ChatterBox Projects
voices shaping communities

Banyule City Council

Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) Service Review

Engagement Findings Report

February 2025

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians

ChatterBox Projects and Banyule City Council are proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

Uluru Statement from the Heart

Banyule City Council accepts the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and supports a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

Diversity statement

Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.

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1. Executive summary

Banyule City Council (Council) has gathered feedback and ideas regarding the future of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands over the past few years. Building on this feedback and research, Council delivered a community engagement program over a four-week period from 4 November to 2 December 2024. Council engaged ChatterBox Projects to analyse the community feedback and report the findings.

1.1 Engagement activities and who participated

Council's promotional efforts to inform the Banyule community engaged 617 participants. There were 523 survey participants, and 94 visioner activity participants engaged via Council's engagement platform Shaping Banyule (see https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/DCMC).

Based on the survey responses, a broad cross-section of the Banyule community participated:

- 62.9% Woman/Female participants, 33.5% Man/Male, and 1.0% Non-binary.
- 75.3% of participants live within Banyule. 43.0% in Ivanhoe, 7.8% in Heidelberg West, and 5.4% in Bellfield. Many reside within the three Banyule Precincts; South, West and Mid precincts. The remaining 24.7% of participants live outside Banyule.
- People aged under 12 years to 85+ years, with the exception of persons aged 12 to 17 years were engaged. 29.3% aged 35 to 49 years, and 21.6% aged 50 to 59 years.
- People identifying as a Carer, LGBTIQA, with disability inclusive of mental illness, speaking English as a second language or other language, and of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent were also engaged.

1.2 Overview of consultation findings

Most important aspects of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (see Section 3.1)

A variety of aspects are important, particularly protecting and maintaining the catchment in a balanced way to support the natural living environment and a variety of active, passive, educational and community uses.

While a variety of aspects of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands are important, those most often referenced by survey participants included:

- The biodiversity and ecology and protecting the unspoilt healthy natural living environment (315 participants)
- Opportunity to access with nature and a beautiful natural landscape (152)
- Recreational spaces and being active (151)
- Opportunities and spaces for social gatherings (105)
- Serenity and support for overall wellbeing (101)
- Walking and cycling tracks, paths and trails (100).

Quality of management and services delivered (see Section 4.2)

Most participants rated the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas as Excellent.

Most survey participants selected *Excellent* (329 or 63.2% of participants). However, other participants reported mixed ratings: *Average* (110 or 21.1%); *Poor* (16 or 3.1%); and *Don't know/Not sure* (66 or 12.7%).

When asked why they selected a specific rating, survey participants provided a range of explanations. Aspects that survey participants most often referenced with a positive sentiment were:

- Water and land elements being managed responsibly and well (162 participants)
- Rangers and volunteers having an impact and doing a great job (123)
- Good outcomes so far with the funding available, more improvements and funding are needed (105)
- Community engagement, programs, and education (104)
- Areas being in good condition and well maintained (100).

Aspects that survey participants most often referenced as concerns or improvement ideas were:

- Maintenance in some areas (42 participants)
- Illegal and anti-social behaviours (34)
- Condition of creek waterways (32)
- Protection of the catchment for the future (28).

Elements to prioritise in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (see Section 4.3)

While many management elements are important, key priorities are health of the creek and biodiversity.

Most survey participants prioritised *Health of the creek* (434 or 83.3% of participants) and/or *Biodiversity* (372 or 71.4%). Support was shown for all listed elements (participants could select up to three of eight options):

- *Active transport (walking and bike riding)* (157 or 30.1%)
- *Amenity for recreational use* (149 or 28.6%)
- *Educational programs and events* (126 or 24.2%)
- *Cultural heritage* (123 or 23.6%)
- *Safety* (59 or 11.3%)
- *Heritage* (24 or 4.6%).

Views and ideas for the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (see Section 4.4)

Views and ideas focused on the role of Rangers, health of the creek, biodiversity, nature, environment, funding commitment, community education and involvement, safety of path users, maintenance, volunteering, access for dogs, protecting and promoting the cultural heritage and history

Topics most often referenced by survey participants related to:

- Continue or increase Ranger roles (71 participants)
- Maintain and improve the condition of the creek and waterways (62)
- Requests for an ongoing funding commitment (58)
- Continue the focus on biodiversity, nature and environment (48).

Areas where Council could do more to protect and enhance the environment (see Section 4.5)

To protect and enhance the environment of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands generally, and in specific locations, Council could focus on managing weeds, rubbish, erosion, and pollution; increasing vegetation, wildlife protection, biodiversity, and water quality; maintaining and increasing pedestrian access; and managing illegal motor bikes and areas that are over-used.

Survey participants placed markers in variety of locations across the map of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parkland, signalling areas where more could be done to protect and enhance the environment. Topics most frequently referenced included:

- Management of weeds and invasive species, and more vegetation (87 participants)
- Maintenance of footpaths and bridges and increase pedestrian access and safety (61)
- Wildlife protection and biodiversity loss (48)
- Rubbish, pollution, and enforcement around the Creek (48)

Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services (see Section 4.6)

Participants indicated a good level of awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services

Most survey participants reported they are *Fully aware* or *Somewhat aware* of the services:

- Artificial habitat creation (nest boxes) (459 or 88.3% of participants)
- Community environmental engagement and support (Friends Groups) (445 or 86.1%)
- Revegetation and direct seeding Indigenous flora species (425 or 81.9%)
- Amenity mowing (424 or 82.5%)
- Indigenous flora and native fauna population monitoring (398 or 76.4%)
- Pest fauna management (340 or 65.6%)
- Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger team (313 or 60.5%)
- Ecological burning for environmental improvements (288 or 55.4%).

Provision of service information and topics of interest (see Section 4.7)

Some participants are satisfied with the current service information while others seek more information on the environment, biodiversity, Indigenous aspects, rangers, management and operations

Survey participants reported mixed views regarding wanting access to, or receiving, more information about services. Topics most frequently referenced included:

- Educational information about supporting the environment and biodiversity (59 participants)
- More information and more of the same type of information (35)
- Information with an Indigenous focus (22)
- Rangers and Ranger Program (20)
- Management and operations (12)

Survey participants were interested in accessing service information via online/electronic and paper/printed formats, reports and on-site signage.

Looking 10 years into the future (see Section 4.8)

Looking to the future, participants imagine the area to be a thriving natural environment that is protected and well managed, with clean waterways, green open spaces, and well-maintained areas available for community use and activities

Themes and topics most frequently referenced by Visioner activity participants included:

- Thriving natural environment (biodiversity, habitat, trees, native flora, and fauna) (57 participants)
- Clean living creek and waterways (healthy water, clear of rubbish, and swimmable) (32)
- Healthy and safe active green space (for exercise, play, climbing, recreation, sport, dog walking, walking, riding, as well as walking tracks and recreational facilities) (29)
- Protected community asset and green open space for Melbourne and future generations (28)
- Continued or expanded support for DCMC/management team and rangers (well managed, shared use, and cooperation with community and councils) (28).

1.3 Insights by Gender and Banyule Precinct (see Sections 5.1 and 5.2)

Insights by Gender

Notable differences in closed-ended survey responses between Woman/ Female participants (329 or 62.9%) and Man/ Male participants (175 or 33.5%) and observations for Non-binary participants (5 or 1.0%) included:

- Quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas: Woman/ Female participants are more likely to report *Excellent*. Man/ Male participants are more likely to report *Average*.
- Areas to prioritise in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands: Woman/ Female participants are more likely to report *Cultural heritage*, and *Educational programs and events*. Man/ Male participants are more likely to report *Amenity for recreational use*, and *Active transport (walking and bike riding)*.
- Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services: Woman/ Female participants are more likely to report *Somewhat aware* for *Amenity mowing*, and *Not aware* for *Ecological burning for environmental improvements*. Man/ Male participants are more likely to report *Not aware* for *Pest fauna management*, and *Fully aware* for *Ecological burning for environmental improvements*.

Insights by Banyule Precinct

The level of participation by Banyule Precinct was determined based on the 394 responses from survey participants who selected a suburb within the Banyule municipality. The number of participants by Precinct varied from 253 (or 64.2%) in South Precinct (Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, and Ivanhoe East) to 3 (or 0.9%) in East Precinct (Lower Plenty, Viewbank, and Yallambie).

Notable differences in closed-ended survey responses between Precincts with more than 10 participants and observations for Precincts with 10 or fewer participants included:

- Quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas (see Section 4.2): South Precinct and Mid Precinct participants are more likely to report *Excellent*). West Precinct participants are more likely to report *Average*. Observations for Precincts with fewer participants: wide variation in *Excellent* ratings (North-East Precinct, North Precinct).
- Areas to prioritise in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (see Section 4.3): South Precinct participants are less likely to prioritise *Cultural heritage*. West Precinct participants are

less likely to prioritise *Educational programs and events*. West Precinct participants are more likely to prioritise *Active transport (walking and bike riding*).

- Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services (see Section 4.6): South Precinct participants are more likely to be *Not aware* of *Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger Team*. West Precinct participants are more likely to be *Fully aware* of *Ecological burning for environmental improvements*. Mid Precinct participants are more likely to be Fully aware of Pest Fauna Management.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this report

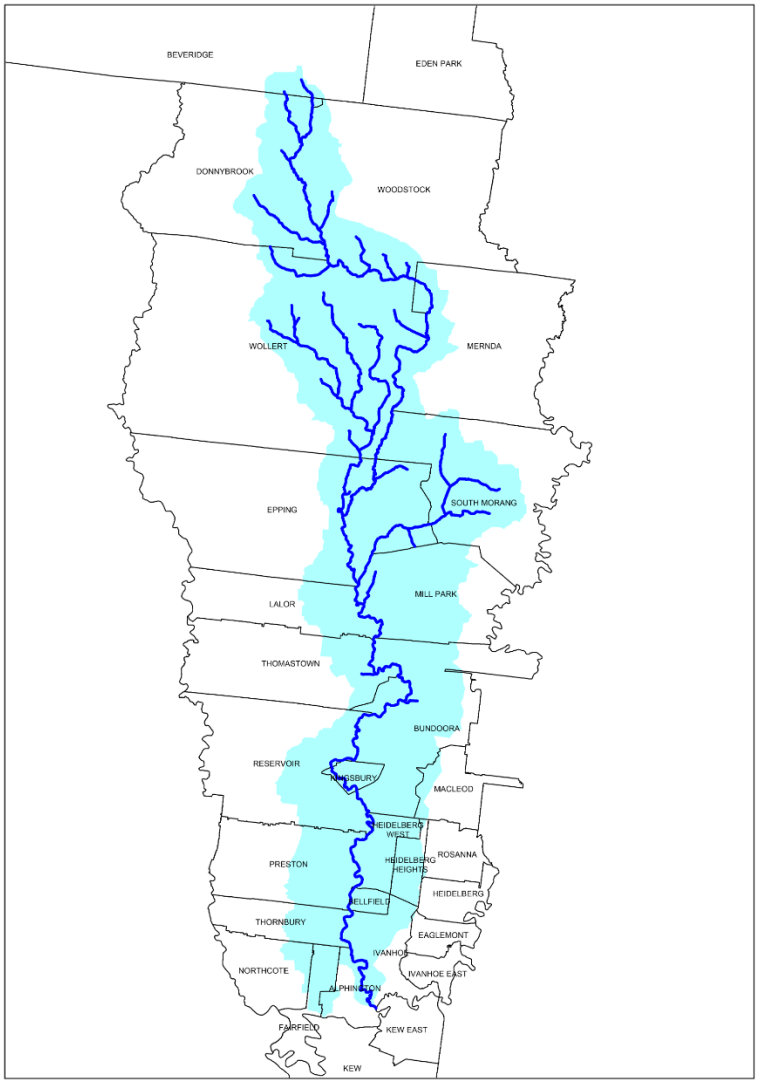
The purpose of this report is to present the findings from the analysis of Banyule community feedback, which will inform the Darebin Creek Management Committee Service Review and planning for Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands by Banyule City Council.

