

Urban Forest Precinct Plans: Community Consultation Summary Report



February 2024

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Contents

Contents.....	2
1 Overview	4
1.1 Key findings.....	5
1.1.1 Increase planting of indigenous and native species/species target	5
1.1.2 Removal of trees on private property.....	5
1.1.3 Education in the community.....	6
1.1.4 Resilient urban forest.....	6
2 Background and History	7
3 Definitions and Scope	9
3.1 Stakeholders and community	9
3.2 Related Council Documentation.....	10
4 Consultation process.....	12
4.1 Consultation purpose	12
4.2 Consultation methodology.....	12
4.3 Key methods for gathering feedback.....	14
4.3.1 Consultation.....	15
5 Participant profile	16
5.1 Demographics.....	16
5.1.1 Connection to Bayside.....	16
5.1.2 People with a lived experience of a disability.....	17
5.1.3 Older residents	17
5.1.4 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	17
5.1.5 Member of a Resident, 'Friends of' or Community Group.....	17
5.1.6 Pop-up event engagement	18
6 Consultation findings.....	19
6.1 Theme 1: Priority Locations.....	19
6.2 Theme 2: Species diversity and targets	21
6.2.1 Beaumaris	23
6.2.2 Black Rock.....	23
6.2.3 Brighton	24
6.2.4 Brighton East	25
6.2.5 Cheltenham (including Pennydale).....	26
6.2.6 Hampton	26
6.2.7 Hampton East.....	27
6.2.8 Highett	28
6.2.9 Sandringham	29

6.3	Theme 3: General feedback.....	34
6.4	Theme 4: Trees on private property + nature strip planting	45
	Nature Strip Planting	46
7	Participant feedback on the process	50
7.1	Participant reach and representation	50
7.2	Participant satisfaction and experience	51
8	Changes to the Precinct Plans	52
9	Next steps	62
10	Appendix	63
	Project impacts	69
	What information do we need from the community?	70
	Selected tools and techniques	71
	Project timelines	72
	Decision-making process.....	72

1 Overview

The impacts of climate change and urban development has placed ongoing pressure on Bayside's Urban Forest. The *Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2040* was developed to deliver urgent, meaningful action on climate change and enhance and protect our living environment.

The Draft Urban Forest Precinct Plans (Precinct Plans) are a key action from Bayside's *Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2040*. The Precinct Plans identify a range of actions to be undertaken by 2040 that will preserve and increase Bayside's vegetation cover to 30% by 2040. Individual Precinct Plans have been developed for each suburb within Bayside, with each plan informed by community consultation and feedback from key stakeholders. The Beaumaris Precinct Plan was the first plan to be developed and was adopted by Council in February 2023. The Beaumaris Precinct Plan has been utilised as a guide to inform all the other Precinct Plans.

The Precinct Plans will guide local tree planting and respond to the individual needs, challenges, and aspirations for each locality. The prime objective of the Precinct Plans is to prioritise areas of greatest need including:

- Areas with the lowest existing percentage canopy tree cover;
- Areas that are strategically located to mitigate potential urban heat island effects;
- Areas of declining canopy or ageing trees;
- Areas where vegetation can be planted to improve habitat and provide habitat corridors;
- Activity Centres and highly trafficked pedestrian routes and gaps or vacancies in public planting.

The Precinct Plan consultation period aimed to inform and receive feedback from the Bayside community and interested stakeholders about the suburb specific Precinct Plans, increased greening, and preferred species to plant within the municipality and more specifically within each suburb.

Community engagement was undertaken for a total of seven (7) weeks from 28 August - 15 October 2023. Overall, there were a total of eight (8) face to face pop-up events with attendance of approximately 368 contributors. There were 12 written submissions received from seven (7) submitters, four (4) presentations with community groups, four (4) Have Your Say enquiries and four (4) one on one meetings with interested parties.

The digital communication tools utilised for this engagement included:

- Digital communication regarding the consultation period being advertised on the Bayside City Council website.
- Have Your Say webpage where participants could complete the online survey, provide a written submission, or post a general enquiry.
- Inside Word article to help inform councillors about the consultation process.
- Social media advertisements, regarding drop-in sessions.
- Digital screening advertisements at Council's libraries and corporate centre.

The eight (8) face to face engagement sessions were an opportunity for participants in the community to provide direct feedback and specify which plantings they would prefer to be included within the suburb they lived or frequented most.

Presentations as well as 1:1 meetings were had with the following stakeholders:

- Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group
- Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Reconciliation Action Plan Committee
- Pennydale Resident Action Group

1.1 Key findings

As part of the analysis of community engagement feedback, there are a number of key findings that have been outlined within this section of the Community Engagement Report.

These findings draw from multiple feedback datasets. Not all participants answered every question, so the counts and percentages reported should be considered in the context of the sample size.

1.1.1 Increase planting of indigenous and native species/species target

The importance of having a diverse urban forest and the need to increase planting of indigenous and native species has been identified by the community during the engagement period.

- Online survey participants were asked what their favourite feature of the urban forest in their neighbourhood is. Out of 99 responses, 10 respondents specifically mentioned indigenous and native vegetation.
- Online survey participants were also asked how they felt about the plan overall, a proportion of the respondents (15 mentions) commented on the need to increase planting of indigenous and native species.
- Online survey participants were asked if they prefer native, indigenous, or exotic vegetation. The survey shows that participants prefer native vegetation, then indigenous and then exotic vegetation.
- Participants were asked do they support or oppose the species planting targets that were introduced into the Precinct Plans at the August 2023 Council meeting. A significant proportion of survey participants (42% of the 55 respondents) oppose the inclusion of species targets.
- Several participants (57% of the 53 respondents) wanted to suggest changes to the species targets. The suggestions provided by the community vary for each suburb and are provided in section 6.2 of this report.
- Face to face engagement participants were asked to vote on what plant species they would like to see in their neighbourhood. Indigenous species had the highest count (593 dots).

Feedback from the community highlights the community's preference for indigenous and native species over exotic species.

1.1.2 Removal of trees on private property

The removal of trees on private property was a key issue raised by the community during the consultation period.

- Survey participants when asked how they felt about the plans overall raised concerns about the removal of existing vegetation at development sites (10 mentions).
- The Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group was concerned that new developments are 'moonscaping' entire blocks, removing majority if not all vegetation on site.
- Several written submissions spoke to the removal of trees on private property and the need to improve landscaping outcomes.

1.1.3 Education in the community

- Online survey participants were asked how they felt about the plan overall, there were comments provided on the need to provide an educational program to encourage more planting on private land.
- Survey participants were asked what Council could do to support residents to plant and maintain vegetation on private property or nature strips. Participants resolved that recommending appropriate tree and vegetation species (57% of the 102 respondents) was the best way for Council to support residents.
- Several written submissions spoke to the need to increase awareness of the benefits of trees in the community through an educational program.

1.1.4 Resilient urban forest

The need to have a resilient urban forest that can withstand the ongoing impacts of climate change has been raised by the community as a key concern.

- Online survey participants were asked how they felt about the plan overall, a proportion of the respondents wanted to see an increase in indigenous and native species to combat climate change (13 mentions).
- The Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group raised concerns around having a species palette with vegetation that can survive increases in temperature.

2 Background and History

Preparation of the Urban Forest Precinct Plans is a key action from Bayside's *Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2040*. The *Urban Forest Strategy* is an action plan to deliver urgent, meaningful action to enhance and protect the natural environment and reduce the impacts of climate change. The Strategy focuses on five approaches: Increase, Healthier Ecosystems, Monitor, Maintain and Learn and Celebrate. The *Urban Forest Strategy* was adopted by Council in February 2022 with the key action being the development of suburb specific Precinct Plans.

The Beaumaris Precinct Plan was the first precinct plan to be developed and undertake community consultation. Beaumaris was selected as the pilot plan due to Beaumaris' high vegetation cover which contributes significantly to Bayside's urban forest. Through this engagement Council was able to learn from the experience of Beaumaris community members and environmental groups within the area.

Community engagement on the Beaumaris Precinct Plan was undertaken from 27 October – 27 November 2022. A number of communication tools were used during the Beaumaris Precinct Plan engagement period, which included:

- Email notification to Have Your Say subscribers and key stakeholder groups.
- Council website and This Week in Bayside e-newsletter.
- Targeted social media posts, including sponsored advertising to increase reach.
- Direct email to key stakeholders.
- Have Your Say project webpage.
- Article for inclusion in various special interest Council newsletters.
- Digital screens at local Bayside libraries and Corporate Centre.

The key methods used to gather feedback from interested parties included:

- Online engagement through Have Your Say, including opportunities to ask questions and provide written submissions.
- Meetings with relevant community and environmental groups.

The community were asked to provide feedback on the following three themes:

1. Preference of planting locations and species.
2. Comments on key actions and overall plan.
3. Support – what can council provide to encourage maintenance/ increase in vegetation planting activity.

Key feedback from the Beaumaris Precinct Plan consultation were:

- 74% responded positively when asked 'how did they feel about the Beaumaris Precinct Plan overall.
- 54% of participants supported the action about greening nature strips in front of their property.
- Participants provided input on their preference of planting locations with the most popular locations being empty tree sites (20% of participants), followed by areas facing high urban heat island effects (17% of participants) and streets with less than 20% tree canopy cover (10% of participants).
- 52% of participants asked for arborist support and discounted plants to maintain or increase vegetation on their property and nature strips.

The Beaumaris Precinct Plan was adopted by Council in February 2023 and has informed the preparation of the Draft Precinct Plans for the other suburbs within Bayside.

The remaining Draft Precinct Plans commenced community consultation on 28 August 2023 following Council's resolution at its 15 August 2023 Meeting:

1. Council endorses the draft Urban Forest Precinct Plans for the purpose of commencing community engagement subject to the following changes:
 - a. update text for all draft Urban Forest Precinct Plans in Appendix 3 to clearly outline that the species targets for each suburb should be utilised as a guide, and that there will be certain areas within Bayside where the existing local landscape character will be taken into consideration and used as a guide for future plantings.
 - b. update text to make clear that parks and reserves have an existing landscape character which should continue to inform the planting palette, and is not subject to the species targets as outlined in Appendix 3 of the draft Precinct Plans
 - c. include species planting target for each of the precincts.

Community engagement for all remaining Precinct Plans was initially from 28 August - 8 October 2023, but was extended until 15 October 2023.

3 Definitions and Scope

The community engagement program was designed to seek feedback from interested community groups and residents on priority locations and preferred species for planting. The program was also used to measure the level of community and stakeholder support for the plans and proposed actions.

Communication materials were designed to educate the broader Bayside community on the importance of increasing vegetation cover on both public and private land. Engagement processes were designed to provide identified stakeholders and the community with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Precinct Plans.

The scope of the engagement was defined as follows:

Negotiables:

- The overall 'vision' for each suburb as referred to in each Precinct Plan.
- Locations to investigate and prioritise planting.
- Planting locations not already identified in the draft Precinct Plans.
- Species of trees and type of vegetation that should be planted.
- Inclusion of various actions outlined in the draft Precinct Plans.

Non-negotiables:

- *Bayside Urban Forest Strategy* – adopted by Council in February 2022.
- The requirement for Urban Forest Strategy Precinct Plans.
- Species listed in the EVC planting lists.
- The location of historic EVCs.
- Key Guiding Principles of the Precinct Plans.
 - Increasing the tree canopy cover and vegetation as an action of the Precinct Plans.
 - Increasing species diversity as an action of the Precinct Plans.
 - Monitoring tree canopy cover and vegetation as an action of the Precinct Plans.
 - Retaining tree canopy cover and vegetation as an action of the Precinct Plans.
 - Service delivery and implementation of the Precinct Plans.

3.1 Stakeholders and community

The Draft Urban Forest Precinct Plans cover the entire municipality and have a wide range of stakeholders with varying levels of impact and interest.

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

Impact: What level of change the stakeholder / community 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

Table 1 – List of stakeholders

Stakeholder/community	Impact	Interest	Influence
General Bayside Community	L	L	Consult
Arborists/landscapers/gardeners	H	H	Consult
Bayside 'friends of' groups	M	H	Consult
Bayside Environmental Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group • Wildlife rescue groups (Birdlife Bayside) • Friends of Native Wildlife • Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc. • Marine Science Education and Community 	M	H	Consult
Bayside Community Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group • Bayside Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee • Youth Committee, Youth Sustainability Leaders, Youth Ambassador's Group 	M	H	Consult
First Nations people/Traditional landowners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee 	M	M	Consult

Internal departments within Bayside City Council were also consulted, these included:

- Urban Strategy
- Amenity protection
- Open Space, Recreation & Wellbeing
- Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport
- City Assets and Presentation
- Project Services
- Information Services (GIS Specialist)

3.2 Related Council Documentation

The Precinct Plans that were engaged on as part of the consultation period from 28 August – 15 October 2023 include:

- Draft Black Rock Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Draft Brighton Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Draft Brighton East Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Draft Cheltenham Urban Forest Precinct Plan

- Draft Hampton Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Draft Hampton East Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Draft Highett Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Draft Sandringham Urban Forest Precinct Plan

The Beaumaris Precinct Plan was not consulted on as part of this engagement period as it had been previously consulted on from 27 October – 27 November 2022. Beaumaris was developed first to guide the preparation of all the other Precinct Plans.

Related Local and State Government documents include:

- Bayside Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2040
- Bayside Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025
- Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest 2019
 - Endorsed by 41 organisations (Local government, Victorian government, water authorities, statutory agencies, and industry bodies)
- Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022
- Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027
- Bayside Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024
- Live Bayside, Plant Bayside 2022

4 Consultation process

4.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide key stakeholders and the broader community with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Precinct Plans. The purpose of the consultation was for Council to better understand communities' preferences and priorities for key actions and outcomes listed in the plans and identify areas for improvement. Feedback has been used to inform the finalisation of all of the Precinct Plans.



Figure 1 - Timeline and phases for Urban Forest Precinct Plan development

4.2 Consultation methodology

The engagement process was open to all members of the Bayside community, including individuals or groups who live, work, play, study or visit the municipality.

Community engagement was undertaken from 28 August – 15 October 2023 for a period of seven (7) weeks. Council officers presented to four (4) community groups throughout the engagement period. These groups included the Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group, Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group, Pennydale Residents Action Group, Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

There were eight (8) face to face engagement sessions conducted over the seven (7) week period. The pop-up events were held at various locations, these included:

- Bayside Community Nursery
- Middle Brighton Baths
- Black Rock Gardens
- Youth FriYay Session
- Bayside Farmer's Market
- Thomas Street Playground
- Bay Road Heathland Reserve
- Bayside Community Nursery -Gala Day

The pop-up events were held during the week and on the weekend to maximise attendance and provide an equal opportunity for the entire community to participate.

For each pop-up session there were three (3) main engagement activities. Participants were asked the following questions and were able to provide responses through the activities:

1. *What do you love about the urban forest in your neighbourhood?*
2. *How could we improve your neighbourhood's urban forest?*
3. *Which plants (indigenous/native/exotic) would you love to see more of in your neighbourhood?*
4. *Where should we prioritise planting first?*

For question 1 and 2, participants were asked to provide their response on leaf shaped notes. These notes were then stapled to a board that had an image of a tree. This activity was utilised as an interactive and creative way to get participants to think about what they love about Bayside's Urban Forest and what could be improved.

Participants were asked to which plants they would love to see more of in their neighbourhood. The sticker boards were separated into three categories these were:

- Indigenous – species that were native to Bayside.
- Native – species that were native to Australia.
- Exotic – species that have been introduced to Australia.

There was 12 of each species provided on the board along with pictures of each plant, these species were selected from the draft species palette. Participants were asked to place dots next to the plant or tree that best represented the plants they would like to see more of within their local area. The stickers were colour coded depending on which suburb the resident lived in or visited most frequently. This provided participants with the opportunity to provide feedback on species preferences and help guide future planting.

The final engagement activity was to ask participants where they think Council should prioritise planting first. Participants were provided with six (6) options these were:

- Streets with less than 20% canopy cover.
- Locations of trees in poor health.
- Areas potentially facing urban heat island effects.
- Areas for habitat linkages/wildlife corridors.
- Roundabouts and traffic islands.
- Activity Centres and shopping precincts.

Participants were asked to place a sticker next to the locations they believe Council should be prioritising increased planting.

There were also a number of other items that Council provided at the face-to-face engagements. These included:

- A hard copy of each of the draft Precinct Plans that could be read by participants.
- Free bookmarks that contained paperbark seed (*Melaleuca squarrosa*) to be planted in resident's gardens. It also provided information on how give further feedback online.
- Feedback box where participants could provide more specific feedback.

The digital communications for the consultation period included:

- Email notification to Have Your Say subscribers and key stakeholder groups.
- Council website and This Week in Bayside e-newsletter
- Targeted social media posts, including sponsored advertising to increase reach.
- Direct email to key stakeholders
- Have Your Say project webpage.
- Article for inclusion in various special interest Council newsletters
- Digital screens at local Bayside libraries and Corporate Centre
- Explainer video showcasing Bayside's Urban Forest
- Prize draw to win one of 20 plants from Bayside Community Nursery
- Seed bookmark giveaways through Bayside libraries and Corporate Centre.

There were four (4) presentations to various community groups notifying the groups of the engagement period and receiving any feedback. The presentations were to the following groups:

- Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group
- Reconciliation Action Plan Committee
- Pennydale Resident Action Group

4.3 Key methods for gathering feedback

This consultation used both digital media and face-to-face sessions for gathering and recording feedback and submissions on the Precinct Plans.

- Online engagement through Have Your Say, including opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback.
- Accepting written submissions online or at the face-to-face engagement
- Engagement activities at the pop-up events

4.3.1 Consultation

Table 2 - Engagement activities and number of participants

Engagement Activity	Number of Participants
Survey (110 responses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online on the Have Your Say Bayside project page 	110
Written Submissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 written submissions from 7 submitters 	7
Meeting with Reference Groups and Advisory Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>28 August – Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group (BHARG)</i> Council officers informed BHARG of the upcoming engagement and received feedback regarding increased canopy cover. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>30 August - Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee</i> Council officers presented the Precinct Plans and informed the committee of the upcoming engagement period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>25 September - Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee</i> Council officers presented the Precinct Plans and received feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>14 September - Pennydale Residents Action Group (PRAG)</i> Council officers discussed the Precinct Plans with PRAG and received feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>27 June - Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group (BCCAG)</i> Councillor informed BCCAG of the upcoming Precinct Plan engagement.	38
Pop-Up Events – General Public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 September - Bayside Community Nursery • 7 September – Middle Brighton Baths • 12 September – Black Rock Gardens • 22 September – FriYay Youth Session • 23 September – Bayside Farmers Market • 27 September – Thomas Street Playground • 8 October – Bay Road Heathland Reserve • 14 October – Bayside Community Nursery – Gala Day Engagement activities included interactive sticker boards, A-frames, and feedback boxes.	368
Total	523

5 Participant profile

5.1 Demographics

A total of 523 participants took part in the engagement:

- 110 via the online survey
- 12 written submissions from 7 submitters
- Meetings with 38 community group members
- 368 via face-to-face engagement at the pop-up sessions

The demographics of the face-to-face participants were not recorded and are not included in the table below. The table below shows a comparison between survey participant demographics and the demographic profile of the whole Bayside community.

Participants from each suburb were represented. Suburbs like Brighton, Hampton, and Sandringham had the highest level of participation compared to areas like Hampton East and Highett.

