

GOLDEN BEACH

COMMUNITY CENTRE RESERVE

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS REPORT

WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL
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Community Engagement Summary



1.1 Community Engagement Summary

Introduction

As part of the Master Planning Process, Wellington Shire Council and ASPECT Studios are conducting a Community Engagement Process to gather feedback and insights from the community to influence the Master Plan of the Golden Beach Community Centre Reserve to ensure the vision and design proposal meet the needs and expectations of the Golden Beach Community.

Round 1 Consultation methods include:

- Dedicated site visit in March 2026 to speak directly with the community members to gain insight of the park's existing uses and community's needs and ideas for the future of the park.
- Attendance at End of Summer Festival Market at Golden Beach during Easter long weekend in April 2026 to engage with both local community and visitors
- 'Have Your Say' Online Survey, closed 27th April 2026.

This report captures the outcomes of the two in-person engagement sessions and online "Have Your Say" Survey.

A second round of Community Engagement will be held following the completion of DRAFT Master Plan to ensure community feedback is captured through the whole Master Planning Process.

A place to bring the community together in relaxed atmosphere

Site Visits & Community Engagement March & April 2026

Wellington Shire Council & Aspect Studios attended the site in March and April 2026 to reach local community members using the reserve and broader adjoining precinct. The consultation provided a valuable insight of the community's preferences, challenges, and aspirations for the future of the Reserve. It also collected local knowledge and stories, offering unique perspectives on the area.

Consultation methods included:

- Direct conversations
- Paper based survey – no-one took this up
- A precedent board presenting images of various activities and play equipment. Adults and children could vote for their favourite play and recreational activities by placing a sticker on top their selected images.
- Sticky notes on the aerial image of the site

The engagement included a diverse group of people of all ages including:

- Members of Golden Paradise Beach Senior Citizens Club
- Local adults including parents of school children
- School aged children between ages 7-13
- Visitors/campers over long weekend

During the consultation It became evident that to provide a functional and attractive destination for the local community to come together, the Master Plan needs to consider the Reserve in relation to the broader precinct and enhance relationships between different uses and user groups.

The following key themes were brought up during the consultation events:

- Safety
- Lighting
- Seating & Supervision
- Events & Gatherings
- Toilet Upgrades
- Art & Interpretation
- Play & Activation
- Bicycle Infrastructure
- Materials & Planting
- Wind Protection



"It is about the precinct, not just the park"

-Local Senior Citizens Club Member

Images from Community Engagement Site Visit with Shire of Wellington, ASPECT Studios and local community, including local Senior Citizens Club members and school children following school bus drop-off. March 2026

1.2 Key Feedback/Discussion Themes

Safety

- Currently play space feels unsafe as directly adjoins road and car park without sufficient buffer or bollards
- Request to introduce additional bollards & rope to edge of play space to improve safety
- It was noted that if play space was further away from car parking i.e. at the centre of the reserve further south, it would feel safer
- Potential fencing or additional bollards along Surf Edge Drive was requested in consideration of children of all ages and abilities
- Existing crossing location between Reserve and beach does not feel safe. Formalise with zebra crossing and/or consider relocating the crossing to align with entry to picnic area on the beach side

Lighting

- Improve lighting between Foodworks car park and public toilets and at the toilets
- Improve lighting between car park and public toilets and at the toilets

Art & Interpretation

- The community appreciated the existing artwork and elements within the park, but noted that addition of interpretative signage would enhance the visitor's understanding of the story and narrative behind the artwork & interpretative elements

Seating & Supervision

- Not enough seating around play area for parents, consider additional seating opportunities
- Existing seating is not shaded – consider introducing additional shade structures closer to play space
- Existing picnic shelter feels disconnected and could be closer to the play area for ease of supervision and allow parents to socialise in shade whilst children play
- Provide a meeting/gathering area for parents and children to socialise whilst waiting for school bus to arrive at drop off and pick up times
- Ensure type of seating accommodates for all abilities
- Introduce diverse seating opportunities that cater for individuals, groups, adults and children

Bicycle Infrastructure

- Request for bicycle racks close to community centre
- Request for bicycle repair station

Wind Protection

- Ensure shelters provide protection from strong winds
- Consider other windbreaks such as tall planting or additional structures

Events & Gathering

A strong desire for community events and gatherings was expressed during the discussions, and it was noted that a key consideration of the Master Plan should be how the Reserve and the broader precinct can better facilitate events such as

- Community Market
- Live Music Events
- Food Trucks
- Anzac Day Service & associated morning tea and gathering

The following ideas were discussed:

- Relocate BBQ shelter closer to north-east corner of the Reserve at existing play space location to enhance connection between the facilities, Community Centre and central lawn to enable the spaces to function together during events and gatherings
- Establish the existing play space as a picnic and gathering area with diverse seating opportunities – it was felt that this area has better connection to the central lawn/ Anzac Day Event Space and together the two sites could form a larger space to cater for community events and gatherings including Anzac Day Service, markets, live music or food trucks

Materials & Planting

- All materials must be durable incl. timber and marine grade steel
- Request for play space to have softfall rubber or alternative materials accessible for prams and wheelchairs
- Consider longevity and sustainability
- Consider suitability of species – some existing species have salt burn
- Pockets of colour with planting would be desirable
- Consider seasonal interest

Play, Exercise & Activation

- It was noted that if play space was further away from car parking i.e. at the centre of the reserve further south, it would feel safer and more immersive
- It was noted the existing play equipment feels dated and old
- It was noted that the existing play equipment mostly caters for children up to 10 years old and there is a lack of engaging activities for teenagers
- It was noted that during peak holiday seasons when campgrounds are full, the play space becomes overcrowded and waiting times to use equipment are long
- There is not many opportunities for all ages play and exercise – it was noted that whilst formal exercise equipment may have longevity issues due to climatic conditions and formal exercise in a public space may feel intimidating, it would be great if there were small multipurpose elements such as steppers that encourage exercise and can be utilised by multiple age groups.
- A climbing wall or rock climbing boulder was noted as a desired element from multiple age groups
- Multiple children noted the existing hammock and basket swings as their favorite elements and something they would wish to retain in the play area. They are also actively used in the mornings when children wait for the school bus.
- Additionally, precedent boards were used to gain insights on the desired activities and play equipment. Refer pages 6-8 for precedent boards and outcomes.

Toilet Upgrades

- Improve lighting between Foodworks car park and public toilets and at the toilets
- Request for foot washing opportunities close to toilet

1.3 Precedent Boards

MARCH 2026 ENGAGEMENT BOARDS

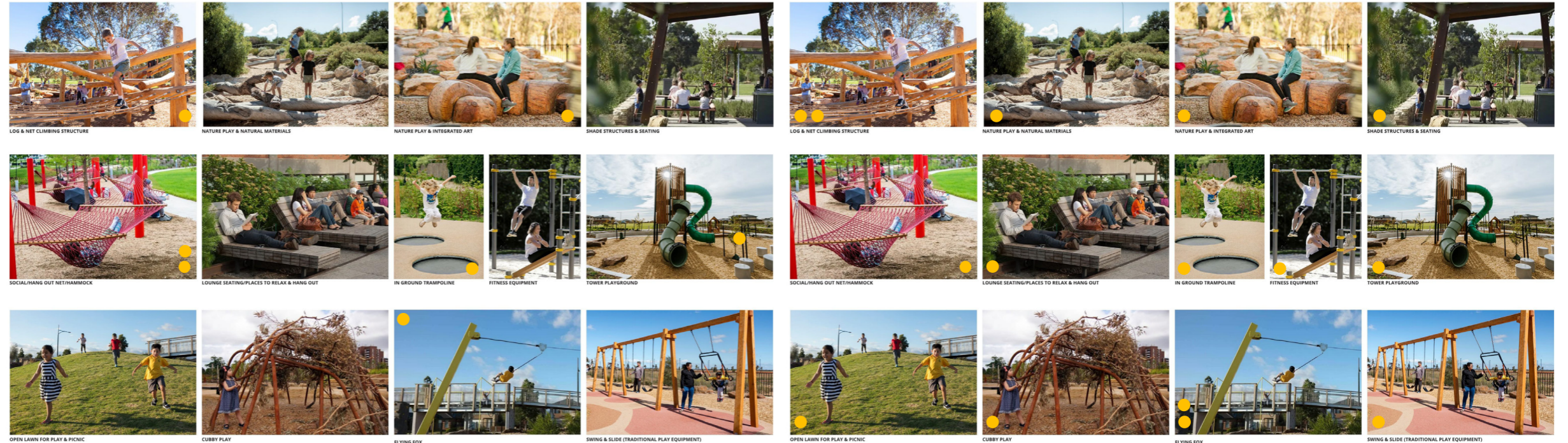
March 2026 engagement boards. Local children could vote for their favourite play and recreational activities by placing a sticker on top their selected images. All stickers were placed by local school-aged children.

GOLDEN BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE RESERVE

What would you like to see in the park - Place a dot on your favorite image!

GOLDEN BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE RESERVE

What would you like to see in the park - Place a dot on your favorite image!



APRIL 2026 ENGAGEMENT BOARDS

April 2026 engagement boards. Local and visiting adults and children could vote for their favourite play and recreational activities by placing a sticker on top their selected images.

Orange Stickers: Adults

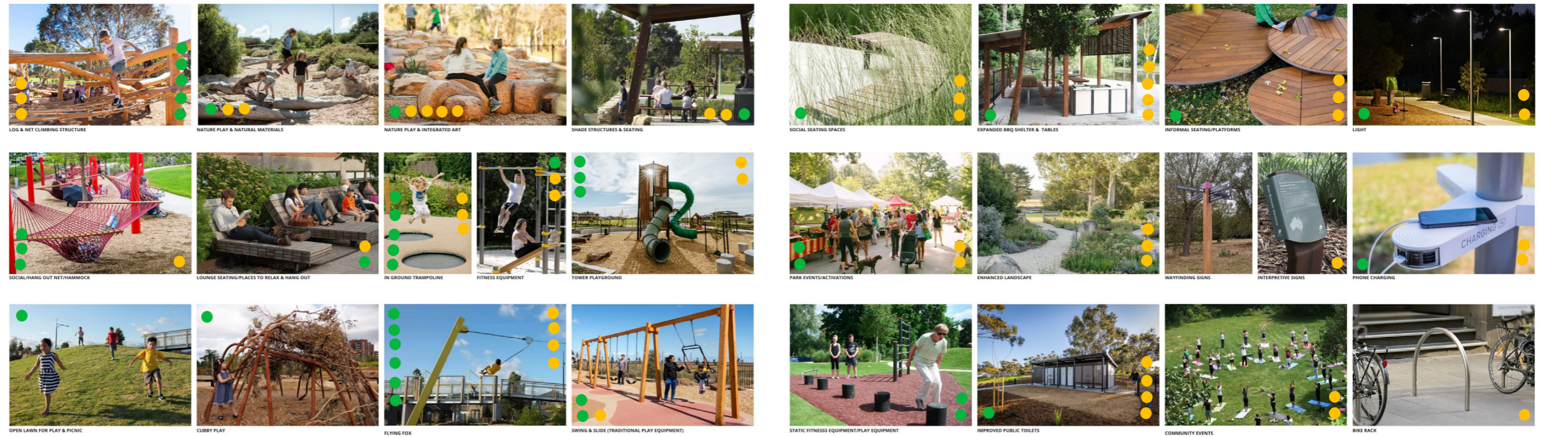
Green Stickers: Children

GOLDEN BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE RESERVE

What would you like to see in the park - Place a dot on your favorite image!

GOLDEN BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE RESERVE

What would you like to see in the park - Place a dot on your favorite image!



