

Proposed Virginia Oval Entrance Upgrade

What We Heard Report

November 2023



Proposed Virginia Oval Entrance Upgrade

Community Engagement

Proposed Virginia Oval Entrance Upgrade

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1. Engagement background and objectives

Improving safety and accessibility for our community is important for Council and we know the way people move around our city can play a big part in making spaces and places, like our Virginia township, more liveable.

Whilst undertaking the upgrade of Old Port Wakefield Road in Virginia, sporting clubs approached Council with their concerns around traffic flow in and out of Virginia Oval's memorial gates.

This entrance is utilised by the school, football club and park users as a thoroughfare. The existing gates are not wide enough for two cars to pass simultaneously and have been causing a backlog of vehicles both on the driveway and along Old Port Wakefield Road through to Park Road.

The proposed design widens the existing memorial opening to the oval and allow two cars to safely pass, thereby reducing the traffic impacts.

Constructed in 1959, the entrance to the oval is of local heritage value, established as a memorial to honour those who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. The pine trees that circle the oval were planted as a memorial to the fallen soldiers and are also heritage listed.

Widening the entrance will impact the memorial elements, including the brick pillars, plaque and metal gates. The pillars and gates have been assessed as being in poor condition, with the pillars showing clear evidence of being struck by vehicles. It was not originally intended to replace the metal gates as advice received from the cricket club was that they are never closed.

The proposed design incorporates a restored memorial plaque, protects the pine trees, and includes a lowline fence for signage display for the club.



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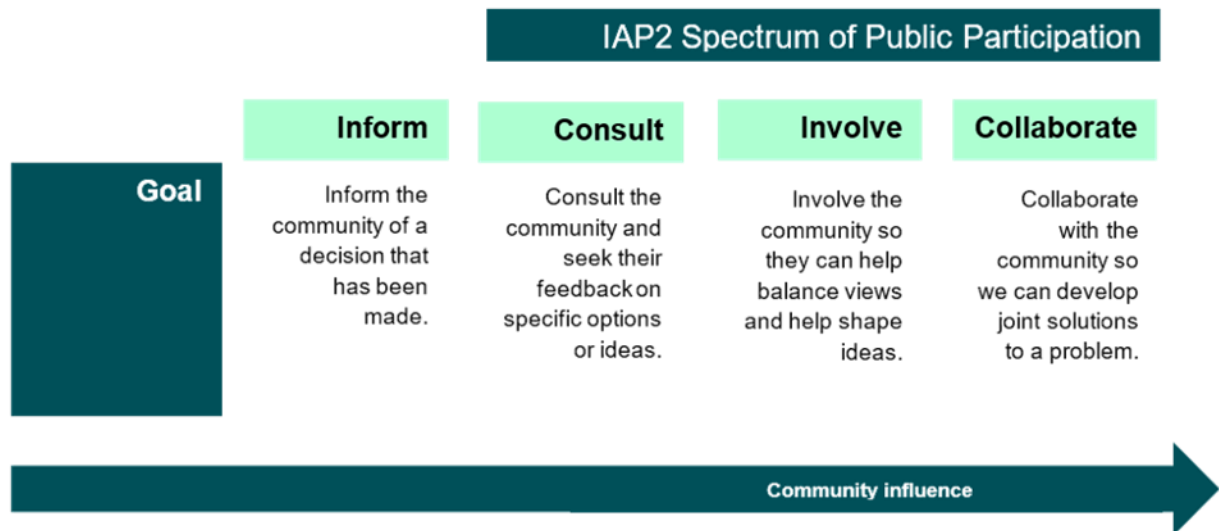
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2. Community engagement level and objectives

Community engagement level

Council recognises the role of community engagement to support decision making, leading to stronger outcomes for our community. Council bases its community engagement on International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) best practice principles with Council's Community Engagement Policy & Procedure outlining requirements to determine the level of engagement on any project or decision. Each level (inform, consult, involve or collaborate) depends on scope, complexity, impact and competing values or interests in decisions being made.



The level determined for this engagement was:

Consult – consult the community and seek their feedback on specific options or ideas.

The objectives of the community engagement were to:

- Consult the community to understand the level of support to proceed with the renewal and show the proposed design for the new Virginia Oval Entrance
- Consult with the sporting clubs on the functional design of the entrance.

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3. How we asked it (engagement approach)

An overview of the Community Engagement Plan delivered **Wednesday 18 October to Tuesday 14 November 2023 (28 days)** is provided below.

