



# STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS:

## A report on community engagement activities

**March 2024 to May 2025**

Latrobe City Council is committed to fostering an engaged, informed, and connected community. Over the past year, we have actively worked alongside residents, community groups, and stakeholders to ensure their voices shape the decisions that impact our region.

Through a variety of engagement activities—including public consultations, workshops and online initiatives—we have provided opportunities for meaningful participation and collaboration. These efforts have helped guide local projects, policies, and services to better reflect the needs and aspirations of our diverse community.

This report highlights key community engagement initiatives, their outcomes, and how your feedback continues to drive positive change across Latrobe City.

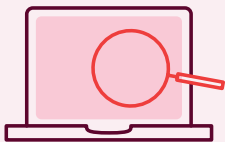
We thank everyone who has contributed and look forward to building an even stronger, more connected community together.





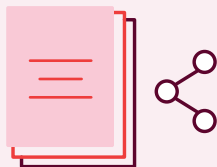
# Key achievements

During March 2024  
to May 2025



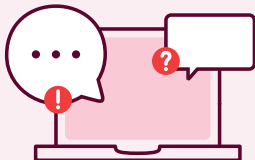
19,400

people visited the  
Have Your Say Latrobe  
engagement platform



64

projects were shared  
on the Have Your Say  
Latrobe platform



1,800

submissions via the  
Have Your Say Latrobe  
engagement platform



429

Most amount of  
visitors per day to the  
engagement platform



GROWING OUR

Have  
Your Say

COMMUNITY

Did you know if you register on the  
Have Your Say platform, you can go  
in the draw to win a \$100 Latrobe  
City gift voucher, drawn monthly?

Learn more at:

[yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

Your registration helps Council  
to keep track of what's important  
to the Latrobe City community  
and provides valuable insights.



## Have Your Say - Your Voice Matters!

Latrobe City Council is committed to ensuring our community has a voice in shaping the future. Our Have Your Say engagement platform, provides a central hub for residents to share feedback, contribute ideas, and participate in decision-making on key projects and initiatives.

Whether it's planning matters, policy changes, or local service improvements, Have Your Say makes it easy to stay informed and have your input heard.

Join the conversation today! Since March 2023, over 530 community members have registered on Have Your Say Latrobe to share their ideas and feedback. Be part of the discussion and help shape the future of Latrobe City!



## Top Have Your Say pages visited

- Latrobe City Council Plan and Community Vision
- New Car Park Spaces for Kay/Grey Street, Traralgon
- Thinking about Traralgon's future
- 2025/26 Budget community consultation
- Naming Our Places in Latrobe City

Council communicates engagement activities via a range of platforms such as Council Facebook and Instagram, Latrobe Valley Express, Commerical radio both AM and FM frequencies, Council's website, marketing collateral such as postcards and posters, digital screens and more.

Keep an eye out for future engagement opportunities, your voice matters!



## Successful projects

Since launching the Have Your Say Latrobe engagement platform in April 2023, Council has sought community input on 62 projects.

These projects have included planning matters, proposed policy changes, and feedback from users of Council services.

The Have Your Say engagement platform has enabled Council officers to connect with a broader audience, enhancing engagement with the community and stakeholders. Offering a range of tools such as surveys, interactive maps, polls, and quick surveys, the platform makes it easier for participants to provide feedback, share ideas, and contribute to decision-making. This ensures that every voice is heard and valued in our engagement activities.

Key engagement activities held over the past year have included:



### 2025/26 Budget community consultation

To help inform the development of the 2025/26 Annual Budget, Council sought community feedback about what services and programs are most valued by our community and how the Budget could be allocated, balancing competing priorities and limited resources.

The page received 1,300 visits and 174 survey responses.

Outcomes from the Budget engagement will help to shape the 2025/26 Annual Budget. This includes feedback that parks and gardens, and roads and transport are the most important assets to the community. There was also a clear indication that community members want to increase spending towards building maintenance and parks and gardens.



