

Greening Fishermans Bend Community Participation Summary Report

City of Melbourne

Saturday 2 May 2015

Library at the Dock, Docklands
9:30am – 12:30pm



Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Background	5
3. Participants	5
4. Getting Started	5
5. Presentation: Urban Forest Challenges and Opportunities, Ian Shears, City of Melbourne	5
6. Participatory Mapping.....	6
6.1 Valued Places	8
6.2 Trees – More Trees Needed	9
6.3 Place Do You Or Don't You Like – Online Participation.....	10
7. Presentation: Neighbourhood Character, Ian Shears, City of Melbourne.....	11
8. Designing Fishermans Bend's Urban Forest Character	11
8.1 Photos that Best Represent the Future of Fishermans Bend.....	12
9. Vision Statement	13
10. Next Steps.....	16
Appendix 1 – Values Maps.....	17

1. Executive Summary

The City of Melbourne is developing an urban forest precinct plan for the Fishermans Bend, which will guide tree planting for the districts over the next ten years. Community input is essential in the development of the plan - shaping the vision statement, planting priorities and future forest character for Fishermans Bend. Community involvement included a 3-hour Saturday workshop and over month-long online engagement on the Participate Melbourne website.

Workshop

The workshop was held for community members to participate in the development of the precinct plan. On 2 May, 2015, around 45 community members attended a 3-hour Saturday morning workshop at Library at the Dock, Docklands.

Participants were given a presentation on the urban forest and then asked to work together at each table on maps of Fishermans Bend to identify locations that were valued for reasons such as culture and heritage, nature and civic values. Later in the session, each table was asked to use those same maps to identify priority locations for tree planting. The groups are advised that the mapping information will be used to guide priorities for future tree planting.

The second task of the workshop was to create a 'vision statement' that defined each table's desired 'green' character for Fishermans Bend. As part of this process, each group was provided with a set of selected photos showing different urban forest in various streetscapes. The groups were asked to select the images that best represented their idea of the future urban forest in Fishermans Bend. Considering these images, the groups then worked to create a vision statement. Participants were advised that the statements will be used to define the future urban forest character for the precinct and to guide the selection of an appropriate species palette for Fishermans Bend.

Some key words that emerged from the exercise are:

- Connectivity
- Indigenous landscape
- Place for community & wildlife
- Water sensitive & flood mitigation
- Integrate with river frontage

At the end of the workshop, participants were advised that their work would be used to develop a draft precinct plan that will be made available at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au for public comment prior to being finalised.

Online & Pop-up Participation

To reach and consult the local businesses, workers and surrounding communities who could not participate in the Saturday workshop. Alternative participations have also been provided:

- From 1 April to 11 May, 2015, 321 people visited the Fishermans Bend Urban Forest Participate Melbourne page on which the three activities from the workshop were replicated. 37 people made contributions to the page.
- On 17 & 21 April, 2015, 2 Pop-up events were hosted at Salmon Street and Lorimer St in Fishermans Bend. The local business and workers have been informed about the upcoming 'Greening Fishermans bend' project.

Key themes emerged from above participations were:

- Integrated with river frontage
- Indigenous plants (trees, shrubs, grass) attract native fauna and flora
- Shady, tree lined corridor creating relaxing and safe environment

A note on Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Project

Geographically, the Fishermans Bend Urban Forest Precinct covers the 'Fishermans Bend Employment Precinct' and part of the 'Lorimer Precinct' which fall into the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area outlined by the Victoria state government.

To guide the future development, the 'Fishermans Bend Strategic Framework Plan' was released by the Metropolitan Planning Authority in July 2014 (a new amendment released in April, 2015). A Lorimer Precinct Structure Plan is also being developed by the City of Melbourne. Leanne Hodyl, the Coordinator of City Plans and Policy (City of Melbourne) briefed the strategic background to the participants.

2. Background

The City of Melbourne is seeking community feedback and input into the development of an urban forest precinct plan for Fishermans Bend, which will guide tree planting in the area over the next ten years.

As part of the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy, precinct plans will be developed for each of the City's ten precincts. To date, seven precinct plans have been completed, with Parkville, Southbank and Fishermans Bend to be completed this year.

3. Participants

Around 45 community participants joined City of Melbourne staff at the community workshop on Saturday 2 May, 2015 at The Library at the Dock, Docklands. Staff included 10 City of Melbourne officers, 1 photographer and 2 researchers from the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE).

4. Getting Started

The Facilitator, Yvonne Lynch (team leader of Urban Forestry and Ecology) formally welcomed the participants and explained that the objectives of the workshop were to:

- Understand how the community values the urban forest;
- Involve the community in setting priorities for tree planting in Fishermans Bend; and,
- Develop a statement for the future character of the urban forest in Fishermans Bend to guide the planting strategy.

5. Presentation: Urban Forest Challenges and Opportunities, Ian Shears, City of Melbourne

This presentation provided an overview of the development of the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) and an overview of the process that would guide the development of a plan for Fishermans Bend.

The process:

- Work with community to develop plans and guide tree planting.
- Protect and develop neighbourhood character.
- Prioritise works and budgets.

Key principles of the of the UFS

- Climate change.
- Population growth.
- Heat island effect.
- Design for health and liveability.
- Create healthier eco systems.
- Become a water sensitive city.
- Position Melbourne as a leader in urban forestry.
- Maintain and enhance Melbourne's cultural identity.

Overview of Strategies and targets (to 2040):

- Increase canopy cover.
- Increase urban forest diversity.
- Improve vegetation health.
- Soil moisture.
- Biodiversity.
- Inform and consult with the community.



Figure1. Ian Shears presents at the workshop

To keep the workshop running on time, people who have any questions that were not directly linked to the workshop were advised by the facilitator to write down their queries on a whiteboard. The questions would then be collected by the staff.

