

City of Kalamunda
Local Planning Strategy – Visioning
Engagement Outcomes Report

March 2026 | 25204

This version includes minor amendments made following the initial public release. Content changes do not alter the overall findings.

element. | PART OF SLR

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We acknowledge and respect their enduring culture, their contribution to the life of this city, and Elders, past and present.

Document ID:'/Volumes/corporate/Local Resources/Element Advisory/Graphics/2025/25204 - Kalamunda LPS Engagement Project/01 Outcomes Report/00 InDesign/25204 Kalamunda Outcomes Report D1 251217 Folder/25204 Kalamunda Outcomes Report D2 260316.indd'

Issue	Date	Status	Prepared by	Approved by	Graphics	File
1	22.12.25	Draft	Hannah Lee	Suzie Zuber	MS	D1
2	16.03.26	Draft	Hannah Lee	Kate Parker	MS	D2

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

On behalf of the City of Kalamunda (the City), Element Advisory part of SLR (Element Advisory) were appointed to undertake community engagement to gather the community's vision for the review of the City's Local Planning Strategy. This report details the outcomes of the engagement activities analysing the results of visioning workshops held with the local community, meetings with Special Interest Groups and an online survey with the community and local high school students undertaken from August to October 2025. These findings will be used to inform the future review of the Local Planning Strategy.

1.2 Project Overview

The City of Kalamunda's Local Planning Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by the City's Council in 2010, and endorsed by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) in February 2013, which determined the vision and strategic planning direction for the next 20 years. The City is currently conducting a review of the Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 3 (LPS3) in order to prepare a new Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (LPS4). Local planning schemes are required to be reviewed every five years, and a recent review has determined that Local Planning Scheme No. 3 should be repealed and replaced. As each local planning scheme must be supported by a corresponding Local Planning Strategy, a new strategy is also required to guide the preparation of the new scheme and ensure it continues to meet the needs of the City and the community.

1.3 Project Scope

The key aim for the engagement process and project was to establish a high-level direction for the Local Planning Strategy with discussions to be focused on the following key planning themes defined by the Western Australian Planning Commission:

- Community, Urban Growth and Settlement;
- Environment and Sustainability;
- Economy and Employment; and
- Infrastructure: roads, transport and services.

The engagement also sought to identify place-based strategies that reflect the unique characteristics, opportunities, and priorities of different areas within the City, ensuring that the Local Planning Strategy provides tailored guidance responsive to local context and community aspirations. This also takes into consideration the City's future place-based approach.

In order to facilitate this, a better understanding of the community's needs in relation to land use and development was required. As such, the scope of the project included hosting a series of visioning workshops with the community supported by an online survey that would provide an alternate method of engagement for those unable to attend workshops in person. In parallel, the City of Kalamunda's internal engagement team ran a series of engagement activities with special interest groups, the outcomes of which have been collated with the community insights.

Whilst the community perspective plays a critical role in informing the Strategy, the engagement was not intended as a 'co-design process' and instead sought to capture a broad understanding of the community values, concerns and aspirations from a diverse cross-reference of demographics and graphical regions. The outcomes of the visioning engagement will inform the Draft Local Planning Strategy.

There are three stages to the Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (LPS4) which require community engagement:



The scope of this engagement included:

- Preparation of a Community and Stakeholder Engagement (CESP) plan to guide and coordinate inputs and plan an engagement process with local community and identified key stakeholders.
- Preparation of promotional materials such as posters and graphics advertising the upcoming workshops.
- Planning, design and facilitation of community visioning workshops;
- Design and input into the City-led community survey that ran following the workshops;
- Preparation of an outcomes report analysing the findings from the engagement; and
- Planning, design and facilitation of Council workshops outlining findings of community workshops and facilitating a visioning workshop with the Elected Members.

2. Engagement Approach and Methodology

This section provides an overview of the activities undertaken and provides details of the key themes that underpinned communications, promotional materials and engagement process including engagement objectives, methodology and participation in the activities that were undertaken between August and October 2025.

It should be noted for the purposes of this reporting, feedback from the sessions requested that the Eastern Rural district be referred to as The Plateau. Whilst during the sessions the wording Eastern Rural was used, for the report, the Eastern Rural districts will be referred to as The Plateau.

2.1 Engagement Objectives

The City's Communications and Engagement Plan (CEP) outlined the following objectives to support the Community Engagement:

- To engage with the community in a way that ensures all demographics from all City areas are represented, so the vision for land use in Kalamunda reflects the needs of our diverse population.
- To identify an overall vision for the City to inform preparation of the new Local Planning Strategy. Specifically, these sessions, along with the open survey, are an opportunity to understand community values, concerns, and aspirations for their local areas.

2.2 Stakeholder Analysis and Project Promotion

2.2.1 Level of engagement

Stakeholder analysis for the community workshops was aligned with IAP2 methodology, noting their spectrum of Public Participation (2018) which uses levels of engagement to note how each stakeholder group will be involved in the project. For the visioning workshops, the engagement was identified as falling under the **CONSULT / INVOLVE** levels of engagement.

Table 1. IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
GOAL	To provide balanced and objective information in a timely manner.	To obtain feedback on analysis, issues, alternatives and decisions.	To work with the public to make sure that concerns and aspirations are considered and understood.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision-making.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE	"We will keep you informed."	"We will listen to and acknowledge your concerns."	"We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the decisions made."	"We will look to you for advice and innovation and incorporate this in decisions as much as possible."	"We will implement what you decide."

2.2.2 Stakeholder analysis

In order to ensure that a diverse range of stakeholders were invited to the relevant engagement, key stakeholders were identified with the level of participation and relevant targeted method that applies to that stakeholder. Table 2 (below) identifies broadly the stakeholders that were identified for this project. A full copy of the Stakeholder Analysis can be found in the CSEP.

The stakeholder analysis was prepared as a planning exercise to guide the engagement approach and identify stakeholders likely to have an interest in the project. Through the engagement process, it became evident that some stakeholders had a higher level of interest than initially anticipated. Notably, the Chamber of Commerce demonstrated a strong level of engagement, and future stakeholder analyses for similar projects should consider elevating this group to a medium or high interest category. Despite these variations from the original assumptions, the engagement approach proved effective, generating meaningful contributions that supported the overall engagement outcomes.

Table 2. Stakeholder Analysis

STAKEHOLDER	INTEREST / CONCERNS / ISSUES	LEVEL OF INTEREST	LEVEL OF INFLUENCE	TARGETED ACTIVITY
City of Kalamunda				
Elected Members	– Decision maker / approver of the Strategy. – Responsible for strategic direction of City.	High	High	Council Workshop
City of Kalamunda Staff Executive Management – Strategic Planning – Statutory Planning – Infrastructure – Community Services	– Planning staff responsible for implementation of the Strategy – Infrastructure / Community services may be impacted	High	High	Town Staff Workshop
Community Stakeholders				
Traditional Custodians	– Cultural heritage protection – Environmental protection – Public open spaces – Amenities – Affordable housing – Infrastructure & growth – Employment	High	Medium	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys SIG Meeting
Ratepayers & Residents – Foothills – Rural – Scarp	– Zoning – Development impact – Infrastructure	High	Low	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys

STAKEHOLDER	INTEREST / CONCERNS / ISSUES	LEVEL OF INTEREST	LEVEL OF INFLUENCE	TARGETED ACTIVITY
Family Investors	– Investment opportunity & growth – Infrastructure vs growth – Zoning – Affordable housing	High	Low	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys
Farmers	– Impact on livelihood / property – Zoning	Medium	Low	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys
Farmers Union	– Farmer livelihood – Infrastructure & growth – Urban vs rural balance	Medium	Medium	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys
Chamber of Commerce	– Impact on small / local business – Zoning – Infrastructure vs growth	Low	Medium	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys SIG Meeting
Schools / Youth	– Future of the City – Impact on population growth – Infrastructures and amenity for youth	Low	Low / Medium	Engage Page Youth Workshop Online Surveys
Accesibility, Recreation & Environmental Groups	– Congestion, growth, infrastructure, facilities/upgrades	Low	Low / Medium	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys SIG Meeting
Place of Worship	– Housing affordability – Congestion	Medium	Low / Medium	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys
Developers	– Housing affordability – Return on investment – Infrastructure vs. growth	High	Medium	Engage Page Community Workshops Online Surveys

2.2.3 Communication channels

For communications, Element Advisory worked collaboratively with the City to promote the project and key engagement activities through communications channels outlined in the City's CEP. Table 3 (below) outlines these communication channels.

Table 3. Communication channels

CHANNEL	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY
Website	Dedicated project page with workshop details, updates, FAQs, and survey link.	Ongoing
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)	Event promotions, short video explainers, live Q&As, reminder posts.	Weekly
Email Newsletters	Invitations to workshops, project updates	Bi-monthly
Local Media (Newspapers, Radio, Community Bulletins)	Press releases, editorial features, interviews.	Monthly
Direct Mail and SMS	Personalised invitations to key demographics, reminders.	Key milestone dates

2.2.4 Key messaging

As part of the engagement approach, key messages were developed to reflect the City's commitment to inclusive, transparent and outcomes-focused engagement. The key messages (detailed in Table 4, below) were used consistently across all public-facing engagement collateral, including promotional and workshop materials.

Table 4. Key messages

THEME	MESSAGES
Primary Messages	**Help shape the future of the City of Kalamunda** The City is preparing a new Local Planning Strategy that will guide land use, housing, infrastructure, and community development for the next 10–15 years. This is your opportunity to influence the vision and priorities. **Your voice will help set the direction** We want to understand what you value most about your area, what you want to preserve, and what needs to improve. Your input will help identify the key objectives that will guide future planning decisions. **This is just the first step** The feedback from these visioning workshops and surveys will inform a draft Strategy, which the community will have another opportunity to review before it's finalised. **We are listening – and we will report back** What we hear will be summarised and shared with the community and Council. We'll also explain how your feedback has influenced the draft Strategy through updates and "You Said, We Heard" materials. **Workshops are independently facilitated** An independent team is leading this process to ensure all voices are heard and all feedback is recorded and considered fairly.

THEME	MESSAGES
Supporting Messages	**Inclusive**: We want to hear from all parts of the community–residents, businesses, youth, Traditional Custodians, and special interest groups. **Accessible**: There are different ways to get involved–workshops, surveys, school-based activities, and more. Planning for now and the future: The Strategy will help the City respond to growth and change while preserving the character and identity of its neighbourhoods. **Not about individual properties**: This engagement is focused on high-level planning, not rates, rubbish collection, or individual property matters. **Values and aspirations**: We are especially interested in hearing what you value most about the City and your hopes for its future.

2.2.5 Project promotion

To maximise participation in the engagement activities, Table 5 (below) details the promotional collateral prepared to advertise the Visioning Workshops.

Table 5. Project promotion collateral

THEME	DETAILS
Posters / Brochure	– A4 brochure advertising the upcoming visioning workshops, and the Local Planning Strategy review project. – A4 / A5 poster advertising the visioning workshops and online survey.
Web Assets	– Website news / event banner – Engage banner – eDM (skinny) banner – eDM hero banner – FB tile – FB stories
Local Newspaper advertising	– Quarter page advert (190mm H x 111mm W) – Half page advert (190mm H x 262mm W) – Full page advert (380mm H x 262mm W)



2.3 Engagement Activities

In order to achieve the optimal outcome for the project, an authentic, considered and robust engagement was used to collect, collate, and interpret feedback from stakeholders and community. The process was designed to provide engagement strategy as used to provide community and stakeholder insights that would inform the review and update of the Local Planning Strategy. To optimise participation in the workshop and survey, participants were offered a chance to win one of a number of prizes.

Table 6 (below) details the activities that were conducted throughout the project.

Table 6. List of engagement activities

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TARGETED STAKEHOLDER
Community Workshops (6) Foothills (3) Scarp (2) Rural (1)	A total of six (6) visioning workshops were held with the community across the three regions of the City: the Foothills, Scarp and Rural. These workshops were designed to work through a series of visioning exercises that ascertain the values and needs of the community. To cater for a variety of schedules, workshops were held at different locations and times to allow for each area to have options for attending a workshop that fits their schedule to maximise attendance.	Local Community Residents and Ratepayers of the City of Kalamunda Local Business Owners Local Community Groups
Online Survey	Upon the completion of the workshops, an online survey was released with a mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions across the four key themes. The survey questions will inform the development of a vision that reflects the unique character and priorities of the city's diverse localities.	Local Community Residents and Ratepayers of the City of Kalamunda Local Business Owners Local Community Groups Local Youth
Persuasive writing exercise	To engage with the youth of Kalamunda, there were two options to engage. A tailored survey for the youth was circulated to the High Schools, alongside a persuasive writing exercise which allowed students to provide their feedback regarding the future of their area.	Local High School Students
SIG Survey	To engage with special interest groups, six datasets were compiled from custom online surveys which covered different areas of interest including local business and economy, first nations, environment, heritage, arts and recreation trails. Spots Club and Associations were interviewed with feedback categorised into issues, aspirations, and opportunities.	Special Interest Groups
Elected Members Workshop (2)	Two workshops with Elected Members were held once the community engagement outcomes had been collated and analysed. The first one gave an overview of the findings from the community workshop, the second was a visioning workshop with the Elected Members.	City of Kalamunda Elected Members

2.3.1 Community workshop in detail

Participation

The workshops were held at the following dates and locations (Table 7, below). Every participant was asked to identify where they lived on a map of the City. The final map (Figure 1) illustrates the spread of participant representation from across all suburbs of the City.

