

Youth Engagement

STRATEGIC COMMUNTIY PLAN REVIEW REPORT



TRIM Reference: D-20-146887

Background

The City and the community have been working together for more than ten years to strengthen and deepen democracy through the process of community engagement. To ensure the City understands the aspirations of the community the City regularly engages with the community in the development of its plans, strategies, programs and services. This ongoing engagement ensures City and Council decision making is informed via the engagement processes which, in turn, enables the City to deliver on the community's wants and needs.

The Strategic Community Plan

Every four years, the City's Strategic Community Plan must undergo a major review. The City has a statutory requirement to engage with the community in the development and review of its Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027 that must be completed in 2021. Although a wide variety of community engagement activities inform the development of this plan, specific engagement around the visioning and the development of its vision statement was also undertaken.

Youth Engagement

Specific engagement with Geraldton's young people regarding the future of the City region began in December 2019 with a series of World Cafés held with 70 students from Geraldton Senior College. Youth engagement continued in December 2020 with a second set of world cafés held with 216 students from Geraldton Grammar School.

The objectives of the World Cafés were to gain a better understanding of what youth value about living in the City region and what they think would make it an even better place to live.

To complete the youth engagement, a visioning workshop was held in December 2020. Four former Citizen Jurors in the Community Voice – Deliberative Democracy Project took part in the workshop. Ages of the workshop participants ranged from 15-27 years. The objective of the workshop was to draft a potential vision statement for consideration for the Strategic Community Plan 2021-2022.

Geraldton Senior College World Cafés

The World Cafés held at Geraldton Senior College asked the following three questions:

- a) What do you like most about living in the greater Geraldton City region?
- b) What would make it an even better place to live, work, study and play?
- c) What can I do to make it a better place to live?

The World Café format involved seating the students at tables in groups no larger than six persons. Butchers paper and coloured pens were provided for students at each table so they could record their thoughts and feelings regarding the questions being asked. (See page five for two butcher paper responses)

Students were seated at tables in small groups of 4-6 people. The first question was presented to the group for a 15 minute discussion at their tables. Students were asked to write their thoughts and ideas regarding the question on the butcher's paper. A group discussion followed in which each table shared the top three ideas they had. This process was repeated with the remaining two questions.

Geraldton Grammar School World Cafés

The World Cafés held at Geraldton Grammar School asked the following two questions:

- a) What do you like most about living in the greater Geraldton City region?
- b) What would make it an even better place to live, work, study and play?

The World Café format involved seating the students at tables in groups no larger than six persons. Postcards and pens were provided for students at each table so they could prioritise the ideas they thought would make the City a better place to live, work, study and play.

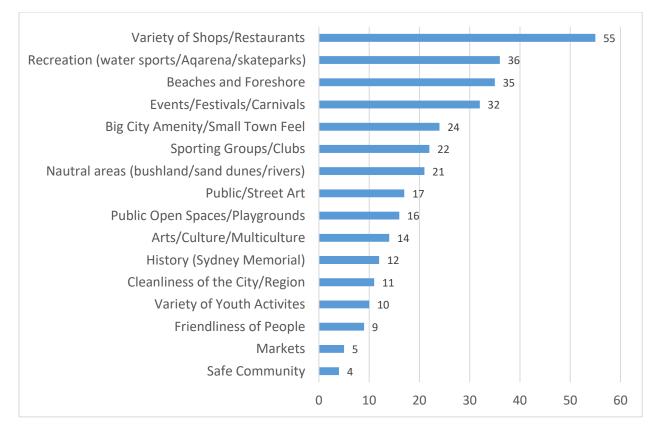
The World Café starting with viewing the 'This is Geraldton' promotional video followed by a group discussion on what students liked most about Geraldton.

Then students were given 15 minutes to discuss at their table what would make Geraldton and even better place. This was followed by a group discussion where students shared their ideas with the group while they were themed on a white board. Following the group discussion, students were asked to choose the three ideas from the white board they liked best and to write them on their post card.

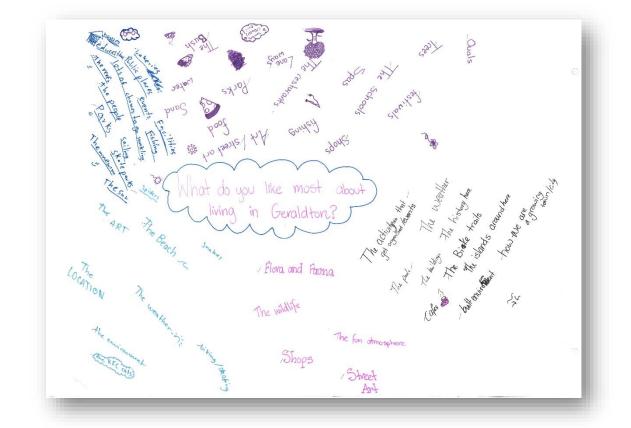
World Café Results

What youth value most about living in the City region?

The students provided more than 350 responses to the first World Café question about what they liked most about living in the City region. Their most reoccurring responses have been themed into 16 areas in which the top four themes focused on things to do and places to go. They also said they value the benefits of a living in a big city that still feels like a small town. The graph below shows the 16 themes and the number of times the idea was mentioned by students.



Images: Butchers paper and postcard responses to what youth value most about living, studying, playing or working in Geraldton.





What youth think would make the City even better?

