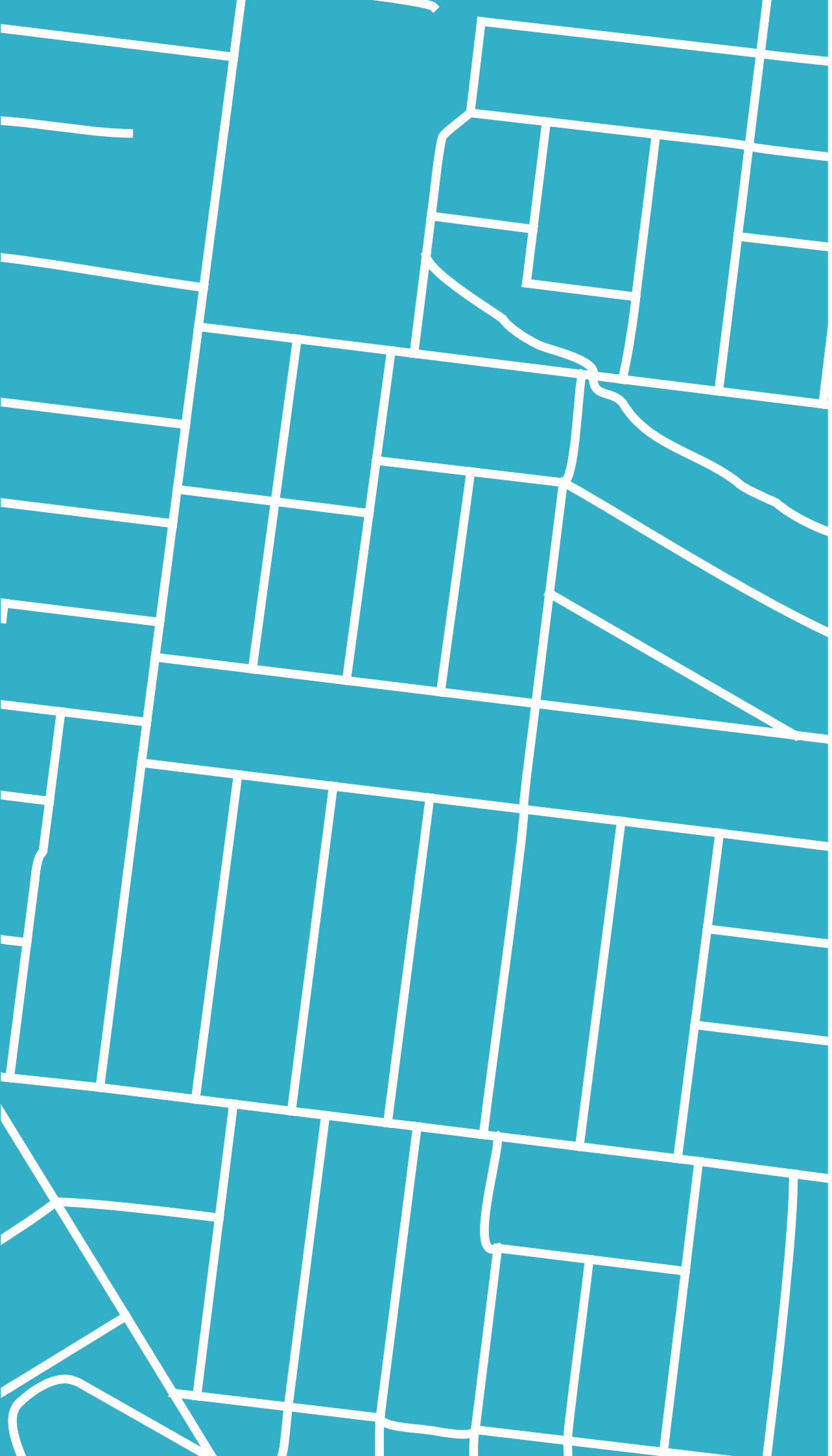


# **GARDINERS CREEK (KOOYONGKOOT) MASTER PLAN**

CONSULTATION PACKAGE







# 1. Contents

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Version	Version description	Date of revision
A	Draft for community consultation	23-05-22
B	Consultation pack for endorsement	20-09-22

## 2. Consultation Findings (Boroondara Community Plan)

Between December 2020 and April 2021, Council undertook community consultations to inform the review of Council's key strategic document, the BCP, to ensure Council was responding to emerging trends, demands and changes to community priorities. In total, 4,723 people took part in a survey which included three key questions:

COMMUNITY SURVEY	
1.	What's important to you in Boroondara?
2.	Of these 7 priority themes, what do you think are 3 most important for Boroondara over the next 10 years?
3.	What aspects of your top priority theme do you think Council should focus on for the next 10 years?

### Methodology

To inform the development of the Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Master Plan, a word search was performed on the verbatim responses to two of the survey questions: **"What is important to you in Boroondara?"** and **"What aspects of your top priority theme do you think Council should focus on in the next 10 years?"**

To capture feedback associated with the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek catchments, these results were further narrowed by selecting only residents from the neighbouring area that generated 1,368 verbatim comments, which were then sorted by gender, non-English speaking background, age and suburb, and entered into a series of word clouds.

This master plan has also been selected as a pilot project for a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA), designed to support critical thinking about how actions, programs and services will meet the different needs of women, men and gender diverse people. The purpose of GIAs is to create better and fairer outcomes, and make sure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources. We investigated the differences in responses between genders to ensure we are supporting gender equity on our projects.<sup>1</sup>

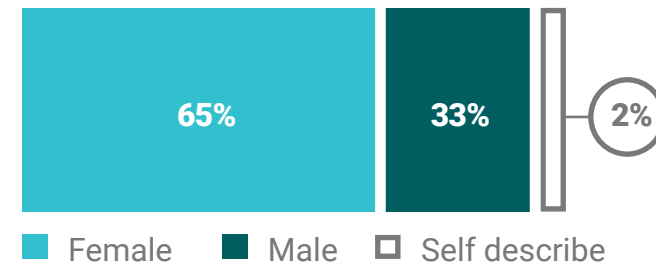
Based on this methodology, we found the following refined results:

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included.

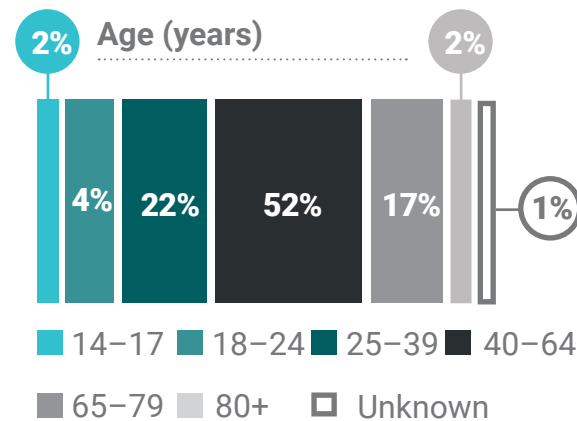
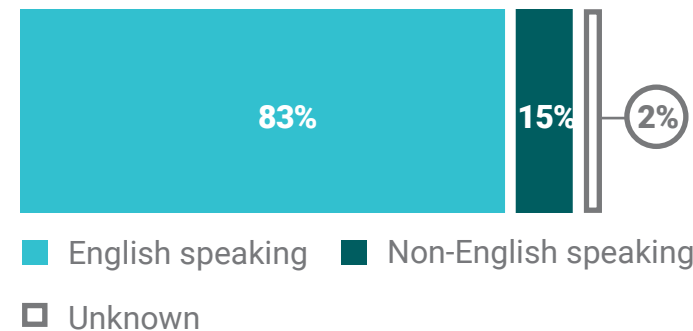
<sup>2</sup> Only responses from survey data that appears more than 15 times are shown on the Word Cloud, filtered based on key words listed in the methodology.

### Who participated (based on methodology filter)

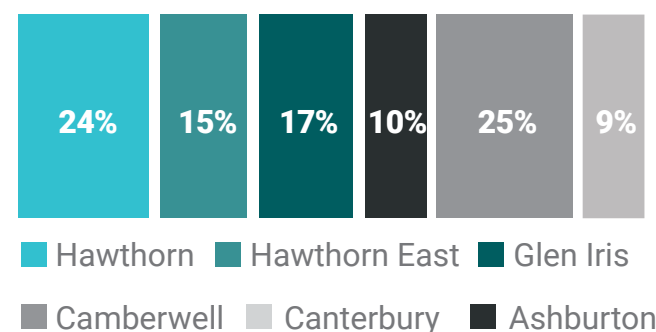
#### Gender



#### Non-English Speaking Background (NESB)



#### Suburb of residence (due to proximity of catchments)



A 'word cloud' is a tool which visualises the 1,368 survey responses and identifies when key words in sentences get used more frequently. The larger and more bold the word is, the more frequent the word has been used by the respondents.

The following word clouds have been used to visualise the responses to the question **"What is important to you in Boroondara?"** through the parameters of the methodology.

#### Responses from the community<sup>2</sup> (Female<sup>1</sup>)



#### Responses from the community<sup>2</sup> (Male<sup>1</sup>)



The following word clouds have been used to visualise the responses to the question “**What aspects of your top priority theme do you think Council should focus on in the next 10 years?**” through the parameters of the methodology.

#### Responses from the community<sup>2</sup> (female<sup>1</sup>)



#### Responses from the community<sup>2</sup> (male<sup>1</sup>)



#### What does this tell us?

In summary, there is a clear and strong appreciation for Gardiners Creek from the community, recognising it as both a **significant biodiversity corridor**, as well as a **popular destination** and network for **walking and bike riding**. The Gardiners Creek catchment is also loved for the **inter-connectivity** with various parks and open spaces, with associated sporting grounds.

The word clouds for the first question, “**What is important to you in Boroondara?**” indicated that women generally find community buildings/enhancing the sense of community, access to facilities and parks and gardens as important within Boroondara.

There were less words in the word cloud for men but the words appeared in greater frequency. Words such as “more” indicate a general desire for additional parks, open space and facilities.

The word clouds for the second question, “**What aspects should Council focus on?**” have similar responses between both genders. Responses from both men and women included, but were not limited to, planting, open space, trees, environment, facilities, accessibility etc.

The general feedback received (comments) indicated a desire to **better plan for the Gardiners Creek catchment** through the following:

**Rehabilitate and conserve, improve community accessibility and participation, improve issues associated with litter, improve cycling options and signage, and improve safety and surveillance.**

“*Planting more trees along the creek (Gardiners Creek and the Yarra). These are beautiful areas so we need to be sure we look after them.*”

Community Feedback, Male, 65–79  
English speaking country of birth

“*Improved bike paths that are safe for me to commute on and my family to ride on*”

Community Feedback, female, 40–64  
English speaking country of birth

“*Gardiners Trail to be well maintained and clean with clear signs for cyclists and pedestrians.*”

Community Feedback, female, 40–64  
English speaking country of birth

“*Action on climate change, reducing carbon emissions, rehabilitation and conservation of locally significant ecosystems and habitats such as Gardiners Creek.*”

Community Feedback, 25–39  
English speaking country of birth



### 3. Consultation Findings (City of Stonnington data)

The City of Stonnington shared survey data acquired during the preparation of their Gardiners Creek Masterplan from 2019 with the City of Boroondara (given its relevance and usefulness to this project). The data shared was general in nature, with no personal or sensitive information shared.

