



Annual Budget 2023-24 Engagement Summary Report

May 2023

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2 Overview

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2023-24.

The proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 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 19 April and 9 May 2023 for the consideration of Council.

There were 37 contributions via four methods: 29 online surveys, one submission to the Q&A forum and six written statements, all of which were submitted via Council's Have Your Say engagement website. One written statement was received via direct email to Mayor El Mouallem and Cr Evans.

2.2 Community and stakeholder feedback

Feedback on the proposed budget (37 responses, some raising multiple issues/ concerns) was varied, with the most common response (14) requesting a greater allocation of funding to achieve Goal 1: Our Planet. Areas for additional financial support towards environmental needs, infrastructure, and initiatives included:

- Shared user paths (SUPs) and sustainable active transport connections
- Biodiversity initiatives (including implementing the Biodiversity Action Plan)
- Wildlife protection and improving staff ratios for bushland maintenance services
- Protection and planting of trees and urban forests
- Community environmental education
- Mitigating pollution where possible and avoidance of toxins and chemicals
- Increased access to open and green spaces including walking tracks.

The next most common theme was in support of investment in a Pétanque piste (from 13 members of the Bayside U3A).

Other survey submissions covered a broad range of topics including:

- Opposition to the rate increase, citing raising costs of living as well as Council's high spend on capital works projects, arts infrastructure/ programs, and the forecast budget surplus as reasons for opposition (4)
- Negative sentiment to the salary increase for Council personnel (2)
- Questioning of the need/ urgency to develop the Warm Water Pool in this challenging economic climate (2)
- Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Gateway Building (1 submission for each view of positive and negative sentiment)
- Waste collection (1 submission for each view of positive and negative sentiment)
- A request to invest in upgrades/ improvements to the Hampton Bowls Club (1)
- A lack of investment in female-friendly changerooms at community sport facilities (1)

- Request to increase funding for road maintenance, and follow-up with developers who inadequately repair road assets after accessing underground services (1)
- Funding request to reinstate printing of the Banksia Bulletin and Guide to Planting (1).
- A request to redirect funds to low cost/ affordable housing (1)

All feedback is included in Section 5 of this report.

2.3 Next steps

Council will consider feedback from the community, including this community engagement report, before adopting a proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 at its meeting on 27 June 2023.

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 2023-24.

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

Table 1: Scope of influence

Negotiables	Annual Budget 2023-24 -noting that funding priorities have been set by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2021-31.
Non-negotiables	Legislative requirement for Council to adopt Annual Budget 2023-24 by 30 June 2023
	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 2023-24 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 2023-24	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult
Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult

Level of engagement

Engagement on the Annual Budget 2023-24 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 2021-22 – 2030-31. These plans were subject to extensive, deliberative community engagement programs.

3.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement on the Annual Budget 2023-24 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 19 April and 9 May 2023.

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 required/requested.

Communications via print and digital Council channels and targeted 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
19 April – 9 May 2023 37 contributions 35 contributors 11 project followers	Have Your Say engagement website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey form (29 responses) • Written statement form (6 submission) • Provision of feedback by post or anonymously (0 submissions) • Question and answer forum (1 participants)
Email 1 submission	1 submission was received via direct email to Mayor El Mouallem and Cr Evans.
Social media	Two social media posts were published referencing the consultation on the budget. There were no comments on the posts.

3.2.2 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels reached more than 11,000 community members. Social media 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 511 views 400 visits 274 visitors	yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/annual-budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project information on proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 and alignment with Council Plan 2021-2025 (372 visitors) • Annual Budget 2022-23 (direct web link) • Your feedback subpage (274 visitors) • Question and answer forum (18 visitors) • Engagement Plan Overview (13 visitors)
Council website 151 views (news story)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News item: <u>A strong foundation for a liveable, inclusive and connected Bayside</u> (151 views) • Website homepage banner 27 April – 9 May (11,891 homepage views)
Direct email 34,270 (non-unique) recipients	Have Your Say project subscribers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council budget and strategic plans. Sent 19 April: 1,224 recipients, opens 693 (57%), clicks 53 (4.4%) This Week in Bayside e-newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 April: 11,015 recipients, 6,225 opens, 31 links clicked • 27 April: 11,016 recipients, 6,640 opens, 25 links clicked • 4 May: 11,015 recipients, 5,955 opens, 23 links clicked
Social media 2,228 reach	<u>Facebook post</u> promoting consultation 19 April 2023: 725 reach, 2 reactions, 0 comments <u>Instagram post</u> promoting consultation 19 April 2023: 1,503 reach, 20 likes, 0 comments

Media coverage

There was no media coverage of the proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 consultation.

4 Participant profile

Participant profile data was asked for survey responses (29) only, with all responses in the "About you" section optional. Representative participation was not considered achievable for this consultation due to the historic low level of participation in budget consultations. To encourage participation there was no requirement to provide personal information or to register/sign-in to provide feedback.

All participants were aged between 35 and 84 years, with 39% female, 57% male and 4% preferring not to say. All Bayside suburbs were represented except Hampton East, and one respondent listed their suburb as "Other". Some respondents listed themselves as belonging to/ representing one or multiple community groups or organisations, which included the BCCAG - Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group (1), Phone Morris Rotary (1), George Street Reserve (1), Bayside Community Nursery (1), Highett Grassy Woodland (1), Bayside U3A Petanque Group (6), Bayside Bowls & Community Club (1)

Most respondents (79%) said they had the information they needed to provide feedback on the Budget and information was very (41%) or mostly (38%) easy to find and understand.

Connection to Bayside

Almost all (93%) of survey participants responded they were a Bayside homeowner/ratepayer, one was an owner/operator of a Bayside business, and 42% were a member of a community group or organisation.

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 Recreation facilities

Pétanque facility in Bayside

The proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 allocates \$77,000 for a pétanque facility in Bayside. Twelve (12) members of the Bayside U3A submitted responses in support of funding this initiative citing the game provides them the opportunity to socialise, exercise, learn new skills and enjoy the outdoors.

Table 5: Feedback and support for a pétanque facility in Bayside

Topic	Community feedback
Pétanque	<p>I am a Bayside resident of 70 years. Also I play Petanque every week with the Bayside U3A group. This activity is the only "Ball sport" exercise that I can manage with my balance difficulties and each Wednesday is a joy to meet others and have a small competition with like minded people. Also it is wonderful that there are an equal number of females and males` . which adds to the conversation.</p> <p>Playing on a grass surface means that there is a lot of luck depending on how the boule bounces...so a proper piste would reward our skills or lack of !</p> <p>I have spent many years in France and the "local village" piste was the centre of social gatherings, It was used casually by families and for more serious tournaments. I recommend that our Councillors create this facility, as have other neighbouring councils</p> <p>I am I longstanding member of the Bayside U3A Petanque group which gathers together every week on the oval at the back of the U3A offices in Beaumaris. It's difficult, sometimes impossible, to play on that surface as it's not designed for the game of Petanque.</p> <p>I benefit so much from an outdoor activity and the enjoyment of meeting others. I believe that when the piste is built, the game will flourish due to the curiosity of the</p>

community. The Capital Works Proposal for a Petanque facility in Bayside is wonderful news.

Now in my eighties I am delighted to discover that Bayside council is listing support for a local Petanque piste. I've played tennis, Pickleball, & lawn bowls, but now find those games are too fast or the balls are too heavy. Two years ago I joined [the] Petanque group (via Bayside U3A), learning new skills ... and other experienced men and women ranging in age from about 50 to VERY much older. Not only is this an opportunity to meet & enjoy the company of other older Bayside citizens, it's a great healthy outdoor sport. I look forward to playing Petanque (and extending our group) in a genuine piste, instead of the interim soccer grass.

