



Agenda

Council Meeting

7.00pm, Tuesday 23 November 2021

Ms Teams

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are public forums where Councillors come together to meet as a Council and make decisions about important, strategic and other matters. The Mayor presides over all Council Meetings, and they are conducted in accordance with the City of Yarra Governance Rules 2020 and the Council Meetings Operations Policy.

Council meetings are decision-making forums and only Councillors have a formal role. However, Council is committed to transparent governance and to ensuring that any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of Council is entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered before the decision is made.

There are two ways you can participate in the meeting.

Public Question Time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

Ideally, questions should be submitted to Council in writing by midday on the day of the meeting via the form available on our website. Submitting your question in advance helps us to provide a more comprehensive answer. Questions that have been submitted in advance will be answered first.

Public question time is an opportunity to ask questions about issues for which you have not been able to gain a satisfactory response on a matter. As such, public question time is not:

- a time to make statements or engage in debate with Councillors;
- a forum to be used in relation to planning application matters which are required to be submitted and considered as part of the formal planning submission;
- a forum for initially raising operational matters, which should be directed to the administration in the first instance;

If you wish to raise matters in relation to an item on this meeting agenda, Council will consider submissions on these items in conjunction with and prior to debate on that agenda item.

When you are invited by the Mayor to ask your question, please come forward, take a seat at the microphone, state your name clearly for the record and:

- direct your question to the Mayor;
- refrain from making statements or engaging in debate
- don't raise operational matters which have not previously been raised with the Council administration;
- not ask questions about matter listed on the agenda for the current meeting.
- refrain from repeating questions that have been previously asked; and
- if asking a question on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

Once you have asked your question, please remain silent unless called upon by the Mayor to make further comment or to clarify any aspects.

Public submissions

Before each item is considered, the meeting chair will ask people in attendance if they wish to make submission. If you want to make a submission, simply raise your hand and the Mayor will invite you to come forward, take a seat at the microphone, state your name clearly for the record and:

- Speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- direct your submission to the Mayor;
- confine your submission to the subject under consideration;
- avoid repetition and restating previous submitters;
- refrain from asking questions or seeking comments from the Councillors or other submitters;
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

Once you have made your submission, please remain silent unless called upon by the Mayor to make further comment or to clarify any aspects.

Once all submissions have been received, the formal debate may commence. Once the debate has commenced, no further submissions, questions or comments from submitters can be received.

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held at either the Richmond Town Hall or the Fitzroy Town Hall. The following arrangements are in place to ensure they are accessible to the public:

- Entrance ramps and lifts (off Moor Street at Fitzroy, entry foyer at Richmond).
- Interpreting assistance is available by arrangement (tel. 9205 5110).
- Auslan interpreting is available by arrangement (tel. 9205 5110).
- A hearing loop is available at Richmond only and the receiver accessory is available by arrangement (tel. 9205 5110).
- Proposed resolutions are displayed on large screen.
- An electronic sound system amplifies Councillors' debate.
- Disability accessible toilet facilities are available at each venue.

Recording and Publication of Meetings

An audio recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during Public Question Time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council), you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication.

Order of business

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**
2. **Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
3. **Announcements**
4. **Declarations of conflict of interest**
5. **Confidential business reports**
6. **Confirmation of minutes**
7. **Public question time**
8. **Council business reports**
9. **Notices of motion**
10. **Petitions and joint letters**
11. **Questions without notice**
12. **Delegates' reports**
13. **General business**
14. **Urgent business**

1. Acknowledgment of Country

“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors

• Cr Gabrielle de Vietri	Mayor
• Cr Claudia Nguyen	Deputy Mayor
• Cr Edward Crossland	Councillor
• Cr Stephen Jolly	Councillor
• Cr Herschel Landes	Councillor
• Cr Bridgid O’Brien	Councillor
• Cr Amanda Stone	Councillor
• Cr Sophie Wade	Councillor

Council officers

• Vijaya Vaidyanath	Chief Executive Officer
• Brooke Colbert	Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement
• Ivan Gilbert	Group Manager Chief Executive’s Office
• Lucas Gosling	Director Community Wellbeing
• Gracie Karabinis	Group Manager People and Culture
• Chris Leivers	Director City Works and Assets
• Diarmuid McAlary	Director Corporate, Business and Finance
• Bruce Phillips	Director Planning and Place Making
• Rhys Thomas	Senior Governance Advisor
• Mel Nikou	Governance Officer

Leave of absence

• Cr Anab Mohamud	Councillor
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3. Announcements

An opportunity is provided for the Mayor to make any necessary announcements.

4. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

Any Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at this meeting is required to disclose that interest either by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present or advising that they have disclosed the nature of the interest in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting commenced.

5. Confidential business reports

Nil

6. Confirmation of minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9 November and Ceremonial Meeting held on Monday 15 November 2021 be confirmed.

7. Public question time

An opportunity is provided for questions from members of the public.

8. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
8.1	Park Street Contraflow Bike Lane Pilot Trial Extension	8	12	Simon Exon – Unit Manager Strategic Transport
8.2	Elizabeth Street Protected Bike Lanes Trial	13	20	Simon Exon – Unit Manager Strategic Transport
8.3	Annual Grants 2022 Recommendations Report	21	26	Michael Van Vliet – Community Grants Team Leader
8.4	2021/22 Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report September	27	32	Julie Wyndham – Manager Corporate Planning and Performance

9. Notices of motion

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
9.1	Notice of Motion No. 14 of 2021 - Half masting of Australian Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag	35	36	Bridgid O'Brien – Councillor

10. Petitions and joint letters

An opportunity exists for any Councillor to table a petition or joint letter for Council's consideration.

11. Questions without notice

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to ask questions of the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

12. Delegate's reports

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to table or present a Delegate's Report.

13. General business

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to raise items of General Business for Council's consideration.

14. Urgent business

An opportunity is provided for the Chief Executive Officer to introduce items of Urgent Business.

8.1 Park Street Contraflow Bike Lane Pilot Trial Extension

Reference	D21/132675
Author	Simon Exon - Unit Manager Strategic Transport
Authoriser	Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. For Council to consider extending the existing 12-month pilot trial of contraflow bike lanes on Park Street in Fitzroy North given the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and significant difficulties with data collection.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Park Street runs adjacent to the Linear Park between St. Georges Road and Bowen Crescent in Fitzroy North. On 23 June 2020 Council resolved to introduce a 12-month trial of contraflow bike lanes on Park Street (at its far eastern end between St Georges Road and Nicholson Street). This was one of multiple transport projects considered in mid-2020 as an emergency response to COVID-19 to relieve bike traffic on the linear space to the north.

Discussion

3. The contraflow bike lanes formally allow cyclists to travel in both directions, whilst cars are limited to one-way travel (note this has been a one-way section of road for many years).
4. Cyclists traveling west can continue on-road on Park Street to the west of Nicholson Street.
5. The intention has been to provide an alternative to the Linear Park for more experienced cyclists given it is increasingly crowded with cyclists, joggers and pedestrians, particularly during the pandemic.
6. Works to install the contraflow bike lanes on Park Street (east of Nicholson Street) were completed in early September 2020 and were subject to some commentary from the local community at that time.
7. In summary, some community members questioned the need for the project and the installed design. Specifically, some community members stated that it is difficult for the driver of a vehicle (kerbside) to see approaching cyclists due to sightlines.
8. The contra-flow lane means parked cars face east against the southern kerb, and cyclists approach parked cars from the front.
9. This project, and the commentary around it, was discussed at Council on 15 September 2020 as part of a wider Park Street bike lane report. In response to the community commentary, Councillors were informed of the following:
 - (a) similar contraflow bike lane designs have been used elsewhere in Yarra and other municipalities for many years without reported incident; example streets include Lennox Street, Richmond and Gray Street, Brunswick;
 - (b) Council's Traffic Engineering Unit carried out a site visit and assessment following the completion of the works to investigate the concerns raised, as well as other potential safety issues; and
 - (c) the implemented design was considered a low safety risk; some minor changes (tweaks) to improve safety were identified following the completion of an independent road safety audit. These changes were primarily around providing some additional signage and were then delivered as iterations to the trial.

