

REPORT



A Housing Strategy for the City of Stonnington

Stonnington Community Panel

Findings and process report, Final, 2 July 2019

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Executive Summary

The City of Stonnington (Council) is currently preparing a housing strategy which will determine where new housing should go, and the supporting community infrastructure likely to be required. The strategy is being developed through technical investigations and informed by community engagement occurring over two stages.

As part of the Stage 1 engagement Council engaged Capire Consulting Group (Capire) to design and deliver a Community Panel (the Panel) to deliberate on the following question:

“How can Council manage the future change within the City of Stonnington whilst protecting what we love about our neighbourhoods?”

Capire independently managed the recruitment process attracting 105 expressions of interest and selected a Panel comprised of 48 community members to closely represent the Stonnington population.

The Panel met over four sessions during May 2019 and Council made the following promise to the Panel:

“We are committed to using the findings of the Panel to guide the development of the housing strategy”

To support the deliberations, a series of expert presenters shared critical information about a range of topics including demographics, housing affordability, developer perspectives, planning scheme amendments and State Government planning policy.

This information coupled with facilitated sessions supported the Panel in preparing a set of 25 principles to be considered in developing the housing strategy. The principles included a range of anticipated outcomes relating to housing choice, open space, transport options, community infrastructure and development types.

The top five priority principles for the Panel were

- 1. Where possible, new housing needs to provide access to green open space.***
- 2. The distinctive character of each Stonnington neighbourhood is to be acknowledged, protected and enhanced through planning controls.***
- 3. New housing developments to be preferred near or adjacent to strategic, integrated public transport system with the capacity to absorb existing and future growth.***
- 4. New developments shall use materials and design to better reflect the character and heritage of local streetscapes and neighbourhoods.***



5. *New housing to use building materials and design that ensures long term liveability and that contributes to low environmental impacts.*

The Panel also prepared a series of key messages in the form of a 'communique' which is their view about what they felt is important for Council to hear about their experience in the process and the principles they thought were most important. Below are the top five voted statements prepared by the Panel.

1. *“Council has the difficult job of balancing the demand for new housing with the things we currently value / seek more of: green open spaces, treed properties that support and sustain biodiversity; heritage character alongside innovative, sustainable design. Please ensure you remember what we love about the area in regulating for current and future development”.*
2. *“If the housing strategy is to implement proposals to increase Stonnington’s population by 20-27% by 2030, please ensure that all effort is made to advocate to State Government for commitments around schools, health facilities and infrastructure to support that growth. It is unsustainable to build for a larger population without considering the education, transport, health and social services needs of that increase”.*
3. *“Dear Council, representation of the demographics could have been more representative of 25-34 age group; we expect that Council will take our recommendations seriously and provide feedback to participants on the outcome; we thank the Council for the opportunity to be involved and we thank the facilitators for keeping everyone on track”*
4. *“Recognise the diversity of ideas and opinions and experience on the Panel which reflects the greater Stonnington community. We hope that this diversity is reflected in the housing strategy. Sadly, we missed a larger voice from younger residents – especially given the current community profile”.*
5. *“We’d like a response from Council on the feedback collected from these sessions, and what will be put forward to State Government?”*

Panel members were invited to complete pre and post benchmarking surveys to gauge their level of understanding about urban planning, housing and Council decision-making. The post exit survey data demonstrates the positive impact the Panel process has had with each survey criteria receiving a higher average score. As a result of participating in the Panel, members have gained an increased understanding about the issues facing Stonnington and how Council makes decisions as well as the key considerations required in developing a housing strategy.

Panel members were also invited to provide feedback about their experience in the process with most participants indicating a positive experience. Panel members expressed an interest to know and receive feedback on how the Panel recommendations have informed the draft strategy development.



1 Introduction to the Stonnington Community Panel

The City of Stonnington (Stonnington) is a desirable location where people want to live. Forecasts suggest that Stonnington will grow by 27,000 people by 2036, bringing the population to 143,000 residents. On average, this will require between 800 to 1000 additional dwellings each year. This is about the same level of housing growth experienced in Stonnington for the last 10 years. Stonnington will need to provide a diverse range of housing types to provide greater choice for those wanting to move to Stonnington and for those who want to stay.

In response to these challenges, Stonnington City Council (Council) is preparing a new housing strategy. The aim of the strategy is to provide a framework to guide decision-making and manage Stonnington's future housing growth. The strategy will look at:

- how many new dwellings are required
- what types of dwellings are needed
- where new housing should be located, and
- other issues such as what infrastructure is needed to support growth.

