

Nature Strip Planting Guidelines

Engagement Report and Feedback Analysis

Shaping Banyule Community Survey - April 2025

Table of Contents

Background	3
Engagement	3
Draft Nature Strip Guidelines	3
Pop Up Community Sessions	3
Community Information Sessions	4
Survey	4

Background

[The Urban Forest Strategy 2023](#) collaborated with the community to create a strong vision:

Banyule's urban forest is resilient. It is thriving and people are aware and value the role of the urban forest for health and wellbeing and in making Banyule a great place to live. The urban forest is managed as an essential asset for Banyule and decisions about the urban forest are fit for place and purpose and space is provided to support greening and larger tree canopy. People work with Council and are active in the protection, management, and maintenance of the urban forest.

The Urban Forest Strategy established actions for the next ten years through an [Implementation Plan](#), to preserve and enhance our urban forest. One of the short-term goals is Action 2.4 within Strategic Area 2:

Strategic Area 2 - Increase the diversity of the urban forest for biodiversity and habitat with ground cover and shrub layer plantings

Action 2.4 - Develop the nature strip planting program, provide guidelines, and promotion of the benefits to residents.

Nature strips provide space for services like drainage, electricity, and internet infrastructure. They also provide areas for waste collection, street trees, street lighting, bus stops, seating, and shelters.

Nature strips enhance the streetscape and create a safe space between pedestrians and traffic. They usually feature street trees and lawn, providing important benefits to our environment.

Well-planted and well-kept nature strips offer a wonderful opportunity to make public spaces more biodiverse, increasing habitat for pollinators and helping keep streets cooler during hot days.

Engagement

Draft Nature Strip Guidelines

The draft [Nature Strip Planting Guidelines](#) were available on [Shaping Banyule](#) from 17 March – 21 April 2025 and feedback was sought through direct email feedback, a [Survey](#), [Pop Up Community Engagement](#) and [Community Information Sessions](#). Engagement has been promoted on the Council website, the Banyule Banner, Banyule Enews, through signs at local reserves and the Greenwrap environmental newsletter.

The feedback is presented here along with consideration and review to incorporate changes from what we have heard from the community for the Nature Strip Planting Guidelines.

Pop Up Community Sessions

Along with the Community Information Sessions and the Community Survey, a Council officer attended and roamed the Lantern Festival at Malahang Reserve and the Harmony Bazaar at Binnak Park to invite discussion and hand out postcards to encourage further feedback through the Shaping Banyule survey.

Community Information Sessions

Four Community Information Sessions were held across a range of venues and had a terrific attendance. A summary of the four community information sessions is included in Table 1 below.

Community Information Sessions	Date	No. participants
Greensborough Civic Centre	5 March 2025	36 (including 6 Councillors)
Online session	25 March 2025	10
Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub	27 March 2025	18
Watsonia Library	1 April 2025	14
Total		78

Table 1 Information sessions and number of participants

Survey

A survey was conducted on the [Shaping Banyule page](#) for the Nature Strip Planting Guidelines which had a significant response of **347 online contributions** from **336 contributors plus 2 from paper forms**, with further metrics in **Figure 1**.

