PAKINGTON NORTH PRECINCT

EOI COMMUNITY PANEL

November 2023­­­

## Welcome

The City is preparing an Urban Design Framework (UDF) to guide future enhancements and development in the Pakington North Precinct to revitalise the area and help accommodate demand for new homes, retail, services and jobs. The UDF will consider how people use the streets and public spaces, how they will move about, how the local character will be preserved, and the use, form and heights of future buildings and other places.

## Community Panel

The City is calling upon community and stakeholders of Pakington North Precinct to join a Community Panel that will focus on the future of Pakington North Precinct, working together to provide directions and recommendations for the new Urban Design Framework (UDF).   
   
An Expression of Interest (EOI) process to select the panel members is now open. This panel will ensure that we gather a diverse group of up to 60 participants who are genuinely invested in the betterment of the community and area. Recruitment will be completed independently by Capire.   
   
The Community Panel will be given key information to gain a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities of this precinct. There will be sufficient time and support to deliberate over key questions under the themes of Public Realm, Built Form, and Access and Movement and provide a set of recommendations. These three themes were important issues raised by the community in the previous UDF process. The Community Panel’s key output is an endorsed UDF, which will be prepared by the City’s Urban Design team and reflect the Panel session outputs. The Community Panel recommended UDF will then be presented to the Council for consideration to endorse.

## What will this involve?

The Community Panel will come together over six in-person sessions in early 2024. All sessions will be facilitated by Capire with the exception of Session 6 which will be led by the City. Participants will be expected to attend all sessions and engage in pre and post-activities such as pre-reading, responding to surveys or additional reading between sessions.

**Session 1: Setting the Scene and Understanding the Drivers for Change**   
Thursday, 8 February 5.30 – 8.30pm (3 hours)

**Session 2: The Public Realm**   
Saturday 10 February 12.30 – 5.30pm (5 hours)

**Session 3a: Built Form**   
Thursday, 29 February 6.00 – 8.30pm (2.5 hours)

**Session 3b: Built Form**   
Thursday, 7 March 6.00 – 8.30pm (2.5 hours)

**Session 4: Access and Movement**   
Saturday, 16 March 12.30 – 5.30pm (5 hours)

**Session 5: UDF Endorsement**   
Thursday, 18 April 6:00 – 8:00pm (2 hours)

Participants will receive a remuneration of $100 as a thank you for their time and effort. This will be provided at the conclusion of the sessions and remunerated pro-rata. All sessions will be fully catered, and we will provide any additional supports required to assist you to participate, identified through the EOI form.

## Who can participate?

All expressions of interest will be reviewed by Capire to ensure the panel represents the diversity of our community. We are looking for participants from different backgrounds as we want to hear from a diverse range of voices. This includes residents, business owners and visitors of all ages and genders, from different locations, housing backgrounds and family compositions. Everyone deserves to be represented, heard, and play a role in shaping our future.

## Want to express your interest?

To express your interest in joining the Community Panel please:

* Visit <https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel> and complete the online form;
* Phone 03 5272 5007 to express your interest over the phone, we will fill in the form for you; or
* Collect and complete a hard copy form at a City Customer Service Centre (Wurriki Nyal 137-149 Mercer St Geelong, Corio Shopping Centre or Boronggook Drysdale Library).

All expressions of interest must be submitted before 6 December 2023, 5:00pm.

## FAQ

### [What is a community panel?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel)

A Community Panel is a group of people who will sign up to share their ideas and aspirations for the future of Pakington North Precinct. They will be actively involved in a series of engagement workshops or sessions and at the end will provide directions and recommendations for the Final Urban Design Framework.

### [What is the purpose of the community panel? Why has this process been chosen?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel)

A community panel is a ‘deliberative’ community engagement process that puts the community affected by a decision at the centre of that decision. The Community Panel brings the community closer to the decision makers and the work of the City.

### [Why is an expression of interest process being used?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel)

An expression of interest process is being used to ensure we gain a substantial ‘pool’ of respondents from which to select the Community Panel.

The final panel will be descriptively representative of the broader community based on census data.

### [What has happened with the previous work done and feedback provided by the community?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel)

In December 2021, Council adopted two of the three precincts in the Final Pakington Street (Geelong West) & Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework (UDF), namely Gordon Avenue and the Heritage Core Precincts. Council also requested to undertake further consultation for the Pakington North Precinct, due to significant community concern.

The additional round of community engagement undertaken in 2022 failed to garner sufficient support to proceed. As a result, officers proposed a deliberative engagement process, which was accepted by the community and Councillors - we want to start the UDF with a fresh set of eyes alongside the community.

### [What is involved in being a panel member?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel)

The Community Panel will meet over multiple sessions to learn about, discuss and form collective recommendations. Sessions will be held during mid-February to April and will be held on weekends or evenings during the week.

The Community Panel’s recommendations will be used to inform the development of the Pakington North Precinct Urban Design Framework.

Community panel members will participate in a series of interactive, facilitated sessions. During the sessions community panel members will hear from expert speakers and a range of viewpoints on key issues and priorities for Pakington North Precinct, and participate in activities to analyse gathered information to develop recommendations.

The Community Panel will be asked to consider several questions relating to the UDF.

The panel will work together (with the support of professional facilitators) to consider a wide range of information, ideas and evidence. Participants will be open to learning about all perspectives and considering them on their merits, and work with other participants toward reaching agreement on what’s important for Pakington North Precinct.

This response will be detailed in a report that the panel members will create together and present to Council.

### [Do I need any particular knowledge, skills or background to participate in the community panel?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel#faqModal-42304-8552-a)

No. Anyone can apply to participate – your thoughts, opinions and ideas are all you need. We will provide all panel members with the relevant briefing and background materials to support you to participate in the Community Panel.

### [What is council's role in this process?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel#faqModal-42304-8553-a)

The City has engaged Capire, a team of experienced engagement practitioners and facilitators specialising in high influence engagement and deliberative democracy, to coordinate widespread community and employee engagement.

The City will work with Capire to provide all the necessary information and support that is required to make this engagement process a success.

Recommendations of the Community Panel will be reflected in the final UDF. The UDF will be reviewed by the Community Panel prior to it moving for adoption in a Council Meeting.

### [Who will facilitate these sessions?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel#faqModal-42304-8554-a)

These sessions will be conducted by an external engagement agency, Capire. Their role is to support panel participants in their discussions.

Who are Capire? They are a team of community engagement specialists who work to connect decision-makers with their communities to understand and define what’s important. Capire listen and empower people to create sustainable public policy and social impact.

### [What happens if I can only attend some of the session dates?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel#faqModal-42304-8555-a)

Unfortunately, we require panel members to attend all six sessions. We understand life happens and unforeseen circumstances that arise during the panel period will be managed on a case by case basis.

### [If I need assistance to participate in the community panel, can this be organised?](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/pakonorthcommunitypanel#faqModal-42304-8556-a)

Yes, please let us know as early as possible if assistance is required so we can work with you to accommodate your needs. We will work with all our participants to understand how we can support you to participate.

There is a question in the Expression of Interest form that asks if assistance is required to participate, and if so what this might look like.