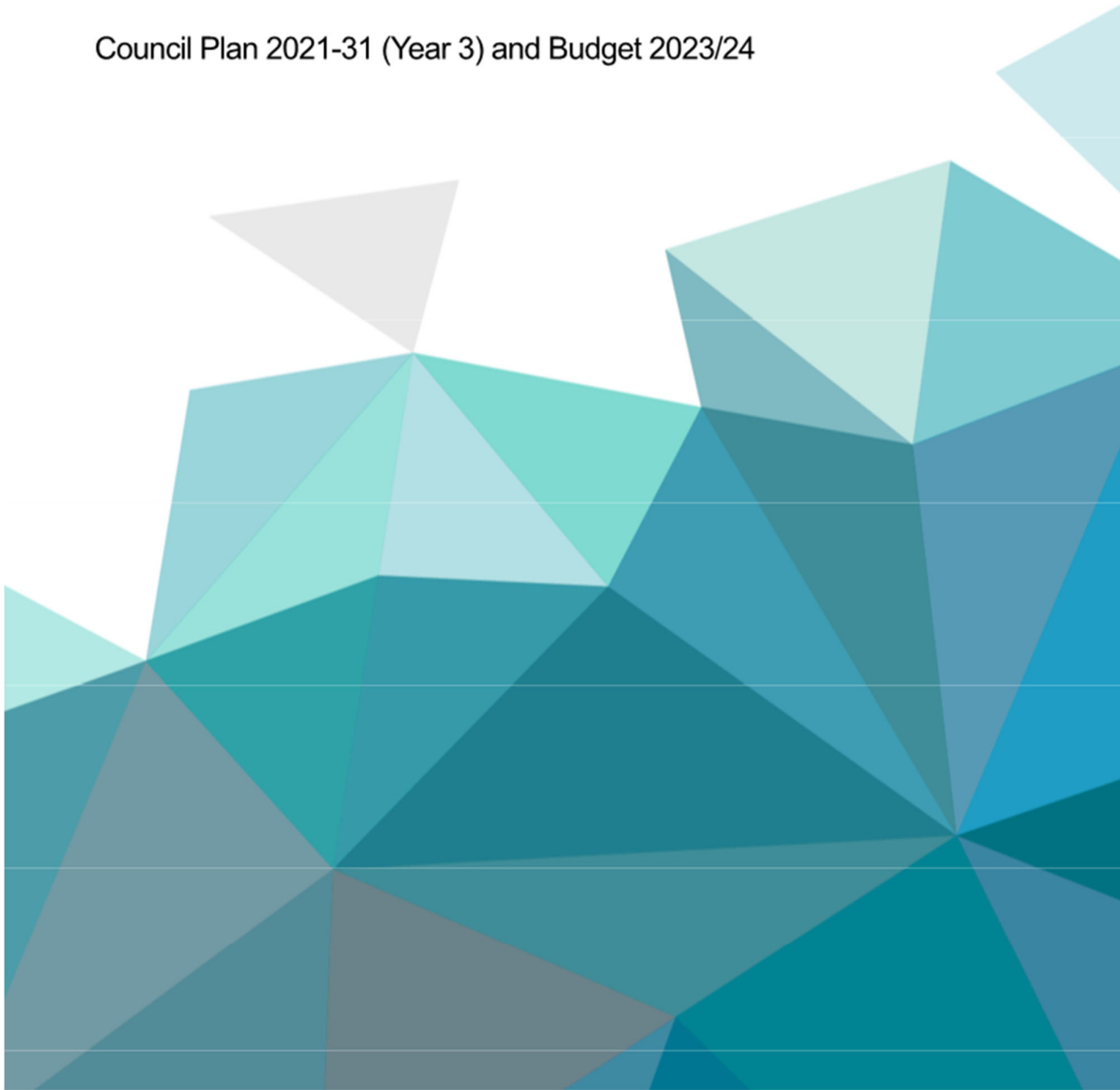




# Interim Engagement Summary Report

Council Plan 2021-31 (Year 3) and Budget 2023/24



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## City of Port Phillip

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## Overview and Context

The Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Council Plan for at least four financial years after a general election.

This report provides an overview of consultation high-level findings. Findings are preliminary, subject to further review, and may be refined or adjusted in the Final Engagement Summary Report.



