

Greening Port Phillip - Urban Forest Strategy Stage 2A Engagement Findings Report

16 November 2023



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Acknowledgement

Activate Consulting and its partners respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land now known as the City of Port Phillip, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Port Phillip City Council (Council) is developing a new Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) to build on the achievements of its 2011 Strategy and incorporate a more advanced contemporary understanding of urban greening best practice.

The UFS development process involves two stages. On Wednesday 1 November 2023, Port Phillip City Council adopted the Vision and Strategic Principles of the new UFS (Stage 1), which was informed by significant background and technical research and two rounds of community engagement.

Vision

In the City of Port Phillip, urban greening is healthy and abundant, biodiversity is valued and supported, and nature connects community.

Strategic Principles

Collectively with Council, community and industry partners:

1. We work **together** to value, protect, grow and care for healthy and sustainable greening everywhere.
2. We retain first, respecting established character, and adapt by adding more **resilient** plant species where they are most needed to reduce heat and flood vulnerabilities.
3. We prioritise **biodiversity**, supporting healthy ecosystems and creating habitat.
4. We invest in thriving **integrated** urban greening in streetscapes, buildings, parks and gardens.
5. We value the urban forest as a long-term asset that is critical to the health and wellbeing of our community and to our City's character and function, through **quality** design, construction and maintenance

The second stage of the project is to develop and adopt the Action, Implementation, and Evaluation Plan for the UFS. This stage will also be informed by detailed technical research and modelling and further community engagement. This report presents the findings of the first round of community engagement for Stage 2.

Workshops were advertised on the Have Your Say page, social media and via direct emails to community groups and individuals who have participated in past engagements.

A total of 34 participants self-nominated and attended three Ward-based workshops held on Saturday 21 October and Sunday 22 October 2023. Participants included 14 members of 11 key stakeholder groups and 20 individuals. Participants had an interest in urban forests, biodiversity, environment, cultural heritage, or sustainability, and included local business owners, local residents, young people, and community members.

Workshop participants were presented with a list of proposed initiatives and actions for each of the five Strategic Principles emerging from the research and previous two rounds of consultation undertaken in Stage 1 of the UFS development.



Participants were invited to indicate their level of agreement and views with the initiatives, actions and targets proposed for each of the five Principles (abbreviated to Together, Resilient, Biodiversity, Integrated, and Quality), nominate any additional action ideas and help prioritise actions for implementation.

The insights gathered through Stage 2A engagement will be used to inform the development of the draft UFS Action Plan, which will be considered by Council before further input and feedback is invited from the broader community (Stage 2B engagement).

Findings by Principle

There were very high levels of agreement overall (over 95%) with the initiatives and actions proposed for all five Principles, with Principle 1 Together receiving 100% agreement.

Principle 1 Together:

All participants *Strongly agreed* or *Agreed* with the proposed initiatives and actions. The actions with the most votes were:

- Support community and friends of groups: Support volunteer involvement in maintenance, monitoring, and a peer support network across greening volunteer groups (17 votes)
- Government and industry collaborations: Collaborate with Victorian Government to increase plantings around state government land (10 votes)
- Increase compliance: Proactively enforce tree protection on development sites with more resourcing, guidelines, education, and monitoring (9 votes).

Principle 2 Resilient:

Most participants (25 or 96.2%) *Strongly agreed* or *Agreed* with the proposed initiatives and actions. The actions with the most votes were:

- Strategic new planting: Develop Urban Forest Precinct Plans to incorporate the street tree planting program and other place based greening projects to improve canopy coverage, comfort for active travel, biodiversity, and habitat corridors (23 votes)
- Strategic new planting: Continue to develop 5-year planting program, spatially prioritised for urban heat reduction and improved active transport corridors (16 votes)
- Depaving: Continue depaving program (10 votes).

Principle 3 Biodiversity:

Most participants (27 or 96.4%) *Strongly agreed* or *Agreed* with the proposed initiatives and actions. The actions with the most votes were:

- Habitat corridors (or bio-links): Extend habitat corridors network (19 votes)
- Habitat corridors (or bio-links): Maintain and strengthen indigenous species biodiversity and habitat corridors (12 votes)
- Private land wildlife gardens: Introduce incentives (give aways) to encourage biodiversity planting on private land (8 votes).



Principle 4 Integrated:

Most participants (24 or 96.0%) *Strongly agreed* or *Agreed* with the proposed initiatives and actions. The actions with the most votes were:

- Open space greening: Support review of Asset Management Plans on irrigation and water options to support urban forest for future resilience (15 votes)
- Greener laneways: Develop green laneway guideline. Investigate public private interface (14 votes)
- Deliver Built Form Greening Projects: Develop and Deliver Engineered Greening Projects (8 votes).

Principle 5 Quality:

Most participants (23 or 95.8%) *Strongly agreed* or *Agreed* with the proposed initiatives and actions. The actions with the most votes were:

- Update Vegetation Management Guidelines: Update wording and narrative around tree removal and tree request consultation and communication (11 votes)
- Embrace smart technology: Review tree data base system and create public facing portal for tree planting, removals, maintenance and watering (10 votes)
- New Tree Establishment: Review and revitalise adopt tree program and create letter on how residents can help with new plantings (7 votes).

Findings by Action

Overall, actions in Principle 2 Resilient received the highest number of individual votes (83) followed by:

- Principle 1 Together (69)
- Principle 3 Biodiversity (52)
- Principle 4 Integrated (38)
- Principle 5 Quality (33)

The highest priority actions across all five Principles were:

1. Strategy New Planting: Develop Urban Forest Precinct Plans to incorporate the street tree planting program and other place based greening projects to improve canopy coverage, comfort for active travel, biodiversity, and habitat corridors (Resilient - 23 votes)
2. Habitat corridors (or bio-links): Extend habitat corridors network (Biodiversity - 19 votes)
3. Support community and friends of groups: Support volunteer involvement in maintenance, monitoring, and a peer support network across greening volunteer groups (Together - 17 votes)
4. Strategic New Planting: Continue to develop 5-year planting program, spatially prioritised for urban heat reduction and improved active transport corridors (Resilient - 16 votes)
5. Open space greening: Support review of Asset Management Plans on irrigation and water options to support urban forest for future resilience (Integrated - 15 votes)
6. Greener laneways: Develop green laneway guideline. Investigate public private interface (Integrated - 14 votes)
7. Habitat corridors (or bio-links): Maintain and strengthen indigenous species biodiversity and habitat corridors (Biodiversity - 12 votes)
8. Update Vegetation Management Guidelines: Update wording and narrative around tree removal and tree request consultation and communication (Quality - 11 votes)
9. Depaving: Continue depaving program (Resilient - 10 votes).
10. Embrace smart technology: Review tree data base system and create public facing portal for tree planting, removals, maintenance and watering (Quality - 10 votes)
11. Government and industry collaborations: Collaborate with Victorian Government to increase plantings around state government land (Together - 10 votes)
12. Increase compliance: Proactively enforce tree protection on development sites with more resourcing, guidelines, education and monitoring (Together - 9 votes).
13. Private land wildlife gardens: Introduce incentives (give aways) to encourage biodiversity planting on private land (Biodiversity - 8 votes).
14. Deliver Built Form Greening Projects: Develop and Deliver Engineered Greening Projects (Integrated - 8 votes).
15. New Tree Establishment: Review and revitalise adopt tree program and create letter on how residents can help with new plantings (Quality - 7 votes).



