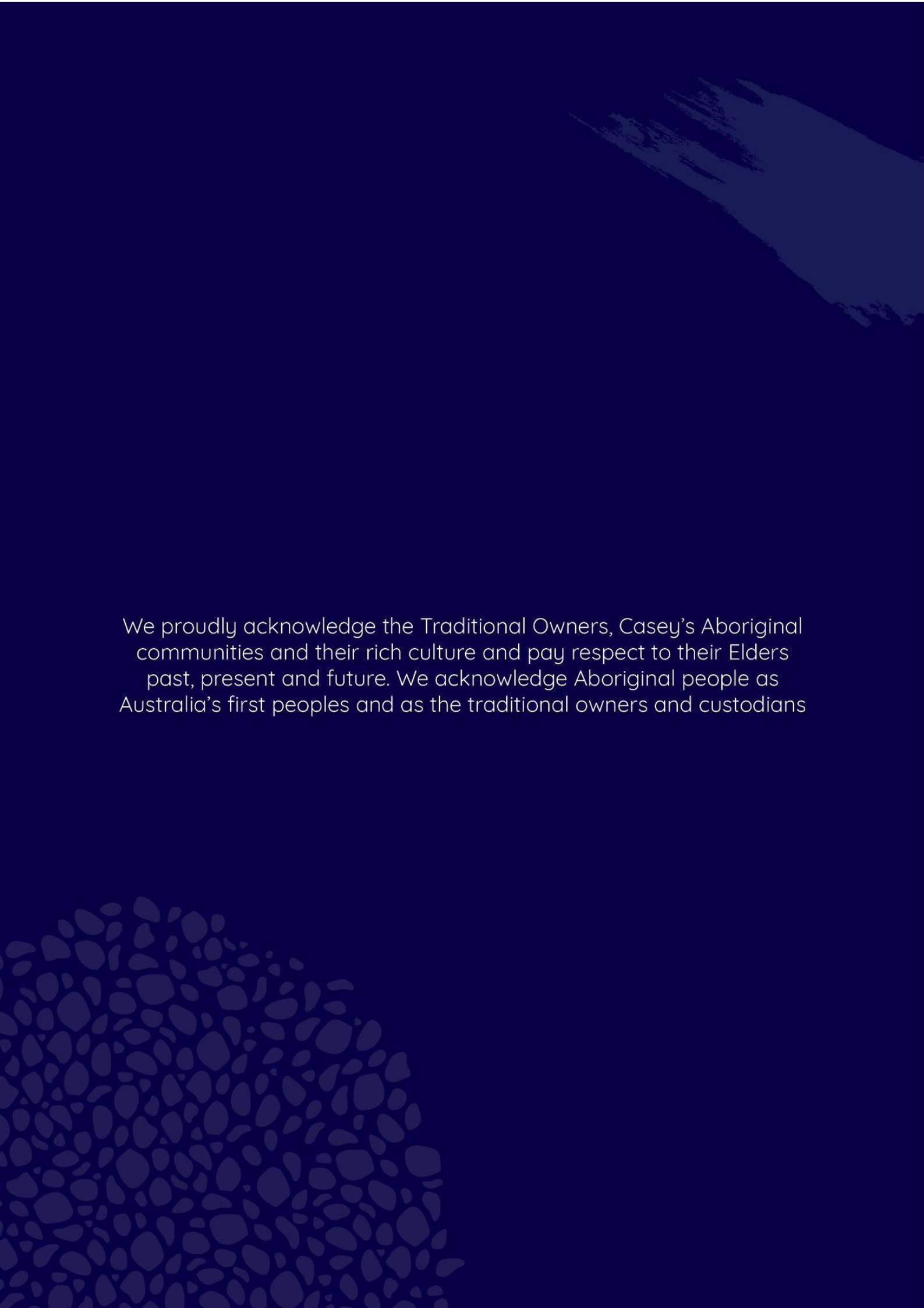


BUILDING A BETTER CASEY

Engagement Report
City of Casey
August 2026



We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners, Casey's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pay respect to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians

Executive summary

Conversation Co was engaged by the City of Casey (Council) to deliver an engagement program familiarising community members with local government advocacy priorities for the State Government election. This engagement sought to understand community perspectives on why advocacy projects matter to local people to provide a locally grounded evidence base for stronger advocacy to the State Government.

Engagement overview

In this project, engagement was used to:

- Present to the community a range of advocacy projects and potential initiatives.
- Seek community feedback about why various advocacy projects matter to local people so Council can build a better case for State Government funding.

Participation

In total, 368 people participated in the engagement activities as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Participation by engagement activity

Engagement activity	No. of responses	%
Pop-ups	289	78.5
Online Surveys (*until 5 July)	79	21.5

*Online survey engagement remains open for this project. This project presents the interim findings: 20 Mar- 5 July

Key findings overall

Participants were invited to select advocacy projects that interested them and explain why they were important. A total of 906 project selections were made across engagement activities. Table 2 presents the top 10 projects overall.

Table 2. Top 10 projects overall

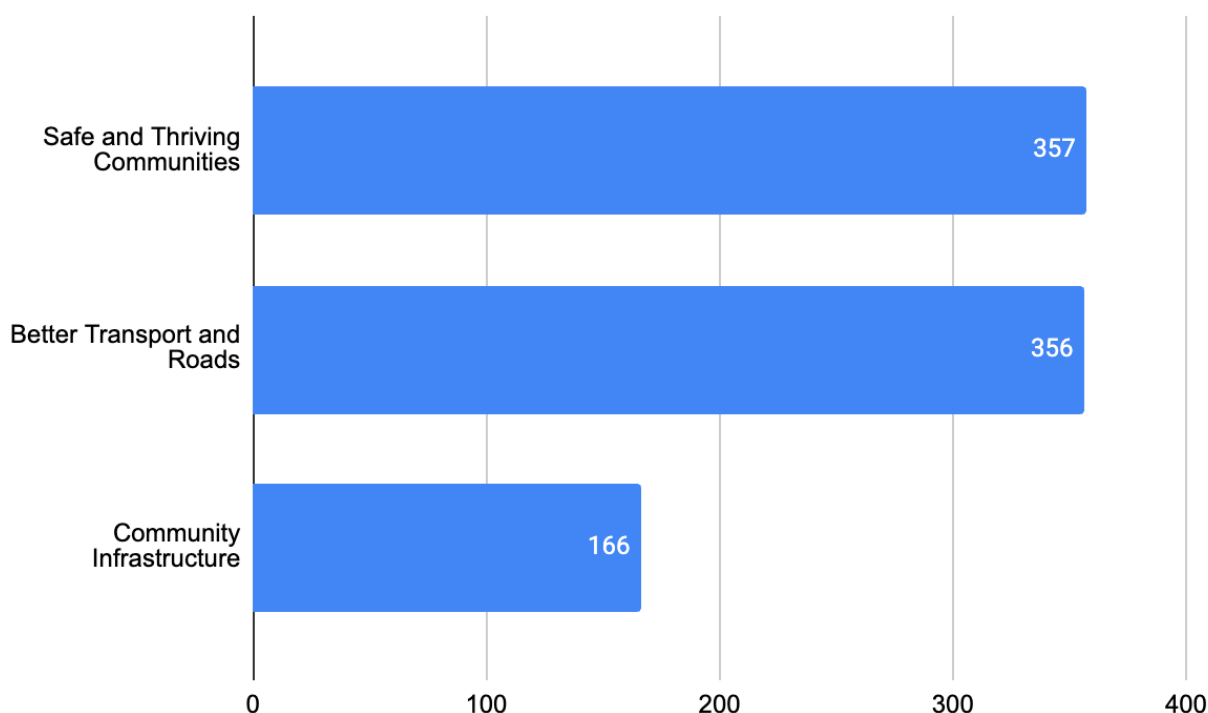
Rank	Project	No. of Selections	Advocacy Pillar
1	Clyde Rail Link	58	Better Transport and Roads
2	Homelessness and Housing Affordability	47	Safe and Thriving Communities
3	Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade	41	Better Transport and Roads
4	Bus Network Improvements	40	Better Transport and Roads

