



Budget 2026-27

Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan

Community engagement summary report

May 2026

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## 2 Overview

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2026-27 and Council Plan 2025-2029 Year 2 Action Plan.

The proposed Budget 2026–27 supports delivery of the Council Plan 2025–2029, translating the community’s long-term priorities into funded actions for the year ahead. The accompanying Annual Action Plan explains what Council will deliver over the next 12 months: how these actions will be funded through the Budget, and how progress will be measured and reported. These key documents are both informed by community priorities set out in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision and Financial Plan 2025–26 to 2034–35.

Between 23 April and 17 May 2026, 93 submissions were received through Council’s engagement program. This included 68 online survey submissions, 22 uploaded written statements and 3 submissions received via direct email. Two Q&A forum questions were received through the Have Your Say website and are not included in this report.

### 2.1 Community feedback key themes

Community feedback on both the proposed Budget 2026–27 and the Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan was concentrated around key areas of concern: financial pressure, core infrastructure, and value for money.

While the overall volume of feedback on individual topics was modest, some themes were consistently raised, especially regarding rates and Council’s financial position, the condition and maintenance of roads, infrastructure and drainage, and the inadequacy of facilities at public golf courses. Cycling and shared paths, as well as environmental initiatives, also emerged as recurring topics.

A clear expectation emerged for Council to prioritise essential services, visible maintenance, equitable investment across all suburbs, and tangible outcomes that demonstrate alignment between funding decisions and community priorities. Feedback underscored the importance of financial restraint and transparency, with requests for more justification of Council’s reserves and spending. There was also a strong call for a back-to-basics approach, focusing on areas that most directly impact residents’ daily lives.

Because the Budget and Council Plan were consulted on together, many submissions addressed both documents and linked budget decisions with expectations about strategic delivery. In this context, community members often commented not only on support for individual projects but also questioned whether the proposed budget and actions reflected clear prioritisation, sound financial management, and a genuine commitment to delivering the outcomes most valued by the community.

Key themes	Feedback description	Submissions
<b>Rates and Council financial position</b>	Feedback focused on opposition to the proposed rate increase, financial restraint and requests for clearer justification of Council’s reserves and spending decisions.	19
<b>Roads, infrastructure and drainage</b>	Participants called for more investment in road maintenance, resurfacing and stormwater drainage,	15

	with a strong back-to-basics focus on visible service delivery.	
<b>Golf course facilities</b>	Submissions consistently requested additional on-course toilet facilities at public courses, particularly to improve accessibility, dignity and participation for women and older golfers.	12
<b>Sports and recreation</b>	Feedback supported greater investment in youth and sports facilities, including BMX, mountain bike, football and other recreation infrastructure.	12
<b>Environment and sustainability</b>	Participants called for stronger climate action, updated sustainability strategies, foreshore protection and more visible environmental stewardship.	10
<b>Transport and cycling</b>	Feedback highlighted support for safer cycling routes and shared paths, especially the Cheltenham–Sandringham connection, along with pedestrian and school safety concerns.	8
<b>Budget allocation and spending priorities</b>	Participants urged Council to focus spending on core services, maintenance and safety, and questioned or opposed lower-priority capital works.	4
<b>Community, safety and family services</b>	Participants sought stronger support for youth, family and community services, along with clearer practical outcomes and safety initiatives.	3
<b>Arts and libraries</b>	A small number of submissions called for stronger support for local arts and more funding for library books and ebooks.	2

## 2.2 Next steps

Council will consider community feedback, including this community engagement report, before considering adoption of the Annual Budget 2026-27 and the Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan at its meeting on 16 June 2026.

Interested community members can request to be heard at this meeting. This report was shared with engagement participants who elected to receive project updates, and published on Council’s Have Your Say platform in June 2026. An appendix to this report of verbatim submissions was provided directly to Councillors and the Bayside Executive Leadership Team.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires each Council to adopt an annual budget by 30 June each year.

## 3 Consultation process

### 3.1 Consultation purpose and scope

Engagement was undertaken to gather community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2026-27 and Council Plan Annual Action Plan (Year 2 of the Council Plan 2025–2029). Community consultation was conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy 2025.

Community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback to inform Council’s decision making when adopting these documents. Council specifically sought community and stakeholder feedback on:

- The proposed Annual Action Plan and whether it reflects Council’s strategic objectives and community priorities
- The proposed Budget 2026–27, including priorities, projects and service levels

The table below informed the scope and was published as part of the consultation.

**Table 1: Scope of influence**

What can the community influence?	What can’t the community influence?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback on the proposed Annual Action Plan</li> <li>• Provide feedback on the proposed Budget</li> <li>• Comment on funding priorities and the timing of actions and projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative requirements, including Council’s obligation to adopt an Annual Budget and Budget by 30 June</li> <li>• Council decisions already resolved</li> <li>• Core operational requirements and statutory services</li> <li>• State determined charges, including waste charges and the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund</li> <li>• The Council Plan 2025-2029.</li> </ul>

### Level of engagement

Engagement on the proposed Budget 2026-27 and Action Plan was assigned at ‘Consult’ level, noting limitations on influence because funding priorities are informed by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, aspirations and priorities of Bayside’s Council, the Council Plan 2025 – 2029 and the ten-year Financial Plan. These plans were subject to extensive, deliberative community engagement programs, with the Future Plans community panel, of whom 5 members provided feedback through this consultation.

The table below lists the community members and stakeholders identified as having an interest in the Annual Budget 2026-27 to be considered in the consultation.

**Table 2: Community and stakeholder assessment**

Stakeholder / community	Impact	Interest	Influence
General Bayside community	L	L	Consult
Individual community members with broad interests in the business of Council and governance	L	H	Consult
Organisations/groups/individuals affected by deferred/rescheduled projects	H	H	Consult

Stakeholders with new projects financed through the Budget 2026-27	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult
Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult
Future Plans deliberative community panel	L	M	Consult

## 3.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement was designed to provide stakeholders and the broader community with opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed annual Budget and Action Plan. The engagement process was open to all community members between 23 April – 17 May 2026.

Digital engagement tools (website, online survey, written statement submission form, and question and answer forum) were used to deliver the engagement program and assessed as meeting the needs of interested community members and stakeholders. Participants could also provide responses via phone, email, in person or post, and anonymously.

Project information and engagement materials were available in print, as requested/required.

Communications via Council channels, including social media, video, direct email, Let's Talk Bayside magazine, and EV charger screen advertising in activity centres, ensured community members and stakeholders were aware of the consultation and encouraged to participate.

### 3.2.1 Engagement activities

The following engagement activities were undertaken:

- Project information on Council's Have Your Say digital engagement website, including opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback via a survey or upload a written statement.
- Phone, post, and email correspondence.

