

Survey Findings Report

Annual Budget 2023–24
Cardinia Shire Council

26 May 2023

capire

Giving every person a voice.

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Capire staff and associates take great care while transcribing participant feedback but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however confident that we capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or our clients.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

In October and November 2022, the Shire of Cardinia (Council) engaged Capire Consulting Group (Capire) to complete the first round of community engagement on the Cardinia Shire Council Budget for 2023–24. This engagement asked community members to name the service areas that they believed required more funding and areas where Council should reduce funding. The findings from the first engagement phase can be found on the Creating Cardinia website at the following web address: <https://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/help-us-shape-draft-2324-budget>.

The Council considered the feedback from the community and other considerations that impact budget decisions and prepared the draft 2023–24 budget. Between 5 May 2023 and 21 May 2023 Council made the draft 2023–24 budget available for community feedback. Council invited community members to share their feedback via an online survey on the Creating Cardinia website. The survey respondents could share their feedback via an open-ended text field. A hard copy of the budget was also available from Customer Support at the Civic Centre and the community were able to make written submissions.

Council promoted the survey by media release, notification to relevant council committees, social media advertising and posts and Creating Cardinia content. Council also sent emails to various community stakeholders, including but not limited to, asset committees, sporting groups, township groups and residents' associations, neighbourhood houses and general community groups such as Men's Sheds, Probus, Senior Citizen centres, and Rotary clubs.

1.2 Report purpose

This report presents an analysis of and insight into the respondents' key themes and feedback.

Council designed the survey and collected the data from respondents. Council commissioned Capire to undertake the data analysis and prepare this report.

1.3 Limitations

Of the 103 survey participants, there were several duplicate IP entries – with 12 IP addresses completing 57 surveys. In particular, one IP address completed 16 surveys, and another IP address, 12 surveys. This means that some respondents may have provided feedback multiple times. On review of the responses from multiple IP addresses, the feedback varied greatly.

Comments from respondents have been included in a primary theme, in some cases respondents have commented on more than one theme. In these instances, the comment has not been repeated in other themes.

2 Who participated

Council received 103 completed surveys. This section summarises the demographic information Council collected about respondents.

Most of the respondents were aged between 35 and 44 years (32 participants, 31%), followed by 45 to 54 years (22, 21%) and then 25 to 34 years (16, 15%). Figure 1 illustrates the breakdown by age group.

Of the 103 respondents, 49 (48%) identified as female, 42 (41%) identified as male, 7 (7%) self-identified, and 5 (5%) preferred not to identify their gender. Figure 2 illustrates the gender breakdown.

Most respondents lived in Pakenham (31, 30%) and Officer (17, 17%). Other suburbs and townships included: Cockatoo (8, 8%), Cardinia (7, 7%), Bunyip (6, 6%), Garfield (6, 6%) and Beaconsfield (4, 4%). Two participants (2%) preferred not to say. Figure 3 illustrates the suburb or township of respondents.

