CITY OF MARION



Marion Oval Playground Community Engagement Findings

July 2026

1. Introduction

The City of Marion is upgrading the playground at Marion Oval. This project was identified as a key priority in the Open Space Plan 2024-2034. The playground upgrade will improve and increase the play options at the oval.

Designed to create a more vibrant and engaging space for the community, the upgraded playground will offer expanded play opportunities for local residents, visitors and club members. Conveniently located between Club Marion, the football/cricket oval and soccer pitches, the new playground will become a central hub for recreation, connection and family fun.

The new draft design features:

- A large main play structure with shade, tunnel slide, junior slide, pommel crossing, climbing elements, games and sensory panels
- AFL Handball panel
- Double-bay swing set including a toddler swing, strap swing and basket swing
- New bench seating
- New landscaping and garden beds
- A new pathway connecting through the playground

The existing shade structure will be retained, while the old cricket nets will be removed to create additional space for the new playground experience.

Refer to Attachment 1 to view the draft Concept Design. This report summarises the outcomes of the community consultation and next steps for the project.

2. Consultation Program

The community engagement was undertaken from 8 June – 6 July 2026. It included:

- An information postcard sent to over 1000 households within a 400m radius from the reserve (Attachment 2)
- Information on the Making Marion website
- An online survey
- Facebook posts
- Onsite signage
- 90 Flyers and 3 posters delivered at Club Marion for display at the club
- An email with information about the community consultation and survey link sent to all sport and recreation clubs at Marion Oval to share with their club members and networks
- Community drop-in session on 25 June 2026 (4.30-6.30pm)

3. Consultation Overview

During the consultation period we received:

- 619 visits to the Making Marion page
- 685 views
- 3 followers
- 92 survey responses
- Approximately 40 people attended the community drop in session

4. Consultation Findings

Key findings from the consultation included:

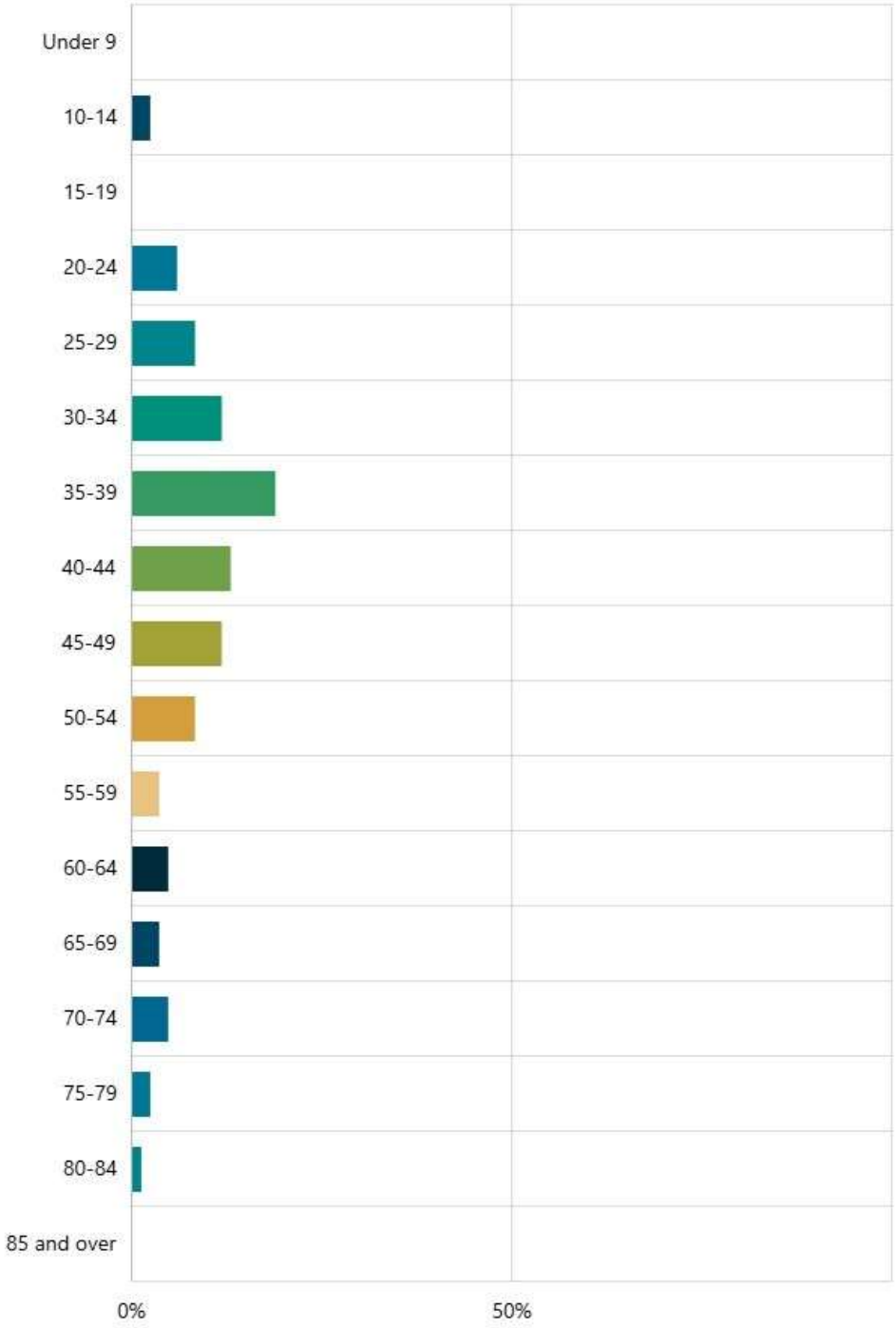
- 92 survey responses received
- 40 people attended the community drop in session
- The majority of survey respondents were aged 35-39 years old (16 respondents / 19%), followed by 40-44 years old (11 respondents / 13%)
- The majority, (67 responses, 73%) of people that responded to the survey were from within the City of Marion. 27% (25 responses) were from outside the Council area. This included suburbs of Marion (18%), Sturt (12%) and Oaklands Park (5%).
- The majority of respondents visit the reserve weekly (45 responses, 49%), followed by daily (18 responses, 19.6%)
- The majority of survey respondents use Marion Oval for Club Sports (52 responses), followed by the playground (41 responses), and social events (37 responses). Survey respondents could select more than one option to this question.
- Survey respondents get to Marion Oval by car (75 survey responses), followed by walking / running (32 survey responses). Survey respondents could select more than one option to this question
- The majority 66% (61 survey respondents) either support or strongly support the concept design
- A further 5% (5 survey respondents) showed neutral support for the concept design
- 29% (26 survey respondents) strongly do not support or do not support the concept design.

While overall support for the concept design was positive, the primary concern raised by respondents who did not support the proposal related to the playground location and its impact on existing and future sporting use.

5. Survey Results

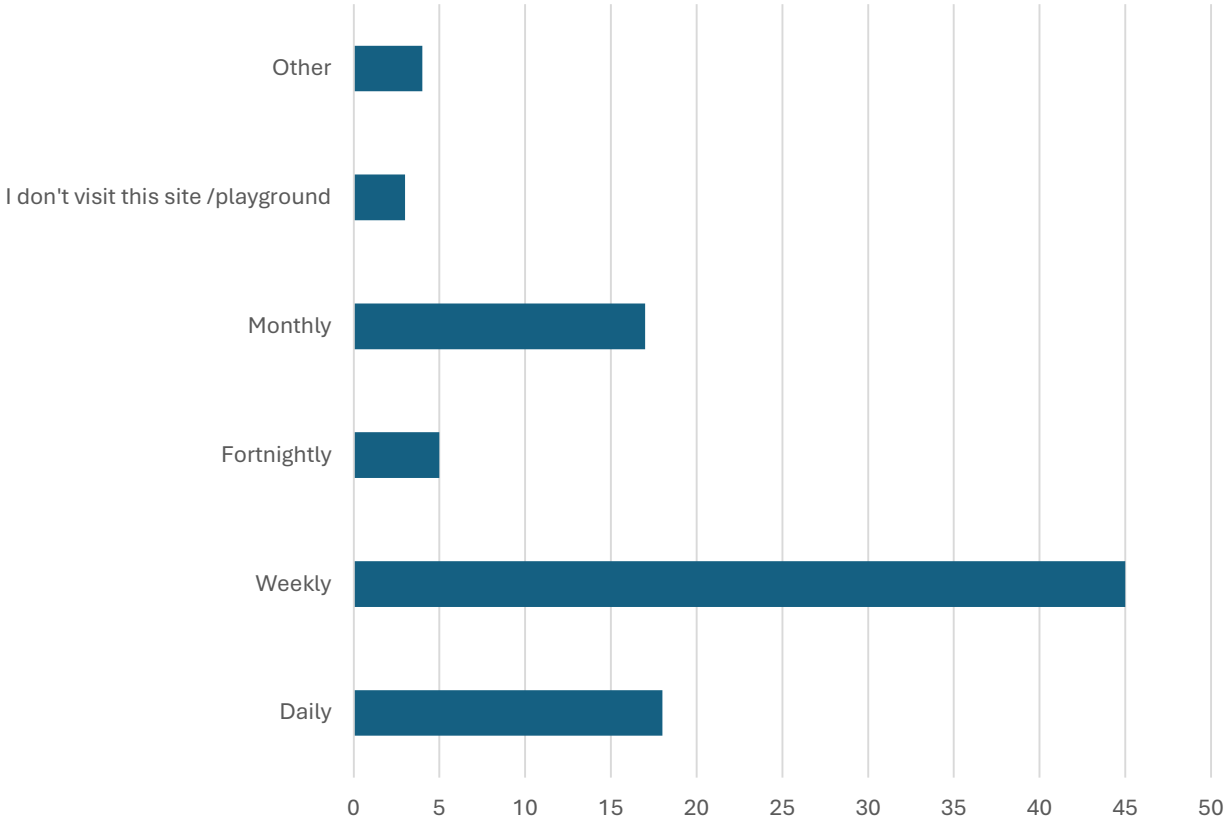
1. Who did we hear from?

