

# Liquor Establishments Operating Hours

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2025**

July 2025

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## Land acknowledgement

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

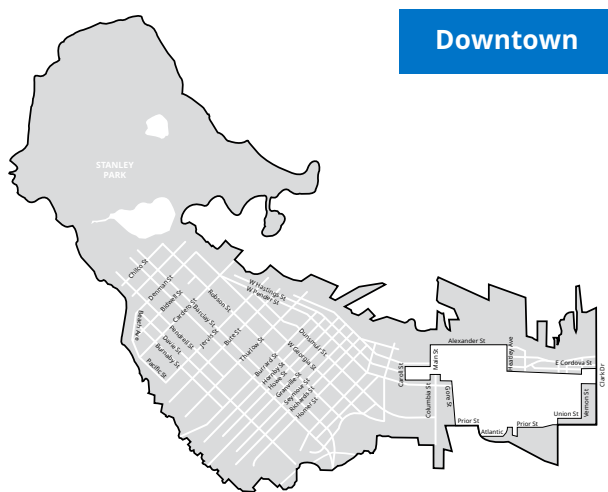
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# About

The City is considering increasing some of the hours that bars, pubs, and nightclubs can be open for business. We are also considering updates to the hours that restaurants can serve alcohol. Operating and service hours have largely remained the same since 2004.

The proposed changes aim to support businesses, local economies, and neighbourhood vibrancy while considering public health and safety. Another goal is to simplify and streamline regulations.



## Project Timeline

**January to May 2024**

Project Planning and Research

**June to October 2024**

Engagement with Industry Stakeholders and Partner Agencies

**October 2024 to January 2025**

Policy Options Development

**February to March 2025**

Public Engagement

**July 2025**

Council Report



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Between February and March, 2025, the City of Vancouver engaged residents and businesses on:



**Bars, pubs and nightclubs  
operating hours**



**Restaurant liquor  
service hours**

How we engaged:



**Online  
survey**



**Information  
bulletin**



**Social  
media**



**Email to community  
groups/stakeholders**



**During the engagement  
period, we received 3,798  
responses to the survey**

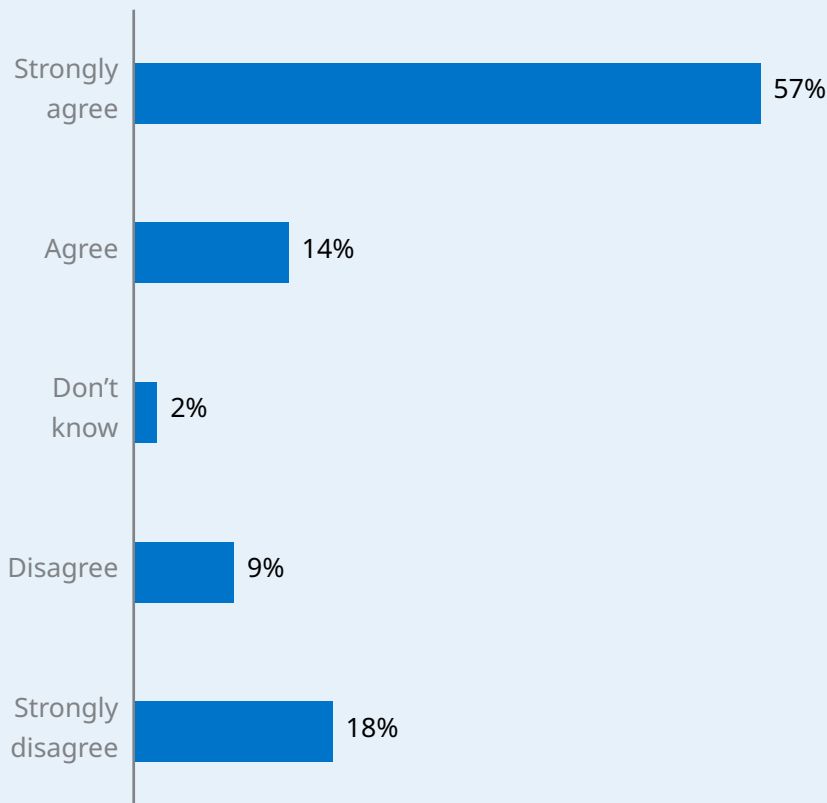
All project content was made available on [www.shapeyourcity.ca/liquor-hours](http://www.shapeyourcity.ca/liquor-hours)



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## Downtown

Do you agree or disagree with 3 am being the latest closing time allowed for all bars, pubs and nightclubs located Downtown every day of the week?

