



Community Infrastructure Plan

Delivering on the Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework

2018

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Introduction

Community Infrastructure Plan

The Community Infrastructure Plan (Plan) is a deliverable of Yarra City Council's Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework. The Plan:

- Looks at current and future community needs - how they are addressed now, and how they may change over time and be addressed in the future.
- Explores service trends and delivery models.
- Presents and analyses current and forecast demographics.
- Identifies existing and planned community infrastructure (Council and non-Council infrastructure).
- Identifies opportunities - that is, potential ways that Council or other stakeholders could respond to needs.

How will the Plan be used?

The Plan will be used to inform decision-making around the planning and delivery of community infrastructure. It doesn't commit Council or other providers of community infrastructure to projects.

Community infrastructure definition

Community infrastructure sets a platform for active citizenship, social interaction, cultural experiences, recreation and physical activity. It can shape and influence community outcomes including social diversity and economic activity in an area. It consists of built or hard infrastructure such as places, spaces and physical assets as well as soft infrastructure such as services, programs and activities.

Community infrastructure planning at Yarra

Council is committed to delivering community infrastructure that responds to the needs of the community which includes residents, workers and visitors.

Council plays a direct role in the planning and delivery of community infrastructure and an indirect role by coordinating other providers in this space. Yarra's population is growing and the needs and preferences for Council's services are changing. The provision of flexible and well-designed community infrastructure, that addresses community needs, will contribute to generating the best outcomes for our community.

Council's vision for community infrastructure planning is:

To identify current and future needs so that Council can deliver and influence the provision of quality, flexible and responsive community infrastructure to support a prosperous, liveable and sustainable City of Yarra.

Council's three goals of community infrastructure planning are to:

- Build and support a safe, healthy and cohesive community.
- Create a sustainable city with responsive and flexible community infrastructure.
- Embed a holistic approach in planning and delivery.

Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework

To achieve Council's vision for community infrastructure Council has prepared the [Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework \(SCIF\)](#) to assist Council in its future planning and decision making. This Plan is a part of the Framework.

The SCIF is supported through research, analysis and evidence. It is made up of a number of components including a Context Paper, Community Infrastructure Planning Policy and a Community Infrastructure Register.

Review and update of the Plan

The Plan is dynamic in that it will change with the times. For example, it will need to be updated when significant decisions relating to community infrastructure are made or when new information becomes available. This means that the Plan will remain current and useful and evolve with Council's strategic direction.

How to read the plan

It is recommended to read each chapter consecutively as they provide the rationale for the identification of the opportunities to respond to needs outlined in Chapter 5.

- [Chapter 1](#) outlines the influencers of community infrastructure planning under the themes of growth and change.
- [Chapter 2](#) talks about service catchments and their significance to community infrastructure planning.
- [Chapter 3](#) discusses community needs across twelve key areas and how they are responded to. Trends, policy and other influences are discussed.
- [Chapter 4](#) presents current and forecast demographics for Yarra's ten neighbourhoods and the local factors that shape community infrastructure planning in each neighbourhood.
- [Chapter 5](#) presents the opportunities to respond to current and anticipated needs under the areas of building infrastructure, operational and advocacy opportunities.

More information

For more information on community infrastructure planning and work supporting the Plan please refer to the Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework and information that is available on Council's website <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au>

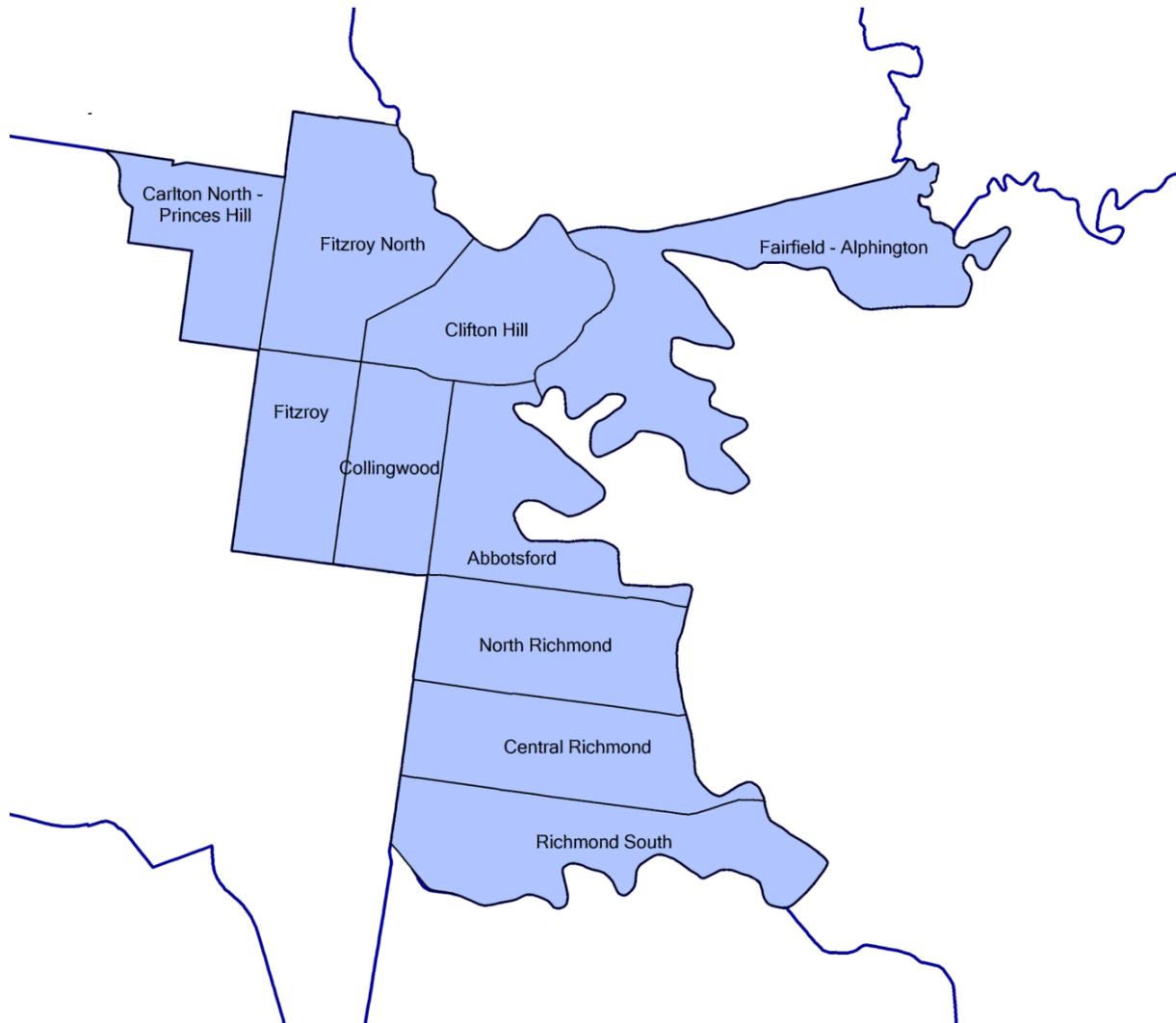


Figure 1 Yarra neighbourhoods

1. Growth and change

Context

Yarra is a desirable place to live, work, visit and invest in. Close proximity to Melbourne CBD, good public transport connections and access to services make Yarra a key destination.

With a population of 93,380 and 44,033 homes (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], Census of population and housing, 2016) the City has evolved, adapted and changed over time. Yarra's strong economy plays a key role in providing employment within the inner city area.

Community infrastructure needs are closely linked to growth and demographics. As more people reside, work and visit the municipality our community infrastructure needs will change.

More than half of Yarra's population is aged between 25-49 years and the average age is 33 years, which is lower than the average of Greater Melbourne (36 years). Close to half of people are living in apartments and nearly a third of people live alone (ABS, 2016).

Yarra is a municipality of economic and social extremes. While many people are educated and earn a high income with a third of households earning over \$2,500 per week, more than one quarter of individuals are on a low income earning less than \$500 per week (ABS, 2016).

Yarra's population is expected to increase over the next 15 years to reach a population of 123,000 people by 2031 (Victoria in the Future Population and Housing Projections 2016 [VIF2016]). Total employment is projected to increase from 99,000 jobs in 2016 to 149,000 in 2031 - an estimated increase of around 49,000 jobs (SGS Economic and Planning, draft Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy 2018).

Where and how this growth will take place will vary with some areas experiencing higher growth than others. For example, in Abbotsford and Fairfield-Alphington residential growth will be more pronounced, and in the Cremorne (located in Richmond South) and Gipps Street (located in Collingwood) precincts, business growth will be more pronounced. The City of Yarra Planning Scheme is the primary tool that regulates development in the City of Yarra.

Working with internal and external stakeholders to make the most of the opportunities that are presented by growth and change for community benefit is high on Council's agenda. In areas that are the focus for change, there is a need to ensure appropriate access to community infrastructure so that growth contributes positively to neighbourhoods.

In addition to community infrastructure planning Council undertakes strategic work across many areas including housing development, long term financial planning, open space planning and economics and employment activity. Together, this work supports Council to make informed decisions to bring about quality outcomes for our current and future community.

What we can expect

The Victoria in Future Population and Housing Projections 2016 indicate that there will be 29,413 new residents and 13,431 new dwellings in Yarra required by 2031.

The additional 29,413 new residents will likely form households that are:

- 30% Family households (including single parent families). This proportion translates to 4,023 households.
- 23% Couples households. This proportion translates to 3,059 households.
- 39% Lone person households. This proportion translates to 5,252 households.

This forecast suggest that the majority of housing demand will be for dwellings that meet the needs of lone persons and family households (69%).

There is a forecast shift in age groups from 2016 to 2031 with more people aged 0-19 years (14.7% to 18.3%) and 65 years and over (9.6% to 14.4%). This means that there will be less people aged 20-64 years (75.7% to 67.3%) which represents an overall decrease of this group by 8.4% (Pitney Bowes Demographic Estimates and Projections, 2017).

Forecasts like this influence community infrastructure planning in that the places and spaces delivered by Council need to consider the particular needs of groups/individuals and balance these in favour of net community benefit.

Housing growth

Council is preparing a Housing Strategy that sets the strategic framework for where and how future housing growth will be guided. Community infrastructure planning is intrinsically linked with population and housing growth. Dwelling type and family make-up generate different community infrastructure responses.

It is apparent that parts of Yarra have experienced, and will continue to undergo a change in development. Contemporary style dwellings, including apartments and commercial buildings, are interspersed amongst older heritage buildings. Housing growth and different development contexts can continue to be leveraged by Council to support community infrastructure planning.

Where new housing can be built is carefully controlled by State Government-approved zones. These zones permit and exclude different land uses and control elements of development.

Housing development has taken place in nominated strategic redevelopment sites and areas. In the future it is likely to be take place in Activity Centres (retail strips and centres) and on key redevelopment sites. Two large-scale redevelopments are the former Amcor site in Fairfield-Alphington and former Gas and Fuel Site in Fitzroy North.

High density living is increasing in Yarra with close to half of Yarra's households living in apartments:

- High density dwellings and are most concentrated in North Richmond, followed by Collingwood, Fitzroy and Abbotsford.
- Residents aged 20-39 are much more likely to live in flats or apartments than the balance of the local resident population.
- Close to half of Yarra's households are in apartments.
- Just over 1 in 5 of all families with children households live in apartments.
- 14% of apartments in Yarra are rented through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Source: ABS Census 2017

Small-scale redevelopments are likely to have a cumulative impact on community infrastructure demand. These can be more easily absorbed over time and responded to through incremental

changes across a number of spaces. In comparison, larger redevelopments can bring many new residents in a relatively short amount of time and may require a range of responses, including developer contributions towards community infrastructure.

Business growth

Yarra has a strong, diverse and growing economy that plays an important role in the economy of metropolitan Melbourne. It has become increasingly knowledge intensive and services orientated. Healthcare is expanding rapidly to become the largest employment sector in Yarra. Yarra is a significant location for creative industries in Melbourne. Continued growth in employment is projected over the next 15 years.

Economic activity in Yarra is arranged spatially among a range of different types of employment precincts: activity centres, specialised medical facilities, industrial precincts, mixed employment precincts and educational institutions. The differences in these areas generate different community infrastructure needs.

Yarra's key employment precincts such as Cremorne, Gipps Street precinct and Burnley Business Park (located in Richmond South, Collingwood and Burnley respectively) are key locations that will provide future capacity for economic, business and employment growth. Council plans to support these precincts and recognises the increased demand that business growth and a growing workforce places on community infrastructure, in particular the public realm and open space.

In addition to increased infrastructure demand from higher business activity, there will be a lot more housing in activity centres generating further demand and the sharing of infrastructure resources in these precincts.

Drivers of community needs

Across Yarra there are differences in population growth and demographics which bring about different [community needs](#) in Yarra's neighbourhoods.

- There are areas of advantage in Yarra (high income and educated) and there are areas of disadvantage (low income and marginalised groups).
- Almost 10% of Yarra residents live in social housing compared to 2.6% in Greater Melbourne.
- The average income of Yarra's households is increasing and there are a growing proportion of single and couple families with no dependent children.
- A third of people live alone and more than half of people rent their home (apartment dwellers are far more likely to rent than own).
- There are different cultures and a rich indigenous culture; people who have lived in Yarra all their life as well as many people who are new to the municipality.

Alongside demographic data, there are other factors such as lifestyle preferences, personal choice and technology which are driving community needs. These factors are more difficult to forecast, however equally important to ensure that Council planning and investment responds to needs.

Community expectations around the quality, scope and access to community infrastructure influence overall needs. For some of the services that Council provides, expectations have shifted.

The above drivers of needs are some of the many factors to consider when planning for community infrastructure.

Responding to needs

Responding to needs can take a range of responses and involve many stakeholders. These include soft and hard responses and they are closely related. For example it can be the scheduling of a program or activity (soft response) or provision of a new community building (hard response).

Council gives regard to:

- the capacity of existing infrastructure to respond to growth and change;
- Council's strategic direction for investing in community infrastructure (the type and level of provision); and
- External stakeholders (other levels of government, private enterprise, property developers or not-for-profit organisations) who operate in the delivery and operation of facilities and services.

Responding to community needs calls for integrated and collaborative planning and engagement with external stakeholders as well as within Council so that core areas of the business plan, maintain and deliver community infrastructure in a holistic way.

Prioritising flexible spaces is a measure to ensure that community spaces are sustainable and viable in the long term. New community infrastructure and improved existing infrastructure should respond to a variety of users and the changing nature of communities. The Yarra community is diverse and community spaces and places need to be adaptable; this includes buildings and open spaces.

The challenges and factors influencing community infrastructure responses are broad and numerous in Yarra and include:

- High land costs.
- An ageing community infrastructure portfolio.
- The cost to maintain and upgrade facilities that are beyond their initial life and not consistent with current service standards can be high and unpredictable.
- Community expectations of what Council should provide and to what level.
- Private providers operating in the space of early years and recreation and leisure.
- More people living in apartments generating different community infrastructure needs from communities of the past.
- Higher numbers of workers and businesses.

Decisions about a particular service or facility need to be made in relation to all community needs and corresponding infrastructure and not in isolation. Tools have been developed to assist Council to respond to needs equitably and efficiently. For example, Council's Community Infrastructure Planning Policy.

Council's budget and long-term strategy commits, an appropriate level of expenditure to ensure ongoing asset maintenance and renewal. Council seeks the most effective community outcome from the application of asset renewal funds and seeks to ensure that community and service needs drive

these infrastructure responses.

This may not necessarily result in the replication of existing facilities, but could involve the adaptive re-use of an asset or, in some cases disposal. In such circumstances, asset renewal funds will complement new and upgrade funding as appropriate.

For further discussion about responding to needs, the stakeholders involved or the influencing factors, please refer to the Context Paper in the Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework which is available on Council’s website <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au>

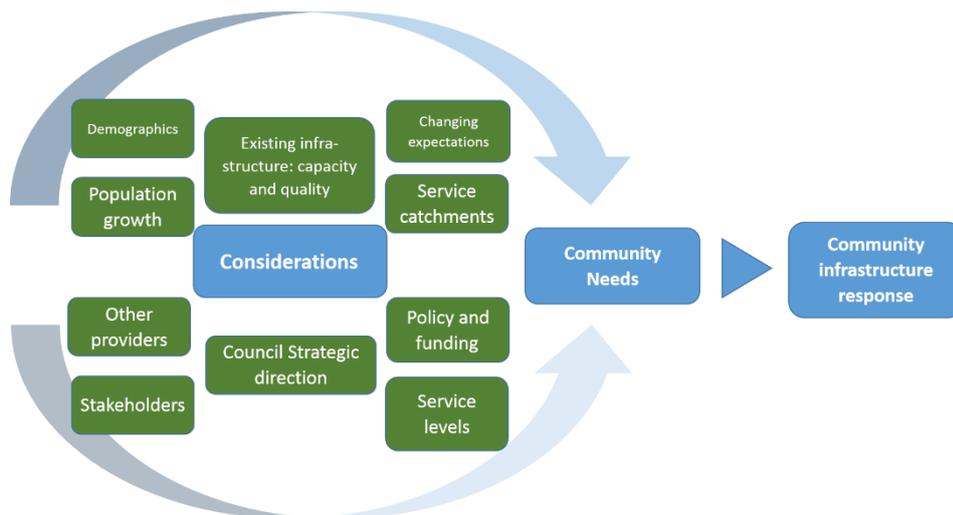


Figure 2 Inputs into determining needs and infrastructure responses

2. Service catchments and neighbourhoods

Service catchments refer to the population catchment size of places, spaces and facilities. They can be large or small in size as well as cross multiple neighbourhoods and municipalities.

Service catchments overlap. The larger the overlap between two catchment areas of the same service, the higher the likelihood that the two spaces will compete for the same users.

Service catchment influencers include:

- Type of community infrastructure.
- Size and scale of the infrastructure.
- Number of services being offered from the place/space/facility.
- Population density.
- People’s choice.
- Availability of similar services in the area.
- Willingness to travel/travel network behaviour *(see transport infrastructure below for more information)*

The size of a service catchment for particular services doesn’t necessarily correspond with the number of people who use the space. For example, a unique service such as a Changing Places

Facility generally has a large service catchment but a small number of uses. Reasons for this include that the percentage of people who require this type of service is low (in proportion to overall population) and there aren't many community spaces with a Changing Places Facility.

In contrast, a popular neighbourhood park that has a small service catchment can have a high number of users. Reasons for this include it may be the only park within walking distance in a high population density area, there is quality infrastructure in the park and its design supports many users simultaneously.

Why is this important?

Understanding and acknowledging service catchments plays a big role in effective planning and provision of facilities and services. A network of community infrastructure matching the movement patterns of the community will best address all needs.

By acknowledging that people move and make choices from a range of providers including, neighbouring municipalities and the greater region, it can minimise duplication of provision and maximise the capacity of existing community infrastructure.