1.4 Precedent Boards - Outcomes & Ideas

Adults and children could vote for their favourite play and recreational activities by placing a sticker on top their selected images. The below table summarises the outcomes of voting from March and April 2026 engagement sessions.

- March 2026 Engagement Session was on the Reserve site with Welligton Shire Council & ASPECT Studios present
- April 2026 Engagement Session was at the End of Summer Festival Market at Golden Beach, attended by Shire of Wellington

Play Equipment/Activity	March 2026 Children Votes	April 2026 Children Votes	April 2026 Adult Votes	Total Votes	Top Priority
Log Climbing Structure	3	5	3	11	2
Nature Play	1	1	2	4	
Nature play with integrated art	2	1	4	7	4
Shade & seating	1	1	2	4	
Social Hammocks	3	3	1	7	4
Lounge seating	1	1	1	3	
Inground trampolines	2	5	3	10	3
Fitness equipment	1	1	2	4	
Tower playground	2	3	2	7	4
Open lawn	1	1	0	2	
Cubby play	1	1	0	2	
Flying fox	3	6	4	13	1
Swings & traditional play equipment	1	2	1	4	

"I want to climb HIGH"

-Local Child

"A larger swing were I fit with my friends would be awesome"

-Local Youth

TOP 3 PLAY ELEMENTS



Flying Fox - 13 votes



Log Climbing Structure - 11 votes



Trampolines - 10 votes

SHARED 4TH PLACE



Social Hammocks - 7 votes



Nature Play with Integrated Art - 7 votes



Tower Playground - 7 votes

1.5 Precedent Boards - Outcomes & Ideas

The April 2026 Engagement Session at the End of Summer Festival Market included an additional board showcasing different passive recreation opportunities and amenities. The below table summarises the outcomes of voting.

Play Equipment/Activity	April 2026 Children Votes	April 2026 Adult Votes	Total Votes	Top Priority
Natural seating spaces	1	4	5	
Expanded BBQ Shelters & Table	1	5	6	1
Informal seating/ platforms	1	3	4	3
Light	1	2	3	
Park events & activation	2	2	4	3
Enhanced landscape	0	3	3	
Wayfinding & interpretative signs	0	1	1	
Phone charging	1	2	3	
Static fitness/play equipment	2	0	2	
Improved public toilets	1	4	5	2
Community events	0	2	2	
Bike racks	0	1	1	

TOP 3 AMENITIES



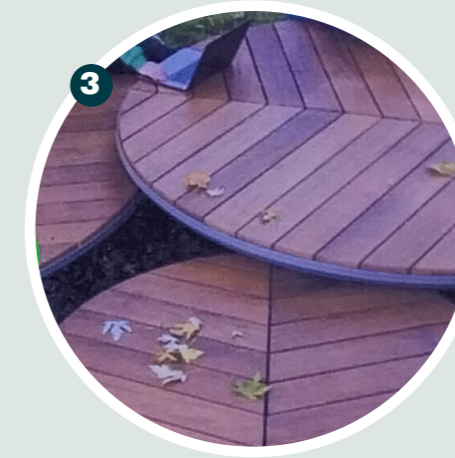
Expanded BBQ Shelters & Table - 6 Votes



Improved Public Toilets - 5 votes



Park Events & Activation - 4 votes



Informal Seating & Platforms - 4 votes

1.6 Sticky Notes - Outcomes & Ideas

During the End of Summer Festival Market at Golden Beach, locals and visitors were able to place sticky notes with comments and ideas on top of an aerial image of the site. The image on the right presents digitalised version of the sticky notes.

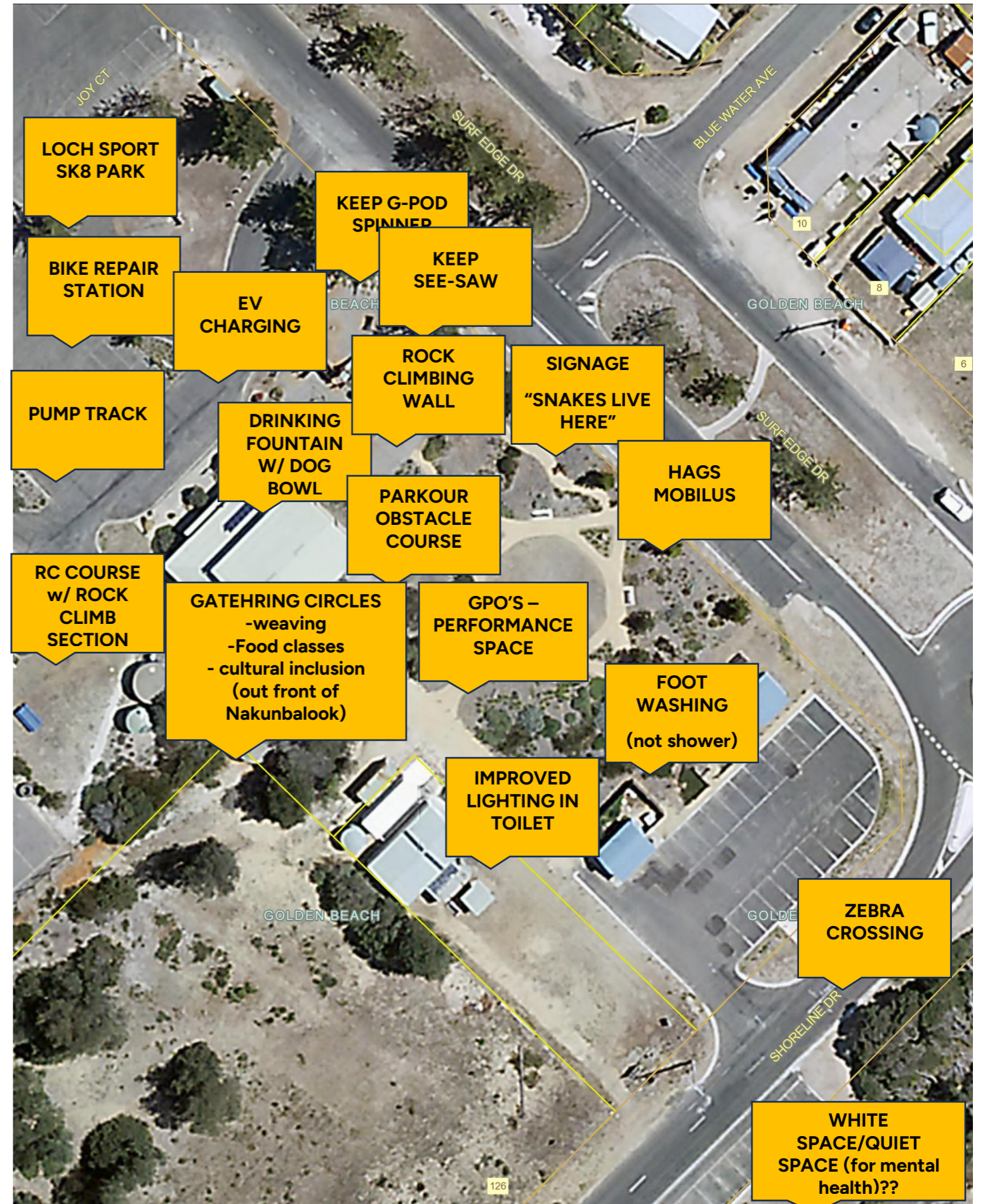
The sticky notes introduced new ideas and insights in addition to the ones gained through conversations and precedent boards and ephasise the importance of diverse play opportunities as well as flexible space that caters for community events and gatherings of different types.

CONSISTENT THEMES WITH IN-PERSON DISCUSSIONS & PRECEDENT BOARDS

- Improved Lighting
- Gathering Spaces & Activation
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Safe Access to Beach/Across Shoreline Drive
- Signage
- Additional Play Equipment

ADDITIONAL KEY IDEAS & COMMENTS

- Pump Track
- Skate Park
- Parkour
- Drinking Fountain & Dog Bowl
- Bike Repair Station
- Performance Space
- Foot Washing
- Specific Play Equipment - See-saw, Hags Mobilus, Spinner
- Sensory Space/Quiet Space



1.7 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Outcomes

An online survey was open for community consultation during March and April 2026. It provided an opportunity for community members, stakeholders and user groups to share their ideas and help shape the development of Draft Master Plan.

The survey gained a total of 78 responses, providing great insight to improvements and activities important to the local community and visitors. All the responses to the survey were provided by adults in age groups ranging from 25-85 years old. Children and youth were not represented in the survey responses.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. How often do you usually visit the Golden Beach Reserve?
2. Who do you usually go with?
3. How do you spend your time at the reserve/park?
4. What are your favourite things to do at a reserve/park?
5. What is important to you in a reserve/park?
6. What would improve the experience for you, locals, and visitors at Golden Beach Community Centre Reserve?
7. What would you like to do more of at the reserve?
8. Do you have any comments for you would like to share?

