

Resilient and Safe Banyule: Consultation Report

November 2023



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1.0 Executive Summary

The consultation process for Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework (the Framework) sought to engage community members, stakeholders, and partners in discussions regarding its scope and relevance. Consultation methods were varied and included individual, small group, intercept, committee, network, and online survey engagement.

Analysis of feedback suggests that overall, the Framework represents a feasible approach to uplifting community resilience and safety over the next ten years. The community noted that the Framework was high level and did not contain actions. Due to the breadth of the Framework, the community also found it difficult to conceptualise the Framework's scope via an online survey. Despite this there was overall support for the Framework.

Key learnings from the consultation were:

- Survey participants agree that Council has a role to play in supporting the Banyule community to survive, adapt, thrive, and feel safe.
- There is broad support for the focus areas identified within the Framework, as well as each focus areas priority commitments, thus confirming the Framework's appropriateness and relevance.
- COVID-19 remains a concern for the community.
- The community is concerned about the occurrence of abuse, racism and discrimination within the community and wants to see strong leadership to challenge this.
- Safety at home and in public are perceived as a consistent need and concern for women and gender diverse people that are likely to affect community resilience and thus require action.
- Racism and discrimination, 'problem gambling', financial scams (including email, sms and phone scams), a lack of trust in government, and the impact of high-density developments in the region are current stressors in Banyule that were identified by participants.
- The way that Council and other authorities communicate and disseminates information is perceived as a key area to strengthen.

To strengthen community resilience, participants also suggested action is required in the areas of advocacy, leadership, programs, events and/or service delivery, partnerships, and communication and information dissemination.

Findings from the consultation process have generated opportunities to make amendments to the final draft of the framework and the key areas that will be considered include: the strengthening commitments under the focus areas; adding information to further define community resilience; and modifying the structure of the report to elevate importance focus areas.

2.0 Project Overview

The Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework (the Framework) will be used to guide Council's strategic planning and decision-making processes in ways that increase community resilience and safety in Banyule over the next decade. This will position Council to mobilise existing and future resources to better support and uplift community resilience in Banyule, with the intention of creating long-term and sustainable community outcomes that extend beyond 'emergency' situations.

To develop the Framework, extensive research was undertaken to inform an understanding of 'community resilience' and its core dimensions in the literature, to identify existing resilience frameworks, and to understand the broader policy and planning environment. A series of consultations was conducted to inform the

development of the Framework, with a focus on refining a definition of community resilience, determining its focus areas, and discussing their relevance and appropriateness for the Banyule context. Findings from the research and consultations were then synthesised to inform an initial draft Framework.

Council conducted consultations between 15 September 2023 and 29 October 2023 to seek feedback on the Framework's relevance to the community, including its focus areas and commitments, and to subsequently inform refinements to the Framework. The consultation process also provided an opportunity for community and stakeholder feedback on suggested actions Council could implement to strengthen community resilience and safety in Banyule, in line with the Framework's domains and with a view to advancing gender equity.

Stakeholders and community members were provided with a range of engagement mediums to provide feedback and comment on the Framework, including:

- Shaping Banyule survey
- Community Workshop
- Intercept survey opportunities
- Targeted Consultation Focus Groups at:
 - Population Committee meetings
 - Stakeholder presentations

3.0 Engagement Objectives

The objectives of the community engagement activities for this project were:

Objective 1

To confirm the appropriate and relevance of Council's Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework and its focus areas:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Social Inclusion and Connection
3. Strong and Dynamic Local Economy
4. Sustainable Natural and Built Environment
5. Communication, Information and Education

Objective 2

To identify any potential improvements or changes to the Framework to better reflect community needs.

Objective 3

To identify community priorities and actions to strengthen community resilience.

4.0 Engagement Methods

4.1 Shaping Banyule Survey

The Banyule community was invited to review and provide feedback on the Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework via the Shaping Banyule Survey during its public exhibition period (23 September 2023 to 30 October 2023). The survey was promoted on the Shaping Banyule web page, on external websites, via social media platforms, email campaigns, and was also accessed via open searches on search engines.