Local governments, state government and peak bodies often need to reference geographic boundaries for a variety of planning activities. Geographic boundaries need to be used judiciously especially for community infrastructure planning because service catchments extend beyond geographical boundaries. For example, Yarra has ten neighbourhoods however many activity centres are located on the boundary (and surrounding the boundary) of two neighbourhoods (i.e. Bridge Road is the southern border of Central Richmond and northern border of Richmond South and Smith Street is the western border of Collingwood and eastern border of Fitzroy).

Community infrastructure can respond to the needs of people in multiple neighbourhoods and municipalities – it all depends on the service catchment influencers that are listed above. What this means is that the service catchments of Yarra's community infrastructure don't directly correspond with Yarra's ten neighbourhoods, nor Yarra's municipal boundary.

Neighbourhoods in the Plan

Reference is given to neighbourhoods because of the demographic data available at a neighbourhood level. Council uses small area demographic data and forecasts. Key roads and Yarra's municipal boundary determine the areas. The key message here is that community infrastructure located in a certain neighbourhood can service multiple neighbourhoods.

Transport infrastructure

Yarra is well serviced by all modes of public transport including an extensive cycling and pedestrian network. A large number of people use sustainable transport modes. This means that access to community infrastructure is generally very good. At the same time, some areas are restricted by busy roads as well as the connectivity of some transport modes.

There are highly utilised major arterial roads that act as important links to the wider metropolitan region. These roads generate increased traffic volumes on Yarra's local road networks and create traffic congestion.

Yarra's compact urban form combined with traffic congestion impacts travel distances and people's willingness to travel. This plays role in determining the service catchment of a facility. It also makes

sustainable modes of transport more convenient than driving, especially when parking availability is considered.

Examples of service catchments

Fitzroy Library and Richmond Library service catchments are shown below in Figure 3 and 4. Library users are concentrated near the library site and decrease with distance away from the site (and proximity to another library increases). Both libraries attract users from outside of Yarra.

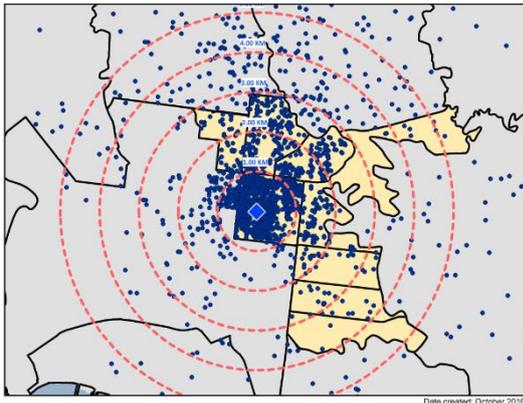


Figure 3 Fitzroy Library user catchment

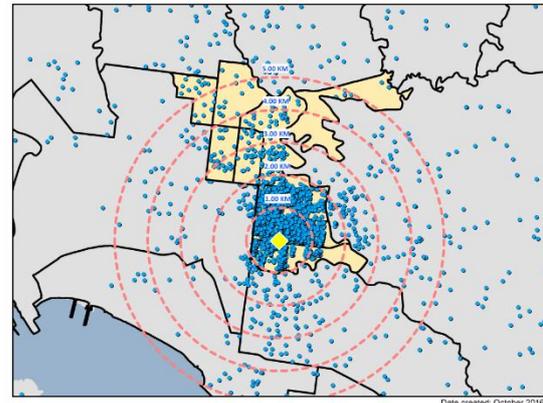


Figure 4 Richmond Library user catchment

3. Community needs

There are a lot of different types of needs for the community as a whole, smaller community groups and for individual people.

Council plays a role in addressing needs that are common to all age groups as well as needs of target populations. These are discussed in the following chapter with respect to what it is, how it is addressed now, and how it may be addressed in the future.

There is a difference between a ‘need’ and a ‘want’ and community infrastructure planning should address needs as opposed to wants. Decisions about new or changed infrastructure have to be based on evidence rather than responding to a vocal minority. Evidenced decisions, which align with Council’s strategic direction and relevant policies, will operate to bring about the best outcomes for net community benefit.

3.1. Common to all age groups

3.1.1. Arts and culture

Community need

The wellbeing and happiness of communities can be linked to arts and culture. It is a major contributor to creating communities that are engaged, culturally rich, vibrant, dynamic and resilient. The social-impact value of creative and cultural participation is significant with better outcomes across a range of areas including health, disability, inclusion and education.

Arts and culture projects and activities need space, resources and freedom to experiment in order to develop skills, ideas and stories. Activity can be expressed in a variety of ways including: visual arts, music, theatre, performance, literature, public art, design, digital arts, film and craft.

Population growth in Yarra will increase demand for arts and culture programs and activities and spaces for these to occur. Creative participation in the arts is high in Yarra (70%) and especially amongst residents aged 20 to 45 years (Arts and Culture Strategy 2016-2020), which corresponds with significant numbers of the population.

How this is addressed

Council is a regulator, a service provider, a facilitator and an advocator of arts and culture activities. Yarra's identity as a creative city depends on the presence of artists and creators; they have played a role in shaping Yarra's distinctive and authentic neighbourhoods. Provision of music venues, theatres, galleries, studios, as well as space on streets and public places supports arts and culture activities and projects.

To respond to needs Council will continue to provide, facilitate and support appropriate and affordable venues and spaces where ideas can be exchanged, music be heard, performances be watched and exhibitions viewed. Yarra is on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood hold special historical significance for the Aboriginal community; Council is committed to upholding Aboriginal history.

How does Art and Culture happen at Yarra? Council owned and managed infrastructure relative to the arts includes the Richmond Theatre and other venues for performance, rehearsal, community activities and social events; places including streets, parks, gardens and open spaces; the art and heritage collection; heritage of our locality, public places, buildings and cultural history; places for the display of public art; and Yarra Youth Services Block Studios. The nature of arts and culture means that there is cross over with other community infrastructure (i.e., libraries, neighbourhood centres, community space, town halls and open space).

The Richmond Theatre, located above the Richmond Library, supports a range of arts and cultural activities and is a key Council venue with a direct relationship to arts and culture. More broadly (not specific to Council) there are numerous destinations found in the City of Yarra: over 60 galleries and artist run spaces, over 50 live music venues, street art culture, festivals and creative businesses and industries. Creative clusters in Yarra include:

- Cremorne attracts design, multimedia and marketing enterprises as well as co-working spaces for creative sectors.
- Bendigo Kangan Institute (Richmond campus) is the centre for fashion and creative industries. It attracts students and industry participants in a range of programs in fashion, millinery, visual merchandising, retail, hair and beauty.
- Abbotsford Convent is a multi-arts precinct and hosts a diverse range of arts and culture projects, workshops and exhibitions.
- Collingwood is a creatively concentrated neighbourhood, as are streets such as Swan and Smith.
- A Contemporary Arts Precinct in Collingwood (now in development).

There is scope for the above clusters to develop and expand their creative identity to respond to community arts and culture needs.

A leading Council initiative is the Room to Create Charitable Fund. The fund provides space for arts and culture activities by subsidising rising infrastructure related costs and the Live Music Venues Grants.

There is opportunity to leverage off the growth in the City, embed arts and cultural activity into the changing built form, and tap into new audiences for arts and cultural activities. Council can encourage new developments to contribute to the creative industries sector in Yarra through measures such as public art installations (as per the guidelines for public art in private development in Yarra) and inclusion of creative spaces within new developments.

3.1.1. Flexible multi-purpose community space

Community need

Current and future communities have a need for spaces for varying activities including recreational, social and educational purposes. Publicly owned facilities that provide space for programs, activities and gatherings play an integral role in encouraging community interaction and development.

Multi-purpose space that is flexible allows for needs to be met as the community grows and different demands emerge. For example, a flexible space could support programed activities across all age groups, be used for one-off gatherings or be available for a variety of uses.

An emerging demand in Yarra is for publicly available space for private social celebrations (for example children's parties). The increasing housing density is largely driving this trend, because some new private spaces aren't large enough or suitable.

How this is addressed

Community spaces that are multi-purpose and flexible allow for many different programs, activities and services across all age groups at different times of the day. There is no one-size-fits-all type of community space. A variety of spaces of different sizes will best accommodate a diverse range of needs across all communities, groups and individuals. Generally, community space should include multipurpose activity and meeting space, adequate storage and kitchen facilities.

The range of facilities that can support this need include community halls, senior citizen centres, rooms in libraries, rooms in town halls, activity rooms in neighbourhood houses and sporting pavilions. Other non-Council spaces include church halls/spaces, educational facilities, not-for-profit organisations, private function space and hotels and community rooms in public housing. Yarra's community spaces are unique and are a legacy of Yarra's history. Many have heritage significance whilst others have strong ties to the community. At times, these factors can present challenges in delivering efficiencies across the network of community spaces.

Current provision and quality of community space varies across the municipality and the degree that existing spaces/facilities are flexible differs. This has an impact on the utilisation of spaces and balancing the costs and benefits of operating and maintaining them. Challenges facing the delivery of community spaces include poor building condition, heritage controls, limited storage, restrictions around hours and type of use and proximity to residential areas.

Some Council buildings have been able to accommodate evolving needs and some buildings are struggling or failing to meet needs. Regular maintenance and upkeep can be a significant cost for ageing infrastructure. This becomes a cost-effectiveness issue when predominantly single use

facilities are not operating at capacity, raising questions around the net benefit to the community in keeping the facility operational.

Alternative and more economical ways to respond to community needs can be explored by Council especially when the need is short-term. For example, Council leasing space from another provider and offering this for community use, rather than holding onto assets with low net community benefit, significantly investing in an existing asset or purchasing a new asset.

Council's role in being the provider of community space is also changing and has come about through people's preferences. Some community groups are finding that their needs can be better met in other spaces such as cafes, the outdoors or in venues and spaces that aren't provided by Council. The traditional senior citizen facility model demonstrated what happens when people's preferences changed. The new generation of older people are finding that their needs can be met in spaces that aren't solely dedicated to older persons (also, the numbers for dedicated spaces also aren't sustainable). Council now incorporates the needs of older persons in all community space and hires out Collingwood and Richmond Seniors Hub for community use.

3.1.1. Libraries

Community need

There is a need by the community to pursue interests and connect with people, as well as discover and learn through literacy, technology and creativity. It is a need that spans all age groups, especially children and older people. There has been a large shift in community needs for library services and this is largely due to lifestyle preferences, technology, innovation and a need for dynamic activities and programs from the one community space.

How this is addressed

Yarra Libraries is a network of branches located at five locations - Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy and Richmond - as well as online and outreach services. The provision of library services within the municipality is considered adequate, both in terms of supply and proximity for the community.

Yarra Libraries aim to create an environment that allows for community engagement, connectivity, diversity and appreciation of culture; libraries now are more than just places to search for and find books. They are community hubs for learning, accessing technology, connecting with others, studying and relaxing.

Yarra library spaces are changing to reflect the different ways people want to use them and further change will enable spaces to respond to community needs. Flexible spaces, access to new technology, spaces to meet and study and community and cultural events are just some of the ways libraries are being used, in addition to traditional library borrowing.

Each Yarra library branch takes on its own personality informed both by physical space and the immediate surrounding neighbourhood. There is adequate provision of library branches in the City of Yarra with a high number of branches per capita and per hectare, even with forecast population growth, compared to other inner urban municipalities.

Given this, changes to library provision to deliver relevant and contemporary library services will be through improvements to existing libraries and service delivery methods and potential consolidation of library infrastructure resources to enable improvements to the overall delivery of Yarra Libraries.

Yarra Libraries works in collaboration with other Council services that target more specific needs. For example Yarra's Neighbourhood House network, Arts and Cultural needs, families and older people.

Active learning classrooms, media studios, co-work spaces and other areas conducive to hands-on learning and activities are the type of spaces that will meet current and future needs and maximise community value of Yarra Libraries. These types of spaces are also likely to respond well to the anticipated population profile, particularly professionals, people living alone, young workers and people living in apartments as well as our more vulnerable communities.

3.1.1. Neighbourhood Houses

Community need

Neighbourhood Houses operate to meet the needs of a broad range of groups including the elderly, children, families, youth, unemployed, marginalised and CALD groups, as well as refugee and recently arrived groups. Needs vary and include education, creative, training, recreation, relaxation, social and leisure.

How this is addressed

Neighbourhood Houses and learning centres, play an important role in the community by delivering networking and volunteering opportunities, skills development and training. Neighbourhood Houses vary in size and focus but there are some common elements that apply to all of them. They bring people together to connect, learn and contribute in the local community across a range of activities and programs. They adopt a community development approach as well as provide support and referral services to help people to feel that they belong in the community.

In Yarra there are twelve community centres which include Neighbourhood Houses. Council provides support through funding or through use of Council land and buildings. They are run by volunteer committees and community organisations. The demographic profile of parts of Abbotsford, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond include vulnerable communities that are the target groups of Neighbourhood Houses.

Richmond Community Learning Centre offers occasional child care at a dedicated facility called 'The Cubby House', which is located in Central Richmond. Belgium Ave Neighbourhood House offers multicultural playgroups which provide informal play activities and social interaction.

The community development approach used by neighbourhood houses enables communities to identify and address their own needs. With this approach in mind there is some in-built capacity of neighbourhood houses to meet changing community needs. Richmond Community Learning Centre manages two relatively new spaces (Burnley Backyard and Studio One) and are exploring ways to engage new and current demographics in their activities and spaces.

The buildings that the services operate out of are generally houses that have been retrofitted to improve access and accommodate activities and programs. A number of Houses also have portables on site as well as managing and supporting activities in other locations; for example Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House is responsible for The Factory and run activities on the Housing Estate nearby. The existing provision appears to be adequate in terms of supply for the municipality.

The distribution of Houses is somewhat even across the ten neighbourhoods except for Central and North Richmond, which locates Belgium Neighbourhood House, Finbar Neighbourhood House and

Richmond Community Learning Centre spaces of Studio One, Burnley Backyard, The Cubby House and part of The Stables.

In terms of the current spaces being able to respond to future needs and remain relevant, their capacity will benefit from regular maintenance and upgrading where required. Meeting higher levels of demand for Neighbourhood House services would be best met through changes to the programming of current spaces and use of other facilities. For example, community space within Yarra Libraries, the Connie Benn Centre, and community space on the Housing Estates and spaces in other community organisations (where activities are complementary).

3.1.2. Public space

Community need

Public space generally includes roads, streets, footpaths and public squares. Open space is also public space and is discussed separately ([Chapter 3.1.3](#)). Public spaces play a large role in giving an area its identity, creating inclusive communities and supporting business activity.

Increasing population and business growth brings more activity to public spaces; generally more pedestrians, cyclists and cars. The way that public space is designed and managed can impact on the success of a place such as a shopping strip, a place to meet and socialise, its sense of safety, a place to move through and spend time in.

How this is addressed

Council plays a direct role in contributing to public space through planning and managing public space as well as influencing developers and other levels of government to contribute to good public space outcomes.

Quality public space can operate to achieve goals of accessibility, amenity, business activity and social cohesion. For this to occur, planners and managers of public space need to balance the competing demands of the many needs and purposes that public spaces supports. These include amenity, exercise, relaxation, transport, civic pride, local identity and business activity.

There is a strong relationship between the location and provision of public space and business and economic activity. Economic activity (such as Yarra's strip shopping centres including Bridge Road and Smith Street) dictate where large numbers of people frequent. Opportunities to enhance public space where change is occurring and where there is a critical mass of activity are strong.

In urban areas like Yarra private space is influencing public space, for example private gardens and landscape and setbacks to buildings. Private space can contribute physically or visually to public space, and managing the relationship between the two is important to ensure that both contribute to the quality and experience of public space.

Council is working to capitalise on the changes that are occurring for open space improvements (and where the land is suitable for use as public space). The strategic direction of areas of change are determined through Council processes including Structure Plans, Urban Design Frameworks and Streetscape Masterplans.

Achieving good public space outcomes in Yarra requires:

- Negotiated outcomes between Council, community, service authorities, institutions and developers.

- Developer contributions sought for:
 - Improved and safe pedestrian connections around development precincts and sites.
 - Supporting the integration of development precincts and sites with public transport and cycling routes.
 - New open space (as a part of some redeveloped sites) and improvements to existing open space, delivered through open space contributions.
- Streetscape projects are delivered through the annual capital works program.

3.1.3. Open space

Community need

Access to active and passive open space has been strongly associated with improved health and well-being outcomes, providing better perceived general health, reduced stress levels and improved mental health benefits. It plays a large role in making our City a desirable place contributing to Yarra's amenity, character and heritage.

The current and projected population growth in Yarra, as well as housing type, has a significant influence on the role, function and design of the existing open space network. In areas of expected growth, community needs for open space will increase.

Open space needs are diverse and there are different types, function and designs for open spaces. For example space for the community to get fresh air and have a break, exercise, play formal/informal sports, relaxation, workers to eat lunch, dog walking, outdoor gatherings and children's play areas.

Environmental protection is an important role of open space, through habitat and biodiversity conservation, as well as air and water quality management. It also enables a link to nature, which is important for people living in urbanised neighbourhoods.

How this is addressed

The discussion below has been informed by the existing Open Space Strategy and analysis of the current population and development forecasts. Further, more specific analysis for open space planning is taking place in 2018 in preparation of a new Open Space Strategy.

Council aims to deliver functional and sustainable open space to maintain and enhance the benefits that open spaces provide. These include social, health, environmental and economic benefits.

Within our city, access to open space varies in specific locations, with the north of the city having more open space than the south. This becomes more challenging when we consider most of the new residential growth is occurring in the south.

Largely, open space planning is reliant on existing open spaces that are a legacy of Yarra's early development history and the existing natural features, such as the Yarra River, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek.

The use and capacity of existing open space to meet needs is related to various factors: location and access, proximity to public transport and other services, perceived safety level and facilities within the open space. For open space with programmed activities, changes to how this is managed can significantly increase the capacity of these spaces to meet needs.

Delivering open space to meet needs brought about through growth will require making our existing open space work better. This means improving access and connections, for example pedestrian-cycling crossings over key roads and rivers, ensuring quality footpaths and creating settings in our open spaces to meet needs across all age groups.

In other words, bringing change to existing open space resources so that they can adapt to higher numbers of people, as well as relevant needs, will be key to how Council can deliver community benefits from the open space network.

New residential development in the City of Yarra incurs a minimum 4.5% development contribution levy and there is scope to increase this in new open space strategy. This levy is modest compared to some other established urban municipalities experiencing growth where levies can reach 8% for particular areas. The levy ensures that residential development contributes to the provision and improvement of public space and enables Council to deliver quality outcomes which benefit the community.

The Open Space Strategy 2006 informs where and how the open space levy is applied and is included in the Yarra Planning Scheme. Council has the ability to decide whether a contribution is provided as land on the development site (on larger sites where the land contribution is a minimum of 300m²) or a financial contribution which is then used by Council. The opportunity to create more open space (especially large areas) is limited and this compounds as competition for land increases. Council has delivered new open space by re-purposing parks and roads as 'pocket parks', however any future initiatives such as this are subject to suitability of land and extensive community consultation.

