



Budget 2025-26

Community engagement summary report
May 2025

1 Contents

2	Overview	2
2.1	Community feedback key themes	2
2.2	Next steps	3
3	Consultation process.....	3
3.1	Consultation purpose and scope.....	3
3.2	Consultation methodology.....	4
3.2.1	Engagement activities.....	4
3.2.2	Communications activities	5
4	Participant profile	6
5	Consultation findings.....	7
5.1	Topic specific feedback.....	7
5.1.1	Climate action and environment	7
5.1.2	Warm Water Pool deferral	9
5.1.3	Rate freeze	10
5.1.4	Community infrastructure (various).....	11
5.1.5	Early years services and kindergartens	12
5.1.6	Investment in Ivison Ward.....	14
5.1.7	Activity Centres.....	15
5.1.8	Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and North Road Beach	15
5.1.9	General feedback	16
5.1.10	Active transport and safety	17
5.1.11	Drainage and street cleaning	17
5.1.12	Accessibility / Changing Places	18
5.2	Project Evaluation	18
6	Appendix	20
6.1	Verbatim feedback	20

2 Overview

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2025-26.

The proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 outlines the services and initiatives to be funded for the next financial year. The proposed Budget is informed by community priorities set out in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, draft Council Plan 2025 – 2029 and Financial Plan.

2.1 Community feedback key themes

137 community members made submissions via several methods in response to the proposed Budget 2025-26. The most common themes are listed below (referenced within more than 10 submissions), with a full summary provided in Section 5.

Climate action and environment (41 participants, 30%)

There was significant disappointment regarding the reduction in funding for climate action and environmental initiatives. Participants emphasised the importance of maintaining and increasing tree planting programs including through the Urban Forest Strategy, and other initiatives to address climate change and its impacts. Concerns were expressed about the long-term consequences of reduced tree cover, such as urban heat islands.

Warm water pool (35 participants, 25.5%)

The deferral of the warm water pool project received mixed response, although most were opposed to the proposed deferral while an aquatics strategy is developed. Some respondents supported the deferral, citing the high costs and long-term maintenance, and perceived limited use combined with the need to upgrade the Sandringham Family Leisure Centre pool. Many strongly opposed the deferral, highlighting the pool's importance for health and wellbeing, especially for older residents and those with disabilities. Strong disappointment was conveyed regarding delaying a project which had very high community support through previous community consultation.

Rate freeze (23 participants, 17%)

Responses to the proposal to implement a rate freeze were divided. Some respondents appreciated the relief during financially challenging times; others were concerned about Council's long-term financial stability and the potential impact on future service and infrastructure provision.

Community infrastructure and services (22 participants, 16%)

Several respondents highlighted the need for improved infrastructure and community services, including better maintenance of parks, playgrounds, and public facilities. Specific mentions included the need for upgrades to Pennydale Park and the Brighton Men's Shed, as well as BMX facilities.

Early years services and kindergarten (19 participants, 14%)

Respondents expressed concern about the lack of funding for early years services, particularly in Hampton. They highlighted that services are struggling with high application numbers and ageing buildings and need maintenance and expansion to accommodate Victorian Government reforms and the increasing number of children, especially with new housing developments.

Other themes referenced in feedback included investment in Ivison Ward (7), activity centres (7), Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and North Road Beach (6), general feedback (6), active transport and safety (4), drainage and street cleaning (3), and accessibility / Changing Places (1)

2.2 Next steps

Council will consider community feedback, including this community engagement report, before adopting an Annual Budget 2025-26 at its meeting on 17 June 2025.

Interested community members can request to be heard at this meeting. This report was shared with project subscribers and published on Council's Have Your Say platform on 11 June 2025.

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 2025-26. Community consultation on the Budget was conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy 2021.

Community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed Budget between 1 and 21 May 2025 for the consideration of Council.

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?
Budget 2025-26, noting that funding priorities have been informed by community priorities articulated in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, aspirations and priorities of Bayside's new Council and the draft Council Plan.	- Legislative requirement for Council to adopt an annual budget by 30 June 2025 - Council operations, resource allocation and projects Council has resolved to deliver - Waste charge: Direct cost recovery determined by the State Government landfill levy, cost of hard waste collections, recycling processing costs, and green waste and garbage collection and disposal costs. - Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund which Council collects on behalf of the State Government.

Level of engagement

Engagement on the proposed Budget 2025-26 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 new Council, the draft Council Plan 2025 – 2029 and the ten-year Financial Plan. These plans were subject to extensive, deliberative community engagement programs.

The table below lists the community members and stakeholders identified as having an interest in the Annual Budget 2024-25 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 Annual Budget 2025-26	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult
Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult

3.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement on the proposed Budget 2025-26 was designed to provide stakeholders and the broader community with opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed Budget. The engagement process was open to all members of the City of Bayside municipality between 1 and 21 May 2025.

There were 137 contributors who participated via three methods: 122 unique surveys or statements and 10 submissions to the Q&A forum on Council's Have Your Say engagement platform. Relevant correspondence to Councillors, CEO and Chief Financial Officer (20 items from 15 individuals) has also been included in this report.

Digital engagement tools (websites, 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 were undertaken to ensure community members and project 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 (1 – 21 May 2025)

Details	Activity
132 contributions*	Have Your Say engagement website
124 contributors (122 valid)	• Survey form (117 unique submissions*) • Written statement form (5 submissions)
72 project subscribers	• Question and answer forum (10 questions, 7 contributors)

	Provision of feedback by post, in-person or anonymously (0 submissions) *one survey response was submitted twice and the duplicate was removed. A further survey response was blank.
Direct correspondence	Submissions made directly to Councillors/CEO/Officers
20 submissions	20 submissions from 15 individuals were made via email to Councilors and/or the CEO and /or Chief Financial Officer for consideration. These submissions are included within this report.
15 participants*	Some participants made multiple submissions via correspondence. For the purposes of this report, these have been collated and counted as a single contribution.

3.2.2 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels reached more than 15,000 community members.

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

Details	Activity
Have Your Say engagement website 1,457 views 1,219 visits 825 visitors	yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/Budget - Project information on proposed Annual Budget 2025-26 - Annual Budget 2025-26 PDF (353 downloads) - Question and answer forum (48 visitors) - Engagement Plan Overview (10 visitors)
Council website	News item: Proposed 2025/26 Budget focuses on the fundamentals Website homepage banner
Direct email emails sent <13,000 recipients	Have Your Say members project subscribers - Email sent to 3,681 relevant subscribers (all suburbs, Council budget and warm water pool project subscribers) on 2 May. Opens (50%), clicks (4%). This Week in Bayside e-newsletter 3 editions of This Week in Bayside e-newsletter (1, 8 and 15 May), receiving 480 clicks in total. E-newsletter sent to over 13,000 recipients.
Social media 5,300 impressions 8 comments	Facebook and Instagram posts promoting consultation Two social media posts were published referencing the consultation on the budget, featuring a video explaining the key proposals within the budget. The posts attracted over 5,300 organic impressions and 59 engagements. Comments (8) on the social media posts were not considered submissions within this report.
Meeting	Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group 28 April meeting to discuss proposed deferral of warm water pool.

Media coverage

There was no media coverage of the proposed Budget 2025-26 consultation.

4 Participant profile

Participant profile data was asked for online respondents (124) only, with all demographic questions optional. 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

Almost all (93%, n=114) of survey participants responded they are a Bayside homeowner/ratepayer, while four are a tenant. Nine respondents are an owner/operator of a Bayside business, and 25 (20%) are a member of a community group or organisation. Over 7% (9) are a person with lived experience of disability or their carer.

All age brackets between 15 – 84 years were represented, with over-representation in the 25-39 age group, and those older than 60. All Bayside suburbs were broadly represented. However, Brighton was under-represented, while Hampton was over-represented.

Most respondents (87.5%) said they had the information they needed to provide feedback on the Budget and information was very (38.5%) or mostly (48.5%) easy to find and understand. This is significantly higher than previous years. A few found information mostly (5%) or very hard (3.5%) to find/understand.

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%
Suburb	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)
	Highett	7.6%	6.5% (8)
	Sandringham	11.8%	12% (15)
	Other	-	1.5% (2)

Members of community groups represented included Bayside Climate Change Action Group, Bayside Community Nursery, Bayside U3A, Beaumaris Basketball Club, Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc, Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group, Bayside Seniors Action Group, Birdlife Bayside, Brighton Men's Shed, Half Moon Bay Life Saving Club, Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, Friends of Native Wildlife, Hampton Community Kindergarten, Highett Progress Association, Village Zero, Yalukit Willam Nature Association.

5 Consultation findings

The following section includes the summary of feedback received on the proposed budget. Personal details have been redacted from this report.

Where there was multiple mentions of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics. Complete submissions are available in Appendix 1, listed under the key themes.

5.1 Topic specific feedback

Feedback is summarised by key themes or topics in descending order. Some submissions mention multiple topics, resulting in a higher count of topic mentions than individual contributors.

5.1.1 Climate action and environment (41 participants)

41 participants provided feedback on the proposed Budget that related to climate action, environment and the Urban Forest Strategy tree planting program. This was the most common feedback received on the budget (30%). The vast majority (39) of these participants were strongly opposed to any reduction in funding for climate and environment initiatives.

Submissions were received from several environmental groups including Bayside Climate Change Action Group, Beaumaris Conservation Society and Friends of Native Wildlife, as well as Highett Progress Association resident group.

Key themes in feedback received are summarised below. Verbatim comments are referenced in Appendix 6.1.1.

Topic	Community feedback
Objections and concerns (39):	- Strong objection with the removal of funding for the Climate Emergency Action Plan and related environmental initiatives such as the Urban Forest Strategy, additional tree planting programs, and the carbon offset scheme. - Strong objection to the reduction in tree planting, as it is seen as critical for mitigating urban heat islands and maintaining the livability of Bayside. Particular objections were received by Highett and Pennydale residents, including Highett Progress Association. - Concern about the lack of transparency and clarity in the budget regarding specific actions to address the climate crisis. - Reduction in environmental initiatives is viewed as short-sighted and not aligned with the community's expectations and Council's declared climate emergency.

- Trees pay for themselves by reducing expenditure elsewhere mitigating climate extremes.
- Trees take years to reach maturity and given the increasing number lost to extreme weather and climate change, we need to increase the number and type of plantings, not reduce them
- Importance of maintaining and increasing tree canopy, improving street tree watering, and ensuring proper pruning around power lines to reduce fire risk.
- Calls for continued funding for climate action and environmental programs, even if it means slightly higher rates, to preserve Bayside's natural environment and address the climate crisis.
- Cannot manage what you can't measure - no verifiable performance measures that environmental protection is achieved
- Climate is the biggest risk facing our community
- Takes a long time to grow a tree canopy – we cannot wait
- Push for a community battery or batteries
- Removing the urban forest will make climate problems worse for locals
- Encourage incentives for no or one car households
- Reallocate funds from less effective programs, like the carbon offset scheme, to more impactful alternatives such as increasing the number of EV chargers and sustainability education.
- Mitigate all pollution and toxins where possible in air, water, and land.
- Promote and increase open spaces, protect trees and create urban forests with green corridors to promote biodiversity and protect wildlife.

General support (2)

- Support the budget's investment in tangible environmental outcomes, such as the \$23.2 million allocated for Bayside's foreshore, parks, and open spaces.
- Support reduction in the tree planting program due to no after care (water) for these trees.

5.1.2 Warm Water Pool deferral (35 participants)

35 individuals including stakeholder group members (Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group, Bayside Seniors Action Group) provided feedback on Council's proposed deferral of the Warm Water Pool at Brighton Golf Course.

The majority of feedback related to the project was strong objections (21) to the deferral, citing Council's previous commitments to construct the facility and high community need and level of support of the project. Some (12) supported the deferral due to the high cost including ongoing maintenance, perceived limited use as a standalone facility and need to upgrade the Sandringham Family Leisure Centre. Others were neutral and offered general comment (2).

Several responses from individual residents regarding the warm water pool were sent directly to Councillors, CEO or Council officers and are included in this report.

Key themes in feedback received are summarised below. Verbatim comments are referenced in Appendix 6.1.2.

Objections to deferral and concerns (21)

- Strong objection to the deferral of the Warm Water Pool project, emphasizing its importance for rehabilitation and therapy for older residents and those living with disability, as well as the benefits for all ages.
- Warm water pool is seen as essential for the therapeutic and wellbeing needs of older or injured residents and those living with disability or long-term health conditions, helping them manage conditions like arthritis and aiding in recovery from surgeries or injuries.
- Concern over the reallocation of funds from the Warm Water Pool to other non-urgent projects.
- Feelings of disillusionment and betrayal regarding the community consultation process – perception that input and strong support has been overlooked.
- Need to invest in infrastructure that benefits older residents, including proper hydrotherapy facilities, and questioning the focus on other projects such as sports pavilions without suitable amenities for people with disabilities.
- Contributions of older people: Significant contributions of older Bayside residents to the community over the years – both through rates and volunteering – not reflected in deferral.
- Social impact: implications of neglecting older residents' needs can lead to isolation and reduced quality of life among older adults, who often rely on community resources for social interaction and health.
- Economic considerations: improved health and wellbeing can reduce healthcare costs and increase the participation of older adults in community activities, thereby boosting the local economy.

- Several submissions reference successful examples from other councils that have invested in similar facilities.
- Recommending further reviews is wasteful and will disillusion the community, as they doubt the warm water pool will ever be built.
- Older residents are funding the cost of the rate freeze – long-term ratepayers *and* Council profits from its Aged Care services for Bayside and Glen Eira.
- Costs will rise if the project is deferred, and funds spent elsewhere will be lost.
- Backtrack on long-standing assurances is unfair
- Bayside has a large older population—35.3% aged over 55, and 20% with disabilities. A hydro pool is a necessity, not a luxury.
- Some community members have died waiting for its construction.
- The deferral was poorly communicated.
- The Council has prioritised costly sporting and lifesaving facilities, like the \$30 million buildings at Dendy Beach and Black Rock, while neglecting the needs of older residents.

Support for deferral (12)

- Perceived limited community benefit and high costs
- Concern about the warm water pool's maintenance and associated equipment costs
- Support for reallocating funds from the warm water pool to other projects
- Suggestions for multipurpose pool facilities to cater to diverse community needs, such as in Sandringham Family Leisure Centre or Brighton Baths
- Funding allocated to undertake a feasibility study appears extravagant and could be ceased.

General comments (2)

- Concern that the project reached its current stage without a detailed feasibility study.

5.1.3 Rate freeze (23 participants)

Participants (23) were divided about Council's proposal to freeze rates for the 2025-26 financial year, with 10 expressing support and the same number opposed. Three respondents were neutral and offered general comments.

Key themes in feedback received are summarised below. Verbatim comments are referenced in Appendix 6.1.3.

Topic

Community feedback

Support for rate freeze (10)

- General appreciation for the rate freeze due to the rising cost of living and financial pressures.

	• Perception that Bayside rates are already high and freezing them is a sensible move. • Rate freeze reflects responsible and community-focused leadership; Council is in touch with its residents and their needs. • Rate freeze will help manage existing funding more effectively and avoid unnecessary spending. • Support focus on core infrastructure.
Opposition to rate freeze (10)	• General opposition to rate freeze, due to longer term impacts and defunded projects. • Concern the rate freeze will impede investment in infrastructure and services growth areas like Highett will require in coming years. • Concerns about reducing Council's surplus; running down cash reserves will limit ability to deal with cost shifting. • "Cost of living Budget" criticism that the budget does not prioritise essential community services and allocates funds to non-essential projects • Concerns about deprioritising climate and environmental initiatives. • Opposition to de-funding additional tree planting in Highett • Penalizing future stability with a rate freeze • Rate freeze is misleading, as other costs like the fire levy and waste management will still increase. • Objection to the de-funding for climate change initiatives.
Neutral (3)	• Some residents mention that they would have accepted a rate increase if it meant better services and infrastructure. • Need to identify novel revenue sources and establish partnerships; monitor service efficiency and implement cost control measures.

5.1.4 Community infrastructure (various) (22 participants)

22 participants provided a range of feedback about community infrastructure funding with common themes including upgrades of Brighton Med's Shed (6), Pennydale Park playground (6) and investment in BMX and youth recreation facilities (4).

Key themes in feedback received are summarised below. Verbatim comments are referenced in Appendix 6.1.4.

Topic	Community feedback
Community facilities improvement (9)	• Appeals for remedial work and expansion of Brighton Men's Shed (6 mentions) • Refurbishment of Hampton Library and the addition of suitable internal toilet facilities.

	• Replace the existing old and often 'out of service' toilet cubicles and increase their number and locations (Sandringham) • Redevelop BayCISS • Provide additional resources/programs for Highett Neighbourhood Community House (HNCH)
Playground upgrades (7)	• Requests for upgrading Pennydale Park (6 submissions) with new equipment, shade sails, and public toilets; concerns about safety issues at Pennydale Park, including hazardous materials and bull ant nests; need to address safety and amenity issues such as slippery metal surfaces, extreme heat in summer, and lack of public toilets. • Disagree with funding Cheltenham Reserve as mostly benefits Kingston residents.
Recreation, bicycle and outdoor sports facilities (5)	• Strong advocacy for the implementation of off-road cycling facilities, such as BMX and mountain bike trails (4 mentions) ◦ Need for skatepark upgrades and youth infrastructure like mountain bike jumps and bouldering walls. ◦ Disappointment over the lack of funding for bike facilities, despite earlier provisions for the Tulip Street jumps park upgrade and clear community support through consultations. ◦ Concerns about the delayed implementation of the Wangara Road Masterplan and the associated disruption and amenity loss for residents. ◦ Include specific projects that improve younger people's lives and community facilities. • Request for the construction of basketball courts in Dendy Park (<i>June 2024 petition with 190 signatures</i>)
Arts and culture activities (1)	• Requests for affordable studio rentals and enhanced provisions for the arts, emphasising importance to culture, innovation and creativity. • Suggestions for ticketing and transportation for seniors to various entertainment events.

5.1.5 Early years services and kindergartens (19 participants)

19 participants provided feedback on funding for early years services including the need for significant funding for early years services and community kindergarten, particularly in Hampton (14).

Key themes in feedback received are summarised below. Verbatim comments are referenced in Appendix 6.1.5.

Topic	Community feedback
Lack of early education services	- Many comments highlight the severe lack of early education services, particularly in Hampton, which has been identified as a key growth area for families. - There is a significant shortfall in kindergarten places, with approximately 170 families missing out in Bayside this year. - Church-owned kindergartens face uncertainty, with precarious leases and threats of closure if further maintenance is required. Their collapse would worsen the existing shortfall of community kindergarten places.
Need for maintenance and expansion	- Hampton Community Kindergarten is in desperate need of maintenance and a second room to accommodate the high number of applications. The buildings are ageing and require urgent works to remain safe and functional. - Brighton Maternal and Child Health Centre in need of upgrade. - Many current kindergarten buildings are aging and urgently require maintenance and expansion to accommodate increasing demand. The failure to improve these facilities threatens the quality of early education and the safety of children.
Impact of Victorian Government reforms	The upcoming pre-prep reforms will require kindergartens to offer more hours, further reducing the number of available places unless facilities are expanded.
Population growth and social housing	- New social housing development is expected to bring a significant number of vulnerable children into the kindergarten catchment areas, further reducing the availability of places. - Demographic change requires urgent attention and strategic planning to ensure all children, especially the most vulnerable, have access to early education.
Under-funding early years	- Current budget allocation for early education is insufficient. - Deep concern over the lack of adequate funding and consideration for early years facilities and education. - Importance of investing in early education to support the growing number of young families in Bayside.