Extensive on-site surveying was undertaken to understand user experiences, activities and destinations along the Gardiners Creek, and given that users on the Gardiners Creek Trail will navigate between the council areas of Boroondara and Stonnington (due to the weaving nature of the shared trails), we have reviewed the data through the following methodology.

#### Methodology

we have reviewed the survey data received of 379 responses, and filtered this to only show responses from postcodes within the municipality of Boroondara (reducing the response number to 199). The aim of this was to limit the received feedback to specifically the Boroondara community who may have been intercepted by the surveying team on-site.

This master plan has also been selected as a pilot project for a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA), designed to support critical thinking about how actions, programs and services will meet the different needs of women, men and gender diverse people. The purpose of GIAs is to create better and fairer outcomes, and make sure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources. We investigated the differences in responses between genders to ensure we are supporting gender equity on our projects.<sup>2</sup>

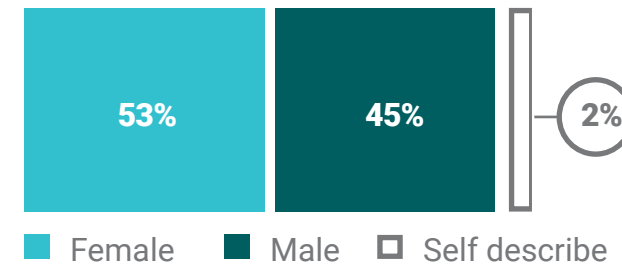
Based on this methodology, we found the following results:

<sup>1</sup>The Glen Iris postcode (3146) partially extends beyond the municipality of Boroondara (into City of Stonnington). Given a large portion of the postcode area is within Boroondara, this data has not been excluded.

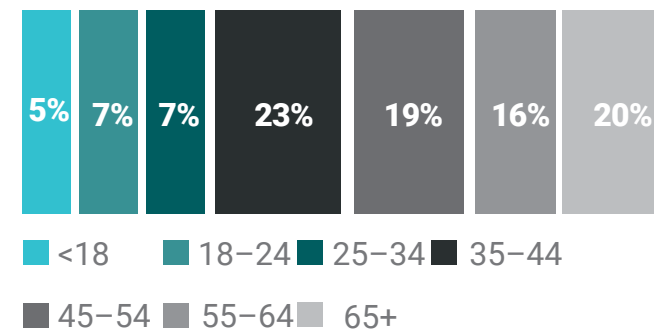
<sup>2</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

#### Who participated<sup>1</sup>

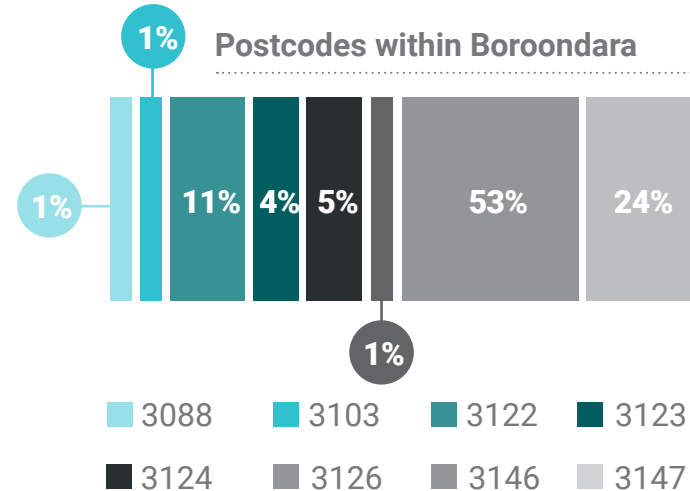
##### Gender



##### Age



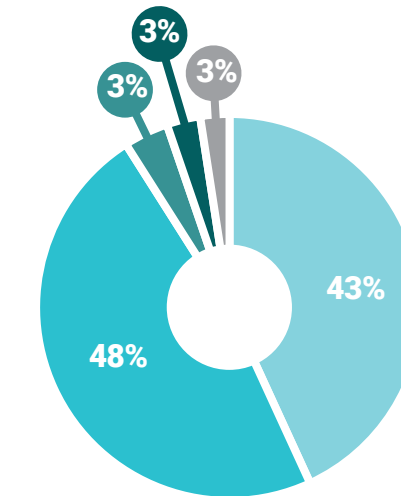
##### Postcodes within Boroondara



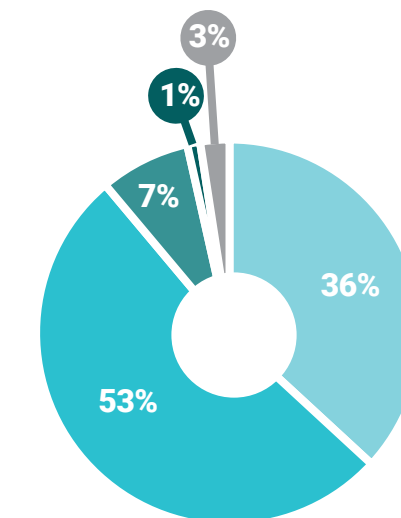
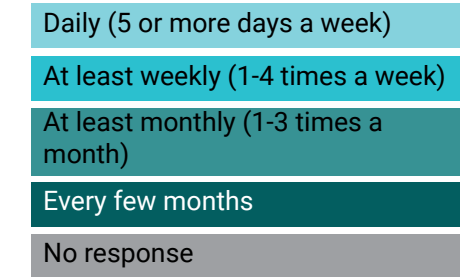
#### Results

The following questions were asked during the on-site surveying.

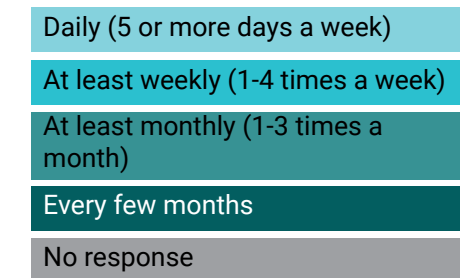
Question 1: Approximately how often do you come to the Gardiners Creek area?



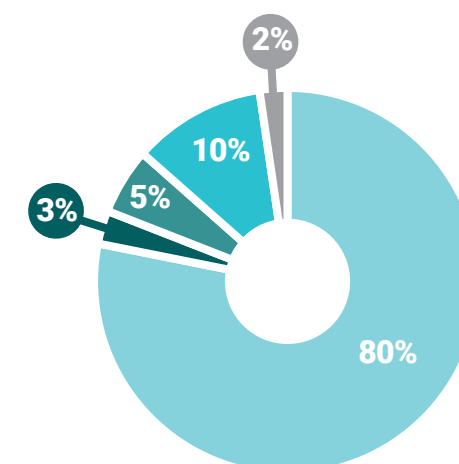
##### (Female responses)<sup>2</sup>



##### (Male responses)<sup>2</sup>



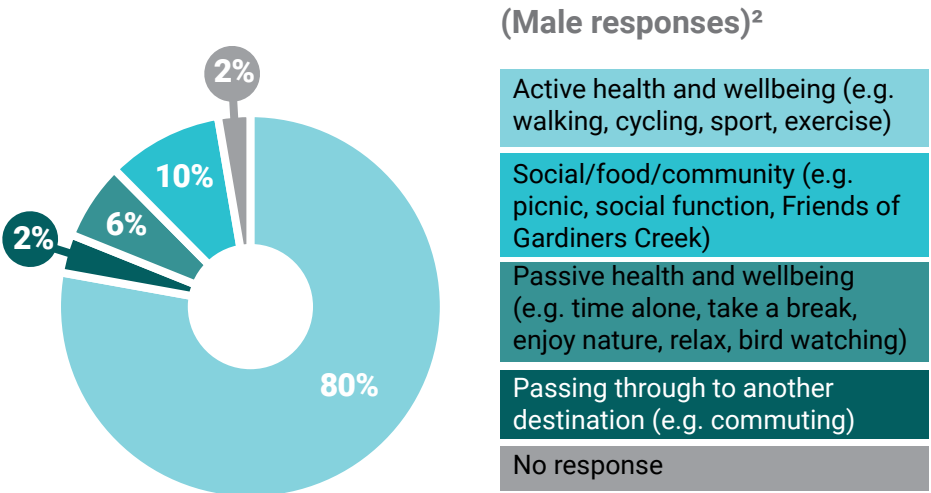
Question 2: What is the main reason you are here today?



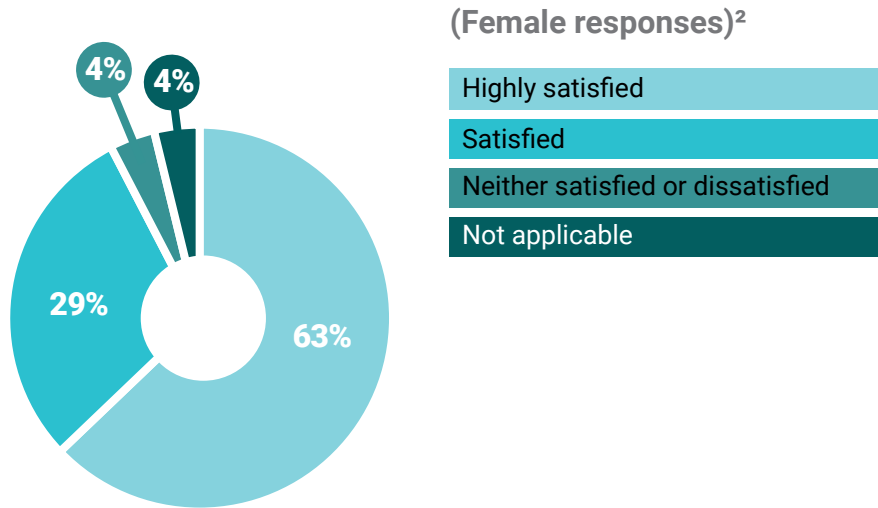
##### (Female responses)<sup>2</sup>



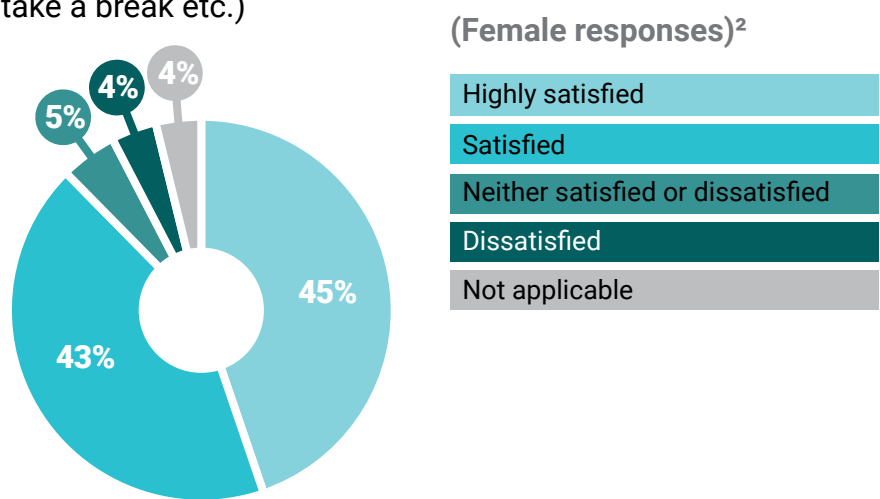
Question 2: What is the main reason you are here today? (cont.)