Findings by Ward-based Workshop

Gateway

Actions in Principle 2 Resilient received the highest amount of individual votes (21) followed by:

- Principle 1 Together (13)
- Principle 3 Biodiversity (9)
- Principle 4 Integrated (9)
- Principle 5 Quality (5)

The three highest priority actions across all five Principles were:

1. Develop Urban Forest Precinct Plans to incorporate the street tree planting program and other place based greening projects to improve canopy coverage, comfort for active travel, biodiversity, and habitat corridors (Resilient – 7 votes)
2. Continue to develop 5-year planting program, spatially prioritised for urban heat reduction and improved active transport corridors (Resilient – 5 votes)
3. Develop and deliver annual community activities using Indigenous calendar to build greening capacity and increase value of urban forest (Together – 4 votes)

Canal

Actions in Principle 2 Resilient received the highest amount of individual votes (30) followed by:

- Principle 3 Biodiversity (24)
- Principle 1 Together (23)
- Principle 4 Integrated (19)
- Principle 5 Quality (14)

The three highest priority actions across all five Principles were:

1. Develop Urban Forest Precinct Plans to incorporate the street tree planting program and other place based greening projects to improve canopy coverage, comfort for active travel, biodiversity, and habitat corridors (Resilient – 11 votes)
2. Support volunteer involvement in maintenance, monitoring, and a peer support network across greening volunteer groups (Together – 9 votes)
3. Extend habitat corridors network (Biodiversity – 8 votes)

Lake

Actions in Principle 1 Together received the highest number of individual votes (33) followed by:

- Principle 2 Resilient (32)
- Principle 3 Biodiversity (30)
- Principle 5 Quality (14)
- Principle 4 Integrated (10)



The three highest priority actions across all five Principles were:

1. Extend habitat corridors network (Biodiverse - 9 votes)
2. Continue to develop 5-year planting program, spatially prioritised for urban heat reduction and improved active transport corridors (Resilient – 7 votes)
3. Review tree data base system and create public facing portal for tree planting, removals, maintenance, and watering (Quality – 7 votes)

Targets

Most participants (9 or 60.0%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the proposed evidence-based targets. A third of participants are *Not sure* (5 or 33.3%) and one *Disagreed* (6.7%).

A range of topics were raised including street tree targets, street width, equity, new developments, resilience targets, climate change, retaining trees for habitat, and the need for targets for the use of recycled water and increased permeability.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Project background

Port Phillip City Council (Council) is developing a new Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) to build on the achievements of its 2011 Strategy and incorporate a more advanced contemporary understanding of urban greening best practice.

Council has engaged a mixed consultant team to map its current canopy and research and prepare a new UFS. Activate Consulting has been engaged to plan and deliver the community and stakeholder consultation program to inform this process.

The UFS development process involves two stages. On Wednesday 1 November 2023, Port Phillip City Council adopted the Vision and Strategic Principles of the new UFS (Stage 1), which was informed by significant background and technical research and two rounds of community engagement.

Vision

In the City of Port Phillip, urban greening is healthy and abundant, biodiversity is valued and supported, and nature connects community.

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The second stage of the project is to develop and adopt the Action, Implementation, and Evaluation Plan for the UFS. This stage will also be informed by detailed technical research and modelling and further community engagement. This report presents the findings of the first round of community engagement for Stage 2.

Engagement overview

Over recent years, Council has already heard significant community feedback related to the urban forest through the development of other projects such as the Public Spaces Strategy, Nature Strip Guidelines, and Act and Adapt (sustainability) Strategy revision.

The aim of this engagement program is to build on what has already been heard and work with the community to inform the development of an UFS that balances community needs and desires, with council's legal requirements (e.g., accessibility, electrical line clearance), and engenders collaboration between the community, Council and key stakeholders to implement the actions developed as part of this strategy.

To achieve this, the objectives of the overall engagement process are to:

- Gather feedback and input from key stakeholders and the broader community to:
 - Develop our understanding of the current context
 - Gain an understanding of their needs, desires, concerns, and ideas about the urban forest, what and where it is; and

- Effectively harness and focus community passion and expertise positively into the strategy development.
- Create community interest in the project, bring them along the journey to develop the strategy, and generate buy-in for its implementation
- Implement a robust and transparent engagement process that properly reflects the diversity of community needs and builds confidence in the findings
- Gather, analyse, and report feedback to meaningfully inform the UFS.

Figure 1 outlines the key engagement stages and target timelines. The focus of this report is Stage 2A. Community Engagement Findings reports for Stage 1A and 1B are available on Council's Have Your Say Engagement website: www.haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy

Figure 1. Key community and stakeholder engagement stages and target timelines

Stage	Timeframe	Inputs	Who we are engaging	Purpose
Planning	March 2023	Background research, benchmarking, best practice, Port Phillip content, summary of previous consultation findings	CoPP project working group Urban forest consultants	Inform Stakeholder analysis, and Engagement and Communication Plan
Stage 1A	May/June	Background information, previous consultation findings	Key stakeholders Advisory Groups	Inform Draft Vision and Strategic Principles
Council endorsement draft Vision and Strategic Principles for consultation (5 July)				
Stage 1B	Early-July to early-Aug	Draft Vision and Strategic Principles, Background information (summary)	Broad community	Test and refine Draft Vision and Strategic Principles Invite specific greening ideas for Stage 2
Council endorsement of Vision and Strategic Principles (November)				
Stage 2A	October/ November	Vision and Strategic Principles Specific greening ideas and other input already received	Internal staff Key stakeholders Advisory Groups Interested community	Inform Draft Action Plan for the UFS
Council endorsement of Draft UFS Action Plan for consultation (December)				
Stage 2B	Feb/Mar 2024	Draft Urban Forest Strategy Action Plan	Broad community	Test and refine the Draft UFS and Action Plan
Council endorsement of Final UFS and Action Plan (April 2024)				

Stage 2A Engagement Program

During the Stage 1B broad community engagement on the Draft Vision and Strategic Principles, a significant amount of feedback and ideas were also collected relating to potential actions and measures for the UFS. Stage 2A engagement consisted of three ward-based workshops to consider, refine, and prioritise these actions to help inform the draft Action, Implementation, and Evaluation Plan.

