

Consultation Summary Paper

Improving access to the Boulevard

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1.0 Introduction

During March and April 2025, Banyule City Council sought feedback from the community on a proposed project to resurface a 2.8km section of The Boulevard between Banksia Street, Heidelberg and Burke Road North, Ivanhoe East. This report presents findings from the consultation activities and includes an outline of the engagement methods and levels of participation.

Feedback from this work will inform the next phase of this project, which will include detailed design of the access improvements including traffic calming measures.

2.0 Engagement overview

On 21 March we commenced engagement through Shaping Banyule on [Improving access to The Boulevard](#). The page included information about the project, an online survey, an interactive map, and artist impressions of the proposed traffic filters and traffic calming measures.

The **online survey** sought community feedback on the current condition of The Boulevard; whether the current condition posed access difficulties for them or members of their households; and any benefits they saw stemming from the work. Finally, the survey asked community members for any additional feedback including suggestions on how the project could be improved.

The **interactive map** allowed the community to drop pins and provide location specific comments. The online survey and interactive map were open for community feedback for 4 weeks from 21 March until 22 April 2025.

A letter was distributed to all households within the area bound by The Boulevard, Banksia Street, Lower Heidelberg Road, Burke Road North, and Gruyere Crescent to notify them of the consultation. The letter included an invitation to attend a public information session hosted by Council on 3 April 2025 at The Ivanhoe Centre.

The **public information session** included a presentation by the project traffic consultants and provided an opportunity for the community to ask questions and provide feedback to the project team.

A **question and answer summary** capturing the information exchanged during the information session was published on Shaping Banyule in the week following the information session.

The table below summarises the different types of consultation activities undertaken and the associated attendance/participation numbers.

Table 1 - Summary of consultation method and attendees / responses

Date	Type of Consultation	Attendees or Responses
21 March – 22 April	Online survey	285
7 April – 9 May	Interactive map	156
3 April	Community Information Session	144
21 March – 9 May	Direct email correspondence	37

3.0 What we heard

A total of 441 responses were submitted through the survey and interactive map on the Shaping Banyule project page. Council's project team received a further 37 emails providing feedback during the engagement period, and 144 people attended the community information session on 3 April 2025.

Overall, the community had mixed responses to the project, with strong support and suggestions for improvements balanced against significant concerns in relation to loss of existing character (rural feel) of the road and the potential for increased traffic and rat-running attributable to the resurfacing, resulting in safety concerns.

An analysis of the feedback received is presented in the sections that follow.

3.1 Survey

The online survey sought community feedback on the current conditions of The Boulevard and what benefits they saw from the proposed project.

