



ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 2029
Community Engagement Report
October 2025

Acknowledgement of Country and Council Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation

Acknowledgement of Country

Brimbank City Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Reconciliation in Brimbank

Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Bunurong People as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where our municipality sits. Council recognises the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who contribute to our community. We pay our respects to the wisdom of Elders past, present, and future.

We recognise their continuing spiritual connection to this land and renew our commitment to respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander beliefs, values and customs.

The Country in which Brimbank is located is under the statutory care of its Traditional Custodians, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to the south and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to the north of the municipality. For the Traditional Custodians, the lands in the City of Brimbank have always been a significant trading and meeting place.

Aboriginal people lived on these lands for over 65,000 years before European settlement. The rich history and continuous culture of our Traditional Custodians are woven throughout Brimbank, in its people, in significant sites and in murals recognising this history. Brimbank has about 440 registered sites of significance. The artefacts found are more than 30,000 years old. Some of these sites are in Brimbank Park, yaluk barrig (former Sydenham Park) and Organ Pipes National Park.

Contents

- Project Report 4**
 - Project Overview 4
 - Engagement Methods..... 5
 - Engagement Outcomes 6
 - Next Steps 8
- Appendices..... 9**
 - 1. Engagement Data and Resources..... 9
 - 2. Audiences Examples.....13
 - 3. Glossary 14

Project Report

Project Overview

Project Name:	Road Management Plan 2025-2029 Community Engagement Report
Brimbank Directorate, Department, Team:	Infrastructure and City Services, Asset and Property Services
Key Dates:	October 2025
Project Purpose:	The Road Management Plan 2025–2029 outlines Brimbank City Council’s responsibilities for inspecting, maintaining, and repairing public roads and footpaths, as required under the Road Management Act 2004. The Plan provides a clear and consistent framework for managing the municipality’s road assets, ensuring safety, accessibility, and compliance with legislative obligations. It was reviewed alongside the Council Plan and in accordance with the Road Management (General) Regulations 2005, with a particular focus on updating defect intervention levels for footpaths. The review aimed to ensure that inspection and maintenance standards remain appropriate and responsive to evolving risk exposure, insurance considerations, and benchmarking with neighbouring councils. The most significant proposed change was lowering the intervention level for low-activity footpaths from 50mm to 35mm, improving safety for vulnerable users such as elderly residents, people with disabilities, and those using prams or mobility aids. All other components of the 2021 Plan were assessed as compliant and effective. Community engagement was a critical part of the review process, helping Council validate proposed changes and align the Plan with lived experiences across Brimbank. Feedback highlighted strong support for improved safety, faster response times, and more durable repairs. Accessibility was consistently framed as an equity issue, reinforcing the need for inclusive infrastructure standards.

Engagement Methods

The below table summarises and evaluates the methods used and audiences targeted for input into this project.

IAP2 Spectrum Engagement Category	Methods used	Target Audience(s)	Number of responses received
Consult	Consultation on the draft included: • Making the draft available on Council's 'Have Your Say' Web Page • Issuing a media release about consultation on the draft • Promotion on Council's social media	Residents of Brimbank People with disabilities and mobility challenges Older adults and seniors Parents and caregivers Cyclists and pedestrians Local businesses Community groups and advocacy organisations Property owners and tenants Insurance and risk management stakeholders Neighbouring councils and transport bodies	58

Engagement Outcomes

This section summarises the key feedback we received from the community and sets out Brimbank City Council's official response.

We listened to all ideas, concerns, and priorities across the key themes of this project. The community's input has been critically important and has directly influenced the final recommendations and actions as outlined below.

Here, we provide clear details on:

- What the community told us (the main themes and points of view).
- How community and stakeholder feedback changed our plan (the decisions we made based on input received).
- Why certain suggestions could not be adopted (the reasons and limitations involved).

We thank everyone who contributed to ensuring this project reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

Brimbank City Council received 58 submissions during the public consultation period for the Draft Road Management Plan 2025–2029. Feedback was grouped into seven key themes, with no comments triggering changes to the Draft Plan. Overall, the community expressed strong support for the proposed updates, particularly those aimed at improving footpath safety and accessibility.

Approximately 60% of respondents supported lowering the intervention level for low-activity footpaths from 50mm to 35mm, citing benefits for elderly residents, people with disabilities, and pram users. While 25% opposed the change due to cost concerns or questioned its necessity, others suggested even lower thresholds. For high- and medium-activity footpaths, 55% supported retaining the 25mm standard, though some advocated for stricter limits in high-traffic areas.

