

25 February 2026

Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services
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Dear Minister Cheyne,

Through the 2025-26 ACT Budget, the ACT Government committed \$2.6 million to renew Government-owned public spaces around Erindale shops. Between December 2025 and mid-February 2026, I undertook a community survey to learn from locals how, where and on what this money should be spent.

I made the survey available online, at the shops during my Tuggeranong Office visits, and delivered it to every household in Wanniasa, Monash, Gowrie, Fadden and Oxley. Through this consultation, 422 community members shared their feedback.

The feedback broadly fell under four key categories:

- Play Space & Recreation
- Public Amenities & Landscaping
- Parking & Access
- Community Activation

Please find attached the Community Feedback Summary outlining in detail what the community would like to see.

I look forward to reviewing the ACT Government's design work and would welcome the opportunity to discuss our findings further with you and the project team. I am committed to supporting these upgrades as they progress and to promoting the important work undertaken by you, your team, and the Directorate to enhance the Erindale Group Centre.

Sincerely,



Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA
Member for Brindabella



Community Feedback Summary - Erindale Shops Upgrades

Prepared by Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Introduction

Between December 2025 and mid-February 2026, 422 residents contributed detailed feedback on how the \$2.6 million investment should shape Erindale’s future public spaces. This report summarises the community’s priorities across play, public amenity, parking, access and activation.

Respondents came primarily from the suburbs surrounding Erindale, with 33.65% from Wanniasa, 24.41% from Monash, 19.43% from Fadden, 11.61% from Gowrie and 6.87% from Oxley. There were smaller contributions from Kambah (0.95%), Macarthur (0.71%), Calwell and Chisholm (0.47% each), and a handful from other Tuggeranong suburbs.

Play Space & Recreation

The community strongly supports including a play space in the upgrades. A substantial 79% of respondents endorsed the inclusion of a play space, with strong preference for climbing structures, swings and nature-play elements. Other suggestions include in-ground trampolines, monkey bars and water play. Support for a play space is to be expected, considering Erindale remains the only group centre in Tuggeranong without a dedicated play space.

Would you support the inclusion of a play space in the upgrade?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	79.15%	334
No	20.85%	88
TOTAL		422

Residents emphasised the need for a diverse play space catering to a wide range of age groups, particularly younger children. The community imagines a shaded, comfortable place where families can linger, with passive surveillance from nearby cafés and services.

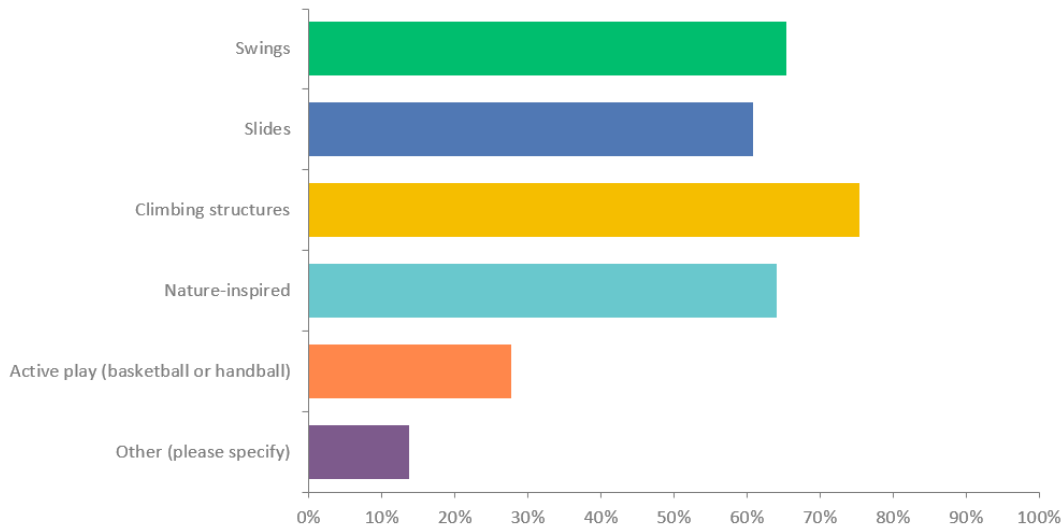
Respondents selected juniors (5-9) and toddlers (0-4) as the highest priority for a playground, with meaningful but lower support for pre-teens (10-13) and teens/adults (14+). This suggests a compact intergenerational space with a strong early-years core and a few features that still interest older children.