- Need to do more to support young families and not as much focus on older population.
- Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth areas.

5.1.6 Investment in Ivison Ward (7 participants)

Seven participants provided feedback specific to investment in the Ivison Ward (Highett), including a detailed submission from the Highett Progress Association.

A broad range of concerns were raised, summarised below and provided in full in Appendix 6.1.6.

Topic	Community feedback
Tree canopy and environment	• Highett's tree canopy is significantly lower than other suburbs, with strong community support for increasing it. • The proposed rate freeze and defunding of the tree planting program are major concerns.
Funding and investment	• The rate freeze offers minimal savings but risks depleting Council's cash reserves, affecting future funding for critical capital works and infrastructure and ability to mitigate cost shifting. • Requests for reinstatement of tree planting programs in Highett and review of certain capital expenditures. • Concerns about the negative impact of a rate freeze on fast-growing suburbs like Highett and low underlying surplus forecast for 2028/29 and its impact on funding required for additional community services. • Budget lists minimal funds for Highett, despite the increase in budgeted capital expenditure, with significantly more allocated to other areas, raising concerns about unequal distribution. • Support for specific projects such as the Highett Grassy Woodland Management Plan and Peterson Street Pavilion renewal. • Noticeable disparity in funding allocation for Ivison Ward (Highett) compared to more affluent areas like Brighton, leading to a sense of neglect and inequality.
Community feedback ignored	• Previous budget consultations have highlighted under-investment in Highett, suggesting that the council is not effectively listening/addressing residents' needs.

Population growth and development

- Concern about Council staffing levels remaining unchanged despite new services and population growth.
- Need for better parks, footpaths, and other social infrastructure projects to enhance the quality of life in Highett.
- Significant development will bring a massive population increase, necessitating funding for roads, trees, and other infrastructure
- Safety: presence of massage parlors in Highett seen as a safety issue at night, especially for women.

5.1.7 Activity Centres (7 participants)

7 participants provided feedback relating to investment in activity centres, including the need for upgrades in Sandringham and Highett and accessibility improvements.

A range of specific concerns were raised, summarised below and provided in full in Appendix 6.1.7.

Topic	Community feedback
Sandringham area improvements (3)	• Repair and upgrade the foreshore, increase and improve toilet cubicles, plant more native trees, develop proper bicycle lanes, and revitalise Sandringham village.
Accessibility and investment (2)	• Higher spending to support activity centres. • Ensure all residents have access to activity centres • Only Changing Places bathroom within easy reach is the one at Well St behind Woolies. • Bay Street activity centre still has step/s into every second shop.
Highett Activity Centre	• Improve the appearance and attract quality businesses similar to Hampton Street, Church Street, or Sandringham.
Priorities	• Question the necessity of certain upgrades (e.g., Billilla Mansion) compared to activity centre upgrades.
General	• Ensure no Councillor conflict of interest.

5.1.8 Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and North Road Beach (6 participants)

Some feedback was received from 5 participants about Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan investment, with various concerns raised about the benefit/value to ratepayers and impact on environment. Another respondent requested a clean-up of nearby North Road beach.

Key themes in feedback received are summarised below. Verbatim comments are referenced in Appendix 6.1.8.

Topic	Community feedback
Cost concern	- Proposed spending of \$10m for Wangara Road and Dendy Beach Visitor Management, and \$350,000 for AV equipment, is excessive and misaligned with a cost-of-living budget. - Ensure appropriate spending in a rate freeze budget.
Tourist vs. ratepayer benefits	- Questions raised about the necessity and benefits of the \$5.6M Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan, eg beneficiaries and economic impact on Bayside. - Objection to ratepayers funding upgrades that primarily benefit tourists. - Project not wanted by local residents.
Preservation of natural environment	- Green Point loved for natural beauty. Protect that instead of building tourist facilities. - Need to prioritise addressing climate risks - future tourist attractions may be threatened by rising sea levels and extreme weather.
North Road Beach environmental concerns	Request to prioritize the clean-up and enhancement of North Road Beach, focusing on accessibility, safety, and maintenance.

5.1.9 General feedback (6 participants)

A range of general feedback about the budget was provided by 6 participants, and provided in full in Appendix 6.1.9.

Topic	Community feedback
General support for budget (4)	- Positive reception of the budget, noting no unnecessary expenses. - Recognition of the responsible budget reflecting current economic and social conditions.
Fees and charges	- Suggestion to reduce consultant fees and to reconsider projects not under council responsibility; review scope of some current activities. - Consideration needed for planning fees preventing full cost recovery and potential revenue loss. - Early payment incentive unnecessary given Council's significant reserves. - Decreasing operating surpluses due to rising depreciation expenditure and reduced interest income. - Question depreciation listed as an expenditure or cash flow item that would affect operating surpluses.

- Why have animal registration and other costs all gone up? eg the \$100 increase in getting dog from the pound.

Hampton Life Saving Club

- Limit funding for Hampton Life Saving, suggesting it has been inactive for the public since 2020.

Domestic animals

- Create more fully fenced off leash dog areas so that people stop bringing their dogs to sports grounds
- Get the cats off the streets and out of the environment.

5.1.10 Active transport and safety (4 participants)

Four participants raised the need for investment in safe active transport routes and infrastructure. A range of specific concerns were raised, summarised below and provided in full in Appendix 6.1.10.

Topic

Community feedback

Cycling pathways/lanes

- Need for serious bicycle lanes on major roads, not just painted footpaths.
- Prioritise safe local walking and cycling routes to schools, parks, and shops to reduce traffic and promote health.
- Current cycling budget of \$4.4 million is insufficient to address children's safety; need a comprehensive plan linking cycling routes to local schools.
- Council has not acted on last year's engagement results showing a majority want safer cycling on Balcombe Road, Beaumaris.

Safety

- Draft budget neglects community safety and liveability, with insufficient road safety measures and responses to increasing crime.

5.1.11 Drainage and street cleaning (3)

3 submissions were specifically related to drainage or clean streets, summarised below, and provided in full in Appendix 6.1.11.

Topic

Community feedback

Drainage issue

- Drainage issues near the corner of Male St and Durrant St, where moderate rainfall leads to flooding on the road and footpaths.

Repair damage due to high rainfall

- More expenditure on repairing street damage due to the 2021-2023 La Nina high rainfalls, other projects should be deferred until road conditions are improved.

Safe, clean streets

- Prioritise maintaining safety and clean streets and parks, specifically addressing rubbish on Georges St.

5.1.12 Accessibility / Changing Places (1)

One submission was specifically related to accessibility in Bayside. It is provided in full in Appendix 6.1.12.

Topic	Community feedback
Warm Water Pool	• Essential for elderly, disabled, and injured residents; need for a facility in Bayside.
Changing Places	• 22 sports pavilions upgraded without Changing Places, exclusion of special needs individuals. • Limited accessible bathrooms; one Changing Places in activity centre. • Poor placement of Changing Places; ongoing discrimination against vulnerable community members; breach of Human Rights charter.

5.2 Project Evaluation

Participation

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

Engagement

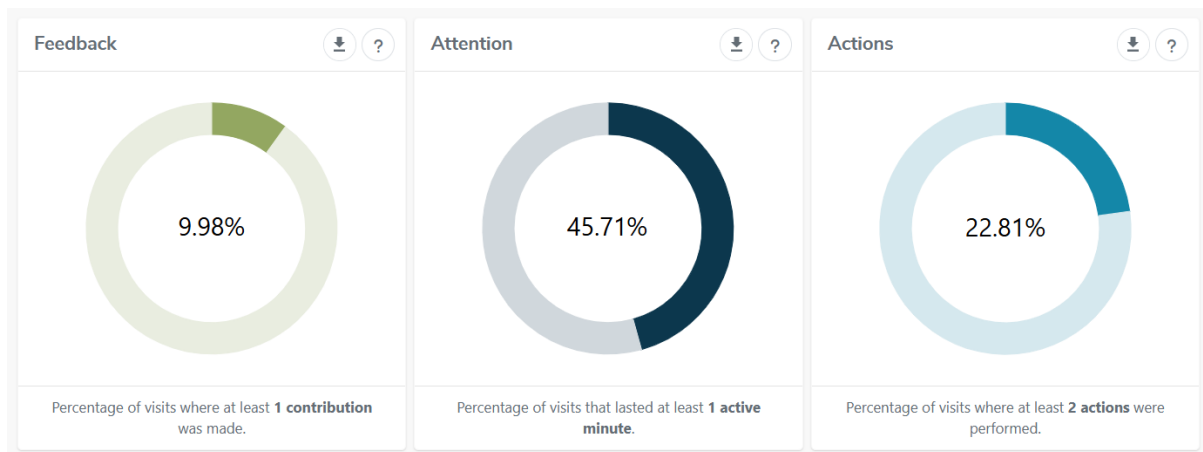
It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

- 500 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (exceeded; 1,461 views)
- 50 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (exceeded; 122)

1,461 Views	1,223 Visits	825 Visitors	134 Contributions	124 Contributors	29 Followers
-----------------------	------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------

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

- 2% of visits would have at least one contribution made (exceeded, 10%)
- 25% of visits would last at least one active minute (exceeded, 48%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (achieved, 23%)



Satisfaction with the information provided to survey participants was high. Of the 119 survey participants who responded to the question: 'Did you have the information you needed to provide your feedback on the Budget?', a majority (87.4%) selected information was very (38.6%) or mostly easy (48.8%) to find and/or understand; 5% said it was mostly hard to find and/or understand, 3% found it very hard and 4% were not sure.

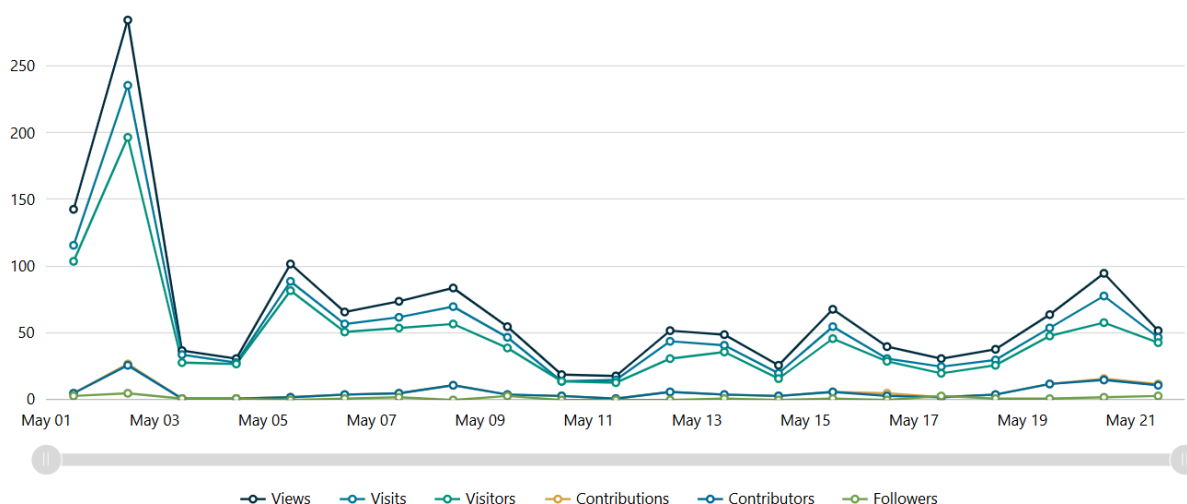
Community consultation on the Annual Budget, under the Local Government Act 2020 (Section 63), requires Council to develop its Annual Budget in accordance with its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. The principles of this Policy were met, including the publication of an Engagement Plan Overview, available at yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/annual-budget-2025-26/engagement-plan-overview

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 (2 May) and social media (including video); and e-newsletters on 1, 8 and 15 May.



6 Appendix

6.1 Verbatim feedback

Feedback has been grouped by its most prominent or relevant theme. Some submissions have been split to provide feedback under several relevant themes.

Where participants made multiple submissions via correspondence, each has been included below.

6.1.1 Climate action and environmental initiatives verbatim feedback

Why is Council walking away from Bayside's Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025 and its actions? Our climate emergency has not gone away. The Bayside Urban Forest Strategy was a key action in response to our current climate emergency, with the important goal of increasing tree cover from 16% to 30% by 2040. When the strategy was adopted by Council increased tree planting was considered an essential part of achieving climate mitigation in Bayside. In this budget Council is removing the the Urban Forest Strategy, additional tree planting program and carbon offset scheme to save \$.639 million. This is sad, short-term thinking. Pulling the plug on environmental programs today will only result in greater environmental costs in the future. I am very disappointed.

The Highett Progress Association (HPA) is deeply concerned by the defunding of the additional tree planting program as a result of the proposed rate freeze. Highett has the lowest tree canopy of all suburbs in Bayside at approximately 14%. Residents are passionate about increasing Highett's tree canopy as evidenced by a petition signed by 236 residents last year. The council last year moved to identify "priority sites in Highett and Pennydale suitable for park and street tree planting in the 2024 planting season". Due to a shortage of available trees within the lead time, the HPA was later advised by Officers that the major effort would be made during the 2025 season. With the impending changes to front setbacks within the SRL precinct, Highett will become even more reliant on nature strip planting to increase tree canopy. While the BCC has increased its total budgeted capital expenditure to \$58.59m (2024/25: \$50.015m), very few of the identified projects relate to Highett.

- Highett Grassy Woodland (HGW) Management Plan: \$354,000
- Highett Common Building K, professional fees to redraw floor plans: \$40,000
- Footpaths – raised treatments \$38,000
- Peterson Street Pavilion Reserve renewal: \$250,000

With minimal budget funds allocated to Highett in 2025/2026 we respectfully request the reinstatement of \$350,000 of tree planting funds.

See full submission in *Appendix 6.1.6 - Investment in Ivison Ward*

Thank you for the opportunity to respond as I would like to raise significant concerns in relation to the omission of funding for climate change in the proposed budget. As you are well aware, current building activities enable the destruction of trees and urban landscapes along with the significant loss of wildlife and natural habitats at a time when climate disasters are increasing. This flows onto the number of waterways and oceans in the Bayside area. I am deeply disappointed that Bayside Council has failed to consider the impacts of these and will contribute further to the devastating impacts of climate change, particularly the poor air quality in the region and rising public health issues and rising costs directly attributable to climate change. I request that the 'operational savings made by removing some environmental initiatives including Urban Forest Strategy additional tree planting program and carbon offset scheme' and any other climate change activities are reinstated in the budget and further activities to support residents that promote sustainable and renewable energies. I request that Bayside Council continues to engage with other councils that declare an ongoing Climate Emergency and support a renewed Climate Action Plan.

The cuts to environmental issues and absence of continuing funding for the climate emergency in the budget and potential for a lack of a future Climate Action Plan is extremely concerning. The apathy of the Council and unconscionable act is deeply disturbing. I would prefer that rates are

increased to support equitable contributions by the whole community to deliver improved health and wellbeing by addressing climate actions than see only a few with the highest incomes and most self-interested benefit thereby also creating further inequities and crimes in the area. In addition, as housing density increases significantly, this will have a deeper impact on climate activities and council should work harder to ensure the area does not contribute further to adverse events through poor guidelines in terms of concrete, lack of solar panels, and other factors when new build applications are considered and suitable housing destroyed to make way for new properties with no consideration of loss of natural habitats and human environments.

I strongly request that the following activities continue to be funded from the operational budget of \$1.18 million in 2025/26 for:

- Additional tree planting program \$0.35 million
- Urban Forest Strategy \$0.172 million
- Carbon offset scheme \$0.117 million
- Green money program \$0.044 million
- New Initiative program reduction of \$0.5 million from \$1.5 million to \$1 million...

I request that the rates be increased to ensure that operational costs are not impacted and that the climate change strategy be reviewed...

The following submission to the Bayside Council Annual Budget 2025-26 is both a personal submission and submitted in my role as President of the Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. I am lodging objection to the proposed withdrawal of funding for the urban forest strategy and other vegetation related initiatives. I was one of the original advocates for Bayside Council introducing an urban forest strategy and have spoken at Council Ordinary meetings supporting the urban forest strategy on a number of occasions.

Bayside residents have repeatedly stated the protection of their natural environment is a critical element of their residential amenity. Many residents are concerned with the loss of the natural environment from development and removal of vegetation on public and private spaces. Critical elements of the urban forest strategy include the benefits of vegetation providing natural shade from excessive sun exposure and cooling against urban heat, the natural beauty provided by treed avenues, parks and residential gardens which is exemplary in some areas of Bayside such as Brighton but lacking in other Bayside suburbs and providing habitat for birds and animals.

The urban forest strategy is based on the principle that, just like all performance measures, you cannot manage what you cannot measure. The urban forest strategy measures the existing vegetation cover and sets targets and measures for maintaining existing cover and identifying potential areas for expanding cover. Without an urban forest strategy council has no measurable basis for monitoring their performance protecting the valued natural environment.

The funds allocated to the urban forest strategy and other environmental projects is comparatively small compared to the considerable financial and non-financial benefits. An urban forest is not a 'Green' agenda to take over public and private land with trees to the detriment of residents. The urban forest strategy is essential for council to measure, monitor and manage the natural environment consistent with resident expectations.

Urban forest strategies are a common environmental tool implemented by Australian councils and cities worldwide.

It is incongruous for Bayside council and councillors to claim they are committed to protecting the natural environment if there is no verifiable performance measure that this protection is achieved. Having lived in Beaumaris all my life I have watched the considerable loss of the beautiful natural environment largely from development. I am seriously concerned about the ongoing threat to our beautiful natural environment in Bayside, particularly for the liveability of future generations. For this reason I devoted considerable time and effort progressing the urban forest strategy and will be extremely concerned to see the project withdrawn.

Why are we removing funding for the urban forest strategy? Climate change is a huge and ever-increasing issue in our world and effects everyone. To pull back so heavily on sustainability/environment issues such as this and in this manner is absolutely archaic and irresponsible.

The Friends of Native Wildlife Inc. (FoNW) has requested the Bayside City Council to reinstate funding for the Urban Forest Strategy in the proposed 2025 budget.

The proposed Budget states “Bayside’s natural environment, from the 17 kilometre stretch of sparkling coastline to the urban forest of our streets is an important asset.”

Bayside has committed to the Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest strategy, specifying a regional target of 30 per cent total tree canopy and 50 per cent combined tree canopy and shrubs by 2050, as described in these:

- Bayside Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2040
<https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/Final%20Urban%20Forest%20Strategy%202022.pdf>
- Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest
<https://www.natureaustralia.org.au/newsroom/living-melbourne/>,
- Melbourne’s Future Planning Framework, chapter 9
https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/637925/innerse_chapter_09_sustainabilityresilience.pdf

And yet the proposed budget will remove the planned expenditure of \$0.172 million for the Urban Forest Strategy and \$0.35 million for the Additional Tree Planting program. We are concerned that the budget will affect the achievement of the goals in the Urban Forest Strategy to achieve the required vegetation cover. Currently most vegetation cover is on residential land, but with ongoing and increasing redevelopment and urban densification, this cover is being removed and proportion of space for vegetation and quantity of vegetation is decreasing.

For the health and wellbeing of the Bayside community, particularly the elderly, young and unwell, we need to combat the ongoing removal of trees in Bayside by planting both trees and understorey in streets and parks and caring for them so that they become established. These already committed budget measures are sustained medium term investments to make Bayside more livable. They will pay for themselves by reducing expenditure elsewhere mitigating climate extremes. Bayside should not abrogate its commitment to the strategy. We urge Council to reinstate these comparatively modest budget measures.

