

Reasons for Council's Budget Decision

In making a decision in relation to the proposed Yarra City Council 2020/21 Budget, Council is required to consider all submissions made to it in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. In informing submitters of its decision, Council is required to provide reasons for its decision. Those reasons, as they relate to each submission, are set out in the following table.

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
Aboriginal programs and events Climate Emergency Nature Strategy Bicycle infrastructure	50	<p>Council agrees wholeheartedly that these issues are inextricably interlinked. The traditional custodians of this land we now call Australia had taken care of the land and everything that lives on it for over 65,000 years. There is much for us to learn from that rich history. At the same time, Aboriginal people were severely affected by diseases introduced to this country from the First Fleet and to this current day the Aboriginal community is most vulnerable to a broad range of health issues. As you note, we do have a continuing and strong commitment to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community in Yarra and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander more broadly. This is reflected in the Yana Ngargna Action Plan which was formed out of extensive consultation with community members. Right now, the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is engaged in current consultation with regard to Council's support for the Black Lives Matter movement for which we seek their recommendation of actions that we can take to make a difference in this local context. The conversation is ongoing and we are listening intently.</p> <p>It is pleasing to hear your support for this important work. There are many crucial actions from the Climate Emergency Plan that are already being progressed within existing resources, and we will continue to do so. However, like many other businesses and organisations, Yarra Council has faced significant COVID-19 pandemic-related budget constraints which have greatly impacted the Council budget. For this reason, we have not been able to fund some further Climate Emergency Plan actions in this budget. Rather, Officers will prepare a status report in late 2020 that will inform a mid-year budget review and the 2021/22 budget.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of providing safe bicycle infrastructure to support people cycling to and through Yarra, and that there is a significant opportunity to support people riding bikes to help provide more capacity on public transport during the COVID-19 pandemic. Council endorsed a Stage 1 COVID-19 transport response trials at the Council meeting on 23 June 2020, which includes a number of trial projects to create improved spaces for cycling and physical distancing. In addition, \$400,000 has been dedicated to funding the recently installed Elizabeth Street protected bike lanes trial. More information about this project can be found at: https://yoursayyarra.com.au/elizabeth-street</p> <p>Council is aware of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and plans to make a submission. If Council receives a grant, it is envisaged that part of the funding will be used to support sustainable transport in Yarra.</p> <p>Funding for a Nature Strategy Officer position has been allocated in the operational budget to implement the Nature Strategy; this position will progress actions, and seek opportunities to partner and attract external support and funding to deliver on the priorities of the Strategy.</p>
Animal Management	39	<p>The Domestic Animal Act is a public safety Act. Therefore Council has a responsibility to enforce the requirements of the Act to maintain community safety from roaming dogs, improper exercising of dogs and dog attacks etc. it is appropriate that this diversion sits within the Compliance to ensure</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
Arts funding	1	<p>this responsibility is maintained. All revenue goes into general Council funds.</p> <p>We understand that you applied for a COVID-19 Quick Response Grants for Creative Community and were not successful.</p> <p>Council officers do not complete the assessment. This is performed by an independent panel of members of the Arts sector who are selected due to their knowledge and experience, as well as diversity.</p> <p>The independent panel noted that the budget was not clear as to what the funds would be spent on, that there was no supporting documentation to support the application and that due consideration wasn't given to COVID-19 impact, specifically social distancing measures. It was further noted by the panel that while there was capacity to produce the work in this ongoing project, there was no outcome articulated, which is a requirement of this grant.</p> <p>The Creative Community Covid-19 Quick Response grants funded \$125k, (request for grants totalled \$324k). A total of 140 applications were submitted, with 56 being successful. The nature of the grants process is that it is competitive, but the process strives to be transparent and accountable, with a diversity of views and backgrounds represented in decision making.</p>
Arts funding	53	<p>We acknowledge that the consortium is well-regarded, both in the City of Yarra and nationally. Your respective efforts to foster collaboration and innovation are laudable and appreciated by Council and the community. Unfortunately, the request for \$50,000 in grant support cannot be met within any of Council's existing community grant streams. The twelve-day Polyphonic Social Festival (May–June 2021), with co-curated art, music, and performance, has obvious potential. However, more information is needed. The submission does not articulate specific community benefits. There is no information on festival project governance, the financial position of the organisations, what the funding will be spent on and how the balance of \$250K funding will be sourced.</p> <p>To date, organisations have not received COVID-19 support grants from Council if they can access alternate funding. We are aware that the Commonwealth Government is providing \$75 million in grants for new festivals, concerts, tours and events once social distancing eases and \$35 million in cash for major arts and culture organisations in theatre, dance, circus and music . The Victorian Government also has a \$16.8 million arts survival package. It is also important to note that most granting of moneys by Council are open to competitive rounds and independent assessment. The only exception is Celebrate Yarra Triennial Grants, which is available by invitation only at \$105,000 per annum (Lunar Festival, Spanish Fiesta and Gertrude Street Projection Festival).</p>
Basketball facilities	49	<p>In response to your submission we acknowledge the increased patronage within our open spaces during the COVID 19 shutdown and recognise that specific facilities such as basketball hoops and courts are in high demand. Your request to add a basketball half court within the Linear Park (between Nicholson Street and St Georges Rd) is noted to supplement the existing basketball half court on the eastern side of St Georges Road. In order to realise this request, suitable planning and consultation is required to be completed to ensure this is an appropriate use and location within Yarra's open space network. Your suggestion will be considered as part of future planning of the Inner Circle Linear Parklands.</p>

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Bicycle Infrastructure	15	<p>Council officers presented the Stage 1 COVID-19 active transport response trials at the Council meeting on 23 June 2020. A Council resolution (with amendments) was passed to deliver some of the proposed trials – this can be seen in the Council minutes on the YCC web site for that Council meeting.</p> <p>\$400k was also dedicated to the Elizabeth Street bike lanes trial in last year's budget and that project, as a trial, has just been implemented.</p> <p>It is also noted that the Hawthorn Bridge (connecting Bridge Road, Richmond to Burwood Road, Hawthorn) is part of the State Government's Strategic Cycling Corridors. Yarra's Bike Strategy Refresh notes that Council will work with the State Government to deliver its Strategic Cycling Corridors, however there are currently no plans to upgrade that particular corridor in 2020/21.</p>
Bicycle Infrastructure	45	<p>Council acknowledges the need for improvement to the Merri Creek trail as a significant off-road cycling path in Yarra. A report to Council on 19 March 2020 noted that the ability to construct a shared path between the South Morang railway line and Merri Creek cliff face (next to Rushall Station) is identified as highly complex due to the very substantial existing railway and power company infrastructure and the existing vegetation and significant geological formation at the Merri Creek embankment.</p> <p>The costs and complexity of the shared path project was considered too significant and it was recommended that the proposal not proceed further in the context of these existing constraints and issues. A Council resolution was carried to suspend the Rushall Reserve Shared Path project and continue commitment to fund and deliver improvements to Yarra's off-road shared path network. As such, the project has not been included in 2020/21 budget.</p>
Bluestone laneways Graffiti management	26	<p>Bluestone is considered a heritage material and is to be always be retained under Councils Infrastructure Materials Policy.</p> <p>Each year Council reconstructs numerous bluestone laneways around the municipality in the Capital Works Program. The Council's Road Materials Policy requires a smooth and safe path created where possible within laneways that have primary pedestrian access or are a pedestrian thoroughfare.</p> <p>As such and in line with the policy, the bluestones are cut in half with the smooth side up to ensure that the final surface is even and safe for all road users, especially the disabled, infirmed and vulnerable road users. The cut bluestones meet the slip resistance guidelines as per relevant standards.</p> <p>Council would not consider removing bluestone laneways and replacing with asphalt laneways.</p> <p>Please note, graffiti removal from private property will only be considered where it has a significant impact on public amenity and/or is a shopping centre, a gateway or an area of high prominence or where residents are frail aged or living with a disability.</p> <p>Graffiti removal kits are available free of charge to residents for more information call us on 9205 5555 or email info@yarracity.vic.gov.au.</p>
Brunswick Street Master Plan	63	<p>With the adoption of the Brunswick Street Streetscape masterplan, future projects for funding are now able to be strategically justified. It was not possible to fund any Brunswick Street capital projects in the 2020/21 budget due to budget restrictions resulting from the consequences of</p>

