Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision Community Engagement Summary Report 2026

Brisbane Sustainability Agency Pty Ltd

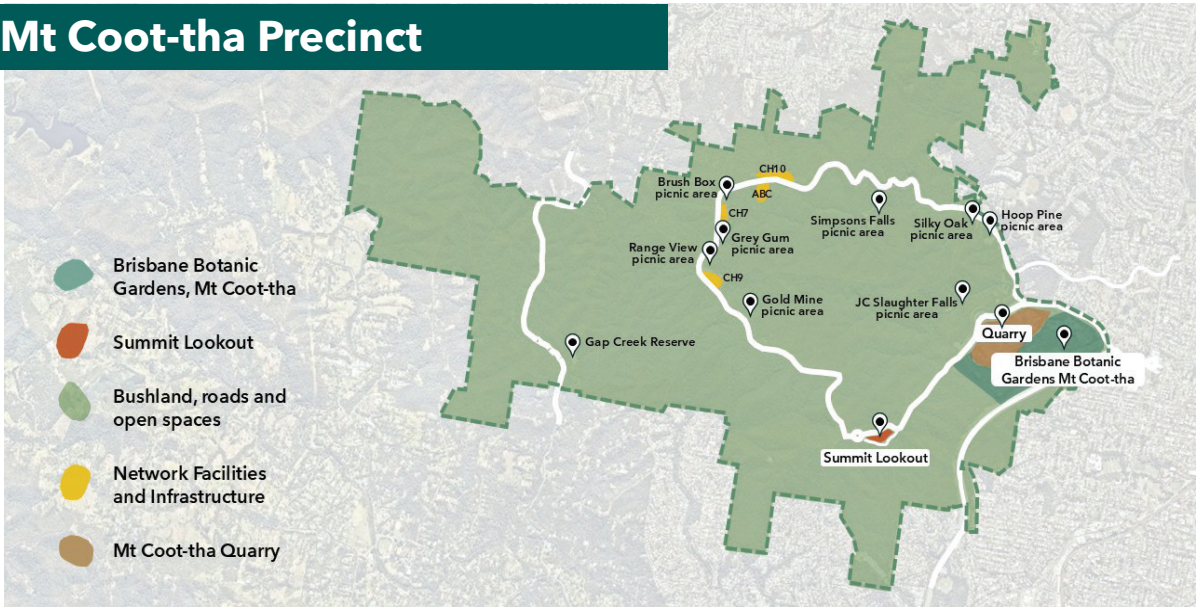


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Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision Engagement Summary

The Mt Coot-tha Precinct



The Mt Coot-tha Precinct encompasses the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, the Summit Lookout, Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, an extensive network of walking tracks and trails as well as bushland reserves, parks, picnic areas and open spaces.

Stakeholder Engagement Program

6 Engagement streams

4,800+ Contributions helped shape the Mt Coot-tha Vision

5 Targeted Workshops

The Quarry Visioning Project	Mt Coot-tha Visitor Survey	Youth Survey	Community Reference Group 3 workshops	Young Professionals workshop	Youth Workshop
769 Ideas Shared	**3,526** Individual Responses	**348** Responses 16 - 25yr olds	**54** Attendees, 40 Organisations	**45** Attendees, 26 Organisations	**66** Students Grade 10 - 11

Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision Quarries Visioning Project

672 Submissions recieved

97 Ideas Images recieved

Re-imagining the Quarry

5 Top Themes Identified Re-imagining the future of Mt Coot-tha Quarry

Restore / create a natural environment

- Rehabilitation to support native wildlife, biodiversity, plants, trees
- Significant desire for native flora and fauna rejuvenation
- Green spaces, picnics, family recreation, informal sports recreation, play spaces for children

Off Road Cycling

- National or international mountain biking destination
- Mountain biking, trails for fitness, health, all ages
- Single tracks, multi-grade tracks, pump tracks and imaginative trails

Nature based Tourism

- Eden project, Butchart gardens, celebration of Australian nature
- Outdoor amphitheatre, concert venue, live events relating to nature
- Utilise the close connection to the Botanic Gardens and extend the relationship with the Gardens

Outdoor Adventure

- Luge, extreme sports, films
- Walking tracks
- Rock climbing

Water based Activities

- Swimming lagoons, natural pools, springs, slides, lake, wave machines, aqua park, water holes
- Fishing, canoeing, kayaking
- Scuba diving

Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision Precinct Visitor Survey

3,526 Visitor Responses | **92%** Brisbane Residents | **67%** Visit monthly or more

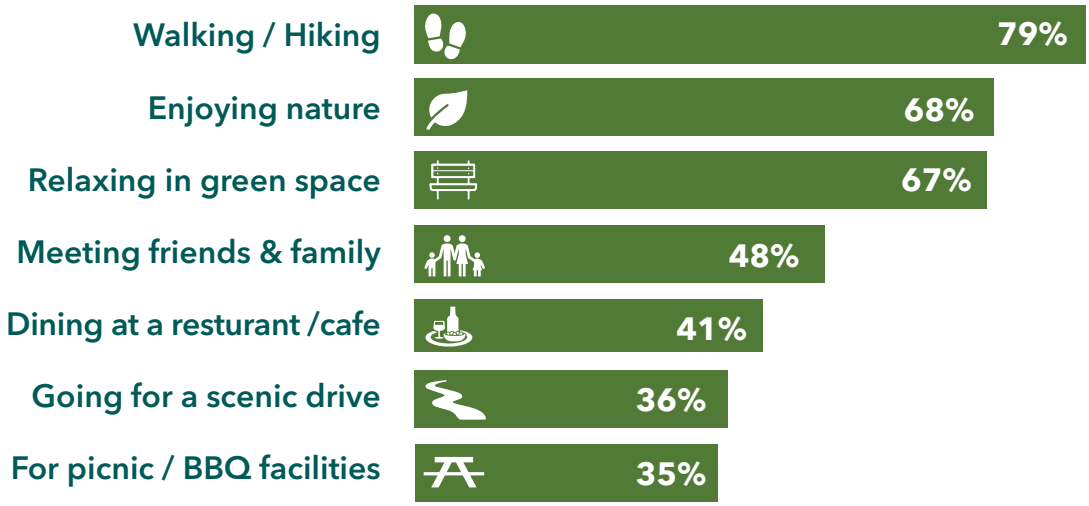
Why people visit Mt Coot-tha Precinct

- **88%** Connect with, enjoy nature
- **77%** Active exercise and recreation
- **57%** For leisure, a day out
- **54%** Because its free
- **46%** Catch up with friends
- **41%** Entertain visitors to Brisbane
- **35%** Utilise picnic areas / facilities
- **34%** Environmental conservation

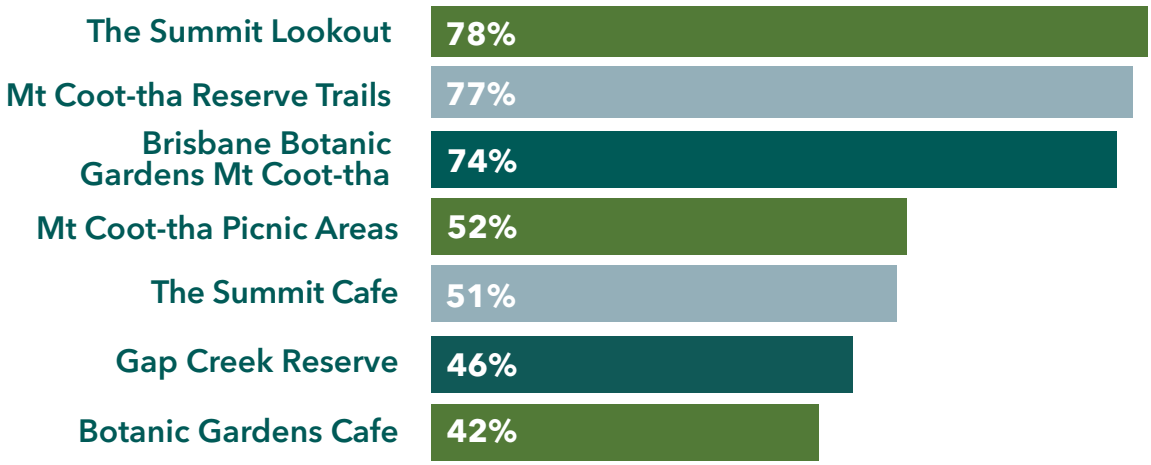
Barriers to Visitation

1) Access & Transport
2) Parking pressure
3) Facilities & Amenities
4) Accessibility & Wayfinding

Top Activities undertaken



Attractions most visited



Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision Youth Groups

348 Youth Survey Responses | **2** Facilitated Youth Workshops | **26** Organisations Represented

The Next Generation's Vision

30% **Built-form Attractions**
Adventure luge, cable-car, skywalk concentrated in the Quarry and Summit precincts.