In addition, the budget report in the agenda for the Council meeting in April (<https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-04/29%20April%202025%20Council%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A637%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C0%2C770.92%2C0%5D>, page 112) says there will be no natural environment impacts or climate emergency impacts from the proposed budget that includes these two budget reductions. That’s clearly incorrect. The purpose of the impact statements at the end of reports is to highlight potential conflicts between specific measures and the Council’s strategic goals. We hope the Council was not misinformed when they voted to proceed with the budget, and we urge more care in agendas in future. Paul Foxworthy, Secretary on behalf of Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.

Secretary on behalf of Friends of Native Wildlife Inc

Thanks for the opportunity to review the draft annual budget for 2025-26. On page 28, \$709k is allocated to environmental sustainability including the Climate Emergency, which is good, but less than previous years. Specific actions should be listed to enable transparency and accountability, including ongoing actions related to the Bayside Climate Emergency Action Plan and new actions that emerge from feedback on the draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan. A number of items in the Bayside Climate Emergency Action Plan are being deferred in the 2025-26 budget: Urban Forest Strategy \$172k, Tree planting program \$350k, Carbon offsets \$117k, Green Money Program \$44k. What else has been cut from the Action Plan, e.g. community battery, climate risk assessment, etc? If funding for climate action is being cut, the council should explain to rate payers why this is being done.

Removing the urban forest strategy funding is a short-sighted decision. It is a statewide initiative. Councils in Victoria have been working tirelessly to achieve the canopy target. Bayside already had very low budget for implementing the urban forest strategy and removing it would likely end up being the only Council that doesn't invest in urban forest. It is embarrassing and shame!

I am astonished that the draft Budget does not include ongoing funding for a Climate Emergency Action Plan and the related Urban Forest program. Both provide valuable guidance and direction to help the community of Goldstein be protected from the increasing threat of climate related impacts.

Without such a framework we are going to have little effective overall prevention and/or mitigation of these impacts. They will also reduce the amenity of living in Bayside and will most likely cause increasing long term expenditure to be necessary from beach erosion, local flooding, heat stroke and other impacts.

I strongly object to the proposed changes to the 2025-26 budget to remove environmental initiatives including the Urban Forest Strategy, additional tree planting program and carbon offset scheme.

These are critical initiatives under the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Given the rapidly accelerating rate of impact of both climate change and denser development, these remain critical. Both are initiatives which will return benefits to Bayside over decades, but require sustained investment. Abandoning these efforts is completely unacceptable for a Council which has declared a Climate Emergency and whose constituents are supporting and expecting this action to continue as one of Council's highest priorities.

I'm pleased to see that \$23.2 million will be invested in Bayside's foreshore, parks, and open spaces. It's encouraging to see this Council prioritising tangible environmental outcomes and the protection of our natural assets, rather than pouring money into vague, pie-in-the-sky schemes that promise results but rarely deliver.

I fully support this year's budget—especially the concentrated investment in projects that truly benefit the community and our environment, along with the decision to freeze rates. It's a responsible and community-focused approach that reflects genuine leadership.

In your budget summary you say you are removing carbon credits. Is that right? Does this mean Bayside City Council will no longer be Carbon neutral? If so, doesn't this go against the high-level strategic view that the community wants Bayside City Council to recognise there is a climate crisis? It feels like a knee jerk reaction, and not strategically in line with what the community wants. It's like there is a fire in your backyard which could grow to threaten your home, but you decide to spend the day saving money by going to shop at Costco instead of dealing with it. Surely this isn't right. Can you confirm if this is correct, and if it is possible to review this decision?

I can't see Council's provision for climate crisis action. I understand costs are spread throughout services, projects, plans and strategies but I can't untangle them and connect budget to specific actions to adapt to the climate crisis. The last time I saw a budget approval for costs associated with the Climate Emergency Action Plan was in 2023-4 and was about \$450K. If I can't clearly see this information, it's difficult to know what Council is doing!

- Operational savings made by removing some environmental initiatives including Urban Forest Strategy additional tree planting program and carbon offset scheme.
- o What impact does this have on the strategy for tree coverage?
- o Reduction in carbon offset scheme – impact on net zero promise?

Incredibly disappointed that council have backflipped on climate action. Your Draft Budget for 2025/2026 shows cuts to environmental issues and continuing funding for the climate emergency doesn't appear anywhere. I have extreme concerns that a new plan may not be developed. When considering funding options, the cost of inaction far outweighs the cost of action. This is shortsighted. Not a council I can support with decisions like this.

I strongly object to any reduction in climate action funding in the Bayside Council budget, especially at a time when we are facing the existential threat of climate change.

The current budget suggestion states that it intends to remove "some environmental initiatives including Urban Forest Strategy additional tree planting program and carbon offset scheme." Reduced tree cover has been shown to create urban heat islands. Given that record breaking land and ocean temperature rises are being recorded world-wide, increasing canopy through an urban forest strategy is the quickest and most efficient method that we can undertake, to limit temperature rise.

As trees take years to reach maturity and given the increasing number lost to extreme weather and climate change, if anything we instead need to increase the number and type of plantings, not reduce them.

As such, maintaining and increasing the tree canopy is absolutely critical to keeping Bayside green, cool and liveable.

No other reduction in climate action funding should be undertaken either.

Carbon offset schemes however have increasingly come under scrutiny, and it has been found that they do not actually achieve their stated aims, due to how some are being structured and run. They generate revenue for individuals or companies but do not result in positive environmental outcomes.

I would suggest that these funds carbon offset funds should instead be reallocated to other more effective alternatives that will actively reduce emissions, such as more EV chargers. An increase in the number and location of fast EV chargers will help speed the transition away from ICE vehicles to low emissions vehicles, thus actually reducing transport pollution in Bayside.

More EV chargers may also be far more effective strategy to attract customers to shopping precincts than cosmetic upgrades.

Additionally, sustainability education (forums, meetings, "speed dating" and other resources) with and from sustainability experts, are a very effective method of helping households to begin their transition to energy efficient appliances and renewable energy, thus reducing our emissions and helping with energy security.

As such I believe these would be areas that should be funded in the Council budget.

Most importantly, I strongly recommend Council completely remove any funding consideration for economic development, particularly shopping street upgrades or tourism, which in my opinion are absolutely unnecessary and as such, are a total waste of taxpayer funds.

Instead, council should continue to fund any climate action to preserve Bayside itself.

Information Via BCCAG: "In the Draft Budget for 2025/2026 that has been released for consultation, there have been cuts to environmental issues and continuing funding for the climate emergency doesn't appear. We are extremely concerned that a new plan may not be developed." Also, I have noted that in your web page statement under Key Changes, you have stated "Operational savings made by removing some environmental initiatives including Urban Forest Strategy additional tree planting program and carbon offset scheme." Which are the environmental initiatives being removed?

These exclusions are unacceptable in the face of continuing climate problems such increased flooding, and drought in Western Victoria - to name a few that have occurred recently and are occurring right now.

Please explain why you do not wish to support many measures in place now and which will no longer be supported by the Budget for 2025-26.

I am concerned about the plan to reduce Council's surplus by 60% to only \$4.6 million. Please also ensure the budget includes sufficient funds for improved street tree watering and powerline clearance. There has been a very evident sad loss of many Bayside street trees in FY25 due to the current drought. A high proportion of these are young street trees planted within the last 3-4 years. Losing young trees before they are established for lack of water, and having to replant, is a waste of ratepayer's money. It's important that the budget includes sufficient money to adequately water young trees before and through the hot and dry summer months for at least 4 years. (Trees died in Spring this year). The Contractor should also have to demonstrate that regular watering is being undertaken to the contract specifications. It is also notable that pruning of street trees around power lines has been left too long and was potentially not be meeting legislative clearance requirements that are designed to reduce fire risk.

It appears there have been cuts to environmental issues and continuing funding for the climate emergency does not appear. for example, there should be an emphasis on households transitioning away from gas. It would be helpful in council could be a leader in helping households install batteries, or leading and push for a community battery or batteries. It is useless to say we can't afford more action because climate change is so closely connected to the economy. A small example is the sand being washed away from beneath the bathing boxes. Consideration needs to be given to coastal erosion. Where is the thought/action/plan for this?

Having read the proposed revised budget for Bayside Council, I am very disappointed to see the climate action being proposed to be cut, particularly the urban forest and the carbon reporting. This is a huge step backwards from the fully supported climate action a few years ago and goes against the Council's climate strategy and what the local people want.

As a local resident (Camperdown St Brighton East) and a local business owner, it is our view (whole family and business colleagues) that climate action should be increasing, NOT reducing. And if you cut out the carbon reporting, how can you continue to measure the good progress that council has made to date?

While we appreciate the cost-of-living pressures, the climate crisis continues to rapidly get worse. We should be spending ratepayers (our) money to reduce the threat while mitigating the issues. Removing the urban forest will make the problem worse for locals, and not measuring the carbon emissions and targeting reductions, will make the problem worse as there is no way to identify any progress. Resulting in more funds being spent on mitigation. It just does not make sense. Maybe an option for Council could be continuing to at least measure carbon emissions annually, maybe target carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and 2, but not necessarily certify with Climate Active, and use the \$100k or so saved from certification and offsets, to retain the Urban Forest? This may be a compromise but ideally all existing environmental programs should continue. I would rather pay slightly higher rates and continue with meaningful action, than have the environmental and climate programs cancelled. PLEASE do NOT cut the environmental budget. Bayside has a very high percentage of residences and businesses wanting action on climate change. This goes against the majority of local peoples wishes and the Council's climate policies.

The City of Bayside's population is multi-generational, so, as adults we must plan for the future for our young people to live their best lives. That means we should be continually planning improvements and aiming to leave our municipality in a better state. Our environment is fragile and under a lot of pressure and we must protect our precious coastline. The beach itself, cliffs, coastal scrub, flora and fauna, paths, ramps and stairs are all subject to storms, climate change and impact from humans. Bayside is blessed with many parks. They're a feature of our area and very necessary for our community's well being. They are heavily utilised and require continual monitoring, maintenance and refurbishment. With our ever increasing population, and imminent construction of multi storey apartment buildings, it becomes even more important to develop and maintain our natural environment. As a rate payer, I expect Bayside City Council to adequately budget for the improvement of our natural environment and to support and further develop the Climate Emergency Action Plan. There's always more to be done to provide for our children's future and Bayside Council should be prioritising this. I have become aware that Bayside City Council is planning to cut some key environmental programs in the 2025/26 Annual Budget. I feel this is shameful and doing our younger generation a disservice. With our ever-expanding population, we should definitely be increasing the spending. I urge Councillors to take immediate action on this issue.

I would like to see more money put aside with regards to the climate emergency. Air quality along Bayside busy roads is getting worse and studies have shown the detrimental impacts of poor air quality upon health especially for those who rely on cycling or walking to get to work. Can council encourage incentives for no or one car households? Discourage monster utes? encourage use of public transport? I am especially worried about those who rent and their access to community battery centres for cheaper electricity.

I strongly oppose the removal of support for the Urban Forest Strategy. In a world that is constantly warming, and where it is recognised that greening urban areas is a key part of the strategy to bring heat down, this change seems to be counterintuitive and not strategic. Our animals, our natural assets and ourselves will suffer because of this in the future.

The Bayside Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025 has been an excellent initiative. I'm very concerned that there is no allocation of funding for a new Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026-2030. Climate change adaptation is more important than ever. The term "Future Proofing" used in some council documents doesn't convey the importance of the climate emergency at hand and funding for environmental sustainability is less than in previous years. A staff member charged with implementing the action plan needs to be allocated. Funding for the Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Planting Program needs to be reinstated. These programs are essential for maintaining the liveability of bayside suburbs, protecting and restoring biological diversity as well as decreasing salinity and limiting erosion. Drainage continues to be a significant issue. The allocation of money for flood mapping needs to include projections of increased risk over the next decade. The risk assessment from the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils program needs to be funded and completed in order to get an accurate

picture of drainage requirements. The next stage of the Yakulit Willam Nature Reserve is an important part of this plan.

Why the pull back on tree planting? The current tree planting in Sandringham is not working, trees that planted are not being watered regularly until they are established and are dying, so wasted council money. Wrong size trees planted under power lines which then need to be lopped. Money being spent on parks etc, \$17m so why is the AJ Steele reserve looking like a dust bowl? Following the drainage upgrade in the reserve, grass seeding was done but no watering at all and the local wild pigeons helped themselves. Now there is no grass and only weeds, surely the planting of native grass and grass that is drought resistance be planted Or plant more shrubs, native trees etc. And the Bayside contractor turns up to cut whatever grass there is which is a waste of time, as there's little grass as it is.

The big cut seems to be the \$350K commitment to prioritise Urban Tree Planting for Highett and Pennydale, for which the HPA and community fought last year, so our suburb will continue to suffer the urban heat island effect while other suburbs retain funding for major projects. The budget proposal lists only \$38K in Highett road updates yet over \$10m for rejuvenation of Green Point and Wangara Road. I urge you to please reconsider funding for Highett and to do better.

RE: PROPOSED 25/26 BUDGET Dear Cr Hanna El Mouallem & Bayside City Council, while I appreciate that there will be no increase in rates this year, I am concerned that the funding proposed to be allocated in the 25/26 budget is not being equitably/appropriately spent. I have met with you, councillor, over the CSIRO project and watched many council meetings and have a great respect for your diligence in researching information prior to speaking. Additionally I appreciate that you were the only councillor who voted against the CSIRO proposal as it stood at the time. As a Highett resident I note funds are rarely spent in our suburb, nor have been over the last 10 years, and given the amount of development which has commenced and is proposed I feel strongly that much more is required. \$350K has been cut for Urban Tree Planting for Highett and Pennydale and given we have the least parkland and green space generally comparable to all Bayside, this is grossly unfair, particularly given the impending huge increase in population. ... A quick google search shows: "In total, \$22 million has been spent on the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Wetlands project over the last few years. This includes funding from the Australian Federal Government and Bayside City Council. Specifically, a \$5.5 million grant supported the construction of the wetlands and associated infrastructure, a \$10 million grant funded the Gateway Building and educational infrastructure, and a \$1 million grant helped build the Chain of Ponds". Given you are proposing to spend another \$9.1m I feel this is another area that is disproportionately advantaged over the Highett Community...

Question: The following cuts have been made to the environment budget. Is this just for the 2025-2026 year or will this be ongoing? What does this mean to our green spaces beyond the Wetlands Reserve? I think these are short sighted cuts.

- Additional tree planting program \$0.35 million
- Urban Forest Strategy \$0.172 million
- Carbon offset scheme \$0.117 million
- Green money program \$0.044 million
- New Initiative program reduction of \$0.5 million from \$1.5 million to \$1 million

Thank you to the Council and everyone who has worked to develop and communicate this budget. I'd like to advise that I am very disappointed to learn the funds for the Urban Forest strategy and additional tree planting has been cut from the budget. The information does not tell us how much is saved by this cuts. I urge the council to elevate the importance of these two initiatives and include them. It takes a long time to grow a canopy we cannot wait.

I would like to express my concern about the waste of money under your street planting program, there seems to be no after care for these trees, lack of water (over summer some are now dead) and restacking and care of these trees. Also planting inappropriate streets like gum nuts which drop nuts which are a danger to older residents.

...Once again, no additional funding evident for HIGHETT. Just a proposal to stop the tree regeneration, which was passed by the prior council. These trees are needed even more so with the proposed degrading of housing regulations by the Victorian government.

A reduction of tree planting in Highett and Hampton East as previously passed by council is further indication that Highett is not being looked after in a challenging climate emergency.
Disagree with cutting back on tree planting. We need more trees to help the planet, not less.
I am very disappointed with the deprioritisation of climate and environment! Where are the funds for community environmental education? And where is our commitment to Our Planet gone? Climate is the biggest risk facing our community and it looks like we've forgotten all about it! What about our kids future? We won't have tourist attractions like Dendy Beach and others in 10 years due to sea level rise! Extreme weather! Will the operational 'savings' from the scrapping of the carbon neutrality program be used for other climate programs? I hope so! I do not support this budget and am disappointed with the direction this new Council is taking. This is a very short-sighted budget!
Create more nature spaces, should exploit all possible spaces - helps with temperature control as well as providing wildlife corridors and natural spaces for people to enjoy.
We would like to express our concern about the Draft Budget for 2025/26. It appears that funding for environmental issues and specifically, initiatives to address the climate crisis, have been reduced. As Bayside residents we are immensely proud of Bayside Council's leadership in addressing the challenges we face both in caring for our local environment and addressing the climate crisis . There is no doubt that these actions taken by the Council are recognised and admired throughout Victoria and nationally. To reduce funding or priority to environmental and climate crisis initiatives sends a terrible message to all those who look to the Bayside Council for leadership.
I'm writing to express my concern that no allocation has been made for a Bayside Climate Emergency plan in the draft budget. In 2019, over 2000 people petitioned the council for an action plan which was forthcoming. The result was a detailed and comprehensive action plan which covered seven important themes. These themes are as relevant today as they were then. Whilst the council is taking action on many areas such as transport and waste, there remains a need for an overarching plan to ensure that decision making is based on proper assessments and projections for future change resulting from climate impacts. Has the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Plan, with sea level rise indicators and erosion hotspots, been used to inform the Bayside Coastal and Marine Management Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan? This is one example of the need for a long term plan to ensure that money is well spent. Decisions related to the important area of drainage will be impacted by the projections of increased flooding over the next decade. Will Bayside City Council fund a risk assessment using the Climate Resilience Council's 5 step program? The Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to plan for climate change risks. An action plan is the best way of ensuring this is happening in a methodical way with the appropriate level of funding. The Urban Forest Strategy, along with additional tree planting, are programs which are essential to reduce the impact of heat, increase canopy cover and support biodiversity through habitat. There needs to be an ongoing commitment to these essential programs which are related to the seven themes of the Climate Emergency Plan.
Bayside City Council proposed Budget I would like to thank Bayside City Council for the proposed draft Budget in helping to support the needs of the Bayside community. I appreciate the ongoing costs and maintenance in supporting the environment which has a positive impact on the health of the community. I acknowledge the proposed budget for the environment in proportion to other works is significant: <i>[Charts showing Council expenditure allocations]</i> With particular focus on these areas particularly the Yalukit William Nature Reserve which also depends on the goodwill of volunteers. However, I would like Council to review the proposed Budget and increase funding to support the needs of the environment that will help create a healthier Bayside community. This is particularly necessary in response to escalating Air Pollution, Climate changes and Biodiversity challenges. Please note that Bayside City Council already has in place several position papers to address the

urgent need of responding to Climate change, loss of biodiversity and developing a healthy and active community:

• Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025 • Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027 • Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025 • Bayside 2050 Community vision • Bayside's Municipal Public Health and Well-being Plan 2021-2025.

We highly value and acknowledge the work that has already been done by Council, Council officers, Councilors, and the community, to develop these position papers, and the countless hours of volunteers in helping to shape the progressive culture of our community in responding to environmental concerns. With more regular heatwaves and climate changes now occurring, the community highly value trees, native flora and fauna, and vegetation that are necessary for supporting biodiversity and human health. Trees are important for shade and cooling especially over the summer period. The unwell, elderly, and young children are particularly prone to the harmful effects of heatwaves.

Trees and vegetation along the coastline also assist with prevention of cliff erosion, especially in the face of accelerating effects of climate change and sea level rise.

Traffic fumes are a major contributor to urban air pollution in Australia. In line with international studies, Australian research demonstrates there is no safe level of air pollutants, even well below the threshold standards¹. Like smoking, air pollution is an independent risk factor for chronic diseases especially heart and lung disease, leading to higher risk of mortality². There has been an explosive number of studies in the last decade that demonstrate vehicle emissions causes harmful effects on health. Children, the elderly and people with pre-existing heart and lung disease, are at the highest risk of being harmed by air pollution from major roads. Studies demonstrate that trees filter noise and air pollution by protecting humans from exposure of vehicle emissions and by providing fresh oxygen and clean air.

