



Merri-bek
City Council



Merri-bek Context report

**Overview of community
engagement from 2020-2024**

November 2024

Contents

1. Overview	4
2. Participation	8
3. Key Topics	11
Environmental sustainability	12
Transport and safety	16
Empowered, collaborative and financially responsible	18
Health and wellbeing	22
Public places and spaces	24
Appendix A	
List of engagement reports summarised	27



1. Overview

Merri-bek City Council (Council) is committed to an open and ongoing dialogue with the community. Over the past four years, thousands of Merri-bek community members have shared their feedback, helping make important decisions, shape key projects and improve Council policies. This report summarises the key topics we heard across these important conversations.¹

About this report

This report is based on community engagement summaries available on Conversations Merri-bek; Council's online engagement platform.

It provides an overview of the community's values, aspirations and priorities that were shared during engagement between 2020-2024.

Note: Some of the participation data captured is inconsistent. Some engagement reports capture the total number of participants at each in-person event and online engagement, while other reports only provide data on the number of events held, and do not report the number of participants.



¹ Please note, that this report does not include reference to every consultation that occurred between 2020-2024

Timeline of key engagement activities and Council milestones 2020-2024



The following engagements are those that were identified by Council as being of particular significance to ongoing strategic planning due to their topic, levels of participation, or broad relevance to the Merri-bek community.

2019

- **Zero Carbon Merri-bek** – community engagement to provide input on the goals and actions in the draft Zero Carbon Moreland Action Plan.

2020

- **New Merri-bek council is elected.**
- **Imagine Moreland** – community engagement to create the new community vision and council plan.
- **Local Government Act** – sets out principles for community engagement for local governments in Victoria.
- **Other 2020 Key Projects** – Integrated Water Management Strategy and Glenroy Community Hub.

2020 - 2021

- **Kerbside Waste Reform** – community engagement to introduce a four-bin system.
- **Other 2021 Key Projects** – Children, Young People and Families Plan, Saxon Street Community & Cultural Hub, Climate Risk Strategy, A Park Close to Home – Kirrip Bik Park, Service Street, Coburg and A Park Close to Home – Citadel Park, Cardinal Road, Glenroy.

2020-2022

- **Intermittent Covid-19 restrictions**, with engagement largely online.

2023-2024

- **Outdoor Spaces & Places** – community engagement to inform the new Open Space Strategy.
- **Moving around Merri-bek** – community engagement to inform the new transport strategy.
- **The Coburg Conversation** – community engagement as part of an ongoing project. Council sought feedback on the renewed Coburg Library, public spaces, housing, supermarket and other facilities and services.
- **Other 2023/2024 Key project** – A Park Close to Home (Yubup Park, Frith Street, Brunswick and Michelle Gugliemo Park, Sydney Rd, Brunswick).

2023

- **Kerbside Waste Reform** new 4-bin service is implemented implemented.

2024

- **2024 Key Projects** – Living & Ageing Well Plan and Circular Economy Strategy – stage 1.

Engagement activities



The methods of engagement make a big difference to who can participate and how we receive feedback from the community.

Merri-bek Community Engagement Policy, 2024

Council connects with the Merri-bek community everyday through services, facilities, enquiries and everyday business of Council. This report focuses on engagement activities for key policies and projects.

Council has connected with the Merri-bek community using a variety of in-person and online techniques.

In-person engagement techniques

Pop ups at busy locations

Council Advisory Committees and Reference Groups¹

Focus groups

Internal Council engagement

Champions' networks (representatives and advocates from the community)

Phone calls and emails

Workshops for larger group activities



Online engagement techniques

Surveys

Social, or interactive maps (place a pin on relevant areas)

Discussion board

Submissions

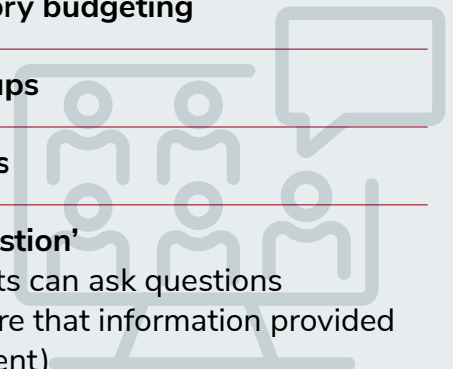
Quick polls

Participatory budgeting

Focus groups

Workshops

'Ask a Question' (participants can ask questions to make sure that information provided is transparent)



¹ Council currently has 16 Advisory Committees and Reference Groups that function as advisors and community experts to help Council make the best decisions for our community.

