



## ***Ordinary Meeting of Council***

***30 August 2021 7.00pm***

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DRAFT

# OUR SPACES

*Banyule Youth Spaces Plan*



June 2021  
For Exhibition

**PLA'CE**



# Introduction

**The purpose of this plan is to provide strategic direction for the future provision of outdoor recreation places and spaces for young people throughout Banyule.**

## Introduction

This plan has been prepared by Playce Pty Ltd for Banyule City Council to:

- Assess the need and community demand for additional youth recreation spaces and facilities in the City;
- Identify the design principles to determine the scale, preferred components and most appropriate locations for such facilities.

## Background

Banyule City Council is committed to providing desirable public open space facilities for Banyule's youth.

This commitment is articulated within Banyule's City Plan 2017-2021 under People and Participation and in the Banyule Youth Plan 2018-2021. Key guiding principles include meaningful engagement, valuing young people and valuing diversity- promoting inclusiveness, accessibility and diversity.

Banyule's Public Open Space Plan 2016-2031 states that with increasing urban density and shrinking backyards, public open space is increasingly being utilised by young people in urban areas. Banyule City Council has identified a need to provide suitable open space facilities for young people between the ages of 12 - 25 that meets their unique needs.

Currently there is no specific plan to guide the provision of youth facilities and their design in open spaces across Banyule. There is a need to design and plan youth friendly spaces so that young people feel included within the community and have legitimate spaces to 'hang out'. This report aims to address this gap and provide a strategic plan to guide the provision of youth facilities and the design of spaces across the municipality.

## Why it is important

Young people in Australia are playing less and have fewer community-based areas that facilitate play. As a result, obesity is on the increase. This issue is compounded by the fact that more than 8% of the most vulnerable young people in Australia are excluded from play and recreation.

- **42% of young people are not involved in sport**
- **630,000 young people spend 40+ hours of screen time per fortnight**
- **50% drop in young people playing in their local neighbourhoods within the last generation**
- **65% of families have both parents working**
- **8% of our youth have a disability. 50% of these are either severe or profound with 75% of these disabilities being neurological, not physical**
- **40% increase in childhood obesity between 1995-2005**
- **25% of Australian children are obese or overweight**

Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing 2010 Report & Inclusive Play Space 2012

Play and recreation is critical to all young people. Spaces that are safe and accessible within our neighbourhoods need to be created to facilitate this.



## What is play for young people?

This section touches on current industry thinking about what play is for pre-teen/ early teens & teens, and what play or recreation is for young adults. It includes discussion on issues young people face, why play for pre-teen/ early teens and teens is so important and a review of existing models of provision. It then highlights a new approach to teen and pre-teen/ early teen play and recreation space provision.

***“Every child (up to age 18) has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”***

Article 31 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child

All young people, including pre-teen/ early teens, teens and young adults, have the right to participate in play and this UN Convention has been ratified by the Australian Government.

Firstly for the purposes of this study;

**Pre-teens/ early teens** are considered children from 12-14 years transitioning into adolescence.

**Teens** are defined as 15-17 year olds.

**Young adults** are defined as 18- 25 year olds.

When discussing adolescents more generally it relates to both pre-teen/ early teens and teens from 12-17 years old.

So what is play and why is it important and how does it differ to different ages? The following section aims to provide some answers.

“Play is described by some as the universal language of childhood though not only children play”<sup>1</sup>. No matter our age, we all play: in different ways, at different times, in different places and with different people. But what is play? It has many descriptions, however enjoyment is the common link between them all:

“To play is to engage in activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than a serious or practical purpose”<sup>2</sup>. “The focus of play is on the actual experience, not on accomplishing any goal. There doesn't need to be any point to the activity beyond having fun and enjoying yourself”<sup>3</sup>



1 Play Scotland. What is play? <https://www.playscotland.org/what-is-play/playwork/what-is-play/>  
 2 Oxford Dictionary. [www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/play](https://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/play)  
 3 Helppage.org. The benefits of play for adults. <http://www.helppage.org/articles/emotional-health/benefits-of-play-for-adults.htm>: n.d.

## Why is play important?

Providing play opportunities for young people means acknowledging that everyone can, and should play. Most importantly, providing play opportunities is not just about providing play equipment and facilities: play can include public place pop-ups, performance, programs and events or artworks and sculptures that foster fun, inspire imagination or evoke senses and memories. Play is not just physical or active.

All young people need to play. All young people have the right to play. When young people play they are not just filling in time, they are learning to make sense of their world. Play facilitates the learning of life skills and for this reason, the provision of quality outdoor play spaces is vitally important in local communities. Through play, young people develop qualities necessary in adulthood, including problem solving, independence, self awareness, creativity, resilience and spatial knowledge.

*Play is about more than just 'letting off steam'; it can be quiet and contemplative, as well as active and boisterous. All children and young people, including those who are disabled or have specific needs, should have opportunities to experience challenge and take risks while playing. Play is essential to the healthy development of children and young people – not just their physical development, but their social and cognitive development too.*

*‘Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces’, Play England 2008*

## Re-imagining play...

In recent times, playspace design and planning has focused on provision of safe playground equipment (along with associated maintenance and timely replacement), rather than provision of creative, challenging and exciting play environments. We need to re-imagine our approach to play to ensure the needs of people of all ages and abilities are met.

One of the critical components in re-imagining play is to understand that while adults may be arbiters of providing playspaces, young people are the main users. It is integral to the success of spaces for young people that their voice is heard throughout the design process. Banyule City Council undertake community consultation for all parks and open space projects, inclusive of nature play, providing opportunity for young people and people of all ages to provide valued feedback. For designers, this provides great opportunity to see the possibilities through the lens of a young person who is likely to use the space, again and again. In too many cases, play is managed and controlled; often simply by the structure of standardised play equipment. If we consider other forms of play that encourage exploration, inspire creativity and offer varying levels of challenge, each time a player returns they can find new ways to engage in play, to use their imagination or stretch their boundaries through adventure and discovery.

We should be imaginative in thinking about how to design play spaces that provide opportunity for physical challenge, exploration and social interaction for people of all ages.

Increasingly people are seeking vibrant, playful places where they can interact as a whole family, socialise with friends or simply watch other people play. The challenge is to now incorporate playfulness into all aspects of the public realm, not just parks and playgrounds; to build in flexibility and provide play opportunities that can adapt as community preferences and expectations change. Our re-imagined places for play need to enable people of all ages and abilities to play independently as much as they need to enable people of all ages and abilities to play together.

## So what is play for young people?

When considering what 'play' is for young people, traditional models of activity such as active recreation and skateparks come to mind, however these are not the only ways young people engage in play. The majority of young people throughout Australia spend time with their friends. Friendships are among the most important activities of life. ***"Peer relationships are very influential in adolescence. During this time, when young people are developing autonomy from their parents, peers become a significant source of social and emotional support"*** (Gorrese & Ruggieri, 2012).

As part of the consultation with young people within Banyule for this study, they were asked about what their favourite pastime or leisure activity was. Of the 177 responses, overwhelmingly the most popular activity was "Hanging Out with friends" at 49%; followed by playing video games and going shopping. As way of comparison, BMX and bike riding was 11th and skateboarding was 12th on the list at 8%. Reading and listening to music at a park was higher than these more traditional "youth" activities at 11% and 10% respectively.

When asked about what existing facilities and places they currently frequented, the results were similar with shopping centres first; followed by parks and open space second. Skateparks were 8th. This is a small sample of data, but shows that there is a fundamental need and interest for young people to hang out and socialise. Therefore, essentially teenage play is simply providing opportunities for young people to have fun and socialise.

## Relevant spaces?

If young people are most interested in socialising and hanging out with friends, it becomes important to expand on where they want to be to do this. Providing spaces that welcome and celebrate a diverse mix of young people regardless of their cultural background or socio-economic profile is important. A lot of young people have to use public transport to get around, are attracted to fashion, movies, music and books. All of these are found in town centres (ie. libraries, transport hubs) and commercial precincts.

There is significant evidence confirming this throughout Australia with most shopping and commercial centres and malls experiencing issues with many young people congregating in these central and accessible locations. Ironically though, this is seen as a negative and a major problem for many commercial centres. Strategies have been put in place to remove teens from "loitering" in these spaces such as employing security guards and even more significant responses such as the "Mosquito" (a high pitched tone that only younger people can hear).

## None of this makes sense?

So we are creating 'youth' spaces in parks that are hard to access; not where young people want to be, yet at the same time implementing strategies aimed at preventing young people from using shopping precincts, transport nodes and commercial centres to which they are naturally attracted. So who should then be responsible for designing spaces for young people?

Due to the structure of most local governments within Australia, different departments are responsible for different strategic areas. Recreation departments are traditionally involved in managing sporting and active recreation facilities. Parks and Open Space departments are typically responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of parks and reserves as well as the design and delivery of passive recreational infrastructure. Youth Services focus more on at risk youth, programs and support. Urban Design and City Planning are responsible for the implementation and management of more centralised urban centres and transport nodes. Given this demarcation of responsibility, it is essential that cross- Council collaboration take place in the planning and design of spaces specifically for teenagers.



# Youth recreation needs

## Play for young people

Pre-teen/ early teens (12-14), teens (15-17) and young adults (18-25) all recreate for different reasons and require different spaces and places.

Pre-teen/ early teens are still very much looking for opportunities to play and be active. At an age where they are still not able to travel independently, spaces that are local to them are critical. Therefore, looking at adapting existing play spaces in key locations with a range of different active elements including parkour, scooter loops, ball courts and skate can provide diversity in play and active experiences.

Teens are very much moving into an important new stage of adolescence. A key part of this phase is their transition into adulthood. As such, places to socialise are the key focus. Recreation spaces that are accessible and safe in relevant areas such as commercial precincts, libraries and transport nodes are therefore critical.

Young adults are more likely to be interested in traditional sport and fitness in line with broader recommendations detailed in Banyule's Public Open Space Plan (2016 - 2031) and Recreation Plan (2017 - 2021).

*"Recreation has been found to be an important contributor to adolescent development, assisting with the positive formation of a young person's identity and minimising drug and alcohol abuse. Unstructured recreational opportunities have also been found to assist with better psychological health outcomes for young people."*

*The Rationale for Recreation Services for Youth: An Evidence Based Approach. (Banyule Youth Plan 2018-2021)*

## Not just active recreation

For a start, we need to acknowledge that sport is not the only recreation solution for young people. Art, music and dance can also be attractive and relevant to young people, with many undertaking these pursuits as part of their school curriculum. Teens are also highly influenced and enjoy these pursuits socially, in particular both music and dance. Tapping into this interest allows a potential space to become far more relevant to a much larger range of young people.

Most importantly, accommodating a broad range of pursuits in a space allows it to transform and change as trends change. Art, music and events allow the space to transform with the trends and remain relevant.

## What is a youth space?

A youth space can be defined as any outdoor activity space that is free to access, and is designed with the intention for young people to engage through social and physical activity. These spaces focus on young people aged between 10 and 24 years. They typically facilitate social gathering and free access social sports facilities, such as multipurpose courts, hit-up walls, goalposts and practice wickets, as well as the conduct of one or more action sports.

8



# Demographic review

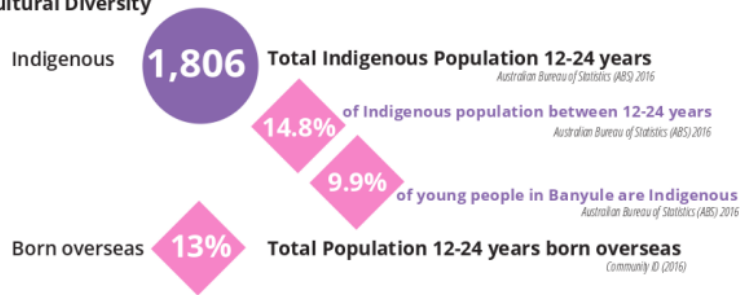
## Introduction

The following section provides a brief snapshot of the broader distribution of where young people live in the City of Banyule, now and where they are forecast to live in 2031. Where possible, facilities should be located close to where young people live.

### Age



### Cultural Diversity



Banyule City Council has a smaller percentage (13%) of 12-24 year olds born overseas compared to its Indigenous population (14.8%) .

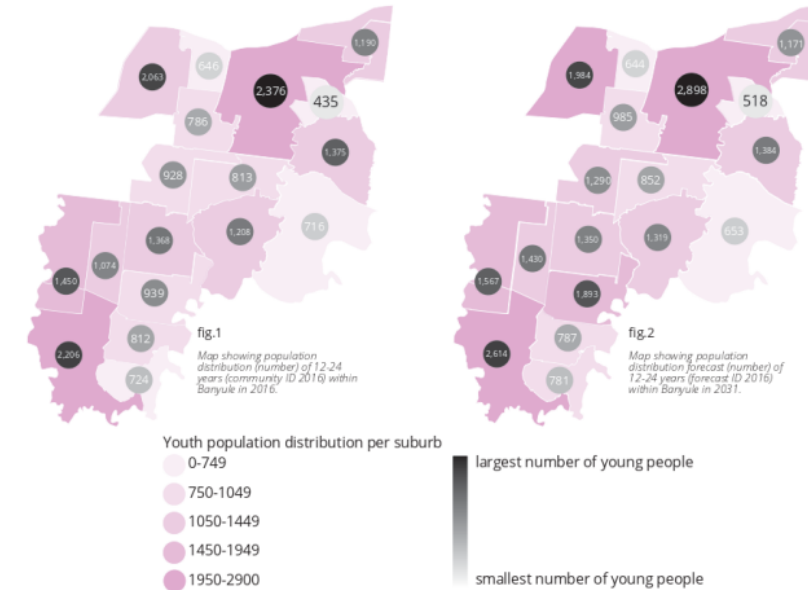
The cultural diversity of Banyule is celebrated through various groups which focus on engaging a broader demographic of young people across the municipality and neighboring LGAs. This was prominent at the Banyule Youth Festival consultation pop up, which celebrated the multiculturalism of Banyule's young people through cultural dancing and drumming and a diverse range of food, workshops and music.

## Youth population distribution

The following maps show the existing distribution of youths across the municipality of Banyule, as well as the forecast for youth population distribution in 2031.

Youth population distribution: 2016

Youth population distribution: forecast 2031



### Top 5 areas predicted to have the most growth from 2016 to 2031:

1. Heidelberg +101.6%
2. Macleod +39.0%
3. Heidelberg Heights +33.2%
4. Watsonia +25.3%
5. Greensborough +22%

### Summary

The above maps show that the highest proportion (numbers) of young people aged 12-24 years in 2016 resided in Greensborough (2,376), Ivanhoe (2,206) and Bundoora (2,063). By 2031, Heidelberg will have experienced the highest growth in its youth population across the municipality (increasing from 939 to 1,893). Greensborough is also predicted to experience substantial growth (increasing from 2,376 to 2,898), as well as Macleod (increasing from 928 to 1,290). Accordingly, these areas should be a focus for the geographical distribution of any new youth recreation infrastructure. Greensborough is currently the suburb with the highest youth population and will continue to be so going forward to 2031.

# Consultation Summary

Playce and Banyule City Council actively engaged with a total of 348 members of the community to gather insight and information to assist in developing a strategic plan that meets young peoples needs.

During this period a diverse mix of community groups were engaged through stakeholder workshops, school and university visits, public events/ festivals and through the online survey platform.

Through engaging in community participation and via an online survey, participants were asked to consider how they use their spare time, what they do in open public spaces, what they would like to see more of in Banyule and what issues they face in accessing spaces/ facilities within the municipality.

We engaged the following stakeholders;

- Banyule Youth Festival attendees (97)
- Skate Jam, Greensy skatepark attendees (24)
- Young mother's group (6)
- Our Ladies of Mercy College students (35)
- La Trobe University (50)
- Jets Music and Creative Arts centre (7)
- Malahang Festival attendees (15)
- Malahang bike hut drop in attendees (15)

The 'dotmocracy' exercise asked participants to place a sticker on their top 3 favourite images across 3 posters, which categorised 'Creative, Social and Active' opportunities that could be had within Banyule. From this exercise, it was evident that Banyule is a creative and artistic community with an appetite for culture, adventure and fun and community focused events.

### Highlights

- 70% of survey participants were aged between 12-24
- Socialising with friends, adventure play and parks/ open spaces voted most favoured ways to spend time, now and into the future
- Majority of survey respondents use public transport when moving around Banyule

### Summary

Overall the community engagement for the Banyule Youth Spaces Plan confirmed broader trends in the preferences for young people for facilities and activities within public open space.

The general themes focus on creating places to socialise and feel safe with friends, as well as opportunities to explore and create through adventure play (ropes, climbing, obstacle courses etc) and active recreation (multipurpose ball courts, skateable elements, parkour etc).



Malahang Festival, Youth Spaces Plan Consultation: participant engaging in Dotmocracy exercise



## What can spaces for young people look like?

Based on the outcomes of previous Council studies, youth recreation trends, the youth engagements undertaken for this study and the current significant youth population, there is a need for improved spaces within Banyule. This Section describes what these spaces could look like and where they would be best located, through renewals or park upgrades and additions to existing youth facilities. It defines the model of provision to assist the City in effectively implementing new youth spaces over the next 10 years.

### Pre-teen/ early teens

The one key focus for pre-teen/ early teen play is looking at providing local opportunities within smaller parks and public spaces to complement other existing play opportunities.

#### Local recreation hub (pre-teen/ early teen)

As Banyule City Council already has a vast number of basketball half courts scattered throughout the municipality, there is a significant opportunity to build upon these for use as localized pre-teen/ early teen play.

Currently they are limited to providing informal opportunities for ball sports. The addition of a range of recreation and play options can ensure these existing play/recreation spaces are far more usable and relevant to many more pre-teen/ early teens.

Elements could include more challenging play equipment, scooter loops, climbing walls, parkour elements, skateable elements or obstacles etc.



Half ball court with skate elements in Werribee, VIC



Scooter loop added to district playspace in Whittlesea, VIC

## Teen and young adults needs

The needs of teenagers and young adults are best accommodated across two main facility types.

Specifically, they require larger district and regional size spaces (District Recreation Plazas) that attract large groups of young people to congregate and enjoy as a destination space complemented by smaller localized spaces (Local Recreation Hubs) to hang out at during times when there is less free time or access to public transport. The following provides a brief description of each;

#### Local recreation hub (teen and young adult)

A local recreation hub is essentially a freely accessed public area within a local catchment that has a shelter where possible, seating, social spaces, art or some minor sporting infrastructure relevant to young people. It may be within a local park, along a street or at a local shopping precinct. The focus is the provision of opportunities to 'hang out' and socialise within the local neighbourhood.

Given the number of existing ball courts throughout the municipality, like the pre-teen/ early teen spaces, these existing recreation hubs will form the basis of local teen/ young adult spaces.

The main difference with these spaces and pre-teen/ early teen spaces is their location. They need to be in more centrally accessible locations where young people prefer to be and are easily accessed by public transport.

There is emerging evidence supporting the co-location of Community and Youth facilities/hubs alongside regional recreational/play centres. This facilitates the effective management and programming of spaces, running of events and enhances opportunities to provide assistance to at-risk youth and all young people in locations that youth are already appropriating freely. Community-based, integrated youth service hubs have the potential to address some of the longstanding issues with services for young people, including problems with access and system fragmentation. Banyule's current youth facility "Jets Creative Arts studio" is currently located in an aging building that is not fit for purpose, and also lacks centrality and public transport access. There are future opportunity to explore the relocation of a Council youth facility alongside a new accessible youth recreation hub.

#### District recreation plaza/hub

A district recreation plaza is a public space with designated areas and opportunities to facilitate young people (and others in the community) to congregate, socialise and engage in passive and active recreation pursuits. Importantly, whilst not size specific, it is designed to be large enough to cater for a diverse range of programs and activities that will attract a diverse range of young people across the City.

As such, it will become a focus for youth events and activities at a city-wide level. The plaza should include adequate space for cultural and social activities. It requires sufficient provision of seating and shade, to provide designated space for art exhibition spaces, music and performance opportunities, whilst also including active recreation spaces to accommodate activities such as climbing, parkour or ball courts.

The key to the success of a district recreation plaza/hub is location. It needs to be in a high profile, central location that is attractive and accessible to young people via public transport. Therefore town centres, central reserves, major shopping precincts and public transport interchanges are potential key locations.


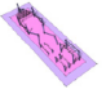
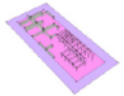






Municipal Recreation Plaza at Geelong CBD, VIC with music stage and skateable elements

## Pre-teen/ early teen & teen/ young adult recreation components

This section illustrates the potential elements for inclusion in both local pre-teen/ early teen and teen spaces. They are all indicative but provide an approximate idea of size. Smaller spaces will typically include 1-2 elements and be placed around existing half courts. Larger spaces will contain a mix of elements as shown in the next section, District Examples.

Element	Preferred Age Group focus	Indicative example
<b>Adventure/social play</b> Focus on range of more challenging elements incl swings/flying foxes, slides and climbing elements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens	
<b>BMX jumps,race &amp; MTB Tracks</b> Allows for more advanced challenging bumps and MTB track for freestyle BMX and mountain bike use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens Young Adults	
<b>Bouldering/climbing walls</b> Either insitu or blockwork. Can also be used as rebound wall if combined with courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally concrete/blockwork.</li> <li>Any length but preferable for 10m min</li> <li>Can also be art walls</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens Young Adults	
<b>Fitness/warm up stations</b> Allows for all age outdoor fitness options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Teens Young Adults	
<b>Fusball/ping pong tables</b> Small scale informal recreation opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide informal social activities in small areas.</li> <li>Combine with social seating spaces</li> </ul>	Teens	
<b>Futsal goals/multipurpose nets</b> Mix of options with linemarking, nets, rings etc. (Basketball, volleyball, tennis, netball, four square, futsal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally Plexipave finish.</li> <li>Approx 28x15m for Full Size Court.</li> <li>Bookable for competitions, social games, other events such as markets, music, film nights.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens Young Adults	
<b>Multipurpose courts</b> Mix of options with linemarking, nets, rings etc. (Basketball, volleyball, tennis, netball, four square, futsal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally Plexipave finish.</li> <li>Approx 28x15m for Full Size Court.</li> <li>Bookable for competitions, social games, other events such as markets, music, film nights.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens Young Adults	

Element	Preferred Age Group focus	Indicative example
<b>Music/stage/event space</b> Focus on open but sheltered spaces for events and classes to complement indoor spaces <i>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</i>	Teens Young Adults	
<b>Obstacle courses</b> Allows for all age outdoor fitness and play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens	
<b>Parkour/free running</b> Focus on challenge and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens Young Adults	
<b>Pumps tracks</b> Allows for all age wheeled play (scooters, skateboards, bikes etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens	
<b>Scooter loops</b> Allows for junior wheeled play (scooters, bikes etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens	
<b>Skate &amp; BMX spaces</b> Focus on range of different elements to cater for diverse users Include Vert Ramps, Bowls, Parks and Plaza elements <i>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catalyst for other programs such as youth services</li> </ul>	Pre-teen/ early teens Teens Young Adults	
<b>Social spaces</b> Focus on small shaded spaces to hang out around other active recreation spaces or relevant spaces for young people to congregate such as urban malls and transit hubs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and extent variable to meet client needs.</li> </ul>	Teens Young Adults	

## District Spaces

The following examples show how a combination of components can be created that include a range of different recreation options for larger district spaces. They may focus on one key element such as a skatepark or be a mix of components.



fig. 6

### District recreation example 1

This includes a mix of a multipurpose court, climbing/rebound wall, scooter loop, parkour and fitness space.

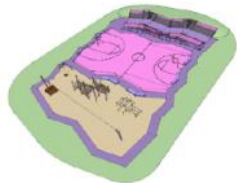


fig. 7

### District recreation example 2

This example combines a multipurpose court, scooter loop, skate bowl, play zone and fitness space.

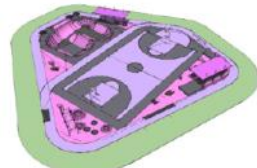


fig. 8

### District recreation example 3

This example combines a multipurpose court, scooter loop, skate bowl, play zone and fitness space in a different configuration to example 3.



fig. 9

### District recreation example 4

This includes a mix of a multipurpose 1/2 court, climbing/rebound wall, scooter loop, adventure play and fitness space.



## But where do Skateparks fit in?

But what about skateparks? Where do they fit in? Over the last 20 years there has been a significant growth in the interest and participation of action sports including skateboarding and BMX (including pumps tracks). Skateparks have been created to meet this need. If they are not youth spaces or pre-teen/early teen recreation spaces, what are they? Where do they fit in?

Given they are facilities specifically created to allow participants to enjoy their chosen activity, this study sees them in a more formal sporting model sense. They need to be considered as designated sporting spaces, much like a basketball court and be implemented accordingly. One of the big challenges though is the hierarchy model of sporting skate provision. Whilst district skate facilities cater for BMX, skate, scootering and allow for a diverse range of users, most smaller skateparks cannot.

Because of the need to cater for park, plaza and transition skate as well as BMX, scootering, etc it is difficult to accommodate all needs in a single space. Therefore, Banyule should investigate opportunities to create one large central new skatepark across the municipality that is of a district scale to enable events, training and allow for long-stay use. Smaller skate opportunities can then be provided at pre-teen/early teen and teen recreation spaces outlined previously. By combining skate at the local level with other recreation and play options, it is possible to create more multipurpose and relevant spaces for more young people.

### A range of users.... a range of needs...

When discussing skateboarding and freestyle BMX and skatepark provision, it is important to acknowledge that there is no single model that meets all needs. People ride and skate for different reasons, using different terrain and at different levels of expertise. It can be a form of transport, an opportunity to appropriate urban spaces in the street or it can be undertaken for sports competition such as the Olympic Games.

For younger children, skate and scootering may be about free play. Unlike many sporting pursuits there are no set court dimensions and rules.



Skateboarding, scootering and freestyle BMX, have no specific set facility type. It is, rather, the difference in spaces that provides the diversity and interest in use. There are so many different types of activity that one single space or model can not cater appropriately for everyone. Street skaters rarely use skateparks, preferring to find urban spots. Bowl skaters however will organize road trips and travel hundreds of kilometres to use a new bowl at a skatepark. It is therefore critical to understand the various styles of skateboarding, scootering and BMX summarised as follows.

## A diverse range of types...

The following describes the main styles of skateboarding and BMX and the types of terrain required for them.



### VERT SKATING

Vert skateboarding and BMX requires large ramps (generally 3m+ in height with at least 30cm vertical face at tops of ramp) for doing vertical tricks.



### TRANSITION SKATEBOARDING & RIDING

Popular over the world, these facilities can come in all shapes & sizes and include snake runs, single and combination bowls.



### 'PARK' STYLE SKATEBOARDING & RIDING

'Park' style is using contrived elements created to partially replicate real urban items. They can be used for both BMX and skate. The Olympic skateboarding event at Tokyo will be held on a 'park' style course.



### PLAZA SKATEBOARDING & RIDING

The final typology is plaza or street skating. This generally utilises existing urban spaces, streets and spots to skate or ride. Designated skate spots are now being created in urban centres around the world.

### Celebrate the diversity

Given the diversity of different user types and the mix of those that skate for competition and those that just skate for fun, skateparks cannot necessarily cater for all needs in a single space. This has been one of the biggest single issues with existing skatepark provision across Australia. There is a proliferation of similar types of smaller skateparks. The reasons for this are varied but generally result from budget and size limitations (easier to fund smaller facilities and less broader community backlash).

Therefore as outlined previously, Council should investigate opportunities for a larger district facility that services the entire municipality, as well as providing a diverse mix of opportunities for the various types of skating/riding at a localised level spread throughout the municipality. These smaller provisions will complement the district facility and provide more opportunities within each precinct.



# Existing Provision

The following map shows the existing provision of local recreation spaces for pre-teen/ early teens, teens and young adults within Banyule City Council.

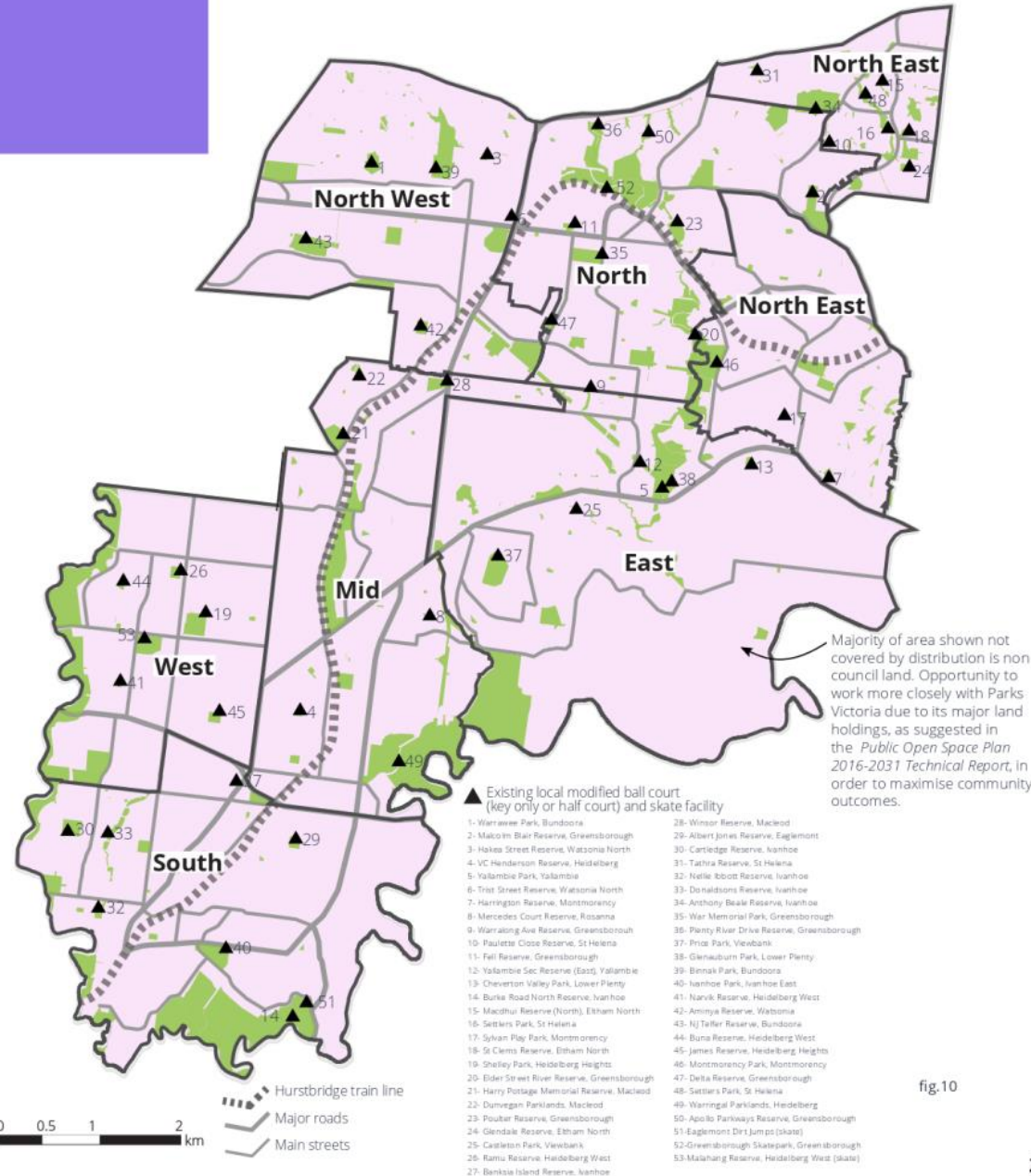
There are two skateparks, one at Kalparrin Gardens in Greensborough and the other at Malahang Reserve, Heidelberg West. There is also a small dirt bmx jumps track in Eaglemont. Whilst Malahang skatepark services the south western region of Banyule, a central/northern location for the new space needs consideration as the existing Greensborough skatepark does not provide adequate opportunities to skate appropriately and is in poor condition.