There are worldwide efforts and strategies to develop urban forests and retain green spaces within an urban environment. These all help with air purification and climate regulation and highlight recognition of the health benefits these strategies have in our community^{3,4}. Studies and research demonstrate that planting more trees, encouraging leafy suburbs, greening urban spaces, parklands, and urban forests – all help to improve the general health of communities^{5,6}. Studies also demonstrate that parks situated within a 10-minute walk of people's homes can help mental health, improve health through regular exercise and improve community cohesion. It is for this reason that open spaces that are available at the Bayside should become opportunities for creating safe healthy walking tracks and picnic areas among urban forests. Studies have found that living in areas with higher proportions of green spaces is associated with lower risk of early mortality, especially cardiovascular mortality^{7,8}.

A review of the scientific literature found green spaces are associated with positive mental health outcomes⁹. Urban green space is also associated with improved general well-being and mental health^{10,11}.

Increased tree canopy is associated with improved sleep in middle to older-aged adults¹². A recent study analysing health data from over 100,000 Australians over a 10-year period, demonstrates that urban green space, particularly trees, can reduce cardiovascular disease risk¹³. A 10% increase in tree canopy cover within 1.6 km of a household was associated with a 3% reduced risk of early mortality.

Tree canopy cover was associated with reduction in risks of all-causes of mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, and heart attacks.

Trees, rather than open grassed area, produced the highest benefits for cardiovascular disease prevention. Trees improve air quality by reducing air pollution, which also reduces the incidence of asthma¹⁴, allergies, mental diseases, and psychiatric disorders^{15,16,17,18}. Trees also shade our cities, keeping us cooler over the summer months, which has several health benefits. Research during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns demonstrated those who spent more time in blue-green spaces e.g. beaches, lakes, rivers, parks, forests,... that is nature, coped better with the lockdowns and experienced beneficial support for mental health^{19,20,21}. In the City of Bayside, Council have helped nurture the urban forests along the coastline with pockets of open spaces for passers-by e.g. those driving or cycling to enjoy the views. The coastal vegetation tracks are highly popular for

walkers and joggers. In fact, sometimes, it is very crowded. People prefer to walk along a soft nature track away from busy roads, such as Beach Rd, to avoid exposure to vehicle emissions [air pollution] and the sounds of traffic [noise pollution]. If possible, expansion such as adding community open spaces, maintaining greener streetscapes (e.g. with native tree choices for native bird habitat), protection of existing trees, and planting more trees, must always be a priority to counter increased population density pressures, and the growing level of air and noise pollution from vehicles on major roads.

The value of natural assets of many small diverse green spaces (in addition to fewer existing, larger ones) - was felt strongly during the COVID pandemic, as they are great meeting places for community - where nature and safe playgrounds come together. There are enormous health benefits of blue and green open spaces that were appreciated over lockdown.²² Regardless of the busy economic, work, and educational lives that buzz on around us - it is these places (including foreshore, green belts, and golf courses) which make the serene quality of Bayside living a sought-after neighbourhood. We should be advocating strongly to protect natural ecosystems because they are essential for human health. Australia's natural environment is under enormous stress. We need to create community projects to foster a sense of ownership, responsibility, with initiatives to plant natives in pockets of nearly all open spaces.

<i>Creating a beautiful, nature rich, relaxing Bayside</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Solutions and Outcomes:</i>
Habitat expansion and protection	To protect and increase urban forests, native vegetation, and biodiversity within Bayside, and create more wildlife corridors.	Develop an Environmental Advisory Panel of local experts to work within Council and work with Environmental friend's groups, to help revise and implement the Biodiversity Action plan with a view to protecting and enhancing the natural landscape and biodiversity within Bayside.
Education of the community and authorities	Enhance the knowledge of our community and authorities who are working on the ground to help implement urban forests etc.	Create an Information package for new homeowners supplied by Council, welcoming new owners to Bayside, and why it is important to protect and retain the existing trees on their properties [unless harmful or at risk to human health] and plant more native trees and vegetation, including on their nature strip. Regular education of the local community about the need to retain trees for health benefits, plant more native vegetation and support the local community Nursery e.g. a dedicated section in the quarterly newsletter, <i>Let's Talk Bayside</i> , dropped off in everybody's letterbox, and also a dedicated section on the Council homepage website. Aim to convert the Bayside News <i>Let's Talk Bayside</i> to electronic version.
Fund City wide, more officers and other	More hands-on paid workers within Bayside to help	Council cannot rely on volunteers to maintain the green spaces. There are indemnity issues. Funding should be diverted for the following areas:

personnel to work in parks, open spaces to achieve our goals	maintain and create more green areas.	-more funding for people to weed in areas of need e.g. the foreshore reserves and a move away from spraying of herbicides -more funding for City wide or workers for revegetation and create more urban forests within Bayside wherever possible
Identify all open spaces in Bayside that can be converted and/or upgraded for urban forests.	Increase urban forests and revegetate with various size trees and plants wherever possible in Bayside. This will also help bring back some of the smaller birds, insects and other wildlife in Bayside.	Recent planting of trees in open spaces funded by the Jubilee donations is greatly valued by the community, but there is an opportunity to plant more trees, urban forests, low lying vegetation etc
Identify all nature strips in Bayside that can be vegetated with native plants	Increase tree canopy, and plant more low and high lying native vegetation	Revegetation of our nature strips will help keep the urban streetscape cooler. Black asphalt roads are heat sinks in summer and trees on nature strips can make a significant difference in keep our urban environment and houses cooler. They also become home to birds and other wildlife and help create a wildlife corridor. A kit of plants, with known attraction for small birds should be provided to all households with education on why this is necessary.
Night skies / Wildlife friendly lighting	To bring back the night skies and have only wildlife and friendly lighting	Develop and implement an evidenced based policy for wildlife friendly lighting, e.g. lights in the warm part of the spectrum on reserves, sports grounds, parks and foreshores, with use of timers and motion sensors etc. 
Grey-headed Flying-fox protection measures	To protect Grey Headed Flying Foxes (GHFF) from barbed-wire and fruit netting.	Develop and implement a barbed-wire policy with a view to 1) eliminating barbed wire where-ever possible on council land 2) Where not possible, to make it visible to GHFF 3) encourage other relevant councils and landowners to do the same. Implement a tree planting regime with an emphasis on providing food for the GHFF.

	To plant trees within Bayside, particularly suited to the GHFF.	
Insects and Butterflies	To protect and encourage butterflies and other insects within Bayside.	Work with Friends groups to develop and implement an insect friendly policy. E.g. the phasing out of herbicides and insecticides on Bayside land, as well as the planting of flowers, grasses with benefits for insects and butterflies. Work with friend's groups and local experts to implement these initiatives.
Healthy Soils, healthy people	To improve soil quality and avoid herbicide use.	Implement the phasing and/or minimisation of glyphosate eg Roundup use on Bayside properties through education of Bayside News 'Lets Talk Bayside' and on the Council homepage website. Implement evidenced based strategies to improve soil quality and microbiome diversity on council properties. Research demonstrates herbicides may be harmful to humans; the health effects of this herbicide spray for insects and pollinators such as bees and butterflies are also drastic. There is some research on how herbicides e.g. glyphosate harms soil but more research demonstrates its negative impact on human health. Here are some studies and articles expressing concerns of herbicides on soil and plants: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6918143/ https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.787958/full https://www.soilassociation.org/media/7229/glyphosate-and-soil-health-a-summary1docx.pdf https://permaculture.com.au/glyphosate-toxicity-impacts-on-the-environment-and-non-target-species/ https://www.biomineralstechnologies.com/farm-solutions/reduce-chemicals/effects-of-glyphosate-on-soils-and-plants
Avoid use of chemicals in Bayside	Improve the health of the community	This review article by experts on the harms of glyphosate herbicide, as used by Bayside to tackle weeds, on health: https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-016-0117-0 They conclude that: • GBHs are the most heavily applied herbicide in the world and usage continues to rise; • Worldwide, GBHs often contaminate drinking water sources, precipitation, and air, especially in agricultural regions; • The half-life of glyphosate in water and soil is longer than previously recognized; • Glyphosate and its metabolites are widely present in the global soybean supply;

		• Human exposures to GBHs are rising; • Glyphosate is now authoritatively classified as a probable human carcinogen; • Regulatory estimates of tolerable daily intakes for glyphosate in the United States and European Union are based on outdated science. Weed killer has harmful effects on human, marine and animal health, and some Councils are now banning its use. Bayside Council to please explore the <u>total ban</u> of its use in Bayside and implement more natural ways to tackle weeds. See for example this latest article and report in link: Philly parks are going organic with ban on synthetic weed-killers https://whyy.org/articles/philly-parks-are-going-organic-with-ban-on-synthetic-weed-killers/
Rubbish along foreshore coastal track, bush and beach	Keep our beaches and open spaces clean	Dedicated paid cleaners who can walk regularly along the beach, walking tracks and parks to pick rubbish e.g. at the top of cliffs, near/at car parks and along the beaches would be helpful please. Also, appropriate signage such as <i>"take your rubbish home, or help keep our beaches clean &/or this is a non-smoking beach"</i> and more patrolling for fines. The local community volunteers are constantly picking rubbish up daily during our morning walks along the beach especially after storms. It is tiring and the constant picking up rubbish, cigarette butts etc takes away the pleasure of a relaxing walk.
Water pollution	Keep Bayside beaches, lakes, and waterways clean. To attract and support frogs, water birds and other wildlife that depend on waters.	Port Phillip Bay is rich in marine life and a great asset to Bayside. PPB should be treated as a marine sanctuary as a whole. Unfortunately, beach cleaning truck causes breakdown of plastics on sand, and winds blow plastics onto sand, dunes and onto the waters; ingested by marine life...inevitably humans when caught and ingested Eg recent Sydney study reported in ABC found kilos of tiny fragments of plastic particles and debris break down on Sydney beaches Read the full story Yarra river plume carries plastics that is windblown especially with storms and also storm water pollution from inland are a source of rubbish. Can we organise for mesh baskets on storm water drains with fine enough wire to collect the tiny particles? Other sources of rubbish on our beaches include beach visitors who leave cigarette butts and rubbish on beaches, and fishermen. Dumping of rubbish and bilge wastewater from boats, or from fishermen on piers and rock groynes.

		Solutions for Bayside to address water pollution – creeks, beaches, and wetlands may include: • Contact Melbourne Water to place mesh baskets on all storm water drains. • Avoid single use plastics by local Bayside businesses as occurring in Victoria anyway- education campaign • Contact fisheries to promote keeping PPB [Bay] clean by people who take out fishing licences – Eg protect the Bay by not dumping rubbish or fishing tackles into the Bay • Extend the Marine sanctuary and create reefs/seaweed forest/sea grasses along Bayside foreshore – helps keep the bay clean and reduces erosion of coastline • Use paid cleaners to walk along foreshore to collect rubbish on our beaches especially after storms, as the rubbish truck actually breaks plastics • Start an education campaign with schools e.g. “Just1litter” – encourage children to pick “1 litter a day
Water quality in Bayside’s freshwater ponds, lakes, and wetlands	To enhance the quality and numbers of our fresh ponds, water lakes and wetlands	Work with Friends Groups to develop more water areas in parks and open spaces to support wildlife for frogs and insects.
Rickett’s Point Sanctuary	Identify marine habitats in Bayside and protect the Sanctuary into the future	Keep dogs off the beach and protect the site. Identify other significant marine sanctuaries in Bayside in reef systems. Consider artificial reef systems for many parts of Bayside beaches to help support marine life, and reduce risk of coastal erosion.
Pest management:	To enhance biodiversity by actively managing known pest species	Recruit workers to work with Friends groups to develop and implement evidence- based pest management strategies e.g. Indian minor birds, foxes, non-native rats, cats outside of curfew hours, etc
Planning scheme amendment	To protect Bayside’s significant trees	Review our planning scheme amendment with a view to: • Protecting all of Bayside’s significant trees with a vegetation overlay • Putting a \$ value on trees and investigating placing a \$ fee for the removal of trees, should there be no options for them to be removed. • Using a bond system to ensure compliance with promised planting of trees. • Ensure the ecological value of trees is properly evaluated prior to any decision for their removal is made.

		Consider orders, where dead or dying trees of significant value, are retained, even once they are dead and or their trunks are kept.
Solutions for Bayside to help reduce and address air pollution	Help educate the community of the risks of vehicle emissions and the harms of air pollution	Educate Community, Schools, Parents and Teachers of the harms of vehicle related air pollution e.g. idling at 2 minute drop off points at schools can create high vehicle emissions. The incidence of childhood asthma is high and reducing air pollution can help reduce the risk of developing healthier lungs and asthma. Educate by way of regular dedicated nature articles in “<i>Lets Talk Bayside</i>” news and/or write to Principals/teachers to educate students and their parents through school newsletters and by using existing proven projects such anti-idle-project set up by respiratory experts. Aim is to stop idling vehicles at 2-minute drop offs at Bayside schools but also in busy car parking areas such as shopping centres once parents/community become aware of harms of vehicle emissions and air pollution. See https://www.idleoff.com.au/ Create a Built Environment to encourage a healthy environment with less vehicles on the road e.g. creating more pedestrian and bike paths, boulevards with no vehicles and more outdoor cafes and restaurants in Bayside. Retain trees and plant more trees wherever possible - nature strips, open spaces etc.

Summary Aim for a healthy community and green Bayside with clean air, water, and land. • Mitigate all pollution where possible in air, water, and land [as discussed above] • Avoid toxins and chemicals in the environment wherever possible. • Promote and increase the numbers of open spaces in Bayside - they're precious parcels of land. • Protect trees to the utmost degree. We just can't keep building new housing and remove trees. • Plant more trees and create urban forests in any open spaces still available with walking tracks for the community [including dogs] to enjoy. • Plan green corridors wherever possible, to promote biodiversity and protect wildlife. Promote understanding and community education of nature's links to healthier communities, and cleaner environments. • Add more green spaces to promote physical, social & psychological well-being. • Value a healthier Bayside community.

To fulfill our goals of protecting the Bayside environment and community requires a greater allocation of funding for the Environment and review the proposed budget to increase allocation of funding to these areas please: Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Strategies to mitigate Air Pollution in Bayside eg Anti-idling projects – see lecture attached with link to the project Park improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan Biodiversity Action Plan Plant more trees in open spaces.

Former President Sandringham Foreshore Association

PLEASE CONTINUE TO FUND CLIMATE EMERGENCY RELATED ACTIVITIES

In December 2019, I was one of 20 Baysiders who spoke before Council on the night that Bayside Councillors voted unanimously to declare that we are in a Climate Emergency. Council chambers were packed that night. It meant so much to climate-concerned Baysiders, importantly including younger people, that Council would treat the climate crisis seriously and that appropriate Council-funded responses would ramp up.

In the years since, Council has initiated and supported various Climate Emergency responses, activities, and programs. I am aware that many Baysiders have been helped by these activities, not only to reduce their personal greenhouse-gas emissions but in many cases to also reduce their energy bills, reduce their cost of living, and to improve the health and comfort of their homes.

I am upset, and many other Baysiders are, or would be upset to hear that Council now intends to reduce or eliminate funding for Climate Emergency responses.

Now is not the time for backsliding. We remain in a Climate Emergency. Indeed it is a long emergency, and we need sustained efforts to ever reach a stable climate.

Importantly, climate-positive Council actions send the message to younger people that “the adults”

in positions of responsibility share their concern for their future and have chosen not to neglect their responsibilities.

It smacks of Trumpism to hear of Councils around Melbourne pulling funding for climate-positive actions. The federal election just past shows that Australians have strongly rejected Trumpism and instead support strong climate action.

I strongly request that Council continue to fund and support Climate Emergency response activities.

6.1.2 Warm Water Pool deferral

I'm also sad to see the deferral of the warm water pool, which would be a major benefit for sick and elderly residents. Residents (many now very elderly) have been fighting for this for decades since a hospital pool was demolished in favour of apartments. When my 8-year-old-son was being treated for leukaemia, the warm water pool was a huge comfort.

Today I received a late communication from the CFO....expressing his understanding of how '..... disappointed (I would be that) the Warm Water Pool is proposed to be deferred, pending an aquatics feasibility study during 2025-26'.

While I appreciate that the Communication team has seen the need drop the initial announcement of an 'indefinite' deferment of the project, I most definitely do not consider it '..... prudent to pause progress on the Warm Water Pool to enable (yet another) aquatics strategy to be developed in 2025-26, identifying the best outcomes for meeting our community's aquatic needs into the future and ensuring we deliver value for residents and ratepayers'.

To put it plainly, Bayside residents have been engaging with Council for decades and decades over the aquatic needs of our community, including the provision of the Sandringham Family Leisure Centre, given we were the only municipality without pool access. To now defer the community Warm water pool under the guise of refurbishment is more than 'disappointing'. To allocate another .35 million is a wasteful expenditure.

I believe the wider community who have wholeheartedly endorsed the Warm water pool project under our Health and Wellbeing Plan, would be alarmed to note under the Summary of Financial position, (p12, para 2):

Council's Long Term Financial Plan has a reducing underlying surplus as well as a reducing unrestricted cash balance which will make it difficult for Council to fund large renewal projects into the future including the refurbishment of the Sandringham Family Leisure centre. The Aquatics Strategy will consider both the long term plans for the Sandringham Family Leisure Centre pool and the Warm Water Pool facility.

Our community Health and Wellbeing objectives are not being met, and our growing population needs will only be exacerbated without timely intervention. On behalf of current, and future Bayside residents looking to preserve their independent living ability, I ask that Council reconsiders any deferment.

To accept the recommendation of further reviews is a wasteful expenditure, and will disillusion the community, as they question the prospect of the warm water pool ever being delivered.

I condemn the recommendation in the Bayside budget 2025-2026 to defer indefinitely the building of the Warm Water (Hydrotherapy) Pool. This recommendation is in direct opposition to the Bayside Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, which endorses the building of the WWP because it is much needed and because Bayside does not already have such a facility, despite its ageing demographic and that 20% of Bayside residents have a disability.

The money to build the WWP has been diverted into non urgent projects. This is an insult to all the residents who have been waiting for the WWP. Nothing could be more discriminatory and sadistic than for Council to know that people will die while waiting to get respite from painful conditions.

Council reaps in a large amount of rate revenue from our older residents. Together with the windfall profits from being an Aged Care Provider, this means that Councillors can say they will freeze rates for all ratepayers. What this actually means is that older residents are funding the rate freeze.

Councillors have said Bayside's population will increase and that a larger Warm Water Pool will be needed for hydrotherapy purposes. Unfortunately, they do not understand that due to the need to keep the water temperature at 34°, it is not practical to have a very large Warm Water Pool. The larger of the two Warm Water Pools in the current project is suitable for heating purposes. A better solution is to refine the design to reduce building costs of the current project, to be built as soon as possible, and incorporate another hydrotherapy-type pool into the Sandringham Leisure Centre facility, if it is ever rebuilt.