Half of respondents called for faster response times to road and footpath issues, even if it required increased budget allocation. General feedback also highlighted dissatisfaction with short-term "patch job" repairs and called for more durable, accountable maintenance practices. Accessibility was a recurring theme, with 70% framing it as an equity issue. Budget views were mixed, with 40% supporting increased investment for safety and 35% urging cost-efficiency.

Additional comments linked footpath management to broader urban concerns, including cycling infrastructure, parking, school safety, and rubbish removal—reinforcing the need for integrated planning.

Verbatim comments included:

"I absolutely support this change."

"Changing the intervention level to 35mm is a safer height, but also takes into account the unique ground composition—clay—that the majority of Brimbank is on."

"Improve safety. However, it should be 25mm, especially in older areas where elderly people live."

"I am a clumsy person, I trip over a lot—this will help me."

Council thanks all participants for their valuable contributions in shaping a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of the Brimbank community.

What we asked	What you said	What we will do
Low-activity footpath intervention level (50mm → 35mm)	~60% supported the change for safety and alignment with other councils; ~25% opposed due to cost or practicality; ~15% suggested alternatives like 25mm.	Proceed with lowering the intervention level to 35mm as proposed.
High/medium-activity footpath intervention level (retain 25mm)	~55% supported as a reasonable balance; ~20% preferred stricter limits; ~25% suggested context-specific adjustments.	Retain the 25mm standard, with future consideration for stricter thresholds in high-traffic areas.
Response times to issues	~50% wanted faster responses; ~20% opposed budget increases; ~30% preferred severity-based prioritisation.	Explore ways to improve response times while balancing safety needs and budget constraints.
Repair quality and oversight	~65% called for better oversight and durable repairs; ~15% defended current practices; ~20% noted inconsistency.	Strengthen contractor oversight and prioritise long-lasting repair solutions.
Accessibility and safety	~70% raised accessibility concerns; ~10% downplayed the issue; ~20% were mixed.	Prioritise accessibility and equity in all future planning and infrastructure decisions.
Budget and priorities	~40% supported increased spending; ~35% preferred cost-efficiency; ~25% were mixed.	Use feedback to guide future budget planning and balance safety with financial sustainability.
Other feedback (cycling, parking, rubbish, etc.)	~55% offered positive suggestions; ~15% opposed changes; ~30% were mixed.	Share broader feedback with relevant departments to support integrated urban improvements.

Next Steps

Audit

- An annual internal audit will be conducted within 12 months of the Plan's adoption to assess compliance with the Road Management Plan and associated service level agreements.
- Any major discrepancies identified will be referred to the relevant Council officer for resolution or improvement.
- Independent audits may also be undertaken by Council's internal auditors or external parties such as Council's insurers.

Plan Review

- The Road Management Plan will be reviewed in accordance with Section 54(5) of the Road Management Act 2004 and the Road Management (General) Regulations 2005.
- The review will ensure that inspection, maintenance, and repair standards and priorities remain appropriate for all road classes covered by the Plan.

Consultation

Future reviews of the Plan will include consultation:

- Internally with the Asset Management Steering Committee, Project Working Group, and Project Control Group.
- Externally by placing the Plan on public exhibition and inviting submissions, in line with regulatory requirements.

Appendices

1. Engagement Data and Resources

This section presents all the data received against the questions raised and conversations had through the adopted engagement methods.

Postcode	How do you identify?			
	Woman/Female	Man/Male	I prefer to self describe	I prefer not to say
3020	1			
3038	1			
3026		1		
3021		1		
3038		1		
3038		1		
3042	1			
3023	1			
3037	1			
3038		1		
3038		1		
3021		1		
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3021		1		
3021		1		
3019	1			
3020	1			
3037	1			
3020				1
3037		1		
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3036	1			
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3037	1			
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3037				
3020	1			

3022	1			
3020	1			
3923		1		
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3036		1		
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3020	1			
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3020	1			
3020	1			
3038	1			
3021	1			
3020		1		
3021	1			
3020	1			
3038		1		
3037	1			
3020	1			
	1			
3042	1			
		1		
3022		1		

Select any of these that apply to you				
Person with disability	Carer of a person with disability	Travel by car	Travel on wheels (bike, wheelchair, scooter, pram, skateboard etc)	Travel on foot
1		1		1
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2. Audiences Examples