78 RESPONSES

CONSISTENT THEMES WITH IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

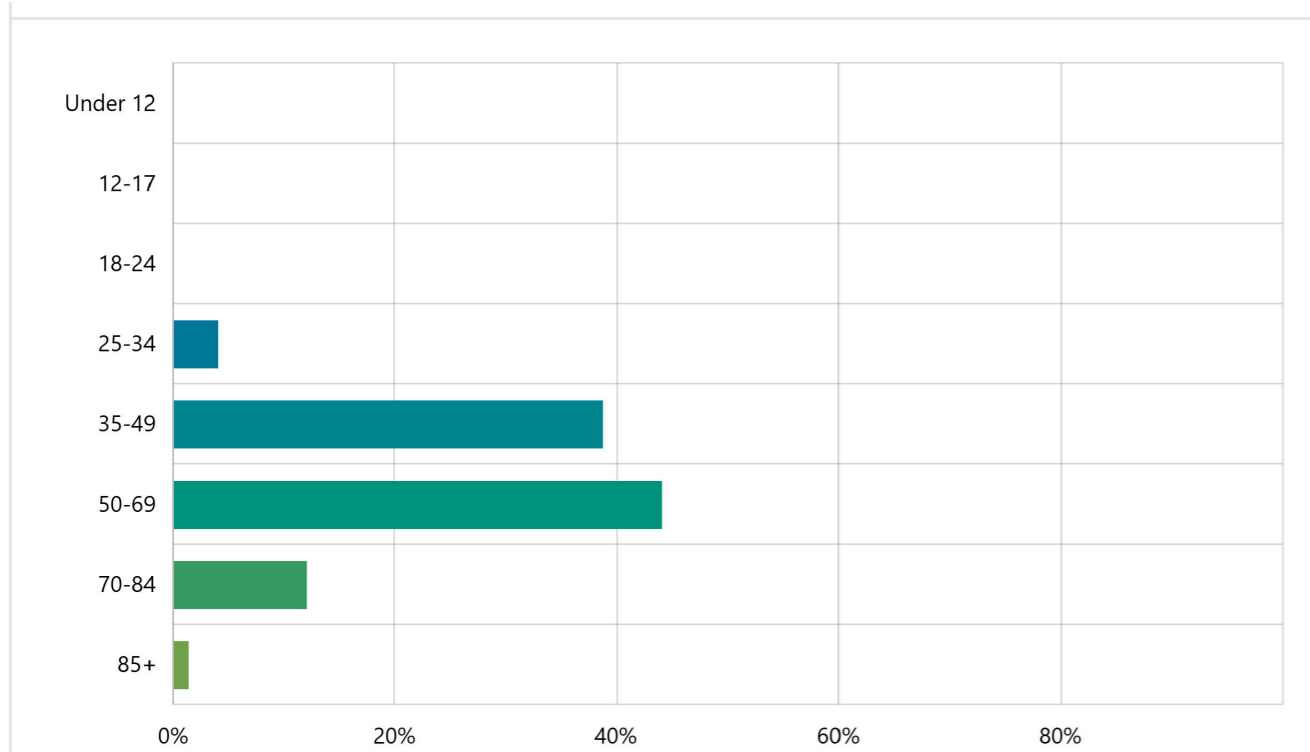


ADDITIONAL KEY IDEAS & COMMENTS



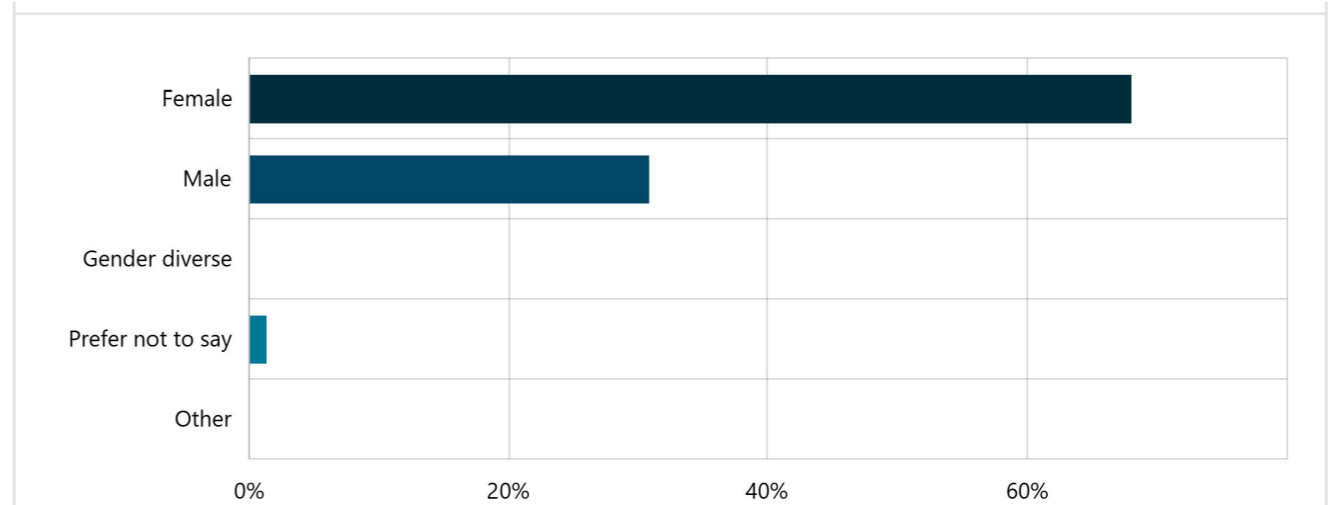
1.8 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Response Demographics

AGE



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Under 12	0%	0
12-17	0%	0
18-24	0%	0
25-34	4.00%	3
35-49	38.67%	29
50-69	44.00%	33
70-84	12.00%	9
85+	1.33%	1
Total	100.00%	75

GENDER



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Female	67.95%	53
Male	30.77%	24
Gender diverse	0%	0
Prefer not to say	1.28%	1
Other	0%	0
Total	100.00%	78

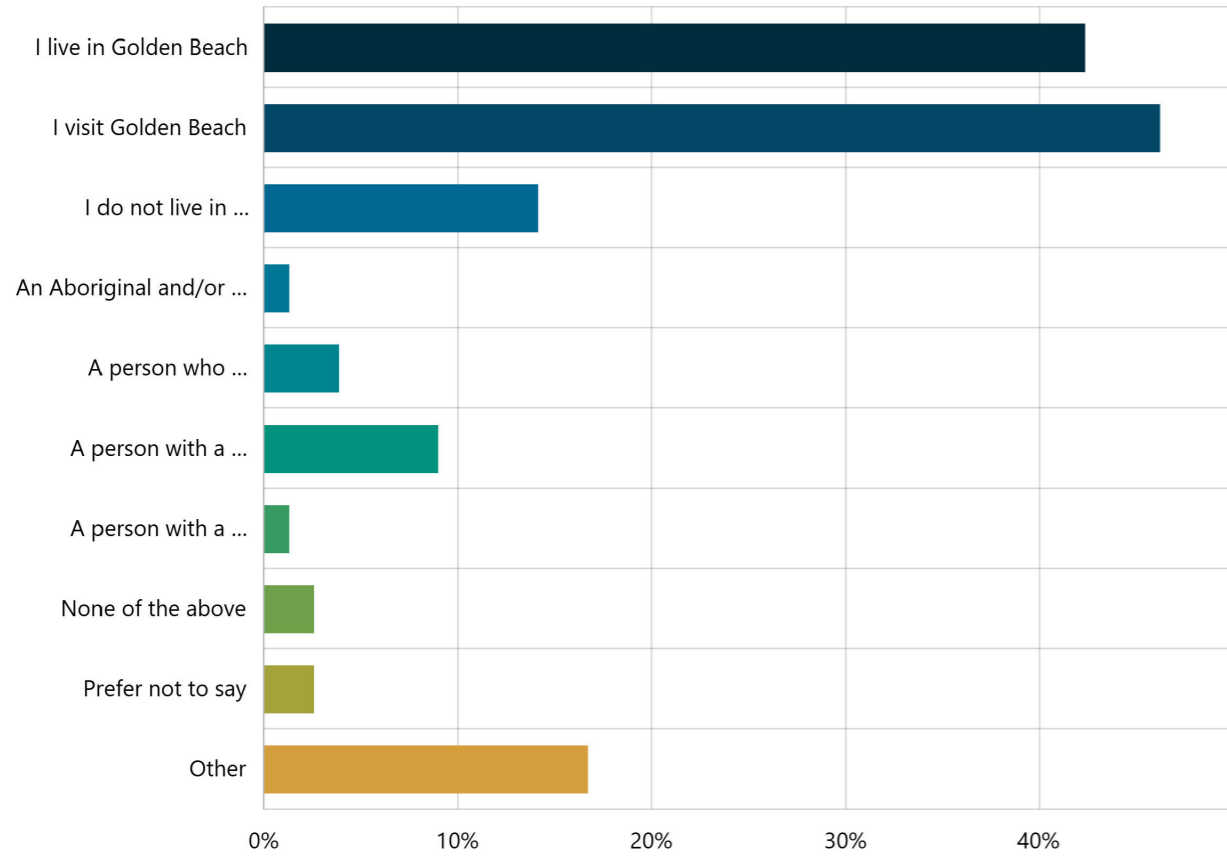
0% Children Response

82% between ages 35 and 69

67.94% Female Responses

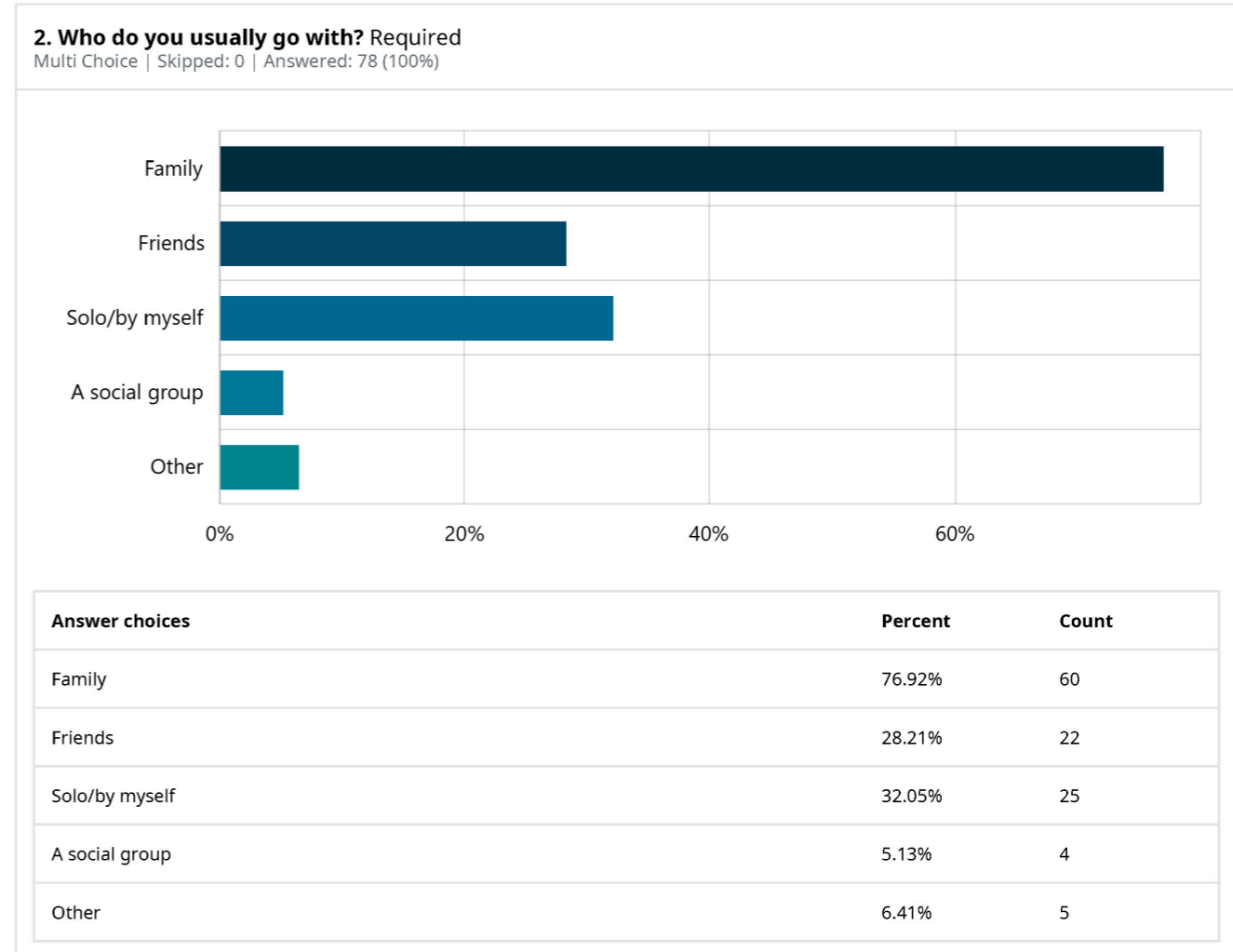
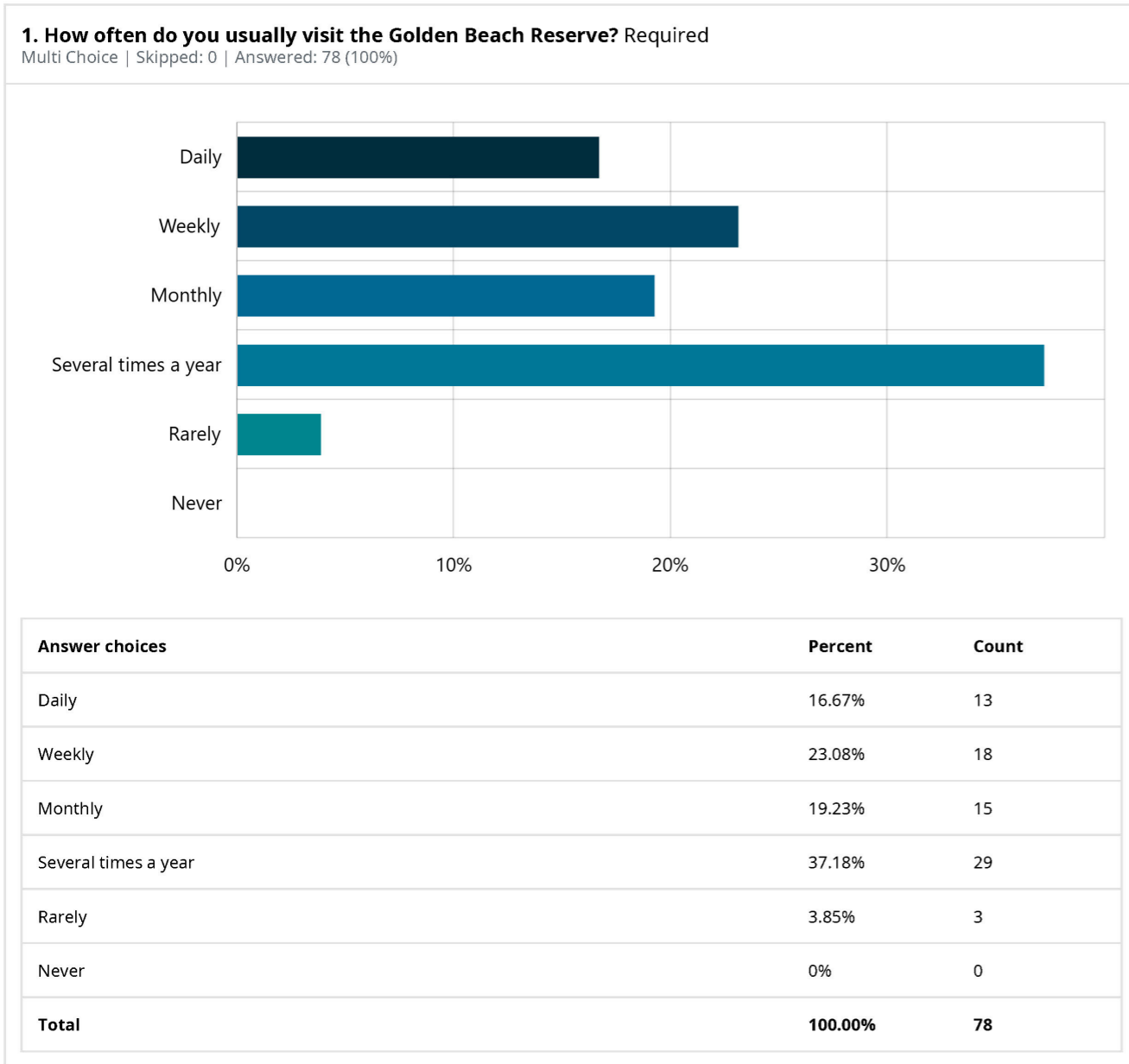
1.9 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Response Demographics