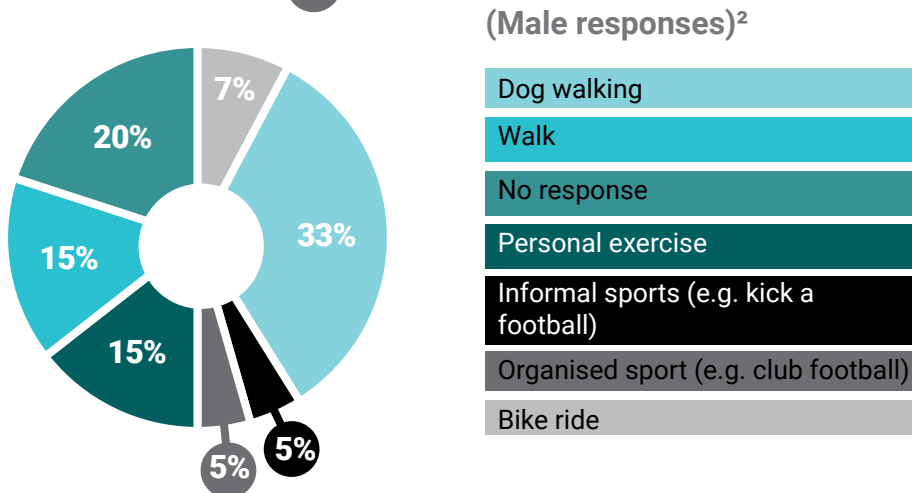
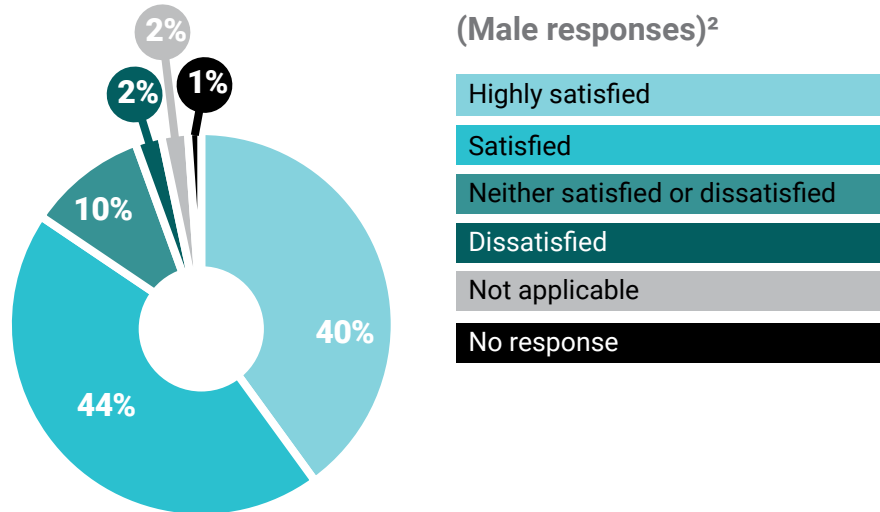
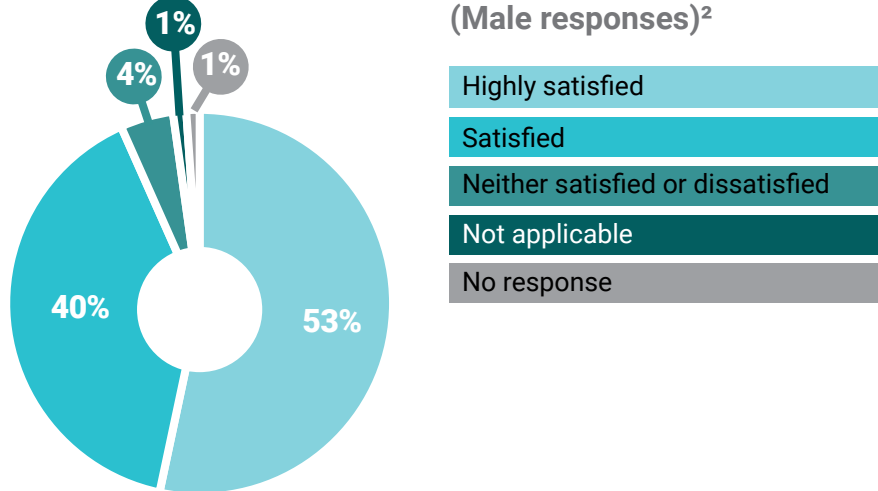
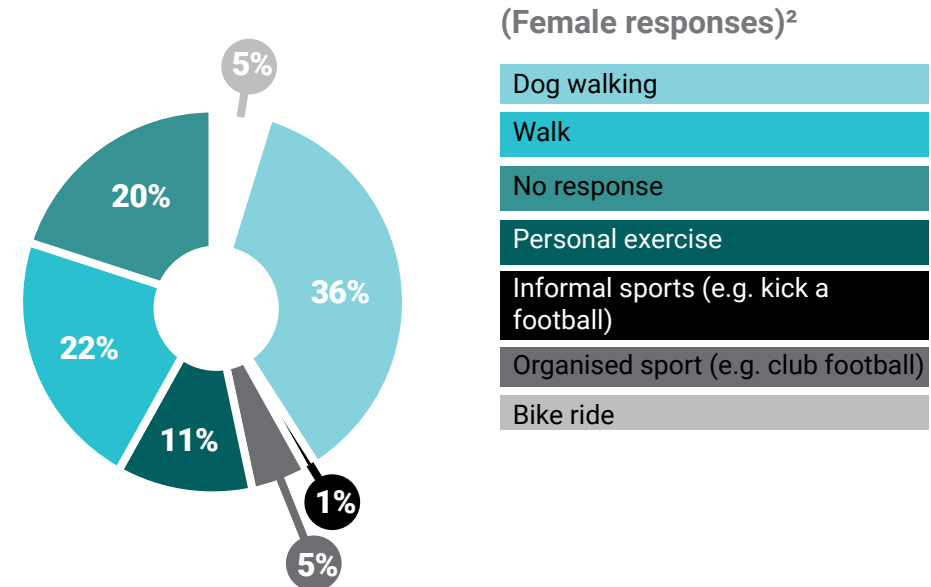
Question 4: How satisfied are you with the available spaces for active recreation? (sports, exercise etc.)



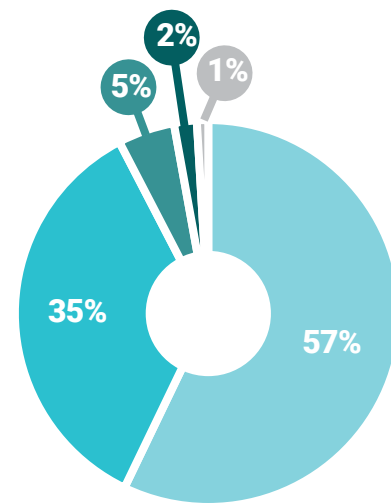
Question 5: How satisfied are you with the available spaces for passive recreation and relaxation? (spend time with nature, reflect, take a break etc.)



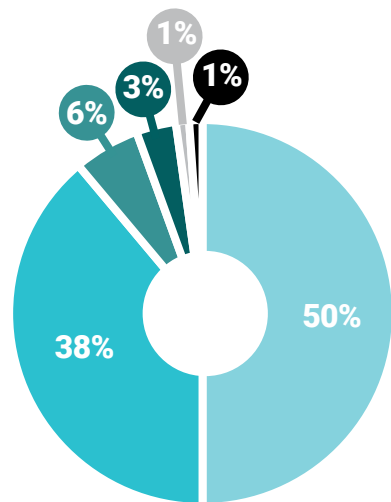
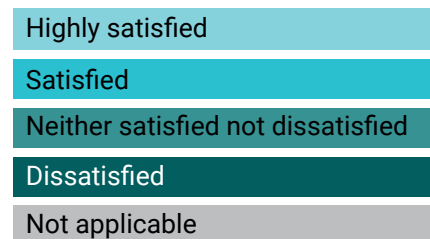
Question 3: What specific recreational activity?



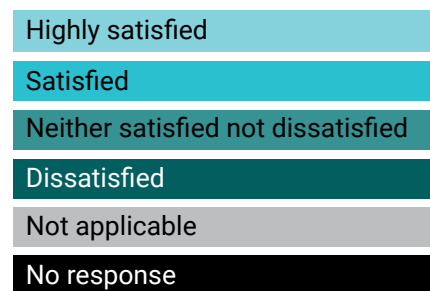
Question 6: How satisfied are you with the natural environment? (vegetation, plants, wildlife, weeds etc.).



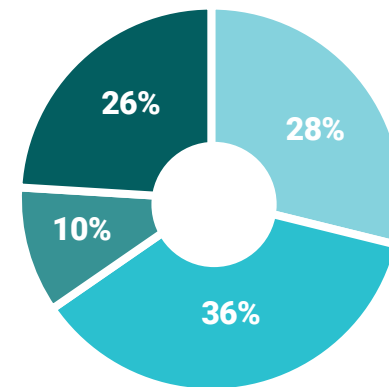
(Female responses)<sup>2</sup>



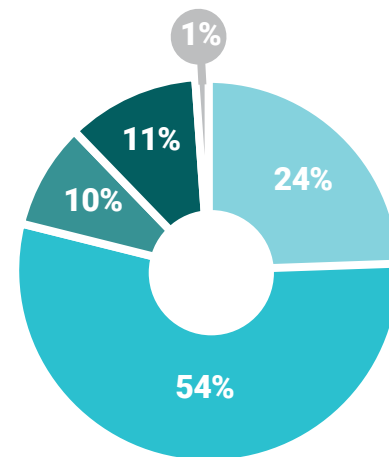
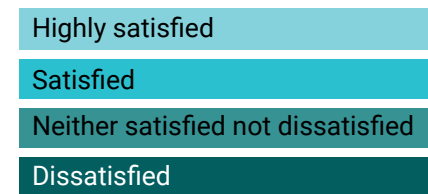
(Male responses)<sup>2</sup>



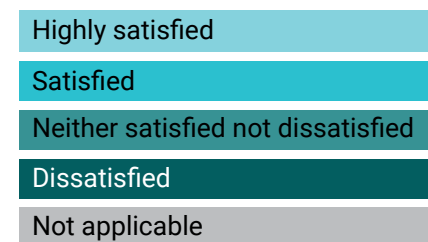
Question 7: How satisfied are you with the shared pathways and safe access to the area? (bike paths, walking paths, access to nearby locations etc.).



(Female responses)<sup>2</sup>



(Male responses)<sup>2</sup>



### What does this tell us?

Based on the survey results, both **men and women come to the Gardiners Creek for the same main reasons**, for active health and wellbeing, picnics and social functions.

**Women are more likely to visit the Gardiners Creek area on a regular basis**, with both men and women visiting for the same reasons.

**Dog walking is the most popular recreational activity followed by personal exercise.**

Women are more satisfied with the available space for active recreation. **Men are less satisfied with the available space, this may be due to their higher preferences in informal sporting recreation activities** as indicated in the results of question 3.

Women have scored slightly higher regarding their satisfaction with the natural environment at Gardiners Creek.

**Women are more dissatisfied with shared pathways and safe access to the area.** This may be due to perceptions around safety in public space and issues associated with passive surveillance.