6. Participatory Mapping

Participants were asked to introduce themselves to the other people at their table and to identify the landscapes with either existing or potential values in Fishermans Bend. The Participatory Mapping methodology for this exercise was developed by Dr. Dave Kendall from ARCUE and the results are being used to guide the development of the precinct plans, and for Dr. Kendall's research to understand what people think about street trees in urban streetscapes.

Participants were provided with a set of colourful stickers and instructions that defined what each colour represented. Each colour sticker represented one of the following values or an area in need of more trees:

1. **Civic:** These areas are important because they contribute to the identity of the city, make the city more welcoming or help market the city to national and international visitors.
2. **Natural:** These areas are important because they represent natural places where trees and other plants can grow, where birds, animals or insects could live, or natural processes can occur.
3. **Culture and heritage:** these areas are important because they represent human history and allow me or others to continue and pass down the wisdom and knowledge, traditions, and way of life of ancestors.
4. **Social:** these areas are important because they provide opportunities for meeting or being with other people for social or sporting activities.
5. **Life sustaining:** these areas are important because they help produce, preserve, clean, and renew air, soil and water and they provide shade and protection from wind or rain.
6. **More trees needed:** These areas would be improved by more or new tree planting.

Participants used stickers representing each value or 'more trees needed' to mark locations on a map of the precinct.



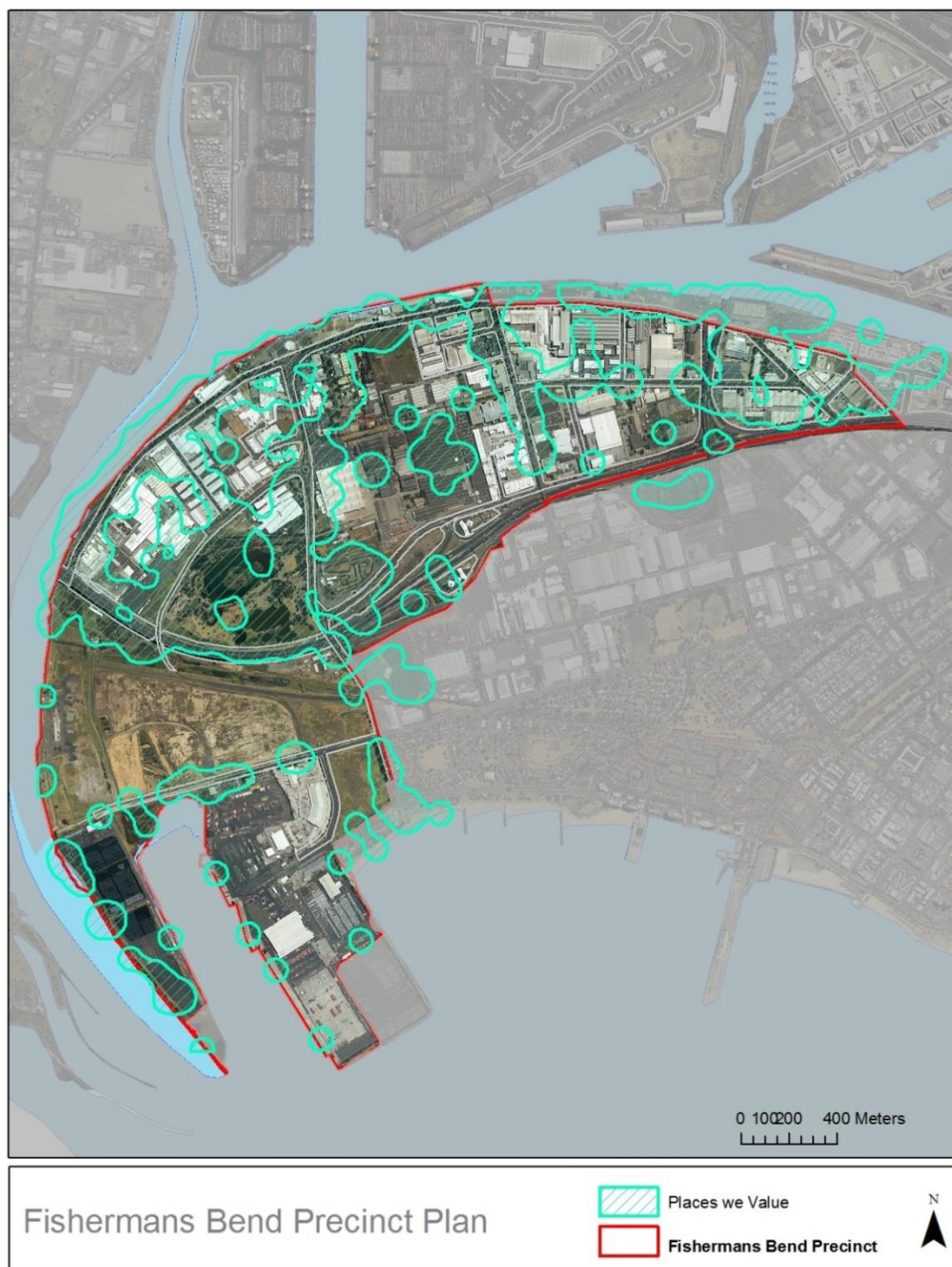
Figure2. Participants place stickers on the map showing places they value

6.1 Valued Places

Participants were asked to place stickers representing one of five values (Civic, Natural, Culture and Heritage, Social, Life Sustaining) on maps of the Fishermans Bend precinct.

Map 1 indicates all the places/streets which were identified by the participants as **places with existing or potential values**. The polygons were created in ArcGIS software by running a kernel density analysis of the sticker points and then converting those to polygons to show outlines of where values were located. For detailed maps on each value, please go to Appendix1.

