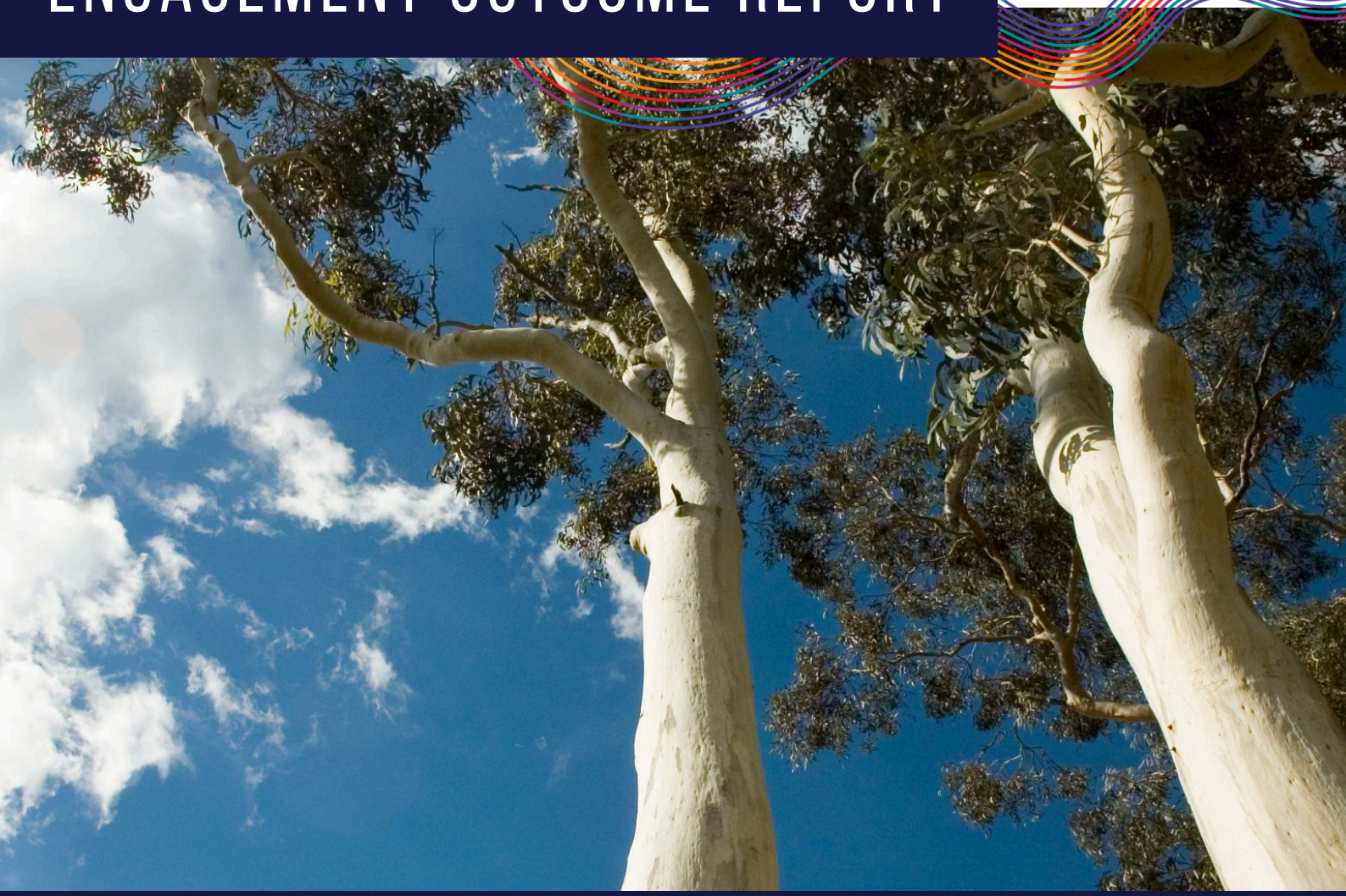
Draft Local Planning Policy 1.24 - Regulated Trees on Private Land

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOME REPORT



NOVEMBER 2026

City of Melville

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1. Executive summary

The City of Melville undertook public advertising for draft Local Planning Policy 1.24 - Regulated Trees on Private Land, which proposes planning controls for the retention, removal and replacement of medium and large trees on private land.

The public advertising period ran from **Monday, 31 August to Saturday, 31 October 2026** (62 calendar days), in accordance with Schedule 2, Part 2, clause 4 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*. This exceeded the minimum statutory advertising requirement of 21 days by 41 calendar days.

A total of 1,512 submissions were received through multiple engagement methods, of which 1,451 were retained for analysis following submission validation.

The survey explored support for a private-land tree retention policy in principle, support for the specific draft Policy and support for individual provisions. This provided a more detailed understanding of which measures attracted support and where respondents identified concerns or potential changes.

Among 1,427 survey respondents, 388 (27.19%) supported a policy in principle, 41 (2.87%) were neither/unsure and **998 (69.94%) opposed** it. Across 1,445 classifiable responses to the specific draft Policy, including reviewed email and written submissions, 348 (24.08%) supported, 37 (2.56%) were neither/unsure and **1,060 (73.36%) opposed**.

Written feedback raised both the environmental and community benefits of mature trees and concerns about private property rights, safety, maintenance, cost, development flexibility, exemptions and implementation. The results are a record of participants' views, not a statistically representative measure of all residents.