SELECT ALL THAT DESCRIBE YOU

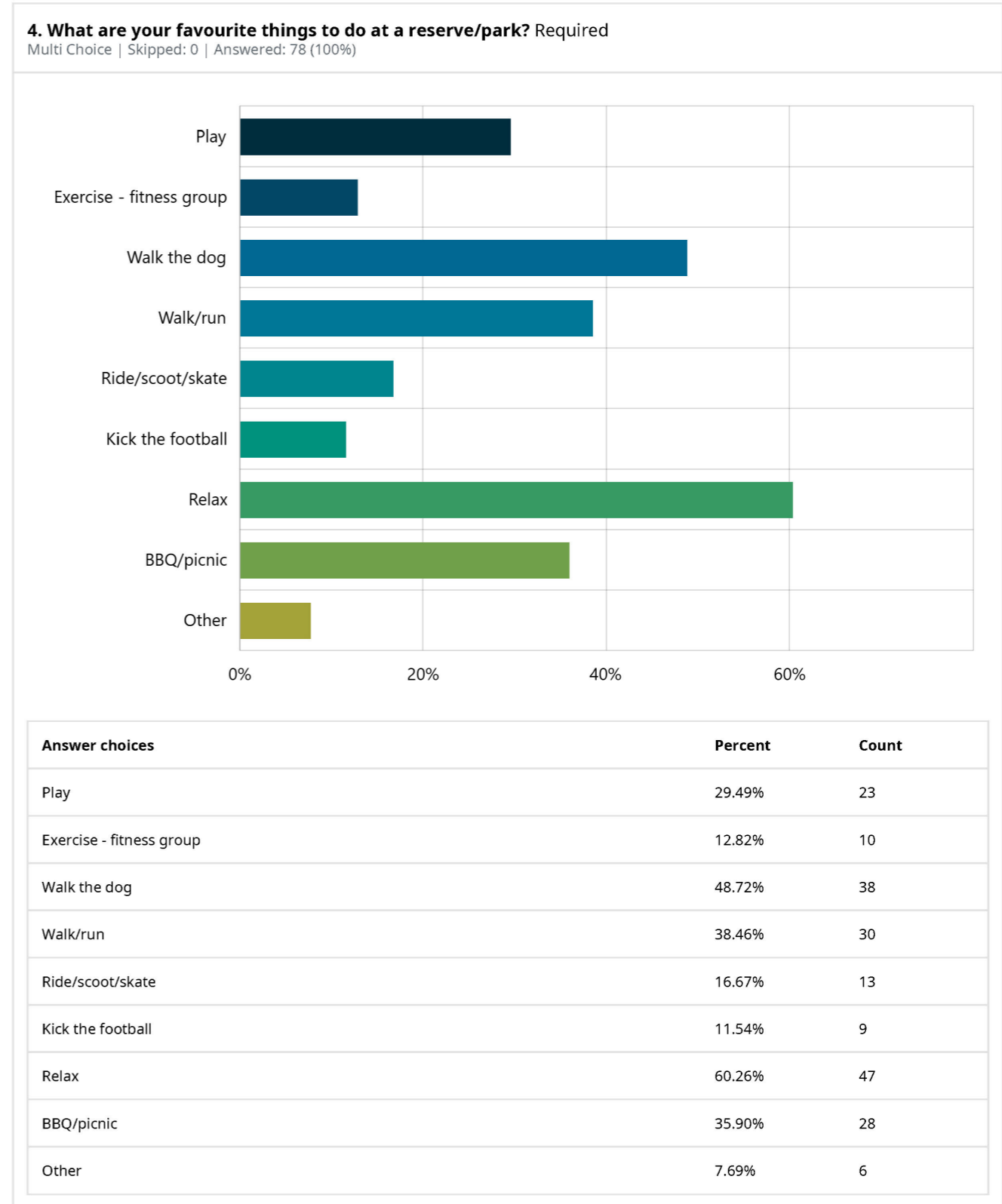
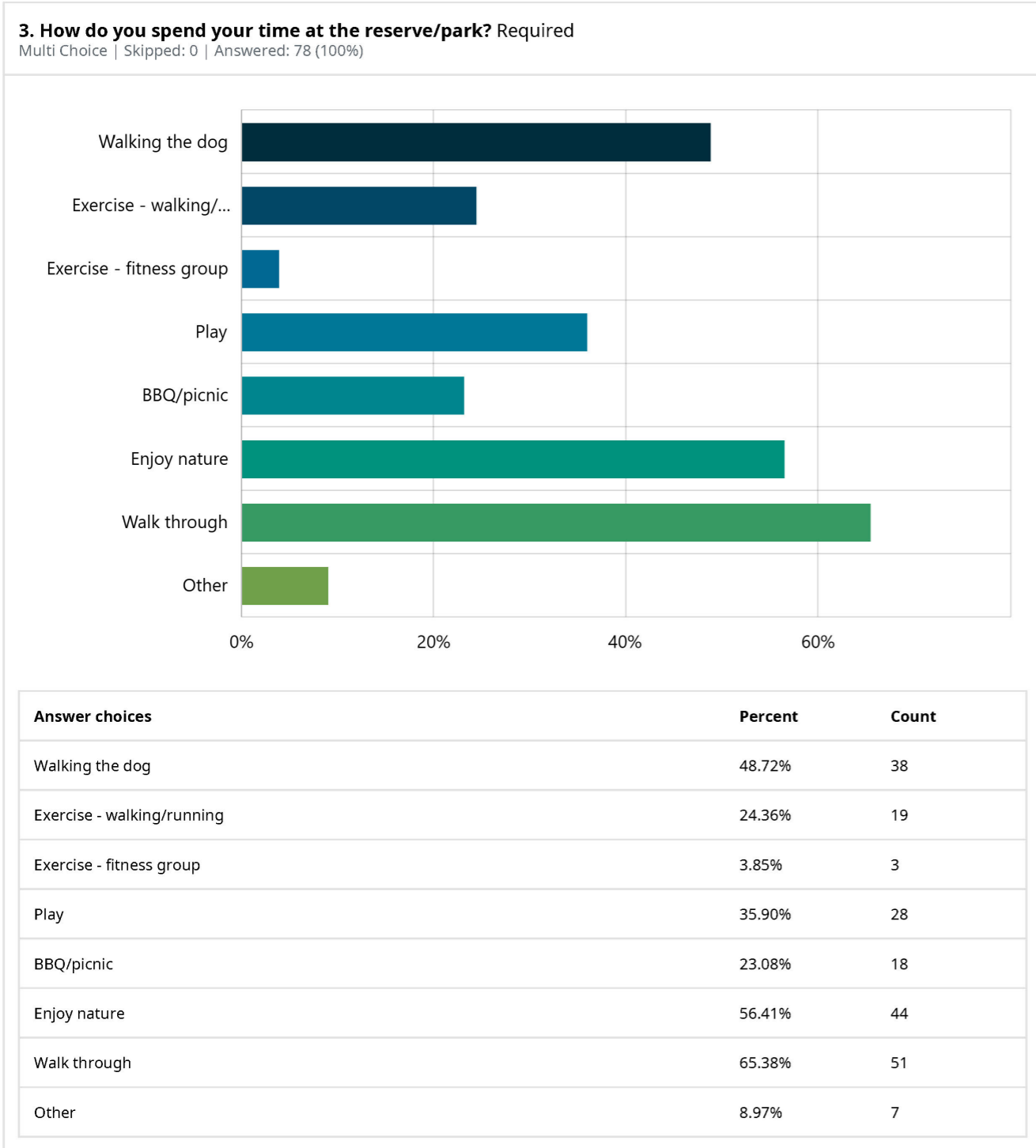


Answer choices	Percent	Count
I live in Golden Beach	42.31%	33
I visit Golden Beach	46.15%	36
I do not live in Golden Beach	14.10%	11
An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1.28%	1
A person who identifies as LGBTQIA+	3.85%	3
A person with a disability or impairment	8.97%	7
A person with a non-English speaking background	1.28%	1
None of the above	2.56%	2
Prefer not to say	2.56%	2
Other	16.67%	13

