



Development proposal – Marist Park

21 July to 21 August 2026



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Background

Hamilton Marist Rugby Football Club (The Club) has identified a need for a dedicated strength and conditioning (S&C) gym to support athlete development, participation, and retention in sport and reduce injury risk. The Club also recognised a shortage of affordable, fit-for-purpose S&C gyms that can accommodate team-based training for schools and the wider community.

The Club has proposed to fund and construct an 850m² purpose-built S&C gym at Marist Park, to be owned and operated by The Club and provide opportunities for broader community use. Construction on the S&C gym is anticipated to begin during the 2026/2027 summer season, subject to approvals.

As the proposed development is on publicly owned land, public notification and consultation is required under the Reserves Act 1977. Consultation feedback will help inform Council's decision-making on the development of the S&C gym at Marist Park, and any conditions of approval.



Consultation feedback

This consultation was live from 21 July – 21 August 2026.

We received a total of **70 online submissions** through Council's Have Your Say page, from:

- 68 individuals
- two representatives of organisations.

Respondents were asked:

- if they supported the proposed S&C gym development at Marist Park
- why they support or do not support the development (free-text question)
- if they'd like to make a verbal submission at a Council meeting, five submitters have indicated that they would.

Due to the small number of respondents, analysis in this report is indicative only. Statistical analysis was completed using Microsoft Excel and free-text was manually analysed.

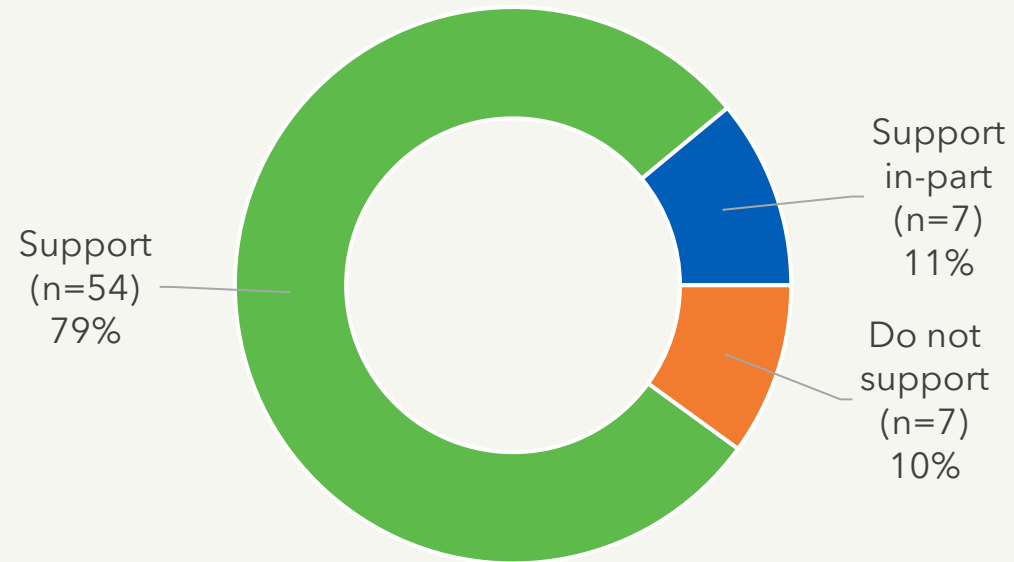


Submission insights

Individual responses

Individual responses

Support for proposed development at Marist Park



Q. Do you support Council's proposal to allow the development of a purpose-built strength and conditioning gym facility at Marist Park?
Base: All individual respondents (n = 68).

Reasons behind support for the proposed development at Marist Park



A future-focused asset to benefit the broader Hamilton community

45 mentions



Provides athlete development, health, and wellbeing benefits across many sporting codes and community groups.



Supports the anticipated increase in demand for these facilities as Hamilton continues to grow.



Provides a team training environment that would accommodate out-of-town sports teams, encouraging visitors to Hamilton.

There is a genuine difference between a commercial gym designed primarily for individual use and a facility capable of safely accommodating structured team-based training. A purpose-built facility at Marist Park could help address that gap while providing an affordable and accessible option for community groups."

"With the Waikato experiencing significant population growth, there is a growing need for quality sporting infrastructure that creates opportunities for young athletes to develop their skills and reach their potential. While the facility will provide tremendous benefits for rugby, it also has the potential to support cricket and many other sports within the Marist community."