**Table 3: Engagement activities and participation** (23 April – 17 May 2026)

Details	Activity
<b>92 contributions</b>	<b>Have Your Say engagement website</b>
<b>87 contributors</b>	
<b>50 project subscribers</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey form (68 unique submissions)</li> <li>• Written statement form (22 submissions)</li> <li>• Question and answer forum (2 questions)</li> <li>• Provision of feedback by post, in-person or anonymously (0 submissions)</li> </ul>
<b>3 submissions</b>	<b>Direct correspondence</b>
	3 submissions emailed directly to Councillors/CEO/CFO/Officers

### 3.2.2 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels potentially reached all households.

**Table 4: Communications tools, activities, participation, and reach**

Details	Activity
<b>Have Your Say engagement website</b>	<b><a href="https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/Budget">yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/Budget</a></b>
1,578 views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project information on proposed Annual Budget 2026-27</li> <li>• Proposed Annual Budget 2026-27 PDF (306 downloads)</li> <li>• Draft Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan (143 downloads)</li> </ul>
1,310 visits	

1,033 visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question and answer forum (23 visitors)</li> <li>• Engagement Plan Overview (6 visitors)</li> <li>• Video with Mayor presenting draft budget</li> </ul>
<b>Council website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>News item:</b> <u>Proposed 2026/27 Budget focuses on financial sustainability</u></li> <li>• <b>Website homepage banner</b></li> </ul>
<b>Print</b> 40,000+ distribution	<b>April/May issue of Let's Talk Bayside magazine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement to promote consultation opening in late April 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Direct email</b>	<b>Have Your Say</b>
emails sent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email sent to 7,406 Have Your Say members (all suburbs, interests) on 23 April. Opens (55%), clicks (3%).</li> </ul>
<13,000 recipients	<b>This Week in Bayside e-newsletter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 editions of This Week in Bayside e-newsletter (23, 30 April, 7, 14 May). E-newsletter sent to over 13,000 recipients.</li> </ul>
<b>Social media</b> 8,951 views	<b>Facebook and Instagram posts promoting consultation</b> Two social media campaigns were published referencing the consultation on the budget, one featuring a video explaining the key proposals within the budget.
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>JOLT EV charger advertising screens</b> 5 screens – Cheltenham (2), Highett, Black Rock and Beaumaris.

### Media coverage

There was no media coverage of the proposed Budget 2026-27 consultation.

## 4 Participant profile

There were 95 contributors who participated via four methods: 68 online surveys, 22 online uploaded statements, 2 submissions to the Q&A forum on Council's Have Your Say engagement platform, and direct email submissions (3).

Participant profile data was collected for online survey and upload statement respondents only. Because demographic questions were optional, the number of responses varies by question.

Representative participation is not considered achievable due to the historic low level of interest and participation in budget consultations. To encourage participation there was no requirement to provide personal information or to register/sign-in to provide feedback.

### Connection to Bayside

Most online respondents identified as a Bayside homeowner/ratepayer (85%, n=73). Smaller proportions identified as a member of a community group or organisation (19%, n=16), an owner/operator of a Bayside business (3.5%, n=3), a tenant (2%, n=2), a visitor to Bayside who lives outside the area (2%, n=2), or a person with lived experience of disability or their carer (2%, n=2). Five participants were members of the Future Plan community panel, which deliberated over 8 sessions in early 2025 on the Council, Asset, Health and Inclusion, and Financial plans. *Note: this was a multi-select question, so totals can exceed 100%.*

Across all online responses (n=86), the most commonly selected age bracket was 61–80 (58%, n=50), followed by 41–60 (28%, n=24) and 80+ (10.5%, n=9). Smaller proportions selected 25–40 (3.5%, n=3) and 24 and under (1%, n=1).

Participation was broadly balanced by gender but skewed significantly toward older residents (particularly those aged 60–79), with younger age groups (under 40) strongly under-represented. Submissions were concentrated in respondents from Hampton, Sandringham and Brighton, with comparatively fewer responses from areas including Brighton East, Cheltenham and Highett.

Most online respondents indicated they had the information needed to provide feedback. Of those who answered this question: 49% (n=38) said information was mostly easy to find/understand and 27% (n=21) said it was very easy. Smaller proportions found it mostly hard (9%, n=7), no one found it very hard, and 15% (n=12) selected I'm not sure.

**Table 5: Participant demographics compared to Bayside population profile**

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Gender	Male	47.8%	42% (51)
	Female	52.2%	51% (62)
	Unknown	-	7% (9)
	Other identity	-	
Age	15-24	7.8%	2% (2)
	25-39	7.8%	20% (21)
	40-49	19.4%	22% (23)
	50-59	15.7%	9.5% (10)
	60-69	12.1%	25.5% (27)
	70-84	12.2%	22% (23)
	85+	3.4%	0%
	5 □ Beaumaris	12.8%	10.5% (13)

Black Rock	6.2%	9.5% (12)
Brighton	23.7%	13% (16)
Brighton East	15.6%	14.5% (18)
Cheltenham	3.9%	5.5% (7)
Hampton	13.6%	21% (26)
Hampton East	4.9%	5.5% (7)
Highbett	7.6%	6.5% (8)
Sandringham	11.8%	12% (15)
Other	-	1.5% (2)

15 respondents identified an organisational or group affiliation.

Sporting and recreational organisations formed the largest group, with representation from Sandringham Golf Club, Nepean Women’s Golf Club, Hampton Bayside Bowls Club, Sandringham Croquet Club and Hampton Sailing Club.

Community and advocacy groups were also represented, including the Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group, Highbett Progress Association and Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group. Service and civic organisations included BayCISS, Brighton Rotary, Beaumaris RSL, and Bayside U3A.

This table summarises the overall submission profile for the consultation, including total submissions, how many responses addressed the Budget, the Council Plan, or both, and the submission channels used by participants.

Submissions	Count
Budget Feedback (Total)	81
Council Plan Feedback (Total)	34
Both Budget & Council Plan (Total)	22
Budget Only	59
Council Plan Only	12
Feedback method	Count
Online survey	68
Upload written statement	22
Email	3
<b>Total submissions</b>	<b>93</b>

## 5 Consultation findings

The following section includes the summary of feedback received on the proposed Budget and Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan.

An appendix to this report of verbatim submissions was provided directly to Councillors and the Bayside Executive Leadership Team. Full submissions and personal details are not published in this report to ensure participant privacy.

Where there were multiple mentions of a topic or item, the approximate number of mentions has been specified. A single submission can reference multiple themes.

Key themes are reported separately for the Budget and the Council Plan Action Plan, noting that some submissions were provided for both documents and there is some overlap.

### 5.1 Proposed Annual Budget 2026-27

The feedback provided on the proposed Annual Budget 2026-27 (81 submissions) reflected a wide range of community priorities and concerns, which have been grouped into key themes according to the number of participants raising each issue.

The most prominent theme centred on opposition to rate increases and concerns regarding Council's overall financial position, cited by 19 participants. Sports and recreation facilities emerged as the next most discussed topic, with 12 submissions highlighting the need for investments or improvements in this area.

Road conditions and infrastructure needs were raised by 11 participants, particularly referencing maintenance, potholes and drainage. Transport and cycling infrastructure (8 participants) and golf course facilities (7 participants) were also notable areas of interest, while environmental sustainability and climate action were mentioned by 7 submissions.

Further feedback focused on how Council allocates its budget and sets spending priorities (4), as well as the importance of community safety, family services, and ensuring equitable investment across suburbs (3 participants each). Many submissions addressed multiple topics, reflecting the diverse and interconnected priorities of Bayside residents.

