



Review of Local Law

**Community Consultation Round 2 Summary Report
(consultation on the draft Local Law)**

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Consultation Overview

Introduction

Bayside City Council (Council) is reviewing its Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021 (Local Law). Following an initial round of community engagement to understand community priorities and identify emerging issues, Council prepared a draft Community Local Law 2026 and invited further community feedback through public exhibition.

The purpose of Round 2 engagement was to test the draft Local Law, understand the level of community support, and identify any matters requiring further consideration before the Local Law is considered by Council for adoption.

The Local Law guides Council's compliance and enforcement activities across a range of areas, including property amenity, construction sites, animal management and public spaces.

Background

Although the Local Law is not due to sunset until 2031, it was made under the superseded *Local Government Act 1989*. The review provides an opportunity to align the Local Law with the *Local Government Act 2020*, which adopts a more principles-based approach to compliance and enforcement.

Round 1 engagement was conducted between 2 February and 1 March 2026 to understand community sentiment on the existing Local Law, seek feedback on proposed changes, identify emerging issues not previously considered, and meet the legislative requirements for reviewing and developing local laws.

Round 2 consultation was undertaken from 22 June to 19 July 2026 to seek community feedback on the draft Local Law amendments and identify any refinements before they are considered for adoption by Council later in 2026. The document was available for public exhibition and feedback on Council's *Have Your Say* webpage throughout the consultation period.

Consultation Approach

The following consultation activities were undertaken between **22 June to 19 July 2026**.

Council's Online Portal – Have Your Say

- Online survey – provide feedback and suggestions to help inform development of a new Local Law.
- Download a printable survey if preferred.
- Email response or request an appointment.

Hard copy options

- Hard copy survey – available upon request.
- Write to Bayside City, PO Box 27, Sandringham 3191.

In-person community outreach

- In-person community outreach via pop up stalls across 7 locations.
 - Peterson Youth Centre – 6 July 2026.
 - Sandringham Library – 6 July 2026.
 - Beaumaris Community Centre – 9 July 2026.
 - Black Rock Civic Centre – 13 July 2026.
 - Sillitoe Pavilion – 14 July 2026.
 - Brighton Library – 15 July 2026.
 - Hurlingham Pavilion – 16 July 2026.

Key external stakeholder consultation

- Direct engagement with Council advisory and representative committees.
- Direct email to stakeholder groups and relevant Have Your Say members.

Internal Council stakeholder and Councillor consultation

- Internal Council departments, provide feedback on existing local law provisions and suggested new or amended provisions.
- Councillor workshops and briefings.

Communications

Communications activities were developed and coordinated by Council's Communications team to develop awareness and promote the consultation opportunities via:

- Have Your Say page.
- Media releases.
- Social media posts.
- Printed hard copy surveys.
- Article in Let's Talk Bayside magazine (Jun/Jul edition)
- News story on Council's website and e-newsletter (This Week in Bayside)
- Social media
- Digital and printed signage
- Direct email to stakeholder groups and relevant Have Your Say members
- Articles in relevant Council newsletters
- Printed collateral distributed through Bayside libraries, Customer Service and at relevant events

Response Rate

41 people had their say on the Local Law review.

- 33 valid survey responses were received.
- 4 written community submissions were received (1 in relation to the draft Local Law, 3 in relation to the Footpath Trading Policy, including 1 query via a Facebook comment.
- 4 people participated in-person across the 7 community Talk to Us events.

Social Media Reach

A social media campaign achieved a reach of 8,623 people.

The campaign comprised a series of 3 boosted Facebook and Instagram posts during the consultation period that were designed to promote opportunities for the community to provide feedback.

The Have Your Say project recorded 2,765 views, 1,799 visits and 1,506 visitors during the reporting period.

Stakeholders and Community

Our target audience included the following:

Stakeholder Type	
Community	Bayside residents
Stakeholders	Bayside City Council Councillors and staff Bayside businesses and Bayside Traders Associations Footpath trading permit holders

Stakeholder Type	
	Bayside Dog Alliance Bathing Box Association State Government Land Managers (Parks Victoria, DEECA). Local MP's Emergency services (i.e. CFA, FFM Vic, SES, VicPol, Ambulance Victoria) Visitors to Bayside
Advisory and representative committees	Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC) Reconciliation Advisory Committee Youth Ambassador Committee Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group
Volunteer groups and organisations	Friends of groups Environmental groups Sports groups Graffiti Busters

Consultation Findings Snapshot

Overview

To seek community sentiment on the draft Local Law, Council conducted a community survey 22 June and 19 July 2026.

41 people had their say.

33 surveys were completed, 4 people made a written submission, and 4 people participated at community pop ups.

Respondent Profile

93.9% live in Bayside City. 30.3% reported that they are from Black Rock, 18.2% from Brighton.

63.6% were over 55 years of age.

Consultation Findings – Summary Outcomes

The following summarises the key themes identified through both the survey the feedback received during Round 2 community engagement. Responses have been grouped into common themes for each section of the draft Local Law to provide an overview of the primary suggestions and areas of support raised by respondents.

Overall, respondents were generally supportive of the proposed changes. The strongest level of interest related to the proposed changes for vehicles on Council land and roads, particularly the regulation of caravans, boats, trailers and work vehicles. This topic also generated differing views, with some respondents supporting stronger regulation to improve road safety, parking availability and neighbourhood amenity, while others opposed additional restrictions due to the potential impacts on tradespeople and local businesses.

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Counts show survey ratings (comments in brackets) and relevant written submissions; a submission may inform more than one category.

Category	Key Themes
Your Property Survey n=7 (2 comments) Submissions n=0	Five of seven respondents supported the changes. Feedback favoured stronger property maintenance, while seeking practical tree pruning, retention of tree protections and no change to vehicle storage.
Your Animals Survey n=7 (4 comments) Submissions n=1	Four of seven respondents supported the changes. Feedback sought workable enforcement of dog waste and nuisance barking (including simpler evidence) but differed on the dog limit; residential beekeeping was also raised.
Fire Safety Survey n=4 (3 comments) Submissions n=0	Responses were mixed (one support, one oppose, one neutral and one unsure). Comments sought tighter controls on smoke and outdoor heating fires, and better enforcement around fire hydrants.
Waste and Recycling Survey n=3 (1 comment) Submissions n=0	Two of three respondents opposed the changes. The only comment sought a 48-hour, rather than 24-hour, window for placing and retrieving bins.
Council Land and Roads Survey n=7 (4 comments) Submissions n=0	Four of seven respondents supported the changes. Comments focused on parking availability, trailer and caravan storage, nature-strip and crossover parking, education and enforcement.
Vehicles on Council Land and Roads Survey n=17 (13 comments) Submissions n=0	Eleven of seventeen respondents supported the changes, but this was the most contested topic. Support focused on safety, amenity and long-term storage; opposition on costs and impacts for tradespeople and legally parked vehicles. e-bike/e-scooter footpath safety was also raised.
Smoking and Alcohol Survey n=5 (3 comments) Submissions n=0	All five respondents supported the changes. Comments sought broader smoke-free areas around shopping and hospitality precincts; no specific alcohol issues were raised.
Businesses in Bayside Survey n=4 (1 comment) Submissions n=2	Three of four respondents supported the changes. Feedback focused on unobstructed pedestrian access, equitable and proportionate permit fees, and clearer classification of movable retail displays.
Construction Survey n=7 (3 comments) Submissions n=0	Three of seven respondents supported the changes, with two neutral, one opposed and one unsure. Comments sought greater trade accountability, appropriate licensing and construction traffic management.
Permits, Administration and Enforcement Survey n=7 (3 comments) Submissions n=2	Views were divided (three support, three oppose and one neutral). Feedback sought consistent enforcement and workable complaint and permit processes, including DDA-aligned footpath trading; pedestrian access and tree protection were also raised.