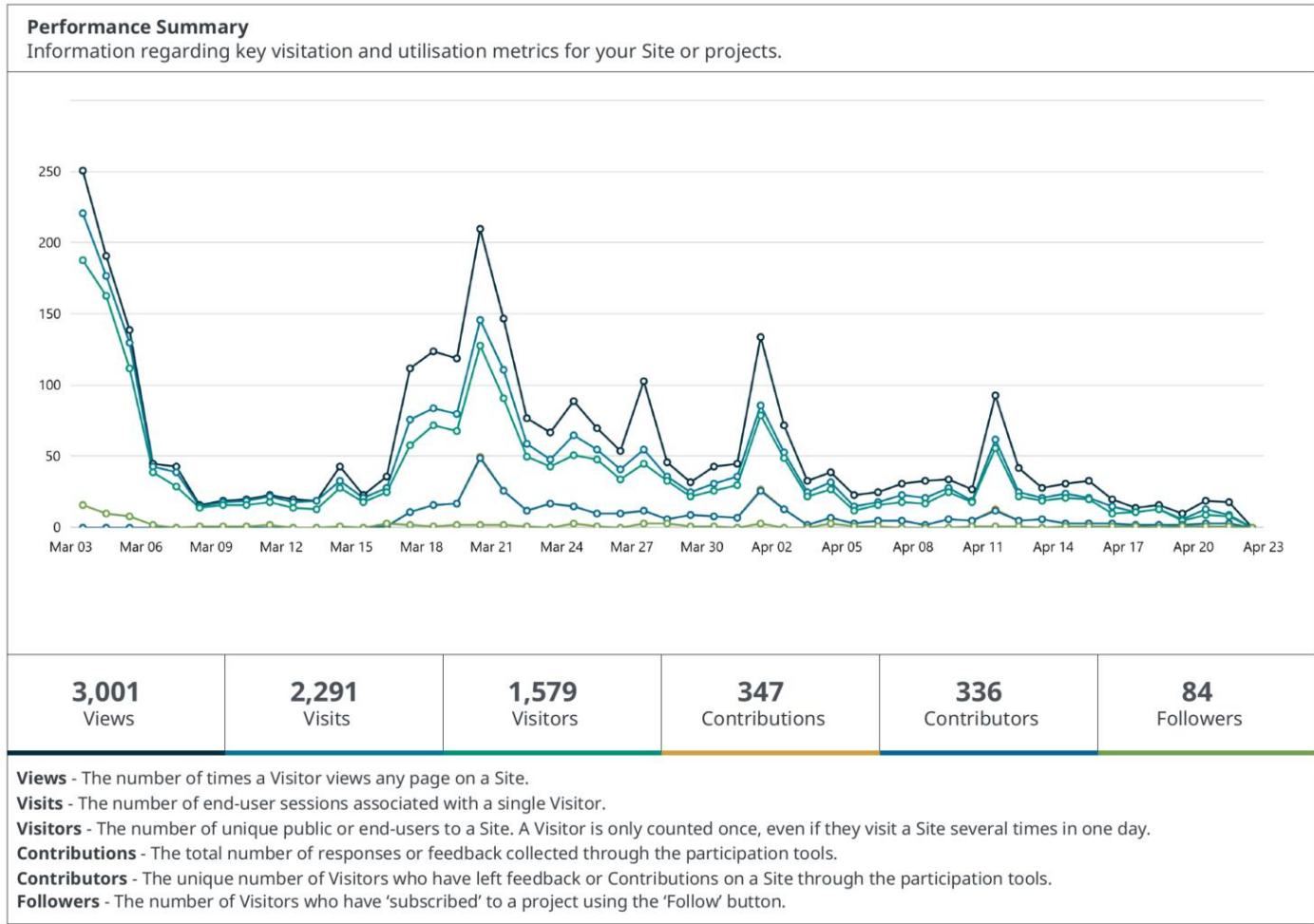


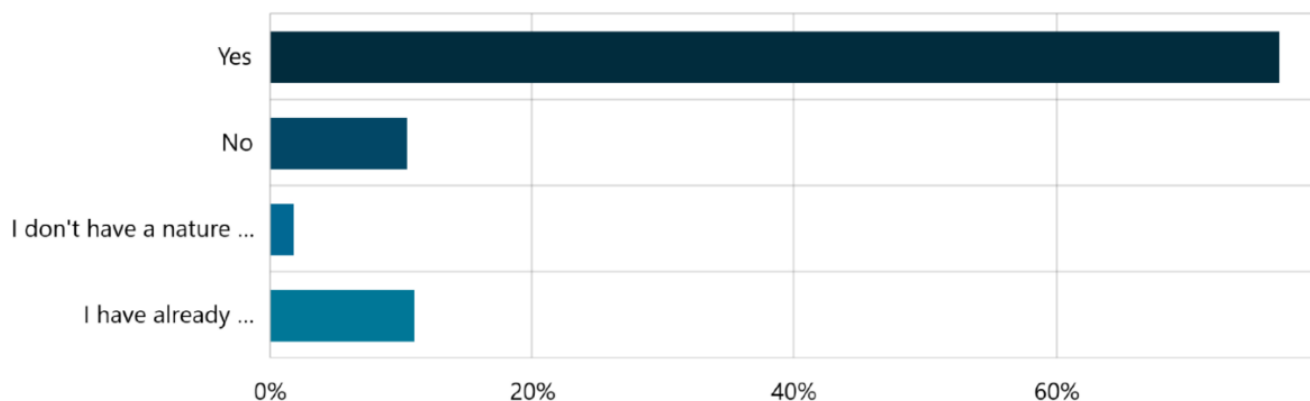
Figure 1 Shaping Banyule Response Summary

The survey consisted of **22 questions** and the results for questions are listed below.

This report includes the analysis of responses received from the Shaping Banyule survey during consultation.

1. Are you interested in planting the nature strip in front of your property?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 347 (100%)



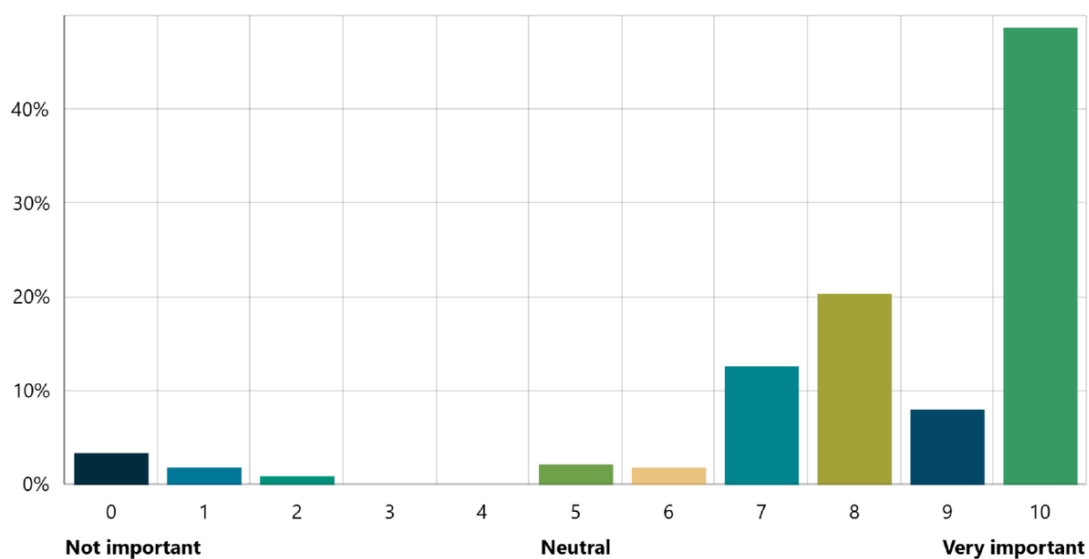
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	76.95%	267
No	10.37%	36
I don't have a nature strip	1.73%	6
I have already planted my nature strip	10.95%	38
Total	100.00%	347

Question 2 asked respondents why they chose the answer for **Question 1**.