10. The trial has now been in place for over 12 months and a *Your Say Yarra* webpage has been open for feedback since that time.
11. As of 15 September 2021, there were 23 comments on the project on the website. A significant number of these were regarding the Capital City Trail Crossing at Rae Street which is a totally separate project, albeit nearby. Other comments and observations ranged from *'keep up the good work'* to *'the Capital City Trail isn't busy so bikes should be using that and not Park Street'*.
12. There have been no reported accidents since the trial was installed.
13. Council has received some suggestions for changing the design of the contraflow lane from the community since it was installed. These suggestions include:
 - (a) installing a bi-directional bike lane on the north side of Park Street; and
 - (b) shifting the entire contraflow bike lane to the north side of Park Street.
14. The officer response to these suggestions are as follows:
 - (a) the road-width of this section of Park Street is not wide enough to accommodate bi-directional bike lanes; the minimum width required for low volume bi-directional lanes is 2.5m, which is 1m wider than the current contra-flow lanes. In order to achieve this outcome, it would be necessary to either remove all on-street car parking which would have significant impacts on local residents, or re-align the kerbs which would come at a huge cost capital cost (likely to be over \$1M given changes to drainage); and
 - (b) shifting the contraflow bike lane would not generate any safety benefits and would be costly and difficult to deliver. It could also introduce new issues and most importantly, this arrangement would not be compliant with Australian Road rules.
15. COVID-19 lockdowns and anxieties around being exposed to the coronavirus have significantly impacted everyone's lives in multiple ways including the purpose, distance and way in which people travel. This has made assessing trials in any street environment in Melbourne difficult.
16. It has not been possible to undertake reliable data collection of this trial due to extended lockdowns in 2021.
17. Informal observations from officers travelling through this area are that it is used by some cyclists and is relieving the pressure on the Linear Park trail to some degree.
18. In June 2021 Council made a commitment to proceed with the Inner Circle Linear Parklands Masterplan (a.k.a Linear Park Masterplan). The purpose of this Masterplan is to set the strategic direction for the Inner Circle Linear Parklands and guide its future maintenance, development, and improvement over the next ten years. The Masterplan is scheduled to take 24 months to complete and is a significant undertaking for Council that will respond to some long-standing questions and issues in this area. The project inception period has commenced.
19. The core objectives of the linear park masterplan project are to:
 - (a) clarify the importance and impact of relevant strategic documents and adjacent projects;
 - (b) analyse and document the physical, social and environmental context of the project site;
 - (c) engage all stakeholders to ensure constraints, opportunities and priorities are established;
 - (d) develop a project vision that aligns with citywide goals and community priorities;
 - (e) develop a functional layout to guide future usage, including access and circulation within the linear park and its surrounds;

- (f) provide best practice guidelines that promote inclusion, improve design quality and refine management systems;
 - (g) ensure that the design is achievable and sustainable within Councils resources; and
 - (h) improve the overall experience for the community both now and in the future.
20. Park Street runs parallel to the busy Linear Park trail and would also be considered in terms of the role it could play as an alternative cycling route to reduce pressure on the trail itself. This may mean that proposals for Park Street come forward as part of this wider project. This is another factor for consideration when assessing the trial and deciding on a timeframe for making this assessment.

Options

21. Three options have been identified:

Option 1

22. Council resolves to decide on either making this trial permanent or removing it now having considered the contents of this report.

Option 2

23. Council resolves to extend the trial by 12 months.
24. This would allow people's lives to return to some semblance of normality or a new post-COVID normality.
25. After any extension period Council would decide on the permanent layout of this road (be it the trial is left as it, taken out or something else is installed).

Option 3

26. Council resolves to extend the trial until the Linear Park Masterplan is adopted given its scope includes Park Street.
27. The Masterplan is due for adoption in approximately 18 months and is a significant undertaking for Council that will respond to some long-standing questions and issues in this area.
28. This would allow decision making on this section of park Street to tie into a broader and more detailed piece of work in this area.

Officer Recommendation

29. The officer recommendation is for Council to extend the trial until the Linear Park Masterplan is adopted. This would allow:
- (a) data to be collected on Park Street in an ongoing COVID normal situation; and
 - (b) the recommendations of the adopted Linear Park Masterplan to be considered as part of decision making on the longer-term layout of this section of Park Street.
30. All aspects of how the trial currently operates and is managed would continue. This includes:
- (a) continuing to authorise the Director of Planning and Place Making to instruct staff to make tweak type adjustments to the trial where appropriate and until Council forms an opinion on its future;
 - (b) completing data collection; and
 - (c) continuing with the *Your Say Yarra* webpage.

Community and stakeholder engagement

External Consultation

31. The formal Council meeting process provides an opportunity for external parties to comment on the topic of extending existing the contraflow bike lane trial.

32. No other consultation has been undertaken on the specific topic of extending the trial.

[Internal Consultation \(One Yarra\)](#)

33. The line marking is holding up relatively well and can remain in situ should the trial be extended.

Policy analysis

[Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan](#)

34. None specifically associated with extending or not extending this existing bike trial project.

[Climate emergency and sustainability implications](#)

35. Undertaking trials and providing protected bike lanes to deliver infrastructure quickly and cheaply to encourage cycling is consistent with a number Council's transport and Climate Emergency Plan objectives.

[Community and social implications](#)

36. No known new social implications are associated with extending or not extending the trial.

[Economic development implications](#)

37. No economic implications associated specifically with extending this trial.

[Human rights and gender equality implications](#)

38. It is not considered there any human rights implications.

Operational analysis

[Financial and resource impacts](#)

39. There are no financial implications in extending the trial. If the trial was to be reversed there would be some minimal costs.

[Legal Implications](#)

40. There are no known legal implications.

Conclusion

41. On 23 June 2020, Council resolved to introduce a 12-month trial of contraflow bike lanes on Park Street, Fitzroy North (at the far eastern end between St Georges Road and Nicholson Street).
42. This trial was one of multiple transport projects considered by Council as an emergency response to the travel patterns of community due to the pandemic, particularly in relation to the Linear Park pathways.
43. It has not been possible to undertake reliable data collection of this trial due to extended lockdowns.
44. This report considers some options going forward regarding this trial.
45. These options include deciding now on the permanent treatment of this section of the street, or extending the trial so a decision can be made in the future having considered additional data and the outputs of the Linear Park Masterplan processes including community engagement.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report regarding the trial of a contraflow bike lane in the eastern part of Park Street, Fitzroy North;
 - (b) resolves to extend the trial until the Linear Park Masterplan is adopted given the scope includes Park Street and environs;
 - (c) notes that the Masterplan is due for adoption in approximately 18 months and is a significant undertaking for Council that will respond to some long-standing questions and issues in this area; and that this would allow decision making on this section of Park Street to tie into a broader and more detailed piece of work in this area;
 - (d) notes that waiting for the completion of the Master Plan would allow more informed decision making to be made on this section of Park Street;
 - (e) continues with the trial as endorsed in June 2020;
 - (f) reaffirms to authorise the Director of Planning and Place Making to instruct staff to make tweak type adjustments to the trial where appropriate and until Council forms an opinion on its future;
 - (g) instruct officers to continue data collection in 2022; and
 - (h) continue to run and monitor the *Your Say Yarra* webpage as part of evaluating the contraflow bike lane trial.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

8.2 Elizabeth Street Protected Bike Lanes Trial

Reference	D21/145591
Author	Simon Exon - Unit Manager Strategic Transport
Authoriser	Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. For Council to consider extending the existing 12-month pilot trial of protected bike lanes on Elizabeth Street given the ongoing impacts on movement of persons due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also the significant difficulties with data collection.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Elizabeth Street is designated as a 'strategic cycling corridor' by the Department of Transport and connects the central city via Albert Street in East Melbourne to Richmond and the inner east suburbs.
3. Protected (or separated) bike lanes on Elizabeth Street were first proposed in Council's 2010 Bicycle Strategy.
4. In December 2019, Council resolved to implement a 12-month trial of protected bike lanes on Elizabeth Street.
5. The 'Pilot and Trial' methodology (as detailed in that Council report) emphasised ongoing data collection and engagement with the community to assess how the trial is performing before a decision would be made on any permanent road design.
6. It is also noted that the 'Pilot and Trial' approach has been used as the first iteration of *possible* permanent protected bike lanes in this location using more permanent materials and landscaping.
7. The image below shows an image of the pilot and trial protected bike lanes outcome through the use of bollards and chevron paint lines to delineate the lanes.