Figure 1: Council Plan and Budget Timeline

## Methodology

### Data collection

The engagement program consisted of eight neighbourhood pop-up sessions, an online survey (a paper-based option was also offered), and emailed feedback. Survey respondents had the option to respond to as many or few questions as they wanted, therefore participation rates for specific items varies.

The program was promoted via e-newsletters, the Council website, a media release, articles in Divercity, posts on Council's social media channels, a paid social media campaign on Instagram and Facebook, an engagement video, and through ASSIST staff. In total, feedback was received from 271 people.

Community members were also given the option to attend the 7 June Council meeting and present directly to Councillors.

### Analysis and processing

Feedback from all channels was processed in the same way.

Qualitative and quantitative feedback on the propositions put to the community were aggregated and presented back to Councillors to inform their decision-making.

Community requests for new initiatives, or to change initiatives included in draft Council Plan and Budget, were each assigned a unique identifier and sent to a Council Officer in the relevant area for review. The Officer is drafting a response and recommendation for Councillors to consider.

Additional community feedback items, such as clarification questions or items not directly related to the Council Plan and Budget process, were 'noted'. These items were also assigned a unique identifier and reviewed by a Council Officer in the relevant area. These community members will receive a written response to their question or concern.



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## Reporting

This interim report provides detail on the community engagement and findings.

An independent consultant – Cochrane Research Solutions – was engaged to assist in data analysis and reporting. They provided advice on this report, and are currently preparing the Final Engagement Summary Report which will be published on the website.

All survey respondents were given the option to receive a response to their feedback. This will be provided at the end of the process. All community members who emailed feedback will also receive a response.



# Findings

## Propositions put to the community for feedback

A number of propositions were put to the community for feedback via the survey and neighbourhood pop-ups. These were:

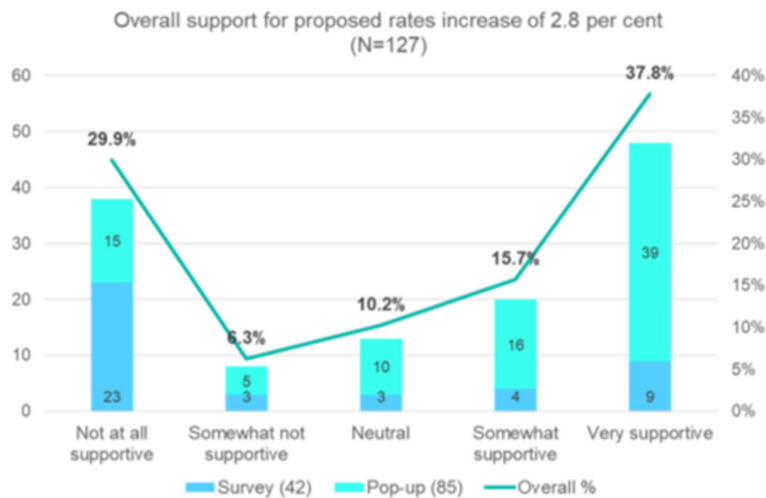
- Proposed rates increase of 2.8 per cent (survey and pop-ups)
- Proposed reduction to Cultural Development Fund (survey and pop-ups)
- Proposed changes to performance indicators (survey only)
- Proposed changes to waste and FOGO charges (survey only).

Feedback on each of these items is summarised below.

### 2.8 per cent rates increase

53.5% of respondents indicated they were 'supportive' of the proposed 2.8 per cent rates increase (calculated by adding 'somewhat supportive' and 'very supportive' responses). Of those who were not supportive:

- Some indicated they believe Council should adopt the full capped increase if a rates reduction means a cut to services and investment
- Others indicated they believe Council should freeze or decrease rates, not raise rates.

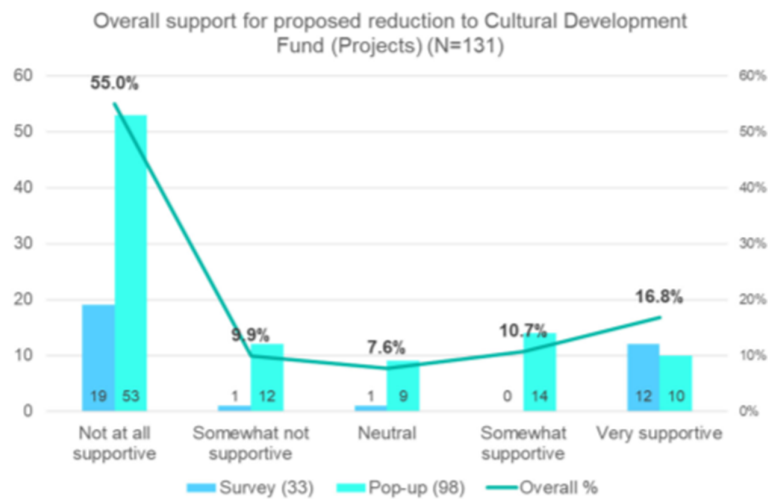


### Reducing funding to Cultural Development Fund

27.5% of respondents indicated they were 'supportive' of the proposed reduction in funding to the Cultural Development Fund (calculated by adding 'somewhat supportive' and 'very supportive'



