

Urrbrae Agricultural High School oval upgrade

Stakeholder consultation report

February 2026



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Urrbrae Agricultural High School oval upgrade

Background

The Department for Education (Department) is progressing plans to redevelop the oval and sports facilities at Urrbrae Agricultural High School. The proposal would provide high-quality, modern sporting infrastructure for both students and local residents. The improvement supports the increasing demand for sport in the community, with a focus on expanding opportunities for girls' and women's football and strengthens collaboration with local sporting organisations, particularly the Sturt Football Club.

Community consultation

To ensure any upgrades reflect community needs, the Department conducted a public consultation process in October 2025. Consultation included an information and feedback campaign on the YourSAy website (open from 14 - 31 October), enabling the general public to review information about the proposed project, ask questions, and complete a survey. Additional to the online engagement, the Minister for Education, Training and Skills wrote directly to key stakeholders, inviting their input.

The consultation process was designed to encapsulate the many interested parties, and gather opinions from school families, residents, local sporting organisations, and community members. To protect respondents' privacy, the online consultation did not collect personal information that would allow survey responses to be distinguished by group (e.g., community member, school representative, environmental or football club member).

Why the upgrade is important

The upgraded oval and supporting facilities will derive benefits to Urrbrae Agricultural High School and its community, including:

Enhanced learning: Improved facilities will give students more opportunities for physical education, sport, and outdoor learning in a safe and inclusive environment.

Community health: The redevelopment encourages more people - students, families, and residents - to be involved in active lifestyles.

Promoting inclusivity: The new infrastructure will support a variety of users, with a focus on creating opportunities for girls' and women's sport.

Building partnerships: Shared use of the space with organisations such as the Sturt Football Club will help build stronger community links.

Maximising public assets: The project is part of a broader strategy to make the best use of school facilities as valued neighbourhood spaces.

Feedback received

A total of 226 visits were recorded on the YourSAy platform, with 45 community members and other stakeholders completing the online survey.

Feedback demonstrates strong interest in investing in and strengthening partnerships between the school and community sporting groups. Many stakeholders see the project as a valuable opportunity to work alongside organisations like Sturt Football Club to offer shared use that does not compromise daytime school activities or the site's agricultural legacy.

Neighbouring schools and local bodies, including Unley High School and Urrbrae Agricultural High School, provided written support for the redevelopment and its benefits for students and the broader community. Equally, no direct neighbourhood concerns were raised.

The key themes from feedback included:

Expressions of strong support, highlighting the following:

- The urgent need to update outdated facilities.
- The benefit of sharing green space for both school activities and community sport.
- Positive impacts on health and wellbeing by giving more people, especially young people and women, the opportunity to take part in sport.
- The potential for the upgraded oval to become a valuable asset for both Urrbrae Agricultural High School and local sporting clubs, including the Sturt Football Club.
- Opportunities for greater community connections and building social infrastructure.

Specific suggestions and requests:

- Some suggested including a picket fence or improved boundary treatment for safety.
- The addition of a medical room to support players' health during games and training was recommended as essential.
- Requests for oval lighting to allow evening training and community use.
- Desire for facilities that support turf management and agricultural learning, in keeping with the school's agricultural focus.

Concerns raised:

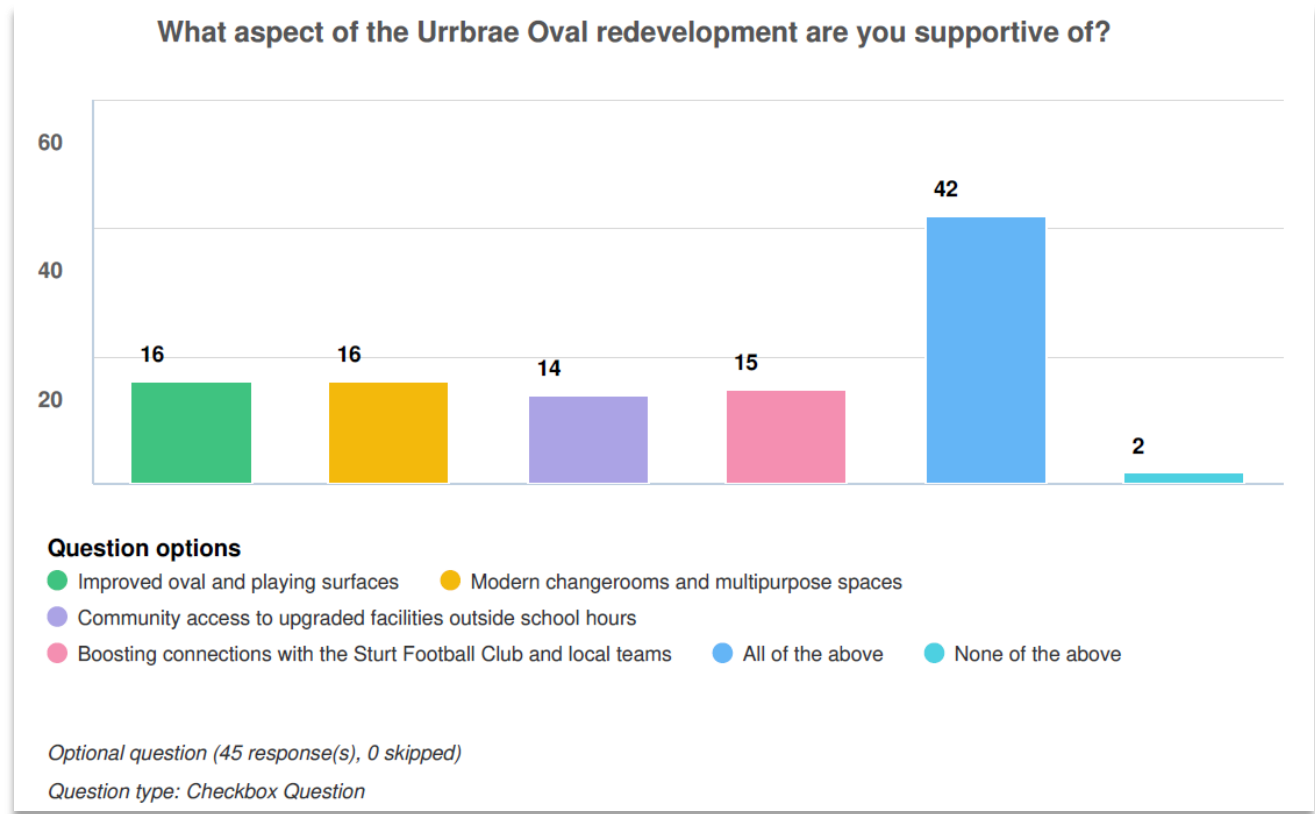
Only two strongly opposed responses were received, with respondents raising the following concerns:

- Opposition to any changes to the terms of the Waite Trust designed to enable redevelopment of the Urrbrae Agricultural High School oval for joint use with external entities such as the Sturt Football Club. Further noting that the Trust was established to preserve the land for agricultural education and research in line with Peter Waite's vision, and that amendments permitting broader sporting use could set an undesirable precedent, potentially undermining long-standing protections and shifting the site's intended educational and community focus.
- Potential environmental impacts were also highlighted, particularly in relation to the adjacent Urrbrae Wetlands. Noting increased lighting, noise and other environmental disturbances associated with expanded sporting use, the concern emphasised the importance of preserving the ecological value of the wetlands while maintaining the distinctive character of the Waite Precinct.

