

# Community Engagement and Stakeholder Engagement Results Report

## October 2025



### **Background**

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Council resolved to undertake community engagement in accordance with the approved community engagement plan, to align with stage one of the Masterplanning project at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington.

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy (2023), Council's project team, with the support of the project consultant, Greenshoot Consulting, led a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement process from 18 August to 8 October 2025, from a diverse community across Darebin, to understand the needs and aspirations of the community.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

During the consultation period (18 August to 8 October 2025), a total of 393 individuals participated through a range of sessions, to inform the future masterplan of 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington including:

- an online survey via the Darebin Your Say website (250 responses);
- 3 pop-up events (110 attendees);
- 2 online Q&A sessions;
- 15 stakeholder interviews; and,
- a dedicated workshop with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, the Wurundjeri Policy and Partnerships subcommittee.

### **Key findings**

Across the broader community and stakeholder engagement, a consistent vision emerged for a public, inclusive, and environmentally regenerative precinct that supports small businesses, education, creativity, and circular-economy activity.

Key opportunities identified by community and stakeholders include:

- creation of a nationally-recognised hub for urban food production,
- education and circular economy enterprises,
- adaptive reuse of existing buildings to provide affordable spaces for social enterprises, artists, and local organisations,
- stronger ecological and transport connections to Darebin Parklands and Alphington Station.

Participants also identified the need for collaborative governance, clear communication, and transparent decision making to build community trust and ensure continuity beyond council election cycles.



The following concerns were raised by community members and stakeholders:

- loss of public ownership,
- environmental contamination,
- amenity and traffic impacts,
- a perception that financial drivers might outweigh community benefit.
- Governance transparency

Engagement with Wurundjeri Elders and representatives emphasised on the opportunity for the site to demonstrate genuine partnership and Caring for Country through rehabilitation and habitat creation. Traditional Owners identified renewable energy generation, including solar and community battery storage, as a leading opportunity. They highlighted the importance of revegetation, connection with Darebin Parklands, and the integration of Wurundjeri culture through language, art, interpretive trails, and storytelling. Elders also supported community gardens with safe soils, an amphitheatre, and multipurpose community and sporting facilities to promote connection, youth engagement, and cultural expression.

### **Key considerations**

The findings suggest that the master plan should consider balancing environmental constraints, financial feasibility, and community expectations. Success in the eyes of the community will be for Council to maintain open communication, ensure continuity across council terms and embed First Nations leadership throughout planning and delivery.

The following key considerations respond directly to community and stakeholder feedback and should be assessed in light of Council's strategic priorities, budgetary and resource considerations as well as the needs of the greater Darebin community.

1. Retain public ownership
2. Adopt a transparent and collaborative governance model
3. Environmental remediation and regeneration
4. Enhancement of existing uses
5. Embed Wurundjeri leadership and cultural expression
6. Prioritise connectivity and access
7. Develop a long-term implementation and funding strategy