

LIVEABLE YARRA

Better
planning
for people
and places



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Report January 2016

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Unless otherwise stated, all feedback documented by Capire Consulting Group and any person(s) acting on our behalf is written and/or recorded during our program/consultation activities.

Capire staff and associates take great care while transcribing participant feedback but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however confident that we capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or our clients.

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BEFORE READING THIS REPORT

The views and values represented in this report are those of the individuals involved in the Liveable Yarra project and are not necessarily those of the project team or all participants in the project.

This report presents the broad range of values, ideas and aspirations as provided by the community members and stakeholders during the engagement activities. In some cases, comments are paraphrased and quotes used to illustrate community sentiment.

This represents a summary of the detailed findings from the Liveable Yarra project – further details of the engagement may be accessed within the full Community Engagement Report via the Council website below:

www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/liveable-yarra

INTRODUCTION

WHAT WOULD YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS BE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR CITY IF YOU WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOUR COUNCIL TO LEARN ABOUT, AND DELIBERATE, PLANNING OUTCOMES?

THIS WAS THE CHALLENGE THAT YARRA CITY COUNCIL PRESENTED TO HELP THEM MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT REVISING THE YARRA PLANNING SCHEME – THE DOCUMENT UNDERPINNING PLANNING DECISIONS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY

YARRA'S DILEMMA – PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Yarra City Council's central dilemma is shared with most local governments – how to plan for change and growth while balancing the many hopes and expectations of new and existing communities. More people are choosing to live, work, study and do business in the municipality. As an inner urban suburb, Yarra faces many increased pressures in planning for a happy, healthy and connected city.

The City of Yarra is a desirable municipality that borders the CBD of Melbourne. It houses some of the most famous features of Melbourne and Victoria, rich heritage, well-known and well-used open spaces, desirable shopping and entertainment precincts, diverse cultural groups and a vibrant art scene.

MORE THAN A TYPICAL ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

A common challenge for engagement is the lack of time and resources to communicate and share understanding between, and within, councils and communities. This is particularly true for planning issues that affect everyone in a municipality.

Standard engagement programs can struggle to reach a broad section of the community, and to allow time for community members to learn from each other as well as from Council officers.

Council identified specific challenges to be overcome through engagement:

- Often specific segments of the population participate, while significant parts of the population do not have their views and voices heard.
- Those making submissions or participating do not often have the opportunity to hear the views and perspectives of others within the community.
- The complexity of planning issues, and the challenge this presents to Council in decision making, is not readily apparent to those participating in the engagement activity.

Both Councillors and Council officers were aware of these challenges, and committed early in the process to look for methodologies to address these issues.

COLLABORATING ON A SOLUTION

Yarra City Council commissioned Capire Consulting Group to find a different approach. Capire worked with Yarra to design and deliver a program of engagement that devoted time and resources to a collaborative process.

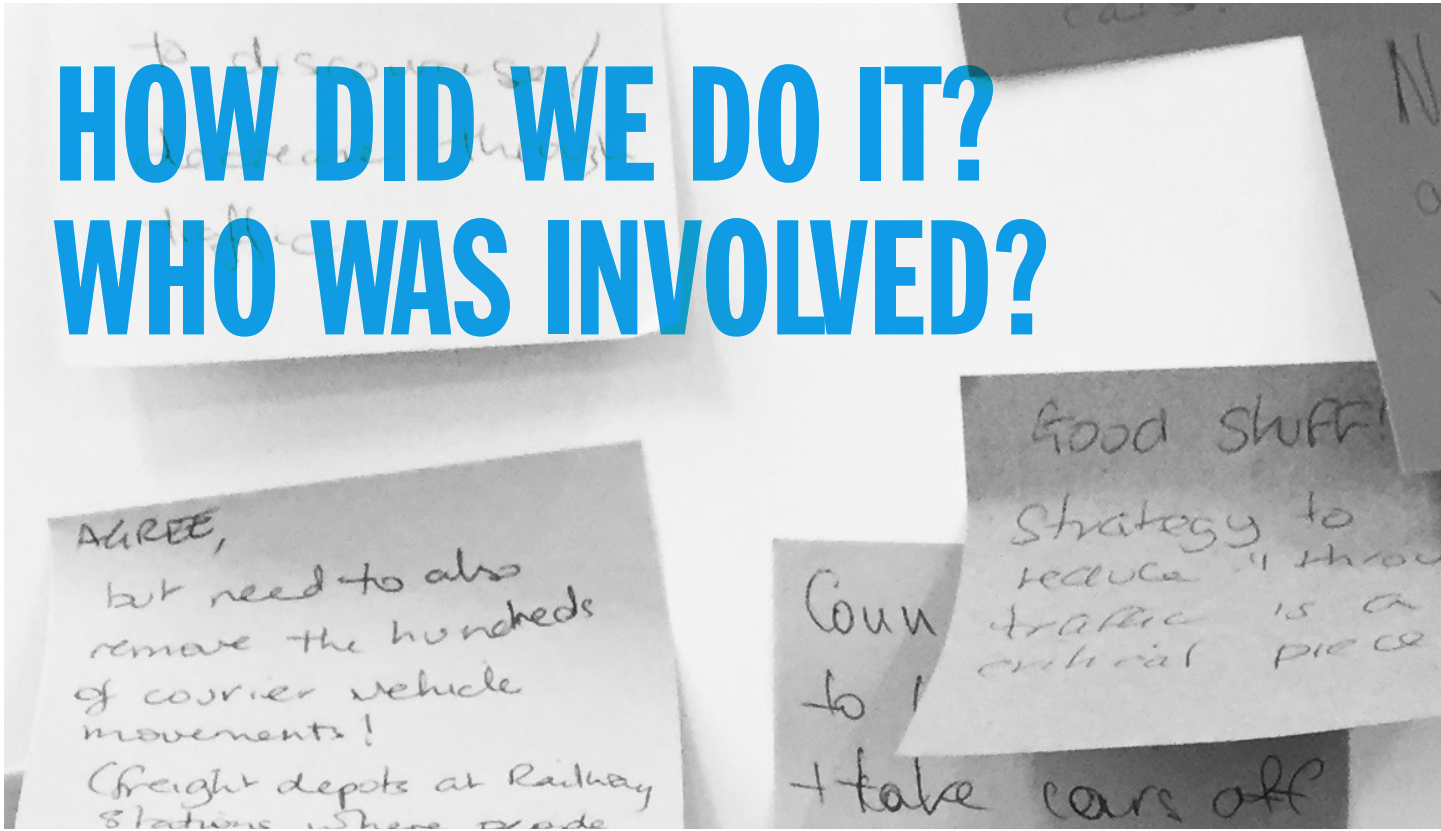
One of the best forms of collaborative process is deliberative engagement – where a representative sample of the community is brought together to define issues and opportunities, and work together on future steps.

The commitment was made to conduct a deliberative process with a panel of community members – allowing an opportunity for the participants to engage with each other and the content across four half-day forums. Participants were provided with time and support to learn, reflect, share and recommend solutions through an open and collaborative method.

**‘I HOPE THE CITY
TAKES LEADERSHIP
IN COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION AND
THESE SUGGESTIONS
ARE IMPLEMENTED.’**

Panel Member, Final Forum

HOW DID WE DO IT? WHO WAS INVOLVED?



The deliberative process was focused on creating a 'People's Panel' comprising a mix of Yarra community members. The Panel would meet over four Saturdays at structured forums to learn, work with each other and with Council officers on identifying the dilemmas facing planning in the City, and to develop recommendations for how Council should face these dilemmas.