Theme	Summary	Participants
<b>Rates and Council financial position</b>	Feedback focused mainly on opposition to the proposed rate increase, with repeated calls for financial restraint, clearer justification and greater transparency about Council's reserves and spending decisions.	19
<b>Sports and recreation</b>	Participants expressed strong support for youth and sports infrastructure, including BMX, mountain bike and other recreation facilities, while some also sought more investment in existing sporting assets and programs.	12
<b>Roads, infrastructure and drainage</b>	Feedback highlighted deteriorating road conditions, potholes, resurfacing needs and stormwater issues, with strong calls for increased maintenance and a more visible back-to-basics approach.	11
<b>Transport and cycling</b>	Participants strongly supported safer cycling and shared path infrastructure, particularly the Cheltenham–Sandringham connection, while also raising pedestrian and school-area safety concerns.	8
<b>Golf course facilities</b>	Feedback consistently called for additional toilet facilities on public golf courses, particularly to improve	7

	accessibility, dignity and participation for women and older golfers.	
<b>Environment and sustainability</b>	Participants raised concerns about reduced environmental focus and called for stronger climate action, updated strategies, foreshore protection and practical sustainability measures.	7
<b>Budget allocation and spending priorities</b>	Participants called for spending to be refocused toward core services, maintenance and safety, while some also questioned major capital works and supported reducing or deferring lower-priority projects.	4
<b>Community, safety and family services</b>	Feedback centred on requests for more youth, family and community support, along with concerns about safety, inclusion, clearer outcomes and whether current spending fairly reflects community needs.	3
<b>Suburb investment and equity</b>	Feedback raised concerns about uneven investment across suburbs, with specific calls for greater attention to Highett, Black Rock and other areas seen as underfunded or overlooked.	3
<b>Arts and libraries</b>	A small number of submissions called for stronger support for local arts and more funding for library books and ebooks.	2

### 5.1.1 Rates and Council financial position (19 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Opposition to rate increase (10)</b>	<p>A majority of submissions regarding rates opposed any increase in rates, citing cost of living pressures including mortgages, rent, and utilities.</p> <p>Many referred to Council's reported cash reserves and surpluses and state these funds should be used before increasing rates.</p> <p><i>"I oppose rate increase. Use what you have in the bank before you ask for more."</i></p> <p><i>"I object to the proposed rate rise... during the current cost of living crisis... Council should prioritise financial restraint."</i></p> <p><i>"Given the Council's healthy financial position... there is no justification for any rate increases."</i></p> <p><i>"How about actually saving the 2.75% so we don't have to pay out even more money."</i></p> <p><i>"There is no debt and cash reserves over \$150 million. Why are we copping a rate increase?"</i></p> <p><i>"Interest rates are up, cost of living up... you are increasing rates by the maximum allowed... with \$153M cash reserves."</i></p> <p><i>"There should be no rates increase at all."</i></p> <p><i>"Council should only spend on essential services and... not increase rates."</i></p>

	<i>"There is absolutely no reason that rates should be increasing... we should be getting a rate decrease if anything."</i>
<b>Reduce or limit the rate increase (1)</b>	<p>One submission proposed reducing the rate increase by lowering the targeted surplus, suggesting that a smaller surplus would reduce required rate revenue while maintaining sustainability.</p> <p><i>"Instead of levying rates at the maximum... it could be reduced... giving some relief to the ratepayers in these difficult cost of living times."</i></p>
<b>Support for rate increase (2)</b>	<p>A small number of submissions supported applying the full capped increase, stating it is necessary to maintain services and long-term financial sustainability with cost shifting and inflation.</p> <p><i>"I request that council set the rates as high as they are legally able to do... to provide the best possible services."</i></p> <p><i>"The [community group] supports Council's proposed rate increase of 2.75%... financially responsible."</i></p>
<b>Financial transparency concerns (4)</b>	<p>Several submissions request clearer explanation of financial decisions, including reserve levels, surplus use, and executive salary transparency.</p> <p><i>"Council has not made out the case that a rate increase is necessary... \$153.9 million of cash and investments."</i></p> <p><i>"Council should explain why its reserve forecasts have again been materially wrong and provide a transparent reconciliation."</i></p> <p><i>"Can the CEO and executive salaries... be made explicit."</i></p> <p><i>"Where has council considered expenditure containment or reductions?"</i></p>
<b>Cultural and Recreational Lands Act concessions – private clubs</b>	<p>A submission request Council review and tighten CRLA rate concessions for private, membership-based clubs by introducing transparent, case-by-case public benefit assessments and greater consideration of property value, to ensure fairness for all ratepayers.</p>

### 5.1.2 Budget allocation and spending priorities (4 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Excessive spending on buildings (2)</b>	<p>Some submissions stated that too much funding is allocated to buildings and large capital works projects, which are seen as unnecessary compared to core service needs.</p> <p><i>"Your proposed capital spending budget has the wrong bias... NOT enough on parks, open space and streetscapes and way TOO much on buildings... Bayside does NOT need more 'Taj Mahal' style buildings."</i></p> <p><i>"The budget continues to expand its capital expenditure... Where has council considered expenditure containment or reductions?"</i></p>
<b>Reduce or defer projects (1)</b>	<p>One submission recommended postponing or reducing capital works to reduce financial pressure.</p>

*"I would suggest that some projects be eliminated or postponed by several years... by at least 30%... as rates need to be maintained."*

**Refocus on core services (3)**

Several submissions request reallocation of funds toward maintenance, safety, and essential services rather than discretionary programs.

*"Residents want the basics done well... such as roads, maintenance, and visible public outcomes."*

*"Funding allocated to events such as the Greek festival... may all have merit... however they sit uncomfortably alongside unresolved issues such as road condition, graffiti and lighting."*

*"A modest reallocation of funds from discretionary programs could support... practical safety outcomes."*

**Positive feedback (3)**

A small number of submissions noted that the budget was well prepared and aligned with strategic plans.

*"The document is well prepared."*

*"Having been part of community panel providing input and review, it is exciting to see the extensive and detailed annual budget aligned to the strategic plan, activities and performance indicators."*

*"I appreciate that our council finances are carefully managed for long term sustainability and this budget is the end result of much work and planning."*

**5.1.3 Sports and recreation (12 participants)**

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Support BMX/MTB facilities (3)</b> – Black Rock, Tulip St	<p>Very positive feedback and support for BMX and mountain bike projects.</p> <p><i>"Relieving to see some money spent on youth facilities... My kids will love it."</i></p> <p><i>"Great to see a pump track and Tulip Street mtb jumps finally receiving funding."</i></p> <p><i>"Funding for bike facilities... much appreciated... long overdue."</i></p>
<b>Increased sports funding (4)</b>	<p>Requests for additional sports and stadium investment.</p> <p><i>"Any chance of funding football... highest participating sport."</i></p> <p><i>"When is council going to build the new football/cricket stadium [Brighton Beach Oval]... female footballers missing out."</i></p> <p><i>"We need open access to tennis courts, basketball courts at Thomas Street [Hampton]."</i></p> <p><i>"More investment in the teenage community... open access to tennis and basketball courts."</i></p>
<b>Opposition to new Aquatics Centre (1)</b>	<p>Concern about high cost of warm water pool, noting nearby facilities to meet needs.</p>

