



DRAFT ASSET PLAN 2025-26 TO 2034-35

Engagement Summary

16 April – 11 May 2025

Introduction

The City of Whittlesea's proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 is a document that outlines how the City of Whittlesea will plan, build, manage and maintain our assets over the next ten years to ensure they meet the needs of our growing community now and into the future. This document will update our Asset Plan 2022-32 and covers all of Council's physical assets including roads, footpaths, playgrounds, storm water, open spaces and buildings.

The proposed Asset Plan was developed considering feedback received during a comprehensive engagement program tailored to the project and as part of the Community Priorities engagement program that heard from over 900 participants across 13 community-based pop-ups combined, a community check in consultation and 5 Focus Groups held between August 2024 to February 2025.

The proposed Asset Plan was presented to community for feedback between 16 April and 11 May 2025 with participants asked whether they supported the Plan and if they didn't to explain why. Participation was available online through the *Engage Whittlesea* platform or in-person at a series of eight community-based pop-up stalls scheduled across the municipality in high foot traffic locations.

To avoid consultation fatigue, the project was co-located with the Proposed Budget 2025-26, Proposed Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35, Rate and Revenue Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29, and, Community Vision Review projects that were also open for comment.

Sixty-six people participated in the consultation and told us that majority (95%) supported the proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35. Those that were not supportive of the draft indicated a need to address community safety, cleaner neighbourhoods and cost of living via the use of our assets as their reason.

Project Promotion

The opportunity to participate in the community engagement was promoted through a range of channels to have a widespread reach across the municipality including:

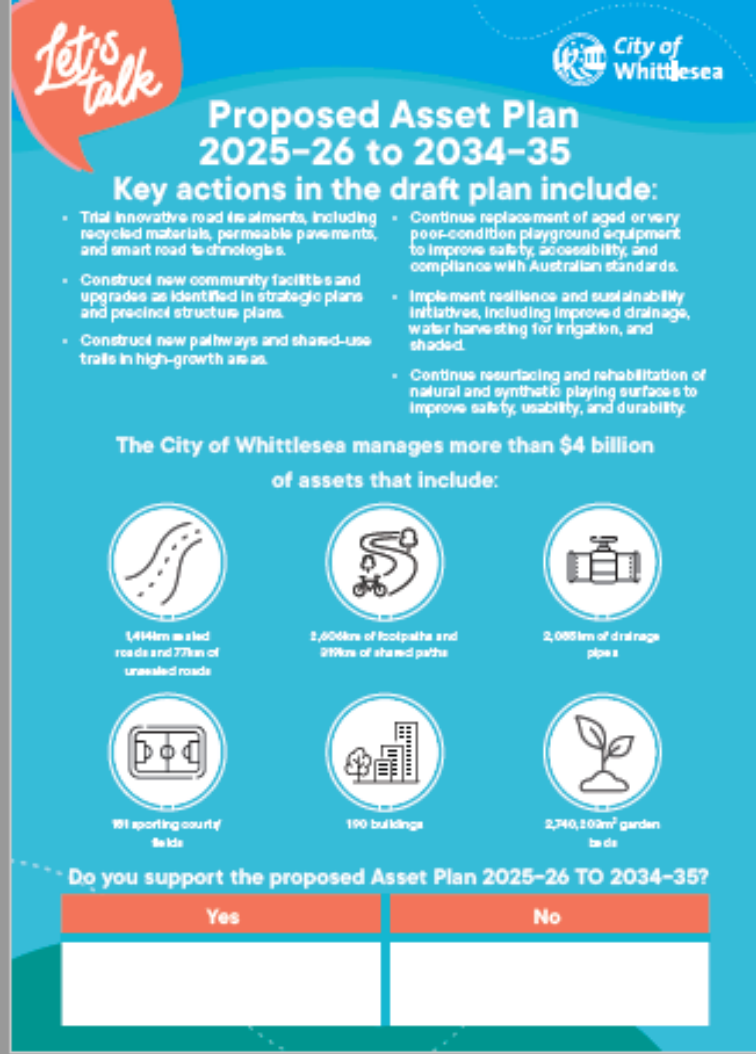
- Council's digital engagement platform *Engage Whittlesea*
- Social media – organic posts accounted for 12% of traffic to the Engage page
- Email with direct link to the project page accounted for 37% of traffic to the page and was sent to:
 - Ageing well and multicultural groups data base
 - Sports and Aquatic Clubs
 - Youth Services network
 - Library and Community Hubs users
 - Ageing Well database
 - Whittlesea Disability Network (WDN) via the WDN Hub on *the Engage Whittlesea* platform
 - First Peoples network
 - Community Priorities Focus Group participants
- Promotion on screens at Civic Centre, Libraries and aquatic centres.

How we engaged you

The proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 project page on the *Engage Whittlesea* platform encouraged participants to share whether they supported the draft plan. There was also free text space provided for participants to add further comments if they selected no as a response.

