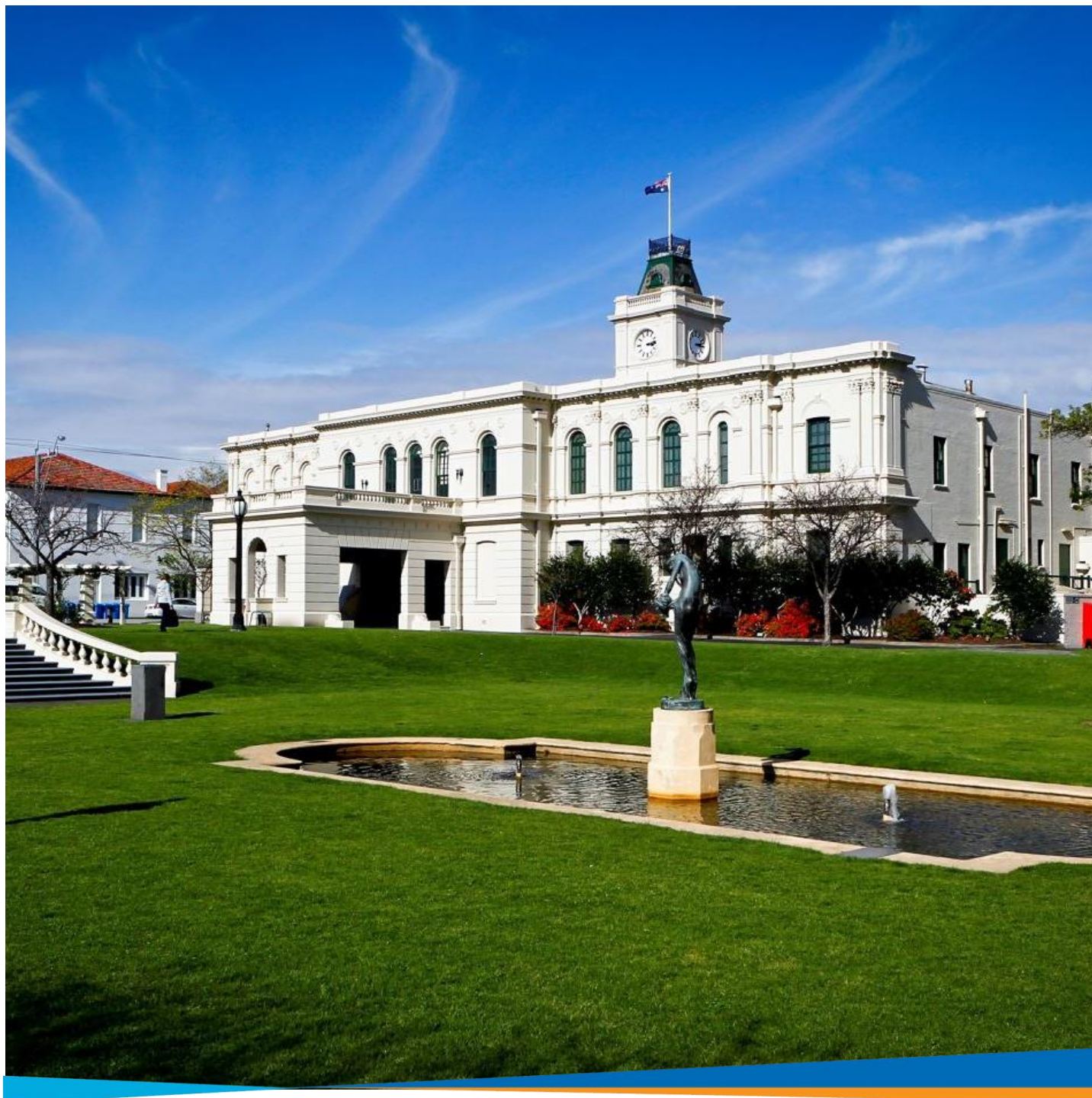




# Glen Edward Rice Reserve Playground

Community Engagement Report

February 2026

# 1 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the future design for the Glen Edward Rice Reserve playground upgrade.

From Brighton to Beaumaris, Council is upgrading all 61 playgrounds in Bayside, guided by its [Playground Improvement Plan](#).

Council seeks input from the community on how they would like to see playground(s) in their area improved or upgraded. We consult with the users of our playgrounds: the children and young people of Bayside, as well as local residents and clubs/groups. The feedback we receive helps develop a detailed design for construction.

Feedback is considered in line with available budget, site constraints, and recommendations of the Playground Improvement Plan.