The housing strategy will play a role in influencing the choice of housing available to current and future residents - aiming to ensure that new housing is delivered in a way that enhances Stonnington's character and liveability.

It will also set out a plan to ensure housing meets the needs of everyone in Stonnington's community, including young people, families, older people and vulnerable communities.

Council is developing the strategy in stages, including two stages of community consultation. The timeline below outlines the strategy development process.

Figure 1 housing strategy development process



From March to May 2019, Council undertook broad engagement with the community through:

- a 'Shaping our neighbourhoods' Symposium held on Wednesday 20 March 2019
- two community drop-in sessions held on 28 March and 2 April 2019
- a series of pop-up information stalls
- a series of focus group discussions
- a community panel process
- online survey.

Council engaged Capire Consulting Group Pty Ltd (Capire) to design and deliver the Community Panel (the Panel) process. The Panel was held during May 2019, including a recruitment process and delivery of four panel sessions with the remit of testing and answering the following proposition:

“How can Council manage the future change within the City of Stonnington whilst protecting what we love about our neighbourhoods?”

The following report provides a summary of the process and outcomes from the Panel.



2 Overview of the Panel Process

2.1 Objectives of the Community Panel

The purpose of bringing the Panel together was to:

- explore the issues and opportunities facing Stonnington in planning for growth
- deliberate on key challenges and opportunities
- prepare a set of 'guiding principles' to support the draft strategy development.

The Panel sought to represent the diversity of the Stonnington community, including families, singles, home-owners, renters, share-households, business owners, future residents and people who live or work here.

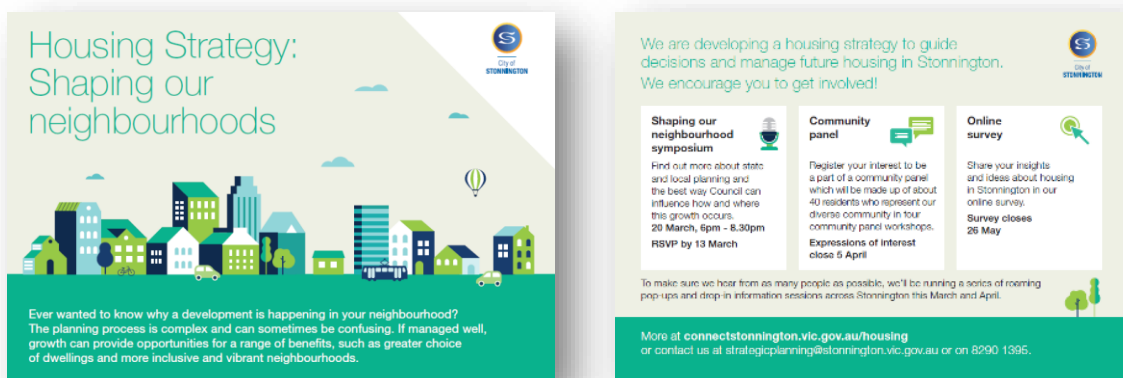
2.2 Panel composition, recruitment and selection

The Panel members were purposefully selected to represent the diversity of the Stonnington population. The selection process sought, where possible, to achieve diverse cultural backgrounds, age, suburb, household type, housing type and tenure representation through the recruitment of **43** members. Capire independently managed the recruitment process on behalf of Council and was the contact point for all communications.

Interested community members were invited to prepare an Expression of Interest (EOI) which was advertised through the following channels:

- Mailout of 10,000+ postcards
- Stonnington Housing Strategy Connect web page

Figure 2 Project postcard



- Feature piece in Council publication *InStonnington* distributed to every household and business in Stonnington (61,500 copies distributed)
- Displays (poster, postcards and newsletters) at 12 locations across Stonnington
- Facebook
- Advertisements in Stonnington Leader x 2

The approach generated **105** EOIs which were then analysed against the community profile. The community profile enabled the EOIs to be selected by matching them with the cohorts required. The EOIs that were not selected did not match the criteria, duplicated those already selected or were not fully completed.

To be considered as part of the Panel, participants were expected to be available to attend all four community panel workshops.

This is important as each workshop builds on the knowledge and expertise gained from the previous workshop.

The table below shows the target for each segment against those who were successful. A total of 48 members were selected as there was anticipated to be a drop-off of attendees which is typical of this process.