Table 3 – Demographic of survey participants

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Age	15-24	12%	0.91%
	25-34	7.8%	9.09%
	35-49	19.3%	28.18%
	50-69	27.7.%	48.18%
	70-84	12.2%	12.73%
	85+	3.4%	0.91%
Suburb	Beaumaris	13.5%	8.11%
	Black Rock	6.5%	8.11%
	Brighton	24.1%	18.92%
	Brighton East	15.9%	9.91%
	Cheltenham (including Pennydale)	3.7%	9.01%
	Hampton	13.6%	16.22%
	Hampton East	5.0%	5.41%
	Highett	7.2%	7.21%
	Sandringham	10.5%	14.41%
	Outside Bayside	-	2.7%

5.1.1 Connection to Bayside

The table below shows online survey participants connection to Bayside. A majority of the survey participants were homeowners/ratepayers (90.83%) or member of a resident/community group (11.01%). These results are portrayed in the table below:

Table 4 – Online survey participants connection to Bayside

*Survey participants were able to select multiple options

Demographic	Percent (%)	Count
Homeowner/ ratepayer	90.83%	99
Tenant	5.5%	6
Visitor to Bayside	3.67%	4
Own/operate a business within Bayside	5.5%	4
Member of a Resident, 'Friends of' or Community Group	11.01%	12
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	0%	0
Person with a disability or carer	2.75%	3
Arborist, landscaper, or professional gardener	0.92%	1
Prefer not to say	0.92%	1
Other	1.83%	2

5.1.2 People with a lived experience of a disability

The Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC) was consulted on 25 September 2023. At this meeting, the group was informed of the Draft Precinct Plans and how to provide feedback.

Separately, three (3) online survey participants identified as having a lived experience of a disability.

5.1.3 Older residents

Older residents were well represented, with over half of the survey participants aged over 50, and 13% of survey respondents aged over 70 years. Council also presented to its Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group on 28 August 2023, which consists of representatives from Bayside's older population.

5.1.4 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Council presented to the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee on 30 August 2023. The Boon Wurrung Foundation was also emailed information regarding this consultation. It should be noted that no survey participants identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

5.1.5 Member of a Resident, 'Friends of' or Community Group

12 participants in the survey identified as a part of a resident, 'Friends of...' or community group. Several groups were consulted, including:

- Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group (BCCAG)
- Bayside Healthy Aging Reference Group (BHARG)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC)
- Reconciliation Action Plan Committee (RAP)

- Youth Sustainability Leaders, Youth Ambassador’s group & Youth Committee.
- Pennydale Residents Action Group
- Bayside Community Nursery
- Peterson Youth Group
- The Wildlife Wanderers

5.1.6 Pop-up event engagement

A total of 368 people participated in the face to face engagement sessions. The locations chosen were intended to reach a variety of people, including markets, gardens and beachfront locations. From the table below, The Bayside Farmers Market pop-up had the strongest engagement, representing 43.47% of all in-person engagement.

Table 5 – Engagement chart for pop-up events

Engagement	Number	Percent (%)
Bayside Community Nursery	8	2.17%
Middle Brighton Baths	19	5.16%
Black Rock Gardens	45	12.22%
FriYay’s Youth Session	11	2.98%
Bayside Farmers Market	160	43.47%
Thomas Street Playground	40	10.86%
Heathland Reserve <i>Includes Wildflower Wanderers</i>	30	8.15%
Bayside Community Nursery – Gala Day	55	14.95%

6 Consultation findings

The following section summarises community sentiment and feedback on The Draft Urban Forest Precinct Plans. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics.

Feedback on the Precinct Plans was collected through a variety of methods, these include the Have Your Say survey, written submissions, meetings with community groups and face-to-face engagement sessions. Findings from the consultation have been grouped into subcategories to align with the survey and face-to-face engagement activities.

The consultation sought feedback on priority locations for increased planting, preferred species selection and increasing vegetation on private property. Findings from the consultation are reported in 4 sections, these are:

- 5.1 Priority Locations
- 5.2 Species diversity and targets
- 5.3 General feedback
- 5.4 Trees on private property and nature strip planting

For the following key findings from the online survey, out of the 110 contributors, not every participant answered every question in the survey.

6.1 Theme 1: Priority Locations

The Precinct Plans outline a number of locations within the municipality that should be prioritised in relation to increased vegetation cover.

Online survey participants were asked where they think that Council should prioritise planting first. Participants were provided with six priority locations these included:

- Streets with less than 20% canopy cover
- Locations of trees in poor health
- Areas potentially facing urban heat island effects
- Areas for habitat linkages/wildlife corridors
- Roundabouts and traffic islands
- Activity Centres and shopping precincts

Figure 2 below shows the results for 90 of the survey participants. The 90 respondents chose streets with less than 20% canopy cover as the location that needs to be prioritised first by Council. Areas for habitat linkages and wildlife corridors was ranked second and areas potentially facing urban heat island effects was ranked third.

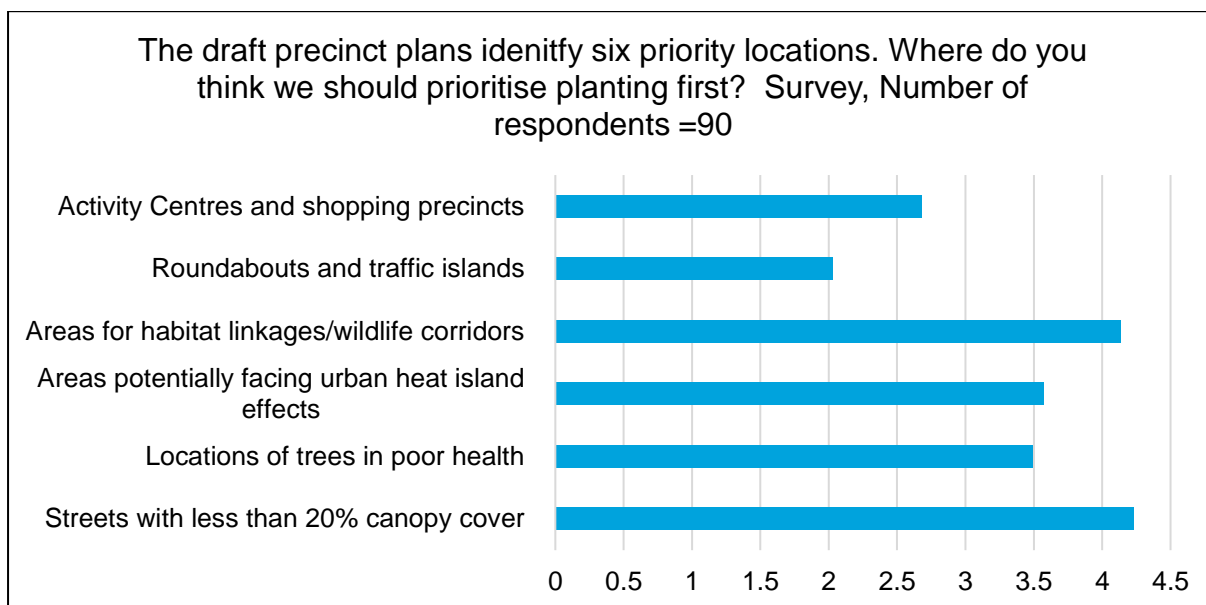


Figure 2 – Planting priority locations selected by survey participants.

*The responses provided to this question have been sorted by score. The score is the sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions.

Participants at the face to face engagement were also asked which locations they think Council should prioritise first. Participants were asked to place stickers next to the locations they think should be prioritised by Council. As shown in Table 6, respondents ranked streets with less than 20% tree canopy cover (78 votes) as the most important location for increased greening. Areas for habitat linkages and wildlife corridors was ranked second (73 votes) and areas potentially facing urban heat island effects was ranked third (62 votes). Roundabouts and traffic islands were ranked last with only 24 votes over the eight (8) pop-up events.

Table 6 – Planting priority locations selected by the pop-up event participants.

Priority Location	Total Count
Streets with less than 20% canopy cover	78
Locations of trees in poor health	58
Areas potentially facing urban heat island effects	62
Areas for habitat linkages/wildlife corridors	73
Roundabouts and traffic islands	24
Activity Centres and shopping precincts	37

**This is the total count for all the pop-up events and for all of the suburbs.*

6.2 Theme 2: Species diversity and targets

The importance of having a diverse urban forest has been identified within the Precinct Plans. The following feedback focuses on the species targets that have been introduced to the Precinct Plans to guide future planting.

At the 15 August 2023 Council meeting, Council endorsed the Urban Forest Precinct Plans to commence community consultation, subject to the inclusion of a species planting target for each precinct.

The species targets were incorporated into the Precinct Plans prior to consultation to provide the community with the opportunity to comment on the suggested targets. The species planting targets were introduced into the online survey on 13 September and are identified below:

Suburb	% Indigenous	% Native	% Exotic
Beaumaris	80%	20%	0%
Black Rock	80%	20%	0%
Brighton	20%	5%	75%
Brighton East	30%	10%	60%
Cheltenham	80%	20%	0%
Hampton	80%	20%	0%
Hampton East	30%	10%	60%
Highett	30%	10%	60%
Sandringham	80%	20%	0%

Respondents were asked how they feel about the suggested species planting for each suburb overall. A total of 55 respondents provided a response to the species targets question. Figure 3 below shows that a significant proportion of survey participants (42% of the 55 respondents) oppose the inclusion of species targets. A number of participants (27% of the 55 respondents) support the targets, some are neutral (16% of the 55 respondents), and several participants (15% of the 55 respondents) were not sure about the targets.

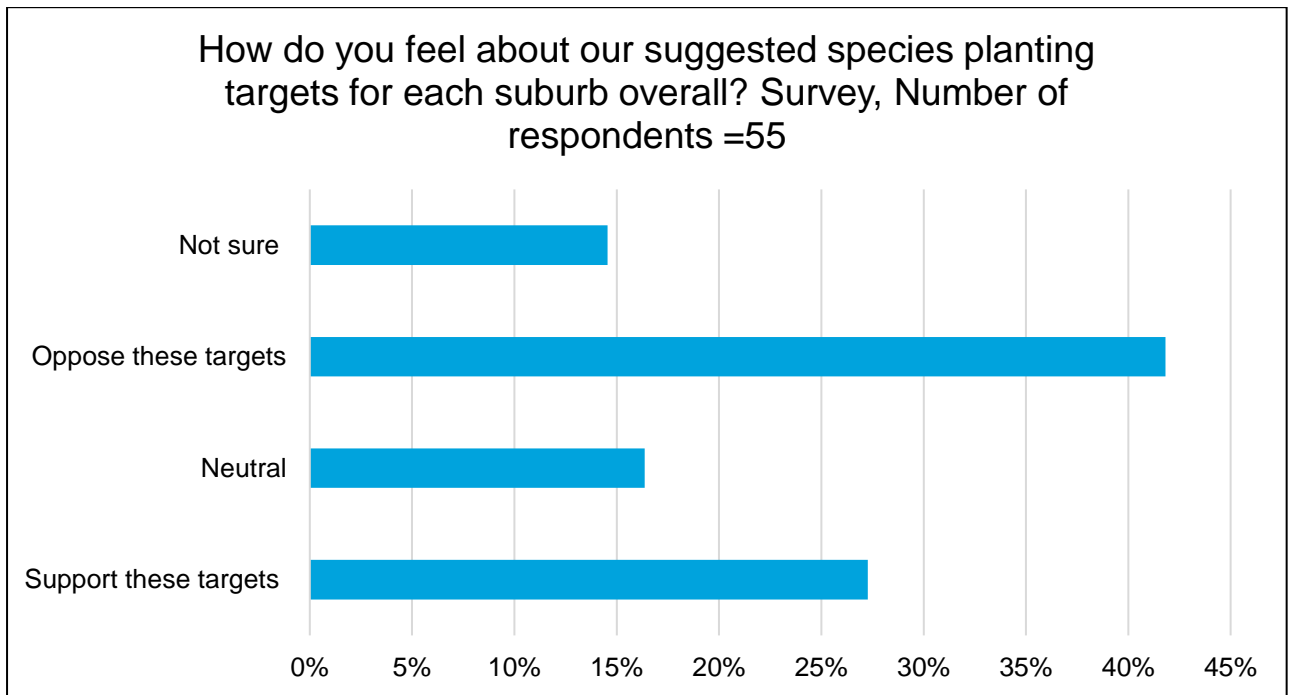


Figure 3 – How survey participants feel about the suggested species targets.

Following on from the previous question online survey participants were asked if they would like to suggest any changes to the species targets. A total of 53 participants provided a response to this question. Several participants (57% of the 53 respondents) wanted to suggest changes to the species targets, these suggestions have been provided in figure 5 to figure 13.

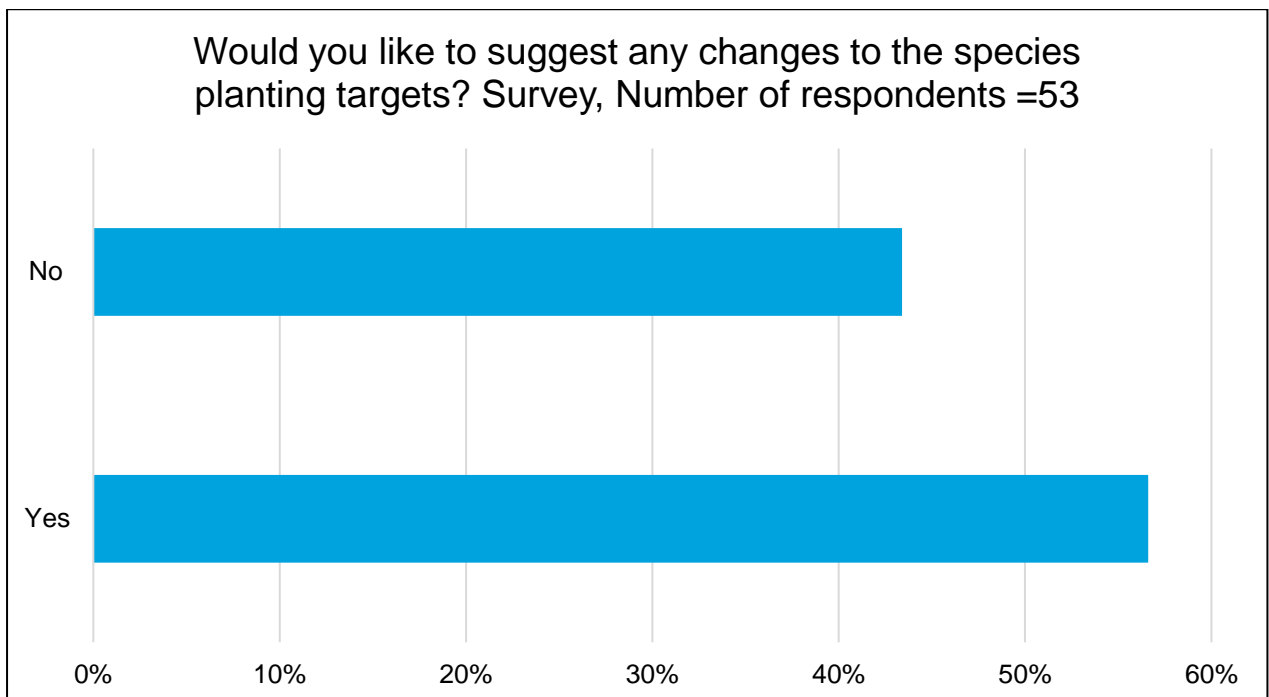


Figure 4 – Number of survey respondents that want to see changes to the species targets.

Online survey and Gala Day participants were asked to provide feedback for their preferred spread of indigenous, native, and exotic species percentage ratio. However, in Beaumaris and Black Rock, the data was slightly skewed as there were responses that did not add up to a full 100%. A chart showing the individual responses has been added for these suburbs.

All other suburbs had complete sets of data, therefore an average chart for all responses has been provided for Brighton, Brighton East, Cheltenham/Pennydale, Hampton, Hampton East, Highett, and Sandringham.

The average charts show the standard deviation to 95% (+ - 2 S.D.). The standard deviation provides a measure of how dispersed the data is in relation to the average or mean. Small standard deviation bars, clustered around the average, indicate small variations in the data. Longer bars shows that the data is more spread out.

6.2.1 Beaumaris

For Beaumaris there were 9 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 7 – Beaumaris species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
80%	20%	0%
Community response		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
49%	46%	N/A

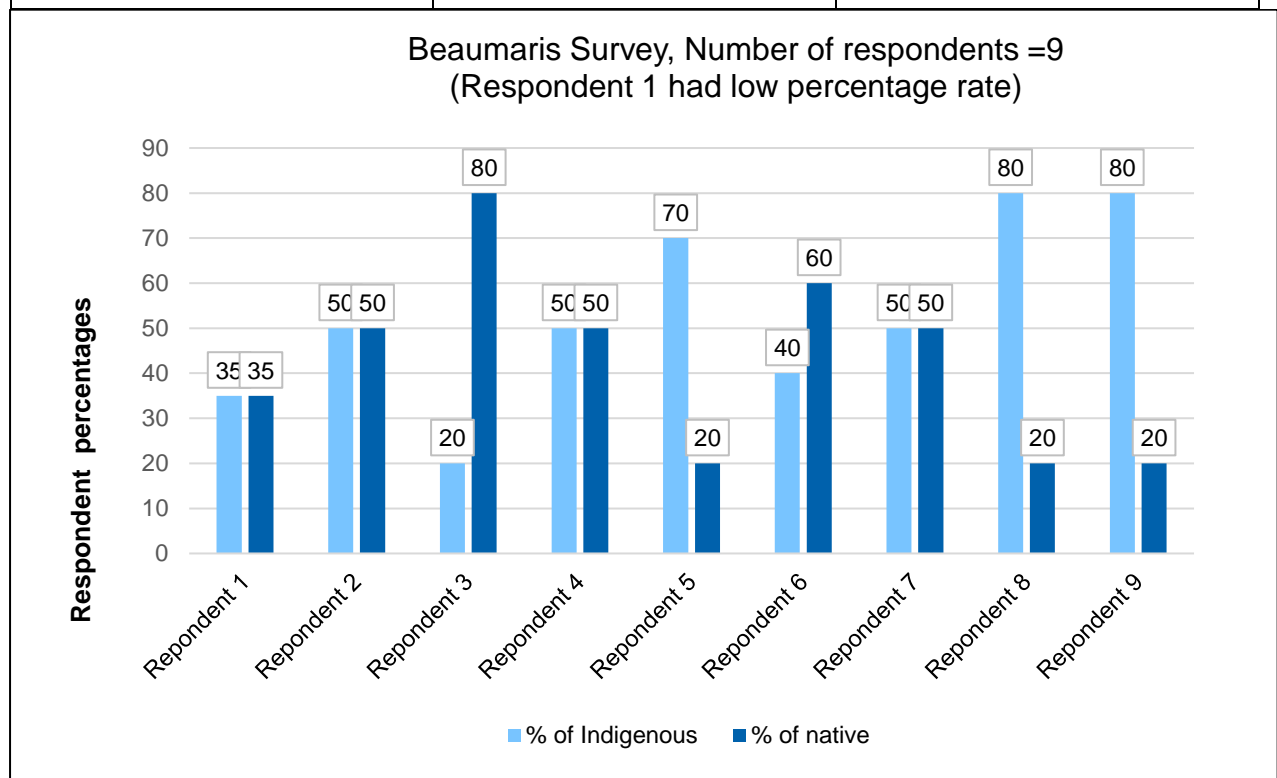


Figure 5 – Individual responses for Beaumaris showing where the average was slightly skewed by Respondent 1 providing incomplete data.

