



2021

**ANNUAL  
PLAN AND  
BUDGET**

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
REPORT

APRIL 2020



wyndhamcity



## CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 BACKGROUND	5
3.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES	6
4.0 SUMMARY OF DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2020/21	7
5.0 NEXT STEPS	8
APPENDIX A - DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS	9
APPENDIX B - IDEAS SUBMITTED SUMMARY	10-11



A close-up photograph of two hands placing white puzzle pieces onto a larger, partially assembled puzzle. The puzzle pieces are interlocking and are set against a background of soft, out-of-focus colors in shades of blue, green, and orange. The hands are positioned on the left and right sides of the frame, with fingers carefully aligning the pieces.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

THIS REPORT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT THE DRAFTING OF THE PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2020/21 AND A SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES.

THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED WITH THE INTENTION OF SHARING THE COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES FOR WYNDHAM. THESE INSIGHTS HAVE BEEN USED TO INFORM THE DRAFTING OF THE PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2020/21.

THE REPORT IS BEING PROVIDED AS PART OF THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2020/21.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

From 16 September to 25 October 2019, the Wyndham community were provided with a range of opportunities to suggest an idea for Council to consider when drafting the Proposed Annual Plan and Budget 2020/21.

Council delivers a wide range of services, programs, facilities and advocacy initiatives that contribute to building a strong and vibrant community. Good financial management into the future means making choices about how we provide and prioritise these. Input from our community is a vital part of the budget planning process as it helps inform and guide our decision making and consider how we might plan to better address their priorities.

The community engagement strategy comprised three distinct opportunities:

- Ideas submitted by the community via Council's online community engagement platform, The Loop;
- Focus groups were offered to members of the Family Friendly Portfolio, Cultural Diversity Portfolio, Youth Committee and seniors groups;
- Community Conversation events held in each Ward where the community had the opportunity to chat with Councillors and Council Officers:
  - Chaffey Ward: 15 October 2019, Encore Events Centre
  - Harrison Ward: 16 October 2019, Point Cook Youth Resource Centre
  - Iramoo Ward: 19 October 2019, Wyndham Civic Centre.

A total of 152 people participated across the community engagement opportunities.

### Promotion of community engagement opportunities

The community engagement opportunities were promoted extensively prior to and throughout the six week campaign. Key promotional activities included:

- Online community engagement page on The Loop: <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/budget>
- Enewsletters to The Loop online engagement community of 2,500 active participants
- Promotion through Council's communications channels – Wyndham News, website, social media, signage
- Social media from Wyndham City Councillors
- Postcard distributed via libraries and community centres and translated into Mandarin, Punjabi and Karen
- Advertising in The Star local newspaper
- Communications to Council's committees, including the District Advisory Committees, Portfolio Committees and community groups inviting them to participate.



### 3.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

#### Overall participant summary

Most participants were residents (87%), followed by community groups (8%). Most residents were from Point Cook (29%), followed by Werribee (16%), Williams Landing (11%), Tarneit (9%) and Hoppers Crossing (7%). The average age was between 36 – 45, with a country of birth of Australia, followed by India. More females (54%) participated than males (43%). See Appendix A for the full demographics of the participants.

#### Community ideas summary

In total 140 ideas were submitted by the community over the six weeks. See Appendix B for the ideas submitted summary.

Below is a summary of the key outcomes from the community engagement opportunities:

- The top categories of ideas raised were:
  - Sport and recreation (27%)
  - Parks and open space (19%)
  - Cycle and pedestrian paths (10%)
  - Road planning (10%)
  - Environment (6%).
- The majority of participants raised ideas for Point Cook (33%), all of Wyndham (24%) and Werribee (10%).

- There were 61 ideas for Harrison Ward (43%), 38 ideas for Iramoo Ward (27%) and 8 ideas for Chaffey Ward (6%). In addition, there were 33 ideas for all of Wyndham (24%).
- Advocacy topics raised were similar to those raised in the previous year’s engagement activities: public transport, road upgrades / widening and Williams Landing schools. Of the 140 ideas submitted, 16% were support for existing advocacy priorities.

Each of the ideas submitted by the community have been reviewed by Council and considered in the planning of the Proposed Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/21.



### 4.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2020/21

The impacts of COVID-19 on the local, national and world economy are well documented with a recessionary outlook across the globe. Stock markets have declined sharply to pre Global Financial Crisis (GFC) levels, reflecting the volatility of the current economic environment.

Locally, we will not be immune to this. Many small and medium businesses across a diverse range of industry sectors are suffering from a reduction in revenues which in turn have a direct effect on local employment.