The \$77,000 allocated for a Petanque Piste is proactive planning for a long overdue addition to the City of Bayside's community recreation facilities. A proper petanque piste is virtually flat and has very low impact on the environment and impedes no-one at any time. It just needs to be built in an open space and needs to be level. A petanque piste must be in a public space and freely accessible. People only need a set of balls/boule to play, and many families have such sets, and they may be purchased from sports and department stores.

The fantastic fact about a petanque piste is it allows for anyone from 5 years to 95 years to get physically involved in a game for all generations. It is a multi-generational game unlike most other organised sports. Petanque can only be successfully played on a properly constructed piste. Any Grass for instance is uneven, has dents and bumps and detracts from the pleasure and skill of the game. A multi game piste is best as it allows for groups/ families/friends/school classes to play together and have competitions.

Currently I have been playing weekly with a Bayside U3A petanque group. Our numbers have grown from 12 to 31 in 5 years. We are all retired senior citizens and this is an excellent healthy exercise activity for people our age. U3A especially encourages physically engaging activities for older people. The nature of petanque is such that young school children could join our games in a cross-generation activity. We have been playing on a sports oval and the uneven surface often detracts from the enjoyment of playing.

Potentially almost every citizen in Bayside could play petanque.

I congratulate the Bayside Council recreation staff on their proposed funding for a petanque piste. I would assume Bayside Councillors will support this initiative.

The allocation for a Pétanque Piste is long over due and would be of great benefit to the Bayside community. The U3A members play weekly on a grass oval which is quite unsuitable. I hope the Bayside Council will endorse the proposed funding for a Piste.

As a Bayside U3A member who has just taken up Pétanque this year I am very excited by the budget allocation for a Pétanque piste. Pétanque is a multigenerational game which is very accessible for people of all ages as all you need is a piste (which must be built on a flat level open space) and a set of balls/boules to play. It's great fun and I am experiencing first hand the social and health benefits of participating but it is very frustrating to play on grass in parks where the bumps and uneven surface detract from the pleasure and skill of the game. I understand that neighbouring councils have a piste for their communities and that they are used by families, friends, school groups as well as senior citizens. Congratulations on this great initiative which will be a valuable resource for the whole Bayside community!

My feedback is in support of the proposed Petanque facility in Bayside. I am one of a group of senior citizens who regularly play Petanque as one of the activities provided by Bayside U3A. We all greatly appreciate the fun, camaraderie and gentle exercise out in the fresh air that this simple but enjoyable game gives us. The only downside is that because there is no purpose-built Petanque piste in Bayside, we play on a grass sports oval, which has an uneven surface that causes unpredictable bounces and side movement of the "boules", which in turn undermines the skills of the players and affects the fun of the game. A correctly designed surface is essentially flat and is much more suitable than grass. I am a long-term Bayside resident and I'm delighted that Bayside City Council is proposing funding of a dedicated Petanque area, and strongly support this proposal. I would also point out that Petanque is suitable for all ages, the equipment is not expensive, and is readily available locally.

I am writing to you in reference of the \$77000 allocated for a Petanque Piste. As a long time and elderly resident of Bayside, I have been playing Petanque since it was first offered by U3A & have seen the participation rate increase from 12 to now 35, all people playing retired most not able to play the sports that they used to enjoy when more physically able. If the statement that Bayside wishes to "Foster a sense of community & well being for its residents" is correct then I can no see how the council could not agree to spend such a relatively small amount of money for the enjoyment of so many people old and young fit and unfit.

I am writing in support of the proposal to properly fund a petanque piste in Bayside. At present I play petanque with a group of enthusiasts from Bayside U3A on a grass oval behind the Beaumaris library. The grass surface is really unsuitable for this game but we have persisted for some years.

Petanque is a game which can be played by youngsters through to seniors like myself. There are many potential players in Bayside but we don't have a suitable venue. The "healthy ageing" programme supported by Bayside Council would benefit greatly by encouraging more seniors to actively participate in this activity. It would get them outdoors requiring both mental and physical activity. It also has a positive social outcome. The piste can be unfenced and simply requires a flat area in a suitable park.

Considering the range of sports that have received support from Bayside Council this would seem to be a reasonable and relatively inexpensive project which would have a very positive outcome.

In relation to the allocation of funds for the creation of a piste for the currently increasing number of Petanque players in our community, I would like to submit my support for this endeavour! I have been part of a group playing over the past four years through Beaumaris U3A and currently we use the oval by the Beaumaris Community Centre.

This is an activity enjoyed by an increasing number of people of varying age groups and is a good source of physical activity and also a great form of socialisation for all.

I recommend that the funds available for a petanque piste be provided at a suitable Bayside site in 2023.

The benefits of being active and enjoying the company of others as part of the U3A program are essential for continued good health.

Neighbouring Councils have petanque grounds and it would be appropriate for Beaumaris residents to be able to walk to a suitable ground or piste. Adding in the extra exercise helps the cardiovascular system and weight bearing muscular skeletal system.

I hope that these ideas are considered for this year's Bayside Budget.

I would like to emphasise how important the installation of a Bayside Petanque Piste is to me. I have been playing with Bayside U3A every Wednesday, for 4 years, which has created a wonderful social outlet & community for me. Sadly though, we play on a field behind our U3A building which is detrimental to a perfect game. In Summer, the ground is dry and very bumpy but in Winter, wet with long grass & we sometimes can't see the Cochonet. Neighbouring Councils have installed "pistes" so it would be wonderful if Bayside could do the same.

Table 6: Opposition to budget allocation for Recreation projects

Topic	Community feedback
Prioritise female-friendly changerooms (1 mention)	<p>Bayside doesn't need a warm water pool. The Danny Frawley Centre, within 1km of Bayside provides this service. Save this money.</p> <p>Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve doesn't need a "Gateway Building". This goes against the whole idea of a natural oasis. Save this money.</p> <p>Are all sport change-rooms female-friendly? No! This should be a priority, but this does not appear to be included in the budget.</p>
Upgrade lawn bowls facilities	<p>It is very noticeable that whilst acknowledging the aging population you are spending little on upgrading and improving Bayside community lawn bowls facilities. Kingston Council has expended considerable amounts on several</p>

- (1 mention)
- Clubs including Cheltenham. Hampton Bowls & Community Club is the largest bowling club in Bayside with 3 new or recently upgraded greens at the Clubs own expense and receives no Council funding or assistance. The Council land leased has a deplorable car park that is unsealed, full of holes and presents some danger to pedestrians and cars.. HBCC accommodates 455 members, 100 mahjong players, toastmasters and other community events.
- HBCC is a centre for many of the community ranging from mid 50s into their 80s. Its membership is now over 48% female.
- It is time Bayside Council met its landlord responsibilities as well as truly supported the female and older population.

5.1.2 Environment

Ten (10) environmental themed survey responses were received, all highlighting a need for a greater allocation of funding to support environmental priorities:

- Six (6) responses related to shared user paths (SUPs)/ sustainable active transport, many of which were very similar
- Three (3) responses included further budget support for biodiversity initiatives, bushland maintenance, and the Biodiversity Action Plan, and the updating of the Native Vegetation Works Program
- One (1) response placed an emphasis in a circular economy to recycle soft plastics.