"I think it will greatly improve the sporting facilities of Hamilton and the Waikato and make it a more attractive place for outside sports teams and athletes from other regions or countries to train and stay, while improving the sporting abilities of local athletes and teams."

Reasons behind opposition to the proposed development at Marist Park



Parking and traffic issues and disruption during construction

13
mentions



Concern that the development will increase traffic in the area, making it unsafe.



Concern that increased traffic in the area will exacerbate already limited parking availability and poor parking behaviour.



Concern increased noise, vibration, and traffic during construction disrupting nearby residents.

"Decrease in parking for already busy area, decrease of field space...significant impact on safety of road and major intersection."

"We are especially concerned about the potential impact of construction...Residents should not have to deal with increased noise, traffic, parking problems, and potential property damage."



Loss of public space for an unnecessary development

5
mentions



With other gyms in close proximity, some see the development as unnecessary.



Some don't want to lose the community green space at the proposed development site.

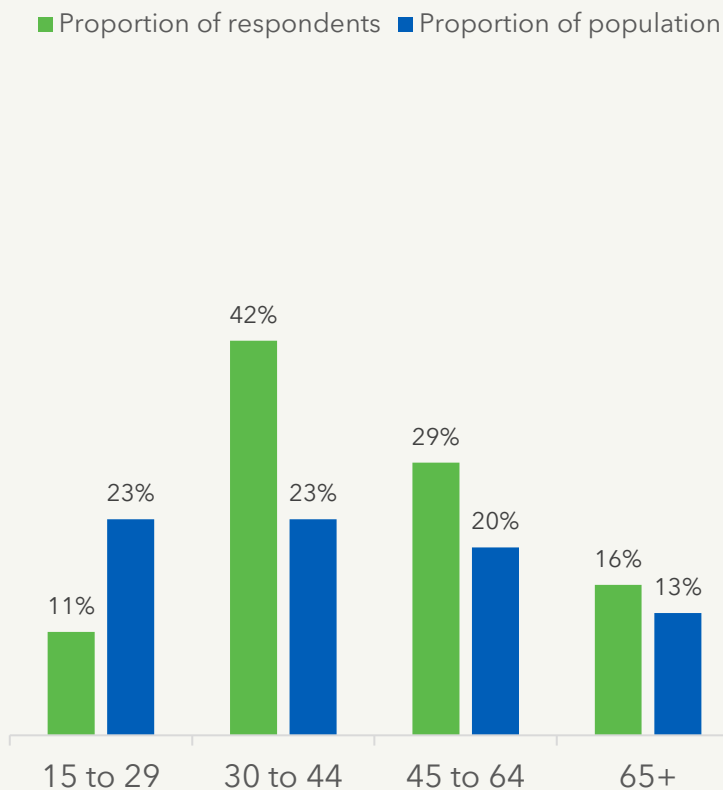
"I question whether the loss of this green space is justified when there are already several indoor sporting and fitness facilities in the area. For example, [two gyms] are within approximately a 15-minute walk of the proposed site."

