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PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Wyndham City is one of nine local government areas across the state to receive the 'Empowering Communities' grant (\$700,000). The grants are part of the Building Safer Communities Program administered by the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS). The grants support local communities to design and lead innovative initiatives to address the causes of crime and improve perceptions of safety.

Communities were identified based on a funding application process that considered factors like community readiness for action and the opportunity to build on, and complement, local community efforts. Other factors included the analysis of crime and social data to ensure that the investment was targeted to areas that would make the most of the opportunity to strengthen community. The other eight local government areas are Melton, Brimbank, Hume, Ballarat, Casey, Dandenong, Knox and Shepparton.

Empowering Communities has an emphasis on collaboration, partnerships and leveraging contributions across government and community agencies to address local crime and safety issues. The grant objectives include:

- Building the capability of the community to understand crime related issues and design and implement effective crime prevention approaches
- Strengthening relationships between community stakeholders to work in partnership to deliver crime prevention activity, and leverage community capacity to deliver sustainable outcomes beyond the funding period
- Engaging and mobilising the community to address issues of local concern
- Building the evidence base for successful community development initiatives that address crime and safety issues.

Infrastructure investments (for example, more police stations, lighting and CCTV) are outside the scope of this initiative.

A time-bound Local Action Group (LAG) has been established, bringing together local community expertise with the shared interest of improving safety and addressing crime in their area. The LAG will operate for the length of the grant which is due for completion on June 30th, 2024.

Five 'Building Safer Communities' forums were held to consider local crime and community safety issues and to inform future activity. The forums were held in different locations across the municipality from Thursday the 14th of July till Saturday the 23rd of July 2022.

This report provides a summary of the outcomes from these forums as well as an online survey that provided an alternative opportunity for the community to have input into this project.



METHODOLOGY:

The table below outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	1,574 Total visitors to the page 3,230 Page views 55 Followers
Online survey	25 Surveys completed
Community Safety Forums (Community Safety Conversations)	5 Community safety forums 285 Registrations 151 Attendees

Community Safety Forums					
Location	Registrations	Attendees	# 16-17 Yrs.	#18+ Yrs.	# Children
Wyndham Vale	40	23	2	21	0
Tarneit	78	48	2	45	20
Hoppers Crossing	50	19	0	19	2
Point Cook	60	35	2	32	2
Truganina	57	26	0	26	2
Total	285	151*	6	143	26

Venues:

Wyndham Vale: WUNGURRWIL DHURRUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tarneit: PENROSE PROMENADE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Hoppers Crossing: YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE HOPPERS CROSSING

Point Cook: POINT COOK COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE

Truganina: ARNDELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

*The resurgence of the COVID-19 virus and high flu rates contributed significantly to the discrepancy between the number of registrations and the number of attendees.

Engagement Methodology & Questions to the Community

The Local Action Group were involved in the design of the Community Safety Conversations. The group felt that the best approach for these forums would be to engage the community in conversations around Wyndham-specific risk and protective factors relating to crime and safety, and then let personal experiences flow from those conversations.

The group also suggested providing different ways for the community to contribute their thoughts, ideas and experiences. Based on that feedback, participants were invited to share 'personal stories' and perspectives that might be uncomfortable (or inappropriate) to talk about in a group forum through an anonymous drop-box. Fourteen submissions were received. Given the anonymous nature of this aspect of the forum, these stories and perspectives have not been included in this report but will be shared with the Local Action Group at their next meeting.

Another suggestion from the Local Action Group involved providing a means of visual expression for participants as an alternative to talking about, or writing down, experiences and perspectives on crime and safety. This opportunity was provided through a mural that invited community members to visually capture their 'vision for a safer Wyndham'.



The forums were structured around small-group conversations (listening stations) facilitated by members of the Local Action Group and council officers. Seven questions were asked:

1. What makes you feel safe?
2. What makes you feel unsafe?
3. Why don't some people within our community commit crimes?
4. Why do some people within our community commit crimes?
5. What are the impacts of crime and feeling unsafe?
6. What ideas do you have to improve perceptions of safety?
7. What ideas do you have to reduce crime?

During the dinner (or lunch) break, participants were invited to identify areas where they felt unsafe on a large map of the municipality. The results of these conversations have been included in Appendix 1.

The Local Action Group also provided advise on setting very clear ground rules at the start of the forum to avoid any participants being culturally insensitive or racially profiling specific groups within the Wyndham community.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

What makes our community feel safe?

There were three very strong themes in the community's response to this question:

1. Local community (neighbourhood) connections:

Participants consistently stressed the importance of having strong personal connections within local neighbourhoods. Knowing and trusting your neighbours and having a strong sense of belonging within your local area were seen as key factors in making people feel safe. This was more pronounced in new estates and for those moving to the area for the first time, or those having recently immigrated to Australia (settling and overcoming loneliness). Interestingly, this issue seems to be less pronounced in established areas like Hoppers Crossing.

Being a member of local community groups (the community working together - for example, Neighbourhood Watch), and attending programs at local community centres were seen as important ways of establishing that local connection. The ongoing connection to community groups through social media (specifically, Facebook and WhatsApp) was also frequently mentioned as a contributing factor to making people feel safe.

2. Police and PSO presence, responsiveness, and relationship with the community:

The other very strong theme related to policing.

Participants stressed the importance of police and PSO (Protective Services Officers) visibility in making them feel safer (particularly at night and on public transport), as well as knowing that the police are accessible (easily contactable) and responsive when called upon to address a personal safety issue.

The underlying relationship (trust) between police and the community was also frequently mentioned as factor contributing to perceptions of safety.

3. Safety infrastructure:

Participating community members reinforced the importance of good lighting, CCTV, and personal security systems to improve perceptions of safety. Lighting was frequently mentioned when participants were asked to pinpoint specific places on the municipal map where they felt unsafe (see Appendix 1).

Additional themes included:

4. Amenity, maintenance of public and private property, civic pride:

Community members frequently noted the importance of amenity in making them feel safe. Participants feel less safe in areas and places that are poorly maintained. This relates to both public and private property. Issues raised included the dumping of rubbish and graffiti, as well as the maintenance of public parks and green spaces. Some attendees highlighted a link between civic pride and well-maintained private property, others noted the high quality of new local civic infrastructure (community centres, libraries, sporting facilities etc) as a factor in making them feel safe. Public art was also mentioned as an opportunity to improve amenity within

the municipality. Specific locations where there is a link between amenity and perceptions of safety are detailed on the municipal map included in Appendix 1.

5. Activated and familiar public spaces:

Participants said they feel safer in public places that are busy and familiar. Many suggested they feel safe at community events, public gatherings, and group activities where members of the community are connecting socially. Religious institutions were mentioned frequently within this topic area.

Feeling safe in busy locations did not include certain shopping centres where, although busy, many community members feel unsafe.

