Quarries Park Dog Off-leash Area Upgrade – Community Engagement Report

This report provides information on the community consultation for the 'Quarries Park Dog-off-leash area upgrade' project and reports on the engagement outcomes. The consultation opened on 17.02.2025 and closed at 9am on 17.03.2025.

Overview

Project background

Yarra City Council was invited to submit two applications for funding to facilitate upgrades of existing dog off leash areas and to support contemporary needs and future longevity to upgrade and provide additional amenities within open space in Yarra. Council was successful in securing two set of funding, $300K State Government grants.

Quarries Park dog off leash area was selected for upgrade to reduce conflicts between competing needs within the project site and adjacent surroundings (sporting activity and dogs).

The Quarries Park – Dog-off-leash area upgrade intends to establish a destination dog park for Yarra's dog owner community (as limited open space throughout the municipality does not allow for local precinct dog parks in all instances).

Through this project, Council aims to:

- enhance overall experience and establish a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for dogs and their owners
- foster social connections, improving mental and physical well-being.
- enhance the natural environment setting and align with ongoing biodiversity conservation efforts being carried out by Council, to strengthen biodiversity corridor linkages from the Merri Creek and Yarra River systems.
- create a more comfortable environment and help mitigate the heat island effect
- respond to the actions recommended for the suburb of Clifton Hill in the Yarra Open Space Strategy (2020).

Objectives of this engagement

1. To inform the community about the proposed dog off-leash area upgrade and raise awareness about the project.
2. To seek community feedback on the draft concept plan presented, to understand:
    - how the community like to use the dog-off-leash area
    - the level of community support for the proposed design elements to help with prioritisation
    - if there are any other issues to consider.
3. To make sure that the voices of Yarra's diverse community are included in the community consultation. Specifically
    - dog owners living in, working in or visiting Yarra
    - Traditional Custodians
    - local residents and visitors of Quarries Park.

Level of community influence

The community could influence:

1. The elements that go into the final concept design
2. The layout of the off-lead dog area
3. Site safety
4. Site accessibility
5. The proposed amenity and dog friendly design elements (including type and number of).

*Victorian government funding has been assigned to this project, at this site, with agreed upon timeframes and scope; and there is no additional budget available.

Engagement methods:

- Online survey tool hosted through Your Say Yarra engagement platform
- 2 x place-based pop-ups at Quarries Park on:
    - Wednesday 26 February at 4:30pm to 6:30pm
    - Sunday 2 March at 2pm to 4pm
- Targeted stakeholder engagement with identified key stakeholders.

Engagement questions:

1. How often do you visit this dog off-leash area?
2. How do you usually use this dog off-leash area?
3. What elements in the draft Concept Design do you think are most important for dogs and dog owners? (Please rank up to 5).
4. Will this upgrade encourage dogs and dog owners to visit and enjoy the area more often?
    a. Please explain your answer.
5. Do you have any suggested changes to the draft Concept Design.

Engagement reach

Engagement promotion:
Social media posts on council's Facebook and Instagram channels reaching 1,448 people.
Council email newsletters including Yarra Life, Your Say Yarra email newsletter. This reached a total of 8,462 subscribers.
Promoted via Yarra News which is distributed to every household in Yarra (over 60,000 properties).
News story on Yarra City Council's website.
Postcards and other printed collateral available at events and postcards were distributed to 19 Council venues. These include town halls, neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres, libraries and leisure centres.
Postcards distributed to over 900 occupiers of residences and businesses near Quarries Park in Clifton Hill.
Mail outs of letters to non-resident owners of residences and businesses near Quarries Park in Clifton Hill.
A1 corflute posters (x7) displayed on site at various locations in Quarries Park.

Your Say Yarra project page:

The success of the Your Say Yarra page is tracked against the following metrics:

- **Views** - The number of times the page was seen.
- **Visitors** – The number of unique visitors that saw the page.
- **Responses** – The number of feedback responses that were submitted.