Conversations Merri-bek

Conversations Merri-bek is Council's engagement website. This is where you can find information about current and future projects, have your say through tools such as surveys and discussion boards, and learn about how your participation has helped to shape Council's policies and projects.

Conversations Merri-bek participation 2020-2024

243

projects launched on Conversations
Merri-bek between 2020-2024

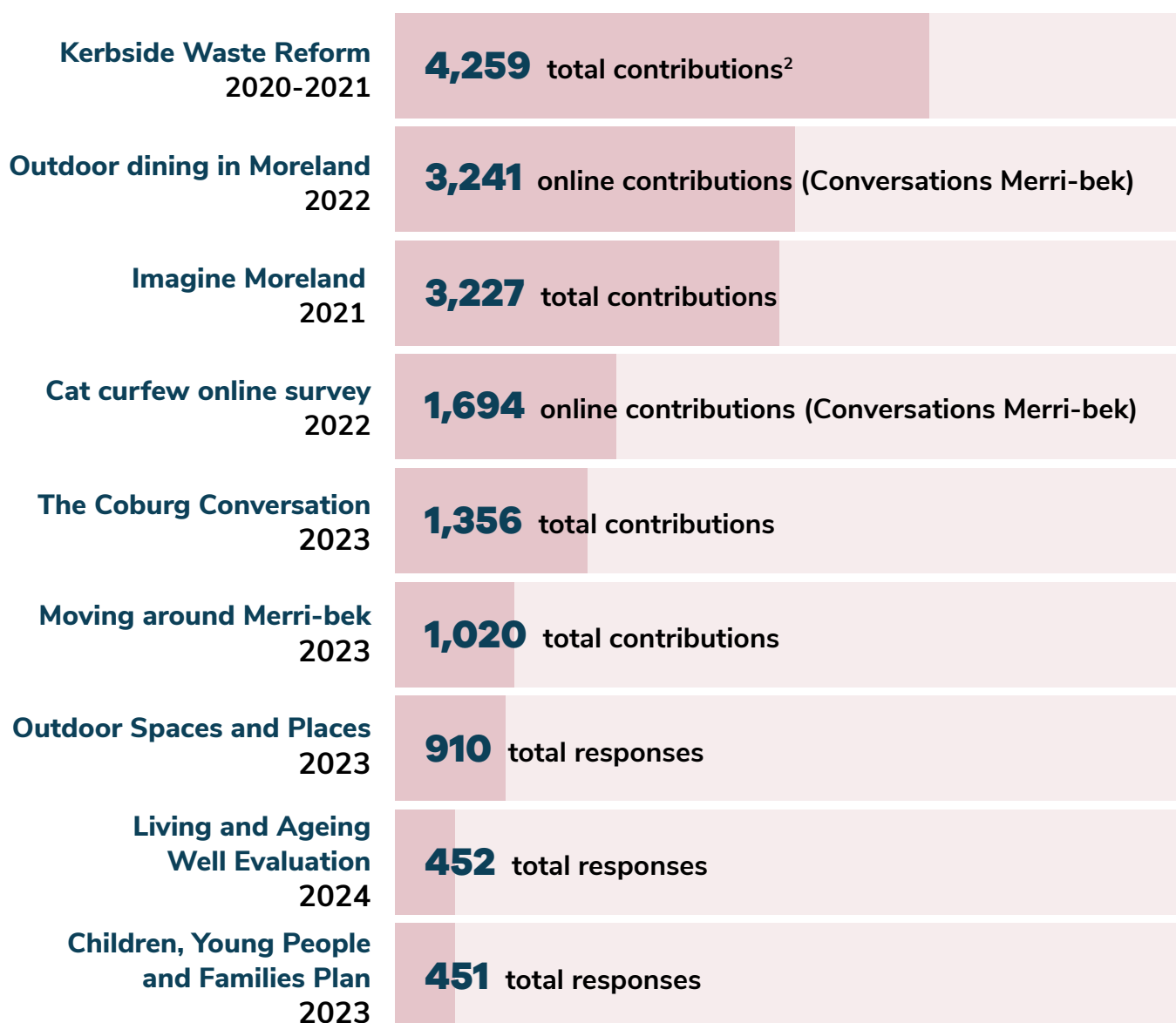
48,114

online contributions – items
of feedback submitted to
Conversations Merri-bek



2. Participation

Projects with the most participation included:



² A contribution includes participation in any online or in-person engagement activity, including online surveys.

Engaging with diverse communities in Merri-bek

The Merri-bek community is one of the most populated areas in Melbourne. Council has used different engagement methods to make sure it is reaching as many people as possible.

Some of the priority groups that Council tailored its engagements for include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, migrant, refugee and faith communities, people with disabilities and their carers, women, girls and gender diverse people, older adults and LGBTIQ+ communities.

Council has made sure to engage these priority groups through:

- **Surveys and content were translated** into the languages, other than English, most spoken in Merri-bek (Italian 5.8%, Arabic 4.5%, Greek 4.0%, Nepali 2.2%, Urdu 2.2%, Turkish 2% and Simplified Chinese)³.
- **Produced engagement reports in common languages** other than English (Arabic, Simplified Chinese and traditional, Greek and Italian)⁴.
- **Targeted engagement activities** with youth multicultural participants, multicultural women's groups⁵.
- **Representatives** from Council's Advisory Committees, Reference Groups and Youth Ambassadors attending workshops and meetings.
- **Targeted promotion** in common languages other than English.

Through the engagement to inform the Community Engagement Policy (2024), Council heard that age groups prefer different methods of engagement.

Council heard:

Older people 65+

Prefer **in-person meetings** at local libraries, neighbourhood centres or senior hubs

People aged 55-64

Prefer someone to come and **talk to them in-person** and ask their opinion