The workshops were open to the broad community and key stakeholder groups. A total of 67 individuals self-nominated and registered to attend one of the three workshops held on 21 and 22 October 2023. These individuals were generally people with an interest in urban forests, biodiversity, environment, cultural heritage, or sustainability.

As shown in Table 2, there were 34 workshop participants. Participants comprised 14 members of 11 key stakeholder groups and 20 environmentally active individuals and included local business owners, local residents, young people, and community members.

Table 2. Overview of Stage 2A engagement program and participation

Engagement activity	Details of participants	Number of participants
Gateway Ward Workshop (Saturday, 21 October, 1pm to 3pm, Port Melbourne Town Hall)	Key stakeholders generally from Melbourne (part), Port Melbourne, and South Melbourne	6
Canal Ward Workshop (Sunday, 22 October, 10am to 12pm, St Kilda Town Hall)	Key stakeholders generally from Balaclava, Elwood, Ripponlea, St Kilda East, and Windsor (part)	15
Lake Ward Workshop (Sunday 22 October, 2pm to 4pm, St Kilda Town Hall)	Key stakeholders generally from Albert Park, Middle Park, St Kilda, and St Kilda West	13
Total participants		34

The three workshops were facilitated by independent consultants Activate Consulting and partner ChatterBox Projects. Council officers and a representative of St Jack and Co were in attendance to share information and respond to questions.

Participants were provided with an update about the UFS, the final draft Vision and Key Principles (prior to their adoption by Council), a snapshot of findings from the Stage 1B community consultation and further research and modelling. Participants were involved in exploring the proposed targets, initiatives, and actions for each of the five Principles, and encouraged to draw on their local knowledge and expertise.

The stakeholder groups and community organisations represented at the workshops are listed below accompanied by the number of representatives, if more than one.

- Balaclava, Environment, Streets and Trees (BEST)
- Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens Inc.
- Howe Parade
- Junction Area Action Group (JAAG)
- Locals Into Victoria's Environment (LIVE) (2)
- Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN) (3)
- Port Phillip Pickers
- Protect Our Planes (POP)
- Residents in St Kilda
- St Kilda Water And Trees (SKWAT)
- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

3. ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

Workshop participants were presented with a list of proposed initiatives and actions for each of the five Strategic Principles emerging from the research and previous consultation. They were invited to individually review and rate their overall level of agreement or disagreement with the list for each Principle that was of interest to them (not all participants reviewed each Principle). Participants were also invited to add their own new action ideas.

Participants were then given 10 votes to allocate to the actions they felt were most important across all five Principles (including any new suggestions), and allocate more than one vote to an action if they desired. Actions that Council had already decided to implement were in grey so participants knew not to use their votes on them.

Principle 1: Together – Initiatives and Actions

Principle 1: We work **together** to value, protect, grow and care for healthy and sustainable greening everywhere.

As shown in Figure 2, all participants (25 or 100%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 1 Together (the list of initiatives and actions is presented in Table 3).

Figure 2. Level of agreement with initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 1 Together

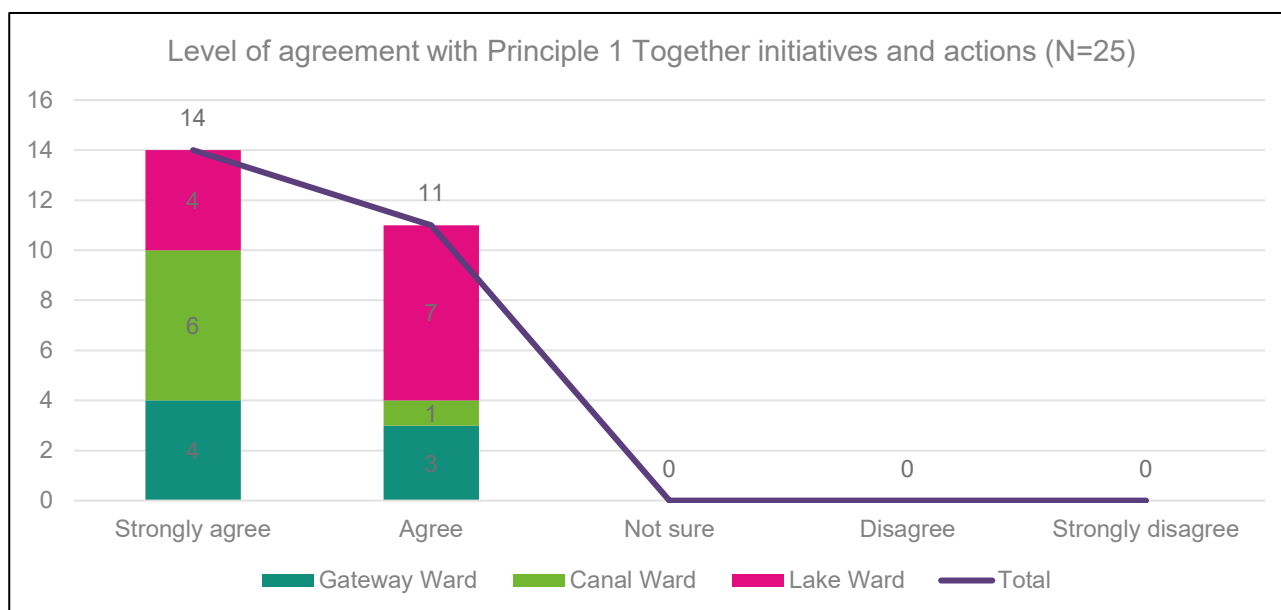


Table 3 shows the initiatives, actions and corresponding votes from participants, with the top three highlighted.

