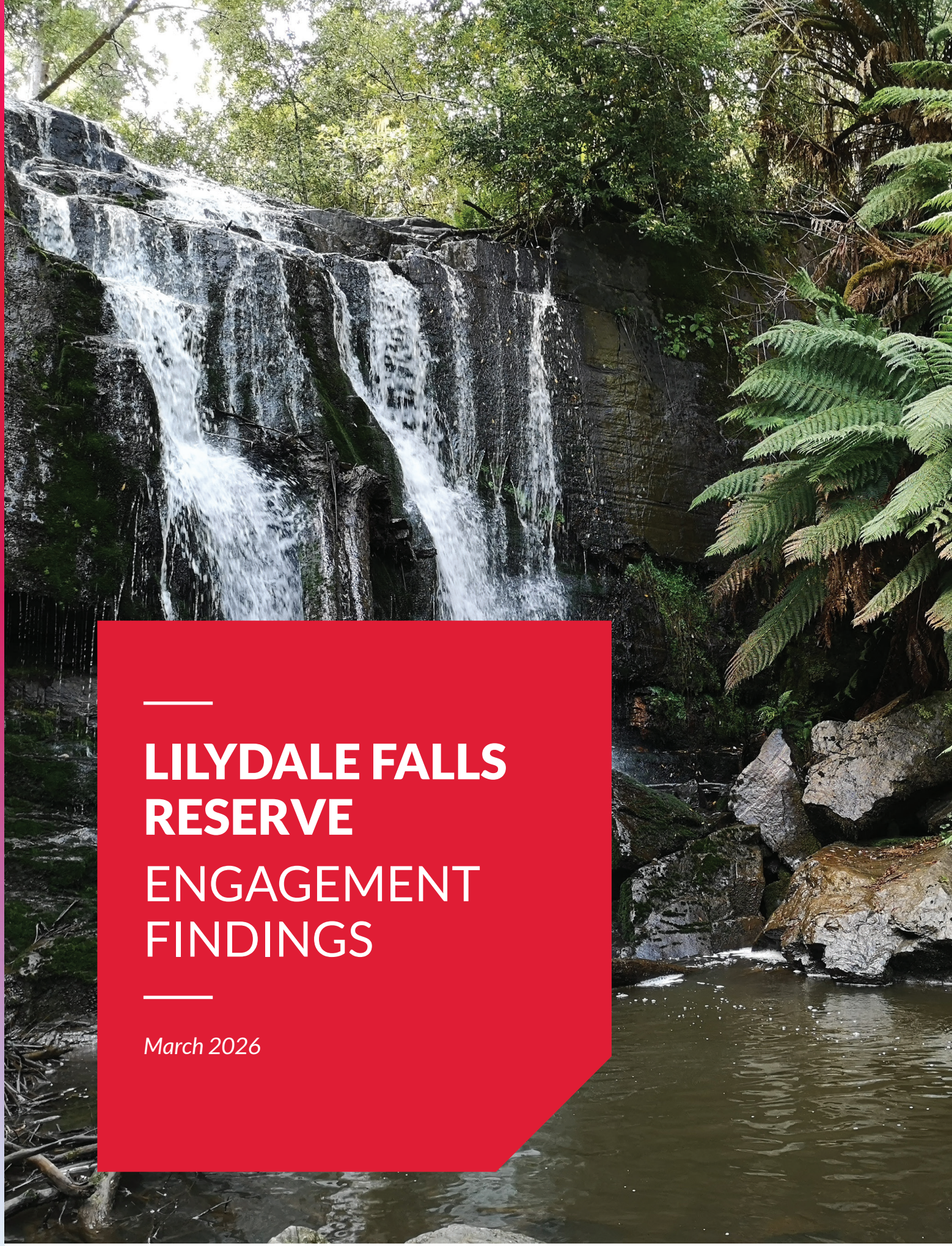


LILYDALE FALLS RESERVE

ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

March 2026

Shaping Futures

City of LAUNCESTON

About the project

Lilydale Falls Reserve is a favourite spot for both locals and visitors — known for its natural beauty, history, and relaxed atmosphere, just a short drive from Launceston.

To assist with planning for the future of the reserve, City of Launceston sought input from the community to better understand how the reserve was being used and what the community would like to see in the future.

With the nearby rail trail expected to expand, more people, particularly cyclists and day-trippers, are expected to visit Lilydale Falls. This made it even more important for the City of Launceston to plan ahead and ensure the reserve remains a special place for everyone.

