Banyule Community ThinkTank

Community Vision descriptions – Vote 2 results

The Banyule Community ThinkTank had their first session on Saturday July 20. One of the key tasks was to 'review' and 'refine' the existing six Community Vision theme descriptions.

The group was presented with revised descriptions following feedback received during community workshops with 90 community members in April, May and June 2024. Members then workshopped ideas to strengthen the descriptions and participated in two rounds of voting.

1. Vote 1 - level of comfort and comments - took place **during Session 1**.
2. Vote 2 - level of acceptance and comments – took place **post workshop** via an online survey.

39 ThinkTank members participated in Vote 2. The results were favourable, with the majority responding that they 'can live with', 'like' or 'love' the revised descriptions and proposed changes. People who responded 'needs improvement' or 'don't like it' provided comments.

1. Tell us how you feel about including the definitions before the Vision Themes.

During ThinkTank Session 1, we noticed that there was some confusion about the way some terms are used in the theme descriptions and decided to create this list of definitions to test with ThinkTank members to go at the front of the Vision to help people understand what is meant.

Definitions

Assets and facilities

Assets and facilities refer to the buildings, places, open spaces, roads, footpaths, drains and other facilities that the community use and depend on. Many of these are owned and managed by Council and others are owned and managed by other levels of government or private organisations.

Council

The term ***Council*** refers to both the collective group of elected Banyule councillors and the people who work at the Banyule City Council including the CEO, executive staff and the many officers whose role, as stated in the Local Government Act 2020, is to serve its community and provide the programs, services, infrastructure and assets needed for the community.

Community

The term ***community*** refers to people living, working, learning and enjoying the Banyule municipality. This includes community members, residents, business owner and operators, tourists – those visiting the municipality, agencies, volunteers, community groups – sharing a common interest and using the services and facilities in the Banyule municipality.

Everyone

The use of ***everyone*** in the theme descriptions refers to and recognises the diversity of people in Banyule. The diversity of our community is referenced in Banyule's Diversity Statement:

> 'Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.'

First Nations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

First Nations peoples or First Peoples refers to peoples or nations of people connected to an area before colonisation. While these terms have some general acceptance, some individuals or groups of ***Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples*** may not prefer them. These terms are used interchangeably in the Banyule Community Vision 2041.

We

The term **we** refers to the community members, residents, business owner and operators, tourists and any person who comes to and has influence over what happens in the municipality

Overall, **95% (37 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. One thing glared at me because of its omission - in the definition of diversity. Basically, and more bluntly, there was absolutely no reference to the diversity of socio-economic status - rich v economical impoverished.
2. I believe there needs to be separate definitions for Council and officers. Theme 6 refers to a responsive Council which to me means the elected Council. It is the Council that it ultimately responsible for ensuring responsiveness. Officers are the implementers.

2. Tell us how you feel about changing the Theme 1 name to 'Our Inclusive, Connected and Healthy Community'?

Overall, **83% (32 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. Key aspects are missing: an empowered collaborative community, a safe community.
2. The term 'healthy' can be misunderstood, compared to using the term 'wellbeing' or 'wellness'.
3. Because this mischaracterises the question that was asked on the day. You do not know if there is strong support for separating the themes (though I would argue the discussion on the day indicated there was such support).
4. I would like to discuss the 'why' a little more. Not sure if it fully captures what the group was trying to achieve.
5. The use of the word "healthy" is not an inclusive term. Not everyone is afforded the ability to be healthy if they have been born with genetic conditions or suffer long term health issues. A different phrasing needs to be used.
6. I think health and wellbeing deserve their own theme and it is my understanding that the discomfort showed was mainly from lack of time to work on the theme and discomfort with the terms 'fit and healthy' and their potential ableist fatphobic connotations.

7. I would like to see in the future a consideration of a 7th option for health independently.

3. How do you feel about the revised Theme 1 description?

Nutshell statement: ***'A safe, healthy, vibrant and connected community where everyone loves to live, work and stay; diversity and inclusion are valued and encouraged.'***

'**By** 2041, Banyule maintains its **identity** as a diverse, inclusive, **respectful** and vibrant community, and people from all backgrounds, genders, **sexualities**, **cultures, beliefs,** ages and **abilities** call Banyule home.

