

JL MURPHY RESERVE NETBALL COURTS



Engagement Summary Report

April 2026





Acknowledgement of Country

Wominjeka. Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

Postal Address

City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3,
PO St Kilda, VIC 3182

If you require a large-
print version, please
contact ASSIST on
03 9209 6777.



Please consider
the environment
before printing.

Language assistance

Русский (Russian): 03 9679 9813

Polski (Polish): 03 9679 9812

Ελληνικά (Greek): 03 9679 9811

廣東話 (Cantonese): 03 9679 9810

普通話 (Mandarin): 03 9679 9858

Italiano (Italian): 03 9679 9814

**For other languages not listed,
please phone 03 9679 9814.**

**National
Relay
Service**

If you are deaf or have a hearing or a speech impairment, you can phone us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

- TTY users dial 133677, then ask for 03 9209 6777
- Speak and listen users phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 03 9209 6777

For more information - **[accesshub.gov.au](https://www.accesshub.gov.au)**

Contents

Introduction.....	4
Project background.....	4
What we set out to achieve	4
About this report.....	4
Before reading this report	5
What we did.....	6
Communications activities	6
Engagement activities	8
Reach and participation	10
Reach through communications activities	10
Participation by engagement activity.....	11
Who we heard from	13
Demographics	13
Diversity and inclusion	15
Representatives from community groups	16
What we heard	17
JL Murphy Reserve.....	17
Support for the proposal.....	20
Council considerations	34
Elder Smith Reserve.....	44
Differences in feedback across genders	51
Next steps	55
Further activities	55



Introduction

Project background

We're committed to delivering safe, inclusive and high-quality facilities to meet the growing needs of netball within Port Phillip. This is why we're looking to install four new outdoor netball courts and an inclusive pavilion at JL Murphy Reserve in Port Melbourne.

Council was previously planning for this project to take place at Elder Smith Reserve. However, after further studies, Council hasn't proceeded there due to major infrastructure risks and higher costs. This engagement was the first check in with the community as we consider relocating this project to JL Murphy Reserve.

What we set out to achieve

The purpose of the engagement project was to:

- Inform the community about changes to the project, including why the project isn't proceeding at Elder Smith Reserve as initially planned.
- Understand whether the community would support moving the project to JL Murphy Reserve.
- Investigate why community members may or may not support the proposal to relocate the project to JL Murphy Reserve.
- Understand what the community want us to consider if we progress the project as proposed at JL Murphy Reserve. This includes changes to open space, parking and public amenities.

About this report

The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings from this stage of initial consultation. These findings will be presented to the Councillors and community before a decision is made on whether to formally move the project for delivery at JL Murphy Reserve.

Before reading this report

The following should be considered in reading this report:

- The findings are based on qualitative feedback from people who chose to take part. This means the views shared are not statistically representative of the whole community and may only reflect a portion of local voices.
- While we aim to include diverse perspectives, some community members may have faced barriers to participation, including people with disability, multicultural communities, older people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- ‘Participants’ refers to everyone involved in the engagement; ‘respondents’ refers to those who answered a specific question or activity.
- The report summarises what we heard. Feedback has not been independently verified, so some comments may be incorrect, unachievable or outside the project scope. Not all individual comments are shown; themes, quotes and numbers are used to reflect the range of views.
- Some people may have contributed more than once across different activities, which may result in unintentional double counting.
- Demographic data was not collected consistently across all activities, which limits our ability to analyse differences between groups.
- The report covers Council led engagement activities only and does not include community run or third-party events, surveys or petitions.
- Where required, figures like percentages have been rounded to one decimal place. This may result in minor rounding differences.
- This report was developed through a combination of human analysis and artificial intelligence (AI). Human analysts conducted the primary data analysis. AI tools were used to process and analyse large datasets, identify trends, and generate some preliminary findings. Any AI-generated findings were subsequently reviewed, validated, and interpreted by human analysts with expertise in the subject matter. The final conclusions and interpretations presented in this report represent the considered judgment of these human analysts, even where AI contributed to the data processing.

What we did

Between Monday 2 February and 1 March 2026 (4 weeks), we delivered a range of communications activities to let the community know about the JL Murphy Reserve netball courts project and collected feedback through a mix of engagement activities.

Communications activities

To increase awareness of the engagement process, we did the following:



A1 Posters in and around JL Murphy Reserve (x7) and Elder Smith Reserve (x2)

Posters about the engagement process and the opportunity to provide feedback were placed in key locations throughout JL Murphy Reserve and Elder Smith Reserve.



**Postcards
x 1332**

Postcards were distributed to nearby residents, explaining the engagement process and inviting people to provide feedback.



**Emails
x 21**

Emails were sent to the following key stakeholders:

- Port Melbourne Netball Club
- Port Melbourne Colts Football Netball Club
- Port Melbourne Soccer Club
- Port Melbourne Colts Junior Football Club
- Port Melbourne Cricket Club
- Port Melbourne Baseball Club
- Middle Park Football Club (Seniors)
- Middle Park Football Club (Juniors)
- Port Melbourne Chargers Women's Football Club
- Port Melbourne Football Club
- City of Port Phillip Dog Network
- Dig In Community Garden
- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group

- Port Melbourne Secondary College
- Port Melbourne Primary School
- Port Phillip Specialist School
- Narrarrang Primary School
- South Melbourne Primary School
- Love Our Street 3207/ Beach Patrol 3207
- Past participants of the Elder Smith consultation



**Newsletters
x 2**

Project information and an invitation to engage was included in two newsletters during the engagement period: the *Have Your Say* and *DiverCity* newsletters.



**Social media
posts
x 2**

Social media posts were included on both Facebook and Instagram to promote the engagement process. These posts were also provided to Councillors who shared it independently amongst their networks.



**'Have your say'
website**

Council's dedicated engagement website, 'Have your Say' included a page for this project, with information on the process, a timeline, contact details, and opportunities to engage.

Engagement activities

To collect feedback from the community we did the following activities:



Survey
(Available online
and printed, translated
into 15 languages online
via Have Your Say)

This survey collected demographic details about participants and asked for community feedback on:

- Usage and access of JL Murphy Reserve
- Support for the proposal to relocate the project to JL Murphy Reserve
- Potential alternative usage of Elder Smith Reserve if the project does not proceed there.



Neighbourhood
Pop-ups
x 2

This project delivered two in-person information sessions in Port Melbourne. These were designed to engage community members who may not otherwise participate.

The pop-ups were delivered in the following locations:

- Thursday 12 February 2026 from 5pm to 7pm at JL Murphy Reserve
- Saturday 21 February 2026 from 12pm to 3pm at Sandridge Community Centre during their open day event.

Participants were:

- invited to hear more about the project and discuss details with Council Officers
- provided a postcard to participate online in their own time
- asked to complete a simplified engagement activity or paper survey.



Upload

In addition to the online survey, *'Have Your Say'* webpage visitors had the option to upload feedback in the form of a document or image.



Discussions with community groups

Members of the project team spent time with local community groups to discuss the project and collected feedback. Staff notes from these discussions have been integrated into the findings.



Through Council customer service channels

Members of the community could elect to contact Council directly via phone or email to provide feedback. Staff notes from these discussions have been integrated into the engagement findings.

Reach and participation

Reach through communications activities:

Activity	Reach	Insights
Social media posts	20,497	- The Facebook post for this consultation's launch performed extremely well, being viewed more than 18,000 times. - This resulted in 77 reactions, 22 comments and 73 clicks through to the Have Your Say page. - The Instagram post did not perform as well with 2,191 views on the post, 30 reactions and one comment.
Newsletters	More than 14,900	- This consultation was featured in the 'Have Your Say' newsletter on Thursday 19 February and Divercity on Friday 27 February. - There was an uptick in visits to the website immediately after each newsletter.
'Have your say' website	1,034 views	- Most visitors came to the website either directly through a shared link or via the QR code on collateral (63.6%). - Over one fifth (21.5%) of visitors were referred via social media.

Participation by engagement activity

235 pieces of feedback were collected in this engagement process. This was spread across the engagement activities below:

Activity	Number of participants	Insights
Survey	193	44.1% of visits to the 'Have Your Say' page lasted longer than a minute and 18.2% of visits ended with a contribution through the survey or upload tools. 144 of the people who completed the survey online (74.6%) said they were residents living within 1km of JL Murphy Reserve.
Pop-ups	56	Pop-ups were successful at engaging local community members who may not have traditionally engaged online.
	conversations	
	-	The session on Thursday 12 February was overwhelmingly positive with all people stopped supporting the project and its location at JL Murphy Reserve to some degree. These included dog walkers and local passersby who would generally be impacted by the project's outcomes.
	31 people providing feedback	10 people finished the engagement activity and three people completed full surveys. 16 people were provided postcards to complete the engagement in their own time.
	-	
	2	Session on Saturday 21 February was mixed with some people electing to provide their feedback directly to staff rather than via the activity.
	representatives from Middle Park Football Club at their training	15 people finished the engagement activity and eight people had longer conversations directly with staff. Four people were provided postcards to

complete the engagement in their own time.

Upload	5	• These uploads included: ○ Two letters of support from the President of the Port Melbourne Netball Club and the Acting President of the Full Club and President of Netball from the Port Melbourne Colts Football Netball Club ○ Two letters of opposition from residents nearby the reserve ○ One alternative proposal image of turning Elder Smith Reserve into a fenced dog off leash area.
Email and phone conversations.	2	• One community member provided feedback via phone and the other through the project's email address. Staff notes from these discussions have been integrated into the engagement findings and themed alongside other free text data.

Who we heard from

Demographics

Through our surveys, as well as the activities at pop-ups, we asked questions about participants' demographic details. Of the total 235 participants, 227 shared an aspect of their demographic information with us.

The following section explores those demographics.

GENDER

Of the 224 people who provided their gender, the amount who identified as female (141 respondents or 63%) was almost double the amount who identified as male (75 respondents or 33.5%). One respondent identified as non-binary and seven said they would prefer not to say. No one elected to fill out their gender manually.

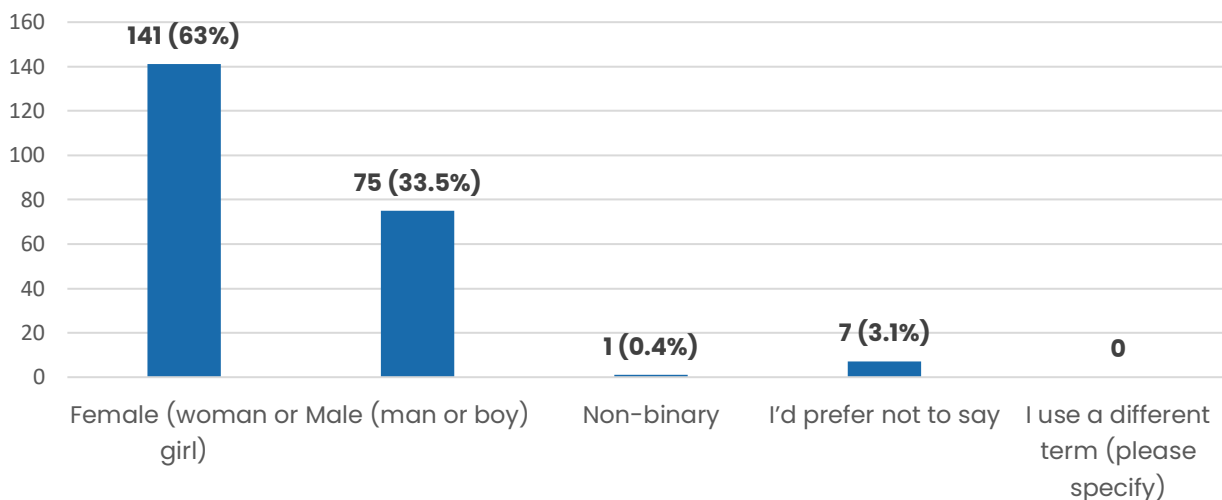


Figure 1: Number of respondents by gender (n=224)

SUBURB

166 respondents (74.1%) said they lived in Port Melbourne. The second highest cohort came from Albert Park (16 participants or 7.1%) followed by South Melbourne (nine participants or 4%).