Table 7. Details of workshops held

WORKSHOP DETAILS	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
Workshop 1: Foothills (5pm – 7pm) Wednesday 6th August 2025	Woodlupine Community Centre, Forrestfield	25
Workshop 2: Scarp (10am – 12pm) Thursday 7th August 2025	Kalamunda Town Square Hall, Kalamunda	38
Workshop 3: Rural (5pm – 7pm) Tuesday 12th August 2025	Pickering Brook Sports Club, Pickering Brook	24
Workshop 4: Foothills (5pm – 7pm) Wednesday 13th August 2025	Cyril Road Hall, High Wycombe	21
Workshop 5: Foothills (10am – 12pm) Thursday 14th August 2025	Forrestfield Hall, Forrestfield	16
Workshop 6: Scarp (5pm – 7pm) Tuesday 19th August 2025	Kalamunda Community Centre, Kalamunda	33



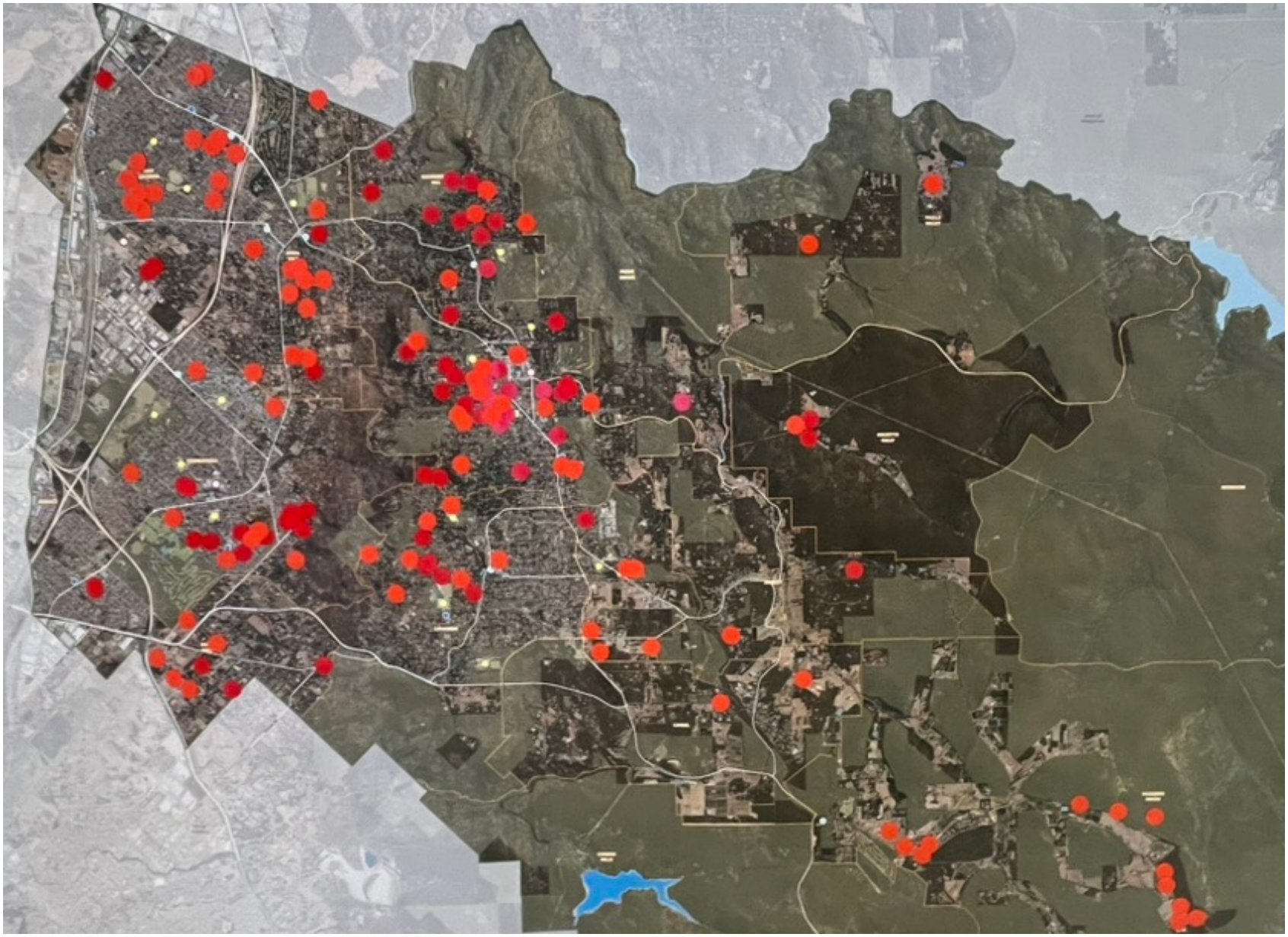


Figure 1. Map of workshop participant distribution across the City of Kalamunda

Workshop Agenda

The workshops were designed to guide participants through a stepped reflection on their values, concerns and vision for their locality and the wider City of Kalamunda in 2042, identify where the community feel new or improved services and facilities should be and problem-solving key issues.

Table 8. Workshop Agenda

Activity	Description	Objective
Icebreaker	Participants were asked to imagine their suburb was a friend they were introducing at a party, applying human characteristics to define their key traits.	Understand the defining characteristics of each locality.
Activity 1: The Good, the Bad, and the Future	A. Using an activity sheet, participants wrote down what they valued about their localities, what concerns them, and what their vision is for 2042. These were mapped collected within the context of the four key themes of the LPS. B. The top responses from each group were shared with the wider group and collated on wall sheets at the front of the room. C. At the end of the workshop each participant was given three stickers to vote for their top priorities across the key theme areas.	Understand what people value about their localities, what they feel needs to be improved and what they would like to see realised in the next 15 years. Share views from across the room. Understand the priority issues that the City should address in the LPS.
Activity 2: Mapping the future	Working in table groups, participants were asked to map out a future City of Kalamunda, using icons to locate where key services and facilities should be.	Understand where new or improved services and facilities should be across the City of Kalamunda.
Activity 3: Mission: Possible	Working in small groups, participants were asked to focus on one or two top priorities working through the desired outcome, perceived barriers to delivery and the actions and partners needed to achieve success.	Delve into the priority issues in more detail to understand the desired outcomes, perceived barriers and potential partners to resolve the issue. This exercise also assists in identifying issues that are not within the City's control or require wider partnerships to deliver.

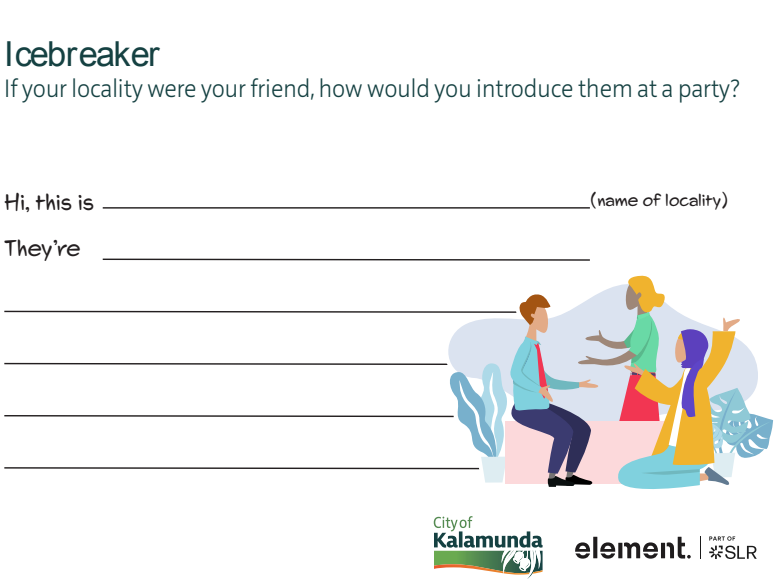


Figure 2. Icebreaker exercise

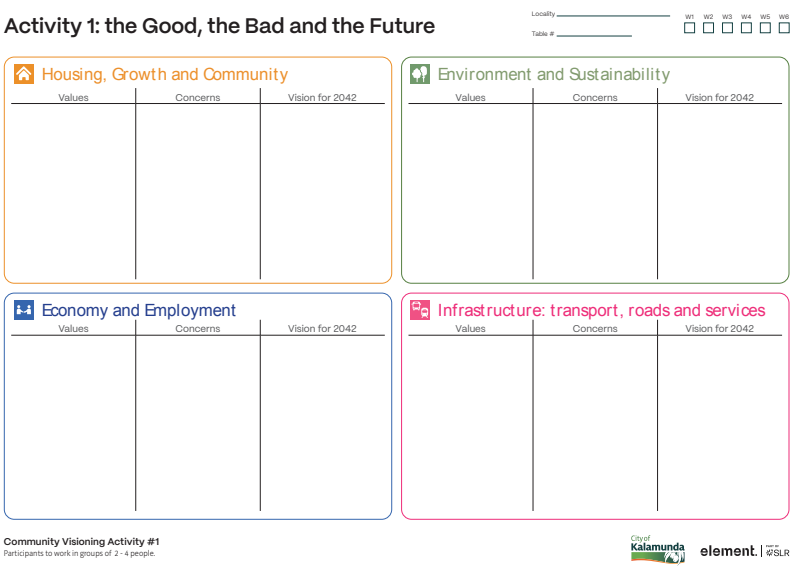


Figure 3. The Good, the Bad and the Future activity sheet



Figure 4. Mapping exercise base map

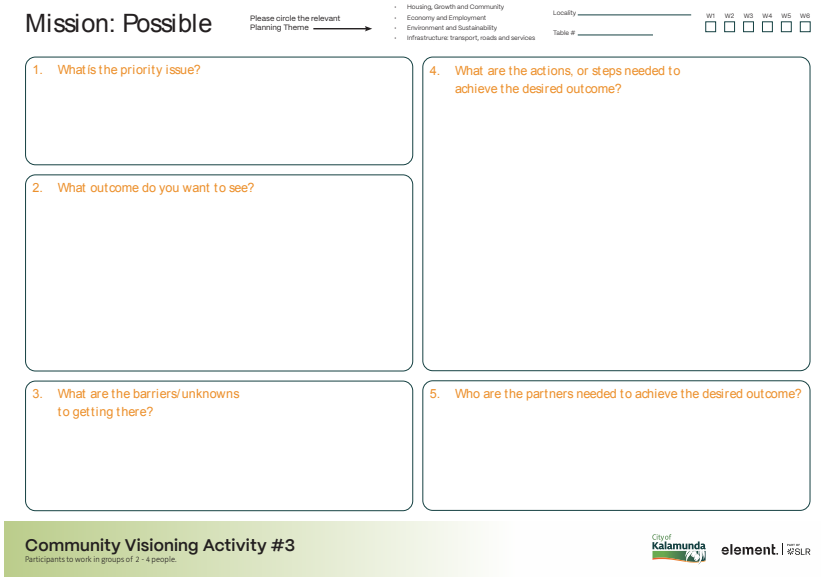


Figure 5. Mission Possible activity sheet

2.4 Outcomes Reporting

The aim of this outcomes report is to integrate and report engagement outcomes collected through both consultant-led and City-led engagement activities, to ensure consistency, clarity and transparency in how community insights are captured, analysed, and presented to inform the Local Planning Strategy. To ensure integration is effective and valid, Element Advisory coordinated closely with the City to align outcomes reporting.

Table 9. Outcomes reporting method

FORMAT	DESCRIPTION
Data Management and Transfer	The City provided raw or pre-processed data from its engagement streams (i.e., the surveys) in excel format. Each dataset was accompanied by metadata that identifies the engagement format (i.e. online survey), the date and location (if applicable) and the target audience. Element Advisory consolidated these inputs into a central database, maintaining clear source tagging to distinguish City-led from consultant-led responses.
Thematic Analysis and Framework	All engagement data – regardless of origin – was analysed using a unified thematic coding framework developed by Element Advisory. This includes: – **Primary themes** derived from the project scope: housing, infrastructure, environment, economy, and community values. – **Sub-themes** and emergent issues identified through coding (i.e., lack of housing, improve access to public transport, provide more green spaces etc.).
Integration and Synthesis	**Comparative Analysis** Engagement outcomes were analysed both independently and in combination to identify: – Common priorities and recurring themes – Unique perspectives from specific groups (e.g., youth, seniors, Aboriginal voices) **Weighting and Representation** Responses were provided with 'contextual commentary' identifying values by location. **Gap Analysis** Stakeholder groups or thematic areas with limited representation were flagged and recommendations provided for further engagement or communication.
Outcomes Reporting / Presentation	The **Engagement Outcomes Report** includes: – A **summary of all engagement activities** including methodologies, locations, dates, participant numbers and formats. – **Integrated findings** including thematic summaries across all sources, graphs and charts for quantitative data, word clouds and thematic maps for qualitative responses and cross-tabulation of participation type / location vs. response type. – **Transparency measures** that indicate the data source (City vs. Consultant led) and acknowledge limitations and or biases (i.e., incomplete responses). – **Council briefing materials** – a tailored presentation summarising key findings and priorities, community aspirations and areas of concern, and how the findings will inform the vision and objectives of the Local Planning Strategy.

3. Stakeholder and Thematic Gaps

This report demonstrates there is a strong representation across:

- General community (Foothills, Scarp and Rural);
- Broad online survey participation
- Youth through persuasive writing
- High-level special interest groups (environment, business, First Nations, recreation, arts, heritage, emergency management, sports, access and inclusion)

However, several demographics, geographic, and thematic gaps exist, and some groups appear underrepresented or insufficiently explored.