1. How would you rate the current condition of The Boulevard between Banksia Street and Burke Road North?

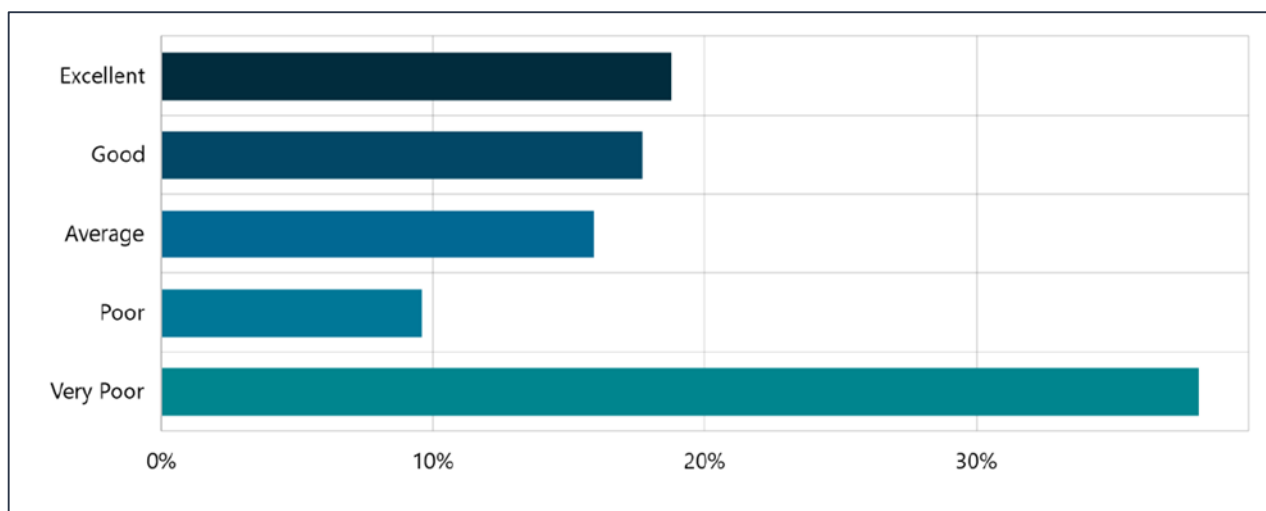


Figure 1 – Rate the current condition of The Boulevard

- A clear majority of respondents perceive the condition of The Boulevard to be unsatisfactory, with 64% of the participants rating the current condition of The Boulevard between Banksia Street and Burke Road North, as average to very poor.
- Very Poor received the highest percentage of responses, with close to 40% of participants rating the road condition in this way.
- This indicates community concern about the state of the road and suggests a need for improvement or maintenance works.

2. Does the current condition of the road negatively impact any of the following for you or your household? (Select all that apply)

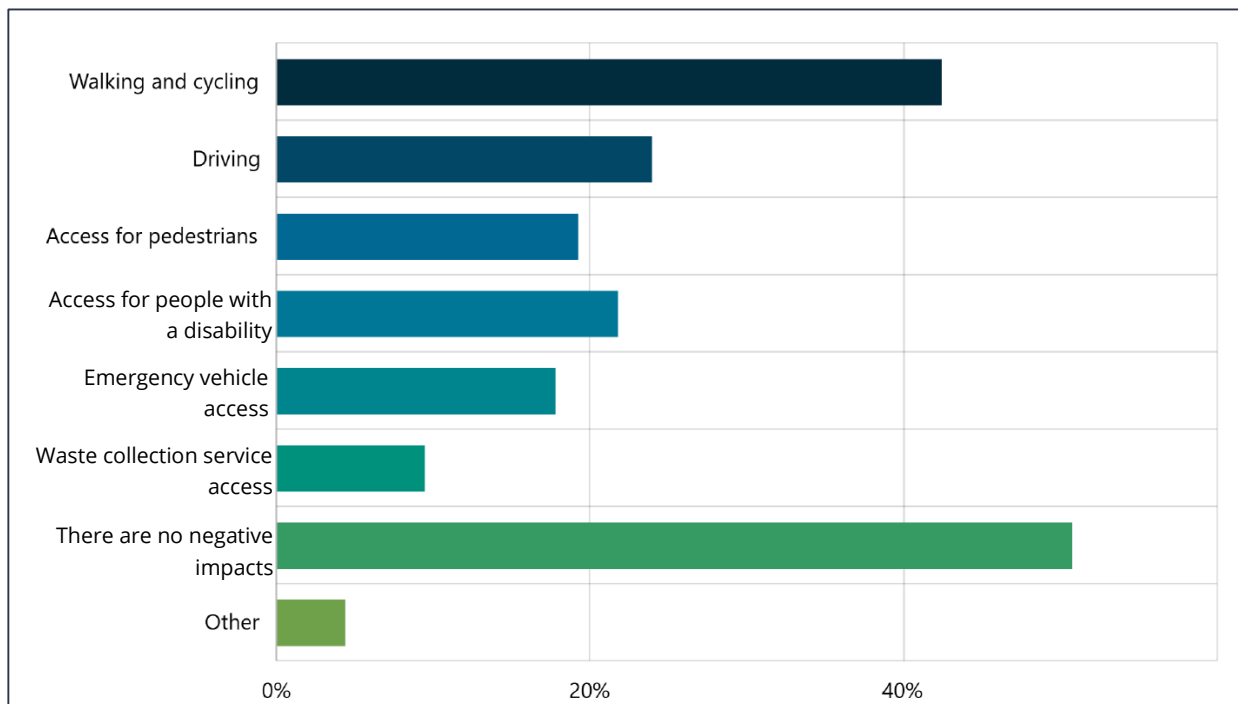


Figure 2 – Does the current road condition posed access difficulties

- While nearly half of the respondents did not report experiencing negative impacts, a portion of the community are experiencing issues, with the most affected areas being walking, cycling, and driving.
- Accessibility concerns are also notable, especially for people with disabilities, pedestrians, and emergency services, highlighting inclusivity and safety issues.

