

Bayside 2050 Community Vision

DRAFT Panel Report

30 May 2020

Introduction

The 'Community Vision 2050 Panel Report,' initially planned for three weekends, was generated and refined over several months due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This also provided a greater opportunity to obtain further community input along with the Council's response to our draft report.

The panel was asked to consider priorities for 2050, and emerging issues likely to shape Baysides future and to determine what would serve the community of Bayside best. The panel communicated predominantly online, this restricted the social interaction that would normally be expected in community discussion.

Bayside 2050 Community Vision:

Vision Statement

Bayside in 2050 leads the way demonstrably as a diverse, healthy and liveable place. We value economic and cultural progress, environmental sustainability and protection of open spaces and coastline, and we nurture inclusiveness, safety, accessibility, community vibrancy, creativity and innovation

The vision does not dictate specific actions, however in ensuring accountability to the community, it requires Council to ensure that their decisions align with moving closer to achieving this vision.

1. The Living Environment/Natural Environment

Theme title

Bayside will mitigate coastal erosion and will protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity from the effects of climate change in the natural environment.

Key priorities**Priority 1.1**

To mitigate coastal erosion and to proactively act on climate change plans to protect the biodiversity of the foreshore and all its inhabitants, including flora and fauna and marine life.

Priority 1.2

Protect the coast, land and sea through measures such as increased tree planting, sensitive landscaping and enhanced pedestrian connections with nature, planning for the effects of extreme weather.

Priority 1.3

Enhance and protect the full range of botanical flora and fauna biodiversity, which will be climate appropriate for 2050. Ensure our city remains a sustainable and biologically diverse environment, where residents and nature can co exist.

Priority 1.4

To create a sustainable community that prioritizes recycling and reusing at the local level, for example community gardens. Bayside council must ensure that they act on plans to reduce emissions and negate the effects of climate change.

Place based considerations?

Whole municipality.

Rationale

Underpins the whole fabric of our vibrant and enjoyable Bayside amenity.

2. Increase and enhance open space

Theme title
Bayside will ensure open space and its protection and amenity is a priority for 2050.
Key priorities
Priority 2.1 Ensure existing open space is maintained, protected and accessible to all.
Priority 2.2 Have an active strategy to acquire more open space, reclaim space and purchase land where required. Encourage microparks, pocket parks and community garden projects.
Priority 2.3 Ensure that open space and community infrastructure on that land has the potential for multi purpose use.
Priority 2. 4 Design public open space so that it reflects careful consideration of the environmental, cultural and heritage value of Bayside.
Priority 2.5 Council encourages developers to include open gardens accessible for all.
Place based considerations?
Whole municipality
Rationale
Increased sense of community, provides places for our community to meet and engage. Improve their mental and physical health.

3. Transport, walkability and rideability

Theme title

Bayside will support provision of effective, sustainable and inclusive transport services and infrastructure.

Key priorities**Priority 3.1**

Encourage innovation within the provision of co-ordinated land, water and air transport services and infrastructure, thus decreasing dependence on environmentally inefficient transport.

Priority 3.2

Continually improve sustainability, cost effectiveness and efficiency of transport services and infrastructure.

Priority 3.3

Equal access to transport for everyone.

Priority 3.4

Increase the emphasis on the development of safer and more inclusive pedestrian infrastructure.

Place based considerations?

Bayside municipality and adjoining municipalities.

Rationale

As population grows a good integrated transport system will reduce congestion, decrease the need for parking and be better for the environment, enabling residents and visitors to move freely within the community.

4. Community feel and direction

Theme title

Bayside will be a city that is greener and has more open space, and creates a community that is inclusive, respectful and accessible.

Key priorities

Priority 4.1

Green open space: increasing open space by the acquisition of more land and better utilisation of existing spaces for pocket parks and community gardens.

Priority 4.2

Accessibility: walkable, sustainable transport, less congestion, safe, ease of connectivity between retail strips and neighbourhoods with consideration of all abilities and ages. This includes Council encouraging accessibility in the built environment.

Priority 4.3

Open/Built Space Integration: That open spaces are integrated within any large scale developments.