There are opportunities for greater community access to land owned or managed by other public authorities. For example, recognising the shortage of public open space in Richmond, Council has recently entered into a community joint use agreement with Yarra Primary School (Davison Street, Richmond) and the Department of Education and Training for a period of 25 years. The agreement will result in improved amenity at the school in return for guaranteed community access to the land outside school hours.

Delivering open space to meet current and future needs will require a balance between quality, function, size and cost and will best be achieved by integrating open space planning with other strategic goals and land use demands as well as working with developers, the community and other key stakeholders.

3.1.4. Recreation and leisure

Community need

The relationship between participation in physical activity and sport and having good physical, social and mental health is significant. There is a need for a range of recreation, leisure and sports facilities and activity opportunities for the community covering active and passive recreation and leisure. This need will increase as population across all age groups grows.

People choose to get involved in recreation and leisure activities for a variety of health, aspirational and social reasons – the reasons are varied and personal. Social and economic factors influence recreation and leisure participation choices. These include changes in lifestyle such as longer work hours, technology, apartment-living and commuting by foot, bike or public transport.

Yarra has high numbers of active adults. The main population growth areas will be in the 24-44 years age range where all 5 year cohorts will increase by 1,000 to 1,800 people between 2015 and 2025. At the same time, there are smaller portions of the community that need specialised/dedicated services, such as people with a disability, cultural groups, children and older persons.

How this is addressed

Yarra Leisure runs Yarra City Council's aquatic, gym, group fitness and recreational facilities. There are three recreation centres, which are located in Richmond, Clifton Hill and Fitzroy. Yarra Leisure also manages the 9-hole Burnley Golf Course and the Collingwood Estate Community Gym.

There are a number of buildings that Council owns in open space that accommodates non-Council run sporting clubs/groups/associations (which have lease agreements with Council). Council also owns land on which sporting clubs/groups/associations have built premises.

In addition to hard infrastructure, recreation and leisure needs are also met through open space, as it caters for informal and formal activity (i.e., walking, organised and social sport). Footpaths and streetscapes also cater for recreation and leisure needs (i.e., supporting pedestrian and cycling activity).

Commercial and private gymnasiums (some 24/7), personal training studios as well as yoga, pilates and cross-fit studios, are all in good supply in the City of Yarra. They can also present challenges for Yarra Leisure in terms of opening hours and operational flexibility. There is also a trend for new private residential developments (depending on size) to locate on-site gyms, swimming pools and health and well-being facilities.

The Victorian Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy (CN Policy) requires councils to implement a fully cost-reflective pricing structure where the CN Policy applies, and this includes leisure centres. Within a concentrated market of providers Council will continue to play an important role in meeting leisure and recreation needs, in particular targeting certain groups in the community who have a low propensity to participate. These include people over 65 years of age, with a disability, born overseas in non-English speaking countries, with low incomes, with low levels of education and who are unemployed.

The quality and ambience of facilities is a large determinant of meeting needs. Ageing assets, including the designs of facilities benefit from upgrade and enhancement where relevant to manage programme space effectively. Requests have been received by users of some facilities for new or upgraded facilities. Meeting these needs is balanced with the necessity to improve the basic amenities associated with other sport and recreational facilities and grounds.

Council also has a responsibility to ensure gender equity in Council's sports and recreation offerings (for example change rooms and toilets in leisure centres and sporting pavilions) which can have an impact on the spaces provided in facilities and influence the priority of works.

Demand for recreation and leisure resources will increase with population growth. Resources need to be well-managed and flexible to cater for a mix of age and interest groups. For example, multi-purpose courts that can support organised tennis/netball/basketball as well as be accessible for informal social games.

Greater community access to other grounds and facilities will assist in responding to demand. For example schools and other resources including those in neighbouring municipalities such as Princes Park, Punt Road Oval and Melbourne and Olympic Park.

There are trends in increasing participation in informal outdoor recreation. In this context, enhancements to existing open space and public areas could be appropriate to support non-club based recreation and facilitate passive recreation.

The nature of sports infrastructure means that service catchments can often be quite large, crossing local, neighbourhood and municipal boundaries. Key findings from feasibility studies show that there is a need for an indoor sports facility in Yarra. There are large proportions of the community who play a variety of indoor sports (netball, basketball, futsal and others) and there is anticipated future growth of these sports. Indoor sports facilities provide activities for all age groups. Population growth across the City will contribute to the municipal-wide need and support further investigation of how an indoor sports facility can be best located to support the wider Yarra community.

The Burnley Golf Course has potential to meet additional recreation and social needs through changes to the services provided. Depending on emerging community needs, there may be demand for added services such as a driving range, mini golf and a more flexible social space that could also be used by a wider range of groups. These sorts of activities could appeal to the likely population of the future as well as being suitable for all age groups.

3.2. Target populations

3.2.1. Family services

Community need

Families with children from birth to school age, benefit from support and guidance in the areas of parenting, health and development. There are some families that need more dedicated and specialised programs.

How this is addressed

Family Services are delivered through Council's Maternal Child Health Service (MCH). The service comprises 10 key age and stage consultations that take place from newborns to three and half years of age. MCH differs from early years services in that it is exclusively provided by Council (the only other provider being the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy). There are eight MCH Centres in Yarra (five centres have two consulting rooms and three centres have one consulting room).

MCH has been a core function of local government for decades. It is reasonable to assume that Council's provision of MCH as a free universal health service will continue. Demand for MCH will continue into the future and it is reasonable to assume that it is directly proportional to changes in the 0–4 year-old population.

Yarra provides MCH parenting sessions for further support and assistance to pregnant women, new mums and parents of babies and toddlers with helpful information and practical tips for a range of parenting matters. The service offers an opportunity for families to meet other parents and access community groups in their local area through parent groups. Other services include: early detection of health and development problems, breastfeeding information and support, health education and promotion, parenting education, nutritional information, child safety information, maternal health information and support, first time parent groups, immunization information, support for families in crisis and community networking.

In terms of facility use, primary MCH services are delivered from consulting suites. In the past, MCH services were located in stand-alone buildings. The preference for service delivery now is to locate MCH consulting suites with other complementary community services in an integrated way, for example early years services (Fitzroy MCH at Connie Benn Centre), healthcare providers (North Richmond MCH at North Richmond Community Health Centre) and libraries and community hubs (North Fitzroy MCH at Bargoonga Nganjin Library).

Benefits of co-locating MCH with complementary community services include: easier access for families and the community; seamless early years' service delivery; increased professional support for staff, increased safety and reduced isolation from operating in stand-alone contexts; space-sharing, and other economic and environmental building efficiencies. Council still operates one stand-alone facility, which is Abbotsford MCH Gahan's reserve.

Parenting sessions and activity groups require an activity/community room and not all of Yarra's MCH centres provide this. Provision of this space is desirable as it enables additional services noted above (as well as playgroups – discussed below) which support families and children.

The utilisation of the eight MCH centres varies. Collingwood MCH is open one day of the working week and operating at full capacity on that day (20% utilisation overall for the week). For example North Fitzroy MCH and North Richmond MCH are open five days of the working week and operating near capacity (90% utilisation overall for the week). Condition of the facilities and amenity at the eight MCH centres vary. The take-up of MCH services is not always reflective of birth notices and the 0-4 age population and this comes about for a range of reasons. For example first time parents are more likely to attend MCH services than second or third time parents and families move into and out of Yarra.

Playgroups are a part of the continuum of services promoting early childhood development and parenting support and are located at a variety of venues throughout Yarra (for example community meeting spaces, neighbourhood houses, early years facilities and parklands). They ease the transition for children and families from maternal and child health sessions into group settings bringing opportunities for families to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes and connect with other families.

Council's role in playgroup provision includes facilitating sessions (supported playgroup), locating and joining, and starting and finding a venue. Indoor and outdoor play spaces are desirable for playgroup activities.

Parent-led playgroups can be run in private homes, however this isn't as common in Yarra where private space is generally smaller presenting challenges (especially when playgroup sizes are large). This has led to higher requests for community spaces for playgroup activities and other alternatives being used such as cafes and playgrounds for families to meet. Playgroups are also tending to continue later in a child's life, with some groups continuing to meet until school years, meaning that there are more groups to accommodate in addition to population growth.

Indirectly, Council supports children and families by creating incidental opportunities for interaction and play in our open and public space and playgrounds. Child and age-friendly spaces that promote nature play, provide intergenerational interaction and promote understanding amongst all community groups.

Council advocates to and works in partnership with State Government and housing associations to provide support for families experiencing family violence. Council provides support to families

experiencing family violence through Integrated Family Services, a program that is funded by the department of Health and Human Services. Council also supports the State Government's funded and proposed Support and Safety Hubs, which were a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

3.2.2. Early years

Community need

Children in their early years benefit from learning and development opportunities that establish a broad range of skills which are used later in life. Family needs, and the environment in which children feel comfortable, vary. Parents that work, study or have other commitments, and the differing learning and development needs for children, are some of the drivers for various options for early years education and care.

How this is addressed?

There are many early years education and care options available in Yarra that support and assist the health, development, learning and well-being of children. These are available across a number of providers including Council, community-based and private providers.

In terms of a preferred facility model, integrated early years facilities are well evidenced and accepted in the sector as being beneficial for families and providers: it is easier for families to access services, continuity of care, professional support for staff as well as efficiency savings in terms of operations and the environment. When located with other community activities (for example community meeting rooms) it allows for further social interaction and engagement across age groups. The Connie Benn Centre is an example of an integrated early years facility.

Early years services are regulated by a mix of national and state-based policy, funding and legislative requirements and changes to these can impact Council's service delivery.

Direct delivery of early years services by Council includes managing early years services and facilities; support to community-based providers through use of Council buildings and other funding; and maintenance and upgrades of existing infrastructure to ensure that facilities are safe and comply with relevant regulations.

Indirect delivery of early years services and infrastructure includes outdoor environments such as parks, playgrounds and reserves; programs and activities in Yarra Leisure centres such as learn to swim; and programs and activities in Yarra libraries such as Rhyme Time. Council can also act as a resource and link children and families with a range of other services and activities.

In terms of infrastructure, operating models vary and not all facilities offer the same services. Building and land ownership varies: Council owned and managed, Council owned and leased to an external provider, Council building on Crown land and leased to an external provider, State Government owned and a Council managed service, as well as from within other community facilities (i.e. Yarra Leisure Centres).

Council delivered early years services include three and four year old kindergarten, long day care, occasional care, after school hours care and vacation care (located in schools) and support for community-run playgroups.

- Four kindergartens are managed by Council and these are North Carlton Kindergarten, Princes Hill Kindergarten, Richmond Kindergarten and Connie Benn Early Learning Centre. Council also offers integrated kindergarten programs as part of Long Day Care.
- Five long day care centres are managed by Council and these are Gold Street Children's Centre, Yarraberg Children's Centre (also offering kindergarten programs), Keele Street Children's Centre, Connie Benn Early Learning Centre and North Carlton Children's Centre.
- Council runs occasional care services out of its three Leisure Centres and the Connie Benn Centre. Council supports the community-based provider Richmond Community Learning Centre 'The Cubby House' to deliver occasional care through the use of Council's building in Lord Street, Richmond.
- Other Council buildings that are run by community-based providers are Clifton Hill Child Care Co-operative, East West Child Care, John Street Community Early Childhood Co-operative, North Fitzroy Child Care Co-operative, Richmond Multicultural Children's Centre and Yarralea Children's Centre.
- Council runs after school care at two schools; Richmond West Primary School and Collingwood College. Council runs the service in school facilities. This means that Council doesn't have control over the space and with this comes an element of risk associated with the infrastructure.

There are many other community-based providers in Yarra (over 20), many private early years providers (19 with more in planning and development stages) as well as those located in neighbouring municipalities. Particularly in the space of long day care, private providers have been growing and are able to achieve large economies of scale. This suggests that where there is early years demand private providers will establish and provide an adequate supply of services. Trends also show that families like to have choice in terms of what service they attend and not all families access the closest service. This means that demand for 0–4 years services is not the same as 0–4 age growth and that resourcing need not grow proportionally.

There is a mix of providers in the early years sector across all service types outlined above and this mix provides choice and diverse options for families. Council will continue to remain active in early years provision through existing services, where the service demonstrates a positive net benefit to the community as a whole.

Victoria's Competitive Neutrality Policy (CN Policy) requires councils to implement a fully cost-reflective pricing structure where the CN Policy applies (such as early years services) to ensure that there are no unfair competitive advantages or disadvantages that result from local government ownership of a business activity.

Council can pursue alternative methods to support demand and families as need emerges, and continue to develop ways to increase participation of the families in services, utilising quality research, data and policy analysis and leading advocacy on key issues.

In the future Council's role in influencing the delivery of other services may increase for example through partnership development, advocacy and the Yarra Early Years Reference Group. Sought outcomes include capacity building amongst service providers and establishing a coordinated response to the needs of children and families in the local area. Other potential benefits include encouraging networking between service providers, providing a forum to discuss issues and develop options for action as well promote best practise through shared knowledge.

3.2.3. Middle years and young people

Community need

Middle years (a period in a child's life between early childhood and adolescence, 8-12 years of age) and young people (between adolescence and young adulthood, 12-25 years of age) need support and guidance as they transition into adolescence and early adulthood. There is a need for young people and middle years to be healthy, happy and engaged through key development stages to provide them, and our community, with a strong foundation for the future.

How this is addressed

Council responds to the needs of children and young people by being a provider, planner and coordinator of a range of services: youth services and programs, vacation care activities, out of school hours care, children and family services, library services, recreation and leisure activities and community planning, safety and advocacy.

Council is a provider and/or manager of community facilities that enable Council and other organisations to provide services and programs for middle years children and young people. Programs operate from community centres including the Yarra Youth Centre, schools and public spaces across Yarra. The aim of service provision is to provide recreational and social opportunities to support self-development as well as employment pathways for young people, combined with access to information and support.

Community spaces that are youth-friendly acknowledge diversity of experience and encourage young people to use facilities, including outdoor areas. Provision of Wi-Fi in community spaces appeals to young people whilst contributing to a range of other objectives such as education, interactive engagement and socialisation.

Yarra Youth Services plays an integral role in linking young people to other local programs and services in Yarra. There are a number of programs and activities run by community and youth organisations to broaden opportunities and activities for middle years children and young people, some of which are funded by Council. These include adventure play activities, homework clubs, school holiday programs and arts programs.

As with all Yarra age groups, there will be higher numbers of middle years and young people that will generally be proportionate to population growth. The implication of higher numbers of middle years and young people will impact service delivery, however the impact will be modest. This is because total population of young people is not wholly representative of actual demand for Council's youth services and middle years services, which are primarily accessed by high needs young people.

The profile of young people attending Council programs and activities shows that clients mostly come from specific locations and demographic groups, particularly those who are vulnerable. These include young people who are living in conditions with less access to space and family support, and those who are newly arrived and have refugee status. The distribution of social housing and vulnerable communities in Yarra is fairly concentrated to a few areas, namely North Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy.

Whilst Council's Youth Services' will continue to focus on disadvantaged young people, future service provision may include a greater focus on young people who are not thriving regardless of their socio-economic status. This broadening of scope may increase levels of demand in some communities, but it is not expected to be highly significant.

The needs of higher numbers of middle years and young people are likely to be met by continued support via the Yarra Youth Centre, which has recently been upgraded. Works included a lift, a new kitchen, relocation and improvements to the music studio and expanding the front foyer. The upgrade has made the centre fit-for-purpose and made the centre more youth friendly, which is key to make sure young people have a place where they can feel safe, welcomed and responsive to their needs. Council provides scope for program spaces and activities in multi-purpose community space, such as Yarra Libraries and public and open space.

There are many ways that Council responds to the needs of young people through soft responses, some of which are in partnership with other organisations. An example is the Communities That Care Program, which builds capacity within communities to improve the healthy development of children and young people.

Council runs a number of programs and supports activities to enable young people to become involved in the music and arts, such as Freeza (where young people plan, organise and stage live music events). Council recognises the strong link between young people with music and the arts, with it being a key way for how young people find their identity.

3.2.4. Older persons

Community need

There is a need for people as they age to maintain their independence, quality of life and general well-being. Healthy, positive and independent lifestyles for older adults benefit not only the individual but families and communities. Despite the younger age demographic, Yarra still has an increasing number of older residents (although this number is small relative to other municipalities).

The needs and interests of people as they move beyond 50 years and over can differ greatly. There are multiple stages of ageing, as well as differences amongst people, that need to be considered when we talk about older persons.

After 50 years of age, individual physical and mental health may change however people do continue to develop new skills and confidence. Influencing factors such as gender, health status, education, work life, culture, income, housing, the urban environment, as well as family and social connections influence people's wellbeing.

How this is addressed

Council provides a range of activities, community spaces and funding opportunities as well as undertaking community development and advocacy to support the inclusion of older persons in community life. Some of these activities occur in partnership with community agencies such as neighbourhood houses, health centres, seniors clubs and other community organisations. Council plays a role in partnering with local agencies to improve access to services for vulnerable or at risk groups.

Council operates two Senior's Hubs that are also available for hire by the broader community. These are located in Abbotsford (Collingwood Seniors Hub) and Richmond (Richmond Seniors Hub). Council operates one space that caters for more specific needs and this is Willowview Centre, which is adjacent to Collingwood Seniors Hub. Some community venues that are available for general community purposes appeal to older groups more than other spaces, for example Loughnan Hall and

Mark Street Hall. Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses and learning centres, which are Council-supported through funding also offer programs and activities that support older persons.

Council supports the work of outreach services. For example, the Margaret Oats soup kitchen bases itself outside the Collingwood Seniors Hub and the hub supports the operation of Council's meals delivery service. Council also partners with the Collingwood Neighbourhood House to support the Yarra Men's Shed, where men can get together in a friendly environment to learn new skills and build friendships. The Yarra Men's Shed is not specifically for older people, but many men who attend are over 50 years of age.

Council plans for and considers the needs of older people in our urban environments. Similar to the needs of people with disability, families and residents generally, Council delivers accessible footpaths, roads and creates spaces in parks for enjoyment and exercise. Consideration is given to lighting, seating and pathways to accommodate varying mobility needs. Council also provides community transport to enable people to remain active by assisting residents to get to and from a range of activities, including Council programs such as Yarra Leisure's Living Longer Living Stronger Program.

There are a number of drivers influencing needs and how they can be met:

- There is a shift in the way we think about older people, from dependency towards productive ageing. Residents 50+ years are encouraged to build their capabilities, their financial and technological know-how, to live a healthy life.
- Medical advances, technology in the home and lifestyle shifts are changing the way people experience years beyond 50 years. Consequently, living alone is on the increase and this brings challenges around social isolation that can lead to other health risks.
- There is a socio-economic shift in Yarra with an ageing population that has greater wealth and better health. However, Yarra will continue to have a core group that experience poorer health and have low financial status.
- Historically, there are a number of cultural and ethnic older adult groups in Yarra. Numbers of people in these groups have been decreasing as more senior members die without new members joining.
- Why people come together is changing - people are joining and meeting around shared interests and skills, as opposed to age, cultural ethnicity and interests. There is reciprocity between residents, through University of the Third Age groups, where knowledge and experiences are freely exchanged.