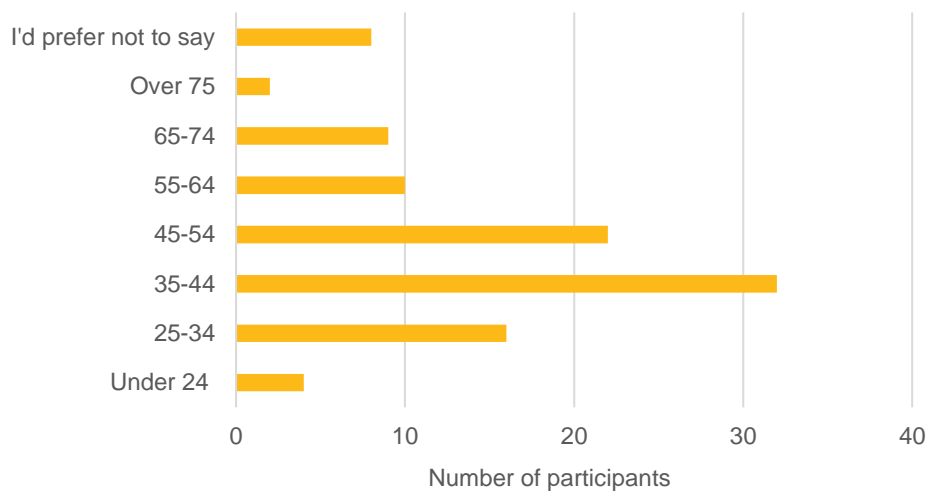


Figure 1: Age of participants

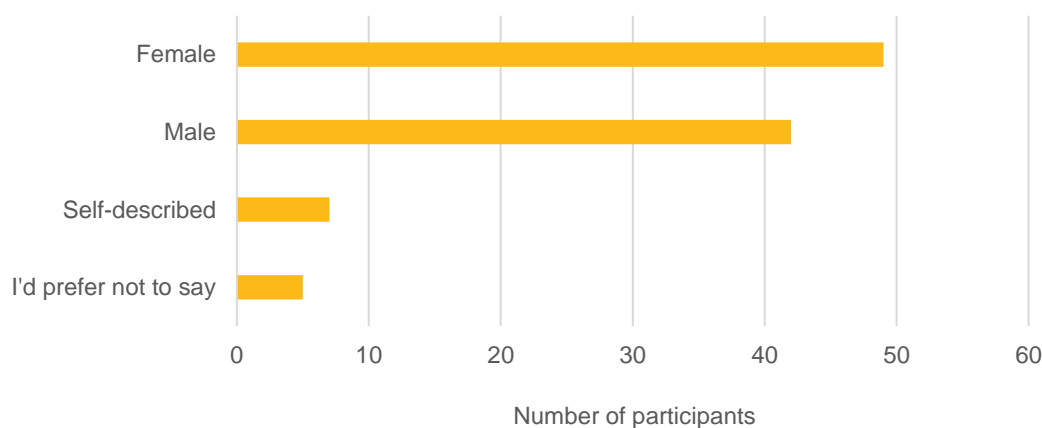


Figure 2: Gender of participants

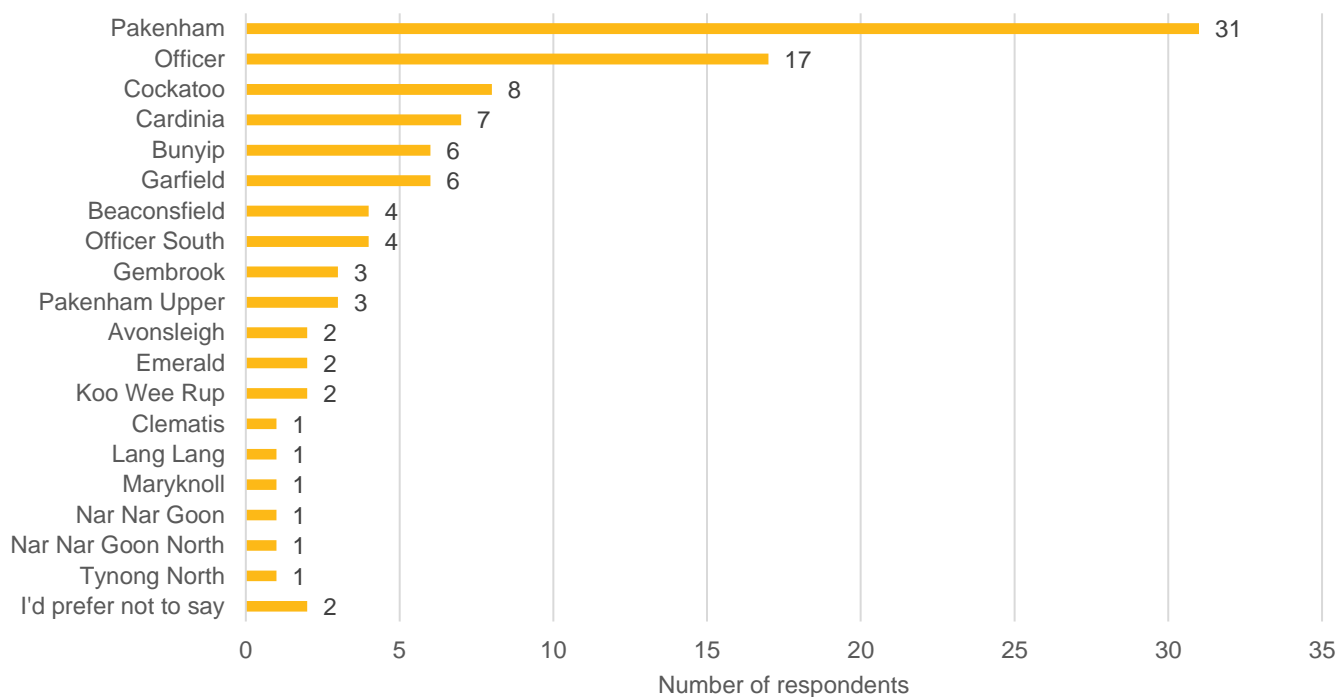


Figure 3: Location of participants (suburb/township)

3 Findings

The respondents' feedback encompasses the following themes:

- community infrastructure and facilities (23 comments)
- community services (22 comments)
- sports and recreation facilities (16 comments)
- roads (14 comments)
- cost of living and fees, rates and charges (8 comments)
- sentiment (7 comments)
- environment and green spaces (3 comments)
- planning (2 comments)
- others (5 comments), and
- ineligible (3 comments)

The following sections include a summary of participant responses under each theme and the raw comments relating to that theme. Some comments cover more than one theme but are not repeated under each theme.

3.1 Community infrastructure and facilities

There were 23 comments on community infrastructure and facilities. Participants mentioned that they would like to see Council investment in the following areas:

- public toilets (specifically, not removing the toilet on McBride Street),
- drinking water fountain at the Garfield Recreation and Reserve Oval,
- mountain bike park in Cockatoo, and cycling infrastructure more broadly,
- Nyora–Lang Lang Rail Trail receive priority funding,
- leisure and shopping facilities,
- accessibility and mobility,
- footpaths,
- community centre in Garfield, and
- community infrastructure generally.

Respondent quotes:

- *Unhappy with this budget when here we need genuine community leisure.*
- *I write on behalf of the Lang Lang and District Business and Community Group to make a submission on the Draft 2023/24 Budget document. Our Group is aware that Council has assigned the Rail Trail as a low priority project and that the Draft 2023/24 Budget document has the Nyora-Lang Lang Rail Trail \$50,000 scoping and costing project as an item to not be funded until 2026-27. As per our submission to the Open Space Strategy, we are requesting that the Rail Trail be a higher priority and completed asap for the following reasons. 1. It is a regional project that will ultimately connect the growing Melbourne outer fringe with the Cardinia Shire and the natural environment beginning on Lang Lang's doorstep and then through to the adjoining scenic beauty of*