What age groups should the play space cater to?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Toddlers (0-4)	76.31%	248
Juniors (5-9)	84.92%	276
Pre-teens (10-13)	43.38%	141
Teens & Adults (14+)	23.69%	77
TOTAL		742

Design implications raised repeatedly by residents include a desire for abundant shade through trees or shade structures, inclusive/all-abilities elements, fencing or clear edges for safety, nearby seating for carers and convenient drinking fountains. Many suggested siting the play space in Grattan Court where there is a large derelict garden bed and underutilised space, while also buffering children from traffic.

If yes, what type of equipment should be included? (Select up to 3)



Respondents who did not support the inclusion of a play space cited concerns about noise within the centre, the availability of existing play areas nearby, the proximity to car traffic and potential loss of parking spaces, as well as fears of vandalism.

“The Kambah village play area appears to be very well used and liked.”

“I’d really value a play space that has benches for parents and adequate shade, and if possible close to a cafe.”

“Do not put the playground in any car park space. It should be designed similar to the playground at The Point near Brodburger Tuggeranong.”

“The area around Grattan Court is perfect for a play area. We have been waiting for this for so long... hope you can make it happen.”

“Given the proximity to two high schools and college, making the space more teen friendly seems appropriate.”

“I don’t think a play space is necessary as the area is frequented by an older demographic.”

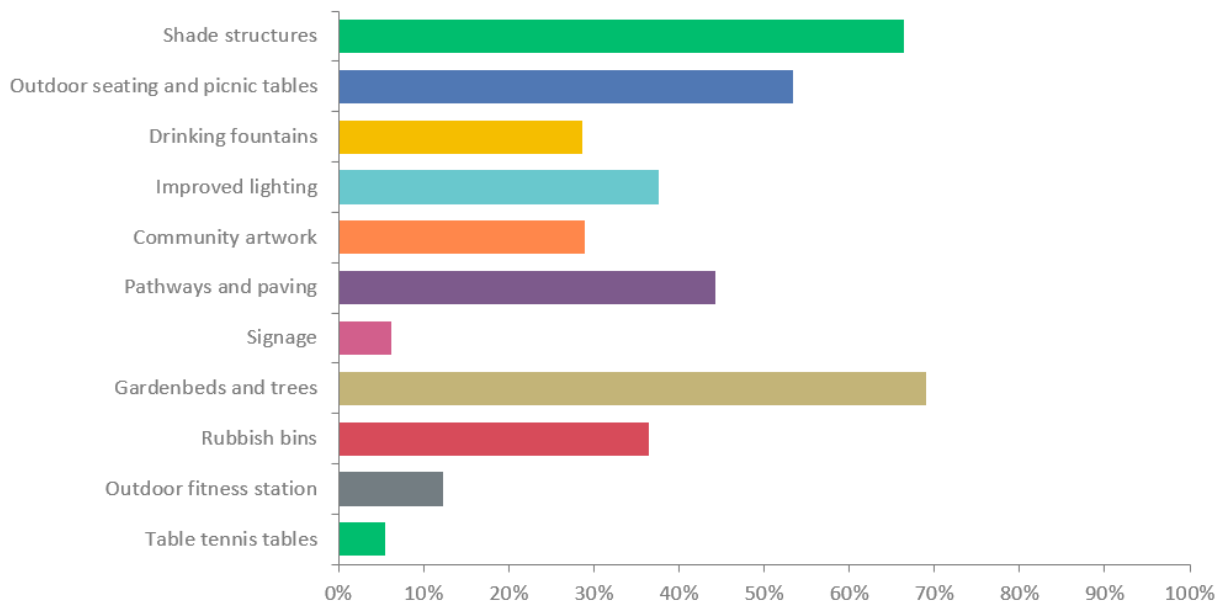
“The centre square has been screaming out for a play space, or something else to activate it. It would be great to see the smokers displaced by kids.”

