

Community Consultation Report

Draft Nature Strip Landscaping

Guidelines

August 2023



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1 Summary

Community groups have advocated to Council for review of the Nature Strip Landscaping Policy (2018). The Policy has been reviewed to provide improvements from both a community and operational perspective to see how the benefits of nature strip landscaping can be maximised.

The review included clarification of roles and responsibilities of relevant internal work areas, permit and insurance requirements, and establishing greater strategic alignment with MV2040 and MV2040 Action Plan - Green. This includes transitioning from a policy to guidelines, to simplify the process, remove the requirement for a permit, and make it easier for community members to plant in nature strips.

The [Draft Nature strip Landscaping Guidelines](#) are a result of this review.

The Draft Guidelines and accompanying [draft guidance for Suitable Plants](#) were endorsed by Council for community consultation at its meeting on 25 July 2023, and consultation followed for a 4-week period, 1 – 28 August, 2023.

Community engagement took place in the form of a survey, which was promoted on-line via the Council Your Say page, social media and also via Council's corporate website. The survey was designed to gauge the level of community support for the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines, and to provide residents an opportunity to provide feedback.

In total, 244 people accessed the survey with 166 participating (160 completed the survey, 6 partially completed). In addition to the survey responses, two written submissions were received, and there was also substantial on-line discussion generated by the social media posts that were run during the engagement period. These have all been included in the report findings.

Overall, there is a high level of support for the Draft Guidelines. Approximately 80% of participants indicated support of the Guidelines, 15% opposition and the remaining 5% indicated neutrality.

2 Methodology

2.1 Key decisions and questions for engagement

The survey (see Appendix 5.1) comprised the following range of questions. Participants were not required to answer every question.

- Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.
- To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase your likelihood to plant your own nature strip?
- To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase planting and biodiversity in nature strips in Moonee Valley?
- Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?
- Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?

2.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say	Page visits	967
	Unique visitors	811
	Project follows	6
Survey	Accessed online	244 (160 complete, 6 partial, 78 disqualified due to no data entered / duplicate responses)
Written submissions	Received via email	2

2.3 Social media campaign statistics

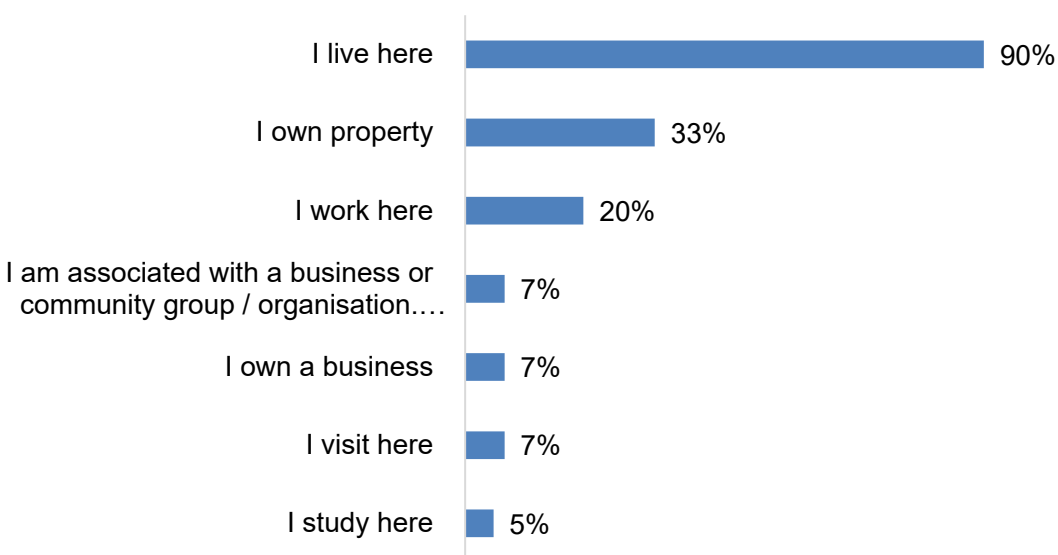
7 August	Facebook	Twitter		Instagram		
	Clicks	921	Engagement	NA	Impressions	1668
	Comments	48	Impressions	NA	Likes	31
	Impressions	5426	Likes	NA	Reach	1593
	Link Clicks	200	Link Clicks	NA	LinkedIn	
	Reach	5217	Media engagements	NA	Clicks	NA
	Reactions	54	Media views	NA	Impressions	NA
	Shares	3	Retweets		Reactions	NA
21 August	Facebook	Twitter		Instagram		
	Clicks	651	Engagement	2	Impressions	1227
	Comments	58	Impressions	179	Likes	24
	Impressions	5268	Likes	0	Reach	1173
	Link Clicks	94	Link Clicks	1	LinkedIn	
	Reach	5216	Media engagements	0	Clicks	NA
	Reactions	32	Media views	0	Impressions	NA
	Shares	1	Retweets	0	Reactions	NA
Story post	Instagram					
	Reach	1,059				
	Link Clicks	40				
	Shares	1				

3 Survey respondent demographics

3.1 Connection to Moonee Valley

Respondents could select all categories that applied to them. The majority (90%) indicated they lived within Moonee Valley, followed by 33% owning a property in the municipality. Approximately 20% indicated that they work in Moonee Valley. Moonee Valley Sustainability was the most-mentioned group in the list of business/community group/organization connections, as indicated by 7% of respondents.

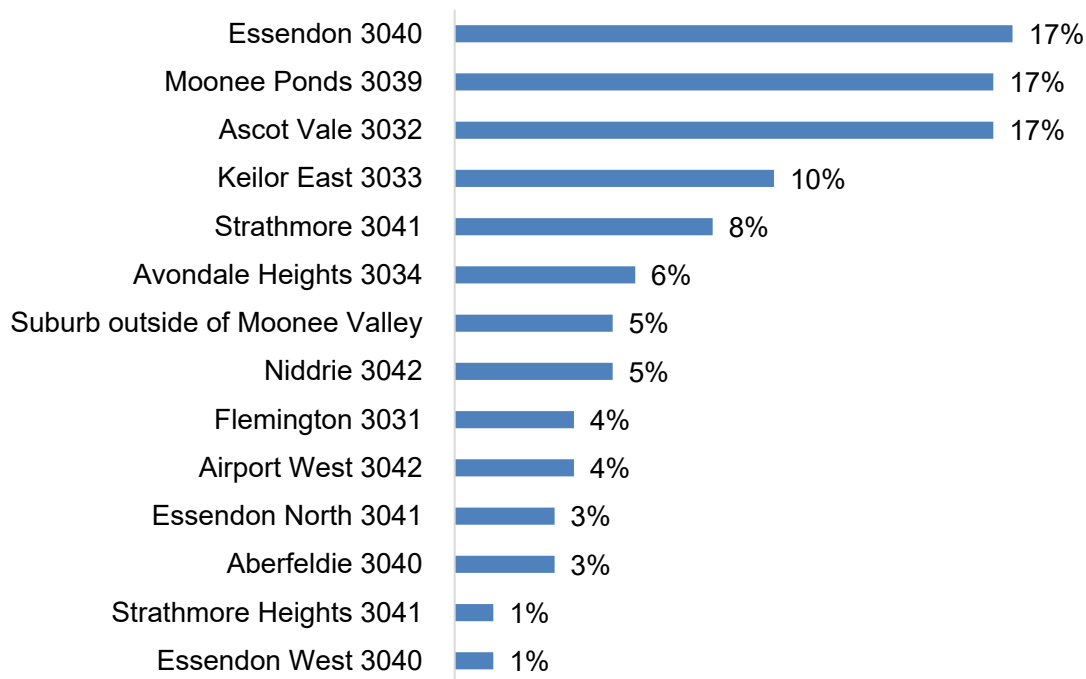
Figure 1: Connection to Moonee Valley



3.2 Suburb

Respondents came from a range of suburbs, with 95% indicating that they lived within Moonee Valley. The three highest represented suburbs (17% each) included Ascot Vale, Essendon and Moonee Ponds. Approximately 10% of respondents were from Keilor East, followed by 8% in Strathmore and 6% in Avondale Heights. Each of the other listed suburbs were represented by 5% or less of respondents.

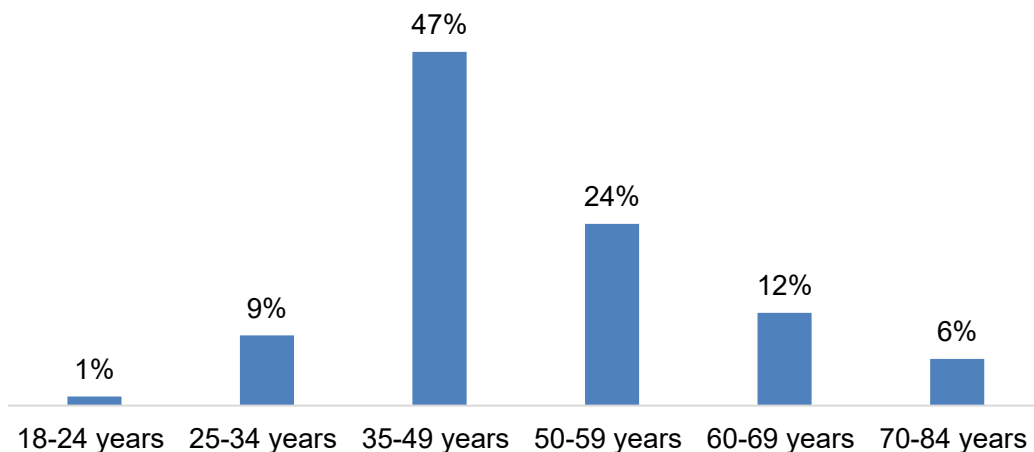
Figure 2: Suburb



3.3 Age group

Individuals aged 35 – 49 years accounted for 47% of respondents. The second largest represented group was aged 50 – 59 years with 24% of respondents, followed by 60 – 69 years with 12%.

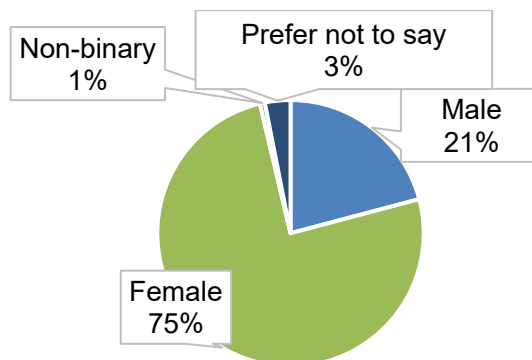
Figure 3: Age group



3.4 Gender

With 75% representation, those identifying as females made up the largest group of respondents. Approximately 21% of the respondents indicated they identified as male. The remaining 4% comprised a combination of respondents identifying as non-binary or prefer not to say.