Notes:

- (a) It is noted that the intention of any permanent protected bike lanes in this location, is to plant trees on the northern side of the roadway, between the separated bike lane (east bound) and the carriageway for vehicles (where the chevron lines are to the right hand side of the above image);
- (b) This would be tree plantings that, at semi maturity, would begin to provide some upper canopy, and hence shade and amenity improvements to this particular location;
- (c) The Elizabeth Street location was one of the identified areas in the adopted *Urban Forest Strategy (2017)* analysis of the need for tree plantings (upper canopy); and
- (d) The intent of any permanent works is that it comprise both protected bike lanes in each direction, with comfortable and safe space for cycling, and also the inclusion of vegetation.

The current Trial

- 8. The original intention was to deliver the trial project in April 2020. This was delayed due to practical matters associated with COVID-19 at that time, instead the trial was installed in July 2020.
- 9. The Council resolution stated that the installed trial design option would remain in situ between the conclusion of the trial at 12 months, and the production of a report to Council detailing its performance to inform decision making on any longer-term road treatment.
- 10. The resolution also stated that this report be produced as soon as practicable following the completion of the 12-month trial, but within six months of its completion.
- 11. The trial road configuration installed in July 2020 (in the specific layout as formally endorsed in December 2019) was again considered by Council in September 2020 (approximately three months after it was installed). This was in response to questions from some members of the local community regarding the rationale for certain aspects of the design. Some of these queries specifically related to the width of the protected bike lanes and why on-street car parking needed to be removed on the north side of the street to achieve these widths.
- 12. It is important to note that the protected bike lane widths are to create modern standard bike lanes. They are also compliant with the new draft State Government cycle design guidelines (yet to be formally released).
- 13. At this width, they provide the following benefits:
 - (a) enable cyclists of different speeds to pass each other;
 - (b) provide a more comfortable and safer riding environment;
 - (c) allow one cyclist to swerve around another cyclist in the event of a sudden stop due to an incident (a puncture or broken chain);
 - (d) increase the capacity of the bike lane;
 - (e) responds to feedback from cyclists using Wellington Street protected bike lanes (indicating that they should be wider for safety and passing);
 - (f) provide more space for cargo bikes, child trailers etc.;
 - (g) keep cyclists away from driver side car doors, and also away from the gutter and the drainage channel to the left; and
 - (h) allow cyclists to avoid any other debris in the bike lane (e.g. broken glass).
- 14. It is also noted that the requirement to remove parking along one side of this street was first acknowledged in the 2010 Council Bike Strategy; it was again acknowledged in the 2016 Council Bike Strategy Refresh.
- 15. Council resolved at the September 2020 meeting to continue with the trial design specifically as endorsed at the December 2019 meeting and installed three months prior in July 2020.

The evaluation phase

16. It is clear that pandemic lockdowns and anxieties of people around being exposed to COVID-19 have severely impacted everyone's lives in multiple ways, including the purpose of trips, distance of trips and way in which people travel. This has made assessing trials in any street environment in Melbourne very difficult.
17. The December 2019 Council resolution was made before COVID-19 occurred, and at that time, it was reasonable to assume that nothing would prevent data collection and other survey work from:
 - (a) being physically collected; and
 - (b) that the data collected would represent a normal ongoing situation of how infrastructure is used and performs to inform subsequent decision making.

Discussion

18. The pandemic is still ongoing, as are its impacts on transport and movement.
19. Data collection over the last 12 months has been very challenging with continual and sometimes extended lockdowns making any informed assessment of a trial in a 'normal ongoing day to day setting' impossible. For example, commuter cycling, train and tram numbers are significantly down across the whole of inner Melbourne, as hundreds of thousands of people employed at CBD offices have primarily been working from home.
20. Further, schools, universities, café's, shops, museums, galleries, hotels, sports stadiums and even children's playgrounds have also been closed with obvious impacts. It has been anticipated that once 80% of the population are vaccinated then most things will be able to open up in a COVID-19 safe way and will then be able to stay open. Some anxieties in persons will still no doubt exist for some time regarding travel modes.
21. Notwithstanding COVID-19 and the lockdowns, three quarterly rounds of data collections and survey work have been undertaken by independent consultants engaged by Council (see Attachment 1).
22. Quarterly reports providing a summary of the data collection have been provided to Councillors previously on Diligent Board software.
23. A pop-up event targeted at CALD communities was also completed in March 2021.
24. The '*Your Say Yarra*' page includes an interactive map of the project, which allows the community to add comments on the trial and is checked regularly by officers.
25. A fourth and final quarterly round of data collection was scheduled for July 2021, but has not been possible due to further lockdowns until some days ago.
26. The following statistical aspects are provided for information:
 - (a) there has been 317 contributions (including 12 attending the CALD interpreter assisted event in June); and
 - (b) 86% of those contributors were local to Richmond, Abbotsford or Collingwood.
27. Further, the analysis of key themes identified in these contributions highlighted:
 - (a) 28% expressed support for the project because of improved safety (includes reference to improved experience of females and child cyclists);
 - (b) 4% were advocating for the extension of trial area;
 - (c) 22% raised concerns related to perceived safety issues (majority relating to narrowness of parking lanes and driving lanes and sight lines at intersections);
 - (d) 8% expressing dissatisfaction around parking removal and less availability of parking;
 - (e) 19% expressed concern at the perceived lack of transparency in the consultation (majority advocating a need to be consulted prior to the installation of the trial infrastructure), and

- (f) the remainder related to issues out of the scope of this engagement.

28. From the data collected between lockdowns, the following observations, at this time, can be made:

- (a) the proportion of women and children cycling on Elizabeth Street has increased. This aligns with Council objectives to get a wider cross section of society cycling in Yarra;
- (b) peak hour cycle journeys have reduced although interpeak trips have also increased. This could be down due to COVID-19 and/or the provision of safe facilities which are used for a broader range of purposes throughout the day;
- (c) 575 people have so far participated in intercept surveys on Elizabeth Street across the three quarters. 71% of survey participants encompassing a wide range of people using Elizabeth Street for various purposes across various transport modes said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the project. This is a positive number particularly given approximately 70% of all respondents had not cycled to Elizabeth Street when interviewed;
- (d) further segmentation of the data showed that those most likely to be unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with the project tended to be people primarily using cars as a mode of transport;
- (e) the average vehicle speeds are now slightly lower;
- (f) traffic volumes have varied for obvious reasons;

Note:

- (i) the traffic volumes were lower, but have trended upwards at various times of the year depending on the COVID-19 situation; and
 - (ii) this trend is consistent with traffic volumes across inner-Melbourne. It is assumed this is because people are avoiding public transport due to physical distancing, it could also be because some people do not feel safe using a bicycle on Melbourne's roads and consequently choose to drive; and
- (g) three rounds of extensive on-street and off-street car parking surveys covering thousands of spaces have been undertaken to date. This has shown that parking is still available in the local area. (NB. it should be noted that finding on-street parking is a common challenge for a busy inner-city area and street space is finite).