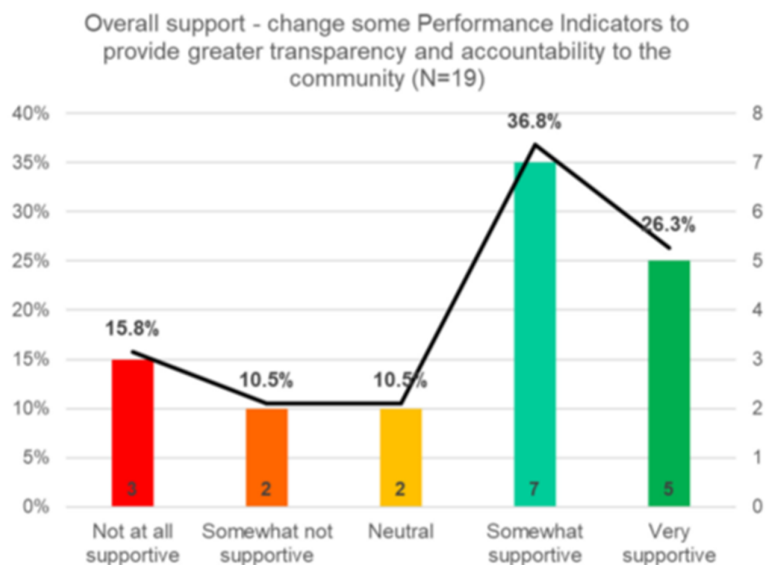
responses). However, analysis of the qualitative responses indicates this question may have been misinterpreted by some, with 5 participants who voted 'very supportive' leaving comments that seem to indicate the opposite.



### Level of support for changes to performance indicators

Response rates for this question were particularly low, with only 19 respondents. Of those, 63.1% indicated they were 'supportive' of the proposed new indicators, (calculated by adding 'somewhat supportive' and 'very supportive' responses).

Proposed new Performance Indicators	Target
Percentage of investment in fossil-free institutions	60% to 80%
Street cleaning audit compliance	>90%
Number of Council Plan initiatives on track	>80%
Percentage of audit actions completed on time	>80%
Proportion of projects on track	>80%
Council decisions made at meetings open to the public	90% to 100%



## Changes to waste charges

Four proposed changes to waste and FOGO charges:

- Introduction of a FOGO collection service for multi-unit dwellings and community hubs
- Change to default waste charge for commercial car spaces or storage areas
- Reduction in kerbside FOGO collection service charge for eligible single-unit dwellings
- Removal of waste charge for car park spaces or storage areas tied to an apartment dwelling.

Response rates for these questions were low, ranging from 22 to 26 people. Support was mixed, with:

- 30.8% supporting a FOGO collection service for multi-unit dwellings and community hubs
- 26.9% supporting changes to the default waste charge for commercial car park spaces or storage areas
- 40.9% supporting a reduction in kerbside FOGO collection service charge for eligible single-unit dwellings
- 53.8% supporting a removal of waste charges for car park spaces or storage areas tied to an apartment dwelling.

## Feedback on new or changed initiatives in the draft Council Plan

Community feedback on new or changed initiatives focused on:

- Bike Infrastructure Delivery Program
- Commercial Precincts Footpath Upgrades
- Act and Adapt Implementation Program
- Library Facilities Improvement Program (previously St Kilda Library Redevelopment).

Limited feedback was received about the other new or changed initiatives included in the draft Council Plan and Budget.

## Community requests

In addition to the responses to the key budget proposals, community members raised 26 initiatives they would like to see funded and/or supported. Note that where multiple people or organisations requested the same item, it has only been counted once.