6. Community policing:

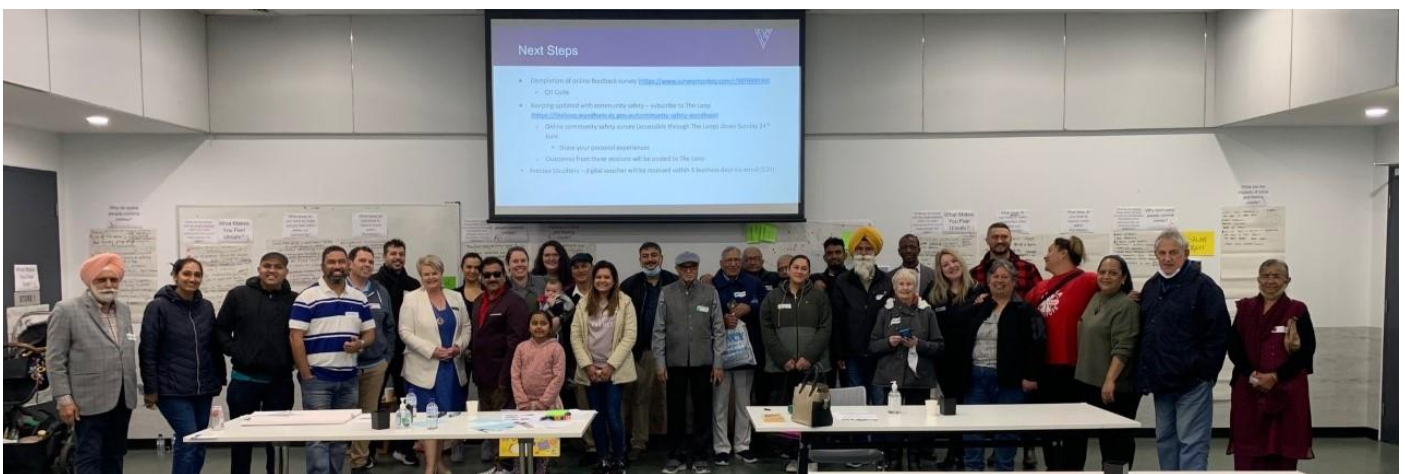
Many community members talked about the importance of organised community policing as something that contributed to increased perceptions of safety. The visibility and presence of local community leaders and volunteers patrolling safety hot spots was seen as a significant factor that improves perceptions of safety. At one forum, the example of Community Patrols of New Zealand (CPNZ) was mentioned (<https://cpnz.org.nz/who-we-are/>).

7. Safety-sensitive urban design:

Several community members raised the issue of poor connectivity and walkability with local areas as a contributing factor to feeling unsafe. More specifically, the community mentioned dead-end walking and biking paths, trails, and difficulty in crossing creeks all contributing to a sense that some local areas don't feel 'joined-up'.

8. Health and wellbeing service and support:

Another factor contributing to higher perceptions of safety within the community is the availability of, and access to, health and wellbeing services and information within the local community. Community members mentioned that being able to navigate the service system and understand what support is available was something that made them feel safe. Having information in languages other than English was raised as an important issue. Having hospitals and medical services in close proximity was also mentioned several times as something that makes local community members feel safe.



What makes our community feel unsafe?

There were three very strong themes in the community's response to this question:

1. Antisocial, intimidating, and criminal behaviour of young people in groups

Perhaps the strongest theme raised by participating community members was the behaviour of young people in groups. Many community members said they feel unsafe in specific shopping centres, fast food restaurants, on public transport (including trains stations and bus stops) and in certain parks (particularly at night). Some community members said that there are places they avoid because of this behaviour. Specific behaviours mentioned include abusive and offensive language, taunting, intimidation, aggression, and fighting. Criminal behaviours highlighted were breaking and entering (home invasion, car theft), vandalism, weapons offences, drunk and disorderly conduct, and graffiti.

2. Crime rates and the perception that crime is high

Many participating community members feel unsafe because they perceive that crime rates are high within the area. Some attendees noted the coverage of crime in the media as a contributing factor and others discussed the ongoing reporting of crime and safety issues within local social media groups as impacting on their perception of safety.

Interestingly, while most members of the community felt that an increased police presence and visibility is important, there were others who suggested that this can be intimidating (making some feel less safe) and frequently hearing sirens was factor in making people feel unsafe.

3. Walking at night

Many community members feel unsafe walking at night-time. Poor lighting in specific areas was mentioned frequently, including car parks and public reserves. Appendix 1 pinpoints some specific locations.

Additional themes included:

4. Racism and intercultural trust

Some community members talked about racism (including the presence of offensive online chat groups), and a lack of intercultural awareness, understanding and trust as factors that make them feel unsafe. This discussion extended to perceptions of feeling 'different' and a sense of not belonging. Some participants said they feel uncomfortable wearing cultural dress in public. Feedback suggests that a lack of cultural sensitivity doesn't relate to any specific cultural group but relates more broadly to all cultural groups represented in the area.

5. Waiting at public transport stops

Community members highlighted infrequent and poor connectivity of the public transport system as an issue contributing to feeling unsafe. Many attendees at the forums feel unsafe when waiting for connecting services at bus stops and train stations. Some community members highlighted a lack of infrastructure at bus stops as a contributing factor.

6. Communication challenges

Being unable to communicate effectively in English was mentioned frequently as a factor that makes people feel unsafe. More specifically, being unable to personally access services and be understood by service

providers (for example, contacting the police to report a crime or antisocial behaviour) and relying on others to translate.

7. Hooning and speeding

Many community members expressed frustration with hooning, speeding, bad driving and road rage. This was more pronounced in Truganina than in other forum locations.

The presence of dangerous trail bike usage in Presidents Park was also mentioned.



Why don't some people within our community commit crimes?

There were five very strong themes in community responses to this question:

1. Youth engagement

There was a very strong theme centred around youth engagement. Participants felt that young people who are actively engaged in recreational activities outside school were less likely to be involved in criminal or antisocial behaviour. Sporting activities were mentioned most frequently, other engagement pursuits (hobbies and interests, artistic activities, scouts) were also noted.

Camps were mentioned several times as an opportunity to engage young people and the Licola Wilderness Camp (run by Lions Clubs) was cited as an example.

Youth events were also frequently mentioned. As with other recreational activities, the community stressed the importance of making engagement options financially accessible, or free of charge in the case of events.

The skills and attributes developed through engagement activities (happiness, self-confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, empathy, compassion and resilience) were highlighted by community members as significant factors protecting individuals from engaging in antisocial and criminal behaviour.

2. Strong households and positive parenting

The community talked about the important role that family life has on young people. The need for strong, supportive, loving and involved families establishing clear boundaries and instilling community values and behaviours was a consistently strong theme at all forums. Many community members also felt that responsibility for the teaching of rights and values extended to schools.

Parents role modelling positive community behaviours and teaching ethical principles of right and wrong (morals) at an early age was also frequently mentioned, as was parental surveillance (monitoring and supervision) of young people (including online activity).

3. Purpose and direction

Participants highlighted the importance of having a clear purpose and direction in life. Much of this discussion centred around employment and career planning.

Establishing career pathways (including local apprenticeships and traineeships) and working towards financial independence were frequently mentioned as protective factors that would reduce the likelihood that someone might engage in criminal behaviour.

Some community members also talked about the importance of education and early career planning in schools. This extended to support and care for students struggling to attain required standards at school.

Perhaps linked to a sense of purpose and direction, some community members talked about the importance of faith, and connection to belief systems and spirituality.

4. Early intervention and tailored support

Attendees talked about the importance of picking up on the early signs that someone might be at risk of engaging in antisocial or criminal behaviour and providing the right tailored support for that individual.

More specifically, the community mentioned addiction support and mental health counselling. The importance of community support from youth workers, youth groups and youth centres was also raised, as was the need for adequate government (social) support (financial).

Conversations around tailored support extended to those within and leaving the justice system to prevent recidivism.

5. Role models and mentoring – intergenerational connection

The need for strong adult role models and mentors (beyond the immediate family) was a consistent theme from all the community safety forums. Community members reinforced the need to build strong intergenerational connections and use those connections to strengthen the community.