3.1 Overview of Representation and Identified Gaps

3.1.1 Representation Gaps

Area	Existing Representation	Gap Identified	Recommended Action
Youth	High school engagement	Under-15 and 18-30 age groups	School workshops, tertiary/TAFE engagement, pop-ups targeting youth spaces
People with disability	Mentioned via SIGs	No lived-experience consultation	Accessibility audit and targeted survey
Industrial workforce	None	High Wycombe / Forrestfield key workforce areas	On-site popups, employer partnerships

3.1.2 Geographic Gaps

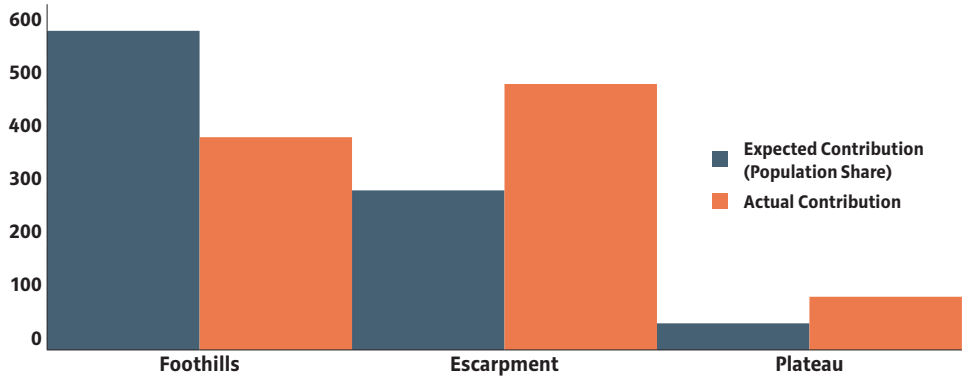
Participation distribution shows participation clustered around Kalamunda, Lesmurdie, Forrestfield, High Wycombe, with lower counts in:

- Bickely / Carmel
- Paulls Valley and Hacketts Gully
- Walliston
- Wattle Grove / Wattle Grove South
- Industrial / employment areas (Walliston industrial, High Wycombe industrial)

Local perspectives in these areas may not be accurately reflected in the LPS vision– particularly rural fringe communities and industrial precinct workers.

Contributions by geographic area (Foothills, Escarpment and Plateau) indicate that engagement participation was broadly distributed across the City, with strong representation from the Foothills and Escarpment areas. Contributions from the Escarpment were proportionally higher than expected based on population share, which is consistent with historic engagement patterns where residents in these areas tend to participate at higher rates in City consultations. To encourage broader participation, targeted advertising was implemented in the Foothills and Plateau areas during the consultation period, which successfully increased responses.

LPS Engagement Contribution (2025)
by Area and Expected Contribution



Recommendation

- Hyper-local "micro-engagements" in these under-represented suburbs (pop-ups, stalls at local shops, targeted letterbox drops).
- Online quick-polls targeting these postcodes specifically.
- Direct outreach to orchards, farms, and agritourism operators.

3.1.3 Demographic Gaps

Older adults were well represented, but the following were under-represented:

- **Children / primary school age (Under 14)**: Youth engagement captures high school students only. Future engagement could include partnering with primary schools for drawing / vision activities or class worksheets.
- **High school age (12-18):** Representation from this age group could have been stronger. Future engagement could include an in-school workshop or an independent teacher activity resource aligned to the delivery of the HASS curriculum.
- **Young adults (18-30 years old):** Representation from this cohort is weak. Future engagement opportunities include pop-ups at TAFE / vocational centres, sports clubs, local cafes etc.

3.1.4 People with disability / carers

Universal access was raised by SIGs but not represented directly by lived-experience voices. Future engagement could look at partnering with disability service providers, and conducting focused interviews with carers, NDIS participants, and seniors' groups.

3.1.5 Sector / Organisational Gaps

Local industry, trades and logistics sector

Given major employment precincts (e.g., Forrestfield–High Wycombe industrial areas), there is:

- No clear engagement with industrial business owners
- No engagement with workers (shift workers, FIFO, warehouse workforce)

Recommendation

- On-site pop-ups at industrial hubs
- Direct survey distribution through employers
- Shift-friendly online feedback modules

Health, wellbeing and social services

These are high land-use and community needs areas, yet they were not engaged.

Recommendation

Engage:

- Local GPs, allied health
- Aged care providers
- Mental health services
- Childcare providers
- Hospitals/clinics
- To gather insight into service accessibility, ageing population and workforce needs.

Education sector – limited representation

Only high schools were engaged; missing voices include:

- Primary schools
- TAFE / adult education providers
- Childcare centres / early learning centres
- Recommendation: targeted sector roundtables



4. Key Findings

The engagement process (August–November 2025) sought to identify the community's values, concerns, and aspirations for the City's future to inform the review of its Local Planning Strategy (LPS) and Local Planning Scheme No. 4. Engagement included six community workshops, an online survey, youth activities, special-interest group sessions and surveys, and Elected Member workshops.

4.1 City-wide themes

Throughout the engagement process, there were some common sentiments that reoccurred throughout the feedback received.

Values	Concerns	Aspirations for 2042
– There was a strong appreciation for the City's **natural environment** – bushland, tree canopy, creeks, biodiversity, and heritage.	– Housing affordability and **limited diversity** of lot sizes and housing options.	– **Balanced, sustainable growth** that retains **local identity** and **natural character.**
– Participants expressed a desire for **village character** and community connectedness across all areas.	– Loss of local character and **over-clearing** of vegetation.	– Greener suburbs and rural areas, with **canopy expansion, biodiversity** corridors, and **cultural integration.**
– Support for **local businesses**, agritourism, and sustainable growth aligned with character and lifestyle.	– Traffic **congestion, poor public transport**, and **unreliable utilities.**	– **Thriving** local economies supporting small business, eco-tourism, and local jobs.
– Importance of **safe**, reliable transport, major road intersections, public spaces, and **community facilities.**	– **Red tape** in planning approvals, especially for small business and agritourism.	– **Well-connected** transport and service networks with improved **walkability**, cycling, and public transport.
	– **Bushfire risk**, poor infrastructure funding, and lack of coordination between State and local agencies.	– Community facilities and recreation spaces that are **accessible, inclusive, multi-purpose** and **future-ready.**

4.2 Locality insights



Foothills

- **Values:** The Foothills value the family-friendly nature of the area, diverse housing options, the strong sense of community, and the access to services.
- **Concerns:** A common concern was housing affordability which drives away a lot of the younger population, the loss of larger blocks due to subdivision, inadequate local facilities such as sporting facilities and community centres, traffic congestion and concerns about road closures, and poor internet connectivity.
- **Vision:** The Foothills vision for 2042 is to be affordable, well-serviced, with greener neighbourhoods serviced by community hubs and a vibrant local economy.



Scarp

- **Values:** The Scarp residents value the village atmosphere, native bushland and tree canopy, with plenty of small businesses, and local tourism.
- **Concerns:** Residents are concerned about inappropriate development that may lead to environmental damage, loss of vegetation and loss of local identity, and planning red tape deterring development.
- **Vision:** The Scarp's vision for 2042 is to have the City of Kalamunda recognised as a "Green leader" – with balanced infill that supports population growth without compromising environmental values, biodiversity corridors, sustainable tourism, and safe transport links.



The Plateau

- **Values:** The residents of the The Plateau value the rural lifestyle and larger lots, with plenty of local wineries and orchards, and agritourism.
- **Concerns:** The residents expressed concern over pressure for subdivision with some citing they are concerned about higher density and the rural area becoming suburban and others expressing a desire to subdivide to continue to reside in place as they age. Along with this, they expressed concerns about habitat loss, bushfire evacuation risks, and limited public transport.
- **Vision:** The resident vision for 2042 includes protecting the rural zoning and culture, promoting agritourism and local enterprises with improved road safety and services.

4.3 Key findings from the activities

4.3.1 Mapping and Workshop Activities

- Community mapping emphasised growth around existing serviced areas (High Wycombe, Maida Vale, Wattle Grove), improved walkability, and rural protection around Pickering Brook and Bickley Valley.
- Participants prioritised environmental protection, tree canopy, and water management.
- Economic maps focused on tourism nodes, retail diversity and co-working hubs in Kalamunda, High Wycombe, and Pickering Brook.
- Infrastructure maps highlighted cycling networks, road safety, and better digital connectivity across the City.

4.3.2 Special Interest Group Themes

- **Environment:** Strong call for long-term climate resilience, green infrastructure, tree protection and rehabilitation programs.
- **First Nations:** Emphasis on Country-centred planning, co-design, dual naming, cultural interpretation signage and heritage mapping.
- **Business & Economy:** Support small business, flexible zoning, streamlined approvals, and local procurement.
- **Recreation & Trails:** Better maintenance, accessibility, and trail connectivity for tourism and community health.
- **Arts & Culture:** Need for multi-use art hubs and creative precincts.
- **Heritage:** Protect and celebrate heritage through adaptive reuse and early consideration in planning.
- **Emergency Management:** Improve hazard mapping, evacuation planning, and resilient infrastructure.
- **Access and Inclusion:** Embed inclusive design and accessibility in all new development.
- **Sports Clubs and Associations:** Support collaborative precinct planning to optimise facility use, and identify new sites and growth areas to meet future capacity.

4.3.3 Youth (Persuasive writing exercise)

- Young residents want a safer, more vibrant, and connected City with:
  - More retail, entertainment, and youth spaces;
  - Better public transport and safer pedestrian/cycling routes;
  - Improved recreation facilities (indoor sports, youth centres);
  - Environmental care, cleanliness, and waste management; and
  - Affordable housing, mental-health support, and fair access to education.

5. Analysis

This section provides further detail on the responses given in each of the activities. Where numbers are provided these reflect the number of times a response occurred.

5.1 Icebreaker

Prior to the workshop commencing, participants were asked to introduce their locality as if they were a friend at a party. Humanising their neighbourhood allowed them to draw out the key qualities that define where they live, and provided an insight into how the suburbs are viewed by those living in them.








Gooseberry Hill "the quiet nature lover"	Kalamunda "the eclectic creative"	Lesmurdie "the sporty neighbour"	Walliston "the humble cousin"	Hacketts Gully / Paulls Valley "the rugged introverts"	Wattle Grove "the busy parent"
Calm, peaceful, introverted, and always talking about trees and wildlife. A little worried about the future, but deeply connected to the bush.	Full of charm, history, and community spirit. Loves cafés, theatre, and bushwalks, but sometimes messy.	Leafy, dependable, and community-minded. Reliable, friendly, and always ready for a chat about sport or the garden.	Semi-rural, friendly, and loyal, but often feels forgotten. Happy with a simple, nature-connected life.	Scruffy but good company once you know them. Quiet, semi-rural, and deeply attached to nature and bush living.	Multicultural, sporty, and family-focused. A little rough around the edges but full of heart, energy, and Friday gelato runs.







Maida Vale "the quiet neighbour"	Forrestfield "the lively all-rounder"	High Wycombe "the busy cousin"	Pickering Brook "the orchard host"	Bickley / Carmel / Plateau "the gentle artists"
Easy-going, family-friendly, and fond of sport. A little clumsy but well-meaning, always wanting a bit more love and care.	Multicultural, sporty, and music-loving. Rough around the edges but resilient, fun, and proud of its diversity.	Hardworking, multicultural, and always on the go. Generous, supportive, and eager to be recognised.	Down-to-earth, friendly, and proud of their cider, fruit, and bushland. A hidden gem who'll always offer you a drink and a story.	Gardeners, growers, and nature lovers. Semi-rural, peaceful, and creative, loyal to their land and wary of urban growth.

5.2 Values, Concerns and 2042 Vision

5.2.1 Wall Sheets / Top Priorities

Activity 1 looked at participants Values, Concerns and Vision for 2042 (when the Strategy will be reviewed next) for their suburbs within the context of the four key themes. These views were collected as table-groups on activity sheets, collated on wall sheets to represent the room's collective ideas, and then voted on at the end of the workshop; each participant being given 3 stickers to vote on their top three priorities for the future of the City of Kalamunda.

Across the board, participants emphasised:

- A desire for balanced, sustainable growth that respects the City of Kalamunda's unique environmental and social character.
- The need for better alignment between State and local planning to unlock community-led development.
- Persistent barriers relating to funding, inter-agency coordination, and uncertainty in zoning flexibility.
- A strong appetite for partnerships between local government, residents, and external experts to co-design solutions.

The top priorities highlighted through the workshops are detailed in the table below.

Table 10. Top priorities highlighted through workshops

THEME	VALUES	CONCERNS	VISION FOR 2040
The Foothills			
Housing, Growth & Community	Family-friendly neighbourhoods, variety in housing options, building around nature, and strong community connections.	Housing affordability, loss of larger blocks and insufficient local facilities (schools, aged care, community centres).	Affordable, well-serviced neighbourhoods with diverse housing typologies that retain bushland and integrate community hubs.
Environment & Sustainability	Tree canopy, wetlands, creeks, and Aboriginal heritage.	Clearing of vegetation, inadequate tree retention, and poor maintenance of natural areas.	A greener suburb with expanded canopy, protected natural corridors, and recognition of heritage.
Economy & Employment	Local businesses, retail diversity, and entertainment options.	Limited hospitality, slow approvals, poor internet access.	Thriving local economy with diverse dining, small business support, and eco-tourism linked to natural assets.
Infrastructure: roads, transport & services	Connectivity to Perth, airport, and services.	Congestion on Tonkin/Roe Highways, safety at intersections, lack of reliable buses and cycle paths, airport noise.	Well-connected, safe transport networks with reliable utilities, underground power, and expanded public transport.