2. Key findings at a glance

Measure	Outcome
Consultation period	62 days | 31 August–31 October 2026
Submissions received	1,512
Retained for analysis	1,451
Support for a policy in principle	27.19% of 1,427 survey responses
Support for the draft Policy	24.08% of 1,445 classifiable positions
Opposition to the draft Policy	73.36% of 1,445 classifiable positions 75.6% of 1,313 property owners opposed the draft Policy 74.3% of 1,390 respondents residing in the City of Melville opposed the draft Policy

3. Engagement methodology, promotion and validation

The City established a dedicated webpage on the City's engagement website Melville Talks, supported by two additional information pages. These provided information about the draft Policy, its background, previous engagement, frequently asked questions and practical scenarios demonstrating how the proposed controls could apply if adopted.

To support accessibility and encourage broad community participation, feedback could also be provided through a hard-copy survey, by email, in writing, over the phone or in person. This ensured people who were unable or preferred not to participate online had alternative ways to have their say.

The survey combined structured questions with opportunities for written feedback. Respondents were asked about their support for a private-land tree retention policy in principle, the draft Policy as proposed, and individual provisions relating to regulated-tree criteria, development approval requirements, exemptions and replacement planting. Participants could also provide reasons for their views and suggest changes.

Additional questions captured respondents' suburb of residence, connection to the City and whether they had a tree on their property that met the proposed regulated-tree criteria. This information enabled the identification of differences in levels of support across participant groups and provided a more detailed understanding of community views. Responses were not weighted.

3.1 Submission methods

Method	Received	Share of all submissions
Online survey	1,464	96.83%
Hard-copy survey	12	0.79%
Email	27	1.79%
Written submission	9	0.60%
Phone	0	0.00%
Total	1,512	100.00%

3.2 Submission validation and reconciliation

A total of 1,451 valid submissions were retained for analysis. The net reduction reflects validation, exclusions and consolidation of duplicate submissions, including late submissions identified during review. Where duplicate submissions included additional feedback, information was consolidated with the retained record.

Reconciliation measure	Number
Submissions originally received	1,512
Survey responses retained (online and hard-copy combined)	1,427
Email submissions retained	18
Written submissions retained	6
Total retained submissions	1,451
Net reduction from received to retained	61

3.3 Engagement promotion and awareness

The City delivered a multi-channel communications campaign to raise awareness of the draft Policy, provide information about the proposed changes and encourage community participation. A combination of digital, print, direct communications and promotional materials was used to reach residents and stakeholders throughout the 62-day consultation period.

The campaign generated substantial exposure across multiple channels. As each channel uses different reporting measures, including circulation, reach, impressions and page views, the figures below should not be combined to calculate a total audience.

Channel / measure	Reported / outcome result
City website and Melville Talks visits	13,330 unique individual page views
eNewsletters (eight editions)	Combined circulation of 125,112
Direct emails (random sample and Melville Sounding Board)	21,540 email issued
Facebook advertising	118,982 views
Instagram	1,656 reach
LinkedIn	73,242 impressions
Newspaper advertising	40,600 circulation
Public notice display board	Displayed throughout the consultation period
Promotional materials	Posters, flyers, outdoor digital signage and corporate email signatures displayed or distributed throughout the consultation period
Internal and Elected Member communications	Intranet and Elected Member Bulletin communications issued during the consultation period

4. Participation

Information collected about respondents' connection to the City, suburb of residence and reported tree ownership provided insight into the profile of participants. This enabled comparisons in levels of support across different groups and geographic areas, helping to identify patterns and differences in community views.

As participation was voluntary and responses were not weighted, the findings reflect the views of those who participated rather than the broader City of Melville population.

4.1 Connection to the City

Connection selected	Survey responses	% of survey respondents
Property owner	1313	92.0%
Resident (non-owner)	66	4.6%
Works / operates business	10	0.7%
Developer	1	0.1%
Student	3	0.2%
Visitor	13	0.9%
Other	21	1.5%

**Connection categories are presented as recorded in the consolidated survey analysis. The category counts total 1,427.*

4.2 Geographic distribution of participation

Of the 1,451 submissions retained for analysis, 1,390 respondents provided a residential suburb within the City of Melville and a classifiable response to the draft Policy question.

To assess the geographic distribution of participation, responses were compared against suburb population figures to determine whether participation was proportionate to each suburb's share of the City's population.

Of the City's 18 suburbs, eight recorded participation above their population-proportionate benchmark, while 10 recorded participation below it. Leeming, Bull Creek, Kardinya, Palmyra and Murdoch recorded the largest shortfalls against expected participation.

These comparisons provide an indication of geographic participation patterns and do not establish statistical representativeness.

Suburb	Expected responses	Actual responses	Difference
Alfred Cove	36	40	+4
Applecross	97	141	+44
Ardross	60	92	+32
Attadale	89	140	+51
Bateman	52	51	-1
Bicton	93	104	+11
Booragoon	78	86	+8
Brentwood	29	18	-11
Bull Creek	109	72	-37
Kardinya	123	94	-29
Leeming	122	74	-48
Melville	80	121	+41
Mount Pleasant	94	100	+6
Murdoch	50	26	-24
Myaree	27	31	+4
Palmyra	98	72	-26
Willagee	69	61	-8
Winthrop	83	67	-16
Total	1,390*	1,390	—

**Expected participation was calculated by distributing 1,390 respondents proportionately across the 18 suburbs using the population figures applied in the previous comparison. Expected suburb counts are rounded independently and total 1,389; the unrounded allocation totals 1,390. Differences are calculated against rounded expectations.*

4.3 Reported regulated-tree presence

Response	Survey responses	% of survey respondents
Yes	328	23.0%
No	464	32.5%
Unsure	108	7.6%
Prefer not to disclose	152	10.7%
Not recorded in these response groups	375	26.3%

**Responses reflect what participants reported against the survey's tree-size question; they are not independently verified property assessments.*

5. Overall position

Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Policy in principle	1427	388 (27.19%)	41 (2.87%)	**998 (69.94%)**
Specific draft Policy	1445	348 (24.08%)	37 (2.56%)	**1,060 (73.36%)**

Key analysis:

- Opposition is the majority position for both questions, with the draft Policy attracting a higher level of opposition.
- Written feedback included qualified and conditional views. Opposition to the draft Policy does not necessarily mean opposition to every tree-protection objective.

