



What's a better Bayside?

Bayside Community Plan 2025 - Summary

May 2016



Join community conversations or visit
www.bayside.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Beaumaris Library (foyer)

Sunday 29 May 2016

1.30pm–3.30pm

96 Reserve Road, Beaumaris

Bayside City Council

76 Royal Ave, Sandringham

Wednesday 1 June

5.30pm–7.30pm

Brighton Library (Atrium)

Saturday 4 June

1.30pm–3.30pm

Highett Neighborhood Centre

2 Livingston Street, Highett

Tuesday 7 June

11am–1pm





What makes Bayside a better place?

Over the past nine months Council has created a process to engage and to listen to the needs and aspirations of our community. The aim is to understand what our community believes is needed to make Bayside a better place.

The conversations have been organised around categories that make a place great to live. These categories are drawn from the Victorian government's Place, Health and Liveability research program that identifies the following domains essential to building a healthy, liveable and sustainable community, including:

- Open space
- Transport options
- Local economy and activity centres
- Infrastructure
- Community participation and health
- Environment
- Housing and neighbourhoods.

We collected feedback from more than 1000 people across a broad range of ages, through surveys, face-to-face engagement and online forums. Through this consultation we

were able to gain valuable insights into what our residents' value, what they need to make Bayside better as well as hearing the tensions and conflicting views that exist with our community. For example the desire to get around Bayside easily and conveniently by driving cars and the conflict to protect the environment through better air, water and land quality.

This summary is a snapshot of the some of the findings we'll explore in the full Community Plan which will be published in May 2016.

As a document, the Bayside Community Plan 2025 will help the new Councillors set priorities and directions for the four-year Council Plan. It gives direction to planning in all spheres of Council influence: social, economic, environmental, and

maintaining the fabric of Bayside.

Council can use the plan for direct implementation in some cases, while in others it will need to work in partnership with other organisations or use advocacy to effect change.

We encourage you to explore this summary and provide your feedback about this document, the tensions explored and the community indicators proposed to measure better.

Open space

Bayside has 77.09 hectares of land dedicated as Conservation Reserves. Of these areas, 56.72 hectares is within the foreshore, and 20.37 hectares in inland reserves, providing examples of regionally significant flora, much of which is under threat.

Council's Environment Sustainable Open Space Report

What residents value

Residents have told us that open space is one of the key attractions to living in Bayside. With 17 km of coastal features and sea views, the beaches and foreshore, in particular, are what people imagine when they think of Bayside. These open spaces support a range of activities and opportunities for enjoyment.

Bayside's parks and gardens, especially those with historical buildings, are attractions well-used by residents and visitors for tourism, weddings, and leisure activities such as picnics.

The importance of supporting the natural ecosystem is broadly recognised by residents, particularly the necessity to protect vegetation along the foreshore to help with cliff stabilisation and erosion issues. Another example of what residents value is the planned upgrading of sporting facilities that are accessible and promote gender equality, which will be done while protecting and respecting the natural environment.

Community talking points

The more people are drawn to Bayside's open spaces, the more pressure is placed on those spaces. While all members of the community enjoy their access to open space, there are some tensions on how it should be used and/or protected.

Some members of the community argue that redevelopment along the foreshore is acceptable, provided it does not go beyond the footprint of what is currently there – but they oppose any new developments. Others are happy to see some new development along the foreshore so long as it for environmental or community safety related purposes, such as a lifesaving club or conservation facility. Some may consider a broader range of new developments to be acceptable.

Because the community values Bayside's open space, residents are vocal about how it should be used and protected. Dog owners value off-leash areas but there's a need to balance this with non-dog owners and the management of dog-friendly spaces; parents of young children want safe, playful and purposeful playgrounds; some beach users want the beach cleaned while others prefer it be kept natural.

