



Budget Consultation

2023-24

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Introduction

Each year Council must prepare an Annual Budget which outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives as described in the Council Plan.

In 2022-23 the budget was allocated as follows:



As part of this process Council undergoes a community consultation phase in line with the Community Engagement Policy. The feedback received from the community is then used to inform Councillors and Council Officers and assist with the allocation of resources throughout the budget process.

Consultation Process

Activities

The consultation process incorporated both online and hard copy activities (outlined below) to ensure all members of the community could participate. 76 people participated over the 29 day consultation period with 34 using the online Social Pinpoint tools and 42 in person or hard copy respondents.

ACTIVITIES	DETAILS	ENGAGEMENT
Hard copy form and email	A hard copy survey form was placed in customer service centres for completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two people engaged using a hard copy form and one email was received.
Ideas Wall*	This provided an opportunity for people to share their ideas and vote on other people's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 comments were posted on the Ideas Wall.
Budget Prioritiser*	This activity asked participants to choose their top 5 priorities from a list of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 responses were received
Online Survey*	The survey enabled participants to provide their ideas, and identify what they would spend less, the same or more on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 surveys were completed.
Children's Forum	Children at the Forum were asked to identify their top 5 priorities and write down any other ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39 comments were received and 40 students completed the prioritisation activity

*Online Social Pinpoint activities

Promotion

Communications Plan

A number of methods were used to promote the consultation including:

- Greater Dandenong Council News
- Website and social media
- Posters in Customer Service and the Libraries
- Have Your Say stands at Dandenong and Springvale
- Staff networks – newsletters, stakeholder lists
- School newsletters and networks
- Civic Facilities – Jan Wilson
- Emails to previous participants



Summary

1

Who participated?

The majority of the respondents were from Keysborough South (39%), then Dandenong, Dandenong North and Springvale (11% each)

2

What services are important?

The survey results showed that the top five services which are most important to residents are:

- Parks and gardens
- Roads and footpaths
- Rubbish and recycling
- Libraries, and
- Street lighting

The services which were less important to respondents were disability services, theatre and the arts, leisure centres and sportsgrounds.

3

What would our community like to see more of?

Respondents to the survey highlighted that they would like to see more of the following:

- Walking and cycling paths
- Playgrounds, parks and sportsgrounds
- Festivals and events, and
- Children, Youth and Family Services

Arts and cultural exhibitions, affordable housing, and health services were seen to be adequately provided for.

4

Spending – Less, the same, or more


Capital works was highlighted as the area where people thought Council could spend less. Feedback included the need for Council to determine if works are actually required and the needs of people were seen to be more important.

The areas which respondents thought Council should spend more on included buildings, roads, traffic management and drainage maintenance; parks, community facilities, sport and recreation; and health, aged and community services.


Consultation Activities

Ideas Wall


Share with us what you think are the most important services and/or projects for Council to invest in




Something I Like




Ideas and Suggestions




Transport



Climate Change



Community Facilities



Parks and Playgrounds

Improve commuting bike infrastructure. Better solutions for transit on a bike between major centres than partial painted bike areas

[Start a discussion](#)

Transport | 9 days ago Like Dislike

Improve commuting bike infrastructure. Better solutions for transit on a bike between major centres than partial painted bike areas

[Start a discussion](#)

Transport | 9 days ago Like Dislike

Upgrade dog parks. More agility playgrounds. More gated parks. Accessible Poop bag and bin stations. Less muddy areas.

[Start a discussion](#)

Parks and Playgrounds | 10 days ago Like +1 Dislike

Set of Pedestrian Lights outside Parkmore Shopping Centre at the Bus Stop to improve access to the Bus stops and Watcher Reserve Kingsclere Ave is getting more busier each year with more houses being build in Keysborough South and getting highly unsafe crossing Kingsclere Ave without Pedestrian Lights

[Start a discussion](#)

Transport | 11 days ago Like Dislike

We need more traffic management solutions for Keysborough Gardens PS. Not enough connecting roads

[Start a discussion](#)

