City of
Melville
Local Planning Scheme 6
ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

From 20 March to 8 May 2023, we asked the community to consider ideas for the scope of the Local Planning Scheme 6 (LPS6) review via online survey.

The questions focussed broadly on six key themes:

- Climate Response and Sustainability
- Residential Density
- Land Uses and Zoning
- Community Growth
- Place and Economic Development
- Administrative Responses

Next steps
At this stage, the community ideas shared in the survey will provide direction for what should be investigated in greater detail, and potentially included/removed from the scheme.

Importantly, this recent engagement phase is preliminary. Further stakeholder engagement will take place as part of the work on the focus areas.

ENGAGEMENT REACH

1000 Emails to random sample	**544** Melville Talks unique visits	**12.9k** eNews subscribers
4.2k Facebook reach	**24** Link clicks from Facebook	**395** Link clicks from eNews

PARTICIPATION

143
Survey submissions

91%
City of Melville ratepayers

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Density: Generally, there is an acceptance for a modest increase in density within the City of Melville but with a focus around train stations and retail areas. Battle-axe subdivisions are considered undesirable from an aesthetic and sustainability perspective, and it is important to promote environmentally responsible development.

Trees: There is acceptance that trees need to be protected, but there are concerns about blanket approaches which may restrict private property owners and redevelopment opportunities.

Arts and culture: Using LPS6 to provide a greater focus on arts and culture was supported, however it was a lower priority. Enabling arts and culture groups to have access to public spaces and under-utilised buildings was seen as important.

Access to housing, services and employment: There is a desire for the City to do more for disadvantaged community members, though the application of accessibility standards to all development is seen as potentially onerous or non-viable and provision of affordable housing is seen more of as a state responsibility.

Business: There is a desire for an increased mix of business types and some support for low impact business to be allowed in residential areas.
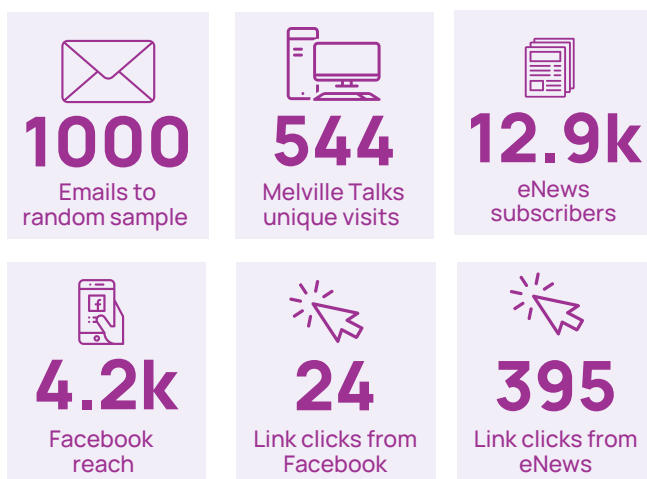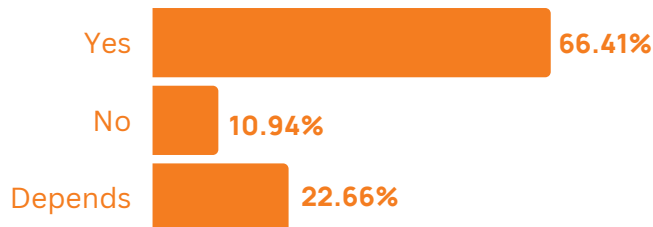
CLIMATE RESPONSE AND SUSTAINABILITY

70% strongly agree that more should be done to protect mature trees

Would you support the City introducing requirements within LPS6, on in a policy, to minimise the loss of mature trees on both public and private land?

Yes **66.41%**

No **10.94%**

Depends **22.66%**

There were concerns about restricting property owner rights and development potential, maintenance obligations, dangers of falling branches and root damage.

There is a belief that there should be flexibility in policies to allow tree removal and potential offset scheme.

There is a desire for appropriate tree species to be used (size, litter, fire risk) and for a focus on open space areas and property setback areas.

94% support repurposing underused land for public open space

Community gardens and habitats amongst the suggested uses

Strong support for new developments becoming more environmentally sustainable

91% support new houses/ apartment development

95% support new non-residential development

With strong agreement for increased energy efficiency standards and renewable energy incentives followed by more trees and landscaping.