29. It is also noted that since the installation in July 2020, a number of small adjustments have been made to the trial in response to community feedback; these include:

- (a) removal of some bollards to reduce street clutter;
- (b) additional signage;
- (c) changes to some car parking restrictions;
- (d) the installation of disability permit bay; and
- (e) improvements to visibility splays for cars entering Elizabeth Street from side streets.

Options

30. There are two options available to Council.

31. **Option 1 – determine a position on the protected bike lanes.**

32. **Option 1** is that Council resolves to make a decision on the trial as soon as is practically possible. There are 2 sub options outlined below for Council consideration.

33. This would need to use data that has been collected over the course of the previous 12 months during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

34. Under this scenario officers would report back to Council on permanent options for Elizabeth Street. These options would include:

- (a) Option 1(a): returning the road to its pre-trial design. That is, reinstallation of relatively narrow unprotected bike lanes next to parked cars (on both sides of the road) and passing traffic; and
- (b) Option 1 (b): installing permanent protected bike lanes, trees and other street treatments.

NB. There is significant capital funding required to complete the works in a permanent manner; and this would be subject to further reporting to Council. It is noted that any permanent protected bike lanes works is in the many hundred of thousands of dollars.

- 35. **Option 2 – determine to extend the trial due to COVID-19 impacts on evaluation**
- 36. **Option 2** is that Council resolves to extend the trial by 12 months (e.g. from the date that 80% of the Victorian population is fully vaccinated being November). This would then be post metropolitan wide lockdowns enabling for people's lives to return to some semblance of normality or a new post COVID-19 normality.
- 37. In this option, the evaluation processes would continue and provide a more realistic appraisal of the trial project to inform future decisions making by the Council. Officers would also explore opportunities for State Government to fund any permanent protected bike lane treatment on Elizabeth Street and report back as part of future discussions on treatments for this street.

NB. Some costs would be minor repair works to the road pavement as required which is anticipated to be approx. \$30K for a 12 months period.

Officer Recommendation on options

- 38. The officer recommendation is for Council to extend the trial (Option 2): so that more data can be collected for a solid 12-month period that is not peppered with lockdowns and significant disruptions to how people live and travel. It would also allow time for officers to pursue opportunities for State Government to help fund any permanent protected bike lanes in the future.
- 39. In Option 2, all aspects of how the trial currently operates, managed and monitored as agreed as part of the December 2019 resolution, would continue. This would include:
 - (a) continuing with the specific existing design as installed in July 2020 (and endorsed by Council in December 2019 and endorsed again in October 2020);
 - (b) continuing to authorise the Director, Planning and Place Making to instruct staff to make minor (or tweak type) adjustments to the trial where appropriate, and until Council forms an opinion on its future;
 - (c) continuing the program of data collection and survey work;
 - (d) continuing with a further pop up engagement event in the street in February 2022 targeted at the CALD community; and
 - (e) officers continuing to keep Councillors informed on the above matters, including the survey and intercept data reports.

Community and stakeholder engagement

- 40. The formal Council meeting process provides an opportunity for external parties to comment on the topic of extending this existing protected bike lane trial. No other consultation has been undertaken on the specific topic of extending the trial.
- 41. Discussions have occurred with the City Works Division of Council to understand the road surface and trial infrastructure maintenance aspects should the trial be extended. The outcomes of these discussions are that a scheduled road re-sheet can be moved back as need be, without causing a significant asset management issue. Low cost patch ups (approx. \$ 30 K) to the road surface can also be undertaken as required over the next 12 months.

- 42. It is noted that the trial infrastructure (bollards, decals, signage and other things) is holding up relatively well and could remain in situ (with some patching as required), should the trial be extended by Council.
- 43. Council policies and procedures regarding CALD community consultation have been followed during the trial and would continue if the trial is extended by Council.
- 44. Further communication to the community would be implemented with all relevant stakeholders and residents to outline any extension of the trial or other decisions of Council.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

- 45. The project is a pilot and trial of protected bike lanes in a particular street which is on a 'strategic cycling corridor'.
- 46. The Council Plan encourages the use of trials to improve safety in a specific environment.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

- 47. Undertaking pilot and trials, and providing protected bike lanes to deliver infrastructure quickly, and relatively cheaply, to encourage cycling is consistent with a number Council's transport and Climate Emergency Plan objectives.

Community and social implications

- 48. There are not any known new social implications are associated with extending or not extending the trial.
- 49. Some community members have previously expressed concerns and implications of the trial. These were expressed in the September 2020 Council report and discussed at that meeting.

Economic development implications

- 50. No known economic implications associated specifically with extending the trial.
- 51. Some minor changes to the trial were made previously in response to feedback from a trader at the western end of the street.

Human rights and gender equality implications

- 52. There are no known specific human rights implications.
- 53. Some access, amenity and or economic issues have been expressed including from local religious organisations.
- 54. The intent of the pilot and trial, in part, is to encourage more usage of cycling as a means of accessing the city by all persons, including females and children, who at times, may be more anxious about cycling on roads with no protected lanes.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

- 55. The financial implications depend on the option being considered by Council. In this regard:
 - (a) the option of extending the trial for say 12 months (Option 2) would be the cost of incurring some minor road maintenance and material maintenance of approx. \$ 30 K to \$ 40 K; and
 - (b) the cost of returning the road to its pre-trial design would be approximately \$80 K (that is, to remove the trial infrastructure and reinstate the line-marking to the pre-trail condition).
- 56. It is highlighted that changing / rearranging road space with permanent works is very expensive – that is why a trial has occurred in the first instance for evaluation purposes.
- 57. It is noted for illustration, that the Wellington Street protected bike lanes (with concrete separator islands) was very expensive with a large component paid by State Government.

58. The cost of any permanent changes to install protected bike lanes in Elizabeth Street aligned to the cross section of the current trial, include the following:
- (a) a full resheet of the full road of some \$ 700 K; that needs to be done within the next few years in any event; it is currently scheduled for 23/24;
 - (b) any permanent protected bike infrastructure (e.g. concrete kerbs / tree installations / soil preparations for trees etc) would need to be subject to full design aspects being resolved and what standard of fittings Council may determine to use – in this regard, the full cost of permanent protected bike lane infrastructure could range from \$500 K to approx. \$ 1 M, or possibly more (tbd through design work and specific costings); and
 - (c) any other variations of the current profile of the trial project (e.g. any crossings) would also need to be costed.
59. Further rounds of data collection and intercept survey work would be required.

Legal Implications

60. There are no known legal implication of an extension to the trial due to current circumstances of COVID-19 lockdowns over an extended period.

Conclusion

61. The Elizabeth Street protected bike lane trial was installed as a pilot and trial in July 2020. This approval by Council included specific dimensions of the various lanes – the reasons were outlined in the previous reports.
62. This route is on the 'strategic cycle corridor' in and out of the central city area and importantly, joins up with the separated bike lanes in Albert Street, East Melbourne.
63. The pilot and trial was endorsed to run for 12 months with Council due to decide on a permanent treatment within six months of the conclusion of the trial.
64. The pilot and trial is to inform future decision making of Council, and if were to be made permanent by a Council decision, it would also enable some tree planting on the northern side of the roadway, between the carriageway and the bike lane, as a means of separation, but also to provide upper canopy trees once they achieve semi maturity. This would add to the ambience of the street and add shade to the street which is currently lacking.
65. Three rounds of quarterly data collection have been completed over a 12-month period that has been heavily disrupted due to COVID-19 lockdowns; a fourth and final round has not been possible due to continual lockdowns over many months since mid this year.
66. This report provides options for the Council consideration; with one option being to consider extending the trial. That option would enable additional data to be collected during a new COVID-19 normal to inform decision making on the future of the pilot and trial and what should be the permanent treatment for Elizabeth Street.
67. Council is asked to determine the future of the current pilot and trial protected bike lanes on Elizabeth Street, Richmond and provide direction to officers.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the contents of the officers report on the Elizabeth Street protected bike lanes pilot and trial; and
 - (b) notes the options outlined for Council consideration, including abandoning the trial, or continuing with the trial at this stage for a further period in order to assess its performance with additional data.
2. That Council, having noted the officer report and options presented, now determine a course of action regarding the current pilot and trial protected bike lanes in Elizabeth Street, Richmond in order to provide direction to Council officers.
3. That, if this pilot and trial of protected bike lanes on Elizabeth Street is to continue for a further period of time, Council resolve as follows:
 - (a) to retain the current layout and configuration of the project as it currently exists including the specific width of the cycling lanes to provide lanes with maximum safety and passing manoeuvres on a strategic cycling route;
 - (b) to authorise the Director, Planning and Place Making to instruct staff to make minor adjustments to the trial, where appropriate, until Council forms an opinion on its future;
 - (c) that officers continue with the program of data collection and survey work to inform future Council decisions;
 - (d) that officers arrange a further pop up engagement event in the street in February 2022 targeted at the CALD community to gather further community opinions;
 - (e) to continue to run and monitor the *Your Say Yarra* web page regarding this trial; and
 - (f) note that officers will continue to provide updates to Councillors once further survey results are received.

