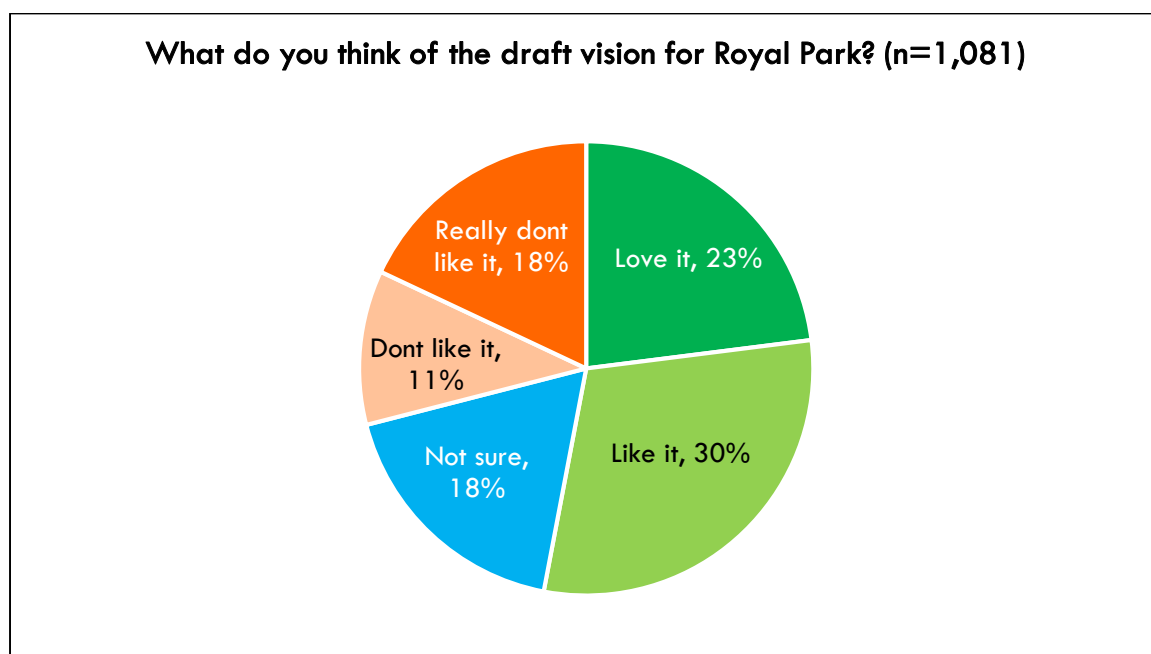
#### Vision for Royal Park

The draft 20-year vision for Royal Park is to:

- **Protect** Royal Park as a natural, expansive place where all people feel safe and welcome to experience its unique history and distinctive Australian landscape.
- **Preserve** Royal Park as a place for nature, sport, recreation and storytelling.
- **Invite** Melburnians to embrace its rich and living Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung history and cultural values.

Just over half of those who answered this question (53%) indicated they like or love the draft vision for Royal Park, while over a quarter (28%) said they don't like it (including really don't like it).

Figure 7 Thoughts on the draft vision for Royal Park – survey findings



In the **pop-ups**, a dotmocracy board was used to record sentiment towards the vision. Only two of the 91 participants said they didn't like it or really didn't like it. Almost half indicated they love it (45%) and a further 47% indicated they like it (5% were not sure).

It should be noted that social desirability bias may skew people's answers to wards more positive when interacting with people on the topic in person such as at a pop up for example (as opposed to a survey where no one can see what they are answering).

In the survey data, statistically significant variations in opinions across demographics were:

- 40% of 15-24 year olds said they love it, compared to 22% 40-59 year olds and 15% 60+ year olds.
- Respondents who were born overseas or speak a language other than English more often said they love it (28%, compared to 22% for the rest of the sample).

- A higher proportion of residents said they don't like it (33% don't like or really don't like) than those with another type of connection to the area (20%).

In the first couple of months of the consultation (November 2024 to end of January 2025), survey responses were mostly from those who had been involved in the first wave of engagement for this project (n=322). The average rating amongst this group of initial responses was more positive, with 70% liking or loving it, and 6% saying they really don't like it. Once the engagement was distributed more broadly (including media articles highlighting various aspects of the draft Plan, and campaigning by special interest groups), the like or love it average fell to 46%, with 23% saying they really don't like it.

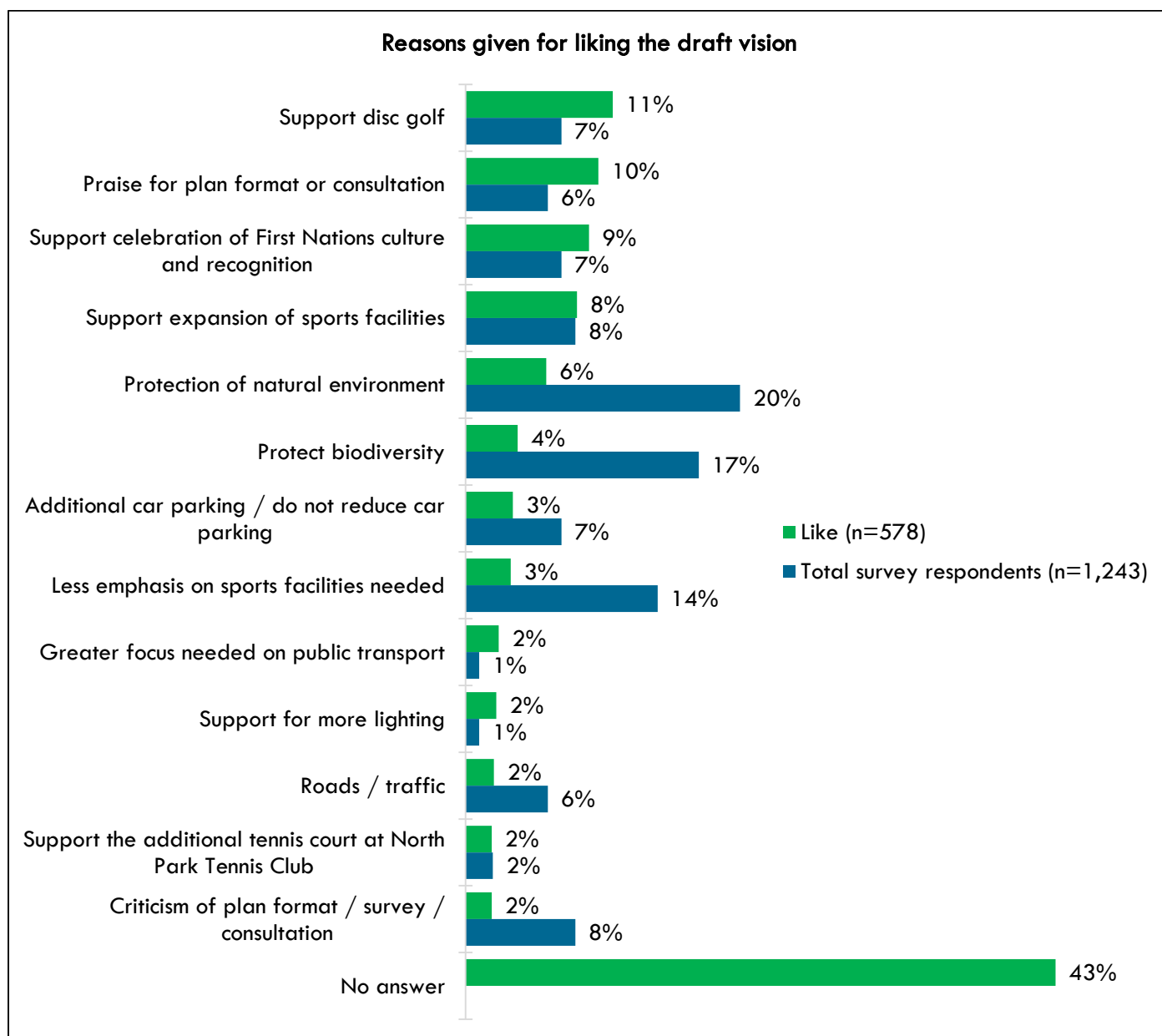
When survey respondents were asked to write in why they felt a particular way about the draft vision, 764 respondents provided an answer. Of those who said they like or love the draft vision, 57% provided a written answer, whereas 93% of those who said they dislike the vision and 72% who said neither provided a written answer. Therefore, overall, the written answers were skewed towards negative opinions.

Written survey comments were grouped into categories for analysis. The majority of written comments in this section of the survey focused on actions within the draft Plan, rather than the vision component. This section presents all categories covered in the written comments, but will only explore in detail those related to the vision itself. Other findings specific to draft Plan themes and actions have been covered in greater detail in the related theme section of this report

### 3.1.1 Detailed analysis of survey comments from respondents who like or love the draft vision

Of those survey respondents who said they like or love the draft plan vision, the most common reasons given relate to recreation (specifically disc golf), the format/scope of the vision/plan, and inclusion of First Nations elements. The following chart shows the percentage of respondents who provided a comment relating to each theme as a percentage of just those who rated the vision as 'like or live it' (green bar) as well as percentage of the entire sample who provided a comment relating to that theme across all open ended boxes in the survey (irrespective of their rating of the vision, blue bar).

**Figure 8 Thematic analysis of written survey reasons for liking the draft vision**



Further survey insights into the categories that can be directly linked to the vision have been included in the table below. Where responses primarily relate to a theme or action in the Plan (rather than the vision), detailed analysis has been undertaken under the related theme.

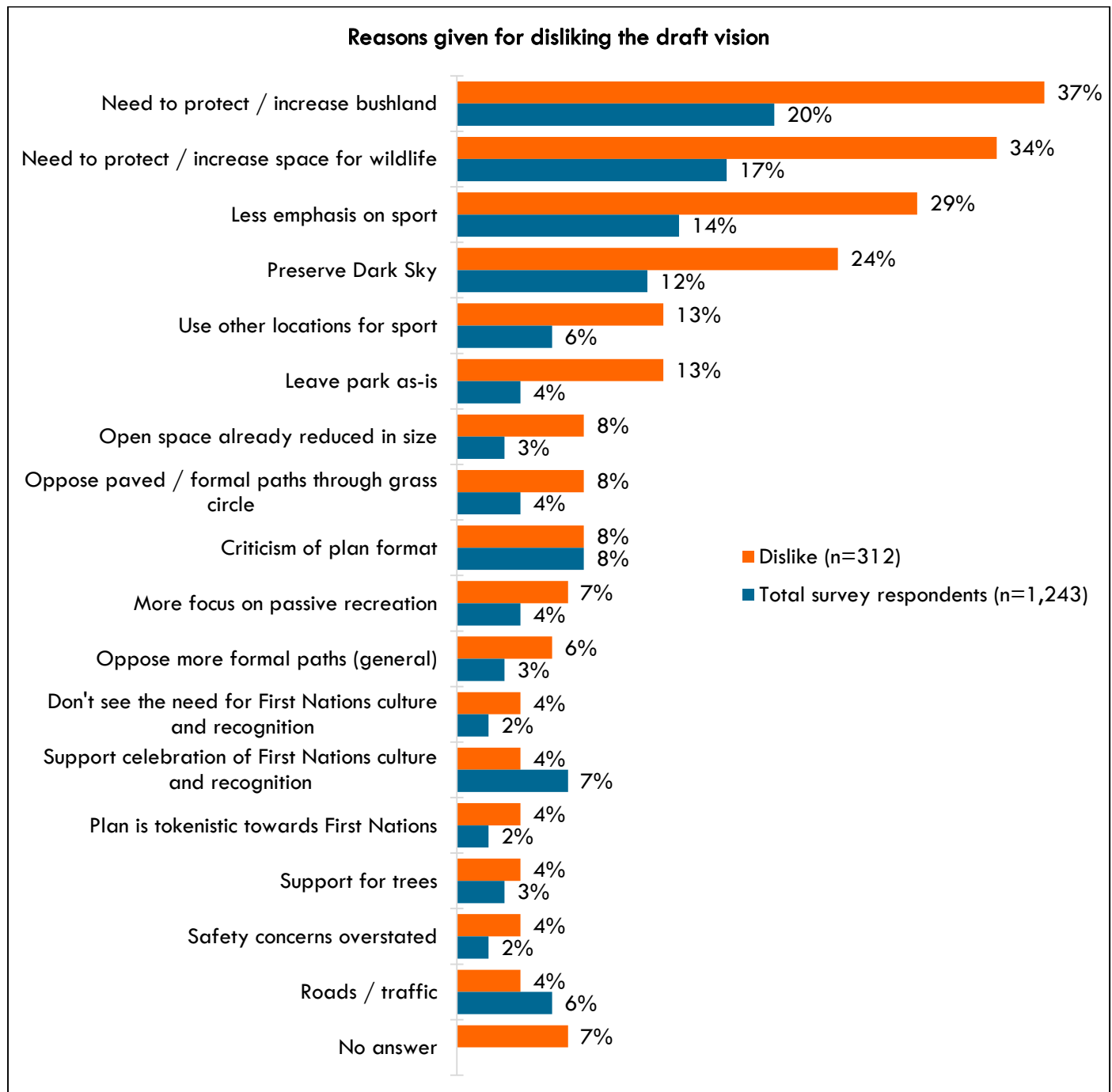
| Category                                                              | Insights                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Format / scope of the vision / plan</b><br>(56 survey respondents) | <p>Respondents suggested that the Plan provided a good balance between user needs (formal and informal recreation, as well as environmental protection).</p> <p>There were also comments commending the extent of the engagement process, with appreciation that the community was given the opportunity to provide input.</p> | <p><i>"Strikes the right balance between improving amenity, accessibility and safety while retaining some wildness."</i> [35-39 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"I believe the Plan has been well put together and considers the considerable number of user groups from sport and recreation, to general community and nature lovers."</i><br/>[30-34 years, Man]</p> |

|                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Support celebration of First Nations culture and recognition</b><br>(52 survey respondents) | Many comments praised the prominence of recognition and respect for First Nations history and culture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>"So good to finally integrate our local indigenous history and people into the park. Like many parts of town, it was an important local landmark before Europeans moved in."</i><br>[45-49 years, Man, Visitor]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Support inclusion of sport</b><br>(47 survey respondents)                                   | <p>Respondents mentioned the importance of organised sport to themselves and their communities.</p> <p>Note: The count for this code has been skewed by 14 identical responses from different individuals from a single sports team.</p>                                                                                                    | <p><i>"Sport in Royal park is an amazing way to bring the community together and for Melbournians to cherish the beautiful park"</i> [25-29 years, Man, Resident]</p> <p><i>"Important that we provide sports and activity platforms for the generations coming through."</i><br/> [50-54 years, Woman, Visitor]</p>                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Protection of natural environment</b><br>(34 survey respondents)                            | <p>There was support for the focus on protecting the natural environment, with the priority elements identified by respondents as bushland and wild landscape.</p> <p>This topic also appeared in the 'don't like' answers and is explored further in the Theme 2 analysis.</p>                                                             | <p><i>"It is incredibly important to ensure wild spaces are protected in our inner city environments. The native grassland is a treasure."</i> [30-34 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"I love the aims but think you could also include 'regenerate', the natural environment doesn't just need protecting it needs to be restored."</i><br/> [35-39 years, Woman, Resident]</p>                                                                                                 |
| <b>Protect biodiversity</b><br>(22 survey respondents)                                         | <p>Many appreciate the value of preserving the natural elements not just for people, but for the ecosystem and biodiversity. Comments raise the need to preserve the native bush elements to provide habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>This topic also appeared in the 'don't like' answers and is explored further in the Theme 2 analysis.</p> | <p><i>"I like the idea of preserving the park for nature. Somewhere that is peaceful."</i> [65-69 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"While I like the three points listed above, I feel that the wording of "natural place" and "place of nature" are not strong enough in terms of environmental protection and cultivation. I think there needs to be a more deliberate aim to providing safe and appropriate habitats for native species."</i> [25-29 years, Man, Resident]</p> |
| <b>Less emphasis on sports facilities</b><br>(19 survey respondents)                           | There were some comments indicating that sport was too prominent in the 'preserve' component of the vision, with a concern that it will result in sport facilities replacing natural elements.                                                                                                                                              | <i>"I'm not in favour of the emphasis on formal sport. The park should be left dark at night for the sake of the wild life."</i> [Man, Visitor]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Criticism of format or process</b><br>(11 survey respondents)                               | There were a variety of criticisms relating to the vision, specifically that the content of the Plan doesn't match the vision, and difficulty understanding what it means for implementation.                                                                                                                                               | <i>"I like some elements of the proposed Plan but I have my reservations about other parts [...]. The Plan although detailed is not clear on what it will look like in reality".</i> [30-34 years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### 3.1.2 Detailed analysis of survey comments from respondents who don't like or really don't like the draft vision

Of those who said they don't like or really don't like the vision for the draft plan, the majority of reasons given relate to the detail within the Plan itself, rather than the vision. The main concerns raised were that it could result in the reduction of bushland and open space, with specific reference to not wanting the addition of more sportsgrounds or lighting. The following chart shows the percentage of respondents who provided a comment relating to each theme as a percentage of just those who rated the vision as 'don't like or really don't like it' (red bar) as well as percentage of the entire sample who wrote in something relating to that theme across all open ended boxes in the survey (irrespective of their rating of the vision, blue bar).

**Figure 9 Thematic analysis of written reasons for disliking the draft vision**



Further insights into the categories that can be directly linked to the vision have been included in the table below. Where responses primarily relate to a theme or action in the Plan (rather than the vision), detailed analysis has been undertaken under the related theme.

| Category                                                                         | Insights                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Need to protect / increase bushland</b><br>(114 survey respondents)           | <p>Concern that even though nature is before sport in the preserve part of the vision statement, the actions within the Plan are primarily development focused and could lead to loss of wild bushland values.</p> <p>This topic also appeared in the like answers and is explored further in the Theme 2 analysis.</p> | <p><i>"I think there is too much focus on paths, roads and sports fields. The most precious part of Royal Park is its flora and fauna and biodiversity. I'd like to see the wilderness areas of the park expanded and protected."</i> [30-34 years, Woman, Resident]</p>                                |
| <b>Need to protect / increase space for wildlife</b><br>(105 survey respondents) | <p>Despite nature being included in the vision, there was concern that the actions within the document may negatively impact on spaces for wildlife.</p> <p>This topic also appeared in the like answers and is explored further in the Theme 2 analysis.</p>                                                           | <p><i>"The Plan is focused on human amenity. None of the themes focus on improving the wellbeing of the animals that live in the park."</i> [60-64 years, Woman]</p>                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Less emphasis on sport</b><br>(91 survey respondents)                         | <p>Many felt that the vision left an opening for the space to be converted to use for organised sport.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><i>"The draft Master Plan is big on rhetoric and small on relevant information for decision-making. If there is a need for more sporting facilities that require infrastructure, then this should be DEMONSTRATED"</i> [75-79 years, Woman, Resident]</p>                                            |
| <b>Leave park as is</b><br>(39 survey respondents)                               | <p>There is a sentiment in these comments that there shouldn't be any further development of the park. There were references to keeping the natural wild spaces as well as the good mix of uses for the community.</p>                                                                                                  | <p><i>"Do not under any circumstances change it. Not everything needs to be developed. This is the kind of thing that will be regretted for generations after the fact."</i> [30-34 years, Man, Resident]</p>                                                                                           |
| <b>Criticism of Plan format / scope</b><br>(24 survey respondents)               | <p>Concerns were raised that the Plan is too vague, with framing of topics that aren't meaningful.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><i>"The master Plan is so long and nonsensical, full of words that mean nothing - masking the actual changes to the park a person might experience."</i></p> <p><i>The one-page summary doesn't detail anything at all about the expected changes to the park."</i> [35-39 years, Man, Resident]</p> |

### 3.1.3 Additional feedback on the draft vision

Furthermore, 29 submissions (19%) mentioned the vision, providing the following insights and feedback:

- Concern that the vision does not adequately provide a precedent for protecting and enhancing the wild natural aspects of the park to foster community connection to nature and preserve the wild space for future generations, with the balance potentially tipping towards formal recreational uses requiring infrastructure. There is a call for better framing of the park as a Dark Park with unique open and unstructured bushland features within the vision, with the aim of increasing and enhancing biodiversity, not just preserving it.
- Comments regarding the safety element of the vision suggest that lighting alone doesn't lead to safety improvements, raising the concern that a focus on safety could lead to the removal of natural elements (bushes, paving etc.). Furthermore, a concern that an increase in lighting could negatively impact on the Dark Park nature of the space.
- Some raised concern that the vision does not align to the heritage listing requirements of the park, nor continue the valued components of the previous Master Plan (specifically the landscape design elements).

