

CITY OF CLARENCE

# Waverley Flora Park RMP

## Engagement Report

November 2025





# Contents

- 1 BACKGROUND
- 2 WHAT WE DID
- 3 DATA SUMMARY
- 4 KEY FINDINGS
- 5 SUMMARY

# Background

Waverley Flora Park is a large bushland reserve on Hobart's eastern shore. It covers about 75 hectares across Bellerive and Mornington, including Mornington Hill. The park is known for spring wildflowers, remnant grassy woodlands, native birds and animals, an Avenue of Honour, and a well-used track network including the Charles Darwin Trail. City of Clarence has prepared a ten-year Reserve Management Plan to protect these natural and social values and guide work from 2025 to 2035. The plan also now includes the nearby Carbeen Street Reserve.

Today, the reserve faces pressure from weeds, unmanaged or informal tracks, and bushfire risk.

Managing dogs and cats around sensitive habitat, keeping tracks and entrances in good condition, and caring for cultural and historic sites are ongoing needs. The plan pulls these issues into a single program alongside vegetation, fauna habitat, rubbish and community participation actions.

The draft plan responds with practical steps. It proposes mosaic ecological burns to maintain diverse vegetation and reduce fuel. It prioritises collaborative weed control with Landcare. It maintains and upgrades formal tracks, closes unauthorised tracks in sensitive areas, and improves entrances with clearer signs and seating.

It sets “on-lead on tracks” dog rules to protect wildlife while keeping access for walking. It expands education and citizen science, and sets up regular monitoring using photo points, wildlife cameras and standard bird surveys to track results and adjust over time.

What is in scope now is a staged, evidence-based program over ten years, reviewed mid-way and aligned with City of Clarence strategies for natural areas, weeds, bushfire, open space and tracks. Broader recreation planning sits with the Open Space and Tracks and Trails strategies, which the plan links to, and the upcoming review of our Dog Policy.

# Engagement design

## **Purpose of the engagement**

The engagement was conducted to gather feedback from the community about the draft Waverley Flora Park Reserve Management Plan. It focused on input to aspects that could still be influenced and on identifying recurring themes and concerns to refine priorities and actions before the plan is finalised.

## **Feedback sought**

The engagement asked if we have missed anything in the development of the draft Plan and sought feedback on the plan's priorities.

## **Rationale for the design of the questions**

The question was designed to allow the community an opportunity to identify any issues, concerns or values of the reserve that may have been missed in the draft Plan and to provide an opportunity for any final feedback

## **Structure of the engagement (i.e. questions under outcome areas)**

We gathered open comments on if we have missed anything specifically in the draft Reserve Management Plan and any final feedback, and then closed with demographics (age, suburb/postcode, Clarence residency, and cultural background).

# 2

## What we did

### How the survey was promoted



544 page views on the **Your Say webpage** and 309 unique visitors



Used communication methods such as City of Clarence website banner and direct stakeholder contact