4.2 Targeted Focus Group Consultations

Targeted focus group consultations were conducted with Council's population committees and select stakeholders.

Of the eight committees, the four population committees were selected to engage in the consultation process, as these committees represent the diverse identities of the community. The RAP Advisory Committee was not approached to participate in targeted consultation as the consultation period coincided with the Referendum on the Voice to Parliament, hence the timing was not appropriate. Committees were engaged during their standard meetings and pre-briefing notes and questions were provided to support an effective conversation. Committee members were also invited to complete the Shaping Banyule survey.

Stakeholders were engaged between 5 September 2023 and 1 December 2023 through existing networks and discussions were facilitated through existing meetings. The stakeholders were aware of the consultation and provided materials to support an effective conversation. A PowerPoint presentation was shared to ensure all key points were addressed and each participant received a copy of the Framework and supporting notes. Feedback was captured via a scribe. Stakeholders were also invited to share further insights via Shaping Banyule. These stakeholders included:

- Shop 48 tenants
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library

4.3 Community Pop-Up Consultations

Two weeks prior to the consultation period closing, officers reviewed the demographics of the participants who responded to the survey and identified there was a shortfall in responses from residents in the northern region of Banyule, specifically Greensborough.

As a result, officers facilitated a community intercept survey at Prelude Café in Greensborough on Wednesday 25 October at 11am. The location and time were selected based on knowledge of the foot traffic expected and agreement from the café owner to undertake the survey within the premises. DL flyers were left at the café to promote the engagement. Participants were engaged by the café staff, offering a free coffee to those who completed the survey. Feedback was captured using a tablet, connected to the Shaping Banyule online survey.

4.4 Community Workshop

A Community Workshop was facilitated on 11 October 2023 at 1 Flintoff Street in Greensborough. This workshop session was from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. This Community Workshop provided an opportunity for in-depth face to face discussion about the stressors and shocks impacting our community, the intention of the Framework and the focus areas and commitments.

The workshop was promoted via DL flyers which were distributed through community spaces across the municipality, via social media, on the Shaping Banyule consultation page, and through network contacts. Prospective participants were required to register for the workshop via TryBooking.

Residents were provided with a copy of the Framework, were engaged in the discussion through a PowerPoint presentation, and were provided with the Framework, evidence report and fact sheets. Feedback from the discussion was captured via a scribe.

4.5 Individual conversations

The Community Impact Coordinator conducted two additional individual consultations with residents, upon their request as they were unable to attend the community workshop.

Both conversations were one hour in duration (one via Teams, one via phone), were facilitated in a conversational manner, and featured sharing the purpose and key points of the Framework and residents insights gathered from the community workshop. Both residents were provided with a copy of the online survey

questions and this was emailed, with the invitation to return to Council by 11 November. One resident returned the completed survey.

5.0 Participation

5.1 Shaping Banyule Survey

The Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework Shaping Banyule page was visited by 336 unique public or end-users. Of these, 248 (73.81%) were first time visitors, and 88 (26.19%) were returning visitors. A total of 59 contributions were made via the Shaping Banyule Survey (the survey).

The survey collected participant demographic data relating to gender and age. Of the 59 respondents, 39 (66.1%) were women, 15 (25.42%) were men, two (3.38%) were non-binary or gender fluid, and two (3.38%) did not disclose their gender. The top three age brackets of participants were 35-49 ($n=16$ or 27.11%), 50-59 ($n=13$ or 22.04%), and 25-34 ($n=10$ or 16.94%) years old. Other age groups represented were people aged 60-69 ($n=7$ or 11.8%), 18-24 ($n=5$ or 8.4%), 12-17 ($n=4$ or 6.7%), and 70-84 ($n=5.08\%$).