“As a mum of little children I really appreciate a playground being built in Erindale. It will make a rich difference to our family life in the local community.”

Public Amenities & Landscaping

Cooling, greenery and comfort drive community priorities for public space upgrades. Garden beds and trees, shade structures and seating lead the list, followed by better pathways and lighting and more bins. Residents called for drought-tolerant planting, routine watering and pruning, and surfaces that are comfortable for prams, wheelchairs and mobility aids. Many want more character and identity via murals and art, paired with stronger cleaning and graffiti removal.

Which of the following features would you like to see included?



Comments suggested that walking and rolling between the library, pool, college, bus interchange and the restaurant strip should feel seamless. Priorities include additional zebra crossings, continuous accessible paths with smoother gradients and kerb ramps, and clearer wayfinding.

Crime prevention through environmental design came through in comments with suggestions of more lighting, better sightlines, CCTV in targeted locations, and consistent no-smoking zones near entrances. Some respondents were concerned about those who are regularly sleeping rough outside the main entrances to the shops.

“There is currently a ‘disconnect’ between the various facilities at Erindale. There needs to be better integration of the precinct from the service station area, through to the club, the playing fields and all the shops and college. It has potential to be a really good town centre hub.”

“The large gum trees located in Grattan Court are not suitable for this location. They make a mess of the court and would not be safe located near a playground. A playground in this location must be accompanied by some nice large deciduous trees that provide shade in summer and solar access in winter.”

“The Kambah village courtyard has become a vibrant attractive space that is used by the community. That type of thing would be great for the courtyard on the western side of Erindale shops.”

“All of the school children congregate in this area after school. I’d like to see the public spaces better suited to creating positive social spaces for teens.”

“A play space and/or outdoor fitness would improve opportunities for community to meet others.”

“The current space is hard, linear and uninviting...The straight lines delineate a transitory space, rather than a place to spend time, socialise and linger.

“Please focus on the landscaping, with as many garden beds as possible and as many plants as possible.”

“A multipurpose area for outdoor seating and dining similar to Green Square in Kingston would bring so much liveliness to the area and would benefit both businesses and the community.”

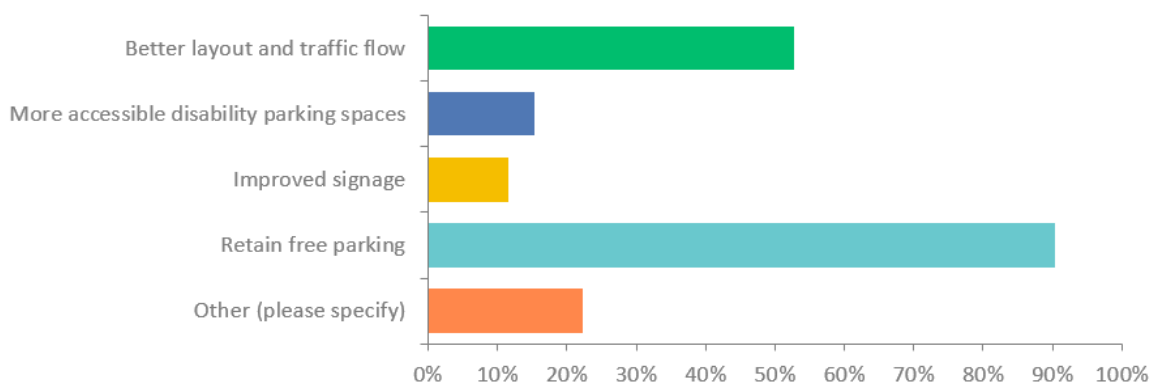
Parking & Access

Parking retention emerged as one of the strongest themes in the consultation, demonstrating the essential role vehicular access plays in Erindale’s role as a group centre. Nearly three-quarters (74.88%) of respondents consider retaining existing parking levels to be very important, whilst only 4.98% said it was not important.