Projects and initiatives

There are several projects and initiatives you may be aware of that will influence both access to and quality of open space. These include:

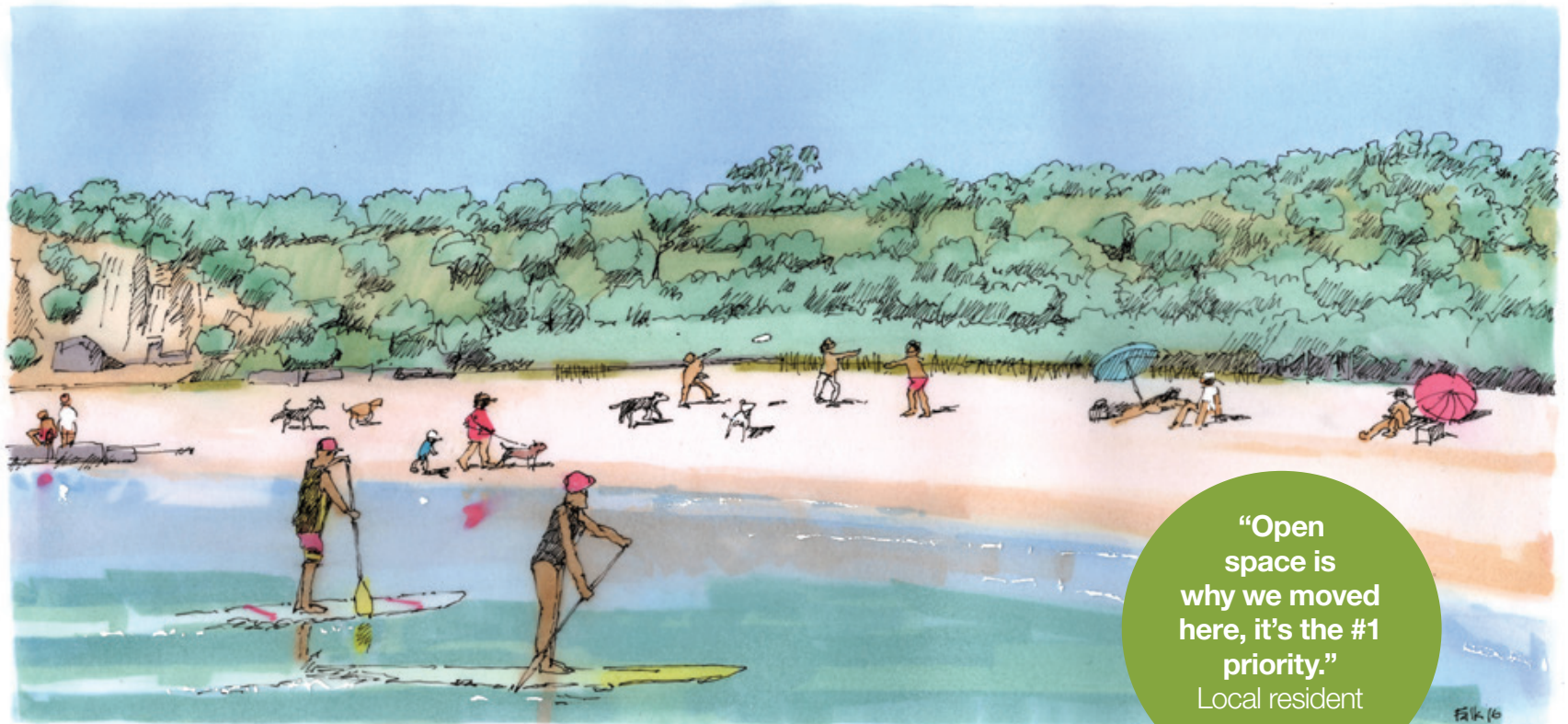
- CSIRO site development project: likely to return 4 hectares of open space (Highett Grassy Woodland) to the community. Remainder of the 9 hectares to be used for development.
- Developments like the Jack Road development contain some open space. Council is working more closely with developers to ensure open space is part of their plan.
- Council's Open Space Strategy (2012) identifies areas where open space is not available within a 400 metre radius.
- Councils Playground Strategy (2015) reviews playgrounds to ensure they're safe, purposeful and playful.



What's a better Bayside?

