

Engagement summary report

Lauriston Estate Playspace Renewal, Koo Wee Rup

February 2026

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Executive summary

Cardinia Shire Council undertook a two-stage community engagement process to guide the renewal of the Lauriston Estate Park Playspace in Koo Wee Rup. The renewal project aims to update ageing infrastructure, improve play opportunities, and align the design with the Cardinia Shire Playspace Strategy and the Open Space Strategy.

Engagement activities included online surveys, an in-person engagement session, and broad promotion across digital and community channels. A total of 74 survey responses were received during Stage One, followed by 77 contributions during Stage Two. Feedback was provided by a diverse range of community members, with the majority living locally and most respondents being parents of young children.

Across both stages, the community expressed strong support for upgrading the playground. Swings, slides, and climbing were identified as the most valued play features, while many respondents also encouraged the inclusion of nature-based elements and improved shade.

The community expressed a clear preference for playgrounds that provide appropriate challenges for older children alongside features suitable for toddlers and preschool aged users. Feedback strongly supported the addition of an accessible path through the reserve, improved drainage, and increased planting particularly shade trees, whilst also raising concerns about overgrown vegetation and visibility within and to the park. Overall, respondents encouraged a design that balances natural character, safety, play value, and accessibility.

Classified as Neighbourhood in the Open Space Strategy, Lauriston Estate Park is intended to provide informal recreation, relaxation and play opportunities for short to medium time within a short walk of surrounding residents. The final design reflects this classification while incorporating key community priorities. Planned upgrades include new play equipment catering to multiple age groups, a wide accessible footpath, new rubber safety surfacing, new seating, picnic area and shelter, natural landscaping, and drainage enhancements. A small flying fox has been added in response to community requests.

The engagement process has played a central role in shaping the playspace renewal, ensuring the final design responds to local needs, supports safe and inclusive play, and enhances the long-term usability of the reserve.

Community consultation

Objectives and purpose

Lauriston Estate Park a neighbourhood playspace in Koo Wee Rup, was identified for renewal as part of Council's playground renewal program. The renewal program takes into consideration playground age, level of service, and community feedback. The Cardinia Shire Playspace and Open Space Strategies underpin the project. Design work was scheduled for the 2024/25 financial year, with construction planned for 2025/26.

Through a two stage community engagement process, Council sought to understand how the existing playground was being used, what the community valued, what improvements they wanted to see, and which activities they enjoyed most. This feedback informed the draft design to ensure community needs and preferences were considered wherever possible, while balancing the requirements under the Open Space Strategy.



image: Existing playground at Lauriston Estate, Koo Wee Rup

Engagement promotion

The consultation process was promoted via several channels:

- Media Release
- Email to local newsletter and relevant stakeholders including local schools and kindergartens.
- Social media posts
- Building A Better Cardinia Website post
- Signage on site
- Signage in community places

Engagement activities

Stage One

- Online survey through Creating Cardinia - 74 responses received
- Pop-up in person at Cochrane Park, Koo Wee Rup, on Tuesday 8 April, from 11.45am to 2.00pm – approximate 15 Participants

Stage Two

- Online survey through Creating Cardinia - Between January 11th and February 9th 2026, Council consulted with the community to gather input for the renewal of the Lauriston Estate Park Playspace via the Creating Cardinia website. Three playground design options were presented for voting.

Engagement findings

Stage One

Community Survey

The survey was open between 24 March - 27 April 2025.

The survey was available through the Council's Creating Cardinia website and in hard copy by request.

In total 74 responses received.

Access and Use

Of the 74 survey respondents:

- 16% visited the park daily, 31% weekly, 12% fortnightly and 29% occasionally.
- Majority of the kids who visit the reserve are toddler/preschoolers, followed by primary school aged kids.
- Majority of the visitors go to the reserve because of the playground. Others use it as a walk through or to walk their dogs. A small number of people use it for picnics, exercise and recreation including kicking footy, basketball, riding a bike, and games on the open grass area.

