

Banyule Futures – Survey and pop-up findings report by precinct

North Precinct (Greensborough)

127 people participated in North Precinct engagement activities, including 77 who completed surveys and 50 who participated in the pop-up at the Greensborough Walk Mother's Day Market on 11 May 2024.

Of the 109 people who provided gender and age information, **Figure 31** shows that people who identified as woman or female are twice as represented as people who identified as man or male. There were no people that identified as gender diverse. Similar to age representation across this Banyule Futures engagement, **Figure 32** shows that people who are 35 - 49 years old are most represented.

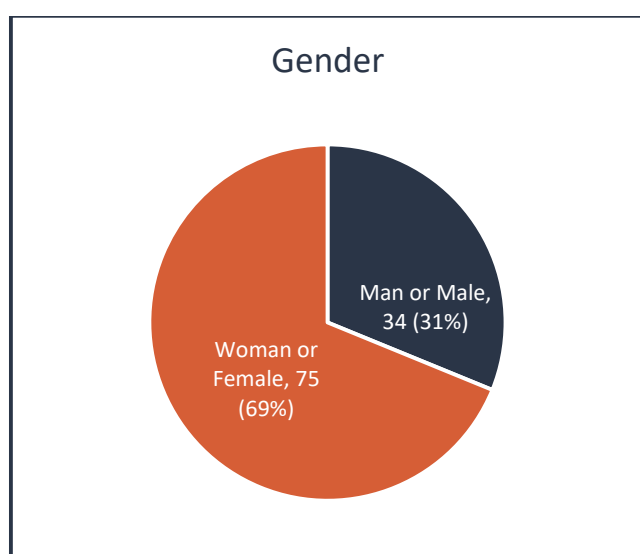


Figure 31 - North Precinct participant gender

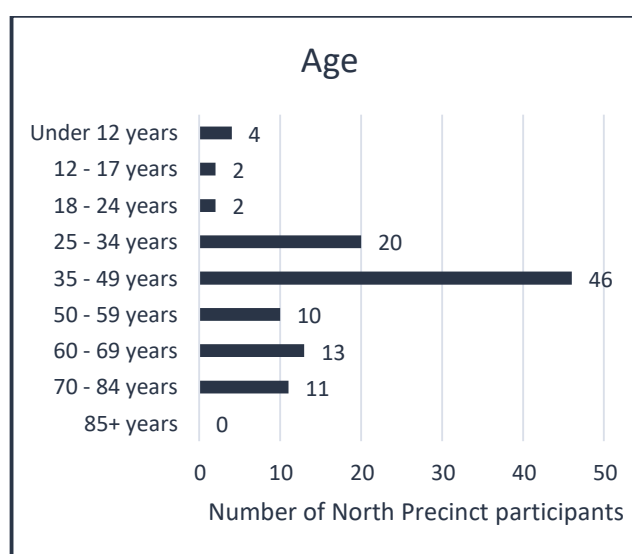


Figure 32 - North Precinct participant age

Seven people who live with disability, **4** who identify as LGBTIQ+, **one** as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, **8** who speak English as a second or other language and **5** carers completed the North Precinct survey.

1. What do you love about North Precinct?

122 responses were received for the question 'What do you love about North Precinct (Greensborough)?' A number of themes were identified during analysis of these responses.

1. Green space and nature

There were many references to people loving the trees, park, natural environment and connection to greenery in North Precinct. Specific reference was made to Kalparrin Gardens, Whatmough Park and Partingtons Flat.

2. Community and family friendly

Respondents noted that North Precinct has a strong sense of community and family-oriented amenities, friendly neighbours, community events and is safe and welcoming.

3. Convenience, accessibility and local amenities

People's proximity to public transport, major roads, medical services, cafes, restaurants and Greensborough Plaza was something people said they love about North Precinct. They also said that community and neighbourhood houses are a positive aspect.

4. Recreational facilities

Facilities like the WaterMarc aquatic centre, tennis clubs, playgrounds, ovals and walking and bike trails were seen as attributes of the area.

5. Quiet and peaceful environment

People also noted that they like the quiet streets of North Precinct, that there is less traffic and a sense of escape from the city.

