

DRYSDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD CONVERSATION



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Our third Neighbourhood Conversation for 2023 was held at Borongook Drysdale Library on Tuesday 5 September, 1-4pm.

Our Neighbourhood Conversations are an opportunity for community members to come and speak to City officers about what matters most to them about where they live. It's also an opportunity for us to promote open engagements we are seeking feedback on and hear how we can improve the way we communicate and ask for feedback.

The Neighbourhood Conversations were promoted via City News advertisements, social media, local newsletters including the Springdale Messenger and the Portarlington Community Email Tree, as well as signage in the library and around Drysdale township.

The City was represented by members of the Community Engagement, Arts and Culture, Community Inclusion and Swim Sport and Leisure teams. The Mayor, Cr Trent Sullivan, also attended.

Approximately 20 community members attended over the three hour period.

WHAT WE HEARD

The projects and open engagements we promoted at the session were:

- Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2024 – 2028
- Public Art
- North Bellarine Aquatic Centre
- Horseshoe Bend Community Hub
- Geelong Botanic Gardens
- Waurin Ponds Skate Park

Additionally, community members discussed a range of topics with City officers. Their feedback has been summarised below and categorised into one or more themes.

Planning and Development

- Concerns about growth and overpopulation on the Bellarine Peninsula. Information required for new people to the area to help them manage and reduce their impact on the environment.
- Concerns about past and current housing and commercial developments on the peninsula, including The Point and development along Lake Connewarre tributaries.
- Request for planning permit alerts for areas of interest only (ie by suburb or ward) not just whole of municipality.



Natural environment

- What is the future of Lake Connewarre?
- What's the status of the Point Henry Foreshore Management Plan (2006) and what are the future plans for the site?
- Is there a coastal management plan for The Dell?
- What's the status of the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan (2013)



Environmental concerns

- Green waste burnoffs – improved education, patrolling and enforcement required.
- What is the City doing about light pollution (particularly caused by lighting at sports grounds)?
- Clifton Springs Harbour works - tree removal
- Language on dog poo bags – having the word 'biodegradable' on them is encouraging people to leave them in the environment instead of putting them in the bin. City to consider compostable dog poo units in popular dog walking areas.
- Plastics – what role can the City play in advocating to ban plastic use all together?
- Better protection for trees and significant trees on private land.



Traffic, transport and roads

- Improved bus services on the peninsula, particularly, connecting peninsula towns and connections to the Queenscliff and Portarlington ferries.
- Major maintenance required for Princess Street, Drysdale.
- Upgrade required for Murradoc Road in Drysdale.
- Traffic, noise and speed were raised on Tivoli drive, Curlewis.
- Traffic, noise, speed and safety of motorists, pedestrians and people at bus stops due to poor road maintenance in Drysdale.
- Mowing on road verges - plastic and rubbish clean up prior to the mowing required.
- Lack of street signs across the municipality making it difficult to navigate without depending on GPS.
- Another query was a tourist sign on Port Road for a winery on wrong turn off, had spoken to officer who was to get back to them – no contact. Reached out to officer. Again it was more the lack of continuous feedback/keeping in touch.



Footpaths and shared trails

- What are the plans for new walking and cycling (shared) trail infrastructure to connect up the number of small existing trails to create a complete network of shared trails on the Bellarine Peninsula and to connect to the established Ocean Grove shared trails?
- Improved footpath maintenance.
- Lack of footpaths and improved footpath connectivity across the Bellarine Peninsula (particularly Drysdale and Clifton Springs)
- Bus route and bus stop suggestions in Central Geelong (Greensborough example)



Sporting infrastructure and community facilities



- The need for new/co-use sport infrastructure for Pickleball club and members.
- Basketball in the Drysdale area – feasibility for six new courts. What is the status of this project?
- Naming of the Boronggook Drysdale Library – why it was a First Nations name and not named after a local person.

Council communication



- Three community members voiced their disappointment that they had not had timely responses to their correspondence with the City about various matters (documented under relevant themes).

Other

- Remove red tape around mobile butchers/abattoirs
- Mobile library in the Market Square mall and other activities to connect with young people
- Brass plaques at the Geelong Library to recognise our First Nations stories
- Noise levels from lawn mowers prior to 7am



NEXT STEPS

In total, 22 requests for information and/or responses were sent to the relevant City departments for action since the Neighbourhood Conversation.

This report has been provided to the City's mayor and councillors, to all those who attended and is available on the [Neighbourhood Conversations Have Your Say](#) page.