The traditional senior citizen hub model is facing challenges (linked to some of the reasons mentioned above) with questions around their future viability. It is a challenge that is being experienced across local government. Councils need to be creative and inclusive in planning to manage and evolve their meeting spaces to ensure older people remain engaged and spaces are relevant.

In essence, senior's hubs are community gathering places for older people. However older resident groups are now taking advantage of other community spaces, beyond the senior hubs, often located in neighbourhood houses or local sports pavilions. Yarra already utilises its two senior's hubs as general community space and includes accommodating design in new and existing community space for older persons and people with disability.

Some of Yarra's older adult groups have close ties with Council facilities. For example, Yarra's Greek and Italian seniors' groups have been regular users for over thirty years of Loughnan Hall and Mark Street Hall. These halls, and other community spaces are nearing the end of their economic life with

spaces being unfit for purpose for a variety of reasons. It will be important to accommodate groups in a way that responds best to overall community needs. For example, users from International House have been relocated to Bargoonga Nganjin in a brand new, leading-edge community facility offering better access and advantages of integrating with other community services and groups.

Similar to the NDIS, national reforms are occurring in providing home and community based support and services in Yarra. My Aged Care is a new national service that assists older people to access information and services about aged care and these changes have commenced and will continue until 2020.

Council supports residents, 50+ years, through advocacy and support of activities, such as the University of the Third Age. Council's Active Ageing Advisory Group is charged with providing advice to Council on issues impacting on people 50+ years. In light of the national reforms, Council will review its role in service delivery and determine new strategic directions in supporting older people to live a full and active life in Yarra.

3.2.1. People with disability

Community need

People with disability bring skills and experience to our community, however may face challenges because of social and physical barriers they encounter that may constrain their participation in community life. Their needs are varied and diverse and it cannot be assumed that a particular disability will affect everyone in the same way. A common desire and expectation among people with disability is to have an equal opportunity to lead their lifestyle of choice.

Disability can impact people at all stages of their lives. Disability in later stages of life is common and often creates additional strain of readjustment for older people. The provision of adequate assistance, equipment and/or supports would lead to improved quality of life.

How this is addressed

Council provides support services to enhance the health, well-being and independence of people with disability, and supports and acknowledges the role that carers play in their lives. Council also seeks to promote and increase access, participation and representation of people with disability across all services, programs and events to bring about an inclusive and vibrant community.

Council has a responsibility to ensure all community buildings meet disability standards across the municipality and acknowledges the challenges of access and heritage buildings in meeting these standards. Through the statutory planning system, Council can also influence the design and development of indoor and outdoor spaces of non-Council developments to increase access for people with disability.

Council plans for community spaces and urban environments that allow everyone - to the greatest extent possible - and regardless of age or disability to function in seamlessly. For example, Council is committed to improving footpaths for better accessibility, and creates spaces in parks for enjoyment and exercise, giving consideration to lighting, seating and pathways. Council recognises the benefits that dedicated spaces can bring to people with disability in living an ordinary life. For example, Council's Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library has a Changing Places facility which is larger than a standard accessible toilet with extra features and space to meet the needs of people with disability and their carers'.

From 1 July 2016, the City of Yarra became one of the first Local Government Areas to be a part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) national roll-out. The NDIS funds disability support and a range of related services designed to maximise the independence of a person with disability.

Under the NDIS, eligible participants, their families and carers have more say in how their money is spent and what services they receive. As the number of service providers under the NDIS increases, eligible participants will have greater choice about the available services that will meet their needs and increase their capacity to participate in their community.

The implementation of the reforms mean that eligible residents who were receiving services through Council have transitioned to NDIS registered providers. Council's role in service provision (specifically soft community infrastructure rather than hard community infrastructure) has changed significantly with the implementation of the NDIS. Council supports people with disability through advocacy and programs such as the community capacity building MetroAccess program and by taking a whole of Council approach to access and inclusion. Council's Disability Advisory Committee is charged with providing advice to Council on access and inclusion issues at both, strategic and operational levels. In light of the NDIS reforms, Council will review its role and determine new strategic directions in supporting people with disability.

4. Neighbourhoods profiles

In the following chapter:

- Demographic information is provided for Yarra's ten neighbourhoods.
- Other relevant information for community infrastructure planning is provided such as transport, significant projects or areas that are a focus for change.
- Key Council and non-Council community infrastructure that serves each neighbourhood is listed. This includes community infrastructure in adjacent municipalities that is likely to service the needs of Yarra's community. Please note that these lists are not intended to be exhaustive – not every piece of community infrastructure is listed.
- Anticipated or current high-level provision gaps.

Demographic data is sourced from:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 <http://www.abs.gov.au>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016, data compiled by Pitney Bowes 2017 <https://www.pitneybowes.com/au/data/demographic-data.html>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, data compiled and presented in profile.id and forecast.id, the population experts <https://home.id.com.au/>

Richmond South

Richmond South is bounded by Swan Street to the North, the Yarra River in the east and south and Punt Road to the west. Cremorne is the area west of Church Street and Burnley is the area east of Church Street (part of the suburb of Burnley is located north of Swan Street however this is not in the Richmond South study area).



Figure 5 Richmond South neighbourhood

The City of Melbourne, Stonnington and Boroondara border Richmond South. Richmond South is in close proximity of major parklands, the Yarra River and Melbourne CBD. On the southern border of Cremorne is the Monash Freeway.

The neighbourhood is well-connected with three train stations (Richmond Station, East Richmond Station and Burnley Station) located along Swan Street. There are trams along Swan and Church Street, buses along Punt Road, an extensive road network, and cycling and pedestrian links including the Main Yarra Trail.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 5,116 (Estimated Residential Population [ERP] 2016) with a population density of 17.16 persons per hectare, low population density compared to the City of Yarra with 46 persons per hectare.
- High numbers of people aged 25–34 (young workforce) (33.6%) and parents and homebuilders (25.1%). Low numbers of people under 18 years of age (11%).
- Housing mix: 32% detached, 28% medium and 40% high density, low provision of community and public housing (1.6% or 32 dwellings).
- Predominant household type: couples without dependants.
- Many people hold formal qualifications (50%) and earn a high income (\$2000+ per week).
- An area of significant growth and change, which began in the early 2000s.
- Mixed land uses with pockets of residential, commercial, industrial, educational and recreational areas.
- Cremorne is a major employment area with a growing creative sector.
- Mix of established residential areas: some located in a heritage area (limited scope for change) and new developing areas with multi-storey apartment buildings.
- Swan Street is an area of high activity and has undergone a period of change. Once a location for industry and factories, growth and change has seen new residential

developments as well as many cafes, restaurants and bars establish with larger retail and car dealerships to the east.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- There will be more people in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - a high proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population;
 - there will be a slight increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing to 7.5% of the population in 2017 to 9.51% of the population in 2027.
- New housing is going to occur along:
 - Swan Street particularly at the eastern end near Burnley Station.
 - On large redevelopment sites on the Southern Boundary in Cremorne (for example the Richmond Malting Site)
- More businesses and economic activity, especially in Cremorne.
- Cremorne and Burnley account for 16.3% of future planned developments with a total of 2,106 dwellings proposed.

Table 1 Richmond South population forecast

Richmond South						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth
2017	4,880	550 (11.27%)	3,964 (81.23%)	366 (7.5%)	2,187	14.36% (+701)
2022	5,580	644 (11.54%)	4,466 (80.04%)	470 (8.42%)	2,494	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	6,258	716 (11.44%)	4,947 (79.05%)	595 (9.51%)	Not Available	12.13% (+677)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In Richmond South	Burnley Golf course and social room Barkly Gardens Kevin Bartlett Reserve and associated pavilions Ryan’s Reserve (tennis courts) Open space: Barkly Gardens, McConchie Reserve, Golden Square Bicentennial Park, linear open space Main Yarra Trail	Bendigo Kangan Institute (Richmond campus) Burnley Campus of the University of Melbourne (based on 9ha of heritage gardens) Richmond Primary School Richmond Early Learning Centre
Outside of Richmond South	Richmond Library and community room Richmond South Maternal and Child Health Service Richmond Theatrette Richmond Kindergarten Richmond Town Hall community spaces Richmond Recreation Centre Richmond Community Learning Centre: Studio One, Burnley Backyard, The Cubby House Richmond Seniors Hub Loughnan Hall The Stables Burnley Gardens	Richmond Secondary School Melbourne and Olympic Park Early years providers: Good Start Early Learning, Dame Nellie Melba Kindergarten, Richmond Creche and Kindergarten, Alpha Children’s Centre Bridge Road Early Learning Centre, River Garden – Guardian Early Years Centre

Other information

- In addition to capacity to support housing growth, there is opportunity to accommodate projected growth in Cremorne for commercial employment.
- The Kangan Institute in Cremorne is an important training and education facility on an underutilised site.
- Local Plans: The Swan Street Structure Plan identifies Strategic Redevelopment Sites (SRS) that are mixed use and residential and Future Investigation areas (FIA) that are largely employment areas. The Cremorne and Church Street Precinct Plan supports redevelopment that contributes to Cremorne as a mixed-use area.

Likely provision gaps

- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.
- Public spaces with strong pedestrian and cycling connections – in particular for people who work in the area, a group which is likely to increase as business services and creative industries grow.
- Improved connections to existing open space – in particular in Cremorne where Punt Road acts as a barrier to open space located in the City of Melbourne.
- Multi-purpose indoor community space that is fit for purpose in accessible, mixed-use locations. There are existing meeting and function spaces in the Richmond area however some of these are ageing and their suitability to meet future needs in their current condition is limited.
- An integrated and modern space to support the Maternal and Child Health Service.

Central Richmond

Central Richmond is bounded by Bridge Road in the north, the Yarra River in the east, Swan Street in the south and Punt Road to the west.

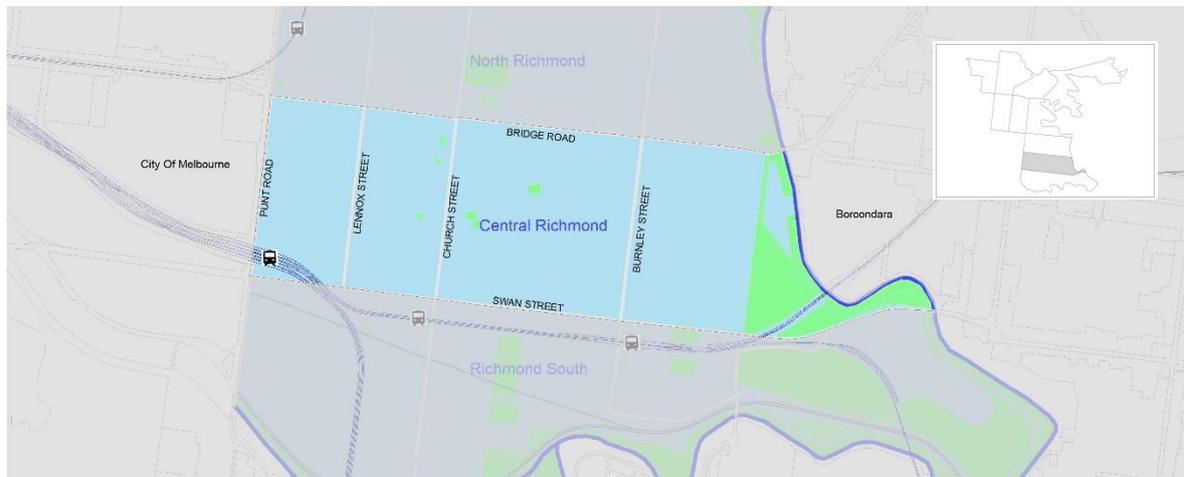


Figure 6 Central Richmond neighbourhood

The City of Melbourne borders Central Richmond to the west along Punt Road and the City of Boroondara borders to the east along the Yarra River. The neighbourhood is well connected with trams running along Swan Street, Bridge Road and Church Street. Richmond Station is located in the south west of the neighbourhood, East Richmond, Burnley and West Richmond Station are within walking distance. Buses run along Punt Road.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 13,973 (ERP, 2016) with a population density of 63 persons per hectare, higher population density than the City of Yarra with 46 persons per hectare.
- High numbers of people aged 25–34 (young workforce), followed by people aged 35-49 (parents and homebuilders).
- Housing mix: 32.7% detached, 44.4% medium and 22% high density. There are 149 community and social housing dwellings representing 2.4% of all dwellings.
- Predominant household type: Lone person followed by couples without children.
- A high proportion of people hold formal qualifications with 49% having a Bachelor or higher degree.
- High income households (more than \$2,500 per week) are the most common household type (14.2%).
- Mix of established residential areas with valued heritage character, new developing areas with multi-storey apartment buildings.
- A large proportion of the neighbourhood is residential with commercial areas extending along Swan Street and Bridge Road with pockets of mixed-use areas.
- More than half the area is in a heritage overlay.
- Bridge Road is known for its shopping, cafes and restaurants. The Epworth Hospital and related health services are a big contributor to the local economy. Changes in retail patterns

and shop vacancies in the Richmond Hill Precinct (the portion of Bridge Road between Punt Road and Church Street) have caused great concerns to the local businesses.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- There will be more people in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - High proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively low percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - There will be growth in the percentage of people 65 years or older going from 10% of the population in 2017 to 11.3% in 2022 to 13% in 2027.
- Higher density in commercial areas: Swan Street and Bridge Road are likely to attract more mixed-use developments.
- More people living in apartments, generating a community with lifestyle preferences that are likely to be different from the past.

Table 2 Central Richmond population forecasts

Central Richmond						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	14,144	1,350 (9.5%)	11,376 (80.5%)	1,418(10%)	7,256	12.71% (+1,798)
2022	15,942	1,557 (9.7%)	12,584 (79%)	1,802 (11.3%)	7,256	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	17,791	1,728 (10%)	13,798 (78%)	2,265 (13%)	Not Available	11.60% (+1,849)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In Central Richmond	Richmond Library and community room Richmond South Maternal and Child Health Service Richmond Theatrette Richmond Kindergarten The Stables Richmond Community Learning Centre: Studio One, Burnley Backyard, The Cubby House Richmond Seniors Hub Loughnan Hall Burnley Park cottage (unused) Open space: Burnley Park is the key open space area. There are other smaller open space areas distributed throughout the neighbourhood. Linear open space along the Main Yarra Trail.	Melbourne Girls College St Kevin's College (Year 9 only) Melbourne Indigenous Transition School Dame Nellie Melba Kindergarten Good Start Early Learning Alpha Children's Centre Richmond Uniting Church community halls Mecwacare Early years providers: Good Start Early Learning, Dame Nellie Melba Kindergarten, Richmond Crèche and Kindergarten, Alpha Children's Centre Bridge Road Early Learning Centre
Outside of Central Richmond	Richmond Recreation Centre Richmond Town Hall community spaces Williams Reserve Community Room Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House	Richmond Primary School, Yarra Primary School, Richmond West Primary School, Hawthorn West Primary School Richmond Secondary School (open 2018), Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar

	Council	Non-Council
	Burnley Golf Course and social room Barkly Gardens, Golden Square Bicentennial Park Kevin Bartlett Reserve and associated pavilions	Bendigo Kangan Institute (Richmond campus) Finbar Neighbourhood House (Council doesn't own the building but funds the service) Burnley Campus of the University of Melbourne Melbourne and Olympic Park (including Yarra Park) Richmond Multicultural Children's Centre, Camelot Early Learning Centre, Richmond Recreation Centre, Occasional Care, Petit Early Learning Journey Centre (Church Street) East Melbourne Childcare Co-operative

Other information

- There are numerous Council community spaces in the Richmond area of varying quality, access and capacity. By considering these spaces as a network of facilities, it will help contribute to the full complement of spaces to reach a broader range of needs (rather than viewing them as individual facilities).

Some spaces have capacity to perform better through non-asset solutions such as Studio One and the Stables. Other spaces are ageing buildings that are in need of significant works such as Loughnan Hall and Richmond Community Learning Centres 'The Cubby House'.

Other spaces such as the Jack Dyer Sporting Pavilion and the former MCH building in Citizens Park (both in North Richmond) would need to be considered in any decision-making around community space in Richmond

There is opportunity to deliver improved quality across the network of community spaces in Richmond.

- Local Plans: The Bridge Road Streetscape Master Plan identifies a number of initiatives that are important for supporting a vibrant, active, safe and inviting public domain. The Master Plan and sets out a framework for short, medium and long term improvements to the streetscape.

The Urban Design Framework for the Richmond Town Hall Precinct aims to consolidate the precinct as a community hub. Developed in 2007, the overall aim of the framework is to enhance the civic and community focus of the precinct, and this is still relevant.

Parts of Central Richmond are included in the Swan Street Structure Plan.

- Citizen's Park Jack Dyer Pavilion design is being undertaken in 2017-18. The upgraded pavilion will provide for increased participation in sport by women and juniors and will improve the accessibility and environmental performance of the pavilion.
- The former Channel Nine Site on Bendigo Street (GTV9) has undergone some redevelopment and there is still a portion of the site to be developed. The initial development included a community space (Studio One Community Hub).

Likely provision gaps

- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.

- Multi-use public spaces and places that are inclusive and accessible with strong pedestrian and cycling connections.
- Improved connections to existing open space.
- A vibrant, active and inviting public domain along the length of Bridge Road.
- An integrated and modern space to support the Maternal and Child Health Service.
- Multi-purpose indoor community space that is fit for purpose in accessible, mixed-use locations. There are existing meeting and function spaces in the Richmond area however some of these are ageing and their suitability to meet future needs in their current condition is limited.

North Richmond

North Richmond is bounded by Victoria Street in the North, the Yarra River in the east, Bridge Road in the south and Hoddle Street in west.