The purpose of the engagement was to invite feedback from Lilydale Falls Reserve users to better understand how the reserve is currently used, the community's perception of existing facilities, prioritisation of improvements and the level of support for potential changes including overnight camping and mobile food vendors.





The engagement process

We created a project webpage on the City of Launceston's 'Tomorrow Together' site.

The webpage included an online survey for people who live in, work in or visit Lilydale or Launceston and surrounding areas.

The survey asked what improvements they would like to see to existing facilities, what additional facilities they would like to see and what their priorities are for the future.

The survey ran from Wednesday 1 October to Friday 26 October 2025.

372 survey responses received

1,070 views on the webpage

452 interactions on social media

Who we heard from

We heard from 40 of our 52 suburbs within the City of Launceston municipal boundary and 11 other local government areas and one from interstate.

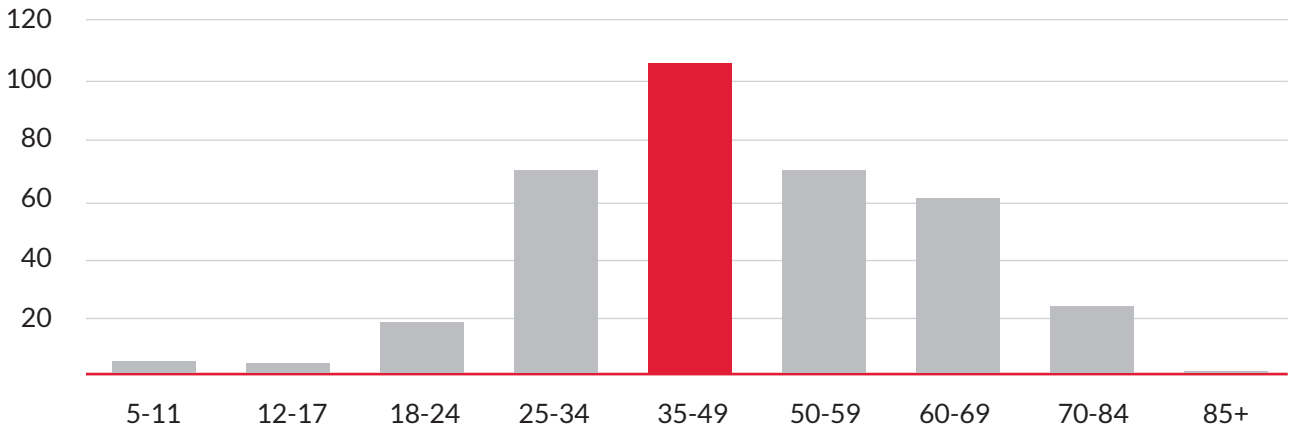
338 live within the City of Launceston municipal boundary and 156 of these were residents of Lilydale and surrounding areas.

243 identified as female, 115 as male, 2 as non-binary, and 12 preferred not to say.

The age range extended from 5 years to 85+, with the largest cohorts being aged 35–49 followed by 25–34 and 50 to 59.

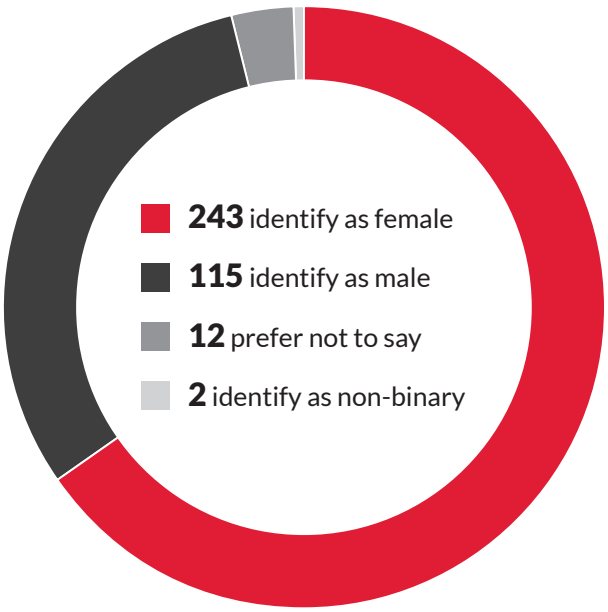
18 respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Which age group best describes you?



