



Annual Budget 2024-25

Community engagement summary report

May 2024

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2 Overview

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25.

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](#) and [Council Plan 2021 – 2025](#) and [Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33](#).

2.1 Engagement process

Community consultation on the Annual 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 24 April and 14 May 2024 for the consideration of Council.

There were 86 unique contributions via three methods: 80 online surveys, 3 written statements and 2 submissions to the Q&A forum via Council's Have Your Say engagement website. One submission was received via direct email.

2.2 Community and stakeholder feedback

The majority of community feedback on the draft Annual Budget 2024-25 concerned “under-investment in Highett”.

Most survey participants (81%, n=65) raised strong concerns about the “lack of investment in Highett” to address the impacts of and accommodate the significant population growth and development of the area. Detailed feedback and specific project requests for Highett were also provided via three written statements.

Key themes included:

- Highett receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget (71%) to address the infrastructure and services needs of the growing population (45%), including upgrades to roads, footpaths, cycle paths, activity centre streetscapes, and the Peterson Reserve Pavilion.
- Road safety and traffic management concerns within Highett was raised by 38% of respondents, with calls for a full traffic study to be completed to implement improvements.
- Other comments called for increased asset maintenance (23%) and tree planting.
- Public safety concerns were also raised by respondents (11%).

Other survey feedback on the draft budget (15) and a direct email submission was varied across issues and suburbs (*number of mentions in brackets*):

- Infrastructure upgrades (5), including upgrading sporting facilities for teenagers; support for the warm water pool, need to update Cheltenham/Pennydale playgrounds, construct/upgrade skateparks, and upgrade the Sandringham Life Saving Club.
- Inequality in budget allocation between suburbs (4)
- Maintenance to improve uneven and poor condition footpaths/paving in Black Rock and Beaumaris respectively. Another submission supported the upgrade of the Davie Lane surface in Brighton.
- Funding for the provision of safe bicycle tracks, and e-bike subsidies to encourage active transport.
- Focus more on core services (2) such as roads, recreation, waste services, and community facilities.

All verbatim feedback is included in Section 7 – appendix of this report.

2.3 Next steps

Council will consider community feedback, including this community engagement report, before adopting a proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 at its meeting on 18 June 2024.

Interested community members can also request to be heard at this meeting.

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

3 Consultation process

3.1 Definitions and scope

Engagement was conducted to gather community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25.

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

Table 1: Scope of influence

Negotiables	Annual Budget 2024-25 - noting that funding priorities have been set by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34.
Non-negotiables	Legislative requirement for Council to adopt Annual Budget 2024-25 by 30 June 2024.
	Council operations, resource allocation and projects Council has resolved to deliver.
	Waste charge: direct cost recovery due the increase in the State Government landfill levy, an increase in hard waste collections, increased recycling processing costs, and increased green waste and garbage collection and disposal costs.

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 rescheduled projects	H	H	Consult
Stakeholders with new projects financed through Annual Budget 2024-25	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult

Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult
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Level of engagement

Engagement on the Annual Budget 2024-25 was assigned at 'Consult' level, noting limitations on influence because funding priorities are informed by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34. These plans were subject to extensive, deliberative community engagement programs.

3.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement on the Annual Budget 2024-25 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 24 April and 14 May 2024.

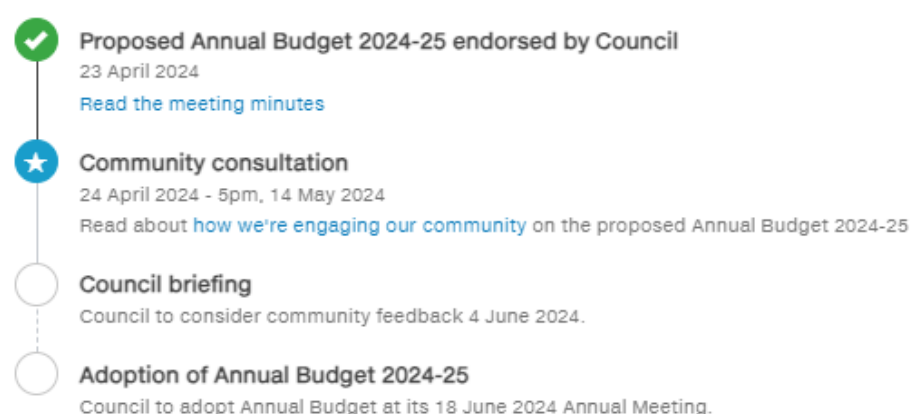
Digital engagement tools (websites, online survey, written statement submission form, and question and answer forum) were used to deliver the engagement program and assessed as meeting the needs of interested community members and stakeholders.

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

Communications via Council channels and targeted social media advertising were undertaken to ensure community members and project stakeholders were aware of the consultation and encouraged to participate.

Figure 1: Timeline and phases for engagement on the proposed Budget

Timeline



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

Details	Activity
24 April – 14 May 2023	Have Your Say engagement website
86 contributions*	• Survey form (80 unique responses*)
85 contributors	• Written statement form (3 submissions)
14 project followers	• Question and answer forum (2 participants)

	Provision of feedback by post or anonymously (0 submissions) *one survey response was submitted twice and the duplicate was removed.
Email 1 submission	1 submission was received via direct email to Bill Shanahan, Chief Financial Officer.
Social media	Two social media posts were published referencing the consultation on the budget, as well as sponsored advertising. Comments (8) on the social media posts were not considered submissions within this report.

3.2.2 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels reached more than 15,000 community members. Social media advertising assisted in raising awareness of the consultation, especially among Bayside residents who may not subscribe to Council communications channels.

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

Details	Activity
Have Your Say engagement website 952 views 765 visits 638 visitors	yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/annual-budget - Project information on proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 and alignment with Council Plan 2021-2025 (542 visitors) - Annual Budget 2024-25 PDF (19 downloads) - Question and answer forum (21 visitors) - Engagement Plan Overview (24 visitors)
Council website	News item: <u>Consultation opens for proposed 2024/25 Budget</u> Website homepage banner 24 April – 13 May
Direct email 45,359 emails sent <12,203 recipients	Have Your Say project subscribers - All subscribers (6,818). Sent 24 April: opens 3,783 (55.5%), clicks 476 (7%) across all included projects. This Week in Bayside e-newsletter 24 April: 12,165 recipients, 6,590 opens, 156 links clicked 2 May: 12,173 recipients, 7,566 opens, 14 links clicked 9 May: 12,203 recipients, 6,946 opens, 49 links clicked
Social media Average reach (per post) 2,000	<u>Facebook and Instagram posts</u> promoting consultation Budget – two unique posts, 30 April and 11 May Sponsored advertising from 11 May
Print c.40,000	Let's Talk Bayside magazine - April/May issue - Distributed to all Bayside households (40,000)

Media coverage

There was no media coverage of the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 consultation.

4 Participant profile

Participant profile data was asked for survey respondents (80) only, with all demographic questions optional. Representative participation was not considered achievable for this consultation 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 (94%, n=75) of survey participants responded they are a Bayside homeowner/ratepayer, while three are a tenant. Two respondents are an owner/operator of a Bayside business, and 5 (6%) are a member of a community group or organisation.

All age brackets between 20 – 84 years were represented except 70 – 74 years. Most participants were aged between 40 and 54 years (51%).

All Bayside suburbs were represented by between 1 – 5 participants. Highett was significantly over-represented with 75% (61) of participants residing in that suburb.

Some respondents listed themselves as belonging to/representing one or multiple community groups or organisations, which included the Highett Progress Association, Highett Community Hub, Bayside U3A, and East Sandringham Junior Football Club.

Most respondents (67%) said they had the information they needed to provide feedback on the Budget and information was very (16%) or mostly (61%) easy to find and understand. This is significantly lower than previous years, with 21% (16) finding information mostly hard to find/understand.

Table 5: Participant demographics compared to Bayside population profile

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Gender	Male	47.8%	33.75% (27)
	Female	52.2%	57.5% (46)
	Unknown	-	7.5% (6)
	Prefer to self-identify	-	1.25% (1)
Age	18-24	7.8%	2.75% (2)
	25-34	7.8%	8% (6)
	35-49	19.4%	48.5% (35)
	50-59	15.7%	23% (17)
	60-69	12.1%	11% (8)
	70-84	12.2%	7% (5)
	85+	3.4%	0%
	Undisclosed	-	11% (8)
Suburb	Beaumaris	12.8%	6.2% (5)
	Black Rock	6.2%	2.5% (2)
	Brighton	23.7%	3.7% (3)
	Brighton East	15.6%	1.2% (1)
	Cheltenham	3.9%	2.5% (2)
	Hampton	13.6%	1.2% (1)
	Hampton East	4.9%	2.5% (2)
	Highett	7.6%	75.3% (61)

Sandringham	11.8%	3.7% (3)
Outside Bayside / Other	-	1.2% (1)

5 Consultation findings

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

5.1 Community feedback - survey

5.1.1 Investment in Highett

Within major initiatives, the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 allocates \$383,000 for the Highett Grassy Woodland masterplan implementation. The budget also references an allowance for additional services which will commence in the coming years including the new Highett Library and Community Hub at the former CSIRO site.

In response to the draft budget, most survey participants (81%, n=65) raised strong concerns about the 'lack of investment in Highett' to address and accommodate the significant future growth and development in the area.

