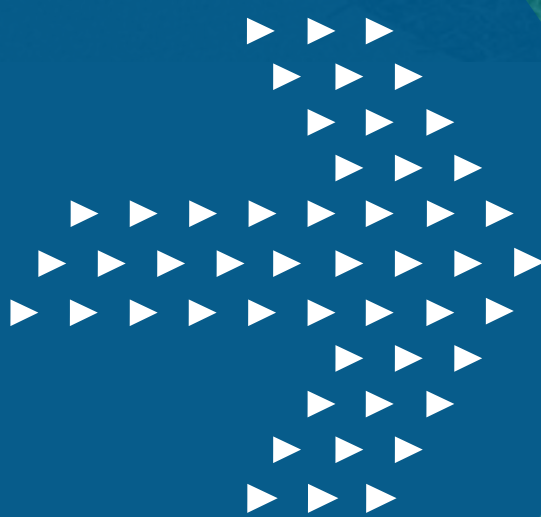




CHIRNSIDE PARK STRUCTURE PLAN

Issues and Opportunities Paper
Community Engagement Report

February 2026

THE PROJECT

Introduction

This Engagement Report provides a summary of the feedback received during community consultation in September and October 2025 on the Issues and Opportunities Paper for the Chirnside Park Structure Plan.

Project Overview

Chirnside Park is a major activity centre that provides access to a range of shops and services, transport options, housing and recreation opportunities. It plays an important economic role in Yarra Ranges and is home to around 12,000 people.

A Structure Plan will develop a shared vision for Chirnside Park and guide the development of the centre over the next 20 years. It will provide a coordinating framework for the future growth and development of the activity centre, with a focus on land use, transport, open space, local economy, local infrastructure and urban design.

The Structure Plan is a significant piece of strategic work that will be progressed over 18-24 months. It will include community consultation at each stage to ensure it incorporates the needs and aspirations of the local community.



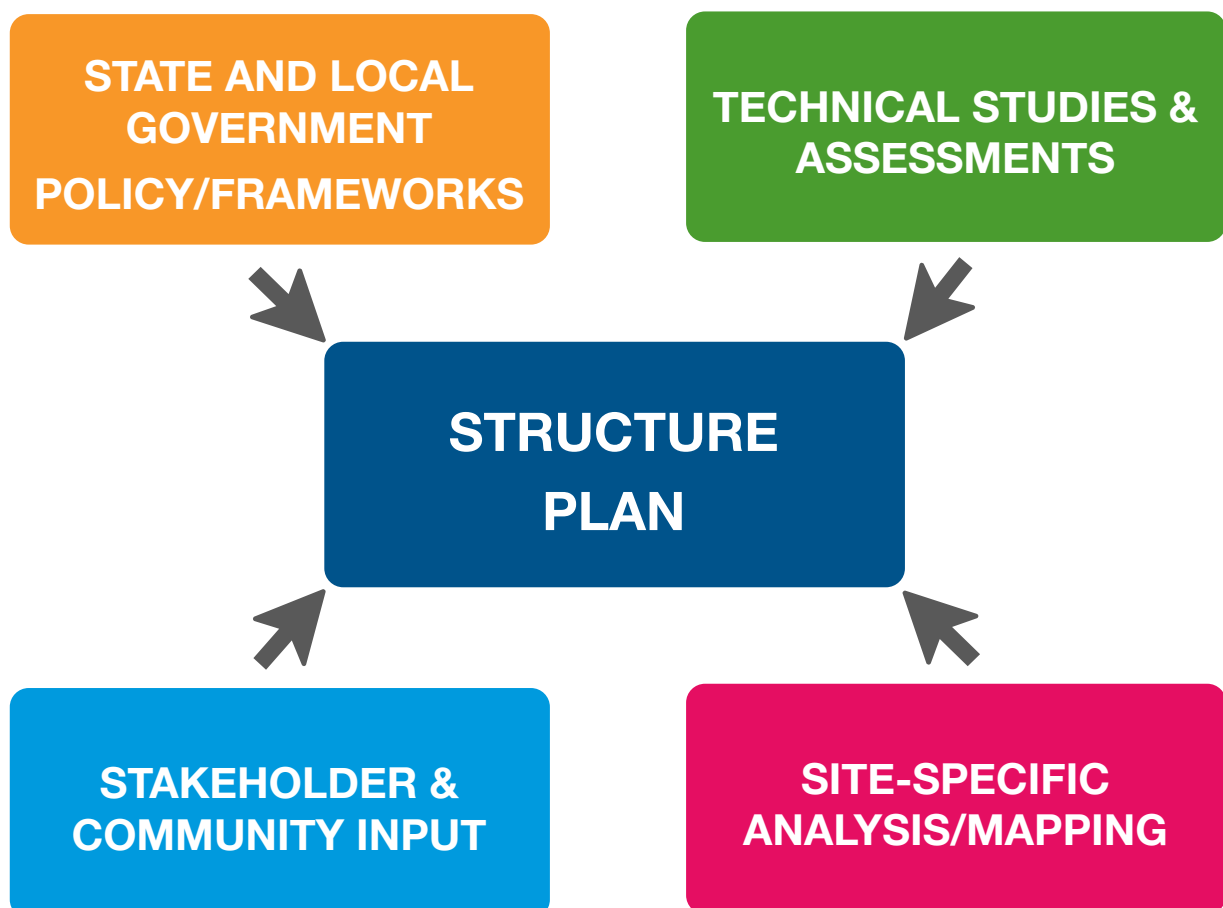
FEEDBACK

Issues & Opportunities Paper

The Issues & Opportunities Paper was designed to start the conversation with the community. It looked at the challenges the activity centre is facing and suggested ways to consider them.

Consultation on the Paper was open between **9 September 2025** and **19 October 2025**. The purpose of the consultation was to raise awareness of the project and to gather feedback on the opportunities identified in the paper.

This Engagement Report provides a summary of the feedback provided during the consultation. The feedback is one of a number of inputs that will help inform the draft Chirnside Park Structure Plan.



HOW WE ENGAGED



6 week engagement period from 9 September to 19 October 2025.