We received 92 survey responses. The majority of respondents were aged 35-39 years old (16 respondents / 19%), followed by 40-44 years old (11 respondents / 13%).



Age	Count	Percentage
Under 9	0	0%
10-14	2	2%
15-19	0	0%
20-24	5	6%
25-29	7	8%
30-34	10	12%
35-39	16	19%
40-44	11	13%
45-49	10	12%
50-54	7	8%
55-59	3	4%
60-64	4	5%
65-69	3	4%
70-74	4	5%
75-79	2	2%
80-84	1	1%
85 and over	0	0%

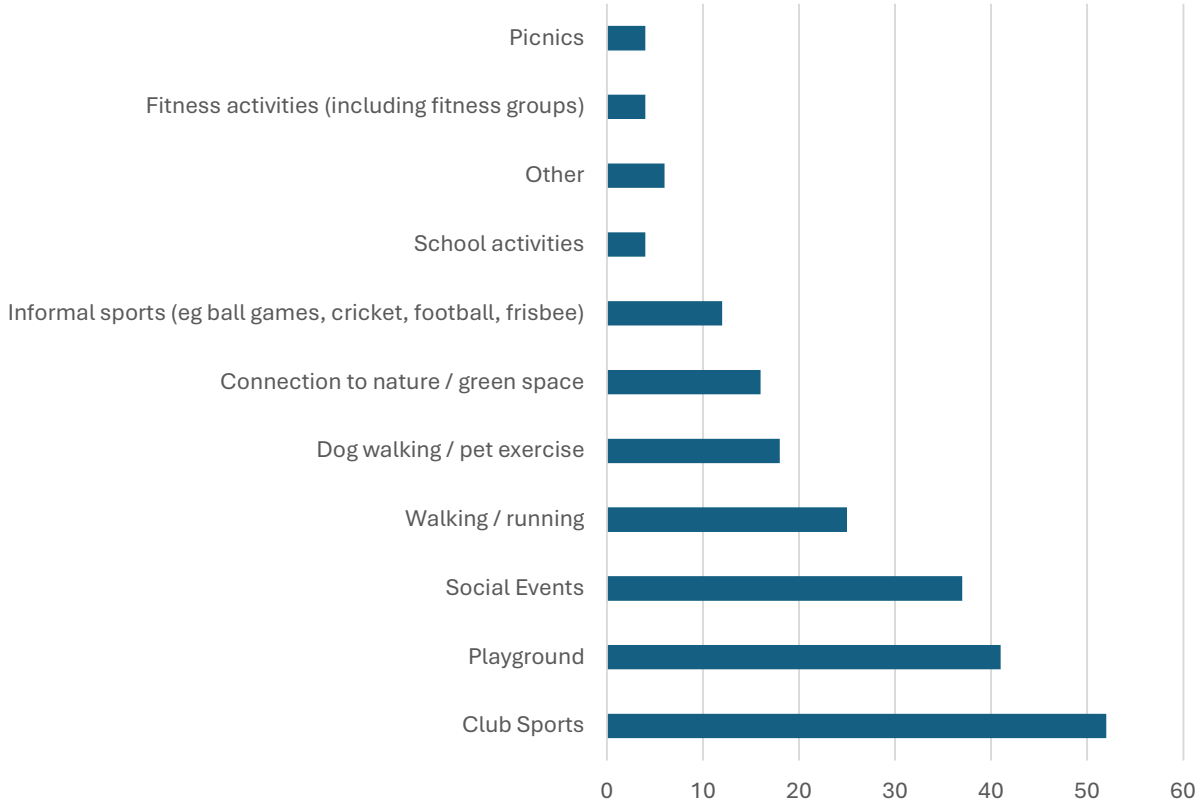
2. **How often do people visit Marion Oval?**
We received 92 responses to this question. Majority of people visit the reserve weekly (45 responses), followed by daily (18 responses).



How often?	Number
Daily	18
Weekly	45
Fortnightly	5
Monthly	17
I don't visit this site /playground	3
Other	4

3. How do people currently use Marion Oval?

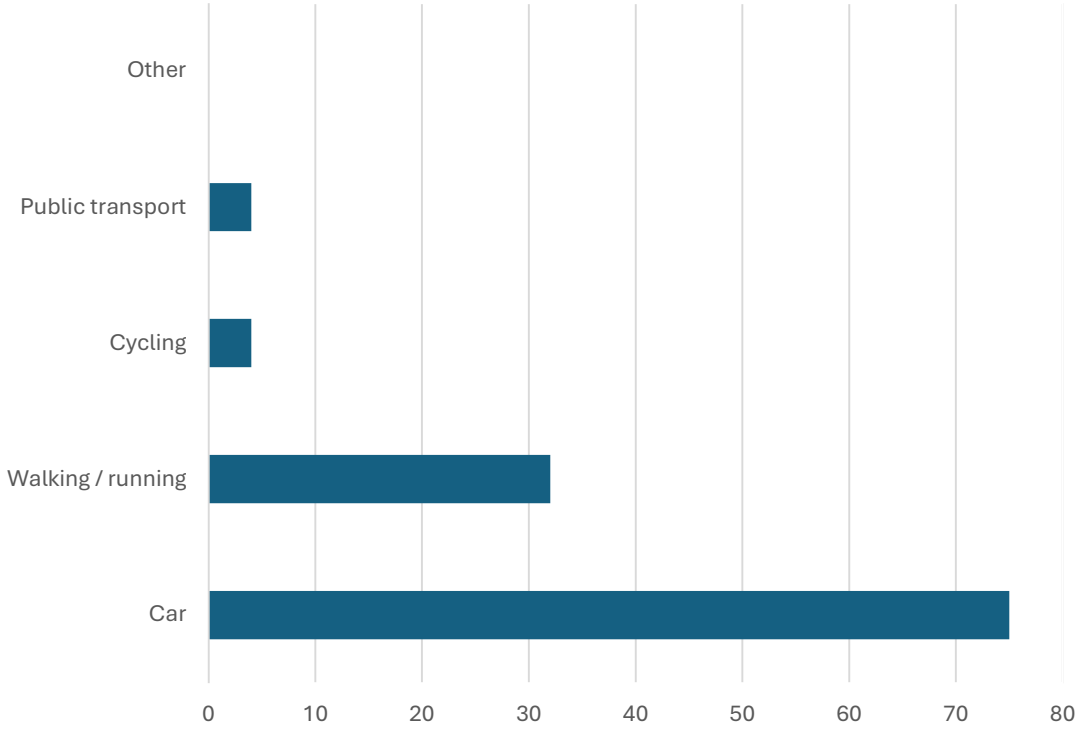
The majority of survey respondents use Marion Oval for Club Sports (52 responses), followed by the playground (41 responses), and social events (37 responses). Survey respondents could select more than one option to this question.