There are also 50 modified basketball courts across the city. They are a mix of free throw and 1/2 courts. They provide informal areas for recreation and social connection.

As the map to the right shows, overall there is a great distribution of spaces for young people from a walkability perspective. It is however the quality and diversity of experience that is significantly lacking.

The existing ball courts are essentially providing the same recreation experience, with little diversity of opportunity and little amenity. These facilities are spaces in which young people congregate and socialise, therefore all facilities should provide seating and shade-at a minimum-as outlined in the site selection matrix. They can also contain a range of other recreation elements to diversify the opportunities for young people to enjoy.

This site selection process is summarised on the following pages. It includes an outline on what should be contained within local recreation spaces. This helps confirm what elements require consideration when upgrading and adapting the existing ball courts into these new local pre-teen/ early teen and teen recreation hubs.



## Key youth space principles

Based on the outcomes of previous Council studies, youth recreation trends, the youth engagement undertaken for this study and the current significant youth population, there is a need for new youth spaces within Banyule. The following key principles should be adopted when considering these new spaces and places for young people.

### Central & accessible locations

- Young people are naturally attracted to urban centres, transport nodes and shopping precincts. We should look to redevelop these spaces to better accommodate their needs.
- We should also ensure there are localised spaces in our neighbourhoods for pre-teen/ early teens (less independent) so these younger children can access fun and appropriate recreation spaces.

### Diversity of opportunity

- We need to ensure the spaces we provide are diverse and accessible via public transport to ensure as many young people can enjoy them accordingly.
- We need to look at balancing the needs of both recreation and other cultural pursuits. Active recreation, music, art, events and other social opportunities could all be accommodated in high profile locations in places young people want to be.

### Relevance to young people

- The spaces we create need to be relevant to young people. Spaces should be contemporary and fun and be flexible to accommodate changing trends and interests.
- Projection, events and multimedia assist in allowing spaces to be adaptable with changing content allowing spaces to evolve as interests change.

### Communication & ownership

- Ensure young people have a voice and are appropriately engaged in what recreation activities are contained with these spaces.
- Allow them the opportunity to assist in confirming what events and activities are held in these spaces.

### Safe and inclusive

- We need to make sure young people feel safe in these spaces. They need to have high natural surveillance and be in high profile locations with great sight lines. They need to include well designed night-time lighting with no blind spots to ensure young people feel safe traversing through the space when it is dark. They also need to consider the needs of all young people and be inclusive and welcoming.

24



# Site Selection

## Introduction

This section describes the site selection criteria that are applied when siting pre-teen/ early teen, teen and young adult recreation hubs across the City.

## Finding the best locations

All spaces designed to accommodate pre-teen/ early teens, teens and young adults should be in accessible and highly visible locations and close to shops and public transport. Whilst the local facilities will be accommodated by utilising the existing ball courts, finding the right district facility is particularly important given its role in servicing young people in this northern and central region.

To assist in determining the best locations for all pre-teen/ early teen, teen and young adult spaces, a broad level site selection matrix has been created that indicates the key requirements for choosing the best possible sites for local recreation hubs and larger district spaces.

Existing district playspaces should also contain opportunities for older play for pre-teen/ early teens so whilst this framework discusses the types of play that should be considered for this age cohort, it focuses on existing ball courts only. Council can review and utilise some of the recommendations for local pre-teen/ early teen play and also apply them to existing regional playspaces.

The following is an outline of the recommended site selection criteria.

## Site condition & scale

- Is the proposed site able to cater for adequate facility/ events? (dependent on the type/ scale of space)
- Can it also accommodate potential additional recreation elements as per the proposed model?
- Is the proposed site suitable for the proposed recreation facility when considering surrounding context and existing provision?
- Will the proposed site provide a recreation space unique to the locale?

## Location / access to transport

- Are there appropriate access to local public transport at the proposed site?
- Is there other areas of interest for young people surrounding the site, such as shopping centres, schools, public transport hubs and recreation facilities?
- Are there pedestrian/footpath connections from transport nodes to the proposed site?
- Is there a safe drop off area or adequate car parking if applicable?
- Is there a local community/ youth centred organisation to assist with programming and overseeing the sites success ?

## Safety / security

- Is the site visually prominent with good public surveillance in line with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles and for the promotion of the facility?
- Is the site a short distance from police response calls and does it provide ease of police access on scheduled routes?
- Can the site provide adequate emergency vehicle access (fire and ambulance)?
- Can the proposed site provide safe entry to and from the site and safe setbacks from busy roads, intersections and hazards such as vehicles/traffic (pedestrians, bike, cars etc) ?

## Amenities

- Are associated amenities such as public toilets, water, rubbish bins, shelter and shade existing and available or cost effective to install at the site?
- Are the associated amenities of quality standard that are cost effective to maintain and repair?
- Is the site close to shops selling food and drink and is there potential for seasonal, peak time and/or event day food and drink outlets?
- Is there adequate seating/ areas for viewing to cater for larger community events?

The selection criteria are outlined in the table according to the following rating.

- Critically important to function appropriately
- Highly preferable to function appropriately
- Preferable to function appropriately
- Unnecessary to function appropriately

	District Recreation Space	Local Teen Recreation Space	Local Pre-teen/ early teen Recreation Space
<b>Site condition &amp; scale</b>			
Ability to accommodate facility of minimum 2500 sq.m			
Ability to accommodate space for youth events			
Ability to accommodate space for broader community events			
Considers context and landscaping to integrate/ complement surroundings			
Opportunity to contain a mix of social seating - passive and active recreation opportunities (music, sport, art, multimedia, skate) to ensure locally relevant			
<b>Location / access to transport</b>			
Close proximity to commercial/community centre			
Close proximity to public transport/access			
Proximity to youth interest areas (shopping areas, schools, other recreation)			
Close proximity to community/service based organisation that can actively assist in programming the space			
<b>Safety / security</b>			
Good natural surveillance			
Appropriate safety & entry signage			
Emergency vehicle access			
Adequate car parking/drop-off			
<b>Amenities</b>			
Shelter/shade			
Drinking fountain			
Rubbish bins			
Toilets (close proximity)			
Designated seating and viewing areas			

# A summary of the model

The following table summarises the key elements that should be considered when developing spaces and places for young people in Banyule.

Type	Target Age	Description and site considerations	Catchment	Length of Stay	Area (m2)	Connected Use	Specific types of elements to Consider
Local Pre-teen/ early teen Youth Space	Pre-teen/ early teens	<p>Nodes/hubs usually consist of low impact recreation elements which integrate within open spaces.</p> <p>These spaces should be well-located and highly visible.</p> <p>Nodes should be situated in locations close to existing primary schools and bike paths.</p> <p>Typically, these nodes should be integrated with other community focal points as local play spaces to encourage cross-generational interaction and ensuring a greater age range for play opportunities.</p>	1-1.5km	Short Stay based on more localised use of the minor elements provided	50-300 sq.m	Sports precinct Local playspace	<p>A mix of minor recreation elements that could include adventure play or obstacle courses, casual informal ball sport opportunities, climbing, multi-use games parkour, ping pong or futsal.</p> <p>There may also be local wheeled elements such as a small scooter track or Pumps Track or mix of skateable elements (street, plaza or transition). Given pre-teen/ early teen focus, elements should be geared towards entry level participation</p>
Local Teen/ Young adult Youth Space	Teens/ Young adults	<p>Nodes/hubs usually consist of low impact recreation elements which integrate within open spaces.</p> <p>These spaces should be well-located and highly visible.</p> <p>Nodes should be situated in locations with good pedestrian networks in central areas of neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Opportunities to also provide these nodes at community centres, libraries and youth centres is highly beneficial, in particular social spaces and event and performance spaces that can be managed/activated by the centres they are connected to.</p> <p>They can also be additions to an existing shopping centre or transport node to provide opportunities for young people at places that they are already naturally attracted to.</p>	1-1.5km	Short Stay based on more localised use of the minor elements provided	50-300 sq.m	Library, transport node, urban plaza Sports precinct	<p>A mix of minor recreation elements that could include fitness, obstacle courses, casual informal ball sport opportunities, climbing, multi-use games parkour, ping pong or futsal.</p> <p>There may also be local wheeled elements such as a small scooter track or Pumps Track or mix of skateable elements (street, plaza or transition).</p> <p>Art spaces and social seating areas should also be a priority Given teen focus, elements should be geared towards more intermediate level participation</p>
District Youth Space	All	<p>District recreation spaces should cater for a diverse array of activities which cater for a broad range of young people.</p> <p>A district recreation space can serve a number of different purposes. It can be either a purpose-built dedicated recreation facility such as a major skate park or it can be a combination of active recreation elements that provides a diverse range of opportunity for everyone in the community to enjoy.</p> <p>They need to be central and will attract people not only from the neighboring suburbs, but also attract young people and adults from the wider municipality.</p> <p>A district recreation space is generally located within a major activity centre and has convenient access to public transport. These spaces should be integrated with other community focal points to encourage cross-generational interactions.</p> <p>A district recreation space has the ability to cater for large numbers of users and the capacity to host small events such as competitions, demonstrations and youth events.</p>	3-5km	Long stay based on the space having a range of diverse elements to provide significant recreation opportunity	2500 sq.m+	Community Centre Events Plaza Active and public transport node	<p>An integrated large space with diverse opportunities for recreation, social connection and hanging out. Could include a large skatepark, event space, art exhibition space, designated multipurpose courts, significant fitness and parkour areas, some adventurous play spaces and a range of hangout and social seating spaces</p> <p>Given district focus, elements should be geared towards both beginner through to advanced level participation.</p>



# Key action plan

The following is a suggested key action plan outlining the next steps in implementing the above study to ensure Banyule has sufficient youth spaces for pre-teen/ early teens, teens and young adults to enjoy.

Scale/ Type of Facility	Location	Target Age	Recommendations
Local Pre-teen/ early teen Youth Space	7 precincts of Banyule	Pre - teen/ early teens	Investigate locations and feasibility for walkable local pre-teen/ early teen youth spaces spread equitably across the 7 precincts contained in the Public Open Space Strategy
Local Teen/ Young adult Youth Space	7 precincts of Banyule	Teens/ Young adults	Investigate locations and feasibility for walkable local teen spaces spread equitably across the 7 precincts contained in the Public Open Space Strategy
District Youth Space	South of municipality	All	Investigate locations and feasibility for a district youth space to service the needs of pre-teen/ early teens, teens and young adults in the south of the municipality
District Youth Space	North of municipality	All	Investigate locations and feasibility for a district youth space to service the needs of pre-teen/ early teens, teens and young adults in the north of the municipality
-	-	-	Ensure that ongoing funds are allocated for the maintenance and renewal of facilities

## Conclusion

This plan has been developed using a principle based approach that sets the foundations that spaces for young people are important and should be provided within the Banyule community. This has been further confirmed through extensive consultation with these young people.

With Council's support and adoption of this plan, following more detailed site investigation and feasibility to confirm appropriate locations, Banyule City Council should look at implementing a range of suitable and relevant new recreation spaces to cater for the diverse needs of young people across the municipality and rectify a large gap in the provision of appropriate spaces for this age cohort moving forward.





## Consultation Report

**Revision A**  
**December 2019**

**PLA'CE**



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## Introduction

The following report outlines the results of extensive consultation undertaken for Banyule City Council, as facilitated by Playce.

Playce were engaged by Banyule City Council as consultants for a strategic youth plan. Over a period of 2 months, extensive consultation was undertaken by Playce with support from Banyule City Council. During this period Playce and Banyule City Council engaged with a diverse mix of community groups. Workshops were held with various stakeholders.

Through engaging in community participation and via an online survey, questions asked related to what the young people of Banyule currently do to recreate, what they would like to see/ do more of in the future Banyule and what issues they currently face. During the community engagement workshops, everyone had their chance to vote on their favourite images as categorised by Active, Social and Creative opportunities.

# Participants

Over the course of the consultation phase, community engagement workshops were held with various stakeholders, as well as at education institutes and broader community events.

A summary number of attendees of these workshops follows:

## Stakeholder Workshops:

<b>24 participants</b>	<i>Skate Jam- 1st October 2019</i>
<b>6 participants</b>	<i>Young Mother's Group- 18th October 2019</i>
<b>7 participants</b>	<i>Jets Music and Creative Arts Group- 21st October 2019</i>
<b>15 participants</b>	<i>Malahang Bike Hut- 24th October 2019</i>

## School/ University Consultation:

<b>50 participants</b>	<i>La Trobe University- 22nd October 2019</i>
<b>35 participants</b>	<i>Our Ladies of Mercy College- 29th October 2019</i>

## Public Consultation:

<b>97 participants</b>	<i>Banyule Youth Festival- 15th September 2019</i>
<b>15 participants</b>	<i>Malahang Festival- 17th November 2019</i>

# 348 participants

*Total number of participants  
(online survey, community engagement workshops/ events)*



## Summary

Playce and Banyule City Council actively engaged with 348 community members, a great outcome for the community and the twenty suburbs that comprise Banyule. Stakeholder workshops, public community engagement and education institutions provided a diverse snapshot of the needs and wants for the many different communities within the Banyule municipality when it comes to their open public spaces.

The largest focus group came from the Banyule Youth Festival, followed by the La Trobe University pop up. These sessions reached a broad audience, while the stakeholder workshops provided opportunity to hear the voices of specific focus groups that make up the diverse fabric of the Banyule community.

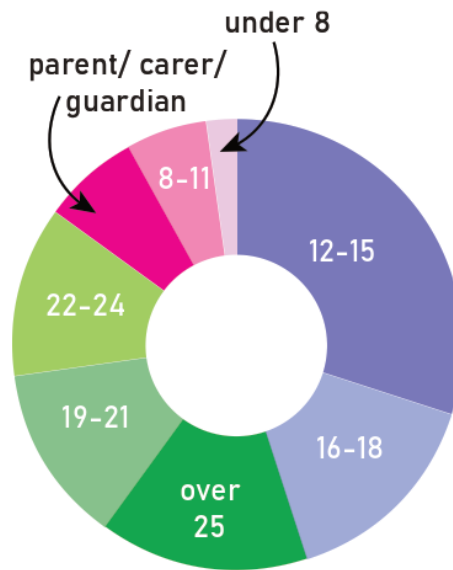


# Online Survey

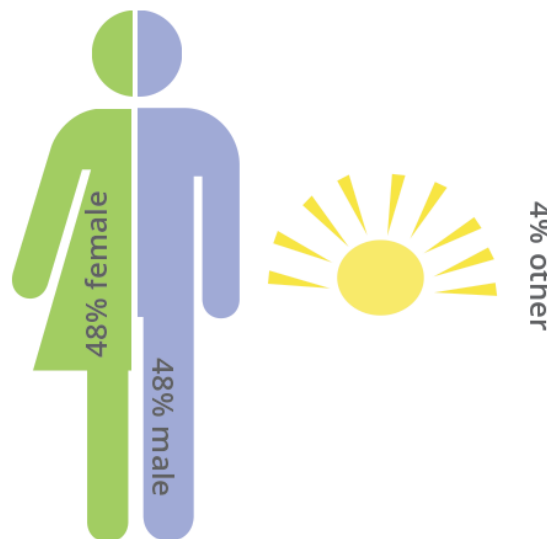
## Demographic

### Age:

- 30% aged 12-15
- 15% aged 16-18
- 15% aged over 25
- 13% aged 19-21
- 12% aged 22-25
- 7% parent/ carer/ guardian
- 6% aged 8-11
- 2% aged under 8



### Gender:



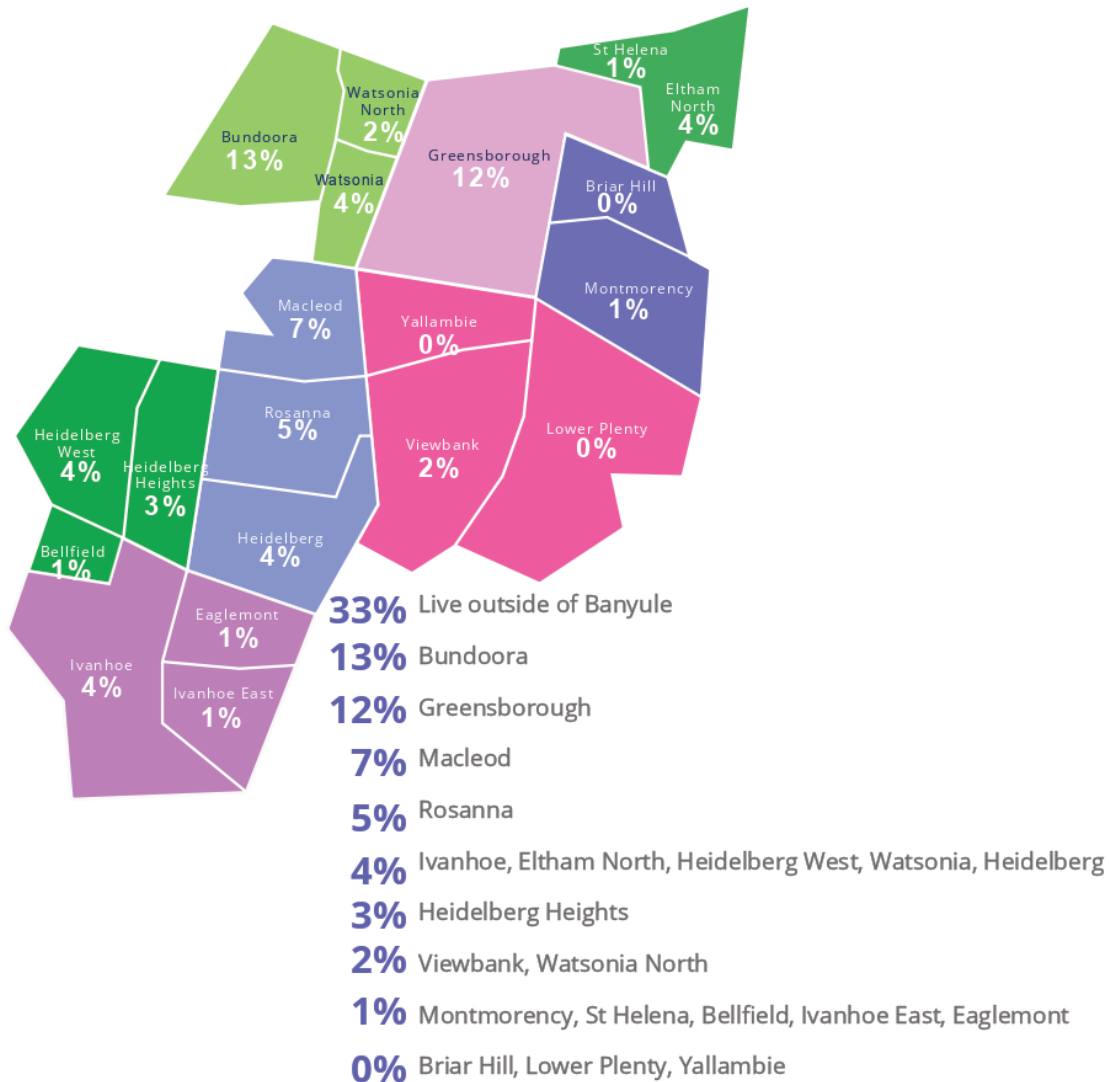
## Summary

The largest age range of survey participants was 12-15 year olds, a great representation for what we often refer to as the 'forgotten' age group or the inbe(tweens) when it comes to designing recreational/ play spaces for youth.

The majority of participants (70%) fell within the age range of 12-25 year olds, which is significant for the Banyule Youth Spaces Plan as an age range defined as 'youth'. Male and female genders were shared at 48% each, with 4% of participants identifying as other. This is a fantastic result for a dynamic community engagement process.



# Location



# Summary

Through the online survey we found that 67% of respondents lived within the City of Banyule. Whilst 33% of respondents live outside the City of Banyule the data is still valid given that many of those choose to recreate and use facilities within the municipality.

The largest suburb participation came from Bundoora at 13%, closely followed by Greensborough with 12%. The remaining 42% of participants were dispersed throughout the municipality, with the exception of Briar Hill, Lower Plenty and Yallambie, all of which had no represented survey respondents.



# Questions

## Q1. How do you enjoy spending your spare time?



## Any other ways you enjoy spending your spare time?



## Summary

Over half of the survey participants voted socialising with friends outdoors as their preferred way to spend spare time. This is significant data, with the focus of the consultation being on open public spaces. Socialising was favoured throughout, with socialising with friends at shopping centres/ cinemas and at home voted in the top 5 ways to spend spare time.

The activities with the least amount of votes were BMX riding, Scootering and Playing on Playgrounds. Whilst they did not have as many survey responses, BMX riding and scootering deemed popular among a specific audience throughout the consultation process.



## Q2. What would you like to do more of if you could or if it was available in Banyule?



## Anything else you would like to do more of if it was available in Banyule?



### Summary

The second 'dotmocracy' question in the online survey was more evenly dispersed among the top 5, with between 36% and 20% of voters selecting a combination of the above 5 activities in their top 3.

The most desired activity was Adventure Play (ropes, climbing, parkour), which was in the bottom 5 activities for 'ways you spend you spare time' in the previous question. This reflects the community's desire to include more 'adventure' play elements in the future planning and design of parks and open spaces. There was also a strong desire for more bicycle focused activity, with mentions for better cycle trails for mountain biking and the addition of a pumps track.





### Q3. Which places/ facilities do you enjoy going to in your spare time?



### Anywhere else you enjoy spending your spare time?



### Summary

Parks and open spaces proved to be the most popular among survey participants when asked which spaces/ facilities they enjoy going to in their spare time, with 64% voting it number one. This is again significant data within the scope of the youth open spaces upgrade plan. The least favoured places/ facilities to enjoy were community centres, school grounds and public transport hubs.



### Q4. What are the three biggest issues that prevent you from accessing places/ facilities?



### Anything else you can think of that prevents you from accessing these places/ facilities?

*Lack of knowledge about what is available to me. Being a 20-something I feel like I am too old or too young for community services but I would like to be involved in things*

*Public transport is a big issue for this community especially with the new train line going through and yet no station in Heidelberg west, one of the areas which the most low socio economic populations live, and could benefit more from a train station*

*Areas with lots of traffic that do not have enough pedestrian crossings*

*Friends often don't want to be active*

*Not knowing what else I can do after work*

*Quality of facilities mean it's not worthwhile*

### Summary

Accessibility proved to be a big issue for many when asked to consider what inhibits them from accessing places/ facilities. Many comments suggested public transport connections could be improved to create greater opportunities for those crossing suburbs which are on different train lines. Road safety, including lack of pedestrian crossings and cycle lanes were also seen as deterrents when accessing certain places/ facilities.

Several participants also mentioned difficulty finding someone to go with, suggesting more community focused events/ workshops for specific interests would be of benefit to those wishing to expand their interests but not feeling confident to take the first step on their own.



### Q5. Which places/ facilities would you potentially use if they were available in Banyule?



### Any other places/ facilities you would potentially use if they were in Banyule?



### Summary

This question asked respondents to consider which places/ facilities they would potentially use if available to them Banyule. The choices which received the most amount of votes explored a diverse range of activities for different user groups. The most popular among the voters was outdoor performances/ cinema, receiving 42% of the top 5 votes.

The top five votes covered a broad range of play experiences, including physical, emotional, social and sensory play. Many people suggested the inclusion of more art elements to be enjoyed in public open spaces, as well as community gardens to encourage the local community to get outdoors and interact with one another.



### Q6. How do you currently experience/ use open public space in Banyule?



### Summary

Catching up with friends and a place to study/ chill and relax were almost equal, with 20% of voters favouring open public spaces to study/ chill and relax as their number 1. This supports the earlier questions which focused around how people spend their spare time, which had a strong social focus also.



### Q7. What kind of activities or events would you attend if they were available in Banyule?



### Any other ways you would like to experience/ use open public space?



### Summary

Open air cinema proved popular among participants again, while community/ food markets closely followed. Sports activities and live music/ entertainment were also among the top five, emphasising the community's desire for integrated activities and events. Some respondents suggested more small scale local community events throughout the year, such as weekend markets and themed events with a focus on skate or other sport/ interests.



### Q8. How do you currently move around Banyule?



### Any other ways you access Banyule?



### Summary

The majority of survey participants access Banyule via public transport. This high percentage of users is reflective of the various responses throughout the survey focused towards public transport issues and accessibility. With many people mentioning a desire for safer roads and cycle networks, the lower percentage of those who use a bike to get around Banyule is again reflected in the data collected earlier in the survey.



### Q9. What do you think is the BEST idea for improving Banyule for young people?

*More open spaces with cafes/family friendly activities that feel SAFE!*

*There is a lack of skate parks in Banyule with very few options for people who like to do this around locally. Another local park would give people other options and hopefully reduce how busy the only local option I have gets.*

*Let us have Watsonia pop up park once again :)*



*More public transport i.e. a train station and more readily available libraries in areas that need them most.*



*More events like outdoor cinemas or concerts with local music*



*Nice and modern walking paths and maybe some fancy sculptures*

*I would love an area for trampolining and doing gymnastics*



## Parents, Carers and Guardians Feedback

### What do you see as important things to include in the future planning of spaces and facilities for young people in Banyule?

This question led people to think about outdoor spaces and what they would like to see improved or included in their future spaces. Improved cycling infrastructure with better path connections and safer bicycle paths on road, designated play spaces that encourage kids to take risks and learn from their experiences with others in nature, as well as recreation facilities with multi-sport courts were all believed to be of great benefit for young people in Banyule.

*Something to get the kids outdoors. Bike track features like a pump track or similar to make a boring trail fun for them.*

*I think it's important to provide activities that are stimulating and in the outdoors to bring kids outside and away from connected devices.*

*Play spaces are still important in public parks. Social enterprise and collaborative work space is also great.*

### If you could change one thing to make Banyule better for young people aged 12- 25 years, what would you change and why?

Improved cycling infrastructure was seen as integral for those aged between 12-25, with safer roads and trails giving parents, carers and guardians the confidence they need to encourage their children to explore independently. Those who were involved in this section of the survey advocated for safer roads, with improved traffic planning and pedestrian crossings. The desire for more safe spaces which are easily accessible, observed and free for young people to hang out and socialise was common amongst feedback. Many suggestions included hosting more events like Banyule Youth fest throughout the year to encourage greater diversity in placemaking.

*More places for teens to hang out safely. Library upgrades focused on appealing to this age group. Music events like open mics, that are regular, such as what they do at Malahang Park.*

*Something to get the kids outdoors. Bike track features like a pump track or similar to make a boring trail fun for them.*

### Are there any further comments or feedback you'd like to make in relation to the places, spaces and facilities for young people in Banyule?

Some final comments were centred around creating more intergenerational spaces in Banyule, that can be enjoyed at any time by anyone. More centrally accessible youth centres that can be enjoyed by all those aged between 12-25 as well as well lit areas with access to shops for food and toilet facilities were also seen as important facilities for young people to have in Banyule.

Further reinforcement came from the community for better infrastructure for cycling, on and off road. Utilising natural spaces by incorporating more path networks and hosting more community focused events were also common comments among respondents.

*Kids need to feel empowered and able to challenge themselves without feeling constant oversight and criticism*

*Learning to ride a bicycle offers young people, whether they be local or immigrant, the confidence and motor skills to feel happy about themselves... Who doesn't enjoy riding a bicycle off the road!*





# Community Engagement

Top 5!

## Dotmocracy

What types of CREATIVE opportunities would you like to see more of in Banyule?

1

24% voted:



Light Installations

2



Local Music

3



Interactive Sculptures

4



Street Art Walls

5



Pop-up Performance Space

What types of SOCIAL opportunities would you like to see more of in Banyule?

1

33% voted:



Night Markets

2



Human Foosball

3



Public Chill-out Space

4



Public Parks

5



Giant Board Games

What types of ACTIVE opportunities would you like to see more of in Banyule?

1

38% voted:



Giant Water Slide

2



Skateable Elements

3



Maze

4



Group Challenges

5



Public Space Yoga



# Stakeholder Workshops

## Skate Jam

Playce engaged with the local skate community at the Greensborough Skate Jam, held at the Greensy Skate Park on Tuesday October 1st.

This was a great opportunity to engage with local users of the skate facilities available in Banyule, and to hear their valued opinions. Many skaters desired a skate park for Montmorency, while others suggested an upgrade to current skate facilities would be of great benefit. Some parents/ carers suggested the upgrades should include provision for safer spaces with better observations points.



## Young Mother's Group

On Friday October 18th, Playce conducted a workshop with the young mother's group in the Watermarc Building, Banyule City Council. This was a great opportunity to reach a specific audience and have a chat about what they wish to see in Banyule as their babies grow up. It was also a great chance to gain insight on their thoughts at present on open public spaces in Banyule.

The group agreed accessibility across Banyule could be better, with more regular buses across various suburbs. In parks and reserves, better/ safer path networks for prams to share with other users, such as older children on bikes and pedestrians.



## Jets Music and Creative Arts Group

Playce visited the Jets Music and Creative Arts Group at The Concord on Monday October 21st. This was a great chance to see some of the 'behind the scenes' actions of the Banyule City Council community. Many informal chats were had between rehearsals and various creative pursuits people were engaged in. Whilst there were not so many survey participants, this was a great snapshot of the diverse and creative community that Banyule fosters.



## Malahang Bike Hut

On a very hot afternoon on Thursday October 24th, Playce set up a stall at the Malahang Bike Hut in Heidelberg West to chat to the local community about what they would like to see more of in their parks and open spaces. Despite the very hot conditions, a great crew came down to enjoy an icy pole and have their say.