Detailed feedback on the 'underinvestment in Highett' was also provided via three written statements, which are in the appendix (Section 7) of this report, along with verbatim survey responses.

Key themes emerging through survey feedback related to Highett:

- **Budget allocation:** A strong sentiment from 57 respondents (71%) that Highett is receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget, despite Highett accounting for around 10% of the population.
- **Upgrade infrastructure and amenities:** Concerns were raised by 34 respondents about the current state of infrastructure in Highett, including roads, footpaths, cycle paths, activity centres, as well as amenities such as seating and rubbish bins at bus stops. An urgent need to update the Peterson Reserve Pavilion was also highlighted.
- **Population growth and development:** Highett's significant population growth due large development projects was raised by 36 (45%) of respondents. Comments referenced that more open space, infrastructure and services are needed to support the rapidly increasing population.
- **Road safety and traffic management:** Concern about road safety and traffic congestion, particularly on major roads and intersections, and near schools and community centres, was raised by 30 respondents (38%), with calls for more pedestrian crossings in high traffic areas and supervised crossings near schools, as well as extending lower speed limits on some roads. Some recommended that a full traffic study is needed to identify problem areas and implement improvements.
- **Maintenance:** Some comments (18) reference the need for more regular maintenance such as filling in potholes and repairing broken footpaths. Tree planting and streetscape updates are also requested.
- **Public safety:** Nine comments mention issues affecting public safety, including concerns about drug-affected and/or homeless individuals and the need for measures and support services to help address these concerns.
- **Dog parks:** Two comments requested new dedicated off-leash dog parks in Highett.

- **Transparency:** One comment requested that the budget details investment by ward and suburb.

Verbatim feedback is published in Appendix 7.1

5.1.2 General feedback on the budget

15 survey submissions were also received on a range of issues relating to the draft budget:

- Five submissions included references to **infrastructure upgrades**, including upgrading sporting facilities for teenagers; support for the warm water pool, need to update Cheltenham/Pennydale playgrounds, construct/upgrade skateparks, and upgrade the Sandringham Life Saving Club.
- Four submissions referenced **inequality in budget allocation** between suburbs, but another suggested the capital budget is halved.
- Two submissions called for **greater maintenance to improve uneven and poor condition footpaths/paving** in Black Rock and Beaumaris respectively, while another submission supported the upgrade of the Davie Lane surface in Brighton.
- A lack of **funding for the provision of safe bicycle tracks** was raised in one submission.
- Two submissions requested that Council **focus more on core services** such as roads, recreation, waste services, and community facilities instead of climate or 'woke' issues.

Verbatim feedback is included in appendix 7.3

5.2 Community feedback – Q&A forum

An online Q&A forum was hosted on the project's Have Your Say page. Two questions were received during the consultation period.

5.2.1 Question 1

Church St Xmas Street Decorations

A statement was received via the Q&A forum regarding the aged and poor condition of the Church Street Activity Centre Christmas decorations.

A response was provided to this question and published on the [Have Your Say webpage](#).

5.2.2 Question 2

Bicycle infrastructure

A question was asked about 'no funding for bicycle infrastructure in this budget', including a request to allocate some budget to build safe, physically separated bicycle lanes.

A response was provided to this question and published on the [Have Your Say webpage](#).

5.3 Direct email

5.3.1 Email 1 – Promotion of active local transport / e-bike subsidies

"I appreciate the Council's regular updates and surveys regarding improvements to Bayside community services and infrastructure.

I have noted Council support for households to assist the transition to Net Zero carbon emissions, so I would like to point you to an opportunity which you seem to have missed: I see very little action from Council to promote active local transport.

I do notice that there are small improvements being made to shared paths, but honestly you are just fiddling around the edges.

E-bike rebates and subsidies are available in many places across Europe and the US, and have proven to increase cycling uptake. I hear that Tasmania leads Australia by providing the first e-bike rebates, with the Holdfast Bay the first council in Australia to offer such rebates, followed by the City of Adelaide.

Bayside has many advantages as a healthy place to live and work, but one obvious shortcoming is traffic congestion at school times.

E-bike subsidies would be easy to adopt and have proven to be effective in promoting health and environmental objectives. Most importantly for ratepayers, active transport is cost effective.” Resident, Brighton.

6 Project Evaluation

6.1.1 Participation

A very high number of submissions were received (86) through the 2024 consultation process in comparison to previous years: 2023 (37), 2022: (12), 2021: (67), 2020: (7).

This was driven by the number of contributions (76%, n=65) from Highett community members.

6.1.2 Engagement

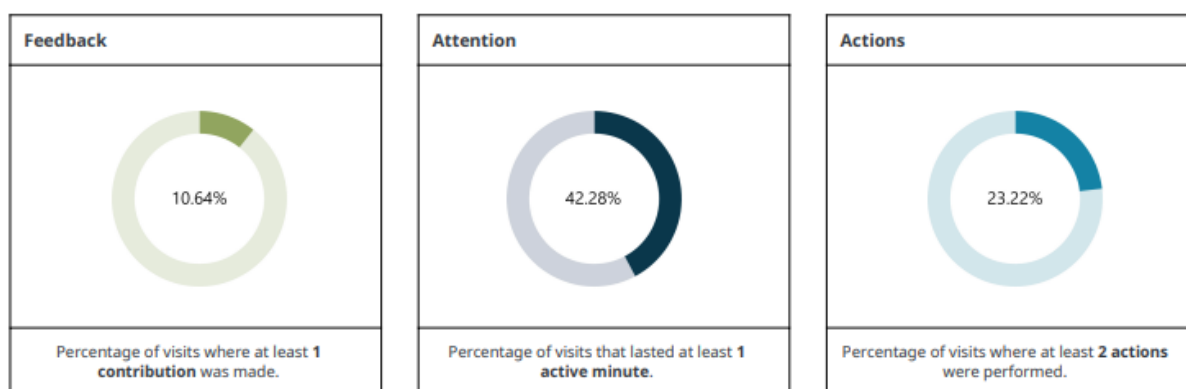
It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

- 500 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (exceeded; 958 views)
- 10 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (exceeded; 83)

958 Views	771 Visits	643 Visitors	86 Contributions	85 Contributors	14 Followers
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In terms of conversion, the goals for Have Your Say webpages were that:

- 2% of visits would have at least one contribution made (exceeded, 10.5%)
- 25% of visits would last at least one active minute (exceeded, 42%)
- 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 moderate. Of the 75 survey participants who responded to the question: ‘Did you have the information you needed to provide your feedback on the Budget?’, a small majority (57%) selected information was very (16%) or mostly easy (51%) to find and/or understand; 21% said it was mostly hard to find and/or understand, 1 found it very hard and 8 were not sure.

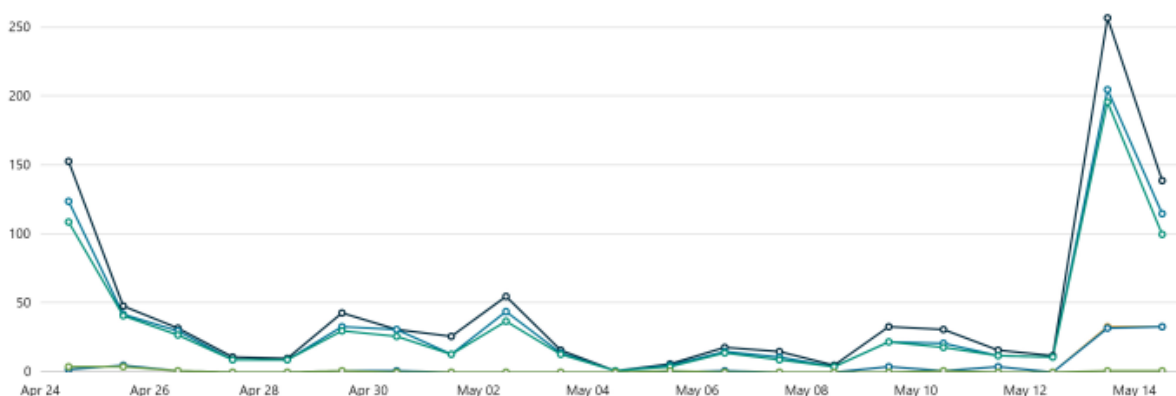
Community consultation on the Annual Budget, under the Local Government Act 2020 (Section 63), requires Council to develop its Annual Budget in accordance with its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. The principles of this Policy were met, including the publication of an Engagement Plan Overview (appendix 7.5).

6.1.3 Communications

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

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

The chart below shows the spikes in visitation to the Have Your Say engagement webpages when the consultation was promoted via news on Council's website and direct email (24 April) and social media on 30 April and 11 May (including sponsored advertising); and e-newsletters on 24 April, 2 May and 9 May.



7 Appendix

7.1 Verbatim survey feedback referencing investment in Highett

The suburb Highett is only receiving 380 thousand. While this is a big step up from previous years, it still pales in comparison to some of the other suburbs such as Brighton receiving around 15 million. I understand that an argument for this could be the fact that Brighton is larger than Highett (almost 3 times) but it still does not explain the difference in the allocation of the Annual Budget.

Highett amounts to around 10% of the population for our area, and especially with the large ongoing construction for more apartments, it will rise to around 15%. As such, it does not make a lot of sense for Highett to receive less than 1% of the total budget, especially with the rest of the suburbs receiving a minimum around \$3 million.

