June 2026

Community Engagement Report

Plan for Port Phillip (Year 2)

Between November 2025 and February 2026, we asked our community what matters most to them. What we heard helped shape a draft Plan for Port Phillip (Year 2), including the draft Budget for 2026-27.

From 1 May to 29 May 2026, we asked for feedback on the draft Plan and Budget to make sure it reflects what is important to our community. This feedback will inform the final version before it is presented to Council for approval on 29 June 2026. This report provides a summary of how we engaged with our community and what we heard during this time.

Who did we hear from?

In total, we collected feedback from 45 community members, organisations and groups.

We offered the following activities to collect feedback, listed below.

Method	Participants
Have Your Say webpage (online survey & upload option)	16
Direct emails	13
Speakers at special Council meeting on 20 May 2026.	16

Groups and organisations we heard from:

- Albert Park Sports Club
- Australian Tapestry Workshop
- Community 3004 Inc.
- Circular PV Alliance
- Dig In Community Garden
- Indigenous Art Market (IAM)
- Life Saving Victoria
- The National Theatre
- Owners Corporation at The Metropolis Building'
- Peaceful Port Project WhatsApp group
- Port Melbourne Icebergs
- Port Melbourne Colts Junior Football Club
- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Progressive Port Phillip
- Strugnellcole
- St Kilda Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)
- University of the Third Age (U3A)

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What we heard

Below is an overview of community feedback, grouped by key themes.

Safety & crime

Concerns about behaviour and safety in public places, especially in St Kilda and activity centres. There were strong calls for better lighting, safer streets and place-based responses.

Maintenance & basic services

Concerns about roads, footpaths, rubbish, graffiti and upkeep of public assets.

Public space & streetscapes
Requests for greener, cleaner and more attractive public spaces, including trees, shade, seating and lighting.

Local economy & precinct vitality
Concern about declining high streets, vacant shops and pressure on small businesses, particularly in Port Melbourne, St Kilda and Carlisle Street.

"Many small businesses are struggling... reduced foot traffic, vacant buildings, poor street presentation... and ageing infrastructure."

Community infrastructure and facilities
Participants highlighted the need for more community hubs, libraries and shared spaces, particularly in growth areas such as Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne, and in the Lakeside Ward, including the St Kilda Road corridor.

Funding for services & organisations
Support for ongoing funding for community organisations, arts, sport and programs.

Environment & sustainability
Strong support for greening, climate action and environmental education.

Arts, culture & identity
Support for arts, festivals and creative industries, particularly in St Kilda.

"St Kilda has a long and proud creative history, and the artists, musicians, performers, and venues that sustain that culture deserve more consistent support in Council's long-term planning."

Transport, parking & movement
Mixed views, with key issues including parking availability, bike safety and public transport advocacy.

Access & inclusion
Requests for more accessible, inclusive spaces and services, supporting diverse communities.

Housing & cost of living
Concerns about housing affordability, homelessness and rising rates, with calls for more social and affordable housing.

"I'm deeply concerned that the council cannot find any ratepayer relief in these difficult economic times."

Governance & engagement
Desire for clearer communication, transparency and more regular face-to-face engagement with the community.

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Next steps

The information gathered from our community during this project will be used to inform the final proposed Plan for Port Phillip (Year 2) and Budget which will be presented to Council for final approval on 29 June 2026.

For more information about the Plan for Port Phillip visit the Council Plan and Budget webpage.

More information

To find out more about this project, or other projects at City of Port Phillip, or to contact us about a project, visit the Have your say webpage.

Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.