

**YOUR
KINGSTON
YOUR
FUTURE**



City of
KINGSTON



community
VISION



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Kingston recognises the traditional custodians of the land and waterways on which we live, work and play. We extend our respect to all Elders past, present and emerging and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who call Kingston home.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW COMMUNITY VISION

Kingston is a resilient, inclusive and diverse community. We are building the most liveable and sustainable city in Victoria.

We champion and nurture our green and open spaces creating a safe, healthy environment.

Our shared legacy connects our community, embracing innovation, making Kingston the place to live.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I am proud to introduce Kingston's new Community Vision, a vision that captures the aspirations of our community.

This new vision has been developed through the dedication and hard-work of the *Your Kingston Your Future* Community Panel.

On behalf of all Councillors, I thank our panel members for representing their community to develop this important piece of work for Kingston.

This vision prioritises the driving factors to make Kingston the best place to live, work and play now and into the future.

It focusses on inclusiveness, diversity, resilience, protecting our natural environment, thriving businesses and embracing innovation – all key ingredients to help build Kingston into the most liveable and sustainable city we can be.

It will guide future decision making for Kingston and inform long-term resourcing strategies and medium-term strategic plans and policies. It will make our great city even better for all members of the community.

Thanks again to our panel, and the 3,500+ community members that got involved and provided feedback to help develop the Community Vision.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Staikos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cr Steve Staikos
Mayor





BACKGROUND

The City of Kingston has been working closely with our community to develop a new Community Vision and key guiding plans.

The Community Vision sets out the long-term aspirations of the community. The vision is incredibly important and will help guide decision making by Council and the community by articulating what we want Kingston to be.

The Community Vision also shapes our next four-year Council Plan, and 10-year plans for how we manage the city's finances and assets.

To develop the vision and make recommendations for the guiding plans, Council joined forces with an independently selected Community Panel. The panel is representative of our community and used feedback from the community along with trends and other data to tackle this project.

The State Government's changes to the Local Government Act mean that all Victorian councils must undertake this work using deliberative engagement practices. The *Your Kingston Your Future* panel led this work on behalf of our community.

Council empowered the panel to develop the Community Vision on behalf of the community. That means Council committed to adopting the panel's Community Vision as is, with no changes.

Council committed to incorporating the panel's recommendations for the strategic plans to the maximum extent possible.

This report outlines how the Community Vision has been developed.

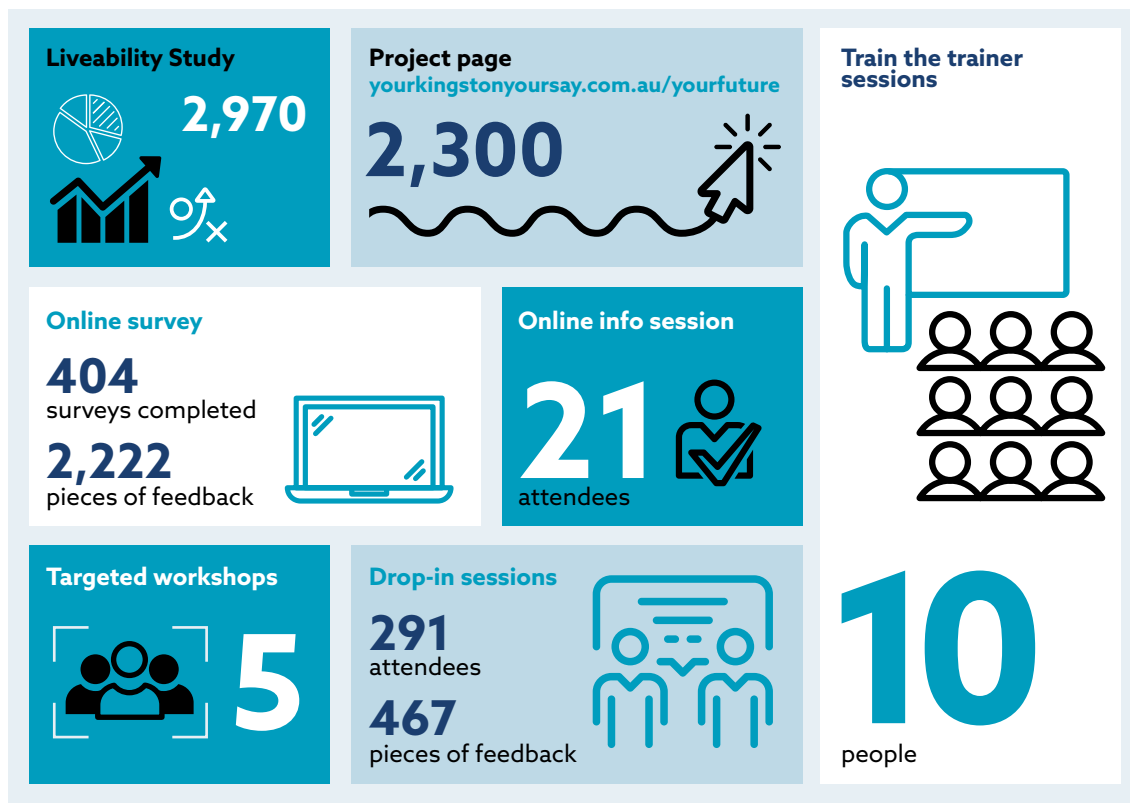
DEVELOPING THE VISION

In late 2020 Council partnered with independent research organisation, PlaceScore to find out what the community values most in their neighbourhoods.

Over February – March 2021 additional wide community consultation took place to find out what the community's aspirations for Kingston are.

The community had a range of opportunities to join the conversation including online, face-to-face and targeted workshops.

How people participated



The findings from the wide community consultation were compiled in the *Phase One Consultation Report* and provided to the *Your Kingston Your Future* Community Panel, as well as the wider community.

The Community Panel used this information, along with other trends and data to develop the Community Vision.

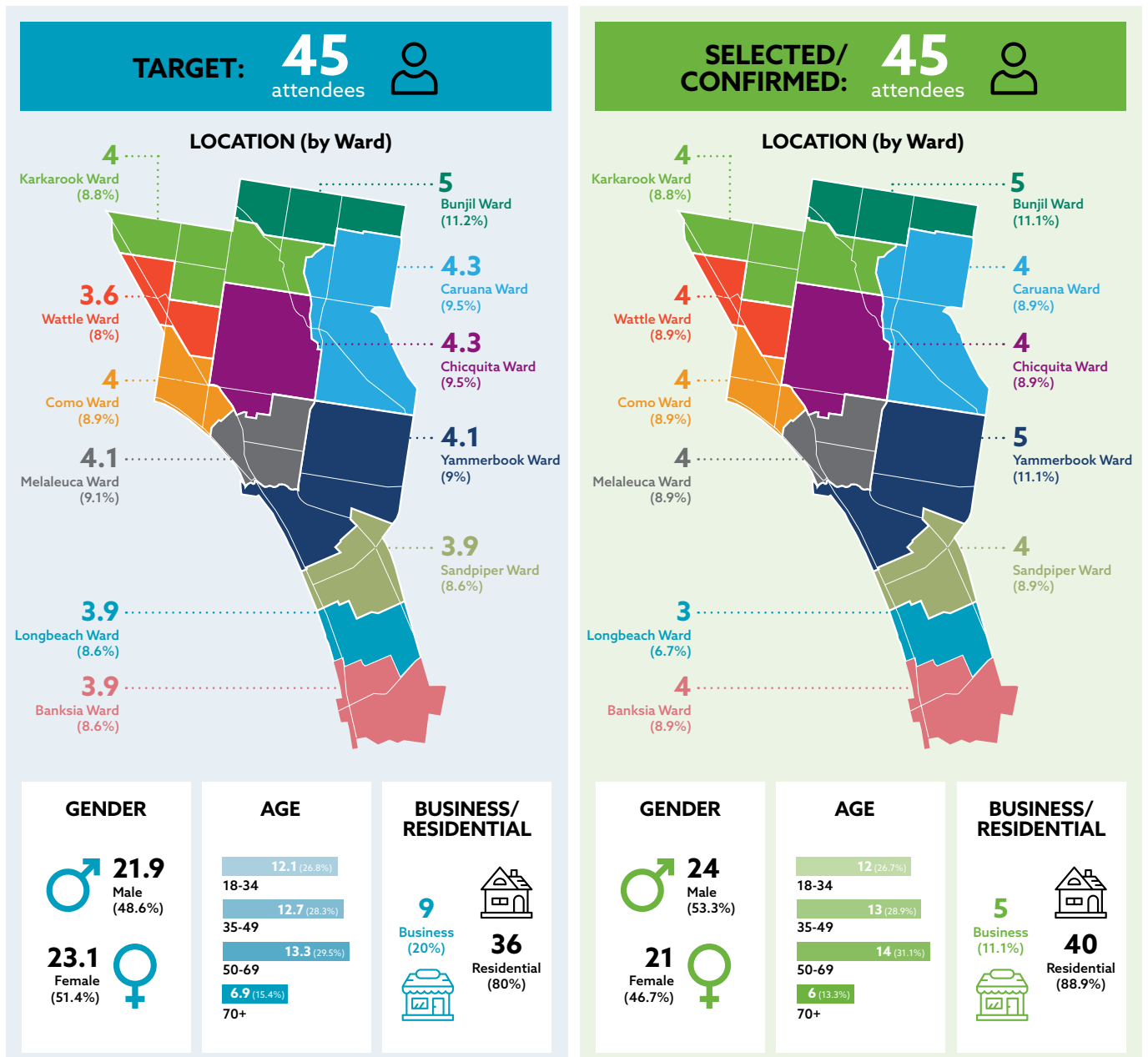
THE YOUR KINGSTON YOUR FUTURE COMMUNITY PANEL