5	Non-Council Road Maintenance	34	Safe and Thriving Communities
6	Food Security	31	Safe and Thriving Communities
7	Headspace for Casey/Mental Health Support	31	Safe and Thriving Communities
8	Thompsons Road Upgrade and Extension	30	Better Transport and Roads
9	Ballarto Road	27	Better Transport and Roads
10	Gambling Harm	27	Safe and Thriving Communities

Source: survey, pop-ups.

Looking at selections of projects overall by advocacy pillar, participants prioritised projects under the Safe and Thriving Communities (n=357) and Better Transport and Roads (n=356) the most with almost equal priority.

Figure 1. Project selections by pillar



Source: survey, pop-ups.

Why advocacy projects are important

When asked why their selected advocacy projects were important, participants consistently highlighted the need for improved transport infrastructure, stronger community services and

long-term investment to support Casey's growing population. The top themes mentioned overall were:

- **Implementing safer and more efficient transport** through road upgrades, improved road safety, reduced congestion and better traffic flow.
- **Expanded public transport** to include more reliable bus services and the Clyde Rail Link, to improve accessibility, reduce reliance on private vehicles and ease pressure on the road network.
- **Long-term infrastructure planning** to ensure roads and transport networks keep pace with rapid population growth, particularly in Clyde, Clyde North and Cranbourne East.
- **Projects that benefit the wider community** with many participants describing their selected priorities as overdue. Worthwhile investments were seen as those that would improve quality of life, support families, and create lasting community benefits.

Most important advocacy projects by Pillar

Each advocacy pillar contains a number of bespoke advocacy projects which were presented to participants for their feedback.

Better Roads and Transport (15 projects)

The top three advocacy projects under this pillar were:

- Clyde Rail Link (n=58).
- Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade (n=41).
- Bus Network Improvements (n=40).

The key feedback surrounding why these advocacy projects were important were:

- Improving roads and traffic infrastructure.
- Expanding reliable public transport.
- Enhancing active transport and safe pedestrian options.
- Enhancing parking and accessibility.
- Improving connectivity, mobility and travel times.

Community Infrastructure (20 projects)

The top three advocacy projects under this pillar were:

- Ongoing Funding for Libraries and Aquatic Centres (n=26).
- Eumemmering Creek to Lysterfield Lake Trail (n=21).
- Clyde Rd to Kangan Dr Path Link (n=17).

The key feedback surrounding why these advocacy projects were important were:

- Improving quality of life, community connection and activities for all ages.
- Investing in free or low-cost opportunities for recreation, learning and social activities.
- Providing community infrastructure to improve mental health and wellbeing particularly for older people facing isolation and younger people with poor mental health or risk of being disengaged.
- Upgrading or maintaining existing community facilities to meet growing demand.

- Supporting equitable and safe access to existing services and facilities by supporting active transport, parking and supporting amenities or infrastructure at key locations and along routes.

Safe and Thriving Communities (21 projects)

The top three advocacy projects under this pillar were:

- Homelessness/ Affordable Housing (n=47).
- Non-Council Road Maintenance (n=34).
- Food Security (n=31).

The key feedback surrounding why these advocacy projects were important were:

- Prioritising non-Council road maintenance for safety and general road improvements but also aesthetics, neighbourhood pride and look and feel.
- Providing targeted support for the most vulnerable in the community.
- Recognising how cost-of-living pressures contribute to and compounding of social issues like homelessness, mental health, gambling harm and food insecurity.
- Recognising that the identified issues disproportionately affect people already experiencing disadvantage, including young people, older adults, single parents, women escaping family violence, people with disability and low-income households.
- Accessing affordable and local support services, early intervention and prevention initiatives is needed.

Table of Contents

Executive summary	3
Table of Contents	7
1. Introduction	8
2. Engagement Methodology	9
2.1 Barriers to participation	10
3. Who participated?	11
3.1 Participation by engagement activity	11
3.2 Demographic characteristics	11
3.2.1 Gender	11
3.2.2 Geographic location	12
3.2.3 Age group	13
3.2.4 Participant connection to the project	14
4. Key Findings	14
4.1 Key findings overall	15
4.2 Key findings by pillar	17
4.2.1 Better Transport and Roads	17
4.2.2 Community Infrastructure	20
4.2.3 Safe and Thriving Communities	23
5. Next Steps	27
6. Appendices	28
Appendix A: Full list of advocacy projects and selections	28
Appendix B: Pop up postcard	31

1. Introduction

The City of Casey is Victoria's most populated local government area. Its population is projected to exceed 610,000 by 2046. As the population grows and community needs evolve, Council is creating a community-informed foundation for advocacy during the upcoming State election period. Conversation Co was engaged by Council to assist with the '*Building a Better Casey*' project. This project sought to use community engagement to highlight the priority projects and initiatives in the community and further develop an evidence base for advocacy to government to guide planning, partnership and investment.

The City of Casey has identified three priority areas or 'pillars' for local advocacy projects:

1. Better Transport and Roads:

Investment in transport infrastructure, including rail and arterial road improvements, to enhance connectivity, improve access to employment, and support efficient movement of people and goods.

2. Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure such as libraries, recreation facilities and integrated service hubs that will strengthen social connection and support a growing and diverse community.

3. Safe and Thriving Communities

Initiatives to improve safety, early years infrastructure, and active transport that will ensure equitable access to services and support inclusive growth.

A total of 56 local initiatives and potential advocacy projects across these pillars were presented to local community members for their review. This project sought to familiarise community members with the selected projects and hear community feedback around why they are important. A full list of projects is available in Appendix A.

Image 1: Berwick Springs Park Run pop up- May 23rd



2. Engagement Methodology

Conversation Co supported Council to design and deliver face-to-face consultation across the municipality. During consultation, participants had the opportunity to choose from different projects across the nine different state electorates. Nine of these projects were applicable to all electorates, with the remaining projects split into their relevant electorates.

The engagement objectives included:

- Present to the community a range of advocacy projects and potential initiatives.
- Seek community feedback about why various advocacy projects matter to local people.

A mixed-method community engagement program was delivered, including in person pop-ups and an online survey. Table 3 outlines the specific community engagement activities delivered as part of this project.