Speaking of their immediate park, many agreed more trees centred around the playground would be beneficial for years to come and would make spaces like this and others more of a destination for the whole family to stay a while. Many of the community had concerns for safety around Malahang, and suggested better lighting at night would make for a safer environment.



# Public Consultation

## Banyule Youth Festival

Playce along with the Banyule City Council hosted a community engagement pop-in session at the Banyule Youth Festival on Sunday September 15th in Macleod Village Green. The festival was the first community engagement consultation for the Youth Spaces Plan, and provided a great snapshot of the diverse mix of people and interests within the Banyule community, as well as many who lived in neighboring suburbs to the border of Banyule municipality.

This was a great day, with a broad range of people participating, as well as many who lived in neighboring suburbs bordering Banyule municipality. Many comments from this day suggested more days like this throughout the year to encourage community participation and kinship.



## Malahang Festival

To wrap up the community engagement consultation process, Playce along with Banyule City Council held a final public pop-up/ drop in session at the Malahang Festival in Malahang Park, Heidelberg West on Sunday November 17th.

Whilst the vast majority of those who engaged in the consultation process were outside of the defined youth parameters (12-25 years old), it was a great opportunity to chat with parents of younger children who will potentially grow up in Banyule and benefit from the positive influence from the community throughout this consultation process.



# Public Consultation


## Community Feedback

**What would be the best location for a new space for young people in Banyule?**

*In the middle of everything that is very accessible. They could have a skatepark in Heidelberg park*

*Hawker street in Ivanhoe park. It could have a better playground and be utilised more*

*Parks/ ovals (Banyule flats)*



**What is your best idea for improving spaces for young people in Banyule?**


*Good gym equipment like in Sydney and Queensland*

*More parks, speakers in parks, areas for friends to catchup*

*More open places where you can just sit and talk*

*Local bands and food trucks. Community focused opportunities for older people*

*Make it look a bit prettier, for example sculptures*



**What do you think is the biggest issue facing young people in Banyule?**



*Transport availability and open times*

*There is not much to do- would rather go to the city*

*Not feeling safe on your own*

*Safety on public transport*

*PTV- the buses are always late*

# School and University Consultations

## La Trobe University Pop- Up

Playce alongside Banyule City Council hosted a pop- up community engagement consultation session at La Trobe University, Bundoora on Tuesday October 22nd. This was a great success, with many people engaging with us before busily heading into the library to study for exams or finish that final assignment.

Though La Trobe university is outside Banyule municipality, after chatting to students and teachers alike we discovered that many people spend time in neighboring suburbs, or live in Banyule municipality.



## Our Ladies of Mercy College

On Tuesday October 29th, Playce visited Our Ladies of Mercy College to run 2 workshops with the students. The first workshop was a year 7 Humanities class. They were at present learning about the legal system and what a democracy is, which tied in nicely to the dotmocracy exercise and gave the students some understanding of the consultation process as a bigger picture within the community and the importance of taking the opportunity to 'have your say'.

*I would really enjoy having more open air cinemas, I really like the idea and think it would be fun to go to with friends*

It was great to wander around and hear so many creative ideas and discussions in the classroom. Many students advocated for more trees in all parks and open spaces, as well as safer thoroughfares in public transport hubs and streetscapes at night.



The second workshop included 2 students from every year level. This was a great opportunity to hear a variety of voices and was a great chance for the older students to liaise with the younger students on things they would have liked to have available to them over the course of their high school education.

Many students agreed more community focused public spaces with open air cinema and markets would be an asset to the municipality, particularly with such a broad spread of demographic in neighboring suburbs.



# Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

## Summary Discussion

Overall the community engagement process for the Banyule Youth Spaces Plan was a great way to gain insight into the strong and diverse community that makes up Banyule. With a total of 348 people participating in the online survey we got a great snapshot of the local community's ideas on existing open public spaces within Banyule.

It was a great result to find that of the 348 respondents, 82% were aged between 12 and 25, the focus age group for the Banyule youth Spaces Plan. The even dispersion of male and female participants was also a great result.

Throughout the consultation, we engaged with a diverse mix of the community with different interests and assets. Engaging with various stakeholder groups and the community was an important part of the community engagement process as it meant specific audiences were heard and had a chance to express their ideas directly to us. A call for a diversity of spaces to perform a variety of activities was favoured among majority of participants. Spaces to include provision for active and passive play, and opportunities to explore and create through adventure play and artistic elements were deemed popular among participants. Socialising was important for most and was a common past time when asked to consider how they currently experience open public spaces within the Banyule municipality. Throughout the 'dotmocracy' exercises, it was clear that Banyule is a creative and artistic community with a taste for an appetite for adventure and community focused events.

We feel this is a great outcome for the community engagement process. Banyule has identified itself as a strong and diverse community with lots of passionate members and willing participants.

*I think there need to be community events or better advertising for them for youth to get people out of their houses and off their phones doing something to build relationships within the community.*



Draft Youth Spaces Plan – Exhibition Comments
<p>I would like to see more effort taken to obtain representative views from youth across Banyule. Montmorency had only 1% of its young population surveyed and yet is only behind Greensborough, Bundoora and Ivanhoe in terms of young adult and adolescent population. It also has no youth spaces other than a sporting field, dog park and playground listed as youth space. Give the youth of Montmorency some decent space in which to gather. At the moment the only access to youth services for young people in the North East precinct seems to be careers/wellbeing teachers, which can be a bit hit n miss for this group. There needs to be services and activities within communities year-round and not just during events. Drop in spaces through the utilization of shop fronts or in Montmorency's case the community hub project would be ideal. Especially where not every kid is engaged in sporting activities or active play. Intergenerational facilities where older members of the community can mentor younger members in learning to drive or cook for example could be encouraged.</p>
<p>Things that encourage kids to be part of the community and spend more time outdoors in a safe environment.</p>
<p>Make a plaza skatepark.</p>
<p>Make something skateable, a lot of new parks try and do weird things like putting humps in the middle of a bowl, I think this can make it actually harder and less enjoyable for beginners and experienced users. Also, functional, putting a tranny right above the bowl/half pipe where there would be heaps of traffic can cause younger less experienced kids to get hurt and then they stop coming to skate.</p>
<p>More skateparks would be great.</p>
<p>Would like some more places for the kids to do physical activities such as skateparks.</p>
<p>Skate plaza and bowl are key to this development with majority of the youth in the area currently using the space for skating</p>
<p>More street elements for the skatepark</p>
<p>I would like the space more skate oriented seeing there is multiple playgrounds and parks in the area and most being modern. The skate facility's from Eltham to Greensborough and even Malahang, are all old, tired and very much overlooked. The skate community in these areas have continuously been told that we would get a park that would cater to all of our needs only for all of the designs to have tiny, off to the side obstacles if you would even call it a skatepark.</p> <p>These designs are truly disappointing.</p> <p>When we've seen parks like Noble Park, Wallan, Tarneit and the Fitzroy upgrade plans where they have made great skateparks catering to all sports from BMX, scooters and skaters. Also bringing in people from all over Melbourne just to use those facility's think about the foot traffic it would bring to the plaza and the local shops around it, a park wouldn't do the same.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion.</p>
<p>I think it has to be more skate/BMX/scooter focused, there isn't much representation in the examples.</p>



Maybe a half court basketball court, but definitely needs a mini bowl like example 3, but also more park style transitions.

There is a huge following for these sports in the area and Greensborough skatepark is over 20 years old would be great to get something that will be on the same level as Mernda skatepark, Mernda is a good example as it has a playground and climbing wall etc and seems be great for skate/BMX/scooter too.

It needs far more skate park orientation. You don't need a whole basketball court, the majority of the youth in this area deserve a more updated skatepark which should be separate to children's play equipment to avoid injuries. There must be enough for everyone to enjoy without any collisions. You can't mix young children's play areas with older youth skate areas as it causes unneeded danger.

Make it mainly a skate area.

Basketball/skate areas for young adults.

It'd be awesome if it went through it'd make Greensborough so much nicer.



## **SHOP 48 THE HARMONY CENTRE 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT**

## BACKGROUND

Council entered into a 10-year commercial lease in 2014 to establish Shop 48 The Harmony Centre (S48HC) in the Mall, Heidelberg West. It opened to the community from early 2016 following extensive refurbishments to the building.

### S48HC - Vision & Objectives

The vision set for S48HC to provide an easily accessible range of information and support services to the local 3081 community and more broadly remains consistent. Its concept of a community services hub has evolved and matured over the past 5 years as Council continued to invest financial and staff resources.

Key objectives were grounded in the experiences and learnings from the 8 year Victorian Government funded West Heidelberg Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) project which was delivered from 2005 to 2012. The key objectives were:

1. Support service integration
2. Build volunteer capacity and engagement
3. Strengthen a sense of place
4. Achieve economic sustainability

The objectives recognised and sought to build upon the strong level of community empowerment and connections, service alignment and co operation that resulted from the experiences and learnings of the NR project. In addition, in recognition of the scale of the task and the potential escalation of costs to Council, economic sustainability was listed as the fourth objective of the community service hub

### Key Functions

The key service functions of S48HC are:

1. A **Community Information Referral and Support Service** delivered by Banyule



Support and Information Centre (BANSIC) and funded by Council to provide residents with access to information and referrals on a very broad range of activities, services and entities. It also includes emergency relief and material aid.

2. A range of **co-located and out posted community services** appropriate to and engaged with the local community.

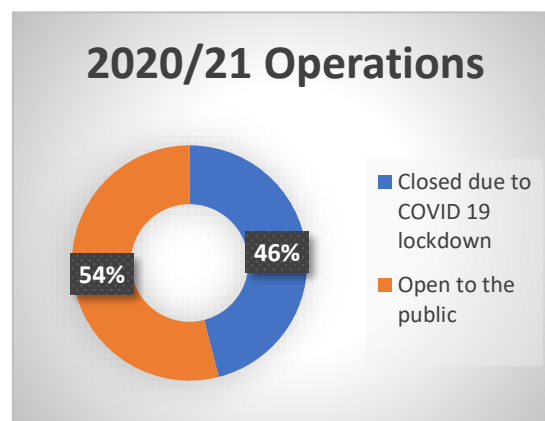
3. **Bookable spaces** – a range of spaces which can be used by the community for a variety of reasons, including meetings, education and activities.

4. **Activities and Programs** – a range of learning, supportive, social and recreational opportunities aimed at engaging the community.

## Impact of COVID-19

Pre COVID-19, up to early 2020, S48HC had developed into a welcoming and busy community space, a focal point for residents, accommodating several co-located services, interview rooms and spaces for programs, activities and meetings.

The impact of COVID-19 on S48HC has been significant in terms of financial, operational and strategic management. Tenants have reported similar impacts on their organisations, increased demands on support for clients and the broader community as well as changes in how services had been delivered up to that time.



The impact of the pandemic on the community services sector cannot be underestimated. A greater burden is already being placed on resources across a range of services including emergency relief, mental health, family support, preventing violence against women, homelessness, drug and alcohol.

2020/21 was a difficult year for S48HC. The impact of multiple closures was felt by tenants, their clients, regular room users, staff and the local community. As so many tenant services and groups had to resort to online appointments, meetings and group sessions questions were being asked about how the extent and nature of services would change into the future.

There was initial hesitancy post the 8-month closure from tenants and the local community in accessing S48HC upon re-opening. State enforced density limits on room spaces and office tenure contributed to the initial unsuitability of the space. However, it didn't take too long for S48HC to resume its important place in the community as a co-located community services hub. The demand for community meeting spaces has significantly grown in the latter half of the year.

S48HC is well versed in managing COVID safe protocols and putting COVID safe plans in place. It is well equipped to cope and deal with lockdown and reopening procedures and



managing constantly changing restrictions. However the constant chopping and changing of state enforced restrictions continues to take its toll on S48HC staff, tenants, clients and room users as they navigate the rollercoaster of appointments and events constantly planned, cancelled and rescheduled.

In total during 2020/21 S48HC was closed to the public due to 3 lockdowns for 54% or just over 6 months of the year (a total of 9 months from March 2020, the beginning of the pandemic until June 2021). During the closures, essential services i.e. BANSIC, Somali Australian Council of Victoria (SACOV) and HIMILO Community Connect (HIMILO) continued to operate on site delivering online and remote support services. As part of the response to the increased demand for support services during this period, BANSIC established the Food Hub, now well established in its new home at Our Community Hub at 155 Oriel Rd, Heidelberg West. This service receives a steady stream of food parcel referrals via BANSIC volunteers based at S48HC.

At the height of the pandemic during the first lockdown, S48HC became a COVID-19 testing clinic for a short period in response to a local cluster breakout.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### 1. Community Capacity Building and Partnerships

The partnership between BANSIC and HIMILO in response to local need during the 2020/21 COVID 19 lockdowns was outstanding. It provided the emergency relief needs of local families with strong support by HIMILO and local volunteers.



Their partnership brought mutually beneficial connections and increased access to support services, whilst also building the cultural competency of BANSIC staff and volunteers in supplying culturally relevant food parcels to the local community.

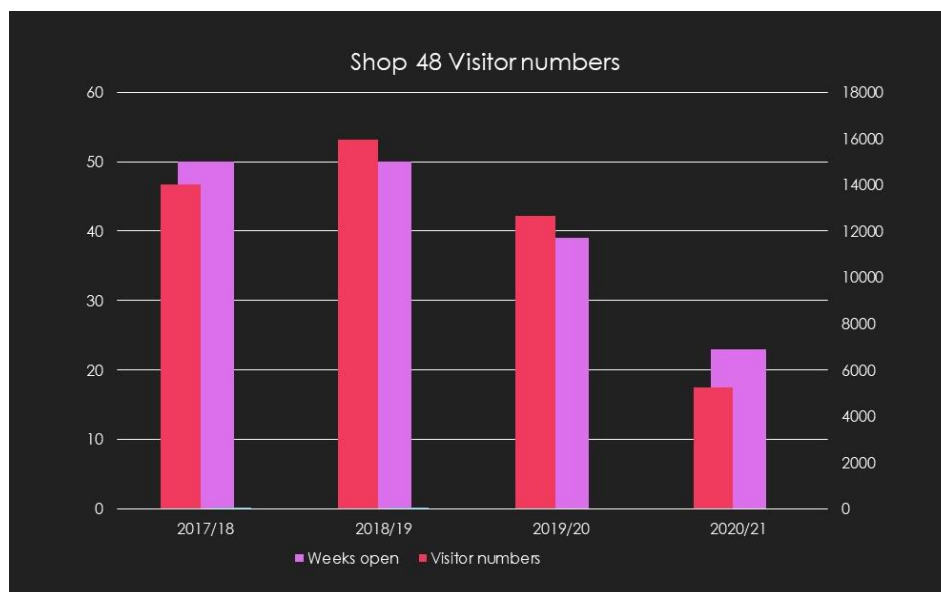
The percentage of BANSIC clients with a language other than English increased from 7.5% to 22% over 12 months.

### 2. Visitor data

S48HC re-opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 after an 8-and-a-half-month hard lockdown and experienced a further two snap lockdowns lasting 5 days and 2 weeks each. S48HC was therefore closed for 46% of the year, ie a period of 23 out of 50 weeks. This is reflected in the low client visitor number of 5,255. Even whilst open, the majority of S48HC tenants remained working from home which therefore had an impact on client visitor numbers.

Below is a 4 year comparative table which demonstrates the impact of the pandemic on activity numbers for 2020/21 and initial hesitancy of clients, users and tenants to return to the facility. It shows a 42% drop in visits for this period compared to the 9 months of the previous year.

2017/18 total visits	2018/19 total visits	2019/20 total visits	2020/21 total visits
14,015	15,957	12,664 for 9 months  (Does not include essential services visits while in lockdown)	5,255  (Includes approx. 1500 essential services visits during lockdown)



**Table 1: numbers of visits compared to months of operation.**

### 3. A Review of SH48

Significantly, four key macro-environmental changes occurred in recent years that started to question the role of S48HC within a changing community service environment and changing community expectations and demands:

- The significant disruption caused by COVID-19 had an immediate and significant detrimental impact on the 3081 community and introduced a raft of service provision implications.
- The Royal Commission into Family Violence findings highlighted the unaddressed service-crisis loop, a barrier to people realising a different life trajectory.
- The redevelopment of Tarakan and Bell-Bardia public housing estates will reintroduce a range of vulnerable and at-risk people back into the community, amplifying the need to provide local supports.
- Strategically, the role of local government in affordable housing is likely to be amplified as part of the Victorian Government's Housing Strategy. Council has taken its first step through its partnership with Launch Housing on the Bellfield Social Housing Project.

These macro-environmental changes provided anchor points from which S48HC could contextualise its future business model. As a result, it was timely that a Review of S48HC (Review) was undertaken in 2020/21. By testing the current S48HC model against community services and clientele needs, Council wanted to proactively seek its best placed role and respond accordingly through a more flexible and intuitive model moving forward.

Key objectives of the Review were:

- To define a service model(s) responsive to the changing needs of a complex community;
- To identify opportunities for potential development partnerships both internally and externally
- To develop a series of options and key recommendations on Council's future commitment to a (revised) S48HC service model for Council consideration.

A robust and dynamic 9-week consultation period was undertaken as part of the Review with key internal and external stakeholders.

A summary of the 4 recommendations detailed in the Review report are listed below;

**Recommendation 1:** Adopt critical success factors for an effective business model

- That S48HC is supported by a well-defined business model that establishes a clear purpose and identity, addresses the gaps in the local existing service system and optimises mutually reinforcing activities that promote resilience, sustainable and well resourced.

**Recommendation 2:** Develop an Outcomes Focused Framework for 3081

- The establishment of a 3081 Community Outcomes Framework that is co-designed with key strategic partners.

**Recommendation 3:** Focus the S48HC business model

- A primary focus of the S48HC business model that responds to the identified issues and gaps and optimises opportunities for community to access emergency and other support services from one location or seamlessly through a network of locations

**Recommendation 4:** Establish a purpose-built Community Support Hub

- Council to invest in a long-term fit-for-purpose, safe, accessible facility within an appropriate location in the 3081 area.

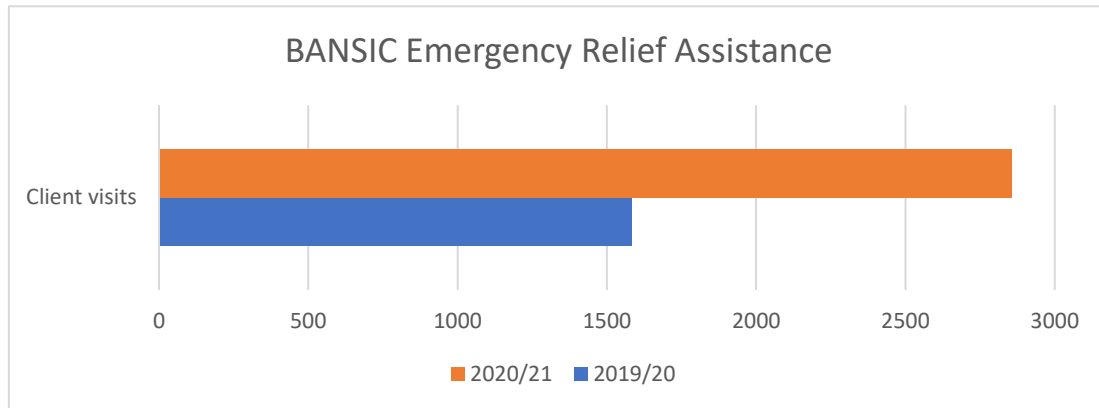




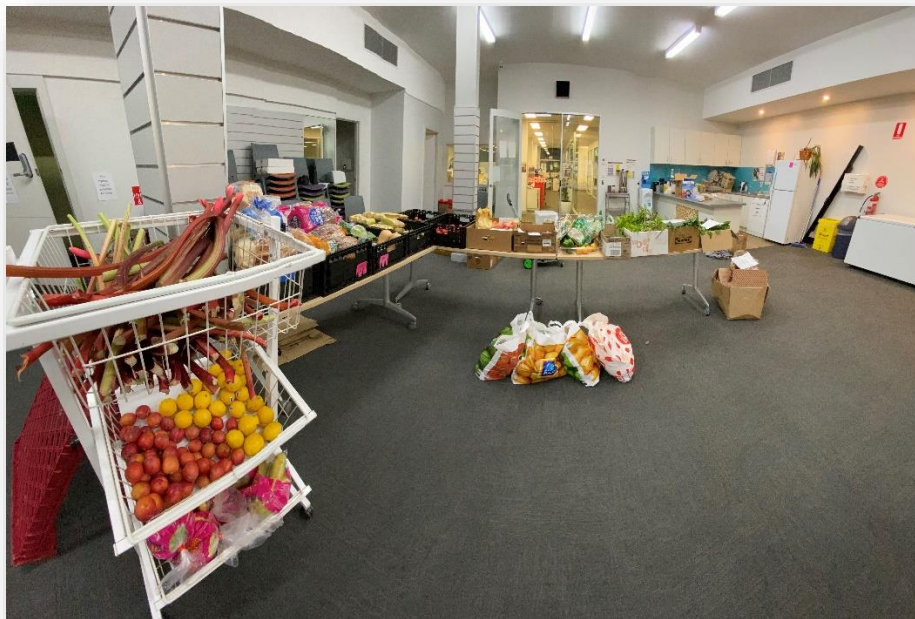
## 4. Summary Outcomes of the 4 Key Service Functions

### A. Community Information Referral and Support Services

BANSIC continues to operate 10 am to 3 pm five days per week from S48HC. It is a key emergency relief and material aid service for the southern part of Banyule and their services have been in unprecedented high demand. Over the year during the periods of S48HC being open to the public, there were 2,855 client visits for emergency relief assistance, up from 1,582 in 2019/20 representing a 44% increase.



During the period that S48HC was closed, BANSIC continued to operate an essential service on site providing food relief and material aid to vulnerable and at-risk individuals and families. The BANSIC Food Hub has gone from strength to strength and has proven to be a much needed and essential support to the local community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been a significant increase in the number of food parcels distributed, with 635 food parcels distributed in June 2021 compared to 112 food parcels in June 2020.



## B. Co – located tenants and outposted community services

S48HC has the capacity to lease 40 desks to community workers and organisations. In 2020/21, 21 desks were leased by 9 organisations. As a result of COVID-19, Council resolved in April 2020 to waive tenancy fees from 1 April 2020 for the rest of the financial year. In addition, there were 2 out posted services ie Services Australia and West Heidelberg Legal Service. Total 2020/21 rental income from tenancy fees was \$18,246 with Council waiving a further \$73,783.

Volunteers of Banyule opted not to renew their lease for 2021/22 citing the expiration of their contract. Likewise, the Bridge Youth Services, Leisure Networks, Asylum Seekers Resource Centre did not renew their tenancies due to preferences of working remotely off site due to COVID-19.

***“At shop 48 all the services located there are very applicable for us and our employment/education program. This makes referrals ... very easy and helps create a greater relationship with community. Every single staff member at Shop 48 has been absolutely great to work with and I really enjoy spending my time there. Since my first day everyone is happy and supportive. I also find that people very easily go out of their way to help others and it makes for a strong professional culture.”***

(BCC Jobs Advocate Team member reflects on their move to S48HC.)

Three new tenancies are to join S48HC on the first-floor office area from 1 June and July 2021. Banyule’s Social Enterprise & Local Jobs team have secured 5 desks for their Jobs Advocate team and general hot desks. Brotherhood of St Lawrence (BSL) have secured 6 desks to house their Jobs Victoria Employment Service team from 1 July 2021. Somali Voice received a Council grant and has secured two desks to commence this financial year. The addition of these new tenants is very exciting for S48HC and the 3081 community as it brings new services to the area and creates growing opportunities for service networking and collaboration.

S48HC tenants have shared some of their challenges and highlights over the past year. They are summarised below:

### ***Highlights***

S48HC has provided a safe place for the homeless clients, to meet with them and conduct assessments when restrictions have lifted.

Opportunity to contribute to the S48HC Review.

Collaboration between services located at S48HC

Capacity for immediate referral to additional support services

## Challenges

- Lack of face to face contact with clients. Servicing customers via phone and Zoom is not the same as face to face, however this seems to be the “new normal”
- Service delivery of essential services has had to adjust to continue providing support to clients and aim to minimize any disruption during lockdowns.
- Finding some stability and routine while balancing service delivery out of S48HC and ensuring safety for staff and clients.
- Some tenants have not worked from the premises for the 12-month period of the 2020/21 financial year.
- Reduced engagement from customers through periods of lockdowns.
- Challenges in the employment market with lockdowns impacting some people's employment
- Working from home has had its challenges with accessing resources and online connections.
- Managing a substantial increase in the number of clients needing assistance.
- Increase in mental ill health of clients and community and increase of anxiety, heightened emotion and on occasion aggressive behaviors of clients.



## WHY CHOOSE S48HC?

***“We have chosen shop 48 as it’s an integral community hub in Heidelberg, providing both information and services that respond to community need..... seeking to work collaboratively with other service providers and community members. Having a holistic and connected approach as a community service enables us to add further value for our participants, linking them to other “next door” providers located in the hub. We are looking forward to making a valuable contribution to the Hub, and working together to achieve not only employment for our clients but a service and space where they feel welcomed and part of the wider Banyule community.”***  
**( Brotherhood of St Lawrence Jobs Victoria**

The table below summarises the tenancies for 2020/21 and provides information on the 2021/22 financial year tenancies:

Organisation	Desks 2019/20	Desks 2020/21	Desks 2021/22	Comments
Banyule Support and Information Centre (BANSIC)	5	5	7	Essential services continued to operate on site during COVID-19 closure from 26/3/20 ongoing
Somali Australian Council of Victoria (SACOV)	3	3	3	
Himilo Community Connect	5	5	5	
Volunteers of Banyule	1	1	-	Ceased tenancy June 2021
Interact	1	1	2	
<b>Total ground floor desks tenanted</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	
Merri Outreach Support Services (MOSS)	2	2	2	
The Bridge (Youth Employment Service)	1	1	-	Ceased tenancy June 2021
Mission Australia	2	2	2	
CVGT Australia	1	1	1	
Leisure Networks	5	-	-	
A Better Place Financial Counselling	1	-	-	
Asylum Seekers Refugee Centre	1	-	-	
BCC Job Advocate team			5	Commence 1 June 2021
BSL			6	Commence 1 July 2021
Somali Voice			2	Tenancy not yet commenced
<b>Total first floor desks</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28 desks 12 agencies</b>	<b>21 desks 9 agencies</b>	<b>35 desks 10 agencies</b>	
<b>Out Posted Services</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
Services Australia (Centrelink)	Half day fortnightly	Half day fortnightly on reopening	Half day fortnightly (via phone)	
West Heidelberg Legal Service	Half day weekly	Half day weekly	Half day weekly	

### C. Bookable spaces

There was some initial reluctance from groups and clients to return to S48HC when it re-opened for the first time in late November 2020. Victoria was emerging from a long period of lockdown and tenants were slow to increase any onsite presence at S48HC. However, the bookable spaces at S48HC have been in high demand since reopening after the February 2021 snap lockdown. S48HC secured four new ongoing bookings for the 2020/21 year and welcomed back seven groups who previously had regular bookings.



### D. Activities and Programs

As outlined in the previous section, meeting room spaces are well utilised by both tenants and external community groups and organisations for a variety of activities and programs. The bookings have regular users generally for a term at a time. They bring many community engagement opportunities through a diverse mix of groups. Programs and activities have included:

- University of the Third Age – a range of term sessions including various languages e.g. French, German, cryptic crosswords and poetry
- Bridge Club
- Community Meetings, eg. Women of West Heidelberg, Neighbourhood Watch, VicPol Somali Reference Group
- Theatre groups
- Christian Fellowship & Islamic Dugsi classes
- Support groups e.g. BCH Assist program
- Environmental groups e. Seed library volunteers
- Organisational meetings for support services eg. MIND Australia,
- HIMILO programming eg. L2P training, creative arts program, Homework clubs for primary and secondary school year levels

## 5. Financial Overview

In 2020/21 S48HC had tenancy agreements with 9 community organisations occupying 21 desks out of a capacity of 40 desks. Council's net contribution to S48HC has remained steady under \$200,000 for the past three years, significantly below budget. However due to COVID-19 enforced lockdown closures and rent waivers to tenants, the past 18 months' income has been compromised.

Rent waivers totalling \$73,783 for 9 months from 1 July 2020 – 31 March 2021 as part of Council's Economic Support Package was the major contributor to this decline. S48HC was closed for a period of 23 out of 50 weeks in the 2020/21 year which also contributed to reduced income from room booking fees. Total income received was \$96,451, a drop of 59% compared to the previous year.

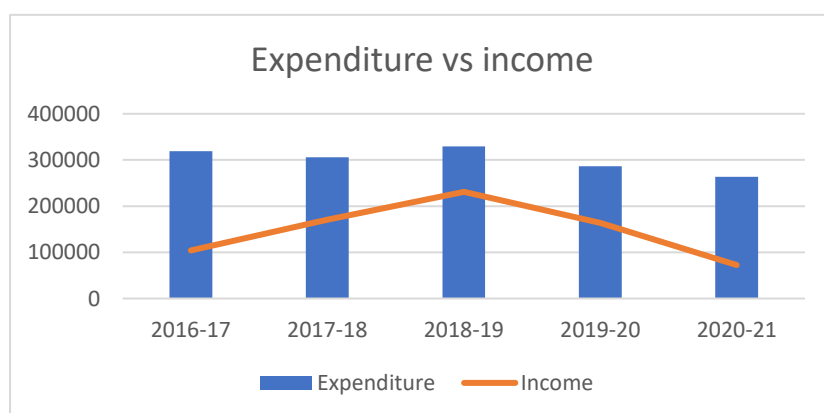
Council's resolution in September 2020 to extend tenancy fees and room booking waivers to the end of March 2021 was welcome relief to tenants. There is ongoing monitoring of expenditure to ensure accurate forecast budgets and maximised savings where possible.

The table below summarises the operating cost of S48HC for the past three years, including the 2020/21 financial year.

Account Type	Annual Budget 2019	Full Year Actuals 2019	Annual Budget 2020	Full Year Actuals 2020	Annual Budget 2021	Full Year Actuals 2021	Annual Budget 2021/2022
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>98,692</b>	<b>163,371</b>	<b>122,543</b>	<b>149,124</b>	<b>143,839</b>	<b>231,423</b>
EXPENDITURE	379,706	329,626	433,965	286,315	339,830	240,291	404,186
INCOME	(193,706)	(230,934)	(270,594)	(163,772)	(190,706)	(96,451)	(172,763)

### Income Overview

The income from S48HC tenants and bookable spaces offsets the cost to Council. This calculation represents the extent to which income offsets the incurred expenses, expressed as a percentage. The sharp decline in 2020/21 reflects the impact of COVID-19 on S48HC operations due to lockdowns and tenancy fees and room booking waivers.