6.2.2 Black Rock

For Black Rock there were 9 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 8 – Black Rock species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
80%	20%	0%
Community response		
47%	38%	N/A

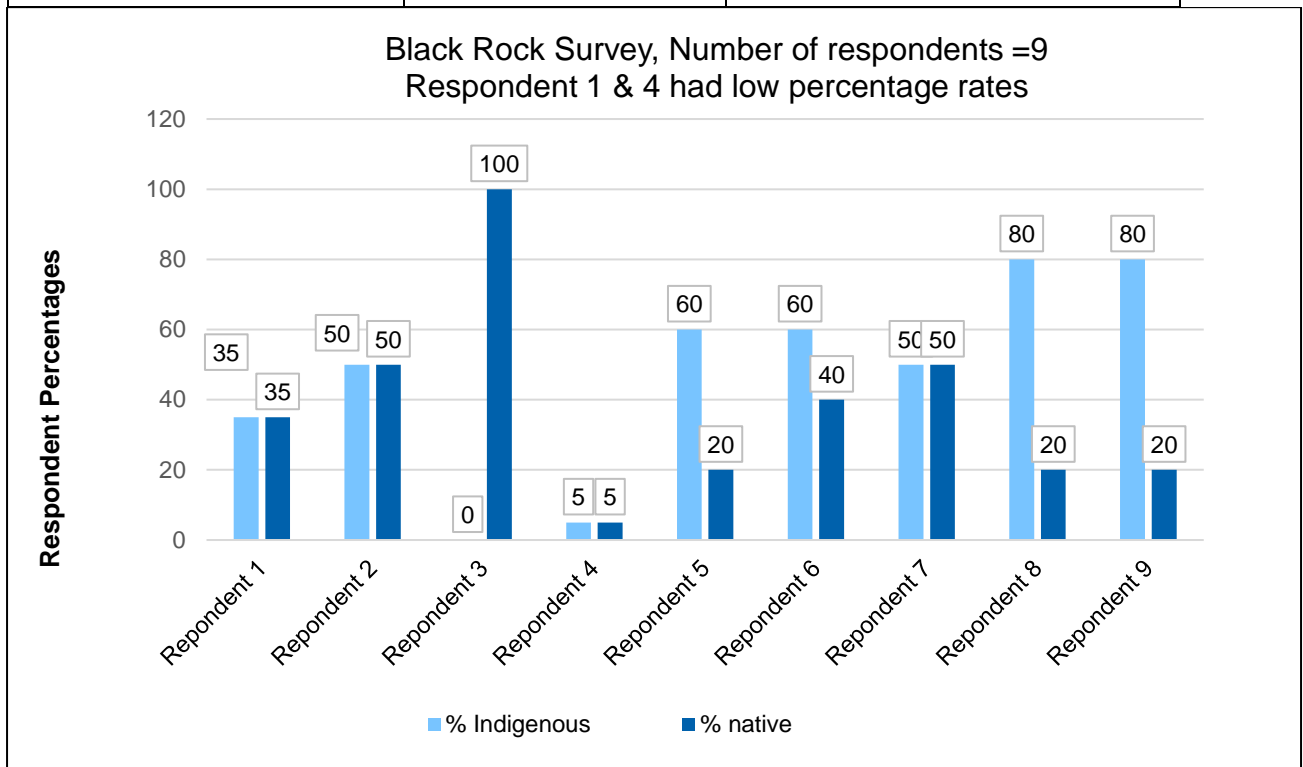


Figure 6 – Individual responses for Black Rock showing where the average was slightly skewed by Respondent 1 & 4 providing incomplete data.

6.2.3 Brighton

Brighton had 27 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 9 – Brighton species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
20%	5%	75%
Community response		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
61%	24%	14%

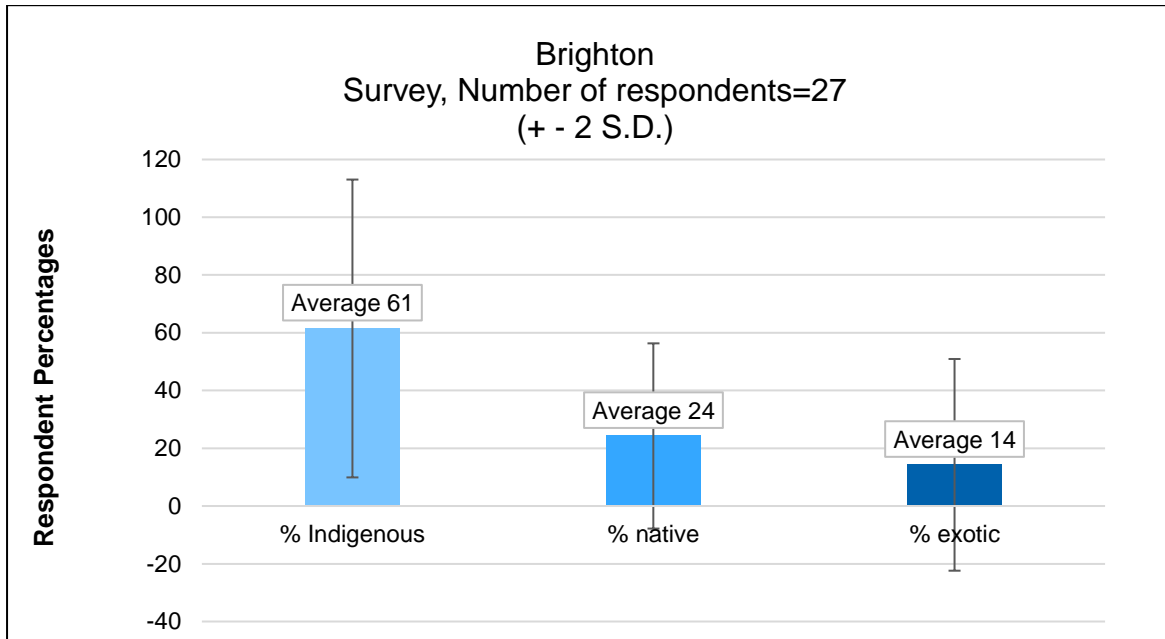


Figure 7 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Brighton

6.2.4 Brighton East

Brighton East had 23 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 10 – Brighton East species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
30%	10%	60%
Community Response		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
60%	26%	14%

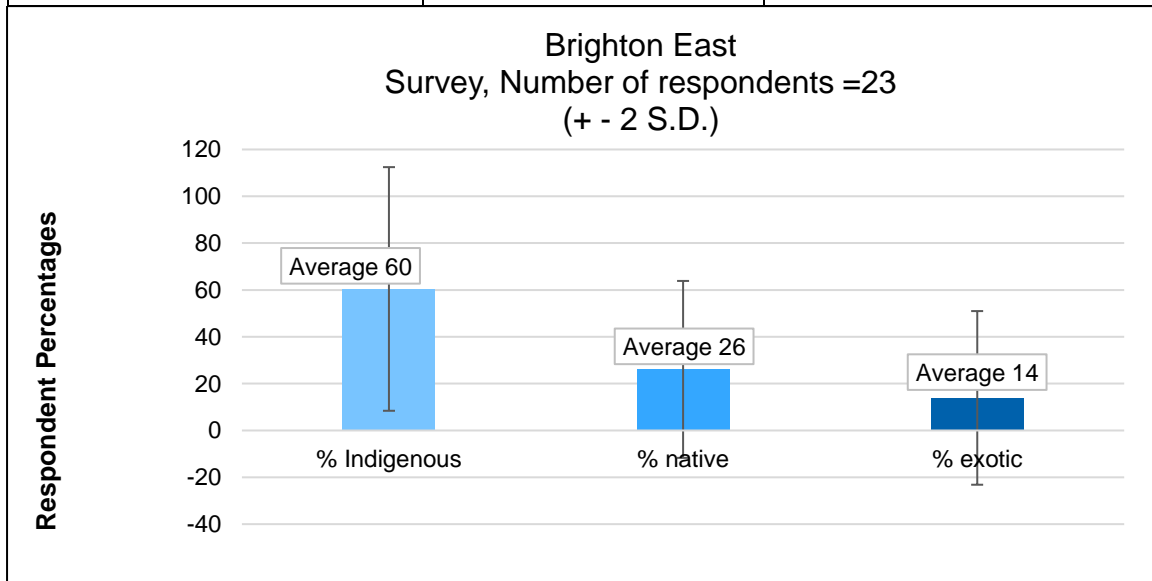


Figure 8 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Brighton East

6.2.5 Cheltenham (including Pennydale)

Cheltenham/Pennydale had 15 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 11 – Cheltenham/Pennydale species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
80%	20%	0%
Community Response		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
59%	29%	12%

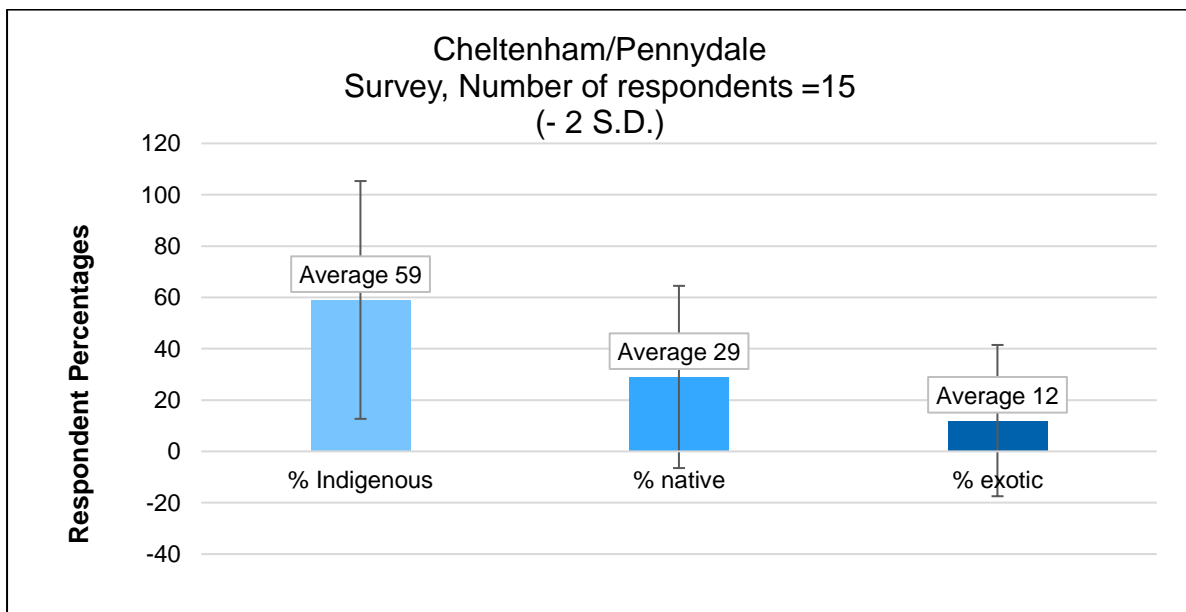


Figure 9 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Cheltenham/Pennydale

6.2.6 Hampton

Hampton had 15 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 12 – Hampton species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
80%	20%	0%
Community response		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
59%	29%	20%

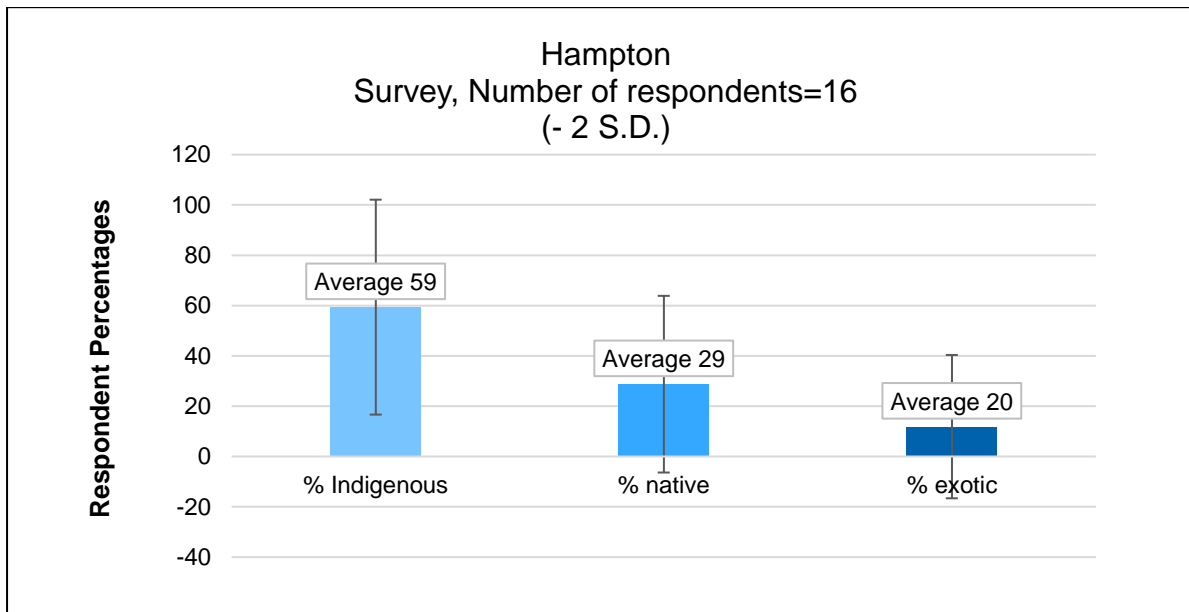


Figure 10 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Hampton

6.2.7 Hampton East

Hampton East had 23 responses to the planting target question, the results are outlined below.

Table 13 – Hampton East species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
30%	10%	60%
Community Response		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
64%	27%	10%

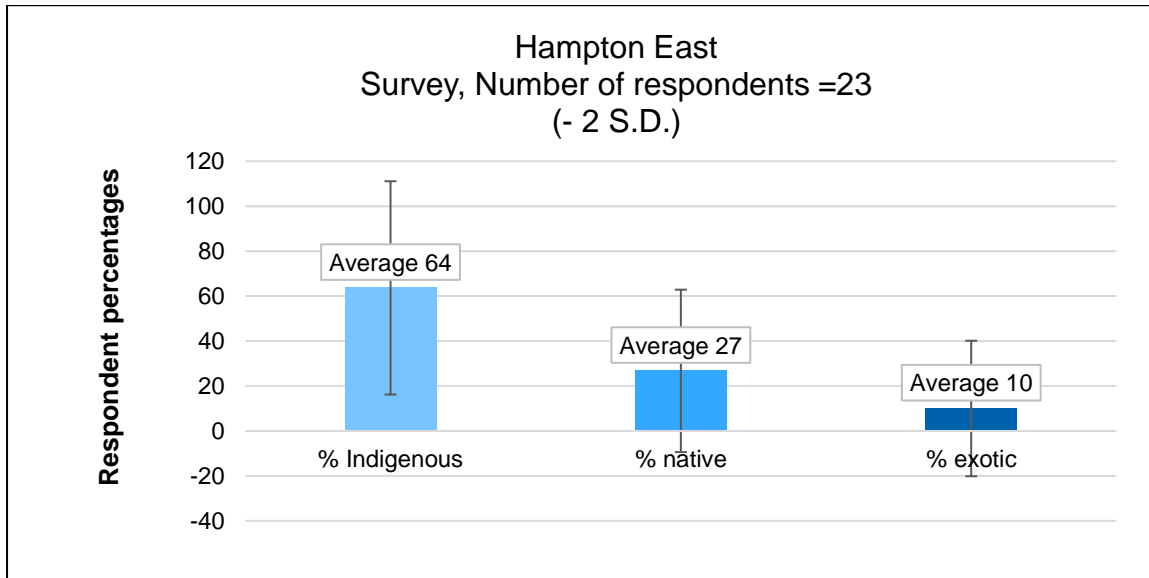


Figure 11 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Hampton East

6.2.8 Highett

Highett has 21 responses to the planting target question; the results are outlined below.

Table 14 – Highett species planting target

Propose		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
30%	10%	60%
Community responses		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
65%	25%	10%

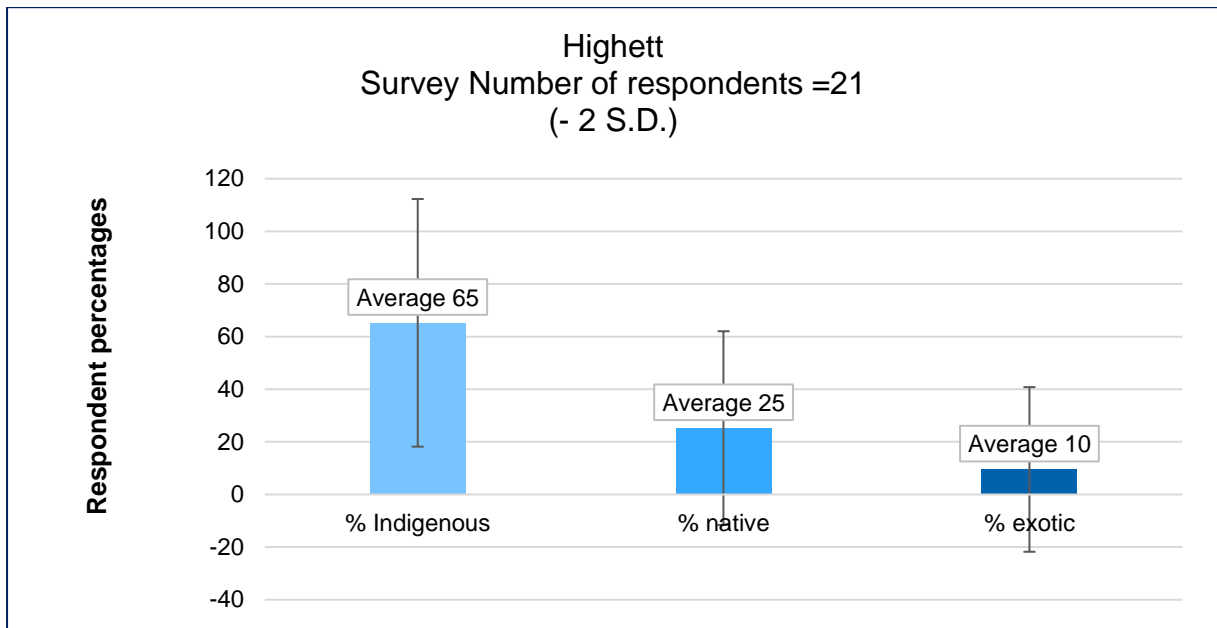


Figure 12 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Highett

6.2.9 Sandringham

Sandringham has 13 responses to the planting target question; the results are outlined below.

Table 15 Sandringham species planting targets

Proposed		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
80%	20%	0%
Community responses		
Indigenous	Native	Exotic
63%	27%	9%

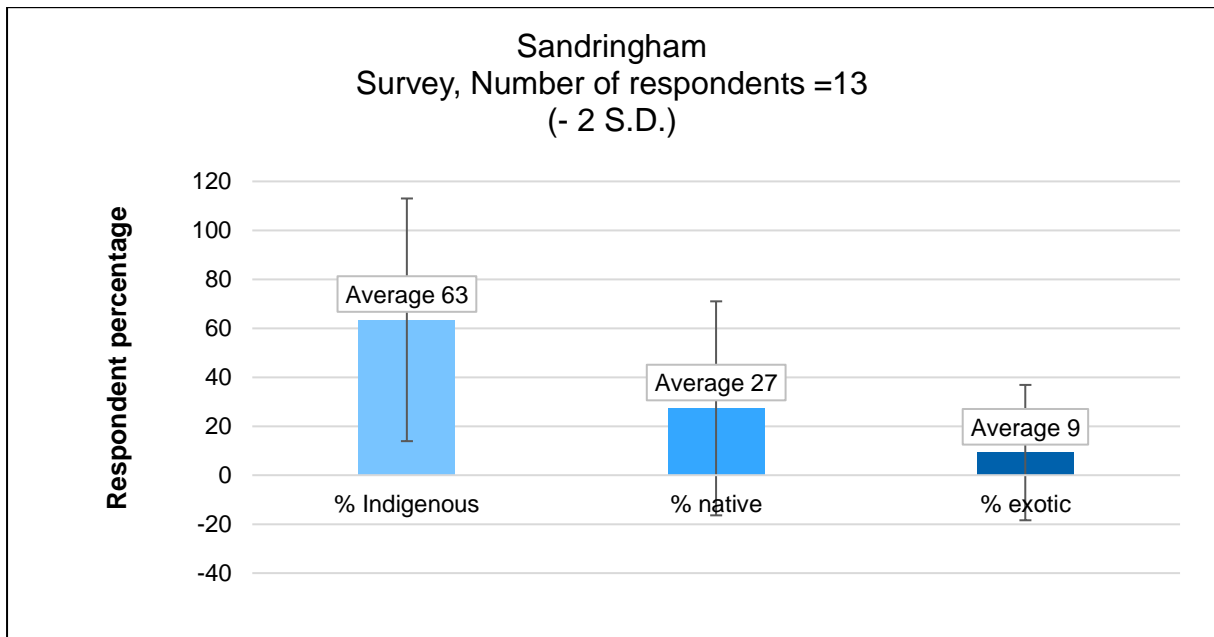


Figure 13 – Overall average of community engagement responses for Sandringham

The final face to face engagement was held at the Gala Day at the Bayside Community Nursery. It is noted that this engagement was undertaken at the community nursery that exclusively stocks indigenous plants. During this pop-up event participants were asked how they feel about the species planting targets for the individual suburbs.