5.1 Geographic participation and support

The following breakdown separates respondents within the City of Melville from those elsewhere in metropolitan Perth, regional Western Australia and interstate. The grouping uses the suburb or location recorded in the retained submissions register. Respondents who did not provide a usable location, or submitted on behalf of an organisation without a residential suburb, are reported separately. These are submission locations, not independently verified residential addresses.

5.1.1 Geographic support: policy in principle and draft Policy

Location group	Question	Retained	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Within City of Melville	**Policy in principle**	**1392**	**1375**	**362 (26.3%)**	**39 (2.8%)**	**974 (70.8%)**
Within City of Melville	**Draft Policy**	**1392**	**1390**	**324 (23.3%)**	**33 (2.4%)**	**1033 (74.3%)**
Outside City – Perth metropolitan area	Policy in principle	47	47	24 (51.1%)	2 (4.3%)	21 (44.7%)
Outside City – Perth metropolitan area	Draft Policy	47	47	20 (42.5%)	4 (8.5%)	23 (48.9%)
Regional Western Australia	Policy in principle	4	4	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (75.0%)
Regional Western Australia	Draft Policy	4	4	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (75.0%)
Outside Western Australia – interstate	Policy in principle	1	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Outside Western Australia – interstate	Draft Policy	1	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Location group	Question	Retained	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Not stated / not applicable	Policy in principle	7	0	—	—	—
Not stated / not applicable	Draft Policy	7	3	2 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (33.3%)
Total	Policy in principle	1451	1427	388 (27.2%)	41 (2.9%)	998 (69.9%)
Total	Draft Policy	1451	1445	348 (24.1%)	37 (2.6%)	1060 (73.4%)

**Percentages are based on answered submissions within each geographic group, not the total City population. The in-principle question was asked of survey respondents; written and email submissions were not assigned an in-principle answer.*

5.1.2 Geographic findings

Among respondents identifying a location within the City of Melville, 74.3% opposed the draft Policy (1,033 of 1,390 classifiable positions), compared with 70.8% who opposed a policy in principle (974 of 1,375 survey answers). Draft Policy results include classifiable email and written submissions; six retained submissions overall did not have a classifiable position.

Key findings:

- The largest volume of feedback came from respondents identifying a suburb within the City of Melville.
- The overall geographic pattern is consistent with the headline result of majority opposition among participating respondents, but does not establish a representative view for any geographic population.
- Highest opposition among City of Melville suburbs includes: Winthrop - 88.1% opposed (59 of 67); Bateman - 86.3% opposed (44 of 51); Murdoch - 80.8% opposed (21 of 26); Mount Pleasant - 80.0% opposed (80 of 100); Ardross - 78.3% opposed (72 of 92). Detailed results for every recorded suburb are provided in Appendix A.
- Relatively lower opposition among these suburbs: Palmyra - 58.3% opposed (42 of 72); Applecross - 68.8% opposed (97 of 141); Bicton - 69.2% opposed (72 of 104); Melville - 71.1% opposed (86 of 121). This is a relative comparison; it does not necessarily indicate majority support.

5.3 Support by connection to the City

Connection	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Property owner	Policy principle in	1313	329 (25.1%)	38 (2.9%)	946 (72.0%)
Property owner	**Draft Policy**	**1313**	**289 (22.0%)**	**31 (2.4%)**	**993 (75.6%)**
Resident (non-owner)	Policy principle in	66	31 (47.0%)	1 (1.5%)	34 (51.5%)
Resident (non-owner)	Draft Policy	66	27 (40.9%)	1 (1.5%)	38 (57.6%)
Works / operates business	Policy principle in	10	4 (40.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (60.0%)
Works / operates business	Draft Policy	10	3 (30.0%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (70.0%)
Developer	Policy principle in	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Developer	Draft Policy	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Student	Policy principle in	3	2 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (33.3%)
Student	Draft Policy	3	2 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (33.3%)
Visitor	Policy principle in	13	11 (84.6%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (15.4%)
Visitor	Draft Policy	13	9 (69.2%)	2 (15.4%)	2 (15.4%)
Other	Policy principle in	21	10 (47.6%)	2 (9.5%)	9 (42.9%)
Other	Draft Policy	21	9 (42.9%)	3 (14.3%)	9 (42.9%)

**The connection breakdown compares both questions for each respondent group. The consolidated category counts total 1,427; whether respondents could originally select more than one connection category requires confirmation against the survey configuration. Email and written submissions were not forced into survey connection categories.*

5.4 Support by reported tree presence

Tree presence	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Yes	Policy principle in	328	129 (39.3%)	9 (2.7%)	190 (57.9%)
Yes	**Draft Policy**	**328**	**112 (34.1%)**	**6 (1.8%)**	**210 (64.0%)**
No	Policy principle in	464	99 (21.3%)	18 (3.9%)	347 (74.8%)