Priority 4.4

Involvement: Bayside council prioritizes strong active resident involvement in all civic, social and cultural activities and will nurture the structural and technological supports to maximise that involvement. Community groups and Council to work together to facilitate activities to recognise the history of the area, including indigenous history.

Note: There was a priority here to include inclusiveness and access. However these now have their own Theme. This also pertains to indigenous issues. Nonetheless, we believe that rather than a separate theme, it would be right and proper to include these issues in all themes where appropriate.

Place based considerations?

Whole municipality

Rationale.

Bayside wants to encourage all residents to participate and feel part of the local community. This leads to social cohesion and hence less crime, cost savings, increased standard of living and achieving community goals. .

5. Nurturing Creativity

Theme title Bayside will nurture creativity
Key priorities
Priority 5.1 Bayside will nurture a vibrant and connected community by promoting creativity in the arts in all its forms.
Priority 5.2 Making use of public areas and infrastructure to encourage more people to be involved. Regular reviews of the use of community facilities to ensure all creativity is encouraged and space is shared.
Priority 5.3 Commitment to providing grants to Bayside-based individuals and groups to nurture creativity in the arts.
Place based considerations? Whole municipality
Rationale Bayside's leadership in creativity in the arts.

6. Promoting Innovation

Theme title <i>Bayside will nurture innovation to encourage a thriving and vibrant community.</i>
Key priorities
Priority 6.1 We require the Council to employ innovative methods, ideas and products across all Council operational matters and future planning.
Priority 6.2 Commitment to providing grants and awards to innovative endeavours in the sciences.
Priority 6.3 Nurturing broad community support and involvement for the sciences and innovation through public/private partnerships and community associations.
Place based considerations?
Rationale. Creativity and thinking outside the box improves problem solving and the opportunity to have a competitive advantage.

7. Council Operations and Accountability

Theme title <i>Council Operations and Accountability</i>
Key priorities
Priority 7.1 The Bayside Council actions and decisions align fully to the intent of the Bayside 2050 Vision and that Council reports back on an annual basis as to its achievement/performance of the Vision.
Priority 7.2 That Bayside City Council constantly monitors and updates its activities in relation to the Vision 2050.
Priority 7.3 Where actions are the responsibility of other stakeholders or are beyond Council's remit, to advocate strongly on behalf of our community to achieve the community's desired outcomes.
Place based considerations?
Rationale. That Bayside City Council serves the needs of its communities, engaging with them, reflecting their desires and aspirations in its activities, including, where appropriate, encouragement for community members to drive the vision.

8. Access and Inclusion

Theme title
Bayside will be inclusive and accessible for all.
Key priorities.
Priority 8.1 Barriers to participation for all people in accessing council and community services to be identified and solutions implemented.
Priority 8.2 Bayside will improve accessibility to public infrastructure.
Priority 8.3 Bayside encourages and advocates for people of all abilities and backgrounds to be involved in the community and in leadership roles in council.
Place based considerations?
Whole Municipality
Rationale.)
Bayside values all individuals. Bayside wishes to demonstrate that they value the lived experiences of all cultures and that they want to be inclusive of people of all abilities in the community.

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Place based considerations?

Whole Municipality

Rationale.)

Bayside values all individuals. Bayside wishes to demonstrate that they value the lived experiences of all cultures and that they want to be inclusive of people of all abilities in the community.

9. The Built Environment

Theme title

The built environment includes residential and commercial properties, roads and transport infrastructure and all aspects that a Council would 'build'/'rate' as part of the overall environment across 'Bayside

Key priorities**Priority 9.1**

Land is a scarce commodity and therefore the highest value use of land must Always take priority in decision making. Where property acquisition for more public space is not available, Council should consider reclaiming car parking and established road space for that purpose.

Priority 9.2

Heritage consideration should be given to properties with a Heritage Precinct. The establishment of any heritage listing-will be subject to an owner's consent (for individual properties) and utilise an introductory time window where Council intends to establish a Heritage precinct of its own volition

Priority 9.3

All assets leased and any project considered by Council will be subject to a cost benefit analysis in the period prior to renewal of a lease/undertaking of project

Priority 9.4

With the anticipated population increase, both within and beyond Bayside, Council must focus on creating and enhancing civic infrastructure (walking paths, lighting, increasing open space) including commercial and retail needs.

Place based considerations?