Summary of written responses:

Most respondents expressed strong interest in planting their nature strip, primarily driven by a desire to **support biodiversity, reduce maintenance, beautify the street, and take meaningful climate action**. Native plants were consistently preferred for their ecological value and resilience. While many have already transformed their nature strips or plan to, others noted obstacles such as council approval, parking, and physical limitations. Overall, the responses reflect a growing community interest for sustainable, attractive, and ecologically rich streetscapes.

3. How important is it to have our nature strips planted? (1= not important, 10 = Very important)
 Slider | Skipped: 23 | Answered: 324 (93.4%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
324	8.37	9.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.40%	1.85%	0.93%	0%	0%	2.16%	1.85%	12.65%	20.37%	8.02%	48.77%
11	6	3	0	0	7	6	41	66	26	158

Question 4 asked respondents why they chose the answer for **Question 2**.

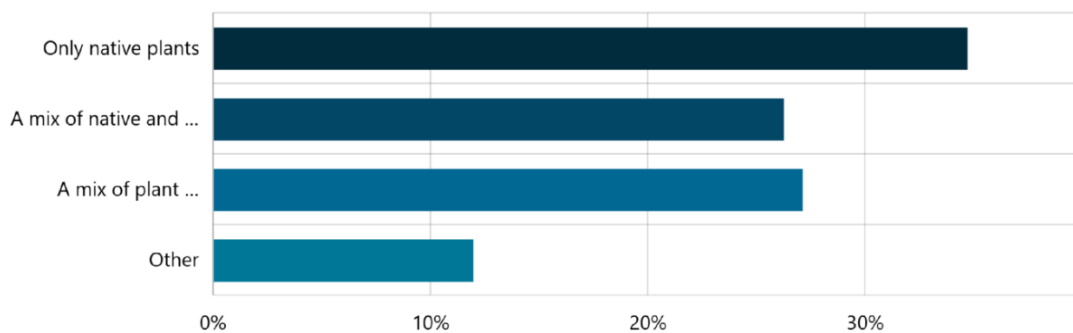
Summary of written responses:

Planting nature strips is widely seen as an important and positive action, with many respondents highlighting the **environmental and community benefits**. People spoke about how vegetation **cools the street, supports pollinators, improves air quality, and manages stormwater**. A well-planted nature strip not only contributes to **local biodiversity** but also adds to the visual appeal of a neighbourhood, giving residents a **sense of pride and ownership** in their surroundings.

Beyond the environmental gains, nature strip planting was also seen as a way to **strengthen community ties**. Respondents appreciated how nature strips could **spark conversations and foster a shared sense of responsibility** for public spaces. However, some acknowledged barriers such as time, maintenance, cost and council regulations. Overall, the responses reflected a strong appreciation for the role of nature strips in creating **greener, more connected** neighbourhoods.

5. What types of plants would you prefer to see planted on nature strips?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 4 | Answered: 343 (98.8%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Only native plants	34.69%	119
A mix of native and non-native plants	26.24%	90
A mix of plant species (nature strips within 200 metres of waterways and wildlife corridors should be planted using a recommended local plant list to protect local ecosystems - Refer to diagram above)	27.11%	93
Other	11.95%	41
Total	100.00%	343

Summary of responses:

The responses reflect a range of community views on planting preferences, with a strong emphasis on the importance of native vegetation. About **35% of respondents supported planting only native species** across the board, highlighting a desire to protect and promote local ecosystems.

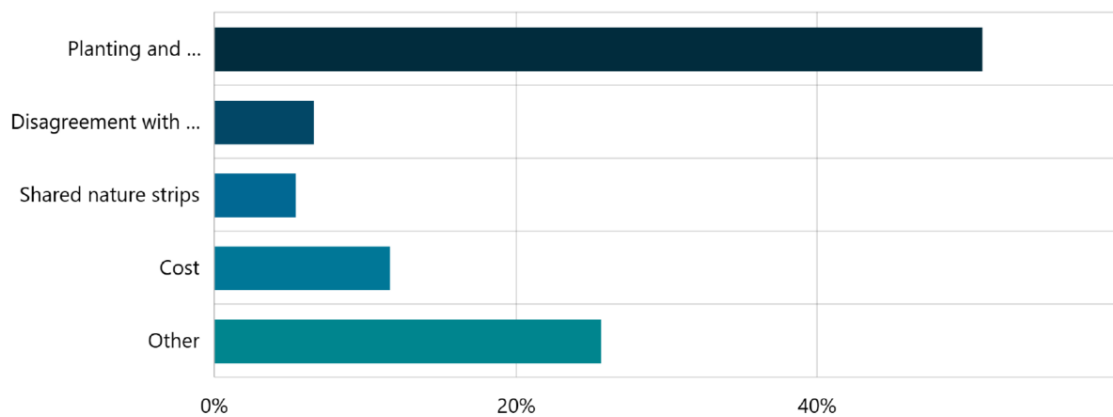
Meanwhile, **26% expressed a preference for a flexible approach** that allows for a mix of native and non-native plants, suggesting an interest in diversity and personal choice in planting.

Another **27% supported a more targeted strategy**—requiring only local native species to be planted in ecologically sensitive areas like waterways and biodiversity corridors, while allowing a mix in less sensitive locations.