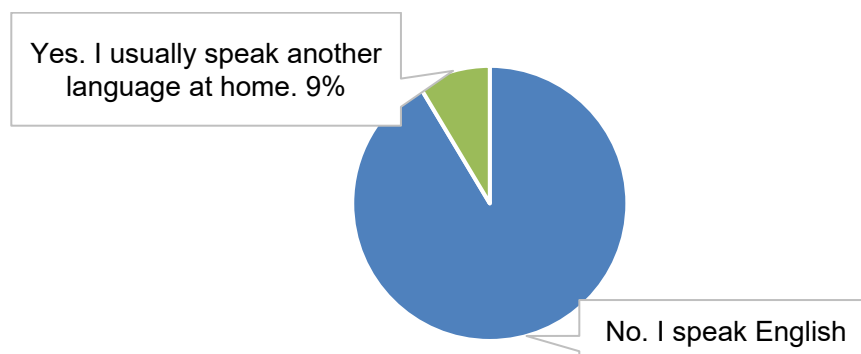
Figure 4: Gender



3.5 Language spoken

The majority (just over 91%) of respondents indicated they speak only English at home. A broad mix of other languages spoken at home by the 9% of respondents included Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, French, German, Italian, Malayalam, Polish, Swedish, Tamil, Ukrainian.

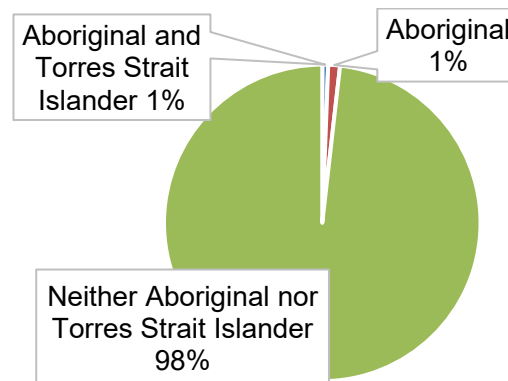
Figure 5: Language



3.6 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

Just under 2% of respondents indicated they identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Figure 6: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander



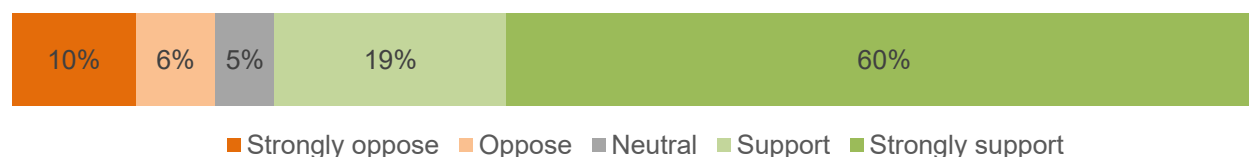
4 Findings

4.1 Survey findings

Question 1: Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines?

There is clear support for the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines with 60% of respondents indicating strong support and another 19% indicating support for the Guidelines. A combined 16% of respondents indicated they opposed or strongly opposed the Guidelines. Approximately 5% of respondents indicated neutrality.

Figure 7: Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines?



Respondents were encouraged to add comments to support their rating. Some sample comments follow, and a full list of comments can be found in Appendix 5.4:

Support - Strongly support

The below sample comments demonstrate common themes that were expressed around environmental, aesthetic and community benefits.

- *A great initiative to improve the environment & beautify the local community.*
- *More biodiversity and more opportunity for neighbourhood community building - both big wins!*
- *This is a great initiative to start greening our verges. All around the neighbourhood, it would be fantastic to be able to walk around the and see different native species for even just small herb gardens, etc, etc. So much better for our environment than just a lawn. It will encourage biodiversity and native species of our fauna/flora.*
- *I want to turn my nature stop into a bee heaven , it's such a waste of space*

Neutral

- *I agree that nature strip landscaping is a good idea but the concern is that people don't necessarily keep them tidy, just like grass etc. another concern is when you're trying to pull out of an intersection and plants are blocking the view of traffic coming in either direction, especially when cars are parked on the roadside.*
- *I worry that some of the guidelines for shrubs will impact the ability to have biodiverse naturestrips. I understand not being allowed to plant trees and would like to see more council initiatives to plant them on naturestrips to reduce urban heat.*

Oppose - Strongly oppose

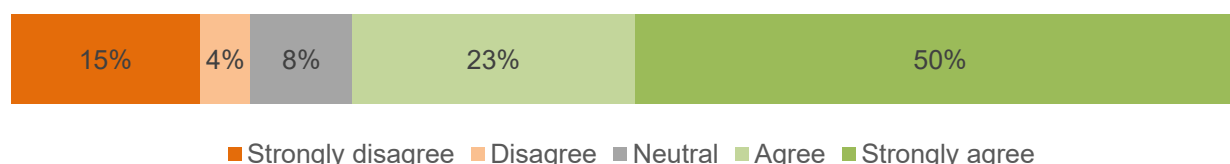
The below sample comments demonstrate common themes that were expressed around concerns relating to aesthetics, maintenance and upkeep, access and safety, and policing and enforcing of landscaping guidelines.

- *This plan creates more issues than the positivity it aspires to generate. It will inevitably result in a 'dogs breakfast ' mix of plants of varying types and heights, reducing the aesthetic and hindering visibility for road users. Essendon Fields have shrubs planted in their nature strips and while most look nice (which is only due to them being in a managed environment) it makes it really difficult to see kids/animals and even most adults when they are stepping out onto a pedestrian crossing. Also, as direct neighbours to a childcare centre where young children are constantly being let out of vehicles onto the surrounding nature strips, the risk of injury from plants at eye level will increase and visibility over children stepping out onto the road from behind plants will be significantly diminished. Further to this, there will be numerous complaints and issues that arise from breaches or suspected violations of the guidelines and council will clearly need to wear the cost associated with resourcing the administration and investigation into these.*
- *I have seen so many nature strips neglected full of weeds because people planted flowers,bushes etc and then got tired of looking after them. Keep the nature strip as it is, and plant whatever you want in your own garden*
- *Obstructs entry in and out of cars specially for those with physical impairments Dangerous hazards to those walking specially at night People will plant and not maintain will be an overgrown eye saw Those that plant will dump their rubbish bins on next door nature strips which is not fair to next door neighbours...*

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase your likelihood to plant your own nature strip?

Approximately 73% of respondents indicated they believed the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines would increase the likelihood of their planting their own nature strip, with 50% indicating they strongly believed this would be the case. A combined 19% of responses indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this idea.

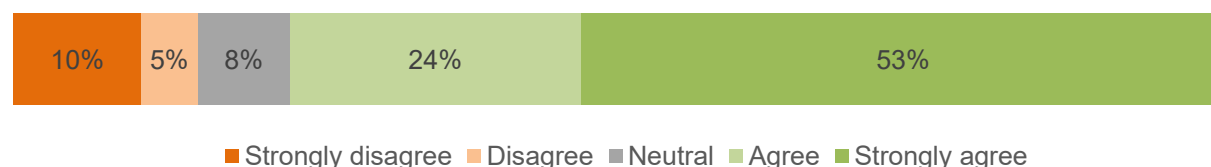
Figure 8: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase your likelihood to plant your own nature strip?



Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase planting and biodiversity in nature strips in Moonee Valley?

Responses to this question were similar in pattern to the previous question in that the majority of participants (77%) either agreed or strongly agreed that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines would increase planting and biodiversity in nature strips in Moonee Valley in general. Approximately 15% of respondents indicated they either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the notion that the Guidelines would increase planting and biodiversity in nature strips in the municipality.

Figure 9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase planting and biodiversity in nature strips in Moonee Valley?



Question 4: Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?

90 responses were received to this open question. Various themes emerged from the comments provided, including:

A need for clearer information

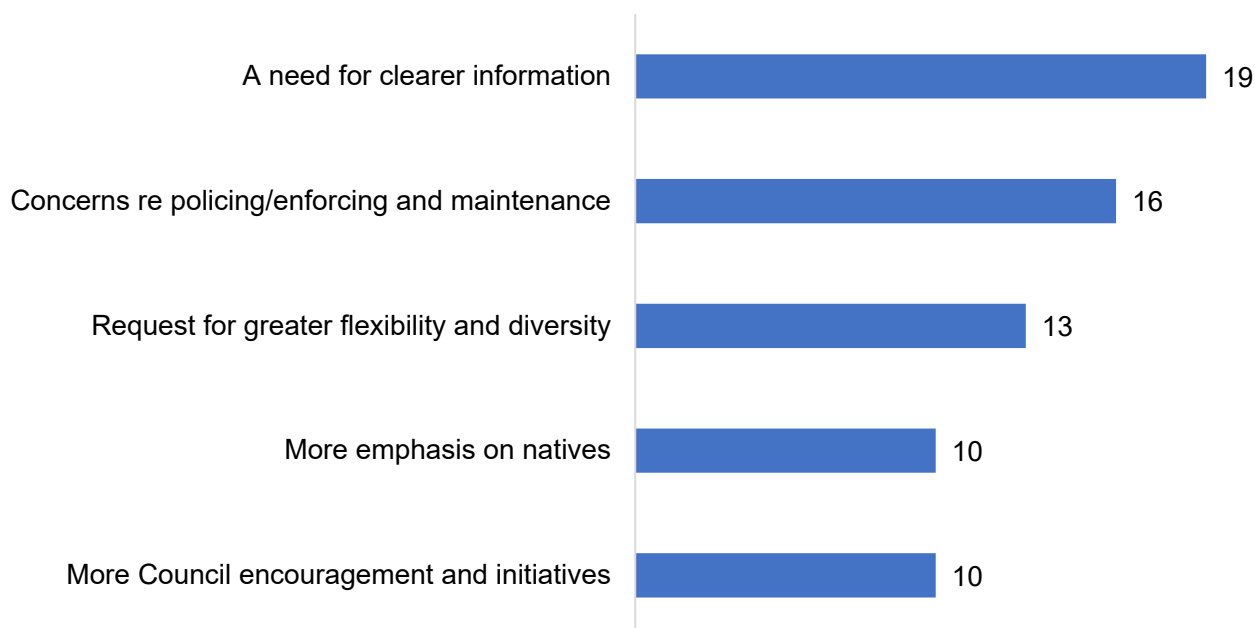
- *Include example diagrams illustrating plant height and set back requirements. Strengthen encouragement of native vs exotic & why bioversity is important & how it benefits people/communities. Expand list of example permissible/encouraged plants. Include general full grown height of plants. Group by height, rather than type - this will make it more useful. Eg, ground covers, this will make it easier for people to select plants that meet heights requirements in set back. Include photo examples of mature planted nature strips. Include names of plants utilised. Include photos or links to reference sites for different plant options, or at least include a description. Include advice on where to source native plants locally/nearby Hold or partner with local community/nfp's events with presentations, gardening/planting/care advice, sale/sharing of native plants*
- *Can the planter box be built right up to the driveway/crossover? Does this present a danger to cars reversing out of driveways and having to take a wide turn-out? should there be a set-back from driveways/crossovers? What does 'at least 1m between raised planter boxes' mean in the Additional section of the table? Is that 1m between two boxes? Diagrams/pictures would be good for people who learn visually.*