2.2 Project background and context

Banyule is fortunate to have many important conservation and wildlife reserves and open green spaces that support local flora and fauna. The Banyule community feels connected to these places and cares about how they are managed and protected.

One place of significance is **Darebin Parklands**. The reserve has natural bush, a country feel and is enhanced by **Darebin Creek**. The area was once home to a dairy farm, vineyard and quarry. There are many areas to explore and numerous options for walkers, cyclists and picnickers. See Figure 1 for a geographical outline of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands.

Figure 1. Map of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands



Review of land management and catchment coordination

Banyule City Council is reviewing the delivery of land management services for Darebin Parklands, including Rockbeare Park, and the Darebin Creek catchment. The review will support Council to meet its Integrated Water Management obligations, enhance the ecology and biodiversity of Darebin Creek and surrounding areas and determine whether Council's current funding and management arrangements are helping to protect and enhance these natural areas.

Council has partnered with Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) for over 40 years on the management of the parklands, and DCMC and Banyule community have been responsible for its restoration from what was once a weed infested and neglected area, into what is present today. View the DCMC current area of management.

Along with the Cities of Yarra, Darebin and Whittlesea, Banyule City Council contributes funding to DCMC. Banyule and Darebin also provide funding to DCMC to manage the Darebin Parklands, on behalf of both Councils.

DCMC is a not-for-profit organisation that receives around 60% of its funding from the four council partners, and 40% from other government and non-government sources. All funding received by DCMC is used for the delivery of management and projects in the parklands and along the creek, including supporting and working with volunteers and groups to improve the Creeks' ecology and biodiversity, protect cultural heritage and enhance the health and wellbeing of the Banyule community.

Banyule City Council funding to DCMC in 2025 will be $250,812.80 (Banyule funds $80,270.46 to DCMC for Darebin Creek catchment coordination and $168,022.37 for Darebin Parklands land management coordination).

This review is being led by Banyule City Council in collaboration with the key funding partners. Council is also working closely with DCMC, Traditional Custodians and local community groups as part of this process.

2.3 Engagement overview

The community engagement program was undertaken over a four week period from 4 November to 2 December 2024. The engagement program was designed to invite input from a broad cross-section of the Banyule community (including specific target populations) regarding important aspects, quality of management and services, areas to prioritise, views and improvement ideas, awareness of Council's bushland and open space services, views on service information, and aspirations for the future.

The engagement objectives included:

- To understand the ecology, biodiversity and amenity values along the Darebin Creek, in Banyule and broader area, and the way Banyule community values these.
- To understand whether Council's funding of the Darebin Parklands land management division and Darebin Creek catchment coordination supports and strengthens the ecology, biodiversity and amenity values.
- To understand Banyule community views on the current management approach of the Darebin Parklands to inform future service planning.

- Enhance Banyule community awareness of Council's service delivery in bushland and open spaces, while clearly communicating the levels of service in other areas. Emphasise the need to balance investment and maintain equity across all services.

The target population for this engagement included:

- DCMC
- Community groups and volunteers supporting the area
- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Narrap team
- Melbourne Water
- Neighbouring landowners
- Surrounding residents and broader communities
- Area users
- Non-park users.

The following questions were used to invite feedback from the Banyule community. The community survey is presented in Appendix 1.

- What aspects of the Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands, including Rockbeare Park, are most important to you?
- What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas? Why did you choose this response?
- Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area?
- Do you have any views on the way Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area are managed, or any ideas for improving their management?
- In which areas of Rockbeare Park, Darebin Parklands or along the Darebin Creek do you think Council could do more to protect and enhance the environment?
- How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?
- Is there any service information that you'd like to see more of?
- The survey also included four questions to gather relevant demographic and personal information (i.e., age group, gender, residential suburb, and access, equity and inclusion).

The visioner activity question prompt was "What do you imagine Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment to be like in 10 years?".

3. Engagement methodology

3.1 Engagement activities

Council planned and delivered the engagement program and engaged ChatterBox Projects to analyse the community feedback and report the findings.

The following activities were delivered to gather feedback:

- A survey published on Council's engagement platform Shaping Banyule
- Visioner activity (see https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/DCMC)

This engagement was promoted and supported by a range of communication activities including:

- Information on Council's engagement platform Shaping Banyule including maps
- E-update sent to community members who have subscribed to Shaping Banyule
- Social media posts on Council's social media platforms as well as paid social media advertisements
- Corflute signage placed around Darebin Parklands, Rockbeare Park and along Darebin Creek in Banyule
- Direct invitations and emails to relevant and affected community groups
- Information shared across Council's communications channels including e-newsletters.

3.2 Level of participation

The engagement activities were effective in eliciting feedback from 617 participants while the overall reach of project communications was greater. See Table 1 for an overview of methods and participation outcomes.

Table 1. Overview of communication and engagement activities with participation outcomes

Communication and engagement methods	Participation outcomes*
Engagement activities	
Survey (online)	523 responses
Visioner activity (online)	94 submissions
TOTAL	**617**
Communications activities (inform and raise awareness)	
Visitors to Shaping Banyule project page	1,758
Views of the Shaping Banyule project page	2,763
Downloads of DCMC area of management, Darebin Parklands map	40
Click through to the project page from social media posts	298 link clicks for the ad 113 link clicks for the organic post

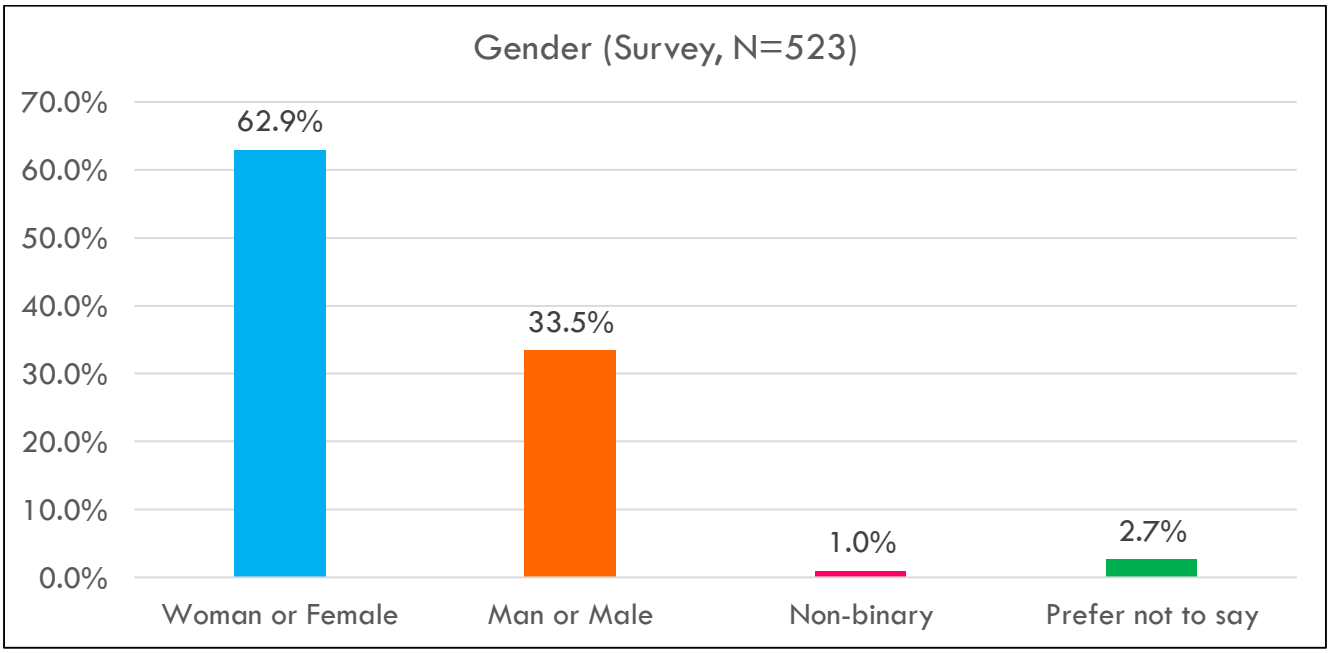
*Note: Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

3.3 Demographic profile of participants

Based on the number of interactions via the survey and visioner activity, 617 participants provided feedback during this consultation. The survey was the most comprehensive data gathering activity, capturing demographic and personal information as well as in-depth feedback on key topics of interest. This section of the report presents the demographic profile for participants. Demographic questions in the survey were mandatory. The sample size for each question (N) is indicated in graph titles. Limited demographic information was captured for visioner activity participants, so this profile is based on survey responses unless stated otherwise.

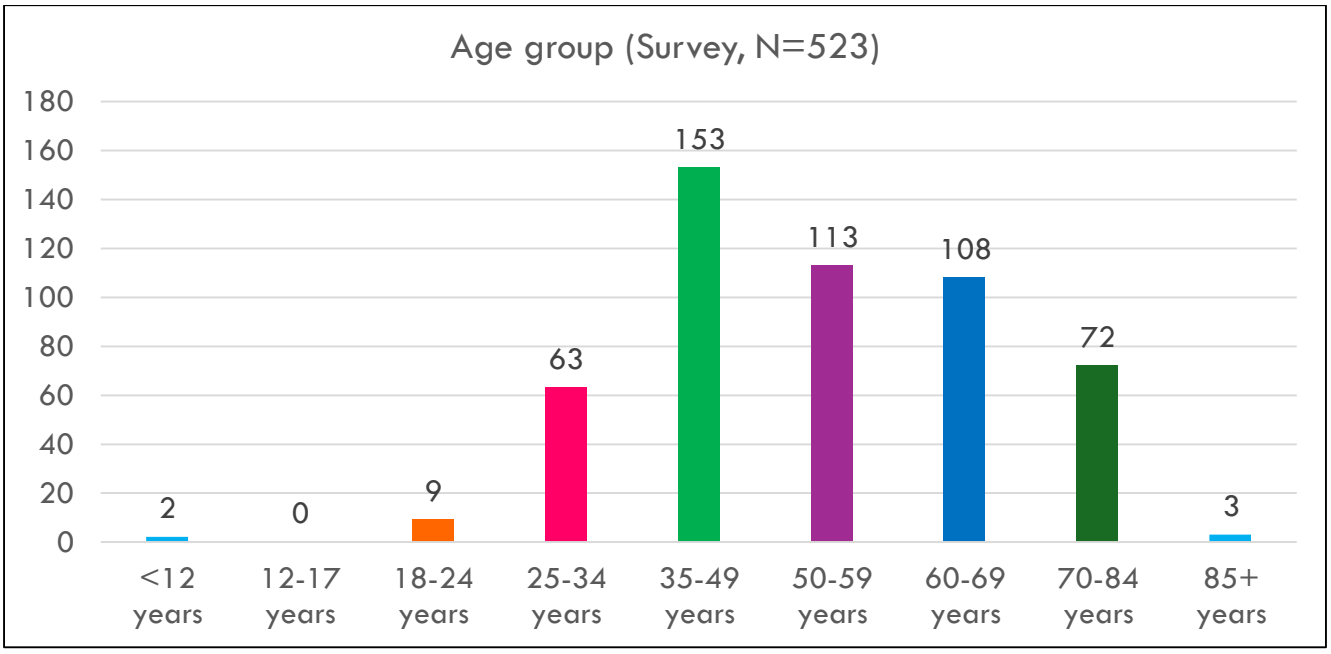
Gender: Figure 2 shows more Woman or Female participants (329 or 62.9%) than Man or Male (175 or 33.5%). Five participants (1.0%) identified as non-binary and 14 (2.7%) preferred not to say. See Section 5.1 for insights from the gender-based analysis.