The reduction in employment will have flow on effects on households and local communities, so it is therefore imperative for Council during this unprecedented time, to deliver a financially responsible 2020/21 budget which prioritises support for our local community, and those hit hardest by the impacts of the COVID-19 situation.

Despite this budget being delivered outside a business as usual scenario for local government, it has been developed in consultation with the community

Council is resolute in ensuring that it can make a measurable impact to address community need across various sectors of our municipality, while remaining fiscally responsible and ensuring we continue to deliver critical services; at a time when Council revenues will also be significantly impacted.

We are confident that we are being agile in our response to the current situation. We have quickly scaled up the services most needed by our community, while finding new and innovative ways to deliver business as usual within the confines of social distancing requirements. Our Wyndham 2040 Vision provides us with strong evidence that our community prioritises economic resilience and employment growth as a major focus of Council’s role and ongoing responsibilities towards its community.

For 2020/21 we have worked hard to deliver a budget which allows us to respond to the immediate situation. It includes a \$4 million WynLocal Economic Support Package to contain the adverse economic impacts anticipated for small to medium businesses, households and to support local employment within the municipality as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Impacts on our Council operations will be significant and will require a rethink of how we continue to deliver quality services in an unknown economic environment.

Council recognises that we are in a period of uncertainty, and as such want to reiterate that our commitment to delivering the best, most efficient and agile services to our growing and diverse community remains strong and we will continue to use Wyndham 2040 – our community vision – as the guiding post for the community’s priorities, needs and wants.

## 5.0 NEXT STEPS

### Public exhibition of the Proposed Annual Plan and Budget 2020/21

The public exhibition of the Proposed Annual Plan and Budget 2020/21 is open from 24 June 2020 to 22 July 2020.

Opportunities for feedback and expressions of interest for a formal submission are available via:

- Online via <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/budget>

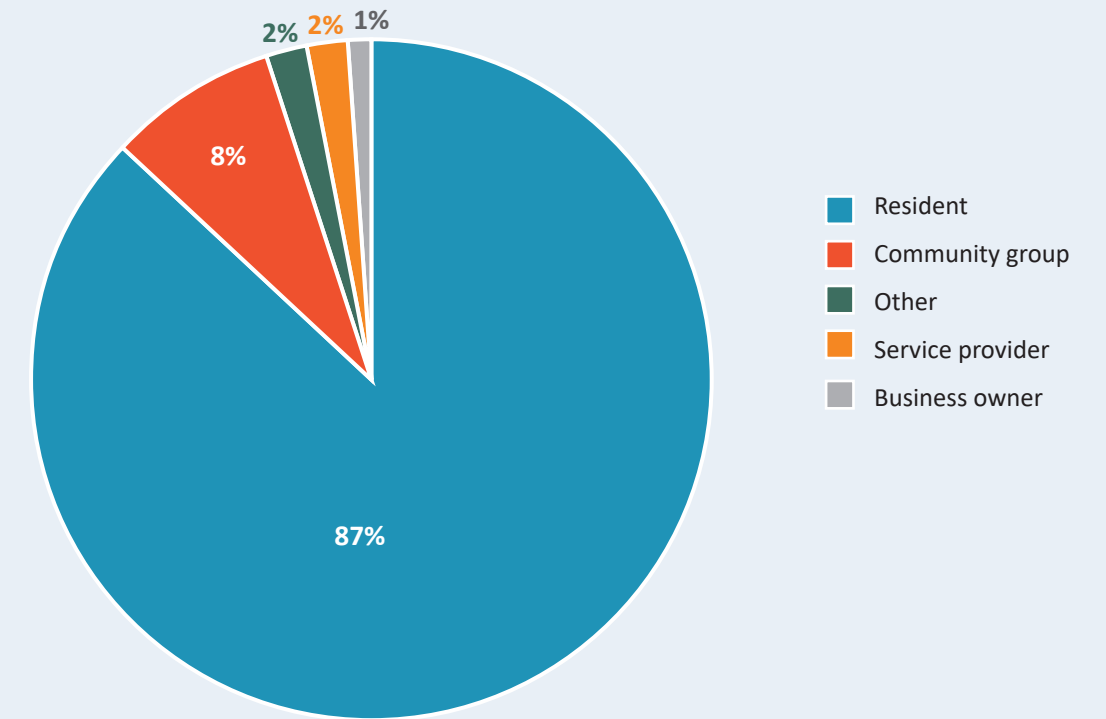
The Proposed Annual Plan and Budget for 2020-21 outlines a \$103.8 million capital works spend, alongside an operating revenue of \$351.07 million (excluding developer contributions, non-monetary assets, capital grants and net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment) and operating expenditure of \$293.27 million (excluding depreciation and amortisation) to deliver over 60 different services to the people who live, work and visit the city.