Other themes included:

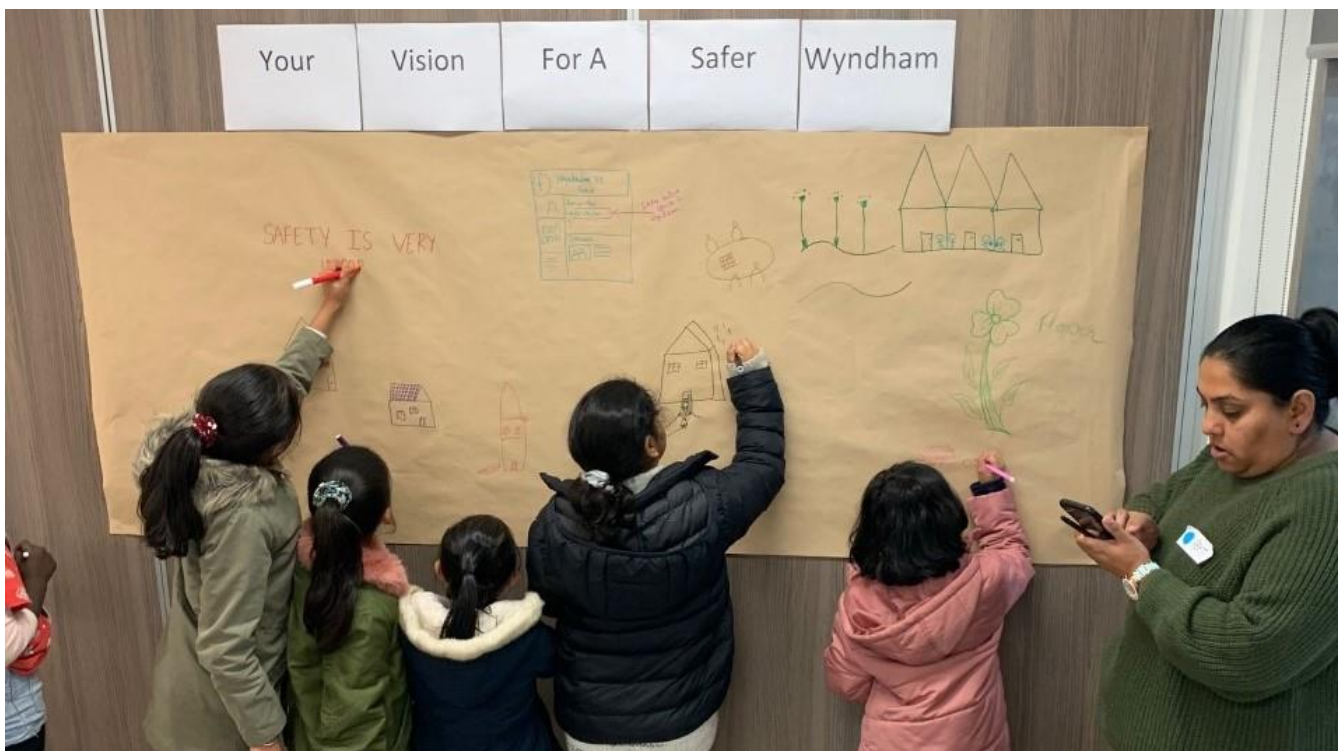
6. Belonging

Participants talked about the importance of a sense of belonging and connection within the local community (including cultural connection and pride) as a factor likely to prevent someone from engaging in criminal behaviour. Some mentioned 'active citizenship' as an opportunity to improve engagement.

7. Fear of consequences - having something to lose

Some community members felt that one reason why some people don't commit crimes is because they are fearful of the consequences of doing so. Some participants expressed frustration that existing consequences for criminal behaviour do not act as a sufficient deterrent.

Along a similar vein, other community members felt that 'having something to lose' (a job, a loving family, close friends, a bright future) acted as a deterrent to committing crimes.



Why do some people within our community commit crimes?

There were four strong themes in community responses to this question:

1. Boredom

Many community members attending the safety forums felt that boredom contributed significantly to crime in the area. Attendees felt that there were not enough things for young people to do, and not enough places for young people to go.

2. Dysfunctional family life and challenging personal circumstances

Many attendees talked about 'broken homes', unstable family life, exposure to domestic violence and child neglect as factors that might result in an individual committing a crime or engaging in antisocial behaviour.

Some participants talked about trauma, mental health issues and drug and alcohol use contributing to instability within households as well as being risk factors for delinquent or criminal behaviour.

3. Socio-economic disadvantage and homelessness

Another reason that was frequently mentioned by community members was poverty or socio-economic disadvantage. Participants talked about homelessness and the risk of homelessness as potentially increasing the likelihood that someone might engage in criminal behaviour. It was acknowledged that a lack of affordable housing opportunities is another contributing factor.

4. Peer pressure and mob mentality

Another strong theme from the community was peer pressure and young people seeking a 'sense of belonging' beyond the family home (getting involved with the 'wrong' crowd). This also extended to online connections through social media. Some community members talk about 'mob mentality' where people can be influenced by their peers to adopt certain 'out-of-character' behaviours on a largely emotional, rather than rational, basis.

Other themes included:

5. Victimisation

The community talked about individuals being the victim of racism or bullying (including cyber bullying) as factors that might lead to mental health issues and increase the likelihood that someone might engage in criminal behaviour.

6. Exposure to violence

In addition to family violence, participants also noted the potential negative impacts of violent video games and music with violent and aggressive themes.

7. Rebellion

Some members of the community acknowledged the natural instinct that many young people have to 'rebel' in order to develop an identity independent from their parents or family and a capacity for personal decision-making. Some participants felt that this might be more likely in young people who struggled to meet the high expectations of parents, family, and community.



What are the impacts of crime and feeling unsafe within our community?

When the community was asked about the impacts of crime and feeling unsafe, their responses fell into three categories – personal impacts, community impacts and economic impacts.

Personal Impacts:

Community members acknowledged that crime and antisocial behaviour makes people fearful for their personal safety and for the safety of their family. Participants felt that being fearful has a negative impact on quality of life in many different ways.

Participants talked about the relationship between fear and isolation. Because people are fearful, they don't go out as much which decreases social connection and increases loneliness. Individuals don't participate as actively in community life and this can impact on someone's self-confidence. The community felt that fear and isolation have a negative impact on physical and mental wellbeing. It was frequently mentioned that people become more prone to anxiety, depression, stress and anger which in turn can lead to alcohol and drug dependency as well as increasing the potential for family violence.

Community members also talked about the impact that crime has on personal freedoms and human rights. Some participants spoke about parents monitoring the movement of their children more closely because of fear for their personal safety. Some participants discussed the negative impact this could have on healthy child development.

One community member talked about items not being available for sale in supermarkets (for example, knives), and how this escalates the perception that Wyndham is not a safe place.

Community Impacts:

Community members feel that crime and safety issues are causing significant conflict within the Wyndham community and reducing community cohesion and harmony. Attendees mentioned systemic racism, cultural profiling and stereotyping, racial biases, and insensitivity to cultural differences.

Other community members talked about residents wanting to move away from Wyndham because of safety concerns with the resulting 'churn' causing a lack of stability and connection within local neighbourhoods.

The other community impact mentioned related to declining civic pride ('people stop caring'). Participants felt that this impacted amenity in the area and generally contributed to lower standards within the municipality.