Views	Visitors	Responses
748	537	157

In person engagement opportunities:

In-person session (including date and location)	Approximate number of people we spoke to	Responses
Wednesday 26 February	35	1
Sunday 2 March	35	0
TOTAL	70	1

Engagement results

Who did we hear from?

Demographic data was collected via the 1 hard copy and 156 responses to the online survey engagement tool.

Are you a dog owner? (people were able to skip this question)	Number	Percentage
Yes (those that answered = 127)	107	84.25%

What's your connection to Yarra? (multiple choices allowed)	Numbers	Percentage
I live in Yarra	148	94.27%
I work in Yarra	28	17.83%
I visit Yarra	4	2.55%
I study in Yarra	1	0.64%
I own a property or mortgage in Yarra	66	42.04%
I rent in Yarra	11	7.01%
I own a business in Yarra	5	3.18%
What gender do you identify as? (single choice)	**Numbers**	**Percentage**

Man	51	32.48%
Woman	97	61.78%
Self-described	2	1.27%
I prefer not to say	7	4.46%
Total	**157**	**100%**

What is your age range? (single choice)	Numbers	Percentage
Under 11	1	0.64%
12 to 17	0	0.0%
18 to 24	4	2.55%
25 to 34	17	10.83%
35 to 49	60	38.22%
50 to 59	32	20.38%
60 to 69	21	13.38%
70 to 84	14	8.92%
85 and older	1	0.64%
I prefer not to say	7	4.46%
Total	**157**	**100%**

What suburb do you live in (single choice)	Numbers	Percentage
Abbotsford	3	1.91%
Alphington	1	0.64%
Burnley	0	0.0%
Carlton North	0	0.0%
Clifton Hill	142	90.45%
Collingwood	3	1.91%

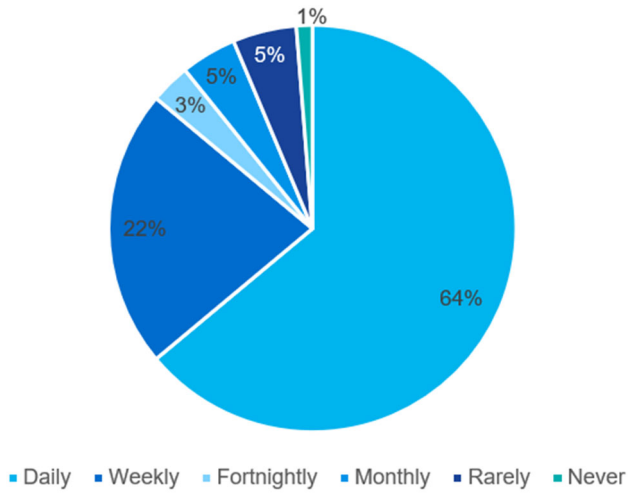
Cremorne	0	0.0%
Fairfield	1	0.64%
Fitzroy	0	0.0%
Fitzroy North	5	3.18%
Princes Hill	0	0.0%
Richmond	1	0.64%
I live outside of Yarra	1	0.64%
Total	**157**	**100%**

Select all that apply. I am…. (multiple choices allowed)	Numbers	Percentage
Someone who speaks a language other than English at home.	15	9.55%
A person living with a disability.	11	7.01%
A member of the LGBTIQA+ community.	12	7.64%
Someone of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.	0	0.0%
None of the above.	107	60.15%
I prefer not to say.	18	11.46%

What did we hear?