South Gippsland Shire. 2. It will help to retain the rural character of Lang Lang as its point of differentiation from the burgeoning outer suburbs. 3. If our point of differentiation through a Rail Trail is maintained, many more people from the burgeoning outer suburbs will be enticed to enjoy a ride or a walk along the Trail and stop off and spend money in Lang Lang which will help local traders remain viable. 4. The Rail Trail being completed asap will ensure that this major asset is secured for Lang Lang as part of its long-term future and also secured as a major asset to others outside the area, including for people other than those wanting just to enjoy rides and walks along the Trail. 5. The Trail will form a major connection between several towns and given that it is a healthy alternative transport route this will contribute to fitness and social interaction for people wanting to use it to travel between towns and districts on the route. 6. It will contribute to safety, especially for young people, because they have an alternative transport option (bike) available to them away from local roads if they wish to travel to another town for activities not available in Lang Lang, e.g., to visit a friend, play sport, take a ride or walk along it or to use it in any circumstance when an adult is just not available to take them somewhere. (Local traffic is becoming increasingly dangerous for young people riding bikes given the escalation of the number of heavy vehicle movements along our roads in recent times, now in excess of 600 heavy vehicle movements along our local roadways per day). We thank you for taking this matter into consideration and ask for approval for members of our Group to appear before Council to put forward the Group's case as part of the 2023/24 Draft Budget consultation process. Yours Sincerely Peter Smith President Lang Lang and District Business and Community Group. Phone: 0427 841 096, Email: langlangdbcg@gmail.com.

- I find it difficult to believe the general community want to see LESS spent on community support, when the rates of visible homelessness is noticeably increasing across every community, and most families you speak with are finding it very difficult to meet their financial needs. Cardinia does not have the same services as other areas, and families' financial situations are deteriorating because they cannot access the same level of supports or services. This will start to impact on the local economy, small businesses, sporting clubs etc. when families are no longer able to participate. Council's budget seems to be the opposite to the sentiments we see in the Federal Budget, where cost of living relief and social support is at least mentioned considerably.
- Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Council Budget for 2023 – 2024 and my submission is in relation to the current public toilets located at the Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo. It is my understanding that it is the intention of the council to remove the public toilets located in McBride Street, adjacent to the bowls club carpark, below the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre. I believe it would be a mistake to remove this toilet and request that the Councillors reconsider the removal of this facility and redirect the monies allocated to carry-out the removal, instead into repairs and refurbishment of the toilets. This toilet block is well used by a variety of users, from residents walking their dogs, local school kids walking home from school, tradies and maintenance crews, (including Cardinia work crews), even police officers often stop to use these toilets. However, probably the biggest users of these toilets would be tourists. Whether they are tourist driving through town towing a caravan, walkers/cyclist passing by whilst using the Eastern Dandenong Trail or walking groups that use this off-road car park as their start and finish point when using the Eastern Dandenong Trail. The main road through Cockatoo is the Healesville to Koo Wee Rup Road which is used by many tourists travelling from northern Victoria through to Eastern Victoria. Many of these travellers are towing caravans and they need to be able to access public toilets and facilities that are easily accessible and have the room to turn with a caravan. This carpark area next to the toilets gives them this room. Since the extension of the Eastern Dandenong trail was completed in 2018 this toilet block has become an even more important asset for the town and district as it is the only toilet facility directly on the trail. There is plenty of grassed area around the facility for cyclist to park their bike safely without blocking other pedestrians or users. It is increasingly common to see this car park almost full of cars belonging to members of walking groups. These groups come from all over Melbourne and other areas to walk a section of the Eastern Dandenong Trail. Being a large off-road car park with no time limits it is a perfect start and finish point for the trail. At the recent opening of the Public Art piece in Cockatoo this car park

was almost full of cars with the majority of those being a walking group. In the original Cardinia Shire Tourism Strategy which was adopted in 2013 it was noted that part of councils' role in supporting tourism is to provide public facilities such as walking/cycling trails, playgrounds, picnic areas and public toilets. To remove this toilet block would not be supporting tourism and it could potentially deter people from using the full trail as there are no other toilet as easily accessible directly on the trails. Whilst I acknowledge that the Alma Treloar Masterplan which was adopted in November 2018 does include the removal of the toilet block, both Cr's Wilmot and Owen clearly stated at the meeting that further consideration was needed prior to removing the toilets as they were well utilized. I note also that a new toilet block is being installed alongside the Alan Bailey building, which is needed and will be utilized by those using the playground and BMX track areas, this is not actually what was adopted as part of the Masterplan, but it does demonstrate that the Masterplan can be changed when better options become available. These toilets are in no way the most attractive toilets. They are old and could do with some much-needed maintenance. The Cardinia Shire Council Public Toilet Strategy lists under the planning and budgeting section on page 22 the maintenance needed as being, the replacement of guttering in the first year at a cost of \$1000 and withing the next 3 – 5 years further work including painting, sinks and cisterns as well as rust treatment at a cost of \$12,000. I'm not sure if any of this work has been undertaken at this point but this strategy certainly doesn't identify these toilets as needing major work, replacement, or removal. In summary I would like to request that council reconsiders the removal of this toilet facility and instead redirects the money allocated for the removal of the toilets, into repairs and refurbishing of the current facilities. I thank you for your time and consideration.

- When will we have the Costco be built council? There's not a lot of good places in Cardinia yet I have to go elsewhere.
- Too much budget on the traffic and footpaths we need better retail, Thanks.
- I would like to see all of the above considered along with more parks a Kmart cinemas and updated sporting centre.
- Please can you allow for some funds to establish a drinking water fountain at The Garfield Rec Reserve oval. A "Choose Tap" fountain that includes a bubbler, bottle fill and dog bowl, would be ideal. For an image related story, please refer to this link: <https://choosetap.com.au/stories-and-news/south-east-water-and-bayside-city-council-team-up-on-tap-water>
- With Post COVID financial pressures, council should be partnering with trusted community organisations to wisely use resources for building infrastructure. This will reduce outlay of council funds, increase community engagement, allow for diversity and make space for additional community services. This is a creative solution as out laid in the council plan and will provide much needed infrastructure which is not keeping up with population growth.
- Some residents have been trying to get a mountain bike park built in cockatoo, it would be great if council would get behind this, Cardinia shire has no mountain bike trails we are getting left behind compared to other councils. There is a great spot for it in cockatoo, mountain bike rider's numbers have exploded from covid. It's a great idea that has so many benefits.
- Communities should be #1 why? Because it is only a Matter of time before all the construction companies SHUT DOWN.
- Awaiting for a Community Centre finally created in Garfield someday, hopefully.
- Terrible draft budget. how is spending on environment and community support service reduced, yet funding for roads is increased. what a joke. I believe more cycling infrastructure is paramount, we have great access to public transport by bicycle in Pakenham. and improving the safety will increase the accessibility for all people. especially with the huge uptake of E-bikes, bicycling infrastructure is a sure bet in the long run.