**Consultation ad** in the Eastern Shore Sun



**336 downloads** of key documents from the Your Say webpage



**Facebook posts** with a total reach of 7,854 people, an engagement of 62, and 55 link clicks



**LinkedIn post** with a total reach of 251 people, an engagement of 12, and 12 link clicks

### Ways people engaged and provided feedback



**45**  
contributions



**12**  
written submissions



**540**  
comment votes



**42**  
contributors

### Consultation period

**4 weeks** (15 October – 10 November 2025)

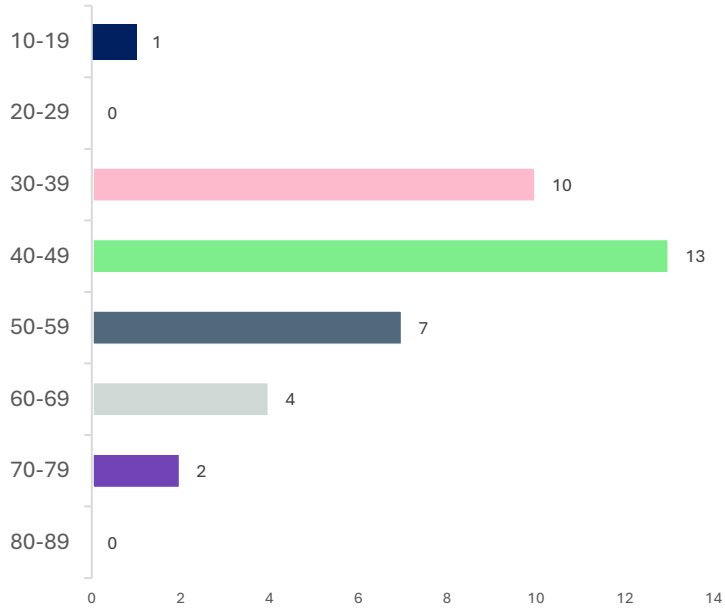
# Data Summary



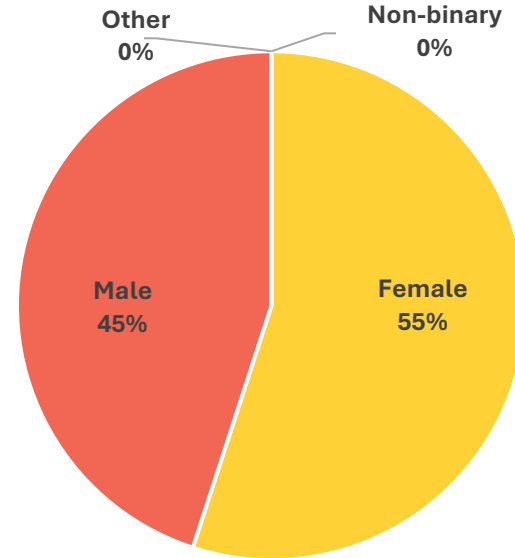
# 3

## Demographics

### Age



### Gender



# Key findings - community response

## Themes



### Keep some off-lead access

Many asked to retain all or part of the reserve as off-lead, citing dog exercise needs, effective control, and limited alternatives.



### Move to on-lead only

Others supported on-lead rules to protect wildlife, improve personal safety, and keep dogs to set paths.



### Protect wildlife and biodiversity

Respondents highlighted orchids, endangered species and snakes, and asked to minimise disturbance through clearer rules and track use.



### Retain/formalise MTB trails

People want long-standing local MTB loops and dirt jumps kept and formalised, noting youth benefits and close-to-home riding.



### Manage cats/feral cats

Submissions called for action on roaming and feral cats due to impacts on wildlife.



### Clearer dog signage

A small number asked for large, consistent entry signs explaining where dogs are and aren't allowed.



### Fire management

Some supported more back-burning/hazard-reduction in a mosaic to manage fuel while protecting habitat.



### Transient campers

Individual submissions raised negative impacts from camping and sought stronger management.



### Community beehives

One suggestion was to trial a shared beehive area, like a community-garden model.

# Key findings – written submissions

## Themes



### Natural character

People value the bush feel and long-standing local use, and want care focused on habitat, safe legible tracks and simple places to rest.



### Dog management

Views are split: many support on-lead to protect wildlife and user comfort, while others want at least some off-lead access citing effective control, limited alternatives and health benefits.



### Rules, signs and education

Requests include clear, consistent entry signs explaining dog rules, plus education; a few submissions raised feral and roaming cats as a separate wildlife issue.



### Trails and riding

Recognise and, where suitable, formalise long-used local MTB loops and dirt jumps for young riders, while managing conflicts, repairing erosion, closing informal lines and improving wayfinding and maps.



### Habitat, weeds and fire

People want systematic weed control, staged habitat restoration and a mosaic fuel-reduction program that protects biodiversity while reducing risk.



### Facilities and amenity

Requests were modest: more seats and low-impact shelters at busy nodes, targeted lighting only at main entries, and bins or toilets only where justified.

# Summary

The consultation tested the draft Waverley Flora Park Reserve Management Plan. We received written submissions from community members and groups alongside online feedback.

Demographic data was provided by around 40 respondents. Ages were concentrated in the 30–49 range (62.1% of those who gave a birth year), with smaller shares in 50–69 and very few under 20. People use the reserve for walking, dog exercise, nature appreciation and local riding, and value its wildflowers, habitat and views.

Feedback focused on getting the balance right between habitat protection, track clarity and maintenance, and low-impact recreation. On dog management, views were split: 46.7% of coded comments asked to retain some off-lead access, while 20.0% supported on-lead only, mainly for wildlife protection and user comfort.

Many asked for clearer rules and larger entry signs. There was strong interest in mountain biking: keep or formalise long-standing local loops and dirt jumps, especially for young riders, while managing conflicts on narrow tracks and repairing erosion.

Other themes included weeds and pests (including feral cats), fire management through mosaic burns, access and inclusion on key routes, targeted lighting at main entries, litter and dumping hotspots, and a safer connection to Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve. Overall, submissions support a practical, staged program that protects habitat, tidies and clarifies formal tracks, manages dogs in a wildlife-sensitive way, and keeps infrastructure modest.