Table 1 City of Stonnington Profile

Criteria	Segment	Panel target split	Actual
Gender	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
Age	18-24 years	11%	2%
	25-34 years	24%	21%
	35-49 years	20%	33%
	50-59 years	11%	21%
	60-69 years	9%	19%
	70-84 years	10%	19%
Suburb	Armadale	9%	9%
	Glen Iris	8%	10%
	Kooyong	1%	0
	Malvern	10%	11%
	Malvern East	20%	17%
	Prahran	13%	16%
	South Yarra	20%	28%
	Toorak	14%	16%
	Windsor	6%	5%
Household size	Couples with children	19.5%	30%
	Couples without children	25%	47%
	One parent family	5.5%	0
	Group household	8.9%	5%
	Lone person	31.7%	23%
Dwelling type	Separate house	25.6%	49%
	Medium density	33.8%	18%
	High density	39.7%	44%



Criteria	Segment	Panel target split	Actual
Dwelling tenure	Own house outright	25.5%	44%
	Mortgage	20.9%	47%
	Private rental	40.8%	14%
	Social housing	3%	0

Toward the end of the EOI process an independent marketing recruitment agency was enlisted to further identify young people aged from 19 – 24 to provide an EOI as none had been received. The electoral role was used to email young people who lived within the study area. Unfortunately, this approach did not yield any additional EOIs from this age cohort.

The emails were issued close to the Easter break and the Federal election which may have reduced the effectiveness of the email approach. Around the same time Council hosted planning students from Monash University for a one-off presentation related to their studies. At this event, the Panel was promoted and attracted one young person to apply.

Community Panel members were selected to represent themselves, not those of an organisation, community group or business. The **48 people** that were selected were those who most closely fit the categories available from the **105 EOIs**. Of the **48** people who were invited, **42** members attended the first session. Over the four sessions there was some drop-off in participant numbers. This is a typical occurrence in community engagement events and could be due to several factors such as participants having a set agenda on what they would like to discuss which then does not match the conversation had on the day, or personal reasons such as illness or family commitments. The final session was attended by **33** members.

The final group is not a statistical replica of the community profile; however, this was mitigated with the choice of speakers and topics to ensure a range of perspectives and views were shared throughout the process.

The invited speakers were able to share different examples of housing developments or policy outcomes occurring in other municipalities for consideration by the Panel. Panel members were regularly asked to 'put themselves in the shoes of others' and to consider views different to their own throughout each session.

The Panel composition did represent a wide diversity of age, gender, geographic representation, family type, dwelling type and tenure. This was evident through the range of views and debates held between panel members through their deliberations.



2.3 Remit and scope of the Panel

The remit refers to the scope of the discussion sought by Council for the Panel to have to inform the draft strategy. It included what is negotiable i.e. what the Panel can influence as part of the Housing Strategy's development.

The 'remit' is typically defined in a challenge question that poses a trade-off for the Panel to consider and provide recommendations against. The question serves as a constant focus for all discussion.

The agreed remit for the Stonnington Community Panel was:

"How can Council manage the future change within the City of Stonnington whilst protecting what we love about our neighbourhood?"

2.4 Council's promise to the Panel

The 'promise' refers to Council's commitment to the Panel process and what it will do with the outcomes from the process.

The 'promise' to the Panel is in return for their hard work and deliberations.

This promise was delivered by Mayor Steve Stefanopoulos at Session 1 and established the working instructions for the Panel.

"We are committed to using the findings of the Panel to guide the development of the housing strategy"



2.5 Panel meeting program and outcomes for each

Capire worked in partnership with Council in the design and delivery of the Panel process to comprise four panel sessions. The purpose and outcomes of each session is described below.

Session 1: “Setting the scene”

The objective of the first session was to introduce participants to the project, the challenges faced by Council, and to build participant knowledge through a series of expert presentations and in-depth discussions.

Session 1 outcomes:

Participants shared what they found interesting and surprising about the presentations. They then discussed what they think are the big challenges facing Stonnington in developing a housing strategy.

Session 2: “Real challenges”

The objective of Session 2 was to confirm the key issues. The Panel received three presentations and commenced developing draft principles that emerged from the challenge topics discussed in Session 1 and Session 2.

Session 2 outcomes:

The panel used the ‘big challenges’ identified in Session 1 as a foundation to draft key principles they would like Council to consider in their future decision-making in relation to managing housing growth and protecting and enhancing neighbourhood character in Stonnington.

Session 3: “Real projects”

The objective of Session 3 was to test, adjust and vote on the draft principles. The Panel received two presentations about different development models to support their deliberations.

Session 3 outcomes:

The Panel refined statements for each principle and gained an understanding of prioritising the principles. Identification of gaps and topics for further deliberation in Session 4.