- **We celebrate, respect and learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge and peoples and commit to supporting self-determination.**
- Our community spaces **and services** are welcoming and accessible **across the municipality by people of all backgrounds and lived experience**. **There are no barriers to inclusion or participation.**
- We maintain our love and passion for the outdoors, open space and greenery.
- We are fit and healthy and have access to safe and nutritious food.
- People participate in sport and recreation
- People lead active lifestyles and have good mental and emotional **health and** wellbeing.
- Together we celebrate the amazing cultures that make up who we are and contribute to our shared identity.
- Inclusiveness and diversity are reflected in services, programs, festivals and events.
- **We create spaces and ways for everyone to participate and be represented.**
- Our rich arts and cultural history are protected, promoted and cultivated and more opportunities are available for people to come together and enjoy.
- We encourage community connection **through education, work and volunteering** and look after our vulnerable community members by making Banyule a safe place for everyone **physically and psychologically**.
- We know our neighbours, greet our new friends with open arms and **support each other through challenges**.
- **People of all ages play an active and important role in community decision-making and civic life.**
- We embrace our multiculturalism and engage with and understand the needs of diverse communities.
- Acceptance of our differences underpins our sense of community and belonging.'

Overall, **77% (30 people)** can 'live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose ‘needs improvement’ or ‘I don’t like it’.

1. Needs to include: an empowered community.
2. Concerned with regards to the line item 'we are a fit and healthy community' etc. the idea of 'fit' implies levels of fitness that may not include everyone or feel inclusive. Maybe use terms such as 'leisure', 'active', 'vibrant' or 'playful'.
3. In several of these themes, the commencing words "In 2041..." have been changed to "By 2041..." It is my understanding that the statements should be read in the present tense as if it were 2041, so they should all commence with the words "In 2041..."
4. It is unreflective of what was actually produced on the day.
5. The dot points need to better align with the theme.
6. There is too much repetition, the items in the dot points need to be group by themes and the amount of dot points needs to be reduced. Words like "fit" and "healthy" should be removed because not everyone can be "fit" and "healthy" nor should they be.
7. It should note that we value people of all abilities. There is a huge focus on health and fitness but that isn't a choice for many people, and they are just as valued in our community as anyone else.
8. We as a community expressed our need for health and wellbeing to be prioritised in its own theme and needs dedicated time and work to have it fit. Additionally, none of our concerns about the ableist/fatphobic wording were addressed.
9. I thought we decided not to mention all the groups in case we would forget a group.

4. How do you feel about the revised Theme 2 description?

Nutshell statement: ***'A progressive and innovative leader in protecting, enhancing and increasing the health and diversity of our natural environment, where we all commit to playing an active role in achieving environmental sustainability, waste and carbon emissions reduction.'***

'**By** 2041, Banyule is a leader in environmental sustainability and recognised as one of the most sustainable communities.

- We form partnerships **with the** **community, education and private** **sectors** and continue to invest in innovative solutions to tackle climate change.
- **Population growth is** **aligned** **with sustainability goals and maintaining open space. People across Banyule have equal access to the natural environment.**
- We are an empowered community that takes action and **is adaptive and resilient to the effects** of climate change.
- **We cater for a variety of** **transport** **options, contributing to a more sustainable environment.**
- We are a carbon neutral community, and on the way to carbon negative. We are a **circular economy** and **continually achieve** zero waste.
- We are a well-informed community on waste, food security, water conservation and climate actions. **Council continues to lead in sustainability and environmental education.**
- **Local Aboriginal culture, knowledge and Caring for Country principles are key to a sustainable environment.**
- We all play an active role in promoting, protecting **and strengthening** local biodiversity, indigenous plants, flora, fauna and wildlife habitat.
- **There is no more species extinction, and we manage pests and pets to strengthen biodiversity.**
- **Underutilised spaces are used to increase vegetation and wildlife corridors.**
- We act sustainably and reduce waste, **have fully developed recycling systems** and make good use of our food and garden organics.
- Urban farming, **home-grown food** **and sharing practices** **are the norm**.
- Our trees, tree canopy and **native vegetation** are well maintained, enhance liveability and beautify our streets, **open spaces and neighbourhoods.**
- **Our urban forest continues to** **enhance liveability** **through efforts from Council, residents and business.**
- We have abundant natural open spaces that improve health and wellbeing.
- Environmentally sustainable design **and** **green** **infrastructure** are central in planning and development.
- Use of renewable energy in our homes, businesses and facilities **is** normal.'