18 identify as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander

Which gender group best describes you?



Where do you live?

338 live in Launceston & surrounds

156 were residents of Lilydale and surrounding areas

33 were from other Tasmanian LGAs

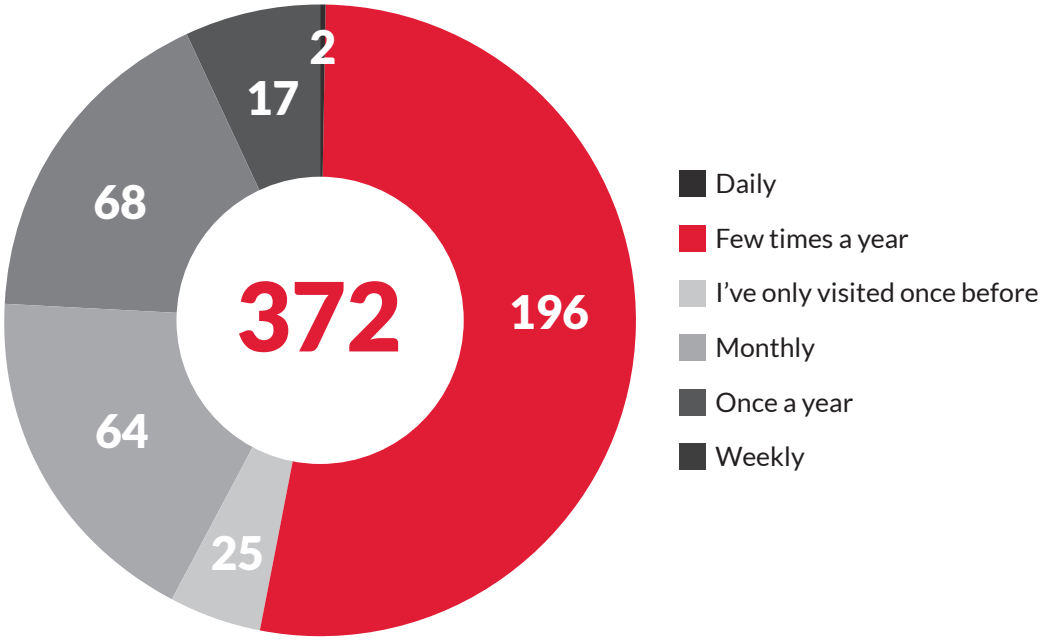
1 lived outside of Tasmania

City of LAUNCESTON

Summary of feedback

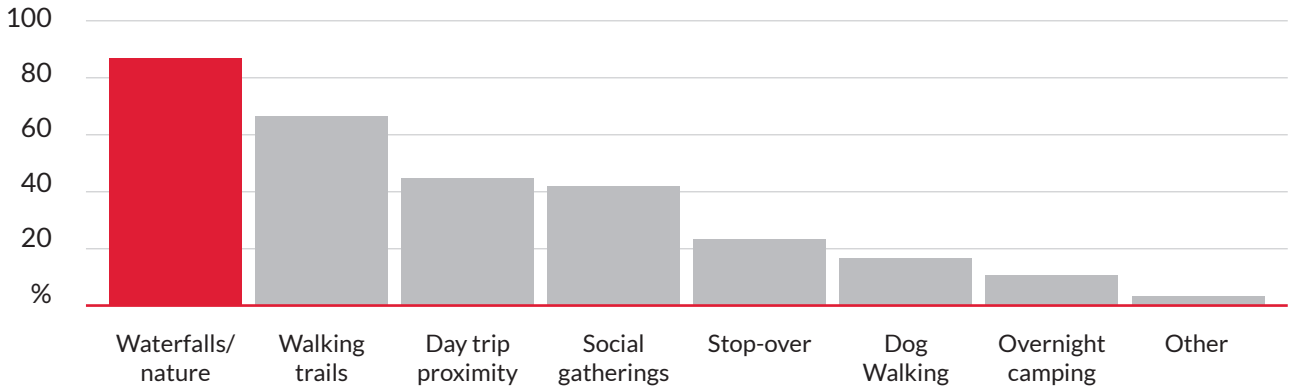
How often do you visit the Lilydale Falls Reserve?

The reserve attracts both frequent local users and occasional visitors. Most respondents visit the reserve a few times each year, with notable groups visiting monthly and weekly, and two respondents visiting daily.



