

Coulson Gardens public art survey overview

July 2026

In late 2025, we sought community feedback on the design of the public artwork at Coulson Gardens to acknowledge the 2022 flood. This artwork was developed as part of the Flood Recovery Program with the Maribyrnong Community Recovery Committee following a series of community sessions.

This project was jointly funded by the State and Federal governments.

The survey was undertaken in response to feedback from community and informed a review of the artwork.

How we engaged

From 27 October to 11 November 2025, we ran an online survey to hear about how the community felt about the artwork. This was accompanied by a face-to-face doorknock during the months of November and December 2025.

Coulson Gardens public artwork survey responses

Online survey: 27 October to 11 November 2025

Face-to-face surveys: 6 November to 22 December 2025



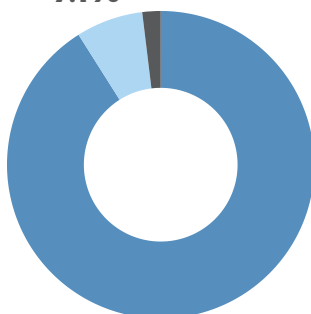
157
Responses



105
Door-knock
conversations

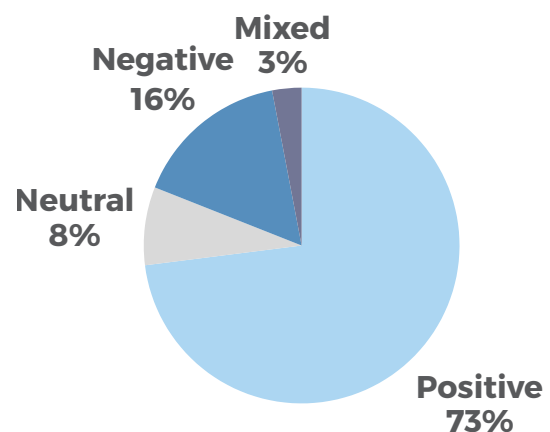
What is your relation to the Maribyrnong township?

I use the river
for recreation
7.1%



I live here
91%

Community perception of the artwork



Comments from the survey

- More colour added
- More sandblasting/extension of the design onto blank sections of the path
- An interpretive sign to clarify project funding, provide context of the 2022 flood and thank community volunteers
- A sign to credit the artist
- Removing artwork/removing components
- Keep the artwork as is
- Other languages represented in art.

Quotes from the survey

- “It’s a prettier way to bring attention to bring awareness of the flood that’s better than the flood pole along the river. Would like additional signage to explain the story of the community.”
- “I feel deeply moved by the artwork. It beautifully captures both the pain and the strength our community experienced during and after the 2022 floods. The designs feel peaceful and full of hope, they remind me of resilience, care, and togetherness. Walking along it gives a sense of calm and pride in how far the community has come.”
- “It gives me a sense of pride and achievement when I see it. Proud to see how far not only I have come, but the community as a whole. As a memorial it sums it up nicely, the date, the flood level but more importantly a united community connection I now feel as a direct result of the flood.”
- “It feels like graffiti - could use more colour and tell the story with signage.”
- “I don’t like it - it triggers bad memories. I want something nice to cheer people up.”

Based on the results, Council will:

- Install interpretive signage to provide context and clarify river peak height
- Install a bench seat away from the flood height and date markings
- Investigate adding additional highlights of colour, budget permitting.

Want to discuss the results further?

Contact Council at FloodRecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au if you would like to discuss these results further.