3. Would improving the road surface increase accessibility for all residents/pedestrians?

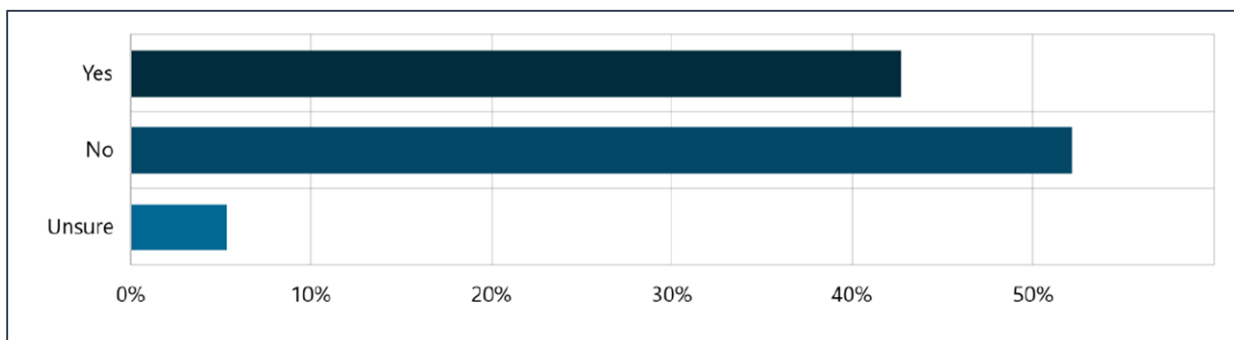


Figure 3 – Would improving the road surface increase accessibility

- The community is divided on whether resurfacing the road would improve accessibility.
- Just over half of the respondents do not believe that improving the road surface alone would increase accessibility, however, a significant portion think it would help.

4. Why did you choose this response?

Responses to this question provided background on why people selected either yes or no to question 3 - Would resurfacing the road increase accessibility? These responses have been grouped into themes and are presented in Tables 2 and 3 with sample comments.

Key concerns expressed by people both for and against the resurfacing proposal related to the potential for increased vehicle speed and rat running as a result of any surface improvements.

Table 2 - Themes for Question 4: Why did you choose Yes?

Theme	Comments	Sample comments
Safety concerns - current condition of road	67	"I live on The Boulevard and have injured myself walking to the tracks, it is not safe to walk on, it is not safe to drive on." "I am not able to walk locally as I have twisted my ankle in numerous occasions walking along this road..." "Just the other day I almost saw someone come off their bike after riding over a pot hole."
Improve accessibility	36	"Having a road in good repair means that accessibility is safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and those using prams and wheelchairs." "I live in this stretch with 3 young kids - the travel is very difficult for both car rides & bikes rides great proposal needs to proceed." "It would make access safer (I badly twisted my ankle walking my dog on The Boulevard resulting in wearing a boot for 6 weeks)"
Support for maintaining community asset	21	"I understand the residents are all frustrated about the idea of resurfacing but this is a public road which should be made to be used by everyone." The road is a community asset and should be accessible for all..." "Because roads are public necessities! It's important that it gets fixed."
Concerns that improved accessibility will increase traffic, rat-running, and speeding.	8	"The resurfacing will undoubtedly heavily increase the amount of traffic on The Boulevard, which will have a hugely negative impact to the residents, neighborhood, wildlife and environment." "Access for pedestrians will be worse because of the speed at which the cars will drive." "If a design and engineering solution could improve the surface and character of this section of the boulevard and could be proven to further eliminate/limit/restrict accessibility or the desire to access by non property owners and their guests then the proposal will get support."

Table 3 - Themes for Question 4: Why did you choose No?

Theme	Comments	Sample comments
Concerns about increased traffic speed, rat-running, and cyclist speed.	74	"If the road surface were to be upgraded, we are concerned it would lead to an increase in through traffic and higher vehicle speeds..." "It would significantly improve access for non residents who will cut through at higher speed from Burke Road North to Banksia,,," "By improving the road condition, this will encourage high speed cyclists and car travel."
Concerns about environmental disruption.	26	"It would be worse if remade - much more dangerous and would lose it's country lane charm. Also bad for wildlife." "Abundant birdlife, kangaroos , wallabies and horses will all be negatively impacted by any alteration to this road." "The Boulevard is not about cars and traffic it is about wildlife and vegetation."
Desire to maintain the rural, quiet character of the area.	26	"I live in the area and like the country feel of this road." "The additional amenity of a well paved road as per the proposal would only reduce the amenity of the area which is semi-rural and peaceful." "Please do not implement this change and preserve the rural character of this unique area for residents and visitors to continue to enjoy."
No concern with the current road condition	22	"Access is totally fine as it is. Residents wouldn't live there if the road surface negatively impacted their living experience." "Currently I can walk on the road, so I don't need a footpath. I absolutely love the Boulevard as it is." "There are no accessibility issues, and this has not changed over the past 60yrs."
The current condition acts as a natural deterrent	20	"While the Boulevard is bumpy in places it serves as a natural deterrent to unwanted through traffic trying to dodge daily traffic jams on Lower Heidelberg Road." "The road condition acts as a local access road - all residents can access their properties..." "The gravel and potholes of the boulevard (and Gruyere Crescent) currently makes them less desirable to non-resident drivers, and present a consistent (and visual) deterrent to would-be reckless drivers."

