

# Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda

**to be held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 7.00pm  
Richmond Town Hall**

## **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**

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## **Order of business**

- 1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Land**
- 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
- 3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**
- 4. Confidential business reports**
- 5. Confirmation of minutes**
- 6. Petitions and joint letters**
- 7. Public question time**
- 8. General business**
- 9. Delegates' reports**
- 10. Questions without notice**
- 11. Council business reports**
- 12. Notices of motion**
- 13. Urgent business**

## **1. Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land**

*"Welcome to the City of Yarra."*

*"Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to the Elders past and present."*

## **2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**

Anticipated attendees:

### Councillors

- Cr Daniel Nguyen (Mayor)
- Cr Misha Coleman (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Danae Bosler
- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Mike McEvoy
- Cr James Searle
- Cr Amanda Stone

### Council officers

- Vijaya Vaidyanath (Chief Executive Officer)
- Andrew Day (Director - Corporate, Business and Finance)
- Ivan Gilbert (Group Manager - CEO's Office)
- Lucas Gosling (Acting Director - Community Wellbeing)
- Chris Leivers (Acting Director – City Works and Assets)
- Bruce Phillips (Director - Planning and Place Making)
- Jane Waldock (Assistant Director - Planning and Place making)
- Fred Warner (Group Manager – People, Culture and Community)
- Mel Nikou (Governance Officer)

## **3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**

## **4. Confidential business reports**

### **Item**

- 4.1 Contractual matters
- 4.2 Matters relating to legal advice

## **Confidential business reports**

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989, to allow consideration of:
  - (a) Contractual matters; and
  - (b) Matters relating to legal advice.
2. That all information contained within the Confidential Business Reports section of this agenda and reproduced as Council Minutes be treated as being and remaining strictly confidential in accordance with the provisions of sections 77 and 89 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 until Council resolves otherwise.

## **5. Confirmation of minutes**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2017 be confirmed.

## **6. Petitions and joint letters**

## **7. Public question time**

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

### Public question time procedure

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 meeting chairperson to ask your question, please come forward and take a seat at the microphone and:

- state your name clearly for the record;
- direct your questions to the chairperson;
- ask a maximum of two questions;
- speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- refrain from repeating questions that have been asked previously by yourself or others; and
- remain silent following your question unless called upon by the chairperson to make further comment or to clarify any aspects.

## **8. General business**

## **9. Delegates' reports**

## **10. Questions without notice**

## 11. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
11.1	Station Street, North Carlton - Temporary Road Closure	8	16	Richard Young – Manager Traffic and Engineering
11.2	Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 Summary Report	26	30	Michael Oke – Sustainability Unit Manager
11.3	Welcoming Cities Initiative in Yarra	107	112	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.4	Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Third Year Report	146	152	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.5	Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-18 Annual Report	172	178	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.6	Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy 2014 - 2017 Annual Progress Report	225	233	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.7	Family Violence Organisational Statement	256	259	Georgia McRae – Policy Advisor Gender Equity
11.8	Proposed Discontinuance of Road adjacent to 2 Harding Lane, Richmond	260	262	Bill Graham – Coordinator Valuations
11.9	Proposed discontinuance of the road abutting 14 Lambert Street, Richmond.	264	266	Bill Graham – Coordinator Valuations
11.10	Proposed Discontinuance of Road abutting the rear of 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond.	268	270	Bill Graham – Coordinator Valuations
11.11	Celebrating Richmond's AFL Premiership	272	275	Brooke Colbert - Manager Advocacy and Engagement
11.12	Residential Aged Care Facilities - proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions - Council submission in response to consultation	277	284	David Walmsley – Manager City Strategy

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Rec. Page</b>	<b>Report Presenter</b>
11.13 Planning Permit Applications and the World Heritage Environs Area	293	300	Bruce Phillips – Director Planning and Place Making  Ivan Gilbert – Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

The public submission period is an opportunity to provide information to Council, not to ask questions or engage in debate.

Public submissions procedure

When you are invited by the meeting chairperson to make your submission, please come forward and take a seat at the microphone and:

- state your name clearly for the record;
- direct your submission to the chairperson;
- speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- confine your remarks to the matter under consideration;
- refrain from repeating information already provided by previous submitters; and
- remain silent following your submission unless called upon by the chairperson to make further comment.

## 12. Notices of motion

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Rec. Page</b>	<b>Report Presenter</b>
12.1 Notice of Motion No.1 of 2018 - State Government Major Road Projects and Impact on the City of Yarra	301	301	Amanda Stone - Councillor

## 13. Urgent business

Nil

## 11.1 Station Street, North Carlton - Temporary Road Closure

Trim Record Number: D18/6313

Responsible Officer: Manager Traffic and Special Projects

### Purpose

1. To present to Council the options regarding the proposal to close Station Street, North Carlton at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment.

### Background

2. Since December 2015, and following advocacy from local residents, Council has pursued the process to close Station Street, North Carlton at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment.
3. Formal public consultation on the proposal to temporarily close Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street was undertaken in accordance with *Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989*, in October and November 2017.
4. The outcomes of the consultation and verbal presentations by submitters in support of their formal written submissions, was heard by Council at its meeting of 19 December 2017.
5. An extract of the Council report of 19 December 2017 setting out the detailed results of the public consultation is provided as **Attachment 1**.
6. Following consideration of the officer report and verbal submissions made by the public, Council noted and resolved:

*"That Council:*

- (a) note the report;*
- (b) note and acknowledge the formal submissions and petitions received and the verbal presentations made at this meeting in support thereof;*
- (c) refer the matter of the proposal to close Station Street, Carlton North at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment, for formal consideration at the first cycle of Council meetings in 2018; and*
- (d) request Officers provide a report in early 2018 that includes:*
  - (i) possible options for Council consideration and in this regard, Officers write to VicRoads in accordance with Schedule 11, Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1989, and request a report to enable Council to consider the possible installation of a temporary barrier for a 6-month traffic diversion experiment on Station Street just South of its intersection with Curtain Street; and*
  - (ii) the current status of the Carlton North LATM (No. 2)"*

### Station Street temporary closure at Princes Street

7. As per **Attachment 1**, Council received 136 formal submissions on the proposal through the public consultation process.
8. Overall, the majority of respondents 105 (77%) *opposed* the proposed temporary road closure, whilst 31 (23%) of respondents *supported* the proposed temporary closure.
9. 36 (26%) respondents prefer a 6 month temporary closure length compared to 24 (18%) respondents who support a 12 month closure. It is noted that 56% of respondents did not provide an answer to the question relating to the preferred length of any closure.
10. Prior to the Council meeting of 19 December 2017, Council received 2 petitions submitted by North Carlton residents opposed to the trial closure.

11. One petition had 536 signatories who are City of Yarra residents, and the other petition had 279 signatories (signatories of this petition include a mix of local residents and property owners, frequent users of Canning Street cycle route and a small number of other respondents (approximately 8% of signatories) whose connection to North Carlton cannot be identified from the petition).
12. At the Council meeting of 19 December 2017, Council received the following additional submissions:
  - (a) A petition with 272 signatories who support the closure as a means of preventing rat running in North Carlton. (It is noted that the petition includes 12 signatories who signed both the petition for and against the proposal);
  - (b) A joint letter to the Mayor from parents of school children at North Carlton primary school. This letter had 40 signatories who oppose the proposal. It is noted that the petition includes 19 signatories that signed a previous petition opposing the proposal; and
  - (c) Three written submissions. One submission supported the proposal, one submission opposed the proposal and the other submission raised concerns regarding the proposal but did not oppose the proposal outright.
13. Respondents who support the proposal generally consider that the temporary closure will assist with addressing perceived traffic issues on Station Street and will reduce through-traffic, whilst some considered that there were no noticeable issues when the Melbourne Water temporary road closure was in place for 12 months.
14. Respondents who oppose the proposal generally consider there to be limited issues on Station Street and therefore consider the closure to be unnecessary as it would have limited wider benefit. These respondents are deeply concerned that the closure would impact negatively on access and safety given that traffic from Station Street will be transferred onto other streets. The safety and amenity of the key Canning Street cycling corridor is a key issue for these respondents.
15. Officer responses to the respondent feedback is provided in **Attachment 1**.
16. It is noted that in its report to Council, VicRoads has provided no objection to the proposal subject to the proposal being supported by the community.
17. VicRoads has been verbally advised by officers that the majority of respondents are opposed to the proposal.
18. VicRoads officers have verbally advised Council officers that it is up to Council to make a decision on whether the closure should proceed. VicRoads is satisfied that the proposal will have minimal impact on the arterial road network which is its key consideration.
19. The independent Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) undertaken to assess the proposal identified that there is no existing issue with the operation and use of Station Street. Station Street has low vehicle speeds, low traffic volumes, and no crash history, with the majority of motorists using Station Street being local residents.
20. The TIA identified that the temporary closure of Station Street is not considered to achieve any major benefits for the local road network and has the potential to result in more congestion on Canning Street.
21. Council officers observations confirm that the traffic conditions presented in the TIA are representative of typical traffic conditions on Station Street. Whilst some queuing does occur on Station Street, this queuing quickly dissipates and the extent of queuing is low for an inner area local street. Furthermore, any queuing that occurs on Station Street is likely to be transferred onto Canning Street if the temporary road closure on Station Street is adopted.
22. The road closure does not address the level of traffic travelling between Station Street and Rathdowne Street (via Lee Street or Davis Street, with these vehicles crossing the bicycle lanes on Canning Street). A road closure on Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street may limit future options in addressing this issue.

23. It is noted that southbound cyclists on Canning Street are separated from westbound vehicles turning left from Lee Street into Canning Street due to the alignment of the bicycle lane. As such there is likely to be limited conflict between the increased number of vehicles heading southbound on Canning Street with cyclists using the street.
24. However, Canning Street will be the most direct route for vehicles accessing Station Street and the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre from Princes Street from the west, with a closure of Station Street in place. Whilst the number of additional vehicles may be relatively low, it does increase the conflict between southbound cyclists on Canning Street and northbound vehicles turning right from Canning Street into Lee Street towards Station Street.
25. There is strong opposition to the proposal from Bicycle Network which considers that any increase of traffic using Station Street may possibly impact on the amenity of Canning Street as a cycle route and is unnecessary.
26. An independent Place Making Assessment undertaken by Co Design Studios has identified through two separate public consultation exercises (undertaken in April/May 2017 and June/July 2017) that there is minimal demand for place making or street activity on Station Street from the immediate residents (i.e. the 300 properties surveyed within 200 metres distance of the southern end of Station Street).
27. The road closure assessment process has identified that there is limited evidence to support a road closure on Station Street at the intersection of Princes Street.

#### **Station Street temporary closure at Curtain Street**

28. With reference to clause 1(d)(i) of the 19 December 2017 Council resolution, officers have contacted VicRoads regarding whether it is in a position to write a report on an alternative location for a temporary closure on Station Street to the south of the intersection with Curtain Street.
29. Officers have been advised that given the change in location a revised TIA would be required to identify the potential impacts resulting from vehicles displaced by the alternative temporary closure. Further consultation would also be required with key stakeholders such as emergency service and public transport operators.
30. Officers consider that the requirement for a revised assessment is a reasonable position taken by VicRoads officers.
31. The information and TIA provided by Council to VicRoads to date solely focuses on the proposed temporary closure at the Station Street intersection with Princes Street. It cannot be determined from the November 2016 TIA what the potential impacts of a temporary closure at Curtain Street would be without further analysis and potentially some additional surveys.
32. As with the November 2016 TIA, it is likely that the revised assessment would include modelling. As Council does not have the required computer software to perform the modelling work it will be a requirement to engage an independent traffic consultant. The consultant would also be required to undertake the wider analysis of traffic impacts as this would form the basis of any assumptions to be tested within the modelling.
33. It is estimated that an independent revised TIA could cost in the order of \$10,000-\$20,000 depending on the extent of analysis required. This is lower than the \$31,000 spent on the November 2016 TIA as it should be possible to reuse much of the data collected during the original assessment, on the basis of no temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street.
34. Following the completion of the revised assessment and receipt of VicRoads report on the matter, it would be a requirement to undertake public consultation on the revised proposal with the North Carlton community in line with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
35. There will also be a requirement for officer time associated with the tender process, project management, consultation with stakeholders, preparation of information to be provided to VicRoads and subsequent public consultation and reporting to Council.
36. There is currently no budget allocation for the required assessment and consultation. It is estimated \$10,000-\$20,000 would be required for this purpose.

37. Whilst officers strongly support undertaking trials and view road closures as an effective measure to reduce through-traffic, the preferred approach to considering local needs and ensuring community consultation/input in relation to traffic and options, is to address these through the LAPM process.
38. Decision making in the LAPM process is determined on an evidence based approach with treatments identified and developed based on the input of the wider community. The strategic approach adopted in LAPMs ensures that any selected treatments seek to address the key traffic issues for the benefit of the wider LAPM precinct.
39. The collaborative approach of LAPM enables the community to work from first principles in the consideration of traffic treatments based on a range of options and an informed position. This approach limits some of the risks (i.e. financial, reputation and community support) associated with locking in or limiting the outcome or proposal before the impacts and potential trade-offs are identified and tested with the community.

#### **Status of North Carlton Local Area Place Making study (LAPM 2)**

40. With reference to clause 1(d)(ii) of the 19 December 2017 Council resolution, officers have completed the annual prioritisation ranking assessment, which, in line with Council's LAPM policy, is undertaken each year to identify which LAPM precincts are the highest priority for study (see **Attachment 2**).
41. Council is currently committed to a three year LAPM program, with LAPM studies and infrastructure delivery being undertaken in Princes Hill (LAPM 1), Scotchmer Precinct North Fitzroy (LAPM 3) Rose Precinct Fitzroy (LAPM 9), Gold Precinct Collingwood (LAPM 10), Abbotsford (LAPM 13) and Bendigo Precinct Richmond (LAPM 19).
42. The LAPM priority ranking assessment has identified that the North Carlton LAPM (which includes the Station Street area) is the highest priority precinct for study.
43. If the LAPM study is undertaken in 2018/19, it would be possible to reuse much of the data collected for the November 2016 TIA, on the basis of no temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street.
44. Should Council wish to undertake an LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year, \$20,000 would need to be accommodated within the 2018/19 budget process to fund the LAPM study.
45. The \$20,000 study funding covers public consultation and marketing costs and the cost of an independent consultant to assist with the development of a Traffic Management / Place Making plan. A separate additional budget would be required for the purpose of implementing the preferred treatments emanating from the LAPM study.

#### **External Consultation**

46. The detailed results of the public consultation on the proposal to temporarily close Station Street at Princes Street is provided as **Attachment 1**.
47. Officers have contacted VicRoads regarding the proposed alternative location for a temporary closure on Station Street as set out in the 19 December 2017 Council resolution.
48. The outcomes of the consultation with VicRoads is presented earlier in this report.
49. No further external consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.
50. Officers have informed those community members who have previously made a submission on the proposal, of the date in which this report will be heard at Council, 7 days in advance of the meeting. Over 1,000 letters were sent either via email or post on 24 January 2018.

#### **Other Relevant Submissions (Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Princes Street)**

51. Bicycle Network were consulted on the proposal and provided a written submission in June 2016. Bicycle Network opposed the proposal on the basis that they believe, an increase in traffic using Station Street will decrease the level of service (i.e. amenity) and safety for bicycle riders on Canning Street.

52. Whilst Bicycle Network has not provided a submission as part of the latest consultation, it is evident from its website (12 October 2017) that, following consideration of the assessments undertaken to date, that it still strongly opposes the proposed temporary road closure.

### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

#### Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Princes Street

53. Council's Strategic Transport officers have been consulted on this matter and consider that any increase in traffic on or across Canning Street would result in a poorer outcome for cyclist amenity on the regionally significant Canning Street cycling corridor.

#### Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Curtain Street

54. No internal consultation has been undertaken on this proposal in the preparation of this report.

### **Financial Implications**

#### Option 1: Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Princes Street

55. Council allocated a budget of \$50,000 for this project. This budget has been spent on the Traffic Impact Assessment and Placemaking Assessment undertaken to inform decision making on the temporary road closure proposal.
56. Should Council proceed with the proposal to temporarily close Station Street at Princes Street, there would be future costs associated with installing and monitoring the temporary closure.
57. The lowest cost infrastructure option for a temporary closure would be the installation of signage and bollards. The cost of this option is estimated to be in the order of \$1,000 and would need to be allocated within existing budgets. There would be limited, if any, maintenance costs associated with this option.
58. As per the recommendations of the Place Making Assessment, the installation of temporary landscaping is estimated to cost between \$3,000 and \$6,000.
59. The annual cost to maintain the temporary plantings is estimated to cost in the order of \$9,000.
60. There would be a requirement for Council to undertake traffic data collection on a number of streets in North Carlton in order to monitor the impact of any temporary road closure. The cost of data collection is estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$7,500.
61. The funds required to install landscaping and its maintenance and undertake monitoring of the temporary closure (which is estimated to be in the order of \$22,000) is currently not budgeted for.

#### Option 2: Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Curtain Street

62. Should Council decide to pursue the temporary closure of Station Street at Curtain Street, the revised TIA to be undertaken by an independent traffic consultant is estimated to cost in the order of \$10,000-\$20,000.
63. Statutory public consultation is estimated to cost in the order of \$5,000.
64. There will also be a requirement for officer time associated with the tender process, project management, consultation with stakeholders, preparation of information to be provided to VicRoads and subsequent public consultation and reporting to Council.
65. If Council then decided to proceed with a trial closure, similar costs to install landscaping and undertaken maintenance as estimated above (\$22,000) would likely be required.
66. There is currently no budget allocation for the required assessment and consultation.

#### Option 3: North Carlton Local Area Place Making Study (LAPM 2)

67. Should Council wish to undertake an LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year, \$20,000 would need to be accommodated within the 2018/19 budget process to fund the LAPM study.

68. The \$20,000 funding would cover public consultation and marketing costs and the cost of an independent consultant to assist with the development of a Traffic Management / Place Making plan. A separate additional budget would be required for the purpose of implementing the preferred treatments emanating from the LAPM study.

### **Economic Implications**

69. There are no economic issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

### **Sustainability Implications**

70. There are no sustainability issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

### **Social Implications**

71. There are no social issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

72. There are no human rights issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

73. A language advisory panel was included in correspondence with residents and owner non-occupiers. This included contact details and a reference number to access Council's interpreter services.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

74. The 2016/17 Council Annual Plan included as part of 3.09 Traffic Management Initiatives, an action for Council to investigate the feasibility of a permanent road closure in Station Street, North Carlton.

### **Legal Implications**

75. There are no legal issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

### **Other Issues**

76. Officers have been asked to consider the value of proceeding with the temporary road closure (at Station Street and Princes Street) and reviewing the outcome of the closure as part of the next LAPM study for the precinct, noting that LAPM 2 (North Carlton) is the next highest priority precinct for study, which could occur in 2018/19 subject to Council funding.
77. Officers consider that this approach would result in a number of issues that may impact on the ability to conduct the LAPM in a cost effective and structured manner. The fundamental principle of the LAPM's approach is to work with the local community to prioritise issues and consider a range of options and trade-offs, and to agree on solutions. There is likely to be a range of different options to help address key community concerns, and the preferred approach is to discuss and consider these prior to implementation of any particular treatment.
78. The inclusion of the temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street as a baseline condition or existing treatment (albeit temporary) for review pre-empts that the closure of Station Street at Princes Street is the preferred solution as agreed by the community to address traffic related issues in North Carlton.
79. This approach also pre-empts that other priorities identified by the community can be addressed or accommodated with the closure of Station Street at Princes Street, thereby potentially limiting a range of alternative solutions (that may or may not include this closure) as a way of addressing key community concerns.
80. Officers consider that this approach may result in an undue focus on the possible retention or accommodation of the proposed closure of Station Street, rather than focusing on the source of issues important to the community and how best to resolve these issues. Officers consider that the inclusion of the closure, despite the majority opposition to the closure in recent community consultation, may erode confidence that Council is listening and involving the community in developing key traffic management initiatives, and thereby potentially impacting on community involvement and buy-in during the LAPM process.

81. The inclusion of the temporary closure as an existing treatment would mean that new traffic data would need to be collected across the entire LAPM 2 precinct, which would form the baseline data for the LAPM study. This would represent a higher cost for the LAPM as the data collected for the November 2016 TIA would then become redundant as baseline data.
82. It would not be possible to explore alternative options to the Station Street / Princes Street road closure as part of the LAPM study as all new data would include the closure as existing conditions.
83. In the likelihood that the community would want to explore a range of options (other than a temporary closure at Station Street) in line with the priorities identified by the community, there would be a requirement to obtain a dataset covering the entire precinct that does not include the temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street as baseline data.
84. Having multiple baseline datasets would result in significant additional costs and time delays to the LAPM study.
85. Council has run a highly successful LAPM process over recent years based on the principle of developing solutions to priority issues side by side with the community. The LAPM process may result in a closure on Station Street, or closures elsewhere, or no closures at all, with the community ultimately working with officers to determine the preferred outcomes for its neighbourhood.

## Options

### Option 1: Undertake temporary road closure at Princes Street

86. Should Council proceed with the temporary road closure process, officers will inform all residents and property owners in North Carlton of the outcome.
87. Officers will place a variable message board on Station Street at Lee Street for 2 weeks prior to the road closure to advise motorists of the upcoming road closure.
88. Given the level of community concern regarding the cost of this project, officers will install the low cost option of signs at the intersection of Station Street / Lee Street and bollards at the intersection of Station Street / Princes Street.
89. This cost of this option is estimated to be in the order of \$1,000 and will be funded from within existing budgets.
90. Officers will undertake data collection for 6 months following the installation of the closure and will report back to Council on the outcomes of the temporary road closure for further determination.
91. The cost of data collection is estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$7,500 and will need to be sourced from within existing budgets.

### Option 2: Pursue the alternative Station Street closure option at Curtain Street

92. Should Council pursue this option, there would be a requirement to prepare a revised TIA and supporting information to allow VicRoads to prepare its report on the matter.
93. It is estimated that a revised TIA to be undertaken by an independent traffic consultant could cost in the order of \$10,000-\$20,000 depending on the extent of analysis required.
94. Statutory public consultation is estimated to cost in the order of \$5,000.
95. It is unclear at this stage whether there would be any safety impacts associated with redistributed traffic resulting from this proposal.
96. It is unclear at this stage whether there would be any community support for this proposal.

### Option 3: Consider the matter via the LAPM process

97. The most effective approach to identifying the need and location of a road closure or other measures to discourage through traffic is through the LAPM process.
98. In line with Council's LAPM policy, all traffic and transport and amenity issues in North Carlton will be explored in detail during the next LAPM study for the precinct.

99. The 2017 priority ranking assessment has identified the North Carlton precinct (LAPM 2) as the highest priority precinct for study.
100. Decision making in the LAPM process is determined on an evidence based approach with treatments identified and developed based on the input of the wider community. The strategic approach adopted in LAPMs ensures that any selected treatments seek to address the key traffic issues for the benefit of the wider LAPM precinct rather than transfer traffic from one street to another.
101. Should Council wish to undertake a LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year, \$20,000 would need to be referred to the 2018/19 budget process for consideration to fund the LAPM study.

Option 4: Conclude the road closure process

102. Officers would inform residents of North Carlton that the proposal to temporarily close Station Street will not proceed.

**Conclusion**

103. This report presents the options regarding the proposal to close Station Street, North Carlton at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment.
104. Council has the required background information and community input from which to make a final determination on the proposal.
105. Officers recommend that Council does not continue with the formal process to temporarily close Station Street at Princes Street on the basis that:
  - (a) the majority of North Carlton residents / property owners and other respondents oppose the proposal;
  - (b) evidence does not support a closure; and
  - (c) a precedent would be set by implementing a closure outside of the LAPM process.
106. Officers recommend that Council does not continue with the proposal to pursue an alternative temporary closure on Station Street at Curtain Street on the basis that:
  - (a) it is unclear what the impacts of closing Station Street at Curtain Street would be without further detailed assessment;
  - (b) it is unclear whether a closure at this location is the best option to address concerns raised by the community relating to through traffic and other traffic relating issues; and
  - (c) the most effective approach to identifying the need and location of a road closure or other measures to discourage through traffic is through the LAPM process.
107. Officers recommend that the proposal to undertake a LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year at a cost of \$20,000 is referred to the 2018/19 budget process for consideration.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) resolves to conclude the process of a temporary closure of Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street on the basis that community support and other evidence does not exist to support the proposal; and
  - (b) refers the proposal to undertake a LAPM study in North Carlton (LAPM 2) next financial year at a cost of \$20,000 to the 2018/19 budget process for consideration.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Danny Millican  
**TITLE:** Senior Traffic Engineer  
**TEL:** 9205 5762

### **Attachments**

- 1 Results Public Consultation
- 2 Results of LAPM Priority Ranking Assessment 2017

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

### ATTACHMENT 1

#### Station Street Proposed Trial Closure

For context – an extract of the Council report of 19 December 2017 setting out the detailed results of the public consultation undertaken in respect of Station Street at the intersection of Princes Street during October and November 2017 is provided below.

#### External Consultation

1. The consultation process and public notice thereof, was undertaken in line with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 which requires that the public has at least 28 days' notice in which to provide a submission to Council on the proposal.
2. Consultation on the proposed temporary closure of Station Street was undertaken between 19 October 2017 and 22 November 2017.
3. A total of 2,744 letters were distributed by Council on 17 October 2017 to all properties and owner non-occupiers in the Carlton North Local Area Place Making area (LAPM 2).
4. This area is bounded by (and including) Park Street, Nicholson Street (west side of street), Princes Street (north side of street) and Lygon Street (east side of street).
5. The letter invited residents, property owners and business operators to provide a submission to Council on the proposal via either an online survey or a posted or emailed written submission.
6. The community were also advised of the public consultation process via a public notice in The Leader and the Council's Facebook page.
7. The invitation to present submissions, specifically requested respondents to indicate:
  - (a) Do they support / do not support a trial road closure?
  - (b) Some reasoning for their preference;
  - (c) If they supported a trial road closure, did they prefer a:
    - (i) 6 months trial;
    - (ii) 12 months trial; or
    - (iii) A different prescribed period of trial?

#### Individual Formal Submissions:

8. Overall, 136 individual responses were received for this consultation. These comprised:
  - (a) 101 responses from residents or owner non-occupiers in Carlton North;
  - (b) 17 responses from respondents who live outside of Carlton North but travel through the area by bicycle;
  - (c) 9 responses from respondents who live outside of Carlton North but work or have children attend school in Carlton North; and
  - (d) 9 responses from which the connection to Carlton North could not be identified from the response.

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

### Consultation results – all respondents

9. Of **all** respondents:
  - (a) 31 (23%) support the temporary closure; and
  - (b) 105 (77%) oppose the temporary closure.
10. Responses to the preferred length of any temporary closure were:
  - (a) 6 months (26%);
  - (b) 12 months (18%); and
  - (c) No Answer (56%).
11. Of the 31 respondents **who support** the temporary road closure:
  - (a) 26 (84%) respondents live or own a property in Carlton North;
  - (b) 2 (7%) respondents live outside Carlton North, but commute or regularly travel through the area by bicycle;
  - (c) 1 (3%) respondent lives outside Carlton North, but either works or has children attend a school or child care in Carlton North; and
  - (d) 2 (6%) respondents from which the connection to Carlton North could not be identified from the submission.
12. Of those respondents **who supported** the temporary road closure, the stated preferred length of any temporary closure was:
  - (a) 6 months (19%);
  - (b) 12 months (74%); and
  - (c) No Answer (7%).
13. The key reasons given **for support** of the temporary road closure include:

Respondent feedback comments	Officer comment
Concerns regarding the number of vehicles which use Station Street <b>(36%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not an existing issue with regard to the level and speed of traffic on Station Street, between Lee Street and Princes Street, with 1,000 (daily), 100 (AM peak) and 12 (PM peak) vehicles using this section of the street and a recorded 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.6km/hr.
A temporary closure is required to see if there are any issues or not <b>(21%)</b>	Noted.
It will reduce rat running in Carlton North <b>(16%)</b>	Independent TIA identified through an origin and destination survey that most traffic using Station Street between Lee Street and Princes Street is locally generated.
There were no apparent issues during the Melbourne Water closure <b>(14%)</b>	Acknowledged. However, it is noted that there were multiple other significant road closures at this time which impacted on traffic flows in a number of streets in Carlton North and North Fitzroy. The benefits or impacts of a Station Street closure cannot properly be isolated from these other closures.
Support the temporary closure, but issues resulting from more traffic on other streets need to be addressed <b>(11%)</b>	There are no current proposals being considered outside of the temporary closure of Station Street. Such a response may indicate the desirability of an overall LAPM study to effectively consult and establish an overall impact of a closure.

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

It will have a positive impact for children walking to school <b>(2%)</b>	Independent TIA identifies that the closure is unlikely to reduce vehicle movements in the area, rather redistribute existing vehicles onto Lee Street and Canning Street, which are also key routes to schools. It is noted though the level of traffic on Station Street is low.
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14. Of the 105 respondents **who oppose** the temporary road closure:
  - (a) 75 (71%) respondents live or own a property in Carlton North;
  - (b) 15 (14%) respondents live outside Carlton North, but commute or regularly travel through the area by bicycle;
  - (c) 8 (8%) respondents live outside Carlton North, but either work or have children attend a school or child care in Carlton North; and
  - (d) 7 (7%) respondents where the connection to Carlton North could not be identified from submissions.
15. Of those respondents **who opposed** the temporary road closure, the stated preferred length of any temporary closure was:
  - (a) 6 months (29%);
  - (b) 12 months (1%); and
  - (c) No Answer (70%).
16. The key reasons given for **opposition** to the temporary road closure:

Respondent feedback comments	Officer comment
It will reduce the amenity of Canning Street as a cycle route / less safe for cyclists and pedestrians / school children on Canning Street <b>(38%)</b>	<p>Independent TIA states that increased traffic unlikely to have a significant impact on cyclists and pedestrians, although there is potential for occasional increased conflict between cyclists and vehicles at Canning / Davis intersection (cyclists) and vehicles / pedestrians at Canning / Princes intersection, with additional vehicles on Canning Street.</p> <p>Council's Strategic Transport Unit notes that additional vehicles on Canning Street will reduce the amenity of the cycle route in comparison to existing conditions.</p>
It will result in more vehicles and increased congestion on other streets in Carlton North <b>(37%)</b>	<p>Independent TIA states that there is not expected to be any significant impacts on the operation of other roads in Carlton North.</p> <p>The proposal will likely transfer the current low level impacts on Station Street onto other streets.</p> <p>Whilst the number of potentially redistributed vehicles from Station Street onto other streets is low (i.e. one to two additional vehicles per minute), it could increase current AM peak hour flows on sections of Lee Street (136 westbound vehicles), Canning Street (75 southbound vehicles) and Davis Street (27 westbound vehicles) by 74%, 72% and 152% respectively in comparison to existing conditions noted above.</p> <p>The independent TIA also notes that it is expected that queuing on Canning Street back from Princes Street may occasionally extend to Davis Street, which at times, may impede the right turn movement from Canning Street into Davis Street.</p>

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

It has no wider benefit to Carlton North outside of the southern end of Station Street <b>(12%)</b>	Independent TIA identifies that the closure is unlikely to reduce vehicle movements in the area, rather redistribute existing vehicles onto Lee Street and Canning Street. It is noted though the level of traffic on Station Street is low.
It will result in longer travel times and inconvenience residents who require access to Princes Street <b>(7%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not expected to be any significant traffic impacts on other roads in Carlton North. Vehicle travel times will be longer given extra travel distance and delays with crossing pedestrians at Canning / Princes intersection.
There is no existing traffic issue on Station Street in comparison to other streets in Carlton North <b>(5%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not an existing issue with regard to level and speed of traffic on Station Street, between Lee Street and Princes Street, with 1,000 (daily), 100 (AM peak) and 12 (PM peak) vehicles using this section of the street and a recorded 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.6km/hr.  The number of vehicles using Station Street is lower than other north-south streets in the area, with the exception of Canning Street.
Proposal will not reduce traffic flows on Station Street to the north of Lee Street <b>(1%)</b>	Independent TIA notes that 58% of traffic that uses Station Street between Newry Street and Lee Street turns right into Lee Street, towards Canning Street. Proposal is unlikely to reduce the level of traffic using Station Street to the north of Lee Street.