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Climate Emergency Plan Heritage Strategy Draft Open Space Strategy		<p>COVID. However, the budget includes \$60K to investigate all of the options for King William and Condell Streets to increase public space and movement as recommended and prioritised in the masterplan. This will provide the feasibility data and technical information required to proceed to design in future years with the most suitable outcome for implementation. Regarding the support of our retail precincts, our economic development unit is working closely with Yarra businesses and our business advisory committee to determine what kind of support is most needed, and what strategies and events can encourage visitation to the street over the next 12 months.</p> <p>It is pleasing to hear your support for this important work of the Climate Emergency Plan. There are many crucial actions from the Climate Emergency Plan that are already being progressed within existing resources, and we will continue to do so. However, like many other businesses and organisations, Yarra Council has faced significant COVID-19 pandemic-related budget constraints which have greatly impacted the Council budget. For this reason, we have not been able to fund some further Climate Emergency Plan actions in this budget. Rather, Officers will prepare a status report in late 2020 that will inform a mid-year budget review and the 2021/22 budget.</p> <p>Council intends to progress initiatives in the Heritage Strategy, however, budgetary pressures, due primarily to COVID and Council's community and business support package, means implementation has been delayed.</p> <p>Yarra City Council have secured State Government funding to create a new pocket park in Otter Street, Collingwood. This road closure is proposed at the Smith Street intersection (two streets south of Johnston Street).</p> <p>Council are excited about this initiative and look forward to developing a new public open space for local workers and residents. Further information about this project is located here; https://yoursayyarra.com.au/otter-street-park</p>
Brunswick Street North	41 43 55 58 60 61	<p>Council officers are committed by way of Council endorsement to implementing the LAPM 3 plan for North Fitzroy and funding to implement this is subject to Council's annual budget process. This endorsed LAPM plan has been through the rigorous assessment and community consultation process. The study page can be found in the following link: https://yoursayyarra.com.au/improving-northfitzroy</p> <p>The suggestion of narrowing Brunswick Street North to one lane, immediately south of Park Street, would impact traffic flows and would need to go through the rigorous assessment and consultation process of a LAPM study to be considered for implementation.</p> <p>Further, slow points rely on equal or constant traffic flows from both directions to work well. Slow points are generally quite wide and require the removal of parking spaces on both sides of the street. It is currently in the endorsed LAPM plan to install kerb extensions, upgrade road humps and line-marking in Brunswick Street North.</p>
Capital expenditure Council expenditure	17	<p>Council's Infrastructure Team have the responsibility to maintain and renew infrastructure assets as per the Local Government Act (LGA) and Road Management Act (RMA). Council maintains a long term program of planned capital works (renewal of existing assets, upgrades to existing assets and new asset acquisitions or constructions). Programmed inspections and audits in accordance with Council's Road Management</p>

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Brunswick Street Master Plan		<p data-bbox="488 199 1465 432">Plan and relevant Asset Management Plans inform our maintenance and a complete forward program of capital works for at least a ten-year horizon. This program undergoes a comprehensive review and update as part of our annual planning process, to ensure that it reflects the latest asset condition information, usage patterns and service needs (current and projected), and also to ensure that the program is affordable in relation to Council's proposed annual budget and long-term financial strategy (LTFS).</p> <p data-bbox="488 450 1465 748">While undertaking any programmed maintenance and capital works Council always ensures to use recycled materials where possible. This includes recycled crushed rock and asphalt that contains glass and Recycled Asphalt Product (RAP). We have also trialled asphalts products that use plastic and printer tonner. Recycled plastic has also been used for street furniture renewals and in boardwalks in the municipality. Council includes green infrastructure (permeable pavement, raingardens, passive irrigation planter beds, gross pollutant traps etc) and increases tree planting where possible.</p> <p data-bbox="488 766 1465 999">Bluestone laneways are considered heritage and are renewed accordingly based on condition assessments and usage needs to ensure that laneways are fit for purpose, safe and meet Council's obligations under the Road Management Act. Laneways are renewed in accordance with Council's Roads Material Policy which means the laneways originally constructed from bluestone material will be reconstructed using bluestone, reusing material where possible.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1016 1465 1249">Melbourne Water (MW) recently completed major utility works in George Street (south of Kerr Street to Victoria Parade). As part of this project Council officers negotiated a full width resheet of the road, in the area where works were undertaken by MW. Council have now programmed footpath, kerb, channel and road resheet works in George Street, north of Kerr Street to Alexandra Parade (where MW works and subsequent reinstatement did not occur).</p> <p data-bbox="488 1267 1465 1435">Whilst Council has delayed the introduction of the 4 bin waste system due to the impacts of COVID-19, Council recently endorsed the roll out of a glass bin for implementation in October 2020. Officers believe this new service can be implemented at close to cost neutral and at no additional cost to rate payers and service recipients.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1453 1465 1787">With the recent adoption of the Brunswick Street Streetscape masterplan by Council, future projects for funding are now able to be strategically justified. It was not possible to fund any Brunswick Street capital projects in the 2020/21 budget due to budget restrictions resulting from the consequences of COVID. However, the budget includes \$60K to investigate all of the options for King William and Condell Streets to increase public space and movement as recommended and prioritised in the masterplan. This will provide the feasibility data and technical information required to proceed to design in future years with the most suitable outcome for implementation.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1805 1465 1973">Regarding the support of our retail precincts, our economic development unit is working closely with Yarra businesses and our Business Advisory Committee to determine what kind of support is most needed, and what strategies and events can encourage visitation to the street over the next 12 months.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1991 1465 2123">The increase in expenditure is being driven by a change in the mix of staff within the Corporate Planning and Performance branch. This year, the Corporate Planning and Performance branch is responsible for leading a significant project to develop Yarra's first Community Vision.</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
Child care subsidies	21	<p>Yarra City Council invests in early childhood services (and facilities) to support families and provide quality learning opportunities for young children. Expenditure on education and care contributes to the wellbeing of the community. Access to and participation in quality early education and care is linked to achieving higher levels of employment, financial security and improved health outcomes in adulthood.</p> <p>Officers inform Council annually about demand and supply for Council's education and care services. Yarra's Priority of Access Policy also ensures that Council prioritises the allocation of places in Council services, or service provided in Council facilities, to support vulnerable and/or local families' access to services. The effectiveness of the Policy is demonstrated by the profile of families enrolled in Council's long day care service: 17% of all enrolled families have low incomes and a further 3% of families are assessed as at risk or requiring additional support. Furthermore, most enrolled families in Council's kindergarten and long day care services are Yarra residents.</p> <p>Council charges \$122.10 for up to 10.5 hours of care. In Yarra, the average fee for long day care is \$130.78 and this includes those services providing more than 10.5 hours of care.</p>
City amenity Brunswick Street Master Plan	31	<p>All retail strips are swept 7 days per week on night shift as part of Councils Street Sweeping programs. In addition to the nightly sweeps these areas are patrolled for dumped waste and litter control during the day 7 days per week. Brunswick Street is a very high activity area including the night economy and requires continuous attention. Council allocated a significant amount of resource and budget to retail and entertainment precincts.</p> <p>Council Officers continue to investigate all matters and take appropriate enforcement action as required. Council also provides an 'after hour' service to respond to any breaches and conduct pro-active street patrols in relation to traders and their permit requirements.</p> <p>The Council has recently approved the Brunswick Streetscape Masterplan and the Council budget for 2020/21 allocates some money for some design work – this includes \$60K to investigate all of the options for King William and Condell Streets to increase public space and movement as recommended and prioritised in the masterplan. This will provide the feasibility data and technical information required to proceed to design in future years with the most suitable outcome for implementation.</p> <p>Social behaviour is not a matter that Council can deal with directly – that is a Police matter.</p> <p>Design of improved public spaces does, however, assist in the ambience of an area – Council will seek to fund other parts of the masterplan over coming years.</p> <p>Further, our economic development unit is working closely with Yarra businesses and our Business Advisory Committee to determine what kind of support is most needed, and what strategies and events can encourage visitation to the street over the next 12 months.</p>
Climate Emergency Waste Services Nature Strategy	51	<p>It is pleasing to hear your support for this important work. There are many crucial actions from the Climate Emergency Plan that are already being progressed within existing resources, and we will continue to do so. However, like many other businesses and organisations, Yarra Council has faced significant COVID-19 pandemic-related budget constraints which have greatly impacted the Council budget. For this reason, we have not been able to fund some further Climate Emergency Plan actions in this</p>

