

# WODONGA 2050

## Community Conversations Toolkit

Under the Local Government Act, the council must develop a community vision and long-term planning documents to support the vision.

We are developing a new Wodonga 2050 vision to replace the Wodonga 2033 vision first developed in 2008 and updated and reviewed in 2015 and 2021.

The community vision is a community-led and informed document that outlines our aspirations for the future of the city.

It is a unique opportunity for you to become an active participant in crafting the future of our city.

During this consultation, we invite every member of our community to engage in events and conversations about what matters most to us.

We're embarking on a journey to:

- Identify our community's strengths and assets;
- Address our challenges and concerns;
- Envision the future we want for ourselves and future generations; and,
- Set clear goals and priorities for our community's growth and development.

Participating is simple and your voice is crucial.

This toolkit allows everyone to have a conversation at their sporting club, workplace or community organisation and provide feedback to inform the development of the vision.

Your involvement in the development of the community vision is a chance to:

- Shape the future of our community;
- Strengthen community bonds and collaboration;
- Ensure your voice is heard and valued;
- Contribute to a more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community; and,
- Leave a legacy for generations to come.

### ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to help you to facilitate important community conversations on the key question that will inform our Wodonga 2050 community vision: How do we make Wodonga an even better place to live for all?

This toolkit outlines the steps to hold your conversation and submit that feedback to us to inform the community vision.

It will help you plan your workshop, provide options to run your workshop and give some tools and tips to get the most out of your conversation.





## PREPARING FOR THE CONVERSATION

The purpose of this toolkit is to assist in you facilitating a community conversation at one of your regular gatherings or meetings of your group or organisation.

You can introduce the conversation using our introduction from this toolkit and then run an activity from the activities section in this toolkit.

## YOUR ROLE

For a successful conversation, there are three important roles that need to be filled: Host, facilitators and scribes.

THE HOST sets up the conversation and prepares the location, materials and refreshments required. The host would generally do an introduction and share the purpose of the conversation.

THE FACILITATOR helps the group understand their objective and guides the conversation, ensuring everyone has a chance to be heard.

THE SCRIBE keeps a record of the discussion and submits the information into the online portal following the community conversation.

## GROUND RULES

Tips to ensure a productive conversation

1. Have a “kitchen table” conversation  
Everyone participates; no one dominates
2. There are no “right” answers  
Draw on your own experiences, views and beliefs; you don’t need to be an expert
3. Keep an open mind  
Listen carefully and honour differences in viewpoints and opinions.
4. Help keep the discussion on track  
Stick to the questions; try not to ramble and monitor time
5. Be respectful  
Diverse opinions offer rich results; respect others as we share our aspirations and challenges.
6. Have Fun!

## CONTENT AND QUESTIONS

To inform the community vision, we are asking one key question:

*How do we make Wodonga an even better place to live for all?*

For your conversation, we suggest the following prompts to start and guide the conversation. It tells us what is important to the community in the place where they live and what they see as the priorities to foster growth, opportunity and liveability into the future.

1. What makes Wodonga a great place to live now?
2. What would make Wodonga an even better place to live 30 years from now?

### REFLECTION

At the end of your conversation, we suggest the facilitator shares three to five of the main themes they heard during the discussion. This will help summarise and form a consensus on the key focus areas and priorities from what the group talked about during the conversation.

The facilitator can then affirm with the group using the following prompts.

- Does this resonate with you as the key messages desired by the group?
- What, if anything is missing?
- Needs to be added?
- Needs to be taken away?



### ACTIVITY IDEAS

Some ways in which to have your conversation.

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#### COMMUNITY CIRCLES

Materials required: None

- Guide the conversation by asking the questions within the toolkit.
- Start with one question, and allow time for everyone to share before moving to the next question.

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#### IMAGINING THE FUTURE

Materials required: printed worksheet, pens

- This is a brainstorming activity that allows people to capture their ideas on the supplied worksheet.
- This can be done individually or in groups.
- Have each person or a group representative share a summary of their discussion with the wider group.

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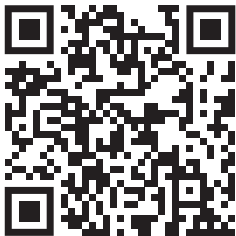
#### IDEAS WALL

Materials required: Question print-outs, post-its, pens

- Allow people to think and share in their own time as part of wider activity or over a duration of time
- Set up a space with the question display at the top and allow people to write their idea on a post-it and stick it on the wall.
- Others can tick ideas they support.

## SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK

After the conversation, the scribe can submit a summary of the feedback by filling out the online form or returning a printed form and materials to the council offices. The online form allows for the upload of scans of the notes and images taken during the conversation.



Please submit all feedback by Friday, June 7, 2024.

There are three ways you can return your feedback summary.

1. Online: Complete the form at <https://wod.city/toolkit-summary> or scan the QR code to the left
2. Email: [makewodongayours@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:makewodongayours@wodonga.vic.gov.au)
3. In person: Return to Council Offices, 104 Hovell St, Wodonga VIC 3690



### SHARE YOUR STORY

We would love to share your conversation on our social media to encourage others in the community to host their own conversation.

We invite you to send any photos or testimonial of your experience using the kit to [makewodongayours@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:makewodongayours@wodonga.vic.gov.au)

Alternatively, you can post your story directly to the Wodonga 2050 group. Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wodonga2050/>

We may make updates or provide new worksheets as part of this consultation, make sure you're following the Wodonga 2050 Facebook group mentioned above or register for email updates at [wod.city/2050signup](https://wod.city/2050signup) to receive updates when new information is published.