THEME	VALUES	CONCERNS	VISION FOR 2040
The Escarpment			
Housing, Growth & Community	Village character, low-density living, and strong sense of place.	Inappropriate development and clearing of bushland, housing choice, ability to downsize locally.	Carefully managed infill and housing diversity that maintains character and respects the escarpment's natural setting.
Environment & Sustainability	Tree canopy, bushland, biodiversity, and green identity.	High cost of maintaining ovals, loss of canopy, and limited visibility of environmental actions.	A "green leader" suburb with expanded canopy, biodiversity corridors, and visible sustainability initiatives.
Economy & Employment	Local shops, tourism assets, and small businesses.	Red tape in planning approvals, lack of diversity in activity centres, lack of short-stay accommodation.	A sustainable tourism hub leveraging the region's trails, lookouts, wineries and natural assets while supporting small-scale businesses.
Infrastructure: roads, transport & services	Access to natural areas, scenic connections, public transport.	Poor service coverage limiting economic and building development.	Improved access to activity centres, parks and reserves with safe, functional public transport connections and improved walkability.

THEME	VALUES	CONCERNS	VISION FOR 2040
The Plateau			
Housing, Growth & Community	Rural lifestyle, larger blocks, small community feel.	Pressure for subdivision and urban-style housing.	Retain rural zoning and lifestyle while allowing limited, sensitive growth to support a more diverse population.
Environment & Sustainability	Bushland, wildlife corridors, Aboriginal heritage, and traditional fire management.	Habitat loss, over-clearing, lack of recognition of cultural practices.	Protected natural environment with expanded bushland and cultural integration.
Economy & Employment	Local wineries, agritourism, and boutique businesses.	Barriers in planning approvals slowing economic activity.	A rural economy built on agritourism and small-scale, place-based enterprises.
Infrastructure: roads, transport & services	Safe access and connections.	Bushfire evacuation risks, limited public transport, and being overlooked in City-wide planning.	Reliable, safe rural road networks with fair investment in infrastructure and services.

5.2.2 Foothills

Values

Residents of the Foothills value their family-friendly neighbourhoods, where there is a variety in housing options and strong community connections.

The residents value natural areas. They emphasise increasing tree planting across all localities to maintain Kalamunda as a 'home in the trees' and to focus on canopy targets and retaining existing trees. Residents would prefer to see homes that are built up rather than built out, prioritising garden space and tree retention over single storey development.

Local businesses, and retail diversity are also highly valued, with residents expressing interest in entertainment districts, small offices, and varied dining options to reduce reliance on fast food. They also value the area's strong connections to the Perth CBD, airport, local services and local producers in the Hills.

Concerns

Foothills residents expressed concern about housing affordability and the loss of larger blocks, particularly in Maida Vale and Wattle Grove South, though many acknowledged the need for greater housing diversity such as townhouses and low-rise apartments that could be built around green space. They highlighted shortages in local facilities including high schools, aged care, and community centres, and called for better conservation of wetlands, creeks (e.g., Woodlupine Brook), and wildlife corridors. Concerns also centred on limited hospitality, retail, and entertainment options, traffic congestion from the Tonkin Highway expansion, and safety at local intersections. Residents noted poor public transport, a lack of safe cycling and walking paths for children, and inadequate power reliability, high-speed internet, and mobile phone coverage.

Vision

The 2040 vision for the Foothills is of affordable, well-serviced neighbourhoods centred on community hubs and offering diverse housing while retaining mature trees and bushland. Residents envision greener suburbs with expanded tree canopies, protected natural corridors, and recognition of heritage. They aspire to a thriving local economy that supports small businesses, diverse dining, and eco-tourism linked to the natural assets across the City of Kalamunda, alongside safe, well-connected transport networks, reliable utilities, underground power, and improved public transport.

5.2.3 Scarp

Values

Scarp residents value their village character, preferring low-density living and a strong sense of place. They support limited, well-managed infill development to maintain the village feel and small neighbourhood centres. Access to natural areas and scenic connections is highly valued, along with Kalamunda's tree canopy, bushland, and biodiversity. Residents want Kalamunda to lead in green initiatives, expanding canopy cover, biodiversity corridors, and bushland protections. They also value local shops, tourism assets, and small businesses that contribute to the area's economy.

Concerns

Residents expressed concern about inappropriate development, loss of mature trees and bushland clearing, emphasising that this must be avoided. Key issues included water use and resource sustainability, particularly the high cost of irrigating ovals. They also noted that planning red tape and general lack of vision / sense of place in the area leads to poor development, and hinders local business growth, alongside limited parking at reserves and poor public transport integration. These result in a poor quality local high street.

Vision

The 2040 vision for the Scarp is for carefully managed infill that preserves its character and natural setting. Residents envision the City of Kalamunda as a "green leader" suburb with expanded tree canopy, biodiversity corridors, and visible sustainability initiatives. They aspire to a sustainable tourism hub that builds on trails, lookouts, and natural assets while supporting small businesses, along with improved access to parks, reserves, and safe, functional transport connections. Residents also expressed a desire for the area to have a guiding sense of place and developed vision for the area.

5.2.4 The Plateau

Values

The residents of The Plateau area and take pride in the small, close-knit neighbourhoods and desire to retain that localised character that has been developed as a result. They value the rural lifestyle, larger blocks and the community feel. Alongside this, they value the local economy in the shape of local wineries, agritourism and boutique retail.

Concerns

There were mixed opinions as to the future of The Plateau with some residents voicing a strong resistance to subdivision and urban style housing, emphasising that retaining larger block sizes and rural identity was important. However, there was also a common concern that lack of ability to subdivide large farmland into smaller lots (i.e., splitting into two) made it difficult to age in place and stay in the area. A few residents expressed a desire to be able to further subdivide their land in order to stay in the area as they age as these blocks are easier to manage.

Equally, younger families are unable to settle in the area resulting in an aged population, with the ability to subdivide will allow for residents to pass on their land to their children and allow families to remain in the area. Another barrier for younger families staying in the area was a lack of public transport and community facilities, with a desire to see the previously planned Pickering Brook activity centre established in the area as well.

There were concerns about habitat loss, over-clearing, lack of recognition of cultural practices. Similar to the Scarp residents, they cited economic barriers occur in the form of approval processes which were seen as slowing economic opportunities in the area. Residents cited concerns about bushfire evacuation routes and limited bus services, feeling that the rural areas were often overlooked in City-wide infrastructure planning.

Vision

The 2040 vision for the The Plateau area is to preserve rural zoning and lifestyles while allowing limited, sensitive growth. Residents aspire to integrate Aboriginal fire management and heritage recognition, protect and expand bushland, and strengthen cultural connections. The vision includes a rural economy centred on agritourism and small, place-based enterprises, supporting boutique shopping, tourism, and food and wine experiences that reflect the area's character. Reliable rural road networks and fair investment in infrastructure and services are also key priorities. Finally, a vision for The Plateau area is to allow for young families to remain in the area, including the provision of community facilities that could support the younger population and land supply to remain in the area.

5.3 Mapping Activity

Participants were asked to look at where the priority services and activities should be located across the City of Kalamunda, mapping them with the icons under the umbrella themes of Housing, Growth & Community, Environment & Sustainability, Economy & Employment, Infrastructure: roads, transport and services. Each group was given a legend sheet that identified the icons representing the aspects that they may wish to place on the map.

Having mapped their priorities for 2042, groups were asked to describe their vision with a short title. The common theme across the mapped visions was a clear community focus on sustainable growth, supporting population growth with adequate and up-to-date infrastructure such as modern community facilities, walkable streets and dependable Wi-Fi, whilst preserving the heritage of the area. The maps also focus on highlighting the natural assets and resources of the City that make it unique, whilst allowing for growth in new population and allowing people to retain population as they age.



5.3.1 Housing, Growth and Community

Participant mapping for housing, growth and community uses is illustrated in Figure 6. This collated map highlights the collective ambition to see more varied housing types delivered across the City, with a focus on the established activity centres such as High Wycombe, Maida Vale and Wattle Grove. The need for adaptable housing to support an ageing population was mapped across the City from the foothills to the rural areas, with strong support for provision in Forrestfield and Lesmurdie.

Sustainable rural development in Wattle Grove, Pickering Brook, Hackets Gully and Bickley was supported alongside the protection of agricultural land and natural resources. Additional areas identified for potential development, subject to infrastructure upgrades such as sewer access, included Pickering Brook, Paulls Valley, Forrestfield and Lesmurdie. Improved connectivity such as walkability and public transport was suggested in Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Kalamunda and Walliston to improve access to the activity centres.

Enhancing local character was flagged as a priority for Kalamunda, Pickering Brook and Lesmurdie, as well as for the emerging communities in Maida Vale and High Wycombe. Participants also highlighted a desire for investment into cultural and recreational facilities (i.e., libraries, art and sport facilities) across the City, with a focus on Kalamunda and Forrestfield, and improved mixed-use neighbourhood and community centres in Pickering Brook, Kalamunda, Forrestfield and High Wycombe.

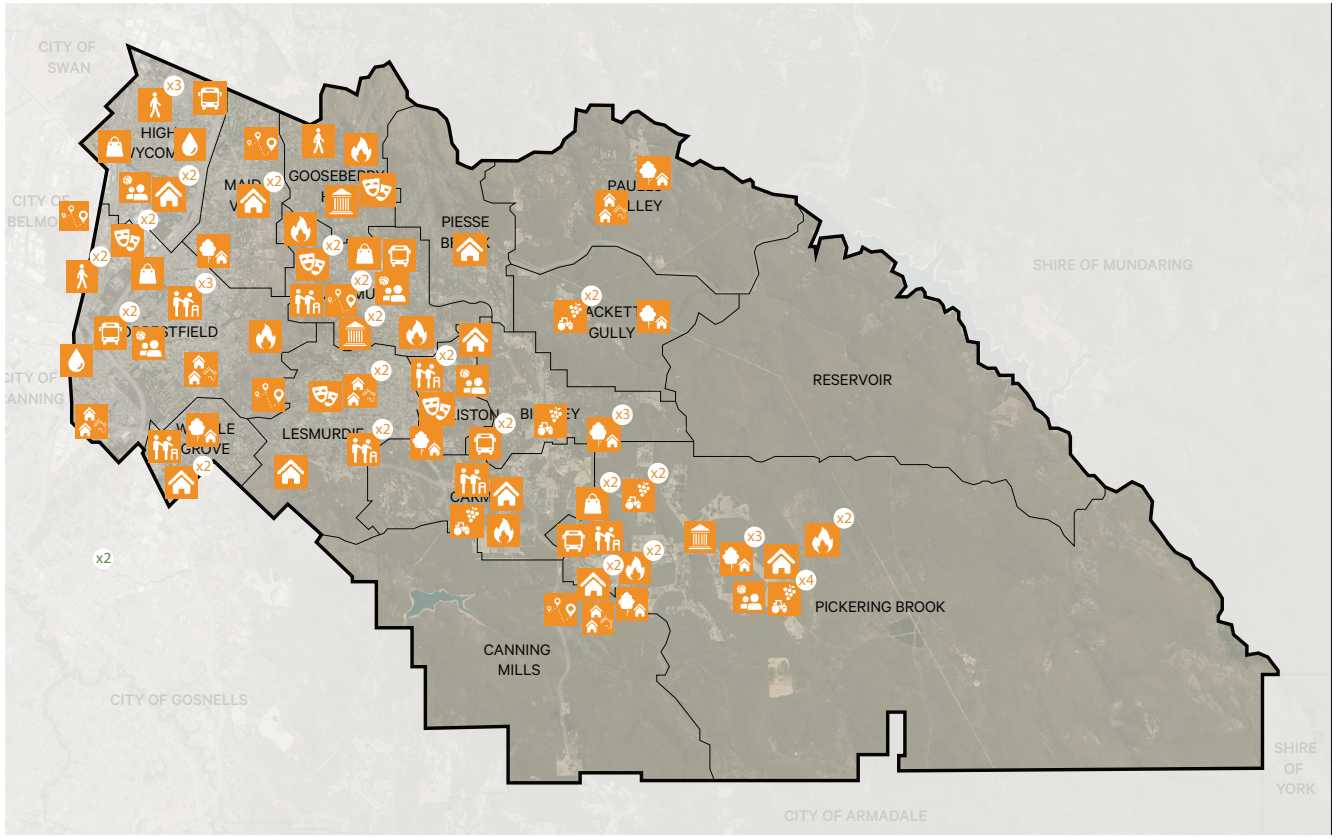


Figure 6. Participants preferred location of housing, growth and community uses

5.3.2 Environment and Sustainability

Participant responses highlighted conservation as a high priority across the City, with conserving and enhancing local plants and ecosystems, enhancing the tree canopy and managing water sustainably amongst the top initiatives proposed across all the localities. Bickley, Hacketts Gully, Piesse Brook and Pickering Brook also identified a need for more community protection through the management of Bushfire risk, whilst Maida Vale and Forrestfield were identified as areas to integrate Aboriginal cultural heritage and land management practices.