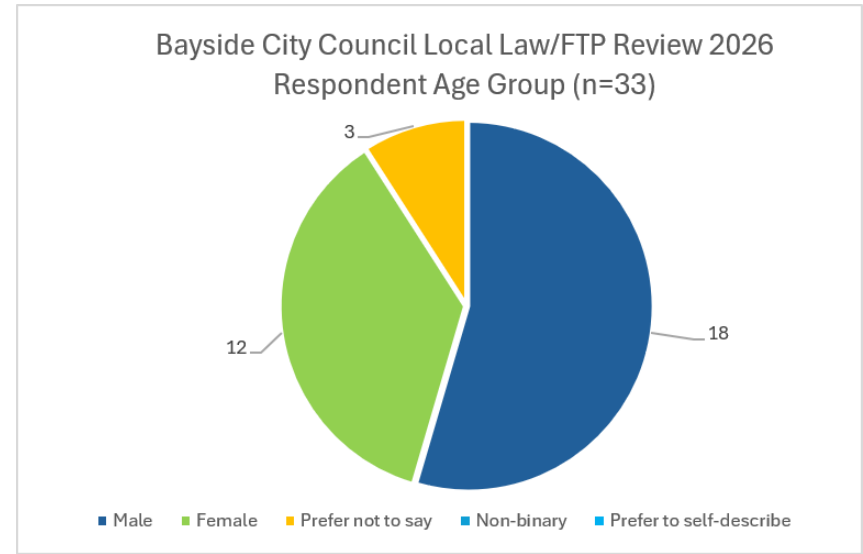
Community Survey Outcomes

Overview

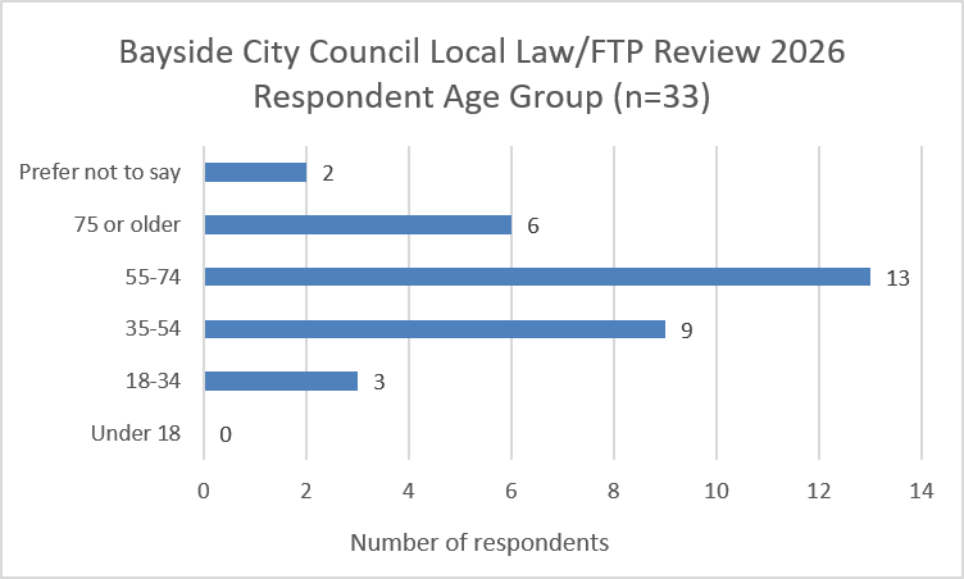
A total of 33 valid survey responses were received. Due to the relatively low number of responses, charts show counts rather than percentages (to provide context). Individual verbatim comments provided in the survey's open-ended questions have also been included in this report, grouped into common themes.