4. Consultation Findings (external stakeholder engagement)

During January 2022 a Council officer engaged with 21 out of 29 key external stakeholders associated with the Gardiners Creek and Back Creek catchment (within the municipality of Boroondara). These stakeholders included sporting clubs, scout groups and ‘Friends of’ groups of the catchment.<sup>1</sup>

The following questions were asked via phone conversation:

Questions via phone conversations	
1.	Do you use Gardiners Creek and if yes, what for? E.g. walking the dog, bike riding etc?
2.	What extent of the corridor do you use? Where do you enter the corridor from typically?
3.	Do you visit Gardiners Creek regularly? What time of day do you visit?
4.	What do you like about Gardiners Creek? Are there any sections you like most and why?
5.	Do you have any thoughts on how the corridor could be improved? These can be specific issues or broad issues for the whole corridor.

The findings of this targeted stakeholders phase has typically indicated issues associated with poor water quality of the creek, concerns associated with biodiversity and acknowledgement of areas of poor vegetation diversity and health. There was a trend with suggested improvements, indicating a desire for reducing hard surfaces, enhancing planting through revegetation, separating walking paths for different users and re-naturalisation of the creek catchment in areas that contain concrete culverts.

These findings have contributed to assisting us in identifying key directions associated with this master plan.

Refer to the following pages on some of the valuable feedback received.

<sup>1</sup>Voicemail messages were left to all contacted stakeholders that did not answer, not all stakeholders return called.

“

Avoid excess concrete or development, we should be making the sites more permeable.

”

From a ‘Friends of’ group

“

Water quality needs improving though acknowledgement that this is a collaborative effort.

”

From a ‘Friends of’ group

“

Nice spots for dog off leash areas, and natural green respite. Temperature drops near the water level.

”

From a Sporting Club

“

People who ride on bikes very fast can crash into other trail users who are not aware.

”

From a Fitness Club



“ Provide information on who to call if you see a pollution event.

From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Making it safe and usable. Ensuring quality of surface treatments and appropriate lighting.

From a Sporting Club

”

“ Understory vegetation replaced with clearer forms and tree planting to allow easier retrieval of soccer balls near sporting ovals.

From a Sporting Club

”

“ Improve signage consistency including species plaques.

From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Some areas should stay as biodiversity sites and should remain inaccessible to the public.

From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Road crossings are not formalised at Back Creek Reserve.

From a 'Friends of' group

”

“ Concrete drainage removal should be considered and the river should be naturalised.

From a Sporting Club

”

## 5. Consultation Findings (draft plan feedback, survey)

The City of Boroondara released the Draft Gardiners Creek (kooyongkoot) Master Plan for community consultation from 24 of May to 28 June, 2022. The consultation was seeking feedback on the draft master plan which was established based on extensive research and feedback from key stakeholders and community. The following findings are from the online survey that was available via the council website during the date range specified above.

These findings were prepared by i.e. Community (community engagement consultancy engaged for survey data analysis), based on feedback received via the online survey.

### Methodology

To analyse the 81 responses received during the draft plan engagement, a coding frame was developed using the actions from the draft master plan as the starting point. This was to ensure comments on the specific aspects of the master plan were captured in a useful and meaningful way.

The responses were analysed by thematic coding, with 1,634 coded comments across the nine questions. The top themes for each question were included in the report, including more specific comments and quotes of respondents for that theme. This master plan has also been selected as a pilot project for a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA), designed to support critical thinking about how actions, programs and services will meet the different needs of women, men and gender diverse people. The purpose of GIAs is to create better and fairer outcomes, and make sure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources. We investigated the differences in responses between genders to ensure we are supporting gender equity on our projects.

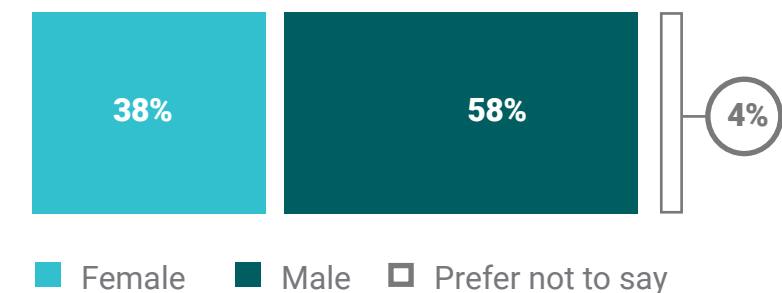
Based on this methodology, the following key findings were identified:

- General support for the draft master plan and the proposed actions, in particular with the majority of respondents supportive of the actions to respond to the aims for improved signage (72.5% agree or strongly agree), for enhancing biodiversity (71.4% agree or strongly agree), for improved access and safety (66.7% agree or strongly agree) and managing water and drainage (64.9% agree or strongly agree).
- Some actions in the draft master plan require more work to ensure they meet objectives, in particular the actions to reduce litter with 21.4% of respondents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing and only 42.9% agreeing or strongly agreeing, with respondents indicating they thought more needed to be done to sufficiently address litter.

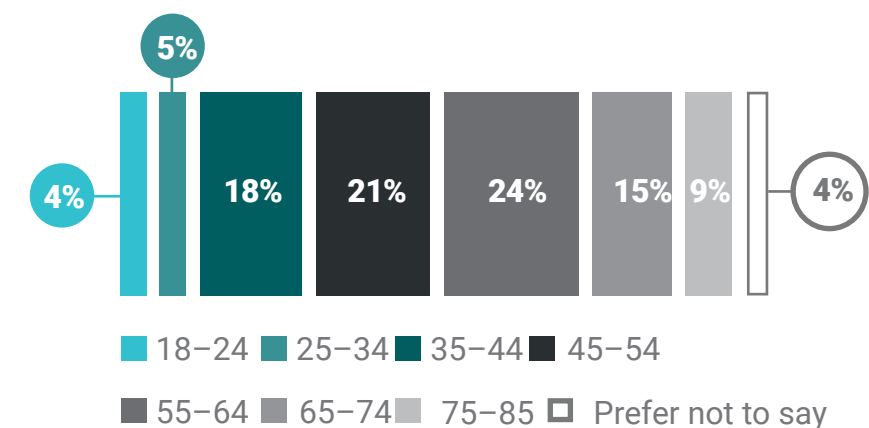
- At least 20% of respondents indicated they were neutral to each question on the actions, with more than a third indicating they were neutral to the actions to improve water quality, and to reduce litter. Many of these respondents indicated they were generally supportive but thought more ambitious actions were required, or would like to see more detail.
- Across all questions there were suggestions for greater specificity in the proposed actions, as well as timelines to achieving the aims.
- While there was general support for the actions across most questions, some respondents thought the draft master plan could go further and be more ambitious.
- A relatively high proportion of survey respondents indicated they were male (58%) with only 38.3% female.
- The relatively high proportion of male survey respondents could be partially attributed to the draft master plan impact on cycle path connectivity and safety, with 3.1% of males in Boroondara commuting by bicycle compared to 0.7% of females (ABS 2021). This could be supported by 17% of male respondents indicating that actions to improve bike safety were something they thought was missing from the draft master plan, but only 9.7% of women.
- A significantly higher proportion of females (32.3%) thought the draft master plan could be more ambitious to achieve the aims for enhancing biodiversity compared to males (8.5%).
- Pedestrian safety seems to be an important part of improving safety for women, with a significantly higher proportion of women (25.8%) rating pedestrian safety as the reason for their answer for the actions around improving safety and access, compared to men (10.6%).
- There were suggestions for separated bike and pedestrian paths from those concerned about both cyclist and pedestrian safety, which was the main thing respondents thought was missing from the draft master plan.
- Across questions there were suggestions for Council to make the most of opportunities for education and promotion of Aboriginal storytelling and trees of significance through wayfinding and signage along the creek.

### Who participated:

#### Gender

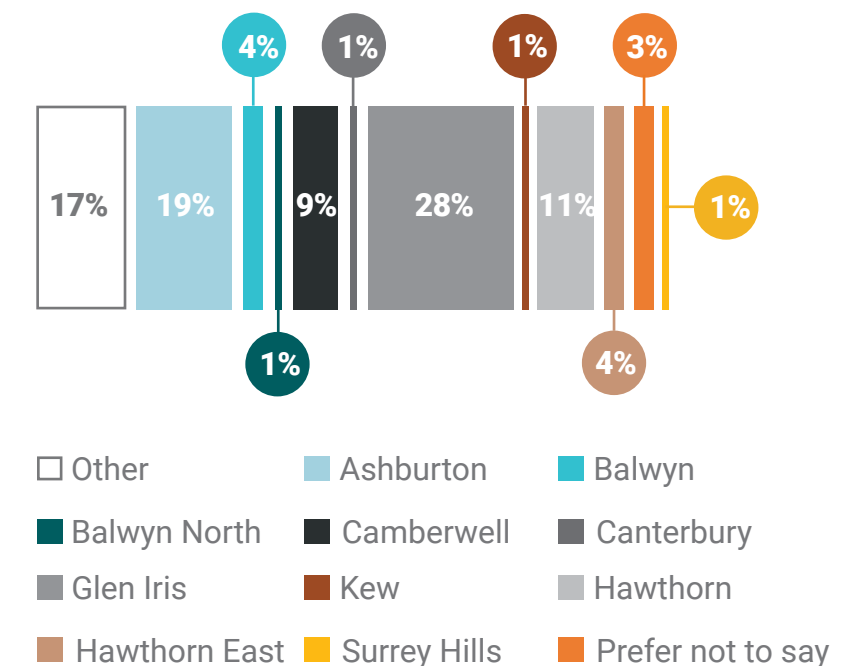


#### Age



No responses from under 13 years, 14 to 17 or over 85 years old

#### Suburb of residence



No responses from Deepdene, Kew East or Mont Albert



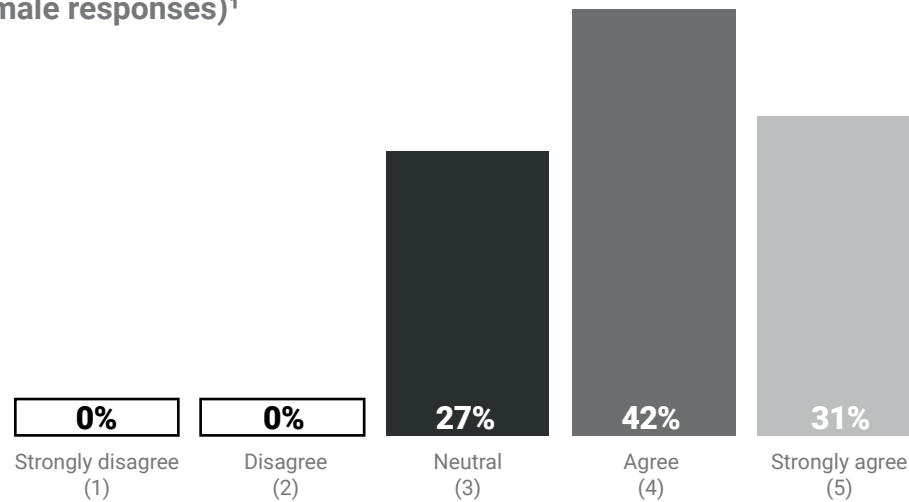
## Detailed findings per question

The following questions were asked via the online survey:

**Question 1a.** The actions in the draft master plan respond to the aim of enhancing a rich and biodiverse catchment (70 responses).

