

2026/27 Budget Consultation Community Engagement Report

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Summary

Each year, Council prepares an annual budget which outlines how we will deliver services and programs to our community. The budget covers things like managing waste, upgrading infrastructure, community facilities and parks, operating libraries, recreation centres, events and festivals, and services to people at all stages of life. Monash Council recognises that the involvement of the community in making decisions and plans is fundamental to good governance.

The Monash community is culturally diverse and engaged, rich with experience and expertise, whose participation is valued by Council. Council aims to deliver a fair and financially responsible budget which responds to the needs of our community and focuses on delivering critical projects to ensure ratepayers get the best value from their investment.

Before we begin developing the budget, Council invited ideas and feedback from the community to help us prioritise the projects and services that matter most to them.

Engagement overview

This year's engagement focused on gathering input on what actions Council should consider for 2026/27 to help achieve the goals outlined in our Council Plan 2025–29. These goals are shaped by the themes of our Community Vision, which we developed in partnership with our community last year:

- A healthy, safe and connected community
- A well-planned and future ready city
- A city that promotes environmental sustainability
- A council with good governance, strong leadership and community involvement in decision making

Methods of engagement

A dedicated online site was established to record feedback, using Council's engagement platform, *Shape Monash*. The site was launched on Wednesday 27 August 2025 and closed on 8 October 2025. The engagement platform focused on asking the community to:

1. Reflect on the goals set by our Council Plan 2025-29 which reflect the themes of our Community Vision (prepared in partnership with our community last year.)
2. Submit ideas for actions or projects we should pursue in 2026/27 that could make a difference in Monash and work towards achieving these goals.

Council invited the Monash community to participate by:

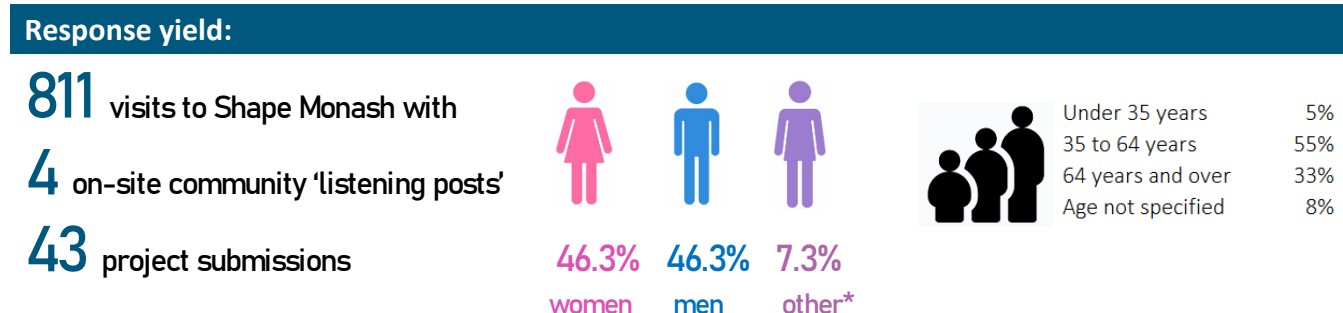
- Interacting directly with the online platform, Shape Monash.
- Using the QR code displayed throughout various community facilities, newsletters and flyers linking straight to the Shape Monash page.
- Talking to officers at a 'listening post' or by reaching out to them directly. Four listening posts were held on different days, times and locations across the municipality, giving the Monash community the opportunity to participate and engage directly with Monash staff on how they would like to shape the 2026/27 budget.
- Feedback forms were available for those who wished to make comment or provide feedback and suggestions to Council.

A multi-tiered communication plan to promote the engagement included via:

- Articles in the September Council bulletins were delivered to every household in Monash.
- Information through Council's e-newsletters.

- Direct promotion through our Community Services clients, Sustainability distribution list & Positive Aging distribution lists.
- Emails via our service delivery channels, including our reference groups and local advisory committees.
- Posters and/or flat screen displays across the libraries, aquatic and recreation centres and on noticeboards at the Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh).
- A targeted social media campaign.

Summary of engagement



Collecting gender information in our survey was a vital step in ensuring that the voices of all community members are heard and considered as we plan for the 2026/27 council budget—and supports our commitment to embed gender equality in decision-making, policies and service delivery¹.

To support data collection, Shape Monash participants were asked to identify under the following categories:

- Woman
- Man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

*The 7.3% in the “other category” represented respondents that classified themselves as “prefer not to say” or relates to submissions made on behalf of organisations and/or groups.

Listening posts

Four listening posts were coordinated throughout September 2025 to early October, with sessions held across four days and locations within the municipality. These sessions provided the Monash community with an opportunity to engage directly with Council staff and share their views on shaping the 2026/27 Budget.

The first listening post was held at Mount Waverley Community Centre on 9 September, with approximately 150 attendees from the Chinese Association of Monash. The session was supported by Monash staff and an interpreter to facilitate engagement with Mandarin-speaking attendees.