Younger people aged 25-54

Prefer **online surveys**

³ The Coburg Conversation, Economic Development Plan, Review and implementation of the Transport Strategy, Moving Around Merri-bek, Imagine Moreland, and Open Space strategy

^{4,5} Imagine Moreland



3. Key Topics

The key topics that arose across all engagements have been summarised below. Each topic includes a description of key community feedback, and the 'hot topics' most important to the Merri-bek community.



Environmental sustainability

We heard the Merri-bek community value environmental sustainability. The community are supportive of Council projects for **climate action, kerbside waste, circular economy, biodiversity and conservation** and **protecting our waterways**. However, accessibility and mobility, cost of living and time are barriers to the community participating in these activities.



Transport and safety

We heard that the Merri-bek community want to use more **sustainable transport**. This includes **balancing active transport (walking and cycling), public transport, and private vehicles**. However, infrastructure needs to be upgraded to improve the **safety and access of transport** options.



Empowered, collaborative and financially responsible

We heard that the Merri-bek community want to continue to **work together with Council**. The community wants more transparent communication and for Council to improve inclusive programs and services.



Health and wellbeing

We heard that physical and mental health are very important to the Merri-bek community. **Social connection, accessible and inclusive community facilities, physical activity and recreation, connection to nature and food security** is important for health and wellbeing of the community.



Public places and spaces

We heard that the Merri-bek community value the **open spaces and green spaces**. There is a view that Council should **balance different perspectives on development** while protecting and expanding green and open spaces. The Merri-bek community also value access to third spaces (multi-purpose spaces for community events and connection), as well as fostering the valued **arts and culture**.

The summaries are not based on projects that related to a topic, rather, they collate feedback from all projects and group it under one heading.