	<i>“Waste of funding... warm water pool... outrageously disproportionate... facilities already nearby.”</i>
<b>Golf course facilities</b>	See section 5.1.6

#### 5.1.4 Roads, infrastructure and drainage (11 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Increase road maintenance (5)</b>	<p>Submissions across Bayside suburbs reported poor road conditions and requested increased funding for maintenance.</p> <p><i>“Council needs to triple the budget for roads... our roads are some of the worst in the state.”</i></p> <p><i>“Please increase spending on renovating local roads... they are falling apart.”</i></p> <p><i>“The spending on road patching... feels like a gross underestimate.”</i></p>
<b>Specific resurfacing requests (3) – Alicia Street, Hampton</b>	<p>Multiple submissions requested resurfacing of Alicia Street due to damage from trucks and development activity.</p> <p><i>“Please provide funding for the resurfacing of Alicia Street Hampton... one of the worst road surfaces.”</i></p> <p><i>“Alicia Street... has been completely destroyed... trucks... ruined the surface.”</i></p> <p><i>“Please include Alicia St Hampton resurfacing... road unsafe for use.”</i></p>
<b>Pothole issues (2) – New St; Beach Rd</b>	<p>Long-standing pothole problems are reported on New Street and Beach Road, with concerns about ineffective repairs.</p> <p><i>“Pot holes in New St... have been there for two years north bound.”</i></p> <p><i>“Beach Rd... potholes... more than two years.”</i></p> <p><i>“Potholes get fixed and then within a day are a pot hole again.”</i></p>
<b>Drainage issues (2) – Gladstone St, Sandringham and Dalgetty Rd, Beaumaris</b>	<p>Two submissions report stormwater flooding issues requiring infrastructure upgrades.</p> <p>A submitter also raises concerns about inadequate stormwater drainage on Dalgetty Road, noting that existing pits cannot handle heavy rainfall, causing flooding that impacts nearby properties and flows toward Beaumaris Primary School.</p> <p>Another requested renewal of the stormwater drain at the rear of properties in Gladstone Street</p> <p><i>“The drain continues to cause flooding... water floods across the road... backs up in properties.”</i></p> <p><i>“ increasingly unable to cope with the strong rainfalls we now have.”</i></p>

**Prioritise visible service delivery**

A submission called for a “back-to-basics” approach that prioritises visible service delivery, clean and safe public spaces, and stronger confidence in Council responsiveness.

**5.1.5 Transport and cycling (8 participants)**

Topic	Community feedback
<p><b>Shared cycling path support (4)</b> – Park Rd, Bay Rd, Cheltenham– Sandringham</p>	<p>Several submissions strongly support reinstating the shared path project Cheltenham to Sandringham to improve safety and connectivity.</p> <p>A detailed written statement submission argued that Council should urgently reinstate and fund the previously approved Park Road C2 shared user path, asserting it is the only feasible, safe and strategic cycling connection between Cheltenham, Sandringham, and key transport hubs, and criticising its removal from budgets and perceived lack of delivery on cycling infrastructure commitments.</p> <p><i>“Please include the Cheltenham to Sandringham Shared path... Park Road section.”</i></p> <p><i>“We need this as safe convenient access... connecting people and places... avoiding car use.”</i></p> <p><i>“A cycling corridor connecting Sandringham station with the Frankston line is critical.”</i></p> <p><i>“Please reinstate the approved Shared Path... connecting stations and activity centres.”</i></p>
<p><b>Cycling safety concerns (2)</b> – Tulip St, Park Rd, Bay Rd, Sandringham and Cheltenham</p>	<p>Submitters reported unsafe cycling conditions in areas due to speed and lack of infrastructure.</p> <p><i>“The bike lane on Tulip St is a joke – IT IS A CARPARK!”</i></p> <p><i>“Park road and Bay road are fast roads with NO safe way for cyclists.”</i></p>
<p><b>Pedestrian crossing (1)</b> – Hampton St</p>	<p>A request for a pedestrian crossing near Hampton Station due to safety risks.</p> <p><i>“Promise to install a pedestrian crossing... has not been delivered... significant safety issue.”</i></p>
<p><b>School intersections (1)</b> - Sandringham</p>	<p>Concern about unsafe intersections near schools and childcare centres in Sandringham, requesting improved pedestrian safety, risky driver behaviour, including among older drivers.</p> <p><i>“Unsafe intersections around schools... nearly hit by drivers...”</i></p>
<p><b>Active transport investment (1)</b></p>	<p>A submitter supports the budget overall and Bay Trail upgrade but calls for increased investment in active transport infrastructure, arguing current funding is insufficient to meet growing demand from population, safety, congestion, and environmental pressures.</p> <p><i>“Our population is aging and at the same time, footpaths and shared paths are becoming less safe. Higher fuel prices are increasing foot traffic and bicycle numbers.”</i></p>

**Speed limits** *“Reduce speed limits to 40km/h, laneway speed limits of 10km/h, signage for community respect”*

### 5.1.6 Golf course facilities (7 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Toilet facilities (7)</b> – Sandringham GC, Brighton GC	<p>Consistent requests for additional toilets on golf courses due to accessibility concerns – particularly from female and/or older golfers.</p> <p>Nepean Women’s Golf Club members requested Council install a public toilet near the 13th hole at Brighton Golf Course, citing lack of facilities on holes 10–18, increased course use, and alignment with Council health, wellbeing, and asset use strategies.</p> <p>Other submissions call for Council to urgently address unsafe car park conditions at Sandringham Golf Club and provide on-course toilet facilities, citing safety risks and impacts on golfers’ health and wellbeing.</p> <p><i>“Absence of toilets on the Sandringham Golf Course... inconsiderate for female golfers.”</i></p> <p><i>“Only one bathroom facility... not adequate... impacts women and older players.”</i></p> <p><i>“Extremely embarrassing... bush wee whilst playing 18 holes.”</i></p> <p><i>“No toilet facility for holes 10–18... needs to be installed.”</i></p>

### 5.1.7 Environment and sustainability (7 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Reduced funding and lack of strategy (4)</b>	<p>Concern that environmental funding has decreased and climate and sustainability plans have not been updated.</p> <p><i>“Funding for Environmental Sustainability has decreased.”</i></p> <p><i>“Climate Emergency Action Plan... has not been replaced.”</i></p> <p><i>“Appears this Council has made action a low priority.”</i></p>
<b>Foreshore protection (2)</b> – Half Moon Bay to Sandringham, Port Phillip Bay	<p>Request for replanting and environmental protection measures.</p> <p><i>“Deterioration of the foreshore vegetation... from Half Moon Bay to Sandringham Yacht Club.”</i></p> <p><i>“Need replanting and community education.”</i></p> <p>General support/appreciation</p> <p><i>“increase your good work on preservation of the Port Phillip Bay shoreline trees &amp; vegetation... prosecute vandals”</i></p>
<b>Beach raking (1)</b>	<p>Request to halt beach cleaning services</p> <p><i>“cease the beach raking operations for the benefit of the environment, for the benefit of morning beach users and to eliminate the unnecessary and unwanted cost.”</i></p>

**Focus on immediate needs (1)**

View that environmental and climate initiatives, while important, should not take priority over immediate needs like safety, maintenance, and service reliability.