Session 4: “Test, validate and vote”

The objective of Session 4 was to provide the Panel a final opportunity to view the principles and have an in-depth discussion on the topics identified as a gap or requiring further discussion from Session 3. Affordable housing was one such topic that required further discussion.

Session 4 outcomes:

Panel members refined the final principles and provided their level of support for each. The Panel also prepared a ‘communique’ identifying key messages about the process and their views to Council.



2.6 Expert speakers

The program of speakers was purposefully designed to support panel members to build their knowledge about the opportunities and challenges in planning for new housing in Stonnington. Below sets out the schedule of speakers and their topics.

Session 1: 4 May 2019

1. Lisa Riddle, Ethos Urban - presented on the technical and community engagement findings-to-date that are guiding the development of the Housing Strategy as well as the strategy development process.
2. Ryan James, id Consulting – presented the current and future demographic profile of the Stonnington Community. Presentation included comparisons with other ‘like’ municipalities and trends on the population segments moving in and out of Stonnington.
3. Stuart Draffin, General Manager, Planning and Amenity, City of Stonnington – provided a presentation on the State Government planning context that informs the housing strategy development.
4. John Keaney – former Planning Panels Victoria member – presented on the planning amendments process and the factors that Planning Panels Victoria consider in assessing proposed zoning and policy changes to local planning schemes.



Session 2: 9 May 2019

1. Rachel Hornsby, Hornsby and Co – presented on housing affordability and affordable housing models. The presentation also included details about local government responses to housing affordability.
2. Liz Johnstone, former Associate Director, Sustainability AECOM – presented on the environmental impacts of the built environment and shared examples of sustainable developments.
3. Ray Tonkin, Heritage Advisor to City of Stonnington – presented an overview of heritage planning policy and the different types of heritage character in Stonnington. Key issues that impact heritage in Stonnington were also discussed.

Session 3: 18 May 2019

1. Andy Evans, Developer, Director, RED C – presented on the feasibility assessment developers undertake and the financial requirements of banks that influence development outcomes.
2. Jen Kulas, Project Manager and Architect, Nightingale Housing – presented a new model of housing development that focuses on creating communities through design.

Session 4: 22 May 2019

Session 4 was used for the Panel to deliberate on key issues and finalise their recommendations.



3 Community Panel findings

To maintain the integrity of the findings and processes of the Panel, this report has endeavoured to retain all language as developed by the Panel. Only minor grammatical changes have been made in reporting to allow ease of reading.

3.1 Key interests and themes

The following statements and themes were captured during Session 2 which helped guide and inform the design and development of the principles for the housing strategy.

General location criteria for new housing



- Better access to open space
- Easy access to transport options
- Build within capacity of the local infrastructure
- Improve walking and pedestrian access

Better decision making and enforcement



- Build to supply known demand not speculation
- Better decision making and clarity of where Council spends open space contributions
- Clear strategic Council policy on housing affordability

Better design of new dwellings



- More sustainable housing design
- Better quality building and materials

More housing choice is required



- Improve housing choices
- Increase housing affordability
- Allow new housing funding models
- Design for all abilities
- Improve housing diversity

Protection of neighbourhood character



- Design for neighbourhood character
- Limit development in inappropriate areas
- Reduce vacancy rates of all houses

Improve community infrastructure and services



- Promote local healthy community development
- Require more community developments
- Improve neighbourhood safety



3.2 Panel recommendations on principles for the Housing Strategy

The following set of principles were developed over Sessions 2, 3 and 4 using themed based discussions which each panel member participated in. During Session 3 panel members were provided an opportunity to share their level of agreement with each draft principle and then vote on their top five priority principles. Once the voting occurred there was a whole group discussion to discuss the different views and feedback associated with each.

Panel members agreed that a 75% in favour of any principle indicated general panel support for that principle. The boxes shaded green in Table 2 below indicate the principles that received support from 75% of panel members.

Not all panel members chose to vote on each Principle. The "Yes" and "No" columns in Table 2 below show the % of those who voted on that occasion. The raw number is indicated as "(n)". The "Gold" vote was a final super-vote that allowed each panel member to nominate their top five principles for consideration in the housing strategy. The voting in the table is reflective of the final vote at Session 4.