Survey participants were also asked to indicate whether they have a disability (inclusive of a mental illness), identify as LGBTQIA+, are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, a person who speaks English as a second or other language, and whether they are a carer. Of the 59 participants:

- Thirty-two (54.23%) did not identify as any of the above
- Twelve (20.33%) identified as a person with a disability, inclusive of a mental illness
- Eleven (18.64%) identified as LGBTQIA+
- Four (6.7%) spoke English as a second or other language; two spoke Tamil as their first language, one spoke Greek, and one spoke German
- Seven (11.8%) were carers
- Five (8.5%) did not want to disclose this information
- None identified as being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

5.2 Targeted Consultations

5.2.1 Population Committees

Population committees from key population groups were engaged in targeted consultation to provide comment, feedback and lived experience/expertise on the Framework, its focus areas, and the focus area commitments:

- Disability and Inclusion Committee – 25 October
- LGBTQIA+ Committee – 5 October 2023
- Multicultural Committee – 18 October 2023
- Age Friendly Committee – 28 September 2023

Surveys and information related to the Framework were disseminated via the following Advisory Committees via Memo:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Child, Youth and Family
- Arts and Culture
- Environment and Climate Action

Committee members are community representatives with lived experience and expertise relevant to their particular cohort and includes membership from community organisation representatives who work closely with the target population. Each committee is made up of 10 to 15 members.

5.2.2 Identified Stakeholders

Identified stakeholders were invited to participate in a consultation via regular meetings led through an interactive presentation and engagement around Resilient and Safe Banyule to discuss the purpose of the Framework, identify any additional stressors or shocks that community experience, and discuss the intention behind the focus areas and commitments. Stakeholders engaged included:

- Shop 48 Tenants
- Neighbourhood House Network
- MEMPC
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library

5.3 Community Pop-Up Consultations

The additional community consultation engagement methods resulted in a total of 16 participants. The intercept survey facilitated in Greensborough captured nine of the 59 Shaping Banyule Survey responses, the Community Workshop had six registrations with a total of five participants on the day, and two individual conversations were facilitated with residents who were interested in attending the Community Workshop were unable to do so.

6.0 Feedback

6.1 Priority themes

Overall, consultation participants responded positively to the Framework. There was broad support for the focus areas identified within the Framework (health and wellbeing; social inclusion and connection; strong and dynamic local economic; sustainable natural and built environment; and communication, information, and education) as well as the priority commitments identified within each focus area. Shaping Banyule Survey participants predominantly commented on the health and wellbeing ($n=38$ or 66.67%), social inclusion and connection ($n=61.40\%$) and sustainable natural and built environment ($n=34$ or 59.65%) focus areas.

Consultations also highlighted that while community members were broadly supportive of the proposed framework, they regarded the Framework as very high-level and were interested in seeing a stronger focus on actions to progress community resilience. This was explicitly discussed in face-to-face consultations and reflected in survey responses, with most comments from participants relating to suggestions for actions. This section provides a summary of the feedback relating to each of the focus areas, their commitments, and community ideas for action, as well as of issues relating to gender and resilience.

6.1.1 Health and Wellbeing

Twenty-five (42.4%) Shaping Banyule survey participants indicated that health and wellbeing was the most important focus area to them, with an average response of 9.28 where '0' was not important and '10' was most important. This focus area received the highest average score for perceived importance, as well as the highest number of respondents.

Participants were asked to rank the health and wellbeing commitments in order from most important to least important. Thirty-six (61%) participants responded altogether, with 19 people (52.8%) ranking 'Partner with local health and community organisations...', 7 people (19.44%) ranking 'Collaborate on programs to prevent and address public health risks' ($n=7$ or 19.44%), and 10 people (27.8%) ranking 'Advocate for the prevention of all forms of violence against women' ($n=10$ or 27.8%) as the top priority.

Participants in the Banyule Youth Fest community pop-up consultation felt that the commitments provided strong pillars for the Health and Wellbeing focus area. Participants at the Multicultural Committee consultation

emphasised that preventing violence and gender equality are a very important component of health and wellbeing. It was also noted at the Community Workshop that racism and discrimination are having a major impact on health and wellbeing.