Respondent Demographics

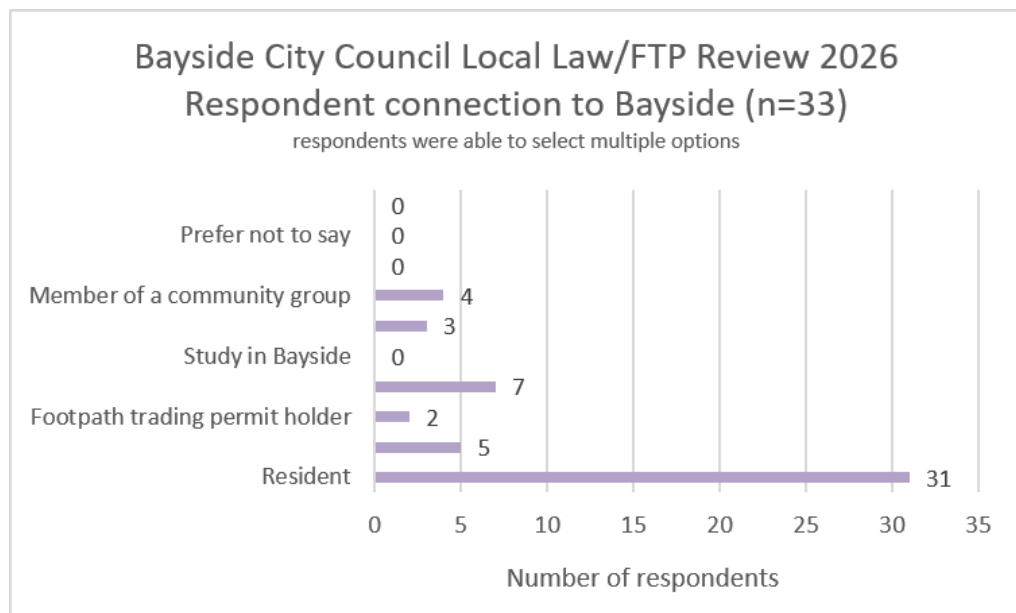
Gender



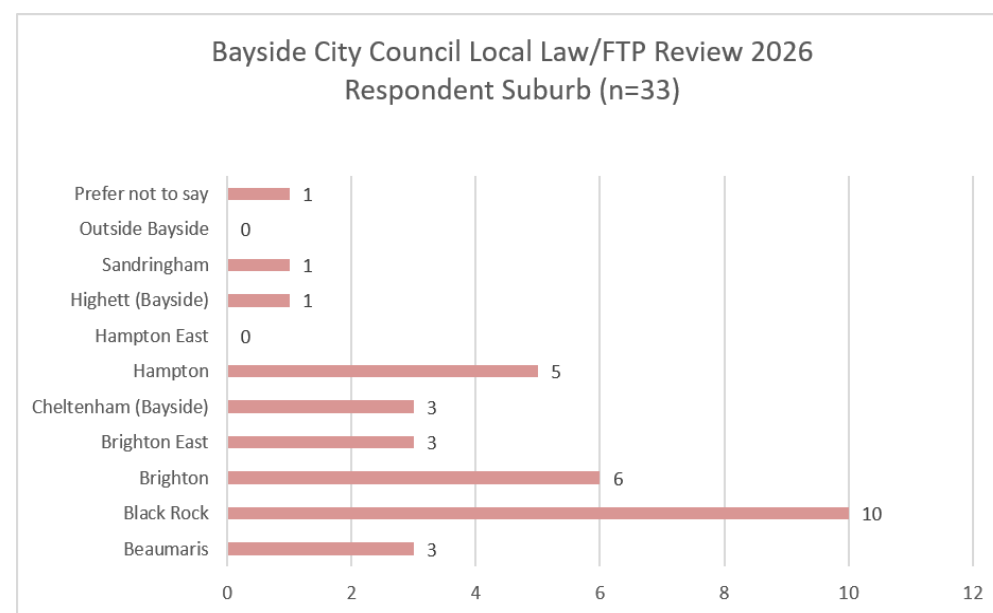
Age group



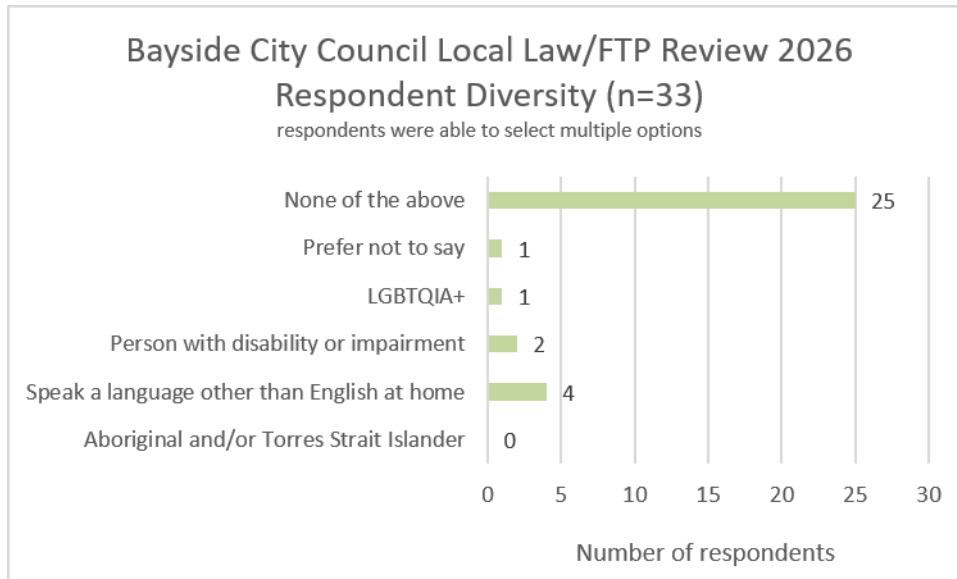
Connection to Bayside City



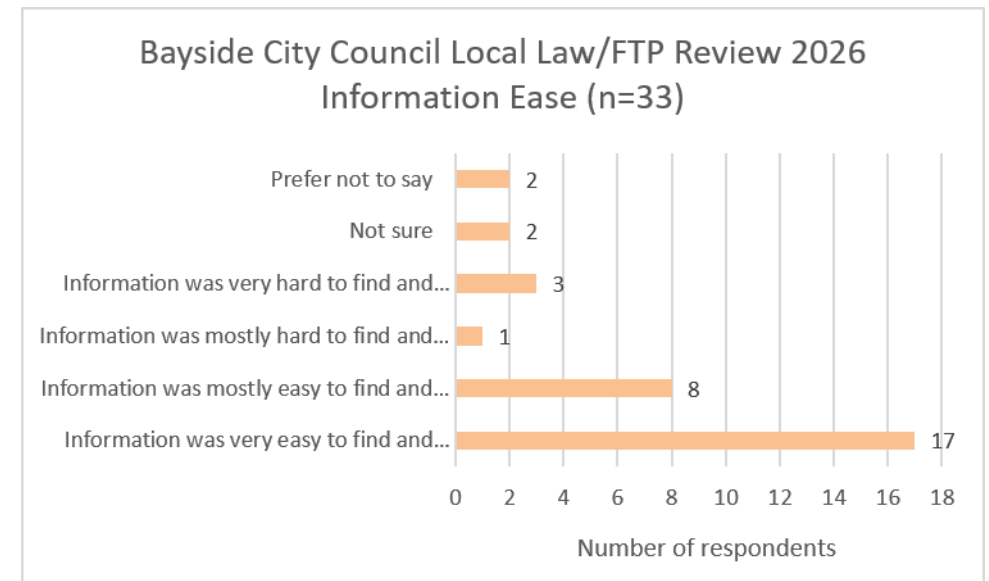
Suburb



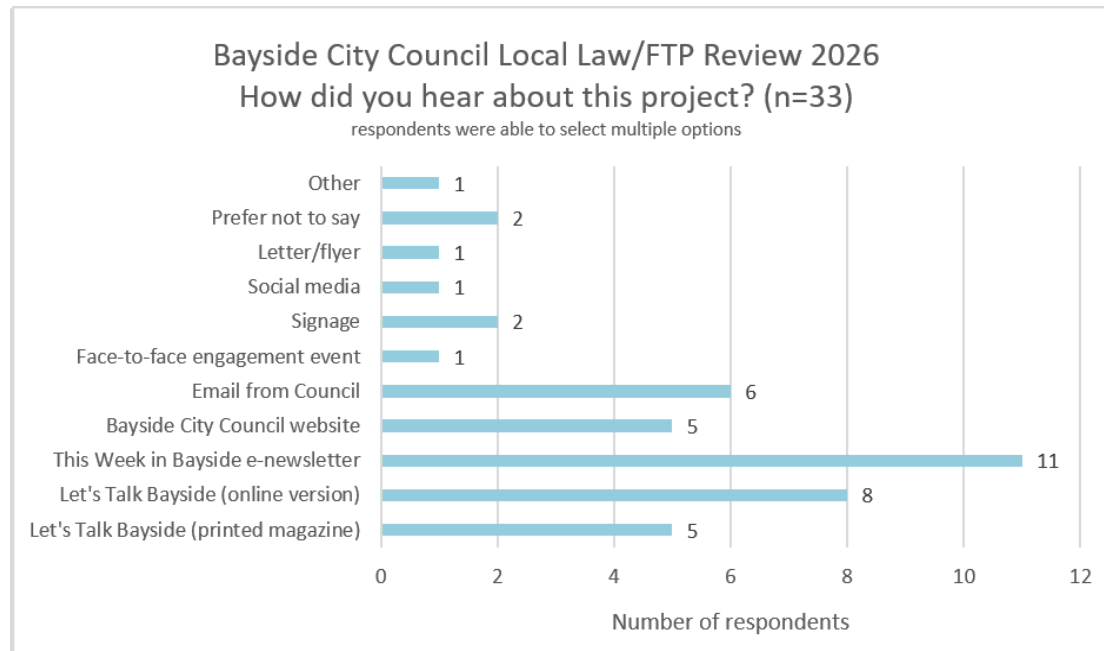
Diversity



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



How did you hear about this project?



