

Key findings from feedback survey

- 1) Over 75% of respondents were in favour of the concept of a redevelopment of the reserve.
- 2) Over 81% of respondents were in favour of the pool closing if there was a possibility of having a pool in the future. This favourable response indicating that if the pool was to close then any use of the site post-pool, should be so designed to allow for reinstatement of a new pool in the future. Comments supported a preference for the Brown Hill community to have a pool, however this did not mean the current pool in its current state. Comments indicated a high preference for the pool to be replaced by a splash park.
- 3) Over 71% of respondents were supportive if Council decided to close the pool, the community would be compensated for its loss.
- 4) Over 50% did not wish to retain the existing pool, no matter what; 14% wanted the pool retained, while the remainder were unsure. Indicating their needs to be more discussion around this issue.
- 5) Comments indicate that the Brown Hill Pool's history and heritage significance to Brown Hill and Ballarat needs to be acknowledged and celebrated.
- 6) Over 71% were supportive of maintaining the overall style of the reserve as outlined, regarding any redevelopment of the reserve.
- 7) In regard to individual features highlighted, as possibilities, the clearest preferences were for the addition of a toilet block and picnic tables with shading, features which were also the least contentious. Drinking taps, shading for the play area, solar lighting for the reserve, and replacing the pool with a splash park were also important to the majority of responders. The rest of the proposed features had mixed responses.
- 8) In regard to a skate park, there were a number of comments indicating that the reserve may not be the best place for a skate park and highlighting that one may be of greater value if built north of the freeway where currently there are no facilities for children. Comments also indicated that the addition of a pump track would also be welcomed.
- 9) Over 90% of respondents were in favour that there be completion of any works, for redevelopment of the reserve, in line with a 2023 120-year celebration anniversary for the reserve.

Progress Association's proposed modifications of initial concept¹

- 1) Brown Hill hall toilets to be modified to allow a lockable external entrance.
- 2) A skate park/pump track site be explored north of freeway.
- 3) Basketball hoop / ½ court (just 1) be sited in splash park complex – does not need to be full ½ court but more substantial than a hoop – what fits best for the site.
- 4) An off-lead dog enclosure to be made available along the Wallaby Track – not in reserve.
- 5) When it is time to close the pool: redevelopment of the reserve to be done in stages with the first stage being the pool site and toilets. A works schedule to be started and completed which minimise any down time between close of pool and opening of the alternative.

Progress Association's way forward

Progress Association to:

- 1) set-up a Reserve Redevelopment Working Group to oversee community input and involvement in all stages of redevelopment project works;
- 2) work closely with Council through a partnership to ensure an efficient and smooth transition of the redevelopment of the reserve to completion;
- 3) ensure whenever and wherever appropriate, Progress members and residents can be involved in a hands-on manner in the delivery of project works;
- 4) provide ongoing support to encourage appropriate sponsorship for various aspects of redevelopment, and support any Council funding applications towards major works of the redevelopment;
- 5) work with Council in the exploration of a site for a potential skate park / pump track for Brown Hill northside;
- 6) encourage Council to formally conduct an oral history project to document the Brown Hill Pool's history and heritage significance to Brown Hill and Ballarat.

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¹ Note: there were many suggestions put forward, which will be considered as further detail is required.