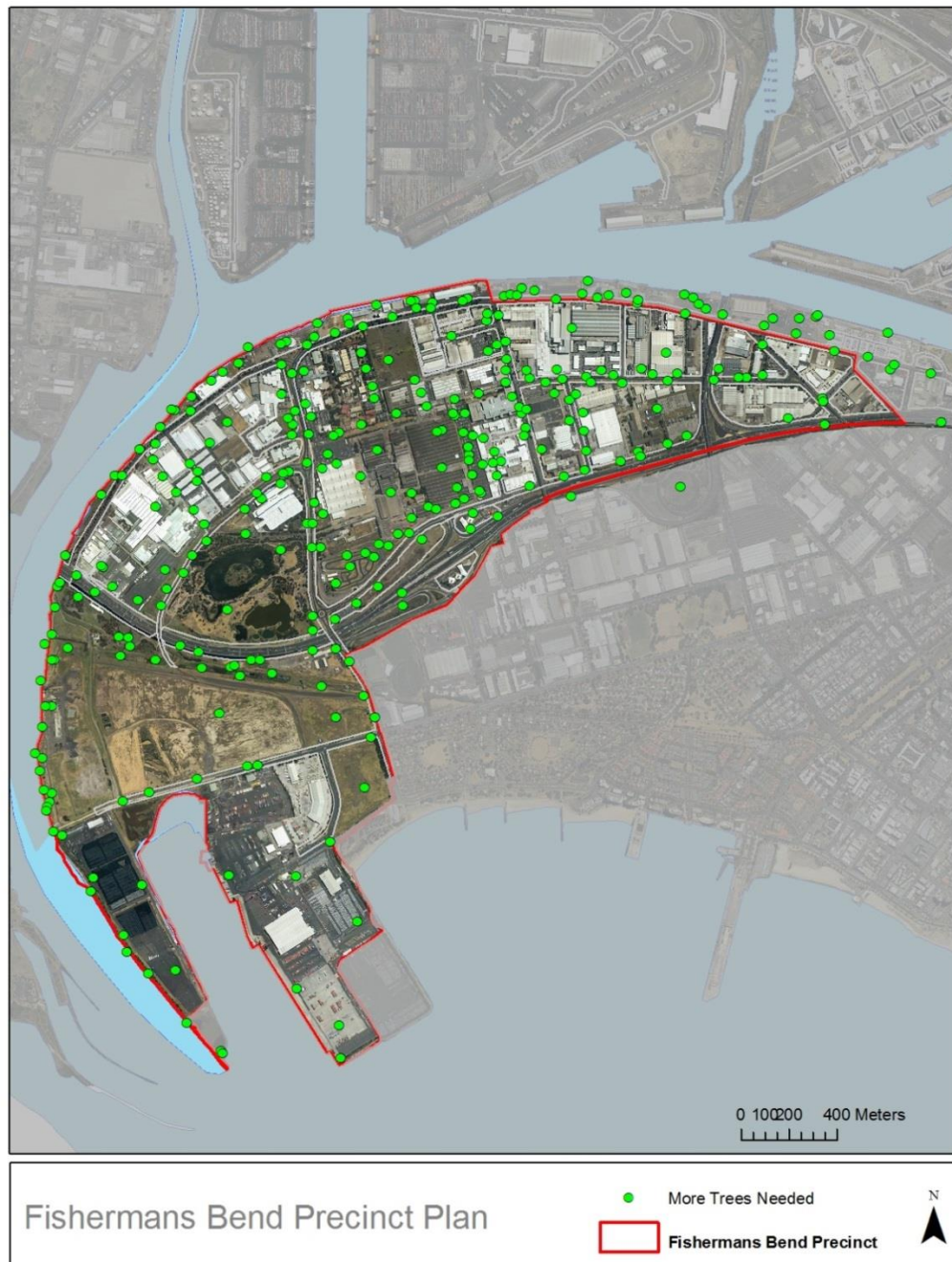
Map1. Places valued by participants



6.2 Trees – More Trees Needed

Participants also used stickers to identify locations where more trees were needed and the locations are shown in Map 2.

Map2. Places where more trees are needed



6.3 Place Do You Or Don't You Like – Online Participation

Online participants were also invited to identify locations they like or do not like, together with comments.

What do you or don't you like about Fishermans Bend existing landscape?

Feedback is now closed.

Use the interactive map below to tell us what you like or don't like about a location in Fishermans Bend. This could be an existing landscape or an area that could be improved by greening.

Get started by hitting the 'Pin your Comment' button below.



Figure3. Online participants mark the place they valued or they think should be improved

Online comments

- Footpaths and tree cover please on Cook St & Todd Rd to reduce industrial feel and improve safety and comfort.
- Consideration of **purpose built event space** to take advantage of Docklands fireworks & event activity
- **Waterside bike and walking trails** essential to urban forest atmosphere and user experience
- Consideration of tourism venture under bridge would be good.
- Prefer residential living in Port Melbourne (houses, townhouses etc.) rather than residential apartment towers in Docklands.
- Consideration of **retaining heritage links** whilst creating modern new precinct would be good.
- Consideration of tourism venture under iconic bridge would be good. Ensure people have a reason to travel through FB.
- Proximity to Albert Park, Port Melbourne & Docklands a highlight, clear accessways between suburbs should be considered
- Look after the existing trees 1st - they look like they get no attention at all.

- I'd be wary of **sea level rise** due to climate change in this area
- Highly segregated by the freeway. Need more integration between the two areas
- Lines of tree hiding those less appealing factories. Preferably **a green corridor leads to the waterfront**. Not feeling walking in a desert.

7. Presentation: Neighbourhood Character, Ian Shears, City of Melbourne

Ian Shears provided a second presentation on considerations for neighbourhood character and creating a diverse urban forest for the future. The main concepts presented were:

- A lack of diversity of tree species leaves the urban forest vulnerable to pests and disease.
- The urban forest is dominated by a few species, namely elms, planes, gums and eucalypts.
- It is possible to maintain a particular character by using a diversity of species that share similar physical characteristics.

