

# Councillor Feedback Forum – 11 May 2022

Integrated Planning



# Background

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This document provides an overview of the engagement process to date in relation to Council's Integrated Planning Project and outlines the purpose of the Councillor Forum.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 11 April 2022, Council resolved to engage with the community on five key draft documents which comprise the Integrated Planning Project:

- Council Plan 2021-2025 - Year 2 Annual Action Plan (2022/23)
- Budget 2022-26
- Asset Plan 2022-32
- Financial Plan 2022-32
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-26

Feedback on these draft Plans has been sought via Council's engagement platform, Shaping Banyule, and through two community workshops held in April 2022.

As Council is no longer required to conduct a formal submissions process under the former provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* (S.223), the Councillor Forum being held on 11 May 2022 continues the process of allowing persons wishing to do so, the opportunity to speak to their written feedback in an open forum to Councillors.

When this Document was prepared there were nineteen (19) feedback items that a person has requested to be speak to their written feedback provided on Shaping Banyule.

## Councillor Feedback Forum – 11 May 2022

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The Councillor Forum on 11 May 2022 has been set up as an opportunity for people that submitted feedback on Shaping Banyule to have their feedback heard by Councillors, prior to formally considering all the feedback received at the 30 May Council meeting.

Though there is no longer a requirement for Council to hear submissions as was the case under the previous S.223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, allowing the opportunity for persons to speak to their written feedback in an open forum to Councillors is considered important due to the historic precedent and community expectation to be able to speak with Councillors about Budget submissions.

This opt-in process allows community members to go deeper into their feedback on any of the documents and provides Councillors with a valuable opportunity to ask questions to understand community sentiment.

This Forum is also seen as an important step in continuing to build trust, rapport and understanding between Council and community members.

At the time of preparing this document, 17 persons had confirmed their desire to speak at the Forum in support of their feedback received through Shaping Banyule.

## Next steps

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Following the hearing of feedback at the 11 May Forum, Councillors will receive a Briefing paper providing further details on all feedback received, including from the 2 workshops.

Consideration of the community feedback to the draft plans and officer recommendations will occur at the Council Meeting to be held on 30 May 2022.

Proposed adoption of the Budget 2022-26 and the Plans is scheduled for the 27 June 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting.

## Integrated Planning

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The following documents require adoption by Council before 30 June 2022:

- Council Plan 2021-2025 - Year 2 Annual Action Plan (2022/23)
- Budget 2022-26
- Asset Plan 2022-32
- Financial Plan 2022-32
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-26

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 11 April 2022 Council resolved to engage with the community to test and finalise these documents between 12 April to 3 May 2022.

The engagement activities outlined in this report built on 2021 deliberative engagement undertaken with the community for the development of Banyule's Community Vision 2041 and four-year Council Plan.

The approach to engagement undertaken for the review of the Annual Budget and Plans aligns with the integrated strategic planning and reporting requirements outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Banyule's Integrated Planning Framework.

Key expectations of engagement associated with integrated planning include:

- Demonstrating linkages and interdependencies across strategic documents
- Showing how linkages are both explicit and implicit
- Presenting the relationship between community aspirations and strategy
- Outlining the specific purpose and function of each document.

Delivery of this engagement therefore emphasised how the Budget and Plans are interconnected, and the importance of building community knowledge to engage critically and provide feedback on the documents.

# Community Engagement

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## Shaping Banyule

Shaping Banyule pages were open from 12 April to 3 May 2022. During this time, 63 pieces of feedback were received, and 19 people requested to talk to their feedback at the Councillor Forum on 11 May 2022, including one person that asked to speak to three documents.

A summary of the feedback (Attachment 1) is attached to this report in addition to the individual details of each submission (Attachment 2).

**Table 1 - Shaping Banyule feedback**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Pieces feedback (#)</b>	<b>Request to speak at Forum</b>
Council Plan – Year 2 Actions	13	3
Budget 2022-26	29	11
Asset Plan 2022-32	13	3
Financial Plan 2022-32	1	0
Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-26	7	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>19*</b>

\* One person has requested to speak on 3 different plans making the total number of speakers 17.