71.4% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 7.8% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree).

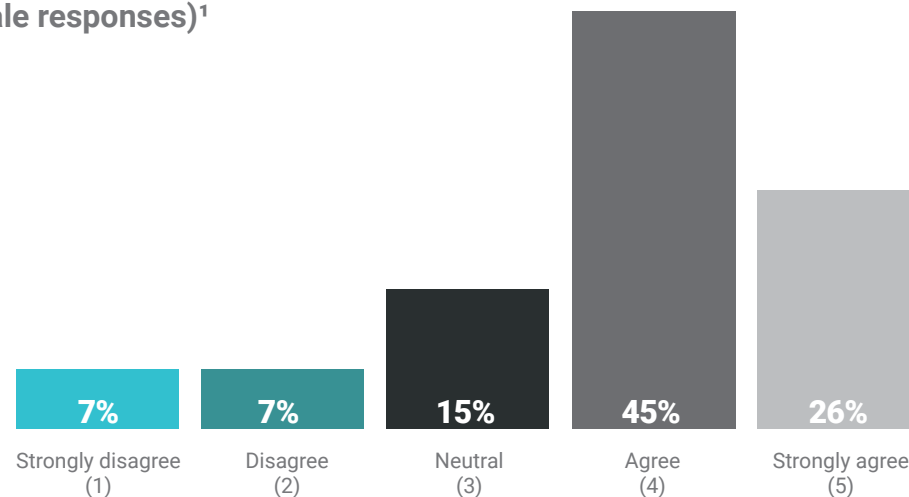
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Female top themes (n = 31)**

- Master plan could be more ambitious (32.3%)
- Vegetation (29%)
- Master plan requires more detail (12.9%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Male top themes (n = 47)**

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (23.4%)
- Master plan requires more detail (17%)
- Master plan could be more ambitious (8.5%)
- Master plan is ambitious enough (6.4%).

**Question 1b.** Why did you choose this rating? (70 responses)

**Top themes from responses (summary)**

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (31.4%).

- Respondents emphasised that enhancing and protecting biodiversity is important for the community, and some thought that the master plan could have more detail on this.
- More vegetation and plantings are needed to support biodiversity and wildlife.
- Protecting existing habitat and waterways including reduced access, preventing soil erosion through maintaining trees, ceasing council use of pesticides.

Master plan could be more ambitious (20%).

- The master plan does not have enough consideration or focus for enhancing biodiversity.
- The master plan is limited to short-term priorities rather than long-term priorities for biodiversity.

Master plan requires more detail (18.6%).

- The broad actions are sufficient, but the master plan lacks detail and specificity.

Master plan is ambitious enough (7.1%).

- The actions are on the right track.
- Biodiversity and vegetation are sufficiently considered in the plan.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

“Gardiners Creek is such an important part of this community, its health and the flora/fauna it supports are essential. Being able to enjoy it with our children in an authentic way, without unnatural development should be paramount.”  
Male, 35–44,  
English speaking country of birth

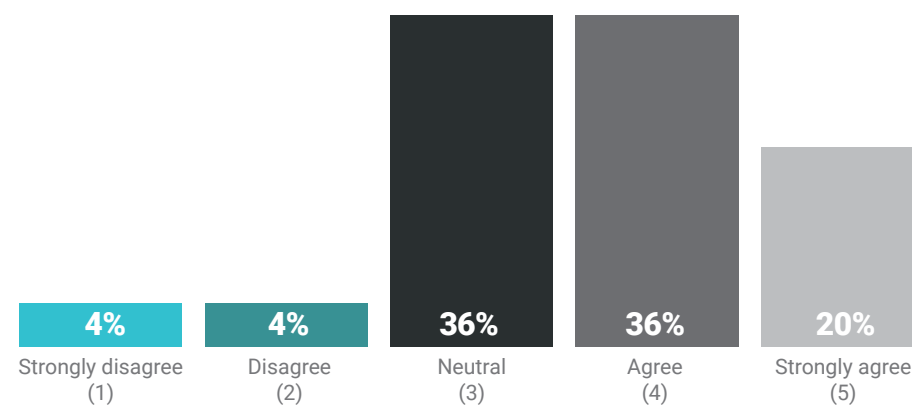
“Maybe needs to go further in protecting existing habitat and waterway (e.g., retaining established trees, even if exotic, to prevent soil erosion; establishment of ‘no-go’ areas to protect habitat; and installation of drain-socks at drain outlets.”  
Female, 55–64,  
English speaking country of birth

“The plan is high level at the moment, i.e., doesn’t have specific actions, but seems on the right track.”  
Male, 55–64,  
English speaking country of birth

**Question 2a.** The actions in the draft master plan respond to the aim of managing water and drainage with careful urban design (81 responses).

64.9% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 8.1% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree).

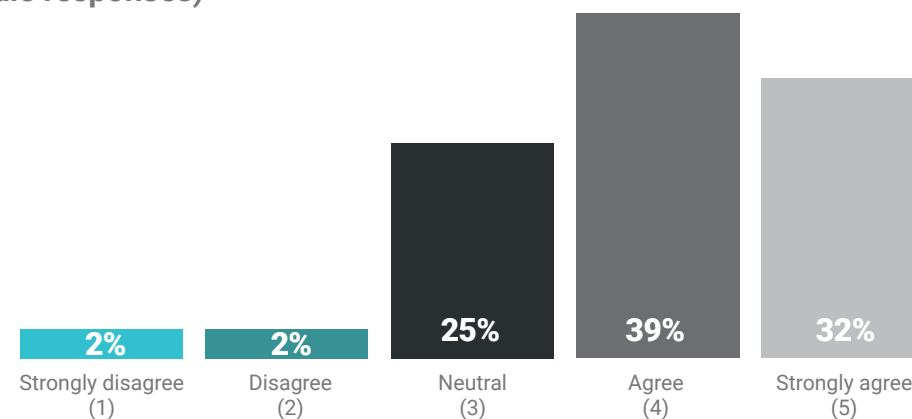
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Female top themes (n = 31)**

- Water quality and pollutants (16.1%)
- Drainage and stormwater runoff (16.1%)
- Master plan requires more detail (12.9%)
- Master plan could be more ambitious (9.7%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Male top themes (n = 47)**

- Master plan requires more detail (23.4%)
- Water quality and pollutants (10.6%)
- Master plan is ambitious enough (8.5%)
- Master plan could be more ambitious (6.4%).

**Question 2b.** Why did you choose this rating? (57 responses)

**Top themes from responses (summary)**

Master plan requires more detail (26.3%).

- The master plan needs stronger specific actions and timelines.
- The master plan is more focused on upgrades to paths, rather than water and drainage.
- Plan includes little evidence of water sensitive urban design and stormwater drainage design.

Water quality and pollutants (21.1%).

- Water management and water quality is a crucial aspect of managing the catchment area.
- Pollution into the creek should be monitored.
- Water quality should be a key focus in the master plan.

Drainage and stormwater runoff (14%).

In particular, specific locations that were mentioned were:

- Improving or preventing silt build-up in Burke Road waterway underpass.
- Flooding risk for houses at Lewin Park.
- Flooding risk of trails in Precinct 5, Glenferrie Road, Tooronga Road sections.

Master plan could be more ambitious (10.5%).

- The master plan is more focused on upgrades to paths, rather than water and drainage. Could go further to manage water and drainage.
- No consideration of risks of flooding and water management from climate change.
- Limited consideration in master plan for restoration of the Gardiners Creek.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

“ Gardiners creek is one of the most important waterways leading to the Yarra River. It is integral to improve the water quality, education to reduce neighbourhood impact from runoff and rubbish. ”  
Male, 35–44,  
English speaking country of birth

“ There are several actions that will support improved water management – advocacy for vertical WSUD, stormwater irrigation – though they lack the detail of the precinct plans. ”  
Male 18–24,  
English speaking country of birth

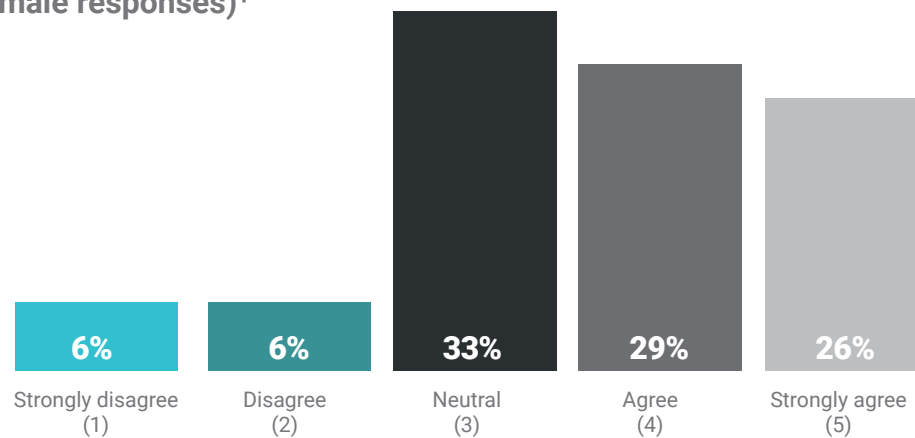
“ There needs to be monitoring of drainage into waterways to locate major polluters (industrial, etc.). ”  
Female 55–64,  
English speaking country of birth



**Question 3a.** The actions in the draft master plan respond to the aim of improving water quality and reducing pollutants (73 responses).

53.4% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 11% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree).

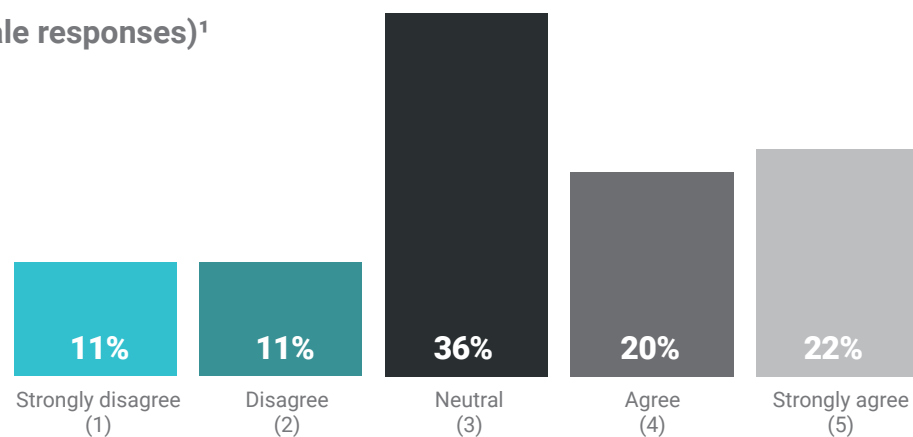
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Female top themes (n = 31)**

- Master plan could be more ambitious (16.1%)
- More actions required to address water quality and pollutants (12.9%)
- Litter and rubbish (12.9%)
- Master plan requires more detail (9.7%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Male top themes (n = 47)**

- More actions required to address water quality and pollutants (21.3%)
- Master plan requires more detail (12.8%)
- Master plan could be more ambitious (10.6%)
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (10.6%).