Adaptive as suits each location

Rationale.

Caters for multiple and varying views on how to best develop the Built environment across the city to allow for future accommodation increases and protection of the liveability of Bayside

10. Tourism, Commercial & Economic Opportunities

Theme title

Encouraging a vibrant commercial sector of environmentally compatible industries including tourism, high-tech and commercial activities to underpin the economy of the city.

Key priorities

Priority 10.1

Enhancing, protecting, and compatibly developing, the foreshore and its environs as popular, attractive and desirable locations for locals and tourists, including imaginative redevelopment of council-owned facilities, encouragement of new accommodations and built tourism attractions in appropriate locations.

To protect the endemic and unique botanical and scenic values of the foreshore for the benefit of residents and visitors always ensuring that resident amenity is maintained. To devise new ways of connecting and integrating the foreshore area with Bayside City proper including use of water transport.

Priority 10.2

Identify the benefits the foreshore offers and focus on protecting its specific and signature botanical and scenic values. Express the different flavours of Bayside's specific villages such as how the villages of Brighton, Hampton, Sandringham, Black Rock, Beaumaris, Highett and Cheltenham and their smaller strip shopping business areas are different to each other and have their own signature style and amenities, as a way of attracting visitors to each, rather than a homogenous 'Bayside' area.

Priority 10.3

Create more events and facilities focused around or beside the foreshore - eg. Sculpture by the Bay, night food markets, outside gyms a la Muscle beach in Venice Beach, Los Angeles. Seek better designed, better managed and more attractive and sophisticated hospitality and tourism facilities along the foreshore. Ensure that all development and commercial activities are not detrimental to residential amenity of the area.

Priority 10.4

Encouraging, supporting and fostering local businesses across all of Bayside which underpin the viability and character of our individual village structures and give easy accessibility to local populations.

Council to facilitate the delivery of measures, events and activities by community groups or commercial enterprises to promote the villages and enterprise in the city and also, on occasion, instigate and run.

Place based considerations?

Whole municipality

Rationale: (Why are these priorities important for the Bayside community?)

Minority Reports Section

The following are minority reports which are the work of an individual or limited numbers of panel members.

Minority Reports

MINORITY REPORT NO. 1

THEME:Defining the Vision content

COMMENT:

Part of the discussion along the way included consideration of the terminology used in the Vision Statement. The following definitions were offered as potential ways to understand what we mean.

The definitions below are not considered to be all inclusive of possibilities but offer a solid framework to understand our Vision.

More detail

“Diverse” Bayside could include: a pluralistic microcosm of Australia, with many different ethnic groups and cultures represented, and with high tolerance of the diverse social, gender, belief, and behaviour norms existing within the country. Similarly, the environment within which we live will remain highly diverse in terms of flora, topography, and natural environment. Our built, man-made environment will be efficient first, then aesthetically attractive and diverse.

“Healthy” could include the physical, social, mental and cultural health of the community, as reflected in official indices measuring longevity, health and welfare, community activities, social dependency, volunteer availability, participation levels in socially supportive groups and clubs, and need for support services. In addition, healthy means economic and efficient in terms of resources employed in conducting our lives.

“Liveability” could include special reference to open space, digital literacy and use, levels of discretionary time, facilities available for recreation, sporting, and cultural fulfilment, usage levels of public spaces, make-up or composition of local shopping venues, traffic density etc –all measured per resident.

“Economic and cultural progress”. These are imperative in a successful community and underpins the overall approach towards achieving balance. Poor communities and authorities do not have options. Strategies to ensure liveability must include measures to increase the rate base, commercial (or clean industrial) activity, and other forms of earning /revenue for Council, whilst channelling population growth and man-made development to meet the other side of the equation.

“Protection and enhancement” would include the improved efficiency of operational measures, management and expansion of open space (natural and cultured), increasing the good ways residents, visitors, and industry interact can harmoniously with the city’s natural and built assets. The expectation here is that Council will prioritize, in all its operations, the natural, garden, and botanical nature of the city, and ways that new services and facilities can further enhance human interaction with nature. It also means Council adopting codes and regulations to ensure all subsequent private and public development is consistent with and supportive of the values expressed in this vision.