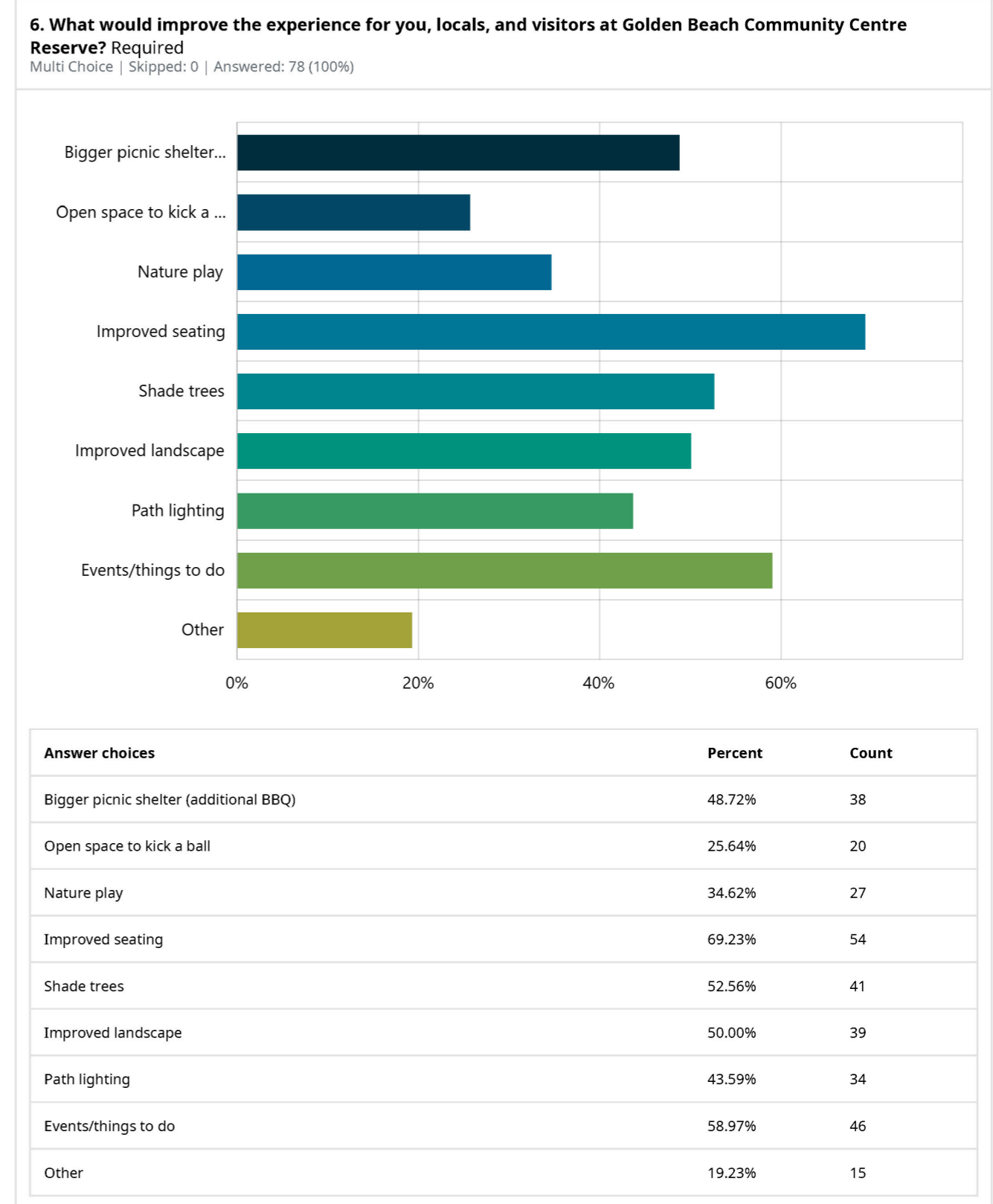
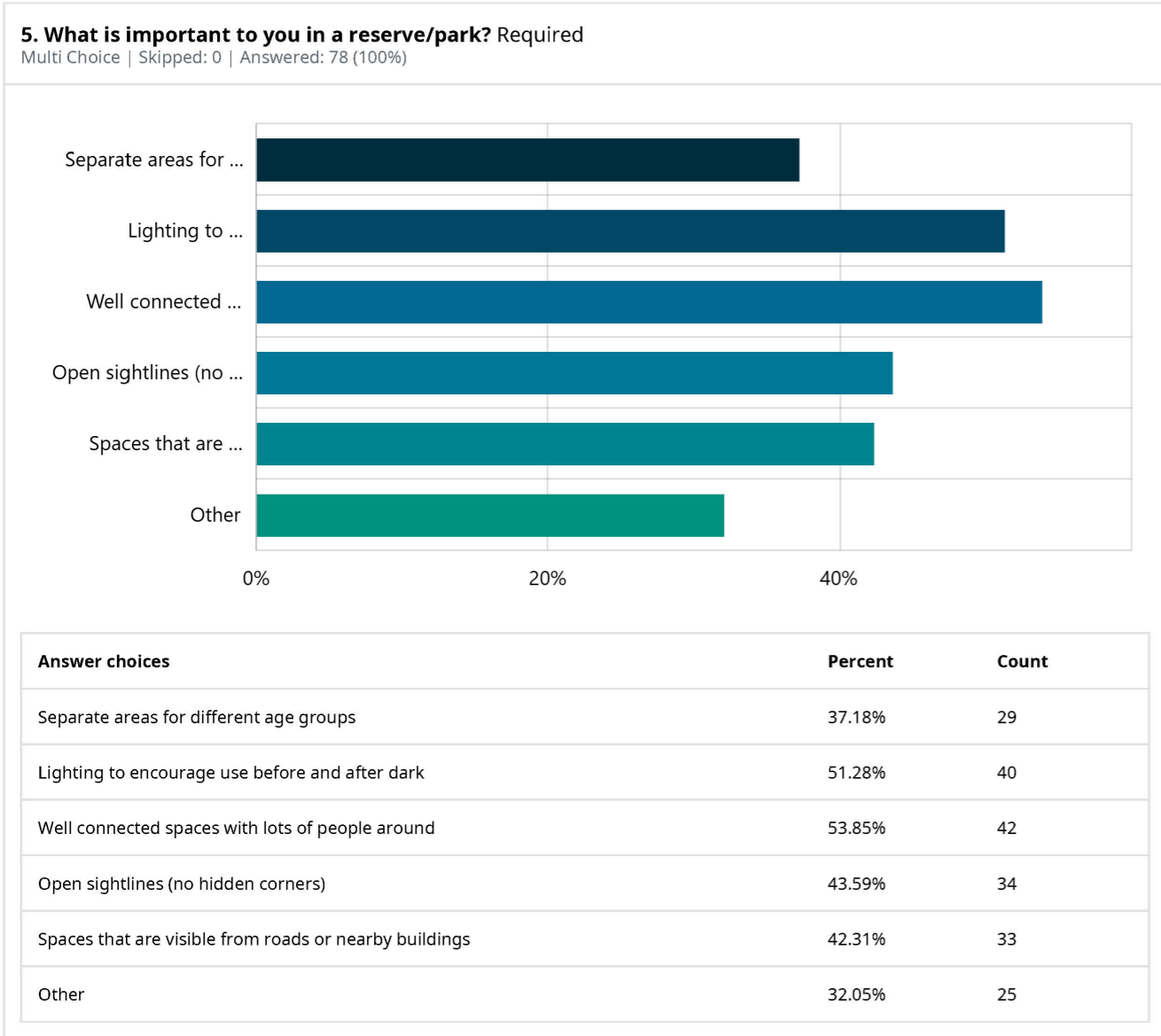
1.10 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Questions



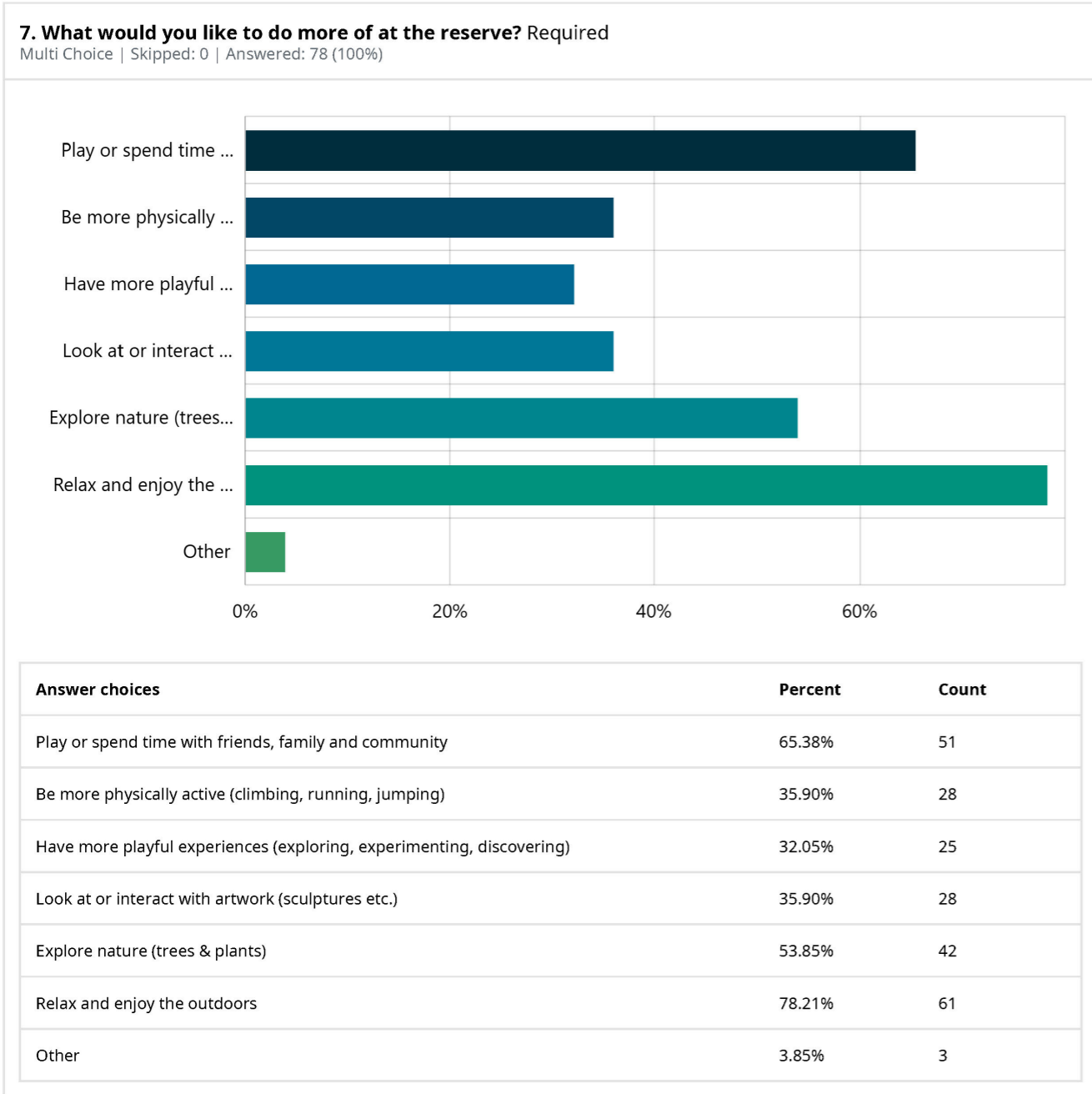
1.11 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Questions



1.12 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Questions



1.13 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Questions



OTHER RESPONSES

“Let my dogs off-leash in a safe environment.”

“Cafe”

“More access to local shops. At present, just the general store. Would be nice to have a dedicated coffee shop/cafe in the reserve area to bring people together while enjoying nature. Movie nights, live music etc especially during peak periods and on the weekend market.”

1.14 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Other Comments

"PLEASE make this a priority, **our town badly needs some love and updating.**"

"I like to have a **Cafe** to sit inside and outside to enjoy the views. With a coffee and cake."

"Better **BBQ** Facilities, upgrade the **Toilets, lighting, seating.**

Tables, Drinking water fountain."

"Revamped public toilets."

"I think a **water play area** for kids is crucial - the ocean is a little rough for kids to swim safely. More shade is also important, as there is not much of it at the momen."

"Needs to be more **connected and open** with a purpose, **seating, shade** for interacting and not segregated like it is now."

"We have kids and there are plenty more moving in too. **A skatepark** in addition to **upgraded/larger park** would be ideal for them."