- *Hello when is council going to fix temple issue? we still want a auspicious temple near the east of Pakenham if possible, it is very exclusive we love all creation and are very grounded people. If noise a issue there can be arranged soundproof or further away from homes in future. Thanks*
- *Happy that Pakenham main street is on the list as we need better access for wheelchairs to get to the shops. it would be good to have more dollars to disability access as a lot of things here are old and people in wheelchairs can't use things.*
- *This is very asset heavy. What about the community development and support for vulnerable communities. The community need to experience what their community/environment has to offer, not just building it, activate it.*
- *At a time of financial restraint 197,622 to improve access for people with disability is inadequate with aging infrastructure and will make it very difficult to support community expectations and state disability action plan and legislation to create a "barrier free Victoria" commitment. Spend less on new builds and more on renewals and upgrades.*
- *The removal of the Toilet block at the northern end of the Alma Treloar reserve would be a terrible loss of an asset. As this toilet is located at the halfway mark of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Walking Trail it gets a considerable amount of use by the general public, council staff in large vehicles and tradies that comes through Cockatoo and the Cardinia Shire. The toilet has been in place for 40+ years and could use a bit of a refurbish to make it more appealing. All the required infrastructure, plumbing is already there, it just needs an update to the interior and fittings. More people use this toilet than use the 'off leash' dog park in Cockatoo.*
- *What's happening with Priceline? Is that too being wasted on please put more towards our facilities needed.*
- *Can you please fix the bin issues and lack of community care with litter in our streets I'd like to see theatres here in future also.*
- *Hello just want to say. How can we get better places and retail spaces happening in Cardinia shire? Because this is what we need Main Street is a joke with nothing, but NDIS placed and agencies Real estate Indian grocers Luxury stores Way too expensive. Old unused stores for Years Restaurants everywhere that aren't any good Always Homeless people begging in Main Street And constant need for going elsewhere for the family such as Arena or Berwick... We Need Good Stores.*
- *I would like to say more money towards new buildings and upgrades, however with the councils frivolous spending on "Art" at the pool, I deem this not good idea. So, maintaining roads it is. Less money towards Arts and Culture- only because this council does not have this community at heart, and more concerned with filling their own pockets.*
- *New dog park with fountains for dogs and some older teen adult parks to hang out w fam and friends we need places to hangout in Cardinia.*

3.2 Community services

There were 22 comments on community services. Participants who commented on community services would like to see more investment in the following services:

- multicultural services,
- senior citizens,
- childcare, maternal and family services,
- young people, and

- homelessness.

Respondents also commonly highlighted the cost of living and affordability in their comments, calling on Council for support.

Responses:

- *Multicultural and community support service areas should not be reduced in the budget. Cardinia council has so many residents from different cultures and it's important to embrace this. One of the reasons why Cardinia council is admired is the dedication it has towards multiculturalism. Reducing this from the budget and prioritising sport facilities doesn't really make sense as the sustainability of a sports centre can end up relying on community sponsorship or government grants. Whereas creating cultural awareness is invaluable. Also, it seems we already have really good sports facilities in Cardinia. Honestly the issues at hand in this day and age are domestic violence, financial abuse, lack of access for disabled and disadvantaged groups. I strongly think the council needs to continue investing in these matters.*
- *I strongly suggest you allocate a portion of your budget towards senior citizens. Funding to clubs that provide services to senior citizens, who have worked all their adult lives and paid taxes, some are really struggling to survive. I understand you already subsidise these clubs but some government funding to these clubs has been deleted and therefore some venues have had to cut back on the services previously provided. It would be greatly appreciated by many citizens if some consideration was given in this area. Thanking you in advance.*
- *Cheaper bills childcare, better decent shopping malls in down, different entertainment, easier therapy groups, places where people of all age can gather and enjoy time.*
- *Community places for young people to go to is needed besides youth clubs which are too loud or overwhelming for people like me with anxiety. Would love more places like kemizo but different activities that are less noisy and more interactive and calming for the mind like arts or craft hobbies. Thank you!*
- *More needs to be done to support the seniors of this council area. Homelessness needs to be addressed. Public housing needs to be built . we should not just say its state or commonwealth's job.*
- *We need to have two new community facilities for the growing number of children and families moving into Bunyip/ Garfield/Nar Nar Goon area and also the Koo Wee Rup/Lang Lang area, so that these families can have access to supported playgroups run by council staff and community organised playgroups. We need buildings that will promote community connections, where parents can meet other parents within the community and link into other services. We also need these buildings to be accessible for children, that have children's size tables and chairs for play and learning, that have an outdoor area for children and families to play outside together (i.e.; sand pit, tan bark area and shaded area) and that have a children's bathroom (children's size toilets) and family change room for parents to change infant nappies. Thanks.*
- *Cost of living pressures and housing stress through cost of rent and increase in mortgage payments will see more people than ever before seeking support from community organisations. It's vital Council support them to be present and able to respond to the needs of community. Lowering spending on multicultural and community support service areas will reduce capacity for organisations to be in the Shire able to respond.*
- *I would love to see Council allocate more money/funding to provide our seniors in the community with more opportunities for activities to be made available for them to participate in. There is a lack of low cost/no cost activities and lack of transport for them to get to activities. Council needs to show our older family members and members of the community that they are valued and are*

providing more help and activities to get them more out in the community. We have an ageing population, and they need more support and services!