1,534 page views of the Shaping Yarra Ranges Chirnside Park Structure Plan page from 1,109 unique visitors, the Summary Brochure was downloaded 245 times and the Issues & Opportunities Paper was downloaded 258 times



Email campaign sent to 2,461 recipients through Shaping Yarra Ranges plus direct emails to key stakeholders and community groups



Social media advertising through Facebook reached over 17,000 people with 200 link clicks



Combined posts with the local traffic project on Facebook and Instagram received 37,271 and 1141 views respectively



107 letters were sent directly to business owners within the study area



433 postcards were delivered to residents within study area to advertise the community consultation



Posters and signs were placed in the CIRE community hub and parks within the study area



Articles about the Chirnside Park Structure Plan were published in three local E-Newsletters in September and October which were delivered to approximately 11,100 subscribers



Postcards & hard copies of the summary document were available at pop up stalls and CIRE Community Hub



Website Visitors came from:

- Social Media Channels 29%;
- Direct to Shaping Yarra Ranges 39%;
- Websites 4%;
- Search Engines 8%;
- Email campaigns and scanning the QR code on Posters/Postcards 19%.



WHAT WE HEARD



Online – 58 people completed the survey providing a total 364 responses to nine questions on the Shaping Yarra Ranges Chirnside Park Structure Plan page. Information on respondents age, gender and connection to Chirnside Park is included in Appendix 1.



In person - approx. 300 people visited the 5 pop up stalls which were held at various times at:

- Cire Community Hub on 17 September & 9 October 2025
- Belsay Reserve on 24 September 2025
- Chirnside Park Shopping Centre on 2 October 2025
- Bunnings in Chirnside Park on 11 October 2025



Email – four email responses were received from residents and key stakeholders.



id Community Views – survey responses from 51 residents about their priorities, values, and experiences. This was conducted as part of Council's broader engagement rather than specific to this project.



Yarra Ranges Council • Follow

Yarra Ranges Council 19w

We're asking the community to share ideas on two important projects that will help shape Chirnside Park:

- Chirnside Park Structure Plan – guiding how the local area grows and develops over the next 20 years, including housing, transport, open spaces and the local economy.

- Creating safer roads and paths in Chirnside Park – improving the local street network to make it easier and safer to walk and ride, while helping to reduce congestion.

Visit our website by clicking the link in our bio and have your say! Your feedback will help us build a Chirnside Park that's vibrant, accessible and welcoming for everyone.

12 likes, 1 comment
October 1, 2025

Log in to like or comment.

Have your say on Chirnside Park's future



We're asking the community to share ideas on two important projects that will help shape Chirnside Park:

Chirnside Park Structure Plan – guiding how the local area grows and develops over the next 20 years, including housing, transport, open spaces and the local economy.

Creating safer roads and paths in Chirnside Park – improving the local street network to make it easier and safer to walk and ride, while helping to reduce congestion.

Visit our website and have your say! Your feedback will help us build a Chirnside Park that's vibrant, accessible and welcoming for everyone.

Chirnside Park Structure Plan

Creating safer roads and paths in Chirnside Park

WHAT WE HEARD

This is a summary of all feedback received and grouped into themes. A detailed summary of responses is provided in the appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Summary of online responses to nine questions
- Appendix 2 – Summary of in person responses
- Appendix 3 – Summary of email responses
- Appendix 4 – Summary of key stakeholder feedback
- Appendix 5 - Summary of .id. community views

All comments have been reviewed and where relevant have been considered for the drafting of the Chirnside Park Structure Plan.



HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Feedback suggested:

- Support for more housing, recognising affordability pressures
- Preference for low rise, well designed housing
- Requests for single storey and downsizing options to support ageing in place
- Concerns about parking, traffic and design quality associated with higher density developments
- Importance of retaining backyards and space for gardens and trees
- Support for increased density only around the activity centre core



URBAN DESIGN, PLACEMAKING AND BUILT FORM

Feedback suggested:

- Protect and strengthen Chirnside Park's established character, maintaining its "city meets country" identity
- Avoid overdevelopment and retain low scale in current residential areas
- Provide for green space, trees and natural elements in design
- Support for sustainable design that reduces long term running costs
- Provide more community spaces, gardens, safe public places, and opportunities for cultural and recreational activities
- Activate and better utilise key sites (e.g., Lacola, industrial land behind Bunnings, Belsay Reserve interface)



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Feedback suggested:

- Strong support for community focused, local businesses and services
- Desire for a broader mix of shops, hospitality and entertainment places
- Development is constrained by poor parking, access and pedestrian connectivity
- Concerns about red tape and cost pressures on small businesses
- Commercial uses should be well located to protect residential amenity
- Need for improved infrastructure



ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Feedback suggested:

- Increased tree planting and urban greening
- Renewable energy leadership by Council
- Protection and enhancement of green spaces and biodiversity
- Improved maintenance of parks and natural assets
- Practical environmental actions such as better waste management and active transport infrastructure

"I would love Chirnside Park to maintain its character as a place which borders between the suburban and the grasslands"

"More native local trees on roadsides, trees for shade and cooling but also bird life and animals, plant more in car parks"



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Feedback suggested:

- Calls to upgrade and expand netball facilities at Kimberley Reserve
- Requests for more parks, playgrounds, youth activities and active spaces
- Calls for a swimming pool or aquatic facility
- Requests for indoor sports facilities or a multi purpose community hall
- Need for community hubs and gathering spaces, including facilities for seniors, young people and families



TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

Feedback suggested:

- Support for stronger public transport connections between Chirnside Park and Lilydale, Mooroolbark and Kilsyth
- Concerns around increased traffic congestion and parking availability due to new developments
- Support for shared paths, bike paths and footpaths to create better connectivity within the activity centre
- Calls for better maintenance of existing roads and paths, including pothole repairs, footpaths and shared paths
- Safety and speed improvements, especially along Kimberley Drive and Black Springs Road
- Improved connections across Maroondah Hwy and safer crossings near the shopping centre

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

The Issues and Opportunities Paper included question prompts at the end of each themed section. These questions informed the online survey that was made available through the Shaping Yarra Ranges webpage. A summary of the responses to each question is provided below.