Table 3. Community engagement activities

Activity/dates	Purpose
Online community survey hosted via <i>Casey Conversations</i> . Reporting period: 20 March to 5 July	Provided an online option for interested community members and key stakeholders to participate at a time convenient to them. The project page provided an overview of Council's advocacy priorities and links to more detailed specific project information.
In person pop-ups activities (12 sessions): • Saturday 2 May; ◦ Berwick Waters Parkrun • Saturday 9 May; ◦ Casey Fields ◦ Marcos IGA, Narre Warren North • Saturday 16 May ◦ Botanic Ridge Plaza ◦ Casey Stadium • Saturday 23 May; ◦ Cranbourne West Shopping Centre ◦ Berwick Springs Parkrun • Saturday 30 May; ◦ Frog Hollow Parkrun ◦ Hampton Park Shopping Centre ◦ Hallam Shops (Springs Square) • Saturday 13 June; ◦ Berwick High St (Centre Strip) • Friday 17 July; ◦ Bunjil Place, Narre Warren	Community pop-ups took place across all state electorates in Casey to understand why residents consider these projects important. The pop-ups were designed to intercept participants as they go about their daily business at key locations/events to capture a broad range of the community.

2.1 Barriers to participation

The potential barriers to participation identified across this project were:

- No specific project communications for the Casey Conversations page may have resulted in fewer participants.
- Mistrust in Council among some cohorts may have led to lower participation at Casey Fields and Marcos IGA in which some community members actively avoided the pop-up upon learning it was associated with Council. A small number of residents expressed negative perceptions of Council, resulting in refusals to engage.
- Inclement weather on Saturday 13 June, may have created a barrier to pop-up participation at Berwick High Street.
- Parkrun participants at pop-ups seemed less likely to want to stop for planned photo activities after exercising.

3. Who participated?

Overall, at pop-ups, a total of 329 interactions with community members were recorded. Between 23 March and 5 July 2026 Casey Conversations had 1839 unique visitors. The Building a Better Casey Facebook Page had 49,061 views and 1721 inputs of engagement. There were 551 followers of the page.

3.1 Participation by engagement activity

There were a total of 368 participants across the engagement activities. A breakdown of participation by engagement activity is summarised in Table 4. The online survey activity remains open for the remainder of 2026. For the purposes of this report, survey data from the period 20 Mar-5 July will be reported on.

Table 4. Participation by engagement activity

Engagement activity	No. of participants	%
Pop-ups	289	78.5
Online submissions	79	21.5
TOTAL	368	100%

*Online survey engagement remains open for this project. This project presents the interim findings: 20 Mar- 5 July

3.2 Demographic characteristics

Participants in both the online survey and community pop-up sessions were invited to provide demographic information. Demographic questions varied slightly between the two engagement methods. A summary of participant demographics is provided below. Notes throughout indicate which participant groups contributed to each activity.

3.2.1 Gender

A total of 196 participants in the survey and pop-ups provided their gender. There was good representation of women and men in comparison to the demographic makeup of the Casey community. No participants identified as non-binary or chose to self-describe. Table 5 presents the gender breakdown in comparison to census data.

Table 5. Participation by gender

Gender	Total No.	Total %	Census 2021 %
Woman	91	46.4	50.2
Man	103	52.6	49.8
Prefer not to say	2	1	-

Source: Survey, pop-ups.

3.2.2 Geographic location

A total of 194 participants across the survey and pop-ups provided their residential suburb. Table 6. shows the distribution of participants by suburb in comparison to the 2025 estimated resident population of each location.

Table 6. Participant suburb location

Suburb location	Total No.	Total %	2025 ERP* %
Clyde/Clyde North	35	18	9%
Cranbourne (including East, North, South, West)	32	16	29%
Narre Warren (including North & South, East West)	30	15	27%
Berwick (incl. North, Berwick Waters)	28	14	14%
Hampton Park	13	7	6%
Botanic Ridge, Blind Bight Lynbrook, Lyndhurst, Pearcedale, Tooradin	13	7	3%
Endeavour Hills	12	6	6%
Hallam, Doveton, Eumemmerring	11	6	6%
Outside of Casey	20	10	-
TOTAL	194	100%	100%

Source: survey, pop-ups.

*Based on 2025 Estimated Resident Population for City of Casey.

In this engagement program, Berwick, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park and Hallam/ Doveton/Eumemmerring, were well represented in comparison to their makeup of the local population. Clyde/Clyde North and residents from the Botanic Ridge/Blind Bight/ Lynbrook/Lyndhurst/Pearcedale/Tooradin were overrepresented in this engagement with Clyde residents making up the largest group in this engagement. Residents from Cranbourne and Narre Warren were underrepresented in this engagement in comparison to their makeup of the population.

3.2.3 Age group

The survey and pop-ups used different age brackets to record participation. Direct comparison of the two data sets is not possible. Table 7 below, shows survey participation and Table 8 shows pop-up participation.

Table 7. Age groups (survey participants)

Selected characteristics	Total No.	Total %	2021 Census* %
Age Group			
20-24	1	1	6.7
25-29	7	9	7.2
30-39	25	32	16.7
40-54	23	30	19.6
55-69	13	17	11.8
70+	8	10	7.3
TOTAL	77	100%	-

Source: survey.

Table 8. Age groups (pop-ups participants)

Selected characteristics	Total No.	Total %	2021 Census* %
Age Group			
18-24	0	0	9.1%
25-34	9	9	15.2%
35-49	30	30	22.3%
50-59	28	28	11.3%

Selected characteristics	Total No.	Total %	2021 Census* %
60-69	20	20	8.2%
70-84	9	9	6.1%
85+	1	1	1.2%
Prefer not to say	4	4	-
TOTAL	101	100%	100%

Compared with the 2021 census age profile, participation generally reflected a stronger response from middle-aged residents and a lower response from younger age groups.

Participation was strongest among adults aged approximately 30 to 59 years, with survey participation highest among participants aged 30–54 years (62%), and the pop-ups attracted the highest participation from people aged 35–59 years (58%). Younger adults were comparatively underrepresented across both methods, particularly those under 25. Older adults were well represented in both engagement activities, accounting for around 27% of survey participants and approximately 30% of pop-up participants.

3.2.4 Participant connection to the project

Pop up participants were asked to provide their connection to the project, in which participants could select more than one connection. The most common participant connections were those who lived in the suburb/ward of projects discussed (n=93) and those who worked in the suburb/ward of the projects (n=27). A total of ten participants regularly visited the suburb/wards of projects and one participant studied in the suburb/ward of projects. Two participants selected 'Other' connections, one who had a family member living there and one who used to live in the area and still takes an interest.

4. Key Findings

Participants across online and face-to-face engagement activities were presented with the 56 advocacy projects that form Council's State Government election priorities for 2026. These projects represent Council's current identified priorities for state government investment in the City of Casey. The advocacy projects presented to the community are designed to accommodate and take advantage of rapid population growth and development of the area.

The projects presented to community members in this engagement fall under three key advocacy pillars identified by Council:

- Better Transport and Roads
- Community Infrastructure
- Safe and Thriving Communities

The following sections present the findings for this community engagement program. Section 4.1 presents the findings overall and 4.2 presents findings by advocacy pillar.

