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HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting to be held
in the Council Chamber, 350 High Street Preston
on Thursday, 26 May 2022
at 6.00pm.

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Trent McCarthy (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting held on 08 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 **DRAFT BUDGET 2022–23 (INCLUDING THE FOUR YEAR BUDGET), DRAFT REVENUE & RATING PLAN, DRAFT RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECLARE A SPECIAL CHARGE FOR RESERVOIR VILLAGE BUSINESS PRECINCT, A PUBLIC WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE RATE, KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE CHARGE AND ASSOCIATED CONCESSIONS.**

Author: Coordinator Management Accountant

Reviewed By: General Manager, Governance and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 28 March 2022, Council resolved to give notice of its intention to adopt the draft budget 2022-23 and draft 4-year budget, including the following related matters:

- Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25
- Draft Rates Financial Hardship Policy
- Declaration of the public waste service charge
- Declaration of the service charge for kerbside collection services
- Granting of a rate rebate to pensioners, granting of two concessions aligned to equity principles to support the separation of waste cost recovery from general rates
- Granting of a safety net concession for ratepayers experiencing hardship as a result of the service rate and service charge
- The introduction of the Special Rate for Reservoir Village Business Precinct at a meeting of Council to be held on 27 June 2022.

Prior to adopting the Budget in its final form, Council placed the Draft Budget on public display inviting submissions by Sunday, 1 May 2022 with any person requesting to be heard in support of their written submission to be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.00pm on 26 May 2022.

The community submissions in total are requesting an estimated \$22 million (\$21.9 million for capital works projects and \$95,000 for operating projects).

Fifty-four (54) submissions were received by the closing date, including twenty-four (24) submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission. A break-down on the number of submissions by major theme is as follows:

- Declaration of waste rate & charge: 17
- Draft Financial Hardship policy: 1
- Recreation & Reserves: 18
- Equity & Wellbeing: 3

- Traffic Management: 1
- Environmental Issues: 4
- Public Places: 5
- General Matters: 2
- Additional Funding, Grants and Addressing Disadvantage: 3

A summary of Management Responses by major themes of submissions is as follows:

Recreation and Reserves / Public Places

Council owns, manages and maintains over \$1.5b in assets across the municipality and each of these assets plays an important role in delivering important services to the local community. It is important that Council invests in each of the asset types to ensure they are renewed, upgraded and enhanced before they fail.

Council relies on the following to help to make decisions on the renewal of existing assets and the construction of new assets:

- The 4-year Council Plan
- The 10-year capital works plan
- The 10-year financial plan
- The 10-year asset plan
- Strategic plans such as the Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework and masterplans
- Service demands from new and existing users
- Asset condition
- Asset inspections and audits
- Asset management plans
- Risk and safety assessments on individual assets
- Prioritising areas of disadvantage
- Grants from external funding sources
- Distribution of limited resources across the municipality
- Judgements on previous investment decisions to ensure equity where possible
- Project costs, return on investment, Council's financial ratios and risk appetite

Declaration of waste rate & charge

Council is facing increasing costs for waste related services due to the State Government landfill levy, Recycling Victoria reforms and rising costs in the waste sector. This represents a \$26m deficit over the next 10 years that impacts Council's financial sustainability, which is one of Council's strategic risks.

Equity measures have been introduced to accompany this change and support those most impacted.

Darebin is one of 8 out of the 79 Victorian Council's that do not currently have a separate waste charge. This change is necessary to mitigate financial risk and ensure that Council can fully implement the Recycling Victoria Reforms in coming years, noting that universal FOGO is being introduced from 1 July 2022.

Council has endeavoured to be transparent with the community by making the decision to introduce the service rate and service charge in November 2021, in advance of the draft Budget and process to declare the service rate and service charge that commenced in March 2022. This has provided more time for the community to understand the change and to prepare for the impact when implemented from 1 July 2022.

Draft Financial Hardship policy

Council understands that the financial circumstances of our community vary greatly and through the collection of rates that a need exists to provide options for ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.

The hardship mechanisms and support options give consideration to:

- The Toward Equality Framework
- The Revenue and Rating Plan
- The 10-year Financial Plan

In addition to this policy, Council has extended the Covid Financial Hardship Policy until 30 September 2022, which provides additional relief measures for those experiencing hardship due to COVID.