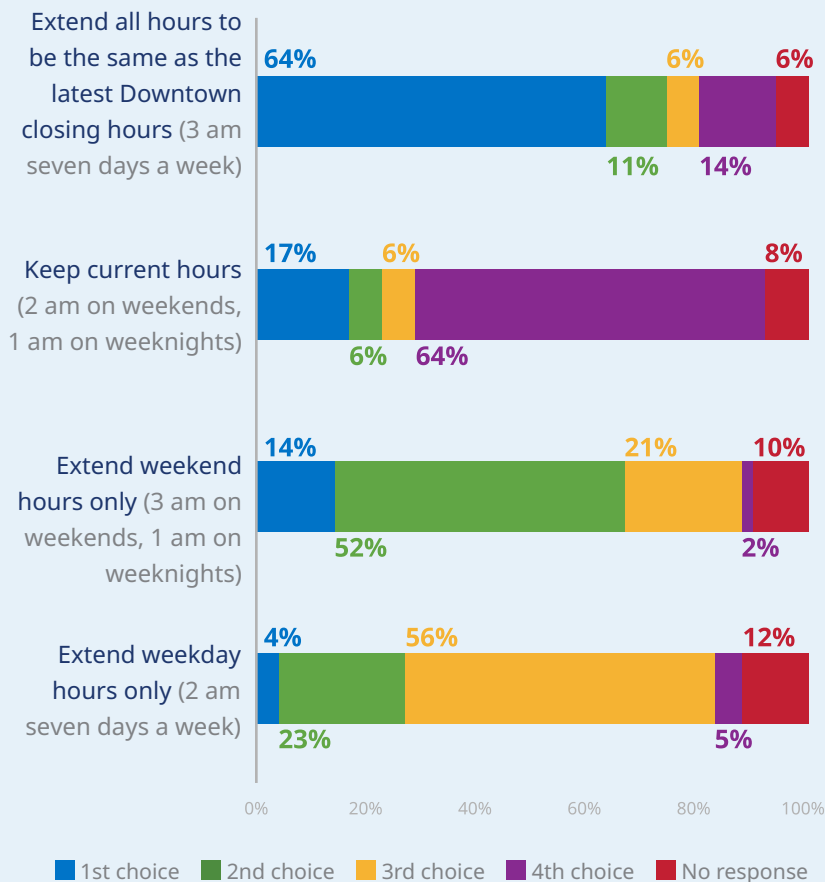


- 71% of respondents support 3 am being the latest closing hour allowed for all bars, pubs and nightclubs in Downtown every day of the week.
- Respondents under the age of 50 showed the most support for longer operating hours of liquor primary establishments (74%).
- Respondents from Metro Vancouver (75%) and outside of Metro Vancouver (75%) showed slightly higher level of support for longer opening hours for pubs, bars, and nightclubs in Downtown compared to respondents from Downtown Vancouver (67%) and outside Downtown Vancouver residents (71%).

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## Outside Downtown Vancouver

For closing hours outside Downtown, rank the following options with 1 being the option you support the most and 4 being the option you support the least.