Engagement Activity	Details
Online engagement	Dedicated online engagement listing on Playford Engagement Hub with link to online survey. (Appendix A) City of Playford Proposed Virginia Oval Entrance Upgrade (engagementhub.com.au)
Information Flyer	An information flyer (Appendix B) was distributed to the Virginia Community through local networks.
On-Site Corflute Signage	Signage of the same design as the flyer was installed at the entrance and near the playground with information on how to provide feedback. (Appendix B)
Media Release	PDF document announcing the proposed upgrade project and engagement details. (Appendix C)
Social Media	Two social media posts with details of the proposed upgrade and feedback options were posted on Council's social media platform. (Appendix D)
Stakeholder Management	Local clubs through the Association were given an opportunity to provide feedback on the functional design one week prior to community engagement. The Virginia Residents Action Group and the Returned Services League were contacted.

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4. What we heard

To measure community engagement performance over the consultation period, Council tracked the number of aware and engaged community members. These are defined in the following table with the associated performance measure.

Description	Channels	Performance
Aware visitors Number of those who visited the Engagement Hub page, saw the social media post.	Engagement Hub Views	357
	Engagement Hub Unique Views	263
	*Social Media Reach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post impression• Post Reach• Post engagement	9,998 8,735 2,481
Engaged visitors Number of those who provided feedback in some way – either on Engagement Hub, emailed or called	Survey Responses	60
	Email response	1

* Post Impressions: How many times content shows up to a user. Post Reach: How many unique users viewed the content and Post Engagement refers to the action a user takes with content (i.e., click through to the engagement hub, liked, shared)

Survey results

Total survey results - 60

Location of participants

Majority of participants live in Virginia (49) followed by Angle Vale (2) and the remaining from Buckland/Riverlea (1), Elizabeth (1), Downs (1), Eyre (1), Hillbank (1) and Waterloo Corner (2)

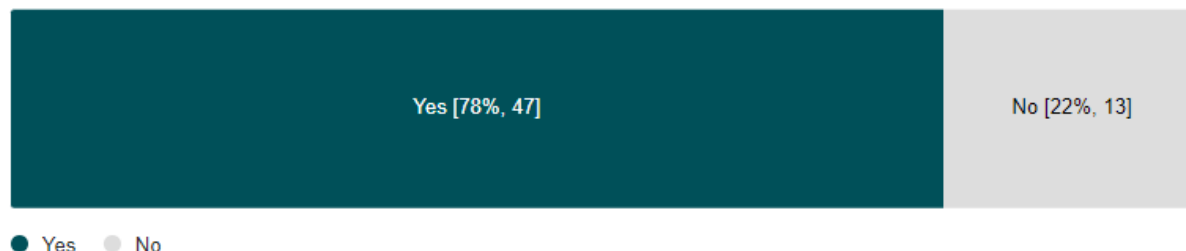
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Level of support for the project

78% (47 participants) indicated they would like the proposed Virginia Oval Gate Entrance Upgrade to go ahead. The 1 email response also expressed their support for the upgrade, although it is not reflected in the survey data below.



Survey Verbatim (written feedback):

Out of the 60 survey respondents, 42 comments were received. 52% (22 comments) were in support of the upgrade and 6 comments were made regarding concerns around the heritage features.

Although some state the importance of maintaining the memorial heritage (from essential to a nice to have), traffic management and safety outweigh this particularly those using the oval at peak school drop off and pick up times as well as during sporting matches. As reported through verbatim comments, the limited accessibility of cars causes frustrations and sometimes near misses and accidents. There has been a reported instance of an emergency services vehicle not being able to enter the oval through the gates. The widening of the driveway is important as well as access to the point off the road.

Common themes in verbatim is listed below.

Theme: Support for entrance

22 comments related to **support for the entrance**, with 2 mentions of preserving the memorial heritage.

"It is important the entrance is wide enough for easy access especially during the busy school times. It needs to be better than the terrible 'new' Woolworths entrance, that is an accident waiting to happen. Don't do it if it is not going to be done properly - wide enough for easily turning in while a car is coming out, slip lane from road for easy access from road. Slip lane on road on both side of entrance. Preserving the heritage is vital, it would be such a shame to have the memorial a minor consideration. The memorial should be significant in the restructure!!"

"Would be nice to shift the memorial, but if not this upgrade needs to happen anyone for safety and flow of traffic"

"Needs to be easily accessible for cars going in and cars going out. Not only for sports but also for the school community."