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<p>Aboriginal programs and events</p> <p>Parking and permit fees</p>		<p>budget. Rather, Officers will prepare a status report in late 2020 that will inform a mid-year budget review and the 2021/22 budget.</p> <p>These are three crucial actions from the Climate Emergency Plan, and ones that are being progressed within existing resources, and we will continue to do so. However, like many other businesses and organisations, Yarra Council has faced significant COVID-19 pandemic-related budget constraints which have greatly impacted the Council budget. For this reason, we have not been able to fund some further Climate Emergency Plan actions in this budget. Rather, Officers will prepare a status report in late 2020 that will inform a mid-year budget review and the 2021/22 budget.</p> <p>Council is committed to waste reduction and maximising reuse and recycling of materials. Council adopted a 4 bin residential collection system in December 2019, however has had to defer implementation of that due to the impacts of COVID-19. Council did resolve on 23 June however to endorse the implementation of a glass-only bin, commencing in October 2020. More detail on this change will be communicated in the lead up to implementation.</p> <p>Funding for a Nature Strategy Officer position has been allocated in the operational budget to implement the Nature Strategy; this position will progress actions, and seek opportunities to partner and attract external support and funding to deliver on the priorities of the Strategy.</p> <p>As you note, we do have a continuing and strong commitment to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community in Yarra and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community more broadly. This is reflected in the Yana Ngargna Action Plan which was formed out of extensive consultation with community members. Council is keen to ensure that all activities in the Action Plan are fully supported and is committed to maintaining funding in order to deliver on the actions in the Yana Ngargna Plan. Furthermore, the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is engaged in consultation with regard to Council's support for the Black Lives Matter movement for which we seek their recommendation of actions that Council can take to make a difference in our Australian and local context. The conversation is ongoing and we are listening intently.</p> <p>Following the Public Parking Forum it is apparent that there are a diverse range of views about parking. Any fee increase therefore needs to reflect community expectations and the current economic situation.</p>
<p>Climate Emergency</p>	<p>54</p>	<p>It is pleasing to hear your support for this important work. There are many crucial actions from the Climate Emergency Plan that are already being progressed within existing resources, and we will continue to do so. However, like many other businesses and organisations and as you have noted, Yarra Council has faced significant COVID-19 pandemic-related budget constraints which have greatly impacted the Council budget. For this reason, we have not been able to fund some further Climate Emergency Plan actions in this budget. Rather, Officers will prepare a status report in late 2020 that will inform a mid-year budget review and the 2021/22 budget.</p> <p>In regards to some specific comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are indeed many benefits of improved streetlights, including supporting cycling and pedestrian safety and this is an important post-COVID response. - Council has and is undertaking immediate actions to improve sustainable transport, and is both progressing the background work for the

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>development of an Integrated Transport Plan and will also review funding in the mid-year review.</p> <p>- A review of community climate emergency delivery will be undertaken in 2020/21.</p>
Collingwood Children's Farm	23	<p>Council officers have agreed to continue to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between Yarra City Council and the Collingwood Children's Farm that formalises the ongoing relationship and sets out the scope and extent of support and benefits to each party. At this time, there is not support for a specific budget allocation from Council to the Farm, over and above the existing Young Farmer's Program Council Grant.</p>
Community facilities and infrastructure Capital expenditure	56	<p>Council has a number of strategic planning documents that inform the needs and priorities for community infrastructure and includes the use of relevant demographic information to forecast population changes. Projects are planned for in Council's long term program of capital works and are delivered via the annual capital works program taking into account a number of financial sustainability risk indicators.</p> <p>Council maintains a long term program of planned capital works (renewal of existing assets, upgrades to existing assets and new asset acquisitions or constructions). This is a complete forward program of capital works for at least a ten-year horizon, and longer in the case of major acquisitions or redevelopments. This program undergoes a comprehensive review and update as part of our annual planning process, to ensure that it reflects the latest asset condition information, usage patterns and service needs (current and projected), and also to ensure that the program is affordable in relation to Council's proposed annual budget and long-term financial strategy (LTFS).</p> <p>Council's policy for developing the capital works program guides the allocation of capital expenditure for the renewal of existing assets as a first priority (along with funding Council operations), with available remaining funding then able to be directed towards the highest priority asset upgrades and new asset acquisitions/constructions that are in line with Council's adopted strategies and master plans, according to the available projected funding based on Council's overall financial position.</p> <p>Council through its LTFS also tracks a series of financial sustainability risk indicators used by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) in each forward year of the LTFS including the current proposed annual budget. Key indicators for the capital works program are the Renewal Gap and Capital Replacement Ratios. The Renewal Gap ratio (being capital renewal expenditure divided by total depreciation) has a VAGO target of being at least 1.0 for low risk and this is achieved in each forwards year of the LTFS. The Capital Replacement Ratio (being total capital expenditure divided by total depreciation) has a VAGO target of being at least 1.5 for low risk, and this is achieved in all forwards years of the LTFS excepting 2020/21 (the current proposed annual budget), largely due to the deferral of many planned asset upgrades and new asset projects due to the significant budget impacts of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.</p>
Council expenditure	6	<p>Council's employees are our biggest asset and without them Council would be unable to deliver all of the programs, services and infrastructure that our community value so highly. It is also Council's biggest cost. Council have worked closely with relevant unions to ensure that any wage increases are fair and equitable for employees and enable Council to</p>