Ideas and Suggestions | 11 days ago Like +3 Dislike

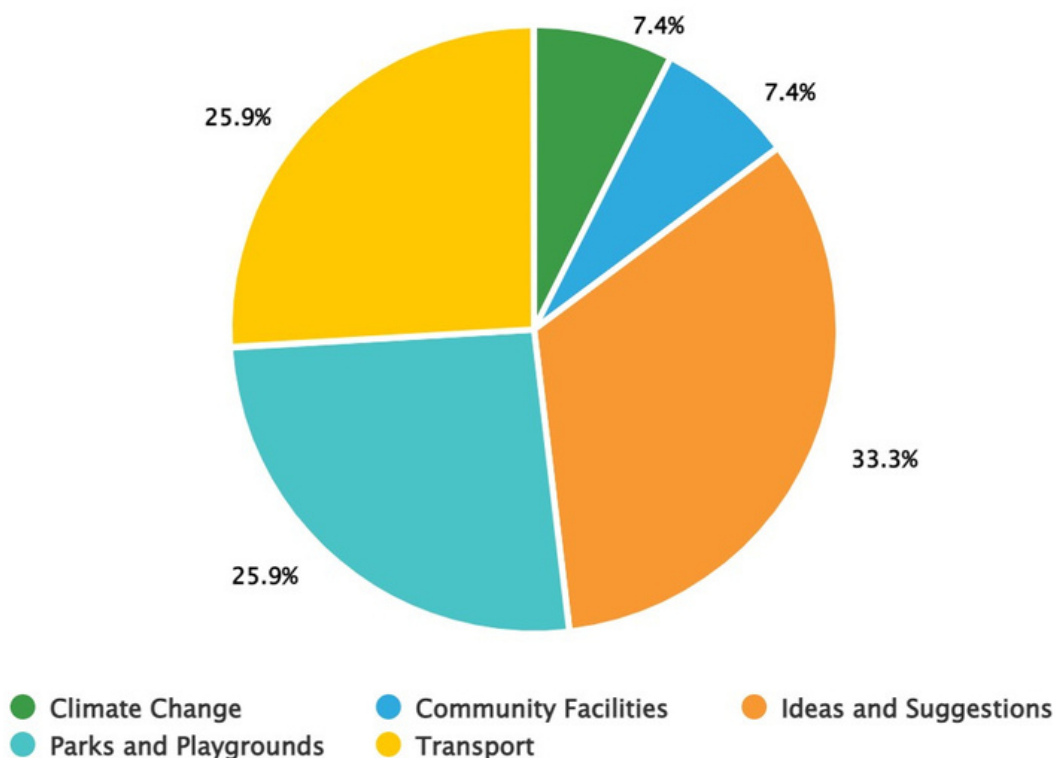
More resources for street cleaning please. Keysborough keeps growing and the rubbish due to overflow bins, weather and more people is noticeable. If the duburb will continue its growth please look into it.

[Join the discussion \(1\)](#)

Ideas and Suggestions | 13 days ago Like Dislike

More crossing supervision and better footpath connections for Keysborough Gardens Primary. Very congested and dangerous especially at pick up time.

The Ideas Wall was a way for participants to post ideas publicly, read what other community members were saying and vote on the ideas they most agreed with. The comments were tagged in the following categories:

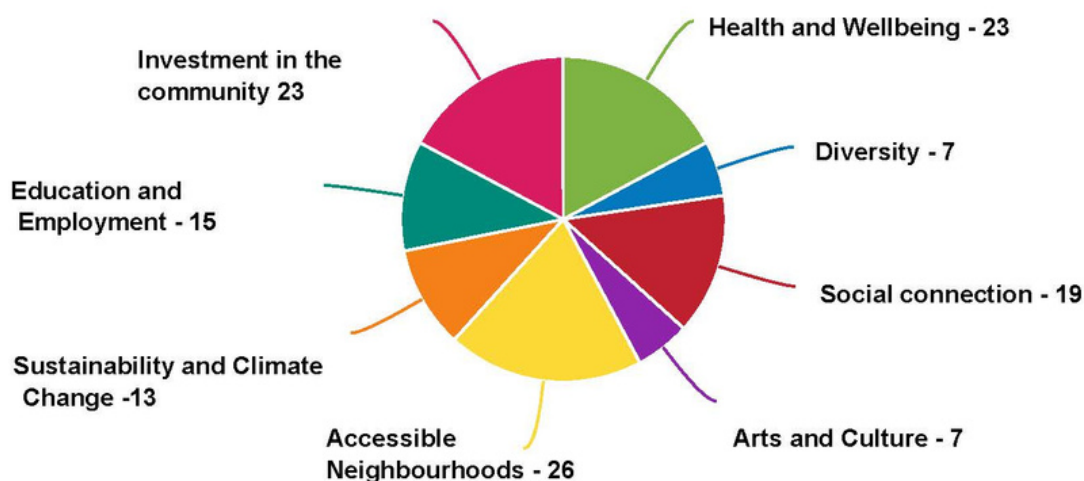


- Ideas and Suggestions (10) – schools, street cleaning, traffic management, paths and waste management
- Parks and Playgrounds (10) – community gardens, planting of fruit trees, park maintenance, additional playgrounds, and upgrades to dog parks
- Transport (7) – commuting bike infrastructure, pedestrian lights and zebra crossings, crossing supervision and bus shelter replacement
- Community Facilities (3) – family friendly Maternal and Child Health Centres and purchase of the Keysborough Historic Chapel building
- Climate Change (2) – ecological restoration and air quality in Keysborough

Individual comments can be found in Attachment 1.

Prioritisation Activity

Budget Answers



The budget prioritisation activity was designed to show the community that Council often has to choose some services/activities/initiatives to fund over others and this involves prioritising what the community is in most need of along with what Council can afford. Participants were asked to choose five key areas they would like to see Council focus on in the next budget out of a total of eight. These areas are aligned with the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25. The above pie chart shows all of the results, with the following areas being the top three priorities:

- Accessible neighbourhoods – walking and cycling paths, access to public transport, and well-designed public spaces
- Investment in the community – improving or maintaining assets, capital works (eg. Community Hubs, Leisure Centres and Community Facilities)
- Health and Wellbeing – sport and recreation, support for mental and physical health, reducing family violence, and access to affordable, healthy and culturally appropriate food

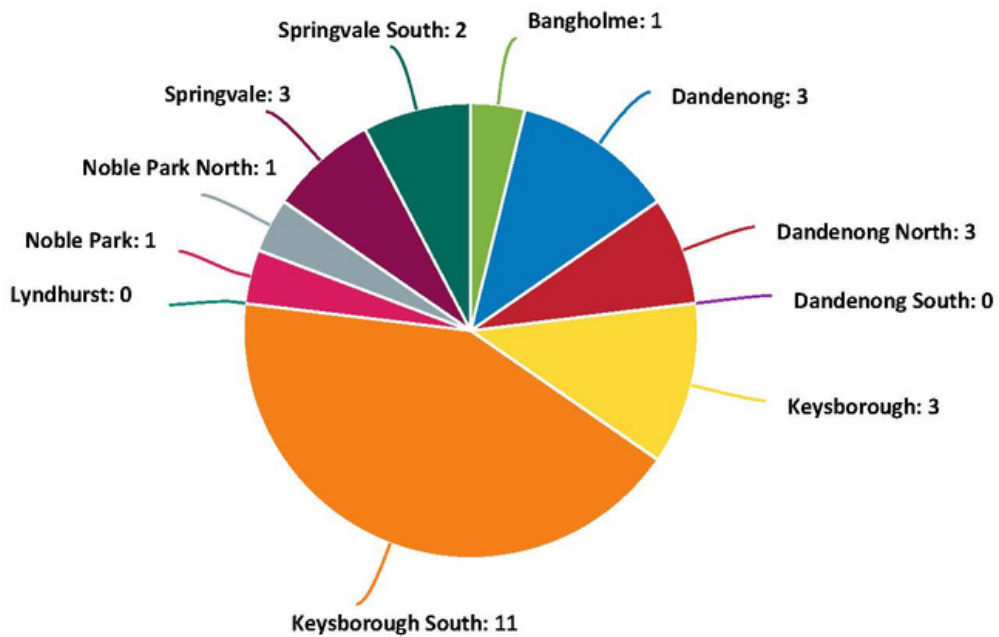
Survey

An online survey was designed to capture a variety of ideas and suggestions. This survey was also reproduced as a hard copy for anyone who could not access it online. Of the 27 survey responses only one of these was a hard copy.

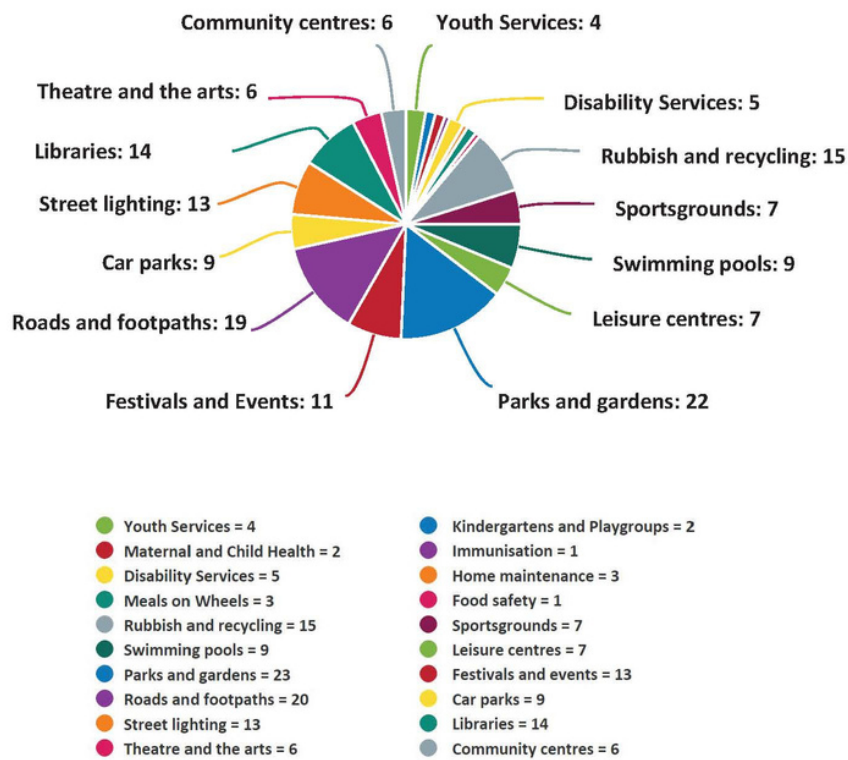
The survey asked some key questions to better understand the needs of the community. These were:

1. What services are the most important to you?
2. What would you like to see more of in your area?
3. If you were a Councillor would you spend less, the same or more and why? (Specific areas were highlighted)

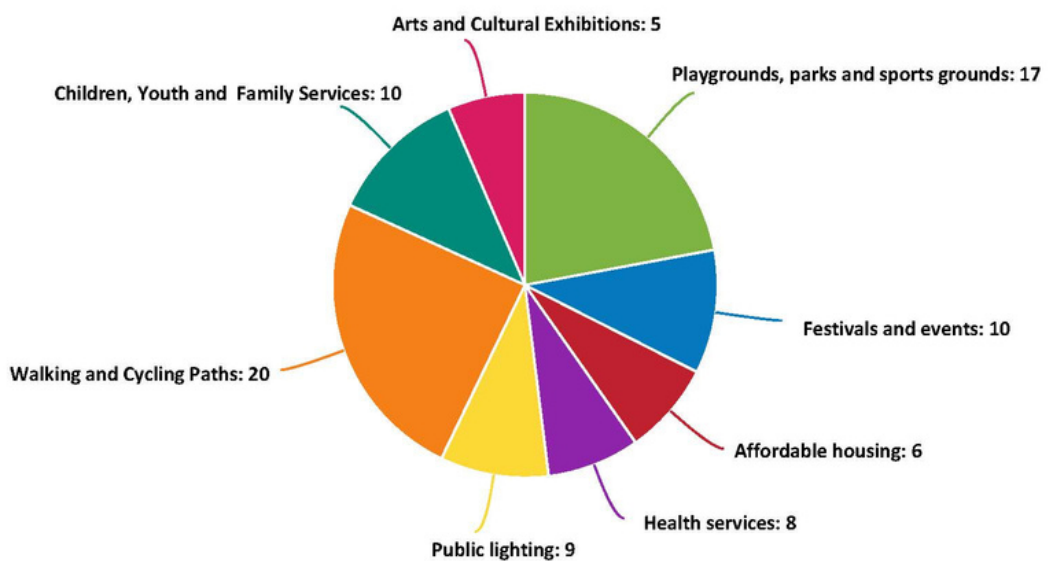
Where do the participants live?



