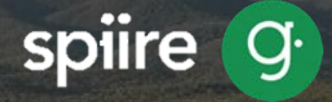


Draft Yan Yean Visitor Experience Future Directions Plan: Community + Stakeholder Engagement Summary Report

April 2026



We proudly acknowledge the people of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the owners of the lands on which our office is based, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the deep connection of First Peoples to Country and value their contribution to caring for, and managing the land, water, natural and built landscapes and their profound knowledge systems.

We are committed to pursuing genuine and lasting partnerships with First Peoples to learn about and understand their culture and connections to Country in the way we plan for, and manage, the delivery of this project.

We also extend our acknowledgement to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their rich culture, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Report context

Context for this report

Purpose of the community engagement:

1. To socialise the draft Yan Yean Visitor Experience Future Directions Plan (draft FDP) and seek community and stakeholder feedback in order to test, validate and reconcile community and stakeholder expectations.
2. Ensure feedback is captured and used to refine the draft FDP.

Context for this summary report:

This summary report provides a high-level snapshot of the community engagement findings gathered between December 2025 and March 2026 ahead of the completion of the overall report. The final report will include data analysis and insights gathered during the community engagement to inform decision-making in the refinement of the draft FDP and ensure future planning and activities reflect both community aspirations and the site's environmental, cultural and operational responsibilities.

Objectives of the community engagement

- Seek community and stakeholder feedback on the opportunities presented in the draft FDP and its alignment with previous engagement outcomes.
- Promote community and stakeholder awareness and support for the draft FDP.
- Reconcile expectations where earlier community or stakeholder suggestions have not been incorporated, being transparent in explaining the reasons behind these decisions.
- Identify any additional opportunities or constraints that have been missed, as well as any additional feedback that may be useful in finalising the FDP.
- Seek feedback on prioritisation of proposed activities/opportunities to inform implementation planning.
- Ensure engagement that reaches key cohorts, including users and residents.
- Document, analyse, and synthesise input to inform the FDP.

Engagement Snapshot

Engagement Activities

The following provides a snapshot of the range of engagement activities undertaken for the phase of community engagement summarized in this report. These activities were completed between December 2025 and March 2026.



Online Community Survey Respondents

Short, accessible survey testing satisfaction with how ideas were addressed and gathering feedback for refinement (in line with existing opportunities/constraints) hosted on Melbourne Water's Let's Talk page. A total of 309 respondents contributed to the online community survey.

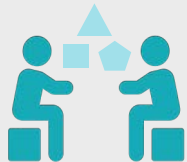
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On-site Pop-up Events

Weekend pop-up events were held on-site at Yan Yean Reservoir Park to engage directly with park users and local community members with a total of 50 community members in attendance.

3



Community Information Sessions

Community information sessions were held in Doreen, Whittlesea and online to give community members an opportunity to hear about the project and share feedback on the draft FDP. The community information session did not attract high participation, with only 5 participants in attendance over the three sessions.

35



Other modes of engagement from the community

Community members submitted comments via online forums such as the Melbourne Water Let's Talk page and sent letters to project representatives. This feedback is captured in a standalone section of this report.

Participation Overview

Outlined below is a snapshot of the number of community member engaged in this phase of work.



364

Individuals Engaged in person and online

Feedback and insights from 393 contributors was gathered to inform finalization of the draft FDP



4,592

Views of the Let's Talk Page

The Melbourne Water Let's talk page was viewed 4,592 times by a total of 2,993 individuals.



755

Downloads of the draft FDP

A total of 755 individuals downloaded the draft FDP from the Melbourne Water Let's Talk page



97,033

People reached through the Social Media Campaign

The overall campaign reached 97,033 people in 3090, 3091, 3099, 3750, 3751, 3752, 3753, 3754, 3755, 3757



437,101

Impressions through the Social Media Campaign

Facebook delivered most of the reach – 81,043 against Instagram 21,603



Demographics

Men were the most represented demographic overall with 50% of the reach (56,627) versus women (41% 39,557)

Men aged 25-34 were the most represented demographic, with 17% of reach (16,827)

Women aged 55-64 were the least represented demographic, with 5% of reach (4,545)

What we heard

The following provides a high-level snapshot of feedback from the community engagement online survey.

