

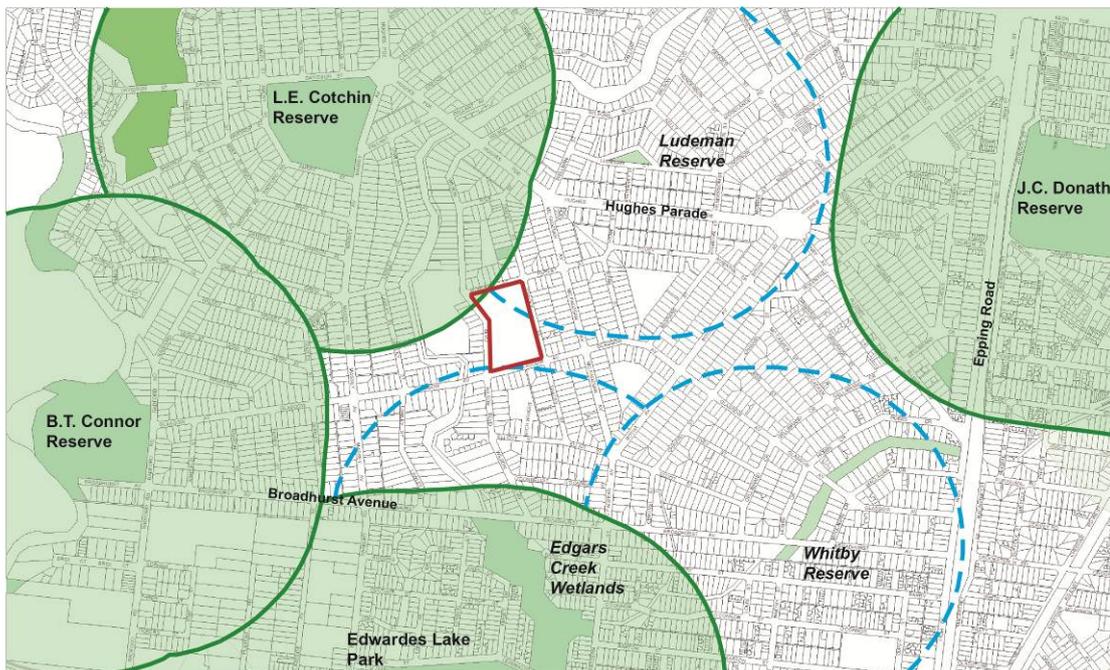
## Appendix C

### Outcomes from a workshop held with the Ruthven CRG, discussing the draft options to progress the project. Workshop held on Wednesday 10 October 2018.

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| <b>Option 1</b> | <p>Create a master plan for a 3ha park at the Ruthven site using the CRG submission as a starting point.</p> <p>Whilst this master plan is being created, undertake some immediate safety and access improvements to the site.</p> <p>Continue the research and demand analysis into the best location for a possible children's or community hub, excluding the former Ruthven Primary School site from site current investigations.</p> |
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The CRG **support** this option as:

- It seeks to protect the large piece of open space for the Reservoir West community.
- The Darebin Open Space Strategy and Council Plan *Darebin 2021* seeks to ensure that all residents live within 500 metres of open space. The acquisition of the Ruthven site has addressed an open space deficit in the north-west quadrant of the LaTrobe ward as illustrated below:



- Over the past 30 years the local community have experienced an incremental loss of open space, as illustrated below. They have lobbied for the Ruthven site to become public open space for many years. As a result there is long standing investment, ownership and passion for this site to remain as 100% public open space.



**Note:** The map above showing Preston/Darebin Council and Kennett Government land sales in the area over past 30 years. The red areas illustrate land sold off by Council, the blue areas are land sold by Kennett and the green parcels represent the open spaces left including the former Ruthven Primary School site. This map was provided by the CRG on 12/10/2018.

- As the site was purchased with funds from the Open Space levy, there is a community expectation that the site would be used for open space only.
- There will be a greater net gain of open space under this option.
- By retaining the entire site as open space and creating a new community hub or early year's facility at another location, will result in a greater net gain of community assets for the Reservoir West area.
- Retaining this site as open space only, reinforces other Council Plan goals including Council Plan Action 5, were a 'Nature Trust' has been established to help create more open space across Darebin.
- Smaller homes are being created to address the rapid population growth, resulting in a reduction to the private open space (backyards) for people. The change in how we are living will place greater pressure and importance on the need for additional public open space.
- Even though a single dwelling covenant applies, it has been challenged recently at Tovy Street, where a multi-unit development is currently being constructed. This may set a precedent for further change in dwelling density for the area, reinforcing the importance of the entire site being kept as a natural public open space.
- By creating open space only, canvasses for the use of the space to evolve in line with the long term changing demographic needs in their open space.
- CRG's vision is for the site to become a natural park to help offset the visually oppressive concrete and buildings in the area. As outlined in their submission they state: *'The site should be developed into a beloved local facility, one which is aesthetically pleasing, creatively inspiring and spiritually uplifting. We hope to help guide it to become a place that supports the native flora and fauna of our local*

*environment whilst being a happy destination for the people of our community.'* Anything contrary to this would not allow for their vision to be realised.

