June 2026

Fairer access to sportsgrounds

Engagement report



City of GLEN EIRA

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH, BENTLEIGH EAST, BRIGHTON EAST, CARNEGIE, CAULFIELD, ELSTERNWICK, GARDENVALE, GLEN HUNTLY, MCKINNON, MURRUMBEENA, ORMOND, ST KILDA EAST

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Executive summary

Glen Eira City Council is reviewing how our sportsgrounds are being used to make access fairer, clearer and more sustainable for everyone.

We started in February 2026 by collecting feedback from sports clubs through workshops and a survey to shape the draft *Sportsground and Associated Facilities Allocation Policy*.

The clubs' feedback directly informed the draft policy, which was then presented for broader community engagement.

This engagement asked clubs and the broader community for feedback on the objectives, allocation principles and fee principles drafted in the policy. This feedback will inform how we balance the usage of different clubs, casual users, schools, casual hirers, and other users.

How we engaged

Community engagement ran for one month from 15 April to 13 May 2026.

Opportunities for community feedback included:

- 💻 an online survey on Council's Have Your Say Glen Eira webpage
- 📍 an online social map
- 📩 email, letter or phone call submissions

A broad communications campaign titled *Fairer access to sportsgrounds* reached sportsground users and the broader community through *Glen Eira News*, pop-ups, newsletters, social media, targeted promotions, signage, and local radio.

Who we heard from

We received a total of **269** pieces of feedback, comprised of:

- 238 online survey submissions
- 13 social map comments
- 13 workshop participants from Council's Youth Engagement Team
- 5 emails.

Survey participants reflect Glen Eira's diversity, with representation across age, gender, suburb, identity groups, and sports.

In addition, survey participants identified:

- The most frequently used parks were Lord Reserve in Carnegie (**26 per cent**), Caulfield Park (**18 per cent**), Duncan Mackinnon Reserve (**16 per cent**), and Princes Park in Caulfield South (**13 per cent**).
- The most commonly played sports were football (**30 per cent**), association football (**27 per cent**), cricket (**23 per cent**), and tennis (**11 per cent**).
- The largest represented age range was 35 years to 54 years (**58 per cent**).
- Women were the most represented gender (**53 per cent**), followed by men (**44 per cent**).
- Most participants lived in Carnegie (**23 per cent**), Bentleigh East (**21 per cent**), Murrumbeena (**12 per cent**), and Bentleigh (**11 per cent**).

What we heard

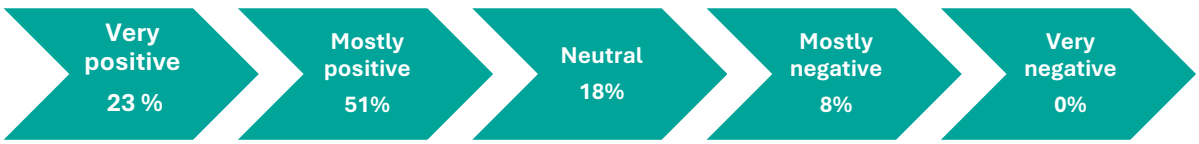
Overall, community feedback demonstrated consistent support for the draft policy's objectives, allocation principles, and fee principles.

- All policy objectives received strong support, with **at least 74 per cent** of survey participants in favour of each objective.
- All allocation principles were similarly well supported, with **at least 74 per cent** participants in favour of each principle.
- The fee principles were supported by a majority, with **at least 63 per cent** of participants in favour.

Analysis of the survey's open-ended responses identified a number of consistent themes and challenges, summarised below:

- support organised sport participation and viability
- prioritise access for casual users, dog walkers and families
- prioritise local clubs and community access over non-local or commercial users
- improve transparency and communication about bookings, decisions and availability
- manage the growing impacts on limited space and infrastructure
- invest in improved infrastructure, maintenance and facilities to meet demand
- reduce conflict between different user groups, most notably organised sport and dog owners.

Most participants said they have positive experiences with using Glen Eira's sportsgrounds:



Stakeholder feedback

Sports clubs and associations

Feedback from sports clubs showed broad support for the intent and principles of the policy. Clubs generally welcomed moves toward clearer, fairer and more transparent allocation and charging arrangements, while emphasising the importance of affordability, protection of incumbent access, and recognition of volunteer-run club operations.

Common themes included the need for:

- clearer communication and coordination between users
- better recognition of preseason and extended-season activity
- practical treatment of facilities such as lighting and cricket nets
- fee structures to be based on hours of use and facility quality rather than full maintenance cost recovery.

Clubs also highlighted the importance of transparency in decision-making and the need to ensure allocation frameworks can respond to growth in participation, particularly among juniors, women and emerging programs.

Youth Engagement Team

The Youth Engagement Team (YET) supported:

- clearer and more accessible communication about availability of sportsgrounds and use by organised sport
- better coordination between different user groups to support clearer distinction between sport and casual spaces and access
- improvements to facilities and amenity, such as more inclusive and accessible spaces, skate parks and outdoor gyms, lighting outside organised sport times, and quieter areas for casual use.

Background

Sport and sportsgrounds are important for supporting community health, wellbeing and inclusion. Accessible and well-maintained sports facilities encourage active living, social connection and equitable participation for all ages and abilities.

Council supports local sports clubs through access to Council-managed sportsgrounds and facilities. The *Licensed Sports Club Allocation and Charging Policy* sets out Council's current approach to allocation and fees for access to the grounds by licensed clubs.

Why we engaged now

Over time, sportsground allocations and charges have largely been based on historical arrangements. Feedback from clubs, residents and Council reviews has shown this doesn't always reflect current use or community need and can lead to uneven access or underused space.

In practice, historical allocation arrangements can mean some clubs have more time than they use, while other clubs (including newer or emerging) struggle to access suitable space.

The existing policy expires at the end of the 2025–26 financial year, creating an opportunity to improve Council's approach and better reflect current participation patterns, growth pressures, and community expectations for fairness and sustainability.

Aligning with Council and community

This project sits within Council's broader strategic direction around accessible, well-used community facilities, and the stewardship of public assets (including sustainable surface management and responsible resource use).

Sportsgrounds are shared community infrastructure that support health, wellbeing, social connection and inclusion. As demand grows and expectations change, Council is reviewing the use of sportsground to assess whether they are meeting the needs of the community and users.

The policy review is therefore not only about managing bookings, but about making sure these important local assets continue to serve the community well now and into the future. This means reviewing the approach to fees, considering both the costs of maintenance and feedback from clubs seeking a clearer link between the level of access they receive and the fees they pay.

Starting the conversation with clubs

Council began with targeted engagement with licensed sports clubs and associations in February 2026, as these stakeholders are most directly affected by changes to allocations, fees and implementation arrangements.

Clubs have detailed, practical knowledge of how grounds are used across seasons, where access pressures are emerging, and what support is needed to transition to a fairer system.

By starting with clubs, we also had scope for detailed discussion through workshops, surveys and follow-up feedback, enabling Council to test possible guiding principles, understand trade-offs and build a stronger evidence base before presenting a draft policy to the broader community.

What we heard from clubs

The first stage of engagement confirmed that clubs want a future policy that is clearer, more transparent and more closely linked to demonstrated need and actual usage.

Across workshops, surveys and anonymous comments, clubs consistently highlighted concerns about inconsistent allocation outcomes, difficulty accessing grounds when needed, ageing or inadequate facilities, declining surface quality and growing financial pressure.

Feedback showed strong support for principles such as fairness, inclusive participation, efficient use of limited space, protection of ground condition and greater accountability in decision-making.

Clubs also made it clear that trust in the change process will depend on early communication, visible reasoning, adequate lead-in time and a fair transition approach.

Change guided by feedback

Any policy change needs to be approached with care, recognising both the pressures clubs are under and the broader expectation that public assets should be shared fairly and managed sustainably.

Local clubs are not just service users; they are longstanding community organisations run largely by volunteers, with strong local histories, limited resources and deep connections to members, families and neighbourhoods.

Sportsgrounds are also valued by residents in many different ways, whether for organised sport, informal recreation, social connection or open space. The engagement process was designed to respect these connections, creating a space for two-way conversations to help shape change that is practical, transparent and sensitive to community impact.

Communication and reach

To support the engagement, Council delivered a broad communications campaign titled *Fairer access to sportsgrounds*. The campaign was designed to raise awareness of the policy review, explain why changes are being considered, and encourage both sportsground users and the wider community to share their views.

A mix of digital, print and in-person channels was used to reach different audiences, with targeted communication to sports clubs alongside broader community promotion to ensure the engagement was visible, accessible and easy to participate in.

Communication activities	Reach
Glen Eira News Article in the April 2026 edition	Delivered to approx. 64,500 residences
Have Your Say engagement page Live with the survey available	Views: 1,245 Surveys: 238 Social map comments: 13 Downloads: 245
Social media: Facebook and Instagram Glen Eira City Council Facebook and Instagram accounts concluded the campaign with 2 posts, including main feeds and stories (2 post, 1 story).	Views: 37,339 Reach: 19,610 Interactions: 107 Link clicks: 270 9.95% engagement rate for FB (300% increase over average)
Community engagement e-newsletter May edition	Recipients: 4,451 Opened: 2,222 Link clicks: 82 Click throughs to engagement: 56
Stakeholder emails Council's Parks Services team sent two notification emails about the engagement to all 50+ clubs and associations in Glen Eira. The Parks Services team is in regular correspondence with all clubs and associations.	Email recipients: 62
Poster Displayed at Council facilities, including Glen Eira Town Hall, pavilions, senior citizens centres, leisure centres, and libraries.	Posters: 70
Postcard Distributed during pop-ups, and shared at Council facilities, including Glen Eira Town Hall,	Postcards: 1,400

Communication activities	Reach
pavilions, club houses, senior citizens centres, leisure centres, and libraries.	
Service Centre digital screen	On display throughout the engagement period
Website — news item and webpage Website news item on 15 April.	Page views: 65
Radio advertising Announcements on SouthernFM (Monday 4 May) and Golden Days Radio (Saturday 2 May).	SouthernFM approx. listeners: 80k weekly Golden Days Radio approx. listeners: 75k weekly

How we engaged

The primary engagement activity was an online survey through Council's Have Your Say platform. A social map on the Have Your Say platform also provided the option for feedback by commenting on locations. Hard copies of this survey were available upon request. We also ran a small workshop with Council's Youth Engagement Team.

Engagement activities	Number who participated
Have Your Say community survey	Survey submissions: 238
Email submissions	Emails: 5
Have Your Say social map	Comments: 13
Targeted youth group workshop	Participants: 13
Community pop-ups Four pop-ups held across the following locations: • Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool • Duncan Mackinnon Reserve Pavilion • Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC) • Glen Eira City Council Gallery	Conversations: 250 Postcards handed out: 400

What we heard

The online survey included a total of 16 questions and four sections:

- About you (demographics)
- Your connection with sportsgrounds
- Fairer access
- Fees and charges

The feedback from stakeholder groups is shown after the survey results.

