

Significant Tree nominations

Community engagement summary report
May 2025

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2 Background

This document provides a summary of nominations of Significant Trees in Casey to add to the Significant Tree register.

The Significant Tree register is a document that highlights trees in the City of Casey that have been identified and assessed by an Arborist to protect the trees, in particular the exotic and other native trees.

Community were asked to nominate trees worthy of protection, based on their girth and canopy and the condition of the tree.

From 9 April to 11 May 2025, nominations were open.

2.1 Key findings

Eighteen (18) nominations were made during the consultation period.

2.2 Next steps

Council officers will consider nominations and check against the current Significant Tree Register before requesting an Arborist to assess the trees.

If the tree is assessed as significant and it is not currently on the Significant Tree Register, it will be added and the list updated.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to receive nominations from residents and visitors to Casey, including community interested in trees being protected.

3.2 Consultation process

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Website news story
- Council's e-newsletter, Casey Catch up
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Casey Conversations, including opportunity to provide Nominations online, email or call to nominate a tree.
- Contact email address and phone number of Council Officer provided for interested community members interested in nominated a significant tree.
- Printed information available, as required.

Details	Activity
9 April to 11 May 2025 220 visitors	Casey Conversations Website Project information, online nomination form on the engagement platform Casey Conversations. Online nomination form: 18 nominations

4 Who we heard from

Nominators were asked to share some demographic information for us to understand more about who we were hearing from.

From the fourteen 18 nominations, the nominators were from the following suburbs:

Berwick (2)

Botanic Ridge (2)

Cranbourne (2)

Cranbourne East (1)

Cranbourne North (1)

Endeavour Hills (1)

Hampton Park (1)

Narre Warren (5)

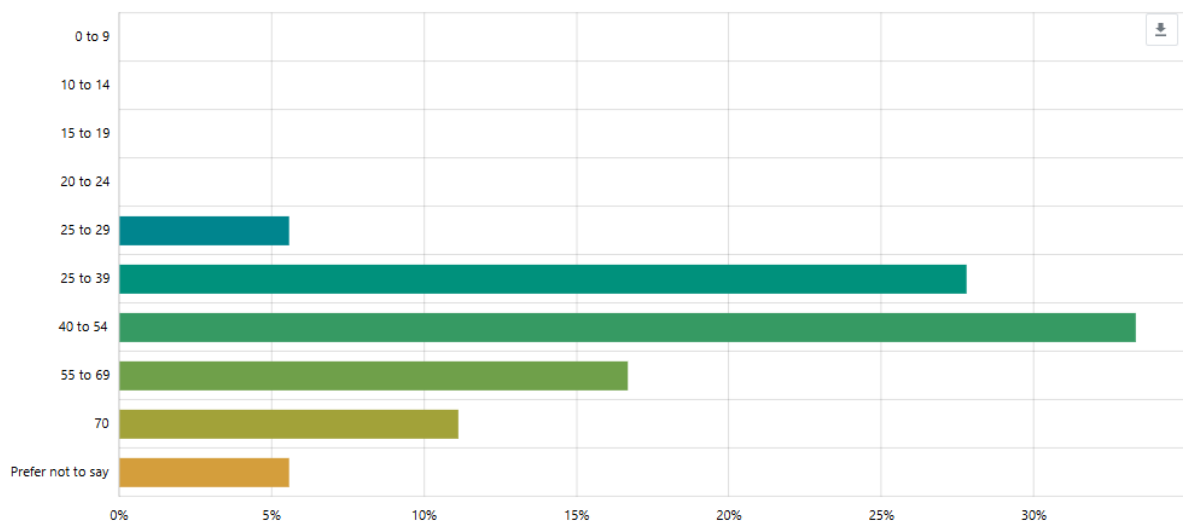
Warneet (1)

Outside of Casey (2)

Total 18

Age Group

Of the 18 nominations the age group were as follows:



5 Consultation findings

There were five steps in the nomination process.

Steps in the nomination process

Step 1: Check the criteria

When you nominate a tree for protection, we assess it based on several factors:

- **Aesthetic value:** A tree of outstanding aesthetic significance.
- **Age and vulnerability:** A tree which is particularly old or vulnerable.
- **Curious growth form:** A tree which exhibits a curious growth form or physical feature such as abnormal outgrowths, natural fusion or branches, severe lightning damage, or unusually pruned forms.
- **Historical value:** A tree commemorating a particular occasion (including plantings by Royalty) or having associations with an important historical event. Significant place associations. Social significance.
- **Horticultural value:** A tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock, including specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or exposure. Association with scientific/technical innovations.
- **Indigenous culture:** A tree associated with Indigenous activities.
- **Location or context:** A tree which occurs in a unique location or context and so provides a contribution to the landscape, including remnant native vegetation, important landmarks, and trees which form part of an historic garden, park or town.
- **Outstanding example of species:** A tree that is an outstanding example of the species.
- **Outstanding size:** A tree outstanding for its large height, trunk circumference, or canopy spread.
- **Rare or localised:** A tree or species or variety that is rare or of very localised distribution.

If you think the tree will fit one or more of the criteria, continue to the next step.

Step 2: Submit your nomination

Nominate a significant tree via the online Significant Tree Nomination Form.

Note: If you're nominating a tree on private property, we encouraged you to let the property owner know that you're nominating their tree. There is a section in the nomination form where you can include their details.

Step 3: Initial desktop assessment

Within 28 days of receiving your nomination Council officers will undertake a desktop assessment to determine if the nomination fits the criteria.

Note: This may take longer if it is determined that a site inspection is required (subject to government restrictions). Council officers will contact you if this is required.