4.1 Key findings overall

Participants were invited to browse and review the 56 advocacy projects. Project descriptions, goals and estimated budgets were provided for each project in both the online survey and at pop-ups. Participants were invited to select the advocacy projects that interested them and explain why they were important. A total of 906 project selections were made across engagement activities. Table 9 presents the top 10 projects overall. The full list of project selections can be found in Appendix A. The highest ranked project was Clyde Rail Link (n=58) followed by Homelessness and Housing Affordability (n=47) and the Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade (n=41).

Table 9. Top 10 projects overall

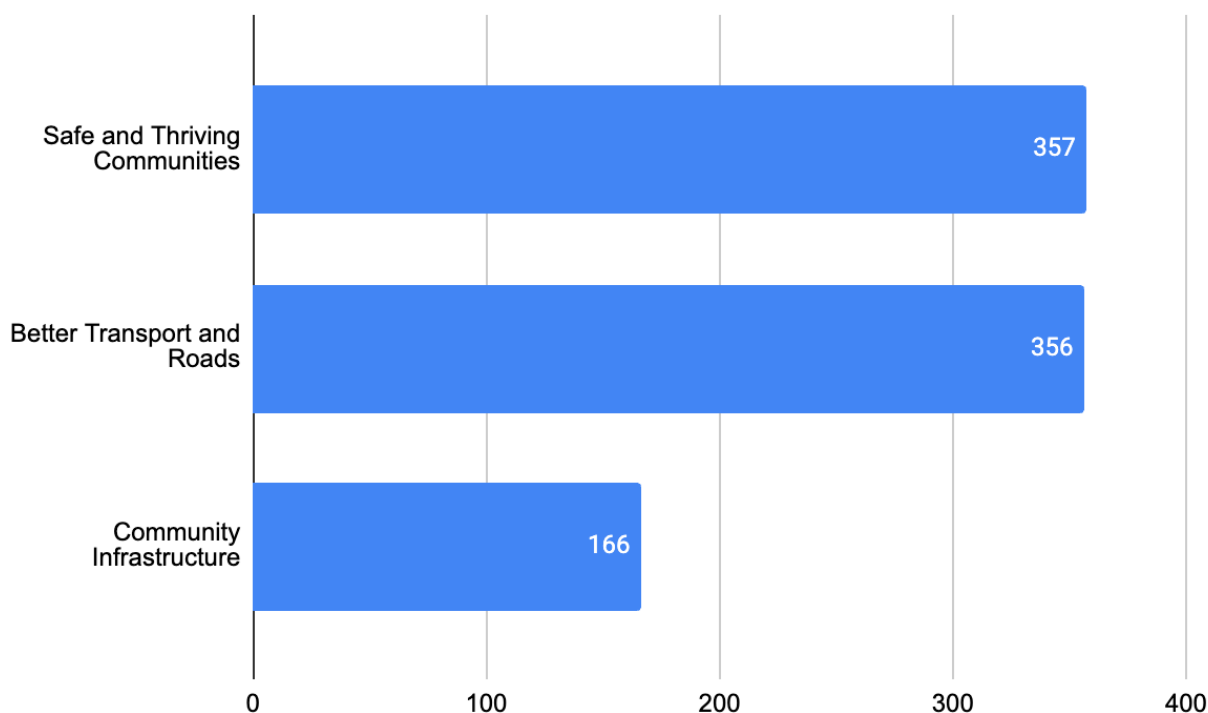
Rank	Project	No. of Selections	Advocacy Pillar
1	Clyde Rail Link	58	Better Transport and Roads
2	Homelessness and Housing Affordability	47	Safe and Thriving Communities
3	Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade	41	Better Transport and Roads
4	Bus Network Improvements	40	Better Transport and Roads
5	Non-Council Road Maintenance	34	Safe and Thriving Communities
6	Food Security	31	Safe and Thriving Communities
7	Headspace for Casey/Mental Health Support	31	Safe and Thriving Communities
8	Thompsons Road Upgrade and Extension	30	Better Transport and Roads
9	Ballarto Road	27	Better Transport and Roads
10	Gambling Harm	27	Safe and Thriving Communities

Source: survey, pop-ups.

Overall, Transport and Road infrastructure projects and Safe and Thriving Communities projects were the most represented advocacy areas among the top ten projects selected, each with half of the projects selected. Community Infrastructure projects were still important to community members, however, did not feature in the top 10 projects.

Looking at selections of projects overall by advocacy pillar, participants prioritised projects under the Safe and Thriving Communities (n=357) and Better Transport and Roads (n=356) the most with almost equal priority given to both pillars followed by Community Infrastructure (n=166). Figure 2 presents this breakdown.

Figure 2. Projects selected overall



Source: survey, pop-ups.

Community members were asked the open-ended question; *'Please tell us why this is important to you'* in relation to the projects presented. Participants responded to this question in a number of different ways, some choosing to explain the reasoning why suggested advocacy projects would be beneficial, others shared suggestions for improvements and others shared general comments for example: "it's important to my family". Looking at the free text feedback across both engagement activities, the strongest themes that emerged were:

- **Better transport and roads (n=111):**
 - **Improve road safety:** addressing potholes, poor visibility, lighting, unsafe roads and intersections, lack of safe pedestrian and bike options, mentions of accidents and fatalities.
 - **Reduce congestion and improve traffic flow:** descriptions of gridlocked traffic and congestion, long travel times, delays which affect access, mobility and quality of life.

- **Long-term road investment:** to accommodate population growth and development in the area- particularly in Clyde, Clyde North and Cranbourne East as well as creating long-term solutions rather than patch-up maintenance.
- **It's important to me (n=50):** participants who shared general responses to why particular projects were important. The most common general comments were: "it is important for the whole community", "this is overdue", "this affects my family" and "this is worthwhile".
- **Public Transport (n=49):**
 - **Expanding public transport:** to improve mobility, access and quality of life for Casey locals, reduce car dependence and reduce pressure on roads and congestion.
 - **Improved routes and services:** providing more frequent and more reliable services, extending routes to support mobility and access across Casey and to other areas. Participants most commonly suggested increased and more reliable bus connections and routes and Clyde Rail Link.

4.2 Key findings by pillar

The following sections of this report present the community engagement findings by pillar.