When asked what is missing from the health and wellbeing commitments, consultation participants identified issues related to access and equity; mental health and wellbeing; COVID-19; and communication, information, and education concerns. These included:

- Developing a physical and social environment that supports health and wellbeing across the lifespan.
- Ensuring programs and public spaces that support health and wellbeing are accessible and safe. This includes increasing safety and accessibility of spaces (both private and public) and making programs affordable.
- Ensuring that physical and mental health programs and outcomes for all population groups in Banyule are considered, with specific references made to aged care supports, children, and LGBTIQ+ people, and the need to address all forms of violence.
- The need to clearly articulate that health and wellbeing refers to both physical *and* mental health.
- Supporting the mental health of all Banyule residents by providing programs tailored to the needs of specific groups (such as addressing climate anxiety in younger people, and reducing social isolation and reinforcing health seeking behaviours in older men).
- Specifying COVID-19 as an on-going public health issue and its related harm reduction measures and community impacts.
- Improving communication and information to promote existing and future programs, including by using public spaces.
- Improving access to information, such as through community education programs, to support people to make informed decisions about their health, and learn life-skills to support health.
- The need to consider the impact of increased high-density living in the region.
- Assessing risks and infrastructure, including fire risks and firefighting equipment, and planning for pandemics.

Participants were also asked to share ideas on actions Council can take to improve Banyule's health and wellbeing. The following suggestions were made:

- Advocate for free healthcare, including dentistry, and supporting initiatives such as blood-drives and free flu shot programs.
- Partner with local organisations and business to improve the health and wellbeing of employees.
- Improve local facilities and infrastructure to ensure access and equity, such as by increasing park benches in local parks.
- Providing free and low-cost programs and gym memberships for residents to facilitate health and wellbeing.
- Increase the use of local public spaces to run programs.
- Support mental health by implementing programs and increasing green spaces in Banyule.
- Provide leadership on COVID-19, including by requiring mask wearing indoors and increasing fresh air ventilation and the use of air filters at Council facilities; requiring new planning, and building permit application to have better ventilation and air filters; and providing community education programs on the health impacts of COVID-19 and relevant harm reduction measures.
- Focus on access and equity in health communications to address inequities in health outcomes.
- Progress pay equality.

6.1.2 Social Inclusion and Connection

Shaping Banyule survey respondents identified that social inclusion and connection is important to them, with an average score of 8.65.

Participants were asked to rank the social inclusion and connection commitments in order from most important to least important. 'Increase opportunities for social participation and connection...' ($n = 15$ or 48.39%) received the highest number of responses ranking it as the first priority, followed by 'Actively promote and celebrate a diverse and inclusive community' ($n = 11$ or 35.48%), and 'Encourage participation in arts, cultural, sporting and leisure activities' ($n = 5$ or 16.13%).

Three consultation participants at the Banyule Youth Fest pop-up felt that all commitments were of equal importance, and one person indicated that actively promoting and celebrating a diverse and inclusive community was the most important.

Most participants perceived that nothing was missing from the Social Inclusion and Connection commitments. At the Multicultural Advisory committee, participants discussed the need to address social inclusion within the context of gambling policy, and the need for strong community connection to contribute to a resilient community. Survey participants also identified issues around racism and discrimination, access and equity, and inclusion. These were:

- Addressing barriers to social inclusion, including by providing resourcing, opportunities and infrastructure to support connection and participation.
- Supporting local community organisations and clubs to connect people.
- Bringing together local diverse communities for consultation to better understand their needs and interests.
- Reflect inclusivity across all commitment areas.
- Focusing on First Nations communities.
- Social connection and long-term messaging to reduce racism.
- Improving communication and information so residents are aware of local events.

Most of the suggested actions to improve social inclusion and connection in Banyule related to addressing racism and discrimination within the region (particularly following the recent Voice Referendum), hosting cultural events, and creating opportunities for community to come together. These were:

- Work with Traditional Owners to increase the visibility of, and better promote, First Nations culture within Banyule.
- Create opportunities for community members to listen to each other and foster cross-cultural connections and understanding.
- Organise more social and cultural events to celebrate people and communities from diverse backgrounds.
- Ensure events are inclusive and promote cohesion.
- Create more places and events for young people to connect through.
- Provide education to address racism, promote cross-cultural understanding and increase acceptance for cultural diversity.
- Provide programs with a focus on inter-generational connections.
- Provide programs for young people to navigate public transport systems in Banyule.
- Action to support older people and those on low or limited incomes, including ongoing support for the LINK community bus.
- Providing more groups for people with disability to connect.
- Improve communication platforms and better promote initiatives that support community connection.
- Promote which community facilities act as emergency relief providers.