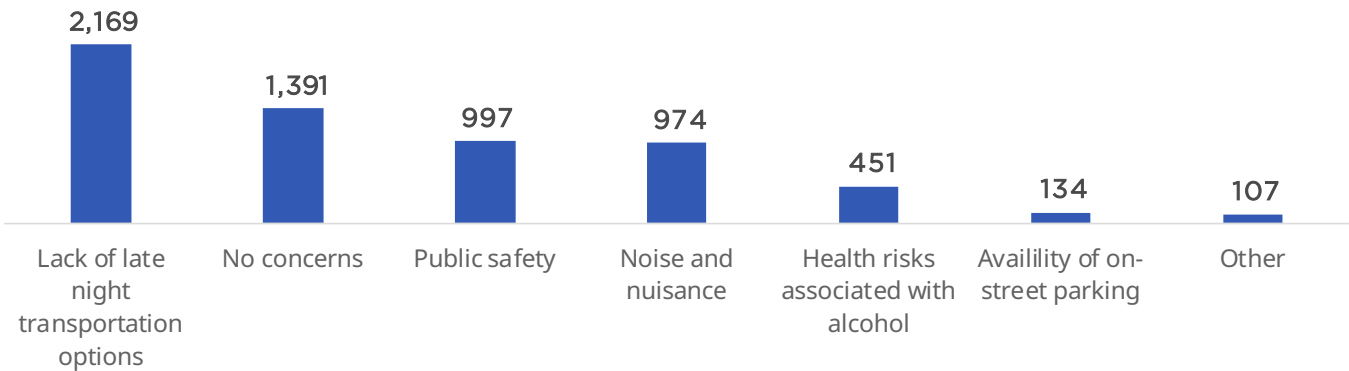
- Majority of respondents preferred the option to extend all hours to be the same as the latest Downtown closing hours (3 am seven days a week), with 64% of respondents picking this as their #1 option.
- Residents in Metro Vancouver and those from outside of Downtown were slightly more supportive of longer hours for liquor establishments outside of Downtown (65% of non-Downtown Vancouver and Metro Vancouver residents compared to 60% of Downtown residents).
- Only 17% of respondents preferred to keep the current operating hours in non-Downtown as their top option.

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## What we heard: Liquor establishments

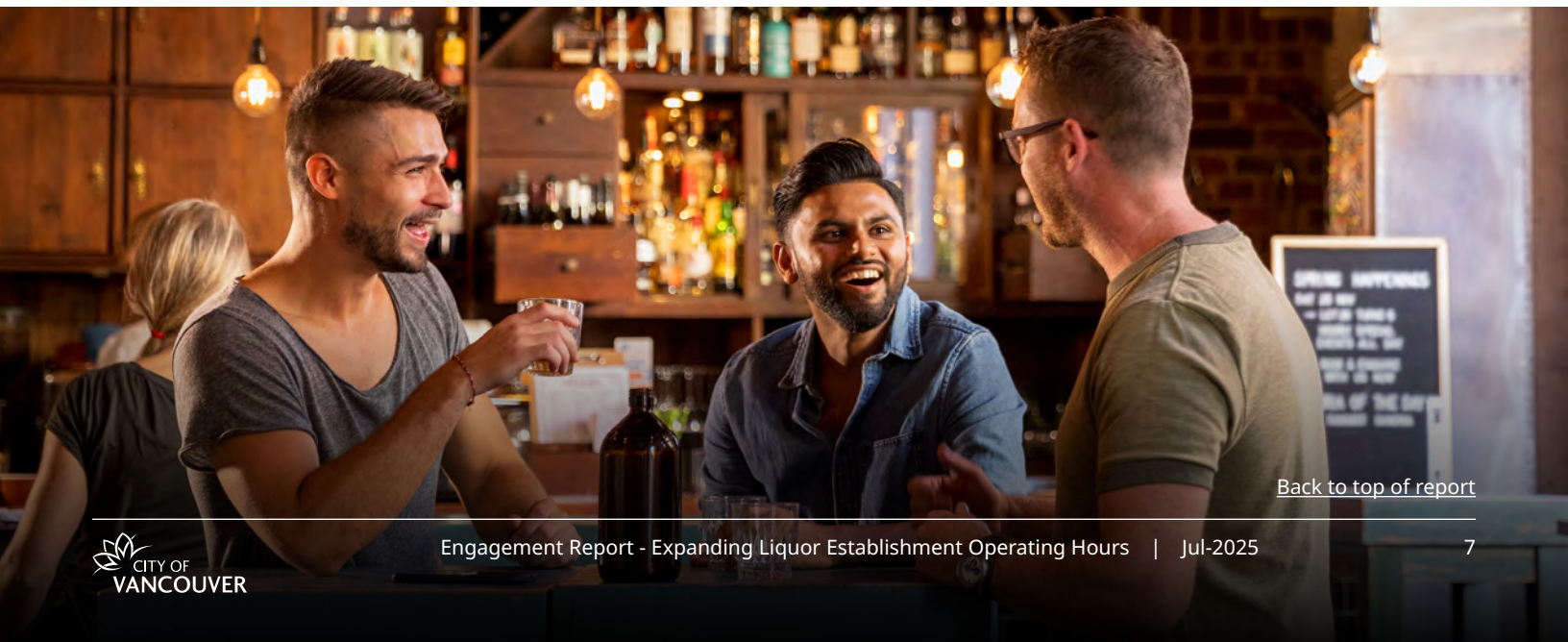
# What are your main concerns regarding later closing hours for bars, pubs and nightclubs?



