

# Stonnington Housing Strategy

## Stage 1: Community engagement summary

### What did we do throughout Stage 1?



- 1 Project website
- 13,500** Newsletters and postcards distributed and mailed out
- 17 Local media releases/posts/publications
- 54 Informational displays
- 8 Roaming pop-up sessions
- 2 Library drop-in sessions
- 5 Focus group discussions
- 4 Community panel sessions
- 1 Shaping our Neighbourhoods Symposium event
- + Correspondence with various stakeholder groups

### How many people did we reach throughout Stage 1?



- 1,409** Project website views
- 216** Online survey responses
- 168** Roaming pop-ups participants
- 51** Library drop-in sessions participants
- 49** Focus group discussions participants
- 42** Community panel participants
- 88** Shaping our Neighbourhoods Symposium participants
- 2** Additional email submissions

**2,025 participants**



Shaping Our Neighbourhoods Symposium at Malvern Town Hall in March 2019



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## Stage 1: Community engagement summary

The Stage 1 engagement activities have identified the following key messages for the Housing Strategy.

### **Housing is a popular topic, and the community want to be a part of shaping the future of how and where new housing occurs.**

There is also interest in learning about population growth, alternative, innovative housing models and how planning policy can be shaped to respond to environmental design, heritage, and to deliver high-quality outcomes.

### **Public transport, parks and gardens continue to be the most valued types of community infrastructure.**

Residents highly value proximity to public transport, parks and gardens and anticipate this will remain important to them in the future. These features are particularly important to young people. Access to these existing assets should be a key consideration when determining the location for residential development and the Housing Strategy should identify additional requirements to ensure future access is maintained and improved across the municipality.

### **Protect what's there.**

The heritage and neighbourhood character of Stonnington is highly valued by the community. There is some concern that “poor” quality development is not consistent with surrounding higher quality heritage streetscapes. There is some understanding that focusing growth in particular areas of the city will provide opportunities to protect more heritage value in other areas. The Housing Strategy plays an important role in guiding where development occurs, and this message needs to be continually promoted to the community.

### **Design, appearance and the sustainability features of housing matter.**

Across all resident groups there is a desire for future housing stock to be constructed to a higher quality standard and to include more environmentally sustainable design features. The aesthetic appeal of new stock is important; in addition to being constructed sustainably, new development should respect the existing heritage and character of the area and cater to a range of household sizes and needs.

### **Encourage housing that meets different community needs and supports group housing, families and ageing in place.**

Those with additional accessibility needs are experiencing difficulties finding adequate housing. This extends to both access to the dwellings and the internal design of dwellings. Single-storey (or lifts) and low-maintenance dwellings with one and two bedrooms to facilitate ageing in place, and larger homes to support group houses and families are also needed. It's also important that this accommodation is near to local shops and community facilities, family, aged care and support services. There is a strong desire to have local access to more community spaces and activities that build community involvement and connection. The community bus and public transport was highly valued and directly linked to a person's ability to participate in community life.

### **Renters face limited choice.**

Overall renting in Stonnington is difficult. Renters are attracted to the heritage homes and buildings- with many participants suggesting that homes with heritage value are of better design and quality, than newer investment properties. This group identified that choice is limited by affordability, with some young people attracted to Melbourne's inner north locations, considered to have more choice for group or family households and better access to family, arts and cultural programs. There was some concern that the location of rental stock is too concentrated around food and entertainment offerings and that higher density developments need to support more of a village feel for everyday needs. Access to public transport, jobs, local parks, supermarkets and smaller scale retail is desired.

### **Affordability and homelessness issues must be addressed.**

Many participants identified rough sleeping had significantly increased in recent years and that a “wealthy” municipality like Stonnington, should be doing more in addressing this issue. Some respondents noted the lack of access to basic, low-cost services and supported accommodation. While responding to homelessness is outside the scope of this project, it is important for the Housing Strategy to articulate the community concern in relation to this issue.