Table 2 Community Panel final recommendations

Panel recommendations	Gold	Yes	No
1. Where possible, new housing needs to provide access to green open space.	20	100% (33)	0
2. The distinctive character of each Stonnington neighbourhood is to be acknowledged, protected and enhanced through planning controls	20	75% (27)	25% (9)
3. New housing developments to be preferred near or adjacent to strategic, integrated public transport system with the capacity to absorb existing and future growth.	16	92% (24)	8% (2)
4. New developments shall use materials and design to better reflect the character and heritage of local streetscapes and neighbourhoods	16	96% (24)	4% (1)
5. New housing to use building materials and design that ensures long term liveability and that contributes to low environmental impacts	16	100% (24)	0% (0)
6. A large variety of housing types, sizes and prices shall be provided across all parts of the City of Stonnington	13	93% (25)	7% (2)
7. Council to improve statutory compliance to ensure developments are built to approved plans and conditions and developers are held more accountable.	11	97% (33)	3% (1)
8. Council shall actively seek opportunities to provide open space and consider safe access to be within walking distance (e.g. 5 min walk / 400 m) and much include the provision of informal open space. Within Activity Centres must ensure adequate provision of public open space	11	100% (27)	0% (0)
9. Council needs to prioritise implementation of health and wellbeing initiatives such as active transit, health and community activity.	9	80% (16)	20% (4)
10. All new developments and existing neighbourhoods shall be designed for better health, well-being and community connections.	9	100% (31)	0% (0)



Panel recommendations	Gold	Yes	No
11. Public safety in new and existing communities to be prioritised through more effective urban design, lighting and signage.	9	100% (28)	0% (0)
12. All new developments must deliver more sustainable buildings and neighbourhoods	9	90% (28)	10% (3)
13. All new multi-storey developments must contribute to providing new local community facilities in their immediate vicinity or improving those already existing.	8	69% (19)	31% (9)
14. Council must consider the capacity of infrastructure when considering new development.	7	87% (27)	13% (4)
15. New developments to occur in locations congruent to the existing character	6	24% (5)	76% (16)
16. Council to advocate to the State Government for more affordable housing in appropriate major developments	4	52% (14)	48% (13)
17. All neighbourhoods shall have more active transport (walking, cycling or mobility path) options. Options must also consider separation of bikes from others and potential congestion issues for vehicles and public transport	4	90% (27)	10% (3)
18. Council to promote lower vacancy rates in existing dwellings or apartments	3	86% (25)	14% (4)
19. New housing must be designed to allow residents to 'age in place', to remain connected to their local neighbourhood, and not be forced to leave Stonnington as they age.	2	64% (18)	36% (10)
20. Council to ensure that future Stonnington communities and a whole of municipality focus, are taken when making evidence-based decisions on future housing	2	96% (26)	4% (1)
21. Council to ensure future housing supply is based on the need to accommodate population projections and provide greater diversity of accommodation types	1	81% (17)	19% (4)
22. Where housing growth is promoted, ensure that all neighbourhoods have housing options that are more affordable.	1	34% (10)	66% (19)
23. New affordable housing models are supported and actively explored within the City of Stonnington	1	60% (18)	40% (12)
24. Victorian Government policy for Affordable Housing and Plan are implemented within City of Stonnington	1	76% (19)	34% (6)
25. All new developments must be made accessible and inclusive for any resident with mobility, access or different needs.	0	82% (23)	18% (5)



3.3 Panel communicate

Once the key principles for the development of the housing strategy had been identified, the Panel was provided an opportunity to prepare a 'communique' to Council.

The intention of the communique is to allow the Panel to reflect and summarise any personal messages, clarify the Panel's expectations of Council or for them to comment on the Panel process or outcomes.

The communique is a summary of all statements prepared by the Panel in the final session that were shared with the whole group.



In reading the following, it is worth noting:

- Each of the statements were prepared by Panel members either in small groups or individually.
- When completed, all statements were displayed in a gallery style for viewing or editing by the Panel. Each Panel member was then invited to vote for their top three preferred statements. Not all Panel members chose to vote on each draft Communique statement or to participate in this final activity.

The statements below in Table 3 have been prepared by the Panel and voted on by the group.

Table 3 Panel Communique

Suggested communique statement – direct quotes of the Panel	Votes
<i>"Council has the difficult job of balancing the demand for new housing with the things we currently value / seek more of: green open spaces, treed properties that support and sustain biodiversity; heritage character alongside innovative, sustainable design. Please ensure you remember what we love about the area in regulating for current and future development"</i>	22
<i>"If the housing strategy is to implement proposals to increase Stonnington's population by 20-27% by 2030, please ensure that all effort is made to advocate to state government for commitments around schools, health facilities and infrastructure to support that growth. It is unsustainable to build for a larger population without considering the education, transport, health and social services needs of that increase".</i>	22
<i>"Dear Council, representation of the demographics could have been more representative of 25-34 age group; we expect that Council will take our recommendations seriously and provide feedback to participants on the outcome; we thank the Council for the opportunity to be involved and we thank the facilitators for keeping everyone on track"</i>	18
<i>"Recognise the diversity of ideas and opinions and experience on the Panel which reflects the greater Stonnington community. We hope that this diversity is reflected in the housing strategy.</i>	17