Play Equipment

Of the 74 survey respondents:

- Most respondents ranked physical play equipment as the most important, followed by order of importance, imaginative play equipment, natural play elements and upper body equipment.
- Out of a range of physical play equipment, swings were most popular, followed by slide and rope structure.
- 55% of the respondents preferred brightly colours play equipment, compared to 45% to prefers play equipment with natural tones.
- Over 80% of the respondents would like to see more nature play elements (e.g., rocks, logs, plants) integrated into the playground design.

Other

- Over 90% of the respondents supports the additional path as shown on the plan and agrees it would improve access between Townley Road and Dwyer Court. One respondent thinks an extra path would be great as sometimes they cut through along the fence line.
- Improve drainage
- Playground equipment for older kids

The preference over planting is divided and many views are offered, including:

- 66% of the respondents would like to see more plants and trees across the reserve, compared to 32% who doesn't.
- Some reserve users believe there are already enough established trees and plants and prefer focusing on enhancing play equipment and facilities suitable for young families.
- Some respondents requested more shade trees and plants to provide shade, attract wildlife, provide nature play opportunities and offer privacy for nearby houses.
- A few respondents raised concerns regarding snakes and prefer to have good visibility of the ground rather than leafy plants.
- 68% of respondents supports the location of the small shelter with a picnic setting, bench seat and bin.

Email responses

In addition to the 74 responses received via Creating Cardinia, three email responses were received.

Respondents are regular users of the reserve and have expressed the following:

- The park is underutilised;
- Support for extra shade deciduous trees and bench seats;
- Support for extra footpath;
- Strong opposition to adding a basketball court, other ball sports, or a skatepark due to noise concerns. Nearby reserve such as Cochrane Park are better suited for ball sports; and
- The park's foliage and tree areas need to be thinned out and redesigned. The current setup looks worn out and requires a new tree and garden style to maintain vibrancy throughout the year.

Stage Two

Community Survey

Between January 11th and February 9th 2026, Council consulted with the community to gather input for the renewal of the Lauriston Estate Park Playspace via the Creating Cardinia website. Three playground design options were presented for voting.

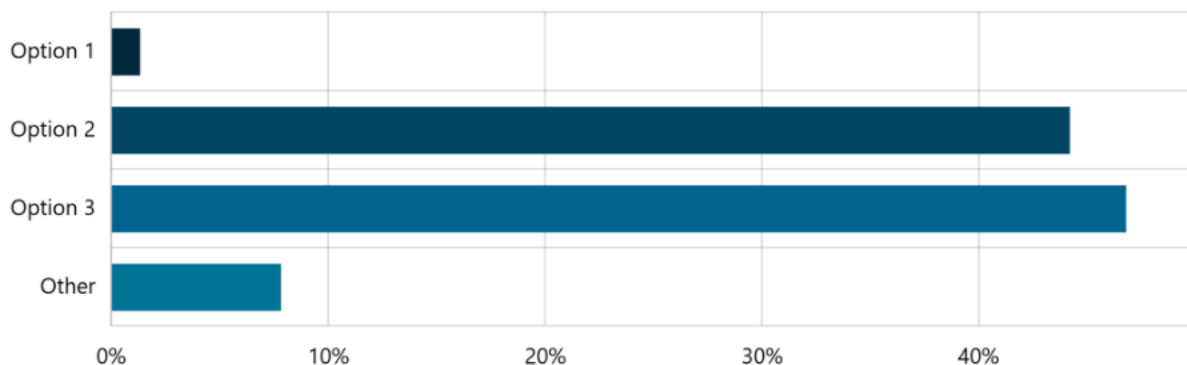
The survey was available through the Council's Creating Cardinia website and in hard copy by request. In total, 77 contributions were received.

Who responded?

