



Community Engagement Feedback Report

**Playground upgrade – Middleton Shores
Reserve**

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1.0 Background

The current play equipment located at the Middleton Shores Reserve (Morrison Avenue, Middleton) has reached its end of life and is scheduled for replacement in Council's 2025/26 Annual Community Plan.

Concept designs were created to include:

- a mix of play equipment
- options for different age groups
- modern designs offering better play experiences.

Council sought feedback on the play equipment included in the concept designs. Input received helped shape the outcome of the final design.

We asked, which equipment you prefer or provide suggestions for what might be included.

With our allocated budget in mind, we took the community feedback into account when approving the final design.

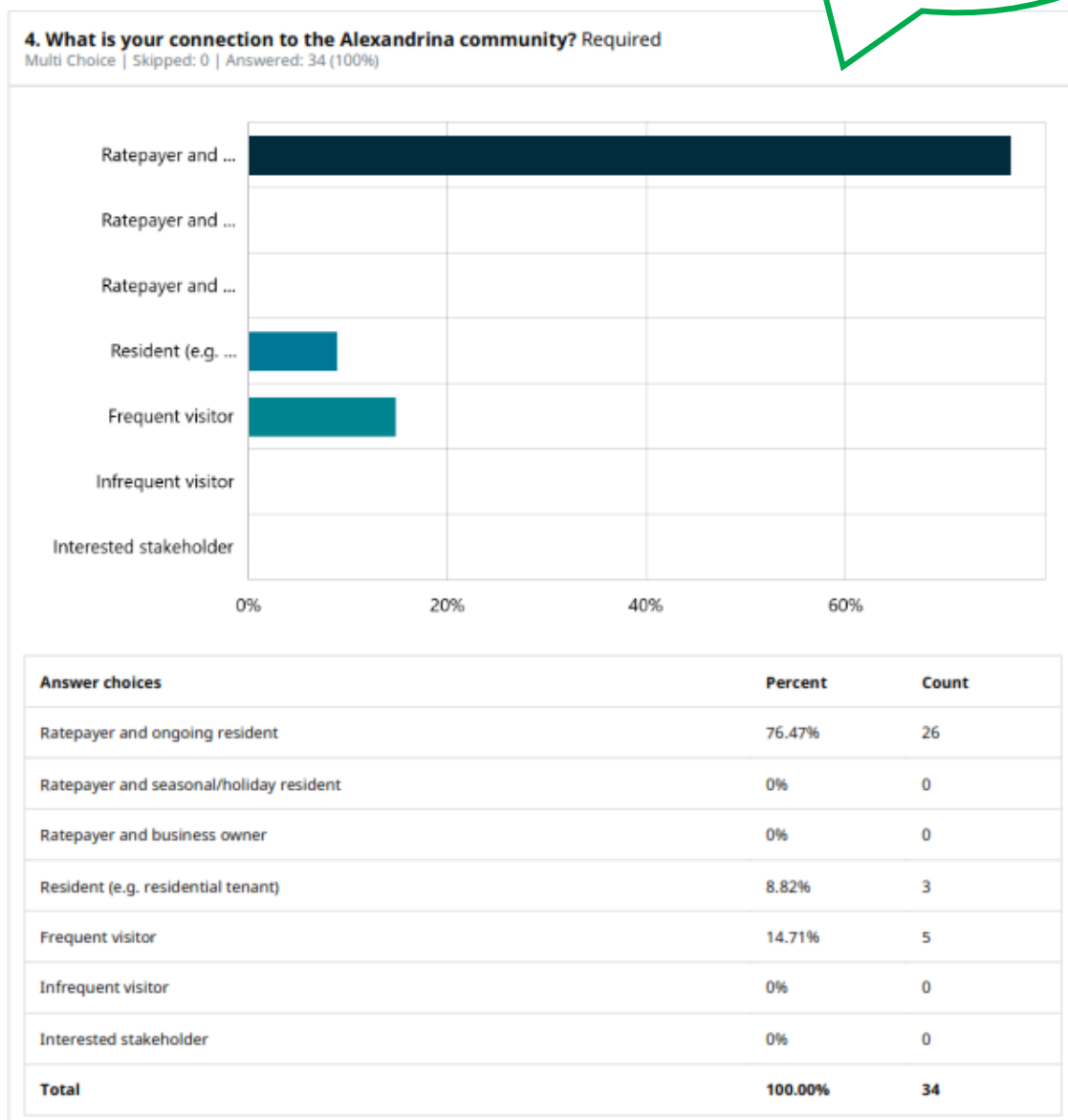


2.0 Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from Thursday 20 November until Friday 12 December 2025, **a total of 34 responses** were received across both the My Say platform.