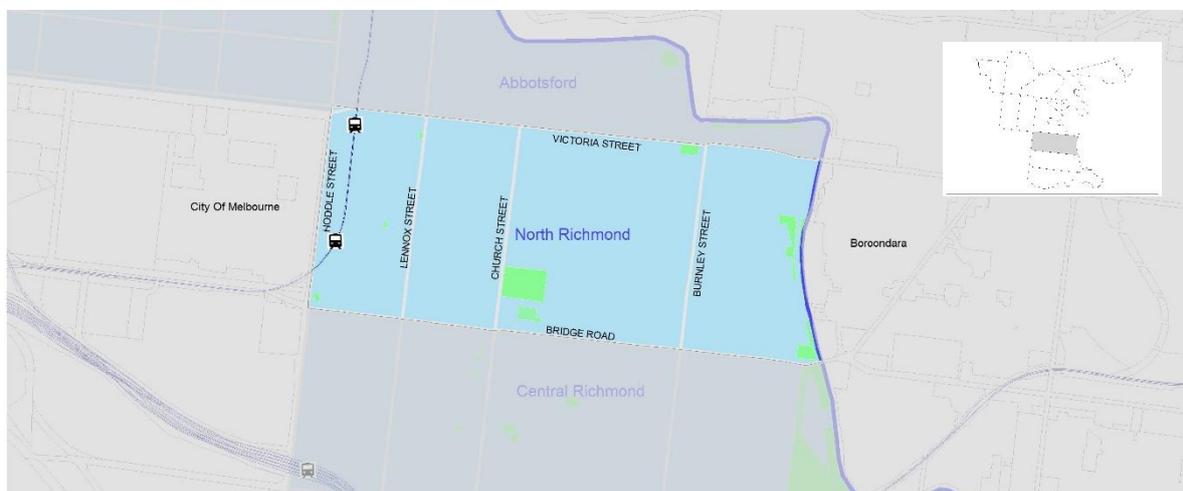


Figure 7 North Richmond neighbourhood

The neighbourhood is well connected with trams along Bridge Road, Victoria Street and Church Street. West Richmond and North Richmond Station are located in the west and buses run along Punt Road.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Housing mix: 19.7% detached, 35.5% medium and 44.4% high density. There is a high level of public housing (1,628 dwellings or 30.5%) and the majority of these are located in the Richmond Housing Estate towers. More than half of households are renting (57%).
- A large proportion of the community was born overseas (39.6%), higher than the City of Yarra (29%) and people with Vietnamese (13.3%) and Chinese (13.1%) ancestry make-up a significant proportion of the community.
- North Richmond is a growing neighbourhood with a significant proportion of growth coming from high rise developments in the east near Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre.
- A well-connected neighbourhood: West Richmond and North Richmond Station, trams along Bridge Road, Victoria Street and Church Street, buses along Hoddle Street.

- Citizen’s Park is highly utilised and supports a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. The Main Yarra Trail is a key linear open space asset for the community towards the east.
- There are a high number of dog-walkers in the neighbourhood and Citizen’s Park is a popular location for this activity from North Richmond and Central Richmond.
- A large proportion of the neighbourhood is residential with key commercial areas extending along Bridge Road and Victoria Street. There are pockets of mixed use areas throughout the neighbourhood with mostly industrial and commercial sites east of Burnley Street.
- Bridge Road is known for its shopping, cafes and restaurants. The Epworth Hospital and related health services are a big contributor to the local economy. Changes in retail patterns and shop vacancies in the Richmond Hill Precinct (the portion of Bridge Road between Punt Road and Church Street) have caused concern to the local businesses.
- The Victoria Street precinct is a vibrant dining, shopping and cultural destination. However the area also faces challenges in relation to public safety, liveability, community connectedness and economic prosperity.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - a high proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - the main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 11.93% of the population in 2017 to 14.89% of the population in 2027.
- Population growth will be higher in the years 2017-2022 (16.07%) compared to 2022-2027 (11.40%).
- Bridge Road will continue to be a key destination for retail, civic and institutional uses.
- There will continue to be further growth from high rise developments towards the east, along Victoria and Burnley Street. Housing growth within the existing residential areas in parts of North Richmond will be lower, as the lots are smaller and many have heritage overlays. There will be some housing growth along Bridge Road and Victoria Street, given their commercial zoning that permits residential uses.
- Higher density in commercial areas: Bridge Road and Victoria Street will have more mixed-use developments.
- The Epworth Hospital Precinct: continued growth in health services that will drive development investment in the precinct increasing movement, activity and visitors to the area.
- The Richmond Town Hall and Gleadell Street area are likely to experience higher pedestrian movements and activity with the establishment of Richmond High School.

Table 3 North Richmond population forecast

North Richmond						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	13,945	1,548 (11.10%)	10,733 (76.97%)	1,664 (11.93%)	5,910	16.07% (+2,241)

2022	16,186	1,801 (11.13%)	12,228 (75.55%)	2,157 (13.33%)	6,876	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	18,031	1,962 (10.88%)	13,385 (74.23%)	2,684 (14.89%)	<i>Not Available</i>	11.40% (+1,845)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In North Richmond	Richmond Town Hall Richmond Recreation Centre (RRC) Occasional Care (located at RRC) Richmond Multicultural Children’s Centre (Council building), Yarraberg Children’s Centre Richmond Maternal and Child Health Centre (located at North Richmond Community Health) William’s Reserve Community Room Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House Richmond Family Centre (former MCH building located in Citizen’s Park) Former Richmond Police Station Open Space: Citizen’s Park and Jack Dyer Pavilion North, small local parks and reserves.	Epworth Hospital Precinct Yarra Primary School Richmond West Primary School Trinity Catholic School Richmond High School (open 2018) Lynall Hall Community School Richmond Bowls Club The Bakehouse North Richmond Community Health Early Years: Boroondara Kindergarten, Cooke Court Child Care, Acacia Children’s Centre, Petit Early Learning Centre, Camelot Early Learning Centre, Richmond Multicultural Children’s Centre, Guardian Early Learning Centre, Explorers Early Learning
Outside of North Richmond	Richmond Library and community room Richmond South Maternal and Child Health Service Richmond Theatre Richmond Kindergarten The Stables Richmond Community Learning Centre: Studio One, Burnley Backyard, The Cubby House Richmond Seniors Hub Loughnan Hall Collingwood Library Collingwood Seniors Hub Willowview Centre	Early years: Good Start Early Learning, Dame Nellie Melba Kindergarten, Richmond Creche and Kindergarten, Alpha Children’s Centre Bridge Road Early Learning Centre Darling Square, Powlett Reserve (CoM) East Melbourne Library (CoM)

Other information

- The Richmond Secondary School is built over two campuses (Griffiths Street and Gleadell Street) and when complete have capacity for 650 co-educational students for years 7-12. The campus on Gleadell Street is the sporting precinct and contains an indoor multi-purpose court as part of the gymnasium and three outdoor netball courts. The four storey Griffiths Street building is the academic/classroom campus. The addition of a school in the Richmond Town Hall precinct will have number of impacts on existing services and infrastructure including parking, access to existing facilities including Citizen’s Park and general pedestrian movement.

There are opportunities to explore community use of school facilities for appropriate purposes and for formalisation of such use.

Local Plans: The Bridge Road Streetscape Master Plan identifies a number of initiatives that are important for supporting a vibrant, active, safe and inviting public domain along Bridge Road for existing and future residents, traders, workers and visitors.

The Urban Design Framework for the Richmond Town Hall Precinct aims to consolidate the precinct as a community hub. Developed in 2007, the overall aim of the framework, to enhance the civic and community focus of the precinct is still relevant.

The Victoria Street Structure Plan (including adjoining areas) guides change and investment in public works. The Victoria Streetscape Masterplan identifies objectives relating to public spaces, transport and access in the area. Seven key projects are identified. The Victoria Street East Precinct Urban Design Framework guides change in the Victoria Street East precinct.

- Victoria will trial a safe drug-injecting room at the North Richmond Community Hub (announced by the Labor Government in October 2017).

Likely provision gaps

- Multi-purpose indoor community space that is fit for purpose in accessible, mixed-use locations. There are existing meeting and function spaces in the Richmond area however some of these are ageing and their suitability to meet future needs in their current condition is limited.
- Relevant spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment. There are large pockets within the neighbourhood that have limited access to open space and improved connections to existing open spaces will enhance access.
- Appropriate public space around Epworth Precinct (a forecast high activity area)
- Appropriate public realm improvements around the Richmond Town Hall and Gleadell Street in particular to provide a safe pedestrian environment for school students whilst integrating with existing uses.
- A safe, active and inviting public domain along Bridge Road and Victoria Street.

Abbotsford

Abbotsford is bounded by the Eastern Freeway in the north, the Yarra River in the east (separating from Kew), Victoria Street in the south and Hoddle Street in the west.

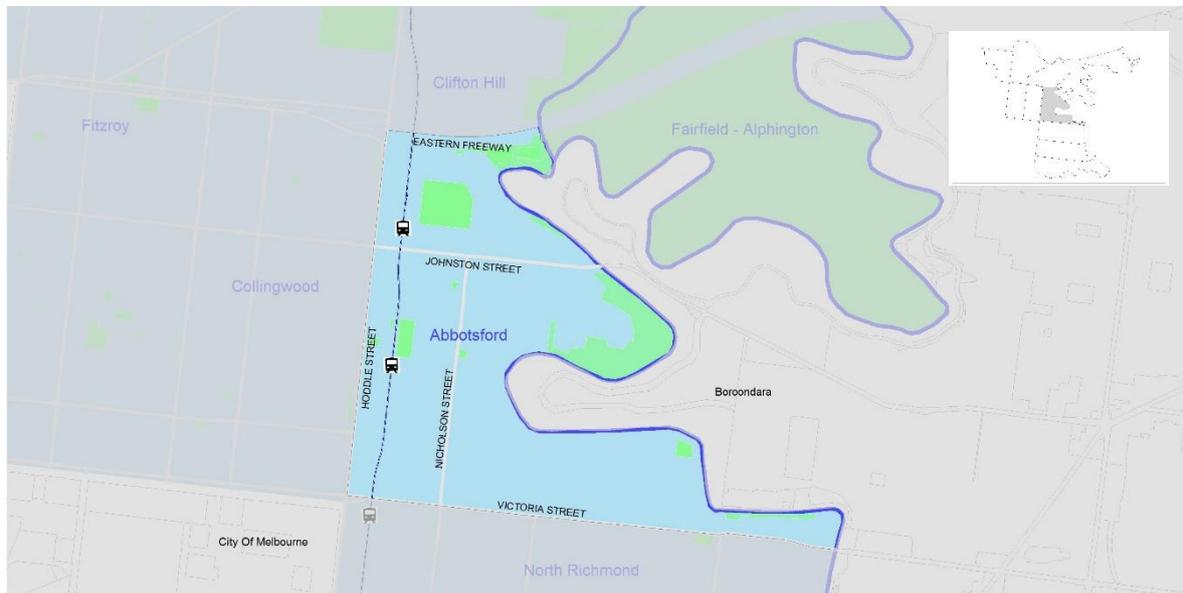


Figure 8 Abbotsford neighbourhood

Collingwood and Victoria Park stations are located in the neighbourhood (North Richmond Station is located just outside of the neighbourhood), trams run along Victoria Street and there are buses along Hoddle and Johnston Streets. The Yarra River separates Abbotsford from the City of Boroondara with the main connections for vehicles being Victoria Street and Johnston Street.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 8,842 (ERP, 2016) with a population density of 37.67 persons per hectare, lower than the City of Yarra with 45.65 persons per hectare. One quarter of people live alone (25.8%) and there are more couples without children (23%) than with children (16.7%).
- High numbers of people aged 25–34 young workforce (27.9%), followed by people aged 35–49 parents and homebuilders (24.4%), smaller numbers of primary schoolers than the City of Yarra (3.9% compared to 5%) higher numbers of empty nesters and retirees than the City of Yarra (8.1% compared to 7.4%).
- Housing mix: 26.3% detached, 55.7% medium and 17.1% high density. Community and public housing represent 7.5% of all dwellings (170 dwellings). Fewer people rent (37%) compared to the City of Yarra (48.7%).
- A growing neighbourhood with a significant proportion of growth coming from high rise developments in the east near Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre. Johnson Street East is an emerging Activity Centre.
- The neighbourhood has experienced urban renewal with redevelopment of former industrial sites in particular towards the eastern end of Victoria Street and along the Yarra.
- Industry is mainly located on large sites on the eastern side, near the Yarra River and commercial activity is mostly along Victoria Street.
- The Carlton United Brewery is a key employment site in the area.

- The Victoria Street precinct is a vibrant dining, shopping and cultural destination. However the area also faces challenges in relation to public safety, liveability, community connectedness and economic prosperity.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - High proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - The main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 8.93% of the population in 2017 to 11.29% of the population in 2027.
- The housing mix will increasingly see a greater percentage of high density dwellings with more people living in apartments.
- Abbotsford is expecting an additional 1,301 dwellings or 10% increase in total dwellings in the next 10 years. There is a cluster of major residential developments proposed along Johnston Street and additional developments proposed on Trenerry Crescent, close to Hoddle Street and along Victoria Street.
- The future of CUB site, which is expected to be a major redevelopment site in the future, will be a key catalyst for further planning in the area.
- Concentrated forms of development along and surrounding Johnston Street and Victoria Park Station. The Johnston Street Local Area Plan guides change in this area.
- Johnston Street and Victoria Street have the potential to become a more vibrant, liveable and accessible place with commercial activity occurring at street level and commercial and residential uses occurring at upper levels.

Table 4 Abbotsford population forecasts

Abbotsford						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	8,831	880 (9.96%)	7,162 (81.10%)	789 (8.93%)	3,567	37.23% (+3,288)
2022	12,119	1,212 (10%)	9,704 (80.07%)	1,203 (9.93%)	4,885	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	15,284	1,512 (9.89%)	12,046 (78.81%)	1,726 (11.29%)	Not Available	26.12% (+3.165)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

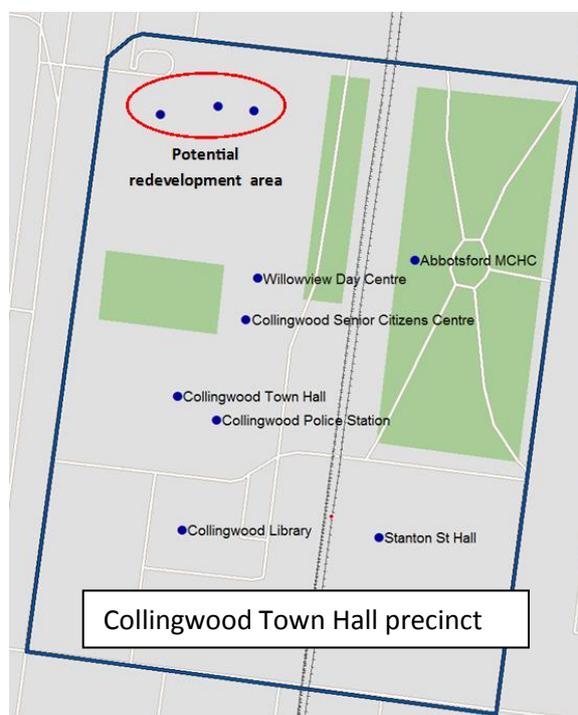
	Council	Non-Council
In Abbotsford	Collingwood Town Hall Collingwood Library Collingwood Seniors Hub Willowview Centre	Abbotsford Primary School Sophia Mundi Steiner School Victoria Park Abbotsford Convent: a range of spaces for hire, indoor and outdoor Collingwood Children’s Farm

	<p>Abbotsford Maternal and Child Health Stanton Street Hall Yarra Sculpture Gallery Sailors and Soldiers Hall (unused) Victoria Park – major recreation space, fenced oval, dog off-leash, BBQ’s Open Space: Gahan’s Reserve (outdoor half basketball courts), Browns Reserve, Yarra Bend Park and sporting reserves, linear and open space along the Main Yarra Trail. New park at the corner of Charles and Mollison Streets (being constructed 2017-18).</p>	<p>Collingwood Football Club Community Centre (Headspace Collingwood, AFL SportsReady, ArtsReady, Mind Australia, the Collingwood Toy Library, and Eating Disorders Victoria) Yarra Bend Golf Course Mercy Place Abbotsford</p>
Outside of Abbotsford	<p>Richmond Recreation Centre (RRC) Collingwood Leisure Centre Richmond Maternal and Child Health Centre (located at North Richmond Community Health) Occasional Care (located at RRC) Richmond Multicultural Children’s Centre (Council building, not service), Yarraberg Children’s Centre William’s Reserve Community Room Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (part land owned by Council not the buildings, though we fund) Richmond Family Centre (former MCH building located in Citizen’s Park) Former Richmond Police Station Open Space: Citizen’s Park</p>	<p>Explorer’s Early Learning Guardian Early Learning Centre Petite Early Learning Journey (Church Street, Richmond and Hoddle Street, Clifton Hill) To be delivered: Collingwood College indoor basketball courts (3)</p>

Other information

- The Collingwood Town Hall Precinct contains numerous Council buildings in a relatively small area. Some of these buildings cannot be used due to their condition (Sailors and Soldiers Hall), some are delivering services in stand-alone buildings that aren’t consistent with current service-delivery preferences (Abbotsford Maternal and Child Health) and others would require significant redevelopment to meet future needs (Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Vere Street Factories and Collingwood Library). Other buildings in the precinct include Stanton Street Hall (a Council building on VicTrack land), Collingwood Town Hall, Collingwood Seniors Hub and Willowview Centre.

There is opportunity for better integration between the community facilities in the precinct and stronger synergies between services.



The Collingwood Town Hall Precinct Urban Design Framework 2010 is the most current document for the precinct and whilst some parts need updating, parts are relevant: consolidation of the area as a landmark precinct with a variety of activities and uses, new development opportunities for a civic/employment hub, and opportunities for affordable and other forms of housing in the Precinct.

- The land along the eastern side of Hoddle Street (along the railway line from North Richmond Station to the Eastern Freeway) is likely to attract concentrated forms of development. The Victorian Government's Plan Melbourne identifies Collingwood as an Urban Renewal Corridor. This is due to its location near public transport and suitable for a diverse mix of activity including higher density residential and commercial growth.
- Local Plans: The Victoria Street Structure Plan (including adjoining areas), The Victoria Streetscape Masterplan, The Victoria Street East Precinct Urban Design Framework and the Johnston Street Local Area Plan, and Collingwood Town Hall Precinct Urban Design Framework.
- Council is delivering a new local park at Charles and Mollison Streets, Abbotsford in 2017-2018 through partial road closure.

Likely provision gaps

- A connected and attractive precinct integrating community services and social activities in the Vere Street - Collingwood Town Hall Precinct.
- An integrated and modern space to support Maternal and Child Health Services.
- A space to support a contemporary library service that appeals to all age groups and that is located with compatible services.
- Multi-purpose indoor community meeting space that could meet the needs of families, children, arts and culture, young people and older persons.
- Outdoor spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.
- Improved connections to existing open space.
- A safe, active and inviting public domain along the Victoria Street precinct.

Collingwood

The neighbourhood is bounded by Alexandra Parade in the north, Hoddle Street in the east, Victoria Parade in the south and Smith Street in the west.



Figure 9 Collingwood neighbourhood

Public transport options are largely located on or near the borders of the neighbourhood with trams along Smith Street, buses along Victoria, Alexandra Parade and Hoddle Street. West Richmond, North Richmond and Collingwood train stations are within walking distance.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 9,144 (ERP, 2016) and a population density of 58.18 persons per hectare, higher than the City of Yarra with 45.65 persons per hectare. Many people live alone (30.5%) and there are many couples without children (21.6%).
- High numbers of people aged 25–34 young workforce (30.7%), followed by people aged 35–49 parents and homebuilders (25.2%). Lower percentage of people in older age groups (50+ yrs) compared to the City of Yarra and higher percentage of people in the younger age groups (0–17 years) than the City of Yarra.
- Housing mix: 20.6% detached, 54% medium and 32.1% high density. There is a high level of social and community housing (32.3% or 1,112 dwellings) and the majority of these are located in the housing estate towers. More than half of all households are renting (55.8%).
- More than a third were born overseas (32.6%) higher than the City of Yarra (28.9%).
- Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) developed by the ABS ranks areas in Australia according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The SEIFA index shows that Collingwood is the lowest scoring neighbourhood in Yarra (894.4) and has a percentile of 11 (meaning that 11% of suburbs in Australia have a SEIFA index lower and 89% have a SEIFA index higher).
- Collingwood is a growing neighbourhood having experienced significant medium and high density residential development. It's attractiveness for development is largely a result of being close to public transport and employment options and within walking distance of many shops, eateries and services.
- The Gipps Street Precinct is a key employment area.