6.1.3 Strong and Dynamic Local Economy

While the Strong and Dynamic Local Economy focus area was identified as important, with an average score of 8.33, it received the lowest number of responses out of all focus areas, with a response rate 15 (25.4%).

When asked to rank the strong and dynamic local economy commitments in order from most important to least important, 19 people responded. 'Support local business and organisations...' was ranked as the highest priority by the highest number of people ($n=16$ or 84.21%), followed by 'Provide and support the delivery of programs ...' ($n=3$ or 15.79%). 'Facilitate volunteering opportunities' was not identified by any respondents as the most important commitment, however 21.05% of respondents identified it as the second most important priority.

When commenting on whether there is anything missing from the Strong and Dynamic Local Economy domain, participants raised the following:

- Understanding the needs of local business owners.
- Incentivising buying from local vendors over large chains.
- Acknowledging the impact of COVID-19 and public health on the economy.
- Providing good community facilities and activities at night or on weekends.
- Redeveloping shopping areas.

The suggested actions to improve Banyule's Strong and Dynamic Local Economy primarily related to providing practical support, and encouraging residents to support, local businesses. These were:

- Encourage residents to support local businesses by:
 - Providing more options, such as farmers markets, so that residents buy from local vendors over large chains.
 - Improving infrastructure, including the Olympic Village, The Mall shopping centre, and parking facilities.
- Ensure Council requirements are not too onerous on local businesses.
- Leadership on COVID-19 harm reduction measures to improve staff safety and support local businesses.
- Ensure communication and information is accessible to all business owners, including through providing more 'on-the-ground' outreach and providing information in easy English and languages other than English.
- Build local knowledge and capacity relating to food security.
- Strengthen the capacity of local organisations to accept volunteers.

6.1.4 Sustainable Natural and Built Environment

The Sustainable Natural and Built Environment was identified by Shaping Banyule survey participants as very important, with an average score of 9.21 from 24 (40.7%) participants.

Participants were asked to rank the three Sustainable Natural and Built Environment commitments in order of most to least importance, with 31 participants responding to this question. 'Protect and enhance our natural environment...' was ranked as the most important commitment by the most people ($n=12$ or 38.71%), followed by 'Provide strong leadership to address climate change' ($n=11$ or 35.48%), and 'Deliver well-designed places and spaces...' ($n=8$ or 25.81%).

Participants indicated that the following details were missing from the commitments for the Sustainable Natural and Built Environment focus area:

- Communication to support understanding and education about why sustainability projects are important.
- Working in partnership with other organisations to build infrastructure.
- Acknowledging the reality of climate change.
- Acknowledging the reality of COVID-19.
- Supporting local residents to adapt more sustainable technologies.
- Developing a sustainable housing strategy and economic goals
- Incorporating environmental objectives into well-designed places and spaces.
- Enhancing local biodiversity.

Ideas from participants across consultation activities on actions Council can take to strengthen Banyule's Sustainable Natural and Built Environment were:

- Stop clearing land and trees for development.
- Remove dead trees and wood and conduct burn-offs to reduce hazards.
- Regulations to ensure cats stay indoors.
- Further engagement of community members to work on sustainability commitments.
- Improve the walkability and rideability of the area, such as by providing safer cycling paths and encouraging schools to join the 'ride and stride' program.
- Building sustainable and feasible communal areas.
- Educational programs on sustainable living.
- Plant more native species and provide free native plants to residents for gardens.
- Support biodiversity, urban forest and wildlife corridor programs, including both protecting existing ones and identifying new places where green space can be added.
- Develop building guidelines to improve drainage, rainwater capture and energy efficiency.
- Address sound pollution.
- Increase surveillance and monitoring of pollution in Darebin Creek, including of factories along the creek.
- Provide more recycling options, especially for materials that are difficult to recycle.
- Provide adequate tree canopy to promote cooling hot weather and support biodiversity.
- Take more action on climate change.
- Communicate the dangers of not acting on climate change.
- Reduce the use of plastics on food products.

