



Brimbank
City Council



COLLENSO STREET RESERVE

Closing the Loop: Community Engagement Report 2025-2026

Acknowledgement of Country and Council Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation

Acknowledgement of Country

Brimbank City Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Reconciliation in Brimbank

Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Bunurong People as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where our municipality sits. Council recognises the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who contribute to our community. We pay our respects to the wisdom of Elders past, present, and future.

We recognise their continuing spiritual connection to this land and renew our commitment to respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander beliefs, values and customs.

The Country in which Brimbank is located is under the statutory care of its Traditional Custodians, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to the south and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to the north of the municipality. For the Traditional Custodians, the lands in the City of Brimbank have always been a significant trading and meeting place.

Aboriginal people lived on these lands for over 65,000 years before European settlement. The rich history and continuous culture of our Traditional Custodians are woven throughout Brimbank, in its people, in significant sites and in murals recognising this history. Brimbank has about 440 registered sites of significance. The artefacts found are more than 30,000 years old. Some of these sites are in Brimbank Park, Yaluk Barrington (former Sydenham Park) and Organ Pipes National Park.

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Project Report

Project Overview

Project Name:	Collenso Street Dog Off Leash - Area Upgrade
Brimbank Directorate, Department, Team:	Infrastructure and City Services, Parks & Public Realm, Open Space Team
Project Purpose:	The purpose of this project is to improve the Collenso Street Dog Off-Leash Area by creating a more welcoming, comfortable, and engaging space for dogs and their owners. The upgrade will provide improved amenities and play opportunities, encourage social interaction and physical activity, and enhance the reserve's natural environment while protecting its valuable native grasslands
Engagement Purpose	To gather community feedback on the proposed upgrades to the Collenso Street Dog Off-Leash Area and ensure the final design meets the needs of dogs, their owners, and the surrounding environment.
Report Date:	16 June 2026
Report Version:	

Engagement Outcomes

This section summarises the key feedback we received from the community and sets out Brimbank City Council's official response.

We listened to all ideas, concerns, and priorities across the key themes of this project. The community's input has been important and has directly influenced the final recommendations and actions as outlined below.

Here, we provide clear details on:

- What the community told us (the main themes and points of view).
- How community and stakeholder feedback changed our plan (the decisions we made based on input received).
- Why certain suggestions could not be adopted (the reasons and limitations involved).

We thank everyone who contributed to ensuring this project reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

What we asked	What you said	What we will do
What activities do you and your dog enjoy most in a dog off-leash area?	Community members told us they enjoy activities such as walking, running, playing fetch, watching dogs interact with each other, exploring the reserve and throwing a ball.	The concept design retains large open grassed areas to support these activities and provide space for dogs to run and play. The design also includes agility and play elements to further enhance opportunities for exercise, exploration and enrichment
What do you like most about the Collenso Street Dog Off Leash Area as it is now?	Many community members value the large open space, which provides plenty of room for dogs to run, play and exercise freely.	The concept design retains large open grassed areas to preserve the spacious feel of the reserve and continue providing ample room for dogs to run and play.
How do you typically access this dog off-leash area?	Community members particularly supported the proposed small dog area, shelter, additional trees, seating, agility equipment and drinking fountain.	As the majority of visitors access the reserve on foot, the concept design focuses on maintaining and improving pedestrian access. The existing parking provision is considered adequate, and no additional parking is proposed as part of this upgrade.
What do you like most about the proposed concept plan?	Area for small dogs, Shelter, more trees, seats, agility equipment, water fountain	The concept design retains these popular features, as they were strongly supported by the community and align with the project's aim.
Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	A double-gate entry system	The current concept plan includes a double-gate entry system

Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	improvements to muddy areas at entrances and around drinking fountains	The current concept plan includes concrete paving at entrances and drainage around drinking fountains to address muddy areas.
Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	a walking track around the reserve,	Council will explore opportunities for a walking track around the reserve, subject to approval from the Environment Team, as any changes must minimise impacts on the significant native grassland vegetation within the reserve.
Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	A larger small dog area,	Council will explore opportunities for a larger small dog area, subject to approval from the Environment Team, as any changes must minimise impacts on the significant native grassland vegetation within the reserve.
Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	Additional areas for anxious or reactive dogs	Additional fenced dog areas are not currently proposed, as the reserve contains a significant patch of native grassland vegetation that limits opportunities for further subdivision. Retaining a large open area for dogs to run and play was also identified as a priority by many community members.
Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	More trees	Additional tree planting will be investigated in locations where it will not impact the native grassland vegetation, noting that trees cannot be planted adjacent to the vegetation patch as increased shading can adversely affect its health
Do you have any concerns or suggestions about the proposed design?	Lighting	In accordance with Council policy, park lighting is generally only provided in higher-order parks; however, Council will investigate opportunities for additional street lighting around the reserve.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the concept plan for Collenso Street Reserve Dog Off-Leash Area?

Provide BBQ

BBQ facilities are not proposed, as they are not permitted within Council's dog off-leash areas.