Areas of strong community consensus:



A majority of community respondents express overall support for the draft FDP



A majority of community respondents agree that the proposed upgrades would improve the visitor experience



Upgrades to existing park facilities including toilets, walking trails and picnic spaces received the highest level of support from community respondents

Areas with mixed community feedback:



Community preferences for prioritisation during implementation were closely distributed across nominated visitor areas



Community expressed a range of views as to whether the draft FDP strikes the right balance between recreation, cultural & environmental protection



Some community feedback suggested the inclusion of other recreational activities such as fishing or non-motorised boating

What we heard (continued)

Outlined below is a high-level snapshot of community feedback gathered during the engagement activities.

- **Prioritise environmental protection as a baseline condition**
Community members consistently emphasised the need to protect water quality, biodiversity and the integrity of the drinking water catchment.
- **Improve the existing park before expanding access**
There was strong support for upgrading current facilities, amenities and access within the existing park footprint.
- **Staged and evidence-based implementation**
Community members expressed support for trialling a range of approaches to enable enhanced recreational access, and ongoing research and monitoring to inform future decision-making.
- **Appropriate location and management of high-visitation areas to minimise adverse impacts**
There was a preference for concentrating activity in the Yan Yean Reservoir Park and/or already modified areas (e.g. picnic areas, established visitor nodes, or enhanced wetland zone), rather than sensitive environments or residential interfaces.
- **Carefully managed and clearly defined access**
Community support for increased recreational access, such as fishing or non-motorised boating, is contingent upon minimising impacts to water quality, the environment and ensuring activities can be effectively managed.
- **Align increased activity with management and enforcement capacity**
Community members expressed concerns regarding littering, non-compliance with existing park regulations (e.g. opening hours), and the ability to effectively manage increased visitation.
- **Enhancement of natural character and avoidance of over-development**
Participants consistently cautioned against urbanising the park or over-formalising the landscape.

High level Summary of Priority Visitor Areas for Implementation

Priority Visitor Areas for Implementation

The draft FDP includes opportunities to enhance the visitor experience across the following five visitor areas. Overall, feedback supports a Stage 1 approach that prioritises the entrance along with high-use and family-oriented areas, enhanced scenic and nature-based experiences within the Yan Yean Reservoir Park and already modified areas, and a careful management approach to any increased activity. The following section summarises this community feedback at a high-level as per data collection from online and in-person engagement activities.

1 Park Entry and Valve House Picnic Area

Overall, community feedback indicated strong support for prioritising improvements to the Park Entry and Valve House Picnic Area in the first stage of the project.

Suggestions for upgrades included improved accessibility and amenity overall, upgraded toilets and higher-capacity picnic areas.

Key opportunities to improve the visitor experience supported by community feedback include:

-  Upgraded toilet facilities
-  Walking trails
-  Picnic areas / gathering spaces
-  New cycle path
-  Upgraded park entry

Note: The community feedback in relation to these opportunities was often conditional and included suggestions that had either design or operational implications which are detailed in the complete community engagement report.



2 Caretakers Picnic Area

Community feedback in relation to the Caretakers Picnic Area suggested a considered approach be taken to upgrades here given the areas social and historical value.

Community members noted the importance of the Caretakers Cottage and the views available here looking out over the reservoir and greater catchment area.

Key opportunities to improve the visitor experience supported by community feedback include:

-  Upgraded toilet facilities
-  Walking trails
-  Picnic areas / gathering spaces
-  Improved parking
-  New shelters and lookouts to capture water views
-  Upgrade / repurposing of Caretakers Cottage
-  Revegetation and habitat enhancement
-  Cultural interpretation / education

Note: The community feedback in relation to these opportunities was often conditional and included suggestions that had either design or operational implications which are detailed in the complete community engagement report.



3 Yan Yean Bluff Picnic Area

Based on community feedback the Yan Yean Bluff Picnic Area appears to be seen as an appropriate scenic destination within the existing park footprint and is of reasonably high priority for implementation in the first stage of the project.

Feedback highlighted that Yan Yean Bluff is a valued vantage point of nature observation and landscape experience and offers an important destination for visitors.

Key opportunities to improve the visitor experience supported by community feedback include:



Walking trails



Picnic areas / gathering spaces



Revegetation and habitat enhancement



New cycle path

Note: The community feedback in relation to these opportunities was often conditional and included suggestions that had either design or operational implications which are detailed in the complete community engagement report.