Support for proposed changes in draft Local Law

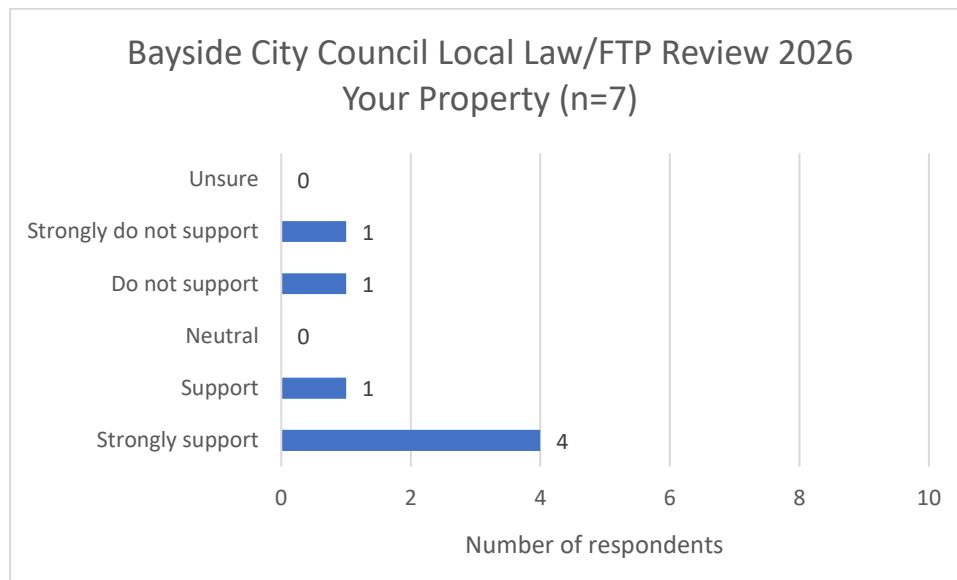
Your property

(clauses 8 to 16)

These clauses seek to protect neighbourhood safety and amenity. Changes we have made include:

- Strengthened and expanded existing provisions to address unsightly properties to include machinery and vehicle parts, waste and incomplete buildings.
- Included specific examples of what could constitute dangerous land (eg. vermin, noxious weeds, hazardous materials etc).
- Overhanging vegetation clause expanded to include all types of obstructions coming from private land.
- Tree and vegetation protection on private land clauses and definitions (eg. significant tree, canopy tree and notional root zone) revised to not overlap or be inconsistent with new Planning Scheme clause 52.37.
- Camping on private land for up to 28 days without a permit:
 - Redefined camping,
 - Requirement for appropriate sanitary facilities, and
 - No detrimental impact on amenity of adjoining land.
- Clearly defined maximum vehicle length and weight; and included provision for a registered caravan and boat be kept on private residential land.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **your property** provisions. 7 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 2 people provided comment.

Comment – Your property	Theme
Prevent fire hazard & help increase property values.	Supports stronger property maintenance requirements to reduce fire risk.
Allow 10% of canopy of larger trees to be pruned each year for safety of buildings and lives or people wont maintain their large trees or plant them on their property in future because of added personal costs. Storing vehicles on land - NO change.	Supports limited annual tree pruning for safety and retention of existing vehicle storage provisions.

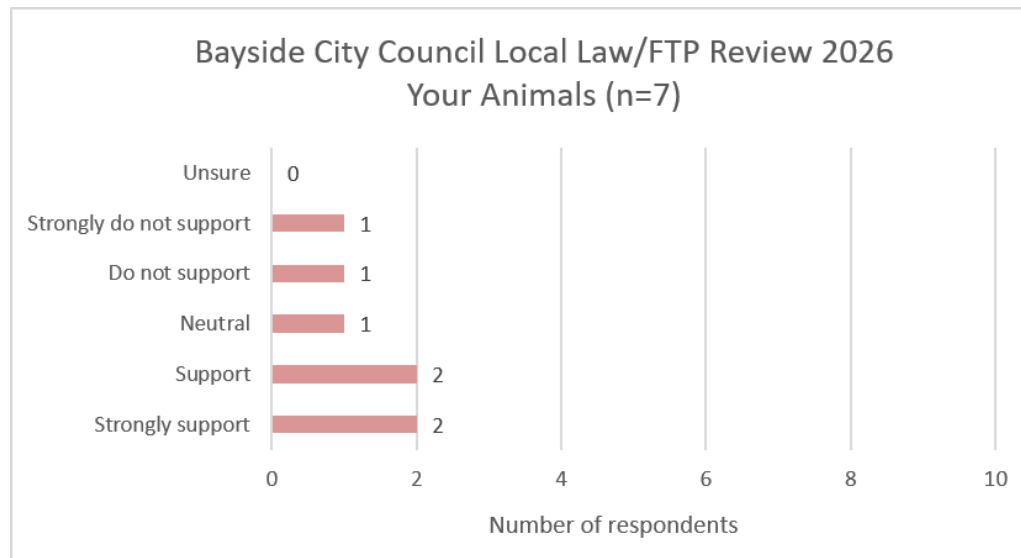
Your Animals

(clauses 17 to 21)

These clauses address the number and type of animals that can be kept, animal housing and noise. Changes we have made include:

- Exemptions for:
 - Dogs and cats under 12 weeks of age
 - Land regulated under the Planning Scheme
 - Assistance dog or assistance animal
- Strengthened clarity around prohibitions – animal type and numbers that may not be kept.
- Introduced tiered approach to the number of animals kept (i.e. multi-residential developments; and other land).
- New clauses:
 - Minimise nuisance associated with animal housing or the way the animals are kept.
 - Ensure adequate fencing to prevent animals escaping.
 - A requirement for a person to carry a bag to pick up animal waste.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **your animals** provisions. 7 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 4 people provided comment.

Comment – Your animals	Theme
I am skeptical that carrying a waste bag can be enforced and Bayside residents are terrible at picking up waste.	Concern about enforcement of dog waste requirements.
I think the maximum number of dogs should be 3. The reason is to allow people with 2 dogs (better for dogs, quieter for neighbours) to temporarily look after family members' dogs or rehome a dog from a deceased family member.	Prefers an increase in the maximum number of dogs permitted on a property.

Comment – Your animals	Theme
Dog owners should be compelled to pick up their dog's mess, and control their barking. Compliance fines need to be enforced.	Stronger enforcement of nuisance barking and dog waste offences.
Would also like to review the ability for bees to be kept in residential areas. We have a problem in our area with bees that keep infesting our yard. As well as neighbours yards.	Requests a review the keeping of bees in residential areas.