Quotes from submissions:

- *Loss of open space parkland, intensification of sports use and facilities, constructing paths, donut circuits, increased lighting in the Park, detrimental impacts on wildlife, biodiversity and habitat values ... show the balance has been tipped towards a 'Recreation Master Plan'. [Resident]*
- *I am concerned that the Draft Royal Park Master Plan marks a shift from a focus on protecting and preserving the indigenous natural landscape and biodiversity values of Royal Park to a focus on increasing sport and recreation values. [Resident]*
- *It is impossible to make "all people" feel safe... For some this might require more lighting(!), sealed paving, no bushes for undesirables to hide in(?) etc. Where does it stop?  
We consider a more appropriate Vision for the new Master Plan is:*
  - *Protect Royal Park as a natural, expansive place that welcomes people to view and experience its unique history and distinctive Australian landscape and ecosystems.*
  - *Invite Melburnians and visitors to embrace its rich and living Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung history and cultural values and to walk together in recognising connections with Royal Park's land and environment.*
  - *Preserve Royal Park as a place for nature, recreation and storytelling.*
  - *Encourage use and enjoyment of the Park through balanced provision for different recreational activities, ranging from active sport to informal passive uses.*

*[Royal Park Protection Group]*

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to the vision and document in general expressed during stakeholder meetings encompassed 3 main views:

- **Support** – consulted sports clubs provided ‘in general’ support for the Draft Vision and overall document.
- **Clarification** – request for clarification on whether the three vision points were equal or hierarchical.
- **Suggestion** – Friends-of groups suggested the order of wording in the vision statement be changed to say nature first, then passive recreation, then storytelling and then sport. They also suggest that all people feeling safe may not be achievable without compromising the character of the park, and that the vision should aim to improve nature, not just protect it.

**One petition** (160 signatories) suggested that the principles be revised to recognise the stewardship of sport and community organisations in protecting and preserving its values and making the park a safe and welcoming place (rather than categorising community sport as ‘users’ of the space). “Acknowledge, build and support community stewardship”

## 3.2 Theme 1: Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination

The following context was provided to survey respondents for this theme:

*There is significant potential for the acknowledgement, expression and celebration of Aboriginal history, knowledge and cultural values within Royal Park.*

*Restoring the presence of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, history and culture would help to make the park a more welcoming place for Aboriginal people.*

*This theme underpins the new master plan. All recommendations and actions must consider the Aboriginal cultural values of the place, and City of Melbourne must walk together with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to deliver on actions to achieve the shared long-term aspirations for the park*

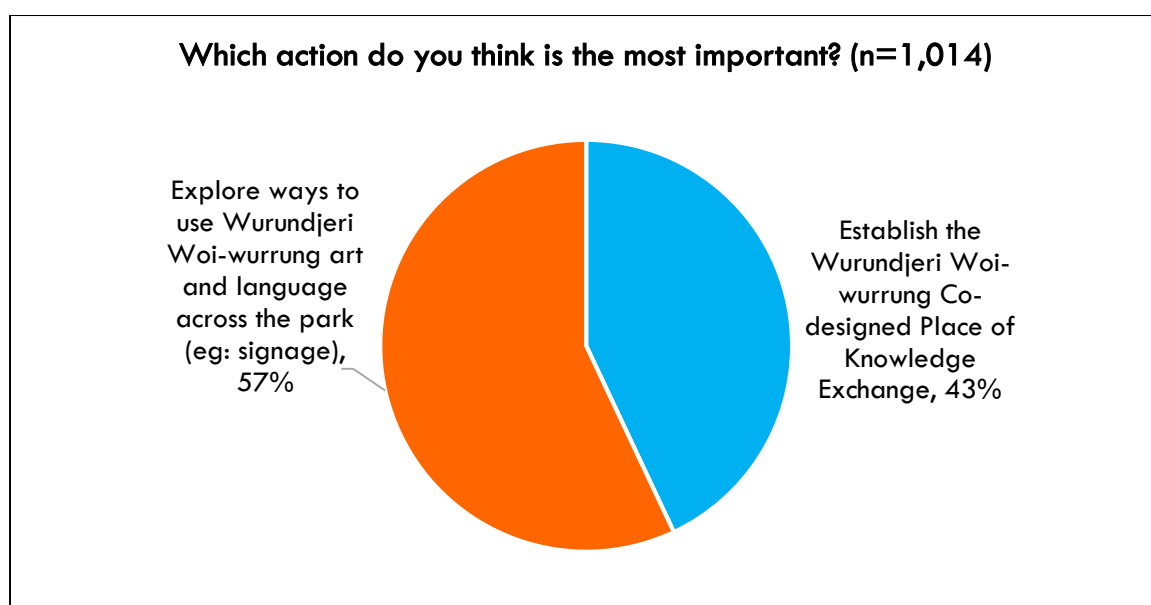
**35%** of pop-up participants selected Theme 1 as one of the two most important to them (n=96 pop-up participants who voted).

Across all consultation activities, there was broad support for the Plan ensuring that Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung history and culture be recognised and respected. Some felt that this theme should be an overarching principle that guides all action planning, ensuring that the appropriate First Nations groups and individuals are consulted. Furthermore, there was a desire for further information about the practical application of actions within this theme.

### 3.2.1 Action ranking

When survey respondents were asked which of the two proposed actions for this theme was most important, *Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage)* was selected by a slightly higher proportion of those who answered this question (57% of 1,014 respondents).

Figure 10 Action ranking for theme 1



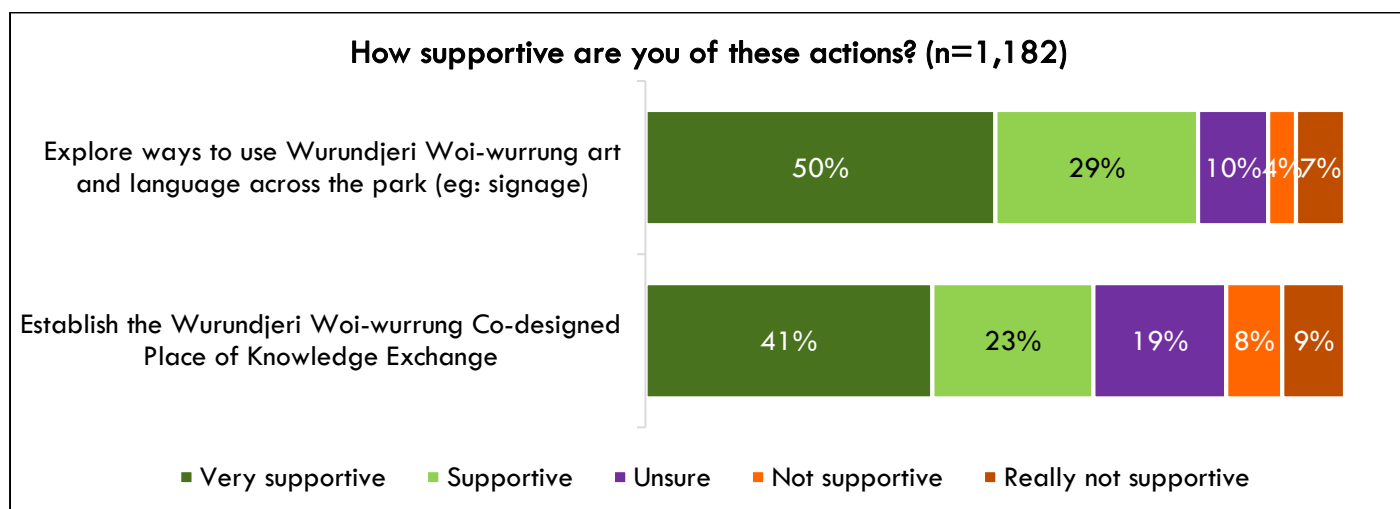
Statistically significant variations in opinions across demographics include:

- A higher proportion of LGBTQIA respondents thought the *Place of Knowledge Exchange* was more important (54%, compared to 40% non-LGBTQIA+).
- A higher proportion of non-LGBTQIA+ respondents thought using *art and language* was more important (60%, compared to 46% LGBTQIA+).

### 3.2.2 Action support

When asked to rate their level of support for each of these actions, more than half of survey respondents indicated support for each, with stronger levels of support for *art and language*. Written comments suggest the higher incidence of ‘unsure’ rating for the *Place of Knowledge Exchange* was due to a need for more information to understand what this would entail.

**Figure 11 Action support for theme 1**



When analysing findings by demographics, the following statistically significant variations were found:

- For *art and language*, high levels of support (very supportive) was assigned by women (56%, compared to 46% men), 25-39 year olds (56%, compared to 42% 60+ year olds) and LGBTQIA+ respondents (61%, compared to 48% non-LGBTQIA).
- For *Place of Knowledge Exchange*, high levels of support (very supportive) was assigned by women (48%, compared to 36% men), 25-39 year olds (49%, compared to 34% 60+ year olds) and LGBTQIA+ respondents (55%, compared to 38% non-LGBTQIA).

At pop-ups, when asked to identify their top 7 priority actions they were most excited about, Theme 1 actions were selected in the top 7 by the following proportions of participants across the three pop-ups (n=105):

|     |                                                                                            |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 48% | Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage). |
| 43% | Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange.              |

### 3.2.3 Additional feedback

153 survey respondents provided a comment relating to the theme of Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination in one or both of the open ended boxes within the survey. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows:

| Theme                                                               | Count | % all survey respondents | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Support celebration of First Nations culture and recognition</b> | 84    | 7%                       | There was an appreciation for the prominent inclusion of First Nations elements in the Plan.                                                                                                                     | <p><i>"The connection to the traditional owners is vital for the future of the park. We need both a cultural centre and improved signage and in place information."</i> [60+ years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"I approve of the idea of valuing Wurundjeri culture and of environmental protection"</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]</p>           |
| <b>Concern that Plan may not align to First Nations wants</b>       | 26    | 2%                       | Comments raised concerns that the Plan may be tokenistic, with queries as to whether it aligns with First Nations wants and/or was developed in consultation with First Nations groups.                          | <p><i>"Unsure as not clear if Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung were given the resources needed to adequately feed into this plan."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Visitor]</p> <p><i>"It's not up to us to determine how aboriginal culture is celebrated - it should be negotiated with them and the city"</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Worker]</p>                      |
| <b>Do not see the need for First Nations recognition</b>            | 25    | 2%                       | A smaller proportion were resistant to the inclusion of First Nations elements.                                                                                                                                  | <p><i>"I fail to see the relevance of traditional Aboriginal culture to the development of a park in 2025 and looking forward."</i> [Resident]</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Other</b>                                                        | 21    | 2%                       | A wide variety of additional comments were put forth, including respecting First Nations' care for the land, needing more information about the actions, and changing the name of the park to a Wurundjeri name. | <p><i>"There needs to be consideration of a change of name for the park from Royal to one chosen by the traditional owners."</i> [60+ years, Woman, Visitor]</p> <p><i>"I could not find any description in master Plan about what exactly is " Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange""</i> [60+ years, Woman, Resident]</p> |

Furthermore, 9 submissions addressed this theme, providing the following insights and feedback:

- Suggestion that this be an overarching principle of the entire Plan, so that Traditional Owners have more input into all decisions regarding use of space.
- Concern that many of the actions do not integrate principles of designing in partnership with Traditional Owners.
- Suggestion that the Plan clarify what self-determination means with regards to decision-making.
- In consultation with First Nations groups, consider the renaming of the park to its original name.

Our relationship with the park should be one of stewardship, guided by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as Traditional Custodians of this land. By caring for the Country, we allow it to care for us. This site, within the City of Melbourne, is one of the few places where we can truly uphold this responsibility. [Resident]

As an Aboriginal person, I am compelled to express my outrage at the proposed Draft Royal Park Master Plan. Royal Park holds deep significance—not only as one of the few remaining spaces in Melbourne where nature thrives, but as a reminder of the land's history and its enduring spirit. For generations, this place has carried the echoes of Country, where the birds sing the stories of the past, the trees stand as guardians of memory, and the soil breathes the life of those who came before.

The plans to intensify sporting activities, pave natural areas, and introduce unnecessary infrastructure are an insult to everything this park stands for. They are not just an attack on biodiversity and community values; they are an erasure of its cultural essence. To disrespect the natural sanctity of this land is to disrespect us, our history, and the values we hold dear. [Resident]

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination expressed during stakeholder meetings encompassed two main views:

- **Signage** – support for Wurundjeri signage, potentially including markers relating to Aboriginal history.
- **Naming** – Friends-of groups want the name to stay as 'Royal Park' as well as a First Nations name, and ensure the Wurundjeri name is correct.

**Pop-up feedback:** Feedback relating to Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination expressed during pop-ups encompassed one main point:

- **Signs** – suggestion that signs include Aboriginal language.

### 3.3 Theme 2: Caring for nature

The following context was provided to survey respondents for this theme:

*Supporting biodiversity within urban environments is critical. Biodiversity contributes to healthy, stable and resilient ecosystems, provides essential ecosystem services and contributes to positive human health and wellbeing outcomes.*

*Due to its size and native vegetation character, Royal Park has higher biodiversity value than other parks in the municipality. It is our most ecologically diverse park, containing remnant indigenous vegetation, and many species living within it cannot be found elsewhere in the municipality.*

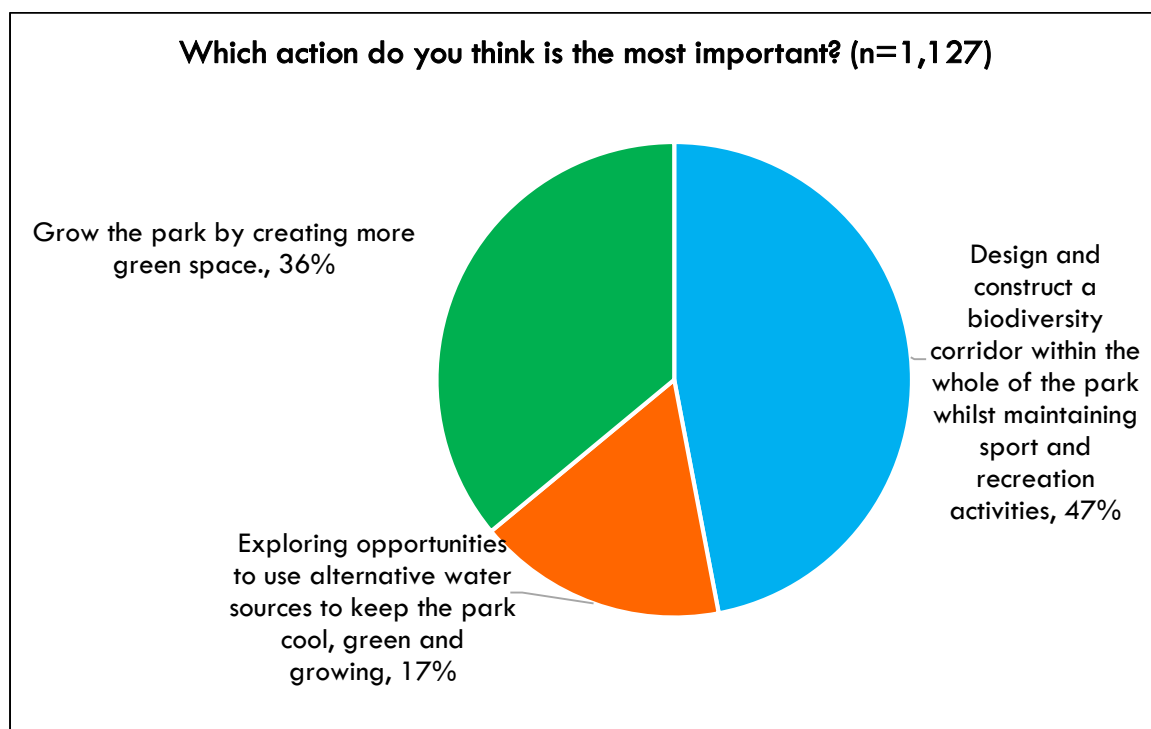
**75%** of pop-up participants selected Theme 2 as one of the two most important to them (n=96 pop-up participants who voted). This was chosen as the top 2 by a higher proportion than any other theme.

This theme received the most interest and attention through the survey, engagement activities and submissions. Many respondents and participants reinforced that they highly value the natural wild unstructured spaces and wildlife. There was widespread support for focusing on biodiversity, with some respondents and participants who emphasised the importance of passive recreation and environmental protection wanting this theme to encompass the whole park, rather than just corridors. Whilst creating more green space was broadly supported, there were concerns raised by sports groups about potential removal of overflow parking necessary to support their activities. Exploring use of alternative water sources, whilst in the survey was not the most important action when having to pick just one, was supported by almost all survey respondents (89%).

#### 3.3.1 Action ranking

Survey respondents were asked which of the three proposed actions for this theme they thought was most important. *Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park* was selected by a higher proportion of those who answered the question (47% of 1,127 respondents).