Figure 2. Gender of participants (Survey)



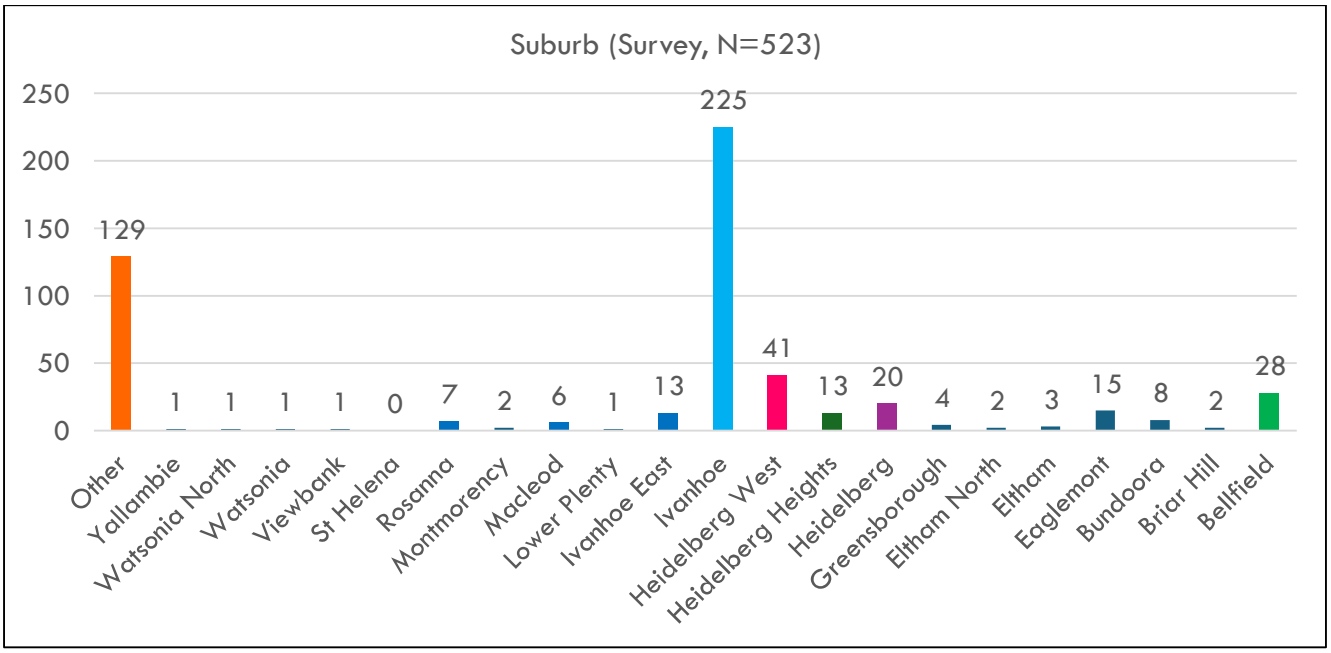
Age: Figure 3 shows all age groups were represented except those aged 12 to 17 years. Many survey participants were aged 35 to 49 years (153 or 29.3%), 50 to 59 years (113 or 21.6%), or older.

Figure 3. Age of participants (Survey)



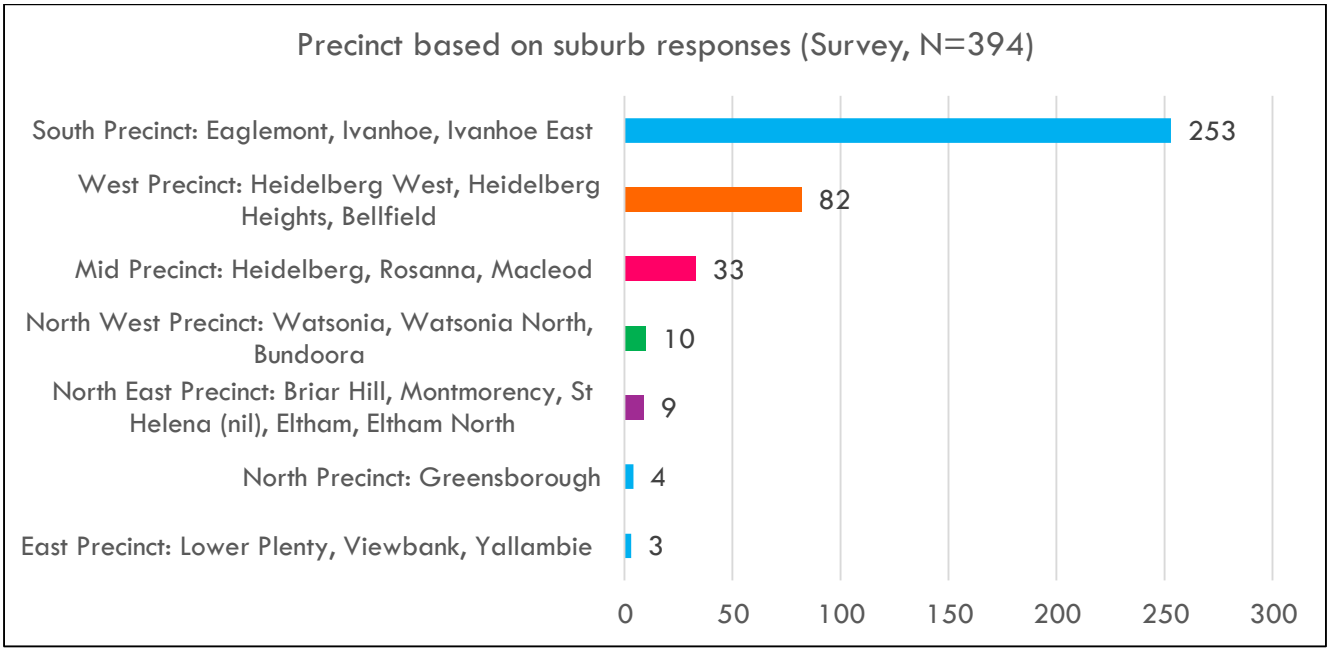
Residential suburb: Figure 4 shows 394 (or 75.3% of) participants reside in suburbs within Banyule City Council. All suburbs were represented with the exception of St. Helena. 43.0% of participants reside in Ivanhoe, 7.8% in Heidelberg West, and 5.4% in Bellfield. 129 (or 24.7%) of participants selected "Other" and were not required to report a suburb.

Figure 4. Residential suburb of participants (Survey)



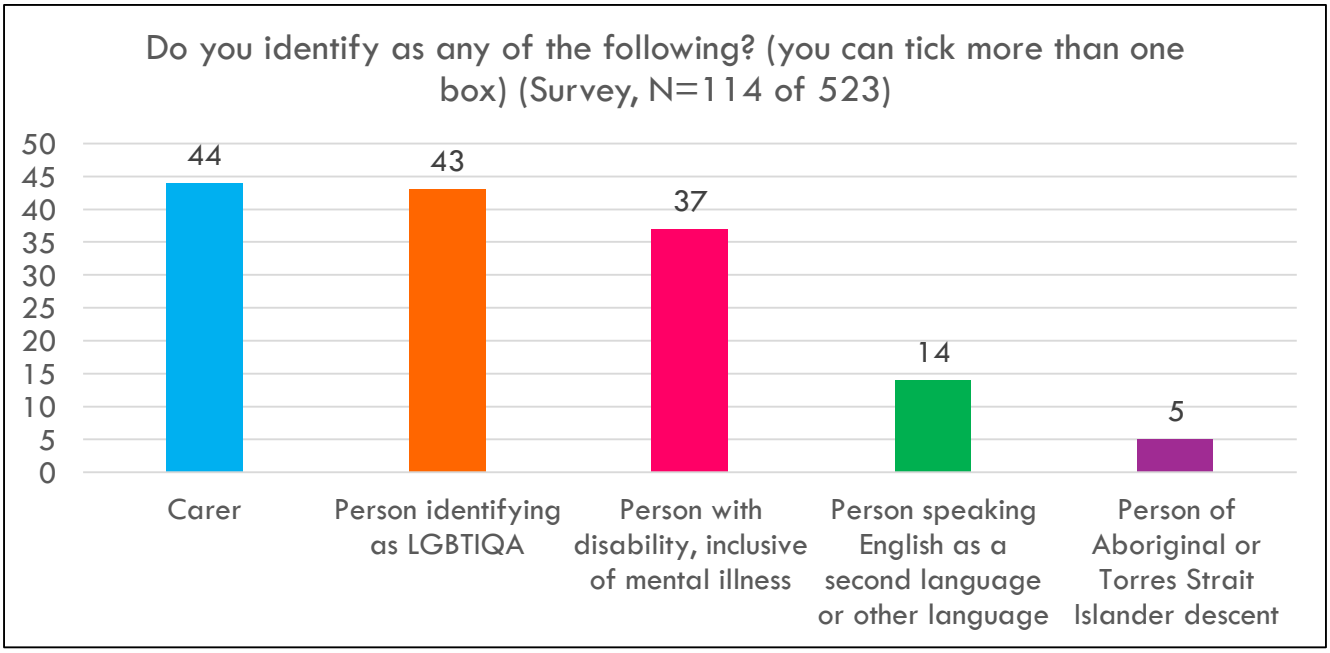
Banyule Precinct groupings of residential suburbs: Figure 5 presents the 394 (or 75.3% of) participants residing in suburbs within the Banyule municipality by seven Precincts. Precincts were represented to varying degrees, ranging from three to 253 participants. Most participants reside in the South Precinct or West Precinct. See Section 5.2 for insights from the precinct-based analysis.

Figure 5. Banyule Precincts of participants (Survey)



Access, equity and inclusion: Figure 6 shows the diversity characteristics of survey participants. 523 participants provided a response of which 114 selected one or more characteristics. Participants identified as a Carer (44), LGBTIQA (43), with disability inclusive of mental illness (37), speaking English as a second language or other language (14), and of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent (5).

Figure 6. Access, equity and inclusion characteristics of participants (Survey)



The following languages were reported by 14 survey participants: Arabic (2), Arabic – French, Auslan, Cantonese, Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, Italian, Macedonian, Spanish (2), Turkish, and Vietnamese.

4. Overall engagement findings

4.1 Most important aspects of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands

Survey participants were asked "What aspects of the Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands, including Rockbeare Park, are most important to you?", and 520 provided a personalised response which referred to one or multiple topics.

As shown in Table 2, a variety of aspects are important, particularly protecting and maintaining the catchment in a balanced way to support the natural living environment as well as a variety of active, passive and educational uses. The aspects most often referenced were:

- The biodiversity and ecology and protecting the unspoilt healthy natural living environment (315 participants)
- Opportunity to access with nature and a beautiful natural landscape (152)
- Recreational spaces and being active (151)
- Opportunities and spaces for social gatherings (105)
- Serenity and support for overall wellbeing (101)
- Walking and cycling tracks, paths and trails (100).

