



**CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF LEASE
DAYLESFORD SPEEDWAY
THE BASIN RESERVE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2022



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1 Introduction

Hepburn Shire Council is considering a renewal of Lease for the Daylesford Speedway Drivers Association Inc (DSDA) at The Basin Recreation Reserve (the Reserve).

The Reserve is located on the Ballan-Daylesford Road, Daylesford, with access via Basin Road. The land is Crown Land that was reserved in 1987 for Public Recreation and which Council has been appointed to manage.

The Speedway was established by the local community in the 1950s. The DSDA, a not-for-profit, incorporated association, has leased this land (which forms part of the Reserve) from Council as a speedway racing track since 1987.

Council Officers are currently undertaking a review of the Daylesford Speedway at the Reserve in order to make a recommendation to Council for the possible renewal of a lease to DSDA.

As part of the review, Council invited community feedback in relation to the current use and/or other potential issues or uses for this site. The length of lease may be up to six-years with the option for an extension for a further six years.

2 Invitation for Community Feedback

A notice inviting the community to provide feedback regarding the consideration for a renewal of lease for the Daylesford Speedway at the Basin Recreation Reserve was published in The Local newspaper on both 16 and 30 January 2022.

This was also publicised on the Council's Facebook page, Participate Hepburn website and in the Hepburn Life newsletter.

Council Officers were seeking community feedback on the Daylesford Speedway to gauge public interest in relation to the current use and other potential issues or uses for this site.

The community were able to submit feedback via the Participate Hepburn website. The period for submissions closed on Friday 11 February 2022.

This report outlines the feedback received between 16 January to 11 February 2022.

Please note, The Basin Reserve is approximately 40 ha in size, consisting of woodland and forest; the approx. 7 ha area surrounding the racetrack is located within the larger Reserve.

3 Participate Hepburn Project Report

Performance Summary

Information regarding key visitation and utilisation metrics for your Site or projects.

1,924
Views

1,769
Visits

1,625
Visitors

354
Contributions

333
Contributors

0
Followers

Views - The number of times a Visitor views any page on a Site.

Visits - The number of end-user sessions associated with a single Visitor.

Visitors - The number of unique public or end-users to a Site. A Visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.

Contributions - The total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools.

Contributors - The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a Site through the participation tools.

Followers - The number of Visitors who have 'subscribed' to a project using the 'Follow' button.

Referral Types

Referral traffic is the segment of traffic that arrives on your website through another source, like through a link on another domain.



- Social Media: 1,475 - 90.38%
- Direct: 118 - 7.23%
- Websites: 20 - 1.23%
- Search Engine: 19 - 1.16%
- Other: 0 - 0.00%

Direct - Visitors who have arrived at a Site by entering the exact web address or URL of the page.

Search Engine - Visitors who have arrived at a Site via a search engine. Such as Google, Yahoo, etc.

Websites - Visitors who have arrived at the Site after clicking a link located on an external website.

Social Media - Visitors who have arrived at a Site by clicking a link from a known social media site such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.

Other - Visitors who have arrived at a Site by undetermined means. This may include those arriving from a direct marketing campaign.