Note: *This analysis includes insights generated using AI tools to assist with sentiment classification and theme identification. All findings have been reviewed and interpreted by Council officers to ensure accuracy and relevance.*

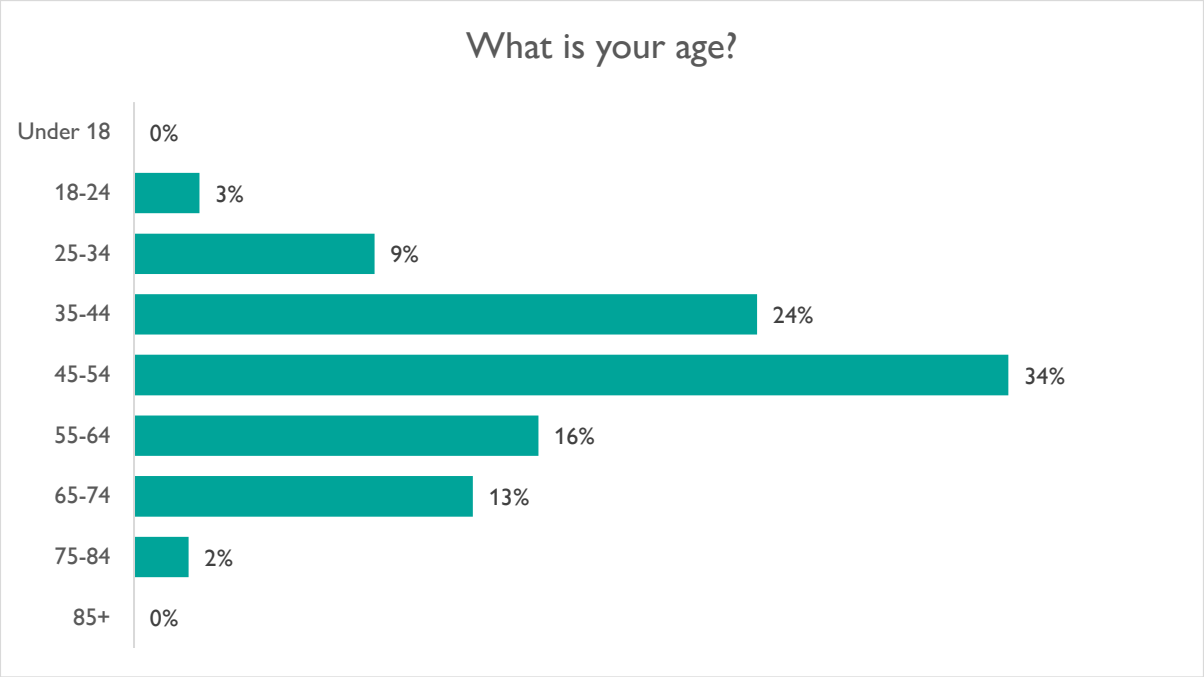
About you (demographics)

These questions helped us understand who we're hearing from.

Question 1. What is your age?

This was a required question. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**)

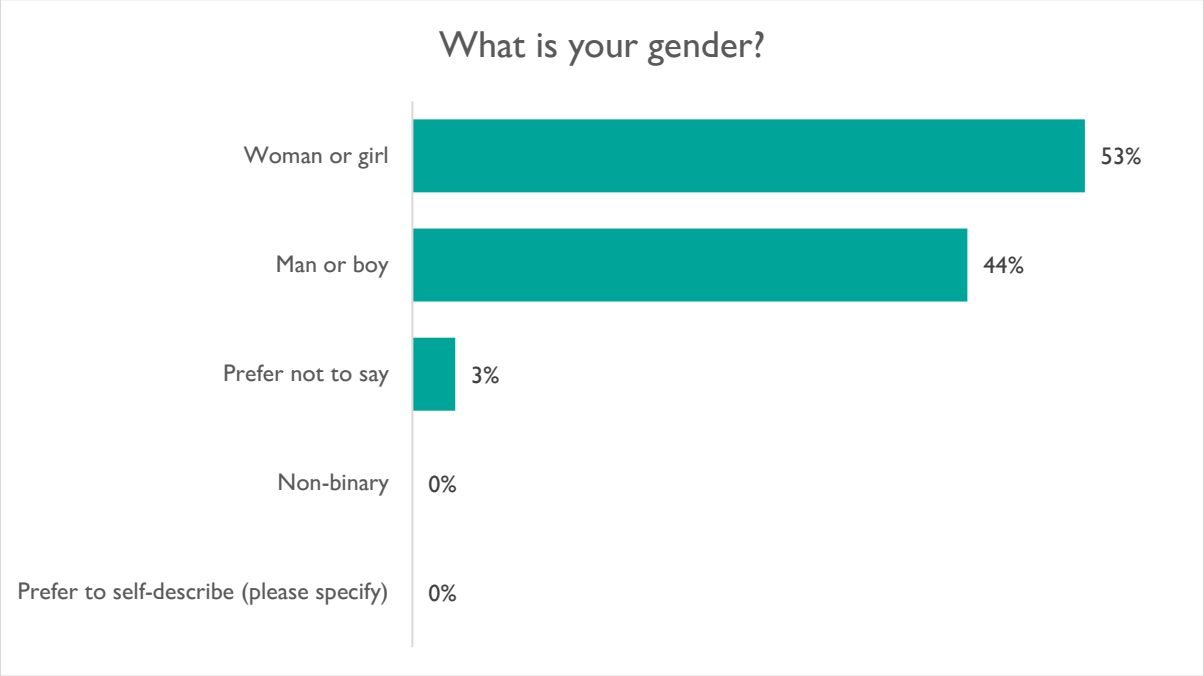
The largest represented age range was 35 years to 54 years (**58 per cent**). Under 18 and over 85 age cohorts had no representation in the survey.



Question 2. What is your gender?

This was a required question. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**)

Women were the most represented (**53 per cent**), followed by men (**44 per cent**).

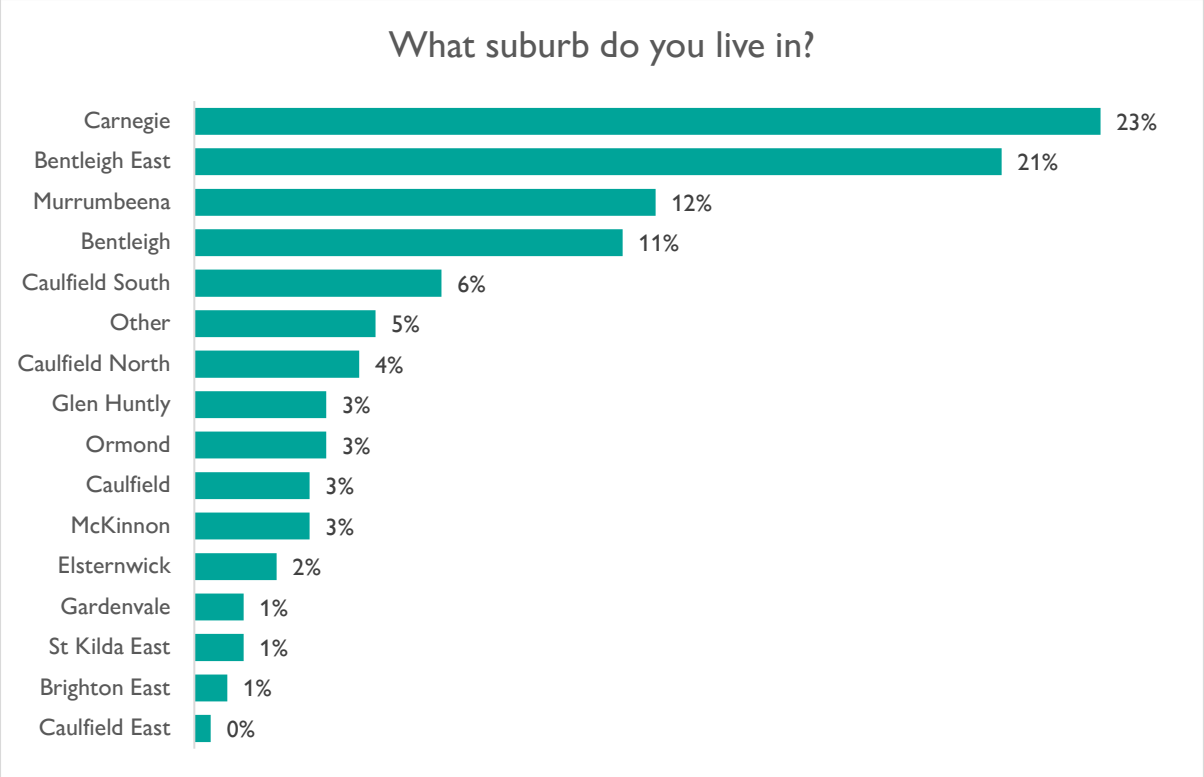


Question 3. What suburb do you live in?

This was a required question. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**)

The highest represented suburbs were:

- Carnegie (**23 per cent**)
- Bentleigh East (**21 per cent**)
- Murrumbeena (**12 per cent**)
- Bentleigh (**11 per cent**)

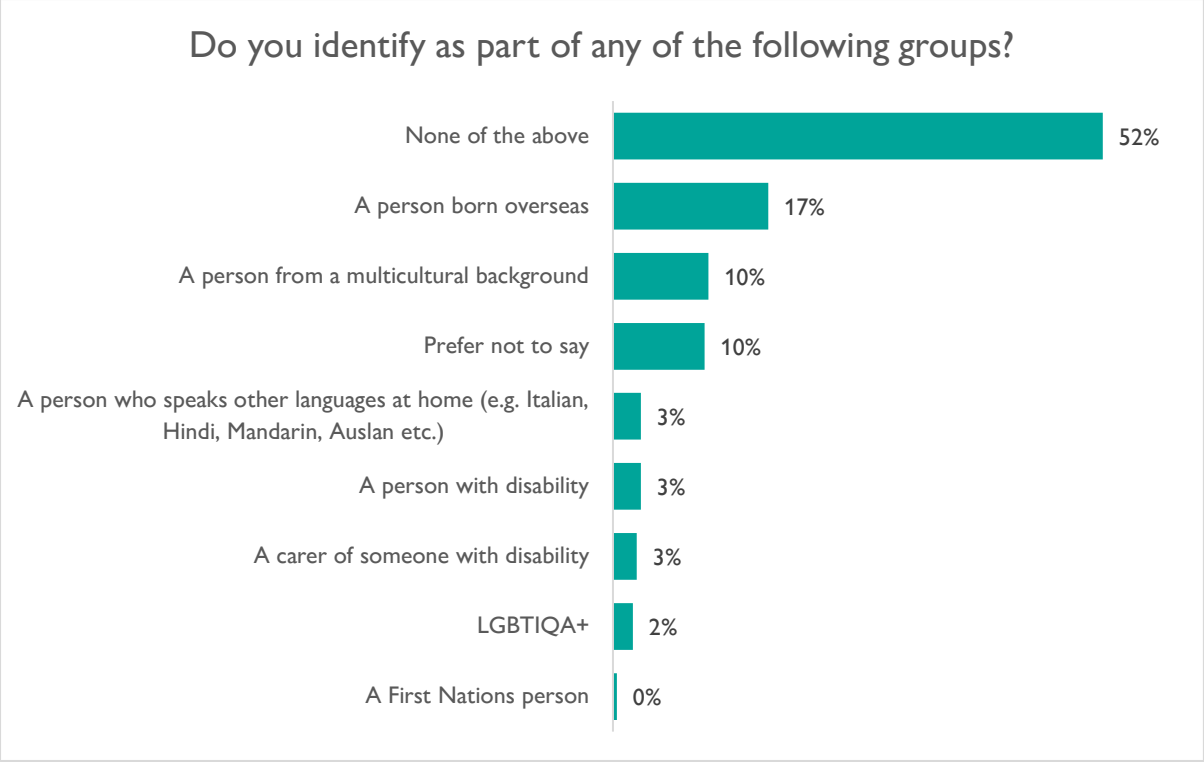


Question 4. Do you identify as part of any of the following groups?

This was an optional question. It was answered by 235 participants (**99 per cent**).

Most participants identified as none of the identity groups (**52 per cent**), or preferred not to say (**10 per cent**). The highest represented cohorts were people born overseas (**17 per cent**) or from a multicultural background (**10 per cent**).

The lowest represented cohorts were First Nations people (**0 per cent**) and LGBTIQA+ (**2 per cent**).