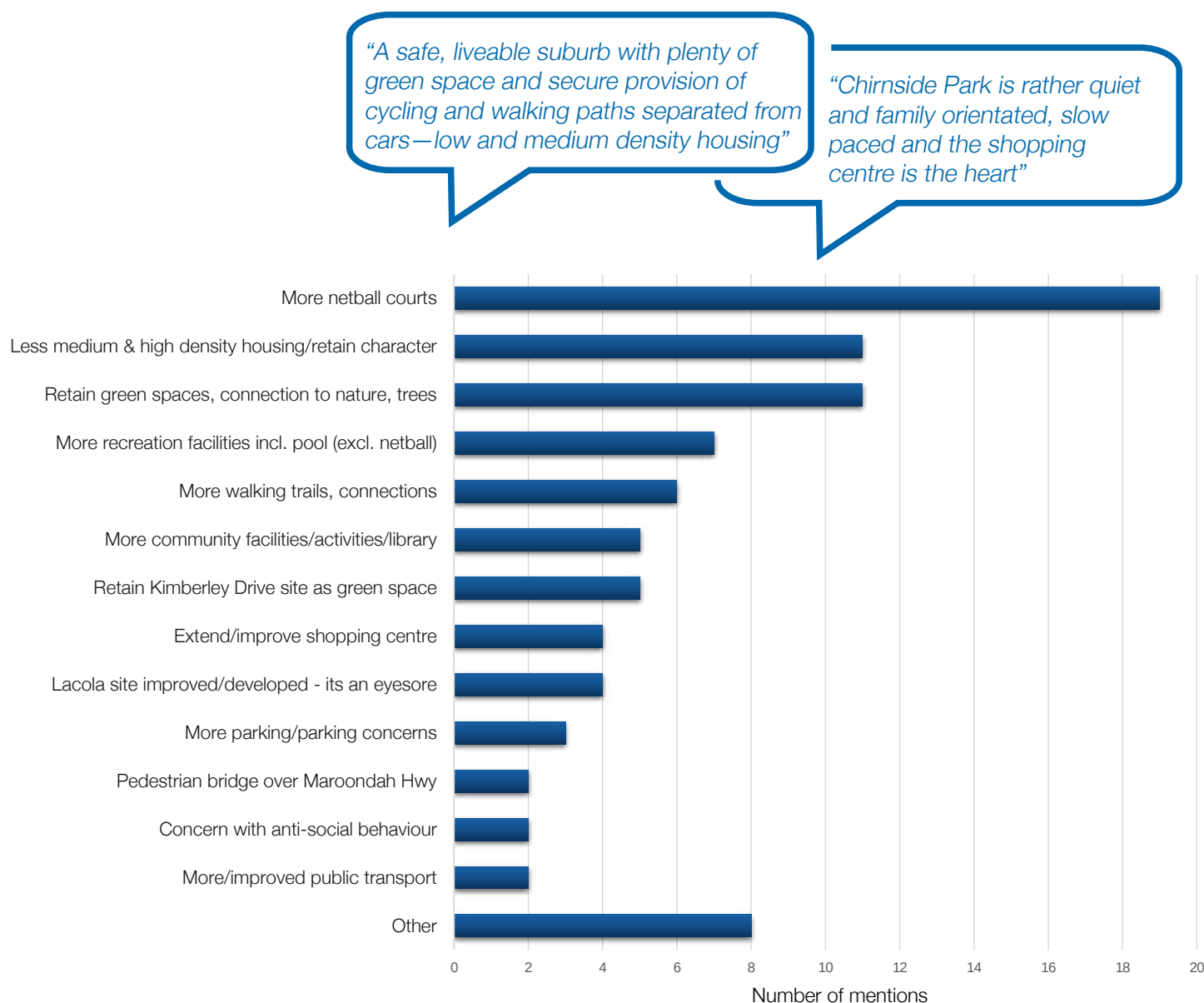
Question 1: What is your vision for Chirnside Park – what would you like to see in the future?

A total of **54 responses** were received to this question.

Approximately one third of respondents (19 of 54) raised the need for additional netball courts. This represents a notably high level of feedback on a single issue and suggests particularly strong interest from the netball community.

Aside from netball courts, dominant themes included the need to retain green spaces and a connection to nature, and for less medium and high density housing.

A summary of results is provided in the chart below:



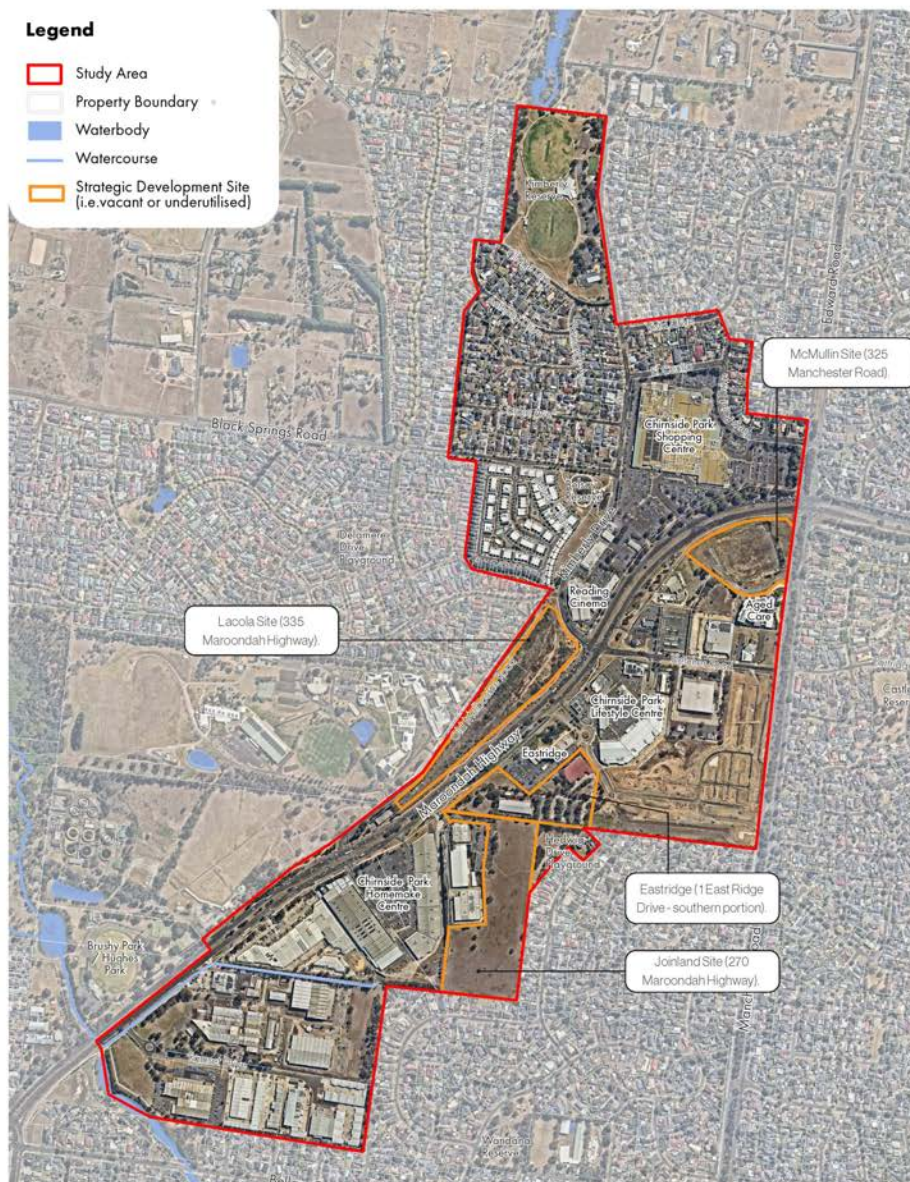
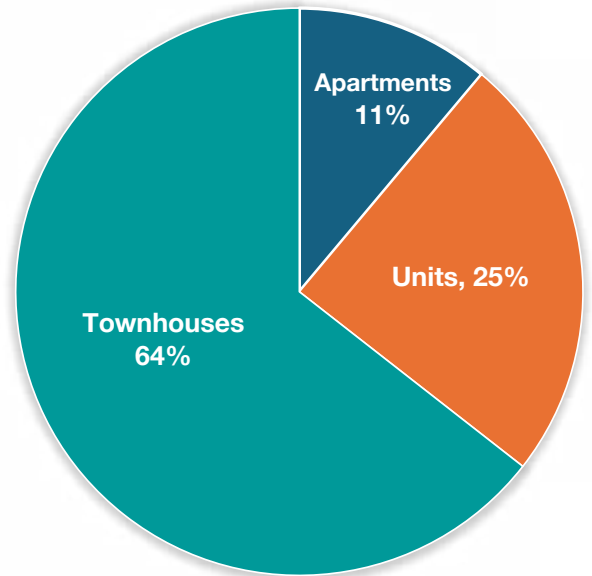
Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 2: What type of new housing would you like to see on the major development sites?

