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

South Precinct (Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East)

145 people participated in South Precinct engagement activities, including 124 who completed surveys and 21 who participated in the pop-up at the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub on 5 June 2024.

Of the 139 people who provided gender and age information, **Figure 58** shows that while there was some diversity in the gender of participants, people who identified as woman or female represented 70% of the total. Different to other precincts, **Figure 59** shows that participants aged 60-69 were the most represented.

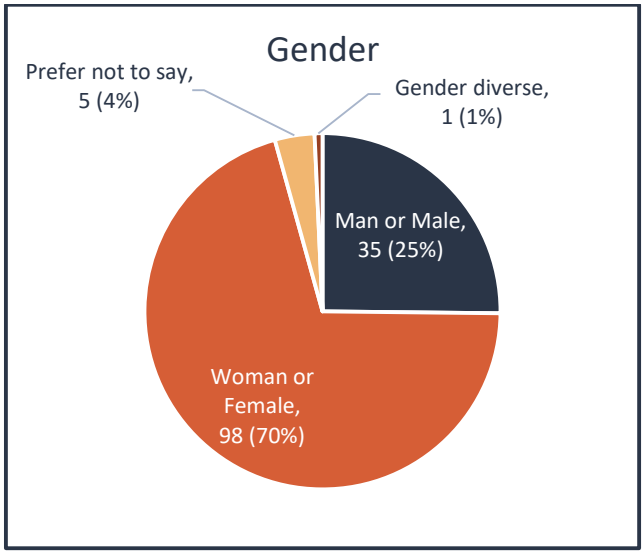


Figure 58 – South Precinct participant gender

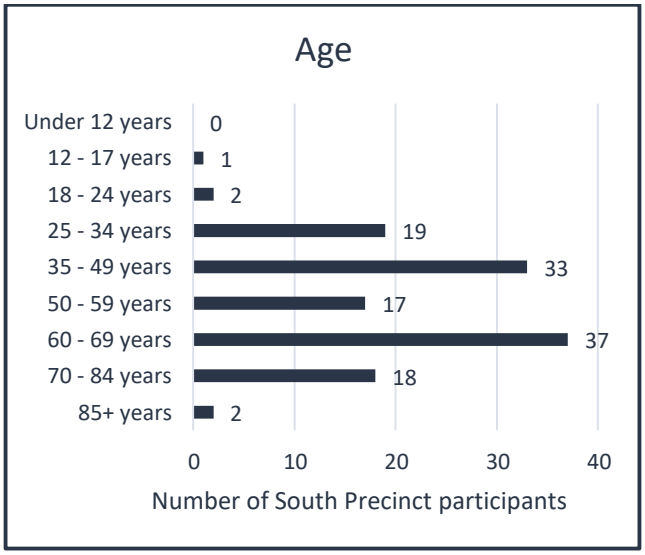


Figure 59 – South Precinct participant age

20 people who live with disability, **9** who identify as LBGTIQA+, **1** with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island heritage, **10** who speak English as a second or other language and **8** carers completed the South Precinct survey.

1. What do you love about South Precinct?

132 responses were received for the question 'What do you love about South Precinct (Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East)?' A number of themes were identified during analysis.

1. **Green spaces and nature**

Many respondents said that they love the trees, parklands and green areas, including the presence of mature trees, open spaces and walking tracks. Specific parks like Rockbeare Park and Chelsworth Park were noted for their beauty and accessibility.

2. **Community and safety**

People said that they love the strong sense of community and neighbourhood friendliness. A number of people mentioned safety as a significant factor for why the live in South Precinct.

3. **Amenities and services**

Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub was highly praised by respondents. Shopping strips, small business and cafes were said to contribute to a village atmosphere which is highly valued. Accessibility to public transport, shops and essential services was also noted positively in people's responses.

4. **Heritage and architecture**

Some people said that they love the heritage buildings and houses that give character to the area. The architecture from different periods is appreciated.

5. **Walkability and convenience**

The ability to walk to the things that people need was stated as something they love about the area, as is the proximity to the city and ability to access services without driving.

6. **Lifestyle and recreation**

Some respondents spoke about the opportunities in South Precinct for walking, running and socialising in the parks, as well as off-leash areas for dogs and well-kept running trails. The overall balance of urban and natural environments was considered positively.