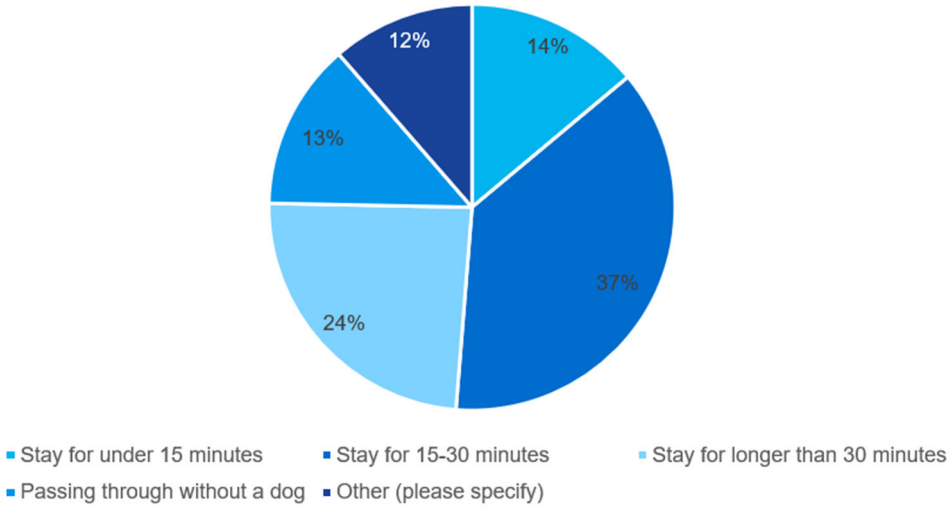
Council received 157 survey contributions and 1 historical document submission during this consultation. The following section provides a summary of responses for each survey question. Responses referring to the same or related topic are listed once with the frequency shown in brackets. Community responses have been grouped into themes, and some examples of what we heard are included on pages 9-12.

1. **How often do you visit the dog off-leash area at Quarries Park?**
    - Daily (101)
    - Weekly (35)
    - Fortnightly (5)
    - Monthly (7)
    - Raely (8)
    - Never (2)

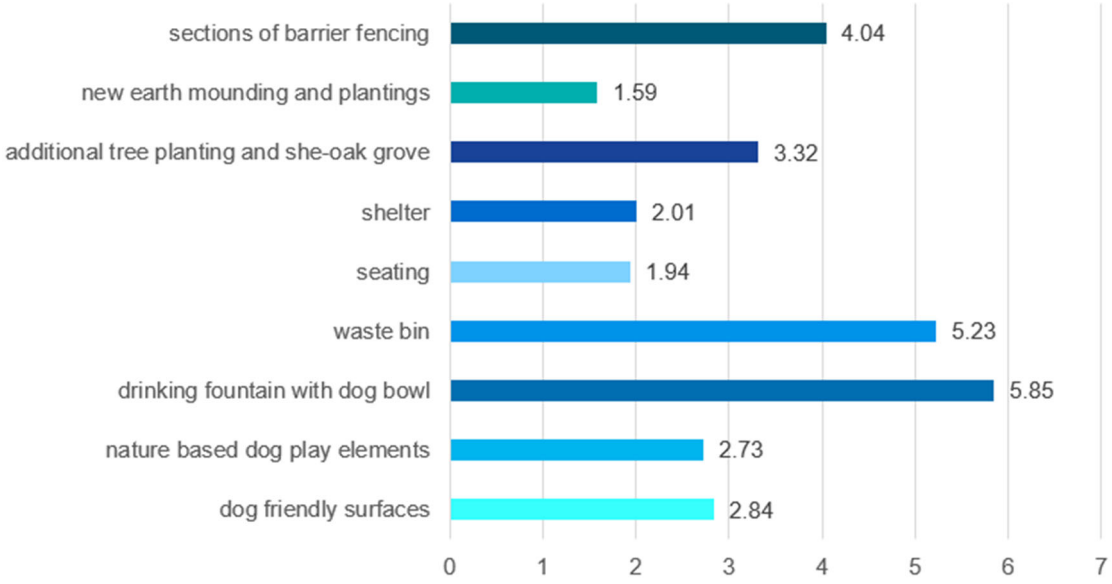


2. **How do you usually use this dog off-leash area?**
    - Stay for under 15 minutes (22)
    - Stay for 15-30 minutes (59)
    - Stay for longer than 30 minutes (38)
    - Passing through without a dog (21)
    - Other (please specify) (18)

*Some example responses that were provided for 'Other' include; passing through with dog (9), rarely/never/avoid (5), make use of all dog off-leash areas at Quarries Park (3), picnicking/relaxing (3), walking with friends (2), exercising (1), varies (1), and utilise the sporting facilities (1).