Shaping Banyule feedback was received from community members living in all Banyule suburbs except Briar Hill and Lower Plenty.

All age groups were represented except 15-19 and 85+, and two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, three people living with disability, three people from LGBTIQ+ communities and two people who speak English as a second or other language submitted responses.

Around half the people who submitted responses identified as male, half as female and none chose to self-identify their gender.

## Workshops held

The in-person and online workshops were held in the evenings of 27 and 28 April 2022. These workshops were facilitated by Capire Consulting and Council officers.

Thirty-one (31) community members participated across the two workshops. There was representation across all age groups except 85+ and all suburbs except Briar Hill, Eaglemont, Heidelberg Heights and Ivanhoe East. Twenty-one participants identified as female, 8 as male and 1 as unlabelled.

There was representation across all inclusion categories except Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Of the 31 people that attended the workshops, 18 were part of 2021 deliberative engagement process and six were members of Banyule City Council’s advisory groups. The remaining eight were invited as they had completed surveys during community engagement for other projects.

Five Councillors attended the in-person workshop and two attended the online workshop.

## Councillor Forum

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Though there is no longer a requirement for Council to hear submissions as was the case under the previous S.223 of the Local Government Act 1989, allowing the opportunity for persons to speak to their written feedback in an open forum to Councillors is considered important due to the historic precedent and community expectation to be able to speak with Councillors about Budget submissions.

This opt-in process allows community members to go deeper into their feedback on any of the documents and provides Councillors with a valuable opportunity to ask questions to understand community sentiment.

This Forum is also seen as an important step in continuing to build trust, rapport and understanding between Council and community members.

At the time of preparing this paper, 16 persons had confirmed their desire to speak at the Forum in support of their feedback received through Shaping Banyule.

**Table 2 provides a summary of community members who requested to speak to their written feedback and who are invited to speak at the Councillor Feedback Forum on 11 May 2022.**

Total of people requesting to speak		Feedback type	Feedback Title
1	Community Member	Council Plan 2021-2025 Draft Year 2 Action Plan	Our Valued Community Assets and Facilities - Macleod Park toilet facilities
2	Community Member	Council Plan 2021-2025 Draft Year 2 Action Plan	Our Trusted Responsive Leadership - management of spending on parks, gardens, and playgrounds Our Inclusive and Connected Community - comments about inclusion and sporting clubs Our Thriving Local Economy - comments about role of Council and economic development
3	Community Member	Council Plan 2021-2025 Draft Year 2 Action Plan	Our Inclusive and Connected Community - dogs off lead in public places, and safe walking access around child care centres Our Well Built City - comments about upgrading the lower plenty shops and access to stimulating playgrounds and play spaces

4	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request for resurfacing of Haig Street, Heidelberg West
5	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request to fund Banyule Open Studios
6	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request for funding - Somali Voice Victoria Incorporated
7	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request for Funding to rebuild Batting Cage for Greensborough Baseball Club
8	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request to upgrade Montmorency Senior Football Netball Club
9	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request for Funding for Montmorency Community Hub
10	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request to Extend North East Link Advocacy Funding
11	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request for Funding to upgrade Willinda Park
12	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request to fund the Employment of a Greenroom Project
13	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request to upgrade Chelsworth Park Tennis Club facilities
14	Community Member	Budget 2022-2026	Request to increase funding for Diamond Valley Community Support Inc
15	Community Member	Community Member	Comments regarding Council's roads, bridges, drainages, buildings and open space projects
16	Community Member	Asset Plan 2022-2032	Comments regarding insufficient maintenance of Infrastructure
17	Community Member	Asset Plan 2022-2032	Comments regarding Council's roads, bridges, drainages, buildings and open space projects
18	Community Member	Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-2026	Comments regarding Council's hardship policy and implementation of a waste rate
19	Community Member	Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-2026	Comments regarding Council's hardship policy and implementation of a waste rate