**2020/21 -41%**  
**2019/20 -57%**  
**2018/19 -61.9%**  
**2017/18 -55.7%**

## Looking forward – 2021/22 and beyond

A number of new tenancies are finalising lease agreements to begin tenancies as of July 2021, and some existing tenants are increasing their presence onsite adding desks to their number.

S48HC is close to being fully occupied with 35 out of 40 desks tenanted which is the highest occupancy rate to date and will attract an additional \$40,800 in revenue. The anticipated income for 2021/22 is nearly \$173,000.



## CONCLUSION

S48HC has been in progressive implementation and growth since late 2016, a thriving community space which offers a range of services for the local community. The impact of COVID-19 has been significant in 2020/21. As the community sector emerges out of the peak of the pandemic into the recovery phase and works through a new model of COVID-normal, S48HC is well placed to facilitate, adapt and support services as it aligns to changing needs of the sector, clients and local communities. As it has emerged in and out of lockdowns it is clear that S48HC tenants and community appreciate the value and necessity of a physical space for engagement with community and support services.

The challenges for Council and S48HC continue into the next 3 years as the 10 year commercial lease draws to an end in June 2024. The Review has provided a strategic pathway for Council to navigate a way forward and develop a new iteration of the S48HC model that is contemporary and responsive to the dynamic community sector environment. By continuing to measure and improve the current S48HC model against community services and clientele needs, Council is well placed to drive this next phase.





# Child and Youth Framework 2021-2031

## What is the Child & Youth Framework?

The Child & Youth Framework is Banyule's commitment to supporting children and young people from the pre-birth to 24 years. The Framework describes a long-term approach to supporting better outcomes for children and young people and responds to these key questions:



## Why do we need a Child & Youth Framework?

### Every child and young person matters!

#### We need a Framework to:

- Uphold the rights of every child and young person
- Support children and young people to get a great start to life
- Create opportunities
- Value their contributions and diversity
- Support families, parents and care givers
- Create supportive communities
- Invest in prevention and early



intervention

## What do we want to achieve?

**The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth** provides a national agenda called the **NEST** with a vision for “All children and youth are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and are participating and have a positive sense of culture and identity.”

The NEST agenda supports communities to understand what children and young people need to lead a good life.



## What do Banyule children and young people say they need?

Community consultation demonstrates there is a strong alignment between these six Nest conditions and local needs. Banyule children, young people and their families say they need:

- Families, friends and pets to support them
- Great places to learn and develop skills needed for life and employment
- Engaging and enriching places in the community to play, create, explore their interests and passions and connect with people
- Strong connections to nature and a healthy natural environment

"One of my ingredients is happiness"

"A sprinkle of fun"

"Good food; sunshine; family; friends; love"

- Opportunities and resources
- Support to have a voice, participate in democracy and give back to the community
- Mental health and wellbeing supports
- Opportunities to build resilience and help to navigate the life stage challenges.

## What evidence guides this Framework?

In addition to the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's **Nest Agenda**, this Framework is underpinned by a broad and growing field of research.

- **The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

Feedback from our community indicates that five of the seventeen UNSDG's are a priority:



- **National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People: 2020-2030**

Because families and quality parenting are critical in supporting children and young people, supporting parents and care givers is a priority.

- **Wungurilwil Gagapduir: Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement (2019)**

Because fostering safe, resilient, thriving, culturally rich and strong Aboriginal families and communities is important, progressing the Banyule Reconciliation Action Plan is a priority.

- **State of Victoria's Children Report**

Whilst most children and young people in Victoria are faring well, the COVID 19 pandemic has impacted the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Monitoring and responding to the health and wellbeing needs of children and young people is a key priority.

- **Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan for Young People**

All Local Governments have a responsibility to respond to the priorities within the Victorian Health and Wellbeing plans. Ongoing alignment based on local demographics is also a priority.

## Building blocks for change



To achieve better outcomes, we will:

1. Respect the unique life stages and transition points
2. Use an evidence-informed, long-term approach
3. Honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge
4. Work in partnership
5. Be accountable for results.

## What does Council do for Children and Young People?



Maternal & Child Health Service  
New Parent Playgroups  
Supported Playgroups  
Early childhood facilities  
Preschool Central Registrations

Citizenship activities  
Sports and recreation facilities  
Parks and open spaces  
Festivals and events




Banyule Youth Services  
Health and social inclusion  
Skill development & leadership  
Arts and cultural expression  
Specialist referral services

## What are the priorities Council will invest in?

### Environments that support children and young people

We will strengthen the built and natural environment like leisure centres, sporting facilities, libraries, shops, skate parks, playgrounds, urban forests and open spaces and create networks of physical resources children and young people need to live well.

#### 1. Places for children and young people.



Our Commitment:

We will improve the range of accessible, high quality, multiple use and affordable community infrastructure available to and welcomes a diverse range of uses by children and young people.

## 2. A healthy natural environment.



Our Commitment:

We will support children and young people to lead initiatives that contribute to zero net emissions by 2040.

## 3. Material basis.



Our commitments:

We will create a resilient network of local agencies that support families in need to readily access material basics.

We will support children and young people to explore philanthropic and community building activities.

## Social Support and Services

Because relationships, connections and services are essential, we will invest in programs and services to supporting children and young people to thrive.

### 1. Learning support.



Our Commitments:

We will provide community-based learning opportunities to development children and young people's skills, talents and interests.

We will support young people to develop work skills and employment pathways.

### 2. Relationship support.



Our Commitments:

We will provide programs and services that support families as they raise their children and young people.

We will support families to develop and maintain safe, respectful and secure attachments with children and young people.

We will work collaboratively to address family violence and increase levels of child safety in our community.

### 3. Opportunities to participate.



Our Commitments:

We will support children and young people to express their views in a range of community engagement activities and forums and ensure their views are considered in the decision-making process.

We will partner with children and young people to plan community festivals, events and activities they participate in.

### Emotional supports

Children, young people and families value positive mental health and wellbeing. They believe that inclusion, access, respect, diversity, acceptance and community spirit should be fostered from an early age.

#### 1. Cultural support.



Our Commitments:

We will uplift cultural competence within our workforce.

We will implement the Reconciliation Action Plan.

We will work with children and young people to celebrate what is culturally relevant to them.

#### 2. Support equality.



Our Commitments:

We will support children and young people to discuss and address inequalities.

We will support children and young people to experience equal standing by recognising and celebrating their contributions and achievements.

#### 3. Support resilience.



Our Commitments:

We will support the development of life skills.

We will work in partnership through early intervention to building resilience in children and young people.

We will provide individual support and capacity building activities to young people in alignment with the Youth Summit recommendations.

## Implementing the Framework

The Child and Youth Framework will be actioned through implementation plans: *The First 1000 Days Plan*; *The Children's Plan*; and *The Youth Plan*. To assess effectiveness, we will continue to consult with community and monitor outcomes data.

**GROUPGSA**



# **WATSONIA VILLAGE TOWN CENTRE: CONSULTATION REPORT**

August 2021

Prepared for Banyule City Council | GroupGSA | August 2021

*We acknowledge First Nations peoples and their continuing connection to land, waters and culture, because we strongly believe in reconciliation and collaborative engagement for a better future.*

*We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, whose knowledge, traditions and stories guide custodianship on what will always be their ancestral lands.*

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Consultation Report  
For: Banyule City Council



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# INTRODUCTION

# 01

GROUP SA

# CONSULTATION SUMMARY AND APPROACH

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Watsonia Town Square project is in its preliminary stages of design development with initial phases of the community and stakeholder consultation summarised within this report.

The discussions held within these consultation sessions were divided into three (3) key areas including (refer to appendix #4):

- **Area One: Town Square**
  - + Watsonia Library & Car park
  - + Existing Public Toilet
  - + Town centre access to the Watsonia Railway Station
- **Area Two: Intersection**
  - + Round-about including multiple entry-points
  - + Morwell Ave
  - + Watsonia Rd
  - + Grace St
  - + Ibbottson St
- **Area Three: Morwell Avenue**
  - + Morwell Avenue (From Watsonia Rd to High St)

Group GSA were engaged to facilitate these three (3) sessions with community, Local Stakeholders and Internal Council members in order to collect a rounded perspective that will inform the next stages of the concept development.

This consultation process took a 'clean slate' approach, and functioned as an information gathering exercise for Group GSA and the Banyule City Council project team.

Group GSA and BCC designed a multi-faceted consultation process which was adapted as per COVID-19 restriction requirements. Initial consultation was conducted over web conferencing or through opportunities for direct submissions via Council members. As Covid restrictions were lifted, we were fortunate to be able to conduct a site walk for members of the Community Reference Group (CRG) that wanted to comment further.

### These three (3) sessions included;

1. 22nd of June (2:30- 3:30pm) –Internal Council Workshop (Via Teams)
2. 22nd of June (7:00- 9:00pm) – Community Reference Group Workshop (Via Zoom)
3. 6th of July (4:00 – 5:30pm)– Community Reference Group- Site Walk

Following the three sessions a draft of this document was circulated to both the internal and community reference groups for feedback.

An additional CRG session was held on the 10 August to provide members with the opportunity to provide further feedback. This report has been updated to reflect the discussion and additional direct submissions that were received via Council members.

Ultimately, this report summarises the engagement activities that took place in June – August 2021

## ENGAGEMENT

### GroupGSA and Banyule City Council responsibilities in recording comments received.

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

Input is from minuted workshops and notes from direct feedback. The notes capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in this document represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or council.





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**GROUPSA**



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Consultation Report  
For: Banyule City Council



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## KEY OBSERVATIONS & PRINCIPLES

# 02

GROUP SA

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# KEY OBSERVATIONS

## AMENITIES

During consultation, several amenity improvement were requested to be included in the design phase of this project. These improvement works primarily related to all hours safety and comfort within the site including items such as upgrades to the existing toilet block and lighting and an increase shade throughout. Throughout the sessions, interest was raised for a playground and community garden that was seen to have the potential to increase the quality of life for local residents and traders.

## LOCAL IDENTITY

Watsonia has existing strengths that should be highlighted and built on in the design stage. Long standing patrons and traders, council and community knowledge have generated integral suggestions and considerations for the design stage.

One of the strong consensus within the community is with regards to replacing the electricity transmission powerlines by monopoles.

This is something that will be made priority when moving forward with the design options.

## FLEXIBLE INNOVATIVE SPACES

Events, markets, music performances and community events such as the existing Watsonia Family Fun Day activate spaces and create a stronger community. Designing flexible spaces with adaptable and movable furniture and stages, will aid the town centre in hosting these events.

These spaces can include smart technology to include i.e. Wi-fi, energy saving, and cameras for traffic study and general safety.

## LOCAL ECOLOGY

Soft-scaping and ensuring the health of existing ecology is integral to the success of the site. Greening adds social, aesthetics, health value as well as environmental benefits for the community. Sustainable practices like adding more trees and retaining as many existing trees as possible and WSUD help safeguard the natural surroundings. These practices also help future-proof and accommodate future community needs.

## Consultation Feedback Table

Item	Feedback	Considerations/Discussion
Playground	Requests for playground with the Library and Station Triangle	- Possible playground in this area may attract more users and younger demographics and stimulate the local economy - A playground should be considered to attract crowds to the town centre. They activate public spaces and encourage people to surrounding shops.
	Playgrounds attract crowds	- Consideration to all ages or active place spaces to be integrated within the solution.
Community garden	Requests for a community garden on site	- Potential and for discussion whether a community garden may be included along the back edge of the site (interfacing with the North East Link Project area) - This would promote community involvement and reap ecological design principles while enhancing local character
Toilet block	Current toilet block is old, of low standard and under-desirable	- Toilet block needs to be upgraded with newer and better facilities - DDA accessibility and safety is a must. Design must consider and reconsider its current location so it is more visible. - It should have better lighting particularly at night time - Currently the area is used as an uber and taxi pick up Zone and not being used during local events - Research Eitham woolsheds toilet conversation project - A re-imagined toilet block could be used as a feature and enhance the playground/ community space concept
Shade	More shade is needed	- Innovative intervention to improve amenities (such as; shade) through either technology, and soft or hard landscaping - More shade beneath the transmission lines are to be considered
Attracting people to the Town Square	Many desire lines between shopfronts and town square / Safety	- Use and consider existing desires lines into the Town square and shop fronts to attract people to the site - Add safety elements to the square, such as lighting, weather protection, CCTV cameras, slip resistant paving, prospect principles etc.



## KEY OBSERVATIONS

Existing Trees Retain & Enhanced planting	Retain as many trees as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulty and allowances for planting new trees beneath the transmission lines to be considered</li> <li>- Existing trees may be impacted in construction and other design requirements</li> <li>- Consider the integration of approved/permited shrub species by AusNet</li> <li>- Enhance planting as apart of the design strategy</li> <li>- Existing ecology and environmental impacts to be considered</li> <li>- Illawara flame trees to be transplanted due to sight-line and safety issues</li> </ul>
Attracting Youth To Morwell Avenue	New design should encourage younger users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community would like to see a younger demographic (between 12-24yrs old) using and interacting with the space</li> <li>- The car parking attracts people and creates traffic currently for the site and must be considered if some parking is to be removed</li> <li>- Inclusion of Wi-fi connection in strategic points of the site, apart from Library outdoors</li> </ul>
Area 1 amenities (Library)	Amenities at Area 1 and upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great meeting place that offers outdoors learning spaces and Wi-fi connection.</li> <li>- Library patrons parking must be considered as well as safe accessibility at all hours of the day; introducing better lighting at night</li> <li>- Consider extending library out and remove power pylons if possible</li> <li>- Should extend this area to include the Anglican Church buildings, if this is on the card to acquire/redevelop. We only get once chance to do this properly.</li> <li>- Some type of play equipment if not already planned for southern end of Area 3</li> <li>- Consider some covered area, exercise equipment and a drinking fountain</li> </ul>

### ACCESSIBILITY

#### Creating better paths and accessibility within the town centre will connect and bring more people to the site.

The new design will require the prioritisation of pedestrian connections and consider all patrons to increase accessibility to and within the site. Cycle paths will be included to facilitate and encourage more forms of transportation to the site. All future works related to Shared User Path development and NERP works are to be considered through the development of the next phases of design.

DDA compliance and consideration of all demographics including the youth and elderly neighbours will be included in the design phase.

The site should be inclusive for all abilities and so accessibility should also be expanded to include sensory experiences and alike for people with intellectual disabilities.

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Watsonia Town Square has potential to thrive as the local trading centre. The combination of design principles such as; accessibility, safety, improved aesthetics and character of site will attract more visitors and traders. Highlighting existing traders and enticing new ones to the area will ensure the success of economic growth.

Recommendations from these consultation sessions has urged that certain design outcomes will benefit all users. Retaining the number of parking numbers is believed to draw in more users after circulating the area. While car parking provision is important, it will also need to be balanced with the desire to achieve other key aspirations. This will be explored by One Mile Grid (Traffic Engineers) and Group GSA through the design development phases. Better amenities and flexible spaces that can hold events will stimulate the local economy as well as the night-time economy through activating the site.

Item	Feedback	Considerations/Discussion
Access To Watsonia Station	Station is not DDA compliant	DDA accessibility and inclusivity to be included in design. Connections are to be considered however station upgrade is outside of scope of works.
Access To Town Square	Limited access through to Community House	- Improve access and consider elderly Residents
Cycling Paths in Town Square	Not enough cycling amenities	The design should explore the best positioning of the cycling cage on site, while other cycling facilities are to be included such as bike repair station.
Site Inclusivity and Accessibility	Ensure that site is all-ability friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design accommodates for all abilities with, but not limited to the following:</li> <li>- Additional Disabled Parking Spaces within Car park</li> <li>- Kerbs removal at sections for easy wheelchair access</li> <li>- Way-finding signage</li> <li>- Equitable access to all (e.g. Children, elderly, wheel-chair bound, parents with prams, temporarily injured.)</li> <li>- Accessibility to this place need to consider all disability groups (mobility and intellectually wise)</li> </ul>

# KEY OBSERVATIONS

## TRAFFIC

### There were several key considerations and messages from consultation feedback regarding the need for better traffic control and improved road safety.

The Watsonia Community Reference Group and Watsonia Internal Group determined different sections that need traffic intervention. One Mile Grid (Traffic Engineer) and Group GSA will be assessing traffic levels and will explore improvement works through the design development phases. The main intersection is vehicle heavy and dangerous for both pedestrians and drivers. Morwell Avenue traffic moves slowly but needs to consider all users. Suggestions for the closure of adjacent streets and road restructuring to increase pedestrian mobility and prioritise cyclists and pedestrians were overall popular suggestions within the community. Signalisation of intersections and signage will also improve road safety.

## PARKING

Parking will be explored through the design phases to be integrated whilst retaining capacity across the site. The present perception shows that car parking is always full at peak times by community, but is being assessed by a car parking occupancy study to inform the design decision making process.

Certain areas such as the Morwell Avenue car park and the library carpark are being used by many different patrons from; traders, library patrons to RSL patrons and generally by commuters and residents. Parking numbers will therefore be retained as much as required to ensure availability for all users. Parking was also seen as important as a draw-card for the site.

DDA parking space numbers are currently low, and the new design will make more parking spaces DDA accessible. Better car parking layouts will improve access to the sites.

Car Parking provision in the centre will need to be considered alongside the fulfilment of other aspirations outlined in the design principles.

## Consultation Feedback Table

Item	Feedback	Considerations/Discussion
Traffic On Morwell Avenue	Better integration of the intersection and design for all users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider ideas generated in previous plans to connect Morwell Avenue to Grace Street and simplify intersection</li> <li>- Consider the inclusion of cycling facilities. Proposed bike lanes however are to be kept away from footpaths because of elderly residents and to improve safety</li> <li>- Inclusivity and DDA accessibility should be a main consideration in design proposal</li> <li>- Path network and parking arrangement should work together to create an easily navigated space</li> <li>- Consider the site from its boundaries as opposed to the existing roads. Suggestions from community to open the middle</li> <li>- Previously completed master plan for Morwell Avenue are to be taken into consideration in concept design generation</li> <li>- Prioritise local traffic. Prioritise pedestrian traffic in grade, re-orient the footpaths and signs</li> <li>- Improve lighting for better security</li> <li>- Minimise the difficulty for pedestrians crossing Watsonia Road</li> </ul>
Traffic At Intersection	Intersection is vehicle dominated and causes traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider a shared zone and balance intersection to consider all three users; drivers, pedestrians and cyclists and prioritise pedestrians and cyclists</li> <li>- Effective traffic redirection and filtering to be considered</li> </ul>
Traffic At Intersection	Pedestrians and cyclist feel unsafe and intimidated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make the intersection shared zone or prioritise pedestrians. Vehicle numbers may not support this structure and more information required</li> <li>- Simplify intersection by removing round-about</li> <li>- Removing the round-about and including a red light instead for example could provide more viewing time of the shops and traders from passengers and drivers and therefore have potential economic benefits.</li> <li>- Traffic Surveys are to be Multi Modal in order to capture all users</li> </ul>

## KEY OBSERVATIONS

Traffic At Intersection	Pedestrians and cyclist feel unsafe and intimidated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readdress the control points of intersection and consider signalling intersection</li> <li>- Improve pedestrian and vehicle site lines and consider planting corners in new design</li> <li>- Discussion to be had around closing the end of Ibbotson Street. This would increase pedestrian mobility</li> <li>- Crossing to the BP Service Station to be reconsidered due to previous incidents</li> </ul>
Parking On Morwell Avenue	Car parking is always full and not enough DDA parking bays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration for trader staff parking include; those traders who currently have on-site parking and those who do not use the all-days parking on Morwell Avenue. The limited number of car parking availability mean the avenue receives less traffic and people coming to the site.</li> <li>- Suggestions to add more or same number of car park should be retained</li> <li>- More DDA parking Bays to be included and accessibility should be considered</li> <li>- Inclusion of cycling facilities may promote other modes of transportation and support the current cyclists</li> <li>- 2 hour parking limitations may concern certain users on site such as RSL patrons</li> </ul>
Parking Within the Town Square	Car parking always full	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community does not want to lose car parking – however removing car parks within the Town Square will be acceptable if it encourages an increase in public domain</li> <li>- The car parking attracts people and creates traffic currently for the site and must be considered if some parking is to be removed</li> <li>- Library patrons parking must be considered as well as safe accessibility at all hours of the day</li> </ul>
RSL Car Park	Upgrading the RSL Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include a grand, modern playground, covered if possible</li> <li>- Reconfigure parking of whole RSL car park. Consider bike path in middle, consider bold, progressive (aggressive) design</li> <li>- Redirect Morwell Ave traffic, divert through to Grace Street, recapture plenty of public space, use some for new Monopoles</li> <li>- Consider electric car charging station/s</li> <li>- Improve lighting for security, especially as this car park is often used at night for RSL events</li> </ul>

# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

## TRAFFIC & PARKING



EFFICIENT AND INTEGRATED TRAFFIC TREATMENTS AND PARKING THAT REINFORCES WATSONIA'S PLACE VALUE

## ACCESS



ENSURE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST PRIORITY, SAFETY AND INCLUSIVE ACCESSIBILITY AND EXPERIENCE FOR USERS OF ALL ABILITIES

## ECONOMIC GROWTH



PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH USING UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE DESIGNS THAT ENCOURAGE INCREASED FOOTFALL AND PATRONAGE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

## LOCAL IDENTITY



CREATE A CIVIC AND CULTURAL HEART THAT IS WELCOMING AND MEMORABLE. HIGHLIGHT AND EMBRACE EXISTING SITES, STRENGTHS AND ATTRACTIONS

## AMENITIES



PROVIDE BETTER AND SAFER AMENITIES THAT ARE RESPECTED AND VALUED BY THE COMMUNITY

## FLEXIBLE SPACES



EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACES AND CREATE FLEXIBLE AND MULTI-USE AREAS. POTENTIAL INTEGRATION OF MONOPOLES

## COMMUNITY



ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY CONGREGATION AND ACTIVITY THROUGH FURTHER DEVELOPING WATSONIA'S LOCAL IDENTITY AND CREATING INNOVATIVE SPACES

## SUSTAINABILITY



ENHANCE AND PROTECT SURROUNDING ECOLOGY WITH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND GREENING

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# APPENDICES



## APPENDIX #1

WATSONIA TOWN CENTRE COMMUNITY GROUP  
CONSULTATION

**03**  
GROUPSA



architecture | interior design | landscape | urban design | graphic design  
 arb #3990 | arbv #15637 | baq #3188 | www.groupgsa.com

## Minutes – Information Meeting – Community Group

No.02

Project	Watsonia Village, Town Centre	
Client	Banyule City Council	
Meeting place	Zoom – Video Conference	
Meeting date	22/06/2021	Project no. 200926

Present	Present
EH – Erica Hardie – Senior Project Manager (Banyule City Council)	SM – Sarah Maguire (Marmalade Sky Marketing Group)
JR - Jeremy Richards (Watsonia Optical)	SP – Shaun Paine (Rex Paine Timber & Hardware)
BA – Barbra Armstrong (Yarra Plenty Regional Library Watsonia Branch)	SM - Susannah Madden (Local Resident)
JK - John Kiriakidis (Local Property Owner Member)	SW – Scott Walker (Banyule City Council)
KV – Kate Van der Drift (Local Resident Member)	JRB – Jonathan Risby (Banyule City Council)
LH – Lucie Holden (Watsonia Neighbourhood House)	MD – Cr. Mark Di Pasquale (Banyule City Council)
LN – Luke Nelson (Local Resident Member)	RG – Cr. Rick Garott (Banyule City Council)
MG – Matthew Guest (Watsonia RSL)	ZM – Alexander Madden (Young person Member)
PJ – Paul Johnson (Watsonia Primary School)	SV – Stuart Valentine (One Mile Grid)
PP – Paul Parrella (The A team kitchen)	JH – John Holland – Director (Group GSA)
DN – Rev Denise Nicholls (Anglican Parish of Banyule – comprising Holy Spirit Watsonia; St Andrew’s Rosanna; St John’s Heidelberg)	NM – Nathan Mundy – Assoc. Landscape Architect (Group GSA)

### Apologies

CB - Colin Brooks MP (State Member for Bundoora)

ITEM	SUBJECT	WHO
<b>00.0</b>	<b>General Comments</b>	Note
00.01	Ensure that the proposal reflects the Community	Note
00.02	Encourage a 'Welcoming' Environment	Note
00.03	The site must be easy to navigate	Note
00.04	Consider ideas generated in Ethos Urban Report when designing	Note
00.05	Construction programming to be developed to limit the effect on traders	Note

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<b>01.00</b>	<b>Town Square:</b>	
01.01	Make sure that it reflects that it is 'Our Space': Ensure that everyone feels comfortable and welcome	KV
01.02	Create a usable space: Ensure it is flexible for a diverse use. (Eg. Markets, pop-up events etc.)	Note
01.03	Proposal to include more weather protection: Trees & Built-form	Note
01.04	Encourage activities in the space that encourage people to dwell. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Play Space</li> <li>- Weather / Shade Shelter Structures</li> <li>- Sensory experiences through square.</li> <li>- Open areas for flexible activation</li> </ul>	Note
01.05	The Town Square could incorporate a diversity of land use applications (ie. Café..) to encourage the site becoming a destination.	Note
01.06	Power Towers: Can options be drawn up that consider the removal of the existing power towers? Option 1: Current Scope (Include Existing Poles) Option 2: Removal of existing poles, Include Mono Poles Traders would support moving the Poles (SM)	JR    SM
01.07	Car Parking: Although the community does not want to lose car parking, it is believed that a loss of car parking in the Town Square is acceptable if it encourages an increase in public domain.	Note
01.08	Inclusive / Accessible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town square should be an inclusive place for all no matter of age, or ability.</li> <li>- Accessible by all ability groups (Including facilities ie. Toilets)</li> <li>- Tactiles (TGS) and slopes to be designed to Australian standards.</li> </ul>	Note
01.09	Public Toilets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new toilet is to be proposed as part of these works</li> <li>- Toilet to be Accessible to all ability groups as per Australian DDA Standards</li> </ul>	Note
01.10	Site to be visually permeable.	Note
01.11	Wayfinding to be included in the Town square area (Signage for diversity of users)	Note
01.12	Proposal to focus on creating a safe environment (Day & Night) (eg. Lighting)	Note
		Note
<b>02.00</b>	<b>Intersection</b>	Note
02.01	Traffic Surveys are to be 'Multi Modal' to capture all users of the site. OMG Agree that they should be, but they have not yet included 'Origin to Destination' surveys to the scope.	JR
02.02	Intersection is very vehicle dominated. Proposal to balance the area or make pedestrian focused.	Note
02.03	Ethos Urban Report to be reviewed when developing concepts.	Note
02.04	A request was received to readdress the control points of the intersection (ie. Signalised)?	Note
02.05	JR: Could this intersection be pedestrian priority or shared? OMG: This can be explored, but it is believed that the vehicle numbers would not support this structure. (To be considered once numbers have been collected)	Note
02.06	Intersection to simplified (eg. Round-about to be removed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Line marking makes it feel less welcoming to pedestrians and cyclists.</li> </ul>	Note
02.07	Pedestrians currently feel a level of hostility towards the intersection	Note
02.08	Create an intersection that considers bike and pedestrian Safety	Note

<b>03.00</b>	<b>Morwell Avenue:</b>	
03.01	Consider ideas generated in Ethos Urban Report for ways of simplifying intersection (connecting Morwell to Grace Street)	Note
03.02	Car parking numbers to be retained. This carpark is consistently full.	MG
03.03	Trader Staff Parking: Most stores have on-site parking, although, for those who do not, they use the limited number of all-day parking on Morwell Ave.	Note
03.04	A more integrated design is to be considered. Think about how the path network will work with the parking arrangement.	Note
03.05	Community request that Traffic Engineers consider this site from boundary to boundary. Not to be limited by existing roads etc. - Consider opening the middle	Note
03.06	Proposal to consider the inclusion of cycling facilities.	Note
03.07	Design for all users (eg. Elderly residents with Heavy bags & Parents with children)	BA
03.08	DDA Parking Bays: There are currently not enough. They are always full. Proposal to include an increased number of DDA Bays.	SP
03.09	DDA accessibility design to be a focus of the proposal. All inclusive.	SP
<b>04.00</b>	<b>Questions:</b>	
04.01	Q: Can the project extend to incorporate the abutting Footbridge? A: This is out of scope currently, but access to the station within the Town Square scope area will be designed to Accessibility standards.	KV
04.02	Q: Can more funding be sourced so that the power poles can be addressed on site? A: Feasibility assessment has been completed; Council currently do not believe it to be feasible with the funding available.	JR
04.03	Q: Is there merit in providing grass roots advocacy? A: Trader group believe that it could have merit.	KV
04.04		
<b>05.00</b>	<b>Further Comments:</b>	
05.01	Can Council share the plan that shows the joining of Morwell Avenue and Grace Street	JR
05.02	Watsonia Station is not DDA Compliant – Design should consider improving this	LH
05.03	Council to undertake consultation with land owners to be conducted.	Note
05.04	SW, RG and MD to discuss the potential of including a design with monopoles including timing considerations.	Note
05.05	Council to confirm timing for conversations with the church regarding potential land opportunities.	Note



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## **APPENDIX #2**

### **WATSONIA TOWN CENTRE INTERNAL GROUP CONSULTATION**



architecture | interior design | landscape | urban design | graphic design  
 arb #3990 | arbv #15637 | baq #3188 | www.groupgsa.com

## Minutes – Information Meeting – Internal Council Member Session No.01

Project	Watsonia Village, Town Centre		
Client	Banyule City Council		
Meeting place	Zoom – Video Conference		
Meeting date	22/06/2021	Project no. 200926	

Present	Present
EH – Erica Hardie – Senior Project Manager (Banyule City Council)	KA - Kylie Angove (Banyule City Council)
SW – Scott Walker (Banyule City Council)	AS - Aldona Stopa (Banyule City Council)
PB – Paul Bellis (Banyule City Council)	TW – Tess Williams (Banyule City Council)
NM – Nick McKay (Banyule City Council)	JT – Jill Taylor (Banyule City Council)
RS – Rod Spivey (Banyule City Council)	RM - Robyn Mitchell (Banyule City Council)
MD - Mathew Deayton (Banyule City Council)	MM - Mark McNamara (Banyule City Council)
MI – Michelle Isherwood (Banyule City Council)	MC – Michael Constantinou (Banyule City Council)
KW – Kieran West (Banyule City Council)	SV – Stuart Valentine (One Mile Grid)
LM – Liam McArdle (Banyule City Council)	JH – John Holland – Director (Group GSA)
KP - Kathleen Petras (Banyule City Council)	NM – Nathan Mundy – Assoc. Landscape Architect (Group GSA)