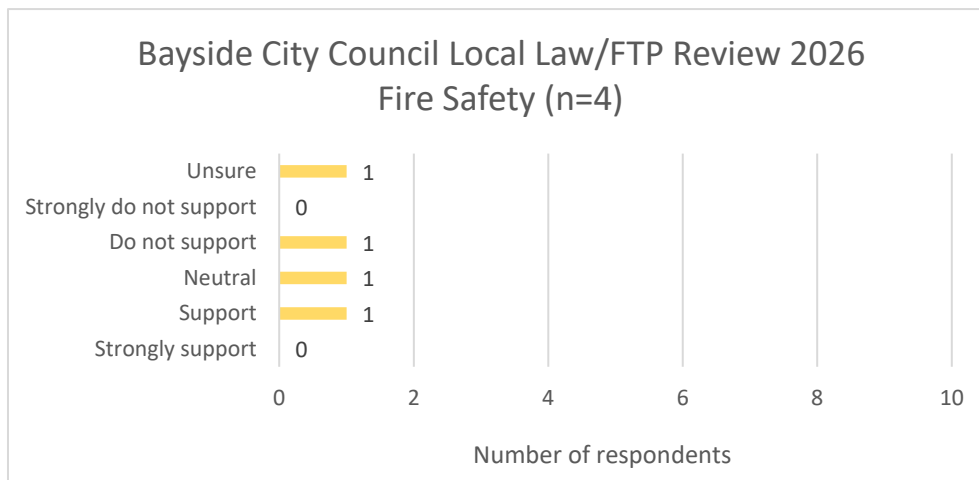
Fire Safety

(clauses 22 to 23).

These clauses regulate open air burning on both private and Council land, to protect neighbourhood safety and amenity. Changes we have made include:

- Provides clarity on what Council expects of residents including fires that are offensive, may impact health or visibility on roads.
- New clause providing for an Authorised Officer to direct a person to extinguish a fire immediately.
- Lists items not to be burned.
- Exemptions for:
 - Aboriginal people to undertake community smoking events.
 - Cooking food in a barbeque, pizza oven or other properly constructed appliance for the purpose of cooking.
 - A brazier, fire pit or chimenea while it is being used for heating.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **fire safety** provisions. 4 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 3 people provided comment.

Comment – Fire safety	Theme
Fire safety includes taking action when a vehicle is parked or stopped within one metre of a fire hydrant, etc. This law is widely disregarded in Bayside and is demonstrably not enforced. The local law should be expanded to act as a reminder.	Strengthen awareness and enforcement of fire hydrant parking restrictions.
Ban all outdoor fire pits. They are a health and safety hazard for other residents causing nuisance smoke. Pizza ovens ok so long as they are located in middle of property not on neighbouring boundaries. No lighting any building/construction materials.	Supports stronger restrictions on outdoor fires and smoke nuisance.
I completely disagree with any outdoor fires for heating, completely unnecessary causing local pollution and health hazard for vulnerable people already suffering from smoke from other wood burning sources.	Supports prohibiting outdoor fires used for heating.

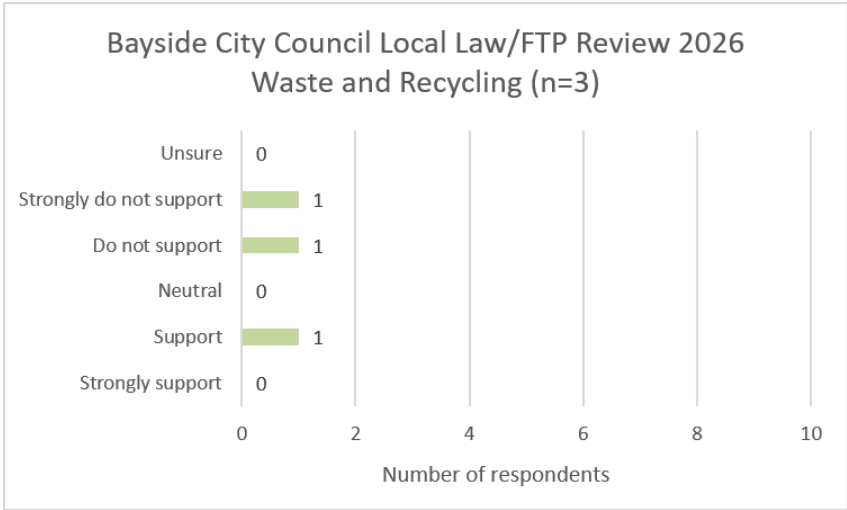
Waste and recycling

(clauses 24 to 27).

These clauses address requirements for disposing of domestic and trade waste and recycling. Changes we have made include:

- Introduced requirement for waste to be deposited only in the approved bin to prevent contamination.
- Reference to ‘designated material’ rather than a list of items that cannot be placed an approved bin (easier to keep updated outside of Local Law).
- Bins must be kept clean / in an inoffensive condition.
- Domestic (household) waste must not be deposited in street litter bins.
- Defined hard waste and strengthen provisions including placement of hard waste on the nature strip.
- Removed provision prohibiting removal of hard waste from nature strip.
- Updated provisions to regulate trade and commercial waste bins and provide guidance on keeping, emptying and placement (including times, to reduce the time these are on Council land).

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **waste and recycling** provisions. 3 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 1 person provided comment.

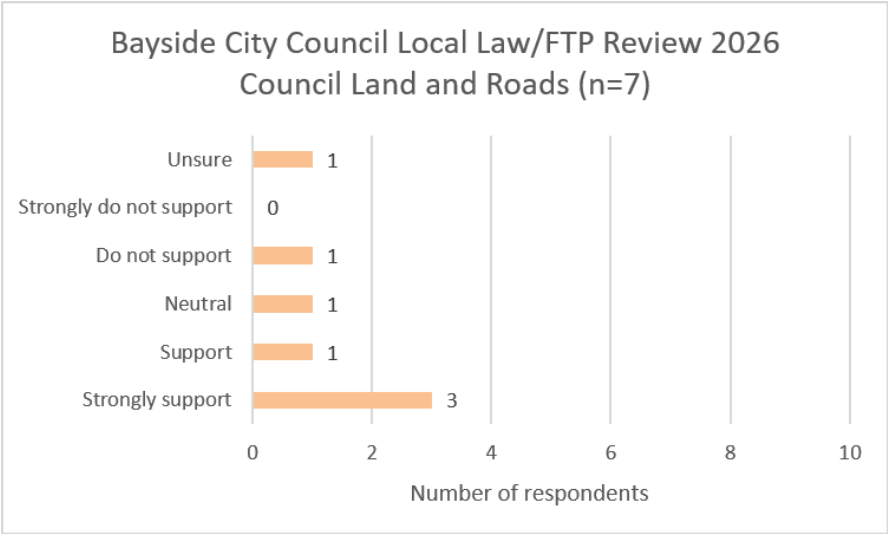
Comment – Waste and recycling	Theme
There should be no penalty for bins placed out or retrieved up to 48 hours not 24. This enables people going on holiday to maintain rubbish removal better and reduces the risk of rats and other vermin or smells building up.	Supports extending the permitted timeframe for waste bin placement and collection.

