Community Local Law Review

Community Consultation Survey Findings Report

Banyule
City Council

Project Background

Local Laws are a form of local regulation that enable Victorian councils to establish legislative controls that reflect the different circumstances of each municipality on matters relating to general amenity, safety and community wellbeing.

Local Laws have a maximum duration of 10 years. Once a Local Law sunsets, Council must adopt a replacement Local Law. Banyule's General Local Law No.1 is due to sunset on 14 April 2025.

The *Local Government Act 2020* identifies that Councils may make local laws "for or with respect to any act, matter or thing in respect of which Council has a function or power" under any Act.

The *Local Government Act 2020* includes the requirements that local laws must:

- Be consistent with all Acts including the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006;*
- Not duplicate or be inconsistent with a Planning Scheme;
- Not exceed the power to make local laws conferred by the *Local Government Act 2020*; and
- Be expressed as clearly and unambiguously as is reasonably possible.

As part of this review, the community engagement process provided the community and other stakeholders such as Traders, Emergency Services and Advisory and Population Committees with an opportunity to provide direct feedback to officers on the proposed draft Community Local Law. Feedback on the proposed draft Community Local Law was sought by launching a survey from 26 June to 1 September. The survey was available online for all community members via the Council's Shaping Banyule page and hardcopies were located at Greensborough Service Centre and Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub. An Online Q & A session was hosted along with three in person walk in sessions undertaken to hear directly from our community. Promotion of the Local Law Review to seek feedback was promoted through various social media posts and via the Banyule Banner.

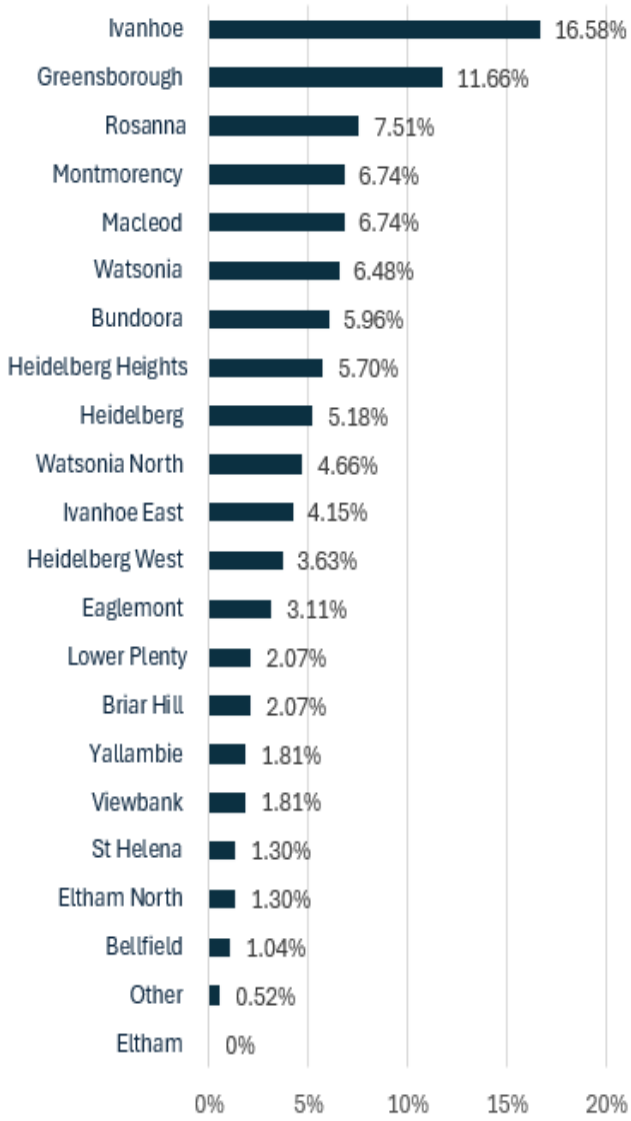
This report presents the findings of the community in response to the survey questions.