Table 7: Opposition to the environmental budget allocation for initiatives and infrastructure

Topic	Community feedback
Increase funding for sustainable active transport (6 mentions)	<p>The budget for Footpaths and Cycle ways is insufficient, and will not achieve any of Sustainable, Active Transport, health and well objectives in the integrated transport strategy. The draft budget shows that Council have no commitment to a safe and convenient pathways for all Personal Mobility Devices connecting Activity Centers and Stations. The result will be increased traffic pollution, congestion and parking pressures and poor access to stations for decades. The 23/24 budget appears to include \$1.5m for Cheltenham to Sandringham Stage 1 and perhaps \$2.67m for the essential Stage 2 in 24/25. There is no budget for Cycle pathways and SUP's to connect to Southland, SRL and LXP to Highett. from 23/24 through to 26/27 Refer Budget Pages 67,70,74,76 There is no budget for the pathways in the Highett Structure plan, or for the access to the rail corridor and Southland station which has been requested to Council since 2017. Without these connections few Bayside residents will be able to access the proposed LXP rail over road at Highett, or the SRL at Cheltenham. The very long construction times and disruption to roadways means these access paths need to go to public consultation and be built ahead of the works, so that at least Cyclists, PMD,s and all ages and abilities can access the stations for the next decade and beyond.</p> <p>I request the draft budget 23/24 to include:</p> <p>Stage 2 Park Road Shared User Path to Cheltenham, in addition to the \$1.1m for Stage 1. This is essential to complete the Sandringham to Cheltenham SUP.</p> <p>The 2025 to 2027 budgets include SUP's and pathways to access the Highett LXP Rail over Road project, Southland station and the Cheltenham SRL project. including:</p> <p>Pathways and shared zones from Jack Road through Olympic Ave to Heather Grv. to Tulip Grv. and the rail crossing</p> <p>SUP's on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads and Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett</p>

structure plan.

The Council has commissioned a report on Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity paths connecting residential areas to 8 Activity Centres as listed in Council meeting item 10.7 21 Dec. 2021 item 10.7 Each access pathway needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and separated from footpaths expenditure. Council has a once only opportunity to work with Kingston, and DTP to deliver these essential pathways and connections for the residential and business community.

The 2025 to 2027 budgets should include SUP's and pathways to access the Highett LXP Rail over Road project, Southland station and the Cheltenham SRL project. including:

- Pathways and shared zones from Jack Road through Olympic Ave to Heather Grv. to Tulip Grv. and the rail crossing
- SUP's on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads,
- Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett structure plan.
- Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity paths connecting residential areas to 8 Activity Centres as listed in Council meeting item 10.7 21 Dec. 2021 item 10.7 Each access pathway needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and added or revised as required.

The paths and connections will avoid cars for local trips, and reduce pollution, congestion and parking issues.

Request the draft budget 23/24 to include:

Stage 2 Park Road Shared User Path to Cheltenham, in addition to the \$1.1m for Stage 1. This is essential to complete the Sandringham to Cheltenham SUP.

Request the 2025 to 2027 budgets include SUP's and pathways to access the Highett LXP Rail over Road project, Southland station and the Cheltenham SRL project. including:

Pathways and shared zones from Jack Road through Olympic Ave to Heather Grv. to Tulip Grv. and the rail crossing
SUP's on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads,
Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett structure plan.

Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity paths connecting residential areas to 8 Activity Centres as listed in Council meeting item 10.7 21 Dec. 2021 item 10.7 Each access pathway needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and added or revised as required.

The paths and connections will avoid cars for local trips, and reduce pollution, congestion and parking issues.

I think the 24/24 budget should include stage 2 of the shared user path linking Sandringham to Cheltenham.

Future budgets should include shared user paths to provide access to Highett and Southland stations, because of the difficulty of parking near these stations.

I request the draft budget 23/24 to include:

Stage 2 Park Road Shared User Path to Cheltenham, in addition to the \$1.1m for Stage 1. This is essential to complete the Sandringham to Cheltenham SUP.

I request the 2025 to 2027 budgets include SUP's and pathways to access the Highett LXP Rail over Road project, Southland station and the Cheltenham SRL project. including:

Pathways and shared zones from Jack Road through Olympic Ave to Heather Grv. to Tulip Grv. and the rail crossing
SUP's on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads,
Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson

Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett structure plan.

Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity paths connecting residential areas to 8 Activity Centres as listed in Council meeting item 10.7 21 Dec. 2021 item 10.7 Each access pathway needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and added or revised as required.

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Pathways and shared zones from Jack Road through Olympic Ave to Heather Grv. to Tulip Grv. and the rail crossing

SUP's on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads, Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett structure plan.

Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity paths connecting residential areas to 8 Activity Centres as listed in Council meeting item 10.7 21 Dec. 2021 item 10.7 Each access pathway needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and added or revised as required.

The paths and connections will avoid cars for local trips, and reduce pollution, congestion and parking issues.

Reduce spending on environment – focus on core infrastructure (1 mention)

Given the current tough economic climate, goal 1 spending should be reduced to ensure that services and infrastructure supporting Roads, Rubbish, Residents, Recreation and Reading are the focus. Other goals look good. If we have a healthy, prosperous community, the environment will be taken care of. A goal 1 initiative that should be included is investing in current Australian circular economy projects to recycle soft plastics. This will reduce waste to landfill and help clean up our beaches.

More resourcing for Biodiversity Action Plan (3 mentions)

More resourcing is needed for the natural environment and implementation of actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Bayside City Council is justifiably proud of its remnant bushland reserves and foreshore yet has not commissioned independent surveys of their vegetation since 2011-12. The last were completed by Ecology Australia before it wrote the Native Vegetation Works Program presented to council in 2013. (Prior to that, surveys were done in 1996 I believe.)

Seasonal variations necessitate more than one vegetation survey is conducted in a year. At least two but ideally three are required to adequately monitor the surviving plants: some plants are bulbs, some orchids, some are only visible or able to be identified when in flower.

The brief in part in 2011 was... 1.1 P1 Background

“to provide a readily usable works-manual which clearly sets-out the management strategies for each reserve including a timeframe for the works to be undertaken.”

The Native Vegetation Works Program (NVWP) is an essential tool used by BCC Open Space Officers and the Contractor, in this case Citywide, to assist with the care of the indigenous plant species and to guide them with the identification and control of weed species, including native plants which are growing out of place or even indigenous plants which should be managed. It

also contains lists of suggested plants suitable for revegetation in both foreshore and inland reserves and risk assessments and advice for the management of all the reserves including the foreshore.

Both council officers and contractor crews rely on the information provided for the proper management of BCC's valued open spaces.

Since the last survey was done however there have been many changes not least of which those brought about by the ten or so environmental burns in the reserves and three? 'wildfires' at both Cheltenham Park and on the foreshore. Citywide makes thorough documented orchid surveys annually and the crew members are constantly informally monitoring the plants as they work. We are fortunate too that we have volunteers and other expert observers who record and report on plants which germinate unexpectedly after the fires, or after unusual rain for example. Amazingly just in the last week, two plants previously unlisted and unobserved in Bayside have been identified on the Black Rock foreshore. (identity will be conclusively confirmed when flowers and fruits appear in spring).

It's pleasing to note that funds have been allocated in this budget to update the Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027.

A BAP update will assist with planning council's major initiatives which include the 'Urban Forest Strategy' and 'the Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan'.

The BAP is different from the NVWP which is a document to inform the management of the open spaces internally by both BCC officers and City wide staff but the BAP is a document which addresses the conservation and preservation of the open spaces, improves knowledge and community involvement and integrates the natural resource management and the biodiversity.

Surely new vegetation surveys would assist with both a new Native Works Vegetation Program and a Biodiversity Action Plan update costs for which should be included in the 2023/2024 budget.

I would like to see more resources devoted to implementing the Biodiversity Action Plan as many important action proposals have not been started within the timelines of the Plan. They include items that I would consider as Capital expenditures needed to undertake works on the ground. Officer time that the Plan says could be absorbed has in fact been diverted to responding to various Council resolutions, especially those following Notices of Motion.

Chief amongst the outstanding items are updating the Native Vegetation Works Program, which underpins management of vegetation conservation jewels, and an information system to track items such as locally endangered flora, fungi, and fauna. To make way for this expenditure I suggest deferring expenditure on buildings until Council can be sure that they meet environmental objectives.