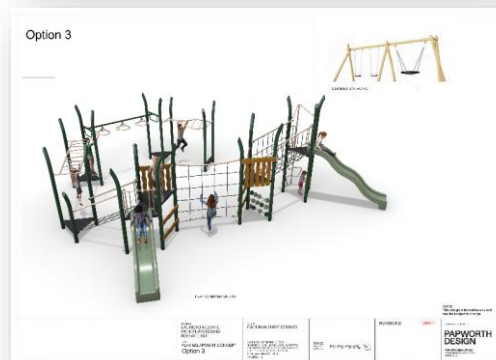
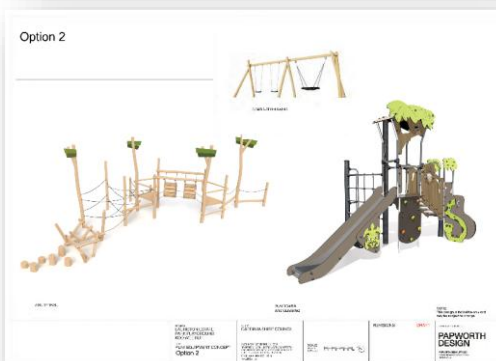
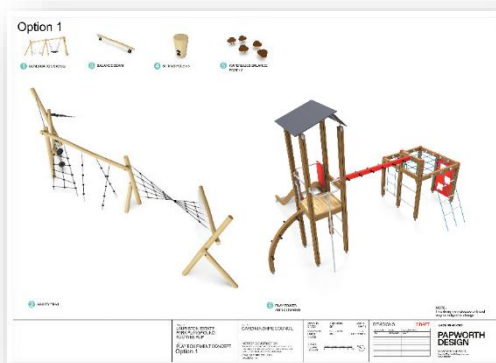
Respondents ranged in age from young children to older adults, with most falling within the 25–39 age group. Most contributors (78%) reside in Koo Wee Rup.

Women made up 81% of contributors to the survey.

Preferred Design Option



The results show a very close preference between design options 2 and 3, with 36 respondents favouring option 3 and 34 selecting option 2. In contrast, only 6 respondents chose option 1.



Community Comments

“Option 1 and 3 don’t look like they accommodate young toddlers as they wouldn’t be able to climb most of the equipment. **Option 2** looks like it will accommodate the biggest age group from 1yo to older kids.”

“**Design option 2-** Love the new trees and additional pathways. The play equipment in this park has always been toddler-friendly. The new designs seem aimed at older children. Toddlers are the most consistent users of play equipment and need to be catered for.”

“**Design number 2,** as the other designs are more focused at older kids. They still have to be focused at the younger age kids and not expect a small child to be a ninja.”

“**Design Option 3-** As a teacher experienced in lower primary & kindergarten, I can see the benefits of this design for young children. Safe, challenging & strong structure.”

“All 3 of my kids said **option 3** is the best by far. We live in county close and use the park multiple times a week.”

“Play spaces for older children 10yrs and above seems more appropriate with this **option 3**. Little kids are always treated to play spaces but it’s the older kids that want the challenge at playgrounds and fun too.”

Other comments on the design options:

- More seats near playground
- Love the additional trees and shrubs
- Strong support for more shade
- Please add drainage in low points on plan if budget allows
- Disappointed there is no flying fox
- Requests for half basketball court and pump track

Decision making

Lauriston Estate Park is classified as a Neighbourhood Reserve, designed for the local community to enjoy within a short walk from their home. The Cardinia Shire Open Space Strategy 2023-2027 helps guide what features and facilities can be included in parks like this, ensuring they meet the need of community while maintaining a balance across different types of open spaces in the area.

A Neighbourhood level reserve contains limited amount of infrastructure to support the daily recreation needs of residents within a walkable catchment of the reserve. It is intended for informal recreation, relaxation, or play opportunities for short to medium time periods. It generally includes a small play space and other basic infrastructure reflecting local context and interests:

- Walking path/s
- Seating
- Small shelter
- Rubbish bins
- Shade trees
- Small play space or social sport facility
- Minimal structured planting.

The classification of Lauriston Estate Park as a Neighbourhood reserve informs the scope, budget and inclusions of the renewal project. Given its classification, the upgrade will focus on informal recreation, relaxation, and play opportunities for short to medium durations, and will not include public toilets.

In addition to the classification of the reserve, the new Playspace will be designed following the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals. Council is taking proactive steps to try to reduce the incidences of graffiti across the Shire. The design will respond to this and provide limited surfaces which would provide a canvas for graffiti.

Council will plan the upgrade taking the above principles into account, while balancing feedback from community.

