

*Imagine*  
GREATER BENDIGO

**Host your own  
conversation  
to shape our  
future.**



**Community consultation toolkit**



CITY OF GREATER  
**BENDIGO**



## Section 1

Section 1 builds on the activity of ‘getting in the right headspace’. We want to understand what people value about Greater Bendigo right now.

You don’t need to get the group’s agreement on this – it is about getting a range of views from the group. However, if there is strong agreement on any point, please write this information down.



**Question 1:** What makes Greater Bendigo a great place to live now?



## Section 2

Section 2 helps us understand how people want to see Greater Bendigo grow and develop in the future.

Ask people, individually or in small groups, then discuss what participants agree on and any differences. Write down outcomes of the discussion.



**Question 2:** What would make  
Greater Bendigo an even better place  
to live 30 years from now?



## Section 3

Section 3 is divided into six themes and summarises feedback from recent community engagement opportunities about what our community values most about where they live.

We want to see if you agree with this feedback or if there is anything else you would like to add. Ask people, individually or in small groups, to consider these themes and write down what participants agree on and any differences. Add additional points the group feels are missing.

Thinking about recent times, we would also like people to consider what is most important to them now. Have your priorities changed compared to what you might have said in 2019?

## Theme 1: A healthy, liveable community

Community members said they value:

- Cool, shady and green streets with accessible parks and play spaces
- Access to cheap, healthy food
- Walking and cycling paths for people of all ages and abilities
- Growing more food locally in schools, community gardens and on farms
- Affordable, safe and secure housing
- Better access to public transport and walking and cycling paths to move around
- Better access to health services for older residents

**Question 3:** When you imagine a future Greater Bendigo, what do you value for a healthy, liveable community?



## Theme 2: A strong, inclusive and sustainable economy

Community members said they value:

- More opportunities for young people to go to university or TAFE so they can stay in Greater Bendigo
- More job opportunities for young people and people with a disability
- Support for local artists and businesses, particularly after COVID-19
- Promote and sell a wide variety of local produce in the community
- An economy that addresses disadvantage, attracts visitors and is sustainable
- Supporting people whose income and employment was hit particularly hard by COVID-19, including women, young people and temporary visa holders
- Supporting young people whose schooling and education has been interrupted by COVID-19

**Question 4:** When you imagine a future Greater Bendigo, what do you value for a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy?



## Theme 3: Aboriginal reconciliation and celebration of diversity

Community members said they value:

- Seeing more examples of Aboriginal culture and history across Greater Bendigo
- Better job opportunities, procurement and improved economic outcomes for Aboriginal people
- Aboriginal families and children being supported to connect to their culture
- Increasing community understanding of the cultural practices and values of Traditional Owners
- Seeing the goals of Traditional Owners reflected in long-term plans for Greater Bendigo
- Working together to meet the needs of refugees and people seeking asylum
- Working together to build a welcoming city by addressing racism

**Question 5:** When you imagine a future Greater Bendigo, what do you value for Aboriginal reconciliation and celebration of diversity?

## Theme 4: A healthy natural environment that promotes resilience to a changing climate

Community members said they value:

- Create well-designed spaces that are mindful of our future climate
- Minimise impacts to local wildlife, plants and trees as Greater Bendigo grows
- Recognise Traditional Owners' connection to the land and local knowledge
- Protect existing trees, improve habitats and support conservation
- Plant more indigenous plants
- Strengthen connections and relationships between farmers / producers, schools and the general community
- Use the COVID-19 recovery as an opportunity to invest in projects that have positive impacts on the environment (e.g. improve energy efficiency of housing and buildings)

**Question 6:** When you imagine a future Greater Bendigo what do you value for a healthy natural environment that promotes resilience to a changing climate?

## Theme 5: A vibrant, creative community

Community members said they value:

- Recognition of the importance and benefits of creativity
- Greater understanding and representation of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and creative practices
- Activation of public and private creative spaces
- Opportunities for connection and collaboration with artists and the wider community
- Opportunities to grow networks that are supportive and inclusive
- Support and opportunities for local artists and their initiatives
- Inclusion of culturally diverse people in local arts and creative industries

**Question 7:** When you imagine a future Greater Bendigo, what do you value in a vibrant, creative community?

## Theme 6: A supportive community and social environment

Community members said they value:

- Family-friendly events and activities for people from different generations
- Working together to address loneliness and social isolation
- Improving support and services for mental health, homelessness and financial stress
- Working together to make Greater Bendigo feel safe and welcoming for all and preventing family violence
- Improving internet access, especially for rural residents and households with no internet
- The way the community has banded together during COVID-19
- Support for community sport, recreation and community groups to increase social connection after COVID-19

**Question 8:** When you imagine a future Greater Bendigo, what do you value in a supportive community and social environment?



## Section 4

Section 4 is optional and focuses on finance and managing future population growth. These topics will be explored in more detail in stage 2 of community consultation for Imagine Greater Bendigo, but it would be great to get some feedback now.

The purpose of these questions is to get the group's thoughts on:

- How we prioritise delivering services to our growing and changing community
- Where and how we grow to make sure our city, townships and rural areas continue to provide what people need to live good lives, within the resources available to us



## Finance

**Question 9:** How should Council prioritise which services it delivers to our growing and changing community, while also maintaining infrastructure it is responsible for and investing in new projects as they are needed?





## **Question 10:** If you had to choose how Council funded future services and new projects, which of the below options would you prefer?

- Pay a slightly higher rates bill to continue to fund new and current services and infrastructure, meaning the City would need to apply to the Victorian Government to raise rates above the set rate cap
- Prioritise and reduce current services so as not to pay more in rates?





## Managing growth

**Question 11:** What are the most important issues you think we need to consider if Greater Bendigo's population nearly doubles in size (as predicted) by 2050?