Economic Impacts:

The community raised a significant number of economic impacts resulting from high crime rates:

1. The cost of property damage, theft, and vandalism (public and private)
2. Rising council rates by virtue of the damage to public property
3. Relative devaluation of property prices due to poor reputation of the area
4. Increasing insurance costs
5. Increasing cost of personal security (systems and infrastructure)
6. Underutilisation of community assets and public resources
7. Reduced investment in the area
8. Decrease in local business productivity – particularly retail (more online shopping)



Specific ideas from the community

Community members at each forum were asked to think of specific ideas that would improve perceptions of safety or reduce crime within Wyndham City. Their suggestions are included below:

- **Improving local connection**
 - More local events / neighbourhood events
 - Events to improve intercultural trust – food events – sharing food culture, dance
 - Establish a diversity working group
 - Mothers' groups
 - Interfaith dialogue
 - Bringing community leaders together (a community leaders retreat)
 - Pot-luck dinners to meet your neighbours
 - Street parties
 - Human library (understanding others)
 - Night-time events and activities
 - Welcome pack for new residents – using Real Estate agents
 - Language classes
 - An anti-racism education campaign
 - Local leadership in every neighbourhood
 - More local community groups
 - More social media groups
 - Community conversation tree
 - Strengthen Neighbourhood Watch (improve interconnection with other community groups)
 - Iconic event or festival
- **Amenity and implementing safety-sensitive urban design approaches**
 - Placemaking - community gardens
 - Quick response to vandalism
 - Provide creative outlets for graffiti
 - Change planning rules around restrictive fencing
 - Stricter guidelines around maintenance
 - Clean-up days (community)
 - Green corridors – connecting green spaces with walking and cycling tacks (good lighting)
- **Strengthen communication and improve transparency**
 - Consistent crime and safety data analysis and communication within the community
 - Find the root cause of criminal behaviour
 - Continue to understand the drivers of crime
 - Use data to decide on location of CCTV
 - Community noticeboards – information about numbers to call when feeling unsafe
 - More positive messaging on Wyndham TV
 - Increase awareness of services
 - Safety campaign (for example, 'Close Windows', 'Know Your Neighbour')
 - Signage – Wyndham is Safe and Sound
 - Security doors and screen doors awareness
 - 'Be Safe in Your Street' campaign to address hoon driving and erratic driving
 - Develop a local app (or game) around safety (neighbourhood-based)

- More effective communication of all the things currently happening within the community to reduce crime and improve safety
- **Youth engagement activities**
 - More services engaging with schools
 - Intergenerational engagement
 - An event bringing together young people and adults to solve problems associated with community safety
 - Rights, values, and morals
 - Focus on key transitions (youth to adulthood)
 - More youth counselling
 - Youth camps – activities away from home – free transport
 - Cheaper access to youth sports
 - Subsidies for families
 - Educational programs about the impacts of crime
 - More street surfs
- **Increase local employment**
 - More vocational training
 - Internships
 - Job pathways
 - Engagement of local businesses to provide employment opportunities
- **More support for people coming out of prison or who have been involved in criminal behaviour**
 - Programs to prevent reoffending
 - Youth rehabilitation programs
- **Support for substance abuse**
 - Addressing addiction and access to drugs
 - Rehab centres
 - Reduce trading hours for liquor outlets
- **Policing, surveillance, and lighting**
 - Focus on petty crime like shoplifting
 - Harsher penalties
 - More CCTV cameras – campaign for homeowners to install CCTV
 - Bigger police presence
 - Night patrolling
 - Strengthen the relationship between parents and police (tours of police facilities)
 - More community development officers
 - Police teaching the community how to deal with antisocial behaviours
 - Increase street lighting
 - More community policing
 - Reduce speed limits – install speed humps
 - Unmarked police cars
- **Family strengthening**
 - Parental support groups
 - Parenting programs
 - Strengthen relationships between educators and parents
- **Bring back safety houses**
 - Knowing where to go when you don't feel safe

- Bring back Healthy Harold
- More public low-cost housing and support homeless people
 - Low interest loans

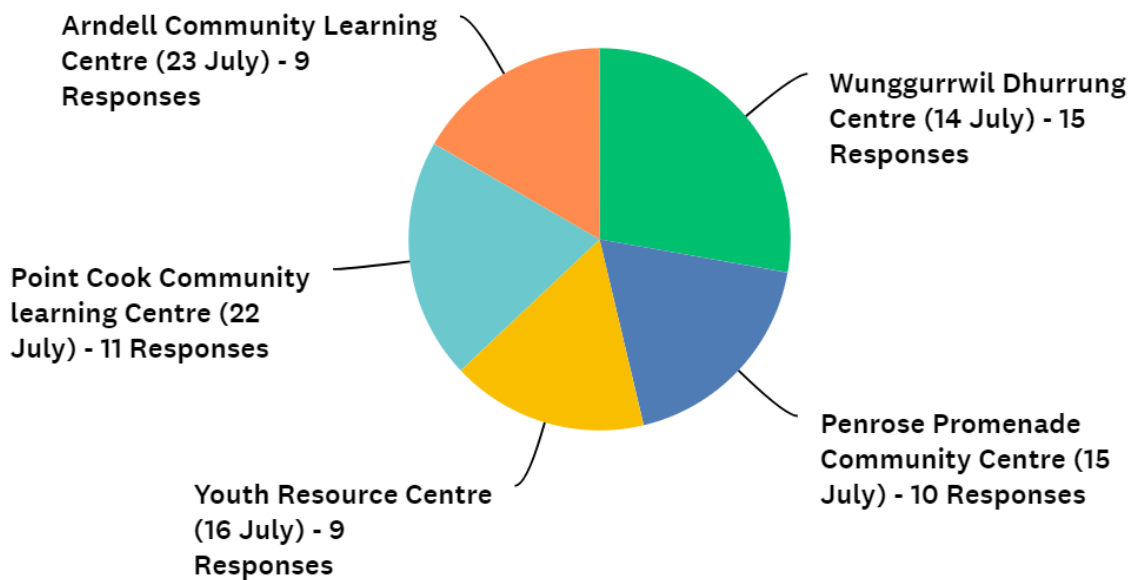


ENGAGEMENT APPROACH – COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

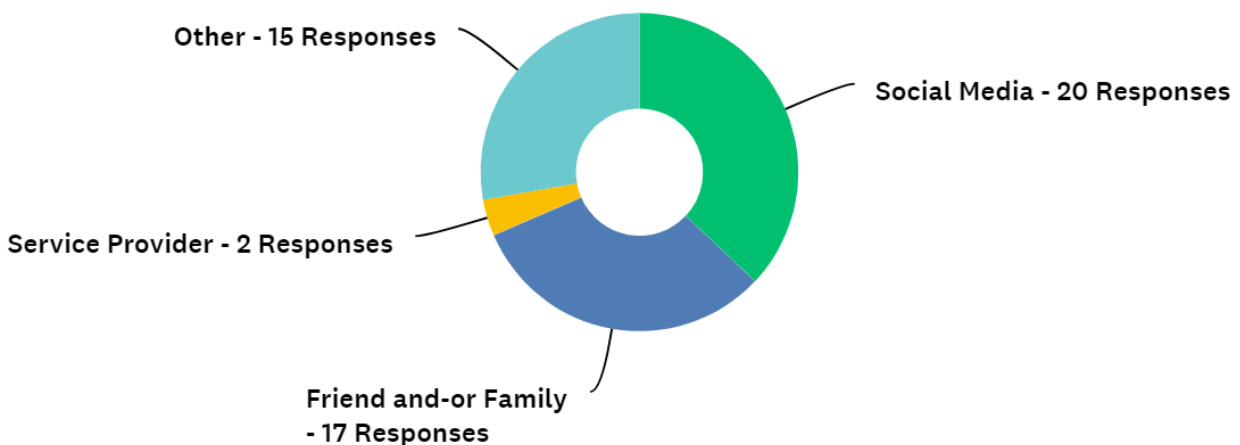
At the end of each forum, participants were invited to offer their feedback via a brief online survey. QR codes to access to the survey were provided at each table (as well as a weblink) and council officers were on hand to assist community members with any technical issues.