Table 3. Principle 1 Together prioritised initiatives and actions, by workshop

Together Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Inspire and Enable				
Develop and deliver annual community activities using Indigenous calendar to build greening capacity and increase value of urban forest	4	1	2	7

Together Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Update website information, including FAQs on tree maintenance and challenges such as allergies, solar, leaf drop	0	1	0	1
Support Community and Friends of Groups				
Support volunteer involvement in maintenance, monitoring and a peer support network across greening volunteer groups	2	9	6	17
Explore biodiversity planting by the Friends of groups	0	1	6	7
Research Connections				
Partnering and supporting research projects with University, scientists and industry specialists	3	1	0	4
Deliver citizen science projects to support continuous improvement	1	2	1	4
Government and Industry Collaborations				
Collaborate with Victorian Government to increase plantings around state government land	2	4	4	10
Continue collaborate with Victorian Government and neighbouring LGA's to improve greening outcomes, especially in maintenance and landscape treatment consistency	1	0	2	3
Continue to collaborate with other government and industry to keep informed on current practice urban tree management (e.g. utility authorities).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Increase Compliance				
Proactively enforce tree protection on development sites with more resourcing, guidelines, education and monitoring	0	3	6	9
Inspections and strengthened follow up around greening vandalism	0	1	6	7
TOTAL	13	23	33	69

Participants provided the following additional feedback, presented by each ward-based workshop.

Gateway Ward

- Create opportunities for residents to plant and care for public trees
- Plant a tree with a plaque for every baby born in the city of Port Phillip
- Re-think citizenship ceremony – plant a tree in a park/street, different type of plants, personal connection with plants in the public realm
- Provide incentive to plant trees or keep trees on private land
- Provide a tree consultant to help residents prioritise and select private trees
- Consider allergies when planting new trees
- Integrate the involvement of schools for planting and maintenance
- Competitions for colourful gardens
- 'The Garden ...' built on 'Garden City' 3207 (another name for Sandridge)

Canal Ward

- Define a clear process for community initiatives (i.e., this may be by submission on an annual basis). Enhance community initiatives
- Provide support for nature's strip planting and development (e.g., plants from native nursery, openness to conversion of asphalt to nature-strip)

- Very interested in updating wording around tree removal, hope there is a chance for input
- Collaboration not only with the Victorian Government but VicTrack and VicRoads
- Needs collaboration with community to develop projects
- Better communication with residents explaining why street trees are removed. Letter drop with explanation how to get more information
- Train local tree stewards to reduce cost in maintenance
- Apartments helped to green their walls
- Incentives for property owners to 'green' their property
- Take back land from VicTrack and give back to locals
- Powerline banding to reduce brutal pruning/removal
- Support collaborating with State Govt on projects (e.g., Green line)
- Increase fines for developers that remove/kill existing trees
- Involving everyone – schools, community centre, older people's perspective
- Enhance permeability wherever possible through incentives and help for community to de-pave and plant
- Better support for early plantings

Lake Ward

- Collaboration with other projects (e.g., Vic Parks Strategic Plan and Shrine to Sea)
- Trees and greenery along freeways
- Compromise with the public, people need to feel involved
- Strongly encourage anyone who plants trees on private land. Also gardens on council owned nature strips
- Increased compliance and specific compliance officer
- Vandalism – includes delivery trucks breaking tree limbs. How can this be reported and acted on?
- UFS needs to be whole of council and whole of system policy coherence across council
- New plantings must have tree guards. No point planting things that are just trashed within weeks
- Citizen based surveys (of local public spaces)
- Engage State rezone include green
- Change guttering to run into gardens
- Inspire – consider high profile 'tiny forest' or 'pocket forest' projects (high-density planting of native shrubs and trees by local residents). These are taking off around the world. They provide an inclusive opportunity to involve locals and result in a novel outcome. Useful as a community talking point and to encourage people to value trees more
- Can collaborative tree purchasing and planting by neighbouring councils deliver cost benefits to economies of scale? Get better deal on saplings to stretch budget
- Increase compliance with large fines, more oversight of the trees to be removed

Principle 2: Resilient – Initiatives and Actions

Principle 2: We retain first, respecting established character, and adapt by adding more **resilient** plant species where they are most needed to reduce heat and flood vulnerabilities.

As shown in Figure 3, most participants (25 or 96.2%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 2 Resilient, and 1 (or 3.8%) is *Not sure* (the list of initiatives and actions is presented in Table 4).

Figure 3. Level of agreement with initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 2 Resilient

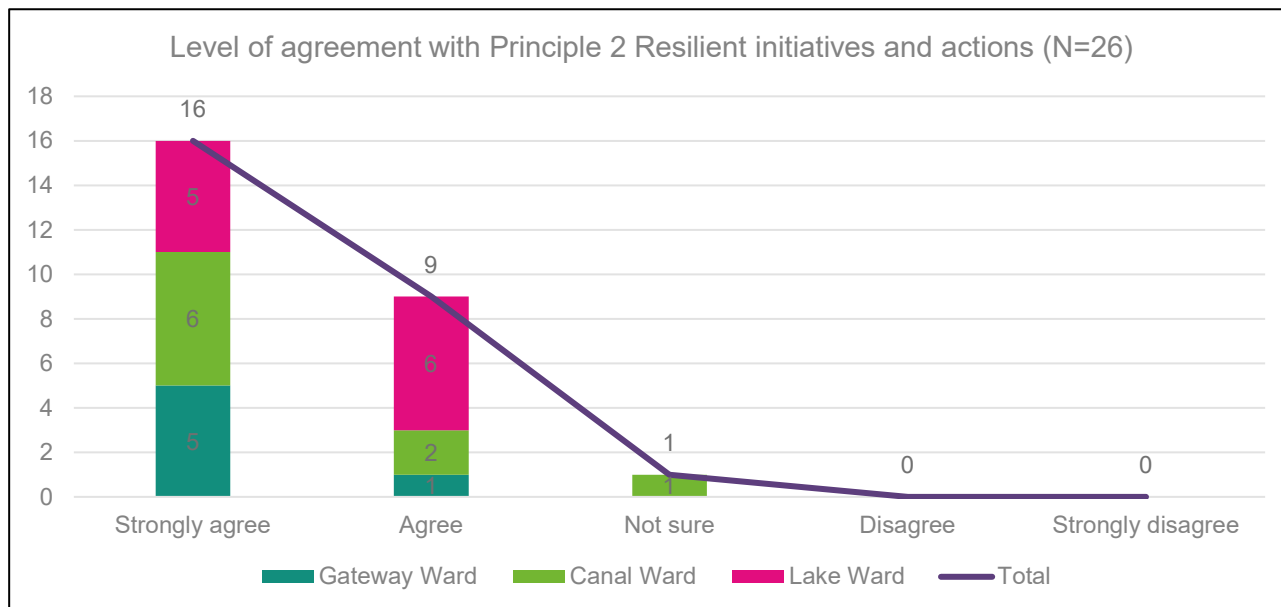


Table 4 shows the initiatives, actions and corresponding votes from participants, with the top three highlighted.