Table 2. Most important aspects of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (Survey)

Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=520)
The biodiversity and ecology and protecting the unspoilt healthy natural living environment: Participants referred to ecology, habitat, natural ecosystems, environmental values and function, and a healthy environment. There were references to natural wildlife corridors, trees, shade, vegetation, native species and plants, flora and fauna as well as habitats and refuge supports for wildlife and birdlife.	315
Opportunity to access with nature and a beautiful natural landscape: Participants referred to the beautiful, natural landscape, environment and bush which provides an oasis from (and near) suburbia. There were references to having access to nature, the land, and fresh air.	152
Recreational spaces and being active: Participants referred to being active, recreation, physical health, health and fitness. There were references to exercising, running, walking, cycling, hiking, exercise equipment, and active play.	151
Opportunities and spaces for social gatherings: Participants referred to areas that are family friendly, support gatherings with family or friends or groups and bring the community together. There were references to playing, picnicking, and games.	105
Serenity and support for overall wellbeing: Participants referred to the ambience and serenity and having access to peaceful, quiet, tranquil, and secluded areas. There were references to mental health benefits, destressing, relaxing, and spiritual connection.	101
Walking and cycling tracks, paths and trails: Participants referred to the importance of walking tracks, walking trails, cycling paths, gravel paths, shared paths, spiritual healing walk, path linkages, and bridges.	100
Availability of public open space and green spaces: Participants referred to the importance of green space, public open space, the green wedge, and the community having free and accessible green space.	97
Access to wildlife, birdlife, and animals: Participants referred to the importance of native wildlife, birdlife, waterbirds, variety of beautiful native birds, and bird song. There were references to foxes, ducks, storks, owls, turtles, lizards, possums, snakes, insects, platypus, fish, and frogs.	96

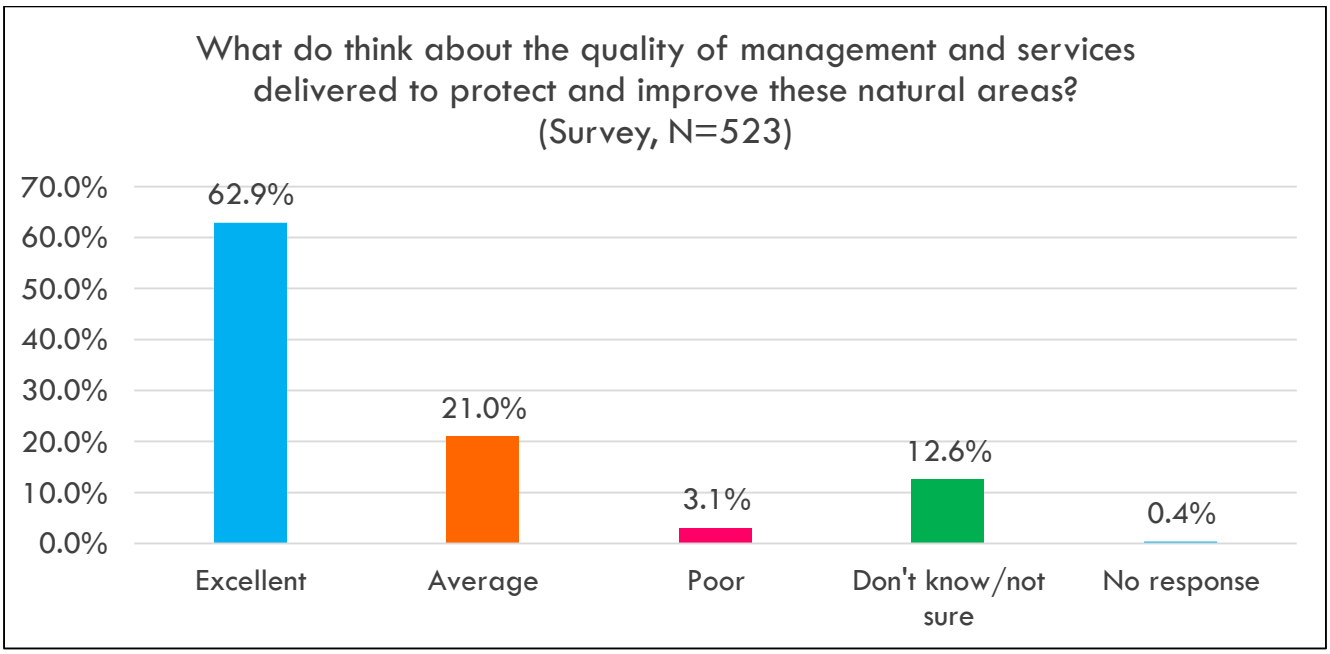
Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=520)
Cultural heritage, Indigenous heritage, and history: Participants referred to Indigenous, First Nations and Aboriginal heritage, cultural heritage, history and the successful restoration of a former quarry and tip.	93
Darebin Creek and creek health: Participants referred to the importance of Darebin creek, the creek catchment, creek health, creek water quality, creek biodiversity, ecology, cleanliness, and importance to the health of the Darebin Creek corridor.	90
Ecological restoration and recovery: Participants referred to the importance of enhancing ecology, ecological restoration and improvements, recovery efforts, grasses, native plantings, and regeneration.	85
Focus on maintenance, pollution and erosion control: Participants referred to the importance of maintenance, cleanliness, weed management, pest management, and managing litter and pollution in waterways and land areas.	82
Offsets the effects of urbanisation and increased population density: Participants referred to the importance of the catchment in an urban environment given the increasing urban sprawl, increasing population and population density, loss of trees and nature, and climate change. There were references to heat reduction, CO2 absorption, and urban forest and bushland.	72
Dog friendly: Participants referred to the importance of dog walking, having dog play areas, dog off lead zones, and responsible pet ownership.	69
Waterways, water quality and management: Participants referred to waterways, ponds, rivers, and wetlands. There were references to water management, water quality, and aquatic ecology.	65
Ranger presence and stewardship: Participants referred to the presence and positive roles played by rangers as well as ranger expertise, stewardship, efforts, programs, and role in supporting safety in the catchment.	52
Educational programs and activities: Participants referred to community programs and events, Bush Kinder, learning and educational programs	49
Volunteer and community involvement: Participants referred and recognised the efforts of volunteers, Friends of groups, as well as community input, community engagement, and community initiatives.	39
Sense of safety: Participants referred to the importance of feeling safe, sense of safety, personal safety, areas feeling safe and clean.	36
Opportunities and spaces to enjoy passive activities: Participants referred to reading, photography, bird watching, wildlife observing, and painting.	34
All of it is important: Participants referred to everything, all of it, all along the creek, and the entire area. They love it and prefer that it remains the same.	31
Commitment to fund and preserve: Participants referred to securing funding and resources to preserve the catchment for the future, continuing or increasing resources.	30
Visitor amenities: Participants referred to amenities such as toilets, seating, tables, BBQs, picnic facilities or areas, and lookouts for visitor comfort.	22
Geology: Participants referred to rocks, rock formations, and quarry walls.	12

4.2 Quality of management and services delivered

Survey participants were asked "What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas?", and 523 selected a rating response.

As shown in Figure 7, most survey participants reported the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas in the Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands is Excellent (329 or 63.2%).

Figure 7. Ratings of quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas (Survey)



Survey participants were then asked, "Why did you choose this response?" and 470 of the 523 participants provided an explanation which referred to one or multiple topics.

As shown in Table 3, some survey participants were satisfied, complimentary or expressed positive sentiment. Aspects most often referenced were:

- Water and land elements being managed responsibly and well (162 participants)
- Rangers and volunteers having an impact and doing a great job (123)
- Good outcomes so far with the funding available, more improvements and funding are needed (105)
- Community engagement, programs, and education (104)
- Areas being in good condition and well maintained (100).

Other survey participants expressed concerns and suggested improvement ideas. Aspects most often referenced were:

- Maintenance in some areas (42 participants)
- Illegal and anti-social behaviours (34)
- Condition of creek waterways (32)
- Protection of the catchment for the future (28).

Table 3. Explanations behind selection of quality of management and services ratings (Survey)

Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=470)
Satisfied and positive sentiment	
Water and land elements being managed responsibly and well: Participants referred to the efforts of the DCMC, dedication, excellent management, planning, and evolution and improvements of the catchment. There were references to management being respectful of nature and doing a great job with available resources and funding.	162
Rangers and volunteers having an impact and doing a great job: Participants referred to the presence and positive roles played by rangers as well as ranger expertise, stewardship, and programs. There were references to the efforts of volunteers and Friends of groups as well as the improvements, plantings and revegetating.	123
Good outcomes so far with the funding available, more improvements and funding are needed: Participants indicated the great value for money regarding the improvements, services and efforts so far. There is more to be done which will require continued or increased funding.	105
Community engagement, programs, and education: Participants referred to the sense of community, volunteering programs, community programs, community activities and initiatives. There were references to people enjoying the learning and educational programs such as bush kinder and snake awareness.	104
Areas being in good condition and well maintained: Participants referred to the care and efforts made in relation to general maintenance, path maintenance, repairs being made, mowing, weed management, cleaning, and tidiness.	100
Ecological restoration and greening initiatives: Participants referred to ecological restoration, native species, native plants, flora, fauna, vegetation, trees, grasses, plantings, regeneration, and revegetation.	83
Positive and complimentary feedback: Participants indicated that it seems good, all is good, it is currently well managed, it is great, beautiful, and benefits community.	71
Waterways are good: Participants referred to the quality of the waterways and absence of litter.	23
Good visitor amenities: Participants referred to visitor amenities such as toilets, seating, tables, BBQs, picnic facilities, and bins.	17
Variety of good trails and tracks: Participants referred to the walking tracks, walking trails, bike paths, gravel paths, and shared paths.	15
Concerns and improvement ideas	
Maintenance in some areas: Participants indicated maintenance could be improved in relation to cleaning, weed management, removal of trees or tree branches managing undergrowth, mowing grassed areas and rubbish removal. The actions and frequency of maintenance crews could be increased.	42
Illegal and anti-social behaviours: Participants referred to behavioural issues such as littering, dumping, cyclist speed, and graffiti.	34
Condition of creek waterways: Participants indicated improvements could be made to water quality due to rubbish, litter, and pollution. There were references to the creek corridor and erosion of creek banks.	32
Protection of the catchment for the future: Participants referred to the need for stewardship and protection, long-term planning and funding commitment to ensure the future of the catchment.	28
Native flora and habitat: Participants referred to the need to maintain the natural diversity of flora, improve its upkeep, and have more native flora habitat.	17
Condition and use of some trails and tracks: Participants indicated some tracks could be improved and some path users could be more considerate.	8

