

# What we heard Councils

We have 9 shire councils in our region. Councils were invited to meet with us as well as complete a survey.

## Concerns

Having infrastructure available to support growth demands. Council resources have been prioritised to support the community through the impacts of COVID-19.

## Next Steps

We will share our findings with Councils and use the feedback provided to inform the Pricing Submission.

70% agreed we deliver the right mix of services at the right level.

Councils would like more opportunities to work collaboratively on issues.

Councils can see that we have financial limitations on how much we currently contribute to livability.

There is more we can do together to improve community health and wellbeing and address climate change.

94% said the relationship with Coliban Water was good to very good.

Councils recognise debt and regulated pricing limit our contributions to the community.

## Intergenerational Debt

Councils recognise the significant challenges in funding capital works in order to meet the growing needs of the region. They would like to collaborate more across our capital works programs and look for funding opportunities for the region together.

## Community Contributions

It is important to work together to ensure the priority green spaces are available for the community to enjoy. Joint initiatives like drinking fountains and 'Water Sensitive Bendigo' improve liveability.

## Protecting Against Drought

Councils are a valuable stakeholder for the development of our Urban Water Strategy and integrated water management plans. They look to prioritise sustainable water practices that secure the water supply. This also benefits the environment and assets they provide and maintain for the community.

## Supporting Customers Experiencing Vulnerability

Councils have been looking to collaborate with us to understand how to maximise the benefits and reach of their own support programs. They are using our program and experience to help develop and refine their own.

