

Council conducted two Community Vision Review drop-in sessions on 8 April 2025.

14 people attended the two sessions.

Attendees could speak with an officer or write down feedback to each of the pillars and the Vision statement themselves.

The following information documents the written feedback and the a record of the conversations with Council officers.

## Pillar: Supporting business and community prosperity

- Maintaining involvement in economic (G21) and tourism (Geelong Tourism) focus are critical we get enormous bang for our small bucks”
- Economic security is fundamental to a healthy and sustainable community. Our partnerships with regional organisations and forums can provide support in this endeavor”
- Infrastructure and services can only be improved/maintained if we have an environment and community to be part of. Our unique and special place provides opportunities for businesses to build/leverage off our special place”
- Business and community prosperity are important in that it links with all the other pillars. This pillar will not be successful without the support of the other pillars.

## Pillar: Protecting Country and Our Natural Environment

- This is a critical pillar for our community vision. In particular, the recognition that our coastal community and the borough need to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Please retain all five pillars as is, but especially this one.
- It is my view that the main benefits of living in this community relate to the natural environment. My health and well-being is better since I moved here. It is why retirees move here. It is the main reason visitors are here. Bottom line, the protection of, and enhancing our environment is critical.
- A pivotal plank in the current work of Council which needs to be maintained

## Notes

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- I see this as a critical component of the vision, and we must recognise that we need to think globally and act locally. Big picture stuff like climate change and local. Masses such as wading and destroying native habitat.
- Badly done. At present or in past. So, words need to be. Backed up by real commitment, healthy country involves. Actively saving our trees and vegetation, not removing it. So back up words with action and commitment. Canopy cover slash biodiversity. Sustainability is a big word in this goal. More having. Open spaces. Creates a real dilemma of contradiction.
- This is a critical pillar. Without protecting country and our natural environment, we have no community worth being a part of. This can be a sanctuary for many of us, and climate action is essential.
- Absolutely critical pillar that our family deeply connects with. As a community we should be doing everything we can to protect country, including our relationship with Wadawurrung and reducing emissions to limit the increasing of climate change.
- This is vital work. Climate change mitigation and adaptation should be front and center of the BOQ's work. Without our environment, we are nothing.

## Pillar: Encouraging an inclusive and engaged community

- organizations within the borough strive to create an environment which is inclusive of all residents where support is available when needed and where we have an opportunity to thrive the council vision should reflect this. New line We are not just the bland community we are stereotyped as white elderly middle class look a bit closer and there are people from different countries religious beliefs cultures etc. The uniting church does a spectacular job providing a hub of inclusion in the borough. The range of local community groups encourages engagement from footy to croquet to music to books. Council needs to be in the thick of it. (*Note – someone wrote “well said” and “could not agree more” next to this*)
- Such an important pillar. We need more kindness and compassion - an inclusive an engaged community is a healthy one.
- We have a diverse and engaged community and inclusion is fundamental to making sure the Borough is meeting everyone's needs. BOQ is doing good work in this area

## Pillar: Protecting and celebrating Wadawurrung and Borough heritage

- Wadawurrung heritage is synonymous with protecting our natural environment protecting our natural environment might mean some of our built heritage since European settlement will change. In other words, protect natural heritage may result in loss of built heritage.
- The Borough heritage is supposedly enshrined in QP scheme. We need to celebrate the built heritage.
- Maintenance and celebration of our cultural heritage is fundamental to the work of the Borough. While there are many things that may not be celebrated when reflecting on colonisation, the Wadawurrung people have risen to contemporary challenges. Their heritage and care of the land is a legacy that certainly requires recognition and priority attention. *(Note – someone wrote “Agree!” next to this)*
- I care about our cultural heritage and that includes First Nations heritage alongside fishing, seafaring, and settlement history. I am very pleased that BOQ has set up a group to be further involved in the local museums. I would like to see the BOQ develop stronger links with Wadawurrung.
- There is so much to be gained from celebrating Wadawurrung and engaging and listening to them. Our Borough heritage is so much more than buildings.
- I have been so proud of the work done by BOQ to build deep respect and relationships with the Wadawurrung Traditional Aboriginal Owners Corp over the past five years. Let's keep it up and celebrate the amazing learning that's happening in our schools I wish I had this connection to culture growing up. Please don't change this pillar.
- This is really important work we have really developed the work with the Wadawurrung people, and I am really proud of the BOQ's engagement in this area.

## Pillar: Enhancing health and wellbeing

- A critical part of enhancing health and wellbeing in lots of research is living in a healthy green environment. All the risk of a warming planet and the link between this pillar and “Protecting Country and our natural environment” is very clear.

## Notes

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- A connected and inclusive environment is fundamental to the mental health and wellbeing of all residents this should be maintained in the future as a priority of note is the work that many resident and community organisations do to enhance the wellbeing of all.
- This is a great community to be involved in and volunteer with that really helps my sense of self and mental health. Love the rail trail for gentle fitness and the health centre.
- Health and medical centre staff comment that one of the reasons they love working here is that people actively care for their health. Continuing to encourage an active and ample lifestyle can only happen if we have a natural environment to enjoy.
- Let's keep building connection and community and resilience through this pillar.
- This ties into other pillars such as protecting heritage, supporting prosperity encouraging and inclusive and engaging community and protecting country. Health and wellbeing is enhanced and protected by connection with our environment, our heritage and our community.

## Vision:

- I'm really proud of the work that has been done to get a community vision that is representative of all the voices of people in the borough. Please keep the vision as it is. It is a great piece of work
- I like this statement - captures all the facets of Queenscliff and Lonny. Please keep it.
- This central statement is a deeply moving and powerful and makes me proud to be a Borough resident. Please don't change it.
- Tick on statement or our community is caring but add engaged or wishes to be better engaged and informed as a mark of respect to residents
- This is a wonderful reflection of our community no change is required. The importance of our community places on walking together with Wadawurrung people is reflected through the vision- both the central statement and the five pillars. Please acknowledge and retain the special language in the central statement- "We have a deep respect for the Wadawurrung people and are taking action to protect Country" – yes! Keep this important community priority in the central statement.
- Absolutely agree I would add that we should be trying to learn more from our Indigenous people especially about caring for country

Community Vision review

Drop In Session

## Notes

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- Totally agree with above statements, so much richness in First Nations history and culture. It can add so much connection to all of us. People come to holiday and live here because it is restorative and a unique environment.

## Martin's Notes

### Session 1.

Attendees:



### Feedback (verbatim record of comments shared at session)

Celebrate leadership in Climate change action

Improve tree canopy and manage our coastal environment

Recognise that we have the highest rate of volunteering in Australia

Separate out Wadawurrung and post contact heritage in statement

Print is still important

Words in the Vision are too flowery

Zero in on specific projects

Protection of beaches and public spaces

We also received notes on operational matters and projects such as the Bellarine Statement of Planning Policy, Ramsar Boundaries, CERP and the ATS.

Session 2.

Attendees:



The majority of people who attended session two provided written comments.

Of the people who sat down and spoke to me the following feedback was provided on the Community Vision:

Feedback (verbatim record of comments shared at session)

Too many adjectives and the language of the vision has too many political connotations (left leaning and divisive).

Use of capital C for the word country is an example of political overtones and language that is not inclusive

The focus on active and well-being is misleading and does not reflect the demographic

We should link prosperity to the industries we actually have, and be realistic about the opportunity for industry in the Borough

Not enough co-ordination between community groups

The reference to heritage to be all encompassing, the current mention of the Wadawurrung is biased

How do we deal with the community west of Fellows Road. Is it time we included them in our idea of community?

We need to include the land west of Fellows Road known as Lakers Land in the vision.

Re the vision – *just leave it as it is* x 5