Tree presence	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
No	Draft Policy	464	85 (18.3%)	15 (3.2%)	364 (78.5%)
Unsure	Policy in principle	108	20 (18.5%)	4 (3.7%)	84 (77.8%)
Unsure	Draft Policy	108	17 (15.7%)	6 (5.6%)	85 (78.7%)
Prefer not to disclose	Policy in principle	152	7 (4.6%)	4 (2.6%)	141 (92.8%)
Prefer not to disclose	Draft Policy	152	4 (2.6%)	1 (0.7%)	147 (96.7%)

**The tree-presence breakdown compares support for a policy in principle with support for the specific draft Policy. Differences should be interpreted cautiously: tree presence is self-reported and the data cannot establish why respondents held particular views.*

6. Individual draft Policy provisions

The individual-provision results should be read separately from overall support. In particular, responses differed between proposed requirements and more flexible approaches. For example, the provision permitting removal where retention was not reasonable or practical attracted greater support than the financial contribution alternative. Each percentage is calculated using the number who answered that question, not all submissions.

The survey also asked about specific provisions to identify possible support for individual measures, even where respondents opposed the draft Policy overall. Each question has its own answered denominator. In particular, Q5 relates to the proposed measurements and criteria used to identify which trees would be regulated; it does not measure support for the draft Policy overall.

Survey question / provision	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Q5: Support for proposed regulated-tree identification criteria	1406	321 (22.8%)	162 (11.5%)	**923 (65.7%)**
Q7: Development approval to remove or significantly damage a regulated tree (unless exempt)	1411	375 (26.6%)	51 (3.6%)	**985 (69.8%)**
Q8: Encouraging retention and protection where reasonable and practical	1409	599 (42.5%)	121 (8.6%)	**689 (48.9%)**
Q9: Considering regulated trees during development, subdivision and planning	1408	569 (40.4%)	110 (7.8%)	**729 (51.8%)**
Q10: Removal where retention is not reasonable or practical due to development or site constraints	1403	**821 (58.5%)**	229 (16.3%)	353 (25.2%)
Q11: Evidence and written City confirmation for technical or site-specific exemptions	1406	400 (28.4%)	171 (12.2%)	**835 (59.4%)**

Survey question / provision	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Q12: Replacement planting following approved removal	1408	572 (40.6%)	149 (10.6%)	**687 (48.8%)**
Q13: Replacement ratios: two trees per large tree and one per medium tree	1412	441 (31.2%)	141 (10.0%)	**830 (58.8%)**
Q14: Financial contribution when on-site replacement planting is impractical	1403	273 (19.5%)	251 (17.9%)	**879 (62.6%)**
Q15: Voluntary transplantation as an alternative to removal	1407	506 (36.0%)	335 (23.8%)	**566 (40.2%)**
Q16: Application to zoned private land, including residential and commercial properties	1412	373 (26.4%)	56 (4.0%)	**983 (69.6%)**
Q17: Proposed exemptions approach	1397	**584 (41.8%)**	232 (16.6%)	581 (41.6%)
Q19: Proposed approach to other circumstances	1403	391 (27.9%)	112 (8.0%)	**900 (64.2%)**

** The figures above are survey answers only; email and written commentary has not been retrospectively converted into survey selections*.

Key analysis:

- Responses differ between provisions, demonstrating the importance of considering specific requirements rather than relying solely on the headline position.
- Requirements involving approvals, exemptions and replacement planting warrant particular attention to clarity, proportionality and administration.

7. Written feedback: themes and detailed findings

Seven open-text survey questions invited respondents to explain their positions or suggest changes. The number of comments below measures the number of responses to each question, not the number supporting or opposing a particular theme. Individual comments can contain multiple themes, including both support and concern.

7.1 Reasons for overall support or opposition

1,325 written responses received (92.85% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Supportive comments emphasised mature canopy, cooling, biodiversity, neighbourhood amenity and the value of protecting trees for future generations.

Concerns and suggested changes: Concerns focused on private property rights, costs, responsibility for maintenance, tree damage, development flexibility and whether regulation is the right approach.

Key analysis: The distinction between policy purpose and regulatory design is central. The feedback distinguishes the environmental rationale, practical obligations and fairness concerns.

7.2 Regulated-tree size and measurement criteria

949 written responses to this question (66.50% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Some respondents supported clear criteria capable of protecting established trees before canopy is lost.

Concerns and suggested changes: Others queried the proposed size thresholds, consistency of measurements and whether the criteria could capture unsuitable trees or disproportionately affect small lots.

Key analysis: Clear definitions and practical worked examples could improve certainty. Thresholds should be assessed for environmental effectiveness as well as ease of application.

7.3 Exemptions

733 written responses to this question (51.37% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Some respondents favoured limited, evidence-based exemptions to avoid weakening protection of healthy mature trees.

Concerns and suggested changes: Other submissions sought greater flexibility for dangerous or unhealthy trees, infrastructure damage, development constraints and the costs of obtaining professional evidence.

Key analysis: The findings highlight whether exemptions provide timely, transparent and proportionate pathways while maintaining the Policy's intended protections.

7.4 Other circumstances and property constraints

589 written responses to this question (41.28% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Some respondents considered that development and tree retention should be explored together before removal is accepted.

Concerns and suggested changes: Others described constrained lots, roots, boundary impacts, existing buildings, services, access and site-specific difficulties.

Key analysis: A transparent assessment approach could distinguish genuine constraints from manageable impacts and reduce uncertainty for applicants.

7.5 Replacement planting requirements

645 written responses to this question (45.20% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Respondents supported planting locally appropriate trees, habitat species and measures that rebuild canopy following unavoidable removal.