Table 4. Principle 2 Resilient prioritised initiatives and actions, by workshop

Resilient Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Strategic New Planting				
Develop Urban Forest Precinct Plans to incorporate the street tree planting program and other place based greening projects to improve canopy coverage, comfort for active travel, biodiversity, and habitat corridors	7	11	5	23
Continue to develop 5-year planting program, spatially prioritised for urban heat reduction and improved active transport corridors	5	4	7	16
Continue to implement Council planting program, guided by 5 year plans	1	0	3	4
Depaving				
Continue depaving program	3	4	3	10
Proactively prioritise depaving works and set agreed and achievable permeability targets.	1	2	1	4
Create detailed permeability mapping to inform future depaving works	0	2	0	2
Planning Improvements				

Resilient Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Planning arborist resources in planning team to improve customer experience and greening outcomes	3	0	4	7
Develop locally specific policy responses for tree and vegetation protection and greening outcomes using suitable planning tools, including work to investigate options and develop supporting data	0	2	1	3
Develop cost benefit matrix tool	0	0	1	1
Develop design/vegetation guidelines for developments on private property to facilitate innovative and resilient landscapes in the private realm.	0	0	1	1
Significant Trees				
Establish an updated significant tree and vegetation database (GIS format).	0	2	3	5
Implement the significant tree and vegetation database into the planning scheme and local law.	1	2	0	3
Conduct a review of heritage trees in parks and establish a tree replacement plan including climate ready species.	0	0	1	1
Climate Ready Species				
Revise tree species palette considering climate.	0	1	2	3
Continue to undertake tree planting trials with industry partners.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	21	30	32	83

Participants provided the following additional feedback, presented by each ward-based workshop.

Gateway ward

- Planning – power lines underground
- De-paving!!!
- Using non-traditional spaces for planting – tram tracks, rooftops, bus stops
- Urban Forest Precinct plans should become precinct plans, bringing together UHI, canopy cover and socio-economic data for most disadvantaged areas with little open spaces
- Track pollution, pollution readers, noise pollution (decrease with dense vegetation)
- Colours – yellow/orange to lift joy, optimism, and resilience of people
- Integrated water management, Melbourne Water, SE Water, Monash, Vic Water, Intelligent water, natural
- Private land – review the recommendations in the Hansen report to add new planning instruments to maintain important trees on private land

Canal Ward

- Supportive of localised precinct plan approach
- Factor into resilience how quickly replacement trees will grow back – especially when replacing mature trees
- Target carparks e.g., above Moran reserve near St Kilda marina. Canopy trees planted in this area
- Must increase permeability of streets/roads/footpaths - even if space to plant a tree is not possible
- Strong support for incentives for apartment blocks windowsills – body corporate grants
- Strongly supportive of investigating role of planning policy/provisions to increase private land coverage. Include opportunities to work with other LGAs (e.g., the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE))
- Greening on main roads, shopping precincts

- More of these should be mandatory
- Consider wider urban heat requirements
- Trees kept on private land reduced rates

Lake Ward

- Watering – especially as we move to El Nino cycle
- Planning improvements also need to ensure other government bodies (e.g., Department of Transport), honour planting where trees have been removed (e.g., St Kilda Junction, Yarra Trams substation)
- Planning scheme amendment. Every developer needs to plant 2 x trees per 100 square metres (as chosen by council, choice of five trees)
- Improve arborist contact with residents, work collaboratively
- Climate change planning
- Significant tree and vegetation database
- Factor in 2% rise in temperatures during the project life and its consequences
- Align tree planting with soil composting programs to give the saplings their best shot
- Urgency
- Forbid any tree removal on private land without a permit. A large fine for anyone who does it anyway
- Less planting exemptions
- Align tree policy and approaches with other heat reducing approaches such as changing the colour of black asphalt street and pavements to white. This would reduce heat stress on trees

Principle 3: Biodiversity – Initiatives and Actions

Principle 3: We prioritise **biodiversity**, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing wildlife corridors.

As shown in Figure 4, most participants (27 or 96.4%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the initiatives and actions proposed target for Principle 3 Biodiversity, and 1 (or 3.6%) is *Not sure* (the list of initiatives and actions is presented in Table 5).

Figure 4. Level of agreement with initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 3 Biodiversity

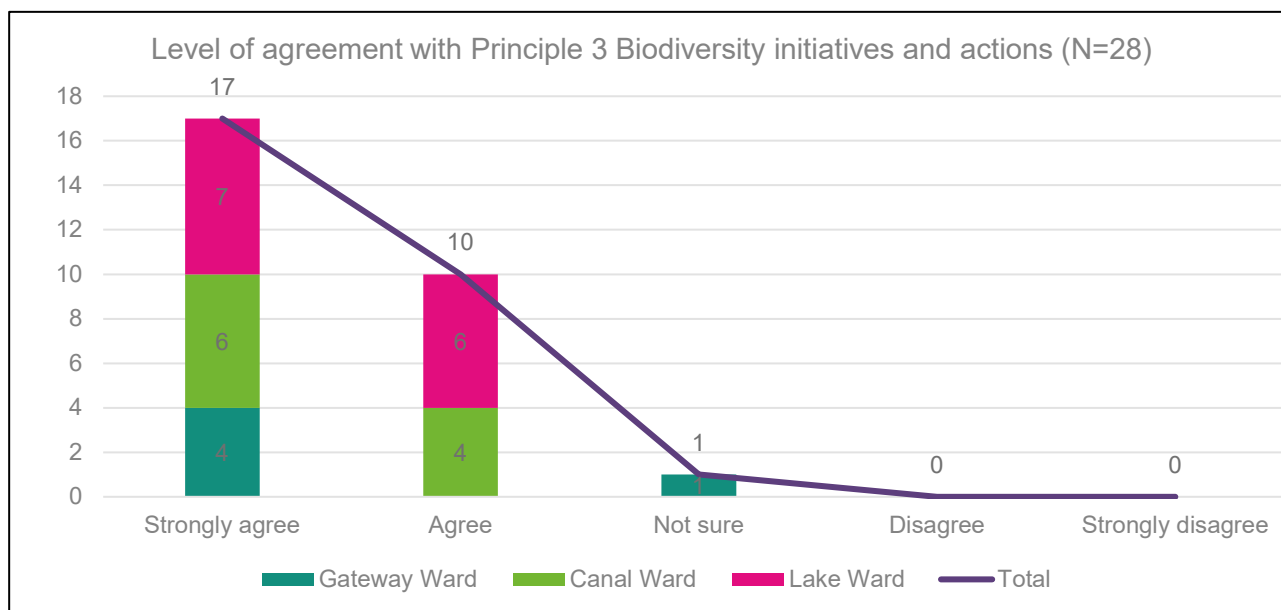


Table 5 shows the initiatives, actions and corresponding votes from participants, with the top three highlighted.