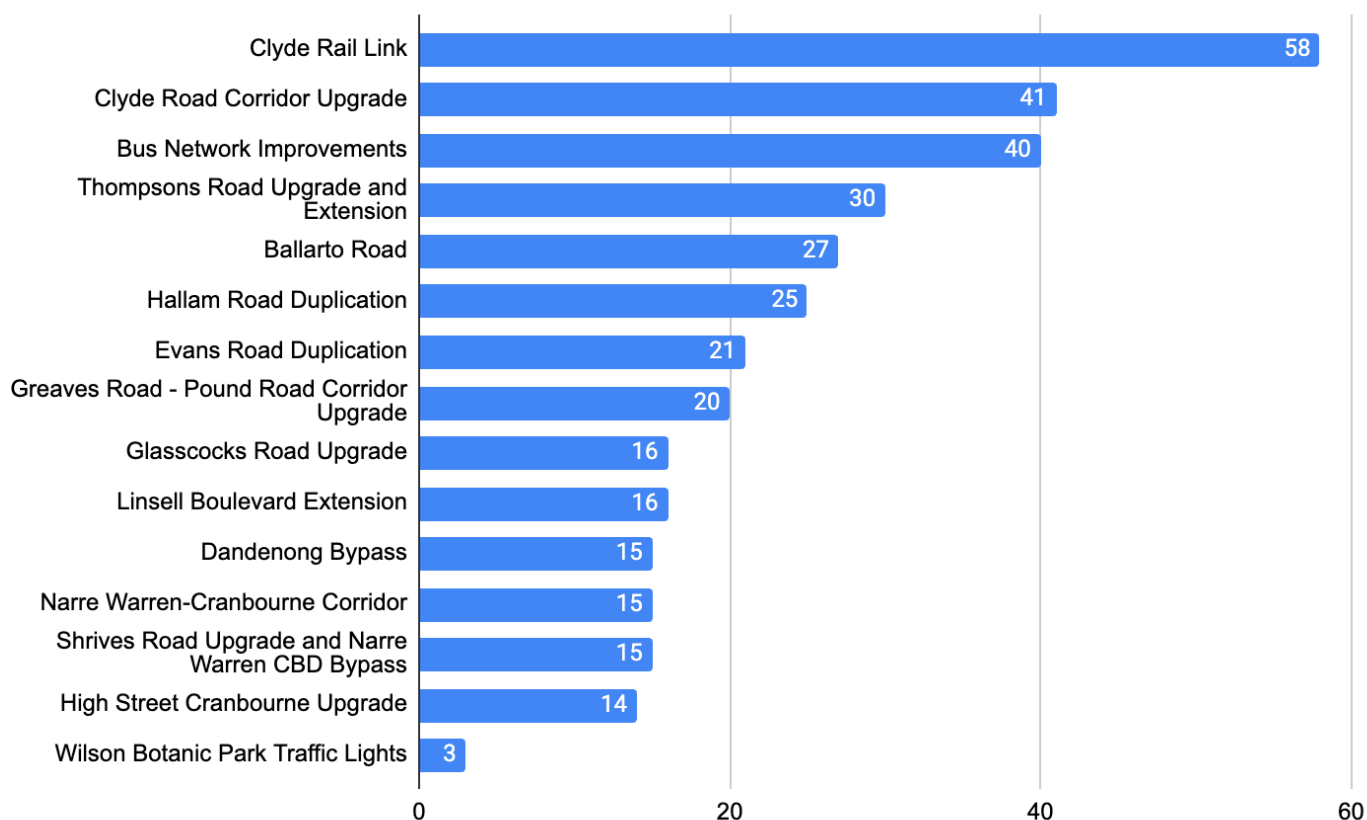
- **4.2.1 Better Transport and Roads**
- **4.2.2 Community Infrastructure**
- **4.2.3 Safe and Thriving Communities**

4.2.1 Better Transport and Roads

This pillar refers to investment in transport infrastructure, including rail and arterial road improvements, to enhance connectivity, improve access to employment, and support for the efficient movement of people and goods. Council has proposed 15 separate projects and initiatives under this pillar.

Across both the survey and pop-ups, participants were invited to review proposed advocacy projects and make comments on the ones that interested them. There were a total of 356 project selections made under the Better Transport and Roads Pillar. Figure 3. below, presents participant project selections.

Figure 3. Participant priority projects- Better Transport and Roads



Source: Survey, pop-ups.

Overall, the most commonly selected project was the Clyde Rail Link (n=58) followed by the Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade (n=41) and Bus Network Improvements (n=40). The least selected project was the Wilson Botanic Park Traffic Lights (n=3) with significantly less engagement than the other advocacy initiatives.

Participants were asked the open-ended question: 'Why is this important to you?' The most common overall themes mentioned under Better Transport and Roads were improving roads and traffic infrastructure in Casey, expanding reliable public transport, enhancing active transport and safe pedestrian options and parking and accessibility. Participants understood road improvements alongside public transport provision as complementary solutions to improving connectivity, mobility and travel times. Participants suggested significant investment and long-term planning is needed for major upgrades rather than repairs, ongoing roadworks or reactive improvements. Table 10 below presents the top five selected projects for this pillar, alongside the community rationale and common sentiments provided in free-text feedback and verbatim quotes.

Table 10. Top 5 projects and why they are important- Better Transport and Roads

Advocacy Project	Why it's important	Verbatim Quotes
Clyde Rail Link (n=58)	- Provide better access to public transport - Provide better commutes and easier access to the city - Easier carparking at the station - Service the population of the area - Reduce congestion on roads	<i>"Currently we drive to East Malvern to catch the train. Train and car equals over one and a half hours. Would prefer to drive to the train station close by, more parking and security at the carpark".</i> <i>"Railway extension is a must. Cranbourne station is too far for an overwhelming majority of people in the cranbourne east, Clyde, Clyde North area. It would save the morning commute significantly and reduce congestion on already overly congested roads".</i>
Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade (n=41)	- Traffic, congestion, and roadworks create significant delays on Clyde Road - Upgrade is long overdue - Support significant growth in Clyde and Clyde North - Safety improvements needed	<i>"I avoid this road to get to Berwick. I drive this way a lot. Clyde 5 ways intersection is confusing, hard to get across unless you use it all the time".</i> <i>"Widening of major roads in the Clyde North and Clyde areas as...congested roads mean we simply remain suburb bound or have lessened quality of life by being impacted with extended travel time for simple trips".</i>
Bus Network Improvements (n=40)	- More routes, regular services - More efficient bus trips - Reliable services and times - Increase connectivity between routes - Reduce car dependence; improve environmental outcomes and road congestion - More services at school times	<i>"I live in one of the newer areas of Berwick and public transport is scarce and irregular. It would be good to have some more buses to more parts of Berwick".</i> <i>"The services have decreased a lot. It used to be every 15 mins and now every hour. I see older people waiting in the rain".</i>
Thompsons Road Upgrade and Extension (n=30)	- Take pressure off surrounding roads and routes - Reduce congestion - Reduce traffic accidents and improve safety - Better connections to	<i>"It will ease the traffic pressure on Clyde Road and Bells Road with access to Officer South Freeway exit".</i> <i>"Congestion and traffic accidents".</i>

	freeway - Pedestrian safety needed	
Ballarto Road (n=27)	- Provide connection between suburbs - Take pressure off other surrounding roads - Improve travel times	<i>"This will help as people are cutting through local roads that aren't built for this traffic".</i> <i>"Better connectivity (I'm a Cranbourne local)".</i>

Source: survey, pop-ups.