A total of **45 responses** were received to this question.

The major developments sites are the four large sites along Maroondah Highway that are vacant or underutilised:

- Lacola Site - 335 Maroondah Highway
- McMullin Site - 325 Manchester Road
- Joinland Site - 270 Maroondah Highway
- Eastridge - 8 Fletcher Road - southern portion



Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 3: What sort of businesses or services would you like to see and where?

A total of **42 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

Local businesses (22)

- Strong community interest in supporting small, locally owned businesses rather than large chains.
- Desired business types include:
 - Cafés and bakeries
 - Fresh food shops
 - Boutique retail stores
 - Op shops
 - Businesses showcasing local Yarra Valley and Yarra Ranges produce.

Food and hospitality (20)

- Support for a wider range of dining options:
 - Sit-down restaurants
 - Pubs and bars
 - Cafés (including outdoor and evening dining)
- Desire for food and hospitality options outside Chirnside Park Shopping Centre.
- Convenient fresh food options for everyday shopping.

Community, recreation and lifestyle facilities (13)

- Demand for a broader mix of facilities:
 - Swimming pools
 - Improved netball and sporting facilities
 - Leisure and cultural spaces with extended hours
 - Family-friendly venues
 - Entertainment areas near existing facilities such as the cinemas.

Planning & integration (7)

- Need for thoughtful planning, including:
 - Locating non-residential uses away from housing
 - Improving safety, accessibility, and parking
 - Better integration of new developments

"Support small businesses in their local areas"

Employment & economic development (9)

- Support for increased local jobs through:
 - Small businesses
 - Flexible workspaces
 - Broader job-generating uses
- Preference for expansion or upgrading of existing commercial areas rather than isolated development.

Health & community services (5)

- Requests for improved access to health services:
 - Private hospital
 - Ongoing provision of medical centres
 - Pharmacies, dental, and allied health services.

A further eight comments expressed general satisfaction with existing services.

"Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes outside of the shopping centre"

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 4: What changes or improvements are needed to support local businesses to thrive and to attract new businesses?

A total of **37 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

Parking and Accessibility (20)

Comments highlighted:

- Insufficient parking within the main activity centre
- Inadequate disabled and elderly-accessible parking
- A lack of on-site or nearby parking for businesses
- Poor pedestrian connections between business precincts (e.g. shopping centre, cinema, Dan Murphy's)
- Requests for safer pedestrian crossings, footbridges, walking paths, and bicycle access

Red Tape, Rates and Taxation (13)

Concerns were raised about:

- Excessive council and government regulation ("red and green tape")
- High council rates and business taxes
- Requests for reduced rates or incentives for new and small businesses
- Tax arrangements impacting part-time workers and small operators

Activity Centre and Shopping Centre Upgrades (11)

Suggestions for:

- Expanding or redeveloping existing shopping centre facilities
- Improved connections between the shopping centre and cinema precinct
- Second-story or mixed-use developments
- More open-air spaces to balance the scale and layout of large retail buildings

Transport and Road Infrastructure (9)

Feedback included:

- Repairing potholes and improving local road conditions
- Widening Maroondah Highway to improve traffic flow
- Safer pedestrian crossings and possible under grounding or bridging options
- Improved public transport access to the activity centre

These items were viewed as impacting safety, access, and the attractiveness of commercial areas.

Affordability and Business Costs (7)

Affordability was identified as a barrier to business success, including:

- High rents and overheads within shopping centers
- Requests for reduced or discounted rents for start-ups

Supporting Existing and Local Businesses (7)

Feedback suggested:

- Supporting existing businesses, not only attracting new ones
- Connecting local businesses with local workers, talent, events, and community activities
- Increased council promotion of local businesses
- Affordable access to community markets, fairs, and events

"The government needs to lay off on the amount of red tape and tax"

"Better car parking facilities including disabled parking"

A further 13 comments suggested more community and sporting infrastructure (5), a broader mix of businesses (4) and to increase demand through population growth (4).

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 5: How would you like to see more trees or green spaces?

A total of **39 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

More Trees and Indigenous Planting (15)

- Strong support for planting more trees, especially mature and local indigenous varieties for sustainability.
- Requests for native trees and grasses, including miniature gum trees.
- Emphasis on shade provision and biodiversity.

Specific Locations for Greenery (12)

- Kimberley Drive and Kimberley Road redevelopment areas.
- Maroondah Highway “eyesore” corner and vacant land near BP station.
- Nature strips, roadside areas, and walking tracks.
- Existing parks like The Parkway and Lancaster Park (outside study area)

Upgrading and Expanding Parks (10)

- Improve small local parks with better facilities and shady picnic areas.
- Add more trees to new playground areas (e.g., Chirnside Park opposite shops).
- Suggestions for new parks or green spaces as urban oases.
- Ideas for botanic gardens and lake areas similar to Lilydale Lake.