### Consultation results – Station Street residents

17. Of **Station Street** respondents, 14 (48%) support the temporary closure and 15 (52%) oppose the temporary closure.
18. The key reasons given by Station Street residents **who support** the temporary road closure include:

Respondent feedback comments	Officer comment
Concerns regarding the number of vehicles which use Station Street <b>(48%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not an existing issue with regard to level and speed of traffic on Station Street, between Lee Street and Princes Street, with 1,000 (daily), 100 (AM peak) and 12 (PM peak) vehicles using this section of the street and a recorded 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.6km/hr.
There were no apparent issues during the Melbourne Water closure <b>(14%)</b>	Agreed. However, it is noted that there were multiple other road closures at this time which impacted on traffic flows in a number of streets in Carlton North and North Fitzroy. The benefits or impacts of a Station Street closure cannot properly be isolated from these other closures.
Support the temporary closure, but issues resulting from more traffic on other streets need to be addressed <b>(14%)</b>	There are no current proposals being considered outside of the temporary closure of Station Street. Such a response may indicate the desirability of an overall LAPM study to effectively consult and establish an overall impact of a closure.
A temporary closure is required to see if there are any issues or not <b>(14%)</b>	Noted.
It will reduce rat running in Carlton North <b>(5%)</b>	Independent TIA identified through an origin and destination survey that most traffic using Station Street between Lee Street and Princes Street is locally generated.

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

It will have a positive impact for children walking to school <b>(5%)</b>	<p>Independent TIA identifies that the closure is unlikely to reduce vehicle movements in the area, rather redistribute existing vehicles onto Lee Street and Canning Street, which are also key routes to schools.</p> <p>Also Independent TIA notes that currently, 58% of traffic that uses Station Street between Newry Street and Lee Street turns right into Lee Street, towards Canning Street. Proposal is unlikely to reduce the level of traffic using Station Street to the north of Lee Street.</p>
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19. The key reasons given by Station Street residents **who oppose** the temporary road closure include:

Respondent feedback comments	Officer comment
It will result in more vehicles and increased congestion on other streets in Carlton North <b>(26%)</b>	<p>Independent TIA states that there is not expected to be any significant impacts on the operation of other roads in Carlton North.</p> <p>The proposal will likely transfer the current low level impacts on Station Street onto other streets.</p> <p>Whilst the number of potentially redistributed vehicles from Station Street onto other streets is low (i.e. one to two additional vehicles per minute), it could increase current AM peak hour flows on sections of Lee Street (136 westbound vehicles), Canning Street (75 southbound vehicles) and Davis Street (27 westbound vehicles) by 74%, 72% and 152% respectively in comparison to existing conditions noted above.</p> <p>Independent TIA also notes that it is expected that queuing on Canning Street back from Princes Street may occasionally extend to Davis Street, which at times, may impede the right turn movement from Canning Street into Davis Street.</p>
It will reduce the amenity of Canning Street as a cycle route / less safe for cyclists and pedestrians/school children on Canning Street <b>(26%)</b>	<p>Independent TIA states that increased traffic unlikely to have a significant impact on cyclists and pedestrians, although there is potential for occasional increased conflict between cyclists and vehicles at Canning/Davis intersection (cyclists) and vehicles/pedestrians at Canning/Princes intersection, with additional vehicles on Canning Street.</p> <p>Council's Strategic Transport Unit considers that additional vehicles on Canning Street will reduce the amenity of the cycle route in comparison to existing conditions.</p>
It has no wider benefit to Carlton North outside of the southern end of Station Street <b>(18%)</b>	Independent TIA identifies that the closure is unlikely to reduce vehicle movements in the area, rather redistribute existing vehicles onto Lee Street and Canning Street. It is noted though the level of traffic on Station Street is low.
There is no existing traffic issue on Station Street in comparison to other streets in Carlton North <b>(13%)</b>	<p>Independent TIA states that there is not an existing issue with regard to level and speed of traffic on Station Street, between Lee Street and Princes Street, with 1,000 (daily), 100 (AM peak) and 12 (PM peak) vehicles using this section of the street and a recorded 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.6km/hr.</p> <p>The number of vehicles using Station Street is lower than other north-south streets in the area, with the exception of Canning Street.</p>

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

It will result in longer travel times and inconvenience residents who require access to Princes Street <b>(13%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not expected to be any significant traffic impacts on other roads in Carlton North. Vehicle travel times will be longer given extra travel distance and delays with crossing pedestrians at Canning/Princes intersection.
Proposal will not reduce traffic flows on Station Street to the north of Lee Street <b>(5%)</b>	Independent TIA notes that 58% of traffic that uses Station Street between Newry Street and Lee Street turns right into Lee Street, towards Canning Street. Proposal is unlikely to reduce the level of traffic using Station Street to the north of Lee Street.

### Consultation results – respondents who live nearby on potentially impacted streets

20. The properties in the closest vicinity of Station Street / Princes Street are the streets where there is a higher likelihood of some traffic displacement with a Station Street closure in place.
21. This area is bound by Rathdowne Street (between Lee Street and Princes Street), Lee Street (between Rathdowne Street and Nicholson Street), Nicholson Street (between Lee Street and Princes Street) and Princes Street (between Rathdowne Street and Nicholson Street).
22. Of residents who live on these identified streets, 3 (13%) support the temporary closure and 20 (87%) oppose the temporary closure.
23. The key reasons given by these residents who **support** the temporary road closure include:

Respondent feedback comments	Officer comment
Concerns regarding the number of vehicles which use Station Street <b>(60%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not an existing issue with regard to level and speed of traffic on Station Street, between Lee Street and Princes Street, with 1,000 (daily), 100 (AM peak) and 12 (PM peak) vehicles using this section of the street and a recorded 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.6km/hr.
There were no apparent issues during the Melbourne Water closure <b>(20%)</b>	Agreed. However, noted that there were multiple other road closures at this time which impacted on traffic flows in Carlton North and North Fitzroy. The benefits or impacts of Station Street closure cannot be isolated from these other closures.
It will have a positive impact for children walking to school <b>(20%)</b>	Independent TIA identifies that the closure is unlikely to reduce vehicle movements in the area, rather redistribute existing vehicles onto Lee Street and Canning Street, which are also key routes to schools. It is noted though the level of traffic on Station Street is low.

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

24. The key reasons given by these residents who **oppose** the temporary road closure include:

Respondent feedback comments	Officer comment
It will reduce the amenity of Canning Street as a cycle route / less safe for cyclists and pedestrians/school children on Canning Street <b>(36%)</b>	Independent TIA states that increased traffic unlikely to have a significant impact on cyclists and pedestrians, although there is potential for occasional increased conflict between cyclists and vehicles at Canning/Davis intersection (cyclists) and vehicles/pedestrians at Canning/Princes intersection, with additional vehicles on Canning Street.  Council's Strategic Transport Unit considers that additional vehicles on Canning Street will reduce the amenity of the cycle route in comparison to existing conditions.
It will result in more vehicles and increased congestion on other streets in Carlton North <b>(24%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not expected to be any significant impacts on the operation of other roads in Carlton North.  The proposal will likely transfer the current low level impacts on Station Street onto other streets.  Whilst the number of potentially redistributed vehicles from Station Street onto other streets is low (i.e. one to two additional vehicles per minute), it could increase current AM peak hour flows on sections of Lee Street (136 westbound vehicles), Canning Street (75 southbound vehicles) and Davis Street (27 westbound vehicles) by 74%, 72% and 152% respectively in comparison to existing conditions noted above.  Independent TIA also notes that it is expected that queuing on Canning Street back from Princes Street may occasionally extend to Davis Street, which at times, may impede the right turn movement from Canning Street into Davis Street.
There is no existing traffic issue on Station Street in comparison to other streets in Carlton North <b>(19%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not an existing issue with regard to level and speed of traffic on Station Street, between Lee Street and Princes Street, with 1,000 (daily), 100 (AM peak) and 12 (PM peak) vehicles using this section of the street and a recorded 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.6km/hr.  The number of vehicles using Station Street is lower than other north-south streets in the area, with the exception of Canning Street.
It has no wider benefit to Carlton North outside of the southern end of Station Street <b>(15%)</b>	Independent TIA identifies that the closure is unlikely to reduce vehicle movements in the area, rather redistribute existing vehicles onto Lee Street and Canning Street. It is noted though the level of traffic on Station Street is low.
It will result in longer travel times and inconvenience residents who require access to Princes Street <b>(4%)</b>	Independent TIA states that there is not expected to be any significant traffic impacts on other roads in Carlton North.  Vehicle travel times will be longer given extra travel distance and delays with crossing pedestrians at Canning/Princes intersection.
Proposal will not reduce traffic flows on Station Street to the north of Lee Street <b>(2%)</b>	Independent TIA notes that 58% of traffic that uses Station Street between Newry Street and Lee Street turns right into Lee Street, towards Canning Street. Proposal is unlikely to reduce the level of traffic using Station Street to the north of Lee Street.

## Attachment 1 - Results Public Consultation

### Summary of key findings

25. Overall, the majority of respondents 105 (77%) oppose the proposed temporary road closure. The opponents to the proposal are largely made up of Carlton North residents, but also include commuter cyclists and parents of children who attend schools in the area.
26. For Carlton North residents or property owners only, the majority of respondents 75 (74%) oppose the closure, whilst 26 (26%) support the closure.
27. Respondents **who support** the proposal consider that the temporary closure will assist with addressing traffic issues on Station Street and will reduce rat running, whilst some considered that there were no noticeable issues when the Melbourne Water temporary road closure was in place for 12 months.
28. Respondents **who oppose** the proposal generally consider there to be limited issues on Station Street and therefore consider the closure to be unnecessary as it would have limited wider benefit. These respondents are deeply concerned that the closure would impact negatively on access and safety given that traffic from Station Street will be transferred onto other streets. The safety and amenity of the key Canning Street cycling corridor is a key issue for these respondents.
29. Of all respondents, the stated preferred temporary closure length was 6 months.

## Attachment 2 - Results of LAPM Priority Ranking Assessment 2017

### ATTACHMENT 2

#### Station Street Proposed Trial Closure

For context, the results of the LAPM priority ranking assessment undertaken late 2017 is provided in the below table. This assessment is undertaken each year to identify which LAPM precincts are the highest priority for study.

RANKING LIST 2017		
Rank	LAPM Area	Comment
Jan-18		
Rank	LAPM Area	Comment
1	North Carlton (2)	Last studied 2002/03
2	East Clifton Hill (6)	Last Studied 2012/13
3	West Clifton Hill (5)	Last Studied 2011/12
4	Highett (15)	Last Studied 2007/08
5	Alphington (8)	Last Studied 2012/13
6	Coppin (18)	Last Studied 2012/13
7	Richmond (17)	Last Studied 2013/14
8	North Richmond (14)	Last Studied 2011/12
9	Coate (7)	Western area completed 2008/09
-	Victoria (16)	Impacted by major CMP sites & Last reviewed 2015
-	Fitzroy (11)	Impacted by upcoming M41 Water Main Renewal
-	Collingwood (12)	Impacted by major CMP sites & Last reviewed 2015
-	North Fitzroy (4)	Impacted by upcoming M41 Water Main Renewal
-	Barkly (21)	Western area included in LATMS 20, reviewed November 2014
-	Balmain (20)	Impacted by major CMP sites & Last reviewed November 2014
-	Gold (10)	Stage 3 construction 2017/18
-	Rose (9)	Stage 2 construction 2018/19 - 30km/h Trial Area
-	Princes Hill (1)	Stage 1-3 construction 2017/20
-	Scotchmer (3)	Study 2017/18
-	Abbotsford (13)	Study 2017/18
-	Bendigo (19)	Study 2017/18

## 11.2 Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 Summary Report

Trim Record Number: D17/200812

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

### Purpose

1. To update Councillors on the outcomes and status of actions and targets from the *Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17*. This report also outlines the next steps for developing a new Yarra Environment Strategy.

### Background

2. The four year *Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-2017* (YES) was adopted by Council in December 2013, following extensive internal and community consultation (refer to **Attachment 1**).
3. The YES provided the direction and actions required to integrate sustainable practices into Council's operations, as well as its community programs and services.
4. The Vision adopted in the Strategy was:  
*'Yarra is a resilient and sustainable city where current and future populations enjoy a high quality of life within our fair share of the earth's resources, whilst ensuring we co-exist harmoniously with the natural environment'*.
5. Four specific pathways were established to achieve the vision, each with objectives that worked together and complemented each other to form one integrated plan:
  - (a) *Community Empowerment and Local Action* - Supporting an empowered community that acts locally to increase the sustainability of consumption and lifestyles to reduce its ecological footprint;
  - (b) *Urban Ecology and Natural Environment* - Supporting healthy and thriving ecosystems in Yarra;
  - (c) *Sustainable City Infrastructure and Lifestyles* - Developing a secure, affordable and liveable City infrastructure and lifestyles for the Yarra Community; and
  - (d) *Sustainable Council Operations* - Operating Council as a model of environmental sustainability.
6. 34 targets were included as a means for tracking, measuring and communicating the progress of each objective, including modified waste related targets following endorsement of the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy*.
7. The YES contained 66 actions.

### 2017 Summary Review

8. A review has been completed of progress against the set actions and targets across the life of the strategy, and provided as **Attachments 2 and 3**.
9. A summary of key achievements deriving from YES includes:
  - (a) Yarra's sustainability actions were independently benchmarked and rated against the ten One Planet Living principles, achieving the highest possible '*International Leadership*' status. On the strength of this, Yarra was announced as the first Australian local government to achieve National Certification against the One Planet Council standard in August 2015 (Action 4.1.1.1);
  - (b) Yarra won (and was finalist for) many state and national sustainability Awards, including most recently:
    - (i) *Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards* - Victorian Sustainable City of the Year (2016);

- (ii) *United Nations Association of Australia - World Environment Day Awards – Local Government Climate Action Award – Embedding Climate Adaptation in Local Government* (2016); and
- (iii) *Resilient Australia Government Award – Victoria*. For increasing awareness of heatwave risks and providing resources to reduce heatwave vulnerability among CALD communities living in public housing. (2017); and
- (c) Community satisfaction for Council's environmental performance grew throughout the life of the strategy, and ranked highly in the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Yarra's rating of 7.59 in 2015/16 on the key indicator '*Council is meeting its responsibility towards the environment*' have exceeded the 2017 and 2020 targets;
- (d) Yarra continued to provide leadership and share knowledge and lessons with others via many diverse means, including:
  - (i) the Mayor (Cr Vlahogiannis) spoke at the ICLEI World Congress in Seoul (South Korea) in 2015. Yarra also produced a booklet to allow others to understand and learn from our actions called "Our Sustainability Story" (Action 4.1.4.1);
  - (ii) the Mayor (Cr Stone) attended the Conference of Parties (COP) 23 in Bonn (Germany), and was a Panel member of the Discussion Panel for Women Leading Sustainable and Resilient Cities (Nov. 2017); and
  - (iii) officers have spoken at many conferences including as Keynote for 'Government Sustainability' in NSW 2016;
- (e) Yarra developed and rolled out the highly successful '*In Your Patch*' project aimed at engaging Yarra residents to undertake community sustainability activities (Actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1 and 1.4.1). This was very successful in engaging the community (including 'seldom heard from' groups) to come together and develop high quality applications and run successful projects;
- (f) Yarra's first Urban Agriculture Strategy was developed which supported new growing spaces and partnerships across Yarra. 160 planter boxes are now managed by residents in shared spaces (Action 1.2.2);
- (g) Yarra's first Biodiversity Health Survey was completed in 2016, providing the foundation for Council's first Biodiversity Strategy – being developed in 2017/18 (Action 2.2.2 & 2.2.3);
- (h) Significant change was initiated via the planning scheme including the WSUD Local Planning Policy (Amendment C117) (Action 2.3.3), Yarra River corridor planning controls (Action 2.3.3); and the endorsement of the Environmentally Efficient Design Local Policy (Amendment 133) with five other Councils (Action 3.3.1.2);
- (i) Yarra's first Copenhagen bike lanes were opened in July 2015. Council has instigated the first Australian trial of 30km/hr on local roads in 2017 (Action 3.1.1.1);
- (j) Sustainability was incorporated as core element in the new Economic Development Strategy, endorsed in November 2014 (Actions 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.2.1);
- (k) Five new parks have been created. These provide more Yarra residents with access to open space and further cements Yarra's reputation in leadership through developing innovative 'Pocket Parks' in the urban context (Action 3.3.3.1);
- (l) A new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy was endorsed in November 2014 (Action 3.5.1.1). Yarra has received over \$1.5 million in external in grants from different sources over the life of the strategy to deliver key actions from the Waste Strategy (Actions 1.4.2, 2.4.2, 3.5.3.1 & 3.5.2.1);
- (m) In 2017 Council introduced a new trial kerbside collection service to Yarra residents to recover food waste. This a 3 year project seeks to engage 5000 households, part funded via a Sustainability Victoria grant (Action 3.5.3.1);

- (n) Council endorsed its first Urban Forest Strategy in 2017. Significant work was undertaken to obtain relevant data, consult internally and externally, and develop the strategy based on this evidence and direction (Action 3.7.1.1);
  - (o) Renewable energy installations across the Municipality continue to increase rapidly, with 6,871 kW of solar installed in Yarra by June 2015 – far exceeding the 2017 target of 2,400 kW. Actions such as the Council lead *In Your Patch* project, Yarra Energy Foundations' Commercial and Residential Solar programs, and Council's own solar installations have all contributed to this;
  - (p) Council supported the development of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) lead *Adaptation in the North* strategy - a climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessment of all NAGA Council's and action plan for the region completed in June 2015 (action 3.7.2.1);
  - (q) The ESD Buildings Policy set simple and strong sustainability targets for different works in different categories of Council buildings, and is often cited as a leading example of how strong policy can lead to improved outcomes (Action 4.1.2.3);
  - (r) Yarra has continued to be a carbon neutral organisation, and has completed building retrofits using the innovative Energy Performance Contract to further reduce organisational energy use;
    - (i) Council completed the implementation of its largest program to reduce emissions in its building assets via an Energy Performance Contract. This included over 80 individual actions across 18 buildings. Council has also undertaken the measurement and verification phase for years 1 and 2, showing financial savings of over \$200,000 per annum, and greenhouse gas reductions of around 2,000 tCO2 per annum. (Action 4.2.1.1);
    - (ii) Council is leading the Local Government sector having reduced emissions by almost 40%. This should be understood in the context of continued increases in residents, businesses, and services (Action 4.2.1.1); and
    - (iii) Council also achieved its ambitious target to meet 25% of our energy consumption by local low carbon energy generation by June 2015 (Actions 4.2.1.1 and 4.2.1.2); and
  - (s) In October 2017 Council committed to source 100% Renewable electricity for 10 years via the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project. This will see a new wind farm built in western Victoria to service the needs of Yarra and the other 13 partners. (Action 4.2.1.1 & 4.2.2.1).
10. The above list of actions clearly shows that Yarra has continued to take significant steps as a sustainable city and organisation.
  11. The 2013-17 YES proved a very important document in setting a strong vision, unifying cross-Council action behind this direction, and detailing and specifying the methodology to achieve the vision.
  12. **Attachments 2 and 3** detail progress against each target and action. The vast majority of actions and targets have been met, with orange and red lights in the table highlighting where ambitious actions were not able to be delivered in full, or commenced. Actions and targets which were not fully achieved should be viewed in the context that these actions were often deliberately ambitious.
  13. Overall, the 2013-2017 YES has been successfully delivered.
- Development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy
14. Officers have reviewed options to develop a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 using existing resources. It is proposed that the new YES would be largely internally developed, with community consultation on the draft Strategy, followed by formal adoption in early 2019.

15. It is proposed that the draft 2019-23 strategy would draw on a critical review of the 2013-17 YES and comparison against other councils' best practice, as well as the detailed knowledge of Council officers.
16. The Yarra Environment Advisory Committee would act as the initial community consultation channel to advise officers during development of the draft strategy; it is not proposed to have other face-to-face consultation in development of the draft strategy.
17. Once developed and reviewed by Council, the draft 2019-23 strategy would be placed on public exhibition, seeking input from the community for a minimum of four weeks. This would give the broader community the opportunity to respond to the directions and proposed actions set out in the draft 2019-23 strategy.
18. Community consultation on the draft YES would include:
  - (a) Online Survey & Feedback forms and submissions;
  - (b) Sessions with selected advisory groups (e.g. Business, Youth, Urban Agriculture); and
  - (c) Further consultation with the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee.
19. The development of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 would occur throughout 2018. Beginning in February 2018, the new Strategy should be ready for final Council endorsement in early 2019.

#### **External Consultation**

20. The process for engaging the community in the development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy is outlined above.

#### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

21. This YES review was undertaken through consultation with relevant staff across the different units involved in delivering the actions.

#### **Financial Implications**

22. There are no financial implications of this status update report.
23. The development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 would be undertaken in 2018, largely using existing resources.

#### **Economic Implications**

24. There are no economic implications.

#### **Sustainability Implications**

25. The review of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 highlights the many great sustainability achievements over the life of the strategy. Yarra's reputation as a leading sustainable city and organisation continues to grow.
26. It is proposed that a new strategy would set the new direction and actions to ensure Council continues to enhance local sustainability. This report presents a way forward to develop a new strategy using existing resources.

#### **Social Implications**

27. There are no significant social implications of this report.

#### **Human Rights Implications**

28. There are no significant human rights implications of this report.

#### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

29. The initial high-level community engagement and consultation plan for development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy is detailed in this report.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

30. The 2017-21 Council Plan includes Objective 3 “*City of Yarra; A place where Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment*”. It states that the Environmental Strategy is to be reviewed.
31. The Council Plan lists 7 strategies to be completed within the life of the plan, including 15 initiatives. A revised Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 would provide greater detail on how those initiatives will be achieved.
32. This report puts forward a proposed methodology and timeline to review (update) the Environment Strategy.

### **Legal Implications**

33. There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

### **Other Issues**

34. New members of the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC) will be recruited in early 2018 with potential members brought to Council for consideration in early 2018.

### **Options**

35. This report provides a way forward to develop a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23, mainly using internal resources, including the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee, followed by wider community consultation.
36. Other options include the potential to replicate the deliberative style process used in the development of the 2013-17 strategy; however this could not be delivered in the current budget and would push out timelines by 6-12 months.

### **Conclusion**

37. The Yarra Environment Strategy sets the sustainability agenda for the Yarra community and for the organisation. A review of sustainability actions and progress towards targets over the life of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 highlights the significant sustainability gains made by Council over the last 4 years.
38. The methodology proposed for development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 is principally based on using internal resources and reduces the timeframe for Council. The proposal allows for community engagement, following the preparation of a draft strategy with the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) note the report of officers regarding the Council actions undertaken as part of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013 – 2017;
  - (b) note the particular successes and outcomes from the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17; and
  - (c) note the proposed process for the development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23, commencing in February 2018.

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### **Attachments**

- 1 Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17
- 2 YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017
- 3 YES 2013-17 Summary Targets Review Dec 2017

**Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17**



# Yarra Environment Strategy

2013-2017



Yarra  
Environment  
Strategy



## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Mayor's Message

2012 was a historic year in Yarra's journey towards sustainability. In Nov 2012 Yarra became the first local government in Victoria to become carbon neutral under the National Carbon Offset Standard.

Our work to this end has created an excellent foundation for Council to continue reducing its carbon emissions and generating clean energy in future years.

Importantly, the first seeds for this achievement were sown in the 2008 Yarra Environment Strategy.

That document set out an ambitious four year vision for improving sustainability in Yarra that, by 2012, had been successfully realised in a number of ways.

Not only did Council earn the carbon neutral status, it also established the Yarra Energy Foundation, an independent organisation focused on working with the community to reduce emissions across the municipality.

This new Environment Strategy acknowledges and builds on the achievements from Council's three prior strategies.

With the right balance of leadership, collaboration, action, advocacy, consultation, and education, this strategy aims to make even further gains on Yarra's award-winning sustainable record and see us go from good to great.

*Cr Jackie Fristacky, Mayor*



### CEO's Message

Thank you for taking the time to read about Yarra's strategic direction for enhancing the organisation's performance on sustainability.

The environment is a core element in everything Council does. Just as staff are expected to consider the financial, community and occupational health and safety dimensions of every action, the environment is a key consideration in our decision making.

As the Mayor wrote in her introduction, this document is about building on Yarra's good record as a local government leader in sustainable practices.

We commit to integrate strategic thinking into the design and delivery of all of our programs and services so that our sustainable promise becomes a reality over the long term.

Many of these initiatives have commenced, and with the right strategies in place they can be strengthened with improved training, performance measurement and accountability so that our actions are assured and effective.

Council can also lead and inspire by sharing our knowledge with other municipalities and reinforcing regional partnerships.

For me, one of Council's proudest moments to date was receiving the United Nations Association of Australia Award for Excellence in Overall Environmental Management in 2013.

The award recognised the breadth and diversity of Yarra's environmental programs and initiatives, from large scale projects like the solar panel installation at Victoria Park to campaigns designed to encourage homes to compost food waste.

Through this vision we strive to lead and work collectively with our community towards a sustainable Yarra.

*Vijaya Vaidyanath, CEO of Yarra City Council*

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

# Yarra Environment Strategy

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## Executive Summary

### A moral imperative

This document will guide Council's ongoing response to some of the most pressing moral challenges of our times. As a result of climate change, Yarra will face higher average temperatures and lower average rainfalls, as well as more frequent extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts and severe storms. Left unchecked, the over consumption of resources will lead to disruptions to essential services and inadequate access to food and water.

Council chooses to take a leadership role on sustainability, not only because it wishes to tackle these issues in the short term, but also because it embraces its responsibility to the next generation of Yarra citizens. Council's legacy should be a sustainable municipality supported by innovative policies and practices. The Yarra Environment Strategy ensures a consistent and comprehensive approach to meeting these goals.

### A foundation for success

Initiatives outlined in the previous edition of the strategy saw Council reduce its net carbon emissions from 10,697 equivalent tonnes in 2009-10 to zero equivalent tonnes in 2012-13. Over the same period, Council reduced its annual energy consumption by 15%. By June 2013, Council was generating 10% of its own energy needs through low-carbon systems such as solar hot water and co-generation.

Earlier this year, Yarra's leadership in the field of sustainability was recognised with a United Nations Association Award for Local Government in the category of Overall Environmental Management. A year earlier, Yarra became the first Local Government in Victoria to be certified carbon neutral under the National Carbon Offset Standard. In 2011, Keep Australia Beautiful declared Yarra to be the Victorian Sustainable City of the Year.

Each of these outcomes flowed from the careful strategic planning established in the preceding strategy.

### A sustainable future

This new edition of the Yarra Environment Strategy outlines a vision for the next four years, a vision in which *"Yarra is a resilient and sustainable city where current and future populations enjoy a high quality of life within our fair share of the earth's resources, whilst ensuring we co-exist harmoniously with the natural environment."* This outcome will be achieved by following the four 'pathways' established in the strategy.

Pathway 1 – Community empowerment and local action

Pathway 2 – Urban ecology and natural environment

Pathway 3 – Sustainable city infrastructure and lifestyles

Pathway 4 – Sustainable Council operations

Each pathway is divided into objectives and then further divided into specific actions that will be undertaken in fulfilment of those objectives. Each pathway also features a series of targets and indicators to enable the organisation to measure its progress towards sustainable outcomes.

The new Yarra Environment Strategy proposes an innovative mix of leadership and collaboration, direct action and advocacy, consultation and education. It determines Council's approach to preserving biodiversity, reducing carbon emissions, promoting sustainable transport and much more. This document will enable Council, in collaboration with the community and other tiers of Government, to meet this most critical of moral challenges.

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Background

#### Purpose

The 2013 – 2017 Yarra Environment Strategy (*The Strategy*) is a key document for guiding Council planning, decision-making and activities that impact on the Yarra environment and community.

This is an overarching strategy, and a reference and informing document for all other environmentally related Council strategies, plans and initiatives (captured in Appendix 1).

Through this *Strategy* we will aim to ensure Yarra is a resilient and sustainable city where current and future populations enjoy a high quality of life within our fair share of the earth's resources, whilst ensuring we co-exist harmoniously with the natural environment.

The *Strategy* is in two parts: a strategy which establishes the vision, pathways, and key targets, and an *Action Plan* which provides the detailed actions to achieve the vision.

#### Environment and Local Government's Role

As an elected body, Council responds to the aspirations of the Yarra community to safeguard the long-term environment for future generations while meeting today's needs through policies, partnerships, programs, community engagement and advocacy.

Council has a:

- Legislated and delegated set of powers to protect, manage and restore the environment for the community.
- Support role to assist our community in taking environmental action including working in partnership with other agencies and arms of government
- Leadership role to reduce the size of our organisational footprint, and support and advocate for changes in other levels of government and across society.

The community and other levels of government and their agencies will also need to act upon and play a key role in order for the *Strategy* to be successful.