"I don't care how late a place is open as long as authorities/police are able to respond to noise complaints, and other safety concerns."

"More options for people with unorthodox work schedules to still be able to celebrate and have a social life."

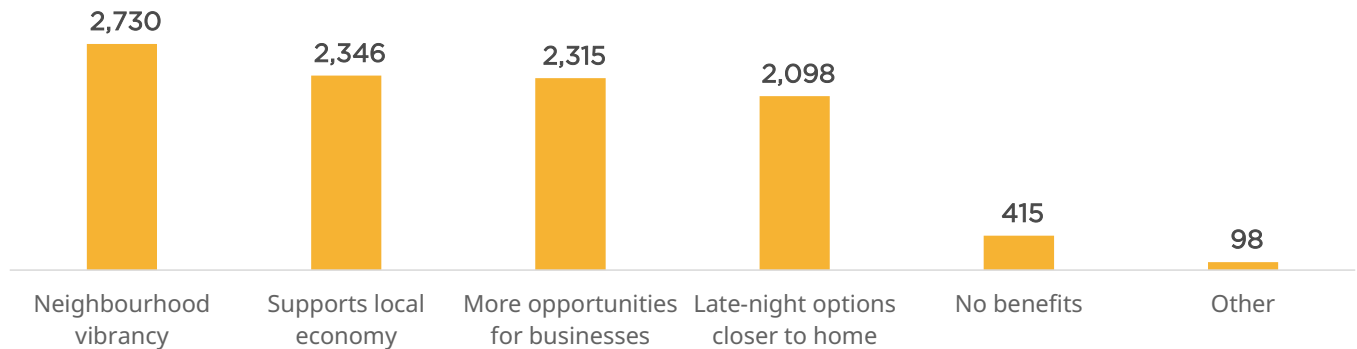
"I could actually have a night out in Vancouver for once. Throw in a way to get home (transit outside of skytrain hours) and it's perfect."