2. Priorities

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

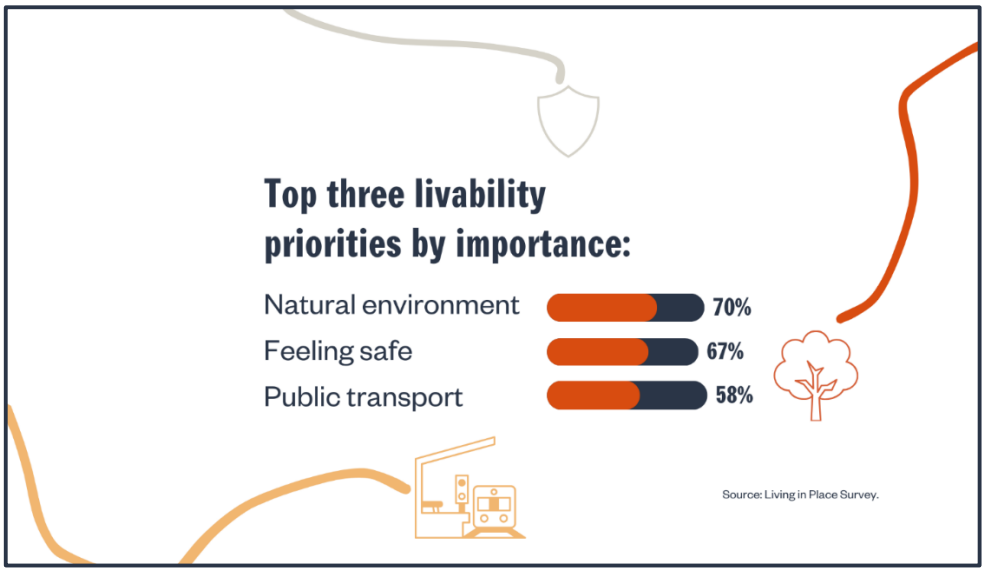


Figure 60 - South Precinct priorities

Of the 140 people that responded to this question, 87% (121) agreed or strongly agreed with these priorities for South Precinct, 12% (17) disagreed or strongly disagreed and 1% (2) did not know or could not say.

Level of agreement	Percentage (number)
Agree or Strongly Agree	87% (121)
Disagree or Strongly Disagree	12% (17)
Don know/can't say	1% (2)

Figure 61 - level of agreement, South Precinct priorities

Agree or Strongly Agree

Of the 87% of people that agreed or strongly agreed with the priorities for South Precinct, it was noted that preservation of the **natural environment** and the role it plays in people's health, wellbeing and quality of life, is important. There were calls to increase indigenous planting and green spaces as well as pest control, including foxes and Indian mynas.

With regard to **public transport**, some people felt that it is already accessible and less of a priority, while others spoke about the need for improvements such as increasing the frequency of bus services. There is a general sense that improved public transport will reduce car dependency and benefit the environment.

Safety was a significant priority for many respondents, with some saying that it should be the top priority and that they are concerned with increasing law and order issues, uncontrolled dogs and inadequate lighting in public areas. Contrastingly, others said that they feel safe and would rank this as a lower priority.

For these respondents, **development and housing** was another priority, with people talking about the desire to preserve neighbourhood character and manage population density carefully. There is resistance to high-rise buildings that might compromise the area's natural and historical feel.

In addition, people spoke about the need for **footpaths** to be even and in good condition. Some people with accessibility and mobility constraints said that this is a real problem.

Disagree or Strongly Disagree

Amongst people that disagreed and strongly disagreed, it was said that the order of the priorities should be different. Respondents who said that **safety** should be the top priority spoke about unsafe areas in parks and natural trails and concerns over local crime such as home robberies.

Those that said **public transport** should be the top priority mentioned the disappointing parking situation at Ivanhoe Station and the impact of the level crossing removal. One respondent who does not drive noted that they cannot go anywhere if trains do not run.

Most of these respondents did not think **natural environment** should be the top priority. One respondent said that if we do not feel safe, then we cannot enjoy the natural environment.

