

Planning Scheme Review Community Engagement Report

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Background

Victorian councils are required to undertake a Planning Scheme Review within 12 months of adopting a new four-year Council Plan. This is a requirement under Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*.

Over 200 people gave us their feedback to help us update our Planning Scheme and improve how we make planning decisions.



City of
STONNINGTON

A Planning Scheme is a statutory document that sets out the objectives, policies and direction for using, developing, and protecting land within the municipality.

A review of our Planning Scheme is currently underway to make sure it meets the needs of our community. The Review will provide an overview of the performance of the Stonnington Planning Scheme and recommend how it can be improved.

Our community engagement helps us understand if the Planning Scheme meets the community's expectations.

Between July and August 2022, we invited the community and stakeholders to share their feedback and ideas under eight themes. For each theme, Council asked respondents to consider what Council is doing well and where Council can improve.

The eight themes we are focusing the Planning Scheme Review on are:



**RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT
AND HOUSING**



OPEN SPACE



**NEIGHBOURHOOD
CHARACTER**



**ACTIVITY CENTRE
PLANNING AND
GROWING JOBS**



HERITAGE



TREES



TRANSPORT



**ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
AND CLIMATE**

How the Engagement was Promoted



Visual displays within Council's libraries and customer service centres.



Letterbox drop - 60,000 residents and businesses across the municipality.



Emails to community group contacts, planning permit applicants and other known parties with a specific interest.



Engagement Activities



In-person activities



Two 'intercept'
engagement sessions



Library pop-up
engagement session



Survey
(online and paper-based)

Who Participated



214
Total participants



32
Intercept/pop-up session attendees



2
Written submissions



180
Survey respondents

What You Told Us

The following key findings emerged from your feedback.

The rate and scale of development occurring in the city is a significant concern, and respondents see it impacting Council's planning efforts in each of the eight themes.

Respondents want Council to ensure new developments benefit the local area, are located appropriately and seek to minimise impacts on the community.

Respondents desired greater recognition of what is considered 'heritage' in Stonnington and suggested additional opportunities for greater heritage protection.

The design of new developments needs to better align with the character of existing buildings and reflect the local context

Respondents suggested more opportunities to increase and protect greenery by using native vegetation, promoting biodiversity, and improving tree maintenance and safety.

Respondents want more innovative programs and initiatives to boost the city's environmental sustainability and response to the climate emergency, such as the increased use of renewables, more tree canopies, support for electric vehicle use, and improved waste management.

Respondents want fewer cars and traffic on local streets. Increasing access to public transport options and improving cycling and pedestrian networks are key opportunities to reduce car dependency.



Theme by theme feedback

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

- » Reduce building heights and density
- » Improve the design of new developments to better reflect the neighbourhood context and minimise impacts on the community
- » Improve the planning permit process

OPEN SPACE

- » Council is doing a good job with open space but there is room for improvement
- » Improve the maintenance and provision of facilities
- » Increase the amount of open space

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER

- » New multi-storey developments are significantly impacting neighbourhood character
- » Stronger planning controls are needed
- » Heritage, leafy green streets and the village feel are highly valued characteristics

ACTIVITY CENTRE PLANNING AND GROWING JOBS

- » More activities and services are needed in activity centres
- » Enhance public spaces and landscaping

HERITAGE

- » Strengthen planning controls to protect heritage
- » Retain streetscapes in activity centres and protect prominent heritage buildings
- » Clarify heritage guidelines and overlays and better communicate them

TREES

- » Protect and enhance tree-lined streets
- » Improve the maintenance and safety of trees
- » Consider ways to provide more trees in both private and public spaces

ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE

- » Improve waste management
- » Increase the tree canopy to protect urban ecology and regulate heat
- » Encourage increased energy efficiency and renewable energy use

TRANSPORT

- » Improve public transport network and services
- » Tackle traffic congestion
- » Upgrade cycling infrastructure
- » Improve pedestrian accessibility



Next Steps

Council has documented the Review findings in a report detailing how the scheme aligns with current State and Local policy directions, the adopted Council Plan 2021-2025, and Stonnington's Community Vision 2040. Based on your feedback, Council officers will provide recommended actions for Council's consideration.

The final report will be presented to Council for endorsement and then reported to the Minister for Planning. Following endorsement, Council will begin to implement the recommendations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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TIMELINE

Community Consultation: 22 July – 21 August 2022

Prepare Report: August

Council Endorses Planning Scheme Review:
November

**Planning Scheme Review submitted to the
Minister for Planning:** December 2022



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