"A safely enclosed **dog park** would offer significant social, health, and environmental benefits to residents and visitors while supporting responsible pet ownership.

A local dog park would provide a safe and appropriate space for dogs to exercise off-leash, reducing issues such as boredom, anxiety, and nuisance behaviours. In turn, this can lead to fewer complaints related to barking, roaming, and misuse of shared public spaces.

A dog park would positively impact the wider community, becoming an informal social hub, encouraging interaction among residents who may not otherwise connect in a town with few facilities and public meeting spaces.

A designated dog park would enhance the safety of both dogs and people in Golden/Paradise Beach. Almost all of the streets in Golden Beach and all streets in Paradise Beach are without footpaths. Residents have no choice but to walk their dogs on the narrow roads, putting their own lives and those of their dogs at risk on a daily basis.

A designated dog park also helps protect existing public spaces. By providing an appropriate location for off-leash activity, pressure is reduced on playgrounds, beaches, walking tracks, and ecologically sensitive areas. This supports better compliance with leash rules elsewhere and helps preserve shared facilities for all users.

From a public health perspective, dog parks promote physical activity for owners, supporting both mental and physical wellbeing.

Additionally, a local dog park can enhance Wellington's appeal to tourists who travel with pets. Many people visit the area in campervans and motorhomes and use apps such as Dogpack to find secure dog parks for stopovers or breaks.

Visitors are increasingly seeking pet-friendly destinations, and a well-maintained dog park provides a safe and enjoyable space for their dogs, encouraging longer stays, repeat visits, and positive word-of-mouth promotion of the area as a welcoming and inclusive destination.

Finally, a well-designed dog park can be developed with environmental sustainability in mind, incorporating dog waste management facilities"

"I take my mother over to golden beach for fish and chips on a regular basis but fine walking to picnic table is a struggle with her wheelie walker it **needs a disability track** like we have at loch sport to go down to the beach."

"**Clean toilet and hand washing facilities.** Electric vehicle charging and parking. **Coffee shop/bakery/cafe.** School holiday **events like movie nights.** Indoor community gym."

"The Community Hall area has not been actively or considerably managed in the interests of encouraging social or healthy activity. Enquiries and expressions of interest aimed at more social cohesion have at times been rebuffed, rejected in a most unfriendly manner, offering nom flexibility or enthusiasm for new positive ideas, leaving the building and area underused. **Golden Paradise Beach community has no central social hub.** This has left most, especially older people lonely, forgotten, unrecognised. Many permanent residents live in areas that are sparsely populated because of the overwhelming number of only holiday accomodations. The misnamed Community Centre has stood mostly silent and inactive nearly every day of the week, over the past nine years of my residency, a waste of a building."

"I suggest a management committee run along the lines of The Neighbourhood House model, with a constitution that demands low cost or free activities with personal and community health in all its facets considered. The Hall should be open and accessible 7 days per week. This might also inspire opportunities that cater to visitors and their ability to mix with permanent locals. New younger people should be invited to participate on committees."

"I am more concerned about all the aggressive dogs they are here. My daughter is too scared to bring her dogs up here we are constantly looking behind every time we go down the beach we have to constantly look around to see if there are dogs off the lead. It is even scary going for a walk. I am too scared of being attacked by animals. Also it would be nice to clear the trees so the sea is visible there are lots of older people here that have to travel far to have a look. Also I find that the rates are too high now and land taxes are getting to high it makes it hard for people that have worked so hard to build here and then think about selling because of this."

"Our family miss the tennis courts. **We would love things for teenagers to keep occupied.** A **BIG skatepark** would be great. **Water play** would be good as beach not safe for swimming - I understand accessing water is an issue."

"Some **council bins** pretty please. Please invest in those bins being collected during peak. Signs to encourage a clean space and the importance of this environment can help with that. Every peak time, residents are the ones collecting dropped rubbish along the beach and parks. If people are going to come here, they need to respect it!

A rock wall would be pretty cool! For adults!

And a squash court!

Bike racks!"

1.15 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Other Comments

"A **changing places toilet** would be helpful to make the area accessible for those who need the facilities."

"**Better rubbish management** opportunities in and around the community hub especially extra bins at holiday times and long weekends."

"I would love to see more **fitness type facilities** - chin up bar, bench for sit ups, shoulder press, etc."

"Improve town centre and make it more modern."

"Area is fantastic to live and visits. Just needs more service upgrades and **more to do for the kids.**"

"**Link areas between community centre, beach and surf lifesaving club**"

"Disabled people find it is difficult to interact, and disabled people use it twice a week."

"Would like to see the space used more for **community events** for families and all to enjoy."

"Yes - the Survey does not quite fit my personal experience, Living at Traralgon for the past nine years I use this town as a jumping off area to drive to experience local places within 100 km and in fact I plan to write a story about this for the local newspapers - sort of "in the middle of everywhere".

I discovered Golden Beach after learning that a friend had a house there and yesterday I discovered that one volunteer at the Armed Services Museum has lived there for years.

I can drive direct from Traralgon to GB the back way of 84 km via Longford but taking care with the kangaroos.

I love the friendly simplicity of GB, the rabbits and roos on the golf course, the friendly men's shed, the huge sandhill offering ringside views of the wide blue ocean, the Foodland hamburgers, even the \$4 hot showers plus the enticement of \$100,000 blocks (for my camper) or modest-priced homes so I wish you luck with your special park effort but I am happy with my picnic basket, a cuppa, and simple peace."

"I would like to see the hall transformed into something more like the Seaspray model where the life saving club/ angling club / **yoga**, what ever can actually use it regularly .

A look out to enjoy our beautiful beach with bar and restaurant/ cafe pizza ,calamari ,Parma and beers open to all .the current format is really a waste of prime resource! No one really uses it . The park area is good for kids but again I only see people there when it is a long weekend. **The annual surf fishing competition** is the oldest in Australia and still plugs along nicely every year with the weigh in station working out of a tent in front of the shops, surely it would attract a better crowd and atmosphere if it could be done at the hall / new tavern much like the Vic Bream tournament weigh ins at the Meetung hotel.

There is plenty of parking already , and it could also provide a much needed social outlet for locals to chew the fat and mingle more if they like."

"This centre would be an ideal space for a Cafe/bar like Seaspray's SLSC. It would allocate the growth of the newly established Golden/Paradise beach SLSC to flourish in better surroundings than they have inherited.

The facility seems **under used** in my opinion and a bit cost prohibitive for those who have tried to get exercise classes up and running in the past. For example."

- "Increase in **indigenous plants with descriptions and significance to local indigenous people.**
- Licenced **cafe**/small bar to bring people together (shipping containers can work well)
- Family holiday activities eg. Mini golf, movie nights, **local live music** eg solo or small groups.
- **Access to bins to encourage use of bbqs/picnics and appropriate disposal of rubbish.**
- **Additional toilets** with adequate flush, hand washing facilities and bins.
- Promotion of Surf Life Saving Club and a loan tub at the beach entrance for boogie boards, sand buckets etc.
- **Outdoor fitness gym equipment** to encourage small group training, community connection and well being."

"It is a great space that is really **poorly utilised.** There are no bins which is a huge issue for us - the only one is at the general store. And it could be an amazing space with events/ activities being held that visitors to the area could really use - markets, kids activities etc."

"As per as is at Seaspray, a much better entrance to the beach. A Much better and bigger improved Landing and Lookout are over looking the ocean."

"I want to emphasise **the need for connections** between the hall, Art gallery, nursery, church, men's shed and shop etc in that area. Visual lines and readable signage would be a great start! Would love a **small amphitheatre to encourage functions** like Carols by candlelight, **music festivals** and centre for the fishing competition prize giving!"

- "Move the basket ball court, nobody knows where it is.
- Add space for the **newly formed surf club.**
- Creating better path and viewing platform at entrance
- **Update toilet facilities"**

"The hall needs to be used. We had a few activities held in the space but they have all moved to the golf club. It is a shame to have such a facility locked up and unused. It could also be open on extreme heat days for locals and campers. So much should/could happen there. But it is always locked."

"Invest in additional ways to connect people to 90 Mile beach and the rest of the area. It is a great part of the state and really under utilized"

1.16 'Have Your Say' Online Survey - Other Comments

"Having life saving facilities and **improved beach access** as well as more seating with nature viewing spots would be a great improvement."

"We need **more lighting** in our street I have a house in Astro Avenue at night its so dark needs lighting for security reasons."

"Will we have opportunity to review what the plans are? Solar night lights."

"Yes finish the footpath to the road edge."

"Please support more local businesses to open, that will bring in visitors and tourists."

"There needs to be **wheelchair accessible paths** off to the side with covered picnic tables."

"**Not enough tables or BBQ shelters.** There used to be multiple shelters and they're gone. The open grassed area looks uninviting and **the playground at the Community hall needs updating.** The lookout at the beach needs to be bigger and safe."



1.17 Next Steps

Community Engagement Pop-Up Session 2

Format

- ASPECT Studios & Council to have a table/pop-up stall at a same location as during Pop-Up session 1 on site and at the Market
- Print outs of proposed Draft Master Plan, precedent images, play equipment, materials etc.
- Post it notes for Community comments and ideas

Workshop Objectives/Discussion

- To present and seek community feedback on the DRAFT Master Plan proposals to inform the completion of Master Plan process

Timing: Mid-May Date TBC

DRAFT Master Plan Online Feedback

Format

- DRAFT Master Plan to be published on Council Website for Community feedback and input
- Recommended period 4 weeks

Objectives

- Collect community feedback on the DRAFT Master Plan to inform the final designs
- Share key findings and ideas from previous community Pop-Up sessions and demonstrate how outcomes have informed the design process to date

Timing: Starting following Community Engagement Session 2. 3-4 week period





Section 2

Opportunities & Constraints



2.1 Site Context & Existing Conditions

Key

1	Existing Play Space
2	Existing Vegetation
3	Lawn with Central Artwork
4	Existing Picnic Shelter
5	Existing Lawn & Vegetation - Sewer Easement
6	Existing Lawn
	Bus Stop incl. School Bus
	Existing Toilet Block
	Car Park
	Site Boundary



2.2 Existing Site Photos

A site visit was conducted by Wellington Shire Council and ASPECT Studios in March 2026 to assess the existing site conditions. .



The centre of the Reserve currently lacks activation/program



Existing picnic shelter is aged and lacks visual connection to play space



Existing sculpture within play space



Existing artwork at the centre of existing lawn



Existing basket swing was identified as favorite amongst local children



Well-established coastal vegetation within the Reserve



The basketball court is currently underutilised



A Kangaroo footprint was observed during the site visit



Existing play equipment is dated and needs replacement

2.3 Traditional Owner Engagement & Co-design Opportunities

A respectful and authentic engagement process begins with genuine conversations that support self-determination and ensure Traditional Owners' voices lead the project.

As part of the Master Plan Development, Wellington Shire Council and ASPECT Studios met with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), the Traditional Owners of the land where the reserve is located, to discuss their interest in being involved in the master planning, design and delivery of the Golden Beach Community Centre Reserve.

GLaWAC is currently in the process of delivering enhanced design and amenities for the Golden Beach Picnic Area opposite to the Community Centre Reserve and expressed a strong interest in being involved in the Reserve upgrades.

The following engagement & co-design opportunities were identified:

- Connection between the Community Centre Reserve and the Golden Beach Picnic Site managed by GLaWAC and Parks Victoria
- Co-design process of play space and interpretation opportunities
- Integration and coordination of design, construction and delivery activities

Connection Between the Two Sites

Enhance connectivity with GLaWAC/PV Beach Picnic Area and introduce complimentary recreation opportunities and interpretation narratives, ensuring the two sites function together and do not compete or double up on uses.