Concerns and suggested changes: Concerns included limited planting space, replacement ratios, maintenance costs, the difference between mature and newly planted trees, and financial contributions.

Key analysis: Requirements need to be achievable on different lot sizes and clearly explain alternatives, species selection and ongoing responsibilities.

7.6 Changes proposed before adoption

796 written responses to this question (55.78% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Some submissions supported retaining or strengthening mature-tree protections and proposed complementary incentives.

Concerns and suggested changes: Others called for simpler approvals, clearer exemptions, financial assistance, voluntary measures or removal of mandatory private-land controls.

Key analysis: The City should distinguish changes that improve clarity from changes that would alter the underlying policy position. A response-to-submissions schedule would make this transparent.

7.7 Additional feedback

671 written responses to this question (47.02% of 1,427 survey respondents).

Views supporting tree protection or aspects of the proposal: Comments highlighted shade, urban heat, wildlife, streetscape quality, privacy and the value of retaining established trees.

Concerns and suggested changes: Other comments questioned the balance between private and public land responsibilities, implementation costs, insurance, enforcement and trust in the process.

Key analysis: A clear explanation of how private-land controls complement the City's own tree-management activities would help respond to fairness and accountability concerns.8. General sentiment and thematic analysis

The thematic findings draw on open-text survey feedback and reviewed written submissions. They describe the range of views expressed rather than the prevalence of each theme across all participants. Direct quotations should only be included where their wording has been checked against the retained source submission.

The formal submissions show predominantly negative sentiment towards the draft Policy as proposed, alongside support for the environmental objective and proposals for alternative or amended approaches. Sentiment is not necessarily binary: a respondent can support tree retention in principle, oppose a particular requirement and suggest constructive changes in the same submission.

Theme	Indicative prominence	What was raised
Private property rights and decision-making	High	Degree of Council control over privately owned trees
Costs, liability and administration	High	Reports, maintenance, fees, responsibilities and enforcement
Development and housing	High	Site design, subdivision, additions and development constraints
Tree canopy, shade and environmental benefits	High	Urban cooling, biodiversity, amenity and mature canopy
Safety, damage and tree health	High	Dangerous trees, root damage, health and insurance
Replacement planting and financial contributions	High	Ratios, space, species and financial alternatives
Exemptions and practical flexibility	Medium	Evidence requirements and site-specific circumstances
Incentives, education and shared responsibility	Medium	Supportive measures and City responsibilities
Wildlife and biodiversity	Medium	Habitat and locally appropriate species

Theme	Indicative prominence	What was raised
Potential early removal	Low	Risk of unintended behaviour ahead of regulation

**The High, Medium and Low descriptors reflect a qualitative review, not verified counts of unique submissions mentioning each theme.*

9. Social media and online discussion

Selected public social media posts and online community discussions were considered as supplementary qualitative context. The review was not a systematic or comprehensive audit of online commentary; the platforms, period and volume of posts reviewed have not been quantified in this report. Accordingly, the observations below indicate issues raised in the material considered, not the prevalence of those views across social media.

Online discussions reflected a range of views, although negative sentiment towards the proposed controls was more prominent in the material reviewed. Key concerns included restrictions on private property rights, development approval requirements, costs associated with tree maintenance and removal, and the potential impacts on property owners.

Other comments highlighted the environmental benefits of retaining mature trees, including urban cooling, shade, biodiversity and neighbourhood amenity. Some participants also suggested alternative approaches, including incentives for tree retention, education and greater shared responsibility between property owners and the City.

Key findings:

- Critical comments about the proposed regulatory approach appeared more prominently in the selected material reviewed; this should not be interpreted as a measured or representative level of online sentiment.
- Concerns focused primarily on property rights, costs, approval requirements and the practical implications of the draft Policy.
- Supportive comments emphasised the environmental and community benefits of retaining mature trees.
- Some discussions indicated uncertainty or misunderstandings about how the proposed controls would operate if adopted.

Reporting considerations: Social media comments and online discussions were not included in the formal submission totals. The findings provide supplementary insight into community sentiment but are not representative of the broader community or a comprehensive analysis of all online discussion.

10. Summary of engagement findings

The consultation identified substantial opposition to the draft Policy, alongside a range of views about the importance of protecting mature trees on private land and how this should be achieved.

Of the 1,445 classifiable submissions, 73.36% opposed the draft Policy, compared with 24.08% in support and 2.56% neither supporting nor opposing. Opposition was also evident among property owners (75.6%) and respondents residing within the City of Melville (74.3%).

The findings highlight several key areas of agreement and disagreement, particularly regarding the environmental benefits of trees, private property rights, the proposed regulatory requirements and the practical implications for property owners.

10.1 Recognition of the value of mature trees

Written feedback demonstrated that some respondents recognised the environmental and community benefits of retaining mature trees, including shade, urban cooling, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and neighbourhood character.

Supportive respondents considered stronger protections necessary to prevent the continued loss of established trees, particularly where replacement planting would take many years to provide comparable environmental benefits.

However, recognising the value of mature trees did not necessarily translate into support for the draft Policy. Some respondents supported tree retention in principle but questioned whether the proposed planning controls were the most appropriate way to achieve this.

Key finding: Support for the environmental benefits of mature trees should be distinguished from support for the proposed regulatory approach.

10.2 Opposition to the proposed regulatory approach

The consultation identified considerable concern about introducing additional planning controls over trees on private property.