Image 2. Botanic Ridge Plaza pop-up- May 16th

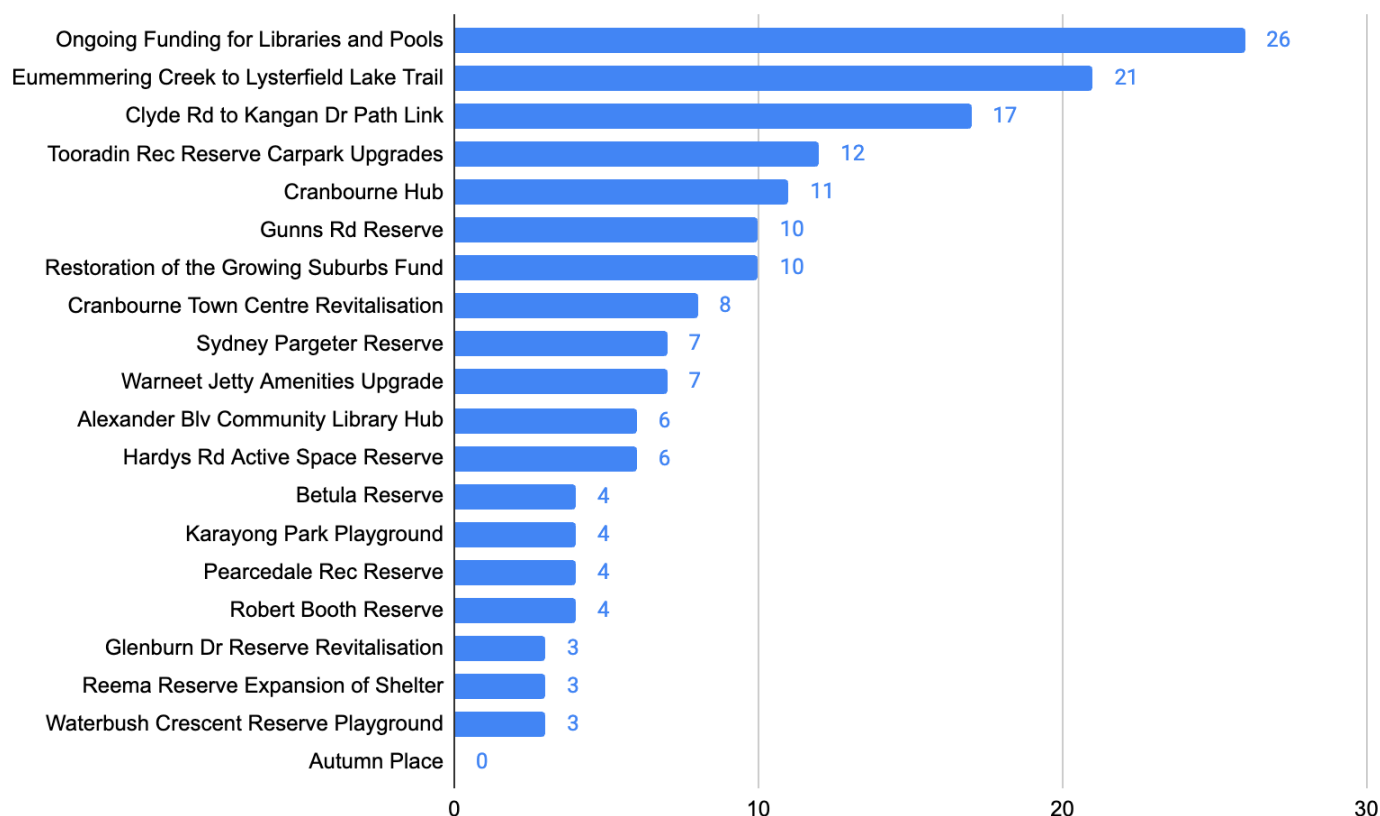


4.2.2 Community Infrastructure

Community Infrastructure advocacy projects look at libraries, recreation facilities, and integrated service hubs that can strengthen social connection and support a growing and diverse community. Council has proposed 20 advocacy projects under this pillar.

There were a total of 166 project selections made under the Community Infrastructure pillar. Figure 4 below presents participant project selections.

Figure 4. Participant priority projects- Community Infrastructure



Source: Survey, pop-ups.

- Overall, the most commonly selected project was Ongoing Funding for Libraries and Aquatic Centres (n=26) followed by Eumemmering Creek to Lysterfield Lake Trail (n=21) and Clyde Road to Kangan Dr Path Link (n=17). The least selected project was Autumn Place (Agnes OBrien Park Playground) with zero selections.

Participants were asked the open-ended question; *‘Why is this important to you?’* The most common overall themes mentioned under Community Infrastructure were; the importance of investing in facilities and spaces that improve quality of life, community connection and activities for all ages. Participants valued community facilities like libraries, pools and parks because they provided free or low-cost opportunities for recreation or learning, social interaction and a place to meet with others. This was seen as particularly important in the context of increased cost of living pressures. There was a strong emphasis on community infrastructure for creating spaces that improve mental health and wellbeing particularly for older people facing isolation and younger people with poor mental health or at risk of being disengaged.

Participants also commonly suggested improvements to the amenity, accessibility and safety of existing community infrastructure. Common themes included improving pedestrian access, expanding active transport connections, upgrading facilities to meet growing demand, and enhancing supporting infrastructure such as carparking, pathways, lighting

and public amenities to ensure community spaces remain safe, welcoming and fit for purpose.

Table 11 below presents the top five selected projects for this pillar, alongside the community rationale and common sentiments provided in free-text feedback and verbatim quotes.

Table 11. Top 5 projects and why they are important- Community Infrastructure

Advocacy Project	Why it's important	Verbatim Quotes
Ongoing Funding Commitment for Libraries and Aquatic Centres (n=26)	- Pools are important for health and wellbeing - Libraries important for education, study opportunities and employment pathways - Facilities are important meeting places, community connection - More facilities are needed to support population - More safe, affordable community activities	<i>"Aquatic centres - leisure activities for youth, keeps them occupied".</i> <i>"I do events for the cultural community and we partner with libraries in all Councils".</i> <i>"Continue investing in libraries, I have two kids, we go there as a family".</i>
Eumemmering Creek to Lysterfield Lake Trail (n=21)	- Exercise and wellbeing - Improve active transport links and routes - Provide access to nature - Safe, separate active transport options	<i>"Promotes active communities, there is room for more trails and exercise routes in the city of Casey".</i> <i>"Because I've got grandchildren, they love to explore, it's important with environmental education".</i>
Clyde Road to Kangan Drive Path Link (n=17)	- Providing a safe pedestrian option - Important connection to busy area - Safe cycling option needed	<i>"These projects are a critical part of daily usage and contribute to the local economy and boost local infrastructure which helps local residents to travel to work and reduce road congestion".</i> <i>"That's where the hospitals are, Chisholm Uni. It's busy and full of traffic there, not safe for walking or cycling".</i>
Tooradin Recreation Reserve Carpark Upgrades (n=12)	- Improve access and safety for people using Tooradin reserve - Promote and support sporting users - Reduce unsafe crossings on	<i>"The Recreation Reserve is a central hub for Tooradin, home to multiple sporting clubs and participants of all ages. Ongoing lack of safe and adequate car parking creates safety concerns,</i>

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	the highway - To accommodate and service the growing population in Casey - Improve quality of life in the local neighbourhood	<i>limits growth, and impacts game day operations for volunteers, players and families”.</i> <i>“No safe pedestrian crossing across the South Gippsland Highway...need to cross the highway to access the Reserve, and the current situation presents a real and ongoing risk”.</i>
Cranbourne Hub (n=11)	- Promote local recreation activities, reducing travel time	<i>“Reduce the impact of our footprint if we are able to stay in our local area for recreation and transport purposes. Our money will go back into our own community”</i> <i>“I care about the community's wellbeing and I see these projects support the community”.</i>

Source: survey, pop-ups.