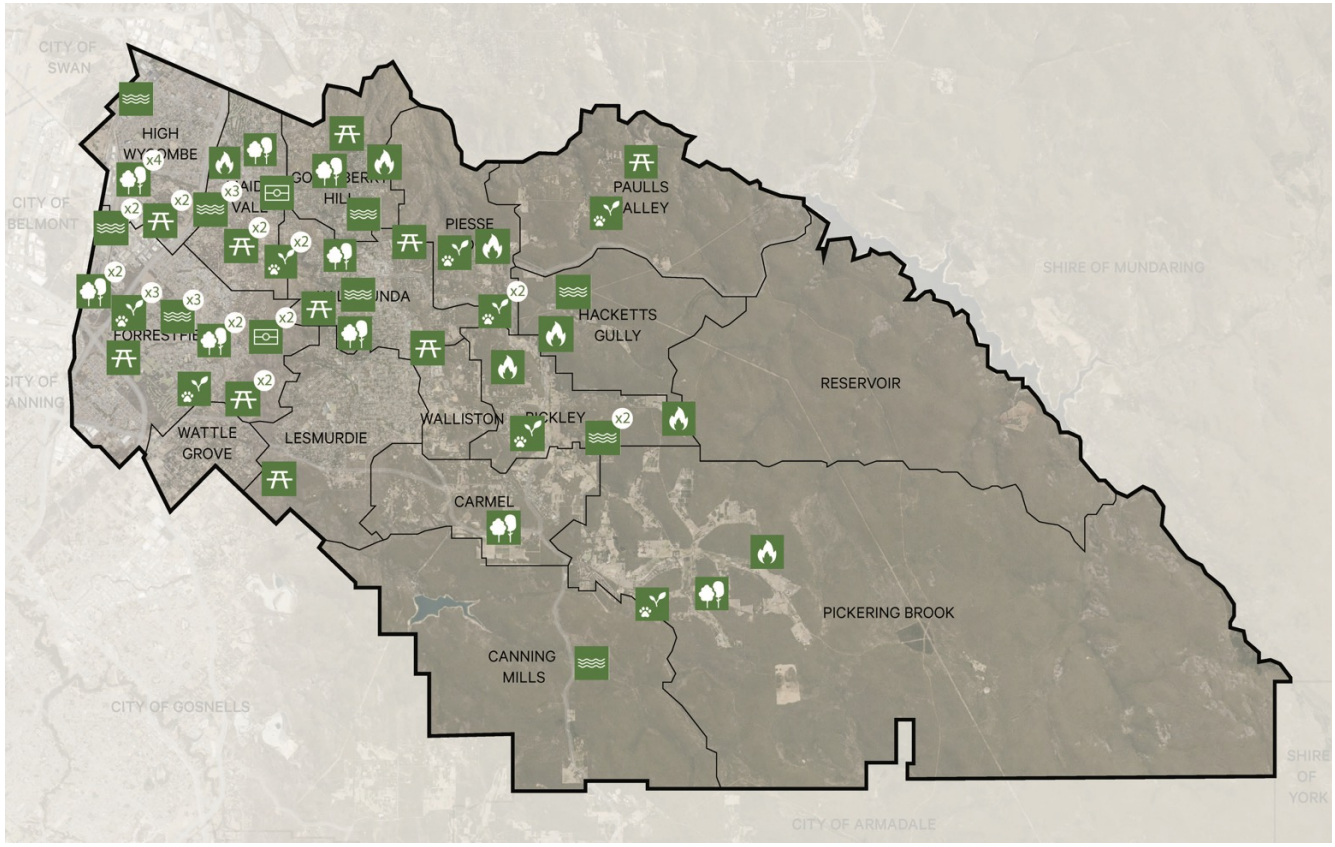


Figure 7. Participants preferred location of environment and sustainability uses

5.3.3 Economy and Employment

Mapping of economy and employment priorities highlighted a desire to see more tourism opportunities – like eco, cultural and recreational experiences and supporting infrastructure – particularly in Carmel and Pickering Brook, as well as the central areas of Kalamunda, Piesse Brook, Paulls Valley, Bickley and Walliston, and High Wycombe and Wattle Grove in the foothills.

Participants proposed investment in creating vibrant walkable hubs in Lesmurdie, High Wycombe, Kalamunda and Walliston, with an emphasis on supporting diverse local businesses in Kalamunda and Pickering Brook.

Mapping supported the existing industrial areas within High Wycombe and Walliston, proposing more diversity in employment industries be provided in High Wycombe, Kalamunda, Bickley and Pickering Brook. Figure 8 below, also highlights a desire for more co-working, flexible working opportunities and innovation in the City, particularly in Kalamunda, High Wycombe and Lesmurdie.

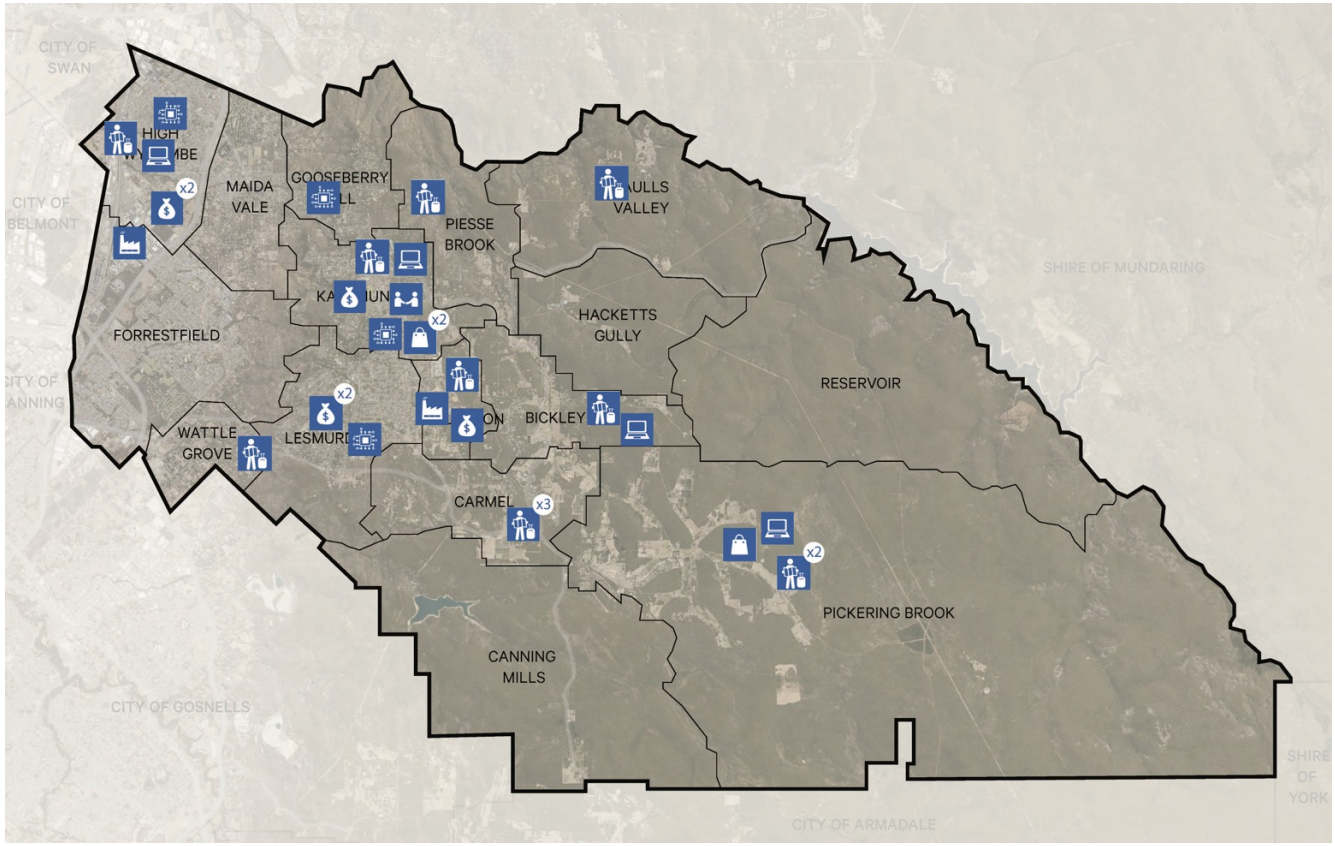


Figure 8. Participants preferred location of economy and employment uses

5.3.4 Infrastructure: transport, roads and services

The infrastructure mapping (Figure 9, below) showed a high interest in improving the cycling and walking network in the foothills: High Wycombe, Forrestfield and Wattle Grove, with some interest in suburbs such as Gooseberry Hill, Paulls Valley and Pickering Brook.

High Wycombe and Forrestfield recorded enhancing the road and rail network as a priority, including managing impacts such as noise and safety. Access to reliable, frequent public transport was highlighted across the City, with an emphasis in the Foothills: Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Maida Vale and Wattle Grove, and in Kalamunda through to Pickering Brook. Another priority improvement across the localities was access to fast and reliable internet and smart technologies, and improved services like water, sewerage, gas, electricity, across the City.

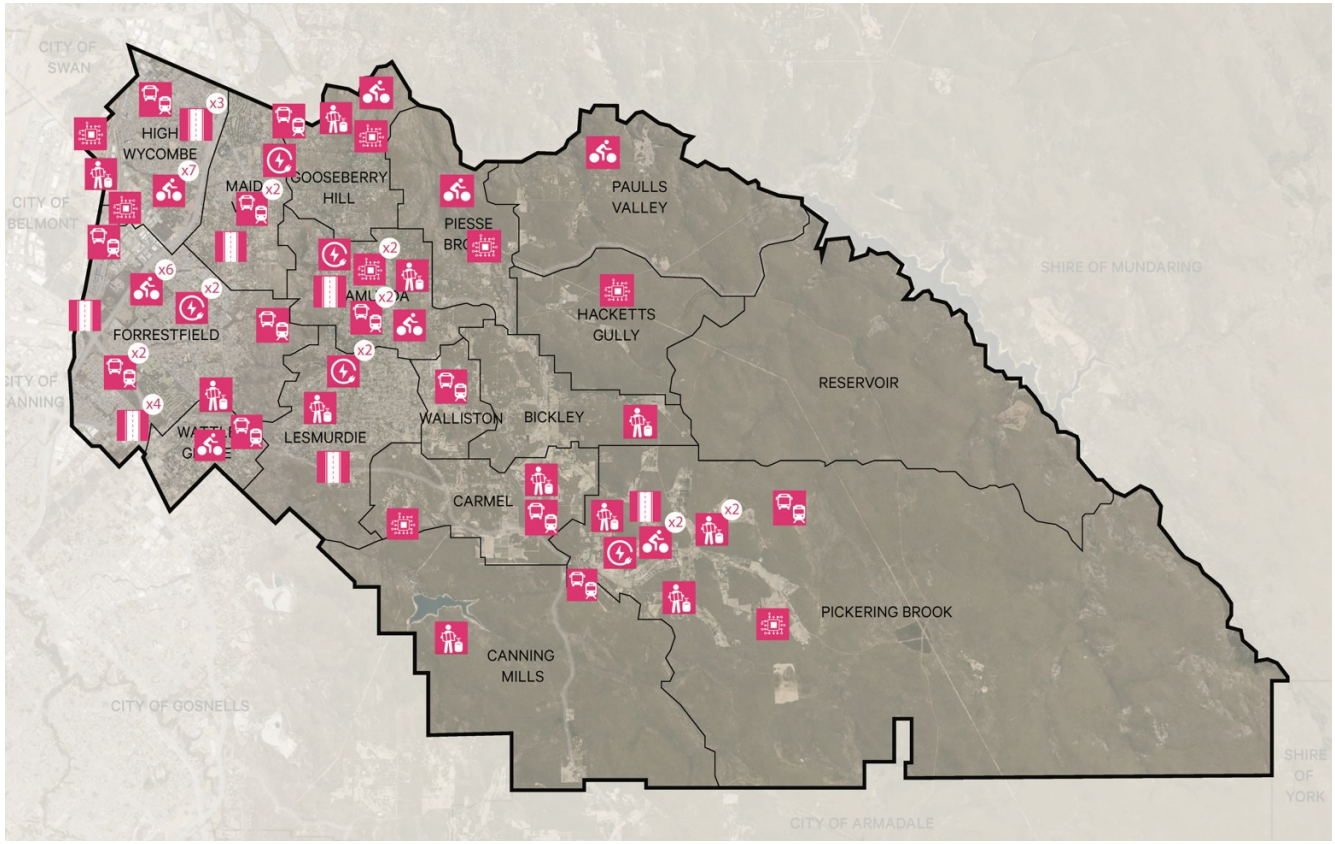


Figure 9. Participants preferred location of infrastructure: transport, roads and services uses

5.4 Mission: Possible

Working in small groups, participants looked at a priority issue in detail, considering how to achieve their desired outcome. Participants were encouraged to consider how the perceived barriers might be overcome and what partnerships and actions would be needed to make the desired outcome a reality. This section summarises the priorities that were explored.

The following section provides a collective summary of the priorities explored across the six workshops, categorised under the four Planning Strategy themes. Table 11 presents a comparative analysis of the top priority issues raised by each locality.

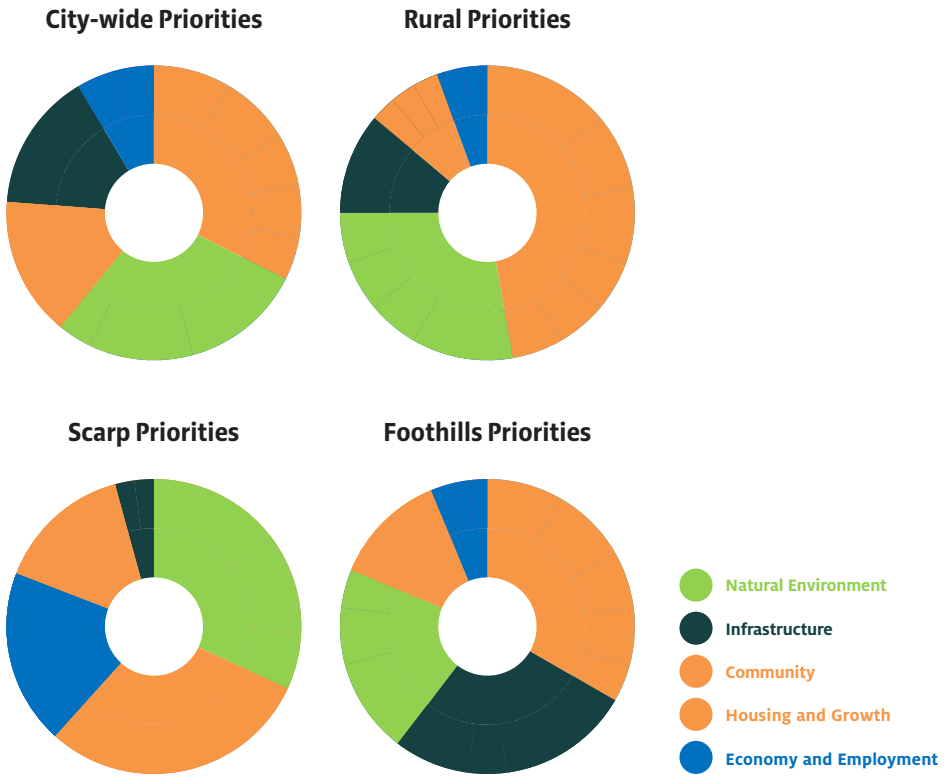


Figure 10. Donut chart illustrating the priority distribution across the five key themes.