Another priority of these respondents is the need for appropriate development to maintain the quality of **housing and local infrastructure**. At the same time, it was recognised that there needs to be well-designed densification of suburbs to support various housing options and support population growth. **Footpath maintenance** was again mentioned as something that Council needs to focus on.

Don't know/can't say

People that said they did not know or could not say their level of agreement said that it was difficult to respond without having access to more information on what Council could do.

3. Concerns

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

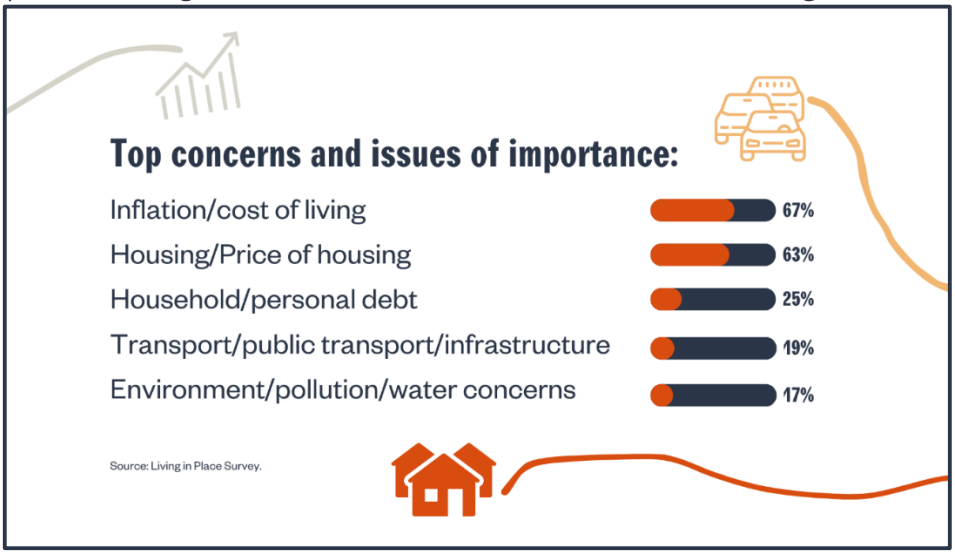


Figure 62 - South Precinct concerns

Of the 144 people that responded to this question, 62% (89) agreed or strongly agreed with these priorities for South Precinct, 35% (51) disagreed or strongly disagreed and 3% (4) did not know or could not say.

Level of agreement	Percentage (number)
Agree or Strongly Agree	62% (89)
Disagree or Strongly Disagree	35% (51)
Don know/can't say	3% (4)

Figure 63 - level of agreement, South Precinct concerns

Agree or Strongly Agree

There was agreement amongst these respondents that **cost of living**, including **housing prices** and **rent**, are significant concerns. Inflation is noted to be causing financial stress and making it difficult for people to live in the area. With regard to **personal and household debt**, this was seen to be linked with the broader issue of cost of living.

There are calls for more sustainable **housing** options, including diverse housing types and better planning. There were general concerns about **overdevelopment** and the impact of multi-unit developments on local **infrastructure** and liveability.

In line with these thoughts, people stressed that they are concerned about the impact of development on the **natural environment** and local green spaces and natural character. There were calls for better environmental management, including pollution control, protection of urban wildlife and addressing carbon emissions.

While it was agreed that **public transport** is a concern, it was said by some that it could be lower on the list. Comments noted the need for more punctual busses and better transport infrastructure.

A number of people spoke to the need to improve maintenance of **footpaths** and **public toilets** and the **rubbish collection** service.

Disagree or Strongly Disagree

Many of the respondents that disagreed or strongly disagreed felt that **environment** should be higher up the list, noting a strong desire to protect the natural environment, ecosystems and local heritage from unsustainable development. Emphasis on the need for development that respects the environment and local character was coupled with comments that questioned Council's ability to enforce sustainable development practices.

There was a general concern about **housing** and new developments that people said do not fit the local aesthetic. Housing affordability was also a concern, particularly for young families, and there were calls for more housing options. Several comments referred to the negative impacts of **overdevelopment**, including the loss of green space, mature trees and neighbourhood character.