Environmental sustainability



We heard that environmental sustainability is very important to the Merri-bek community. This topic was a clear priority in projects that had an existing environmental focus such as the Zero Carbon Strategy, as well as in projects that were focused on planning for Merri-bek's future.⁶

Climate action

We heard the community supports continued climate action and progress toward Zero Carbon goals. They want Council to support solar (including for residents and renters) and more electric vehicles in the area⁷.

They also want to make sure Council and community can prepare for, and respond to climate change impacts.

Residents were invited to rate climate change risk concerns. The most important concerns were:

The most important concerns were:

- 50% were most concerned about more hot days and heatwaves
- 25 % were most concerned about intense storms or flash flooding
- 15% were most concerned about drought

Residents were invited to consider the risks that Council should prioritise.

- 36% voted both physical health impacts and plant and animal deaths
- 17% voted for property and infrastructure damage
- 52% voted that economic loss was least important.

The community would like further action to reduce climate risks including:

- plant and protect trees
- ensure drainage is clear of debris and cleansing to prevent flooding
- focus on health and coping with heatwaves
- work with private sphere such as with land developers and landlords
- planning controls to avoid new sources of excess heat such as industrial areas.

⁶ Zero Carbon, Circular Economy Strategy and Climate Risk Strategy, Kerbside Waste Reform, Planning Scheme Review Consultation 2022, Imagine Moreland, The Coburg Conversation and Designing our Neighbourhoods Engagement 2022

⁷ Zero Carbon; Imagine Moreland

Waste

The Kerbside Waste Reform was one of the biggest community engagement projects for Council. Circular Economy Strategy and Zero Carbon were also well received by the community.

Community engagement for the kerbside reform included:

- 4,259 responses were provided through the project, including:
 - three project stages
 - 3,122 survey responses
 - 19 workshops and
 - phone drop-in sessions.

In July 2023, Council reformed the kerbside waste collection to a 4-bin service. The new service includes:

- weekly general rubbish collections
- weekly food and garden organics (FOGO) collections
- fortnightly mixed recycling collections
- monthly glass recycling collections.

We heard that parts of the community were not quite ready for fortnightly general waste collections, so we took a staged approach to implementation.



Circular economy

We heard the community generally support a circular economy with zero waste.

- We heard that people want to see an increase in information, workshops and courses to learn practical skills; funding for community initiatives to help reuse, repair, share/borrow or recycle items.
- People want more leadership from Council in supporting circular economy practices. People suggested that Council can support existing programs, as well as promote businesses and community groups that enable circular activities.



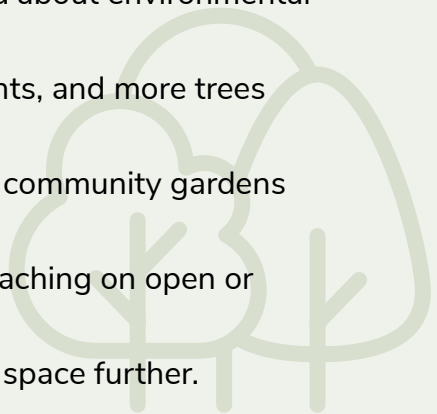
Environmental sustainability



Biodiversity and conservation

Many people provided feedback about the importance of biodiversity and conservation of the natural environment. The community value Merri-bek's open spaces and want improved greenspaces and opportunities to connect with nature. We heard:

- the community would like Council to protect parks, waterways and other open spaces
- conservation and environmental groups are concerned about environmental health and biodiversity in Merri-bek
- the community would like more native indigenous plants, and more trees planted overall
- the community would like more biodiversity corridors, community gardens and nature play
- some people are concerned about development encroaching on open or environmental spaces
- the section 'Public places and spaces' explores green space further.



Water

The community shared feedback about water management. We heard:

- It is important that Traditional Owner values, particularly in land and water management are represented and incorporated into the planning and management of the water cycle, ensuring the care of Country.
- Proposed actions with more than 90% total support include:
- Expand and improve green infrastructure such as raingardens, wetland sites through maintenance, revegetation and renewal programs
- Construct ore wetlands and naturalise creek corridors to retain and treat stormwater
- Construct more raingardens
- Construct more stormwater harvesting system for sportsfields.
- The community support the 'Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek' project and future improvements to the Moonee Ponds Creek.
- The most support was for environmental sustainability including converting the concrete drain into a more natural creek, plant native flora, trees and edible plans and install more rubbish bins along the creek.