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Council expenditure Construction fees Community and economic support package	47	<p>attract and retain the necessary human resources to deliver our programs and services. This has also been done with the interests of ratepayers in mind. As such the decision has been made to freeze Executive salaries for the 2020/21 financial year, with the proposed deferral of all other salary increases for the first 2 months of the year.</p> <p>Council undertakes process reviews in accordance with its business improvement framework and priorities. In response to your specific example, charity collectors are required to apply for a permit if collecting on public land. Permits are not onerous and are free for registered charities. Permit conditions are required to manage the number of collectors as well as amenity impacts and ensuring pedestrian access.</p> <p>Permit fees vary based on residential or commercial works application. City of Yarra charges a higher rate for commercial compared to residential (on average 40% price variance). Permits always include an inspection fee as all permits are inspected for safety and compliance with relevant legislation (Council Local Laws, Planning Act and Road Management Act etc.). These costs are reviewed each year and included in the annual budget.</p> <p>Yarra Council developed the COVID-19 Support Package in April, and it involved a number of actions to support the local community. A third of those actions involved the granting of funds.</p> <p>The grants aimed at addressing some of the most pressing issues that were an immediate result of the pandemic, including support for the creative and business community, food relief, and family violence. A total of almost \$700k was granted for the issues above.</p> <p>Careful consideration has been given to the planning for the next tranche of grants, including analysing research on the effects of Covid-19 in the community, and discussions with services and stakeholders.</p> <p>The areas of focus for the grants will include: material aid, addressing family violence, recovery for the creative community, tackling social isolation, and assisting with digital access.</p>
Council expenditure	48	<p>Yarra City Council employees approximately 879 full time equivalent staff. Of these, 798.5 would be classified as permanent and therefore salaried staff.</p>
Council expenditure Darling Gardens	57	<p>In accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, Council is required to undertake a formal mid-year budget review in December 2020, which will likely be presented to Council in February 2021. Quarterly forecasting is not a requirement under the Local Government Act 1989, however in the current environment, the need for this increased level of reporting will be considered throughout the course of the year. This will be determined by an assessment of whether there have been material changes in key budget assumptions, the financial impacts of which Council should be made aware of. Council also undertakes monthly reviews of its actual financial results.</p> <p>With regard to Council's Long Term Financial Strategy, it is unlikely that the current environment will provide meaningful and informed financial information that is representative of future financial direction, as such the next update of this document is planned to be in conjunction with the 2021/22 budget, but will be no later than October 2021 as required under the new Local Government Act.</p>

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		<p>The layout of the path network, avenues and individual trees all contribute to the significance of the Darling Gardens. This project does not alter the alignment or material of the paths and all trees will be afforded protection, which will be supervised by arborists during the works. This type of renewal project is a normal response to aging infrastructure. It is Council's responsibility to ensure that all of its assets are regularly renewed or replaced to ensure that they remain fit for use. The defects in the paths need to be rectified which if left unresolved will only become worse; further localised patching will not resolve the ongoing issues with the current conditions of the paths.</p> <p>The Edinburgh Gardens water storage project has been part funded by City West Water, via a grant of \$800k, delivering good value to City of Yarra. This project commenced in July 2020, and will be completed by the end of August 2020 and is therefore not able to be postponed.</p>
Darling Gardens	65	<p>The defects in the Darling Gardens paths are due to a number of causes, which includes, but are not limited to: vehicle movements that are part of normal park maintenance activities; underlying reactive soils, typical to Clifton Hill, which expand, contract and move in response to wetting and drying from weather and irrigation; tree growth—especially root plates, structural roots and buttresses; and infrastructure construction and maintenance. The causes of these defects will continue and this project seeks to address the cumulative damage caused to the paths, since last renewed.</p> <p>This type of renewal project is a normal response to aging infrastructure. It is Council's responsibility to ensure that all of its assets are regularly renewed or replaced to ensure that they remain fit for use. Localised patching will not adequately resolve the deteriorating condition of the pathways.</p>
Dog friendly parks	8	<p>Atherton Gardens is a highly valued portion of open space within Fitzroy and as you have noted is used extensively for exercise and free play. Enclosed areas tend to elicit unsupervised dog walking which can be create conflict with other user groups. Council officers intend to keep Atherton Gardens unfenced for this reason.</p> <p>Condell Street (adjacent to the Town Hall) is included within the recently adopted Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan. Improvements within this Town Hall Civic Precinct include creation of a new expanded public space. It is currently noted that this space could contain the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved community garden with the potential to be expanded • Community facilities such as shelter, BBQ, drinking fountains, lawn and picnic seating • A new pedestrian link with new lighting and significant tree planting • More seating and gathering spaces <p>Design development is proposed to be undertaken within 2020/21 financial year to further progress the design of this space. Further community consultation will form part of this process and would provide an additional forum to request dog-walking facilities.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concern from dog owners that there is a lack of both dog off-lead areas and single purpose dog agility parks. Given the limited quantity of public open space within Yarra this is a complex issue to resolve. Yarra's Open Space Strategy (currently in draft format) includes a recommendation to undertake a major review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan. This action is to be recommended as a priority task</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
Drainage and flood damage	25	<p>(implemented within years 1-4) and the means to strategically guide how the needs of dog walkers can be met within the municipality.</p> <p>Yarra Bend Park is managed by Parks Victoria, which can be contacted on email (info@parks.vic.gov.au) or phone (131 963) to discuss bins, rubbish and drinking fountains.</p>
<p>Economic development initiatives</p> <p>Community and Economic Support Package</p> <p>Council expenditure</p> <p>Rates</p>	59	<p>In response to your submission to reallocate funds:</p> <p>Bluestone laneways are renewed based on condition assessments and usage needs to ensure that laneways are fit for purpose, safe and meet Council's obligations under the Road Management Act. Laneways are renewed in accordance with Council's Roads Material Policy which means the laneways originally constructed from bluestone material will be reconstructed using bluestone, reusing material where possible.</p> <p>The defects in the Darling Gardens paths are due to a number of causes, which includes, but are not limited to: vehicle movements that are part of normal park maintenance activities; underlying reactive soils, typical to Clifton Hill, which expand, contract and move in response to wetting and drying from weather and irrigation; tree growth—especially root plates, structural roots and buttresses; and infrastructure construction and maintenance. The causes of these defects will continue and this project seeks to address the cumulative damage caused to the paths, since last renewed. This type of renewal project is a normal response to aging infrastructure. It is Council's responsibility to ensure that all of its assets are regularly renewed or replaced to ensure that they remain fit for use. The defects in the paths pose trip and fall risks for the community, particularly for those who are older or infirm. Those risks are not easily mitigated, and sometimes made worse, by localised patching and deferring the project increases Council's exposure to those risks.</p> <p>Yarra Libraries provides a valuable service to its community members through the provision of physical resources (books, CDs, DVDs etc.) and also electronic resources and free online courses by accessing LinkedIn Learning (which the community members can be access via computers at the libraries if they don't have access to one at home). The library resources budget allocation allows for the update of the physical and electronic collection of resources to ensure current, relevant collections that respond to changing community priorities and needs in accordance with the Yarra Libraries Collection Development Policy and Yarra Libraries Annual Collection Plans.</p> <p>The Brunswick Street Oval Precinct Redevelopment is a major upgrade to the formal sporting and community facilities centred on the Brunswick St Oval (WT Peterson Oval) within Edinburgh Gardens, being the grandstand, the tennis pavilion/courts and the community room. This project has significant funding of \$6.5m being provided by the State Government. The \$500k allocation in 2020/21 for design development (\$450k external contribution and \$50k of Council funding) will allow a detailed designed to be developed and the relevant Heritage and Yarra Planning Scheme permit processes to be undertaken.</p> <p>In response to your submission for New Initiatives:</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
	1.	Council does not have the capacity or desire to create a food delivery platform to compete with the likes of UberEats, however there is the emergence of a number of more cost effective options on the market now such as MrYum who only take a 4.5% fee that businesses can engage.
	2.	We are currently trialling this in 4 locations across Yarra, and are looking to extend the offer to more businesses. We are also heavily promoting the option for businesses to use their neighbours footpath space where available, as additional trading/waiting space.
	3 & 8	By simply being a member of Yarra libraries, individuals and new business owners can access thousands of free online courses by accessing LinkedIn Learning. Libraries have computers that can be used by the community if they don't have access to one at home.
	4.	Yarra Council developed the COVID-19 Support Package in April, and it involved a number of actions to support the local community. A third of those actions involved the granting of funds. Careful consideration has been given to the planning for the next tranche of grants, including analysing research on the effects of Covid-19 in the community, and discussions with services and stakeholders. Among this information includes the acknowledgement of the impending cessation of Jobseeker and Job keeper payments, as well as the freeze on rental increases and mortgage payments being lifted. Council recognises the serious impact these matters will cause the community, and has planned a grants program to address the most critical areas affected.
	5.	The areas of focus for the grants will include: material aid, addressing family violence, recovery for the creative community, tackling social isolation, and assisting with digital access.
	6.	Rates represent Council's primary source of income and are integral to Council being able to provide the range of programs, services and infrastructure that our community values so highly. In addition to the rising costs associated with maintaining such service levels, the 2020/21 proposed budget also includes additional costs associated with the delivery of Council's COVID-19 community and economic support package. The combination of rising costs, reduced income from other sources due to COVID-19, and additional support being proposed to help our community through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes it necessary for Council to apply an increase to its rates for the 2020/21 financial year. Council's proposed rate increase of 2% is in line with the rate cap under the State Governments Fair Go Rating System and is consistent with many other Council's that are experiencing similar financial pressures. Council understands that many of our ratepayers are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such Council's COVID-19 hardship policy provides increased flexibility and payment options for those experiencing financial hardship, including a freeze on interest charges through to 30 June 2021. Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council to discuss assistance that can be provided. In relation to your own historical rate increases I can advise that the rate cap is applied to the average property rate throughout the municipality. The actual increase/decrease experienced by each individual ratepayer is a function of the increase/decrease in their