Table 16 below shows that the participants (22 in total) strongly support the Beaumaris (15), Black Rock (16), Cheltenham (15), Hampton (11) and Sandringham (16) species targets. Several participants opposed the other suburbs species targets these were Brighton (12), Brighton East (13), Hampton East (13) and Highett (14).

Table 16 – Gala Day participants response to species planting targets.

Suburb	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Not sure
Beaumaris	15 (88%)		2 (12%)	
Black Rock	16 (84%)		3 (16%)	
Brighton	3 (17%)	3 (17%)	12 (66%)	
Brighton East	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	13 (72%)	1 (6%)
Cheltenham	15 (88%)		2 (12%)	
Hampton	11 (61%)	1 (6%)	6 (33%)	
Hampton East	1 (6%)	2 (13%)	13 (81%)	
Highett	1 (6%)	2 (12%)	14 (82%)	
Sandringham	16 (89%)		2 (11%)	

Survey participants were asked which types of vegetation they would like to see more of in their neighborhood. Respondents were provided with a list of indigenous, native, and exotic species to choose from, the responses have been provided in figure 14 below.

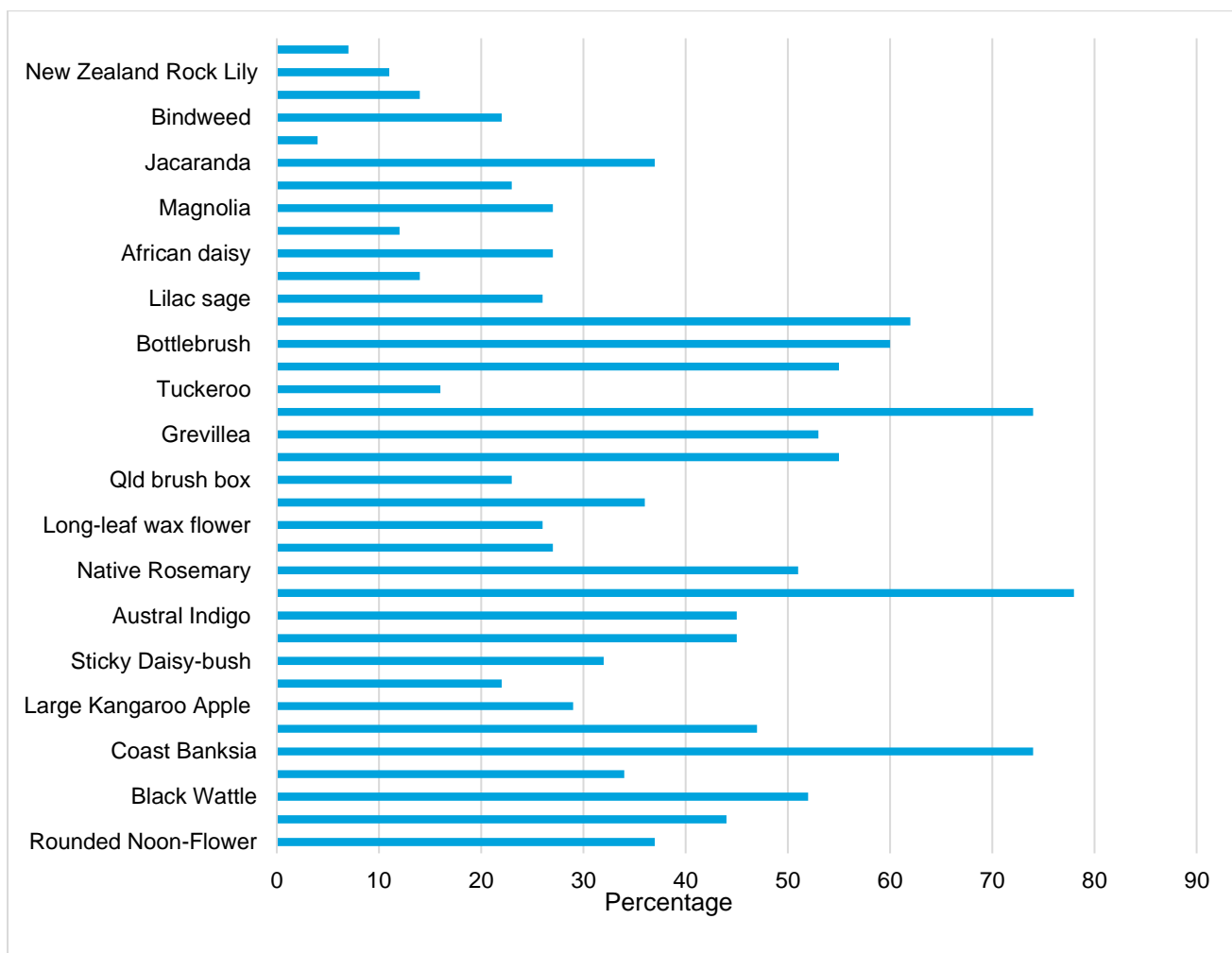


Figure 14 – Species selected by survey participants.

Further to this, participants were asked if there were any other species that they would like to see planted in their local area. These responses have been provided in table 17 below.

Table 17 – Top species selected by participants.

Indigenous	Number	Native	Number	Exotic	Number
Eucalyptus	12	Eucalyptus	7	Fruit tree	3
She oak	5	Native grasses	2	Elm trees	2
Wattle	5			Ornamental flowering tree	2
Banksia	3				

Online survey participants were asked if they prefer native, indigenous or exotic vegetation. A total of 102 participants provided a response to this question. Figure 15 below shows that participants prefer native vegetation with a score of 2.36, indigenous vegetation scored 2.21 making it the second preference and exotic vegetation was the last preference with a score of 1.17.

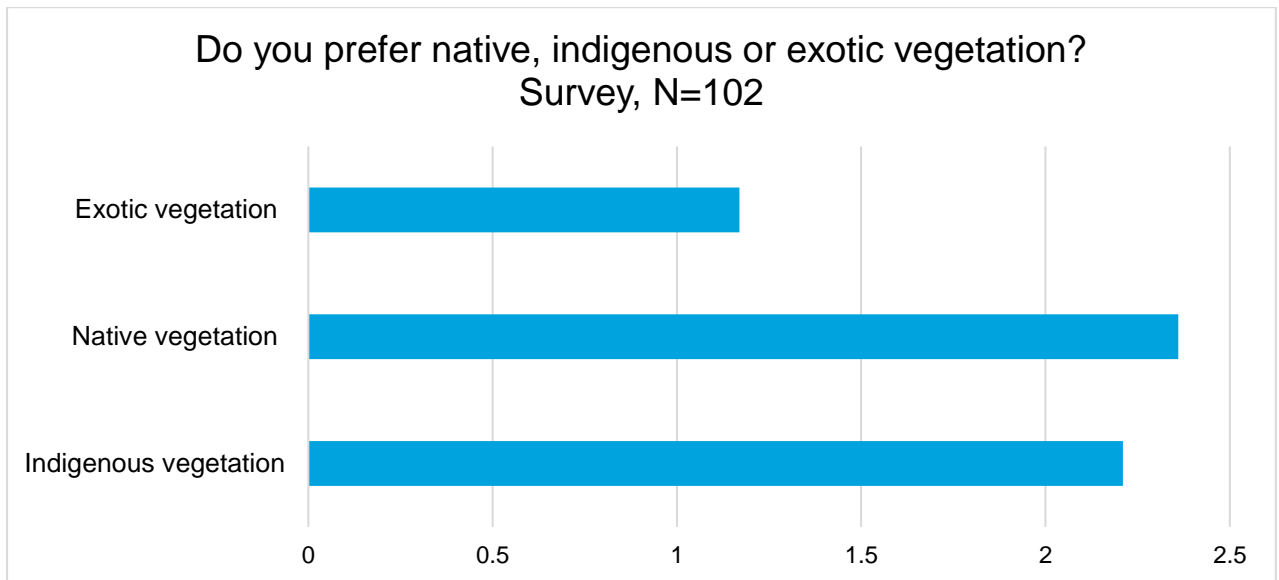


Figure 15 – Survey participants species preference

*The responses provided to this question have been sorted by score. The score is the sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions.

Survey participants were also asked when they think that it is appropriate to plant exotic vegetation. A total of 107 participants provided a response to this survey question. A significant proportion of participants (46% of the 107 respondents) stated that exotics should be planted to encourage species diversity and resilience. Several participants (36% of the 107 respondents) stated that exotics should not be planted in Bayside.

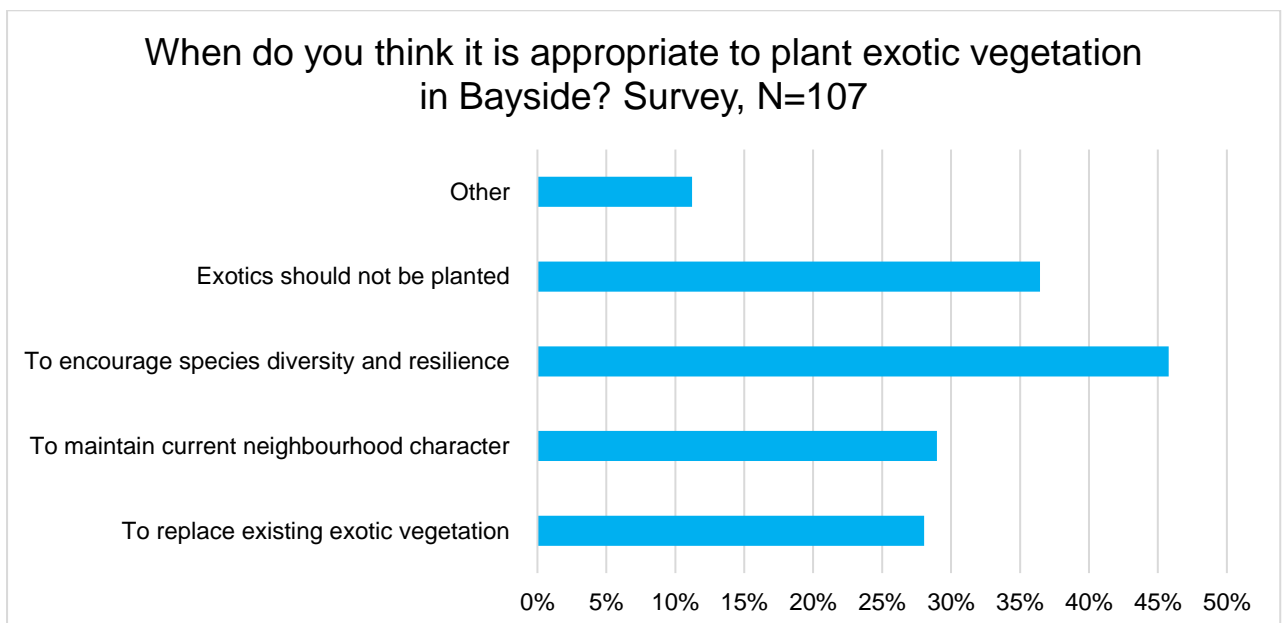


Figure 16 – Survey responses about planting exotic species in Bayside

Survey participants were able to provide further comment as to when they think it is appropriate to plant exotics. Table 18 below provides the other comments made by participants.

Table 18 – Survey responses about preferred locations to plant exotics.

When it is appropriate to plant exotics	Mentions
Gum trees provide less canopy than some exotics	1
Appropriate locations e.g. palm trees along the foreshore	1
Only if it is required	1
To replace existing undesirable vegetation	1
Where deciduous trees are required	1
It is never appropriate	1
Only when they will flourish and need limited care	1

Face to face engagement participants were asked to vote on what plant species they would like to see in their neighbourhood. Participants did this by placing stickers on their favourite species, the highest count was for indigenous species (593 dots) then native (417) and exotics (250).

The top 3 indigenous plants voted on by face to face participants were:

- Black Wattle (75 votes)
- Austral Indigo (70 votes)
- Ivy Leaf (59 votes)

The top 3 native plants voted on by face to face participants were:

- Eucalyptus (81 votes)
- Grevillea (51 votes)
- Native Daisy (49 votes)

The top 3 exotic plants voted on by face to face participants were:

- African Daisy (37 votes)
- Red Hot Poker (34 votes)
- Magnolia and Lilac Sage (29 votes each)

Table 7 – Pop-up event participants favourite species for all suburbs

**This is the total count for all the pop-up events and for all of the suburbs*

	Indigenous plants	Native plants	Exotic plants
Total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austral indigo: 70 • Blackwood: 25 • Yarra Burgan: 36 • Large Coast Banksia: 51 • Silver Banksia: 60 • Rounded Noon flower: 44 • Black Wattle: 75 • Ivy leaf: 59 • Snow gum: 47 • Tree everlasting: 30 • Sticky Daisy bush: 44 • Large kangaroo apple: 52 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native Rosemary: 28 • Water Gum: 25 • Long-leaf wax flower: 24 • Grevillea: 51 • White Cedar: 18 • Tuckeroo: 24 • Kurrajong: 18 • Native daisy: 49 • Bottlebrush: 35 • Eucalyptus: 81 • Grevillea cultivar: 46 • Qld brush box: 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Rock Lily: 13 • Elephant ears: 17 • Camellia: 22 • Diosma: 12 • Bindweed: 10 • Jacaranda: 21 • Red hot poker: 34 • Magnolia: 29 • African daisy: 37 • Photinia: 8 • Indian hawthorn: 18 • Lilac sage: 29

During the engagement period, Council officers presented to the Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group to discuss the consultation and receive feedback on any issues surrounding specific species. Feedback from the group included (paraphrased comments):

- Trees with dropping seeds can be dangerous as they create tripping hazards.
- Has Council produced a list of those trees that are likely to survive increases in temperature?
- Will the species palette include gum trees?

6.3 Theme 3: General feedback

Online survey participants were asked what their favourite feature of the urban forest in their neighbourhood is. As shown in table 21 below participants favourite feature is that it provides habitat for wildlife (20 mentions) and shade (12 mentions). The participants favourite urban forest locations are parks and reserves (12 mentions) and streetscapes (10 mentions).

Table 8 – Survey response to favourite feature of the urban forest in their neighbourhood (99 respondents)

Favourite feature of the urban forest	Mentions
Shade provided from canopy	12
Well maintained streetscapes	10
Parks and reserves	12
Foreshore reserves and vegetation	8
Diversity of trees species	6
Indigenous and native vegetation	10
Exotic vegetation	4
Leafy green character/aesthetics	6
Habitat for wildlife	20
Mature trees	5
Private gardens	2
Integration of greenery within community facilities	1
There is a strategy to increase and protect the urban forest	2
Urban forest needs to be improved	4
I do not like the urban forest	8
Sandringham Youth Centre	6

The following locations were mentioned by multiple participants as their favourite locations within their neighbourhoods. These were:

- Thomas Street Reserve – 3 mentions
- Ricketts Point – 2 mentions
- Yalukit Willam Reserve – 2 mentions

Online survey participants were asked how they feel about the individual Precinct Plans overall. Responses to these questions have been provided in figure 17 to figure 24 below.