8. Designing Fishermans Bend's Urban Forest Character

Each table was given a set of the same 31 photos (all photos were numbered consecutively from 1 to 31, with each photo numbered on the back). Participants were asked to divide the photos into three groups based upon the future urban forest character they envisaged for Fishermans Bend. Photos were to be grouped into the following:

1. Photos that best represent the future of Fishermans Bend.
2. Photos that represent the future you don't want.
3. Photos you are unsure about or cannot agree upon.



Figure4. Participants choose photos best represent future character for Fishermans Bend

The photo survey was also available on the Participate Melbourne website. The results from the workshop and online participation were aggregated to achieve a visual representation of the community's vision for their future urban forest.

8.1 Photos that Best Represent the Future of Fishermans Bend



Participants were also invited to add a word or phrase to each preferred image on post- it notes:

Photo No.	words associated with image
No. 1	Beautiful form
No. 3	Beautiful form
No. 6	More green in verticals
No.16	Colour
No.18	Colour
No.20	Colour
No.7	Nice
No.23	Flower, feature trees
No.24	Complex, layered, bike path, Lorimer St, Cycle lane corridor
No.26	Mix, diverse, big streets
No.28:	Lorimer St, Salmon St

9. Vision Statement

Once each table had agreed upon a set of photos with descriptive key words, participants were invited to use the key words to write a vision statement of urban forest character for Fishermans Bend on a large piece of butcher's paper. One member of each table read out their table's statements to the group.



Figure5. Participants share the vision statement with the room

These statements will be combined and used by Council to develop a statement of neighbourhood character in the draft Precinct Plan to guide future tree selection, design and urban forest projects in Fishermans Bend. Statements from the workshop and the online participation are listed in the table below.

Table No.	Vision	Key Theme
1	In 2040 Fishermans bend will be a continuous canopy of trees forming a network of diverse trees to create a beautiful, indigenous environment connecting places for people with biodiversity. Comments: Matrix/network, boulevards, diverse, canopy, wetlands, indigenous, beautiful, people, biodiversity, birds friendly	Connecting Indigenous People & biodiversity
2	Vision points: Some elements of past original vegetation	Pre-settlement River

	<p>'Daintree of the south Tim Flannery'</p> <p>Pre-settlement flora and fauna</p> <p>River</p> <p>Diversity, species, form, height</p> <p>No overhead wires/services</p> <p>Understorey planting</p> <p>Areas of interest and character</p> <p>Communities and ornamental gardens</p> <p>Wind consideration</p> <p>Contamination</p>	Diverse
3	<p>The future Fishermans Bend urban forest should be supporting wildlife and community through connecting green sanctuaries with a diverse and resilient palette.</p> <p>Key words:</p> <p>Indigenous/ exotic; Robust, Power line safe, people friendly, diverse, colourful, water saving, flood tolerant, disease resilient, evergreen and deciduous, shady, noise retardant, integrated, no power lines, large shady, dense canopy, diversity, bio diverse, connectivity, bio-links, bold, leafy, low maintenance, riverside trees, colour, canopy along main roads</p>	<p>Resilient</p> <p>Diverse</p> <p>Connecting</p> <p>Wildlife & community</p>
4	<p>The urban forest in FB will be a vibrant destination. It will be interconnected, thriving, all aspects working together to support community and environment. Socially equitable with incidental greening + feature trees.</p> <p>Key words:</p> <p>Shade, vibrant, screen, flowers, colour, linking, RICH, multi-layered, sustainable water use, no power lines</p>	<p>Social equitable</p> <p>Destination</p> <p>Interconnected</p> <p>Community & environment</p>
5	<p>Shifting from existing to connective green space + Liveable areas</p> <p>Connecting FB to community, water + open green space</p> <p>Water sensitive, Public, greening, under storey, storm water, connective, nature, integrative</p> <p>Wildlife corridor, street life, showcase for other communities to follow</p>	<p>Connective</p> <p>Liveable</p> <p>Showcase</p>
6	None	
7	<p>Australian's first regenerative and resilient, community founded on best practice in urban ecology in its broadest context</p> <p>Key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and research • Public private partnership • Creating public ownership and generating community pride • Socially active and connected space 	<p>Regenerative</p> <p>Resilience</p> <p>Urban ecology</p> <p>Socially active</p> <p>Connected</p>
Online	The urban forest in Fisherman's Bend could be a little bit like NYC's Central Park - a recreational and visually relaxing space.	Relaxing
	Lots of indigenous trees, specifically eucalypts/corymbias (ceasia, citriadora, maculata, ficifolia) and banksia.	Indigenous
	Integrate with riverfront, lots of big shady trees with wide canopies to provide maximum shade, would also like some	Riverfront Shade

	fountains.	
	Anything for a good cause to make it more beautiful.	
	More work required on Lormier St it's a start compared to some other streets	
	Indigenous Native plants are preferred. We wish to avoid the presence of Snakes and Rabbits where possible. HWT / Melbourne Print Centre	Indigenous
	Put the power lines below ground so we can grow more trees that require less maintenance.	
	Streetscapes with endemic tree, shrub and grass species. Specific plantings should be appropriate for clear sight lines for traffic.	Endemic
	Lots of coastal type vegetation, indigenous to reflect the natural landscape, It's an isolated area, make it safe especially for women & kids	Coastal Indigenous Safe
	I would like to see the urban forest integrated with the river frontage and for the streets to provide shady, green corridors	River frontage Shady
	Lots of trees to provide shade in the summer that also attract birds. Trees to line streets and also grouped wherever possible, with seating	Shady
	Density of green = density of man-made buildings, plant mix and layout attracts native birds and fauna, green space enables locals to lose t	Density of green Mix
	Green corridor reflect native landscape pre-industrial, connect Westgate park and the rest of the city, contribute to the whole port area"	Native landscape