I ask for your understanding in seeing how the residents of Highett are upset and disappointed in how the allocation of the Annual Budget is currently shown, and that some of the Budget is moved to improve some of the infrastructure, such as the bus stops, more open space, improving facilities in the area, more pedestrian crossings near high traffic areas such as Aldi. If nothing else, please consider filling in potholes around the area.

As a new Bayside resident having moved to Highett less than a year ago, I appreciate many of the natural advantages of this area and the work of the Bayside Council and Officers in maintaining and growing the amenities for the community. However, from interacting with many neighbours and others I've met in the community, Bayside does seem divided between the beach suburbs and those 'inland', the haves and the have nots. Cheltenham, Highett and Hampton East do not enjoy the same amenities and environment as in the other wealthier suburbs, whether looking at the quality of tree coverage, parks

(both quality and quantity), regularity of road repairs and broken footpaths and Bayside capital expenditure.

Under 'Our Promise' regarding transparent and accountable civic leadership, I suggest that capital and operating investment should be considered and tracked by Ward and suburb and published. This divide may be due to historical issues, the quality of recent representation and also whether the community itself has been proactive enough in making its voice heard. But as those three inland suburbs are also in line for the greatest future disruption and densification from SRL, LXP and massive private development, I ask that the Council and Officers consider the allocation of resources and how a fairer split of budgets can be achieved, related more to need than historical trends.

The budget allocated to Highett is comically low compared to the rest of the suburbs. We only have ~1% of the budget, despite representing *[editorial note: no further comment provided]*

Fix our roads, I'm sick of driving over pot holes. It seems I constantly see workman delaying our travel, yet when they pack up and leave. I can't see any difference in the roads. It's a farce!!

Where's the funding for Highett? Is this a joke? You really think Brighton, Sandringham, Hampton need that much more than Highett?

Highett requires more than the 1% allocation! With the massive growth and projects planned in the area, the infrastructure and focus requirements have increased. Bay Rd, Highett and Wickham Rd are portal roads to much of the Bayside region, none of the Bayside residents are going to want to enter their exclusive suburbs via slums. Letting this area deteriorate will have a large effect on the values, monetary or "lifestyle". This budget has been very poorly thought out.

Highett is only getting 1% of the budget, however Highett represents about 10% of the population in bayside. Highett needs a lot of upgrading, but just gets ignored in the budget. How is that fair when Highett residents pay rates to Bayside City council, but money does not get spent our suburb. This needs to be changed and fair amount allocated to Highett who need it more than most of the surrounding suburbs.

Only 1% of budget going to Highett is ridiculous given the extra development and revenue being gained. Not happy and will advocate strongly against council.

As a ratepayer in Highett, my feedback is that the budget does not fairly represent and distribute capital works funds to all suburbs. Highett is allocated only \$380,000 of capital works funding, the lowest for all Bayside Council suburbs - and the lowest by a large margin, with the next lowest suburbs Sandringham, Cheltenham and Black Rock receiving 3 million dollars of capital works funding. Highett represents 10% of Bayside's population, increasing to 14% with the Highett Common development. Black rock and Cheltenham have lower population percentages, at 8% and 4% yet receive significantly more funding for capital works. Sandringham has 13% population so only slightly more than Highett yet receives significantly more capital works funding.

I'd like to see a review of the budget with a fairer distribution of capital works funding so that all Bayside residents can see increased amenity in their local area and receive value from the rates they are paying.

There appears to insufficient funds allocated to Highett - with the over development approved by this council it is disappointing to see that the budget allocation is not equitable to the amount of revenue that is being generated by extra apartments homes the over development is making. This needs a review and how about for a change to consider community feedback than to simply continue with ignoring it ?

Once again Highett has been shortchanged in the Budget.

With a massive population increase in the Highett Common development we need to improve traffic management in that area. We need confirmation that the long awaited Highett Library on the Bayside side of the tracks will happen.

More open space needs to occur in Highett (excluding the con job in Highett Common).

1% of the Budget allocated to Highett is a disgrace.

I have campaigned for years for traffic lights in front of Aldi store in Bay Road. This is an extremely dangerous area and getting busier.

Would like to see more investment in Highett. We have had a large increase in residence and traffic - pedestrian and cars recently with apartments near the train station and Nepean Hwy as well as the huge Ramsay aged care site. Graham Rd is soon to be even more congested with the over-development of the CSIRO site. I appreciate the preservations of Grassy Woodlands but why are there not more considerations to current traffic issues in Highett, more trees, bins and making the Highett shopping strip more appealing.

There is not enough budget allocation for capital works within Highett!

Allocating 1% of your budget to Highett is incredibly contemptuous. We have more than 1% of the population so why are we being underfunded? Given that this suburb is about to undergo massive change, the Council needs to be investing in improved infrastructure and services PROACTIVELY, not reactively. I would imagine that if Highett is receiving 1% of the budget then are rates will be discounted accordingly??

Once again, Highett has been overlooked for any sort of material budget allocations. Given the proposed rapid increase to the population in Highett in the coming years not least due to the development of the CSIRO site, Highett should receive a larger proportion of the budget allocation for services, infrastructure, beautification etc. Brighton, as an example, is already adequately provided for. Electronic bins? Seriously? I suggest that Council rethinks it budget allocation for Highett as a matter of priority.

How will the budget target Highett that is growing rapidly in population.

- Stage 1 of the Highett Commons will see Highett's rapid rise with first occupancy in 2025 with x13 more towers to follow. What plans does the council have for surrounding streets and footpaths that desperately need resurfacing, widening, and bike paths? I.e Highett Road.

- Highett bus stop doesn't have any seating or bins currently.

- Safety has become a large problem around Highett train station and surrounding apartment blocks, after DHS relocating people with addictions and mental health issues with no supervision or oversight. Locals are being physically attacked and abused. How will the council address safety in the area? Has there been any funding allocated for this issue.

- Bay Road is a big traffic problem, especially around Southland. Traffic is not managed properly with non existent lane markings (merge from 2 into 1). A dedicated bike path needs to be built off the road for safety as traffic gets banked up during peak time. What funding has been allocated by the council for traffic studies and the impact of the SRL at William Fry Reserve?

Peterson Reserve is in dire need of an uplift and is an eyesore to the community.

Roads around Highett are starting to deteriorate and are in need of action.

Bins at bus stops around bayside need to be improved as litter is becoming normal.

As a Bayside rate payer in Highett, my expectation is that my rates will go towards further developing Highett and not the other well financed suburbs!

Especially now with Council's announcement of increase in our rates.

It's quite appalling that Highett is barely included in the new budget plans. Why is my money not being spent on my community?

The population in Highett has increased yet there have been no improvements to: roads, footpaths and cycle paths, pedestrian and community safety, public rubbish bins, street lighting, parks, parking availability, arts and culture, accessibility.

I urge Council to reconsider the budget plans and include the above basic amenities for Highett.

Given the population expansion would love to see more investment into Highett. Out of the bayside suburbs it seems the budget is hardly geared towards this area at all.

Highett needs more money and resources spent to cover the increasing population. More road and safety infrastructure!

We need a crossing on bay Rd opposite Aldi to cross safely. To break up traffic so you can turn right from Beaumaris pde and the other st. The traffic is so busy and the trees planted makes seeing a nightmare.

Highett is lacking infrastructure upgrades and expansion to facilitate and cope with the major residential developments over the next few years. Has the council a plan for this???

Underinvestment in Highett - we are the poor cousins to the higher profile and more affluent suburbs.

I am pleading that council consider a low-cost project that would have significant impact. Please turn the block of land with an old run-down playground in it on spring st Highett into a dog park. There are 2 fantastic playgrounds (albeit only catering for very young kids) at Basterfield Park. The spring st park equipment is old and rundown. All it really needs is a water tap for the dogs. This would support local dog owners, improve people's incentive to walk rather than drive to a park and also reduce emissions. This is a cheap no brainer for great outcomes.

Highett, as the fastest growing suburb in Bayside, appears severely underrepresented in the Budget plans. Basic infrastructure needs to be looked at and plans put in place to cater for the expanding population and additional stress that will be placed on roads, local amenities, and many other areas. While some may not be under the responsibility of local government, a great deal is. Once again, Bayside Council seems to have forgotten Highett.

Yet again hardly any focus on Highett. With a growing population more focus needs to be spent on Highett, truly are the poor cousins of Bayside. Surely we have someone advocating for us on the council??

Highett is set to double in population in the coming years, yet Bayside have NO future plans on improving our basic needs like road and pedestrian safety or ANY new amenities for our community! In fact Bayside have not done a full traffic study of Highett in almost a decade, with no future plans of doing so.

The only project for Highett is the grassy woodlands, what a joke that the residents of Highett don't feature or seem to matter?

The past year we got an 'oranges' art installation at the Peterson reserve park. Will the Bayside Council spend ANOTHER year without our basic needs being met!

Highett desperately requires dedicated off lead dog parks. I feel we are neglected and forgotten. Sharing facilities with sports fields is not working as the sporting events are prioritised meaning I can seldom walk dogs during ever increasing sporting events. The new Sandringham Netball Centre also decreases access to Merindah Park as Sandringham Secondary College chose to block access from Bay Road. Please consider the difficulty dog owners in Highett face with literally no place to take our beloved animals.

I think it's grossly unfair that only 1% of the budget has been attributed to Highett when we have approx 7% of the population of Bayside.