5. What benefits do you see for resurfacing this road? (Select all that apply)

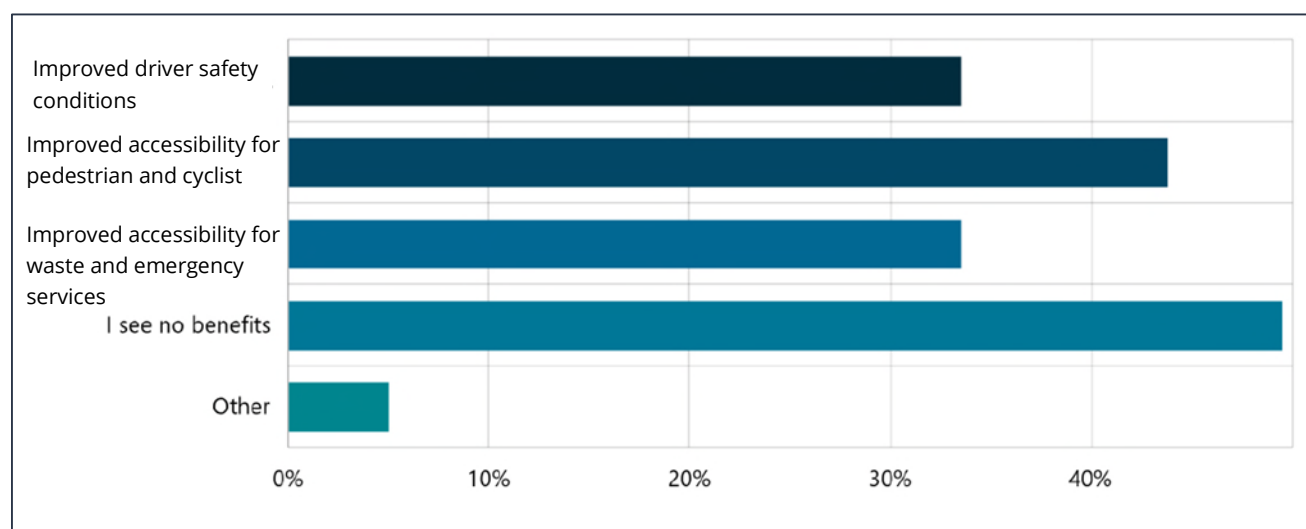


Figure 4 – What benefits do you see for resurfacing the road

- The community is divided on the benefit that the resurfacing project could bring.
- While nearly half of the respondents do not see benefits to resurfacing the road, a substantial portion believes resurfacing would improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Approximately 30% of respondents see benefits in driver safety and access for emergency/waste services.

6. Do you have any further feedback about the proposed resurfacing?

Responses to this question reflected the themes detailed by respondents in table 2. Additional feedback provided through direct correspondence with the project team is also summarised here.

Table 4 – Themes - Question 6: Do you have any further feedback about the proposed resurfacing?

Theme	Comments	Sample comments
Concerns about increased traffic, speeding, and rat-running.	81	"I see only risks, damage and danger to the local area... This would be a disaster if the road opened up significant non-local resident access." "During peak travel... motorists will use a resurfaced Boulevard as a shortcut to avoid congestion..."
Fears of losing the rural, feel of the area.	42	"Resurfacing will have a negative impact on the value of properties... it will destroy the rural, leisurely ambience." "The appeal of this area is that it's like being in a rural bushland environment... paving the road would destroy that."
Support for better access for emergency services, waste collection, and people with disabilities.	40	"The entire Boulevard should be fully accessible to vehicles. If the ambulance couldn't access the road, someone may die." "Improved access for people with wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams and pushers will be a benefit."
Concerns about fast-moving cyclists and conflicts with pedestrians.	39	"Cyclists already speed down the path next to the river making it uncomfortable for pedestrians."