Step 4: Nominations referred to an arborist

Nominations that proceed through to step 5 will be referred to an arborist for assessment. It will be at this stage that it will be confirmed whether the tree or group of trees are significant and if they warrant protection.

Step 5: Preparation of a finalised list of trees

Council will prepare a final list of trees recommended by the arborist to proceed to a Planning Scheme Amendment.

Prior to providing the information about the tree/s, the significance of the tree needed to be selected.

The following section summarises the significance of trees including Aesthetic value, age and vulnerability, curious growth form, historical value, horticultural value, indigenous

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culture, location or content, outstanding example of species, outstanding size and rare and localised.

The following is the selections made by the nominators.

name	count	percentage
Horticultural Value -A tree possess outstanding horticultural or genetic value (e.g. could be an important stock for future propagation), including rare example of local gene pools.	0	0
Location or landscape context -A tree that occurs in a unique location or context, providing contribution to the landscape, important landmarks and trees which form part of a historic garden, park or town. This also includes trees contributing to neighbour	2	11.11
Rare or localised – A tree or group of trees that is/are rare in the wild or in cultivation or has a very localised distribution.	2	11.11
Outstanding size – A tree or group of trees that is/are outstanding for its height, trunk circumference or canopy spread.	3	16.67
Aesthetic value - A tree of outstanding aesthetic significance.	1	5.56
Age and vulnerability – A tree which is particularly old and vulnerable.	1	5.56
Curious growth form – A tree or group of trees that is/are of outstanding interest because of curious growth form or physical feature arising from abnormal outgrowths, natural fusion of branches, natural damage or pruning activity.	1	5.56
Historic Value - A tree or group of trees that is/are important to cultural or natural history of the area through the commemoration of a particular occasion or plantings by notable people or having association with an important event in history.	0	0
Aboriginal Culture - A tree or group of trees that has/have a recognised association with Aboriginal culture and/or heritage.	0	0
Outstanding example of a species - A tree or group of trees that is/are an outstanding example of its species in terms of good health and form or structure.	1	5.56
Remnant Tree/s - Type 1: A tree or group of trees that survive from the pre-European era. Type 2: A tree or group of trees surviving from a previous landscape period, e.g. fruit/nut trees that were part of orchards before urbanisation.	2	11.11
Outstanding habitat value - A tree or group of trees with outstanding value as habitat or niche for native flora and fauna.	1	5.56
Community Value - A tree that has a significant community value.	3	16.67
Other	1	5.56

Suburb location of trees nominated

Berwick	2
Cranbourne	3
Cranbourne North	1
Cranbourne South	1
Devon Meadows	1
Doveton	1
Endeavour Hills	3

Fountain Gate	1
Hampton Park	2
Harkaway	1
Narre Warren	2
	18

- Trees will be assessed by an Arborist prior to inclusion in the Significant Tree Register.

6 Consultation evaluation

This report presents the findings from the analysis of the nominations for Significant Trees during community engagement from 9 April to 11 May 2025.

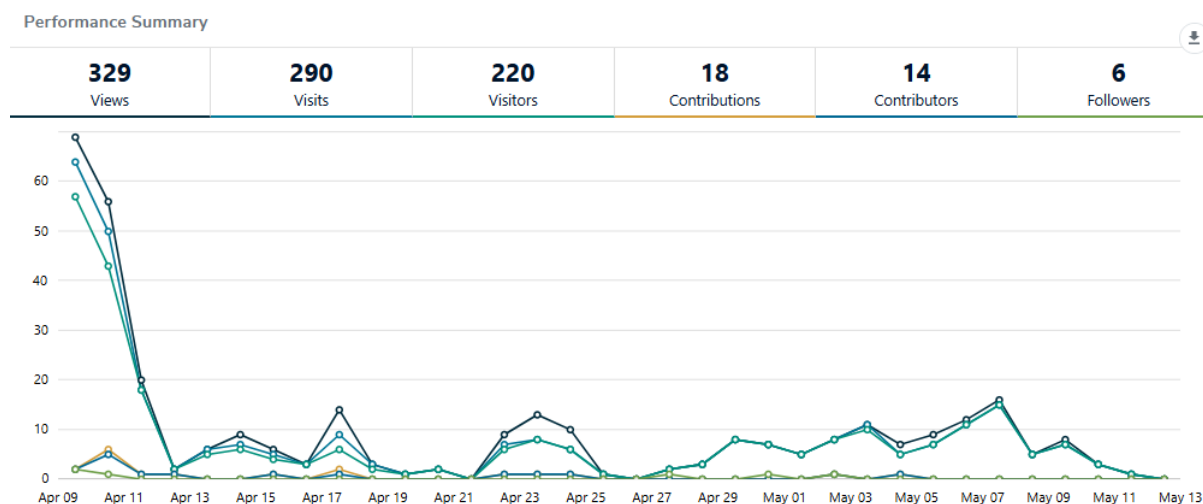
The consultation was promoted to key stakeholders including previous Casey Conversations project subscribers.

The website news story and Casey Catch-Up e-newsletter also ensured the wider Casey community was given the opportunity to nominate Significant Trees.

The length of consultation was four weeks, with most responses received in the week

The engagement program received a total of 18 nominations.

Casey Conversations project page



Engagement targets for the Casey Conversations webpages were that:

- 5.86% of visits would last at least one active minute
- 26.21% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links

6.1 Satisfaction with engagement process

Survey participants were generally satisfied with the consultation process and materials, with a majority of participants selecting they had the required information to participate, and it was very (50%) or mostly (28%) easy to find/understand. It is noted that some participants found the information mostly or very hard (0%) to find/understand or were not sure (4%).

Engagement plan

The engagement plan for this project was published and is available to view at:

<https://conversations.casey.vic.gov.au/significant-trees/step>