*“A tangible example of “environmental” action would be to assist the community at peak periods to get to public transport. “Accessibility” could mean using current council buses / vehicles to ferry people to the station along roads not serviced by PT at frequent intervals.”*

**5.1.8 Suburb investment and equity (3 participants)**

**Topic**

**Community feedback**

**Uneven distribution (3) – Brighton vs other suburbs**

Concern that Brighton receives more funding than suburbs like Highett, Beaumaris, and Black Rock.

*“Brighton seems to have attracted more than their share of the budget.”*

*“Nothing for Beaumaris, Black Rock, Hampton East.”*

*“is any money available for Sandringham landscape/beautification project?”*

**Under-investment (1) – Highett**

Detailed submission identifying infrastructure and service gaps in Highett.

The detailed Highett Progress Association submission argued the draft budget underinvests in Highett, calling for significantly increased funding and priority for open space, community infrastructure, safety upgrades, and future planning to match population growth and community needs.

*“Nothing for Highett again despite huge increase in population.”*

- *Additional funding of at least \$250,000 to upgrade the Highett Village Green park.*

- *Prioritise land acquisition in Highett to create new open space.*

- *Fund the implementation of the safety upgrade for the Highett/Worthing Road intersection, if funds are not committed by the State Government by 30 June 2026.*

- *Upgrade the Livingston Street play area*

- *Funding for a feasibility study to identify future use(s) of the former Highett Bowls Club*

- *Funding for a comprehensive review into long term kindergarten requirements for Highett, including future capacity, facility suitability and population growth projections.*

**Investment in FG Tricks Reserve, Black Rock**

Concept masterplan submission from RSL proposes revitalising F.G. Tricks Reserve into a more active and cohesive community precinct by improving visibility and access (new and enhanced entry points), reorganising circulation into a clearer and more connected path network, strengthening links with the adjoining Black Rock Sports Club.

Introducing a balanced landscape that supports recreation, social activity, and a dedicated commemorative space, was viewed as transforming the reserve from a hidden, underutilised park into a well-connected, welcoming, and multifunctional civic destination.

### 5.1.9 Community, safety and family services (3 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Increase services (3)</b> – Sandringham, Highett, Black Rock	Requests for more funding for youth and family services. <i>“need investment in early education.”</i>
<b>BayCISS funding</b>	Request for Council to honour its prior commitment to allocate \$1.5m in the budget for a new BayCISS facility, arguing current facilities are inadequate and funding should come from reducing the proposed surplus. <i>“The current facilities at Katoomba St are not fit for purpose and seriously inadequate for the increased demand for emergency services.”</i>
<b>Community safety</b>	A submitter recommended Council redirect some discretionary funding into a visible community safety patrol model, with mobile patrols focused on observation, reporting, and deterrence. Perception that spending favours older residents over youth.
<b>Youth vs older resident balance (2)</b>	<i>“Enough of my money is spent on aged care and not enough on the next generation.”</i> <i>“Infrastructure spending should be for all ratepayers, not only those aged over 60.”</i>
<b>Events (2)</b>	Requests for broader cultural representation in festivals. <i>“I do not agree with money being spent on a Greek festival... prefer a more inclusive festival.”</i>
<b>Specific outcomes</b>	Council language around “inclusion”, “connection” and “wellbeing” is too vague and should be tied to clearer, practical outcomes. Concern about impact of planning reform:
<b>Advocacy</b>	<i>“campaign stronger against the State Governments proposed high rise developments in Brighton, Hampton and Sandringham - WE DONT WANT BOX HILL here!”</i>

### 5.1.10 Arts and libraries (2 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Arts funding (1)</b>	Lack of support for local artists, compared to opportunities in other municipalities. <i>“Where are the Arts?... I have been awarded grants from Kingston and Stonnington because you have NOTHING available. Very sad</i>

*when a large, viable council cannot see the arts as a viable part of their budget.”*

Request for additional books and ebooks.

**Library funding (1)** *“I think the libraries need more funds especially for books and ebooks.”*

## 5.2 Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan

34 submissions were received regarding the Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan. Of these, 26 included both written feedback and quantitative survey responses. 8 provided only quantitative survey responses, which focused on levels of agreement with proposed actions.

A number of submissions related to both the Proposed Annual Budget 2026–27 and the Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan. These have been included where feedback explicitly relates to strategic priorities, actions or outcomes within the Council Plan.

Overlap, particularly in uploaded written submissions, was as follows:

- 14 submissions were for both the Budget and the Council Plan (*and so commentary may be repeated here from section 5.1*),
- 12 submissions related to the Council Plan only.

The most commonly raised theme in feedback on the Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan was golf course facilities, mentioned in 9 submissions, followed by environment and sustainability (6 submissions) and sports and recreation (5 submissions). Rates and Council financial position and roads, infrastructure and drainage were each raised in 4 submissions. Transport and cycling, suburb investment and equity, and community services and inclusion were each represented in smaller numbers.

### 5.2.1 Golf course facilities (9 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<p><b>Lack of on-course toilet facilities (9)</b></p>	<p>Feedback consistently states that Sandringham Golf Course and Brighton Golf Course do not provide adequate toilet facilities across the course, particularly for holes 10–18. Submitters explain that existing facilities are located at the clubhouse and are not accessible during play due to distance. The issue is described as impacting participation, particularly for women and older users, and is framed as both an accessibility and equity issue. Submissions also reference high levels of use of the golf courses and expectations that facilities should meet standard public provision. This theme appears across survey responses, written submissions and multiple uploaded documents, and is often explicitly linked to Council Plan objectives relating to community wellbeing and use of community assets.</p> <p><i>“Sandringham Golf Course has no toilet facilities for public use apart from those at the main building.”</i></p> <p><i>“Only one bathroom facility at the clubhouse... not adequate.”</i></p> <p><i>“No toilet facility for holes 10–18... needs to be installed.”</i></p> <p><i>“This is not just a matter of convenience — it is an issue of inclusion, accessibility and equity.”</i></p>

*“Extremely embarrassing... whilst playing 18 holes.”*

*“Local golfing clubs have been lobbying for over six years... no action to address this basic amenity.”*