Recurring concerns included:

- Restrictions on property owners' ability to manage or remove trees.
- Additional costs associated with arborist assessments, maintenance, development approvals and replacement planting.
- Potential impacts on property development, renovations and subdivision.
- Responsibility and liability for trees causing damage or presenting safety risks.
- The practicality and fairness of applying the same requirements across properties with different characteristics.

These concerns were particularly evident in written feedback, where respondents questioned how the proposed requirements would operate in practice and whether sufficient flexibility would be available.

Key finding: Opposition was not limited to the principle of tree protection. The proposed approval requirements, financial implications and impacts on property owners were recurring sources of concern.

10.3 Support for individual provisions and greater flexibility

Although overall opposition to the draft Policy was high, responses to individual provisions demonstrated that levels of support varied depending on the requirement being considered.

For example, 58.5% supported allowing tree removal where retention was not reasonable or practical due to development-related circumstances. In comparison, only 19.5% supported the proposed financial contribution alternative.

Written feedback also identified requests for clearer exemptions, simpler assessment processes, greater flexibility for individual property circumstances and additional support for property owners.

Key finding: The results indicate that individual provisions attracted different levels of acceptance. Greater flexibility, clearer exemptions and the financial implications of the proposed controls were important considerations raised through the consultation.

10.4 Alternative approaches suggested by respondents

In addition to commenting on the draft Policy, respondents suggested alternative or complementary approaches to encouraging tree retention.

These included financial incentives, education and awareness programs, assistance with tree maintenance, support for replacement planting and greater emphasis on protecting and increasing tree canopy on public land.

Some respondents considered these approaches preferable to mandatory regulation, while others suggested they could complement stronger protections for established trees.

Key finding: Feedback identified opportunities to consider how regulatory requirements, incentives, education and practical assistance could work together to support tree retention.

10.5 Overall findings

The engagement demonstrated strong opposition to the draft Policy among participating respondents, while also identifying support for the environmental benefits of mature trees and a range of suggestions for improving the proposed approach.

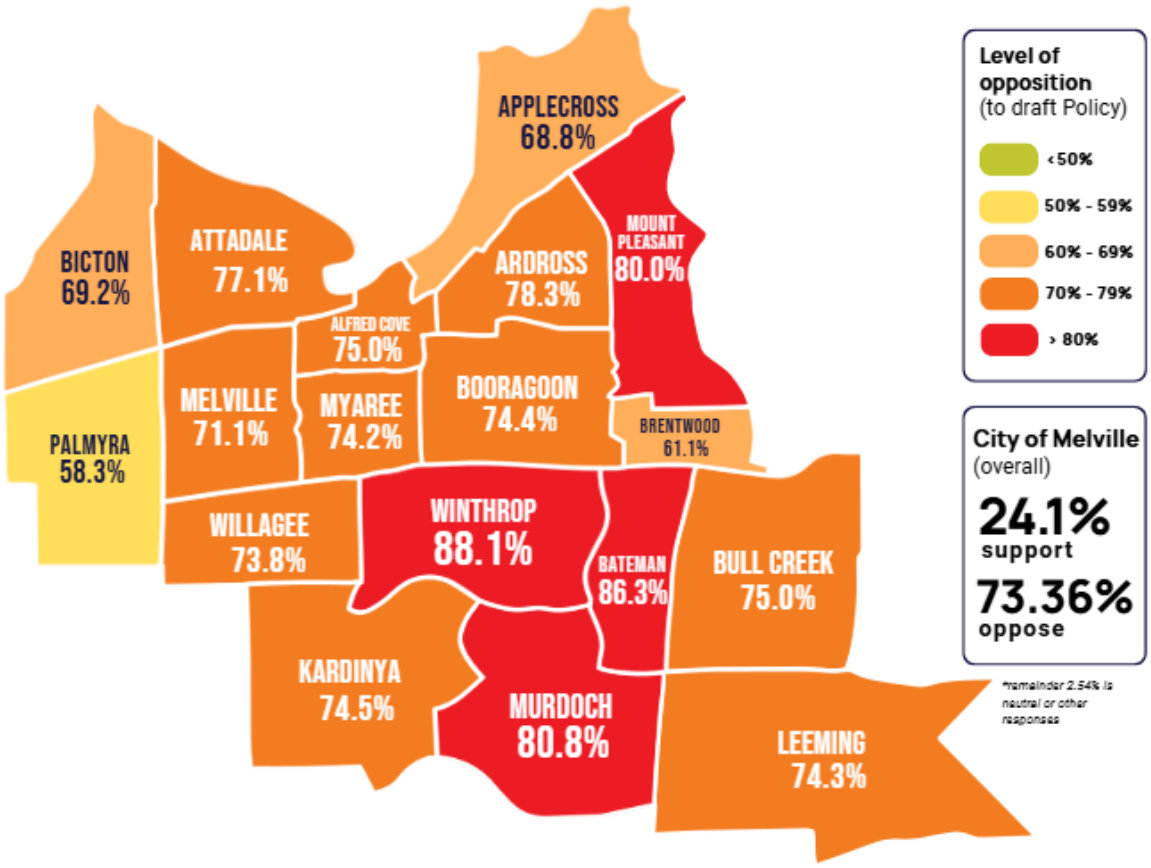
The key issues emerging from the consultation were the balance between tree protection and private property rights, the costs and responsibilities associated with tree management, development flexibility, exemptions and the practicality of replacement planting.The findings provide a detailed evidence base for reviewing the draft Policy, including identifying provisions that attracted concern, areas where greater clarity may be required and alternative approaches suggested by the community.

As participation was voluntary and responses were not weighted, the results represent the views of those who participated and should not be interpreted as representative of the entire City of Melville community.