Figure 12 Action ranking for theme 2



Statistically significant variations in opinions across demographics were:

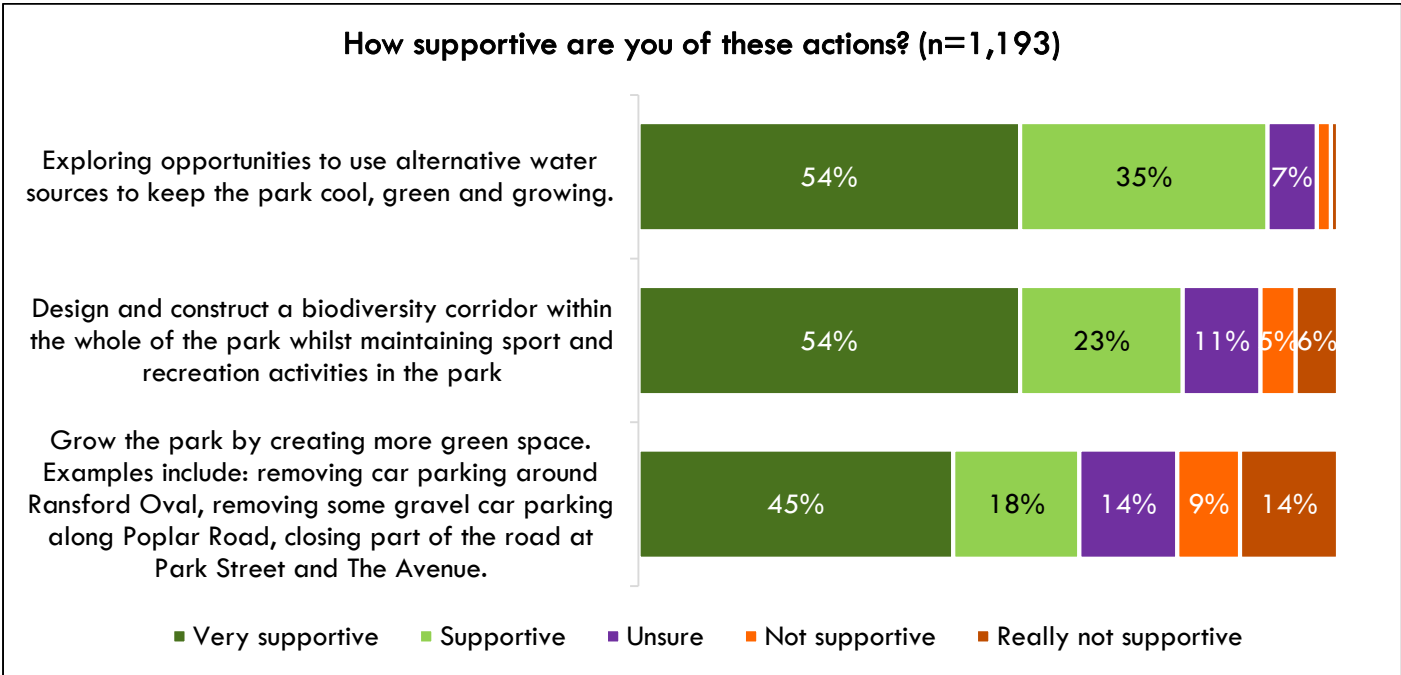
- A higher proportion of men thought the *biodiversity corridor* was the most important (52%, compared to 42% women), whilst a higher proportion of women (40%) thought more green space was important (40%, compared to 34% men).
- More than half of those who were not residents thought the *biodiversity corridor* was the most important (56%, compared to 42% residents).
- A higher proportion of non-LGBTQIA+ respondents thought *exploring alternative water sources* was more important (18%, compared to 10% LGBTQIA+).
- A higher proportion of residents thought *creating more green space* was the most important (41%, compared to 29% non-residents).

The first two months of promotion of the survey targeted community members and stakeholders who had been involved in the previous consultation phase. During this time, there was a stronger preference for the biodiversity corridor (54%, 44% later respondents), and alternate water resources (21%, 14% later respondents). Amongst respondents from later in the survey distribution (after broader promotion and media), there was a more prominent preference for creating more green space (42%, 24% earlier respondents).

### 3.3.2 Action support

When asked to rate their level of support for each of these actions, more than half of survey respondents indicated support for each, with stronger levels of support for using *alternative water sources*. 23% were not supportive of *growing the park by creating more green space*. Comments in the survey and submissions expressing a similar position on this action suggested that it is not appropriate to remove car parking and/or close sections of road as this may have a negative impact on access for sports and other recreational activities.

Figure 13 Action support for theme 2



When analysing findings by demographics, the following statistically significant variations were found:

- For *biodiversity corridor*, higher levels of support (very supportive) was assigned by 15-24 (65%) and 25-39 year olds (60%, 46% 60+) and non-residents (62%, 50% residents). Furthermore, higher levels of support was recorded for this action in the early distribution of the survey (65% amongst those who participated in 2024).
- For *alternative water sources*, higher levels of support (very supportive) was assigned by women (63%, 47% men), and respondents who were born overseas or speak a language other than English (62%, 52% for the rest of the sample).
- For *creating more green space*, higher levels of support (very supportive) was assigned by respondents who were born overseas or speak a language other than English (53%, 41% for the rest of the sample).

In the pop-ups, when asked to identify their top 7 priority actions they were most excited about, Theme 2 actions were selected in the top 7 by the following proportions of participants across the three pop-ups (n=105 participated):

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 73% | Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park.                                                                            |
| 54% | Grow the park by creating more green space. Examples include: removing car parking around Ransford Oval, removing some gravel car parking along Poplar Road, closing part of the road at Park Street and The Avenue. |
| 49% | Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing.                                                                                                                   |

### 3.3.3 Additional feedback

There were 424 survey respondents who provided a comment relating to this topic in one or both of the open ended boxes within the survey. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows:

| Theme                                                     | Count | % all survey respondents | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Need to protect bushland / the natural environment</b> | 250   | 20%                      | 250 respondents raised concern that the Plan will result in a reduction of wild spaces and bushland. This was frequently coupled with a call for no expansion of sports facilities or additional lighting.                                                                            | <p><i>"Enough of the natural environment has been destroyed. There is no reason to develop any of these areas further. The existing natural environment must be preserved and expanded."</i> [Demographic questions not answered]</p> <p><i>"More sports grounds are NOT needed, or at not needed at the expense of wild space. Building more would destroy tree cover and wild space."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Visitor]</p> |
| <b>Need to protect / increase space for wildlife</b>      | 210   | 17%                      | Further to a general desire to protect bushland, many survey respondents referenced the potential loss of biodiversity and the impact on native plants and animals if bushland was removed. Some were seeking additional and/or enhanced spaces to support wildlife and biodiversity. | <p><i>"I think there is too much focus on paths, roads and sports fields. The most precious part of Royal Park is its flora and fauna and biodiversity."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"It is a haven for birds and animals and it should stay that way."</i> [40-59 years, Man, Resident]</p>                                                                                                               |
| <b>Support for trees</b>                                  | 39    | 3%                       | Comments highlight the need to maintain existing trees, but also plant more trees to created forested areas.                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><i>"I would like to see one of the areas converted to a forested area, possibly around the Billabong"</i> [40-59 years, Man]</p> <p><i>"Royal Park is the biggest green area for all the suburbs around it. As most of these suburbs have less than 20% tree canopy coverage, I think it will be unwise to reduce this green space"</i> [40-59 years, Man, Resident]</p>                                                 |
| <b>Open space already reduced in size</b>                 | 35    | 3%                       | Some survey respondents raised concerns about the amount of open space already lost (including parks and bushland), indicating that remaining space needs to be preserved.                                                                                                            | <p><i>"The latest reduction was the building of the new Children's Hospital. Although it was promised that the new building would not take away more park land, it did in fact reduce public access considerably."</i> [60+ years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"Royal Park was meant to be a natural park. It's even mentioned</i></p>                                                                                       |

|                        |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------|----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <i>above “as natural” and a place for nature. Only about 1/4 remains with the rest now occupied by CSL, housing, golf course, ovals, tennis courts, a zoo and even a major hospital.”[60+ years, Man]</i>                                                                      |
| <b>Health benefits</b> | 13 | 1% | Many comments called for protection of open space cite the health benefits of forest / open space, including mental health benefits.                                                                  | <i>“There are countless studies on how beneficial &amp; important nature can be for an individual’s mental health; true, the same thing can be said for sports &amp; recreational activities, but these places already exist around the CBD”[15-24 years, Woman, Resident]</i> |
| <b>Other</b>           | 27 | 2% | Other comments in this category were mostly general comments about liking nature without any further information, as well as a variety of ideas such as bush gardens and ensuring climate resilience. | <i>“Climate change resilience hasn’t come through in the Plan at all. How will we ensure the park is resilient to extensive drought and heat conditions?”[25-39 years, Woman, Resident]</i>                                                                                    |

Furthermore, 109 submissions addressed this topic (72%), providing the following feedback:

- 81 submissions (54%) presented the view that more needs to be done within the Plan to protect and enhance nature. 34 submissions (23%) put forth that preserving and enhancing the natural and wild element of the park should overlay the whole park and be given priority over organised sport, transport and other infrastructure upgrades. Wild natural space is put forth as important for mental health and climate change resilience. Within many of the comments relating to this topic, it is suggested that installation of additional infrastructure such as facilities, paths and lighting would be fragmenting, which could negatively impact on biodiversity and wildlife, and potentially go against the heritage values of the space.
- 70 submissions (46%) emphasise the importance of biodiversity, including suggestions that the Bio-link area on the map include more existing spaces of natural value. Amongst these comments was the suggestion that the entire park be treated as a single biodiversity entity, rather than delegate individual areas at the risk of loss of holistic biodiversity. It is put forth that the Plan could benefit from biodiversity mapping to develop a deeper understanding of the flora and fauna that use the park, to ensure any future plans don’t negatively impact on the ecosystem. Lawn 7 is put forth as an opportunity to connect the Bio-link to other projects (e.g. white skink habitat restoration).
- 4 submissions (3%) support for introducing alternative water capture strategies to ensure resilience of watering plants with increased dry spells due to climate change. This includes Sports club submissions suggesting that the water demand to ensure sportsground maintenance is included in water use plans.
- 4 submissions (3%) noted that some of the proposed locations to add green space may not be appropriate as it will remove parking needed for sports usage.
- Other suggestions put forth through the submissions include:
  - Include management of invasive and pest species. There is a concern that over-development might lead to more pest species such as noisy miners and weeds.
  - Include collection and documentation of evidence of the natural elements (e.g. species counts) to assist with planning and monitoring.
  - Include the Billabong in the Bio-link area.

#### Quotes from submissions:

- *Once it is gone it can never be replaced. Our urban bushland is absolutely vital to isolated and small populations of wildlife living in urban areas. When a few spots here and a few spots there are eaten up it contributes to making populations too small to be viable. [Friends of group]*
- *It is fundamental to understand that Royal Park has a unique role in inner city Melbourne. It provides an ever rarer place of biodiversity for birds and other wildlife to live in a natural habitat. The preciousness of Royal Park is that it allows individuals to enjoy a sense of quiet peaceful recreation of being in the bush. Such an environment has been shown again and again to benefit the mental health of a community, especially those people who are unable or unwilling to participate for whatever reason in organised group sports. [Resident]*

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to Caring for nature and the environment expressed during stakeholder meetings encompassed five main views:

- **Terminology** – Friends-of groups suggested the whole park is a biodiversity area, so felt the term Bio-link would be inappropriate.
- **Monitoring** – it is suggested that the size of the Bio-link be calculated and monitored to show an increase in open space.
- **Protect wildlife and biodiversity** – including the Little Eagle, swift parrot, gang gangs and skink habitats. It is noted that it is an important stop over for migratory birds, and birding is popular in the park, with the suggestion that a birding app could be developed.
- **Water** – Suggestion that there is a need for more water points for animals, and that water management will be required to maintain the bushland feel. There is a call for highlighting water security as well, specific to storm water management and harvesting, and using technology for improving water quality.

**Pop-up feedback:** Feedback relating to Caring for nature and the environment expressed during pop-ups encompassed one main view:

- **Protect biodiversity** – with mention of the grassland circle needing to be protected.

### 3.4 Theme 3: Recreation and community wellbeing

The following context was provided to survey respondents for this theme:

*Royal Park is unique in its ability to foster play, exploration, spontaneity and moments of quiet reflection. It is a vibrant place offering a variety of tree-lined trails, circuits and open spaces with views of nature, sport and the impressive central city skyline.*

*Sport and recreation play critical roles in community wellbeing – supporting physical and mental health and creating opportunities for personal connection. The park has a rich history as a hub for sport and recreation, providing spaces and places for informal leisure activities and organised sport. As a location for sporting competition, it provides a distinctive experience like that of sport played in regional Victoria, surrounded by bushland.*

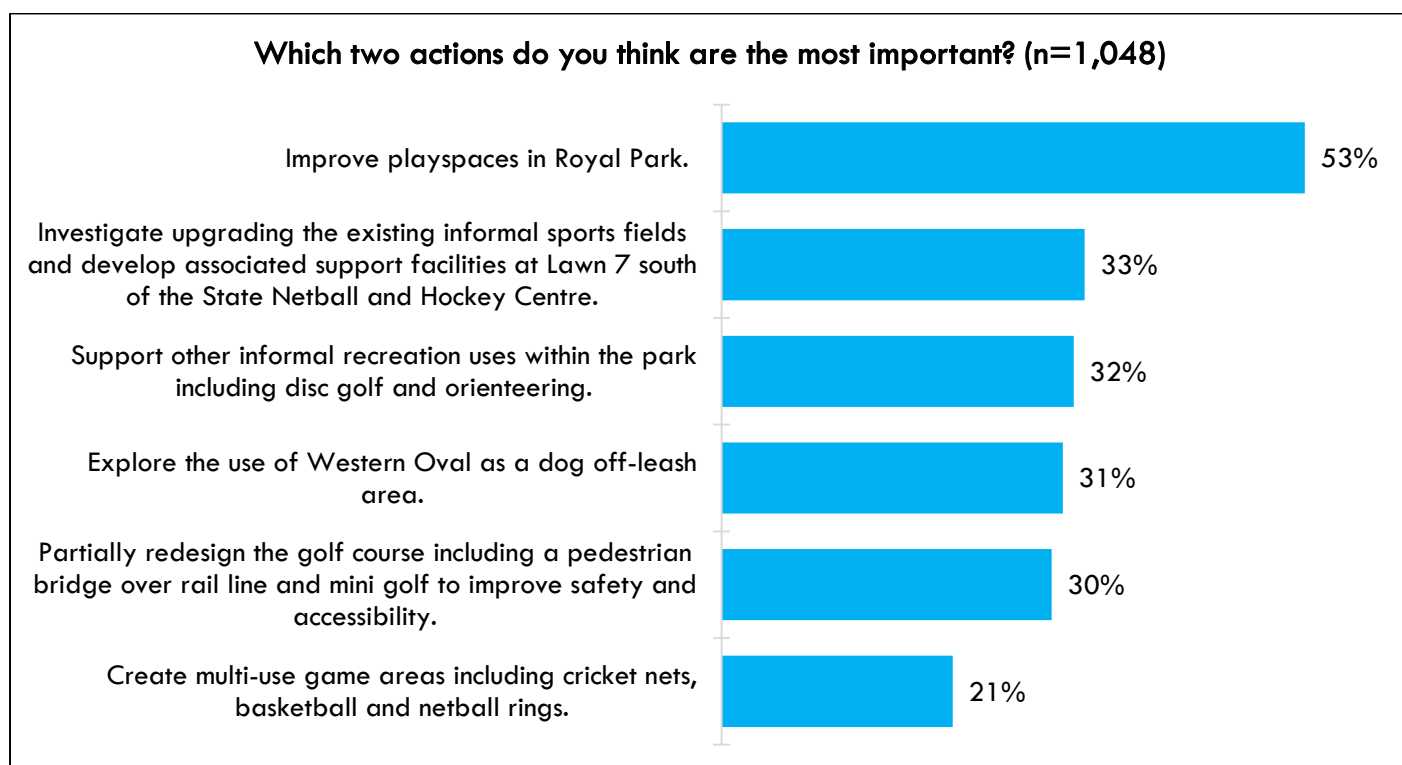
**48%** of pop-ups participants selected Theme 3 as one of the two most important to them (n=96 pop-up participants who voted).

Feedback collected through various methods on recreation and community wellbeing suggest that the direction and actions under this theme may require fine-tuning to ensure they meet broader community needs and aspirations. Many respondents and participants put forth concerns that the proposed structured recreation proposals deviate from their desired usage of the space, and are not complementary to the protection of the wild nature of the park. Whilst improving play spaces and including a bridge over the rail line at the golf course were broadly supported, comments suggest that some were concerned that these actions need to be carefully planned so as not to have a negative impact on biodiversity.

#### 3.4.1 Action ranking

When asked to indicate up to two actions that were most important for this them, *improving play spaces* was selected in the top two for more than half of the 1,048 survey respondents who answered this question (53%).

Figure 14 Participant connection/s to Royal Park (Survey)



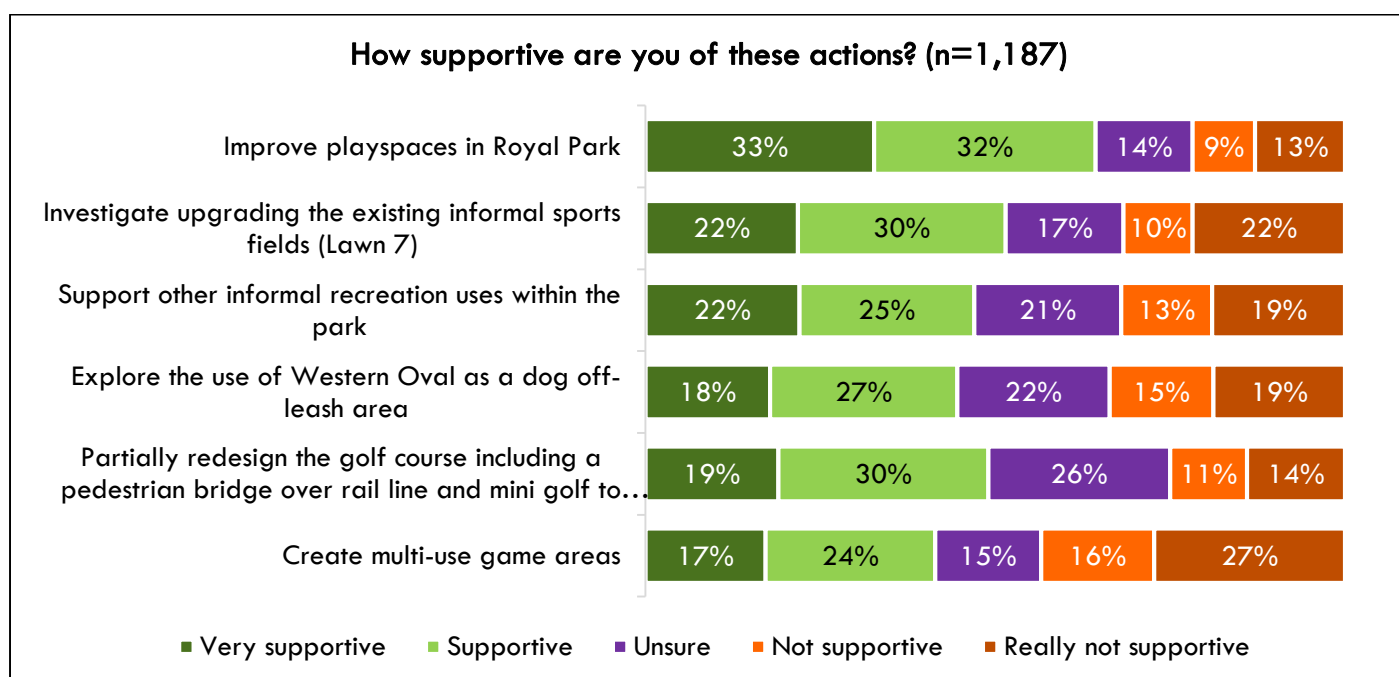
Notable variations in responses by demographics were:

- More 25+ year olds assigned importance to *improving playspaces* (52%+, compared to 33% 15-24 year olds), whereas the younger cohort more often assigned importance to *creating multi-use game areas* (44%, compared to <23% 25+ year olds) and/or *investigating upgrading informal sports fields* (52%, compared to <32% 25+ year olds).
- A higher proportion of women assigned importance to using the *Western oval as a dog off-leash area* (39%, compared to 24% men). Men more often assigned importance to *investigating upgrading the informal sports fields* (38%, compared to 27% women) and/or *supporting other informal recreation* (38%, compared to 26% women).
- 42% of respondents who were born overseas or speak a language other than English assigned importance to *investigating upgrading informal sports fields* (compared to 31% for the rest of the sample).