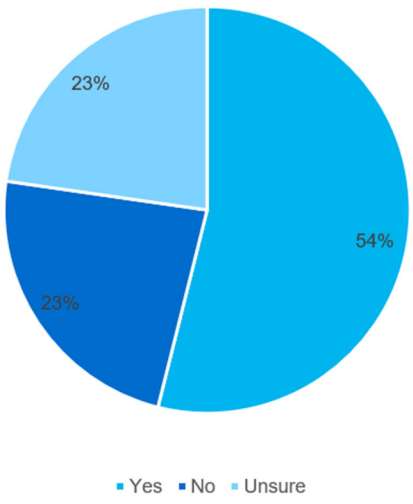
3. **What design elements do you think are most important for dogs and dog owners? (Please rank up to 5).**
    - Dog friendly surfaces
    - Nature based dog play elements
    - Drinking fountain with dog bowl
    - Waste bin
    - Seating
    - Shelter
    - Additional tree planting and she-oak grove
    - New earth mounding and plantings
    - Sections of barrier fencing



Average importance ranking score for each design element

(1 = Least Important, 6 = Most Important)

4. **Will this upgrade encourage dogs and dog owners to visit and enjoy the area more often?**
    - Yes (83)
    - No (36)
    - Unsure (35)

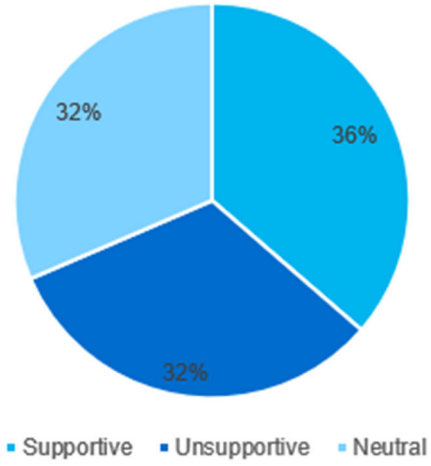


a. Please explain your answer. (open text)

5. Do you have any suggested changes to the draft Concept Plan? (open text)

We received 143 responses to the above two open text questions. Council Officers conducted a thorough analysis of the received data, revealing the following outcomes in relation to the overall project:

- Supportive (52)
- Unsupportive (46)
- Neutral (45)



Summary of points relating to the proposed upgrade and suggested changes:

- Unsupportive of project size, crowding of area with additional design elements (33)
- Concerns around existing ground conditions, poor drainage and maintenance (27)
- Unsupportive of project location (25)
- Supportive of fencing provision, fully enclosed (22)
- Unsupportive of fencing provision (21)
- Safety concerns for dogs and children, conflict with traffic (20)
- Safety concerns for children and other park users, conflict with dogs (15)
- Supportive of additional dog features (15)
- Supportive of fencing provision, current design (13); provide gates to openings (4)
- Request for dog bag dispenser and supply of bags (10)
- Safety concerns around snakes (10)
- Overall a more welcoming/safer place (9)
- Requests for additional lighting provision (9)
- Supportive of additional soft landscaping (9)
- Unsupportive of additional dog features (9)
- Unsupportive of additional soft landscaping (7)
- Requests for separate spaces for small and big dogs (5)
- Supportive of additional shade provision, including tree planting and shelter (5)
- Requests for additional path provision; to connect project site to broader park surrounds (4), on the eastern side of Yambla Street (2)
- Concerns around shade provision on site and the time it takes for trees to establish and provide adequate shade provision (1)

Common feedback themes:

Feedback Theme 1: Design Principles

What did we hear

Community sentiment regarding additional dog features was mixed, with similar numbers of people both supportive (larger count) and unsupportive. Requests from the community included the installation of dog bag dispensers with a supply of bags, as well as improved lighting provision.