The infrastructure in Bay and Highett Roads will need attention if anyone from Sandringham, Black Rock, Hampton and Beaumaris wish to visit Southland Shopping Centre in the coming years. The roads will be crammed with traffic from the impending CSIRO development and the population growth afforded by the government wanting to increase density around SRL. Not to mention the closing of Latrobe St crossing. There's only so many roads that lead out of Bayside....

I think your forgetting that the majority of council funding will not be coming Highett way. We have huge buildings being built residential housing everywhere far too many cars on our roads. Criminals are going haywire in Highett breaking and entering houses and apartments also units. You take our money and give hardly anything I return. Don't rely

on us to vote you back in next election seeming we aren't important enough for you. It's not rocket science.

Absolutely disgraceful that so little of this budget is allocated to Highett, given the massive increase in population that the suburb is experiencing due the huge number of apartments being approved.

You need to make serious investments into infrastructure and public facilities in Highett to cater to this new growth.

So with all the new development and influx of thousands of new residents where is the attention to infrastructure to support this. You are allowing current residents to be crowded in instead of sharing the load across Bayside. You treat Highett and Cheltenham as third class citizens. Only 1% of the budget allocated to us yet our rates rise like everyone else's and BCC will gain thousands more ratepayers here but we get nothing but disdain in return. Stop favouring the beach suburbs and look after all of us.

Please consider increasing the share of the Budget allocated to supporting the development of the Highett road network and community services to adequately cater for the massive increase in population expected over the coming years due to the Sunken private development on the former CSIRO site.

The roads are congested along Wickham & Highett Roads. If we are building new apartments (Highett Commons) we will see a huge increase in traffic. Please spend more money to ease this congestion. I sit at the lights/train tracks for ages!!!!

It is a nightmare. Plus since the removal of the housing commission housing on the corner off Bluff and Wickham Rd, I have seen an increase in drug affected people wandering the streets. Where have these people moved to? Have they been offered housing or left to fend for themselves. I think that there should be something done about the amount of homeless and drug affected people.

Rates are going up and yet very little budget is allocated to Highett. How is this possible?

Highett needs to be a priority in the annual budget for 2024-25 as it is often neglected with other suburbs given priority. With only 1% allocated in the budget to Highett it doesn't address the many areas of need within the community. Please provide improvements to the following areas in Highett - Pedestrian crossing on Worthing Road (Highett Community Centre)

- New pocket-parks and open space for all to enjoy.
- Full traffic study to identify improvements to road and pedestrian safety across Highett (not done since 2015)
- Graham Rd/Bay Rd intersection upgrade (3 lane)
- Updated streetscape in Highett Rd (to improve trade)
- Better seating at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station) inc. bins.
- Toilet and additional sporting facilities for Highland Reserve
- Extension of 40 zone past Worthing Road to improve community safety.
- Pedestrian crossing at Bay Rd (Aldi)
- Pedestrian crossing at Highett Rd (before Worthing Rd)
- School Hour Traffic Attendant at Worthing Rd/Wickham Rd (to improve safety for foot traffic to Moorabbin Primary School).

More facilities for Highett. Improve roads, do a traffic study to see the problem areas, more seating and rubbish bins in the area.

Not enough has been spent on HIGHETT. This suburb has boomed and continues to grow. We won't support any council that won't set better funding to HIGHETT.

Highett is in need of some major upgrades. Although, there are plans to upgrade the Highett grassy woodlands, it is disappointing to see that not much else of the budget seems to be going towards Highett. The following upgrades are needed for Highett:

- a seat and a rubbish bin at the station bus stop

- development of our roads and infrastructure
- safety around our crossings
- a clean up/fresh paint of the shop fronts
- a major improvement to the road along View Lane

It is a real shame to see our rates are going to increase with little plans to improve the liveability and basic needs of Highett.

Highett needs major improvement. Lyle Anderson Reserve toilets are unsafe and in desperate need of an upgrade. This should be a priority considering the new buildings on Graham Road and the population will be needing to use green space. The cyclone fencing around Highland Avenue playground is grotesque and the park needs public amenities as there are no public toilets in the vicinity. People have seen workers, children urinating behind the bushes due to the lack of amenities, where else are people supposed to go. Children from the local high school also pass here on the way home and the park is used by parents with young children and could be used for birthday parties but the lack of toilets reduces the potential for use. The small park on Spring rd Highett is outdated and needs more trees and plants, a landscaping makeover to improve it and new play equipment for children as the seesaws are outdated and unsafe as they are over 40 years old and unsafe to use. Disappointed to see wealthier suburbs such as Brighton allocated more funding and Highett who needs it more left behind.

Only 1% of the budget is allocated to Highett yet the population is set to double. What more can you do to keep Highett protected from major high rises and keep roads clear from traffic and protect more greenery with so much development.

Would love to see more focus and more investments in Highett. Don't forget how quickly and rapidly the suburb is growing.

The minimal investment in Highett is concerning. Despite its growing significance in the bayside demographic, our community spaces and parks suffer from bare minimum maintenance and urgently require upgrades.

It's absolutely disgraceful how little effort and funds are spent on Highett. As rate payers in such a growth suburb the council has given all Highett residents a giant slap in the face. This must change. Many Highett locals are young families and the future generations of bayside and we deserve more respect, planning and infrastructure to ensure the continued growth and appeal of our neighbourhoods.

Saddened to see so little investment in Highett despite this suburb being the fastest growing community in Bayside with the population set to massively grow in coming years. I'd love to see funds more evenly split between between the suburbs. Highett is in need of more recognition and acknowledgement.

Additionally, I'd like to see more of the budget consider building community resilience through mental health programs such as those aimed at reducing isolation within the bayside community, groups/programs to enhance social and emotional wellbeing in young children and adolescents and groups/programs for people and children fleeing family violence at the hands of bayside residents.

Please make further investment into the Highett suburb as this has been growing very quickly and the services do not match the growth rate.

I would like to see more of the budget focused on Highett. As a particularly high growth suburb within the council area, we need to ensure we have better services to meet the scale of all the new developments coming. I don't see this reflected in the current budget plans.

What about Highett? Sure, the Highett Grassy Woodlands development is great. Highett has a massive increase in housing planned, though, especially apartments, yet Highett is having no investment in roads, traffic congestion minimisation, parks, no more resources given to graffiti removal or waste management, MCH centres, kinder, drainage. It's all going to other areas of Bayside. What about Highett?

We need to remove the Highett railway crossing on Highett road and the Wickham road crossing, it's an absolute nightmare, and with the massive development on Graham road introducing 1000 new apartments, it will be impossible to get through Highett

Not enough being spent in Highett to address liveability. Highett is a suburb that's about to grow in population very quickly by 2025.

Highett seems to not have a big allocation % and seems to be under-represented. There is plenty of opportunity to upgrade and improve Highett as a suburb of Bayside:

New trees and replace existing trees. As an example the trees on Train St are horrible and need to be replaced.

Footpaths and road upgrade. Highett road needs resealing as since gas works is horrible.

Upgrade parks and equipment. The park on Spring Road is from the 70's.

Clean up area, garden beds around Highett station. Clean and fix footpaths on Highett road

More Xmas decorations.

There is so much more investment for Highett to improve the area. I understand it's not Church St or Bay Road. But a little more support. I hope these considerations are taken into account.

Where is Highett in this budget? With all the newly approved developments, SRL and removal of Highett train station we need an urgent traffic study at the very least. Traffic in the area is becoming a real challenge already. More street lighting is also needed for safety reasons, there is so much theft, break ins in the area at the moment in addition to many individuals with mental health / drug issues roaming the streets, as a female I don't feel safe at night. Bins seem to be overflowing frequently and I'm concerned about all the massage places that have suddenly popped up.

Please consider Highett in your budget. The traffic is gridlock most of the time, particularly on Highett Road. The removal of the level crossing at Wickham Road and Highett Road needs to be a priority, given the development happening around the area such as the Highett Commons.

Questioning how you plan to focus on Highett and the developments and infrastructure needs to Highett that are growing. Even revamping and revitalizing Bluff Road shopping strip. These should have as much focus as surrounding suburb needs.

It is a disgrace that Highett is only going to receive 1% of next year's budget. Our rates are as high (and increasing) the same as everyone else! We need traffic improvement, parks improvement, and general amenities. The main street of Highett needs a makeover to encourage more people to go there and improve the shopping.

You have RUINED Highett... it is a mess!!! Try living in Graham Rd at the moment...

You should be ashamed of how little you are doing for what was a charming place to live... we are fortunate enough to be about to move...SHAME on your lack of care for Highett!!!!

Why is Highett getting a poor share of the funds. The council has used Highett for new housing to protect Brighton but fails to provide sufficient funds to support us.

Once again, Highett has been completely ignored when it comes to allocating any aspect of budget funds.

The completely outdated and frankly dangerous amenities at Peterson Reserve has again been overlooked. It is used every day for school sport, and every weekend for team sport. There are no facilities for female athletes and the minimal facilities that exist for male athletes are decrepit and frankly unsafe for junior athletes.

Despite asking for years for additional crossovers to be installed at Peterson Reserve at the corner of Frederico/Peterson and near the playground, so that there is access for prams and wheelchairs, there are once again, still no funds allocated for making it more accessible. Despite rebuilding the toilet in 2023/2024 it is still not wheelchair friendly. There is no wheelchair access to the club rooms.