Apologies	Company	Email

ITEM	SUBJECT	WHO
<b>00.0</b>	<b>General Comments</b>	Note
00.01	Design to consider the Greening Watsonia Strategy	Note
<b>01.00</b>	<b>Town Square:</b>	
01.01	Pedestrian access through to Community House to be considered (Elderly Residents)	Note
01.02	Multiple desire lines between Shopfronts & Town Square site. Plans should be developed with these in mind.	Note
01.03	Retain trees as much as possible under the transmission lines. It will be difficult to plant additional trees, so retain existing.	RS
01.04	Comment raised regarding prolonged stays under power lines.	Note
01.05	GSA to Amend Site Extent shown on plan (Currently includes VicTrack Land)	PB
01.06	Cycling Paths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relocate cycling cage in a better location of the site.</li> <li>- Cycle facilities to be included (ie. Bike Repair station)</li> </ul>	Note
01.07	Consider what draw-cards the site has. What will bring people to the site?	Note
01.08	Transmission Towers: They may not move, but what can be done?	Note

ITEM	SUBJECT	WHO
01.09	Car Parking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currently the carpark attracts people to the site at all different times of the day. What will draw these people if parking doesn't?</li> <li>- Library Parking: If this goes, where will Library users park? How will they get to the library safely?</li> <li>- Reduction of number is acceptable, but not elimination of parking from this site.</li> </ul>	Note
01.10	Consider Night-time economy opportunities.	Note
01.11	Site must allow for flexible use (ie. Markets, pop-up events...)	Note
		Note
<b>02.00</b>	<b>Intersection</b>	Note
02.01	One Mile Grid (OMG) to collect traffic numbers to understand vehicle use.	Note
02.02	A simplification of the intersection is required	Note
02.03	Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists through the intersection	Note
02.04	Consider moving the existing signals to allow better flow through the intersection for all.	Note
02.05	Remove excessive line-marking (Currently very intimidating for pedestrians) – Harsh Environment	Note
02.06	Current intersection causes large amounts of traffic. Consider how to simplify this and filter traffic more efficiently.	Note
02.07	Community currently uses known back-routes instead of driving through this intersection due to these above mentioned issues.	Note
<b>03.00</b>	<b>Morwell Avenue:</b>	
03.01	GSA to review the previously completed masterplan for Morwell area while working through the concept design generation.	Note
03.02	Areas to be designed to encourage use by youth demographics of between 12-24yrs old.	Note
03.03	A request was made to conduct consultation with youth and elderly groups.	Note
03.04	Proposed bike lanes to be kept away from footpaths with elderly residents. Separate paths to improve safety.	Note
03.05	Consider innovative interventions to improve amenity on site (ie. Shade)	Note
03.06	2hr parking limitations were raised as an issue for some users (eg. RSL Users)	Note
<b>05.00</b>	<b>Questions:</b>	
05.01	Q: How much traffic will the NELP project take away from the existing conditions? A: Yet to be determined. This will be explored once traffic studies have been undertaken.	Note

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# **APPENDIX #3**

## **WATSONIA TOWN CENTRE SITE WALK FEEDBACK**



architecture | interior design | landscape | urban design | graphic design  
 arb #3990 | arbv #15637 | baq #3188 | www.groupgsa.com

## Minutes – Information Meeting – Community Site Walk No.01

Project	Watsonia Village, Town Centre		
Client	Banyule City Council		
Meeting place	Meeting on site (Group met under towers)		
Meeting date	06/07/2021	Project no. 200926	

Present	Present
SM - Sarah Maguire (Watsonia Traders Association)	JR - Jonathan Risby (Banyule City Council)
AM - Alex Madden (Young Person representative)	KP - Kathleen Petras (Banyule City Council)
CB - Colin Brooks MP (State Member for Bundoora)	SV – Stuart Valentine (One Mile Grid)
EH – Erica Hardie – Senior Project Manager (Banyule City Council)	JH – John Holland – Director (Group GSA)
SW – Scott Walker (Banyule City Council)	NM – Nathan Mundy – Assoc. Landscape Architect (Group GSA)

### Apologies

DN - Rev Denise Nicholls (Anglican Parish of Banyule)		
RG - Cr. Rick Garotti, Mayor (Banyule City Council)		

ITEM	SUBJECT	WHO
<b>01.00</b>	<b>AREA ONE: Library / Station Triangle</b>	
01.01	<b>Toilet Block:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Too Old: Needs updating</li> <li>- Undesirable: People not wanting to use it, even when needed.</li> <li>- Standard is low</li> <li>- CPTED / Safety: Dark, encourages undesirable behaviour</li> <li>- Better utilisation of space: Could this block be in a different location?</li> <li>- Location not ideal or visible</li> <li>- Must be accessible: DDA accessibility</li> <li>- Taxi / Uber driver pick-up: Current users of the toilet block</li> <li>- Not getting used during events: Toilet paper left after event (Indicator of use)</li> <li>- GSA to research the Eltham woolsheds toilet conversion. (Successful project)</li> </ul>	Note
01.02	<b>Events Space:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flatter areas are the more desirable (Lots of the site is not usable due to slopes)</li> <li>- Lunch &amp; Picnic areas (Library back corner currently gets used)</li> <li>- Flexible spaces are required for varying uses</li> <li>- Seating to create a great meeting place</li> </ul>	Note
01.03	Shade is required throughout site (Especially under Power Lines)	Note
01.04	Is there a possibility of a playground here? (No playground in the immediate vicinity) Shopping strips that do well near open spaces are the ones where there is a really cool playground for kids. (shade sail and fence is a bonus). These playgrounds just attract a crowd like no other and you don't need to rely on programming events for activation	Note
01.05	Could a community garden be included (Possibly along the back edge of site?)	Note
01.06	Shift carpark to corner of triangle (Create more space for public space)	Note
01.07	Levels are an issue on site.	Note
01.08	Consider removal of power pylons	Note

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ITEM	SUBJECT	WHO
01.08	<b>Parkiteer:</b> - Keep it, but consider relocating and connections to pathways and future NELP networks (i.e.. Shared User Path & Station Networks) - Usually full & Used	Note
01.09	<b>Library:</b> - Better connection to be designed in - Create better legibility through the site to the library - Potential to connect internal garden to the outside. (Create outdoor learning / reading area)	Note
01.10	Please make 'Area One' as open as possible	Note
01.11	Consider extending out library: - Should extent this area to include Anglican Church Buildings, if possible to acquire and redevelop	Note
01.12	Have free Wi-fi	
01.13	Add signage for advertising shops (directory, maps), add and improve lighting for security	Note
01.14	Create a grand gateway that stands out	Note
		Note
<b>02.00</b>	<b>AREA TWO: Intersection</b>	Note
02.01	Not easily legible	Note
02.02	The intersection as a whole does not feel safe	Note
02.03	Crossing not safe at BP (Previous incidents are proof of this)	Note
02.04	Sight line issues exist (especially due to tree planting on corners)	Note
02.05	Intersection seems to be inefficient – OMG to look into its current efficiency and how to enhance in design iterations	Note
02.06	Visual clutter exists through the intersection leading to legibility issues	Note
02.07	Intersection needs to encourage pedestrian priority	Note
02.08	Consider closing the end of Ibbottson Street – GSA/OMG to consider through the generation of concept options	Note
02.09	Consider the inclusion of bus stop /buses in the development of concept designs	Note
02.10	Car Park currently exists on Church owned land (Owners must be consulted)	Note
02.11	Simplify the intersection: make it more narrow and add traffic lights	Note
02.12	Prioritise pedestrians at the intersections: consider mild speed bumps (Eg. High St Epping)	Note
02.13	Consider marking wile intersection is closed for pedestrians to encourage pedestrian use	Note
02.14	Re-orientate walking footpaths and signals and include lighting for security	Note
<b>03.00</b>	<b>AREA THREE: Morwell Avenue</b>	
03.01	Could a stage / flexible spaces for performances be included? (Must have multi-use)	Note
03.02	GSA to research the LXRA project convertible furniture that could be used in the performance spaces	Note
03.03	Parking: - RSL + Traders mainly use this parking area.	Note
03.04	Illawarra flame trees to be transplanted due to causing safety (sight-line) issues.	Note
03.05	<b>RSL Car park</b> - Grand, modern playground, covered if possible - Reconfigure parking of whole RSL car park. Consider bike path in middle, consider bold, progressive (aggressive) design - Redirect Morwell Ave traffic, divert through to Grace Street, recapture plenty of public space, use some for new Monopoles - Consider electric car charging station/s - Improve lighting for security, especially as this car park is OFTEN used at night for RSL events	

<b>04.00</b>	<b>General Notes:</b>	
04.01	<b>Night-time:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not a night-time destination</li> <li>- Area is very dark</li> <li>- Most traders are only take-away (not dine-in)</li> <li>- Pools of light created by existing lighting</li> <li>- Carpark is well lit, but not the rest (to be improved)</li> <li>- Mists come through site</li> <li>- Consider a night time economy, including opportunities for a night food market.</li> </ul>	Note
04.02	<b>Future:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resident population could grow considerably (Future proof design)</li> </ul>	Note
04.03	<b>Undesirable behaviour:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in robbery (Residential) – Design to improve (i.e.. Lighting etc)</li> <li>- Station is not currently safe</li> </ul>	Note
04.04	<b>Aesthetics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More artwork would be encouraged</li> <li>- Introduce colour + diversity to the space</li> <li>- Soften the spaces</li> <li>- Create one design language through the three areas.</li> </ul>	Note
04.05	Removing the round-about – drivers are on guard when they approach a roundabout and perhaps have less time and mental capacity to observe the shops around them. If they are stationed at a red light, they have more opportunity to take in their surrounds and perhaps discover a business they haven't seen before.	Note
04.06	The potential to remove the power towers will vastly change the energy the village and perhaps encourage people to stay longer if the surrounds are green and void of unsightly power lines.	Note
04.07	Consider pop up events/festivals, live music and activations that engage with the Watsonia Traders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watsonia Family Fun day – what opportunities exist in the town square for this event in the future. Consider food trucks for events that complement not compete with existing businesses.</li> </ul>	Note
04.08	<b>WiFi:</b> opportunities in the town square.	Note
04.09	<b>Bike paths:</b> should take as high a priority as possible through all plans for our centre (areas 1, 2 and 3).	Note
04.10	The closure of Ibbottson Street is seen to us as highly desirable and a game changer for pedestrian mobility and simplification of the Watsonia Rd/Morwell Ave intersection.	Note

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# **APPENDIX #4**

## **CONSULTATION REPORT FEEDBACK**





architecture | interior design | landscape | urban design | graphic design

arb #5990 | arbv #15637 | baq #3188 | www.groupgsa.com

**Minutes – Feedback Meeting – Community Group****No3**

Project	Watsonia Village, Town Centre	
Client	Banyule City Council	
Meeting place	Zoom – Video Conference	
Meeting date	10/08/2021	Project no. 200926

Present	Present
EH – Erica Hardie – Senior Project Manager (Banyule City Council)	SM – Sarah Maguire (Marmalade Sky Marketing Group)
AM – Alex Madden (Local Resident)	CB – Colin Brooks (Local Resident)
JR - Jeremy Richards (Watsonia Optical)	SP – Shaun Paine (Rex Paine Timber & Hardware)
BA – Barbra Armstrong (Yarra Plenty Regional Library Watsonia Branch)	SM - Susannah Madden (Local Resident)
JK - John Kiriakidis (Local Property Owner Member)	SW – Scott Walker (Banyule City Council)
KV – Kate Van der Drift (Local Resident Member)	JRB – Jonathan Risby (Banyule City Council)
LH – Lucie Holden (Watsonia Neighbourhood House)	MD – Cr. Mark Di Pasquale (Banyule City Council)
LN – Luke Nelson (Local Resident Member)	RG – Cr. Rick Garotti (Banyule City Council)
MG – Matthew Guest (Watsonia RSL)	JH – John Holland – Director (Group GSA)
PJ – Paul Johnson (Watsonia Primary School)	NM – Nathan Mundy – Assoc. Landscape Architect (Group GSA)
PP – Paul Parrella (The A team kitchen)	RF – Rita Fernandes – Landscape Architect (Group GSA)
DN – Rev Denise Nicholls (Anglican Parish of Banyule – comprising Holy Spirit Watsonia; St Andrew’s Rosanna; St John’s Heidelberg)	

ITEM	SUBJECT	WHO
<b>00.0</b>	<b>Design Principles – Traffic &amp; Parking</b>	<b>Note</b>
00.01	Ensure parking provisions will meet community needs and expectations. Consider a firm position on car parking losses as the comments appear to contradict each other	JK/PP/RG
00.02	Cater for local demands on parking and traffic provisions. Concern about the level of traffic on Watsonia Road. Need to assess the transport function – are we catering for non-local demand? Desire to actively discourage rat running.	JK/PP/RG
00.03	Consider traffic de-routing from Greensborough HWY	JK
00.04	Be more specific about how the design will consider the above two points – OMG to study the possibilities together with GroupGSA	JK
00.05	Consider a firm position on car parking losses as the comments appear to contradict each other	JK
00.06	No car parking losses and car parking restrictions to be reviewed.	PP
00.07	Discourage 'rat run'. Encourage local traffic. Ensure that the design focuses on local needs, not to allow more people to use as short cut.	DN
00.08	Shorter time parking may help (more parking if anything)	PP
00.09	Parking is important, especially for the library.	BA

Issue: 01  
Date: 10/08/2021GSA\_102  
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<b>01.00</b>	<b>Design Principles – Access</b>	
01.01	Accessibility to this place need to consider all disability groups. Accessibility should be expanded to include space accessibility, including sensory experiences for people with disabilities and accessible to a variety of needs.	KVD
01.02	Consider the Concord Primary and Secondary schools and children / teenagers accessing this place from both of those	KVD
01.03	Consider children / teenagers with intellectual disabilities	KVD
01.04	Consider ways of integrating elements of interest for disabled children / teenagers – not only mobility wise but also intellectually wise i.e. autism	KVD RG
<b>02.00</b>	<b>Design Principles – Flexible spaces</b>	
02.01	In general, the community is very supportive of the concept of Flexible Spaces	DN
02.02	One thing that could be considered as apart of the flexible spaces is the integration of outdoors Wi-fi connection	BA
02.03	Library to be supportive of outdoors learning areas as an extension of the Library into the open space.	BA
02.04	Consider that Library already has Wi-fi that could be accessed from outside.	BA
<b>03.00</b>	<b>General Feedback</b>	
03.01	Overall, be more specific on how the Design Principles relate to Watsonia	All

---

# **APPENDIX #5**

## **WATSONIA TOWN CENTRE SITE CONTEXT MAP AND AREAS**



**GROUPSA**

www.groupsa.com

---

**SYDNEY**

Level 7, 80 William Street  
East Sydney NSW 2011  
Australia

---

**MELBOURNE**

Level 1, 104 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Australia

---

**BRISBANE**

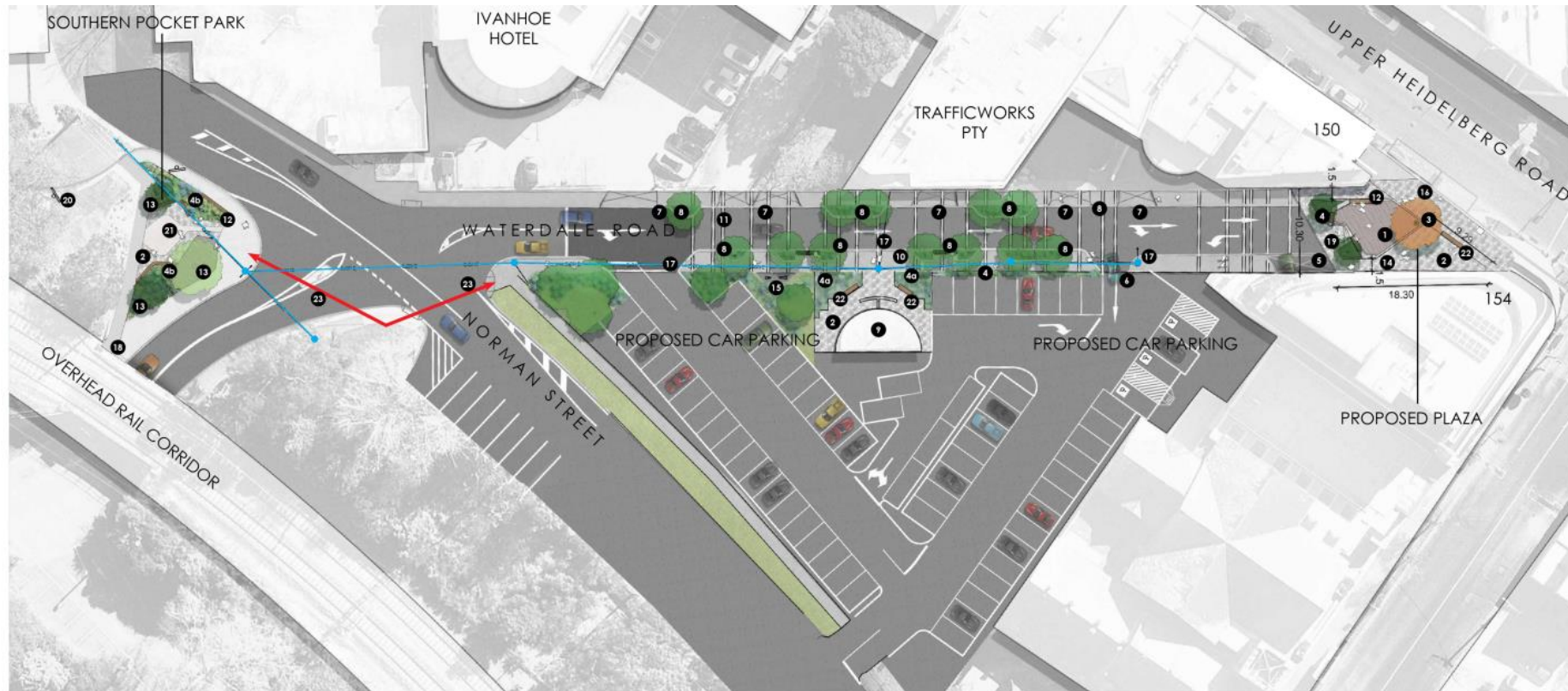
Level 14, 100 Edward Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
Australia

---

**HO CHI MINH CITY**

19th Floor – Havana Tower, 132 Ham Nghi,  
Ben Thanh Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City  
Vietnam





**LEGEND FOR PROPOSED WORKS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Timber decking</li> <li>2 Feature paving</li> <li>3 Large deciduous feature tree subject to site condition</li> <li>4 Planting beds</li> <li>4a Low level grass with Max. height of 500mm</li> <li>4b Indigenous groundcovers and small grass with Max. height of 300mm</li> <li>5 Entry/exit to 154 Upper Heidelberg Road</li> <li>6 New access point to carpark</li> <li>7 Existing vehicular access retained</li> <li>8 Rain garden</li> <li>9 Existing Public Toilets</li> <li>10 Contrasting paving bands</li> <li>11 Raised asphalt road with contrasting bands</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Concrete &amp; timber seating</li> <li>13 Copse of indigenous canopy trees</li> <li>14 3-phase power connection (to be designed by others)</li> <li>15 Drinking fountain and bike repair station</li> <li>16 New short term parallel parking (15 minutes)</li> <li>17 Overhead service infrastructure (inclusive of poles)</li> <li>18 Future improvements / embellishment of rail bridge by others</li> <li>19 Stairs with handrails</li> <li>20 Quest Hotel sign (approximate location)</li> <li>21 Proposed exposed aggregate concrete pavement</li> <li>22 All timber seating to be inclusive of back and arm rests</li> <li>23 Future pedestrian link</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**NOTES FOR PROPOSED WORKS**

- A Due to the existing grade of the site, DDA compliance will not be met across the whole site, however DDA access from Upper Heidelberg Road to the platform seating area in the northern pocket park will be provided. Footpath widths will be DDA compliant
- B The proposed works have been designed to meet relevant CPTED principles
- C The southern pocket park will not hinder vehicular view-lines
- D Bin collection points along the west side of Waterdale Road will be resolved as a function of the detailed design
- E Pedestrian links between the southern pocket park and shared zone will be further resolved as a function of the detailed design inclusive of a Road Safety Assessment
- F Materials and plantings will compliment the existing character of the local area
- G Council officers to investigate the potential to install public art on the eastern wall of 150 Upper Heidelberg Road

**Waterdale Road Shared Space and Parks**

Waterdale Road, Ivanhoe  
Banyule Council

Project Number: 2000918  
Designed by: Mark Gebbie  
Drawn by: Aoran Li  
Checked by: Bronwyn Mulligan

Revision: F  
Issued: 16.07.2021



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**Attachment 2 - Waterdale Road Pocket Parks and Shared Zone Project - Summary of Feedback**

Whilst many responses were favourable, reoccurring concerns and the corresponding response is summarised in the following table:

<b>Reoccurring Concern</b>	<b>Summary of response and any change to concept plan (if applicable).</b>
The closure of Waterdale Road to the south of Upper Heidelberg Road and issues relating to traffic flow and congestion;	This matter has been considered at the Council meetings dated 7 and 21 September 2020. Transport Team is satisfied that traffic movements are satisfactory. No change to concept plan.
The lack of design of the triangular carpark inclusive of traffic movements between Waterdale Road and Norman Street;	Concept plan updated to include the reconfigured car park at 109 Waterdale Road indicating traffic movements.
The design of the interface between the triangular car park and the Uniting Church;	Concerns raised by the Uniting Church have largely been resolved as a function of the reconfigured car park design. Car park reconfiguration plan is inclusive of the treatment adjacent to the Uniting Church and have been included in the updated Concept Plan.
Impacts associated with on-street parking;	Strategies to support the lost on-street carparking will be mitigated through strategies such as changes to parking times and increases in alternative parking in the activity centre. Concept plan to be updated to include on street parking
Pedestrian and vehicular safety at the intersection between Waterdale Road and Norman Street and the possible need for a pedestrian crossing;	Improvements for pedestrian movements inclusive of DDA will be considered as a function of the detailed design in consultation with traffic engineers.
The need to convert a section of Waterdale Road into a one-way street and how this will impact safety;	The retention of a two-way road along the section of Waterdale Road south of the northern pocket park will limit the effectiveness of the shared zone (i.e. more conflicts between cars and pedestrians) and will reduced the area that can be embellished inclusive of space for trees.
The small size and location of the pocket parks, how these spaces will be used and proximity to traffic;	The pocket park is intended to provide an attractive, green area in proximity to Upper Heidelberg Road where people can socialise and rest. The location is consistent with the vision contained within Ivanhoe Structure Plan and will create open space in proximity to a gap in open space provision as detailed in the Public Open Space Plan. Young children would need to be supervised given the proximity of cars similar to other town centre environments.

The need to ensure the design is accessible and safe;	The design of the shared zone inclusive of safety considerations will be further developed as a function of the detailed design. Shared zones are common in Europe and are being used more frequently in Australia to ensure spaces are multi-use.
Impact of existing overhead service infrastructure on the design and amenity of the space;	Undergrounding overhead service infrastructure is not viable with regard to the project budget. Tree species will need to be carefully considered as a function of the detailed design (i.e. narrow, upright forms to be investigated).
Other works within the municipality should be prioritised over the project and funds should be redirected accordingly;	The project site emanates from the Ivanhoe Structure Plan. The purpose being to develop a green space in an otherwise built up urban area for connection, socialising and relaxation.  The scope and location of the project is defined in the Victorian Common Funding Agreement. The money is not transferrable for other projects.
The northern pocket park is being developed to the advantage of the recent development at 154 Upper Heidelberg Road;	The pocket parks and shared zone have been designed for public use and there is no intent to privatise this land.  Outdoor dining in some capacity may help to activate the site and increase passive surveillance etc. The application for a liquor license has been considered by Council. A license has been approved but expires at commencement of the pocket park works or when a footpath trading permit is issued (with an opportunity to amend and review).
The installation of <i>Eucalyptus</i> , <i>Angophora</i> and <i>Corymbia</i> species;	Tree species will be determined as a function of the detailed design.
Impacts of wind and the need for shade;	There is no evidence to demonstrate that proposed changes will change the current levels of wind at the site.  Shade will be provided via the installation of canopy trees. Built shelter is not anticipated.
Antisocial behaviour occurring within the pocket parks and shared zone;	The space will be designed with due regard to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.
Issues pertaining to process and consultation.	Refer to report for engagement and advertising undertaken to inform the consultation.





# Disc Golf

**Engagement Summary Report**  
12 August 2021

**Prepared by**

**Nicole Maslin**, Manager Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Services

**Christina Grayland**, Team Leader Leisure and Sport

**Conversation Caravan Consultants**

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*The materials presented are from the Disc Golf consultation to date. As such Banyule City Council may receive further submissions in relation to this project proposal, as well as take into consideration the feedback provided at the community submitters meeting to be held on August 11, 2021. As such this report is for information purposes only. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessment of the matters discuss*

## Introduction

A \$30,000 allocation for Disc Golf was included as part of the 2019/20 Banyule City Council Budget following a formal budget submission from community members and members of Melbourne Disc Golf.

Council received and considered four formal submissions in support of the proposal, there were no objections received.

Disc Golf as an activity aligns strongly with Banyule City Council's key Recreation Plan objective:

- To provide informal opportunities so that our community can access and participate in diverse recreation activities

Warringal Park was identified as the most suitable location following site investigations and meetings with course designers (appendix 1 and 2).

This report presents the engagement findings collected across 2021 to help inform Council's decision about the future of Disc Golf at Warringal Park.

## Executive Summary

The following report outlines key engagement and consultation tools used to understand the level of support or concern regarding the Disc Golf Proposal Project.

Banyule City Council ran a stream of engagement tools and promotion of these opportunities from March 2021-July 2021 and ongoing including:

- Disc Golf come and try day
- Shaping Banyule survey platform
  - Warringal Park signage promoting Shaping Banyule platform
  - Distribution of 1500 postcards promoting Shaping Banyule platform
- Community consultation forum facilitated by Caravan Conversations in partnership with Banyule City Council
- Disc Golf Submitters Meeting held on Wednesday August 11 2021

Approximately 378 people participated in one or more of the above engagement opportunities and Council received a range of feedback throughout this process including emails direct to Council.

Overall, the consultation indicates that more people are in opposition to, or have concerns about, the proposal than support it. Key reasons for concern included safety, risk, privatisation of parklands, overcrowding and excessive use of Warringal Park and the interruption of dog club training activities.

However, there was some support for the project and these people could see the merit of this activity. Reasons included that, it's a free outdoor activity, gets people and families active and it's in a great location.

### Next steps:

- Consultation findings and recommendation presented to Council meeting on Monday August 30

## Engagement Approach

The engagement process was focused primarily on understanding:

- Level of support for the Disc Golf Proposal.
- Use profile for Warringal Park (who uses it, what they are using it for).
- Concerns and benefits as seen by the community regarding the introduction of the Disc Golf Proposal
- Ideas to successfully implement Disc Golf into Warringal Park.

The engagement process was not focused on understanding:

- Other improvements for Warringal Park
- Other locations for Disc Golf
- Other potential activities for inclusion within Warringal Park.

Between March and June 2021 three engagement methods were included as part of this project, to understand the level of community support for the proposal and identify any concerns that could be alleviated through design or programming changes.

The three engagement methods offered were:

1. Come and try day (March 2021) to provide participants with an opportunity to see and directly experience the activity and ask questions.
2. Online survey engagement through Shaping Banyule.
3. Consultation forum seeking alternatives to identified challenges.
4. The Submitters meeting held on August 11, 2021

Participation in the engagement and consultation was driven by the Shaping Banyule online platform and a communications campaign delivered by Council.

This included:

- Signage installed at key outdoor locations within the parklands advertising the Disc Golf project proposal on Shaping Banyule and encouraging people to provide feedback
- 1500 postcards were distributed to homes, and adjoining properties within a 1km radius of the park advertising Shaping Banyule (appendix 3)
- Direct email to community members who had previously engaged with Council in support or opposition, advertising the consultation opportunities
- Social media post promoting the come and try day (see appendix 4)

In addition to these publicly promoted engagement activities participants submitted feedback directly to Councillors and Council Officers in the form of emails, letters and phone calls.

Given the interest in this project many people participated in the engagement via multiple methods, for example completing a survey online and sending in a direct email submission. As such these people's feedback has been included across the multiple forums.

## Participation in Engagement

Table 1 shows each of our engagement activities and the number of participants engaged per activity. In total 378 participants engaged across four different forums.

**Table 1 – Participation by Engagement activity**

Engagement activity	Indicative number of participants
Attendance at Open Day	125 registered, 30 attended <i>(numbers low due to bad weather)</i>
Participation through Shaping Banyule	243 Contributors
Submission direct to Council	59 Participants
Attendance at Community Forum	21
Submitters Meeting	14 Speakers 11 written submissions that were spoken by officers
<b>Total participation in engagement activities</b>	<b>378</b> <i>(some attending multiple forums)</i>

Below is a snapshot of the Shaping Banyule page performance. For a full breakdown of the performance and demographic analysis of our main consultation tool 'Shaping Banyule' (see appendix 5)

- The Disc Golf Shaping Banyule page had 1,355 views.
- From the above, Banyule City Council had 223 unique submissions of people filling in the survey. We understood that many families used the same computer within their homes and facilities, as such Council took this into consideration when analysing the IP addresses and included 243 submissions from within the Shaping Banyule Platform for this report
- From this we can surmise that there were approximately 1,000 people who visited the page and were not motivated either way to submit any feedback on the proposal

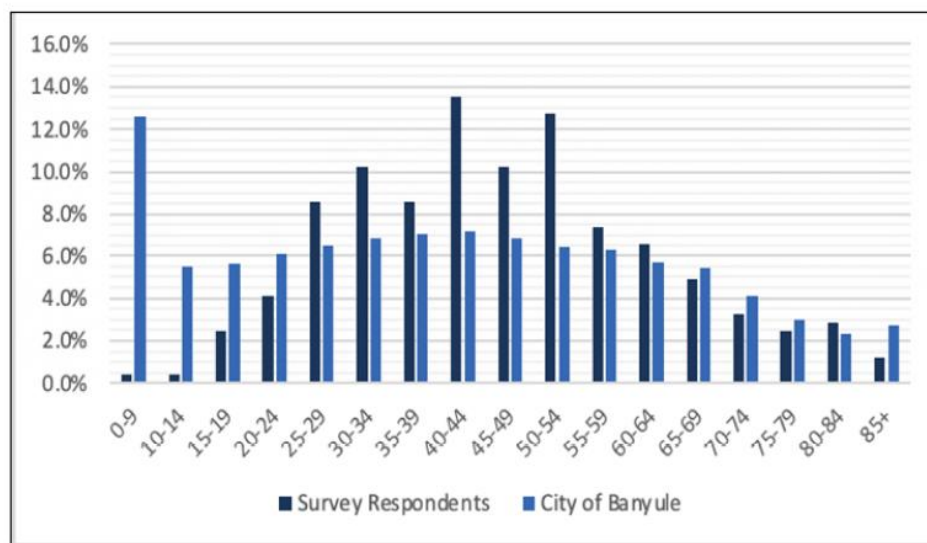
### Survey Consultation Findings

243 people contributed to the online survey on Shaping Banyule. This next section details the key responses from this survey which sought specific feedback on:

- Level of support for Disc Golf
- Identification of support
- Identification of concerns/opposition
- How they use the park

Graph 1 below illustrates the ages of people who completed the survey compared to the age cohorts of Banyule’s population.