My main concern with the budget is that it seems to me that some projects are deferred for the time being and we don't know if they will ever be considered again e.g. The funds for the Warm Water Pool have been reallocated to several other projects. Is it not possible to set aside these funds, essentially tying them to the project in the future? That way we know it isn't forgotten. I understand

this project has been around for decades without action and it keeps being deferred and deferred. I'm hoping for it to be part of a sports rehab and wellness centre within the aquatic centre plans! Thanks!
I object in the strongest possible terms to the proposal to indefinitely defer building the long overdue and much needed Warm Water Pool. The redistribution of the WWP funds to other projects which are not as urgent is an insult to all those residents who anticipated that the Warm Water Pool would begin construction this year. It is also a disgraceful betrayal of all those people who have been involved in the discussions, research, consultations and meetings, who were led to believe that Council listened to, and cared about them. Council profits financially from the rates that older residents in particular have contributed to Bayside (before and since amalgamation). In addition, Council profits from its role as an Aged Care provider for both Bayside and Glen Eira. Instead of seeing older residents through the lens of a cash cow, the Council should see that it is incumbent upon them to direct funds towards infrastructure which would be beneficial to older residents Health and Wellbeing. This infrastructure would also benefit other members of the community.
I am extremely disappointed the Warm Water Pool has been postponed. Costs will only rise the longer it is deferred. If it was commenced now it may be completed before more works were needed at Tulip street. Bayside has no Warm Water Pool, which are used pre and post operatively, to say nothing of people with disabilities who have to travel longer distances, which then adds to their costs. It was very good Bayside took over Glen eira Aged Care. The rate freeze for one year will not help in the long term financially. The Fire Service Levy will increase and rate payers won't notice a lot of difference.
The warm water pool is a vital health facility for the residents of Bayside. It would serve all ages in the community who require water therapy. Currently, all users have to be transported out of Bayside to access the very few facilities elsewhere. If users are utilising the care services of Bayside Council for this transport, that's an extra cost on our rates. If the money allocated is spent elsewhere, that money is gone. Given the work which has gone into planning for this much needed facility, it's very important to complete the project. There is a sense that all the community consultation has been for nought. Does this then create a negative perception of what is meant by community consultation and in the future, less people will want to engage in this valuable process?
Why divert money from a plan that has already had stages completed. I'm 35 but still see the benefit of the warm water pool.
Aquatic centre: This facility is really important for Bayside imo. We have a massive ageing population issue who need to manage / maintain their mobility. Many people would benefit from this facility recovering from injury along with those with disabilities & carers. It's sad that other municipalities already have these and Bayside continues to lag behind. I notice this had been deferred pending an investigation of aquatic centres. I'd recommend the councillor group go together to the Glen Eira pool as it is outstanding. We desperately need this facility so I hope the postponement won't be more than 1 year. Having lived here for 30+ years with little to no facilities for special needs we've all waited long enough.
What a pity that Bayside council have postponed the construction of the warm water pool, and are just stringing the public along with a 'feasibility study.' This pool is urgently needed in Brighton, and it will also serve neighbouring suburbs like Elwood and Hampton, which have no facilities like this. Port Phillip Bay is simply too cold for swimming all through the year - it is only just bearable in Summer. This proposed warm water pool should be an investment in people's health, for the present, and well into the future. Exercise in warm water is a very effective way to ward off the ailments of older Bayside residents - arthritis, joint pain, circulation and cardiovascular health - all are greatly helped by gentle aquatic exercise. Will this postponed pool ever be built? I'm beginning to doubt it.
As an 82 yo who has lived in Brighton and paid rates all my adult years, I'm very disappointed that the hydrotherapy pool has been put on hold. Currently I travel to Moorabbin for hydrotherapy so I'm very disappointed
I am extremely disappointed the warm water pool has been postponed. Bayside has NO warm water pool which could be used by residents pre and post operatively (we do have an ageing population) but also used by people with disabilities of all ages.
Overall the allocation of most budget levels appear reasonable, HOWEVER I AM SO ANGRY AND DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR LONG AWAITED WARM WATER POOL DEVELOPMENT IS YET

AGAIN PLACED ON THE BACK BURNER AFTER PROMISES WERE MADE ONLY LAST YEAR THAT IT WAS TO PROCEED. Council has a lot to answer for THIS COMPLETE TURN AROUND.

Warm Water Pool

The warm water pool deferral should be reviewed. It seems to have been categorised as an Aquatic centre where it is really a rehabilitation and therapeutic asset. Currently there is no such facility in Bayside. In my recent experience the travel to a from the nearest facility would have negated the benefit gained.

I'd like to let the council (and the counsellor for my Ward of Boyd) know that I was thrilled when I saw in the Let's Talk Bayside magazine that a key advocacy priority was a Warm Water Pool! However when I attended the Bayside Healthy Ageing Representative Group (BHARG) yesterday I discovered that this was being deferred for 12 months or indefinitely (depending on your source of information).

I'd just like to register my dismay that the council is putting such a vital health facility for rehabilitation and therapy for all ages (and abilities) on the back burner to languish forever when it could bring the community together in a positive wellness space.

Unfortunately I am not up to going out at night so am unable to be at the council meeting tonight. Would you please let me know, as a Bayside resident of over 25 years, how I can do something about this lack of priority (and lack of opportunity).

Several years ago when news about a warm water pool was to be developed, my husband were delighted since there isn't one available in Bayside. The benefits of a warm water pool would have been available for all members of the community, young, old & those with disabilities. And then nothing happened.

After reading the April 2025 edition of 'Lets Talk Bayside,' our hopes were raised once again, but today we learned that this vital project has been deferred indefinitely. This is extremely disappointing given there is a great community need.

We request that Bayside councillors reconsider the warm water pool as a high priority.

I am an older resident of Bayside, a retired Physio with a diploma in Hydrotherapy and am passionate about the need of a Warm Water Pool in Bayside. I would like to explain the benefits of Hydrotherapy for all residents of Bayside regardless of age.

Some of the benefits include:

Relaxation of muscles, along side the buoyancy of water improves the range of movement

This same buoyancy means that weight bearing exercise can be introduced earlier facilitating normal patterns of movement and reducing length of time of rehab post fracture or surgery.

The warmth of the water relieves pain, thus making it easier to move, and the pressure of the water reduces swelling.

Exercises can be made harder or easier by the position of the body in water and the equipment used, either flotation devices, resistance equipment or just the speed with which the exercises are performed.

Hydro therapy is a very time .efficient format to exercise the whole body.

It's fun and social , being in bathers is a great social leveller, it also keeps older people well and active and able to remain in their own homes.

But the benefits are for all ages, any one recovering from trauma, surgery or those with disabilities of all ages , including sports people.

It is also an ideal medium to make toddlers water safe.

It would also be a revenue raiser as Private Physios would be very happy to pay for the use of the facility.

I can envisage that the Pool would be in constant use from early in the morning to late at night to cater for those in the workforce, babies and retirees

I hope I have convinced you of the benefits to all rate payers in Bayside and will reconsider the funding for the Warm Water Pool in Bayside in next year's budget

I made contact prior to the holiday break seeking a suitable time to introduce myself and the many excellent volunteering aspects in our ward; including of course the Council priority hydrotherapy/warm water pool project.

It seems our busy lives have become more constrained by the unexpected decision at Council to 'indefinitely' postpone the pool project.

As you are aware some of us managed to be in the gallery for the first budget discussion. While I appreciated each contribution put forward by individual councillors it was a distressing night; as each of the ameliorating suggestions have been trialled over the many years our community group has worked with Council.

I first became involved in trying to help restore the innovative Hampton Rehabilitation hospital hydrotherapy service, when I assisted my mother at the makeshift Berendale school pool. Here I met the wonderful (then Connect, now Better Health) pool volunteers, [NAME REDACTED]. The commitment and warmth of these remarkable women has been outstanding.

I also have great admiration for the work of [NAME REDACTED] in assisting to resolve the lack of hydrotherapy when access to the shared school pool was arbitrarily ceased in 2016. My mother (a resident of Sandringham for 94 years) was part of Bayside's original bussing attempt to access neighboring Council facilities. This trial was short lived as it required much time, and money, in finding and coordinating adequate safe transport. As we worked to find creative solutions my then 91 yr old mother used to wryly comment to Patsy, 'I would like to see a pool before I die'. Sadly now our dear friend Patsy has died last week, and I pay tribute to all the incredibly stoic women who have persevered through Covid restrictions, and the long timeline in getting our community project started. As a now Beaumaris resident, I am very familiar with the maintenance saga of the Tulip St Family Leisure Centre, having been involved in providing recreation opportunities, and swimming instruction, since it first opened. I do hope together we can find solutions to meet rehabilitation and mobility maintenance needs. Not just for the growing number of senior residents, but for all ages in our community.

I am writing to express my concern re the deferment of the warm water pool construction, I am part of the group who have lobbied for some years now, I am hoping you can put your strength and connections into promoting this construction. I am elderly and partly disabled, a warm water hydro pool run by council with appropriate professional staff to assist would be just wonderful. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

I have recently been advised that, after promising to build a hydro pool in Bayside, Council now intends re-classifying the project in the budget Papers as "indefinite". This is a most disappointing and devastating decision for ratepayers. Your "backflip" also destroys ratepayers' faith in any future promises you may make.

I have been a ratepayer in Bayside for over 50 years and Chairperson and member of several Council committees. A businesswoman and trained nurse I was the CEO of the Royal Victorian College of Nurses – the then nurses professional organization – and Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation – the Nurses' Union. I am therefore aware of the absolute necessity of a hydro pool for medical purpose.

Bayside has a large proportion of older/elderly ratepayers – 35.3 % are aged over 55 years. Over one-third of the population! 20% of ratepayers have a disability. A hydro pool is a necessity – not a luxury. Having been in charge of a Government budget of millions of dollars I know that all projects are "necessary" and "urgent". Some are more "urgent" and "necessary" than others; a hydro pool in Bayside is one of these.

The fact that this Council has not spent a cent on infrastructure for the elderly since its inception thirty-one years ago tells a sad story. Council's expenditure of millions of dollars on sports grounds and other facilities for the younger population of Bayside is a clear indication of Council's lack of care, attention and appreciation of its older members. It shows no understanding or appreciation of what our elderly residents have contributed to our community.

As a Bayside ratepayer it makes me embarrassed and angry. As an elderly Bayside ratepayer it makes me extremely embarrassed and angry! I have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in rates. I expect my Council to provide services that I really need in my older years. Older ratepayers have many disadvantages - but a lot of us have "time" – time to door-knock, text and protest.

I urge you to reconsider your budget priorities for this coming financial year and re-instate the building of a hydro pool as a priority. Many of us need a hydro pool as a matter of urgency. Take the first step! Spend council funds on infra-structure for the elderly. **SHOW US YOU CARE!**

I do not understand why \$ allocated for the warm pool can be given to other projects whilst the feasibility study is completed.

Hydrotherapy will be a growing need and recently I went to the waves pool which was quite cold in the lap pool but the waves pool was warm but busy.

[CEO and Councillors] The proposal in the budget to indefinitely defer the building of the Warm Water (Hydrotherapy) Pool sounds good in theory, but ignores the impact of time on older residents. They have been dying while waiting to access hydrotherapy. Just this week our dear BSAG committee member, [name redacted] died. [She] volunteered in several capacities throughout Bayside. She learnt about hydrotherapy when her late husband (also a BSAG committee member) volunteered to be on the Bayside Older Adult Group (BOAG) committee in 2003 to look into an alternative hydrotherapy facility to the Hampton Rehabilitation Hospital hydro pool, which was closed by the then state government in 2002. 50% of this facility had been paid for by the community and began operating in the 1980s. Meanwhile hydrotherapy pools were appearing in other municipalities, because health professionals could see the huge benefits of this drug free therapy. BOAG and the Highett branch of the Bendigo bank joined forces to renovate the pool and

bathrooms at the Berendale Specialist school to be used jointly by the school and hydrotherapy for adults in 2010. This was considered a temporary solution because only 9 hours per week were available for hydrotherapy use. In addition, there were multiple health and safety issues. Plus, it was not available during 12 weeks of school holidays. She volunteered there for 2 to 3 sessions per week as an in-pool attendant. This required ongoing training to assess client health and perform a rescue, if required.

She campaigned for about 3 years to get heating in the bathrooms.

Access to hydrotherapy was reduced to less than 3 hours per week beginning in 2017 when there was a change in principal, which coincided with the complete cessation of cleaning in bathrooms. Access ceased completely in 2020.

She always predicted that she wouldn't live to see a hydrotherapy facility in Bayside. Many other committee members and residents have also died while waiting. Perhaps this is of no concern to you, but it means people's health and wellbeing, as well as quality of life has been compromised. They could have been living a better life, but were (and still are) prevented from doing so.

provided on behalf of BSAG

[CEO and Councillors] Some of you have not been in Bayside for very long, so are unaware of the contributions made by seniors to this community which we love.

Many seniors have lived in Bayside for several decades, or their whole lives. They have contributed financially in the forms of council rates for many decades and supported local businesses. Most businesses would not survive today without their patronage Monday to Friday when younger people are working or getting an education. Dark hair in cafes Monday to Friday can be a novelty! They have contributed through volunteering, whether through specific organisations like Council's Friends groups, and fund-raising for schools, kindergartens and sports clubs, and keeping an eye on vulnerable neighbours, and childminding. Many are still volunteering.

Older women in particular have been the backbone of this community. They have supported and cared for their families, while simultaneously studying and working, without access to childcare facilities. They have supported men's sporting facilities, while being denied participation themselves. So, while councils in the main spent funds on men's sports, women volunteered to staff the canteen, provide and cut the oranges, fundraise, wash the dirty uniforms and provide meals at the end of their "day off" from the paid workforce.

Most of the older women I know still volunteer, some every day. They are the do-ers in our community. Until the need for a hydrotherapy-type facility became critical, they didn't ask for anything from the council. Their rates paid for facilities for younger people. Facilities which are only used part of the week, or part of the year, whereas a hydrotherapy-type pool will be used every day.

Council is not used to building infrastructure for older people, who will be the main users of a WWP Monday to Friday. Somehow council expects older women to keep contributing, without providing facilities essential to their wellbeing. Why is Council so neglectful of older people, particularly women?

on behalf of BSAG

[CEO and Councillors]

At the most recent council meeting Cr Taylor Haynes suggested the possibility of bussing residents to the Danny Frawley Centre to access their hydrotherapy pool.

Unfortunately, this is not practical for many reasons:

the pool is too small. It only accommodates 8 users

there are design issues so that cold winds in winter whip into the pool which is near the front door

the disabled shower has a tap which must be continually pressed for water to flow, meaning people with balance issues and disabilities cannot use it without assistance

limited times in which the pool is available to the public (see attachment)

poor maintenance/mould and rust in bathrooms

poor management that permits children to literally jump into the hydro pool from 3pm ☹️

bussing to GESAC in East Bentleigh was trialled several years ago without success. People had to meet at a central pick-up point, meaning some people were paying for taxis to and from this location, which was prohibitive cost-wise. And it was only offered for one trip a week. You would need a dedicated bus running constant trips, collecting participants from and returning them to their homes to have a practical impact. These days GESAC's WWP is so busy that there are infrequent times when a bus load of people could be accommodated.

Council's Manager of Aged Care Services can provide you with further information about the bus trial.

It should be noted that the high usage of GESAC's East Bentleigh pool occurs despite another pool in their new Carnegie aquatic facility, a hydro pool at Better Health Network in East Bentleigh and a further hydro pool at the Caulfield hospital, which can be used at certain times by the public.

on behalf of BSAG

[CEO and Councillors] Your plan to indefinitely defer the building of the Warm Water (Hydrotherapy) Pool has not been adequately conveyed to the Bayside community. Most residents will be ignorant of this intention.

Two weeks ago, council's emails referred to seeking funding for the WWP project (see first two attachments), with no mention of an indefinite deferral.

Last week council sent out an email about the Budget, again with no mention of the indefinite deferral (see third attachment).

In addition, the consultation period is extremely brief, finishing on the 21st of May. It is only 3 weeks and 1 day from the council meeting date (29th of April) where this was announced. How does any of this poor, inadequate communication and misleading information conform to a clear and transparent process?

How have you conveyed your intention to those who do not/cannot use emails?

Because we no longer have a local newspaper where this sort of information could have been published, BSAG members have in the past suggested that important information should be conveyed via Let's Talk Bayside and rates notices. A majority of residents will be reached this way. on behalf of BSAG

[CEO and Councillors]

[Personal content redacted] Several years ago when we undertook a hard copy petition to have a hydrotherapy-type pool in Bayside, many hundreds of U3A members signed this petition. They expect the project to go ahead.

on behalf of BSAG

I recently met [name redacted] on a Bayside Bus Tour and we commenced talking about a mutual topic of hydrotherapy. She kindly gave me your details so that I could make myself known and give you some feedback on what the local residents of Bayside are definitely missing and what our priority needs are as I have lived in Sandringham for 26 years.

From information I have received the proposed hydrotherapy pool in Bayside was approved by council in 2023. It was to be located on part of the Brighton Golf Course in Dendy Street. All the preparation work including cultural surveys has been completed.

The new Council is hesitant to spend the money (approx. 30 million). I feel that we need to inform the six new Councillors of the whole picture with regard to a hydro pool. As being new on the scene they need to be made aware of the necessary impact this would make for our region and all the previous planning and preparation that has been made for this promised hydrotherapy pool.

The Bayside area is vastly an aging demographic and urgently requires the facility of a hydrotherapy pool. Bayside has been without any hydrotherapy facilities for as long as I can remember.

The Council has prioritised sporting facilities, lifesaving buildings both at Dendy Beach and Black Rock which I believe the buildings alone cost \$30 million.

I am forced to drive to the Bentleigh Pool in Gardeners Road twice a week as I cannot go without this exercise. This is due to my age, 72 and previous operations. There are many in my position and life would certainly improve greatly if we had our own hydrotherapy pool in Bayside. I have one class at 9am in the morning and it takes me an hour to get there with the peak hour traffic.

The City of Glen Eira has four hydro pools and even though we are an ageing population there are none in Bayside.

Bayside has provided abundant and costly facilities for sporting, lifesaving, and parks.

Unfortunately, our older population is becoming more invisible and disregarded. This is a terrible situation when I am sure that our age bracket is extremely high in Bayside and we would be paying most of the rates and taxes so therefore it would be appreciated if our needs are considered and implemented.

I have taken the time to make contact as I would be interested in your advice on this important matter and if there is anything I can do to assist.

[CEO and Councillors]

I am a Bayside resident of over 26 years and have been actively participating in hydrotherapy for over 30 years. The Bayside area has an enormous ageing population and the Council is responsible for providing adequate Aged Care.

I would like to ask a question with regard to the description of the pool as "Warm Water Pool"? Can you please clarify this in detail? If this pool is to be used for Hydrotherapy and it is a warm water pool, it needs to be heated for this purpose up to 34 degrees C. I mention this because if the pool is only warm (cooler than a Hydrotherapy temperature, it is totally not beneficial at all).

Bayside does not have a Hydrotherapy/Warm water pool. Glen Eira has four, Mordialloc is in the process of providing one whilst, Bayside Council has no facilities whatsoever and have put on hold the proposal for one.

There is the Danny Frawley Centre (St Kilda Football Club) which unfortunately primarily caters for members, swimming lessons for adults and toddlers. There is a hydrotherapy pool but

unfortunately the public transport does not go directly to the doorstep or even close to the location. Also, the operating times are limited for the general public. I have also noted that there are insufficient change rooms for groups of people doing hydrotherapy and the facilities are not adequate totally for elderly people. Showers in main ladies' bathroom need to be used by pressing a wall button which is very hard to press and keep down.

I am concerned that if this Hydrotherapy/Warm Water pool does not commence being built I will be dead and long gone when eventually one is built.

I note that the Let's Talk Bayside Issue 90 April – May 2025 features

"KEY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

WARM WATER POOL

We are seeking \$10 million in funding to complement Council's investment in a specialist warm water pool facility at Brighton Golf Course to provide gentle exercise and rehabilitation within Bayside for our ageing community."