Environmental Issues

This year a strong interest in food and green waste, and recycling, emerged, showing our community's strong interest in the circular economy. Many matters raised will be supported through the upcoming green and food waste campaign, and consultation on service delivery in 2023.

Traffic Issues

Road safety and electric vehicles continue to be a focus. Council's Your Street Your Say program will continue to drive safety and improved transport, and the Electric Vehicle policy project will support more electric charging operators to install infrastructure across Darebin.

Additional Funding, Grants and Addressing Disadvantage

Council has a substantial community grants program. The 2022/23 program is valued at \$944,000, to support organisations, projects and initiatives that make Darebin a better, healthier, sustainable and more inclusive place. The current year community grant streams include:

- Quick response and Small Grants Program – up to \$1,000 and up to \$3,000 (\$108k allocated to 56 recipients in 21/22)
- FUSE Grants Program – up to \$20,000 (\$34,040 allocated to 4 recipients in 21/22)
- Medium Grants Program – up to \$15,000 (\$198k allocated to 22 recipients in 21/22)
- Venue Hire Support Grants Program – up to \$8,000 (\$79k allocated to 47 recipients in 21/22)
- Youth Projects Grants Program – up to \$5,000 (\$50k allocated to 2 recipients in 21/22)
- Three year Partnership Grants (\$316k allocated to 14 recipients in 21/22)
- Social Enterprise Grants Program
- Darebin Sports Club Grants – up to \$5,000 (\$62k allocated to 35 recipients in 21/22)

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Council scheduled for 27 June 2021.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Receives and notes the written and verbal submissions.
 - (2) Thank all submitters and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their written responses.
 - (3) Refers all submissions for further consideration to the Council meeting to be held on 27 June 2022 as part of Council's deliberations in the adoption of the Budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget).
 - (4) Notes that submissions that are not incorporated into the 2022/23 Budget will be referred for consideration in the development of the draft 2023/24 Budget.
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BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

Council is required to adopt a four year Budget each financial year. Prior to adopting the Budget in its final form, Council is required to place the proposed Budget on public display inviting submissions and then after considering all submissions Council can formally adopt a Budget for the financial year.

This report provides details of the submissions made on the Draft Budget and associated elements.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 28 March 2022, Council resolved:

That Council

- (1) *Endorses the draft Budget 2022–23 (incorporating the four year budget) to proceed to community consultation,*
- (2) *Endorses the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021–25 to proceed to community consultation;*
- (3) *Endorses the draft Rates Financial Hardship Policy to proceed to community consultation,*
- (4) *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give notice in accordance with section 93 of the Local Government Act 2020 of Council’s intention to adopt, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 27 June 2022, the Budget 2022–23 (**Appendix A**), Revenue and Rating Plan (**Appendix B**) and Rates Financial Hardship Policy (**Appendix D**).*
- (5) Gives notice in accordance with section 162 of the **Local Government Act 1989** of Council’s intention to declare, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 27 June 2022:
 - a. *A service rate for public waste services in the 2022/23 year levied in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.*
 - b. *A service charge for Kerbside Collection Services in the 2022/23 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.*
- (6) *Gives notice in accordance with section 163(1), (1A), (1B) and (1C), and Section 163B(3) of the Local government Act 1989 (“the Act”), of Councils intention to make a declaration of a special rate for the encouragement of business and commerce in the Reservoir Village Business district and that a copy of the public notice be sent to each person who will be liable to pay the Special Rate.*
- (7) *Notes the total amount of the Special Rate to be levied is \$75,000 in the first year and for each of the subsequent years the Special Rate remains in force - the previous year’s amount to be levied plus that amount multiplied by the Consumer Price Index Rate provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the previous financial year.*
- (8) Gives notice in accordance with section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council’s intention to grant, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 27 June 2022:
 - a. *A concession aligned to equity principles in the 2022/23 year for the primary residence for residential properties with a CIV of \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to no net increase as a result of the removal of waste collections cost recovery from general rates.*
 - b. *A concession aligned to equity principles in the 2022/23 year for the primary residence for residential properties with a CIV of more than \$500,000 by the Valuer General that caps the impact of the introduction of the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum of \$100 increase for residential properties that currently receive the green waste collection service or a maximum of \$156.50 for residential properties that do not currently receive the green waste collection service.*
 - c. *A Safety Net concession in the 2022/23 year to offset the direct impact of the above change to ratepayers in their principal place of residence experiencing*

financial hardship, noting that this will be applied automatically to pensioners in receipt of the Pensioner Rebate.