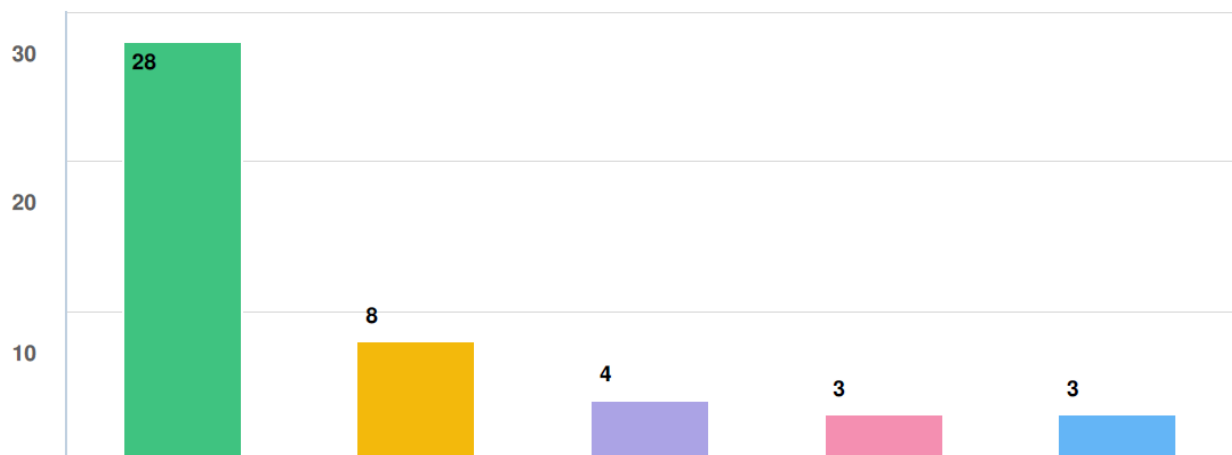
Summary of results

Total visits: 226

Total survey participants: 45



How likely are you to use the upgraded facilities at Urrbrae Oval (either directly or as part of community activities)?



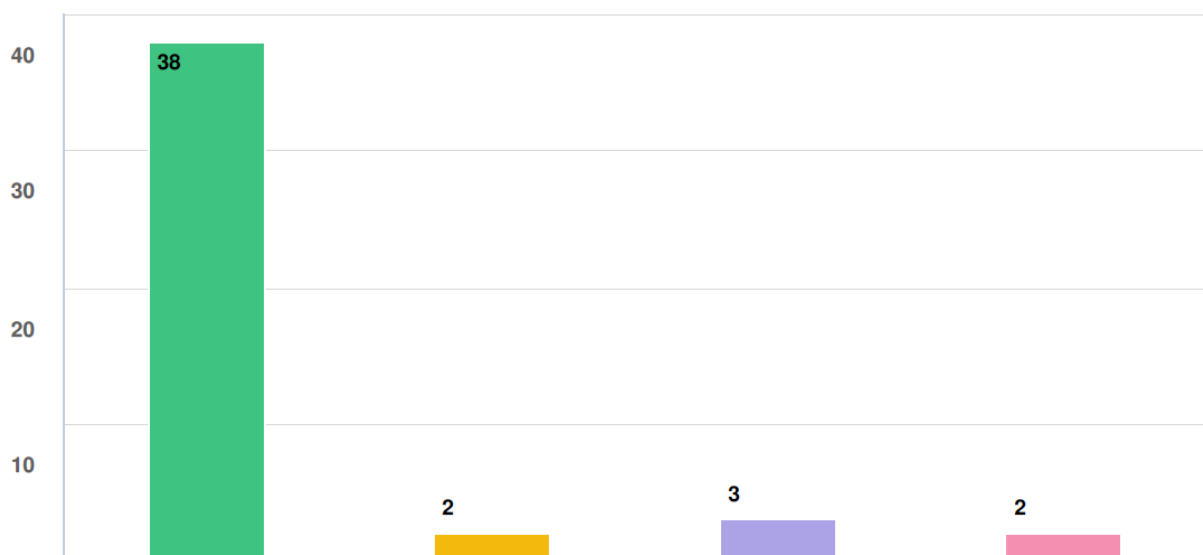
Question options

● Very likely
 ● Somewhat likely
 ● Neutral
 ● Somewhat unlikely
 ● Very unlikely

Optional question (45 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Do you support changes to the terms of the Waite Trust, which would be achieved by legislation, to allow for the upgrading ...



Question options

● Strongly support
 ● Somewhat support
 ● Neutral
 ● Strongly oppose

Optional question (45 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Next steps

All community input will be carefully considered as detailed planning continues. The Department for Education will:

- Assess all feedback received through surveys and direct correspondence.
- Provide updates to the community as the project progresses.
- Conduct further engagement via planning processes.

Conclusion

The consultation for the proposed oval redevelopment at Urrbrae Agricultural High School has shown a high level of public interest and engagement. Most feedback is positive, recognising the improvement's potential to benefit school programs, local sport, and broader community health. At the same time, some concerns regarding land use, environmental impacts, and the importance of the Waite Trust were raised.

The Department for Education remains committed to open, transparent communication and careful planning to balance educational, community, and environmental goals, and ensuring lasting benefits to students and the community while respecting the legacy and heritage of Urrbrae Agricultural High School.