

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN 2023-2025

Community Engagement Report Phase 2

By: Community Development Team

Overview

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a guiding document for how our organisation will proceed on its reconciliation journey.




The Town of Victoria Park developed a vision for reconciliation for its Innovate RAP through community engagement and collaboration with the Mindeera Advisory Group and Elected Members over 2022. This aided a deep reflection of Town's reconciliation journey – the steps taken and the steps still to take. From these conversations arose a future commitment defined by courage, honesty and respect.

This report provides a snapshot of the second phase of consultation undertaken to seek confirmation from the community and key stakeholders that the Town correctly captured the needs of the community in developing the RAP and to make final adjustments depending on the feedback.

Consultation process

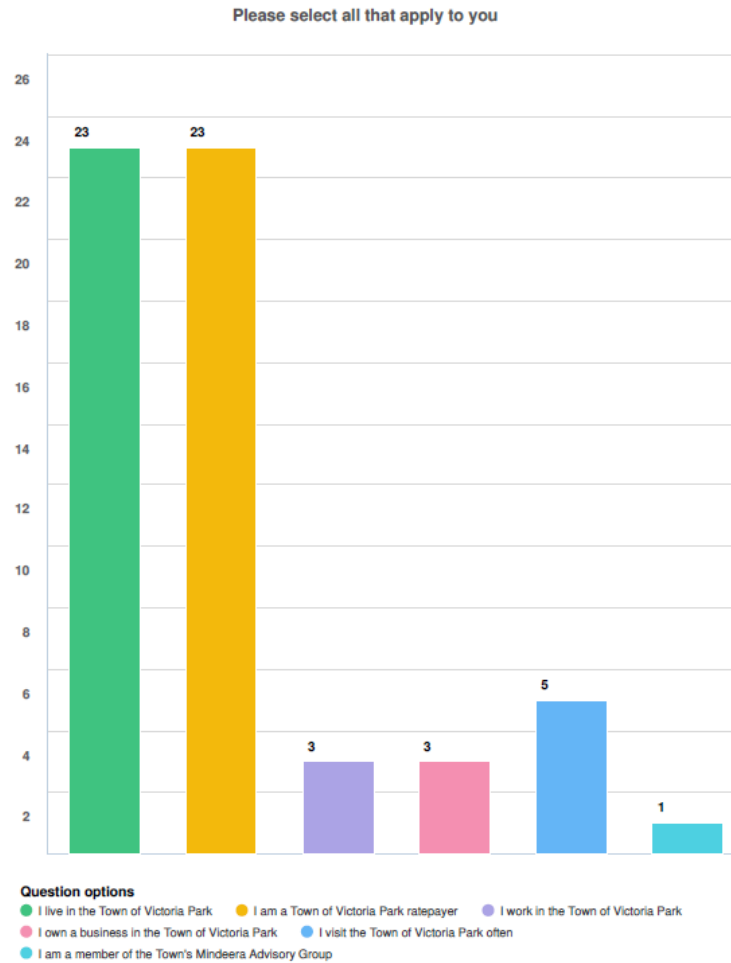
The second phase of engagement occurred between 23 October – 13 November 2023, seeking feedback from the community and key stakeholders on the following themes:

- Levels of support and reasons why
- Comments on the RAP document

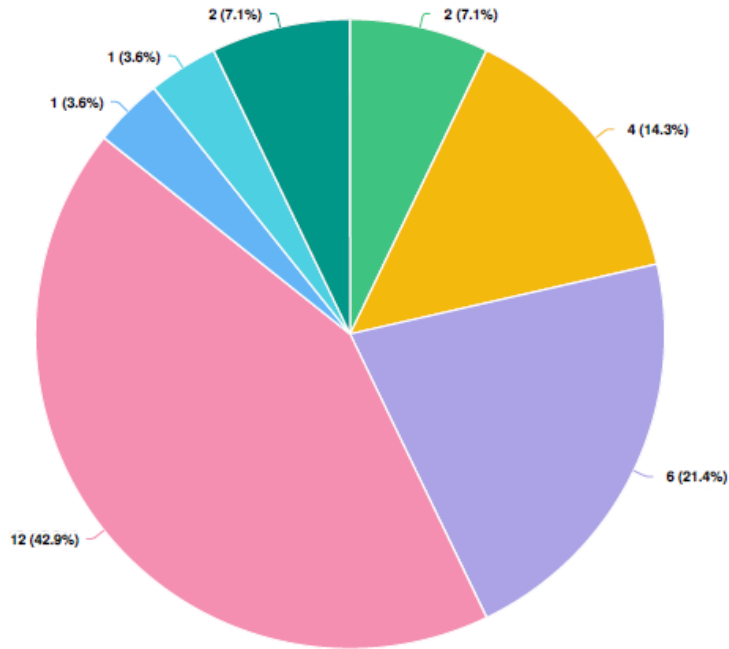
Approach	
	Direct email community survey to Phase 1 respondents and key external stakeholders (2 responses)
	Online community survey (31 responses)
	Social media posts across Town channels

What we learned

Profile of survey respondents * Please note the charts below to do not include statistics related to feedback received via email.