The *Engage Whittlesea* platform utilises an accessibility add-on ensuring that it is as accessible as possible for all users. The platform also has an in-built translation tool to mitigate any language barriers to participation, allowing the page to be translated into the top fifteen languages spoken within the municipality.

As the Asset Plan is a technical document, we made it easy for community to easily identify key inclusions and understand the plan. Activity boards (image below) were used at in-person engagement activities that presented six key inclusions as dot points and used an infographic to highlight the types of assets Council manages. This information was mirrored on the project *Engage Whittlesea* page.



Let's talk

City of Whittlesea

Proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35

Key actions in the draft plan include:

- Total innovative road treatments, including recycled materials, permeable pavements, and smart road technologies.
- Construct new community facilities and upgrades as identified in strategic plans and precinct structure plans.
- Construct new pathways and shared-use trails in high-growth areas.
- Continuous replacement of aged or very poor-condition playground equipment to improve safety, accessibility, and compliance with Australian standards.
- Implement resilience and sustainability initiatives, including improved drainage, water harvesting for irrigation, and shaded.
- Continuous resurfacing and rehabilitation of natural and synthetic playing surfaces to improve safety, usability, and durability.

The City of Whittlesea manages more than \$4 billion of assets that include:

 1,414km sealed roads and 77km of unsealed roads	 2,604km of footpaths and 919km of shared paths	 2,085km of drainage pipes
 181 sporting courts/fields	 190 buildings	 2,740,103m ² garden beds

Do you support the proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 TO 2034-35?

Yes	No
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Above: Image of the activity board used at community-based pop-up stalls

To inform community and to hear from a diverse range of community members and increase participation, the project team hosted eight in-person engagement activities across the municipality.

Date	Time	Where	Address/location
16 April 2025	5pm-7pm	Kirrip Community Centre	135 De Rossi Blvd, Wollert
28 April 2025	9.30am -11.30am	Lalor Library	2a May Rd, Lalor
28 April 2025	2.30pm -4.30pm	Thomastown Library	52 Main St, Thomastown
29 April 2025	9.30am -11.30am	Westfield Plenty Valley	415 McDonalds Rd, South Morang
29 April 2025	2.30pm -4.30pm	Laurimar Shopping Centre	101 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen
30 April 2025	9.30am -11.30am	Shared Cup Café	995 Donnybrook Rd, Donnybrook
30 April 2025	2.30pm- 4.30pm	Mernda Village Shopping Centre	59 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda
2 May 2025	9.30am -11.30am	Coles University Hill	2 Janefield Drive, Bundoora



Above: Images form the community pop up stalls

Participation

Snapshot of Community Participation in this final phase of the engagement on the Asset Plan

Key highlights from the community consultation included:

Downloads



108 Downloads of the proposed document

Community-based Pop-Ups



Hosted 8 community-based pop-ups

Digital Engagement



187 views
167 visits
4 contributions

In-person Engagement



62 in-person contributions

Snapshot of demographics of the broader community consultation

A total of 66 community members participated in the consultation, four online and 62 at in-person community-based pop-up stalls. Below is a snapshot of the diversity of participation in the community engagement, which is representative of our broader community:

Gender Identity



45% Female, 53% Male
2% did not say

Age



All age brackets participated with the most represented being 35-44 years (22%) and 45-54 years (18%)

Suburb



Participants came from 12 suburbs, with the highest participation coming from Mernda (21%) and Wollert (15%)

LGBTIQA+ Community



6% of participants identified as members of the LGBTIQA+ community

Multicultural community



52% of participants spoke English as a second language

First Peoples



6% of participants identified as first people

People with disability



8% of participants were people with a disability or carers of a person with disability

What we heard from the community consultation

Do you support the proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35?

Majority of the 66 participants were supportive of the proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35.
What we heard is as below:



94% Yes



6% No

One of the four online participant commented the reason they didn't support the proposed Asset Plan was because it didn't mention the Mernda to Whittlesea rail trail.

Other comments captured at the community-based pop-up stalls

There were 14 additional comments captured at in-person engagement activities that focused on themes such as community safety, cleaner more appealing neighbourhoods and cost of living.

"Increase in crime - need to increase safety in the community and neighbourhoods"

"Shared pathways on Plenty Road not used properly by e-scooters. they need to have a horn to warn others when travelling fast past pedestrians. Plus, they should have speed limits to abide by"

"Need cleaner, neater neighbourhoods"

"Affordable housing needed in area"

Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback through our proposed Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 with us either in-person at a community-based pop-ups or online through the *Engage Whittlesea* platform. Your feedback will be considered as we prepare the final plan that will be presented to Council for endorsement at the Council Meeting scheduled 17 June 2025. We will share the final documents and encourage you to follow the project Engage page (www.engagewhittlesea.vic.gov.au/assetplan25) to be kept up to date as these are finalised.