Table 11. Overview of mission possible findings by locality

Natural Environment	TOTAL	FOOTHILLS	SCARP	THE PLATEAU
Tree retention or addition.	**12**	**5**	**7**	2
Maintain the existing 'green suburb' or rural character.	**12**	3	5	**4**
Retain / rehabilitate the natural environment	4		3	
Create shady green corridors		2		
Protect resources				2
Bushfire protection				2
Infrastructure	**TOTAL**	**FOOTHILLS**	**SCARP**	**THE PLATEAU**
Walkability (safe, lit, connected & accessible paths)	**7**	**7**		
Better public transport (access / more / connect to centres)	**5**	2	**1**	**2**
Road safety	2	2		
Better walking / cycling paths / safe routes	2	2		
Sewerage and waste management				1
Green energy generation			1	1

Community	TOTAL	FOOTHILLS	SCARP	THE PLATEAU
Family friendly and accessibly community facilities and recreation spaces	**6**	**3**	2	**1**
Maintain heritage and character	**3**		**3**	
Inclusive facilities	**2**	2		
Local social and retail centres	2	1		
Aboriginal naming and sculptures	2		1	**1**
Places for youth	1		1	**1**

Housing and Growth	TOTAL	FOOTHILLS	SCARP	THE PLATEAU
Housing diversity (size / lot / age / price)	**9**	**4**	**3**	2
Planning control / rezone to unlock blockages and protect the environment	**8**	3	**3**	2
Support ageing in place	**6**	2	2	2
Aged-care and disability living	**6**	**4**		
Sustainable living solutions - reduce the minimum block size (e.g., 2-20k sqm)	5			**5**
Higher density around centres / transport / services to limit urban sprawl	7	3	**4**	
Increase the population	3			3
New small rural lot type	3			3
City design character / passive solar housing	2		2	

Economy and Employment	TOTAL	FOOTHILLS	SCARP	THE PLATEAU
Support small, local and diverse businesses	**4**	**1**	**3**	
Support tourism – eco-tourism, events, activities, cycle tourism (improve paths)	**4**	1	2	1
Employment opportunities for young people	1	1		
Grant funding	1			1
Night-time economy	1		1	
Free parking	1		1	
Support local skills and talent	1		1	
Short-term accommodation	1		1	

Housing, Growth and Community

What is the priority issue?

Participants highlighted a need for sustainable living opportunities (e.g., being able to have farmland subdivision; to retain rural lifestyles but still downsize to a manageable lot) that support diversity and population growth without compromising local character. Concerns centred on the decline of the community, with the perception that areas such as Pickering Brook are dying, unable to attract new residents and younger families. The need for community facilities and housing diversity was also prominent amongst the options of problems to solve.

What outcomes do you want to see?

Residents want sustainably managed growth that supports a growing population whilst maintaining the green, rural or village feel of the area. The participants envision mixed housing types, multi-use recreation and community spaces, and long-term infrastructure planning that supports social cohesion, an ageing demographic and active lifestyles.

What are the barriers / unknowns to getting there?

Barriers to achieving some of the highlighted priority issues are at state planning level, a perceived lack of coordination between agencies preventing the ability to subdivide through inflexible zoning restrictions over sites. Participants also cited a lack of funding and environmental approvals as key barriers to achieving their desired outcome.

What are the actions or steps needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Participants highlighted that zoning provisions needed to be reviewed, and that there needs to be funding dedicated to the provision of local facilities. Local and state government coordination is critical to enable rezoning, planning updates, and implementation support.

Who are the partners needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Key partners include the City of Kalamunda, State Government and other referral agencies such as Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Western Australian Planning Commission, as well as community advocacy groups. Collaboration between consultants and the local community was also identified as essential to progress shared outcomes.

Environment and Sustainability

What is the priority issue?

Priority issues discussed revolved around the protection of tree canopy, biodiversity corridors, and concerns over densification threatening local natural character. There was emphasis on balancing growth with environmental protection.

What outcomes do you want to see?

Participants desire a 'sympathetic mix of housing and infrastructure' – housing developments that integrate public open space and natural environment, and incorporate sustainability guidelines and local character. Participants want the City to be green leaders through canopy expansion, renewable initiatives, and integration of Aboriginal land care and fire management practices.

What are the barriers / unknowns to getting there?

The key barriers participants highlighted was BAL constraints, ongoing development pressure, and unclear maintenance responsibilities between agencies. Participants also identified lack of enforcement or monitoring of environmental guidelines.

What are the actions or steps needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Participants suggested the development of local BAL management guidelines, enforcing vegetation protection, and co-designing environmental strategies with community input. The City could also adopt sustainability and resilience targets to guide future planning decisions.

Who are the partners needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Partners noted were residents, environmental consultants, Aboriginal land management representatives, and the City of Kalamunda's sustainability and planning teams.

Economy and Employment

What is the priority issue?

Participants' issues lay in providing employment and business opportunities, in particular for small, independent enterprise. There was concern about having a stagnant or ageing population which may prove to be a limitation on the local economic vibrancy.

What outcomes do you want to see?

Participants envisage a diverse local economy that encourages small businesses, local tourism, and agri-business opportunities, complementing the character of the area while creating long-term employment stability.

What are the barriers / unknowns to getting there?

The primary barriers the participants highlighted were the population stagnating, housing affordability and lack of investment in the area. Some noted they were uncertain around how economic diversification aligns with existing zoning and infrastructure.

What are the actions or steps needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Calls were made for the City and State Government to streamline planning processes and support business enablement, such as flexible land use, commercial nodes, and targeted marketing of the area's strengths.

Who are the partners needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Partners cited were local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Kalamunda, State planning and economic development agencies.

Infrastructure: Roads, Transport and Services

What is the priority issue?

Participants expressed frustration with the lack of essential services and facilities, including fire stations, supermarkets, and community hubs. Infrastructure was seen by participants as lagging behind growth and community need.

What outcomes do you want to see?

The community desires better connected infrastructure, accessible services, and diverse lot sizes to support a balanced population. Safety and emergency response capacity were key desired improvements.

What are the barriers / unknowns to getting there?

Funding constraints and population thresholds were cited as limiting factors. There are also concerns about monitoring and control of infrastructure delivery and maintenance.

What are the actions or steps needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Actions include revising zoning to support appropriate density, prioritising key service investments and improving coordination between the City, State and emergency agencies.

Who are the partners needed to achieve the desired outcome?

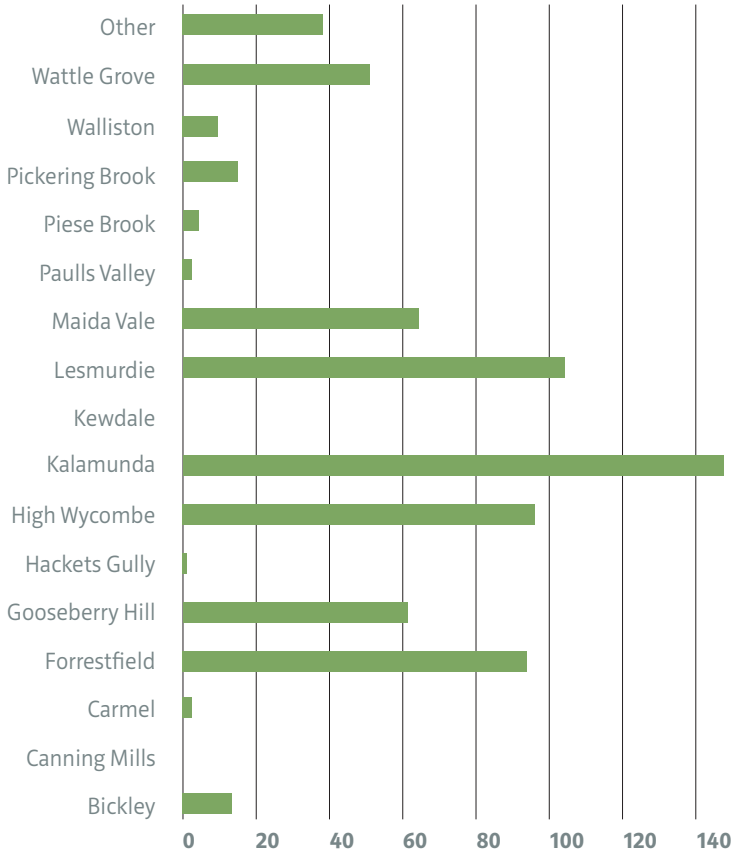
Partners identified include DFES, State Government, local community groups, and City of Kalamunda officers involved in infrastructure planning and asset management.

5.5 Community and Youth Survey

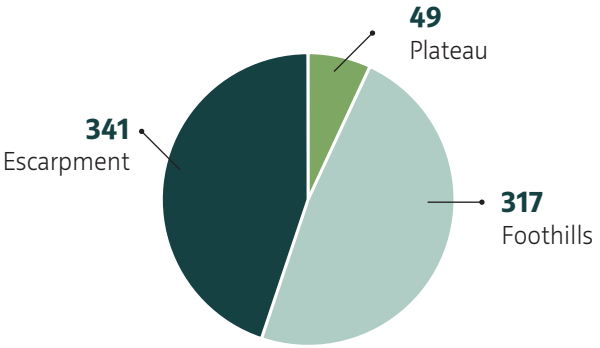
5.5.1 Demographics

Figure 11 (below) outlines the demographic information gathered from the Community and Youth surveys. There was a median age of 59, with a large proportion of respondents coming from Kalamunda, Lesmurdie and Forrestfield.

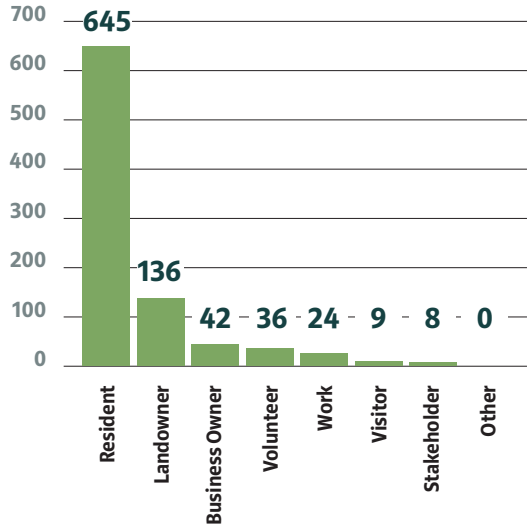
What location do you live in, work in or visit most?



Location of Respondents by District



What is your connection to that location?



What is your age?

47% 50-69
32% 25-49
18% over 70
3% rather not say

What is your gender?

38% of respondents identify as male
50% of respondents identify as female
7% of respondents preferred identify their gender

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes
No **670**

Are you from a culturally and linguistically diverse background?

Yes
No **619**

Figure 11. Demographics of Survey Respondents

5.5.2 Overall survey findings

Survey respondents were able to pick multiple options for each survey question, the numbers in the bracket are the number of times the option was selected. The tables below identify the top 3 responses for each survey question. 707 responses were received across the community and youth surveys.

Overall Observation

Across all three areas, participants expressed shared priorities for sustainable growth, environmental protection, and the retention of local identity and community character. Despite differing contexts—urbanising foothills, established escarpment villages, and rural townships—the values and aspirations demonstrated a clear alignment on the importance of balancing growth with lifestyle, nature, and sense of place.

Despite their differing settings, the communities in the Foothills, Scarp and The Plateau share a coherent and complementary vision:

- They see Kalamunda's natural environment as its defining strength.
- They want growth that supports community life but does not erode local character.
- They seek better infrastructure, local employment, and equitable access to services.

This convergence of views provides a strong foundation for the City's Local Planning Strategy to establish a single, City-wide vision anchored in environmental stewardship, connected communities, and place-responsive growth.

Shared Values

- **Natural Environment and Lifestyle:** All three areas place significant value on the green, natural, and biodiverse environment that defines the City of Kalamunda. Respondents consistently described their areas as peaceful, quiet, and scenic, emphasising a deep connection to bushland, wildlife and open spaces. The natural landscape is seen not only as an amenity but as central to community identity and wellbeing.
- **Community Character and Connection:** Residents across the Foothills, Scarp and The Plateau localities share a strong appreciation for community spirit, safety, and belonging. "Family-oriented", "supportive", and "connected" were recurring descriptors in all three regions. This reflects a collective desire to maintain local character and to plan for growth that preserves social cohesion and local charm.