Who we heard from:



2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page of corporate website	Displayed 25 November – 10 December
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook) posted on 20 November and 10 December	Facebook Views: Almost 3k Link clicks: 33 Interactions: 16 Instagram Views: Over 1k Reach: Over 500 Interactions: 16
	Council office displays - entryways	
	Community noticeboards	N/A
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	Sent to 2,356 subscribers 48.2% opened (1,137) 4% (94) clicked links
	Corflutes (large waterproof signage on site)	Two corflutes placed at playground throughout consultation
Adjoining Property Owners /	N/A	

Business Owners		
Government and key agencies	N/A	
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/ Audit and Risk Committee	N/A	
Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations	Middleton Community Association Inc Improvement Association	21 November, 2025
Media	Fleurieu Sun, The Southern Argus	 ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultations Council seeks community feedback on the following two (2) consultations. Please direct all written submissions via mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au, email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. For further information, please call Council's Assets Team on 8555 7000. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 12 December 2025. Playground upgrades – Middleton Shores Reserve and Seagull Avenue, Chiton Council is seeking feedback on concept designs to replace the play equipment located at Middleton Shores Reserve (Morrison Avenue) and Seagull Avenue Reserve. The equipment at both locations has reached its end of life and is scheduled for replacement in Council's 2025/26 Annual Community Plan. Community input will help shape what is included in the final designs.
Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	Posted 4 December – 12 December
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via Council Report, CM Portal, email, Council Information Session	Engagement Plan published on CM Portal – 17 November 2025

3.0 Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

Community feedback on the proposed Middleton Shores Reserve playground upgrade was strongly supportive. Respondents expressed enthusiasm for the improvements and highlighted the importance of creating a welcoming, family-friendly space.

Key themes identified include:

- **Support for the upgrade** – The majority of submissions endorsed the project and welcomed investment in the reserve.
- **Play variety and inclusivity** – Strong interest in swings, climbing structures, and features suitable for different age groups.
- **Safety and comfort** – Many respondents highlighted the importance of shade, seating, and a safe environment for children.
- **Community value** – Feedback reflects that the upgrade will enhance the reserve as a destination for families and visitors and improve the overall amenity of the area.

Overall, the consultation demonstrates clear community support for the upgrade, with suggestions focused on ensuring the playground is vibrant, accessible, and well-used.

Feedback summary:

Supporters highlighted that:

- The upgrade will provide a much-needed improvement to the reserve and create a welcoming, family-friendly space.
- New play equipment, particularly swings and climbing structures, will be well-used and enjoyed by children of various ages.
- The project is viewed as a positive investment that will revitalise the space and create a safe, enjoyable environment for children.

Suggestions for enhancement included:

- Adding extra features such as monkey bars, slides, flying fox, and nature play elements to increase play value.
- Incorporating amenities like toilets, BBQ facilities, and fencing to improve safety and usability.
- Considering design elements that cater to older children and provide variety for different age groups.

Key Themes Identified

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Overall Support	Most respondents welcomed the upgrade and see strong community value in enhancing the reserve.	The concept aligns with community expectations and is well-received.
Play Equipment Variety	High interest in swings and climbing structures, with frequent requests for slides, flying fox, and nature play. Some community member suggested additional features such as monkey bars	The current design incorporates key elements that are both highly preferred by the community and appropriate for the site and project scope. Suggestions that align with this scope have been assessed against the available budget, resulting in some refinements, including: • Removal of 3 x Connect panels • Installation of Monkey Bars
Catering for Older Children	Requests for equipment suitable for older children (e.g., larger slides, multi-play units).	Current concept design offers flexible play opportunities for a minimum age of 1-12 years +.
Safety & Fencing	Frequent requests for full fencing to improve safety for toddlers and children with diverse needs.	Fencing is not included within the scope of this project due to the playground already being an established, unfenced facility which is not adjacent to high-risk hazards like high-speed zones and has sightlines that allow for passive supervision. Noting that the new design and maintenance measures adequately manage user safety.
Shade & Seating	Shade and seating were commonly mentioned for comfort and usability.	Existing shade and seating will be retained and supplemented where practical.
Amenities (Toilets, BBQ, Water)	Requests for toilets, BBQs, and water facilities.	These types of additional facilities are outside the current scope and budget for this upgrade.
Accessibility & Inclusive Play	Strong calls for inclusive features for children with disabilities and neurodiverse needs.	Inclusive elements have been incorporated into the concept design where feasible.
Design Quality & Appeal	While the majority liked the design, some respondents felt the concept would benefit from more variety.	The design focuses on durable, high-use equipment. Feedback was considered with slight changes made with additional monkey bars now included.

Active Recreation Add-ons	Suggestions for basketball rings, pump track, and skate ramps.	These types of additional facilities are outside the current scope and budget for this upgrade.
Retaining Popular Existing Elements	Some respondents commented on the existing equipment and its play value.	The upgrade maintains core play functions while improving overall quality and safety. The refreshed design with climbing structures strengthens the play offering while still supporting the way families currently use the reserve.
Activity Panels (Low Engagement)	Activity panels were viewed as low-engagement and not a priority for most families.	Activity panels have been removed from the design and replaced with more engaging, durable equipment such as monkey bars (as suggest through feedback received), aligning closely with community preferences.

Through reviewing the feedback, we have updated the design to strengthen the focus on high-use equipment such as climbing features and swings, ensuring the playground reflects the priorities consistently highlighted through the consultation.

We learned that the concept design was positively received, particularly the key pieces of equipment identified as most preferred: the Skyclimber, swings, and climbing elements. Feedback also indicated that some lower-engagement items, such as activity panels, were not strongly favoured by the community.

As a result, we have chosen to reduce the number of activity panels in favour of Monkey Bars as this will align with community preferences.

4.0 Self-nomination to participate

It is important to acknowledge that involvement in the public consultation process is voluntary, with participants self-nominating to contribute. As a result, the feedback gathered should not be regarded as statistically representative of all perspectives.

5.0 Consultation images