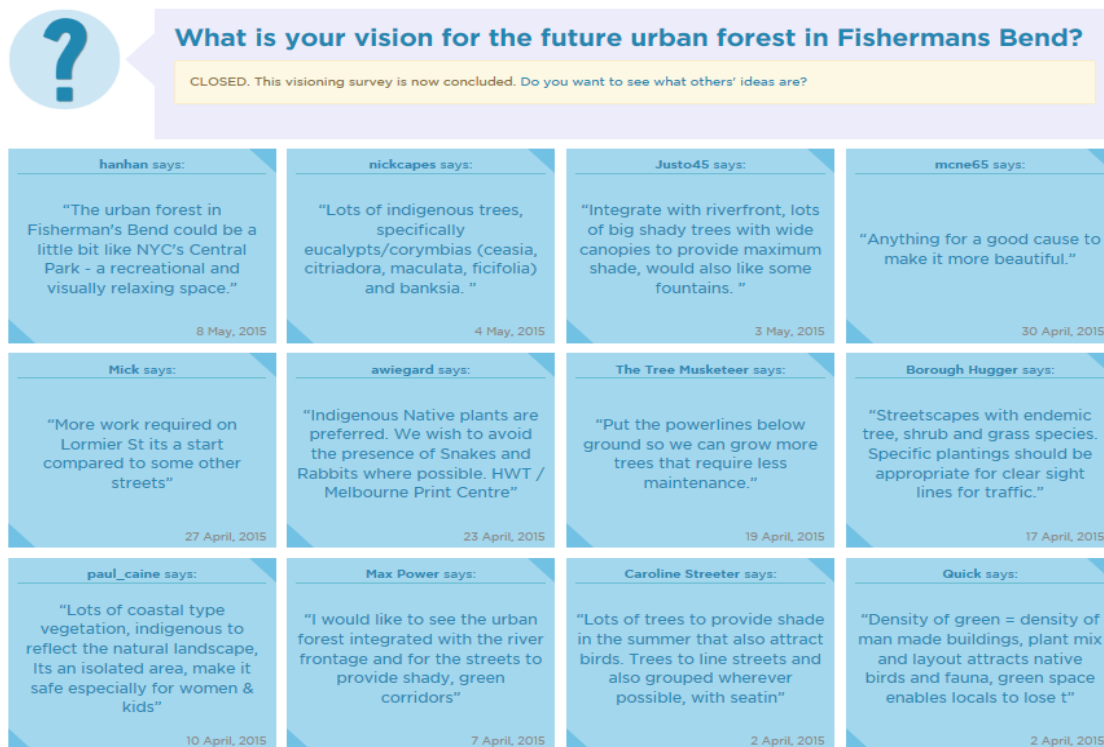


Figure6. Vision statements submitted via Participate Melbourne

A summary of these key words provided by all groups in the photo and visioning activities was combined into the following Wordle.

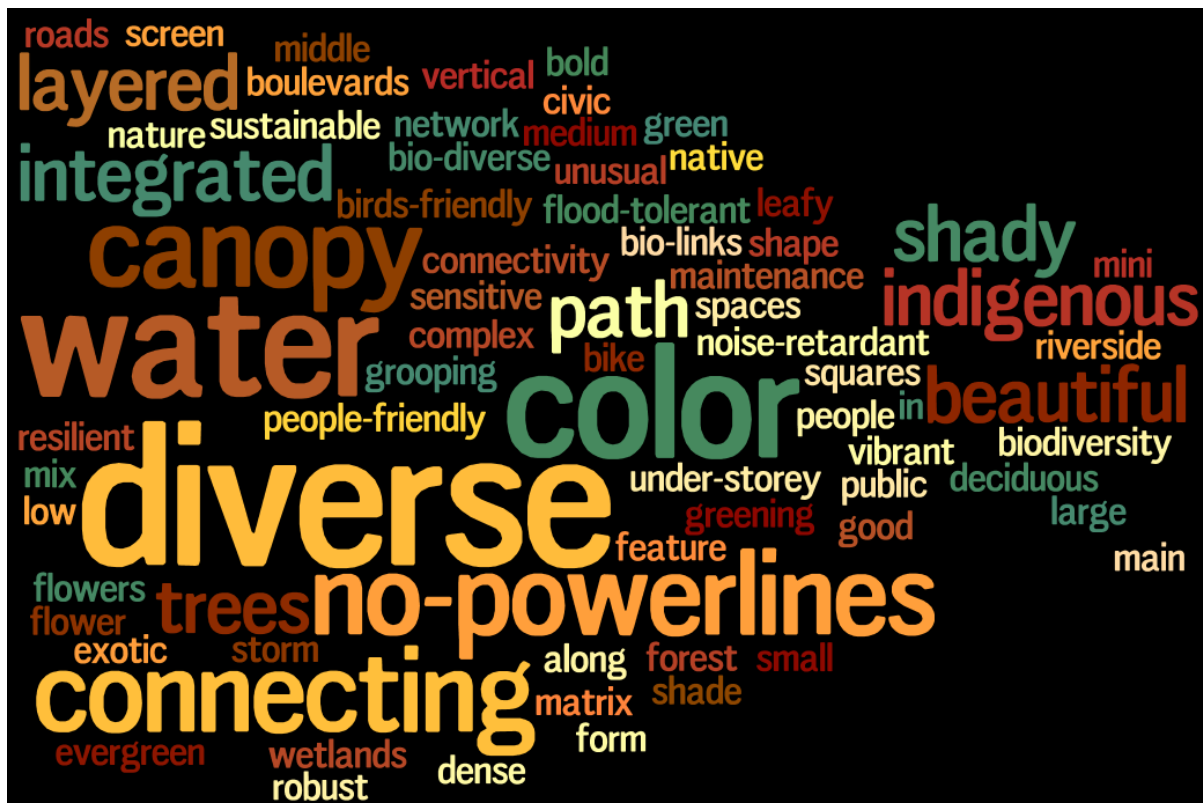


Figure7. This Wordle shows the most common words used in the vision statement and photo comments

10. Next Steps

Yvonne Lynch, from City of Melbourne outlined the next steps in the development of the precinct plans:

- Information gathered in workshops will be written up in a report
- These findings will be incorporated into a draft precinct plan
- The draft plan would be put out to the community for comment.
- A final plan would be presented to Council in 2015.