A total of 54 community members completed the online survey and their feedback is detailed below:

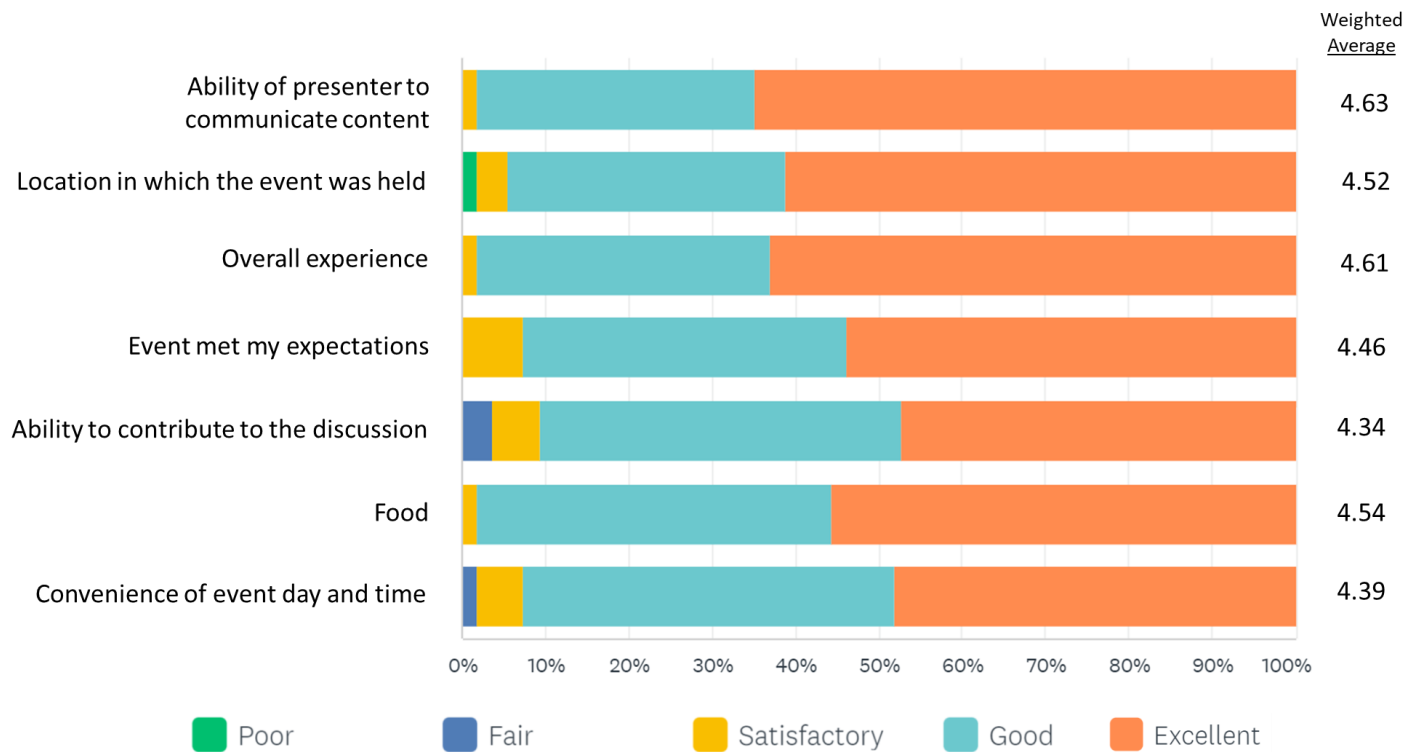
Q1: Which session did you attend?



Q2: How did you find out about us?



Q3: Please rate the following:



Q4: Did you meet someone new or for the first time at the session?

52 out of the 54 respondents said they had met someone new at the session. Some direct unattributed quotes are included below:

“Yes - was really good to meet some new people.”

“Ya - I met new people and shared ideas about session. Really enjoyed.”

“Yes. Many new people”

“Yes! So many people of all ages and I had an amazing time.”

“Yes, many good people with great ideas.”

“Yep - was so happy to attend this.”

“Met people from neighbouring estates.”

Q5: What were the highlights of the session for you?

The strongest theme from this question was the sense that participants were able contribute their ideas, listen to other members of the community, and feel part of the solution:

“Great community response with everyone having great ideas and a commitment to improving Wyndham.”

“Hearing other community members experiences.”

“Meeting new people. Getting other people’s perspective. Sense of being part of a bigger Wyndham community.”

“I was surprised by the big turnout. It was also good to hear the stories, ideas, and experiences from people of different ages and cultural backgrounds in relation to safety.”

“The amount of engagement in conversation.”

“Safety measures are not just crime prevention.”

“I can contribute something to community to grow safely.”

“Interacting and having my say.”

“Good thoughts from others.”

“How to make community safer especially for children and youth.”

“Excellent. Total Wyndham community is very supportive. I like program very much.”

“Very good session to gather community issues.”

“Everyone was given an opportunity to contribute and provide suggestions... it felt inclusive and respectful of everyone.”

“Having the discussions in smaller groups made it easy to participate.”

“An insight into how Wyndham is listening to shape policy.”

“The platform to discuss and unpack our ideas on how to make living in Wyndham safer.”

“Great experience and knowledge.”

Q5: Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve?

Respondents commented on the importance of closing the loop on engagement initiatives like this one with many saying that they would like to keep updated on how their input might translate into changes within the community. Some useful specific suggestions have been included below:

“I don’t think there is anything that needs improvement, we just need to try to implement the solutions as soon as possible.”

“You can improve by organising such programs in other languages.”

“Some facilitators weren't great at capturing the essence of what was being said. Missed some nuances.”

“On the session I attended, there were 4 ‘listening’ groups. It became quite noisy and hard to hear soft spoken people. Perhaps, if each group were hosted in a separate area (room), it would be less noisy and easier to understand and listen to everyone. Also, some people were talking a lot and sometimes on top of other people, perhaps, if each person had ‘a’ turn to talk with a time limit, that would allow everyone to express their opinions and ideas more clearly.”

“Maybe have a youth version of the event where questions are asked to the youth about their opinions.”

“Have more of this type of program - every 3 months.”

“Smaller discussion group, collating of ideas and presentation after.”

“Continue to empower people.”

“No single use plastic. No plastic bottled water - use jug and glasses. Order less food to reduce waste. Wash the dishes together at the end. Council has a single use policy since 2019 or thereabouts. Our biggest safety concerns are climate change, and we all need to make positive change.”