Minority Reports

MINORITY REPORT NO. 2

CLARIFYING OUR VISION FOR BAYSIDE

The Bayside 2050 Community Vision document should:

- Be unmistakably 'Bayside'
- Reflect more rigorous strategic thinking.
- Provide an opportunity to define Bayside's brand values and mission statement.
- Present a chance to put ideas out on the table; for 'out of the box' thinking to see the light of day and percolate in the community, rather than be rejected because it didn't gain 80% support at first airing. Good ideas rarely gain anything like an 80% majority at first.
- be challenging,
- inspiring
- thought-provoking
- activating
- be the go-to guide for Bayside Council staff and Councillors to consult before making strategic decisions.

HAVING A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHO WE ARE

Defining and sharpening the 'Bayside lens' on the world should underpin any decisions going forward.

We need to ask:

- What defines Bayside? How will this evolve?
- What are our guiding principles? (NB. This has been touched on in the vision statement, albeit generically)
- Why do we choose to live here?
- What is unique to life in this location? What is its competitive advantage, compared to other Melbourne suburbs? How does Bayside stand apart, or has the potential to stand apart over time?
- What are the legacy outcomes that can be derived from current thinking or debate? For example, why is 'heritage' framed solely as a battle over individual's property rights and derivative profit, rather than the bigger picture as an opportunity to create a signature future asset for Bayside?

Knowing this will help us drill down further when tackling the themes, allowing us to explore them with the focus of a 'Bayside lens' and ostensibly with more rigour and focus.

THEMES THAT CAN BE UNIQUELY EXPLORED IN BAYSIDE

- Opportunity for Outstanding Children's Education
- Opportunity to leverage on our unique history and built environment from indigenous lands to the rise of modernism and beyond.
- Opportunity for sport and recreation through watersports, golf, tennis, bowls individual, team, community.
- The opportunity of Bayside's Coast Location

Whether we live close to the water, venture to the water or not, Bayside is largely a coastal environment that stretches throughout its length. Most of us are in the privileged position of being no more than 2kms from Port Phillip Bay – a beautiful, ever-changing, epic geographic and topological feature, rich in natural marine life and flora that is free and accessible to most, every day, all year round.

We may sometimes forget this, but Baysiders experience weather events, storms, sea breezes, sunsets, horizons and fauna and flora that few others in Melbourne do. Indeed the Heidelberg School painters spent days travelling to the region to capture its distinctive light, topography and natural beauty.

How does 'where we are in the world' impact our lives? How can we nurture the unique, positive things about it for future generations and improve on the things that need improving for residents and visitors alike?

Sydney idolises its harbor for very good reason. The Bay is different but also equally beautiful in its own way. Yet too often the council buildings on the water reflect none of this pride. So often, they look and feel unloved, bleak and ill-considered. Beside Brighton Beach Baths, where are the well-designed, waterside buildings and vibrant cafe /restaurant scene that you see on Sydney Harbour?

How can we protect but also leverage Bayside's enviable waterside location across a range of opportunities including entertainment, culture, sporting facilities, cultural facilities and more?

Could we consider a water ferry and water taxi service to Melbourne's CBD to reduce car use, ease road congestion and tackle climate change issues?

Another feature that sets Bayside apart from other municipalities is Beach Road – this winding stretch of bitumen that snakes through Bayside's many villages, providing the most picturesque link between inner Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula.

Nowhere else in Melbourne can you travel along the coastline for so many kilometres, moving through vastly different localities, from the glamour of Brighton's waterside mansions to the mid-century modern homes of design/art centric Beaumaris and everything in between. How can we better define and build on the uniqueness of this stretch of road and the distinctly different flavours of the villages dotted alongside it?

CONCLUSION

These are just a few examples of how identifying and focussing on Bayside's signature qualities and crystallising what defines 'Bayside living' can help us drill down further, exploring ideas beyond generalist statements to develop a more focused community vision for Bayside.

Finally...the Bayside 2050 sessions should consider the idea of legacy. How will this generation of Baysiders be remembered by those to come? How would we like to be remembered?

Thinking about a Community Vision for Bayside 2050 is not just about projecting forward to the future and generating an enticing forward view. It's also about identifying what we can do now to ensure our actions leave Bayside in an equal or better place to how we found it.