Common Concerns

- **Loss of Character and Environmental Degradation:** Across all areas, participants expressed concern that inappropriate development, over-clearing, and urbanisation threaten the natural and social fabric of their neighbourhoods. "Loss of local character and identity" and "environmental damage" were among the highest-ranking concerns for every area. The fear of change that undermines heritage and bushland values is a unifying theme.
- **Housing Affordability and Diversity:** While density pressures vary, all three areas highlighted housing affordability and limited variety as issues. Residents want more diverse options—smaller homes for downsizers and affordable dwellings for young families—but without compromising landscape character.
- **Infrastructure and Services:** Across all areas, residents identified inadequate infrastructure, particularly public transport, road maintenance, and service reliability (power, water, internet). The frustration is consistent: growth is outpacing service delivery.

Common Aspirations

- **Environmental Leadership and Green Identity:** Every area envisions the City as a "green leader"—a municipality that protects bushland, expands tree canopy, manages water sustainably, and integrates Aboriginal heritage and land care practices. Protecting and enhancing natural assets is universally viewed as essential for long-term liveability.
- **Balanced and Sensitive Growth:** Residents aspire to growth that is sustainable and context-sensitive, allowing for housing choice while retaining the rural and village character of their communities. The idea of "right growth, in the right place"—with urban consolidation focused around existing centres—is a common refrain.
- **Stronger Local Economy and Community Facilities:** Each area supports local economic activity—particularly small business, tourism, and agritourism—paired with improved access to community, recreation, and cultural facilities. The emphasis is on creating local opportunities that reduce the need to travel outside the City for work, shopping, or leisure.

Table 12. Top 3 responses to 'Which of the following best describe your locality?'

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBE YOUR LOCALITY?	SUBJECT	FOOTHILLS	ESCARPMENT	THE PLATEAU
Environment	**Urban Environment**			
	Suburban	**218**	**250**	18
	Rural / Semi-Rural	114	139	**38**
	Connected and accessible	70	90	
	Compact / Urban			7
Community, Urban Growth and Settlement	**Sense of Place and Character**			
	Peaceful and quiet	**236**	**252**	**44**
	Vibrant and active	87		
	Traditional and heritage rich	83	168	21
	Tourist Friendly		86	18
Infrastructure	**Quality and Liveability**			
	Comfortable	**164**	194	**27**
	Well serviced	158	**203**	18
	Cared for	110	147	19
Environment	**Natural Environment**			
	Green and natural	**207**	**274**	**42**
	Biodiverse	177	234	34
	Scenic and beautiful	149	223	38
Community, Urban Growth and Settlement	**Community**			
	Family-oriented and welcoming	**200**	**208**	**27**
	Strong and connected community	149	**208**	**27**
	Diverse	102		
	Ageing population		117	20

Table 13. Top 3 responses to 'What do you like the most about your selected area?'

WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT YOUR SELECTED AREA?	SUBJECT	FOOTHILLS	ESCARPMENT	THE PLATEAU
Community, Urban Growth and Settlement	**Housing and Growth**			
	Close to shops, schools, healthcare	**146**	**155**	
	Quiet / rural living	112	149	**44**
	Suburban living	96		
	Local character and identity		149	28
	Community			
	Recreation and community facilities	**196**	**207**	**23**
	Supportive community	100	138	20
	Schools and childcare	64		
	Local heritage buildings and artwork		84	12
Environment	**Environment**			
	Natural landscape (bushland, trails, waterfalls)	**235**	**318**	**43**
	Wildlife and habitats	152	186	3
	Council and community-led sustainability	28		
	Orchards and farmlands		46	17
Economy & Employment	**Economy and Employment**			
	Shopping options	**148**	138	
	Support for local businesses	116	**178**	**26**
	Local job opportunities	64		
	Tourism opportunities		54	**26**
Infrastructure	**Infrastructure and Transport**			
	Road network to other areas	**183**	102	**22**
	Public transport (buses, trains)	124		
	Walkability of neighbourhoods and activity centre		**175**	
	Local roads and pathways	59	95	21
	Walkability of neighbourhoods and activity centre			11

Table 14. Top 3 responses to 'What concerns you the most about your selected area?'

WHAT CONCERNS YOU THE MOST ABOUT YOUR SELECTED AREA?	SUBJECT	FOOTHILLS	ESCARPMENT	THE PLATEAU
Community, Urban Growth and Settlement	**Housing and Growth**			
	Lack / loss of local character and identity	**143**	**192**	**23**
	Lack of affordable homes	98	105	
	Limited variety of lot sizes in new developments	75		16
	Lack of smaller homes for singles / down-sizers		77	
	Walkability of neighbourhoods and activity centre			11
	Community			
	Maintenance of parks and playgrounds	**119**	100	14
	Ageing or insufficient community facilities	117	**155**	**24**
	Standard or provision of sporting / active recreation facilities	63	55	12
Environment	**Environment**			
	Environmental damage	**183**	**200**	**28**
	Loss of scenic landscape	106	109	
	Insufficient support for waste reduction / energy efficiency	66		
	Bushfire and other natural disaster risks		103	15
	Loss of orchards and farmland			20
Economy & Employment	**Economy and Employment**			
	Unmanaged growth of industrial areas	**87**		
	Limited support for local business	84	**117**	**15**
	Limited shopping choice	85	107	13
	Lack of local jobs		70	**15**
Infrastructure	**Infrastructure and Transport**			
	Road maintenance issues	**144**		19
	Service reliability issues (water, power, internet)	81	110	11
	Standard of cycling / walking infrastructure	78	**120**	
	Lack of public transport		112	**31**

Table 15. Top 3 future aspirations from the Community Survey

TOP 3 FUTURE ASPIRATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY	SUBJECT	FOOTHILLS	ESCARPMENT	THE PLATEAU
Environment	**Natural Environment / Green Spaces**			
	Protect and enhance natural bushland and green links	**252**	**297**	**42**
	Protect waterways (creeks, rivers)	215	238	33
	Increased tree canopy and urban greenery	193	196	
	Managed parks for gathering exercise and play			25
Community, Urban Growth and Settlement	**Built Environment**			
	Safe and shaded walking and cycling	**235**	**242**	
	Retain some larger suburban lot sizes	206	215	**29**
	Develop sustainable buildings	138	190	**29**
	Increase housing variety (townhouses, apartments)			26
Infrastructure	**Transport and Infrastructure**			
	Improved public transport services (frequency, routes)	44	**48**	**7**
	Increased accessibility for all ages and abilities			4
	Improved walking and cycling network	**46**		
	Improved services infrastructure (water, power, internet)	34	46	
	Develop sustainable buildings		43	
Community, Urban Growth and Settlement	**Community Assets**			
	Stronger Local community services	**77**	**75**	**7**
	Quality sport and recreation facilities	72	66	6
	Quality cultural facilities	45	63	
Economy & Employment	**Economy and Employment**			
	Support local industries and economy	80	79	**7**
	Retain small, locally owned stores	**91**	**95**	6
	Manage industrial precinct growth			4
	Support tourism assets (sites and accommodation)	45	50	

5.6 Persuasive Writing Exercise for Young People

Local high school students' responses to the persuasive writing exercise highlighted the local young people's desire for more activities and recreation opportunities, aligning closely with similar sentiments echoed in the Community Workshops. Overall, young people in Kalamunda want a more connected, safer and vibrant community with better shops and jobs, facilities that support youth, families and the environment.

Table 16 (below) provides an overall outline of the key themes that arose from the persuasive writing responses.

Table 16. Summary of persuasive writing themes

Theme	Responses
Shops, services and local economy	· There was a strong demand for more retail and clothing options for young people as well as more diversity in the dining options (e.g., Yochi/frozen yoghurt, diverse café and fast-food options). · There were calls for a local shopping centre to reduce long trips to Midland or Carousel to save time and fuel, and support the local economy. · There was a desire for youth-friendly spaces that facilitate the ability to socialise, shop and meet up safely and independently. · An increase in shops are seen as creating local jobs, especially for young people, and reducing money spent outside of Kalamunda.
Transport and Accessibility	· Concerns about bus services included timetables that were too tight for students, with no late / after-school buses and a lack of services between areas such as Pickering Brook and Kalamunda. · There were calls for more reliable, frequent public transport to reduce car reliance. · Some responses noted issues with road conditions and road networks (e.g., potholes, delays and safety risks). · Respondents requested safer walking / cycling paths for children and families.
Community Facilities and Recreation	· The responses had a strong advocacy for more sport and recreation infrastructure, in particular: o More indoor netball courts at Ray Owen Sports Centre. o Basketball, netball and multi-use courts that are accessible at all times. o Entertainment options (i.e., bowling, laser tag, aquariums, roller skating, youth centres). · Responses emphasised a need for safe, fun and local spaces to keep families and young people engaged without having to travel 'down the hill'.
Environment, Waste and Cleanliness	· There were concerns about the bin system including small general waste bins, infrequent collection and extra fees for additional bins. · There were requests for larger bins or more flexible collection to prevent illegal dumping, overflowing bins, and litter. · Calls for more public bins in parks and residential areas (especially for dog waste). · Environmental focus on clean parks, less litter, and protecting wildlife (e.g., cockatoos affected by rubbish). · Some students likened waste issues to personal wellbeing (e.g., smells, pests, back pain from small bins).
Safety, lighting and infrastructure	· Requests for better street lighting to reduce accidents and increase personal safety at night. · Concerns over traffic congestion and unsafe roundabouts. · Safety issues tied to infrastructure: poorly maintained skate parks, car park shortages at sport venues, unsafe pedestrian areas.

Theme	Responses
Housing and Affordability	· There were calls for more affordable housing to keep families living in the area and reduce outward migration, strengthening the community. · There were broader concerns about community cohesion and fairness.
Education and Youth Wellbeing	· Requests for better schools and education systems (modern resources and equal opportunities). · Support for youth centres, mental health awareness, and safe spaces to address issues like isolation and suicide prevention.

5.7 Special Interest Groups

Following the Workshops the City met with Special Interest Groups to discuss their individual needs and aspirations, as well as identify any potential opportunities that could be addressed in the Strategy.

5.7.1 Environment

Participants emphasised protection of natural assets, biodiversity corridors, and the integration of green infrastructure into urban areas. There was strong support for initiatives that address climate resilience, such as tree canopy expansion, sustainable water management, and renewable energy. Key barriers include limited funding, conflicting land use priorities, and lack of long-term environmental planning mechanisms. Actions suggested including stronger environmental policy alignment, rehabilitation programs and education around sustainability in development.

5.7.2 First Nations

First Nations representatives highlighted the importance of Country-centred planning, with recognition and protection of spiritual connection to land and water. They called for co-design in the planning processes, dual naming of places, and interpretive storytelling in public spaces. Embedding Aboriginal cultural values in town centres and community facilities was identified as a major opportunity.

Barriers include tokenistic engagement and inadequate representation in decision-making. Participants advocated for ongoing partnerships with Traditional Owner groups and inclusion of cultural heritage mapping in land use planning.

5.7.3 Local Business and Economy

Business stakeholders prioritised support for small businesses, activation of town centres, and diversification of the local economy. Desired outcomes include improved parking and transport access, streamlined planning processes and incentives for local manufacturing and green industries.

Barriers include red tape, inconsistent zoning, and rising operational costs. Recommended actions include creating flexible mixed-use precincts, local procurement policies, and enhanced promotion of the City as a destination for investment.

5.7.4 Recreation and Trails

Trail groups and recreation advocates sought improved connectivity between trail networks, urban centres, and tourism areas. The top priorities were better maintenance, accessibility, and sustainable management balancing recreation with conservation. Opportunities exist to create regional trail hubs, improve signage, and collaborate with tourism bodies.

Barriers include fragmented land management and inconsistent maintenance budgets.

5.7.5 Arts and Culture

Creative industry participants emphasised the need for dedicated spaces such as multi-use art hubs, performance venues, and affordable studios. They envision a thriving cultural sector contributing to local identity and economic vitality. The main challenges were lack of funding and visibility of local talent. Actions proposed include artist-in-residence programs, creative precinct planning, and integration of public art across urban renewal projects.

5.7.6 Heritage

Heritage groups stressed celebrating both built and intangible heritage through adaptive reuse, interpretive signage and protection of key sites. They call for stronger heritage overlays and clearer design guidelines to manage change in heritage areas. The biggest improvement sought is early heritage consideration in the planning process and community awareness campaigns to encourage preservation.

5.7.7 Emergency Management and Community Safety

Stakeholders focused on land use planning's role in mitigating bushfire and flood risks. They identified the need for better communication networks, community preparedness programs, and integrating hazard mapping in planning frameworks. Balancing fire mitigation with environmental protection was a recurring theme. Suggestions included improved evacuation planning, fuel load management and more resilient infrastructure.

5.7.8 Sports Clubs and Associations

Sports representatives raised issues around facility maintenance, equitable access, and funding. Aspirations included upgrading existing infrastructure, co-locating community facilities, and improving connections between sports and recreation planning. Opportunities include shared-use agreements and multi-sport precincts that reflect growth in participation.

5.7.9 Universal Access

Access advocates prioritised inclusive design, accessible transport, and community facilities that cater to people with disabilities and ageing populations. Long-term needs include universal design principles embedded in all developments, more accessible open spaces, and pathways that connect key destinations. Barriers include limited funding and lack of retrofitting in older infrastructure.



5.8 Council Workshop

The Councillor visioning session explored aspirations for the future of the Foothills, Escarpment, Plateau, and the City as a whole. Across all areas, strong themes of character, belonging, connection to nature, and balanced growth emerged. Councillors articulated ambitions for a City that celebrates local identity, supports diverse communities, and strengthens its role within the broader Perth metropolitan area.

Foothills Vision

The Foothills is envisioned as a vibrant, inclusive and well-connected series of town centres that celebrate community identity and support everyday living. Key themes included:

Vibrant town centres that are destinations in their own right.