26% **Events and Activations**
Night markets, live music, outdoor cinema, stargazing, social, safe and affordable after-dark experiences.

15% **Nature-based experience**
Rewilding, wildlife sanctuary, community garden connection to ecology is central to youth appeal.

10% **Learning experiences**
First Nations cultural centre, guided ecology tours and AR/VR digital interpretation.

Barriers to Youth Visitation

Limited Public Transport

Access is the single greatest obstacle to youth visitation. A free shuttle or rapid transit link would significantly expand the youth audience.

Public Safety

Night safety, especially for young women. Better lighting, security and maintained trails are needed to unlock evening visitation.

Young Professionals and Student Priorities

5 Top priorities for delivery identified by Youth Engagement

1. Activation of the Quarry
2. Enhancement of the Summit
3. Improved Public Transport acess
4. Adventure and Ecotourism
5. First Nations Identity

Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision Community Reference Group

3 Facilitated Workshops | **54** Participants Attended | **40** Organisations Represented

Key findings - what the CRG told us

Protect the natural environment
Protection of green space, weed management, habitat surveys and environmental restoration.

Quarry as a major opportunity
The Quarry was identified as a major long-term transformation opportunity. Ideas ranged from ecological restoration to recreation, events and destination tourism.

More transport options are essential
Improved access and connectivity, with ideas including shuttle services, cable cars, park `n' ride facilities and improved public transport.

Improve inclusion and accessibility
Consider diverse visitor needs in access, wayfinding, facilities and experiences across Mt Coot-tha.

Build on the Summit experience
Ideas for the Summit explored ways to build on its existing attractions and setting, including elevated walkways, treetop experiences and improved visitor amenities.

First Nations and cultural heritage
Greater recognition of First Nations culture was a shared theme, including Traditional place names, cultural interpretation, First Nations-led programming and partnerships with Traditional Custodian representations.

Explore opportunities in disturbed areas
Explore new opportunities within previously disturbed areas, while protecting Mt Coot-tha's natural environment.

Shaping the draft Mt Coot-tha Vision

5 Collective Goals Endorsed as the framework for the draft Mt Coot-tha Vision ✓

- Celebrate Mt Coot-tha as a Brisbane Icon
- Protect and restore the natural environment
- Support recreation and wellbeing
- Strengthen learning, culture and discovery
- Create a connected and accessible place

What the Engagement Tells Us

8 Common Themes emerged from the six streams of community engagement

Nature comes first

Strong support and advocay was shown for conservation, habitat restoration, weed management and the protection of green space.

A balanced approach for the future

Feedback highlighted the role of modified areas, such as the Quarry and network sites, in accommodating tourism opportunities while protecting environmentally sensitive landscapes.

Better access and connections

Improving how people access Mt Coot-tha and move around the area easily and safely was a key priority.

Build on what is already loved

The Summit, Botanic Gardens, Planetarium, trails and picnic areas are well-loved and some areas need upgrading.

Celebrating culture and heritage

Strong support for recognising First Nations culture and more opportunities to learn about the stories that have shaped Mt Coot-tha.

A place for everyone

People want Mt Coot-tha to be safe, welcoming and accessible, with facilities and experiences that support people of all ages and abilities.

Enhancing the experiences

People expressed a desire for practical improvements that make Mt Coot-tha more comfortable and enjoyable for all users.

Nature and wellbeing

People reinforced the importance of Mt Coot-tha as a place to escape the city, connect with nature and spend time with family, friends and community.

What Happens Next

All comments and feedback received through the consultation process will be carefully considered alongside future planning and stakeholder engagement. The draft Vision will then be refined and finalised, with the final Mt Coot-tha Vision anticipated for release in mid-2027.

Late 2026

Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision released for public review and feedback.

Early 2027

Review public feedback and refinement of the Vision.

Mid 2027

Final Mt Coot-tha Vision released.