This balanced perspective shows a growing awareness of both environmental needs and the value of flexibility in urban planting decisions.

6. What do you think are the biggest challenges to planting on nature strips?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 11 | Answered: 336 (96.8%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Planting and ongoing maintenance	50.89%	171
Disagreement with neighbours	6.55%	22
Shared nature strips	5.36%	18
Cost	11.61%	39
Other	25.60%	86
Total	100.00%	336

Summary of responses:

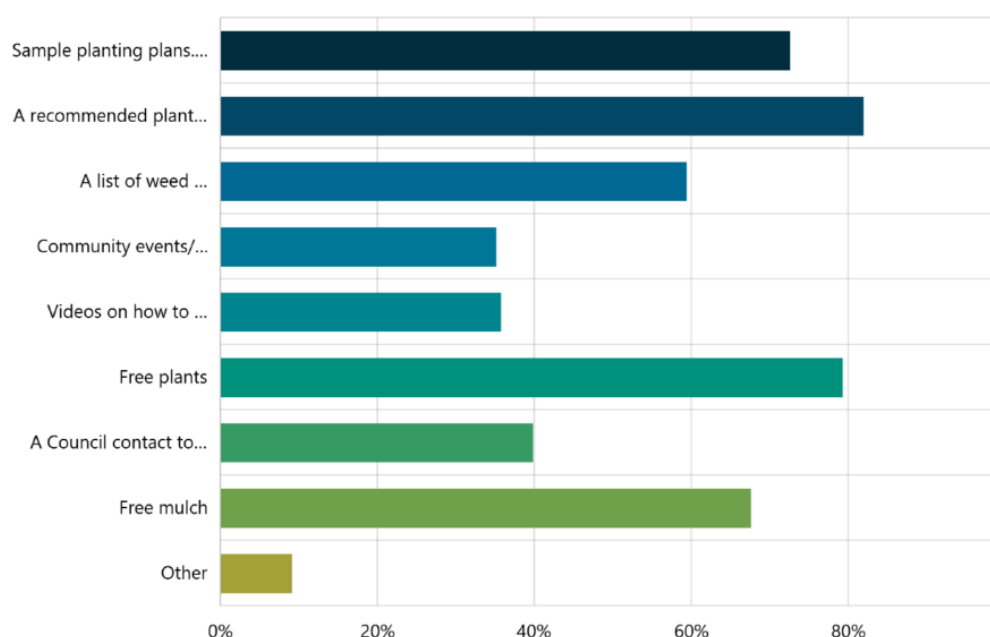
The biggest challenge identified regarding nature strip planting included the planting itself and **ongoing maintenance, with 51%** of respondents highlighting it as their main concern. This suggests that while many people are interested in modifying the nature strip, the time, effort, and resources required to establish and care for plants can be a barrier.

Cost was also noted by 12% of respondents, pointing to financial considerations as another key factor. Other challenges included **disagreements with neighbours (6.5%)** and **managing shared nature strips (5.4%)**, indicating that social dynamics and shared responsibilities can also complicate planting efforts.

A notable **25.6% of respondents selected "Other,"** reflecting a range of additional concerns not captured by the main categories—these may include issues like **council regulations or access needs**.

7. What resources would be most helpful when planting your nature strip? (tick all that apply)

Multi Choice | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 342 (98.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Sample planting plans. E.g., drought tolerant, pollinator attracting	72.51%	248
A recommended plant list	81.87%	280
A list of weed species to avoid	59.36%	203
Community events/workshops	35.09%	120
Videos on how to plant your nature strips	35.67%	122
Free plants	79.24%	271
A Council contact to ask questions	39.77%	136
Free mulch	67.54%	231
Other	9.06%	31

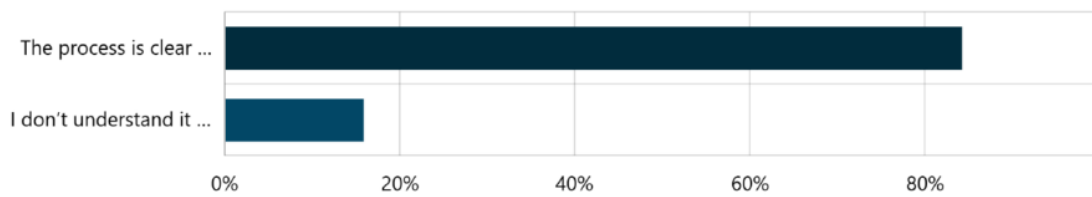
Summary of responses:

The responses show strong community interest in practical, hands-on support for planting nature strips. The most requested resource was a **recommended plant list (82%)**, followed closely by access to **free plants (80%)** and sample **planting plans (72.5%)**, indicating a clear desire for guidance and ready-to-use materials to make planting easier. Free **mulch (68%)** and a list of **weed species to avoid (60%)** were also seen as valuable tools to support successful and sustainable planting.

While fewer respondents selected community **events or workshops (35%)** and **instructional videos (35%)**, these still represent a meaningful interest in learning through both in-person and digital formats. Additionally, **40% of people** said having a **council contact** for questions would be helpful, showing that personal support and clear communication channels are also important. A smaller group **(9%) mentioned "other" resources**, suggesting there may be additional needs or creative ideas in the community not captured by the main options.