The remainder of the suburbs in the City of Port Phillip had no more than five respondents. No respondents replied from Balacclava, Ripponlea and St Kilda West.

Seven respondents lived outside the City of Port Phillip. Two respondents said they lived in Newport and Brunswick East. One respondent each came from Beaumaris, Prahan and South Wharf.

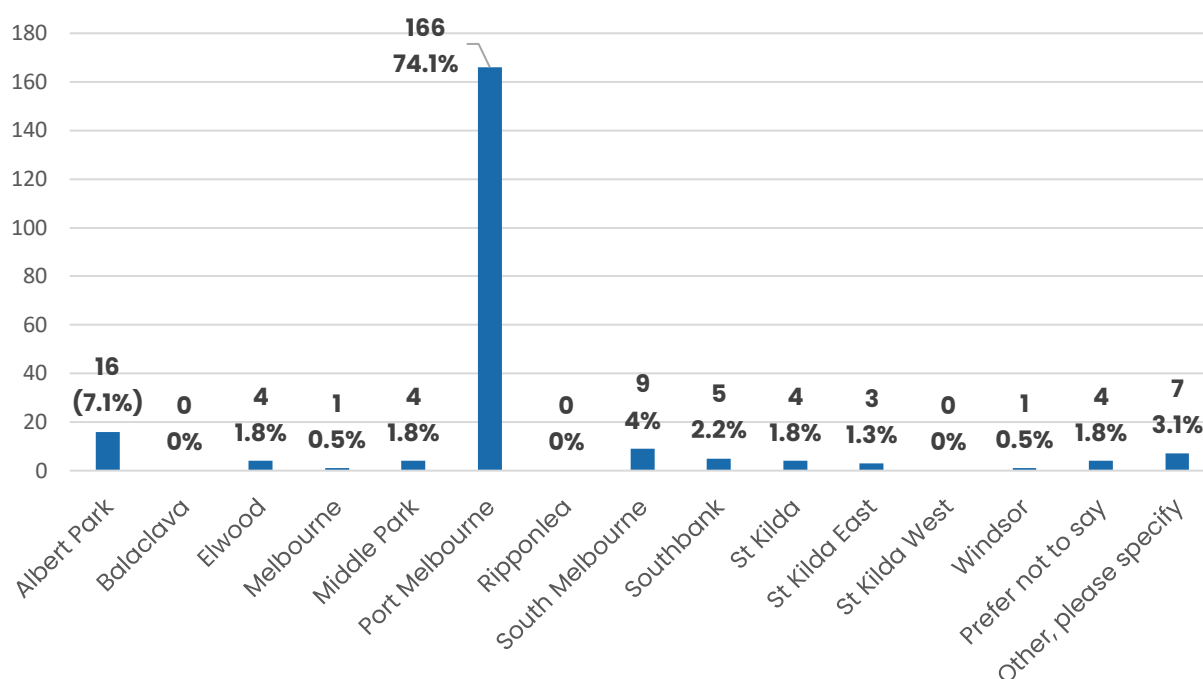


Figure 2: Number of respondents by suburb (n=224)

AGE

The highest represented age group was people aged between 35 and 49 years who made up or 45% of the participants (101 respondents).

Another large cohort were the 45 respondents who said they were between 50 and 59 years (20%). This was closely followed by the 32 respondents who said they were between 60 and 69 years (14.3%).

We received feedback from 4 children under the age of 15 and no responses from people aged 85 years or over.

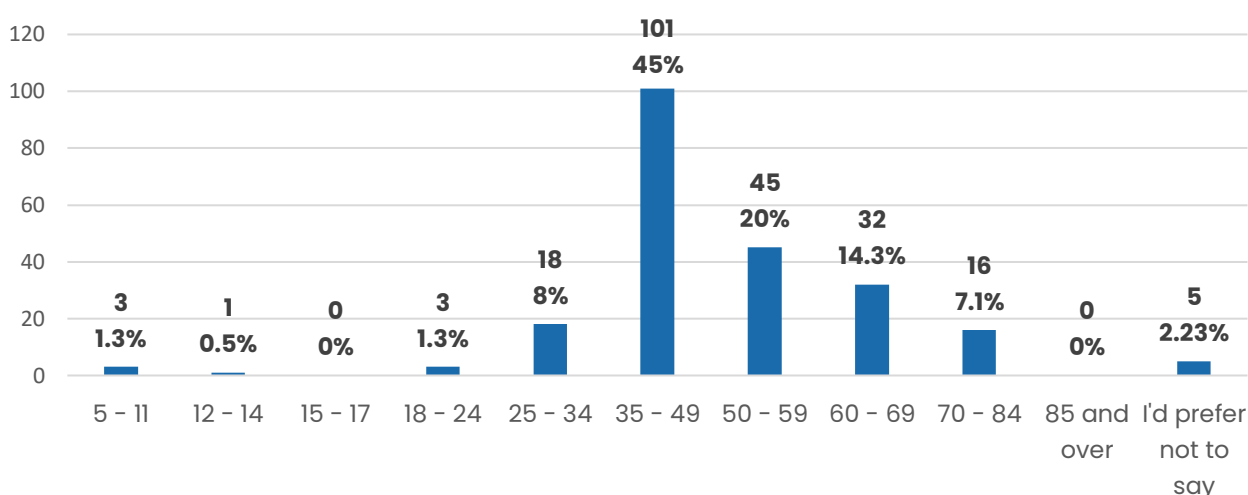


Figure 3: Number of respondents by age (n=224)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We asked people if they identified with any of the following statements. The statements included (in order of number of responses):

- **'I speak a language other than English at home' (20 responses or 8.9%).**
- 'I identify as LGBTIQ+' (11 responses or 4.9%).
- 'I am a person with disability' (Five responses or 2.2%).
- 'I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background' (Four responses or 1.8%).

171 of the respondents (76.3%) said none of the statements above applied to them and 21 (9.4%) said they prefer not to say.

PAST PARTICIPATION

To help us understand if we were engaging with new community members, we asked participants had provided feedback on any other Council projects in the past 12 months.

In total, 80 respondents said they had provided feedback to Council in the past 12 months (35.7%). 116 respondents said they had not (51.8%) and 28 were unsure (12.5%).

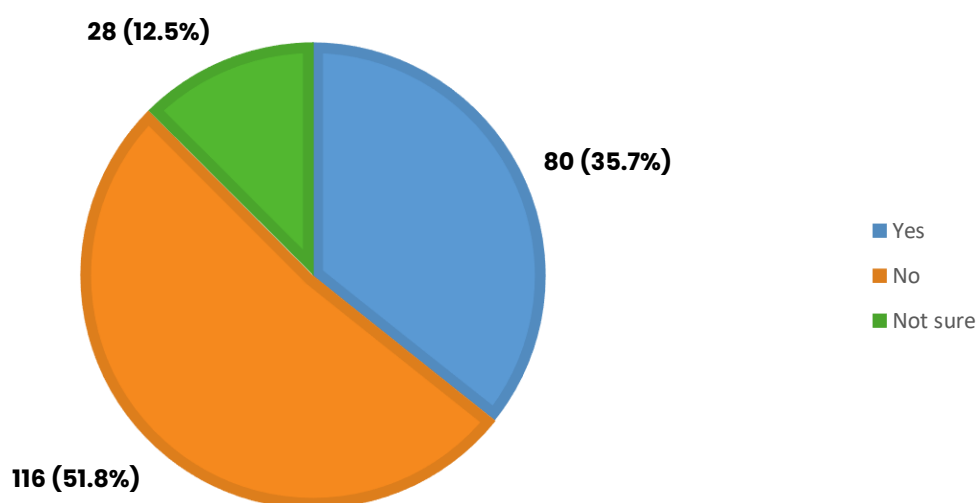


Figure 4: Number of respondents who selected whether they had provided feedback to the City of Port Phillip in the last 12 months. (n=224)

REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

18 of the respondents (8%) said that they were providing their feedback on behalf of a group or organisation. This included:

- Six respondents from South Melbourne District Netball Club
- Three respondents from Port Melbourne Netball Club
- Two respondents from Middle Park Football Club
- One respondent from Port Melbourne Secondary College
- One respondent from Port Melbourne Chargers Women's Football Club
- One respondent from Port Melbourne Colts Junior Football Club
- One respondent from Port Melbourne Tennis Club
- One respondent from Port Melbourne Colts Football Netball Club

- One respondent from Port Lane Development Facebook Group
- One respondent was representing a collective of residents residing directly opposite Elder Smith Reserve

209 respondents (92%) said they were representing themselves.

What we heard

JL Murphy Reserve

The 196 people who completed a survey either online or in-person at a pop up were asked about their connection to JL Murphy Reserve to help understand the context for their feedback.

USAGE OF JL MURPHY RESERVE

Of the 160 respondents who told us how often they use JL Murphy Reserve, nearly two-thirds reported visiting weekly or more.

The largest group (63 respondents or 39.4%) visit twice a week or more, and a further 38 respondents (23.8%) visit once a week.

Only a small proportion of respondents said they visit the reserve rarely or never.

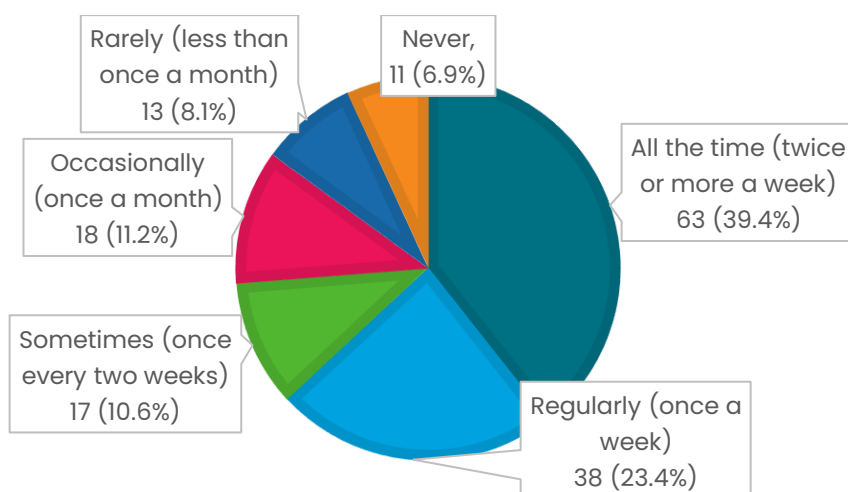


Figure 5: How often respondents currently use JL Murphy Reserve broken down by respondent number. (n=160)

If a respondent said they used JL Murphy Reserve at least once a month, we also asked them to select all the ways they use the space.