- *Greater investment in community services and programs for young people.*
- *To whom it may concern. I disagree with the spend less on Community Support. The current housing crisis, cost of rents, groceries and bills more people need help to avoid homelessness. Council has a responsibility to support the community and services that provide these vital support to our community. Please prioritise this over more sports spending. Thank you.*
- *Hi, I was completely shocked to see Community support on spend less. There is visible homelessness in the community, and I work on the local op shop and I have never had so many conversations with people who need help for the first time. The cost of living is crushing people and we have no services to support us residents. Please prioritise community support this is front and centre for most people NOT more sports clubs that no one can afford to play in.*
- *As a regular volunteer at the local op shop and sports club I would like to see less money spent on sports buildings and more on supporting the worse off in the community. We have so many people stressed about money their kids suffer marriages breakdown and they have no money to spend on the basics let alone support our local economy. If we don't support the Community, we are forgetting this is the fabric that makes everything in community life enjoyable and it's intertwined. Please do more to help people by helping the services that support them. In my township people have to travel so far to get support.*
- *Lower spending in the multicultural and community support service areas - I do not agree, they need the most help.*
- *In Victoria, the top three reasons for people seeking homelessness and housing assistance are financial difficulties, family and domestic violence, and the housing crisis. People with low income are less likely to find suitable and affordable housing, and more likely to experience homelessness. We have very limited services in Cardinia Shire to support people experiencing housing crisis, homelessness and financial difficulties. Cardinia needs to focus on the 'Housing First' approach and utilize budget for additional housing such as youth foyers, managed boarding houses, crisis and emergency accommodation. Cardinia Shire Council can continue to support residents experiencing housing stress and financial difficulties by taking a direct role in addressing these ongoing issues and prioritising more budget on services that can assist such as halls for our volunteer groups to utilize to run weekly dinners to support individuals and families in food relief, offer areas in the community that have laundry and bathroom services for those sleeping rough, and additional financial and housing workers in the community that community can access free of charge.*
- *Hi thanks for receiving feedback. I am concerned that the weight given to 173 peoples feedback out of a population over 100,000 is relevant. It is disturbing that such huge budget decisions are being weighed against this. I strongly disagree with Community services and multicultural support being on less money category. This is the glue that holds our community together. We don't need more sports grounds we have and are getting more bit everyone plays sport.*
- *Hi Councillors. Please read the room our community is facing a mortgage cliff and rising debt household stress and Community support is on the bottom of the pile. This is distressing as someone who has never needed a handout I have considered how I might balance my heating and food on the table. We also have no services in the local area that can help. I would hope that our local representatives can see the light and provide some visible and practical support for the residents in need. It's only going to get worse. Thanks for hopefully reading. Bill.*
- *Can we build a community centre for free services and programs supporting community in the cost-of-living crisis. There needs to be more services for locals.*
- *Senior citizens is mentioned in the mayor and CEO introduction however there is no budget allocated to seniors in the report. There needs to be funding to support our growing population of seniors.*
- *Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 22/23 budget. I question why Councillors and staff have accepted consultation where only 183 residents provided a response for the 118,000 residents who live in the Shire? Youth representation is just 6 respondents! As a key principle of community engagement as outlined in the Local Government Act. Participants in community engagement must be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement. Can Council provide evidence of how the engagement was tailored to properly engage young people, our multicultural community, persons living with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders given the outcomes directly affect them? Should the engagement report include the demographics of the 183 such as place of birth, disability etc for greater accountability. If the decision to*

reduce funding to support multicultural communities is not made by those who are multicultural how can this be taken into account? In considering the results of the engagement how will Council ensure that more investment in community and sporting facilities will result in low carbon emissions, provide inclusive, flexible community spaces for all our community so that it is a win win for all? Many existing spaces including halls, senior's facilities and sporting facilities (separate for tennis, football, soccer etc) sit empty most of the time, how can a greater proportion of the community benefit from them? Designing flexible spaces for education, arts programs, to support multicultural community programs. How can we make them easily available to more communities to build community cohesion? While Climate Change was identified as one area for lower spending, I congratulate the Council for its commitment to the Biodiversity Plan and the climate Change adaption strategy. Commitment to reducing emissions should be non-negotiable for all Councils.

- *I'm struggling to understand the numbers you've provided. 10% of respondents wanted reduced spending in multicultural and community support and so you are going to reduce spending in that area? Based on horrible comments on Facebook - which you are not moderating - on the Welcome to Country event for National Reconciliation Week event it should be evident that we need more community and social support than less. Cardinia should be a safe space for all residents to feel welcome, supported and a sense of belonging. Further, the arts should be funded appropriately- they are important in bringing people together and helping create a sense of community. That you would even consider decreasing spending in environment and climate I truly don't understand - and using figures of 12% feedback as justifying that choice seems a stretch. Further - your 'close the loop' summary doesn't show the total number of respondents, compared with how many residents there are in Cardinia Shire. How confident are you that your survey actually represents the community. Decreasing spending on environment, climate, arts, culture and multicultural and community support does not represent what I value.*
- *My Children; Their Future .. Their Employment Income, Educational Works Their Future is Way More Important Than The Unsettling Road Works or Sporting. That Is All I Have To Say.*
- *Community supports are essential for so many people, please do not cut or reduce them. The MCHN program was the program that helped the most postnatally for me and many other new mums I know. While sport facilities are important many have private sponsoring potential that programs like libraries don't get to have. Also, reducing the environmental and sustainability budget seems completely backwards... maybe integrate sustainability into any new building project the council is involved in.*

3.3 Sports and recreation facilities

There were 16 comments on sports and recreation facilities, 11 of which supported further investment in facilities. Five advocated for less funding in sports and recreation facilities and for Council to divert funding to other areas. Respondents advocating for more funding included representatives from the Bunyip Football Club, the Bunyip Recreational Reserve, and the Koo Wee Rup netball club, all advocating for facility upgrades. Respondents also mentioned they would like more investment in the swimming pool facilities.