The General Municipal Community (The Public)	• Residents/Citizens: People who live within the municipal district. • Ratepayers: Individuals and bodies who pay local government rates (may include residents and non-resident property owners). • Business Owners/Traders: Individuals and companies operating within the municipality, including local chambers of commerce. • Visitors/Commuters: People who travel through, work, or visit the area, but may not reside there. • Students/Educational Institutions: Schools, TAFEs, and universities located within the council area.
Priority & Hard-to-Reach Communities	• Traditional Owners / Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Key stakeholders due to land and cultural responsibilities. • Seniors / Older People: Users of aged care, community transport, and recreational facilities. • Youth / Children and Young People: Users of parks, sports facilities, and youth services. • People with Lived Experience of Disability: Requiring consultation on accessibility and inclusion. • Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities: Requiring multilingual or targeted engagement. • New Residents/Migrant Communities: Requiring information on local services and community integration. • People Experiencing Homelessness or Lower Income: Requiring consultation on welfare and community support services.
Organised Stakeholder Groups	• Community Groups & Associations: Resident associations, neighbourhood watch, town planning/heritage groups. • Sports & Recreation Clubs: Users and managers of local sporting grounds and facilities. • Environmental & Conservation Groups: Focused on parks, bushland, water, and climate initiatives. • Social & Welfare Service Providers: Groups like Meals on Wheels, community centres, and charities. • Arts & Cultural Organisations: Libraries, galleries, museums, and community arts groups.
Government & Regulatory Bodies	• State/Territory Government Departments: E.g., Planning, Transport, Health, Education, Environment. • Federal/Commonwealth Government Departments: Relevant to funding grants, social services, and national infrastructure. • Other Local Governments: Neighbouring councils for joint planning and service delivery. • Peak Local Government Bodies: Organisations like the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and state-based Local Government Associations (e.g., LGVic). • Regulators: E.g., Essential Services Commissions, Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs), and Water Authorities.
Internal Stakeholders	• Elected Members (Councillors): The governing body responsible for decision-making. • Council Staff / Employees: The workforce responsible for service delivery and implementation.

3. Glossary

The Act	The Local Government Act 2020
Annual Report	A report of Council's operations of the previous financial year. Contains a report of operations, audited financial statements and an audited performance statement
Appropriateness	Indicators or measures that provide users with sufficient information to assess the extent to which an entity has achieved a pre-determined target, goal or outcome
Budget	A plan setting out the services and initiatives to be funded for the financial year and how they will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in Council Plan
Council Plan	A plan setting out the medium-term strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and resources reflecting vision and aspirations of the community for the next four years
Financial performance indicators	A prescribed set of indicators and measures that assess the effectiveness of financial management in a council covering operating position, liquidity, obligations, stability and efficiency
Financial plan	A plan of the financial and non-financial resources for at least the next 10 years required to achieve the strategic objectives in Council Plan. It is also referred to as a long-term financial plan
Financial Statements	The financial statements and notes prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report, Australian Accounting Standards and other applicable standards as they apply to the general-purpose financial reports and a statement of capital works and included in the Annual Report
Financial year	The period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year
Governance and Management Checklist	A prescribed checklist of policies, plans and documents that councils must report the status of in the report of operations, covering engagement, planning, monitoring, reporting and decision making
Indicator	What will be measured to assess performance
Initiatives	Actions that are one-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in a service
Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework	The key statutory planning and reporting documents that are required to be prepared by councils to ensure accountability to local communities in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the Act
Major initiative	Significant initiatives that will directly contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan during the current year and have a major focus in the Budget
Measure	How an indicator will be measured and takes the form of a computation, typically including a numerator and denominator

Performance Statement	A statement including the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the Annual Report
Regulations	The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020
Relevance	Indicators or measures that have a logical and consistent relationship to an entity's objectives and are linked to the outcomes to be achieved
Report of Operations	A report containing a description of Council's operations during the financial year and included in the Annual Report
Service outcome indicators	The prescribed service performance indicators to be included in the Performance Statement which measure whether the stated service objective has been achieved
Service performance indicators	A prescribed set of indicators measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of Council services covering appropriateness, quality, cost and service outcomes
Services	Assistance, support, advice and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community
Strategic objectives	The outcomes a council is seeking to achieve over the next four years and included in Council Plan
Strategies	High-level actions directed at achieving the strategic objectives in Council Plan
Sustainable capacity indicators	A prescribed set of indicators measuring whether councils have the capacity to meet the agreed service and infrastructure needs of the local community and absorb foreseeable changes and unexpected shocks into the future. Covers financial performance, capacity, and governance and management

Brimbank City Council

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Hearing or speech impaired?

- TTY dial 133 677
- Speak & Listen 1300 555 727
- www.relayservice.gov.au, then enter 03 9249 4000



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