Key Council initiatives

- Merri-bek reformed the kerbside waste service to a new four-bin service that separates general rubbish, mixed recycling, food and garden organics and glass recycling.
- Merri-bek supported Plastic Free Sydney Road, offering tailored advice to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic for hospitality businesses. Over 14 months, 29 businesses collectively reduced over 370,000 pieces of plastic.



Transport and safety



We heard the community need safer, accessible, and more connected sustainable transport options across Merri-bek. Many people said that public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure needs to be improved so people can choose more sustainable transport.⁸

Preferred modes of transport

We heard that Safe, Accessible, Sustainable, Healthy, Liveable, Inclusive transport is very important to the community.

The five most common modes of transport currently used to move around Merri-bek are⁹:

Car – **62%** Bike – **6%**

Walk – **21%** Other – **1%**

Public transport
– **10%**

In the future, the modes of transport people said they would like to use more are¹⁰:

Bike – **55%** Bus – **27%**

Walk – **42%**

Tram – **40%**

Train – **36%**



⁸ Zero Carbon; Imagine Moreland; Moving Around Merri-bek

⁹ Source: Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity 2020

¹⁰ Source: Moving Around Merri-Bek, 2023

Sustainable transport

- The community want upgrades to safer public transport (trams, trains and bus), active travel (walking and cycling) and electric vehicle use so they can reduce car use.
- We heard that safe cycling infrastructure, bike lanes, better signage and waymarking will would make people feel more safe walking and cycling. This would encourage more people to use these options.
- We heard that older people and people living with disabilities are worried that more public transport and cycling infrastructure will mean less car parking for private cars.
- We heard that the community want more pedestrian friendly streets. They would like to explore ways to slow traffic, such as reducing speed limits, adding speed humps, and expanding bike lanes.
- We heard that better footpath conditions was a key concern for older adults to be able to move around safely.

Safety and access of transport

- We heard that when people do not feel safe, they do not choose active and sustainable transport options like public transport, walking or cycling.
- We heard there people want pedestrian paths and crossings, bike lanes and parking facilities to be improved. This is particularly important for older people and people living with disabilities.
- We heard that the community are supportive of Council's advocacy to make tram stops more accessible.



Key Council initiatives

- Merri-bek has reduced the speed limit on all local roads previously with a 50 km/h speed limit to 40 km/h to ensure everyone in Merri-bek can walk, ride, and drive safely on the streets.
- Council is advocating to the Victorian Government to bring improved access to public transport, including bus and tram routes. This includes increasing the number of trains on the Upfield and Craigieburn railway lines and providing accessible tram stops.

Empowered, collaborative and financially responsible



Empowering people to work with Council is important to the community. This means making sure Council communicates with communities transparently and inclusively. It also means that Council's financial planning responds to community needs and aspirations.¹¹

Working together with Council

- We heard that the business community want Council to improve engagement with local businesses.
- Local businesses are facing many issues and want to understand how Council staff and programs can help them.
- We heard that Council can support business owners through training and networking events to build a sense of community.
- Community groups expressed the desire to work more closely with Council to deliver programs and services across LGBTQIA+, older people, and Zero Carbon. The Zero Carbon 2030 report shared that staff want better connection between action plans and work delivered by Council (Zero Carbon).

Transparent communication

- We heard the community want to be kept informed. They value transparent two-way communication between Council. The community suggested online platforms could be improved for better communication between Council and the community.
- We heard the Council website can be hard to navigate for some people.
- We heard a suggestion to showcase older people in Council communications, and include a section for older people in the Council newsletter. There is a desire to increase the capacity and confidence of older people to engage with digital media.