### 3.4.2 Action support

When asked to rate their level of support for each of these actions, more than half of survey respondents indicated support for *upgrading playspaces* and *investigating upgrading to informal sports fields (Lawn 7)*. However there were notable proportions who were not supportive of *investigating upgrading to informal sports fields (Lawn 7)* (32%) and indeed many of the other proposed recreational actions (More than 30% did not support *other informal recreation uses*, *dog off-leash on Western Oval*, and *creating multi-us game areas*).

Figure 15 Action support for theme 3



Levels of support by demographics reflect variations observed in the importance question, with men more often showing higher instances of support for *other informal uses* and *investigating upgrading to informal sports fields (Lawn 7)*, while younger people (15-24 year olds) showed higher instances of support for *multi-use game areas*, *other informal uses*, and *upgrading Lawn 7*.

In the pop-ups, when asked to identify their top 7 priority actions they were most excited about, Theme 3 actions were selected in the top 7 by the following proportions of participants across the three pop-ups (n=105). Preferences for these actions were likely influenced by the location of the pop-ups, and type of people who were engaging (e.g. more dog walkers):

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 54% | Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 37% | Improve playspaces in Royal Park. This includes: new playspace in Royal Park North, including a new public toilet; an expansion of accessible play features at Nature Play in Royal Park South; an update to the playspace in Royal Park West. |
| 28% | Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility.                                                                                                             |
| 18% | Support other informal recreation uses within the park including disc golf and orienteering.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 15% | Create multi-use game areas including cricket nets, basketball and netball rings.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7%  | Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields and develop associated support facilities (like toilets, shelters, pavilions) at Lawn 7 south of the State Netball and Hockey Centre.                                                |

### 3.4.3 Additional feedback

There were 507 survey respondents who provided a comment relating to this topic in one or both of the open ended boxes within the survey. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows. The percentage column shows the proportion of the entire sample (not just those who provided an answer):

| Theme                   | Count | % Total | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Less emphasis on sports | 177   | 14%     | There were many comments opposing any expansion of sports facilities in the park, with the main arguments against relating to the potential impact on wild spaces and wildlife (through additional lighting and parking), as well as the restricted nature of usage of the space (no longer available to the general public). | <p><i>"Leave the park as is - enough of it has been removed without the need to add further sports grounds. It's a safe haven for so many animals and native vegetation, and adding more sports grounds and facilities impacts this."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Worker]</p> <p><i>"Adding infrastructure and sporting facilities to this precious space is a terrible idea. The space is special because of its natural qualities. It's a breath of fresh air in an increasingly dense city and it provides a small, but distinct haven for what's left of the local animals and plants. Please preserve it and look elsewhere for sporting facilities."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Visitor]</p> <p><i>"Enhancement of informal sports fields implies those spaces will be used in a more formal capacity, typically through organised sporting clubs. This can displace</i></p> |

|                                                                                      |     |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                      |     |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>casual activity that formerly occurred in that space, which has implications for other open space (i.e. the activities don't stop, they relocate)."</i> [40-59 years, Man, Visitor]                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Support sports expansion</b>                                                      | 101 | 8% | Many respondents supported the emphasis on sport and potential addition and enhancement of infrastructure to support formal recreation activities. This included Lacrosse, Rugby, Golf, Tennis, AFL and Basketball.                               | <i>"Community use and sport is very important and council should support active community sport and involvement in the park."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]<br><br><i>"Needs more sporting fields, indoor arenas and pavilions with parking"</i> [40-59 years, Man, Worker]                                                   |
| <b>Use other locations / Urban Renewal areas for sportfields / formal recreation</b> | 70  | 6% | There were a range of suggestions for more appropriate places to develop sports fields to avoid removing valued wild spaces. Suggestions include Arden precinct and Docklands, with the suggestion that land could be purchased for that purpose. | <i>"If additional sporting areas are required to meet population projections, these could be built into the newly developed Arden McAuley precinct. This also has the benefit of a train station, meeting accessibility needs."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]                                                               |
| <b>Support disc golf</b>                                                             | 88  | 7% | Many respondents indicated they see disc golf as a good way to provide some structured activity that doesn't require significant environmental impact to install.                                                                                 | <i>"Very pleased to see disc golf included in the draft plan! It's a great sport for all ages, encouraging people of varying fitness levels to get out into nature and exercise while also being social. It also has a very low impact on the environment which is extremely important to me."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Visitor] |
| <b>Oppose disc golf</b>                                                              | 10  | 1% | Despite many being in favour of disk golf, there were some who were concerned about the safety aspects for other park users and potential environmental impact.                                                                                   | <i>"Disc golf is horrible for pedestrians to be around!"</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Dogs on leash /off leash /dogs (general)</b>                                      | 49  | 4% | Comments relating to dog usage of the space includes the need for maintaining/more off leash areas, areas that shouldn't be off leash, bins for dog poo, and fencing.                                                                             | <i>"Alternative dog-off-leash spaces are welcome given the flagrant ignoring of the rule against dogs off leash in the grass circle. Every time I walk the grass circle there are multiple dogs off leash running around"</i> [40-59 years, Man, Resident]                                                                       |

|                                                                |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><i>"My only strong objection is in relation to the use of Western Oval as an off leash dog park... My children and others that live in the street, have also been regularly chased by dogs, and are now afraid to visit the park or want to leave when they see dogs off leash."</i> [40-59 years, Man, Resident]</p> <p><i>"It is an amazing dog park and I would be strongly against and reduction in off lead areas of the park"</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]</p>                                                                                              |
| More focus on other activities / informal / passive recreation | 45 | 4% | A wide range of passive activities were put forth as potentially appropriate for Royal Park, including bird watching, cultural activities and dog parks.                                                            | <p><i>"Increasing community infrastructure and shared spaces to promote interaction like play areas, off leash dog parks, seating and small scale hospitality would improve the use of the park and build community. Space for outdoor cinema, performances and children's garden like the botanic gardens would be great."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"I'm very pleased to see the support for informal recreational activities proposed. It's a great way to unlock more of the park and invite more people in."</i> [40-59 years, Man, Visitor]</p> |
| Playgrounds/ play areas                                        | 33 | 3% | <p>Some were supportive of additional play spaces, with suggestions such as tracks to learn to ride and more playgrounds.</p> <p>Structured nature play was not seen as necessary as wild areas served as that.</p> | <p><i>"incredibly supportive of a playscape in the north, as a parent who lives close be to the north of the park, we don't have a lot of large playground, and none that cater for a range of ages"</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Visitor]</p> <p><i>"The idea of providing more Nature Play seems unnecessary when children can play in the natural environment anyway. It will mean less natural bushland and more built infrastructure within the park."</i> [60+ years, Woman, Visitor]</p>                                                                              |
| Support the additional tennis                                  | 31 | 2% | There were 31 respondents who specifically mentioned                                                                                                                                                                | <i>"I also support adding a fourth tennis court at north park tennis club being on the edge of royal</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                    |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| court at North Park Tennis Club                    |    |    | supporting the expansion of the North Park Tennis Club.                                                                                                                                                                    | <i>park adjacent to 2 busy roads an extra court would not affect the nature of the park but add to the passive recreation available"</i><br>[60+ years, Man, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Existing sports fields are under-utilised          | 14 | 1% | Whilst some supported the expansion of sport facilities, there were others who felt the current facilities were being underutilised, and therefore felt there wasn't a need for expansion.                                 | <i>"Have walked through on many occasions and hardly seen anyone using the sports grounds. Usually people walking children and/or dogs."</i> [no demographics]<br><br><i>"I am deeply suspicious of some of the underlying assumptions. For example, we have walked all over Royal Park for more than 25 years at all hours of the day, and have seen little evidence that the sporting facilities are at capacity."</i> [60+ years, Man] |
| Support improvements for Gender equity / diversity | 15 | 1% | A range of proposed actions were perceived as potentially improving gender equity and diversity, including more sports facilities and disc golf.                                                                           | <i>"I strongly encourage the development of sporting ovals at Lawn 7, football clubs within the City of Melbourne continue to grow and all clubs are focused on meeting Fair Access guidelines and supporting greater female participation."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Other]<br><br><i>"Disc golf is such an inclusive activity, with all genders, ages and ability levels can participate"</i><br>[25-39 years, Man, Resident]             |
| Support for additional sport fields at Lawn 7      | 8  | 1% | Of the 17 respondents who mentioned lawn 7 in their comment, just under half supported expansion of sports facilities into this space. Through these comments it is suggested that there is demand for soccer in the area. | <i>"Growth of amateur club soccer in Melbourne is exceeding the capacity for grounds, particularly since the women's world cup in 2023. Upgrading Lawn 7 to accommodate 2 additional pitches would allow local clubs to expand their programs for local players."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]                                                                                                                                        |
| Against additional sport fields at Lawn 7          | 9  | 1% | The other half of respondents mentioning Lawn 7 did not want it used for sports facilities, citing the importance of the area for biodiversity and informal recreation.                                                    | <i>"Areas like Lawn 7 are vital not only for casual recreation but also for preserving the park's ecological integrity. These open spaces allow people to engage with the park informally—playing frisbee, walking, or simply enjoying the greenery. Converting these areas into formal sports grounds would eliminate much-</i>                                                                                                          |

|                                                      |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                      |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <i>needed informal spaces and disrupt the park's ability to support the diverse range of wildlife that calls it home."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Reduce / use golf course space instead</b>        | 9  | 1% | Some suggested that the golf course could be removed and repurposed for recreation, formal sport and/or bushland.                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>"I think the golf course should be converted into a more community-friendly space. That's one part of the park I never use, and while this may be a personal issue, that area of the park seems hostile and unwelcoming to me. Given the high value of that land, I believe it would be better utilized as a space that can be enjoyed by a larger number of people at the same time."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]                                |
| <b>Concerned about changes to golf course / club</b> | 8  | 1% | Some concerns were raised about the proposed changes to the Golf course, mostly due to potential disturbance from night time use of the clubhouse.                                                                                                                                    | <i>"Relocation and re-development of the golf clubhouse and the possibility of this being used as an entertainment or function venue with resulting noise, disruption and traffic to the detriment of wildlife and residents. I am totally opposed to the potential use of the golf clubhouse as entertainment or function venue."</i> [Man, Resident]                                                                                                    |
| <b>Mini Golf</b>                                     | 20 | 1% | 5 respondents commented that they supported the idea of mini golf, while 15 were against it. It was raised that the answer option in the survey included both the bridge and mini golf in the same code; some commented that they were in favour of the bridge but not the mini golf. | <i>"Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility. Love the bridge over the rail line. There is a lot of sense in golf course design. We are very unsure about mini-golf as you are presumably looking at a commercial venture on land that should be of greater potential value in the redesign of the golf course and its amenities"</i> [60+ years, Man, Resident] |
| <b>Other</b>                                         | 15 | 1% | A range of other ideas were put forth, including a mountain bike trail, sharing sports grounds with other activities, and fitness stations.                                                                                                                                           | <i>"Fitness stations would be great as a circuit around the park."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Furthermore, 99 submissions (66%) addressed this topic, providing the following insights and feedback:

- Whilst submissions recognised that there will be an increase in population that will require access to recreational space, it is argued that natural open space is required for a growing population as well as sports space, with the role of Royal Park seen by many as being to provide a space for passive recreation (81 submissions, 41%).
- 81 submissions (41%) did not want any expansion of sports facilities in the park. It was suggested that additional sports facilities should be put elsewhere, such as Arden, Fishermans Bend, Kensington, Macauley, Melbourne Park, Docklands, Princess Park, disused industrial land, and/or Poplar Road. Some also raised a concern that if expansion of sports elements was allowed that could set a precedent to continue to reduce natural elements in favour of sport in the future.
- Conversely, submissions from sports clubs argue that there is a need for expansion (58 submissions, 29%) and/or upgrades to existing facilities (52 submissions, 26%). They highlight that there will be an increase in population by 2040 that will be accompanied by an increase in demand for sports activities, suggesting that it will be important for Council to adequately Plan for providing the necessary facilities for this increase in demand. Some comments suggest that the role of Royal Park should be more focussed on supporting sports activities than passive recreation, arguing that passive recreation is catered for through other parks around the CBD.
- A number of submissions cite an Australian Sports Commission Ausplay survey<sup>1</sup> that shows that walking is the preferred means of exercise for adults, suggesting that this supports prioritising the walking aspects of the park.

## Top ten most popular sports in Australia across ages

Table with 6 columns and 10 rows.

|   | 0-4                                                                                                | 5-14                                                                                               | 15-24                                                                                               | 25-34                                                                                               | 35-54                                                                                                 | 55                                                                                                        |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 |  Swimming       |  Swimming       |  Fitness/<br>Gym |  Walking         |  Walking         |  Walkin<br>g         |
| 2 |  Gymnas<br>tics |  Soccer         |  Walking         |  Fitness/<br>Gym |  Fitness/<br>Gym |  Fitness/<br>Gym     |
| 3 |  Dancing        |  Basketb<br>all |  Runni<br>ng     |  Runni<br>ng     |  Bush<br>Walking |  Bush<br>Walkin<br>g |

- There were a range of current sports facilities that were noted in the submissions as requiring upgrades or needing to be retained:
  - Retaining cricket facilities, including turf pitch support plan, and add new turf facilities to cater for increasing demand. One submission suggested that turf pitches can have multiple uses in addition to cricket, including social sports.
  - Upgrade and expand Royal Park North / Ransford Oval cricket nets, and make them available to the general public outside of formal cricket usage. It was requested that this upgrade recognise the needs of current users to ensure that the design is appropriate so that sports club usage can continue. Furthermore, there is a call to retain car parking in this area, and concern that the proposed nature play playspace may be too close to the cricket nets and could be a

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results-2015-2023#participation\\_trends\\_br\\_2015-2023](https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results-2015-2023#participation_trends_br_2015-2023)

safety issue. There was a suggestion that the playspace be moved to the West of the Western Oval.

- Add protective fences to Walker St Ovals to improve safety for the general public.
- Upgrade golf club rooms and infrastructure (e.g. practice nets). One submission suggests that any upgrades to the golf course need to be carefully planned so as not to reduce the natural features of the park, or decrease safety for other park users.
- Update Ross Straw Field pavilion (in current location) to better cater for users and enable social events (all gender bathrooms, storage, canteen), and add lighting to enable longer field usage times (to support increasing demand). Also add bullpens, water taps, seating and shelters; and improve ground maintenance and accessibility of pathways. There was also the call for expansion to include a third field to meet growing demand.
- Incorporate box lacrosse into the multiuse games area, per Proposed Royal Park North Action #7
- Call for fit for purpose interchange benches be installed at both Ransford and McAlister Ovals
- Suggestion that roofs be installed on sports facilities so that the lighting doesn't impact the local wildlife and residents.
- Suggestion of a 'sporting lawn' and 'lounging lawn' in part of the grass circle.
- Add publicly available cricket nets at Flemington Road Oval (north western side).
- Additional scoreboard, lighting and seating (including accessible) at Brens Oval.
- Lighting at Ryder Oval so that it can be used for winter sports clubs.
- Walker East and West Ovals to be upgraded with park benches and shade.
- Other improvements such as electronic score boards, fencing and improved drainage.
- Need for more activities for elderly people such as pickleball and walking football.
- Suggestion that an 'Active Melbourne' facility could be added in Parkville.
- Disc golf was put forth by a submission by the Melbourne Disc Golf Club as an opportunity for non-traditional exercise activity, with the opportunity for a nationally recognised course that offers something new to the area. It is suggested that this is a shared open space activity that doesn't rely on expensive infrastructure or maintenance and can improve community wellbeing. However, a number of other submissions put forth concerns regarding the potential for injury for other park users.
- Observations of low utilisation of sports facilities were made, with a call for more detailed usage data be used to support decision-making. There were suggestions that more effective use of current sports fields be explored rather than extensions to infrastructure. It is feared that increasing sports facilities could reduce biodiversity, take away opportunities for informal recreation, and result in unsustainable irrigation needs.
- Those who value the wild natural assets of the park are generally against development of Lawn 7 (13 submissions, 7%) as it is seen as a buffer to the sports centre and an important area for casual sport, as well as Swift Parrot habitat. Furthermore there is concern that adding more sports facilities to this location would result in the loss of more open space and Dark Sky to walking paths, car parking and lighting for access. It was felt that the Plan doesn't accurately demonstrate the potential loss of open space to extend formal sports into this space, and therefore doesn't align with the quote on page 17 of the Draft Plan *"The following elements are non-negotiable and cannot be changed through the master plan: ... The principle of 'no net reduction in usable area of open space' in accordance with the City of Melbourne Parks Policy"*. Conversely 2 submissions (1%) want lawn 7 to be developed for sports to cater for the exercise needs of a growing population.
- Call for the Plan to clearly outline the dog off-leash rules, with dogs not allowed in wetlands and areas with bird life. There is a request for further consideration around how use by dogs can impact on

ecological values, and a suggestion that Council consider increasing the penalties for dog owners who have their dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be. One submission indicated that they felt Western Oval was not an appropriate place for dogs to be off-leash (no further clarification provided).

- It was raised that Birdwatching and citizen science is active in the space (one submission presented data showing over 1,000 individuals submitting sightings for the area in recent years). It is feared that a reduction in green space would impact on the ecosystem and negatively impact on this recreational pursuit.
- Further details were requested about specific recreation aspects of the park (nature play, park for teenagers, playspaces, disc golf, orienteering – 11 submissions, 6%) so that the environmental and usage impacts could be better understood, including demonstrated need, whether it will include commercialisation, and impact on biodiversity and vegetation maintenance. It was suggested by some that the whole bushland area of the park is suitable for 'nature play' and therefore a dedicated area is not necessary.
- A number of submissions (5 submissions, 3%) suggested that The Lodge and Walmsley House should be kept as a location for park maintenance staff and community groups, and that a café was not in line with the park vision. This was a site valued by volunteers and community groups as a place to connect and participate in civic life.
- There was a call for improving the golf course facilities with more social space, free accessible parking, and improved maintenance (including toilets), as it provides recreation opportunities for women, people with a disability and older men. There is also a suggestion that upgrading the pavilion could be done in such a way that it could be useful for a broader range of activities beyond just the golf clubs.
- Some also raised concern about private organisations using public space for their recreational activities, when it may be more appropriate for them to source space on their own land instead.