Of the 149 respondents who answered this question:

- 85 respondents (57%) use the reserve for dog walking.
- 77 respondents (51.7%) use it for informal recreation such as walking or jogging.
- 57 respondents (38.3%) use it for organised sport, either as participants or spectators.
- 47 respondents (31.5%) use it for family and social gatherings.
- 14 respondents selected 'Other' and provided additional detail. These respondents described a wide range of uses including visiting the playground, passing through on the way to school drop-off, attending community group events at the Dig In Community Garden, playing sport independently or simply enjoying nature.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE AREA

We asked all 196 respondents who completed the survey to tell us which descriptions applied to them, with the option to select more than one.

Most people who took part were local residents, with 146 people (74.5%) living within a kilometre of JL Murphy Reserve.

Around one-third were involved in local sport, including 67 people (34.2%) who are members of a sporting club that uses the reserve and 64 people (32.7%) who are part of a local netball club.

A smaller number of respondents were connected to Port Melbourne Secondary College (21 respondents or 10.7%).

Only nine respondents (4.6%) said they were local business owners and nine respondents said none of the options applied to them.

Another 15 respondents (7.7%) chose “other” and gave different ways they are connected to the area.

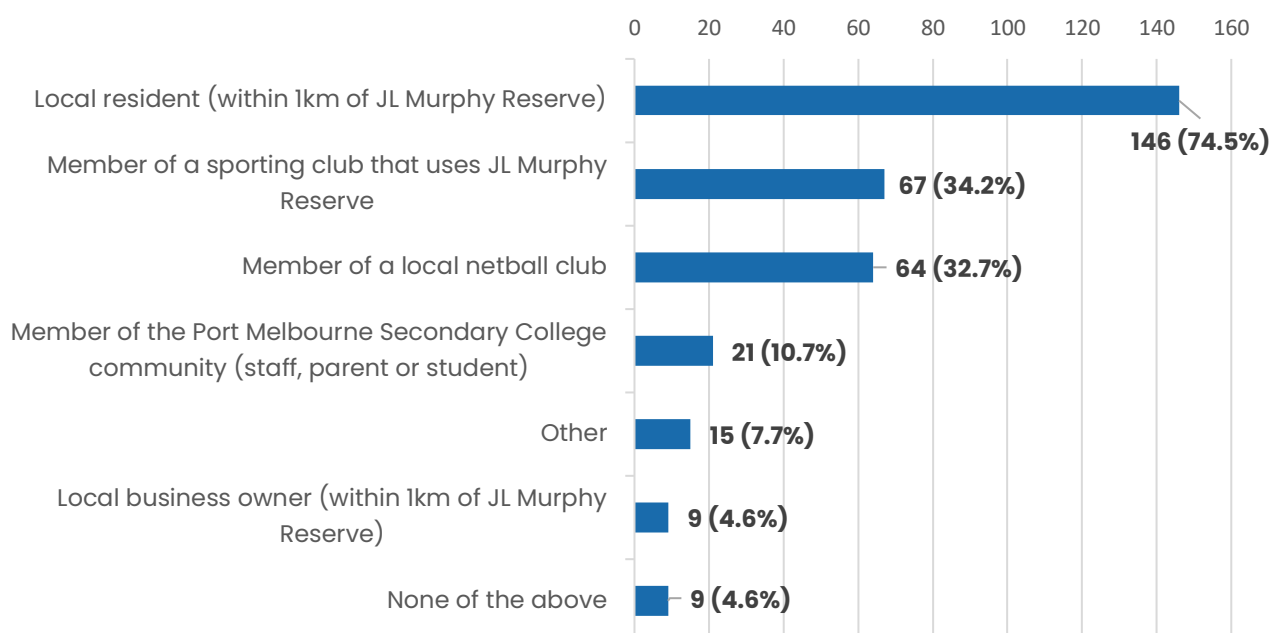


Figure 5: Relationship to the project and area broken down by number of respondents. (n=196)

Support for the proposal

221 respondents told us their level of support for the proposal through online surveys on 'Have Your Say', engagement activities at pop ups and hard copy surveys at pop ups.

Approximately half of the respondents (51.6%) said they fully support the proposal and an additional 19 respondents (8.6%) saying they mostly support it.

71 respondents (32.1%) said they did not support it at all with an additional nine (4%) saying they don't really support the project.

Eight respondents (3.6%) said they were unsure or neutral on the project.

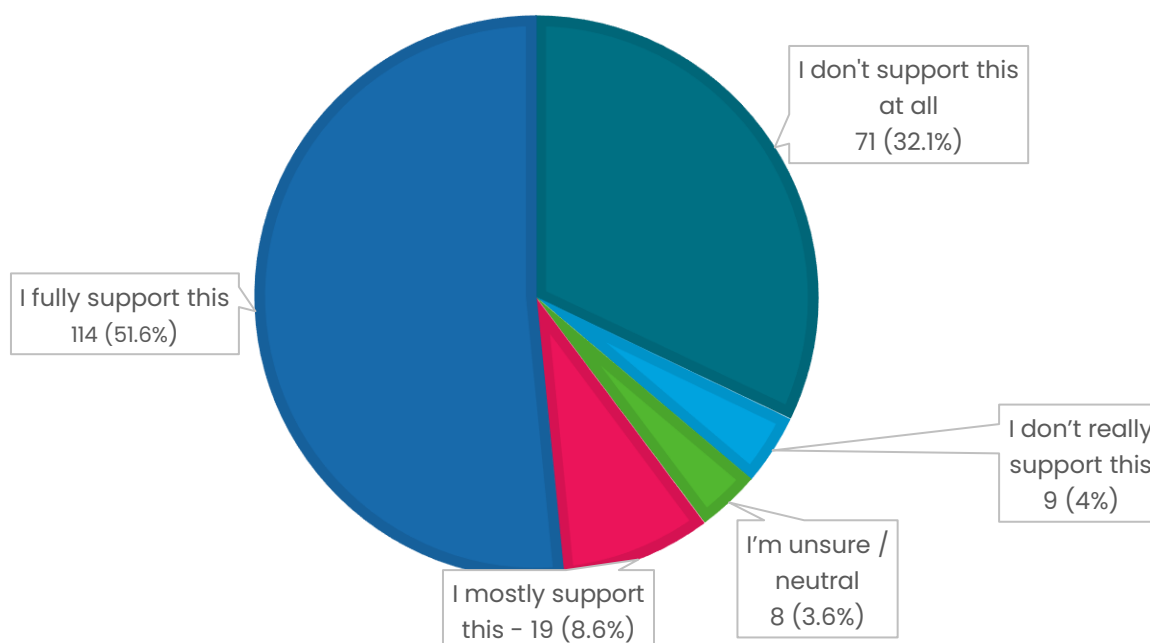


Figure 6: The level of support for the project broken down by number of participants. (n=221)

When we look exclusively at respondents who said they live within a kilometre of the reserve, the ratio of people that strongly support and strongly oppose the project evens out. Of those local respondents, 63 fully support the project (43.2%) and 60 do not support it at all (41.1%).

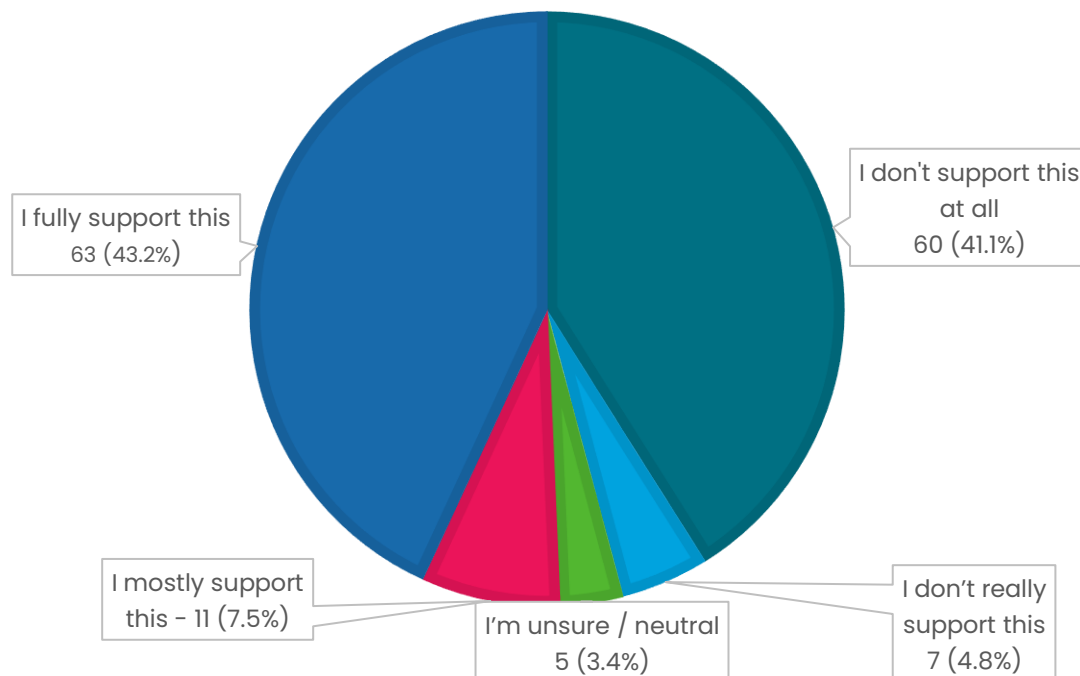


Figure 7: The level of support for the project broken by number of respondents who marked themselves as residents within 1km of JL Murphy Reserve (n=146)

RATIONALE FOR SUPPORT LEVEL

216 of the respondents who told us their support levels shared why they did or did not support the proposal. These comments were themed and grouped with some responses aligning with more than one theme.

Fully supportive or mostly supportive

Of the 128 respondents (59.3%) who said they fully or mostly support the project; the following themes came through most strongly.

The top reason for support was the need for more netball facilities, mentioned by 49 respondents (38.3%).

Many also said they support the project because it helps women and girls in sport (28 respondents or 21.9%) and because of the benefits of having a sporting hub and shared facilities (26 respondents or 20.3%).

The remainder of the themes that were mentioned five or more times are outlined below.