Is it a beach and foreshore where you gather with friends, enjoy a bite to eat?

Or is it a beach and foreshore for quite reflection and dozing in the sun?



"Open space is why we moved here, it's the #1 priority."
Local resident

Transport options

Bayside residents have one of the highest level of car ownership in Victoria – 55% our population own two or more cars per household.

ABS Census 2011

What residents value

Melbourne is a city under enormous transport pressure. Our Bayside community enjoys access to a variety of transport options and the convenience that this choice provides. Walking and cycling are preferred for exercise; commuters use the frequent train services for work and education; while private cars are used by residents for distances more than a kilometre or two for social and shopping trips, school times, and general use outside the municipality.

Community talking points

Despite Bayside's varied transport options, the community faces a number of challenging issues to ensure continued growth does not inhibit mobility in and around Bayside. For example, the areas of Bayside that have been best-served by public transport have unsurprisingly become the focus of residential and commercial development.

While Bayside residents are clear they want to move around Bayside easily and conveniently, they also want to do this by choosing the means of transport that best suits them. In general the community supports less reliance on cars so as to reduce their impact on the environment and to encourage greater social interaction, while this causes issues with pathways shared by pedestrians and cyclists and of large groups of cyclists on road lanes.

Car parking is another contentious issue for Bayside residents, especially among commuters using Bayside streets, and the increasing numbers of multi-car families. Contrasting views include removing parking restrictions in the activity centres – to support commercial growth, but imposing greater parking restrictions in residential streets near train stations.

Projects and initiatives

There are several projects and initiatives you may be aware of that are likely to influence both choice and convenience of our transport options. These include:

- Development of Southland Railway Station is likely to divert some public transport users from Highett/Cheltenham or Sandringham to Southland. It may divert private cars from existing Bayside commuter hubs or it may merely double the commuter population.
- Trends around car sharing/short-term hire. There has been some small uptake in Bayside of the 'Car next door' model compared to other models e.g. Go Get Car, Flexi Car.
- Level Crossing Removal Authority will remove the level crossing along Charman Road, helping to ease traffic congestion around Cheltenham Railway Station.
- Future moderate growth areas along Bay Rd and Bluff Rd are outside train catchment areas, placing increased pressure on commuter parking. There is an opportunity to encourage and increase uptake of the bus service.

“Developers should be encouraged to work with car sharing providers – the nearest car share is at Elsternwick yet there are 100+ apartment blocks being developed with little public transport.”

Local resident



What's a better Bayside?

Is it having the choice and convenience to use your preferred mode of transport?

Local economy and activity centres

Traders on average have operated in Bayside for on average 14 years and at their current location for 9 years.

Urban Strategy Department

What residents value

Everyone wants a thriving local economy that provides employment and opportunities. Such an economy depends on several factors, including local support for local businesses, a mix of commercial businesses and easy access for residents and visitors.

The areas that are thriving do so because of strong local support – where residents identify strongly with their neighbourhoods and like to support local businesses. They welcome the opportunity to socialise and conduct business within their community and value the retention of the local character of each centre.

A vibrant and service-rich activity centre can act as a catalyst for several liveability indicators. Measuring levels of walking and cycling are indicators of health and wellbeing and these may be enhanced if residents live within a few hundred metres of a shopping centre. Engaging with their communities is also an important health factor for young people and older adults who have a higher risk of isolation.

A vibrant centre is active during daylight and evening hours, catering to the needs of a diverse population. It offers restaurants, pubs, film or live performances, a range of retail and professional services for a variety of ages and abilities. Service rich centres provide the community with a

mix of retail and services and call upon on a diverse range of skill sets, generating local employment and income opportunities.

Community talking points

Consider the effect if Bayside's entire population (100,000+) committed to shopping locally. It would greatly benefit the local economy, provide local jobs, facilitate better health outcomes and aid the environment. Many people do have such a commitment. Yet others find that shopping locally at smaller retailers is more expensive than visiting major chains and something they are unable to support. Less flexible trading hours can also be a barrier to shopping locally.