Overall, **90% (35 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. Again, dot points need to align with nutshell statement.
2. It is very wordy and repetitive. I can't go back a screen, but I don't think that gardening for food sustainability is the norm across Banyule.

3. There are way too many dot points making it hard to digest. The dot points need to be synthesised under sub-headings and grouped by themes so that people can understand the broad themes and skim read better while maintaining the detail in the dot points.
4. Firstly, the notion of home-grown food and urban farming being THE norm rather than A norm is a bit odd. While this may be ideal for some, this is just not feasible for everyone. No more species extinction seems to be beyond the remit of local community.

5. Tell us how you feel about revised Theme 3 - Our Well-Built City

Nutshell statement: ***'A well-planned, sustainable and liveable place that caters for current and emerging communities; where our local character and environment is protected and enhanced.'***

'**By** 2041, Banyule is a well-planned, designed **and environmentally sustainable** city that meets the current and future needs of the community.

- We are a green city with ample open natural space, **trees** and wildlife at our doorsteps.
- **Spaces are well designed with universal access in mind and planning decisions consider how changes will impact people's health and wellbeing.**
- We are a city with affordable, **accessible** and sustainable housing **options** that meet the **diverse** needs of our community.
- Our City is a network of **accessible neighbourhoods** connected through a range of **sustainable** transport options and we have easy access to places to live, work and play.
- We **encourage and invest in active forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport**.
- **Our cycling and walking paths are well-connected and safe.**
- We protect **and celebrate** our local character, heritage and **history and we embed First Nations culture.**
- Development is sustainable and in balance with our preserved grasslands, forests, wetlands, waterways and wildlife.'

Overall, **85% (33 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. Need to mention something about having a variety of housing types to suit or cater to different people/families' needs.
2. The dot point referring to 'our cycling and walking paths are well connected and safe needs to better align with the statement in theme 4 - ' well connected and safe.
3. After reading a few themes now - the visions now need missions...how will these vision points be achieved. Also links to audience and purpose. It can't just be located on the website if it is to be an authentic VISION that should inform Banyule's decision.
4. It doesn't take into account the 86% population increase by 2050 and there's no plan for the Urban Wildlife. Such a proposed plan will cause Environmental Cascading to Catastrophe. With the reliance on property developers instead of Government funding.
5. I don't believe this is correct that we have affordable and sustainable housing. I think best to leave this dot point out.

6. I like the content but it just needs to be grouped better, rather than just having dot points for every sentence some sentences can be grouped where they are similar.

6. Tell us how you feel about revised Theme 4 - Our Valued Community Assets and Facilities

Nutshell statement: ***'Our community assets, facilities and services, are affordable, sustainable, evenly distributed, safe, accessible for everyone and designed to provide meaningful experiences and connections.'***

'In 2041, our parks, playgrounds, sports grounds **and facilities** are well maintained and accessible to **everyone**.

- Our community assets and facilities are **equitably distributed, culturally safe**, accessible, diverse and inclusive. They are environmentally sustainable, innovative, represent local character **and ensure physical safety.**
- Our built assets are fit for purpose, **adaptable**, well maintained and service the needs of our **diverse** community.
- Our multipurpose facilities **and libraries** provide places and spaces for people to connect, **learn**, work and build friendships.
- We take pride in and enjoy our well-built community hubs, aquatic facilities, and sports recreation centres that are essential to our health and wellbeing.
- **We have easy access to non-Council community assets and facilities.**
- We have a safe network of bike lanes, pathways, roads and transport options that connect us locally and to the wider community.'

Overall, **87% (34 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. My interest area is art and creative pursuits as a huge area for inclusion of all socio economically diverse groups and sadly there is a lot of improvement needed. For example – it's all very lovely having a cultural /art hub but how do you include diverse groups.
2. Add 'and leisure' to 'aquatic facilities'.
3. 1. What does culturally safe mean? How can we make this general statement? I don't think we need this. 2. We don't always have physical safety at our facilities. I know of two accidents at the Ivanhoe Library, still not addressed.
4. I don't understand the difference between Theme 3 & Theme 4. The difference between them are not clear to me they feel so similar.