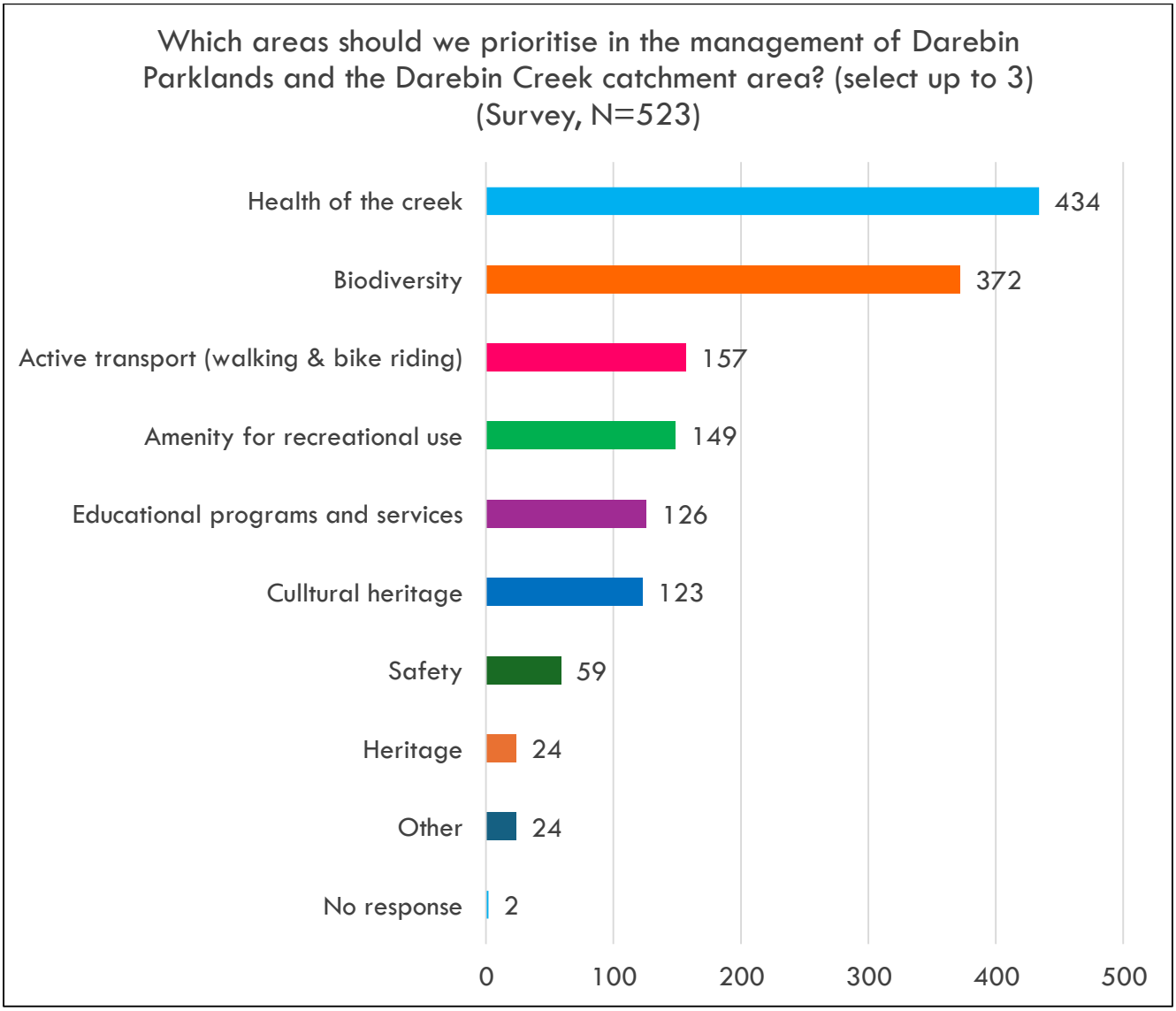
4.3 Elements to prioritise in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands

Survey participants were asked "Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area?" and invited to select three of eight response options (plus an "Other" option.

As shown in Figure 8, support was shown for all elements and those most often referenced included:

- Health of the creek (434 or 83.3%)
- Biodiversity (372 or 71.4%)
- Active transport (walking and bike riding) (157 or 30.1%)
- Amenity for recreational use (149 or 28.6%).

Figure 8. Elements prioritised in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (Survey)



4.4 Views and ideas for the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands

Survey participants were asked "Do you have any views on the way Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area are managed, or any ideas for improving their management?", and 366 provided a personalised response which referred to one or multiple topics.

As shown in Table 4, views and ideas focused on the role of Rangers, health of the creek, biodiversity, nature, environment, funding commitment, community education and involvement, safety of path users, maintenance, volunteering, access for dogs, protecting and promoting the cultural heritage and history. Topics most often referenced related to:

- Continue or increase Ranger roles (71 participants)
- Maintain and improve the condition of the creek and waterways (62)
- Requests for an ongoing funding commitment (58)
- Continue the focus on biodiversity, nature and environment (48).

Table 4. Views and ideas for improving the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (Survey)

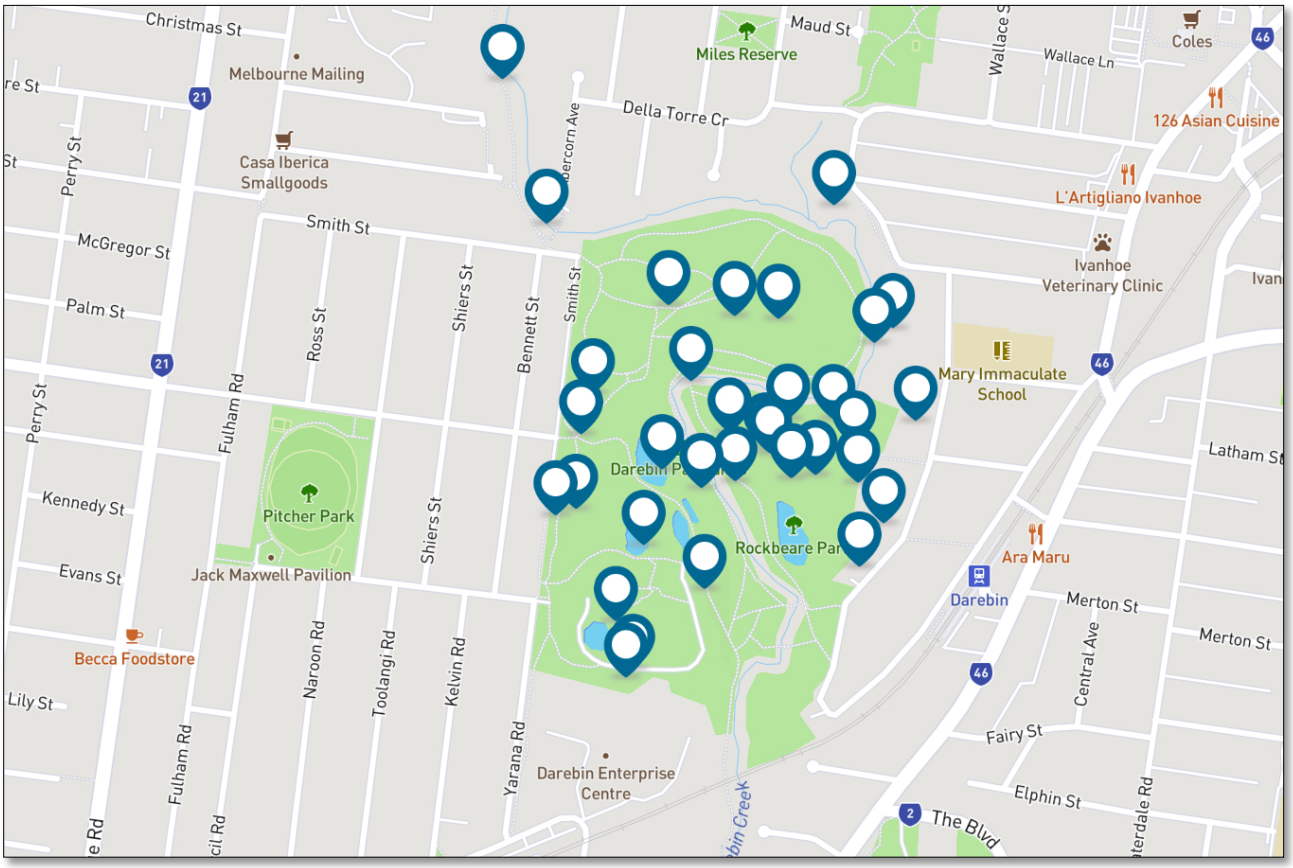
Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=366)
Continue or increase Ranger roles: Participants indicated the Rangers and crew do a great job and the roles of Rangers are important. There were references to continue or increase Rangers and continue the Ranger program.	71
Maintain and improve the condition of the creek and waterways: Participants referenced the creek, river, and ponds and referred to water quality and health of the creek. There were references to address pollution and rubbish, use litter traps, and manage erosion and leachate.	62
Requests for an ongoing funding commitment: Participants indicated funding needs to be retained or increased. There were calls for long term funding, a commitment to fund current services and more staff and on-ground assistance.	58
Continue the focus on biodiversity, nature and environment: Participants referred to habitat, trees, vegetation, wildlife, birdlife, bushland, animals, planting, regeneration, ecological restoration.	48
Positive and complimentary feedback: Participants indicated that all is good, it is great and beautiful, and currently well managed	41
Improve safety for path users: Participants referred to the need to maintain and improve safety and accessibility for some walkways, tracks, and bike paths. There were references to wide or separate some shared paths, ban trail bikes and slow the speed of some cyclists and motorised cyclists around pedestrians.	36
Activate, educate, and involve community members: Participants referred to having activities, events, festivals, family days, programs for children, and Bush Kinder programs. There were requests for more educational activities on caring for land, biodiversity, river stewardship, and the environment as well as information and signage.	35
Recognise and encourage volunteering: Participants referred to the efforts of volunteers and Friends of groups. There were references to having volunteer programs and involving more community members as volunteers through working bees and clean-up days.	33
Management of the catchment: Participants indicated DCMC is doing a great job and delivers a lot for a limited budget, and to continue with the existing management structure and organisation. There were positive references to the partnership model, joint management structure, and collaboration. Participants also referred to long term planning, decision-making, accountability, transparency and regular updates. Requests included involving the Traditional Owners and First Nations communities around traditional land management techniques.	32

Maintenance in some areas: Participants indicated maintenance could be improved in general and open space areas in relation to cleaning, weed management, pest management, removal of graffiti, dumped trolleys, and installation of more bins.	25
Continue access for dogs and encourage responsible pet ownership: Participants indicated they value having access to dog-friendly areas both on-leash and off-leash, and dogs entering the water. There were references to encourage responsible pet ownership for dogs and cats (curfew).	18
Protect and promote the catchment's history and heritage: Participants referred to protecting the heritage and cultural heritage of the catchment, sharing cultural knowledge and information about its history.	11
More visitor amenities: Participants requested more toilets, seating, tables, picnic areas, and water fountains.	6

4..5 Areas where Council to protect and enhance the environment

Survey participants were asked "In which areas of Rockbeare Park, Darebin Parklands or along the Darebin Creek do you think Council could do more to protect and enhance the environment?". Participants were invited to place a marker on a map and submit a comment and 369 participants provided a response. As shown in Figure 9, the markers related to a variety of locations across many areas within the catchment.