6.1.5 Communication, Information and Education

The Communication, Information and Education focus area was identified by Shaping Banyule survey participants as very important, with an average score of 8.85 from 20 (33.9%) participants.

Participants were asked to rank the three Communication, Information and Education commitments in order of most to least importance, and 22 (37.3%) survey participants responded to this question. 'Use our existing communication platforms...' was rated as the top priority by the most number of people, ($n=10$ or 45.45%), followed by 'Strengthen community preparedness and resilience...' ($n=8$ or 38.10%) and 'Build and strengthen relationships with community leaders...' ($n=4$ or 19.05%).

Participants who felt there was something missing from the commitments identified the following:

- The need to strengthen community relationships between neighbours, in addition to community leaders.
- Improve community engagement and participation.

Overall, consultation participants indicated that Council could improve its general communication, information, and education. Specific ideas for actions Council can take to strengthen Banyule's Communication, Information and Education focus area included:

- Improve how Council communicates, ensuring a focus on access and equity, and tailoring communications to the specific needs of various population groups, including older people, people who speak a language other than English, people with disability and neurodivergent people.
- Address digital exclusion by:
 - Communicating in a variety of formats including via non-digital means.
 - Providing the necessary infrastructure and services for people to access computers and the internet, including access to equipment and provision of skills workshops or programs.
- Consider creative ways and settings to provide communication, information, and education, such as through the arts and in public spaces.

- Partner with First Nations Elders to increase community knowledge and understanding of the impacts of colonisation and contemporary challenges.
- Strengthen community relationships and engagement, ensuring a focus on lived experience.
- Provide early childhood education programs.
- Collaborate with existing Council committees to develop and run community resilience programs.
- Provide a structure to disseminate information to community about emergency events.

As outlined in the previous focus areas, participants also highlighted several actions within each focus area relating to communication, information and education. These predominantly referenced the need for Council to improve its overall communication and promotion of existing programs, services and resources.

6.1.6 Resilience and gender

Given the gendered nature of the resilience and disaster, as well as Council requirements under Victoria's *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Shaping Banyule Survey participants were also asked the following three questions relating to resilience and gender:

- What are some ways that Council can involve women and gender diverse people in planning and decision-making to strengthen community resilience and safety?
- What are the specific needs of women and gender diverse people in relation to community resilience and safety?
- What actions can Council take to ensure that women and gender diverse people benefit from the Framework?

Suggestions to involve women and gender diverse people in planning and decision-making included:

- Improving communication and outreach by promoting community engagement opportunities in places where women and gender diverse people go, and providing information in multiple languages.
- Providing community engagement opportunities in both online and face-to-face formats.
- Support active participation of women and gender diverse people and listen to and include their voices.
- Involve women of colour.
- Improve opportunities for women and gender diverse people's leadership, including by hiring them into leadership roles and running leadership programs.
- Ensure that women and gender diverse people are represented in all decision-making groups.

Regarding women and gender diverse people's specific needs and concerns, safety was identified as a key issue by 23 out of 34 participants. Participants commented on safety as a general concern for women and gender diverse people, as well as referring more specifically to:

- safe housing and refuges
- safety in public and private spaces
- sexual harassment, street harassment and domestic violence
- safe spaces for changing and feeding babies
- higher rates of discrimination.

When discussing these concerns, survey participants discussed providing programs to support women and gender diverse people's safety, including programs providing practical and material resources and participatory community programs to increase understanding of violence and bystander action. They also highlighted the need for improved communication and information relating to existing services and programs, and for Council to take a leadership role in directly address discrimination in the community. Several participants also spoke about increasing perceptions of safety by increasing lighting and surveillance in public spaces.