Past works that have harmed bird biodiversity by removing bird nesting sites were at Beaumaris Reserve, Green Point, Banksia Reserve (swallows), Hurlingham Park (Masked Lapwings), and Banksia Reserve (Crimson Rosellas).

5.1.3 Other feedback on various projects / items

Table 8: Opposition to rate and salary increases, and capital works spending

Topic	Community feedback
Rates	I think the Council is spreading itself too thinly and trying to do too much across too many areas of interest. It should concentrate on dealing effectively with 'bread and butter' issues first. Issues such as rubbish collection, clean and safe footpaths and parking may not seem exciting but they are very important to the safe and enjoyable day to day life of residents. Social welfare and environmental projects should come next in order of priority. If there are sufficient resources after that other projects

	could be undertaken. Rates are high anyway given property values and it should not be necessary to increase them by so much.
Rates, salary increases	I disagree with the rate increase of 3.5% and that of salaries to the council personnel. My own income has not increased by 3.5%. There are no clear cost improvements or initiatives to reduce rates.
Rates	I have a family and my two kids go to school. What we need is a reduction in costs. There are no budgeted activities that put food on my table or a roof over our head. Our family salary has not increased at the same rate as council rates.
Capital works, rates	Council has continued its big spending capital works regime... in the middle of a pending recession ratepayers are being asked to stump up more and more! No small rate increase here! Really ... is the warm water pool urgent? a MUST have? same with the Beaumaris Arts Centre.. a must have spend in the middle of the current economic conditions??? and it states cash reserves are being run down due to the high level of capital works. Ummm der ... REDUCE the capital works spend and that goes away. Then why also have such a LARGE surplus?? the budget acknowledges are are more rateable properties (surely more rate revenue?) then says there are more costs which curiously are 'UNDEFINED' (why?) from having these that the additional rate revenue does not cover. Just 'spin' ... Overall.... a Fiscally Irresponsible Budget that again assumes ratepayers of Bayside have unlimited financial resources in covering this largesse by council
Rates, salary increases, capital works	STOP WASTING OUR MONEY on employing more people AT OUR EXPENSE to provide LESS SERVICES & WASTING RATEPAYERS MONEY on things we DON'T WANT! We already pay huge taxes to State & Fed Govts so we DON'T need our Council to ALSO spend OUR MONEY on "services" we DON'T WANT OR NEED (like wasting a fortune on supposed Art or for employees to rummage through our Bins,etc,etc)!

5.2 Community feedback – Q&A forum

An online Q&A forum was hosted on Bayside City Council's Have Your Say page. One question was received during the 19 April – 9 May consultation.

5.2.1 Question 1

Can BCC increase funding for potholes in our roads?

Our roads are a disgrace and we need plenty of money to fix them. I also am angry about developers who dig up the road for access to services and never fix the road properly. Why aren't Council chasing this up?

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

5.3 Written Statements

5.3.1 Written Statement 1 - pétanque facility

I belong to the 20 odd member Bayside U3A Petanque group, that meets every week to play on the Beaumaris oval adjacent to Cloris St. Unfortunately the grass surface is not really suitable for Petanque, but it's all we have in Bayside. This is unlike all our surrounding suburbs which have publicly available 'pistes', which are normally constructed from crushed and rolled gravel. This is not an expensive construction requirement, and is easily maintained.

Petanque is a great healthy activity that can be played by people of any age. The social aspect of playing together in teams also appeals to the retirees in our group. It should be a natural adjunct for a bowling club, but they seem to class it as competition. I commend this project to the Bayside Council, and hope that construction can commence as soon as possible.

5.3.2 Written Statement 2 - shared user paths and active transport connections

To Councillors and Officers

In line with Council Climate Emergency Action Plan and to help reduce community emissions

The draft budget 23/24 should include:

Provision for the Stage 2 Park Road Shared User Path to Cheltenham, in addition to the \$1.1m for Stage 1. This is essential to complete the Sandringham to Cheltenham SUP.

The 23/24 and 2025 to 2027 budgets should include SUP's and pathways to access the Highett LXP Rail over Road project, Southland and the Cheltenham SRL project. including

- SUP's on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads,
- Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett structure plan.

Each access path needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and added or revised as required.

These measures will greatly assist access for people of all mobility abilities, encourage greater use of mobility devices (bicycles, scooters) and reduce vehicle traffic congestion and emissions.

David Williams

5.3.3 Written Statement 3 - shared user paths and active transport connections

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY

There is no budget for Cycle pathways and Shared User Paths to connect to Southland, SRL and LXP to Highett. This is contrary to the purported vision and intentions of the council and is also contrary to community amenity.

It means the goals and commitments for Active Transport, cycles, scooters and PMD's and pedestrian access to public transport can't be achieved.

Car use will increase to even more congestion and more pollution.

I request the 2025 to 2027 budgets include SUP's and pathways to access the Highett LXP Rail over Road project, Southland station and the Cheltenham SRL project. including:

- Pathways and shared zones from Jack Road through Olympic Ave to Heather Grove to Tulip Grove and the rail crossing
- Shared User Paths on Wickham and Highett Roads, Worthing and Middleton Roads,
- Pathways through CSIRO to Graham Road, and through Lyle Anderson Reserve to the Rail corridor and William Fry Reserve as shown on the Highett structure plan.
- Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity paths connecting residential areas to 8 Activity Centres as listed in Council meeting item 10.7 21 Dec. 2021 item 10.7

Each access pathway needs to be itemised in the Budgets, and added or revised as required.

5.3.4 Written Statement 4 - increase funding to support environmental needs

Sandringham Foreshore Association Sandringham VIC 3191

Bayside City Council proposed Budget

On behalf of the Sandringham Foreshore Association (SFA), we would like to thank Bayside City Council for the proposed draft Budget in helping to support the needs of the Bayside community. In response, we would like Council to review the proposed Budget, and increase funding to support the needs of the environment and help create a healthier Bayside community. This is particularly necessary in response to Climate changes and Biodiversity challenges. Please note that Bayside City Council already has in place several position papers to address the urgent need of responding to Climate change, loss of biodiversity and developing a healthy and active community:

- [Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025](#)
- [Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027](#)
- [Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025](#)
- [Bayside 2050 Community vision](#)
- [Bayside's Municipal Public Health and Well-being Plan 2021-2025](#)

We highly value and acknowledge the work that has already been done by Council, Council officers, Councillors, and the community, to develop these position papers, and the countless hours of volunteers in helping to shape the progressive culture of our community in responding to environmental concerns.

With more regular heatwaves and climate changes now occurring, the community highly value trees, native flora and fauna, and vegetation that are necessary for supporting biodiversity and human health. Trees are important for shade and cooling especially over the summer period. The unwell, elderly, and young children are particularly prone to the harmful effects of heatwaves. Trees and vegetation along the coastline also assist with prevention of cliff erosion, especially in the face of accelerating effects of climate change and sea level rise.

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

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

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

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

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

Trees, rather than open grassed area, produced the highest benefits for cardiovascular disease prevention. Trees improve air quality by reducing air pollution, which also reduces the incidence of asthma¹⁴, allergies, mental diseases, and psychiatric disorders^{15,16,17,18}. Trees also shade our cities,

keeping us cooler over the summer months, which has several health benefits. Research during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns demonstrated those who spent more time in blue-green spaces e.g. beaches, lakes, rivers, parks, forests,... that is nature, coped better with the lockdowns and experienced beneficial support for mental health^{19,20,21}.

In the City of Bayside, Council have helped nurture the urban forests along the coastline with pockets of open spaces for passers-by e.g. those driving or cycling to enjoy the views. The coastal vegetation tracks are highly popular for walkers and joggers. In fact, sometimes, it is very crowded. People prefer to walk along a soft nature track away from busy roads, such as Beach Rd, to avoid exposure to vehicle emissions [air pollution] and the sounds of traffic [noise pollution].