What services are the most important?



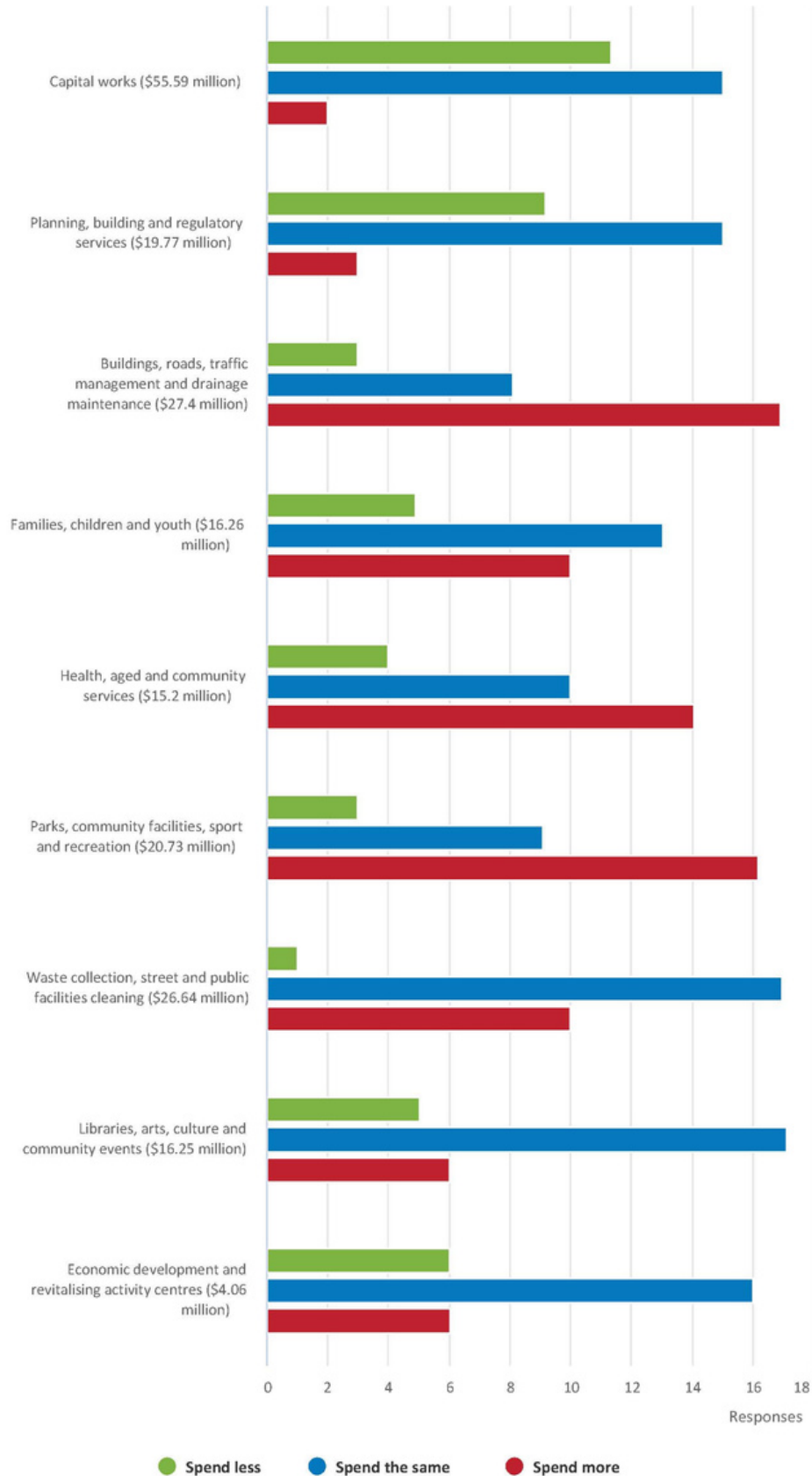
What would you like to see more of in your area?



What would you spend less, the same or more on?

Q4. If you were a Councillor would you spend less, the same, or more on the below areas?