Establish the Reserve as a starting point for story-telling, introducing GLaWAC Cultural Values and leading people to the Beach Picnic Area. Consider connecting surface treatments, interpretative signage and cohesive structures.

Interpretation elements and design narratives to be decided and co-designed with GLaWac.

Co-design of the play space

An interpretative and nature based play space offers a great opportunity to enhance the community and visitor's knowledge and appreciation of GLaWAC Cultural Values and indigenous ways of knowing.

GLaWAC expressed a strong interest in a genuine co-design process to design and deliver the playground together with Wellington Shire Council.

Prior to concept design of the playspace commencing, contact is to be made with GLaWAC to agree on design and delivery strategies, professional fees and project program to ensure alignment with GLaWAC's vision, needs and capacity.

Integration and coordination of design, construction and delivery activities

Given the proximity and remote location of the two sites, it was considered favorable to aim to coordinate cohesive design and construction activities of elements such as new picnic shelters with GLaWAC to enhance cohesion between the two sites and optimise construction and transport associated costs.

2.4 Precinct-wide Opportunities & Considerations

During the consultation it became evident that to provide a functional and attractive destination for the local community to come together, the Master Plan needs to consider the Reserve in relation to the broader precinct and enhance relationships between different uses and user groups.

The following opportunities for Precinct Upgrades were identified during the consultation and site visit. These proposals seek to enhance and activate the precinct as a whole, creating opportunities for the local community to come together.

1. Foodworks

- The Foodworks has established itself as “Village Centre”, serving coffee, fish & chips and groceries and is a place where people regularly meet each other
- A Pizza truck arrives in front of Foodworks on Fridays
- Consider expanding the outdoor area outside Foodworks to provide an enhanced outdoor dining and gathering opportunities for all abilities and provide a combination of small and large group seating. Consider provision of shade structures or windbreaks for enhanced environmental comfort.

2. Golden Beach Men'Shed

- The existing surface leading to picnic tables is not all-weather/accessible and picnic tables with long benches do not allow for universal access and are difficult to access for people with limited mobility.
- Provide new accessible furniture and introduce a mix of individual seats that are easily accessed and free spots adjoining table where people can access with walkers/wheelchairs.

3. Basketball Court

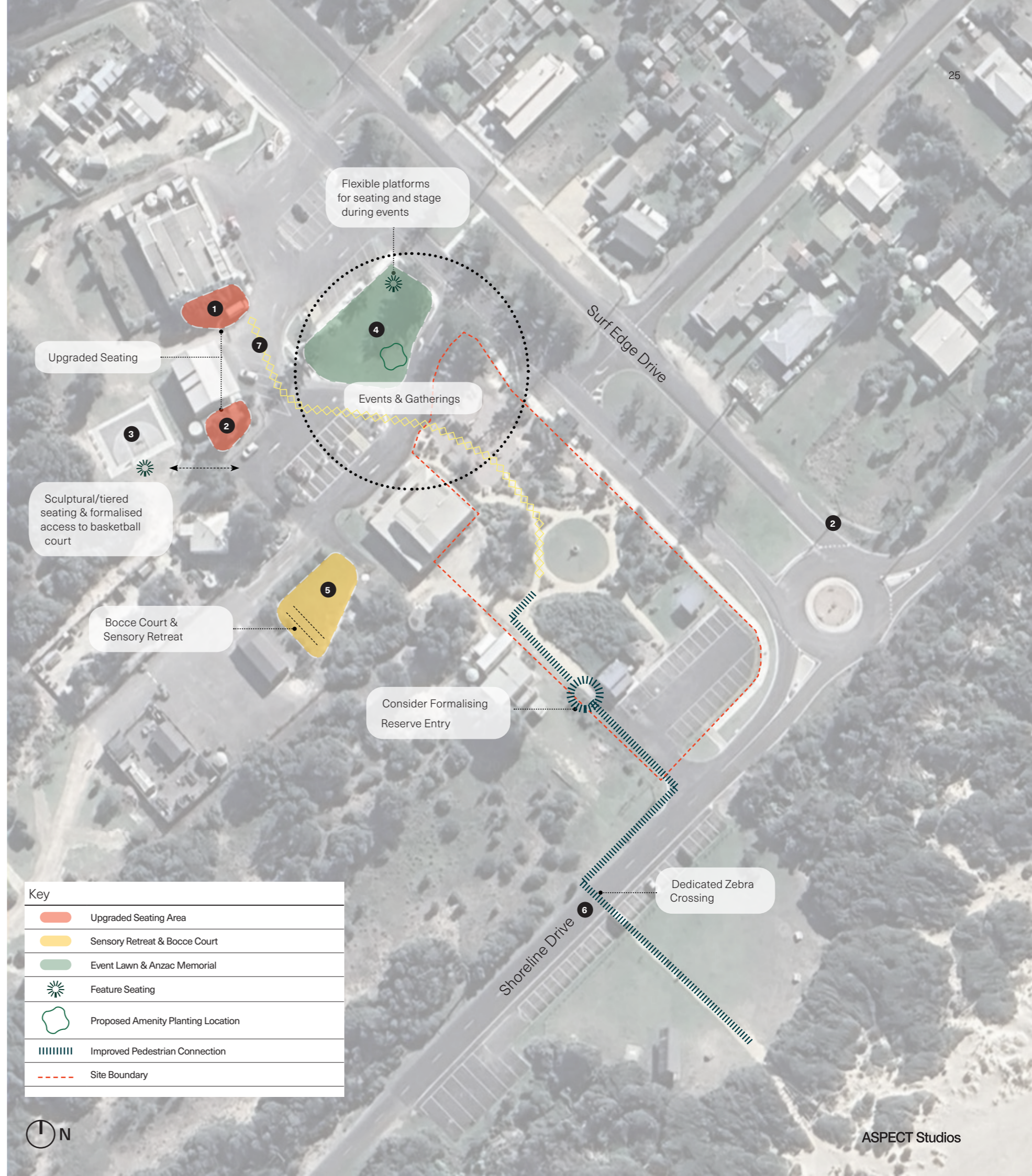
The existing basketball court is currently hidden and underutilised

- Consider improving signage and path connection to court to enable people to find it and to encourage usage.
- Introduce a sculptural/tiered timber seating platform that acts as a landmark/ eye catcher and provides opportunities for gathering and spectating during basketball games
- Consider introducing multipurpose linemarking on court to allow for increased mix of sports and activities to enable more diverse uses by community members.

4. Anzac Memorial/ Central Lawn

Currently used for occasional Sunday market and Anzac Day Memorial

- Introduce amenity planting around memorial for enhancement
- Consider introducing low timber platforms that function both as seating elements (people waiting for school bus, gathering) and as a stage during different events
- Consider relationship between reserve and central lawn so that amenities within the park can support events occurring in the lawn area and form a larger event space together



Opportunities & Constraints

5. Area next to Golden Beach Community Centre

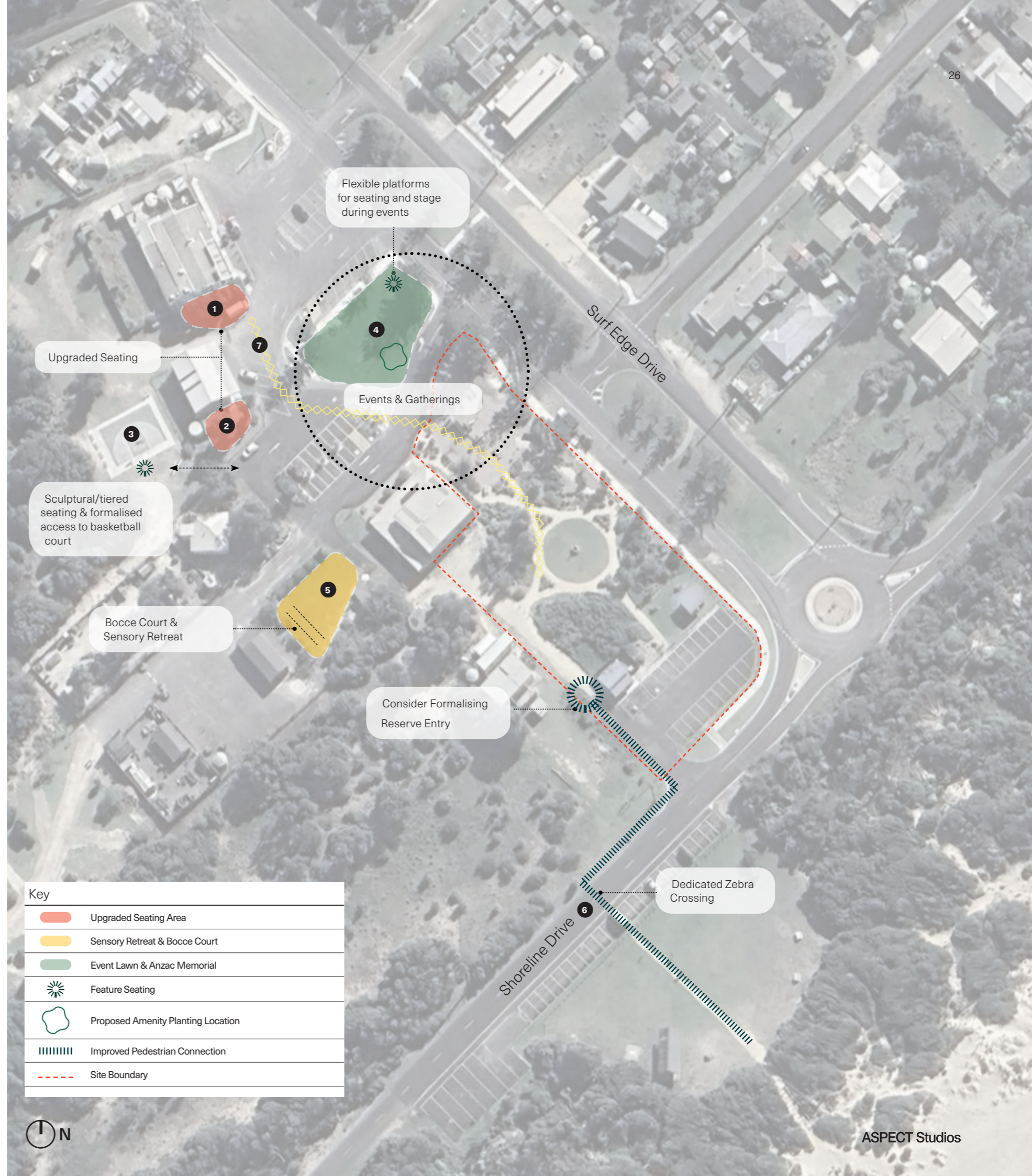
- The space next to the Community Centre is currently lawn surrounded by established shrubs and trees.
- This location is removed from the busiest sections of the precinct and provides an opportunity for a sheltered and calm sensory space.
- Additionally, there is an opportunity to introduce a Boccee court that provides amenity for both the Community Centre and caravan park.

