

Karratha Bike Park & Wickham Bike Facility Project

Community Engagement Summary Report



25 July 2025

Overview

The City of Karratha (Clty) is exploring the development of new bike facilities in Karratha and Wickham. These projects aim to provide inclusive, multi-use spaces that cater to all ages, skill levels, and riding styles, enhancing recreation opportunities across our vibrant communities.

To help bring these ideas to life, the City has engaged a specialist in bike facility and trail design. The scope involved undertaking site analysis and community consultation to inform the development of concept designs for two key projects:

- A bike park in Karratha
- A smaller scale bike facility in Wickham

The City of Karratha facilitated the presentation of site options and draft concepts to the community for discussion, workshoping, and public feedback between 29 April and 23 July 2025.

Three (3) rounds of community consultation have informed the development of the draft concept design for the projects:

- Initial key stakeholder focus group sessions
- Community Consultation – Draft Concepts
- Community Consultation – Refined Draft Concepts

The outcomes of these sessions are described below.

Engagement Outcomes

a) Initial key stakeholder focus group sessions

In April 2025, the appointed consultant team led targeted focus group sessions to ensure the early concepts reflected key user goals and aspirations. Stakeholders included:

- Karratha Mountain Bike Club
- Karratha BMX
- Rock Steady Riding
- The Base (Wickham)

Key feedback and common themes for inclusion in the concept designs were:

- Preference for a site suitable for events and club/community group training opportunities.
- Requests for permanent shade structures to support sacrificial surface development and year-round use.
- Recommendation to limit exposed dirt by incorporating surface binders to aid maintenance and durability.
- Interest in a designated area for a removable air bag installation to support trick progression and training.
- Strong preference for features such as big jumps, flat walls, tabletops, pump trails, flow transfers, and longer runs.
- Inclusivity for scooter riders in design and layout.
- Desire for a facility that supports progression across all ages and skill levels.
- Interest in a combined jump and skate park to serve a broader range of users.
- Preference for longer, skills-based runs to aid rider development over time.
- Provision of a safe recreational outlet for ages 17 years onwards.

b) Community Consultation - Draft Concepts

Using stakeholder feedback, the specialist design consultants developed draft concept options and engaged the community for input on the draft options:

- Three potential sites for the Karratha Bike Park
- One proposed site for the Wickham Bike Facility (2 location options presented).

Drop-in community engagement sessions were held in Wickham and Karratha on the 10 and 11 June 2025 where participants voted in person on preferred locations and indicated any favoured design elements across the presented draft concepts.

The draft concepts were also made available to view online through the What We Make It (WWMI) engagement platform.

A summary of community feedback and initial site preferences is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Community Consultation – Initial Draft Concepts

Site	Feedback and Option Preference
Karratha	
Karratha – Bulgarra Sporting Precinct 1 (Entertainment Centre)	3 votes 3% supportive of this location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No comments made</i>
Karratha – Bulgarra Sporting Precinct 2 (existing BMX)	18 votes 18% supportive of this location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Closer to oval – more options if you have multiple children'</i> • <i>'Concept 2 best for now, concept 3 ideal for future plans'</i> • <i>'Keeps the park together for all ages'</i> • <i>'Away from the road'</i> • <i>'Proximity to soccer field'</i>
Richardson Way Park	77 votes 79% supportive of this location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Fantastic concept for town'</i> • <i>'Centrally located'</i> • <i>'Biggest potential'</i> • <i>'Great layout and something for everyone'</i> • <i>'Location 3 but pump track in concept 2'</i> • <i>'Great location for further expansion'</i> • <i>'More open space'</i> • <i>'So needed – a fabulous project'</i> • <i>'Caters for all levels of riders and allows for continuous flow of all sections'</i> • <i>'Would enhance student learning outcomes in our School Outdoor Education program and provide a safe and enjoyable space for all members of the community'</i> • <i>'A well needed addition to the City'</i> • <i>'Enough space for everyone to go at their own pace, it is also big enough for people of all skill levels to be able to progress and expand their skills and capabilities'</i>
Wickham	
Wickham Location Option 1	22 votes 70% supportive of this location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Closer to The Base'</i> • <i>'Closer to skate park'</i>
Wickham Location	9 votes

Option 2	30% supportive of this location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Closer to oval and carpark'</i> • <i>'More space'</i> • <i>'The Base user groups will attend park no matter the location. Location of Concept Option 2 would attract/engage an additional group of kids that tend not to visit the Base'.</i>
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The key insights and implications of this feedback for the project is outlined below:

- **Karratha:** Community feedback strongly supported developing a bike park with inclusive design for all ages and abilities. The Richardson Way Park site emerged as the preferred location due to its central position, size, potential for future expansion, and suitability for diverse riding activities. Conversely, the Bulgarra Sporting Precinct 1 site (Old Karratha Entertainment Centre) was not supported and was subsequently removed from further planning.
- **Wickham:** The consultation confirmed the Wickham community strongly supports the development of a bike facility, in particular a facility that would accommodate scooter related activities – requiring a sealed surface pump track. While Location Option 1 was identified as the preferred site, it is important to note that session participation was largely comprised of members from The Base youth groups.

c) Community Consultation – Refined Draft Concepts

Following initial feedback, the draft concept designs were refined and presented for a second round of consultation. An online survey was conducted via the City's WWMI platform between 14 and 23 July 2025, receiving a total of 69 responses.

Note: Karratha Concept 1 (Bulgarra Precinct 1) received minimal community support during the initial consultation and was removed from further planning.

Key survey findings are outlined in the Table 2 below.

Table 2 Consultation Findings - Refined Draft Concepts

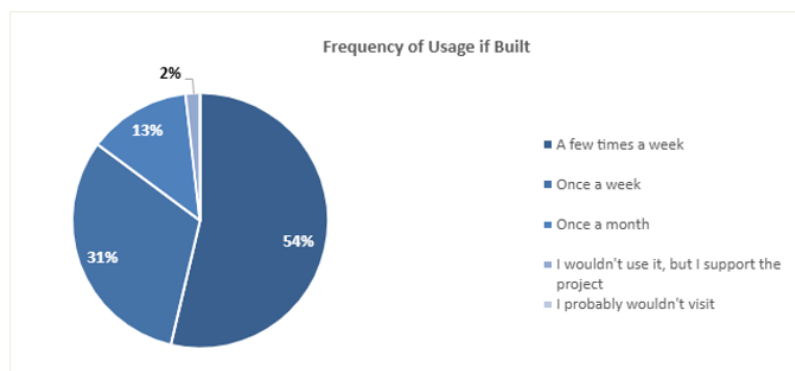
Theme	Specific Feedback / Outcome
KARRATHA	
Karratha – Bulgarra Sporting Precinct 2 (existing BMX)	22 votes 39% supportive of this location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Central location with other infrastructure already in place to support'</i> • <i>'Part of a larger complex that provides water, bathrooms, shade, ovals, playground, courts; a much better all-round precinct'</i> • <i>'Safety, not alongside mainroad'</i> • <i>'Already includes parking on many sides'</i> • <i>'Additional park features means all siblings have something they enjoy, and parents can exercise on the oval'.</i>
Richardson Way Park	34 votes 61% supportive of this location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Larger space to add on to for future development'</i> • <i>'Location to city central is perfect'</i> • <i>'Better design concept'</i> • <i>'Bigger with more variety for all skills'</i> • <i>'Not too close to housing for residents to complain'</i> • <i>'Breaking up the facilities available in Bulgarra'</i> • <i>'Accessibility'</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Lots of parking'</i>
WICKHAM	
Wickham Location Option 1	9 votes 69% supportive of this location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Good shade options close by'</i> • <i>'Easy access for kids'</i> • <i>'Side by side connection to the base, existing skate bowl and amenities'</i> • <i>'Closer to skate park and more away from traffic'.</i>
Wickham Location Option 2	4 votes 31% supportive of this location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'More parking nearby'</i> • <i>'Location more visible to the community'</i> • <i>'Area surroundings'</i> • <i>'Area not as congested'</i>

Final feedback and site preferences were consistent with the previous round of consultation:

- **Karratha:** Richardson Way Park remained the preferred site (61% support), appreciated for its size, central location, design potential, and accessibility. Bulgarra Sporting Precinct 2 received 39% support, with positive feedback on its existing infrastructure and being part of a broader family-friendly precinct.
- **Wickham:** Location Option 1 was the preferred option (69% support), valued for its shade, easy access for children, and proximity to existing skate and youth facilities. Location Option 2 received less support (31%), with some favouring its visibility and parking availability.

In addition, survey results indicated that 96% of respondents support the development of new bike park facilities, with 54% likely to visit a few times a week.



Frequency of Use	N = 54	%
A few times a week	29	54%
Once a week	17	31%
Once a month	7	13%
I wouldn't use it, but I support the project	1	2%
I probably wouldn't visit	0	0%

Next Steps

The insights gathered through this consultation process, along with site analysis findings, will guide the refinement of concept designs and cost estimates, for progression to detail design.