## 5.2.2 Environment and sustainability (6 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Lack of explicit Climate Emergency actions in Action Plan (2)</b>	<p>Two detailed written submissions state that the Action Plan includes environmental actions (e.g. water management, vegetation programs, waste and recycling), but does not include any explicit actions, outcomes or performance measures directly addressing the Climate Emergency.</p> <p>Submitters indicate this limits transparency and accountability in how Council is responding to climate risks, particularly given previous Climate Emergency commitments.</p> <p><i>“None of the outcomes address the Climate Emergency.”</i></p> <p><i>“... lack of transparency and accountability.”</i></p>
<b>Requests for new or updated climate frameworks and strategies (3)</b>	<p>Submissions requested development of updated strategic frameworks, including a new Climate Emergency Action Plan (2026–2030), a new Environmental Sustainability Framework (2026–2035), and a Climate Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan.</p> <p>Submitters note that previous frameworks have lapsed and state that new plans are required to guide implementation, measure progress and ensure long-term accountability.</p> <p><i>“Develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2026–2030.”</i></p> <p><i>“Develop a Bayside Environmental Sustainability Framework for 2026–2035.”</i></p> <p><i>“Undertake a Bayside Climate Risk Assessment... produce a Climate Adaptation Plan.”</i></p>
<b>Environmental protection and foreshore management (1)</b>	<p>Submissions (received across both Budget and Council Plan) raised concerns about environmental degradation along the foreshore, particularly between Half Moon Bay and Sandringham Yacht Club.</p> <p>Issues identified include vegetation loss and erosion caused by human activity. Requests include increased native replanting, community education through signage, and stronger enforcement measures to protect coastal landscapes.</p> <p><i>“Deterioration of the foreshore vegetation from Half Moon Bay to Sandringham Yacht Club.”</i></p> <p><i>“A small budget allocation to commence regular native replanting... alongside community education... would be a significant step.”</i></p>

## 5.2.3 Sports and recreation (5 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
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<b>Support for local sports development</b>	<p>One submission requested increased support for football (soccer), noting it as a high participation sport within the municipality. The submission highlights the importance of funding to support club growth and development and aligns this request with Council Plan outcomes relating to participation, health and community wellbeing.</p> <p><i>“Any chance of giving the world game... some funding helping our club to continue to grow and produce footballers.”</i></p>
<b>Condition of existing facilities</b>	<p>One submission highlighted concerns regarding the condition of Brighton Beach Oval pavilion, including references to unsafe grandstand conditions and poor-quality change room facilities. The submission indicates that existing infrastructure is not fit for purpose and requires upgrade or renewal, aligning with Council Plan outcomes relating to asset management and community facilities.</p> <p><i>“Brighton Beach Oval grandstand... very dangerous... broken concrete and metal... change rooms... embarrassing.”</i></p> <p>There were also continued concerns raised about on-course toilets at Sandringham and Brighton golf courses.</p>

#### 5.2.4 Roads, infrastructure and drainage (4 participants)

<b>Sub-theme</b>	<b>Detailed summary of feedback</b>
<b>Road resurfacing, drainage and local infrastructure priorities</b>	<p>Council Plan feedback highlighted a strong expectation that Year 2 actions should more clearly prioritise visible infrastructure renewal and local maintenance issues. Submissions called for resurfacing Alicia Street in Hampton, replacing damaged concrete guttering, and addressing stormwater drainage problems such as the open pits on Dalgetty Road in Beaumaris. These comments framed roads and drainage as practical, place-based issues that directly affect safety, amenity and confidence in Council service delivery.</p> <p><i>“Please ensure this is in your 2 year Action Plan for the resurfacing and the guttering.”</i></p> <p><i>“I recommend resurfacing and repairing the concrete guttering on Alicia Street.”</i></p> <p><i>“I would like to see action on the Dalgetty Road open storm water pits ... increasingly unable to cope with the strong rainfalls we now have.”</i></p>

#### 5.2.5 Rates and Council financial position (4 participants)

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Community feedback</b>
<b>Perceived mismatch between Council financial position and Action Plan delivery (5)</b>	<p>Several submissions, which relate to both the Budget and Council Plan, expressed concern that Council’s financial position (including references to cash reserves, operating surplus and lack of debt) does not align with the level of proposed action or prioritisation in the Plan.</p> <p>Submitters state that given the reported financial capacity, Council should be able to deliver more outcomes or reduce financial burden on residents. These submissions frame financial settings as</p>

	<p>influencing expectations of what should be included in the Action Plan.</p> <p><i>“Given the Council's healthy financial position... there is no justification for any rate increases.”</i></p> <p><i>“No debt and cash reserves over \$150 million. Why are we copping a rate increase?”</i></p> <p><i>“Council should only spend on essential services... not increase rates.”</i></p>
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### 5.2.6 Transport and cycling (1 participant)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Cheltenham–Sandringham shared user path</b>	<p>One written statement submission identifies that a shared use path connecting Cheltenham and Sandringham is not reflected in the Action Plan. The route is described as critical for connecting stations, activity centres and community facilities. The submission emphasises safety benefits, improved connectivity, and support for all age groups, and links the project to Council Plan outcomes relating to accessibility and active transport.</p> <p><i>“A cycling corridor connecting Sandringham station with the Frankston line is critical.”</i></p> <p><i>“It will connect stations, activity centres, education and other facilities and ensure we keep our young and old cyclists safe.”</i></p>

### 5.2.7 Suburb investment and equity (1 participant)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Perceived gaps in suburb-specific investment</b>	<p>Question about whether there is any funding or action for Sandringham landscape and beautification, indicating concern that suburb-specific amenity improvements are not clearly visible within the Year 2 Action Plan.</p> <p><i>“I could not see where there is any money available for Sandringham landscape/beautification project?”</i></p>

### 5.2.8 Community services and inclusion (1 participant)

Topic	Community feedback
<b>Inclusive community events and access to parking</b>	<p><i>“I do not agree with money being spent on a Greek festival. I would much rather prefer a more inclusive festival where we can all celebrate people of all the countries represented in Bayside.”</i></p> <p><i>“Is there any way to provide more car parking near the plant nursery in Reserve Rd?”</i></p>

### 5.2.9 General feedback (2 participants)

Topic	Community feedback
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<p><b>Support for Council Plan and budget alignment (2)</b></p>	<p>Positive feedback on the Council Plan, noting that it is detailed and aligned with strategic objectives and performance indicators. These submissions recognise the effort involved in planning and consultation and suggest confidence in the overall direction of Council’s planning framework.</p> <p><i>“Congratulations to Council for continuing to deliver community investment despite the limitations...”</i></p> <p><i>“Exciting to see the extensive and detailed annual budget aligned to the strategic plan, activities and performance indicators.”</i></p>
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### 5.3 Agreement with proposed Council Plan Year 2 actions

Participants who elected to provide feedback on the Council Plan Action Plan were asked to rate their level of agreement with “will the proposed actions will help to progress the delivery of our Council Plan goals?”, on a scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Around 46 participants responded to this question for each of the three goals.

Across all three goals, responses lean toward agreement that the proposed actions will help progress delivery of the Council Plan goals, with roughly half of respondents selecting Agree/Strongly agree for each goal. Goal 2: Our Place showed the strongest positive sentiment overall, while Goal 3: Our Promise appeared more polarised, with a noticeably higher proportion selecting Strongly disagree compared with the other goals. Neutral responses are present across all goals (particularly for Our People and Our Place), with no respondent ‘Not sure’.

