



**Strategic Community
Infrastructure Planning Policy**

**Yarra City Council
*Adopted December 2016***

1.0 Policy

The objective of the Yarra Community Infrastructure Planning Policy (Policy) is to provide direction to Council on how to achieve its vision and goals for community infrastructure planning. This Policy outlines Council's principles and commitments to ensure that community infrastructure is distributed equitably, efficiently and effectively in the context of population growth and change.

1.1 Vision

Council's vision for community infrastructure planning is:

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

1.2 Goals

Council's three goals for community infrastructure planning are:



1. Build and support a safe, healthy and cohesive community.



2. Support a sustainable city with responsive and flexible community infrastructure.



3. Embed a holistic approach in planning and delivery.

1.3 Use

The Policy will guide planning and delivery of community infrastructure by informing Council processes that operate to meet community infrastructure needs, such as the capital works program and developer contributions.

It also sets a framework for:

- Forming and strengthening partnerships with community organisations, schools, state government and other local governments to assist in the delivery of shared community infrastructure.
- Advocacy to state and federal government for grants and other funding to ensure that adequate community infrastructure is delivered to respond to population growth.
- Negotiating the best outcomes for the community from developer contributions. The Neighbourhood Plan component of the SCIF has the capacity to be integral to the preparation of a potential future Developer Contribution Plan (DCP) by providing an evidence-base for inclusion of community infrastructure projects that can be charged to a DCP.

1.4 Yarra Community Infrastructure Planning Principles

The Yarra Community Infrastructure Planning Principles provide the overall direction to decision-making for community infrastructure planning.

Principle 1: Integrate with Council service delivery and engage with stakeholders

- 1.1 Community infrastructure planning will be based upon agreed service levels and standards consistent with Council's service plans; and will align with Council's strategic goals and core activities.
- 1.2 A whole-of-Council approach will be taken in the planning for community infrastructure with a commitment to stakeholder engagement.

Principle 2: Create integrated community infrastructure networks

- 2.1 Local, neighbourhood and regional community infrastructure will respond to the needs of the service catchments.
- 2.2 Community infrastructure will be centrally located and near public transport routes.
- 2.3 Community infrastructure will respond to and integrate with the surrounding area, encouraging social connection and building a sense of place.

Principle 3: Plan for changing needs and flexible response solutions

- 3.1 Decision-making for community infrastructure planning will be evidence-based with reference to community needs in the context of population growth and change.
- 3.2 Council will recognise the changing nature of Yarra by providing flexible, accessible innovative and adaptable facilities that reflect universal design and are able to be meet multiple service needs.

Principle 4: Maximise the sustainable use of available resources

- 4.1 Operation and renewal of existing community infrastructure that has a demonstrated need will be prioritised above the funding of new community infrastructure.
- 4.2 Alternative ways to deliver community infrastructure will be considered to broaden access, maximise usage and rationalise costs including:
 - leasing space for Council service-delivery
 - leasing Council space to other providers for service-delivery
 - leasing Council space for rental income
 - providing spaces in partnerships with other organisations.

Principle 5: Strengthen accountability in community infrastructure performance and planning

- 5.1 Collection and distribution of developer contributions to community infrastructure will be monitored and reported upon to ensure transparency to the community, developers and other levels of government.
- 5.2 Performance of existing community facilities will be monitored to improve resource planning.

1.5 Commitments

1.5.1 Pursue opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for more efficient and effective provision of community infrastructure. Council commits to pursuing these opportunities to address future community infrastructure needs.

Council will:

- *Capitalise on existing land and building ownership*
Council has a significant community infrastructure portfolio. Some of these facilities have potential to deliver broader community benefits; realising these benefits may mean modification to allow for more flexible use. Council also owns some facilities that are nearing or at the end of their economic and social life; the repurposing of these facilities could contribute revenue to improvements in other community facilities.
- *Optimise community infrastructure for maximum community benefit*
Council will review access, management and design of community infrastructure to ensure it generates maximum community benefit.
- *Seek shared use arrangements and partnerships*
Council will investigate alternatives to ownership and sole use of community infrastructure by seeking shared use and partnership opportunities with state government and private organisations. Examples include educational facilities and health services.
- *Pursue developer contributions and incentives*
Council is in a position to negotiate contributions for the provision of community infrastructure. These negotiations will be informed by the Neighbourhood Plans, which provide information about future needs.
- *Pursue commercial opportunities*
Council will pursue commercial opportunities of existing and future infrastructure for the purposes of generating a return that will be used towards community infrastructure.

1.5.2 Research, engagement and advocacy

Council acknowledges that achieving the best outcomes for community infrastructure planning requires a whole-of-Council approach and will involve other levels of government, the private sector, community organisations and our diverse communities.

To support this process, Council will lead community infrastructure planning through research, engagement and advocacy using three concepts:

- A place-based approach (sharing the value)

Yarra City Council will work to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of all community assets by working to integrate community infrastructure across government and the private sector to meet shared outcomes.

- Alternative models of community infrastructure provision

Yarra City Council will maintain and develop partnerships across government, community organisations and the private sector to investigate opportunities for delivery of services through alternative facility models.

- Responsive spaces and places

Yarra City Council will work in partnership with other levels of government, developers and the wider community to understand community experience and usage to deliver appropriate spaces and links to community infrastructure. This will bring the best outcomes for the community encouraging people to meet, socialise and engage in formal and informal interactions.