Evaluation

How the results shaped the outcome

The consultation showed strong community support for the playground renewal. It is well used by young families and primary school children, with swings identified as the most popular equipment, followed by slides and rope structures. The final design includes two slides, a swing set and multiple rope climbing elements. In response to feedback regarding the absence of a flying fox, a small flying fox has been incorporated.

A pump track and basketball court has been excluded from this project as the reserve is far smaller than the typical Neighbourhood-level Playspace and is enclosed by residential fences, leaving no safe run-off areas or capacity to support higher-intensity recreation without causing increased noise, traffic, and disruption for nearby homes. The limited size and layout also prevent safely accommodating a pump track alongside required play elements, and its location within a residential area makes high-impact uses unsuitable. As a result, the design instead focuses on delivering play opportunities suited to the immediate walking-distance community, reflecting strong support for imaginative and inclusive play, and incorporating standard improvements such as better access and a covered shelter while maintaining the character and amenity of surrounding homes.

Most respondents favoured Design Option 3; however, many noted limited play opportunities for toddlers and pre-schoolers. To address this, the final design includes additional balance beams, stepping stones, café play, a toddler seat on the swing set, low-level climbing features, and a rocker to better cater to younger children.

Over 90% of respondents supported the addition of an accessible path through the reserve. The final design includes a wide, accessible footpath.

Community feedback also highlighted a desire for more planting. Landscaping and tree planting will be included while retaining many existing trees, and drainage improvements will be incorporated into the final design.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft concept presented in Stage One



Appendix 3 - Promotion of the engagement



Cardinia Shire Council

24 March · 🌐

Help shape the future of Lauriston Estate Park Playground in Koo Wee Rup!

Let us know your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to help us create a vibrant and inclusive space for children of all ages and abilities 🙌

Consultation is open until 27 April 2025 🌱

📍 To find out more and share your feedback visit 🗨️ www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay





Have Your Say

Stage 2

Lauriston Estate Park Playground

Have your say: Lauriston Estate Park playspace concept designs.

Council is inviting the community to share their preference on design options aimed at improving the playspace at Lauriston Estate Park, Townley Road.

These designs focus on informal recreation, relaxation, and play opportunities suitable for a neighbourhood park.

Share your feedback by completing the short online survey at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

You can also request a hardcopy via mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

This consultation opportunity will be open until **Monday 9 February 2026**.

Have questions or want to learn more about a project?
 1300 787 624
mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Creating Cardinia | Cardinia

THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH

April 2025

Help shape the future of Lauriston Estate Park Playground

Cardinia Shire Council is seeking feedback on the Lauriston Estate Park Playground upgrade.

Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on the current playground, how they currently use the reserve, suggest new equipment, and offer input on how to make the space more usable and engaging for all visitors.

Let us know your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to help us create a fun and vibrant play space. Your feedback will help shape a concept design for the new playground.

Visit Creating Cardinia to share your feedback before the consultation ends on Sunday 27 April 2025.

Find out more at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Pilates at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

We will be taking a longer break over school holidays and Easter with **all classes recommencing on Monday the 5th of May**.

Pilates is offered as both a chair based low impact group and a separate longer mat group. Classes run Monday and Wednesday evenings, in the community room at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service, with the entry from Rossiter Rd next to the western boundary of the health service and the

Pilates Term 2 of 2025

First Class FREE



Have Your Say

Lauriston Estate Park Playground

We're seeking your input to help shape plans for upgrading the Lauriston Estate Park Playground in Koo Wee Rup.

Provide feedback on the current playground, let us know how you currently use the reserve, suggest new equipment, and offer input on how we can make the space more usable and engaging.

Community feedback is crucial in helping to create a fun environment for everyone. We encourage all community members to take part and share their ideas.

Consultation is open until Sunday, 27 April 2025. Community ideas and preferences will be used to inform a concept design for the playground.