Figure 9. Map showing areas to further protect and enhance the environment (Survey)



As shown in Table 5, participants reported a range of suggestions to further protect and enhance the environment. Aspects most often referenced were:

- Management of weeds and invasive species, and more vegetation (87 participants)
- Maintenance of footpaths and bridges and increase pedestrian access and safety (61)
- Wildlife protection and biodiversity loss (48)

- Rubbish, pollution, and enforcement around the Creek (48)

Table 5. Suggestions to further protect and enhance the environment (Survey)

Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=369)
Management of weeds and invasive species, and more vegetation: Participants referred to weed infestation (e.g., blackberries, moth vine, exotic grasses) and impacts on ecosystems, flora and fauna. Requests for targeted weed control (such as creek bed near the Abercorn footbridge and lower section of Seddon Reserve next to creek), revegetation with native species (such as native flora along bike path beside residential areas), more native plantings, and maintained garden beds.	87
Maintenance of footpaths and bridges and increase pedestrian access and safety: Participants referred to hazards at Wood Street Footbridge, the need to upgrade Clifton Bridge, and improve stepping stones for better pedestrian access. Requests to increase pedestrian access and safety by addressing slippery paths, overgrown paths, narrow paths, dimly lit paths, and cyclist speed on shared use paths.	61
Wildlife protection and biodiversity loss: Participants referred to habitat destruction and requested denser Indigenous plantings to support native birds and small wildlife. Concerns about impacts on habitats and worn areas, and fox sightings (such as Rockbeare Grove). Requests for more trees (such as the offload park paddock). Requests to protect nesting, wildlife, animals, and birdlife (such as frogs, ducklings, and kookaburras).	48
Rubbish, pollution, and enforcement around the Creek: Participants referred to littering, illegal dumping, and pollution, particularly near Ford Street, Northland, and entry points. Shopping trolleys, street signs, industrial pollutants, rubbish from businesses and schools, more rubbish after storms. Requests for more frequent cleanups, stricter waste disposal enforcement, and stormwater management improvements.	48
Water quality and stormwater management: Participants referred to the wetlands, need to manage polluted stormwater runoff into the creek as well as runoff from industrial areas and Olympic Park redevelopment, creek flooding and stagnant water. Requests for filtration systems, stricter pollution controls, wetlands for natural water treatment, and reviewing storm drains.	34
Off-leash dogs, damage and safety: Participants indicated dog activity is damaging creek banks and eroding paths (particularly between Clifton Bridge and the Pool of Reflection). Having dogs off-leash in restricted areas impacts wildlife and creates safety concerns for visitors. Requests for more enforcement, fencing off sensitive areas, designated leash-free zones.	32
Access to public facilities and amenities: Participants referred to the need for more seating, benches, picnic areas, BBQ shelters, and water fountains, and improved accessibility for people of all ages and abilities. Requests to add or enhance facilities in some areas (such as Sparks Reserve, bench at the top of Rockbeare Park, drinking fountain in the dog park area), and protect the Bush Kinder site.	30
Erosion and environmental degradation: Participants indicated some banks are eroding, understory and trees are dying, and ground is compacted in high-traffic areas. Requests for erosion control measures (such as Pine Ridge), native plant restoration, and fencing to allow natural regeneration.	16
Illegal use of trail bikes and motorbikes and safety: Participants referred to the regular use of dirt bikes and motorbikes on trails and bike paths, affecting pedestrian and cyclist safety, and concerns about noise and path damage. Requests for stronger enforcement, physical deterrents (chicanes, bollards), and security cameras.	16
Address areas that are neglected: Participants indicated some areas of the Darebin Parklands and Rockbeare Park as well as specific areas (such as the industrial side of the creek) are neglected.	12

Planning controls and development concerns: Participants referred to private developments encroaching on parklands. There are concerns about height restrictions, tree removal, transparency and enforcement.	10

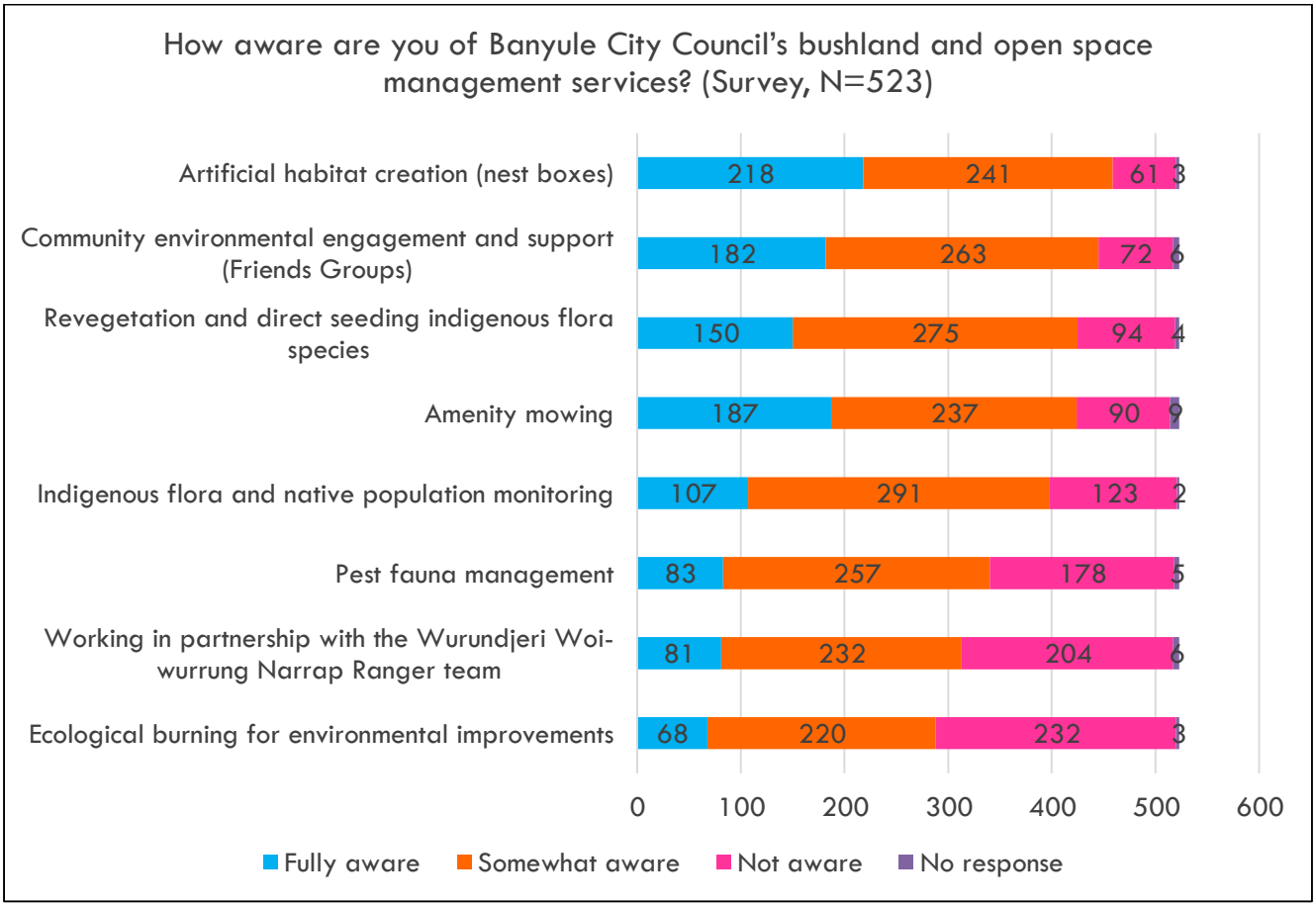
4.6 Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services

Survey participants were asked "How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?" and invited to provide a rating for eight statements.

As shown in Figure 10, most survey participants reported they are Fully aware or Somewhat aware of all services, most commonly:

- Artificial habitat creation (nest boxes) (459 participants)
- Community environmental engagement and support (Friends Groups) (445)
- Revegetation and direct seeding Indigenous flora species (425)
- Amenity mowing (424).

Figure 10. Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services (Survey)



4.7 Provision of service information, topics of interest, and communication channels

Survey participants were asked "Is there any service information that you'd like to see more of?", and 237 provided a personalised response.

As shown in Table 6, most survey participants expressed interest in having access to, or receiving, more information about services as well as specific aspects relating to Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands. Information topics of interest most often referenced included:

- Educational information about supporting the environment and biodiversity (59 participants)
- More information and more of the same type of information (35)
- Information with an Indigenous focus (22)
- Rangers and Ranger Program (20)
- Management and operations (12).

Table 6. Provision of service information, topics of interest, and communication channels (Survey)

Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=237)
Educational information about supporting the environment and biodiversity: Information to raise awareness and educate about biodiversity, revegetation, birdlife, how to support habitat, native species, and tree planting. Educational information on managing pests, pest fauna, weed and impacts of littering and dumping.	59
More information and more of the same type of information: More of everything, information relating to all topics, more of the same information, more information would be good.	35
Information with an Indigenous focus: Information about Indigenous culture and history and Indigenous plants. Information and trends about Indigenous flora and fauna.	22
Rangers and Ranger Program: Rangers, Indigenous rangers, Narrap ranger team input, and Ranger program.	20
Management and operations: Producing and sharing operational information such as a Masterplan, strategic planning, number of volunteers hours, what actions have already been completed, public reports, and "State of the creek" update.	12
Other - already have access to sufficient information: Already happy with the current level of service information, more information is not necessary, already have sufficient information, feeling informed already. No or no thank you.	42

32 survey participants also expressed interest in accessing service information via a range of communication channels which included:

- Online/electronic: Social media, website, Banyule Banner, telephone, walking trail podcast, interactive information
- Paper/printed: Pamphlet, posted newsletters, mailed or letterbox drop
- Reports: Written summaries, annual updates, and reports
- On-site signage: Signage (informational, educational, and safety messages), and plaques

Some participants did not directly refer to service information and referenced other matters such as General requests or suggestions (50 participants), Suggestions for community involvement, activities and programs (28 participants), or Requests to address specific elements or areas (28 participants).

4.8 Looking 10 years into the future

Visioner activity participants were asked "What do you imagine Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment to be like in 10 years?" and 94 participants submitted a personalised comment.

As shown in Table 7, participants imagine the area to be a thriving natural environment that is protected and well managed, with clean waterways, green open spaces, and well-maintained areas available for community use and activities. Ideas most often referenced included:

- Thriving natural environment (57 participants)
- Clean living creek and waterways (32)
- Healthy and safe active green space (29)
- Protected community asset and green open space for Melbourne and future generations (28)
- Continued or expanded support for DCMC/management team and rangers (28).

Table 7. Ideas for Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands looking to the future (Visioner Activity)

Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=94)
Thriving natural environment: Participants referred the natural environment and hope for biodiversity, habitat, trees, native flora, and fauna.	57
Clean living creek and waterways: Participants referred to the health of the creek and hope for healthy water, waterways that are clear of rubbish, and swimmable water conditions.	32
Healthy and safe active green space: Participants hope for recreational spaces and areas for exercise, playing, climbing, recreation, sport, dog walking, walking, riding, as well as walking tracks and recreational facilities.	29
Protected community asset and green open space for Melbourne and future generations: Participants hope that the catchment will be protected and resourced and not encroached by development. There were references to the catchment being vital for an increasing population and population density.	28
Continued or expanded support for DCMC/management team and rangers: Participants hope for continued or expanded support for DCMC, the management team and rangers. Participants hope the catchment will continue to be well managed with shared use, and cooperation with community and councils.	28
Continued community access and involvement: Participants hope there will be continued community access and involvement through plantings, caring for the environment, programs, and bush kinder.	24
Spaces to connect with nature: Participants hope there will be spaces and opportunities to access and interact with natural features such as the sky, sun, birdlife, air, wildlife, native animals, generally and for wellbeing.	22
Areas that are cared for, clean and well maintained: Participants hope the catchment will be clear of rubbish, pollution, and dead trees. Participants hope there will be access to public amenities such as toilets, seating, and rubbish bins.	13
Commitment to continued improvements: Participants hope for continued improvements such as re-wilding, regeneration, and revegetation.	13

Themes within responses	No. of participants (N=94)
Catchment to remain the same or better: Participants hope the catchment will remain the same or better than it is today. Some participants love the catchment as it is now.	13
Spaces for social connections: Participants hope there will be spaces to interact with friends and/or family members for picnics or meet-ups.	10

5. Engagement insights with a focus on Gender and Banyule Precincts

Banyule City Council aims to ensure all new or updated policies, programs, and services address requirements under the Gender Equality Act 2020 (the "Act") and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. In assessing the impacts of the policy, service, or program, it is important to acknowledge impacts may vary significantly across different people within a distinct group. Section 6(8) of the Act indicates "gender inequality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience based on Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes." By recognising the concept of intersectional gender inequality, the Act aims to address discrimination, disadvantage, and inequity.

This section aims to present insights for Council to consider in the context of the Service Review. It examines the survey findings with a focus on gender (total of 509 participants):

- Woman or Female (329 participants or 62.9%)
- Man or Male participants (175 or 33.5%)
- Non-binary participants (5 or 1.0%).

