



MOLONGLO NATURE SPACE CONSULTATION REPORT

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTORATE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new park is planned for the Molonglo River Reserve. The space will be an important recreation, restoration and cultural ‘hub’ for the local community.

This report outlines the consultation process that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (the Directorate) carried out regarding the Draft Nature Space Concept Plans, released in 2019.

INTRODUCTION

A new nature space is proposed for the Molonglo River Reserve. Roughly the size of Black Mountain Peninsula at 35 hectares, the nature space will be an important recreation and restoration ‘hub’ for the local community. The area has some of Canberra’s best river access and is home to a wide range of native plants and animals, including the threatened Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Superb Parrot and Box-Gum Grassy Woodland habitat.

A community consultation period commenced on 19 June 2019 and concluded on 14 August 2019 <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/act-parks/molonglo-nature-space>

We invited community to have their say by:

- Reviewing the location and the draft concept plan
- Taking the online survey and nominating ‘top experiences’ for the reserve
- Sending comments to EPSDD on the draft designs (epsddcomms@act.gov.au)

TIMELINE OF ENGAGEMENT

The below infographic provides a summary of key project consultation milestones.



WHAT WE HEARD

SUMMARY OF KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE ENGAGEMENT

Over the nine week consultation period, the community were engaged in a number of different ways, including, an official launch by Minister Gentleman, social media (Facebook posts), print media (e.g. The Chronicle, Our Canberra), television (7 News and WIN News articles) and radio (2CC article). A presentation and face-to-face meetings were held with the public at the Suburban Land Agency Molonglo Mingle information evening (June 2019).

On Your Say, we ran a *Quick Poll* and provided opportunity for more detailed feedback, including comments and written submission options, which are summarised below.

Summary table of key consultation response statistics.

| Response | Summary statistic |
|--|-------------------|
| Views of the Your Say page | 4,038 |
| Visits to the Your Say page | 1,861 |
| People contributing to the Your Say page | 136 |
| Female participants | 62.5% |
| Male participants | 37.5% |

Summary table of top themes nominated by quick poll users.

| Theme | Percentage of quick poll votes |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bushwalking (tracks and trails) | 80% |
| Ammenities | 57% |
| Safe river access | 55% |
| Nature playground | 50% |
| Birdwatching | <50% |
| Fishing | <50% |
| ParkCare activities | <50% |
| Cultural activities | <50% |
| Learning about wildlife | <50% |
| Caring for Country | <50% |
| On-leash dog walking | <50% |
| Connections to broader networks | <50% |
| Accessible design features | <50% |
| Ranger guided activities | <50% |

DETAIL OF INSIGHTS FROM THE ENGAGEMENT

Key insights from consultation

Bushwalking and connections

1. There is strong support for establishing accessible and robust pedestrian and cycling connections through the reserve, including walking tracks through nature areas.
2. Support also exists for the preservation, enhancement and restoration of habitat for wildlife in the area.
3. Restricted dog-on-leash tracks and dog prohibited areas along the river margin was a primary consideration given the conservation values of the site.

Amenities

4. Access to shade, toilets, bubblers (drinking fountains) and seating was considered important for the reserve.
5. Additionally, access to free parking nearby was also considered important.

River access

6. There was strong support for safe access to the river for a variety of recreational activities.
7. The Parks and Conservation Service note that swimming in the Molonglo River is not permitted due to water quality concerns and flood risks, however opportunities for passive recreation such as picnics and fishing would be considered.

Nature playground

8. Having a designated 'wilderness area' for kids of all ages to explore, learn and enjoy nature, was one of the most popular themes.
9. Valuable opportunities were identified for the nature space, including running children's education events, Parkcare activities and ranger-guided tours.

NEXT STEPS

All submissions and survey responses have been considered in the detailed design planning for the Molonglo nature space. A copy of the final Plan is available on the Your Say website.

Construction work is now scheduled to commence in early July 2020.



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