- A blend of the old new: Smith Street and Johnston Street are key shopping strips with a diverse range of shops, eateries and factories as well as supporting a dynamic nightlife.
- Many creative businesses are located in Collingwood as well as clothing distribution warehouses, showrooms, office space and service industries. With higher numbers of people residing in the area there are increasingly more cafes, bars and shops appearing on smaller streets such as Peel Street and Oxford Street.
- Collingwood holds special significance to Aboriginal people, and along with Fitzroy was a major hub of social and political activity for the Aboriginal community, and today remains a critical centre for Aboriginal services and organisations.
- Good public transport access: trams along Smith Street, buses along Hoddle Street and Victoria Parade. There are no train stations in the neighbourhood, however Collingwood and Victoria Park stations are just a short distance across Hoddle Street.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- High proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now. The main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 7.56% of the population in 2017 to 9.59% of the population in 2027.
- A greater concentration of higher density dwellings is likely to attract more young adults and smaller households.
- Further development along Gipps Street employment precinct that will generate higher employment in the area.
- Collingwood is expecting an additional 1,538 dwellings, a 12% increase in total dwellings. The development sites are generally small to medium sized sites and clustered in between Smith Street and Wellington Parade with the largest development site fronting Victoria Parade.

Table 5 Collingwood population forecasts

Collingwood						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	8,981	1,058 (11.78%)	7,244 (80.66%)	679 (7.56%)	3,839	22.50% (+2,021)
2022	11,002	1,314 (11.94%)	8,752 (79.55%)	936 (8.51%)	4,692	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	12,903	1,523 (11.80%)	10,142 (78.60%)	1,238 (9.59%)	Not Available	17.28% (+1,901)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In Collingwood	Gold Street Children's Centre Keel Street Children's Centre Yarra Men's Shed	Collingwood Neighbourhood House (Council doesn't own the building but funds the service)

	<p>Collingwood Estate Gym 12 Peel Street Building Open Space: Peel Street Park, Oxford Street Park, Cambridge Street Reserve</p>	<p>Collingwood College Prep-12 St Joseph's Primary School Collingwood English Language School Collingwood Alternative School Circus Oz site The Melba Spiegeltent Collingwood Arts Precinct Rupert Street Child Care Centre and Kindergarten Cambridge House (aged care) Neighbourhood Justice Centre To be delivered: Collingwood College indoor basketball courts (3)</p>
Outside of Collingwood	<p>Collingwood Town Hall Collingwood Leisure Centre Fitzroy Library Collingwood Library Collingwood Seniors Hub Connie Benn Centre Willowview Centre Abbotsford Maternal and Child Health Stanton Street Hall Yarra Sculpture Gallery Sailors and Soldier Hall (unused) Yarra Youth Services Victoria Park</p>	<p>St Mark's Community Centre Fitzroy Learning Network Acacia Fitzroy Crèche Fitzroy Gardens, Powlett Reserve, Darling Square</p>

Other information

- Collingwood will continue to be a focus for change bringing residential and business growth. At the same time there will likely continue to be pockets of social disadvantage in Collingwood that will benefit from targeted support in particular in the areas of family, children and youth services.
- Collingwood College has received funding as part of the 2017 Victoria State budget to develop three indoor basketball courts including a show court with capacity for 250 spectators.
- Local Plans: The Smith Street Structure Plan, The Local Plan Area for the Gipps Street Precinct and The Johnston Street Local Area Plan.

Likely provision gaps

- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.
- A contemporary library service that is located with compatible services.
- Multi-purpose indoor community space in accessible, mixed-use locations.
- An integrated and modern space to support the Maternal and Child Health Service.
- A need for diverse multi-use public spaces and places with strong pedestrian and cycling connections.
- Improved connections to existing open space - the neighbourhood contains four small parks with limited access to larger open space areas.

Fitzroy

The neighbourhood is bounded by Alexandra Parade in the north, Smith Street in the east, Victoria Parade in the south and Nicholson Street in the west. Fitzroy covers a land area of 157 hectares.

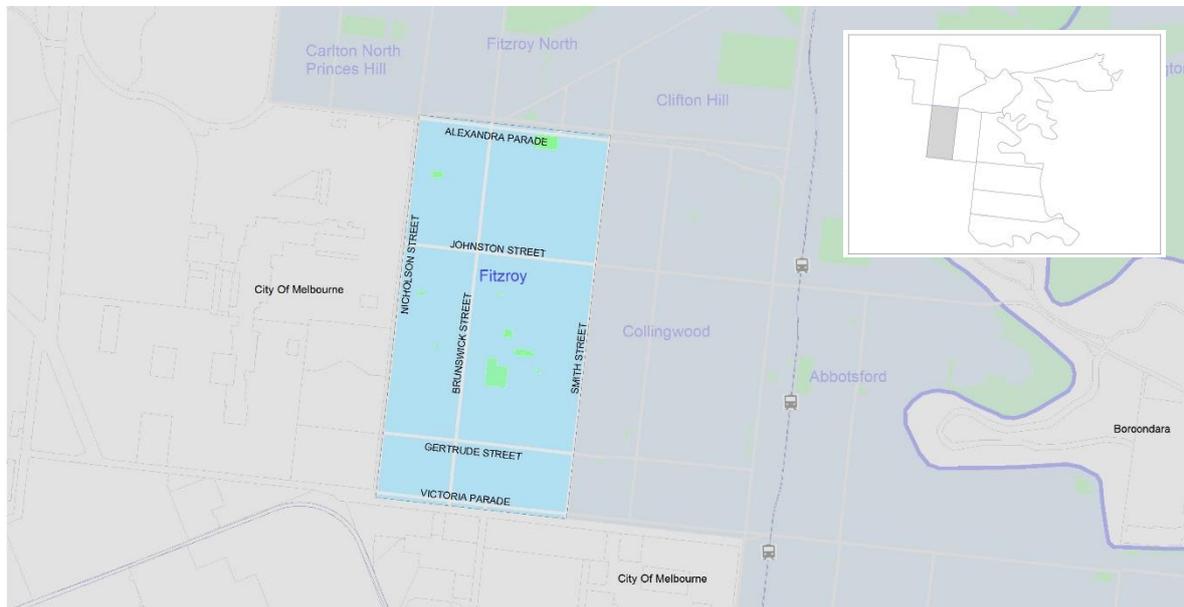


Figure 10 Fitzroy neighbourhood

Public transport options are good with trams along Nicholson Street, Brunswick Street and Smith Street and buses along Victoria and Alexandra Parade. Parliament Station, located outside of the neighbourhood, is accessible to the southern part of the neighbourhood.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 11,464 (ERP, 2016) with a population density of 72.84 persons per hectare, higher population density compared to the City of Yarra with 47.84 persons per hectare.
- High numbers of people aged 25–34 years (30.2%) and 35-49 years (22.6%).
- Higher proportion of pre-schoolers than the City of Yarra in 2016 (5.2% compared to 4.6%)
- High number of medium or high density dwellings. Housing mix: 13.6% detached, 40.2% medium and 44.6% high density, high provision of community and public housing (22.8% or 1190).
- Predominant household type: Lone person (30.4%), higher than the City of Yarra (29.5%).
- Higher proportion of one parent families (7.3%) than the City of Yarra (6.5%).
- Many people hold a Bachelor or higher degree (43.6%)
- Individual income: 19.3% of the population earned a high income (those earning \$1,750 per week or more) and 27.9% earned a low income (those earning less than \$500 per week), compared with 21.4% and 25.4% respectively for the City of Yarra.
- Mixed land uses with residential, commercial and light industrial areas.
- St Vincent's Hospital and Australian Catholic University are located on the southern border with ACU providing good open space.
- Public transport: trams service the neighbourhood along Nicholson Street (route 96), Brunswick Street (route 11), Smith Street (route 86), and Victoria parade (route 24, 109).

There are no train stations in the immediate neighbourhood area, however Parliament Station is a short distance away on Spring Street, Melbourne (serving the south of Fitzroy).

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - High proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - The main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 10.03% of the population in 2017 to 12.57% of the population in 2027.
- Fitzroy is expecting an additional 980 dwellings, a 15.9% increase in total dwellings.
- There are several development sites dotted throughout the residential neighbourhood between Smith and Brunswick Streets and along Johnston Street west of Smith Street.
- Housing growth will most likely occur on the Smith, Johnson and Brunswick Street activity centres.
- Brunswick Street has very little development proposed along the activity centre strip, this is reflective of the significant heritage streetscape and existing heritage protections. The smaller lot sizes also make redevelopment more challenging in this location.

Table 6 Fitzroy population forecasts

Fitzroy						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	11,907	1,340 (11.25%)	9,373 (78.72%)	1,194 (10.03%)	4,882	13.29% (1,582)
2022	13,489	1,537 (11.39%)	10,443 (77.42%)	1,509 (11.19%)	5,516	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	14,915	1,676 (11.24%)	11,362 (76.18)	1,877 (12.58%)	Not Available	10.57% (1,426)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In Fitzroy	Fitzroy Town Hall Fitzroy Swimming Pool Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre Connie Benn Centre Florence Peel Centre Yarra Youth Centre East West Child Care (Council building and land) John Street Community Early Childhood Co-operative Fitzroy Pool Occasional Care St Vincent's Early Learning Centre Atherton Gardens Reserve (soccer ground, cricket practices net, dog off-leash area)	Cubbies Adventure Playground Fitzroy Primary School Fitzroy High School Acacia Fitzroy Creche St Vincent's Early Learning Centre St Mark's Community Centre Sumner House Brotherhood of St Laurence Wesley Mission Victoria All Saints Parish Hall The Way Launch Housing Fitzroy Leaning Network (Council doesn't own the building but funds the service)
Outside of Fitzroy	Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library North Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre Holden Street Neighbourhood House Mark Street Hall Emely Baker Building Batman Street Reserve Park Street Reserve Edinburgh Garden Edinburgh Gardens Community Room	Melbourne Museum Carlton Gardens Royal Exhibition Building Neighbourhood Justice Centre Central Carlton Children's Centre Lemon Tree Children's Centre MUFC Child Care Centre Tommaso Fiaschi Child Care Centre Swanston Street Children's Centre

Other Information

- The area that socially and physically houses different communities; there are high-rise apartments funded by the State Housing Authority as well as redevelopment and renovation by private investors, developers and home-owners.
- The presence of the housing commission flats and young tertiary-educated middle to high income earners means that the neighbourhood is diverse with many community needs.
- The Fitzroy Town Hall precinct has potential to deliver more benefit to the community. The Fitzroy Town Hall currently operates as a multi-functional space with offices (leased spaces), function space and a library. The area around FTH contains a number of Council owned, managed and leased community facilities. These include the Connie Benn Centre, Yarra Youth Centre, the Florence Peel Centre and open space.

There is an opportunity to see how FTH and surrounds can be better used to meet community needs offering a balance between community services, amenity and Council resources.

- The Fitzroy Library (located in FTH) received the addition of an IT makerspace (a creative space where people gather to create, invent and learn) room and new carpet throughout in 2017.

Likely provision gaps

- A vibrant, connected and attractive precinct integrating community services and social activities in the Fitzroy Town Hall Precinct.
- Public spaces with strong pedestrian and cycling connections – in particular for people who work in the area, a group which is likely to increase as business services and creative industries grow.
- A contemporary library service that appeals to all age groups.
- Multi-purpose indoor community space that is fit for purpose in accessible, mixed-use locations.
- A high quality public realm that is safe with good amenity for residents, businesses and visitors along Smith Street, Brunswick Street, Johnson Street and Gertrude Street.
- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment. The neighbourhood contains limited open space areas, with the southern portion of the area serviced by open space in the City of Melbourne (Carlton and Fitzroy Gardens).

Carlton North – Princes Hill

The neighbourhood is bounded by Park Street in the north, Nicholson Street in the east, Princes Street and Macpherson Street in the south and Garton Street and Bowen Crescent in the west. The area is made up two smaller areas; Princes Hill and Carlton North.

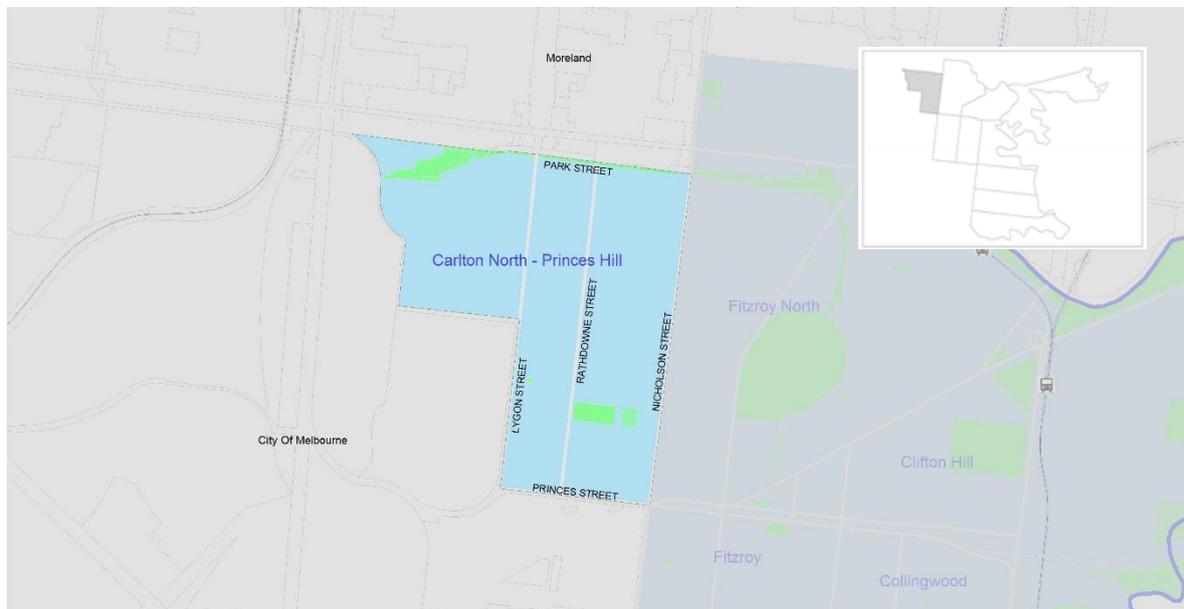


Figure 11 Carlton North - Princes Hill neighbourhood

Public Transport options include trams along Lygon and Rathdowne Streets, as well as buses along Alexandra Parade. Jewell Railway Station and Royal Park Railway (located in the City of Melbourne) are within walking distance from the north-west part of the neighbourhood.

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 9,017 (2016) with a population density of 57.19 persons per hectare, higher population density compared to the City of Yarra with 47.84 persons per hectare.
- High numbers of people aged 25–34 years (27.3%) and 35-49 years (19.1%) but lower than the City of Yarra (30.6% and 22.3% respectively).
- Higher proportion of persons over 50 years (28%) than the City of Yarra in 2016 (24.6%).
- High proportion of medium density dwellings. Housing mix: 8.9% detached, 71% medium and 18.5% high density, high provision of community and public housing (4.2% or 171).
- Predominant household types: Lone person (25.6%) and Couples without children (25.1%).
- Higher numbers of Couples with children and Group households (18.3% and 17.8%) than the City of Yarra in 2016 (14.8% and 12.8% respectively)
- High proportion of people hold a Bachelor or higher degree (55.8%) more than the City of Yarra (44.7%)
- Individual income: 20.5% of the population earned a high income, and 26.3% earned a low income, compared with 21.4% and 25.4% respectively for the City of Yarra.
- Largely a residential area with heritage controls over most of the neighbourhood (97.58%).
- Rathdowne Village and Nicholson Village are the main commercial areas with cafes, restaurants, small business and retail outlets.

- Close proximity and good accessibility to tertiary institutions in the City of Melbourne.
- Public Transport: trams run along Lygon Street (route 1, 8) and Nicholson Street (route 96) and there are a number of bus routes that operate in the area. There are no train stations in the immediate area however Royal Park Station is a short distance away in the City of Melbourne.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - High proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - The main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 12.88% of the population in 2017 to 16.16% of the population in 2027.
- Carlton North-Princes Hill has very limited growth projections for developments over 10 dwellings.

Table 7 Carlton North - Princes Hill population forecasts

Carlton North – Princes Hill						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	9,241	958 (10.37%)	7,093 (76.76%)	1,190 (12.88%)	3,947	4.82% (+445)
2022	9,686	1,011 (10.44%)	7,267 (75.03%)	1,408 (14.54%)	4,147	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	10,078	1,044 (10.36%)	7,405 (73.48%)	1,629 (16.16%)	Not Available	4.05% (+392)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In Carlton North – Princes Hill	Carlton Library North Carlton Child Care Centre North Carlton Children’s Centre Carlton North and Princes Hill Maternal and Child Health Centre Princes Hill Kindergarten North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre Bocce Rink Club House Dancehouse Open Space: Linear Park Hardy, Gallagher Reserve, Curtain Square (playground, basketball court)	Gowrie Victoria Child Care Carlton North Primary School Princes Hill Primary School Princes Hill Secondary College Princes Hill Community Centre (Council doesn’t own the building but funds the service) Carlton Scout Group Futsal Life - Carlton
Outside of Carlton North – Princes Hill	Mark Street Hall Yarra Youth Centre Edinburgh Gardens – See Fitzroy North for park facilities Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library	Princes Park – sports and recreation grounds including Ikon Park (stadium) Royal Park – many sporting facilities (North Park Tennis Club, Royal Park Gold Course, football and soccer ovals, baseball)

	Council	Non-Council
	North Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre Holden Street Neighbourhood House Emely Baker Building Fitzroy Town Hall Fitzroy Swimming Pool Fitzroy Pool Occasional Care Connie Benn Centre Florence Peel Centre Yarra Youth Centre East West Child Care (Council building and land) John Street Community Early Childhood Cooperative	and cricket pitches, State Netball and Hockey Centre). Carlton Gardens Royal Exhibition Building Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre University of Melbourne Central Carlton Children's Centre MUFC Child Care Centre Tommaso Fiaschi Child Care Centre Swanston Street Children's Centre

Other information

- There has been relatively little growth and change to the neighbourhood compared to other neighbourhoods in Yarra in terms of population and residential development. This is due to planning zones and overlays, in particular heritage overlays.
- The streetscapes are consistent with wide streets and one or two storey dwellings often built in terraces.
- The area is notable for its accessibility to tertiary institutions in central Melbourne with many residents in the area studying at university.
- Local Plans: Princes Park Master Plan 2012 (City of Melbourne).
- Proximity to open spaces is excellent (Princes Park, Edinburgh Gardens, Curtain Square, Hardy Gallagher Reserve, Linear Park).
- Vehicular movement through the neighbourhood runs predominantly north-south. This is influenced by the open spaces areas to the west (Melbourne General Cemetery borders the area along Macpherson and Lygon Street and further east of the cemetery is Princes Park and Melbourne Zoo).