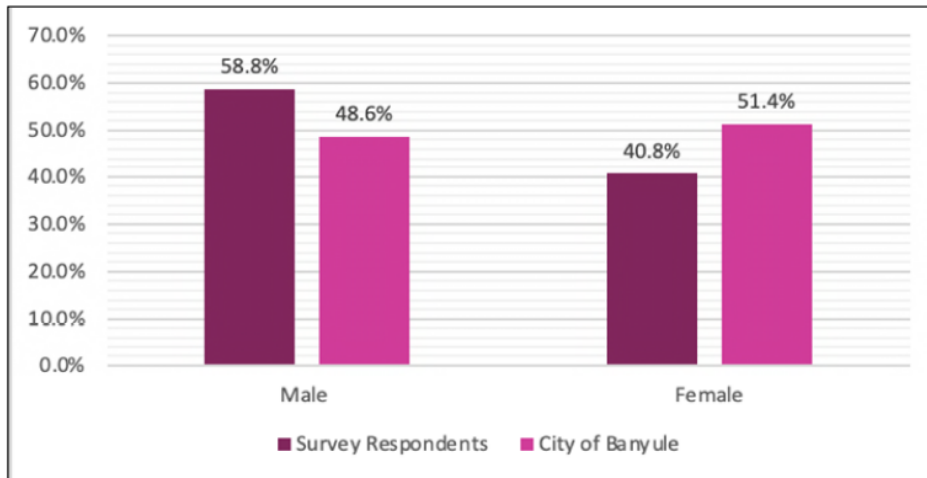
**Graph 1. Age cohorts of survey respondents compared to Banyule’s population**



- Most responses were from the 40 – 44 age group, followed by the 50 - 54 age group.
- There is a greater representation of respondents completing the survey between 25 - 59 than compared to Banyule’s population

Graph 2 illustrates the gender representation in City of Banyule compared with survey respondents.

**Graph 2. Gender representation in Banyule**



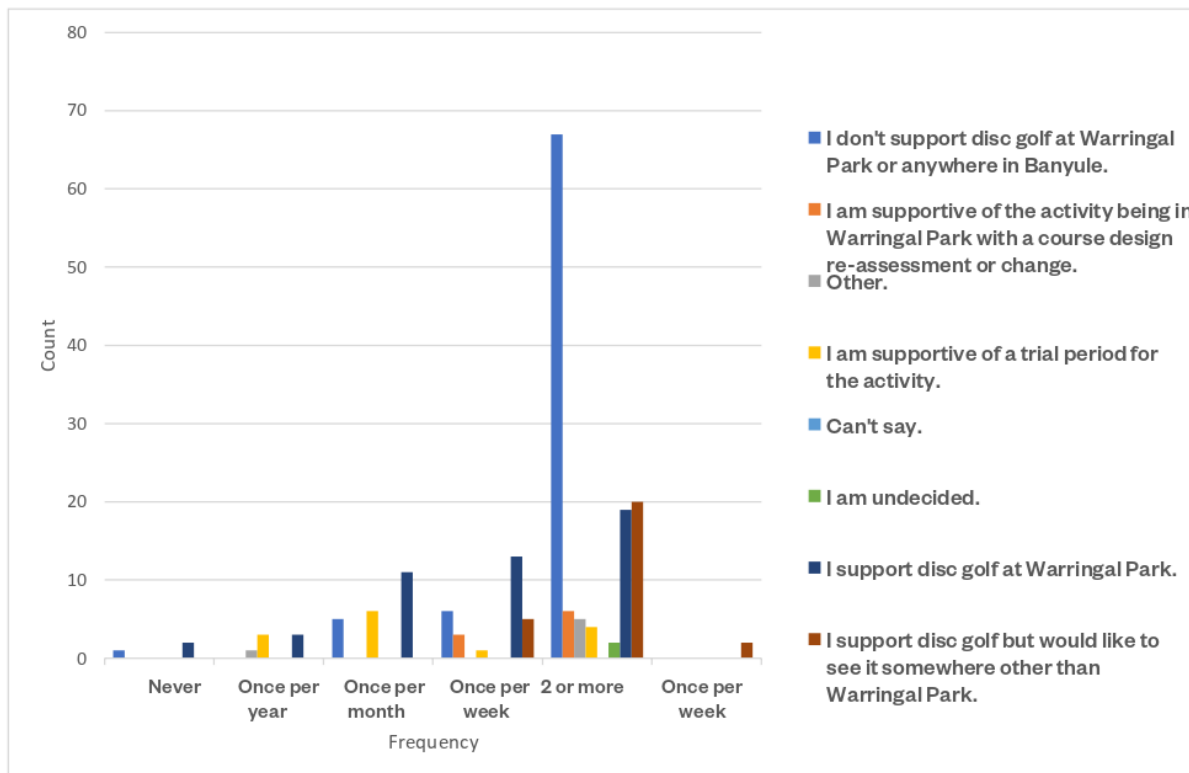
- There was one person who selected 'other identity' as their gender representation and took part in the survey
- Majority of responses (60%) were Male. With around 40% of respondents identifying as female.
- There is also greater representation of male respondents completing the survey compared to Banyule's male population

### Level of support for Disc Golf

Online participants were asked to indicate their level of support for the proposal.

Graph 3 represents the Banyule residents who completed the survey, how many times a week they attend Warringal park and their attitude towards Disc Golf.

**Graph 3. Level of support for Disc Golf from people that live in Banyule**



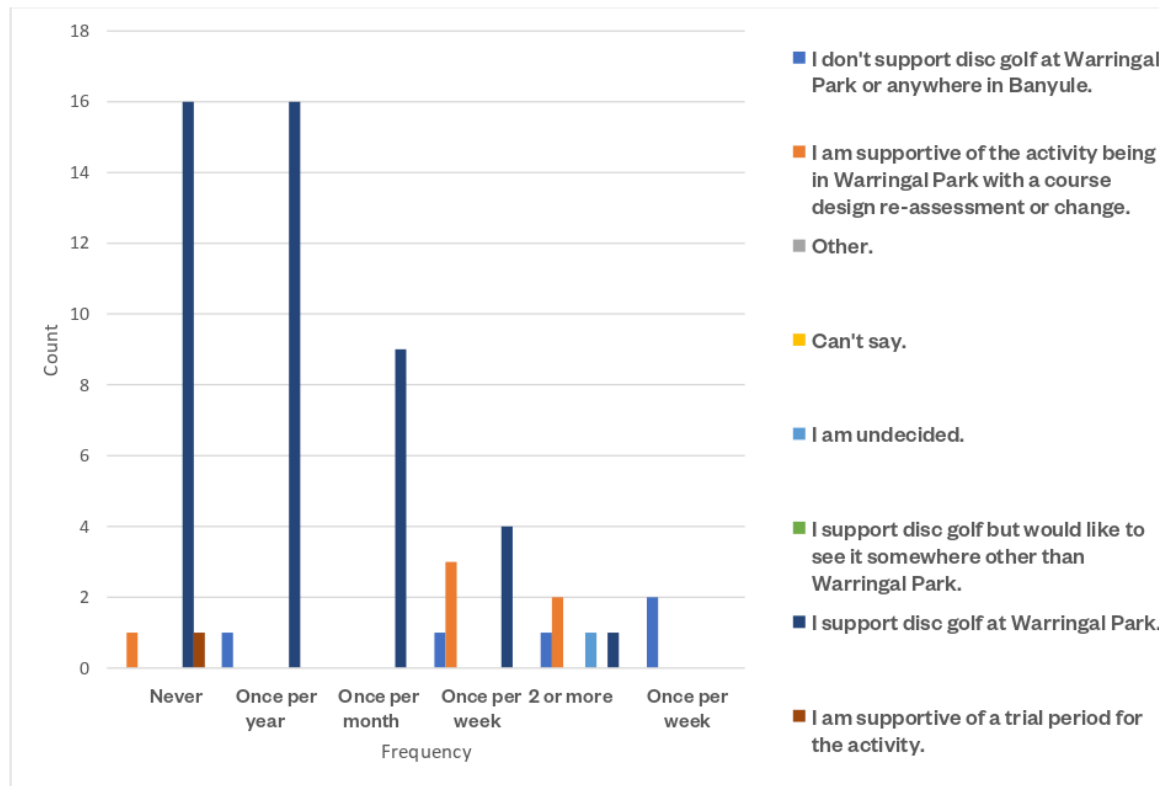
### Key Responses

- Out of the 243 responses 184 (76%) were Banyule residents
- Banyule residents who visit Warringal park frequently indicated little to no support for the Disc Golf course, of which there were 70 responses
- 40 people support Disc Golf at Warringal park or are supportive of it somewhere else.



Graph 4 represents the people who live outside of Banyule, how many times a week they attend Warringal park and their attitude towards Disc Golf.

**Graph 4. Level of support for people living outside of Banyule City Council**

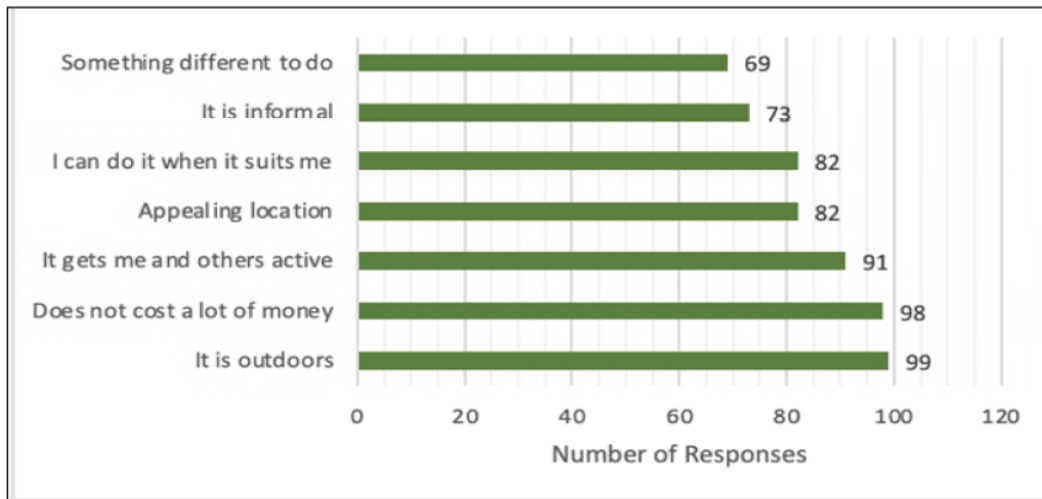


**Key Responses**

- Non-Banyule residents represent 24%, 59 people.
- Those who live outside of Banyule were more supportive of the course being implemented with 46 people of those 59 selecting that they support Disc Golf at Warringal Park.
- Three people noted that they were undecided on their level of support.

Graph 5 showed reasons for support for Disc Golf from all responses within the Shaping Banyule platform

**Graph 5. Key Reasons for Support**



- Majority saying that they supported the proposal because it's outdoors, doesn't cost a lot of money, and gets themselves and others active.

Participants were also able to select 'Other' and provide their response. Feedback received indicates a shared view of Disc Golf being an inclusive community sport that has the potential to cater to a variety of skill sets and needs of residents and visitors.

Comments included:

- "There is a really great community around Disc Golf in Melbourne."
- "It is a sport with a community aspect."
- "Encourages community connections."
- "Great to introduce new players to."

Comments shared in this section referenced the proposal as being considerate of pets that are currently taken through the area, as well as the environment surrounding the course itself.

- "I can take my dog with me too."
- "I can walk my dog at the same time, it is not a restricted activity if COVID restrictions come back in."
- "I'm old and won't use it, but new physical activities should be encouraged, and this has a low impact on the environment."

Feedback also suggests the course is beneficial to community health, with specific mentions of remaining active and losing weight, as well as the use of the space for rehabilitation as it is situated on an appropriately leveled surface.

- "I have been using disc golf as an activity to help me improve fitness and lose weight."
- "It is a great, gentle sport for rehabilitation. I have been playing to regain strength, balance and fitness, but the other close course has very hilly terrain, so it is difficult for me. Warringal Park would be perfect."

Online survey participants were also invited to provide any further information or detail that they wished the project team to consider. Much of the feedback received reiterated discussion points already raised.

**Disc Golf concerns**

Online participants were asked if they had any concerns about Warringal Park Disc Golf. They were able to answer either 'Yes', 'No' or 'Can't say'. Of the participants that were concerned about the proposal, participants were able to select from a pre-populated list.

The below table indicates what participants said.

**Table 2 - Indicating if the participant had concerns about Disc Golf being implemented at Warringal Park**

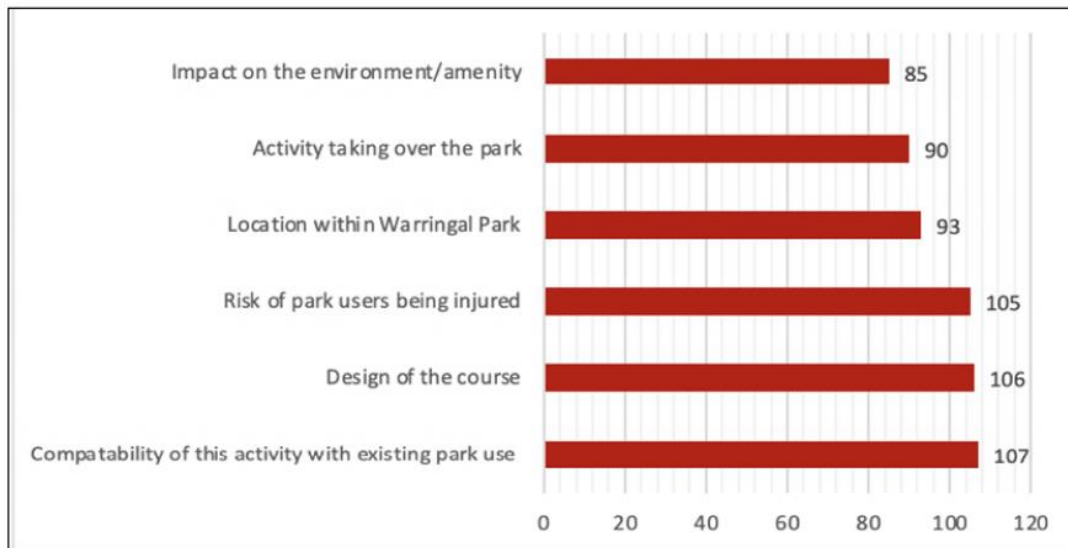
Do you have concerns about the Warringal Park Disc Golf?		
Yes	No	Can't Say
56%	43%	1%

Respondents were asked to identify what their concerns were from a pre-populated choices as indicated below.

Graph 6 below highlights the most common concern was the compatibility of the activity with the existing use of Warringal Park. The other two key factors for concern were:

- Design of the course
- Risk of park users being injured

**Graph 6. Key Concerns Explained**



Participants were also able to use free text to provide an alternative response or additional comments regarding their concerns. Summarised below are the key concerns and the percentage for whom it was a concern:

- 17% of respondents raised concerns about safety, injury or conflict between disc golf participants and current users of the space.
- 10% of participants mentioned Council specifically, often regarding communication with residents or transparency in actions
- 8% of respondents express their thoughts about the disc golf course as being a waste of money, or poor allocation of finances.

The other concern that was highlighted through the feedback was that the Disc Golf course will not add value, or is not considered necessary, for the area in which it is being proposed.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants to highlight this:

- "This area is already very busy over weekends, and this will just bring more people. I feel that the relative peace and serenity it offers to apartment dwellers and those who have small backyards will be destroyed. I'm not sure why you think we need this here?"
- Seems like a waste of money. It would be better to use something that people would use regularly
- It takes up a big area for a specific group who has another venue nearby.
- It is unwanted and not needed. Who asked for this?

Other concerns identified more than once but less frequently are summarised below:

**Concerns for safety:** under 5% of respondents raised safety and conflict concerns. These often include injury caused by disc golf equipment, either to pets or people. Other comments outline potential conflict between current users of the space, and those utilising the space for disc golf.

Quotes:

**Injury caused by equipment:**

- "That it will hurt my dog."
- "With a disability I am concerned about my ability to quickly dodge an errant disc."
- "The look of the disc holders scattered across the park & lost/broken discs thrown around when users are finished with them."
- "The third hole cuts through an area where large groups gather with their dogs, I think that hole potentially should be changed/moved."

**Conflict between users of the space:**

- "Baskets 2,3 & 8 are too close to the Trail. Baskets 5 & 6 are too close to the current playing fields."
- "The possibility of events/tournaments/leagues being held, disc golf users being rowdy, rude and ignoring basic code of conduct."

**Spending taxpayers money:** 4% of participants expressed their concerns with the financial aspect of the project. The feedback suggests the course is an improper use of funds or is considered a waste of funds entirely. Other comments recommend more suitable locations.

Quotes:

- Money should be allocated elsewhere:
  - “I see this as a waste of council funds and would be better used to help lower council rates for elderly or other people needing it.”
- Waste of money:
  - “Waste of rate payer money.”
  - “Wasting ratepayers money on something unheard of, unwanted.”
- Improper use of funds:
  - “The use of Council funds to provide a resource requested by an external group.”
  - “I do not agree on the funds used to place concrete pads and baskets in these park areas.”

**Environmental damage:** Similarly, only around 2% of respondents were most concerned about potential environmental damage from the proposed disc golf implementation, the content of the comments included damage to flora and fauna, as well as specific mentions of damage caused by equipment.

Quotes:

- Flora and fauna:
  - “Disturbing animal habitats, soil erosion around the nets, degradation of the environment.”
  - “Impact to the native flora and fauna of the park.”
- Equipment damage:
  - “The flying discs disturbed the birds, not only those foraging on the ground, but also those in the trees when the flying discs hit the trees. It also became obvious that the trees themselves would be harmed by the flying discs, with wounds to their bark and also branches being broken off.”

**Privatisation:** Some expressed worries regarding the natural environment being disturbed by private company ownership, limited access to the park itself and the motivation behind the particular company’s interest.

Quotes:

- Environmental impacts of privatisation:
  - “This proposal is of deep concern on many levels (as indicated) but we (my husband and I) also have deep concern about handing over parts of a public space to a private company. It could be the thin edge of the wedge and encourage further erosions on a beautiful, large public area.”
- Accessibility:
  - “...limiting access to park.”
- Interest and motivation:
  - “The proposal appears to have been pursued by individuals with an undisclosed financial interest; and there is no independent evidence of the need for it, other than what they claim.”

**Vandalism:** A solitary participant raised concerns about vandalism in relation to the installation of disc golf in Warringal Park, “*a magnet for vandals with chain baskets.*”

**Use outside of hours:** An outlier expressed concerns regarding additional use, outside of ordinary hours, *“encouraging inappropriate use at night.”*

**Worsened traffic:** A participant raised concerns about parking and traffic conditions worsening, *“crowding and running out of parking.”*

**Additional Comments**

Of those participants that were in support of the proposal, participants were able to select from a pre-populated list, from this list the key benefits were 'It's outdoors' (99 responses) and 'It is something that doesn't cost a lot of money' (98 responses).

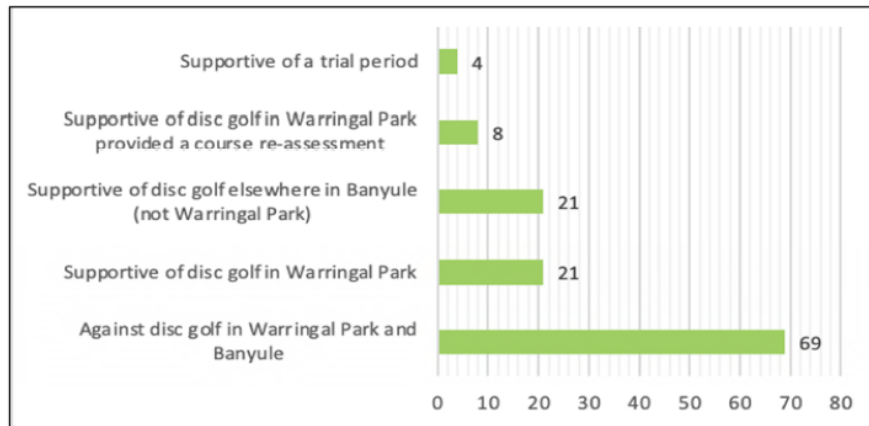
The other items that were 5% or below included:

- Participants feel that Warringal Park is fine as it is and doesn't require a disc golf course.
- Feedback in support of current or future dog facilities, exceed those expressing a negative viewpoint of dog facilities
- Some comments examine whether the disc golf course is necessary, these comments often relate to the course potentially being unnecessary or unpopular.
- Some expressed in the 'other' section suggest the course is unattractive or may interfere with the current appeal of the park itself.
- Respondents raised concerns about the natural environment and the protection of flora and fauna in Warringal Park.
- Feedback requests for other additional recreational facilities to be implemented.
- A small amount of respondents referenced inclusion within their feedback
- Some comments express a requirement for maintenance.
- Some comments referenced parking and traffic, or the improvement of these facilities and conditions
- Some participants expressed their desire for more events, whether that be in relation to food, art installations or festivals.
- One or two participants made comments regarding waste collection within Warringal Park
- Some participants discussed the use of signage to prevent injury and potential hazards

### Typical Park User

In addition to understanding feedback on disc golf engagement, participants were asked to provide information about their use and enjoyment of the park. Park users that identified as using the park '2 or more times a week' or 'once per week' are categorised as *high frequency users*. There were 123 of these people who selected one of these options.

**Graph 7. Peoples attitude towards the Disc Golf course who are high frequency**



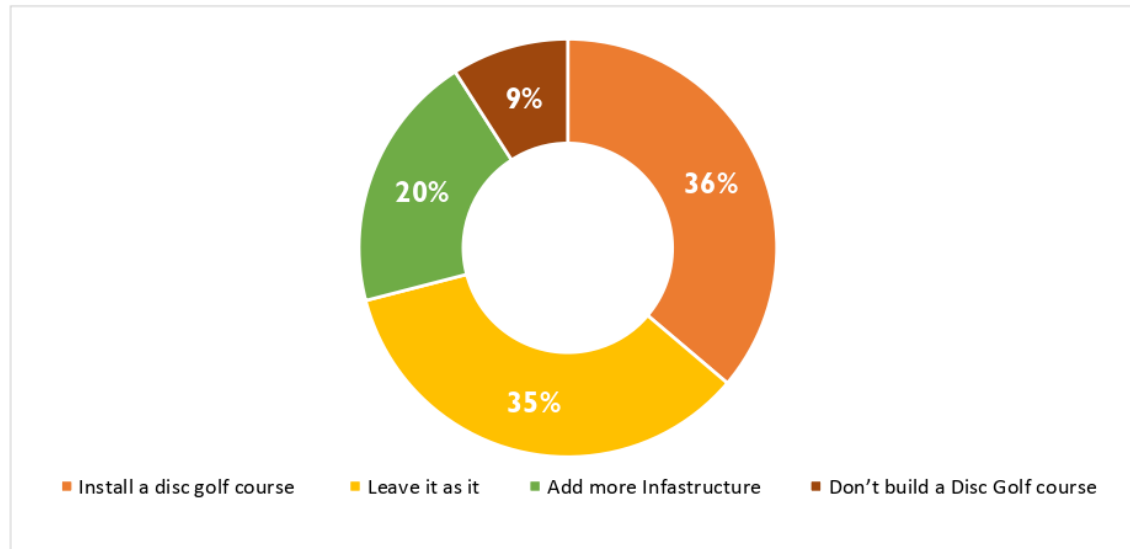
Key results in relation to frequent user of parks response to disc golf are:

- Frequent users of the park were clearly against Disc Golf, with that being the most common response (69 people).
- Only 21 respondents were happy with the current plans for Disc Golf in Warringal Park,
- And 21 respondents were happy with Disc Golf elsewhere in Banyule and even less were willing to have the course amended or a trial period.

### Encourage more visitation

Online survey participants were also asked if there was anything that would encourage them to visit Warringal Park more frequently. 222 people answered this question. The 21 other participants skipped or didn't answer this question.

**Graph 8. Illustrates a breakdown of what people said that would encourage them to visit Warringal Park more**



- Install a Disc Golf Course - 76 people said they would attend more if there was a Disc Golf course installed at Warringal Park
- Leave it as it is - 73 people said they love Warringal Park as it is, nothing needs to change for more frequent visits
- Add more Infrastructure - 42 people asked for things to be added to Warringal Park such as more outdoor exercise equipment, bins, make wider paths, separate bike and walking paths, add more seating, add more dog poo bins, improve/add public toilets, increase the lighting at night, build a dog park, add more art installations in the park, add human and dog water stations, increase parking to solve traffic problems.
- Don't build a Disc Golf Course- 19 people directly said not to build the Disc Golf Course at Warringal Park

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants to highlight the results above:

- "Leave it alone - it is a place where one can experience the peace of nature."
- "I enjoy the safe open spaces. I will continue to visit on a weekly basis. If Disc golf is permitted, I would be forced to find another venue as I have grave concerns regarding safety."



Other comments are grouped below in themes:

**Course correction and upgrades:** under 6% of participants support Disc Golf, with specific course corrections mentioned.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- Proper utilisation of space:
  - “Please consider starting and finishing the course from the carpark near the theatre. Also spread the course onto the other side of the path and utilize the large area opposite the oval in the bend of the river.”
- Concerns for safety:
  - “The layout of the course does not take into account all relevant safety considerations.”
- Consideration of other users:
  - “The third hole cuts through an area where large groups gather with their dogs. I think that hole potentially should be changed/moved.”

**Additional furniture and amenities:** Around 10% of participants confirmed that they would be more inclined to visit Warringal Park more frequently, if Council implemented better furniture, amenities, trails and/or lighting.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- “.possibly some more seats.”
- “Provide more activities/facilities to encourage a visit.”
- “Pave the main Yarra Trail leading to Warringal Park.”
- “Better paths and facilities.”

**The natural environment:** Around 3% of respondents explained that a further protection of the natural environment would encourage them to visit Warringal Park.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- “Plant more vegetation, especially understory plants.”
- “Continued revegetation to create wildlife habitat.”
- “Plant many more trees more frequently.”

**Warringal Park events and festivals:** under 5% of participants would be more likely to visit should Council organise more events in the area, centred around food, festivals and art.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- “Art installations...”
- “More festivals and events.”
- “A local food truck park given there are lots of weekend visitors here and now spectators for the local football matches.”

**Movement and traffic:** Around 3% of comments related to movement, including specific mentions of bikes, paths, traffic and parking.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- Paths and bicycles:
  - “Separate cyclists & walkers.”
  - “Control bikes on the shared pathway.”
- Vehicles and traffic:
  - “Assist with the traffic on Rosanna Rd/lower Heidelberg Rd. It’s a nightmare as are the speed cameras.”

**Dog facilities:** under 5% of respondents made comments referencing dog facilities when asked what Council could do to encourage them to use the space.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- "Human and dog water station and doggy bags and rubbish bins."
- "Build a dog park."
- "More rubbish bins in this and all parks would help reduce the amount of litter and dog poop."
- "Encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs."

**Maintenance:** Around 5% of comments related to maintenance of the park itself, or the Disc Golf course in particular.

The following responses are provided verbatim by survey participants:

- "Formalise and top dress muddy pathways."
- "Improved toilet facilities." "Maintain a safe, clean, user

### Limitations of Data

It is important to note the following limitations within this data collected:

- **Duplication in data:** Participants were able to participate in more than one engagement activity. Considering the level of interest in this project we expect that some people completed multiple surveys and submissions. Through the collection of IP Addresses on the survey we know that 40 responses came through 15 IP Addresses and had some crossover of demographic information and feedback.
- **Gaps in demographic data:** All elements of participation were voluntary which means there are inconsistencies and gaps in the collected data. Participants could answer any number of questions, could choose to provide or withhold demographic information. For this reason, demographic data is not known across all methods.
- **Submitters Meeting still to occur on Wednesday August 11**

## Email Submissions

Across the consultation period 59 participants sent 73 submissions to Councillors and Council Officers via email and post. These are separate from shaping Banyule but part of the consultation process. Of the submissions received 57 were objections and 4 in support.

Reoccurring themes identified from the email submissions were:

- This an unsafe activity in an already busy park
- People will get hit by a disc
- Warringal Park doesn't need any more sports
- Interrupt the Kintala puppy school business
- A waste of Council funds, put it towards something that's needed and requested
- Banyule residents don't want to pay for the insurance claims
- Environmental concerns around flora and fauna
- It will create parking issues
- Risk of parklands closure
- Who will make sure that the players are doing the right thing?
- Melbourne Disc Golf has been lobbying Banyule City Council

See (appendix 6) for full detail of direct email feedback about the proposal, timing of submission(s) and summary of all points raised.

## Community Forum

A community forum was held on 23 June 2021. The original intent of the forum was to consider community feedback collected through Shaping Banyule and consider ways to address concerns or challenges raised through the course design, programming inclusions or contract considerations. Of the 21 of people that attended the workshop at least 20 were in opposition to the proposal and unable to consider solutions to the challenges or concerns raised.

Appendix 7 shows the original agenda and pre participant activity prepared for this workshop. In recognising community sentiment, the session was used to discuss challenges previously raised and discussed in the online survey and submission. The one person who was there in response to the original intent of the meeting left as a result in the change to the agenda.

The key points raised at this workshop are summarised below.

### **Poor consultation process and communication**

Some participants expressed concern with the lack of communication following consultation activities and had hoped to see the results of Shaping Banyule and submissions received. Few were concerned about how the proposal came into consideration from the beginning.

### **Not needed or wanted by general community**

Participants reiterated that Warringal Park already meets community needs and additional activities are not needed to 'increase use'.