As well as seven precincts (total of 394 participants):

- South Precinct: Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East (253 or 64.2%)
- West Precinct: Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights, Bellfield (82 or 20.8%).
- Mid Precinct: Heidelberg, Rosanna, Macleod (33 or 8.4%)
- North West Precinct: Watsonia, Watsonia North, Bundoora (10 or 2.5%)
- North East Precinct: Briar Hill, Montmorency, St Helena (nil), Eltham, Eltham North (9 or 2.3%)
- North Precinct: Greensborough (4 or 1.0%)
- East Precinct: Lower Plenty, Viewbank, Yallambie (3 participants or 0.9%).

To determine whether notable differences were apparent, several data screening and interpretation steps were taken:

- Omit "Prefer not to say" responses to the Gender question and "Other" responses to the Suburb question from the dataset.
- Convert survey responses into a format suitable for statistical analysis (IBM SPSS program).
- Re-run results charts to segment the responses for all closed-ended questions by the two gender sub-groups and seven precinct sub-groups. Note observations for the five Non-binary participants.
- Convert results from numbers to rounded percentages (no decimal points) to create proportions for comparative purposes.
- Compare the percentages and observe differences between the gender and precinct sub-groups.
- Note differences of 5% or greater in the responses for gender and 10% for precinct sub-groups (which aims to accommodate the differences in sub-sample sizes).

5.1 Insights – Gender-level analysis

This section presents insights from the Gender-level analysis of responses for the following three survey questions:

- What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas?
- Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area? (select up to three response options)
- How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?

Firstly, to provide a gendered context for the survey participants, Table 8 presents a breakdown of personal characteristics (age, suburb, and diversity), categorised by gender. Participants were invited to identify with one or more access, equity and inclusion characteristics. Note: Not all participants provided a response for every question.

Table 8. Participant personal characteristics, by gender (Survey)

Age	Woman/ Female (n=329)	Man/ Male (n=175)	Non-binary (n=5)	Total (N=509)
Under 12 years	2	0	0	2
12-17 years	0	0	0	0
18-24 years	6	3	0	9
25-34 years	36	23	2	61
35-49 years	91	52	3	146
50-59 years	73	37	0	110
60-69 years	74	33	0	107
70-84 years	45	26	0	71
85 years and over	2	1	0	3

Suburb converted into Banyule Precinct groupings	Woman/ Female (n=237)	Man/ Male (n=142)	Non-binary (n=4)	Total (N=383)
South Precinct: Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East	159	86	2	247
West Precinct: Bellfield, Heidelberg Heights, Heidelberg West	39	38	1	78
Mid Precinct: Heidelberg, Macleod, Rosanna	26	6	0	32
North West Precinct: Bundoora, Watsonia, Watsonia North	4	5	1	10
North East Precinct: Briar Hill, Eltham, Eltham North, Montmorency, St Helena (nil)	6	3	0	9
North Precinct: Greensborough	1	3	0	4
East Precinct: Lower Plenty, Viewbank, Yallambie	2	1	0	3
Other	92	33	1	126

Diversity (access, equity and inclusion)	Woman/ Female (n=78)	Man/ Male (n=28)	Non-binary (n=5)	Total (N=111)
A carer	36	7	1	44
A person identifying as LGBTIQA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual)	25	11	5	41
A person with disability, inclusive of mental illness	22	8	5	35
A person speaking English as a second language or other language	9	4	1	14
A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent	3	2	0	5

Notable differences in closed-ended survey responses between Woman/ Female participants and Man/ Male participants and observations for Non-binary participants (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas (see Section 3.2): Woman/ Female participants are more likely to report *Excellent* (66.1%, Man/ Male=59.4%). Man/ Male participants are more likely to report *Average* (23.4%, Woman/ Female=18.7%). No noteworthy observations were apparent for Non-binary participants.
- Areas to prioritise in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (see Section 3.3): Woman/ Female participants are more likely to report *Cultural heritage* (28.3%, Man/ Male=15.1%), and *Educational programs and events* (27.7%, Man/ Male=19.2%). Man/ Male participants are more likely to report *Amenity for recreational use* (36.0%, Woman/ Female=25.5%), and *Active transport (walking and bike riding)* (35.5%, Woman/ Female=28.0%). Non-binary participants were observed as more likely to prioritise *Health of creek* and *Safety* and less likely to prioritise *Educational programs and events*.
- Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services (see Section 3.6): Woman/ Female participants are more likely to report *Somewhat aware* for *Amenity mowing* (47.1%, Man/ Male=40.6%), and *Not aware* for *Ecological burning for environmental improvements* (48.3%, Man/ Male=39.4%). Man/ Male participants are more likely to report *Not aware* for *Pest fauna management* (38.9%, Woman/ Female=32.8%), and *Fully aware* for *Ecological burning for environmental improvements* (18.9%, Woman/ Female=9.4%). Non-binary participants were observed as more likely to be *Fully aware in all areas except Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Narrap Ranger team*.

5.2 Insights – Banyule Precinct-level analysis

This section presents insights from the Banyule Precinct-level analysis of responses for the following three survey questions:

- What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas?
- Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area? (select up to three response options)
- How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?

The level of participation by Banyule Precinct was determined based on the suburb reported by participants. 394 of the 523 survey participants selected a suburb within the Banyule municipality. As shown below, most participants reside within the South Precinct, West Precinct or Mid Precinct:

- South Precinct: Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East (253 or 64.2%)
- West Precinct: Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights, Bellfield (82 or 20.8%).
- Mid Precinct: Heidelberg, Rosanna, Macleod (33 or 8.4%)
- North West Precinct: Watsonia, Watsonia North, Bundoora (10 or 2.5%)
- North East Precinct: Briar Hill, Montmorency, St Helena (nil), Eltham, Eltham North (9 or 2.3%)
- North Precinct: Greensborough (4 or 1.0%)
- East Precinct: Lower Plenty, Viewbank, Yallambie (3 participants or 0.9%).

Note: Not all participants provided a response for every question.

Notable differences in closed-ended survey responses between Precincts with more than 10 participants and observations for Precincts with 10 or fewer participants (see Appendix 3 for more information):

- Quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve natural areas (see Section 3.2): South Precinct and Mid Precinct participants are more likely to report *Excellent* (70% and 60.% respectively). West Precinct participants are more likely to report *Average* (35.4%). Observations for Precincts with fewer participants: wide variation in *Excellent* ratings (North-East Precinct, North Precinct); higher levels of *Average* ratings (East Precinct, North-West Precinct), and *Poor* ratings (North Precinct).
- Areas to prioritise in the management of Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands (see Section 3.3): South Precinct participants are less likely to prioritise *Cultural heritage* (19.4%). West Precinct participants are less likely to prioritise *Educational programs and events* (12.2%) or *Amenity for recreational use* (22.0%). West Precinct participants are more likely to prioritise *Active transport (walking and bike riding)* (34.1%). Mid Precinct participants are less likely to prioritise *Safety* (0.0%) or *Heritage* (0.0%). Observations for Precincts with fewer participants: generally wide variation in prioritising for *Health of creek, Biodiversity, Active transport, Amenity for recreational use,* and *Educational programs and events* (across North West Precinct, North East Precinct, North Precinct, and East Precinct).
- Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services (see Section 3.6): South Precinct participants are more likely to be *Not aware* of *Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger Team* (41%). West Precinct participants are more likely to be *Fully aware* of *Ecological burning for environmental improvements* (21%) and *Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger Team* (21%, although mixed views were reported). Mid Precinct participants are more likely to be Fully aware of Pest Fauna Management (25%). Observations for Precincts with fewer participants: generally wide variation in awareness for *Ecological burning for environmental improvements, Indigenous flora and native fauna population monitoring, Revegetation and direct seeding Indigenous flora species, Artificial habitat creation (nest boxes), Pest fauna management, Community environmental engagement and support (Friends Groups),* and *Amenity mowing* (across North West Precinct, North East Precinct, North Precinct, and East Precinct).

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: Consultation survey

Banyule
City Council

Looking after Darebin Parklands and Darebin Creek Catchment

Your feedback will help us shape the future of Council's management of Darebin Parklands and the health of Darebin Creek and guide decisions that protect and improve these precious spaces.

01. What aspects of the Darebin Creek and Darebin Parklands, including Rockbeare Park, are most important to you?

This might include aspects that relate to ecology, biodiversity, recreation, heritage, and cultural heritage.

Funding and management arrangements

Banyule City Council and the Cities of Yarra, Darebin and Whittlesea all contribute funding to the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to coordinate with stakeholders along the Darebin Creek catchment to deliver environmental education programs, implement environmental projects, engage the community and respond to planning referrals.

Banyule and Darebin also provide annual funding to DCMC to manage the Darebin Parklands, on behalf of both Councils.

Banyule's 2025 funding will be $250,812.80 (Banyule funds $80,270.46 to DCMC for Darebin Creek catchment coordination and $168,022.37 for Darebin Parklands land management coordination).

These contributions also support DCMC's organisational, governance and management costs.

02. What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas?

Select one answer only
◯ Excellent
◯ Average
◯ Poor
◯ Don't know/not sure

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03. Why did you choose this response?

04. Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area?

Choose up to three responses.

Select between 1 and 3 answers
☐ Biodiversity
☐ Amenity for recreational use
☐ Health of the creek
☐ Active transport (walking and bike riding)
☐ Safety
☐ Heritage
☐ Cultural heritage
☐ Educational programs and events
☐ Other

05. Do you have any views on the way Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area are managed, or any ideas for improving their management?

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Bushland and open space management services

06. How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?

Ecological burning for environmental improvements
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware
Indigenous flora and native fauna population monitoring
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware
Revegetation and direct seeding indigenous flora species
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware
Artificial habitat creation (nest boxes)
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware
Pest fauna management
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware
Community environmental engagement and support (Friends Groups)
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware
Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger team
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware

◯ Not aware
Amenity mowing
◯ Fully aware
◯ Somewhat aware
◯ Not aware

07. Is there any service information that you'd like to see more of?

08. In which areas of Rockbeare Park, Darebin Parklands or along the Darebin Creek do you think Council could do more to protect and enhance the environment?

Drop a pin and make a comment on an area you'd like to tell us about.

Provide as many addresses as you like, with your comment for each.

A little bit about you

09. Gender Required

Select one answer only
◯ Woman or Female
◯ Man or Male
◯ Non binary
◯ Prefer not to say

◯	I use a different term

10. Suburb Required

Select one answer only
◯ Bellfield
◯ Briar Hill
◯ Bundoora
◯ Eaglemont
◯ Eltham
◯ Eltham North
◯ Greensborough
◯ Heidelberg
◯ Heidelberg Heights
◯ Heidelberg West
◯ Ivanhoe
◯ Ivanhoe East
◯ Lower Plenty
◯ Macleod
◯ Montmorency
◯ Rosanna
◯ St Helena
◯ Viewbank
◯ Watsonia
◯ Watsonia North
◯ Yallambie
◯ Other

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11.Age Group Required

Select one answer only
◯ Under 12 years
◯ 12 -17 years
◯ 18 – 24 years
◯ 25 – 34 years
◯ 35 – 49 years
◯ 50 – 59 years
◯ 60 – 69 years
◯ 70 – 84 years
◯ 85 years and over

12. Email

Please provide your email address so we can keep you up-to-date on this project, or click 'follow' at the top of the page.

13. Access, equity and inclusion. Do you identify as any of the following (you can tick more than one box)? Required

Select all that apply
☐ A person with disability, inclusive of mental illness
☐ A person identifying as LGBTIQA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual+)
☐ A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander decent
☐ A carer
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ None of the above
☐ A person speaking English as a second language or other language (please list your language)

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Privacy Collection Notice

The collection and handling of personal information will be conducted in accordance with Council's Privacy Policy, which is available on Council's website.
This information will only be used to support consideration of your responses to questions relating to this project. You can contact us via the details on this page if you would like to discuss. Please refer to the Privacy Policy for further information.