In this *Strategy* the Council will focus on actions and outcomes primarily relating to our environmental issues - with strong linkages across social, financial and cultural objectives. Whilst the broader elements of sustainability beyond the environmental context are also very important to Council and the success of this *Strategy*, achievement of the core aims is better delivered through other Council strategies and activities.

The environmental focus of this *Strategy*:

- Sustainable living and working
- Ecology & Natural Environment
- Sustainable Transport
- Sustainable Business
- Sustainable Built Environment

- Waste Management
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Water Consumption and Quality
- Climate Change Resilience and Food Systems

#### Following the lead of our land's first custodians

Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the true sovereigns, caretakers and custodians of the land now known as Yarra. The Wurundjeri lived on the land in this area for thousands of years before European settlement in a way that was sustainable and which preserved the wildlife, habitat, waterways, land and air in the Yarra area. Current land managers still have much to learn from Wurundjeri elders and land managers about the management of cultural and natural heritage.

Yarra City Council's Aboriginal Partnerships Plan outlines the partnership between Yarra City Council and the Wurundjeri Land Council, covering actions relevant to natural and cultural heritage and also the development of a holistic Memorandum of Understanding and Service Agreement between the Wurundjeri and Yarra City Council.

#### Where the Strategy came from

This is our fourth Environment Strategy, and it builds on the previous strategies.

The 2013-17 Council Plan identifies five strategic objectives for improving Yarra's liveability including '*Ensuring a sustainable Yarra*'. The Yarra Environment Strategy supports this direction through a deeper exploration of what a sustainable Yarra entails and key priorities for the future of Yarra.

The *Strategy* has been developed in conjunction with the community and key stakeholders, via an extensive engagement and consultation process and review of existing Council actions and plans. This consultation process has included:

- Face-to-face interviews with Councillors, Executive and content area specialists within Council;
- A three part workshop series with a community Futures Group comprising 35 diverse community members with varying interests and expertise, that explored the drivers for future environmental sustainability and developed a roadmap for adaptation and transformation;
- A four hour public 'Open House' forum, which provided the community with an opportunity to contribute ideas and their priorities across a broad range of issues (attended by 40 people);
- A specific workshop on greenhouse gas emissions with key stakeholders;
- A community survey which received 75 responses via electronic and hard copy forms;
- An initial desktop analysis of Council documents to identify issues and help shape the engagement process,

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

including learnings from implementation of the previous Environment Strategy;

- Three internal staff workshops; and
- Many workshop style consultations with groups relevant to the plan.

## Yarra's Environmental Context

### Yarra's Environmental Impact

The environment is a consideration in everything we do. We need to better understand the many impacts our community, and Council as an organisation, has on our local and global environment.

Measuring our individual and collective environmental impacts is challenging beyond providing assessments in general terms.

One approach is through assessing our Ecological Footprint - a measure of the land and water area a human population requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb its wastes. If a person or community's footprint is more than one planet, this means they are living beyond the means of the planet and is not sustainable.

The average Victorian has a proportionate ecological footprint of approximately four planets<sup>1</sup>, and it is assumed that the Yarra community has similar averages. If the global population consumed the equivalent resources we would need four planets to support us.

Figure 1 highlights that nearly one third of our footprint comes from the food we consume - the way we grow, transport, store, package and dispose of it. Energy consumption is another big contributor through reliance on emissions-intensive electricity generation for manufacture of goods, our residential and commercial lifestyles, and how we move around.

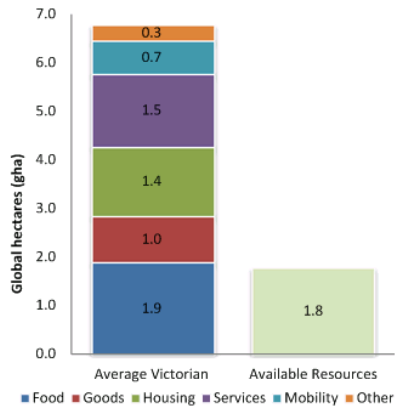


Figure 1 - Victoria's ecological footprint

<sup>1</sup><http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/ecologicalfootprint/ausFootprint>

## Council's proud history of Environmental Action

Yarra Council has a proud history of environmental action and leadership.

This is our fourth Environment Strategy. Of 112 actions in the 2010-12 Environment Strategy Action Plan Update, 80% of actions were fully achieved while 14% were partially achieved. Highlights included:

- Certification as a carbon neutral organisation, the first council in Victoria;
- Establishment of the Yarra Energy Foundation;
- Launch of Yarra's Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program;
- Creation of four new parks;
- A Yarra Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy;
- Adoption of Urban Agriculture Guidelines and employment of an Urban Agriculture Facilitator.
- Developed Yarra ESD (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Buildings Policy;
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan developed to address climate change risk;
- Establishment of a staff Green Team to drive innovation and change across the organisation;
- Establishment of annual Yarra Sustainability Awards; and

The **Yarra Energy Foundation** (YEF), launched in 2011, was established by Council to accelerate greenhouse reductions towards a becoming carbon neutral municipality by 2020. YEF is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, and works with Council, residents, businesses and the wider community to amplify innovation and achieve large-scale adoption of energy efficiency.

Having been named the 2011 Victorian Sustainable City and receiving the 2013 United Nations Association of Australia Award for *Local Government: Overall Excellence in Environmental Management*, we know we are on the right track, but we also know that we can and want to do more to accelerate and facilitate change.

## Key Issues and Priorities for Action

### What consultation told us we need to respond to

Through the Strategy's review processes and engagement, our community and their representatives have emphasised the importance of continuing on from the achievements we've accomplished to date.

The consultation, particularly through the work of the Future's Group on future scenarios, provided us many issues to prioritise for action. These included:

- **Population growth** - Yarra's residential and business landscape is rapidly changing and the opportunity to address any associated environmental impacts before they arise;

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

- **Resilience in a changing climate** – the impacts of climate change are being felt strongly now, predicted to worsen in coming years. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions and prepare our community for climate change now;
- **Over consumption** – consumption patterns are increasing while the earth's resources (water, food, fuel, energy, minerals, materials) and ability to replenish them are decreasing. There is an need to reverse this trend so that our community lives within its means while maintaining quality of life;
- **Partnerships, capacity building and collaborative action** – community engagement and ownership of both the problems and solutions are essential in transforming our municipality to more sustainable living. It is also essential to building understanding and skills in adapting to the scale and types of change that will come from continued population growth, diminishing natural resources and climate change. For best results we also need to look beyond our boundary and work with other agencies and networks to support the change we seek;
- **Advocating for broader change:** take action within our ability, and advocate for legislative change and for key actions beyond our jurisdiction; and
- **Council's leadership role** – Council should lead by example and share lessons learned.

### Population growth

Yarra's population is expected to increase from 80,000 to 100,000 (Council Plan 2013-17) over the next 15 years. This will drive demand for new residences and services, is expected to result in increased planning tensions on infill development, the need for additional open space, pressure on our biodiversity, traffic congestion, parking issues, natural resources consumption and waste generation. Keeping the Yarra River healthy and free from encroachment will be a particular challenge.

Melbourne's overall population growth will further increase pressure on Yarra's services and transport, particularly through increased congestion in Yarra, demand for parking and the threat of new road building. In addition, Yarra's proximity to the CBD and its high standard of urban services, amenity and public transport and changes in our demographics are also resulting in property prices and increasing socio-economic disparity.

Planning, liveability and social equity will therefore be a continual theme for the environment and the future of the City – meeting the challenges of environmentally sustainable development with a growing population in a highly complex context.

Increased population density in the inner city can have overall sustainability benefits through more efficient use of existing infrastructure, more people able to access existing services, local recreation and employment opportunities, increased use of sustainable transport, and halting the spread of Melbourne further into farming land. As always there are competing demands and impacts and must be monitored and managed effectively.

### Resilience in a changing climate

The projected impacts of climate change within the City of Yarra include:

- More days over 35°C and higher annual mean temperature;
- Fewer and heavier rainfall days;
- Reduced average rainfall and stream flows;
- Possible sea-level rise and storm surges on the lower parts of the Yarra river;
- Increased frequency and severity of heat waves, floods and drought; and
- Decreased, uncertain or disrupted supply of electricity, water, food and fuel.

Climate change is making many extreme events worse in terms of their impacts on people, property, communities and the environment. Rising temperatures increase the need for shade and have implications on water supply for trees and open space. There is an urgency to act now to reduce the severity of climate change and prepare for its impacts.

Our challenge will be to continue to mitigate greenhouse contributions and act locally. We should address risks to Council assets, operations and services, and support community resilience and adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change.

### Over Consumption

We are part of a deeply interconnected global economy that is using natural resources at rates faster than they are being replenished. Our lifestyles and the way we run our economy are turning natural resources into waste at a rate faster than nature can turn waste back into natural resources. Our proportional ecological footprint, as described above, is currently four times more than that which would enable all humans to live sustainably on the planet. Clearly, this is not sustainable and a transformation of our lifestyles and our economy is appropriate to allow future generations to enjoy their lives as we do.

Our most fundamental challenge is to establish a culture in which sustainable living is compatible with a high quality of life; where material consumption is not essential to personal happiness and is decoupled from (unobserved) environmental degradation.

A complex set of social and cultural factors shape our attitudes to the environment, our lifestyles and to our choices on taking subsequent action.

These factors include self-interest, our sense of personal responsibility for and control of environmental impact, our level of environmental knowledge and understanding and concern and differences in values (e.g. how much we value green space).

### Partnerships, capacity building and collaborative action

Council cannot achieve this vision acting in isolation. It will need substantial change in the way the community functions, including a change in the way the local economy operates, and similar changes in surrounding regions. It will

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

require greater changes in community attitudes and behaviours as well.

People and communities have great power to act if they have the will, and if they do act decisively then the policies of State and Federal governments will eventually follow what local communities have already been implementing.

There is now a worldwide trend for cities to become hubs of innovation for a greener economy through a focus on rapidly reducing carbon intensity and environmental degradation while at the same time encouraging innovative, new, and environmentally sustainable industries and enterprises. The benefits are many, including integrated transport solutions, resource efficient manufacturing, biodiversity protection, ecologically sustainable building and neighbourhood design, and more resilient and healthier communities, to name a few.

Council's role is to provide the right framework of policy settings, regulations and incentives. A framework that is predictable, certain and long-term, provides confidence in the community and encourages business to work with investors to innovate in order to compete and scale up solutions.

Yarra is rich with vibrant and diverse community organisations across all spheres of life. The big opportunity described in this Strategy is to partner with non-government organisations and business, particularly those connected to the arts, education and multicultural communities to develop the viable, innovative and long-term solutions required to make Yarra a thriving, resilient and sustainable city.

Many of Victoria's environmental organisations have their offices in Yarra, and there is a rich tapestry of community activism from green businesses to community gardens, neighbourhood share schemes, school tree planting sessions, housing sustainability retrofits and much more. Yarra has the highest per capita bicycle use of any municipality in Australia.

Business plays a pivotal role in achieving sustainability by providing many of the necessary innovative and practical solutions to meeting community needs in ways that do not harm the environment. Council is very active in supporting business innovation for sustainability.

Challenges and opportunities include helping businesses lower the financial and environmental cost of their operations (emissions, water, energy, waste, etc.), better understand the business case for change, and make the transition to a low-carbon growth economy.

The pursuit towards a sustainable future also requires a shift in values and behaviour by the community. Yarra has a strong tradition of environmental activism, and the community expects strong environmental advocacy from Council on the issues adversely affecting our future environment beyond the direct control of local government: issues such as increasing reliability, range, and frequency of public transport, the proposed East-West Link tunnel, the health of the Yarra River, urban density, environmentally sustainable planning and development, and greenhouse gas mitigation.

The challenge for the community is to continually re-connect with nature in words and deeds, and through that engender

a wider sense of responsibility and commitment to act. Council's role is to help foster and mobilise a more active community, connect citizens with nature, support and develop environmental leaders, assist existing environmental groups to become stronger and help those that have a different focus to understand and embrace the business case for environmental sustainability.

### Advocacy

State and Federal government policies on the economy, planning and transport will have a major impact on the future of our local environment.

Victoria has more than 25 Acts and over 30 strategies that relate to Yarra's environment. In addition, there are a large number of Federal laws and programs affecting the City as well as international frameworks and conventions to consider.

In general terms, these policy frameworks are a long way short of the frameworks needed for sustainable living standards. They encourage the design of car dependent and congested communities, businesses that are heavy users of the earth's natural resources, and lifestyles that lead to poor health outcomes and are environmentally unsustainable.

Federal government policies on the economy have the strongest impact on local business activity and people's lifestyles. In particular, economic policies such as a strong price on greenhouse gas pollution help drive "one planet" innovation through the supply chain.

State government policies, plans and strategies have the strongest impact on planning and urban form, transport, traffic, Yarra River health, biodiversity protection, pollution control, waste, open-space and liveability.

Key policies that apply to the City of Yarra include:

- Plan Melbourne (Draft 2013)
- Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Victorian Waste Management Strategy
- Victorian Litter Strategy
- Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
- Victoria the Freight State
- Transport Integration Act

The State and Federal policy context is outside the control of Council and the community. To influence the broader policy agenda, Council works in collaboration with other Councils, stakeholders and the community through advocacy and engagement and partnership building. By acting locally and advocating for preferred outcomes Council can show leadership and influence change at other levels of government and in other municipalities.

### Council's leadership role

The environment is a core element in everything Council does. Just as all staff are expected to consider the financial, community and occupational health and safety dimensions of every action, consideration of the environment needs to become business as usual for all staff behaviour and Council planning and decision-making.

Continued sustainable outcomes require new ways of working within Council and with the community. It requires

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

more integrated approaches to the design and delivery of programs and services, and long term business cases that integrate lifecycle assessment, design and management of its assets and services from a strategic risk perspective, particularly incorporating climate change projections. It requires on-going incorporation of sustainability into every action and decision by all staff.

Council can lead and inspire – to invest in demonstration projects and show what is possible and to help break through barriers and resistance to change where needed. Council is also in a strong position to provide leadership and support to other municipalities, and reinforce regional approaches to solving shared problems.

Many of these things have begun, but these initiatives and others need to be strengthened with training, performance measurement and environmental accountability for all positions and supplemented with the development of effective tools and assessment against relevant benchmarks.

### Communication & Reporting

Council is in frequent communication with the community on the environment through its programs, Council meetings, committee's, newsletters, notices, news stories etc., and this can be strengthened. We will also look to promote and reinforce the story of Yarra's journey of becoming a thriving sustainable city, including informing our community and beyond of successful actions and learnings from our work.

Progress on implementation of this *Strategy* will also be reported at the end of each financial year as part of Council's annual reporting process.

## Strategy Implementation Plan

### Action Plan

The annually updated *YES Action Plan* details desired outcomes, targets, indicators, plans, programs, strategies and other actions and resources required to implement the *Strategy*. *Year 1* in the *Action Plan* refers to the 2013/14 financial year, within existing resources.

### Monitoring and Review

Council will monitor and regularly review all actions that impact the environment.

Monitoring will focus on the extent the actions within this *Strategy* are:

- Being successfully implemented and meeting their objectives
- Moving Yarra towards set indicators and targets
- How effective they are in engaging the community in taking environmental action

Council will conduct an internal review and update of the *Action Plan* after 2 years. This will form the basis for continual improvement of the *Strategy* and associated subordinate strategies, plans, policies and procedures.

A full review and development of a new *Strategy* will be undertaken in 2017/18.

### Budget Allocation

Budget for implementation of elements of the *Strategy* and *Action Plan* are subject to annual Council approval. On an annual basis Council Officers will develop a budget submission for resourcing the implementation of the Yarra Environment Strategy to be reviewed as part of the overall Council budget process. For this reason a specific annual budget allocation has not been stated, rather 'Potential Resources' relating to the years of resource requirement for action implementation from Year's 2 to 4. Year 1 (2013/14) will be actioned within existing resources.

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Strategy Vision and Targets

#### Strategy Vision

*Yarra is a resilient and sustainable city where current and future populations enjoy a high quality of life within our fair share of the earth's resources, whilst ensuring we co-exist harmoniously with the natural environment.*

#### Strategy Target

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
The ecological footprint of the Municipality	6.8ha per person (based on Victorian average (2008))	Measure Yarra's footprint	10% reduction on 2017 baseline

### Strategic Pathways and Key Targets

There are four specific pathways to achieving our vision, each with objectives that work together and complement each other to form one integrated plan. Indicators and targets for each pathway provide a means for tracking, measuring and communicating the progress of each objective.

#### Pathway 1 - Community Empowerment & Local Action

*Supporting an empowered community that acts locally to increase the sustainability of consumption and lifestyles to reduce its ecological footprint*

Pathway Objectives		Action reference	Plan reference
1.1	Empower and educate the community to support sustainable consumption and lifestyles.		p. 14
1.2	Accelerate collective action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles.		p. 16
1.3	Support local community organisations and groups.		p. 17
1.4	Provide tailored support to target groups to increase participation in sustainability initiatives by diverse groups.		p. 19
1.5	Improve sustainability outcomes through information dissemination and community input to Council programs, processes, and services.		p. 20
1.6	Understand and track community knowledge and action, and celebrate achievements.		p. 21

#### Key Indicators & Targets

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
Community satisfaction rating on the statement: 'Council is meeting its responsibility towards the environment'	7.3/10, annual Customer Satisfaction Survey (2013)	7.4/10	7.5/10

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Pathway 2 - Urban Ecology & Natural Environment

Supporting healthy and thriving ecosystems in Yarra

Pathway Objectives		Action Plan reference
2.1	Enhance community awareness and engagement with Yarra's local environment.	p. 23
2.2	Incorporate and improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through Council operations.	p. 23
2.3	Support biodiversity and ecosystem health improvements on private land.	p. 25
2.4	Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through partnerships and collaborative action.	p. 26

### Key Targets & Indicators

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
Habitat area, health, and biodiversity	New Survey (2014)	↑5%	↑10%
Improvement in stormwater quality management	Achieved 5% of the best practice performance objectives for Council managed assets as outlined in the <i>Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines</i> (2011/12)	7%	10%

### Pathway 3 - Sustainable City Infrastructure & Lifestyles

Developing a secure, affordable & liveable City infrastructure and lifestyles for the Yarra Community, including:

Pathway Objectives		Action Plan reference
3.1	<b>Sustainable Transport</b> - Community infrastructure and programs that provide for safe, efficient, affordable and low-carbon mobility.	p.29
3.2	<b>Increased Business Sustainability</b> - A thriving green business economy in Yarra, and increased businesses productivity achieved through reduced environmental impact of operations.	p.33
3.3	<b>Sustainable Built Environment</b> - Council powers and resources being used to influence the design and layout of the City for sustainability, functionality, resilience, and green recreation.	p.35
3.4	<b>Carbon Neutral Yarra</b> - Reduced greenhouse emissions from across the municipality, towards carbon neutral by 2020.	p.38
3.5	<b>Waste Wise Yarra</b> - Reduced waste to landfill through changed Community behaviours, and tailored / easy to use infrastructure.	p.40
3.6	<b>Conserving Water in Yarra</b> - Supporting the Yarra community to reduce use of potable water, through partnerships and direct action.	p.43
3.7	<b>Climate Change Resilient Communities</b> - Preparedness of Yarra's community to better respond and adapt to future climate conditions.	p.44

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Key Targets & Indicators

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
Usage rates of sustainable transport modes to work	41% Residents using Sustainable Transport to work (2011 census) 29% non-residents use sustainable transport to work in Yarra (2011 census)	50% (2016 census) 35% (2016 census)	60% (2021 census) 50% (2021 census)
Number, turnover and impact of green businesses and business practices in Yarra	New survey/measurement (2014)	↑ 5%	↑ 10%
Resident access to open space	Number of new parks established in Yarra (since 2012)	3	6
Net municipal Greenhouse emissions	1,865 kt CO <sub>2</sub> (2005/06)	NA	Zero
Household waste to landfill	16,144 tonnes (2011/12) kerbside waste collected	↓10%	↓20%
Potable water consumption across the community	12.7 GL (2000/01)	↓25%	↓30%

### Pathway 4 - Sustainable Council Operations

Operating Council as a model of environmental sustainability, including:

Pathway Objectives	Action Plan reference
4.1 <b>Lead by example, with Integration of sustainability across Council</b> - Integrating sustainability as a core Council business into everything we do, empowering staff to own sustainability as part of their core business.	p.48
4.2 <b>Best Practice Carbon Management</b> - Reducing Council energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from its own activities, and becoming the most aware, energy efficient and energy self-reliant local government in Australia.	p.55
4.3 <b>Best Practice Waste Management</b> - Reducing Council generated waste through our own operations and sites under Council control, and to be a leading waste wise organisation.	p.57
4.4 <b>Best Practice Water Management</b> - Reducing potable water consumption at Council buildings, parks and gardens.	p.58

### Key Targets & Indicators

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
Staff commitment to sustainability	Percentage of respondents to staff sustainability survey who say workplace sustainability is 'important' or above (88% in 2013)	95%	100%
Organisational carbon emissions	16,820 tCO <sub>2</sub> (gross emissions 2000/01)	↓55%	↓60%
Waste to landfill from Council operations	31.7 Tonnes (2011/12)	↓60%	↓70%
Potable water consumption from Council operations	334ML (2000/01)	↓45%	↓50%

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Related Strategies & Plans

		Year Adopted	Review Due
General	Council Plan	2013	2017
	Municipal Strategic Statement	2010	2014
Climate Change & Greenhouse	Climate Change Adaptation Plan	2013	
	Carbon Neutral Action Plan	2010	2015
Waste	Waste Management Plan	2009	2013
Water	Water Action Plan	2006	
	Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines	2012	
Transport	Strategic Transport Statement 2006 and Revised Actions	2012	2016
	Encouraging and Increasing Walking Strategy	2005	
	Bicycle Strategy	2010	2015
	Parking Management Strategy	2010	
Biodiversity, Air Quality and Open Space	Open Space Strategy	2006	2015
	Street Tree Strategy	2004	
	Domestic Animal Management Strategy	2009	
	Urban Wildlife Management	2009	
Infrastructure & Built Form	Municipal Wide Infrastructure Plan		
	Asset Management Strategy	2011	
	Buildings Asset Management Plan	2013	
	Open Space Shade Policy	2011	
	Urban Design Strategy	2011	
	Business and Industrial Land Strategy	2012	
	ESD Buildings Policy	2011	
Community Services and Programs	Social and Affordable Housing Strategy	2011	
	Urban Agriculture Guidelines	2011	
	Municipal Public Health Plan	2009	2014
	Arts and Cultural Plan	2011	2015
	Aboriginal Partnerships Plan	2011	2014
	Sports and Physical Activity Strategy	2009	2013
	Economic Development Strategy	2009	2014
	Tourism Strategy	2010	2017
	Yarra Libraries Plan	2013	2017
	Yarra Youth Policy	2009	2013
	Early Years Strategy	2013	2017
	Middle Years Strategy	2013	2017
	Positive Aging Strategy	2007	2016
	Disability Action Plan	2010	2014
	YCC & Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres MOU and Strategic Action Plan	2013	
Council Operations	Municipal Emergency Recovery Plan	2011	
	One Yarra Strategy	2013	



## Yarra Environment Strategy - Action Plan (2013-2017)

### Pathway 1 - Community Empowerment & Local Action

*Supporting an empowered community that acts locally to increase the sustainability of consumption and lifestyles to reduce its ecological footprint*

#### Objectives

Council will:

- 1.1 - Empower and educate the community to support sustainable consumption and lifestyles.
- 1.2 - Accelerate collective action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles.
- 1.3 - Support local community organisations and groups.
- 1.4 - Provide tailored support to target groups to increase participation in sustainability initiatives by diverse groups.
- 1.5 - Improve sustainability outcomes through information dissemination and community input to Council programs, processes, and services.
- 1.6 - Understand and track community knowledge and action, and celebrate achievements.

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
Community satisfaction that 'Council is meeting its responsibility towards the environment'	7.3/10, annual Customer Satisfaction Survey (2013)	7.4/10	7.5/10
<b>Sub Targets</b>			
Local sustainability understanding and local sustainability action	Shown through a new community survey	TBC	TBC

#### Community Empowerment & Local Action Actions

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 1.1: Empower and educate the community to support sustainable consumption and lifestyles</b>		

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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying and promoting existing hubs and the roles / services they currently have to offer;</li> <li>Providing additional support and sustainability information to existing hubs to increase their capacity to act as feature sustainability hubs, with a particular emphasis initially on Neighbourhood Houses;</li> <li>Promoting the network of hubs across Yarra; and</li> </ul> <p><u>Years 2-4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support two new or existing hubs per year to enhance their capacity in their role as sustainability hubs</li> <li>Conduct a needs analysis and identifying the next steps for creation of hubs in areas not currently serviced.</li> <li>Continue to support, enhance promotion and resources, and develop project plan budget bids where required.</li> </ul>		\$10,000 + 0.2 FTE
<b>Objective 1.2 – Accelerate collective action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles</b>		
<b>Action 1.2.1: Support and connect neighbours to take collective action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles</b>		
<p>To support and accelerate Yarra's community in reducing consumption and adopting more sustainable lifestyles, there is a need to seed and help develop collective local actions. The scope of collective sustainability action could range from a handful of neighbours in a street to a large action involving individuals across a whole suburb. Examples include shared composting, mini-bulk buys / food coops, sharing tools, urban agriculture/ sustainability related infrastructure etc.</p> <p>Through enhanced collective action Council expects to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sustainability action and improved outcomes;</li> <li>Increased future sustainability actions (individual or collective) through increased sense of community and connections; and</li> <li>Increased collective action across Yarra through sharing of knowledge and ideas.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Establish business case and Budget Bid including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and evaluate existing project examples, and new potential initiatives/projects?</li> <li>Identify what support from Council would enhance these; and what would council support look like. Eg. Support local 'Champions'/project leaders to be more effective;</li> <li>Identify what funding is required, and how this could tie in with Annual Grants;</li> <li>How to promote and achieve uptake; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify partners – existing pilot opportunities, community groups action (ie YCAN), and other opportunities (eg. YEF), and external funding opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <p>Rollout, evaluate and expand program (subject to annual funding)</p>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Approx \$10,000 + 0.4 FTE (ongoing from 2014/15)</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Action 1.2.2 - Strengthen Urban Agriculture program</b>		
<p>Yarra is a national leader in supporting local food growing activities through our Urban Agriculture program. However, a holistic Urban Agriculture Strategy and Implementation Plan is required to tie the many elements together and ensure a clear and unified set of actions and direction that meet the needs of all sectors of the community.</p> <p><u>Year 1:</u></p> <p>Continue and strengthen existing Urban Agriculture program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update the current processes and guidelines to increase effectiveness;</li> <li>Expand Urban Agriculture Education Program including workshops and training, communications, promotion and expanding the website.</li> <li>Undertake strategic mapping of potential sites for gardens or orchards with a priority focus on looking at surplus land, road closures, surplus car parks etc. for these types of projects. The mapping could also identify site suitable for 'pop up' community gardens etc.</li> </ul> <p>Develop Urban Agriculture Strategy and Implementation Plan could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of the vision and scope of Yarra urban agriculture activities and community gardens, as well as key priorities issues, and actions;</li> <li>Development of associated plans: promotion, education, equity, community engagement, etc;</li> <li>Development of internal policy audit and working group to remove unnecessary barriers for public participation and Council awareness/integration;</li> <li>Review potential and business case for a "pop up" and "mobile" garden model and pilot in community to make use of currently disused public spaces;</li> <li>Review potential and develop business case for a Yarra planter box design process and community rental program;</li> <li>Creation of strong link to the Urban Agriculture Guidelines;</li> <li>Creation of key definitions and examples of activities;</li> <li>Undertake review of potential council activities supporting home food gardening activities (link to action 2.3.1);</li> <li>Review opportunities to support bee hives, chickens, and pollinator gardens in the Municipality;</li> <li>Review potential for developing a community tool library to support gardening (link to action 1.2.1);</li> <li>Review opportunities tying urban agriculture activities together such as Darebin's Fruit Squad and "Eat the Street" initiatives; and</li> <li>Link to the Urban Forest Strategy and opportunities for promoting shade trees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Urban Agriculture Strategy and Implementation Plan</li> <li>Develop Urban Agriculture Toolkit for how to set up local urban agriculture projects</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p> <p>Support: Open Space</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Resource requirements identified through strategy development</p>
<b>Objective 1.3 – Support local community organisations and groups</b>		
<b>Action: 1.3.1 Support local sustainability community groups to be effective</b>		

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>Council has a long history of supporting a wide range of community groups within Yarra; usually volunteer run, Council can assist local sustainability community to be more effective via support and advice.</p> <p>Council will enhance, formalise, and promote support opportunities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Information needs:</i> such as facilitating contact with other parts of council, providing advice, introductions to contacts and networks, providing speakers/presenters/facilitators where possible;</li> <li>• <i>Meeting space needs:</i> Supporting access to council venues and/or provision of ideas; and</li> <li>• <i>Budget needs:</i> such as allocating small amounts of Council resources, accessing Council/External grants (action 1.3.2).</li> </ul>	Lead: Environmental Management	Priority: Low
<b>Action 1.3.2 Support community groups to access funding and support</b>		
<p>Yarra Council provides annual financial grants to support local Yarra groups and communities in improving environmental outcomes via specific programs and activities.</p> <p>Council will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide grants to the Yarra Community through the Annual Grants program via a specific Environmental Stream;</li> <li>• Support funded projects to be effective;</li> <li>• Share widely the ideas and projects funded through the grants program. Consider developing a simple case study template for all grants recipients to fill in at the end of the project for sharing project outcomes and lessons; and</li> <li>• Promote external grant opportunities to local community groups.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Community Development</p> <p>Support: Environmental Management</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Budget allocated from central pool</p>
<b>Action 1.3.3: Enhance community group collaboration of sustainability via the Yarra Environmental Sustainability Network (YESN)</b>		
<p>Established in 2009, the Yarra Environmental Sustainability Network aims to increase the capacity of the community agencies working sector in Yarra to provide effective, collaborative and just responses to environmental issues. YESN is Council sponsored and co-convened by North Yarra Community Health and Council. YESN is comprised of community sector agencies and community groups. Activities currently undertaken by YESN include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building in response to climate change adaptation and future resources constraints;</li> <li>• Information and knowledge sharing;</li> <li>• Advocacy in relation to the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues; and</li> <li>• Supporting existing and new Council-led environmental awareness, advocacy and action campaigns.</li> </ul> <p><u>Years 1- 2</u></p> <p>Continue to support and review YESN effectiveness, to develop new Strategic Plan in 2014/15 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-facilitation and funding structure</li> <li>• Membership</li> <li>• Opportunities to increase action and effectiveness</li> </ul>	Lead: Environmental Management	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Current budget allocation \$5,000 p.a.</p>

