

Creating Vibrant Communities

Our People, Our Places, Our Aura

Summary of Community Engagement Findings

Why did council engage with the Aura community?

The *Our People, Our Places, Our Aura* engagement program sought to understand the local community's values and vision; opportunities and challenges; and ideas to build a vibrant and connected community. It also investigated what community facilities, programs and activities people would like available locally.

The findings of the engagement program are intended to provide the community and council with an understanding of the focus areas for future community development programs and aspirations for community activities and local venues based on feedback from people who live, work and play in Aura.

What did the community engagement program involve?

The community engagement program was delivered between 8 June 2022 to 23 July 2022 with approximately 600 people participating throughout. In total, approximately 1,375 submissions were received across the range of engagement exercises on offer. The program included the following community engagement activities:

- Community Survey (150 responses)
- Pop-up activities at six locations in the community (approx. 400 participants and 1,200 ideas submitted)
- Online Kids Quiz (44 responses)
- Online 'Tell us what you love about Aura' activity (5 responses)
- Community Workshop (14 attendees)



Summary of engagement findings

Some of the key findings include:

- There is strong desire for more community events, activities and programs that cater for children, families, and people without children.
- Community safety is a challenge for participants, including theft, break-ins, vandalism, graffiti, and dangerous drivers
- There is currently a lack of youth focused provisions, including spaces and activities in the area.
- There is currently a lack of public transport in Aura.
- As an immediate priority, participants wanted to see more amenities and retailers delivered in Aura. A petrol station, pharmacy and more shops were all identified as needed in the community.
- Whilst community venues were not highlighted as a current priority for participants, they did express a desire for places and spaces for the community to come together.

Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who participated in the *Our People, Our Places, Our Aura* community engagement. Council will review the findings and continue to work in partnership with the community to build a connected and vibrant community.



unmaintained public spaces lack of infrastructure lack of First Nations knowledge and understanding
 lack of youth activities/spaces access in/out of Aura unsupervised youth
 community safety graffiti lack of public transport parking
 access to nature lack of retailers/shops none lack of childcare
 block sizes roads/traffic crime lack of services/amenities
 litter dangerous driving street parking/width vandalism phone reception
 housing availability anti-social behaviour lack of police presence unfenced playgrounds
 irresponsible pet owners unmaintained properties lack of community facilities
 no big dog off leash area
 link pathways to other destinations

Describe any barriers that prevent you from socially connecting in Aura.

The five most common themes were:

- No barriers 25% (38 responses)
- Time 13% (20 responses)
- Lack of places to socialise 9% (14 responses)
- Lack of awareness of what's happening in Aura 5% (8 responses)
- Lack of transport 5% (7)

no First Nations connection don't connect with people I don't know
 unable to connect age hard to make friends not living in the area
 affordability lack of places to socialise Covid-19 Covid -19
 shyness sense of safety no barriers health privacy enjoy being alone
 lack of awareness lack of activities new to the area
 phone reception communication work racism time lack of public transport
 no childcare in Nirimba busy no activities for people without children
 language barriers lack of community facilities

What kind of activities would you like community venues in Aura to offer

The five most common themes were:

- Sporting activities/events 15% (23 responses)
- Kids activities 15% (23 responses)
- Community events 15% (22 responses)
- Markets 14% (21 responses)
- Music 10% (15 responses)

environmental events Aura information sessions dog parks
 community gardens dog training health services more shops/retailers youth activities/spaces
 shops/retailers workshops/training spaces/activities for youth nature based activities
 holiday programs music community events multi-use space language lessons
 available for hire wellness JP services karaoke movies lots available social events
 martial arts playgrounds sporting activities/events food & drink toy library ice skating
 charity yoga arts/craft markets pool kids activities fitness indoor sports
 community safety performing arts social gatherings community facilities
 outdoor auditorium pool/waterpark parks First Nations Cultural awareness
 services and amenities bingo library bowling community activities/programs
 gentle activities for older community activities for singles women's group welcoming spaces

Next steps

Based on an analysis of community and stakeholder feedback captured through the community engagement program, it is recommended that:

- The community engagement findings are reviewed and used to inform the appropriate next steps and priorities in progressing future community venues and community development activities in Aura.
- The community and stakeholders receive feedback and findings about this project through the Have Your Say Sunshine Coast platform.

Community Venues

- Continue to work on building strong partnerships and collaboration to deliver an integrated, activated and complementary network of community venues, including securing of funding for future community venues provision
- Council should continue to be open and transparent about the status of community venues planning and provision in Aura to manage community expectations.

Placed-based Community Development

- Continue to work with stakeholders, community organisation representatives and residents to develop shared outcomes that can be delivered by or in partnership with community.
- Continue to foster the burgeoning relationships and connections established through the community workshop to support development of community-led action in the priority areas of: youth activities and spaces, community events and localised activities, community safety and awareness initiatives, fostering of social inclusion, enhanced First Nations engagement and greater understanding and representation of the cultural significance of the places within Aura, and establishing ongoing opportunities for feedback on community activities and issues.

