Engagement Summary
Community Vision, and Council, Asset and Financial Plans

January 2025

As part of the review of the Community Vision, Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan, we sought community feedback through two key phases of engagement over six months from mid to late 2024. The key findings from these two phases have been presented here.

Around 2,500 residents engaged on the project across multiple channels, providing 700 individual comments.



Common themes across all channels included:

- Support for maintaining or improving current service levels.
- Support for infrastructure (both physical and social) that keeps pace with the growing population.
- A love of the City's libraries and community centres as places that build community connection.
- Wanting more open green space and trees.
- Support for affordable housing, foodbanks, free or low cost opportunities for life-long learning or events for vulnerable groups.
- Increasing communications and engagement opportunities that spotlight available services and programs.
- Improving amenity – from repairing footpaths and roads, through to more public toilets.

Refined Community Vision

"A sustainable, vibrant city where history is acknowledged, differences are respected, and diverse communities are supported to connect and thrive."

Strategic Objective Statements

Continue to enhance liveability for all through...

1) Sustainable practices (including Effective Climate and Sustainability Strategies)

2) Social and Community Connection and Wellbeing

3) Transport and Active Mobility

4) Community-Centric Governance

5) Inclusive Engagement and Advocacy

6) Increase Economic Benefits

Phase one – key findings

The Community Vision remains relevant overall with some refinement



Of 33 respondents:

93.1% Still relevant

6.9% Needs work

Of 75 respondents, the majority supported maintaining and renewing current assets, with 36% in support of any significant upgrades to be funded by grants and increased rates and 33% in support of funding this through grants alone.

The top 5 services most important to 22 respondents were:

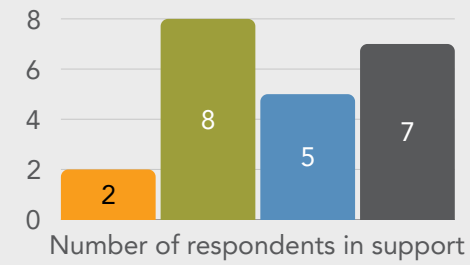
1. Roads and drainage maintenance
2. Open space, city design, and strategic planning
3. Sustainability and the environment
4. Leisure, health and wellbeing
5. Library Services

Given the restricted funding environment, 38% of 42 online survey respondents **would accept decreases in expenditure and services** where necessary, and 33% indicated support for **increasing the municipal charge.**

Phase two – key findings

When considering which services the community would be willing to reduce given funding restrictions, **'Events and activations'** was selected by over two thirds of 86 deliberative survey respondents, while **'Business and industry development'** was selected by just over half.

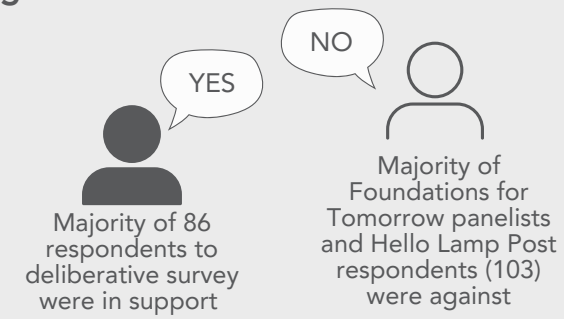
How would you prefer Council to fund asset maintenance/renewal?



- Borrow money to fund service levels
- Reduce or reprioritise services
- Get more funding/increase rates
- Other

The majority of respondents across all channels were in favour of creating one-stop facilities.

Should we pass on the cost of asset renewal to future generations?



Respondents indicated some support for **supporting service delivery** and **asset maintenance** through **increased rates or borrowing**, but they would like more information on this.