Question 5. If you would like to stay informed about this project, please provide your email here.

This was an optional question, it was answered by 83 participants. This information is private.

Your connection with sportsgrounds

The following information was provided to participants at this part of the survey.

Glen Eira has 19 parks with 43 sportsgrounds. Each park also has at least one pavilion to support the sportsgrounds. The sportsgrounds are outdoor ovals, courts and tracks that support the following sports:

- soccer
- cricket
- football
- netball
- baseball
- softball
- athletics
- Gaelic football
- lacrosse.

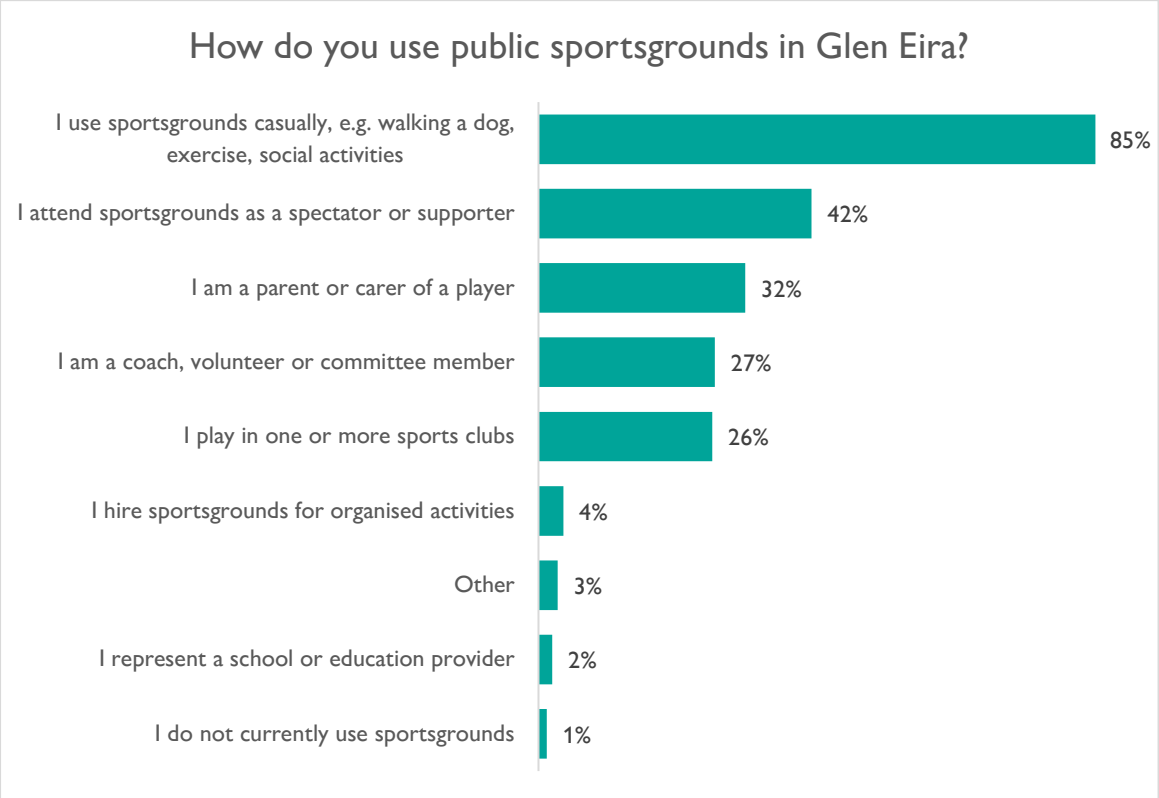
Sports like basketball, tennis, golf, cycling, skating, and lawn bowls are not included in the *Sportsgrounds and Associated Facilities Allocation Policy*. These sports usually have purpose-built facilities that are managed by clubs or associations.

Question 6. How do you use public sportsgrounds in Glen Eira?

This was a required question and allowed participants to select more than one option. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**)

Results show that sportsgrounds are used in diverse ways, with the majority of participants engaging in informal or casual activities:

- Use sportsgrounds casually, e.g. walking a dog, exercise, social activities were selected by 202 participants (85 per cent)
- Attend sportsgrounds as a spectator or supporter was selected by 99 participants (**42 per cent**)
- *Parent or carer of a player* was selected by 75 participants (**32 per cent**)
- *Coach, volunteer or committee member* was selected by 64 participants (**27 per cent**)
- *Play in one or more sports clubs* was selected by 63 participants (**26 per cent**)
  Hire sportsgrounds for organised activities was selected by 9 participants (**4 per cent**)
- *Other* was selected by 7 participants (**3 per cent**)
- *Represent a school or education provider* was selected by 5 participants (**2 per cent**)
- *Do not currently use sportsgrounds* was selected by 3 participants (**1 per cent**)

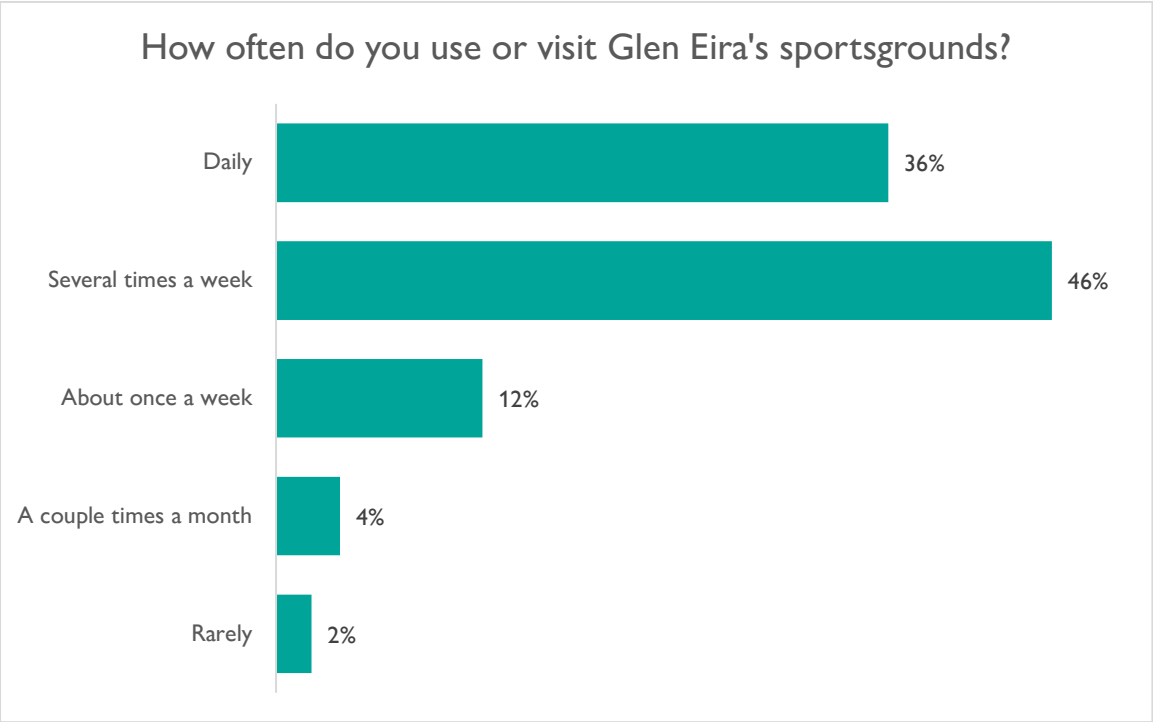


Question 7. How often do you use or visit Glen Eira's public sportsgrounds?

This was a required question. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**)

Results show a strong pattern of regular sportsground use:

- *Daily* was selected by 86 participants (**36 per cent**)
- *Several times a week* was selected by 109 participants (**46 per cent**)
- *About once a week* was selected by 29 participants (**12 per cent**)
- *A couple of times a month* was selected by 9 participants (**4 per cent**)
- *Rarely* was selected by 5 participants (**2 per cent**)

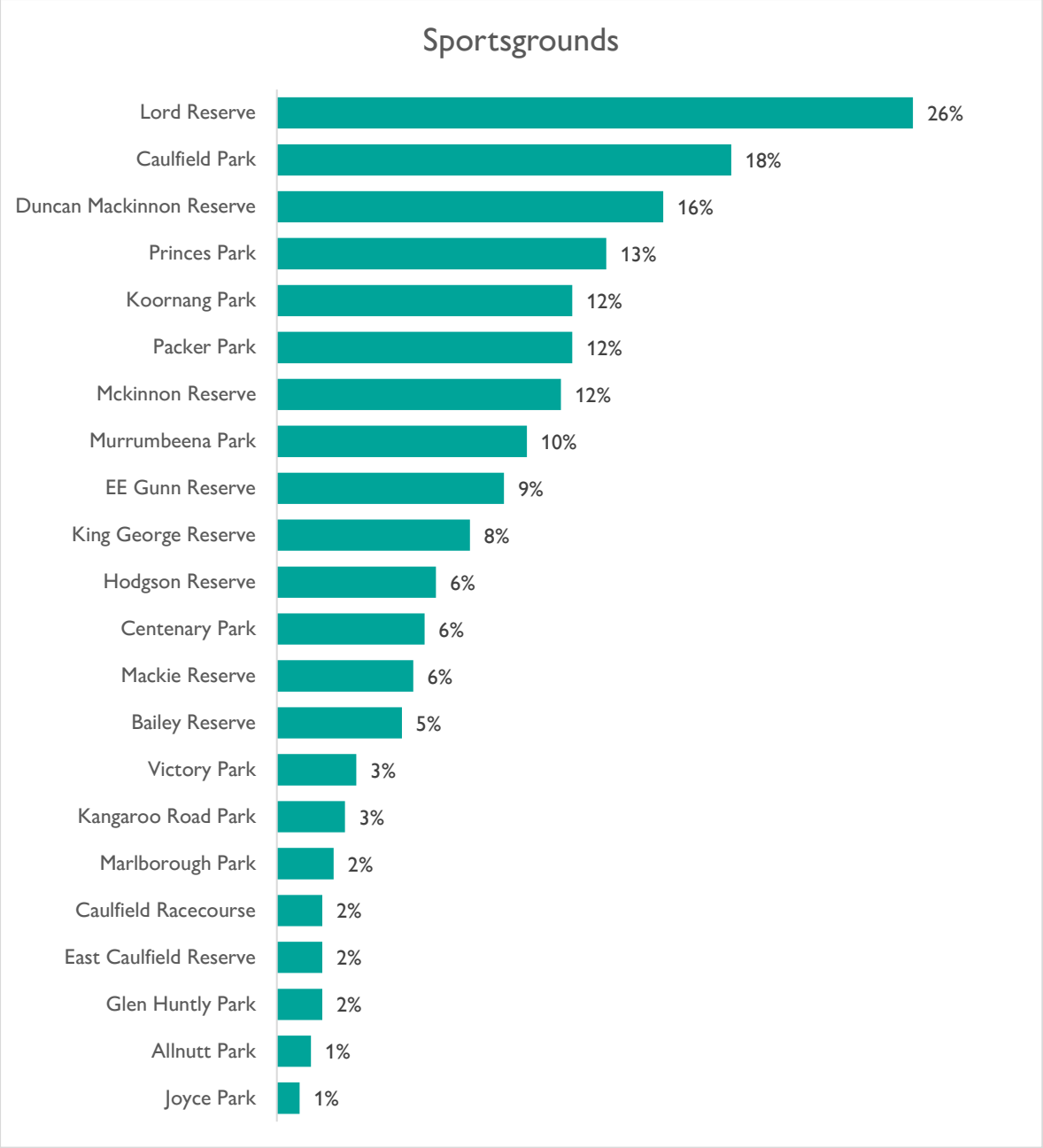


Question 8. Which Glen Eira sportsgrounds do you commonly use?