**Commercialisation and private interest in the park**

Some participants believed that the proposal from Disc Golf Australia was a step in the wrong direction towards creating private use/interest in the park.

**Safety and conflict of use**

Inline with feedback collected through other methods, safety and conflict between users was the biggest concern discussed. Potential for injury to other park users and the interference between passive recreation users (walkers) and formal users (football and dog agility) among the highest reasons stated.

**Reallocating funds for other improvements**

Some participants felt the funds spent to date on planning and consultation and funds proposed could be better spent making improvements to the park. Improvements noted included fixing dangerous steps and access points, sealing pathways, signage and club room facilities.

**Submitters Meeting**

On Wednesday 11 August Council held the Disc Golf Submitters meeting. There were 15 People who spoke directly to Council, and 10 written submissions that were read out by officers. With 22 being Objections and 3 being in support.

**Key themes raised by Objectors:**

- Safety concerns
- Loss of park use
- Money could be better spent on other park infrastructure
- Kintala Dog Club business impact

**Key themes raised for support:**

- It gets everyone active outdoors
- Its free
- Anyone can participate
- Creates community

**Next Steps**

Engagement in this project has created significant localised interest. This engagement summary report will be made available to the community and used to inform the Council Report for the August 2021 Ordinary Meeting.

The next steps in this project are:

- Consultation findings and recommendation presented to Council meeting on Monday August 30

Appendices

Appendix 1. Proposed Course Design



## Appendix 2. Disc Golf site assessment review



### **Disc Golf Course Site Assessment Review Banyule City Council September 11th 2020**

The investigation and assessment of potential sites for the activity of disc golf, includes the consideration of several factors to help ascertain the suitability of a particular site. These criteria are chosen with the goal of finding the most realistic and safe solution for creating a sustainable disc golf facility, designed to serve participants and enhance the park experience for all users for many years to come. Criteria used to assess a sites suitability include:

1. Course Design Layout - Environment
2. Local Community and Neighbourhood School Accessibility
3. Amenities and Parking
4. Transport Accessibility
5. Existing Recreation Facilities
6. Park Connectivity
7. Club Development, Events and Sustained Participation
8. Safety and Risk Management

The most recent disc golf course proposal to the City in 2018 included suggestions of sites which showed some potential to install a disc golf course facility. These included: Warringal Parklands/Banyule Flats, Rosanna Parklands and Binnak Park. Of the locations suggested, Warringal Parklands was deemed to be the most suitable site - based on the site suitability criteria.

Whilst Rosanna Parklands were also mentioned in the proposal, upon review it has been determined that this site does not present the same opportunity for a disc golf course that would meet the expectations of the local Melbourne disc golf community or provide the local community with an experience of disc golf that truly offers the activity's potential.

These reasons include:

- Limited area for safe course design
- Lack of area for diversity in hole length
- High traffic parks and path networks



Binnak Park was also included in the proposal as a potential site. During early stages of the project development, it was determined that the site did not offer the same potential as Warringal. This is very much still the case now. Whilst the area would be suitable for disc golf in terms of the environment, the size and length of the facility would have to be dramatically decreased due to the actual usable space in which to activate with disc golf.

Only 1 to 2 holes would be possible at this site, which would mean the facility is not a traditional disc golf course (with a minimum of 9 holes). Such lack of diversity in the hole length, design and overall course length could not ensure a proper experience of the sport. This could affect return visitation by the public and ultimately the facilities overall sustainability.

The search for a suitable site for a disc golf course began many years ago when Melbourne Disc Golf hosted monthly leagues events at Price Park in Rosanna. There was a proposal submitted and disc golf did make it in the development plans for the park upgrade.

However, unfortunately at the time, disc golf did not make it to the final draft and was omitted by the park designers.

Upon review, despite the additions to the site from the previous development, Price Park would be the most suitable site for disc golf in the City aside from Warringal Parklands.

Price Park only has one path network which is found on the park perimeter which allows for further use of the open space within the park for disc golf. The diversity of flora, elevation and mix of treed and open spaced areas provides ample opportunity to create a family friendly disc golf facility that would be accessible and encourage participation from the local community. In addition to the parks suitability for a safe and sustainable disc golf course design layout, the area also offers an allocated fenced dog area, street parking, an existing playground, BBQ facilities and amenities.

With Price Park's history of Melbourne Disc Golf's monthly community league events, the local residential community of Rosanna are already familiar with the sport having seen it played there for a number of years.

It is the recommendation of RAD that should Banyule City Council seek to investigate an alternate site for the 9 disc golf course, that this location be Price Park.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Ferguson', is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Ferguson  
General Manager/ Course Designer  
RAD



## **SITE SUITABILITY CRITERIA**

### **Course Design Layout - Environment**

The potential to create a fun and challenging course layout for both beginner and advanced participants is based on the potential to utilise the sites topography - including changes in elevation, diversity in fauna and density of foliage. Such variation enables exciting and challenging course design - providing a rewarding experience for players and helping to ensure return visitation and sustainability of the facility. In order to achieve an accomplished facility, our course layout design process is based on a number of design goals. These include:

- a) Satisfy the design requirements of the people and organisations who approve use of the land and fund the equipment for the course. That includes meeting local, state and federal construction and safety requirements.
- b) Design the course to have sufficient visibility of players, pedestrians and vehicles who may pass near or through it.
- c) Design course with the potential for multiple configurations to serve not only beginners but players with advanced skills; consistent with the budget and design needs in (goal a.) above.
- d) Design a well balanced course with a wide range of hole lengths and a diverse mixture of holes requiring controlled left, right and straight throws.
- e) Utilise elevation changes and available foliage as well as possible. Take care to minimise potential damage to foliage and reduce the chances for erosion.

### **Local Community and Neighbourhood School Accessibility**

The sites proximity to local schools and community groups, encouraging student and local resident participation through excursions and after school/work and weekend play at the venue.

### **Amenities and Parking**

Accessibility to toilet/BBQ facilities and sufficient parking availability.

### **Transport Accessibility**

The sites proximity to public transport and local bike path network to improve accessibility for visitors travelling without vehicle access.

### **Existing Recreation Facilities**

The sites proximity to other recreational facilities and playgrounds - helping to create a hub for leisure activities in the area.

### **Park Connectivity**

Potential for utilising disc golf to improve connectivity of existing park facilities and path networks.



**Club Development, Events and Sustained Participation**

The capacity to deliver an exciting, challenging and sustainable facility design for players of all abilities - leading to consistent participation and the potential for hosting community events by a formalised local club.

**Safety and Risk Management**

Ability to create a course design layout to meet the required standards and expectations of the client, whilst mitigating potential risks associated to the injury of participants and other park users.

*\*The designs methods of RAD course designers are based on the systems and procedures as laid out by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), the sports global governing body.*

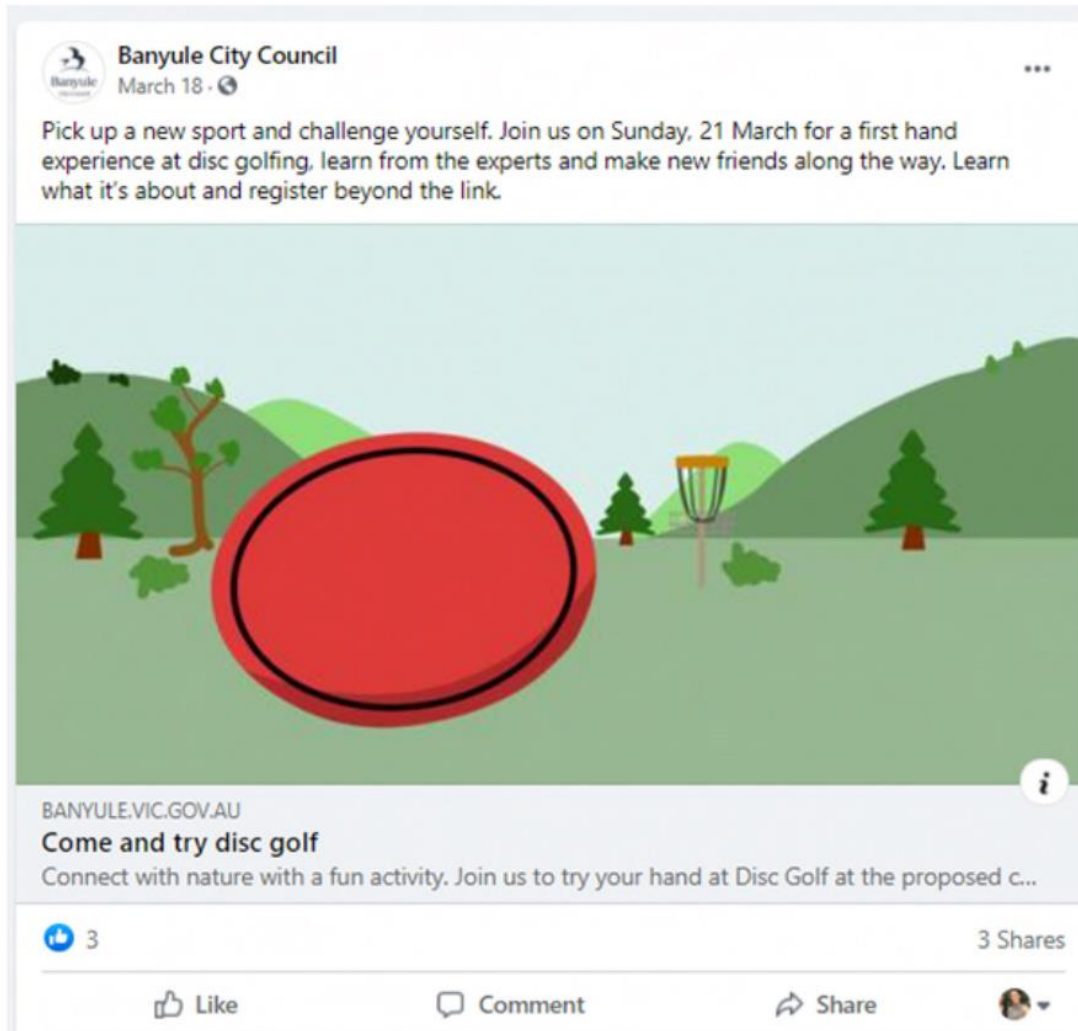
**Appendix 3. Postcard Distribution**



#### Appendix 4. "Come and Try" Facebook Post

This post was created to encourage people to come along to the Disc Golf come and try day to understand the proposal and provide a direct opportunity for them to talk to officers and Council.

This post reached 1,362 people and had 36 people engage with the post by clicking on the link.



## Appendix 5. Shaping Banyule Performance Summary

### Online Survey

Participants were invited to provide feedback via a 7-minute survey, the survey was hosted online through Shaping Banyule. Following is a summary of the responses to these survey questions,

The diagram below shows the performance of the Disc Golf Shaping Banyule platform



#### Views

- The number of times a specific page has been loaded.
- Multiple views are likely to be recorded during a single visit.
- Similar to the number of times a specific question is made during a visit to a service centre.

#### Visits

- The number of times the site has been loaded and represent both the entry-point and exit of the site.
- A visitor can record multiple visits in a single day.
- Similar to the number of times people walk-in through the doors of a service centre.

#### Visitors

- An estimate of the number of individuals who loaded the site.
- A visitor can record multiple visits and multiple views in a single day.

#### Contributions

- Is the amount of times the survey was filled in not taking into consideration the duplicate entries from the same IP address

#### Contributors

- Removes duplicates of the IP address to provide how many separate individual responses there were for the survey

#### Followers

- Indicates how many people chose to follow the project through Shaping Banyule

Key findings from the analysis of the community feedback

In this section we look at feedback collected from across the engagement methods. Feedback is presented by engagement method.

## Demographics

There were 243 people that contributed to the survey on Shaping Banyule.

The below table shows a comparison of demographic descriptors against the Census Community Profile for the area. Demographic details were not submitted by or all participants, so the participation profile below has been generated mostly based on the characteristics reported by the survey respondents.

AGE OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN SURVEY	TOTAL IN CITY OF BANYULE	% SURVEY RESPONDENTS	% OF BANYULE POPULATION	REPRESENTATION
0-9	1	15343	0.4%	12.6%	Under-represented
10-14	1	6672	0.4%	5.5%	Under-represented
15-19	6	6834	2.5%	5.6%	Under-represented
20-24	10	7410	4.1%	6.1%	Under-represented
25-29	21	7889	8.6%	6.5%	Over-represented
30-34	25	8358	10.2%	6.9%	Over-represented
35-39	21	8593	8.6%	7.1%	Over-represented
40-44	33	8776	13.5%	7.2%	Over-represented
45-49	25	8370	10.2%	6.9%	Over-represented
50-54	31	7851	12.7%	6.4%	Over-represented
55-59	18	7653	7.4%	6.3%	Over-represented
60-64	16	6887	6.6%	5.7%	Over-represented
65-69	11	6534	4.9%	5.4%	Adequate
70-74	8	4976	3.3%	4.1%	Under-represented
75-79	6	3681	2.5%	3.0%	Under-represented
80-84	7	2782	2.9%	2.3%	Over-represented
85+	3	3253	1.2%	2.7%	Under-represented

Table 1 – Comparison of participation across different age groups

The above table relates to a comparison of age breakdown between respondents to the survey and residents of the City of Banyule. The age brackets are broken down into 5 year intervals (except from 0-9 and 85+) and the totals of both populations are shown in the 'total' columns. The '%' columns show what percentage of each population contains people from a certain age bracket. The 'representation' column shows whether an age bracket was over, under or adequately represented in the survey.

People of the ages 0-24, 70-79 and 85+ were underrepresented in the survey when compared to the population of the City of Banyule, whilst people of the ages 25-64 and 80-84 were overrepresented. The age bracket of 65-69 had an adequate representation in the survey.

**Appendix 6. Direct Email Submissions**

Position	Date	Key Points		
Objection	2/3/21	Waste of money	Lead to the destruction of park	Leave park as is
Objection	17/3/21, 4/4/21, 18/4/21, 29/5/21, 30/5/21	Inappropriate use in the location	Lobbying from Disc Golf	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance
Objection	18/3/21, 22/3/21, 9/04/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Player responsibility	Interrupt current users of the park
Objection	18/3/21, 18/3/21, 21/3/21, 21/4/21, 2/5/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Lobbying from Disc Golf	Leave park as is
Objection	21/3/21, 31/5/21	Out or character with the park	Park capacity	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance
Objection	31/3/21	Waste of money	Poor consultation process	
Objection	31/3/21	Leave the parklands as is	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Interrupt current users of the park
Objection	9/4/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Inappropriate use in the location	
Objection	13/4/21, 16/4/21, 21/4/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Poor consultation process	Risk of parklands closure
Objection	16/4/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Not enough people supporting it	Commercialising the park/ privatisation
Objection	23/4/21	Waste of money	The decision to engage a designer to design a proposed course for the selected location	The decision not to put up any fencing

Position	Date	Key Points		
Objection	25/4/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Shared use	Loss of passive recreation space
Objection	29/4/21	A number of safety and environmental concerns	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	
Objection	4/5/21	Conflict with park and sport users	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Parking concerns
Objection	5/5/21	Ruining the peace and beauty	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	How this is being funded
Objection	17/5/21	Losing too much open space	Urban density is increasing	
Objection	18/5/21	Inappropriate use in the location	Losing too much green space	
Objection	18/5/21	Don't take our park away from us	Park should be reserved for local residents paying for it	Parking concerns
Objection	19/5/21	Inappropriate layout	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	
Objection	24/5/21	Concrete pads, unsightly steel/chain baskets and signage will have a negative impact on the unique, peaceful, bushland	More people to the park and traffic	Preference for other improvements (BBQ's benches and picnic tables)
Objection	24/5/21	Waste of money	We have a child with cerebral palsy who uses the parkland regularly. She is in a wheelchair and will not be	Makes park too busy/traffic



Position	Date	Key Points		
			able to dodge a flying disc.	
Objection	26/5/21	Course design	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Impact to Kintala dog business
Objection	27/5/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Impact to trees, vegetation and birds	Impact current users of the park
Objection	27/5/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance		
Objection	27/5/21	Inappropriate use in the location	Waste of money	
Objection	27/7/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Impact to Kintala dog club	Impact on environment and animals
Objection	30/5/21	Lobbying from Disc Golf	The unnecessary introduction into the beautiful parklands	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance
Objection	31/5/21, 28/6/21	Commercialising the park/ privatisation	ruining the environment	
Objection	31/5/21	Inappropriate use in the location	Enjoy the open space that's left	
Objection	31/5/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Courses are not shared spaces	Inappropriate use in the location
Objection	31/5/21	Clash with existing park users	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	This space is precious
Objection	31/5/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Council subsidising Disc Golf	There is no need for the council to enforce 'entertainment' on us.

Position	Date	Key Points		
Objection	31/5/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Re-design the Disc Course away from areas used by Kintala.	
Objection	1/6/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Impact to Kintala dog business	The Banyule Flats area is a wonderful area for recreation and I thank Banyule Council for such a wonderful facility
Objection	1/6/21	No needed by the local community	Impact on enjoyment of the park	
Objection	3/6/21	The current proposal is a health hazard	Commercialising the park/ privatisation	This disc golf proposal is just the most recent of Banyule Council's excursions of this type
Objection	30/6/21	Concerned how the course is very close to well used paths	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Waste of money preference for other park improvements
Objection	23/3/21	Poor consultation process	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Impact on enjoyment at park
Objection	29/5/21	Clash with existing park users	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	interrupt the dog training program
Objection	22/05/2021	Poor communication and lack of transparency	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	
Objection	11/5/21	Commercialising the park/ privatisation		

Position	Date	Key Points		
Objection	21/3/21	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance		Council would never put golf in a public park so why disc golf? You don't even yell 'fore' before you let go of the disc
Objection	30/1/21	Looking for updates for disc golf		
Objection	29/7/20	Poor communication and lack of transparency	Poor consultation process	Not wanted or needed by community
Objection	1/6/20	Disc Golf would appear to be a highly competitive individual	I acknowledge my own long association with the Kintala Dog Club which meets on a Saturday morning on part of the grounds.	The speed and distance of the travelling discs is chilling only exceeded by the passion and aggression of some of the players.
Objection	1/6/20	Clash with existing park users	Visual impact 'a lot of concrete'	Safety and increased parking pressures
Objection	1/7/20	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Commercialising the park/ privatisation	Clash with existing park users
Objection	26/6/20	Location	Safety concerns	What are the benefits
Objection	21/6/20	Poor communication and lack of transparency		

Position	Date	Key Points		
Objection	18/6/21	Innapropriate location for activity	Poor consultation process	
Objection	21/3/21	Poor consultation process	Risk/unsafe activity/insurance	Waste of money
Objection	12/7/05	I was excited to see the disc golf signs down at Warringal Parklands!	Preference for using the space to organise a company outing or event at the course	
Objection	12/7/05	Concerns about Disc Golf Course		
Objection	27/7/21	Safety concerns	Interference with puppy school	
Objection	21/3/2021	Group objection recorded from com and try day		
Support	18/3/21	Nostalgia	More exercise	
Support	11/5/21	Add an extra activity for people to enjoy	Free activity	
Support	29/6/21	Liked the proposal	Potential course redesign	
Support	18/1/21	It's a great way to get communities together and fun for all ages	I would love to see this open to the public as soon as it is safely an option for us	It can be a great way for the Council to accept donations for general upkeep

## Appendix 7. Community Forum Agenda and Participant Activity

Banyule City Council  
 DISC Golf in Warringal Park  
 Wednesday 23 June 2021  
 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Time	Item
6:00 pm	Welcome + Overview Introduction Agreements
6:10 pm	Overview of Engagement Findings Outcomes of engagement Information as a result of concerns and queries
6:20 pm	Working through focus areas (three discussions) If this were to go ahead, what are the design considerations, program implications and conditions that would need to exist to manage this, or create a compromise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Safety or interfering with other users</li> <li>· Impact on natural amenity and wildlife</li> <li>· Ensuring shared use</li> </ul>
7:05 pm	What solution achieves your desired outcome? From the discussion, what solution addresses the problem and provides a satisfactory outcome?
7:15 pm	Your overall opinion After today's discussion what are your thoughts about Disc Golf into Warringal Park?
7:25 pm	Next Steps + Close Opportunity to speak to Council

### **Preparation Activity Disc Golf Community Workshop**

Banyule City Council is exploring the use of Warringal Park for a community Disc Golf Course. Further information about Disc Golf is provided on the project page. This community workshop forms part of the consultation being carried out by Council to understand concerns and possibilities for Disc Golf at Warringal Park. Outcomes from this workshop will be considered alongside public consultation carried out in April and May 2021, and the Community Submitters session to be held in August 2021.

To maximise our time together and ensure that we are working through the structured activities well informed, please take the time to review and complete the activities.

Answer these:

#### **Ideation Concern 1 Safety or interference with other users**

Through the consultation, the biggest community concern was ensuring the safety of other park users and reducing interference. Of particular concern was being hit by a Disc.

Consider the possible solutions to this concern, consider:

- Design modifications (course, positioning of nets, planting)
- Programming or instructions (build in instruction posts, instructional video online)
- Ongoing monitoring (reporting function).

Use this space to note your ideas to manage this particular concern.

#### **Ideation Concern 2 Impact on the natural amenity and wildlife**

Through the consultation, the second concern was disruption to wildlife and the natural fauna.

Consider the possible solutions to this concern, consider:

- Design modifications (course design, materiality of nets, planting buffers)
- Programming or instructions (education about known habitats)
- Ongoing monitoring (reporting function).

Use this space to note your ideas to manage this particular concern.

#### **Ideation Concern 3 Ensuring shared use**

Through the consultation, there was some concern that Disc Golf has the potential to take away from the other activities that are enjoyed onsite. Walking, dog obedience training and bird watching. Of particular concern was that this course would be used for formal competition.

Consider the possible solutions to this concern, consider:

- Design modifications (moving course location away from other uses)
- Programming or instructions (reducing the number of nets, creating a trial, management of hours)
- Ongoing monitoring (reporting function, online booking at accepted times).

Use this space to note your ideas to manage this particular concern.





**Banyule  
Audit & Risk  
Committee**

**Unconfirmed Minutes**

**18 June 2021**

**commencing at 13:00**

**1 FLINTOFF STREET,  
GREENSBOROUGH**



## **Banyule Audit & Risk Committee**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

##### **Committee**

Dr Irene Irvine - Chairperson  
Prof Stuart Kells – Independent Representative (Remote)  
Mr Gregory Rimmer-Hollyman – Independent Representative (Remote)  
Cr Mark Di Pasquale – Committee Delegate  
Cr Peter Castaldo – Committee Delegate

##### **Guest Councillors**

Mayor, Cr Rick Garotti

##### **Officers**

Allison Beckwith – Chief Executive Officer  
Geoff Glynn – Director Assets & City Services  
Scott Walker - Director City Development  
Marc Giglio - Director Corporate Services  
Kath Brackett – Director Community Programs  
Stephen Coulthard – Financial Accounting Coordinator  
Vivien Ferlaino – Governance Coordinator  
Paul Wilson – Audit Support Officer (Minute Taker)

##### **Guest Officers**

Toni Toaldo – Manager People & Culture  
Melissa Sammut - Risk Management Project Officer

##### **Internal Auditors**

Andrew Zavitsanos – Crowe Horwath  
Lynda Cooper – Crowe Horwath (Remote)

##### **Apologies**

Cr Peter Dimarelos – Substitute Committee Delegate  
Tania O'Reilly – Manager Finance and Procurement  
Nick Walker – HLB Mann Judd

##### **Opening of Meeting**

The meeting opened at 1:37pm

##### **Disclosure of Interests**

Nil

##### **Confirmation of Minutes**

That the Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee held 12 March 2021:

1. Be amended to include an action which arose from the in-camera section of the meeting for Councillors and Senior Management to conduct a strategic risk workshop and report back on the outcomes of this workshop to the Audit & Risk Committee.
2. Be confirmed.

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine

Seconded: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

CARRIED

**MINUTES BANYULE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

**18 JUNE 2021**

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**Matters for the Committee**

Nil

**General Comments**

**ITEMS 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.15, AND 1.20 AND WERE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION**

**Reports**

**1. COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**

**1.1 INTERIM AUDIT - MANAGEMENT LETTER POINTS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) is required to issue an interim management letter each year outlining issues arising from the interim phase of the financial report audit.
2. As part of the interim management letter, there were two existing issues from prior periods to be reviewed and one new issue was identified.
3. Of the two prior period issues listed below, it is noted that one of the issues has now been resolved and for the other, checks, balances and controls have been implemented which have led to improved results.
  - Self-approval of purchase orders (resolved)
  - Use of purchase orders
4. For the newly identified issue, processes have already been implemented to resolve it, which will be reflected as part of the year end management letter.
5. VAGO have provided further details of each issue, including management responses within the final report –VAGO Interim Management Letter - Year Ended 30 June 2021 (attached).

**Commentary**

- The Mayor questioned a discrepancy in the reporting of the management Letter Points and was informed that this was a timing issue between reports and that all items are resolved.
- The Committee asked if the issue with the self-approved purchase orders have been resolved – Management advised this is minimised and monitored. There will be small risk with ongoing system limitations.
- The Committee felt that as exemptions have already been applied to purchase order reporting, Council should be aiming at achieving a result closer to zero.
- The Internal Auditors commented that purchase order compliance is consistent across the sector. Banyule is not as high as some other Councils and views this as low risk.
- The Committee see this as an area of risk and potential for fraud and believe that Council should set a percentage target and timeline.
- The Mayor suggested Council review the current list of exempt purchase orders to establish different techniques of reporting back to the Committee.

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**Resolution**

1. That the Committee note:
  - a) The three issues raised by VAGO
  - b) The two of the issues have been resolved with one being partially resolved.
2. The Committee recommends that Council set a target for purchase order compliance to be within 10% by 31 December 2021.

Moved: Prof Stuart Kells

Seconded: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

CARRIED

**1.2 CROWE HORWATH - PROJECT MANAGEMENT - IVANHOE LIBRARY & CULTURAL HUB - MAY 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. At the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on in 11 December 2020, the Committee resolved to add a review of the adequacy of controls, processes and procedures relating to Council's Project Management for Major Infrastructure Projects to Council's internal audit plan.
2. The Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub (ILCH) was selected as one of the key projects to be audited.
3. The objectives of the internal audit were to review the adequacy of Council's processes with respect to the following:
  - Structure of the project governance framework (i.e. Project Control Group/Steering Committee etc)
  - Processes to establish the original project budget
  - Processes for monitoring and assessing progress of the project.
  - Project management requirements for on-going consultation with the community.
  - Documentation and follow up of project governance/management meetings and actions.
  - Management reporting framework.
  - Progress (timeliness) and budget reporting, including:
    - Amendments made to the original budget, factors leading to increase in budget and how changes were communicated to Council and the community
    - Management of variations and 'contingency' payments during the project, including whether variations/payments have been approved in line with financial delegation.
  - End of Project evaluation process and continuous improvement feedback process.
4. The report does not identify any High-Risk issues.

**Commentary**

- The Committee advised that this was a very good audit outcome and provides comfort and assurance on the management of the project with aspects of best practice.
- The Committee requested advice on how Council learns from good practice, how does it embed to strive to improve.

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**18 JUNE 2021**

- The Committee took comfort knowing that Council take part in industry forums and added that aspects of best practice across peer organisations such as Local and State Government groups would continually improve system and practices.
- The Committee suggested a Benefits Realisation Assessment should always be added to the 'Post Implementation Review' following major projects i.e. did we get what we anticipated?
- Director of Assets and City Services informed the Committee that a close out report with all of Councils finding will be going up to Council at the next meeting.
- The Internal Auditors were pleased with Management responses to the recommendations.
- The Committee congratulated Council on the result of the report.

**Resolution**

That the Committee note:

1. The current controls in place over the project management for the construction of Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub (ILCH) are adequate.
2. The project was managed and delivered during unprecedented and most challenging times due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and lockdowns.
3. The project was delivered to the agreed budget of \$34.5M.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Cr Mark Di Pasquale

CARRIED

**1.3 CROWE HORWATH - INTERNAL AUDIT - (OUTGOING) GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS**

**SUMMARY**

1. The Banyule City Council Community Grants Program provides funding to support community groups and organisations to deliver projects, activities and events to strengthen, enhance and benefit the Banyule community.
2. Council engages several suppliers through Service Level Agreements (SLA's). Such agreements set the level of service expected and outline metrics by which the service is measured.
3. The supplier organisation is often supported by a budget funded amount that is allocated on an annual basis (Budget funded businesses).
4. In accordance with the annual audit plan, Internal Audit has reviewed the adequacy of the various processes that have been put in place to manage the Community Grants program and Service Level Agreements.
5. Overall, it was found that the current controls in place to manage the Community Grants program and SLA's need to be further strengthened.
6. The internal audit identified a range of controls that should be implemented and/or improved to reduce the identified weaknesses and exposures.
7. The report does not identify any high-risk issues.

**Commentary**

- The Internal Auditor stated the 24 recommendations in the report are designed to further strengthen governance around these two areas.
- Internal Auditors: happy with Management responses to the recommendations and the timeframes set.
- The Director Community Programs outlined:

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- that it was reassuring there were no high risk areas and that while there were areas that could be strengthened, there was assurance that staff had already planned some of the work.
- That staff referred to peak bodies, accessed grant making training and benchmarking to inform best practice on grants policy.
- The Mayor appreciated the assurance including the recommendation to undertake a strategic review of the grants and periodic review on service level agreements. Council funds a lot of agencies through memberships such as MAV, VAGO, Gambling and those memberships should also be put through the same annual review from officers around the strategic alignment of where Councils going and ensure it aligns with Councils vision.
- A member of the Committee sought confirmation on why the RSL grants that Council holds in Trust did not form part of this audit.
- The Committee were advised that, whilst the scope of this audit was for outgoing funding, the lessons will be applied to incoming grants such as RSL grants

**Resolution**

That the Committee:

1. Receive the report and recommendations on the Outgoing Grants management and Service Level Agreements
2. Note that the current controls in place to manage the Community Grants program and SLA's need to be further strengthened
3. Note management's agreement to accept and implement all recommendations
4. Note the recommendations will be added to the Status Report as a mechanism to report back to the Committee all actions undertaken
5. Note that the RSL grants were not included in the original scope of the audit as they are not outgoing grants.

Moved: Cr Mark Di Pasquale

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**1.4 CROWE HORWATH - INTERNAL AUDIT - CYBER SECURITY - MAY 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. Cyber risk is a negative event that impacts the organisation's information systems which could result in financial loss, disruption to operations or damage the organisation's reputation.
2. Examples of cyber risks include accidental loss of confidential data, cyber-crime, cyber-terrorism, and reliability of an organisation's online activity.
3. In accordance with Council's annual audit plan, an internal audit was undertaken of Council's Cyber Security practices to assess whether controls and processes are operating satisfactorily.
4. The internal audit was undertaken by a specialist IT auditor.