Engagement Methods

The below table summarises and evaluates the methods used and audiences targeted for input into this project.

IAP2 Spectrum Engagement Category	Date	Methods used	Target Audience(s)	Number of responses received	Effectiveness & Quality Assessment Rating
Consult	1 May - 31 May 2026	Your Say Page-Notified through letters to properties within 500 meter radius of reserve, on site signage	Residents living nearby reserve	30 responses	Rating: <i>Strong, Key</i> Justification: The engagement process was successful, with a good level of community participation t. The listening post enabled direct conversations with residents and dog park users, helping Council better understand community needs. The feedback received was detailed and useful, providing clear direction for refining the concept design and informing project decisions.
Consult	05/2026	Listening Post	Residents living nearby reserve	20 responses	Rating: <i>Strong, Key</i> Justification: The engagement process was successful, with a good level of community participation. The listening post enabled direct conversations

with residents and dog park users, helping Council better understand community needs. The feedback received was detailed and useful, providing clear direction for refining the concept design and informing project decisions.

Next Steps

Impact of Community Input

- How has the feedback influenced this project decisions, projects, planning, or policy?

Community feedback has helped confirm the key elements of the concept plan, including the provision of a small dog area, shelter, seating, drinking fountain and agility equipment. Feedback also identified opportunities to further investigate a walking track around the reserve, improvements to muddy areas, a larger small dog area, additional tree planting and lighting. The feedback has informed the ongoing development of the concept plan while balancing community preferences with the need to protect the significant native grassland vegetation within the reserve

- What is the direct connection between community input and project output?

Community input validated many of the key elements already included in the concept plan, such as the small dog area, shelter, seating, drinking fountain and agility equipment. Feedback also identified opportunities to investigate additional features, including a walking track, improvements to muddy areas, a larger small dog area, additional tree planting and lighting. This feedback will be considered during the detailed design phase, subject to environmental constraints and the protection of the site's significant native grassland vegetation.

- How can the community stay informed or engaged in future phases?

Community members can stay informed about the project through the project's Your Say page, where updates on the design, project progress and key milestones will be published.

Appendices

1. Engagement Data and Resources

26/213438 Collenso Street Reserve-Community Consultation Results- 2026-06-02_Form-ID-338

Glossary

The Act	The Local Government Act 2020
Annual Report	A report of Council's operations of the previous financial year. Contains a report of operations, audited financial statements and an audited performance statement
Appropriateness	Indicators or measures that provide users with sufficient information to assess the extent to which an entity has achieved a pre-determined target, goal or outcome
Budget	A plan setting out the services and initiatives to be funded for the financial year and how they will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in Council Plan
Council Plan	A plan setting out the medium-term strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and resources reflecting vision and aspirations of the community for the next four years
Financial performance indicators	A prescribed set of indicators and measures that assess the effectiveness of financial management in a council covering operating position, liquidity, obligations, stability and efficiency
Financial plan	A plan of the financial and non-financial resources for at least the next 10 years required to achieve the strategic objectives in Council Plan. It is also referred to as a long-term financial plan
Financial Statements	The financial statements and notes prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report, Australian Accounting Standards and other applicable standards as they apply to the general-purpose financial reports and a statement of capital works and included in the Annual Report
Financial year	The period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year
Governance and Management Checklist	A prescribed checklist of policies, plans and documents that councils must report the status of in the report of operations, covering engagement, planning, monitoring, reporting and decision making
Indicator	What will be measured to assess performance
Initiatives	Actions that are one-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in a service
Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework	The key statutory planning and reporting documents that are required to be prepared by councils to ensure accountability to local communities in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the Act
Major initiative	Significant initiatives that will directly contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan during the current year and have a major focus in the Budget
Measure	How an indicator will be measured and takes the form of a computation, typically including a numerator and denominator
Performance Statement	A statement including the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the Annual Report
Regulations	The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020
Relevance	Indicators or measures that have a logical and consistent relationship to an entity's objectives and are linked to the outcomes to be achieved

Report of Operations	A report containing a description of Council's operations during the financial year and included in the Annual Report
Service outcome indicators	The prescribed service performance indicators to be included in the Performance Statement which measure whether the stated service objective has been achieved
Service performance indicators	A prescribed set of indicators measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of Council services covering appropriateness, quality, cost and service outcomes
Services	Assistance, support, advice and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community
Strategic objectives	The outcomes a council is seeking to achieve over the next four years and included in Council Plan
Strategies	High-level actions directed at achieving the strategic objectives in Council Plan
Sustainable capacity indicators	A prescribed set of indicators measuring whether councils have the capacity to meet the agreed service and infrastructure needs of the local community and absorb foreseeable changes and unexpected shocks into the future. Covers financial performance, capacity, and governance and management

Brimbank City Council

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Hearing or speech impaired?

- TTY dial 133 677
- Speak & Listen 1300 555 727
- www.relayservice.gov.au, then enter 03 9249 4000



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