Integration with Urban Design (6)

- Green walkways between restaurants.
- More bike paths and footpaths to encourage walkable, cyclable suburbs.
- Maintain foliage along roads and prevent overdevelopment.

Wildlife-Friendly and Sustainable Spaces (4)

- Parks supporting native wildlife with water sources and nesting habitats.
- Use of solar panels for outdoor car park roofs.

Concerns and Barriers (3)

- Issues with planting trees under powerlines.
- Scepticism about achieving greenery with proposed high-density housing.

“I would like to see appropriate steps to ensure greenery and community upheld through population changes/growth”

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 6: Are there any other environmental improvements you would like Council to explore?

A total of **33 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

Renewable Energy and Resource Efficiency (10)

Respondents strongly supported:

- Installation of water tanks and water-saving initiatives
- Increased use of solar energy, including panels on homes, shopping centres, libraries, activity centres, and council-owned facilities
- Community batteries and higher energy efficiency standards for new developments
- Incentives for households and businesses to adopt renewable energy solutions

Protecting Green Space and Limiting Overdevelopment (9)

Many comments expressed concern about:

- Loss of green land due to overdevelopment
- Retaining the “country feel” of the area
- Avoiding large apartment buildings and excessive subdivision
- Preserving land around the shopping centre as green space

“Plant more local trees and a diversity of them”

Trees, Native Vegetation and Biodiversity (8)

Respondents requested:

- Planting more indigenous and locally native trees
- Native plant diversity and wildlife-supporting vegetation
- Wildlife corridors with water sources integrated into new developments
- Encouraging native bees and habitat protection
- Native plant giveaways to residents

Maintenance of Parks and Public Spaces (8)

Several comments highlighted the importance of:

- Better maintenance of parks and community spaces
- Ongoing weed management
- Regular watering and upkeep of gardens

“All council owned properties to make use of solar panels and water tanks and encourage business owner to do the same”

Transport, Walking and Cycling (6)

Key suggestions included:

- Improved footpath connectivity to encourage walking
- More active transport options for cycling
- Reducing car dependency through better walking infrastructure

Waste Reduction and Litter Management (6)

Respondents suggested:

- Increasing hard waste collection to twice per year
- Including tip passes in annual rates
- Larger household bins
- Stronger enforcement to address illegal dumping and littering

Further mentions included water management and flood mitigation (4), urban amenity and climate protection (4).

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 7: What do you think makes Chirnside Park unique?

A total of **43 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

Urban–Rural / City–Country Interface (24)

The most consistently identified feature of Chirnside Park was its position as:

- A border between suburbia and the Yarra Valley
- “Not quite city, not quite country”
- A gateway or starting point to wine country and rural landscapes
- A place where farming land, green spaces, and suburban living coexist

Location and Connectivity (18)

Respondents identified Chirnside Park’s:

- Strategic location between Ringwood and Lilydale
- Accessibility to the Yarra Valley and outer eastern suburbs
- Bus links and proximity to regional destinations
- Convenience as a service hub for surrounding areas

Shopping Centre and Activity Precinct (15)

Many cited the Chirnside Park

Shopping Centre as a key feature, noting:

- Its scale relative to surrounding towns
- Its role as a regional shopping destination
- Proximity to Kimberley Reserve and residential areas
- Ability to meet most daily needs without travelling to larger centres

Sense of Community and “Small Suburb” Feel (14)

Respondents described:

- A strong sense of community connection and familiarity
- Feeling safe, friendly, and approachable
- A “small town” or village atmosphere
- A place where people feel comfortable and connected

Green Spaces and Natural Environment (11)

Key characteristics included:

- Kimberley Reserve and surrounding parkland
- Tree lined streets and curving roads
- General greenery contributing to visual interest and slower traffic
- Feeling close to nature even with nearby retail and services

Family Friendly and Liveable Environment (10)

Chirnside Park was described as:

- Family oriented with good amenities
- Safe and affordable
- A practical place to live with access to schools, services, and recreation
- Supporting everyday needs without the intensity of larger centres

“Maintain rural parts but build up central area around shopping centre”

“Keeping it low (no high rises), green, family friendly, yet very vibrant”

Further mentions included being “hidden away” or different from major centres (6), concerns over change, growth, and loss of identity (9) and that Chirnside Park is “just another suburb” not unique (6).

“Keeping new development in line with the area - nothing too modern”

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 8: What elements do you think are important in the design of new development?

A total of **44 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

Avoiding Overdevelopment and Managing Scale (26)

Calls for:

- Development that does not overcrowd the suburb
- Retention of a low rise, low density character
- Opposition to high rise or apartment developments
- Avoidance of “concrete jungle” outcomes
- Development focused on upgrading existing areas rather than continuous expansion

Built Form, Character and Visual Fit (22)

Suggestions included:

- Be visually consistent with the existing area
- Avoid box style or overly modern apartment buildings
- Use quality, durable materials
- Maintain open setbacks and human scale design
- Preserve the rural-suburban interface that defines the area

“Keeping it low (no high rises), green, family friendly, yet very vibrant”

Green Space, Trees and Natural Elements (21)

Suggestions included:

- Retaining and expanding green space
- Mature tree planting and landscaping
- Nature based design, including water filtration and shade
- Minimising hard surfaces and excessive concrete
- Supporting native vegetation and wildlife

Parking, Traffic and Access (18)

Suggestions included:

- Adequate on site and accessible parking
- Avoiding spill over parking in residential streets
- Minimising traffic congestion
- Maintaining reliable infrastructure services (e.g. power during storms)

Community Safety and Amenity (14)

Suggestions included:

- Public safety and crime prevention through design
- Good lighting, clear lines of sight, and passive surveillance
- Noise management and adequate spacing between dwellings
- Safe pedestrian connections, especially for children and teenagers

Sustainability and Future Proofing (13)

Calls or:

- Sustainable design that reduces long term running costs
- Solar access, daylight, and energy efficiency
- Water sensitive urban design
- Developments that age well and avoid short term trends

Further mentions included the importance of Accessibility, Connectivity and Inclusion (11) and suggestions for Community Infrastructure and Facilities (10)

“Maintain rural parts but build up central area around shopping centre”

“Keeping new development in line with the area - nothing too modern”

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

Question 9: Tell us more...