2. Priorities

The following priorities were presented to participants as part of the North Precinct survey and pop-ups to gauge people's level of agreement with what we understand from the Living in Place survey data.



Figure 33 - North Precinct priorities

Of the 102 people that responded to this question, 86% (88) agreed or strongly agreed with these priorities for North Precinct and 14% (14) disagreed.

Level of agreement	Percentage (number)
Agree or Strongly Agree	86% (88)
Disagree	14% (14)

Figure 34 - level of agreement, North Precinct priorities

Agree or Strongly Agree

Of the 86% (88) of respondents that said they agree with the priorities for North Precinct, **safety concerns** were discussed in terms of crime, particularly around Greensborough Plaza and public transport areas. Suggestions were made for more police presence and better lighting to increase safety.

There was also strong emphasis on the importance of preserving the **natural environment** and trees, parks and green spaces to enhance quality of life. Similar to other precincts, there was a concern about the impact of **development** and **infrastructure** projects on green spaces, and a desire not to become a concrete jungle.

People also agreed that **public transport** is a priority, with specific reference to the importance of accessibility, frequency and reliability of services. There were some concerns around availability of car parks and suggestions for expanded services.

In addition to the three priorities listed, **community and livability** were seen as a priority for respondents, with people valuing social connection and the importance of community amenities such as shops, libraries and recreational facilities. There were some concerns about the negative impact of social and economic inequalities.

Disagree

The 14% of respondents that disagreed with these priorities emphasised the importance of **feeling safe**, highlighting incidents of crime and the importance of public safety around Greensborough Plaza. Safety for women and children is emphasised, particularly on public transport and when walking.

While there was also concern regarding the impact of development on the **natural environment** and the importance of preserving trees and green spaces, some people felt that **feeling safe** was more important.

People felt that **public transport** needs to be more of a priority, particularly with regard to safety, accessibility and frequency.

People who responded that they disagreed stressed that **strengthening community** by delivering health and wellbeing initiatives, upgrading **lighting**, maintaining **cleanliness** of public spaces and **reducing traffic** are also priorities.

3. Concerns

The following concerns were presented to participants as part of the North Precinct survey and pop-ups to gauge people's level of agreement with what we understand from the Living in Place survey data.

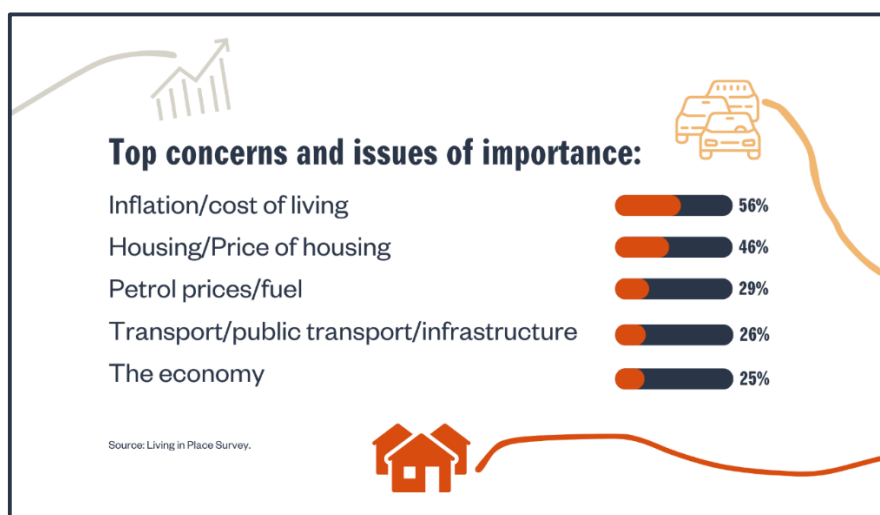


Figure 35 - North Precinct concerns

Of the 102 people that responded to this question, 85% (87) agreed or strongly agreed with these concerns for North Precinct, 14% (14) disagreed and 1% (1) did not know or could not say.