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>annual property valuation, relative to the average increase in all property valuations across the municipality.</p> <p>7. Yarra City Council has 2 separate fixed term loans. A \$13.5 million facility with Commonwealth Bank of Australia and a \$32.5 million facility with Westpac Banking Corporation. Council's facility with Westpac is due to mature in September 2021, at which point Council will need to borrow to repay this loan. This will provide Council with the opportunity to take advantage of locking in a lower rate given the current cost of debt in the market. The loan with Commonwealth Bank Australia is a fixed term loan maturing in May 2027. This facility has a fixed interest rate which precludes Council from renegotiating without incurring a break fee. Such a fee would far outweigh any savings that would be achieved from negotiating a lower interest rate.</p>
Footpaths	28	<p>Yarra City Council received \$259,000 in funding from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. We are still waiting on a formal letter of agreement for this funding, and this will be used to fund identified priority roads projects from Councils adopted Capital Works Program. There is a footpath on the eastern side of View Street that connects Riverview Grove with Killop Street in Alphington. Council do not believe an additional footpath is required on the western side of View Street.</p>
Graffiti management	4	<p>The graffiti budget is approximately \$800,000 per annum. Council's focus is to utilise the budget in the most efficient and effective manner. Graffiti is an ongoing challenge for all Councils and Yarra has adopted a proactive approach in high prominence areas such as retail strips and gateways. Over the past 18 months based on audit data the volume of graffiti has been reduced by 30%. Over the next several years this will incrementally improve and the budget will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>As part of the Council's Road Management Plan (RMP), every footpath is inspected regularly to identify any tripping hazards which are treated within the timeframes specified in the RMP. We encourage residents to report any specific concerns and they will be inspected and rectified where needed, call us on 9205 5555 or email info@yarracity.vic.gov.au.</p>
Heritage Strategy Darling Gardens	42	<p>Council intends to progress initiatives in the Heritage Strategy, however, budgetary pressures, due primarily to COVID and Council's community and business support package, means implementation has been delayed.</p> <p>Yarra Libraries have processed/catalogued the local histories we hold across all the libraries and they are available to the public upon request. Usage is restricted to within the library. Any new material that comes into the collection is processed accordingly.</p> <p>The layout of the path network, avenues and individual trees all contribute to the significance of the Darling Gardens. This project does not alter the alignment or material of the paths and all trees will be afforded protection, which will be supervised by arborists during the works.</p> <p>This type of renewal project is a normal response to aging infrastructure. It is Council's responsibility to ensure that all of its assets are regularly renewed or replaced to ensure that they remain fit for use.</p> <p>There are significant defects in the paths which require rectification to maintain the asset in good condition and for the safe travel of community members using the paths. Patching the paths is not an effective way to deal with the current conditions of the paths.</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
Hydrotherapy pool	46	<p>In 2016, Council Officers undertook a feasibility study looking at the potential to build a hydrotherapy pool at each of Council's leisure facilities – Collingwood Leisure Centre, Fitzroy Swimming Pool and Richmond Recreation Centre. The feasibility study determined that building a hydrotherapy pool would cost approximately \$8.1 million and that none of the three sites in their current state were suitable. Subsequently, the Recreation and Leisure Services Team undertook a master planning process of Council's three centres that aimed to identify and address the future needs and direction for all leisure facilities in alignment with the participation, health and wellbeing objectives contained within the Council Plan. Officers will consider the potential to provide a warm water program pool as part of any major redevelopment of the existing Leisure facilities.</p> <p>Council undertook a trial, utilising local hydrotherapy facilities, however, due to the low numbers participating in hydrotherapy programs and the alternative options available to Yarra residents, including four local hospitals and an Aged Care venue with hydrotherapy facilities, and public hydrotherapy options available within a relatively close proximity, it was determined that the most appropriate immediate response was to develop an information flyer outlining all of the nearby and accessible hydrotherapy services within Yarra and how to make contact with My Aged Care, NDIS, Access Health and Community as well as Council's Community Transport Service. The Recreation and Leisure Services team has worked together with the Aged and Disability team to disseminate the flyer, with the aim to increase awareness of access and availability to nearby hydrotherapy programs and services and ensure consistent information is shared across the City of Yarra.</p>
Integrated Transport Plan Parking and permit fees LAPM funding	37	<p>Council recognises the challenges and potential impacts of traffic congestion and parking issues in relation to population growth and long term trends. As identified in Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan 2020 – 2024, the formulation of an Integrated Transport Plan and Parking Management Plan will investigate and analyse how provision and management of on and off street car parking can support uptake of sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>4.3 of the Climate Emergency Plan includes an action to consider appropriate approaches that could restrain the provision of off-street parking and also work towards the introduction of a parking overlay in the Yarra Planning Scheme to reduce the on-site car parking requirements for new developments, due to the availability of public and sustainable transport options.</p> <p>It is envisaged that any recommendations of an Integrated Transport Plan and Parking Management Plan relating to changing off-street parking provision requirements would, through planning scheme amendment processes, seek changes to the car parking provisions of the Yarra Planning Scheme. That formal amendment would require public processes of a planning scheme amendment to be followed and to then seek the Minister for Planning approval.</p> <p>An Integrated Transport Plan would also identify priority capital works projects to support active transport (improved cycling facilities and pedestrian areas). Further, the Climate Emergency Plan notes that in order to facilitate the uptake of sustainable modes of transport and the long-term reduction of private car use, road and parking space would be reallocated for upgrades, to enable footpath widening, bike lanes, public transport improvements and greening opportunities.</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>While the Climate Emergency Plan includes an action to develop an Integrated Transport Plan and Parking Management Plan under Strategic Priority 4: Transition to Zero Emissions Transport, timeframes for adopting both plans is not specified. Council officers are finalising the scope of work, options and the associated timeframes for delivering the Integrated Transport Plan.</p> <p>As such, Council is currently not in a position to confirm a date for the Integrated Transport Plan and Parking Management Plan to be adopted. It is also expected that there will be a significant community consultation process as part of the project, which could potentially extend timeframes for finalising both plans.</p> <p>Substantial increases to parking permit fees will not be supported by the community and will be detrimental to lower income residents.</p> <p>At this stage 30 km/h is not supported by the Victorian Speed Zone Guidelines. Department of Transport is preparing to review the speed zone policy and guidelines and will consider options for how trials and deployments of 30 km/h in local government areas that could be supported. Resourcing and budget would need to be doubled to review all 21 LAPMS within a four year cycle.</p> <p>Council maintains a long term program of planned capital works (renewal of existing assets, upgrades to existing assets and new asset acquisitions or constructions). This is a complete forward program of capital works for at least a ten-year horizon, and longer in the case of major acquisitions or redevelopments. This program undergoes a comprehensive review and update as part of our annual planning process, to ensure that it reflects the latest asset condition information, usage patterns and service needs (current and projected), and also to ensure that the program is affordable in relation to Council's proposed annual budget and long-term financial strategy (LTFS).</p> <p>Council's policy for developing the capital works program guides the allocation of capital expenditure for the renewal of existing assets as a first priority (along with funding Council operations), with available remaining funding then able to be directed towards the highest priority asset upgrades and new asset acquisitions/constructions that are in line with Council's adopted strategies and master plans, according to the available projected funding based on Council's overall financial position.</p> <p>Council through its LTFS also tracks a series of financial sustainability risk indicators used by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) in each forward year of the LTFS including the current proposed annual budget. Key indicators for the capital works program are the Renewal Gap and Capital Replacement Ratios. The Renewal Gap ratio (being capital renewal expenditure divided by total depreciation) has a VAGO target of being at least 1.0 for low risk and this is achieved in each forwards year of the LTFS. The Capital Replacement Ratio (being total capital expenditure divided by total depreciation) has a VAGO target of being at least 1.5 for low risk, and this is achieved in all forwards years of the LTFS excepting 2020/21 (the current proposed annual budget), largely due to the deferral of many planned asset upgrades and new asset projects due to the significant budget impacts of the current COVID19 overall financial position.</p>
LAPM funding - Cremorne	2	The LAPM Policy includes criteria to help identify precincts for the next study. The criteria for through traffic and number of heavy vehicles do not represent targets or obligations that we aim to meet as Section 3 states,

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>“This criteria is generally used across the municipality for ranking purposes. These will vary in some local streets as some serve as collector streets and are long in nature between existing arterial roads. Other local streets are comparatively short, but service commercial and industrial areas and whilst daily traffic volumes are generally low the street can have a higher percentage of commercial vehicles or trucks.”</p> <p>The LAPM Policy is currently under review, for likely Council consideration in late 2020/21. Funds for LAPM studies have not been included in the proposed 2020/21 Budget that has been prepared for consultation and adoption in August 2020, due to the need to fund Councils COVID response package. Officers would anticipate funding for this project and any others deferred, would be reconsidered as part of any mid-year Budget review or in development of the 21/22 budget.</p> <p>There is a range of development happening in Cremorne, ranging from large sites to boutique developments. We require the large construction sites to provide Construction Management Plans (CMPs) and related Traffic Management Plans (TMPs) – the TMPs will not allow detours down small streets except on rare occasions, and they would be supported by appropriate traffic management. Council has an ongoing enforcement presence in Cremorne to fine any practices where trucks attempt to go by different routes.</p> <p>Yarra is currently working with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) on an area-wide study regarding the future planning of Cremorne, culminating in a Place Implementation Plan. A key aspect of this is the future role of streets and movement in Cremorne and how best to accommodate change and growth within the precinct. It is noted that while the movement of people, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, will be important to the success and liveability of the precinct, the study is also examining (amongst other topics) the role that streets may play in the future in accommodating additional areas of public realm and open/activity space, and what may be the appropriate balance and priority between movement and public realm. The Cremorne Streets and Movement Strategy looks at these needs in more detail, where Council officers will seek to explore and test the potential trade-offs that will be most likely required to get high quality streets, transport options and public realm in Cremorne.</p> <p>There have not been any recorded crashes at the crossings outside the Cherry Tree Hotel in the past 5 years and during a recent site visit no near misses or high risk safety incidents were observed. Generally, some cars will stop for pedestrians and on occasions, pedestrians will cross through gaps in traffic. Council officers will continue to explore options regarding the crossing lines, bearing in mind that to give them legal significance would require significant investment and likely consolidation into one crossing location. Typically Crosswalk lines are used at signalised crossings or school crossings (where they are optional). These markings alone do not have any legal significance and have only been installed to warn drivers of where pedestrians are likely to cross. The crosswalk lines do have legal significance at school crossings when both stop lines, school posts and flags are present.</p>
Library Services	33	<p>Your feedback has been noted and is appreciated. "Libraries Change Lives" on a daily basis, and we are more than just our books and physical spaces, we are a hub for community connection, knowledge exchange and social inclusion. The \$620,000 allocation provides approximately \$6.43 in library resources to each resident, which is an increase from last year's budget.</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
<p>Long-term strategy</p> <p>Public realm planning and works</p> <p>Temporary social distancing pedestrian and cycling initiatives</p> <p>Climate Emergency</p> <p>Draft Economic Development Strategy</p>	52	<p>In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Council will commence development of a Community Vision (of at least 10 years) which will be supported by a Financial Plan and Asset Plan (both of a duration of 10 years). The new strategic planning and performance framework established by the Act will provide Council with an opportunity to align its strategic plans and identify any gaps.</p> <p>Traffic management, walkability and public realm improvements are all important for both the safety and ambience of the local areas of the municipality. There are also a number of other matters that are very relevant including – such as implementing the urban forest strategy and climate emergency plan actions amongst others.</p> <p>Car parking in local streets is also a consideration and any removal of parking is most often very sensitive with the local community. Often there are competing objectives in the pursuit of solutions – all these matters need to be considered and a balance found for delivery of improvements to an area.</p> <p>In this regard, Council does seek to find the right balance for a given matter having particular regard to all these important considerations – this includes a One Yarra approach to the formulation of the recommended outcomes to Council</p> <p>Officers are also currently undertaking a review of the Local Area Place Making (LAPM) process in view of redefining the scope, and improving the LAPM study process and internal project coordination. This policy review direction will inform proposed precinct studies in the 2021/22 financial year and beyond.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of providing safe cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to support active transport in Yarra, and that there is a significant opportunity to support people riding bikes and walking during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Council endorsed a Stage 1 COVID-19 transport response trials at the Council meeting on 23 June 2020, which includes a number of trial projects to create improved spaces for cycling and physical distancing. More information about the COVID-19 response trials can be found at https://yoursayyarra.com.au/makingspace</p> <p>In addition, \$400k has been dedicated to funding the Elizabeth Street protected bike lanes trial which is now installed. More information about this project can be found at: https://yoursayyarra.com.au/elizabeth-street</p> <p>It is pleasing to hear your support for this important work. There are many crucial actions from the Climate Emergency Plan that are already being progressed within existing resources, and we will continue to do so.</p> <p>In regard to your specific points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the draft Integrated Water Management Plan has been developed and is on exhibition - We are progressing with the background work for the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy, and the implementation of a four bin system (we have committed to initially include a glass-only bin, before then moving to organics). <p>However, like many other businesses and organisations, Yarra Council has faced significant COVID-19 pandemic-related budget constraints which have greatly impacted the Council budget. For this reason, we have not been able to fund some further Climate Emergency Plan actions in this</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>budget. Rather, Officers will prepare a status report in late 2020 that will inform a mid-year budget review and the 2021/22 budget.</p> <p>Council acknowledges within the Draft Economic Development Strategy the need to have affordable spaces for creatives, start-ups and entrepreneurs. Councils 'Room to Create' program directly responds to this need for the creative industry, and while Council isn't in a position to acquire commercial property for the intent of leasing it out at market or below market rate, we do work closely with many of our co-working spaces who offer affordable, month to month terms that suit our micro and small business community.</p>
Parking and permit fees	35	<p>The Parking Permit policy was a key issue at the public Parking Forum. Tripling residential permit fees is unlikely to get community support. Fees need to reflect current economic situation. Parking restrictions, including introduction of fees for 4P parking, are not introduced unilaterally and are reviewed in line with Council's parking guidelines and need community support to implement.</p>
Parking and permit fees Waste Services	44	<p>The Parking Permit policy reviewed at the public Parking Forum. Tripling residential permit fees is unlikely to get community support. Fees need to reflect current economic situation. Parking restrictions are not changed unilaterally but are reviewed in line with Council's parking guidelines and need community support to implement. Auction system for permits would adversely impact the socially disadvantaged in our community and concentrate permits in the hands of a minority.</p> <p>Council is committed to waste reduction and maximising reuse and recycling of materials. Council adopted a 4 bin residential collection system in December 2019, however has had to defer implementation of that due to the impacts of COVID-19. Council did resolve on 23 June however to endorse the implementation of a glass-only bin, commencing in October 2020. More detail on this change will be communicated in the lead up to implementation.</p>
Path lighting - Acacia Place, Abbotsford	62	<p>The Main Yarra Trail adjacent to Acacia Place in Abbotsford is the responsibility of Parks Victoria, which can be contacted via email info@park.vic.gov.au or telephone 13 1963.</p>
Pensioner rebate	5	<p>The total cost of the pensioner rates discount included in the 2020/21 proposed budget is \$459,000. Like many organisations, Yarra City Council offer a discount to pensioners on a range of fees and charges, including rates, in recognition of their low income earning status and to promote affordability for this class of ratepayer.</p> <p>Through City of Yarra's COVID-19 community and economic support package, there is a significant amount of funding committed towards supporting those members of the community hardest hit by COVID-19. In addition, Council's COVID-19 hardship policy is in place to provide financial assistance to those ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.</p>
Planning and development Graffiti management	30	<p>Council is currently in the middle of a very ambitious strategic planning work program and have been seeking improved planning provisions from the Minister for Planning – a number of these studies have been completed and enabled requests to the Minister for Planning for changes to the Yarra Planning Scheme. Other studies are currently underway to seek further changes.</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>These changes are seeking to be able to better manage the development pressures that Council is experiencing and find a balance between change and the existing streetscapes. As a Council we cannot halt the development pressure of the city, but can prepare to manage the change differently.</p> <p>A lot of Yarra's main streets are iconic to their neighbourhoods and we have taken the existing character into consideration strongly. So far our work included the preparation and request for interim (temporary) built form controls for Brunswick, Smith, Johnston and Gertrude Streets and some of the industrial pockets behind those corridors.</p> <p>This work was part of Amendment C270 and was supported by Council on 17 December 2019. Council submitted these requests to the Minister for Planning and we await the Ministers decision. The requested provisions include stronger guidance on street wall heights, setbacks above the street walls, overall heights and better transition towards residences behind.</p> <p>Our work program for remaining corridors and former industrial areas in Fitzroy and Collingwood is continuing and we are aiming to commence work on permanent built form controls towards the end of 2021, which would include public consultation.</p> <p>The graffiti budget is approximately \$800,000 per annum. Council's focus is to utilise the budget in the most efficient and effective manner. Graffiti is an ongoing challenge for all Councils and Yarra has adopted a proactive approach in high prominence areas such as retail strips and gateways. Over the past 18 months based on audit data the volume of graffiti has been reduced by 30%. Over the next several years this will incrementally improve and the budget will be reviewed on an annual basis. All graffiti removal work on heritage buildings is carried out in accordance with Heritage Victoria Guidelines.</p>
Rates	7 9 10 11 12	<p>Rates represent Council's primary source of income and are integral to Council being able to provide the range of programs, services and infrastructure that our community values so highly. In addition to the rising costs associated with maintaining such service levels, the 2020/21 proposed budget also includes additional costs associated with the delivery of Council's COVID-19 community and economic support package. The combination of rising costs, reduced income from other sources due to COVID-19, and additional support being proposed to help our community through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes it necessary for Council to apply an increase to its rates for the 2020/21 financial year. Council's proposed rate increase of 2% is in line with the rate cap under the State Governments Fair Go Rating System and is consistent with many other Council's that are experiencing similar financial pressures.</p> <p>Council understands that many of our ratepayers are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such Council's COVID-19 hardship policy provides increased flexibility and payment options for those experiencing financial hardship, including a freeze on interest charges through to 30 June 2021. Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council to discuss assistance that can be provided.</p>
Rates	14 22	<p>Rates represent Council's primary source of income and are integral to Council being able to provide the range of programs, services and infrastructure that our community values so highly. In addition to the rising costs associated with maintaining such service levels, the 2020/21</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
	29 40	<p>proposed budget also includes additional costs associated with the delivery of Council's COVID-19 community and economic support package. The combination of rising costs, reduced income from other sources due to COVID-19, and additional support being proposed to help our community through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes it necessary for Council to apply an increase to its rates for the 2020/21 financial year. Council's proposed rate increase of 2% is in line with the rate cap under the State Governments Fair Go Rating System and is consistent with many other Council's that are experiencing similar financial pressures.</p> <p>Council understands that many of our ratepayers are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such Council's COVID-19 hardship policy provides increased flexibility and payment options for those experiencing financial hardship, including a freeze on interest charges through to 30 June 2021. Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council to discuss assistance that can be provided.</p> <p>In relation to your own historical rate increases I can advise that the rate cap is applied to the average property rate throughout the municipality. The actual increase/decrease experienced by each individual ratepayer is a function of the increase/decrease in their annual property valuation, relative to the average increase in all property valuations across the municipality.</p>
Rates	18	<p>Rates represent Council's primary source of income and are integral to Council being able to provide the range of programs, services and infrastructure that our community values so highly. In addition to the rising costs associated with maintaining such service levels, the 2020/21 proposed budget also includes additional costs associated with the delivery of Council's COVID-19 community and economic support package. The combination of rising costs, reduced income from other sources due to COVID-19, and additional support being proposed to help our community through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes it necessary for Council to apply an increase to its rates for the 2020/21 financial year. Council's proposed rate increase of 2% is in line with the rate cap under the State Governments Fair Go Rating System and is consistent with many other Council's that are experiencing similar financial pressures.</p> <p>Council understands that many of our ratepayers are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such Council's COVID-19 hardship policy provides increased flexibility and payment options for those experiencing financial hardship, including a freeze on interest charges through to 30 June 2021. Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council to discuss assistance that can be provided.</p> <p>In reference to the comment regarding non-essential spending, Council has indeed removed all discretionary expenditure from its 2020/21 proposed budget.</p>
Rates	20 27 34 66	<p>Rates represent Council's primary source of income and are integral to Council being able to provide the range of programs, services and infrastructure that our community values so highly. In addition to the rising costs associated with maintaining such service levels, the 2020/21 proposed budget also includes additional costs associated with the delivery of Council's COVID-19 community and economic support</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		<p>package. The combination of rising costs, reduced income from other sources due to COVID-19, and additional support being proposed to help our community through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes it necessary for Council to apply an increase to its rates for the 2020/21 financial year. Council's proposed rate increase of 2% is in line with the rate cap under the State Governments Fair Go Rating System and is consistent with many other Council's that are experiencing similar financial pressures.</p> <p>Council understands that many of our ratepayers are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such Council's COVID-19 hardship policy provides increased flexibility and payment options for those experiencing financial hardship, including a freeze on interest charges through to 30 June 2021. Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council to discuss assistance that can be provided.</p> <p>In response to your suggestion regarding wage freezes, I can confirm that all members of Council's Executive team have had their salaries frozen for the 2020/21 financial year. It has also been proposed that wage increases for all other Council employees will be deferred for 2 months.</p>
Road maintenance Graffiti management	13	<p>Council invests in staff to manage the impacts of construction and has dedicated Construction Management and Traffic Management teams, however much of the work in Yarra is conducted by third parties (Gas, Water, Telecoms, Transport etc) and Council has no authority to prevent the works. We therefore do our best to manage the works and their impacts.</p> <p>The graffiti budget is approximately \$800,000 per annum. Council's focus is to utilise the budget in the most efficient and effective manner. Graffiti is an ongoing challenge for all Councils and Yarra has adopted a proactive approach in high prominence areas such as retail strips and gateways. Over the past 18 months based on audit data the volume of graffiti has been reduced by 30%. Over the next several years this will incrementally improve and the budget will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p>
Road maintenance	19	<p>Councils Infrastructure Team have the responsibility to maintain and renew infrastructure assets as per the Local Government Act (LGA) and Road Management Act (RMA). As part of the Council's Road Management Plan (RMP), every footpath and road is inspected regularly to identify any hazards which are treated within the time-frames specified in the RMP.</p> <p>Councils City Works Branch manage planting maintenance in the streetscape, which includes weed management. Your submission has also been referred to this team to assess and respond as appropriate.</p> <p>We encourage residents to report any specific concerns and they will be inspected and rectified where required; residents can call us on 9205 5555 or email info@yarracity.vic.gov.au.</p> <p>Little Buckingham Street is considered a road and not a laneway. In accordance with Councils Infrastructure Roads Materials Policy Council would not consider replacing the asphalt road with bluestone. The Infrastructure team are reviewing the eastern section of Little Buckingham Street to confirm if maintenance is required or programming of capital works (in future financial years).</p>
Road maintenance	24	<p>As part of the Council's Road Management Plan (RMP), every footpath is inspected regularly to identify any tripping hazards which are treated within</p>

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
City amenity		the timeframes specified in the RMP. We encourage residents to report any specific concerns and they will be inspected and rectified where needed, call us on 9205 5555 or email info@yarracity.vic.gov.au .
Tree planting		The Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) based within North Richmond Community Health (NRCH) opened in June 2018 for a two-year trial. Many members of the north Richmond and southern Abbotsford community advocated to the Victorian Government for a trial of an MSIR and the trial ultimately remains the responsibility of the Victorian Government. The Victorian Government independently selected the location for the MSIR trial and has stated that the location was chosen in part because it is close to where people buy and sell drugs, due to the number of drug-related overdoses and deaths in the surrounding area and NRCH already provides many vital health services. The Victorian Government has exclusively resourced the construction and operations of the facility and commissions and directs the provision of health and social services and law enforcement activities.
User pays library services		Council's key role in this space continues to be the promotion of public amenity and we have intensified public road and footpath cleansing, graffiti and poster removal from assets, and maintenance and repair of street furniture and signage. Yarra Council also directly manages all requests for syringe management services in the City. People can lodge service request by calling 9205 5555 or from the website by personal computer or telephone at https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/services/cleaning-and-maintenance/syringe-disposal .
Advocacy		Considering Council's key role in the space as the promotion of public amenity, Council's resourcing of cleansing services in the precinct has doubled since mid-2019, comprising additional street sweeping and a two-person cleansing crew conducting daily foot patrols, in some areas in north Richmond/southern Abbotsford as many as three times per day (including on and around Victoria and Lennox Street).
		Tree planting along the major streets and within the shopping strips of Yarra is a high priority for Council. The amount of available space for plantings in these locations is limited as it is necessary to provide a clear path and width of travel for pedestrians as well as the ability to offer footpath trading. It is recognised that there are many competing needs along Bridge Road and all of these are carefully considered in any works occurring in the street. The large number of awnings and veranda's along Bridge Road also limit the planting due to lack of light and rainfall and the overhead space available to plant trees. The maximum number of opportunities for tree planting and garden beds in Bridge Road has recently been investigated and subsequent tree plantings and new garden bed plantings have now been completed.
		Victoria's public libraries build literate, productive and engaged communities and generate an average of \$4.30 in benefit for every dollar invested. Yarra Libraries provides \$4.80 in benefit for every dollar invested in its service (source: LIBRARIES WORK! The socio-economic value of public libraries to Victorians, 2018). 19.72% of residents are active library members (ahead of the 15.41% state average). Total library membership is equivalent to 66% of the municipal population (or 2.1 visits per resident, per year).
		Advocacy is an important function of all councils and helps deliver positive outcomes for the local community. Yarra City Council advocates on a wide range of matters such as improving local roads, transport, waste and recycling, social and affordable housing and climate change. Council also

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		advocates strongly to attract government funding and support for many projects across the municipality which benefit local residents, business and the community.
Road maintenance	32	South Yarra is not with Yarra City Council's municipal jurisdiction. Submitter has been advised and referred to City of Stonnington whose budget submission process is open until the end of July.
Shared playground funding	36	Council acknowledges it has a Joint Use Agreement which sets out the obligations of both the parties concerning the use of the playground facilities and capital works. Council officers are reviewing the terms of that agreement and will revert to your school community soon to meet and agree a way forward that helps the school progress it's works and ensures Council meets its obligations to the extent that they exist.
Traffic calming - MacPherson St, Princes Hill	64	Following the COVID19 response package funds will not be included in the proposed 2020/21 Budget that has been prepared for consultation and adoption in August 2020. Officers would anticipate this could be reconsidered as part of any mid-year budget review.
Waste Services	3	<p>Council collects waste from approximately 85% of apartment buildings. The remaining buildings have a private collection due to a number of constraints including access to bin storage areas and space restrictions on the kerbside. For example if an apartment building has 500 dwellings then the bins would not physically fit on the kerbside as a collection location.</p> <p>The planning process requires a Waste Management Plan to be signed off by Council and depending on the design of the building and the location of the bin storage area there is limited access to the building and a logistical challenge to get the bins to the kerbside and then to find space for the bins. These buildings are usually required to have a very small collection vehicle to be able to gain access to the bin storage area. The Council service is a kerbside collection service and does not cater for entry into buildings which comes with its own set of legal and indemnity risks.</p> <p>The conditions of a kerbside service are based on Council's operational requirements. Generally speaking the design of the larger apartment buildings do not align with the operational requirements for a Council collection. These decisions are based on the Waste Management Plans that are presented to Council by the developers as part of the planning permit and link back to design issues. The focus of the developers is to fit in maximum apartments which comes at an offset for space when designing areas and access to bin storage.</p> <p>Unfortunately there is no simple solution. If Council was to start collecting at these sites there would be an additional cost due to the design issues and in some cases bins need to be collected daily due to the lack of space to store enough bins for a weekly collection. It is not possible to identify a cost that could be discounted as the cost of service for a weekly kerbside service would be vastly different to the cost of a service based on working around the design of the building's waste management system.</p>
Waste services	16	Council is committed to waste reduction and maximising reuse and recycling of materials. Council adopted a 4 bin residential collection system in December 2019, however has had to defer implementation of that due to the impacts of COVID-19. Council did resolve on 23 June however to endorse the implementation of a glass-only bin, commencing in

Topic	Sub'n ID	Reason
		October 2020. More detail on this change will be communicated in the lead up to implementation.