Other suggestions included:
- use of sustainably sourced construction materials and better household and construction waste/water management
- discourage reticulated gas supplies
- promote water retention/recycling
- high albedo design
- improved/prioritisation for active transport network and cycling parking
- community batteries and mandatory EV charging facilities in certain developments
- biophilic design, kitchen gardens and fruit trees
- climate-resistant vegetation
- support for alternative housing types like 'micro' housing and shared/co-managed private spaces

RESIDENTIAL DENSITY

We asked for feedback in relation to the following statement: *The City plans to investigate opportunities to offer a modest increase in residential density to people who, as part of their development, meet certain environmental or social outcomes. This could be a more sustainable house, building affordable housing or safeguarding a heritage property.*

49 people provided feedback with six people opposing the statment

Comments included:
- necessary infrastructure needs to be considered
- reduce verge widths
- encourage lot amalgamation
- protect heritage but not so that it impedes redevelopment (72% agree cultural or heritage properties should be retained)
- concerns about community issues/change from excessive height/density
- a desire to increase density at river precincts

LAND USES AND ZONING

To support our ageing population, and to help people to grow old in the areas they're familiar with, do you think it's appropriate to allow for more commercial aged care developments in the suburbs?

77% support more aged care facilities in suburbs

- Provisions of adequate parking and open space were raised as an issue
- Larger lots should have a higher R-code. Zoning (R-codes) should be spread more evenly to allow equal opportunity to develop land
- Mixed use development should be permitted on The Esplanade south of Canning Hwy
- Retain the current level amenity of the LGA

COMMUNITY GROWTH

Do you think the City of Melville should have a greater focus on the promotion of arts and culture in LPS6?

51% Yes	**28%** No	**21%** Depends

There were mixed views on a greater focus on arts and culture in LPS6. Other issues are seen as a higher priority by respondents, and there were questions about what it would entail and whether it would provide value.

79% agree that arts and culture groups should have access to public spaces/ buildings, including empty spaces and pop-ups could be enabled

75% agree that more homes should be universally accessible

Its viability was questioned when only a minority of homes would actually require it.

72% agree that providing disability accommodation/ affordable housing is important

The comment did question whether it is the City's responsibility and whether higher socio-economic areas are appropriate locations

The trends/innovations that will change the way we live/work/recreate include:
- decreases in vehicle reliance
- more self-contained and walkable neighbourhoods supported by increased density and teleworking
- climate change and fuel costs
- reconsideration the type of vegetation used in gardens and open space
- aging in place

Very strong agreement in the comments from those that answered (31 answered, 112 skipped) that LPS6 can help do more to help disadvantaged community members access housing, services and employment, and help expose artists.

PLACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

65% agree some businesses/services should be allowed in residential areas

- traffic, parking, noise, lighting and odours are seen as unacceptable impacts
- perhaps limit to businesses that require no or few customer visits
- corner shops, cafes and delis are considered appropriate; commercial/mixed use zones should be used rather than allowing businesses in residential zones
- trial approvals/periods suggested initially

83% support more opportunities for small businesses to operate from home

Co-working hubs were suggested

When asked for examples of a great shopping area – there were a mixture of responses between indoor shopping centres which host chain stores and provide a large variety / cater for all needs, and pedestrian friendly streets with pleasant ambience and character, small businesses and local products. General support for small business, tourism promotion and modernising of centres – as long as existing residential areas are not impacted.

64% agreed that the City has a role in encouraging affordable housing, however many of the comments noted that it is not seen as the City's role. There are concerns about perceived negative aspects of affordable/social housing and a desire for it to not be located within higher socio-economic suburbs.

Reasons for visiting local shops:
- walkability and accessibility inc cycling facilities
- opening hours
- individuality of design and independent retailers
- local produce
- community atmosphere
- amenity including noise and air quality

Businesses would like to see:
- more independent rather than chain restaurants and retail
- farmers market, food halls, pop-up food events, south Asian cuisine, plant based food
- Centrelink
- bike shops, bookshops
- play areas/activity centres, indoor golf/paintball
- corner shops, cafes, delis, pubs/higher end restaurants.

Other comments include reduction of parking along retail frontage to improve amenity; let the market decide.