Demographic Snapshot

A summary of the demographic data provided by respondents is provided below. 386 people responded to the survey and two written submissions were received.

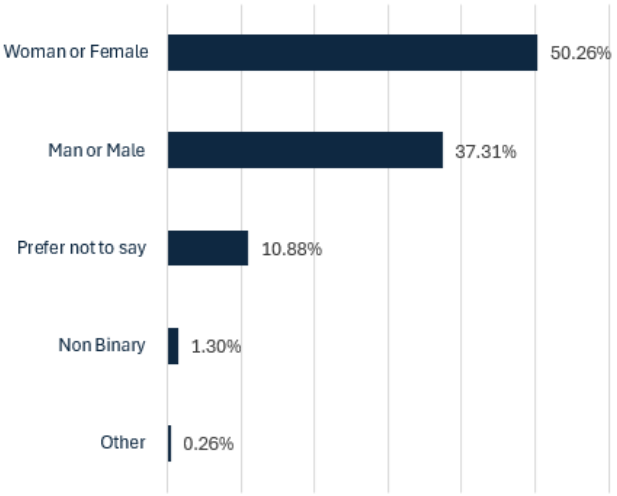
Suburb

Ivanhoe (16%) and Greensborough (11%) had the highest overall participation, followed by Rosanna (7%) and Montmorency (6%). People residing outside of Banyule accounted for .5% of responses.



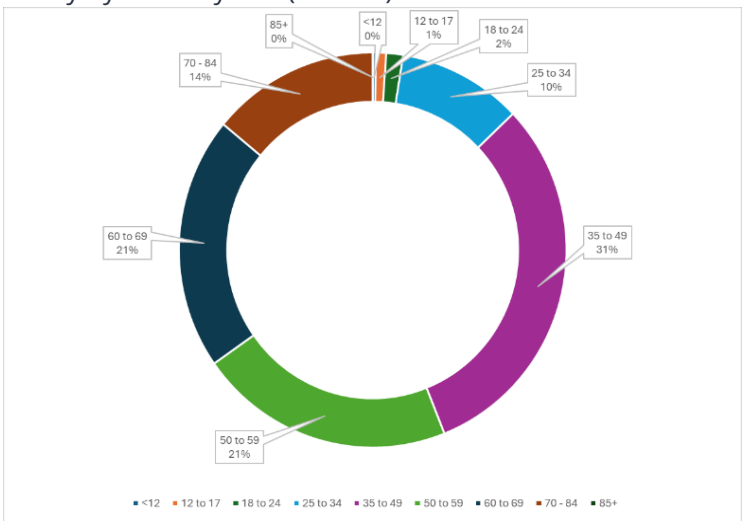
Gender

The majority of respondents identified as female (50.26%%), followed by males at 37.31%.



Age

The largest age group is 35-49 years (31.09%), followed closely by 50 - 59 years (21.29%).