Amongst this group of respondents there was a sense that **public transport** should be listed higher, as it is crucial for reducing traffic and pollution. It was also noted that improvements are needed such as better connection of different transport options, more parking and access for people with mobility issues.

While there was agreement with **cost of living** and financial concerns, there was a general sense that Council has **limited influence** over these issues and should focus on local issues like transport and the environment.

Don't know/can't say

People who said they did not know or could not say their level of agreement questioned the survey design and the inability to rank the concerns or said that the concerns listed are personal. It was also said that it will be difficult for Council planning to influence some of these concerns.

4. Health and Wellbeing

To understand people's views on health and wellbeing in South 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 South Precinct?
2. What's one thing Council could do differently to improve the health and wellbeing of people in South Precinct?

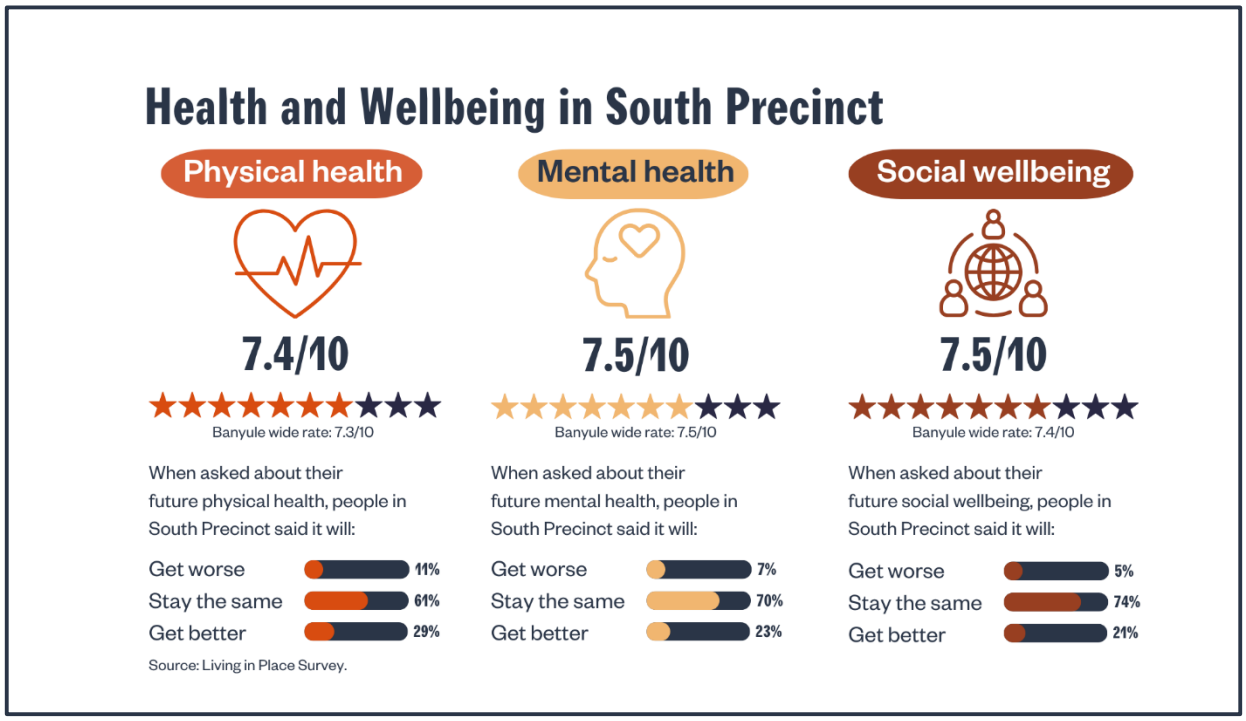


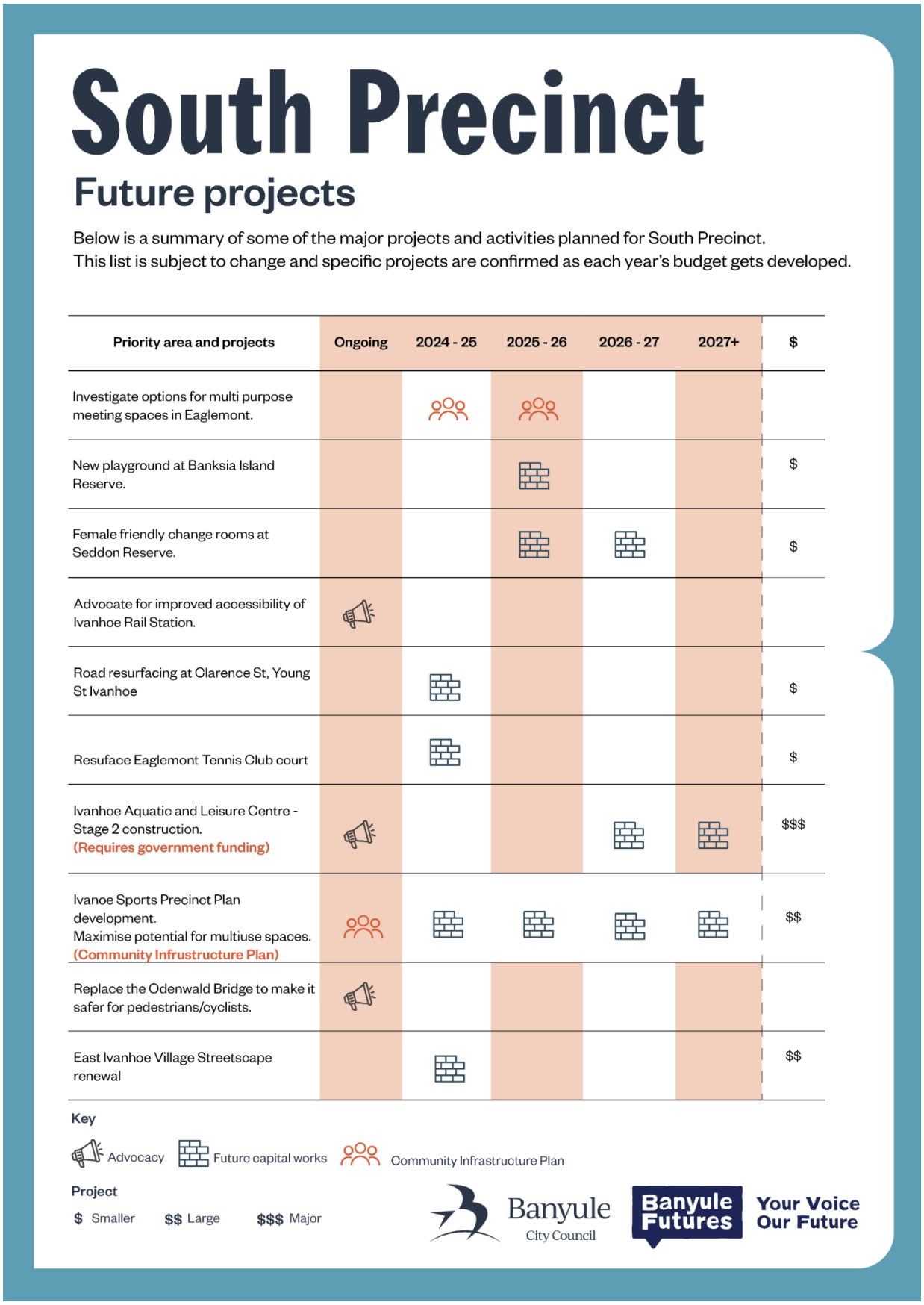
Figure 64 - Health and Wellbeing in South Precinct

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

1. **Physical environment including infrastructure**
    - A recurring theme is the importance of maintaining and enhancing green spaces. Residents value the accessibility and quality of these spaces across the precinct, urging continued investment in green areas and infrastructure improvements to support community health.
    - There were calls for better maintenance and development of local infrastructure to enhance safety and accessibility. Issues such as poor footpath conditions and inadequate traffic measures were highlighted. Improvements in playgrounds, public toilets and lighting in public areas are also seen as necessary to create a safer and more inviting environment for all residents.
2. **Social connection / community programs or spaces / events**
    - Residents appreciate the diverse facilities and community groups available but see room for improvement in fostering social connection and reducing isolation. Another stressed the importance of community support services, particularly for vulnerable groups, families with children who have additional needs and mobility issues. These comments underscore the need for a well-rounded approach to community planning that prioritises both physical and social infrastructure to enhance overall health and wellbeing.
    - Organising social activities and community exercise programs was also highlighted as a way to foster social connection and promote active living.