How do you currently use Marion Oval?	Number
Club Sports	52
Playground	41
Social Events	37
Walking / running	25
Dog walking / pet exercise	18
Connection to nature / green space	16
Informal sports (eg ball games, cricket, football, frisbee)	12
School activities	4
Other	6
Fitness activities (including fitness groups)	4
Picnics	4

4. How do people get to Marion Oval?

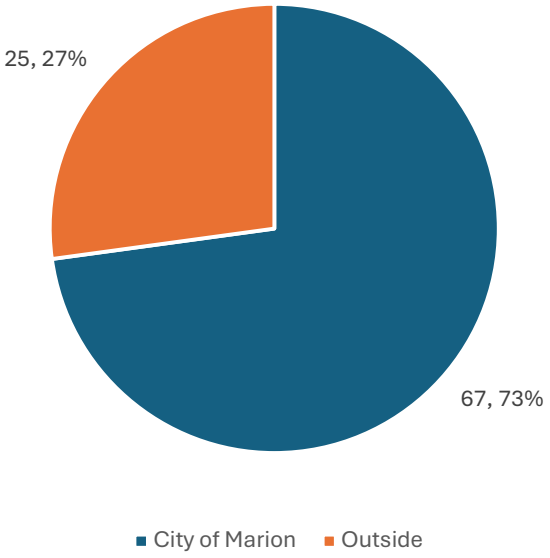
The majority get to Marion Oval by car (75 survey responses), followed by walking / running (32 survey responses). Survey respondents could select more than one option to this question.

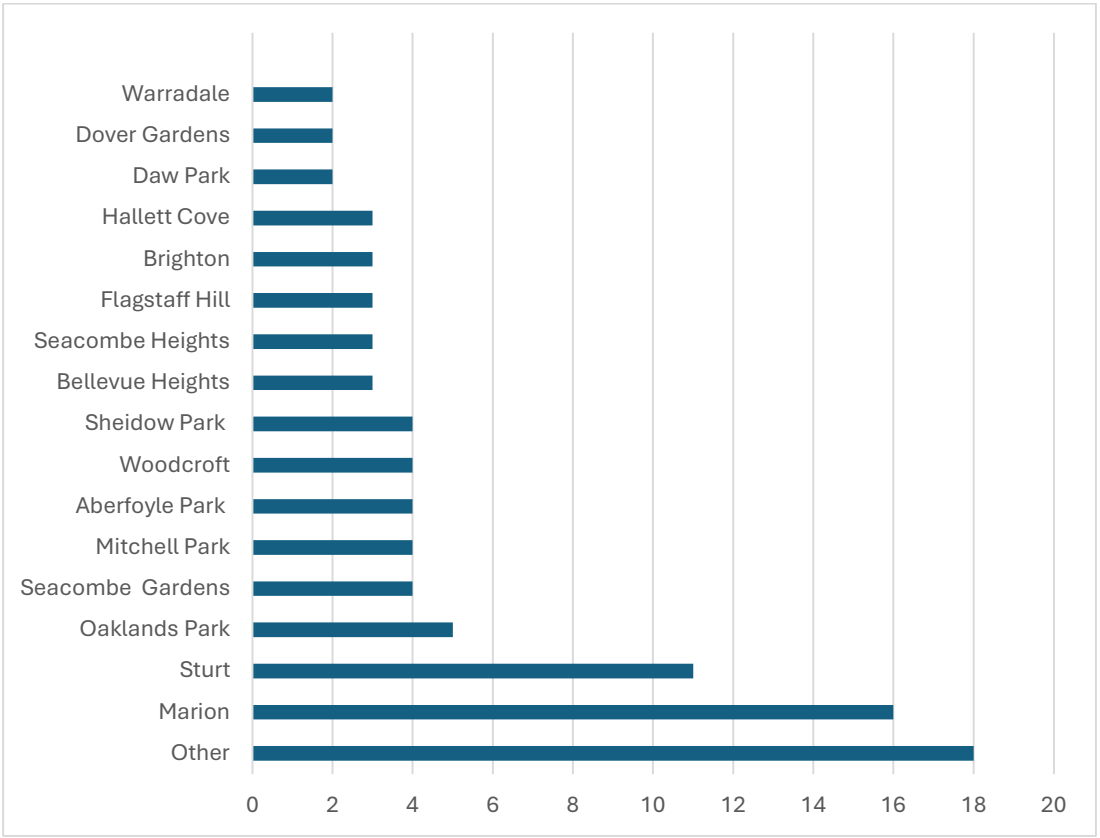


How do they get to Marion Oval?	Number
Car	75
Walking / running	32
Cycling	4
Public transport	4
Other	0

5. Which suburb are people from?

The majority, 73% (67 responses) of people that responded to the survey were from within the City of Marion. 27% (25 responses) were from outside the Council area. This included suburbs of Marion (18%), Sturt (12%) and Oaklands Park (5%).

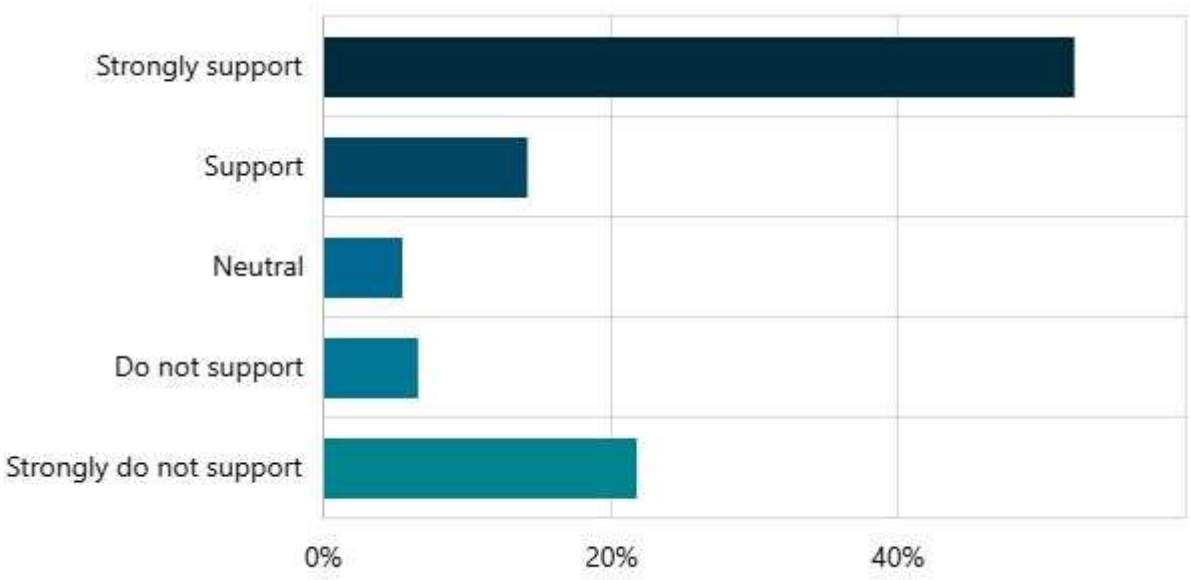




Suburb	Number	Percentage
Marion	16	18%
Sturt	11	12%
Seacombe Gardens	4	4%
Mitchell Park	4	4%
Aberfoyle Park	4	4%
Woodcroft	4	4%
Sheidow Park	4	4%
Bellevue Heights	3	3%
Seacombe Heights	3	3%
Flagstaff Hill	3	3%
Brighton	3	3%
Hallett Cove	3	3%
Daw Park	2	2%
Dover Gardens	2	2%
Warradale	2	2%
Other	18	20%

6. Do people support the concept design?

- The majority 66% (61 survey respondents) either support or strongly support the concept design.
- A further 5% (5 survey respondents) showed neutral support for the concept design
- 29% (26 survey respondents) strongly do not support or do not support the concept design.



Level of Support	Number	Percentage
Strongly support	48	52%
Support	13	14%
Neutral	5	5%
Do not support	6	7%
Strongly do not support	20	22%
Do not support	6	7%

7. Do they have any other comments?

We received 61 comments. This question was optional for survey participants to respond to, and not everyone that responded to survey provided additional comments.

The comments from the survey have been grouped into themes / similar responses. A full list of individual survey comments can be viewed in Attachment 3.