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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install bicycle hoops to encourage bike riding;</li> <li>Hire out a Council mulcher for school working bees; and</li> <li>Support schools and to apply for Yarra Sustainability Awards and grants</li> </ul> <p><u>Years 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to introduce half day sustainability sessions for the nominated teachers from all Yarra schools, run by Ceres. These will be held twice a year to increase teachers skills professional skills as well as knowledge around sustainability.</li> <li>Promote the involvement of students in recycling, and in preventing litter going to storm water and our rivers, and in recognising what's happening in the community around them, so they can influence the people around them in doing the right thing.</li> <li>explore opportunities for improving physical infrastructure, as well as education and engagement.</li> </ul>		\$TBC
<b>Action 1.4.3 integrate sustainability into Council services to the community</b>		
<p>Many of Council's community-based services already integrate a number of sustainability principles and practices into their delivery of outreach programs, such as Libraries, Home and Community Care (HACC), Leisure Services, Youth Services, Family and Children's Services and others. Council will increase provision of tailored environmental information and support through these 'front line' services.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide strategic support to areas of Council that have already started integrating sustainability.</li> <li>Identify new areas for action. This may include, further work on programs already identified, as well as expanding the number of programs with sustainability integration.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide strategic support to areas of Council that have already started integrating of sustainability.</li> <li>Implement one new area of action per year.</li> </ul>	Lead: Environmental Management	Priority: High  \$5000 p.a. + 0.2 FTE
<b>Objective 1.5 – Improve sustainability outcomes through information dissemination and community input to Council programs, processes, and services</b>		
<b>Action 1.5.1: Disseminate key sustainability information to our community</b>		
<p>Council has many communication channels and opportunities and will seek to better use these to disseminate sustainability information on local environmental projects, activities, news and events to the Yarra Community.</p> <p><u>Years 1-4</u></p> <p>a) <i>Environmental E-news</i>: Continue quarterly distribution, and seek to improve based on feedback.</p> <p>b) <i>Business e-bulletin and sustainable business webpage</i>: include regular information on sustainable business practices and opportunities in the fortnightly Business e-bulletin, and regularly updated webpage.</p> <p>c) <i>Council Website</i>: provide website which is useful and regularly accessed for Council and local sustainability information, updated on regular basis.</p>	Co-Lead: Environmental Management and Communications  Support: Economic Development	Priority: High

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
d) <i>Council communication channels</i> : Other information will be provide via communication channels including Yarra News, Council Twitter feed, media releases etc.		
<b>Action 1.5.2: Increase community input to Council programs, processes, and services</b>		
<p>Council recognises that decision-making, services and outcomes can be enhanced through involving community members in decision making around issues which are likely to affect them.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Continue to facilitate Council-community committees including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC) - Council will also work with YEAC to investigate ways to further enhance two-way engagement in Council environmental planning and decision-making, and knowledge of Council policies and practices;</li> <li>Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC); and</li> <li>Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <p>Biennially review effectiveness and success of these consultation mechanisms and implement identified changes to improve outcomes.</p>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Communications, Governance</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>
<b>Objective 1.6 –Understand and track community knowledge and action, and celebrate achievements</b>		
<b>Action 1.6.1: Develop Yarra Sustainability Survey and measure Yarra’s environmental Footprint</b>		
<p>To track success and understand where resources need to be directed, Council will develop a community Yarra Sustainability Survey.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Undertake baseline community sustainability survey.</p> <p><u>Years 2-3</u></p> <p>Develop Yarra Community Ecological Footprint measurement, process, and budget bid.</p> <p><u>Year 4</u></p> <p>Re- survey, and undertake measurement of Yarra’s Community Ecological Footprint</p>	<p>Co-Lead: Environmental Management; Community &amp; Corporate Planning</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>\$10,000</p>
<b>Action 1.6.2 Yarra Sustainability Awards</b>		

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>The Yarra Sustainability Awards have been run annually since 2010. The program recognises, rewards and promotes achievement in sustainability in the Yarra community.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Hold Yarra Sustainability Awards, and subsequently review and explore options for improving the Awards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review ideal timing of Awards (e.g. annual vs. biennial)</li> <li>Consider options for integrating, or more closely linking, with other similar Council awards such as the Australia Day Awards;</li> <li>Explore options for collaborating more closely with external groups such the Yarra Energy Foundation; and</li> <li>Support and promote awards winners.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <p>Implement any Council endorsed changes.</p>	Lead: Environmental Management	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Current budget allocation \$16,000 p.a.</p>

### Pathway 2 - Urban Ecology & Natural Environment

*Supporting healthy and thriving ecosystems in Yarra*

#### Objectives:

Council will:

- 2.1 – Enhance community awareness and engagement with Yarra’s local environment.
- 2.2 – Incorporate and improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through Council operations.
- 2.3 – Support biodiversity and ecosystem health improvements on private land.
- 2.4 – Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through partnerships and collaborative action.

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline Measurement	2017 target	2020 target
Increase in local biodiversity and habitat health	New Survey (2014) to measure local biodiversity (total and target species), habitat health (trees, distribution / abundance weed/pest species reduction, air quality, water quality).	TBC	TBC
Improvement in stormwater quality management	Achieved 5% of the best practice performance objectives for Council managed assets as outlined in the <i>Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines</i> (2011/12)	7%	10%

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Existing Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Significant Tree register</li><li>Street Tree Policy</li><li>Urban Wildlife Management Plan (2009)</li><li>Domestic Animal Management Plan</li><li>Natural Heritage Study</li><li>Municipal Weed Management Plan (under development)</li><li>Advocacy and actions to reduce vehicles in Yarra, including 'Train's not Toll Roads' campaign, and priority for bikes, in reducing air pollution</li><li>Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Policy</li></ul>		
Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources	
Objective: 2.1 – Enhance community awareness and engagement with Yarra’s local environment			
2.1.1 Establish Yarra River environs awareness campaign			
<p>The Yarra River not only gives the municipality its name, it’s also one of the City’s most important natural assets and supports many social and cultural activities. Council will seek to showcase the Yarra River and the Merri Creek, and the diversity of opportunities to interact with the river environs as well as ways to ensure its future health.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Establish working group with key external stakeholders, and develop campaign and budget submission. Seek grant opportunities. Consider opportunities for generating awareness of high priority sites of Indigenous cultural significance as (eg. Scar Tree at Burnley).</p> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establish, rollout, and review campaign</li><li>Investigate and act on potential to have the Yarra corridor listed on the national heritage register</li></ul>	<p>Lead: Communications</p> <p>Support: Open Space &amp; recreation; Sustainability and Strategic Transport; Economic Development; Corporate and Corporate Planning; Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p>	Priority: Medium	
Action 2.1.2: Build community understanding of activities to improve local air quality			
<p>Annual monitoring of air quality in Yarra has shown good results, but this can always improve. Council will look to provide information to residents and business on measures they can take to improve air quality, be alerted of times of reduced air quality and ways to mitigate health risks, and report annual air quality data.</p> <p>Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regularly update webpage as a portal for information in relation to air pollution in the municipality, including ways residents and businesses can change behaviour around polluting activities;</li><li>Report annual air quality results for Yarra; and</li><li>Develop a process to be alerted to days of potential high pollution levels, and use council communications channels to inform the community.</li></ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Communications; Public Health and Health Protection</p>	Priority: Low	
Objective: 2.2 – Incorporate and improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through Council operations			

# Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Action 2.2.1: Support and enhance existing natural resource management programs/ actions</b>		
<p>Council undertakes many and diverse actions to improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through Council operations and on Council land, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street tree plantings;</li> <li>• Re-vegetation activities and programs; and</li> <li>• Open Space and Urban Design upgrades and maintenance programs.</li> </ul> <p>Council will continue, review and strengthen existing actions, and ensure Council land management processes continue to take into account Yarra's cultural heritage and Indigenous sites of significance, including other groups undertaking local land management works.</p>	<p>Lead: Recreation &amp; Open Space</p> <p>Support: Urban Design</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>
<b>Action 2.2.2: Develop and undertake local biodiversity and ecosystem health Survey</b>		
<p>To better understand the current status, opportunities, and track progress it is important to develop benchmark local biodiversity and ecosystem health indicators, and undertake a survey.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u> Develop survey plan and budget bid.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u> Establish relevant local biodiversity and ecosystem health benchmarks to measure progress and compare against other cities.</p> <p><u>Year 3</u> Set targets for key indicators (link to action 2.1.3).</p> <p><u>Year 4</u> Resurvey.</p>	<p>Lead: Open Space &amp; Recreation</p> <p>Support: Environmental Management;</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>
<b>2.2.3 Develop Yarra Biodiversity Strategy</b>		
<p>To best deliver on Council's commitment to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity within the municipality, a Biodiversity Strategy is required. A Biodiversity Strategy will provide direction on how to prioritise decision making on protecting and increasing the diversity and sustainability of remnant vegetation and fauna habitat across the municipality.</p> <p>The strategy will establish best practices in biodiversity protection, the use of adaptive management techniques and increased biodiversity connectivity in a bioregional context. It will also provide key indicators of the overall ecological health and resilience of native vegetation and its contribution to ecological integrity and resilience for Yarra and the region.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p>	<p>Lead: Recreation &amp; Open Space</p> <p>Support: Environmental Management; Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture; Local Laws</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>Support urban agriculture, urban forest strategy and other related actions.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Develop business case and budget submission for development of a Yarra Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Key aspects of a Biodiversity Strategy would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an long term vision of inner-urban biodiversity in Yarra;</li> <li>• Identify areas of high biodiversity significance, and Council lands that could be priorities for Biodiversity Protection, enhancement or revegetation;</li> <li>• Develop frameworks for partnerships with the community (including Indigenous, friends groups, schools and businesses), Catchment Management Authorities, and other agencies;</li> <li>• Identify and integrate with other strategies that border or overlap Yarra Council ( e.g. neighbouring Councils, Parks Vic, Melbourne Water);</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to accelerate biodiversity improvements and promote Yarra's waterways such as planning scheme amendments, engagement and promotional activities as well as improving procedures and guidelines (link to action 2.1.1);</li> <li>• Review and link to the Urban Wildlife Management Plan and Domestic Animal Management Plan; and</li> <li>• Inform and incorporate existing, and support future strategic documents such as an Urban Forestry Strategy.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <p>Development and implement of the Yarra Biodiversity Strategy including budget bids for future actions</p>	& Animal Management	\$40,000
<b>2.2.4 Accelerating Water Sensitive Urban Design for water treatment through Council operations</b>		
<p>The Yarra Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Policy was endorsed by Council in 2011 to promote the uptake of water treatments that improve water quality prior to entering stormwater systems, with many other benefits including watering plants and flood mitigation. Only WSUD treatments that do not collect and reuse water are only considered in this action (treatments that also assist with reducing potable water consumption are highlighted in section 3.6 and 4.4). A review of Council's WSUD Policy will ensure its relevance as technologies and circumstances change over time.</p> <p><u>Year 1-2</u></p> <p>Continue existing actions through the adopted WSUD Policy and other avenues.</p> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <p>Review Council's internal WSUD policy including consideration of revised strategies to integrate WSUD in every relevant infrastructure project, and implement recommended changes.</p>	<p>Lead: Sustainable Asset Management</p> <p>Support: Engineering Services</p>	Priority: High
<b>Objective: 2.3 – Support biodiversity and ecosystem health improvements on private land</b>		

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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
amenity of the river as a restorative escape from the urban landscape.		
<b>Objective 2.4: Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health outcomes through partnerships and collaborative action</b>		
<b>Action 2.4.1 Build alliances and partnerships to advocate and ensure a clean Yarra River</b>		
<p>Build alliances and partnerships to advocate and ensure a clean Yarra River along its entire length within Yarra, protected from encroaching development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage with neighbouring Councils, state agencies, local community organisations and schools to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach to land and waterway management and environmental education;</li> <li>- Ensure planning permit conditions constrain materials on site (avoid soil and material runoff during construction) and improve sediment management through surveillance and compliance of permits;</li> <li>- Work with Melbourne Water/EPA to identify and control key pollution hotspots; and</li> <li>- Work collaboratively with other agencies (e.g. Melbourne Water) to ensure that illegal vegetation removal is investigated and offenders prosecuted.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: City Strategy</p> <p>Support: Open Space and Recreation, Sustainable Asset Management; Sustainability and Strategic Transport</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>
<b>2.4.2 Supporting reduction in litter loads to Yarra's waterways through business and community action</b>		
<p>The Lower Yarra Litter Strategy (LYLS) is a collaborative program involving state and local government organisations, targeting business, with the aim to reduce litter loads in the Lower Yarra River and build on-going strategies to improve the overall water quality in the Yarra catchment. Yarra's continued support and involvement is a crucial element in Council's efforts in improving waterway health, and changing people's behaviour with contamination/litter that could end up in the river.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Implementation of LYLS program focussed on North Fitzroy and Edinburgh Gardens, linking into program of awareness and action about recycling and littering in local schools.</p> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <p>Continued implementation/close out, and review of program success and potential to replicate or expand a tailored LYLS model program to reduce litter across the municipality, with associated costing for budget submission. Review to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- business case for a dedicated Yarra Litter Prevention Officer to deliver an integrated dumping program and response;</li> <li>- Potential for a program with LYLS partners around dumping;</li> <li>- Enforcement of dumped rubbish and litter;</li> <li>- Internal cross-Council collaboration (eg. Litter Task Force);</li> <li>- Partner with schools, targeting their involvement with protecting stormwater, and stopping littering; and</li> <li>- Potential to build local business champions who adopt a no-plastic-bags rule.</li> </ul> <p>Identify and implement ways to build LYLS principles into general education for traders across Yarra, combined with education on recycling, waste</p>	<p>Lead: Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p> <p>Support: Sustainable Asset Management</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>To be funded through the Waste</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
management, Food Know How and general resource use.		Management Plan
<b>Action: 2.4.3 Develop Water Sensitive City Plan</b>		
<p>To holistically integrate all aspects of water cycle management within the municipality, there is a need to develop a long term strategy and plan for Yarra to be a water sensitive city.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Undertake preliminary study and define study requirements, including key elements in the design of the Stormwater Management Plan and Drainage Asset Management Plan. Develop project plan and budget bid.</p> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <p>Develop and implement Water Sensitive City / Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater harvesting and water quality improvement opportunities beyond current projects;</li> <li>• Integrated water cycle management;</li> <li>• Household/ scale water projects; and</li> <li>• Mechanisms to reduce heat island effect and evaporation.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Sustainable Asset Management</p> <p>Support: Sustainability &amp; Strategic Transport</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>\$40,000</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Pathway 3 - Sustainable City Infrastructure & Lifestyles

*Developing secure, affordable & liveable City infrastructure and lifestyles for the Yarra Community*

#### Objectives

<b>3.1 Sustainable Transport</b>	<i>Community infrastructure and programs that provide for safe, efficient, affordable and low-carbon mobility</i>
<b>3.2 Increased Business Sustainability</b>	<i>A thriving green business economy in Yarra, and increased business productivity achieved through reduced environmental impact of operations</i>
<b>3.3 Sustainable Built Environment</b>	<i>Council powers and resources being used to influence the design and layout of the City for sustainability, functionality, resilience, and green recreation</i>
<b>3.4 Carbon Neutral Yarra</b>	<i>Reduced greenhouse emissions from across the municipality, towards carbon neutral by 2020</i>
<b>3.5 Waste Wise Yarra</b>	<i>Reduced waste to landfill through changed Community behaviours and tailored / easy to use infrastructure.</i>
<b>3.6 Conserving Water in Yarra</b>	<i>Reduction in community use of potable water, through partnerships and direct action</i>
<b>3.7 Climate Change Resilient Communities</b>	<i>Preparedness of Yarra's community to better respond and adapt to future climate conditions</i>

#### Objective 3.1 - Sustainable Transport

*Supporting community infrastructure and programs to increase safe, efficient, affordable and low-carbon mobility in Yarra*

#### Sub- Objectives

Council will:

- 3.1.1 – Create a Sustainable Transport Culture in Yarra
- 3.1.2 – Establish Yarra as a sustainable transport destination
- 3.1.3 – Advocate for sustainable transport improvements beyond Council's direct control

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Increase in sustainable transport to work	41% Residents using Sustainable Transport to work (2011 census)	50% (2016 census)	60% (2021 census)
	29% non-residents use sustainable transport to work in Yarra (2011 census)	35% (2016 census)	50% (2021 census)
<b>Sub-targets</b>			

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Increase bike riders in Yarra	3,167 daily bike commuters through the 4 major bike intersections from 7-9am (2013 <i>Super Tuesday</i> count)	↑ 70% (5,400 cyclists)	↑ 150% (8,000 cyclists)
Reduction in serious bike crashes on Yarra roads	132 bike serious injury incidents reported via VicRoads (2012)	↓ 10% (119 incidents)	↓ 20% (106 incidents)
Increase bike paths in Yarra	a) New or upgraded on-road bicycle lanes constructed (55km in 2013) b) Off-road shared paths improved and reconstructed	a) 60km b) +500m	a) 80km b) +2km
Increase bike parking infrastructure installed in Yarra	Number of bike hoops and pole vaults (or equivalent)	+ 800	+ 2000

## Sustainable Transport Actions

Existing actions      Yarra Bicycle Strategy  
Encouraging and Increasing Walking Strategy

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.1.1 – Create a Sustainable Transport Culture in Yarra</b>		
<b>Action: 3.1.1.1 Develop Sustainable Transport Behaviour Change Campaign Strategy</b>		
<p>To promote the infrastructure and other developments around sustainable transport, communications of sustainable transport is needed to target the 'take up' message and support major projects.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with business to promote sustainable transport options to those that travel to Yarra for work, through supporting organisations to produce and implement Green Travel Plans. Develop a Strategy which investigates and addresses the barriers to sustainable transport uptake for those journeying to Yarra.</li> <li>Council leads by example in encouraging take-up of sustainable transport to work. Update the current Staff Green Travel Plan.</li> <li>Develop a Communications Plan to promote the take up of sustainable transport modes. The plan should identify ways to engage large businesses in Yarra. The plan should cover all communications including: access plans for council facilities; travel maps; and Sharing Yarra's Roads and Paths.</li> <li>All Yarra led events should be used to promote sustainable transport to all those travelling to the City of Yarra.</li> <li>Link to Action 1.1.1</li> <li>Continue to apply Yarra's hierarchy of transport modes to all decision making and actions related to transport in the City.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Communications Plan including printing/development of resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Strategic Transport</p> <p>Support: Communications</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase sustainable transport mode share of council staff via Green Travel Plan update.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a new community Sustainable Transport Behaviour Change Campaign based on data collected in year 1.</li> <li>Increase sustainable transport mode share of council staff.</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 3.1.2 – Establish Yarra as a sustainable transport destination</b>		
<b>Action: 3.1.2.1 Accelerating cycling and walking in Yarra</b>		
<p>The City of Yarra is very well served by public transport has excellent walking and cycling opportunities and is centrally located in Melbourne. Yarra City has the opportunity to encourage those visiting Yarra (for work and leisure) to use sustainable transport to access the city.</p> <p>Council's Strategic Transport Statement (2006) defines a hierarchy (sustainable modes on top) which guides decision making in Yarra. Out of the STS came the Encouraging and Increasing Walking Strategy (EIWS) and the Yarra Bicycle Strategy. The Yarra Bicycle Strategy sets the direction of bicycle infrastructure improvements in Yarra. Council will update both Action Plans in 2014/15.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Implement existing Yarra Bicycle Strategy, with the addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase bike parking infrastructure at activity centres, including opportunities to transform on-street car parks to dedicated bike parking; and</li> <li>Input into transport communications and engagement strategy (action 3.1.1) to reinforce Yarra as leading bicycle friendly city, promotion of benefits and information to assist riders (e.g. laws, safe riding techniques, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>Implement existing Encouraging and Increasing Walking Strategy with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy for pedestrian priority at traffic signals; and</li> <li>Conduct walkability audit around one activity centre.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate Bicycle and Walking strategies together, including updating of action plans; and</li> <li>Seek to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articulated advocacy priorities and partnerships;</li> <li>Specify targets for key sectors and demographics; and</li> <li>Review &amp; prioritise on-road and off-road bike route infrastructure projects; and</li> <li>Conduct walkability audit around one activity centre.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Years 3 &amp; 4</u></p> <p>Implement strategy</p>	<p>Lead: Strategic transport</p> <p>Support:</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Action: 3.1.2.2: Support public transport use in Yarra</b>		
<p>Develop a phased plan of priority public transport projects that will help people travel from, through and to Yarra.</p> <p>The plan will include Yarra actions to support, advocate and action these projects.</p> <p>It will be used to direct Council actions and to advocate for additional state government spending on public transport infrastructure to improve capacity, frequency and quality of services.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Collect and analyse data on public transport routes into Yarra in conjunction with public transport providers.</p> <p><u>Years 3 &amp; 4</u></p> <p>Prioritise campaigns for improvements based on data collected in year 1 &amp; 2.</p> <p>Work with tram upgrade program to deliver faster, more reliable public transport for residents and visitors to Yarra.</p>	<p>Lead: Strategic Transport</p> <p>Support: Urban Design, Communications</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>
<b>Objective 3.1.3 – Advocate for sustainable transport improvements beyond Council's direct control</b>		
<b>Action: 3.1.3.1 Advocate and work with key stakeholders to support sustainable transport</b>		
<p>Yarra has the opportunity to be a community leader in creating better sustainable transport options for those travelling in, through and to Yarra.</p> <p>Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on strategic advocacy with neighbouring councils and other partners, to improve conditions for on-going use and uptake of sustainable transport modes.</li> <li>• advocate against road projects that increase the net traffic capacity for single occupancy vehicles, unless the scheme produces an overall significant mode shift towards sustainable modes by improving conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, disabled people and public transport.</li> <li>• advocate and partner with key stakeholders to integrate sustainable transport improvements with local economic and urban realm improvements.</li> <li>• Improve road safety in Yarra by working with the Road Safety Action Group Inner Melbourne, including bicycle and pedestrian working groups.</li> <li>• Trial of 30km speed limits in LATMS precincts, where suitable and feasible.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Strategic Transport</p> <p>Support: Traffic, Communications</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

### Objective 3.2 Increased Business Sustainability

*Supporting a thriving green business economy in Yarra and helping businesses increase productivity through reducing the environmental impact of their operations.*

#### Sub- Objectives

Council will:

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

3.2.1 Support sustainable operations in Yarra Businesses to increase efficiency and reduce their environmental footprint

3.2.2 Yarra to become the location of choice for sustainable business

### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Number, turnover and impact of green businesses and business practices in Yarra	New survey/measurement (2014)	↑ 5%	↑ 10%
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Commercial and industrial sector greenhouse gas emissions	883 kt CO <sub>2</sub> e from commercial & industrial sector (2005/06)	↓ 10%	↓ 20%

### Business Sustainability Actions

Existing actions Economic Development Strategy (2009-14)

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.2.1 – Support sustainable operations in Yarra businesses to increase efficiency and reduce environmental footprint</b>		
<b>Action: 3.2.1.1 Strengthening partnerships and support for sustainable business operations</b>		
<p>Yarra businesses can benefit from the productivity and reduced ecological footprint that comes with making their operations more sustainable. With close relationships with individual businesses, traders' associations and groups Council can provide valuable support to its business community in making these types of transitions and will investigate potential avenues for delivering such a service.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Strengthen existing Council services and partnerships with external providers of programs and initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide access to information and support such as from Yarra Energy Foundation, <i>CitySwitch</i>, and VECCI, and via:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Sustainable Business in Yarra</i> webpage with links to key programs and support available;</li> <li>Business eBulletin; and</li> <li>Networking and training events, with at least one Council run session annually targeting improved business sustainability;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Promote the energy efficiency actions of Council relevant to business, the retrofitted Richmond Library as demonstration energy efficiency retrofit to a commercial style building;</li> <li>Continue to support and promote the Yarra Sustainability Awards and business award category;</li> <li>Actively support the Yarra Energy Foundation to develop and deliver offerings to business, including the roll out of the NAGA Energy Efficient Business program;</li> <li>Link into LYLES program (action 2.2.5) to involve more businesses in protecting stormwater, increasing recycling, reducing waste and reducing</li> </ul>	<p>Co-Lead: Economic Development, Environmental Management,</p> <p>Support: Communications, Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p> <p>Yarra Energy Foundation</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>food use.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Investigate potential further avenues for supporting businesses in Yarra to operate more sustainably through the development of a new Yarra Economic Development Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate and empower businesses to accelerate uptake of 'simple and effective' sustainability changes into their business, especially to go beyond the early and keen adopters;</li> <li>Increase the promotion of sustainable business in Yarra, such as by developing a Sustainable Business in Yarra Directory, supporting existing sustainable businesses, and through the Yarra Sustainability Awards, etc;</li> <li>Encourage broader local business and sustainability benefits such as shopping locally, and travelling via sustainable transport means, for example such as the <i>Discover Your Own Backyard</i> campaign run in 2013; and</li> <li>Support waste reduction activities in the new Waste Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement relevant actions in the new Economic Development Strategy with an expanded focus on sustainable business support.</li> </ul>		<p>Potential new resources to be allocated though Economic Development Strategy</p>
<b>Objective 3.2.2 – Yarra to become the location of choice for sustainable business</b>		
<b>Action 3.2.2.1: Review opportunities for Growing the Green Economy in Yarra</b>		
<p>Council actively supports green businesses and improved business sustainability in Yarra through various initiatives. Yarra will build the awareness of its support for sustainable businesses and promote Yarra as the location of choice for sustainable business.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Develop project plan and budget submission.</p> <p>Facilitate discussion with local green businesses to identify issues, barriers and opportunities for increasing the number of green businesses in Yarra. The information will be used to scope a brief for a more comprehensive review.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Undertake external review into opportunities for Growing the Green Economy in Yarra, to feed into Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Study to review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why Yarra? What is unique about Yarra for green business?</li> <li>What is it that would convince a green business to locate here?</li> <li>How could this be promoted?</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ways to better support and promote businesses identifying as sustainable eg. Green Businesses Directory, Branding, Hub, etc; and</li> <li>Ways to support new green business/ alternative business models and operations (such as extended product stewardship, 'collaborative</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Economic Development</p> <p>Support: Sustainability and Strategic Transport Communications, Yarra Energy Foundation</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>\$20,000 for initial study</p> <p>Potential new resources to be allocated though Economic</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
consumption', 'industrial ecology', tailored services etc) eg. Develop a sustainable business incubator or provide sustainable business seed-funding, etc.  <u>Year 3-4</u> Implement recommended outcomes through the Economic Development Strategy		Development Strategy

### Objective 3.3 - Sustainable Built Environment

*Using Council powers and resources to influence the design and layout of the City for sustainability, functionality, resilience, and green recreation*

#### Sub-Objectives

Council will:

- 3.3.1 - Increase sustainable built environment in Yarra through the planning scheme
- 3.3.2 - Increase the sustainability of existing building stock in Yarra
- 3.3.3 - Increase access to green open space in Yarra

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Resident access to open space	Number of new parks established in Yarra (since 2012)	3	6
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Medium and large developments meeting best practice standards through SDAPP Program	Number of medium & large developments meeting best practice standards through the SDAPP Program	90%	100%
Parks managed using sustainable landscape practices	Number of parks accredited by Sustainable Gardening Australia for landscaping practices. (1 park, 2013)	5	5

### Sustainable Built Environment Actions

**Existing actions**   Yarra Open Space Strategy  
Sustainable Development in the Planning Process (SDAPP)

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.3.1 – Increase sustainability in Yarra’s built environment through the planning process</b>		
<b>Action: 3.3.1.1 Planning Scheme Improvements to support sustainable outcomes</b>		
<p>The Yarra Planning Scheme currently provides some direction in encouraging Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) and development. There are opportunities to strengthen policy and guidance in the scheme to achieve more sustainable outcomes. Council has begun this process through the development of the Environmentally Sustainable Design Local Planning Policy.</p> <p><u>Year 1-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider and incorporate ESD in all relevant strategic planning projects including master plans, design and development overlays and incorporated plans;</li> <li>Continue to advocate to the State Government for the approval of the Environmental Sustainable Design Local Planning Policy; and</li> <li>Ensure that sustainability is given a high profile through the Yarra Planning Scheme review process in 2014/15.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Strategic Planning</p> <p>Support: Statutory Planning</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>
<b>Action 3.3.1.2: Support sustainable development within the Planning processes</b>		
<p>In 2009 Council employed its first ESD Advisor and began implementation of the SDAPP (Sustainable Design in the Planning Process) Program. Yarra is now a leading Council in Victoria in supporting ESD through the planning scheme.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Strengthen the SDAPP Program through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of the SDAPP best practice standards to ensure they align to our community sustainability targets (i.e. greenhouse and water reduction) along with CASBE (Council Alliance for the Sustainable Built Environment) partners;</li> <li>Regular reporting on the SDAPP Program progress via development of a reporting template and indicators, with quarterly reports to Council Executive;</li> <li>Initiation of a communications strategy for the SDAPP program in partnership with all participating CASBE Councils;</li> <li>Providing on-going support, advocacy and capacity building through CASBE, STEPS (Sustainable Tools for Environmental Performance Strategy) and SDS (Sustainable Design Scorecard) and IMAP (Inner Melbourne Action Plan) involvement;</li> <li>Review of fast-tracking permit application assessments with sustainability features (i.e. green door approvals process) and</li> <li>Incorporation of Food Sensitive Urban design principles.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing an ESD assessment process for small developments (renovations etc.) with all participating CASBE Councils;</li> <li>Development of case studies and business cases to support improved awareness of practical implementation of ESD in the built environment, including in relation to how heritage and ESD can be complementary;</li> <li>Update of the Fact Sheets to ensure they reflect best practice; and</li> <li>Establishment of a verification process with Building Services and Planning Enforcement to ensure ESD commitments are carried through to occupancy stage, and associated budget bid.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3</u></p>	<p>Lead: Statutory Planning</p> <p>Support: Building Services, Planning Enforcement; Local Laws and Animal Management; Communications</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>\$30,000 for consultants to</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
Implement the established verification process, with the aim for 20% medium/large applications to have follow-up verification to ensure the ESD commitments have been followed through.		undertake verification
<b>Objective 3.3.2 – Increase sustainability of existing building stock in Yarra</b>		
<b>Action: 3.3.2.1 Support green facades and roofs</b>		
<p>Council is a partner in the Growing Green Guide project with 3 other Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) Councils to support the uptake of vegetation in building design in Yarra. This project seeks to investigate the potential to transform Melbourne's roofs, walls and facades into vegetated, leafy habitats. Recommendations will be developed on integrating rooftop and vertical greening into regulatory schemes and to identify sites for future development of green roofs, walls and facades in the inner Melbourne region.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue involvement until the completion of the IMAP project; and</li> <li>Incorporate outcomes into Council's ESD Buildings Policy.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider incorporating the outcomes into Council's SDAPP (Sustainable Design in the Planning Process) Program and the Yarra Planning Scheme, and work to integrate with the existing Heritage Policy; and</li> <li>Incorporate vegetation into a Council building design.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build and showcase a Yarra building with incorporated vegetation elements.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: City Strategy</p> <p>Support: Buildings and Projects, , Open Space &amp; Recreation Statutory Planning</p>	Priority: Low
<b>Action 3.3.2.2: Existing building sustainability</b>		
<p>As well as new buildings and renovations, there are many opportunities to support the enhanced sustainability of existing residential and commercial buildings in Yarra including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for the Yarra Energy Foundation and projects such as Yarra Project Zero;</li> <li>Support for the SmartBlocks program in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, Yarra Energy Foundation, and other partners;</li> <li>Support for the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)-wide Business Efficiency 'Easy Energy Efficiency for SMEs' program; and</li> <li>Other actions focused on residential sustainability from Section 1 of this strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Statutory Planning, Economic Development</p>	
<b>Objective 3.3.3 – Increase access to open space in Yarra</b>		
<b>Action 3.3.3.1 Enhancing Open Space</b>		
<p>Access to vegetated open space is important to Yarra residents and workers to provide for healthy and active recreation and reflection, as well as urban heat island mitigation benefits. In 2008, Yarra had a total of 235 hectares of open space that is useable and freely accessible, with an additional 75.4 hectares available on a fee-paying basis.</p>	<p>Lead: Open Space</p>	Priority: High

