

Shaping Wyndham Kinder Visits

Community Engagement Findings Report





Questions

If you have a question, feel free to contact Wyndham's Community Engagement Team:

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Wyndham City acknowledges that Aboriginal people have lived in this area for tens of thousands of years. Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung, Woiwurrung and Boonwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of these lands around the Werribee River. We also recognise the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who now participate in the life of this city and contribute to its richness. Council pays respect to the wisdom of Elders, past and present. We share commitment to engaging communities with respect for the land and the rights of Aboriginal people to determine their future in this place.



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1. Introduction

Project Background: Help Shape Wyndham's Future

As a custodian of public funds, it is important that the choices Council makes are based on a range of factors including local community priorities, needs and wants that aim to improve the liveability of the municipality.

In 2016, Council adopted the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision (Wyndham 2040) which describes the community's aspiration for the future of the municipality. Wyndham 2040 is now a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act 2020, as is the need to undertake a review of it every four years.

Following the general election in November 2020, all Councils are required by legislation to develop a new Council Plan. The Council Plan identifies what the Council is planning to achieve in the new Council term (four years) as part of the longer-term journey towards the achievement of the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision.

The development of a new Council Plan provides an opportunity to set the strategic direction that will help prioritise our work over the next four years and help Wyndham be better placed to face the challenges ahead.

As part of this project, we are working actively with our community to make sure their voices are represented in the refreshed Community Vision, and the new Council Plan. This includes:

- Asking our community what they think about the four themes of our current Wyndham 2040 Community Vision through the Shaping Wyndham Survey and Priorities for Action Survey.
- A series of community conversations to bring together five groups of randomly selected people from five distinct places across Wyndham, to help shape the future of our City.
- A series of activities held at kindergartens across the same five distinct places, to inform the new Council Plan.

This process will also help us to better understand community priorities as we develop the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Financial Plan.

You can find out more about these plans on [The Loop](#), Wyndham's online community engagement platform.

This report focuses on the findings collected through five kindergarten visits, where we asked local children their thoughts about Wyndham City to help inform the new Council Plan.

Project Objectives

Through the visits to the 5 kindergartens, we aimed to:

- hear children's aspirations and priorities for Wyndham City.
- hear children's thoughts and ideas about what it is like to live in Wyndham so that we can better understand and plan to meet the community's needs.



- use this feedback to help inform the development of the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

At each visit, kindergarten teachers ran a community engagement activity with the children focused around three questions:

- What do you love about kinder?
- What do you love about where you live?
- What could make where you live even better?

2. Findings Summary

A range of different feedback and comments were gathered from each kindergarten in response to the below three questions. The full set of findings can be found in Appendix 1.

What do you love about kinder?

Across all kindergartens, children identified playing with their friends as the most important thing that they love about kinder. Being creative and doing art and craft activities like painting and drawing emerged at each kinder as well as being active and running around outside, riding bikes and playing on the playground.

What do you love about where you live?

When asked what they love about where they live, a range of different responses emerged based on the location of each kindergarten. Responses from Jamison Way mentioned visiting local shops to buy food, toys or other items as well as visiting the different playgrounds near their homes. Children from Thomas Chirnside in Werribee spoke about going for walks with their families and visiting playgrounds or skate parks. Exploring the local beach and looking for wildlife was also highlighted as well as visiting the water park or going out to eat at local restaurants as a family. Wilmington Kinder students also spoke of visiting playgrounds, visiting the local shopping centre and spending time with their families. Children at Little River Kindergarten mentioned visiting the You Yangs Regional Park in Little River to hike and play outdoors in nature along with visiting the park and the General Store. Children from Tarneit spoke about visiting local shops and restaurants, going for trips on the train and getting books from the library, as well as going to the park and playing sports.

What could make where you live even better?

In response to the question, what could make where you live even better, across the kindergartens children mentioned more outdoor spaces for activities including playgrounds, bike riding, basketball and swimming pools. They also focussed on a need for more open space for them to spend time outdoors with their families. Children from Tarneit Kindergarten also mentioned the need for more shops and coffee facilities near parks and highlighted the need for accessible play equipment for children with disabilities.

3. Engagement Approach

Participants

The visits were held at five different kindergartens which cover a broad cross section of the City.