In addition to safety, participants also identified the following needs and concerns of women and gender diverse people within a resilience context:

- Women are often the primary carer in the family and are responsible not only for their own safety, but the safety of others during emergency situations.
- Gender neutral toilets and more toilets for women to ensure accessibility.
- Women and gender diverse people want the same opportunities as others.
- Accessibility of period products.

Finally, participants identified the following actions that Council can take to ensure that women and gender diverse people benefit from the Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework:

- Ensure participatory and continuous improvement approaches that involve women and gender diverse people in developing, refining, and implementing Framework actions to ensure their relevance and success.
- Involve communities who experience higher marginalisation and implement activities to support them.
- Provide flexible options for women and gender diverse people to participate in decision-making processes related to the Framework, including the use of both in-person and online formats.
- Include evidence-based strategies that address the specific needs and responses of women and gender diverse people.
- Provide safe refuges.
- Improve lighting, security, and transport of key destinations.

6.2 Other Feedback on Resilient and Safe Banyule

The Shaping Banyule Survey asked participants the extent to which they agree that Council has a role to play in supporting the Banyule community to survive, adapt, thrive and feel safe. Overwhelmingly, participants either strongly agreed or agreed with these statements. While there was general support for the Framework across consultations, participants at the 11 October 2023 workshop felt that the Framework should have a stronger focus on response recovery.

Participants in targeted consultations also discussed several issues related to shocks and stresses specific to the Banyule region for Council's consideration. These included:

- The increased development and infrastructure (such high-rise development and the North East Link) and its impact on community resilience through access to open spaces and mental health.
- Whether emergency preparedness is being upgraded in response to this growth.
- The growing visibility of abuse and discrimination in the community and the need to address this.
- Eroding trust in government.
- The cost-of-living crisis.
- Recessions.
- Earthquakes.
- Scams and cyber security.

Abuse and discrimination were identified consistently in survey responses and other consultations as a priority area and an issue of concern for the community. At the 11 October 2023 workshop, participants emphasised that Council should be providing leadership to address discrimination. They also discussed the need for Council to build capacity for community to look out for each other, to support grassroots movements and to build networks.

6.3 Proposed changes to the Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework

Based on the consultation findings, a number of changes to the Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework are proposed, including additional commitments under some focus areas of the framework, an increased emphasis on some priority issues of concern, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and racism and discrimination.

Framework focus areas

Focus area	Proposed changes
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the emphasis on mental health within the description of this focus area • Add a clearer statement about prevention of harm, to reflect concerns people have about racism, discrimination and harm from gambling • Change the wording on the commitment relating to violence against women to say gender-based and family violence to ensure the framework and actions are gender inclusive • Add an explicit commitment about Council's role in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
Social inclusion and connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a commitment to recognising the continuing connection of Aboriginal people as Traditional owners, and celebrating • Strengthen the focus on racism and discrimination by adding an explicit commitment to challenging it
Strong and dynamic local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add details to the description that emphasise the need to address discrimination and structural barriers to employment and business opportunities
Sustainable built and natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include discussion and increase emphasis on the impacts of climate change
Communication, information and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make this the first focus area of the framework, given it underpins all other areas, and was frequently raised as a priority and issue of concern • Add a commitment that explicitly refers to Council's role in responding to emergencies and disasters

Defining community resilience section

Sub-section	
Defining community resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a section here describing the context in which the Framework was developed, with specific reference to: the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, climate change and extreme weather events, increasing racism and discrimination, increasing anti-trans hate and targeting of LGBTIQ+ communities more broadly.
Stresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add racism and discrimination • Add 'problem gambling' • Add financial scams (i.e. email, sms and phone scams) • Add lack of trust in government • Add impact of high-density developments
Our guiding principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the wording of principle 2 to say 'participatory engagement and community development' • Add a principle on access and inclusion, as this was raised as an issue of concern and priority across all focus areas, and is integral to community resilience overall
Council's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a section outlining Council's role in emergency and disasters. This should include all phases of the emergency management cycle: Prevention, preparedness, response and recovery

Other proposed changes

- Add an Acknowledgement of Country and statement of commitment to Aboriginal self-determination
- Add Banyule's Diversity Statement