For more information and to provide your feedback, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Have questions or want to learn more about a project?
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mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

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Appendix 3 –Stage Two draft concepts

Lauriston Estate Park - Draft Concept Design



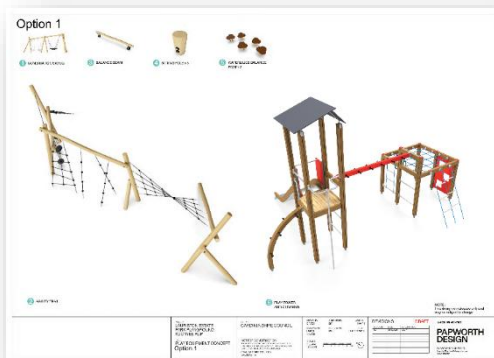
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OR

If you need speech or assistance contact us National Relay Service

About the National R | Access Hub

TTY: 133 677 (ask for 1 Speak and Listen (per 1300 555 727 (ask for



Close

Share your feedback

Select your preferred option below

Have Your Say

Select your preferred option below.

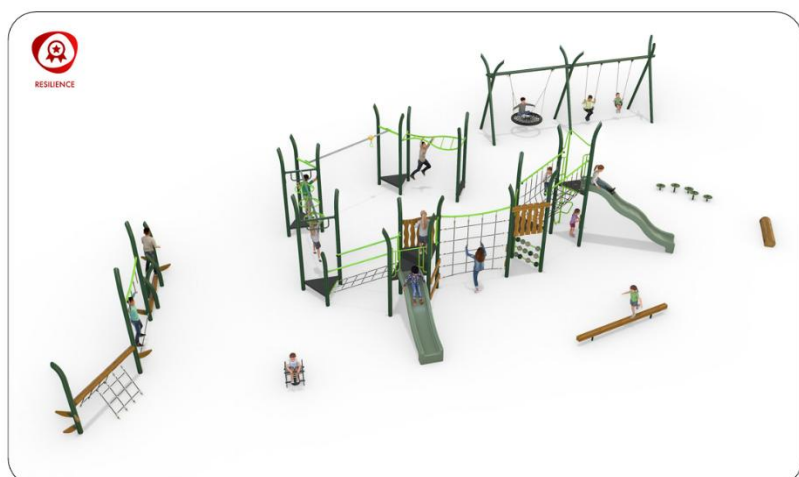
1. Select your preferred option or other feedback below Required

- ☐ Option 1
☐ Option 2
☐ Option 3
☐ Other feedback

2. Do you have any comments on the draft concept plan?

You have 255 characters remaining

Appendix 4 – Final playground design



Activity Playgrounds Pty Ltd
1800 062 541
office@activityplaygrounds.com.au
activityplaygrounds.com.au

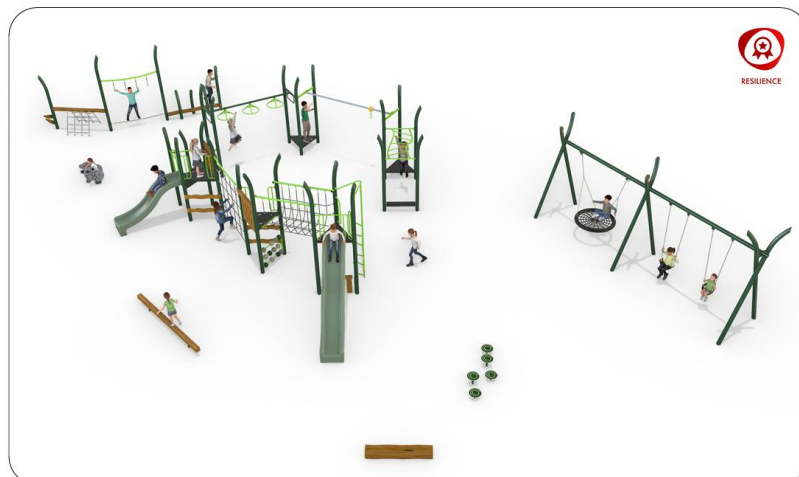
AQ26023/01 - Cardinia Shire Council -
Lauriston Estate Playground

Equipment Illustration
Sheet 02 of 06

Drawn By: S.Jackson
Date: 24-02-26



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Equipment Illustration
Sheet 03 of 06

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