A total of **27 responses** were received to this question.

Most responses addressed more than one theme. Comments have been grouped into relevant topics, with the number of mentions shown in brackets.

Responses to this open-ended question reinforced several issues raised elsewhere in the engagement, with particularly strong emphasis on sporting infrastructure (especially netball), community facilities, active living, and avoiding overdevelopment.

Sporting Facilities - Netball (10)

The most prominent theme was the need for additional netball courts and upgraded sporting facilities.

Community Infrastructure and Gathering Spaces (6)

Support for:

- Dedicated spaces for community events and social interaction
- A town-square style civic space similar to Eastland
- Family and child hubs
- Facilities supporting parents working from home (shared or flexible workspaces)

"We need more netball facilities, I can't stress that enough"

Active Living, Youth and Wellbeing (6)

Planning should include:

- Active living and passive recreation
- Youth-focused outdoor spaces, particularly for teenagers
- Mental wellbeing considerations in new development

"More active spaces for teenagers to be outside and active with their freinds"

Avoiding Overdevelopment and Protecting Character (5)

Concerns included:

- High-rise development and "cookie-cutter" housing
- Overdevelopment threatening the suburb's leafy, pleasant character
- A desire to retain Chirnside Park as a low-density, community-focused area

Environmental Protection and Sustainability (4)

Issues raised included:

- Impacts of outdoor cats on wildlife
- Desire for eco-friendly, wildlife-sensitive development
- Ensuring new development is harmonious with the natural environment rather than "soulless"

Connectivity and Access (Walking and Cycling) (3)

Concerns included:

- Poor walking and cycling connections, particularly affecting Wonga Park residents
- Safety for women and children when travelling along busy roads
- Isolation from major playgrounds, shops, and services without car access

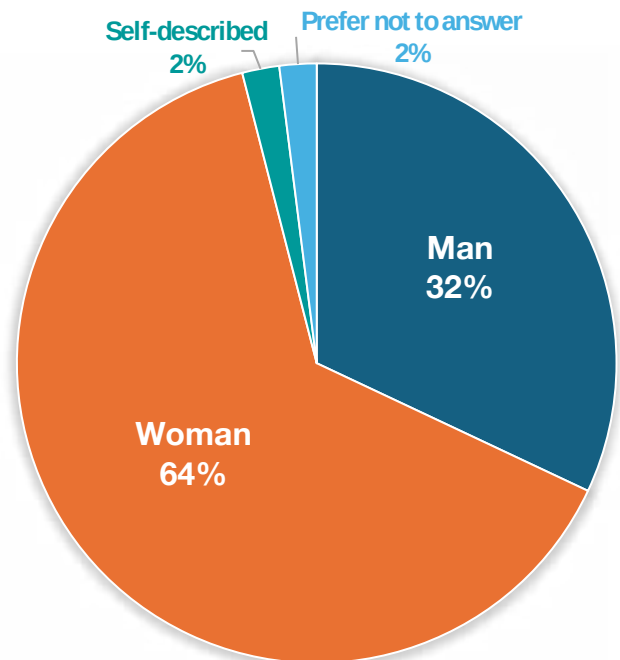
Further mentions included governance, trust and representation (3) and economic and employment considerations (3)

Appendix 1: Online Survey Results

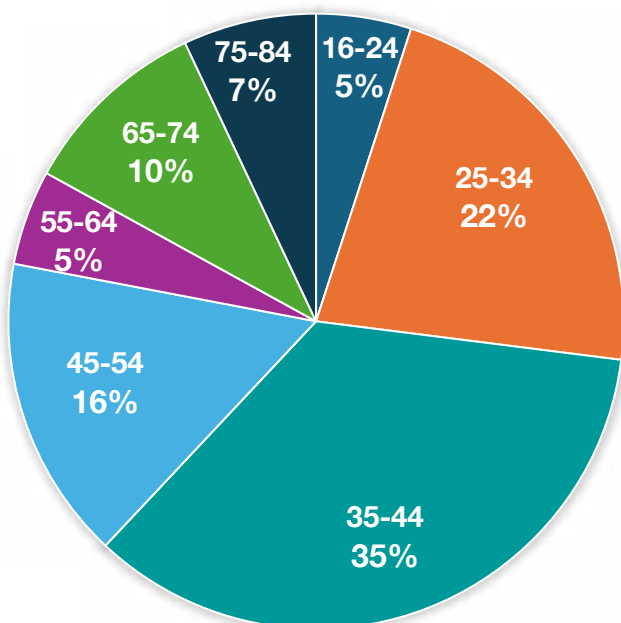
Who we heard from (online responses only)

A total of **58 respondents**.

How do you identify?

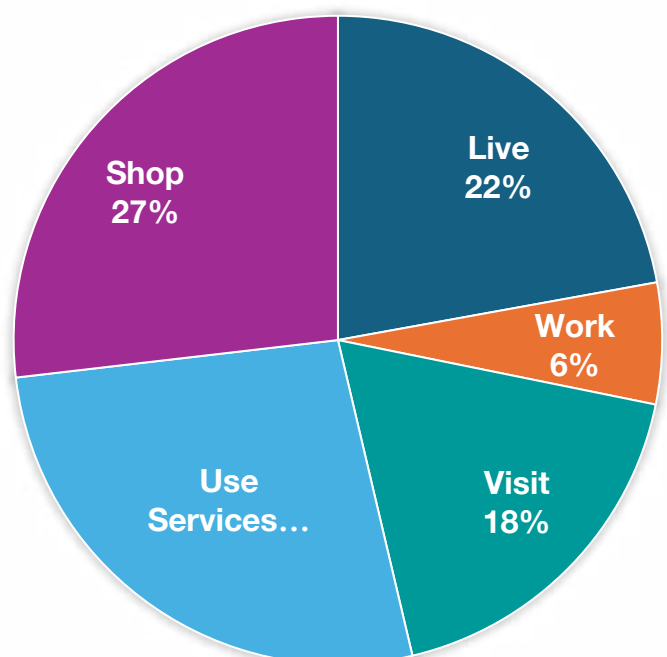


What is your age group?



0%, 85 years and over

What is your connection to Chirnside Park? (Could select more than one)



Appendix 2: In Person Feedback Summary

119 comments were captured from the in person engagement at pop ups

Overall sentiment

Feedback reflects strong attachment to Chirnside Park and a desire to remain in the area long term. Residents value the parks, safety, and access to shops but consistently identify gaps in movement and access, community facilities, housing choice, and the activation of key vacant sites, particularly the Lacola site.