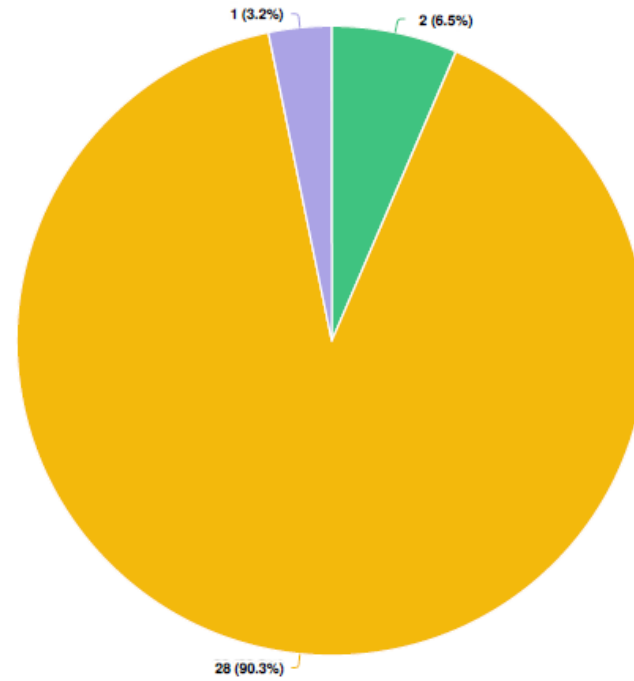
What suburb do you live in?



Question options

- Burswood
- Carlisle
- Victoria Park
- East Victoria Park
- Lathlain
- St. James
- Other (please specify)

Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

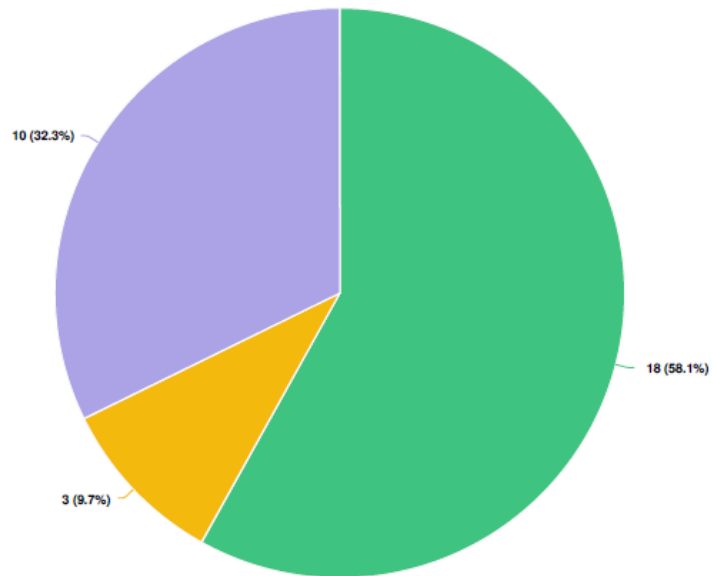


Question options

- Yes, Aboriginal
- No
- I would prefer not to say

What respondents told us

Overall, do you support the draft Reconciliation Action Plan: Innovate?



Question options

● Yes ● Yes, but I have some concerns ● No

Do you support the draft RAP?	#	Feedback themes	Exemplar comments	Town's Response
YES		It's an important part of reconciliation/ it's really important the Town has a RAP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I am very pleased to see that the Town is continuing its reconciliation progress.</i> <i>The Innovate RAP is an effective mechanism to ensure that not only the Town staff and Council but also our community understand the history from all perspectives, and the importance of walking alongside our First Nations People on the journey to reconciliation.</i> <i>I truly believe this Reconciliation Plan should be Successful. I'm all for it.</i> <i>The Town of Victoria Park voted yes in the referendum - acknowledge local community support for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to parliament.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any wording will be revised to reflect localised support.
		Noongar knowledge and heritage is important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I really appreciate the value now being placed on our precious Noongar heritage and knowledge by the wider Victoria Community. I like seeing Noongar words when I'm out and about, like the welcome at Somerset Pool.</i> <i>Who we are: Description of specific sites and stories in the TOVP - this section is very</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wording related to the Uluru Statement from the Heart will be revised to contextualise support and the Referendum result.

			<p><i>important as it connects the Story of Country with current people and places, showing that Country is not in the past.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update commitment to Uluru Statement from the Heart (in full, including specific mention of truth telling, treaty, and makaratta) in the context of the national negative referendum result.</i> 	
		<p>Mindeera Spring should be a listed as a heritage site/place of cultural significance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I was curious to see that the Mindeera spring sits at a roundabout (Horden and Oswald St). I think some type of plaque or similar would be appropriate given the significance of that site.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback noted. RAP actions will seek to address this.
		<p>The Mayor and CEO should be members of the Mindeera Advisory Group or Internal Working Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I would like to see the Mayor & CEO as compulsory members of the Mindeera Advisory Group - thereby demonstrating, at the highest levels, the Town's commitment to reconciliation and this document.</i> • <i>The internal RAP working group should include the CEO, Mayor and Mindeera Group representative to ensure it has the high profile that it deserves. This would demonstrate the true commitment that ToVP has to actual reconciliation.</i> • <i>Request for Mayor and CEO participation and responsibilities in the Innovate RAP.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RAP forms part of the Town's Corporate Business Plan (CBP) which links directly to the Town's core vision (which is outlined in the Strategic Community Plan). Both the Mayor and CEO are responsible for ensuring actions in the CBP are resourced and implemented.