27 answers



Community Comments

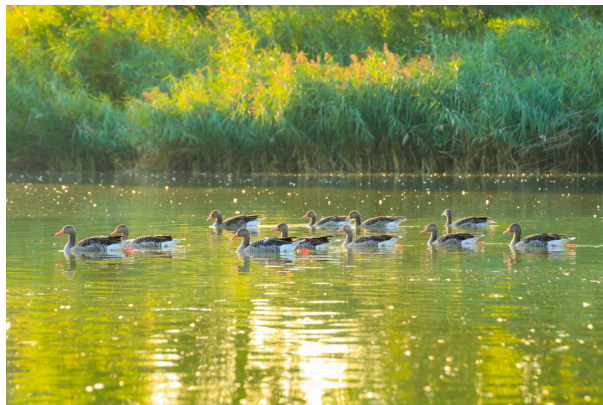
"It would be great to see better infrastructure to allow biking to be a safer and easier method of travel in the area. It would also be nice to have a great variety of services for families and more community development"



"Capital works can be either delayed or reduced. The personal needs of people are more pressing"

"Spend more, much much more on biodiversity. A rich biodiversity equals more a productive environment and community leading to improved wealth and health for everyone. Improved social and physical connections"

"Council should support the funding of accessible touch points of centres that support the local residents with programs and services"



"More playgrounds, outdoor wet play areas, outdoor sport facilities, walkways, safety such as more lighting in areas"

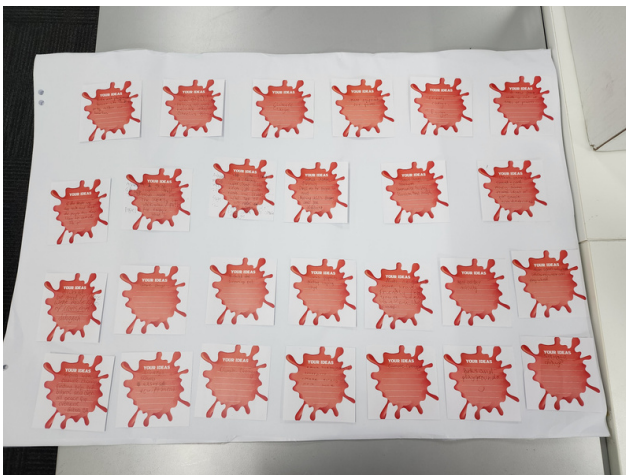
Children's Forum

Over 80 children in Years 5 and 6 from local schools attended the Children's Forum held at the Dandenong Civic Centre on 26 October 2022. This provided an opportunity to conduct a budget consultation activity to better understand the thoughts and ideas of the next generation of Greater Dandenong residents and business owners.

39 students participated in a prioritisation activity which reflected the one run through social pinpoint online. Whilst all areas were seen to be important, climate change and sustainability and health and wellbeing were ranked the highest.



"I think Council should spend money on school related ideas or for people with disabilities"



Stickers were also provided to capture specific ideas and priorities which were important.

40 comments were received which focused on issues such as:

"Make neighbourhoods more travel friendly for young teens and children from 8-11"

- climate change
- parks and playgrounds
- transport
- sport and recreation
- education and health
- support for people with disabilities

Next steps

The results of the consultation have been shared with the Executive Team and Councillors for consideration during the development of Council's Budget for 2023-24.

The feedback will also be considered as part of the review of the Council Plan and development of the Annual Plan 2023-24.

Council's Budget 2023-24 and Annual Plan 2023-24 process will be conducted in early 2023 and the final plans endorsed by Council in June.