Image 3. Pop up at Casey Fields - May 9th

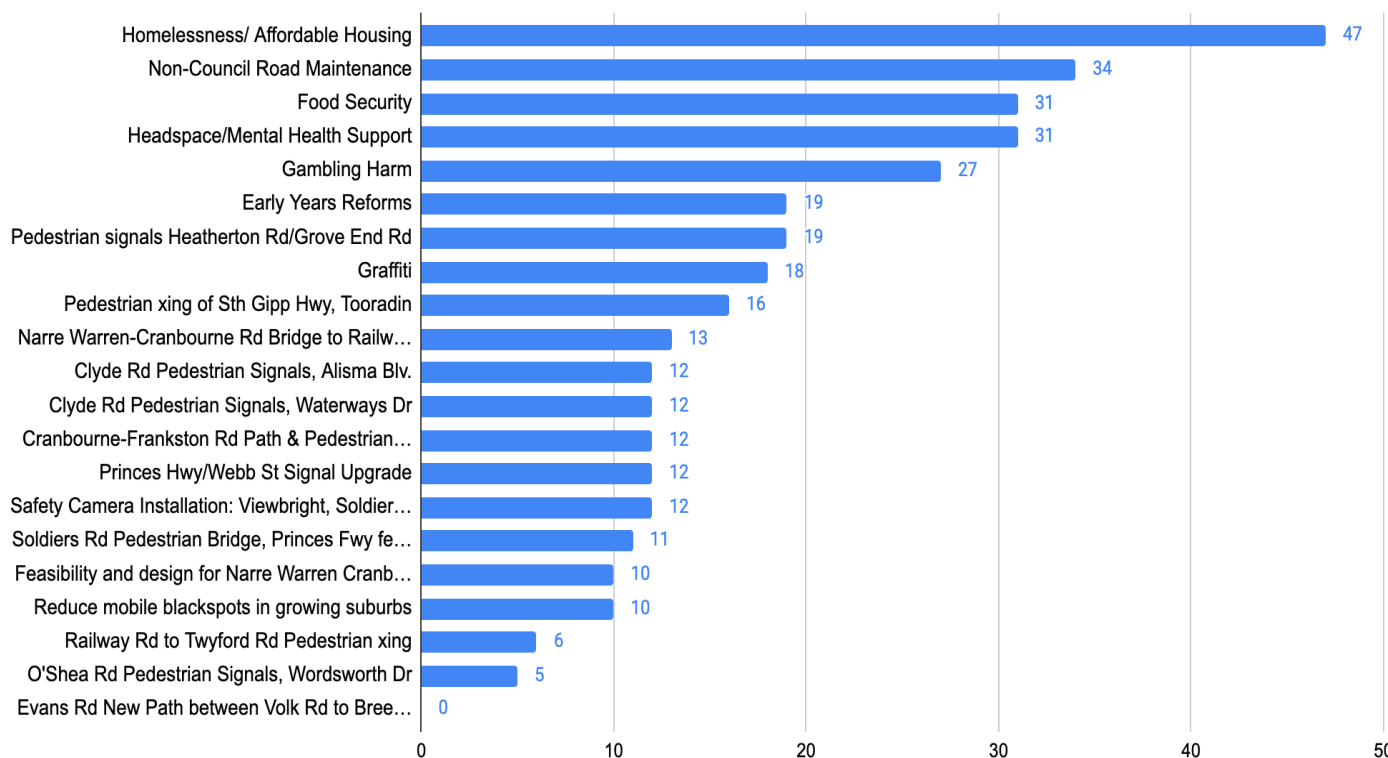


4.2.3 Safe and Thriving Communities

This pillar looks at initiatives to improve community safety, early years infrastructure, and active transport that will ensure equitable access to services and support inclusive growth. Council has proposed 21 projects under this pillar.

There were a total of 357 project selections made under the Safe and Thriving Communities Pillar. Figure 5 below presents participant project selections.

Figure 5. Participant priority projects- Safe and Thriving Communities



Source: survey, pop-ups.

Overall, the most commonly selected project was Homelessness and Affordable Housing (n=47) followed by Non-Council Road Maintenance (n=34), Food Security (n=31) and Headspace/Mental Health Support (n=31) equally. The least selected project was Evans Road New Path between Volk Road to Breens Road with zero selections.

Participants were asked the open-ended question; *'Why is this important to you?'* The most common overall theme mentioned under Safe and Thriving Communities was a desire to provide support for the community as a whole, but also by providing targeted support for the most vulnerable. Feedback reflected growing concern about the impacts of cost-of-living pressures, with many participants noting that rising housing costs, food insecurity and financial stress are contributing to broader social issues across Casey.

Participants also recognised that many challenges are interconnected. Homelessness, mental health, gambling harm and food insecurity were frequently described in comments together as issues that influence one another and disproportionately affect people already experiencing disadvantage, including young people, older adults, single parents, women impacted by family violence, people with disability and low-income households. There was strong support for increasing access to affordable and locally available support services, such as bulk-billing psychology and psychiatry, family and relationship programs and

counselling, alongside early intervention and prevention initiatives. Overall, the feedback highlights a desire for advocacy for both immediate support for people experiencing hardship and long-term investment in initiatives that build community education, resilience and wellbeing.

Table 12. below, presents the top five projects for this pillar, alongside the community rationale and common sentiments provided in free text feedback and verbatim quotes.

Table 12. Top 5 projects and why they are important- Safe and Thriving Communities

Advocacy Project	Why it's important	Verbatim Quotes
Homelessness/ Affordable Housing (n=47)	- Perception that homelessness is increasing in Casey - Housing affordability - Appropriate and affordable housing options for young people, single parents, disability community, older people, single women - Better communications needed about support available - Stigma surrounding housing services - Waitlists for housing services are too long	<i>"Continue and push harder to support families and people pitching tents. DV families need to be considered. The waitlists for services are too long and the process too difficult".</i> <i>"High number of homeless population in the region, increase in older women in particular not being able to afford rent".</i> <i>"I've lived in Casey for 50 years and homelessness is increasing".</i> <i>"More affordability to buy a house, that's my number 1 priority as I am in the market for that".</i>
Non-Council Road Maintenance (n=34)	- Planned upgrades take too long - Roads condition not well maintained - Reduce traffic accidents and safety risk - State roads look unsightly and not well maintained - Road maintenance/ upgrades important for local neighbourhood character	<i>"Needs resurfacing. Vegetation is unkept in some areas, also a fire hazard".</i> <i>"Improve the look and feel".</i> <i>"They do quick fixes then it's a mess again. Need more proper maintenance rather than quick fixes/patch up".</i>
Food Security (n=31)	- Cost of living crisis - Demand for food aid is increasing in Casey. - Support organisations and NGOs struggling to food meet demand	<i>"People are struggling, they cannot afford meals, so there needs to be some support with these".</i> <i>"Being a mother, I've seen kids</i>