6. Improved pedestrian crossing to Golden Beach Picnic Site

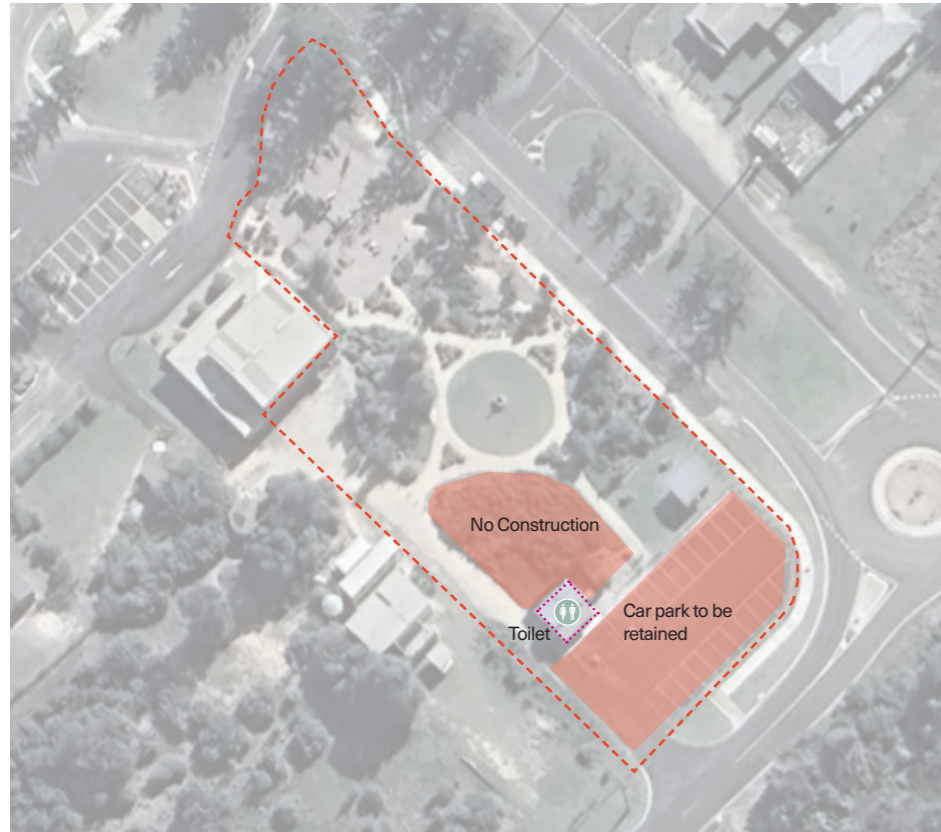
- Improve safety and enhance connectivity between the Reserve and beach by realigning pedestrian crossing and formalising it to dedicated zebra crossing. Connect crossing to existing path alignments.

7. Precinct-wide Lighting

- Improve lighting between Foodworks car park and public toilets and at the toilets to enhance safety and visibility at night.



2.5 Community Centre Reserve - Spatial Opportunities & Constraints

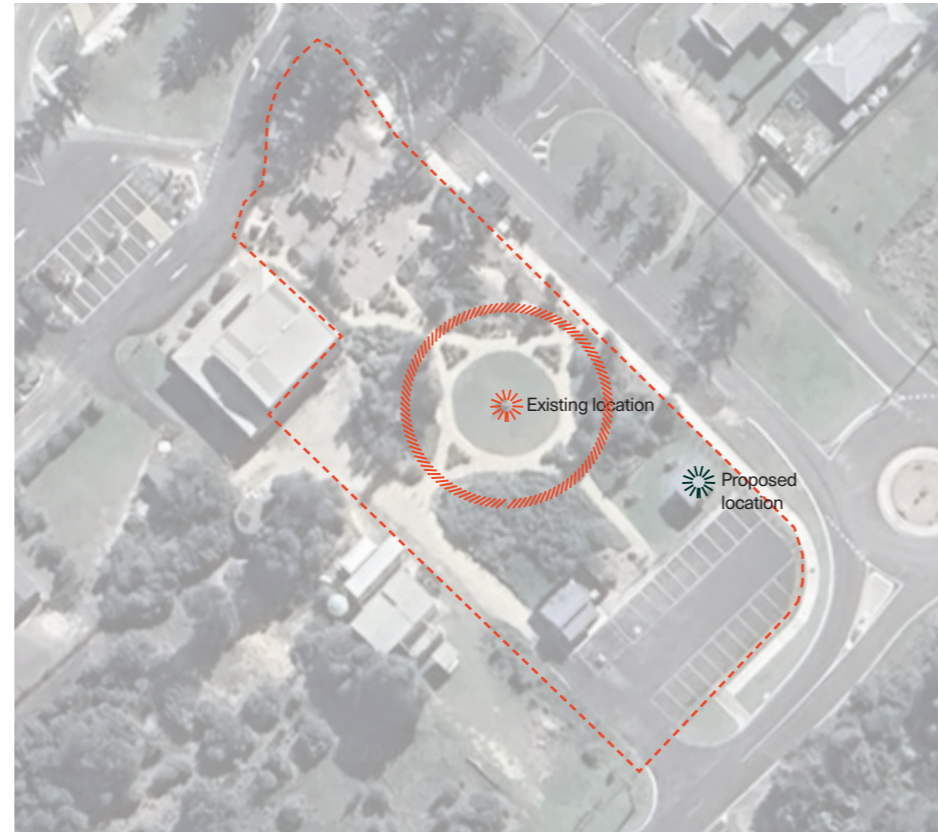


Fixed uses & Restricted easement

The following uses within the Reserve are fixed and can not be altered.

- Toilet block location
- Caravan dump site
- Southern Car Park

In addition there is a sewer infrastructure easement behind the toilet block. No construction can take place on top of it. Currently surfaced with lawn that is not in a good condition.



Activate the centre of Reserve by relocating existing artwork

The centre of the Reserve is currently underutilised as the position of existing artwork restricts recreation opportunities.

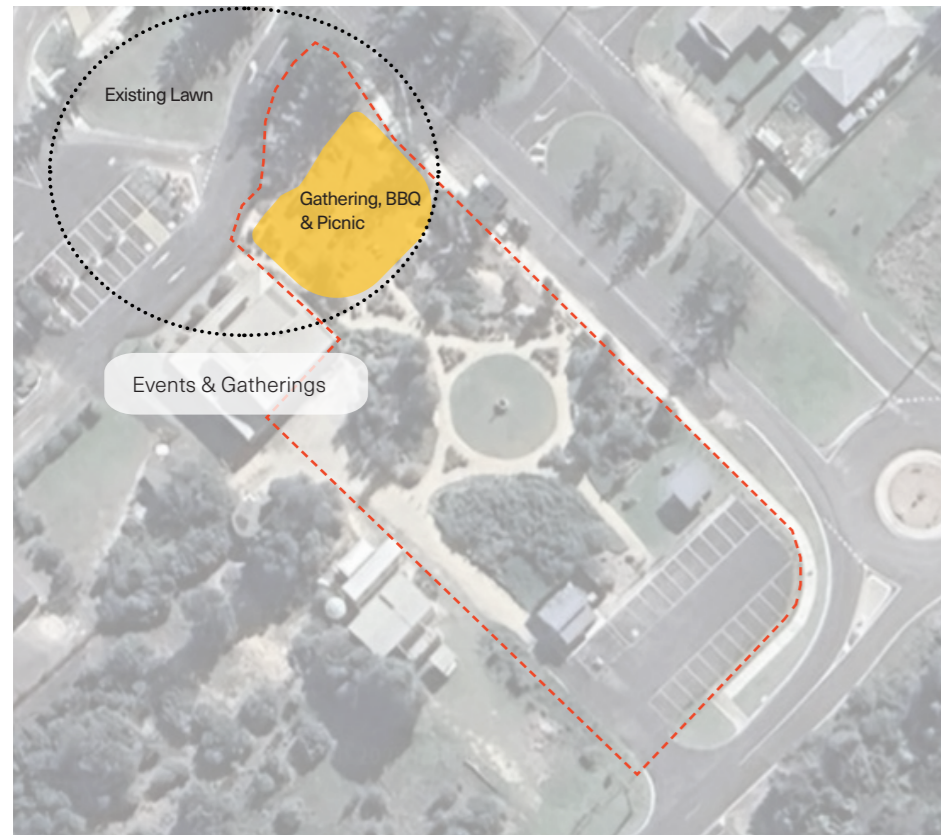
Consider relocating the existing artwork to enable more active uses at the centre of the Reserve. Locate artwork at the south of the site, improving its visibility from Shoreline Drive and Surf Edge Drive and introduce information signage to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the artwork.



Enhance safety and play experience by relocating play space

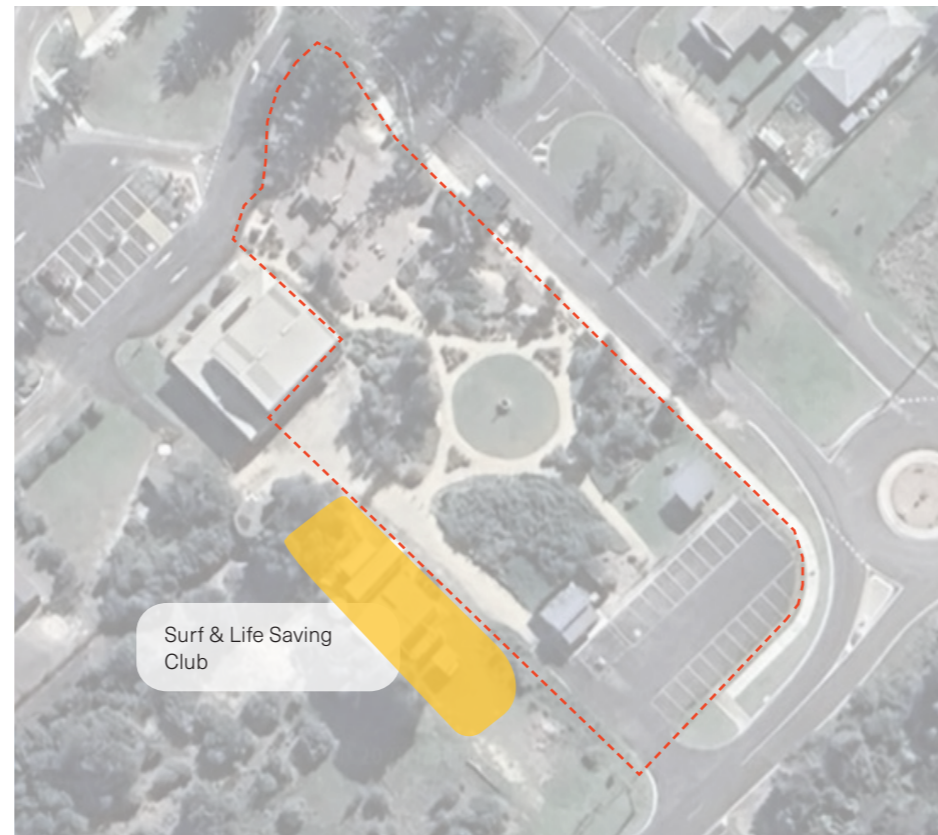
Relocate play space to centre of park away from edge of parking space to allow for enhanced safety and opportunity to utilise existing established vegetation as part of immersive nature play experience.

Consider dense planting, bollards or short section of fence between playspace as road to ensure kids do not run



Enhance connection between the Reserve and adjoining site to support community events & gatherings

Establish the north of the site as a BBQ, picnic and communal gathering area with diverse seating opportunities. This side of the park has better connection with the Central Lawn/Car Park Area currently hosting events and functions. Together the two spaces can enable diverse community activities and gatherings such as Anzac Day Service & Breakfast, community markets, live music and food trucks.



Liaise with Surf Life Saving Club to create cohesion and activation between the sites

It is understood that a newly formed Surf Life Saving Club will be operating from the site adjoining the park. There is a great opportunity to enhance connectivity and functionality between the two sites and the beach.



Introduce formalised path alignment to connect to relocated pedestrian crossing to Golden Beach Picnic Site & improve access between the two sites

Improve safety and enhance connectivity between the Reserve and beach by connecting the Reserve's path network to realigned pedestrian crossing and existing path alignments along Shoreline Drive.

2.6 Preliminary Functional Layout Sketch