Concerns re policing/enforcing and maintenance

- *This is ridiculous, grass has been used on nature strips successfully and looks uniform and neat. I don't want to live next door to a mess because a neighbour eventually can't be bothered maintaining their planted nature strip or tenants move out and leave a nature strip garden for landlord to deal with*
- *It is still ambiguous. Do I have to return the nature strip back to grass if I sell my property (change of ownership)? Only one statement about this and its ambiguous.*
- *Ensure compliance is managed*

- **Request for greater flexibility and diversity**
 - *Needs to be flexibility around planting fruit trees and vegetables on nature strips! They're wasted space and would help so many people in the community!*
 - *Allow natives for biodiversity and allow fruit and veg to increase food production for residents. Let the residents choose which avenue to take.*
 - *I could not see suitable plants listed - but I feel it is important to not over emphasise natives and thereby put off some potential gardeners. A mix of exotic and native is ideal. Obviously monocots will survive damage better.*
- **More Council encouragement and initiatives**
 - *Include example diagrams illustrating plant height and set back requirements. Strengthen encouragement of native vs exotic & why bioversity is important & how it benefits people/communities. Expand list of example permissible/encouraged plants. Include general full grown height of plants. Group by height, rather than type - this will make it more useful. Eg, ground covers, this will make it easier for people to select plants that meet heights requirements in set back. Include photo examples of mature planted nature strips. Include names of plants utilised. Include photos or links to reference sites for different plant options, or at least include a description. Include advice on where to source native plants locally/nearby Hold or partner with local community/nfp's events with presentations, gardening/planting/care advice, sale/sharing of native plants*
 - *The guidelines sound pretty good. Maybe you could include the addresses of some impressive existing nature strips, to give people inspiration. If there are any community groups that give tips on nature strip gardens maybe you could include their details. Perhaps council could consider providing small grants to assist with the cost of plants.*
 - *Encourage planting native plants. Encourage plant swaps. Encourage supporting small local business. Provide community grants to plant nature strip*
- **More emphasis on natives**
 - *Native planting should be strongly encouraged, plants that are native to the area should be subsidised by council*
 - *I think it is great to encourage native and Indigenous planting in the area.*

Figure 10: Identified themes re Question 4



Question 5: Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?

Several themes emerged from the 66 responses received to this open question. Some overlapped with the identified themes in Question 4.

- **A need for Council initiatives and incentives, as well as education and active support from Council**

This was a key emerging theme (23 responses aligned with this theme). People indicated they want easy access to the right types of plants, easy-to-understand information and guidelines on landscaping their own nature strip. Numerous suggestions were made re free/subsidised supply of recommended plants, and supply of pictorial guides showcasing good examples of landscaped nature strips.

- *Provide the tube stock plants and this will encourage residents to plant natives. Without this encouragement exotic plants will be chosen by residents and they may be naively ignorant to the use of weed plants with pretty flowers. Encourage native and indigenous plants to help biodiversity. Set up a native nursery where residents can collect, buy or be educated on their beauty and benefits.*
- *Use council purchasing power to provide a tubestock or seed bank for residents to access*

- *Is there anywhere that can supply plants that will comply? It's there a MV Council Nursery where residents can purchase these plants? The easier you make it, the better the compliance. Maybe you could support the Community Gardens to grow and sell these plants*
- *Education for residents on native plants and advice on how to get the most out of their nature strips would help residents plan and maintain successful strips*
- **Concerns about street aesthetics and who would be held responsible for ongoing maintenance**

This identified theme was expressed in 10 of the responses. Some examples include:

- *I think the most important thing to consider would be maintenance responsibility*
- *Once the home owner can plant what they want and maintain to a standard they deem acceptable the overall street scape becomes a messy/miss match lowering house prices.*
- *If nature strip gardens are neglected then council should reinstate since it's council land*
- *Once a native strip is planted, owners must be responsible for maintaining them. There is nothing worse than a dead plant nature strip.*
- **Importance of accessibility and safety**

This was identified as a key theme in 8 responses received. Some examples follow:

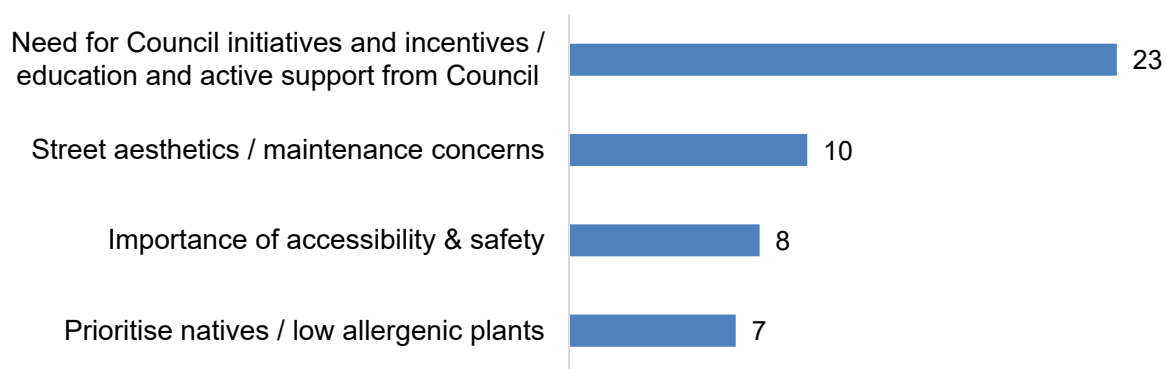
- *I think the planting of nature strips is a fabulous idea for so many reasons, however, has any thought been given to where bins will/can be placed and how this will impact availability of parking on streets? If the nature strip is completely planted, especially in front of multi dwelling blocks such as apartments, townhouses, units, sub divisions etc, bins will need to be placed on the street. This in turn prohibits residents, visitors, trades, emergency services etc from parking in our streets. Parking availability in Moonee Valley is already at a premium. The other issue which needs to be addressed is what about blocks which have light/power poles on their nature strip? Can people plant up to and around the poles or is an exclusion zone required?*
- *There is no mention of public liability insurance which has been an issue in the past.*
- *Stick to grass nature strips they look neat when mowed and are not a personal hazard to predestinations or car doors and those exiting and entering cars*

- **The need to prioritise native / low-allergenic plants**

This was one other prominent theme identified in 7 comments. Examples include:

- *Native that increase biodiversity (with low asthmagenic propeeties)*
- *... Also, a requirement of native gardens for higher sustainability, less irrigation/watering needed should be high on the priority of landscape design choices made.*
- *Natives where possible*

Figure 11: Identified themes re Question 5

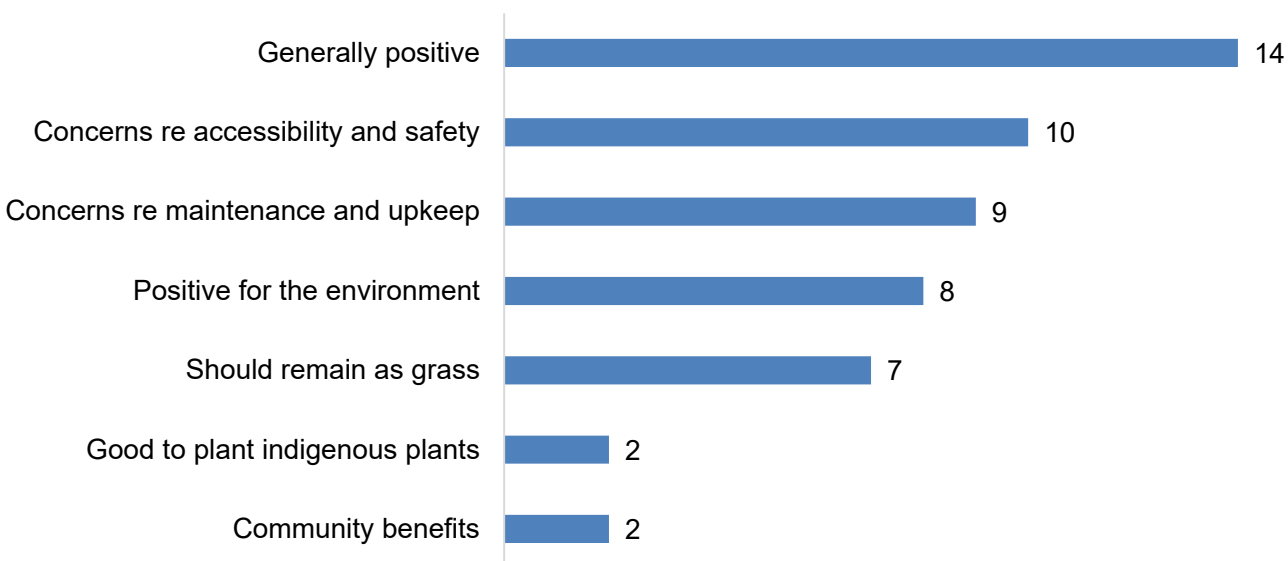


4.2 Social media campaign findings

Substantial on-line conversation was generated through the social media posts promoting the consultation and survey, with just under 100 comments received across the campaign. A full list of comments can be found in Appendix 5.3.

Themes that emerged from these comments were similar to those expressed in comments left in the survey. A number of comments were received that were generally positive in their nature, such as “YES”, and “A great step forward!” Those opposed to the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines expressed concerns re accessibility and safety, maintenance and upkeep, and that nature strips should just be left as they are, ie grass. Those in support of the Draft Guidelines made comments relating to environmental and community benefits, as well encouraging the planting of indigenous plants.

Figure 12. Social media comment themes



4.3 Written Submissions

Two written submissions were received. The first of which was from Moonee Valley Sustainability, and the second from a community member. Both submissions were positive in response to the proposed Guidelines.

Moonee Valley Sustainability suggested that additional clarity is needed in the wording of the document so that community members have a greater understanding of the difference in these Guidelines compared to the previous Policy. In addition, the group suggested that diagrams throughout the document would aid in providing clarity.

The submission from the community member suggested that the Guidelines also apply to pedestrian laneways between houses.

5 Appendices

5.1 Survey tool: Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

1) Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines?

☐ Strongly oppose ☐ Oppose ☐ Neutral ☐ Support ☐ Strongly support

2) Please provide any comments to support your rating.

3) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase your likelihood to plant your own nature strip?

☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly agree

4) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines will increase planting and biodiversity in nature strips in Moonee Valley?

☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly agree

5) Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored? _____

6) Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?

About you

7) What is your connection to Moonee Valley?

☐ I live here

☐ I own property

☐ I work here

☐ I own a business

☐ I study here

☐ I am associated with a business or community group / organisation.

☐ I visit here

8) Suburb you live in

9) Age Group

10) Gender

11) Do you usually speak a language other than English at home?

12) The main language I speak at home is: _____

13) Do you identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander?

5.2 Your Say page






Home Projects **My profile -** 

Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

Council wants to hear your thoughts on our draft Nature strip Landscaping Guidelines. Have your say today!

[Follow](#)



Home / Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

Nature strip gardening is a positive activity to encourage in the municipality. It allows residents to:

- improve biodiversity opportunities
- increase the aesthetics of the neighbourhood
- reduce urban heat, and
- participate in a healthy activity that can increase neighbour connections.