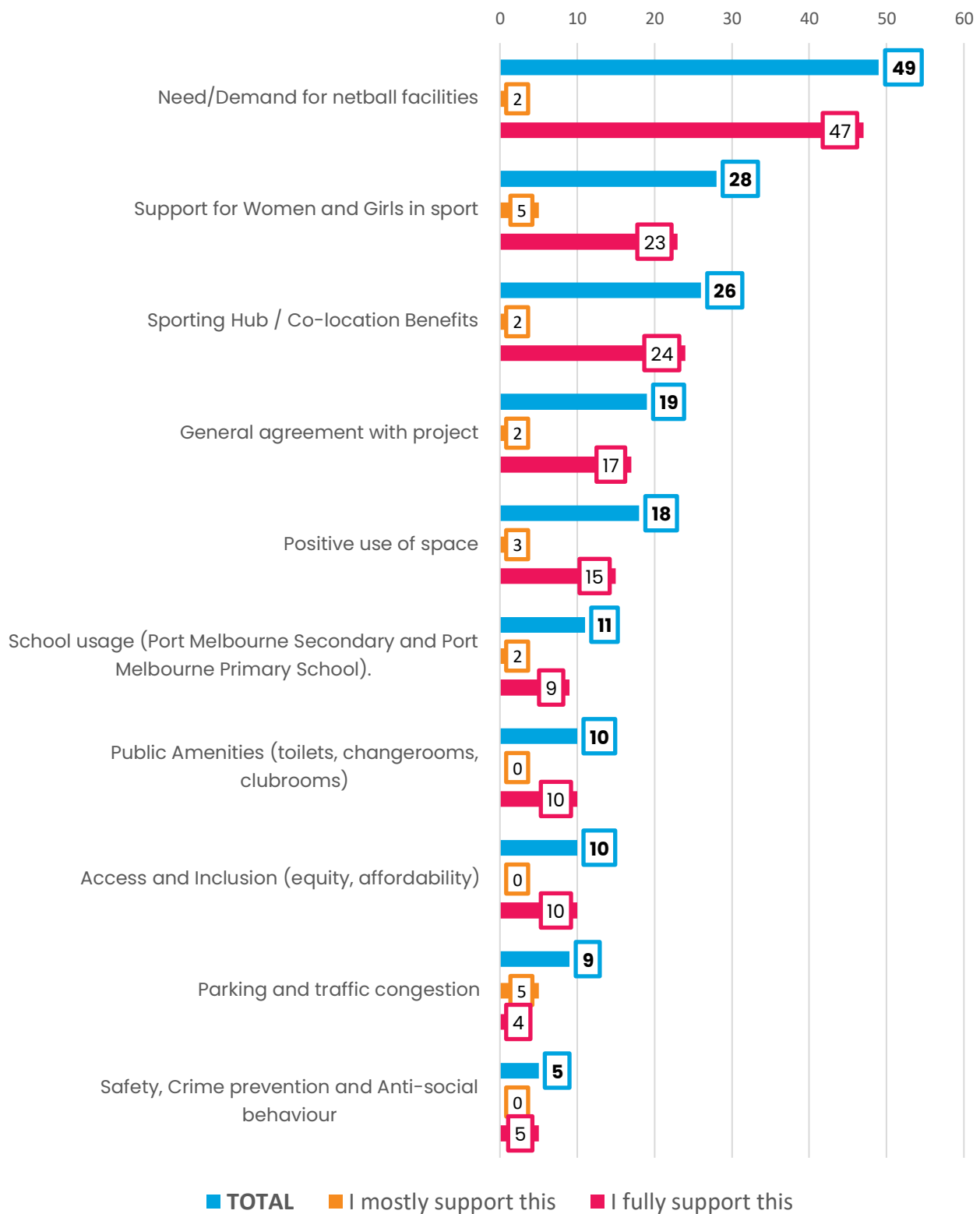


Figure 8: The themes that received five or more mentions from respondents who marked they fully or mostly support the project (n=128)

An explanation of the themes and some examples are available below:

Theme	Example
Need or demand for netball facilities: The respondents said that there is a clear shortage of suitable courts including too few spaces, waitlists, and teams outgrowing current facilities with juniors unable to train locally. (49 respondents or 38.3%)	“SMD recently set up an under age Netball for the local community. It has been beautiful watching the kids enjoy the sport locally. Our kids have been independent attending training. Unfortunately we have no current space to train!” “There is severe demand for netball courts within the Port Phillip area. As a Middle Park resident, these courts would be such a great addition and would mean that I would be able to join a netball club closer to home (I currently play in Geelong).” “We currently have 9 teams after 1 year starting up. Girls are on the waitlist and courts are very scarce on this side. More teams = more courts to train. We are scattered across 5 locations atm.”
Support for women and girls in sport The respondents said that we should prioritise facilities that improve participation and visibility for women and girls to help address historic gender inequities in sport. (28 respondents or 21.9%)	“Encouraging sport that appeals to girls is very important. There is a lot of emphasis placed on male dominated sports, so it would be fabulous to see the budget shared.” “Very supportive of any public infrastructure that provides more options for people especially girls to play social sport in our community”

Sporting hub/co-location benefits The respondents said that co-locating netball with other clubs would create a single sporting hub that simplifies family logistics and enables shared amenities. (26 respondents or 20.3%)	• <i>"Ideal spot. This creates a sporting hub in the local community and brings the sporting communities closer together."</i> • <i>"This benefits the area by improving the netball facilities and having a central location for sport in Port Melbourne. Many kids play several sports and will use this location several times a week, increasing their familiarity and making it a sporting hub we can be proud of."</i>
General agreement with project The respondents said that the project aligns with broad community benefits such as physical activity, social connection and youth participation. (19 respondents or 14.8%)	• <i>"The more sports the better. Go PPC. Bring it on!"</i> • <i>"If it helps the community and young children to play and connect then I support it"</i> • <i>"Promote healthy lifestyle and community sport"</i>
Positive use of space The respondents said that the project would activate currently under-utilised space and deliver broader community benefit. (18 respondents or 14.1%)	• <i>"Good use of space not being used. Builds community infrastructure"</i> • <i>"Great use of space, as long as it can be used by [residents] when it's not in use"</i> • <i>"Currently under-utilised space. Very accessible. Recent studies show that girls drop out of sport at a much higher rate than boys and this is directly correlated to easy access to quality sports facilities."</i>

School usage (Port Melbourne Secondary and Port Melbourne Primary School). The respondents said that nearby schools should be able to access the courts safely during the day, supported by appropriate crossings and safe routes. (11 respondents or 8.6%)	• <i>"Create a sporting precinct where everything is together is beneficial to all, especially in the proximity to Port Melbourne Secondary College where there can be dual use."</i> • <i>"School and other organisations could use venue."</i> • <i>"With the new PM highschool and Narrang Primary school - we will have even more demand."</i>
Public Amenities (toilets, changerooms, clubrooms) The respondents said that improved safety measures are needed to address harassment, bike activity and the need for better passive surveillance. (10 respondents or 7.8%)	• <i>"The old club room is very small and run down. The toilet block is very bad."</i> • <i>"The existing Julier Reserve facilities are too few and too old"</i> • <i>"My daughter plays netball for the PMNC & the current facilities are dreadful. Locals harass the kids at training, the clubhouse is too small & doesn't have all the facilities the club needs to support the club members."</i>
Access and inclusion (equity, affordability) The respondents said that the courts should provide equitable, inclusive and affordable access to the broader community, not only club members. (10 respondents or 7.8%)	• <i>"Accessible netball is needed in this area - it's a huge sport and there are limited public/free options."</i> • <i>"Be ideal to have a fully functional netball centre in an area accessible to all"</i> • <i>"More publicly accessible netball infrastructure is needed in the area"</i>

Parking and traffic congestion The respondents said that we should address parking shortfalls and game-day congestion on narrow residential streets, including safer drop-off and preventing grass parking. (9 respondents or 7%)	• <i>"Don't think your analysis re parking stacks up. 1st, parking when busy is not good already. 2nd, the pressure point is going to be near the corner of Graham St where parking is at a premium & there's not much side street parking. Plus side street parking exposes more people to crossing Williamstown Road - where there is no pedestrian crossing."</i> • <i>"I support the use of the proposed space for netball courts. However, the assessment that local streets can accommodate the increased traffic is wrong. I live on Poolman St and during the football season, you cannot drive down Poolman St safely because so many cars are parking across the nature strip on both sides of the street. To add further traffic without additional parking will make it more dangerous."</i>
Safety, crime prevention and anti-social behaviour The respondents said that improved safety measures are needed to address harassment, bike activity and the need for better passive surveillance. (5 respondents or 3.9%)	• <i>"The secluded area at Julier attracts some trouble from local boys accessing the pump track and harassing boys"</i> • <i>"Also the BMX track that has been build adjacent to the existing netball courts is problematic with young boys constantly riding through the netball courts and causing issues."</i> • <i>"It would be a lot more safe to have all the clubs in one are. The only thing the proposed area at J.L Murphy is used for atm, is teenagers and kids riding electric dirt bikes. We have had a couple of close calls with bigger kids on dirt bikes,</i>

	<i>nearly hitting young children in this area of the reserve."</i>
--	--

Not supportive at all or not really supportive

Of the 80 respondents (37%) who said they don't really support the project or don't support it at all; the following themes came through most strongly.

The top reason for their lack of support was the concern over the dog off leash infrastructure mentioned by 40 respondents (50%).

Many also said they didn't support the project because:

- it would lead to a loss of open green space (25 respondents or 31.3%)
- other locations including Elder Smith Reserve were more suitable (24 respondents or 30%)
- it would lead to parking and traffic conditions in the area worsening (22 respondents or 27.5%)

The remainder of the themes that were mentioned five or more times are outlined below.

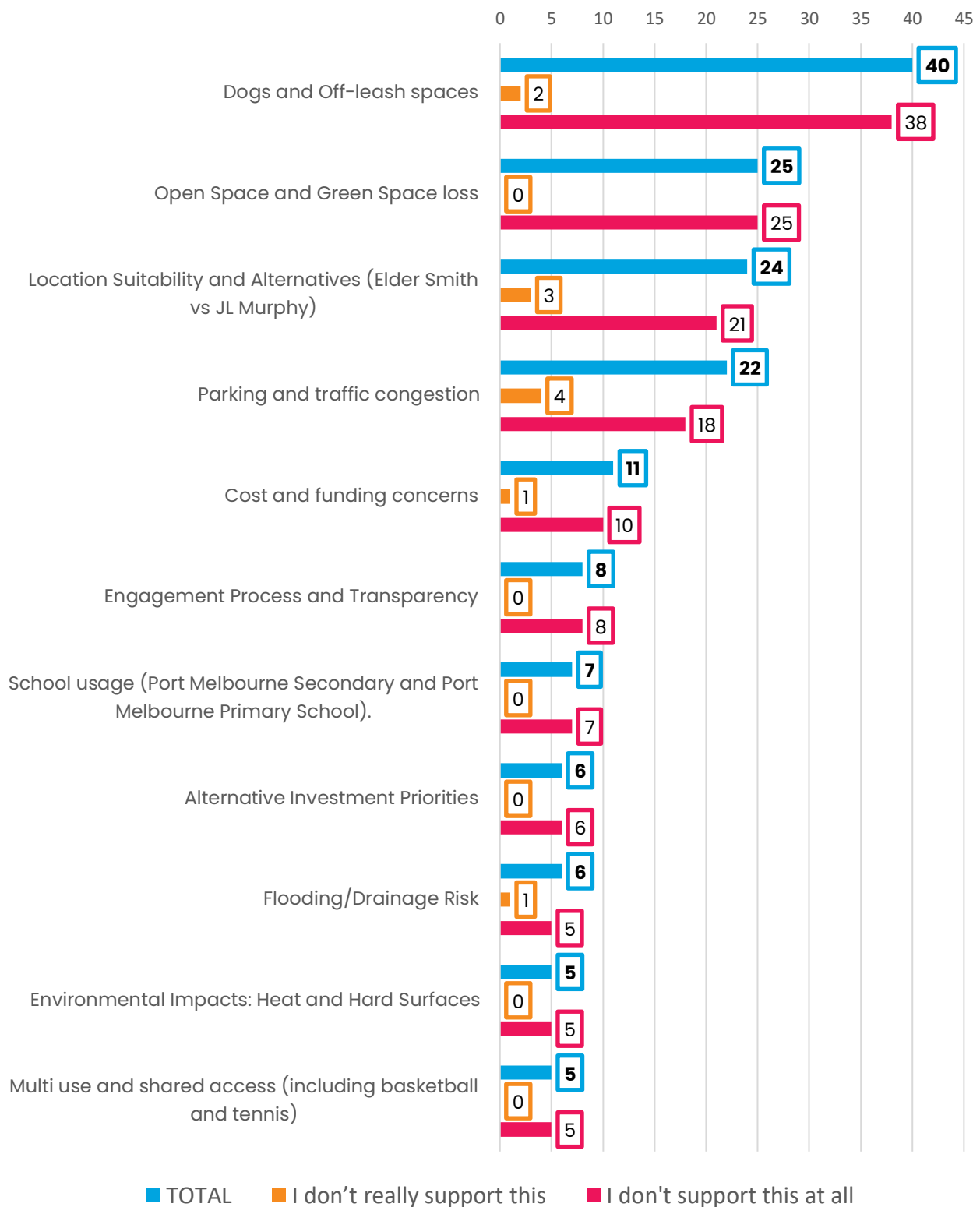


Figure 9: The themes that received five or more mentions from respondents who marked they don't really support the project or don't support it at all (n=80)