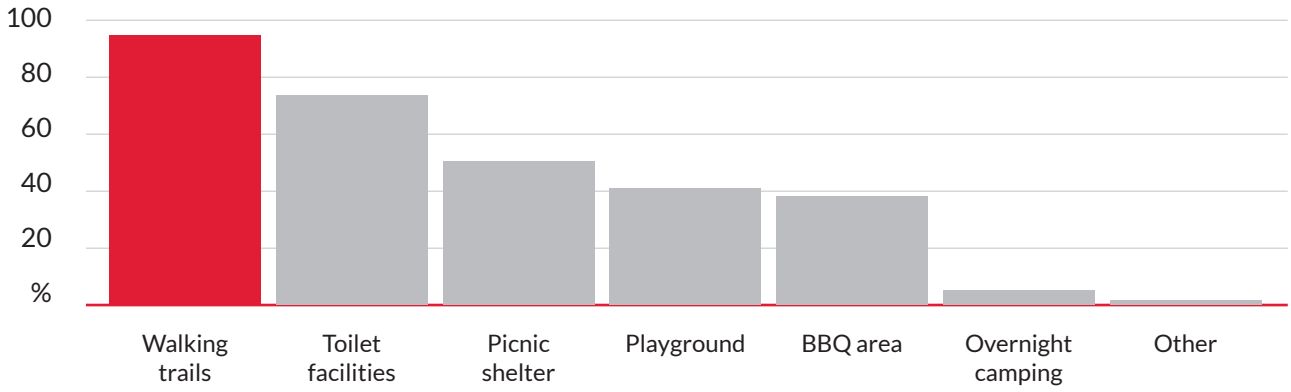
What are the main reasons you visit Lilydale Falls Reserve?

Respondents reported multiple motivations for visiting, with nature-based experiences driving most visits. These results indicate that the reserve is valued primarily for its natural features and passive recreation opportunities, with camping representing a relatively small but important user group.



What facilities do you access / use when you visit Lilydale Falls Reserve?

Respondents were able to select all they use when visiting the falls. The most accessed/used were the walking trails, toilet facilities and picnic shelter.



How do you rate the current amenities / facilities?

Respondents were asked to rate the condition of key facilities at the reserve. Overall, the results show that most facilities are viewed as moderate in condition, except for walking trails and car parking, which were rated more favourably. Uncertainty around camping areas and signage was notably high, reflecting lower usage or visibility.

Facility	Very Good	Good	Moderate	Poor	Very poor	Unsure
Walking trails	16%	**43%**	32%	5%	1%	3%
Toilet facilities	3%	16%	**36%**	28%	6%	11%
Playground	2%	15%	**34%**	17%	5%	27%
BBQ area	5%	27%	**32%**	10%	1%	25%
Picnic shelter	4%	**35%**	35%	14%	2%	16%
Car park	9%	**42%**	36%	10%	2%	1%
Camping area	5%	17%	26%	6%	2%	**44%**
Interpretive signage	4%	21%	26%	15%	3%	**31%**
Wayfinding signage	5%	**29%**	**29%**	13%	3%	21%
Entry to reserve	9%	**41%**	33%	12%	3%	2%

Summary of feedback (continued)

If the City of Launceston improves any of the CURRENT facilities or amenities, what do you think should be the top priorities?

When asked to identify priorities for upgrading currently existing amenities, respondents emphasised the need to address basic services, safety, accessibility, and usability. The top responses were:



1. **Toilet facilities (highest priority)**
2. Playground upgrades
3. More picnic tables and seating
4. Walking trail improvements
5. Shelter and undercover areas
6. BBQ facilities
7. Trail connections within the reserve
8. Tree maintenance
9. Wayfinding signage
10. Car parking
11. Camping area improvements
12. Interpretive signage
13. Enhancements to the main entry

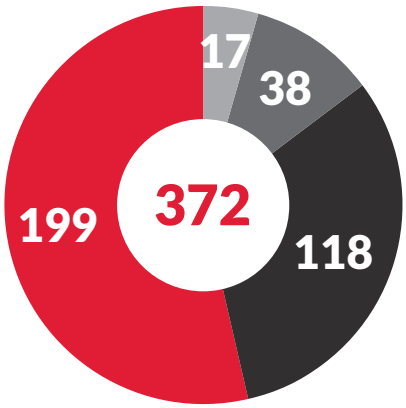
If the City of Launceston was to invest in NEW facilities or amenities, what do you think should be the top priorities?