Highett is set to be most densely populated suburb in all of bayside with the upcoming approved development, with residents therefore contributing to a significant majority of rates, yet they are allocated a measly 1% of the budget.

Bayside council represents MORE than just Brighton, Hampton and Sandringham. It would do the councillors to remember their commitment to improving ALL of bayside, and NOT just the suburb they reside in themselves.

Highett needs an up to date traffic study which has not been completed for a decade. Traffic is out of control. A focus on crime reduction is essential. At times we feel unsafe walking our streets. Considerations for parking permits need to apply where commercial businesses are an issue.

That about 1% of the budget is spent on Highett. We have roads that need new bitumen as they are terrible to drive down. The whole area would benefit from a traffic survey. Plus, we need better security in the area due to the poor behaviour of residents that have been placed in public housing in the area.

How about some allocation for Highett. One project!

Highett could do with

- Pedestrian crossing on Worthing Road (Highett Community Centre)
- New pocket-parks and open space
- Full traffic study to identify improvements to road and pedestrian safety across Highett (not done since 2015)
- Graham Rd/Bay Rd intersection upgrade (3 lane)
- Updated streetscape in Highett Rd (to improve trade)
- Better seating at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station) inc. bins.
- Toilet and additional sporting facilities for Highland Reserve
- Extension of 40 zone past Worthing Road to improve community safety.
- Pedestrian crossing at Bay Rd (Aldi)
- Pedestrian crossing at Highett Rd (before Worthing Rd)
- School Hour Traffic Attendant at Worthing Rd/Wickham Rd (to improve safety)

Let's hope we can elect a representative who live sun our ward to make some changes

I am very disappointed with Highett receiving only 1% of the budget given the large amount of growth expected in the next financial year and beyond. Our road and pedestrian safety is at a crisis point and will only be exasperated by further trucks and cars in the first stage of the Highett Commons (former CSIRO site). Highett will be generating a large amount of revenue for the council yet almost no spend on improving amenity, liveability and safety for the Highett community. By the end of 2025 we will have some 2,000 new residents to accommodate and no provisions have been made in this budget to improve Highett's activity centre, sporting facilities or provide more open space. This simply isn't good enough!

Highett urgently needs a traffic safety analysis and a large proportion of road upgrades needs to be allocated to pedestrian crossings on Highett Road and Worthing Road to provide safe access to the Highett Community Centre/Kindergarten and a safe walking path to Moorabbin primary school.

Highett has the least green space in Bayside and although budget spend on The Highett Grassy woodlands is needed it will not help Highett's need for open space and better community amenity.

I am completely unsatisfied with the disproportionate budget spend on improvements to Brighton each year when Highett is lacking so much in streetscape and activity centre improvements, those that would help enhance local businesses.

The Highett community has been asking for sufficient seating on Highett Road where the bus stop outside of Highett station has NO seating or rubbish bin and the bus stop outside Woolworths on Highett Rd has only one seat and the community are sitting on the curb daily. These are basic needs which continually get rejected by council and Highett's rates

are spent on improving other suburbs. While Brighton gets electronic bins and hot water pools, families in Highett cannot safely cross the road to our schools and kindergarten and are resorted to sitting on the curb in our High street.

Budget allocation should be attributed to the optimal solution for the Graham Rd/ Bay Rd intersection and not the intersection configuration indicated to be paid by Sunkin. Graham Road needs two lane exit in order to facilitate the large number of new cars from The Highett Commons. Budget allocation must be made by council to perform an independent evaluation and solution to make this intersection suitable, including petition to government for funding.

Highett road needs traffic slowing measures by way of extending the 40 zone to start before Worthing Road as well as a pedestrian crossing which allows families to cross Highett Rd and walk safely down Worthing Road.

A pedestrian crossing is urgently needed on Worthing Road outside The Highett Community Centre. It is appalling that Highett's family and community hub has NO safe pedestrian access. This is needed in 2024/25 budget as a matter of urgency! Signage to indicate children zone is also required the length of Worthing Road.

Council also need to investigate measures to provide safe pedestrian crossings on Worthing/Wickham Rd until such time as the rail is removed. This is a very dangerous crossing for pedestrians during school hours.

Council also need to perform a traffic study on the Neighbourhood residential zone affected by the newly created exit road on Middleton Street from The Highett Commons. It is noted that a significant amount of 2024/25 budget is attributed to the management of Netball parking however the Highett Commons will generate 4,000+ daily car movements, far more than the Sandringham Netball centre yet no traffic study or safety measures have been allocated to the protection of Highett Neighbourhood Residential Zone affected by the new Middleton Street exit Road. Council needs to add this traffic study and application to this 2024/25 budget also.

Disappointing to see funds being allocated to certain projects when there are Council assets/facilities that remain de-prioritised causing 'real' community impacts and lack of usability. The Peterson Reserve precinct is specifically the focus of this comment on the back of a recent meeting with the Mayor and a walk through of the appalling facilities that no family is comfortable for their child to use. The impact to the local sporting clubs that use these grounds is real in dropping participation rates and in the middle of winter, kids being forced to get changed outside. What an embarrassment for when visiting teams come to 'beautiful' bayside only to be presented with these facilities.

Although the Bayside half of Highett is having thousands of new apartments imposed on this once peaceful suburb, there seems to be no forward planning in the budget for this suburb. Supposedly we should be grateful for the grassy woodlands allocation, which has always been there and will now be shared with thousands of residents from the Sunkin towers. Where is the forward planning for traffic controls, playgrounds and open space for all of these people? With the income from rates that will be received from these developments, Highett deserves a fairer allocation of Bayside funds to develop the infrastructure needed now.

Once again HIGHETT has been left out in Bayside Councils latest budget. This does not seem fair when council approved high density living without addressing traffic movement into the Local Neighbourhood Area and open spaces.

Written statements referencing investment in Highett

7.1.1 Written statement 1: Highett Progress Association



Bayside City Council
76 Royal Avenue,
Sandringham VIC 3191

14 May 2024

Dear Councillors,

Response to the Bayside City Council – Proposed Annual Budget for 2024-2025

We thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback in response to Council's proposed budget.

The Highett Progress Association (HPA) notes and welcomes Council's commitment to funding the restoration of the Highett Grassy Woodlands area.

The HPA notes however that aside from The Highett Grassy Woodlands, there is minimal projected spending allocated for Highett. The HPA seeks the allocation of funds for specific items falling under the categories of Our Planet, Our People and Our Place for the benefit of the Highett community, as outlined below.

Highett is currently undergoing an unprecedented level of change and growth. The major development approved by Council on the former CSIRO site exemplifies the significant growth anticipated in Highett in the near future. Whilst the full impact of the completion of the fully developed CSIRO site is yet to be felt, residents are already experiencing extreme traffic congestion and associated safety issues which need to be addressed now.

A traffic report commissioned by Council and completed by O'Brien's in 2015 was the last conclusive publicly available study on traffic levels and behaviours within the Highett (Bayside) Activity Centre. That study outlined that Graham Road and Middleton Street were even then operating near saturation (at least 95% capacity) – with traffic having heavily increased since then – and will far exceed theoretical capacity by first occupancy at The Highett Commons in 2025. To the knowledge of the HPA, there has been no independent study since that date – only traffic surveys commissioned by the developer of the CSIRO site, which did not include pedestrian safety concerns nor the dangerous impact on surrounding streets. Given the Council has not independently assessed Highett's road and pedestrian safety for almost a decade, it is critical this be addressed in the 2024/25 budget.

Highett residents including members of the HPA have expressed their lived experience of near misses and/or accidents on a weekly basis at dangerous intersections such as Graham/Bay Roads and Worthing/Highett Roads. And observed risky crossings by families navigating their way to the Highett Community Centre, Child Maternal Health Centre,

Community Kindergarten and Moorabbin Primary School. These family facilities currently have NO pedestrian crossing.

Specific Requests for Funding in Highett

The HPA seeks specific allocation in the Bayside City Council budget for the 2024/2025 year for the following items:

1. An independent traffic study into the Highett area concerning current congestion AND future known traffic levels, and how pedestrian and driver safety may be optimised, with particular attention to each of the following intersections:
 - (a) Graham Road/Bay Road (see “Urgently Needed Traffic Study” below)
 - (b) Worthing Road/Highett Road (see **enclosed** photograph)
 - (c) Middleton Street/Bay Road
 - (d) Middleton Street/Highett Road
 - (e) Wickham Road/Worthing Road
 - (f) Cloyne St/Bay Rd
 - (g) Beaumaris Pde/Bay Rd
 - (h) Jackson Rd/Bay Rd

Urgently Needed Traffic Study

An urgent analysis of the optimal outcome for the Bay Rd/Graham Rd intersection needs to be prioritised in this coming budget. The current proposal will not service the current - let alone future – population but will likely further increase congestion and exacerbate erratic driving behaviours. As the intersection upgrade is planned for mid to late 2025, it is essential that the necessary study is completed in 2024. The HPA has discussed this with Bayside Planners and the CEO of Bayside, who share our concern that the current proposal for a two-lane intersection (being a single lane in each direction) will not meet the needs of the expected population using Graham Rd and that supplementary investment will hence be required in future years to widen the intersection and increase traffic flow in each traffic sequence. We urge the necessary investigation be completed this year, so Council is then fully aware of the issues and can request funding for an appropriate solution, including land acquisition to upgrade the intersection to three lanes on Graham Rd.