- d. *A concession for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing, in accordance with s169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework'.*
 - e. *A rate rebate to pensioners in the 2022–23 year in the amount of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004.*
- (9) *Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the:*
- a. *draft Budget 2022–23*
 - b. *draft Revenue and Rating Plan*
 - c. *draft Rates Financial Hardship Policy*
 - d. *declaration of the public waste service rate*
 - e. *declaration of the service charge for kerbside collection services*
 - f. *granting of a rate rebate to pensioners*
 - g. *granting of the two concessions aligned to equity principles to support the separation of waste cost recovery from general rates*
 - h. *granting of a Safety Net concession for ratepayers experiencing hardship as a result of the service rate and service charge,*
 - i. *the introduction of the Special Rate for Reservoir Village Business Precinct, and*
- requests to be heard in support of their written submission, will be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at a meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 26 May 2022.*
- (10) *Notes that the adoption of the draft Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan, Rates Financial Hardship Policy and declaration of associated service rate, service charge, special rate and fees and charges, with consideration to community engagement outcomes, will be considered at the Council meeting on 27 June 2022.*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

Strategic Direction 4 Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The draft 2022-23 budget (incorporating the four year budget) and associated elements aligns to the 2022-23 Council Plan deliverables across all four strategic directions. The Council Plan was adopted by Council on 28 June 2021. The 2022-23 Council Plan Action Plan will be adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 June 2022.

DISCUSSION

This Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting provides opportunity to hear any submitters who, in their written submission, requested to be heard in support of their submission in relation to the budget.

A report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of Council scheduled for 27 June 2022.

The adoption of the Budget 2022–23 (incorporating the four year budget) and associated elements, in its final form will be tabled at the Council meeting on 27 June 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

No changes have been made to the draft budget arising from the submissions at this time.

The community submissions in total are requesting an estimated \$22 million (\$21.9 million for capital works projects and \$95,000 for operating projects).

Community Engagement

Engagement Activity	Number of participants/ people engaged	Target group	Demographic information
Drop-in sessions	1,100	Darebin City Council Rate Payers	Refer Appendix C report
Information sessions	4	Darebin City Council Rate Payers	Refer Appendix D report

The draft Budget 2022–23 (incorporating the four year budget), and associated elements was released for public comment on 30 March 2022. Community consultation is an important step in the budget process. The community is strongly encouraged to provide comments and submissions on the financial strategies contained within the budget document.

This phase of Council budget consultation was undertaken over the period from 30 March 2022 to 1 May 2022.

The consultation included:

- Providing the budget information process to advisory groups and funded bodies through their Council representatives, noting the opportunity for submissions
- Email to key and local stakeholders, including community advisory committees, reference groups who have expressed interest in engagement
- Social media, including online information and pointers on how to make a budget submission
- Online submission form via the Your Say webpage
- Questions and Answer tool via the Your Say webpage
- Hardcopy submission for (upon request)
- Translated content in 12 languages other than English available on the Your Say webpage
- Three information sessions delivered on the following dates and times:
 - 20 April 22: 10am – 11am via ZOOM
 - 27 April 22: 6pm – 7pm via ZOOM
 - 28 April 22: 4pm – 5pm via ZOOM
- Five Community drop-in sessions delivered, speaking with more than 500 community members for at least 3 minutes each, on the following dates and locations:
 - 22 April 22 10am – 12.30pm: Reservoir library
 - 22 April 22 3pm – 5.30 pm: Northcote Plaza Shopping Centre
 - 23 April 22 10am – 2pm: Narrandjeri Stadium – Opening event
 - 26 April 22 11am – 1.30pm: High Street
 - 26 April 22 3pm – 5.30pm: Polaris shopping centre

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- (c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- (h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;

Service Performance Principles

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

The draft Budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget) along with associated elements, and approach to community engagement acknowledges Council's commitment to cultural considerations to support our diverse community.