#### Quotes from submissions:

- *Lawn 7 is a classic example of shared space that is not available for development. It is a perfect example of sharing and coexistence. It is available for casual sport, walking, just sitting but more importantly sharing with nature. How can it be possible that the information about the birds that rely on this area has just been ignored? [Resident]*
- *As a regular to Royal Park, I have observed how Royal Park is used by people of all ages, as a place of informal relaxation and enjoyment. A picnic. Socialising. A walk with friends. Or simply lying on the grass, resting. Such passive recreation in parkland is essential to mental and physical health and wellbeing. [Resident]*
- *Whilst it is perhaps understandable that organised sporting groups will always be interested in creating additional space for their activities, our precious parkland, once lost, will not be recovered. [Resident]*
- *I also appreciate the ecological and aesthetic issues addressed in the draft. However, I believe that the plan must start out from a recognition of Melbourne's fundamental design -- of a CBD, surrounded by a circle of parks for community sport and recreation, surrounded by dormitory suburbs depending on those parks. It needs to recognise where Royal Park sits in that, as the most significant of just five parkland areas available to community sport out of the 15 in this circle, and that this places a great responsibility upon the City of Melbourne as custodian of the bulk of the sporting parkland upon which inner Melbourne depends. [Mercantile Cricket Association]*

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to recreation and community wellbeing expressed during stakeholder meetings encompassed five main views:

- **Call for more playgrounds** – specifically in the North of Royal Park.
- **Passive recreation** – Friends-of groups feel that passive recreation should be prioritised over sport, due to space assigned to sport not being available to all park users, and the risk of reduced area available to support biodiversity. There were also concerns raised that increased sport would require an increase in parking, which would result in greater loss of green space for unstructured recreational usage for those who don't have capacity or interest in sport. It was also noted that it is a rare space of biodiversity which cannot be duplicated, whereas sports fields can be placed in many other locations such as McCauley or Arden.
- **Expanded sporting infrastructure** – It was observed that some clubs had grown beyond the capacity of the existing infrastructure, or had noted limitations in current infrastructure, with a call for:
  - Renewed / expanded cricket nets in the North, in a way that continued to be safe for all park users should they be near a playground.
  - More seating around and close to pavilions, particularly for older adults.
  - Improvements in amenity (lighting for twilight games, shade, surfaces, larger room sizes, cooking facilities, storage areas).
- **Disk golf** – concerns that it could be dangerous to other park users. Friends of groups raised concerns about the potential impact on the Little Eagle habitat, and that it could limit unstructured recreational use.
- There were calls for **clarification** on a number of points
  - Would demand data be available to sports clubs?
  - Scope of participation counting (positioning of counting mechanisms).

**Pop-up feedback:** Feedback relating to recreation and community wellbeing expressed during the pop-ups encompassed three main views:

- **Expansion of sports** – in one of the pop-ups there were attendees who specifically attended the pop up after receiving a letter from a special interest group about the project, which seemed to have highlighted and maybe exaggerated the level of proposed sporting fields or interventions. The pop-up provided further detail about the scope of the plan which resulted in people having enough information to be comfortable that the master plan seemed balanced.
- **Dog walking** – A number of suggestions arose, such as the need for more off lead locations for when current locations are in use (e.g. for Swordcraft) and consideration for grass used as it can result in grass seed related dog injuries. There were also requests for dog agility courses and more information about the detail of any changes.
- **Formal facilities** – at the Parkville pop-up there was a desire for the golf course to be removed. At the nature playground pop-up attendees suggested the playground needed more equipment for children with a disability, older children, swings and water play. There was also a concern as to the potential impact of disc golf on trees, birds and wildlife.

The **2 petitions** (425 signatories) covered the following views regarding this theme:

- **Increasing need for sport facilities:** Acknowledge the challenges community sport will face in building capacity and capability in line with community sporting needs with an increasing population.
- **Enhance cricket facilities:** Including maintenance plans for turf wickets and redevelopment and expansion of caged cricket nets (for cricket only, not multi-use which could reduce access for cricket).

One petition also suggested adding a turf wicket at Lawn 7 and perimeter fencing at Walker East and West ovals (265 signatories).

- **Safety:** Concern that the proposed nature play location next to Ransford oval could result in user injury from cricket balls.
- **Appropriate location for sport:** Recognise that Royal Park is the most significant of 5 parkland areas available for community sport, out of a total of 15 parks surrounding the CBD (one petition with 265 signatories).

### 3.5 Theme 4: Visitor experience

The following context was provided to survey respondents for this theme:

*Royal Park offers a diverse visitor experience, with sporting fields, public and active transport corridors, unique activities such as Urban Camp, and destinations including the Melbourne Zoo, State Netball and Hockey Centre and Royal Children's Hospital, all within easy reach.*

*The park is rich in history and culture. It has a unique, relaxing landscape. Many places invite quiet reflection, learning, and exploration.*

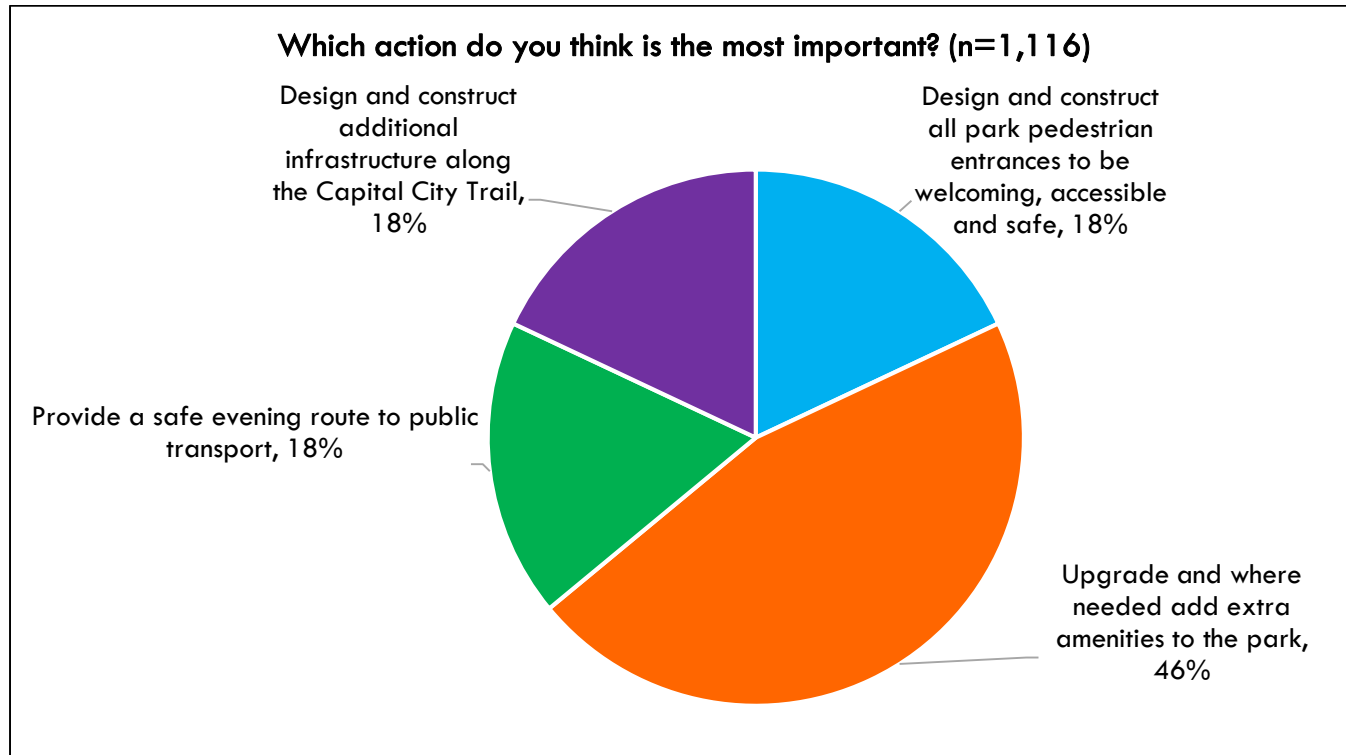
**20%** of pop-ups participants selected Theme 4 as one of the two most important to them (n=96 pop-up participants who voted).

Whilst there was broad support through the survey for upgrading and adding amenities, comments in the survey and submissions request that this be carefully planned so as not to impact on biodiversity or wildlife, or reduce the wild bushland feel of the park. There were questions about how far actions would go to improve safety (and whether this would impact on biodiversity), with concerns that lighting could have a negative impact on Dark Park nature of the space.

#### 3.5.1 Action ranking

When asked which of the four proposed actions for this theme they thought was most important, *Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park* was selected by a higher proportion of those who answered the question (46% of 1,116 respondents).

Figure 16 Action ranking for theme 4



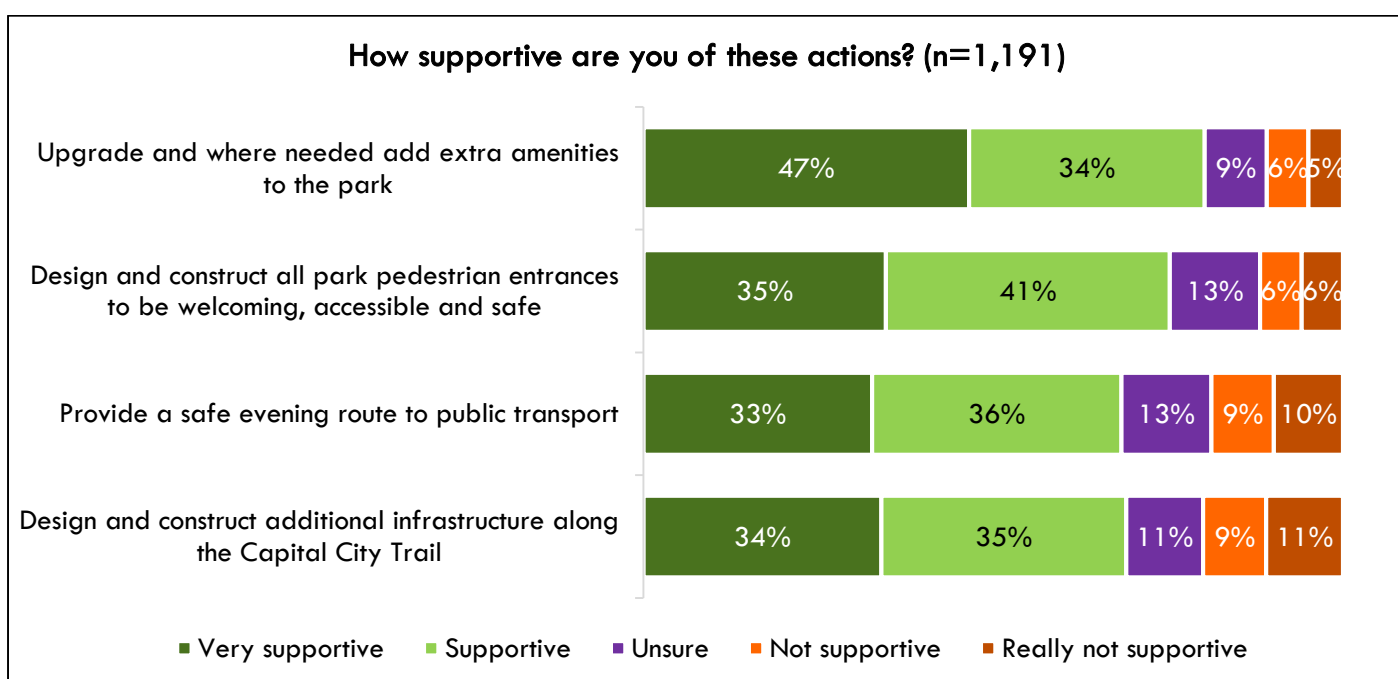
Statistically significant variations in opinions across demographics were:

- A higher proportion of respondents who were born overseas or speak a language other than English chose design of entrances to be *welcoming, accessible and safe* (24%, compared to 16% for the rest of the sample).

### 3.4.2 Action support

When asked to rate their level of support for each of these actions, more than half indicated support for each action, with *upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park* receiving the most support (81% very supportive or supportive). Around one in five were not supportive or really not supportive of *providing a safe evening route to public transport* (19% not or not at all supportive) and/or *additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail* (20% not or not at all supportive), with comments suggesting this was mostly due to the concerns that additional lighting may have a negative impact on the ecosystem.

Figure 17 Action support for theme 4



Notable variations in responses by demographics were:

- Under 40 year olds more often showed strong support for *entrances being welcoming, accessible and safe* (45% 15-24 and 40% 25-39 year olds, compared to 26% 60+ year olds).
- *Providing a safe evening route to public transport* was strongly supported by higher proportions of women (36%, compared to 30% men), under 60 year olds (37%, compared to 18% 60+ year olds) and non-residents (38%, compared to 30% residents). High levels of being really not supportive of this action were recorded amongst 60+ year olds (14%, compared to 7% 40-59 year olds).
- *Additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail* was really not supported by 17% of 60+ year olds (compared to <10% other ages). Conversely, 42% of 15-24 year olds strongly supported this action (compared to 18% 60+ year olds).
- Those who identify as LGBTQIA showed a higher instance of strong support for each action.

In the pop-ups, when asked to identify their top 7 priority actions they were most excited about, Theme 4 actions were selected in the top 7 by the following proportions of participants across the three pop-ups (n=105):

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>56%</b> | Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park like seats, shade structures, drinking fountains, toilets and bins.                                                                  |
| <b>25%</b> | Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe.                                                                                                      |
| <b>19%</b> | Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail, including lighting, seating, drinking fountains and bike repair stations.                                        |
| <b>12%</b> | Provide a safe evening route to public transport by exploring how the path lighting from Urban Camp to existing lit paths within the State Netball and Hockey Centre grounds can be improved. |

### 3.5.3 Additional feedback

There were 160 survey respondents who provided a comment relating to this topic in one or both of the open ended boxes within the survey. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows:

| Theme                                                             | Count | % all respondents | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Preserve dark-sky / against increased / excessive lighting</b> | 148   | 12%               | Further building on the opinions that the park should be preserved for nature and wildlife, many survey respondents were against additional lighting due to the potential impact on wildlife.                                    | <p><i>“There is too much focus on adding elements, rather than preserving the character that is already there. Adding sporting facilities, adding hard paving, adding lights will detract from the park. The existing character of Royal Park worth preserving is its large open grasslands devoid of formal paths, its big skies, informal bush paths, and dark unlit zones.”</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>“Keep Royal Park as a park! Not everything needs to be lit up artificially. This park is one of the few dark spaces in Melbourne. Do not add to the light pollution.”</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Visitor]</p> |
| <b>Support for more lighting</b>                                  | 55    | 4%                | There were some who supported additional lighting, with 10 specifically mentioning how it helps with safety concerns. Others mentioned how it is of benefit as it can extend the hours available to undertake formal recreation. | <p><i>“Lighting around walking tracks &amp; grounds are important for the safety of everyone traveling through especially at night”</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Visitor]</p> <p><i>“I am hopeful that the new sports field lighting would also help contribute to a better and safer atmosphere in the park area at nights, allowing clubs to be present</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                                                         |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                         |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <i>training later into the night, particularly in the darker months.”</i><br>[15-24 years, Man, Visitor]                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Safety concerns overstated / not addressed through more lighting</b> | 21 | 2% | Some indicated that they didn't think lighting would improve safety in the park.                                                                                                                 | <i>“I don't think it is a safe place to walk at night even with lighting, sorry!”</i> [60+ years, Woman, Worker]<br><br><i>“Artificial lighting will not make me safer, I'm a woman and I don't want intrusive lighting through the park.”</i><br>[25-39 years, Woman, Resident]                                                   |
| <b>Toilets</b>                                                          | 15 | 1% | Some raised the importance of access to toilet facilities, including suggestions that they be installed in specific locations, such as near dog parks and playgrounds.                           | <i>“Having good facilities though is crucial like toilets, bike riding options, walking &amp; running too.”</i> [40-59 years, Man, Visitor]<br><br><i>“More and expanded play grounds, combined with clean toilets, would be fantastic.”</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]                                                        |
| <b>Safety (general)</b>                                                 | 14 | 1% | There were also a number of more general safety comments, emphasising the importance of being able to safely move around the park.                                                               | <i>“Improve wayfinding, make it feel safer for females walking through alone by activating key areas whilst making other areas dedicated to wildlife habitat.”</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Food and beverage</b>                                                | 5  | 0% | 2 comments supported more food and beverage options in the park, while 3 did not want this.                                                                                                      | <i>“I don't support the idea of a cafe in the Heritage listed building. This would bring heaps more cars on weekends and Noise. The charm of the Native Garden would be lost.”</i><br>[60+ years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Other</b>                                                            | 22 | 2% | A range of other feedback was provided on this topic, including the desire for more seating and shade, and the importance of having accessible open space as the city becomes more high density. | <i>“It needs more shade and areas to sit around the bike/walking paths.”</i><br>[25-39 years, Woman, Resident]<br><br><i>“As Melbourne is increasing becoming more high density it is important to ensure places like Royal Park are protected and preserved and remain accessible to everyone.”</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Visitor] |

Furthermore, 73 submissions (48%) addressed this topic, providing the following feedback:

- Concern that additional lighting could have a negative impact on the natural state of the park and its wildlife, as well as have a negative impact on humans (67 submissions, 44%). It was felt that the Dark Park status should be a priority of the Plan.
- 5 submissions mentioned that they didn't want a café at Walmsley House, emphasising the importance of the space for community connections with each other and Council staff.

- There was a suggestion that lighting on sportsgrounds could be better managed by timing mechanisms and remote access controls to ensure they are only on when the spaces are in use.
- Call for the Master Plan to encourage a community connection to natural values of the park, perhaps through cultural days, citizen science and sports clubs contributing to the care of the natural elements of the park.
- There was support for increased amenity along the Capital City Trail (lighting, seating, drinking fountains, bike repair stations) provided they don't have a negative impact on wildlife.
- Sports clubs supported improved lighting of their facilities.
- Golf clubs want more seating around the park and near pavilions.

#### Quotes from submissions:

- *Royal Park is a dark park by design. It used to be dark enough for star gazing but the lights at the SNHC removed that possibility. However, it is so important to make sure that it is not more brightly lit. The whole web of life, that is Royal Park, needs darkness. Insects need darkness. No insects, no food for lizards or birds. Plants need darkness. Birds need darkness. No birds, just a silent world and so it goes. [Resident]*
- *As noted in the National Light Pollution Guidelines "Natural darkness has a conservation value in the same way that clean water, air and soil have intrinsic value." National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife, 2023, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water*

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to visitor experience expressed during stakeholder meetings encompassed one main view:

- **Clarification** was sought on how lighting at Ryder Oval interacts with Dark Park objectives.

**Pop-up feedback:** Feedback relating to visitor experience expressed during pop-ups encompassed 4 main views:

- **Infrastructure** – Need for more toilets and water fountains, particularly on the Western oval, in the Northern parts, and along the tram line.
- **Shade** – was encouraged for paths, to be provided by trees (European species preferred).
- **Safety** – In Parkville, participants wanted a bridge across the railway and improved safety near the golf course.
- **Lighting** – Some wanted more lighting on paths, whereas others spoke about the potential for tailored lighting timing on the Western oval to improve safety for Swordcraft activities. There were also queries about where the lighting would be, with concerns about the impact on biodiversity and wildlife, particularly around Poplar Oval. At the Parkville pop-up there was a concern that lighting would be lost during the level crossing removal, with a general sentiment that more lighting along paths is needed in this area, and along the capital City trail.