Yes, but I have concerns		Increase consultation with Aboriginal people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More grass roots Aboriginal people need to be consulted!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback noted. RAP actions will seek to address this.
		Show more direct support for Aboriginal people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When the Victoria Park Council doesn't respect Aboriginal people, by not putting the Aboriginal flag at half mast is a problem.</i> • <i>Having a great RAP is such an important thing for Vic Park - thanks for your ongoing commitment to this, it is essential that we back our First Nations residents and strengthen our response, particularly when there is opposition that would ask you to weaken it.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback noted. RAP actions will seek to address this.
		The document is too long.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vic Park is obsessed with long documents that drown the community and reader with unnecessary introductory information. Just get straight to the actual intent of the document - what you're going to do.</i> • <i>I recon you could delete 10 pages from the front end of the document and it would still make sense.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback noted. The document largely follows the Reconciliation Australia Innovate RAP template outline for key themes and topics which are required to be populated with localised content to enable consideration and endorsement by Reconciliation Australia.

		The Mayor and CEO to be more directly involved in the RAP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that Vic Park was a majority Yes vote in the referendum, it would be great to see this work elevated to have oversight directly from the Mayor and the CEO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAP forms part of the Town's Corporate Business Plan (CBP) which links directly to the Town's core vision (which is outlined in the Strategic Community Plan). Both the Mayor and CEO are responsible for ensuring actions in the CBP are resourced and implemented.
No		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The result from the Voice Referendum was a no, so why is Vic Park developing a RAP? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population voted on supporting the Uluru statement from the heart, and resoundingly voted "no". The Town should not be supporting this. The referendum said NO. Leave it there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback noted. Victoria Park had a majority vote recorded in the 2023 referendum indicating a majority support towards Reconciliation.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's divisive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation is supposed to bring people together, this will divide the Town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback noted.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation is not the role of Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not get involved in politics. Stick to Rates Roads & Rubbish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback noted.

Summary of feedback

Of the 33 responses to the public comment on the draft Innovate RAP, 20 were in favour of the plan with an additional 3 people in support but with concerns. Those that expressed support for the Innovate RAP made strong reconciliation statements and were keen for the Town to increase its messaging on activities and advocacy work in this area.

Those that said 'Yes, but I have some concerns' wanted an increased focus on meaningful engagement with First Nations people beyond those that sit on the Mindeera Advisory Group. They also wanted the Town to be more responsive and agile to cultural issues and be more direct in its support and empathy for trauma suffered by First Nations People. Lastly, they wanted a more succinct RAP document.

Ten respondents were not in support of the RAP with common feedback themes being that they felt it was divisive and that they felt the recent Referendum was an indicator showing there was not a need for a RAP locally.

Document reviewed and tracked changes presented in Final RAP Draft for consideration following the public comment period, noting that the Town's Mindeera Advisory Group and Reconciliation Australia has reviewed and approved the content and relevance of the RAP from a cultural perspective. Feedback not relating to the RAP document has been noted and will be incorporated into the RAP implementation plan.

Appendix

Draft Reconciliation Action Plan Survey on Your Thoughts

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

1. Have you reviewed the draft Reconciliation Action Plan: Innovate?

- Yes
- No

The draft RAP Innovate was developed in close collaboration with our community, including a six week community engagement campaign from May to July last year.

2. Were you involved in our community engagement campaign last year?

- Yes - I responded to the online survey, submitted my wishes for reconciliation, or provided feedback by other means
- No
- I'm not sure

3. Overall, do you support the draft Reconciliation Action Plan: Innovate?

- Yes
- Yes, but I have some concerns
- No
- I'm unsure

4. Please explain your response

Please add your comment here...

5. Do you have any other comments to share about the proposed RAP?

Please add your comment here...

About you

To help us assess how accurately the feedback we receive reflects the diversity of our community, please share a few brief details about yourself. Any information you provide will remain anonymous and only be used for the purposes of this project.

6. Please select all that apply to you

- I live in the Town of Victoria Park
- I am a Town of Victoria Park ratepayer
- I work in the Town of Victoria Park
- I own a business in the Town of Victoria Park
- I visit the Town of Victoria Park often
- I am a member of the Town's Mindeera Advisory Group

7. What suburb do you live in?

8. Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

- Yes, Aboriginal
- Yes, Torres Strait Islander
- Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- No
- I would prefer not to say

9. What is your email address?

Your information will remain confidential and only be used to provide you with updates about this project.

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