There is relatively positive support for so-called shop top living. However, the views of community members are tempered with provisos that the look and feel of the 'village' is maintained, experiences are maintained, and car parking for residents is provided.

Projects and initiatives

Key changes likely to influence local economy and activity centres include:

- Development of the Southland Railway Station, will help to reduce traffic congestion in local activity centres, however in doing so will also divert business as it becomes more convenient to hop off at Southland and do your shop on the way home from work.
- Changing consumer preferences, with the introduction of food trucks and pop up shops activity centres are now more mobile.
- Online shopping continues to increase, with businesses and retailers preferring to have virtual shops as opposed to a physical shop front.
- Big box retail, (like Bunnings) require large lots of land and are usually located away from public transport and activity centres, taking business from smaller centres.



What's a better Bayside?

Is it vibrant local shopping centres with events and places for the community to gather?

"Encourage residents to shop locally by having more events prior to Christmas... Festivities will help to bring the community together and support local businesses."

Local resident

Infrastructure

Council operates and maintains a vast road network including: 360km local roads, 721km footpaths, 683km laneways, 5 bridges, 350 traffic management items (e.g. roundabouts and speed humps), 18,000 signs and 134 car parks.

Infrastructure Assets Department

What residents value

Infrastructure is the physical assets Council supplies to deliver community services. It supports the delivery of all services. Infrastructure includes underground waste services, drains, local roads and pathways and buildings.

Community reactions to infrastructure are that it should be invisible as a service, or attractively presented, well maintained, and popular with its users, residents and visitors. Well-maintained infrastructure supports objectives within other liveability domains. Council also has a responsibility to monitor the delivery of commercial and other government infrastructure, such as power and water, assisting residents who are experiencing difficulties and advocating for upgraded services when necessary.

While a significant portion of Council's budget is invested in new facilities and maintaining current infrastructure assets, there are constant external pressures that are placed on Bayside's infrastructure. Local population increases through residential development and the effects of changing climate on future Council investments in infrastructure are two such pressures. More people increase congestion on roads and pathways, while storms batter Council-owned piers, beaches and cliffs, affecting the coastal trail.

Community talking points

Different community groups and members have conflicting views on infrastructure priorities. There is disagreement as to who should use particular facilities and whether Council should primarily invest in multi-use or single-use facilities. Some want investment in sporting-related infrastructure; others on infrastructure that addresses gender equality and meets relevant accessibility standards rather than improving the external appearance of facilities. Some want priority given to capital investment projects where there is a significant funding partner, or to commercial tenancies where there is evidence that a private provider can deliver the service more cheaply than Council or it is not part of Council's core business. Others want priority given to buildings that are environmentally friendly (e.g. solar power, recycled water), even if there is little or no financial return.

Projects and initiatives

Changing trends and consumer preferences influence how Council plans and delivers infrastructure to the community. Projects and initiatives that reflect these changes include:

- Provision of library service: libraries are moving away from offering standalone library services to providing increased opportunities to participate in the local community through education and opportunities to experience culture and entertainment.
- Co-location of services and community activities: there is a shift away from smaller neighbourhood centres and services, to larger integrated hubs e.g. co-location of maternal and child health care with kindergarten and occasional care. This increases the amount of space and supporting infrastructure required.



What's a better Bayside?

Is it having access to shared facilities that are used by all community?

**“Every
facility needs
to be available
for a safe, enjoyable
lifestyle. The library and
community centre
are positive aspects
of Bayside.”**

Local resident

Community and health

Our age profile is changing, by 2026 Bayside will have 3,547 additional seniors, that is a 35% increase in older residents. This will require Council to rethink how it delivers services and facilities.

Family, Youth and Culture Services Department

What residents value

Encouraging and supporting people to lead healthier lives is a priority for the entire Bayside community. The community recognises that among the key determinants in aiding a healthy lifestyle are opportunities to play sport, walk freely around the municipality and enjoy vibrant social life.