**Commentary**

- The Internal Auditors informed the Committee that they are happy with Management comments and the timelines set by Council to achieve these targets.
- Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee that Council twelve months ago established a project to implement the Essential 8 Cyber security controls framework.

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This included reaching a maturity level of 1 based on current level of resources. To reach any higher would require a significant amount of money to be spent.

- The Committee noted that the key term for this audit is the word 'Essential' being that they are minimum standards. The levels management have set, whilst being 'light on' are acceptable. There are minimal standards that we should be expecting in the Cyber Security space and the quicker we get to these minimal standards the better.
- The Committee had some concern with the admin privileges (item 3.6) seeking assurance (oversight) about the review and oversight of the admin access
- The Director Corporate Services advised that Admin rights are restricted to IT staff and were based on their allocated work responsibilities.
- The Committee advised it would like to see some further review of Admin privileges to review audit logs to ensure no misuse of access, system changes are authorised and to ensure periodic audits are undertaken
- The Committee recommends that Council strengthens controls relating to admin privileges as a matter of urgency.
- The Committee advised that Council can download self-assessment tools on Protective Security Policy Framework (ASD) website.
- The Committee would like to see Council at Maturity Level 2 as benchmarked by the Auditor General and questioned why this was not the action. If management felt that it needed more investment to achieve these levels that this should be presented to Council.
- The Committee recommended that Management prepare a document to Council outlining the costs and timeframes of moving to maturity Level 2

**Resolution**

1. That the Committee note:
  - (a) The current controls in place over Cyber security practices need further strengthening.
  - (b) The internal audit identified a range of controls that should be implemented and improved in order to reduce the identified weaknesses and exposures.
  - (c) Council has undertaken several initiatives to increase the maturity of the IT environment.
  - (d) The report does not identify any high-risk issues.
2. The Committee requests costs and timeframes to reach Maturity Level Two be presented to Council.

Moved: Cr Mark Di Pasquale  
Seconded: Cr Peter Castaldo

CARRIED

**1.5 CROWE HORWATH - STRATEGIC INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN - JULY 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. At the Audit and Risk Committee held on 12 March 2021 it was recommended a 12 Month Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) be presented to the 18 June 2021 meeting, using the strategic risks and ratings as presented at the December 2020 meeting.
2. Late April, Council and management conducted a workshop to develop a revised set of Strategic Risks with all Councillors which is planned to be tabled at the June 2021 Committee meeting.
3. Following discussions with Crowe it was determined that a SIAP for the 2021/22 year would need to be developed following the endorsement of Council's Strategic Risks and Enterprise Risk scheduled for the June 2021 Committee.

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4. It was also advised that at least two internal audits be conducted based on the original SIAP approved in 2020 to finalise the year's program.
5. The two Internal Audits were to be selected from the following: Property Portfolio Management - Leases & Licenses, Developer Contributions or Data Analytics.
6. It is recommended that the two internal audits include Property Portfolio Management - Leases & Licenses and Developer Contributions.

**Commentary**

- The Internal Auditor informed the Committee that these are the last 2 audits to see out the remainder of the Internal Audit Year (ending 30 September 2021)
- The Committee were happy with the scopes of the next two audits.

**Resolution**

1. That the Committee approves the scope and objectives for :
  - (a) Objectives of the Property Portfolio Management - Leases & Licenses (Draft) MAP.
  - (b) Objectives of the Developer Contributions (Draft) MAP.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**1.6 BANYULE'S ENTERPRISE (FORMERLY OPERATIONAL) RISKS**

**SUMMARY**

1. This report outlines, for the Audit and Risk Committee ("Committee"), Council's approach to the assessment and ongoing consideration of its risks in line with Council's Risk Management Framework (endorsed September 2020).
2. This approach sees a slight deviation from Council's Risk Management Framework in that the "Operational risks" referred to in the Framework are now Council's "Parent" Enterprise Risks and the "Service unit risk assessments" are now underpinning the Parent risks as Council's "Child" Enterprise Risks. The rationale behind this shift in terminology is to encourage the organisation to move away from siloed risk management to a more holistic risk consideration.
3. By taking this approach, the Committee can consider in detail Council's current risk exposure based on the effectiveness of our control environment. This will assist the Committee in determining Council's internal audit and assurance program with a view to gaining assurance that our risks are appropriately and proportionally managed.
4. The Committee are invited to consider Council's Enterprise risk profile (provided in full in **Appendix 1**), noting in particular:
  - a. The current consequence ratings of each parent and child risk, (observing that likelihood is yet to be determined - all currently "Possible – TBC");
  - b. The roadmap for the Assurance Committee to assess the likelihood of Council's Enterprise risks via the effectiveness of our control environment (provided in **Appendix 2**).

**Commentary**

- The Risk & Compliance Officer made a presentation on Council's naming change from operational risks to enterprise risks.
- The Committee advised it was looking good and happy with the linkage to the Audit & Risk Committee
- A discussion on the terminology of parent and child risks and inherent likelihood took place
- The Committee were advised that inherent likelihood is not in Council's Risk Management Policy/Framework and not in the relevant ISO. Management advised that ISO controls and control effectiveness is used and feedback from stakeholders was that staff understand the terminology including parent/child risks.
- The Committee advised that the controls give assurance and would like to see the controls and be satisfied that the controls are working.
- The Committee posed a question to the Internal auditors as to whether they were comfortable with the Enterprise Risks outlined in the report and presentation.
- The Internal Auditors confirmed they were comfortable in using the Parent Risks to build the Internal Audit Plan for the next 12 months.

**Resolution**

The Committee:

- 1) Considered and confirmed the Enterprise Risks, provided in Appendix 1, take the appropriate account of the Operational activities of Council.
- 2) Noted the Journey Map, provided in Appendix 2.

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine  
Seconded: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

CARRIED



**MINUTES BANYULE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

**18 JUNE 2021**

**1.7 STRATEGIC RISK UPDATE**

**SUMMARY**

1. At a meeting facilitated by Marc Giglio on 23 April 2021, the Councillors met to discuss and workshop Council's Strategic Risks. The purpose of this session was to review Council's Strategic Risks with a more external lens, considering whether they take appropriate account of the strategic environment in which Council is operating.
2. The output of this meeting was a refresh of Council's Strategic Risks with the Councillor group proposing seven new risks (outlined in detail in section 2 of this report).
3. The identification of these risks enables the Councillor group to determine and provide the constraints and limitations which guides the CEO and Council officers to respond appropriately to any changes that arise in the strategic environment.
4. A full breakdown of each Strategic Risk (provided in section 2 'Proposed Strategic Risks' of this report) further details the potential impacts on Council were these risks to materialise.
5. The Committee is invited to review this report and its appendices, noting that this report was considered at the Councillor Briefing on 20 May 2021 where it was endorsed in principle.

**Commentary**

- The Director Corporate Services outlined that, following a workshop with Councillors and staff, Council is proposing seven new risks.
- These Strategic Risks will formally be taken to Council to adopt.
- The Mayor informed the Committee the next step following adoption at Council (Stage 2) is to come back to the Committee with the framework for their expertise in finding any gaps in managing these risks.
- The Committee advised they were happy with the outcome and moved that the update be noted and requested Stage 2 be presented at the next ARC meeting in September.
- The Internal Auditor sought clarification on using Strategic and Enterprise risks to develop the Internal Audit Plan
- The Committee requested the Strategic Internal Audit Plan includes both Strategic and the Enterprise (Parent) risks. Whilst the majority will be the Enterprise risks, the Internal Auditors and Management need to collaborate to deliver a balanced plan which includes a combination of both.

**Resolution**

1. That the Committee note:
  - (a) The revised Council Strategic Risks
  - (b) The Strategic Risks will be formally adopted at a future Council meeting
  - (c) The September Audit & Risk meeting will include a report against the Strategic Risks.
2. The Committee requests that the Strategic Internal Audit Plan be developed after collaboration between the Internal Auditors and Management to include a combination of both Strategic and Enterprise risks and returned to the September meeting.

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

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**1.8 PROCUREMENT POLICY**

**SUMMARY**

1. Council's Procurement Policy was recently adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting dated 24 May 2021.
2. Council resolved to seek feedback and comment, from the Audit and Risk Committee, for Council's consideration into an updated Procurement Policy.
3. The Procurement Policy is a standardised procurement policy which will be applied across the Northern Councils Alliance (NCA).
4. The Public Tender threshold has increased to \$300,000
5. The CEO delegation limit has increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000

**Commentary**

- The Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee that recent changes to the Local Government Act allowed for a review of the Procurement Policy.
- The standardised policy has been applied across the Northern Region Group of Councils and each have similar thresholds which will allow better facilitation of tenders across the group.
- The procurement plan strengthens reporting back to Council and includes a voluntary reporting compliance of the Modern Slavery Act.
- The Committee advised this was a good paper and robust policy which covers everything that could go wrong.

**Resolution**

The Committee noted the paper and Procurement Policy.

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine

Seconded: Prof Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

CARRIED

**1.10 VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL OFFICE (VAGO) SURVEY - SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**SUMMARY**

1. The Victorian Auditor-General Office (VAGO) conducted a sector wide survey on Sexual Harassment in Local Government.
2. Banyule City Council was one of the 75 Councils that participated.
3. Findings from the survey indicated that Councils are not providing workplaces that are free from sexual harassment.
4. More than one in four survey respondents said they had experienced workplace sexual harassment in the last 12 months.
5. Banyule City Council survey findings are consistent with the overall findings.
6. VAGO report made eleven recommendations to Parliament, these included identifying and acting on risk factors, regularly collecting data on the prevalence of sexual harassment and, the development of regular data collection methodology.
7. All recommendations made were accepted and Banyule's self-assessment against the recommendations has been completed.

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**The CEO made a presentation to the Committee on Sexual Harassment in Local Government covering the following topics:**

- Banyule responses
- Banyule's results
- Banyule's recommendation action plan
- Ongoing communications and surveys
- Reporting process, Complaints handling and feedback process
- Specific training for leaders
- Councillor code of commitment
- Council's zero tolerance approach

**Commentary**

- The Committee noted these results are similar to other Council results and added that this is where we do not want to be.
- The Committee welcomed the new policy and suggested Council could leverage off other policies and training across multiple organisations, including the private sector as it is a very specialised skillset.
- The Committee were advised that the People and Culture area are highly networked and bring in external trainers and expertise as required.
- The Committee asked whether it was an unrealistic measure of 0% for the CEO KPI's
- The CEO outlined it was important to set zero for messaging, proactively want to see improvement

**Resolution**

That the Committee:

1. Notes Council is taking this matter very seriously
2. Notes the Banyule's self-assessment against the VAGO recommendations
3. Monitor the implementation of recommendations, noting Council have set a target zero tolerance approach.

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**1.11 VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL OFFICE (VAGO) SELF-ASSESSMENT - MAINTAINING LOCAL ROADS**

**SUMMARY**

1. A Victorian Auditor-Generals Office (VAGO) audit was undertaken in March 2021 with the objective to assess Victorian Councils' efficiency for maintaining their road networks.
2. The VAGO audited five Councils (City of Greater Bendigo, Gunnawarra Shire, Maribymong City, Northern Grampians Shire and Yara Ranges Shire).
3. The audit identified some gaps in the current processes of these five Councils and proposed some recommendations to improve Councils' road maintenance practice.
4. Officers have undertaken a self-assessment of the recommendations and Council's current road maintenance practices performed well in comparison. A few

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minor improvements were identified but officers consider these low priority at this stage with no action proposed.

**Commentary**

- The Committee said Council should be congratulated on the findings of the Self-Assessment

**Resolution**

That the Committee:

1. Receives the self-assessment report.
2. Acknowledges and congratulates management on the outcomes of the self-assessment.

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**1.12 ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - BANYULE CITY COUNCIL FACT SHEETS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES REPORT 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. The Essential Services Commission released Council fact sheets on the outcomes of rate capping, as attached.
2. The Banyule City Council's fact sheet includes information about its revenue, expenditure and finances in the first four years of rate capping.
3. The Essential Services Commission's report found that:
  - a. rate caps cut the average annual increase above inflation to zero per cent
  - b. the financial health of the sector remained strong, putting Councils in a good position to respond to the early stages of the pandemic
  - c. in general, the sector's financial health remained strong.
4. The Essential Services Commission will continue to:
  - a. monitor the outcomes of rate capping and expect to release their third report in 2023, which will include results from 2020–21 and 2021–22
  - b. work with the sector and other government agencies over time to improve the quality and consistency of available data.

**Commentary**

- The Committee said Council should be congratulated on the findings of the Self-Assessment

**Resolution**

That the Committee note the Essential Services Commission's 2021 Outcomes Report.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

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**1.15 QUARTERLY SAFETY METRICS**

**SUMMARY**

1. The following report details information from across Council for the period of March to May and is presented to the Committee for noting.
2. A significant positive trend has occurred over the last three months with an increase in Hazard and Near miss reporting which can be directly attributed to the attendance by the Safety team at Team meetings and a greater presence within the business.
3. An increase in Hazard and Near miss reporting, supports a pro-active approach with incident management.
4. The top 3 causes of incidents were child-initiated activities (ball playing), trips on uneven ground surfaces and postural or muscular type injury. Corrective measures have been implemented in response the increase in these types of incidents.
5. The trend data shows a spike in reported incidents with a direct link to period following COVID-19 lockdowns. When staff were working from home, there was a decrease in reporting. Since the return and an increase in safety education reporting has increased.
6. There are currently 45 open WorkCover claims.
7. The revamped Safety and Wellbeing Committee structures have commenced. This structure and agenda content are receiving good feedback and will have ongoing reviews for effectiveness.

**Commentary**

- The Committee felt that although there has been good progress, the number of incidents is still a high number
- The Manager People & Culture outlined that on ground intervention, intensive training, programs and processes and education to reduce injury is being undertaken. This has resulted in an increase of reporting which will be encouraged further.
- The Committee would like more reporting on hazards and near misses.

**Resolution**

That the Committee note:

1. That a significant positive trend has occurred over the last three months with an increase in Hazard and Near miss reporting.
2. The quarterly safety metrics and trend data.
3. The Safety Metrics continues to be a priority and improvements are noticeable and need further work

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine  
Seconded: Cr Mark Di Pasquale

**CARRIED**

**1.20 STATUS REPORT - INTERNAL AUDIT AND SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN - JUNE 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. The Report provides the status and summary of outstanding issues arising from the following reviews which have been reported to the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC):
  - 2017 - 2020 Internal Audit Recommendations
  - 2020 - 2022 Internal Audit Recommendations
  - IBAC Self Assessments
  - VAGO Self Assessments
2. The Report lists the management actions that are currently in progress, outstanding and completed from each review and provides a control mechanism to ensure that issues raised are addressed.

**Commentary**

- The Committee observed that the Information Technology timeframes have been pushed too far out and require action.
- The Director of Corporate Services acknowledged the observations and had asked staff to revisit the timelines to ensure they are completed earlier.

**Resolution**

That the Committee:

1. Note the following completed actions:

Local Laws	Internal Audit
Management of Conflict of Interest	Internal Audit
Management of Third Parties	Internal Audit
Integrity Frameworks Review (all actions are now complete)	IBAC Self-Assessments
Corruption Risks with Local Government Procurement	IBAC Self-Assessments
Security of Local Government Buildings	VAGO Self-Assessments
Development Contributions Plan (all actions are now complete)	VAGO Self-Assessments

3. Note the following updates for:

Local Laws	Internal Audit
Management of Third Parties	Internal Audit
Corruption Risks with Local Government Procurement	IBAC Self-Assessments
Fraud & Corruption Review	VAGO Self-Assessments
Security of Local Government Buildings	VAGO Self-Assessments

Moved: Dr Irene Irvine  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

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The following reports were for noting and resolved in block.

**1.9 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PENSIONER CONCESSION COMPLIANCE AUDIT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Banyule City Council staff administer the state government's Department of Health and Human Services pensioner concession rebate.
2. An audit of Council's compliance with the guidelines, commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers has been conducted for the year ended 30 June 2020.
3. The compliance audit undertaken identified no exceptions.
4. Council staff continue to undertake training, testing and reconciliations of the pensioner concession rebate scheme to detect any errors in processing.

**Resolution**

That the Committee note that:

- 1) An external audit of Councils compliance with the Municipal Rates Concessions (MRC) guidelines for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 was undertaken.
- 2) The auditors, Price Waterhouse Coopers, have confirmed Banyule City Council are in compliance with these guidelines.
- 3) No exceptions were identified by the auditors.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

Item - 1.10. Victorian Auditor-General Office (VAGO) Survey - Sexual Harassment In Local Government - has been moved to another part of the document.

Item - 1.11. Victorian Auditor-General Office (VAGO) Self-Assessment - Maintaining Local Roads - has been moved to another part of the document.

Item - 1.12. Essential Services Committee - Banyule City Council Fact Sheets - Local Government Outcomes Report 2021 - has been moved to another part of the document.

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**1.13 FOLLOW UP ACTIONS ARISING FROM AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING -  
12 MARCH 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. The Audit & Risk Committee meeting was held Friday 12 March 2021.
2. This report provides a summary of actions arising from that meeting.
3. Actions arise from Committee resolutions and on occasion commentary or observation.
4. This report covers any action or commentary that does not require separate reporting.
5. The report provides a mechanism to ensure the actions are addressed.
6. Recommendations are made to the Audit & Risk Committee to note the updates and resolve to accept reports arising from the follow up actions requested at the meeting on 12 March 2021.

**Resolution**

That the Audit & Risk Committee note the updates and accept the reports arising from the follow up actions requested at the meeting on 12 March 2021.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED



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**1.14 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PLAN - AS AT JUNE 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. An Annual Work Plan is developed that sets out the work program for the year, it outlines the audits, work and review of items including timing and frequency of reporting to the Committee.
2. At Banyule the Annual Work Plan is grouped in the following sections:
  - Annual Financial Statements
  - Budget
  - Data Analytics
  - Financials
  - Governance
  - IBAC
  - Internal Audit
  - Risk Management
  - VAGO
  - Other
3. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires all Victorian Councils to adopt an Annual work program. The plan is mapped against the Functions and Responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter approved by Council on 17 August 2020.
4. The following changes have been made to the Work Plan:
  - Local Government Act 2020 (LGA) Implementation Progress Report (Added)
  - Self-Assessments of the Audit & Risk Committee (Revised)
  - 12-month Strategic Internal Audit Plan (Revised)
  - Review the performance of the Internal Audit service provider (Revised)

**Resolution**

That the Audit & Risk Committee note:

1. The attached Annual Work Plan
2. The annual Self-Assessment will now be conducted following the September meeting of each year to allow appointed Councillor Representative four meetings to assess prior to the Mayoral Elections.
3. The 12-month Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) for the audit year 1 October – 30 September will be tabled at the June meeting of each year.
4. Reporting the performance of the Internal Audit service provider will be moved from September to March of each year.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

Item - 1.15. Quarterly Safety Metrics - has been moved to another part of the document.

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**1.16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 - IMPLEMENTATION - PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY**

1. The *Local Government Act 2020* came into operation on 25 March 2020.
2. A progress report on the Implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* is provided and outlines Council's delivery on each requirement.
3. This is the fifth report presented to the Committee.
4. The new Act has a number of requirements which will be implemented over four stages. Each stage is being proclaimed at different times:
  - STAGE 1 – 6 April 2020 - completed
  - STAGE 2 – 1 May 2020 - completed
  - STAGE 3 – 24 Oct 2020 - completed
  - STAGE 4 – 1 July 2021 – current
5. Stage 3 of the new Act relates mainly to Councillors, and the new Council post the General Election; the following has been completed in this reporting cycle:
  - Mandatory training for Councillors (last module completed 29 March 2020)
  - Councillor Gifts Policy- adopted 3 May 2021.
  - Adopting of Procurement Policy – adopted 24 May 2021.
6. Stage 4 includes development of significant strategic documents including the development of a 10-year Community Vision, Council Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. The Act requires deliberative engagement on the development of these three documents.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee note Council's progress on implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**1.17 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE BI-ANNUAL REPORT - PERIOD 1 DECEMBER 2020 TO 31 MAY 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. The *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA) section 53 requires all Councils to establish an Audit Committee.
  2. The Committee operates under a Charter endorsed by the Committee and approved by Council and based on the best practice guide from Local Government Victoria.
  3. The Audit & Risk Committee's role is to provide appropriate advice and recommendations to Council on matters relevant to its Charter in order to facilitate decision making by Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities.
  4. An Audit and Risk Committee must:
-

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- prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and includes its findings and recommendations; and
  - provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.
5. This report will provide Council with an overview of the Committee's primary functions, activities and outcomes over the last 6 Months (December 2020 – May 2021.)
  6. The Committee has reviewed and considered a range of comprehensive reports throughout the year on various aspects of Council's operations.
  7. The Committee's Biannual Report on the activities of the Audit & Risk Committee is recommended to be submitted to the Ordinary Council meeting held on 19 July 2021.

**Resolution**

That the Committee:

1. Advise of any other matters to be included in the report
2. Recommend the biannual report on the activities of the Audit & Risk Committee be submitted for tabling at the next Ordinary Council meeting held on 19 July 2021.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

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**1.18 CROWE HORWATH - 6 MONTH CONTRACT MANAGEMENT REVIEW - 1 OCTOBER 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. Internal Audit is an independent service function that contributes to the achievement of ethical corporate objectives and good governance by assisting the Council and management in the effective discharge of their responsibilities by furnishing them with analyses, appraisals, recommendations and professional advice concerning the activities reviewed.
2. Council requires an organisation with suitable qualifications and extensive experience in performing internal audit services in the public sector to develop and implement a strategic internal audit program.
3. Internal audit services perform a multi-disciplinary role that addresses matters of operational effectiveness, cost efficiency, sound governance and strong internal controls.
4. Council has an established Audit and Risk Committee to oversee/assist the provision of internal and external audit services.
5. The provision of Internal Audit Services will include audit reviews in areas that are designed to improve and optimise the Council's performance, such as:
  - Internal processes and controls
  - Legislative compliance
  - Management of information systems
  - Tendering and contracts probity reviews
  - Operational or value for money reviews
  - Effectiveness of corporate risk management controls and processes
  - Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Control Environment
  - Other local government specific issues.
6. During the 18 September 2020 Committee meeting it was recommended that a contract review be conducted every six months and formally reported back to the Audit & Risk Committee.
7. The reporting period for this review is 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee note:

1. The following reports were tabled during the 11 December 2020 and 12 March 2021 Committee meetings:

Conflict of interest
Assurance Mapping
Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2020 – 2023
Summary of Progress Report as at 30 November 2020
Curious Eyes July 2020 – November 2020

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Third Party Management
Statutory Building (Draft) MAP
Strategic Internal Audit Plan October 2020 – June 2021 (Revised)
Summary of Progress Report as at 28 February 2021
Curious Eyes Report December 2020 – February 2021

2. The following reports were distributed to the Committee for feedback during the 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021 reporting period:

Project Management - Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub
(Outgoing) Grants Management and SLA's
Cyber Security Essential 8

**1.19 CROWE HORWATH - SUMMARY OF PROGRESS REPORT - JUNE 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. This report provides the Banyule City Council's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) with the status of internal audit activity as at 8 June 2021.
2. The following internal audit reports are tabled at this meeting:
  - Project Management - Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub
  - Cyber Security - Essential 8
  - Grants Management & Service Line Agreements
3. The following internal audit activities were also conducted during this period:
  - Statutory Building audit report in QA process
  - Draft Memorandum of Audit Plans (MAP's) Leases and Licences
  - Draft Memorandum of Audit Plans (MAP's) Developer Contributions

**Resolution**

That the Committee note and receive the Internal Audit Progress Report.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**Item - 1.20.** Status Report - Internal Audit and Self-Assessment Action Plan - June 2021- has been moved to another part of the document.

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**1.21 INTEGRITY AGENCIES - SELF ASSESSMENT STATUS REPORT AS AT 18 JUNE 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. Integrity Agencies such as the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) and Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC), Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) and Victorian Ombudsman (VO) issue reports on Local Government and those relevant to the sector.
2. These reports include reviews of Councils' Integrity Frameworks, Fraud & Corruption Frameworks, Procurement Practices and Governance etc.
3. Self- Assessments are undertaken by Council against the recommendations of these reports and presented to the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC).
4. The Report provides the Audit & Risk Committee with a list these reports, that Banyule has identified, as opportunities to improve systems and controls relevant to Council operations.
5. The Self-Assessment Report on Sexual Harassment in Local Government was tabled in Parliament on 9 December 2020 and is presented in this agenda for the 18 June 2021 Committee meeting.
6. The Self-Assessment Report on Maintaining Local Roads in Local Government was tabled in parliament on 17 March 2021 and is presented in this agenda for the 18 June 2021 Committee meeting.
7. The status report as at 18 June 2021 is listed and provides an update of all self-assessments undertaken to date.

**Resolution**

That the Committee notes the:

1. The status of the self-assessments and progress to date.
2. The self-assessment on the VAGO report on Sexual Harassment in Local Government presented at the 18 June 2021 Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
3. The self-assessment on the VAGO report on Maintaining Local Roads is presented during the 18 June 2021 Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

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**1.22 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT - MARCH 2021**

**SUMMARY**

1. This Quarterly Financial Management Report is for the period ended 31 March 2021 and provides assessment of the following:
  - Key income and expenditure actual operating results against budget
  - Capital Works financial performance
  - COVID-19 financial impacts
  - Other key financial indicators
2. The Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.

**Operating Performance:**

3. The March forecast is projected to be a \$9.755m surplus compared to the adopted budget deficit of \$1.351m (a \$11.106m favourable movement).
4. The 2020/21 underlying operating deficit is forecast to be \$2.517m compared to a budgeted underlying deficit result of \$8.484m (a \$5.967m favourable movement).
5. The forecast variance to budget is primarily related to:
  - Higher Public Open Space contributions
  - Additional Government Grants awarded
  - Lower than anticipated rate waiver applications
  - Partially offset by net business impacts from COVID (mainly as a result of extended restrictions).
6. The economic impact caused by COVID-19 is anticipated to have a \$0.547m net financial cost to Council's businesses (this excludes the net cost amendment made to the budget when restrictions were first announced of \$3.359 million).
7. The current spend on the budgeted Economic Support Package is \$3.920m. The \$10.5m package as budgeted has been forecasted down to \$4.206m in this report to reflect the lower take up of rates waiver applications to date.

**Capital Works Performance:**

8. As of 31 March 2021, a total of \$36.718m has been spent on capital works.
9. The capital works expenditure is forecast to be \$62.340m (the adopted capital budget is \$63.550m).

**Resolution**

That the Committee note:

- 1) The Quarterly Financial Management Report for March 2021;
- 2) Council remains financially sustainable despite the financial impact from COVID-19 restrictions;
- 3) Officers have complied with the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide a quarterly budget report to Council as soon as practical after the end of the quarter; and

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- 4) The Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required;
- 5) This report is an extract from the Ordinary meeting of Council Meeting held on Monday 24 May 2021.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**1.23 COMPUTER ASSISTED AUDIT TECHNIQUES (CAATS) - INFRINGEMENTS**

**SUMMARY**

1. In line with the Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs) works program 2020/21, 'CAAT's Infringements' tests were undertaken internally by Banyule City Council officers and the results reported to Audit and Risk Advisory Committee.
2. The primary objective of the 'CAAT's Infringements' tests is to ensure that the relevant controls, processes, and practices are adequate, accurate, and complete.
3. The tests covered a review of data for the financial years 2020/21 (1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020).
4. Overall, Infringements controls, processes, and practices are operating effectively.
5. Detailed findings and actions are provided in the report.

**Resolution**

That the Committee note that no further action is required on the Infringements CAAT.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman  
Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED



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**1.24 COMPUTER ASSISTED AUDIT TECHNIQUES (CAATS) - PAYROLL SUMMARY**

1. In line with the Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs) works program 2020/21, 'CAAT's Payroll' tests were undertaken internally by Banyule City Council officers and the results reported to Audit and Risk Committee.
2. The primary objective of the 'CAATs Payroll' tests is to ensure that the relevant controls, processes, and practices are adequate, accurate, and complete.
3. The tests covered a review of data from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
4. Overall, Payroll controls, processes, and practices are operating effectively.
5. Detailed findings and actions are provided in the report.

**Resolution**

That the Committee note that:

1. There were no anomalies from this CAATs review
2. No further action is required on the Payroll CAAT.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**1.25 COMPUTER ASSISTED AUDIT TECHNIQUE (CAATS) - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - SUPPLIERS**

**SUMMARY**

1. In line with the Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs) works program 2020/21, 'CAAT's Accounts Payable – Suppliers' tests were undertaken internally by Banyule City Council officers and the results reported to Audit and Risk Committee.
2. The primary objective of the 'CAATs Accounts Payable - Suppliers' tests are to ensure that the relevant controls, processes, and practices are adequate, accurate, and complete.
3. The tests covered a review of data from the 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
4. Overall, Accounts Payable Suppliers' controls, processes, and practices are generally sound.
5. Detailed findings and actions are provided in the report.

**Resolution**

That the Committee note that:

1. There were no anomalies from this CAATs review
2. No further action is required on the Accounts Payable CAAT.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

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**1.26 COMPUTER ASSISTED AUDIT TECHNIQUES (CAATS) - PROCUREMENT - PURCHASE ORDERS AFTER INVOICE**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. In line with the Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs) works program for the year ended 2020/21, 'CAAT's Procurement – Purchase orders after invoice' test was undertaken internally by Banyule City Council officers and the results reported to Audit & Risk Committee.
2. The primary objective of the 'CAATs Procurement – Purchase orders after invoice' test is to ensure that the relevant controls, processes, and practices are adequate, accurate, and complete.
3. Overall, procurement controls, processes, and practices are sound. There will continue to be regular management reporting to maintain the improved compliance by staff.

**Resolution**

That the Committee:

1. Note the report and the actions to be undertaken by Council officers to manage the operational risks when staff are committing spend on behalf of Banyule.
2. Note the sustained improvement in Purchase Order process compliance from previous year.
3. Note the Senior Management Team's continued monitoring of staff Purchase order non-compliance activities directly within their teams.

Moved: Mr Greg Rimmer-Hollyman

Seconded: Prof Stuart Kells

CARRIED

**2. Verbal Updates**

**3. Other Business**

As this is his last attendance at the Audit Committee the Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked Geoff Glynn for his service to the Committee while in his current role and as acting CEO and wished him well for the future.

**Next Meeting**

**Closure of Meeting 3.18pm**