4 Playground Picnic Area

The Playground Picnic Area was supported by community respondents as a practical, high-benefit location for improvements during stage 1 of the project.

Although support was given to restoration and improved access to the wetland area, some of this support was conditional and dependent on ensuring protection of the natural environment, reducing impact on nearby residents and concerns of public safety are addressed.

Key opportunities to improve the visitor experience supported by community feedback include:



Upgraded toilet facilities



Picnic areas / gathering spaces



Wetland restoration and viewing points



Playground upgrades

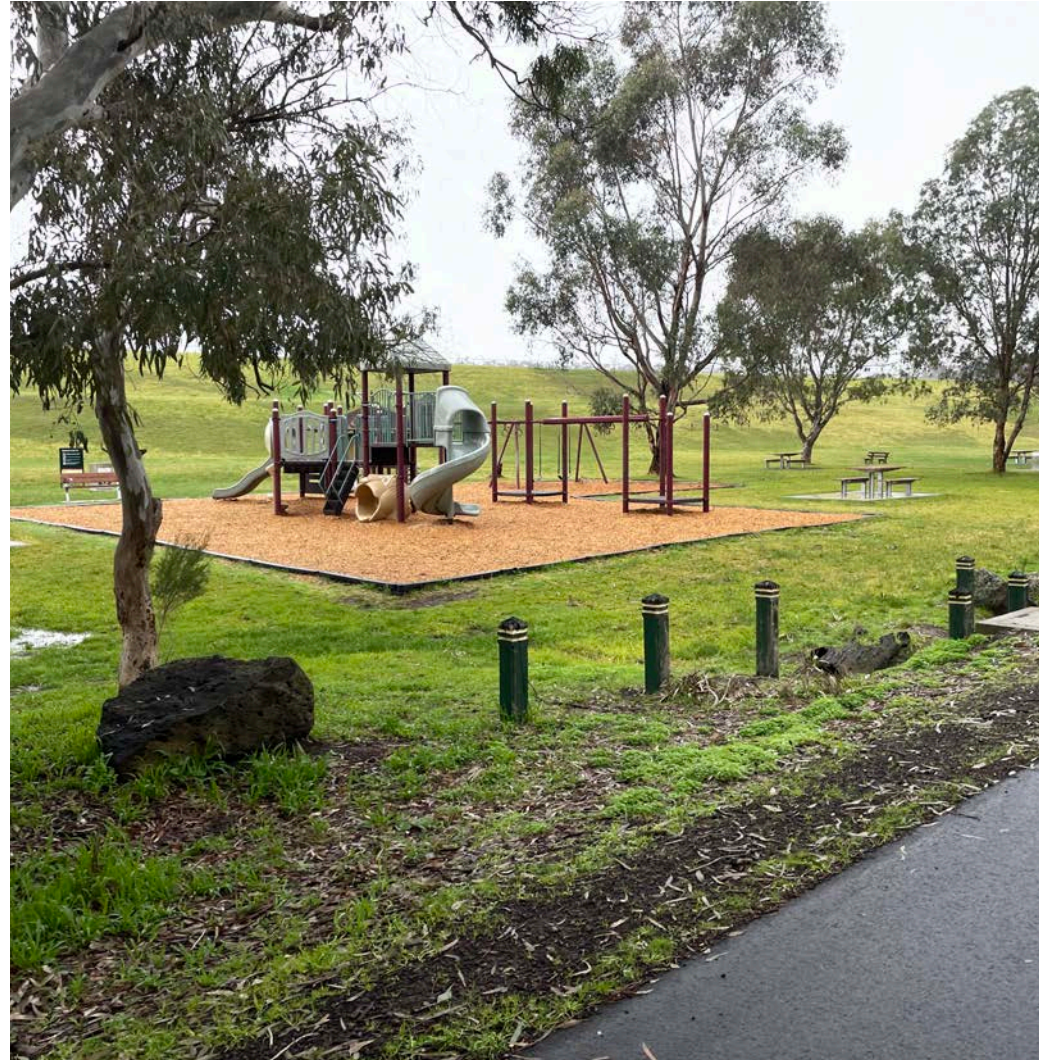


Revegetation and habitat enhancement



Bird hides

Note: The community feedback in relation to these opportunities was often conditional and included suggestions that had either design or operational implications which are detailed in the complete community engagement report.



