

Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy

Issues and Opportunities Paper: Community
Feedback Summary

December 2022



SHAPE

Mount Alexander

Acknowledgement of Country

Mount Alexander Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the place known as Mount Alexander Shire. We recognise their ongoing living culture and the important role they continue to play in caring for country.

Introduction

To help guide residential development in to the future, we are preparing a Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy for Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton.

Background

The Issues and Opportunities Paper represents the first stage of the project. The paper provides key background information and establishes the strategic context for this important work. It was released as a discussion paper in September 2022 to:

- Raise awareness of the project
- Seek feedback from key stakeholders
- Kick off broad community consultation.

As well as community consultation, we continue to work with the project's Community Reference Group to harness local knowledge and skillsets relating to housing and neighbourhood character.

This document contains a summary of the community consultation activities undertaken for stage 1, the feedback received, and the next steps in this project.

Consultation overview

Timeline:

Monday 12 September - Sunday 6 November 2022.

Objective:

Consultation will inform the preparation of the draft Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy.



Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy

Last updated: 17 Nov, 2022

Long term planning to balance new development with protecting neighbourhood character

[Learn more](#)

How did we consult?



Established a Shape Mount Alexander **webpage**



Asked questions relating to housing and neighbourhood character via an **online survey**



Provided an **online map so people could add comments about specific areas**



Distributed **reply-paid postcards** asking questions about housing and neighbourhood character



Emailed key stakeholders about the project to seek feedback



Promoted the consultation opportunity through media releases, newspapers and social media

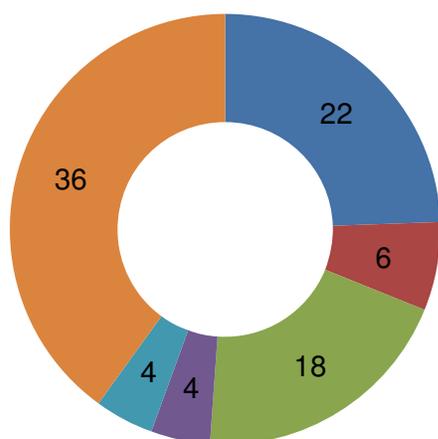


Displayed posters with key planning and projection information



Had conversations with key stakeholders at **drop-in sessions, meetings and over the phone**

Who did we hear from?



- Castlemaine residents & local groups
- Campbells Creek residents & local groups
- Chewton residents & local groups
- Respondents located outside of the study area
- State government authorities
- Location not specified

How did people get involved?

700 Visits to the Shape Mount Alexander webpage

78 Total contributions to the engagement page

33 Survey responses

8 Postcard responses

8 Meetings and workshops with stakeholders

18 Written submissions

What did we ask you?

We focused on high level topics that explored key housing and neighbourhood character issues. We asked you questions including:

- Which aspects of neighbourhood and street character do you think are important to retain into the future?
- Are there specific types of housing and development that you would like to see more of?
- How we can deliver housing that better meets the current and future needs of our residents?
- How can new housing be delivered in a way that protects the natural environment and neighbourhood character of our existing residential areas?
- Are there any challenges or barriers to development and housing?

What did you say?



The most important and recurring themes:

- Housing affordability
- Infill development
- Housing diversity
- Small-scale housing
- Environmentally sustainable development
- Respecting heritage and character
- Enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity
- Infrastructure planning and coordination

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“We have a vast mix of housing styles and types in most streets that often represent the era of construction, and they generally sit comfortably together.”

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“We need a diversity of housing with strong emphasis on existing stock and its conservation as part of the rich urban fabric of the town.”

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We need affordable homes to continue to attract a range of ages and household types, and allow for the human diversity that us ‘very Castlemaine’.

”

“

Sustainably designed and sited infill developments. Minimal disruption to indigenous vegetation, and revegetation using local indigenous species.

”

Timeline



What's next?

We will continue to look further into the detail of the feedback received throughout the preparation of the draft strategy.

You can learn more about the feedback received by reading the Fact Sheets in the Document Library on the project's Shape Mount Alexander page. Otherwise we'll be in touch when the draft strategy comes out in late 2023.