- There is strong community passion, ownership and investment in this site. They has participated in the years of community lobbying for the site to be purchased for open space. The investment the CRG have made to the site and project is unlike any other situation.
- The site plays an important role for local biodiversity. It forms part of the migratory route for swift parrots.
- Using all of the site for open space will reduce any potential conflicts between park users at the site.

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| <p><b>Option 2</b> Complete the community infrastructure needs planning for the municipality, to help understand the community infrastructure requirements for the current and future population of Reservoir West (Merrilands).</p> <p>Whilst the community infrastructure planning is being prepared, undertake some immediate upgrades, improving comfort and accessibility to the site.</p> <p>Create a master plan for the site in 19/20, following the finalisation of the community infrastructure needs planning.</p> |
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The CRG **strongly oppose** this option, as note the following reasons:

- It does not resolve the community's desire for it to be preserved entirely as open space.
- It leaves the destiny of the space to the whims of changing Council over the next few years.
- Further delays in creating the park that the community fought for and is waiting for.
- This option was amended to include '*undertake immediate upgrades*'.

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| <p><b>Option 3</b> Make immediate site improvements (Tree planting, seating, drinking fountain), whilst community infrastructure needs planning takes place.</p> <p>Create master plan for 2.3ha of the site in 18/19.</p> |
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The CRG **strongly oppose** this option, as note the following reasons:

- As this option seeks to carve out a section of the site for a community building. The 2.3 hectares represents a loss of approximately 23.33% of the current site (0.7 ha out 3 ha) which is a serious alienation of land we should be accessible for all the local community.
- Planning for the future of site must be integrated and done in a holistic manner. This option does not achieve this. Newly planted trees may be disposed of after a few years to make way for another use.
- CRG would like the option removed from the options for Council to consider.

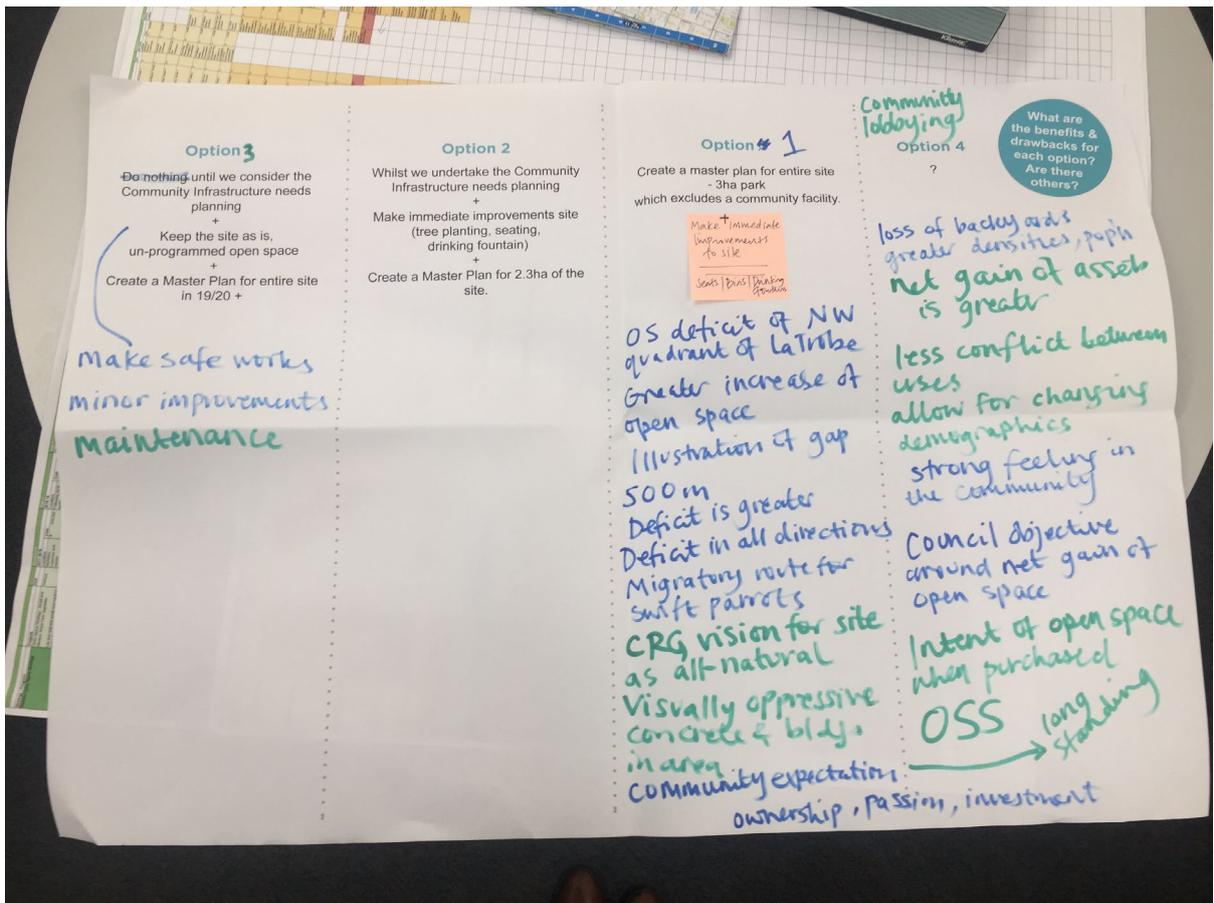


Image of the notes captured at the workshop with the CRG.