This was an optional question. It was answered by 217 participants (**92 per cent**).

This question allowed participants to write which Glen Eira sportsgrounds they commonly use. The number of times each sportsground was mentioned were:

- *Lord Reserve* in Carnegie is commonly used by 56 participants (**26 per cent**)
- *Caulfield Park* is commonly used by 40 participants (**18 per cent**)
- *Duncan Mackinnon Reserve* is commonly used by 34 participants (**16 per cent**)
- *Princes Park* in Caulfield South is commonly used by 29 participants (**13 per cent**)



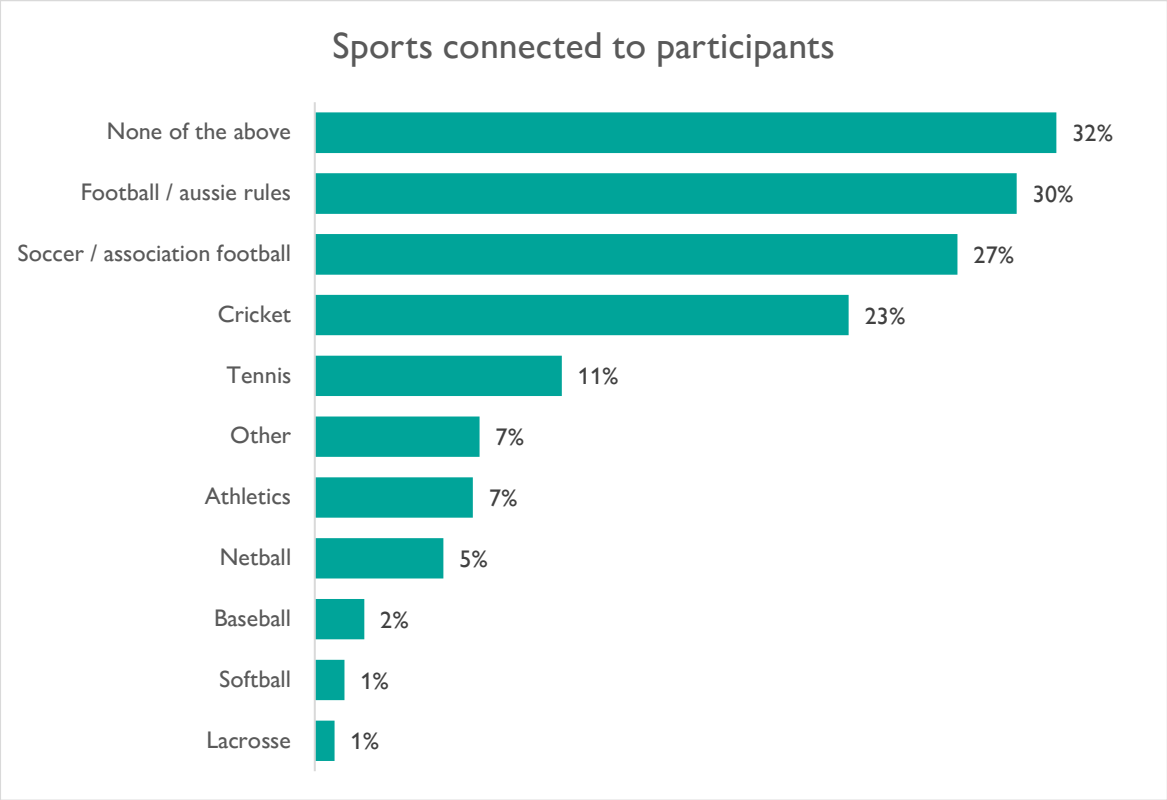
Question 9. Which sports are you mainly connected to?

This was a required question and allowed participants to select more than one option. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**).

The results show a diverse representation of sports:

- *None of the mentioned* was selected by 75 participants (**32 per cent**)
- *Football/Aussie rules* were selected by 71 participants (**30 per cent**)
- *Soccer/Association* football was selected by 65 participants (**27 per cent**)
- *Cricket* was selected by 54 participants (**23 per cent**)
- *Tennis* was selected by 25 participants (**11 per cent**)

- *Other* was selected by 17 participants (**7 per cent**)
- *Athletics* was selected by 16 participants (**7 per cent**)
- *Netball* was selected by 13 participants (**5 per cent**)
- *Baseball* was selected by 5 participants (**2 per cent**)
- *Softball* was selected by 3 participants (**1 per cent**)
- *Lacrosse* was selected by 2 participants (**1 per cent**)



The option for *Other* allowed participants to write which sports they are mainly connected to. The most common were:

- Dog walking and dog training
- Pickleball

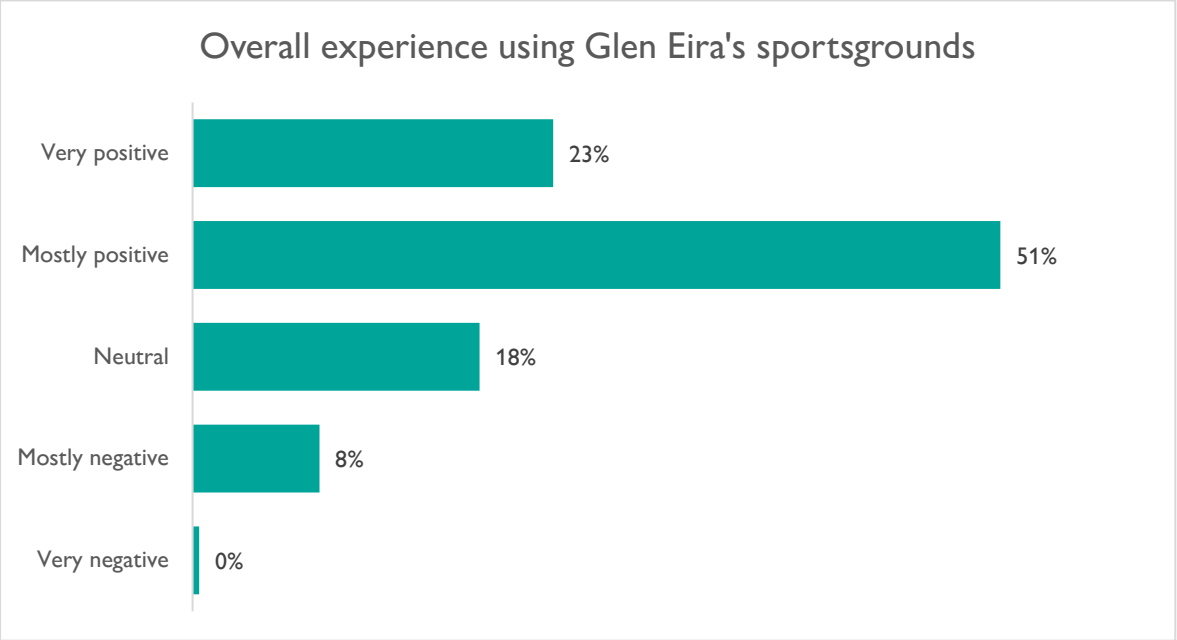
Question 10. Overall, how would you rate your experience using Glen Eira's public sportsgrounds?

This was an optional question. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**).

The results show that the majority of participants have a positive experience using sportsgrounds:

- *Very positive* was selected by 54 participants (**23 per cent**)
- *Mostly positive* was selected by 121 participants (**51 per cent**)
- *Neutral* was selected by 43 participants (**18 per cent**)
- *Mostly negative* was selected by 19 participants (**8 per cent**)

- *Very negative* was selected by 1 participant (**0 per cent**)



Fairer access

Sportsgrounds and facilities are shared between different clubs, schools, and casual usage (like walking dogs and social occasions). Because the demand is high and space is limited, access needs to be fair, balanced, and easy to understand.

Question 11. Do you agree that the following objectives are a fair way to manage Glen Eira's public sportsgrounds?

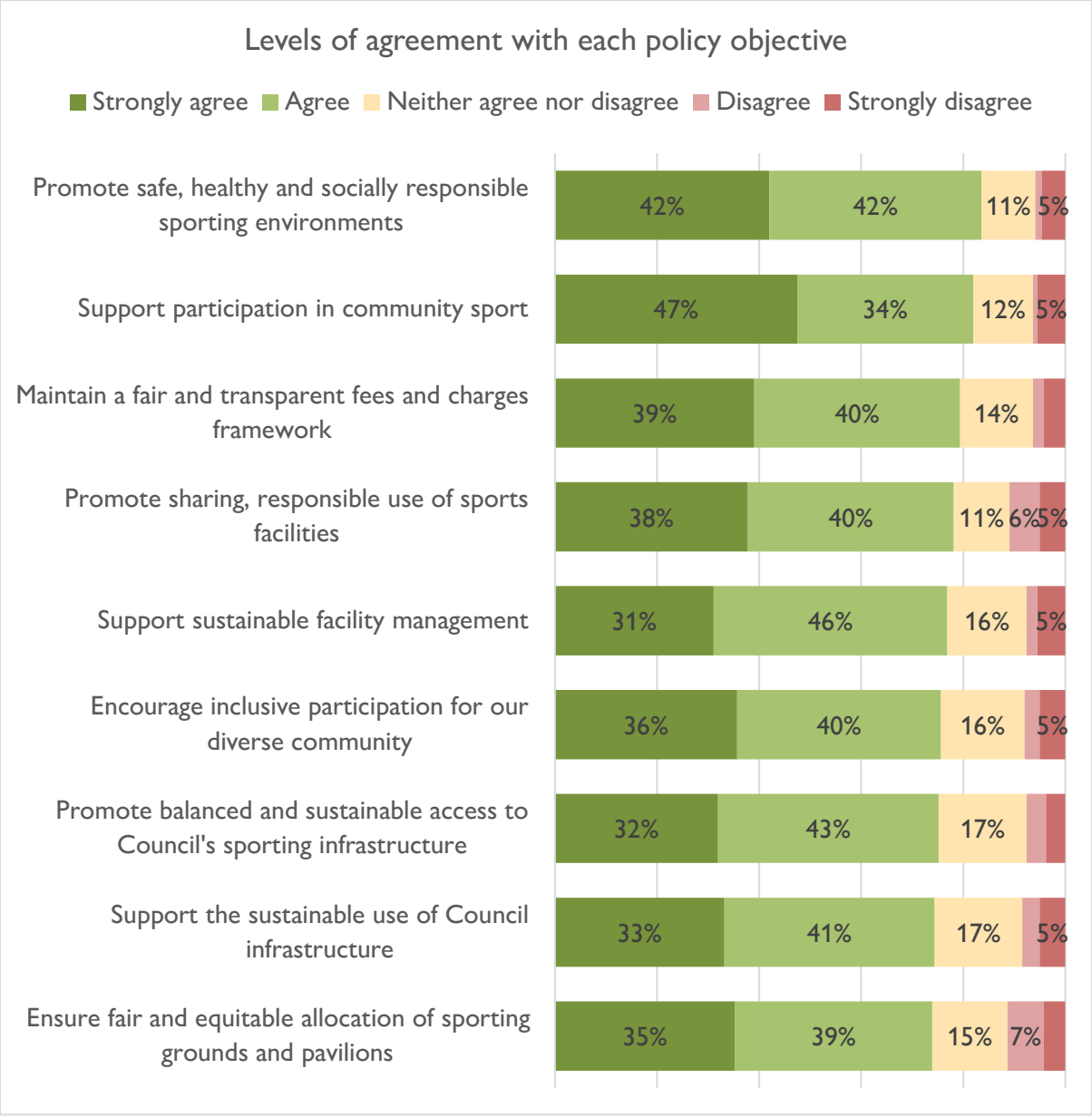
This was an optional question and asked participants to choose their level of agreement for each of the draft policy objectives if they were a fair way to manage Glen Eira's public sportsgrounds. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**).