Those advocating against funding for sports and recreation facilities expressed that there is enough money and facilities available, including from higher tiers of government. Respondents would like funding redirected into roads and infrastructure and community support such as multicultural and youth services.

Responses:

- *Hello. I am the Bunyip Football Club President. We currently field four sides in the west Gippsland football netball competition and our oval and facilities are simply not up to scratch. With our junior Football club playing every alternate weekend it means we have up to 10 sides playing and training on an oval that has already turned into an un-usable mud pit. We desperately seek assistance and funding for an oval upgrade, not only to ensure our football club(s) can successfully compete and survive but also so the wider community can continue to use the oval and surrounding recreation reserve. After this weekends games we find ourselves in a situation where we are searching for an alternative oval to use this week and beyond, and the league have written advising that games may be cancelled if the oval is not fit for purpose.*

- *This is feedback from the Kooweerup netball club President on behalf of the Kooweerup netball club and wider community and is in reference to increased investing in sporting facilities. Our community is fast growing with population numbers increasing, our club's vision is inclusion in sport and the opportunity for the wider community to participate with a focus on developing large numbers from a junior level to a senior level- we currently field teams with approx. 90-100 players in total with our club participating in a league which hosts 11 other netball clubs on our courts. Recent audits have been undertaken within the Cardinia council, along with input and suggestions from Netball Victoria that KWR netball courts are in urgent need of resurfacing and light upgrades for safety and to adhere to netball Vic standard guidelines. The cracks in our courts are significant, with the court surface also lifting in certain areas and the current run off the lights are not to standard. These issues pose great safety risks to the public. With such a growing area we believe it vital that we offer safe sporting facilities to allow us to encourage sport and healthy lifestyle amongst our community members. Our request is that consideration for sporting investment is directed towards the urgent need of the court resurfacing and light upgrades at KWRNC to allow a safe environment to ensure the club can provide an appropriate facility to encourage the participation in sport for community members.*
- *50 metre indoor swimming pool required due to current growth and projected growth of population in and around neighbouring areas. We require more lanes for Piranha Swim club, squad swimmers, as numbers are capped, kids are being turned away, which is really really sad. Also short lane makes kids in our district not as competitive to swim against bayside suburbs and MSAC division and up to National level. Diving blocks are urgently required, along with chairs for kids, being marshalled to race. I know council is working hard in our district, we would love to see this need addressed urgently. Thank you for your consideration.*
- *I am the President of the Bunyip Rec Reserve, and the Bunyip Rec Reserve oval is in desperate need of an upgrade. With 10 teams playing and training on this surface each week along with the continual wet weather the ground surface cannot put up with the amount of use. I would like to see the Council assist with an upgrade of the current playing surface to bring it in line with other ovals in the Shire such as Garfield Nar Nar Goon, Pakenham, Officer and all other ovals within the Cardinia Shire that have football played on them. Not only is this oval used for football it also has the Bunyip Show annually, Bunyip Primary School activities and School Sports for both the State School and Columba Catholic School. This venue is used by everyone in the Community and is the centre of sports in the town and needs to be upgraded to 2023/24 standards. The GM Committee and Football Club have also received letters of concerns from the West Gippsland Football Netball League due to the state of the surface and the conditions for all players that attend games at the venue.*
- *We need to preserve Land and Plantation for years to come. Houses, Local Farmers like us, Horses Animals and other Community's need to Thrive here and they're falling apart. Disagree with the Sporting as recently the buildings were just replaced! There's Already so many plans ahead for our General Sporting which is great though besides the Potholes, there is no huge problem with our roads or bridges only further out bush if you wish to fix all of that which won't last long anyways though you can try. Then again, it is your call council, you will make the right choice.*
- *NO MATE WHERE WAS OUR PROMISE C'MON WE NEED THOSE SHEDS AND SPORT ROOMS IMPROVED!! WE NEED TOILETS WE NEED MEETING ROOMS FOR CLUBS WE NEED GATHERINGS WE NEED THE BUDGET WE NEED RESPECT WE DONT FEEL HONOURED NOR RESPECTED.*
- *New shop Costco in officer sports for my two sons.*
- *That's a lot of concrete. add more to football and sports and upgrade places Thank you.*
- *Bunyip football ground. We have the worst ground in Cardinia shire it floods and we also have the worst change rooms and ground in the west Gippsland football league. There has been talks. We have had mould and asbestos removal done recently which is great. But we still have old lighting which chews up*

enormous amounts of power. Led would save money and help the environment. Please don't forget our little town.