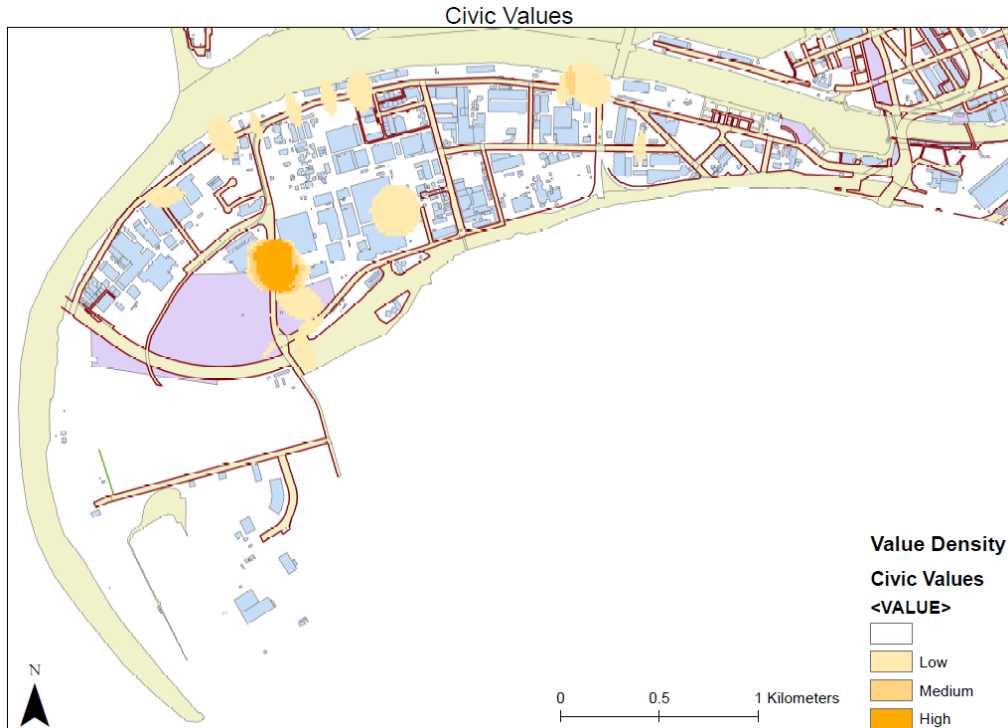
To continue to participate and comment online visit

<http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/projects/urban-forest-precinct-plan/fishermansbend/>

Appendix 1 – Values Maps

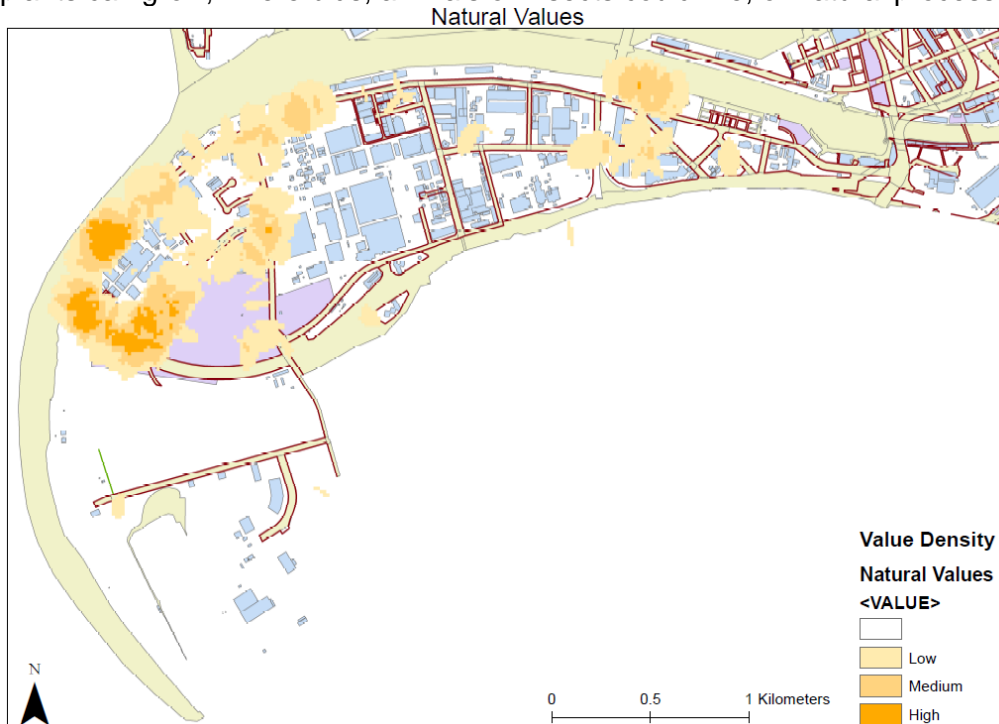
Places identified for civic value

These areas are important because they contain attractive scenery including sights, smells and sounds, or the area has sacred, religious meanings and I feel reverence and respect for nature here.