In order to deliver informed community advice to Council, the deliberative process was supported by two additional approaches:

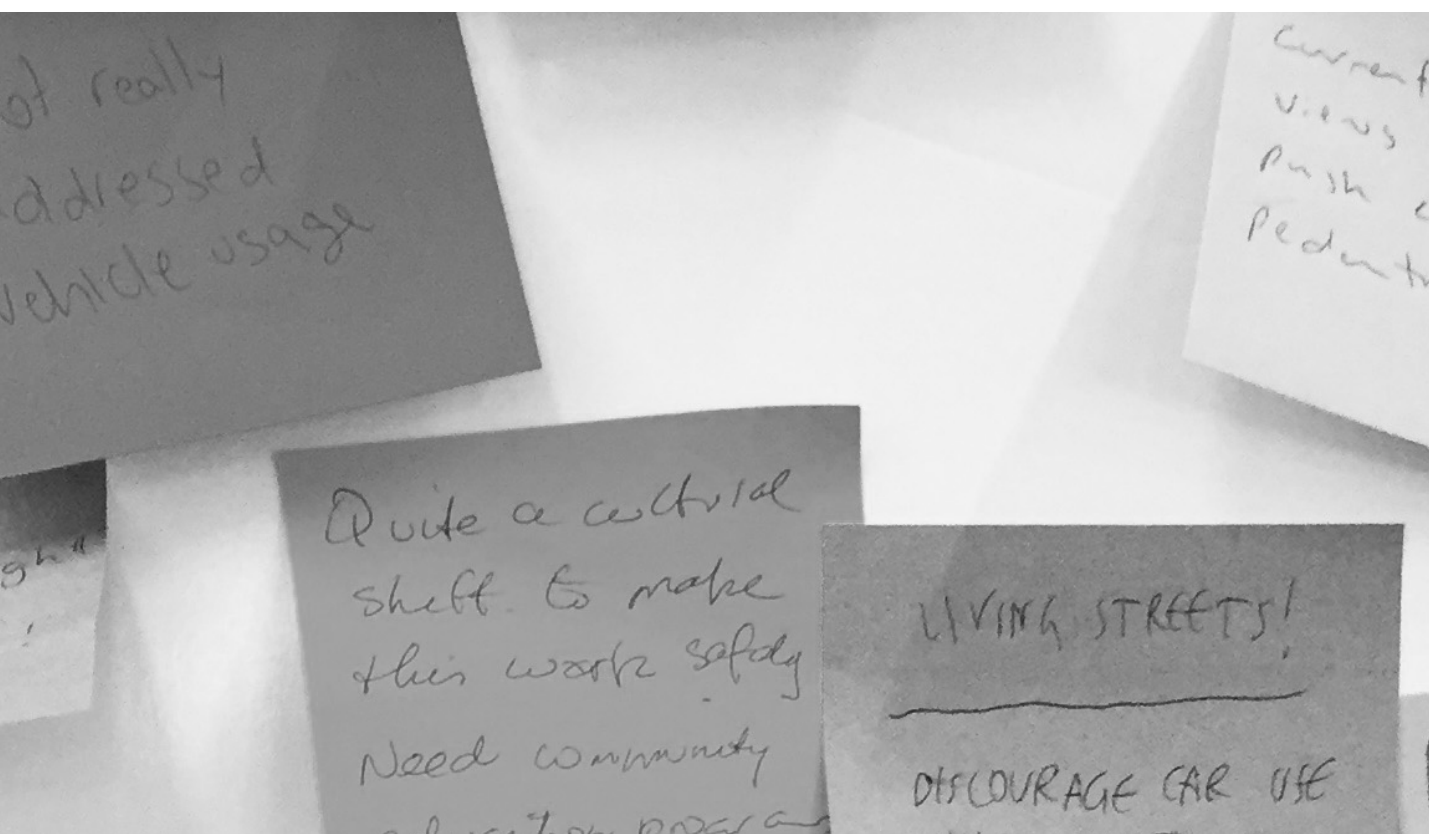
1. A total of 12 hour-long workshops with Council's pre-existing Advisory Committees and Groups who were able to utilise their specific areas of expertise to provide advice to the People's Panel.
2. A total of 9 targeted 2-hour workshops with community groups considered hard, or important, to reach and are not often heard from – who make up significant parts of the Yarra Community (listed below). Workshops sought to identify what planning issues mattered to these groups and their advice to the People's Panel for its deliberation.

OVER 200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM. THESE INCLUDED:

54 community members in the deliberative engagement process

80 community members in Targeted Engagement workshops (people representing the diverse range of cultures, ages, and socio-economic groups found in Yarra)

75 community members in Advisory Committees and Groups workshops (special interest groups established by Yarra City Council)



Advisory Committees and Groups engaged in this process included:

- Heritage Advisory Group
- Early Years Reference Group
- Business Advisory Group
- Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Active Ageing Advisory Group
- Health Plan Advisory Committee
- Environment Advisory Group
- Arts Group, comprising:
 - Yarra Arts Advisory Committee*
 - Room to Create Panel*
 - Visual Arts Panel*
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Aboriginal Advisory Group
- Bicycle Advisory Committee

Community groups engaged in this process included:

- Vietnamese community
- Chinese community
- Greek community
- Youth
- Property Developers
- Public Housing tenants
- Public Housing managers



HOW REPRESENTATIVE WAS THE PEOPLE'S PANEL?

THE LIVEABLE YARRA PEOPLE'S PANEL WAS A GROUP OF 60 MEMBERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE YARRA COMMUNITY. THE PANEL WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO BROAD CATEGORIES: THOSE WITH NO PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNCIL, AND THOSE WHO WERE HIGHLY ENGAGED WITH COUNCIL.

OF THE 60 PANEL MEMBERS SELECTED, 43 MEMBERS WERE PRIMARILY SELECTED DUE TO LOW OR NO PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT WITH COUNCIL – 43 RANDOM PARTICIPANTS REFLECTING THE INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICE FOR A GROUP SIZE TO REPRESENT A POPULATION OF 100,000+ PEOPLE.

80% OF THE PANEL MEMBERS ATTENDED ALL OF THE FORUMS, OR MISSED JUST ONE OF THE FORUMS DUE TO PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

The characteristics of this core group of 43 was tested and found to largely reflect the demographics of the municipality against the accepted demographic information for the local area (2011 ABS Census).

Supplementing this, an additional 17 Panel members were selected based on their previous engagement with Council – and further assessed based on their connection to local communities and issues. These Panel members were included to ensure that pre-existing issues known to Council and the community would be represented and benefit from the deliberative process.

‘DESPITE THE HUGE DIVERSITY OF VIEWS IT WAS GREAT TO FIND EVERYONE WORKING HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHERE OTHERS WERE COMING FROM.’