The portion of participants who either *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with each objective is:

- Promote safe, healthy and socially responsible sporting environments — **84 per cent**
- Support participation in organised sport — **82 per cent**
- Maintain a fair and transparent fees and charges framework — **79 per cent**
- Promote sharing, responsible use of sports facilities — **78 per cent**
- Support sustainable facility management — **77 per cent**
- Encourage inclusive participation for our diverse community — **76 per cent**
- Promote balanced and sustainable access to Council's sporting infrastructure — **75 per cent**

- Support the sustainable use of Council infrastructure — **74 per cent**
- Ensure fair and equitable allocation of sportsgrounds and pavilions — **74 per cent**

The graph shows how often each level of agreement was chosen for each objective. Only ratings with 5 per cent or more are labelled.



Question 12. Are there any other priorities that you think are missing from the list above?

This was an optional question and asked participants to provide any priorities that they thought were missing. It was answered by 120 participants (**50 per cent**).

The priorities have been themed and counted below.

Key themes on missing priorities	Number of participants
Improve dog management and off-leash options	30
Include walkers and non-sport users explicitly	21
Balance organised sport with casual access	20
Improve facilities, maintenance, and upgrades	18
Prioritise Glen Eira locals and ratepayers	18
Improve safety, lighting, and safe operations	14
No additional objectives suggested	10
Protect environment, trees, and wildlife	9
Recognise volunteers and community sport value	9
Limit non-local, elite, or commercial use	7
Improve disability access and inclusive facilities	6
Manage parking, traffic, noise, and amenity impacts	6
Protect long-standing clubs and continuity	6
Strengthen accountability and respectful behaviour	6
Support women and girls participation and facilities	6
Concerns about survey framing or inclusion language	4
Improve transparency and communication of allocations	4

Representative comments:

"Protecting reasonable casual community access to public open space, including for dog walking, exercise and informal recreation, should be an explicit priority within the policy."

"Promote equitable access with disability access ramps, toileting and changing facilities."

"Support casual use for dogs and walkers"

"The Local ovals are often so full up with sports on the weekends, there is no space for me to go and enjoy my local park in peace and quiet. Also I cannot take my dog during sporting events. Which is a LOT of the weekend. As I live with a disability this makes things more difficult for me."

"Only clubs from Glen Eira should have access to Glen Eira sporting ovals. There are too many clubs from outside the region using our grounds."

"Stop trying to be inclusive there is no need. World has gone mad and councils in Australia are the biggest problem."

"I think walking of dogs should be kept away from sporting arena as many owners don't pick up after their dogs. There are many other places for dogs to be walked/exercised that are away from grass sporting arenas."

"To ensure that park allocations take into account the communities that live in close proximity to the park."

"More Access for women in sport. Koornag Park needs to have Netball courts next to the club rooms. There is space to facilitate this & allow for women to have connection to the club & community . Caulfield Bears now has 10 senior womens netball teams. We are uanble to play home games as there are no courts next to the football club leading to a lack of confectioner & community ."

"Recognition and support of what community sport does to build a healthy and vibrant community, and the value of volunteers in particular for the local community."

"Given the limited space and capacity of the sport ground. Priority should be given to the local community and residents who have been involved and participating clubs already established. Outside clubs or schools outside the precinct should be placed on a waiting list or diverted elsewhere. The sport grounds can't cope with additional services."

"Maintenance of the parks has dropped. There are many dead trees in Packer Park that are not cut down or removed. Yet thousands of dollars are spent on sprinkler systems, a yet to be used cycling pavilion, that should have been an extension to the current building making it more dual function rather than exclusive use for cycling. The objectives above do not reflect the investment in the last 12 months."

"Council need to allocate more Rangers to control dog owners, who don't follow rules."

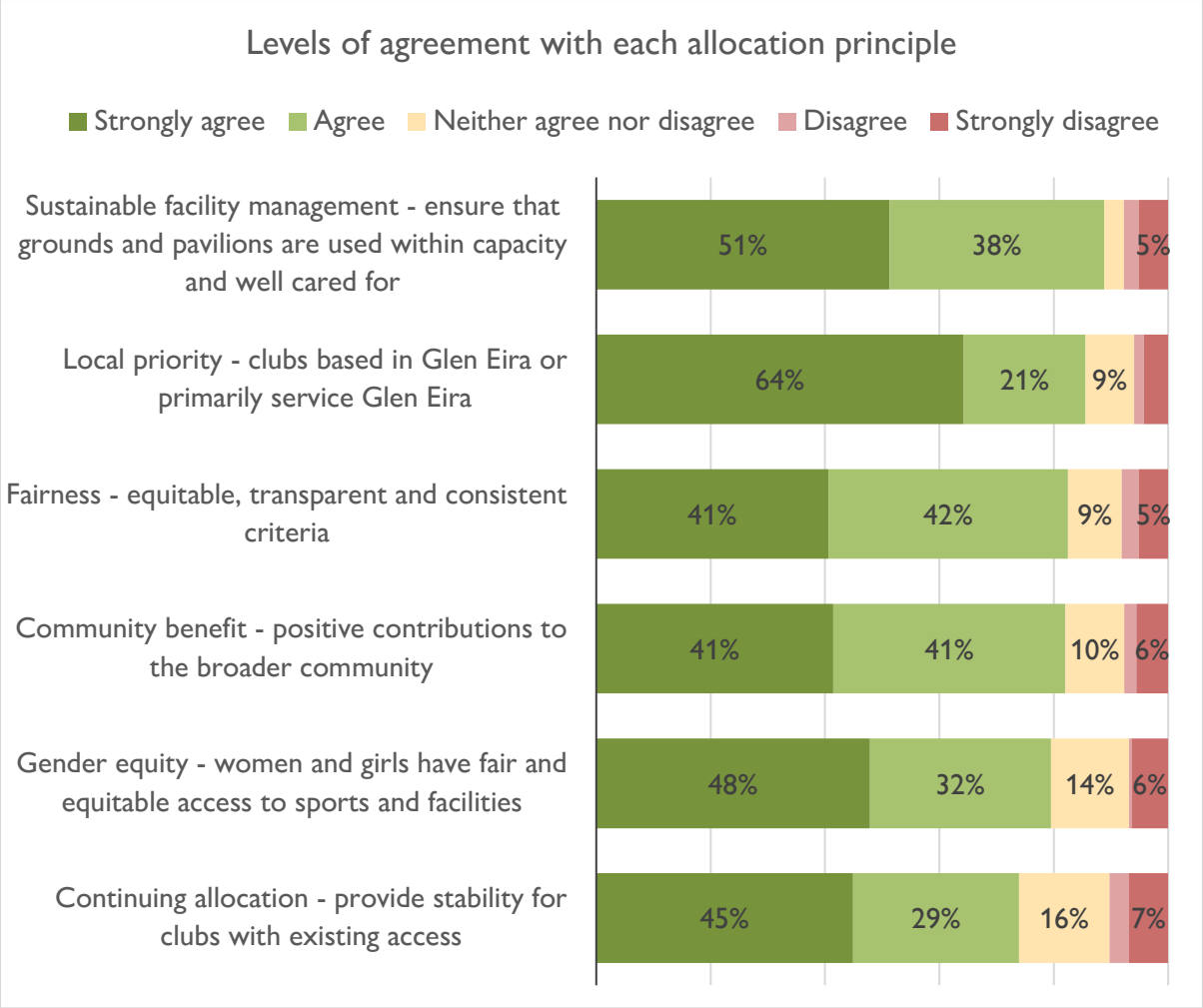
Question 13. When we allocate sportsgrounds to clubs, what do you think is important?

This was an optional question and asked participants to choose their level of agreement with the proposed principles in the policy that would guide how we assess the applications. It was answered by 235 participants (**99 per cent**).

The portion of participants who either *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with each principle is:

- Sustainable facility management — ensure that grounds and pavilions are used within capacity and well cared for — **89 per cent**
- Local priority — clubs based in Glen Eira or primarily service Glen Eira — **86 per cent**
- Fairness — equitable, transparent and consistent criteria — **82 per cent**
- Community benefit — positive contributions to the broader community — **82 per cent**
- Gender equity — women and girls have fair and equitable access to sports and facilities — **79 per cent**
- Continuing allocation — provide stability for clubs with existing access — **74 per cent**

The graph shows how often each level of agreement was chosen for each principle. Only data sections with 5 per cent or higher are labelled.



Question 14. How can space and time on sportsgrounds be shared fairly between organised clubs and the broader community?

This was an optional question, and asked participants how can space and time be shared fairly between organised clubs and the broader community. It was answered by 147 participants (**62 per cent**).

The priorities have been themed and counted below.

Key themes on missing priorities	Number of participants
Address conflicts between sport and dog users	34
Allocate based on participation and need	30
Improve transparency of bookings and allocation	25
Prioritise existing and long-standing clubs	24
Invest in more space and facilities	23
Balance access between clubs and the broader community	22
Maintain priority for organised sport at key times	20

Key themes on missing priorities	Number of participants
Support designated times or zones for different users	19
Support flexible and efficient use of space	18
Ensure community access is protected at all times	14
Prevent overuse and ensure fair distribution of space	14
Prioritise local clubs over external users	10
Ensure smaller or emerging sports have fair access	7
Improve coordination consultation and communication	7
Manage impacts on surrounding community	6

Representative comments:

"Should definitely prioritise local groups and prioritise long standing social and sporting clubs."

"I firmly believe the broader community have more than enough access to sportsgrounds. Very few sportsgrounds are used by organised clubs during weekday working hours and on weekends some sports have "away" games so the grounds are free for the broader community. As for the growing trend to appease some dog owners, there are many spaces dogs can enjoy without encroaching on organised sport. They should definately not take precedence."

"Post what time in the morning grounds are used at. That way people walking dogs could know where the can go in the morning. Eg sport at King George starts at 8 am this week, I know to walk my dog earlier."

"The grounds are more than just sport the Council needs to ensure that they are places that provide refuge for the wildlife in the area"

"Have timed sessions for a variety of users"

"Signage with designated times for club usage,"

"Areas permanently free from organised clubs, lighting especially on winter evenings for community to use and be safe, not just lighting for organised clubs."

"Share with pet owners and parents of young children, often sports club hog the whole ground/s, especially during practice sessions"

"Some ovals are only half used, maybe they can be shared instead of booking entire oval"

"People should clean after their dogs poo or make any mess.if possible they should make special dog play area so rest of park is free from dogs.some dogs misbehave and some time bit people.some people are scared of dogs so that is the reason dogs play area should be special for dogs.some people don't clean after their dogs poop."

"encourage use of facilities for any activities/clubs outside prime time slots. as someone who uses princes park multiple times a day for non-sport activities, it seems those participating in sports all vie for limited prime time slots. outside those times facilities sit idle and unused majority of the time."

"Ensure organise sports do not overuse and lead to deterioration of the condition of the ground so that the public can't use it too."

