

2024/25 Draft Budget Community Engagement Report



This report details the specifics of the 2024/25 Draft Budget community engagement and evaluates the participation. The consultation opened on Friday 12 April 2024 and was live until 5pm on Friday 10 May 2024.

Why we ran this consultation?

Every year Council develops a Budget that outlines funding for the next financial year and how it will benefit Yarra's community.

The Budget includes funding for waste and recycling, roads, parks and infrastructure upgrades, local wildlife and biodiversity, the running of our libraries and leisure centres, and support for local businesses and community.

As part of this process, we must exhibit the draft document for community to get feedback on the projects proposed for funding within the next financial year. These comments are collated and provided to decision-makers before the Budget is finalised in June 2024.

Objectives of this engagement

1. Provide an opportunity for the community to comment on the draft Budget 2024/25 and identify any potential items that Council may need to consider for funding.
2. Highlight items proposed within the draft Budget that have a direct and visible impact to the community to demonstrate Council's importance and value.
3. Ensure groups at risk of underrepresentation are provided with opportunities to contribute. This includes young people, older residents and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

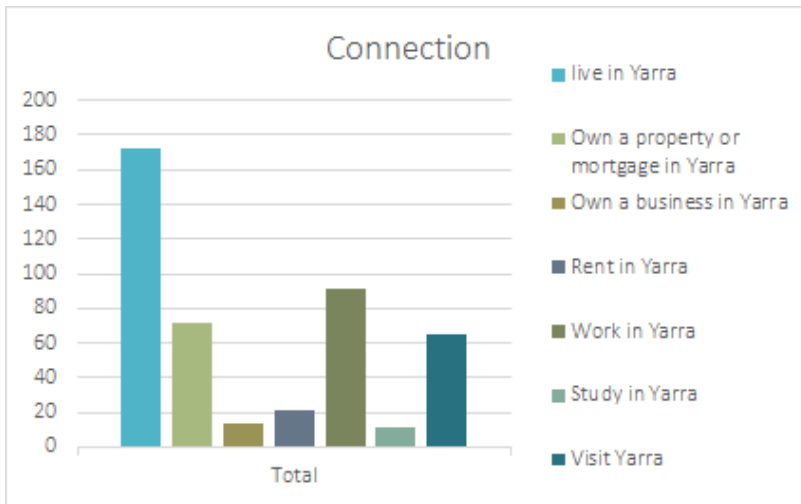
The consultation was promoted through the following channels

- Social media channels including social media advertisements reaching over 16,000 people.
- Council email newsletters including Yarra Life, Your Say Yarra email newsletter, Yarra Business News, Yarra Leisure news and Yarra Libraries email newsletter.
- One-page spread in the April/May edition of Yarra News distributed to every household in Yarra. News Item that was featured on the home page of the corporate website.
- Postcards and other printed collateral available at events and postcards were distributed to 18 Council venues. These include town halls, neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres, libraries and leisure centres. Two in-person pop up information sessions at Otter Street Pocket Park and Gleadell Street Market. The session was also promoted as part of our "Talking Yarra" councillor engagement sessions.
- Radio advertisement through 3ZZZ in 5 languages: Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian, Greek, and Arabic.
- Promoted the consultation in the Richmond Housing Estate newsletter (Yarra Estates).

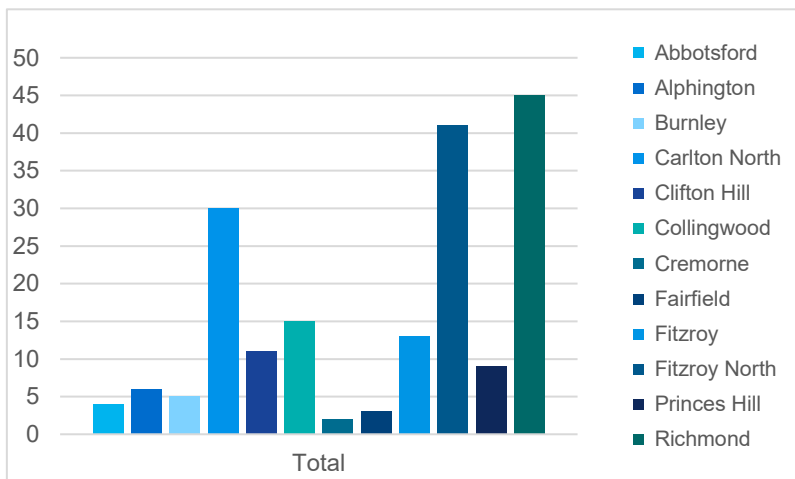
Who did we hear from?

260 community members provided feedback on the Draft Budget, as part of that feedback participants were asked to respond to questions on their connection to Yarra and other demographic data.