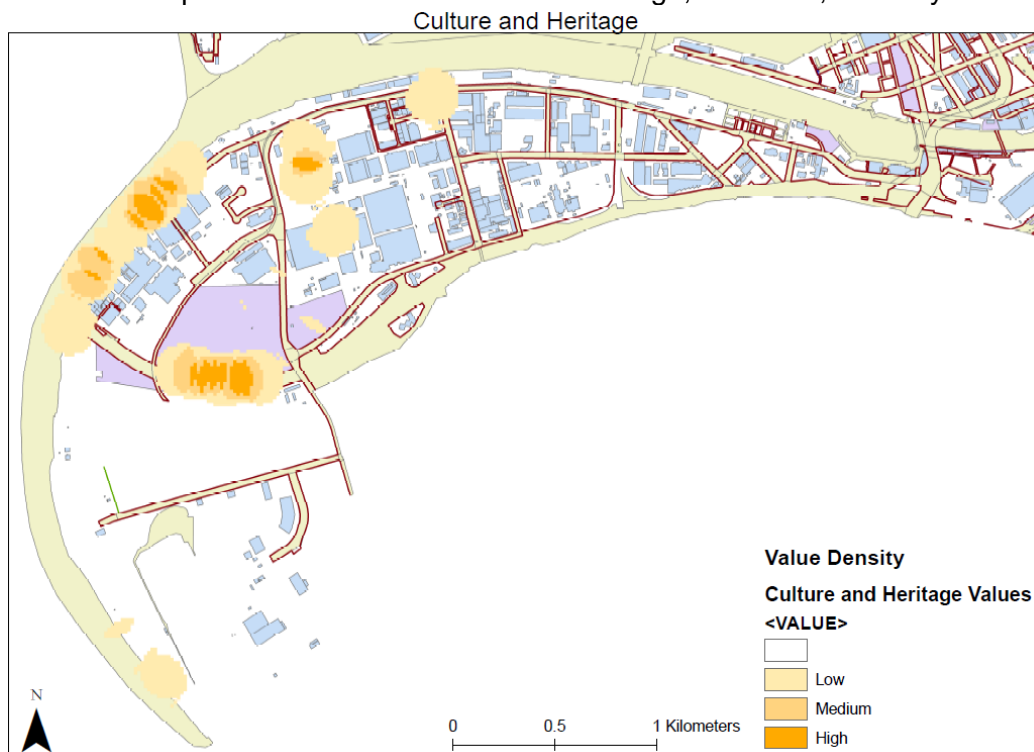
Map – Places identified for natural value

These areas are important because they represent natural places where trees and other plants can grow, where birds, animals or insects could live, or natural processes can occur.



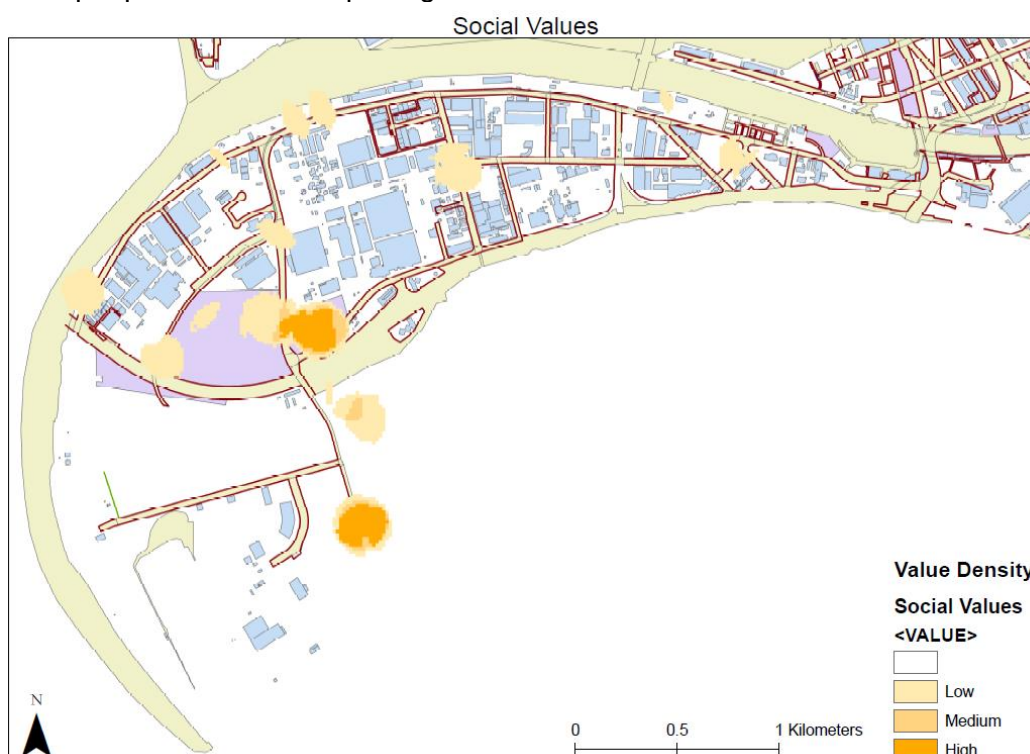
Map – Places identified for culture and heritage value

These areas are important because they represent human history and allow me or others to continue and pass down the wisdom and knowledge, traditions, and way of life of ancestors.