Access and equity

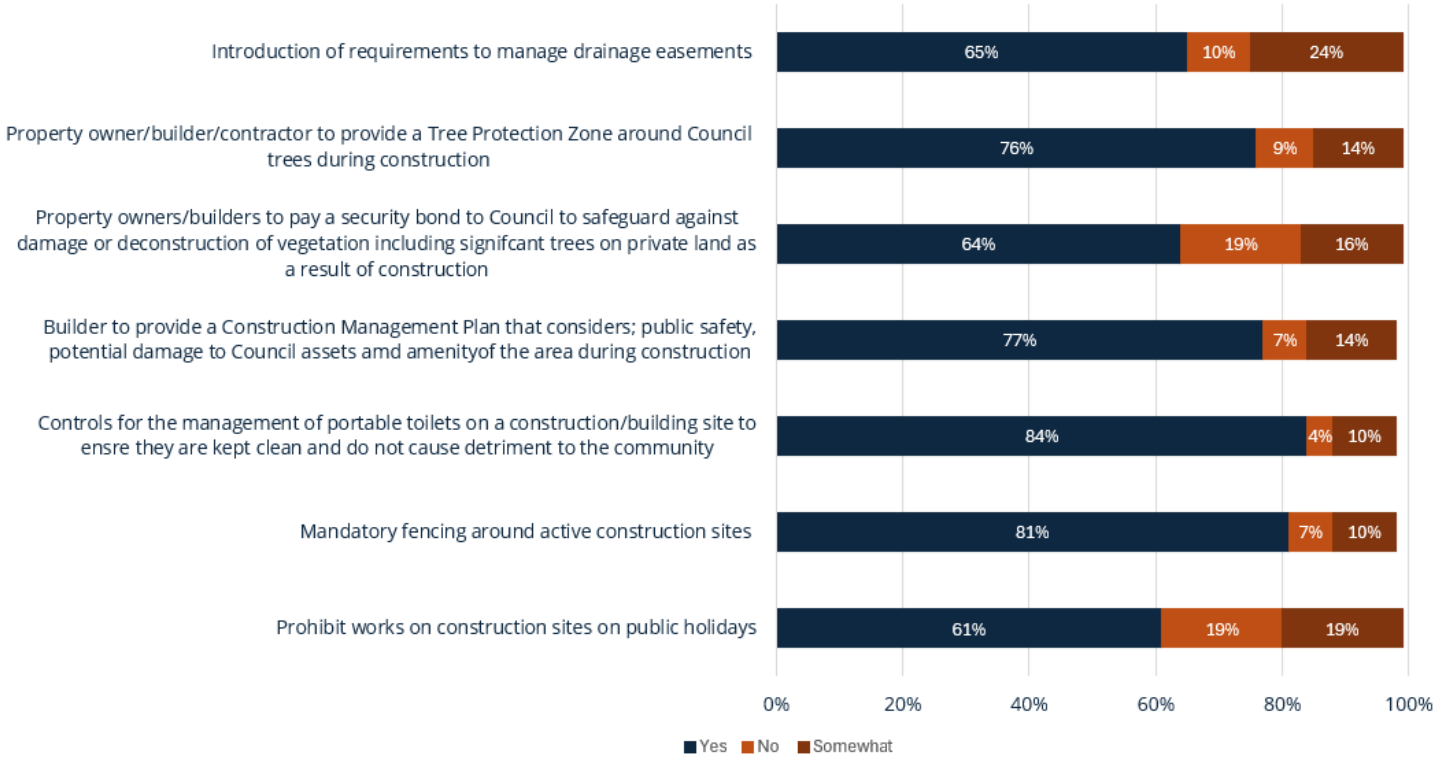


Survey Question Analysis

Survey question analysis of community consultation responses examines the responses from community members to gain insight into their views, concerns and priorities regarding proposed or existing regulations. This processed helps identify trends, common themes and area requiring attention or clarification. By analysing both quantitative data and qualitive feedback, Council can be assisted in ensuring Local Laws align with community needs and values, enhancing transparency and inclusivity in the consultation process.

Part 3: Asset Protection, Building Sites and Vehicle Crossings

The purpose of this part of the Local Law is to protect any asset vested in, controlled or owned by *Council* and to ensure the safety and amenity of the municipality by controlling activities associated with *building works* or construction work. The community were asked their level of support for the following:



Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

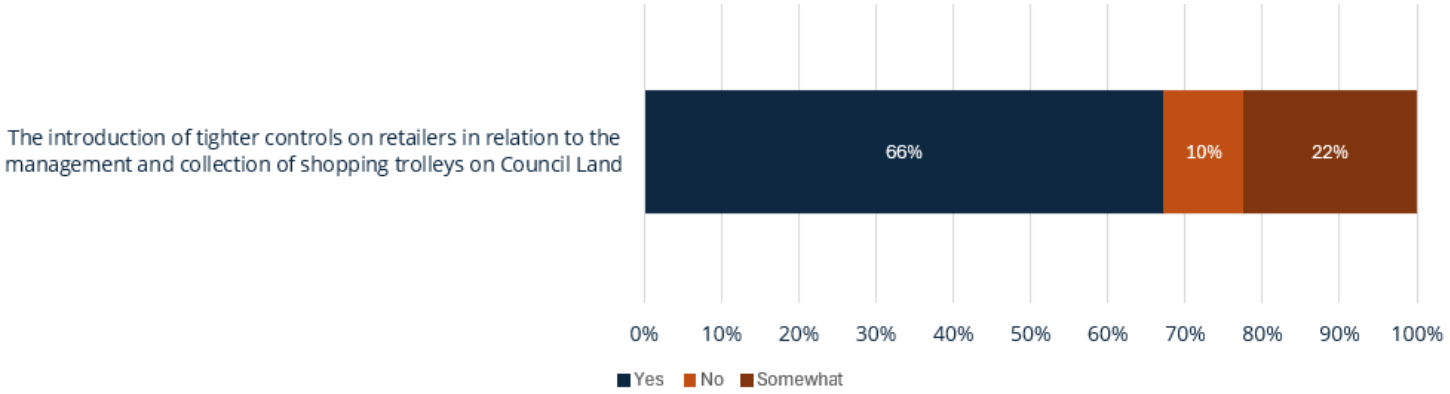
"Works should not be permitted on Public Holidays and Sundays. Residents close by need some reprieve (1 day is surely not too much to ask) from the horrendous 12 months of construction noise, trade people, extra vehicles, construction deliveries by oversize trucks etc"

"Builders need to be reminded that they should respect the fact that there are people living around the worksite and their behaviour does have an affect. The removal or damage to significant trees has a big impact on the surrounding area."

"These proposals seem reasonable in ensuring protection for the public."

Part 4: Roads and Council Land

The purpose of this part of the Local Law is to protect the safety of road users, the amenity of the municipality and to provide for the fair and equitable use of Council Land. The community were asked their level of support for the following:



Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

"Trolleys are provided by retailers to make our shopping experience more efficient / convenient. It isn't their fault that people disrespect the wider community and dump a trolley somewhere."

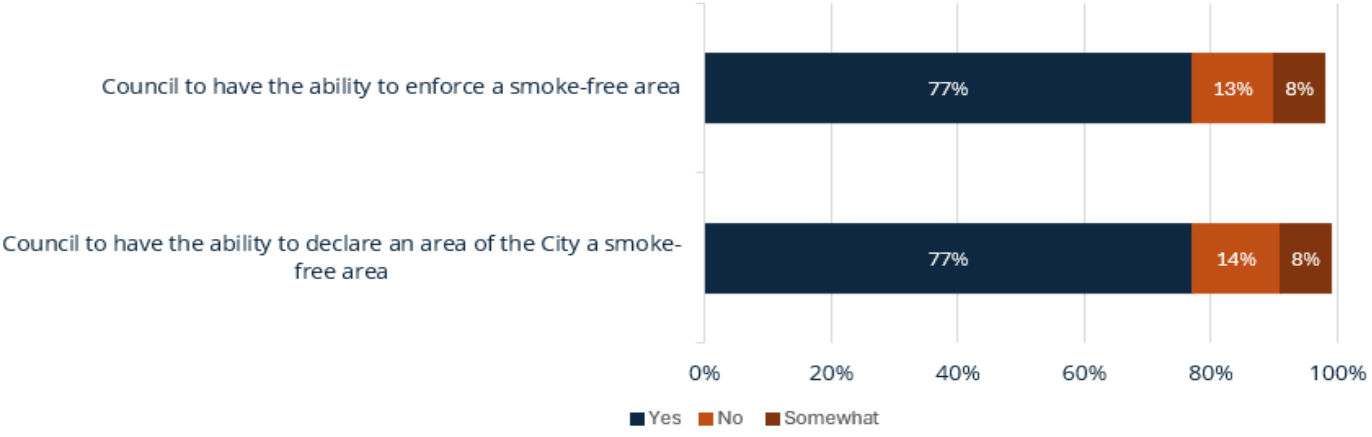
"I agree with this."