Table 5. Principle 3 Biodiversity prioritised initiatives and actions, by workshop

Biodiversity Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Habitat Corridors (or Bio-links)				
Extend habitat corridors network	2	8	9	19
Maintain and strengthen indigenous species biodiversity and habitat corridors	3	3	6	12
Explore opportunities to Green Tramlines	2	1	4	7
Map and ID potential habitat corridors, with focus on waterways and tramlines	0	2	0	2
Healthy Soils and Plants				
Map soil profiles and centralise soil testing records to then develop improvement for greening needs and where appropriate de-contamination	0	1	1	2
Continue and bolster current pest and weed vegetation work in foreshore and Council parks.	0	0	0	0
Continue and formalise current approach to key urban forest challenges (e.g., plane trees, palms and fusarium wilt, NI hibiscus)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private Land Wildlife Gardens				
Introduce incentives (give aways) to encourage biodiversity planting on private land	0	2	6	8

Biodiversity Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Diverse and Rare Gardens				
Planting locally indigenous rare and endangered species in select locations (link to Friends Group for delivery support)	2	2	2	6
Open space and biodiversity spatial mapping for shaping future projects, including integration with open space team (e.g., consideration dog off lease sites).	0	4	1	5
Continue to expand biodiverse plantings with focus on locally indigenous selections where practical (e.g., wildflower and pollinator gardens)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monitor				
Repeat biodiversity study every 5 years	0	1	1	2
TOTAL	9	24	30	52

Participants provided the following additional feedback, presented by each ward-based workshop.

Gateway Ward

- New idea: allow residents to choose their local trees from a list of viable options
- Integrate more water features (i.e., Mary Street)
- Waterfront. Don't irritate and anger waterfront dwellers by eliminating view
- Consistency – council is dictatorial on heritage design, consistent approach to retaining European species
- More flowering species. More flowering plantings
- Climbers? Colourful undergrowth
- More food production
- Healthy soils and plants – especially important in areas where new plantings are being made in street locations
- Progress more rapidly the green line biodiversity and walking path, Alma park to Elsternwick park (Yakult Willam) Nature Reserve
- Integrate more trees into children's play and educational spaces
- Water features? Fountains? Basins for birds, insects, and animals
- Biodiversity and cultural diversity – species reflecting different places people moved from to CoPP (greater connection with area spaces)

Canal Ward

- Plant food trees!
- Support biodiversity but not at cost of plain trees
- Not just natives but also future trees
- Archers spanning laneways grow vines over them
- Greenline
- Role of train corridor?
- Missing train lines from corridors! Greenline
- Opportunities for mid-strata/under-storey planting in streetscape
- There should be a dedicated action re getting up to date canopy mapping to allow for monitoring and evaluation

Lake Ward

- Fauna and flora!
- Not just indigenous plants
- Factor in how trees support fauna and bird life who live in and rely on trees

- Seek input from experts here
- Maintain current trees and high fines for removing them without an accredited arborist report
- Tiny forests the size of tennis courts can have significant biodiversity benefits
- Incentives for landowners to maintain and plant trees
- Protect existing forest

Principle 4: Integrated – Initiatives and Actions

Principle 4: We invest in thriving **integrated** urban greening in streetscapes, buildings and gardens.

As shown in Figure 5, most participants (24 or 96.0%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 4 Integrated, and 1 (or 4.0%) is *Not sure* (the list of initiatives and actions is presented in Table 6).

Figure 5. Level of agreement with the initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 4 Integrated

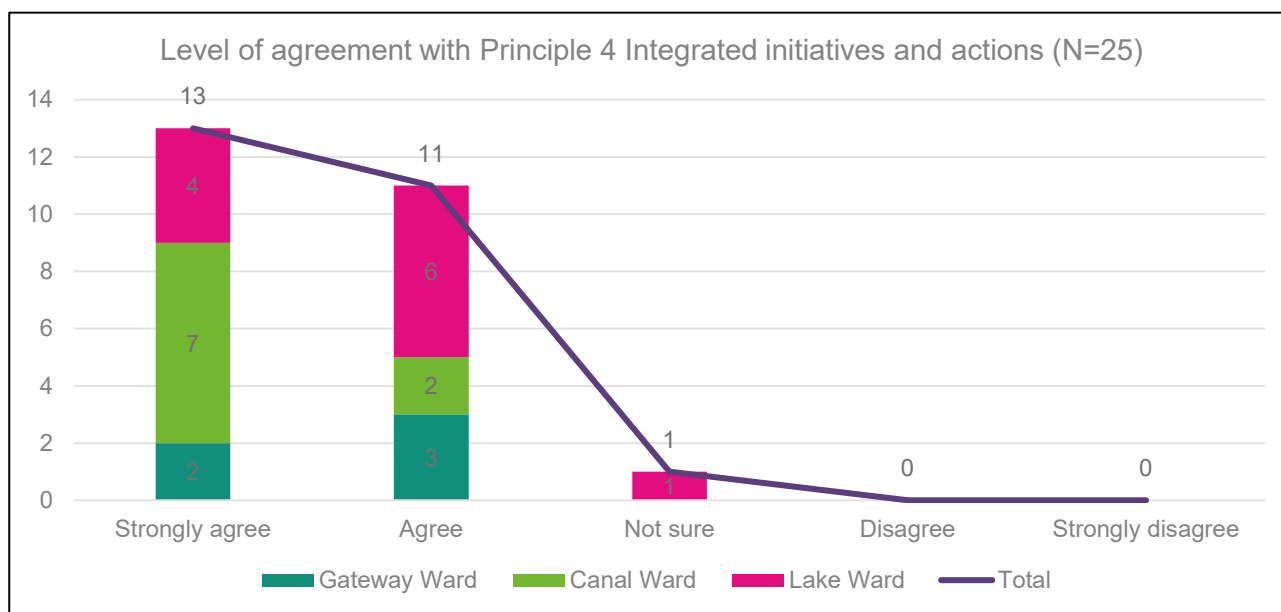


Table 6 shows the initiatives, actions and corresponding votes from participants, with the top three highlighted.

Table 6. Principle 4 Integrated prioritised initiatives and actions, by workshop

Integrated Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Open Space Greening				
Support review of Asset Management Plans on irrigation and water options to support urban forest for future resilience	3	6	6	15
Support public space team to develop projects (e.g., pocket parks) which directly contribute to both urban forest and public space goals	N/A	N/A	1	1
Develop succession tree planting program for parks and reserves	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure Projects Greening				
Review Asset documentation to embed and improve greening outcomes as part of all infrastructure works where pragmatic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Support stormwater work in Council for aligned outcomes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deliver Built Form Greening Projects				
Develop and Deliver Engineered Greening Projects	3	5	0	8
Deliver R&D pilot projects, in collaboration with industry experts and researchers to drive innovation and urban greening outcomes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Integrated Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Greener Laneways				
Develop green laneway guideline. Investigate public private interface	3	8	3	14
TOTAL	9	19	10	38

Participants provided the following additional feedback, presented by each ward-based workshop.