Key findings

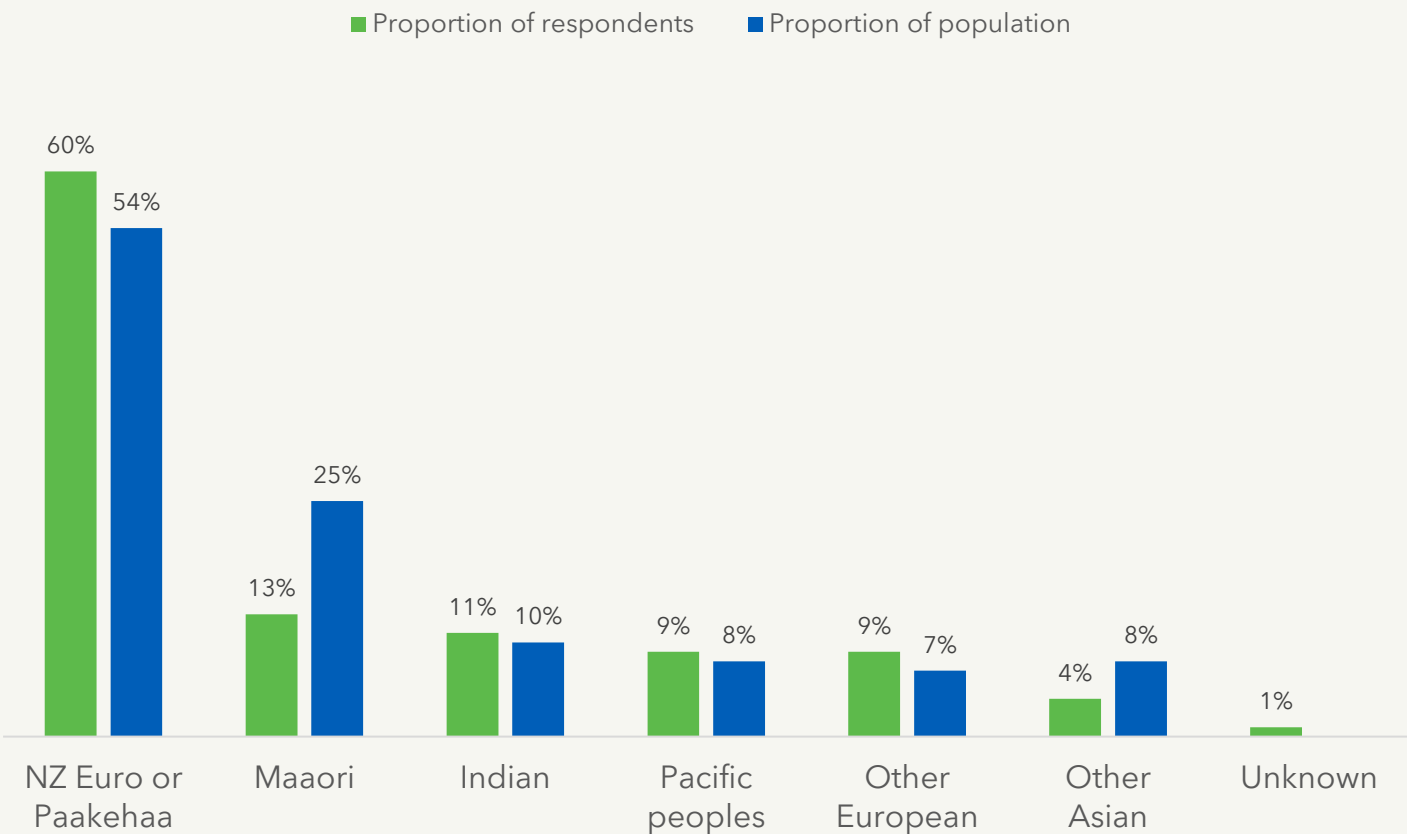
- We heard feedback from **68 individual respondents** and **9 in 10 support or support in part the proposal** for a strength and conditioning gym facility to be built at Marist Park.
- **Community benefits into the future is the top reason for supporting this proposal. Supporters see this as a facility that would:**
 - provide development, health, and wellbeing benefits for a broad range of sports and community groups
 - accommodate future growth of Hamilton and demand for such facilities.
 - provide a sought-after team training environment that could encourage visitors to Hamilton.
- **Parking, traffic, and construction concerns are the main reasons for not supporting this proposal. Those in opposition believe this development would:**
 - increase traffic and parking needs in the area and they don't see this addressed in the proposal
 - cause noise, vibration, and heavy traffic during construction, disrupting nearby residents.