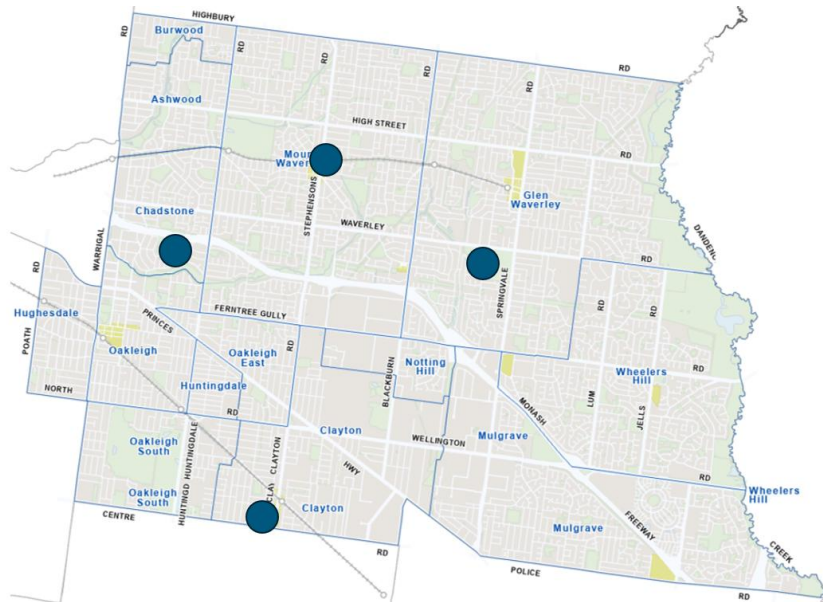
The second session took place at Batesford Community Hub on 10 September, attracting approximately 50 attendees, including persons aged 65 and over, students and parents/caregivers.

¹ Gender Equality Act 2020 (VIC)

On 11 September, the third listening post was held at Clayton Community Centre. Engagement focused on the general public with approximately 40 flyers distributed across the facility, including the café, aquatic and recreation centre and library.

The final listening post was held at the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) on 20 September, coinciding with high foot traffic from swim school and exercise classes. Approximately 150 flyers were distributed, with additional copies printed on demand. While detailed engagement was limited during class transitions, more meaningful conversations from the general public were held as visitors exited.

Date	Location	Location
Tuesday 9 September	10:00-11:30	Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
Wednesday 10 September	10:00-11:30	Batesford Community Hub 94 Batesford Road, Chadstone
Thursday 11 September	10:00-11:30	Clayton Community Centre 15 Cooke Street, Clayton
Saturday 20 September	09:00-11:00	Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre 626 Waverley Road, Glen Waverley



Community project submissions

Overview:

43 submissions -89% from residents of Monash

6 submitters chose to present to Council

11 club or group submissions

30 individual submissions



15% from community members with a disability



30% of submissions related to Parks and Playgrounds



28% of submissions related to Road and Travel Infrastructure

The 'Share Your Idea' feature provided an opportunity for the community to submit a specific budget idea or proposal for consideration on behalf of themselves or a community group or organisation. A total of 41 submissions were received. Eight of whom requested to present their ideas to Council as an individual or on behalf of a group or organisation. These submitters will present their idea(s) to Council on Tuesday 18 November at 6pm.

