

JULY 2025

Outcomes from the Stonnington People's Panel 2025

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Background

In February and March 2025, the Stonnington People's Panel came together to review the Stonnington Community Vision 2040 and inform development of the new Council Plan 2025-2029. The following is a summary of key outcomes from that exercise.

What is the People's Panel?

The Stonnington People's Panel 2025 refers to a group of 33 randomly selected community members reflecting a cross-section of our population who volunteered to represent the community as part of Council's engagement process. They were identified through an external and independent process from a broader pool of people in the community who had formally applied to participate in the panel following an extensive public EOI campaign.

The infographic on the following page shows the demographic composition of the People's Panel compared with our target, which was based on 2021 ABS Census data.

What was the People's Panel asked to do?

The People's Panel was asked to consider:

- What updates may be needed to ensure the Community Vision (first developed with the community in 2021) continues to reflect our community's long-term aspirations between now and 2040?
- What could the Community Vision look like in practice over the next four years, to inform Council's development of the new Council Plan 2025-2029?

What information did the People's Panel consider in reaching its decision?

Panel members were provided a range of background information on the role of local government, the Stonnington community, challenges and opportunities facing the city, and Council's strategic documents, through reference materials and webinars. Council officers supported the Panel by answering questions raised by members during workshop sessions and via an online portal. Panel members were also encouraged to draw on their own experience as members of the community in developing their insights.

Stonnington People's Panel 2025

A group of 33
community members

T Target A Actual

AGE



Aged 18 to 34



Aged 35 to 59



Aged 60 to 84



Aged 85+



RELATIONSHIP TO STONNINGTON



Live in Stonnington



Work in Stonnington



Study in Stonnington



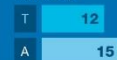
Own a business



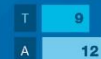
LOCALITY



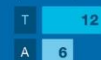
West
(Prahran, South Yarra,
Windsor)



Central
(Armadale, Kooyong,
Malvern, Toorak)



East
(Glen Iris, Malvern East)



GENDER



Male



Female



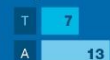
Gender
diverse



DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION



Language other than
English



Lives with a disability
(over 18)



Carer



LGBTIQA+



Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander



HOUSEHOLD MAKEUP



Couple with children



Couples without children



One parent families



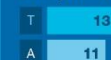
Other families



Group household



Lone person



Other/not stated



HOUSEHOLD TENURE



Fully owned



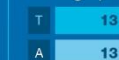
Mortgage



Renting – social housing



Renting – private



Other



EDUCATION



Bachelor or higher degree



Advanced diploma



Vocational



No qualification



Other / not stated



This infographic shows how the demographic composition on the Stonnington People's Panel 2025 compared with our target – including age, gender, suburb, cultural background, language spoken at home, LGBTIQA+ representation, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity, disability, carer responsibilities, education, household type, housing tenure, and whether they live, work, study, or own a business in Stonnington.

Note: target composition was informed by 2021 ABS Census data.

What did the People's Panel recommend?

The People's Panel recommended that the Community Vision – consisting of a vision statement plus six supporting principles - be updated as follows:

Vision statement (Panel update)

Welcome to Stonnington 2040.

A modern, sustainable and interconnected community that supports the good health and wellbeing of all.

Our community is a safe, accessible and creative city that celebrates and embraces all cultures including First Nations peoples past and living.

To replace the previous vision statement:

Our community is a safe, inclusive and creative city that celebrates and embraces its vibrancy of cultures.

Walking the tree lined streets, we pay respect to the influence of the Nation's First Peoples past and living on a modern, sustainable and interconnected way of life that supports the good health and wellbeing of all.

Welcome to Stonnington 2040.

Supporting principles (Panel update)

1. Stonnington safeguards the character, heritage, and history of its streetscapes whilst growing sustainably in the interest of the community.
2. Take climate and environmental action, protect biodiversity and pursue eco-friendly ways of living, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Stonnington will be a caring and compassionate city that promotes and facilitates opportunities for community connections.
4. Stonnington will have accountable and transparent governance with community representation in decision making through accessible and consultative communication.
5. Stonnington will provide safe and accessible public spaces for its community to gather and participate in arts sports and recreation.
6. We provide access to a variety of quality services and amenities, regardless of appropriate person's resources or ability, within 20 minutes of where they live.