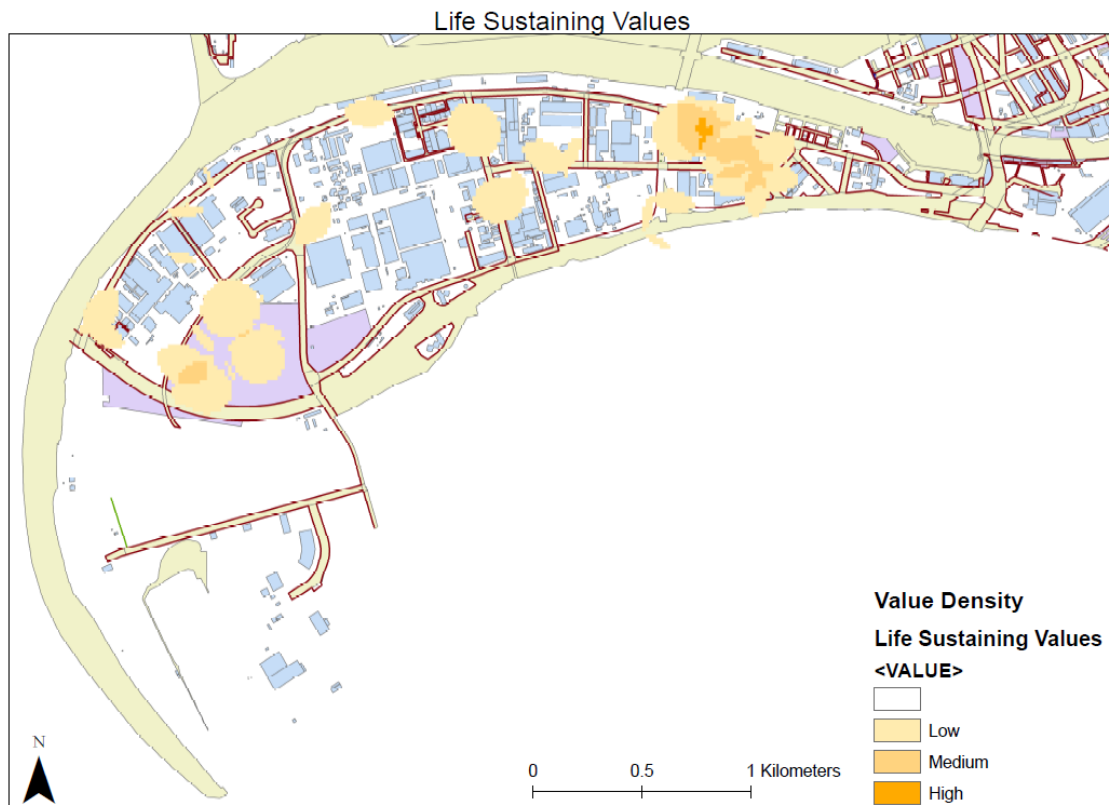
Map – Places identified for social value

These areas are important because they provide opportunities for meeting or being with other people for social or sporting activities.

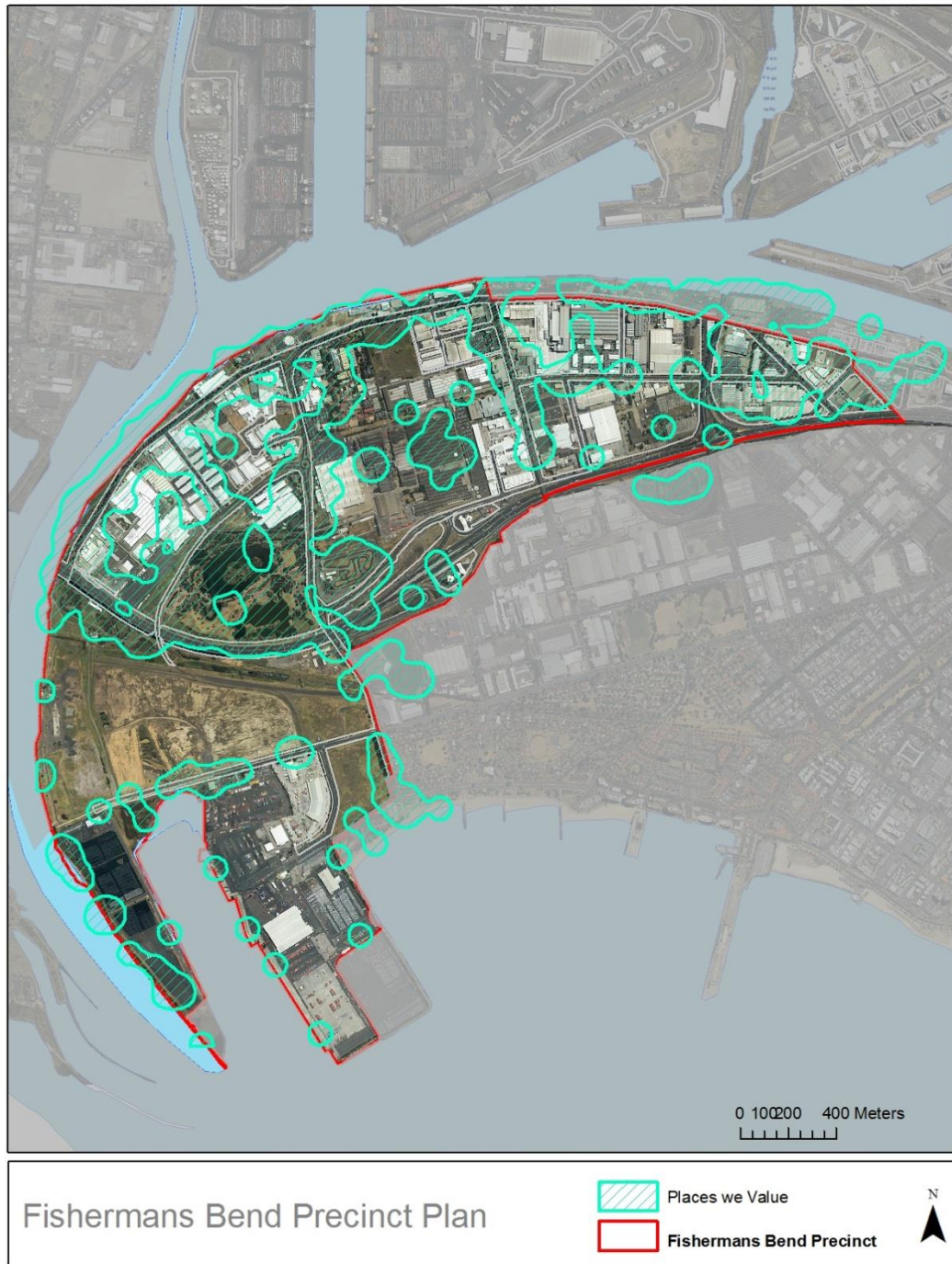


Map – Places identified for life sustaining

These areas are important because they help produce, preserve, clean, and renew air, soil and water. And they provide shade and protection from the wind or rain.



Places valued by participants



More Trees Needed