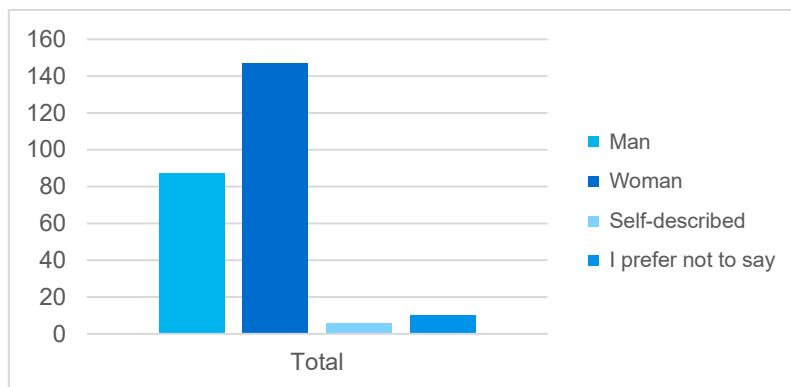
Connection with Yarra City Council



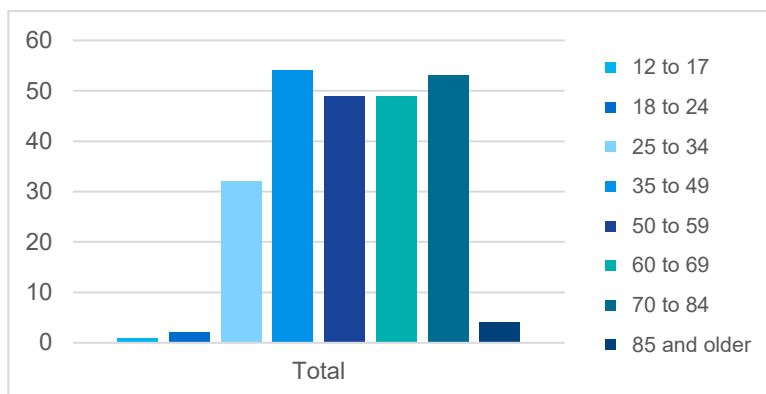
Place of residence



Identify as



Age profile



What did we hear?

266 community members provided feedback on the Draft Budget; a summary of the issues raised by the community can be found in the table below. Notable trends include the following:

176 community members opposed the reduction (2.5%) in funding for Neighbourhood Houses.

21 community members expressed support for active transport initiatives, many requesting more bike lanes.

15 community members provided feedback in support of the funding for traffic calming and active transport measures for Miller Street, North Fitzroy.

17 community members calling for Council to reduce Council costs.

The remaining issues consist of low levels of community support or trend numbers and include 31 single issues.

Table 1 provides a summary of the 54 different issues raised from the feedback and the level of support each issue received.

Summary of issues raised by community.

Table 1

| Themes and Issues | Count of Issue |
|--|----------------|
| Climate change | 6 |
| Support climate change initiatives | 5 |
| Oppose climate change initiatives | 1 |
| Community amenity | 3 |
| Improve street cleaning | 2 |
| Improve street and path lighting | 1 |
| Community events | 4 |
| Support for the arts | 3 |
| Support music festivals | 1 |
| Community facilities | 198 |
| Fitzroy pool entrance shade structure | 1 |
| Improve facility maintenance | 2 |
| Improve leisure centre facilities | 3 |
| Improve public toilet facilities | 1 |
| Installation of scoreboard Ramsden St Oval | 1 |
| Support social equity and inclusion programs | 1 |
| Ramsden Oval exclusive use request | 1 |
| Oppose reduction in Neighbourhood Houses funding | 176 |
| Oppose reduction in Social Inclusion programs | 1 |
| Reduce Community facility cost | 4 |
| Advocate for community services | 2 |
| Improve child care | 1 |
| Oppose social inclusion programs | 2 |
| Improve utilisation | 1 |
| Alphington Bowls Club lighting | 1 |
| Economic development | 2 |
| Improve Victoria Street precinct | 1 |
| Reduce permit fees | 1 |
| Financial management | 24 |
| Reduce Council costs | 17 |
| Council integrity | 1 |
| Reduce waste service costs | 3 |
| Support for Draft Budget | 2 |
| Change rating system | 1 |
| Health and wellbeing | 2 |
| Install sun shades Fitzroy pool | 1 |
| Increase Golf membership fees | 1 |
| Open space | 16 |
| More green spaces | 10 |
| Open space sports equipment | 1 |
| Oppose pocket parks | 4 |
| More spaces for adolescents | 1 |
| Safe injecting facility | 3 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Relocate Richmond safe injecting room | 2 |
| State Government to fund community needle cleanup | 1 |
| Social equity | 4 |
| Oppose social inclusion programs | 2 |
| Support social equity and inclusion programs | 1 |
| Reduce family services costs | 1 |
| Transport | 56 |
| Improve public transport | 2 |
| Increase traffic management measures | 6 |
| More electric vehicle charging facilities | 2 |
| Reduce bike lane spending | 1 |
| Reduce on street parking | 1 |
| Reduce traffic on residential streets | 1 |
| Support active transport investment | 21 |
| Support Miller Street traffic treatments | 15 |
| Increase parking fees | 6 |
| Reduce spending on active transport investment | 1 |
| Waste service | 4 |
| Oppose food organics service | 2 |
| Reduce waste service costs | 2 |
| Waste charge services cost breakdown | 1 |
| Public safety | 1 |
| Richmond Housing Estate safety | 1 |
| Grand Total | 324 |