Suggested commune statement – direct quotes of the Panel	Votes
<i>Sadly, we missed a larger voice from younger residents – especially given the current community profile”.</i>	
<i>“We’d like a response from Council on the feedback collected from these sessions, and what will be put forward to State Government?”</i>	17
<i>“Have not been impressed by the lack of planning around population growth to this point. So, we are pleased to be able to contribute to a housing strategy that addresses this and look forward to how these recommendations will be implemented to avoid some of the past failures”</i>	8
<i>“The municipality is changing. We’ve considered this from a number of angles – however we don’t think it addressed the immediacy of the challenges and we implore Council to treat this as a matter of urgency.”</i>	4
<i>“Firstly, we recognise that there has been considerable commitment from Council in the process. We believe that the process has been genuine and transparent. We also appreciate the opportunity and look forward to seeing how the 160/person day inputs are integrated into the new strategy.”</i>	4
<i>“We appreciate the opportunity to be involved as representatives of Stonnington in the development of the housing strategy.”</i>	3
<i>“In our minds, this has been an informative and highly successful way to have our views heard. We encourage Council to use this Panel process for other strategic issues which are to have a broad impact on the community.”</i>	3
<i>“A rubric of the order of things to be done and adhered to first before development is done.”</i>	2
<i>“We have worked to put forward ideas to make Stonnington and aspirational municipality, preserving character, enhancing community services. We’d advocate that Council work toward this.”</i>	1
<i>“Dear Council, our recommendations should be taken seriously. We are a diverse group and as such need considered and diverse outcomes. We need to see all parties accountable for good development.”</i>	1
<i>“Dear Council, we consider our work in this forum to be a useful first step in ensuring better housing outcomes. Ongoing consultation is essential.”</i>	1
<i>“Like to receive feedback on the Panels proposals, decision making details on the principles, and notification of the principles that have been adopted (if any).”</i>	0



4 Measuring the success of the Panel

This section of the report provides evaluation results from the Panel. It is divided into two sections to share the participant experience in the process and the gaining of knowledge related to developing a housing strategy.

4.1 Participant experience

The table below provides a summary of the 33 panel members' evaluation forms. Overall it indicates a positive experience they would recommend their friends and family to participate in if provided the opportunity. It also demonstrates that Panel members met new people and heard views that may be different to their own.

Panel members also shared feedback on the forms which indicated a high level of interest to have ongoing participation in the project.

Table 4 Summary of Panel member evaluation results

Tick which one applies to you	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
The recruitment process				
I felt the Community Panel recruitment process was clear	0%	18%	52%	30%
I understood what was expected of me before joining the Community Panel	0%	33%	48%	18%
I felt the reimbursement amount was appropriate	3%	12%	48%	27%
I would happily have joined the Community Panel without being paid	3%	6%	58%	24%
Your experiences of the Community Panel				
I had many opportunities to express my opinions and views	0%	6%	48%	45%
I felt my views were respected by other panel members	0%	6%	48%	45%
I feel Council staff listened to my views	0%	3%	55%	42%
I heard from a diversity of people and views	0%	6%	48%	45%
I met new and different people whilst on the Community Panel	0%	0%	48%	52%



Tick which one applies to you	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I enjoyed my time on the Community Panel	0%	0%	45%	52%
Information we provided				
I felt the quality of information provided allowed me to form an opinion	0%	12%	52%	36%
I felt that presentations from invited guests were valuable to me	0%	6%	39%	55%
The meeting locations				
I felt that the venues were suitable venue for the events	0%	6%	45%	48%
I felt the catering of events was suitable	0%	3%	39%	55%
Future events				
I would like to take part in similar community engagement activities	0%	3%	33%	64%
I would recommend my friends or family to join any future Stonnington Community Panels	0%	3%	52%	45%
My overall views				
My participation in the Stonnington Community Panel was worthwhile	0%	0%	45%	52%



4.2 Pre and exit survey results

At Session 1, all Panel members were invited to complete a survey to provide a benchmark of their current understanding about:

- urban planning
- Council's role in planning for growth
- issues and trends facing Stonnington
- faith in Council's decision making.

At the final session participants were asked to complete the same survey to understand if there had been a shift in their original responses.

Results indicate that there has been a positive shift for each score for Panel members for each question. Panel members gained an increased understanding in their knowledge about urban planning, issues and trends facing Stonnington and Council's role in planning for growth.