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>Through the Yarra Open Space Strategy Council will improve access to open space for all residents, with a particular focus on securing open space in the “gap” areas, and seek to provide more equitable access to open space.</p> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>In the review of the existing Open Space Strategy, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating new open space (especially in ‘gap’ areas);</li> <li>• Integration with sustainable transport, biodiversity, water use, and climate adaptation objectives, especially in relation to reduction of the Urban Heat Island Effect;</li> <li>• Partnerships with other agencies, local schools, sporting clubs and community groups;</li> <li>• Obtaining accreditation by Sustainable Gardening Australia for landscaping practices in Yarra’s parks (Alphington Park received SGA Accreditation in 2012); and</li> <li>• Strengthening the connection between the knowledge of traditional owners and the way Yarra manages land.</li> </ul>		

### Objective 3.4 Carbon Neutral Yarra

*Supporting a reduction in greenhouse emissions from across the municipality, towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2020*

#### Sub-Objectives

Council will:

3.4.1 – Provide direct support to residents and businesses to reduce and offset emissions towards carbon neutrality by 2020

3.4.2 – Advocate for actions to support greenhouse mitigation actions beyond Council’s direct control

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Net municipal greenhouse emissions	1,865 kt CO <sub>2</sub> (2005/06)	NA	Zero
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Renewable energy generation in Yarra Municipality	1,200 kW (year 2010)	2,400 kW	7,000 kW

### Carbon Neutral Yarra Actions

**Existing actions** Establishment of Yarra Energy Foundation (2010)

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.4.1 – Provide direct support to residents and businesses to reduce and offset emissions towards carbon neutrality by 2020</b>		
<b>Action: 3.4.1.1 Support the Yarra Energy Foundation</b>		
<p>The Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) was established by the Yarra City Council in August 2010 as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. YEF was launched in April 2011 and works with the residents, businesses and the wider community to achieve carbon neutrality in the City of Yarra by 2020 through energy efficiency, low carbon energy supply, and offsetting. Council and YEF signed a new four year Funding Agreement in 2013.</p> <p>YEF works as a catalyst for change across the City of Yarra using engagement, learning and investment to amplify innovation in the community to achieve large-scale adoption. YEF actions will complement Federal and State government programs, business and community initiatives and accelerate actions to strengthen local innovation and industry development, whilst reducing climate change emissions. YEF sets the strategic direction for achieving carbon neutrality by 2020, and will advise Council on opportunities for Council support.</p> <p><u>Years 1-4</u></p> <p>YEF coordinated actions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development of large-scale solar PV projects;</li> <li>• Promotion and education of the community in financial offerings to fund carbon reduction projects;</li> <li>• The promotion of energy efficiency products;</li> <li>• Development of training programs to build community capacity in understanding and acting on climate change;</li> <li>• Research programs to assist in finding optimal ways to change behaviour in the community to reduce emissions across the community; and</li> <li>• Development of community emissions profiles to target actions and track progress, and offset pathways to achieving carbon neutrality by 2020.</li> </ul>	Lead: Environmental Management	Priority: High
<b>Action 3.4.1.2 Support existing and new partnerships and joint activities</b>		
<p>As well as supporting YEF, Council will continue to develop partnerships and joint activities.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Support projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards Zero Net Emission (tZNE) and Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA);</li> <li>• Yarra Community Solar (YCS): initiative lead by Yarra Climate Action Now (YCAN) including participation on YCS steering committee, and potentially Council investing in solar on other properties;</li> <li>• Smartblocks: Multi-unit residential sustainability project; and</li> <li>• Investigation of the potential benefits from establishing Environmental Upgrade Agreements (such as in the City of Melbourne; this would require changes to Local Government Act and would be best undertaken on a state level through MAV or NAGA).</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Statutory Planning</p>	Priority: High
<b>Objective 3.4.2 – Advocate for actions to support greenhouse mitigation beyond Council direct control</b>		

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Action: 3.4.2.1 Greenhouse Advocacy</b>		
<p>Whilst Yarra Council can take direct actions to reduce emissions, and with YEF support the community to reduce emissions, there are many impediments beyond its control that can make a significant difference in achieving carbon neutrality by 2020, and Council will seek to advocate for these changes.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate on greenhouse and energy efficiency through the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA); and</li> <li>Support YEF advocacy on issues which prevent Yarra from accelerating reductions toward carbon neutrality by 2020.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and YEF; and</li> <li>Develop a specific Yarra Greenhouse Advocacy agenda, with other partners to increase urgent action on GHG mitigation.</li> </ul>	Lead: Environmental Management	Priority: Medium

### Objective 3.5 Waste Wise Yarra

*Reduced waste to landfill through changed Community behaviours and tailored / easy to use infrastructure.*

#### Sub- Objectives

Council will:

3.5.1 – Support residents and businesses to reduce waste to landfill through waste collection service and beyond

3.5.2 – Focus on organic waste and food waste avoidance

3.5.3 – Work regionally for improved infrastructure and outcomes

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Household waste to landfill	14,500 tonnes (2011/12) kerbside household waste collected	↓10%	↓20%
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Household organic waste to landfill	52.6% of kerbside household waste collection (2011) per household	48%	43%
Household recycling contamination	9.6% contamination rate (2011)	7.5%	5%

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

## Actions

Associated Plans Waste Management Plan (2009)

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.5.1 – Support residents and businesses to reduce waste to landfill through waste collection service and Council lead initiatives</b>		
<b>Action 3.5.1.1 Develop a new Waste Management Strategy</b>		
<p>Council developed its first holistic Waste Management Plan in 2009. This has been very successful in driving action in the community and Council Operations, and is due for review and redevelopment in 2014.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Seek funding to support existing and planned waste minimisation Initiatives</p> <p>Review of the Waste Management Plan to include and prioritise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review State Government policies and strategies, inclining “Getting Full Values”, to provide alignment and opportunities.</li> <li>• Targets for and reporting on waste stream per sector;</li> <li>• Program for regular waste audits to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of initiatives implemented;</li> <li>• Development of environmental targets to incorporate into the new waste contracts in 2015/2016;</li> <li>• Development/expansion of community engagement programs for improving recycling and reducing waste;</li> <li>• Develop a business case to review options for household food organics avoidance, and if needed and appropriate, collection and associated infrastructure (refer to action 3.5.2);</li> <li>• Explore sharing/leasing systems and processes to avoid purchase (eg. Sharehood), and re-use mechanisms (eg. Freecycle);</li> <li>• Investigate and advocate for a solution for collection and disposal of domestic type toxic materials (oils, paints, detergents, gardening chemicals etc.);</li> <li>• Review and promote ways to increase reuse and resource recovery from Council’s hard waste collection service;</li> <li>• A focus on support for Multi-Unit Developments (MUD) to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanded guidelines for Multi-Unit Developments (MUD) to cover physical assets for easy and effective re-use and recycling, including organics diversion;</li> <li>- Development of a proactive MUD engagement program once the apartments are occupied (with Planning Enforcement) around waste reduction/resource recovery; and</li> <li>- Investigate the potential to expand on MUD program to implement across all Yarra;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review of recycling program and opportunities at public housing estates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with Department of Human Services to identify barriers to recycling, and develop programs to address them (eg. recycling champions, education and engagement program etc); and</li> <li>- Investigate (with the Metropolitan Waste Management Group) the possibility of High Rise material going to a pre-sorting facility or Waste to energy facility prior to landfill ;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review options to supporting waste reduction in Yarra businesses including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand the Bin Lid Change Over Program to include education around resource recovery in Shopping Precincts;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p> <p>Support: Engineering Operations; Planning Enforcement; Local Laws and Animal Management</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a business Sustainable Consumption Program focused on waste avoidance, resource recovery, and reduced pollution to stormwater, using LYLES principles and tools; and</li> <li>- Advocate "plastic bag free" to State Government, and investigate localised solutions to reduce use of plastic bags;</li> <li>• Review 24 hour drop off site for recycle and re-use of goods which cannot be recycled in household recycling bins:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potentially expand the service to include the reuse of more goods and materials;</li> <li>- Review scope and opportunities based on existing use and opportunities as they arise; and</li> <li>- Expand partnerships with charities to increase re-use of 24 hour drop off material (and hard waste);</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support Gleadell St market to be a leader in sustainability in becoming zero waste and plastic bag free; and</li> <li>• Review the existing waste reduction and promotion of Yarra's waste minimisation programs at festivals and events and develop a program to ensure continuous improvement, and expand to school fetes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement new Waste Management Strategy</li> </ul>		Funding to be allocated through Waste Management Strategy
<b>Objective 3.5.2 – Focus on organic waste and food waste avoidance</b>		
<b>Action 3.5.2.1 – Focus on reduction of food waste to landfill</b>		
<p>Food waste is a major contributor to the Yarra waste stream (52.6%), and one where additional effort is believed to make a large difference. As well as reducing waste to landfill and associated costs to Council, this will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and has the potential to create a valuable resource (compost) at a household, neighbourhood, or regional scale.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to roll out the Food Know How Program. (This program aims to improve community well-being and connections through reducing and recycling food waste, and increasing knowledge about the food cycle. The program involves participants from households, community groups, offices, restaurants and cafes);</li> <li>• Develop strong links with existing and proposed processes and systems (e.g. compost hubs, sustainability hubs and other waste and urban agriculture programs) to enable a broader rollout of the program across the municipality;</li> <li>• Identify, support and promote the development of significant sized organic waste hubs where resident and business food waste can be processed locally. Support and evaluate food hubs established as part of the Food Know How Program;; and</li> <li>• Review potential infrastructure needs required to ensure waste is treated prior to landfill through development of new Waste management Strategy (action 3.5.1)</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and review Food Know How Program, and develop business case for program expansion;</li> <li>• Develop project proposal for Council to establish, promote, and support organic waste hubs, with the aim for one per neighbourhood (proposal to include stakeholder analysis, potential social enterprise opportunities); and</li> <li>• Partner with state government to increase household awareness of the benefits of reducing waste, particularly food waste, through state-wide information campaigns.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p>	<p>Lead: Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture</p> <p>Support: Engineering Operations</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Funding to be allocated through Waste Management Strategy</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and evaluate council organic waste reduction projects and propose next steps.</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 3.5.3 – Work regionally for improved infrastructure and outcomes</b>		
<b>Action 3.5.3.1 – Regional waste minimisation action and partnerships</b>		
<p>Work in partnership with other Councils and the MWMG on advocacy campaigns and to identify future opportunities utilising new technologies. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation of the possibility of high rise material going to a pre-sorting facility if available;</li> <li>Assessment of the feasibility of waste to energy (including pyrolysis) technologies at the metro scale (refer to action 3.5.1, 4.2.2.1); and</li> <li>Advocacy for State/Federal Container Deposit legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Waste Minimisation Support: Engineering Operations</p>	<p>Priority: Medium Funding to be allocated through Waste Management Strategy</p>

### Objective 3.6 Conserving Water in Yarra

*Supporting the Yarra community to reduce use of potable water, through partnerships and direct action*

#### Sub- Objectives

Council will:

3.6.1 – reduce water consumption across the Yarra community

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Potable water consumption across the community	12.7 GL (2000/01)	↓25%	↓30%

### Conserving Water in Yarra Actions

#### Existing actions

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.6.1 – reduce water consumption across the Yarra community</b>		

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Action 3.6.1.1 - Community promotion of reduced use of potable water</b>		
<p>Council can play a role in educating and empowering our community to reduce water consumption, most effectively by supporting and working with other external agencies and groups to help direct and deliver the message.</p> <p><u>Year 1-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to update Council's website to provide the community with information;</li> <li>Support water wise workshops eg. gardening and cooking;</li> <li>Provide examples and case studies on encouraged activities including reusing grey water, rainwater and stormwater, and including examples of actions taken in Council buildings.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Sustainable Asset Management</p> <p>Support: Sustainability &amp; Strategic Transport</p>	<p>Priority: Low</p>

## Objective 3.7 Climate Change Resilient Communities

*Preparing Yarra's community to better handle and strengthen their response to future climatic conditions.*

## Sub- Objectives

Council will:

3.8.1 Support activities to reduce impact of and vulnerability to future climate change on the Yarra community

3.8.2 Engage the community on ways to adapt to future climate scenarios

3.8.3 Incorporate actions to mitigate risks from climate change into Council processes and activities

## Climate Change Resilient Communities Actions

Existing actions Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2013)

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 3.7.1: Support activities to reduce impact of and vulnerability to future climate change on the Yarra community</b>		
<b>Action 3.7.1.1 Develop and implement an Urban Forest Strategy</b>		
<p>Urban Forests can contribute to the quality of urban human living conditions as well as producing positive ecological, environmental and aesthetic outcomes. This is especially true within the context of adapting to future climate scenarios. By delivering a more coordinated approach to Urban</p>	<p>Lead: Sustainability and Strategic Transport</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>Forests, Council will be able to provide more creative adaptations of plant and tree growth with Yarra's built infrastructure, and increase human comfort levels via addressing localised climatic conditions.</p> <p>An Urban Forest Strategy would aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the priorities and opportunities for Yarra;</li> <li>Inform Council processes to better enhance urban forestry outcomes; and</li> <li>Educate and promote the benefits of better urban forest management.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish priorities for Urban Forestry via gathering empirical and qualitative data including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal canopy cover, tree numbers and health;</li> <li>Thermal imaging;</li> <li>Permeability mapping – investigate ways to track permeable space on private property and potential loss from development and revitalisation across our municipality;</li> <li>Biodiversity value;</li> <li>Social and cultural benefits;</li> <li>Climate change mitigation (reducing energy demands) and adaptation (urban heat island effect) information; and</li> <li>Food production value; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>Develop a budget bid for 2014/15 for a full Urban Forest Strategy development.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and implement Urban Forest Strategy.</li> </ul>	Support: Statutory Planning; City Strategy	<p>Approx \$20,000 + 0.4 FTE (14/15)</p> <p>\$/FTE TBC (15/16)</p>
<b>3.7.1.2 Develop a Yarra Food Policy</b>		
<p>Future climate scenarios pose risks to Yarra's community access to secure and healthy food supplies. Council also recognises that food contributes up to 40% of the average Yarra resident's ecological footprint. By addressing food accessibility, sustainability, sourcing and quality in a more integrated approach, Council aims to reduce the effects of climate change and enhancing resilience to cope and connecting the community around a common theme.</p> <p>Council plans on developing a Yarra Food Policy that would aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a more detailed level of understanding of Yarra's food supply chains and systems;</li> <li>Inform processes that can improve access to healthy food;</li> <li>Enhance localised food production through partnerships, infrastructure and regulatory support;</li> <li>Reduce the environmental impacts of food production and consumption of Yarra (40% of the average person's environmental footprint); and</li> <li>Engage with the community on and improve skills that support sustainable food behaviours.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Waste Minimisation; Community and Corporate Planning</p>	Priority: Medium

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<u>Years 3-4</u> Review actions and strategies within the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and update.		

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### Pathway 4 - Sustainable Council Operations

*Operating Council as a model of environmental sustainability*

#### Objectives

- 4.1 Lead by example, with Integration of sustainability across Council** *Integrating sustainability as a core Council business aspect into everything we do, and empowering staff to own sustainability as part of their core business.*
- 4.2 Best Practice Carbon Management** *Reducing Council energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from its own activities, and becoming the most aware, energy efficient and self-reliant local government in Australia.*
- 4.3 Best Practice Waste Management** *Reducing Council generated waste through our own operations and at sites under Council control, and to be a leading waste wise organisation.*
- 4.4 Best Practice Water Management** *Reducing use of potable water at Council buildings, parks and gardens.*

#### Objective 4.1 - Lead by example, with Integration of sustainability across Council

*Integrating sustainability as a core Council business aspect into everything we do, and to empower staff to own sustainability as part of their core business.*

#### Sub- Objectives

Council Will:

- 4.1.1 – Be recognised widely as a Sustainable City
- 4.1.2 – Ensure key Council decision processes incorporate triple bottom line analysis
- 4.1.3 – Support Yarra staff to be green champions at work
- 4.1.4 – Lead by example as a sustainable organisation and share knowledge and learnings

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Staff commitment to sustainability	Percentage of respondents to staff sustainability survey who say workplace sustainability is 'important' or above (88% in 2013)	95%	100%
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Influence of the GreenTeam	Percentage of staff reporting that Green Team activities influenced their behaviour in staff sustainability survey (60% in 2013)	75%	90%

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Staff using sustainable transport to get to work	Staff commuting to work using sustainable modes (50% 2012 )	60%	70%
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## Actions

Existing actions One Yarra Strategy (2013)

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 4.1.1: Be recognised widely as a Sustainable City</b>		
<b>Action 4.1.1.1 – Embed and promote sustainability as core to Yarra’s identity</b>		
<p>To enhance the effectiveness of Yarra’s environmental leadership and action, Council will seek external benchmarking and verification of sustainability actions, and look to better promote sustainability as core to Yarra’s identity.</p> <p>This will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate Council’s commitment to sustainability (internally and externally);</li> <li>• Allow Council to benchmark against national and international best practice;</li> <li>• Encourage residents and businesses to increase their sustainability efforts; and</li> <li>• Encouraging future residents, businesses, and green developers alike to choose Yarra.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Establish working group and review possible verification and branding options (including One Planet Councils), and develop budget bid.</p> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and achieve verification; and</li> <li>• Establish mechanism(s) for promoting Yarra as a Sustainable City: Incorporate with Yarra Energy Foundation where possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management, Communications</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>\$20,000 for branding, verification, promotions</p>
<b>Action 4.1.1.2 Sustainability measurement and reporting</b>		
<p>Sustainability reporting refers to the full and robust review and public reporting of Environmental, Social and Financial (and other associated) measures by Council. Through better measurement and public reporting, Council and the community can assess progress, highlight areas of focus, and benchmark against other organisations and communities.</p> <p>To ensure a consistent and considered approach, Council needs to review existing processes against national and international standards, benchmarks, and reporting frameworks to ensure a best practice approach.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a cross-departmental working group to review and develop sustainability performance metrics, and integrate and align with existing reporting processes including the Annual Report. Review to include <i>Global Reporting Initiative</i> (GRI), <i>Australian National Development Index</i> (ANDI), <i>One Planet Living</i>, and <i>State of the Environment</i>. This will link closely to Actions 1.6.1, 4.4.1 and 4.4.3. Budget bid may be required;</li> </ul>	<p>Co-Lead: Communications, Environmental Management; Organisational Performance,</p> <p>Support:</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish Environmental Footprint Report; and</li> <li>Report on progress of this Yarra Environment Strategy.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement adopted processes;</li> <li>Continue to publish Council's Annual Environmental Footprint Report, expanded to include all annually measured targets.</li> </ul>		\$15-30,000 and may require additional FTE
<b>Objective 4.1.2 – Ensure key Council decision processes incorporate triple bottom line analysis</b>		
<b>Action 4.1.2.1 Develop Sustainability decision-making tools and support</b>		
<p>Triple Bottom line decision-making refers to the full and robust consideration of Environmental, Social and Financial (and other associated) measures into all key decision making processes.</p> <p>Better incorporation of sustainability into key decision making points will enhance the quality of the information when Council decisions are made, improving their outcome, whilst also supporting Council values and targets, and reducing financial and reputational risk.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Establish a cross-departmental working group to review decision-making processes and opportunities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review decision making processes for Council Reports, New Initiative Bids, and Capital Works Bids, including advice and support for staff, questions being responded to, and sign off / review mechanism to ensure compliance and continuous improvement;</li> <li>Review potential support tools and mechanisms; and</li> <li>Benchmark against relevant Australian and international local governments.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <p>Develop and implement adopted processes, including submission of Budget Bid if required.</p>	<p>Co-Lead: Innovation &amp; Environmental Management;</p> <p>Support: One Yarra Project; Organisational Performance; Governance</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>\$TBC</p>
<b>Action 4.1.2.2 Enhance sustainable procurement activities</b>		
<p>Greater knowledge and implementation of Sustainable Procurement practises, can over time have a significant positive influence, both from a tender and contract perspective, right down to minor purchases that Council officers make.</p> <p>Council already has a strong foundation for this, including the incorporation of sustainable procurement (a full life cycle costing) into the Procurement Policy and Procedures Manuals and a price preference of 10% to encourage purchasing of environmentally preferred products. Through these activities Council will seek to be at the forefront of best practice.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p>	<p>Lead: Strategic Procurement</p> <p>Support: Environmental Management, Council Green Team, Project and Process Innovation</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revise and develop a new Sustainable Procurement Plan. Review to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Establishing set sustainability objectives and targets for future procurement activities;</li> <li>o Training schedule for key procurement staff to reinforce adopted standard benefits of sustainable procurement and use of tools; and</li> <li>o Support for whole of life cycle costing models in the Best Value for Money tender evaluation process being developed in 2013/14.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Hold regular forums with local suppliers to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o explain our processes (focus on supplier relationship management);</li> <li>o highlight our focus on social and sustainable procurement; and</li> <li>o initiate a Register of Interest for local suppliers to become pre-qualified to supply sustainable services to Yarra.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Remain an active member of EcoBuy through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Promotion of, and encouragement of greater use of Eco-Buy resources, in conjunction with Council's GreenTeam;</li> <li>o Attendance at EcoBuy briefing/training sessions (and other); and</li> <li>o Roll-out of EcoBuy Sustainable Procurement E-Learning tool.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Procurement Officer to attend sustainable procurement meetings and forums, and Council's Green Team.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue implementation of Sustainable Procurement Plan and activities from year 1.</li> <li>- integrate sustainable procurement tracking into Council's new finance system, and the tender/ design specification.</li> <li>- Review and update sustainable procurement in Council's Procurement Policy and Procedures Manuals and Request for Tender documents.</li> <li>- Report annually on green purchasing activities when system allows.</li> </ul>		\$TBC
<b>Action 4.1.2.3 Review ESD Building Policy for Sustainability in Council buildings</b>		
<p>In 2011 Council endorsed its first Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Buildings Policy. This has been successful in stimulating and improving sustainability into Council's new and refurbished buildings, and is due for review.</p> <p><u>Year 1:</u></p> <p>Review and gain Council endorsement for updated ESD Building Policy, with focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of standards and addition of minimum standard target for greenhouse/energy;</li> <li>• Simplifying and strengthening the process with trigger points;</li> <li>• Implementing a training plan for all relevant staff; and</li> <li>• Regular monitor and reporting on outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2-4:</u></p> <p>Implement new ESD Buildings Policy.</p>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Statutory Planning, Buildings and Projects, Sustainable Asset Management</p>	Priority: Medium
<b>Objective 4.1.3: Support Yarra staff to be green champions at work</b>		
<b>4.1.3.1 Strengthen the Yarra Staff Green Team</b>		

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>The Yarra Staff Green Team was re-established in 2011 as a means for sustainability learning, integration and innovation, to educate and empower staff improve Council's ecological footprint through their actions at work and through their roles. In 2012 the Green Team developed a new Action Plan.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue existing Green Team projects and process.</li> <li>Develop internal program/campaign to engage staff to support to council reaching 50% energy reduction by 2015 target through their roles and individual actions in the workplace.</li> <li>Undertake a review of the role of Green Team</li> </ul> <p><u>Years 2-4</u></p> <p>Implement reviewed GreenTeam structure and Action Plan.</p>	<p>Co-Lead: Environmental Management, Green Team</p> <p>Support: One Yarra Project</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>
<b>Action 4.1.3.2 Embed Organisational Sustainability into People Processes and Policies</b>		
<p>Yarra seeks to further build a sustainable workplace culture by embedding sustainability practices into people, policies and processes.</p> <p>Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a culture where all staff members acknowledge and adhere to sustainable workplace practices;</li> <li>Ensure consideration of organisational sustainability behaviours and expectations in Yarra's values and behaviours and embed into the values framework;</li> <li>Develop initiatives that provide cross promotion and branding of One Yarra and YES to embed awareness and organisational support for sustainable practice;</li> <li>Work in partnership to develop strategies to encourage all staff to engage in sustainable workplace practice ;</li> <li>Integrate endorsed YES actions into staff recruitment and promote Yarra as an Employer of Choice; and</li> <li>Support environmental sustainability education initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Organisational Development / One Yarra Project</p> <p>Support: Environmental Management</p>	<p>Priority: High</p>
<b>Objective 4.1.4 – Lead by example as a sustainable organisation and share knowledge and learnings</b>		
<b>Action 4.1.4.1: Promote Council experience and advice, and participate in key regional networks and partnerships</b>		
<p>Council aims to be a leading sustainable local government in Australia. As part of this role council will seek to share our learnings, and participate in networks and partnerships.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <p>Promotion of Council experiences and advice via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations at conferences, workshops, webinars, and 1:1 conversations etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p>Participation in sustainability groups, networks, and partnerships including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability; and</li> <li>- Actively participate in sustainability projects through the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) collaboration.</li> </ul>		
<b>Action 4.1.4.2: Increase staff sustainable transport</b>		
<p>Council focused action to increase the number of staff travelling to work and for work by sustainable modes.</p> <p>Improvements in this area will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce Council and staff financial losses through fewer vehicles and reduced fuel costs;</li> <li>- Reduce Council greenhouse emissions and embodied energy;</li> <li>- Improve employee health; and</li> <li>- Further establish Council as a sustainable business, and better support Yarra businesses sustainable transport activities based on our experiences.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 1-2</u></p> <p>Establish a working group to identify current opportunities, and set a clear pathway to reduce fleet usage and emissions, and improve sustainable transport options to work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish minimum vehicle numbers to service staff requirements during work hours;</li> <li>- Investigate fleet garaging and parking opportunities, and alternative models such as shared with car share company;</li> <li>- Review staff fleet vehicle entitlements and after hours use, with a view to reducing the number of passenger vehicles in the fleet to the required number in the most equitable way;</li> <li>- Vehicle fleet make up, procurement, and trial vehicle opportunities/role; and</li> <li>- Promote alternative transport support for staff including the Staff bike fleet and Public transport initiatives, and use of electronic meeting technology such as Lync.</li> <li>- Investigate driver training to ensure that vehicles are being used as efficiently as possible and using the least amount of fuel.</li> </ul> <p><u>Years 3-4</u></p> <p>Implement agreed actions.</p>	<p>Lead: Strategic Transport</p> <p>Support: Fleet Management, Environmental Management; Human Resources</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>\$20,000</p>
<b>Action 4.1.4.3 Sustainable Catering and Events</b>		
<p>Council can play an important leadership and education role – both for staff and for community members – through the greening of Council's catering and event management practices and communications. Action to further enhance outcomes in this area include:</p> <p><u>Year 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Venues and events staff will be trained in sustainable catering and greening events;</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Venues and Events</p> <p>Support: Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture,</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of green event guidelines for both internal and external use by all users of Yarra facilities; and</li> <li>- Creation a simple checklist for sustainable catering that will be accessible to all staff.</li> </ul>	Environmental Management, Council Green Team	
<u>Years 2-4</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- continue implementation of sustainable event management practices including waste management and sustainable catering; and</li> <li>- provide advice and support to external providers on green event expectations, and be champions for greening events within Council.</li> </ul>		

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

### Objective 4.2 Best Practice Carbon Management

*Reducing Council energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from its own activities, to become the most aware, energy efficient and self-reliant local government in Australia*

#### Sub- Objectives

Council will:

- 4.2.1 – Reduce organisational carbon emissions and increase renewable energy generation
- 4.2.2 – Transition away from reliance on fossil fuels
- 4.2.3 – Increase understanding of and undertake actions to reduce whole of life emissions

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Gross organisational carbon emissions	16,820 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (gross emissions 2000/01)	↓ 55% (9,251 tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	↓ 60% (9,251 tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Net organisational carbon emissions	Zero tCO <sub>2</sub> (2013)	Zero	Zero
Carbon emissions reduced through renewable energy generation by Council	500 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (2012)	850 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	1,250 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

### Best Practice Carbon Management Actions

Existing actions Carbon Neutral Action Plan 2010 -15

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 4.2.1 – Reduce organisational carbon emissions and increase renewable energy generation</b>		
<b>Action: 4.2.1.1 Carbon reduction and renewable energy generation action plan and implementation</b>		
By June 2013 Council had reduced emissions by approximately 25% towards the target of 50% by 2015. Existing and planned projects will continue to reduce Council's overall greenhouse gas emissions.	Lead: Environmental Management	Priority: High

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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of current actions, and develop plan to reach 2015 reduction and renewable energy generation targets with projects and budgets for Council endorsement;</li> <li>Support the design and implementation of a program to engage staff in thinking about their role and actions and how they can help contribute to council reaching 50% energy reduction by 2015 target (links to Action 4.1.3.1); and</li> <li>Develop plan to reach the 2017 and 2020 energy generation targets with projects and budgets, for Council endorsement.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Emissions Reduction Action Plan to reach 55% reductions by 2017 and 60% by 2020, incorporating emerging and innovative technologies/ approaches.</li> <li>Review of Assess payback period criteria for Adaptive Assets Budget including potential to expand beyond 10 years.</li> </ul> <p><u>Years 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement Emissions Reduction Action Plan to reach 2015 and 2017 targets; and</li> <li>Implement actions of emerging and innovative technologies/ approaches report (where feasible).</li> </ul>	Support: Building Projects, Engineering Operations, GreenTeam	
<b>Action: 4.2.1.2 Best Practice Carbon Neutral Council</b>		
<p>In 2012 Yarra become the first Victorian (and just second national) Council to be a certified Carbon Neutral organisation under the National Carbon Offsetting Scheme (NCOS). In doing so, Council has been able to establish a robust methodology standard for other local governments and businesses to use, as well as demonstrating the ability to reduce emissions as a preferred approach to offsetting any residual emissions.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to meet carbon neutral status; and</li> <li>Develop carbon neutral branding and promote across Council sites and buildings.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to meet and promote carbon neutral status;</li> <li>Report to Council on opportunities for future investment in local and preferably renewable energy offsets from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The carbon offset market; and</li> <li>Power Purchase Agreement for Renewable Energy (eg. From a Victorian wind farm).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to meet carbon neutral status, but transition to purchase of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25% domestic renewable energy offsets if possible in 2015/16; and</li> <li>50% domestic renewable energy offsets if possible in 2016/17.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Communications</p>	<p>Priority: High</p> <p>\$10,000</p> <p>\$30-50,000</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 4.2.2 – Transition away from reliance on fossil fuels</b>		
<b>Action: 4.2.2.1 – Develop Yarra Fossil Fuel Transition Plan</b>		
<p>Although less emissions-intensive than coal-fired grid electricity, natural and LPG gas for stationary energy use is still a non-renewable, fossil fuel. Combined with the inherent issues of coal seam gas that is embedded into the national gas network, Council will investigate the issues associated with potentially phasing out all stationary gas use in the future.</p> <p><u>Year 3</u></p> <p>Investigate opportunities to phase out or limit all emissions and develop Yarra Repowering Yarra Plan taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for Yarra to invest directly in off-site local renewable electricity; and</li> <li>• Review gas use by Council, and potential to phase this out and convert to other renewable resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Building Projects; Waste Minimisation &amp; Urban Agriculture; Communications</p>	<p>Priority: Medium</p>
<b>Objective 4.2.3 – Increase understanding of and undertake actions to reduce whole of life emissions</b>		
<b>Action: 4.2.3.1 Scope and develop / implement plan to reduce Council's whole of life emissions</b>		
<p>Council's current emissions profile takes into account all direct and most indirect emissions. However, Council's knowledge of embedded/ embodied emissions is not well understood.</p> <p><u>Year 3-4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Council's indirect and embedded greenhouse emissions and their emissions intensity and scope for emissions reduction.</li> <li>• Develop plan and implement for Council consideration to start to mitigate / offset these emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Environmental Management</p> <p>Support: Building Projects; Waste Minimisation; Procurement; Engineering Services</p>	<p>Priority: Low</p>

### Objective 4.3 Best Practice Waste Management

*Reduce Council generated waste through our own operations and at sites under Council control, to be a leading waste wise organisation.*

#### Sub- Objectives

- Become a leading organisation in reducing our waste to landfill

#### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

Waste to landfill from Council operations	31.7 Tonnes (2011/12)	↓60%	↓70%
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## Actions

Existing actions	Waste Management Plan		
Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority/Possible Additional Resources	
Objective 4.2.1 Become a leading organisation in reducing our waste to landfill			
Action 4.2.1: Waste Wise Council infrastructure and staff education			
To achieve significant waste reductions from Council operations we must continue to innovate in waste infrastructure, and most importantly ensure staff know how and why to use the infrastructure and ways to cut down consumption and waste.		Lead: Waste Minimisation & Urban Agriculture	Priority: High
<u>Year 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review waste education and infrastructure, and opportunities including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>existing and previous education through the Staff GreenTeam, and other staff sustainability opportunities;</li><li>existing waste audits and contaminants, to allow focused education on key issues;</li><li>existing and new waste infrastructure and signage, and associated priority education needs;</li><li>organic waste collection, treatment, and focus opportunities including events at Council facilities</li><li>current status, education / inspection program for cleaners to make sure they are separating resources correctly</li></ul></li><li>Rollout updated program at Collingwood Town Hall associated with staff moving back into new accommodation and infrastructure.</li></ul>			
<u>Year 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Further across the organisation based on learnings from Collingwood Town Hall</li><li>Review staff consumption, including Packaging and product Stewardship, and Life Cycle Analysis, and develop project proposal and budget bid for a staff sustainable consumption campaign at Yarra. Link to the Staff Green Team where possible (action 4.1.3.1).</li></ul>			
<u>Year 3</u> Implement Staff Sustainable Consumption education campaign.			