Thank you to all the members of the Wyndham community who contributed ideas for the Proposed Annual Plan and Budget 2020/21.

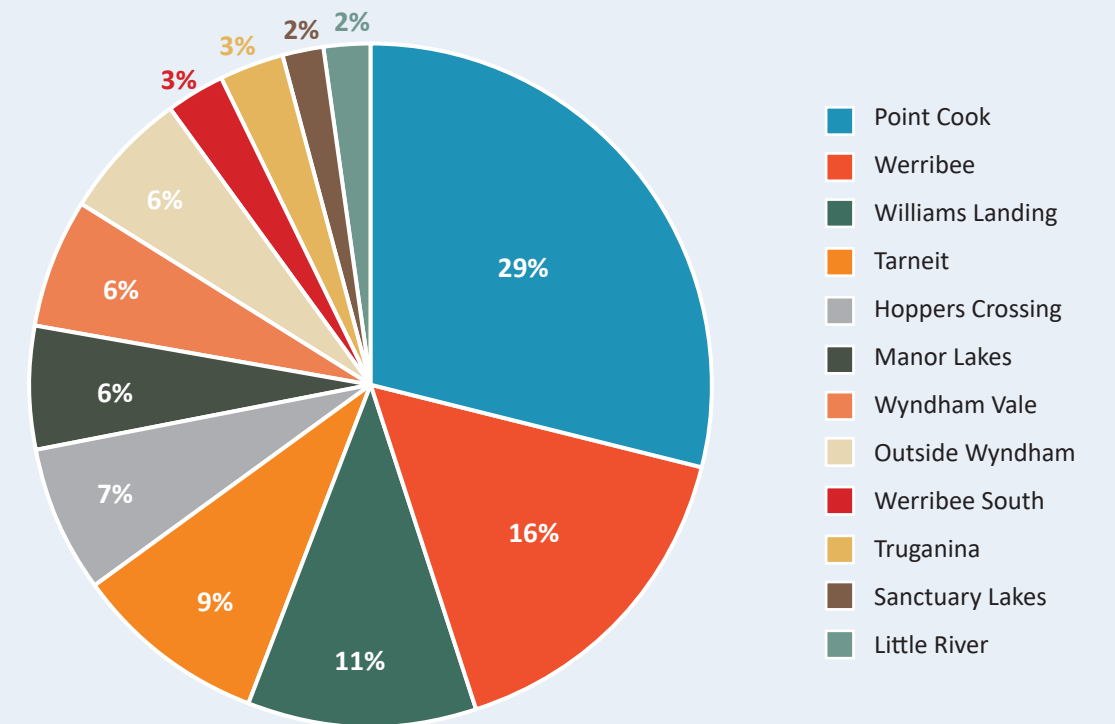
## APPENDIX A - DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

BELOW ARE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO SUBMITTED IDEA.