The strongest single message is to retain free parking (381 people; 90.28% of responses). Alongside that, residents want a clearer layout and improved circulation, particularly around Gartside Street, with proposals for one-way flow and more accessible bays.

Some respondents raised the middle entry/exit into the southern carpark at McBryde Crescent being too narrow to fit a car entering and exiting at the same time.

What car parking improvements would you like to see?



People noted parking pressure during event-based peaks at the nearby Vikings Park and Erindale Theatre and asked that designs protect access at these times. There is also appetite for better crossing points, raised pavement platforms and line-marking, and for targeted enforcement against unsafe or illegal parking.

“Gartside street is a dangerous mess”

“Repainting of all road and parking space marking is necessary.”

“Exit onto McBryde Cres (from the middle of the main shops carpark) could be widened.”

“Do not make the carparks too small. Need to be big enough for large family cars.”

“The parking and traffic along Gartside Street is awful at peak times. I feel so sorry for those small business owners. I was so sad to see how poor the government upgrades were to this space last time.”

“We cannot lose car parks because when games are held at the Vikings oval things are impossible for local residents who routinely use the area to park.”

“I appreciate the car park on the golden mile (the restaurant strip) was recently upgraded, but those upgrades did not meet the requirements. Make the traffic one way, from the top end down. Reduce the footpath size so car parks can increase on the Gartside road. Make them at a 45 degree - precedence of 45 degree parking is set at Woden.”

“More non car based options - bike parking, connected footpaths and bike paths and proper crosswalks.”

“Top car park traffic may flow more safely if there were a one-way system introduced.”

“A glaring absence from Erindale is EV Charging Stations. The smaller Calwell centre has 7 chargers and the much smaller Chisholm has 2 chargers. Even though I live much closer to Erindale, I now travel to Chisholm (or Calwell) for groceries and other services. Hence, businesses in Erindale are losing patronage.”

Community Activation

There is a clear appetite for Erindale to become a more vibrant and dynamic hub. 87% of respondents supported the use of upgraded public spaces for community events, including markets, performances and workshops. This indicates strong enthusiasm for transforming Erindale into a place that fosters regular community interaction and activity. This is also supported by enthusiasm for better outdoor dining options.

Residents suggested small-scale infrastructure like power points, a simple stage area, and space for pop-ups that won't compromise parking.

“Anything to get the community together would be good. Erindale is so sterile.”

“Seems like a lost opportunity with such a central hub, having a more welcoming and inclusive space to hold events would be great to bring the community together.”

Summary & Conclusion

In summary, residents envision a family-friendly, shaded, green and functional precinct that supports daily activity and community connection. The priorities identified play, greenery, amenities, parking and activation provide a clear, community-backed foundation for the ACT Government's upcoming design work.

Key recommendations include:

- a play space in Grattan Court between the centre and library with seating, shade and water close by,
- retention of at least the same number of free parking spaces,
- safer, more legible pedestrian links between the centre and the Gartside Street restaurant strip; consider one-way circulation at Gartside Street and angled parking to increase capacity,
- increased shade and greenery around the centre's courtyards and pathways,
- install small-scale infrastructure to support events like power points, a simple stage area, and space for pop-ups,
- install secure bike parking (including lockers) near key entrances and the bus interchange, and
- add character and identity through artwork and murals.

To conclude, the survey highlights several important sensitivities that should guide the next stages of planning. Parking capacity remains a non-negotiable issue for many respondents, underscoring the need for design options that preserve existing spaces while still enhancing safety and traffic flow. Concerns about vandalism also emerged strongly, pointing to the value of improved lighting, clear sightlines, durable materials and greater passive surveillance through active frontages.

Finally, some matters, such as the Gartside Street restaurant strip, shop fit-outs and tenancy mix, fall within the remit of private owners, meaning that any successful renewal effort will require coordinated action between public-realm improvements and private-sector engagement. I will write to the centre management and owners of the private Gartside Street restaurant carpark seeking improvements.