## About Glen Edward Rice Reserve

We are upgrading the Glen Edward Rice Reserve playground to create a fun, inclusive and nature-connected play space for younger children.

This local pocket park was the former site of the Brighton Council depot and rubbish tip. The current space features a playground, pathway's, an open space area, some poorly situated seats and bins, and some fantastic trees.

The current playground features two swings and a combination unit made from wood, which has rotted below the surface and needs replacing.

The new design will reimagine the current playground, and provide the following features:

- A mulitplay unit.
- Rocker
- Basket swing
- Double swing
- Dragon fly sculpture.
- Accessible trampoline
- Stepping stone edging

Further upgrades being considered are:

- Planting trees along the northern boundary
- Moving the existing seats to the pathway and installing concrete bases.
- Moving the bins to the other side of the pathway.

The budget for the project is \$141,000.00 excl GST.

## Next steps

The playground design will be refined using feedback from the community – particularly from young local residents.

A Project Group, consisting of a cross-functional team of Council officers, evaluates and approves each final design against the objectives in the [Playground Improvement Plan](#). Council will then tender for a playground builder.

Construction of this playground will commence in June 2026. Unless there are significant impacts to project scope, timing or budget, no formal decision-making by Councillors is

anticipated given the project budget has already been approved through the budget process.

## 2 Consultation process

### 2.1 Consultation purpose

The purpose of this consultation was to:

- Gather community feedback on the draft concept design for the upgraded playground.
- Ensure inclusivity and accessibility, with features catering to younger children and all abilities.
- Support genuine community influence on the final layout, features, and play elements.

### 2.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement was undertaken between 22 January and 15 February 2026 to inform the playground design. Around 124 people participated.

A range of tools were employed including a quick poll for immediate feedback, a participatory budgeting “fund it” tool to select preferred design aspects, and an online ideas board. All tools were replicated for the in-person engagement sessions on site.

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought. For this engagement, tools were selected to provide transparent, instantly visible results and ease of use for young people

| Details                                                                                                     | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>22 January – 15 February 2026</b><br>710 views<br>508 visitors<br>140 contributions from 89 contributors | <b>Have Your Say website project page</b><br>Online engagement through <i>Have Your Say</i> , including interactive map of the proposed design.<br>Engagement tools included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick poll (64 contributions)</li> <li>• Equipment preference selection tool (32 contributions)</li> <li>• Ideas board (44 contributions)</li> <li>• Q&amp;A forum (0 contributions)</li> <li>• Printed survey (0 contributions)</li> </ul> |
| <b>5 and 14 February</b><br>15 attendees                                                                    | <b>Onsite community drop-in sessions</b><br>Thursday 5 February: 3.00pm – 4.30pm (2 attendees)<br>Saturday 14 February: 9am – 10.30am (13 attendees)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>5 and 14 February</b>                                                                                    | <b>Correspondence</b><br>1 direct email received via <a href="mailto:yoursay@bayside.vic.gov.au">yoursay@bayside.vic.gov.au</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### Key tools for communicating the project

- Have Your Say project page including interactive map of the proposed design
- Signage (with QR codes linking back to the engagement activities) at the playground
- Flyer (220+) letterbox dropped to local residents
- Two drop-in sessions at the playground
- Social media, especially 'sponsored' posts to increase audience reach
- Council website news stories
- Council's e-newsletter *This Week in Bayside*
- Email notification to *Have Your Say* registered members, playground project subscribers and key stakeholders.

## 3 Participant profile

The demographic profile of participants shows some notable differences when compared with Bayside's 2021 Census population. These variations highlight areas of strong engagement as well as groups that were under-represented in this consultation.

Participation was heavily skewed toward middle-aged adults, particularly those aged **40–49**, who made up **31.8%** of contributors despite representing **19.4%** of the Bayside population. Residents aged **25–39** were also well represented, contributing **18.2%**, more than double their Census proportion of **7.8%**.

In contrast, younger and older age groups were significantly under-represented. Children and young people (0–24) collectively make up a large share of the Bayside community, but contributed very little to the engagement. Similarly, older adults—especially those aged **70+**, who represent over **15%** of the population—had very low participation, with **2.3%** from ages 70–84 and no contributors aged 85+.