Access to a broad range of health services and social infrastructure directly improves the health and well-being outcomes of a community, while increasing the overall liveability of an area. Council is committed to supporting the community to lead a healthy and well connected life. It does this through the services and programs it provides/ advocates on behalf of, and by also encouraging the community to participate in local decision making. Health and social connection, though is not solely delivered through infrastructure or services it is also linked to the natural environment.

Community talking points

Community welfare and health care is linked to everything we do – and the way that we do it: choosing to drive instead of walk; choosing to clear vegetation; choosing how to spend one's leisure time. All are connected. Even a decision to oppose a development can have unconsidered implications, such as preventing young people from entering the housing market or from older people ageing in a home of their own. Both lead to stress and not only for those directly affected.

Community wanted more opportunities to work with Council to both inform decision making and participate in local projects and initiatives. Younger people in particular identified naming of parks and commission of artwork as opportunities to involve the community in shaping Bayside.

Projects and initiatives

Key changes likely to influence how Council supports and encourages the community to participate and lead a healthy life include:

- Ageing population: Bayside has a comparatively high older population and the services and infrastructure required to support this demographic will increase in the coming years.
- Digital technology: The community is changing the way they access information and participate in local decision making. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are used to access and record information, and to connect with others.
- Health priorities: There are several health priority areas that are currently affecting, or will soon affect, Bayside residents. These include illnesses related to cancer, cardiovascular health, mental illness, obesity and diabetes.



“Support
community
services - childcare,
holiday care, elderly
care, disability - we are
a wealthy area – we can
support those with
higher needs.”

Local resident

What's a better Bayside?

Is it about encouraging and supporting older residents to age in place?

Environment

Last financial year Bayside residents recycled over 11,200 tonnes of mixed recyclables and over 9,300 tonnes of green waste from the kerbside collection.

Environmental Sustainability Department

What residents value

Environment refers to both the built-form and natural environments of Bayside. The environment plays a significant role in shaping people's experience of a neighbourhood, including how safe they feel within the area, and how the characters of neighbourhoods are defined.

The health of the natural environment is a determinant of community health and well-being generally. Bayside residents enjoy air, water and soil free from contaminants and pollutants. It is important that the community continue to recognise the link between individual actions and the overall impact on the environment.

The community regards Bayside's beaches and foreshores as the most valued asset of Bayside with the protection and maintenance of beaches and foreshores a high priority. And given the high visibility of the beaches and foreshore, particularly the impact of storm water on the health of the bay, there is a particular desire to protect the biodiversity within marine reserves and along the foreshores.

Community talking points

The community recognises that managing the environment requires more than just local effort. They look to state and federal governments to guide the management of a sustainable environment. The community consider a major priority to be greater leadership from all levels of government in relation to climate change, in order to make Bayside, Victoria and Australia more sustainable.

At the same time, there appears to be some disconnect between this desire for government action and the realisation that individual actions also have an impact. Bayside produces more household waste (comparatively) to other municipalities, uses more water and electricity per capita, and has higher levels of car ownership and usage.

There are conflicting views within the community on what is regarded as an 'optimal' environment. The visual appeal of an environment is one such area that promotes alternating views, such as some residents preferring beaches that look 'natural' and others wanting beaches that are 'groomed'. There are also conflicting ideals in the community about how Bayside's natural environment should be utilised and by whom, and how to balance this use with the need to protect our environment for future generations. Younger people identifying that better information and signage might help to raise the profile of these important cultural and environmental elements.

Projects and initiatives

Council's environmental and sustainability responsibilities include maintaining its coastal assets, cleaning and dressing beaches, protecting (or removing) wildlife, cleaning tagged walls and maintaining, as much as possible, Bayside's leafy streetscapes.

Council's Environmental Sustainability Framework (soon to be adopted by Council) is Council's response to being a leader at the local level for better environmental management and creating a greener and more sustainable city.