Objective 4.4 Best Practice Water Management

*Reduce use of potable water at Council buildings, parks and gardens.*

## Sub- Objectives

4.4.1: Act strategically to incorporate best practice water management into all relevant Council operations

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17

4.4.2: Develop individual projects to reduce/harvest water

### Targets

Indicator	Baseline	2017	2020
Use of Potable water in Council operations	334ML (2000/01)	↓45% (184 ML)	↓50% (167 ML)
<b>Sub-targets</b>			
Council water requirements supplied by locally harvested water sources	4.5ML (2.5%)(2011/12)	10ML	20ML

### Best Practice Water Management Actions

Existing actions Yarra Water Action Plan (2006)

Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<b>Objective 4.4.1: Act strategically to incorporate best practice water management into all relevant Council operations</b>		
<b>Action: 4.4.1.1 Incorporate water conservation into Stormwater Plan &amp; Drainage Asset Management Plan's</b>		
In 2013/14 Council is developing a Stormwater Plan & Drainage Asset Management Plan. Council will ensure that these plans have a holistic water conservation and treatment approach, and support the achievement of water conservation and quality targets.	Lead: Sustainable Asset Management	Priority: Medium
<b>Action: 4.4.1.2 Update and develop new Yarra Water Action Plan</b>		
<p>The existing Yarra Water Action Plan (2006) sets targets and actions to reduce water consumption from Council's own operations, and is in need of review. This updated Water Action Plan will provide an integrated approach to Council's own water management, and guide Council's work to meet the 2017 organisational Water Management targets.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Develop needs analysis and budget requirements for development of new Yarra Water Action Plan. Review to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Action Plan needs given many changes in the management and operation of actions previously driven through this plan, and existing and future plans of relevance including the Existing WSUD Policy, planned Stormwater Plan and Drainage Asset Management Plan;</li> <li>Activities taken through the WaterMap program for Yarra's top 10 water using sites;</li> <li>Opportunities for better targeted and responsive site based actions through recently installed smart meters at large sites; and</li> <li>Review of water saving opportunities implemented and planned.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: Sustainable Asset Management</p> <p>Support: Open Space, Buildings and Projects, Leisure Services</p>	Priority: High

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Deliverables	Lead & Support Units	Priority / Possible Additional Resources
<u>Year 2</u> Develop Yarra Water Action Plan		\$10,000
<u>Years 3-4</u> Implement Yarra Water Action Plan		
<b>Objective 4.4.2: Develop individual projects to reduce/harvest water</b>		
<b>Action 4.4.2.1 Individual water harvesting opportunities</b>		
To meet Council's water harvesting targets, Council will need to implement projects of significant size and volume, which will take significant planning and design, as well as financial resources and require a partnership approach. Many projects will have co-benefits for stormwater treatment and water quality.  <u>Year 1-4</u> Develop / annual review portfolio of potential projects (focused on parks and leisure centre's) with business cases, including investigations of stormwater harvesting projects from Melbourne Water or Council drains to reduce the peak flow impact. Stormwater harvesting projects built by other councils are delivering this benefit as well as providing a source of water for sports groups and gardens.  Seek internal and external funding for projects.	Lead: Sustainable Asset Management  Support: Open Space and Recreation	Priority: High  \$20,000 for project development.  Significant Capital Works funding for projects

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

**Action Status Update****Pathway 1 - Community Empowerment & Local Action**

1.1.1	<p><b><u>Support the community to better understand the need and ability to act more sustainably and overcome cultural norms surrounding consumption</u></b></p> <p>Significant work was undertaken to shape and support sustainable consumption activities through Council. With the support of a Working Group made up of internal and external representatives, this very broad theme was refined to focus on the Sharing Economy. Council provided ongoing limited promotion and support for this action within existing resources, focussing on utilising Council communications channels to further promote sustainable consumption and sharing options within Yarra.</p> <p>Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A potential project was scoped and supported and developed as a New Initiative budget bid for rollout in 2015/16. This was not funded.</li> <li>- A 'MapJam' was held at the Fitzroy Town Hall in 2015, in partnership with InfoExchange and Share Melbourne, to establish sharing opportunities in Yarra and to provide a forum for 'sharing advocates' to network and foster projects.</li> <li>- Council Website was updated with a Share Yarra webpage which displays the interactive MapJam Map.</li> <li>- The annual Council Community Grants - Environment Stream was modified to incorporate project options which could be focused on sustainable consumption and/or the sharing economy.</li> </ul>	
1.1.2	<p><b><u>Develop a network of local hubs to disseminate sustainability information and support</u></b></p> <p>Staff across Sustainability, Waste Minimisation and Urban Agriculture, and Yarra Libraries have worked with Neighbourhood Houses to assist in enhancing their sustainability offerings and build their ability to act as centres for sustainability outreach in their community.</p> <p>Two neighbourhood houses participated in Council's In Your Patch project (Alphington Community Centre and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre). Additionally, sustainability actions at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House identified through Council's "In Your Patch" project were supported separately. Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre was able to secure further funding to expand their capacity as a social enterprise hub.</p> <p>The more holistic plan for creation of development of 'Sustainability Hubs' has been developed, expanding waste, compost and garden infrastructure and connecting with Food Know How through hosting workshops and planning support for future ambitions in sustainability outreach. This plan provides possibilities for common branding and promotion to increase the profile of these community centres in terms of what they can do support local action for sustainability. New Initiative funding was not successful, but a modified version will proceed in 2018.</p>	
1.2.1	<p><b><u>Support and connect neighbours to take collective action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles</u></b></p> <p>This action was funded by Council, and rebranded as 'In Your Patch', delivering the Year 1 and 2 actions. In your Patch brought together the delivery of actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1, &amp; 1.4.1.</p> <p>In Your Patch successfully catalysed and supported a number of neighbourhood-based projects, particularly Solar Neighbourhoods and Alphington Community Centre's Compost Hub and Sustainability Suitcase. These projects were highly successful at connecting residents and local businesses, groups and organisations within specific local areas and mobilising effective action. Solar Neighbourhoods particularly validated the effectiveness of neighbour-to-neighbour recruitment for a community-led solar bulk buy.</p> <p>The In Your Patch project has now ceased as a stand alone project. Lessons were however integrated in the Sustainability Stream of Yarra's Annual Grants, including the creation of a new sub-category - Partnering for Sustainability - which brings a stronger partnership approach to our support of community sustainability projects. This approach has been a success and has provided for improved project outcomes.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

1.2.2	<p><b><u>Strengthen the Urban Agriculture program</u></b></p> <p>Yarra is a national leader in supporting local food growing activities through our Urban Agriculture program. The Urban Agriculture Strategy has guided this work. The highlights have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community growing spaces program currently has 162 planter boxes on the street</li> <li>• A set of guidelines has been developed and adopted by Council (May 2015) for the development of “pop up Laneway Gardens”. Similar to the community growing spaces program, intake for applications for “pop up laneways” will occur twice annually with each applicant required to attend an information and training session before submitting their application. The first such session was held late 2016. There are three laneway gardens in Yarra.</li> <li>• A number of free workshop sessions including the care and maintenance of bees, fruit tree pruning, gardening in small spaces and composting have been held throughout Yarra. A workshop was held in September 2016 at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre which provided 19 gardeners with an extensive one day workshop to build their gardening skills. They shared their skills with their local community, building skills across Council as well as supporting and building leadership in the group.</li> <li>• Rushall Community garden has been supported to bring their garden beds up to current standards for soil health and protection from contamination. All the beds have been reconstructed to incorporate geo tech fabric to isolate the site soil from the new garden soil.</li> <li>• Trialling a Food Squad Program in partnership with Richmond Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The aim of the program is to harvest excess fruit, improving community cohesion and reducing food wastage in Burnley; to enable skill sharing between householders and volunteers, and fostering social connections and inclusion.</li> <li>• The urban agriculture team works closely with a cross council group to assess and approve each community growing spaces and pop up laneway garden application. This group meets regularly when applications for new gardens have been promoted.</li> <li>• A collaboration with Waste Minimisation has resulted in the inclusion in the Food Know How program sessions on the building of gardening skills and awareness of the importance of growing ones own food.</li> </ul>	
1.3.1	<p><b><u>Support local sustainability community groups to be effective</u></b></p> <p>Council supports community sustainability groups both through strategic partnerships and by being responsive to emerging and ad hoc needs.</p> <p>Some examples of Council support provided includes to: Livewell Yarra, Yarra Energy Foundation, Environment Victoria's Future Powered Families project, the Victorian National Parks Association's Wild Families project, grants applicants (whether successful or not), neighbourhood houses, along with other community projects, over the life of the Yarra Environment Strategy. Council's support added value, credibility, and practical resources to these initiatives, assisting them to be more effective and thereby delivering more outcomes in Yarra.</p>	
1.3.2	<p><b><u>Support community groups to access funding and support</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to promote and provide advice on funding opportunities to community groups and organisations through specific communications, the Environment E-news, and through Council's own grants program.</p>	
1.3.3	<p><b><u>Enhance community group collaboration of sustainability via the Yarra Environmental Sustainability Network (YESN)</u></b></p> <p>Council successfully delivered YES Network meetings on specific topics through to June 2015. During 2014-2015 a review on the function and delivery of the YES Network was undertaken, from this the decision was made to discontinue the regular face-to-face meetings from June 2015 and opt for a more efficient email network forum. Continued review on the effectiveness of this approach was conducted in conjunction with broader communication evaluation. The YES Network email network forum was then consolidated with additional Yarra email networks to maximise communication efficiency for purpose.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

1.4.1	<p><b><u>Develop tailored program to increase participation in Council's sustainability programs of groups with specific needs</u></b></p> <p>This action was funded by Council, and rebranded as 'In Your Patch', delivering the Year 1 and 2 actions. In your Patch brought together the delivery of actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1, &amp; 1.4.1.</p> <p>In Your Patch successfully catalysed and supported a number of neighbourhood-based projects, particularly Solar Neighbourhoods and Alphington Community Centre's Compost Hub and Sustainability Suitcase. Both of these projects were highly successful at connecting residents and local businesses, groups and organisations within specific local areas and mobilising effective action. Solar Neighbourhoods particularly validated the effectiveness of neighbour-to-neighbour recruitment for a community-led solar bulk buy.</p> <p>The In Your Patch project and has now ceased as a stand alone project. Lessons were however integrated in the Sustainability Stream of Yarra's Annual Grants, including the creation of a new sub-category - Partnering for Sustainability - which brings a stronger partnership approach to our support of community sustainability projects. This approach has been a success and has provided for improved project outcomes.</p>	
1.4.2	<p><b><u>Supporting Sustainable Schools</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to support schools by integrating recycling and litter reduction into everything the students and teachers do. The education program we help to deliver includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit bins and litter in schools.</li> <li>• Ensure recycling bins have stickers with clear up to date information</li> <li>• Educate and engage students around recycling right, and the effects of littering</li> <li>• Involve students in making art or puppets from recycling so they see a value in the materials, and a personal reward in creating something.</li> <li>• Link in with education activities from Waterwatch, where practical.</li> <li>• Follow up with activities tailored to each school,</li> <li>• Support them in Clean Up Australia Day.</li> <li>• Link in with food recycling, composting and kitchen gardens where possible.</li> </ul> <p>Fifteen schools have engaged in this program.</p>	
1.4.3	<p><b><u>Integrate sustainability into Council services to the community</u></b></p> <p>Throughout the life of the strategy, Sustainability staff supported diverse actions aimed at integrating sustainability into other Council work areas, within existing resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering with different areas on paperless projects (saving over 49,000 sheets of paper annually),</li> <li>• supporting many sustainability-themed events for the community via Yarra Libraries.</li> <li>• Partnering with Aged and Disability Services to train Home Maintenance staff and contractors in draught-proofing, and integrating this into the services provided by Council to the most vulnerable Home Maintenance clients (<i>Home for All Seasons</i> )</li> </ul>	
1.5.1	<p><b><u>Disseminate key sustainability information to our community</u></b></p> <p>Council has refined a comprehensive suite of communication channels to better share sustainability information on local environmental projects, activities, news and events to the Yarra Community. This includes review and updating of new Council sustainability website pages, revision of the Environment e-news - including switch to monthly edition fit for purpose, and utilisation of shared social media resources (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).</p> <p>Regular review and improvement of communication channels has also been integrated in to a dedicated officer role to ensure communication opportunities are identified and shared with other stakeholders.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

1.5.2	<p><b><u>Increase community input to Council programs, processes, and services</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to facilitate Council-community committees including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC)</li> <li>• Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC); and</li> <li>• Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee.</li> </ul> <p>Council also established the new Waste and Recycling Working Group as a subcommittee of the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee.</p>	
1.6.1	<p><b><u>Develop Yarra Sustainability Survey and measure Yarra's environmental Footprint</u></b></p> <p>The Community Sustainability survey was completed as scheduled in 2013/14 and updated in 2017.</p> <p>In 2014 a review was undertaken of steps for compiling an Ecological Footprint for the City of Yarra, and the benefits of this. This included discussions with 'One Planet and Sydney University who offer calculation services. It was decided that, at this stage, EcoFootprinting for the City of Yarra was cost prohibitive and did not offer the data or communications benefits anticipated.</p>	
1.6.2	<p><b><u>Yarra Sustainability Awards</u></b></p> <p>The Yarra Sustainability Awards held in 2014, 2015, and 2016. For 2017 it was agreed to have a break year and no Sustainability Awards were held.</p> <p>The Yarra Sustainability Awards continued to be a very successful and important event on the community sustainability calendar.</p>	
<b><u>Pathway 2 - Urban Ecology &amp; Natural Environment</u></b>		
2.1.1	<p><b><u>Establish Yarra River environs awareness campaign</u></b></p> <p>Discussion regarding development of this campaign occurred, looking into opportunities to link into other activities to create synergies rather than as a stand alone action. The concept was agreed as valid, but was seen as a big initiative requiring funding and ongoing support.</p> <p>The Merri Creek Management Committee was successful in undertaking projects of a similar nature via Council Grants. This initiative could be reviewed following completion of MCMC projects.</p>	
2.1.2	<p><b><u>Build community understanding of activities to improve local air quality</u></b></p> <p>A review of air quality in Yarra was completed in 2014/15, based on EPA data, and the Council webpage 'Air Quality in Yarra' was updated.</p> <p>The review found little value-add in Council re-casting the EPA data, and has since simply directed the community to the EPA site to access the most up to date EPA data.</p>	
2.2.1	<p><b><u>Support and enhance existing natural resource management programs/ actions</u></b></p> <p>Street tree planting, garden bed planting and bushland (revegetation) planting has continued though the life of this strategy, with additional weed management at sites of high ecological value.</p>	
2.2.2	<p><b><u>Develop and undertake local biodiversity and ecosystem health Survey</u></b></p> <p>The Biodiversity Health Survey is complete.</p>	
2.2.3	<p><b><u>Develop Yarra Biodiversity Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Following on from the completion of the Biodiversity Health Survey, the project brief for the biodiversity strategy is complete, and the strategy will be completed in the first half of 2018.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

2.2.4	<p><b><u>Accelerating Water Sensitive Urban Design for water treatment through Council operations</u></b></p> <p>The WSUD policy was adopted in 2016</p> <p>Existing WSUD projects of note include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Church St Park WSUD</li> <li>- Derby St Sediment trap and planted outstands</li> <li>- Passive irrigation of planted outstands</li> </ul> <p>No significant new projects are planned</p>	
2.3.1	<p><b><u>Support wildlife-friendly, native indigenous, and biodiversity focused gardening at home</u></b></p> <p>'The popular 'Gardening with Native Plants in Yarra' Booklet was developed into a more accessible online resource, which can be freely downloaded via the Council Website. The "Removing Weeds In Yarra" booklet remains freely available from the Richmond Town Hall &amp; VINC nursery, Yarra Bend Rd, Fairfield.</p> <p>Discussions between Open Space and Sustainability teams have confirmed that to be successful a Backyard Biodiversity project should first be scoped and integrated into the Biodiversity Strategy or Urban Forest Strategy, or otherwise receive significant external funding if a source comes available. The Urban Forest Strategy has been completed, but the Biodiversity Strategy is still under development.</p>	
2.3.2	<p><b><u>Incorporating Stormwater Management in the Planning Process</u></b></p> <p>This action was fully implemented. The WSUD Local Planning Policy (Amendment C117) was approved and gazetted on 13 March 2014. Training to support this has not been required. WSUD from private developers in the public realm will continue to be assessed on an as needs basis.</p>	
2.3.3	<p><b><u>Improve setback controls to protect land along the Yarra River</u></b></p> <p>The Yarra River Corridor Strategy (for the City of Yarra) was completed and was presented to Council in June 2015. Council prepared a planning scheme amendment that would introduce more stringent planning controls along the Yarra River to protect the river corridor from overdevelopment.</p> <p>The Minister for Planning approved Amendment GC48 24 February 2017 which implements interim planning controls to protect the Yarra River from inappropriate development. These changes to Planning Schemes apply from Punt Road, Cremorne to Warrandyte and are part of a wider set of initiatives to protect the Yarra River and its landscape. Council both supported and advocated for these initiatives.</p>	
2.4.1	<p><b><u>Build alliances and partnerships to advocate and ensure a clean Yarra River</u></b></p> <p>Council built alliances and worked in partnerships to advocate and ensure a clean Yarra River, including with Melbourne Water and via IMAP</p>	
2.4.2	<p><b><u>Supporting reduction in litter loads to Yarra's waterways through business and community action</u></b></p> <p>Council has made litter a key part of the education program with schools, supported groups on Clean Up Australia Day and in commercial shopping strips.</p>	
2.4.3	<p><b><u>Develop Water Sensitive City Plan</u></b></p> <p>The WSUD Policy was updated and adopted. The potential for development of an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) is being re-evaluated along with Council's broader water management direction.</p>	
	<b><u>Pathway 3 - Sustainable City Infrastructure &amp; Lifestyles</u></b>	
3.1.1.1	<p><b><u>Develop Sustainable Transport Behaviour Change Campaign Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to work with the community to encourage a shift to use non-car modes of transport. Work has continued via existing channels rather than via establishing a new community Sustainable Transport Behaviour Change Campaign as such.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

3.1.2.1	<p><b><u>Accelerating cycling and walking in Yarra</u></b></p> <p>Significant work has been undertaken, including a refresh of the Bicycle Strategy. A priority list of bike projects is identified for delivery in 2017/18 reflecting existing capital and operational resources. Work is ongoing with VicRoads regarding strategic cycling corridors</p>	
3.1.2.2	<p><b><u>Support public transport use in Yarra</u></b></p> <p>Numerous actions to improve public transport in Yarra have been completed, most recently :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work on DDA compliant tram stops on route 96</li> <li>- Work is continuing on transport aspects of the planning scheme update</li> <li>- Work is on going with VicRoads at Chandler Highway which includes advocacy for improved bus services in the area</li> <li>- Work is on going with VicRoads regarding improved public transport along Hoddle Street</li> </ul>	
3.1.3.1	<p><b><u>Advocate and work with key stakeholders to support sustainable transport</u></b></p> <p>Significant advocacy activities have been completed, most recently including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submissions to Infrastructure Australia regarding transport needs in Yarra</li> <li>- Meetings with State Government officers and CEO's regarding the need for new tram stops on Bridge Road</li> <li>- Ongoing advocacy regarding transport needs for Yarra/Manningham</li> </ul> <p>Notably, a trial of a 30km speed limit is occurring, a direct outcome of the Yarra Environment Strategy and this action.</p>	
3.2.1.1	<p><b><u>Strengthening partnerships and support for sustainable business operations</u></b></p> <p>The Economic Development Strategy was updated and endorsed by Council in November 2014, and strongly incorporated Sustainability in its development, with the Vision being <i>"A local business community engaged and empowered to implement sustainable business practices" to be achieved via:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote participation in Yarra Energy Foundation and City Switch;</li> <li>• Continue to recognise green business practice through the Yarra Sustainability Awards, and promote business achievements and success stories through a range of mediums;</li> <li>• Engage with industry bodies to disseminate industry specific advice on sustainable business practices; and</li> <li>• Monitor trends in the sustainability sector to identify opportunities to attract green businesses to Yarra.</li> </ul> <p>Specific activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council has provided significant support and assistance to businesses in Yarra to become more sustainable via our website and ebulletin. Yarra's Business e-bulletin featured articles on topics including, energy assessment grants, recycling, sustainability awards program and ride2work. Council profiled at least two local businesses every fortnight in the Business e-bulletin promoting supply and buy local.</li> <li>- Council built a strong collaborative working relationship with Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) to support sustainable business. In March 2015 Council ran the Economic Development Expo held at the Abbotsford Convent which included sustainable business information and featured YEF. Council also partnered with YEF to deliver a series of workshops promoting energy efficiency and purchasing green power. YEF themselves run many activities and projects supporting sustainable business in Yarra.</li> <li>- In 2014/15 The Economic Development Unit decided to choose a business with a sustainability focus to put forward for Northern Business Achievement Awards. GIW Environmental Solutions was selected, and won the Northern Business Achievement - Sustainability and Environment - Award.</li> <li>- Council partnered with traders to produce local directories promoting buy local.</li> <li>- Council supported green economy practices in Yarra such as featuring Cosharing as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week and ongoing investigations into potential for Environmental Upgrade Agreements</li> </ul>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

3.2.2.1	<p><b><u>Review opportunities for Growing the Green Economy in Yarra</u></b></p> <p>This action was fully actioned. In the development of the Economic Development Strategy, consultants were engaged to review "Opportunities for Growing the Green Economy in Yarra". This resulted in a Background Report which outlined Yarra's comparative advantages as a green business location and the opportunities for green business and job attraction. These themes were then incorporated into the final Economic Development Strategy, endorsed November 2014.</p>	
3.3.1.1	<p><b><u>Planning Scheme Improvements to support sustainable outcomes</u></b></p> <p>The ESD Local policy was formally gazetted into the Planning Scheme in 19th November 2015. Successful implementation continues with all developments of 2 dwellings or larger required to demonstrate best practice in ESD.</p> <p>Any development with an additional floor area of &gt; 50m2 must meet stormwater and WSUD best practice standards.</p> <p>ESD is systematically incorporated in the current Yarra Planning Scheme review and is incorporated into all design and development overlays, incorporated plans and master plans.</p> <p>Yarra takes a leadership role in the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) , supporting the consistent and widespread adoption of our ESD Local Policy, the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool and our ESD best practice standards, currently rolling out over 21 Victorian Councils. Council continues to work with DELWP and the State Government to develop a state-wide ESD policy.</p>	
3.3.1.2	<p><b><u>Support sustainable development within the Planning processes</u></b></p> <p>Yarra supported the development of an Environmentally Efficient Design Local Policy (Amendment 133) with five other Councils, endorsed by the Minister of Planning in 2015.</p> <p>The SDAPP program continues and supports applicants with planning scheme requirements, a growing ESD Fact Sheet Suite, the BESS tool and other online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) incorporates a consistent set of best practice standards in ESD for all development types and scales and has been adopted by 21 councils across Victoria. Over 500 development applications have used the BESS tool in Yarra to date. A total of nearly 11,000 development projects have used the BESS tool across Victoria.</li> <li>- Ongoing program monitoring is gathering overarching ESD performance standards and other application details, that are regularly reported internally as well as to DELWP and Council.</li> <li>- Small developments do not trigger the ESD Policy, however assessment of small development will remain voluntary with negotiated ESD improvements for the time being. Projects of 50m2 or more do trigger the WSUD requirements.</li> <li>- Work continues in conjunction with the VBA, CASBE and other government agencies on verification and compliance of ESD in the built environment, from planning through to final built stage.</li> <li>- Ongoing ESD Case Studies and site visits to verify and document ESD standards.</li> <li>- There are currently 16 SDAPP Fact Sheets published and available, with consistent best practice standards across Victoria. 5 additional fact sheets are currently in development.</li> </ul>	
3.3.2.1	<p><b><u>Support green facades and roofs</u></b></p> <p>The Growing Green Guide was completed and is now regularly used by development applicants and Council staff across Yarra. Green walls, roofs and facades are now commonly proposed by private development within Yarra. The IMAP SDAPP Fact Sheet team has developed a Fact Sheet which incorporated green roofs, walls and facade, and they are encouraged in the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool.</p> <p>Green facades and roofs are considered but are not specifically required by the ESD Buildings Policy for Council buildings, however they are one option for buildings to meet the ESD Buildings Policy requirements. Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library is one example of where vegetation and landscaping has improved the sustainability of our building stock, achieving an overall 6 Star Green Star rating.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

3.3.2.2	<p><b><u>Existing building sustainability</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to work closely with the Yarra Energy Foundation by providing support and advice about a range of different activities such as the commercial solar project. Council and YEF are also investigating the opportunities in providing Environment Upgrade Agreement (EUA's) in Yarra if/when they become a strong value proposition.</p> <p>Council also continued to represent its municipality at a regional scale, particularly through its ongoing membership and involvement in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) and its associated activities that often have a building focus. Council and YEF have continued to support the SmartBlocks program</p>	
3.3.3.1	<p><b><u>Enhancing Open Space</u></b></p> <p>The expansion of Yarra's open space has been a strong success as an outcome of the Yarra Environment Strategy, resulting in 6 new 'pop-up' parks over the life of this Strategy. Further funding is available for the construction of a new small park at Charles and Mollison Streets in Abbotsford., with construction to commence in early 2018.</p> <p>The review and update of the Open Space Strategy has commenced.</p>	
3.4.1.1	<p><b><u>Support the Yarra Energy Foundation</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to support the Yarra Energy Foundation in 2014/15 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Financial contribution;</li> <li>- Monthly meetings held between YEF and Yarra;</li> <li>- Quarterly briefings to Council; and</li> <li>- Six monthly reports from YEF to Council.</li> </ul> <p>In 2017 Council and YEF co-ran an integrated Household Battery and Solar PV seminar. This was very well attended (over 70 people) and showed the power of collaboration and targeted events.</p>	
3.4.1.2	<p><b><u>Support existing and new partnerships and joint activities</u></b></p> <p>Council, together with YEF, continue to keep on top of opportunities to support partnerships aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions in our community. Some opportunities being supported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council involvement with Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA);</li> <li>- Negotiating with YEF, Sustainable Melbourne Fund, and NAGA, towards scoping future potential to support Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's) in Yarra;</li> <li>- Supporting Yarra Climate Action Now to progress a Community Solar project; and</li> <li>- Council supported Livewell Yarra to develop local groups of community members aimed at supporting reduction of greenhouse emissions.</li> </ul>	
3.4.2.1	<p><b><u>Greenhouse Advocacy</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to support the greenhouse and climate change mitigation advocacy throughout the year, especially via involvement in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action who advocate on behalf of member Councils.</p>	