		"Upgrading the road would also bring road bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters... they are silent and present a risk to the safety of our community."
Worries about safety for walkers, children, and the elderly.	37	"We regularly walk the Boulevard for exercise, confident that no vehicle can hit us or the kangaroos we see daily." "The current surface helps keep traffic calm and slow, which makes The Boulevard such a peaceful and safe place to walk."
Environmental concerns	31	"Light pollution created by proposed lighting is disruptive to local residents and nocturnal species." "There is concern about the increased heat island effect created by the greater expanse of paving." "Proposed works may impact tree protection zones and structural root zones of existing trees."
Comments on potholes, maintenance, and road quality.	18	"The road is not drivable due to all the potholes." "Our 4x4 easily copes with the road surface and we regularly walk the boulevard for exercise... Finally, the gravel and potholes of The Boulevard currently make them less desirable to non-resident drivers, and present a consistent (and visual) deterrent to would-be reckless drivers."
Consultation	12	"We were informed about this by a letter drop. An email to ratepayers would have been appreciated." "Please engage the residents in ways that also do not rely on IT – that is a major equity and inclusion issue." "The community meeting on 3 April needs to be done again with the greater community now being invited."

3.2 Interactive map

A total of 156 comments were submitted on the interactive map on the project page. Comments received reflected themes outlined in the survey responses and are summarised in the table below. The community also provided information on specific locations to guide Council's investigation.