**Question 3b.** Why did you choose this rating? (52 responses)  
**Top themes from responses (summary)**

More actions required to address water quality and pollutants (28.8%).

- Suggestions for reducing silting of the creek through increased vegetation and restoration.
- Concerns around quality and treatment of stormwater runoff from roads and urban areas.
- Concerns around possible erosion and runoff from new gravel paths.
- Actions to reducing pollutants from buildings and development sites.

Master plan could be more ambitious (21.2%).

- More collaboration with other councils to manage water quality and pollutants.
- Limited focus on water in Precincts 1, 2 and 3.
- Overall, the master plan needs a stronger focus on water quality and pollutants.

Master plan requires more detail (17.3%).

- The master plan needs stronger specific actions and timelines.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (15.4%).

- Importance of water quality for biodiversity.
- Improving water quality to support aquatic life.

Litter and rubbish (11.5%).

- Litter was a key concern for water quality and pollutants, and more actions were required. Actions such as litter traps, manual litter collection and implementation of drain-socks were suggested.
- No specific actions to target litter from stormwater runoff.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

“ Not many actions appear to address water quality. ”  
Male, 65–74,  
English speaking country of birth

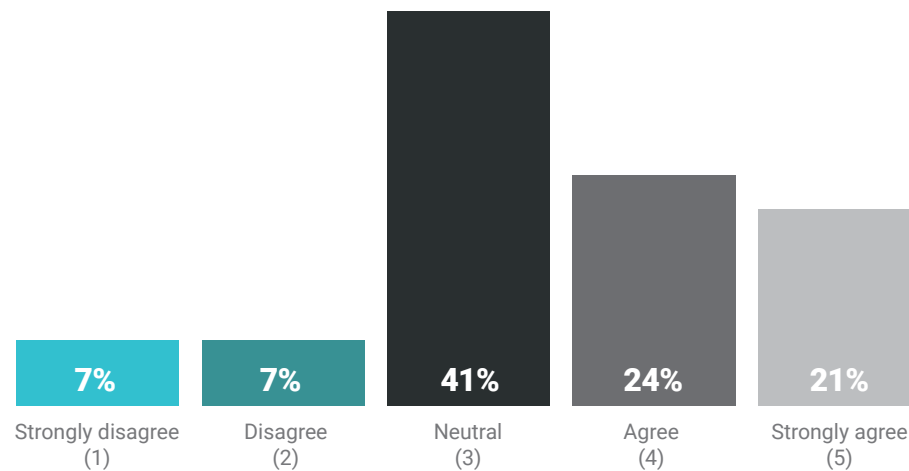
“ The replanting of native vegetation will reduce the silting of the creek. ”  
Male 55–64,  
English speaking country of birth

“ I don’t see actions that target the litter that flows from Warrigal Road bridge, especially after rain. ”  
Male 45–54,  
English speaking country of birth

**Question 4a.** The actions in the draft master plan respond to the aim of reducing litter (70 responses).

42.9% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 21.4% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree). This was the aim least supported by survey respondents.

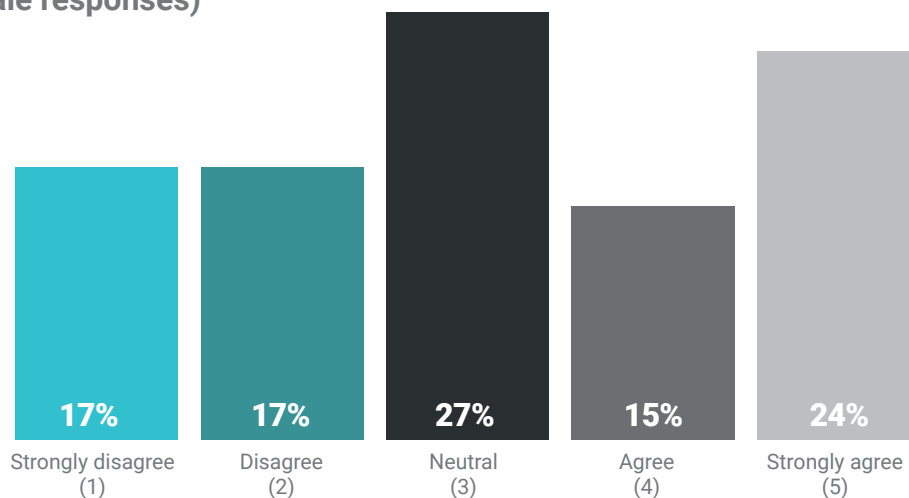
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Female top themes (n = 31)**

- Actions to address litter and rubbish (48.4%)
- Master plan could be more ambitious (32.3%)
- Master plan requires more detail (22.6%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Male top themes (n = 47)**

- Actions to address litter and rubbish (38.3%)
- Master plan requires more detail (19.1%)
- Master plan could be more ambitious (12.8%)
- Installation of infrastructure (8.5%).

**Question 4b.** Why did you choose this rating? (57 responses)

**Top themes from responses (summary)**

Actions to address litter and rubbish (59.6%).

- Installation of litter traps and other litter management strategies are needed.
- More bins will help, but it is not enough to address the issue.
- Need for more 'upstream' management, eg., recycling initiatives, reducing packaging, encouraging reusable containers and behaviour change of littering.

Master plan could be more ambitious (29.8%).

- The master plan does not address litter sufficiently.
- Need to collaborate with other councils to manage litter from upstream and stormwater runoff.

Master plan requires more detail (29.8%).

- The master plan needs more specificity and detail regarding litter management actions and planning.

Installation of infrastructure (8.8%).

- Need for rubbish bins at strategic stop points.
- Need for dog waste bins.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

**“ Litter bins aren't really a solution. Consultation with agencies is doubtlessly sensible, but remains far short of a plan for action. ”**

Male 55–64,  
English speaking country of birth

**“ Actions to improve bin access along the creek paths are included. Litter reduction in the creek needs to go further though. The main source of litter is unlikely to be the parks adjacent to the creek, but the urban parts of the catchment. ”**

Gender (prefer not to answer) 18–24,  
English speaking country of birth

**“ Other than mentioning a litter and pollution reduction plan there is no evidence of any thought given to controlling litter and pollution thus far. ”**

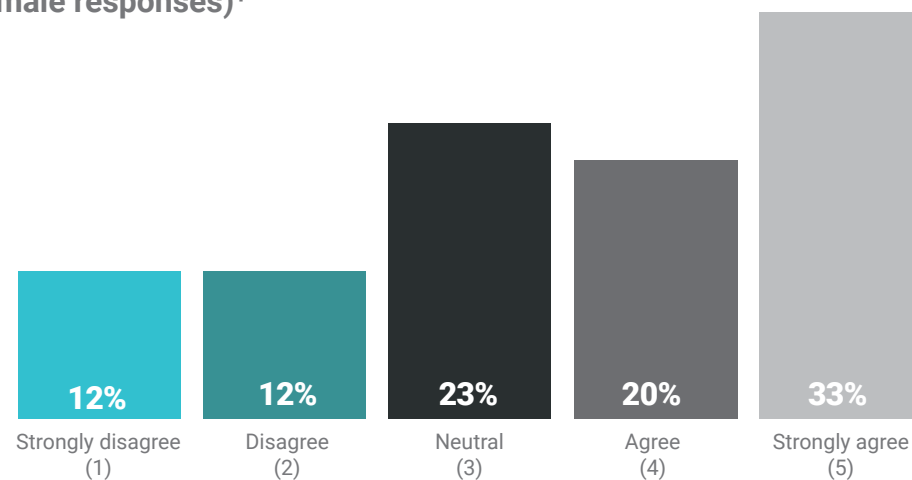
Female 45–54,  
English speaking country of birth



**Question 5a.** The actions in the draft master plan respond to the aim of improving access and safety (75 responses).

66.7% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 13.3% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree).

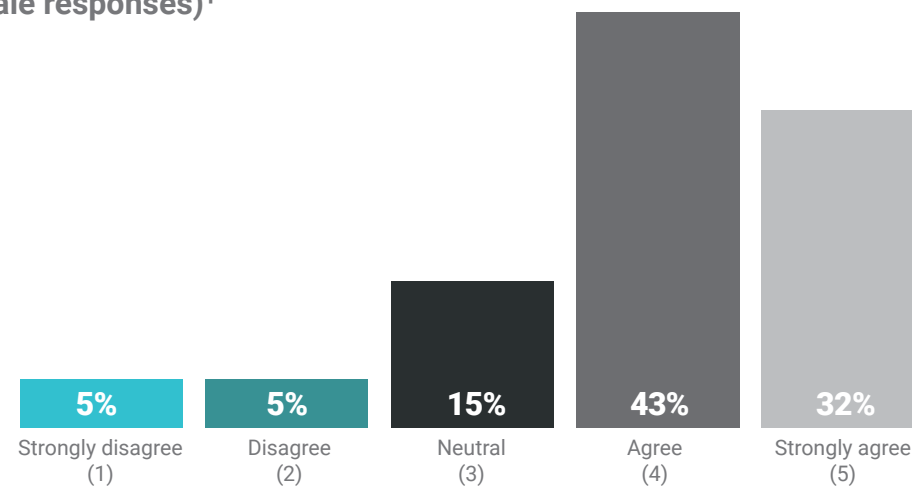
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



#### Female top themes (n = 31)

- Pedestrian safety (25.8%)
- Suggestions to improve general safety and access (22.6%)
- Path connectivity (9.7%)
- Actions to improve bike safety (6.5%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



#### Male top themes (n = 47)

- General safety and access (34%)
- Pedestrian safety (10.6%)
- Actions to improve bike safety (10.6%)
- Path connectivity (10.6%)
- Gravel trails – safety (6.4%).

**Question 5b.** Why did you choose this rating? (59 responses)

#### Top themes from responses (summary)

Suggestions to improve general safety and access (42.4%).

- More bridges throughout the catchment area would improve access.
- There is a need for more street lighting in specific areas.
- Trails and paths need to be disability accessible.

In particular, specific locations that were mentioned regarding safety and access were:

- Safety hazards under road bridges – High Street and Toorak Road.

Pedestrian safety (23.7%).

- Separated bike and pedestrian paths are needed to provide safety for pedestrians from bikes and scooters.

In particular, specific locations that were mentioned were:

- Pedestrian safety on walking paths in Markham Reserve.

Actions to improve bike safety (13.6%).

- Cyclists shared concern for safety on bridges and paths, particularly safety on narrow and impractically shaped bridges.
- There is a need for separated bike and pedestrian paths to ensure safety for cyclists.

Path connectivity (13.6%).

- People supported alternative routes for cyclists and pedestrians, particularly the added connectivity it provides for commuters.
- There was some suggestion that increased access to the creek and creek banks could be provided by the new paths, though not at the detriment of biodiversity and vegetation.

Concerns for safety of gravel trails (10.2%).