Key themes and priorities

1. Movement, access and safety (68 mentions)

Residents are seeking safer, more connected walking and cycling environments alongside improved vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Key issues raised include:

- Requests for more walking and cycling paths, particularly linking neighbourhoods to the shopping centre and activity areas.
- Support for lower speed limits and traffic calming, especially along Kimberley Drive and local streets.
- Concerns about traffic congestion and car park access around the Chirnside Park Lifestyle Centre and shopping centre.
- Ongoing safety concerns crossing Maroondah Highway, with calls for an underpass or overpass and improved pedestrian crossings.
- Desire for better public transport frequency and cross suburban connections, particularly between Chirnside Park, Mooroolbark, Lilydale and Kilsyth.

2. Open space, parks and the environment (33 mentions)

Parks are seen as a major strength of Chirnside Park, with Belsay Reserve frequently highlighted.

Key feedback includes:

- Strong appreciation for existing parks and playgrounds, particularly Belsay Reserve.
- Requests for more shade, tree canopy and park maintenance.
- Concerns about car parking and access to Belsay Reserve during busy periods.
- Calls to fence the Belsay playground due to its proximity to roads and improve nearby pedestrian safety.
- Desire for more local walking routes and neighbourhood scale open spaces, especially in areas further from Lilydale Lake.

3. Community facilities and social infrastructure (21 mentions)

Residents identified a significant gap in civic and recreational facilities.

Common priorities include:

- Repeated calls for a swimming pool or aquatic facility.
- Requests for indoor sports facilities or a multi purpose community hall.
- Need for community hubs and gathering spaces, including facilities for seniors, young people and families.
- Suggestions for a library and more structured youth spaces and activities.

Appendix 2: In Person Feedback Summary

4. Key sites and place activation (23 mentions)

Vacant and underutilised land is viewed as both a problem and an opportunity.

Key sites raised:

- Lacola site (17 mentions): consistently described as an eyesore. Residents want clarity about its future and support redevelopment, with ideas including housing, community spaces, cafes, and increased tree canopy. Some expressed concern about noise or overdevelopment if height exceeds surrounding areas.
- McMullin site (3 mentions): seen as underutilised, with suggestions for redevelopment including accommodation or a stronger role in the activity centre.
- Eastridge site: concern about empty buildings and lost activation.
- More broadly, residents feel Chirnside Park lacks a clear “heart” or main street.

5. Retail, entertainment and the activity centre (19 mentions)

There is a desire for a more vibrant and diverse activity centre offer.

Feedback highlights:

- Lack of diverse retail, food and dining options that cater to different age groups.
- Interest in more entertainment and night time economy uses, including improved cinema integration.
- Mixed views on the Lifestyle Centre, with access difficulties and perceptions that large format retail does not create a strong town centre feel.
- Positive acknowledgement of EV charging facilities.

6. Housing choice and affordability (16 mentions)

Residents support growth, but with clear conditions.

Key points include:

- Support for more housing supply, recognising affordability pressures.
- Strong preference for low rise, well designed housing, rather than high density or high rise forms.
- Requests for single storey and downsizing options to support ageing in place.
- Concerns about parking, traffic and design quality associated with denser townhouse developments.

Appendix 3: Email Feedback Summary

Summary of feedback provided by email

The following points were made through email submissions from community.

- Protect the amenity, safety and wellbeing of existing residents, emphasising peace, quiet, and maintaining neighbourhood character.
- Keep residential streets free from external traffic, limiting access to residents and essential services only.
- Prevent through traffic, heavy vehicles and buses from using local streets, directing all non local movements to major roads and highways.
- Implement effective traffic calming measures, such as strategic landscaping treatments, while avoiding noisy or ineffective options like speed humps.
- Improve major intersections and road connections, including upgrades to Edward Rd, View Point Dr and Maroondah Hwy to reduce pressure on residential streets



Appendix 4: Key Stakeholder Feedback Summary

Key stakeholders include public authorities and major landowners.

- Maroondah Highway must remain a high capacity arterial and freight corridor, and any “green corridor” treatments must not reduce lane capacity, visibility, or operational efficiency.
- Direct property access to the highway should be avoided; access points should be consolidated, limited to left in/left out, or fully signalised
- Pedestrian and cyclist improvements are supported, but any new crossings must be signalised or grade separated; uncontrolled mid block crossings should be avoided in favour of off road shared paths.
- Redevelopment sites must integrate with the local road network and include new internal connector roads delivered through staged development to reduce reliance on Maroondah Highway.
- Freight efficiency and industrial access must be protected
- Transport infrastructure delivery should be staged and informed by cumulative traffic modelling to determine when upgrades are required.
- Water Sensitive Urban Design or drainage treatments along the highway must not encroach into trafficable areas or restrict sight distances
- Brushy Creek is a stormwater priority area. Stormwater management required to mitigate impacts to waterways.
- Suggest apply Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 11 (DDO11) to whole activity centre and increase heights in DDO11
- Strengthen the activity centre’s regional role by consolidating existing commercial strengths, supporting its “one trip destination” function
- Enable more housing and higher density development in the core, including shop top housing and apartments
- Focus built form and activation within the existing shopping centre, rather than forcing activation along Maroondah Highway or Kimberley Drive,
- Concern Kimberley Drive ‘main street’ will compete with existing businesses
- Maintain distinct retail offerings on either side of Maroondah Highway
- Maintain adequate car parking – Chirnside park is car dependent

Appendix 5: ID Community Views

Community Views Survey

The following data is sourced from .idcommunity, which provides publicly accessible demographic profiles for areas across Australia. This information was collected as part of Council's broader engagement, rather than specifically for this project, and is included here to provide additional context and support a more comprehensive analysis.

A survey on people's priorities, values, and experiences conducted in October 2025 included 51 residents from Chirnside Park.