Invites were sent to a random sample of 11,000 residents and businesses in Kingston asking for expressions of interest to be part of the Community Panel.

Panel members were randomly selected by an external consultant (Sortition Foundation) to ensure a representative sample of the Kingston community. People who registered their expression of interest were randomly stratified through an online stratification tool, based on age, home suburb and gender, to form a descriptively representative sample of our community. Neither Council, nor our expert facilitators MosaicLab, were involved in the selection of panel representatives.

Community panels that are selected randomly bring together a diverse group of people who reflect the broader community. These panels usually include people who Council don't usually hear from but who are impacted by Council decisions.

The graphic below provides more information on the makeup of the *Your Kingston Your Future* Community Panel.



THE YOUR KINGSTON YOUR FUTURE COMMUNITY PANEL (continued)



The *Your Kingston Your Future* Community Panel was tasked with answering the following question, to help develop a vision that responds and guides us through the dilemmas and challenges of the future:

“Our diverse and changing community has many different interests and needs.

To ensure that Kingston is the best possible place for everyone in the future, we need to make choices about where we focus our efforts.

What is our future vision for Kingston and how do we balance our differing needs now and in the future?”

Panellists met over five days to consider the consultation report alongside a wide range of other information and inputs.

The panel considered different views and perspectives and weighed up priorities to develop a vision for Kingston and make recommendations for the strategic plans.



COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT AND PRINCIPLES

The following section has been proudly developed by the *Your Kingston Your Future* Community Panel.

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PRINCIPLES

The Community Panel developed a set of principles to support the key themes of the vision. The principles are outlined below verbatim.

Principle	Description	Rationale
Community Planning	<p>Ensures ongoing attention and consideration to local objectives.</p> <p>We develop community infrastructure based on an agreed plan for the future.</p> <p>Engaging, consulting and communicating with Kingston community members in making decisions for future planning.</p> <p>Representation from all groups to ensure an inclusive and transparent process.</p> <p>Consulting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to enhance Kingston's respect, acknowledgement and honouring of our indigenous heritage.</p>	<p>Uniting the community to shape our future develops pride and gives the community a sense of ownership and belonging.</p> <p>Community decisions are a reflection of the community's aspirations and vision.</p>
Keeping the community informed, empowered and engaged	<p>Promoting and facilitating greater community engagement and education about the range of services, programs and community groups available.</p> <p>Supporting and investing in community education initiatives, continuous learning in the community and cultural festivals.</p> <p>Champion our support for the environmental, mental and physical issues affecting our community.</p>	<p>An informed, empowered and engaged community develops a greater sense of belonging, is inclusive and leads to higher levels of cooperation and understanding in achieving our vision.</p>
Kingston is a respectful, inclusive and diverse community	<p>We understand and celebrate our present and changing diversity. We acknowledge and value the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the land on which we live.</p> <p>We support the needs, abilities, skills, and languages of the many different people in our communities and we listen to their perspectives. We learn from their knowledge and culture.</p> <p>We are strong because we stand together.</p>	<p>We are a stronger community because we acknowledge our past and we are open to learning.</p> <p>A community that considers everyone is a connected community. No one is disadvantaged.</p>
Innovation to create a sustainable community	<p>Creative thinking and innovative problem solving will ensure that Kingston continues to thrive now and into the future. By fostering local sustainability we become resilient to the changes ahead. We are inspired by examples of innovation across the world. It is important that we use our resources well and wisely and reduce our impact on the earth.</p>	<p>This place is not just for us, it's for everyone who comes after us. We must bequeath them something we are proud of.</p> <p>To build a sustainable future we must build a city that incorporates new and intelligent ways of operating, creative ways of thinking, and being open to the discerning use of new technologies.</p>