An explanation of the themes and some examples are available below:

Theme	Example
Dogs and off-leash spaces The respondents said that we should maintain the area as a dog off-leash space and/or improve off-leash infrastructure with fencing, gates, water and seating. (40 respondents or 50%)	“There are approx 8250 dogs registered in the city of port phillip with zero dog parks in the area. Use the space for something other than more sport” “I don't support the netball courts in this space as it is a dog off leash area and we must keep it this way.” “Port Phillip has one of the highest, if not highest number of pet/dog ownership in Victoria. It is important to have sufficient off leash areas for pet owners.”
Open space and green space loss The respondents said that we should protect existing open green areas, trees and shade and avoid replacing grass with hard surfaces that contribute to heat. (25 respondents or 31.3%)	“We don't need more [infrastructure] in the park. We need more parkland space. I support “wetland” project that was planned for that area years ago.” “We keep losing green spaces in Port Melbourne. While everyone can use green spaces not everyone uses netball courts.” “there is no room. how ridiculous can we actually have some park that isn't for sport !”
Location suitability and alternatives (Elder Smith vs JL Murphy) The respondents said that the project should remain at Elder Smith or that alternative sites (warehouses, AusPost, Bertie	“Elder Smith reserve is closer to the netballing communities current home and also close to the new primary school as well as Port Melbourne primary as such less parking will be required as the previous survey showed the netball community mostly walks to its current home.”

Street, other reserves) should be reconsidered. (24 respondents or 30%)	• <i>"Elder Smith reserve is an odd shaped patch of land that is difficult to use for anything, but it geographically fits four netball courts. The land on the corner of Graham and Williamstown Rd is one of the few patches of vacant land in the Port Melbourne/Fisherman's Bend area-- it can't be a simple case of "Oh it's more expensive than anticipated to build at Elder, let's put it here instead." The needs of other sporting clubs that cannot fit onto Elder need to be taken into consideration."</i> • <i>"COPP spent a fortune buying the Australia Post site ... build them there."</i> • <i>"Netball courts do not need to take up existing open space and it seems part of the former Australia Post sorting buildings in Bertie Street could easily be repurposed to provide under cover netball courts, or another former industrial site."</i>
Parking and traffic congestion The respondents said that we should address parking shortfalls and game-day congestion on narrow residential streets, including safer drop-off and preventing grass parking. (22 respondents or 27.5%)	• <i>"Surrounding streets are already congested from existing visitors to Murphy reserve. The surrounding streets are very narrow and driving down local streets to return to one's house is already very difficult due to the extra cars parked from visitors to Murphy reserve. The parking situation has become so bad that people are also driving onto Murphy reserve and parking their cars on the open green space which you are proposing to use!"</i> • <i>"Parking in our local streets is full. Your traffic report predicted congestion. We are already</i>

	congested without the new housing estate opening. Sometimes on Saturday I cannot get in to my property or up the street due to cars. The garden city streets are narrow and not designed to hold street parking." "My street is a nightmare to navigate on weekends. I read the report about parking and I have no idea how these council officers came up with no impact on parking. Four courts = 8 netball teams = another 56 odd cars every match to squeeze in on our tight garden city streets. It does not work. It is so jam packed that getting out of my driveway without hitting other people is a struggle."
Cost and funding concerns The respondents said that costs, funding sources and value for money should be transparent. (11 respondents or 13.8%)	"Yes it costs more to build at Elder but it makes so much sense to do it there." "The council continues to build expensive facilities for formal sports. When they should be supporting the sorts of activities, people will do all their lives." "Continuing to remove open green space for heat retention netball courts which don't serve the wider community is a waste of council funds. Keep it open green space."
Engagement process and transparency The respondents said that Council needs to be transparent, show its	"Parking. I know council made a report but I don't believe it. The streets of Garden City on the weekend are full of cars of people using JL Murphy for sports. Plenty of parking around Elder Smith Reserve end INCLUDING CAR PARKING on your published plans. Moving it after 2 years is ridiculous."

evidence and genuinely listen. (8 respondents or 10%)	• <i>"a report in May 2023 deemed this space unsuitable"</i> • <i>"Even suggesting removing off leash dog areas after the council had to be brought into line with public opinion on the topic 2 years ago, sounds like an underhand way to unravel that decision by some officers."</i>
School usage (Port Melbourne Secondary and Port Melbourne Primary School). The respondents said that nearby schools should be able to access the courts safely during the day, supported by appropriate crossings and safe routes. (7 respondents or 8.8%)	• <i>"Terrible location. Port secondary will need to expand on the next few years to accommodate the growing number of residents with families zoned to the high school. You leave them with no option of the courts go here."</i> • <i>"Better use of land for existing clubs. Or the school"</i> • <i>"You can use it for so many better things I know the clubs my kids are involved in would leap at the opportunity to use this space but I bet council have not spoken to any other local club or considered that Port Secondary use it."</i>
Alternative investment priorities The respondents said that other investments such as a pool, more tennis courts or upgrades to existing facilities should also be considered. (6 respondents or 7.5%)	• <i>"The money should be spent on planting trees and providing open space for everyone to use - especially with the projected growth in the area with Fishermens Bend development occurring"</i> • <i>"We need parks. There is a lot of money spent on sports fields in Port Phillip. The garden parts of the sports fields are not looked after effectively. There are plants dying all over the area through lack of watering and tending to."</i>
Flooding and drainage risk	• <i>"It's prone to flooding and would be a terrible place for courts."</i>

The respondents said that we need to consider groundwater, flooding and water-retention issues that may make hard courts unsuitable or significantly more expensive. (6 respondents or 7.5%)	• <i>"On 6th September 2023 the council rejected the location of JL Murphy for net ball courts reserve due to "likely water retention and flooding on the hard-court surface."</i> • <i>In 2023, council records even noted this site was unsuitable for hard courts due to water retention and flooding.</i>
Environmental impacts: heat and hard surfaces The respondents said that we should minimise heat-absorbing hard courts and favour permeable, greener design responses to reduce urban heat impacts. (5 respondents or 6.3%)	• <i>"We'd be trading green grass and natural shade for hot hardcourt surfaces."</i> • <i>"Hard surfaces for netball courts and the pavilion means less green space, more hot surfaces in summer and is likely to involve removing trees which will likely kill wildlife and remove natural shady spaces."</i> • <i>"Netball courts will make this space very hot."</i>
Multi use and shared access (including basketball and tennis) The respondents said that courts should support multiple sports, such as basketball, tennis and pickleball (5 respondents or 6.3%)	• <i>"As a tennis player we desperately need more space can't you include other facilities if you are using this space for netball?"</i> • <i>"This land should be allocated to a mixture of clubs- the tennis club is packed and at record levels. We can't join other clubs because Albert Park and Elwood have waitlists of many years. If you are going to put netball courts at JL then you need to incorporate tennis courts as well."</i> • <i>"The tennis club wants to grow and include pickleball- this could be a fabulous facility of netball, tennis and the first port phillip pickleball facility."</i>

Council considerations

Alongside asking people why they did or did not support the project, 197 respondents told us what Council needs to consider if the project were to proceed at JL Murphy Reserve.

These comments were themed and grouped with some responses aligning to more than one theme. If we received feedback that did not align to a specific engagement activity or survey, that data was also themed here.

The top consideration the community wanted us to make if this project proceeds was the way Council manages parking and drop offs in the area with the additional cars the courts would bring. This was mentioned by 41 respondents (20.8%).

Other considerations that appeared often included:

- 31 respondents (15.7%) said Council should retain the nearby off-leash area or provide a replacement dog park so dog exercise and socialising can continue safely. Many of the participants who suggested this also flagged the idea of fencing either at JL Murphy or at the replacement space.
- 29 respondents (14.7%) said that Council should add safer crossings and speed controls on Williamstown Road, Graham Street and Plummer Street to protect children and pedestrians.
- 25 respondents (12.7%) said that Council should protect passive green space and tree canopy and avoid excessive hard surfacing that diminishes shade and flexibility.
- 23 respondents (11.7%) said that Council should enable multi-sport use (such as basketball, tennis or pickleball) as well as daytime school and public access.
- 21 respondents (10.7%) said that Council should include adequate clubrooms, changerooms, toilets, storage, hot water, seating and drink taps sized to demand.

The remainder of the themes that were mentioned five or more times are outlined below.

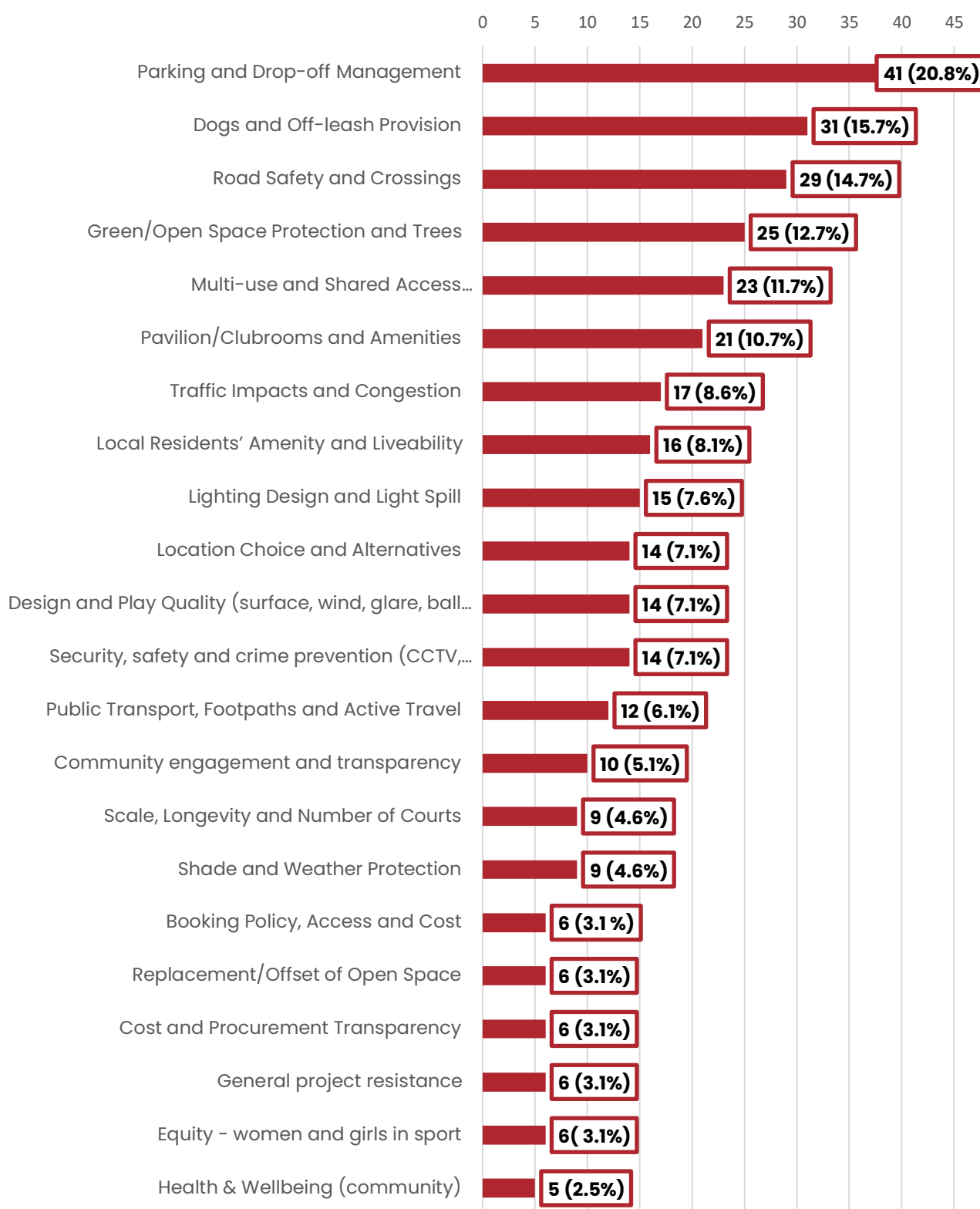


Figure 10: The themes that received five or more mentions from respondents who told us what Council needs to consider if the project proceeds (n=197)