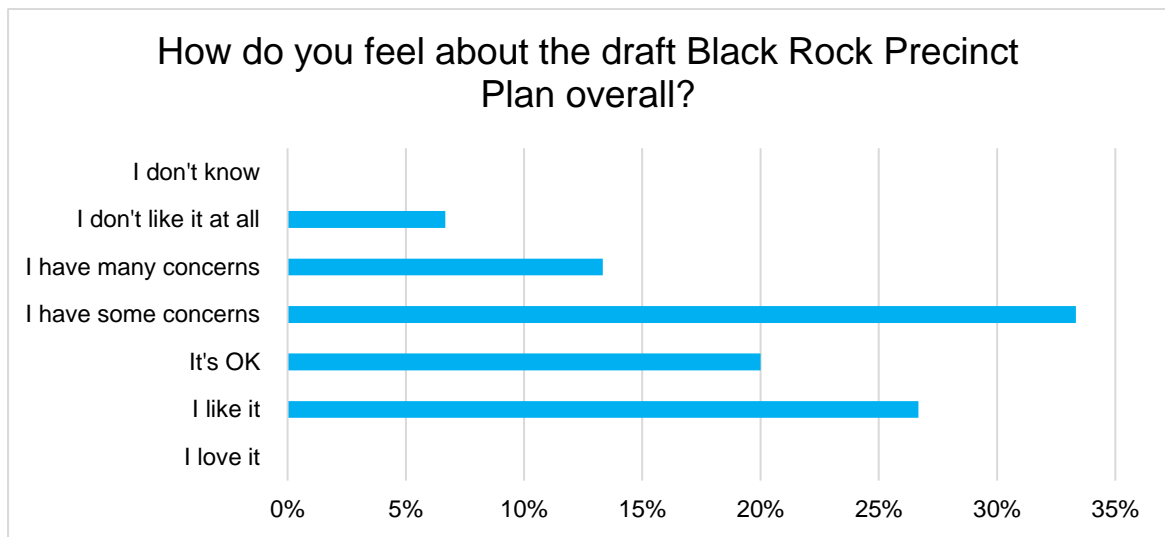


Figure 17– How respondents felt about the Black Rock precinct plans overall

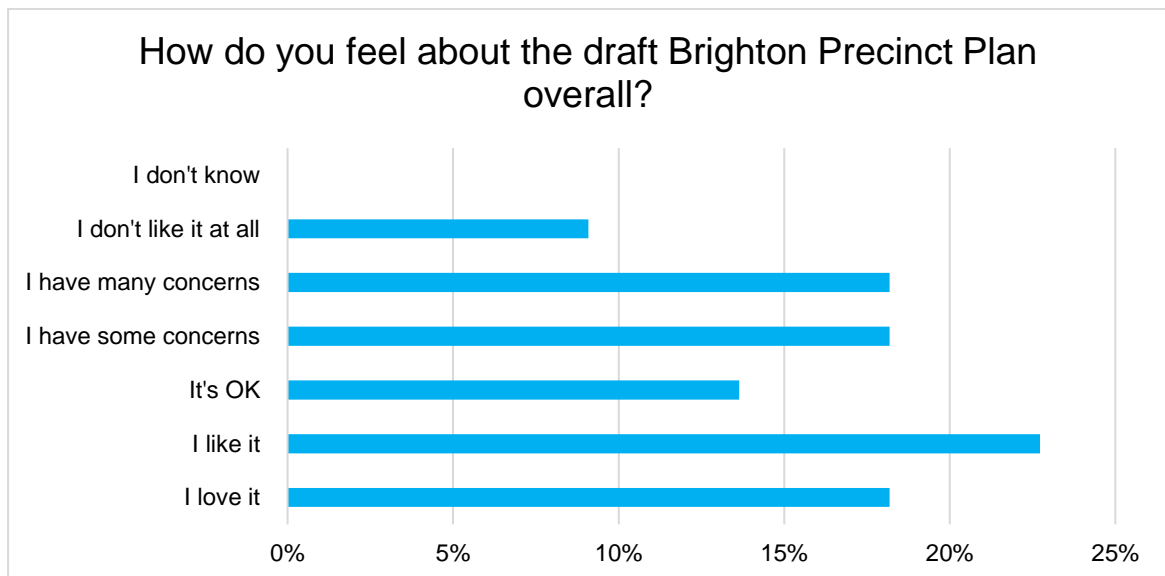


Figure 18 – How respondents felt about the Brighton precinct plans overall

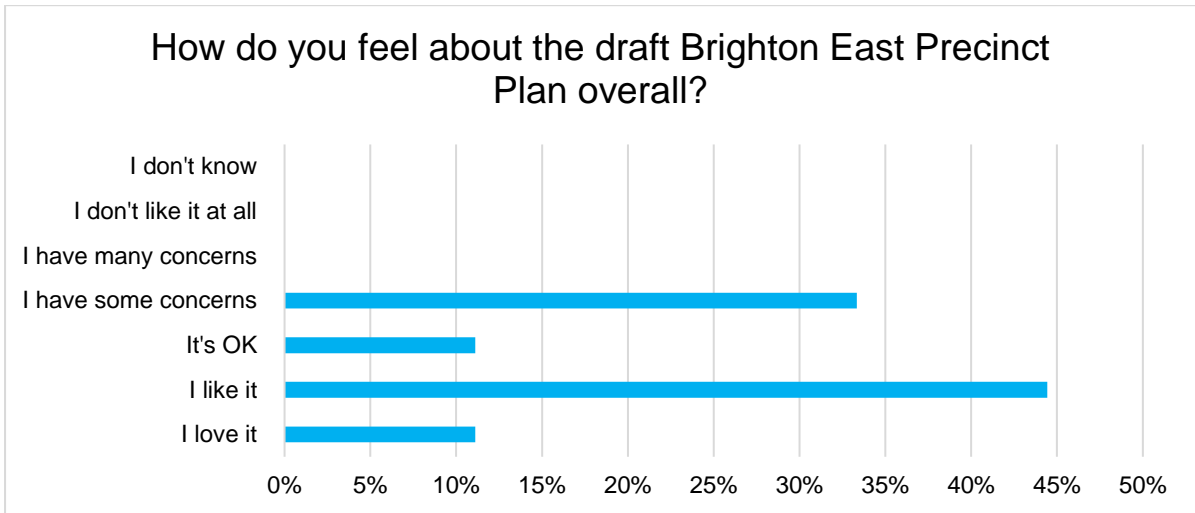


Figure 19 – How respondents felt about the Brighton East precinct plans overall

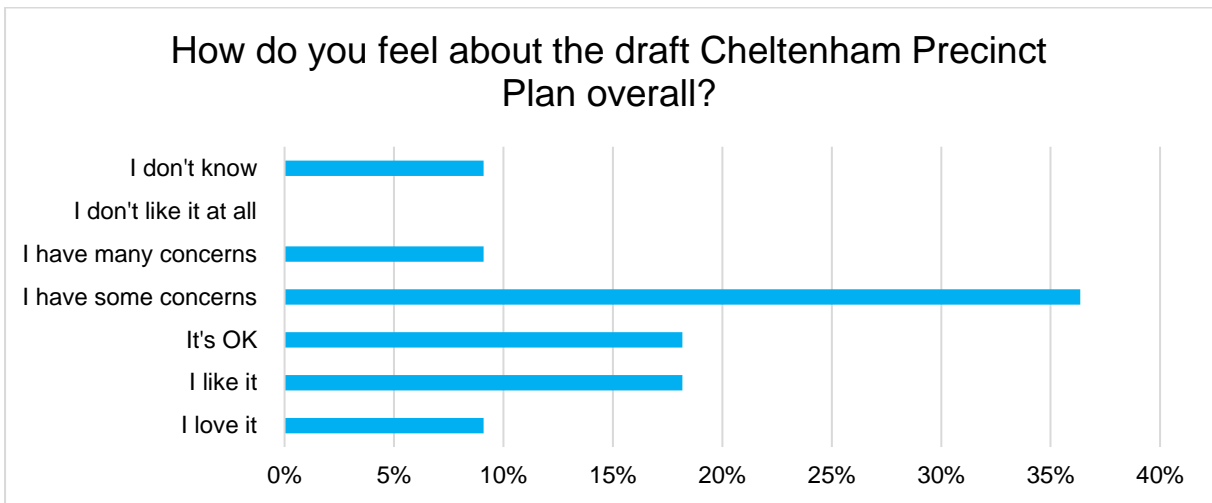


Figure 20 – How respondents felt about the Cheltenham/Pennydale precinct plans overall

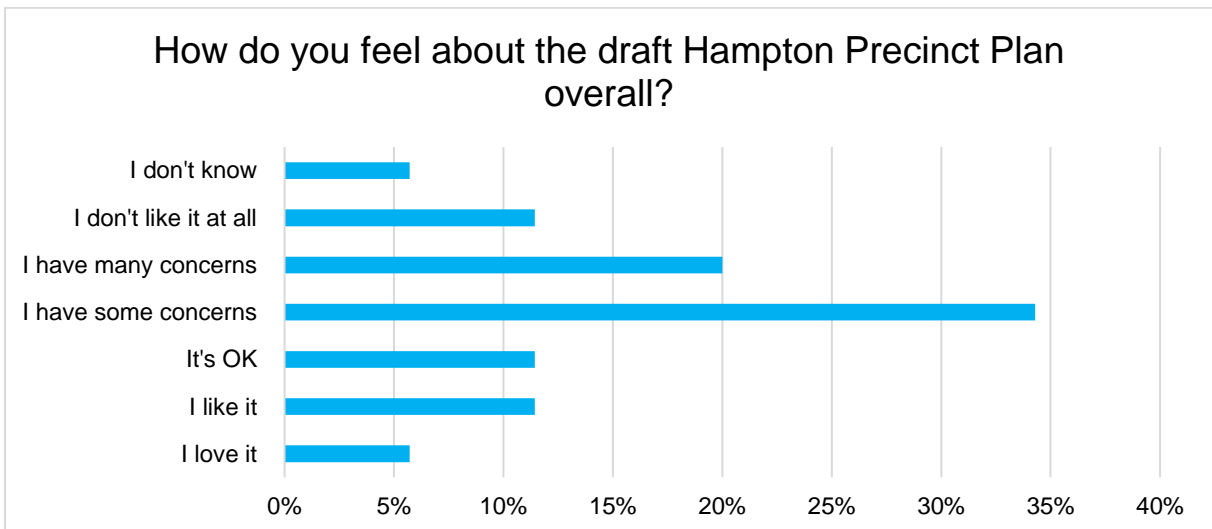


Figure 21 – How respondents felt about the Hampton East precinct plans overall

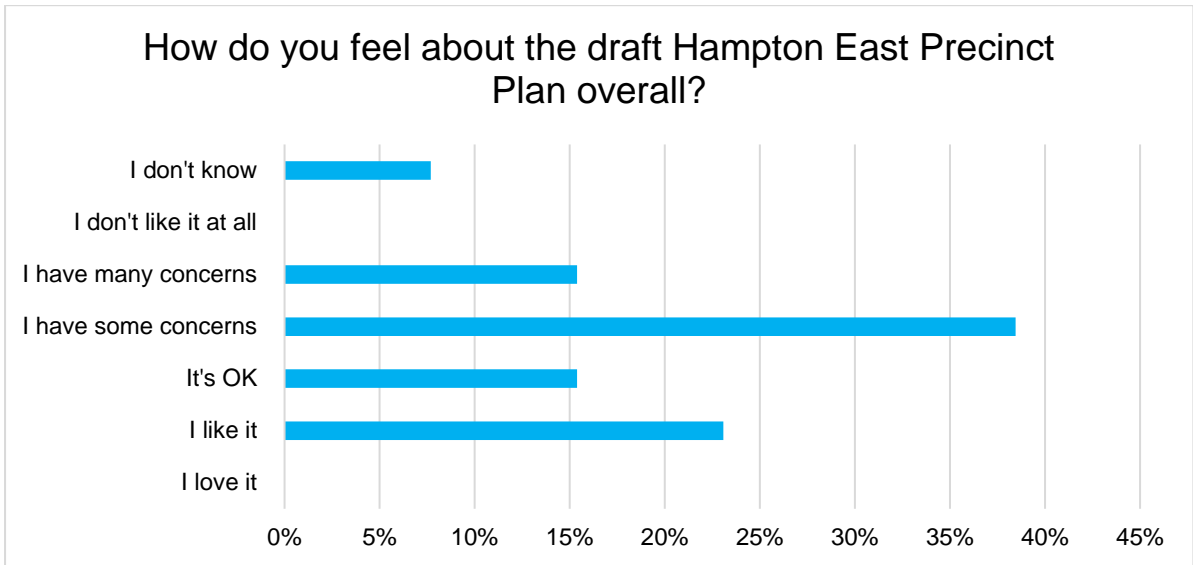


Figure 22 – How respondents felt about the Hampton East precinct plans overall

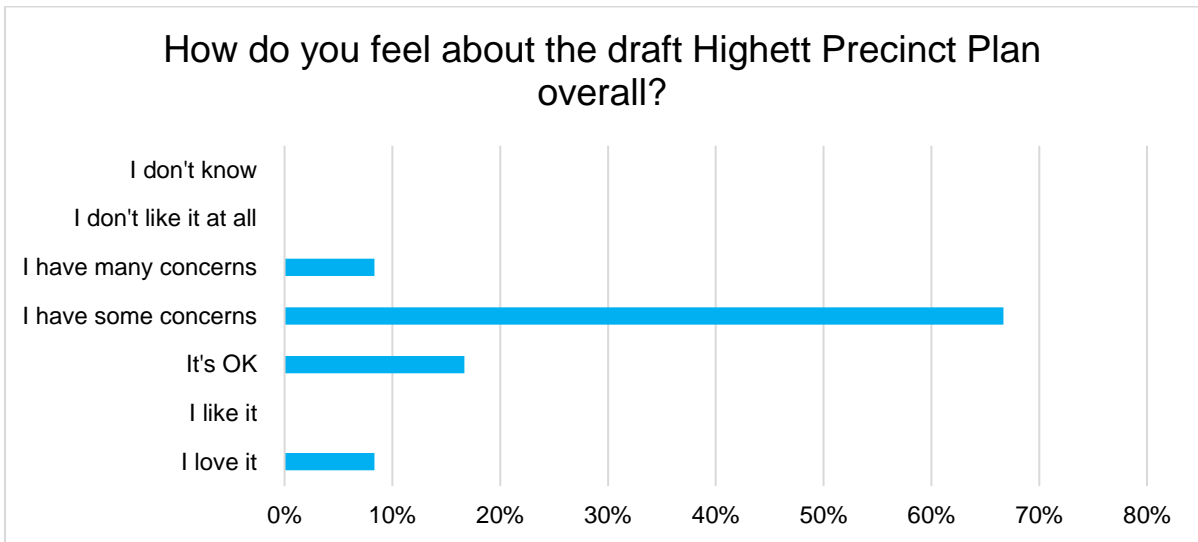


Figure 23 – How respondents felt about the Highett precinct plans overall

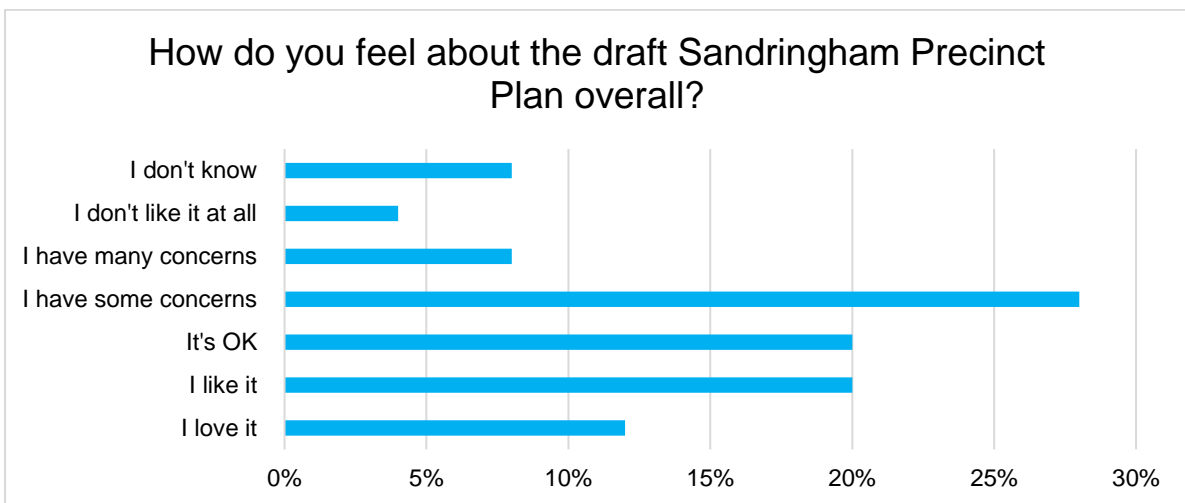


Figure 24 – How respondents felt about the Sandringham precinct plans overall

Online survey participants were asked how they felt about the plan overall. Table 22 below shows that a number of participants were concerned about the possible demolition of the Sandringham Youth Centre (22 mentions). Council's Open Space & Recreation Department is commencing a review of Bayside's Recreation Strategy, which sets the strategic direction for our recreation facilities in Bayside. There is currently no proposal to demolish any buildings or change the land use at the Thomas Street site.

A proportion of the respondents (15 mentions) commented on the need to increase planting of indigenous and native species. In particular respondents wanted to see an increase in these species to improve habitat and combat climate change (13 mentions). Respondents were also concerned about the removal of existing vegetation at development sites (10 mentions).

Table 9 – Main concerns expressed by survey respondents

Key Concern	Mentions
Concerned about the possible demolition of the Sandringham Youth Centre (Thomas St).	22
Comments for increased native and indigenous planting	15
Comments to plant more native and indigenous trees to improve habitat and combat climate change	13
Comments to plant more trees and vegetation to increase canopy and provide shade – no specific species mentioned.	13
Comments expressing concern for the non-protection and removal of existing native trees and vegetation at development sites.	10
Overall support for the Precinct Plans	6
Commented that more planting is required for identified urban heat areas	5
Comment about trees and infrastructure damage, including trees causing safety issues	4
Plant exotic trees	4
Comment to encourage more nature strip planting	3
Comments regarding planting to accommodate powerlines, above and below ground.	3
Comments to encourage green roofs for development sites.	1
Comment to plant trees to maintain neighbourhood character	1
Comments to plant more trees and vegetation and provide permeable surfaces	1
Comments to provide an educational program to encourage more planting on private land, including integrated water harvesting strategies	1
Comment that Eucalypts should not be planted near roads.	1

Comments about trees shading solar panels.	1
Expressed interest in joining friends' groups	1
Comment about dog owners not cleaning up droppings along foreshore	1

During the face-to-face engagement sessions participants were asked what they love about the urban forest in their neighbourhood. Participants provided the following responses on leaf shaped notes which were then stapled to a tree board:

- Native birds
- Support native flora/fauna.
- Birds, peace, and fresh air
- Oxygen
- Positive impact on climate
- Wildlife in parks
- Playgrounds
- Magnolia flower
- Sporting facilities
- Natural surrounding
- Shade
- Texture to the parks

Participants were also asked how Council could improve their neighbourhood's urban forest. The responses to this question were:

- Exotics bring in disease that affects native plants.
- Needs coastal feel – palm trees in Hampton.
- Development leads to removal of trees
- Fewer exotics in targets
- Less development that reduces garden size
- Dendy Park (west side) more trees
- Indigenous are strong but want colour.
- General increase in indigenous

Participants at the pop-up events were able to provide written feedback through a feedback box and general feedback was also recorded by Council officers at the sessions. Table 23 below shows the feedback that was provided during the face to face sessions.

Table 10 – Written feedback and general feedback recorded by Council officers at engagement sessions.

Feedback Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of nature strips/verges • Planting at Netball Centre (Hampton) – groundcover along athletic field • Hampton Activity Centre – keep large gum canopy tree/put more large established trees for shade. • Eco labels to let us know what the trees are particularly the new little trees. • Love Elm trees – any trees that attract wildlife/birds. • Trees/shrubs that attract native birds to lessen Indian Myna population. • More lemon scented gums/more fruit trees • The more the better • Increase understorey/groundcover planting. • No exotics for Bayside
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brighton – like the low natives along the foreshore preventing erosion • Plant canopy on the non-power pole side • Preserve Red Bluff/Half Moon Bay Aboriginal Wells • Stricter planning controls to protect private vegetation • Remove powerlines to increase trees • Beaumaris Concourse – use trees as shade • Planning permit process to remove dangerous trees -lengthy/complex • Infrastructure damage from trees • Want more fruit trees • High cost to remove tree • Dendy Park – more trees along west path/near drainage pit • Trees with deep roots to avoid footpaths cracking • Allergies to trees (need fewer wattles/grevillea) • More large canopy trees • VPO (to restrictive/prescriptive/need more variety) • Black Rock – no flowering gums with dropping gum nuts • No gumnuts – dangerous for older people • Plant trees that are not too high as they block views • Put larger trees on streets that do not have powerlines
General Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want more native frangipani • Support indigenous/native, no to exotics/invasive • Trees with shade • No gum nuts – dangerous for older people • Need to focus on the longevity of trees • Don't want trees planted that have falling leaves • Increase vegetation in Simpson Reserve • Packs for residents from the nursery to encourage planting on private property • Start a Friends of Bayside Tree Group • Increase planting on Fewster Road and at Burrows St Park

During the engagement period, Council officers presented to the Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group and the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee. General comments from these meetings included (paraphrased comments):

- Pruning of trees to accommodate powerlines is not undertaken properly.
- Consideration where increases in tree canopy cover impact the shading of solar panels.
- Increases in tree planting will have an impact on the water table.
- Ensure accessibility is always considered when planting new trees.
- Rubberised footpaths to cover cracked footpaths still cause accidents.

Council received 12 submissions from 7 submitters over the seven week consultation period. These written submissions have been summarised and responses have been provided in table 24 below.