- There was some suggestions that gravel trails needed to be wider and have better lighting throughout.
- Drainage of gravel paths was also a safety concern for people to prevent slippery conditions.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

“ Bridge and underpass upgrades are much needed. Path widening should help to provide more separation between fast and slow travel on the trail. ”  
Male 18–24  
English speaking country of birth

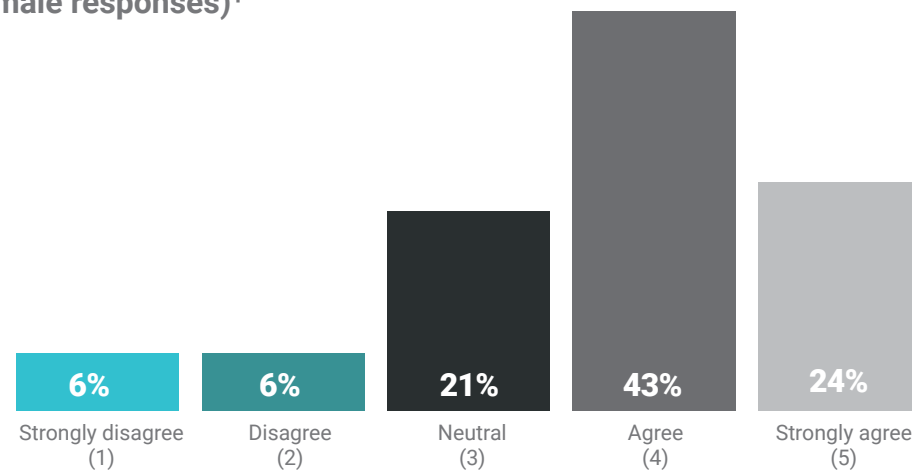
“ There needs to be safety measures for pedestrians who are at risk from cyclists and electric scooters. ”  
Female 35–44,  
English speaking country of birth

“ Good to see more alternative routes for cyclists and pedestrians. ”  
Male 55–65,  
English speaking country of birth

**Question 6a.** The actions in the draft master plan respond to the aim of improving signage and how people get around the area (73 responses).

72.6% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 4.1% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree). This was the aim most supported by survey respondents.

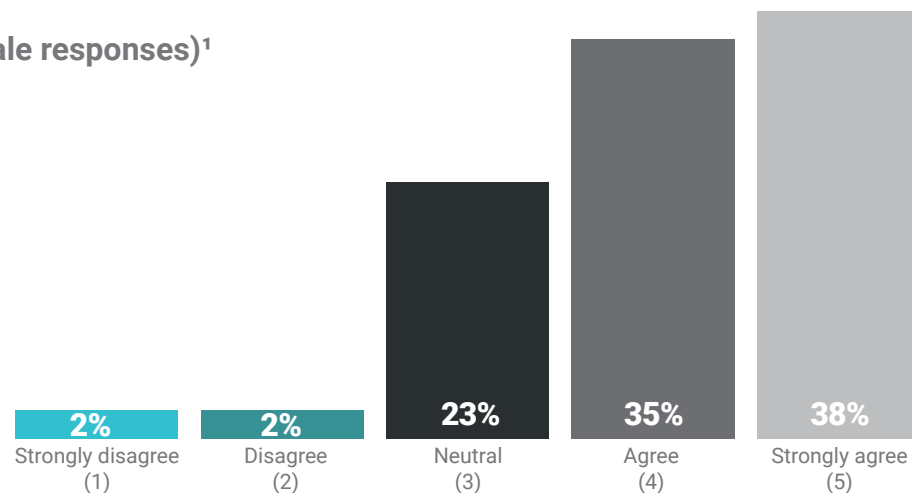
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Female top themes (n = 31)**

- General support for the proposed signage (12.9%)
- Suggestions for improvement to signage (6.5%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Male top themes (n = 47)**

- General support for the proposed signage (31.9%)
- Suggestions for improvement to signage (14.9%)
- Suggestions to improve general safety and access (6.4%).

**Question 6b.** Why did you choose this rating? (47 responses)

**Top themes from responses (summary)**

General support for the proposed signage (42.6%).

- People were generally supportive of the signage improvements presented in the master plan.
- There were some suggestions for increased accuracy in signage, particularly regarding access to toilets.

Suggestions for improvement to signage (19.1%).

- Signage needs to be improved and maintained, much is old and needs upgrading.
- Signage needs to be graffiti-proof, to prevent future destruction of signs.

Suggestions to improve general safety and access (8.5%).

- There were some suggestions that signage could promote access to commuters, not just locals, with many people using Gardiners Creek Trail as a commuting route.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

“ Also a bike commuter, I strongly agree on signage and lighting to improve the experience on the track.  
Male 45–55,  
English speaking country of birth ”

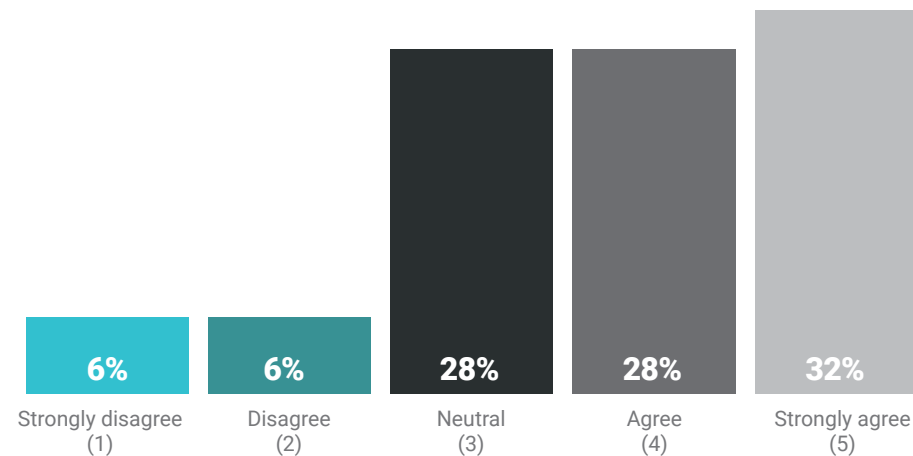
“ Improving signage is good, especially if it encourages more walking.  
Male 55 to 64,  
English speaking country of birth ”

“ A lot of the signage is old and needs upgrading. As someone who is very familiar with the creek it's not an issue for me but it would be confusing for those not as familiar.  
Female 35–55,  
English speaking country of birth ”

**Question 7a.** Thinking about all of these aims, do you think they are suitable for our Gardiners Creek master plan (75 responses).

65.3% of respondents agreed (agree or strongly agree) that the actions in the draft master plan respond to this aim, while 8% disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree).

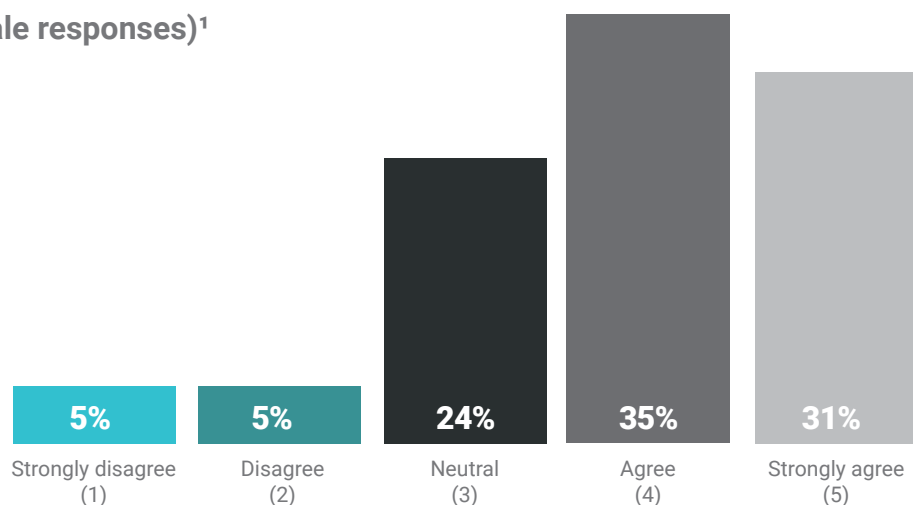
(Female responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Female top themes (n = 31)**

- Master plan could be more ambitious (19.4%)
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (16.1%)
- Master plan requires more detail (9.7%).

(Male responses)<sup>1</sup>



**Male top themes (n = 47)**

- Master plan could be more ambitious (12.8%)
- Master plan requires more detail (10.6%).

**Question 7b.** Why did you choose this rating? (55 responses)

**Top themes from responses (summary)**

Master plan could be more ambitious (21.8%).

- There was general support for the aims, but many felt that the master plan could be more ambitious.
- The master plan needs more focus on increasing biodiversity and improving vegetation, water quality and management, and litter.
- There was some mention of opportunities for education through the promotion of Aboriginal storytelling on signage and wayfinding.

In particular, specific locations that were mentioned regarding safety and access were:

- Safety hazards under road bridges – High Street and Toorak Road.

Master plan requires more detail (14.5%).

- Suitable aims, but does not show detail or specific implementations of these aims.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (10.9%).

- More focus needed on biodiversity, increasing vegetation, supporting aquatic life, managing weeds and pests.

More actions required to address water quality and pollutants (7.3%).

- More focus needed on managing water quality, silting, pollution and litter.

Concerns for safety of gravel trails (7.3%).

- Gardiners Creek Trail has a lot of users and the width and drainage of paths should be prioritised.

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

“All the aims raised by the masterplan are important. However, some areas, especially path widening and drainage (accessibility) should be prioritised.”

Gender (prefer not to answer) 18–24,  
English speaking country of birth

“Very suitable aims, but as I mentioned previously I think there should be a greater focus on regeneration of natural landscapes.”

Female 35–44,  
English speaking country of birth

“The aims cover a wide range of areas. Maybe Aboriginal story boards would add to the experience.”

Male 55–65,  
English speaking country of birth



**Question 8.** Do you think we have missed any important aims?  
(67 responses)

#### Top themes from responses (summary)

Separated bike and pedestrian paths (22.4%)

- *Gardiners Creek is one of the key safe cycling commuting routes in the area, and increased capacity for cyclists needs to be considered.*

In particular, specific locations that were mentioned regarding safety and access were:

- *Safety hazards under road bridges – High Street and Toorak Road.*

Actions to improve bike safety (17.9%).

- *Cyclists suggested that the new bike paths should be tested for rideability and safety before being implemented.*
- *The safety of path and gravel trail surfaces for cyclists was also a consideration, particularly if slippery to ride on.*

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (17.9%).

There were several suggestions made on how to increase vegetation and enhance biodiversity, such as:

- *Adding open spaces and native grasses.*
- *Inclusion of a nature reserve.*
- *Maintenance and restoration of the creek bed and erosion on banks.*
- *Increasing the shade cover by planting more trees or plants.*

Master plan could be more ambitious (14.9%).

- *Flooding was a key concern for some people. They felt that the master plan had not addressed this issue sufficiently.*
- *There were suggestions to focus the master plan on restoring Gardiners Creek to a natural area rather than it remaining as a 'concrete channel'.*
- *There was some mention of opportunities for education through the promotion of Aboriginal storytelling on signage and wayfinding*

Path connectivity (13.4%)

- *Greater consideration that Gardiners Creek Trail is a widely used and safe cycling commuting route and that improved path connectivity is needed.*

#### Female top themes (n = 31)

- *Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (19.4%)*
- *General safety and access (12.9%)*
- *Separated bike and pedestrian paths (12.9%)*
- *Master plan could be more ambitious (9.7%)*
- *Master plan requires more detail (9.7%)*
- *Actions to improve bike safety (9.7%).*

#### Male top themes (n = 47)

- *Separated bike and pedestrian paths (21.3%)*
- *Actions to improve bike safety (17%)*
- *Master plan could be more ambitious (14.9%)*
- *Path connectivity (12.8%)*
- *General safety and access (12.8%)*
- *Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (12.8%)*
- *Master plan requires more detail (12.8%).*

“ *Small steps to provide separate paths for pedestrians and cyclists is positive but could be far more extensive.* ”  
Female 65–75,  
English speaking country of birth

“ *The plan doesn't address that Gardiners Creek is one of the only safe cycling commuting routes in the south east of Melbourne. It is critically important to improve the capacity of the path, so that it functions well for all users when it's busy.* ”  
Male 25 to 34,  
English speaking country of birth

“ *Aboriginal storytelling and trees of significance around the area.* ”  
Male 55-65,  
English speaking country of birth

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

**Question 9.** Is there anything else you would like to say about our draft master plan? (58 responses)

#### Top themes from responses (summary)

Feedback on master plan document – structure, language or development of the plan (13.8%).