Council land and roads
(clauses 28 to 36)

These clauses seek to protect Council assets, land and roads. This section also incorporates camping on both private and Council land, without any intention to impact individuals experiencing homelessness. Changes we have made include:

- A series of changes regulating behaviour and use of Council land or roads, defacing or damaging roads, Council land or infrastructure, damaging trees or vegetation on Council land and obstructions on Council land or roads.
- Incorporate Guidelines on Nature Strip Planting under the Local Law.
- Expanded definition of camping and provided clarity that clause is not intended to impact individuals experiencing homelessness. Includes reference to the Bayside Homelessness Protocol.
- New clause: donation bins on Council land (permit required).

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **council land and roads** provisions. 7 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 4 people provided comment.

Comment – Council land and roads	Theme
It is important for all residents to be able park out the front of their property or have their visitors park in the street they live rather than renters parking permanently everyday in unrestricted parking areas outside ratepayers houses.	Supports measures to improve on-street parking availability for residents and visitors.
Needs to be stronger rules around the storage of trailers and caravans on streets where there is already a shortage of parking spaces for cars.	Supports stronger regulation of trailer and caravan storage on public streets.
People park cars on the crossover and park on the nature strip or put two wheels up on a nature strip. Again the problem is a simple lack of enforcement. Use pictures to show what's permitted and what's not as we do when training people, re: road rules.	Supports strengthening of enforcement and improvement of education on parking requirements.
Enhance street and community safety.	Supports measures to improve street and community safety.

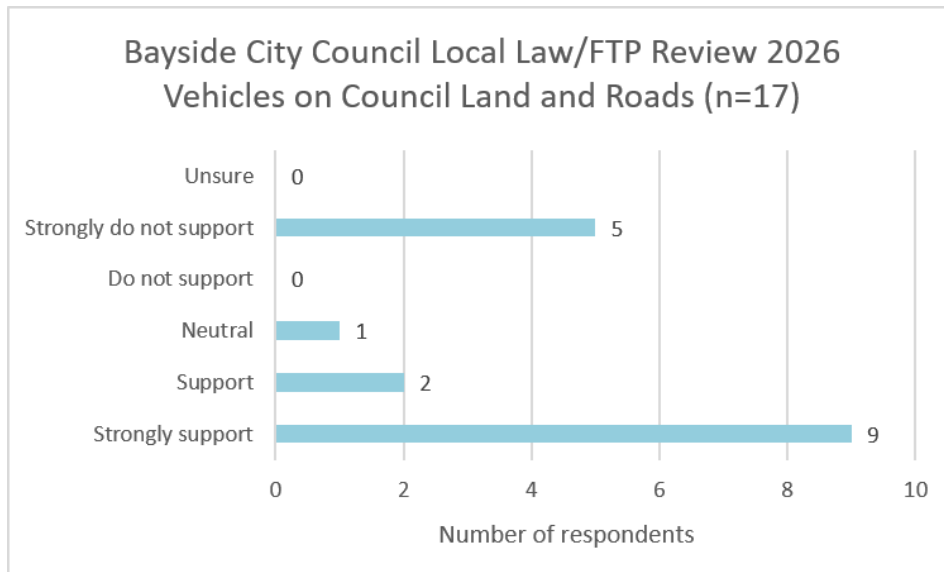
Vehicles on Council land and roads

(clauses 37 to 43)

These clauses address vehicles on both private and Council land. Changes we have made include:

- Caravans, boats and trailers on Council land or roads:
 - Reduced period for parking without a permit to 14 days in a 60-day period for a first offence, and 7 days in a 60-day period for a second or subsequent offence. Days do not need to be continuous.
 - Provided clarity on moving short distances in the same or adjoining streets.
- New clauses:
 - To address heavy vehicles on Council roads, enabling Council to designate prohibited or restricted places.
 - To address congestion in streets related to parking of commercial vehicles.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **vehicles on council land and roads** provisions. 17 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 13 people provided comment.

Comment – Vehicles on Council land and roads	Theme
Vehicles parked permanently on council roads, when the owners of the vehicles have garages but use these garages to store or make products without a license.	Supports addressing long term on-street vehicle storage.
What I wanted to add was that there should be some local laws to prevent e-bikes and e-scooters riding on the pavements.	Supports the introduction of local controls for e-bikes and e-scooters on footpaths.

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Comment – Vehicles on Council land and roads	Theme
It's a good start now the laws must be enforced to drive change.	Supports stronger enforcement of local laws.
Reduces danger to cars and particularly to bike riders.	Supports changes as it improves road safety for all road users.
I would like a limit on the numbers of cars a household can have parked on streets.	Supports a limit on the number of household vehicles parked on public streets.
Caravans block lines of sight and restrict movement on residential street. Create less safe environments.	Supports the Local Law addressing the safety impacts of caravans parked on residential streets.
I operate a local construction business and rely on my work trailer daily. This amendment would force paid off-site storage, increase travel, reduce productivity and raise operating costs. These costs ultimately increase prices for customers.	Opposes restrictions on work trailer parking due to impacts on costs for businesses.
Parked caravans have become a nuisance throughout Bayside. The problem is caused by selfish owners who are too stingy to pay for proper storage of these items.	Supports stronger regulation of caravan storage on public streets.

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Comment – Vehicles on Council land and roads	Theme
With cost of living being so high you are targeting tradies who work extremely hard for every cent they earn now for them to have their vehicles (used for work purposes) you are imposing even greater restrictions. NICE!	Opposes additional restrictions on work vehicles due to financial impacts.
No change. If vehicle is legally parked, registered and not abandoned for months then why change. I'm not happy paying higher council rates to cover 'policing' unnecessary by laws.	Opposes additional regulation of legally parked vehicles.
If the vehicle is registered and parked legally we need no change. It's hard enough for trades who have vehicles, like trailers for work and need to have them close to where they are working or residing so they can earn a living (like everyone else).	Opposes restrictions on legally parked work vehicles and trailers.
There are currently too many caravans, boats and trailers being stored on streets; the practice severely impacts local street amenity as well as taking up car parking spaces.	Supports stronger regulation of caravans, boats and trailers stored on public streets.
There are too many large (wide and long) caravans left for too long on narrow roads that are dangerous for other road users and cause traffic congestion.	Supports addressing the road safety and traffic impacts of long-term caravan parking.