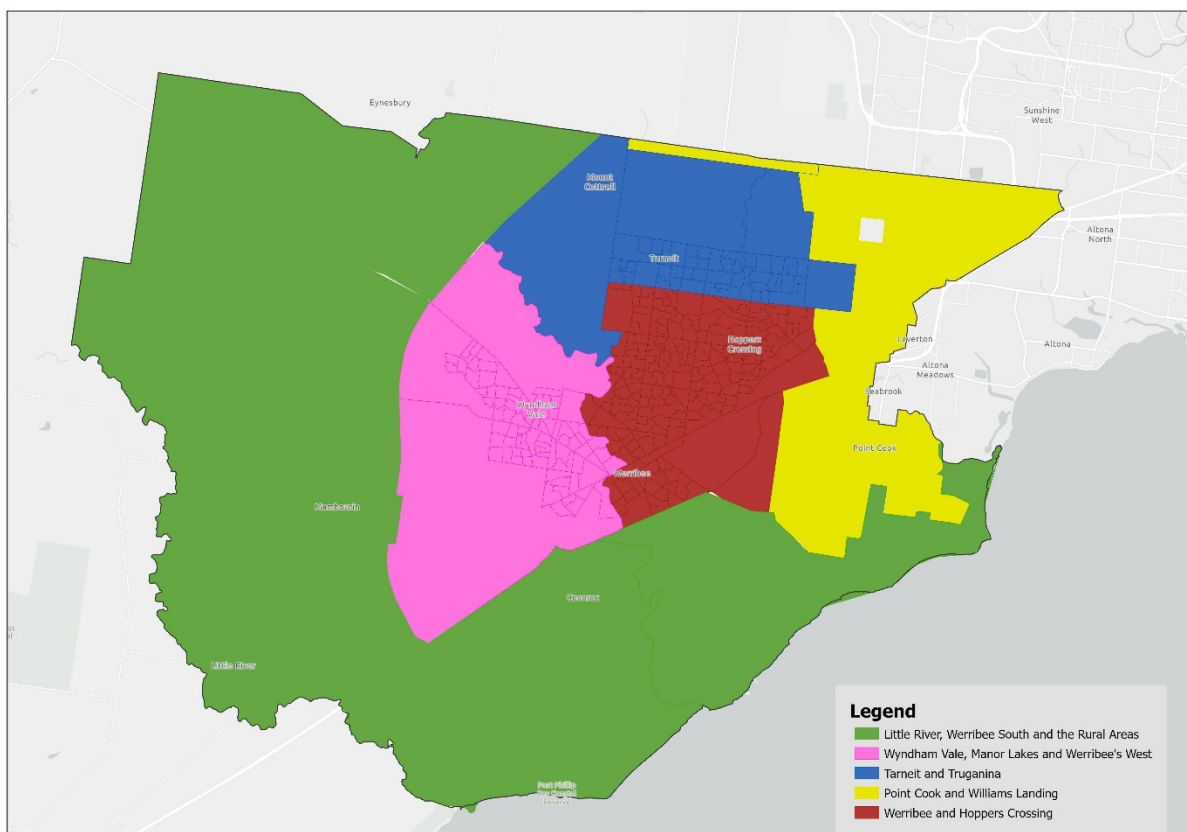


Visits were held at the following five kindergartens:

- Thomas Chirside Kindergarten, Werribee’s West.
- Wilmington Kindergarten, Hoppers Crossing
- Jamieson Way Community Centre Kindergarten, Point Cook
- Little River Kindergarten, Little River.
- Tarneit Kindergarten, Tarneit.

Class sizes ranged from 11 (Little River) to 32 (Thomas Chirside). All up, approximately 120 children participated across the five visits.

The Kindergartens represent each of the five areas used in the community conversations, and broadly represent the entire community. The five areas are illustrated in the map below. You can also find out more about them on our project page: <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/help-shape-wyndhams-future/community-conversations>.



Limitations

The engagement methodology and analysis of findings had some limitations that should be acknowledged when reading this report. These are:

- Due to time limitations and Covid-19 restrictions, only one class per kindergarten was represented in the activity.



- To avoid disruption to the class, each activity was limited to 30 minutes. Due to class sizes, some classes were able to complete all three questions in the 30 minutes while some completed two.

4. Conclusion and next steps

The feedback and data collected through the kinder activities identified several recurring themes.

This feedback will be used to inform the development of the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

Five place-based Community Conversations were held in February and March 2021 across the five areas used for the kinder visits. Approximately 100 participants refreshed the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision and develop a vision statement and outcomes to be achieved under each of the themes in the Vision.

Representatives from the community conversations will present their work to Council at a Special Council Meeting in mid-2021. At this meeting, Council will discuss, consider and vote to accept the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision and if the vision or priorities need to be altered, clear reasons will be provided.

Once the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision is accepted by Council, the input provided during the Community Conversations, kindergarten visits and the Shaping Wyndham and Priorities for Action surveys on the priorities for Council to deliver over the next four years will be used to assist with the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025. This plan will set the direction of the next four-year term of Council, and the Annual Plan and Budgets. Input will also inform the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Financial Plan.

The draft Council Plan 2021-2025, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Financial Plan will be made publicly available for a minimum of four weeks to get feedback from the wider community. Council will consider the feedback provided and make a decision about formally adopting these plans in October 2021.