These focused on requests to:

- Support various sports and community groups, e.g. through upgrades to facilities
- Improve accessibility and inclusiveness for specific groups, including LGBTIQ+ and older persons, e.g. through inclusive practice training for Council Officers
- Support various volunteer and not-for-profit programs and initiatives
- Upgrade or repair specific assets and facilities located within the City of Port Phillip (some of which are not Council owned assets)
- Upgrade or improve specific commercial and residential streets
- Increase budget allocation for certain areas, such as social and affordable housing, tree planting, and active transport
- Increase or improve certain Council-provided services, such as ASSIST hours.

Each of these requests is being considered by Councillors.

## Items noted

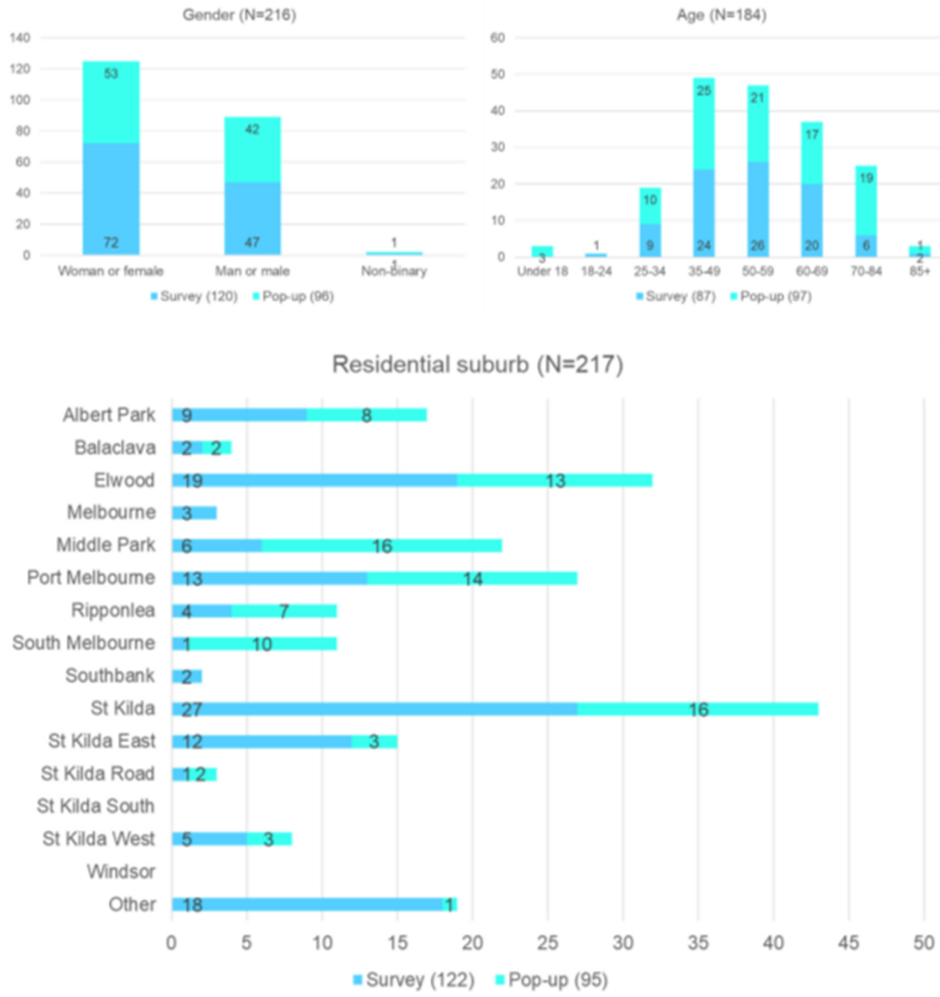
In addition, 119 feedback items have been noted being questions, suggestions or feedback that do not require additional funding. They focused on items that are already included in the draft Council Plan and Budget, or that will be addressed through Council's business-as-usual activities. Council officers will provide individual responses to the community members who raised the 119 feedback items.

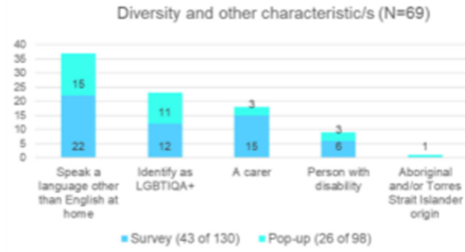
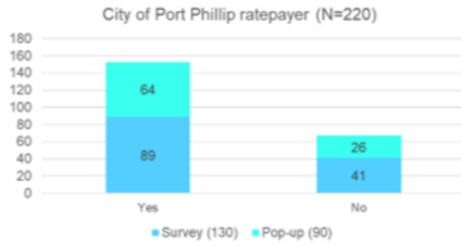
Of particular note is the number of respondents who expressed support for the EcoCentre and advocated for them to receive the maximum lease option.