An explanation of the themes and some examples are available below:

Theme	Example
Parking and drop-off management The respondents said that Council should provide adequate on-site parking and safe drop-off areas and manage event peaks to stop nature-strip or grass parking. (41 respondents or 20.8%)	“Parking. The area is already very dangerous, especially where people are doing u turns on Williamstown road to park their cars.” “There is ample space in the grassed area to accommodate off street parking that can be used for the football season as well as baseball, netball, social gatherings, the basketball teams that use the secondary school’s basketball court, and it would also help the businesses on Graham St if their customers had somewhere better to park.” “If possible, bigger parking area (not street parking).”
Dogs and off-leash provision The respondents said that Council should retain nearby the off-leash area or provide a replacement fenced dog park so dog exercise and socialisation can continue safely. (31 respondents or 15.7%)	“The reduction of open space within this park, particularly for dog owners. I would hate to see this turn into another area that is completely unwelcoming towards dog owners for large portions of the weekend or afternoons because of organised sports.” “Maintaining dog amenity” “To create a new enclosed off lead dog park with water facilities and shade:
Road safety and crossings The respondents said that Council should add safer crossings and speed controls on Williamstown Road, Graham Street and Plummer	Graham Street, Williamstown Road, and Plummer Street are already far too busy and dangerous in this area. To date there have not been improvements enough that increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and even motorists. Significant changes need to be

Street to protect children and pedestrians. (29 respondents or 14.7%)	<i>made to the roads in this area if more facilities are to be built that will attract more people to the area."</i> • <i>"Speeding traffic with Williamstown road and Plummer street"</i> • <i>"Improve pedestrian crossings to J.L. Murphy across Williamstown Road and Graham Street"</i>
Green/open space protection and trees The respondents said that Council should protect passive green space and tree canopy and avoid excessive hard surfacing that diminishes shade and flexibility. (25 respondents or 12.7%)	• <i>"Do not progress this project which will remove green space. Create a wetland in that space."</i> • <i>"We must protect green spaces in urban environments. Green spaces are essential for creating healthier, more sustainable urban environments. They provide numerous benefits, including improved air quality, enhanced biodiversity, climate regulation, and significant health advantages for individuals and communities."</i> • <i>"We will lose an essential shared community space that encourages locals to interact and improve their health including mental health"</i>
Multi-use and shared access (basketball/tennis/pickleball) The respondents said that Council should enable multi-sport use (such as basketball, tennis or pickleball) as well as daytime school and public access.	• <i>"Make it a multi-club project. Get some tennis and pickleball in there so everyone can enjoy the space."</i> • <i>"building multi-use pavilion (JL Murphy Pavilion is primarily used by the Colts – the clubrooms) – or consider expanding JL Murphy Pavilion"</i>

(23 respondents or 11.7%)	• <i>"Long term approach. This is very shortsighted. If you decide to put netball there, then the space needs to be shared with other sporting clubs who desperately need it."</i>
Pavilion/clubrooms and amenities The respondents said that Council should include adequate clubrooms, changerooms, toilets, storage, hot water, seating and drink taps sized to demand. (21 respondents or 10.7%)	• <i>"Appropriate rooms that have visibility to the courts, appropriate toilets. Seating around the courts and netted enclosed courts to help prevent them being bike ridden all over and damaged. Check out Riverside netball courts as a guide."</i> • <i>"Make sure the club room or pavilion is large enough for the netball club. Provide at least 4 netball courts to allow four teams to train at the same time."</i> • <i>"Ample seating with shelters for players, umpires and spectators."</i>
Traffic impacts and congestion The respondents said that Council should address increased traffic volumes, weekend peaks and overflow into surrounding streets caused by the project. (17 respondents or 8.6%)	• <i>"Traffic management, safe access and drop-off zones, and integration with public and active transport should be addressed upfront, alongside accessibility, lighting and amenity, to ensure the facility functions effectively and sustainably from day one."</i> • <i>"I find the people going to the sporting facilities on Williamstown road drive there in huge cars which they park all over the bike track, making the bike track extremely dangerous. They should be no parking. You need to discourage people from putting other residents lives at risk with their huge cars"</i>

Local residents' amenity and liveability The respondents said that Council should protect everyday neighbourhood amenity (beyond noise and parking), including visual fit and driveway access. (16 respondents or 8.1%)	• <i>"Not catering to LOCALS, you are catering to people OUTSIDE of port phillip"</i> • <i>"Enough is enough. You are ruining a heritage listed area and creating no space for people and only for sport. People across the road can't even park their cars now. We will face the music on what decision is made here. Not against having sporting facilities in Port Phillip just not in this area. It's the only spot where kids can play freely. It's also going to have a visual impact on the area. You are making it a sporting hub. This doesn't take into consideration the neighbours. This is destroying the area. What due diligence has been done?"</i>
Lighting design and light spill The respondents said that Council should design lighting with shields, aiming and curfews to allow safe night use without intrusive light spill. (15 respondents or 7.6%)	• <i>"Sports-field lighting will cause light spill and glare into homes, disrupt sleep cycles, reduce backyard privacy, extend activity into late evening, and contribute to urban light pollution. Presently the lighting from the football/cricket oval and Port Melb Secondary School causes these issues in our 2-storey house. The bedroom face Murphy's Reserve. This will compound health and mental illness."</i> • <i>"The lighting for the courts is essential"</i> • <i>"Proper lighting for winter months when many girls are sometimes waiting for pick up from parents."</i>
Location choice and alternatives	• <i>"I get land is rare and probably in demand. I also know elder is empty, not really used and</i>

The respondents said that Council should justify JL Murphy versus alternatives such as Elder Smith, nearby schools, the Australia Post site or the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). (14 respondents or 7.1%)	<i>a weird shape. But it can fit the netball club! Use it!"</i> <i>"To progress it in a sensible location. Elder St might cost more but it makes sense. It was supported by the netball club and supported by the community."</i> <i>"Use the newly purchased Australia Post site."</i> <i>"MSAC is better for this proposal."</i>
Design and play quality (surface, wind, glare, ball nets) The respondents said that Council should provide non-slip surfaces, consider wind and sun orientation and install ball-protection netting and durable rings. (14 respondents or 7.1%)	<i>"I hope if this project goes ahead, ball protection netting is installed to ensure they don't go onto the road."</i> <i>"Ensure the rings and nets are durable and good quality."</i> <i>"Court positioning for the goals vs sun glare."</i> <i>"Ensuring a surface that reduces impact on knees. Netball is very tough on knees."</i>
Security, safety and crime prevention (CCTV, fencing, vandalism) The respondents said that Council should deter vandalism and misuse with CPTED measures such as CCTV and appropriate fencing/locking. (14 respondents or 7.1%)	<i>"The safety of the children training"</i> <i>"Making sure the courts are secured with fences and cameras so the people that pay the expensive rates living in port Melbourne don't have to pay even more for repairs.. thanks! We pay a lot of money for rates so please make sure these places have more security!!"</i> <i>"Safety, and protecting facilities from misuse or vandalism"</i>

Public transport, footpaths and active travel The respondents said that Council should improve footpaths, bike lanes, bike parking and bus connections to make arriving without a car safe and convenient. (12 respondents or 6.1%)	• <i>"We have moved into the Port Lane development and we need footpaths on our side of the road up to JL Murphy. It's a tricky road to cross (even with the new crossing- which is great!). The less times my kids need to cross Williamstown road the better! It would be great if you could put in footpaths in front of the originally proposed reserve so we can walk all the way up Williamstown road to JL Murphy"</i> • <i>"A crossing towards the South Western end would be great as in addition to being where people cross to access Salmon St, the housing area, and the community gardens, people also cross regularly to access JL Murphy Res. Even if they are heading to a sports area further East, it is nicer to cross the road and walk through the park, than walk along Williamstown Rd."</i>
Community engagement and transparency The respondents said that Council should listen to locals, explain the change in location and publish the underpinning studies with clear feedback loops. (10 respondents or 5.1%)	• <i>"Listen to the people who live here!"</i> • <i>"Councillors should consider the optics of revisiting previously made decisions and the continually issuing of public surveys that are contrary to previous advice."</i> • <i>"If you go ahead - community needs to see the designs and give feedback"</i> • <i>"Be transparent and put all the details on the table of why the change!"</i>
Scale, longevity and number of courts	• <i>"Longevity of the courts and facilities"</i>

The respondents said that Council should right-size the number and scale of courts while ensuring the facilities are durable and appropriate for the setting. (9 respondents or 4.6%)	• <i>"The sport is growing in popularity so whatever is provided at this new great local, it needs to be big enough."</i> • <i>"Pavillion needs to be big enough to cater to 4 courts and tournaments."</i> • <i>"The accessibility and ability to have all netball (junior and senior) at one central area"</i>
Shade and weather protection The respondents said that Council should provide shade structures or a roofed/ all-weather court and wind protection for comfort and safety. (9 respondents or 4.6%)	• <i>"Shade / poor weather options (maybe 1 court under cover)"</i> • <i>"Shade in the hot summer months"</i> • <i>"Need to consider making it multiclimatic"</i> • <i>"roof on the netball courts (see Moama Anglican Grammar as an example)"</i>
Booking policy, access and cost The respondents said that Council should keep booking simple, ensure community access when unbooked and set fair fees to avoid perpetual lock-up. (6 respondents or 3.1%)	• <i>"Booking and cost to hire"</i> • <i>"open public access - do not fence these courts"</i> • <i>"The best way to allow groups to manage utilisation to optimise its use"</i> • <i>"Parking and an easy way to book courts for training"</i>
Replacement or offset of open space The respondents said that Council should replace or offset any lost open space,	• <i>"Allocation of greenspace to balance heatloads generated from mass dense development in the area."</i>

particularly for dog walking, if development proceeds. (6 respondents or 3.1%)	<i>"If you take free space away, you need to provide an alternative."</i> <i>"Creating new replacement green space for dog walkers"</i>
Cost and procurement transparency The respondents said that Council should use open tenders, show life-cycle costs and be transparent about rate impacts and site comparisons. (6 respondents or 3.1%)	<i>"Transparent budgeting where tenders are open to all reputable businesses where works are completed to a very high level, is on budget, on time, at a price that is fair and extremely competitive."</i> <i>"A reduction in my rates as this will decrease the value of my property. In fact council should pay me to put up with 24/7 noise and light."</i> <i>"That the extra cost of building at Elder is actually worth it!!!!"</i>
General project resistance The respondents said that they oppose the project in principle or raised broad critiques without proposing alternatives. (6 respondents or 3.1%)	<i>"Please don't"</i> <i>"not proceed with the project"</i> <i>"Not letting Murphy's being completely taken over by organised sport. Let's get some balance happening."</i> <i>"Not to progress this project - stop it"</i>
Equity - women and girls in sport The respondents said that Council should ensure fair access and visibility for women and girls, consistent with equity policies and safety considerations.	<i>"Teenage girls often drop out of sporting activities around 13-15 years old, so more opportunities for predominantly female sports in the area would be welcome."</i> <i>"Such a positive move. Netball cannot grow without more and improved numbers of court facilities. Keep young women (and men) engaged."</i>