ATTACHMENT 1: Ideas Wall Comments

Type	Comment	Votes
Parks and Playgrounds	Make playgrounds have trees kids can climb	5
Community Facilities	Make maternal and child health centres family friendly- toilets that can fit a pram, a place you can breastfeed and bins for nappies	3
Ideas and Suggestions	Commission Holmes should NOT be purchased without surrounding holm OWNERS ok. It's not fair + should change.	0
Community Facilities	Purchase or acquire the Keysborough Historic Chapel buildings on Chapel Road in Keysborough so they can be repaired and turned in to an amazing space for the community.	3
Parks and Playgrounds	Ensure that parks and gardens are maintained on a regular basis. My experience is that although the maintenance is rostered it is not always carried out and no one from the council checks to see if the work has been done and to a satisfactory standard.	4
Parks and Playgrounds	Plant fruit trees, grow veggie gardens in local gardens, pollinators for bees and butterflies. Teach our children how and where food comes from.... berry gardens... allow all children have access to fresh food upon arriving to their local park! An all rounder sensory garden play experience!! Kids thrive in nature if the opportunity is given to them.	6
Transport	Bus shelters to be replaced and bus services a minimum of every 30 minutes not every hour as is on 811 service	2
Ideas and Suggestions	Build a government funded high school in Keysborough south	3
Community Facilities	This 110%	0
Parks and Playgrounds	A community garden program where there isn't ones available would be great. Not sure what spare land is available though.	0
Parks and Playgrounds	Even big logs of trees that have been felled would be great for kids to play on.	0
Parks and Playgrounds	An upgrade to Amersham Ave reserve space. Footy goals or cricket wicket	0
Transport	More crossing supervision and better footpath connections for Keysborough Gardens Primary. Very congested and dangerous especially at pick up time.	3
Ideas and Suggestions	Street drain regular cleaning. Drains seem to be blocked very frequently any time a decent rainfall. Street sweepers route and timetable maybe advertised so cars could be asked to be kept clear at those times especially in small courts and streets where can't get access.	2
Parks and Playgrounds	Amersham Avenue reserve open space upgrade. Maybe a set of footy posts and cricket pitch.	0
Transport	Fix the parking and traffic around keysborough gardens primary school. Wider roads in keysborough south - homeleigh rd amd tyers lane	2
Ideas and Suggestions	More resources for street cleaning please. Keysborough keeps growing and the rubbish due to overflown bins, weather and more people is noticeable. If the duburb will continue its growth please look into it.	0
Ideas and Suggestions	More path crossings around Keysborough Gardens PS please.	3

Type	Comment	Votes
Ideas and Suggestions	While I take your point, I don't think that council should foot the bill for overflowing household bins. I feel like this is a public education issue and I would really like to see warnings and then fines dished out to households who week in, week out have loose rubbish cascading out of their overflowing bins, polluting the neighbourhood.	1
Ideas and Suggestions	More connecting roads and crossing inspectors for Keysborough Gardens Primary School Please!	2
Ideas and Suggestions	We need more traffic management solutions for Keysborough Gardens PS. Not enough connecting roads	3
Ideas and Suggestions	We need a high school for Keysborough South!	0
Transport	Replace existing 2 zebra crossing in Douglas St with a traffic signals at Buckley St similar to Leonard Ave that has improved traffic flow and pedestrian safety and create	0
Transport	Set of Pedestrian Lights outside Parkmore Shopping Centre at the Bus Stop to improve access to the Bus stops and Watcher Reserve Kingsclere Ave is getting more busier each year with more houses being build in Keysborough South and getting highly unsafe crossing Kingsclere Ave without Pedestrian Lights	0
Parks and Playgrounds	Upgrade dog parks. More agility playgrounds. More gated parks. Accessible Poop bag and bin stations. Less muddy areas.	1
Climate Change	In January 2020 Greater Dandenong City Council declared a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' committing us to emergency action on climate change. It is difficult to see what council is actually doing about it, when you consider that the currently committed \$20.73M allocated to Parks is also to cover community facilities, sport and recreation. We need ecological retraction at a grand scale, that means both on public and private land.	1
Parks and Playgrounds	Definitely more outdoor playgrounds with a combination of outdoor wet play areas for kids. Stanley rd/ Westwood blvd area should be utilised with outdoor tennis courts, soccer field, and extended playgrounds. It is such a pity seeing it the way it is for a long time.	2
Climate Change	No one is doing anything about the smell in the air in Keysborough, it is horrendous and something needs to be done!	2
Ideas and Suggestions	We need a High School in Keysborough South.	1
Transport	Improve commuting bike infrastructure. Better solutions for transit on a bike between major centres than partial painted bike areas	0
Transport	Improve commuting bike infrastructure. Better solutions for transit on a bike between major centres than partial painted bike areas	0

Type	Comment	Votes
Parks and Playgrounds	I can think of my local park... bakers rd tall park slide... there are so many children that use that park... there is room for a playground as well a garden..water play park..sensory garden etc... close proximity to heritage kindergartens and schools...Dandenong council parks need major overhauls... when you compare to councils like bayside.	0