Table 24 – Summary of written submissions and Council response

Submitter Number and Suburbs Referenced	Summary of Submission	Council Response
<p>Submitter 1</p> <p>Feedback for all suburbs</p>	<p>The target of 30% canopy cover is not enough.</p> <p>New developments are not considerate of trees and neighbours.</p> <p>Need to educate and encourage the community to plant more trees on private property.</p>	<p>The target of 30% was decided upon through a combination of community and Councillor engagement, whilst also in consideration and alignment with the Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest which sets out regional targets for tree and vegetation canopy cover to be reached by 2030, 2040 and 2050.</p> <p>Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest was prepared by Resilient Melbourne and The Nature Conservancy and has been endorsed by Bayside City Council alongside many other Victorian Councils, State government and authorities.</p> <p>The revised Bayside Landscape Guidelines will provide further guidance on species selection, sizes and trees suitable for private property. The changes to the guidelines will require new development to provide increases to the number of canopy trees and high-quality landscape outcomes.</p> <p>A key action of the Precinct Plans is to increase awareness amongst the community around the importance of vegetation through various programs and communication material. The species palette will help guide and inform the community on what species will be appropriate to plant on private properties.</p>
<p>Submitter 2</p> <p>Hampton and Sandringham</p>	<p>Review indigenous species palette to ensure plants are available.</p> <p>South Road – who takes responsibility for planting? Council should be increasing vegetation cover along this road.</p> <p>Support mix of native (20%) and indigenous (80%) species targets in Hampton but states there are grounds for retaining occasional exotic plantings (heritage/habitat value)</p>	<p>Council will amend the species palette to remove the indigenous species from the native species list and will review the availability of the indigenous species. Council will also update the Hampton case studies and amend Sandringham map numbers.</p> <p>South Road is a state-owned road. A key action of the Precinct Plans is to advocate to VicRoads and other relevant authorities for increased planting.</p> <p>Support for the species mix in Hampton is noted, however the overall consensus from engagement participants was to not include the species target and it has therefore been removed from the final Precinct Plans.</p>

	<p>Work with Sandringham College to improve planting on the site.</p> <p><i>Changes requested:</i> Remove list of specific indigenous plants from the native list</p> <p>Bolton Avenue – need to update case study in the Hampton Precinct Plan</p> <p>Sandringham – map numbers incorrect</p> <p>Update EVC wording in the Sandringham Precinct Plan</p>	<p>Educational land has been identified in the Precinct Plans as a key opportunity for increased planting. Council will work with other State Government departments and with private owners to increase vegetation cover on educational land.</p>
<p>Submitter 3</p> <p>Feedback for all suburbs</p>	<p>Review species palette to align with the availability of indigenous plants at local nurseries.</p> <p>There is an opportunity here to reconsider the landscape plans accepted for new developments.</p> <p><i>Changes requested:</i> Refine the species palette to take into consideration the supply of the indigenous plants listed.</p>	<p>The species palette has been amended to align with the availability of these plants and to provide greater detail of the characteristics of the plant species.</p> <p>The revised Landscape Guidelines will provide further guidance on species selection, sizes and trees suitable for private property. The changes to the guidelines will require new development to provide increases to the number of canopy trees and high-quality landscape outcomes.</p>

<p>Submitter 4</p> <p>Highett</p>	<p>Support the Urban Forest Precinct Plans.</p> <p>Highett Grassy Woodland is worthy of PCRZ zoning to ensure its preservation.</p> <p>The 1ha of public open space on the CSIRO site has not been identified as a core habitat patch.</p> <p>Planting nature strips along Highett Grove could create a useful linkage between Highett Grassy Woodland and Lyle Anderson Reserve.</p> <p>Encourage residents to plant indigenous plants in back yards adjacent to the woodland to minimise weedy invaders.</p>	<p>Amendment C199bays seeks to rezone Highett Grassy Woodland from Residential Growth Zone Schedule 3 to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). This action was identified in Bayside’s Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>The public open space that is a part of the CSIRO site has been identified as key opportunity within the Highett Precinct Plan (Page 46).</p> <p>An action of the Precinct Plans is to encourage private landowners to plant vegetation on private property and on nature strips and provide support and tools to assist.</p> <p>A key action of the Precinct Plans is to increase awareness amongst the community around the importance of vegetation through various programs and communication material. The species palette will help guide and inform the community on what species will be appropriate to plant on private properties.</p>
<p>Submitter 5</p> <p>Cheltenham (specifically Pennydale)</p>	<p>Existing canopy trees in Pennydale are not protected within the planning scheme.</p> <p>Existing canopy is lower than what is presented due to the Cheltenham Level Crossing Removal works.</p> <p>Suburban Rail Loop will have a drastic impact on Pennydale.</p> <p>Regulations surrounding the Significant Tree Register must be loosened to allow for more trees to be nominated.</p> <p>Palm Trees must be added to the Bayside list of what are considered to be trees.</p> <p>Council needs to ensure replacement plantings in developments are followed up on.</p> <p>Common for developers to moonscape an entire property</p> <p>Council must increase plantings in streetscapes and parks.</p>	<p>The Suburban Rail Loop and Level Crossing Removal have been identified in the Cheltenham Precinct Plan as key opportunities for increased planting. Council is working with relevant authorities to ensure high-quality landscape outcomes are provided during and after the delivery of the infrastructure.</p> <p>An action of the Urban Forest Strategy is to review the Significant Tree Register, this work is proposed to commence in 2024/2025.</p> <p>The revised Landscape Guidelines will provide further guidance on species selection, sizes and trees suitable for private property. The changes to the guidelines will require new development to provide increases to the number of canopy trees and high-quality landscape outcomes. Council currently audits replacement plantings every 2nd and 5th year for landscape plans, VPO and local law tree removals.</p> <p>Council has already increased the number of plantings in parks and streetscapes. Throughout 2022/23, Council planted 2,847 trees across public parks and within road reserves.</p> <p>An action of the Precinct Plans is to encourage private landowners to plant vegetation on private properties and on nature strips and provide support and tools to assist.</p>

	<p>Need to increase nature strip planting.</p> <p>Work with Kingston to improve the canopy coverage in and around Southland and its surrounds.</p>	
<p>Submitter 6</p> <p>Brighton East</p>	<p>Species palette for Brighton East includes coastal species.</p> <p>Concerned the main performance criteria is the number of plants planted instead of the survival of the plants.</p> <p>Greater importance should be given to Nepean Highway as a linkage.</p> <p>Is Council actively investigating trees for inclusion on the Significant Tree Register?</p> <p><i>Changes requested:</i></p> <p>Wrong Biodiversity Score map used.</p> <p>Golf course needs to be listed as a core habitat patch in Brighton East.</p>	<p>The species palette that sits in each Precinct Plan is the same for each suburb, but it provides details on which plants are suitable for certain locations. It is also noted that whilst coastal plants are most suitable to the coastal regions, they can still be planted and thrive in non-coastal areas.</p> <p>There is a 2 year maintenance program for Council-managed trees that focuses on the survival of the tree. This includes watering for 2 years and then a post-plant audit (after 2 years) to look at the health of the tree.</p> <p>The species palette within the Precinct Plans provides lots of information as to the characteristics of plants which will assist residents in selecting appropriate species that survive better in certain locations.</p> <p>A key action of the Precinct Plans is to advocate to VicRoads and other relevant authorities for increased planting, this would be applicable for Nepean Highway as this is a state owned road.</p> <p>An action of the Urban Forest Strategy is to review the Significant Tree Register, this work is proposed to commence in 2024.</p> <p>Changes have been made to update the biodiversity score map. The golf course in Brighton East has been identified as a core habitat patch</p>
<p>Submitter 7</p> <p>Cheltenham</p>	<p>Concerned about fire risks with climate change</p> <p>Private vegetation overgrowth and the threats this could lead to</p> <p><i>Changes Requested</i></p> <p>Assess private land overgrowth</p>	<p>A key action of the Precinct Plans is to increase awareness amongst the community around the importance of vegetation through various programs and communication material. This will help guide and inform the community on what species will be appropriate to plant on private properties, alongside how to appropriately prune.</p> <p>Pruning skills and tips can also be found in <i>Live Bayside, Plant Bayside</i>, a document that focuses on the maintenance of vegetation on private land.</p> <p>As part of the Annual Tree Planting Program, Council will continue to choose species that are resilient and adaptive to the effects of climate change and increasing urban development.</p>

6.4 Theme 4: Trees on private property + nature strip planting

Trees on private property make up a significant proportion of Bayside's urban forest. The removal of trees on private property is a significant and challenging issue that has been raised throughout this engagement period. The following survey questions provided residents with the opportunity to advise Council on why they are or are not planting on their property and how Council can encourage increased planting.

Online survey participants were asked if they would like to plant more trees and/or vegetation on their property. A total of 107 participants provided a response to this question. Figure 25 below shows that significant proportion of respondents (44% of the 107 respondents) said that they would like to plant 'a little more' vegetation on their private property.

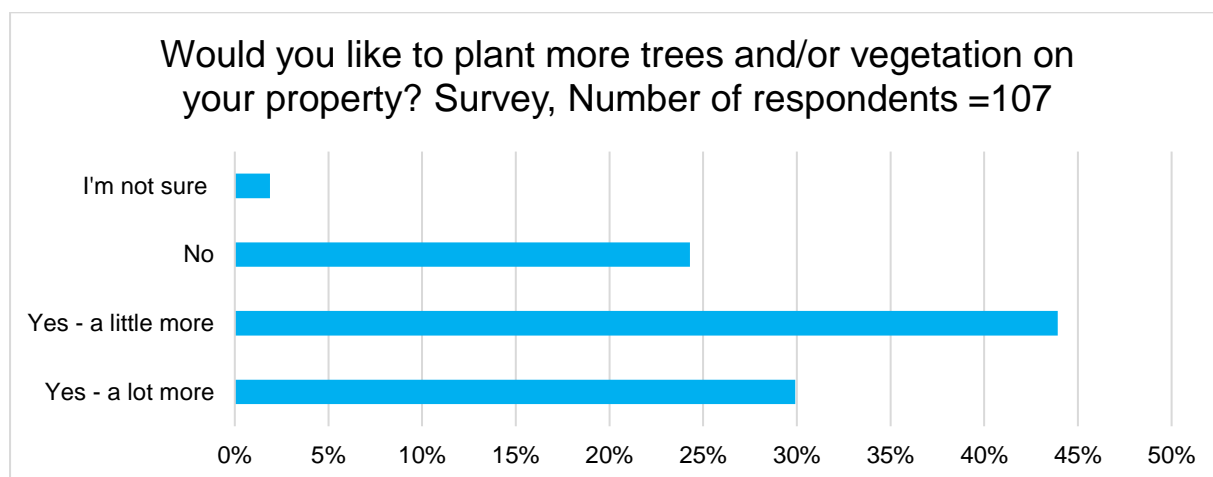


Figure 25 – Survey responses to views on planting more trees or vegetation on private property.

Participants were asked why they don't want to plant more trees and/or vegetation on their private property. A total of 26 participants provided a response to this question. Figure 26 below shows that a significant number of participants (81% of the 26 respondents) said that they did not have enough space on their private property to increase planting. A small percentage of respondents stated that they needed help to plant and maintain vegetation (4% of the 26 respondents) or that they did not have enough time (4% of the 26 respondents).

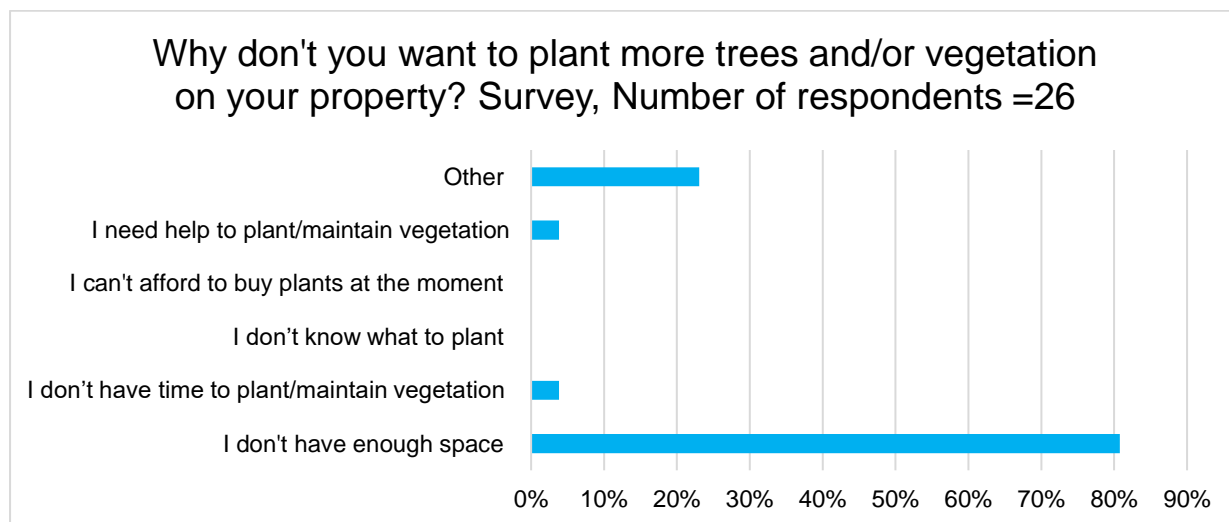


Figure 26 - Survey response as to why respondents don't want to plant more trees or vegetation on private property.

Nature Strip Planting

Figure 27 below shows the responses from 107 participants when asked would you be interested in planting native vegetation on your nature strip. A majority of the respondents (57% of the 107 respondents) stated that they would be interested in planting vegetation on their nature strip. A proportion of the participants (25% of the 107 respondents) already have vegetation on their nature strips and a number of participants (14% of the 107 respondents) said that they were not interested.

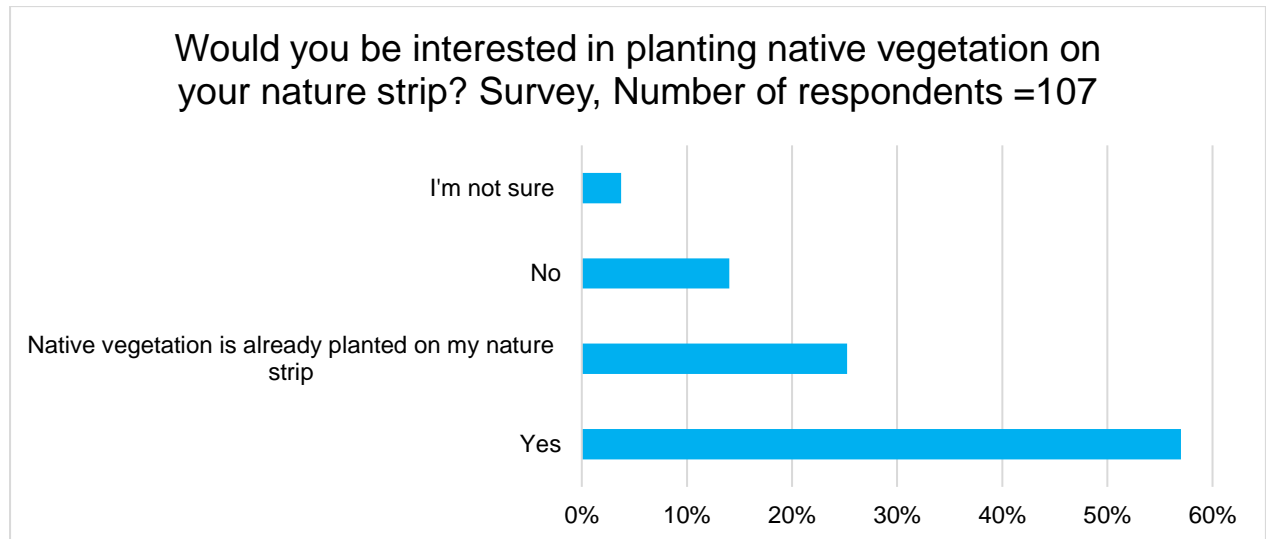


Figure 27 - Response to interest in planting native vegetation on nature strips

Survey participants were able to provide further comment as to why they don't want to plant on their property. Table 25 provides the other comments made by participants.

Table 25 – Further comment as to why respondents do not want to plant on their property

Reason	Number of mentions
Nature strip planting is shading private gardens and plants are struggling to grow	1
The property is already well planted	2
Safety reasons – proximity of trees to dwelling	1
Selling house	1

Further to the previous question, survey participants were asked why they don't want to plant native vegetation on their nature strip. A total of 15 participants provided a response to this question. A number of respondents (53% of the 15 respondents) specified other reasons why they don't want to plant vegetation on their nature strip, The other main reasons why participants said they don't want to plant on their nature strip include not having enough space (20% of the 15 respondents) or time (20% of the 15 respondents) and not knowing what to plant (20% of the 15 respondents).

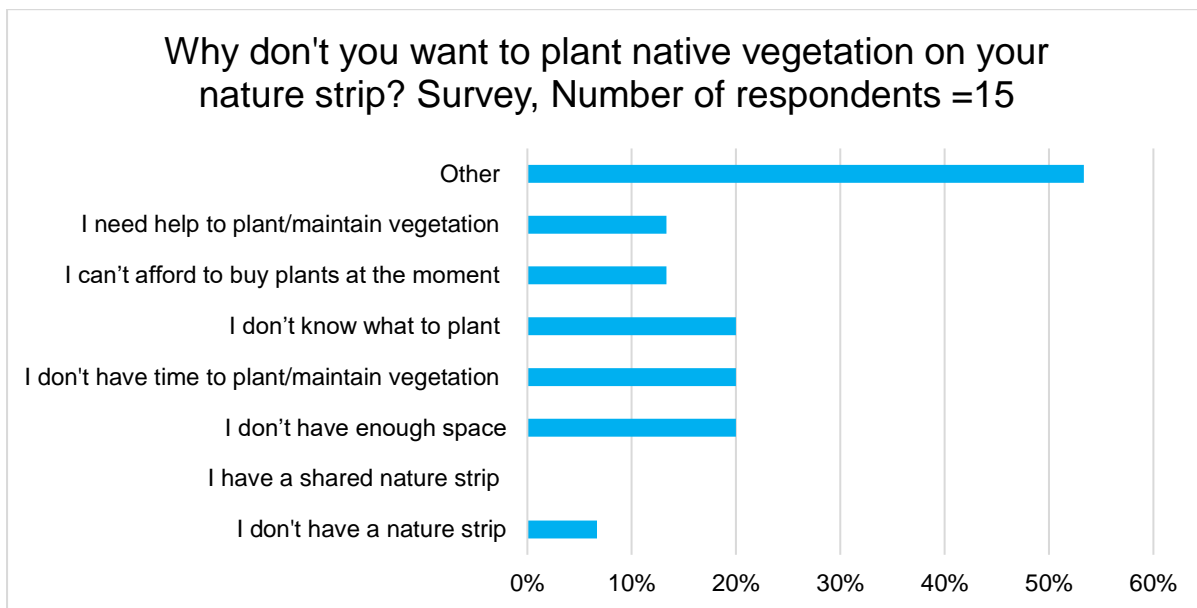


Figure 28 - Response to why respondents don't want to plant native vegetation on their nature strip.

Survey participants were able to provide further comment as to why they don't want to plant native vegetation on their nature strip. Table 26 provides the other comments made by participants.

Table 26 – Further comments as to why respondents don't want to plant native vegetation on their nature strip.

Reason	Number of mentions
Cannot plant currently but maybe in the future	1
Already planted on their nature strip	1
Accessibility – Cars getting in and out of the property	2
Damaging trees close to house	1
Streetscape consists of exotic trees – Planting native trees would be inappropriate	1
Selling house	1

Survey participants were asked what Council could do to support residents to plant and maintain vegetation on private property or nature strips. A total of 102 respondents provided a response to this question. Participants resolved that recommending appropriate tree and vegetation species (57% of the 102 respondents) was the best way for Council to support residents. Council could also support residents by offering free or discounted plants (54% of the 102 respondents) and providing tips on how to grow an urban forest on residential land (50% of the 102 respondents).

What could we do to support you to plant and maintain vegetation on your property or nature strip? Survey, Number of respondents= 102

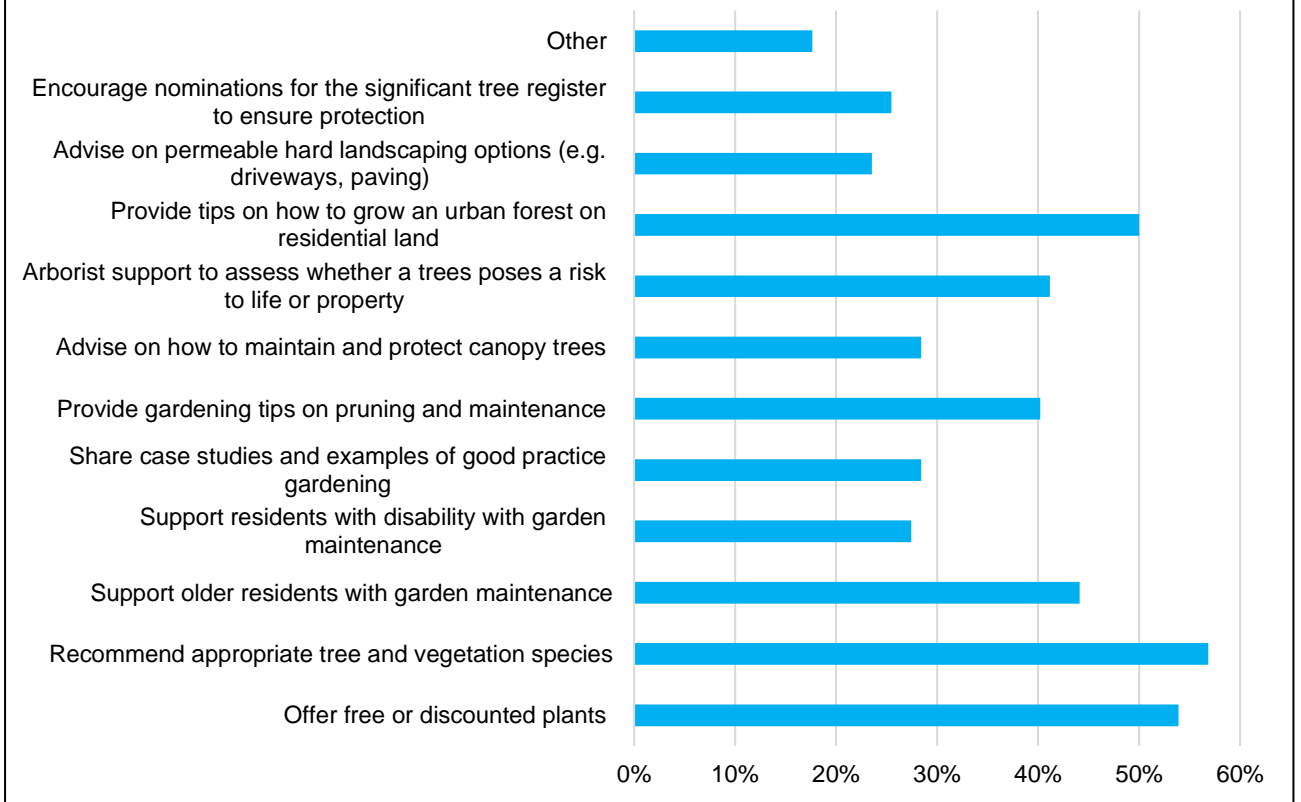


Figure 29 - Response to what Council can do to assist planting and maintenance of vegetation on private property or nature strip.