354 responses were received
via the Participate Hepburn portal

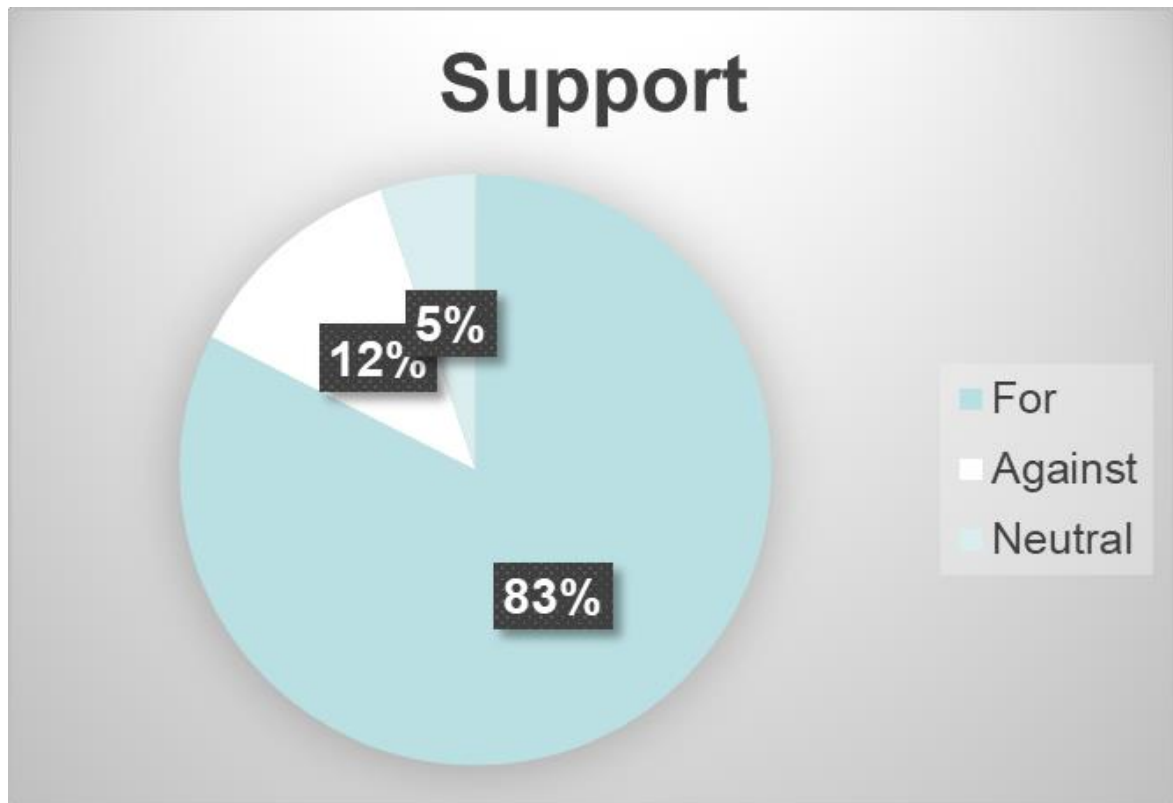


9 additional submissions were
received via email



At least 55 responses were
identifiably from outside the Shire

4 Snapshot of Feedback



5 Community Feedback



The majority of the feedback supported the renewal of the Speedway Lease on grounds of history and tradition, community contribution and tourism/economic benefit, diversity of sport offering and it being a family, multi-generational form of entertainment

Constructive suggestions for improvements and shared space were received as part of the support, including from the closest neighbours



Some objections were received on grounds of noise, environment or being inappropriate to continue at this location

6 Themes from Community Feedback

6.1 Noise and Amenity

- Concern was raised about dust and speed on Basin Road on event days; also concern that a narrow, unsealed residential road only access to the Reserve.
 - Suggestion of traffic control measures; possible sealing (and widening) of access road to reduce dust.
- Comments regarding noise included: *extremely intrusive; disturbs rural peace and quiet; too noisy and the sound travels across the town.*
 - Noise mitigation measures suggested: reduction of event frequency (limit number per month/year) and timing (during day) of events; wide publicisation of event dates; need to monitor compliance.

How Council is addressing these concerns:

- Council commissioned an Acoustic Report, completed in February 2022
- Existing restrictions in the lease will be retained and monitored
- Upgrade of Basin Road to be considered

6.2 Environment

- Concern was raised regarding emissions, pollution and climate change; wildlife; weeds and soil run-off; impact to natural environment; waste management; inappropriate use of land and long-term impacts;
- Visually unappealing, historic issues with maintenance;
- Need for revegetation – weed control and tree planting; restore natural beauty and habitat, natural amphitheatre, protect natural spring;

How Council is addressing these concerns:

- Council commissioned an Environmental Site Investigation to review potential contamination, including soil and water testing – completed February and March 2022
- Tenant will be required to maintain an Environmental Management Plan
- Council has developed a Vegetation Management Plan to protect remnant native vegetation and identify plantings to improve the amenity, screening and soil stabilisation and biodiversity values

6.3 Encourage Multi-Use

- Suggestions made were as follows:
 - Potential for additional outdoor entertainment, e.g. drive-in cinema, fairs/festivals/markets, live music or performance space; dirt/mountain bikes; horse-riding
 - Suggestion of increasing general public use to reduce pressure on Victoria Park, e.g. dog-walking; encourage diversity of users
 - Defensive driving courses/training; build kids activities, e.g. BMX track or skate/scooter facilities
 - Upgrade amenities, increase shade and seating
- **Please note that investigations of shared use are beyond the scope of this review, however use of the wider Reserve could be considered separately to the lease of the Speedway.**

6.4 Relocate

- Too close to town and residents vs. will never revive if closed

6.5 History, Culture and Economy

- Support for the continuation of the Speedway included comments that it is important to encourage a variety of recreational activities within the Shire and value its role in encouraging diverse interests; *“...for some it is the same as a football game, a family sport”; “important to support a diverse range of interests, hobbies and sports in our area.”*
- Historically significant, recognised icon of the area; established in the 1950s by returned servicemen raising funds to build the local RSL club and this affiliation continues; *“oldest still-operating speedway in Australia on its original site”; “a local treasure”; “to lose this local icon would be a sad end of an era at best, and a shameful and unnecessary atrocity at worst.”*
- There was significant number of comments in support of the Speedway praising it for it being multi-generational family-friendly sport and entertainment, with participation of all ages and genders – *“an inclusive, affordable, social event”; “...a family event that is an important part of many families lives.”* There is also strong support from Speedway Australia.
- Provides community engagement; offers driving skill building in a safe, controlled environment; positive youth activity; *“There are 12 Junior drivers within the club and 20 Junior Quarter Midgets drivers on a smaller track, from all over Victoria. This is a learning experience handling vehicles under adult supervision”; “helps develop lifelong skills for Junior racers.”*

- Attracts visitors to Daylesford; events provide injection to local economy; economic benefit to the community; great family day out/weekend in Daylesford – *“a great place to catch up with family and friends from all over Victoria.”*
- *“The Daylesford Speedway is a well-supported event venue run by an enthusiastic community attracting not only local participation in “grass roots” motorsport but many competitors from other regions. It is also one of the longest standing circuits therefore making it important in the history of Speedway in Australia.”*
- Contributes to local fund-raising; run by dedicated volunteers; a community asset – *“the club is an important part of the Daylesford community, and the current committee are working incredibly hard”; “the Speedway has been an important part of this town for many, many years and gives back to the community, especially the RSL...”*
- Consider funding track improvements and better amenities, shade and spectator seating.

7 Conclusion

We appreciate the time taken by the community to provide feedback on the proposed renewal of lease for the Daylesford Speedway. This report will be included in the final report to Council regarding the renewal of lease.

Hepburn Shire Council thanks you for your interest and participation.