Appendix A. City of Melville suburb heatmap

The map illustrates the level of opposition to the draft Policy across the City of Melville's 18 suburbs, based on the location provided by consultation respondents.

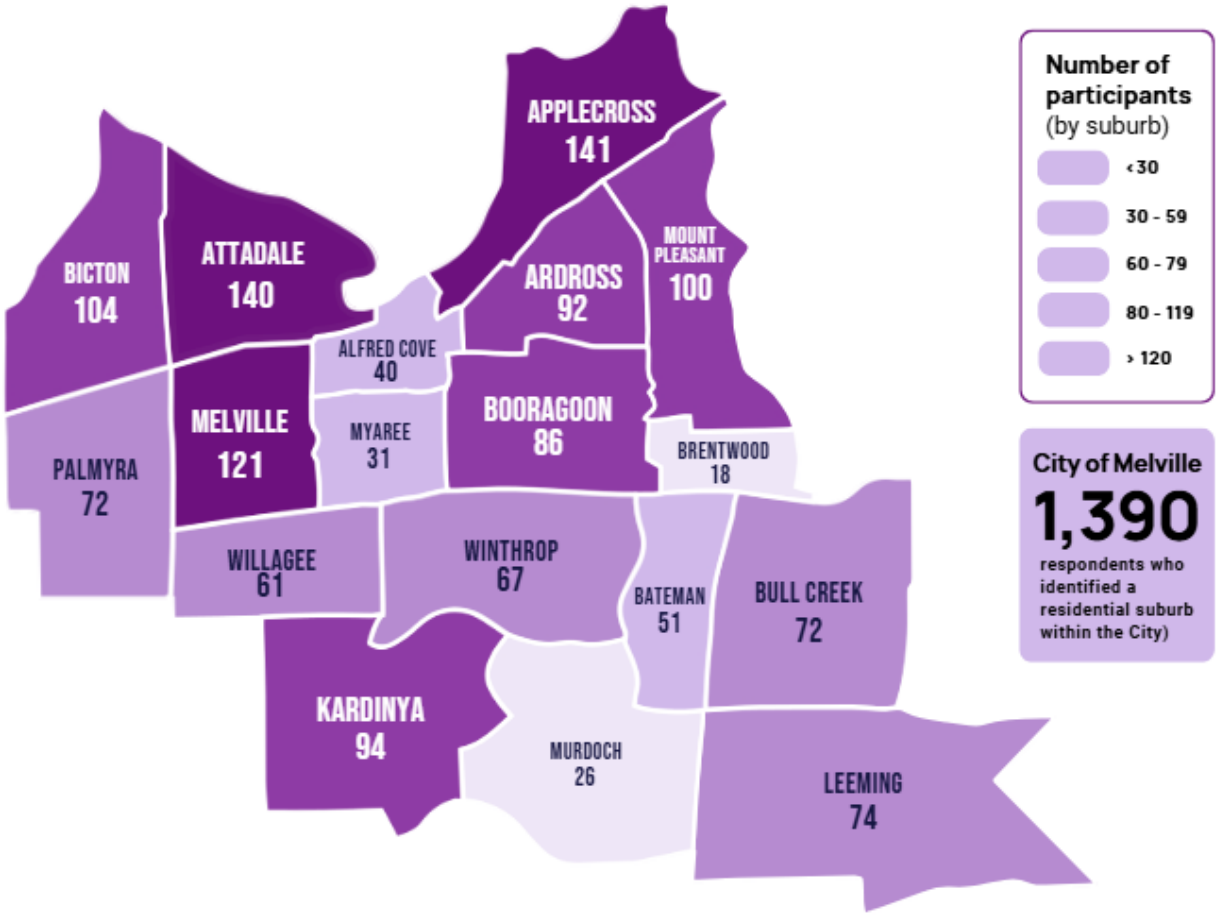
While the results demonstrate geographic differences in the level of opposition, participation was voluntary and the number of responses varied between suburbs. The findings therefore reflect the views of participating respondents and should not be interpreted as representative of all residents within each suburb.



Appendix B. City of Melville participation by suburb

The map illustrates the geographic distribution of 1,390 respondents across the City of Melville's 18 suburbs, based on the residential suburb provided by respondents who answered the draft Policy question.

While participation varied between suburbs, the map shows where responses were received rather than the level of community support or opposition.



Appendix C. Detailed suburb-by-suburb results

Suburbs are presented alphabetically, with “Not stated” at the end. Each suburb has separate results for a policy in principle and for the draft Policy, including the number answering each question and the proportions supporting, neither/unsure and opposing.

