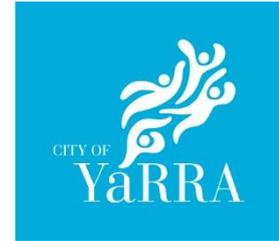


# Victorian Election Advocacy Priorities

Yarra City Council



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This election is an important opportunity for candidates and political parties to set out their vision for Victoria and how we – as a state – look to recover from the pandemic and invest in a healthy and sustainable future.

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Yarra City Council is seeking a commitment on 33 individual projects or initiatives that support positive outcomes in the community and help create a climate-safe, equitable and liveable Yarra.

## Taking real and tangible action to address the climate emergency

Council recognises that the climate emergency presents an unprecedented challenge – both globally and locally.

As part of a growing movement who have declared a climate emergency — over 1,400 jurisdictions across 30 countries — Yarra City Council recognises that a collective, global effort is needed across all levels of government, businesses and communities to address the climate crisis.

Council recognises that we need transformational change to rapidly reduce carbon emissions across the community and ensure our homes, business, community infrastructure and services are both sustainable and resilient to a changing climate.

To achieve this, Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to act on a number of key priorities that respond to and support real and tangible ways to address the climate emergency, including:

- ❖ Declaring a climate emergency at a State-level.
- ❖ Committing to incorporate a Zero Carbon Development Planning Scheme amendment into the planning scheme.
- ❖ Increasing investment in community-scale batteries, with a commitment to deliver a new community-scale battery in the City of Yarra.
- ❖ Increasing funding for public-use electric vehicle chargers, including a commitment to deliver \$250,000 for five new EV chargers across Yarra.
- ❖ Extending grants and funding programs to allow household heating and cooling upgrades to energy efficient appliances; and additional rebates for both households and business to install rooftop solar and solar batteries.
- ❖ Delivering a new funding program to support clean energy upgrades and improvements to community facilities and municipal infrastructure, such as town halls, pools and community centres.
- ❖ Investing in sustainable water solutions with \$4.9 million for Council's Gipps Street Flood Mitigation Project to find a long-term and sustainable flood mitigation solution.
- ❖ Providing increased funding to support innovation and market development in the circular economy sector, as well as funding for councils to develop and deliver local processing solutions.

## Creating a safe, inclusive and connected community

Yarra City Council is committed to creating a safe, inclusive and connected community where everyone is welcome and where all members of society have the opportunity to participate and receive the support and services they need.

To achieve this, Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to support initiatives that improve digital skills and literacy, foster community resilience and connectiveness, address racism and discrimination in all its forms, and address housing affordability and inequality, including:

- ❖ Providing \$250,000 for Yarra's "digital-ready" pilot to provide targeted digital literacy and skills training, and access to an accredited Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology for residents in Yarra's public housing estates.
- ❖ Local Government funding program to support collaborative procurement of digital assets, smart technologies and Internet of Things (IoT) services that promote positive community outcomes.
- ❖ Investing in community-based training and education to tackle racism, sexism and discrimination in the community.
- ❖ Implementing inclusionary zoning through the Victorian Planning Provisions and building more public housing in Yarra within the next term of State Government.

## Investing in local community infrastructure

Investing in and upgrading local community infrastructure is an important way in which local, state and federal governments can improve sustainability, liveability, opportunity and movement.

In recent years, Yarra City Council has partnered with the Victorian Government to deliver upgrades to many key community facilities and centres across the municipality. This includes the redevelopment of Jack Dyer Pavilion, Brunswick Street Oval and Ryan's Reserve.

At this election, Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to continue this work and increase the Victorian Government's investment in local infrastructure and ensuring we can meet the needs of the Yarra community now and into the future, including:

- ❖ \$9.3 million for the redesign and diversification of Burnley Golf Course.
- ❖ \$3.9 million for the redevelopment of Alphington Bowls Club to include a new community space, club facilities and public access.
- ❖ \$2.8 million to redevelop Gillon Pavilion in Burnley to improve facilities for female players, officials and visitors.
- ❖ \$2.5 million for ground, lighting and scoreboard improvements at Victoria Park to cater for elite women's sport, including national broadcasting of games.

## Improving movement and connectivity

Yarra City Council is committed to creating a city that is climate-safe, equitable and liveable for all residents and visitors. To do this and remain an attractive inner-city destination, Council must work with the Victorian Government to improve movement and connectivity across our municipality and ensure we create an accessible and reliable transport network that meets the needs of locals and broader metropolitan Melbourne.