To replace the previous set of principles:

1. Stonnington is a modern city that maintains heritage sites and its cultural identity whilst embracing progressive development, which supports its local businesses and encourages creative initiatives.

2. Protect biodiversity, take climate action and pursue eco-friendly ways of living, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Stonnington’s ambition is to be a caring, compassionate and supportive city for all members of the community.
4. Stonnington will have strong governance and diverse representative leadership, which enhances open two-way communication.
5. Stonnington’s public spaces will provide the ability for all members of the community to experience and enjoy the natural environment.
6. We provide access to a variety of quality services and amenities for everyone within 20 minutes.

Principles in practice

The People’s Panel also provided the following recommendations in terms of what the updated Community Vision principles could look like in practice over the next four years:

Principle	What this looks like in practice
<p>Principle 1: Stonnington safeguards the character, heritage, and history of its streetscapes whilst growing sustainably in the interest of the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow services and amenities alongside population and development growth • Aim to achieve greater community focus, maintain heritage where appropriate with modern uses • Council to be more flexible with developments that have a heritage overlay when said renovations do not impact the streetscape (domestic) • Provide education on what our important heritage sites are (commercial) • Ensure multi-use of council buildings (e.g. for sport, creative uses, childcare)
<p>Principle 2: Take climate and environmental action, protect biodiversity and pursue eco-friendly ways of living, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the current “zero carbon Stonnington 2030 target” • Facilitate the reduction of plastic and general waste at the source • Facilitate eco-friendly active public and active transport, renewable energy, water efficiency and EV charging infrastructure • Protect and enhance species, flora and fauna

Principle	What this looks like in practice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage, educate and encourage the community to facilitate this principle
<p>Principle 3: Stonnington will be a caring and compassionate city that promotes and facilitates opportunities for community connections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure accessibility for all, especially for the old and young, with opportunities to rest (i.e. benches) and adequate shelter. Maintain and upgrade footpaths for improved accessibility Maintain and improve childcare services that are so important for mothers without ‘a village’. Maintain and upgrade of parks and playgrounds. Do not privatise current MCH services, council childcare. Increase support for the homeless with proactive outreach services for those in need who wouldn't normally access them Encourage/assist businesses to run community events Promote community events on Instagram/community groups, bulletin boards in swimming pools, libraries, train stations, placards in public spaces, mailbox drops
<p>Principle 4: Stonnington will have accountable and transparent governance with community representation in decision making through accessible and consultative communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure community involvement in decision making, through consultation, surveys, committees, town halls, and promote to CALD audiences and across social media, print, outdoor signage Improve reporting and feedback on consultations, including the ‘Whys’ of decision making Provide clear access to information, though freedom of information, complaints, and support to find answers, with KPIs for timely responses and escalation Ensure major decisions consult with/consider all sectors of the community, with inclusive consultation as a minimum Establish a financial sustainability committee with reps from community business, councillors Council employees and industry best practice leaders
<p>Principle 5: Stonnington will provide safe and accessible public spaces for its community to gather</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run affordable events and programs in parks, community centers, and public spaces Work with community organisations and private enterprises to run events in public spaces for profit Build adequate lighting in all public spaces

Principle	What this looks like in practice
and participate in arts sports and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make park amenities (toilets, barbecues, seating, taps) accessible to all • Plant greenery in every available space
Principle 6: We provide access to a variety of quality services and amenities, regardless of appropriate person's resources or ability, within 20 minutes of where they live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a 20-minute walking principle for services, e.g. Maternal and Child Health Nurse, supermarkets and pharmacies • Establish/maintain a connected network of bike paths and safe roads, as driving is not accessible to all • Ensure accessibility across transport networks, e.g. roads, footpaths, bike paths • Set planning regulations to ensure the achievement of the '20-minute access for all' • Support a better mix of amenities and local businesses

What did Council do with the Panel's recommendations?

Council's promise was that it would look to the People' Panel for their advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate the Panel's advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

The Panel's recommendations have directly shaped Stonnington Tomorrow, incorporating the updated Community Vision and the new Council Plan. This includes a set of Council objectives and areas of focus for the next four years which have been informed by the Panel's recommendations on principles in practice above.

A detailed explanation of how Council has addressed these recommendations in the development of the new Council Plan can be found in the separate document - Council's response to the Stonnington People's Panel 2025.