Council wants to make it easier for community members to plant in nature strips.

Council's Nature Strip Landscaping Policy (2018) has been reviewed to provide improvements from both a customer and operational perspective to see how the benefits of nature strip landscaping can be maximised. The **Draft Nature strip Landscaping Guidelines** are a result of this review. Council is looking to transition from a policy to guidelines, to simplify the process, remove the requirement for a permit, and make it easier for community members to plant in nature strips.

These Draft Guidelines and accompanying **draft guidance for Suitable Plants** were endorsed by Council at its meeting on 25 July 2023 for community engagement. We now want to hear from you.

We're keen to hear your thoughts about the Draft Guidelines. Your feedback will help finalise the Guidelines and inform Council's decision to formally adopt them later this year.

Have your say!

 Complete the online feedback form by 28 August 2023 - Survey now closed

 Email: yoursay@mvec.vic.gov.au

 Prefer to speak with someone Phone us on 03 9243 8888.

 Write to us: Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines, Advocacy Grants and Engagement Team, Moonee Valley City Council, PO Box 126, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039.

Read the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

[Click here to read the Guidelines](#)



Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

Purpose
The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide guidance on landscape landscaping guidelines that relate to the design, selection, and maintenance of plants and landscaping in nature strips. The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide guidance on landscape landscaping guidelines that relate to the design, selection, and maintenance of plants and landscaping in nature strips.

Introduction
A nature strip is a publicly owned land between the footway of a road or other highway and the footway of a road or other highway. The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide guidance on landscape landscaping guidelines that relate to the design, selection, and maintenance of plants and landscaping in nature strips.

Plants and vegetation (planting) in nature strips
Plants and vegetation in nature strips are subject to a number of requirements. The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide guidance on landscape landscaping guidelines that relate to the design, selection, and maintenance of plants and landscaping in nature strips.

Guidelines
The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide guidance on landscape landscaping guidelines that relate to the design, selection, and maintenance of plants and landscaping in nature strips.

Document Library
[Nature Strip Suitable Plants Guide](#)
PDF (162.99 KB)

Timeline

- 25 July 2023**
Council endorsed the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines and draft Guidance for Suitable Plants for community engagement.
- 31 July - 28 August 2023**
Consultation is open for contributions.
- September 2023**
Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.
- Late 2023**
Final Guidelines presented to Council for adoption.

[See less](#)



Jess Buchanan
Advocacy and Engagement
Senior Advisor
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Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land - the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, their spirits, ancestors, elders and community members past and present.



Contact Us
Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:
Phone: 03 9243 8888
Email: yoursay@mvec.vic.gov.au



5.3 Social media posts and comments

7 August	Facebook		Twitter		Instagram	
	Clicks	921	Engagement	NA	Impressions	1668
	Comments	48	Impressions	NA	Likes	31
	Impressions	5426	Likes	NA	Reach	1593
	Link Clicks	200	Link Clicks	NA	LinkedIn	
	Reach	5217	Media engagements	NA	Clicks	NA
	Reactions	54	Media views	NA	Impressions	NA
	Shares	3	Retweets		Reactions	NA

Comments:

[NAME REDACTED]

Yaaaaaaay this is brilliant news ! 🌻🌳🌿🌸🌼🍋🍊

[NAME REDACTED]

Great step forward!!

[NAME REDACTED]

YES!

[NAME REDACTED]

I love that fake turf and other non natural surfaces are not permitted in the standards.

[NAME REDACTED]

Yes! Love this!!!

[NAME REDACTED]

As someone who had to go through the long convoluted process of a permit, I say YES - huge improvement. As long as the final guidelines are in clear english and includes diagrams for those who dont have english as a first language - Im sure it will greatly improve the take up of nature strip landscaping in Moonee Valley. Lets face it our trees need it!

[NAME REDACTED]

This is great!

[NAME REDACTED]

This should have been put in place mid winter! Half way through spring 🌸 MVCC got this great idea .

Better late than never . Saves me an application and bureaucracy to plant a few flowers in front of my house that has dud trees planted by council , on the nature strip , that drop seeds all year along

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] The start of August is mid winter.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] the consultation is open till 28th Aug and then it will be presented in a council meeting to pass by the time it is all done we will be in middle of spring

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] Plant now - by the time they get wind of it - the policy will be in place!

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] there will be a fine next day in mail . But might start spraying weed killer on grass .

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] best practice is to dig out the grass by hand down to around 50mm below footpath / kerb level. Then leave it for a 6-8 weeks to capture any grass roots you didn't get first time. Then you'll have a very low maintenance base to plant out

[NAME REDACTED]

Also couldn't see anything about plantings that may be toxic to dogs etc or cause harm to children etc

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] yes, they need a program to replace the White Cedars planted all over the shire.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED]'banned' plants include ones with prickles, thorns etc. The list of poisonous plants would see half of MV's gardens empty! From daffodils to oleander, sweet peas and most indoor plants

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] let's be sensible we are not talking about private gardens . But street gardening is another matter. Pedestrians children pets could be affected. I have already seen nature strips with roses , and toxic plants that can cause awful skin rashes etc. It's called Public liability

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] not just talking private gardens: lots of oleander on nature strips on my street.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] and in my opinion should not have been planted. So let's not add more to the mix

[NAME REDACTED]

All for it. Total advocate. MVCC - if we can promote the community to promote indigenous plants of the area that would be even better

[NAME REDACTED]

I do not agree with plants You cannot open your door to step out of the car . And can you imagine the abuse when someone picks the flowers or produce. I do think on Rosehill Rd and Hoffman Rd the homes should have proper parking bays in place of nature strip

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] guidelines spell out how room must be left for people to open doors, and to leave a gap every 5m to cross the nature strip and access cars

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] do you really believe it will be followed

[NAME REDACTED]

Big improvement. Hopefully Council do away with the \$50 application fee and the request for insurance of land that we do not own.

[NAME REDACTED]

Great idea but where the heck are the bins going to go then if neighbours also take up the plants idea and there are multiple units instead of houses in close vicinity

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] those who plant will make there next door nature strips the bin dumping spot

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] yeah annoying. Our next door neighbour used to put bins on our lawn all because they didn't like them on there own lawn. I asked him why & lame excuse he had to mow his lawn but it stopped them from doing it. We have 6 units' bins so didn't need theirs also!

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] ours is planted but has left space for bins, as per guidelines

[NAME REDACTED]

Maybe change the front cover not to have a banned plant.

[NAME REDACTED]

Anything is better than the bloody Gumtrees yr planting.

[NAME REDACTED]

Council can't even tidy up the weed covered raised beds and public seating covered in pigeon droppings at Moonee Ponds interchange.

[NAME REDACTED]

Absolute rubbish. Dangerous for passengers getting out of cars parked. Emergency vehicle hazard. Eyesore hazard as not everyone will plant appropriately. Does not do what your promoting any better then a nice lawn . Councils should stick to roads rubbish and rates. Where will the bins go ?

[NAME REDACTED]

Does that mean I can get rid of the cypress tree on the corner of my driveway which I can't grow anything around? I would happily replace it with another tree that is better suited to the area

Moonee Valley City Council

Hi [NAME REDACTED]. A naturestrip tree would be a Council tree which you would not be able to remove yourself. The above Naturestrip Guidelines draft is referring to plants and vegetation allowed to planted by residents on their naturestrip. Hopefully this clarifies for you. If you do have any concerns about a naturestrip tree though, such as requires pruning, please give us a call on 9243 8888 and we can have an arborist attend to inspect. Thanks for your question.

[NAME REDACTED]

Fix our footpaths first, then plan how our bins can go out. We already have issues in sandown Rd with cars in front of bin. Brad from council said he would look at new trees years ago and nothing had come of it. Firstly I was told not in this year's budget, following years covid and not a priority as not in budget again. Council can't get the basics right, how can this project be a success.

Moonee Valley City Council

Hi [NAME REDACTED], thank you for your comment. I can understand the frustration. You can report issues such as footpath damages, missed bin collections and request tree planting via our MyCouncilPortal here mycouncil.mvcc.vic.gov.au/. Our customer service team can also assist you on 9243 8888 to make a new request over the phone, or follow up on any previous requests you have logged with us.

21 August	Facebook		Twitter		Instagram	
	Clicks	651	Engagement	2	Impressions	1227
	Comments	58	Impressions	179	Likes	24

	Impressions	5268	Likes	0	Reach	1173
	Link Clicks	94	Link Clicks	1	LinkedIn	
	Reach	5216	Media engagements	0	Clicks	NA
	Reactions	32	Media views	0	Impressions	NA
	Shares	1	Retweets	0	Reactions	NA

Comments:

[NAME REDACTED]

Survey done. The guidelines are a great step towards a healthy and green city Moonee Valley City Council 🌱

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] nature strips already provide. They help to keep out environment cool.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] indeed real grass is better than fake turf or concrete but nowhere near the benefits of a locally indigenous nature strip planting that reduces runoff, provides habitat and nourishes our precious street trees 🌳

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] council owns the nature strip but residents are responsible for maintaining it

[NAME REDACTED]

Will council reinstate these nature strips when they are neglected

Reply

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] they don't do that currently. Nature strips are the responsibility of the resident so this doesn't change anything.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] it's council land they are responsible . And yes they do reinstate . They have previously .

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] and sure easier to maintain when grass. So when plants are neglected and overgrown and residents aren't looking after then council holds responsibility .

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] seriously give it up.. when these residents plant out their nature strip and then leave or neglect the plants then it comes under councils responsibility to reinstate

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] I don't believe that is the situation. Local Laws provided a trigger for Council to issue orders where health and safety are being compromised but not a requirement for Council to reinstate an overgrown nature strip

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] have in the past and if neglected , becomes a concern then they will reinstate . This nature strip gardening could have been handled so much better by council . Council should be in charge of planting , streets should be uniformed . This should have been put to a vote, we are a democracy after all

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] do you seriously believe people will hand dig up their lawn, to establishing a garden they will then neglect. You clearly aren't a gardener and have no appreciation for a garden. So keep your lawn.

[NAME REDACTED]

Planting up your nature strip is a great way to increase biodiversity and connect with your neighbors. Great idea MVCC.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] and if not maintained create more problems . When they are planted to near to footpaths and gutters cause hindrance. Where do people then place their bins .

[NAME REDACTED]

Survey done here too

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] you're right. People who plant their nature strip should maintain them. But in my experience this is a low maintenance option. You don't need to mow, just a couple of times a year give plants a trim, if they are causing issues. Less maintenance than mowing a nature strip. Also I agree space for people to get out of their cars and put your bins in necessary to be left free from plants.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] I have to disagree with you about less maintenance . Any one that gardens can tell you that a garden / plants need regular maintenance . Mowing is so much easier . And when residents lose interest or move away ... what then. Do you expect new residents to maintain ? I've already witnessed one such nature strip neglected , looking miserable .