Suburb / location	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Albany	In principle	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Albany	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Alfred Cove	In principle	40	11 (27.5%)	0 (0.0%)	29 (72.5%)
Alfred Cove	Draft Policy	40	8 (20.0%)	2 (5.0%)	30 (75.0%)
Applecross	In principle	139	42 (30.2%)	8 (5.8%)	89 (64.0%)
Applecross	Draft Policy	141	39 (27.7%)	5 (3.5%)	97 (68.8%)
Ardross	In principle	90	24 (26.7%)	3 (3.3%)	63 (70.0%)
Ardross	Draft Policy	92	19 (20.6%)	1 (1.1%)	72 (78.3%)
Attadale	In principle	140	34 (24.3%)	1 (0.7%)	105 (75.0%)
Attadale	Draft Policy	140	31 (22.1%)	1 (0.7%)	108 (77.1%)
Bateman	In principle	51	6 (11.8%)	1 (2.0%)	44 (86.3%)
Bateman	Draft Policy	51	6 (11.8%)	1 (2.0%)	44 (86.3%)
Bayswater	In principle	3	3 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Bayswater	Draft Policy	3	1 (33.3%)	2 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Bicton	In principle	104	35 (33.6%)	3 (2.9%)	66 (63.5%)
Bicton	Draft Policy	104	30 (28.9%)	2 (1.9%)	72 (69.2%)
Booragoon	In principle	86	21 (24.4%)	2 (2.3%)	63 (73.3%)
Booragoon	Draft Policy	86	19 (22.1%)	3 (3.5%)	64 (74.4%)
Bovell	In principle	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Bovell	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Brentwood	In principle	18	7 (38.9%)	1 (5.6%)	10 (55.6%)
Brentwood	Draft Policy	18	6 (33.3%)	1 (5.6%)	11 (61.1%)
Bull Creek	In principle	71	14 (19.7%)	4 (5.6%)	53 (74.7%)
Bull Creek	Draft Policy	72	12 (16.7%)	6 (8.3%)	54 (75.0%)
Camillo	In principle	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Camillo	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Claremont	In principle	1	**1 (100.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Claremont	Draft Policy	1	**1 (100.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Como	In principle	2	2 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Suburb / location	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Como	**Draft Policy**	**2**	**2 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Coogee	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Coogee	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Coolbellup	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Coolbellup	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Cottesloe	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Cottesloe	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
East Fremantle	In principle	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
East Fremantle	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**
Fremantle	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Fremantle	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Hamilton Hill	In principle	1	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Hamilton Hill	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Hilton	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Hilton	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Kalamunda	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kalamunda	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Kardinya	In principle	93	23 (24.7%)	2 (2.1%)	68 (73.1%)
Kardinya	**Draft Policy**	**94**	**22 (23.4%)**	**2 (2.1%)**	**70 (74.5%)**
Kinross	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kinross	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Leeming	In principle	74	19 (25.7%)	3 (4.0%)	52 (70.3%)
Leeming	**Draft Policy**	**74**	**18 (24.3%)**	**1 (1.4%)**	**55 (74.3%)**
Manning	In principle	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Manning	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**
Maylands	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Maylands	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Medina	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Medina	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Melville	In principle	119	37 (31.1%)	2 (1.7%)	**80 (67.2%)**
Melville	Draft Policy	121	34 (28.1%)	1 (0.8%)	**86 (71.1%)**
Mount Pleasant	**In principle**	**100**	**20 (20.0%)**	**5 (5.0%)**	**75 (75.0%)**

Suburb / location	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Mount Pleasant	Draft Policy	100	18 (18.0%)	2 (2.0%)	80 (80.0%)
Munster	**In principle**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**
Munster	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Murdoch	**In principle**	**24**	**5 (20.8%)**	**1 (4.2%)**	**18 (75.0%)**
Murdoch	Draft Policy	26	5 (19.2%)	0 (0.0%)	21 (80.8%)
Myaree	**In principle**	**31**	**9 (29.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**22 (71.0%)**
Myaree	Draft Policy	31	7 (22.6%)	1 (3.2%)	23 (74.2%)
Northam	**In principle**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**
Northam	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
O'Connor	**In principle**	**2**	**1 (50.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (50.0%)**
O'Connor	Draft Policy	2	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Osborne Park	**In principle**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Osborne Park	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Palmyra	**In principle**	**71**	**32 (45.1%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**39 (54.9%)**
Palmyra	Draft Policy	72	28 (38.9%)	2 (2.8%)	42 (58.3%)
Peppermint Grove	**In principle**	**2**	**2 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Peppermint Grove	Draft Policy	2	2 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Perth	**In principle**	**11**	**2 (18.2%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**9 (81.8%)**
Perth	Draft Policy	11	1 (9.1%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (90.9%)
Rossmoyne	**In principle**	**3**	**1 (33.3%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**2 (66.7%)**
Rossmoyne	Draft Policy	3	1 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (66.7%)
Samson	**In principle**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**
Samson	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Shelley	**In principle**	**1**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (100.0%)**
Shelley	Draft Policy	1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Toodyay	**In principle**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Toodyay	Draft Policy	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Wellard	In principle	2	**2 (100.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Wellard	Draft Policy	2	**2 (100.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
West Hobart	In principle	1	**1 (100.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
West Hobart	Draft Policy	1	**1 (100.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Willagee	In principle	61	17 (27.9%)	2 (3.3%)	42 (68.8%)

Suburb / location	Question	Answered	Support	Neither / unsure	Oppose
Willagee	**Draft Policy**	**61**	**15 (24.6%)**	**1 (1.6%)**	**45 (73.8%)**
Willetton	In principle	3	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100.0%)
Willetton	**Draft Policy**	**3**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**3 (100.0%)**
Winthrop	In principle	63	6 (9.5%)	1 (1.6%)	56 (88.9%)
Winthrop	**Draft Policy**	**67**	**7 (10.4%)**	**1 (1.5%)**	**59 (88.1%)**
Woodvale	In principle	1	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Woodvale	**Draft Policy**	**1**	**1 (100.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**0 (0.0%)**
Not applicable – organisation	In principle	0	—	—	—
Not applicable – organisation	**Draft Policy**	**0**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Not stated	In principle	0	—	—	—
Not stated	**Draft Policy**	**3**	**2 (66.7%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1 (33.3%)**

**Reading the table: a percentage of 100% based on one respondent does not mean that all residents of that suburb hold that view. The full number of retained submissions may exceed the answered number where a question was not asked or no classifiable position was recorded.*