Respondents were also asked to identify priorities for new amenities that do not currently exist at the reserve. The strongest community support was for features that would enhance accessibility, safety, hydration, and nature-based experiences. These preferences reinforce the community's desire for low-impact improvements that support everyday recreation rather than large-scale development.



1. **Water drinking fountain (highest priority)**
2. Nature play elements
3. Interpretive signage
4. Bike racks
5. Bike station (pump/repair)
6. End-of-trip facilities

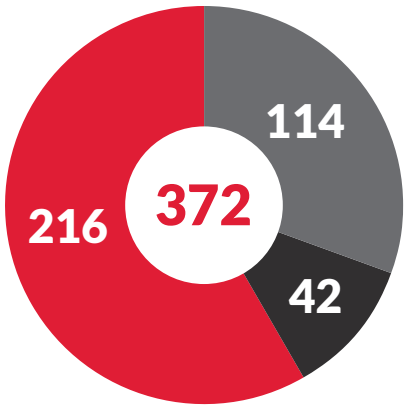
How likely would you be to use a safe, accessible path between Lilydale Falls and the Lilydale Town Centre?



- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not likely
- Not at all likely

One of the most consistent themes was overwhelming support for a safe, accessible walking connection between Lilydale township and the reserve. Many respondents described walking or running along the road as unsafe due to narrow shoulders, high-speed traffic, and heavy vehicles.

Would you like to see overnight camping continue at the Lilydale Falls Reserve?

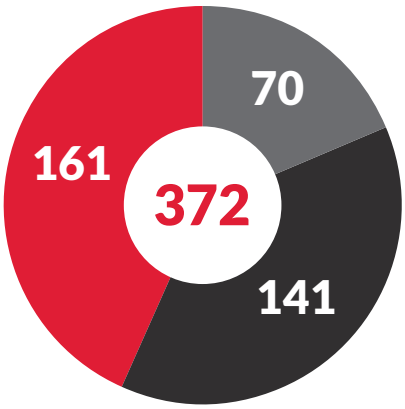


- Yes
- No
- I don't mind either way

Respondents were asked whether camping should continue at the reserve. Support was generally positive, though conditional on improvements to management and infrastructure.

When asked about suitable camping duration, short stays of 2 days or less were strongly preferred.

Would you support Mobile Vendors (e.g. Food/Coffee Vans) trading from the Lilydale Falls Reserve Car park?



- Yes
- No
- I don't mind either way

The community is divided on whether mobile food/coffee vans should be allowed at the reserve.

When the results are filtered to include only respondents from Lilydale and the surrounding area, the level of support for Mobile Food Vendors shifts noticeably. While the broader survey population showed 44% support, the localised responses indicate that 36% of Lilydale-area participants were not supportive of Mobile Food Vendors operating in the reserve. This suggests that local sentiment differs from the broader community, with residents in and around Lilydale expressing more reservations about this activity.

Summary of feedback (continued)

Is there anything further you would like to comment on regarding the Lilydale Falls Reserve?

The open-ended responses in the survey provided rich insight into community values, aspirations, and concerns for Lilydale Falls Reserve. While opinions varied, particularly around camping and mobile vendors, several strong and recurring themes emerged, including:



Strong desire to protect the natural character of the reserve



Importance of upgrading basic facilities



Environmental stewardship, biodiversity and tree care



Mixed views on the rail trail / bike trails

Next steps

Based on what the City of Launceston heard from the community and stakeholders during the consultation, including findings from previous engagements, the next key steps will be:

Master Plan - Developing a consolidated plan would ensure future actions are cohesive and community led. This would provide clarity for the community and support funding opportunities. The plan could include:

- A long-term vision for the reserve
- Prioritised capital works program
- Environmental and cultural management guidelines
- Visitor experience improvements
- Accessibility considerations
- Clear camping and parking management strategies
- Integration with walking and cycling networks

Remove Lilydale as a location for Mobile Food Vendors:

- While overall feedback showed mixed views, the broader Lilydale community expressed opposition to mobile food vans operating at the reserve. In response to the local sentiment, Council will:
  - Amend the City of Launceston Mobile Food Vendors Guidelines to exclude Lilydale Falls Reserve from potential operating locations
  - Explore occasional activation during community events, where appropriate and consistent with the reserve's amenity and community support