8. Tell us what you think of the approval process for nature strip planting.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 18 | Answered: 329 (94.8%)



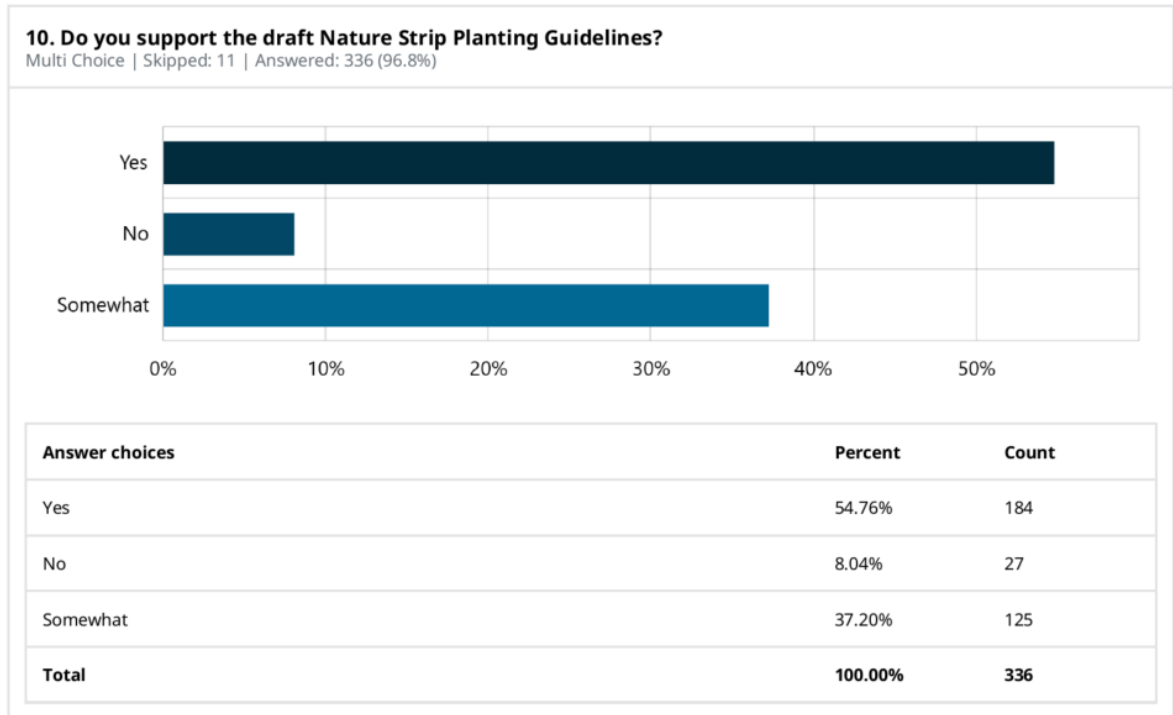
Answer choices	Percent	Count
The process is clear and easy to follow	84.19%	277
I don't understand it and I need clarification	15.81%	52
Total	100.00%	329

Question 9 asked respondents why they chose the answer for **Question 8**.

Summary of written responses:

Most respondents found the nature strip planting process **clear and easy to follow**, especially with the flowchart for the approval process and the key guidelines graphic. Suggestions included adding more guidance through sample templates, **plant lists**, and **clearer definitions for terms like "busy roads."**

Key concerns focused on **enforcement**, **flexibility for changes**, and how the process would work for **existing plantings**. Residents recommended **simplifying steps**, **offering incentives**, and encouraging **participation** through **education** and supportive **resources**.



Question 11 asked respondents why they chose the answer for **Question 10**.

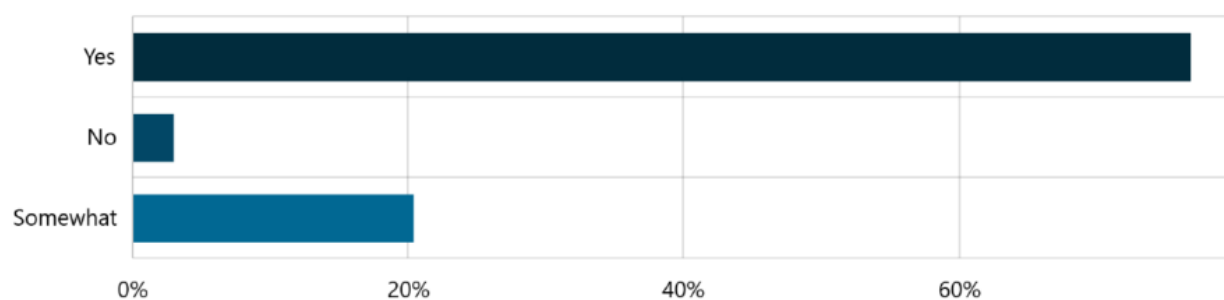
Summary of written responses:

Residents **generally support** the nature strip planting guidelines, praising their **clarity**, **environmental benefits**, and potential to **improve streetscapes**. They found the **diagrams helpful** and liked the focus on native planting.

Key concerns included **overly strict rules**, **limited flexibility for narrow strips**, and a **need for more examples**, **plant lists**, and **support for diverse needs**. The community wants a simpler, more inclusive, and encouraging approach.

12. Is the key guidelines diagram clear and easy to understand?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 344 (99.1%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	76.74%	264
No	2.91%	10
Somewhat	20.35%	70
Total	100.00%	344

Question 13 asked respondents why they chose the answer for **Questions 12**.

