Building Banyule's Budget

Engagement and communications summary:
Draft Capital Works Program, Draft Initiatives Program,
changes to the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Banyule
City Council

Background

This engagement summary provides an overview of engagement and communications activities undertaken between 18 December 2025 and 8 February 2026 to promote and receive community feedback on the following:

- draft Capital Works Program 2026/27
- draft Initiatives Program 2026/27
- proposed changes to the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Community engagement and communications

Shaping Banyule and email feedback

Feedback was open on Banyule's online engagement platform, Shaping Banyule, from 18 December 2025 to 8 February 2026.

During this time, **72** document categories were selected from **66** people. Of these people, **44** selected the option to speak at the Community Feedback Forum on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Table 1 - Shaping Banyule and email feedback

Document (multiple categories selected)	
Draft Capital Works Program 2026/27	24
Draft Initiatives Program 2026/27	39
Revenue and Rating Plan changes	9
Total	**72**

In addition, there were **1,050** visits to the Shaping Banyule pages from **593** visitors during the engagement period, a strong indicator of increased awareness of the project and Council's work.

Demographics

Feedback was received from community members living in all Banyule suburbs except Eltham, Eltham North, St Helena and Watsonia North.

All age groups were represented except 18-24 and 85 and over.

7 people living with disability, 7 who identify as LGBTIQA+, 1 person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island decent and 5 people who speak English as a second or other language provided feedback.

51% of people who submitted feedback identified as woman or female, 42% as man or male, 2% as other and 5% preferred not to say.

Online information session

The online information session was held on Thursday 18 December at 6pm.

18 community members attend the session, which was recorded and posted on Shaping Banyule. As of 9 February 2026, the recording had been viewed 37 times.

Information delivered in the session included:

- timeline and key project milestones
- Community Vision and Banyule Plan context
- financial sustainability strategy, principles, challenges and influences
- Revenue and Rating Plan – what is it and proposed changes to differential rating
- Draft Capital Works Program overview
- Draft Initiatives Program overview
- upcoming pop-ups to talk with Council officers
- how to give feedback.

Pop-up sessions

Two pop-up conversations took place. 15 people participated.

Sessions were held in different locations and at different times to allow people with differing commitments to attend.

The pop-ups were supported with posters displaying key information, print outs of the draft Capital Works and Initiatives Programs, as well as postcards with QR codes for people to take away and engage with the content from home.

Date	Time	Location	# participants
Tuesday 20 January	2pm – 3.30pm	Greensborough Walk/WaterMarc	11
Thursday 22 January	5pm – 6.30pm	Ivanhoe Library	4
		Total Participants	**15**

Communications

1. Three **Shaping Banyule campaigns** were sent to Shaping Banyule members:
   - 15 December 2025 – 1,834 members – to promote the online information session
   - 16 January 2026 – 1,840 members – to promote pop-up conversations and opportunity to provide feedback
   - 2 February 2026 – 1,845 members - reminder of final week to give feedback.
2. **Email** provided to over 170 Council officers to advise stakeholders, networks and past contributors to Budget feedback of the opportunity to provide feedback.
3. Full page article in January edition of the **Banyule Banner**.
4. **Social media campaigns** carried out on Banyule corporate channels (unpaid) with the following clicks and reach:
   - 12 December 2025
     - Facebook: views = 2,470; reach = 1,122; clicks = 3.

- 4 February 2026
    - Facebook: views = 890; reach = 890; clicks = 2.
    - Instagram: views = 395; reach = 208.

Note: 'reach' is the total number of people who had the content appear in their feed.

Community Feedback Forum – 10 March 2026

The Community Feedback Forum on 10 March is an opportunity for community members to talk to their feedback with councillors, prior to Council formally considering all feedback at the 25 May 2026 Council Meeting.

While Council is no longer required to conduct a formal submissions process under the former provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* (S.223), the Forum continues the process of allowing people the opportunity to speak to their written feedback with councillors.

Through this opt-in process, community members can go deeper into their feedback and provide councillors with a valuable opportunity to ask questions to understand community sentiment. It also continues Council's approach to good governance by building trust, rapport, transparency and understanding between Council and community members.

At the time of writing this report, 44 of the 66 people that submitted feedback had opted in to talk to their feedback.