5 Red Hill Picnic Area

Feedback on the Red Hill Picnic Area was limited, suggesting this area is seen as a lower priority for implementation

Key opportunities to improve the visitor experience supported by community feedback include:

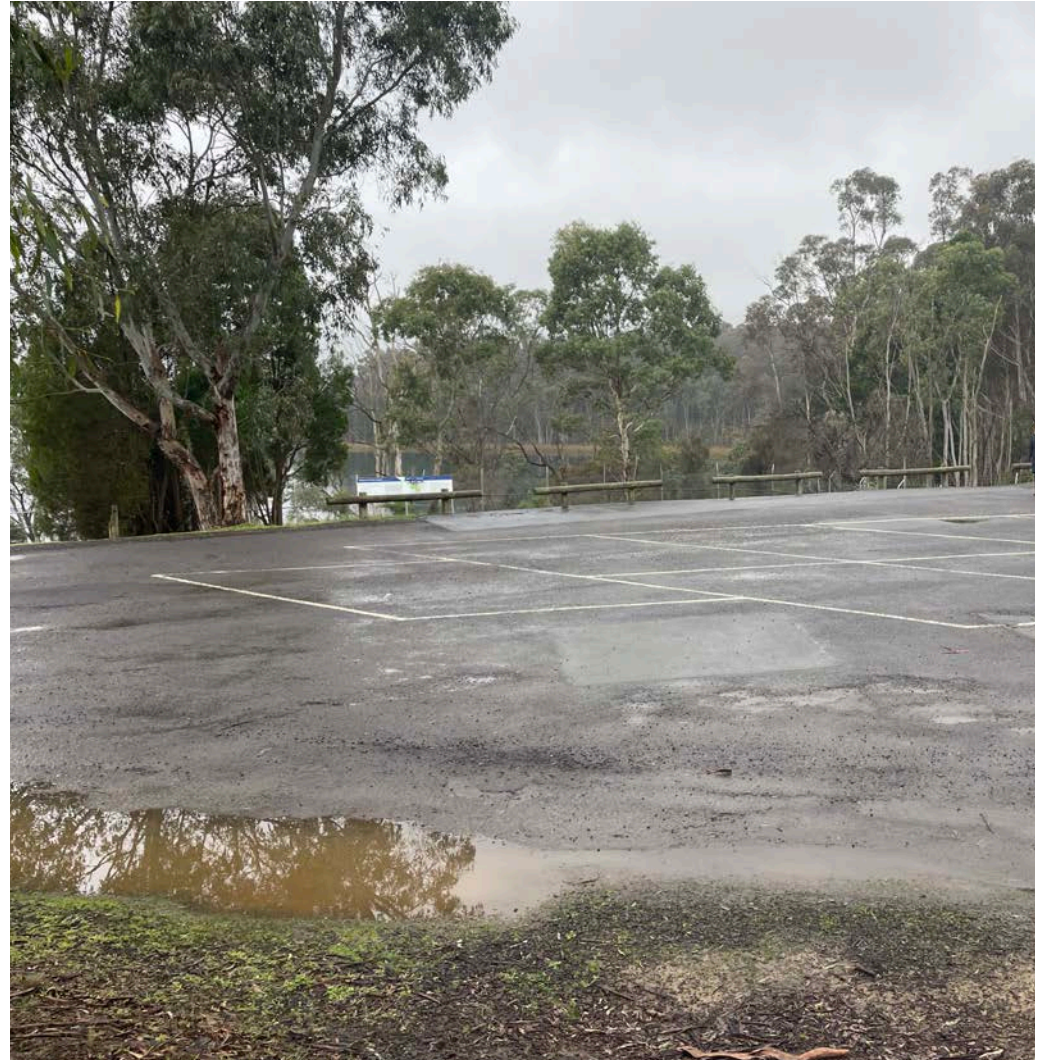


Improved parking



New shelters and lookouts to capture water views

Note: The community feedback in relation to these opportunities was often conditional and included suggestions that had either design or operational implications which are detailed in the complete community engagement report.





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