If possible, *expansion* such as adding community open spaces, maintaining greener streetscapes (e.g. with native tree choices for native bird habitat), protection of existing trees, and planting more trees, must always be a priority to counter increased population density pressures, and the growing level of air and noise pollution from vehicles on major roads. The value of natural assets of many small diverse green spaces (in addition to fewer existing, larger ones) - was felt strongly during the COVID pandemic, as they are great meeting places for community - where nature and safe playgrounds come together. There are enormous health benefits of blue and green open spaces that were appreciated over lockdown.²²

Regardless of the busy economic, work, and educational lives that buzz on around us - it is these places (including foreshore, green belts, and golf courses) which make the serene quality of Bayside living a sought after neighbourhood.


We should be advocating strongly to protect natural ecosystems because they are essential for human health. Australia's natural environment is under enormous stress. We need to create community projects to foster a sense of ownership, responsibility, with initiatives to plant natives in pockets of nearly all open spaces.

It is for these crucial and urgent reasons that we propose further funding be diverted to the following areas contained in the draft [Council budget report](#):

Goal 1: Our Planet

- 3) Climate Emergency Action Plan Implementation \$0.45 million
- 4) Biodiversity Action Plan \$0.35 million
- 5) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project
- 6) Urban Forest Strategy Implementation \$0.15 million
- 7) Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan \$0.19 million
- 8) Yalukit Wilam Nature Reserve: Wetlands and Gateway Building \$2.9 million

<i>Creating a beautiful, nature rich, relaxing Bayside</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Solutions and Outcomes:</i>
Habitat expansion and protection	To protect and increase urban forests, native vegetation, and biodiversity within Bayside, and create more wildlife corridors.	Develop an Environmental Advisory Panel of local experts to work within Council and work with Environmental friend's groups, to help revise and implement the Biodiversity Action plan with a view to protecting and enhancing the natural landscape and biodiversity within Bayside.
Education of the community and authorities	Enhance the knowledge of our community and authorities who are working on the ground to help implement urban forests etc.	Create an Information package for new homeowners supplied by Council, welcoming new owners to Bayside, and why it is important to protect and retain the existing trees on their properties [unless harmful or at risk to human health] and plant more native trees and vegetation, including on their nature strip. Regular education of the local community about the need to retain trees for health benefits, plant more native vegetation and support the local community Nursery e.g. a dedicated section in the quarterly newsletter, <i>Let's Talk Bayside</i> , dropped off in everybody's letterbox, and also a dedicated section on the Council homepage website.

		Aim to convert the Bayside News <i>Let's Talk Bayside</i> to electronic version.
Fund City wide, more officers and other personnel to work in parks, open spaces to achieve our goals	More hands-on paid workers within Bayside to help maintain and create more green areas.	Council cannot rely on volunteers to maintain the green spaces. There are indemnity issues. Funding should be diverted for the following areas: -more funding for people to weed in areas of need e.g. the foreshore reserves and a move away from spraying of herbicides -more funding for City wide or workers for revegetation and create more urban forests within Bayside wherever possible
Identify all open spaces in Bayside that can be converted and/or upgraded for urban forests.	Increase urban forests and revegetate with various size trees and plants wherever possible in Bayside. This will also help bring back some of the smaller birds, insects and other wildlife in Bayside.	Recent planting of trees in open spaces funded by the Jubilee donations is greatly valued by the community, but there is an opportunity to plant more trees, urban forests, low lying vegetation etc
Identify all nature strips in Bayside that can be vegetated with native plants	Increase tree canopy, and plant more low and high lying native vegetation	Revegetation of our nature strips will help keep the urban streetscape cooler. Black asphalt roads are heat sinks in summer and trees on nature strips can make a significant difference in keep our urban environment and houses cooler. They also become home to birds and other wildlife and help create a wildlife corridor. A kit of plants, with known attraction for small birds should be provided to all households with education on why this is necessary.
Night skies / Wildlife friendly lighting	To bring back the night skies and have only wildlife and friendly lighting	Develop and implement an evidenced based policy for wildlife friendly lighting, e.g. lights in the warm part of the spectrum on reserves, sports grounds, parks and foreshores, with use of timers and motion sensors etc. 
Grey-headed Flying-fox protection measures	To protect Grey Headed Flying Foxes (GHFF) from barbed-wire and fruit netting. To plant trees within Bayside, particularly suited to the GHFF.	Develop and implement a barbed-wire policy with a view to 1) eliminating barbed wire where-ever possible on council land 2) Where not possible, to make it visible to GHFF 3) encourage other relevant councils and landowners to do the same. Implement a tree planting regime with an emphasis on providing food for the GHFF.
Insects and Butterflies	To protect and encourage butterflies and other insects within Bayside.	Work with Friends groups to develop and implement an insect friendly policy. E.g. the phasing out of herbicides and insecticides on Bayside land, as well as the planting of flowers, grasses with benefits for insects and butterflies. Work with friend's groups and local experts to implement these initiatives.

Healthy Soils, healthy people	To improve soil quality and avoid herbicide use.	Implement the phasing and/or minimisation of glyphosate eg Roundup use on Bayside properties through education of Bayside News 'Lets Talk Bayside' and on the Council homepage website. Implement evidenced based strategies to improve soil quality and microbiome diversity on council properties. Research demonstrates herbicides may be harmful to humans; the health effects of this herbicide spray for insects and pollinators such as bees and butterflies are also drastic. There is some research on how herbicides e.g. glyphosate harms soil but more research demonstrates its negative impact on human health. Here are some studies and articles expressing concerns of herbicides on soil and plants: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6918143/ https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.787958/full https://www.soilassociation.org/media/7229/glyphosate-and-soil-health-a-summary1docx.pdf https://permaculture.com.au/glyphosate-toxicity-impacts-on-the-environment-and-non-target-species/ https://www.biomineraltechnologies.com/farm-solutions/reduce-chemicals/effects-of-glyphosate-on-soils-and-plants
Avoid use of chemicals in Bayside	Improve the health of the community	This review article by experts on the harms of glyphosate herbicide, as used by Bayside to tackle weeds, on health: https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-016-0117-0 They conclude that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBHs are the most heavily applied herbicide in the world and usage continues to rise; • Worldwide, GBHs often contaminate drinking water sources, precipitation, and air, especially in agricultural regions; • The half-life of glyphosate in water and soil is longer than previously recognized; • Glyphosate and its metabolites are widely present in the global soybean supply; • Human exposures to GBHs are rising; • Glyphosate is now authoritatively classified as a probable human carcinogen; • Regulatory estimates of tolerable daily intakes for glyphosate in the United States and European Union are based on outdated science. Weed killer has harmful effects on human, marine and animal health, and some Councils are now banning its use. Bayside Council to please explore the total ban of its use in Bayside and implement more natural ways to tackle weeds. See for example this latest article and report in link: Philly parks are going organic with ban on synthetic weed-killers https://why.org/articles/philly-parks-are-going-organic-with-ban-on-synthetic-weed-killers/
Rubbish along foreshore coastal track, bush and beach	Keep our beaches and open spaces clean	Dedicated paid cleaners who can walk regularly along the beach, walking tracks and parks to pick rubbish e.g. at the top of cliffs, near/at car parks and along the beaches would be helpful please. Also, appropriate signage such as "take your rubbish home, or help keep our beaches clean &/or this is a non-smoking beach" and more patrolling for fines. The local community volunteers are constantly picking rubbish up daily during our morning walks along the beach especially after storms. It is tiring and the constant picking up rubbish, cigarette butts etc takes away the pleasure of a relaxing walk.
Water pollution	Keep Bayside beaches, lakes, and waterways clean. To attract and support frogs, water birds and other wildlife that depend on waters.	Port Phillip Bay is rich in marine life and a great asset to Bayside. PPB should be treated as a marine sanctuary as a whole. Unfortunately, beach cleaning truck causes breakdown of plastics on sand, and winds blow plastics onto sand, dunes and onto the waters; ingested by marine life...inevitably humans when caught and ingested Eg recent Sydney study reported in ABC found kilos of tiny fragments of plastic particles and debris break down on Sydney beaches Read the full story Yarra river plume carries plastics that is windblown especially with storms and also storm water pollution from inland are a

		<p>source of rubbish. Can we organise for mesh baskets on storm water drains with fine enough wire to collect the tiny particles? Other sources of rubbish on our beaches include beach visitors who leave cigarette butts and rubbish on beaches, and fishermen. Dumping of rubbish and bilge wastewater from boats, or from fishermen on piers and rock groynes. Solutions for Bayside to address water pollution – creeks, beaches, and wetlands may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Melbourne Water to place mesh baskets on all storm water drains. • Avoid single use plastics by local Bayside businesses as occurring in Victoria anyway- education campaign • Contact fisheries to promote keeping PPB [Bay] clean by people who take out fishing licences – Eg protect the Bay by not dumping rubbish or fishing tackles into the Bay • Extend the Marine sanctuary and create reefs/seaweed forest/sea grasses along Bayside foreshore – helps keep the bay clean and reduces erosion of coastline • Use paid cleaners to walk along foreshore to collect rubbish on our beaches especially after storms, as the rubbish truck actually breaks plastics • Start an education campaign with schools e.g. “Just1litter” – encourage children to pick “1 litter a day
Water quality in Bayside’s freshwater ponds, lakes, and wetlands	To enhance the quality and numbers of our fresh ponds, water lakes and wetlands	Work with Friends Groups to develop more water areas in parks and open spaces to support wildlife for frogs and insects.
Rickett’s Point Sanctuary	Identify marine habitats in Bayside and protect the Sanctuary into the future	<p>Keep dogs off the beach and protect the site. Identify other significant marine sanctuaries in Bayside in reef systems. Consider artificial reef systems for many parts of Bayside beaches to help support marine life, and reduce risk of coastal erosion.</p>
Pest management:	To enhance biodiversity by actively managing known pest species	Recruit workers to work with Friends groups to develop and implement evidence- based pest management strategies e.g. Indian minor birds, foxes, non-native rats, cats outside of curfew hours, etc
Planning scheme amendment	To protect Bayside’s significant trees	<p>Review our planning scheme amendment with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting all of Bayside’s significant trees with a vegetation overlay • Putting a \$ value on trees and investigating placing a \$ fee for the removal of trees, should there be no options for them to be removed. • Using a bond system to ensure compliance with promised planting of trees. • Ensure the ecological value of trees is properly evaluated prior to any decision for their removal is made. • Consider orders, where dead or dying trees of significant value, are retained, even once they are dead and or their trunks are kept.
Solutions for Bayside to help reduce and address air pollution	Help educate the community of the risks of vehicle emissions and the harms of air pollution	<p>Educate Community, Schools, Parents and Teachers of the harms of vehicle related air pollution e.g. idling at 2 minute drop off points at schools can create high vehicle emissions. The incidence of childhood asthma is high and reducing air pollution can help reduce the risk of developing healthier lungs and asthma.</p> <p>Educate by way of regular dedicated nature articles in “<i>Lets Talk Bayside</i>” news and/or write to Principals/teachers to educate students and their parents through school newsletters and by using existing proven projects such idle-project set up by respiratory experts. Aim is to stop idling vehicles at 2-minute drop offs at Bayside schools but also in busy car parking areas such as shopping centres once parents/community become aware of harms of vehicle emissions and air pollution.</p>

		Create a Built Environment to encourage a healthy environment with less vehicles on the road e.g. creating more pedestrian and bike paths, boulevards with no vehicles and more outdoor cafes and restaurants in Bayside. Retain trees and plant more trees wherever possible - nature strips, open spaces etc.
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Summary Aim for a healthy community and green Bayside with clean air, water, and land.

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

To fulfill our goals of protecting the Bayside environment and community requires a greater allocation of funding and review the proposed budget to increase allocation of funding to these areas please:

Goal 1: Our Planet

- 3) Climate Emergency Action Plan Implementation \$0.45 million
- 4) Biodiversity Action Plan \$0.35 million
- 5) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project
- 6) Urban Forest Strategy Implementation \$0.15 million
- 7) Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan \$0.19 million
- 8) Yalukit Wilam Nature Reserve: Wetlands and Gateway Building \$2.9 million

Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Sandringham Foreshore Association

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5.3.5 Written Statement 5 – Banksia Bulletin and Guide to Planting in print

Submission to Bayside City Council's budget considerations 2023/24.

Bayside City Council has for many years printed copies of the Banksia Bulletin and the guide to planting and creating indigenous gardens for residents,

“Live Bayside, Plant Bayside”, (LBPB) however since 2020 Council resolved that these publications, among others, will no longer be printed because of the thought that the ‘over use’ of paper was detrimental to the environment and because of the cost and because of the thought that people generally get all their information on line and no longer rely on, or value books or any printed matter. Last year a QR code was produced and printed on a sticker which could be attached to a card so that there was at least something that customers at the Bayside Community Nursery and elsewhere in the municipality could be given to help with their understanding of why and how it is ideal to use indigenous plants in their home gardens wherever possible and advice about insect and animal friendly spaces. This aligns with many Council ideals, strategies and policies.

The Urban Forest Strategy

Habitat Linkage Plan

Climate Emergency

The sticker/QR code is successful to a degree but not the same as a booklet.

Being a volunteer at the nursery, it is quite obvious how pleased the customers and visitors to the nursery are when they can take a copy of LBPB home because of all the valuable information it contains and because it is convenient to hold in their hands and easy to read and to pick up without having to actually search for it on the web site or even to remember that it is there. A book is tangible.

Others too may only use a smart phone to access the inter net. The booklet is a little difficult to find and unless you have a larger phone, it is really difficult and uncomfortable to read.

<https://7c21074d.flowpaper.com/LiveBaysidePlantBayside2022/#page=1>

Fortunately, at the moment, there are some copies of the previous edition to which we can attach a sticker as well, but it is doubtful that there will be enough for this year.

We will also need a reprint of the plant lists later in the year to be available at the nursery and at reception at the Corporate Centre where residents can at least discover not only where the Nursery is but that it exists at all. The new list will benefit from a different design and format, that is if printing is permitted.

It seems unbalanced that the Council's Arts Department always have a plentiful supply of printed information for all their exhibitions printed on quality card and used for a limited time. There have been printed cards advertising events such as the 'Open Studios' day in Highett and hand delivered to many households in the area and cards for other things like Have Your Say about the bike track through Sandringham whereas all the environmental information which is equally important if not more, given the declared Climate Crisis and the other council environmental strategies, can't get support for the items mentioned above.

I have almost given up over the cessation of the printing of the Banksia Bulletin but on mentioning it again I will say that it is a great disappointment to many people not just me and I think that not printing it shows a enormous lack of foresight and imagination.

Please consider putting an amount of money in the budget for the items listed above. It would be money well spent.

5.3.6 Written Statement 6 - biodiversity initiatives and bushland maintenance

Re: Proposed Bayside City Council Budget 2023/24

I am writing to request an increase in overall funding for biodiversity initiatives and bushland maintenance services in Bayside City Council's proposed 2023/24 budget.

I support the key budget initiatives relating to Goal 1. Our Planet:

- • Climate Emergency Action Plan Implementation \$0.45 million
- • Biodiversity Action Plan \$0.35 million
- • Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project not indicated
- • Urban Forest Strategy Implementation \$0.15 million
- • Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan \$0.19 million
- • Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve: Wetlands and Gateway Building \$2.90 million

However, based on past performance, I am concerned that there may not be sufficient funding for workers to effectively implement these programs. Bayside City Council produces good planning documents but sometimes falls short on funding their implementation, particularly in the crucial area of biodiversity preservation.

The preservation and enhancement of Bayside's biodiversity is key to maintaining our patch of the planet (Budget Goal 1). At present Bayside does not have the human resources to do this.

1 Provide increased funding to expand and implement the Biodiversity Action Plan

The *Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027* is an important, wide-ranging and well thought-out document, but its update is timely. It needs a strong implementation budget providing adequate

human resources, and a review of its successes and failures.

My understanding is that the proposed Biodiversity Action Plan budget will be spent on these items, which I thoroughly endorse:

- Biodiversity Officer Elley Thomas's salary for 2023/24 (not funded in the Open Space budget).
- A mid-term review consultant for the Action Plan.
- A review to lay the foundation for updating the *Native Vegetation Works Program* reports in the next budget.
- A review to standardise how volunteers submit data about reserves, and to ensure that it is accurately recorded for the Atlas of Living Australia.
- Implementation of the Wildlife-friendly Gardens program.
- Implementation of Water for Wildlife program.
- Webinars relating to the above.
- Environmental Friends group programs.

Along with many important actions addressed by the Biodiversity Action Plan, increased funding should be sought for ongoing implementation of motions recently raised in Council meetings, such as:

- Grey-headed Flying-fox protection measures
- Insect and butterfly protection
- Promotion of, and monitoring of, wildlife-friendly lighting

and for reprinting the booklet *Live Bayside Plant Bayside*.

Bayside City Council's publication *Live Bayside Plant Bayside* (2017) is Council's most effective tool for educating residents about wildlife-friendly indigenous gardens. It answers all the criteria for promoting sustainable gardening practices and promoting biodiversity in Bayside. Printed copies have been distributed through Bayside Community Nursery, but the remaining few are outdated. Whilst the updated version of the booklet is now available as a PDF via Bayside City Council's website, it is arguably far less visible, and many residents prefer to retain a hard copy for easy reference. The booklet is both educative and a highly visible form of branding for Bayside's biodiversity, and no one who has one ever throws it away. Money spent on a new print run of a thousand copies could be recouped through subsequent sales of the publication. It could be financed through an increase in the 2023/24 biodiversity budget.

The Urban Forest Strategy implementation and Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan funded by this budget are important initiatives arising from the Bayside Action Plan, which should be supported.

2 Increase funding to improve contract staff ratios for bushland services

The capacity of contract crews to maintain Bayside's bushland reserves is crucial for the preservation of Bayside's natural heritage and biodiversity. Bushland and parks maintenance services fall under the Open Space Management service area which has a total net cost estimated at \$6.622 million. The budget does not breakdown the sum allocated for bushland services, which is possibly allocated internally by the contractors.

My 8 years of volunteer experience with bushland crews has demonstrated that:

1. the current crew ratio for bushland services is woefully inadequate for managing weed threats, and;
2. volunteer numbers are insufficient to bridge the gap.

In recent years, bushland crews have prioritised management of remnant high quality indigenous vegetation through ecological burns that require a high-level of preparation, fire management, and post-fire monitoring and maintenance. The size of the burn areas has more than doubled over the past five years, greatly enhancing biodiversity in some areas.

Despite this effort, Bayside's biodiversity is diminishing overall, particularly birds and insects and some iconic plant species. Low priority areas of vegetation, especially in the 17 km of foreshore reserve, are highly infested with exotic weeds that are almost impossible to remove (e.g. Bridal Creeper, Pampas Lily of the Valley and Cape Ivy).

A crew member allocated to a reserve may only spend a few hours there in any month, and volunteers are, in some cases, now having to perform tasks previously carried out by crews, e.g. track maintenance.

The bushland crew members who are responsible for implementing actions to preserve Bayside's biodiversity are dedicated and hardworking, but this crew desperately needs to be expanded.

With the recent addition of Yalukit Willam and Highett Grassy Woodlands, the number of reserves in Bayside has increased, but not the workforce to maintain them. We must have more paid workers in our reserves. It is crucial that the 2023/24 budget increases the allocation of funding for bushland services over that of 2022/23.

3 Support Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve: Wetlands and Gateway Building

Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve is a partly implemented flagship project that will deliver major benefits to Bayside, including improved biodiversity. I support the funding laid out in the 2023/24 budget to advance the next stage of the Masterplan.

Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

5.3.7 Written Statement 7 – social and affordable housing

Dear Hanna & Laurie,

I hope I am not too late to contribute some thoughts about Council's budget for 2023-24. I think the Council should re-direct funds towards Social/Low Cost Housing.

Homeless people are readily evident in our Community and rather than money being spent on issues that appease minority groups the Council should put money into Welfare issues that will make a real difference.

In the past I have seen money wasted on Film festivals (Palace covers this space well and very affordably) Art Collections (Go to the National Gallery, it's their Business not Municipal Government's), Sculptures in parks (Saucer and Orange Quarters in Highett, what does it stand for and it was graffitied on 1st night), the change of Venue for the Netball Courts from the Driving range to Sandringham Secondary College after paying out the Lease of the Driving range and the list goes on!

I look forward to hearing back from as to how money can be spent on projects that will be for the benefit of all residents not just small interest groups and how housing for the poor can be included.

6 Project Evaluation

6.1.1 Participation

The moderate number of submissions received (37) through the consultation process is broadly consistent with previous years: 2022: 12 submissions, 2021: 67 submissions (predominantly regarding a pavilion deferral), 3 requests to be heard; 2020: 7 submissions, 1 request to be heard; 2019: 6 submissions, 5 requests to be heard; 2018: 7 submissions, 6 requests to be heard.

6.1.2 Engagement

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

- 500 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (achieved; 514 views)
- 10 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (achieved; 36, noting one additional written statement was received via direct email)

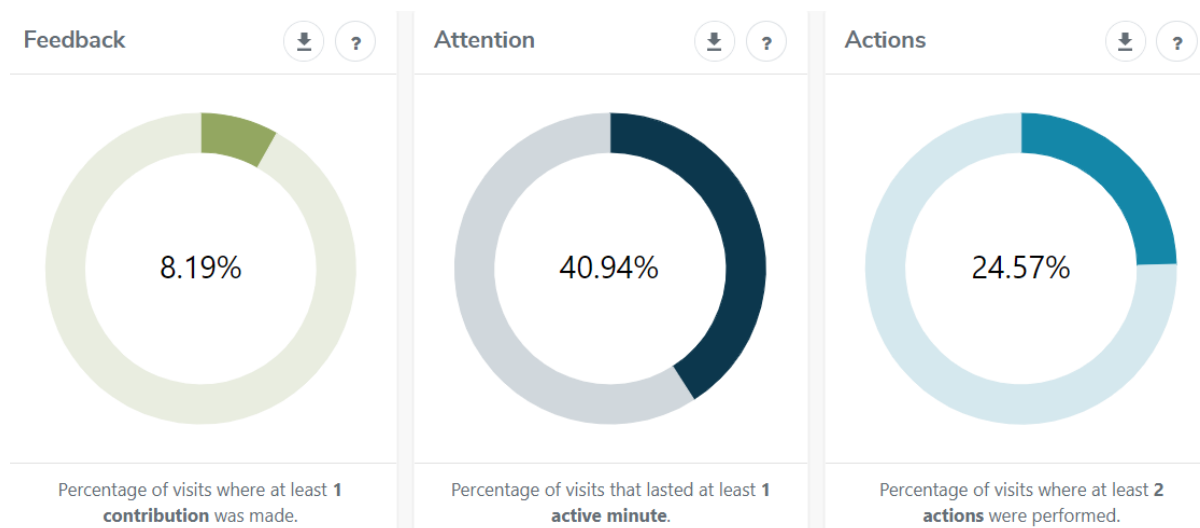
Performance Summary

514 Views	403 Visits	276 Visitors	36 Contributions	34 Contributors	11 Followers
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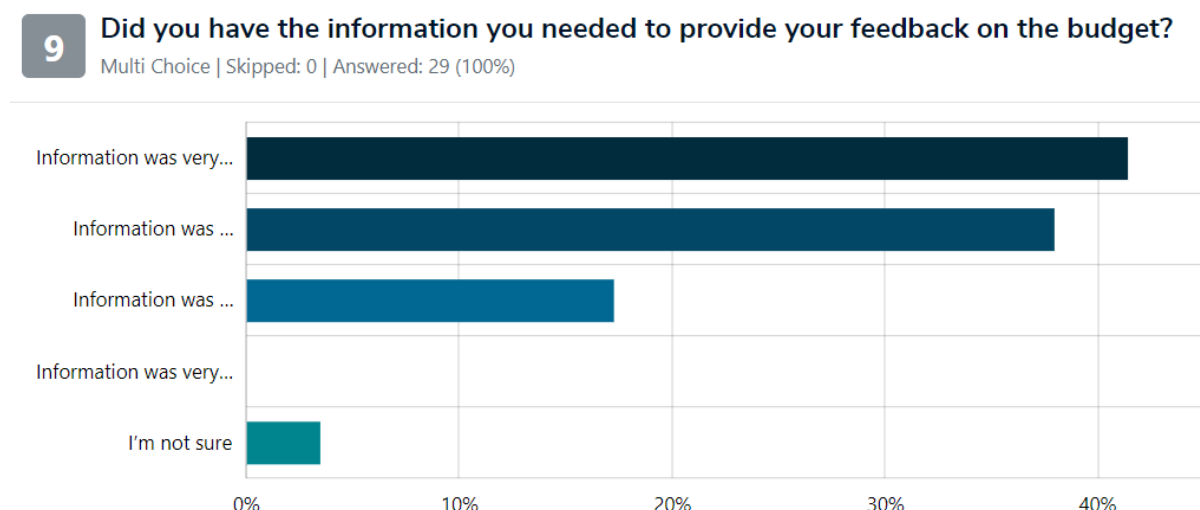


In terms of conversion, the goals for Have Your Say webpages were that:

- 2% of visits would have at least one contribution made (achieved, 8%)
- 25% of visits would last at least one active minute (achieved, 41%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (achieved, 24.5%)



Satisfaction with the information provided to survey participants was high. Of the 29 survey participants who responded to the question: 'Did you have the information you needed to provide your feedback on the Budget?', 79% selected information was very (41%) or mostly easy (38%) to find and/or understand; 17% said it was mostly hard to find and/or understand, with 4% noting they weren't sure.



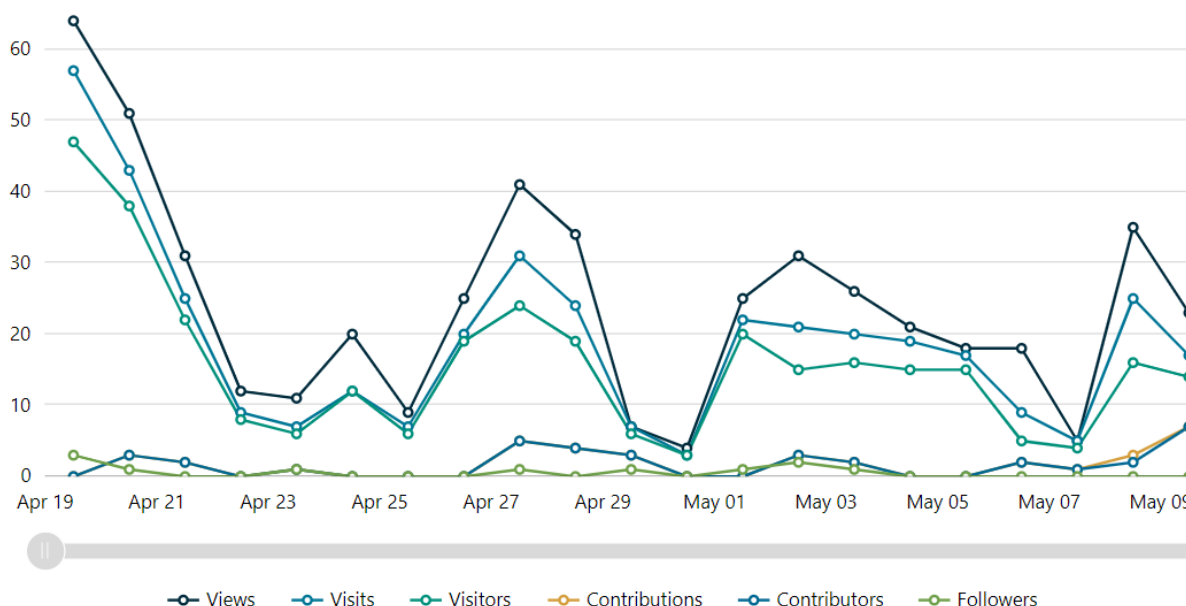
Community consultation on the Annual Budget, under the Local Government Act 2020 (Section 63), requires Council to develop its Annual Budget in accordance with its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. The principles of this Policy were met, including the publication of an Engagement Plan Overview (appendix 6.2).

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

The chart below shows the spikes in visitation to the Have Your Say engagement webpages when the consultation was promoted via e-news on BCC website, subscribers email and social media on 19 April; and e-newsletters on 20 and 27 April.



7 Appendix

7.1 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 2022-23*

- 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.*

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
- Person with a lived experience of disability or their carer
- None of the above
- 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

7.2 Community engagement plan overview on Have Your Say

Project objective

The Annual Budget 2023-24 outlines the services and initiatives to be funded for the next financial year.

Following Council's in-principle approval of the proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 on 18 April 2023, community members and project stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed Budget between 19 April and 9 May 2023 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 2023-24 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 \$179.6 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 3.5%, 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 2.2% driven largely by 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.

Around half of the proposed budget is earmarked to deliver important community infrastructure via \$68.5 million in capital works. 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 implementing the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction project.
- Continuing the transformation of Elsternwick Park 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 2023/24 includes the following key initiatives:

- Public Toilet Strategy Review
- Content Discovery Engine
- GIS Strategy
- Bayside Lake Management Plan
- Bayside Open Space Strategy Review
- Hampton Hub Negotiations
- Innovate RAP Implementation
- Conservation Management Plans Historical Buildings
- Billilla Activation
- Municipal-wide flood modelling
- Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan
- Coastal and Marine Management Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan

Deferred projects

There are no significant deferrals of plans, programs or capital works in this year’s proposed budget.

What information do we need from the community?

We are engaging with our community to seek feedback on Council's Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24.

What can the community influence?

- Annual Budget 2023-24 -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 2023-24 by 30 June 2023
- 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 2023-24	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 2023-24 endorsed by Council - 18 April 2023 Council meeting

Community consultation - 19 April - 9 May 2023

Adoption of Annual Budget 2023-24: Council to consider community feedback at its 6 June briefing meeting and adoption of Annual Budget 2023-24 on 27 June 2023

Decision-making process

The Annual Budget 2023-24 is informed by community priorities articulated in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

Following the close of community engagement on 9 May 2023, 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 6 June 2023 briefing and adopt the proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 at its meeting on 27 June 2023. 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 27 June 2023 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 30 June 2023.

More information

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