A large range of activities to progress Council's commitment to our diverse community are reflected in the Council Plan Priorities 2021-25 and the draft Budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget).

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations

The draft budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget), associated elements and approach to community engagement acknowledge Council's commitment to equity, inclusion and wellbeing as articulated through the Towards Equality Framework. A large range of activities to progress Council's commitments through existing strategies that seek to address equity, inclusion and wellbeing and the Council Plan Priorities 2021-25 are reflected in the draft Budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget).

In addition, the budget provides for a range of concessions aligned to equity principles as well as a safety net outlined previously, that aims to provide assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community.

Approximately 7,000 eligible Darebin pensioners will receive Council's \$150 rate rebate and one free animal registration.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

The draft budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget), associated elements and approach to community engagement acknowledges Council's commitment to Darebin's economy following the Covid-19 pandemic through economic relief and recovery measures and strategic economic development to support the Darebin community.

Activities proposed for 2022–23 include supporting, promoting and attract a diversity of local businesses and industries, deliver proactive programs and services to build skills and resilience, across a range of industries removing barriers and provide relevant information, create a portal for businesses to use to connect with each other, collaborate and promote their offerings and support business to take advantage and leverage the green economy, educate businesses and consumers and set sustainability targets with businesses and work with them to achieve these goals.

Council's commitments through existing strategies, policy positions and the Council Plan Priorities 2021-25 are reflected in the draft Budget 2022-23 (incorporating the four year budget).

Operational Impacts

Nil

Legal and Risk Implications

Aside from meeting the various relevant sections of the Local Government Act, there are no further legal implications. The operational risk of our spending decisions in the draft budget are a key element in the decision-making process. Full consideration will be given to the risk impacts.


IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of Council scheduled for 27 June 2022

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25
- Draft Rates Financial Hardship Policy
- Declaration of the public waste service charge
- Declaration of the service charge for kerbside collection services
- Granting of a rate rebate to pensioners, granting of two concessions aligned to equity principles to support the separation of waste cost recovery from general rates
- Granting of a safety net concession for ratepayers experiencing hardship as a result of the service rate and service charge
- The introduction of the Special Rate for Reservoir Village Business Precinct at a meeting of Council to be held on 27 June 2022

ATTACHMENTS

- Budget Submissions - Themed (**Appendix A**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Listing of Speakers - Hearing of Submissions (**Appendix B**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Drop-in sessions report (**Appendix C**) [↓](#) 
- Information Sessions - Report (**Appendix D**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**Darebin Draft Budget
Community Engagement Data Summary**

Conversation Co was engaged by City of Darebin Council to support five place based community engagement pop up events in April of 2022. These events promoted the draft City of Darebin Annual Budget and changes to waste charges and provided an opportunity for participants to ask questions of Council Officers and make a submission about the draft.

Location	Challenges, opportunities, sentiment	Topics raised by community
Reservoir Community and Learning Centre	Leisurely foot traffic, able to stop and chat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritising sport and recreation clubs, ground access, services ● Business support post COVID ● Request for walkway lighting at Zwar park Preston, the oval is lit but surrounding areas are not, lose dogs when walking ● Support for community events such as public BBQs ● Request to plant veggies and fruit trees in public spaces ● Wheelchair user requested more accessible footpaths and road crossings, particularly in Olive Street Reservoir ● Wheelchair user requested a liberty swing and more accessible play spaces ● Support for lower density residential development ● Prioritise the activation of Edwards Lake Boathouse, huge opportunity, beautiful

		location, not being used - why?
Northcote Plaza Shopping Centre	Low engagement rate, shopping centre crowd avoided us. The Greek interpreter identified that it was Orthodox Easter and most Greek people would be at Church - translator spoke with two Greek people in English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions and concerns about additional curbside bins (where to put them, confusing system, resistance to learning the new system) • New bin system will be difficult for older people to understand • Concern that cycling is given too much emphasis for a 'good weather only' activity. • Questions about hard rubbish, when is the next one? • Request for additional hard waste pick ups • Prioritising biodiversity when planting trees - don't just line a street with one species of tree, include several varieties • Requesting follow up on an already logged drainage matter • Concern that a councillor does not accurately represent the "voice of community"
Narrandjeri Stadium - Opening event	Positive event, families, sport facility users. Greek interpreter spoke with a handful of Greek people in English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy with new stadium delivered by Council • Questions about curbside bins • Request for new playgrounds to include built shade structures as trees take too long to mature • "What's important to you?" - 8 year old said pools, keep the environment safe, "I don't want any animals to die" • "What's important to you?" - 5 year old