- *More collaboration with other councils regarding management of master plan area.*
- *There were suggestions to improve accuracy of the language within the master plan.*

Actions to address litter and rubbish (13.8%).

- *Suggestions to improve the management of litter, with concerns it has not been adequately addressed in master plan.*

In particular, specific locations mentioned were:

- *Litter traps should be installed at Warrigal Road, which is a large source of litter.*

Improving general safety and access (12.1%).

- *There were suggestions for the proposed upgrades to bridges to be more specific, with a desire for bridges to be safer for cyclists and pedestrians by making them wider and appropriately shaped for cyclists to turn with ease (not 'u-shaped').*
- *Concerns that bridges are congested and too narrow to be shared paths.*

In particular, specific locations mentioned were:

- *Visibility on path underpasses at Glenferrie Road and High Street.*

Master plan requires more detail (10.3%).

- *The Master Plan lacks detail and is limited – there is scope for further improvements and additions.*

<sup>1</sup>The data reflected in these figures shows responses from people who identify as male and female. Due to the small proportion of responses from people that self described their gender identity, this information was not included to limit issues with analysis interpretation.

#### Female top themes (n = 31)

- *Feedback on master plan – structure, language or development of the plan (12.9%)*
- *Master plan requires more detail (12.9%)*
- *Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through increased vegetation (12.9%)*
- *Actions to address litter and rubbish (9.7%)*
- *Improving general safety and access (9.7%).*

#### Male top themes (n = 47)

- *Feedback on master plan – structure, language or development of the plan (8.5%)*
- *Actions to address litter and rubbish (8.5%)*
- *Improving general safety and access (8.5%).*

“ Please do more to improve water quality and litter. It is a beautiful area and such a shame to see how dirty it is with syringes and lots of plastic. Please also stop spraying pesticides along the creek.”  
Female 45–54,  
English speaking country of birth

“ Somehow catch the litter at Warrigal Road bridge! Make downstream much cleaner.”  
Male 45–54,  
English speaking country of birth

“ Please prioritise bridge improvements – the current bridges are congested and dangerous.”  
Male 25–34,  
English speaking country of birth

## 6. Consultation Findings (draft plan feedback, other channels)

The following consultation findings was based on feedback received via face-to-face consultation from the 24 May to 28 June 2022.

The consultation occurred at the following locations and dates:

### Consultation 1

**When:** Wednesday 15 June from 12pm to 3pm

**Where:** Dorothy Laver Reserve West, Ashburton

**Quantity of responses:** 8

### Consultation 2

**When:** Thursday 23 June from 2pm to 5pm

**Where:** Nettleton Park, Glen Iris

**Quantity of responses:** 12

### Consultation 3

**When:** Saturday 25 June from 10am to 1pm

**Where:** Patterson Reserve, Hawthorn

**Quantity of responses:** 6

The face-to-face consultation findings are summarised as follows:

### Consultation 1 – Dorothy Laver Reserve West (8 attendees)

#### Identified opportunities or issues or plan feedback.

General feedback received was limited, most of the session was informing attendees of the project background/summary.

### Consultation 2 – Nettleton Park (12 attendees)

#### Identified opportunities or issues or plan feedback.

Litter is an issue, e.g., plastic in trees, especially in wetlands.

Can we have a group who meets regularly to address litter?

Electric bikes are a problem on the shared paths as can't hear them coming.

Don't want lighting on paths or any changes to Nettleton Park. Loves to look into the park at night and see trees' silhouettes against the night sky.

Pollution is the main concern at Gardiners Creek.

Sharp turns on bike path are an issue on bridges.

Bridges and path upgrades are only good for cyclists and not pedestrians (as cyclists go too fast).

Walking path along the water is more suitable for pedestrians and not cyclists as pedestrians view the creek more. Not appropriate to have fast surface on path closest to creek. Expensive infrastructure such as concrete paths close to the creek are at risk of erosion and pointless to construct them in this location.

bike path under Toorak Road. The steel pipe fence in this section is dangerous to cyclists. It's at the bottom of a slope and a safety hazard.

General report content feedback (e.g., themes from Boroondara Community Plan needs further content).

Sections of the Gardiners Creek trail need resurfacing (e.g., near Lewin Reserve wetland).

Gardiners Creek Reserve is not currently maintained by Council (managed and mowed by resident).

Litter removal is limited and generally managed by the community. More action in this space needs to be considered to better support our community in this space.

### Consultation 3 – Patterson Reserve, Hawthorn (6 attendees)

#### Identified opportunities or issues or plan feedback.

Suggested places to use recycled glass and line marking surface products. Suggested places to use lighting products.

Management of fish (removing carp) is an issue. No mention of fish management in the draft master plan.

Interested in how the creek can be made cleaner, e.g., removing plastic bags in trees. Litter and graffiti issues under bridges in particular.

Would be good to have more solar lights to enhance the trail at night.

Shade is very important when I walk, not enough shade currently and need to plant trees closer to the path to provide more shade.

City of Stonnington has more public seating next to Gardiners Creek, City of Boroondara needs more.

Consider more informal seats like logs as at Mullen Mullen trail.

What planting will be done? Will it be indigenous species?

Vermin and pollutant traps needed across the catchment.

Would like more picnic table to Gardiners Creek Trail.

Pedestrian shared path bridges are difficult to cross in a wheelchair (due to the arching grade).



Consultation findings for this project via other channels (draft plan)

We received 13 detailed submissions via email, the key findings from these submissions are summarised into the following themes:

Improving creek health and enhancing biodiversity

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>There needs to be balance between human needs and nature's needs. Consideration is required to the over-lighting of the corridor and its impact on fauna and insects.</i>
<i>Opportunity identified to plant native grassland and replace introduced grasses generally to open grassed (non footy/cricket oval) areas (to replace commercial non-native grasses). Request for policy in relation to the use of artificial grass (given its huge environmental impact).</i>
<i>Dog off leash areas can conflict with native fauna. There is no reference to reviewing this policy addressing the issue as a threat and a risk in the draft master plan.</i>
<i>There is a real risk that the creation of 'low impact' gravel paths could lead to these being bituminised or concreted in the future (contributing to further loss of green space).</i>
<i>There is no consideration of planning or residential setbacks to creeks/parks in the draft master plan.</i>
<i>Vegetation should be planted with mature form in mind to ensure that safe line of sight is retained.</i>

Improving Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) opportunities

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>Investigate a solution to the landscaping and drainage at the entrance to the St Kevin's playing field that results in gravel being washed across the Gardiners Creek Trail after heavy rain.</i>
<i>Paths should drain properly and should not have puddles which collect mud (which are slipping hazards).</i>
<i>Implement plantings and runoff management measures that promote a healthy creek, reduce ongoing erosion and silting at Toorak Road.</i>

Improving water quality and reducing pollutants and litter

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>There needs to be more focus on water quality monitoring along the creek including former waste sites and major outlets.</i>
<i>Better signage to alert people how to report spills/pollution (i.e., EPA hotline/Council).</i>

Improving access and safety for all users

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>Request for repairs / maintenance to the bluestone Gardiners Creek embankments under the freeway (which have recently suffered significant damage).</i>
<i>Request for access to the new housing development should be integrated into the plans (Precinct 1).</i>
<i>Request to remove the timber tree surrounds at the east side of Burke Road underpass.</i>
<i>The proposed new bike track along Markham Reserve would take over a bike-free walking track in an undisturbed area.</i>
<i>Request for no unlit paths so that walkers can be seen.</i>
<i>Promote the recording of accidents on the cycling network system.</i>
<i>White lines should not be a hazard e.g., slippery when wet.</i>
<i>Consider space at seats and access for pram / wheelchair / walkers to be positioned near seat but clear of the path.</i>
<i>Consider retrofitting wheel gutters to steps at various locations where steps provide boundaries to bicycle users.</i>
<i>Install more bins along the path, particularly in the vicinity of Toorak Road and Tooronga Road because these are close to shops where people buy food and continue walking down the path while eating. Again at Glenburn Bend Park and Great Valley Roads.</i>
<i>There is the potential to add a bike track alongside the railway line when the Kooyong Station railway crossing is removed.</i>
<i>The shared walking and bike path that links to the other tracks under the South Eastern Freeway is narrow and overworked.</i>
<i>Request for there being at least two toilets for the public to use at each location (in the event one is broken or unpleasant).</i>

Recognition of Aboriginal histories, cultures and knowledges

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>There is the opportunity for a mural on the flood wall at the rear of Home Co as an anti-graffiti measure that celebrates Kooyongkoot's Aboriginal heritage.</i>
<i>While Kooyongkoot is used in the title of the master plan, there is no reference to renaming or dual naming of KooyongKoot/ Gardiners Creek.</i>

Improving signage and way-finding for all users

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>Better signage to help negotiate in-land routes.</i>
<i>Consider small labels or signs on light poles to encourage reporting of outages and identification of affected lights.</i>
<i>Route signage for the creation of pedestrian loops of the district. e.g., from Nettleton Park via Ferndale, Hill 'n' Dale, Summerhill Park along the train line past Ashburton and Alamein stations down to the Anniversary Trail Linear Reserve. There is a shorter loop via Dunlop / Dent / Ward / Meaden streets.</i>

Other initiatives

Identified opportunities or issues.
<i>There is little/ no mention of implementation strategies anywhere other than along Gardiners Creek itself e.g., along Back Creek, the former Ashburton Creek etc. Little mention is made of the Regional Collaboration and the aim to prepare a strategic plan for the whole Gardiners Creek Catchment.</i>
<i>The loss of vegetation / green open space needs to be offset. Council should consider carrying out embedded energy assessments in all capital works and offset them.</i>
<i>Advocate with the State Government to reduce / restrict the use of airbrakes on the adjacent section of freeway to the excessive noise (which is very noticeable in Precincts 3 and 4 and around the wetlands).</i>

Any duplicate information received directly from email that was also included via the online survey has been excluded from this separate review.

## 7. Consultation Findings (draft plan feedback, Traditional Owners of Boroondara)

On 14 July 2022, Council officers met with Elders from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation as part of the community consultation phase to understand their aspirations for Gardiners Creek.

The feedback received from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders was to include recognition and celebration of Aboriginal cultures, histories and knowledges through 'site specific initiatives', including involvement in native revegetation and opportunities for new cultural gathering spaces. The graphical representation of an eagle (reference to Bunjil the 'creator') was discussed at this meeting and approved for use by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders as a new and separate guiding principle for action across all six precinct areas.