- *I contributed to the first consultation I can't be the only one to have raised the need for more support for the community at this time particularly after COVID. I don't see this reflected, it saddens me and surprises me to see others don't want to support the community. I am concerned about the proportionately low spending across supports for the community. This includes community support, Children's services and Youth services which makes up less than 1.5% of expenditure. Most concerning is that out of that amount half (0.75%) is going specifically to Children and Young People. There are many other groups such as our seniors, people living with a disability and other groups that require additional support with the cost of living at the moment affecting family's ability to live and pay bills, I think that just isn't enough. It was shocking to see how much was spent on swimming and recreation, this doesn't even include open space parks/playgrounds from what I can tell. I know my family do not access the swimming pools and sports reserves. I would like to see the breakdown of what money is spent on each element in that as almost \$1 in every \$10 of council funds for that seems like too much. Move this to support the broader community not just a few, can we see usage numbers for all these sports and recreation activities? Also, I feel the Shire builds a lot that doesn't get used or used only by a small section of the community, again sports clubs seem to get a lot of new building that others can't use, and we technically pay for, this would account for most of the community infrastructure cost I'm guessing as they are always happening. I don't see anything that benefits me, or my family being added to us to access.*
- *I want more money spent on the library services! Pakenham and Emerald is not enough. You don't hold enough children's programs. And they only benefit non-working parents. We have dozens of sports fields that are brand new. But two libraries the whole council - it's poor. In this cost-of-living crisis libraries are invaluable resource."*
- *I see you are advocating for an airport but there is no mention of advocating/lobbying for aquatic facilities for the hills. Ball sports are well catered for here, but we have no aquatic facilities. From babies to the elderly, our health and wellbeing would improve with access to aquatic facilities. With poor/no public transport to centres like Pakenham, we cannot use those facilities.*
- *Given the measured low socio-economic status of Pakenham there is a need to increase funding for multi-cultural and community support, and given the outlook for the Shire as the effects of global warming take hold there is a need to increase funding for adaptation to climate change and protecting the environment and for repairs to and maintenance of the Shire's infrastructure. The lack of open space in the built up areas of the Shire is an indicator of the political power of property developers which the Council can do nothing about but it can seek to maintain and protect what open space there is by considering carefully proposals to add infrastructure to parks and to resist the destruction of the Shire's tree cover. In a survey like this sporting clubs will always have a louder voice than people wishing to enjoy passive recreation like walking. The Covid experience showed just how important passive recreation is. So I would advocate for less funding to sports and more funding to passive recreation.*
- *Sports then community climate, arts.*
- *Upgrade Cardinia Life!!! This space is sadly inadequate for the growing population of the area. Pool - Upgrade the ridiculously inadequate wet change rooms, wet (swim school) staff change/facilities, 50m pool, teaching pool, toddler splash play, spa, sauna. Cafe - bigger, better seating. Dry change rooms - upgrade desperately needed. Security upgrade for all areas.*
- *Please stop spending money on sports clubs that only a small percentage of the community can access. Every year we see more millions go to buildings that are empty except on weekends. What a waste. Young people are crying out for activities and unless you do sport there is very little to offer. Wont this reduce crime and disengagement of young people if we invest in Community support or our migrant community - crazy that this was on the bottom of the list - please put this on the top of the list. Councillors need to listen to the people that pay you.*

3.4 Roads

There were 14 comments on roads. Most (nine) comments supported Council allocating funding to upgrades and maintenance. In particular, respondents would like to see roads sealed and potholes fixed. Five respondents advocated for less funding to be allocated to roads, and more to go towards community services and infrastructure.

Responses

- *Thewlis Rd needs a complete road seal. It is dangerous driving up and down the hill competing with cyclists, horses and on coming cars.*
- *Really glad to hear we are having the potholes fixed though it would be great to see more arts and creative fields funded along with some charities in trouble.*
- *Don't increase art/culture. Fix the roads, potholes, round about removal on roads now seeing increased traffic for traffic lights. Better planning of estates, as recently seen flooding from 'man made lakes' flooded new homes.*
- *Fix ups and Roads needed in our area as well as community and TAFE, though urban areas will do better with small types of townhouses, shopping stores and bigger facilities. Looking forward.*
- *You keep investing in roads over and over enough is enough I don't want anymore darn footpaths when they were completely fine. I want lower tax maybe easier groceries, new food markets and perhaps some better quality stuff over quantity.*
- *Not a happy resident! Did not ask for more roads or pathways I got mine replaced FOUR TIMES The past 2 years and for what? Shame I was looking forward to this now not so much....*
- *I think it is always important to allocated funds to roads, footpaths and drains and equally as important to update sporting facilities as a lot of communities within the Cardinia shire provide a safe, healthy environment and connect people that play a vital part in social connection and mental health often sporting grounds are a central hub of small towns.*
- *For the amount charged in rates we get nothing for it. Only those who have young children or involved in sport or clubs get any benefit from council spending. Our local community centre has been unfriendly to working people since it opened 20yrs ago, with very little in way of interesting courses at night. I'd call it a very uninclusive centre. We need potholes in roads filled before I loose another tyre, 3 replacements costing \$900. Yet it happens over and over again do it properly the first time. Maintenance of footpaths separate lanes for bikes. Arts should be ensured that exhibitions etc are at least covering their own costs rather than using rate payers money. I go to the city to visit the art centre and theatres. Maybe you could utilise their collections for future exhibitions in outer areas, to give those who are unable to travel to city or don't want to.*
- *Please make more bridges then roads we need more bridges with wider roads rather then roads over done over and over for no reason. Thanks.*
- *I voted for roads but Only for the bad potholes during the wet season. Though I'd rather see that 22% elsewhere long term.*
- *Cut The Road Maintenance Please.*
- *Bring back the seal the roads program.*

- *There's enough roadworks here as it is give other shires more funds for that then here we need more entertaining places and study such as TAFE and Apprenticeships.*
- *Please allocate more to, roads maintenance and construction; Environment and climate change; new upgraded facilities. Less on arts and culture; multicultural support.*

3.5 Cost of living, fees, rates and charges

There were eight comments on the cost of living, fees, rates and charges. Nine comments referred to the cost of living and requested Council doesn't raise fees, rates and charges.