Level of agreement	Percentage (number)
Agree or Strongly Agree	85% (87)
Disagree or Strongly Disagree	14% (14)
Don't know/can't say	1% (1)

Figure 36 - level of agreement, North Precinct concerns

Agree or Strongly Agree

The people that agreed with these concerns for North Precinct noted that the rise in **cost of living**, including rising daily costs and the inability to save, is problematic. Specific mentions were made regarding groceries, **petrol**, general inflation and the challenges people are having maintaining their standard of living.

There was also agreement that the **cost of housing and rent** in the area is making it hard for younger people and families to settle, and the impact that housing affordability is having on people's mental health.

Similar to people's responses to North Precinct priorities, there was a general call to improve **public transport** accessibility, reliability and safety given the important role it has for people who commute.

People's broad concern with **the economy** was also discussed, with reference made to increasing government debt and economic instability impacting job securing and planning for retirement.

Other concerns raised included rising **crime** rates, the impact of **economic and housing issues** on **community wellbeing**, the need for **more community initiatives** to support vulnerable groups and **the impact of infrastructure projects** on the natural environment.

Disagree or Strongly Disagree

Of the people that disagreed or strongly disagreed, there was some sentiment that Council should focus on the issues that it can impact, and that **inflation**, **cost of living** and **housing affordability** do not fall into this category.

While some people agreed that **public transport** and **infrastructure** are a concern, they felt that it should be higher on the list and that there is a need to improve transport infrastructure, including bike paths and commuter paths.

Respondents also stressed the importance of **public safety** as a concern for people in North Precinct and said that it should be included in the list. Specific reference was made to concerns about safety for residents over 60 years, vandalism and dogs who are not controlled by their owners.

Don't know/can't say

The one person that said they did not know or could not say their level of agreement felt that the concerns listed were broad and not specific to North Precinct.

4. Health and Wellbeing

To understand people's views on health and wellbeing in North Precinct, we presented the following data from the Living in Place Survey and asked two questions:

1. Is there anything else you want to tell us about the health and wellbeing of people in North Precinct?
2. What's one thing Council could do differently to improve the health and wellbeing of people in North Precinct?

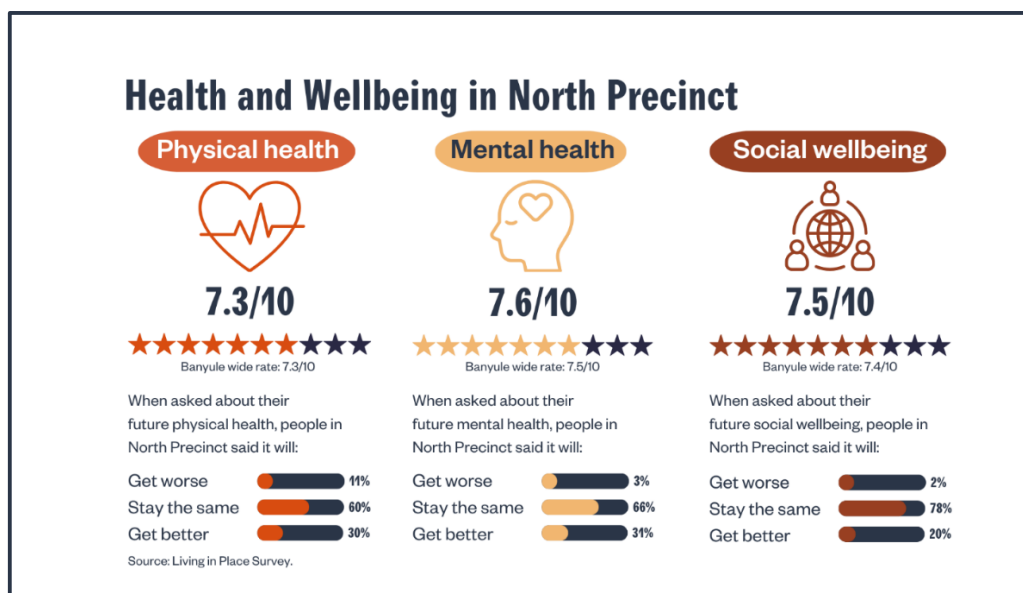


Figure 37 - Health and Wellbeing in North Precinct

Responses for North Precinct have been analysed and highlighted these health and wellbeing themes:

1. Physical environment including infrastructure

- Residents highlighted several key themes related to physical environment in their areas and suggested investing in social infrastructure such as creating and maintaining parks, walking trails, and bike paths to promote physical activity.
- Green spaces and the natural environment are crucial for mental and physical health. Residents stressed the importance of preserving and expanding parks, walking trails, and bike paths and there was a strong call to increase greenery in suburban areas and maintain walking paths and parks properly.
- Improved lighting along footpaths and public spaces is seen as essential for safety and to encourage outdoor activity.
- The need for additional amenities, such as libraries and meeting rooms, is also emphasised, with residents calling for a proper library in the centre of Greensborough.

2. Increasing active living

- Respondents reiterated that the promotion of physical activities at school as part of health and fitness programs can foster a culture of active living. Workplace wellness programs and opportunities for employees should be integrated into daily work life.
- More affordable and accessible infrastructure such as subsidised memberships in WaterMarc, secure bike parking to promote active transport, investing in fitness amenities in parks and creating more community programs and events can help all the age groups stay active.

3. Income

- Residents expressed significant concern about the impact of income and cost of living on their health and wellbeing. The rising cost of living makes homeownership challenging, and young families are particularly affected by the financial and work-life balance pressures.
- There is a strong call for subsidising local amenities and providing more affordable bulk-billing health services to alleviate financial burdens. Many residents also pointed to the lack of timely resources and support services, particularly for mental health.
- There was also a call for more funding for charity groups, better promotion of free mental health services, and increased support for the homeless and those affected by the rental crisis.

4. Improving wellbeing

- Mental health and wellbeing were said to need immediate attention.
- Respondents emphasised several factors that impact directly on mental wellbeing such as financial stress, unaffordable mental health services, employment and job security, housing, environmental changes due to large projects (specifically mentioned 'North East Link') which have resulted in the massive loss of trees and green spaces.
- Pets and social connection through community programs and spaces were expressed as positive contributing factors on people's mental wellbeing.

5. Projects

The following list of proposed advocacy, capital works and infrastructure projects to take place in North Precinct was included in the survey and presented to people at pop-ups to ask the level to which they agreed that the projects would have a positive impact on livability, health and wellbeing.

