Stonnington draft Neighbourhood Activity Centre Framework

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



The Draft Neighbourhood Activity Centres Framework (Framework) has been prepared by the City of Stonnington (Council) to guide future development in 17 local activity centres. The Framework supports conveniently located, high-amenity developments, that accommodate population and economic growth while contributing positively to local character and sense of place.

The Draft Framework has been prepared over several years. It considers current State and Local policy, technical reports and previous community engagement findings.

Council undertook engagement to gather feedback from Stonnington residents, community members and stakeholders interested in the Framework.

How many people did we reach?

Council used various tools and channels to inform the community about the project, promote engagement opportunities and invite people to participate between 2 June and 25 July 2025.

- **3,758** views to the Connect Stonnington webpage
- Approximately **2,600** letters were delivered to property owners who may be affected by the draft Framework
- **Two** e-newsletters
- **Two** social media posts
- Approximately **10,000** postcards were distributed to all properties in and around the proposed neighbourhood centres

How many people did we hear from throughout Stage 2?

117
online survey responses

29
written submissions including a group submission

25
participants during two community forums

What did we hear?

THEMES

Participants shared general feedback on the four Framework themes:



Economy and Placemaking

- **Spaces for people to connect:** Participants shared the importance of public and community spaces for people to connect, especially in dense urban areas. This included local spaces and programs for children, public spaces and parks, and meeting places.
- **Shopping:** Participants shared the importance of having a diverse and unique range of local shops. Concerns were raised regarding the viability and success of some ground-floor businesses in new developments.
- **Thoughtful growth and placemaking:** Multiple participants highlighted the importance of ensuring growth is managed well by creating welcoming and safe neighbourhood centres.

Sustainability and Urban Greening

- **Permeable surfaces and drainage:** Many participants noted concerns over drainage and decreasing permeable surfaces due to redevelopment.
- **Tree retention:** Many participants commented on the importance of tree retention and shared that protecting trees is greatly appreciated in Stonnington.
- **Green spaces:** Participants raised concerns regarding the loss of private and public green space and emphasised the need for urban greening in higher-density areas.
- **Sustainable buildings:** Participants emphasised the need for high-quality and ecologically sustainable development.

Transport and Movement

- **Traffic:** Several participants raised concerns regarding congestion across Stonnington, including along Malvern Road, and felt that the Framework does not sufficiently consider additional traffic congestion that may arise as a result of increased housing density and vehicle usage.
- **Car parking:** A lack of on-street and train station car parking featured across submissions and survey responses for multiple neighbourhood centres.

Built form

- **Density and Amenity:** Participants expressed a desire for density to be done well, so that existing amenities within the neighbourhood centres are maintained.
- **Heritage:** There was support for mandatory heights within heritage precincts, particularly for 4-storey developments.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

Feedback varied across the neighbourhood centres with mixed support for the Vision Statements and proposed changes, including increased height and density.

The neighbourhood centres that received the most feedback were **Punt Road, Windsor, Darling Village** and **Malvern Village.**

Punt Road, Windsor: An overall lack of support for the proposed built form changes and one partial rezoning, highlighting concerns regarding overdevelopment and potential impacts on local amenity and businesses.

Darling Village: An overall desire to limit development, density, and height, and to maintain the village feel adjacent to Darling train station.

Malvern Village: Some support for medium-density developments and expanding commercial capacity, along with a desire for more services and spaces that foster community.



Next steps

Council will consider the engagement findings whilst finalising the Neighbourhood Activity Centres Framework. Once the Framework is finalised, it will be presented to Council for endorsement.

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