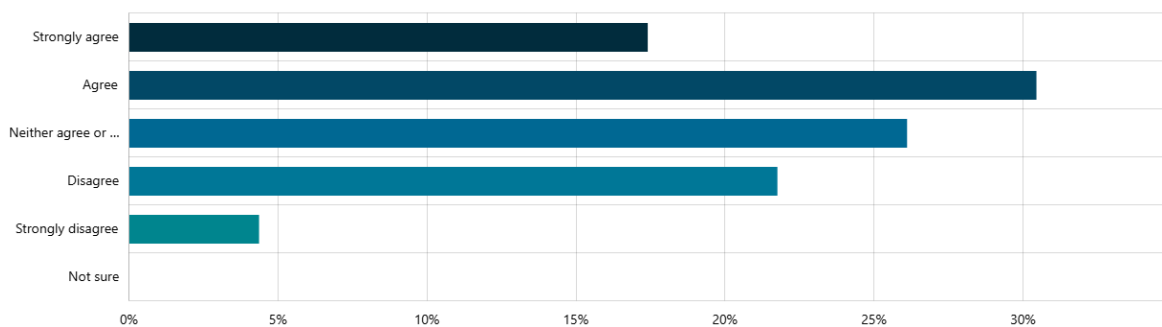
#### 5.3.1 Goal 1: Our People – 19 actions

Responses to Goal 1 showed that around half of participants selected Agree or Strongly agree (48%), indicating a general level of support for the proposed actions. However, a substantial proportion selected either neutral (26%) or disagreement responses (26%), demonstrating mixed views on whether the actions will effectively progress this goal.

The accompanying feedback highlights several specific service and accessibility issues that participants feel are not adequately addressed within the proposed actions. Most notably, there were repeated requests to improve toilet facilities at Sandringham Golf Course, with respondents describing this as a basic accessibility and participation issue, particularly for women and older users. Concerns were also raised about the condition and safety of the golf course car park, indicating a perceived gap between intended wellbeing outcomes and the current state of infrastructure.

Additional comments emphasised the need to prioritise essential services and core infrastructure over “nice to have” initiatives, particularly in the current economic climate. Some participants also raised concerns about shared path use, including safety issues associated with bikes and e-scooters, particularly for pedestrians with accessibility needs.

Overall, while there is moderate support for the direction of the proposed actions, the feedback suggests that confidence is influenced by the delivery of basic infrastructure, accessibility and safety outcomes.



### 5.3.2 Goal 2: Our Place – 23 actions

Goal 2 received the strongest level of agreement across the three goals, with a majority of respondents selecting Agree or Strongly agree (55%). Despite this, a notable proportion of neutral (23%) and disagreement (23%) responses indicated that support was not universal.

Written feedback for this goal focuses strongly on local infrastructure, maintenance and place-based amenity. Participants frequently called for:

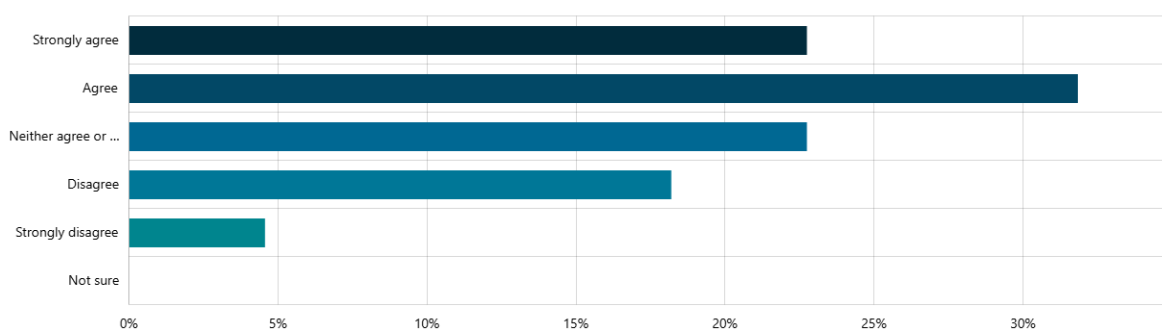
- Improved road maintenance and resurfacing, including specific requests relating to Alicia Street in Hampton
- Greater emphasis on ongoing maintenance and “back to basics” service delivery, rather than new initiatives
- Improved cycling infrastructure, alongside suggestions such as changing parking arrangements to better support safer streets.

There were also requests relating to foreshore vegetation protection and improving the visual amenity of local areas (e.g. streetscape improvements and tree planting). Some respondents expressed a view that certain proposed initiatives are lower priority compared to essential infrastructure and maintenance needs.

Accessibility also emerged as a theme, with suggestions to extend support for accessible outdoor seating and paths to complement existing business accessibility grants.

One submission raises concerns about e-scooter safety on shared paths (particularly for those with auditory challenges), suggests adding specialised exercise equipment to pocket parks, and argues waste sorting should occur at collection centres rather than relying on more household bins, noting soft plastic recycling is under-promoted.

Overall, while respondents generally supported the intent of the actions, the feedback indicates a strong expectation that Council should prioritise maintenance, infrastructure condition and practical improvements to local places.



### 5.3.3 Goal 3: Our Promise – 12 actions

This goal is more polarised than Goals 1 and 2. Responses to Goal 3 show a similar level of overall agreement to Goal 2, but with a more polarised distribution, including a higher proportion of Strongly disagree responses (14%), alongside a smaller neutral middle (18%).

While there was similar overall support, there was sharper strong negative sentiment. This suggests that while many participants support the intent of the actions, there are also more strongly held concerns among a subset of respondents.

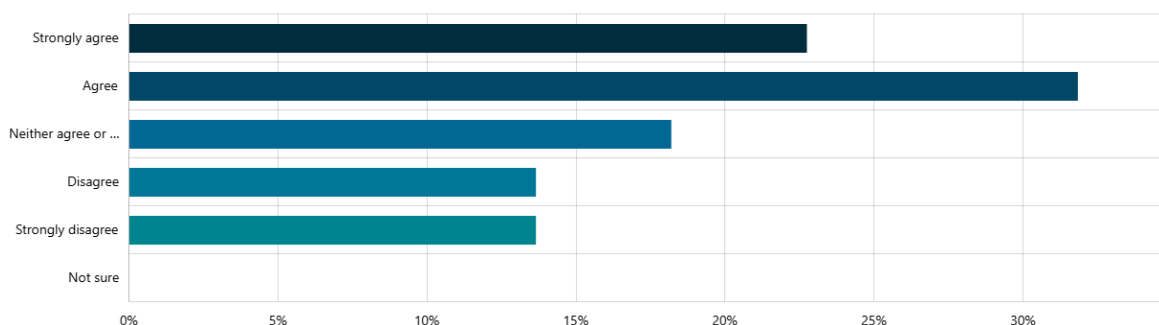
Feedback for this goal includes a mix of governance, financial and service delivery expectations. Some respondents called for:

- Stronger financial discipline and risk management, particularly in relation to capital works projects
- A focus on essential services and value for money, with concerns raised about including non-essential initiatives in the current economic context
- Greater attention to consistency and equity in the quality of public facilities, with comparisons made between higher-quality and lower-quality sporting infrastructure across the municipality

There were also repeated references to infrastructure quality issues, including the condition of roads and the standard of public facilities, reinforcing expectations that Council's "promise" is demonstrated through reliable, consistent service delivery and asset maintenance.