However, there are also many areas outside of Council's control that will impact Bayside's liveability, including:

- The Garnaut Review found that the costs of unmitigated climate change are expected to reduce Victoria's Gross State Product by approximately 2% by 2050.
- The Federal Government has committed to a 26-28% reduction on 2005 carbon emissions by 2030.
- Dredging of the bay for shipping and tourism will have unintended impacts on marine life and bay health.
- Advances in technology have led to the rediscovery of shale oil. This is predicted to end the peak oil crisis – opening up markets and resulting in reduced oil prices for the next 30 years.



What's a better Bayside?

Feeling supported to understand and make changes to live more sustainability?

“The beaches are one of the best parts about living in Bayside and need to be protected at all costs. That includes marine parks and fossils.”

Local resident

Housing and neighbourhoods

At the very least, Bayside will require an additional 4000 dwellings by 2031.

Urban Strategy Department

What residents value

Bayside's population is growing, as is the case with all of Melbourne's metropolitan councils. Few issues have the potential to spark more debate than how, where, and even if, growth should be accommodated.

Bayside's growth, not surprisingly, is centred around the major activity centres and along rail corridors. And with the growth restricted by the bay and adjoining municipalities, infill and brown developments are our only options.

Consultation with residents indicates that various communities within Bayside identify strongly with the individual character of their neighbourhoods, with:

- Beaumaris residents strongly identify with their vegetation and natural characteristics, and seek greater access to public transport and a 'village' feel.
- Brighton and Brighton East residents value their village feel and local shopping experience, and are protective of the relatively little vegetation they have.
- Highett, Hampton and Cheltenham residents enjoy the convenience of transport and the recreation and entertainment options available.
- Black Rock and Sandringham residents identify strongly with the foreshore and are particularly conscious of the environmental balance needed between use and protection of this natural asset.

Bayside is also home to a relatively small proportion of residents who require social housing, which adds to the housing mix and to population diversity.

Having a housing mix that suits a wide range of people, from university students and young singles, to families and empty nesters in retirement adds to the diversity of Bayside and brings increased services and activities that help to a vibrant and socially active community.

Community talking points

Most Bayside residents have a strong desire to see neighbourhoods protected, with development sympathetic or responsive to the natural and built environment. The community has some concern that development may affect access to facilities and services they currently enjoy.

While many Bayside residents value the look and feel offered by larger format houses, set on larger tree lined blocks, growth and development affords property owners the opportunity to subdivide, and enables others entry into an otherwise unaffordable area.

While we know that growth is a part of the future of Bayside, managing the growth is difficult given Council's role in planning for housing and residential development is largely guided by the State Planning Policy Framework. However, it is Council's responsibility to determine how housing will be provided for within the municipality, taking into account local trends, conditions and community aspirations.

Council currently spends money and resources in VCAT objecting to developments that will ultimately be approved. This is done because the community expects Council to act in their interests, and because Council wants to ensure liveability is not compromised by developments that do not meet design standards or requirements. However, the more the community can engage in proactive and genuine dialogue with Council and developers in the early planning stage of developments, the higher the likelihood that outcomes are more favourable to the community expectations, and the less likely it will be that Council will have to appeal to VCAT.

Projects and initiatives

Residential developments planned for in the next 5 years:

- Beaumaris – Beach Rd around The Beaumaris, The Morriss Balcombe Rd – ex RSL site, Amaroo
- Brighton – Bay St, Martin St, Asling St, New St, Warleigh Gr
- Brighton East – Hemming St, Barr ST, Landcox St
- Cheltenham – Jack Rd, Charlton Ave, 277 Bay Rd
- Hampton – VicTrack site, 427 Hampton St, Railway Wlk
- Highett – ex CSIRO site, Dart St, 477 Highett Rd
- Sandringham – Bay Rd Sandy Hill Stages 2&3, 212 Bay Rd, 208 Bay Rd.

“Ensure there is sufficient social, including public, housing – and run a campaign to get the State government to use its vast land ownership in Bayside more effectively.”

Bayside resident



What's a better Bayside?

Is it having affordable options available to enter the housing market, or continue living in your neighbourhood?



Bayside City Council
76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham VIC 3191
Tel (03) 9599 4444
Fax (03) 9598 4474
Email enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au
www.bayside.vic.gov.au