"I am sick and tired of trolleys being dumped in local streets. Although not the retailer's fault but if they took responsibility and implemented locking mechanisms then people would be able to take them"

"The current rules suffice. These unwarranted laws, introducing coin deposit trolleys, place new costs on local business that will undoubtably be borne by resident consumers in these difficult economic times."

Part 5: Consumption of Alcohol and Smoking in Public Places

The purpose of this part of the Local Law is to control the consumption and possession of alcohol in *public places*, where such consumption or possession may interfere with the amenity and enjoyment of the *public place* and to create designated *Smoke-Free Areas*. The community were asked their level of support for the following:



Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

"All areas such as around parks, gardens and playing fields should be smoke free and should be enforceable by council."

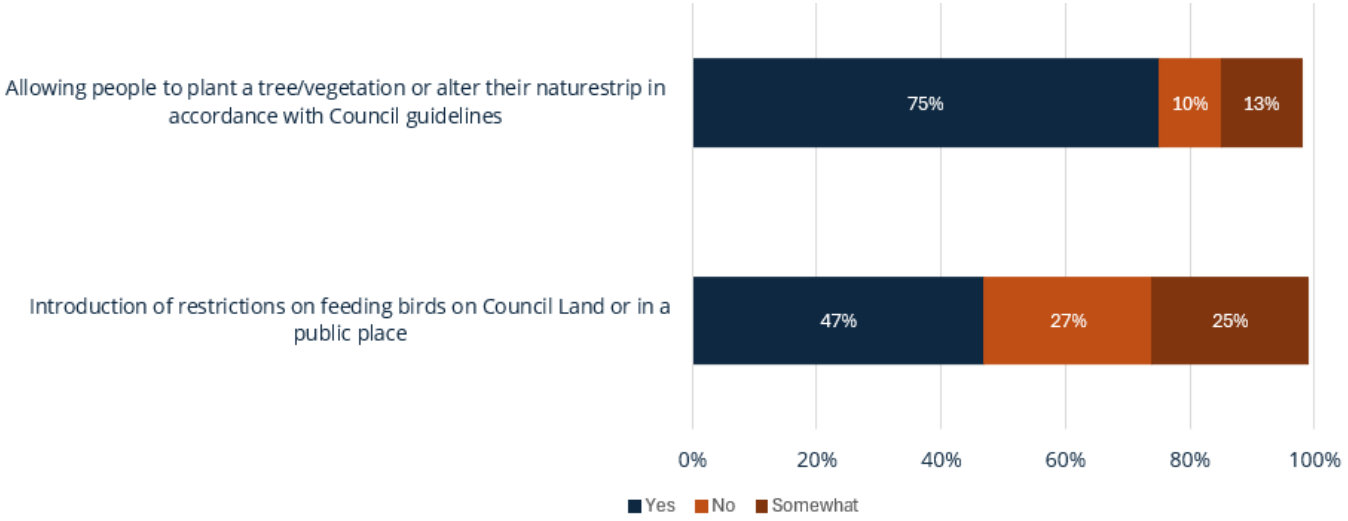
"The current laws are adequate."

"No-one wants to walk through, or sit near, smokers/vapers."

"Yes, public health and safety is important, and these rules are in no doubt long overdue."

Part 6: Activities on Council Land

The purpose of this part of the Local Law is to control behaviour and activities to ensure the fair and equitable use of *Council Land* and prohibit persons from causing damage to a *municipal place* or endangering the safety of other persons on *Council Land*. The community were asked their level of support for the following:



Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

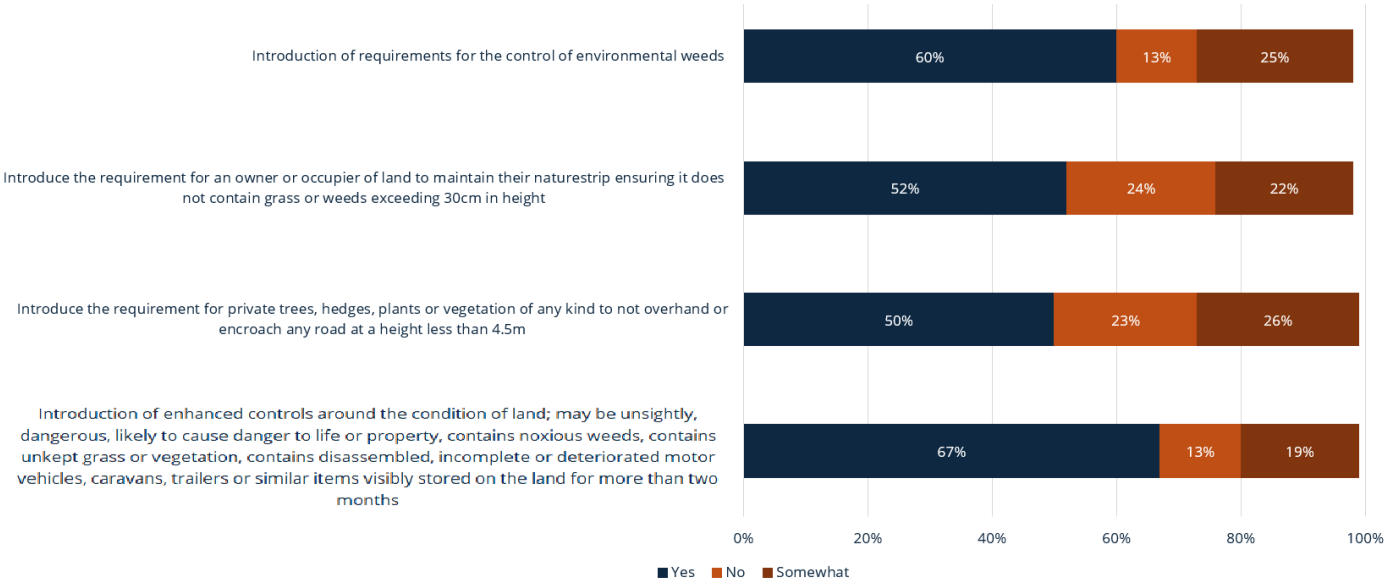
"The naturestrip in front of each residence should be controlled by that resident, as they are paying for it, and so should be able to plant/add whatever they wish."

"Nature strips should be available for more uses by residents than just grass."

"Bread is very bad for birds but during drought or winter, feeding birds healthy seeds might save them. Feral birds like pigeons and seagulls should not be encouraged with feeding."

Part 7: Resident Responsibilities

The purpose of this Part of the Local Law is to preserve and enhance amenity, neighbourhood character, accessibility, health and public safety by regulating certain activities on land. The community were asked their level of support for the following:



Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

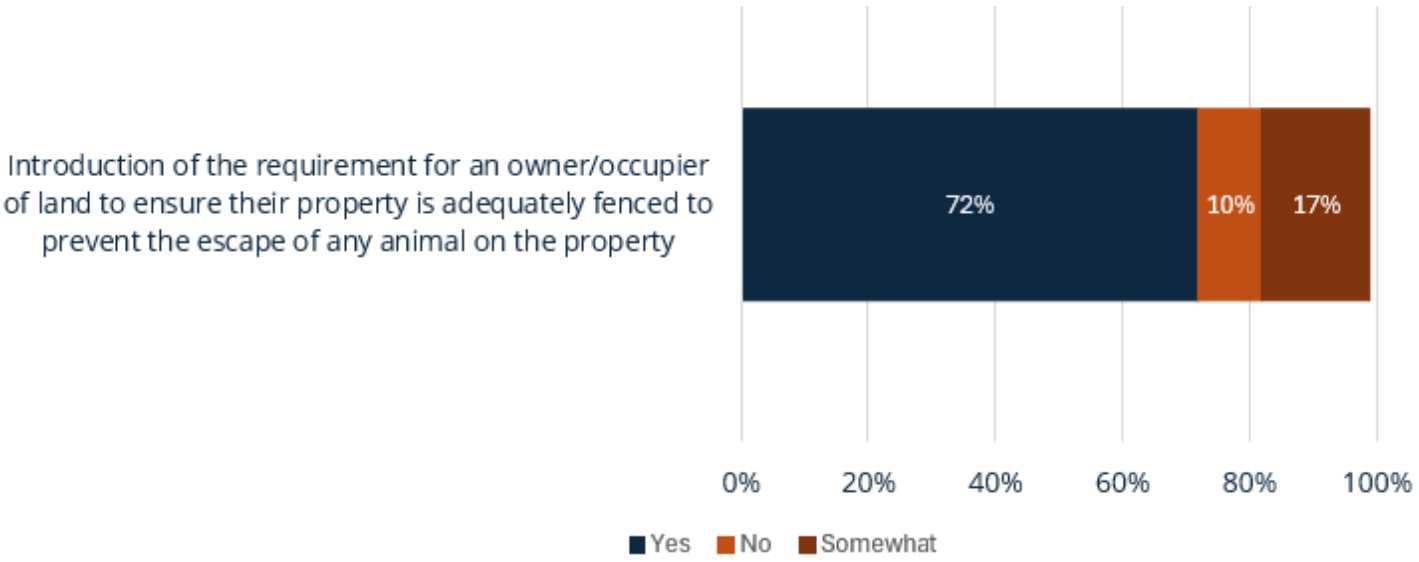
"Maintaining and mowing grass is bad for the environment. Letting grass grow is great for biodiversity and encouraging more insect and bird life. Requiring residents to mow naturestrips is counterproductive to improving our environment. Other countries actively promote not mowing grass with promotions like 'no mow may' in the UK during the summer. This helps increase vulnerable insect and bird populations. Additionally if you are also encouraging residents to replace grass naturestrips with native plants/grasses then it would be impractical to maintain them below 30cm."

"Fully support that private property has a huge impact on neighbours and environment surrounding them. There should definitely be more responsibility for owners to have a minimum standard and maintain their properties. Banyule should be able enforce this maintenance and cleanup, even when on private property."

"Is this not already the case?? My suburb is full of unmown grass, untrimmed hedges etc. it makes walking difficult, attracts snakes and makes our suburb look like a dump."

Part 8: Animals

The purpose of this part of the Local Law is to minimise the adverse impact of *animals* kept as pets in the community. The community were asked their level of support for the following:



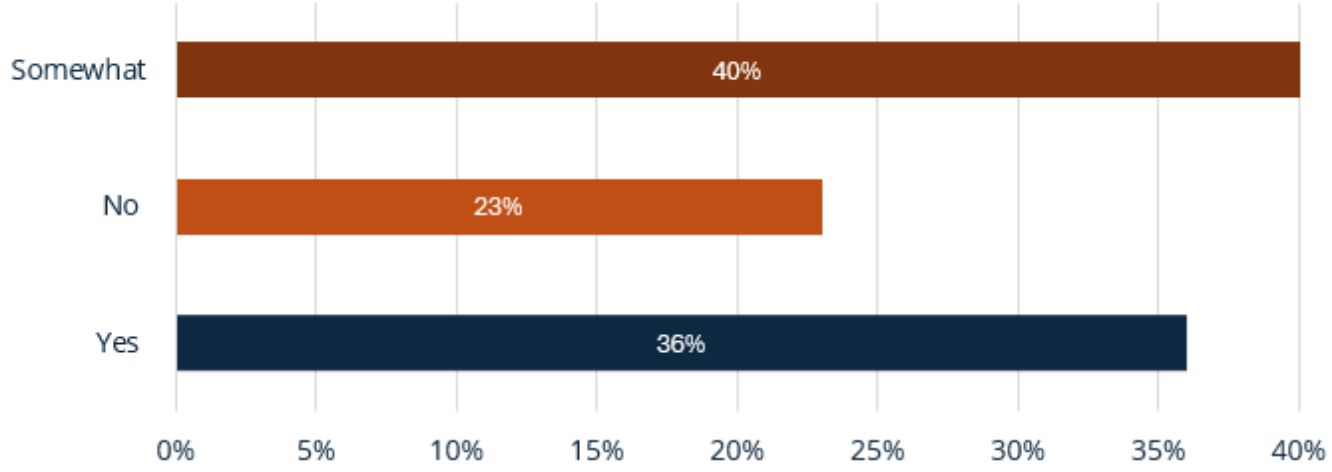
Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

"Yes, this impacts the safety of the community."