6.2 Appendix 2: Results tables – Gender-level analysis

Survey questions:

1. What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas?
2. Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area? (select up to three response options)
3. How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?

Note: Not all participants provided a response for every question. Noteworthy differences and observations are shaded.

1. Quality of management and services	Woman/ Female (n=327)	Man/ Male (n=175)	Non-binary (n=5)	Total (N=507)
Excellent	216/66.1%	104/59.4%	3/60.0%	323
Average	61/18.7%	41/23.4%	1/20.0%	103
Poor	6/1.8%	9/5.1%	0/0.0%	15
Don't know/not sure	44/13.5%	21/12.0%	1/20.0%	66
2. Areas to prioritise	**Woman/ Female (n=325)**	**Man/ Male (n=172)**	**Non-binary (n=4)**	**Total (N=501)**
Health of the creek	274/84.3%	145/84.3%	4/100.0%	423
Biodiversity	235/72.3%	125/72.7%	3/75.0%	363
Active transport (walking and bike riding)	91/28.0%	61/35.5%	1/25.0%	153
Amenity for recreational use	83/25.5%	62/36.0%	1/25.0%	146
Educational programs and events	90/27.7%	33/19.2%	0/0.0%	123
Cultural heritage	92/28.3%	26/15.1%	1/25.0%	119
Safety	42/12.9%	15/8.7%	1/25.0%	58
Heritage	12/3.7%	11/6.4%	0/0.0%	23
3. Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services	**Woman/ Female (n=329)**	**Man/ Male (n=175)**	**Non-binary (n=5)**	**Total (N=509)**
Artificial habitat creation (nest boxes)	Fully:139/42.2% Somewhat:152/46.2% Not:36/10.9%	Fully:69/39.4% Somewhat:81/46.3% Not:24/13.7%	Fully:3/60% Somewhat:2/40% Not:0/0%	Fully:211 Somewhat:235 Not:60
Community environmental engagement and support (Friends Groups)	Fully:109/33.1% Somewhat:166/50.5% Not:51/15.5%	Fully:64/36.6% Somewhat:88/50.3% Not:20/11.4%	Fully:3/60% Somewhat:2/40% Not:0/0%	Fully:176 Somewhat:256 Not:71
Revegetation and direct seeding Indigenous flora species	Fully:90/27.4% Somewhat:172/52.3% Not:64/19.5%	Fully:52/29.7% Somewhat:95/54.3% Not:27/15.4%	Fully:4/80% Somewhat:0/0% Not:1/20%	Fully:146 Somewhat:267 Not:92
Amenity mowing	Fully:112/34.0% Somewhat:155/47.1% Not:59/17.9%	Fully:69/39.4% Somewhat:71/40.6% Not:29/16.6%	Fully:3/60% Somewhat:2/40% Not:0/0%	Fully:184 Somewhat:228 Not:88
Indigenous flora and native fauna population monitoring	Fully:63/19.1% Somewhat:185/56.2% Not:80/24.3%	Fully:37/21.1% Somewhat:97/55.4% Not:40/22.9%	Fully:2/40% Somewhat:2/40% Not:1/20%	Fully:102 Somewhat:284 Not:121
Pest fauna management	Fully:50/15.2% Somewhat:167/50.8% Not:108/32.8%	Fully:28/16.0% Somewhat:78/44.6% Not:68/38.9%	Fully:2/40% Somewhat:3/60% Not:0/0%	Fully:80 Somewhat:248 Not:176
Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger team	Fully:55/16.7% Somewhat:140/42.6% Not:131/39.8%	Fully:21/12.0% Somewhat:81/46.3% Not:70/40.0%	Fully:1/20% Somewhat:4/80% Not:0/0%	Fully:77 Somewhat:225 Not:201

Ecological burning for environmental improvements	Fully:31/9.4% Somewhat:138/41.9% Not:159/48.3%	Fully:33/18.9% Somewhat:71/40.6% Not:69/39.4%	Fully:2/40% Somewhat:2/40% Not:1/20%	Fully:66 Somewhat:211 Not:229

6.3 Appendix 3: Results tables – Banyule Precinct-level analysis

Survey questions:

1. What do you think about the quality of management and services delivered to protect and improve these natural areas?
2. Which areas should we prioritise in the management of Darebin Parklands and the Darebin Creek catchment area? (select up to three response options)
3. How aware are you of Banyule City Council's bushland and open space management services?

Note: Not all participants provided a response for every question. Noteworthy differences and observations are shaded.

Legend for Banyule Precincts:

South Precinct: Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East	North East Precinct: Briar Hill, Eltham, Eltham North, Montmorency, St Helena
West Precinct: Bellfield, Heidelberg Heights, Heidelberg West	North Precinct: Greensborough
Mid Precinct: Heidelberg, Macleod, Rosanna	East Precinct: Lower Plenty, Viewbank, Yallambie
North West Precinct: Bundoora, Watsonia, Watsonia North	

	South Precinct (n=253)	West Precinct (n=82)	Mid Precinct (n=33)	North West Precinct (n=10)	North East Precinct (n=9)	North Precinct (n=4)	East Precinct (n=3)	Total (N=394)
1. Quality of management and services								
Excellent	177/70.0%	34/41.5%	20/60.6%	6/60.0%	6/66.7%	1/25.0%	1/33.3%	245
Average	47/18.6%	29/35.4%	5/15.2%	3/30.0%	0/0%	0/0%	1/33.3%	85
Poor	5/2.0%	4/4.9%	3/9.1%	0/0%	0/0%	1/25.0%	0/0%	13
Don't know/not sure	24/9.5%	15/18.3%	5/15.2%	1/10.0%	3/33.3%	2/50.0%	1/33.3%	51
2. Areas to prioritise								
Health of the creek	207/81.8%	71/86.6%	30/90.9%	9/90.0%	8/88.9%	0/0%	2/66.7%	327
Biodiversity	177/70.0%	55/67.1%	22/66.7%	8/80.0%	8/88.9%	1/25.0%	2/66.7%	273
Active transport (walking and bike riding)	80/31.6%	28/34.1%	9/27.3%	6/60.0%	0/0%	1/25.0%	2/66.7%	126
Amenity for recreational use	79/31.2%	18/22.0%	11/33.3%	0/0%	2/22.2%	2/50.0%	2/66.7%	114
Educational programs and events	57/22.5%	10/12.2%	11/33.3%	3/30.0%	4/44.4%	1/25.0%	0/0%	86
Cultural heritage	49/19.4%	23/28.0%	10/30.3%	2/20.0%	3/33.3%	0/0%	1/33.3%	88

	South Precinct (n=253)	West Precinct (n=82)	Mid Precinct (n=33)	North West Precinct (n=10)	North East Precinct (n=9)	North Precinct (n=4)	East Precinct (n=3)	Total (N=394)
Safety	32/12.6%	13/15.9%	0/0%	1/10.0%	0/0%	0/0%	0/0%	46
Heritage	17/6.7%	3/3.7%	0/0%	0/0%	0/0%	0/0%	0/0%	20
3. Awareness of Council's bushland and open space management services								
Ecological burning for environmental improvements	Fully:23/9% Somewhat: 113/45% Not:116/46%	Fully:17/21% Somewhat: 35/43% Not:29/36%	Fully:4/12% Somewhat: 13/39% Not:16/48%	Fully:4/40% Somewhat: 3/30% Not:3/30%	Fully:2/22% Somewhat: 5/56% Not:2/22%	Fully:1/25% Somewhat: 2/50% Not:1/25%	Fully:1/33% Somewhat: 2/67% Not:0/0%	Fully:52 Somewhat:173 Not:167
Indigenous flora and native fauna population monitoring	Fully:48/19% Somewhat: 148/58% Not:57/23%	Fully:17/21% Somewhat: 46/57% Not:18/22%	Fully:8/24% Somewhat: 19/58% Not:6/18%	Fully:4/40% Somewhat: 3/30% Not:3/30%	Fully:3/33% Somewhat: 5/56% Not:1/11%	Fully:1/25% Somewhat: 2/50% Not:1/25%	Fully:0/0% Somewhat: 3/100% Not:0/0%	Fully:81 Somewhat:226 Not:86
Revegetation and direct seeding Indigenous flora species	Fully:69/27% Somewhat: 139/55% Not:45/18%	Fully:26/33% Somewhat: 42/53% Not:12/15%	Fully:10/31% Somewhat: 19/59% Not:3/9%	Fully:4/40% Somewhat: 4/40% Not:2/20%	Fully:5/56% Somewhat: 4/44% Not:0/0%	Fully:1/25% Somewhat: 3/75% Not:0/0%	Fully:0/0% Somewhat: 3/100% Not:0/0%	Fully:115 Somewhat:214 Not:62
Artificial habitat creation (nest boxes)	Fully: 105/42% Somewhat: 119/47% Not:29/11%	Fully:32/40% Somewhat: 41/51% Not:8/10%	Fully:15/47% Somewhat: 13/41% Not:4/13%	Fully:5/50% Somewhat: 4/40% Not:1/10%	Fully:5/56% Somewhat: 3/33% Not:1/11%	Fully:1/25% Somewhat: 2/50% Not:1/25%	Fully:0/0% Somewhat: 3/100% Not:0/0%	Fully:163 Somewhat:185 Not:44
Pest fauna management	Fully:31/12% Somewhat: 138/55% Not:82/33%	Fully:14/17% Somewhat: 39/48% Not:28/35%	Fully:8/25% Somewhat: 14/44% Not:10/31%	Fully:4/40% Somewhat: 4/40% Not:2/20%	Fully:3/33% Somewhat: 4/44% Not:2/22%	Fully:0/0% Somewhat: 3/75% Not:1/25%	Fully:0/0% Somewhat: 2/67% Not:1/33%	Fully:60 Somewhat:204 Not:126
Community environmental engagement and support (Friends Groups)	Fully:87/35% Somewhat: 133/53% Not:30/12%	Fully:31/38% Somewhat: 12/15% Not:38/47%	Fully:12/38% Somewhat: 17/53% Not:3/9%	Fully:4/40% Somewhat: 4/40% Not:2/20%	Fully:4/44% Somewhat: 4/44% Not:1/11%	Fully:1/25% Somewhat: 2/50% Not:1/25%	Fully:0/0% Somewhat: 3/100% Not:0/0%	Fully:139 Somewhat:175 Not:75
Working in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Ranger team	Fully:32/13% Somewhat: 118/47% Not:103/41%	Fully:17/21% Somewhat: 29/36% Not:35/43%	Fully:4/13% Somewhat: 18/58% Not:9/29%	Fully:2/20% Somewhat: 5/50% Not:3/30%	Fully:3/33% Somewhat: 5/56% Not:1/11%	Fully:1/33% Somewhat: 1/33% Not:1/33%	Fully:2/67% Somewhat: 1/33% Not:0/0%	Fully:61 Somewhat:177 Not:152
Amenity mowing	Fully:93/37% Somewhat: 114/45% Not:45/18%	Fully:31/39% Somewhat: 37/46% Not:12/15%	Fully:12/39% Somewhat: 12/39% Not:7/23%	Fully:1/10% Somewhat: 7/70% Not:2/20%	Fully:4/44% Somewhat: 4/44% Not:1/11%	Fully:1/33% Somewhat: 1/33% Not:1/33%	Fully:1/33% Somewhat: 2/67% Not:0/0%	Fully:143 Somewhat:177 Not:68