### CONNECTION TO WYNDHAM



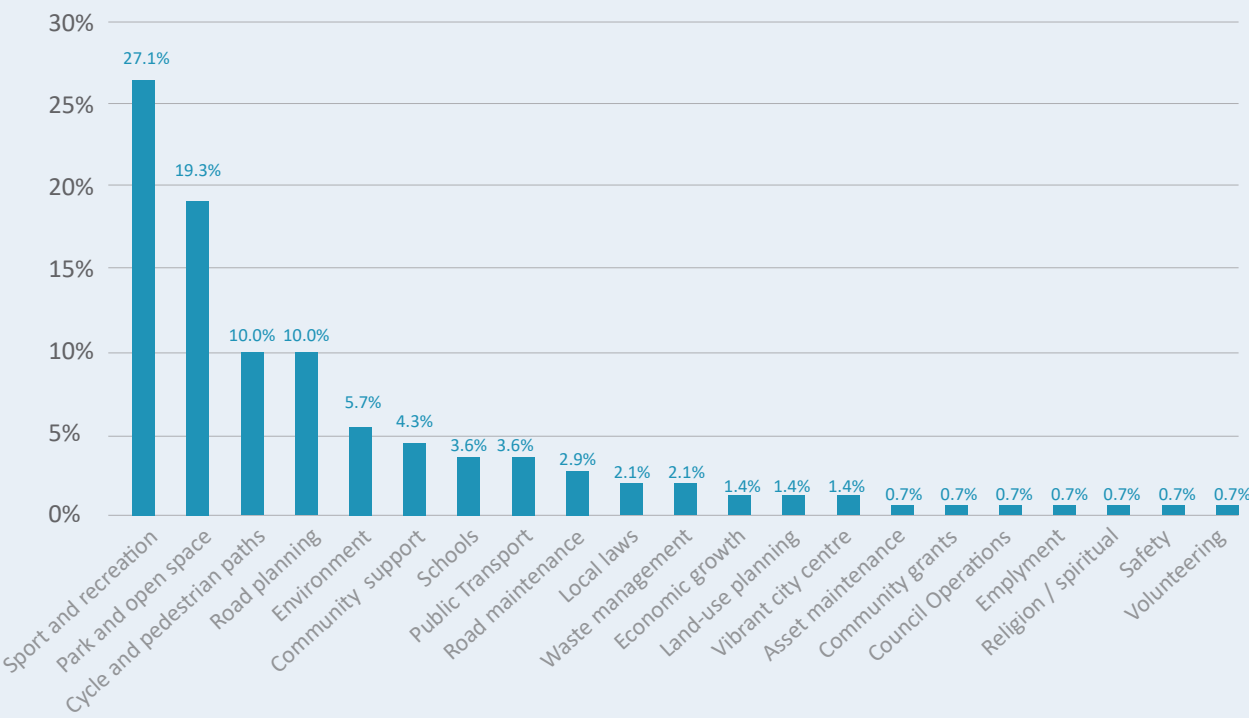
### PARTICIPANT SUBURB



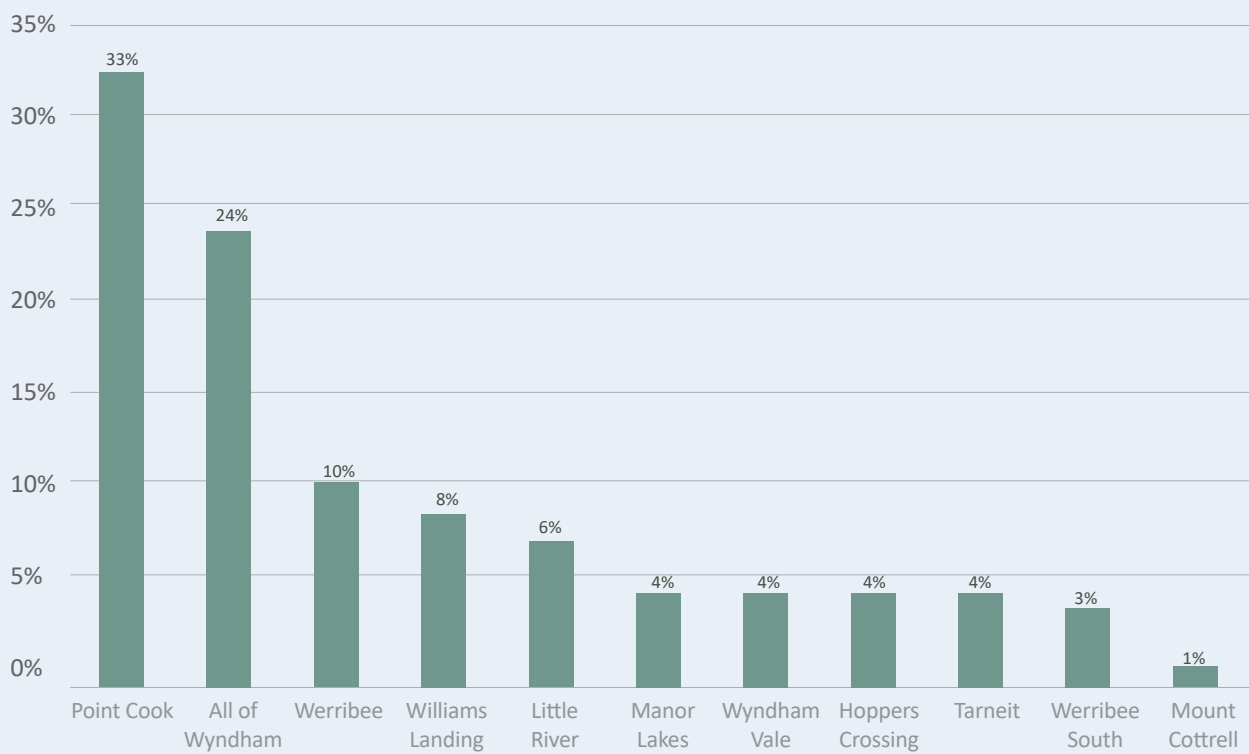
# APPENDIX B – IDEAS SUBMITTED SUMMARY

IN TOTAL 140 IDEAS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE WYNDHAM COMMUNITY.

IDEAS SUBMITTED



LOCATIONS OF IDEAS



# APPENDIX B – IDEAS SUBMITTED SUMMARY

IN TOTAL 140 IDEAS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE WYNDHAM COMMUNITY.

PERCENTAGE OF IDEAS PER WARD