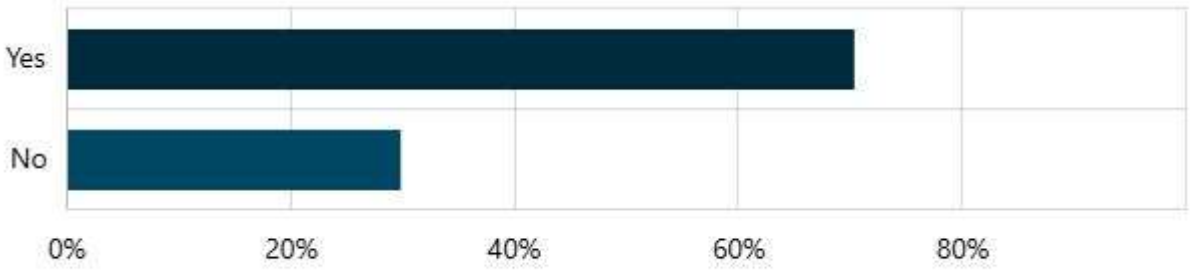
Theme	Comment	Responses
Location / footprint (do not support)	Don't support the playground expansion (due to soccer use. This includes requests to use the area for soccer warm ups and operational / planning impacts for sport).	**17**
	Support playground but not location (due to sport use).	**2**
	Safety concerns about location - cricket balls and potentially limits future extension of club Marion / changerooms.	**1**
Playground (support)	Great addition for all - community, Club Marion, local children and sporting clubs. Increases the family friendly feel of the complex	**12**
Playground tower / equipment (do not support)	-Don't support the equipment. Needs items for toddlers and younger children that can't climb nets. Playground is high and has areas children can fall through. -Concerns regarding safety and injury.	**5**

	-Concerns about bark chip Softfall under large tower. Should be rubber.	
	Consider visibility of sports from Club Marion balcony. The playground tower height and shade structure could block views for those watching sport.	**1**
Park furniture	Include a picnic table More seating	**3**
Playground (fencing)	Would like a fenced playground to keep children safe and secure and also to manage dogs	**3**
Playground (additional items requested)	Half court basketball with netball ring	**3**
	Add a drinking fountain	**2**
	Add a sandpit	**2**
	Add a flying fox	**2**
	Add a wide slide for parents and children	**2**
	Add liberty swing	**1**
	Add monkey bars	**1**
	Add trampoline	**1**
	Add plaques with sporting records and challenges that children can try on the surrounding oval and fields	**1**
	Include a baby swing with safety bar	**1**
	Include a rage cage	**1**
Playground (other)	Ensure playground also caters for older children	**2**
	Concern about handball panel position and balls bouncing onto walking paths	**1**
	Remove playground, it doesn't get used	**1**
	Like the current playground and location "don't re-invent the wheel"	**1**
	Playground to be inclusive for all ages and abilities	**1**
Shade	Would like a solid roof rather than shade cloth for use in winter	**1**

	Plant additional trees	**1**
Location (other comments)	Soccer can warm up on the oval	**1**
	Only playground nearby and within walking distance	**1**
	Support location as long as it doesn't impact on the club	**1**
Other	Excited for the ice rink	**1**
	Don't construct until cricket nets are complete and available for the cricket club to use	**1**

8. Do they want to be kept up to date on the consultation outcomes?

70% (52 respondents) would like to be kept up to date on the outcomes of the consultation. 30% (22 respondents) do not want to be kept up to date.



Response	Number	%
Yes	52	70%
No	22	30%

6. Onsite Consultation – Community Drop In Session

All local residents within 400 metres of the reserve were invited to attend an onsite community drop in session held on 25 June from 4.30–6.30pm. The session provided an opportunity to discuss the proposed playground concept plan and location with sporting club members and the local community.

Three activities were undertaken to understand community views and the level of support for the proposal:

- A sticky dot activity asking, **"How do you feel about the proposed playground location and expansion?"**
- A sticky note activity asking, **"If you support the proposal, tell us your reasons for support."**
- A sticky note activity asking, **"If you don't support the proposal, what is your main concern?"**

Outcomes from the session

The results of the support activity were as follows:

- 26 participants (79%) strongly support the proposed playground location and expansion, comprising 14 children and 12 adults.
- 2 participants (6%) generally support the proposal, both of whom were adults.
- 1 participant (3%) was unsure and indicated they required further information.
- 4 participants (12%) do not support the proposal.

Reasons for support

The reasons provided by participants who supported the proposal included:

- "I think the climbing would be good."
- "Really good idea to keep kids entertained, good designs."
- "I think it would be good to engage the smaller kids that might get bored of watching a full game."
- "I think it is great for community and kids."
- "Looks really fun."
- "Looks fantastic, great to see the upgrade. Thank you 😊"
- "I think it would be good for kids to enjoy and have fun at the footy."
- "My grandson will love this!"
- "In need of an update and to utilise the space for younger kids. Love!"
- "Great idea! Gives kids more safe space. Great design. We love Marion!"
- "Would love this expansion to support the development of the entire project, e.g. building, courts and basketball."

- “I like the new design and how nice it looks and it will be a great upgrade.”

Reasons for not supporting the proposal and other concerns

The reasons provided by participants who did not support the proposal included:

- “I believe the playground being extended would take more space from football that is needed for coaching. Also right next to the main pitch, it would become unsafe on game day.”
- “Loss of space for adult sport – reduced space is not sustainable.”

One participant also raised a concern regarding the proposed playground surfacing:

- “I think it would be good to have rubber softfall instead of bark chips because bark chips hurt on bare feet.”

This feedback relates to the proposed playground design rather than the location or expansion of the playground.

Refer to Attachment 4 for the full feedback received during the Community Drop-In Session.

7. Email Submission

We received one email submission from the Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club detailing their objection to the project based on the following concerns.

- Safety concerns including injury from soccer balls, children entering the field of play, proximity of the proposed future changerooms.
- Requesting area to be used for warm up space for the soccer club
- Operational and planning impacts including future development and planning of sport facilities, and reduced spectator area.

The Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club email submission can be viewed in Attachment 5.

8. Design Response

A design response has been provided to address comments in the survey:

Theme	Comment	Responses	Design Response
Location / footprint (do not support)	Don't support the playground expansion (due to soccer use. This includes requests to use the area for soccer warm ups and operational / planning impacts for sport).	**17**	• Playground is in a central location to sports fields and Club Marion building. • Club Marion is addressing spectator issues including outside viewing area. • Playground is outside of 3m soccer run off area. • Warm up areas include next to cricket, under 11s soccer pitch area, other oval when not in use by other clubs. • Safety of cricket balls – considered as part of the Marion Oval precinct plan. • Main play structure to be orientated so that main area of activity is on the western side of the playground. • New signage to be installed – take care during cricket matches. • To reduce the footprint of the playground, a review has been undertaken which has reduced the extent by over 2 metres providing more space for pedestrian movement and sport use.
	Support playground but not location (due to sport use).	**2**	
	Safety concerns about location – soccer /cricket balls and potentially limits future extension of Club Marion / changerooms	**1**	
Playground (support)	Great addition for all - community, Club Marion, local children and sporting clubs. Increases the family friendly feel of the complex	**12**	• Playground has been designed in a central area for all visitors to the site, and for community to watch sport and supervise children. • Thank you for your comments. The new playground will increase the family and community feel of the sports precinct.
Playground tower / equipment (do not support)	-Don't support the equipment. Needs items for toddlers and younger children that can't climb nets. Playground is high and has areas children can fall through. -Concerns regarding safety and injury. -Concerns about bark chip Softfall under large tower. Should be rubber.	**5**	• The playground design has been developed to meet relevant Australian playground safety standards. • The playground includes junior elements including a junior slide, pommel crossing, double bay swing set with a toddler swing, games and sensory panels. These items are suitable for younger children. • The softfall surface beneath the main play structure is

			designed to provide impact attenuation and comply with the required safety standards for the equipment and fall heights.
	Consider visibility of sports from Club Marion balcony. The playground tower height and shade structure could block views for those watching sport.	**1**	• Positioning of the playground tower will be reviewed in detailed design with consideration of spectator views from the Club Marion balcony.
Park furniture	Include a picnic table, more seating	**3**	• Due to the limited space available within the playground area, a picnic table and additional seating cannot be accommodated without compromising the available play area. • Alternative locations for park furniture will be considered as part of the broader sports park planning.
Playground (fencing)	Would like a fenced playground to keep children safe and secure and also to manage dogs	**3**	• Fencing is not included within the project scope or budget. Safety and movement around the playground will continue to be considered during detailed design.
Playground (additional items requested)	Half court basketball with netball ring	3	• Thank you for the range of additional playground items requested. • Unfortunately, we don't have the space to include extra playground equipment within the area allocated for the playground. • Any additional equipment added would increase the space required and impact on other user groups. • We can consider a half court basketball with netball ring in a different location as part of the sports park precinct planning that is currently taking place. • A toddler /baby swing is included in the current playground design. • A drink fountain is being considered as part of the broader sports park precinct planning. Potentially, to be located on the side of one of the sport club buildings.
	Add a drinking fountain	**2**	
	Add a sandpit	**2**	
	Add a flying fox	**2**	
	Add a wide slide for parents and children	**2**	
	Add a liberty swing	**1**	
	Add monkey bars	**1**	
	Add trampoline	**1**	
	Add plaques with sporting records and challenges that children can try on the surrounding oval and fields	**1**	
	Include a baby swing with safety bar	**1**	
	Include a rage cage	**1**	
Playground (other)	Ensure playground also caters for older children	**2**	•

	Concern about handball panel position and balls bouncing onto walking paths	**1**	• We note the comment about the handball panel and will review the positioning in detailed design. • The playground is used and will be retained. • Playground caters for younger and older children and different skill levels. • The playground includes inclusive elements including games and sensory panels, basket swing and handball panel. A rubberised surface will be provided to the basket swing to ensure it is more inclusive.
	Remove playground, it doesn't get used	**1**	
	Like the current playground and location "don't re-invent the wheel"	**1**	
	Playground to be inclusive for all ages and abilities	**1**	
Shade	Would like a solid roof rather than shade cloth for use in winter	**1**	• Unfortunately, due to budget constraints we are unable to incorporate a solid roof structure over the playground. • There is limited space within the playground area to include additional trees. • The playground has shade over both the swing and the play tower includes shade incorporated into the structure.
	Plant additional trees	**1**	
Location (other comments)	Soccer can warm up on the oval	**1**	• We note these comments and thank you for your input and feedback.
	Only playground nearby and within walking distance	**1**	
	Support location as long as it doesn't impact on club	**1**	
Other	Excited for the ice rink	**1**	• The proposed ice rink is not planned to proceed at this time. This was a decision made by Council its meeting on 24 August 2024.
	Don't construct until cricket nets are complete and available for the cricket club to use	**1**	• We will consult with the cricket club to ensure timeframes for the new playground do not impact on their summer season and training.

9. Next Steps

Following consideration of the feedback received, the project will progress to detailed design, incorporating the changes and further investigations identified in the Design Response section of this report. Detailed design is expected to be completed by September 2026, with tender and construction anticipated during the 2026/27 financial year.

We thank all that provided their feedback and participated in the engagement process.

10. Project Updates

Project updates will be provided through the Marion Oval Playground page on the City of Marion website and Making Marion webpage.

Attachment 1 – Concept Plan



LEGEND

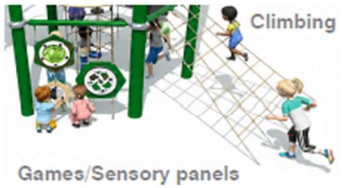
- Woodchip softfall
- Rubble/Pebble composite pavement
- New Tree
- New Garden bed
- (1) Main Play Structure
- (2) Handball panel
- (3) Swing Set
- (4) Bench Seat

PLAY STRUCTURE



includes:


Pommel crossing



Games/Sensory panels


Junior slide


Double bay swing set


Handball panel

MARION OVAL PLAYGROUND DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN

@CityofMarion @CityofMarion City of Marion

Concept design is for illustrative purposes only. Council retain the right to modify the design in consideration of unknown site conditions, cost management considerations and internal approvals.

CITY OF MARION

Attachment 2 - Community Postcard

Marion Oval Playground upgrade

The City of Marion has developed a draft concept plan for an upgraded playground at Marion Oval and we'd love to hear your thoughts!

Come along to a drop-in session and tell us what you think:
Thursday 25 June from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at Marion Oval.

You can also review the concept plan, and share your thoughts by **scanning the QR code** or visiting **makingmarion.com.au/marion-oval**

Consultation closes at 5 pm on Monday 6 July 2026.

A great place to *play*
marion.sa.gov.au

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Attachment 3 – All Survey Comments

All comments have been listed and categorised below. Note: Some comments appear in more than one theme where they relate to multiple topics.

Theme: Location / Footprint – Do Not Support

I think the playground is being put in the wrong space. It's taking away the space of organized sport. That space could be used for changerooms/ warm up area. I think it should be built on the opposite side in the green space which is rarely used. Turn that into a usable park.
I support the idea of a new background being installed, however I do have a couple of concerns. Firstly, I believe the area should be fully fenced. There are often dogs roaming freely around the grounds, and with so many people attending on weekends, particularly during sporting events, a fence would provide a much safer environment for children using the space. My other concern is the proposed location being so close to the balcony. During sports days, the atmosphere can sometimes become quite hostile, with yelling and inappropriate language that isn't suitable for young children. For that reason, I would also encourage consideration of an alternative location if one is available, to create a more family-friendly environment. Overall, I think it's a fantastic idea, but with a few adjustments it could be made much safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed playground expansion project. This expansion will directly and severely disadvantage our community soccer club, which has been a vital part of this neighbourhood for years. The area designated for expansion is currently utilized daily by our club, which serves a diverse membership including: - Junior teams (youth development programs) - Women's team - Men's team 1. Loss of Essential Training and Playing Space The proposed expansion will consume space that our club depends on for daily operations. This is not occasional use—our teams are on these grounds every single day for training sessions, matches, and skill development activities. 2. Impact on Community Sports Programming Our soccer club provides structured physical activity and team-building opportunities for dozens of community members across all age groups and genders. Reducing our available space will force us to: - Cancel or reduce training sessions - Turn away new members - Compromise the quality of our programs - Potentially relocate, disrupting years of community connection 3. Existing Facility Adequacy Before expanding the playground, consideration should be given to whether current playground facilities are adequate, and whether alternative locations exist that would not displace an active, thriving community sports organization. 4. Inequitable Resource Allocation While playgrounds serve an important purpose, our soccer club serves a broader age range and provides organized sports opportunities that benefit physical health, social development, and community cohesion. The expansion prioritizes one demographic at the expense of programs serving children, women, and men. We urge the council/committee to: - Reject this expansion proposal - Explore alternative locations for playground development - Recognize the established use and community value of our soccer club - Engage in meaningful consultation with affected sporting organizations before proceeding Our club is willing to discuss this matter further and explore solutions that serve all community members without eliminating essential sporting facilities. We strongly oppose this proposal and request it be denied.
I believe it is a terrible idea; it’s a part of club grounds and would remove valuable areas used by Sturt Marion Club as a Club Marion member. No body even uses that playground and there are plenty in the area
The proposed draft would significantly reduce well-needed training and playing space for the growing Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club, particularly as the club expands and enters state league 2 in 2027.
This proposal will reduce the already oversubscribed sport play and area. We can not keep taking the playing an warm up areas away.

This proposal would significantly reduce the already limited green space available at the complex, which is currently used by our soccer club for player warm-ups, training activities, and match-day preparation. I strongly oppose the proposed playground extension in its current location. There is no demonstrated need to expand the playground at the expense of existing sporting facilities. The loss of this open space would negatively impact players, teams, and the overall operation of the club by reducing the area available for training and pre-game activities. If a playground expansion is considered necessary, alternative locations should be explored that do not compromise essential sporting infrastructure. Preserving this green space is important to ensure the continued ability of the soccer club to safely and effectively accommodate its growing number of players and teams.
The current playground already meets the needs of local families and there is genuine need for its expansion. Any enlargement of the playground would come at the expense of valuable sporting space used by more than 150 community members for training and competition. This proposal would reduce the capacity of the ground to support established sporting activities and adversely affect those who rely on the facility for recreation, fitness, and community engagement.
The expansion in this location will have a negative impact on local sport. A different location for a playground expansion should be considered, rather than taking up space utilised for community sport.
The soccer fields are currently being torn up and ruined by the footy teams warming up and training on the pitches during the weekends, despite having their own grounds. The new playground and the new cricket grounds take away currently available green space for the soccer fields and warm up areas. This hinders community sport, and the growing Marion Thunder soccer club, from having adequate training space and decent playing fields, and without putting children at risk of being hit by a ball or player from being too close to the pitch.
The area is needed for growing sports clubs member numbers and increases in amount of teams. This will restrict being able to cope with increase in number of teams especially with Sturt Marion entering Federation league a series of junior teams are required to compete in this league and we just need wouldn't have the space
Reduce amount of green space would impact on the community
The change of the playground will take away much needed playing and warm up areas for sturt marion thunder so I recommend it being relocated to avoid using anymore of the grass needed for training and matches
It’s used for soccer, unless you’re providing additional space elsewhere, it’s not a great look for the soccer club who have just been granted permission to move into stage league 2
Terrible idea for the sports team
Sporting clubs that call the facility home will lose even more warm up space before their games. Not to mention that the construction of the new cricket nets has already taken space, further expansion of the playground will just make the problem worse
The playground development will impact and reduce the green space footprint in the complex that is already lacking.

Sporting clubs have lost warm up spaces due to the new location of her cricket nets however with the proposal to increase the playground even more space will be lost. The playground should be moved. Especially considering it is directly next to a male changeroom.

I support the playground but it should be in an area that does not further reduce valuable training space.
Build the playground, just find a better spot that won't affect sport so much please
Why a believe a playground needed somewhere, there has always been a concern of cricket balls being hit into the area on game days, most times with little to no supervision. Also, if it is going to prohibit any development/extension of changerooms/Club Marion it can be located elsewhere.

Theme: Playground - Support

Sensational inclusion for a great members and public space
The grandchildren look to use the playground space when they join us at the club. They especially enjoy using basket swings and are always looking for a challenge when they use a playground.
Overall, it looks like a fun playground! I would appreciate if you could consider including two or more spaces for littler kids (e.g. toddlers) to actively play that don't involve climbing up nets. Also if you could consider putting in swings that are wide enough to fit mums with hips (from having children) as many of the swings in parks today don't allow mums to swing with their kids. I am not particularly wide but the rectangular swings are definitely not wide enough because of the bolts either side - ouch! Thank you for considering my thoughts.
Would be excellent to see Club Marion get an upgrade to the playground. As part of the many affiliated sporting clubs and as a parent I think this would be a very great addition.
I am happy junior options have been included . Please include a swing for juniors also with safety bar. Great design that reflects the clubs at the site.
We spend a lot of time at the Marion and in cricket season kids are there all day and spend most of their time on the playground. This would be the best if it went ahead.
It will make the club more community club
Children are part of the community
Valuable community and family facility.
I love this concept that they have started this upgrade. Its a pretty popular spot but there are no proper playground equipment's in there , if it is upgraded it would be really nice. More kids will come and enjoy and all can share and play together Its near our home and we usually walk there ,,

This is a wonderful idea. I watch my husband play soccer here every Saturday and it is very difficult for my toddler because of the lack of play facilities. This would mean my whole family can enjoy the space. I strongly support the idea and so does my husband. We were notified of the idea because my husband's soccer club opposes it. We both agree that this is ridiculous. It was clearly drafted by someone who does not have children because the concept for us means my husband's family is more likely to go and watch him play because there will be facilities for the kids, which in turn means more meaningful engagement with the club holistically.
Increases the family friendly feel of the complex

Theme: Playground tower / equipment (Do not Support)

Please design a playground that is more accessible for toddlers. It is very hard for them to do much at this playground without a parent lifting them up. Many playgrounds are less accessible for toddlers in the Marion area
It doesn't look very toddler friendly given the height. Very similar to the Brighton oval playground where parents have to climb in themselves to help toddlers. I very rarely see older kids on the slides but always see toddlers, so feel it should be made more toddler friendly from the get go
The junior slide still have to climb up rope webs which is very difficult for little ones. Also looks like the middle level is very open? This is where the junior slide is.. all open edges surrounding the elevated junior slide.. fall risk for little ones.
The design of the multi story play equipment is fundamentally unsafe and poses a catastrophic level of risk. The top platform consists of a large hole surrounded by a relatively thin rim of platform. Kids will be not concentrating and messing around whilst playing, and potentially pushing each other around and there is a high potential that a child will fall what looks like a 2.5m drop, which could result in head and spinal injuries or worse. Why build such a ridiculous, risky piece of equipment when kids will have just as much fun on a different design. If the ladder were placed on the side instead of through the middle this would be mush safer. Safety should trump aesthetic design. I have seen a similar design in Melbourne and many parents were too concerned to let their kids play on it. Please don't install this! Also, my kids are now teens and I frequently lament the lack of facilities available for older kids unless engaged in official sporting activities at the oval. There is only 1 basket ball ring at the George st park but it is often in use. Please build another at the oval complex. Even better, if you can find space for a rage cage (see their web site) this would be very well used by kids of all ages. If you want teenagers to stay active, socialise together and be appropriate members of the community they need something to do.
Woodchip protective covering VERY dangerous - SHD BE RECYCLED RUBBER AS IN MITCHAM COUNCIL PARKS - save the trees, the children, n recycle rubber car tyres - SO MUCH SAFER f all. Safety netting to 1 metre on ALL above-ground levels
"Any structure needs to consider viewability of sports being played on the western reserve from the Club Marion balcony. The existing sail shade especially obscures viewing of the western cricket field and the proposed new structure and tree may make viewing from the balcony more obscured.

Construction should not commence until the replacement cricket training facilities are complete and useable, including the new turf surface, so that the cricket club can utilise the old turf training surface if necessary."

Theme: Park Furniture

Would like to see more bench seating, when sports are on the weekends - many families are at the playground with their children and there is currently only one bench seat available. Under the proposed tree would be a great spot for a couple more bench seats maybe even a picnic table? Other than that, playground looks great, much safer than the current one. Thanks
I would suggest another bench seat - one won't be enough on a busy day.
Make sure there is seating for parents/grandparents. Could a sand pit be included?

Theme: Playground (fencing)

A fenced playground to keep children safe and secure.
As a grandmother, I would really like the playground to be fenced for safety reasons and it would of course save a lot of angst when I have two of them with me
I support the idea of a new background being installed, however I do have a couple of concerns. Firstly, I believe the area should be fully fenced. There are often dogs roaming freely around the grounds, and with so many people attending on weekends, particularly during sporting events, a fence would provide a much safer environment for children using the space. My other concern is the proposed location being so close to the balcony. During sports days, the atmosphere can sometimes become quite hostile, with yelling and inappropriate language that isn't suitable for young children. For that reason, I would also encourage consideration of an alternative location if one is available, to create a more family-friendly environment. Overall, I think it's a fantastic idea, but with a few adjustments it could be made much safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

Theme: Playground (additional items requested)

Half court basketball would be great. Can there be a swing for kids in wheel chair
Please include fun for all ages ie toddlers through to young teens as Many families use this space. The inclusion of a netball/ basketball hoop would be excellent.

The design of the multi story play equipment is fundamentally unsafe and poses a catastrophic level of risk. The top platform consists of a large hole surrounded by a relatively thin rim of platform. Kids will be not concentrating and messing around whilst playing, and potentially pushing each other around and there is a high potential that a child will fall what looks like a 2.5m drop, which could result in head and spinal injuries or worse. Why build such a ridiculous, risky piece of equipment when kids will have just as much fun on a different design. If the ladder were placed on the side instead of through the middle this would be mush safer. Safety should trump aesthetic design. I have seen a similar design in Melbourne and many parents were too concerned to let their kids play on it. Please don't install this! Also, my kids are now teens and I frequently lament the lack of facilities available for older kids unless engaged in official sporting activities at the oval. There is only 1 basket ball ring at the George st park but it is often in use. Please build another at the oval complex. Even better, if you can find space for a rage cage (see their web site) this would be very well used by kids of all ages. If you want teenagers to stay active, socialise together and be appropriate members of the community they need something to do.
A public water fountain is greatly needed here. There is a high traffic of people using the area and there is nothing available apart from tap water when club rooms are open. Having accessible drinking water is needed.
The handball panel position needs to be reconsidered, as the balls may bounce directly into walking paths and there needs to be consideration for players space to retrieve balls without darting into foot traffic. You could consider a drinking water tap. For ideas you may refer to https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/?facet=180521
A sandpit area would be good and a trampoline bounce area.
Make sure there is seating for parents/grandparents. Could a sand pit be included?
A flying fox would be an amazing addition
Hi, we live across the road from the oval on Norfolk road and regularly visit this playground. We're excited at the prospect of a playground upgrade! We find this grassy space very inspiring for our three young boys (9,7&3) who love sport and being active. They have asked me to request monkey bars. This is their favourite activity at a park and we love how they help build stength and coordination. We were also thinking it might be fun to have different little plaques or something with sporting records recorded, eg. Fastest 100m sprint etc. something extra for them to make little challenges on the surrounding grass. .. they also requested a flying fox! :)
One of those wide big slide where parents can participate in some activities with their parents would be nice. Some things you could do together with their kid. A wide slide would be nice. Make it long for extra excitement
I am happy junior options have been included . Please include a swing for juniors also with safety bar. Great design that reflects the clubs at the site.

Overall it looks like a fun playground! I would appreciate if you could consider including two or more spaces for littler kids (e.g. toddlers) to actively play that don't invlove climbing up nets. Also if you could consider putting in swings that are wide enough to fit mums with hips (from having children) as many of the swings in parks today don't allow mums to swing with their kids. I am not particularly wide but the rectangluar swings are definitely not wide enough because of the bolts either side - ouch! Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Theme: Playground (other)

The handball panel position needs to be reconsidered, as the balls may bounce directly into walking paths and there needs to be consideration for players space to retrieve balls without darting into foot traffic. You could consider a drinking water tap. For ideas you may refer to https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/?facet=180521
no one uses it just get rid of it
I’m lease make sure it also caters for older children not just small children
I've never thought of the current playground as being that "outdated" as such. I have friends who have children who are more than happy to use what is currently on offer. The idea of gardens and plants may sound nice and appealing but don't mean much to young children. They will potentially damage them. I also thought that the inclusion of the current sails to provide shading from the sun was good too. Why "reinvent the wheel"! The current location is good also as my friends and I can have a meal upstairs or sit outdoors and keep an eye on them as it is close.
Please include fun for all ages ie toddlers through to young teens as Many families use this space. The inclusion of a netball/ basketball hoop would be excellent.
The design of the multi story play equipment is fundamentally unsafe and poses a catastrophic level of risk. The top platform consists of a large hole surrounded by a relatively thin rim of platform. Kids will be not concentrating and messing around whilst playing, and potentially pushing each other around and there is a high potential that a child will fall what looks like a 2.5m drop, which could result in head and spinal injuries or worse. Why build such a ridiculous, risky piece of equipment when kids will have just as much fun on a different design. If the ladder were placed on the side instead of through the middle this would be mush safer. Safety should trump aesthetic design. I have seen a similar design in Melbourne and many parents were too concerned to let their kids play on it. Please don’t install this! Also, my kids are now teens and I frequently lament the lack of facilities available for older kids unless engaged in official sporting activities at the oval. There is only 1 basket ball ring at the George st park but it is often in use. Please build another at the oval complex. Even better, if you can find space for a rage cage (see their web site) this would be very well used by kids of all ages. If you want teenagers to stay active, socialise together and be appropriate members of the community they need something to do.

Theme: Shade

It would be good to have proper shelter rather than a shade cloth so it can be used during winter.
It looks great, however, my concern is that only ‘one’ tree appears to be planted. Trees do better if planted together so If there’s room probably 3 trees would be better and in case the one doesn’t survive

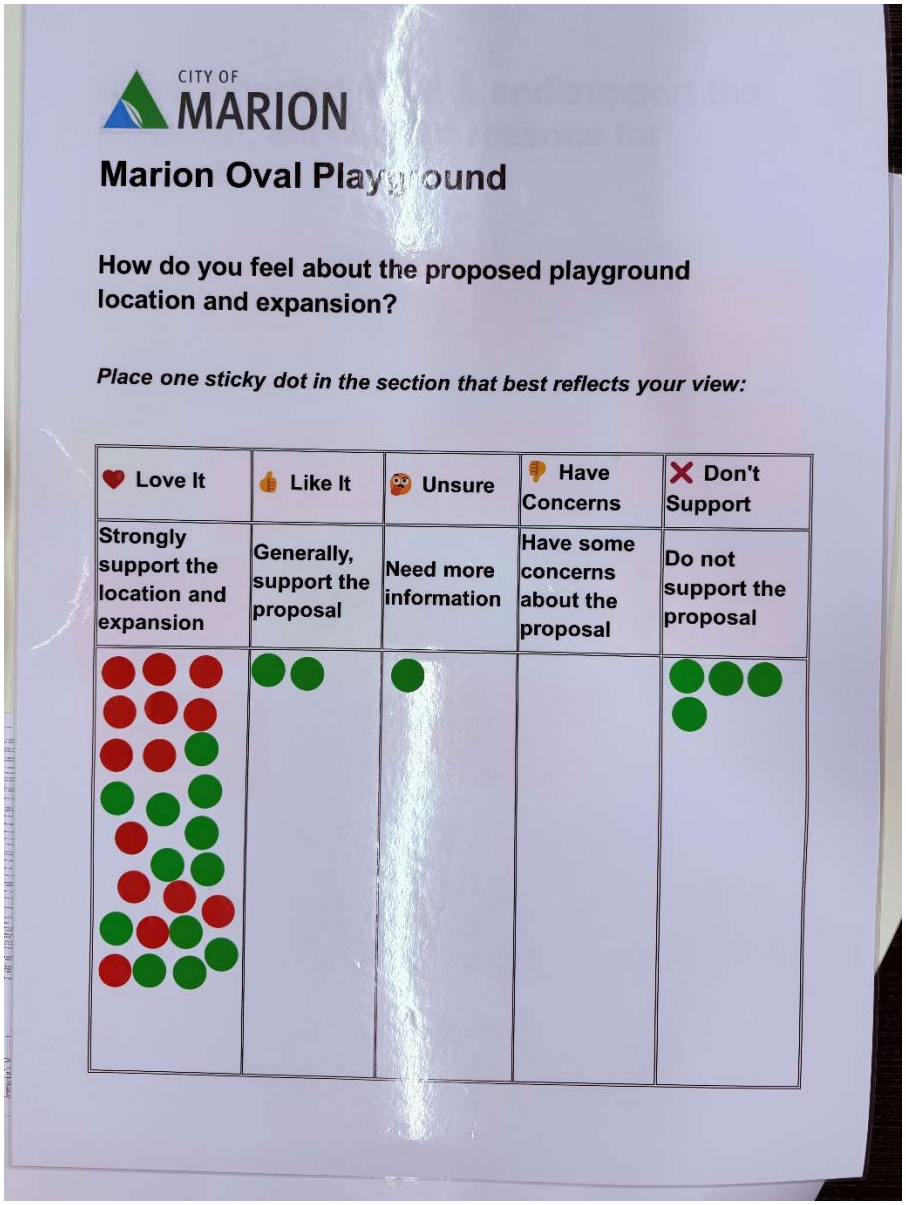
Theme: Location (other comments)

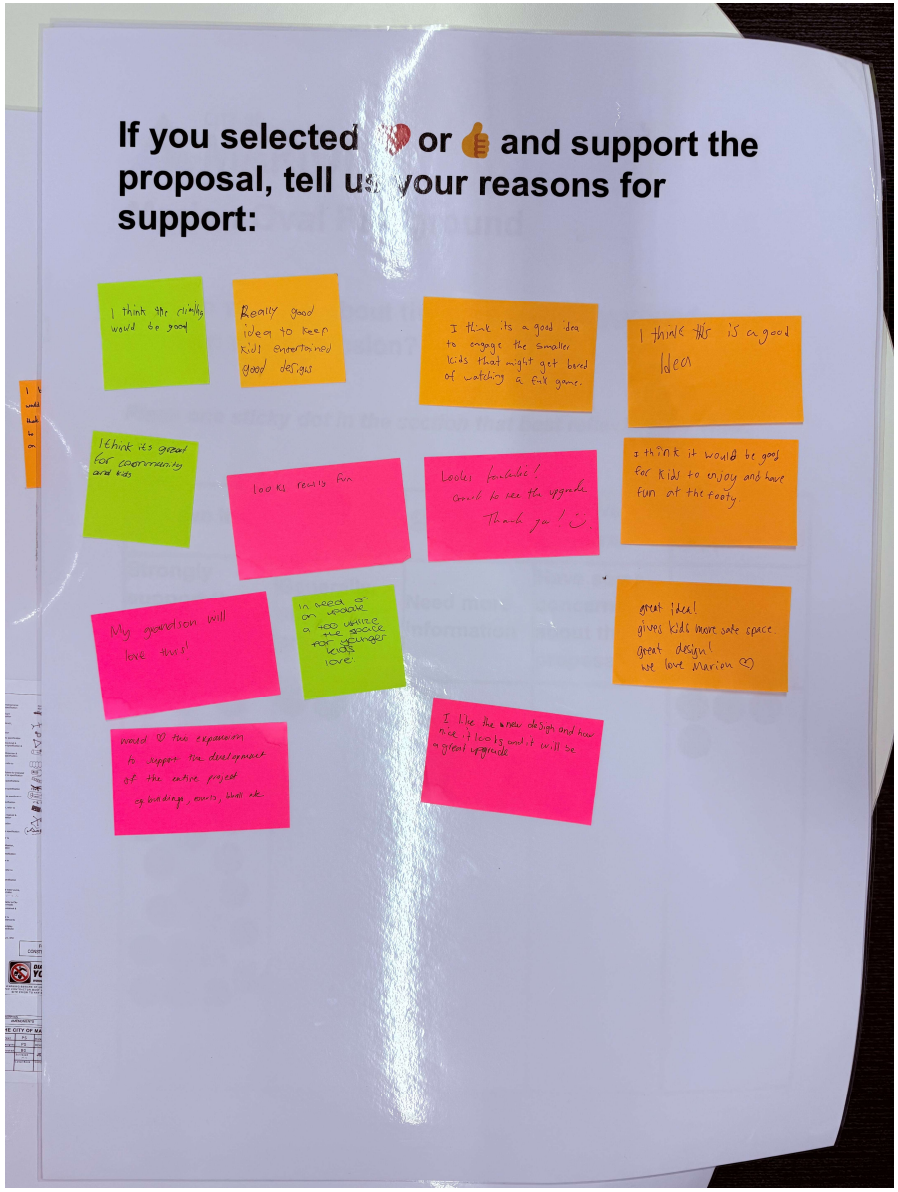
Plenty of room for soccer club to warm up on their big oval
Only playground around for my grand daughter. Also a walking distance.
As long as there are enough space for the current soccer fields and warm up areas while games are happening in the fields, I support the initiative.