There were **40** completed surveys in Session 1 and **33** in Session 4.

Figure 3 below shows the changes in the levels of agreement when comparing each question. Participants were given five options to select when indicating agreement with each statement which were:

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral/unsure
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

Figure 3 Pre and exit survey 'agree' responses

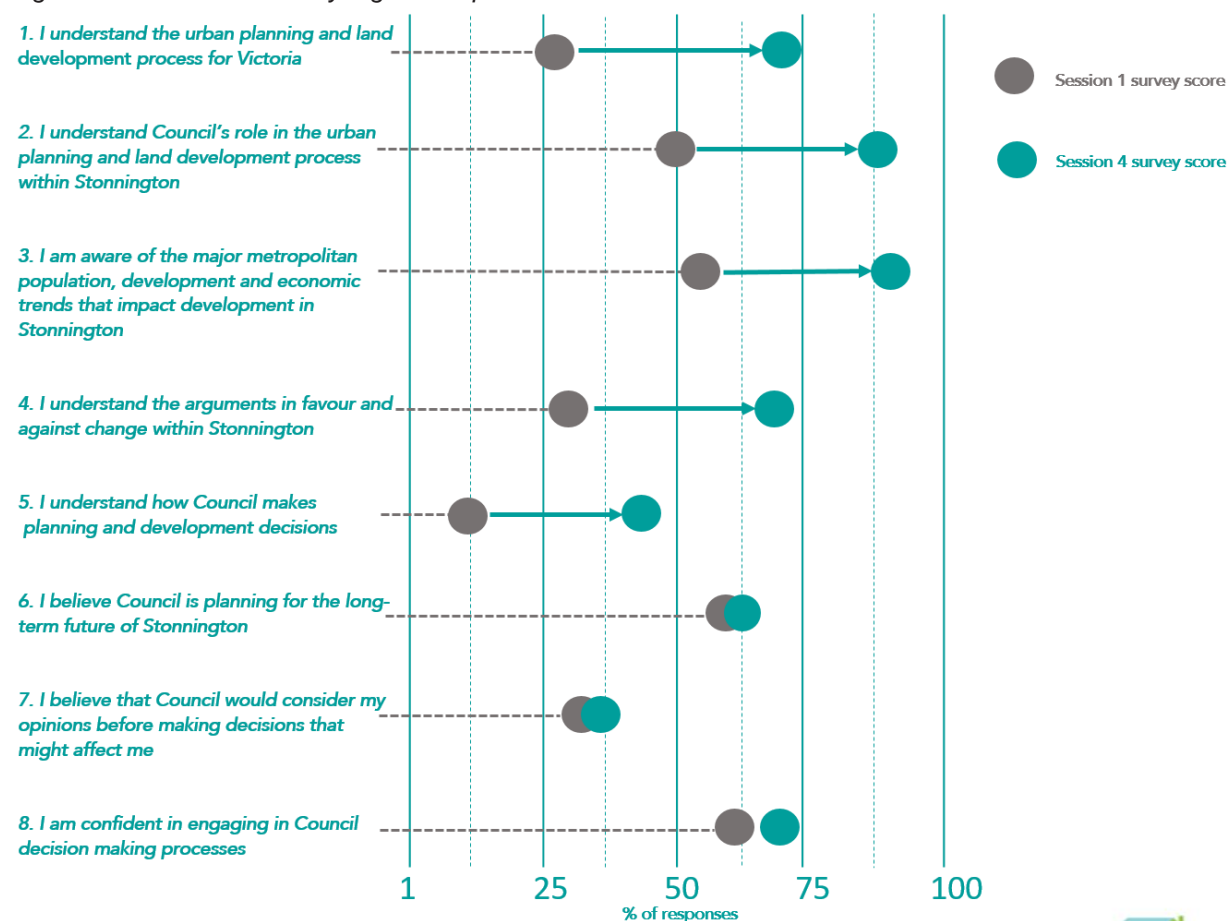


Table 5 provides the full results for each question with the highlight boxes indicating the highest level of change in response from the pre and exit survey responses. The grey numbers are the pre-survey and the black numbers are the exit survey.