- Strong local character supported through design and place activation.
- A new and recognisable identity where community members feel seen, represented, and connected to Kalamunda.
- A transport hub that improves accessibility and movement.
- Spaces and programs that build community, celebrate the multicultural population, and ensure inclusivity.
- Diverse housing options to meet the needs of first-home buyers, growing families, and downsizers.
- More green spaces and stronger protection of tree canopy.
- An emphasis on creating a place that supports families and seniors and fosters intergenerational living.
- A sense of being "home in the trees".

Escarpment Vision

The Escarpment is seen as an area where heritage, village charm, environmental quality, and sustainable growth can coexist. Councillors prioritised:

- Retaining the village feel and protecting significant heritage buildings.
- Strengthening local character while ensuring town centres are contained, vibrant, and well-defined.
- Supporting tourism opportunities that reinforce the area's uniqueness.
- Protecting and enhancing the High Street as a local, boutique and realistic retail precinct.
- A thriving night-time economy that brings vibrancy without compromising character.
- Views and outlooks as an important part of local identity.
- Enabling a residential community within the town centre to support activation.
- Encouraging sustainable and respectful growth that aligns with environmental values.
- Prioritising protection and enhancement of the biodiversity across the area.

The Plateau Vision

The Plateau is envisioned as a place that balances:

- Character, tourism, lifestyle, and gentle economic growth.
- Strong local character with a supported and connected society–particularly for ageing residents and young families.
- A variety of tourism opportunities, including:
    - Perth Sky Sculpture Park
    - Orchard diversification and agri-tourism
    - Eco-tourism and cycling
    - Wellness-based attractions
- Support for short-term accommodation and camping to enable tourism and lifestyle experiences.
- Sympathetic economic growth that respects rural and landscape values.

City-Wide Themes

Across the whole City, councillors emphasised unity, connection, and a strong shared identity:

- A shift from "us and them" to a sense of "we" across all localities.
- Development of character guidelines that recognise local individuality while supporting a unified sense of place.
- Strengthened physical and social connections between centres, neighbourhoods, and communities.
- A unified tourism identity, centred on:
  - Sky Sculpture Park
  - Wineries
  - Cycle paths and trails
- Housing diversity and affordability to support a broad and inclusive community.
- Strong focus on liveability, "living in the trees", and intergenerational connections.

Broader Metropolitan Role

Councillors highlighted the need to articulate what the City of Kalamunda and its sub-regions mean for the Perth Metropolitan Area. This includes:

- Defining the City's unique contribution to metropolitan identity, lifestyle, and tourism.
- Positioning the Foothills, Escarpment and Plateau as complementary districts offering distinct experiences.
- Leveraging natural assets, tourism offerings, and strong community character to strengthen the City's metropolitan presence.



6. Vision Statement

The outcomes of the community engagement workshops, survey, conversations with special interest groups and Council workshop, provide an insight into what the community of the City of Kalamunda value about their local neighbourhoods and the wider region, now and into the future.

These sentiments form the basis of the following vision statements, proposed to outline the 15-year vision for how land-use change and development will occur within the local government, and to inform the future Local Planning Strategy and subsequent Community Plan and Place Strategy.

Acknowledging that the City is in a period of change, moving forward with a commitment to building trust through demonstrated actions, the vision statements are shaped to be tangible and practical rather than aspirational concepts.

The Vision for the City of Kalamunda 2042

Shaped by nature and enriched by community – a sustainable, vibrant city for all.

A City shaped by nature and enriched by community, where sustainable growth, diverse housing, and vibrant local centres create a liveable region for residents and visitors to live, work, and explore.



An Overarching Description of the Future City of Kalamunda

We value our homes within the trees, our connected communities and diverse neighbourhoods – a region where natural landscapes, vibrant centres and a strong local economy create a desirable place for people to live, work and thrive.

We are proud custodians of the bushland and waterways that weave through our region, and are the envy of the Metropolitan area for our open vistas, fresh air, abundant wildlife habitat and cultivated orchards.

Over the next 15 years, our neighbourhoods will lead the way in sustainable living. Buildings will be designed around mature trees and green corridors, with carefully crafted design guidelines ensuring that the distinct character of each neighbourhood is both protected and enhanced through sensitive development and responsible land management. A place-based approach will guide planning decisions, respecting each area's unique history, landscape, and architectural style to maintain its identity while supporting thoughtful growth.

We see a future where our local centres are at the heart of liveable neighbourhoods, and our regional centres are vibrant economic hubs from morning to night. Together, our three distinct regions form an integrated City:

- **The Foothills** – A highly accessible region offering a rich mix of industry, retail, rural living, and growing residential neighbourhoods. An emerging regional centre, anchored by a connected transport and recreation hub will attract investment, support business growth and serve the wider region.
- **The Escarpment** – Village-style living in the hills, with boutique retail, heritage assets, recreational trails and arts and cultural activity. Expanded business opportunities and vibrant night-time activation will strengthen the local economy, while development balances growth with character to maintain its distinctive appeal for residents and visitors.
- **The Plateau** – A productive rural landscape, home to dedicated producers and a destination for nature-based and agritourism experiences. Future planning will protect its rural character while enabling new generations to build a resilient economy through nature-based enterprise.

Generations of families share a deep attachment to our unique lands spanning from the foothills to the plateau, overlooking the eastern valleys and metropolitan plains of Perth. We aspire to be a community supported by a vibrant and resilient economy, accessible health and social services and diverse housing typologies that meet our needs at every stage of life, from first-home buyers through to those needing supported aged care.

Our region is where city meets nature, where astronomy, recreation, produce, arts and culture come together to create a rich tapestry of local experiences, within easy reach of the Perth metropolitan area and the domestic and international airport. Our boutique retail, local entrepreneurs and recreational experiences shape centres that feel like 'villages in the trees,' valued by locals and sought out by visitors. In 15 years, our City will offer a range of short-term accommodation and recreational experiences – from urban hotels to rural glamping under the stars – encouraging longer visits and supporting sustainable tourism.

The City of Kalamunda values its rich history and local industries, striving for a balance between protecting natural landscapes, enhancing quality of life, sustaining long-term economic growth and protecting local character. A place-based approach to land use and asset management is the natural next step to deliver this vision.

The Foothills



Snapshot:

A vibrant and welcoming region where community, nature, and opportunity come together. At its heart, a dynamic recreation and transport hub links walkable neighbourhoods, parks, and bushland corridors, while providing easy access to Perth and the surrounding hills and orchards. Residents enjoy diverse housing, accessible amenities, and a lifestyle that balances convenience, connectivity, and natural beauty.

Who are we?

A network of vibrant, liveable neighbourhoods, homesteads and town centres, connected by safe shared paths and roadways, threaded with green corridors of mature trees, parks and bushland habitats. This is an inclusive, multicultural and supportive community that welcomes people at all stages of life, with a wide-range of housing options for the first-time home buyers, growing families, hobby-farmers and downsizers.

The Foothills is a unique region on the doorstep of Metropolitan Perth, highly connected via road, rail and air to local, national and international destinations and employment opportunities. Family-focused suburbs sit alongside industrial estates and rural homesteads, creating an eclectic character, unified by a shared respect for the tapestry of parks and native bushland that weave between the estates.

In 15 years, the Foothills will be home to a destination transport and recreation hub alongside its existing community, employment and activity centres, driving the City's economy and providing a focus for residential expansion. Industrial growth will be carefully managed to ensure it supports local employment and economic resilience while maintaining compatibility with surrounding land uses and protecting environmental values. High quality community facilities will continue to support the health and well-being of the resilient local community.

Nestled at the bottom of the Darling Scarp, the Foothills offer a taste of what lies beyond: trails and cycle paths, fine wines and ciders, fresh orchard produce and artisan crafts.

A highly sought-after place to live, the Foothills offers walkable residential neighbourhoods centred on activity hubs and community facilities designed to meet the needs of all ages and abilities. The area combines modern convenience with natural beauty: well-serviced flat terrain ensures reliable utilities and connectivity, while easy rail and road links bring the Perth Metro within reach, all set against the scenic hills and the rich lifestyle opportunities they provide.

The Escarpment



Snapshot:

The future Escarpment will be a network of villages in the hills where residential neighbourhoods, boutique local businesses and natural landscapes evolve together sustainably. Development will be managed to maintain mature vegetation, biodiversity, and the distinctive character of the Darling Scarp, while supporting walkable communities, family-friendly housing, and a resilient local economy.

Who are we?:

A ribbon of village communities spans the Escarpment, offering elevated sunset views over national parklands and western plains of Metropolitan Perth. Settled for its fertile soils, scenic beauty and cool, healthy air, the Escarpment remains a highly sought-after location renowned for its family-oriented, creative, and eco-minded community, bonded through sports clubs, arts, and community events.

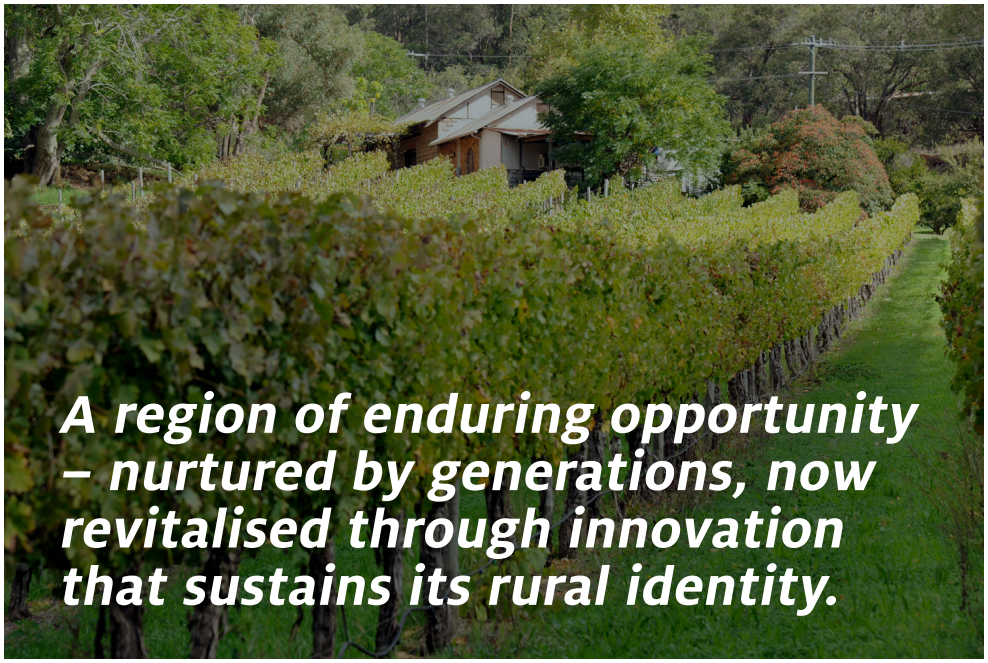
The natural setting is valued above all, yet the community supports a respectful intensification of walkable neighbourhood centres. This ensures ageing residents can remain close to family and friends, while young residents can find their first homes here in the trees.

In 2042 the Escarpment's rich character will be evident in local boutique businesses, heritage buildings anchoring the town centre, and sports and recreation hubs stitched together by trees and bushland alive with Quenda, Bobtails and Koolbardi. Vibrant and liveable town centres will host a thriving night-time economy showcasing local and international music, art and cuisine in top-class venues, whilst unique tourist experiences will leverage the underlying historic cultural fabric and artisan talent.

Sustainable growth underpins the Escarpment's future, supported by reliable utilities, equitable service provision and dependable public transport. The eco-minded community champions green energy solutions, efficient waste management, and the protection of natural resources. Learning from the Traditional Custodians about sustainable stewardship they will ensure the unique character and scenic beauty of the Darling Scarp is preserved for future generations.

Kalamunda is the springboard to the Darling Scarp offering myriad tourism opportunities. Visitors can explore a network of bushland trails, waterfall walks, mindful retreats, immersive dark skies and wildlife encounters – come for the day, stay for the weekend, and immerse themselves in the region's unique natural and cultural assets.

The Plateau



Snapshot:

The Plateau will be a network of rural communities where sustainable residential growth, boutique local businesses, and tourism opportunities coexist in harmony with the natural landscape. Development will be managed to protect orchards, bushland, and scenic vistas while providing diverse housing and accessible neighbourhood hubs that support a multi-generational population.

Who are we?

Positioned on the crest of the Darling Range, the rural plateau is home to families descended from early settlers, connected to the land through heritage, agriculture and long-standing family ties.

We are a welcoming, multi-generational community supporting residents at every stage of life, from young families to ageing grandparents. Our livelihoods depend on the protection and enhancement of the surrounding natural environment and cultivated lands. Hardworking and entrepreneurial, we seek for opportunities to diversify to sustain our rural lifestyle.

The future of the Plateau lies in sustainable and sensitive residential growth that complements its rural character. Supported by compatible economic development and accessible services and facilities within a well-connected neighbourhood hub, the community will continue to thrive.

By 2042, the Plateau will offer a range of housing typologies to meet the needs of a diverse, multi-generational population, from young families and orchard growers to hobby homesteads. Well-maintained community facilities and services, supported by a well-equipped bushfire brigade, will enhance quality of life and resilience.

A tourist's delight, the Plateau offers vineyard tours, orchard picking, wellness retreats, night-sky experiences and world-class artwork. Within easy reach of Perth, it will be a unique boutique short-stay destination providing visitors with immersive experiences that celebrate the region's natural beauty, lifestyle and community spirit.

City of Kalamunda Local Planning Strategy – Visioning Engagement Outcomes Report

March 2026 | 25204

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