Supportive of additional dog features

- "*Dog owners seek out spaces specifically designed for them and their dogs, especially if there is good infrastructure like drinking bowls, poo bags, bins and fencing.*"
- "*Having more trees, nature based dog play features, sections of barrier fencing and water access will make the area more useable and safer for dogs.*"
- "*This area is a great open space which would be perfect for dogs if it had more vibe. The proposal looks great. It's nice it's not near the play equipment and some fencing will help protect dogs from yambla street.*"

Unsupportive of additional dog features

- "*Many dog owners take their dog to the park to exercise them by throwing a ball or frisbee. The planting of trees and nature based dog elements are obstructions which would make throwing a ball or frisbee in this area dangerous as the dogs may injure themselves by running into an obstacle.*"
- "*Dogs don't need the superstructures. Quite frankly it's an unnecessary expense.*"
- "*The current design is cluttered with unnecessary logs and boulders.*"
- "*The dog agility equipment will not be used in the area proposed, but it could be interesting to spread it throughout the park (some people already use the walls of the skate park for training dogs/agility play).*"
- "*I don't mind additional seating and planting (if you can get them to grow) but see no need for dog friendly hard surfaces and play objects.*"

Request for dog bag dispenser and supply of bags

- "*Dog poo bags should be supplied at both ends of the park.*"
- "*I would love to have more public doggy bag dispensers dotted around the park.*"

Requests for additional lighting provision

- "*Providing energy efficient lighting to facilitate the winter nighttime use of Yambla Reserve soccer pitch for dogs and the general public (outside of training session times).*"
- "*Lighting in the park especially in winter would be a huge help. Especially for safety reasons. Also in winter more owners don't pick up poop as it either can't be seen or they don't bother.*"
- "*I use the space early mornings and night time so would appreciate some lights for safety reasons.*"

Supportive of additional shade provision

- "*The park is too hot for me and my dog in summer – new planting and shelter should really help.*"
- "*The planting of more shade trees has been much appreciated.*"

Not meeting shade requirements

- "*It will take years for trees to be established in this location to provide enough shade. In summer I prefer to drive to Darling Gardens where I can walk the perimeter in shade or walk to the Yarra River.*"

Feedback Theme 2: Project Site

What did we hear

The community expressed concerns about the project area's size, particularly regarding the reduction of open space and the potential for overcrowding due to added design features. There were also questions relating to Council's future plans to limit other dog off-leash areas in the park as well as prohibit dogs from accessing the soccer field. Further concerns were raised about the site's existing ground conditions, including poor drainage, as well as current and future maintenance schedules. The location of the project, being next to a road, isolated from the rest of the park, and lacking footpath and accessibility provision, also drew significant attention.

Unsupportive of project size

- "*The proposed area is extremely small compared to the currently available off-lead dog areas. I am concerned that the sporting clubs will push dog owners off the playing field, which is already ideally suited as a fenced off-lead dog area (outside of advertised playing times).*"
- "*Limiting the 'dog park' to the small section identified is counter-productive, as all of Quarries Park is an off-leash area, and very well used.*"
- "*The proposed design also looks extremely 'busy' - many dogs require open space to run freely, especially if they live in an inner city environment where they are unlikely to have a large back yard.*"
- "*If this new set-up attempts to limit the off-leash area to a smaller space, I think it will result in a decrease in dogs and dog owners using the park.*"

Concerns around existing ground conditions, poor drainage and maintenance

- "*Bog in winter - water logged with muddy puddles. Council's 2024 flood mapping shows that half of the proposed park area is flood prone.*"
- "*Also, will the grass on the current hill leading down to the soccer ground be mown more regularly this winter? It was so. long and out of control last year.*"
- "*The area identified is boggy in winter, if this can be rectified by improving drainage and/or using different materials, then this would be of benefit to all park users.*"

Unsupportive of project location

- "*The proposed dog park will be isolated from the remainder of Quarries Park by the soccer pitch and not connected to the existing pedestrian network within Quarries Park or footpaths that form part of the adjoining streets. It is shocking that Council has proposed to spend $300,000 to develop a new dog park without connecting it to the pedestrian path network.*"
- "*Move any designated dog area (if any) away from this corner of the park which is better suited to access for able and disabled people who cannot access the further reaches of the park.*"
- "*The planned area does not have a fully enclosed fence line and is next to a busy road.*"

Feedback Theme 3: Safety

What did we hear

Community members expressed concerns about conflicts between; dogs, children, and traffic (especially on Yambla Street), dogs and other park users, as well as small and large dogs. There were also concerns about snakes, particularly relating to the addition of soft landscaping. Some positive feedback was received around the design fostering a more welcoming and safer environment.

Safety concerns for dogs and children, conflict with traffic

- "*Too close to Yambla St which carries peak hour traffic cutting through the suburb. This is dangerous for dogs and kids who can wander onto the street unexpectedly.*"
- "*The area is underutilised, and the high volume of commuter traffic in peak hours means it's not a safe area for dogs to be off-leash.*"
- "*I think any additional traffic calming measures would improve access and safety (eg speed humps and zebra crossings).*"

Safety concerns for children and other park users, conflict with dogs

- "*Just drop the proposal! If it must go ahead, then have total barricades to keep dogs and their owners away from those who are just walking on their own without dogs and want to feel safe.*"
- "*People don't obey on-lead off-lead areas and there are heaps of kids in the park who will also be safer and happier if dogs are off lead and in a fenced space.*"
- "*Fencing is important to contain the area. It's near a kids playground and many dog owners let their dogs run up to kids. This can be dangerous and also scary for some children. A dog off lead area is fine as long as it is fenced and considers the safety of children nearby.*"

Safety concerns around snakes

- "*Dog tunnels and logs will not be used and will only encourage snakes.*"
- "*Increasing planting in this location will encourage more snakes in summer. Most dog owners don't use the Merri Creek trail over summer due to increased snake risk. Dog owners prefer to use the soccer pitch or football oval when not in use, without the worry of looking for snakes. Snakes have been sighted near Quarries Park playground, Dwyer St bin, skate park ramp and on the big hill with city views.*"
- "*The proposed dog park is on land that is not that appealing to walk a dog on as it is often boggy/water logged in winter and a snake risk in summer (as Council does not maintain the area adequately resulting in the grass often being long). The design items (particularly the proposed landscaping and dry creek bed) will increase the snake risk in the summer while not fixing the flood issues.*"
- "T*he she-oak grove sounds like a snake haven.*"

Overall a more welcoming/safer place

- "*This will provide a great space for dog walkers to adventure with their dogs in safety and comfort.*"
- "*Having boundary fences makes it safer and more enjoyable.*"
- "*The proposal looks great. It's nice it's not near the play equipment and some fencing will help protect dogs from yambla street.*"

Requests for separate spaces for small and big dogs

- "*Ideally I would like to see two dog off-lead enclosed spaces; dogs that are under 10kg and dogs that are over 10kg.*"

  "*A fully-fenced area should be designated for small dogs. Larger dogs currently dominant off-leash areas. This can be intimidating for small dogs that aren't comfortable with larger dogs.*"

Feedback Theme 4: Fencing

What did we hear

Community sentiment around fencing was mixed with similar numbers of people wanting more enclosed fencing to those who opposed any additional fencing.

Supportive of fencing provision, fully enclosed

- "*1. Either fully enclose the area with continuous fencing, or 2. relocate the entire development to an area that is far removed from roads.*"
- "*Make it fully enclosed so dogs can't escape.*"
- "*It looks great but PLEASE can the area be completely fenced. There is no place in Clifton hill for dogs that is enclosed! (My dog is deaf and cannot be off leash in an area without fencing all around.)*"
- "*Please fence all the way around the space and use self closing gates - lots of dogs need to be enclosed so they don't run away chasing birds etc. To keep everyone safe from cars etc.*"

Unsupportive of fencing provision

- "*I think it's great to have an area allocated to dogs, but please do not fence it. It encourages complacency.*"
- "*Minimise fences. Keep lots of open space and grass area that isn't taken up by planting. Allow dogs off leash in the whole area (other than the playground and along the bike paths).*"
- "*I live on Wright street opposite the park and do not want a fence for dogs.*"
- "*We do not need a fenced in dog area. This is an utter waste of money and will not be used and will be an eyesore.*"

Supportive of fencing provision, current design

- "*Improved safety to separate dogs from adjacent road.*"
- "*Beautiful co felt and ideas, I can't wait. A fenced place that has dog nature play is fantastic.*"
- "*A fence to the road will help prevent accidents.*"

Provide gates to fence openings, current design

- "*Consider putting gates on the openings.*"
- "*I believe that enclosing the dog off-leash area with gates at the entrances would greatly enhance its inclusivity.*"
- "*Fencing is good along road perimeters for safety with child safe gates.*"

Feedback Theme 5: Soft Landscaping

What did we hear

Community sentiment around additional planting was also mixed with similar numbers of people wanting to see more trees, shrubs and grasses on site to those who opposed the addition.

Supportive of additional soft landscaping

- "*Biodiversity is always welcome in our open spaces.*"
- "*The area is currently low quality and will benefit from more planting.*"
- "*Consider adding more smaller shrubs to the larger trees to create habitat for smaller birds, who otherwise get attacked by noisy miners. Maybe in the corners of the area, especially in the north-west corner, where there are already established trees.*"
- "*As an ecologist I think more plantings are always a plus, the more vegetation the better to cool the city.*"

Unsupportive of additional soft landscaping

- "*Additional tree planting – The proposed tree planting removes opportunity for fetch to be played. New trees in proximity to the soccer pitch would be preferable.*"
- "*She-oak grove – New trees in this area will not improve the use of the area for dogs.*"
- "*New mounding and planting – These planting areas will introduce a new snake risk for dogs in Quarries Park without providing any benefits for dogs.*"
- "*No low bushes in off leash area to decrease snake risk for dogs.*"

Items raised outside of project scope:

- We received 34 responses requesting that Quarries Park remain as a designated dog off-leash open space reserve.

  * The proposed draft Concept Plan does not impact the above and the below Council Order remains:

  6. Owner's obligations in a Designated Reserve

  (g) the Owner keeps the dog under effective control by attaching a Leash to the dog and held by the Owner whenever the dog is within 10 meters of:

  (i) an unfenced playground area;

  (ii) a barbecue or picnic facility;

  (iii) a sporting oval which is being used for an organised sporting event or training, an authorised school event or other organised public event;

  (iv) any skate park or BMX facility;

  (v) any other authorised event; and

  (vi) any Play or Exercise equipment;

  (i) the Owner keeps the dog under effective control by means of a Leash attached to the dog and held by the Owner when the dog is on or within 5 meters of a Shared Path.

- We received 37 comments relating to the access and use of Yambla sporting field.
  - 25 respondents were in favour of allowing dogs on the sporting field outside of an organised sporting event or training
  - 7 respondents believed dogs should not be allowed on the sporting field at any time
  - 5 respondents believed that the proposed design would not resolve tension between dog owners and the sporting club (and affiliated activities)
  - 4 respondents highlighted the arrangement at Citizens and Victoria Parks ovals as an effective approach to shared-use of sporting facilities

Items raised during in person discussions during place-based pop-ups (that have not been included within above Feedback Themes):

- Community engagement:
  - Unhappy with Council's process in relation to past and current projects at Quarries Park including; the Yambla sporting field upgrade and associated water tank, the Yambla Pavilion, biodiversity planting and the dog off-leash area upgrade
- Sporting club:
  - Negative feedback was received in relation to the soccer club management, members as well as spectator behaviour
- On-site signage:
  - Dog off-leash areas; signage information contradictory to Council's website
  - Snakes; inconsistent information provided
- Existing dog amenity:
  - Queries in relation to dog bowl provision at drinking fountain next to playground (within 10m proximity)
- Design elements:
  - Structures and furniture items
    - Request for no structures or development close to corner of Yambla and Wright Streets, as dog off-leash area is also used for Christmas parties, gatherings, informal events
    - Keep proposed bench seating away from residential housing
  - Additional landscaping:
    - Safety concerns around injecting needles
    - New mounding and landscaping is proposed where sporting spectators gather
  - Sections of barrier fencing:
    - Proposed sections of barrier fencing; request for chain link to be galvanised steel, visually less dominant
    - The installation of sections of barrier fencing may result in an increase in vehicle travel speed along Yambla Street
- Miscellaneous:
    - Hoping not to see an increase in traffic and park user volumes

Conclusion:

We have heard from 157 respondents, 90.45% of respondents live in Clifton Hill.
The 2023 population forecast for Clifton Hill is 7,197 (figures by .id - the population experts 2021).

<u>Key Takeaways:</u>

- 101 respondents visit the dog off-leash area at Quarries Park on a 'Daily' basis
- 59 respondents 'Stay for 15-30 minutes'
- The 'Drinking fountain with dog bowl' and 'Waste bin' were the most important design elements for dogs and dog owners
- 83 respondents believe that the upgrade will encourage dogs and dog owners to visit and enjoy the area more often

In summary:

- Overall support, opposition and neutrality for the project upgrade are very close in score
- The counts for opposing (supportive and unsupportive) themes are very close in score
- Some of the open text feedback was difficult to interpret or understand as it was contradictory in nature and or misguided (i.e. some respondents believed that Council had plans to make changes to the current Council Order in relation to existing dog off-leash areas at Quarries Park and dog access to the Yambla sporting field)
- A mixed range of responses were received

Where appropriate, feedback received will be forwarded onto relevant Council Units for assessment and follow up.

Evaluating the engagement:

Objective	Targets	Target reached?
To inform the community about the proposed dog park upgrade and raise awareness about the project.	Reach 3000+ people through social media posts Reach 10,000+ people through email campaigns. Receive 1000+ page views and 500+ visitors on Your Say Yarra project page.	Target reached for visitors (536). Target not reached for social media (1,448) or email (8,462). Target not reached for page views (745) Potentially, the structure of the YSY page as a subpage reduced traffic. This was a known risk, but the decision was made to contain both this and the playground consultation together to avoid community confusion about multiple consultations occurring simultaneously at the same location.
To seek community feedback on the draft concept plan presented, to understand: • how the community like to use the dog-off-leash area • the level of community support for the proposed design elements to help with prioritisation • if there are any other issues to consider.	Contribution rate of around 5% on the online form on YSY 25% of visits to the project page (YSY) last at least 1 minute At least 30 in person conversations at pop ups.	Yes. Contribution rate (20.71%) was significantly higher than the 5% target. Yes. 48% of visitors who were active on the page for longer than a minute. Yes. We had 70 in person conversations.
To make sure that the voices of Yarra's diverse community are included in the community consultation. Specifically, • Dog owners living in, working in or visiting Yarra • Traditional Custodians • Local residents and visitors of Quarries Park	Promote widely and ensure all identified target stakeholders are informed about the consultation. Gain valuable insights from targeted engagement. Responses received are valuable relate to the content discussed and are easily used by the project team.	Yes. We used a variety of promotional methods and gained valuable insights from feedback received.

Standing objectives	Targets	Did we reach the targets?
To make the engagement as accessible and inclusive as possible.	We used simple and accessible and messaging to help people understand and contribute to the consultation. The project officers actively sought to remove any known barriers to allow all those affected to participate.	Yes.

To share how feedback helped inform the final decision.	Providing feedback to community and stakeholders was factored into the engagement process. Community and stakeholders were updated on the final decision and how their feedback influenced that decision.	Yes.