Gateway Ward

- Beacon/barrack, next challenge?
- Engineered greening projects important in high but narrow traffic streets
- Stormwater projects? Recycled water? Desalination?
- Outdoor gyms, outdoor desks
- Local composting, indoor planting – individuals and groups interested in IP will care more about outdoor plantings
- Expand 'forests' to include green walls, climbers etc., that reach same outcomes as trees
- Collect almost any data and make it available – enable individuals. Groups, companies to create and undertake informed action/projects
- Fruit hedges
- Provide public support/consultancy on what's possible in tricky spaces (e.g., laneways)
- Green laneways? Colourful laneways? Flowers! Vegetables? Fruit?
- Create more community gardens like Dig In

Canal Ward

- Educate VCAT members so they can respond to pressure by developers
- While updating website make sure staff are aware of real contacts as distinct from vague contacts
- Ensure councils capital works ESD policy (or similar) reflects targets, actions etc., from this strategy. Need a dedicated action to formalise process
- How do we manage power lines, pruning is destroying trees
- Arches over laneways grow vines, greywater feed cool walkways
- Don't forget seating for ageing/disabled on streets
- Greywater to water the trees
- Ensure engineered projects increase permeability
- Planting on streets need to ensure accessibility (e.g., prams, wheelchairs)
- Strengthen planning controls to protect trees and mandate plantings
- Insisting on planning that allows greenery between blocks of flats not just in front
- Encouraging vertical gardens on the facades of buildings – examples along canal in Elwood
- Make sure seating is retained and increased for ageing/all abilities
- Process/trigger internally when a streetscape is having works done, to ensure an efficient coordinated upgrade from multiple perspectives
- My concern: irrigation needs, stormwater capture, rooftop gardens, in 50 years how much de-paving will we need?
- Can powerlines go underground and bundle as trimming reduces canopy

Lake Ward

- High rise developments must have green space as part of their building responsibility
- More detail on private/public interface to encourage people to keep trees

Principle 5: Quality – Initiatives and Actions

Principle 5: We value the urban forest as a long-term asset that is critical to the health and wellbeing of our community and to our city's character and function, through **quality** design, construction and maintenance.

As shown in Figure 6, most participants (23 or 95.8%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 5 Quality, and 1 (or 4.2%) is *Not sure* (the list of initiatives and actions is presented in Table 7).

Figure 6. Level of agreement with the initiatives and actions proposed for Principle 5 Quality

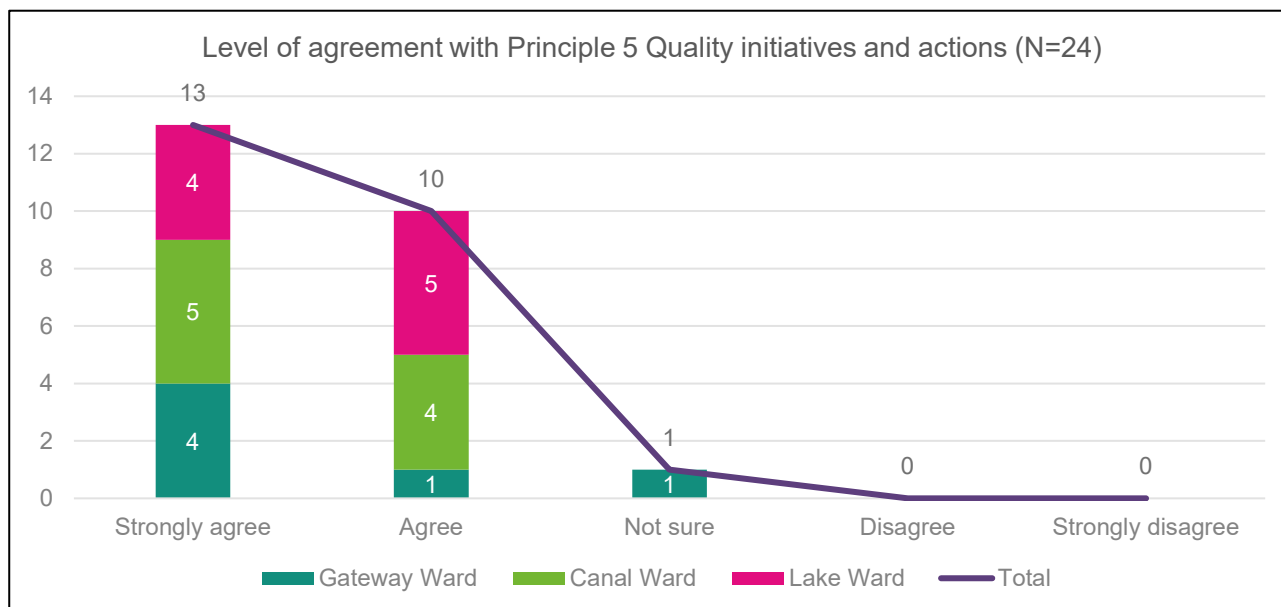


Table 7 shows the initiatives, actions and corresponding votes from participants, with the top three highlighted.

Table 7. Principle 5 Quality prioritised initiatives and actions, by workshop

Quality Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
Update Vegetation Management Guidelines				
Update wording and narrative around tree removal and tree request consultation and communication	0	9	2	11
Updated vegetation management guidelines which are used by both staff and as contract specifications that are then endorsed by council	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Provide staff training on endorsed guidelines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Tree Establishment				
Review and revitalise adopt tree program and create letter on how residents can help with new plantings	4	1	2	7
Improve tree establishment program, including review of recent years planting success and minimum standards to use by staff and contractors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arboriculture Excellence				
Create traineeship/apprenticeship program both internally and encourage it through external contract providers to help future proof workforce currently experience skill shortages and encourage diversity	0	2	2	4
Invest in staff continuous development for ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Quality Initiatives and Actions	Gateway Ward	Canal Ward	Lake Ward	Total
excellence and future ready arborists				
Embrace Smart Technology				
Review tree data base system and create public facing portal for tree planting, removals, maintenance and watering	1	2	7	10
Keep abreast of technology advancements and explore practical application to urban forestry.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Track, Report and Learn				
Maintain a cross-department working group to implement the strategy	N/A	N/A	1	1
Report on progress of actions and targets through the Sustainability Data Management and Reporting Tool. Move to spatial reporting of on ground actions as soon as practical.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	5	14	14	33

Participants provided the following additional feedback, presented by each ward-based workshop.