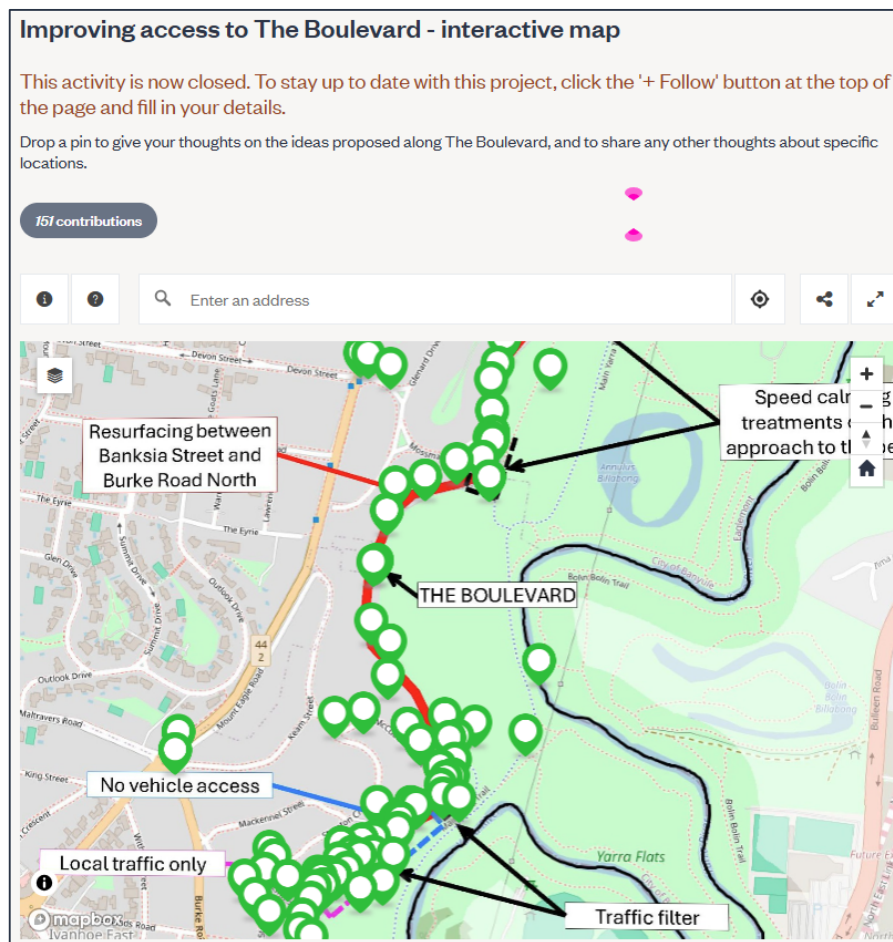


Figure 5 - Interactive Map Snapshot

Table 5 - Themes - Interactive map comments

Theme	Comments	Sample comment
Calls for traffic filters, speed humps, and rerouting to prevent the area from becoming a commuter shortcut	59	"Diverted traffic from The Boulevard will spill into McCubbin, Keam, Streeton Crescent, and Longstaff Streets..." "Adequate speed calming measures — more than just three speed bumps — must be introduced..."
Pedestrian safety, increased cyclist speed, the need for better infrastructure	41	"Please introduce speed calming measures for CYCLISTS too." "Sufficient speed dampening at multiple locations along The Boulevard - it's not only cars that need to be discouraged from travelling at speed, it is also bikes that make walking with kids and dogs unsafe."
Impact on local wildlife, natural beauty, and heritage protections.	17	"The unique, rural, 'country-lane' feel... should be protected." "The Kangaroos that have been forced to move here due to the North East works..."
Comments in relation to specific locations	65	"I totally disagree with the proposal to block the Boulevard at Linn Street and Mc Cubbin Street. "

"The traffic filter needs to be NORTH of McCubbin Street..."

"Traffic coming through from Banksia St will end up on Streeton Crescent & Longstaff St..."

"Traffic should be blocked between Linn Street and Mossman Drive..."

"Deterrents at entry points at McArthur Rd and Banksia St..."

3.3 Design suggestions

Respondents have provided the following suggestions for consideration in the next stage of the design process.

- Traffic filters
 - o Install traffic filters on The Boulevard between Linn Street and Mossman Drive.
 - o Install traffic filter near Glenard Drive.
 - o Relocate the proposed traffic filter to the north side of McCubbin Street instead of the south side.
 - o Do not install a traffic filter between Linn Street and McCubbin Street.
 - o Install a traffic filter at the intersection of The Boulevard and Banksia Street.
- Speed reduction
 - o Install additional speed calming measures along The Boulevard to address vehicle and cyclist speeds.
 - o Implement speed calming treatments on Mossman Drive.
- Access restrictions
 - o Restrict left-turn movements from Banksia Street to The Boulevard.
 - o Restrict right-turn movements from The Boulevard to Banksia Street.
 - o Introduce traffic deterrents at key entry points, such as McArthur Road and Banksia Street
 - o Restrict right-turn movements from The Boulevard into McCubbin Street.
- Signage
 - o Install 'Local Traffic Only' sign at the intersection of McArthur Road and Burke Road North.
- Lighting
 - o Refrain from installing additional lighting
- Cyclist/pedestrian
 - o Construct a dedicated cycle lane on The Boulevard.
 - o Install warning signage and treatments to manage cyclist speed.
 - o Prioritise pedestrian access and safety.
- Drainage
 - o Ensure drainage implications are considered as part of any proposed works.
 - o All roadworks must incorporate appropriate drainage considerations
- General
 - o Undertake road resurfacing in stages, commencing with the most hazardous sections.
 - o Consider the potential traffic impacts on adjacent streets, including McCubbin Street, Streeton Crescent, Keam Street, Mount Eagle Road, Mackennel Street, and Longstaff Street.
 - o Use cobblestone pavement in lieu of asphalt to enhance streetscape character.
 - o Protect the surrounding landscape and land during all stages of works.

4.0 Conclusion

The community was invited to provide feedback on Council's proposal to improve access to The Boulevard between Banksia Street, Heidelberg and Buke Road North, Ivanhoe East. Proposed improvements include the resurfacing of The Boulevard in this location and measures to reinforce the low volume and speeds of vehicle traffic in this location.

Community engagement used online methods, including a survey and interactive map to gather feedback during March and April 2025 on the project. During this time approximately 478 pieces of individual feedback were received. These responses have been analysed, and it has been found that the community has mixed opinion on the project and expressed a wide range of concerns and perspectives.

There was positive support for the project including improving conditions for local residents, pedestrians and bike riders and the acknowledgement that current condition poses access issues and risks for users.

However, the community expressed concerns about the potential for increased traffic through the area attributable to the road surface improvement; safety concerns for vulnerable road users and the loss of amenity for local residents in relation to the increase in vehicle speeds, noise, and rural character.

Community members also raised issues about the need for additional face-to-face consultation. Although participation numbers on Shaping Banyule were high, many community members believed there would have been a benefit in having small groups discussion on the impacts of the proposed interventions on specific locations.

Council acknowledges this feedback, and the concerns expressed and will seek to address these in the next phase of the design process.