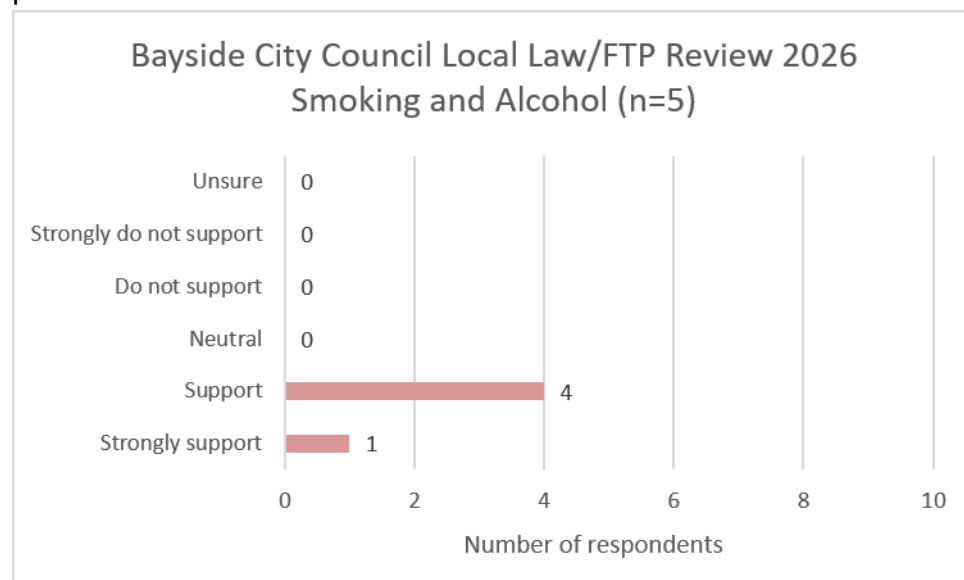
Smoking and alcohol

(clauses 44 to 45)

These clauses regulate disposal of tobacco product and alcohol consumption on Council land. Changes we have made include:

- Included Authorised Officer ability to issue direction to extinguish and dispose of tobacco product.
- Provisions expanded to provide clarity.
- Updated definition of tobacco product and including vaping devices.
- Introduced times when a person cannot consume liquor on Council land or a road. 'Sunset to sunrise' is ambiguous and evidentially difficult.
 - 7.00pm and 7.00am Eastern Standard Time; or
 - 8.00pm and 8.00am Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **smoking and alcohol** provisions. 5 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 3 people provided comment.

Comment – Smoking and alcohol	Theme
Ban smoking outside supermarkets and make along shopping strips especially near any restaurant, cafe, bars smoke free zones. Others should not have to breathe second hand smoke, it's a health hazard for workers and patrons.	Calls for stronger smoke-free areas in public places.
Any smoking is a health hazard and risk to community health.	Supports restrictions on smoking in public areas.
Smoke should not be easily smelled by people walking by. It is a health hazard.	Supports more dedicated smoke-free areas and restrictions.

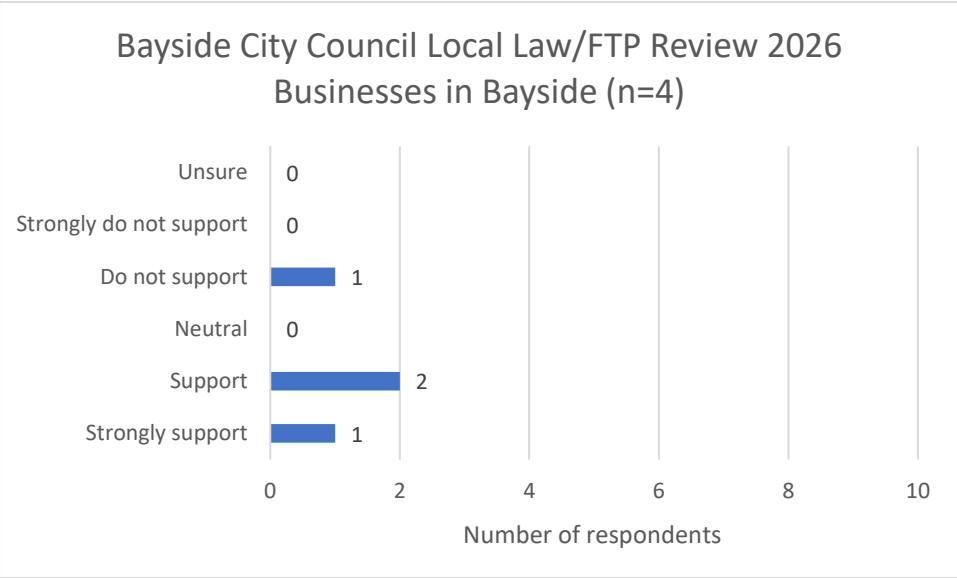
Businesses in Bayside

(clauses 46 and 53).

These clauses address traders and business permit requirements and fee structures, as well as clear rules that balance business activity with pedestrian safety and accessibility. Changes we have made include:

- Prohibit advertising signs that contain offensive or inappropriate content.
- Included as incorporated documents under the Local Law:
 - Footpath Trading Policy
 - Parklets Policy
- Shopping trolleys:
 - Require trolleys to be marked with trader details.
 - Introduced retailer onus.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **businesses in Bayside** provisions. 4 people provided their feedback



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 1 person provided comment.

Comment – Businesses in Bayside	Theme
Traders’ signs take over the footpath which is a hazard. Due to the increased number around here they take up resident car spaces all day so maybe they should be more onsite car parking on their premises/place of work.	Concerns over footpath obstructions caused by trader signage.

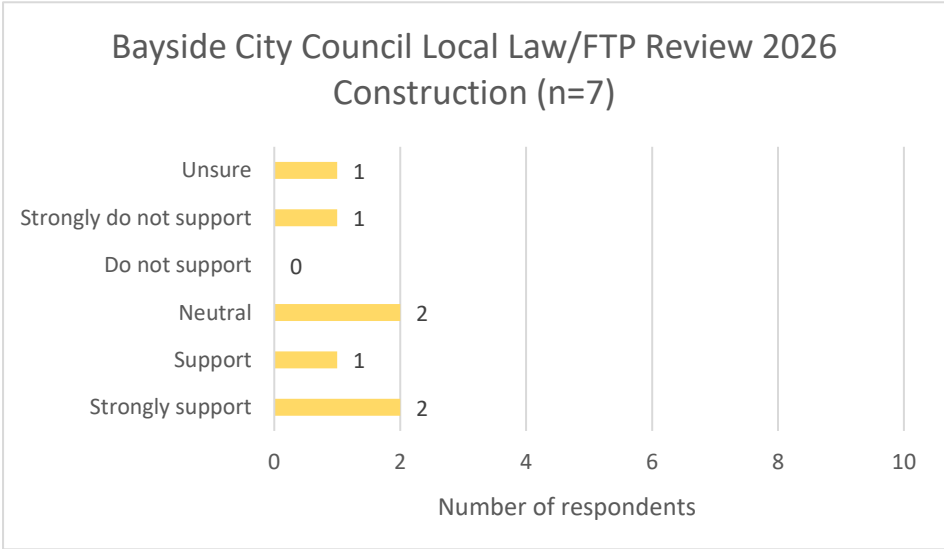
Construction

(clauses 55 to 67)

These clauses seek to protect Council assets when building works take place, to minimise damage to items such as roads, drains and vehicle crossings. They also regulate how building sites are managed to protect neighbourhood amenity, safety and the environment. Changes we have made include:

- A series of changes designed to better protect Council’s assets, generally when building works take place.A series of changes designed to better protect Council’s assets, generally when building works take place.
- Introduced requirement for a Construction Management Plan as part of Asset Protection Permit process.
- Strengthened drainage and spoil on road clauses to better protect the environment and Council assets.
- Introduced requirement for installation of silt barriers at building sites where appropriate.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **construction** provisions. 7 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 3 people provided comment.