2. Installation of a pedestrian crossing and school signage on Worthing Road to facilitate safe crossing for thousands of families accessing the Highett Community Centre, Highett Youth Centre, Child Maternal Health Nurses and Livingston Community Kindergarten. Worthing Road will be one of the main roads heavily affected by the congestion and diverted traffic caused by Stage 1 construction at The Highett Commons as well as future upgrades to Highett Station and projected future population and is already experiencing dangerous levels of traffic with NO safe crossing for families. As the main pedestrian passageway for Livingston Kindergarten and Moorabbin Primary, this pedestrian crossing simply cannot be delayed another year without serious and life-threatening consequences to our most vulnerable. With a speed bump already located at the site (at No.9 Worthing Road) this would be a minor upgrade for council with significant benefits to safety of the entire Highett community.

3. Extension of the existing 40 kph speed limit along Highett Rd in the direction of Albert Street, and **investigation** into an additional pedestrian crossing on **Highett road (near Worthing Road)**, to **slow traffic and** facilitate families safely crossing Highett Road to the Worthing Road family corridor. The intersection of Highett Road and Worthing Road is very busy at peak times, with frequent pedestrian crossings and cars turning in and out of the intersection, creating multiple near misses on an almost daily basis. As the main passage for families accessing the community facilities, traffic must be slowed on Highett Rd BEFORE Worthing Road preferably **with the use of electronic signage**.
4. Investment into safe school-hour crossing assistance on Wickham Road/Worthing Road, to facilitate families walking to and from Moorabbin Primary School - being the local state primary school for the majority of Highett. This is an extremely dangerous site for crossing and needs Council intervention until signalisation is installed as part of the XRL level crossing removal (proposed 2029). The community again cannot wait until 2029 and beyond for safety to be addressed at such a dangerous, school-zone intersection.
5. Installation of two (2) additional bench seats at the bus stop outside the Woolworths Supermarket/Apartment Complex on Highett Road. There is presently a single seat, inadequate for a major bus stop opposite a train station and the number of passengers typically waiting at peak times, who are then forced to sit on a concrete plinth or stand if the existing bench seat is fully occupied. This also creates congestion on the footpath, and difficulty for passing pedestrians.
6. Installation of a larger rubbish bin, and the addition of a recycling bin at the bus stop outside the Woolworths Apartment Complex on Highett Road. The existing small bin regularly overflows, and there is no other nearby receptacle, so recyclable items are strewn about the footpath, creating a safety hazard for pedestrians – as per the **enclosed** photograph.
7. Installation of a bench seat at the bus stop nearest to Highett Station (out the front of the shop “Hudlow” and the restaurant “Abbiocco”). There is presently no seat at all for passengers awaiting the bus, which is manifestly inadequate – as can be seen from the **enclosed** picture, showing the current situation of waiting passengers having to resort to sitting on the steps due to a lack of proper seating.

Consistency with Goals & Objectives

The HPA submits that the above requests while modest are important – the totality of the requested items would require minimal expenditure when compared with funds allocated in the proposed budget for other Bayside areas, yet they would maximise the safety and amenity of the Highett community.

The requests meet Council’s articulated goals as follows:

Our Planet – promoting the use of sustainable transport and recycling.

Our Place – traffic & transport; assets & investigations; infrastructure - parks, open spaces & streetscapes

Our People – safety; school crossings & amenities.

Whilst many projects are on the horizon that will massively increase density and potentially adversely affect Highett’s future liveability, the HPA submits that it is already urgent today to consider the current traffic and safety circumstances. Major construction projects such as the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) and the SRL station will exacerbate existing problems due to traffic being diverted into alternative routes running parallel to the train lines for extended periods.

The HPA asks that Council allocates funding to each of the above items. HPA Committee members would welcome the opportunity to host Councillors on a walking tour of areas relevant to these requests, commencing from local institution the Flour House in Graham Road, through to our community centre on Worthing Rd.

Yours faithfully,



Angela Burr

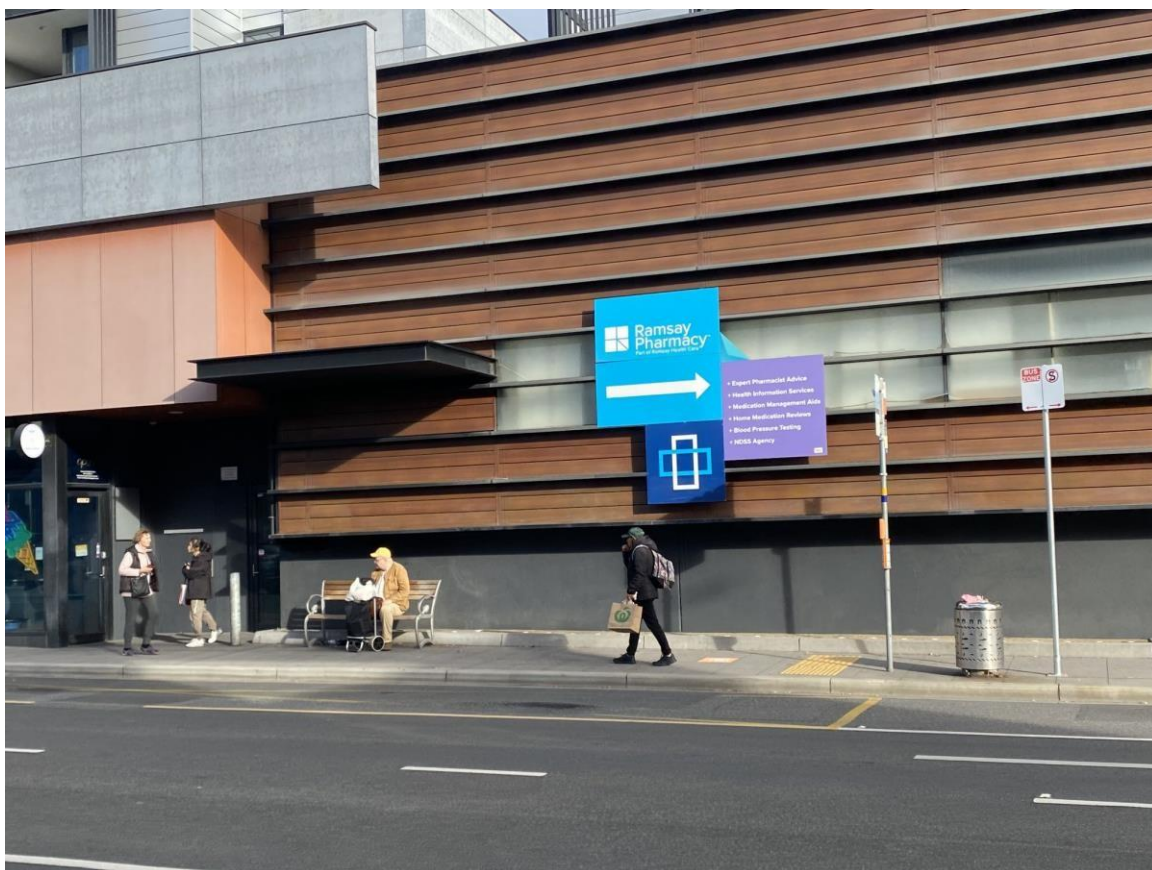
BSc, LLB & Acc. Spec. (Fam.)

For and on behalf of the Hightett Progress Association Inc.

Email: hightettprogress@yahoo.com

Relevant Photographs

1. Bus stop at 284-286 Hightett Road, outside the Woolworths Shopping Centre/Apartment Complex – with insufficient seating, and inadequate provision of recycling and rubbish bins.



2. Bus stop at 499 Hightett Road, on the north side adjacent to city-bound platform of Hightett Train Station – no proper seating for waiting passengers.



3. Photograph of the corner of Worthing Road & Highett Road showing typical traffic congestion at peak times. Families typically cross Highett Road in the vicinity of or at this intersection immediately before and after school pick up in heavy traffic.



7.1.2 Written statement 2: Highett resident (Kerryn), Highett

Response to Bayside City Council – Annual Budget 2024/2025

The Bayside City Council's Annual Budget 2024/2025 fails to address the significant policy and legislative changes regarding zoning for housing densification in the Highett and Pennydale areas of Bayside.

The following areas require significant investment from the Bayside City Council ('BCC') to ensure the residents of Highett and Pennydale have the infrastructure and amenities for the forecast population growth over the short and medium term.

Graham Road and Bay Road Intersection – Installation of traffic lights

It is critical this intersection is 3 lanes, allowing a dedicated right turning lane from Graham to Bay Road. BCC needs to work closely with all stakeholders, State Government, Sunkin (Developer of the former CSIRO site) and local residents to ensure an appropriate intersection is designed and installed to adequately meet the needs of the local community, both present and future.

Proposed Funding Areas

1. Allocate funds for a traffic management plan for Highett and the Pennydale Area
2. Allocate funds sufficient to ensure an appropriate 3 lane signalled intersection is installed at the Graham Road/Bay Road Intersection
3. Increase advocacy with all stakeholders, Developer and State Government to ensure an appropriate joint funding model for this intersection.

Additional Facilities for the Highett & Pennydale Area

Planning for proposed Highett library and the community hub, should be commencing in the next financial year. In addition, planning should also be undertaken to understand the requirements for kindergarten places and Maternal Health requirements for an area which will see significant population growth in the short to medium term.