**Participants were able to select multiple options when answering this question*

Survey participants were able to provide further comment as to why they don't want to plant native vegetation on their nature strip. Table 27 below provides the other comments made by participants.

Table 11 - Further comment as to why respondents don't want to plant native vegetation on their nature strip.

What Council can do to support residents	Mention
Urban forest ambassadors – volunteers that can help other residents	1
Listen to the residents	1
Promote urban forest/community nursery to residents frequently	3
Leave planting to residents	2
Allow residents to remove native trees for valid reasons	1
Make permit removal less difficult	1
Allow more space to be devoted to planting on nature strips	1

Provide list of resources (e.g. arborist services) to help residents maintain vegetation	1
Stop developments with minimal gardens	1
Protect backyard gardens of significance	1

During the engagement period, Council officers presented to the Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group to discuss the consultation and receive feedback on any issues surrounding trees on private property. Feedback from the group included (paraphrased comments):

- New development is moonscaping entire blocks, removing majority if not all vegetation on site.
- Interest in applying amenity valuation assessment for trees on private property – ability to stop developers / residents from illegally removing trees.
- Retention of older established trees is important.
- Safety hazard caused from increased vegetation cover and more leaf debris.

7 Participant feedback on the process

7.1 Participant reach and representation

Key data from the 'Have your Say' consultation period demonstrated that:

- 6.18% of visitors from the 'Have your Say' website page contributed to the Precinct Plans.
- The peak visitation date was 28 August 2023
- 96.64% of contributions were via the form activity, whilst 3.36% was via the Q&A activity.
- 50.11% of visitation to the 'Have your Say' page were direct by entering the URL of the page into google.
- 0% of contributors identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.
- There was a total of 48 followers of the 'Have your Say' page.

Table 28 below outlines how contributors found out about the Precinct Plan consultation. The table indicates that the best way to reach participants was through the Council e-Newsletter and direct email. A significant number of participants (19) also heard about the consultation through word of mouth.

Table 12 - How contributors found out about the Precinct Plan consultation.

Tool	Percent (%)	Count
Council e-Newsletter	31.82%	35
Direct Email	29.09%	32
Social Media	12.73%	14
Council Website	2.73%	3
Word of Mouth	12.27%	19
Drop-in Session	0.91%	1
Other	5.45%	6

Consultation included advertisements across multiple webpages on the Bayside Website. Table 29 below outlines which relevant website pages were visited, this data relays that the survey was utilised the most by online participants.

Table 13 – Top visited pages.

Page name	Visitation %	Visits	Visitors
Urban Forest Precinct Plans	88.18	1581	1225
Urban Forest Precinct Plans Survey	20.41	366	277
Urban Forest Precinct Plan Talking Trees	2.79	50	31
Urban Forest Precinct Plan EPO	2.23	40	28
Urban Forest Precinct Plan Q&A	1.84	33	26

7.2 Participant satisfaction and experience

A majority of the survey participants had a positive experience with the platform.

Key satisfaction and feedback from contributors were:

- 49.54% of contributors responded 'yes' to going into a draw to win a free plant from the Cheltenham Community Nursery.
- 27.27% of contributors support the species planting targets, whilst 41.82% oppose them.
- 56.60% of contributors suggested species planting target changes, and 43.40% did not suggest any changes.

The table below demonstrates how user-friendly the website was to navigate. Notably, information finding was predominantly an easy experience, with 87.96% finding information either easy or mostly easy.


Table 14 - How user friendly the Bayside website was to navigate.

Response	Percent	Count
Information was easy to find and understand	49.07%	53
Information was mostly easy to find and understand	38.89%	42
Information was mostly hard to find and understand	3.7%	4
Information was hard to find and understand	2.78%	3
I'm not sure	5.56%	6
Total	100%	108

8 Changes to the Precinct Plans

Table 31 below shows the changes that have been made to the Urban Forest Precinct Plans following community consultation. The table identifies the key issues raised by online survey respondents, written submissions, Councillors, and internal departments within Council. Recommended changes have been provided based on the feedback from these stakeholders.

Key Issue	Recommended Changes – Proposed text is in italics	Teams to engage with
<p>The Precinct Plans do not currently speak to the role of the Street and Park Tree Management Policy and Tree Selection Guide and how this will still be utilised by Council for management and selection of vegetation on Council-owned land.</p>	<p>Update current wording as part of the overall introduction to Appendix 3: Species Palette to include the following changes:</p> <p><i>When selecting tree and vegetation species for planting on Council-managed streets, parks and reserves, Council considers which species will be the least destructive to underground infrastructure. This will ensure that Council can increase vegetation cover whilst protecting existing infrastructure and reducing demand for maintenance.</i></p> <p><i>Bayside City Council utilises the Street and Park Tree Management Policy and the Street and Park Tree Selection Guide when planting in streets, parks, and reserves or as part of capital infrastructure projects.</i></p>	Open Space
<p>Recommended changes seek to make this clearer.</p>	<p>Update wording as part of Appendix 3 Native and Exotic Species List introduction (Approx. Page 77 in each Precinct plan):</p> <p><i>Council utilises exotic plant species as part of its Annual Tree planting program, where appropriate and listed in the Street and Park Tree Selection Guide. These plant species are planted where there is an existing landscape character that provides for exotic species.</i></p>	Open Space
	<p>Insert the following wording as an introduction as part of Appendix 3 General Indigenous Planting List (Approx. Page 66 in each Precinct Plan), as explained above:</p> <p>The first paragraph will be removed from the original introduction section and inserted into the General Indigenous Planting List section of Appendix 3.</p> <p><i>Council promotes the use of indigenous plants as they occur naturally within Bayside and have adapted to the conditions within the local environment (soil and climate) whilst also providing habitat and food for local birds, insects, and other native animals.</i></p>	Open Space

	<p><i>There are a number of indigenous trees listed within the Street and Park Tree Selection Guide which are planted as part of Council's Annual Tree Planting Program.</i></p>	
<p>The Implementation Action Plan within each precinct plan provides actions that are either in Phase 1 or Phase 2. Currently the precinct plan doesn't speak to either phase in a great level of detail however does list separately what the time frame is.</p> <p>As a timeframe for delivery is already provided, the phasing is considered irrelevant.</p> <p>Other information in this section also no longer relevant and require removal.</p>	<p>Remove the following wording and graphics from approx. Page 48 Prioritising trees and vegetation in streets.</p> <p>Remove sentence:</p> <p>Planting priorities</p> <p>The implementation Plan later in this document identifies Phase 1 actions that are to be delivered within the next 5 years. These actions along with the Park Improvements and Habitat Linkages Plan 2022 will identify priority areas and inform the planting program.</p> <p>Remove graphic on right – no longer relevant as the Annual Tree Planting Program will ultimately still utilise the Park and Street Tree Selection Guide and Management Policy to select species.</p>	

	<p>Edit remaining paragraph and insert wording in italics (Brighton used as example below):</p> <p>Streets make up approximately 23% of the total area of Brighton. When prioritising where to plant, it is important to focus resources on the locations that need it most. This includes consideration of where we have opportunities to plant understorey, improvement of habitat, where the highest density of people reside, and where very low canopy cover exists. Tree replacements are only identified for streets where the useful life expectancy of multiple trees is rated at less than 10 years.</p> <p>As a response to the <i>Bayside Urban Forest Strategy</i>, Council is committed to increasing tree planting every year. <i>Maps 17 to 20 identify priority locations to increase planting on both private and public property.</i></p> <p><i>As for planting on Council-owned land, the Annual Tree Planting Program provides a great opportunity to increase species diversity, habitat and local character. A general rule of thumb that should be applied is the 10:20:30 rule, where the urban tree population includes no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family.</i></p> <p><i>Encouraging planting on private property will prove to be more challenging. The species palette listed in this Precinct Plan is also provided within the revised Bayside Landscaping Guidelines and selection from this list will be encouraged as part of the Planning and Local Law tree removal application and approval process for Landscape Plans. Council will also work with private property owners to seek enhanced landscaping outcomes on nature strips.</i></p>	
<p>Councillors previously contacted officers during Beaumaris Precinct Plan engagement and discussed that there was an opportunity to reference the Green Line Project within the Precinct Plans and advocate for its extension into Bayside.</p> <p>The Green Line project had not previously been incorporated</p>	<p>Insert the following paragraphs into the Appendix 2: Case Studies (approximately 60 on each precinct plan):</p> <p><i>Green Line Project – Sandringham Train Line</i></p> <p><i>The Green Line project is a community-driven proposal for a linear park that will follow along the Sandringham rail line from South Yarra Station to Gardenvale Station. The Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN) developed the Green Line project in response to City of Port Phillip’s Draft Public Open Space Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>The Green Line project will connect existing open space and rehabilitate underutilised spaces to create a biodiverse urban green space that will improve pedestrian and cycling accessibility. Gardenvale Station is located along the border of the Bayside municipality and the project presents an opportunity to increase planting and tree canopy cover.</i></p>	<p>Open Space,</p> <p>Climate, Sustainability, Waste and Transport</p> <p>Urban Strategy</p>

<p>however recommendation to include as part of the finalisation and advocate for the extension of this Project within Bayside</p>	<p><i>Bayside City Council supports this project and will advocate for the project to be extended along the remaining Sandringham rail corridor. Council will also advocate for increased open space connectivity along the Frankston railway line.</i></p> <p>Insert below action in Action Table for Precinct Plan Suburbs with a train station along Sandringham Train line:</p> <p><i>Action: Council will work with the Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN) to seek the increase of vegetation cover along the Sandringham rail line from North Brighton Station to Sandringham Station as a Stage 2 of the Green Line Project.</i></p> <p>Insert below action in Action Table for Precinct Plan suburbs with a train station along Frankston Line:</p> <p><i>Action: Council will advocate and explore opportunities for increased open space connectivity along the Frankston rail corridor.</i></p>	
<p>Removal of existing trees and vegetation on private property to make way for new development was a key concern raised by the community as part of feedback during this consultation period on the Precinct Plans.</p> <p>This is also a key challenge raised in the Bayside Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>The Landscape Guideline and Local Law Review are both key actions of the Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>Both reviews will assist in the protection of trees on private</p>	<p>Insert below wording into Planning Controls Section Approx. Page 15:</p> <p><i>Landscape Guidelines</i></p> <p><i>A review of Bayside’s Landscape Guidelines was adopted in December 2023. The changes have been made in response to the adopted Urban Forest Strategy action which outlines that Council must provide further guidance on species selection, sizes, and trees suitable for private property.</i></p> <p><i>The revised landscape guidelines focus on improving the quality of tree plantings through soil type and volume, site characteristics, and correct species selection. This way, it can be ensured that canopy tree plantings that are selected are the largest and most ideal species for its location. This will provide the trees with a better chance of growing to maturity. By focusing on canopy spread, species selection can be refined for better canopy coverage and consideration of a tree’s location.</i></p> <p><i>The changes to Bayside’s Landscape Guidelines require new development to provide increases to the number of canopy trees and high-quality landscape outcomes. Furthermore, the Species Palette listed in the Appendix 3 to this Precinct Plan has also been utilised as the list of species to encourage selection from when preparing a Landscape Plan.</i></p>	<p>Development Services, Local Laws</p>

<p>property which was a significant issue raised by the community</p>	<p>Local Law Review</p> <p><i>A key action of the Urban Forest Strategy includes reviewing the Management of Tree Protection on Private Property Policy. An update to the Local Laws Guidelines will protect more trees and strengthen alignment between planning and local law permit applications for tree removal.</i></p> <p><i>The updated Local Law Guidelines will protect more trees by removing some permit assessment considerations, such as consideration for the number of other protected trees on the site, or neighbours support for removal. Trees will also now be assessed for its habitat value to native wildlife.</i></p> <p><i>For tree removal permit applications, special circumstances including medical conditions, disability, access safety or financial hardship will be referred to Council’s Community Care unit. The Community Care unit will establish what support may be available to vulnerable resident and whether there is any reasonably practicable way to manage issues directly related to the tree other than removal.</i></p>	
<p>Safety and maintenance</p> <p>Maintaining the increasing amount of leaf debris was a significant issue raised by the community. This change will better reflect the current maintenance contract and provide greater clarity to the community on which areas within Bayside are maintained.</p>	<p>Change the wording of the action in the Implementation Plan Table (Approx page 54) to better reflect the maintenance contract.</p> <p>Current action:</p> <p>As tree and vegetation cover increases with time, ensure future maintenance contracts appropriately funds the clean-up of tree leaves and debris on streets and public land.</p> <p>Change the wording to:</p> <p><i>As vegetation cover increases with time, ensure future maintenance contracts appropriately fund the clean-up of tree leaves and debris on roads, public land and in activity centres.</i></p>	<p>City Assets and Presentation</p>
<p>Climate adaptive and resilient urban forest</p> <p>A key issue raised by the community is the need to have an adaptive urban forest that can respond to the impacts of climate</p>	<p>Insert the below new action in the Implementation Plan Table (in theme 2)</p> <p>New Action:</p> <p><i>As part of the Annual Tree Planting Program, Council should continue to choose species-that are resilient and adaptive to the effects of climate change and increasing urban development.</i></p>	<p>Open Space, Development Services and Amenity Protection</p>

<p>change and increasing development. The community was particularly interested in ensuring that the trees planted can withstand increasing temperatures and threat of natural disasters.</p> <p>Species that are resilient to the changing climate now may not be able to deal with these pressures in the future. Reviewing the species palette can ensure that this issue is addressed, and we are not planting trees that will not survive.</p>	<p><i>Property owners are also encouraged to select species that are resilient and adaptive through the planning and local law application processes.</i></p>	
<p>Species Palette</p> <p>These changes are in response to submissions made by the community and the need to provide further education to the community on what plant species are most appropriate for their private property.</p>	<p>Please see separately attached List – this will be inserted into BOTH the landscape guidelines and the Urban Forest Precinct Plans.</p> <p>A number of enhancements have been made to the species palette to provide more information to the community when selecting plants for their private property. Additional plant species were added to the list to reflect what plants are commonly planted around Bayside in the public and private realm. The species added included a mix of indigenous, native and exotic species that are good climate adaptors and attract local wildlife. Further information has also been provided to assist in species selection these include species tolerance to climatic factors such as wind, salinity and drought as well as growth rate, height and canopy at maturity, flowering period and species uses. The purpose of including this additional information is to educate the community as to the reasons why particular species are preferred.</p>	<p>Open Space, Development Services and Amenity Protection</p>
<p>Species targets</p>	<p>The recommended change is to remove the species planting targets from Appendix 3: Species palette section of the Precinct Plans.</p>	<p>Open Space</p>

	<p>Consultation with the community has shown that residents and interested parties are not supportive of the inclusion of species planting targets. Results from the online survey show that 42% of participants oppose the targets, 27% support, 16% are neutral and 15% are not sure. 57% of the survey participants wanted to see the species targets changed, the suburbs that participants wanted to see changed the most were Brighton (63%), Brighton East (53%), Hampton East (53%) and Highett (43%).</p> <p>New species targets based on community feedback have been provided in Section 6.2 of this Engagement Report. The species targets established by the community vary significantly to those previously set at the August 2023 Council Meeting. For example, the species targets set for Brighton at the August 2023 Council meeting was 20% indigenous, 5% native and 75% exotic. Comparatively, the community set species targets for Brighton as 61% indigenous, 24% native and 14% exotic. Overall, feedback gathered during the engagement period has shown that the community does not support the inclusion of suburb specific species targets.</p> <p>Online survey participants were asked if they prefer native, indigenous, or exotic vegetation. Participants (102 in total) prefer native vegetation with a score of 2.36, indigenous vegetation scored 2.21 making it the second preference and exotic vegetation was the last preference with a score of 1.17.</p> <p>Community members that were at the Gala Day face to face engagement were asked if they supported or opposed the suburbs species targets. 21 participants provided responses to the planting targets. They supported planting targets for Beaumaris (15), Black Rock (16), Cheltenham (15), Hampton (11) and Sandringham (16). However, they opposed specific targets for Brighton (13) Brighton East (13), Hampton East, 13 and Highett (14).</p> <p>The online survey asked participants about their opinion of the plan overall, 28 commented that they wanted to see increased native and indigenous planting and 4 responded to plant more exotic trees.</p> <p>Survey participants were also asked when they think it is appropriate to plant exotics, 36% of participants stated that exotics should not be planted. Several of the precinct plans have high exotic species targets, this is inconsistent with community feedback around the need to stop planting exotic species and increase indigenous and native species.</p>	
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<p>Increasing vegetation in activity centres</p> <p>This change will highlight the Village Zero initiative.</p>	<p>Insert Case Study – Village Zero in Sandringham</p> <p>Highlight the Village Zero project that is currently taking place in Sandringham Village as an example of seeking to increase vegetation cover within Bayside’s Activity Centres through innovative greening and initiatives.</p> <p><i>‘Village Zero’ is a community-driven initiative with the goal of regenerating the Sandringham Village Major Activity Centre through sustainable solutions. Council will continue to assist the ‘Village Zero’ project and will support any future initiatives that focus on increasing vegetation cover in activity centres.</i></p>	<p>Climate and Environmental Sustainability</p>
<p>Nature-strip planting</p> <p>This change ensures budget is allocated to assist private landowners to increase planting.</p>	<p>Amend ‘resources required’ text for the below action in the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Current action states: Encourage private landowners to plant vegetation on nature strips within their street and provide support and tools to assist.</p> <p>To ensure new plants enhance habitat and biodiversity, Council officers should recommend appropriate plants listed in Appendix 3 Species Palette of this document.</p> <p><i>Resource required:</i> <i>Budget will be required.</i></p> <p>Current responsible teams listed include Urban Strategy, Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>Open Space and Urban Strategy</p>
<p>Site specific planting opportunities</p> <p>These sites have been identified by the community as sites that are lacking vegetation and could be potential sites for increased planting.</p>	<p>Key opportunities page – identify the following on the Map and also in Implementation Table as opportunities for planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understorey planting in Middleton and Graham Road, Cheltenham (list in Action 5) • Planting at Burrows St Park, Brighton (it is on map but not mentioned in Implementation Table – insert to appropriate action) • Roundabout – Heath and Londsdale Avenue, Hampton East (can identify on both map and Table) • Heather Grove to Park Road, Black Rock (list in Action 5) • Margarita Street, Hampton (List in Action 5). 	<p>Open Space</p>
<p>Species Palette</p>	<p>Change the wording provided in Appendix 3: Species Palette section of the Precinct Plans (approximately Page 66 and 67)</p>	<p>Open Space</p>

<p>These changes have been made to provide greater clarity.</p> <p>These changes are in responses to meetings with internal stakeholders.</p>	<p>Update wording to state: When selecting tree and vegetation species for planting on Council-managed streets, parks and reserves, Council will consider existing infrastructure to minimise potential impact.</p> <p>Council utilises native and exotic species as part of its annual planting program. To ensure long term resilience and increase survival rates, native and exotic species adapted to Bayside's forecast climate will be considered for planting. Council utilises the Street and Park Tree Selection Guide to inform the annual tree planting program.</p>	
<p>Implementation Plan</p> <p>Changes to the Implementation Plan have been made to be more concise with the wording of the actions.</p> <p>These changes are in response to meetings with internal stakeholders.</p>	<p>Changes to the wording of the actions in the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Action 3 New wording for action: Investigate opportunities to create new public open space, pocket parks, micro forests, and habitat corridors, ensuring that the design of these spaces are contributing to Bayside's urban forest outcomes and the existing Ecological Vegetation Community.</p> <p>New wording for resources required: This can be considered as part of the Open Space Strategy review and can be considered with the resourcing of that project.</p> <p>New wording for measure: Council to prepare list of potential open space sites as part of the adoption of the Open Space Strategy review.</p> <p>Action 5 New wording for measure: In line with the review of the Precinct Plans, a comparison should be undertaken for all streets that currently have less than 20% canopy cover.</p> <p>Action 6 New wording for responsibility: Open Space, Urban Strategy, Integrated Transport. Integrated Transport team to undertake internal safety assessment before and after planting.</p> <p>New wording for measure: In line with the review of the Precinct Plans, a comparison should be undertaken for all roundabouts that currently do not have vegetation.</p>	

	<p>Action 7 New wording for resources required: Resources will be required to initiate a Planning Scheme Amendment.</p> <p>Action 11 New wording for resources required: Budget will be required for any additional planting or maintenance should Council take on those functions for land in State ownership.</p> <p>Action 14 Continue to assess trees that have limited useful life expectancy or are dead for potential retention as habitat trees using TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Tool).</p>	
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9 Next steps

Consultation on the Draft Urban Forest Precinct Plans has completed with feedback gathered from community members and interested stakeholders. The findings from this consultation period have been utilised to inform the finalisation of the Precinct Plans, including the Beaumaris Precinct Plan, to ensure consistency between all the Precinct Plans.