PRINCIPLES (continued)

Principle	Description	Rationale
To make Kingston the most liveable city for its diverse community	<p>Liveability refers to the desirability of a place to live, work and play, for all.</p> <p>Characteristics of a liveable city include: land use, built form, public spaces and the natural environment; transport network, accessibility to work, education, health and community services; social and recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>The diverse community of Kingston wants it to be the best place to live. This includes being in a safe, healthy, affordable and sustainable city, which supports both individuals and businesses to thrive.</p>
Prioritise the natural environment	<p>Enhance and maintain our natural open spaces to restore and increase the biodiversity, resilience and vibrancy of Kingston.</p> <p>Engage all efforts to prevent further climate change; plan and act to mitigate negative effects as they arise.</p> <p>We preserve and sustainably manage Kingston's land, water and air for current and future generations.</p> <p>We continuously look for ways to implement best environmental management practices.</p> <p>Encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples involvement and practices in land care.</p>	<p>To protect our future we must actively protect our environment today.</p> <p>Our environment supports an entire ecosystem that is not ours to destroy.</p> <p>We are a community working together to reduce our negative impacts on the environment.</p>
Safety, health and well-being of the people of Kingston	<p>To make Kingston a safe place and that everyone in the community feels safe.</p> <p>Reinforce the acceptance and education of the diverse community, and create a safe environment because, in Kingston, we look out for each other.</p> <p>Improve infrastructure that promotes safety and better accessibility.</p>	<p>Kingston's future is dependent on people feeling safe, comfortable and supported.</p> <p>Kingston prides itself on having a safe community and it is important for us to foster that.</p>

Principle	Description	Rationale
<p>Thriving Kingston businesses</p>	<p>We encourage job-creating businesses in the community as it stimulates our local economy and reduces the impact on transportation and the environment.</p> <p>When we support our Kingston businesses, we create local jobs and careers and we sustain our local economy. Our community becomes resilient to future changes in our environment and economy. We acknowledge the jobs and careers that these businesses support – they add wealth to our community.</p> <p>Our local businesses should be connected to the wider community, through diversity of product, services, education and communication. Business can attract other business, and the community encourages KCC to attract responsible business practices in sustainable industries. In turn, the community expects this to attract partnered businesses, expand local support, and build the Kingston economy.</p> <p>At local markets, local shopping centres, and promoted through KCC media, there should be promotion of local, “sole” traders to showcase their local business, and the impact they have on the local culture. We recognise and support the local diverse multicultural business communities. KCC should educate the community to understand the value and importance of local business through targeted promotion of local traders.</p> <p>Council could consider sustainable loans to businesses with innovative community vision; and the community in turn appreciates all local club sponsorship (and otherwise) that businesses provide.</p> <p>Council should assist infrastructure development for our local businesses, through supporting infrastructure providers (e.g. telecommunications, electrical, etc) and their own (e.g. Roadways, etc).</p>	<p>Without economy and businesses, our community cannot be sustainable; and without a community, a business cannot flourish. The two are inseparably linked.</p>





NEXT STEPS

Kingston's new Community Vision and principles provides a strong basis for long term planning for Council and the community.

The vision establishes a clear link between the future aspirations of the community and Council decision making for the future.

The vision will be formally incorporated into Council's strategic planning, budgeting process and advocacy programs to ensure we are advocating for our community's aspirations to all levels of government and agencies.

The priorities outlined in the vision will inform long term resourcing strategies and medium term strategic plans and policies.

The vision will be provided to other agencies, government departments and stakeholders to inform their own long-term planning and prioritisation processes. As part of the deliberative process one minority report was submitted by individual panel members, this was not supported by the entire panel and therefore not included in the final vision document but can be accessed at yourkingstonyoursay.com.au/yourfuture



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