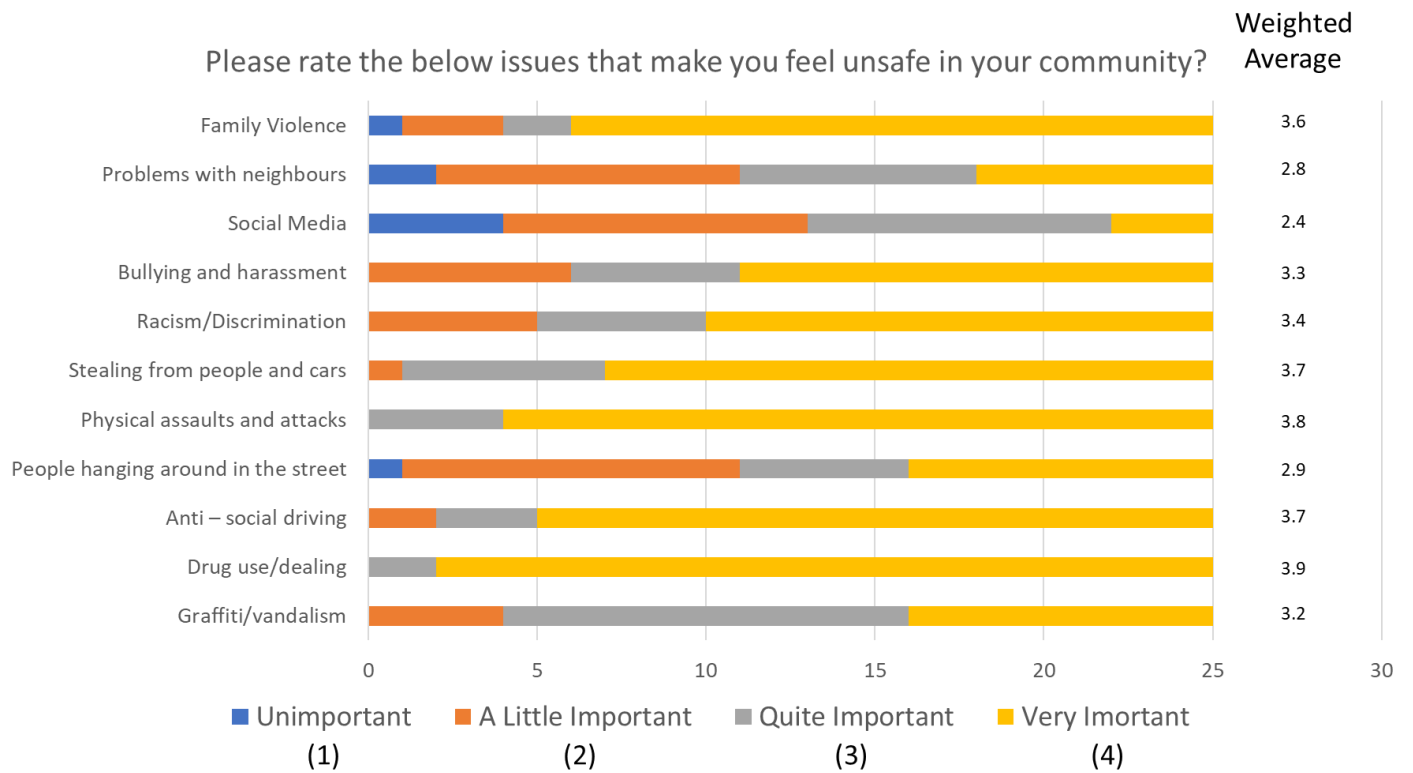
“I would like to have a Session where we can see the results of the suggestions that were made.”

“A bit more clarity on what initiatives can be funded would be helpful.”

ONLINE SURVEY OUTCOMES:

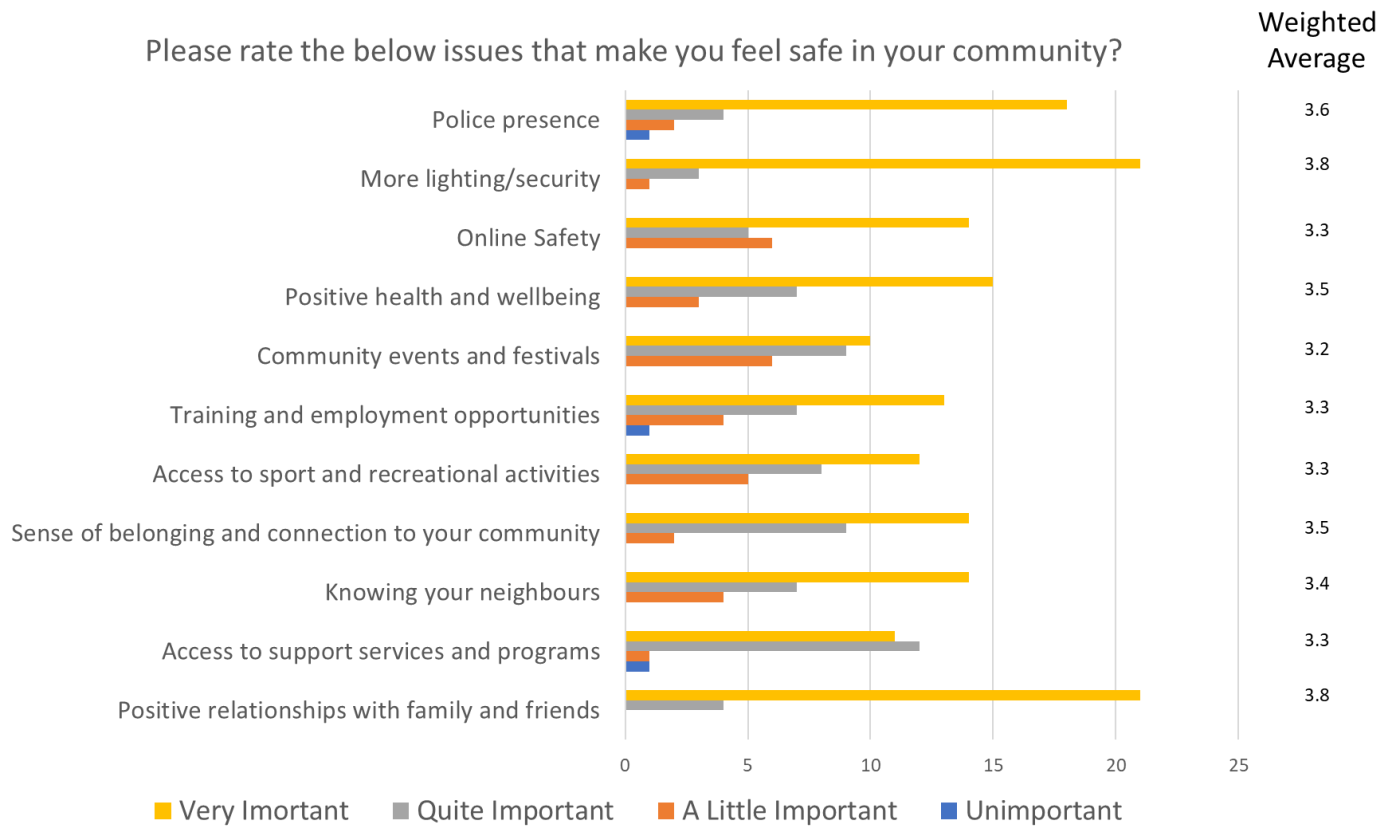
Running in parallel to the forums, the online community survey received 25 responses.

Respondents were asked to qualify the relative importance of 11 safety factors that contribute to community members not feeling safe:



Respondents felt that drug use and drug dealing (3.9) was the thing that made them feel the most unsafe, followed by physical assaults and attacks (3.8). Interestingly, drug dealing didn't feature strongly in the Community Safety Forums.

Respondents were also asked to qualify the relative importance of 11 safety factors that contribute to community members feeling safe:



Respondents felt that positive relationships with family and friends (3.8) and more lighting/security (3.8) were the things that made them feel most safe, closely followed by police presence (3.6).