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Theme: Concern for the memorial changes

6 comments were made with **concern of the memorial changes** with suggestions:

- Maintain the memorial, which is a significant consideration in the restructure
- Retain current and duplicate with a replica (one for each way)
- Retain the memorial gates for entrance and create another for exit at the other end of the oval

Specific considerations – verbatim

“The widening of the gates does not go far enough. The gate should be moved south almost to the edge of the tennis courts. I understand that the light tower needs to be a certain distance from the gate but an addition of Armco railing could protect the gate and the light tower from various collisions which take place at the gates. I understand that there is no money for the proper completion of the project. The safety of the court users needs to be considered. Extra money for the project needs to found to ensure the corner is tapered more to avoid accidents in the future. Safety if the children and adults using the courts must also be considered. More speed bumps and bollarding must be installed to help the safe passage if people using the facility. If as has bed. Stated at a recent meeting The City of Playford won’t spend the additional money to ensure the safety of all the users of the facility, then don’t waste anyone’s time and be prepared to wear the Criticism when the inevitable accident or casualty occurs”

“Double laned, with designated carpark areas, carpark lines to be repainted, carpark area to be modernised, speed limit sign at the entrance, trees, plants or structure of some sort on each side to make the entrance more appealing. Better signage so that the community centre is more noticeable for the public.”

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5. What we will do

Key concerns, suggestions and queries across all feedback platforms are outlined below with Council's response to each theme.

Concern/suggestion	Council response
Concerns regarding memorial changes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leave entrance and create a new exit	<p>The current pillars exhibit deterioration, therefore will be replaced in close proximity to the original location, while concurrently restoring the associated memorial plaque to place on the new structure.</p> <p>The brickwork, lacking local heritage significance, will not be reinstated in its initial form or repurposed.</p> <p>Given their heritage designation, the pine trees prevent the construction of a new entrance location along Old Port Wakefield Road.</p>
Entrance needs to be wider (dual laned)	<p>The intention of the project is to increase the currently single lane driveway to allow cars to simultaneously drive in and out. It is not intended to provide slip lanes or a very wide entrance as it is part of the intent that vehicles have to drive slowly at this location.</p>
Need gates/fence to be able to shut during finals	<p>We have heard the feedback regarding the need to be able to prevent access at this location during match days, and will add replacement of the gates and fencing to the project. The new memorial entrance will be separate from the entrance gate. (i.e. likely the gate will be behind the memorial rather than attached to it as it is currently.</p>
Focus on local infrastructure (roads, footpaths, drainage, Virginia Main Street)	<p>Some of the concerns raised relate to infrastructure improvements that fall outside of the scope of this engagement. However, some are currently being addressed or are included in council's forward works program.</p>

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6. What next?

The project is currently at the 'Initiation Stage' which includes, concept planning and community engagement.

Next steps now community support for the upgrade has been confirmed, will be to progress to detailed design, with construction scheduled to be completed this financial year.

Initiation	Planning	Works	Completion
In progress	February 2024	April 2024	June 2024

Note that the dates are based on current information, resourcing, weather predictions and contractor availability. All these factors are subject to change and therefore the milestones are subject to change.

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7. Appendix

a. Playford Engagement Hub

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Project Overview



As Virginia continues to grow, community members have approached Council with concerns about the access restrictions associated with this entrance, which is currently single-laned. In order to improve access to the oval, Council is exploring options to widen the entrance.

Council is keen to understand if the community wants this project to go ahead, as the entrance cannot be widened without upgrading the memorial elements too. Your feedback will inform Council's decision-making process.

Project Background

The Virginia Oval is a busy hub of activity in the township, with the facility supporting a range of sport and recreational needs and an important access point for the nearby primary school.

The community has approached Council with concerns about the restrictive nature of the entrance, which is currently single-laned.

Constructed in 1959, the entrance to the oval is of local heritage value, established as a memorial to honour those who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. Pine trees that circle the oval were planted as a memorial to the fallen soldiers and are also heritage listed.

In order to improve access to the oval, Council is exploring options to widen the entrance.



Widening the entrance means memorial elements will be impacted, including the brick pillars, plaque and metal gates, which have been assessed to be in poor condition.

A concept has been developed to widen the entrance and renew the memorial elements to reflect the heritage value and its local significance.

Council is keen to understand if the community wants this project to go ahead, as the entrance cannot be widened without upgrading the memorial elements too.

The proposed concept respects the site's local significance, preserves the memorial plaque (see picture below) and complements the heritage of the entrance, while providing improved access.



To learn more about the history visit [Virginia Recreation Grounds](#) | [Playford's Past](#) ([recollect.net.au](#))

Share your views

Council wants to know whether you would like to see this project proceed. You can submit your feedback by completing the survey on this page.