7. Tell us how you feel about revised Theme 5 - Our Thriving Local Economy

Nutshell statement: ***'A thriving, resilient, socially responsible, integrated local economy that encourages, supports and advocates for a diverse range of businesses and entrepreneurship, providing local investment and employment opportunities.'***

'**By** 2041, Banyule is **the proud** home to a diverse range of **local** businesses. We are a place where everyone has access to quality education and employment.

- Our growth is supported through business partnerships and regional collaborations.
- We **mentor, foster business ideas,** nurture new start-ups and continue to support businesses **with the resources** to **grow, connect, survive and thrive**.
- **We promote and have strong relationships with First Nations businesses, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and local Aboriginal Gathering Places.**
- **We harness untapped opportunities to grow and connect local businesses.**
- **There is investment in local traders and shopping precincts to make them safe, social, attractive and a destination for people in and outside of Banyule.**
- **We run events to encourage business, trading and social connection.**
- Doing business in Banyule is easier than ever and becomes a choice for new enterprises, **encouraging people to shop locally**.
- There is a range of local employment opportunities available for all, and our workplaces embrace diversity and inclusion.
- **There is flexibility to work and run a business from home and from co-working spaces, improving work-life balance.**
- More local jobs mean less of us need to travel outside the area for work.
- **Our health and wellbeing is stronger because of the social connection created by our local economy.**
- Innovation and technological advancements are embraced, and our social enterprises are well established.
- Our City has plenty of education and job training opportunities for people of all ages and abilities and provides a range of career opportunities **for people at all stages of their work life**.
- Volunteerism is encouraged and promoted as a valuable contributor to the community and local economy.'

Overall, **95% (37 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) needs to be recognised.
2. Too long. What are resources to grow survive and thrive. Businesses are struggling with high costs of doing business with state taxes excessive, and high interest rates etc. Council cannot help with that. I think some of these dot points are fantasy.

8. Tell us how you feel about revised Theme 6 - Our Trusted and Responsive Leadership

Nutshell statement: ***'An engaged and driven community led by a responsive and innovative Council that has the trust of the community through demonstrated best practice governance, financial sustainability and advocacy on community priorities and aspirations.'***

'**By** 2041, Council **works in partnership with community in** a trusted, transparent and accountable way.

- **We work with the First Nations community and recognise Aboriginal self-determination.**
- **The community is** led by a responsive, innovative, **open** and accessible Council that **is customer focussed and** continually strives to achieve service excellence and positive outcomes for all.
- Barriers between Council and community are diminished **through timely, effective and relevant forms of communication,** and interacting with Council is easier than ever.
- **Council** advocates on matters that are important to the community.
- We are highly engaged and have a **genuine and active** say in decisions that affect us.
- **We nurture community leaders to make positive change for the communities they represent.**
- We are kept well-informed of Council's progress, achievements **and outcomes** through regular **monitoring**, reporting and evaluation.
- **The community trusts Council to be a** socially, environmentally and financially sustainable **organisation**.
- Together we achieve Banyule's Community Vision 2041.'

Overall, **85% (33 people)** 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.



Comments from people who chose 'needs improvement' or 'I don't like it'.

1. We need to be community-driven, with Council supporting and facilitating. Council is not the expert.
2. I feel it is very hard for council to include the word 'trust' when they don't advocate to NOT sign 'confidentiality agreements/non-disclosure agreements' with the State Government. Unfortunately, can't fully be 'Our Trusted and Responsive Leaders'.
3. First Nations statement does not fit in this theme (transparency?). Also, I heard that recently the cost of Rosanna Library has gone from 6 to 16 M (how true is this? Transparency?). This has not been communicated.
4. "Customer focused" was supposed to be removed.
5. I would like to see something added about Banyule's leadership and interaction with other councils...so external responsibilities not just internal.
6. Aboriginal self-determination is according to me a devise what you should not want to have as we are all Australian and we should all follow the Australian laws and there should be not a different law for a different group.