NEXT STEPS:

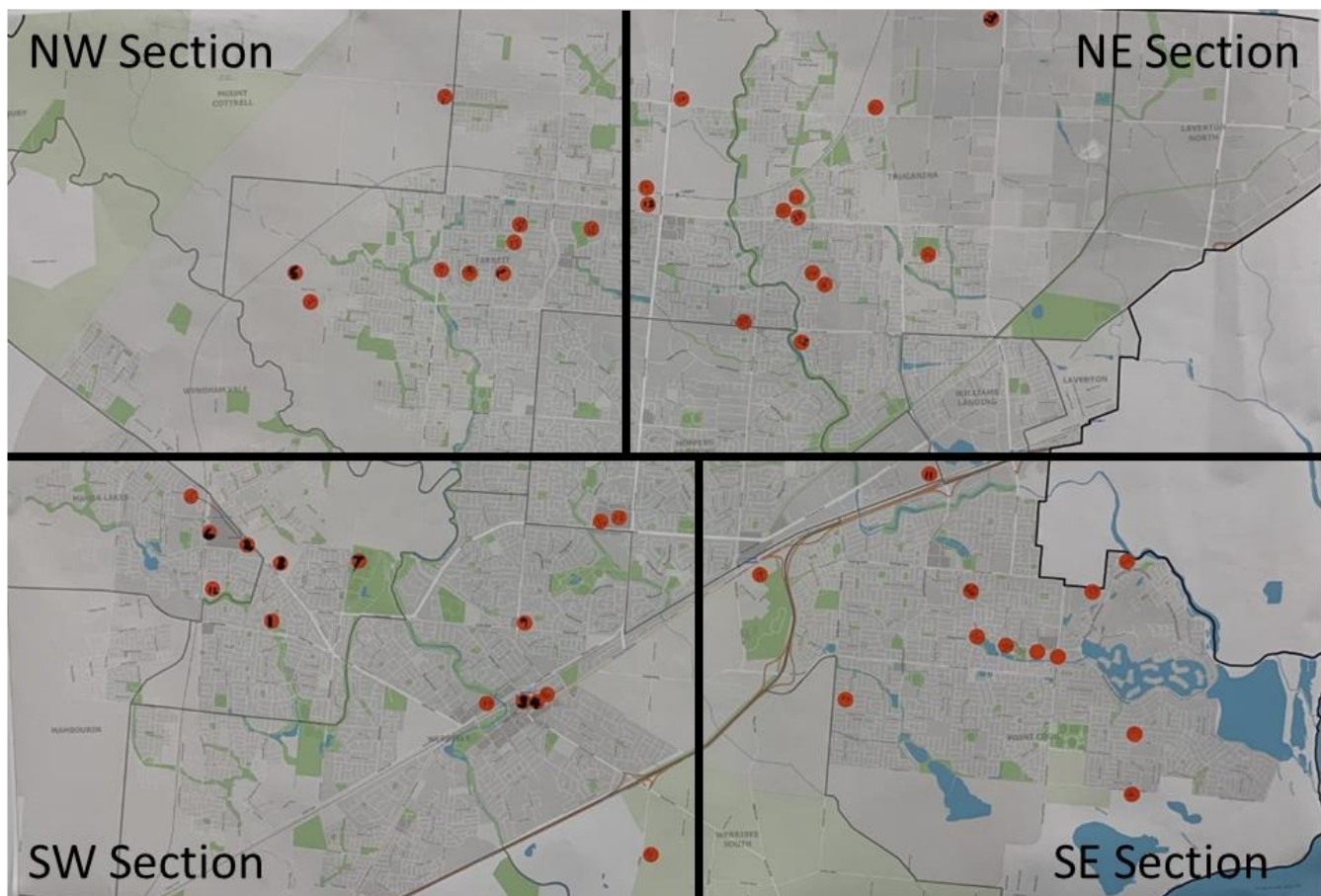
The information contained in this report will be presented to the Local Action Group on Wednesday the 10th of August. The group will then decide where any further community engagement is required.

On the 3rd of September the Local Action Group will convene for a planning session to develop an approach to fund and support local community initiatives aimed at addressing the issues raised by the community and highlighted in this report.

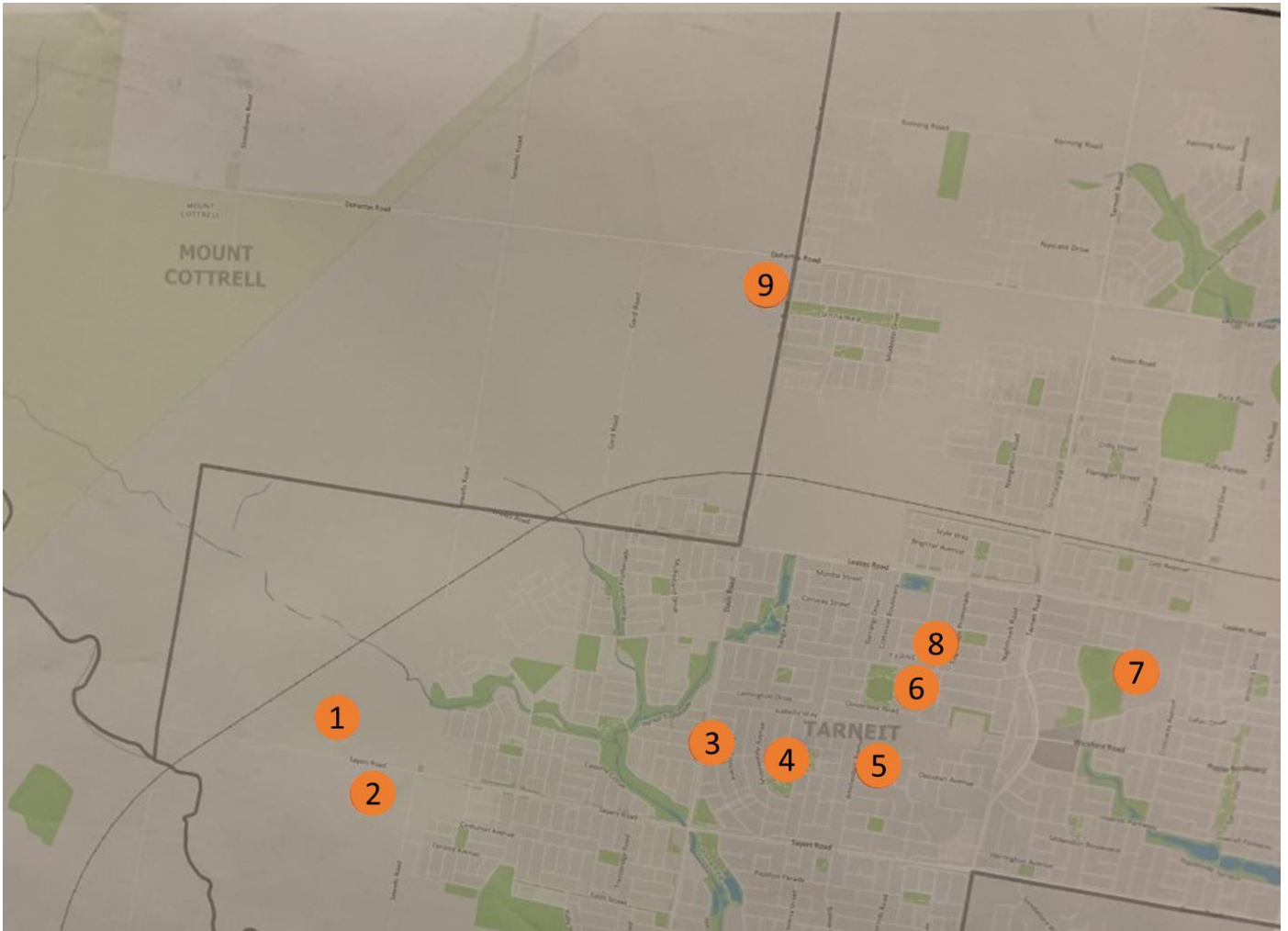
APPENDIX 1: PLACE-BASED SAFETY CONCERNS

During the dinner/lunch break, community members were invited to identify any place-based safety concerns on a large map of the municipality. The community identified 46 places where they feel unsafe.