Likely provision gaps

- Public spaces with strong pedestrian and cycling connections.
- Improved connections to existing open space.
- An integrated and modern space to support the Maternal and Child Health Service.
- An integrated and modern space to support and continue Council-delivered children's services.

Fitzroy North

Fitzroy North is bounded by May Street in the north, Merri Creek, Queens Parade and Smith Street in the east, Alexandra Parade in the south, and Nicholson Street in the west. The City of Darebin lies to the north east and the City of Moreland to the north-west.



Figure 12 Fitzroy North neighbourhood

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 12,360 (ERP, 2016) with a population density of 47.62 persons per hectare, on par with the City of Yarra with 47.82 persons per hectare. Many people live alone (30.7%) and there are many couples without children (25%).
- There are more couples with children (17.5%) than the City of Yarra (14.8%).
- People aged 25–34 young workforce (25%) represent the largest service age group, which is lower than the City of Yarra (30.6%). This is followed by people aged 35-49 parents and homebuilders (23.1%).
- Higher proportion of Primary Schoolers (6.4%) and Secondary Schoolers (4%) compared to the City of Yarra (4.8% and 3.3% respectively).
- Higher proportion of people hold a Bachelor Degree or higher (51.2%) compared to the City of Yarra (44.7%).
- Housing mix: 12% detached, 66.1% medium and 20.9% high density. Public housing makes up 9.4% of all dwellings (534). Less households rent than in the City of Yarra (46.4% compared to 50.3%).
- Birthplace: 22.2% of the population was born overseas, and 11.6% were from a non-English speaking background. This is lower on both measures compared to the City of Yarra, which was 28.9% and 18.8% respectively.
- The neighbourhood is largely residential and characterised by wider streets and single and double storey Victorian and Edwardian housing. There are pockets of mixed-use areas as well as commercial zoning along St Georges Road and the northern portion of Nicholson Street.

- The neighbourhood is well connected. There are multiple tram services running along Nicholson Street, Brunswick Street, St Georges Road and Queens Parade (Route 96, 112, 86 and bus routes 250 and 504. Rushall Station, which is on the Epping Line, is situated at the corner of Rushall Crescent and Falconer Street.
- A shared bike / walking track follows Merri Creek and is a key linear open space asset, linking to neighbourhoods north and south.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - high proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - the main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 12.62% of the population in 2017 to 15.61% of the population in 2027.
- Fitzroy North is expecting an additional 1,118 dwellings or 16.7% increase in total dwellings in the next 10 years.

Table 8 Fitzroy North population forecasts

Fitzroy North						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	12,555	1,653 (13.17%)	9,318 (74.22%)	1,584 (12.62%)	5,330	8.04% (+1,010)
2022	13,565	1,799 (13.26%)	9,876 (72.81%)	1,890 (13.93%)	5,763	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	14,531	1,885 (12.97%)	10,377 (71.41%)	2,269 (15.61%)	Not Available	7.12% (+966)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In North Fitzroy	Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library North Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre Holden Street Neighbourhood House Mark Street Hall Emely Baker Building Batman Street Reserve Park Street Reserve Edinburgh Gardens: - Community room - Alfred Crescent Oval and Pavilion - W T Peterson Oval and change rooms - Basketball court (half) - Skate Bowl - Bocce court - Table tennis	Fitzroy North Primary School Merri Creek Primary School St Brigids Primary School Froebel North Fitzroy Early Learning Centre Clifton Child Care Co-operative North Fitzroy Childcare Co-operative Fitzroy North Community Church (range of community meeting spaces) J Studios (drama rehearsal and workshop space)

	Council	Non-Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rotunda - Fenced playgrounds - dog off leash area - Fitzroy Tennis Courts and Clubhouse Club (not managed by Council) - Fitzroy Bowling Club (not managed by Council) 	
Outside of North Fitzroy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitzroy Swimming Pool Connie Benn Centre Acacia Fitzroy Creche Gold Street Children’s Centre Keele Street Children’s Centre Walker Street Kindergarten Fitzroy Town Hall Fitzroy Library Carlton Library Collingwood Leisure Centre Yarra Youth Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darebin Arts (variety of flexible spaces) Northcote Library Carlton North Primary School Northcote Primary School Brunswick East Primary School St Joseph’s School Northcote High School Westgarth Primary School Westgarth Kindergarten Annie Dennis Children’s Centre Tommaso Fiaschi Child Care Centre

Other information

- The former Gasworks Site located at 111-139 Queens Street and 433 Smith Street, Fitzroy North has been declared surplus to state government requirements and provides an opportunity to create a new mixed-use development with homes, retail, commercial uses, community facilities and open space. At the time of writing, Places Victoria was investigating renewal of the site. Preliminary planning for the 3.9 hectare site suggests that the development could support 1,100 apartments, a 650 student secondary school, a high ball recreation facility and integration of new public open space, centrally located within the precinct. The site is subject to the North Fitzroy Gasworks Precinct Urban Design Framework 2008.
- The proposed high ball recreation facility proposed for the Gas and Fuel Site represents a significant contribution toward organised support in North Fitzroy and the wider area.
- A cluster of major residential developments proposed are along the eastern side of Nicholson Street within and close to the local neighbourhood activity centre. There is likely to be another large development project on Queens Parade in addition to the former Gasworks site.
- Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library opened in April 2017 and builds on Yarra’s strong network of public libraries in the City of Yarra. It is a four level, 6 star green rated integrated community facility within a state-of-the-art building. It includes a contemporary library, a maternal and child health centre, customer service area, community meeting rooms, function spaces and a rooftop garden. The library offers a range of programs and services to stimulate lifelong learning and creativity for adults, older people, young people and children.
- Edinburgh Gardens is one of Yarra’s largest parks (24 hectares) and a key feature of the neighbourhood. It is highly utilised and supports a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. The park is connected by an extensive network of paths and is home to a number of community facilities (see table).

Likely provision gaps

- There are pockets within the neighbourhood that have limited access to open space. Improved pedestrian and cycling connections to existing open spaces will enhance access.
- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.
- Multi-use public spaces and places that are inclusive and accessible with strong pedestrian and cycling connections.

Clifton Hill

Clifton Hill is bounded by Merri Creek and Heidelberg Road in the north and east, the Eastern Freeway and Alexandra Parade in the south, and Smith Street and Queens Parade in the west. The City of Darebin borders the neighbourhood to the north.

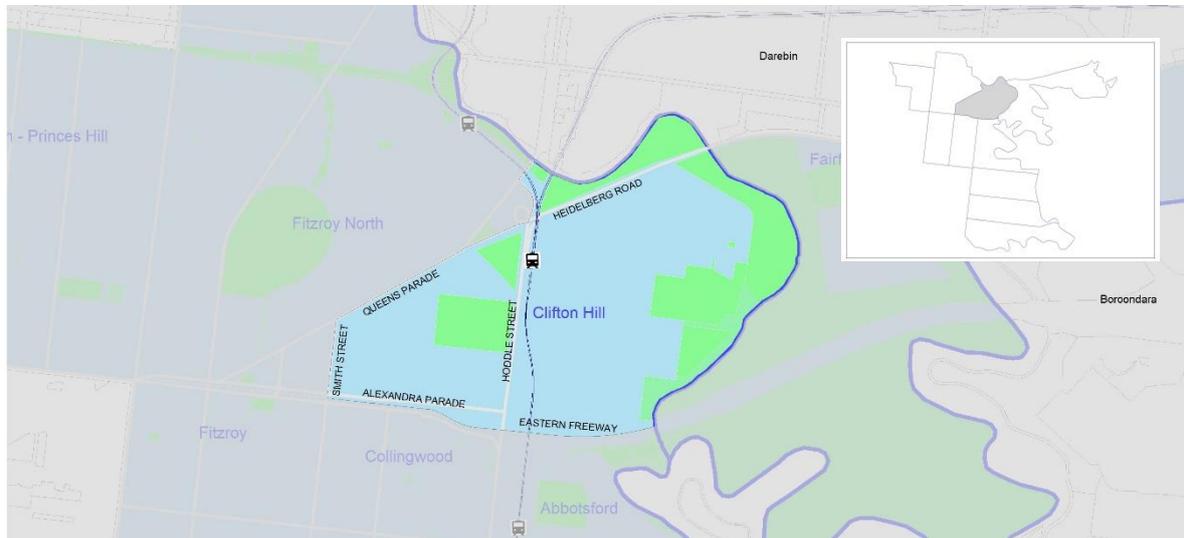


Figure 13 Clifton Hill Neighbourhood

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 6,806 (ERP, 2016) with a population density of 36.2 persons per hectare, lower than the City of Yarra with 47.82 persons per hectare.
- There are more couples with children (24.2%) compared to the City of Yarra (14.8%).
- There are many couples without children (26.1%), which is slightly higher than the City of Yarra (25.7%).
- Less people live alone (24.1%) compared to the City of Yarra (29.5%).
- Higher proportion of Primary Schoolers (7.7%) and Secondary Schoolers (4.2%) compared to the City of Yarra (4.8% and 3.3% respectively).
- A higher proportion of persons at post retirement age than City of Yarra in 2016 (15.9% compared to 13.3%)
- Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49) represent the largest service age group (24.9%), which is higher than the City of Yarra (22.3%).
- Higher proportion of people have a Bachelor or higher (54.6%) compared to the City of Yarra (44.7%).
- Smaller proportions of people are born overseas (17.5%) and are from a non-English speaking background (8.3%) than the City of Yarra (28.9% and 18.8% respectively).
- An established residential area with significant open space areas (see map above and table for more detail). Queens Parade is the main retail shopping strip and there is commercial zoning along Alexandra Parade and Hoddle Street.
- Housing mix: 21.3% detached, 62.6% medium and 15.5% high density. Public housing makes up a small number of dwellings (4.6% or 135 dwellings). A larger proportion of people were

purchasing or own their home (53.5%) and less people rent (36.8%) compared to the City of Yarra (48.6.5% and 50.3% respectively)

- Alexandra Parade and the Eastern Freeway serve as the neighbourhood’s boundary. These are major roads that act as barrier to neighbourhoods south (Collingwood and Abbotsford).
- Clifton Hill Railway Station is a connecting station with the Epping and Hurstbridge Lines, and there are trams along Queens parade (route 86). There are multiple bus services throughout the neighbourhood (routes, 250, 251, 504, 546 and 246).
- A shared bike / walking track follows Merri Creek and is a key linear open space asset, linking to neighbourhoods north and south.

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - high proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - the main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 10.27% of the population in 2017 to 12.43% of the population in 2027.
- Clifton Hill has very limited growth projections for developments over 10 dwellings.
- Clifton Hill is only expected to accommodate an additional 138 dwellings, representing a 4.6% increase in total dwellings.

Table 9 Clifton Hill population forecasts

Clifton Hill						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	6,788	919 (13.54%)	5,172 (76.19%)	697 (10.27%)	2,776	8.6% (+584)
2022	7,372	1,011 (13.71%)	5,531 (75.03)	830 (11.26%)	3,006	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	7,941	1,070 (13.47%)	5,885 (74.11%)	987 (12.43%)	Not Available	7.72% (+569)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Key community infrastructure

	Council	Non-Council
In Clifton Hill	Collingwood Leisure Centre Collingwood Leisure Centre Occasional Care Walker Street Kindergarten (building owned by Council, community managed) Mayors Park Tennis and Netball Centre Walker Street Scout Hall Walker Street Soccer Pitch Yambla Reserve and Pavilion Ramsden Street Oval and Pavilion George Knott Athletic Track	Goodstart Early Learning Clifton Hill Clifton Hill Primary School Spensley Street Primary School St John’s Primary School Kids on Queen’s Parade Child Care Centre & Registered Kindergarten Brotherhood of St Laurence Petit Early Learning Journey Clifton Hill Sambell Lodge (aged care)

	Council	Non-Council
	<p>Open Space: Coulson Reserve (soccer ground) and Pavilion, Ray Cloverdale Pavilion, Darling Gardens (rotunda and playground), Hall Reserve, George Knott Reserve</p> <p>Quarries Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soccer ground and 1 x cricket/Australian Rules ground - Multi-use court (cricket nets in season) - Playground - Skate facility - Rotunda - Dog off-leash area 	
Outside of Clifton Hill	<p>Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library North Fitzroy Maternal and Child Health Centre Holden Street Neighbourhood House Mark Street Hall Emely Baker Building Edinburgh Gardens (see North Fitzroy neighbourhood for all facilities) Collingwood Library Abbotsford Maternal and Child Health Centre Victoria Park</p>	<p>Collingwood Football Club Community Centre (located at Victoria Park) Darebin Arts (variety of flexible spaces) Northcote Library Fairfield Park and Boathouse Alphington Community Centre (located in Darebin and Yarra City Council contributes funding, the Centre belongs to the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network)</p>

Other information

- Clifton Hill has significant open space with Darling Gardens and Quarries Park, which is a network of parks and sports grounds linked by shared paths across Clifton Hill. Quarries Park also connects to the Main Yarra and Merri Creek trails (Capital City Trail).
- There are plans to enhance Edinburgh Gardens. The Draft Northern Precinct Plan and Draft Playground Concept Plan are subject to future Council budget and planning processes, with the exception of playground improvements which are funded in the 2017/18 capital works budget.
- The Maternal and Child Health building located in Darling Gardens was removed in 2107, with the area returned to open space following the relocation of the service to Bargoonga Nganjin Fitzroy North Library.
- Clifton Hill depot located in Roseneath Street is a recycling drop-off point for Yarra residents.

Likely provision gaps

- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.
- Improved connections to existing open space.
- Multi-purpose indoor community space that is fit for purpose in accessible, mixed-use locations.

Fairfield – Alphington

Fairfield - Alphington is bounded by Heidelberg Road in the north, Darebin Creek and the Yarra River in the south and south-east, and Merri Creek in the west.

The City of Darebin lies to the north-west, the City of Banyule is north east and the City of Boroondara is south east.

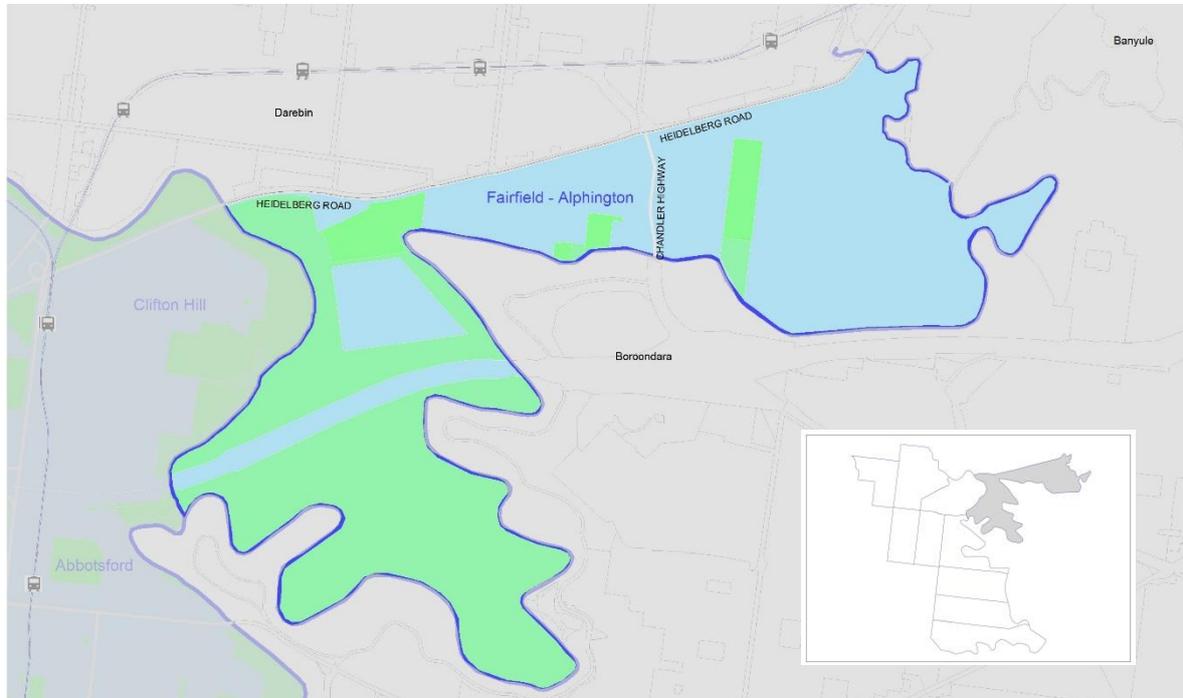


Figure 14 Fairfield - Alphington neighbourhood

Current community infrastructure planning considerations

- Population of 2,899 (2016) with a population density of 7.46 persons per hectare, the lowest population density compared to the City of Yarra with 47.84 persons per hectare.
- Significantly lower proportion of people aged 25–34 years (18.8%) than the City of Yarra (30.6%)
- People over 50 years of age make-up a higher proportion of the population (32%) than the City of Yarra (24.7%).
- Higher proportion of primary and secondary schoolers than the City of Yarra in 2016 (6.5% and 5.8% compared to 4.8% and 3.3%)
- A smaller percentage of people were born overseas (17%) and are from a non-English speaking background (8.7%) than the City of Yarra (28.9% and 18.8%) respectively.
- Housing mix: 42.2% detached, 45.2% medium and 12.5% high density, very low provision of community and public housing (1.9%). More households own or are purchasing their home (57%) compared to the City of Yarra (39%) and fewer households were renting (33.5% and 50.3% respectively).
- Significantly higher proportion of Couples with children (25.8%) than the City of Yarra (14.8%).
- Predominant household type: Lone person (31.5%), higher than the City of Yarra (29.5%).
- Many people hold a Bachelor or higher degree (46.8%)

- Individual income: 20.7% of the population earned a high income, and 29.7% earned a low income, compared with 21.4% and 25.4% respectively for the City of Yarra.
- Mixed land uses - Alphington comprises largely of residential, mixed use and special use zones with a small amount of commercial zoning along Heidelberg Road. Fairfield contains a significant proportion of open space.
- The Eastern Freeway runs east-west through the neighbourhood.
- In general, there is much higher car ownership in Fairfield-Alphington than for the City of Yarra as a whole. 85.3% of households own at least one car, with 5.5% that not owning a car, compared with 69.6% and 19.2% respectively in the City Yarra. More people have access to two or more cars than the City of Yarra (44% compared to 35%).
- Public transport in the neighbourhood is limited. The Hurstbridge Train line lies to the north, in the part of Alphington and Fairfield that is located in the City of Darebin. There are no tram services. Buses run along Heidelberg Road.

