

We, the below residents of Merlynston in Coburg North, hold strong concerns about the fairness and transparency of both the nomination and selection processes City of Moreland has approved for the Hosken Reserve Master Plan Refresh 2021 Engagement Stage 2 – ‘Refresh Group’.

The nomination form asks:

Are you a part of the Keep Hosken Reserve Accessible / Save Hosken Reserve group?

What is meant by this is unclear. On February 28th 2021 in response to a question from resident Warran Hocking, the Director of TheCommunityCollaborative contracted by council to run the engagement wrote: 'I can confirm that the 2 designated spots for the Save Hosken group were intended to come from this coordinating group that Bernie [Bernadette Hetherington] has been meeting and consulting with to date.'

This small group of six residents then requested this be made clear on the Refresh Group nomination form, but this request was denied on March 1st. Consequently it is highly likely many other people who should qualify to sit on the refresh group in the category of 'local resident' because they live within 800m of Hosken Reserve have ticked this box, possibly assuming it referred to an informal Facebook group, which hundreds of local residents have joined. The inclusion of this box will act as a bias against local residents who hold concerns about the expansion of soccer activities in the north half of Hosken Reserve to 70 hours per week and / or to the installation of synthetic grass in this half of the reserve. This is undemocratic and brings City of Moreland's consultation into disrepute.

We request City of Moreland and its contracted consultants take the following actions to ensure council's current engagement on Hosken Reserve is fair and transparent:

1. The two people selected for the Refresh Group from what council calls the 'Save Hosken' group are drawn only from the coordinating group of local Merlynston residents that Bernadette Hetherington was meeting with' between December 2020 and March 2021.
2. That the definition of the Keep Hosken Reserve Accessible / Save Hosken Reserve group and who it is intended to refer to be made absolutely clear on the nomination form as soon as possible (noting that nominations closing by April 30th).
3. Local residents who have already nominated and ticked this box but who are not part of the small group which has been meeting with Bernadette Hetherington be removed from the Keep Hosken Accessible / Save Hosken' column and instead placed in the general local resident pool for random selection to the Refresh Group by Conversation Caravan / TheCommunityCollaborative .
4. Clarify selection method, particularly where someone can nominate for more than one category.

Name	Address	Signature