Overall, engagement was strongest among residents aged **25–49**, with participation rates far exceeding their share of the population. Younger people, older adults, and families with children were not well represented, suggesting future engagement activities may need targeted outreach or alternative methods to reach these groups.

|     | Demographic*       | Bayside<br>2021 Census | Participants (%) |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Age | 0-14               |                        | 22.7%            |
|     | 15-24              | 7.8%                   | 2.8%             |
|     | 25-39              | 7.8%                   | 18.2%            |
|     | 40-49              | 19.4%                  | 31.8%            |
|     | 50-59              | 15.7%                  | 15.9%            |
|     | 60-69              | 12.1%                  | 6.8%             |
|     | 70-84              | 12.2%                  | 2.3%             |
|     | 85+                | 3.4%                   | 0%               |
|     | Total Contributors |                        | 42               |

\*Gender question not asked.

## 4 Consultation findings

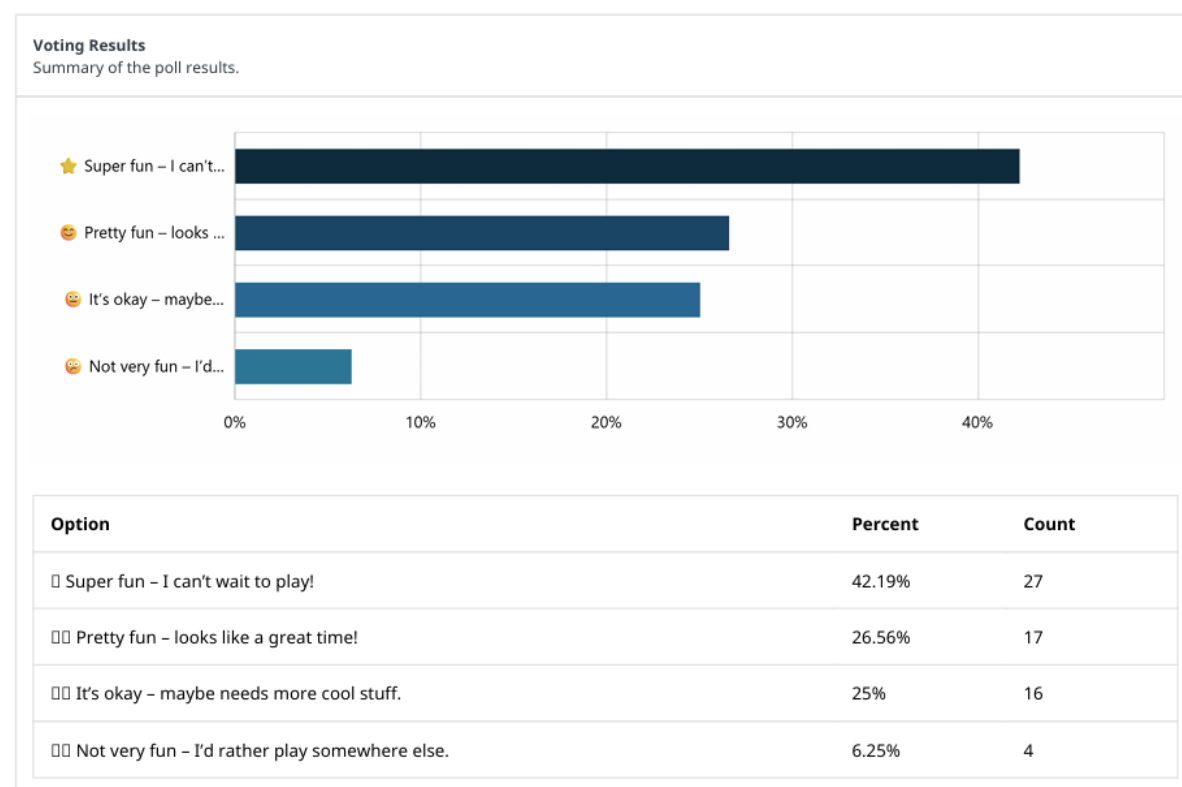
The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on Glen Edward Rice Reserve playground Upgrade. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics.

### 4.1 Support for actions

The poll results show **strong and unambiguous support** for Council's proposed direction. The majority of participants responded positively, with **42%** selecting the most enthusiastic option ("Super fun – I can't wait to play!"). A further **26.6%** rated the proposal as "Pretty fun – looks like a great time!", reinforcing that most respondents view the action favourably.

Moderate support was also evident, with **25%** indicating the proposal is "okay" but may benefit from additional features. Only a small minority (**6.25%**) expressed low enthusiasm or opposition.

Overall, the data demonstrates **clear community endorsement** of Council's position, with overwhelmingly positive sentiment and very limited negative feedback. This suggests strong alignment between the proposed action and community expectations.