Why the sudden change of mind with the Council putting this on hold indefinitely? Money cannot be an issue.

When there is \$30 million dollars in the Council's Bank Account there is no excuse.

I am disappointed that so much money has been spent on so many other new projects such as the Life Saving Clubs, Beachside Café, Sporting Clubs and grounds. This is directed at the young population of Bayside and the balance of monies and consideration for the older residents has not adequately been felt relevant. It will possibly be that by the time the younger residents reach our age they will then be able to enjoy a Warm Water/Hydrotherapy Pool that we have missed out on.

I am forced to drive to the Bentleigh Pool to attend hydrotherapy and in peak hour traffic it can take up to 45 minutes to reach. The facilities are definitely dated and requiring constant repair, so I do not know how much longer it will be feasible to keep this ongoing. Therefore, it is vital that Bayside provide its ratepaying residents with a warm water/hydrotherapy pool within our area and close proximity right now.

Time is the essence and if this is put off indefinitely after all the announcements, promises and commitments it will be devastating for our residents, particularly the elderly. I am actually flabbergasted that a warm water/hydrotherapy pool has never been built in this day and age. We know that exercise of any kind is imperative to keeping fit and well. Hydrotherapy/warm water relaxes and supports the muscles and limbs, enabling people with arthritis, injuries or post operative care to improve and achieve a better level of mobility and life.

The provision of a warm water/hydrotherapy pool is vital for a healthy, ageing population and this is what should be foremost in your consideration. Money cannot buy health, happiness or quality of life.

I am actually begging you to reconsider your decision to indefinitely put the warm water/hydrotherapy pool on hold. We need this yesterday, and any more stops compromises the health of your aged constituents and everyone living in Bayside.

I hope you will all reconsider your decision on the Warm Water/ Hydrotherapy pool after reading this and many other letters which have been directed at councillors as this important proposal urgently needs to take place now and definitely no later.

I look forward to receiving your advice on this matter and am definitely hoping for a happy result.

I fully support the deferral of the warm water pool (which is probably only accessible by wealthy people) but feel that the Sandringham Leisure Centre pool is an important community asset given that it enables affordable access to swimming for many families.

Upgrade the Sandringham Leisure Centre to 50m plus a hydro pool and defer the warm water pool. Common sense.

I support the focus on core infrastructure projects. The warm water pool seems an enormous outlay for use by a minority of the community, so I pleased that it has been deferred. Let's make use of one in another precinct and avoid the expensive construction and maintenance costs. Surprisingly, several residents have commented that they don't understand the zero rates increase and would have accepted the 3% increase.

Redistribution of funding to from the warm water pool to the alternate projects is great. Please can you also consider another playground in this area be addressed too.

Hopefully, now we have seen off the prospect of a Federal Liberal Government for a number of years, the ridiculous proposal for a warm water pool at the Brighton Golf Club can be well and truly sent off to the transfer station for burial deep in landfill and any funds the council was going to have to put into it are used for some far more useful and helpful resources or infrastructure for Bayside Ratepayers. Thanks

Happy to see the glorified boomer hot tub project deferred (hopefully, permanently). Use that money to rebuild Sandringham Family Leisure Centre - look at how good the redevelopment at Carnegie memorial pool.

Am impressed and grateful that Council decided to defer the proposed Dendy St warm water pool. [REDACTED] the risk associated with investing in such large, complex and high maintenance industrial services may often outweigh the realised community benefit.
I am pleased that the warm water pool is postponed because I believe its function was too limited. We need a multipurpose pool (complex) in the area that will cater to water activities for all ages and abilities, such as the pools in Glen Eira. The cost of the warm water pool seems to be too high for its limited function.
Glad to see common sense applied to the indulgence of a warm water pool.
A full review of the long-term aquatic needs of the bayside community needs to be developed. Having only 1 or 2 lanes available at the Tulip St. 25m pool after 5. Is simply not acceptable for the whole of bayside. Many swimmers use pools in other councils because bayside city council is inadequate.
Great news on the permanent deferral of the glorified hot tub for boomers (warm water pool).
I think that the warm water pool should be incorporated into the Middle Brighton Baths, because our beaches are such a highlight for Bayside. Surely we should improve the beautiful Middle Brighton Baths and include a warm water pool there and make the Baths more accessible for our ageing population.
While commending the decision to delay implementing aquatic facilities, the funding allocated to undertake a feasibility study of these in Bayside at a cost of \$0.35 million appears extravagant and rather than proceeding, these costs could be ceased altogether, particularly in light of how badly the Recreation Centre upgrade has been managed.
Deferral of the warm water pool project saving \$26 million - Our warm water pool project is being deferred while we undertake an aquatics feasibility study to better understand the needs of our community. How did this project get to the stage it did if we are only now undertaking an "aquatics feasibility study". The amount that was planned must have required a detailed feasibility study.

6.1.3 Rates freeze verbatim feedback

I fully support this year's budget—especially the concentrated investment in projects that truly benefit the community and our environment, along with the decision to freeze rates. It's a responsible and community-focused approach that reflects genuine leadership.
Great to see the new Councillor group bringing fresh perspectives. Also very pleased to see a rate freeze this year – a sensible move given the already high rates in Bayside.
it is great to see a rate freeze, well done
happy to see a freeze on rates for 25/26. maintain the freeze for as long as possible. manage extant funding more effectively.
About time you've stopped ripping-off ratepayers hard-earned money by always increasing Rates just to fund yet MORE staff who continue to provide NOTHING more for Ratepayers, and spending on overpriced supposed Art as well as for spying on paying Ratepayers, as if we're the Enemy rather than the ones you're supposed to be accountable to, while our streets and facilities get worse and our community safety is eroded!
Thank you for the no rate increase - greatly appreciated! And it feels like council are in touch with it's residents!! Thank you this is much appreciated.
We would also like to sincerely thank Council for maintaining current rates without an increase. With the ongoing pressures of the rising cost of living — including new state taxes, steep increases in private school fees as a result of the introduction of payroll tax to private schools, and broader financial challenges — many families, including ours, are feeling significant strain. We are currently stretched with existing loans and being in early stages of launching a new business and not just us, but many of our friendship group, are now discussing the difficult possibility of withdrawing children from private schooling. In this context, your decision to keep rates steady is both noted and genuinely appreciated.
Very happy in these financially difficult times that rates will not be increasing yet again. Also happy that in the main Council has acted to restrain spending to reflect the community's expectation of council concentrating on essential services.
The pause on rates is appreciated.

Well Done on a 0% Rate increase - about time and thank you!
The Hightett Progress Association (HPA) is deeply concerned by the defunding of the additional tree planting program as a result of the proposed rate freeze – see full statement Appendix 6.1.6
I would like to raise significant concerns in relation to the omission of funding for climate change in the proposed budget. I request that the rates be increased to ensure that operational costs are not impacted and that the climate change strategy be reviewed.
I am concerned about the plan to reduce Council's surplus by 60% to only \$4.6 million.
Having read the proposed revised budget for Bayside Council, I am very disappointed to see the climate action being proposed to be cut, particularly the urban forest and the carbon reporting ...I would rather pay slightly higher rates and continue with meaningful action, than have the environmental and climate programs cancelled.
The rate freeze for one year will not help in the long term financially. The Fire Service Levy will increase and rate payers won't notice a lot of difference.
I don't understand why council would not increase rates given the additional expenses you must be experiencing. This is very short sighted and suggests to me you are supporting those who can well afford to pay. Perhaps you should look at the house values and have no increases on rates where the value is less than a particular amount - maybe the lower 20% of house values. It is these residents who may be experiencing the greatest hardship. The wealthy living in large mansions do not. Sadly, it is probably those struggling who need the projects that you won't be able to fund without this additional revenue. Please rethink your strategy.
\$35million lost income over long term is extremely reckless and provides very little financial assistance to those in need. The recent Federal election should wake Councillors up that we are happy to pay for good services.
I DON'T agree that rates should be frozen this year. Instead the money should be allocated to social infrastructure projects beneficial to the poorer areas of Bayside. With proposed housing growth in Bayside DON'T be short sighted and close or sell off any social infrastructure centres - kindergartens, pools, sporting facilities, community centres, etc.
A rate freeze will penalise the future and leave Bayside financially unstable. There will be an increase in the fire levy of approx \$150 to \$180 and waste management increase of 1.8%. The rate payers are being misled.
I did not vote for a zero rate increase. Aren't we one of the most affluent municipalities in Victoria?! I am very disappointed with the deprioritisation of climate and environment! Where are the funds for community environmental education? I do not support this budget and am disappointed with the direction this new Council is taking. This is a very short sighted budget!
Surprisingly, several residents have commented that they don't understand the zero rates increase and would have accepted the 3% increase.
The 2025–26 Budget demonstrates a commitment to financial responsibility and prioritises community needs. Council's decision to implement a 0% general rate increase is commendable, providing substantial support to residents grappling with escalating living costs. Notably, the budget allocates significant investments in parks, aged care, drainage, and foreshore improvements, underscoring Council's dedication to enhancing the quality of life in Bayside. Nevertheless, the rate freeze presents substantial long-term challenges. Council anticipates a \$35 million shortfall over the ensuing decade, necessitating meticulous management of capital works, novel initiatives, and service levels. Environmental programs, such as tree planting and carbon offsetting, have been reduced, and future budgets may necessitate revisiting these areas. To ensure continued sustainability, Council must adopt the following strategies: * Identify novel revenue sources and establish partnerships. * Monitor service efficiency and implement cost control measures. * Engage residents in defining long-term priorities. In essence, this budget embodies responsible and community-centric principles. However, it will require strategic foresight and community input to safeguard Bayside's services and infrastructure for the future.

Net reduction in the capital program of \$10.494 million over 4 years and \$23.694 million over 10 years:

o When these were put in the capital program presumably they were identified as being necessary – so is this now avoiding spending that really ought to happen to maintain our infrastructure? It concerns me that we are reacting to the understandable current cost of living issues but will find that as these projects come back in the future there is going to be a need to have a significant increase in rates to catch up. Luckily I am able to afford an increase now and I would prefer to have smaller steady increases rather than large occasional ones.

6.1.4 Community infrastructure (various)

Replace the existing old and often 'out of service' toilet cubicles and increase their number and locations (Sandringham).

The Highbett Progress Association observes that Council via the proposed budget has chosen NOT to invest funds into: • Redeveloping BayCISS • Providing additional resources/programs for Highbett Neighbourhood Community House (HNCH) – see full statement Appendix 6.1.6

... the Hampton Library is also in need of refurbishment and a toilet that can be utilised within the grounds. The public toilet just outside is often dirty and not suitable for the use of small/young children who frequent the library.

I have been a long-time resident of East Brighton for more than 20 Years . Five or six years ago after 35 years working in local government in two States as a senior executive and after retiring, I have been involved in a number of volunteer roles across Bayside and also took the opportunity to join the Brighton Mens Shed (BMS) I having served on the Committee of this community organisation for several years including 12 months as Vice President.

During that time the membership of BMS has increased as too has the range of activities that are available to our members. There are a number of other activities our members have indicated an interest in pursuing, but with the limitation of space within our current building and leasehold. these suggestions have not been able to be implemented.

With this in mind. over the last few years the BMS Committee has been in discussion with Council on way to increase our current leasehold thereby enabling us to expand our range of activities and attract even more men to the Shed.

Through a good working relationship with Council staff and a number of Councillors, BMS has been awarded a new Council lease for an expansion to its existing activities into part of the adjoining site, currently occupied by the Scouts for boat storage.

The area of the expanded lease contains some existing shed structures which are in poor condition. These structures on the new leased area requires some remedial work in order for them to be made "fit for purpose" and after a long discussion period, we had been informed by Council that work would start in July 2025.

As a BMS Committee member I am concerned that the proposed Council Budget 25/26 appears not to contain any funds for this work. With no apparent funding being made available for these works; the capacity of the Brighton Mens Shed to provide expanded activities and facilities for its current and expanding membership will be seriously compromised.

If my reading of the draft Budget is correct, I and all other members of the BMS Committee would request that the Bayside Council Draft Budget 2025/2026 be amended to provide for appropriate funds to be allocated from the budget surplus or other source.

The Council and Brighton Men's Shed signed a lease in 2024 for the expansion of the shed at 210 Dendy Street, Brighton East. Does the 25/26 budget include funds available to make the new lease area accessible and usable within the next 12 months? Are the funds available under either 4.5 Capital Works and/or 4.1.8 Materials & Services in the 25/26 budget? If not, we respectfully request that the funds needed so that the new lease area can be made usable - currently there is no access or functional use of the new lease area possible. Our understanding from the written correspondence with the Council was that funds would be available to allow works to commence from July 2025 and we'd like to confirm the works are funded in 25/26. We really appreciate the

Council's support of the Shed and the Shed Committee looks forward to supporting the community further with the expanded lease area.
I am a long-time member of the Brighton Mens Shed in Dendy Street. Brighton Mens Shed has been awarded a council lease for an expansion to its existing facility. The leased area requires some remedial work and we had been informed that work would start in July 2025. The area is unusable until the works are complete. This has been ongoing for 4 or 5 years to resolve space and safety issues. The proposed council budget 25/26 appears not to contain any funds for this work. I would like to ask that this is reconsidered and funds are made available in the 2026/27 year. The Mens Shed fulfils an important community need for older men and assists other community groups with repair of furniture and equipment.
I write as a committee member of the Brighton Men's Shed regarding planned remedial work that we understood was in the 2025 budget. We have signed a lease to expand the shed to accommodate increasing membership. The planned expansion enables us to accommodate critical additional work space for our members. Appreciate due action to enable said works.
Brighton Mens Shed (BMS) has been awarded a council lease for an expansion to its existing facility. The new lease requires some remedial work and we had been informed that work would start in July 2025 after a long discussion process. As a Brighton Men's Shed committee member I am concerned that the proposed 25/26 council budget does not appear to contain any funds for this work. We would request that if that is correct then the appropriate funds be allocated.
I am a committee member at Brighton Men's Shed, and write to you to ask if provision has been made in the upcoming council budget for make good expenses in the expanded lease area recently provided to the Men's Shed at the Dendy Street site. This area was previously leased to the Sea Scouts and has now been allocated to the Men's Shed, however, the area is neither usable nor accessible to us until some building works are completed. It has been our understanding that these works will commence from July 2025 based on support previously indicated to us by both elected and executive representatives of the council. Can you please advise if provisions have been made to facilitate these key works in the upcoming budget? Thank you also for the generous support already provided to our 100 plus members by the Bayside City Council - we love our Men's Shed!
Funding for Playground upgrades - Pennydale Park is old and in need of an upgrade, to the outdated equipment. Shade sails should also continue to be maintained.
The Pennydale park is much beloved by the local bayside children but is in need of a little love! Bathrooms would be an amazing addition to the park but at a minimum, shade cloths to protect the kids playing and parents pushing on the swings etc. There are some currently, but they don't cover some crucial areas. Also, an upgrade to the equipment itself would be incredibly appreciated by many, many local children and caregivers! Thank you!
It would be fantastic for the facilities at Pennydale Park to be updated as it is currently looking an feeling a little lack lustre. The park is well loved and used by many, especially being next door to the local Kindergarten.
Pennydale Park playground in Cheltenham is in dire need of an upgrade. It's right next to Olympic ave kinder, so frequent use by children in the neighbourhood, and it's very run-down. There is rust and wear and tear, and limited options for the kids to play on. Definitely a candidate for an upgrade.
Please consider allocating some funding to upgrade the playground in Pennydale park, Cheltenham. It is badly in need of an upgrade, there are areas that are quite unsafe for small children. Many thanks for your consideration
Please can you also consider another playground in this area be addressed too. Specifically the playground on Olympic Avenue (Pennydale Park) needs to be looked at with some significant safety concerns. The playground is made of a metal that is extremely slippery when wet and conversely, on summer days the metal too hot to touch, it burns children as they try to climb or slide down the slides. There are several bullant nests currently active around the playground and

children as well as pets have been bitten. The lack of public toilets is another issue raised by multiple families who come to visit only to have to return home or more disturbingly have had children defecate in the bushes which is extremely unhygienic.
The Bayside community (ratepayers) have activated for decades to Bayside council for MTB / Skatepark / BMX / bike facilities. The well documented submissions give a clear mandate for council to action, it is the councils job to act on and implement community wishes as paid servants of the people of Bayside. The momentum however has gone to waste. The Wangarra Rd consultation should of been the final indicator for council to act (on top of the various petitions and submissions in years prior). But still, the proposed budget has no allowance for bike facilities within bayside, despite funds for the Tulip Street jumps park upgrade being earlier provisioned for. The new consultation for the Pocket Park behind Hampton st (near Willis) shows the lack of progress. It's an ideal location for a pump track (again), but its not even part of the discussion. Please listen to the community and implement bike facilities in Bayside.
There is so money in the budget for youth infrastructure like skate parks, mountain bike jumps or bouldering wall. (which also benefit adults physical and mental health. I also completely disagree with funding the Cheltenham reserve. It's on the fringe of the council area and provides better space for people in Kingston , just list the elesternwick park is used more by Port Philip rate payers.
The draft 2025-26 budget does not include the funding to deliver any projects around MTB/BMX, or the Tulip Street facility. The need for offroad cycling facilities was clearly highlighted in the Wangara road community consultation, and was agreed upon in the Wangara Road masterplan. What is the point in having a community consultation if it is not acted upon? And why include something in a masterplan that won't be enacted? Council has been kicking this can down the road for a number of years and refuses to act upon the wishes of its constituents and own plans. I refuse to believe that a council with a \$200m+ spend for the next year could not find any funds at all to fulfil this need. I hope you consider this feedback and amend the budget to include some funds for this much needed project.
I am extremely disappointed that the implementation of the Wangara Road Masterplan has been pushed out. After the community has been subjected to the disruption and amenity loss associated with the netball centre, to remove upside for residents is truly disheartening The budget does not have much funding, if any, for bicycle infrastructure. It's encouraging that some money will be spent on the bay trail, but where are the physically separated on road bike lanes? Bayside is falling way behind in this regard
Love most of the budget. But there is no allocation to skatepark upgrades(none have been updated in roughly 10 years) or things that improve younger people's lives.
Hello, as per my petition: "https://www.change.org/p/install-an-outdoor-basketball-court-half-court-in-the-bayside-zone-in-dendy-park " which includes 190 verified signatures from Bayside residents, there is a need for a local dendy half court-full court basketball court in the Dendy park area. This was supported unanimously by all Bayside councillors (6th June 2024) when this petition was tabled at the council meeting. The detail of the petition is below: "The issue We the undersigned hereby petition the Bayside City Council of Victoria, Australia to install an outdoor Basketball court or half court in the Bayside zone, specifically in Dendy park. As the parents, family and friends of passionate basketball loving tweens and teenagers, we are concerned by the lack of local quality outdoor basketball courts in this area. The available courts are indoor and only accessible under supervised circumstances that prevent ad hoc play. Our tweens and teenagers need spaces where they can engage in physical outdoor activities and socialise outside the confines of technology. Providing these spaces contributes to improved physical and mental wellbeing. According to the World Health Organization, regular physical activity can help prevent depression among adolescents. along with reducing the temptation and likelihood of youth crime. Basketball is increasingly popular - currently the second highest participated team sport in Australia according to the recent Australian Clearinghouse for Sport annual AusPlay survey (AusPlay results

| Clearinghouse for Sport). Approximately 5% of the population (15yrs +) play basketball, with 18% of teens aged 15-17 playing, and 10% of 18-24 year olds.