"Girls soccer is growing and there is not currently enough space for training and games given the increasing popularity. We have also tried to increase access for older >35 year olds soccer but have been denied due to no access to grounds"

Fees and charges

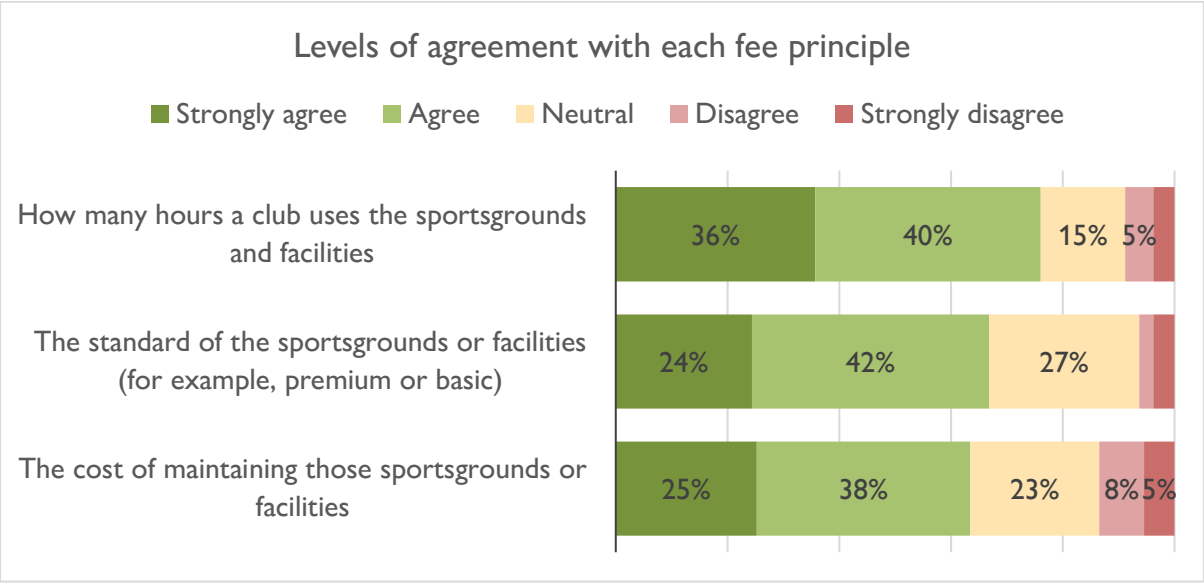
Question 15. Do you think the following factors should help determine the fees for sports clubs?

This was an optional question and asked participants to choose their level of agreement with the factors to help determine the fees for sports clubs. It was answered by 238 participants (**100 per cent**).

The portion of participants who either *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with each factor is:

- How many hours a club uses the sportsgrounds and facilities — **76 per cent**
- The quality of the sportsgrounds or facilities (for example, premium or basic) — **67 per cent**
- The cost of maintaining those sportsgrounds or facilities — **63 per cent**

The graph shows how often each level of agreement was chosen for each factor.



Question 16. Do you have any other suggestions for how we could more fairly approach fees and charges?

This was an optional question and asked participants how we could more fairly approach fees and charges. It was answered by 102 participants (**43 per cent**).

The priorities have been themed and counted below.

Key themes on missing priorities	Number of participants
Support fees based on hours and space	26
Importance of community and volunteers	22
Suggest fee scaling by club size and memberships	22
Suggest affordability safeguards to support participation	17
Support fair facility grading	15
Suggest sport-specific adjustments	12
Higher fees for non-local, semi-professional, or commercial users	12
User fees for wear and damage	11
Protect inclusive access for women and diverse users	11
Requests for clearer cost transparency	7
Concern about council efficiency and trust	7
Concerns about rates not covering the costs	7
Prefer flexible allocations and sharing unused time	5

Representative comments:

"Greater use should be paid for. It is clear that the more a ground is used the more wear and tear."

"Fees should reflect volume of use. Larger groups who use a larger allocated space more often per week, should also contribute proportionately more to maintain the grounds and facilities."

"The type of use that is being saught, e.g. high level vs social. For social and general fitness, the barrier to entry needs to be low, especially in these times of financial difficulty."

"I think having hours, maintenance, ground standard in the mix are 3 definite factors All in unison. I guess hours a club uses a facility is based upon how many clubs and sports use a specific venue."

"Give discounts. This screams cash grab."

"Council has a responsibility to cover some of the costs of maintenance in order to sustain sporting activities which promote a socially inclusive society in the area."

"Resident rate payers already contribute to the maintenance of sportsgrounds and pavilions. This is a double up of charges to the community. Any charges should be on a cost recovery basis only and clearly justified. Council need to share the composition of the charges and how they have determined their hourly rates. A lot of smart business leaders from the private sector volunteer at local sports clubs."

"Answering this question is rather problematic, as there is no visibility as to how council arrives at current charges to clubs for seasonal access. Nor do clubs have a lot of flexibility in their ability to adjust their hours/days/weeks of facility usage, if they want to participate in sporting association fixtured games. Clubs also have little say in when and how council chooses to upgrade grounds and pavilions, and no visibility to the outcomes in terms of cost impact to them when these occur."

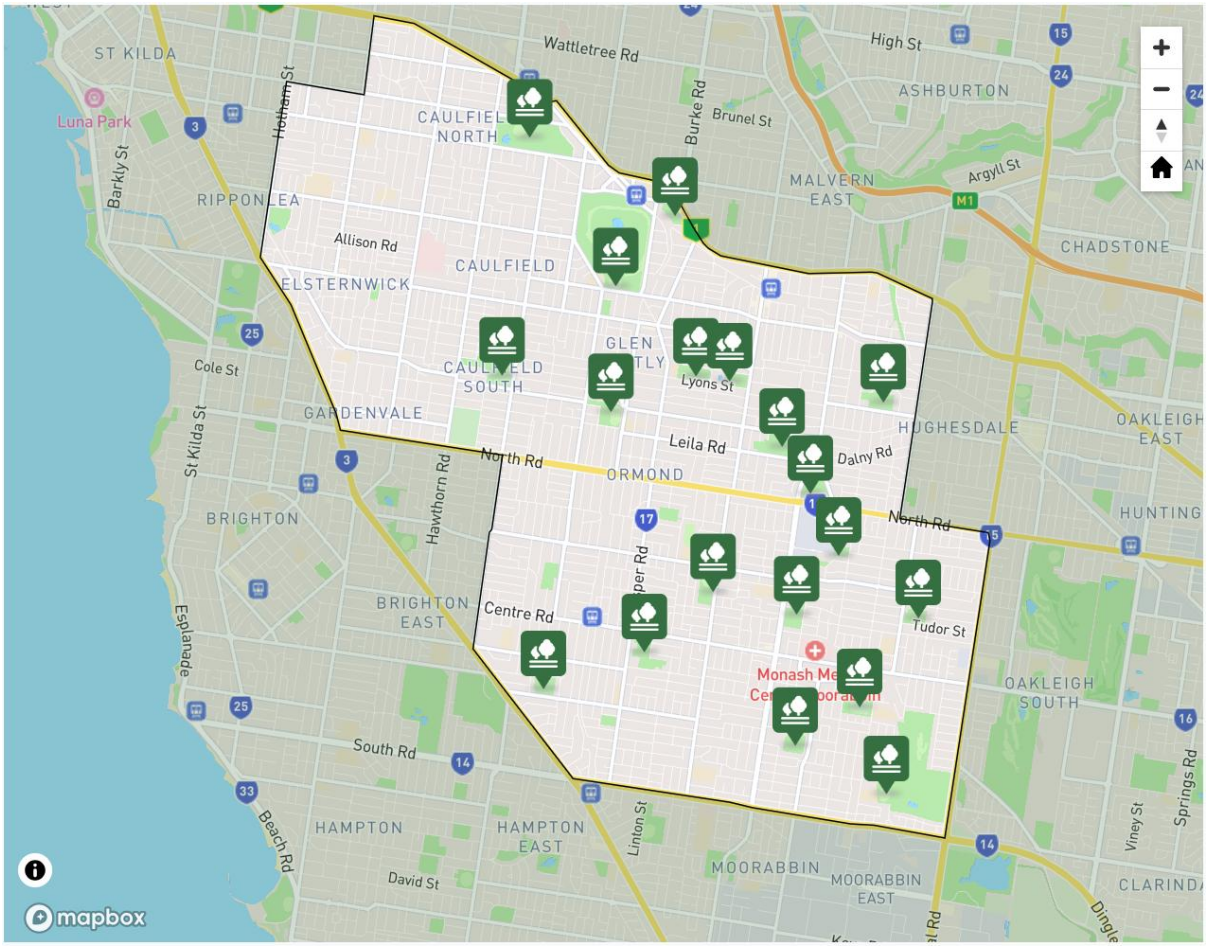
"Fees based on ability of club to support these fees, is the organization not for profit, what is there membership base"

"I would like to see all clubs demonstrate inclusivity and/or contribution to the greater Glen Eira community. They might need support to achieve this and Glen Eira professional staff could support new ventures with guidance and reduced fees."

"Fees and charges should reflect the scale and intensity of use, while remaining affordable for community-based and volunteer-run clubs. A tiered or usage-based system could provide a fairer outcome, where organisations using more hours or placing greater strain on facilities contribute proportionally more to upkeep and maintenance. Consideration should also be given to the social value provided by clubs, particularly those supporting juniors, accessibility and community participation"

Social map activity

A map of Glen Eira was shown on the Have Your Say page with markers and information for each of the 19 parks that contain sportsgrounds. Participants could click on the markers to leave a comment or rating, or create their own marker in a different area.



Question. Share a comment on the map

This was an optional question in the social map and asked for feedback about specific sportsgrounds or facilities. It was answered by nine participants who left 13 comments.

The comments and the marked location have been provided below.

Location	Comment
Caulfield Park	*"Parking of caravans, trucks and trailers around the park as long term storage isn't right. It means less parking for those using the park."*
East Caulfield Reserve	*"The facilities at this venue leave a lot to be desired. The bathrooms are very dirty and unwelcoming. The fence around the main oval is broken so dogs run onto the grounds when games are on. There is also old bedding and mattresses near the change room entrances which are used by homeless persons and just add to the un-safe, unclean vibe of this reserve. We don't like coming here."*
King George VI Memorial Reserve	*"I'm writing to you today with two hats on—as a local dad, and as a resident who just wants to enjoy our local green space.* *First, the good stuff: as a dad, I absolutely love that my son gets to train and play with his footy club at King George Reserve. The facilities are world-class, and it's brilliant watching him train with his mates and develop his skills.* *But I'm also incredibly frustrated. He and I can almost never just show up at the ground and kick a footy around. Between the different age groups training on different days and the constant presence of off-leash dogs, there's just no*

Location	Comment
	window for casual, unstructured play. *Which brings me to my second point: why do we have two dog ovals?* *Don't get me wrong—I genuinely love dogs. It warms my heart to see the bond between people and their pets. But because both ovals at King George are dog-friendly, the rest of the community is completely locked out of using the grass for anything else. You can't have a family picnic, and you can't just lie on the grass and look at the sky without a dog bounding up to lick your face (or worse, lift a leg near you).* *It's actively stopping people from enjoying their hobbies. Just the other day, I was trying to fly a kite, and a dog took issue with the 'ripping' noise the wind was making. It decided to attack me and the kite, making a total nuisance of itself. Another time, I watched a kid trying to practice unicycling, but a dog kept chasing him until the poor kid just gave up in frustration and left.* *We need a better balance. If Council could restrict dogs to just one of the ovals, it would instantly open up the other one for families, kids, and anyone who wants to enjoy some casual recreation without a pet getting in the way.* *And please, based on past experience, don't just tell me that you will "increase signage." We all know people get used to signs after a week and just ignore them. We need a clear, fair division of the space so everyone can enjoy the park.* *Thanks for taking the time to read this. I really hope we can find a solution that works for both dog owners, organised sports (i.e. clubs) and the rest of the community."*
Lord Reserve	*"This is a great facility however the overloaded training sessions and match days make for a very traffic dangerous environment. Rules are consistenlty ignored by frantic users who leave arrival to the last minute and this causes many close calls and accidents, one today in fact. While a long term plan has the attention of the Traffic team, a short term plan is necessary. A child or other park users will be hit, it is inevitable. Immediate action is required. Council have been informed of this concern for years, it is a shame the process is so very slow. All residents have their version of frustration, let's find a practical solution."*
McKinnon Reserve	*"The off leash dog area needs a light in winter until 8pm. This is a very popular community meeting place, and would be well utilised"*
McKinnon Reserve	*"This ground is well utilised, particularly during the Winter season and can get overcrowded at times but the existing clubs work well together. The clubs take pride in the grounds and often take on care of the pavilion, which requires ongoing maintenance, using their own funds."*
Murrumbeena Park	*"There isn't enough parking on Sundays when the junior footy games are on, people are attending the church held in the community centre etc. It makes local streets very congested and often with people parking on both sides of the streets, the neighbouring streets become one way only"*
Packer Park	*"More basketball courts*