5. Projects

The following list of proposed advocacy, capital works and infrastructure projects to take place in South 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.



South Precinct

Future projects

Below is a summary of some of the major projects and activities planned for South Precinct.
This list is subject to change and specific projects are confirmed as each year's budget gets developed.

Priority area and projects	Ongoing	2024 - 25	2025 - 26	2026 - 27	2027+	$
Investigate options for multi purpose meeting spaces in Eaglemont.		Community Infrastructure Plan	Community Infrastructure Plan			
New playground at Banksia Island Reserve.			Future capital works			$
Female friendly change rooms at Seddon Reserve.			Future capital works	Future capital works		$
Advocate for improved accessibility of Ivanhoe Rail Station.	Advocacy					
Road resurfacing at Clarence St, Young St Ivanhoe		Future capital works				$
Resuface Eaglemont Tennis Club court		Future capital works				$
Ivanhoe Aquatic and Leisure Centre - Stage 2 construction. (Requires government funding)	Advocacy			Future capital works	Future capital works	$$$
Ivanoe Sports Precinct Plan development. Maximise potential for multiuse spaces. (Community Infrustructure Plan)	Community Infrastructure Plan	Future capital works	Future capital works	Future capital works	Future capital works	$$
Replace the Odenwald Bridge to make it safer for pedestrians/cyclists.	Advocacy					
East Ivanhoe Village Streetscape renewal		Future capital works				$$

Key

Advocacy · Future capital works · Community Infrastructure Plan

Project

$ Smaller $$ Large $$$ Major

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Figure 65 - South Precinct projects

Of the 144 people that responded, 71% (102) agreed or strongly agreed with these projects for South Precinct, 20% (29) disagreed or strongly disagreed and 9% (13) said they did not know or could not say.

Level of agreement	Percentage (number)
Agree or Strongly Agree	71% (102)
Disagree or Strongly Disagree	20% (29)
Don't know/can't say	9% (13)

Figure 66 - level of agreement, South Precinct projects

Agree or Strongly Agree

Many of the respondents that agreed or strongly agreed with this projects said that the projects will help to enhance liveability and support a diverse range of needs and interest.

There was support for improved amenities in **Eaglemont** and efforts to identify **multi-purpose meeting spaces**. People were also happy to see gender inclusivity and access reflected in the projects at **Ivanhoe Station** and **Seddon Reserve change rooms**. Revitalising the shopping strip in **East Ivanhoe** was also seen positively, as was the replacement of **Odenwald Bridge** and enhancements to **Ivanhoe Aquatic and Leisure Centre**.

People noted that the projects which focus on sport and leisure will directly and positively impact people's health and wellbeing.

A number of the respondents spoke about the need for projects to enhance green space and preserve the **natural environment**, which do not appear in the list. Comments emphasise the need for tree planting, recycling facilities and protecting local character and the environment from **overdevelopment**.

Disagree or Strongly Disagree

People that disagreed or strongly disagreed that these projects will have a positive impact on livability, health and wellbeing raised concerns about the financial burden of these projects on ratepayers and suggested that Council should focus on projects that benefit a larger portion of the community.

While there was agreement with looking at options for **multi-purpose meeting spaces in Eaglemont** and upgrades to facilities to better service people who live with disability and older residents **(Ivanhoe Station, Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre)**, it was also said that projects generally should focus on improving existing structures over creating new.

Opinions were divided on replacing or preserving **Odenwald Bridge**, with some suggesting a separate pedestrian bridge is needed.

Those that disagreed also stressed the importance of projects that enhance and protect **green spaces** for community use, which are not in the list. There were also general calls to improve **lighting** and **maintain public spaces** better to ensure safety and prevent accidents.

Don't know/can't say

Of the people that did not know or could not say their level of agreement, some felt that they could not respond to the projects as a group and wanted to state their level of agreement for each project separately. Others said they did not know the area or projects sufficiently to be able to say, while another said that there needs to be a focus on planting and green spaces.