Alternatively you can contact Council as follows:

Ph: 8256 0333

Email: connected@playford.sa.gov.au

Thank you 🙏

Your Language

To translate this page into another language, use the 'Select Language' dropdown below. Please note, automatic translations are provided as a guide only and may not be accurate.

Select Language

Provide your feedback

We would love to hear from you, it takes less than a minute to complete the survey.

Consultation open until 14 November 2023

Submit feedback

Who's Listening



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b. Flyer and Corflute Signage



Proposed Virginia Oval entrance upgrade



Reimagining the entrance

As Virginia continues to grow, community members have approached Council with concerns about the access restrictions associated with this entrance, which is currently single-laned. In order to improve access to the oval, Council is exploring options to widen the entrance.

Share your thoughts

Council is keen to understand if the community wants this project to go ahead, as the entrance cannot be widened without upgrading the memorial elements too. Your feedback will inform Council's decision-making process.

Visit City of Playford's Engagement Hub to learn more about the history and share your views on whether you'd like to see this project proceed. Submit your feedback before Tuesday 14 November 2023.

playford.engagementhub.com.au



Contact
8256 0333
playford@playford.sa.gov.au
playford.sa.gov.au
📍 playford.sa.gov.au/stayconnected

Scan the QR code to provide your input.

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c. Online article

COUNCIL SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON PROPOSED UPGRADE OF VIRGINIA OVAL ENTRANCE

Published 18 October 2023

The City of Playford is reaching out to the community for input on the proposed upgrade of the Virginia Oval entrance.



Share this article

Constructed in 1959, the entrance to the oval is of local heritage value, established as a memorial to honour those who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. Pine trees that circle the oval were planted as a memorial to the fallen soldiers and are also heritage listed.

The Virginia Oval is a busy hub of activity in the lowreship, with the facility supporting a range of sport and recreational uses.

The existing entrance gates are not wide enough for two cars to pass simultaneously which can cause a backlog of vehicles both on the driveway and along Old Port Wakefield Road through to Park Road.

While undertaking the upgrade of Old Port Wakefield Road, Virginia, sporting clubs and local residents approached Council with their concerns around traffic flow in and out of the single-lane entrance gates.

This prompted Council to explore options for widening the entrance to accommodate two-way traffic access.

The concept for the proposed upgrade of the Virginia Oval entrance includes a feature comprising four brick pillars to the left of the entrance, reminiscent of the existing brickwork. The pillars will display the original plaque and a new modern steel Virginia Oval sign.

The proposal respects the site's local significance, preserves and restores the memorial plaque and complements the heritage of the entrance, while providing improved access.

However, widening the entrance means memorial elements will be impacted, including the existing brick pillars and metal gates, which have been assessed to be in poor condition.

Mayor Glenn Docherty said the upgrade of the Virginia Oval entrance will support the growing community of Virginia.

"Virginia Oval is an iconic and very popular site for the community of Virginia and will be increasingly used as Virginia continues to grow. It is therefore important that the entrance to the oval can safely and smoothly accommodate traffic," said Mayor Docherty.

"Council is aware of the local heritage significance of the site and has developed a proposed concept that retains the original entrance memorial elements where possible while also providing a contemporary and widened entrance that addresses the traffic challenges the community has expressed to us."

The proposed upgrade of the Virginia Oval entrance will also complement Council's upgrade of the main street of Virginia which is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2023.

As the Virginia Oval entrance is a local heritage place, Council is keen to understand if the community wants this project to go ahead, as the entrance cannot be widened without also upgrading the memorial elements.

To provide your feedback on whether you would like to see the upgrade go ahead, please go to [City of Playford's Engagement Hub](#) or scan the QR Code and submit before 5pm, Tuesday 14 November 2023.

The feedback provided during this engagement process will inform Council's decision-making process. The concept design is available for viewing through [City of Playford's Engagement Hub](#).

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d. Social Media

 **City of Playford is in Virginia.**
October 18 · 🌐

👋 We are reaching out to the community for input on an upgrade to widen the Virginia Oval entrance! 📸

The concept plans (📷 pictured) respect the site's local significance, preserves and restores the memorial plaque, and complements the heritage of the entrance. 🏡

To provide your feedback on whether you would like to see the upgrade go ahead, please go here:

<https://brnw.ch/proposedupgradevirginiaovalentrance>

The feedback provided during this engagement process will inform Council's decision-making process. Submissions close at 5pm, Tuesday 14 November 2023. 📅

Concept designs and more on the history of the entrance can be found through Engagement Hub (via the link above). 🌞👤



Proposed entrance