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3.5.1.1	<p><b><u>Develop a new Waste Management Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Council successfully delivered the priority actions in the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Food Know How:</b> The Food Know How program has evolved into a 5 week Challenge which guides households and the community on the steps of good food planning, shopping, storage, preparation, and composting.</li> <li>- <b>Recycle Us:</b> Council's bin inspection program, Recycle Us, educates and encourage residents to recycle right by giving them direct relevant feedback about what is in their recycling and rubbish bin. On average the program has reduced contamination in recycle bins by 20% and reduced resource loss by 10% in the rubbish bin.</li> <li>- <b>MUD Recycling Program:</b> Council's program for multi-unit developments produced a new way to engage with buildings and residents with the development of waste and recycling posters that are free for residents to access and download on our website. The program directly engaged with 20 locations per year, ranging in size and scale, from units at Richmond Department of Housing to 500 unit high rise towers.</li> <li>- <b>Yarra's Community Resource Recovery Hubs:</b> Three large outdoor and four indoor hubs (in libraries and neighbourhood houses) have been successfully implemented throughout the municipality. These Hubs collect clothes, textiles, homewares, and small electrical items. We have consistently diverted just over 100 tonnes of material per year.</li> <li>- <b>Commercial Shop Recycling Project:</b> Engagement and education around recycling and managing waste better is now integrated into an education program. The engagement package included one-on-one talks, information sheets, internal recycling bins, and stickers for external recycling bins.</li> </ul>	
3.5.2.1	<p><b><u>Focus on reduction of food waste to landfill</u></b></p> <p>Council has taken the next step to introduce a new kerbside collection service to Yarra residents to recover food waste. This is a 3 year project being delivered in two distinct phases in conjunction with a grant from the Sustainability Victoria Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>Phase One runs from November 2017 – December 2018 and will involve up to 500 households with the collected material being taken for composting at Veolia NRS Dandenong.</p> <p>Phase Two runs from January 2019 – March 2020 and will involve an additional 4500 households and include the procurement of an in-vessel composting unit to be housed and operational within Yarra.</p>	
3.5.3.1	<p><b><u>Regional waste minimisation action and partnerships</u></b></p> <p>Council undertook many actions in partnership with other Councils including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acting as Project Coordinator of a five Council project - to expand the Food Know How program, targeting residents around using less food, and composting leftovers to reduce food going to landfill. This is funded by the Metropolitan Waste &amp; Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG).</li> <li>- Yarra is a participant in the MWRRG funded the Bright Sparks project trialling the collection of small second hand electrical appliances, which can be then repaired and given to the needy, or sold, rather than going to landfill. This project is run in conjunction with Moreland, Boorondara, Darebin, and Whittlesea councils. Trial collection bins are being set up at Collingwood Town Hall, Holden St Neighbourhood House and Richmond Library.</li> <li>- Yarra and Melbourne Councils are working collaboratively on a project to improve recycling and reduce waste in Multi-Unit Developments(MUDs), funded through the MWRRG.</li> </ul>	
3.6.1.1	<p><b><u>Community promotion of reduced use of potable water</u></b></p> <p>Council provided limited promotion and communication of community water reduction opportunities, with support of water authorities where possible. This included updating webpages with information supporting community water reductions. Educational signage has been provided at parks, and water reduction seminars were held at Yarra Libraries.</p>	
3.7.1.1	<p><b><u>Develop and implement an Urban Forest Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The Urban Forest Strategy was endorsed by Council in Sept 2017. Significant work was undertaken to obtain relevant data, and develop a comprehensive based on local evidence. Much internal and external consultation occurred to ensure there was significant buy in and integration.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

3.7.1.2	<p><b><u>Develop a Yarra Food Policy</u></b></p> <p>Council officers continue to support the intent behind the action, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- liaison with the Local Government Urban Agriculture Network;</li> <li>- meet with the Fair Food Alliance to explore possibilities for collaboration;</li> <li>- signed the 'Food Declaration'; and</li> <li>- meetings with other Councils, such as City of Melbourne to gain insight into the development of their food policy.</li> </ul>	
3.7.2.1	<p><b><u>Disseminate climate change adaptation-related information to the Yarra community</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to work with our community, individually and with the Yarra Energy Foundation, to communicate the need to act to reduce emissions. Communications also occur in relation to adapting to climate change, generally more specific to target groups and largely focused around coping with heatwaves.</p>	
3.7.3.1	<p><b><u>Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Plan</u></b></p> <p>The Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been implemented and integrated into Council processes.</p> <p>The initiation and implementation of the multi-council Embedding Adaptation project with the City of Geelong developed simple and effective mechanisms to incorporate climate change adaptation into the Council processes to improve outcomes, winning the National 2017 UN Association of Australia Local Government Sustainability Award.</p>	
4.1.1.1	<p><b><u>Pathway 4 - Sustainable Council Operations</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Embed and promote sustainability as core to Yarra's identity</u></b></p> <p>Across the life of this Environment Strategy, Council further cemented its identity as one of Australia's most sustainable cities. This occurs due to support from all levels and the many diverse actions from across Council.</p> <p>In support of this action in seeking to benchmark and seek independent certification of Council's sustainable credentials, in August 2014, Council became the first Certified One Planet Council in Australia. 'One Planet Living' is an internationally recognised benchmark bestowed on regions around the world, for being exemplars of sustainable living. Council's sustainability performance was audited against ten principles that allow communities to live and work within their fair share of the earth's resources.</p> <p>Council continues to promote sustainability to our community, and receive local and national recognition for our work.</p>	
4.1.1.2	<p><b><u>Sustainability measurement and reporting</u></b></p> <p>Sustainability has been integrated into Council's Annual Report. Work on expanding this and potentially using external, third-party defined and certified, program metrics has not occurred.</p>	
4.1.2.1	<p><b><u>Develop Sustainability decision-making tools and support</u></b></p> <p>From 2014-17 Council undertook the State Government funded 'Embedding Adaptation' project which looked at how to incorporate climate adaptation thinking into council practices as business as usual. A key outcomes was a "Quadruple Bottom Line Tool" QBL for staff to use when applying for a New Initiative Bid to highlight the TBL plus Adaptation impacts of the project under consideration. This was effectively deployed in 2016 and saw Council winning a national Local Government Sustainability Award based on its innovative approach.</p>	
4.1.2.2	<p><b><u>Enhance sustainable procurement activities</u></b></p> <p>Sustainable Procurement activities continued to improve over the life of the Strategy, being further incorporated as business as usual. Across 2016-17 a cross council group was convened around Green Procurement reviewing and updating Council policy, developing training and tools, and promoting sustainable procurement across the organisation.</p>	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

4.1.2.3	<b><u>Review ESD Building Policy for Sustainability in Council buildings</u></b> The ESD Buildings Policy was updated in 2014, and continues to be used to create more sustainable outcomes. Many other Councils have sought out Yarra's Policy as an example of cutting edge.	
4.1.3.1	<b><u>Strengthen the Yarra Staff Green Team</u></b> Council continues to support staff to operate sustainably at work via their role and daily activities, including via a long standing Green Team.  A key change which occurred was the establishment of a 'GreenCORE Group' to focus on organisational development projects that have significant cross-council sustainability integration and outcomes. In 2016/17 a Successful Sustainable Procurement Green Core group was run.	
4.1.3.2	<b><u>Embed Organisational Sustainability into People Processes and Policies</u></b> Council has successfully integrated sustainability practices into people, policies and processes. People and Culture, One Yarra Project and Environmental Management has developed a strong working relationship and collectively supported various activities towards achievement of this action. Some highlights include: - Reviewed Recruitment Policies to include consideration of sustainability and sustainable workplace practices, with further work to occur in areas of induction and on-boarding processes; - Identification of Sustainability as CORE Value, including representation in award category in the staff recognition Applause Awards; and - Sustainability Unit were represented on Values, Leadership, and Innovation CORE groups.  Additionally, strong relationships with the Sustainability Unit have been forged across the organisation to further build workplace sustainability in practice by all staff, including the organisation wide Keep Cup usage (1 in 3 staff) and an increase of targeted internal communication promotions (including power saving and waste minimisation focuses)	
4.1.4.1	<b><u>Promote Council experience and advice, and participate in key regional networks and partnerships</u></b> Council continues to be a Leading Sustainable city, not only in the actions we take individually, but also the partnerships we support and steps we take to share lessons with others. For example: - the Richmond Library has been created as a Demonstration Site with information on technologies and current energy used presented to site visitors in an interactive way. - Yarra Council presented at the ICLEI World Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea (2015) Conference of Parties (COP) 23 in Bonn (2017), and many other local conferences and presentations. - Active participation in groups such as the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Resilient Melbourne, IMAP	
4.1.4.2	<b><u>Increase staff sustainable transport</u></b> Work continues to improve fleet sustainability, including incorporation of sustainability into a holistic fleet review, and development of a specific sustainable fleet plan. This work is complex and strategic, but is progressing.	
4.1.4.3	<b><u>Sustainable Catering and Events</u></b> Sustainable catering and events was identified as a possible topic for a GreenCORE Group strategic project (2015) however Green Procurement was selected by the Executive Group as the first topic of focus. The holistic vision of Green Procurement allowed for crossover with ordering for catering and events. Additionally, the 2017 tender process for Council catering services included a specific reference to sustainability, including environmental sustainability, with a dedicated sustainability officer sitting on the evaluation panel to ensure sustainability outcomes were achieved through the process.	

## Attachment 2 - YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017

4.2.1.1	<p><b><u>Carbon reduction and renewable energy generation action plan and implementation</u></b></p> <p>Council completed the implementation of its largest program to reduce emissions in its building assets via an Energy Performance Contract. This included over 80 individual actions across 18 buildings. Council has also undertaken the measurement and verification phase for years 1 and 2, showing financial savings of over \$200,000 per annum, and greenhouse gas reductions of around 2,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per annum.</p> <p>Council has also implemented many solar PV installations on Council buildings and other actions to improve efficiency and reduce emissions. With greenhouse gas emissions down by a sector leading 40% this highlights the effectiveness of Council's work.</p> <p>With the completion of the Energy Performance Contract, and solar PV now covering most available Council roof space, a key future strategy will be optimisation of the existing plant to ensure full efficiency gains are being made.</p>	
4.2.1.2	<p><b><u>Best Practice Carbon Neutral Council</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to be innovative and operate as a best practice Carbon Neutral Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to be a certified carbon neutral organisation under the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) program;</li> <li>• Continuing to improve its processes to increase the accuracy of its carbon calculations;</li> <li>• Participating in the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project with 13 other partners, to source 100% of council's electricity needs as local renewable electricity for 10 years, and establish a model for other organisations to follow; and</li> <li>• Council has presented at many conferences and seminars, and continues to share knowledge with other Councils and businesses to follow Yarra's lead.</li> </ul>	
4.2.2.1	<p><b><u>Develop Yarra Fossil Fuel Transition Plan</u></b></p> <p>Council has invested heavily in solar PV on Council's own buildings over the term of this Yarra Environment Strategy. This has included significant solar PV at the Richmond Recreation Centre and Collingwood Leisure Centre which will reduce the need to run the cogeneration plant and reduce gas usage. The Energy Performance Contract has cut the use of natural gas by the organisation, especially at leisure centres, and works are currently being undertaken looking at opportunities for more sustainable Council fleet vehicles.</p>	
4.2.3.1	<p><b><u>Scope and develop / implement plan to reduce Council's whole of life emissions</u></b></p> <p>Council includes all emissions sources required to meet Carbon Neutral Certification. Priority has been focused on collection and ensuring accuracy of all direct emissions, and calculation any necessary indirect emissions, rather than expanding further at this stage.</p>	
4.3.1.1	<p><b><u>Waste Wise Council infrastructure and staff education</u></b></p> <p>Council actions which have continued to support Waste Wise principles included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food waste, recycling and landfill bins in all Council bins;</li> <li>- signage reviewed and updated at all Council owned buildings where required; and</li> <li>- Staff participated in a fun/engaging theatre style education program about recycling right.</li> </ul>	
4.4.1.1	<p><b><u>Incorporate water conservation into Stormwater Plan &amp; Drainage Asset Management Plan's</u></b></p> <p>The Drainage Asset Management Plan has been completed and is in Draft for internal review</p>	
4.4.2.1	<p><b><u>Update and develop new Yarra Water Action Plan</u></b></p> <p>A new Yarra Water Action Plan has not been developed.</p> <p>A new park in Church St Richmond was constructed in 2014/15, with WSUD and stormwater harvesting for irrigation of the park. New Large-Scale Stormwater harvesting opportunities are still being explored, but are expensive and are subject to external funding.</p>	
4.4.1.2.	<p><b><u>Individual water harvesting opportunities</u></b></p> <p>The Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) has not been developed. Council is currently reviewing its ongoing water strategy.</p>	

## Attachment 3 - YES 2013-17 Summary Targets Review Dec 2017

Indicator	Measure	Baseline	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017 target	2020 Target	status	Progress/Status Notes 2017
Community satisfaction rating on the statement: <i>'Council is meeting its responsibility towards the environment'</i>	Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey Rating out of 10	7.06 (2012)	7.3	7.42	7.59	7.39	7.4	7.5		Council consistently exceeded or met the 2017 target
Improvement in stormwater quality management	Percentage of the best practice performance objectives for Council managed assets	5% (2012/13)	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	7%	10%		Derby St WSUD was constructed in 2016. The target has not been met as Council has moved away from standalone WSUD treatment to focus on integration where possible. If external funding is secured new large-scale projects may occur which could help reach the target in the future.
Increase in bike riders in Yarra	Super Tuesday' annual bike count	3,167 (2013 )	3,207	3,046	3,276	3,480	5,400	8,000		Whilst bike riding in Yarra continues to rise, the target for increasing bike riders (as measured by the Super Tuesday bike count) has not been met. Improving significantly beyond the first 3,000 'core' riders has been more challenging than expected.
Reduction in serious bike crashes on Yarra roads	Bicycle riders serious injury incidents reported via VicRoads	161 (2011)	161		131	NA	119	106		The data sources appear to have changed recently and Officers have not been able to reconcile the numbers. Overall however, whilst there was some fluctuation in the numbers, there is clearly a reduction. Projects like the Wellington Street Copenhagen Lane help to improve rider safety in Yarra.
Increase on-road bike lanes in Yarra	Total km of bicycle lanes in Yarra	5	57.1	57.1	59	59	60	80		Yarra has a mature comprehensive cycle network. Most new projects focus on upgrading this network rather than adding to it.
Increase off-road bike paths in Yarra	km of off-road shared paths improved and reconstructed since 2012/13	NA	0.5	0.5	0.62	1.16	0.5	2		The 2017 target has been exceeded. Recent working include Fairfield Park and around Coulson & George Knott Reserves.
Increase bike parking infrastructure installed in Yarra	Number of bike hoops and pole vaults (or equivalent) (since 2012)	NA	270	370	490	610	800	2000		Bike parking infrastructure in Yarra has significantly increased over the life of the strategy, supporting more cycling.
Resident access to open space	Number of new parks established in Yarra (since 2012)	NA	2	4	5	5	3	6		The establishment of new parks in Yarra has been a strong success, and resulted in many accolades for Council. The 2017 target has been exceeded.

## Attachment 3 - YES 2013-17 Summary Targets Review Dec 2017

Medium and large developments meeting best practice standards through SDAPP Program	Number of medium & large developments meeting best practice standards through the SDAPP Program	NA	56%	95%	99%	99%	90%	100%		Nearly all medium and large developments are now meeting best practice standards through SDAPP Program - exceeding the 2017 target. This highlights the strong resonance and uptake of the program.
Parks managed using sustainable landscape practices	Number of parks accredited by Sustainable Gardening Australia for landscaping practices.	1	1	1	1	1	5	5		Alphington Park was accredited by Sustainable Gardening Australia for landscaping practices, however in going through this process it was found that this was unnecessarily onerous and specific to only certain park environments. The decision was made to not continue to seek further park accreditation.
Renewable energy generation in Yarra Municipality	kW installed renewable energy	1,200 (2010)	2,200	4,416	5,441	6,871	2,400	7,000		Renewable energy generation in Yarra has boomed since the creation of this strategy, greatly exceeding the targets set. Initiatives from Council and the Yarra Energy Foundation , and Councils leadership on its own facilities have assisted in this.
Potable water consumption across the community	Total GigaLitres of water consumed from City of Yarra Municipality	12.7 GL 2000/01	9.10 GL ↓28.3%	NA	TBC	TBC	↓25%	↓30%		Awaiting data update for City West Water and Yarra Valley Water
Staff commitment to sustainability	Workplace sustainability is 'important' or above (staff sustainability survey)	88% (2013)	88%	NA	NA	100% (2017)	95%	100%		Whilst the 2017 Staff survey indicated 100% felt workplace sustainability is 'important' or above, it is noted that the response rate was low.
Influence of the GreenTeam	Percentage of staff responding that Green Team activities influenced their behaviour (staff sustainability survey)	60% (2013)	68%	NA	NA	72%	75%	90%		This question was broadened to "Do you feel that you know what you need to know to be sustainable at work?" , with results showing continued progress.
Staff using sustainable transport to get to work	Staff commuting to work using sustainable modes	50% (2012)	50%	NA	NA	72%	60%	70%		In 2017 72% of staff indicated they "walk, cycle or use public transport to get to and from work." However, the low response may explain why this outcome is higher than expected.
Organisational carbon emissions	Tonnes CO2e from Council operations (gross emissions)	16,820t (2000/01)	11,846t ↓29.6%	10,949t ↓34.9%	10,545t ↓37.3%	10,496t ↓37.6%	↓55%	↓60%		Council has reduced organisation emissions by almost 40% since the base year and more than 10% since the Strategy was developed. This is a sector leading outcome. Council is on track to meet the 2020 target of 6% reduction through its participation in the Melbourne Renewable Energy Partnership.

### Attachment 3 - YES 2013-17 Summary Targets Review Dec 2017

<b>Net organisational carbon emissions</b>	Tonnes CO2e from Council operations (net emissions)	Zero (2012/13)	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero		Council has continued to maintain its status as a certified Carbon Neutral Organisation, providing leadership for other organisations.
<b>Carbon emissions reduced through renewable energy generation by Council</b>	Rated tonnes CO2e reduction capacity of installed renewable energy generation	401 tCO2-e	620 tCO2-e	777 tCO2-e	831 tCO2	1,246 tCO2	850	1,250		Council has greatly exceeded its target of renewable energy generation by Council, already meeting the 2020 target.
<b>Local Low Carbon Energy Generation</b>	Rated tonnes CO2e reduction capacity of installed local low carbon energy generation (% of Council's energy needs)	581 tCO2-e (2012)	1576 t (14.4%)	2,485 t (25%)	NA	NA	NA	NA		This target was historical from previous YES and has now been superseded.
<b>Potable water consumption from Council operations</b>	Megalitres of water consumed from Council operations	334 (2000/01)	↓36% 213 ML	↓32% 229ML	↓25% 285ML	↓31% 232ML	↓45%	↓50%		Water use is down significantly on the baseline, however progress towards reaching the target of 45% reduction has not occurred. It has become clear that an absolute water reduction target is not in itself the best target given the need to keep vegetation alive during drought and benefits of vegetation during heatwaves.
<b>Council water requirements supplied by locally harvested water sources</b>	Megalitres of water harvested annually	4.5ML (2.5%) (2011/12)	4.5ML	4.9ML	4.9ML	4.9ML	10ML	20ML		No stormwater harvesting projects have been constructed since 2013/14, with only modest progress towards the target. No projects are currently planned as these are expensive and rely on external funding.
<b>Single dwelling household organic garbage to landfill</b>	Percentage of kerbside waste collection	45.4	45.4	NA	NA	NA	44%	42%		There has not been a Municipal wide Audit since 2014. The total waste generated for Kerbside services in 2016/17 is 15,680 tonnes, a decrease of 98 Tonnes per annum. When compared with the previous year's waste to landfill per person it fell from 3.44kg/pp/wk to 3.36kg/pp/wk.
<b>Single dwelling household recycling contamination</b>	Percentage contamination rate by weight	10.4	10.4	NA	NA	NA	7.50%	5.00%		There has not been a Municipal wide Audit since 2014
<b>Multi-unit dwelling household recycling contamination</b>	Percentage contamination rate by weight	24.5	24.5	NA	NA	NA	21.60%	19.10%		There has not been a Municipal wide Audit since 2014
<b>Increased recycling yield from commercial properties</b>	kg/property/week	7.9	7.9	NA	NA	NA	10 % increase	20% increase		There has not been a Municipal wide Audit since 2014
<b>Commercial recycling contamination</b>	Percentage contamination rate by weight	11.6	11.6	NA	NA	NA	10%	8%		There has not been a Municipal wide Audit since 2014

## Attachment 3 - YES 2013-17 Summary Targets Review Dec 2017

Garbage to landfill from Council staffed properties	Tonnes /EFT/week	0.62	0.62	NA	NA	NA	↓5%	↓10%		There has not been a Municipal wide Audit since 2014
The ecological footprint of the Municipality	Ecological footprint in ha per person. Note		NA	NA	NA	NA	Measure Yarra's footprint	10% reduction on baseline		Detailed review of the process to measure Yarra's Ecological Footprint indicated that measurement would be significantly more expensive than anticipated. The resulting outcome would also be more generic and not enable progress from Yarra actions to be tracked over time. This measure therefore did not proceed.
Habitat area, health, and biodiversity		New Survey	NA	NA	NA	NA	↑5%	↑10%		The Biodiversity Health Survey is now complete. Methodologies and strategies for increasing and tracking habitat area, health, and biodiversity will be reviewed via the Biodiversity Strategy to be developed in 2018.
Usage rates of sustainable transport modes to work	Residents using Sustainable Transport to work (from census)	51% (2011)	NA	NA	NA	53%	NA	60% (2021)		Yarra residents using sustainable transport to work has increased since the last census. Note that the methodology of the original YES was hard to replicate, and as such the baseline has been updated and 2017 target removed. New data is based on residents who clearly identified using sustainable transport vs those clearly identifying as driving in some form.
Usage rates of sustainable transport modes to work	Non-residents use sustainable transport to work in Yarra (from census)	29% (2011)	NA	NA	NA	NA	35% (2016 census)	50% (2021 census)		We do not yet have the census data on non-residents journey to work.
Number, turnover and impact of green businesses and business practices in Yarra	New survey/measurement (2014)		NA	NA	NA	NA	↑ 5%	↑ 10%		Whilst a new Economic Development Strategy was developed, and sustainable business actions incorporated and actioned, this data has not been collected.
Commercial and industrial sector greenhouse gas emissions	kt CO2e from commercial & industrial sector	883kt (2005/06)	NA	608 kt CO2e (↓31%)	NA	NA	↓10%	↓20%		The latest figures for community greenhouse gas emission were compiled in 2017, using the data from 2014/15. This showed a significant reduction from the commercial and industrial sector, exceeding the target. Caution must be shown however as the data collection for community emissions is currently based on assumptions and highly variable.
Net municipal Greenhouse emissions	Total tonnes CO2e from City of Yarra Municipality	1,865 kt CO2 (2005/06)	NA	1,368 kt CO2e (↓27%)	NA	NA	NA	Zero		The latest figures for community greenhouse gas emissions were compiled in 2017, using the data from 2014/15. This showed a significant reduction from the Yarra community sector. Caution must be shown however as the data collection for community emissions is currently based on assumptions and highly variable. No clear pathway is currently in place to achieve zero emissions by 2020.

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**11.3 Welcoming Cities Initiative in Yarra**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

That Yarra City Council begin undertaking the process of becoming a Welcoming City.

### **Key Issues**

Welcoming Cities is an initiative which seeks to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government leaders with frameworks, resources, on the ground activities and diverse organisations.

Yarra City Council has an opportunity to sign up to the initiative, joining this network of local government authorities and begin a process toward a standardised approach to creating and fostering inclusive and welcoming communities.

### **Financial Implications**

Most of the actions outlined in the Welcoming Cities stages are already undertaken by Council and would not require additional budget. It will mean the officer identified as the key contact will include Welcoming Cities in their existing work program, which aligns with actions already in the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018. Welcoming Cities is working closely with councils to identify which stage of the assessment schedule they are at and what resources they need to progress.

### **PROPOSAL**

That Council:

- (a) agrees to become a member of the Network of Welcoming Cities and will begin the process of becoming a Welcoming City;
- (b) nominates the Mayor, Cr Daniel Nguyen to sign the Commitment Form; and
- (a) nominates the Community Partnerships Team Leader, Cristina Del Frate as the contact officer who will liaise with the Welcoming Cities Team.

## 11.3 Welcoming Cities Initiative in Yarra

Trim Record Number: D17/191768

Responsible Officer: Community Partnerships Unit Manager

### Purpose

1. That Yarra City Council begin undertaking the process of becoming a Welcoming City.

### Background

2. Welcoming Cities is an initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and Welcome to Australia in partnership with Welcoming America. The initiative seeks to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government leaders with frameworks, resources, on the ground activities and diverse organisations.
3. Welcoming Cities facilitates a national network of inclusive, vibrant communities internationally recognised for their ability to foster a sense of belonging and participation.
4. The Welcoming Cities network assists in supporting local councils and community leaders to leverage the ideas and innovation that come from being welcoming and inclusive. It is based on the following four elements:
  - (c) Knowledge Sharing;
  - (d) Partnership Development;
  - (e) Standard and Accreditation; and
  - (f) Celebrating Success.
5. It seeks to address and embrace the challenges and opportunities of migration. It aims to create more welcoming and inclusive communities by supporting local government leaders and communities to be more effectively resourced, networked and supported.
6. Local Councils can join as members of the network, while businesses and community organisations join as supporters. See **Attachment 1** for an overview of the Welcoming Cities initiative.
7. The stages in becoming a Welcoming City are:
  - (g) Commit to Welcome;
  - (h) Communicate Welcome;
  - (i) Plan for Welcome;
  - (j) Build Welcome; and
  - (k) Sustain Welcome.
8. A brief description of the process on how Council will move through the stages on its journey as a Welcoming City is provided below. Many of the requirements outlined at each stage are already being undertaken by most Councils.

#### **Stage 1 - Commit to Welcome**

9. Local councils commit to participating in the broader welcoming city network and consulting on the development of The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities.
10. Local councils commit to develop strategies that create opportunities for all members of their communities to participate in and contribute to social, economic and civic life.

#### **Stage 2 - Communicate Welcome**

11. Messages of unity, shared values and belonging permeate the community through the media, the voices of leaders, and among residents.

12. Diverse voices are valued, listened to, communicated and celebrated.

### **Stage 3 - Plan for Welcome**

13. Local councils facilitate a multi-sector approach, working together to create a welcoming community that values social, economic and civic participation for all people.
14. Local councils establish policies and practices that embed welcoming and inclusion across all policy areas.
15. Local councils develop strategies that focus on receiving communities and migrant / new & emerging communities.

### **Stage 4 - Build Welcome**

16. Local councils consider and benchmark their policies and practices against The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities. See **Attachment 2** for a draft of The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities.
17. Newcomers and long-time residents increasingly find common ground and leadership is representative of the diversity of communities.

### **Stage 5 - Sustain Welcome**

18. Local councils audit and accredit their policies and practices against The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities.
19. Social cohesion and socioeconomic indicators improve over time.

### **Further background information**

20. To date, 11 Councils in Australia (seven in Victoria) have joined the network. They are: Moreland City Council, Hume City Council, City of Darebin, City of Melton, City of Warrnambool, City of Ararat, City of Greater Bendigo, City of Canning (WA), City of Stirling (WA), City of Port Adelaide Enfield (SA) and Glenorchy City Council (TAS).
21. Joining this initiative means that Council will be recognised as an active participant of the Welcome to Australia program, and acts as a statement that Yarra welcomes new arrivals to its community.
22. Over time, Councils will choose to work towards the Australian Standard for Accreditation (there is work currently underway towards international accreditation) at different stages and in line with Council resources and capacity. For example, City of Darebin is establishing a Welcoming Cities Reference Group to look at strategies to implement the Standard. Welcoming Cities is working closely with each of the above councils to identify which stage of the assessment schedule they are at and what resources they need to progress. Hume, Moreland and Bendigo Councils have all been recipients of the Welcoming Cities Community Investment Fund which is open to Victorian members on the network.
23. Welcoming Cities has staff to assist Council in progressing through the stages listed above.
24. Most of the actions outlined in the stages above are already being undertaken by Council (e.g. Council's existing Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-18).
25. To participate in the Welcoming Cities network as a member, a signature from either the CEO or a Councillor is required for the Commitment Form (see **Attachment 3**). It is proposed that the Mayor of Yarra City Council sign the Commitment Form.
26. Another requirement to join this initiative is that a Council officer be appointed to liaise with Welcoming Cities staff to ensure progress through the stages. It is proposed that the Community Partnerships Team Leader, Cristina Del Frate be nominated as the contact officer.

### **External Consultation**

27. Discussions have been held with members of the Yarra Settlement Forum, about the Welcoming Cities initiative, with positive interest. Stakeholders are interested in learning more about the program and what it will mean in practical terms for our communities.

28. Discussions were held at the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (31 October) with positive feedback given in support of the Welcoming Cities initiative.

### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

29. Informal discussions have been undertaken with staff within Community Partnerships, which have all been positive in favour of involvement. However due to the initiative requiring Council approval prior to embarking on the process, the impact will be minimal on other Council staff at this stage of the process. Once approval is granted, Council staff will be able to provide information towards Council progressing through the stages.

### **Financial Implications**

30. Most of the actions outlined in the stages above are already being undertaken by Council and would not require additional budget. It will mean the officer identified as the contact will include Welcoming Cities in their work program, which aligns with actions already in the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-18.

### **Economic Implications**

31. Council recognises a range of ongoing advantages of migration to Victoria and in particular to Yarra's economy. Multiculturalism boosts our economic advantage by providing the municipality with a competitive edge through a diverse, innovative, highly skilled and internationally connected workforce, in areas such as tourism, small business, industry, research and development, employment and education.
32. Initiatives which promote an inclusive and welcoming municipality will all contribute to positive economic contributions for Yarra.

### **Sustainability Implications**

33. An engaged and included multicultural community that feels welcome will more likely participate in sustainability projects such as community education and awareness, community gardens and peer mentoring, which in turn delivers positive sustainability outcomes for the municipality.