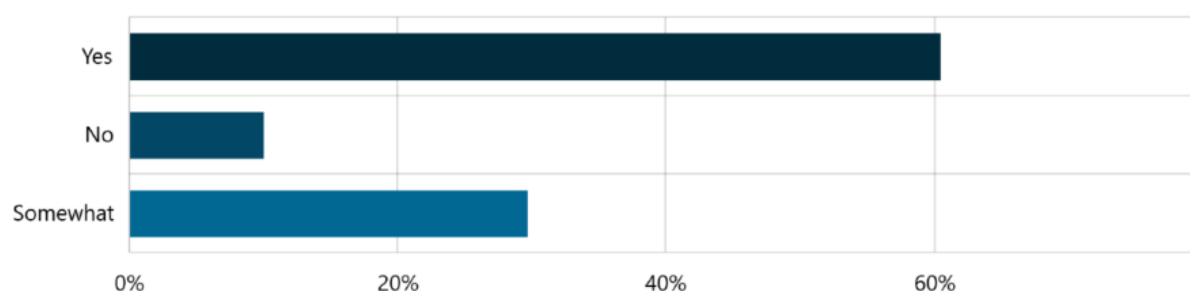
Summary of written responses

Respondents generally found the **visual guidelines clear**, well-designed, and **easy to understand**. Many appreciated the diagrams, especially the combination of bird's-eye and street-level views, and found the colour-coding and labels helpful for interpreting the planting zones.

However, some found **specific elements confusing**—like zone colours, height rules, or bin placement. Others noted that nature strips vary greatly and a **single diagram may not cover all situations**, such as multi-unit properties, narrow verges, or areas with power poles. Suggestions included adding real-life photos, more visual examples, tailored diagrams for different layouts.

14. Do you agree with the guidelines in the diagram?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 6 | Answered: 341 (98.3%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	60.41%	206
No	9.97%	34
Somewhat	29.62%	101
Total	100.00%	341

Question 15 further asked respondents to the survey why they chose the answer for **Questions 14**.

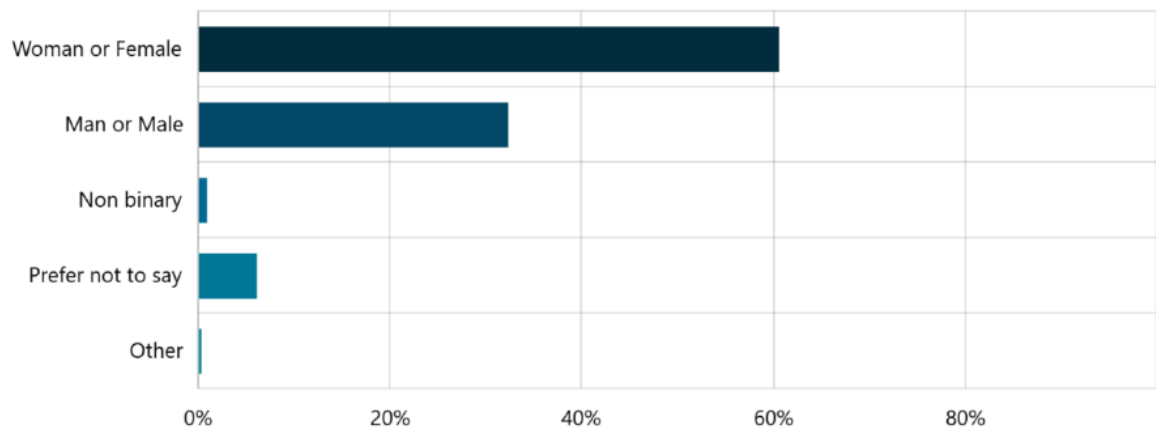
Summary of written responses:

Respondents generally found the nature strip planting guidelines **logical and easy to follow**, with many appreciating the **balance between access, safety, and biodiversity**. The **diagram** was considered helpful, and the rules for visibility, access zones, and plant height were **mostly supported in principle**.

However, there were concerns about the guidelines **being too rigid** making them **difficult to apply** to **narrow nature strips or strips with other variations**. Some found the planting **height limits restrictive** and called for **more flexibility** in terms of plant height and clearance areas. Others requested **more visuals**, planting templates, and clarification around specific scenarios (e.g., infrastructure on nature strip). There was also pushback against the need for exact spacing or **too many restrictions that could discourage participation**.

16. Gender Required

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 347 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Woman or Female	60.52%	210
Man or Male	32.28%	112
Non binary	0.86%	3
Prefer not to say	6.05%	21
Other	0.29%	1
Total	100.00%	347