Currently there are very few outdoor basketball courts/half courts in this area and those that exist are very poor quality, not well maintained and aren't built to a specification that allow our children to practice under game day conditions (eg. rings are at incorrect heights, there are no court markings, insufficient space and the surfaces are often dangerous). The Sandringham basketball stadiums are fabulous but are indoors and less accessible for a casual free play across weekdays and weekends.

The installation of a basketball court or half court at Dendy park would encourage many tweens and teenagers to exercise and provide an opportunity for them to gather together, build friendships, learn teamwork skills and enjoy their time outdoors.

By signing this petition, we support the call for the Bayside City Council of Victoria, Australia to install a Basketball court or half court at Dendy park. Please sign this petition today (including full name, suburb and postcode to be valid) and share with your network before close date 2nd June 2024! This will then be tabled on the agenda (6th June) and likely included as a topic for council consideration on 18th June meeting."

I have read the proposed budget suggestions which seem very fair. However there are a few issues that I feel to be important.

1. Provision for the ARTS, (truly 'affordable' studio rentals) The Arts in general are being ignored as not being of first consequence all over Australia

at present. They are in truth the back bone of culture, intelligence, innovation and the creativity that is the genesis of all new ideas.

2. As an Artist myself for the past fifty years I have been invited to travel to the US and Canada on personally invited Artist Residences to create the kind of work that is exploratory and unfettered by limited understanding here in Australia - America and Europe having long traditions of cultural understanding.

3. Ticketing/transport for Seniors to a WIDE variety of entertainment in all areas of the city.

6.1.5 Early years infrastructure and kindergartens

Hampton has been identified as a key growth area particularly for families, yet there is virtually no provision for vital early education services like kindergartens/kindergarten places. Hampton community kindergarten desperately needs maintenance and a second room which council has consistently stood in the way of funding options.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

There was already a shortfall of approximately 170 families in Bayside who missed out on kindergarten places this year and with the new social housing development will add a significant number of vulnerable children to the kindergartens catchment in 2026, leaving less placements open to other local families.

If Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth area of Hampton.

Hampton has been identified as a key growth area particularly for families, yet there is virtually no provision for vital early education services like kindergartens/kindergarten places. Hampton community kindergarten desperately needs maintenance and a second room which council has consistently stood in the way of funding options.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

There was already a shortfall of approximately 170 families in Bayside who missed out on kindergarten places this year and with the new social housing development will add a significant number of vulnerable children to the kindergartens catchment in 2026, leaving less placements open to other local families.

If Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth area of Hampton.

As a born and bred Bayside who has made significant community and financial contributions to this community personally and in addition to that of my extended family, I can only express a very deep concern regarding the lack of adequate funding and consideration for Early Years facilities and education in our local community. As an educator, the complete oversight and disregard given towards families wishing to have the opportunity to enrol in a local state government funded kinder program is quickly diminishing due to lack of foresight and planning from Bayside Council who are choosing to invest in so many mediocre projects over fundamental institutions that EVERY child should be able to access prior to attending primary school.

Bayside boasts some of the most successful schools in the state, so what about the Investment and commitment in the Early Years programs.

As a long term employee of the department of education, I cannot understand how Bayside councillors are unable to comprehend the importance of this issue and see the long term implications. We have kinders in our comparatively extremely affluent community that are struggling to stay afloat, that are having to fundraise in order to offer engaging experiences and quality staff. The enormous reliance on volunteers in services that Bayside happily advertises as a service they provide is unacceptable.

With hard working families paying an absolute premium in housing to live in this beautiful part of the world, the council have an obligation to make significant and swift improvements.

Support to kinders and all early years services needs to be a priority. From the process of application and offers of places (atrocious!) to the maintenance, potential renovations and new builds to accomodate the number of children who will need to access this service in the very near future. With particular regard to the high density housing projects in Bayside, you must recognise this will bring an influx of new community members WITH CHILDREN. I sincerely hope these concerns are flagged with the department of education because with the rates we pay, we deserve to have our needs reflected.

You have been voted in by constituents to represent and serve so I strongly suggest- do it.

Please read my below feedback. Hampton has been identified as a key growth area particularly for families, yet there is virtually no provision for vital early education services like kindergartens/kindergarten places. Hampton community kindergarten desperately needs maintenance and a second room which council has consistently stood in the way of funding options.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

There was already a shortfall of approximately 170 families in Bayside who missed out on kindergarten places this year and with the new social housing development will add a significant number of vulnerable children to the kindergartens catchment in 2026, leaving less placements open to other local families.

If Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth area of Hampton.

I am worried for the future, if my child will even have a place at hampton community kinder due to this reduced funding allocation.. please consider looking into this

What a disappointing budget allocation for early years! A 17.5 million investment on buildings..... Not for our future generation though hey!

Bayside has a history of not delivering on its kinder infrastructure plans (ref: 2014) and I don't even want to know how much money was spent on the feasibility studies that were conducted on each kinder in recent times that committees of management are not allowed to see.

We asked Council over 12 months ago if we could independently apply for funding to expand the building to meet reform requirements. We were told no as there was this big plan to do cluster funding applications for each suburb with Hampton and Beaumaris being a priority because they have been identified as growth areas with increasing demands for kinder services. How disappointing to now know that Council are not endorsing this idea!

Any kinder in the municipality with one classroom is feeling distressed about the future. The upcoming pre-prep reforms require kindergartens to offer additional hours of education. Without a corresponding expansion in facilities, the viability of our 82-year-old kinder comes into question. In addition, many of Bayside's kindergarten buildings are ageing and in urgent need of maintenance and upgrade to remain safe and fit for purpose.

HCK now also has the new social housing development on the corner of Wickham and Bluff Roads, which is expected to bring in more families with young children. Being the closest kinder in proximity, we anticipate an influx of vulnerable cohorts requiring access. We support setting all children up for success, but with one classroom, what about your constituents who are paying big rates... Will they be able to access this amazing institution with current class sizes?

Council is also forgetting church owned kinders that are hanging in there by a thread – what happens if these go bust? Some are on month to month leases, being threatened by their landlords that if further maintenance is required they are out. There is a real issue here that Council are turning a blind eye too.

Another \$100k to spend on a feasibility of a Hampton Hub.... This is like the suburban rail loop... How many more feasibility studies does it need? A few oldies in Hampton want somewhere to play cards near the shopping precinct... No offence but the future shaping of our children should be a priority don't you think?

How many disappointed families will receive a knock back this year from the community kinder experience? The figure kept changing last year but it was significant and not good enough!

Time for Council to think a little more strategically – the stigma of Bayside only being a municipality for older adults is no longer – the young families are here and we are here to stay... Invest in our future!

Hampton has been identified as a key growth area particularly for families, yet there is virtually no provision for vital early education services like kindergartens/kindergarten places. Hampton community kindergarten desperately needs maintenance and a second room due to extremely high application numbers which council has consistently stood in the way of funding options.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

There was already a shortfall of approximately 170 families in Bayside who missed out on kindergarten places this year and with the new social housing development will add a significant number of vulnerable children to the kindergartens catchment in 2026, leaving less placements open to other local families.

If Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth area of Hampton.

As a family with young children, two who have gone through the amazing Hampton Community Kindergarten programme and another on the way to hopefully get a spot in a few years, it is disappointing to see the budget commitments across the entire Bayside Municipality - the kindergarten has been fantastic to fundraise and also have excellent teaching staff, however the physical grounds that they are on are in need of refurbishment, and expansion. We have heard from many new families that they were unable to get a spot into HCK, as the grounds simply would not accommodate for that many children. Hampton in particular has become a popular suburb of choice for its proximity to the beach, Hampton St, and the beautiful parks and reserves we have. With the pending public flats that are being developed on Wickham Road in Hampton East, there will likely be an influx of vulnerable children that will further put a squeeze on the enrolment numbers at Council kinders such as Hampton Community Kinder.

As a Council, we hope you will consider allocating more budget to supporting the needs of kindergartens, particularly capital works for the older kindergartens like Hampton Community Kindergarten, as well as the Public Library in Hampton.

More funding needs to be given for Bayside's kindergartens. They are already underfunded and the expansion of the social housing development and more apartments will bring even more young children to the area requiring kinder places. The education of our children must be prioritised above all else.

As a mother of 3 children under primary age living in Hampton I feel strongly that the budget for kindergarten/MCH is incredibly low. Especially as a family that can't afford the private services available and someone that still wishes to be connected to their community. Hampton has been identified as a key growth area particularly for families, yet there is virtually no provision for vital early education services like kindergartens/kindergarten places. Hampton community kindergarten desperately needs maintenance and a second room which council has consistently stood in the way of funding options.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities. Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

There was already a shortfall of approximately 170 families in Bayside who missed out on kindergarten places this year and with the new social housing development will add a significant number of vulnerable children to the kindergartens catchment in 2026, leaving less placements open to other local families.

If Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth area of Hampton.

Hampton is a key growth area for families, yet there's a severe lack of early education services, including kindergarten places. Hampton Community Kindergarten urgently needs maintenance and a second room, but council has repeatedly blocked funding solutions.

Upcoming pre-prep reforms will require kindergartens to offer more hours, further reducing the number of available places unless facilities are expanded. Many buildings are outdated and in urgent need of repair.

Already, around 170 Bayside families missed out on kindergarten places this year. With a new social housing development expected to add many vulnerable children to the catchment by 2026, even fewer spots will be available for local families.

If Bayside is to remain a premium destination for families, significantly greater investment in early education—especially in growing areas like Hampton—is essential.

The provision in the budget for early education seems to be very much lacking what is required for the Bayside community. Both Hampton and Beaumaris have been identified in the KISP growth areas needing more kindergartens / kindergarten places, yet the current budget allocation is unlikely to be able to facilitate this.

As a current parent at Hampton Community Kinder, I can firsthand see the benefit early education gives the children of Bayside, however more kids are going to miss out in the coming years on this important developmental opportunity if the council does not prioritise making more places available, due to:

- the influx of kids entering bayside with the development of commission housing on Bluff Road
- Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Furthermore, many current Bayside kindergartens are ageing and the buildings need urgent maintenance in order for the facilities to remain open and/or continue to offer the number of places they do.

The early years infrastructure plan that was first developed in 2014 has not progressed at all, and this is unlikely to change with the current budget allocation for FY25/26. Please do better Bayside Council!

Hampton has been identified as a growth area, especially for young families, this year many families, over 170, have failed to find a kindergarten place within bayside and with increased hours and free kindergarten offered by the government, this budget does not allow for expansion and support to the kindergartens already running at capacity with long wait lists in bayside. Hampton Community Kindergarten is in desperate need of renovation and maintenance to continue to provide the community with the excellent standard of education they are credited with and bayside council continues to neglect it and stop them from doing the renovations they need. There needs to be as much money spent on early childhood education as is there is on funding sporting grounds and shopping districts!

I am concerned that so little is being put toward Family Services which includes child maternal health and kindergartens. Problems facing kindergarten's in Bayside which require more thought and funding include:

- Beaumaris and Hampton being identified in the KISP as growth areas needing more kindergartens/kindergarten places.
- Pre-Prep reforms meaning kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours, reducing the number of places we can offer without expansion of our current facilities.
- Ageing buildings that need urgent works to maintain
- New housing development on Bluff road with commission housing which is going to bring more families with young children into the area seeking kindergarten spaces - vulnerable children will

rightly get priority for these places however other families will be pushed out of community sessional kindergarten when there are not enough places.

- Lack of space in many Bayside areas to expand kindergartens and or build new kindergartens.
- An early years infrastructure plan that began being developed by Council in 2014 and still hasn't progressed in any way.

Bayside is full of young families and we know that families in Bayside access and enjoy sessional kindergarten. Already in 2025 there was an excess of approximately 170 children who missed out on places in Sessional Kindergartens (those figures dwindled as families took places elsewhere - private/long day care etc) and we were over time given different figures, but the original figure still remains to my mind, because all our kindergarten's were full and that was the number given to us after the kindergarten places were originally filled.

Hampton has been identified as a key growth area particularly for families, yet there is virtually no provision for vital early education services like kindergartens/kindergarten places. Hampton community kindergarten desperately needs maintenance and a second room which council has consistently stood in the way of funding options.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

There was already a shortfall of approximately 170 families in Bayside who missed out on kindergarten places this year and with the new social housing development will add a significant number of vulnerable children to the kindergartens catchment in 2026, leaving less placements open to other local families.

If Bayside is meant to be a premium location for families there needs to be significantly more funding for early education, particularly in the growth area of Hampton.

Beaumaris and Hampton are being identified in the KISP as growth areas needing more kindergartens/kindergarten places.

Pre-prep reforms mean kindergartens will need to offer more kindergarten hours reducing the number of places kindergartens can offer without expansion of current facilities.

Buildings are ageing and need urgent works to maintain them.

New housing development on Bluff Road with Commission housing is going to bring more families with young children into the area. Vulnerable children will rightly get priority of places in kindergartens but this will in turn push other families out of kindergartens when there are not enough places.

Stop doubling down on the ageing community and do more to support the growing young families that are moving into the neighbourhood. Bayside should not be seen as the last pit stop before death. Start realising that young families also need support and services that this suburb doesn't offer in favour of the dead and dying.

I would like more money to go on providing free kinders and childcare instead of age care. Old people in Bayside have much more money than families.

I'd like to raise concerns about the limited funding allocated in the FY26 Bayside Council capital works budget for Early Years Asset Renewal. With only \$323,000 allocated for the entire municipality—and this needing to cover both kindergartens and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres—it seems unlikely that meaningful upgrades or urgent works can be achieved, especially in high-needs areas.

One example is the East Brighton MCH Centre. The playspace between the centre and Hurlingham Preschool remains blocked off due to contamination issues. This is such a beautiful shared space that could offer connection to Country, belonging, and community for local families and new parents—but it's currently unusable.

This site urgently needs advocacy and increased funding. While state grants exist, we need Council's leadership to prioritise this area within its own budget too. Could this be looked at in the capital planning process?

I write to express my deep disappointment regarding the recent budget allocation for early years infrastructure. While \$17.5 million has been earmarked for building investment, it is disheartening to see so little of this directed toward kindergartens—the very spaces that support our youngest community members and future generations.

Bayside has a long-standing history of under-delivering on its kindergarten infrastructure commitments. There are clear examples dating back to previous plans, which remain largely unrealised. More recently, feasibility studies were conducted across all council-affiliated kindergartens, yet Committees of Management have been denied access to these reports. We are left in the dark on decisions that directly impact our children and community.

Over 12 months ago, we formally requested permission to independently apply for funding to expand our kindergarten building in preparation for the pre-prep reforms. Council advised us this would not be supported, as a broader plan was being developed for coordinated cluster funding applications—particularly targeting Beaumaris and Hampton, which have been identified as growth areas under the KISP. It is extremely disappointing to now learn that Council is not endorsing this coordinated funding approach after all.

This decision leaves many one-room kindergartens, including ours, in an extremely vulnerable position. The upcoming pre-prep reforms will require increased hours of education, significantly reducing capacity unless buildings are expanded. For our 82-year-old kindergarten, the lack of space and aging infrastructure is now threatening our long-term viability.

The situation is compounded by new social housing developments—such as the one on the corner of Wickham and Bluff Roads. This will bring additional young families to our area. As the closest kindergarten, we fully support providing access to vulnerable children. However, the reality is that with just one classroom, this will displace other local families—many of whom are long-standing ratepayers who also rely on this service.

Church-owned kindergartens face even greater uncertainty. Many are on precarious, month-to-month leases and are being threatened with closure if further maintenance is required. These centres are part of our community fabric, and their collapse would worsen the existing shortfall of kindergarten places.

And while another \$100,000 has been allocated for yet another Hampton Hub feasibility study—echoing the endless cycle of planning akin to the suburban rail loop—many of us are left asking: how many studies do we need before we act? We have no issue with facilities that support older residents, but surely the early education and wellbeing of our youngest citizens should be a higher priority.

Let's not forget the number of families who missed out on kindergarten places last year. The final figure kept shifting but was undeniably significant and unacceptable. Without strategic action, we risk the same result—again and again.

It's time for Council to reframe its thinking. Bayside is no longer a municipality defined solely by its older demographic. Young families are here—and we are here to stay. We urge you to invest in our future by prioritising kindergarten infrastructure, supporting existing services, and ensuring no child misses out on the early education experience they deserve.

President, Hampton Community Kindergarten

6.1.6 Investment in Ivison Ward

The Highbett Progress Association (HPA) is deeply concerned by the defunding of the additional tree planting program as a result of the proposed rate freeze.

Highbett has the lowest tree canopy of all suburbs in Bayside at approximately 14%. Residents are passionate about increasing Highbett's tree canopy as evidenced by a petition signed by 236 residents last year. The council last year moved to identify "priority sites in Highbett and Pennydale suitable for park and street tree planting in the 2024 planting season". Due to a shortage of available trees within the lead time, the HPA was later advised by Officers that the major effort would be made during the 2025 season.

With the impending changes to front setbacks within the SRL precinct, Highbett will become even more reliant on nature strip planting to increase tree canopy. While the BCC has increased its total budgeted capital expenditure to \$58.59m (2024/25: \$50.015m), very few of the identified projects relate to Highbett.

- Highbett Grassy Woodland (HGW) Management Plan: \$354,000
- Highbett Common Building K, professional fees to redraw floor plans: \$40,000
- Footpaths – raised treatments \$38,000
- Peterson Street Pavilion Reserve renewal: \$250,000

With minimal budget funds allocated to Highett in 2025/2026 we respectfully request the reinstatement of \$350,000 of tree planting funds.

See full statement below

Submission: Bayside City Council Annual Budget 2025/2026

The Highett Progress Association (HPA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Bayside City Council (BCC) Annual Budget 2025/2026 (budget).

Rate freeze implications for Highett

The proposal to freeze municipal rates superficially appears in the best interest of all rate payers. However, for Highett residents and those in other fast growth suburbs the rate freeze has negative implications for the 2025/26 year and beyond. The rate freeze has resulted in the defunding of the additional tree planting program in Highett and Pennydale totalling \$350,000 as specially approved a year ago by Council. Highett has the lowest tree canopy coverage of all Bayside suburbs. With the impending changes to front setbacks within the SRL precinct, Highett will become even more reliant on nature strip planting to increase tree canopy. The defunding of additional tree planting is extremely disappointing. BCC has increased its total budgeted capital expenditure to \$58.59m (2024/25: \$50.015m), however very few of the identified projects relate to Highett. The only apparent items were:

- Highett Grassy Woodland (HGW) Management Plan: \$354,000
- Highett Common Building K, professional fees to redraw floor plans: \$40,000
- Footpaths – raised treatments \$38,000
- Peterson Street Pavilion Reserve renewal: \$250,000

The HPA welcomes the long overdue commencement of planning for the Peterson Street Pavilion and the ongoing HGW management plan.

Rate Freeze – Future implications

The HPA is concerned the rate freeze will impede BCC's ability to invest in the infrastructure and services the Highett community requires in coming years because of population growth primarily from the Highett Common development and the SRL rezoning densification program. Cost shifting has and will continue to occur, however BCC is running down its cash reserves and will be less resourced in 5 years to absorb cost shifting and to deliver the infrastructure and services for the community.

Underlying Surplus FP 2028/29 \$4.6m

The relatively low underlying surplus forecast for 2028/2029 is particularly concerning for the HPA. Highett will require significant investment from 2028/2029 onwards to

- Fund streetscape planning and capital investment following the level crossing removal to achieve a connected Highett and a vibrant activity centre.
- Fund additional kindergarten and maternal health services in Highett to support the anticipated population growth associated with higher density living in the SRL precinct boundary, which includes Highett Village (on both sides of the tracks).