(6 respondents or 3.1%)	
Health & wellbeing (community) The respondents said that Council should recognise the mental and physical health outcomes, social connection and keeping kids active. (5 respondents or 2.5%)	<i>"Progressing women in sports is vital for greater equality and mental health among many other benefits to the community"</i> <i>"The provision of modern, accessible sporting infrastructure aligns with broader goals around health, wellbeing, and community connection. It will benefit local clubs and schools, while contributing to a stronger, more active community."</i>

Elder Smith Reserve

Alongside understanding feedback on the proposal to relocate this project to JL Murphy Reserve, we also wanted to understand community expectations for Elder Smith Reserve if the courts did not proceed there.

USAGE OF ELDER SMITH RESERVE

Of the 192 respondents who told us how often they use Elder Smith Reserve, 60.4% said they had never visited the site (116 respondents).

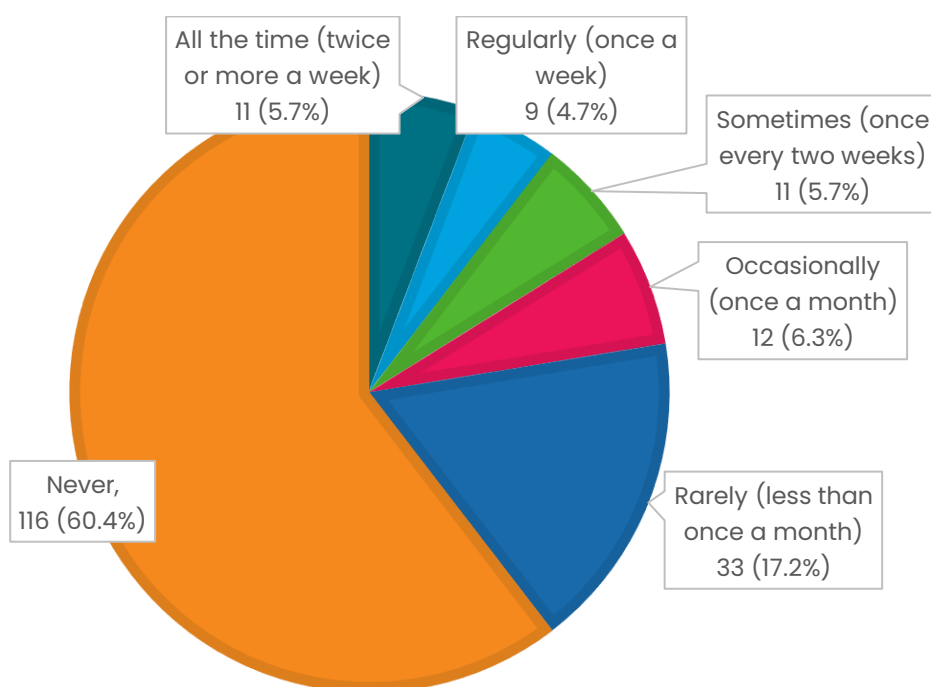


Figure 11: How often respondents currently use JL Murphy Reserve broken down by respondent number. (n=192)

If a respondent said they used Elder Smith Reserve at least once a month, we also asked them to select all the ways they use the space. Of the 75 respondents who answered this question:

- 51 respondents (67.1%) use the reserve for dog walking.
- 29 respondents (38.2%) use it for informal recreation such as walking or jogging.
- 11 respondents (14.5%) use it for family and social gatherings.
- Four respondents selected 'Other' and provided additional detail. These respondents described living nearby or walking through. Two respondents clarified they do not use the reserve.

POTENTIAL USAGE OPTIONS

155 respondents told us what they would like to see at Elder Smith Reserve if the netball courts aren't built there.

If the project does not proceed here as initially planned, this feedback will help inform potential decisions about the site in future financial years. These comments were themed and grouped with some responses aligning to more than one theme.

The strongest themes focused on keeping the reserve as open, green parkland or turning it into a dedicated dog off-leash space. Each of these options was raised by 37 respondents (23.9%). Many people also suggested new planting, more greenery or better maintenance to improve the look and feel of the reserve.

The second most common theme came from 22 respondents (14.2%) who said they would still prefer the netball courts to proceed at Elder Smith Reserve as originally proposed.

Several comments focused on improving the amenity of the reserve. This included:

- 15 respondents (9.7%) asking for a play space.
- 10 respondents (6.5%) asking for more footpaths.
- Seven respondents (4.5%) asking for BBQs, seating or shelter.

Ideas related to sport and recreation also featured. Eight respondents requested new tennis facilities and another eight suggested multi-use courts or shared community spaces.

Overall, the themes show strong interest in options that keep the reserve open, flexible and community-focused, with spaces that can be used by many different people and activities.

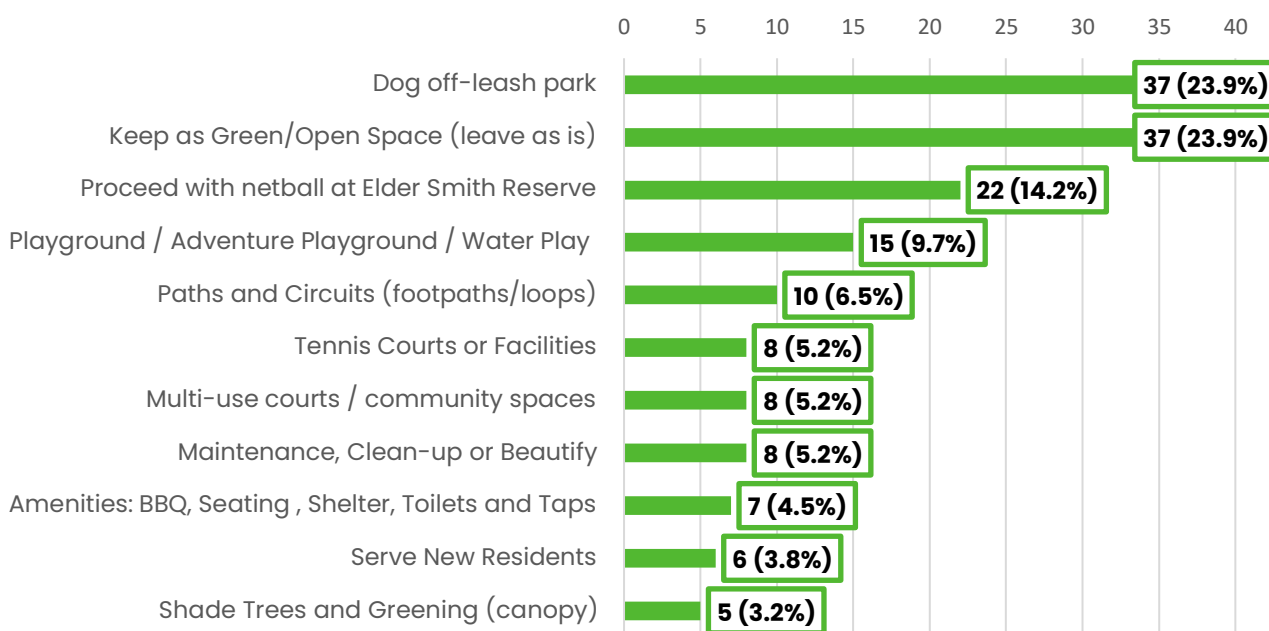


Figure 12: The themes that received five or more mentions from respondents who told us what they would like to see at Elder Smith Reserve (n=155)

An explanation of the themes and some examples are available below:

Theme	Example
Dog off-leash park The respondents said that we maintain the area for off-leash dog exercise and/or improve it with fencing, double gates, water bowls, taps, seating and waste stations at a safe distance from roads. (37 respondents or 23.9%)	“100% off [leash] dog area. We don’t have anything in the area for dogs beside a dog beach which is 20 minutes away” “I would like to see Elder Smith Reserve have a dog park and a playground. But also a safe crossing.” “A dog park” “Fenced dog park – with the Grand Prix taking over Albert Park earlier and for longer every year, off-leash play areas are limited in Port Philip.”
Keep as green, open space (leave as is)	“Passive recreation space”

The respondents said that we leave the site as green/open space to protect biodiversity and bird habitat, retain open lawn and native trees, and preserve a quiet, natural area. (37 respondents or 23.9%)	• <i>"Some form of open space that works for new residents in that local precinct"</i> • <i>"Keep green spaces and trees"</i> • <i>"Peaceful green area for all local residents"</i> • <i>"Nothing, it's fine as it is."</i>
Proceed with netball at Elder Smith Reserve The respondents said that we proceed with netball courts at Elder Smith Reserve as originally planned. (22 respondents or 14.2%)	• <i>"Nothing it's a strange spot difficult to use and out of the way of congestion parking which is why you should stick to putting netball there"</i> • <i>"Nothing, I would prefer them to look into a better system to put netball courts in."</i> • <i>"It's not really used. Put it to use with netball."</i>
Playground, adventure playground or water play The respondents said that we provide children's play facilities such as an adventure playground, inclusive equipment and/or water/splash play with shade at play areas. (15 respondents or 9.7%)	• <i>"Kids water play area"</i> • <i>"Some kind of playground or facilities for kids"</i> • <i>"Other gathering area like playground"</i> • <i>"A dog off leash area and an adventure playground for all ages."</i>
Paths and circuits (footpaths and loops) The respondents said that we build safe footpaths and looped circuits, including a closed-circuit perimeter path and better	• <i>"a perimeter footpath as a closed circuit for safe scooter or bike riding, walking."</i> • <i>"Rollerblading track with really smooth concrete"</i> • <i>"Connection from Garden City Shops"</i>

connections to Garden City shops and Williamstown Rd. (10 respondents or 6.5%)	• <i>"Upgraded walking and jogging paths"</i>
Tennis courts or facilities The respondents said that we deliver public tennis facilities, potentially including courts or a rebound/hit-up wall. (8 respondents or 5.2%)	• <i>"Definitely tennis courts. That's an easy one."</i> • <i>"Tennis- but will require more expense compared to netball?"</i> • <i>"Pickle ball courts tennis courts"</i> • <i>"Tennis wall"</i>
Multi-use courts or community spaces The respondents said that we create multi-purpose courts or community spaces that support several sports that are casual and shared. (8 respondents or 5.2%)	• <i>"Multi use sports field"</i> • <i>"Pickle ball courts or multi use courts for tennis etc."</i> • <i>"Its such an empty area only used for people riding bikes and walking dogs, probably a good spot for a sports thingy i suppose."</i> • <i>"Shared community space"</i>
Maintenance, clean-up or beautify The respondents said that we clean up and landscape the reserve to address dumping, mowing and edge presentations. (8 respondents or 5.2%)	• <i>"Beautified park and better facilities"</i> • <i>"Just clean it up"</i> • <i>"Maintained at all times as I live over the road from reserve and it is a dumping ground for council wood chips !!"</i>
Amenities: BBQ, seating, shelter, toilets and taps The respondents said that we add basic park amenities such as	• <i>"Develop it as a park with BBQ areas, kids adventure playground and public toilets to attract families."</i>