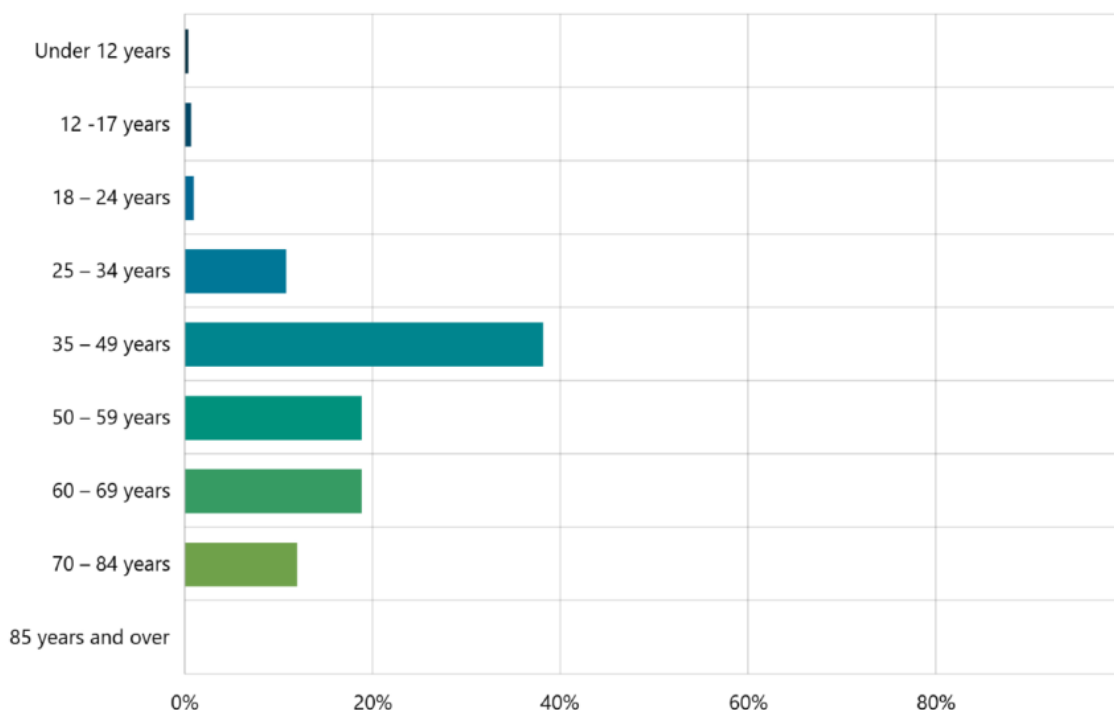
Summary of responses:

The breakdown of respondents shows a **strong female majority**, with around 60% identifying as female. This suggests that women may be more engaged or interested in nature strip planting or related community and environmental initiatives. Males made up 32% of responses, while almost 1% identified as non-binary, and 6% preferred not to disclose their gender.

Overall, the gender spread provides valuable insight into who is participating in these conversations and may help inform how ongoing engagement strategies can be tailored to reach a broader audience.

17. Age Group Required

Select Box | Skipped: 11 | Answered: 336 (96.8%)



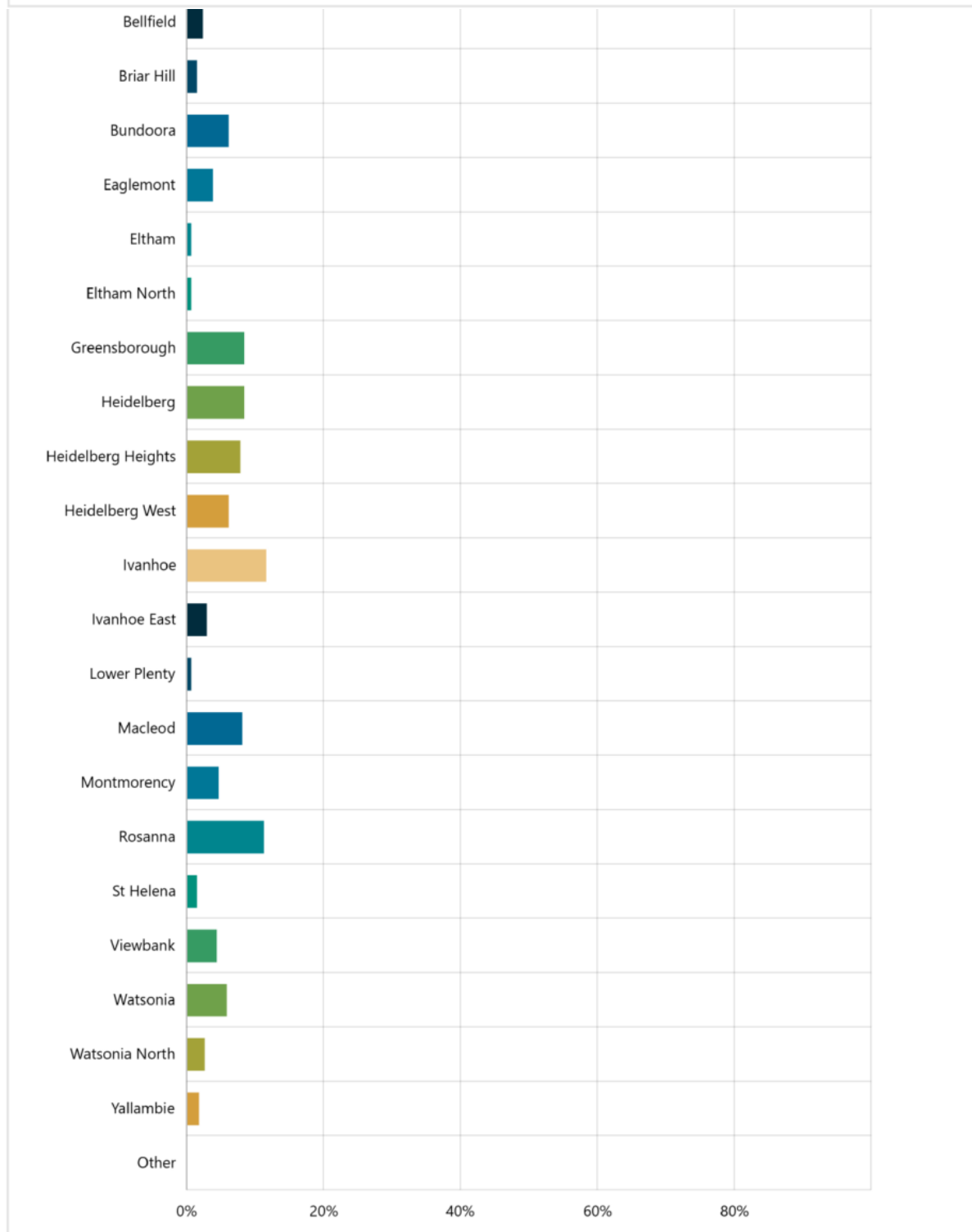
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Under 12 years	0.30%	1
12 -17 years	0.60%	2
18 – 24 years	0.89%	3
25 – 34 years	10.71%	36
35 – 49 years	38.10%	128
50 – 59 years	18.75%	63
60 – 69 years	18.75%	63
70 – 84 years	11.90%	40
85 years and over	0%	0
Total	100.00%	336