¹¹ Merri-bek Economic Development Action Plan 2024-2027; Zero Carbon; Living and Ageing Well 2024; LGBTQIA+ Action Plan engagement 2023; Disability Access and Inclusion Plan; The Coburg Conversation Budget Ideas Submissions 2022-2024



Inclusion

- We heard the community feel that generally the Merri-bek community is inclusive, Council staff have inclusive attitudes, and that Council is endeavouring to improve inclusion within the community.
- There are opportunities to enhance inclusion and collaboration across Council engagements. Council can do this by upskilling staff and embedding policies and procedures relating to LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Council can also take intersectional approach support LGBTQIA+ communities and ensure services are available across all life stages.
- This includes activities and spaces that cater to different ages and needs, including longer opening hours.

The section 'Public places and spaces' further discusses inclusion and accessibility of public places and space.

Key Council initiatives

- Over the past four years, Council has responded to community need for more inclusive and accessible facilities including neighbourhood houses, leisure centres, outdoor exercise equipment and libraries.
- Council has upgraded toilet access at the new Coburg Cycling Club room.
- It has also made improvements to the accessibility of it's parks and open spaces, including using more accessible topping at Bulleke-Bek Park so that wheelchair users can use the space.¹¹

¹¹ Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Empowered, collaborative and financially responsible continued



Budget

Council sets aside \$250,000 each year in the budget for Community Budget Ideas. Council invited the Merri-bek community to have their say in projects, initiatives, or programs to be included as part of the 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 budgets.

- At **Stage 1**, community members were invited to submit a project, initiative or program that Council could include as part of the budget.
- At **Stage 2**, the community voted on their top three projects.

Community Budget Ideas 2022

Stage 1

32

projects or initiatives
that met the criteria

Stage 2

1,412

people vote
on their top three projects

The Community Budget Ideas that were included in the 2022 – 2026 Budget were:

- \$160,000 to Hadfield Sporting Club Scoreboard and Coaching Box
- \$150,000 to Harold Stevens Athletics Track Fences
- \$87,500 to Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz (25 seats)
- \$70,000 for Community Access to a Commercial Kitchen
- \$60,000 for Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program (YHOP)
- \$10,000 to Northside Renters Rights Info Nights
- \$10,000 to K W Joyce Reserve Water Refill Station



Community Budget Ideas 2023

Stage 1

26

projects or initiatives
that met the criteria

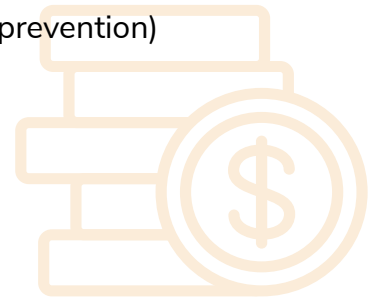
Stage 2

654

people vote
on their top three projects

The Community Budget Ideas that were included in the 2023-2027 Budget were:

- \$80,000 for shade structures program for playgrounds and parks
- \$33,000 towards Take the First Step Merri-bek (domestic violence prevention)
- \$10,000 for nesting boxes
- \$100,000 for accessible tennis facilities and reserves
- \$50,000 towards drinking fountains in shopping strips
- \$5,000 for increasing bins around parklands



Community Budget Ideas 2024

Stage 1

30

projects or initiatives
that met the criteria

Stage 2

1,223

people vote
on their top three projects
including 2 out of 3 who voted in person

The Community Budget Ideas that were included in the 2024-2028 Budget were:

- \$150,000 to accelerate the installation of sunshades over Merri-Bek's playgrounds
- \$40,000 towards installing more seats on walking routes to the shops
- \$60,000 towards installing drinking fountains in shopping strips
- \$59,000 for Take the Next Step Merri-bek (domestic violence prevention)
- \$60,000 for a half-court basketball ring in Glenroy
- \$30,000 free basketball court and soccer field for all of Fawkner

Health and wellbeing



The Merri-bek community want to be a healthy, inclusive, connected and caring community. Having access to social connections, community services and facilities, physical activity and recreation, connection to nature and food security is important to Council and the community.¹²

Social connection

- The Merri-bek community value connecting with other people and want more opportunities to meet people.
- We heard the community appreciate existing Council programs for older people such as tailored exercise programs, festivals including the Seniors Festival and Glenroy Festival, and community volunteering opportunities.
- We also heard that the community want Council to promote more services and events for social connection for young people, people with disabilities and their carers, older people, multicultural communities and women.
- We heard the community would like more festivals, events and art activities as ways to build social connection¹³.