- Proposed Funding Areas
 1. Allocate funding to an Amenities & Facilities Infrastructure review for the Highett and Pennydale Area to better understand the services/infrastructure required and the timeline and cost for delivery of these services.

As a Bayside City Council resident, I would like to see more advocacy from BCC on behalf of residents with the State Government. While BCC may be limited with regards to State Government policy direction, there needs to be genuine engagement with regards to working towards positive outcomes for residents and minimising and or mitigating poor outcomes.

Kind regards

Kerryn – Highett resident.

7.1.3 Written statement 3: Increase budget expenditure for Highett (anonymous)

The current budget proposal is severely skewed towards providing services and improvements to Brighton, at the detriment of Bayside residents in all other suburbs. My primary request through this submission is to increase the budget expenditure in Highett to similar levels for other suburbs (from \$380k to \$3m). The oversized expenditure in Brighton (over \$15m) should be reduced to account for this. I include two specific recommendations below for consideration by Council.

Executive Summary

If you look at expenses reported in the budget's executive summary, under "our planet", \$380k going to the Highett Woodlands and \$5.8m is going towards the Yalukit Reserve in Brighton (on top of \$2.9m for Brighton in the previous budget under this heading).

Under "our place", Brighton receives \$9.1m (Billilla Mansion, Head St Drainage, Brighton Town Hall, Dendy Park Pavilion), Beaumaris receives \$3.4m (Arts Studio), Hampton \$2.8m (Boss James Pavilion), Cheltenham \$2.4m (Wangara Rd), Black Rock \$1.4m (drainage) – on top of the previous budget where Brighton received \$2.7m (Dendy St Pavilion, Warm Water Pool, Billilla), Sandringham \$1m (Tulip St Basketball Courts), and Cheltenham \$168k (Wangara Rd Park). The reality is far higher (see below), however \$0 is going to improvements in Highett.

Overall, every suburb in Bayside except Highett has been allocated between \$3m to over \$15m to capital works – Highett has only the \$380k for the Highett Grassy Woodlands in this budget.

Details

It is incredibly difficult to look at capital works expenditure as only a small number of items are listed by suburb, many are just the street name or other short form title.

Recommendation for council 1 – Annual budgets should list how much funding is allocated to each suburb for capital works, for transparency to constituents and councillors. Start with this budget (2024-2025)!

Nevertheless, I soldiered on and started to research the capital works allocated to each suburb. Please take a look at the distribution of your capital works in this budget by suburb:

- **Beaumaris >\$4m** (Banksia Reserve, Beaumaris Reserve, Beaumaris Arts Centre, Beaumaris Children's Centre), 17% population.
- **Black Rock >\$3m** (Tricks Reserve, Red Bluff Ramp, Half Moon Bay renewal, Black Rock Ramp, Draining Third Street), 8% population
- **Brighton >\$15m** (Yalukit Wetlands, Yalukit Gateway, Dendy Beach, Warm Water Pool, Billilla House, Billillia Toilets, Brighton Town Hall, Draining Head St, Upgrading Kinane St, Elsternwick Oval, Elsternwick Park, Dendy Park Athletic Pavilion, Brighton Beach Oval Pavilion, Middle Brighton Baths, Brighton Kinder Service, Church St Laneway, Davie Lane Laneway, Durrant St Footpath Connectivity, Bay Trail, Active Transport Improvement), 28% population
- **Cheltenham >\$3m** (Wangara Road Park, Public Art Installation, Jack Barker Pavilion, Correa Ave Laneway), 4% population
- **Hampton >\$4m** (Hampton Foreshore, Boss James Reserve Pavilion, Thomas St Carpark, Thomas St Toilets), 17% population
- **Highett \$380k** (Highett Grassy Woodlands), 10% population – rising to 14% with The Highett Common implementation
- **Sandringham >\$3m** (Sandy Beach Gardens, Wangara Rd Park, Wangara Rd Carpark, Netball Centre, Bike Paths), 13% population

To put Highett's paltry allocation of \$380k in context, you have \$340k in the budget just to replace your council monitors and AV equipment this year. And this is not an anomaly – last year's budget allocation to Highett was a measly \$69k!

Recommendation for council 2 – Highett has the least green space and public amenity in the whole of Bayside. In addition, Stage 1 of the largest housing project in Bayside history has commenced this year at The Highett Commons, which will severely impact road/pedestrian safety, amenity and liveability in Highett. Consequently, Council needs to reject this draft budget and increase the percentage of capital works expenditure to include the needs of Highett residents. Examples of what we need in Highett include:

- A full traffic study to identify improvements to road and pedestrian safety across Highett (not done since 2015), particularly focussing on the impacts on Middleton St, Graham Rd and surrounds from The Highett Commons.
- New pocket-parks and open space
- Pedestrian crossing on Worthing Road (Highett Community Centre)
- Graham Rd/Bay Rd intersection upgrade (3 lane)
- Updated streetscape in Highett Rd (to improve trade)
- Better seating at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station)
- Bins at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station).
- Toilet and additional sporting facilities for Highland Reserve
- Extension of 40 zone past Worthing Road to improve community safety.
- Pedestrian crossing at Bay Rd (near Aldi)
- Pedestrian crossing at Highett Rd (before Worthing Rd)
- School Hour Traffic Attendant at Worthing Rd/Wickham Rd (to improve safety for foot traffic to Moorabbin Primary School).

7.2 General verbatim feedback on the draft budget

Some submissions have been split across categories. All feedback has been included within the appendix tables.

Topic	Community feedback
Budget allocation (5 mentions)	I feel as usual my corner of Bayside is ignored. Living in Cheltenham - I feel ignored by council. It doesn't look like Beaumaris has had much included in this budget other than the Arts building that has already commenced. The concourse pavilion update has not been included, even though it was meant to be endorsed last November. There is nothing in the budget for Black Rock. All funding seems to go towards Brighton! Don't forget other areas. Very disappointed about the lack of support for Cheltenham bayside which gets left behind like the poor cousin... I implore the council to make decisions to improve bayside fairly and not favour Brighton and the wealthier suburbs constantly. The focus seems to be alright at a time when people are finding it financially difficult, I believe a focus on finance that is a reduction on spending and reduce the budget on building by 50% that is from \$30m to \$15m

**Infrastructure upgrades
(5 mentions)**

I would encourage council to consider local sporting facilities for teenagers. For example, without much cost outlay, the old cummins road denny park playground equipment could be replaced by a basketball court/half court and provide much needed local option to keep teenagers happy, healthy, off technology and supporting health and wellbeing.

I'd really like to see money spent on getting the proposed hydrotherapy pool built now. I'm with My Aged Care but have been told the waiting list at Caulfield hospital is TOO long and so was transferred months ago to Moorabbin. I'm now 60 th on the waiting list of 120

Playgrounds such as Pennydale park (Cheltenham) next door to our local kindergarten has not been updated in decades bar some shade sails and has parts which are completely dangerous. Yet playgrounds in Brighton (middle crescent) have been prioritised which would in no way have the same amount of usage. There is also a desperate need to put a gate on the opposite end of pennydale park (Paul street) to keep children from running onto the road.

Would love to see investment in new skatepark as the old ones are outdated.

What about the Sandringham Life Saving Club and surrounding beach/foreshore? It's probably one of the oldest club houses and is heavily used by a range of different community groups from volunteer patrollers and members to silver salties and the general public. It's in desperate need of an upgrade - inside and out. Plus there is one public toilet which is not even close to being sufficient during the busy months!

**Maintenance
(3 mentions)**

Paving at Black Rock shops is horrible and safety issue. Area looks very tired.

Delighted that the ""upgrade of laneway surface in Davie Lane, Brighton"" is a line item (on Page 66) of the Bayside City Council Budget 2024/'25. Some of our neighbours have been waiting for this project for more than 10 years. All owners/tenants with properties on or adjoining Davie Lane were signatories to a Petition submitted to Council in March 2022. Our hope is that this project can be completed in the 1st Half of 2024/'25, eliminating dust produced whenever a vehicle drives on Davie Lane and also flooding after a torrential downpour.

I have noticed that there are lots of old and uneven footpaths around Beaumaris. I have seen (and been) people tripping over on the uneven pavement. If an elderly person tripped over, it could cost their life. It would be great to invest in the footpaths, especially around parks and playgrounds.

**More focus on core services
(2 mentions)**

The council plan has become too focused on woke issues and has lost sight of providing services to local rate payers and residents. The council strategy and goals need an overhaul to get back to basics like roads,

rates, rubbish, recreation and reading. Consultation groups should be chosen randomly rather than by third party consultants with social bias.

I believe 'lofty goals' can have their place but only after the primary responsibilities of council have been met. The community at large is feeling the effect of sustained high inflation, so it is important that council show how they are allocating ratepayer money responsibly. Terms like 'Climate Emergency' are alarmist and currently unproven, so don't use them. It is imperative that Bayside City Council remember their primary role - maintenance of local roads, footpaths, and drainage systems, waste management and recycling services, parks, recreational facilities, and public spaces, libraries and community centers, animal control and local environmental initiatives.

