CITY OF Melton

City of Melton Aquatic & Leisure Strategy 2026-2046

Stage 2 Engagement Summary

Respondent profile

There was a total of **47 respondents** to the survey.

The following information provides details on who responded to the survey.



The majority (80.8%) of respondents were women/girls.



Age groups that represents the highest proportion of the respondents were ages 35-44 (40.4%)



The predominant postcodes where respondents lived were Harkness, Melton West, and Brookfield.

Figure 1: Survey Respondent Characteristics

The following table summarises the user survey respondents' sample for Melton City Council.

Table 1: User Survey Respondent Sample

Category	Sub-group	Percentage
Gender	Female	80.9%
	Male	19.1%
	Non-binary	0.0%
	Prefer not to say	0.0%
Age Range	Under 18 years	0.0%
	18-24 years	2.1%
	25-34 years	14.9%
	35-44 years	40.4%
	45-54 years	17.0%
	55-64 years	8.5%
	65 years +	12.8%
	Prefer not to say	2.1%

A review of the survey respondents indicates that:

- The sample shows a higher representation of females (n=38 80.9%) compared to males (n=9 19.1%).
- The most represented age group was 35–44 years (n=19 40.4%), followed by 45–54 years (n=8 17.0%) and 25–34 years (n=7 14.9%).
- Respondents showed highest representation from Harkness (n=7 15.22%), Melton West (n=6 13.04%) and Brookfield (n=5 10.87%)

Key Engagement Findings Summary

Community members shared a range of valuable feedback on the proposed Strategic Directions. The key findings below summarise the main themes and ideas raised throughout the consultation.

Strategic Direction	Outcome	Key Themes	How the Strategy addresses the key themes
1. Council plans to provide two key aquatic facilities for the community: • A large regional aquatic centre in Fraser Rise (under construction), and • A second, smaller district facility at the current Melton Waves site, with the location and facility components depending on future planning and Council approval	**Supported**	• Strong support for Fraser Rise development • Significant feedback that Melton Waves is aging, overcrowded and no long fit for purpose • Strong support for redevelopment of Melton Waves or another site in Central Melton, and it must be large enough to cater for the growing population	• The development of Fraser Rise Aquatic and Leisure Centre (due to open early 2028) will provide a new regional level facility to significantly improve access for residents to contemporary facilities • Extensive catchment mapping indicates the two-facility model will adequately cater for population demands for the next 10-20 years
2. As per Strategic Direction 1, replacing Melton Waves with a second district level facility is proposed to support the Fraser Rise Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Locations for this facility, including the current Melton Waves site would be considered. This will include looking at: • What features the new centre should have, making sure it offers different things to the Fraser Rise Aquatic and Leisure Centre • Location to maximise population catchments	**Supported**	• Strong support for redevelopment of Melton Waves as soon as possible • Key priorities for redevelopment included improved accessibility and amenities, family-friendly facilities, children's water play areas, additional recreation spaces, and improved transport and parking access.	• The Strategy acknowledges Melton Waves is approaching end of life and will require replacement • A short to medium priority is to develop a Business Case for the redevelopment of Melton Waves which will identify the facility components, location options, funding strategy and delivery timelines

• Financial sustainability and funding models • Timeline for construction including how the existing Melton Waves site can continue to be maintained until a new facility is operational			
3. Council will also look for ways to increase access to aquatic and leisure activities in the future. This could include: • Building more water play areas like splash parks in open space • Supporting private businesses, such as swim schools and gyms, to set up in areas where there are not enough services	**Supported**	• Strong support for greater access to splash parks and water play in open space, as an affordable and accessible options for families in new growth areas	• Council will undertake a review of the Open Space Strategy to consider the role of splash parks and water play opportunities within open space settings • Council will consider strategies to support and encourage private investment from swim school and health and fitness providers to address service provision gaps, particularly in the urban growth areas
4. Council will keep checking how well the Fraser Rise and Melton Waves centres are meeting community needs before determining whether another small local aquatic and leisure centre is needed in the future.	**Supported**	• Support for ongoing strategic planning and regular reviews to ensure facility provision is meeting the growing community needs. • Many respondents stated that Melton's rapid population growth and geographic spread require additional aquatic facilities now rather than in the distant future	• Council will monitor the usage and participation trends at Fraser Rise and Melton Waves to understand any emerging capacity issues. • If program areas such as Learn to Swim, health and fitness and warm water space reach capacity, this would trigger the need to commence planning for a third local level facility.

Overall Summary

The results of the survey indicated general agreement with all the draft Strategic Directions, however there were a number of keys issues identified by respondents that should be noted. These issues include:

- There was strong support for the replacement or redevelopment of the Melton Waves site.
- Highlighting the urgency for replacement of Melton Waves given the limited capacity of the facility to cater for growing demand and the ageing infrastructure that is no longer fit for purpose.
- Concerns that the proposed two aquatic facility provision model (Fraser Rise Aquatic and Leisure Centre and Melton Waves) may not be sufficient to cater for future demand and population growth.
- Suggestion that Melton's rapid population growth and geographic spread will require additional aquatic facilities to be considered in the near future and that planning should not be delayed