### Council Plan and Community Vision

The Council Plan is a key document that sets out Council's goals and strategies for the next four years, while the Community Vision outlines what we want Latrobe City to be like in the next 10 years.

The online survey received 1,800 page visits and 419 people completed it.

When answering the question what makes Latrobe City a good place to live? The most popular response was its location in Victoria, followed by family and friends.

When answering what key priority areas Council should be working on to improve the health and wellbeing of the Latrobe community? The most popular response was improving mental health and wellbeing throughout the community, followed by preventing harm from gambling, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

The Draft Council Plan and Community Vision was endorsed at the June 2025 Council meeting.



### Moe Activity Centre

The Moe Activity Centre Plan sets the vision for how the community wants the Moe CBD to look and feel over the next 15 years.

During the engagement, the Moe Activity Centre Plan received 894 page visits. Five listening posts were held, along with a workshop and one-on-one sessions.

Based on the engagement results, findings will be consolidated into a final strategy. A Planning Scheme Amendment will be undertaken to deliver the Strategy.



### Thinking about Traralgon's future

To allow for future growth while strategically maximising on what already exists, Council identified the need for a Master Plan at Kay Street, Traralgon.

The survey received 1,300 page views and 108 responses.

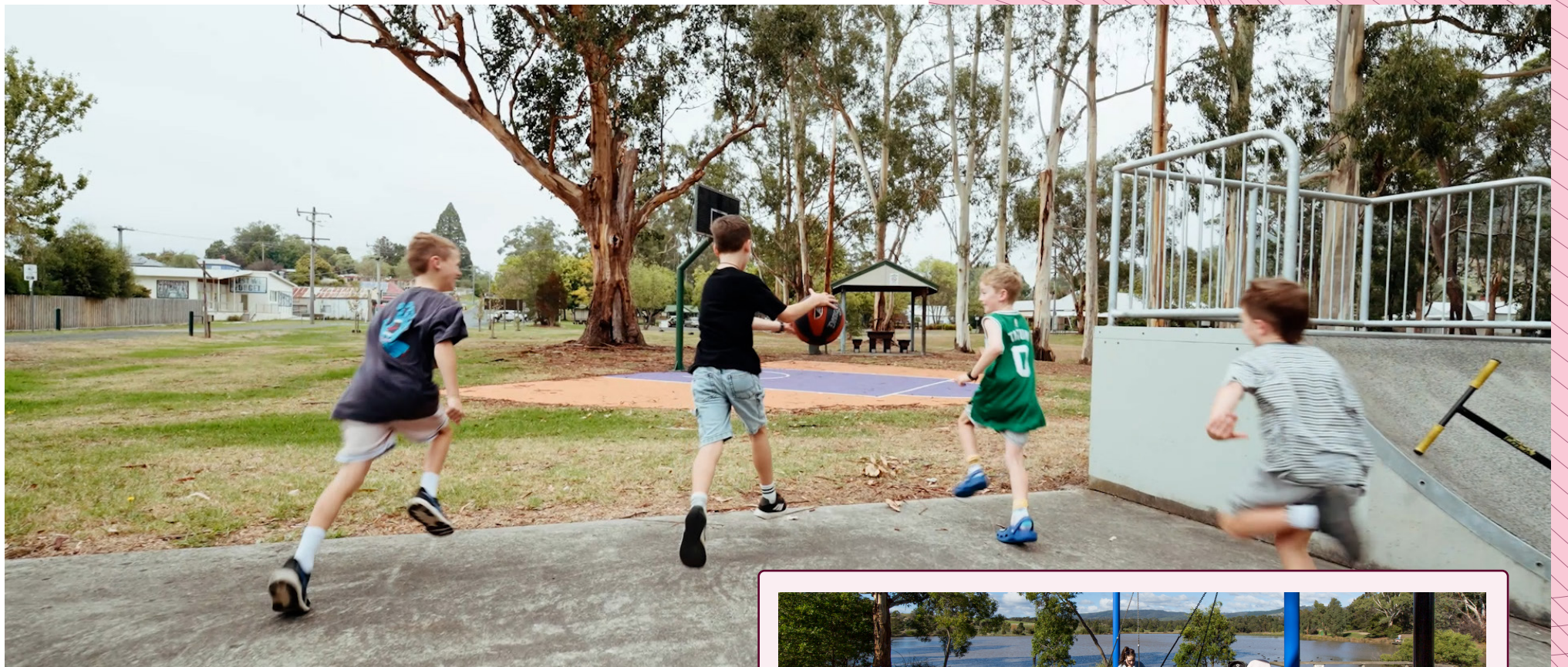
A 'Pop Up Engagement' stall was held at the Traralgon Farmer's Market, to encourage survey participation and assist people in completing it.