### 3.6 Theme 5: Movement to and through the park

The following context was provided to survey respondents for this theme:

*The expansive size and scale of Royal Park make it an ideal location for discovery and exploration. Community engagement confirmed that Royal Park South is the most visited area in the park – featuring Nature Play, the Australian Native Garden and Grassland Circle. The least visited area is Royal Park West – home to the Trin Warren Tam-boore Wetland and Manningham Play Space.*

*These visitation differences indicate that locations with few cross-roads or public transport options are harder to reach and therefore used less. Sub-optimal pedestrian infrastructure and busy traffic conditions, particularly around the Macarthur Road and Elliott Avenue corridor, also pose challenges to pedestrian accessibility and safety.*

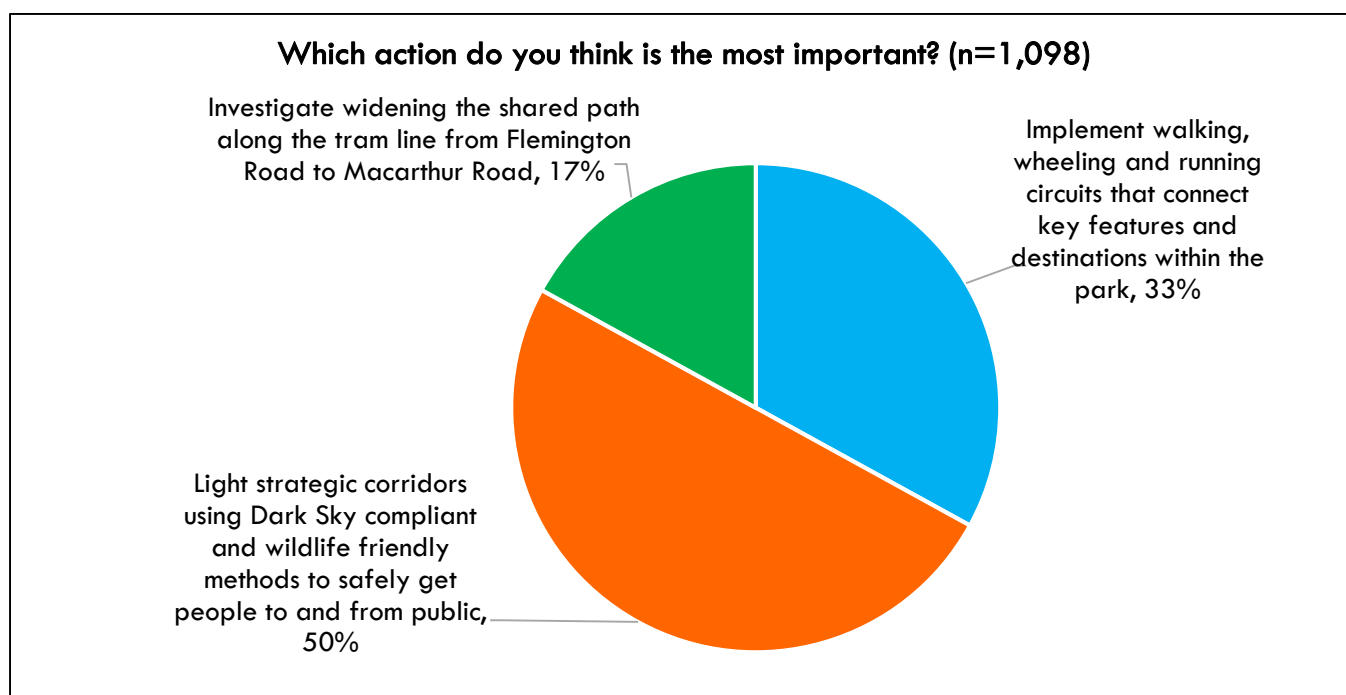
**48%** of pop-ups participants selected Theme 5 as one of the two most important to them (n=96 pop-up participants who voted).

Whilst there was broad support through the survey for Dark Sky compliant lighting of strategic corridors, many survey comments and submissions placed particular importance on the Dark Sky element, with some questioning how this would be possible without disturbing wildlife. Many respondents and participants were resistant to the idea of paved paths, due to them detracting from the bushland feel of the park, and potential impacts on heat island effect and biodiversity. There were also many who raised concerns about the risk of pathways fracturing the ecosystem, with particular resistance to any formal paths in the grass circle. Some respondents and participants also highlighted the need for the Capital City Trail to better manage separation of cyclists and pedestrians for improved safety.

#### 3.6.1 Action ranking

When asked which of the three proposed actions for this theme they thought was most important, *Link strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods* was selected by a higher proportion of survey respondents who answered the question (50% of 1,098 respondents).

Figure 18 Action ranking for theme 5

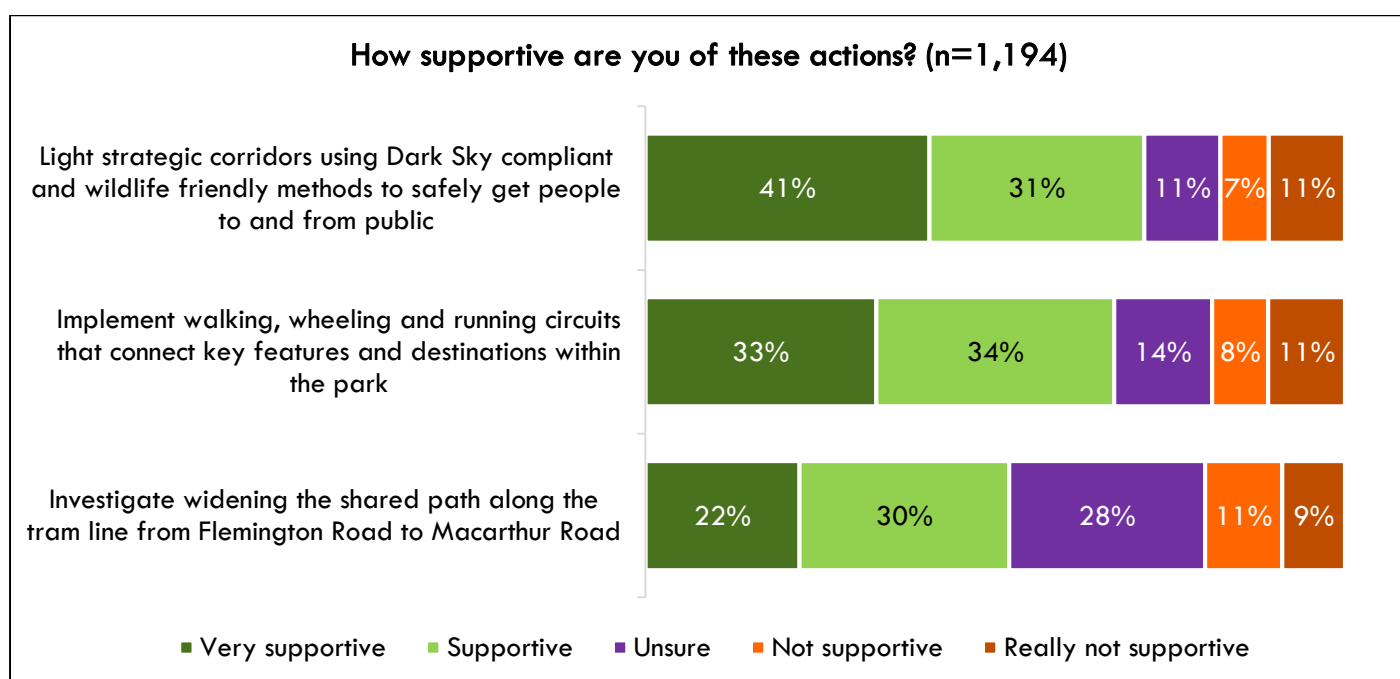


When analysing findings by demographics, one notable variation was evident. Residents more often selected *investigate widening of shared path along the tram line* as the most important (19%, compared to 14% non-residents), whilst non-residents more often selected *light strategic corridors using dark sky compliant methods* as most important (56%, compared to 47% residents).

### 3.6.2 Action support

When asked to rate their level of support for each of these actions, more than half of survey respondents indicated support for each, with the action receiving the most support being *lighting strategic corridors with Dark Sky compliant lighting* (72% support). There was a lower level of support for the *widening of the shared path along the tram line* due to many being unsure (28%), with survey comments suggesting further information would be needed about the potential environmental impact of this action.

Figure 19 Action support for theme 5



When analysing findings by demographics the following notable variations were evident:

- Women showed a higher instance of not really supporting *walking, wheeling and running circuits* (13%, compared to 9% men), as did 60+ year olds (16%, 7% 25-39 year olds).
- Under 60 year olds were more often very supportive of *lighting strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant methods* (41%+, compared to 29% 60+ year olds). A rating of very supportive for this action was also more common amongst LGBTQIA+ respondents (50%, 39% non-LGBTQIA+) and respondents who were born overseas or speak a language other than English respondents (48%, compared to 39% for the rest of the sample). Residents more commonly said they were not really supportive of this action (13%, 7% non-residents).
- Widening of the shared path along the tram line* was more commonly supported by 25-59 year olds (26%, 14% 60+ year olds), whilst 16% of 60+ year olds were really not supportive (7% 40-59 year olds).

In the pop-ups, when asked to identify their top 7 priority actions they were most excited about, Theme 5 actions were selected in the top 7 by the following proportions of participants across the three pop-ups (n=105):

**78%**

Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public transport.

**33%**

Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park.

**21%**

Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road.

### 3.6.3 Additional feedback

There were 246 respondents who provided a comment relating to this topic in one or both of the open ended boxes within the survey. The reader should also reference additional feedback for Theme 4 (Section 3.5.3) which provides insights relating to opinions on lighting. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows:

| Theme                                                                            | Count | % all respondents | Summary                                                                                                                                                                          | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oppose paved / formal paths through grass circle</b>                          | 54    | 4%                | Over 50 comments mentioned the need to preserve the native grassland circle, calling for there not to be paved paths in this area.                                               | <i>"Do not build ANYTHING in the Native Grassland Circle. No paths or anything man-made. This place is NATIVE and natural, and absolutely UNIQUE to Melbourne City"</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Oppose more paved / formal paths (general)</b>                                | 37    | 3%                | Some respondents were against any further paved footpaths as they were perceived as reducing green space and being contrary to the wild nature of the park.                      | <i>"I would not like to see more paved paths in the park. I think there are already a number of track which are made by people using them. I would be against these being paved."</i> [60+ years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                            |
| <b>Support / additional improvements for greater accessibility (Pedestrians)</b> | 24    | 2%                | A range of specific pedestrian improvements were supported, including the Gatehouse Street crossing and joined circuits.                                                         | <i>"I love the idea of creating joined walking path circuits."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Support / additional improvements for greater accessibility (Cyclists)</b>    | 20    | 2%                | Mentioned improvements for cyclists include more cycle paths and casual riding routes.                                                                                           | <i>"There needs to be a dedicated and protected bike lane in both directions along Macarthur Road, leading all the way up Racecourse Road. This corridor is currently very unsafe for cyclists."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]                                                                                           |
| <b>Separation of pedestrian and cyclists on major paths</b>                      | 18    | 1%                | Some note the safety issues on paths that are used by both pedestrians and cyclists, specifically the Capital City Trail, with a call for separation or widening of these paths. | <i>"Separating pedestrians and cyclists on the path near the children's hospital/tram line needs to be investigated."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]<br><br><i>"Modal separation of bikes and foot traffic is very important, especially on key commuting paths. Also fosters better relationship between walking and</i> |

|                                                                            |    |    |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                            |    |    |                                                                                                          | <i>wheeling park users, and reduces danger for both parties.”[25-39 years, Resident]</i>                                                                             |
| <b>Support for additional crossings over Elliott Avenue/Macarthur Road</b> | 14 | 1% | Elliot Avenue / Macarthur Road was often mentioned as a location that needs better pedestrian crossings. | <i>“We need more pedestrian crossings along Elliot Ave/ MacArthur road. We need speed limits reduced, or cars eliminated entirely.”[25-39 years, Man]</i>            |
| <b>Support for bridges over rail line</b>                                  | 6  | 0% | Six respondents mentioned that they want a bridge over the rail line.                                    | <i>“Really excited about the possibility of more pedestrian crossings over the train line and macarthur ave!”[25-39 years, Woman]</i>                                |
| <b>Greater focus needed on active transport</b>                            | 4  | 0% | 4 comments mentioned the need for more active transport related actions.                                 | <i>“More work needs to be done to encourage active transport (cycling and walking) both within the park and getting to and from it.”[15-24 years, Man, Resident]</i> |

Furthermore, 76 submissions (50%) addressed this topic, providing the following feedback:

- Concern that formal paths could fragment the natural elements (negatively impacting the ecosystem), detract from wild bushland nature of the park (remove self-determination when walking), and increase the heat island effect (52 submissions, 34%). In particular, many object to the proposed circuit paths due to the potential impact on the ecosystem (paved paths and lighting, and potential weed invasion), indicating that existing paths around the outside of the park could be used instead.
- Conversely some submissions call for more paved paths (5 submissions, 3%) as it was perceived as reducing the potential for negative impacts by cyclists and walkers on natural elements. These submissions supported improving safety (quality and lighting) for pedestrian and cycling corridors
- 39 submissions (26%) called for not putting formal paths through the grass circle, which was put forth as the last remaining open grassland space in the city. It was mentioned that there is landscape value to the ‘goat tracks’ through the grass circle (and indeed the broader park), with the suggestion that community consultation is needed to understand community sentiment regarding any changes to the grass circle.
- The circuit paths were also unpopular in the submissions, with concern that they aren’t needed and may go through sensitive biodiversity areas.
- A number of submissions suggested the need for better planning for the separation of cyclists from pedestrians (15 submissions, 10%), particularly on the Capital City Trail, as cyclists go through at high speeds and cause collisions. It was suggested that paths offer separation or better cycling infrastructure is installed on neighbouring roads instead.
- It was broadly suggested (by those who prioritise nature as well as those who prioritise sport) that there is a need for a safe crossing at Poplar road, potentially including a pedestrian bridge between Poplar and Ryder ovals. However it was emphasised by one submission that this would need to be carefully planned to ensure user safety and usability for all purposes (including transport of equipment and golf buggies), but also protect amenity and biodiversity. There was also a call for a bridge from hole number 2 of the golf course to the car park, that is appropriate for buggies.

- There were submissions who reject the proposal to close the two sections of The Avenue at Park Street and Macarthur Road, due to the need for golf course access through these points.

Quotes from submissions:

- *The Grass Circle is an ecosystem, not blank space for more sport or pathways. [Resident]*
- *There are plenty of excellent gravel pathways that allow for recreation. The bike path Capital City trail is already a problem as cyclist speed down hills and along bitumen paths with no warning to pedestrians. I already have to modify my own recreation in this area because of this, especially on the weekends. Gravel paths are far more eco friendly than bitumen. [Resident]*

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to Movement to and through the park expressed through the stakeholder meetings encompassed six main views:

- **Support for key points** - Sports groups provided their support for the bridge at Poplar Rd
- **Wild nature of the park** – There was appreciation for the “magic” of the wild nature of the park, whilst also recognising the need for way-finding signage, calling for a good balance without going too overboard with signage.
- **Lighting management** – Friends-of groups suggested there was a need for better management of lighting to provide a Dark Sky environment, observing that ovals are being lit when not used and raising concerns about the potential impact of Lawn 7 development. It was suggested that flexible guidelines are needed for different times of the year that mirror usage, including the Zoo car park and a potential extension. It was also suggested that sports clubs may be able to make improvements in their lighting schedules.
- **Pathways** – Friends-of groups suggest that pedestrians need to be kept separate from cyclists on the Capital City Trail, however, others raise concern about wider paths taking away green space. Furthermore, there was a suggestion that desire paths not be paved to maintain the bush feel.
- **Circuit tracks** – Friends-of groups call for the Plan to limit the addition of more paths, including circle paths, whereas land owner stakeholders suggest running loops would be good to have (5km, 10km, 15km).
- **Wayfinding** – Suggestion that trails lead to information and historical sites, with app support providing information. A further suggestion was that this app could include food and beverage retailers.

**Pop-up feedback:** Feedback relating to Movement to and through the park expressed through the pop-ups encompassed 2 main views:

- **Pathways** – It was observed that bike speed can be a safety issue for pedestrians using shared paths, with the suggestion that wider separated paths be installed, or improved signage. Participants wanted running tracks, with a positive response to running around the zoo.
- **Protect grassland circle** – There was a sentiment that there shouldn't be formal walking tracks across this grassland circle area.

### 3.7 Theme 6: Parking, roads and transport

The following context was provided to survey respondents for this theme:

*Multiple transport options influence the physical form of Royal Park, with land allocated towards paths, roads, car parking, and public transport corridors.*

*To ensure Royal Park is accessible to the entire community a balance between the different transport options must be found.*

*Community consultation identified mixed feedback in relation to car parking. While most locals visit the park by walking, cycling or public transport, eight hectares is used for car parking. A review of parking and parking management could enable a more holistic and effective approach to be taken towards current and future space and movement needs.*

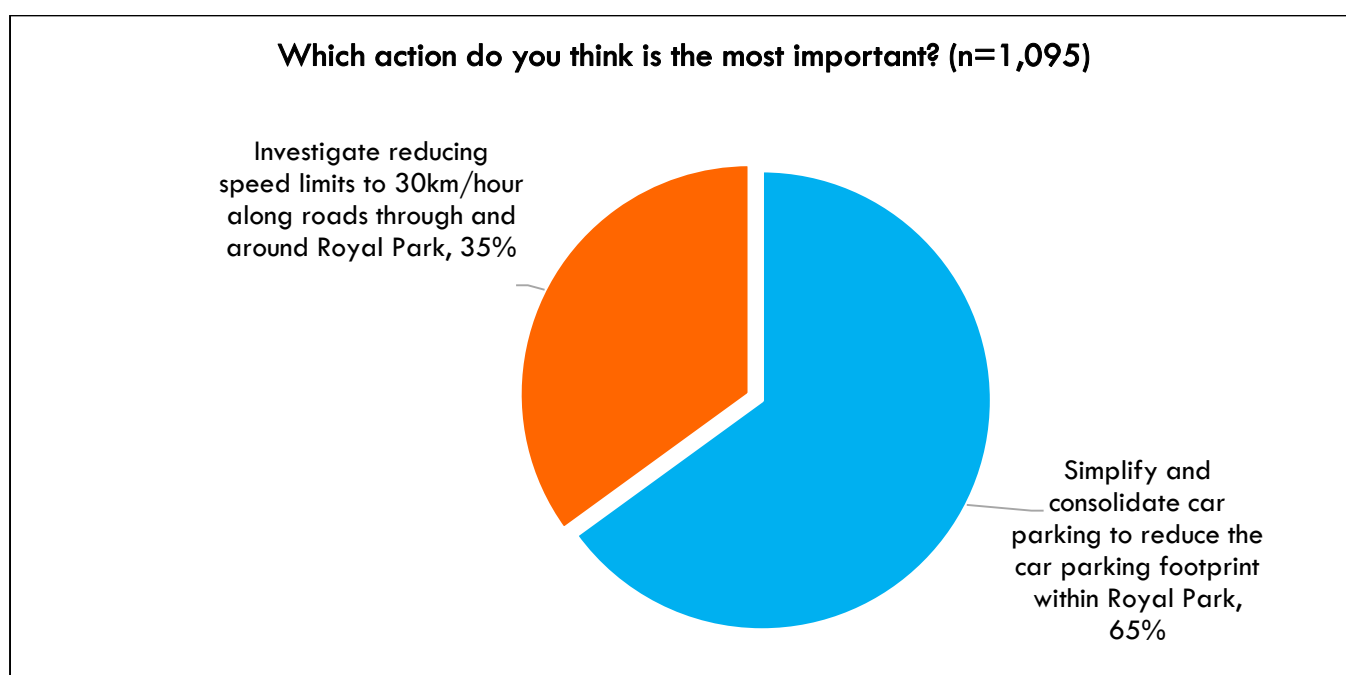
**14%** of pop-ups participants selected Theme 6 as one of the two most important to them (n=96 pop-up participants who voted).

There was broad support for simplifying and consolidating car parking in Royal Park from participants across the different engagement methods. However, some sports clubs were concerned that this may have a negative impact on their players and spectators being able to attend games and transport equipment, as some spaces were only used occasionally when there were games on. Contributors to this consultation who prioritised biodiversity and the natural environment (as covered in section 3.3) raised concerns as to whether this consolidation would result in loss of additional green space to paved areas.

#### 3.7.1 Action ranking

When asked which of the two proposed actions for this theme they thought was most important, *simplify and consolidate car parking* was selected by a higher proportion of those who answered the question (65% of 1,095 respondents).

Figure 20 Action ranking for theme 6

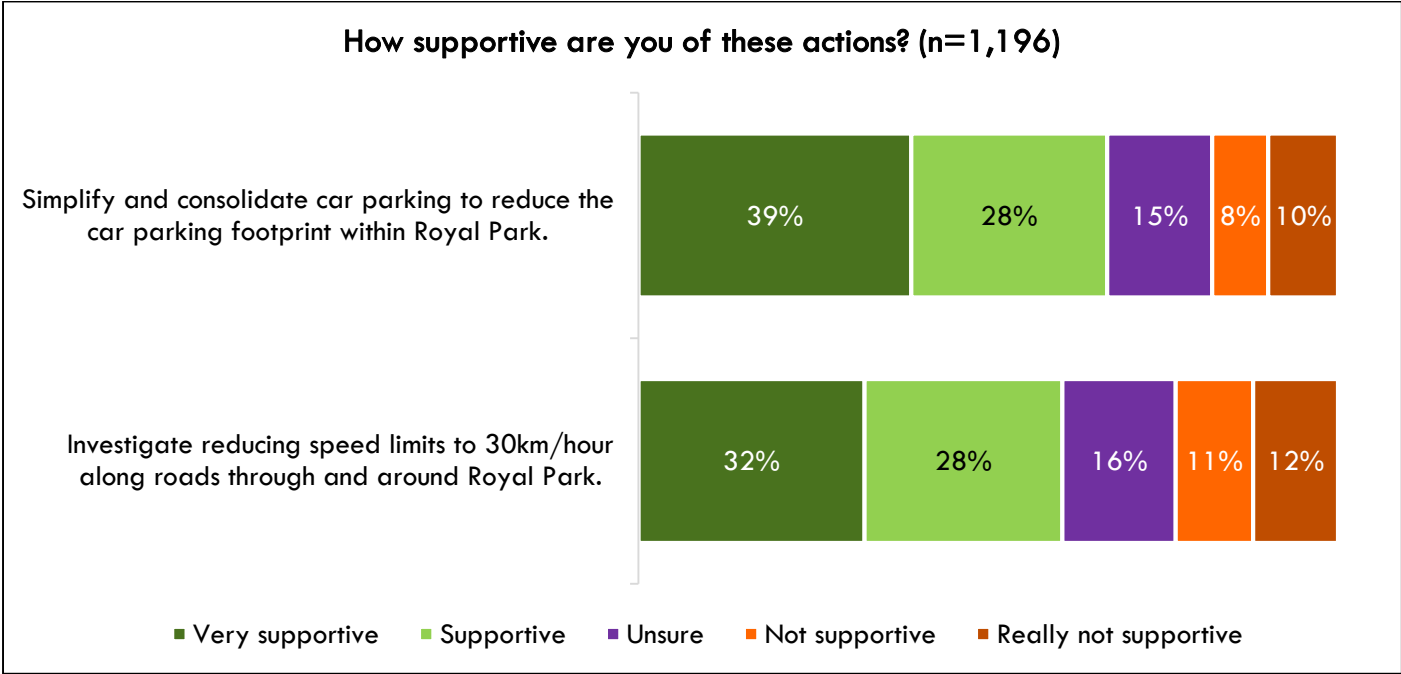


There were no statistically significant variations when analysing by demographics.

3.6.2 Action support

When asked to rate their level of support for each of these actions, more than half of survey respondents indicated support for each, with the action receiving the most support being *simplifying and consolidating car parking* (66% support).

Figure 21 Action support for theme 6



When analysing findings by demographics, the following notable variations were evident:

- Over a third of women (35%) strongly supported the *reduction in speed limit* (compared to 29% men), whereas 15% of men were really not supportive of this (compared to 7% women).
- A higher proportion of residents were very supportive of a *reduction in speed limit* (34%, 28% non-residents).

In the pop-ups, when asked to identify their top 7 priority actions they were most excited about, Theme 5 actions were selected in the top 7 by the following proportions of participants across the three pop-ups (n=105):

|     |                                                                                             |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17% | Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hour along roads through and around Royal Park.   |
| 11% | Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park. |

### 3.7.3 Additional feedback

There were 180 respondents who provided a comment relating to this topic in one or both of the open ended boxes within the survey. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows:

| Theme                                                            | Count | % all respondents | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Quotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Additional car parking needed / do not reduce car parking</b> | 83    | 7%                | Many supported the maintenance of existing car parking capacity, or increasing it to ensure ongoing accessibility. It was raised that whilst the car parks may not always be full, current car parking capacity is necessary to cover the structured activities that occur in the park. This was also put forth as a safety consideration, specific to people having to walk longer distances through unlit environments to access their cars. | <p><i>"Parking on-site around ovals makes it possible for everyone to feel safe attending training in the middle of winter when it is dark early."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident]</p> <p><i>"Most of the plans seem pretty good, only thing I'm not a fan of is the idea of reducing the already insufficient parking"</i> [25-39 years, Man, Visitor]</p> <p><i>"The carpark needs to remain. It is very heavily needed on Friday nights. Without it cars would be parked on the streets."</i> [15-24 years, Woman, Visitor]</p> <p><i>Although I am active transport user of the park 90% of the time, there are times when I need to use the sports ovals and bring gear. Or if leaving late in winter - eg football training - safe, access to close car parking is essential."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Visitor]</p> |
| <b>Roads / traffic</b>                                           | 80    | 6%                | A range of comments were put forth relating to roads, including ideas to improve traffic flow, safety and active transport. Some want easier car access, whereas others want car access removed completely.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><i>"We take our child to Netball and it is a nightmare as there is only the one entry point to Elliot Avenue. Elliot Avenue needs to be two lanes the whole way."</i> [60+ years, Man, Visitor]</p> <p><i>"Reducing cars through the park would be great. Again like London, closing the roads and opening it for walking and cycling could be a huge boon."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                                          |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Repurpose car parking / less car parking</b>                          | 20 | 2% | Whilst car parking and access was important to some users, particularly those involved in formal recreation activities, others supported a reduction in car parking, primarily to provide more space for natural areas and biodiversity. | <i>"I'm very supportive of eliminating parking to expand green spaces."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Worker]<br><br><i>"It is important that pedestrian movement is prioritised, and movement by public transport, ahead of cars. Reducing both parking and the speed limit would be very welcome changes."</i> [40-59 years, Woman, Resident]              |
| <b>Greater focus needed on public transport</b>                          | 17 | 1% | A number of respondents highlighted the public transport availability in the park, and the associated opportunity for public transport use for access.                                                                                   | <i>"The park has a particular advantage of having tram and train stations on site, there should be more focus on using these to access the park"</i> [40-59 years, Man, Resident]                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Support reduced speed limits on roads through and around the park</b> | 8  | 1% | Reduced speed limits were supported for safety reasons.                                                                                                                                                                                  | <i>"The reduced speed idea is good from a safety perspective."</i> [60+ years, Man]<br><br><i>"We don't drive, so we usually ride our bikes, and it is isn't the easiest to navigate through the nearby traffic. The idea to lower the speed limit and get cars out of the park by reducing parking is excellent."</i> [25-39 years, Woman, Resident] |
| <b>Other</b>                                                             | 16 | 1% | Other comments included developing linkages to public transport, low-impact parking, and banning cyclists.                                                                                                                               | <i>"There is too much focus on cars in the current park. The roads should be slower and smaller. The train and tram are the best way to get to the park. But the stops and signage around the stations leaves much to be desired. Royal Park station signage doesn't adequately show you how to get to the zoo."</i> [25-39 years, Man, Resident]     |

Furthermore, 9 submissions (6%) addressed this topic, providing the following insights and feedback:

- Suggestion that design maintains a division between parking and the natural elements of the space.
- Observation that zoo car parking and overflow parking spaces are not represented on the map.
- Call for car parking around Ransford Oval to be retained to cater for the needs of sports clubs.

- A transport specialist peer review suggests that overflow parking not be removed for some areas, and puts forth a range of suggestions for improved pedestrian movement.

**Stakeholder meeting feedback:** Feedback relating to parking, roads and transport expressed during the stakeholder meetings encompassed two main views:

- **Consultation** – Ensure those living on The Avenue are aware of proposed parking changes.
- **Parking locations** – Friends-of groups suggest that parking should be around the perimeter, with no new parking in the park itself. Land manager stakeholders want to Plan to allow for flexibility regarding parking so that there is opportunity for input into any changes. There was also a suggestion that car parking could have mixed use, for instance netball or basketball rings for when not being used for car parking (provided it is safe for users).

**Pop-up feedback:** Feedback relating to parking, roads and transport expressed during the pop-ups encompassed one main view:

- **Parking** – Parking was important to the Swordcraft group who use the Western oval as they bring a lot of equipment and have up to 400 participants. Those attending the popup at the nature playground also wanted to see the current amount of parking retained.

The **2 petitions** (425 signatories) covered the following view relating to this theme:

- **Car parking:** Keep car parking around Ransford oval as it is required for those transporting heavy sporting equipment.

### 3.8 Other feedback

Through the written comments in the survey, engagement activities and submissions there were a range of suggestions relating to the broader document scope, and feedback on the engagement process.

There were a number of very detailed submissions that Council has been advised to read directly in addition to this engagement report.

## Content

Key feedback about the general content of the draft Plan was as follows. Note, the number of respondents and participants who provided the following feedback varies and the order feedback presented below does not reflect emphasis on a specific point.

- **Development**
  - Praise for the engagement and background information that went into development, including engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, transport assessment, safety audits and conservation management plan. Although there was concern about the appropriateness of the Supply and Demand Sports Field Report which was observed to have been produced in-house.
  - Ensure community feedback is balanced with expert knowledge about different aspects of the Plan (biodiversity etc). It was noted that it won't be possible to please everyone, so it will be important to refer to evidence.
  - Concern that Heritage Victoria has been overlooked as a key stakeholder to be consulted in development of the Plan.
  - Better demonstrate linkages to Council's Urban Forest Plan and Lighting Strategy.
  - Call for more evidence to support the need for many of the development suggestions.
  - More clearly show how the previous input from the community about the importance of the natural spaces in Royal Park was considered in the vision and actions. This includes integrating recommendations from the Royal Park Master Plan Biodiversity and Ecology Report.

- Perception that the draft Plan deviates significantly from the intention and objectives of previous plans, and could benefit from more spatial planning and design thinking. In particular, 15 submissions suggested that it needs greater input from the landscape architecture profession, or a review panel of landscape architects, and specialists in the industry.
- There was a suggestion that the Plan do more to bring together all groups working towards the care of the park, for collective conservation efforts.
- Suggestion that there needs to be an audit of the successes and failures of the previous Master Plan used to inform its development.

#### ▪ **Content**

- Include recognition of sports clubs stewardship in protecting and preserving the values of the park.
- Suggestion that the Plan needs to include the land that was returned to Royal Park and swapped for the Royal Children's Hospital site, with the relocation of the Children's hospital included in the list of major changes (page 9).
- Suggestion that there needs to be less repetition in the background text, and more details about practical implementation and the impacts on the values of the park.
- Suggestion to include the history of sport in the park and the historical context, with better linkages to previous Master Plans.
- More clarity about cultural burning and picking up wood.
- Integrate enhanced biodiversity mapping, including contributions from neighbouring spaces and planting guidelines.
- Consider utilising the parks potential as a hub for nature education and conservation, to help people learn the value of all forms of ecosystems (including grasslands).
- Further information was requested regarding the location and environmental impacts of informal recreation, toilets and parking.

#### ▪ **Document structure and scope**

- Observation that linkages between content in the Draft Plan is confusing.
- Concern about the area being divided into five precincts, and the risk this could result in different criteria being applied to different sections, resulting in the whole area being disjointed.
- Needs to better consider the impacts of future development (e.g. East West Link, level crossing removal) and provide a stronger framework for protection of natural space when future development is being designed / planned. See the 2019 Transport Discussion Paper for ideas.
- Include more photos and maps to enhance reader engagement with the topic. Needs to have more graphics with less word content. Background information could be provided separately.
- Focus on likely changes and impacts. There were unknowns in the framing of the themes and actions that made it difficult to understand the likely future impacts.
- Put landscape character at the front.
- Include objectives from previous master plans where relevant.

#### ▪ **Wording / terminology**

- When talking about character, refer to 'landscape character' specifically.
- When talking about the golf course, refer to 'preserving uniqueness'.
- 'Parkville Gardens' is incorrectly labelled on the map and should be 'Brunswick West'.

- **Governance** – Ensure there are opportunities for input throughout implementation of the plan, to fine tune implementation of actions. This could include regular stakeholder meetings that include landholders, sports clubs and friends of groups, as well as targeted consultations with groups that use the space being upgraded (e.g. gold course toilets / paths).

Quotes from submissions:

- *The proposal does not successfully integrate nature-culture management practices and is heavily weighted to promoting 'active' recreational pursuits. [Resident]*
- *It is my view that several good and detailed supporting documents on recreation use, transport, ecology, the impact of the imminent Brunswick Rail Grade Separation project, and heritage, do not adequately translate through this draft Plan into a clearway forward that I could support. [Resident]*

## Respondent and participant feedback on survey and engagement approach

The online survey questions and scope were perceived as being skewed towards infrastructure rather than protecting nature. Furthermore, it was noted that a number of actions had multiple components, resulting in people only supporting part of an action rather than all of it. It was raised that the survey didn't provide appropriate space to explain answers, potentially resulting in answers not accurately portraying their nuanced opinions. This concern was raised through 3 submissions.

Furthermore, some respondents and participants mentioned that promotion of the survey may have missed some relevant resident groups (bordering the park). Others raised concerns that the summary on the consultation page was perceived as not being meaningful, whilst the draft was too long and not user-friendly. Some respondents and participants suggested that the timing of the pop-ups were inappropriate and not promoted well.

## 4 Impact

The City of Melbourne will fine tune the draft Plan based on the feedback and findings from this engagement. All survey responses, meeting discussion, pop-up feedback and submissions will be equally considered in the development of the final master plan.

The City of Melbourne is committed to strengthening their engagement practices and experiences for all and are committed to actively involving the community in the decisions that shape the future of Royal Park. There will be additional opportunities for the community to engage with the detail regarding future projects in Royal Park.

Additionally, the implementation of each action outlined in the draft master plan will have project specific engagement and conversations would continue with relevant stakeholders.

Project details and updates are accessible via Council's Participate Melbourne website [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au) or by following the project page, <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/royal-park-master-plan-review>

## 5 Next steps

Council is now reviewing all submissions in detail to identify common themes, priorities, and areas for improvement. This feedback will directly inform revisions to the draft master plan. Once the updated plan is complete, it will be presented to Council for consideration. Further opportunities for community engagement may be provided before the final plan is adopted.

Updates will be shared via Council's website and communication channels to keep the community informed on the final stages of this project.

## Appendix 1. Consultation survey



### City of Melbourne

#### Have your say on the Royal Park Draft Master Plan

Have your say on the Draft Royal Park Master Plan by 5pm Sunday 23 February.

The City of Melbourne (Council) has developed a draft Master Plan (the plan) for Royal Park. The draft Plan sets the vision for the park and guides its future management and decision making for the next 20 years.

- Learn more about the Draft Royal Park Master Plan.
- Don't have time to read the full Draft Master Plan – here's a one page fact sheet (PDF 1.70 MB).

Your feedback will be used to help finalise the Plan including confirming the directions in the draft Plan and the priorities to help guide implementation.

This feedback form should take between 5-10 minutes to complete.

[park.planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:park.planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Consultation closes 5pm Sunday 23 February.

### Vision

This vision has been developed from community responses to the question in Phase 1 – *What do you want Royal Park to look, feel and be like in 20 years' time?*

#### Vision for Royal Park

The draft 20-year vision for Royal Park is to:

- **Protect** Royal Park as a natural, expansive place where all people feel safe and welcome to experience its unique history and distinctive Australian landscape.
- **Preserve** Royal Park as a place for nature, sport, recreation and storytelling.
- **Invite** Melburnians to embrace its rich and living Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung history and cultural values.

#### 1. What do you think of the draft vision for Royal Park?

- Love it
- Like it
- Not sure
- Don't like it
- Really don't like it

If you'd like, tell us why you made that selection

## Key themes and actions

The Royal Park Master Plan will be implemented over a 20-year timeframe. The draft master Plan includes almost 200 proposed actions/initiatives under six themes. These themes help us to look at the park as a whole:

- Theme 1 - Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination
- Theme 2 - Caring for nature
- Theme 3 - Recreation and community wellbeing
- Theme 4 - Visitor experience
- Theme 5 - Movement to and through the park
- Theme 6 - Parking, roads and transport.

Highlighted below are 20 proposed priority actions under these themes. This will give you a sense of what is in the draft master plan. For full list of actions please see the full document.

These priority actions are proposed to be delivered within the first 10 years of the master plan. Council is keen on hearing your views on these priorities. Following community engagement, Council will develop a final master Plan which will include how and when these actions will be implemented.

### Theme 1 - Celebrating Aboriginal culture and furthering self-determination

#### 2. Which action do you think is the most important?

- Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange.
- Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage).

#### 3. How supportive are you of these actions?

| Select one answer per row                                                                  | Very supportive          | Supportive               | Unsure                   | Not supportive           | Really not supportive    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Theme 2 – Caring for nature

#### 4. Which action do you think is the most important?

- Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park.

- Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing.
- Grow the park by creating more green space. Examples include: removing car parking around Ransford Oval, removing some gravel car parking along Poplar Road, closing part of the road at Park Street and The Avenue.