It highlighted the four most important factors for the Chirnside Park community are:

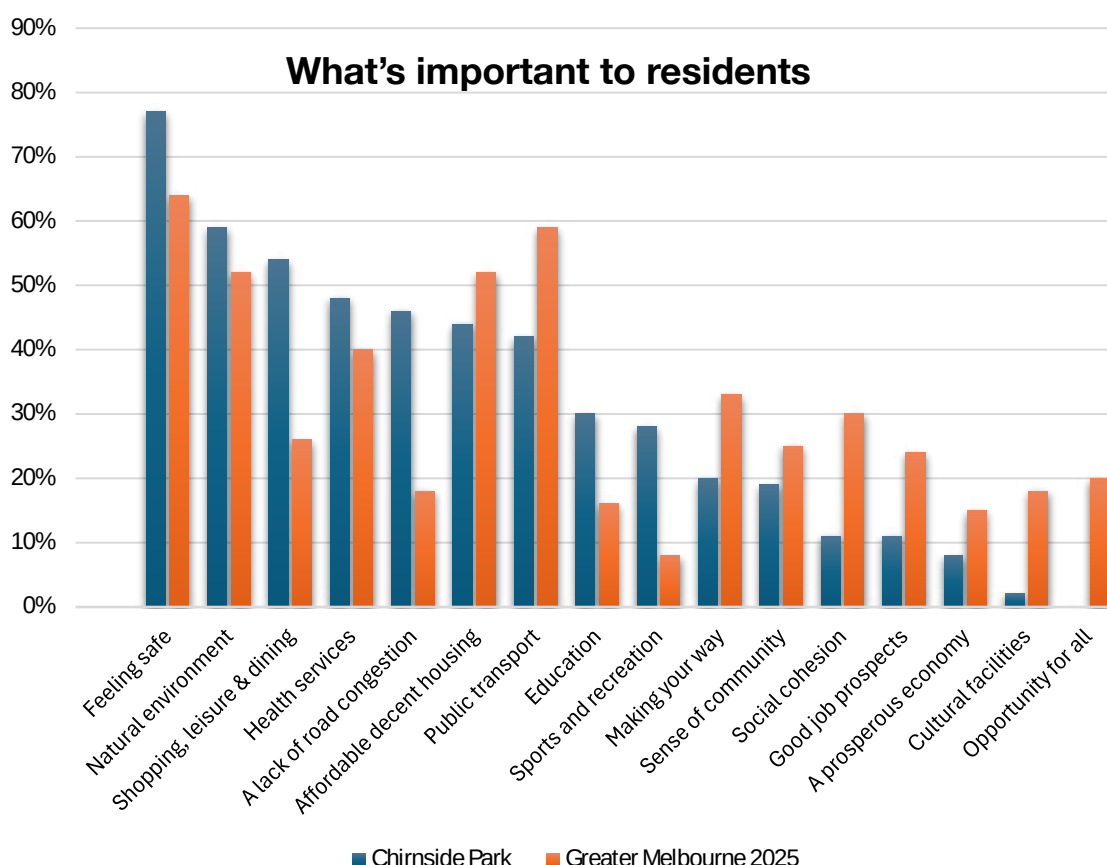
- Feeling safe
- Natural environment
- Shopping, leisure & dining
- Health services

The following two graphs illustrate what Chirnside Park residents believe makes somewhere a good place to live, and how they feel Chirnside Park performs in those areas.

Importance

What Chirnside Park residents consider important differs from residents of Greater Melbourne across several factors, including:

- **Rated more highly** - feeling safe, shopping, leisure & dining, a lack of road congestion, education and sport & recreation
- **Rated lower** - affordable decent housing, public transport, making your way, social cohesion, good job prospects, cultural facilities and opportunity for all



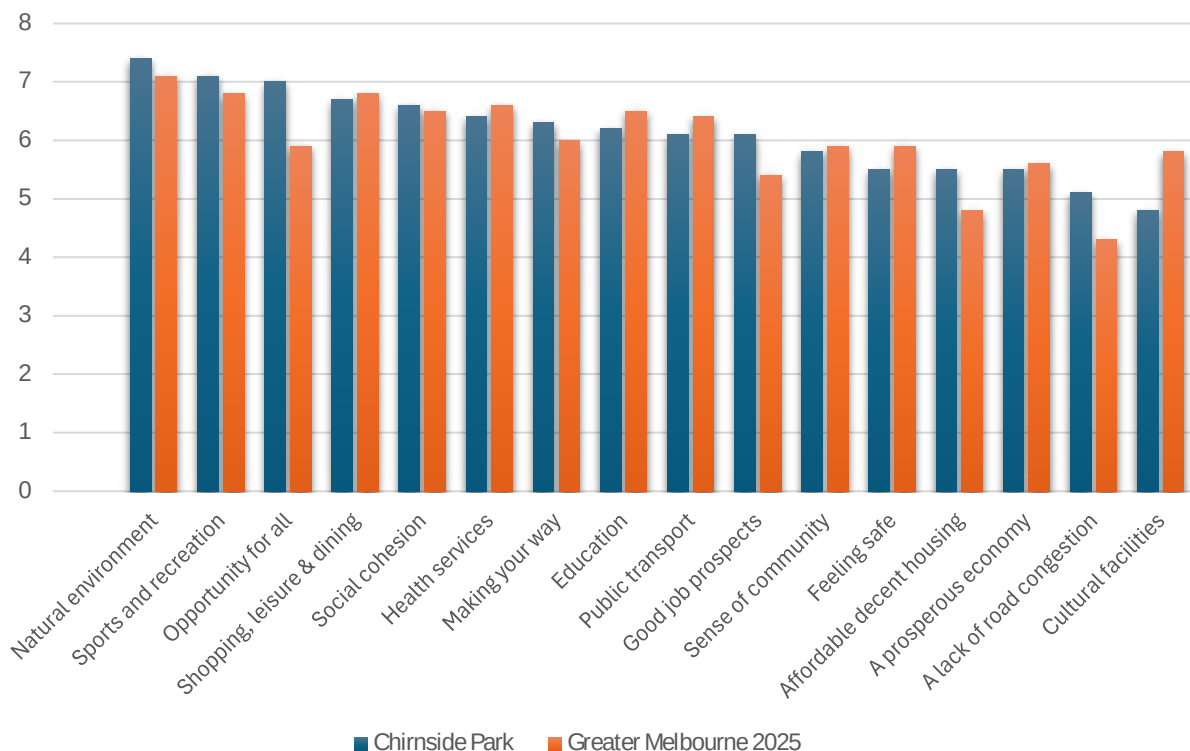
Appendix 5: ID Community Views

Experience

The experiences of Chirnside Park residents are generally similar to those of Greater Melbourne across many factors; however, notable differences include:

- **Rated more highly** - opportunity for all, good job prospects, a lack of road congestion and affordable decent housing
- **Rated lower** - feeling safe and experience of cultural facilities

How residents rate their experience





Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands and waterways.

We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region.

We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.