Location	Comment
	And more strict rules for the dog owners who do not use a leash into the sports oval."
Packer Park	*"Not sure why the new cricket nets / soccer goal/basketball ring were constructed such that you can only use one at a time ie when the cricket nets are being used, you can't use the basketball hoop. Smarter planning could have avoided this"*
Packer Park	*"Packer Park - can there be additional lights added - particularly around the basketball ring/tennis wall and also the new basketball court that has been installed? Now that we are coming into winter, existing lighting is not sufficient."*
Princes Park	*"would be good to know during winter if/when the lights will be on"*
Princes Park	*"in the evenings during the week the park becomes overcrowded as all ovals are used for sport at the same time, leaving no space for other non-sport activities. dogs/owners are squeazed out or forced into small pockets near walking paths. this causes other issues like blocking paths of walkers/runners/cyclists and some instances of dogs chasing runners/cyclists/scooters.* *some sport participants are also known to become verbally abusive at dog owners if they come near a field when everything is overcrowded"*
Princes Park	*"Schedule of booked fixtures should be shared with the community.* *One area of the park and sports grounds should be available to the public during the week to allow public use of the park."*

Stakeholder feedback

Written submissions from sports clubs

Four written submissions were received from representatives of sports clubs. A summary of each club's feedback is provided below.

Washington Park Cricket Club

Washington Park Cricket Club expressed strong overall support for the draft policy and user guide, describing them as fair and equitable and supporting their formal adoption through to 2030. The Club commended Council for managing a complex balance between competing users and provided targeted suggestions aimed at improving clarity rather than changing the overall policy intent.

The Club's feedback focused on technical and operational clarity, particularly around cricket nets, preseason and finals training, and fees.

Key suggestions were:

- Explicitly include cricket nets within summer seasonal allocations, with standard operating hours similar to grounds and pavilions.
- Split preseason training and finals training into separate sections within the User Guide to improve clarity.
- Clearly distinguish responsibilities for preseason practice matches (club-booked) and finals matches (association-booked).
- Avoid fee models based purely on full maintenance cost recovery.
- Prefer a fee structure based on hours of use and facility quality, recognising that facilities are also heavily used by the general community.

Carnegie South Cricket Club

Carnegie South Cricket Club indicated support for the general approach. They agreed with various particulars in the approach to fees, like the incorporation of the utilities charges into the base rate and separating out oval costs, pavilion costs, turf wicket costs, and lighting costs to reflect actual usage.

However, they emphasised that affordability remains a key concern, and that any significant increase in total costs would be problematic for volunteer-run community clubs.

Glen Eira Football Club

Glen Eira FC provided a detailed submission supporting the intent and principles of the draft policy, particularly fairness, sustainability, shared use and inclusive participation.

While supportive, the Club identified several areas where greater clarity, flexibility and recognition of changing participation patterns would strengthen outcomes.

Key issues included:

- Explicitly recognise junior and female participation growth as a weighting factor in allocation decisions.
- Treat preseason access as an essential participation period, not a discretionary add-on.
- Provide greater flexibility for summer and extended-season access, reflecting evolving competition calendars.
- Improve transparency by publishing clearer assessment criteria, weightings and post-allocation feedback.

- Prioritise Glen Eira-based clubs for access to premium and alternative facilities, particularly during constrained periods.
- Minimise fees and ensure lighting access is affordable, recognising its importance for winter participation and broader community use.
- Address facility condition issues, particularly at Marlborough Street Reserve, which was identified as no longer fit for purpose.

Bentleigh Cricket Club

Bentleigh Cricket Club expressed general support for Council's current approach and the proposed policy direction. The Club indicated it understands the allocation process, values the opportunity for regular dialogue with Council, and is comfortable with the policy largely remaining as it is. Recent infrastructure improvements, particularly the additional cricket nets at Bentleigh Reserve, were noted as a positive step that will support future participation and training needs.

The Club's key concerns relate to practical coordination and protection of incumbent club access.

Key suggestions were:

- Improve communication and notifications between clubs to avoid clashes.
- Ensure historical use and long-standing club presence are appropriately recognised in allocation decisions.
- Recognise that match bookings need to cover set-up and warm-up time, not just match play.
- Recognise the club's social activities in pavilion rooms.
- Support greater flexibility and cooperation between summer and winter clubs to manage preseason access and seasonal transitions, with Council oversight rather than prescriptive controls.

Survey responses from coaches, volunteers or committee members

The engagement survey had 64 participants who identified as a coach, volunteer or committee member. The following charts represent survey feedback of the coaches, volunteers and committee members on the policy objectives, allocation principles, and fee principles.

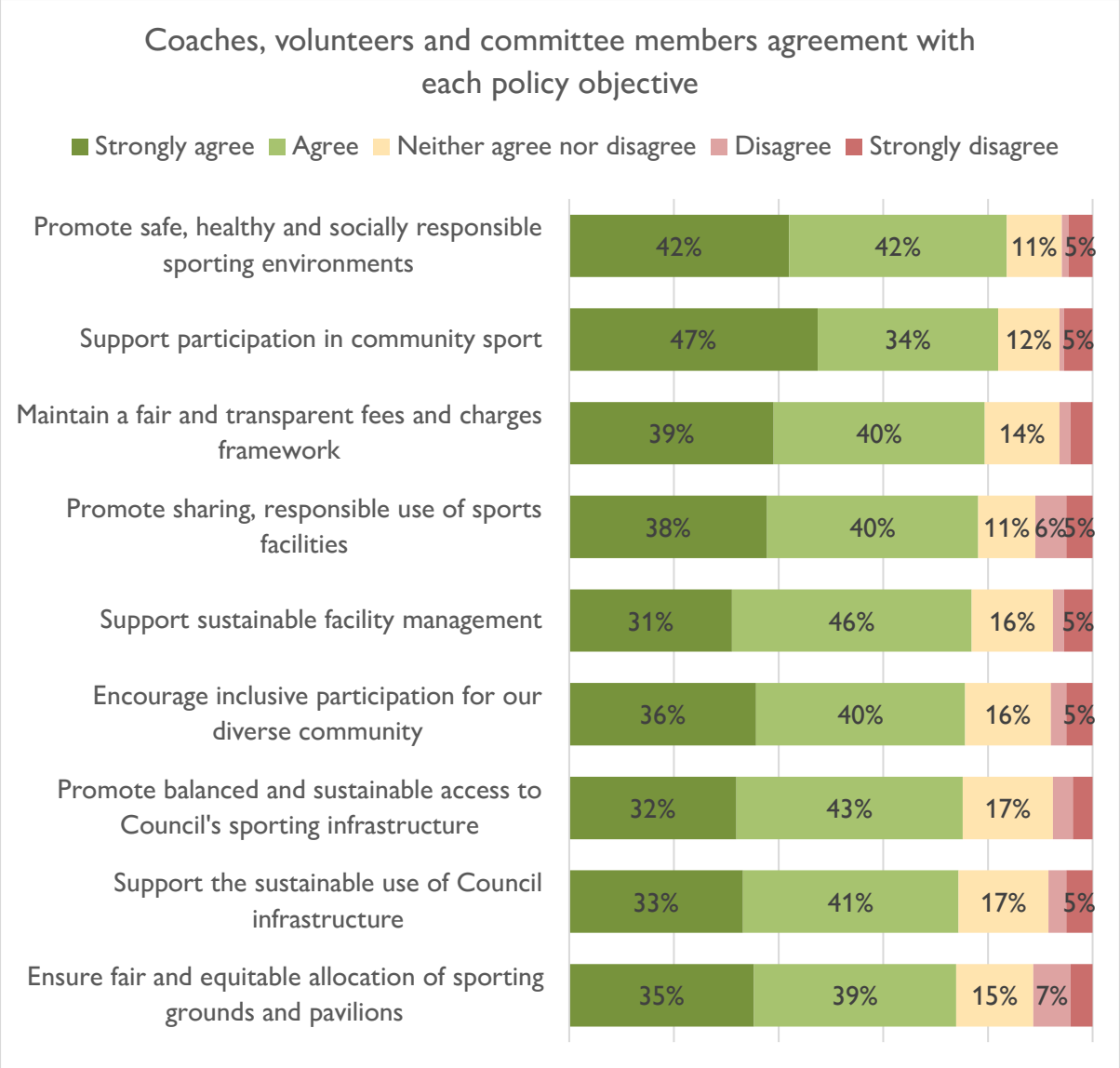
Question 11. Do you agree that the following objectives are a fair way to manage Glen Eira's public sportsgrounds?

This was an optional question and asked participants to choose their level of agreement for each of the draft policy objectives if they were a fair way to manage Glen Eira's public sportsgrounds. It was answered by 64 coaches, volunteers or committee members (**100 per cent**).

All objectives received consistent support from participants. The top three objectives rated by participants, as indicated by the portion who either *Strongly agree* or *Agree,* were:

- Promote safe, healthy and socially responsible sporting environments — **84 per cent**
- Support participation in organised sport — **81 per cent**
- Maintain a fair and transparent fees and charges framework — **79 per cent**

The graph shows how often each level of agreement was chosen for each objective. Only ratings with 5 per cent or more are labelled.


Coaches, volunteers and committee members agreement with each policy objective
Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Promote safe, healthy and socially responsible sporting environments
42%
42%
11%
5%
Support participation in community sport
47%
34%
12%
5%
Maintain a fair and transparent fees and charges framework
39%
40%
14%
Promote sharing, responsible use of sports facilities
38%
40%
11%
6%
5%
Support sustainable facility management
31%
46%
16%
5%
Encourage inclusive participation for our diverse community
36%
40%
16%
5%
Promote balanced and sustainable access to Council's sporting infrastructure
32%
43%
17%
Support the sustainable use of Council infrastructure
33%
41%
17%
5%
Ensure fair and equitable allocation of sporting grounds and pavilions
35%
39%
15%
7%