Some respondents suggested opportunities to explore revenue generation and to strengthen engagement with the business community, including seeking input on the desired mix and character of local businesses.

Overall, while there is general support for the proposed actions, the results suggest that confidence in delivery is closely tied to clear prioritisation, financial stewardship and consistent service standards.



Across all goals, several themes were raised consistently in response to the overall question on additional feedback:

- Cycling infrastructure: repeated calls for improved and safer cycling connections, including the reinstatement of the Cheltenham to Sandringham shared path
- Core infrastructure and maintenance: strong emphasis on roads, drainage, public amenities and asset condition
- Accessibility and inclusion: particularly in relation to public toilets, shared paths, and access for people with disability
- Prioritisation of essential services: concerns about balancing new initiatives with cost-of-living pressures
- Consistency of facilities: requests for more equitable standards across sports grounds and community infrastructure.

## 6 Engagement evaluation

### 6.1 Participation

A high number of individuals (95) participated in the 2026 consultation process in comparison to previous years: 2025 (137), 2024 (86), 2023 (37), 2022 (12), 2021 (67), 2020 (7).

### 6.2 Engagement

Consulting on the Annual Budget and Council Plan Year 2 Action Plan together was beneficial because it aligned how the community naturally considers Council priorities—linking what Council plans to deliver with how it will be funded.

The combined approach leveraged higher interest in the Budget to increase exposure to the Action Plan, resulting in 34 submissions including Council Plan feedback and 22 submissions addressing both documents, indicating that many participants engaged with the Action Plan when presented alongside budget decisions. It also prompted more specific, actionable feedback, with residents directly referencing Action Plan goals and outcomes and linking them to funding priorities, strengthening overall understanding of the Action Plan as Council’s funded delivery program for the year.

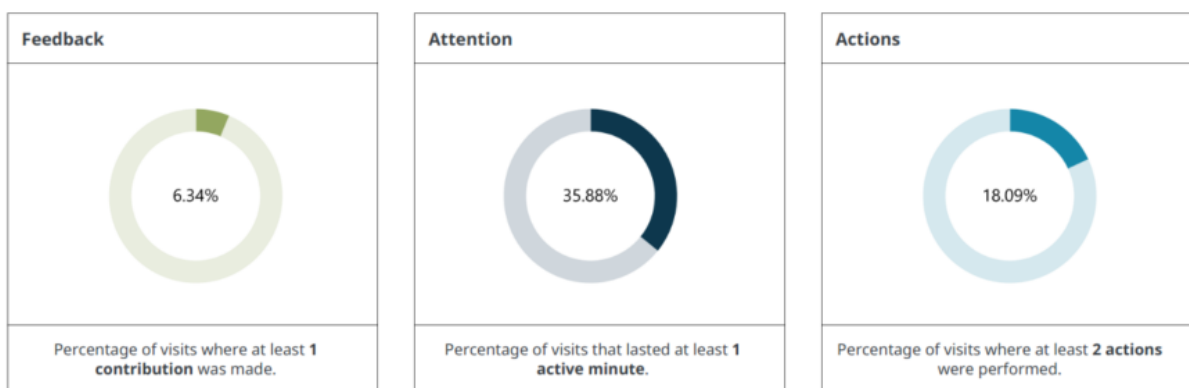
It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

- 500 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (exceeded; 1,578 views)
- 50 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (exceeded; 92)

<b>1,578</b> Views	<b>1,310</b> Visits	<b>1,033</b> Visitors	<b>92</b> Contributions	<b>87</b> Contributors	<b>16</b> Followers
<p><b>Views</b> - The number of times a Visitor views any page on a Site.  <b>Visits</b> - The number of end-user sessions associated with a single Visitor.  <b>Visitors</b> - The number of unique public or end-users to a Site. A Visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.  <b>Contributions</b> - The total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools.  <b>Contributors</b> - The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a Site through the participation tools.  <b>Followers</b> - The number of Visitors who have 'subscribed' to a project using the 'Follow' button.</p>					

In terms of conversion, the goals for Have Your Say project webpage were that:

- 2% of visits would have at least one contribution made (exceeded, 6%)
- 25% of visits would last at least one active minute (exceeded, 36%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (not achieved, 18%)



Most online respondents indicated they had the information needed to provide feedback. Of those who answered this question: 49% (n=38) said information was mostly easy to

find/understand and 27% (n=21) said it was very easy. Smaller proportions found it mostly hard (9%, n=7), no one found it very hard, and 15% (n=12) selected I'm not sure.

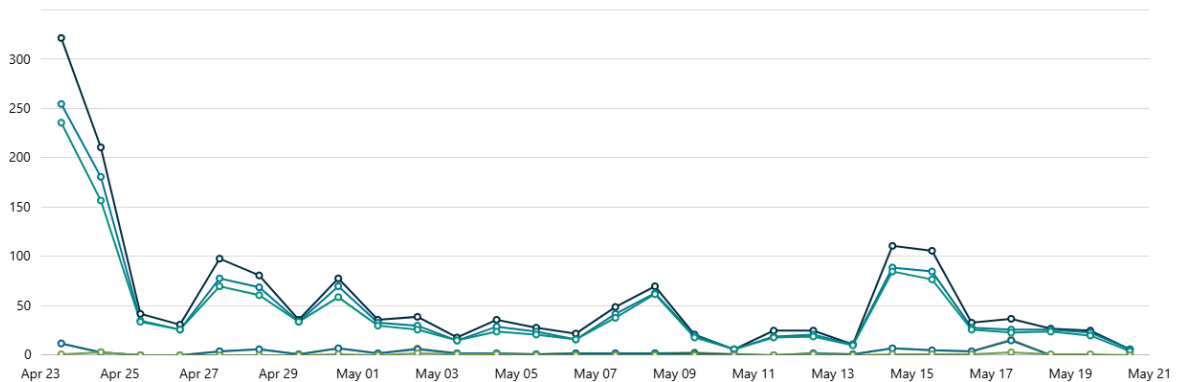
Community consultation on the Annual Budget, under the Local Government Act 2020 (Section 63), requires Council to develop its Annual Budget in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy. The principles of this Policy were met, including the publication of an Engagement Plan Overview, available at [yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/annual-budget-2026-27/engagement-plan-overview](https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/annual-budget-2026-27/engagement-plan-overview)

### 6.3 Communications

It was proposed that the communication activities would reach at least:

- 15,000 community members (exceeded)
- All correspondence and submissions were received via Council channels (achieved)

The chart below shows the spikes in visitation to the Have Your Say engagement webpages when the consultation was promoted via direct email and news on Council's website (23 April) and social media (including video); and e-newsletters on 30 April, 7 and 14 May.



An appendix to this report of verbatim submissions was provided directly to Councillors and the Bayside Executive Leadership Team. Full submissions are not published in this report to ensure participant privacy.

#### Error correction

A typographic error was identified by 2 survey participants, where the survey question prompt referred to the 2025–26 Annual Budget instead of “2026–27. This has been corrected.