Accessible and inclusive community facilities

- The Merri-bek community value inclusive spaces that are accessible to get to and accessible to use. People feel that Council is committed to access and inclusion in their service offering and programs.
- People suggested public places and spaces could be made more accessible.
- We heard the community want more activities and spaces for different ages, genders, abilities and cultures.
- We heard that physical access barriers are the main issues for people, mostly for people with a disability and their carers, and older people.

¹² Living and Ageing Well 2024; Community Engagement Policy Amendment 2024; Disability Access and Inclusion Plan; Children Young People and Families Plan; The Coburg Conversation; Arts and Culture; Open Space Planning; Moving Around Merri-bek; Food System Strategy; Community Food Hub Merri-bek

¹³ Arts and Culture; Imagine Moreland

Physical activity and recreation

- The Merri-bek community want to keep physically healthy through formal and informal exercise, recreation and connection to nature e.g. nature play. We heard that the community use open space for physical health and wellbeing activities such as exercise, sport, play and walking dogs. People want use open space for activites including yoga and fitness classes.
- There is a tension between land uses. Some people want to use open spaces for walking their dogs, while sports venues are worries that dogs damage the sports fields.
- Physical activity and recreation is important to older people. We heard that older people want to use outdoor exercise equipment but they need to be safe to use.



Food security

- We heard that 33% of Merri-bek residents have challenges accessing healthy food. We heard this is due to cost of living pressures, challenges getting to food shops, and poor food quality.
- We heard that people want to join local food programs. People said they want Council to do more to promote food services and programs and offer more ways for people to get free or low-cost food.
- A local food hub is a space for people to get free or low-cost food as well as connect with other people.

Key Council initiatives

- The new Glenroy Community Hub includes the Glenroy Library, Glenroy Memorial Kindergarten, Maternal child health services, A community health provider, Neighbourhood learning and childcare services.
- New equipment for older adults at ATC Cook Reserve Glenroy.
- Active Senior Clubs trial of on-site exercise classes at seniors clubs.
- 'Strong and Active' trial of new exercise program with support for people over 65+.
- Intergenerational Home Support Trial with workers aged 18-27 working with older people in the home.

Public places and spaces



Quality public places and green spaces are very important to the Merri-bek community. Many people said they like welcoming, unique spaces and places across Merri-bek. These spaces attract and connect people, improve access to community facilities and affordable housing, and encourage artistic social and economic activity.¹⁴

Open space

The Merri-bek community recognise that open space is important for enhancing and protecting the natural environment, habitat, biodiversity and bushland, ambience and health and as a way to 'escape' the dense urban environment.

- When surveyed, the top 5 things people reported to like about open space in Merri-bek included:
 - trees (70%)
 - place to relax and unwind (68%)
 - creeks/ water (66%)
 - a reason to get out of the house (65%), and
 - place to meet up with people (63%).
- People use open spaces differently. Some people mostly use open space to meet people and friends; others participate in sports and health activities, socialise, or as a space for children to play.
- Many multicultural community members value open space for cultural and social activities.
- Young people value open spaces as places for playing and hanging out with friends.
- Older people value open space for wellbeing and social connection.
- While some people value open space for their dogs, some people want reduced access for dogs such as on sports fields or near park facilities like gym equipment and playgrounds.
- The top 5 things stopping people from using open space is dogs (13%), poor maintenance and landscaping (13%), safety concerns (11%), sports clubs dominating space (10%) and lack of lighting in open spaces (9%).
- People with a disability and their carers, and older people said infrastructure needs to be more accessible. This includes public toilets, unsuitable paths, inaccessible barbeques, unsuitable transport and parking near open space, and animal management.