**5. How supportive are you of these actions?**

| Select one answer per row                                                                                                                                                                                            | Very supportive          | Supportive               | Unsure                   | Not supportive           | Really not supportive    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park.                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing.                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grow the park by creating more green space. Examples include: removing car parking around Ransford Oval, removing some gravel car parking along Poplar Road, closing part of the road at Park Street and The Avenue. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Theme 3 – Recreation and community wellbeing**

**6. Which action do you think is the most important? Select up to 2 options only.**

- Improve playspaces in Royal Park. This includes: new playspace in Royal Park North, including a new public toilet; an expansion of accessible play features at Nature Play in Royal Park South; an update to the playspace in Royal Park West.
- Create multi-use game areas including cricket nets, basketball and netball rings.
- Support other informal recreation uses within the park including disc golf and orienteering.
- Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area.
- Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility.
- Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields and develop associated support facilities (like toilets, shelters, pavilions) at Lawn 7 south of the State Netball and Hockey Centre.

**7. How supportive are you of these actions?**

| Select one answer per row                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Very supportive          | Supportive               | Unsure                   | Not supportive           | Really not supportive    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Improve playspaces in Royal Park. This includes: new playspace in Royal Park North, including a new public toilet; an expansion of accessible play features at Nature Play in Royal Park South; an update to the playspace in Royal Park West. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Create multi-use game areas including cricket nets, basketball and netball rings.                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support other informal recreation uses within the park including disc golf and orienteering.                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area.                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility.                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields and develop associated support facilities (like toilets, shelters, pavilions) at Lawn 7 south of the State Netball and Hockey Centre.                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Theme 4 – Visitor experience

### 8. Which action do you think is the most important?

- Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe.
- Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park like seats, shade structures, drinking fountains, toilets and bins.
- Provide a safe evening route to public transport by exploring how the path lighting from Urban Camp to existing lit paths within the State Netball and Hockey Centre grounds can be improved.
- Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail, including lighting, seating, drinking fountains and bike repair stations.

## 9. How supportive are you of these actions?

| Select one answer per row                                                                                                                                                                     | Very supportive          | Supportive               | Unsure                   | Not supportive           | Really not supportive    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe.                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park like seats, shade structures, drinking fountains, toilets and bins.                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provide a safe evening route to public transport by exploring how the path lighting from Urban Camp to existing lit paths within the State Netball and Hockey Centre grounds can be improved. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail, including lighting, seating, drinking fountains and bike repair stations.                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Theme 5 – Movement through the park

### 10. Which action do you think is the most important?

- Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park.
- Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public transport.
- Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road.

### 11. How supportive are you of these actions?

| Select one answer per row | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|

|                                                                                                                                     |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public transport. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Theme 6 – Parking, roads and transport

### 12. Which action do you think is the most important?

- Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park.
- Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hour along roads through and around Royal Park.

### 13. How supportive are you of these actions?

| Select one answer per row                                                                   | Very supportive          | Supportive               | Unsure                   | Not supportive           | Really not supportive    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hour along roads through and around Royal Park.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### 14. If you have any additional feedback on the themes, actions or any general comments on the Draft Royal Park Master Plan, please share them here?

### A little about you

The following questions are about you. By telling us a bit about you, we can make sure that we're hearing from different voices. Your answers will be de-identified for analysis, and we won't share your data with any other party.

You may choose the option for 'Prefer not to say' for questions you do not wish to answer..

### 15. How do you describe your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer
- I would use another term (please specify)

**16. What is your age?**

- Under 15 years
- 15-19 years
- 20-24 years
- 25-29 years
- 30-34 years
- 35-39 years
- 40-44 years
- 45-49 years
- 50-54 years
- 55-59 years
- 60-64 years
- 65-69 years
- 70-74 years
- 75-79 years
- 80-84 years
- 85-89 years
- 90+ years
- Prefer not to say

**17. Do you identify with any of the following?**

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Person with a disability
- Carer
- LGBTQIA+
- Speak a language other than English at home
- Born overseas
- International student
- Prefer not to say

**18. What language do you speak at home? [If speak a language other than English]**

**19. Which of the following best describes your connection to this City of Melbourne project? Select one answer only**

- I am a resident
- I am a worker
- I own a business
- I am a student
- I am a visitor

- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

**20. Based on your connection to this project, where do you live/work/own a business/study/visit?**

- Carlton (3053)
- CBD (3000)
- Docklands (3008)
- East Melbourne (3002)
- Kensington (3031)
- North Melbourne (3051)
- Parkville (3052)
- Southbank (3006)
- South Yarra (3141)
- West Melbourne (3003)
- Fisherman's Bend
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/outside the City of Melbourne

**21. Have you participated in a consultation with City of Melbourne before?**

- No, this is my first City of Melbourne consultation
- Yes, I have participated in a City of Melbourne consultation once or twice before today
- Yes, and I participate in City of Melbourne regularly
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

**22. What motivated you to participate in this consultation today? Select all that apply**

- I was passing by/approached by City of Melbourne
- The project directly impacts me
- I think it's important to have your say and contribute to the future of the city
- I received a letter/email from City of Melbourne
- I saw the project on social media
- I saw the project on media (TV, radio, newspaper etc.)
- Word of mouth
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

**23. Please provide your email if you would like to receive updates about this project:**

**Privacy Statement**

The City of Melbourne has created a central repository (the Knowledge Bank) of survey responses for City of Melbourne staff members to support future project and policy development. Information that personally identifies you, including your name and contact details, will be excluded from the Knowledge Bank. You may choose to provide demographic details in your survey response which will assist the Council to better understand your response. The demographic details you provide will be accessible to City of Melbourne staff members via the Knowledge Bank. Please ensure you do not provide any other information in your survey response that could identify you or others. The City of Melbourne is committed to protecting your privacy. For more information on how Participate Melbourne will collect, use and disclose your information, please ensure

you have read the Participate Melbourne Privacy Statement. I confirm that I have read the privacy statement and that I am over 16 years.

I agree to the privacy statement

This box must be ticked to submit your survey response.

## Appendix 2. Demographic comparison

The survey distribution was not designed to provide representative coverage, but rather have broad coverage of the individuals and groups with an interest in the topic. Comparison to City of Melbourne population statistics have been provided for completeness. The population statistics were provided by City of Melbourne. Note that population statistics for age show % of entire population including children.

### Gender

|       | Survey % | Population % |
|-------|----------|--------------|
| Woman | 46%      | 50%          |
| Man   | 54%      | 50%          |

### Age

|       | Survey % | Population % |
|-------|----------|--------------|
| 15-24 | 6%       | 24%          |
| 25-39 | 37%      | 45%          |
| 40-59 | 35%      | 17%          |
| 60+   | 22%      | 10%          |

### Diversity

|                                             | Survey % | Population % |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander    | 4%       | 1%           |
| Person with a disability                    | 7%       | 2%           |
| Carer                                       | 4%       | 17%          |
| Born overseas                               | 17%      | 62%          |
| Speak a language other than English at home | 6%       | 53%          |

## Appendix 3. Data tables from charts

Table 1 - Data from the themes provided across the survey chart in the key findings section

| Themes of comments provided across the survey (themes assigned to comments for 70 or more respondents, n=1,243) | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Need to protect / increase bushland / wild landscape                                                            | 20%        |
| Need to protect / increase space for wildlife / biodiversity                                                    | 17%        |
| Less emphasis on / oppose expansion of sportsfields                                                             | 14%        |
| Preserve dark-sky / oppose increased lighting                                                                   | 12%        |
| More emphasis on / support expansion of sports fields                                                           | 8%         |
| Criticism of plan format / consultation                                                                         | 8%         |
| Support disc golf                                                                                               | 7%         |
| Support celebration of First Nations culture and recognition                                                    | 7%         |
| Additional car parking / do not reduce car parking                                                              | 7%         |
| Considerations for roads / traffic                                                                              | 6%         |
| Praise for plan format / consultation                                                                           | 6%         |
| Use other locations / Urban Renewal areas for sportsfields                                                      | 6%         |

Table 2 - From the themes of submissions chart in the key findings section

| Themes of submissions (themes assigned to 15 or more submissions, n=151) | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Nature first / prioritise passive use                                    | 54%        |
| Not expand sport / put sport elsewhere                                   | 54%        |
| Biolink / protect biodiversity                                           | 46%        |
| Lighting / Dark Park                                                     | 44%        |
| No Paths                                                                 | 34%        |
| Keep grass circle unchanged                                              | 26%        |
| Maintain wild character / bushland value                                 | 23%        |
| Mention of cyclists                                                      | 10%        |

Table 3 - from Figure 1 in Section 2.2.1

| How do you describe your gender? (n=1,210) | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Man                                        | 50%        |
| Woman                                      | 42%        |
| Non-binary                                 | 2%         |
| Prefer not to answer                       | 6%         |

Table 4 - from Figure 2 in Section 2.2.1

| What is your age? (n=1,194) | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 15-19 years                 | 1%         |
| 20-24 years                 | 5%         |
| 25-29 years                 | 9%         |
| 30-34 years                 | 15%        |
| 35-39 years                 | 12%        |
| 40-44 years                 | 10%        |
| 45-49 years                 | 9%         |
| 50-54 years                 | 9%         |
| 55-59 years                 | 6%         |
| 60-64 years                 | 6%         |
| 65-69 years                 | 5%         |
| 70-74 years                 | 5%         |
| 75-79 years                 | 3%         |
| 80-84 years                 | 1%         |
| 85+ years                   | 0%         |

Table 5 - from Figure 3 in Section 2.2.1

| Age of pop-up participants (n=130) | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Under 30                           | 28%        |
| 30-49                              | 45%        |
| 50-69                              | 23%        |
| 70+                                | 4%         |

Table 6 - from Figure 4 in Section 2.2.1

| Do you identify with any of the following? (n=1,243) | Percentage |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| LGBTQIA+                                             | 17%        |
| Born overseas                                        | 17%        |
| Person with a disability                             | 7%         |
| Speak a language other than English at home          | 6%         |
| Carer                                                | 4%         |
| Aboriginal                                           | 3%         |
| Torres Strait Islander                               | 1%         |
| International student                                | 1%         |
| None of these                                        | 43%        |

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Prefer not to say | 11% |
|-------------------|-----|

**Table 7 - from Figure 5 in Section 2.2.1**

| Which of the following best describes your connection to this City of Melbourne project?<br>(n=1,211) | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| I am a resident                                                                                       | 65%        |
| I am a visitor                                                                                        | 19%        |
| I am a worker                                                                                         | 6%         |
| I am a student                                                                                        | 2%         |
| I own a business                                                                                      | 1%         |
| Other                                                                                                 | 3%         |
| Prefer not to say                                                                                     | 3%         |

**Table 8 - from Figure 6 in Section 2.2.1**

| Based on your connection to this project, where do you live/work/own a business/study/visit? (n=1,197) | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Parkville (3052)                                                                                       | 21%        |
| North Melbourne (3051)                                                                                 | 20%        |
| Carlton (3053)                                                                                         | 9%         |
| CBD (3000)                                                                                             | 8%         |
| Kensington (3031)                                                                                      | 6%         |
| West Melbourne (3003)                                                                                  | 6%         |
| Docklands (3008)                                                                                       | 2%         |
| East Melbourne (3002)                                                                                  | 1%         |
| Southbank (3006)                                                                                       | 1%         |
| South Yarra (3141)                                                                                     | 1%         |
| Fishermans Bend                                                                                        | 0%         |
| Prefer not to answer                                                                                   | 5%         |
| Other/outside the City of Melbourne                                                                    | 21%        |

**Table 9 - from Figure 7 in Section 3.1**

| What do you think of the draft vision for Royal Park? (n=1,081) | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Love it                                                         | 23%        |
| Like it                                                         | 30%        |
| Not sure                                                        | 18%        |
| Don't like it                                                   | 11%        |
| Really don't like it                                            | 18%        |

Table 10 - Figure 8 in section 3.1.1

| Reasons given for liking the draft vision                     | Like<br>(n=578) | Total survey<br>respondents<br>(n=1,243) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|
| Support disc golf                                             | 11%             | 7%                                       |
| Praise for plan format or consultation                        | 10%             | 6%                                       |
| Support celebration of First Nations culture and recognition  | 9%              | 7%                                       |
| Support expansion of sports facilities                        | 8%              | 8%                                       |
| Protection of natural environment                             | 6%              | 20%                                      |
| Protect biodiversity                                          | 4%              | 17%                                      |
| Additional car parking / do not reduce car parking            | 3%              | 7%                                       |
| Less emphasis on sports facilities needed                     | 3%              | 14%                                      |
| Greater focus needed on public transport                      | 2%              | 1%                                       |
| Support for more lighting                                     | 2%              | 1%                                       |
| Roads / traffic                                               | 2%              | 6%                                       |
| Support the additional tennis court at North Park Tennis Club | 2%              | 2%                                       |
| Criticism of plan format / survey / consultation              | 2%              | 8%                                       |
| No answer                                                     | 43%             |                                          |

Table 11 - Figure 9 in section 3.1.2

| Reasons given for disliking the draft vision                 | Dislike<br>(n=312) | Total survey<br>respondents<br>(n=1,243) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Need to protect / increase bushland                          | 37%                | 20%                                      |
| Need to protect / increase space for wildlife                | 34%                | 17%                                      |
| Less emphasis on sport                                       | 29%                | 14%                                      |
| Preserve Dark Sky                                            | 24%                | 12%                                      |
| Use other locations for sport                                | 13%                | 6%                                       |
| Leave park as-is                                             | 13%                | 4%                                       |
| Open space already reduced in size                           | 8%                 | 3%                                       |
| Oppose paved / formal paths through grass circle             | 8%                 | 4%                                       |
| Criticism of plan format                                     | 8%                 | 8%                                       |
| More focus on passive recreation                             | 7%                 | 4%                                       |
| Oppose more formal paths (general)                           | 6%                 | 3%                                       |
| Don't see the need for First Nations culture and recognition | 4%                 | 2%                                       |
| Support celebration of First Nations culture and recognition | 4%                 | 7%                                       |
| Plan is tokenistic towards First Nations                     | 4%                 | 2%                                       |

|                            |    |    |
|----------------------------|----|----|
| Support for trees          | 4% | 3% |
| Safety concerns overstated | 4% | 2% |
| Roads / traffic            | 4% | 6% |
| No answer                  | 7% |    |

**Table 12 - Figure 10 in section 3.2.1**

| Which action do you think is the most important? (n=1,014)                                | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange              | 43%        |
| Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage) | 57%        |

**Table 13 - Figure 11 in section 3.2.2**

| How supportive are you of these actions? (n=1,182)                                        | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Establish the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Co-designed Place of Knowledge Exchange              | 41%             | 23%        | 19%    | 8%             | 9%                    |
| Explore ways to use Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung art and language across the park (eg: signage) | 50%             | 29%        | 10%    | 4%             | 7%                    |

**Table 14 - Figure 12 in section 3.3.1**

| Which action do you think is the most important? (n=1,127)                                                                   | Percentage |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities | 47%        |
| Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing                            | 17%        |
| Grow the park by creating more green space.                                                                                  | 36%        |

**Table 15 - Figure 13 in section 3.3.2**

| How supportive are you of these actions? (n=1,193)                                                                                                                                                                   | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Exploring opportunities to use alternative water sources to keep the park cool, green and growing.                                                                                                                   | 54%             | 35%        | 7%     | 2%             | 1%                    |
| Design and construct a biodiversity corridor within the whole of the park whilst maintaining sport and recreation activities in the park                                                                             | 54%             | 23%        | 11%    | 5%             | 6%                    |
| Grow the park by creating more green space. Examples include: removing car parking around Ransford Oval, removing some gravel car parking along Poplar Road, closing part of the road at Park Street and The Avenue. | 45%             | 18%        | 14%    | 9%             | 14%                   |

**Table 16 - Figure 14 in section 3.4.1**

| Which two actions do you think are the most important? (n=1,048)                                                                                            | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Improve playspaces in Royal Park.                                                                                                                           | 53%        |
| Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields and develop associated support facilities at Lawn 7 south of the State Netball and Hockey Centre. | 33%        |
| Support other informal recreation uses within the park including disc golf and orienteering.                                                                | 32%        |
| Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area.                                                                                                    | 31%        |
| Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility.                          | 30%        |
| Create multi-use game areas including cricket nets, basketball and netball rings.                                                                           | 21%        |

**Table 17 - Figure 15 in section 3.4.2**

| How supportive are you of these actions? (n=1,187)                                                                                | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Improve playspaces in Royal Park                                                                                                  | 33%             | 32%        | 14%    | 9%             | 13%                   |
| Investigate upgrading the existing informal sports fields (Lawn 7)                                                                | 22%             | 30%        | 17%    | 10%            | 22%                   |
| Support other informal recreation uses within the park                                                                            | 22%             | 25%        | 21%    | 13%            | 19%                   |
| Explore the use of Western Oval as a dog off-leash area                                                                           | 18%             | 27%        | 22%    | 15%            | 19%                   |
| Partially redesign the golf course including a pedestrian bridge over rail line and mini golf to improve safety and accessibility | 19%             | 30%        | 26%    | 11%            | 14%                   |
| Create multi-use game areas                                                                                                       | 17%             | 24%        | 15%    | 16%            | 27%                   |

**Table 18 - Figure 16 in section 3.5.1**

| Which action do you think is the most important? (n=1,116)                              | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe | 18%        |
| Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park                                | 46%        |
| Provide a safe evening route to public transport                                        | 18%        |
| Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail             | 18%        |

**Table 19 - Figure 17 in section 3.5.2**

| How supportive are you of these actions? (n=1,191)                                      | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Upgrade and where needed add extra amenities to the park                                | 47%             | 34%        | 9%     | 6%             | 5%                    |
| Design and construct all park pedestrian entrances to be welcoming, accessible and safe | 35%             | 41%        | 13%    | 6%             | 6%                    |

|                                                                             |     |     |     |    |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Provide a safe evening route to public transport                            | 33% | 36% | 13% | 9% | 10% |
| Design and construct additional infrastructure along the Capital City Trail | 34% | 35% | 11% | 9% | 11% |

**Table 20 - Figure 18 in section 3.6.1**

| Which action do you think is the most important? (n=1,098)                                                               | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park              | 33%        |
| Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public | 50%        |
| Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road                          | 17%        |

**Table 21 - Figure 19 in section 3.6.2**

| How supportive are you of these actions? (n=1,194)                                                                       | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Light strategic corridors using Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly methods to safely get people to and from public | 41%             | 31%        | 11%    | 7%             | 11%                   |
| Implement walking, wheeling and running circuits that connect key features and destinations within the park              | 33%             | 34%        | 14%    | 8%             | 11%                   |
| Investigate widening the shared path along the tram line from Flemington Road to Macarthur Road                          | 22%             | 30%        | 28%    | 11%            | 9%                    |

**Table 22 - Figure 20 in section 3.7.1**

| Which action do you think is the most important? (n=1,095)                                 | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park | 65%        |
| Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hour along roads through and around Royal Park   | 35%        |

**Table 23 - Figure 21 in section 3.7.2**

| How supportive are you of these actions? (n=1,196)                                          | Very supportive | Supportive | Unsure | Not supportive | Really not supportive |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Simplify and consolidate car parking to reduce the car parking footprint within Royal Park. | 39%             | 28%        | 15%    | 8%             | 10%                   |
| Investigate reducing speed limits to 30km/hour along roads through and around Royal Park.   | 32%             | 28%        | 16%    | 11%            | 12%                   |