Appendix 1 - Full findings: Five kindergartens

Jamieson Way Kindergarten, Point Cook

The children said that they love the following about kinder:

- Playing with the doll's house and Lego, playing with friends.
- Art and Craft.
- Playground, slide and monkey bars.
- Playing outside with friends.
- Playing with fairies.
- Riding bicycles.
- Cubby House.
- Santa.
- Big and tiny Lego.

The children identified loving the following about where they live:

- Playground – I have lots near my house.
- Friendly people.
- Sandpit.
- Everything at the park - Swings, monkey bars, sand pit, see saw, flying fox.
- Going to the shops for yoghurt and chicken. We can walk there.
- Going to the toyshop.
- Flying fox.
- Swimming pool.
- Walks.
- Shops – food and toys.

The children said that where they live, they wish they had:

- More swimming pools.
- Christmas Tree with lights.
- Sandpit – any size, especially a big one.
- Monkey bars.
- More playgrounds with swings and slides.

Thomas Chirnside Kindergarten, Werribee's West

The children said that they love the following about kinder:

- Playing on the bikes.
- Going on the playground.
- Going on the swing.
- Playing with the blocks.

The children identified loving the following about where they live:

- Walking with my mum. I like sitting under my brother's pram when we go for a walk.



- Walking with my dog and going to the dog park
- Riding on horses and a unicorn. It was pink and purple.
- Playing at the park – on swings, see-saw, skating.
- Going to the playground with my mum at President’s Park.
- Going to the water park.
- Going to swimming lessons.
- I like the skate park. I go on my scooter. It has 3 wheels.
- Going out to eat – eating dumplings with my grandpa.
- Looking for frogs.
- Going to the beach and looking for hammerhead sharks.

Wilmington Kindergarten, Hoppers Crossing

The children said they love kinder because:

- Playing and the sand.
- Playing in the playground.
- Painting.
- Play bikes.
- Pasting and painting.
- Playing with friends.
- It makes me happy.
- Playing puzzles and blocks and playdough.

The children identified loving the following about where they live:

- Parties! I had a birthday party on the weekend! It made me happy.
- Breakfast. Mummy makes the best eggs for breakfast!
- Mummy’s cooking!
- Watermelon! We eat a lot of watermelons at home!
- Playing with toy cars.
- Playing at the park. I love the swings and slides!
- To get my hair braided by Mum.
- The big swings at the park.
- To go to the playground.
- To come to kinder.
- To shop. I love it when mum and dad buy me toys at the plaza!
- Playing with puzzles.
- Playing with blocks.
- Playing on the trampoline.
- To walk with my brothers and sisters to the local park.
- To ride my bike.

Little River Kindergarten, Little River

The children said they love kinder because:



- I like the trucks.
- I go on the swings and I go high.
- I play on the tyre swing.
- It's fun – I draw a horse.
- The tadpoles turned into frogs.
- Art and craft.
- Playing racing car with my friends.
- There are babies to play with. I love babies.
- It makes me happy.
- I see my friends.
- There are dinosaurs in playdough.
- Lots of stuff.
- I make things at the craft table and take them home.
- Playing in the sandpit.
- Going to the park after kinder.
- Playing with the monster trucks.
- Drawing Easter eggs.
- Going on the slide with my friend.
- Playdough.
- The tyre swing.
- The 'big TV' (projector screen).
- Dinosaurs with my friend.
- Playing with all my friends.

The children identified loving the following about where they live:

- Going to kinder.
- The park.
- Playing with my family.
- The train station.
- Visiting the You Yangs.
- The lolly shop.
- Playing at the skate ramp.
- The community.

The children said that the following would make where they live even better:

- Dinosaurs, cows, cats, tiger, sheep.
- Houses, beds.
- A velociraptor cage. A big one!
- Nice views from my house.
- Farms.
- A desert.
- Space to run around.
- A big pool for the animals, to wash them off.



- A forest.
- My friends.
- Police to keep us safe.

Tarneit Kindergarten, Tarneit

The children identified loving the following about where they live:

- Going to the park and playgrounds.
- Playing soccer and basketball.
- Going shopping.
- Going on the train.
- Visiting the beach
- Going to the local shops and McDonalds.
- Riding the scooter.
- The train.
- Riding bikes.
- Going to the library and getting some books.
- Going to the skate park.
- The creek.
- Tarneit kinder.
- Their teachers and friends.

The children said that the following would make where they live even better:

- A movie theatre.
- A water park to play in.
- A bike trail.
- A play centre.
- Going with Mum and Dad to a nice park with my dog to play.
- Somewhere to play at the park where Mum can have coffee and watch me.
- Shops near the park.
- A recreation centre with basketball courts.
- Less cars.
- More parks for my brother with a disability – I want him to sit on the swing
- I want to play in the creek.