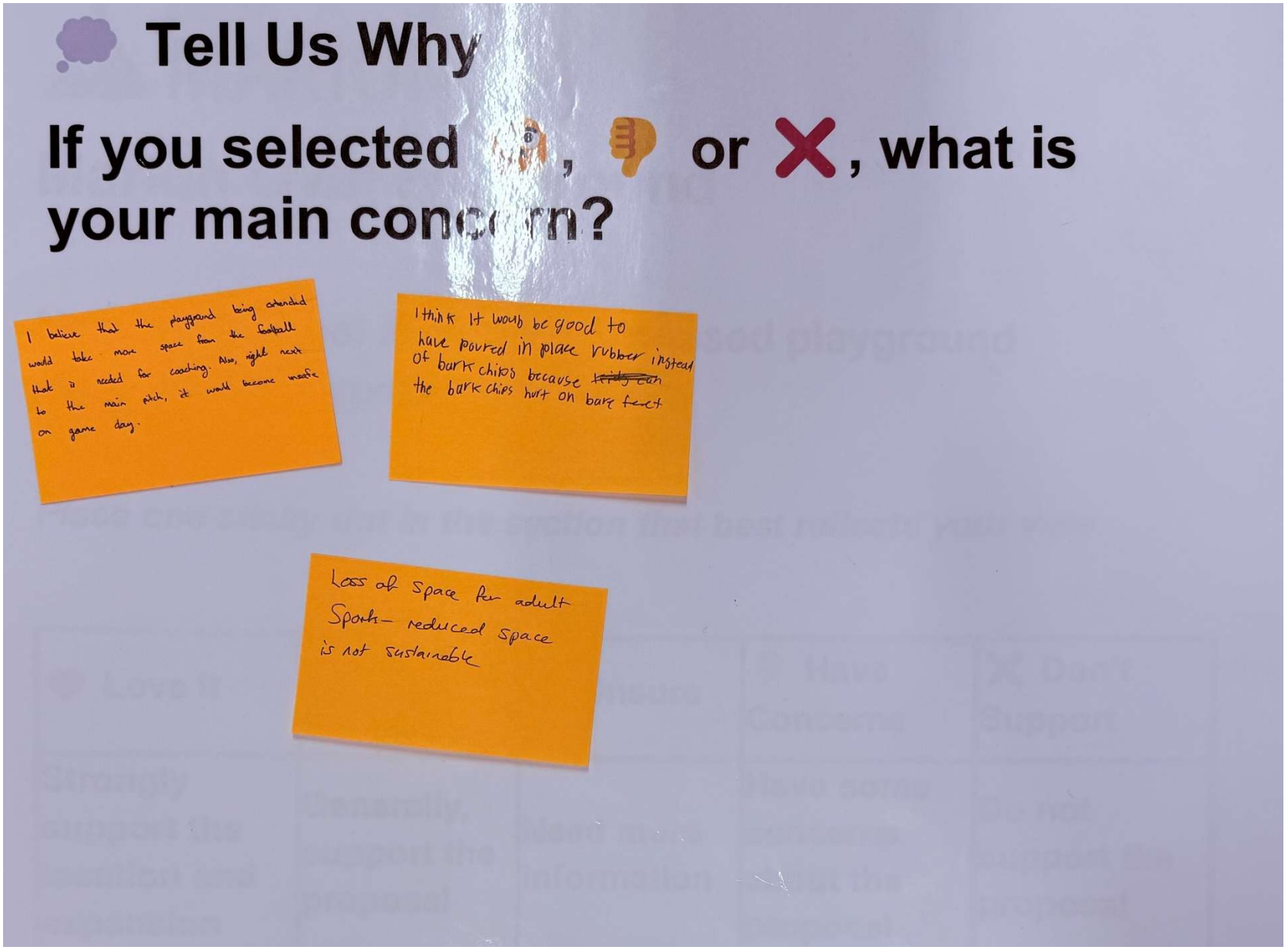
Theme: Other

We were really excited about the ice rink. Can we please continue to push for it. Thank you.
Any structure needs to consider viewability of sports being played on the western reserve from the Club Marion balcony. The existing sail shade especially obscures viewing of the western cricket field and the proposed new structure and tree may make viewing from the balcony more obscured. Construction should not commence until the replacement cricket training facilities are complete and useable, including the new turf surface, so that the cricket club can utilise the old turf training surface if necessary.

Attachment 4






Tell Us Why
If you selected , or , what is your main concern?
I believe that the playground being attended would take more space from the football that is needed for coaching. Also, right next to the main pitch, it would become unsafe on game day.
I think it would be good to have poured in place rubber instead of bark chips because the bark chips hurt on bare feet
Loss of space for adult Sports - reduced space is not sustainable

Attachment 5 – Email received from the Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club

Dear [redacted]

I am writing on behalf of Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club regarding the proposed expansion of the existing playground at Club Marion.

Firstly, I would like to make it clear that the club supports continued investment in community recreation facilities and recognises the value the playground provides for local families. Our concern is not with the playground itself, but with the proposal to significantly increase its size while retaining its current location, immediately adjacent to our primary soccer pitch.

We respectfully ask that Council consider relocating the expanded playground to an alternative location within the reserve, such as the eastern side of the new cricket nets or another suitable area on the eastern side of the football oval. We believe this would provide a safer outcome for everyone while still achieving Council's objective of improving the facility.

Our concerns are based on safety, operational impacts and the long-term planning of the reserve.

Safety Concerns

1. Risk of injury from stray soccer balls

The proposed playground would remain only approximately three metres from the main playing field.

During both training sessions and competitive matches, soccer balls regularly leave the field of play. This is an unavoidable aspect of the sport. A soccer ball struck at speed can exceed 80 km/h, with stronger shots travelling considerably faster. A direct impact to a young child could result in serious injury, particularly to the head or face.

This raises an important duty of care question. If a child were seriously injured after being struck by a stray ball while using a playground positioned immediately adjacent to an active sporting field, who would ultimately be responsible? More importantly, why would Council knowingly create a situation where such a foreseeable risk exists when alternative locations are available within the reserve?

2. Children entering the field of play

The club has experienced numerous occasions where young children have run onto the playing surface during training and matches.

This is not a theoretical concern—it has occurred multiple times in recent months, including while Councillor Jana Mates was present at the reserve in May.

Expanding the playground in its current location is likely to increase the number of children moving between the playground and the playing field, creating additional safety risks for both children and players.

3. Proximity to the change rooms

The playground is immediately adjacent to the club's change rooms.

On match days, players regularly move between the facilities and the playing fields. There are occasions when change room doors are opened while players are changing, and there is also the potential for language associated with competitive sport to be heard by young children.

While clubs encourage respectful behaviour, we do not believe this is the most appropriate environment for a substantially expanded children's playground.

4. Warm-up area

The eastern side of the pitch, adjacent to the playground, is used by teams for warm-ups before matches and during breaks in play.

An expanded playground in this location would increase interaction between warming-up players and young children, creating unnecessary congestion and additional safety concerns.

Operational and Planning Impacts

In addition to these immediate safety issues, the proposal would also have broader impacts on the operation and future planning of Club Marion.

- The eastern side of the pitch is the club's primary spectator area. During senior fixtures it is common for approximately 100 spectators to gather in this location, as spectators are not permitted on the team bench side of the field.
- The proposal would further reduce the amount of usable green open space available for organised sport and community activities, contrary to the objective of maintaining flexible open space within the reserve.
- It would restrict opportunities for future development and improvement of sporting facilities on the northern side of Club Marion.
- It has the potential to obstruct an important access corridor should future infrastructure or facility improvements be undertaken.
- The increased concentration of spectators, players, officials and playground users in the same area is likely to create ongoing conflicts during busy weekends.
- Any future requirement for protective fencing or ball-stop netting to mitigate the risks created by the playground would introduce additional costs, visual impacts and maintenance obligations that could otherwise be avoided through appropriate site selection.

Importantly, this is not simply an issue affecting Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club.

Club Marion is a shared sporting precinct used by multiple sporting organisations and thousands of participants, volunteers and spectators throughout the year. Decisions made today should support the long-term development and functionality of the entire reserve rather than create unnecessary conflicts between organised sport and passive recreation.

The proposed expansion presents an opportunity to improve the playground while also relocating it to a safer and more appropriate location that better serves all users of the reserve.

We would also appreciate understanding what risk assessment has been undertaken regarding the proximity of the expanded playground to an active sporting field, whether alternative locations within the reserve have been formally assessed, and how the proposed location aligns with Council's long-term master planning for Club Marion.

The club would welcome the opportunity to meet with Council representatives on site to discuss these concerns and work collaboratively towards a solution that supports both community recreation and the safe operation of organised sport.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the club's feedback. We look forward to continuing to work constructively with Council to achieve the best outcome for the wider community.

Kind regards,

Sent on behalf of: [redacted]

Sturt Marion Thunder Soccer Club