The unrestricted cash / current liabilities ratio in 2028/2029 at 118.9% (194.3% 23/24) is also concerning. The budget has identified Highett as contributing to the reduction in the underlying cash position. This is a questionable statement given there has been very little capital expenditure in our suburb both in this budget and preceding budgets. While the new library will require funding for operations, the youth service is not new and is currently operating in another building in Highett.

Not a "cost of living budget"

The budget has been promoted as "responding to cost-of-living pressures", however this is just a rate freeze budget. The budget has not targeted areas of greatest need and it has not prioritized its

residents over tourists. The HPA observes that Council via the proposed budget has chosen NOT to invest funds into:

- Redeveloping BayCISS
- Providing additional resources/programs for Highett Neighbourhood Community House (HNCH)

The above operators provide critical services to our community and are at the forefront of the “cost of living” crisis. It is difficult to accept this as a cost-of-living budget when over \$10m is allocated to projects at Wangara Road and Dendy Beach Visitor Management and an additional \$350,000 has been allocated to a new and upgraded AV system for Council Chambers.

The budget forecasts incentives for early payment of rates at \$450,000, up by \$350,000 on the previous year. The budget assumptions appear to contradict the “cost of living” struggles, per the reported 350% increase in rate payers able to pay 6 months before the due date.

BCC is not freezing “fees & charges” for example leases to community operators/not-forprofits will increase in 2025/2026. A true “cost of living” orientated budget would prioritize funding for essential community services and would limit expenditure on non-essential projects which could reasonably be deferred, if not cancelled altogether.

Wangara Road

The amount of funding budgeted for Wangara Road is of concern, although the HPA appreciates that some is required to meet EPA obligations. In a rate freeze budget and with declining cash reserves, works on a contaminated site should be reevaluated and deferred where possible. Although additional car parking is required to address netball centre parking shortages, the location of the planned car park is of concern with regards to potential contamination and the level of funds required to adequately remediate and/or remove contamination.

Supplementary Valuations Revenue

The amount forecast for supplementary rates revenue 2025/26 of \$500,000 appears low. The supplementary valuation revenue in 2024/2025 is forecast at \$1.346m (source BCC Agenda 29/4/2025, item 10.3 – Reports by the organisation p.148).

Human Resources

It is concerning to see the EFT to remain at 646.5 from 2026 to 2029, indicating new services, i.e. library, maternal health and age care will be staffed by reduction in staffing from other areas. The budget includes an increase to parking infringement officers in 2026 to generate more infringement revenue. It is unclear which areas will be cut or outsourced to achieve the same level of EFT in a period of population growth.

Conclusion

For Highett rate payers a rate freeze doesn't automatically result in lower council rates. Based on the average of \$2,073.80, a rate freeze will save approximately \$62 per year, before waste charges and the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. A saving of \$62 comes at a cost, BCC's cash reserves will be depleted, and this decision will have a compounding effect over the next decade, a time when Highett and other high growth suburbs will need investment. A small saving now puts at risk BCC's ability to fund critical capital works and infrastructure in the future.

The HPA requests the reinstatement of the tree planting program of \$350,000 and that it not be defunded as proposed.

We also request a thorough review of capital expenditure on Wangara Road, Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and the new AV equipment. The review should ensure the areas of expenditure are appropriate to be included in a rate freeze budget and won't result in unforeseen costs that further reduce BCC's cash reserves.

On Behalf of Highett Progress Association Inc.

I am a resident of Highett and believe it is noticeably apparent the disparity between suburbs. Highett is treated like the poor relative. And a prime example is the poor Christmas decorations

displayed and poor park quality in our suburb. I would like to see more parks in Highett refurbished for my children to enjoy and to make sure it feels more like Christmas this year please. Even our footpaths are pretty poor in the area especially in the main strip of Highett. I would like to see some proper refurbishment in the area undertaken by bayside city council.

Where is the funding for Ivison Ward?? We have historically been ignored for major funding and I am extremely concerned that this is happening yet again. With all the development and major capital works that are happening in and around Highett including SUNKIN and SRL and the huge influx of residents this will bring we need funding for roads, trees and all that comes with a massive increase in population. Traffic is already an issue in central Highett and it's going to get much much worse. The center of Highett needs an uplift as well as at the moment it looks very downtrodden, tired and drab. Something like Hampton Street, Church Street or Sandringham would bring good quality businesses to the area. That brings me to the huge influx of massage parlors / brothels in Highett, how have they all been allowed to set up shop here? It's embarrassing and a safety issue. As a female I do not feel safe walking around the area at night for this reason.

The big cut seems to be the \$350K commitment to prioritise Urban Tree Planting for Highett and Pennydale, for which the HPA and community fought last year, so our suburb will continue to suffer the urban heat island effect while other suburbs retain funding for major projects. The budget proposal lists only \$38K in Highett road updates yet over \$10m for rejuvenation of Green Point and Wangara Road.

I urge you to please reconsider funding for Highett and to do better.

Dear Cr Hanna El Mouallem & Bayside City Council, while I appreciate that there will be no increase in rates this year, I am concerned that the funding proposed to be allocated in the 25/26 budget is not being equitably/appropriately spent. I have met with you, councillor, over the CSIRO project and watched many council meetings and have a great respect for your diligence in researching information prior to speaking. Additionally I appreciate that you were the only councillor who voted against the CSIRO proposal as it stood at the time. As a Highett resident I note funds are rarely spent in our suburb, nor have been over the last 10 years, and given the amount of development which has commenced and is proposed I feel strongly that much more is required. \$350K has been cut for Urban Tree Planting for Highett and Pennydale and given we have the least parkland and green space generally comparatively to all Bayside, this is grossly unfair, particularly given the impending huge increase in population. Besides the \$250K for the very overdue Peterson St Reserve upgrade, which is one of the last to be upgraded, there is only \$38K proposed in the budget to be spent in Highett for road upgrades, which I doubt will even make a dent in what is required with the roads. As an architectural draftsman, while I applaud restoring historical architecture such as Billilla Mansion, I feel council is not "reading the room", given the economic climate, by spending over \$1.8 m on a mansion in lieu of something more immediately beneficial to the local community. Also, a quick google search shows: "In total, \$22 million has been spent on the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Wetlands project over the last few years. This includes funding from the Australian Federal Government and Bayside City Council. Specifically, a \$5.5 million grant supported the construction of the wetlands and associated infrastructure, a \$10 million grant funded the Gateway Building and educational infrastructure, and a \$1 million grant helped build the Chain of Ponds". Given you are proposing to spend another \$9.1m I feel this is another area that is disproportionally advantaged over the Highett Community. Google search shows: "Community feedback from the 2024/25 budget consultation highlighted concerns about under-investment in Highett, with 81% of participants expressing strong concerns about the lack of investment to address the impacts of significant population growth and development in the area". Based on this it would seem that Bayside City Council, much like the SRL, don't listen to the concerns of its residents and Community Consultation is just a waste of time. PLEASE REASSESS THE FUNDING PROPOSED TO HIGHETT!!!

Looks like highett will miss out again. Very disappointing when we are paying bayside rates. Seems brighton somehow manages to get a large chunk of the funds. The trees planted recently were not checked or given any love. A lot have died. What a waste. Do better.

I DON'T agree that rates should be frozen this year. Instead the money should be allocated to social infrastructure projects beneficial to the poorer areas of Bayside. With proposed housing growth in Bayside DON'T be short sighted and close or sell off any social infrastructure centres - kindergartens, pools, sporting facilities, community centres, etc.

Once again, no additional funding evident for HIGHETT. Just a proposal to stop the tree regeneration, which was passed by the prior council. These trees are needed even more so with the proposed degrading of housing regulations by the Victorian government.

A rate freeze will penalise the future and leave Bayside financially unstable. There will be an increase in the fire levy of approx. \$150 to \$180 and waste management increase of 1.8%. The rate payers are being misled.

A reduction of tree planting in Highett and Hampton East as previously passed by council is further indication that Highett is not being looked after in a challenging climate emergency.

6.1.7 Activity Centres

In terms of the activity centres, it is critical to ensure that all residents can access these and not represent a conflict of interest as Councilors with vested interests in shops or restaurants promote activities at their businesses. Operational activities are critical to ensure the high performance of government and should never be an easy option to minimise as these have significant impacts on users who need support. If anything, a boost in operational funding will promote job security and therefore food security and improved health and wellbeing for the community, rather than clog up the system with requests. Perhaps consider lower wages for councillors as a workaround.

In the Sandringham area, I would like to see:

- Some works to repair and upgrade the foreshore with repaired railing to protect the nature from damage by people.
- Replace the existing old and often 'out of service' toilet cubicles and increase their number and locations.
- Plant more native trees and in parks and foreshore.
- Put serious thought and action into bicycle lanes on our major roads (Beach Rd, Bay Rd, etc), rather than the current approach of painting the existing footpaths and pretending it is a bikepath.
- Sort out Sandringham village, without thru traffic, making it a truly walkable area with a large outdoor dining and entertainment area.

The center of Highett needs an uplift as well as at the moment it looks very downtrodden, tired and drab. Something like Hampton Street, Church Street or Sandringham would bring good quality businesses to the area.

Higher spend in Activity Centres

what purpose is the upgrade to the mansion to the average person in the community whilst we have such poor roads and Sandringham shops area is in need of upgrade

Very happy in these financially difficult times that rates will not be increasing yet again. Also happy that in the main Council has acted to restrain spending to reflect the community's expectation of council concentrating on essential services.

Understand Council already committed to projects listed but very disappointed that the Sandringham shopping centre has once again not received any attention.

Station Street is so depressing at the Bay Road end - with ugly signage, hard surfaces and no planting to soften and provide shade!

Can we not even afford some tree planting down the middle as per Church Street Brighton - give us something!

Dining out in Bayside with a pwd [person with disability] in a wheelchair:

Amazing that the ONLY changing places bathroom within easy reach is the one at Well St behind Woolies. I could nominate the surrounding restaurants that this location allows pwd & families to frequent, but that would embarrass a certain councillor.

Let's just say Church St & Dendy ward have had more than a fair share of our rate money over the years while Bay St for instance still has step/s into every second shop.

6.1.8 Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and North Road Beach

It is difficult to accept this as a cost-of-living budget when over \$10m is allocated to projects at Wangara Road and Dendy Beach Visitor Management and an additional \$350,000 has been allocated to a new and upgraded AV system for Council Chambers. [Highett Progress Association] request a thorough review of capital expenditure on Wangara Road, Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and the new AV equipment. The review should ensure the areas of expenditure are appropriate to be included in a rate freeze budget and won't result in unforeseen costs that further reduce BCC's cash reserves.

Implement Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan \$5.6M

o This seems like a lot of money – who are the intended beneficiaries i.e. the visitors. What exactly is the money being spent on? The pavilion has been built so what else is there to do? Are we spending this money to provide access to visitors who do not actually add any economic benefit to Bayside i.e. they arrive by coach, take photos and leave. Green Point tourist precinct?

Where is the funding for Ivison Ward?? ... The budget proposal lists only \$38K in Highett road updates yet over \$10m for rejuvenation of Green Point and Wangara Road.

I am concerned about the council proposed spend of \$5.6 million upgrading the Greenpoint / Dendy Street Beach tourist precinct. Given that the majority of tourists are not ratepayers and many are overseas or interstate tourists ("over a million visitors") and that it is significant tourist site for the state, why should bayside rate payers have to pay for the upgrades and not the State Government? Personally I attend Greenpoint and Dendy street beach twice weekly throughout to participate in windsports such as windsurfing as do many other local ratepayers but as a cohort we have totally been neglected in the planning process in favor of international tourists who do not pay rates, contribute very little to the local economy and lead to congestion in the car parks.

We respectfully urge Council to prioritise the clean-up and enhancement of the North Road section of the foreshore. Specifically, we ask that progress be made on the foreshore master plan, with a particular focus on the North Road Beach Access Terrace and the installation of safe, functional steps to access the beach. Attached is our previous correspondence with Council, outlining in detail the improvements we believe should be included in the upcoming budget. Both residents and visitors expect — and deserve — a foreshore that is accessible, clean, safe, and well-maintained. We strongly encourage Council to make this a key focus in the 2025–2026 budget.

Please leave Green Point alone!! It is a natural beauty spot, and we definitely DO NOT need a 5 Million dollar tourist facility built on what has always been a haven of peace and serenity. Why are council constantly seeking to spend millions of dollars on projects that are neither needed or wanted by residents? It is a good idea to upgrade the toilets at Dendy Beach - but people visit this beautiful beach to escape man-made constructions, like the proposed Green Point development. Just leave it alone!! It is just fine the way it is.

Climate is the biggest risk facing our community and it looks like we've forgotten all about it! What about our kids future? We won't have tourist attractions like Dendy Beach and others in 10 years due to sea level rise! Extreme weather!

6.1.9 General feedback

Looks good. No unnecessary expenses. Well done.

Looks well thought out . Comment ... Hampton Life Saving have been inactive for the public since the start of covid in 2020 ..apart from racing their little red boats off the beach they should receive no income from our rates

Good. Finally somebody is listening to community and stops these nonsense bureaucrat self driven dream projects without proper business case and community input.

Congratulations to the Mayor, Councillors and staff for presenting such a responsible budget. A relief to see that the Council has prepared a budget that reflects today's economic and social conditions.

Some strategies are good but cut down on consultants fees and waste of money projects. Also some projects are not councils responsibility

I have looked at the budget and believe the following aspects need to be given consideration.

Statutory fee that prohibits full cost recovery

2. Planning fees (set by the State and have been frozen for most of the past 14 years). 3. Revenue foregone for the past 14 years is estimated to be \$19.4 million if Council were allowed to fully recover the cost of providing planning services.

Perhaps we should be reviewing our planning costs to meet the available funds.

Budget principles

- Existing fees and charges to be increased by 3.0% in accordance with the rate cap for 2025/26 subject to statutory restrictions.

This seems a very broad brush approach which can lead to fees and charges becoming excessive. It is proposed that the average general rate and municipal charge increase by 0% for the 2025/26 year, a departure from the rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government. This will raise \$101.17 million, including \$0.5 million generated from supplementary rates.

Not sure how a 0% charge increase income

In accordance with Bayside's Revenue and Rating Plan, Council will offer an incentive for early payment of rates, resulting in approximately \$0.45 million of discounts to be provided in 2025/26. Given the council has significant reserves shown in current assets why do we need to give incentives to pay early.

Operating surpluses continue to decrease from 2026/27 due to increasing depreciation expenditure as major capital projects are finished and commissioned for use as well as reduced interest income as interest rates decline and Council continues to draw down on its cash reserves to fund the capital program.

I wasn't aware that depreciation was an expenditure or cash flow item that would affect operating surpluses. How does this work.

We should review the scope of some of the current activities.

Create more fully fenced off leash dog areas so that people stop bringing their dogs to sports grounds to take their crap! Finally, get the cats off the streets and out of the environment. Yellow-bellied response to the cat containment proposal. Cats kill serious amounts of wildlife, cause untold problems for dog owners, and crap in neighbours gardens and open spaces. Dog owners are obliged to pick up their dog crap but cat owners not? How is that fair. Get cats out of our environment and contained by law to their own property. Step up!

6.1.10 Active transport and safety

In the Sandringham area...

- Put serious thought and action into bicycle lanes on our major roads (Beach Rd, Bay Rd, etc), rather than the current approach of painting the existing footpaths and pretending it is a bikepath.

Prioritise safe local walking and cycling routes to schools, parks and shops. Local traffic at school times gets worse every year. Active transport is healthy, builds local community and is good for the environment.

The budget for cycling lanes of \$4.4M is not adequate to address the safety issues in our community with children who are riding to and from school. I would have thought improving safety for children would be more important than renovating a mansion or sports grounds. What we need is a plan to connect cycling routes with local schools so that parents don't have to clog up the roads driving their children everywhere in a 3km radius of their homes. This is what I've been doing for the past 5 years and it does not make sense. The Golden Triangle area that links Balcombe Road and Charman Road with all the numerous local schools in the area hosting over 10,000 children in a 5km radius, needs a plan and soon before a child is killed on these roads. I implore Bayside Council to Partner with City of Kingston and develop a comprehensive plan that provides students with suitable roads and bike paths to use to get to the local schools. It does not require a huge amount of money either, just some strategic thinking, a proactive mindset and areas of 'no parking' to clear the roads of parked cars everywhere.

Bayside still has not developed any plan for the engagement results last year that showed a MAJORITY of the community wanted safer cycling along Balcombe Road, Beaumaris. Instead

there were excuses about the consultation vote 'not being enough of a majority', without a majority number being provided and that residents might not want to get fined for parking in a 'no parking' space or that if someone went on a holiday they might have to park in their driveway or in a side street meters away. We need action as a community for the safety of our children! Not excuses.

The priorities reflected in the draft budget are hard to understand, specifically the neglect of community safety and associated liveability. By community safety I mean both road safety and safety from crime.

I was looking for a significant commitment to improve road safety on local streets and crossings which would include measures to reduce vehicle speeds on local streets and provide pedestrian priority at crossings of collector roads (eg. Y raised 'wombat' crossings. This would encourage people to undertake more active travel (walking and bicycling),

There is also a lack of response to the increase in crime such as theft of and from motor vehicles and theft from homes. Unfortunately we may need to look to Council to install surveillance cameras in our streets.

6.1.11 Drainage and street cleaning

I would like to see more works on drainage, particularly near where I live on the corner of Male st and Durrant st where I see flooding occurring over the road and footpaths even with moderate rain fall.

For me the most important things are safety and clean streets and parks, we live on Georges St, and there is a lot of rubbish on the street. Thank you.

One of the frustrating aspects of Bayside is the deterioration of the roads and streets, which has been exacerbated by the 2021-2023 La Nina high rainfalls. This climate cycle will return, and if the street damage is not fixed, the problem will become exacerbated. I would like to see more expenditure in fixing the street damage so that it becomes more resilient when the next La Niña cycle occurs. There are lots of nice-to-haves in the budget (e.g. Hampton Beach, Park restorations etc), but these should be deferred until the basics are sorted, like the street conditions. This is the main issue that people often complain about. The pause on rates is appreciated.

6.1.12 Accessibility

Aquatic centre: This facility is really important for Bayside imo. We have a massive ageing population issue who need to manage / maintain their mobility. Many people would benefit from this facility recovering from injury along with those with disabilities & carers.

It's sad that other municipalities already have these and Bayside continues to lag behind.

I notice this had been deferred pending an investigation of aquatic centres. I'd recommend the councillor group go together to the Glen Eira pool as it is outstanding.

We desperately need this facility so I hope the postponement won't be more than 1 year.

Having lived here for 30+ years with little to no facilities for special needs we've all waited long enough.

Sports pavilions:

Seriously folks, 22 sport pavilions upgraded with OUR rate money and none of you think it's important enough to have a changing places bathroom at any of them.

So anyone with a special needs in their family continues to be shut out of these facilities because the lack of a suitable bathroom. The lowest level of Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. I can't believe that this council continues to operate in breach of the Human Rights charter with these sport venues. It's disgraceful!

Dining out in Bayside with a pwd in a wheelchair:

Amazing that the ONLY changing places bathroom within easy reach is the one at Well St behind Woolies.

I could nominate the surrounding restaurants that this location allows pwd & families to frequent, but that would embarrass a certain councillor.

Lets just say Church St & Dendy ward have had more than a fair share of our rate money over the

years while Bay St for instance still has step/s into every second shop.

Changing places:

The one sure way to ensure these facilities DON'T get used is to put them where users of them DONT WANT TO GO.

I keep on about changing places bathrooms as this group of people are the ONLY ones who have to leave council venues to go to a suitable bathroom.

I will reiterate again, Bayside Council knows full well, this is blatant discrimination against the most vulnerable in our community and is in breach of the human rights charter.