Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030

Community feedback – summary

The draft Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030 was available for public feedback for one month between 8 May – 8 June 2025. A summary of the engagement and responses is as follows:

- 762 views to the Active Banyule page on the Shaping Banyule website
- 63 residents completed the feedback survey
- The response was overwhelmingly positive with 74.6% of survey respondents either selecting 'Strongly Support' or 'Support' for the Vision of the Active Banyule Plan: 'An active, happy and healthy community with choice and opportunity to participate in sport and recreation that is meaningful to them.'

Some examples of positive feedback written in response to the draft Active Banyule Plan:

- *"If this can be implemented well it will have a huge positive effect on mental health."*
- *"Sport and fitness are important to stay healthy and it is good that Banyule is encouraging it."*
- *"It seems to me that the plan is comprehensive in that it seeks to engage all sectors of the community."*
- *"An active community is a good thing for people's health including their mental health"*
- *"Data tells us that health - physical, emotional and mental - are so often tied to levels of physical activity and social engagement - and, importantly, inclusion."*
- *"Great initiative."*

Feedback Themes

The following indicates common themes of feedback to the draft Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030, and how the feedback has been implemented into the final Plan.

Requests to reduce the emphasis on sports clubs and to place greater priority on general physical activity for the wider community.

- Some goals in the Plan have been condensed and/or merged to reduce the number of goals specific to sports clubs.
- Furthermore, more goals have been written into the Plan to focus on areas outside of sports clubs such as dog-walking, outdoor exercise equipment, community events, age-friendly activities and cycling. This helps to ensure there is a better balance between the number of goals about sports clubs and about general community.
- While some goals have been removed or modified to place greater balance between sports clubs and general community, Council recognises that Sporting Clubs are key partners in delivering the vision and outcomes of the Active Banyule Plan. They play a critical role in creating opportunities for community connection, skill development, and lifelong participation in physical activity. The success of Active Banyule relies on the strength and sustainability of our local clubs, which provide structured programs, volunteer leadership, and inclusive environments that support active and healthy lifestyles.

Dissatisfaction with amount of cycling infrastructure in Banyule, and requests for more comprehensive goals around cycling.

- Outcome 2.4 has been split into two comprehensive outcomes focused on cycling, 2.4 and 2.5, which are written as follows:
  - 2.4 Walking and bike riding are strongly supported throughout Banyule with investment in high-quality infrastructure, enhancing the safety and accessibility of active transport options.

Goal: Implementation of the Banyule Walking Strategy and the Banyule Bicycle Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2027 addressing key objectives:

- Major projects & advocacy
- Network connectivity
- Safe and inclusive design
- Walking and cycling for all

This includes the delivery of Council's Local Bicycle Network routes, continuing advocacy to the State government for inclusion of safe, off-road bicycle and walking connections as part of all major projects, and the delivery of bike parking at all Council facilities including playgrounds, sporting grounds and pavilions.

- 2.5 Community participation is enhanced by opportunities to build skills and confidence by increasing awareness of local walking and bike riding routes, groups and events.
  - Develop a consistent and integrated approach to wayfinding and signage to support the community to travel safely and confidently within the municipality and further afield, particularly by active modes.
  - Develop and support initiatives and programs that provide opportunities for the community to develop skills, confidence and connection through walking and bike riding. This includes Ride2Work Day and active travel to school programs.

Requests for more actions in the Plan specific to helping older adults to be more active.

- In outcome 1.5, an additional goal has been added specifically for older adults.

  Goal: Increase physical activity opportunities for older adults aged 60+ through the following:
  - Increase promotion of the local, low-cost activities available specifically for older adults 60+, such as classes at leisure centres, neighbourhood houses, and seniors' groups.
  - Elevate the annual Banyule Seniors Festival Celebration to include the Older Adults Walk-a-thon event, to promote exercise awareness for older adults and promote local groups and clubs who deliver physical activity for older adults.

More support and designated areas wanted for dog-walkers in Banyule.

- The following goals have been added in outcome 2.5 to support dog-walking in Banyule.

  Goal: Increase promotion and awareness of dog-walking parks and areas in Banyule to better inform dog-walkers of suitable local locations.

  Goal: Investigate the feasibility of running a community event which focuses on celebrating pets and the role they play in our health and wellbeing.

More support wanted for volunteers of sports clubs.

- The following goal has been added in outcome 3.3.

  Goal: Review how Banyule Council currently acknowledges and celebrates sports club volunteers and explore opportunities to enhance recognition and support.

More shade wanted for playgrounds and parks so residents can spend more time outdoors in the warmer months.

- Council acknowledges the community's feedback and the importance of providing shade in playgrounds to support active outdoor play, particularly during warmer months.
- Council is addressing this in two key ways:
  - Urban Forest Strategy Canopy Target: Council's Urban Forest Strategy (2023) sets a target to achieve at least 50% tree canopy cover across Banyule's open space paths and playgrounds by 2050. This target guides long-term planning and investment in tree planting to improve natural shade across the municipality.
  - Advanced Tree Planting Program: In 2025, Council is planting **3,100 new trees** in parks and streets. A significant number of these are being planted:

        - Along open space walking and cycling paths
        - Adjacent to or within playground areas to improve future shade cover
- Whilst shade sails are used in many schools and children's centres where the site is managed and secured, they are not considered the most sustainable form of shade protection in public parks.
- In the coming years we will be proactively planting trees in playgrounds scheduled for upgrade. This would enable trees to mature and provide an increased level of shade by the time the playground upgrade occurs.
- This is not specifically addressed as an action in Active Banyule.

Concern for not enough facilities in Heidelberg West and concern around the possibility of Olympic Leisure Centre (OLC) closing.

- The OLC will continue to play and deliver a very vital health, fitness and wellbeing role for 3081 community. The Plan identifies the role that all our community leisure centres play in keeping our community active and connected. Specific goals related to OLC and 3081 include:

    Goal: Partner with our leisure centres to develop programs which increase physical activity and participation for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

    Goal: Conduct a comprehensive review of fees, charges, and membership structures across all Council-owned leisure centres to ensure fair, equitable, and accessible pricing. This includes Ivanhoe Leisure Centre, Olympic Leisure Centre, and NETS Stadium Macleod.

    Goal: Partner with Barrbunin Beek to deliver regular physical activity programming and identify other opportunities for increased First Nations participation and engagement.