BBQs, shelters, benches, picnic tables, toilets and drinking taps and bins. (7 respondents or 4.5%)	• <i>"I hope they go ahead but otherwise I suppose more utilities like drinking taps, stretching equipment"</i> • <i>"Undercover playground, picnic an barbecue area"</i>
Serve new residents The respondents said that we prioritise facilities that serve growing populations in Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne. (6 respondents or 3.9%)	• <i>"It's an odd area, probably only good for netball or grass until Fisherman's bend grows more. Then a park maybe."</i> • <i>"Some form of open space that works for new residents in that local precinct"</i> • <i>"More park/playground facilities for the people moving into Fisherman's bend, such as a basketball court, playground, skate park, bike track etc. No one uses it now because there is nothing there."</i>
Shade trees and greening The respondents said that we plant more trees, lift canopy cover and add shaded seating for comfort. (5 respondents or 3.2%)	• <i>"Plant large Green leafy trees like Pin oaks or plane trees - no more gum trees! Duplicate the plane trees from across the pad to create a green canopy along this corridor - create SHADE - it is a hotbox at Elder Smith. The gum trees are plentiful with new gum trees (that have just been planted) provide no shade and drop branches dangerously near people - widowmakers!"</i> • <i>"More trees planted"</i> • <i>"Improved landscaping and shaded seating areas"</i>



Differences in feedback across genders

Of the 224 people who provided their gender, the amount who identified as female (141 respondents or 63%) was almost double the amount who identified as male (75 respondents or 33.5%). One respondent identified as non-binary and seven said they would prefer not to say. Noone elected to fill out their gender manually.

This pattern highlights the importance of the project's benefits for women and girls and reinforces themes raised earlier in the report about access, safety and fair opportunities in sport.

Use of JL Murphy Reserve:

Of the 160 respondents who told us how often they use JL Murphy Reserve, 101 identified as female (63.1%), 54 identified as male (33.8%) and five identified as non-binary, used another term, or preferred not to say (3.1 %).

Female respondents reported higher levels of frequent use, with 44 women saying they visit the reserve twice or more a week compared with 16 men.

Male respondents were more evenly spread across the weekly, fortnightly and monthly categories, showing a wider mix of visit patterns.

The small group of non-binary and other respondents also showed regular use, including three who visit twice or more a week.

Overall, women were the most likely to be very frequent users of JL Murphy Reserve, while men showed more varied but still regular engagement with the space.

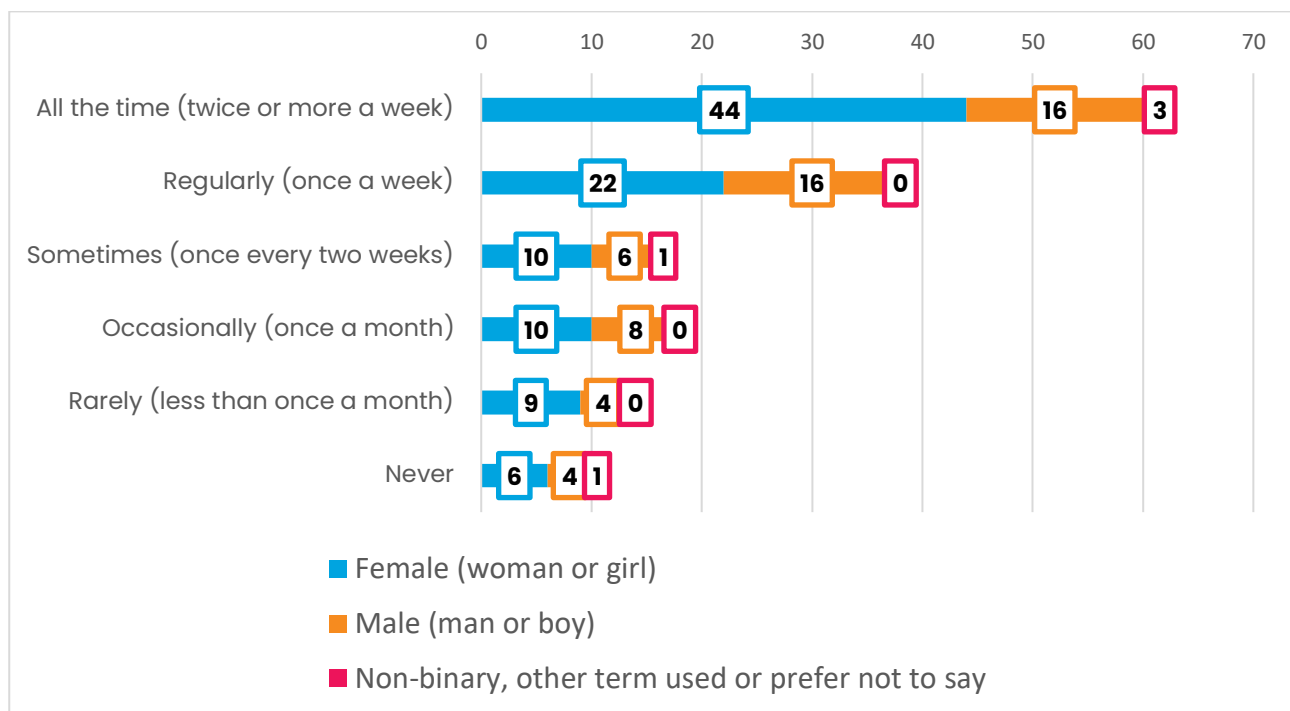


Figure 13: How often respondents currently use JL Murphy Reserve broken down by gender. (n=160)

A total of 149 respondents also told us how they used JL Murphy Reserve. This showed some clear differences between gender groups:

- Dog walking was the most common activity for all groups. This was selected by 96 female respondents, 45 male respondents and 5 non-binary/other respondents.
- Informal recreation such as walking or jogging, was also very common. 48 women, 17 men, and 2 non-binary/other respondents said they use the reserve this way.
- Organised sport showed a similar pattern, with women reporting higher participation. 44 women, 18 men, and 2 non-binary/other respondents used the reserve for organised sport as participants or spectators.
- Family or social gatherings were more common among women than men. 16 women selected this option, compared with 5 men.

Support for the proposal:

Out of the 221 respondents who completed this question, 139 identified as female (62.9%), 74 identified as male (33.5%) and 8 identified as non-binary, used another term, or preferred not to say (3.6%).

Support levels varied by gender. Female respondents were the most likely to strongly support the project. 72 women saying they fully support it, almost double the 40 men who said the same.

Support from male respondents was still positive overall, with most selecting fully or mostly support. Only a small number chose neutral options.

Respondents who identified as non-binary, used another term, or preferred not to say formed a very small group, but most leaned towards support, including 2 who fully supported the project.

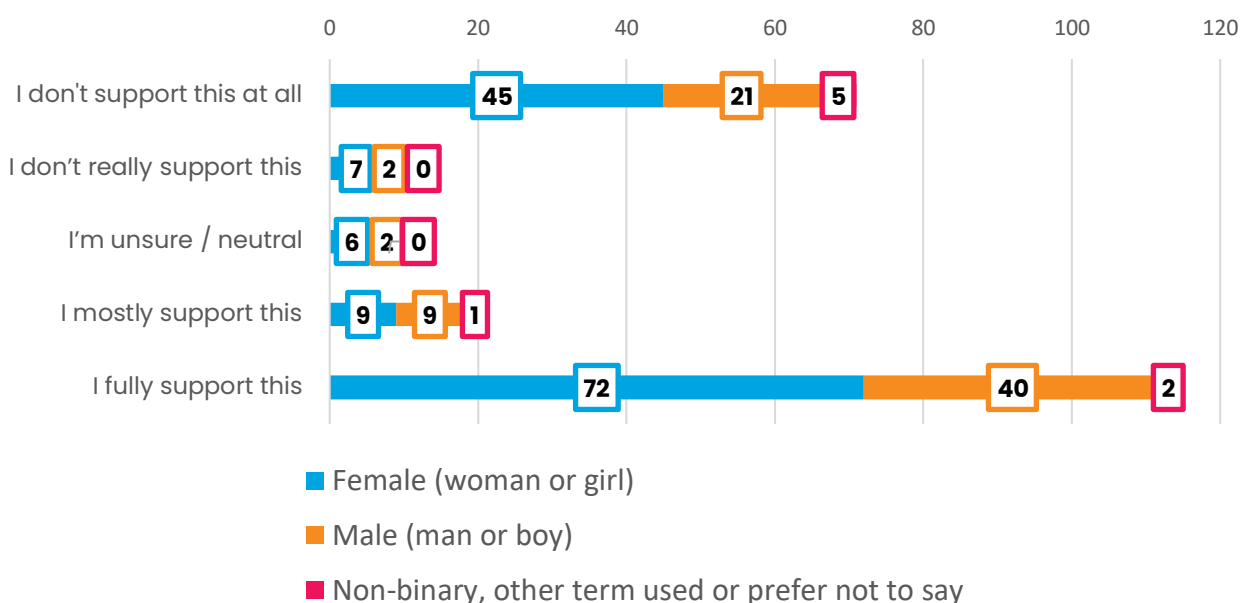


Figure 14: The level of support for the project broken down by gender (n=221)

When discussing why they did or did not support the project, **female participants** mentioned the following themes most frequently:

- The need or demand for new netball facilities (mentioned by 36 respondents).
- Dogs and off-leash spaces (mentioned by 27 respondents).
- Parking and traffic congestion (mentioned by 24 respondents).

When discussing why they did or did not support the project, **male participants** mentioned the following themes most frequently:

- The need or demand for new netball facilities (mentioned by 13 respondents).
- Dogs and off-leash spaces (mentioned by 12 respondents).
- Parking and traffic congestion (mentioned by 10 respondents).
- Open space and green space loss (mentioned by 10 respondents).
- Support for women and girls in sport (mentioned by 10 respondents).

When discussing why they did or did not support the project, **participants who mark identified as non-binary or preferred not to share their gender** mentioned the following themes most frequently:

- Dogs and off-leash spaces (mentioned by 3 respondents).
- Open space and green space loss (mentioned by 3 respondents).

Next steps

Further activities

Council is due to consider the option to place netball courts at JL Murphy reserve at a Council meeting in May 2026.

If Council endorse the decision to formally move the project to JL Murphy Reserve, an initial draft concept design will be prepared and presented to Council later this year. This will give Council an understanding of how the project could look if it goes ahead at JL Murphy Reserve.

If Council endorse the draft concept design, we will reconnect with the community to get your feedback on it.