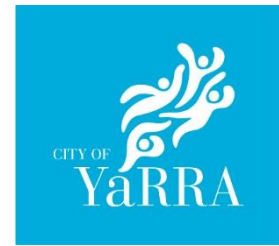


Australian Election Advocacy Priorities

Yarra City Council



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

Yarra City Council is seeking a commitment on five key actions that support positive outcomes in the community and help create a climate-safe, equitable and liveable Yarra.

Continue to meet the challenge of COVID-19

Although in recent months, Victoria and Australia more broadly, has begun to open up and move into a new phase of managing the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains important that candidates and an incoming government recognise the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

Yarra City Council is seeking a commitment from local candidates and an incoming Government to continue to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by:

- Providing national leadership with a strong, robust public health response to COVID-19
- Working with state governments to ensure national consistency in the responses to COVID-19
- Agreeing nationally to consistent and fair support payments for individuals, families and businesses impacted by COVID-19
- Ensuring a voice for local government at National Cabinet and providing appropriate support to councils delivering community services impacted by COVID-19 in the future.

Responding to 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.

Australia needs transformational change to rapidly reduce carbon emissions and to draw down emissions from the atmosphere in order to restore a safe 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.

Council is also seeking a commitment from local candidates and an incoming Government to accelerate Australia's carbon emission reductions and work with local communities to adapt to a changing climate by:

Declaring a climate emergency and investing in local climate action initiatives

- Declaring a climate emergency at a Federal-level and legislating for an economy-wide mechanism to drastically reduce carbon emissions

- Partnering with state and local governments to invest in climate action or community-led sustainability initiatives
- Providing dedicated funding programs to upgrade community infrastructure and facilities and make them more sustainable and energy efficient

Supporting the development of a circular economy and take real action to reduce waste

- Committing to a national ban on food waste to landfill
- Agreeing and implementing stricter national sustainable packaging standards and a product stewardship scheme
- Providing increased funding to industry and local government for local processing solutions, sector innovation and market development

Providing national leadership to support industry development and the take-up of electric vehicles (EV) powered by renewable energy

- Agreeing a nationally consistent approach to EV taxes, levies and charges that provide long-term confidence for industry and consumers
- Implementing best-practice national vehicle emissions standards
- Providing support and incentives to industry and business for innovation, sector development and manufacturing
- Providing financial incentives to businesses and private owners to purchase electric vehicles
- Providing increased funding for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, including \$250,000 for the installation of 5 new EV fast chargers across the City of Yarra

Making government and public sector procurement more sustainable

- Implementing stricter criteria and guidelines that promote innovation and sustainable practices across government projects and procurement

Improving local biodiversity and the natural environment

- Providing increased and ongoing funding for the clean-up of local parks and waterways, landcare projects and local council and/or community led biodiversity initiatives
- Providing \$150,000 to support tree planting across the municipality and help reduce the urban heat island effect while improving liveability
- Providing \$20 million to deliver new open space in the Cremorne precinct, one of Australia's leading online and digital services hub

Providing national leadership to support climate action in the property and building sectors

- Implementing higher energy performance standards in the National Construction Code
- Mandating national energy performance disclosure and standards at the point of sale or lease for residential and commercial properties.

Creating an open and inclusive Australia

Yarra City Council is committed to creating an open and inclusive 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 local candidates and an incoming Government to:

- Free all children and adults from any form of detention, and quickly resettle them in our community
- Provide a clear pathway to a permanent resettlement solution for refugees and people seeking asylum
- Provide the appropriate funding and support for anyone who arrived by sea after 2013, including for the provision of community, health and employment services
- Commit to give all people who have no durable solution, and those who have a possible durable, solution a home that supports the ability to apply for employment, access education and contribute to society
- Take stronger action against racism in all its forms.

Yarra is also seeking a commitment for an incoming government to address the findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care and agree, in consultation with the states, local government and aged care sector, the design of a new Support at Home program.

Creating a fair and prosperous economy

The City of Yarra is an economically diverse city, accommodating a range of mixed employment precincts, activity centres, and industrial and health precincts. With over 16,600 businesses, Yarra is one of the largest economies in metropolitan Melbourne with its close proximity to the Central Business District (CBD), cultural and sporting centres and good road, rail and tram links. Yarra's economy is driven by key areas, including knowledge industries, creative industries, population-driven activities and the health, education & public sectors.

The pandemic, however, has challenged local economies and businesses across Australia. Throughout the pandemic, Yarra City Council has provided strong support to local businesses and as we move into the next phase of the pandemic, it is important that all levels of government work together to support the COVID-recovery. As this occurs, it is also important that our economy works for all residents, business and groups and that we create a fair, prosperous and resilient local economy for the future.

To achieve this, Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to invest in the COVID-recovery, local economic development initiatives and ensure everyone has access to skills, training and employment.

Yarra City Council is also seeking a commitment from local candidates and an incoming Government to partner with Council to invest in a local economic stimulus package targeted to support those businesses impacted most by lockdowns and COVID restrictions by:

- Providing funding for local economic development and economic recovery initiatives, including \$150,000 for the initial scoping and business case development for a study to investigate future trends and changes in the retail, hospitality and service industries in local activity centres
- Providing dedicated funding and support for Australia's live music and arts sectors with funding commitments for key events across Yarra, including:
 - \$350,000 for an Aboriginal Arts and Culture festival
 - \$250,000 for an expanded Leaps and Bounds festival in 2023
 - \$120,000 for Yarra's Projection Arts initiative
 - \$100,000 for the Garden State Festival

- Investing in additional rounds of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program with new streams to support sustainable and active transport projects.

Take real and lasting action to create a fairer economy and society

- Increasing the base rate of JobSeeker payment by at least \$25 a day, and ensure that everyone receives at least \$65 a day with ongoing indexation of payments in line with wage movements at least twice per year
- Establishing a Social Security Commission to advise the Parliament on the ongoing adequacy of income support payments
- Improving pathways to education and employment for young people, particularly through new and innovative collaborations between local government, education and training institutions, businesses and the community

Investing in local infrastructure

Investing in and upgrading local 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 Australian Government to deliver projects under its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Roads to Recovery and Black Spot Program.

Council is seeking a commitment from candidates and parties to continue this work and increase the investment in local infrastructure that supports the needs and requirements of the Yarra community now and into the future.

Yarra City Council is also seeking a commitment from local candidates and an incoming Government to provide funding for the refurbishment and redevelopment of local sport and recreation facilities to support local jobs and active living across Yarra, including:

- \$9.3 million to progress 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
- \$2.4 million for the redevelopment of Yambula Pavilion to include inclusive change spaces, a social room, first aid, storage and public toilets.

Council is also seeking a commitment to:

- Increase and continue funding for the Australian Government's Black Spot and Roads to Recovery programs that improve road safety and support the ongoing maintenance of the local road network
- Agree and implement a nationally agreed roadmap to shift Federal Government infrastructure and transport funding towards public and active transport projects
- Provide \$1.5 million for detailed design, scoping and preparatory works for the Cremorne Revitalisation Project (Stage 1), delivering upgrades and improvements to the streetscape, public realm, and transport & traffic flow along Cremorne Street.