Figure 1: Overview of submissions by theme

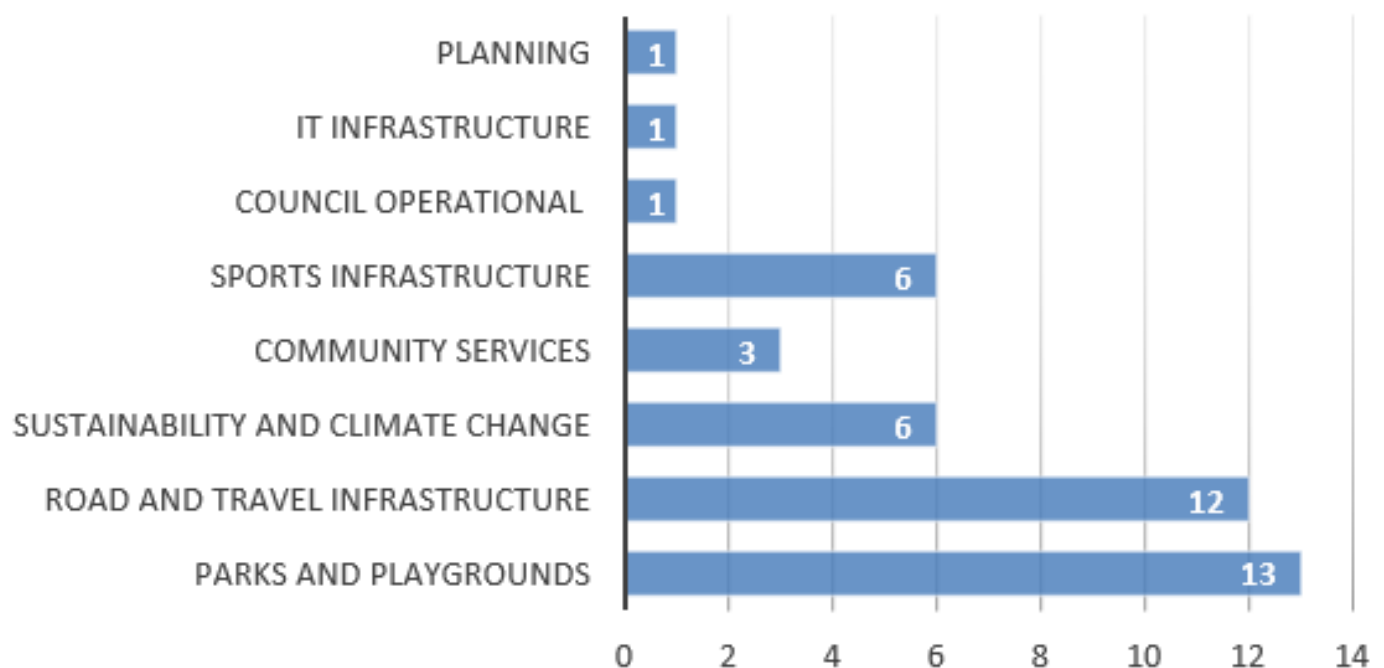


Table 3: Summary of submissions received in order of theme

ID	Description	Submitted by
Parks and Playgrounds		
22945	Dog Park in Glen Waverley (previous Glenvale Tennis Club)	Multicultural community of neighbourhood dog owners
22934	Upgrade of playground and removal of tennis clubrooms- Atkinson St Playground	Individual
22932	Install barbecue at Federal Reserve	Essex heights juniors early learning centre and kindergarten
22923	Improvements to Haversham Reserve	Individual
22920	Adult exercise equipment in Cameron Road park	Individual
22914	Improvement to the playground and active rec infrastructure at Scammell Reserve	Individual
22913	Install BBQ's on Bogong Reserve	The Monash Men's Shed
22908	Improve playground in Dunoon St Mulgrave	Individual
22907	Install a children's native garden and playground in Lauriston Court Mulgrave	Individual
22906	Install lighting around princess highway reserved track	Individual
22904	Install a splash park are at Jells Park	Individual
22902	Install play waterways in the city	Individual
22901	Upgrade park at Jordan Grove Reserve in Glen Waverley	Individual
Road and Travel Infrastructure		
Submitted: Email	Move overhead powerlines to underground	Individual
22950	Construction of bike shelter at Chadstone Shopping Centre	Individual
22947	Investment in bicycle lanes	Individual
22942	Widening bike path from Jordanville to Electra Reserve	Individual
22941	Complete the link of the Waverley Rail Trail to the Gardiners Creek Trail in Ashwood.	Metro East Bicycle User Group
22939	Fixing potholes alongside Huntingdale overpass	Individual
22936	Bus shelter for Nantilla Rd/Wellington Rd south side	Individual
22933	Enhance the railway corridor between Oakleigh and Huntingdale through upgraded landscape design and improved recreational amenities	Rotary Club of Oakleigh Clayton Huntingdale
22912	Improvement of bicycle infrastructure across Monash	Individual
22903	Maintenance of existing facilities in the Waverley Rail Trail	Individual
22900	Bike path upgrade past Mulgrave Reserve	Individual
22888	Improving pedestrian access and footpaths across the city	Individual

ID	Description	Submitted by
Sustainability and Climate Change		
22948	Electrification of Council buildings	Individual
22946	Investment in tiny/micro forests	Individual
22943	More equitable Waste Charges	Individual
22927	Frequency of hard rubbish collections	Individual
22911	Damper Creek Pond, Education and Amenity	Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
22910	Create more natural environments across Monash	Individual
Community Services		
Submission via Email	Request for funding from Council to transition services provided at Oakleigh and Mount Wav Community Info and Support Services to now be provided by South East Community Links	South East Community Links (SECL)
22944	Increase funding for Chinese Association of Monash	Chinese Association of Monash
22895	More funding for community music programs	Individual
Sports Infrastructure		
22954	Construction of a new modern pavilion at the Central Reserve athletics track	Waverley Athletics Club
22938	Build a second hockey pitch for Waverley hockey club	Individual
22909	Reconstructing the footbridge at the Oakleigh Public Golf Course.	Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club Inc.
22937	Redevelop soccer pitch 3 at Gardiners Reserve	Individual
LTFP	Build an outdoor basketball court at Central Reserve	Anonymous
LTFP	Redevelop/improve Waverley Hockey Club	Anonymous
Council Operational		
22940	Employing a Heritage officer at Council	History Monash
IT Infrastructure		
22949	Upgrading Council systems	Individual
Planning		
22915	Community consultation on introducing a local law to protect significant trees	Individual

Next steps

A special meeting of Council was held to hear community submissions on Tuesday 18 November. Preparation of 2026/27 budget will continue through to March 2026 with the final budget expected to be endorsed by Council in mid-2026. Council will respond to submitters at the end of the budget deliberations.