



Shirley Strickland Reserve Concept Plan

Shirley Strickland Reserve Concept Plan User Surveys - Summary of Findings

Resident Survey (not including Sporting Clubs)

Number of responses

- A total of 535 responses were received. 404 online surveys, 126 hardcopy surveys (from the community drop in session) and a further five written submissions from residents.

Demographics

- 48% of respondents live in Ardross.
- 24% live in Mt Pleasant.
- 6% live in Booragoon.
- 5% live in Applecross.
- The remaining 17% came from 26 'other' suburbs or not stated.
- The respondents were predominantly from the older age groups, with over 50% of respondents aged over 50 years.

Main Reason People Visit Shirley Strickland Reserve

- Walking is the major reason respondents visit Shirley Strickland Reserve, with 32% walking their dog at the reserve and 25% walking.
- 23% of respondents reported informal active recreation as their main reason for using the reserve, followed by 12% for use of the playground and 8% for formal sports.

Length of Time to Walk to Shirley Strickland Reserve

- 43% of respondents live within a five minute walk of Shirley Strickland Reserve.
- 25% live within a five-to-ten minute walk.
- 21% live within a ten-to-twenty minute walk.
- 11% live more than a 20 minute walk away.

Sporting Club Membership

- 29% of respondents are a current member of a sporting club.

Days and Times of Use of Shirley Strickland Reserve

Shirley Strickland Reserve is most utilised by respondents

- After 5pm during the week (46%)
- Weekends from 9am to 5pm (34%).
- At various other times throughout the week (20%)

What Respondents Most 'Like' About the Current Shirley Strickland Reserve

The survey results capture the first two likes if more than one like was provided.
Respondents reported:

- **The open space (size, quality, expanse).** *"Open space that the whole community has access to"* – Mount Pleasant resident
- **The trees.** *"The large trees and the birdlife attracted to the trees"* – Ardross resident
- **The variety of users and activities.**
"Friendly local reserve users of all ages. Great range of informal recreation activities for families, seniors, children - kite flying, dog walking, cricket, soccer. Regular formal users such as cricket club, personal trainers. There is a whole community using this park every day." – Mount Pleasant resident
- **As a meeting place, social and community feeling.** *"Fantastic community participation occurs there and it all occurs in an open and harmonious way. Used by lots of different people and allows for a lot of meet and greet."* – Booragoon resident
- **Dog walking.** *"Great meeting place for dog owners and their dogs"* – Ardross resident
- **Sports.** *"Size of playing fields that allow simultaneous activities"* – Booragoon resident

What Respondents Most 'Dislike' About the Current Shirley Strickland Reserve

The survey results capture the first two dislikes if more than one was provided.
Respondents reported:

- **The poor condition of the clubroom facilities and the toilet/change room facilities as the biggest dislike of Shirley Strickland Reserve.** *"The facilities for the users. Buildings are old and in need of upgrading. Toilet facilities are of poor quality and need upgrading"* – Ardross resident

- **The state of the verges and lack of paths.** *“The oval’s surrounds need work. Do away with the sand and put walk ways and native plants”* – Ardross resident
- **Dog related issues e.g. droppings, numbers of dogs around children.** *“Some Dog owners let their dogs off the leash unsupervised. The dogs are a hazard to children & the dog poo that some owners refuse to pick up is unsightly & unhygienic for park goers that accidentally stand in it.”* – Ardross resident
- **Inadequate playground facilities.** *“Playground could be better/more exciting for kids, and if there could be a nature playground among the trees that would be just fantastic”* – Ardross resident

What Respondents See as the Top Priorities for Shirley Strickland Reserve

The following priorities were identified from 535 responses:

- **Upgrades to clubroom, change room and toilet facilities.** *“A multipurpose sporting and community hub building”* – Ardross resident
- **Improved playground facilities.** *“Better play ground not only for little kids but big kids / nature play”* – Mount Pleasant resident
- **Retain as is (open space, dog walking areas).** *“Retention of it as public open space”* – Ardross resident
- **More trees.** *“More trees along perimeter”* – Ardross resident
- **Verge upgrade including parking.** *“Gardens and the verge brought back to original state”* – Ardross resident.
- *“Off street parking around the perimeter”* – Ardross resident
- **Pedestrian pathway network.** *“Jogging/walk paths (large loop with shady trees)”* – Ardross resident
- **Barbeque/picnic facilities.** *“BBQ facilities - including some shaded tables/plank chairs”* – Mount Pleasant resident
- **Fitness equipment.** *“A fitness circuit with exercise apparatus that you see at other parks”* – Mount Pleasant resident
- **More/improved parking.** *“Safe parking with due consideration to grassed areas”* – Mount Pleasant resident
- **Netball courts.** *“Netball training facilities”* – Mount Pleasant resident

Additional Comments

A total of 346 survey respondents made additional comments at the end of the survey. The major themes raised in the comments were:

- **Opposed to the development of a bowling club at Shirley Strickland Reserve.** *“Please don’t relocate the Bowling Club here. We don’t want to lose any of the green area and certainly don’t need the extra traffic”* – Ardross resident
- **Keeping the reserve as it is / without any significant new developments.** *“Don’t redevelop the land at the cost of playing fields and old trees”* – resident (suburb not stated)
- **General comment on a diverse range of issues, desires, and general commentary about Shirley Strickland Reserve and the planning process.** *“It adds to the community spirit and what better way to start chatting than when your dogs start playing and it breaks the ice. I have met so many good people at that park. Most of the good that park does is intangible with community spirit and a lovely environment Melville is”* – Ardross resident

Sporting Club Surveys

The six current clubs, representing a total membership of 936 (497 Juniors and 439 Seniors) that currently utilise Shirley Strickland Reserve are:

1. Applecross Cricket Club – 80 members
2. Fremantle Rebels Softball Club – 86 members
3. Melville City Touch Association – 293 members (205 Summer & 88 Winter)
4. Southern Districts Gaelic Football Club – 44 members
5. Applecross Junior Football Club – 323 members (also utilise Gairloch Reserve, Applecross)
6. Ardross Junior Cricket Club – 110 members (also utilise Tompkins Park, Alfred Cove)

These figures do not include parents and spectators.

Facility needs from current Shirley Strickland Clubs – (six clubs)

- All six listed change room and toilet facilities upgrade/redevelopment including expansion.
- Five listed a new or redeveloped pavilion / social facilities.
- Five listed flood lighting improvements (the club that did not have no need for any lighting Ardross Junior Cricket Club).

- Four suggested expanded / reconfigured playing fields were required (second small oval / pitch and extended main oval for batting nets for softball).
- Three suggested improved / expanded storage.
- Three suggested improved spectator facilities.
- Two suggested an improved / more accessible canteen.

There was also support for a fitness trail/walking path network, an improved playground and improved parking.

Mount Pleasant Bowling Club

As part of the concept planning process the City of Melville are investigating whether the relocation of the Mount Pleasant Bowling Club (MPBC) will be a suitable option. The MPBC reported that:

- They have ageing and unappealing facilities in current location.
- Pennant membership declining, social bowlers increasing.
- Willing to have the potential for relocation into a Sporting Hub investigated by the City of Melville.