Summary of responses:

The age breakdown of respondents shows strong engagement from **adults aged 35–49 (38%)**, with solid representation from the **50–59 and 60–69 age groups (both at 18.75%)**. This suggests that those most likely to manage or take an interest in nature strip planting may also be the most engaged in providing feedback. It also highlights an **opportunity to engage younger generations more actively**—possibly through targeted outreach, education, or digital platforms—to build broader community involvement and long-term stewardship of green spaces.

18. Suburb Required

Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 347 (100%)



Summary of responses:

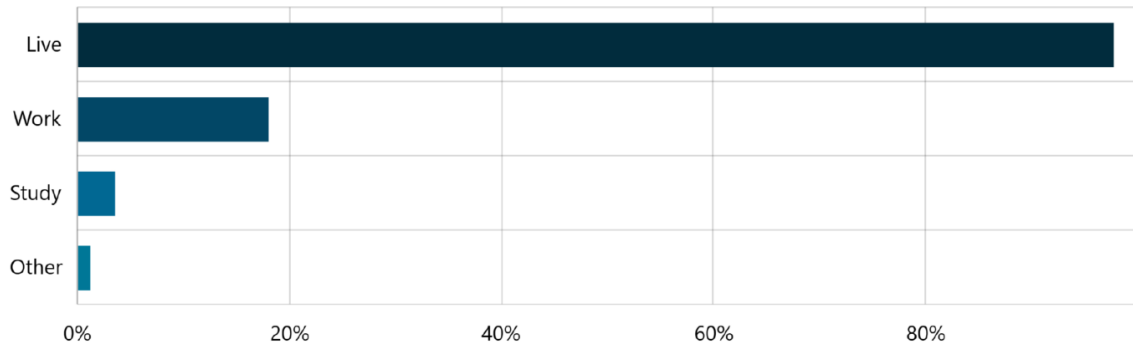
There was a **high level of engagement from Ivanhoe and Rosanna**, with data showing representation from all Banyule suburbs.

20. Email

Email | Skipped: 182 | Answered: 165 (47.6%)

21. Relationship to Banyule

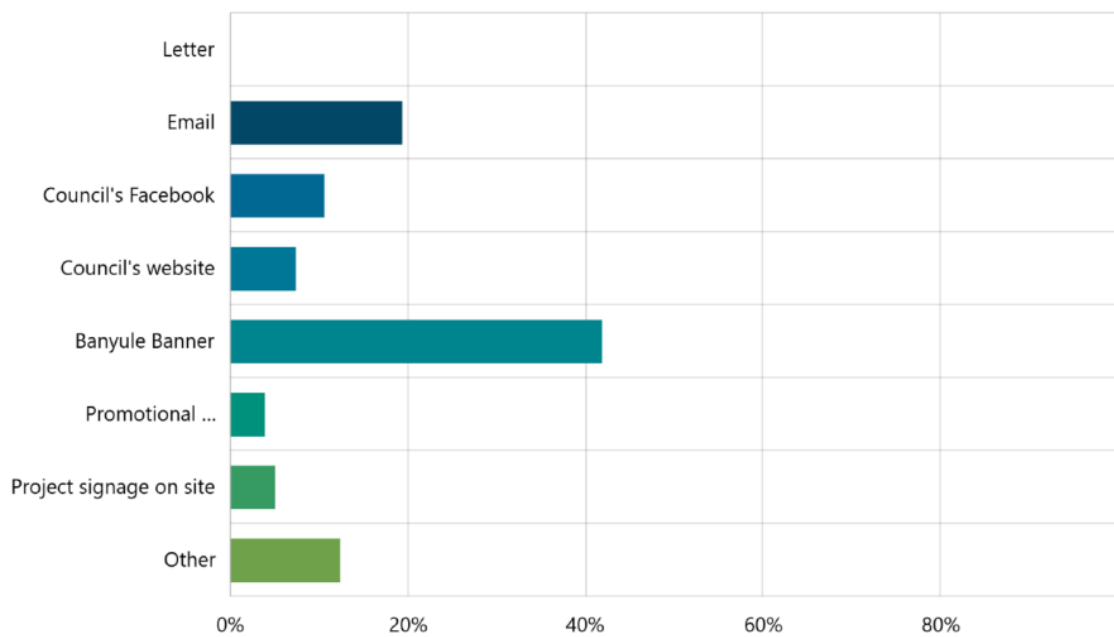
Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 345 (99.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Live	97.68%	337
Work	17.97%	62
Study	3.48%	12
Other	1.16%	4

22. How did you hear about this project consultation?

Select Box | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 342 (98.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Letter	0%	0
Email	19.30%	66
Council's Facebook	10.53%	36
Council's website	7.31%	25
Banyule Banner	41.81%	143
Promotional postcards or flyer	3.80%	13
Project signage on site	4.97%	17
Other	12.28%	42
Total	100.00%	342