The Final Urban Forest Precinct Plans will now be considered for adoption by Council at the February 2024 Council meeting.

10 Appendix

Have your Say – Survey Questionnaire

1. Which suburb do you live in?
2. What is your favourite feature of the urban forest in your neighbourhood?
3. Which draft precinct plan(s) would you like to provide feedback on?
 - a. Black Rock
 - b. Brighton
 - c. Brighton East
 - d. Cheltenham (including Pennydale)
 - e. Hampton
 - f. Hampton East
 - g. Highett
 - h. Sandringham
4. The draft precinct plans identify six priority planting locations. Where do you think we should prioritise planting first?
 - a. Streets with less than 20% canopy coverage
 - b. Locations of trees in poor health
 - c. Areas potentially facing urban heat island effects.
 - d. Areas for habitat linkages/wildlife corridors
 - e. Roundabouts and traffic islands
 - f. Activity Centres and shopping
5. How do you feel about our suggested species planting targets for each suburb overall?
 - a. Support these targets.
 - b. Neutral
 - c. Oppose these targets.
 - d. Not sure
6. Would you like to suggest any changes to the species planting targets?
YES
NO
7. Which suburb's species planting targets would you like to see changed?
 - a. Beaumaris
 - b. Black Rock
 - c. Brighton
 - d. Brighton East
 - e. Cheltenham (including Pennydale)
 - f. Hampton
 - g. Hampton East
 - h. Highett
 - i. Sandringham

Questions 8 to 32 ask what percent plantings should be indigenous, native or exotic for each suburb.

33. How do you feel about the draft Black Rock Precinct Plan overall?
 - a. I love it.
 - b. I like it.
 - c. It's ok.
 - d. I have some concerns.
 - e. I have many concerns.
 - f. I don't like it at all.

g. I don't know.

34. What is the reason for your response?

35. How do you feel about the draft Brighton Precinct Plan overall?

a. I love it.

b. I like it.

c. It's ok.

d. I have some concerns.

e. I have many concerns.

f. I don't like it at all.

g. I don't know.

36. What is the reason for your response?

37. How do you feel about the draft Brighton East Precinct Plan overall?

a. I love it.

b. I like it.

c. It's ok.

d. I have some concerns.

e. I have many concerns.

f. I don't like it at all.

g. I don't know.

38. What is the reason for your response?

39. How do you feel about the draft Cheltenham Precinct Plan overall?

a. I love it.

b. I like it.

c. It's ok.

d. I have some concerns.

e. I have many concerns.

f. I don't like it at all.

g. I don't know.

40. What is the reason for your response?

41. How do you feel about the draft Hampton Precinct Plan overall?

a. I love it.

b. I like it.

c. It's ok.

d. I have some concerns.

e. I have many concerns.

f. I don't like it at all.

g. I don't know.

42. What is the reason for your response?

43. How do you feel about the draft Hampton East Precinct Plan overall?

- a. I love it.
- b. I like it.
- c. It's ok.
- d. I have some concerns.
- e. I have many concerns.
- f. I don't like it at all.
- g. I don't know.

44. What is the reason for your response?

45. How do you feel about the draft Highett Precinct Plan overall?

- a. I love it.
- b. I like it.
- c. It's ok.
- d. I have some concerns.
- e. I have many concerns.
- f. I don't like it at all.
- g. I don't know.

46. What is the reason for your response?

47. How do you feel about the draft Sandringham Precinct Plan overall?

- a. I love it.
- b. I like it.
- c. It's ok.
- d. I have some concerns.
- e. I have many concerns.
- f. I don't like it at all.
- g. I don't know.

48. What is the reason for your response?

49. Do you have any other comments about the draft precinct plans that you'd like Council to consider?
Are any important actions missing that would improve your neighbourhood's urban forest?

50. Which types of trees and vegetation would you like to see more of in your neighbourhood?

- a. Rounded Noon-Flower
- b. Ivy leaf or native violet
- c. Black Wattle
- d. Blackwood
- e. Coast Banksia
- f. Snow Gum or White Sallee
- g. Large Kangaroo Apple
- h. Tree Everlasting
- i. Sticky Daisy-Bush
- j. Yarra Burgan
- k. Austral Indigo
- l. Silver Banksia

- m. Native Rosemary
- n. Water Gum
- o. Long-Leaf Wax Flower
- p. White Cedar
- q. Qld Brush Box
- r. Grevillea
- s. Eucalyptus
- t. Tuckeroo
- u. Native Daisy
- v. Bottlebrush
- w. Lemon Scented Gum
- x. Lilac Sage
- y. Indian Hawthorn
- z. African Daisy
- aa. Photinia
- bb. Magnolia
- cc. Red Hot Poker
- dd. Jacaranda
- ee. Diosma
- ff. Bindweed
- gg. Camellia
- hh. New Zealand Rock Lily
- ii. Elephant Ears

51. Are there any other species of plants you'd like to see more of in Bayside?

52. Do you prefer native, Indigenous or Exotic vegetation?

- a. Indigenous
- b. Native
- c. Exotic

53. When do you think it is appropriate to plant exotic vegetation in Bayside?

- a. To replace existing exotics
- b. To maintain current neighbourhood character
- c. To encourage species diversity and resilience
- d. Exotics should not be planted.
- e. Other

54. Would you like to plant more trees and/or vegetation on your property?

YES – a lot more.

YES – a little more.

NO

I'm not sure.

55. Why don't you want to plant more trees and/or vegetation on your property?

- a. I don't have enough space.
- b. I don't have time to plant or maintain.
- c. I don't know what to plant.
- d. I can't afford to buy plants at the moment.
- e. I need help to plant or maintain.

56. Would you be interested in planting native vegetation on your nature strip?

YES

NO

Native vegetation is already planted on my nature strip.

I'm not sure.

57. Why don't you want to plant native vegetation on your nature strip?

- a. I don't have a nature strip.
- b. I have a shared nature strip.
- c. I don't have enough space.
- d. I don't have time to plant or maintain vegetation.
- e. I don't know what to plant.
- f. I can't afford to buy plants at the moment.
- g. I need help to plant and maintain vegetation.

58. What could we do to support you to plant and maintain vegetation on your property or nature strip?

- a. Offer free or discounted plants.
- b. Recommend appropriate tree and vegetation species.
- c. Support older residents with garden maintenance
- d. Support residents with disability with garden maintenance
- e. Share case studies and examples of good practice gardening
- f. Provide gardening tips on pruning and maintenance.
- g. Advise on how to maintain and protect canopy trees.
- h. Arborist support to assess whether a tree poses a risk to life or property.
- i. Provide tips on how to grow an urban forest on residential land.
- j. Advise on permeable hard landscaping options (e.g., driveways, paving)
- k. Encourage nominations for the significant tree register to ensure protection.
- l. Other

59. What is your age group?

Under 18

18-14

25-34

35-49

50-69

70-84

85 or older

Prefer not to say.

60. Which of the following describes you?

- a. homeowner/ratepayer
- b. Tenant
- c. Visitor to Bayside
- d. Own or operate a business.
- e. Member of a resident, 'Friends of' or Community Group

- f. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- g. Person with a disability or a carer
- h. Arborist, landscaper, or professional gardener
- i. Prefer not to say.
- j. other

61. Which group are you a part of?

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

- a. Information was very easy to find/understand.
- b. Information was mostly easy to find/understand.
- c. Information was mostly hard to find/understand.
- d. Information was very hard to find/understand.
- e. I'm not sure.

63. What information was missing?

64. How did you hear about this consultation

- a. Council e-newsletter
- b. Direct email
- c. social media 'word of mouth
- d. Drop in session
- e. Other

65. Would you like to enter a draw to win a free plant from the Bayside Community Nursery?

YES

NO

66. I understand and agree to the competition terms and conditions and would like to enter into the draw to win a free plant from the Bayside Community Nursery

YES

Engagement Plan Overview

Project objective

The development of the Urban Forest Precinct Plans is a key action in Bayside's Urban Forest Strategy to provide a targeted response to future tree planting and greening in each Bayside suburb.

The precinct plans seek to address specific challenges within each Bayside suburb by identifying gaps and opportunities to increase vegetation, such as canopy trees and understorey planting, and better monitor and maintain current and future greening.

The precinct plans will respond to localised challenges and identify opportunities for increased planting by prioritising:

- Core habitat patches, habitat improvement and linkage areas as identified in the Park Improvement & Linkage Plan 2022
- Areas that may potentially be impacted by Urban Heat Island effects.
- Opportunities for roundabout and traffic island planting
- Areas with the lowest percentage vegetation cover.

This could include areas experiencing:

- an increase in density and development activity
- gaps/vacancies in public planting.
- activity centres and commercial areas
- declining canopy or ageing trees.

Draft precinct plans have been developed for all Bayside suburbs, Beaumaris was the first Precinct Plan to be prepared and was endorsed by Council at its February 2023 meeting following community consultation. Through a community engagement program with interested community groups and residents, we intend to understand preferences and priorities for key actions and outcomes listed in the draft precinct plans and identify areas for improvement.

Project impacts

What is the impact if the Precinct Plans are delivered?

Bayside's Urban Forest Strategy 2022 was developed in response to the need for urgent, meaningful action on climate change set out in Bayside's *Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2025*.

The implementation of the Precinct Plans will help make Bayside a more resilient city, with appropriate measures in place to prepare and adapt to the changing climate.

The Precinct Plans will address a broad range of environmental issues to help establish a cooler, greener, and more attractive urban environment in which the community can enjoy and connect.

Implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy has already commenced, with 2,847 trees planted across public parks and within road reserves in 2022/23.

The combined actions of the Urban Forest Strategy, including the precinct plans, will strengthen ecosystems, ensure natural vegetation is retained and protected, promote biodiversity, and improve habitat connectivity in the suburbs of Bayside.

What is the impact if the Precincts Plans are not delivered?

If the precinct plans are not delivered, Council will not have clear direction on where to prioritise and investigate tree and vegetation planting within each suburb. The health of Bayside's urban forest will

rapidly decline if tree and understorey planting is not prioritised. The Precinct Plans are a key action part of the Bayside Urban Forest Strategy and should be delivered to support the goals and objectives as adopted by Council.

A key objective of the Precinct Plans is to identify the opportunities to plant more trees and vegetation while enhancing the ability to maintain large canopy trees and vegetation on both public and private land.

Without the Precinct Plans, increasing development and declining canopy cover will continue to threaten the health of Bayside's urban forest. The removal of vegetation from established gardens, large trees and understorey plantings would contribute to the loss of the distinct vegetation character and have a detrimental impact on biodiversity in Bayside. The loss of trees and vegetation will have a negative impact on the natural and built environment and the health and wellbeing of current and future residents.

What information do we need from the community?

We're seeking community and stakeholder feedback on the draft Precinct Plans to ensure that they align with community expectations and aspirations.

What can the community influence?

- The overall 'vision' for each suburb as referred to in each Precinct Plan
- Locations to investigate and prioritise planting.
- Planting locations not already identified in the draft Precinct Plans
- Species of trees and type of vegetation that should be planted.
- Inclusion of various actions outlined in the draft Precinct Plans.

What can't the community influence?

- Bayside Urban Forest Strategy – adopted by Council in February 2022
- The requirement for Urban Forest Strategy Precinct Plans
- Species listed in the EVC planting lists.
- The location of historic EVCs
- Key Guiding Principles of the Precinct Plans
 - Increasing the tree canopy cover and vegetation as an action of the Precinct Plans
 - Increasing species diversity as an action of the Precinct Plans
 - Monitoring tree canopy cover and vegetation as an action of the Precinct Plans
 - Retaining tree canopy cover and vegetation as an action of the Precinct Plans
 - Service delivery and implementation of the Precinct Plans

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
Arborists/landscapers/gardeners	H	H	Consult
Bayside 'friends of' groups	M	H	Consult
Bayside Environmental Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group • Wildlife rescue groups (Birdlife Bayside) • Friends of Native Wildlife • Bayside Earth Sciences Society Inc. • Marine Science Education and Community 	M	H	Consult
Bayside Community groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Ageing Reference Group • Bayside Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee • Bayside Alliance for Heritage Environment • Bayside Lifesaving and Yacht Clubs 	M	H	Consult
First Nations people/ Traditional landowners	M	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 subscribers and key stakeholder groups.
- Council website and This Week in Bayside e-newsletter
- Targeted social media posts, including sponsored advertising to increase reach.
- Direct email to key stakeholders
- Have Your Say project webpage.
- Article for inclusion in various special interest Council newsletters
- Digital screens at local Bayside libraries and Corporate Centre
- Explainer video showcasing Bayside's Urban Forest
- Prize draw to win one of 20 plants from Bayside Community Nursery
- Seed bookmark giveaways through Bayside libraries and Corporate Centre.

Key methods for gathering feedback.

- Online engagement through Have Your Say, including opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback.
- Meetings with relevant community and environmental groups
- Drop-in sessions: Bayside Community Nursery, Bayside Farmers Market, Black Rock Gardens, Middle Brighton Baths, Thomas Street Reserve Playground.

Project timelines

Project stage	Timing
Community consultation on draft precinct plans.	28 August 2023 - 8 October 2023
Consideration of community feedback and amendments to the draft precinct plans, as required.	October 2023 – December 2023
Council to consider report on community feedback and adoption of precinct plans.	February 2024

Decision-making process

Community engagement on the draft precinct plans will commence from 28 August - 8 October 2023.

Council is expected to consider the findings of the community engagement alongside the proposed Precinct Plans for adoption at its February 2024 meeting.

General feedback and response

*The purpose of this table is to consolidate all of the key concerns raised by the community during the engagement period for all of the suburbs. Council has then provided a response to these concerns in the table below.

Number of mentions	Key concerns – consolidated responses, all suburbs	Council response
10	Comments expressing concern for the non-protection and removal of existing native trees and vegetation at development sites.	Council declared a Climate Emergency Action Plan December 2019, which sets out a number of actions how Council will respond to the impact of development on Bayside's declining tree and vegetation cover.
1	Comments to encourage green roofs for development sites.	An action to address concerns about tree removal at development sites is, through a planning scheme amendment, introduce a new Local Planning policy for Environmentally Sustainable Development. This policy would provide opportunities to integrate living (green) walls and green roofs in high to medium density developments.
15	Comments for increased native and indigenous planting	The UFS and preparation of precinct plans seeks to respond by setting targets to increase tree and vegetation cover across Bayside and prioritise areas where needed. Council will, where possible, introduce a municipal-wide approach to avoiding, minimising, and offsetting the loss of native vegetation based on a similar framework to that set out in Clause 52.17 'Native Vegetation' of the Bayside Planning Scheme. The UFS identifies that the use of native and indigenous trees will help provide food sources and improve habitat connectivity within Bayside. Bayside is committed to increase tree canopy to 30% by 2040 by strengthening the planning scheme and Local Laws to protect trees and vegetation.
13	Comments to plant more native and indigenous trees to improve habitat and combat climate change	
13	Comments to plant more trees and vegetation to increase canopy and provide shade – no specific species mentioned.	
4	Plant exotic trees	Council has an action in the UFS to maintain existing canopy cover across Bayside and avoid further decline. This has been achieved by updating the Bayside Landscape Guidelines to protect existing landscape character of the area. It is proposed that this guide will be incorporated into the Bayside Scheme.
1	Comment to plant trees to maintain neighbourhood character	Council has an action in the UFS to prepare a communications and engagement strategy to increase awareness of the role of landscape character and how residents can contribute to enhance the landscape character of an area. The Landscape Guidelines will be used to support and encourage permit holders re; tree and vegetation replacement.
1	Comments to plant more trees and vegetation and provide permeable surfaces	Council will encourage the incorporation of permeable surfaces through the adoption of the reviewed Landscape Guidelines into the Bayside Planning Scheme. Through the UFS, Council will engage with the community as to how surfaces can be changed to provide more permeable solutions in gardens and driveways.

5	Commented that more planting is required for identified urban heat areas	Council will continue to develop the Urban Tree monitoring tool to embed a tool to measure existing vulnerable areas. Council will utilise this tool to develop priority areas for tree and vegetation planting and report on the success of this tool in the annual UFS report.
1	Comments to provide an educational program to encourage more planting on private land, including integrated water harvesting strategies	In 2022, Council undertook an Integrated Water Management Transition Assessment to transition toward integrated water management as mainstream practice.
1	Comment that Eucalypts should not be planted near roads.	An action in the UFS seeks to provide a comprehensive communications package to educate the community as to the variety of Eucalypts that are available for planting as nature strip trees.
1	Comments about trees shading solar panels.	Trees provide shade and cooling for the environment. Private tree pruning for solar panel shading may require a permit, particularly if excessive pruning (lopping) is required. The Street and Park Tree Management Policy states that public trees are not pruned for solar access.
4	Comment about trees and infrastructure damage, including trees causing safety issues	Council has committed to give priority to existing trees and vegetation when siting new development and to review Policy to ensure the longevity of new trees or vegetation by appropriate planting adjacent to surrounding hard surfaces or infrastructure.
3	Comment to encourage more nature strip planting	Council will, through the adoption of the UFS raise awareness of the biodiversity gains that can be provided by planting on private property and nature strips. Nature strip planting is also informed by the 2022 adopted Parks Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan, which provides objectives and guidance in regard to planting nature strips, wherever possible, to increase the extent of indigenous understorey.
3	Comments regarding planting to accommodate powerlines, above and below ground.	Council, through the adoption of the Urban Forest Strategy will research strategic opportunities for the undergrounding of powerlines. Also, through its planting program, Council will revise its planting program to plant trees.
1	Expressed interest in joining friends' groups	Council has a strong network of Friends Groups working in bushland reserve, foreshore areas, parks and gardens which support activities, projects and programs to enhance and protect biodiversity.
6	Overall support for the Precinct Plans	
22	Concerned about the possible demolition of the Sandringham Youth Centre (Thomas St).	Council's Open Space & Recreation Department is commencing a review of Bayside's Recreation Strategy, which sets the strategic direction for our recreation facilities in Bayside. Currently there is no proposal to demolish any buildings or change land at this site.
1	Comment about dog owners not cleaning up droppings along foreshore	Local Laws outline how Council manages this issue

Pop-Up Consultation Sticker Boards – Engagement Activity