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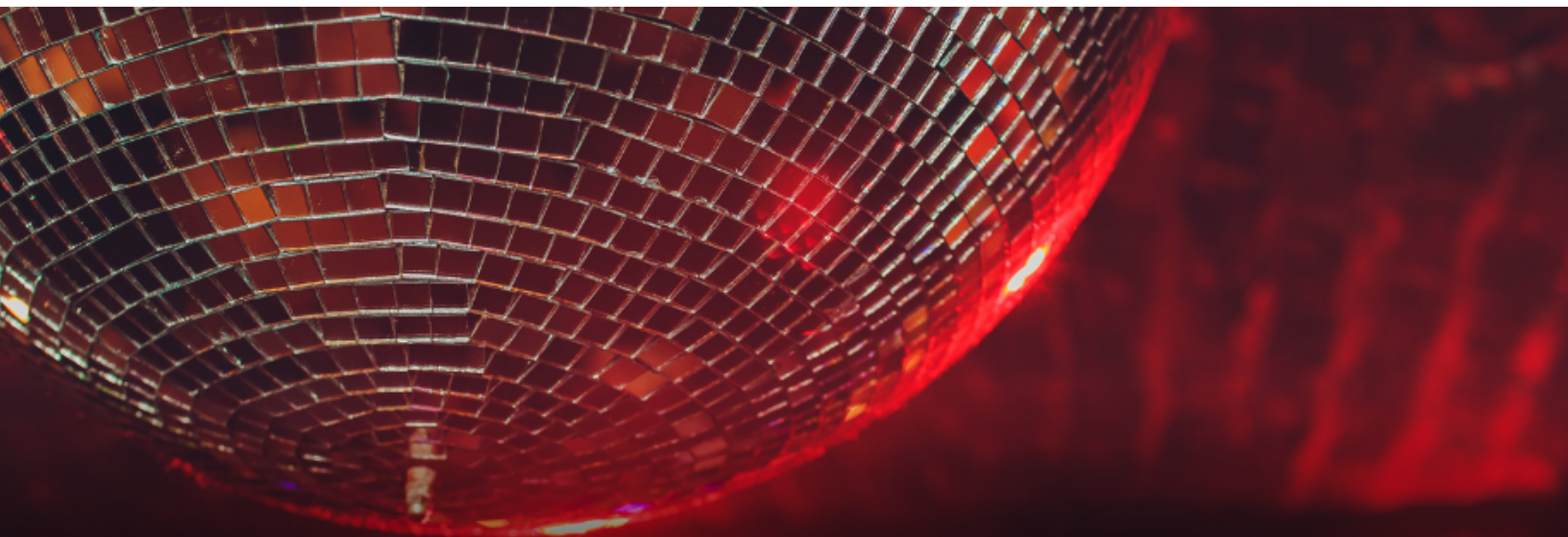
## What we heard: Liquor establishments

### Which benefits of later closing hours for bars, pubs and nightclubs are most appealing to you?



"With more options of when to close, not all drunk people are ejected at the same time onto the streets. This makes the streets safer."

"Having local options later at night reduces distance and logistics/barriers to going out."

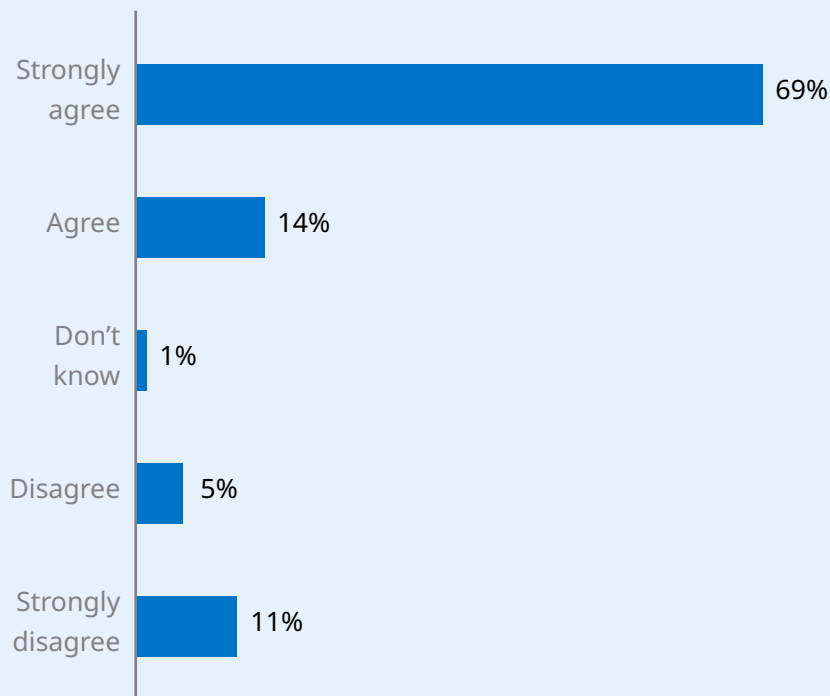


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## Liquor service hours in restaurants

Do you agree or disagree with restaurants being allowed to serve alcohol until 2 am any night of the week?

