



WENDOUREE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTRE

Engagement Summary Report
January 2026

Proudly working
with and for
our community



Project Overview

The Wendouree Library and Learning Centre project is one of four Tier One Advocacy Projects for the City of Ballarat, identified in the Community Infrastructure Plan 2022-2037.

Additionally, the Ballarat Libraries and Learning Strategy 2022-2027 includes the commission of concept design work towards a future Wendouree Library.

This is the second round of community engagement for this project. The first round was conducted in 2022, and this current round was open between 24 June and 23 October 2025.

The objectives

The engagement had three objectives:

- Inform residents within suburbs surrounding the proposed location, while also extending this opportunity more broadly to the general community;
- Inform the detailed design process by consulting community on library use, identifying perceived barriers to access, program and service preferences;
- Strengthening our advocacy efforts and the ability to seek partnerships from all levels of government in future funding initiatives.

Our aims for the engagement was to inform and consult, using the IAP2 spectrum as our guide.

Our Audience and Reach

The engagement campaign ran primarily through Council's MySay platform. This provided options to participate through answering a survey or contributing a library story or a vision for the future. For community members without online access, or with a preference for hard copy methods of participation, printed surveys were available for collection and return through library branches at Wendouree, Ballarat, Sebastopol and the Community Hubs at Lucas and Djila-tjarriu. Surveys and reply paid envelopes were also provided during community information sessions, such as Let's Chat and other Council expos and presentations.

The opportunity to participate in the MySay campaign was advertised by direct mailout to the 12,000 households in the directly targeted suburbs of Wendouree, Wendouree West, Lake Gardens, Miners Rest, Mitchell Park, Alfredton, Cardigan, Cardigan Village.

Additional methods used to promote the engagement opportunity were:

- Listening Posts at Let's Chat Ballarat, Let's Chat Wendouree Ward, Let's Chat North Ward, Let's Chat Central Ward
- Displays with QR codes to the MySay page and also hard copy surveys with reply paid envelopes at Ballarat Library and Wendouree Library
- Surveys and information available at Wendouree Neighbourhood House
- Promotion with QR codes at Stockland Wendouree food court areas
- Promotion on local radio
- Children's consultation at Family Day Out
- Children's consultation during library spring school holiday program and yearly years programming
- Participation incentive of three \$100 grocery vouchers, drawn at random at the conclusion of the engagement period
- Presentations to City of Ballarat's Disability Advisory Committee and the Koorie Engagement Action Group.



2,226

Visitors to the MySay page

Visitors are defined as the number of unique users that have entered the MySay site. A single visitor may make more than one visit to the site over the course of the same day or several days but are only counted once.



290

Contributors

The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a site using the available participation activities. Contributors is a unique value, and a Contributor who makes more than one Contribution is only counted as a single Contributor.



361

Contributions

While most people contributed their feedback through the survey activity, some people engaged with both the survey and the Visioning tool. These numbers are combined in the total contributions.

Who we heard from

Objective 1: Inform residents within the suburbs surrounding the proposed location

The opportunity to participate in this round of community consultation through the MySay page was advertised by direct mailout to 12,000 households in the suburbs of Wendouree, Wendouree West, Lake Gardens, Miners Rest, Mitchell Park, Alfredton, Cardigan and Cardigan Village.



26%

of respondents live in Wendouree



13%

work in Wendouree



3%

study in Wendouree



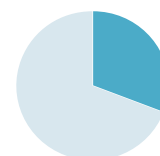
52%

of respondents indicated that the current Wendouree Library is their usual library



59%

of respondents indicated that they use an existing library facility regularly



31%

of respondents indicated that they use a library facility occasionally

Objective 2: Inform the detailed design by better understanding community use, needs and gaps

Respondents were asked to rank how important it is to have a new library in Wendouree, where zero is 'not at all important' and 5 is 'very important'.

70% of respondents rated a new library facility in Wendouree at the highest level of 5 and 18% rated it at 4 scale of importance. 1.2% of respondents rated the importance of a new library facility at 0 and 0.91% rated it 1.

The survey asked participants to rank features that would make the library more accessible and inclusive for all community members. Ranked from highest to lowest, we heard that people would value the inclusion of:

- Accessible parking and entrance
- Public toilets, including accessible facilities; and
- Quiet study areas

The survey asked about the types of programs, activities or events that would be of interest in a new Wendouree Library. This was a multiple choice question, where participants could choose their top three.

The most chosen options were author talks, Maker Space, exhibitions and children's programs. This feedback will be used to inform design considerations for appropriate flexible spaces, that would serve these types of activities.

As part of the engagement, we wanted to understand if people had concerns about accessing a library facility at Weeramar Park. This was not a compulsory question and respondents were able to write a free text answer. The results are summarised as:



284

(83% of participants)

people provided a response to this question



154

(54%)

of responses were positive about the library being in Weeramar Park



71

(25%)

were neutral



35

(12%)

were mixed



24

(8%)

were negative about Weeramar Park being the location to access the proposed library

The key themes that emerged in the free text responses were:



These responses help us to understand community priorities for this project.

Objective 3: Strengthening our advocacy efforts and ability to seek partnerships from all levels of government

A summary of this community engagement was presented to Council at the 10 December meeting. At that meeting Council noted the report and endorsed Weeramar Park as the site of the future Wendouree Library.

Council endorsement will support future advocacy, and will be used alongside the Community responses, stories and suggestions for a future Wendouree Library. We thank all those who generously gave their time to this engagement, and provided thoughtful and inciteful suggestions and experiences that will bolster advocacy efforts, with the overall objective of securing support from all levels of government for this project.

Summary

The community response and community support for this project remains positive. The majority of respondents indicated support for Weeramar Park as the location for a future library.

Council was provided with a report on the engagement for the December 10 meeting. At that meeting, Council received the engagement summary and endorsed Weeramar Park, located at the corner of Gillies Street and Norman Street in Wendouree, as the site of the future Wendouree Library.

The suggestions, themes and preferences identified during this engagement have been shared with the architectural company appointed to complete detailed design plans for a future library build. Community feedback and ideas received during the engagement process will inform the designs for library layout, space provision, facilities and amenities so that they best reflect our community desires for the programs and services they would like to use in the new library.

Next Steps

Further community engagement will occur in the first half of 2026, after the detailed designs are available. This will allow a further opportunity to check that we've understood the feedback received and that it is reflected in the detailed designs as far as is practicable.

Opportunities to participate in this phase of engagement will be advertised on the MySay page and on the Ballarat Libraries Facebook page.

Project updates will be provided on the MySay page.

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Customer Service

Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm

Phone

5320 5500

Email

info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Postal Address

PO Box 655
Ballarat, VIC 3353

Website

ballarat.vic.gov.au

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