

# Fact Sheet 2: The Coburg Initiative SpeakOut

## Introduction

The Coburg Initiative *SpeakOut* provided the community with the opportunity to shape Coburg's future in a creative and interactive way. It was held on Saturday 16th May in Victoria Mall, Coburg. Over 500 community members participated in the *SpeakOut* and contributed their ideas for the future of Coburg.

The event included five discussion topics for the community to participate in. These included Housing, Transport, Community Needs, Shopping and Leisure & Recreation. Community members were asked key questions related to each topic. This fact sheet provides a summary of the key themes that emerged from community discussions held on the day.



## Housing

### In the future, what height should housing and other buildings be in Coburg?

Many community members were supportive of higher density in Coburg. However, they suggested good design is imperative and appropriate locations of higher densities critical. Support was received for high quality, European-style housing and retaining heritage values where possible. Participants also felt consideration of affordable housing, housing for the elderly and those with disabilities was important.

Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) is a high priority for new housing developments in Central Coburg. This includes the need for water collection, good design, solar power and rooftop gardens.

Participants also identified that open space and other community oriented spaces such as community gardens as well as appropriate community services will help retain a sense of community. Many felt that access to transport, especially public transport, will be crucial as density increases in Coburg and more people move to the area.



## Transport

### Where do you walk and cycle in Coburg?

Shopping strips of Sydney Road, Victoria Mall and Louisa Street were naturally highlighted as the main walking routes by participants. Safer crossings, less congested footpaths or wider footpaths and improved access for less mobile community members were some of the major issues raised.

The Upfield Bike Path is the most common path used in the Coburg area. However, a number of concerns were raised including the need for safer crossings most notably at the Munro Street crossing. *SpeakOut* participants also identified the need for more on road bike lanes and off road paths.

### Where do you catch public transport in Coburg?

Train and tram are the two most common forms of public transport. Some issues raised in relation to public transport were the need for improved access on trams and buses, and at the train station and improved connections between trains and buses.

### What is the worst place for you in your car in Coburg?

Road congestion locations in Coburg include the Sydney Road and Bell Street intersection, the Sydney Road and Harding Street intersection, Sydney Road itself, especially if travelling north and sections along Munro Street and Louisa/Waterfield Streets, particularly at the car park exits.

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## Community Needs

### What facilities and services does the community need?

The library is a well used and well loved community facility in Coburg. The community identified that there was a need to extend the library and create a stronger interface and presence in Victoria Mall.

The need for a high school in Central Coburg was identified as a major issue. Open space and better quality playgrounds were also major issues identified by participants.

The desire for a cinema featured strongly with specific support for an 'art house' or independent cinema. Other issues raised included childcare services and facilities, public toilets centrally located, a community centre, a community health centre, a safe space for youth, a theatre and / or art space and a 'Men's Shed', a communal space for men to gather.

Other services and facilities that received strong support included more bike racks and facilities, sports facilities for children, medical services, redevelopment of the leisure centre and an outdoor performance space.



## Shopping

### In the future, what kind of shopping experience would you like to see in Coburg?

While there was strong support for a bookstore in Central Coburg, there was minimal support for larger complexes and the majority of participants strongly opposed a 'Northland' style shopping centre. The community was divided as to whether a discount department store (i.e. K-Mart or Target) would be good for Coburg.

In relation to general goods on offer in Coburg, some participants felt there were too many \$2 shops and that there could be better fashion shops. There was also support for a music store.

Food featured commonly in participant ideas. This included more restaurants in Coburg, organic food options, better fresh food and a better market.

Other possibilities for shopping and retail include the need to keep small businesses in Coburg, better public toilets to retain shoppers, clean and accessible public areas and improved shopping facades and interiors.

## Leisure and Recreation

### What leisure and recreation opportunities are missing in Coburg?

The majority of participants felt that a cinema would improve Coburg's leisure and recreation options.

*SpeakOut* participants strongly opposed poker machines in Central Coburg, however there was support for live music and bars as well as more cafes, restaurants and outdoor eating.

Other leisure and recreation facilities included cycling paths, walking paths and parks with dog off leash areas. Outdoor community and public spaces as well as picnic facilities and grounds also received strong support.

Other entertainment ideas included a theatre, art galleries, live sport, an improved swimming pool and a facility for yoga, pilates and t'ai chi.



The outcomes of the *SpeakOut* were used to inform the Coburg Initiative Design Workshop which was held 1st - 3rd June 2009. The Design Workshop was an intensive three day planning and design exercise which brought together over 250 key stakeholders and members of the community to discuss, debate and explore possible planning solutions for Central Coburg.

For further information on the Design Workshop and the Coburg Initiative generally, please contact the Project Information Desk, details are below.

### For more information:

For more information about the Coburg Initiative please contact the Project Information Desk on 03 9240 2475 or email [info@thecoburginitiative.com.au](mailto:info@thecoburginitiative.com.au). Alternatively, please visit the project website [www.thecoburginitiative.com.au](http://www.thecoburginitiative.com.au) for regular project updates.

Representatives of the Coburg Initiative will also be located in the Victoria Mall every Thursday commencing on the 30th of April 2009.

### Language Link

中文	9280 1910	<b>Español</b>	9280 1916
<b>Italiano</b>	9280 1911	<b>Hrvatski</b>	9280 1917
Ελληνικά	9280 1912	हिन्दी	9280 1918
العربية	9280 1913		
<b>Türkçe</b>	9280 1914	<b>All other languages</b>	
<b>Việt Ngữ</b>	9280 1915		9280 1919

*Language Link is Council's free multilingual telephone information service. There is a telephone interpreter for each of Moreland's nine community languages. Call the 'other language' line for other languages like Somali and Maltese.*

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