Road / cycling safety
(1 mention)

"I am disappointed to see that the budget neglects to address 'density and inclusiveness,' such as the lack of provisions for safe bicycle tracks like those established by neighbouring councils. Issues regarding traffic speed, street parking, and parking on secondary roads and complex intersections like Bluff Road and Tulip Street have not been addressed. Despite our previous survey on safe cycling starting at Sandringham station, the results of which have been disregarded.

Moreover, safety concerns for children cycling to and from school remain unattended. Specifically, the intersections of Balcombe Road and Reserve Road, as well as the safety along Balcombe Road and streets connecting to Black Rock Primary which require immediate attention."

Other

Wanted to complete the survey but it wouldn't open. Consultation?
[submitted via the survey]

7.3 Have Your Say online survey

Participants were provided with an option to complete a survey or upload a written statement. Items with an asterisk were required.

Your feedback

Please provide your feedback on the Annual Budget 2024-25*

- I understand that written feedback submitted is not confidential and may be published in a Community Engagement Report and/or in relevant meeting agendas on Council's website.*

[Open comment box]

About you

This section contains optional questions to help us understand the sections of our community that have provided feedback. The information you provide is confidential and non-identifiable.

Connection to Bayside

- Do you identify as any of the following? Please select all that apply.
- Bayside homeowner/ratepayer
- Bayside tenant
- Own/operate a business in Bayside
- Visitor to Bayside but live outside the area
- Member of a community group or organisation (name of your group)

- Person with a lived experience of disability or their carer
- Other (please specify):
- Prefer not to say

Age Group [drop-down list]

Gender [drop-down list]

Suburb [drop-down list]

How did you hear about this project?

- Signage
- Bayside City Council website
- This Week in Bayside e-newsletter
- Social media
- Email from Council
- Drop-in engagement session
- Other

Did you have the information you needed to provide your feedback on the budget?

- Information was very easy to find/understand
- Information was mostly easy to find/understand
- Information was mostly hard to find/understand
- Information was very hard to find/understand
- I'm not sure

7.4 Community engagement plan overview on Have Your Say

Project objective

The Annual Budget 2024-25 outlines the services and initiatives to be funded for the next financial year.

Following Council's in-principle approval of the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 on 23 April 2024, community members and project stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed Budget between 24 April and 14 May 2024 for the consideration of Council.

Community consultation on the Annual Budget is conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy 2021.

Project impacts

Council's proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 is informed by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2021-31. The Budget funds services and initiatives Council has committed to deliver.

The proposed \$181 million budget commits Council to action in four key areas over the next 12 months:

- **Our Planet** – leading better, smarter and sustainable futures
- **Our People** – nurturing all people and thriving healthy communities
- **Our Place** – fostering Bayside's liveability, open spaces and exceptional places
- **Our Promise** – promising open and accountable civic leadership.

The ambitious agenda delivered by this budget will be funded by a rate increase of 2.75%, which is in accordance with the Victorian Government's rate cap. This rate increase is essential for the continuation of our community services and capital investment.

The waste service charge incorporating kerbside collection and recycling is not subject to the rate cap legislation and will increase by 0.1%.

\$55.7 million is earmarked to deliver important community infrastructure via the capital works program. This continues Council's multi-year program to address historic under-investment and is enabled by continuing strong financial management.

Highlights

- Investment in our Aged Care Services so we can expand to the delivery of Home Care Packages to meet the increasing needs of our ageing community.
- Taking action on Climate Change by further implementing the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Continuing the transformation of Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve into a natural urban oasis to benefit thousands of Baysiders and visitors for years to come.
- Upgrades to footpaths, roads and drainage, foreshore and parks, and sports pavilions to support accessibility, recreation, and liveability in Bayside.

What key initiatives are included in this year's budget?

The Annual Budget 2024/25 includes the following key initiatives:

- Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan
- Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve: Wetlands
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- Expansion of Aged Care Services
- Completion of the Beaumaris Arts Studio
- Wangara Road Masterplan
- Billilla Mansion and precinct restoration
- Third Street Black Rock drainage upgrade
- Boss James Pavilion upgrade

Deferred Projects

The table below lists key changes to the 4 year capital program.

Note: The table does not list every project in the 4 year capital program, it includes only:

- cancelled projects
- projects deferred beyond 4 years
- projects where the budget has been reduced.

	Summary of Budget Reductions					2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total 7 Years
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total				
Cancelled:									
Masonic Hall Upgrade	(540,000)				(540,000)				(540,000)
Cheltenham Scout Hall & Station Building Design & Construction		(500,000)	(2,000,000)		(2,500,000)				(2,500,000)
Brighton Town Hall Clocktower Renewal Works (2022/23)	(401,997)				(401,997)				(401,997)
Dendy Street Beach Long Term Erosion Solution Implementation		235,000	(2,735,000)		(2,500,000)				(2,500,000)
Contemplative Garden at Higinbotham Hall		(50,000)	(150,000)		(200,000)				(200,000)
Highbury Village Streetscape (Train Street to Highbury Station) - Stage 2			(150,000)		(150,000)				(150,000)
Sandringham Village		(250,000)	(250,000)	(2,410,000)	(2,910,000)				(2,910,000)
Black Rock Activity Centre		(250,000)	(250,000)	(750,000)	(1,250,000)				(1,250,000)
Annual Footpath Renewal Program	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	640,000				640,000
Deferred:									
Rehabilitation of southern carpark at Tjilatjir Reserve (2022/23)	(90,563)	(283,619)	(225,818)		(600,000)	90,563	283,619	225,818	-
Tulip Street Baseball Pavilion Redevelopment			(400,000)	(3,100,000)	(3,500,000)	400,000	3,100,000		-
Sandringham Athletics Centre - Pavilion Redevelopment			(500,000)	(4,700,000)	(5,200,000)	500,000	4,700,000		-
Moorabbin West Oval Sports Pavilion Redevelopment		(407,800)	(4,792,200)	407,800	(4,792,200)	2,396,100	2,396,100		-
Beaumaris Concourse Permanent Shelter				(735,000)	(735,000)	735,000			-
Early Years Strategy Implementation			(4,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(6,000,000)		4,500,000	1,500,000	-
Thomas Street, Hampton Reconstruction	(1,500,000)	(4,000,000)			(5,500,000)	1,500,000	4,000,000		-
Green Point Tram Shelter Refurbishment	(344,340)				(344,340)	344,340			-
Budget reduced:									
Billilla House Renewal Works (2022/23)			(5,000,000)		(5,000,000)				(5,000,000)
Library Infrastructure Upgrade Program			(150,000)		(150,000)				(150,000)
Information Technology Upgrades		(2,791,000)	(2,250,000)		(5,041,000)				(5,041,000)
Playground Improvement Plan Implementation	(356,763)	(286,474)	(356,763)		(1,000,000)				(1,000,000)
	(3,073,663)	(8,423,893)	(23,049,781)	(13,127,200)	(47,674,537)	5,966,003	18,979,719	1,725,818	(21,002,997)

What information do we need from the community?

We are engaging with our community to seek feedback on Council's Proposed Annual Budget 2024-25.

What can the community influence?

- Annual Budget 2024-25 -noting that funding priorities have been set by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2021-31.

What can't the community influence?

- Legislative requirement for Council to adopt Annual Budget 2024-25 by 30 June 2024
- Council operations, resource allocation and projects Council has resolved to deliver
- Waste charge: direct cost recovery due the increase in the State Government landfill levy, an increase in hard waste collections, increased recycling processing costs, and increased green waste and garbage collection and disposal costs.

Stakeholders and community

This stakeholder assessment is a generalised understanding of sections of the community that have a connection to the project or matter. This information is used to understand the types of tools and techniques that will achieve the strongest and most effective outcomes for engagement and communication.

- Impact: What level of change the stakeholder / community segment may experience as a result of the project / matter
- Interest: What level of interest has been expressed or is anticipated
- Influence: Reference to the IAP2 Spectrum

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 rescheduled projects	H	H	Consult

Stakeholders with new projects financed through Annual Budget 2024-25	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult
Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult

Selected tools and techniques

The tools and techniques selected for this project are informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Email notification to Have Your Say members, including those who subscribe to projects affected by this year's budget.
- Council website and e-newsletter, *This Week in Bayside*
- Social media
- Video and/or infographics
- Digital screens in Corporate Centre and libraries

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Have Your Say project webpage, including feedback forms and opportunities to ask questions
- Post, phone and email correspondence.

Project timelines

Proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 endorsed by Council - 23 April 2024 Council meeting

Community consultation - 24 April - 14 May 2024

Adoption of Annual Budget 2024-25: Council to consider community feedback at its 4 June briefing meeting and adoption of Annual Budget 2024-25 on 18 June 2024

Decision-making process

The Annual Budget 2024-25 is informed by community priorities articulated in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Annual Budget 2024-25 is informed by community priorities articulated in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

Following the close of community engagement on 14 May 2024, community and stakeholder feedback will be considered and amendments made to the proposed Budget, if required.

Council will consider a report on community engagement on the Budget on the 04 June briefing and adopt the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 at its meeting on 18 June 2024. The agenda for this meeting will be available to view here when published.

Interested community members will also have an opportunity to request to be heard at the Council meeting on 18 June 2024 and speak to Council at the meeting or provide a written statement which will be published in the meeting agenda.

Under the Local Government Act 2020, Council must adopt an annual budget by the 30 June 2024.

More information

For more information about this project please contact Bill Shanahan, Finance Manager, on 03 9599 4340 or bshanahan@bayside.vic.gov.au