Comment – Construction	Theme
The problem is other trades working under a builder. Builders are usually good at managing trades but they cant teach bad manners. Trades need to be made more responsible for their own doing, protecting others property, council land, etc not the builder	Supports an increase in accountability of individual tradespeople for site management and amenity.
Just need to add in there a person who carries out extensive building works on any residential site must be appropriately licenced to carry out those works. Too many claiming to be 'builders' when technically they are only tradespeople.	Supports provisions for ensuring appropriate licensing for residential building works in present.
Also consider traffic management when vehicles are blocking street access.	Supports the strengthening of traffic management requirements for construction activities.

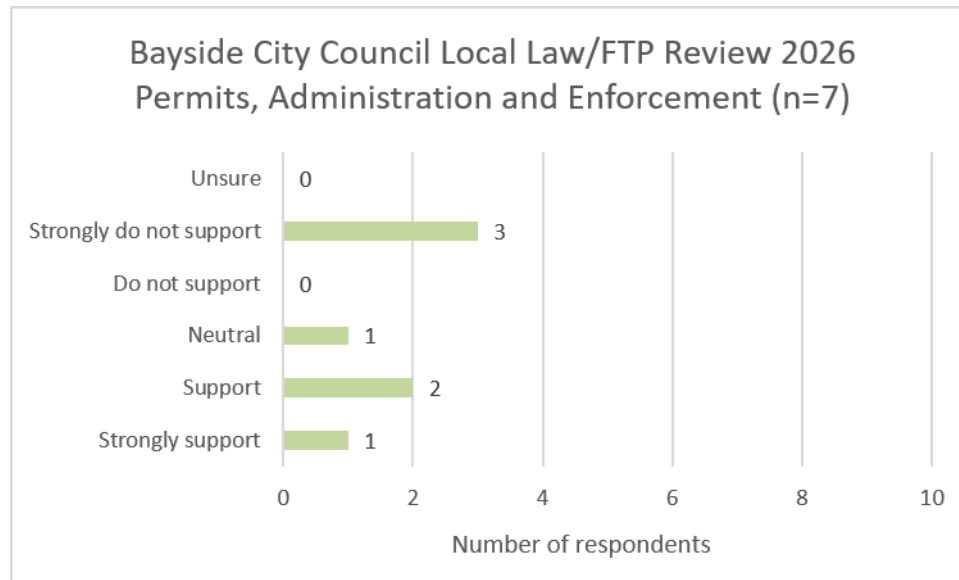
Permits, administration and enforcement

(clauses 68 to 82)

These clauses regulate permits, notices and penalties. Changes we have made include:

- Clarity on impounding and disposal of items.
- Permit clauses redrafted, combined and streamlined to provide improved guidance as to how permits may be applied for, granted, refused, amended or cancelled.
- Includes provision for appeals and exemptions.
- Individual permit processes and conditions will sit outside the Local Law.
- Introduced provisions for:
 - An Authorised Officer to provide verbal direction.
 - Appeals and exemptions.
 - New 'parking permits' clause to support regulation.
- Provide Council the ability to undertake works or remedial action if urgent and recover costs. Requires CEO or delegate approval (not Authorised Officer).
- More clearly articulate what constitutes an offence and applicable penalty units.
- New clauses to:
 - Address offences by corporations
 - Address operator onus in relation to motor vehicles.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes to the **permits, administration and enforcement** provisions. 7 people provided their feedback.



Respondents were also asked why they selected the above response and how the proposed changes may impact them. 3 people provided comment.

Comment – Permits, administration and enforcement	Theme
Any improvement in permit conditions and compliance enforcement is welcome given current mediocre compliance to date by businesses and landlords, and Council's own quite poor and inconsistent compliance enforcement performance.	Supports stronger compliance and enforcement of permit conditions.

Comment – Permits, administration and enforcement	Theme
Footpaths for walking, not eating.	Supports prioritising pedestrian access on footpaths.
I dont like how many trees will be lost through deleting local laws for trees.	Has concerns about the potential loss of tree protections.

Written Community Submissions

1 written submission was received in relation to the draft Local Law. A summary of theme from the submission has been prepared in the table below.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
1	Email 12 Jul 2026	As you are interested in feedback re the above, I have been reading through the proposed changes, in particular changes to Local Law policies regarding animals. I'm happy to see the current local laws being changed but very surprised that no changes have been drafted regarding the issue of nuisance barking. It is apparent that Council have found it too difficult to deal with this issue satisfactorily and have handed all responsibility to VCAT. Council's Nuisance Barking Diary is virtually impossible to fill out if you are simultaneously trying to run a business or sleep at night. It's simply not possible to document every single minute of the day or night that the barking occurs, then stops... let alone which dog of several on a property, is barking at any one time. There should be an easier way in which a ratepayer can make a complaint, when negotiations with the dog owner have failed. For example...video footage of the dogs barking, in lieu of a diary, would make the process of complaint	The submitter supports the proposed changes to animal related Local Laws, particularly enforcement of the two-dog limit, but is concerned that nuisance barking has not been adequately addressed. They believe the current complaint process is overly burdensome, with barking diaries being impractical for many residents, and suggest allowing alternative evidence such as video recordings. The submitter considers Council's current approach ineffective, resulting in limited accountability for dog owners and ongoing impacts on residential amenity, and calls for a simpler and more proactive response to nuisance barking complaints.

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#	Source	Submission	Themes
		easier, and at least trigger a notification or warning from Council to the dog owner about the issue. My own experience is that the owner of barking dogs next to us are aware that Council has their hands tied and are therefore unmotivated to do anything to resolve the issue. There are local laws regarding construction noise etc, but constant nuisance barking day and night is also a loss of amenity to ratepayers and therefore requires as much attention. I am pleased to see that the local laws regarding the number of dogs permitted on a property (2) will be enforced, and hope this enforcement does eventuate. Hoping this feedback is useful.	

Talk to us Events

Overview

Seven community in-person engagement sessions were held across Bayside activity centres and community locations in July 2026 where **4 people** provided feedback on proposed changes to the Local Law.

Pop-ups were held at:

- Peterson Youth Centre – 6 July 2026.
- Sandringham Library – 6 July 2026.
- Beaumaris Community Centre – 9 July 2026.
- Black Rock Civic Centre – 13 July 2026.
- Sillitoe Pavilion – 14 July 2026.
- Brighton Library – 15 July 2026.
- Hurlingham Pavilion – 16 July 2026.

Engagement activities included a dotmocracy activity, surveys and conversations with Council staff.

Overall, in-person engagement elicited a low attendance rate. Across the 7 sessions, 2 people engaged in dotmocracy voting. Attendees were further encouraged to 'have their say' via the online survey.