"I agree property should be fenced to prevent dogs from escaping. It is impossible to keep cats in unless there is a cat run."

"If people want animals, they must be able to lock them in for their (pets) own good!"

We asked the community what their level of support was with relation to the introduction of increased penalty rates for individuals and corporations?



Respondents were asked to explain their preferred options

"Anything that stops people breaking laws is good."

"Absolutely need proper deterrents for those who choose to breech local laws."

"Corporations, yes to an increase. Corporations often factor in the financial penalty against the benefit for taking prohibited actions, knowing often they can cover (or recoup) any fines.

Individual situations vary greatly, and although some may be willing to pay a fine, many individuals are not in the same situation."

Other considerations

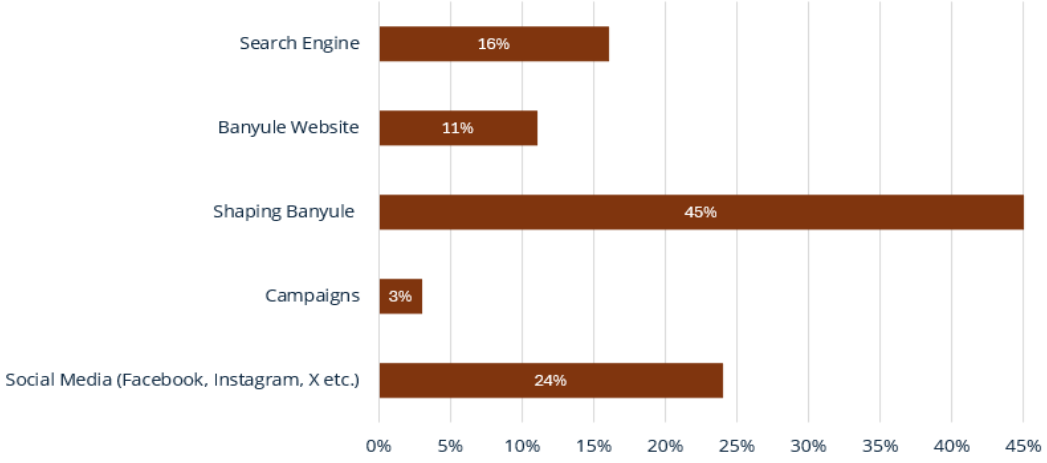
The community were asked to provide additional suggestions for the draft Local Law that may have been missing. This is an opportunity to capture a broader range of perspectives and ideas that may not have been initially considered. This enables the community to share insights and highlight any overlooked issues or propose alternate solutions. In summary a list of considerations has been provided by way of response to the survey questions or via written submission:

- Restricting the use of open fires, fire pits, wood heaters or anything of a similar nature;
- That vacant properties be properly boarded up to prevent squatters from occupying the property;
- Ban cars from parking their wheels up on the kerb or grass nature strips in residential areas; and
- Light pollution from businesses keeping disruptive lights on outside of opening hours.

Detailed findings

Where did you find out about the survey?

The most common way people found out about the survey was through direct contact through the Shaping Banyule website (45%), followed by social media (24%). (982 people responded to this question)



Where did you find out about the survey?	No.	% (n=982)
Council website	108	11%
Shaping Banyule	442	45%
Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)	237	24%
Campaigns	35	3%
Search Engine	160	16%

Downloads

As part of the community consultation process, additional supporting information was made available, resulting in a total of 159 downloads. This included 134 downloads of the draft Community Local Law 2025 and 25 downloads of the Local Laws Community Impact Statement.

File Title	No. of downloads
Draft Community Local Law 2025	134
Local Laws Community Impact Statement	25