### 4.2 Item-specific feedback

## Key Statistics

Top-level information about the activity.



**6.28 points**  
Average Spend  
9 points total budget



**9**  
Projects  
0 sponsors



**201**  
Total Votes  
6.28 avg. projects funded / contribution

## Contribution Summary

Summary of the activity including details of the included projects, voting results and more.

| Project Details                                                                                                |      |             |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------|--------|
| Information on the projects included for potential funding including the name, cost, voting and other details. |      |             |        |
| Project Name                                                                                                   | Cost | Total Votes | %      |
| Accessible basket swing                                                                                        | 1 pt | 30          | 14.93% |
| Accessible trampoline                                                                                          | 1 pt | 30          | 14.93% |
| Multi-play unit                                                                                                | 1 pt | 29          | 14.43% |
| Double swing set                                                                                               | 1 pt | 27          | 13.43% |
| Rocker                                                                                                         | 1 pt | 21          | 10.45% |
| Soft fall rubber surface                                                                                       | 1 pt | 19          | 9.45%  |
| Stepping-stone border                                                                                          | 1 pt | 18          | 8.96%  |
| Garden beds with steel edging                                                                                  | 1 pt | 15          | 7.46%  |
| Dragonfly sculpture                                                                                            | 1 pt | 12          | 5.97%  |

### 4.2.1 Accessible Basket Swing

**Overall feedback:** This item received strong support, attracting the highest number of votes (30), tied with the trampoline. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 30
- **% of total votes:** 14.93%

### 4.2.2 Accessible Trampoline

**Overall feedback:** Equal in popularity to the basket swing, this item also received 30 votes, showing strong community interest. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 30
- **% of total votes:** 14.93%

### 4.2.3 Multi-Play Unit

**Overall feedback:** This item was highly supported, receiving 29 votes, just behind the top two. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 29
- **% of total votes:** 14.43%

### 4.2.4 Double Swing Set

**Overall feedback:** This item received solid support with 27 votes, reflecting interest in traditional play structures. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 27
- **% of total votes:** 13.43%

#### 4.2.5 Rocker

**Overall feedback:** Moderate support was shown for this item, with 21 votes. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 21
- **% of total votes:** 10.45%

#### 4.2.6 Soft Fall Rubber Surface

**Overall feedback:** This item received 19 votes, indicating moderate support for safety-focused infrastructure. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 19
- **% of total votes:** 9.45%

#### 4.2.7 Stepping-Stone Border

**Overall feedback:** This item had lower support, with 18 votes. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 18
- **% of total votes:** 8.96%

#### 4.2.8 Garden Beds with Steel Edging

**Overall feedback:** This item received 15 votes, showing limited but notable interest. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 15
- **% of total votes:** 7.46%

#### 4.2.9 Dragonfly Sculpture

**Overall feedback:** This item had the lowest support, with 12 votes. **Quantitative analysis:**

- **Cost:** 1 point
- **Votes:** 12
- **% of total votes:** 5.97%

### 4.3 Project Evaluation

The purpose of this consultation was to gather community ideas on what would make the Glen Edward Rice Reserve playground “even more fun,” and to test whether the draft design aligned with community expectations for a **small local park**. This purpose was successfully achieved. The consultation generated a wide range of suggestions, and the feedback clearly demonstrated both what the community values and where expectations exceed what is feasible for a park of this scale.

A total of **42 contributors** provided **44 contributions**, which is a strong response for a neighbourhood-level reserve. The engagement questions were effective in prompting detailed comments, with many participants offering specific ideas, concerns, and reflections on how the space is currently used. The open-ended question format encouraged thoughtful contributions and revealed clear themes around shade, seating, equipment, and safety.

The engagement tools used primarily the Have Your Say platform were appropriate for the scale of the project. The online format allowed residents to provide feedback at their convenience and resulted in a diverse range of responses across age groups. The question itself (“What would make this playground even more fun?”) successfully elicited both practical and imaginative ideas, though it also encouraged some suggestions that were beyond the scope of a small park upgrade. This is a useful learning for future consultations: clearer framing about **what is and isn’t possible** may help manage expectations and reduce the volume of out-of-scope requests.

There were no reported issues with the engagement venue or platform. However, the volume of suggestions for large-scale infrastructure—such as basketball courts, tennis walls, fitness stations, and soccer goals indicates that some participants may not have been fully aware of the park’s size constraints or its classification within the Open Space Strategy. Future engagement processes may benefit from more explicit messaging about **budget limits**, **park hierarchy**, and **spatial constraints** to help guide contributions toward feasible improvements.