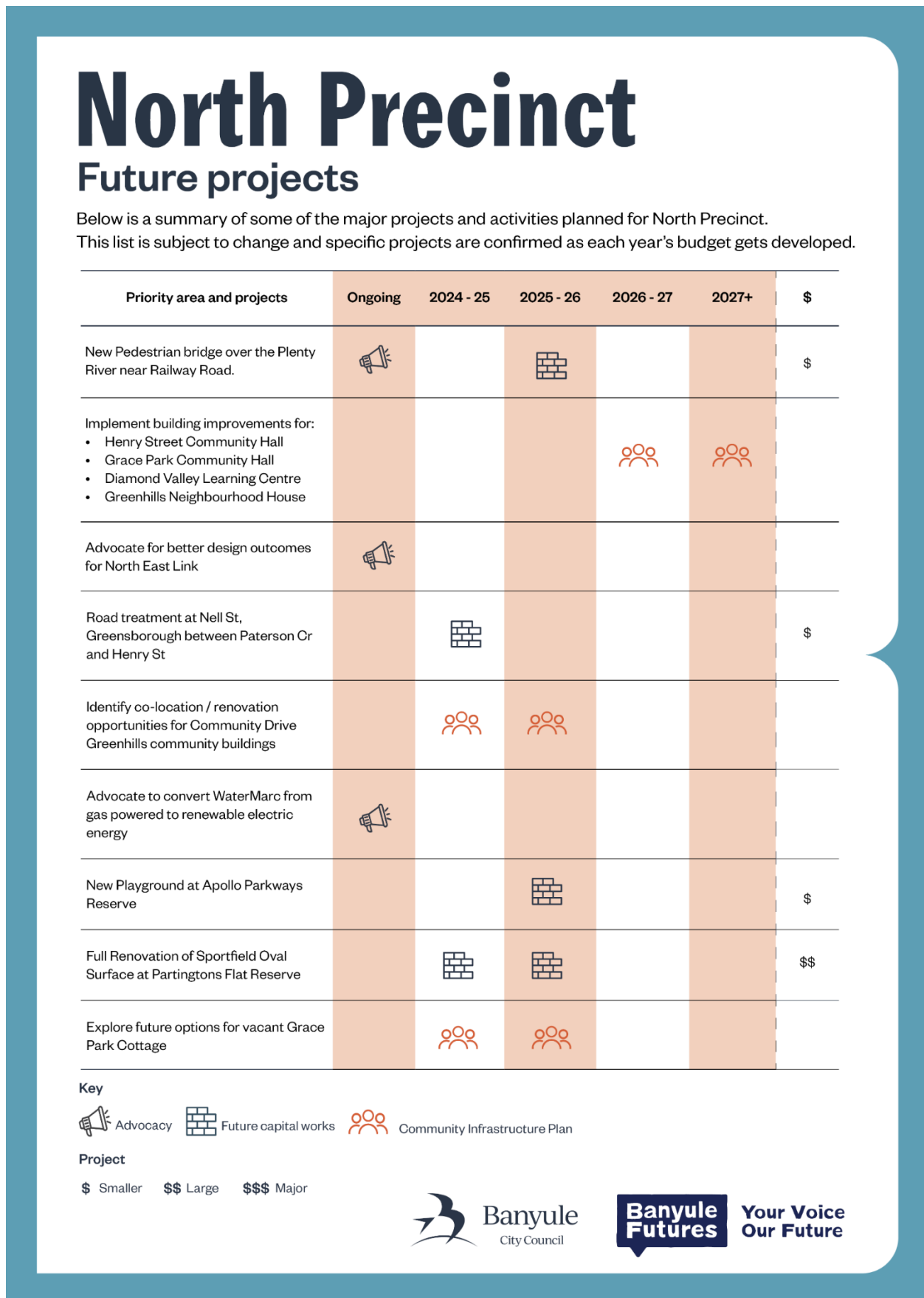


Figure 38 - North Precinct projects

Of the 100 people that responded to this question, 67% (67) agreed or strongly agreed with these projects for North Precinct, 24% (24) disagreed or strongly disagreed and 9% (9) said they did not know or could not say.

Level of agreement	Percentage (number)
Agree or Strongly Agree	67% (67)
Disagree or Strongly Disagree	24% (24)
Don't know/can't say	9% (9)

Figure 39 - level of agreement, North Precinct projects

Agree or Strongly Agree

Of the people that said they agree and strongly agree with the proposed projects, it was said that continued advocacy for better **North East Link** outcomes is crucial.

While there were some concerns about the cost-effectiveness of **converting WaterMarc from gas to renewable electricity**, and mixed opinions about the direct impact some projects will have on people's lives, there was support for road works and improvements to the **North East Link**, M80 and Para Road.

There was general support for the **community and open space projects** and a sense that they will benefit and enrich the community.

A number of people spoke about the importance of planting more **trees** as a priority project.

There were specific mentions of the need for **footbridges over St Helena Road and Diamond Creek Road**, and **family violence and respite centres**.

A number of people also called for a **library in Greensborough**, noting that the others are not convenient.

Disagree or Strongly Disagree

People who disagreed and strongly disagreed with these projects stressed the importance of **safety**, particularly around Greensborough Plaza and pedestrian safety near Main Road and Diamond Creek Road.

There was support for **converting WaterMarc to renewable electricity** and advocating for better **North East Link** outcomes, with some people very concerned about the negative environmental impact.

People said that projects that enable **farmers' markets and community fitness** should be included, and that more amenities like gyms, parks and playgrounds are needed.

There was also some disappointment that the list does not include any environmental or biodiversity projects.

Other suggestions included better amenities at **Elder St Reserve** and swings at **Anthony Beale Park**, as well as **Masterplan for development near Greensborough Station**.

Don't know/can't say

People that chose this response either did not know the projects or felt they did not know enough to comment. One person, however, did say that **speed management on Plenty River Drive near the Apollo Parkways Pre-school** would be beneficial, noting three incidents of people driving over the traffic island.