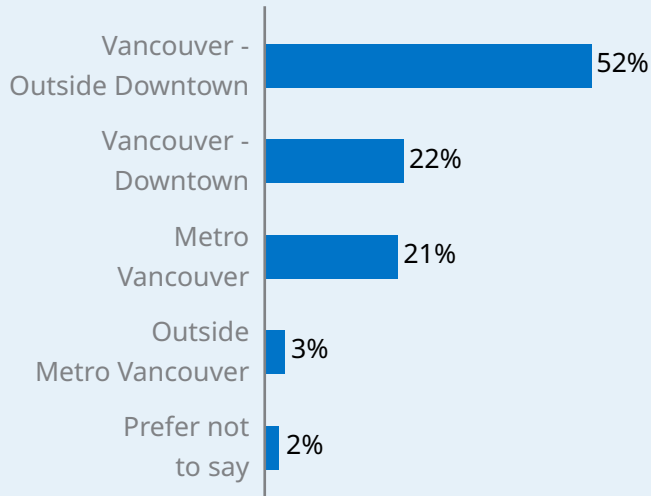


- Strong majority of respondents (83%) supported longer hours for liquor service in restaurants.
- Support was stronger among people 19 to 49 years old (85%) and those who live in Vancouver - outside downtown (84%) and in Metro Vancouver (85%)

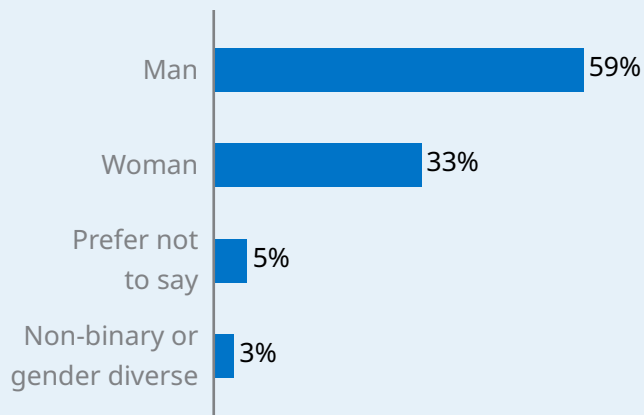
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## Who participated

### Location



### Gender Identity



- Half of respondents living in Vancouver were residents of Mt. Pleasant, Kitsilano, Grandview-Woodland, Fairview, Kensington-Cedar Cottage, Hastings-Sunrise and Renfrew-Collingwood combined
- 74% of respondents either work, own or operate a business in Vancouver
- 25% of respondents are within 20-29 years old category and 67% of respondents are between the ages of 30 and 60 years old
- Over half of respondents identify as men (59%), with women comprising a third (33%) of all respondents and non-binary or gender diverse people representing 3%.

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# Summary of open-ended comments and themes

Do you have any other comments about the proposed changes to operating hours of bars, pubs and nightclubs and alcohol service hours for restaurants?

### Reduce regulatory constraints

Respondents who supported less regulation commented on aligning practices with other cities and reducing the regulatory burden on establishments.

### Transportation

Transportation was identified as the main concern by respondents. Later SkyTrain operating hours was one of the themes that emerged in this area.

### Nightlife vibrancy and economy

Some survey respondents supported longer operating hours to support local economies and promote nightlife vibrancy, to align with other world-class cities.

### Public safety and police resources

Some respondents identified public safety as one of the issues associated with later closing hours. Availability of enforcement, impaired driving concerns, alcohol harm and disorder were some of the concerns raised through the comments.

### Noise

Noise concerns affecting residential areas was another theme that emerged in the survey. Respondents commented on the need to regulate late-night noise from both patrons and liquor establishments.

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# Next steps

- The results of this engagement, as well as the feedback from the industry and stakeholders, were taken into consideration for options development, analysis and recommendations to Council.
- Staff will bring forward recommendations to Council in July 2025 and share with the public.



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