

Have your say on Council's budget process

Each year Council prepares a budget to deliver services, projects and infrastructure for the Ballarat community. We want to make it easier for everyone to understand how the budget works and check whether community priorities identified in 2024 are still on track. This short survey takes less than 5 minutes and your feedback will help guide how we plan and share information in future.

Section 1: Budget process and priorities

These questions help us understand how clear and useful our budget information is for the community

01. How clear is the information about Council's budget process? **Required**

Not clear - Very clear

/ 5

02. Overall, how informed do you feel about how Council's budget process works? **Required**

Not informed - Very informed

/ 5

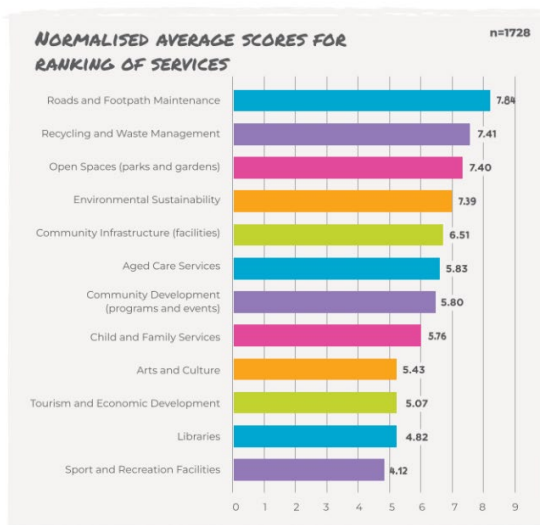
In late 2024, almost 2,000 community members shared their views to help shape the Council Plan 2025–2029. We'd like to check in to see if those priorities still reflect what matters most for future budgets.

QUESTION 11: SERVICE RANKINGS

Participants were asked "Each year, Council faces the challenge of funding essential, valued, and supported services. As part of developing the Council Plan 2025-2029 and Finance Plan 2025-2034, we want to understand which services the community prioritises and values most. Please rank the following services from 1 to 12, with 1 being the most important to you and 12 being the least important."

To make the results easier to understand, the average ranks have been converted into scores out of 10. For this process of normalising ranks to scores, an original rank of 1 gets the highest score (10), and a rank of 12 gets the lowest score (0).

The results show that Roads and Footpath maintenance had the highest rank overall, while Sport and Recreation Facilities was ranked lowest.



MosaicLab | City of Ballarat | Council Planning Community Engagement | Wider Engagement Report | December 2024

Bar chart showing average community rankings of Council services from the 2024 Council Plan engagement (1,728 participants). Roads and footpath maintenance received the highest overall ranking, followed by recycling and waste management, and open spaces such as parks and gardens. Lower-ranked services included libraries, tourism and economic development, and sport and recreation facilities.

03. Do you agree these priorities still reflect our community's needs? **Required**

In 2024, the community ranked the services most important to them. Here's what we heard.

Select one answer only
☐ Yes - I agree these priorities still reflect our community's needs overall
☐ Mostly - they reflect our community overall, but some should change (please tell us more)
☐ No - I don't feel these priorities reflect our community's needs (please tell us more)

04. If you answered 'mostly' or 'no', please tell us what themes or focus areas you think should be added, changed or give more attention in the budget?

Required

Section 2: Questions and feedback - Optional

Here you can tell us what you'd like to know more about, how you'd prefer to engage with Council, or share any other feedback on the annual budget.

05. Is there anything you'd like to know more about when it comes to Council's budget or financial planning? (Optional)

06. If you would like to learn more or speak with a Council officer, how would you prefer to do this? (Optional)

Select one answer only
☐ Attend a drop-in session
☐ Phone call with an officer
☐ Online resources / fact sheets
☐ Other (please specify)

07. Do you have any other feedback or questions about the annual budget?
(Optional)

Section 3: About You

We want to hear from the wide and diverse range of people who make up Ballarat and the surrounding region. Your answers to the following questions help us ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. Your responses are anonymous, secure, and confidential. Each question includes a “Prefer not to say” option.

08. Which of the following best describes your gender? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Man
☐ Woman
☐ Non-binary
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Self-describe:

09. Please select your age group: **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Under 12
☐ 12 to 25
☐ 26 to 35
☐ 36 to 45
☐ 46 to 55
☐ 56 to 65
☐ 66 to 75
☐ 76 to 85

☐ 86+
☐ Prefer not to say

10. Do any of the following apply to you? **Required**

Select all that apply
☐ I identify as LGBTQIA+
☐ I am Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
☐ I am a person with disability or chronic health condition
☐ I am from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background
☐ I earn less than \$650 per week, receive a government pension or allowance, or hold a Health Care Card
☐ None of the above
☐ Prefer not to say