

Participants valued the consultation process for this engagement. They thought it was great that Council had asked the community about their priorities and ideas to solve problems. They considered this a good move towards a more direct democracy model.

COUNCIL'S WORK ON THE DRAFT BUDGET



Wish this process had happened earlier in the budget process, it is unlikely that the community will influence the budget much at this stage.

Would like to understand what will come of the feedback and what funds will be allocated to implement Council's active transport strategy.

Disappointing that there weren't more residents who took up the opportunity to be involved in the budget simulator or the focus groups. Explore ways to raise awareness of this engagement and increase participation. It is new for many community members and they may not be aware of it.

The priorities in the budget are not exactly aligned to the priorities expressed by the community. There needs to be more transparency on how this was translated.

REFLECTIONS



AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOCUS GROUPS PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS. SOME REFLECTED ON THE FOCUS GROUP PROCESS, WHILE OTHERS PROVIDED COMMENTS ON COUNCIL'S WORK ON THE DRAFT BUDGET. THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THEIR REFLECTIONS.

The opportunity to interact with the community and have a say on the Council's budget is great and will hopefully result in real action.



The order in which the resources were presented and a roadmap giving an overview of the planned sessions and what was required would have made the sessions more efficient.

The information provided and the presentation by Julia, the CFO, were excellent.

FOCUS GROUP PROCESS

Fantastic process - well facilitated and organised.

Would like more information on demographics of who takes part in the survey to clarify how those demographics influenced the outcome.

Would have liked this consultation process in a face-to-face setting to enable more members of the community to have a say.

Would have appreciated more explanation about the budget-setting process and how the community can contribute in order to understand the purpose of the budget simulator and the priorities.