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	- Communities need access to affordable, healthy food - Access for children and young people	<i>without food at school. There should be greater equity for kids".</i> <i>"Lots of food wastage, I'm a chef and I see a lot of this".</i>
Headspace/Mental Health Support (n=31)	- Lack of access to affordable, local mental health services across Casey - Growing need for mental health services particularly with youth and older people 65+ - No local Headspace - Mental health affects everyone - Improved access for affordable services: psychology, relationship counselling, psychiatry, bulk billing services needed	<i>"Mental health is an issue state wide, there's not enough done in this area. This really affects young people because of social media, they don't know what is reality".</i> <i>"There's not a local Headspace, everyone needs this, especially young people".</i> <i>"I've seen people struggling with mental health, having a place for accessible support would be great. A place that isn't expensive".</i>
Gambling Harm (n=27)	- Gambling harm is increasing - Gambling harm has flow on impacts on mental health and family violence - Intervention needed to manage local gambling venues and gambling in community sport - Impacting low income older people - Impacting younger people with proliferation of gambling apps and online gambling - Gambling harm is exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.	<i>"Huge cultural issue within Australia, normalised, too much money".</i> <i>"The Hampton Park Hotel is just gambling now, no food as a family hotel as it should be as it was in the past. No meals now, unsure if this is allowed as a family venue".</i> <i>"Stop gambling as it's full on all the time it comes with AFL and alcohol".</i> <i>"Pushback against the apps that teens and young adults are using to gamble need to be exposed".</i>

5. Next Steps

Engagement on the 'Building a Better Casey' Project has already created significant interest and aspirations for the community. Conversation Co recommends that Council:

- **Keep people updated:** Issue a statement and update the Council project page thanking participants for participating in the project and for sharing their ideas. Keeping participants informed in engagement and the project is called 'closing the loop' - the information loop is currently open. Participants have shared their ideas and their feedback through the engagement process and are waiting to see what happens next. A new requirement of the Act requires councils to share the information that has been collected and inform the community as to how this will shape thinking.
- **Share the data:** The engagement has collected data that could be useful to other agencies and organisations to plan the delivery of services. Consider ways you can share this data such as creating a snapshot of the engagement data, to bring the data to life with infographics to help participants digest the information in an easy form.
- **Utilise the community stories:** utilise the community feedback and stories collected to strengthen Council's advocacy efforts.

Image 4. Pop up at Casey Fields - May 9th



6. Appendices

Appendix A: Full list of advocacy projects and selections

Project	Count	Pillar
Clyde Rail Link	58	Better Transport and Roads
Homelessness and Housing Affordability	47	Safe and Thriving Communities
Clyde Road Corridor Upgrade	41	Better Transport and Roads
Bus Network Improvements	40	Better Transport and Roads
Non-Council Road Maintenance	34	Safe and Thriving Communities
Food Security	31	Safe and Thriving Communities
Headspace for Casey/Mental Health Support	31	Safe and Thriving Communities
Thompsons Road Upgrade and Extension	30	Better Transport and Roads
Gambling Harm	27	Safe and Thriving Communities
Ballarto Road	27	Better Transport and Roads
Ongoing Funding Commitment for Libraries and Aquatic Centres	26	Community Infrastructure
Hallam Road Duplication	25	Better Transport and Roads
N/A OTHER	25	
Eumemmering Creek to Lysterfield Lake Trail	21	Community Infrastructure
Evans Road Duplication	21	Better Transport and Roads
Greaves Road - Pound Road Corridor Upgrade	20	Better Transport and Roads
Early Years Reforms	19	Safe and Thriving Communities
Pedestrian signals at Heatherton Road and Grove End Road	19	Safe and Thriving Communities
Graffiti	18	Safe and Thriving Communities
Clyde Road to Kangan Drive Path Link	17	Community Infrastructure
Pedestrian Crossing of South Gippsland Highway in Tooradin	16	Safe and Thriving Communities
Glasscocks Road Upgrade	16	Better Transport and Roads
Linsell Boulevard Extension	16	Better Transport and Roads
Dandenong Bypass	15	Better Transport and Roads
Narre Warren-Cranbourne Corridor Upgrade	15	Better Transport and Roads
Shrives Road Upgrade and Narre Warren CBD Bypass	15	Better Transport and Roads

High Street Cranbourne Upgrade	14	Better Transport and Roads
Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road Active Transport Bridge to Railway Station	13	Safe and Thriving Communities
Clyde Road Pedestrian Signals at Alisma Boulevard	12	Safe and Thriving Communities
Clyde Road Pedestrian Signals at Waterways Drive	12	Safe and Thriving Communities
Cranbourne-Frankston Road Path and Pedestrian Crossing near Ballarto Road	12	Safe and Thriving Communities
Princes Highway and Webb Street Signal Upgrade	12	Safe and Thriving Communities
Safety Camera Installation (Viewbright, Soldiers, and Skylark Roads)	12	Safe and Thriving Communities
Tooradin Recreation Reserve Car Park Upgrades	12	Community Infrastructure
Soldiers Road Pedestrian Bridge over Princes Freeway feasibility study	11	Safe and Thriving Communities
Cranbourne Hub	11	Community Infrastructure
Feasibility and design for Narre Warren Cranbourne Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Norfolk Drive, Fleetwood Drive and Golf Links Road	10	Safe and Thriving Communities
Reduce mobile blackspots in growing suburbs	10	Safe and Thriving Communities
Gunns Road Reserve	10	Community Infrastructure
Restoration of the Growing Suburbs Fund	10	Community Infrastructure
Cranbourne Town Centre Revitalisation	8	Community Infrastructure
Sydney Pargeter Reserve	7	Community Infrastructure
Warneet Jetty Amenities Upgrade	7	Community Infrastructure
Railway Road to Twyford Road Pedestrian Crossing	6	Safe and Thriving Communities
Alexander Blvd Community Library Hub	6	Community Infrastructure
Hardys Road Active Space Reserve	6	Community Infrastructure
O'Shea Road Pedestrian Signals near Wordsworth Drive	5	Safe and Thriving Communities
Betula Reserve	4	Community Infrastructure
Karayong Park Playground	4	Community Infrastructure
Pearcedale Recreation Reserve	4	Community Infrastructure
Robert Booth Reserve	4	Community Infrastructure
Glenburn Drive Reserve Revitalisation	3	Community Infrastructure

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Reema Reserve Expansion of Shelter	3	Community Infrastructure
Waterbush Crescent Reserve Playground	3	Community Infrastructure
Princes Highway and Coniston Avenue (Wilson Botanic Park Traffic Lights)	3	Better Transport and Roads
ALL	2	
Evans Road New Path between Volk Road to Breens Road	0	Safe and Thriving Communities
1. Autumn Place (Agnes OBrien Park Playground)	0	Community Infrastructure

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Appendix B: Pop up postcard

What is the name of your chosen project?



Please tell us why this is important to you.

.....

.....

.....

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.....



A BIT ABOUT YOU



What is your connection to this project?

☐ I live in the suburb/ward of project

☐ I work in the suburb/ward of project

☐ I regularly visit the suburb/ward of project

☐ I study in the suburb/ward of project

☐ Other (please specify)

What gender do you identify as?

☐ Woman or female

☐ Man or male

☐ Non-binary or gender diverse

☐ Prefer to self describe

☐ Prefer not to say

What is your age?

☐ Under 18

☐ 18 - 24

☐ 25 - 34

☐ 35 - 49

☐ 50 - 59

☐ 60 - 69

☐ 70 - 84

☐ 85 +

☐ Prefer not to say

My suburb is:

