

Nature Strategy consultation

Feedback summary December 2019

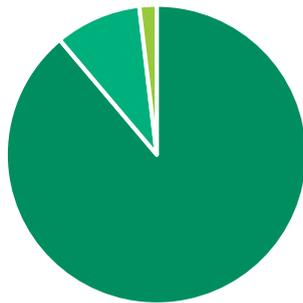
We asked our community to review the goals set out in our draft Nature Strategy 2020-24. This feedback will help us finalise the strategy.

Community members were able to share their feedback on the strategy from Wednesday 20 November until Thursday 19 December 2019. We received 56 responses to our online feedback form, talked to 22 people in-person at our community feedback session in Alphington Park and visited Carlton North Primary School and invited 60 grade 4 students, parents and teachers to share their ideas.

What is your level of support for these goals?

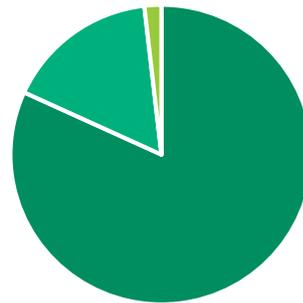
We asked for community members' level of support for each of the four overarching goals set out in our draft Nature Strategy 2020-24. Support for these four goals was overwhelmingly positive.

Goal 1: A more diverse, connected and resilient natural environment



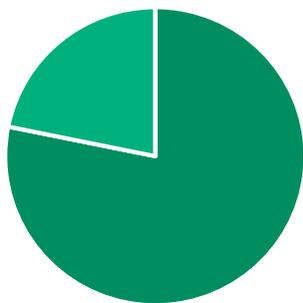
■ High ■ Medium ■ Low

Goal 2: People appreciate and seek to enhance the natural values of the Yarra landscape



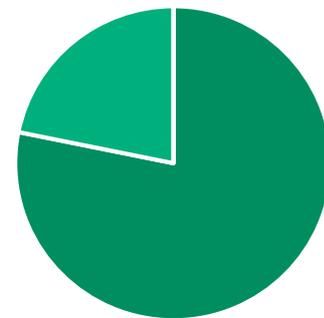
■ High ■ Medium ■ Low

Goal 3: Nature is considered a core council business



■ High ■ Medium ■ Low

Goal 4: Innovation, communication and collaboration are the cornerstones of nature-focused programs



■ High ■ Medium ■ Low

Other feedback

We also gave community members an opportunity to provide further detailed feedback on the strategy.

Some of the most common feedback we received was:

- Removing non-native plants and weeds from our river corridors and other habitats.
- Restoring and only planting native vegetation throughout Yarra, including phasing out non-natives.
- Protecting our habitats from non-native animals and domesticated pets.
- Build biodiversity protection and improvement into planning processes, the Yarra Planning Scheme and urban design.
- Not using herbicides or pesticides.
- Where appropriate, include more tangible goals and targets in the strategy and action plan.
- The vision wording in relation to nature could be stronger.
- Map areas of land that contribute to the Yarra river corridor, but are not managed by Council.
- Consider private land in the Action Plan to expand the areas of land utilised for biodiversity.
- Review communications activities to ensure equal access for all community members.
- Sharing of information and expertise through an online platform.
- Educate people not to feed native animals.
- Implementation of nest box programs for native animals that depend on large old trees for shelter.

We also received feedback around areas of the environment and sustainability that are related to, but not covered in this strategy, including:

- Reducing, sorting and reusing waste more effectively.
- Reducing electricity use.
- Transitioning Council's fleet to use renewable energy.
- Enforcing sustainable design in new buildings.
- Ensuring more green spaces in public places.
- More community gardens in parks.
- More education to encourage people to walk, ride and use public transport.

This strategy is designed to work with a number of other Yarra Council strategies and plans that seek to improve sustainability and protect the environment.

These strategies and plans include:

- Our [draft Climate Emergency Plan 2020-24](#), which is currently available for community feedback. [Find out more and have your say.](#)
- We are currently developing a draft Open Space Strategy based on community feedback collected in 2018. This draft strategy is currently available for community feedback on our [Your Say Yarra website](#).
- We are currently developing a draft Integrated Water Management Plan. This draft plan will be available for community feedback during mid-2020.
- [Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Strategy 2018-2022.](#)
- [Urban Forest Strategy.](#)
- [Urban Agriculture Strategy 2019-2023.](#)

Next Steps

Following the community consultation period, we will provide Councillors with a formal report that outlines any changes that have been made based on community feedback and recommend that they adopt a final strategy. Once adopted, delivery of the actions in the strategy will begin.