Gateway Ward

- New tree establishing needs to target specific streets that have low canopy coverage
- Smart technology – other ways of growing plants (moss, algae)
- Tree database with public facing portal is very important

Canal Ward

- Tree stewards trained
- Passive rainwater watering
- Significant tree database is an excellent idea, can it be made open access?
- Urban forest precincts are a very exciting way of getting local solutions
- Education: people need to respect our parks (i.e., don't leave rubbish and information about tree species)
- Awesome

Lake Ward

- Not just native trees
- Public buy in, let people own it
- Do not fixate on keeping London Plane trees. Replace them with suitable native plants
- Ensure that the council advises the community that they are going to remove a tree
- Increased compliance, specific compliance officer
- Smart technology can be used to extrapolate future shading?
- Compliance (now) fines make good

Proposed Targets

Workshop participants were presented with a set of eight proposed, evidence-based targets for the UFS (shown in Table 8) and the rationale for each. They were then invited to individually rate their overall level of agreement or disagreement, and provide any further ideas. Note: this activity was not conducted at the first (Gateway Ward) workshop.

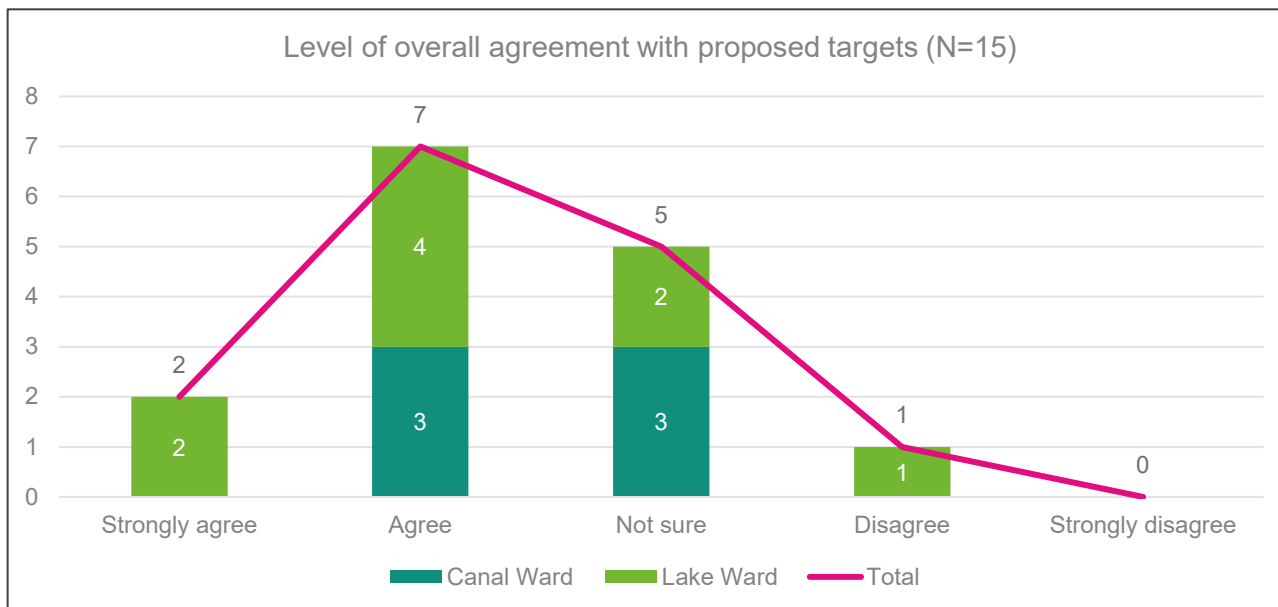
Table 8. Proposed targets presented by Principle

Municipality wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net increase of canopy coverage in Port Phillip
Principle 1 Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net increase of canopy coverage in each neighbourhood and private land. Towards 30% on streets Increase number and support of community led urban greening initiatives
Principle 2 Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than (5% - 10%) of a single species, 10% of a single genus and 35% of a single family.
Principle 3 Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net increase in ecologically diverse spaces across Port Phillip
Principle 4 Integrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase tree planting along key pedestrian routes and around public transport stops 50% canopy coverage in parks and reserves (non-sports field areas)
Principle 5 Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% trees healthy by 2035

Overall level of agreement with proposed targets

As shown in Figure 7, most participants (9 or 60.0%) *Strongly agree* or *Agree* with the proposed evidence-based targets. Other participants are *Not sure* (5 or 33.3%) or *Disagree* (1 or 6.7%).

Figure 7. Level of overall agreement with proposed targets



Participant feedback on proposed targets

Participants provided a range of feedback about the targets as shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Participant feedback on proposed targets

Principle	Participant feedback
Principle 1 Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum percentage of non-permeable surfaces on new developments • How to measure 'support' • Our city should be green, inviting • Street tree targets don't consider density and urban heat • Let us use the space of wide streets more effectively for planting streets • Street targets are going to entrench inequity. Big streets get big trees. Small streets get (crappy) small trees • Need to identify where the worst spots are and introduce emergency response to these spots with poor service • It's not fair that streets with high density are subsidising streets with established trees • We need a greater focus on equity for people • 'Towards' is undermining the target • Buy-in of public! • Good but change the planning scheme to insist new development incorporate green roofs, onsite storm water processing etc. Enforce existing tree removal law, harsher penalties.
Principle 2 Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have 17 years to 2040, so our plantings for that date must be concentrated in the next 3 years or so! A big effort by the council is needed! • Resilience targets should not compromise – or make an exception for plane tree canopy because of other considerations, canopy targets, neighbourhood existing character • Climate change
Principle 3 Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streets with low canopy coverage must not be ignored if adjacent streets have high coverage • Is intention more so 'ecological diversity of spaces'? Currently reads more like the number of spaces • Native animals • Something a little more aspirational would be good • Yes, seek expert advice here from naturalists etc. Take an assisted nature approach by incorporating nesting boxes etc. Even dead trees can have habitat value for parrots etc. • Keep old trees for habitat – even dead trees
Principle 4 Integrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need target for use of recycled water • Target for increased permeability • Good but doesn't necessarily have to be trees to create shade. Think pergolas, covered walkways in difficult areas. Native vines etc. Parks need more than canopy trees. Greatly increase the density of groundcovers as well
Principle 5 Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% at least more would be better. Work toward a much more sophisticated understanding of pruning. Current regime butchers years of growth