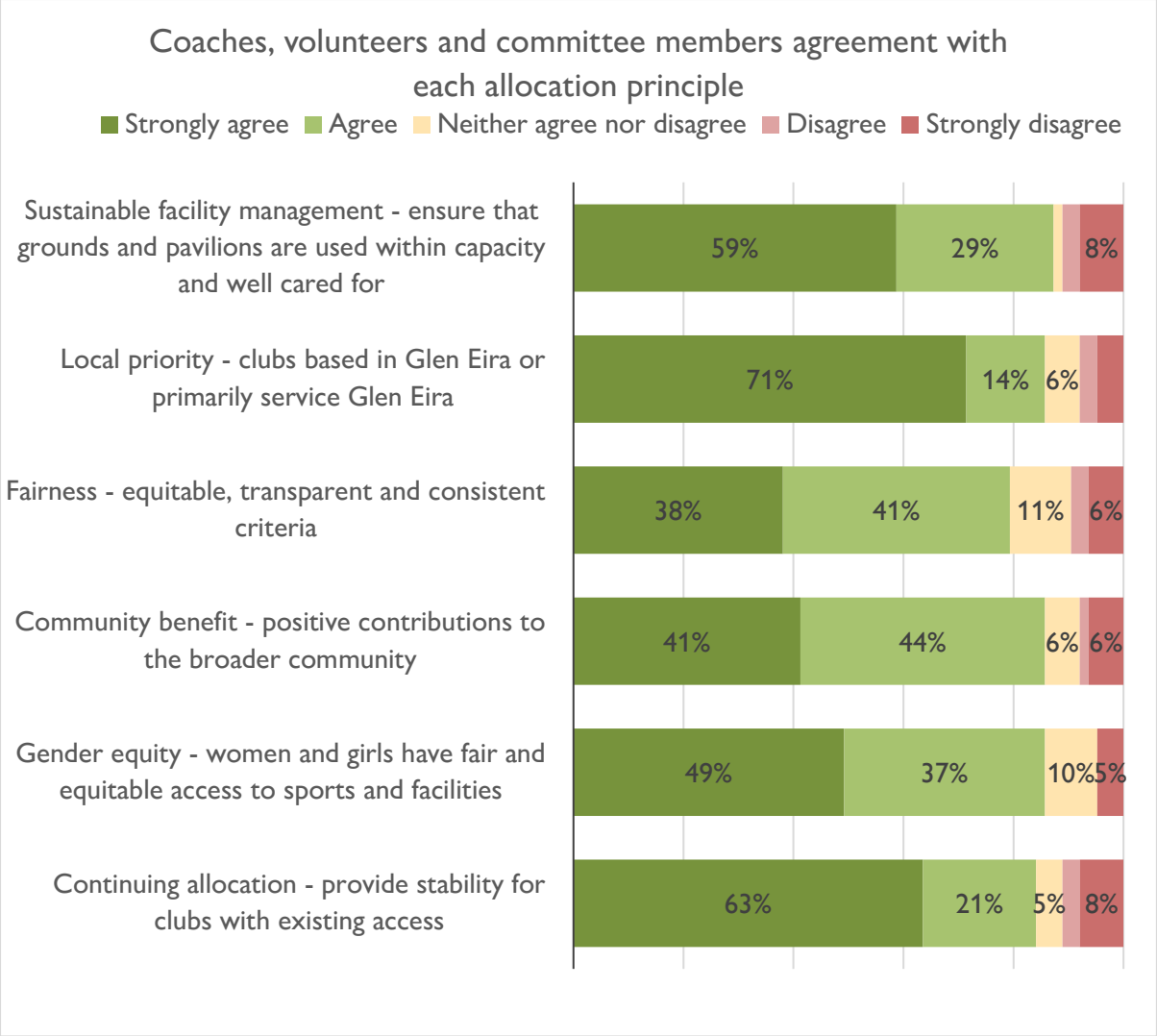
Question 13. When we allocate sportsgrounds to clubs, what do you think is important?

This was an optional question and asked participants to choose their level of agreement with the proposed principles in the policy that would guide how we assess the applications. It was answered by 63 coaches, volunteers or committee members (**98 per cent**).

All principles received consistent support from participants. The top four principles rated by participants, as indicated by the portion who either *Strongly agree* or *Agree,* were:

- Sustainable facility management — ensure that grounds and pavilions are used within capacity and well cared for — **88 per cent**
- Gender equity — women and girls have fair and equitable access to sports and facilities — **86 per cent**
- Local priority — clubs based in Glen Eira or primarily service Glen Eira — **85 per cent**
- Community benefit — positive contributions to the broader community — **85 per cent**

The graph shows how often each level of agreement was chosen for each allocation principle. Only ratings with 5 per cent or more are labelled.


Coaches, volunteers and committee members agreement with each allocation principle
Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Sustainable facility management - ensure that grounds and pavilions are used within capacity and well cared for
59%
29%
8%
Local priority - clubs based in Glen Eira or primarily service Glen Eira
71%
14%
6%
Fairness - equitable, transparent and consistent criteria
38%
41%
11%
6%
Community benefit - positive contributions to the broader community
41%
44%
6%
6%
Gender equity - women and girls have fair and equitable access to sports and facilities
49%
37%
10%
5%
Continuing allocation - provide stability for clubs with existing access
63%
21%
5%
8%

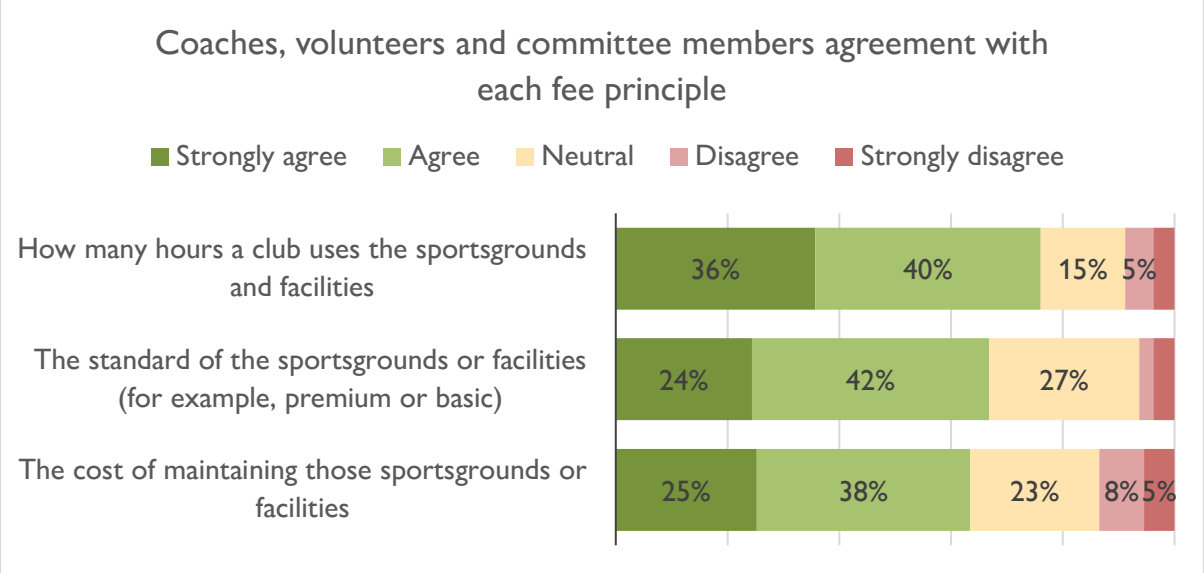
Question 15. Do you think the following factors should help determine the fees for sports clubs?

This was an optional question and asked participants to choose their level of agreement with the factors to help determine the fees for sports clubs. It was answered by 64 coaches, volunteers or committee members (**100 per cent**).

All principles received consistent support from participants. The ratings of principles, as indicated by the portion who either *Strongly agree* or *Agree,* were:

- How many hours a club uses the sportsgrounds and facilities — **76 per cent**
- The quality of the sportsgrounds or facilities (for example, premium or basic) — **66 per cent**
- The cost of maintaining those sportsgrounds or facilities — **63 per cent**

The graph shows how often each level of agreement was chosen for each fee principle. Only ratings with 5 per cent or more are labelled.



Feedback from the Youth Engagement Team

Council sought feedback from the Youth Engagement Team (YET) through a facilitated Menti (anonymous group feedback) activity. The YET is comprised of active youth advocates and leaders aged 18 to 25 who collectively provide a stronger voice to Council and create better outcomes for young people in Glen Eira.

The session explored how 13 YET members use sportsgrounds and open space, how they feel about current access and facilities, and their views on how sportsgrounds should be shared in the future.

What we heard

Overall, YET participants use sportsgrounds and open space primarily for casual, social and wellbeing purposes, such as walking, meeting friends, exercising and spending time outdoors. Participants generally feel safe and welcome in local sportsgrounds, but perceptions of fairness in how spaces are shared were slightly lower than other measures.

Young people highlighted the importance of clearer communication about when organised sport is using grounds, better coordination between different user groups, and having a mix of spaces that cater for both organised sport and casual use. There was also strong interest in improved facilities, including skate parks, outdoor gyms, lighting outside organised sport times, and more inclusive and accessible spaces.

Question 1. Which open spaces or sportsgrounds do you use?

The open text responses have been grouped into themes below, along with examples and the number of 'Likes' for each theme.

Theme	Examples	Likes
Named reserves and parks	EE Gunn Reserve, Caulfield Park, Duncan MacKinnon Reserve, Princes Park, Joyce Park, Packer Park, Greenmeadows Park, McKinnon Reserve, Allnutt Park, Lord Reserve	25
General open space types	Parks, walking trails, playgrounds, ovals, skate parks	19
Do not use open spaces or sportsgrounds	"None", "I do not use open spaces or sportsgrounds"	2
Other local places	Carnegie Station bike track	1
Access challenges noted	Difficulty accessing reserves during sports events	1

Question 2. What do you usually use the open spaces/sportsgrounds for?

The open text responses have been grouped into themes below, along with examples and the number of 'Likes' for each theme.

Theme	Examples	Likes
Walking and casual strolling	Walking, walks, walking with a friend, walking exercise	10
Social connection and hanging out	Hanging out, meeting friends, catching up, socialising, social events, chilling	6
Organised sport and sport-like activities	Footy, cricket, pickleball, skate practice	5
Breaks and wellbeing	Lunch break, taking a break, mindfulness, getting fresh air	4
Play and informal recreation	Playgrounds, playing in the playground, playing games with mates	3
Other	Bike riding, photography, drinking water	3
Nature and passive enjoyment	Enjoy nature, sitting	2
Exercise and fitness	Exercise	2
Dog walking	Walking the dog	2

Question 3. How do you feel about your local sportsgrounds?

This question asked participants to rate on a scale of 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree' whether they agree with each statement. In the below table, a rating of 0 is strongly disagree, and 10 is strongly agree.

Statement	Average rating out of 10
They feel safe using them.	8.8
I feel welcome and included there.	7.5
They are easy to access when I want.	8.7
The facilities and spaces meet my needs.	7.7
They are shared fairly among the community.	6.6

Question 4. How can we improve sportsgrounds in the future?

The open text responses have been grouped into themes below, along with examples and the number of 'Likes' for each theme.

Theme	Summary of feedback	Likes
More and different facilities	Playgrounds for adults, more skate parks, outdoor gyms, dedicated sportsgrounds	4
Accessibility and inclusion	Better access for people with special needs	1
Amenity and quiet spaces	Quieter areas away from large events while still being outdoors	1

Theme	Summary of feedback	Likes
Lighting and safety	Lighting available when there is no organised sport	1
Communication and coordination	Clearer communication between groups who share spaces	1
Time and space allocation	Allocated times and places for different uses	1
Expanding access	Public access to school sportsgrounds after hours	1

Question 5. How should we balance organised sport with casual use?

The open text responses have been grouped into themes below, along with examples and the number of 'Likes' for each theme.

Theme	Summary of feedback	Likes
Communication and transparency	Clear information about when grounds are in use, better communication channels, clear website for availability	5
Time allocation and structured sharing	Defined time allocations, suggested 80/20 split favouring organised sport	3
Different parks for different purposes	Some parks more sport-focused, others prioritising casual use	1
Behaviour and conflict management	Clear expectations to reduce conflict between user groups	1
Fees and charging considerations	Balance influenced by how much clubs are charged	1
Community input	Casual users' feedback should influence decisions	1

Written submission from a resident

We received one emailed submission about the project from a resident.

A local resident and user of Lord Reserve in Carnegie raised safety concerns and suggested the policy make the *Good Neighbourhood Program* mandatory. The resident raised the following:

- The car park in Lord Reserve is unsafe, with parking and traffic rules frequently ignored.
- Mulch in the car park has reduced available space and worsened safety risks.
- There are limited communications between tenant sporting clubs and nearby residents.
- Item 4.4 of the policy, the *Good Neighbour Program*, should be mandatory rather than encouraged, noting that proactive communication from clubs can significantly reduce neighbour frustration.