Table 5 Combined results of pre and exit benchmark surveys

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/ Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I understand the urban planning and land development process for Victoria	12.5%	42.5%	17.5%	12.5%	15.0%
	0.0%	8.8%	17.6%	64.7%	8.8%
2. I understand Council's role in the urban planning and land development process within Stonnington	7.5%	12.5%	30.0%	40.0%	10.0%
	0.0%	2.9%	17.6%	64.7%	14.7%
3. I am aware of the major metropolitan population, development and economic trends that impact development in Stonnington	5.0%	17.5%	20.0%	45.0%	12.5%
	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	79.4%	11.8%
4. I understand the arguments in favour and against change within Stonnington	7.5%	15.0%	47.5%	25.05%	5.0%
	0.0%	5.9%	17.6%	64.7%	8.8%
5. I understand how Council makes planning and development decisions	7.5%	50.0%	27.5%	12.5%	2.5%
	0.0%	14.7%	41.2%	41.2%	2.9%
6. I believe Council is planning for the long-term future of Stonnington	5.0%	10.0%	20.0%	50.0%	10.0%
	0.0%	8.8%	26.5%	44.1%	20.6%
7. I believe that Council would consider my opinions before making decisions that might affect me	5.0%	7.5%	50.0%	32.5%	5.0%
	0.0%	5.9%	50.0%	35.3%	8.8%
8. I am confident in engaging in Council decision making processes	0.0%	2.5%	32.5%	60.0%	5.0%
	0.0%	2.9%	26.5%	58.8%	11.8%



5 Conclusion

The Panel worked successfully together over four sessions to test, deliberate and provide Council with recommendations about priorities for future housing within their community. The top five principles developed by the Panel are:

1. *Where possible, new housing needs to provide access to green open space.*
2. *The distinctive character of each Stonnington neighbourhood is to be acknowledged, protected and enhanced through planning controls.*
3. *New housing developments to be preferred near or adjacent to strategic, integrated public transport system with the capacity to absorb existing and future growth.*
4. *New developments shall use materials and design to better reflect the character and heritage of local streetscapes and neighbourhoods.*
5. *New housing to use building materials and design that ensures long term liveability and that contributes to low environmental impacts.*

The process has increased the knowledge and understanding of the Panel members about the complexity and opportunities in creating a housing strategy, through expert presentations and discussions with Council's planners. The Panel members have shared that the process has been a positive experience that they would recommend to their networks to be involved in and would participate in again if provided the opportunity.

The feedback captured through the panel process will be an important addition to the technical data and research used to prepare the draft housing strategy. The Panel is looking forward to seeing the draft strategy and how the process has informed its development.



6 Appendices

6.1 Expression of Interest questions

Thanks for your interest to be a member of the panel. To help us select a representative sample of the Stonnington population we require some information about you. Please complete the following form which will take no more than five minutes of your time.

1. What is your name?
2. What is your phone number?
3. What is your email?
4. What is your address?
5. What is your age?
 - ☐ 17 years and under
 - ☐ 18 to 24
 - ☐ 25 to 34
 - ☐ 35 to 49
 - ☐ 50 to 59
 - ☐ 60 to 69
 - ☐ 70 to 79
 - ☐ 80 years +
6. What is your gender?
 - ☐ Female
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Other
 - ☐ Prefer not to say
7. How long have you lived in the City of Stonnington?
 - ☐ Less than 1 year
 - ☐ 1 - 2 years
 - ☐ 3 - 5 years
 - ☐ 5 - 10 years
 - ☐ 10 or more years
8. Which best describes your household? I live ...
 - ☐ Alone
 - ☐ With my children only
 - ☐ With my partner and children
 - ☐ With my partner only
 - ☐ With my parents/family/guardian
 - ☐ Share with friend/s
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
9. What best describes your housing?
 - ☐ Fully owned
 - ☐ Owned with mortgage
 - ☐ Rented from private landlord / real estate agent
 - ☐ Rented from housing organisation / government
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
10. What best describes what type of house you live in?
 - ☐ Standalone house
 - ☐ Attached house
 - ☐ Townhouse
 - ☐ Apartment/flat/unit
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
11. Would you describe yourself as any of the following (select all that apply)
 - ☐ Full time employee
 - ☐ Part time employee
 - ☐ Full time student
 - ☐ Part time student
 - ☐ Volunteer



- Business owner
 - Retiree
 - Parent
 - Carer
 - Grandparent
 - Club member (i.e. sporting club, Rotary)
 - Pensioner
12. Do you have disability or care for someone with a disability?
- Yes
 - No
13. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- Yes
 - No
14. Please tell us about why you want to be involved in the community panel.
<< Text box limit 350 characters >>
15. Please tell us about any community groups or organisations you are involved in.
<< Text box limit 350 characters >>
16. Are you available to attend sessions all sessions that will be held on Saturday 4 May (day session), Thursday 9 May (evening session), Saturday 18 May (day session) and Wednesday 22 May (evening session)
- Yes / No



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