	Council	Non-Council
In Fairfield-Alphington	Yarralea Children’s Centre Alphington Bowls Club Alphington Park Oval and Pavilion Fairfield Oval Park: - Boathouse and Tea Gardens (not managed by Council) - Fairfield Amphitheatre - Playground - Maxwell Sutherland Pavilion - Cricket nets - 2 x soccer grounds, 1 x cricket ground - Dog off-leash area Yarra Bend Park - Fairlea East and West Ovals, Fairlea Pavilion - McCutcheon Oval and Deep Rock Pavilion - Cox Oval - Olney Oval - Corben Oval and Pavilion	Alphington Primary School Alphington Grammar School Alphington Grammar Preschool Gum nut Preschool and Childcare Complete Care for Kids Smart Start Early Learning and Development Centre Perry Street Child Care Centre Alfred Nuttall Memorial Kindergarten Ivanhoe Northcote canoe Club St Andrews Kindergarten Main Yarra Trail
Outside of Fairfield-Alphington	Collingwood Leisure Centre Collingwood Library	Alphington Community Centre (located in Darebin and Yarra City Council contributes funding, the Centre is a part of the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network) Darebin International Sports Centre (DISC) is located at John Cain Memorial Park Ivanhoe Library Northcote Library Northcote Swimming Pool Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre Darebin Arts (variety of flexible spaces) Sparkes Reserve Westgarth Primary School Fairfield Primary School Spensley Street Primary School

	Council	Non-Council
		St Anthony's Primary School Sprout184 (creative co-working space)

Future considerations for community infrastructure planning

- The population will grow in relatively the same age group proportions as now:
 - high proportion of adults aged 15-64 years, relatively lower percentage of children and older persons as a proportion of the population.
 - the main change will be an increase in persons 65 years and over by the year 2027, increasing from 14.13% of the population in 2017 to 17.05% of the population in 2027.
- Fairfield and Alphington are expecting an additional 2,788 dwellings which will be a 71.2% increase in total dwellings. A substantial portion of this is proposed on the former Alphington Paper Mill site (also known as the Amcor site).
- Fairfield – Alphington has very limited growth projections for developments over 10 dwellings excluding the 2,500 planned dwellings on the Amcor site which is not a typical development site in Yarra.
- The development of the former Alphington Paper Mill site is very likely to drive economic development in the area. The development of the site, and the provision of commercial space within the development will lead to increased jobs and economic activity in the area. See Other Information below for more detail on the Amcor site.

Table 10 Fairfield - Alphington population forecasts

Fairfield-Alphington						
Year	Population	0-14 years	15-64 years	65 years or older	Private households	Pop. growth 2017-2022
2017	2,746	372 (13.55%)	1,986 (72.32%)	388 (14.13%)	1,002	11.87% (+326)
2022	3,072	415 (13.51%)	2,184 (71.09%)	473 (15.40%)	1,125	Pop. growth 2022-2027
2027	3,284	437 (13.31%)	2,287 (69.64%)	560 (17.05%)	Not Available	6.90% (212)

Source: Pitney Bowes 2017

Other information

- Amcor redevelopment project: a major residential precinct on the former Alphington Paper Mill Site with shops, offices, open spaces and community facilities (16.5 hectare parcel of land located on the corner of Heidelberg Road and the Chandler Highway and extending down to the Yarra River). When development is complete there will be an additional 2,500 dwellings and 5,000 people.
- Under the approved Development Plan (December 2015) community infrastructure will be delivered on site and integrated within the proposed 'Town Centre'. The spaces are a 300m² of community space, 1400m² 'warm shell' (a space with utilities and basic infrastructure, but

will need to be 'fitted out' according to the intended future use) and a multi-purpose court and associated pavilion.

- The facilities to be vested in Council are considered to be the most appropriate facilities to meet the current and future needs, and provide flexibility in terms of meeting medium to longer term needs.
- The integration of these community facilities within the proposed 'Town Centre' offers a desirable link between those facilities to be vested in Council, and the commercial, community and school facilities in the precinct.
- There is likely to be a private childcare provider located on the Amcor site – the number of places and types of services delivered from this location were unknown at the time writing.

Likely provision gaps

- An integrated and modern space to support the Maternal and Child Health Service.
- Public spaces with strong pedestrian and cycling connections – there are fewer public transport options available in the area and better connections will support sustainable transport.
- Spaces/places for active and passive recreation including relaxing and enjoyment.

5. Opportunities to respond to likely needs and gaps

Chapter 5 identifies potential opportunities to respond to likely needs and gaps (current and anticipated).

A strategic approach is taken with a focus on the key opportunities, this means not every possible community infrastructure improvement (upgrade or new) is included.

Informing the identification of the opportunities is the discussion and detail provided in Chapter 3 (community needs and how Council responds) and Chapter 4 (neighbourhood profiles conveying demographic data, planning influencers and anticipated gaps).

Opportunities are grouped as building infrastructure (relating to buildings and property) or operational and advocacy (relating to operating or managing a facility or service, or Council promoting and leveraging influence).

They are categorised by community need and the neighbourhoods that are within the service catchment are indicated.

Who could action the opportunity is provided. This could be Council and/or External Stakeholder, where the latter is defined as other levels of government, private enterprise, property developer or not-for-profit organisation.

The opportunities take a variety of approaches, such as:

- Better use of existing community infrastructure so that capacity is maximised, for example:
 - rescheduling or relocating of services/activities so that the space supports the most appropriate use.
 - operational or management changes to enable higher use.
 - works to enable flexible use and/or better access.
- Supporting or partnering with other providers.
- Redeveloped/upgraded existing hard infrastructure (could be supported through rationalisation of existing community infrastructure).
- New hard infrastructure - when other appropriate options have been exhausted.

5.1. Building infrastructure opportunities

The below opportunities relate to building infrastructure (building and property).

Table 11 Building infrastructure opportunities

Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?*	Neighbourhood										
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Alphington	
Arts and culture	1	To investigate how Richmond Theatre could meet increased demand for art and culture programs and activities by way of space maximisation and improvements to the venue to keep it modern, flexible and fit for purpose.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2	The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and surrounds provides an opportunity to deliver an integrated community space in the Collingwood Town Hall Precinct. Such a space/hub could respond to needs for art and cultural projects and activities alongside other community needs.	Council and/or External Stakeholders			✓	✓	✓	✓					
Flexible multipurpose space	3	To deliver community space of higher quality in the Richmond area. The concentration of community spaces are in varying condition and the overall quality of service delivered by the network of spaces could be improved through rationalising the existing portfolio. The network of spaces includes Loughnan Hall, Richmond Senior Citizens Centre, The Stables, Studio One Community Hub, The Cubby House, Burnley Backyard, former Richmond Police Station, Richmond Library meeting rooms, Richmond Family Centre (former MCH building in Citizen’s Park), Richmond Town Hall ballrooms and Williams Reserve Community Space.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓							
	4	To build on Council’s MOU with Bendigo Kangan Institute (Richmond campus) to look at ways to maximise facilities at the Institute to enable access by the community. Such a space could meet social needs for young people/students and working professionals through community building activities in an educational and learning environment.	Council and External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓								
	5	The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and surrounds provides an opportunity to deliver an integrated community space. Such a space/hub could provide opportunities for people to meet and participate in activities, courses and groups that promote communication and the sharing of skills as well as access services.	Council and/or External Stakeholders			✓	✓	✓	✓					
	6	To locate community space in mixed-use developments that can respond to needs as they emerge. For Council owned/managed spaces this is to be considered alongside the existing property portfolio and investment strategies for community space.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Where Council is Yarra City Council and External Stakeholder is other levels of government, private

Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?*	Neighbourhood											
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Alphington		
Libraries	7	To investigate how Richmond Library could meet a broader range of needs of families, young people, working professionals and older people. This could be met through improving the quality and configuration of the building to enable better integration between services, an improved entrance and to keep facility relevant and modern over time.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓									
	8	To deliver a library service in the Collingwood Town Hall Precinct that is flexible in response to community learning and recreational needs, and in the delivery of activities, programs and information. The current Collingwood Library (Stanton Street building) is an ageing building and there may be improved community access to best value library services through a modern space that is integrated with other services.	Council and/or External Stakeholders			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
	9	There is opportunity to see how Fitzroy Library interacts with all surrounding services in the Fitzroy Town Hall Precinct to better meet community needs offering a balance between community services, amenity and community resources.	Council and/or External Stakeholders					✓	✓	✓	✓				
	10	To improve access and amenity at Carlton Library to facilitate better community access to facilities and services.	Council								✓	✓	✓	✓	
Open space	11	Enhance connections to existing open and public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists including open space outside of the municipal boundary. Council is preparing a new Open Space Strategy and this will provide more detail.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	12	To investigate ways to improve linear open space along Darebin Creek, Merri Creek and the Yarra River to enable recreational connectivity (whilst improving landscape character and environmental values). Council is preparing a new Open Space Strategy and this will provide more detail.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓
	13	There is opportunity to investigate new open space and improvements to existing open space. This could be delivered through open space contributions and key strategic redevelopment sites. Council is preparing a new Open Space Strategy and this will provide more detail.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation and leisure	14	Richmond Recreation Centre – maintain and enhance the facility to respond to active recreation needs arising from population growth, meet current best practise standards and respond to trends and community needs.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	15	Collingwood Leisure Centre – maintain and enhance the facility to respond to active recreation needs arising from population growth, meet current best practise standards and respond to community needs.	Council and/or External Stakeholders				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	16	Fitzroy Pool - maintain and enhance the facility to respond to active recreation needs arising from population growth, meet current best practise standards and respond to community needs.	Council and/or External Stakeholders					✓	✓	✓	✓				

*Where Council is Yarra City Council and External Stakeholder is other levels of government, private

Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?*	Neighbourhood										
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Alphington	
	17	Sporting pavilions - promote multi-use through flexible design to support a range of user groups and community activities. Investigate opportunities to cater for all age groups, genders and ability levels through incorporating design that ensure spaces are universally accessible as a part of pavilion upgrades.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family services	18	Richmond South Maternal and Child Health - deliver a more integrated service with the other activities that are located at Richmond Library and improve amenity.	Council	✓	✓	✓								
	19	Alphington Maternal and Child Health Centre (located at Yarralea Children’s Centre) – investigate the opportunities to improve the quality of the service including alternative service models.	Council										✓	✓
	20	Abbotsford Maternal and Child Health - Relocate service from Gahan Reserve to a facility that allows better access and integration with other compatible services as well as improved amenity.	Council				✓	✓	✓					
	21	North Carlton/Princes Hill Maternal and Child Health Service – investigate the opportunities that the Centre has to integrate with Princes Hill Children’s Centre to allow better access and improved quality of service.	Council								✓	✓		
Early years	22	To investigate refurbishment and redevelopment priorities at existing Council services to improve access and enhance the quality of services.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	23	Richmond Community Learning Centre’s ‘The Cubby House’ (92-94 Lord Street, Richmond) is nearing the end of its economic life and there is value in the services that are offered at the facility. There is opportunity to potentially deliver these services elsewhere in the neighbourhood and to evaluate options to see how future needs could be met at this location.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓								
Middle years and Young People	24	Continue to invest in the Yarra Youth Centre as the primary youth specific place in Yarra.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	25	To establish a youth space from a location on Yarra’s Public Housing Estates.	External Stakeholders		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	26	Incorporate design that brings people of all ages together in indoor community spaces.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	27	Incorporate design features, activities and amenities that respond to the needs of middle years and young people in new and existing open and public space. For example, shelter from the weather, lighting and access to power, seating, public Wi-Fi, performance/exhibition space and specific activities such as skateboarding and rock-climbing.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Where Council is Yarra City Council and External Stakeholder is other levels of government, private

Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?*	Neighbourhood										
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Alphington	
Older persons	28	Integrating age-friendly design in council spaces and places: - ensure accessibility and mobility for older people in all community spaces/facilities - access toilets, ramps and lifts are available (to DDA standards) - ensure that specific needs of older people are catered for whilst creating opportunities for interest specific activity.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	29	Create enabling public space environments for active ageing and ageing in place: - provision of exercise equipment and seats that are accessible in open spaces - provision of safe and accessible footpaths in activity centres and public walk-ways - advocate for continued improvements to public transport to promote usability and safe access.	Council and/or External Stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	30	To invest in the Richmond Senior Citizens Centre building to meet a broader range of needs, or seek to address needs currently met by the facility elsewhere in the Richmond area. The space is currently underutilised and there is opportunity to evaluate options to see how future needs could be met at this location.	Council	✓	✓	✓								
	31	Continue to invest in the Collingwood Senior Citizens Centre and the Willowview Centre to maintain and maximise the facilities to appeal to target groups as needs change and evolve.	Council			✓	✓	✓	✓					
People with disability	32	To deliver improvements to hard community infrastructure to make it more accessible for people with disability so they can fully participate in the community. This includes and is not limited to social and cultural spaces, recreational spaces, access facilities (i.e., footpaths, bridges and ramps) and playground facilities.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Where Council is Yarra City Council and External Stakeholder is other levels of government, private

5.2. Operational and advocacy opportunities

The below opportunities relate to the operation and management of a service or facility, or Council promoting and leveraging influence.

Table 12 Operational and Advocacy opportunities

Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?	Neighbourhood										
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Alphington	
Arts and culture	33	Investigate how community spaces can align with creative activities in terms of configuration of space to engage groups and individuals.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	34	Encourage new developments to contribute to the creative industries sector in Yarra through measures such as public art installations and space to support temporary or short-term art workspace.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flexible multipurpose space	35	Make better use of community space in Richmond (for example the Stables, Studio 1 and Burnley Backyard) to meet a broader range of needs through changes that would increase utilisation (for example operational activities, operating hours and permitted activities/use).	Council and/or External Stakeholder	✓	✓	✓								
	36	Adopt a strategic approach to how facilities on school sites are viewed to overall facility supply and investigate joint use arrangements and partnerships that enable community access. Primary and Secondary schools are an important contributor to the placemaking of an area and are capable of accommodating a range of community activities (indoor and outdoor) outside of school hours.	Council and/or External Stakeholder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neighbourhood houses	37	Continue to support existing neighbourhood houses and learning centres to build and maintain resilient communities through program funding to maximise use.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open space	38	Advocate for improved community access to open space owned or managed by other public authorities.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public space (outdoors)	39	Achieve good public space (or public realm) outcomes through forming partnerships between Council, community, businesses, service authorities and developers - strong relationships with key stakeholders will support public space improvements and emerging public spaces. For example, encourage improvements of shopfronts, encourage building design to support public places and curate legal street art were relevant.	Council and/or External Stakeholder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?	Neighbourhood										
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Albington	
	40	Seek developer contributions for public space improvements as part of key development proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved and safe pedestrian connections around large redevelopment sites - connecting high development pressure precincts to the key public transport stops and activity centres by way of improving laneways, creating shared zones, providing raised pedestrian crossings, and improving footways - the development of new public spaces using unutilised or underutilised road spaces, car parks and kerb extensions - provision of street furniture and trees. 	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation and leisure	42	Advocate for greater community access to other grounds and facilities. For example shared use of resources in neighbouring municipalities such as Princes Park, Punt Road Oval and Melbourne and Olympic Park.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	43	Sporting pavilions: investigate ways to optimise utilisation and meet the needs of users, for example scheduling of game and training times and investigate commercial opportunities to generate revenue from pavilions (i.e. advertising on hoardings) that could offset the costs of works to enhance/upgrade pavilions.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	44	Support and work with other providers such as clubs, commercial operators and not-for-profit organisations to encourage new and enhanced opportunities to increase community access to recreation and leisure programs, activities and facilities.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family services	45	Investigate co-location opportunities for Maternal and Child Health Services with appropriate community services such as other early years services and healthcare providers where partnership opportunities and demand exist.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early years	46	Monitor demographics and provision of other providers to determine Council investment in early years services and explore other ways of meeting needs.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle years and Young People	47	Explore ways to increase the utilisation of the Yarra Youth Centre by measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing greater access to the Youth Centre for young people and organisations supporting young people (this means other organisations using the space outside of Council operated hours so that more young people get to use the facilities) - review opening hours with the intention to increase the hours that the space is available to young people. 	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	48	Enhance existing relationships with Neighbourhood Houses, Libraries, Leisure, and other community spaces to increase young people's utilisation of their facilities.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

***Where Council is Yarra City Council and External Stakeholder is other levels of government, private**

Community need	Ref. No	Opportunity	Who could action this?	Neighbourhood										
				Richmond South	Central Richmond	North Richmond	Abbotsford	Collingwood	Fitzroy	Carlton North – Princes Hill	Fitzroy North	Clifton Hill	Fairfield – Alphington	
	49	Support youth-friendly spaces on the Housing Estates through programs and activities.	Council and/or External Stakeholder		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Older persons	50	Advocate for enabling public space environments including improvements to public transport to promote usability and safe access.	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	51	Continue to provide support services to enable older people to use community spaces and places to participate in community life	Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

***Where Council is Yarra City Council and External Stakeholder is other levels of government, private**

Glossary of key terms

City of Yarra	The local government area located in the inner eastern and northern suburbs of Melbourne that includes the suburbs of Abbotsford, Burnley, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fitzroy, North Carlton, North Fitzroy, Princes Hill and Richmond, and parts of Alphington and Fairfield.
Community	The Yarra community includes residents, rate-payers, businesses, workers, organisations and visitors. A broad term to define groups of people based on geographic location, similar interest, affiliation or identity.
Community Infrastructure	The places, spaces, physical assets, services, programs and activities that are accessed by the community for active citizenship, social interaction, recreation and physical activity. Includes both hard and soft infrastructure (see definitions).
Community Infrastructure Planning Principles	A set of agreed principles that provide the overall direction to decision-making by Yarra City Council for community infrastructure planning.
Community needs	For the purpose of the SCIF these are categorised as needs common to all age groups (arts and culture, flexible multi-purpose space, libraries, neighbourhood houses, public space, open space, recreation and leisure) and target populations (family services, early years, middle years and young people, older persons and people with a disability).
Council service (also service)	For the purpose of the SCIF defined as hard and soft community infrastructure.
Hard infrastructure	The physical built infrastructure that includes facilities and environments; it can be large and small scale, for example a leisure centre or playground equipment.
Service Catchment	The spatial area from which a service or facility attracts a population that uses its services.
Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework (also Framework)	Refers to the set of documents and processes that guides community infrastructure planning by Yarra City Council including: Community Infrastructure Planning Policy, Context Paper, Community Infrastructure Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation process.
Community Infrastructure Planning Policy	The community infrastructure planning policy that is informed by the existing Council Plan and other policy that will inform future Council Plans and other policies. The policy is supported by a background paper and exemplified in ten Community Infrastructure Neighbourhood Plans.
Soft infrastructure	Soft infrastructure includes the services, programs and activities that support lifestyles and quality of life in a community.
Opportunities	Potential ways or responses to meet community needs. Can be a building infrastructure opportunity, or an operational and advocacy opportunity.
Yarra City Council (also Council)	The local government authority responsible for the City of Yarra.