# Description of Participants

The graphs below provide a summary of respondent demographics.





## Survey Questions

**This survey will ask you a range of questions about the draft Council Plan and Budget. You can answer as many or as few questions as you like, however we encourage you to answer all questions.**

1. Which of the following proposed items would you like to provide feedback on?
  - Rates increase
  - New or adjusted initiatives in the draft Council Plan
  - Other initiatives or services you think are missing
  - Changes to the Cultural Development Fund (Projects)
  - Changes to waste charges
  - Changes to performance indicators.

**Cost of living pressures across our City, from rising inflation to interest rates, have been front of mind this year. This is why we are proposing a rates increase of 2.8% – lower than the Victorian Government’s 3.5% rates cap and well under the expected 4.5 per cent inflation rate. [You can read more about the rates increase here.](#)**

2. How supportive are you of this? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

*The impact to our 23/24 draft Budget of adopting a lower rate rise is about \$900,000. The impact to our 23/24 draft Budget of adopting a lower rate rise is about \$900,000. The accumulated impact over 10 years is \$11 million less in rates collected. This is the first time we have proposed an increase below the rates cap, introduced in 2016/17.*

**A range of new or adjusted initiatives have been added to the draft Council Plan. Please provide your feedback on these new or adjusted initiatives. [You can read more about these initiatives here.](#)**

3. Please provide your feedback on these new or adjusted initiatives.
4. Please tell us about the other initiatives or services you think should be included in the draft Council Plan or Budget.

If you would like to upload any documents about these initiatives or services, you can do so here.



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**We are considering reducing funding to the Cultural Development Fund (Projects) from \$187,000 to \$100,000. [You can read more about the CDF here.](#)**

5. How supportive are you of this proposal? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

Please tell us why you chose this response, and how this change would affect you or your community.

**Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection is being rolled out to multi-unit dwellings and communal hubs from mid-2023. To reflect the different levels of service and cost between single-unit and multi-unit dwellings, we propose to fund this service from the default waste charge. This means we would not introduce a separate charge for FOGO collection for multi-unit dwellings. To meet the increasing costs of waste, we propose to increase this default waste charge from \$176.20 to \$198.20.**

6. How supportive are you of this change? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

**Previously, owners of eligible single-unit dwellings were charged an additional \$88.10 for kerbside FOGO collection. To reflect the different levels of service and cost between single-unit and multi-unit dwellings, we propose to keep this charge, but reduce it to \$66.00. This would bring the total cost of waste charges for eligible single-unit dwellings to \$264.20, which is an overall reduction of \$0.10.**

7. How supportive are you of this change? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

**Previously, some apartment owners were charged a waste charge for their apartment, and another waste charge for their apartment's residential car park space or storage area. We are proposing to no longer charge this waste charge for car park spaces or storage areas that are tied to a dwelling.**

8. How supportive are you of this change? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

**We are proposing to remove the default waste charge for commercial car park spaces or storage areas, and instead charge a small amount (\$19.80) for incidental waste they may generate from commercial activities. This will not apply to commercial car park operators.**

9. How supportive are you of this change? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

Is there any other feedback you'd like to provide about the proposed changes to waste charges? *If so, tell us here.*



**We are considering changes to some performance indicators to provide greater transparency and accountability to the community.**

Performance indicator	Target
Percentage of investment in fossil-free institutions <i>(This is a proposed new indicator)</i>	60% to 80%
Street cleaning audit compliance <i>(This is a proposed new indicator)</i>	>90%
Number of Council Plan initiatives on track <i>(This is a proposed new indicator)</i>	>80%
Percentage of audit actions completed on time <i>(This is a proposed new indicator)</i>	>80%
Proportion of projects on track <i>(This is a proposed new indicator)</i>	>80%
Council decisions made at meetings open to the public <i>(This indicator is proposed to be removed)</i>	90% to 100%

10. How supportive are you of these changes? (Multiple choice - not at all supportive; somewhat not supportive; neutral; somewhat supportive, very supportive)

Please tell us why you chose this response.

11. Do you have any other feedback about the draft Council Plan or Budget? If so, tell us here.