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] totally agree from first hand experience that a planted nature strip is way less maintenance than grass. The one I take care of only takes maybe 30 mins every couple of months to weed and trim, vs grass which requires mowing every couple of weeks.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] Plus, lawn requires you to own or access a lawnmower which can be annoying if you have no other grass or no space to store one, not to mention expensive.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] seriously and you think looking after a garden doesn't have its expenses . If you are going to keep it healthy it will require expense.

[NAME REDACTED]

Have fun opening your car doors when the plants are in the way and no longer being able to walk across the nature strip

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] works the other way too, you plant these lovely flowers and then someone will park in front of them and step all over them

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] seriously what are people supposed to do if you plant where someone needs to walk. Have we lost all common sense .

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] well of course. Look I'm on no side here just pointing out how it would affect the people who would plant flowers. Wasted money.

[NAME REDACTED]

Personally whatever I plant dies unless it's herbs so I dont bother LOL

[NAME REDACTED]

How do we beautify the bituman footpaths on Ascot Vale Road?

[NAME REDACTED]

Electric vehicle charging stations on every nature strip 2 metres apart... powered by wind powered turbines sitting on every roof top in Moonee Ponds!!!

[NAME REDACTED]

I think we as a society need to really think big picture. If you read the research around urban greening, you realise that this isn't a 'would be nice to have' issue, but is essential for the health of our urban spaces and us humans that live in them. Modelling suggests that Melbourne will be reaching temps of 50 degrees before the end of this decade. We need shade. We need more vegetation. These plants produce oxygen (which is kind of essential) but also transpire and

actually cool our spaces and shade hard surfaces which warm up. We need trees and vegetation to slow down wind and capture more rain to help reduce flooding. Without them we are going to be living in what can be described as 'a hairdryer'.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] grass nature strips do the same if not more about cooling the environment. They provide cooler stead to walk on than pavement especially for dogs. Maybe the bigger issue is we need more trees.

[NAME REDACTED]

The photo looks fine, when the plants grow how do you get out of the car 🙄🙄

[NAME REDACTED]

Probably best to just leave it as grass, much easier to maintain.

[NAME REDACTED]

Survey done strongly oppose. Stick to lawns.

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] do you want to provide a mowing service for all areas. This will stop the overgrowth and weeds 🙄

[NAME REDACTED]

[NAME REDACTED] sorry ? Planting means weeds. This will not stop weeds. This comes with the responsibility of owning a home. Otherwise move into an apartment, problem solved.

[NAME REDACTED] Yet you have no choice if they want to plant a gum tree on your nature strip that will grow 2 storeys high and raise the footpath in front of your house.

[NAME REDACTED]

We should be planting fruit tree's and vegetables on the nature strips, so poor people can help themselves !

Story post	Instagram	
	Reach	1,059
	Link Clicks	40
	Shares	1

5.4 Survey comments

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Strongly support	A great initiative to improve the environment & beautify the local community.
Strongly support	Aesthetically much better. Doesn't need regular mechanical maintenance. Biodiversity advantages for bees and bugs and others.
Support	Aesthetics. Good for environment.
Oppose	Although positive in its intention, nature strips planting as it currently exists has many drawbacks. The draft guidelines do not appear to have made a difference. This week on two occasions I have had to exit my car drivers door and walk along a very busy street passed other parked cars to the next driveway. Some residents, complying with your guidelines when planted, have by the nature of many recommended natives become untidy, impossible to walk through from a passenger car door, impossible for someone with a mobility disability, pruned branches scratch car doors when opened and the nature strip becomes a rubbish trap for the street. Some areas, eg Pavillions Keilor East, have streets without footpaths. Nature strip planting forces pedestrians to walk on the road. This is bad enough with poorly maintained lawn surfaces. This is not the solution to over-development in our suburbs.
Strongly support	Am really delighted to see the council taking this issue seriously.
Strongly oppose	artificial turf looks very neat and tidy. I would prefer to see this rather than an overgrown naturestrip. Artificial turf should be permitted on naturestrips across the municipality.
Strongly support	Australia has the dirtiest small engines in the world, there are no standards. A hearing impaired neighbour has a mower with no effective muffler. Monoculture is a not great for sustainability. Trees with canopy at eye level a hazard, smaller much safer.
Oppose	Because what I've seen so far of nature strip gardening.. they are abandoned, overgrown and too close to gutters and footpath. Plus they leave no room for placement of bins
Strongly support	Better aesthetics, less water usage, lower maintenance

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Strongly support	Bio diversity is very important and desirable. It will also improve the look of many nature strips.
Strongly support	Biodiversity is critical for the planet. This is an easy small step for our area to make a difference.
Strongly support	Biodiversity is something we must be prioritising in public spaces for the future of our wildlife and planet!! Yay!
Strongly oppose	Even though the nature strip is not part of the property owner's actual property, the nature strip must be maintained by the property owner or his designated tenant. Therefore, said property owner or the designee/tenant should be able to "MAINTAIN" the nature strip in a manner of their own choosing. Council Rates Paid should be the only 'guideline' [unless, of course the nature strip is neglected &/or trashed]. A property owner already PAYS RATES and does not get compensated for maintaining the nature strip. Having the privilege to maintain the nature strip in front of their property should be allowed without prejudice [from someone choosing their design] &/or further payment to council made.
Strongly oppose	Everyone thinks its a great idea until they get bored and stop looking after it ir it becomes expensive. [REDACTED] Step up and stick to lawns. Remove the Olive trees that are a nuisance when mowing.
Support	Given the coucil doesn't seem to take care of trees it plants in naturestrips, giving more ownership to residents would be a good thing
Strongly support	Good initiative. Recommend they be actively communicated widely across the municipality, to increase awareness of the benefits of nature strip plantings.
Strongly support	Good to have certainty
Strongly support	Great for community engagement and the environment. Would be a bonus if we were allowed to plant herbs/veggies
Strongly support	Great initiative to green our streets.
Strongly oppose	Horrible idea. Nature strips should be kept clean and clear of plantings. 1. They create a viewing hazard and block vision when reversing out of driveways, therefore are dangerous, especially on built up bush roads like my own. 2. They encourage hiding places for vermin like rats and mice. This happens when scrub is overgrown like the neighbour behind

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
	my next door neighbour, who has a forest front and back, and the rats that come from his backyard up along our fence line because he thinks he lives on 100 acres in Woodend are ridiculous. 3. If you think people will adhere to clearance distances for parking etc you're kidding yourselves. Scratched car doors, then who is responsible? Council?
Strongly support	Huge improvement on past guidelines. Easier to follow and sensible plant suggestions. Few questions still outstanding re fees and insurance and what happens when houses change hands - maybe I can't see all details on my phone - but good overall.
Neutral	I agree that nature strip landscaping is a good idea but the concern is that people don't necessarily keep them tidy, just like grass etc. another concern is when you're trying to pull out of an intersection and plants are blocking the view of traffic coming in either direction, especially when cars are parked on the roadside.
Strongly oppose	I don't think residents should be able to plant gardens on nature strips
Strongly support	I fully support making it easier for people to create nature strip gardens, because it's a great way to create habitat and increase biodiversity (or grow food).
Strongly oppose	I have seen evidence that by doing this the mulch is continually on the footpath. Making it hazardous for walking. Also the mulch falls into the gutter and ends up in storm water. Weeds tend to grow spreading to other nature strips. Seldom weeded.
Oppose	I have seen so many nature strips neglected full of weeds because people planted flowers,bushes etc and then got tired of looking after them. Keep the nature strip as it is, and plant whatever you want in your own garden
Strongly support	I like that the guidelines are clear and straightforward. It's great that permits are no longer required!
Strongly support	I love the idea of having a nature strip garden. I even think having and edible garden would be a great idea. Allowing the community and neighbours get involved. Been able to harvest and share food. This is what a sustainable future looks like
Strongly support	I love the idea of moving to a guidelines model - it will make it so much more attractive to people who want to support biodiversity in the area

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Strongly support	I love this idea! Great for biodiversity, great for amenity (maybe not great for my allergies, but oh well, it's worth it!)
Strongly support	I really like the suggestions of (1) using mulch as cover as less need of mower, so lesser environmental impact (2) Raised Planter Boxes are a very good option especially for properties with limited backyard
Oppose	I strongly support encouraging residents to remove useless lawn on nature strips and replace it with native (& indigenous) plants. What I don't agree with is the plant height for nature strips adjacent to road intersections which is far too low and don't make sense. A driver would be able to see through an intersection with 0.5m plant height - and should be stopping or at least slowing to almost a stop at intersections anyway. With these height limits in place, most of the streets in Ascot Vale won't have any plant above 30cm in height which will not support biodiversity in our area. It should be 0.5m at the very very least, if not 0.6m!
Strongly support	I strongly support this as it increases the biodiversity of the area. Hopefully with MVCC providing recommendations of native plants for homes to use on the nature strips this new policy can benefit the local ecosystems. Also allowing the use of those areas to grow fruit and vegetables will provide an avenue for homes to reduce reliance on store bought fruit and veg. Another benefit is the reduction of spending on wasteful grass maintenance.
Support	I support ONLY if it is managed according to guidelines. Ensure people can open car doors at the kerb and consider accessibility. Also, consider space for bins etc.
Support	I support that artificial turf nature strips are still prohibited. Now MVCC just enforce it and remove it from our naturestrips, including those covering the roots of protected canopy trees. This prohibited is not sustainable, adds to climate warming and is toxic. Get on an enforce compliance of your official policy. The delay is enough now, it contradicts MV2040 Greening.
Support	I support the guidelines to make nature strip plantings easier to do. It improves biodiversity and may encourage small native birds, insects and lizards. Removal of the permit is the first step to encouraging residents to start the process of nature strip planting.
Neutral	I think there can be a bit more flexibility

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Support	I think it's a good idea but once the owner gets bored of it then it will get messy and not managed.
Strongly support	I think it's a good thing to allow residents to plant on their nature strip especially to improve landscaping and attract a natural feel to this community.
Strongly support	I think it's a great idea to allow varied plants and shrubs to be planted along the nature strips. As long as they are being maintained.
Support	I think it's important to encourage people to change from grass to more varied plants
Strongly support	I think it's really important to have more plant diversity and more autonomy for home owners to choose how they use the space in their nature strip. Land in our council is so precious, why not make more of the share nature strips and make our streets more interesting and beautiful.
Support	I think the guidelines should encourage endemic native gardening, or food producing plants. At the very least, there should be a list of invasive weeds that must not be grown on nature strips.
Support	I think this is a wonderful idea for all the reasons stated by Council. BUT. Council needs to ensure these naturestrip plantings are maintained, and have the ability to issue fines if they are not. Its bad enough with people not mowing their naturestrips - overgrown plants may become an eyesore and a hazard if not controlled. This will have a negative impact on the aesthetics of our streetscapes.
Strongly support	I think we should even think about using nature strips to plant vegetables and herbs for all to use.
Strongly support	I want less urban heat island! The guidelines support that cause :)
Strongly support	I want to turn my nature stop into a bee heaven , it's such a waste of space
Support	I was interested in doing it. However, even as a wicking bed I have found that they dry our too much when 1m or and less. Is there a compost program in the council. Maybe I could offer that at my house for the local residences?
Neutral	I worry that some of the guidelines for shrubs will impact the ability to have biodiverse naturestrips. I understand not being allowed to plant

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
	trees and would like to see more council initiatives to plant them on naturestrips to reduce urban heat.
Strongly oppose	I would like to advocate that synthetic turf be allowed on naturestrips. They look good and improves the streets.
Strongly support	I would like to see the height limits near road intersections be increased to 0.5m considering drivers of even small vehicles could easily see above this height. 0.3m is very limiting in plant varieties.
Strongly support	Important policy to encourage residents to green up our streets capes. Increases biodiversity and supports bees and bird life. Less mowing, more plants
Strongly support	Improves the look of our municipality, good for environment
Strongly support	In the face of global boiling, planting shrubs on the nature strip can help with increasing shade and, depending on the plant, require less water.
Support	It is great that residents won't be deterred from making their nature strips more cooling by planting them up.
Strongly support	It will make it easier for owners / tenants to improve biodiversity in their neighbourhood by planting suitable vegetation in the nature strip outside their property, without impeding the vision of pedestrians or motorists.
Strongly support	It would add to an already vibrant community. Think the upkeep may become tiresome so perhaps have people make applications before planting and inspect their existing gardens as so many homes don't have the capacity to cut the current nature strip grass as is..
Support	It would be great if there was a program to encourage planting of suitable natives on nature strips
Strongly support	It's a great way to use vacant pieces of land to beautify our suburb and bring so many plants/food to the space.
Strongly support	It's an essential step forward to improve and continue to progress the sustainability of the community and increase biodiversity. It will encourage both environmental and social benefits for all the community
Strongly support	It's an important way to get more water, coolness and goodness into our environment.