The specific concerns are detailed below. Orange dots represent specific locations where community members said they feel unsafe. To present this information, the municipality has been divided into four sections as follows:

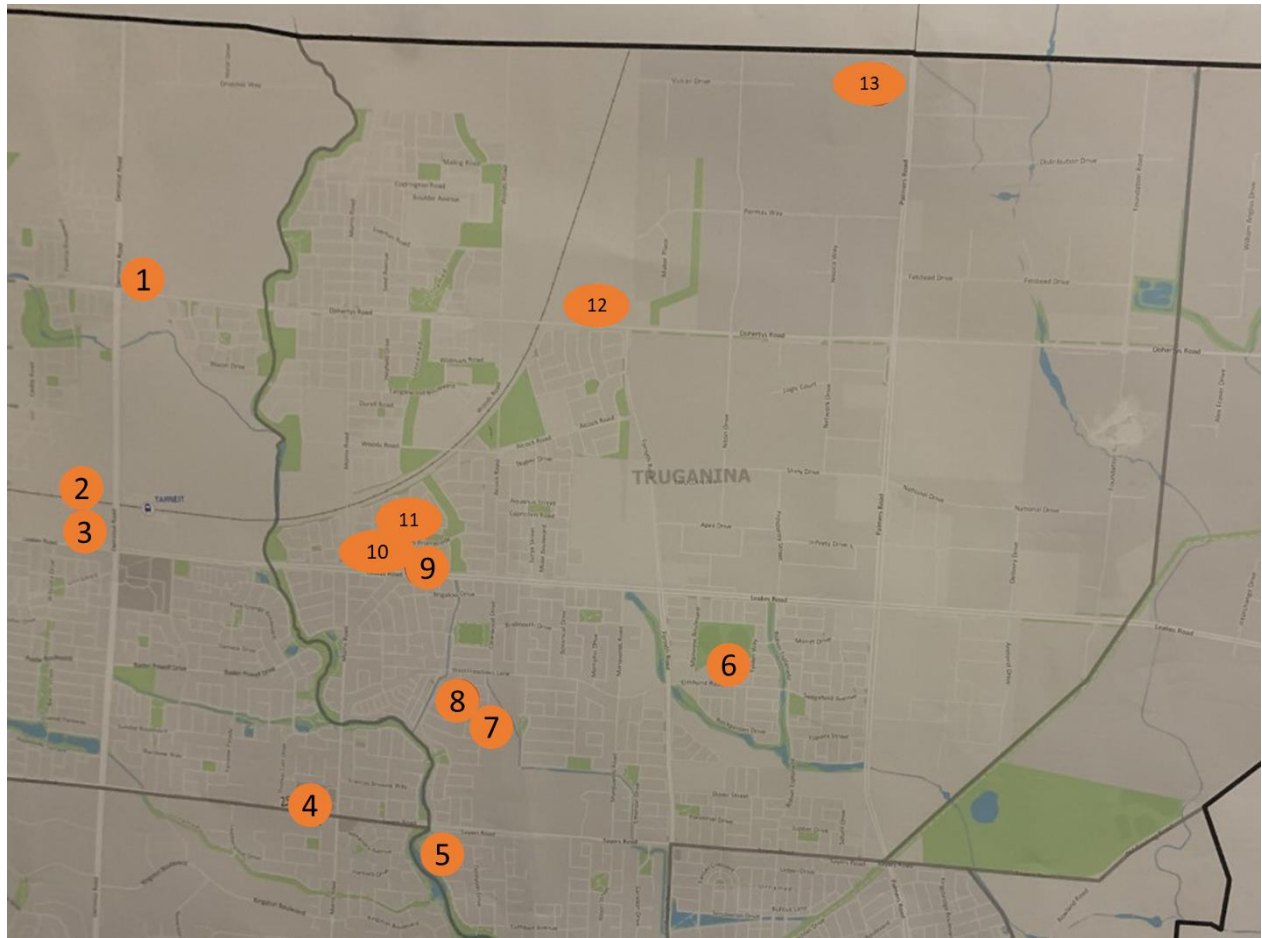


NW Section



1. Behind Riverdale – new estate, no lighting
2. Need more lighting along Sayers Rd
3. Tyler Crescent – no lighting, no footpath
4. Bus stops on Moorookyle Avenue – no lighting – Isabella Way – no footpath
5. Walking around at night in Tarnett
6. (And also 7) Tarnett parks – groups gathering who intimidate others using the park, particularly at night
8. Hummingbird (Tarnett) Community Centre – late night parties, alcohol, broken glass
9. Riverdale McDonalds not safe for kids

NE Section



1. Doherty's Rd – you don't feel safe driving along after 10pm
2. McDonalds Restaurant – got ambushed – no security
3. McDonalds across from Tarneit Central (gangs)
4. Shopping Centre cnr Sayers and Morris – dirty – don't feel welcome
5. Unregistered dirt bikes terrorising pedestrians (both sides of the creek) - groups of young people – intimidating others – not respecting other's space – giving 'the look'
6. Main View Reserve (49 Main View Boulevard) – community centre – pavilion at the end of the carpark (bottom of the carpark) – poorly lit – young people gathering at night – alcohol consumption, drug and gas canister usage – antisocial behaviour – graffiti and smashed bottles
7. People speeding in urban streets - well above the speed limit – near schools and community centres
8. Suspicious behaviours (people wandering about the neighbourhood - looking into vehicles) – not safe after dark – people too scared to go for a walk
9. Latitude Promenade Westbrook Estate – burglaries, break-ins and stealing
10. Leakes Road – drag racing, hooning
11. Westbrook Estate – hooning activity, car theft, guys climbing fences and trying to break in (top area of Westbrook Estate) – hooning on Morris and Leakes Rd
12. Doherty's Rd, cnr Forsyth Rd – road rage and people running red lights
13. Industrial estate needs lighting improvements

SW Section



1. Manor Lakes McDonalds – unsafe
2. Wyndham Vale station – 3pm till 5pm – fights
3. No bridges across Lollipop Creek – no lighting on paths
4. Manor Lakes Shopping Centre – youth crime – won't go there by myself
5. Ballan Rd – no streetlights
6. Park (Lollipop Creek) – ok during the day, but youths at night (basketball) – passing through the area (on their way there and their way home) causing trouble (vandalism) and breaking windows
7. President Park – poor lighting at night
8. Werribee Plaza – young kids hanging around in groups – on scooters – offensive language, vaping in people's faces, intimidating behaviours
9. Werribee Plaza – antisocial behaviours
10. Shopping centre on the cnr of Tarneit and Shaws Rd – dodgy – poor lighting
11. Kelly Park near Werribee train station (overpass) – dope smoking, dangerous - homelessness
12. Werribee train station – youth crime
13. Werribee train station – poorly lit underpass
14. Werribee train station – drugs, dingy, needs better lighting – V-line ok, Metro not
15. Rubbish being dumped – K-road – every Saturday night – west side of the road

SE Section



1. Cross-over into Williams Landing – visually gets worse (amenity)
2. Catching the train between Hoppers Crossing and Williams Landing – antisocial behaviour on trains (potentially mental health issues)
3. Longreach Parade Park – at night people use drugs and hide in BBQ area in the dark – this park has no lights making it easier for people to do the wrong thing and hide in the dark
4. Needs to be more lighting along the outside and inside of the park track – lots of teenagers (men) use the darkness to their advantage and it makes women feel unsafe
5. Car break-ins to steal valuables
6. Car burglaries
7. Jamieson Way from 494 bus stop to Sanctuary Lakes Shopping Centre – needs more streetlights
8. Jamieson Way – park at the back of community centre – litter and public drinking – kids hanging out at night
9. Perception of high crime in Saltwater area makes one feel unsafe
10. Point Cook Homestead Rd needs more lighting to reduce dumping and hooning activities