About our individual respondents

Age comparison



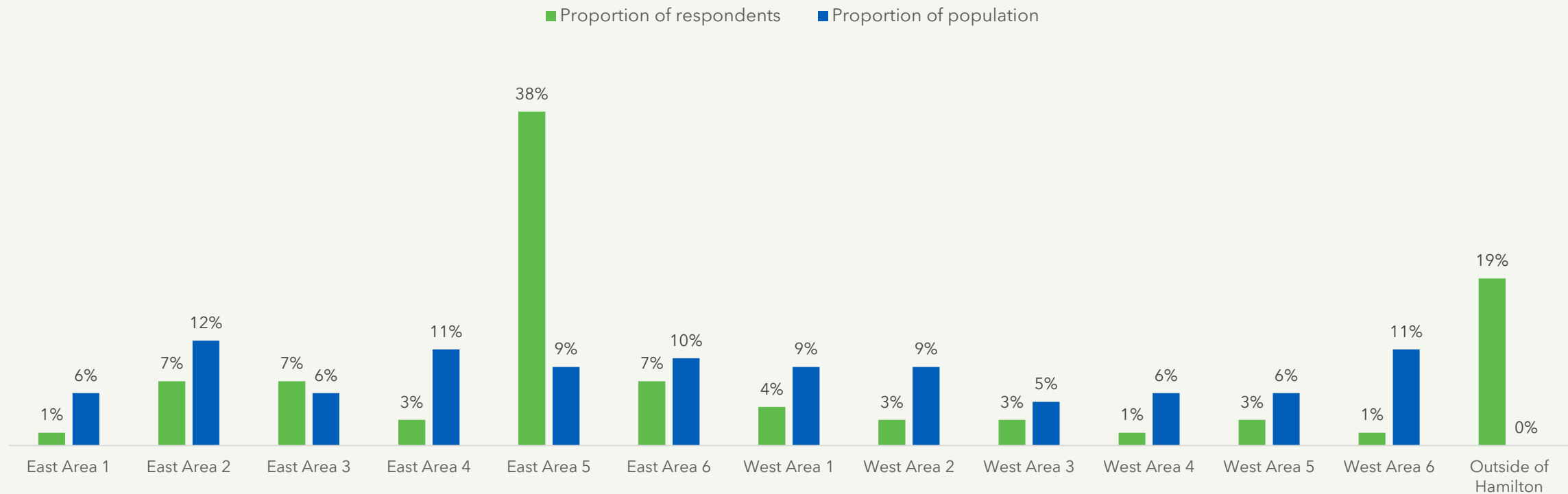
Ethnicity comparison



Q. What is your age? Base: All Hamilton resident respondents (n = 55). Q. Which ethnic group do you identify as? (Select all that apply). Base: All Hamilton resident respondents (n = 55).
Source: Stats NZ. (2025). Hamilton City: Place and ethnic group summaries. <https://tools.summaries.stats.govt.nz/places/TA/hamilton-city#quick-stats>

About our individual respondents

Community profile area comparison



East Area 1	Flagstaff	West Area 1	Avalon, Beerescourt, Forest Lake, Pukete, St Andrews, Te Rapa
East Area 2	Callum Brae, Huntington, Rototuna, Rototuna North	West Area 2	Crawshaw, Grandview Heights, Nawton, Rotokauri, Western Heights
East Area 3	Chartwell, Chedworth, Harrowfield, Queenwood	West Area 3	Aberdeen, Dinsdale, Temple view
East Area 4	Enderley, Fairfield, Fairview Downs	West Area 4	Frankton, Maeroa, Swarbrick
East Area 5	Claudeland, Hamilton East, Peachgrove	West Area 5	Hamilton Central, Hamilton Lake, Hospital, Whitiara
East Area 6	Hillcrest, Ruakura, Riverlea, Silverdale	West Area 6	Bader, Deanwell, Fitzroy, Glenview, Melville, Peacocke

Q. Where do you live? Base: All individual respondents (n = 68). Respondents who live in Hamilton n=55, respondents who live outside of Hamilton n=13

Submission insights

Organisation responses

Two organisations made submissions on this proposal.
Their feedback is presented in full on the following slide.

Organisation responses

Hamilton City Youth Council

Question:

Do you support Council's proposal to allow the development of a purpose-built strength and conditioning gym facility at Marist Park?

Response:

In-part

Please tell us why you do or don't support this proposal. Free-text response:

Strengths - New S&C facility in high performance environment, room for further development in area, affordable, fit-for-purpose gym close to the university.
Weaknesses - Decrease in parking for already busy area, decrease of field space (encroachment of second grass field), significant impact on safety of road and major intersection.
Our main concern is the impact on the safety of our youth that will come with increased demand and decreased parking facilities. It is a very youth dominated environment and there are many children that cross the road on the daily. The impact on their safety is paramount to our perspective. We would like to see increased parking facilities to cater for this increase in demand and improve safety for the area.

Marist Suburbs Cricket Club

Question:

Do you support Council's proposal to allow the development of a purpose-built strength and conditioning gym facility at Marist Park?

Response:

Yes

Please tell us why you do or don't support this proposal. Free-text response:

Hamilton is in need for a facility like this.



Engagement

Tactics + results

Engagement results

Please note: Engagement tactics for this proposal and another nearby proposal were delivered jointly, as both were relevant to the same audiences.

Reached

Heard about the consultation

- Public notice in Waikato Times
- 500 letters delivered to nearby properties
- Email to park users and stakeholders
- Antenno to surrounding area

Engaged

Sought more information

- Antenno link was clicked 111 times
- This proposal and one other were presented together on the same consultation page. There were 405 unique visitors to this page but it's unclear how many were visiting for this specific proposal.

Heard

68 individuals and two groups provided feedback

What's next?



**Community
consultation**

21 Jul - 21 Aug 2026



**Hearings for
verbal submissions**

TBC



**Decision
made**

TBC



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