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Strongly support	I've long wanted to do my nature strip but the regs made is too difficult.
Strongly support	I've turned my whole front garden to just garden and I would love to continue it to the nature strip.
Strongly support	Keen on the idea, can residents remove large asphalted nature strips or can we install planter boxes on nature strips that exceed 1.8m in width?
Strongly support	Keen to encourage more biodiversity into our residential areas.
Support	Like the fact you can include some edible landscape options
Strongly support	Living with greenery helps mental health, air quality, reduces heat islands and improves biodiversity. Planting herbs will also help with the cost of living for the community.
Strongly support	Looks great
Strongly oppose	Looks messy if people don't maintain Could be poisonous for pets Dangerous for young children Shared nature strips (unit developments) - who gets to choose if you can plant? Who is going to monitor correct plants are used? What's wrong with grass? ðŸ™€
Strongly support	Miniature Fruit Trees and natives or even rose paths would be beautiful and enhance street scape albeit that Lavender bushes would be fantastic for bees and sweet events
Strongly support	More biodiversity and more opportunity for neighbourhood community building - both big wins!
Strongly support	More biodiversity, lower temps, nicer place by live â€” let's gooo!
Support	More freedom and flexibility for property owners to use the public land they are responsible for maintaining in a way that suits their needs. I have concerns about who is responsible for returning the nature strip to grass if a tenant or owner moves and the new tenant does not want to take responsibility for maintaining the plantings.
Strongly support	More freedom to plant in nature strips will help the local bee populations.

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Support	Nature strip landscaping is necessary to counteract the overdeveloped building sites
Strongly support	Nature strips are currently a wasted potential Should be planted out to increase vegetation and reduce maintenance (no more mowing grass!) Would love to see every nature strip become a community veggie patch!
Support	Nature strips can be poorly maintained or ugly. Or even worse have fake grass! It's better to plant on them.
Strongly oppose	Nature strips should be left as they always have been. We live in a heritage area and cannot change the frontage of the house, planting trees on the nature street goes against this...
Strongly support	Nature strips with plants look much nicer than just grass!
Support	Needs to change. Not sure why you keep planting big trees that make a mess in the street, and ruin footpaths.
Strongly support	New guidelines are more streamlined, clear and practical while making it easier and more likely that more residents to implement nature strips to collectively assist increase greening and biodiversity, and reduce heat islands. A very welcome improvement more comparable to neighbouring Councils. Finally see that our Council is serious about climate and biodiversity issues. Easy to follow. Great to see species lists (and avoidant lists) are still offered as starter ideas. Welcome practical changes to planting near intersections.
Strongly support	No brainer. Let people green the neighbourhood.
Strongly support	Obstacles for community to further improve greening and biodiversity to their nature strips should be removed.
Strongly oppose	Obstructs entry in and out of cars specially for those with physical impairments Dangerous hazards to those walking specially at night People will plant and not maintain will be an overgrown eye saw Those that plant will dump their rubbish bins on next door nature strips which is not fair to next door neighbours And council should also not plant Gums they should plant shorter trees that do not grow up into powerlines and drop branches

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Support	Only those interested would partake, so they would be enthusiastic. Other people would keep the lawn as is. Possible hotchpotch of visual effect in the street scape.
Strongly support	Our planet depends on us growing more Creates community connections Beautifies our streets
Strongly support	Plants are much better to look at than lawn. Also if the correct vegetation is planted then it can be done so to attract bees etc
Oppose	Plants may impede access for people with mobility concerns getting into and out of cars. There will not be uniformity of the streetscape. People in unit blocks already let plants overgrow and weeds grow in shared spaces.
Strongly support	Please allow for fruit trees planting
Support	Positive idea to "green" the neighbourhood.
Strongly support	Providing better opportunities to support biodiversity. Reduction of lawn mowing also has the potential to reduce emissions from mowers and edgers.
Strongly support	Remove gum tree and plant more colorful trees
Strongly support	Removing the need for a permit together with sensible guidelines will promote and enable residents to more easily plant out their nature strips.
Strongly support	Residents too take more pride in street. Looks beautiful
Strongly support	Seem a sensible, balanced approach and good to be encouraging more diverse planting.
Strongly support	Slows down weeds and over grown grassy nature strips
Strongly support	Some sense at last, the 2018 version was a terrible idea, and this one is sooo much friendlier and practical. There is only one thing that I disagree with and that is in the prohibitions section forth dot point. Seating is not allowed. Consideration needs to be given to allow seating including guidelines etc. Back in 2012 we had a council seat installed on our nature strip as part of a previous Council Community Environment forum. We live on a long slow rise/hill (depending on your age and fitness) up

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
	from [REDACTED] Street and as we are at the top of the rise/hill, and following discussions with the Councils Environmental Department, it was agreed that a seat be installed. The seat has been used on a regular basis, mostly by elderly people after they have walked up the hill and frequently with their shopping to rest up before continuing on their journey. It has also been advantageous in meeting and talking to community members. There occasionally is minor rubbish left though this has not been a problem and there has been no unruly behavior from any users. I would highly recommend that the Prohibitions be changed to allow seating with suitable guidelines.
Strongly support	Thank you MVCC! You are leading the way, and I am so pleased to see the guidelines. I have started planting indigenous grasses on my nature strip. The guidelines will legitimise my efforts. I support the guidelines as a great effort to increase biodiversity, and help with the environmental corridor, and further support council efforts.
Strongly support	The existing policy has done very little to encourage residents to landscape and plant up their nature strips which is essential in supporting a healthy tree canopy and building an urban forest.
Strongly support	The guidelines are very clear as to what is permitted or not.
Strongly support	The plants recommend will enable MV residents to ensure their plants improve local biodiversity These plantings will also make our city more green and beautiful. Pedestrians will also benefit by seeing more of our native pollinators as they walk the streets.
Strongly support	There is a need to improve plant biodiversity in our communities. Being able to plant native plants along nature strips would help here. It would also help to receive some guidance on what native species are found in specific regions, to ensure no introduced species/weeds are planted that may cause future problems.
Strongly support	These guidelines encourage biodiversity on nature strips - I think this will be great for the community. I look forward to seeing planter boxes on nature strips
Strongly oppose	They become an overgrown mess . Several in my area are poorly maintained. Even Council gardens are poorly managed- please see the garden area at Victory Park where the statue of Rosemary is located.Overgrown with weeds . The garden on the corner of Lang's

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
	Road and Victory Parade, the lavender needs pulling out. It is spindly and poorly shaped. Plants on nature strips are collectors of rubbish as well.
Strongly support	They look very sensible with height guidelines and the use of organic matter
Strongly support	This is a great initiative to start greening our verges. All around the neighbourhood, it would be fantastic to be able to walk around the and see different native species for even just small herb gardens, etc, etc. So much better for our environment than just a lawn. It will encourage biodiversity and native species of our fauna/flora.
Strongly support	This is an excellent idea which will cut down on fossil fuel mower use.
Oppose	This plan creates more issues than the positivity it aspires to generate. It will inevitably result in a 'dogs breakfast' mix of plants of varying types and heights, reducing the aesthetic and hindering visibility for road users. Essendon Fields have shrubs planted in their nature strips and while most look nice (which is only due to them being in a managed environment) it makes it really difficult to see kids/animals and even most adults when they are stepping out onto a pedestrian crossing. Also, as direct neighbours to a childcare centre where young children are constantly being let out of vehicles onto the surrounding nature strips, the risk of injury from plants at eye level will increase and visibility over children stepping out onto the road from behind plants will be significantly diminished. Further to this, there will be numerous complaints and issues that arise from breaches or suspected violations of the guidelines and council will clearly need to wear the cost associated with resourcing the administration and investigation into these.
Neutral	This seems to be an improvement on the existing guidelines, but I am concerned as I don't understand the second dot point of Table 2. What does it mean, and can it be made clearer? I think we should be allowed to have small signs (eg. plant labels) to help educate passersby on plant species. The prohibition on excavation and cultivation seems overly prohibitive as it is likely to be very hard work to dig up something like kikuyu by hand. Could you allow excavation and cultivation no closer than 1m to existing plants/trees?
Strongly support	This would be fantastic for biodiversity!

Overall, to what extent do you oppose or support the draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines? Please provide any comments to support your rating.	
Support	Those wanting to plant on their nature strips are more likely to keep them in lovely condition
Strongly oppose	Too detrimental to the aesthetics of the neighborhood.
Oppose	Unless there will be strict control and enforcement over the use of nature strip being kept and maintained it has potential to be overgrown, risky to health and and safety. As it is most footpaths are already a hazard with significant damage from trees overgrown on the atrips
Strongly support	Very much keen to use the nature strip to do planting
Strongly support	W need more of this across the suburbs. Allows for natural ice pollinators and insects.
Strongly support	We have to maintain our nature strip so why not have the opportunity to plant endemic plants to beautify and diversify our area.
Oppose	We need more canopy / tree cover and there are lots of nature strips lacking in trees. Focus on trees rather than grown cover type plants - where there is existing lawn / grass on the nature strips
Strongly support	We need to act on increasing biodiversity and protecting what little remains as well as increasing local ground cover
Strongly support	We need to enhance our areas
Strongly support	We need to improve the streetscape by creating more biodiversity which will in turn create more habitat for our fauna and beautify our streets.
Strongly support	We need to increase the greenery, especially of water tolerant plants
Strongly support	We shouldn't have to seek council approval to plant on nature strip
Strongly support	Well thought out with heights and details of plants allowed, space for bins, visibility, access and trip hazards.
Neutral	Why can't we plant fruit trees on nature strips?
Support	Will increase biodiversity. Should be kept to native species.