¹⁴ Open Spaces and Places; Disability Access and Inclusion Plan; Open Plan Strategy Designing our Neighbourhoods Engagement 2022; The Coburg Conversation; Open Space Strategy; A Park Close to Home Planning Scheme Review consultation 2022; Arts and Culture

Green space

- The Merri-bek community value quality green spaces and green streets across the whole community. We heard the community want more green space, more outdoor gathering spaces and play areas.
- We heard from environmental groups that green spaces and waterways are important. The community want more native, indigenous trees planted, more biodiversity corridors and community gardens and nature play opportunities.
- We heard that there is a need for more seating, shade, toilets and lighting and improved safety of greenspaces, walking tracks and bike lanes.
- We heard the community want to protect the parks, waterways and other open spaces in future developments.

Third spaces

- We heard the Merri-bek community feel there is not enough community and public social spaces for a diverse range of people to gather and connect with others.
- People want more 'third spaces' (places other than work or home that build social connection). These public or semi-public spaces build community, connection, sanctuary, culture and life-long learning.
- These 'third spaces' can be open outdoor spaces or indoor venues, allowing for multipurpose use such as community events. They can include parks, community centres, libraries or cafes for play.



Balancing different perspectives on development

We heard different attitudes toward development occurring across Merri-bek.

- Some people do not like the type of change occurring in Merri-bek's Activity Centres.¹⁵ Some of their concerns included:
 - too many empty retail spaces and that more are receiving planning approval
 - poor quality of development occurring across the community
 - poor connection of new development to green space
 - development taking up green spaces, impacting parks, waterways and other open spaces.
- We heard some people want to reduce the number of car spaces because they have negative or unwelcoming atmosphere. However, there is a need to balance this as other people want to make sure that people who need cars (older people, and those with disability and carers) can access car parking spaces.

¹⁵ An Activity Centre is a designated part of Merri-bek that has mixed uses with housing, shops and workplaces. They are often focused around public transport and have different planning rules than the surrounding suburb



Arts and culture

- The community are proud of the arts community in Merri-bek and want to build on it. People feel the arts create community cohesion, and celebrate diversity. People want to see more artists, festival events and more activity everywhere (Arts and Culture; Imagine Moreland).

Key Council initiatives

- Completion of installation of public shade structures at Morgan Court, Glenroy, in 2020.
- As part of the Park Close to Home plan, Council opened new parks including Yubup Park at 14 Frith Street and Citadel Park at Cardinal Road, Glenroy. They also started works on new parks including Michelle Gugliemo Park at 260 Sydney Rd, Brunswick and York Street, Pascoe Vale South.
- Completion of streetscape improvements to the Gaffney Village Shopping Strip to revitalise the area and improve pedestrian amenity, walkability and presentation of the shopping strip, 2022.
- Upgrade of Hosken Reserve, Coburg North with new play equipment and garden beds, and the use of recycled materials. The addition of a new path and new exotic and native plants to provide summer shade and winter sun to the space, 2020.
- Improvements to open space infrastructure have included disabled toilet access at the new Coburg Cycling Club room and improvements to make local parks are more accessible, such as Bulleke-Bek Park, a new park in Brunswick which is designed to make it easier for wheelchair users to use this space.



Appendix A - List of engagement reports summarised

1. Zero Carbon Moreland
2. Kerbside reform stage 3
3. Outdoor Spaces and Places 2023
4. Urban Forest Strategy
5. Climate Resilience Strategy
6. Fawkner Leisure Centre Upgrade
7. Children, Young People and Families Plan
8. Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
9. The Coburg Conversation
10. LGBTQIA+ Action Plan 2023
11. Planning Scheme Review 2022
12. Designing our Neighbourhoods 2022
13. Merri-bek Economic Development Action Plan 2024-2027
14. Imagine Moreland
15. Merri-bek Circular Economy Strategy 2024
16. Arts and Culture Strategy 2023
17. Integrated Water Management Strategy 2040 – Towards a Water Sensitive City 2020
18. Community Budget Ideas 2022, 2023 and 2024
19. Annual Budget 2022, 2023, 2024
20. Climate Risk Foundational Action Plan 2023 – 2025



Merri-bek
City Council