Responses

- *Less sports and kids stuff. Stop spending money on them and give normal people a break on rates. OR charge them a premium for using them.*
- *If possible a lot of us younger people prefer to buy first homes cheaper but much more inviting looking houses you know? For example: Country or craftsmen style for a change in Cardinia's town also in that new Ridgelea place I keep hearing of. Town houses make me and my older sister very uncomfortable only reason she lives in Narre is due to that, okay thanks for listening.*
- *Agree, generally, with the draft budget and the changes except the increase arts and culture spending in the current tough cost of living crisis. Can more be spent on housing or employment opportunities?*
- *Hi I would like the 2023 Budget to be towards Rates, Lower power bills, and Gardening with new beautiful parks.*
- *Council facility charges are too high for community groups to afford*
- *With the gas price movement shouldn't we just hardly fund that at all? Because honestly, in about 5 years time, gas will literally be no more but only obsolete from Australia.*
- *No increases to rates please. Families are already at their limits. Increase to rates may force people to chose between necessities.*
- *When do we want it now better taxes wonderful new ovals thanks government for budget and jobseeker I get my son help and Don is so happy life made better*

3.6 Sentiment

Seven comments shared general sentiment on the draft budget. One respondent supported Council's budget allocation for 2023–24, and another participant commented that they are looking forward to the Cardinia Youth Centre being built.

Four comments were generally opposed to the budget allocation.

Responses:

- *Just don't do it it's not any good thanks.*

- *That is definitely a troll messing with our budget NO To ALL of that.*
- *What? No this is an awful budget for the community when we need a budget most.. This is Not what we asked for. Roads and Pathways are Overly replaced now, we need more focus on our Environment as well as the Community buildings and Entertainments because Families always have to resort to Fountain gate, there is sadly hardly anything special in Pakenham Officer or Cockatoo. Very sad budget.*
- *What a waste of money very unhappy.*
- *I agree with the above survey answers. The council should focus on the fundamentals and let people choose how to spend their money if they want to join artistic/ cultural etc pursuits. It is not the role of the council to get involved in these things. The council should provide basic infrastructure and collect rubbish and that is all. Let people keep more of the money they earn and they can choose to spend it on what they want.*
- *Looking forward to the new Cardinia Youth Centre for our children.*
- *Good hopefully everyone gets a turn keep up the good works.*

3.7 Environment and green spaces

Three respondents commented on the environment and green spaces. Two comments sought more investment in the environment and climate change area, and one wanted more investment into parks and green spaces.

Responses:

- *Our environment is most important or else there may be no more agriculture species or resources. Please preserve the soil and land of my ancestors it is so important for generations to come this is a big warning and natural disturbances with the earth shall be more common we need to slow this for our children all of the ways of life, the scarcity and this planet. Thank you.*
- *I'm excited about the new park you plan to do in Officer so incredibly much. My family and so many other families Will be so happy there's finally somewhere we can go nearby our town to spend our happy moments with the kids. Thank you.*
- *Bit small on the environment and climate.*

3.8 Planning

There were two comments concerning planning. One respondent expressed dissatisfaction with the planning department and is included in section 3.10. The other respondent requested an update on the Officer District Park Masterplan and the Integrated Child and Family Centre Community Facility on Starling Road in Officer.

Responses

- *Hello, Just couldn't understand what's happening with Officer District Park Masterplan implementation? Do we have tentative completion date for stage 1? No funds allocated for stage 2? Are you able to bring forward to construction of Integrated Child and Family Centre Community Facility - Starling Rd - Officer PSP? Proposed 2027 is too way long according to new estates developing there. Is the council really serious about Officer town centre? Thanks*

3.9 Other

There were five comments that did not align with the other categories. These included:

- support for the business community through education,
- request for artwork studios,
- process (requesting that Council follows the majority of opinions), and
- lack of transparency with Council's asset management plan.

Responses

- *Support of the business community by facilitating business owner education rather than business functional education*
- *It's okay but put more to artwork studios and nicer places for people to visit*
- *I firmly believe we need more animal Management / Local laws officers. These keep the Amenity of the areas looking better and can be self funding through registration door knocks. Less money should be spent on climate change as this is not a inherent requirement of the Local Government Act. Less money should be spent on Multicultural activities as this is not in the local government act either. Can we please try to fund Councils core activities first please.*
- *Hope you look at numbers and go with the majority not the minority as most councils and governments do*
- *Council plans to commit over \$318 million in capital infrastructure (excluding operating initiatives) over the next four years" - as a ratepayer, that figure could be anything. There is not data or evidence relating to your Asset Management Plan regarding renewals/upgrades or new facilities. It basically means communities are none the wiser and it is difficult to comment objectively and constructively. Any budget planning should provide details regarding your Asset Management Plan as required by legislation, if you want constructive analysis and feedback. Why don't you have an Asset Management Plan which is publicly available and can be scrutinized?*

3.10 Ineligible

Three responses were ineligible, not relevant or inappropriate and have been excluded from the analysis.

Responses

- *Yeah I TOTALLY Want better drains for my children rather than better schools, heaps of ovals so they can eat their greens healthier and get big strong liddle fiddle bones so they can fight off the bullies, ooh maybe they can run across bridges and pretend they're Indiana jones while they're at it! Great budget, nice.*
- *This budget is not quite to be treasured swap the less with more and more with less with community still remaining more, then it is of good value.*
- *My mum is sad you made her very sad today.*
- *Best feedback I can give is to sack your entire planning department, they do absolute Jack anyway so no real loss. Maybe put in some people who actually want to do.*

4 Conclusion and next steps

The feedback provided by survey respondents was diverse and varied, including various levels of support and the topics. Respondents presented a variety of opinions on different areas of Council funding.

Council will consider the community feedback along with other relevant factors that impact the 2023-24 Budget at the workshop on 5 June 2023. The 2023–24 Budget will be considered for adoption at the scheduled Council meeting on 26 June 2023, as shown in Figure 4 below.



Figure 4: Timeline for the 2023–24 Cardinia Shire Council Budget

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Capire acknowledges
and deeply respects the
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the Traditional Owners
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