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?	
	I cannot see the suitable list of plants as it's a zip file containing lines of code.
	They have to be plants that are low clumping varieties. Not plants that are going to branch out and definitely not on nature strips at intersections. So how do you control that?
	Flexibility and diversity is essential
	Needs to be flexibility around planting fruit trees and vegetables on nature strips! They're wasted space and would help so many people in the community!
	Yes, the lower plant for nature strips adjacent to road intersections should be far higher than 0.3m if you really want to encourage biodiversity in our area. It should be 0.5m at the very very least, if not 0.6m!
	Ensuring tree roots are not invasive to property or roads
	Leave nature strips alone or if they are to be planted out then those in the same street should all be planted the same .. uniformity the appearance is better.and improves streetscape rather than distracts
	See previous answer
	I don't think nature strips should change from natural grass that provide flat surfaces in front of houses, unit blocks.
	Council should take the lead and responsibility for nature strip tree planting. Council will have difficulty enforcing guidelines if residents do not comply and there are hazards / obstructions through 'landscaping efforts'.
	Allow existing artificial turf to be allowed. I like seeing this turf where there is a multi unit development it looks neat. Body corps dont maintain their share land let alone naturestrips.
	No, I like to see fake turf and pebbles
	How close can theses plants be planted next to footpath and road curb. How can you park your car and the passenger exit the vehicle with this type of nature strip landscaping
	No
	Stick to grass nature strips
	This is ridiculous, grass has been used on nature strips successfully and looks uniform and neat. I don't want to live next door to a mess because a neighbour eventually can't be bothered maintaining their planted nature strip or tenants move out and leave a nature strip garden for landlord to deal with

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?

Just don't do it. Leave nature strips clear. They need to be clear for safety reasons. I didn't even mention dogs, kids, or trip hazards. It's a lawsuit waiting to happen and I wouldn't go near it. Shocked you'd even think this is a good idea. It's DUMB.

I oppose the council 'guidelines' based on the people who are 'choosing' the designs. The decision as to whether or not a design is approved should a panel of judges consisting of [but not limited to]: one council person, one or two residents from that suburb and one or two persons from one or two different Nursery/Landscaping businesses, so that varying key aspects are addressed from, for example: suburb aesthetics, climate, sustainability issues and community safety for pedestrians and traffic.

Nothing should be planted. Grass and the council tree is sufficient.

A streetscape looks best when everyone has the same trees??

Stick to grass.

include the plants that are mentioned below the table (e.g. borage and low growing succulents) in the table.

It may be worth investigating increasing the distance between the kerb and a planted area. If a vehicle is parked with the wheels in the concrete gutter, 0.5m is not really enough room for a person with a larger frame, or mobility issues to alight from the vehicle because the open edge of the door will only be 0.5m kerb, and the hinged edge of the door will be at the kerb.

Encourage planting by giving examples of native plants, plants to encourage wildlife. Also pictures of examples of native strip gardens would be good.

No, but I feel further awareness of noxious weeds is critical. For example, the guidelines could be linked to a document that presents pictures. I know these already exist with the council, but attaching to the guidelines would further assist people who are trying, but less knowledgeable about plants.

Adding in diagrams would help make them easier to understand

See per point No 2, plus I think that this draft has been well thought thru and will be welcomed by many residents. Just something else re trip hazards, if the nature strip is higher than the footpath is that a trip hazard as mine is approx. 100mm higher than the footpath.

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?

How to videos would be great on the website. Can you also set up a service so council will come and scrape your nature strip (i.e. remove the grass) for you in preparation for planting? That's the biggest job, getting rid of the grass/debris on the nature strip, and council could easily work this into their plan to do it for residents. Maybe have a scheme where if 10 people in one street get it done, it's free! Otherwise, lost cost \$10....and no cost for pensioners. Also use council bulk buying power to buy all the plants and then give them away to residents to plant - particularly groups of 10 in one street who get their strip scraped.

Native planting should be strongly encouraged, plants that are native to the area should be subsidised by council

The document is incredibly text heavy and hard to read, especially for those with english as a second language. Much of the content could be replaced with photos or diagrams to illustrate visually what is allowed. In addition there is alot of unnecessary repetition (such as 0.3M restriction on three seperate lines) that could be removed. We need these guidelines to be really easy to read and encourage people to plant up their nature strips, not put them off. The fact that these guidelines are replacing the policy and a permit process, I think its important that the guidelines clearly state that there is not permit process and no fee to landscape nature strips right up front.

No

Just make sure people don't plant prickly or poisonous plants

Consider mentioning poisonous plants for animal and child safety. I would love to see native Australian plants as a priority of plant choice.

I'd like to see olives and pittosporum on the banned list

Actions to support body corporate properties actioning the guidelines would be beneficial.

I think it would be great to encourage people to grow herbs and edible plants as much as possible. This could start an entire discussion around sharing of foods, decreasing food miles for herbs by reducing purchases at supermarkets.

Allow natives for biodiversity and allow fruit and veg to increase food production for residents. Let the residents choose which avenue to take.

If there was consistent uptake of planting across several nature strips in a row, I wonder about the visibility of young kids walking, scooting or riding down footpaths being seen by drivers and the kids seeing cars entering driveways- has this risk been considered when limiting the heights of plants? How well will plant height limits be monitored and enforced by council?

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?

I could not see suitable plants listed - but I feel it is important to not over emphasise natives and thereby put off some potential gardeners. A mix of exotic and native is ideal. Obviously monocots will survive damage better.

Include example diagrams illustrating plant height and set back requirements. Strengthen encouragement of native vs exotic & why bioversity is important & how it benefits people/communities. Expand list of example permissible/encouraged plants. Include general full grown height of plants. Group by height, rather than type - this will make it more useful. Eg, ground covers, this will make it easier for people to select plants that meet heights requirements in set back. Include photo examples of mature planted nature strips. Include names of plants utilised. Include photos or links to reference sites for different plant options, or at least include a description. Include advice on where to source native plants locally/nearby Hold or partner with local community/nfp's events with presentations, gardening/planting/care advice, sale/sharing of native plants

Ensure matching sets of plants along particular streets to build pollinator corridors.

Just to note for the list of suitable species it references the Department of Agriculture. This department no longer exists. You can refer to it as Agriculture Victoria which is now part of DEECA.

I suggest you include photos of the plants that can be planted and those you cannot. Otherwise I'd have to google 40 varieties to know.

Am delighted to see the list of prohibited plants and weeds.

I like the proposed list. I'd like a mass planting of oregano and that's permitted.

I think it is great to encourage native and Indigenous planting in the area.

Obviously plants that are not too tall, prickly or invasive

Maybe highlight which are the taller plants that should be restricted to centre of beds, and wghich are suitable for light food traffic ie planting by road side where passengers are accessing parked cars.

No

I think the guidelines are reasonable and align with those in other Council areas. Including a diagram would help to visualize the dimensions and offsets better. I question whether the cross paths every 5m will be achievable or be a barrier for those with smaller nature strips. The plant list is good but might be good to add that the list is not exhaustive and highlight the benefits of native and indigenous plants. There is no mention of acceptable methods for nature strip preparation.

Nothing. The new guidelines are a great improvement.

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?	
	I support the plant list as I've grown many of the recommended species in my garden and now how well they can survive in our current climate.
	Any increase of planting is good. I think the unsuitable plant list is sound and the list of native plants a great starting point. Can council assist with supplying plants or help residents source appropriate plants? Sometimes they are difficult to find at Bunnings and nurseries. I am a little concerned about maintenance as these gardens can become a weed and litter trap.
	No
	Fruit Trees
	Local native plants would definitely be the best option
	No looks good Should be reviewed at rego intervals as knowledge of what works best increases
	No
	The guidelines sound pretty good. Maybe you could include the addresses of some impressive existing nature strips, to give people inspiration. If there are any community groups that give tips on nature strip gardens maybe you could include their details. Perhaps council could consider providing small grants to assist with the cost of plants.
	How to increase greenery in streets that don't have nature strips like Holdsworth Street and Ferguson Streets
	Let people pick their own shrubs bushes plants to suit their taste house
	not sure
	The height of nature strip plants should be increased, but should still provide vision through the plantings. This solution should be explored as more nature strips are planted up with biodiversity.
	Edible gardens are a thought.
	Not sure
	Japanese maples
	I would like more guidance around services pits. Some of these are not flush to the footpath, so it would be good to know if an access path to them needs to be provided. If so, how big does it need to be? Should it be from the footpath or the roadway, or both? Should there be a general buffer around them? Noting that some pits are really deep, but even in general it could be a safety issue for those working on them if there's plants in the

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?

way. Or a buffer of xcm/m so we know how much space people need to access the pits, which means we know if we're outside the buffer, our hard work won't just be destroyed.

As much as possible is great to use native species of plants to encourage local native species of fauna inclusive of bees and other local pollinators.

Perhaps a push for native fauna.

I think allowing more edible vegetation could be beneficial

Allow for fruit and veg trees to be planted

Unfortunately, I was unable to open the list of plant section. I read that ground covers & grasses were recommended & max heights. I would also like to see native Australian plants encouraged. I'm not sure if edible plants are allowed, but I'd like to see herbs encouraged.

I think it is important to receive some guidance on suitable plants to grow. I would personally love to see genuine native plants (to that particular region) being planted than an introduced species that may become a problem in the future.

Can the planter box be built right up to the driveway/crossover? Does this present a danger to cars reversing out of driveways and having to take a wide turn-out? Should there be a set-back from driveways/crossovers? What does 'at least 1m between raised planter boxes' mean in the Additional section of the table? Is that 1m between two boxes? Diagrams/pictures would be good for people who learn visually.

No, it has been carefully considered.

Make people remove fake grass

Most people will plant ugly invasive succulents. I think the guidelines must make it clear that invasive weeds will not be allowed

I think it would be helpful to have diagrams showing the allowable dimensions, etc. Words alone are not as memorable or as easy to understand for visual learners or for those whose literacy is not as good, particularly non-English speakers.

Ensure compliance is managed

Provide example sketches / diagrams / photos of planted nature strips to help people understand what is allowed, and inspire them to care for the streetscape/public realm without the need to read through a dry policy detailing clearance dimensions and Latin plant names

Are there any particular aspects of the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants that you feel a different approach should be explored?	
Composting?	
some more bushes that form habitat for small birds and an indication of what trees are good would be helpful.	
It is still ambiguous. Do I have to return the nature strip back to grass if I sell my property (change of ownership)? Only one statement about this and its ambiguous. There is a list of native plants but where in Moonee Valley does one buy them? Only two nurseries in the council area so they can charge any amount they want to profit from this initiative. Monash council actually gives residents 50 plants and/or \$50 voucher to spend at native nursery (which there are plenty). Not providing native tube stock plants means residents will always plant exotics, which does not encourage native birds or insects. This will increase feral birds such as minors.	
They are sufficient for the start of change. Reviewing the process will be essential for future plantings	
Natives	
Not at this stage.	
Encourage food producing plants.	
I feel like most residents will choose their plantings based on maintenance, aesthetic or usability considerations rather than biodiversity so I'm not sure this will have the desired biodiversity outcomes.	
If someone plants out their naturestrip and doesn't maintain it either due to lack of time or the sell the property etc, the the council needs to be prepared to rectify and tidy the naturestrip. I've seen too many instances in other councils of neighbourhood gardens that have resulted in overgrown messes when abandoned or interest wanes.	
Encourage planting native plants. Encourage plant swaps. Encourage supporting small local business. Provide community grants to plant nature strip	

Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?	
Incentivise home owners and tenants with increasing biodiversity. Give them offsets or free plants.	
Don't over govern and waste tax payers moneys	
More edible produce to be included!	

Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?
I'm happy that the suitable plants are native (with some being indigenous to our area). Please remove any restrictions which result in below 0.5m plant height. Also, other councils have given away native plants to residents to encourage them to plant more natives on their nature strips. I'm hoping MVCC will soon offer the same.
Please ensure enforcement is undertaken on any changes implemented as so many are not attended and this creates significant issues
If nature strip gardens are neglected then council should reinstate since it's council land
As this guideline is related to public land that we all need to access safely, Council needs to not only check the plan at the time of planting, but also regularly check the level of maintenance at least annually. Waiting for someone to complain is not good enough. New house owners rarely accept the same responsibility as the original landscaper and Council must hold some responsibility on Council land.
Residents fees would be better spent on creating council managed nature spaces and community garden spaces. Flat, grassed nature strips provide safe access for people with mobility concerns, the elderly and those with disability.
There is a concern that the plants will not be maintained and lack of space to safely exit cars parked parallel to nature strips. There's potential to create disputes between neighbours.
I disagree with one of the points made for converting a grass naturestrip to a plant naturestrip that being a reduction of urban heat. It is well documented that a green grass area has a significantly cooler surface temperature than that of a mulched garden. A shaded area under a plant is roughly the same as the canopy of a lawn area. The oxygen production of a lawn is also significant and greater than a sparse planting. Dust suppression of the naturestrip as well as run off are reduced by grass even if it is dry.
allow the nature strip be fully covered in mulch
No
Help in mowing lawns on nature strips where grass is overgrown
Stick to grass nature strips they look neat when mowed and are not a personal hazard to predestinations or car doors and those exiting and entering cars
Concentrate on more important things for the community like fixing pot holes on the road!!
No. Just don't plant anything on the nature strips.

Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?
Give the residents of each suburb AGENCY over their own community and take the power & 'control' out of council, to eliminate prejudiced and discriminatory decision-making that often appears to be attributed to newer and larger properties indicative on higher council rates paid. Also, a requirement of native gardens for higher sustainability, less irrigation/watering needed should be high on the priority of landscape design choices made.
People are unlikely to follow the guidelines and then the area will be horrible
Once the home owner can plant what they want and maintain to a standard they deem acceptable the overall street scape becomes a messy/miss match lowering house prices.
Stop planting Olive Trees !!!! They are an danger when mowing the naturestrip. They should be replaced with a tree that flowers.
It should be clearly stated that these are guidelines and no permit is required. have easy access to people if they have questions.
This is more an opinion than suggestion: I think the people that oppose the draft prefer the uniformity of lawns. They need to understand that lawns require constant moving (carbon emissions). Overseas countries, eg The Netherlands are moving towards wildflowers meadows. The council has done an amazing job - the native flowers/grasses etc in Aberfeldie and Afton St area as an example. They are so colourful and pleasurable to experience, and we now need to think Australian gardens, not English gardens.
No I think it is well thought out:) This is a note re question 11. "Do you usually speak a language other than English at home?" Answer "No. I speak English only at home." I also speak English when I am away from home too:) his is a note re question 13. I already receive Valley News. Maybe the question needs to allow for that possibility:)
Indigenous to the area
Yes - where are all the plants going to come from?. We have no indigenous nursery in our municipality. There are four with 30 minute drive. But with other Councils also rolling out natures strip planting projects these few are going to put under increasing demand. In addition the future of one main nursery (VINC) is under threat due to development of a sports precinct by the state government. Just assuming that residents are going to be able to get the plants for their nature strips, isnt very reliable. The Council needs to practice what it preaches and plant up exemplar nature strips outside its premises - libraries, community centres and facilities, childcare, traffic school and civic centre and even have a showcase in key parks - ie Queens Park and Woodlands Park.
No
The guidelines look really good. I look forward to them being actioned.

Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?
Allow home grown produce.
Maybe fire risk?
It would be great to have photo examples with lists of plants. (such as Edinburgh St, Flemington)
Ensuring areas set aside for bins and setback for getting in and out of cars. Stepping stones for walking across nature strip.
Costs associated with plant purchasing
They will need to be well publicized and it would be great to share some photos of compliant nature strips to help motivate the community to improve them.
Please include pictures and also make provision for children's fairy gardens if that is not already considered/permitted.
I can't reopen the list of plants to check (not sure why) but I'd be happy to see fruit trees as suitable (if they're not already on the list)
Let's get on with it
Is there some support from Council for purchasing or propagating suggested Indigenous plants that residents could access?
Guidance on planting on steep nature strip would be welcome
I would include more detail of suitable plants (ie not just "Poa spp." but species' details, with height differences), and suggestions of how to prepare strips for planting, which can be hard work. Also tips on keeping mulch contained etc, maybe good strips to visit for ideas.
No
No
There is no mention of public liability insurance which has been an issue in the past.
Should reference to 'dial before you dig' still need to be included?
Leaning more towards natives is ideal.
No
Nothing comes to mind
Education for residents on native plants and advice on how to get the most out of their nature strips would help residents plan and maintain successful strips

Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?
Artificial turf should be banned
Natives where possible
Photos to demonstrate examples of how these could be applied may help to encourage people who may be stuck for ideas.
Native that increase biodiversity (with low asthmagenic propeeties)
Consultation with First Nations people is important. I would love to hear stories from Country about the plants to help us care for them too!
No
Stop wasting our money
not sure.
Can't think of anything other than planting low allergenic vegetation
No
I think a list of suitable plants would be great, but it needs to be accessible for a diverse range of people, including people with disabilities and those where English is not their first language. To help, a list should provide images of the plants, both at a young seedling stage, and then mature. This way people will know what to look for when buying, especially for those who might find scientific plant names tricky.
I think the most important thing to consider would be maintenance responsibility
Allow for fruit and vegetable trees to be planted
Once a native strip is planted, owners must be responsible for maintaining them. There is nothing worse than a dead plant nature strip.
To be well informed on what native plants are suitable for specific regions.
No
The council already has a list of endemic natives but including a list of banned plants might also be good.
Is there anywhere that can supply plants that will comply? It's there a MV Council Nursery where residents can purchase these plants? The easier you make it, the better the compliance. Maybe you could support the Community Gardens to grow and sell these plants
Make the plants small, and remove the big trees you've been planting.

Is there anything else important for Council to understand in relation to the draft Guidelines or list of suitable plants?
I think the planting of nature strips is a fabulous idea for so many reasons, however, has any thought been given to where bins will/can be placed and how this will impact availability of parking on streets? If the nature strip is completely planted, especially in front of multi dwelling blocks such as apartments, townhouses, units, sub divisions etc, bins will need to be placed on the street. This in turn prohibits residents, visitors, trades, emergency services etc from parking in our streets. Parking availability in Moonee Valley is already at a premium. The other issue which needs to be addressed is what about blocks which have light/power poles on their nature strip? Can people plant up to and around the poles or is an exclusion zone required?
Use council purchasing power to provide a tubestock or seed bank for residents to access
Get artificial turf off naturestrips
Some councils provide residents with free plants for their nature strips. I think this would be very wise to: a) encourage residents to start planting and b) support the Guidelines to be followed, ie plants to be suitable & native rather than weeds!
Provide the tube stock plants and this will encourage residents to plant natives. Without this encouragement exotic plants will be chosen by residents and they may be naively ignorant to the use of weed plants with pretty flowers. Encourage native and indigenous plants to help biodiversity. Set up a native nursery where residents can collect, buy or be educated on their beauty and benefits.
Trees should always be encouraged to provide plenty of shade.
Communication of the suitable plants will be critical for compliance
It has to happen before a review of the process can be undertaken
The possibility of weed infestation and problems of maintenance.
Financial support

5.5 Written submissions



17 August 2023

Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines
Advocacy Grants and Engagement Team
Moonee Valley City Council
PO Box 126
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

Dear Jess Buchanan

RE: DRAFT NATURE STRIP LANDSCAPING GUIDELINES

Moonee Valley Sustainability (including Strips of Nature Moonee Valley) were thrilled with the recent publication of the Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines and are supportive of the transition from a permit based policy to guidelines. We agree that the guidelines (with the removal of the need for a permit) will enable and encourage residents to more easily plant out their nature strips.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The draft guidelines together with the suitable plant list are sensible and align largely with neighbouring council specifications. We offer the following suggestions and comments that may clarify and strengthen the guidelines document:

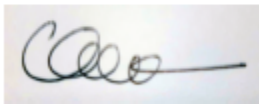
- After four years of requiring a permit perhaps the inclusion at the top of the guidelines that states "**no permit required**" would clearly communicate the change to residents
- Perhaps the benefits of planting native and/or indigenous plant species could be emphasized including hardiness, drought tolerance, biodiversity and attracting wildlife/ wildlife corridors
- Residents might be encouraged to be mindful of what other people are planting on their naturestrips so that there is consistency along a streetscape that is aesthetically pleasing
- Including a diagram of a nature strip would assist to identify the footpath position, kerb offsets, location of height restrictions and to understand the spacing and orientation for planter boxes
- It might be useful to include a definition of parallel parking within Table 2. There may already be a standard Council definition of 'parallel parking'? Is this any car parking adjacent to a nature strip or where car parking is marked?
- Including a reference to acceptable plant guards would be useful
- Confirming Council's responsibility for public liability insurance on nature strips
- Confirming the acceptable options for nature strip planting preparation

We would be more than happy to discuss the above or provide further information if needed.

Yours sincerely



Teresa Day, MVS Inc Convenor



Valerie Thiessen, Co-founder, Strips of Nature MV

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 28 August 2023 4:17 PM

To: Your Say <yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Feedback on nature strips by 28 Aug

Hi team,

I went onto your page <https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/naturestrip-landscaping> as today is the last day, but you have already closed the survey.

My feedback:

1. Moving from permits to following policy guidelines is a good move.
2. Only thing I'd suggest you add is the pedestrian laneways between houses. All policies talk about the space between the front property boundary and the road, but my friend who works on similar initiatives has seen one recently that includes the space along the side or rear fences and a path. (That could also offer more space to plant council trees for cooling).
3. I am inspired by the Shady Lanes initiative happening in Brisbane. Please feel free to check out their website where they offer some basics course. <https://shadylanes.com.au/courses/basics/>

Thank you,

[NAME REDACTED]