This election is an important opportunity to invest in initiatives which will deliver on-the-ground improvements for locals while setting up our transport network to meet the needs of the future. Specifically, Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to support:

- ❖ A new, fit-for-purpose pedestrian and cycling bridge at Walmer Street.
- ❖ The redevelopment of Burnley Station as part of broader transport corridor and interchange improvements within the Swan Street precinct.
- ❖ Scoping and planning for an additional cycling and pedestrian river crossing aligned to new or improved priority cycling routes.
- ❖ A new bus route travelling between Burnley Station and La Trobe University along the Chandler Bridge.
- ❖ Delivering DDA-compliant tram stops across the municipality with a priority for urgent investments along Swan Street and Bridge Road.
- ❖ Partnering with Council to deliver 15km of new or improved cycling infrastructure, as well as the delivery of permanent cycling infrastructure along Heidelberg Road.

## Supporting growth and liveability in Cremorne

Cremorne is considered one of Australia's premier digital and online enterprise precincts and is an important part of the Yarra economy and community. The precinct, which is located south of Richmond abutting the Yarra River, is home to more than 2,000 residents, 700 businesses and accommodates more than 10,000 workers each day. It is home to many globally-renowned businesses in the digital and online services sector, as well as many long-term residents, and is experiencing significant growth as our wider economy shifts and evolves to take advantage of new technology and its uses.

In 2020, Council and the Victorian Government partnered to produce the Cremorne Place Implementation Plan (CPIP) which outlined a shared vision for Cremorne's future. This vision articulated a future where Cremorne continues to grow and thrive as both a business and residential area; and does so in a sustainable and liveable way.

To achieve this, Council is seeking to partner with the Victorian Government, local business and stakeholders to deliver improvements to the streetscape and infrastructure within the precinct and make Cremorne a place where everyone is welcome and where people love to work, live and visit.

Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to invest in the projects which support the growth and improved liveability of Cremorne, including:

- ❖ Funding the Cremorne Revitalisation Project (Stage 1) which will invest in streetscape, public realm transport and traffic upgrades along Cremorne Street.
- ❖ Partnering with Council and local stakeholders to deliver significant new open space in the precinct and improve pedestrian connectivity both within the precinct and its connections to transport, open space and nearby activity centres.

## Supporting arts and culture in Yarra

The arts and culture sector is important to Yarra, its economy and community. Yarra is known for its live music, with over 75 music venues across the municipality. It is also home to numerous galleries and visual arts studios, theatres, performance and literature venues, and public art.

Council is committed to supporting local arts and culture and ensuring that it can rebound and thrive following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent years, Council has worked closely with the Victorian Government to deliver new and innovative festivals and events, particularly in difficult and challenging circumstances.

As we recover from the pandemic, the arts community will play a vital role in re-establishing the things people love about Yarra and Melbourne more broadly.

Council is therefore seeking to continue its partnership with government to grow and enhance local arts and culture in Yarra with a commitment from candidates and parties to support local initiatives, including:

- ❖ \$1.5 million over four years to grow Yarra's Leaps and Bounds festival.
- ❖ \$1.2 million to grow and establish new Aboriginal arts, culture and design initiatives across the City of Yarra.
- ❖ \$500,000 to make the new and hugely successful Garden State Festival a regular and continuing event held in the City of Yarra.

## Revitalising our precincts, activity centres and suburbs

As an inner-city municipality, Yarra's infrastructure and services are used by many residents and visitors. Yarra's precincts and activity centres attract thousands of visitors from outside the municipality each week, while its great transport links, thriving economy and arts and culture scene continues to attract new residents and development across the municipality.

As a result, Council continues to work closely with local residents, business and the community to identify opportunities to invest in urban revitalisation and make our local precincts, activity centres and neighbourhoods better – through improved transport, streetscape design and connectivity, economic development and targeted activations and placemaking initiatives.

Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to invest in urban revitalisation projects that put economic growth, liveability and community outcomes at their centre, including:

- ❖ \$8.5 million to deliver new pocket parks in Richmond and Collingwood.
- ❖ \$5.2 million to support revitalisation of local suburbs and precincts, including streetscape improvements and targeted activations in Gleadell Street and along Bridge Road in Richmond.
- ❖ \$600,000 to deliver a shared zone and pedestrian, cycling and street improvements in Perry Street, Collingwood.
- ❖ \$500,000 over three years to support tree planting across the municipality and help reduce the urban heat island effect, while improving biodiversity and liveability.
- ❖ Establishing a precinct structure plan for North Richmond to holistically plan for the future of the North Richmond area and both revitalise and better meet the needs of the current and future community.
- ❖ \$150,000 to complete scoping and business case development for a Future of Retail study that investigates future trends and changes in the retail, hospitality and service industries in local activity centres.