Attachments

- 1 Elizabeth Street Memo Q1
- 2 Elizabeth Street Memo Q2
- 3 Elizabeth Street Memo Q3

8.3 Annual Grants 2022 Recommendations Report

Executive Summary

Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement of the Community Grants Panel's grant recommendations for the Annual Grants 2022 program.

Key Issues

The Annual Grants program continues to strengthen the community sector through providing a flexible and responsive source of funds to community-based not-for-profit organisations. Funding is used to support projects that deliver outcomes aligned with the Council Plan and target the areas of highest need within the community. A total of 220 applications were received across twelve grant streams. This is an increase of 22 from last year when we received 198 applications.

Financial Implications

One hundred and fifty-nine applications have been recommended to receive funding totalling \$1,003,280. Council approved the 2022 Annual Grants budget in the Guidelines and Budget for the Annual Grants 2022, Small Project Grants 2021-22 and Room to Create Grants 2021-22 on 24 June 2021 (D21/55405).

PROPOSAL

That Council endorses the Community Grants Panel's recommendations for the Annual Grants 2022 program as presented in the attachments to this report.

8.3 Annual Grants 2022 Recommendations Report

Reference	D21/157943
Author	Michael Van Vliet - Team Leader Community Grants
Authoriser	Manager Social Strategy and Community Development

Purpose

1. This report seeks Council endorsement of the community grants panel's recommendations for the Annual Grants 2022 program.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Yarra City Council's Community Grants Program is a significant investment in the community. It is one of Victoria's leading local government grant programs, through which the Council has established a reputation for its strong support for the community.
3. The Community Grants Program aims to:
 - (a) develop partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve Council's strategic directions;
 - (b) direct resources to both the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups;
 - (c) develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues;
 - (d) support local groups, activities and community connectedness; and
 - (e) support community organisations to develop skills and increase community participation.
4. The Annual Grants program is one of the primary avenues of support by Council to community-led projects and activities. The grants provide funding to a wide range of activities by some of Yarra's leading not-for-profit organisations and grassroots community organisations as well as to individual artists.
5. A total of 220 applications were received across 12 categories of grants requesting a total of \$1.8m funding. One hundred and fifty-nine applications have been recommended to receive funding totalling \$1,003,280.
6. On 24 June 2021 Council approved the Annual Grants 2022 objectives, guidelines, assessment process and budget in the Community Grants 2020-2021 Initiation Report (Content Manager reference D21/55405). The Annual Grants were open for applications for seven weeks between 25 June and 15 August 2021.
7. The Annual Grants are divided into 12 funding streams: Arts Development, Climate Action, Community Arts, Community Celebrations, Community Housing, Community Strengthening, Community Support, Family and Early Years, Festivals and Events, Social Enterprise, Sport & Recreation and Youth & Middle Years.
8. The Annual Grants are subject to regular review to improve the administration of the program and accessibility for applicants. Feedback provided by previous grant applicants, Council officers and other local government grant makers was incorporated into the current program.
9. Consultation and engagement activities were undertaken to support access to the grants program. Applicants were advised to contact Council officers before submitting their application to discuss project ideas and gain assistance with the application process, including understanding program objectives, criteria and eligibility requirements.

Discussion

10. There are no issues for discussion.

Options

11. There are no options.

Community and stakeholder engagement

12. The Annual Grants are a competitive grant round and the recommendations are made by external panels comprised of community representatives. The assessment process comprises the following stages as listed in the Initiation Report:
- (a) Stage 1: An eligibility check conducted by Council officers;
 - (b) Stage 2: Internal Assessment. Council officers assessed the applications against a series of criteria such as the capacity of the applicant to deliver on project outcomes, clearly defined project aims, a complete and realistic budget and alignment with Council funding priorities;
 - (c) Stage 3: Community panels assess the applications and decide on the final recommendations to Council. A total of 26 Yarra stakeholders comprise the various panels. Community panels are comprised of external experts along with some Council officers with relevant knowledge; and
 - (d) Stage 4: Final Council endorsement.
13. Council officers from the Sustainability team, Family, Youth and Children, Sport and Recreation, Arts and Culture, and the Community Development unit are closely involved with the grant assessment process. Officers from each unit help determine the grant criteria and determine the panels which make the grant recommendations.
14. Officers seek feedback on the grants process from Council Officers to promote a culture of continuous evaluation and improvement.
15. Personal assistance in completing grant applications was provided to more than 30 groups from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD). The grants unit assisted groups to clarify their projects, develop project plans and provided technical assistance to submit the applications using the online grants management system. Interpreters were used as necessary.
16. The 36 applicants under the Community Strengthening stream of grants, who mainly consist of CALD elderly groups, will be offered a three-year funding agreement as per the Council direction on 24 June 2021. This will save on the administrative burden to these groups having to apply annually for their grant, which is essentially an organisational support grant. They will still be required to report annually on their spending and acquit the grant on an annual basis. This group of applicants will receive total of \$131,500 per annum over the next three years. This will assist the groups to plan their activities with a set income over several years. The recommended grant amounts range from \$3,000 to \$4,000 per annum.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

17. The Community Grants objectives are in close alignment with the newly adopted Council Plan 2021 – 25 and Community Vision. Community Grants are intended to support the delivery of the Council Plan and are a key way in which those objectives can be achieved in partnership with the community.
18. All six strategic objectives of the Council Plan are supported through the Grants Program, either via the programs that are proposed and delivered, or through the process of empowering community groups and organisations to deliver them.
19. The objectives from the Council Plan in alignment include:

- (a) Social Equity and Health – The Grants Program provides a flexible and responsive source of funds to support projects in the not-for-profit sector. The program also supports community organisations in the recreational and sporting sector to encourage greater participation and strengthen their capacity to deliver activities for the wellbeing of the community;
 - (b) Democracy and Government – The Grants program empowers community panels to participate in the process of assessing and recommending grants for programs that impact directly on their community;
 - (c) Climate and Environment, Place and Nature and Transport and Movement – These three strategic objectives are served by the inclusion of the Climate Action stream in the Grants Program. The Climate Action stream was increased by \$98,000 at Council, enabling a greater number of initiatives to be included in the recommendations; and
 - (d) Local Economy – The Social Enterprise stream of the Grants Program supports the strategic objective of supporting and inspiring diverse creative communities to contribute to the local economy.
20. Other key strategic plans and policies which inform Annual Grants include the 0-25 Years Plan 2018-2022 – Early Years, Middle Years and Youth, Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2024, Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2018-2024, Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2023, Yana Ngargna Plan, Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2024 and the Yarra Volunteering Strategy 2019-2023.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

- 21. The Climate Action stream aims to encourage and support projects that align with the Yarra Environment Strategy. The stream had 26 applications requesting \$179,000 for projects totalling \$865,000 in value. This compares with 15 applications in the 2021 Annual Grants.
- 22. The funding pool for Climate Action grants has increased from \$42,000 in 2020 to \$113,000 this year following a successful discretionary budget bid. Recommended projects address issues such as climate action, waste reduction, recycling, food security and environmental sustainability.
- 23. All applicants were advised that Council will give preference to those who consider incorporating activities that improve the sustainable outcomes of their projects. The application form requires applicants to consider ways of reducing and reusing resources.
- 24. Annual Grants applications are submitted and managed through an online grants management system. The online system means that applications do not need to be printed as the assessment process is performed online. The online grants management system has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the amount of paper used in the grants process.

Community and social implications

- 25. The Annual Grants program aims to address a number of social needs across such areas as: arts and culture, sustainability, community development, sport and recreation, family, children and youth. The following social objectives are addressed within the grants program as they build a sense of community through:
 - (a) cultural activities (community celebrations, observance of traditional celebration days, cultural festivals and events);
 - (b) recognition of diversity (projects that strengthen Yarra's diverse community or celebrate and recognise diversity);
 - (c) social cohesion (projects which seek to bring people together and support the development of communities with shared aims and aspirations); and
 - (d) promoting and improving community health and wellbeing through:
 - (i) recreation opportunities (sports, social recreation, walking and improving access to recreational activities);

- (ii) improving health and wellbeing (food insecurity, nutrition, skills development, health information, social engagement and support); and
 - (iii) promoting community safety through diversionary or preventive projects.
26. Sixty-four applications (30% of all applications) were for projects that take place in one of Yarra's public housing estates or primarily engage public housing residents.

Economic development implications

27. The Annual Grants continue to strengthen the community sector through providing a flexible and responsive source of funds to community-based not-for-profit organisations. Funding is used to support projects that deliver outcomes outlined within the Council Plan and target the areas of highest need within the community. The ultimate aim is to improve the long-term outlook for local families and businesses through strengthening the capacity of the local not-for-profit sector and generate economic activity.
28. Annual Grants also redistribute funds to the disadvantaged in the community. The festivals and events bring economic benefits and assist with branding Yarra as a destination city. Projects that support new arrivals, young people and families through skills development or projects that support service coordination have a direct economic benefit.

Human rights and gender equality implications

29. The Annual Grants Guidelines are in alignment with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and actively supports people to participate in and contribute to their community.
30. The Annual Grants applications seek information on how applicants will address issues of gender inequality in their proposed initiative, ensuring that planning and forethought on this issue is addressed from the outset.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

31. At the time of the initiation report going to Council in June, the budget had yet to be decided. A total of \$965,000 was recommended for the Annual Grants budget at the time, and at budget endorsement, the Annual Grants budget was increased by \$98,000, which was added to the Climate Action stream bringing the whole program's total to \$1,063,000.
32. Increasing the amount by \$98,000 meant the Climate Action Pool increased from \$30,000 to \$128,000. As \$113,000 was recommended in the Climate Action pool, the remaining \$15,000 will return to the Small Projects Grants 2022 for small projects with a climate action focus.
33. From the Sports and Recreation stream of the Annual Grants allocation (\$56,000), a total of \$32,341 is recommended allocation to grants, with the remaining \$23,659 being allocated to the Small Project funding pool (\$20,000) where not-for-profit sports clubs can apply for funding for equipment or capacity building programs throughout the year, and the remaining \$3659 will be allocated to minor asset improvements of community facilities.
34. A total of \$1,003,280 has been recommended for 159 grants. This is an increase from 2021 when \$939,273 was awarded to 143 grants.
35. Applicants were asked to specify the total cost of their project, as well as the amount requested from Council. In total, more than \$1.8m was requested for projects worth more than \$9.5m.
36. Council is enabling larger projects to take place through its funding. For example, if the total cost of a project is \$10,000 and \$2,000 is requested with the remaining \$8,000 to be raised by the community or provided by in-kind donations or other grant funding, then Council's \$2,000 enables a \$10,000 community benefit. **Table 1** shows that \$1,003,280 of Council funding enables projects to occur that have a dollar value of more than \$6.2m. This does not include the sizable social value also generated by these projects.

Table 1

Overall spending on Grants by Council	Overall project value that Council has enabled	Leverage potential of Granting
\$1,003,280	\$6,200,000	\$1 spent: \$6.20 value

Legal Implications

37. There are no identified legal issues.

Conclusion

38. The recommendations for Yarra City Council's Annual Grant 2022 program are provided in the attachments to this report. All applicants are to be commended for their efforts. The grants round is competitive and there is a significant commitment from the citizens of Yarra and local groups and organisations to be involved in this process to the benefit of all.
39. The Annual Grants are one of the major ways in which Yarra City Council demonstrates its commitment to supporting the community and highlights the diversity of community-initiated projects, events and activities that take place across the municipality and making Yarra such a vibrant place to live.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:
- (a) Council endorse the Annual Grants 2022 Community Grants panel's recommendations as listed in **Attachment One** to award 143 grants totalling \$1,003,280; and
 - (b) Council thank the members of the Community Grants Panels for their time, deliberation and commitment to Yarra's Community Grants program.

Attachments

- 1 Alphabetical list of grant recommendations
- 2 Annual Grants 2022 Recommended
- 3 Annual Grants 2022 Not Recommended Report - *Confidential*
- 4 List of Annual Grant Assessment Panel Members - *Confidential*

8.4 2021/22 Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report September

Reference	D21/173460
Author	Emily Woodin - Coordinator Business Planning and Performance
Authoriser	Manager Corporate Planning and Performance

Purpose

1. To present the 2021/22 Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report September to Council for endorsement.
2. To present changes to the 2021/22 Annual Plan to strengthen alignment to the Council Plan 2021-25.

Critical analysis

History and background

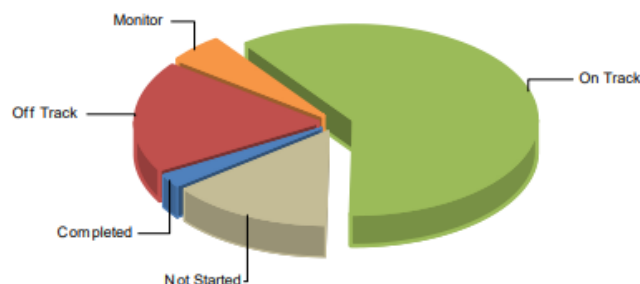
3. The Annual Plan is the organisation's annual response to Initiatives contained in the four year Council Plan. Council Plan Initiatives are significant projects and activities that are proposed to be worked on over the term of the Council Plan.
4. The Annual Plan and Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Reports are two of Council's key accountability documents to the community.
5. The Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report notes the year-to-date progress of the Annual Plan Actions and Milestones providing a performance rating and supporting commentary.
6. The 2021/22 Annual Plan was endorsed by Council on 24 June 2021 and is fully funded in the 2021/22 Budget.
7. At the time of endorsement of the 2021/22 Annual Plan, the actions were aligned to the Council Plan 2017-21. The resolution at adoption referenced a realignment of the actions to the Council Plan 2021-25.
8. The Council Plan 2021-25 was adopted on 19 October 2021 and actions in the 2021/22 Annual Plan have been realigned in accordance with the resolution.
9. This year, 2021/22, represents the first year of the Council Plan 2021-25.

Discussion

Quarterly Progress Report September

10. The 2021/22 Annual Plan contains 44 Actions, 37 were scheduled to have commenced in the September quarter, 5 actions are scheduled to commence in the December quarter and 2 actions' milestones have not been determined due to the impact of COVID-19.
11. The result as of 30 September, is 37 Actions commenced and 27 (73%) of those Actions achieved a result of Completed/On Track.
12. The result of 73% is measured against the performance target of 75%.
13. The COVID-19 restrictions and community lockdowns continued to have a significant impact on Council services and projects during the first quarter. From the closure of recreational facilities and programs, libraries and service centres, suspension of programs, to disruptions of works and construction projects and the challenges to undertake community consultation and engagement activities. These factors have impacted on our ability to complete several September milestones in the Annual Plan in the attached progress report.

14. A mid-year review of the 2021/22 Annual Plan will be undertaken in December when we have a clearer understanding of the impact the recent extended lockdown has had on our original targets.
15. Annual Plan Action progress summary as at 31 September 2021:



Strategic Objective	No. of Actions Reported	Complete	On track (>=90%)	Monitor (75-90%)	Off track (<75%)	Not Started
Climate and environment	5	0	4	0	0	1
Social equity and health	15	0	11	0	2	2
Local economy	1	0	0	0	1	0
Place and nature	13	0	7	0	3	3
Transport and movement	5	0	2	1	2	0
Democracy and governance	5	1	2	1	0	1
	44 (100%)	1 (2.27%)	26 (59.09%)	2 (4.55%)	8 (18.18%)	7 (15.91%)

16. The following thresholds are used to determine the status of an action:
 - (a) (a) On track $\geq 90\%$
 - (b) (b) Monitor 75-89%
 - (c) (c) Off track $< 75\%$.
17. The 10 actions where progress was rated monitor (75-89%) or off-track ($< 75\%$) are:

Monitor status:

 - (a) 5.05 Gipps Street intersection safety improvements;
 - (b) 6.05 Develop Yarra as a Smart City; using technology to enhance liveability;

Off track:

 - (c) 2.04 Safeguarding Children and Young People Action plan (2021-2024);
 - (d) 2.10 National Aged Care and Disability Reform;
 - (e) 3.01 Precinct/Business Grants to facilitate local activation;
 - (f) 4.04 State Government suburban parks program;
 - (g) 4.05 New open space planning and design, Cremorne;
 - (h) 4.06 Brunswick Street Activity Centre Urban Design – Kerr Street outstand;
 - (i) 5.01 Public Transport Advocacy; and
 - (j) 5.05 Road safety studies and implementation program.
18. The action 2.04 Safeguarding Children and Young People Action Plan (2021-2024) is off track due the State Government announcement of new Child Safe Standards that took effect 01 July 2021. This is an external factor outside of Council's control.

19. The milestones for action 2.04 Safeguarding Children and Young People Action plan (2021-2024) are proposed to be changed to reflect the status of the work that responds to the new Child Safe Standards. These are:

September	Conduct review of previous Child Safe Action Plan (2019 - 2021)
December	Continue implementation of actions carried over from previous plan and organisational readiness activities in preparation for introduction of new Victorian Child Safe Standards (effective 01 July 2021)
	Seek endorsement of Year 1 Action Plan (2021/22)
	Commence implementation of Year 1 actions
March	Continue to implement Year 1 actions
June	Report to Executive on progress and outcomes

Proposed realignment changes

20. The endorsed Annual Plan has been realigned to the new Council Plan and this process identified that there were some potential gaps in the current 2021/22 Annual Plan when compared to the Council Plan 2021-25.
21. Actions in the endorsed 2021/22 Annual Plan have been reviewed by Officers and Executive against the Council Plan 2021-25 Initiatives.
22. The proposed changes to the 2021/22 Annual Plan will create a stronger link to the Council Plan 2021-25.
23. The proposed changes relate to work that Council is already doing or planning for, that wasn't included in the endorsed 2021/22 Annual Plan that feature in the new Council Plan or align with Council Plan Initiatives. Changes are funded and align with existing commitments.
24. The proposed changes are:

Strategic Objective: Climate and environment

• **1.01 Climate Emergency changed to 'Climate Emergency Plan'**

Additional milestones that relate to installation of solar panels on Council buildings and supporting business and vulnerable communities in the climate emergency:

September	Shortlist sites for installation of solar panels on Council buildings
March	Engage Yarra businesses seeking to go 100% renewable through a group Power Purchase Arrangement (PPA) process
June	Complete installation of solar panels on Council owned buildings
	Implement the Heathy Homes project, through carrying out energy retrofits to support vulnerable and low-income households to improve energy efficiency and thermal comfort

• **New Action: 1.02 Roadmap to zero**

Council will develop a 'road map to zero' report, to inform Council of the actions needed to drive significant carbon emissions reductions towards meeting a zero net emissions target for the whole municipality of Yarra by 2030.

Milestones

September	Engage with consultants to develop a Roadmap to Zero for Council
March	Provide Roadmap to Zero to Council

• **New Action: 1.07 Food waste avoidance program**

In partnership with other areas of Council, as well as community groups and organisations, we will deliver a broad education and engagement program to empower

the Yarra community to reduce food waste over the next twelve months, and into the future.

Quarterly Milestones

March Develop plan, website, tools and collateral to support the Yarra community to reduce food waste

June Implement the plan to support the Yarra community to reduce food waste

- **New Action: 1.08 Proud to be Plastic Free Program**

The Proudly Plastic Free program is a behaviour change campaign aimed at reducing the use of single use plastic packaging in food traders and educating the community on plastic waste avoidance.

Milestones

December Build on past actions and experience promoting waste reduction to develop a behaviour change program to reduce the use of single use plastic packaging throughout Yarra

March Commence delivery of the behaviour change program

Strategic Objective: Local economy

- **New Action: 3.02 Outdoor Activation**

In response to COVID-19, Yarra implemented an outdoor dining program to support hospitality businesses to trade safely outdoors. In October 2021 the Victorian Government granted Yarra with \$1.5 million to support outdoor activation across all industry and business types.

Milestones

September Commence identification and planning of outdoor activation projects

December Present permanent Parklet Policy to Council

Commence first phase of outdoor activation projects

Open parklet program

March Commence second phase of outdoor activation projects

June Complete all outdoor activation activities and acquit funds

- **New Action: 3.03 Yarra's Business Application Support (YBAS) program**

The Yarra Business Application Support (YBAS) program is in its second year and continues to offer new businesses a 'concierge style' process where they deal with one point of contact for all their permit requirements.

Milestones

December Complete review of year including trend analysis

June Complete midyear trend analysis (ongoing)

- **New Action: 3.04 Revitalisation of North Richmond State Government Project**

State government funding has enabled a dedicated Council Economic Development officer to work directly with Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the North Richmond community to develop and commence delivery of a North Richmond Precinct Action Plan (NRPAP).

Milestones

September Complete action planning workshops with reference groups and translate into draft North Richmond Precinct Action Plan (NRPAP)

December Launch NRPAP and select year one projects

March	Commence and implement Year 1 projects Plan Year 2 projects
June	Complete and launch Year 1 projects (funded FY2122). Finalise Year 2 plans

25. Once endorsed, the new actions and milestones will form part of the 2021/22 Annual Plan and will be reported on in future quarterly progress reports.

Options

26. There are no options for consideration in the report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

27. Significant community engagement and consultation was undertaken during the development of the 2021/22 Budget, Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-25. The 2021/22 Annual Plan reflects the community priorities identified during these processes.
28. Projects contained in the 2021/22 Annual Plan are subject to external consultation and engagement on a case-by-case basis.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

29. The 2021/22 Annual Plan represents Year 1 of the Council Plan 2021-25 adopted on 19 October 2021.
30. The Council Plan 2021-25 addresses Yarra 2036 Community Vision with alignment and between the Vision Themes and Priorities and the Council Plan's Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Initiatives.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

31. The Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective 'Climate and environment' that addresses climate emergency and sustainability implications. The 2021/22 Annual Plan includes five actions that respond to Initiatives under this Strategic Objective.
32. A further three actions are proposed to be included in 'Climate and environment' to align to Initiatives in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Community and social implications

33. The Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective 'Social equity and health' that addresses community and social implications. The 2021/22 Annual Plan includes 12 actions that respond to Initiatives under this Strategic Objective.
34. The Council Plan 2021-25 incorporates the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan that guides how Council will promote health and wellbeing across the municipality.

Economic development implications

35. The Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective 'Local economy' that addresses economic development implications. The 2021/22 Annual Plan includes one action that responds to Initiatives under this Strategic Objective.
36. A further three actions are proposed to be included in 'Local economy' to align to Initiatives in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Human rights and gender equality implications

37. The Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective 'Social equity and health' that addresses human rights and gender equality implications. The 2021/22 Annual Plan includes three actions that respond to Initiatives under this Strategic Objective.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

38. Actions in the 2021/22 Annual Plan, and new actions included to strengthen alignment between the 2021/22 Annual Plan and Council Plan 2021-25, are resourced within the 2021/22 Budget.

Legal Implications

39. There are no legal implications.

Conclusion

40. The 2021/22 Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report September (Attachment 1) is presented to Council for noting.
41. Changes to the 2021/22 Annual Plan to strengthen alignment to the Council Plan 2021-25 are presented to Council for endorsement.
42. Once endorsed, the new actions and milestones will form part of the 2021/22 Annual Plan and will be reported on in future quarterly progress reports.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:

- (a) Council note the 2021/22 Annual Plan Progress Report for September
- (b) Council endorse the following changes to the 2021/22 Annual Plan:

- (i) 1.01 Climate Emergency Plan

Add milestones

September Shortlist sites for installation of solar panels on Council buildings

March Engage Yarra businesses seeking to go 100% renewable through a group Power Purchase Arrangement (PPA) process

June Complete installation of solar panels on Council owned buildings

Implement the Heathy Homes project, through carrying our energy retrofits to support vulnerable and low-income households to improve energy efficiency and thermal comfort

- (ii) 1.02 Roadmap to zero

Add Action and milestones

Council will develop a 'road map to zero' report, to inform Council of the actions needed to drive significant carbon emissions reductions towards meeting a zero net emissions target for the whole municipality of Yarra by 2030.

September Engage with consultants to develop a Roadmap to Zero for Council

March Provide Roadmap to Zero to Council

- (iii) 1.07 Food waste avoidance program

Add Action and milestones

In partnership with other areas of Council, as well as community groups and organisations, we will deliver a broad education and engagement program to empower the Yarra community to reduce food waste over the next twelve months, and into the future.

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- | | | |
|--|-------|---|
| | March | Develop plan, website, tools and collateral to support the Yarra community to reduce food waste |
| | June | Implement the plan to support the Yarra community to reduce food waste |
- (iv) 1.08 Proud to be Plastic Free Program
- Add Action and milestones
- The Proudly Plastic Free program is a behaviour change campaign aimed at reducing the use of single use plastic packaging in food traders and educating the community on plastic waste avoidance.
- | | | |
|--|----------|---|
| | December | Build on past actions and experience promoting waste reduction to develop a behaviour change program to reduce the use of single use plastic packaging throughout Yarra |
| | March | Commence delivery of the behaviour change program |
- (v) 2.04 Safeguarding Children and Young People Action Plan (2021-2024)
- Remove milestones
- | | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| | September | Seek endorsement of Year 1 Action Plan (2021-2022) |
| | | Commence implementation of Year 1 actions |
| | June | Finalise implementation of Year 1 actions |
| | | Report to Executive on Year 1 Action Plan |
- Add milestones
- | | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| | September | Conduct review of previous Child Safe Action Plan (2019 - 2021) |
| | December | Continue implementation of actions carried over from previous plan and organisational readiness activities in preparation for introduction of new Victorian Child Safe Standards (effective 01 July 2021) |
| | | Seek endorsement of Year 1 Action Plan (2021/22) |
| | | Commence implementation of Year 1 actions |
| | March | Continue to implement Year 1 actions |
| | June | Report to Executive on progress and outcomes |
- (vi) 3.02 Outdoor Activation
- Add Action and Milestones
- In response to COVID-19, Yarra implemented an outdoor dining program to support hospitality businesses to trade safely outdoors. In October 2021 the Victorian Government granted Yarra with \$1.5 million to support outdoor activation across all industry and business types.
- Quarterly Milestones
- | | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| | September | Commence identification and planning of outdoor activation projects |
| | December | Present permanent Parklet Policy to Council |
| | | Commence first phase of outdoor activation projects |
| | | Open parklet program |
| | March | Commence second phase of outdoor activation projects |
-

- June Complete all outdoor activation activities and acquit funds
- (vii) 3.03 Yarra's Business Application Support (YBAS) program
- Add Action and Milestones
- The Yarra Business Application Support (YBAS) program is in its second year and continues to offer new businesses a 'concierge style' process where they deal with one point of contact for all their permit requirements.
- December Complete review of year including trend analysis
- June Complete midyear trend analysis (ongoing)
- (viii) 3.04 Revitalisation of North Richmond State Government Project
- Add Action and Milestones
- State government funding has enabled a dedicated Council Economic Development officer to work directly with Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the North Richmond community to develop and commence delivery of the North Richmond Precinct Action Plan (NRPAP).
- Quarterly Milestones
- September Complete action planning workshops with reference groups and translate into the draft North Richmond Precinct Action Plan (NRPAP)
- December Launch NRPAP and select Year 1 projects
- March Commence and implement Year 1 projects
- Plan Year 2 projects
- June Complete and launch Year 1 projects (funded FY2122)
- Finalise Year 2 plans

Attachments

- 1 2021/22 Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report September

9.1 Notice of Motion No. 14 of 2021 - Half masting of Australian Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag

Reference	D21/158884
Author	Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

I, Councillor Bridgid O'Brien, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 23 November 2021:

"1. *That Council:*

- (a) *note the support of the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee for the lowering of the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag on dates of significance to Yarra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and as a symbol of Council's commitment to the ongoing journey of reconciliation;*
- (b) *update the Civic Flag Policy as shown at **Attachment One**, to include a new section at part 2.5 reading: "The Australian National Flag shall be removed and the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag shall be flown at half-mast at Collingwood Town Hall, Fitzroy Town Hall and Richmond Town Hall each year on:*
 - (i) *26 January;*
 - (ii) *15 April (anniversary of the release of National Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody on 15 April 1991);*
 - (iii) *26 May (National Sorry Day and the anniversary of the tabling in the Commonwealth Parliament of Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families on 26 May 1997); and*
 - (iv) *other dates determined by resolution of Council following consultation with the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee; and*
- (c) *update the Civic Flag Policy Community Flag Schedule as shown at **Attachment One** by no longer flying AFL football club flags during the early part of the finals series (to ensure consistency between the AFL men's and women's competition) or the Rainbow Flag on 8 December (to fly that flag on the four occasions identified in Council's adopted LGBTIQ+ Strategy)."*

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the support of the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee for the lowering of the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag on dates of significance to Yarra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and as a symbol of Council's commitment to the ongoing journey of reconciliation;
 - (b) update the Civic Flag Policy as shown at **Attachment One**, to include a new section at part 2.5 reading: "The Australian National Flag shall be removed and the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag shall be flown at half-mast at Collingwood Town Hall, Fitzroy Town Hall and Richmond Town Hall each year on:
 - (i) 26 January;
 - (ii) 15 April (anniversary of the release of *National Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* on 15 April 1991);
 - (iii) 26 May (National Sorry Day and the anniversary of the tabling in the Commonwealth Parliament of *Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families* on 26 May 1997); and
 - (iv) other dates determined by resolution of Council following consultation with the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee; and
 - (c) update the Civic Flag Policy Community Flag Schedule as shown at **Attachment One** by no longer flying AFL football club flags during the early part of the finals series (to ensure consistency between the AFL men's and women's competition) or the Rainbow Flag on 8 December (to fly that flag on the four occasions identified in Council's adopted LGBTIQA+ Strategy).

Attachments

- 1 Draft Civic Flag Policy - 23 November 2021