		said parks and playgrounds, keeping animals safe
At the front of 421 High Street Preston shop	Lots of passing foot traffic, would be a good location for a Mandarin-speaking facilitator, not a market day (would be busier on a market day) Many people indicated they lived outside Darebin as the reason they weren't interested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concern about the future of Preston Market ● "I know people who come from Doncaster to come to the market. I know people who come from all over" ● Request to reduce rates to help post-COVID ● Question - how is Council supporting Preston Market to stay at the same location? ● "We LOVE living in the City of Darebin" (mother & adult daughter) ● Issue - not understanding why rates keep increasing each year (happy to pay) ● Issue - Landlords passing on rate fees and GST ● Issue: Upkeep of streets, rubbish on main streets ● Priority: sporting facilities, needing a 50m pool, deep enough for diving ● Preserving unrestricted parking in the area ● Preserving local landmarks (like Preston Market) which are cherished by the community and help people who are older or do not read English to navigate the area ● Questions about number of hard rubbish collections ● Question about booking procedure for hard rubbish

<p>Polaris shopping centre - 1056 Plenty Rd, Bundoora</p>	<p>After school traffic, families, high turnover of people, almost exclusively intercepted people leaving Woolworths, quite a few people were from neighbouring municipalities. Mandarin Interpreter spoke to approximately 8 people in Mandarin and others in English.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for extending the "Get Active Darebin" Program to run for longer - currently runs for 4-6 weeks which isn't long enough to develop the skills being taught (yoga etc) • Pot holes in Main Dr Bundoora • Postivive sentiment - people expect too much from Council, great value for what we pay in rates • Parking issue, Century Drive Bundoora, difficult to park • Trip Hazards in Mount Cooper Roads, caused by gumtree [roots?] - would like action on this • Mount Cooper Drive the little park needs a bin and shade, is used by 'so many kids'
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Demographics Summary

Most participants had brief contact with the engagement facilitators and their demographic data was not collected. Where demographics are known, or were estimated by facilitators, these results have been summarised below.

Connection to City of Darebin (participants could select more than one option)

- Live 34
- Work 10
- Own a business 0
- Study 2
- Visiting 2
- Prefer not to say 0

Age

15 and under 2
16-19 years 2
20-24 years 2
25-34 years 5
35 - 54 years 27
55- 64 years 22
65-74 years 31
75 years or more 3
Prefer not to say 1

Gender

Gender was stated for 64 participants
Female 26
Male 38
Prefer not to say 0
Identifies as... 0

Languages at home

Languages spoken at home was stated by 25 participants
English only 15
Italian 5
Greek 3
Urdu 1
Mandarin 1

Place of residence

Place of residence was stated by 29 participants
Facilitators noted that not living in the City Of Darebin was a frequent reason for not engaging further.

Reservoir 9
Preston 10
Northcote 5
Bundoora 4
Fawkner 1

Reasons people gave for not engaging:

- Does not live in Darebin (especially prominent at Polaris shopping centre which appeared to be close to a municipal boundary)
- Does not pay rates (renter, lives with family, aged care)
- Possible language barriers (particularly at Preston Market location)
- Wanting to go online and read more about the budget before commenting
- "Too old" - not interested in future-focused projects

Positive sentiments about the project

- Transparency; it's good that Council is telling people about the budget
- Understanding that COVID will continue to impact budgets as communities recover
- Loving their local area
- Council meet expectations for essential services and maintenance

Neutral sentiments or comments about the project

- "I don't know what a good budget looks like" "I think it's OK if it's a normal budget" - not able to understand the material provided in a meaningful way.
- Wanting to see a list of projects in the budget
- "No surprises" in the budget

Negative sentiments about the project

- Perception that their feedback won't change anything "They'll do what they want to do anyway"
- Don't perceive that they get a "benefit" from Council spending beyond basic expected services

6. CLOSE OF MEETING