Three out of four respondents, 75 percent, said they have been a resident of Traralgon for more than 10 years.

When answering what is the most important issue or improvement you'd like to see in our community? The majority of people answered crime reduction, car parking and improved parks.

One way that Council is responding to this is with more car parks via the Victorian Government's Regional Car Parks Fund, delivering 430 additional car parks in Kay Street Traralgon by 2026.





## Looking forward

There have been many positive outcomes because of community engagement activities over the past 12 months. We value and appreciate your input as it helps us to better understand the aspirations of our community.

In the next 12 months, our focus on community engagement will be centred around fostering strong, meaningful connections with local residents. We aim to create a consistent approach to gathering feedback across all areas of the organisation, ensuring that we provide an exceptional customer experience regardless of the project, service, or strategy.

Our goal is to engage the community in ways that drive collaboration and improve decision-making. Ultimately, we hope to strengthen community trust, increase participation, and make more informed, impactful decisions through an inclusive engagement process.

Thank you for your support of our engagement activities, we look forward to hearing your thoughts on future engagement activities.

*Community engagement was undertaken in October 2023 to understand the communities' desires for future upgrades to Mathison Park, Churchill. Common feedback from the community was that they wanted to see a new nature-based park suitable for all ages. The inclusion of water play was another key piece of feedback. Following this initial engagement, further consultation has been done with local community groups.*

*Council has taken this feedback onboard and secured \$1 million in funding from the Better Parks and Playground fund to deliver the communities' vision for Mathison Park. A new adventure park will feature new play equipment which is catered to all ages and abilities, including some waterplay elements. Construction on the new park will begin later this year and is expected to be completed in early 2026.*

## Current projects

### Domestic Animal Management Plan

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) focuses on the management of domestic companion animals, namely dogs and cats. Latrobe City Council acknowledges the role it plays in promoting responsible pet ownership and enforcing legislation.

We are committed to balancing the needs of pet owners with those in our community who do not own pets. Consideration has been given to both parties in the development of our DAMP 2026-2029.

You're invited to have your say on the DAMP before 29 July 2025.

### Naming our places in Latrobe City

Latrobe City Council is establishing a Naming Database for use in the future naming of roads, facilities and features throughout the municipality.

To assist in creating this database, Council is inviting suggestions from the community of suitable names that may be used for this purpose.

This is an opportunity to contribute to future naming and ensure that any names that will be used are of significance to the local area through recognising the unique attributes and valuable individuals that have made Latrobe City such a special place to live.



Learn more and have your say  
via [yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

**Council has recently renewed its Community Engagement Policy, with community consultation taking place from 3 February to 14 March 2025.**

**The survey invited input on the engagement principles outlined in the Policy and how Council connects with the community on decisions that matter.**

**The updated Community Engagement Policy was formally endorsed at the June 2025 Council Meeting and is now available to view at [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/community\\_engagement\\_policy](https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/community_engagement_policy)**