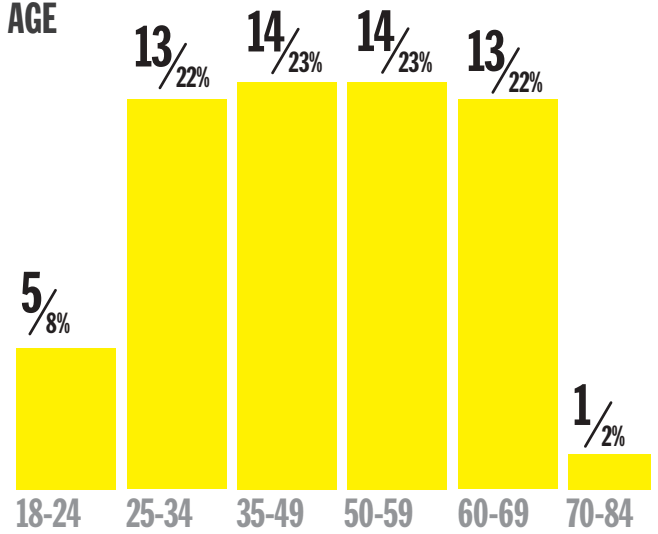
Panel Member, Second Forum

THE SUCCESSFUL 60 PANEL MEMBERS REFLECTED THE FOLLOWING DEMOGRAPHICS:

GENDER



AGE



CONNECTION TO YARRA

LIVE IN YARRA	58/44%
OWN A BUSINESS IN YARRA	11/8%
WORK IN YARRA	23/17%
OWN A PROPERTY IN YARRA	25/19%
STUDY IN YARRA	2/2%
VISITING YARRA	8/6%
OTHER	5/4%

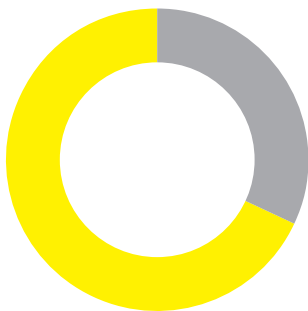
TENURE IN YARRA

LESS THAN 1YR	5/8%
1 TO 5YRS	16/27%
5 TO 10 YRS	10/17%
MORE THAN 10 YRS	26/43%
UNSPECIFIED/NOT APPLICABLE	3/5%

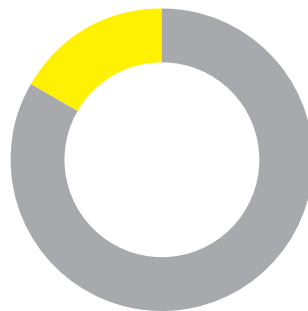
HOUSING TYPE

MORTGAGE	16/27%
OWN HOME	23/38%
PRIVATE RENTAL	19/32%
SOCIAL OR PUBLIC HOUSING	2/3%

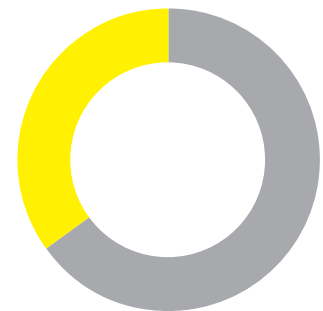
CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CALD)



BORN OVERSEAS	19/32%
BORN IN AUSTRALIA	41/68%



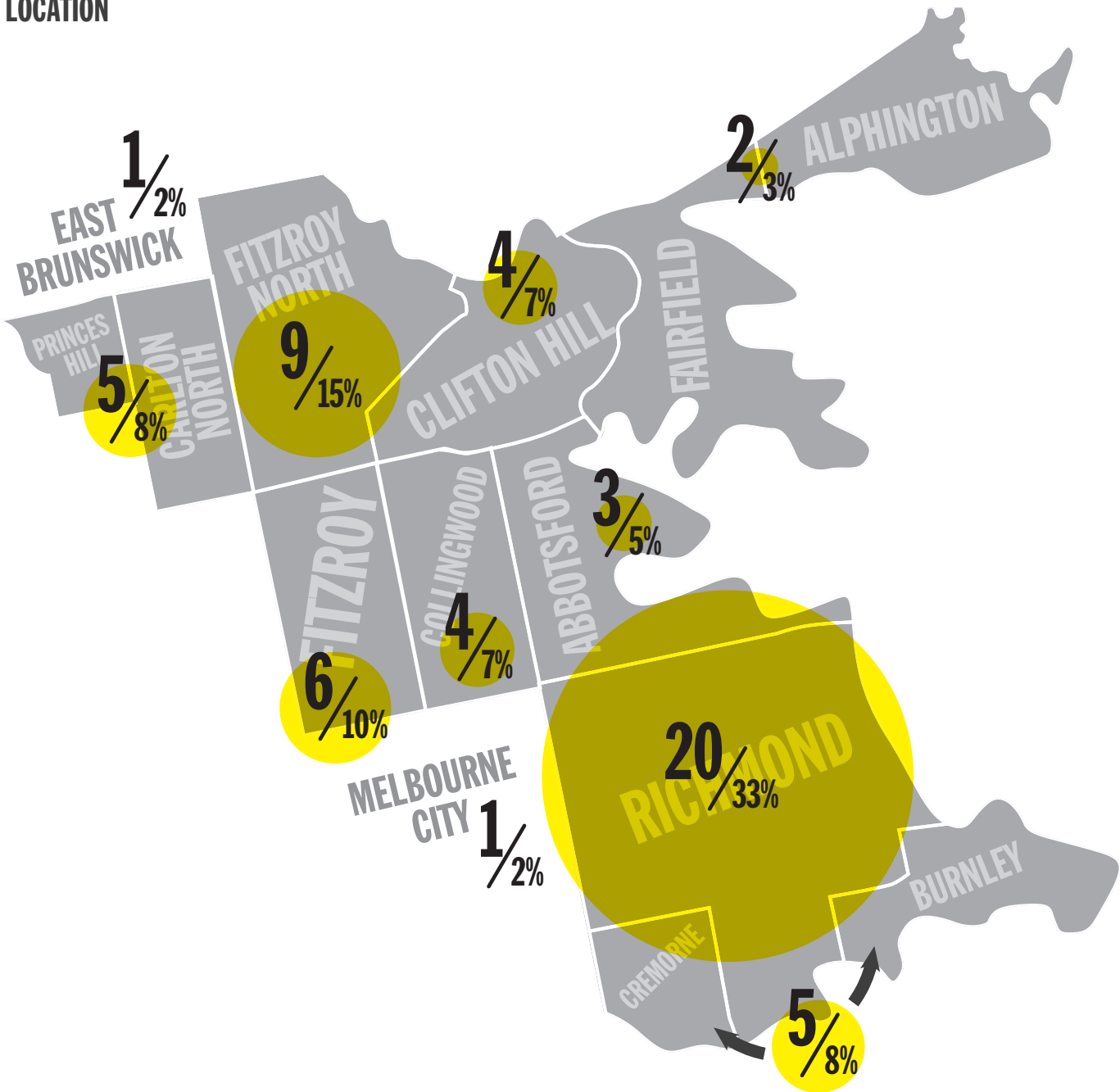
ENGLISH AS A 1 ST LANGUAGE	50/83%
ENGLISH NOT A 1 ST LANGUAGE	10/17%



SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH	39/65%
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH	21/35%

Languages include: Cantonese, Mandarin, German, Vietnamese, Hindi, Gujarati and Spanish

LOCATION



PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT

ATTENDED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS OR COMPLETED A SURVEY	13/54%
WRITTEN A SUBMISSION	8/33%
OTHER Including planning applications, objections or feedback on policy documents	3/13%

THE LIVEABLE YARRA PROCESS

PHASE #1 ENGAGEMENT

REVIEW OF THE YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

2014-2015

The City of Yarra undertook a technical review of the Yarra Planning Scheme to gain an understanding of how well the Scheme was working and responding to contemporary planning issues.

Council consulted with key users who identified key aspects of the Scheme that could be improved, including:

- People and housing
- Business and employment
- The built environment
- Access and movement.

The outcomes of this technical review and the consultation will inform the re-write of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

In 2015, a randomised community attitudes survey was undertaken with over 800 Yarra households to establish baseline views on a range of land use planning issues.

PHASE #2 ENGAGEMENT

DELIBERATIVE PROCESS TO BEGIN THE RE-WRITE OF THE YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

FEBRUARY 2015

PLANNING, OBJECTIVES, CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Council and Capire worked to design a process that would:

- Obtain feedback and recommendations from the community to inform the re-write of the Yarra Planning Scheme.
- Increase community awareness of the diversity of views and perspectives on the impact of growth and change and potential approaches to manage these issues.
- Provide opportunities and resources to support development of shared principles to address key planning areas.
- Increase understanding of land use planning related trends.
- Increase community understanding of the Yarra Planning Scheme, the tools and levers available to Council.
- Elicit community views on challenges, opportunities and trade-offs that can inform policy development against the four main topic areas.

JUNE 2015

RECRUITMENT

Council and Capire promoted the nomination process for Panel members via:

- Letter invitation to 5,000 randomly selected households
- Twitter
- Council website
- Project website
- Council Advisory Committees
- The Business Bulletin
- Yarra News, delivered to most Yarra households
- Councillor networks.

A total of 220 community members nominated via the Liveable Yarra website for the 60 Panel places.

Members were selected by Capire, independent of Council, against a mix of qualitative and quantitative selection criteria to reflect the diversity of the community in demographics, geography, interests and backgrounds.

RE-WRITE OF THE YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2015

PEOPLE'S PANEL FORUMS 4 Forums

In August and September, Council hosted a series of Saturday forums with the 'People's Panel'.

Of the 60 members selected, 54 participated at least once, and 52 members continued to attend at least half of the forums and work with each other and Council to:

1. Learn about the challenges and complexities of future planning in Yarra.
2. Share the dilemmas facing Yarra City Council.
3. Identify and deliberate over actions Council could undertake to ensure the liveability of Yarra into the future.
4. Rank and refine those actions to become recommendations to the Council.

ADVISORY GROUP WORKSHOPS 12 Meetings

In order to deliver informed community advice to Council, the deliberative approach was supported by working with Council's current Advisory Committees who utilised their specific areas of expertise to provide advice to the Panel. Reports on each workshop were provided to the Panel members to help with their deliberations.

TARGETED COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS 9 Meetings

Engagement workshops were held with a range of community groups.

The groups targeted included communities that are considered hard, or important, to reach – and who make up significant parts of the Yarra Community but are not often heard from. Reports on each workshop were provided to the Panel members to help with their deliberations.

NOVEMBER 2015

REPORTING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Council and Capire compiled all the data and 30 recommendations made by the Panel, providing these in a report to Council.

Three representatives of the Panel shared their experiences of the process and explained the recommendations to Councillors at the November Council Meeting.

Following the endorsement of the recommendations, work will begin to consider these as part of the re-write process for the Yarra Planning Scheme. A new Liveable Yarra Reference Group will be established to continue the collaborative approach.

2016+

The City of Yarra will commence the re-write process for the Planning Scheme – building on the engagement undertaken to date, and a range of supporting resources.

The Liveable Yarra People's Panel recommendations will be drawn upon extensively.

OVERARCHING STRUCTURE AND INFORMATION

FORUM #1

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR DELIBERATIONS — TRENDS, FACTS AND ISSUES

8 August 2015

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide Panel members with a strong information base
- Capture the initial thoughts, questions and reactions of the group
- Identify the key planning issues
- Build an appreciation of the complexity and challenges of planning
- Generate confidence within the group to work through the complexity.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- Council presentations on topic areas
- Background papers, including:
 - The Story of the Evolution of Yarra Access and Movement*
 - The Built Environment*
 - People and Housing*
 - Business and Employment.*

QUESTIONS ASKED:

- What do you most love about Yarra?
- What changes to Yarra are you most pleased about?
- What changes to Yarra concern you?
- What questions do you have for the Council?

KEY OUTPUTS:

- What do you love most about Yarra?
- What changes to Yarra are you most pleased about?
- What changes to Yarra concern you?
- What questions do you have for the Council?

FORUM #2

SHARING THE DILEMMA — CHALLENGES AND TRADE-OFFS

22 August 2015

OBJECTIVES:

- Share Council’s challenges and dilemmas
- Discuss the trade-offs and implications of potential responses
- Further increase group understanding of the diversity of views on topics and issues.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- Responses to Panel questions from Forum #1
- Demographic, and economic profiles for Yarra
- The Yarra Planning Scheme links and maps
- What Council can and cannot do
- Feedback from Advisory groups held in August.

QUESTIONS ASKED:

- What are the planning challenges facing Council?
- How important/complex are the identified challenges?
- What could Council do to address these challenges?

KEY OUTPUTS:

- Identified planning challenges facing Council
- Rationale and comments for challenges
- Ranking of complexity and importance of each challenge
- Questions and comments for Council.

FLOW FOR THE PEOPLE'S PANEL

FORUM #3

DRAFTING THE PROPOSITIONS

5 September 2015

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide opportunities for group to develop propositions for Council
- Build an appreciation of the constraints of planning and local government (e.g. policy development versus advocacy)
- Discuss the impacts of propositions
- Capture questions, issues and weighted responses to propositions.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- Responses to Panel questions
- Feedback from Community workshops
- Feedback from Advisory groups held in September
- Youth Ambassador video
- A day in the life of a Statutory planner
- Prompts for planning challenges facing Council.

QUESTIONS ASKED:

- What do you most want to see happen in Yarra by 2035?
- How do you think Council could plan for this?
- What do you believe would be the implications of the actions?
- What potential implications are you prepared for?
- Vote and comment on the work of the other tables.

KEY OUTPUTS:

- Preferred outcomes for future planning
 - Rationale for change
 - Identified implications of preferred outcomes
 - Group support and comments.

FORUM #4

REFINING AND RANKING

26 September 2015

OBJECTIVES:

- Seek levels of support for draft propositions
- Build group sense of achievement at having worked through challenging issues and increased their knowledge.

INFORMATION PROVIDED:

- Reports on Forum #3 outputs per topic area
- Vision statements and associated actions
- Supplementary information on existing Council policies and partnerships
- An overview of the main Forum #4 activities
- The 'Journey' of the People's Panel.

QUESTIONS ASKED:

- Discuss your responses to the compiled recommendation among your tables
- Vote your level of support (red, amber or green)
- Mark on your vote if this action is a priority
- Record your rationale for your level of support with each vote against each action
- In small groups discuss the following topics:
 - Planning Scheme vision
 - The built form
 - Activity centres
 - Long-term business environment
 - Continuing the conversation
 - Open space
 - Car parking.

KEY OUTPUTS:

- Refined and ranking recommendations for Council
- Preliminary recommendations for additional questions posed by Council.



WHAT WE HEARD

THE LIVEABLE YARRA PEOPLE’S PANEL, A GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS OF THE YARRA COMMUNITY, WORKED TOGETHER WITH COUNCIL AND PLANNING EXPERTS OVER A 2-MONTH PERIOD TO LEARN ABOUT AND DEBATE PLANNING CHALLENGES IN YARRA.

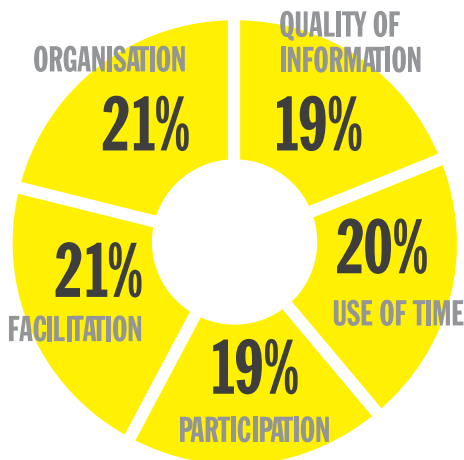
The People’s Panel collaboratively developed draft ‘propositions’ to form the basis of their advice to Council when considering the Planning Scheme re-write. At the fourth and final forum, all 30 propositions were voted on by the Panel members.

In addition to voting on the propositions, Panel members provided some key messages to Council on the process and content:

- Council is to be commended for undertaking this process, and the Panel hopes that it aides the Strategic Planning team in the re-write process.
- The process has captured a fair representation of the diverse views of the community and an opportunity to share these different perspectives in a respectful environment.
- Collaborative work between Council officers and community resulted in stronger outcomes for planning policy, better relationships and increased capacity to understand the perspectives and concerns of both groups.

- Panel members are very proud of the city they live in and they hope to see a Planning Scheme that promotes and enhances all the elements they are proud of, such as the:
 - Diversity of people and place, and sense of multiculturalism and community throughout
 - Significant history, heritage and natural spaces of the local areas
 - Proximity and ease of access that living in Yarra affords – for example, to the CBD or the night-time economy, sporting or cultural events.
- It is acknowledged that growth and change have been constant parts of the Yarra narrative, and that this will only continue as the area grows in popularity.
- While willing to accommodate growth and change, the Panel hope Yarra City Council will manage this with the same focus on multiculturalism, political activism and environmental consciousness that they are very proud of.

More information on the recommendations is included on the following pages.



ELEMENTS OF THE PANEL FORUM MOST HIGHLY RATED

PANEL MEMBERS INVITE THE COUNCIL TO BE BOLD IN SETTING THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE CITY AND TO CONTINUE TO SET THE STANDARDS AMONG ITS PEERS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

AS A RESULT OF THE LARGE BODY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN THROUGHOUT THE PEOPLE'S PANEL PROCESS, THE PANEL CAME TOGETHER IN THE FINAL FORUM TO PUT FORWARD THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE PLANNING IN YARRA.

These recommendations represent the values, priorities and hopes for the future of Yarra as identified by a representative group of the community with a unique understanding of the challenges for planning in Yarra.

Yarra City Council will refer to these recommendations throughout the scheme rewrite to understand how an informed group of community members see the future of Yarra. The recommendations sit across four thematic areas:

- 1. People and Housing**
- 2. Business and Employment**
- 3. The Built Environment**
- 4. Access and Movement.**

METRICS AND WEIGHTING PROCESS

Included in this report are 30 recommendations and 4 vision statements. Each recommendation includes an acknowledgement of potential trade-offs as well as the potential benefits in the broader planning processes.

In the final forum, the Panel was asked to:

- Indicate their level of support for each recommendation by voting 'support', 'not sure', or 'disagree'
- Provide a short rationale for their decision
- Indicate which of the recommendations they considered highest priority for Council to address in order to achieve the envisioned future of Yarra.

The votes were calculated to provide Council with an indication of the levels of support across the Panel for each recommendation.

High levels of consistent support were found for the majority of the recommendations, suggesting that the Panel had arrived at similar views on the future of Yarra.

A summary of the voting and comments can be found on the following pages. The full list of recommendations is included thereafter. Each recommendation indicates the number of votes to each level of support. Given slight variations in total votes per recommendation, the most common level of support is also indicated in percentages (%).

Actions that received high numbers of priority votes as well as those that received levels of support 85 per cent and over are highlighted on the following summary pages.



THEMATIC SUMMARY #1: PEOPLE AND HOUSING

THE PEOPLE AND HOUSING ACTIONS REPRESENTED SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR ACTIONS PRESENTED TO THE PANEL. ACTION #2 RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES ACROSS ALL THE THEMES. THIS REFLECTED THE STRONG VALUES OF THE YARRA COMMUNITY IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

PEOPLE AND HOUSING VISION

Our vision for the future of Yarra is a supply of housing to support a diverse community.

Panel members particularly valued environmentally sensitive and sustainable design and infrastructure provision to encourage the best outcomes for the community. In exchange, Panel members were more willing to accept higher density housing with the provision of affordable housing options and activated communal spaces.

MOST SUPPORTED ACTION

Action #2 (93% Supported)

To encourage housing development with high environmental qualities.

Development with strong environmentally sustainable design features was a key area of interest among the People's Panel.

Design was seen as an integral component in managing and/or mitigating the impacts of climate change through reducing energy consumption, urban heat island effects and providing more resilient building stock.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Action #1 (85% Supported)

To actively plan for Yarra's projected housing growth, including identifying the range of housing needs to support a diverse community.

The Panel saw this action as an essential planning step in a strong future for Yarra. They acknowledged that this would require intensive Council resources, but that they were willing to live with this to achieve better planning for housing, facilities and infrastructure, diverse housing stock, and municipality-wide certainty about growth.

Action #3 (92% Supported)

To encourage the provision of communal spaces in housing development.

The Panel prioritised this action as an integral part of nurturing a sense of community. It was acknowledged that this action might require higher density housing to support more communal spaces, and that it may also require increased Council resources. However, Panel members felt that the benefits outweighed the trade-offs, including social interaction for all ages, urban agricultural opportunities and better use of roof space.



THEMATIC SUMMARY #2: BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTED A THEME WITH THE LEAST PRIORITY AT 26 VOTES. PANEL MEMBERS ENCOURAGED COUNCIL TO SUPPORT A DIVERSITY OF LOCAL BUSINESS AND KEEP JOBS IN THE AREA. SOME REDUCED LEVELS OF SUPPORT CAME FROM PANEL MEMBERS CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE ROLE OF COUNCIL IN BUSINESS, BUT THEY WERE SUPPORTIVE OF EFFORTS TO ENHANCE AND PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT VISION

Our vision for the future of Yarra is a diverse and growing business community.

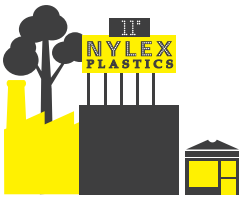
PRIORITY ACTION

Action #1 (86% Supported)

To encourage mixed use in development including small spaces for business.

The Panel acknowledged that this action may increase the price of development passed onto purchasers, but they valued more the potential opportunities for small businesses, particularly the creative industries.

Panel members also supported a better balance of uses in developments, and saw this action as a means of providing a desired balance to develop and to encourage a range of employment opportunities.



THEMATIC SUMMARY #3: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ACTIONS WITHIN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT THEME INCLUDED THE REVISION OR REVIEW OF HERITAGE PROTECTION CONTROLS, FURTHER GROWTH IN MEDIUM-DENSITY HOUSING STOCK, AND THE PROTECTION OR ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL CHARACTER. PARTICIPANTS LARGELY SUPPORTED GROWTH, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HIGH-DENSITY HOUSING IN DESIGNATED AREAS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT VISION

Our vision for the future of Yarra is a mix of built forms that respects Yarra's place in the metropolitan context and contributes to a high quality public realm, and a more sustainable community.

MOST SUPPORTED ACTION

Action #2 (87% Supported)

To support local precinct character – use local characteristics to determine appropriate heights by tailoring overlays (planning controls).

The Panel felt that height controls for precincts should respond more dynamically to the building site context – providing opportunity for greater heights in strategically appropriate areas, and greater control in others.

PRIORITY ACTION

Action #1 (72% Supported)

To encourage medium density development (6-8 storeys) in activity centre and mixed use areas and a mix of uses at the ground floor by developing precinct plans.

Members of the Panel acknowledged that prioritising this action may require significant trade-offs. These include impact on surrounding sites, change in character of activity centres, short-term increase in noise and congestion and contested spaces. However the many benefits include housing located within the '20-minute' city, better protection of valued heritage and natural environment and a potential increase in housing diversity.

The Panel saw this action as an essential planning step in a strong future for Yarra. Through a better understanding of the planning process, the Panel decided that medium density development is an essential element in affordability and accommodating growth.



THEMATIC SUMMARY #4: ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PRIORITY VOTES AT 64. ACTIONS AROUND THE IMPROVEMENT OF CYCLING, WALKING AND NON-AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORT MODES WERE STRONGLY SUPPORTED. PANEL MEMBERS SUGGESTED TRIALLING STREET CLOSURES TO 'RECLAIM' STREET SHARE FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS. THE TRADE-OFF OF BUSIER ARTERIALS WAS SEEN AS LARGELY ACCEPTABLE PENDING THE TRIALS. PANEL MEMBERS WERE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF COUNCIL EFFORTS TO LOBBY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPGRADES

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT VISION

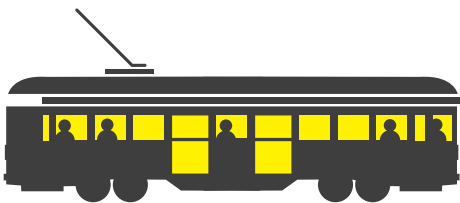
Our vision for the future of Yarra is a redistribution of street space for pedestrians, bikes, public transport, local cars, and through cars.

MOST SUPPORTED ACTION

Action #8 (95% Supported)

To continue lobbying for improved public transport (new infrastructure services).

The Panel felt that strong public transport systems and services would continue to be an important part of Yarra's future. This was particularly with respect to ensuring that Yarra remains an affordable area that supports its diverse community.



PRIORITY ACTIONS

Action #1 (86% Supported)

To articulate targets for 'streetshare' (sharing between transport options), develop a municipality-wide plan for transport and access.

The Panel acknowledged that this action would use Council time and resources as well as requiring a firm implementation commitment, however it would achieve a strategic blueprint for consistent planning, as well as clearer articulation of priority projects and a rationale for decisions.

Action #3 (63% Supported)

To increase space for pedestrians and bikes, dedicated lanes/corridors, decrease car space on the streets.

The Panel acknowledged that this action may result in reduced car parking availability, reduce Council parking meter revenue, and potentially increased difficulty in driving around Yarra.

The Panel considered that pursuing this action may result in healthier, more sustainable streets, more localised retail and better access to active transport. While Panel members who supported this action considered it a priority, others raised issues of disability access and unknown impacts on business.







Action #7 (47% Not sure)

To continue to work with State Government to improve performance of current public transport infrastructure assets.

The Panel acknowledged that prioritising this action may require reallocation of road space away from cars, and may potentially reduce Council revenue from parking meters. Panel members did however value the potential improvement in public transport services and subsequent increased livability and positive health outcomes.



PEOPLE AND HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

		ACTION	TO DELIVER THIS COUNCIL SHOULD...
PRIORITY	#1		ACTIVELY PLAN FOR YARRA'S PROJECTED HOUSING GROWTH, INCLUDING IDENTIFYING THE RANGE OF HOUSING NEEDS TO SUPPORT A DIVERSE COMMUNITY
	Support: 39 Not sure: 7 Disagree: 0		
	#2		ENCOURAGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WITH HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES
	Support: 41 Not sure: 2 Disagree: 1		
PRIORITY	#3		ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF COMMUNAL SPACES IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
	Support: 35 Not sure: 2 Disagree: 1		
	#4		ENCOURAGE CONTINUING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE BETWEEN RATE PAYERS, DEVELOPERS AND COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS TO FACILITATE BETTER OUTCOMES
	Support: 24 Not sure: 18 Disagree: 2		
	#5		ENCOURAGE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION APPROACH THAT INCLUDES DIALOGUE BETWEEN COMMUNITY, DEVELOPERS AND COUNCIL
	Support: 25 Not sure: 19 Disagree: 2		
	#6		PROMOTE THE INCLUSION OF ACCESSIBLE AND ADAPTABLE HOUSING, AND HOUSING SUITABLE FOR ALL LIFE STAGES
	Support: 34 Not sure: 10 Disagree: 0		
	#7		HAVE SPECIFIC TARGETS AND CHECK PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES
	Support: 17 Not sure: 23 Disagree: 2		
	#8		SUPPORT PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCLUDING THROUGH CO-HOUSING AND HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS
	Support: 29 Not sure: 12 Disagree: 2		








Our vision for the future of Yarra is a supply of housing to support a diverse community

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN...

BUT IT WOULD DELIVER...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of time and resources to prepare and implement the plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear direction about how to accommodate projected housing growth • Better informed planning for infrastructure and community facilities • A more diverse housing profile • Ultimately, certainty regarding locations and nature of growth will mean reduced need for Council resources associated with major developments |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on housing costs as a result of increased requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sustainable outcomes • Lower cost of living (energy and water use) • A more resilient community |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There might be a need for higher density to support more communal spaces • Planning will be required to identify what sort of spaces are required in different types of developments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaces to encourage social interaction • Spaces for cross-age recreational activities • Opportunities for urban agriculture • Smarter use of roof space |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional council resources to coordinate interactions • Councillors and staff would need to attend site visits of completed and proposed development • Resources to undertake post occupancy reviews (including of surrounding residents) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents having a better understanding of community aspirations for built form/ building characteristics and provide better outcomes • Councillors and community seeing examples of good design in completed projects |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional council resources to coordinate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents having a better understanding of community aspirations for infrastructure and therefore provide better outcomes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential resources required to support any assessment process • Potentially, increased cost of housing • Time required to implement change including working with development sector • Yarra may have a different approach to State Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for a wider diversity of housing • Opportunities to live in Yarra regardless of age or access needs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with researching and developing appropriate targets • Resources required for data collection and reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clearer understanding of progress towards vision |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of other housing within the development may increase • Higher density development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increased number of dwellings available to people on lower incomes |

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION		TO DELIVER THIS COUNCIL SHOULD...
PRIORITY	#1 Support: 38 Not sure: 5 Disagree: 1	 ENCOURAGE MIXED USE IN DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING SMALL SPACES FOR BUSINESSES
	#2 Support: 25 Not sure: 17 Disagree: 1	 MAKE PLANNING PROCESSES MORE SUPPORTIVE OF NEW TYPES OF BUSINESS (EASIER / FAST TRACKED) INCLUDING FOR COLLABORATIVE WORK SPACES
	#3 Support: 8 Not sure: 15 Disagree: 19	 CONSIDER RATE REDUCTION OR RENTAL SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES
	#4 Support: 17 Not sure: 21 Disagree: 5	 CONSIDER OPENING UP COUNCIL PROPERTY FOR SMALL BUSINESS USE
	#5 Support: 5 Not sure: 21 Disagree: 20	 COUNCIL RUN E-MARKETPLACE TO CONNECT LANDLORDS AND BUSINESSES
	#6 Support: 11 Not sure: 26 Disagree: 6	 ENCOURAGE CLUSTERING OF ACTIVITY VIA ZONES
	#7 Support: 25 Not sure: 14 Disagree: 4	 RETAIN LAND FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USES TO SUPPORT ARTS, CULTURAL AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC USES








Our vision for the future of Yarra is a supply of housing to support a diverse community

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN...

BUT IT WOULD DELIVER...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased price of development (passed on to purchasers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased opportunities for small businesses Short-term leases and space for creative industries Altering the balance between commercial and residential development |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More council resources required to support priority planning process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More support for new businesses, including co-working/ collaborative spaces |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in Council revenue – reduction in other services Other areas (business and residential) may have to pay more in rates to make up shortfall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not clear – link between reduced rates and increased opportunities for small businesses – not established |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially, some foregone revenue from other opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More opportunities for small businesses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial/resources and additional expertise required to undertake match making role (and maintenance) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not clear how effective it would be Potentially, better information for developers and businesses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More foot/car traffic through residential areas | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing will need to be accommodated elsewhere | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More affordable land for business Less likelihood of potential amenity impacts Opportunities for micro manufacturing businesses |

BUILT ENVIRONMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION	TO DELIVER THIS COUNCIL SHOULD...
PRIORITY #1 Support: 33 Not sure: 12 Disagree: 1	 <p>ENCOURAGE MEDIUM DENSITY DEVELOPMENT (6-8 STOREYS) IN ACTIVITY CENTRES AND MIXED USE AREAS AND A MIX OF USES AT THE GROUND FLOOR BY DEVELOPING PRECINCT PLANS</p>
#2 Support: 27 Not sure: 0 Disagree: 4	 <p>SUPPORT LOCAL PRECINCT CHARACTER – USE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE HEIGHTS BY TAILORING OVERLAYS (PLANNING CONTROLS)</p>
#3 Support: 28 Not sure: 16 Disagree: 1	 <p>CONTINUE TO PROTECT EXISTING HIGH VALUE HERITAGE AREAS ACROSS YARRA</p>
#4 Support: 24 Not sure: 19 Disagree: 2	 <p>ALLOW MODERNISATION OF SOME HERITAGE AREAS TO ENABLE CONTINUED VIABLE USE OF THE PROPERTY</p>
#5 Support: 24 Not sure: 20 Disagree: 2	 <p>IDENTIFICATION OF CRITERIA THAT INDICATES A SITE MAY BE SUITABLE FOR HIGHER DENSITY DEVELOPMENT</p>
#6 Support: 22 Not sure: 18 Disagree: 3	 <p>DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TAILORED TO SUPPORT LOCAL PRECINCT CHARACTER</p>
#7 Support: 35 Not sure: 10 Disagree: 0	 <p>ENCOURAGE HIGH QUALITY DESIGN OUTCOMES – CONVERSATION WITH COMMUNITY, DEVELOPERS AND COUNCILLORS</p>

Our vision for the future of Yarra is a mix of built forms which respects Yarra’s place in the metropolitan context and contributes to a high-quality public realm and a more sustainable community

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN...	BUT IT WOULD DELIVER....
--	--------------------------

- Some difficulties with implementation without impacting neighbouring sites due to small lot sizes in some locations
- Change in streetscape character in some activity centre and mixed use locations
- Medium density might not be viable on some smaller sites
- Increased noise and congestion in the short term
- Adjacency to incompatible uses
- Contested spaces: overlooking/overshadowing

- Housing located with good access to jobs, services and transport – 20 minute principles
- Capacity to direct housing away from more sensitive locations like heritage in residential areas and sections of the Yarra River corridor
- Potentially, increased housing diversity

- Resources and detailed analysis to determine appropriate built form outcomes
- New built form character in some locations

- Capacity for varying heights to suit different parts of Yarra
- Potentially, increased housing diversity
- Improved public realm outcomes
- Greater certainty in planning system

- Housing growth will need to be accommodated elsewhere

- Clear direction to development community about expectations
- Protection for areas that are not suitable for medium and higher density development
- Protection for Yarra’s high value heritage character

- Change in streetscape character in some locations

- Some heritage maintained but in a different format
- Built form that reflects contemporary context
- Increased diversity of locations that can support growth and change

- Some higher density development will occur in some activity centres and on other designated sites
- Additional work required to determine criteria, where these sites are located and their capacity

- Better use of land in some locations
- Capacity to direct housing away from more sensitive locations like heritage areas and sections of the Yarra River corridor
- More efficient use of council resources
- Protects areas that are not suitable for higher density development
- A clear direction to development community about expectations
- Better provision of open space, permeability and access






- Council spending time and resources undertaking infrastructure planning

- Capacity to match future requirements to expected levels of growth
- Capacity for upgrades of existing infrastructure and provision of new infrastructure

- Council spending time and resources supporting a design advisory committee

- A breadth of views regarding design quality being acknowledged and considered

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION		TO DELIVER THIS COUNCIL SHOULD...
PRIORITY	#1 Support: 37 Not sure: 5 Disagree: 1	 ARTICULATE TARGETS FOR STREETSHARE. DEVELOP A MUNICIPALITY WIDE PLAN FOR TRANSPORT AND ACCESS
	#2 Support: 16 Not sure: 21 Disagree: 7	 CLOSE LOCAL (RESIDENTIAL) STREETS TO THROUGH TRAFFIC INCLUDING LIVING STREETS
PRIORITY	#3 Support: 26 Not sure: 9 Disagree: 6	 INCREASE SPACE FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BIKES, DEDICATED LANES/ CORRIDORS. DECREASE CAR SPACE ON THE STREETS
	#4 Support: 32 Not sure: 6 Disagree: 4	 REQUIRE BETTER BICYCLE PARKING AS PART OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS
	#5 Support: 33 Not sure: 8 Disagree: 3	 REDUCE BARRIERS THAT DISCOURAGE RIDING, IMPROVE SAFETY, CONNECTIONS, LIGHTING. COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE – A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK THAT CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES A GOOD LEVEL OF SERVICE

Our vision for the future of Yarra is a redistribution of street space for pedestrians, bikes, public transport, local cars, and through cars

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN...

BUT IT WOULD DELIVER....

- Use of Council time and resources
- Requiring commitment to implementation

- A strategic blueprint for consistent transport planning decision making across Yarra
- Articulation of priority projects
- Clearer rationale for decisions

- Reduced car accessibility in neighbourhoods and streets (including on-street car parking availability)

- Lower car ownership
- More attractive streets
- Improved pedestrian and cycling environment
- Encouragement of public transport use
- Reduce traffic speed – increase safety
- More opportunities for green space, public furniture, urban agriculture
- More activated streets – more street activity

- Would businesses suffer because cars are de-prioritised?
- Potentially more difficult/ slower to drive around Yarra including for local residents
- May be more difficult to find on-street car parking – home and activity centres
- Potentially decreased revenue for Council – (if parking meters removed)

- Healthier/more environmentally sustainable streets
- Businesses could benefit from improved pedestrian environments
- Shift to more localised retail (shopping locally)
- Better access for cyclists
- Improved pedestrian environment
- Increased opportunities for street trading

- Fewer car spaces; more demand in short term for on-street spaces
- Need to provide for better trip end bike hoops – note that on retail streets this may impact car parking

- More cycling trips
- Increased urban capacity – can accommodate more trips without generating more car trips
- Improved environment

- Other capital works projects/ services may take longer
- Reduced street car parking, car priority, street capacity (junctions/ turning, etc.)
- Travel time increases by car

- A shift to more localised retail
- More diversity in profile of cyclists
- Potentially significantly increasing cycle mode share
- Environmental benefits
- Improved health and activity
- Reduced car reliance
- Potential for redirection of household finances away from car ownership
- Reinforces council investment in other cycling infrastructure
- Significant safety improvements
- Reduced anxiety for cyclists

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION TO DELIVER THIS COUNCIL SHOULD...

#6

Support: 37
 Not sure: 5
 Disagree: 1



MOVE AWAY FROM A 'PREDICT AND PROVIDE' APPROACH TO PROVIDING CAR PARKING IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY

#7

Support: 16
 Not sure: 21
 Disagree: 7



CONTINUE TO WORK WITH STATE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF CURRENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

#8

Support: 26
 Not sure: 9
 Disagree: 6



CONTINUE LOBBYING FOR IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT (NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES)

Our vision for the future of Yarra is a redistribution of street space for pedestrians, bikes, public transport, local cars, and through cars

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN...

- Reduced car parking availability
- Further on-street car parking measures (changes to parking permits, restrictions in some places)

BUT IT WOULD DELIVER...

- Reduced car ownership
- Reduced car use
- Reduced building heights
- Improved public realm
- Lower building costs
- Reduced traffic on local roads
- Less noise
- Encourage car sharing
- Encourage non-car modes of transport

- Reassigning street space (e.g. tram improvements) may require reallocation of road space away from cars
- Potentially, reduced revenue to council from parking meters

- Improved reliability and frequency of public transport
- Improved transport capacity and connectivity
- Improved liveability
- Wider range of transport choices
- Reduced exposure to congestion and car parking issues

- Potential improvements to public transport provision
- Increased public transport use

LESSONS LEARNED

BROAD REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS

Overall, this process has been successful across three important factors:

- The Liveable Yarra People’s Panel provided a unique opportunity to build a strong level of understanding among a wide group of participants about the complexities of planning for the future of Yarra.
- The process allowed Council to invest time and energy in a representative group of participants – strengthening their relationship with the Panel members and, through them, with many facets of the Yarra community more broadly. More than 30 per cent of Panel members have expressed a desire to continue the conversation through a reference group.
- Additionally, through the staged and structured formats to the forums, Council is now better equipped to understand the broader sentiment of the Yarra community and to use this in the development of the re-write.

‘IT REQUIRED ME TO THINK BEYOND MOTHERHOOD STATEMENTS AND GLIB ASSESSMENT, AND I FOUND IN FORMING VIEWS THAT I OFTEN CONTRAVENED MY PERSONAL INTERESTS.’

Panel Member, Third Forum

PARTICULAR SUCCESSES OF THE PROCESS

The following comments and reflections from the broader team on the process are important to note.

- Utilising an untried and innovative engagement process to test a complex series of questions, it was important that the project team maintained flexibility by adapting to the needs of the Panel members and the project as they arose while maintaining the principles of deliberation. This allowed for a genuine and authentic experience for the Panel members, who were able to observe changes as a result of their concerns, comments and efforts.
- Council staff were able to support and respond to the Panel, providing information in a friendly and genuine manner, and avoiding defensive language and jargon. This allowed the Panel to increase its understanding of key topics, and subsequently feel empowered to provide more sophisticated input and advice.
- The recruitment process worked smoothly, with the online submission form allowing for live and regular reporting on the demographics of nominees, and the rapid assessment for nominees after the closing date. The randomised letter invite was the most popular method of raising awareness of the project by nominees, successfully eliciting nominations from a broad mix of Yarra’s community who don’t usually engage with Council.
- Low-tech visualisation tools used in the activities were commended by the participants as this approach both collected significant swathes of data, and allowed for an immediate appreciation for the stance of the Panel members on particular issues.

- Participants were respectful of each other, of differences in opinion, and genuinely interested in the work of others in the forums. This behavioural expectation was reinforced at the onset of the Panel process and reiterated throughout the Terms of Reference for Panel members, and reinforced by the Capire consultants in the recruitment phase.
- Participants, although diverging in opinions and perspectives in initial forums, showed consistent levels of support for the proposed recommendations. This was a consequence both of work done to reflect the sentiments of the Panel in Forums #1 to #3.
- Panel member positions shifted as the deliberative process educated and challenged pre-existing views. As one participant noted 'It required me to think beyond motherhood statements and glib assessment, and I found in forming views that I often contravened my personal interests' (Forum #3 Participant Evaluation Form). Participants who may have started this process with a firm belief that 'Council should cap growth' moved to the view that 'growth is inevitable and so Council should plan for it properly'.

**'IT'S INTERESTING
HOW THE GROUP'S
OPINIONS ARE
CHANGING OVER
TIME...'**

Panel Member, Third Forum

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE CONSULTATION ON PLANNING

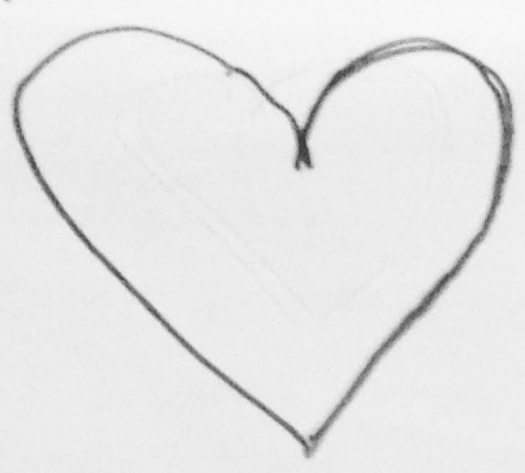
The following comments and reflections from the broader team on the process are important to note.

- Due to the novel nature of these processes, articulating the purpose and remit of the members should be done early and often, preferably in a variety of formats to allow all members to clearly understand what Council is hoping to achieve through their efforts.
- Some issues raised were too specific to be pursued over the course of the forums given the amount of content required to be covered in the four sessions. As such, providing space (outside of the scheduled sessions) or mechanisms (invite the group to complete a templated form on the issue in their own time) for addressing these issues would allow these matters to be dealt with. For example, issues such as car parking, or envisioning the future landscape of businesses and employment in Yarra.
- While the process was dynamic and responsive to the needs of the broader group, not all members of the Panel agreed with the format changes – for example, some groups required closer facilitation from Capire staff while others felt that facilitation would get in the way. Having strong mechanisms in place to bring the appropriate approach to the attention of the project team as early as possible would be recommended.
- The People's Panel was capable and future processes could benefit from trusting groups to find their ways to the desired end stage without excessive structure or process – Panel members seemed happiest when simply provided with prompting questions, supporting information and adequate time to debate.

THE COMMUNITY ✓
PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS ✓

THE HISTORICAL
OPEN SPACES

WALKABILITY ✓
PUBLIC ART ✓



THE RIVER ✓

SAFETY

SMOOTH TOWN

SCHOOLS

THIS PROCESS ✓

BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE ✓

MEDIUM DENSITY (3-5 STOREY)

CULTURAL DIVERSITY ✓✓

VARIETY OF RESTAURANTS / CAFES / BARS

HERITAGE + HISTORY ✓✓

PROXIMITY TO CITY ✓✓✓

USE OF INDUSTRIAL SPACES

BALANCE OF OLD + NEW

COMMUNITY FACILITIES + GREEN SPACE

~~SENSE OF COMMUNITY~~

PEDESTRIAN WALKING NATURE ✓





capire