The students provided more than 950 responses to the second World Café question about what they believed would make the City an even better place to live, work, study and play. Their most reoccurring responses have been themed into 20 areas in which their top five themes focused on places to go, things to do and protecting the environment. The graph below shows the 20 themes and the number of times the ideas were mentioned by students.

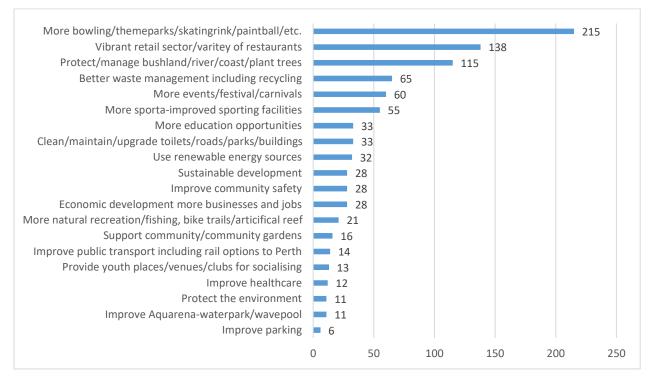
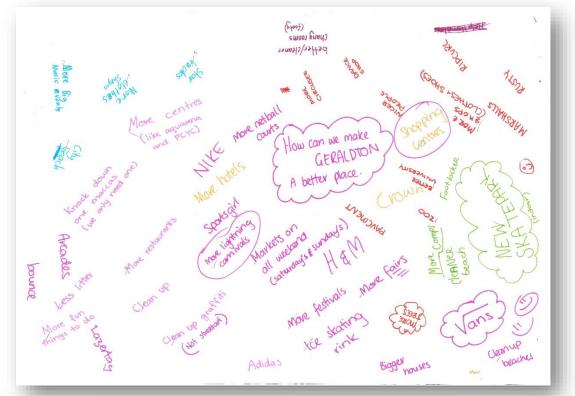


IMAGE: Butcher paper response to what youth think would make the City a better place to live, study, play or work.



IMAGES: Postcard responses to how GeradIton could be made an even better place to live, study, play or work.

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What youth can do to make the City even better?

Geraldton Senior College students were asked a third question regarding what they could personally do to make the City a better place. This question was included to raise awareness of the role everyone has in creating the kind of community they want to live in. Of the +100 actions students identified, the most reoccurring responses have been themed into 10 areas in which the top five themes focused on helping others, living sustainably, keeping the city clean and protecting the environment.

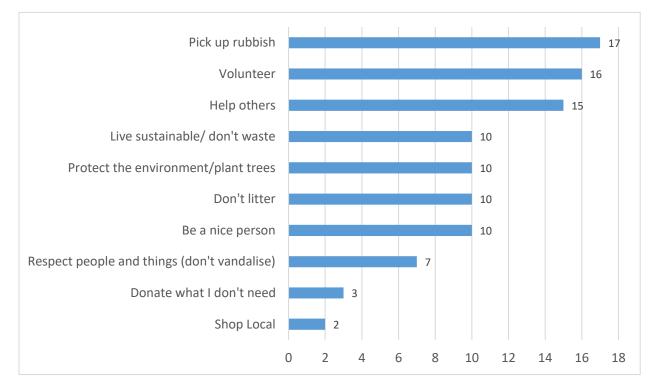
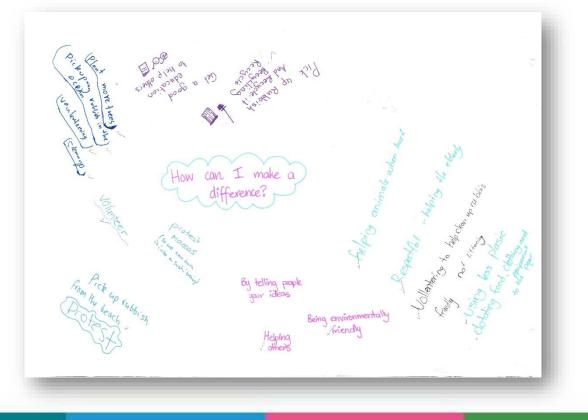


IMAGE: Butchers paper response to what youth could do to make GeradIton a better place.



Visioning the Future Youth Workshop

The objective of the workshop was to draft a potential vision statement for inclusion in the Strategic Community Plan 2021-2022. Four former Citizen Jurors in the Community Voice – Deliberative Democracy Project took part in the workshop.

The workshop began with the participants imagining what their ideal community would look like in ten years' time if they had the power to make it anyway they wanted it to be. They wrote their ideas down and then shared them with the group, discussing what the ideas meant and involved whilst theming them into the four categories of community, environment, economy and governance.

They were then asked to write down five ideas they liked the most. These were then shared with the group to gain a better understanding of which theme or themes were of greatest importance. The following table lists the ideas they liked the most and how many times the idea was chosen. The most chosen ideas were about an inclusive and engaged community that is environmentally responsible.

No. of times picked	Ideal community quality	No. of times picked	Ideal community quality
4	Faired/inclusive community	2	Robust economy
3	Engaged community	2	Sustainability
2	Eco positive community	1	Renewals
2	Implementation of new technologies	1	Services meeting demand
2	Living healthy lifestyles		

These ideas were then deliberated by the group to determine why they were chosen. Phrases were drafted during the discussion and considered in the development of the following two vision statements.

- An environmentally responsible eco positive community.
- A healthy and united community working as one to better all and safe guard the future.

Image: Visioning the Future Workshop participants and their comments about what their ideal community would look like. (From left Leyton Butler, Cooper Knight, Tanami Stewart and Tyler Indersmith)