### **Social Implications**

34. The Welcoming Cities initiative plays a key role in the development of an inclusive community through Council committing to progress through the stages. The stages involve aspects including (but not exclusive to): planning inclusive strategies; making statements of inclusion and welcome publicly; and ensuring diverse voices are valued as a few examples.
35. Building an inclusive community has overwhelming positive social implications, contributing to a community which feels cohesive, leading to greater feelings of well-being.
36. The principles of multiculturalism are directed to social inclusion by respecting difference and promoting unity. In other words, cultural differences are something we all have in common. By respecting our shared diversity and the rule of law, we can realise our shared aspiration to build a cohesive and welcoming society.

### **Human Rights Implications**

37. The Welcoming Cities initiative aligns with a human rights perspective due to its principles of welcoming and inclusion.
38. The Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-18 (MPP), and its annual Action Plans are aligned with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and other pieces of international, national and state human rights legislation, declarations and conventions. The MPP derives from (and affirms) a human rights framework. In fact the human rights framework is used as a descriptor of multiculturalism. Therefore, all actions associated with the Welcoming Cities initiative are in alignment with the MPP as well.

39. The Charter protects important rights endemic to multiculturalism. In particular, freedom from discrimination, freedom of expression, the right to participate in public life and freedom of religion and cultural rights. It provides protection to people who may be marginalised or disadvantaged because of their cultural, religious or language background, and assists with these groups' sense of belonging.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

40. It is envisaged that the Welcoming Cities initiative has the greatest impact on culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and as a result, any promotion of the initiative will naturally include translated materials where appropriate.
41. Effective cross cultural communication and access to language services is imperative to feelings of inclusion by the non-English speaking community, therefore the Welcoming Cities initiative is aligned with ongoing engagement with these groups. It is vital to tailor communication methods to the diversity of language and information needs in the community, which all contributes to social inclusion.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

42. Welcoming Cities aligns with several of the Council Plan's objectives, namely:
- (a) Objective 1: A healthy Yarra. A place where community health, safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;
  - (b) Objective 2: An Inclusive Yarra. A place where inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated; and
  - (c) Objective 7: A Leading Yarra. A place where transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.

### **Legal Implications**

43. There are a number of international, national and state pieces of legislation that underpin Yarra's Multicultural Partnerships Plan. These include:
- (a) Commonwealth policy context:
    - (i) *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*;
    - (ii) *The Racial Discrimination Act 1975*; and
    - (iii) The People of Australia statement by Australian Multicultural Advisory Council; and
  - (b) State Policy context:
    - (i) *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*;
    - (ii) *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*;
    - (iii) *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004*;
    - (iv) *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*; and
    - (v) *Local Government Act 1989*.
44. The context of these pieces of legislation ensures Council has a legal responsibility to protect the rights of individuals, which is reflected in Council's multicultural and many other policies.
45. The Welcoming Cities initiative aligns with the principles set out in the above legislation, promoting inclusion and cohesion.

### **Other Issues**

46. There are no other issues.

## Options

47. The only option is to not participate in the Welcoming Cities initiative, which would mean Yarra Council will not be part of a network of local government authorities focussed on creating inclusive, vibrant communities internationally recognised for their ability to foster a sense of belonging and participation. This is not being recommended as it would be contrary to Council's stated commitment of an inclusive Yarra.

## Conclusion

48. Welcoming Cities is an initiative connecting local government leaders with frameworks, resources, on the ground activities and diverse organisations, in an effort to create more inclusive communities.
49. Yarra City Council has an opportunity to sign up to the initiative, joining this network of local government authorities and begin a process toward a standardised approach to creating and fostering inclusive and welcoming communities.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
  - (a) agrees to become a member of the Network of Welcoming Cities and will begin the process of becoming a Welcoming City;
  - (b) nominates the Mayor, Cr Daniel Nguyen to sign the Commitment Form; and
  - (c) nominates the Community Partnerships Team Leader, Cristina Del Frate as the Yarra contact officer who will liaise with the Welcoming Cities Team.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Cristina Del Frate  
**TITLE:** Community Partnerships Team Leader  
**TEL:** 9205 5174

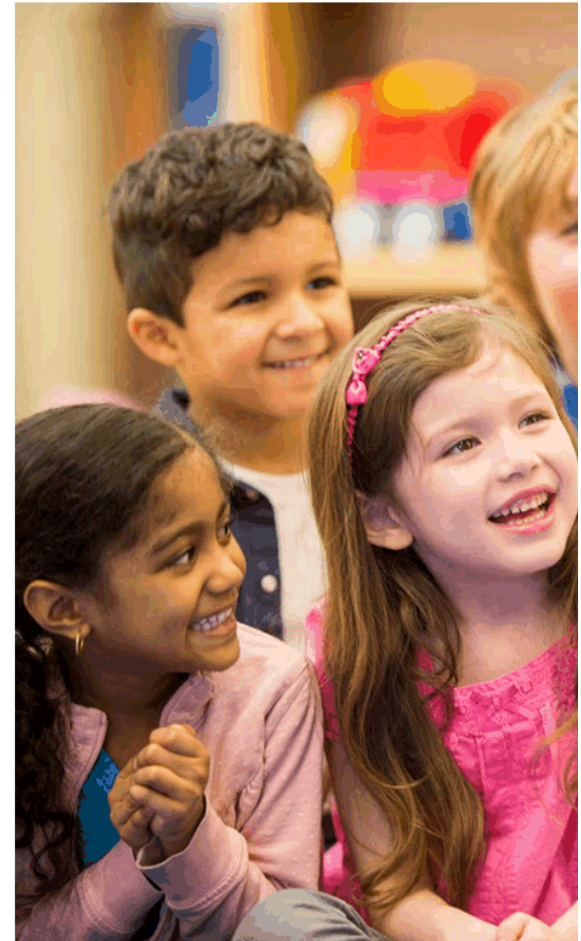
## Attachments

- 1 Welcoming Cities An Overview
- 2 The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft
- 3 Welcoming Cities Commitment Form

Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview



Australia is  
a multicultural  
success story.



## Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview

Our standards of living and levels of social cohesion rank amongst the best in the world.<sup>1</sup>



We also live in a nation of stark contrast. Australia's population is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse, while our First Peoples represent the oldest continuous culture in the world. Many Australian communities are experiencing rapid growth.<sup>2</sup> Others are grappling with significant population and economic decline.<sup>3</sup>

Local councils and leaders are best placed to understand the complexity and diversity of their communities. But, they often engage in this work with limited resources and support. Welcoming Cities supports local councils and community leaders through a network built around:



### Knowledge Sharing

Supporting local governments and communities to learn from each other and access resources, research, policies, and case studies.



### Partnership Development

Brokering meaningful multi-sector partnerships that foster a sense of belonging and participation for all members of the community.



### Standard + Accreditation

Developing and accrediting The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities to benchmark policy and practice in cultural diversity and inclusion.



### Celebrating Success

Showcasing leading practice. A National Award focused on responses by local government to welcoming efforts.

Central to social, economic and civic success are the principles of welcoming and inclusion. **We support local councils and community leaders to leverage the ideas and innovation that come from being welcoming and inclusive.**

## Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview

Welcoming Cities supports local councils and community leaders to leverage the ideas and innovation that come from being welcoming and inclusive.

*Welcoming is about inclusion at all levels.*

It is a process by which all people can develop a sense of belonging. When people feel welcome, they will participate in the communities that they live in. Welcoming is the means by which local councils, businesses and communities can embrace and integrate newcomers for greater social cohesion and economic success.



## Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview



### Our Purpose

#### Economic Benefits

Over the next 35 years, migration will drive economic and skills growth in Australia.<sup>4</sup> Migrants will contribute \$1,625 billion (1.6 trillion dollars) to Australia's GDP, and 10 per cent more to the economy than existing residents. Migration will also lead to a 60 per cent increase in people with a university education.

#### Social Benefits

100 Australian towns and regional centres are facing significant population and economic decline.<sup>5</sup> Migration and settlement are helping to:

- increase local populations and add to the cultural vibrancy
- revitalise local businesses and services
- attract increased funding and investment

<sup>1</sup> OECD Better Life Index  
<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2015.  
<sup>3, 5</sup> Regional Australian Institute. 2016.  
<sup>4</sup> Migration Council Australia. 2015.

## Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview

### The Standard

The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities is a central element of the Welcoming Cities network. The Standard aims to enable local councils to:

- benchmark their cultural diversity and inclusion policies and practices
- identify where and how further efforts could be directed
- assess progress over time

The Standard applies to all local councils in Australia. Councils can access, and progress through, the Standard at different stages in line with their resources, capacity and desired mode of assessment. We describe these stages (from lowest to highest) as Establishing, Advancing, Excelling, and Mentoring.

Organised under the following seven (7) categories, are guidelines that can be implemented by a local council or community stakeholder through policy, program or special initiatives.

#### Leadership and Communications



Welcoming Cities spearhead efforts to build Welcoming Plans (or similar) that advance migrant-friendly communications, policies, programs and initiatives, and institutionalise these efforts.

Welcoming Cities formally acknowledge Traditional Owners and Indigenous elders as the original custodians of the land and respect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as leaders in welcoming activities.

#### Equitable Access



Welcoming Cities ensure that newcomers have access to council services and cultural assets by actively removing barriers to participation and inclusion.

Welcoming Cities also recognise the importance of equity for all members of the communities.

#### Economic Development and Education



Welcoming Cities place emphasis on helping newcomers to access and develop the skills, assets, and opportunities required to succeed in community life.

#### Civic Engagement



Welcoming Cities ensure that newcomers can fully participate in civic life, including increasing access to leadership and democratic opportunities.

#### Safe and Connected Communities



Welcoming Cities foster trust and build relationships between new arrivals, the local community and Australian-born residents.

#### Conflict Resolution and Mediation



Welcoming Cities actively identify sources of tension over values, behaviour or resources, and address them through mediation and other resources.

#### Physical Spaces and Infrastructure Planning



Welcoming Cities engage the community in making decisions regarding urban planning and built form that influences the successful integration of migrants.

## Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview

### Get Involved

Join a growing international network of cities, regions and communities committed to welcoming and inclusion.

Local councils can participate as members of the Welcoming Cities network, while community organisations, businesses and other agencies can get involved as supporters. Both members and supporters can access the key elements of the network through knowledge sharing, partnership development, standard and accreditation, and celebrating success.



Welcoming Cities is an initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and Welcome to Australia in partnership with Welcoming America.



Contact us to find out more and get involved.

[info@welcomingcities.org.au](mailto:info@welcomingcities.org.au)

[www.welcomingcities.org.au](http://www.welcomingcities.org.au)

[@citiesofwelcome](https://twitter.com/citiesofwelcome)

[/citiesofwelcome](https://facebook.com/citiesofwelcome)

**Attachment 1 - Welcoming Cities An Overview**



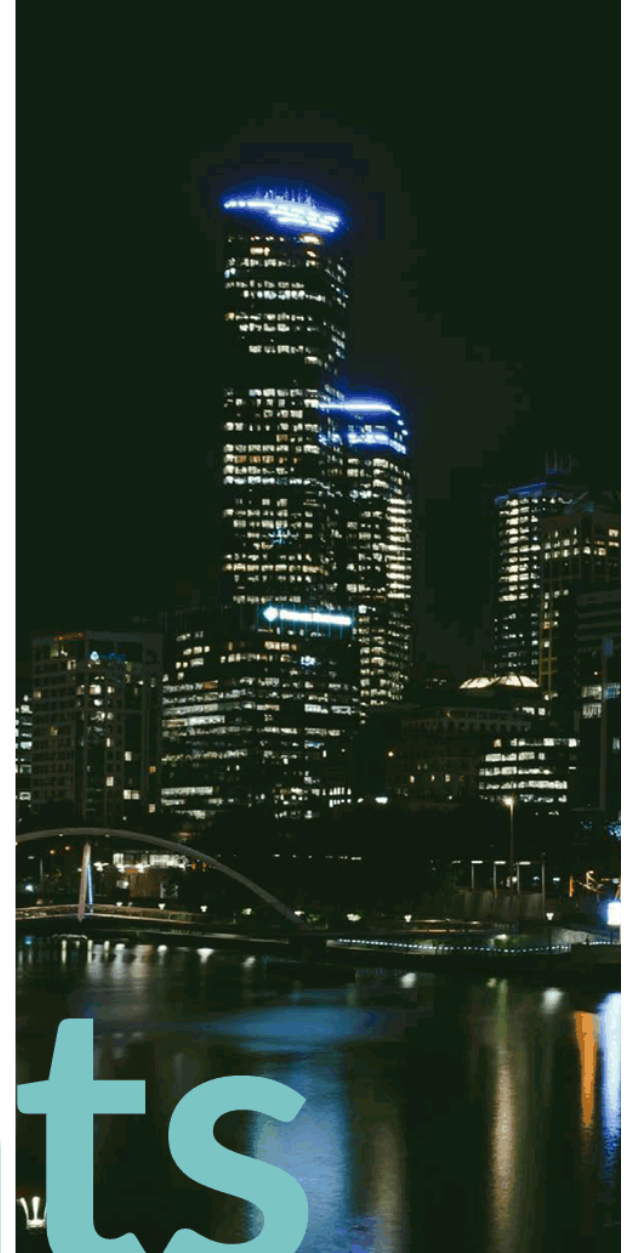
**Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft**



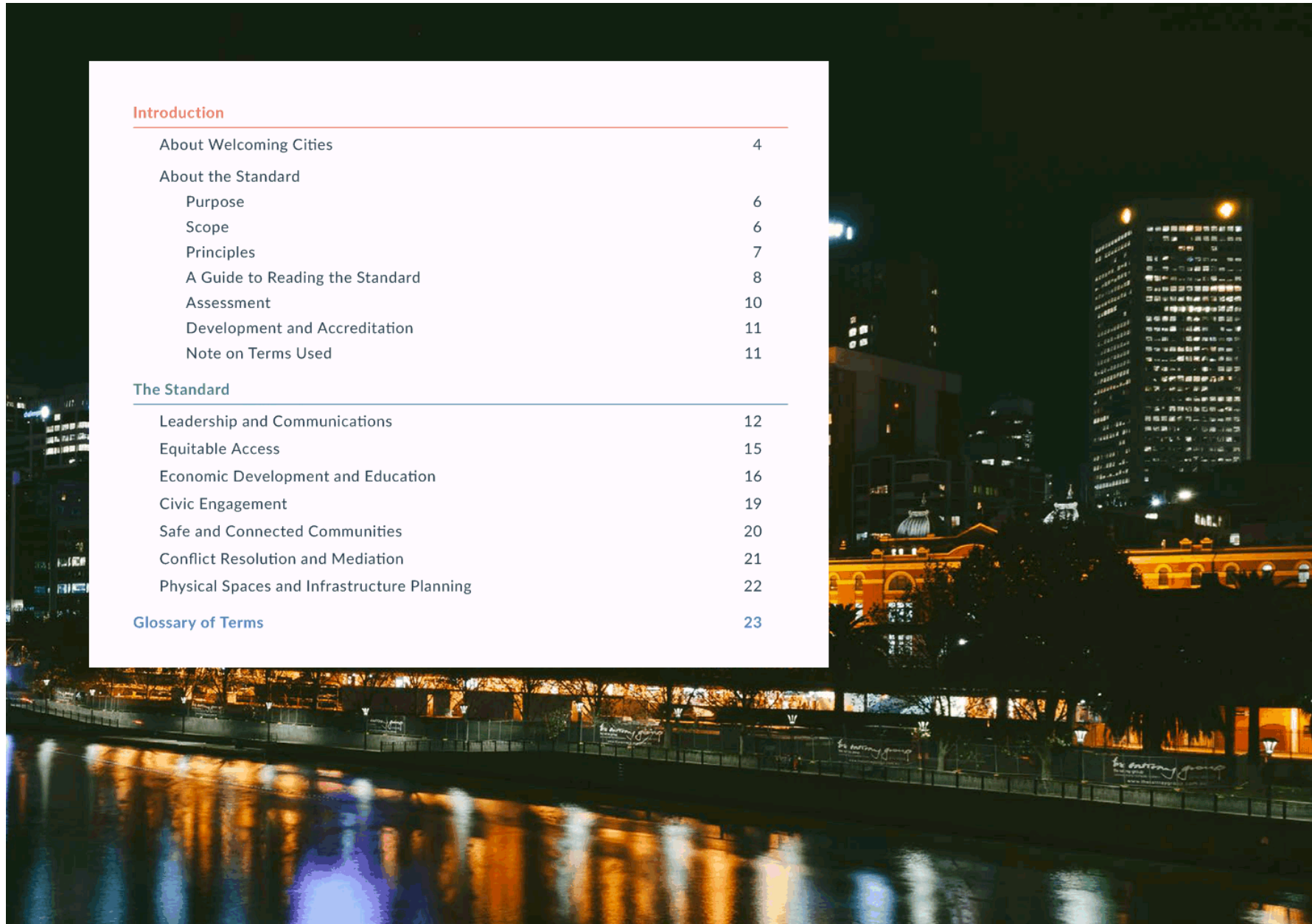
Public Draft  
version 1.0

**Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft**

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## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



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## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft

### About Welcoming Cities

Australia is a multicultural success story. Our standards of living and levels of social cohesion rank amongst the best in the world.

We also live in a nation of stark contrast. Australia's population is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse, while our First Peoples represent the oldest continuous culture in the world. Many Australian communities are experiencing rapid growth. Others are grappling with significant population and economic decline.

Local councils and leaders are best placed to understand the complexity and diversity of their communities. But, they often engage in this work with limited resources and support. Welcoming Cities supports local councils and community leaders through a network built around:



#### Knowledge Sharing

Supporting local governments and communities to learn from each other and access resources, research, policies, and case studies.



#### Partnership Development

Brokering meaningful multi-sector partnerships that foster a sense of belonging and participation for all members of the community.



#### Standard + Accreditation

Developing and accrediting The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities to benchmark policy and practice in cultural diversity and inclusion.



#### Celebrating Success

Showcasing leading practice. A National Award focused on responses by local government to welcoming efforts.

## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



In the next 35 years,  
migration will...

- Contribute \$1.6 trillion to Australia's GDP
- Lead to a 60% increase in university-educated Australians

Central to social, economic and civic success are the principles of welcoming and inclusion. We support local councils and community leaders to leverage the ideas and innovation that come from being welcoming and inclusive.

Local councils can participate as members of the Welcoming Cities network, while community organisations, businesses and other agencies can get involved as supporters. Both members and supporters can access the key elements of the network.

Welcoming Cities is an initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and Welcome to Australia in partnership with Welcoming America.



## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft

### About the Standard

#### Purpose

The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities is a central element of the Welcoming Cities network. The Standard aims to enable local councils to:

- Benchmark their cultural diversity and inclusion policies and practices across the organisation
- Identify where and how further efforts could be directed
- Assess progress over time

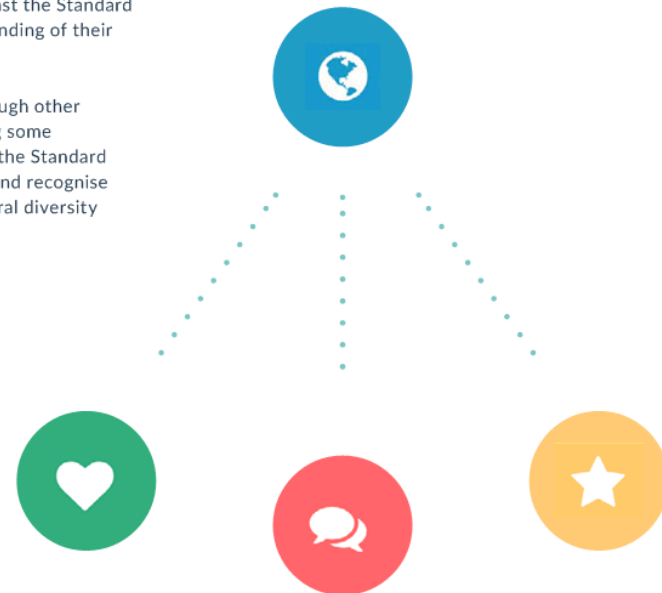
The other elements of the network support as well as enhance the purpose of the Standard.

#### Scope

The Standard applies to all local councils in Australia. This includes areas, cities, towns, municipalities, regions, shires and districts. Councils can access, and progress through, the Standard at different stages in line with their resources, capacity and desired mode of assessment. We describe these stages (from lowest to highest) as Establishing, Advancing, Excelling, and Mentoring.

The extent to which local councils consider and benchmark their activity against the Standard should be based on their understanding of their community's needs and capacity.

It is noted that local councils, through other obligations, are already addressing some guidelines. Rather than duplicate, the Standard seeks to validate existing efforts and recognise the connections to fostering cultural diversity and inclusion.



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About The Standard

### Principles

The following principles articulate the core values upon which the Standard has been developed:

- We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of this nation. Welcoming Cities formally acknowledge Traditional Owners and Indigenous elders as the original custodians of the land and respect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as leaders in welcoming activities.
- We engage receiving communities in understanding who their new neighbours are and why welcoming work is important – especially among people who may have concerns about, or are unaware of, the changing demographics of their community.
- We value the unique talents that people of all backgrounds – socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, religious, etc. – contribute in making our communities vibrant, welcoming and inclusive.
- We respect and leverage the cultural and leadership assets of new arrivals throughout the process of helping people navigate and integrate into the community.
- We encourage all community leaders to develop and celebrate partnerships that build a community's capacity for welcoming work.
- We bring together the voices and experiences of both new arrivals and the broader community in defining a welcoming agenda.
- We promote and build on the extensive and ongoing cultural diversity and inclusion work of the local government sector.
- We acknowledge Australia's migrant history, our unique approach to multiculturalism and settlement, and ongoing success in building social cohesion.

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About The Standard

### A Guide to Reading the Standard

The Standard is organised under the following seven (7) categories:



Leadership and Communications



Equitable Access



Economic Development and Education



Civic Engagement



Safe and Connected Communities



Conflict Resolution and Mediation



Physical Spaces and Infrastructure Planning

Each category contains a number of guidelines that can be implemented by a local council or community stakeholder through policy, program or special initiatives.

For some guidelines, a set of indicators is also provided. Indicators further describe how a local council can demonstrate the specific guideline. In cases where no indicators are defined, the guideline is considered self-explanatory and no additional level of detail is required.

The Standard also notes where guidelines could be implemented either by the local council, in partnership with community stakeholders, or solely by community stakeholders. This is noted through the following keys:



Local council



Local council in partnership with community stakeholder

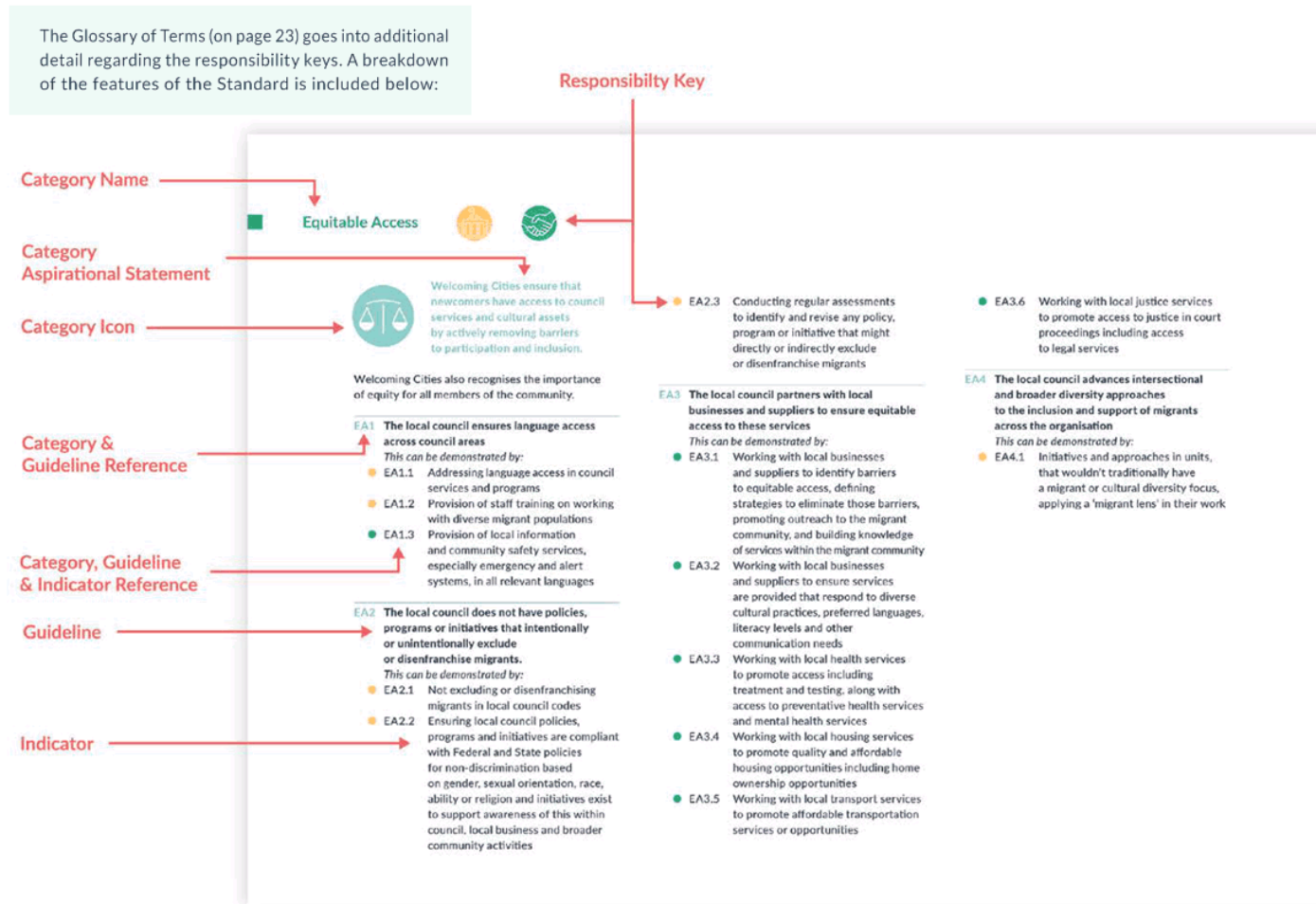


Community stakeholder (such as businesses, community or other government agencies and faith organisations)

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About The Standard



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About The Standard

### Assessment

The table below illustrates how a local council can move through the different stages of Welcoming. Local councils will be re-evaluated every 3 years. Councils can also request an interim evaluation.

*Councils will be able to consult with experts in the Standard to help them implement the policies and programs required to improve their standing as a Welcoming City*

Stage	Guidelines Implementation	Evidence	Validation	Assessment type
Establishing	Some guidelines and indicators met	Welcoming Plan (or similar) in place to meet further guidelines and indicators	Signed by Mayor and CEO	Self-Assessment
Advancing	Guidelines and indicators of the following categories are met:  1. Leadership and Communications 2. Equitable Access 3. Economic Development and Education 4. Safe and Connected Communities	Documented policies, programs or initiatives to meet guidelines and indicators  Welcoming Plan (or similar) in place to sustain existing guidelines as well as meet further guidelines and indicators	Signed by Mayor and CEO and countersigned by the CEO of an agreed and matched Mentoring council	Peer Assessment
Excelling	Guidelines and indicators of all categories are met	External assessor has viewed all documented policies, programs or initiatives and spoken to all policy, program or initiative 'owners'  Welcoming Plan (or similar)	Recommendation from approved WC assessor	Formal External Assessment
Mentoring	Sustaining the guidelines and indicators of all categories with evidence of innovative and positive impact	External assessor has viewed all documented policies, programs or initiatives and spoken to all policy, program or initiative 'owners'  Welcoming Plan (or similar)  Tangible evidence is provided of innovative and positive impact e.g. community surveys	Recommendation from approved WC assessor	Formal External Assessment

## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



About The Standard

### Development and Accreditation

The International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance defines a Standard as a “document that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods with which compliance is not mandatory”.

ISEAL views a Standard as a powerful market-based approach for creating positive social, environmental, and economic change, and driving transformation in how entities deliver goods and/or services.

A Standard defines what is expected and sustainable for a particular sector, drives and maintains change with a verification process, and has additional tools and activities in place for tracing certified goods and/or services. Through all of this, a Standard brings together all actors in the ecosystem and builds the capacity of entities to move from baseline to higher performance standards over time.

The development of The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities (the Standard) has been guided by ISEAL’s Codes of Good Practice and Credibility Principles. Welcoming Cities will apply for full membership of the ISEAL Alliance to validate the Standard’s compliance in 2017.

The Standard has also considered the work of Intercultural Cities, Integrating Cities and Cities of Migration.

### Note on Terms Used

For the purposes of the Standard, the term “migrant” refers to overseas born individuals, including children. Unless otherwise specified, the term “migrant” is also used to specify overseas born individuals of any immigration status, including refugees and people seeking asylum, as well as foreign-born individuals residing in the country on any visa type. Similarly, references to the “migrant community” and “newcomers” refer to all migrants, as defined above.

Please also refer to the full Glossary of Terms on page 23.

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### Leadership and Communications



Welcoming Cities spearhead efforts to build Welcoming Plans (or similar) that advance migrant-friendly communications, policies, programs and initiatives, and institutionalise these efforts.

Welcoming Cities formally acknowledge Traditional Owners and Indigenous elders as the original custodians of the land and respect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as leaders in welcoming activities.

#### LC1 The local council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of this Nation

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC1.1 Actively seeking reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- LC1.2 Formally acknowledging Traditional Owners and Indigenous elders as the original custodians of the land in policies, initiatives and at events
- LC1.3 Engaging the Traditional Owners and Indigenous elders in Welcoming planning and activities

#### LC2 The local council designates a role or roles of which the focus includes migrant inclusion work

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC2.1 Formalising the role(s)
- LC2.2 Developing a reference group for the role(s) that includes multi-sector representation, and representatives that reflect the diversity of the migrant community and receiving communities

#### LC3 The local council provides information and support to migrants on accessing community services and resources

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC3.1 Provision of information on available council resources such as local council services
- LC3.2 Provision of information on visas and citizenship
- LC3.3 Provision of information on English language learning opportunities and translation services
- LC3.4 Provision of information on professional licensing and business start ups

#### LC4 The local council promotes and strengthens the collaborative work of Community Based Organisations doing migrant inclusion work

#### LC5 The local council promotes employing a local council workforce that is inclusive and culturally diverse

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC5.1 Identifying and addressing barriers in processes or systems that may limit inclusion
- LC5.2 Supporting access to information about relevant local council job openings in an inclusive manner
- LC5.3 Increasing the inter-cultural competency skills of the existing workforce

#### LC6 The local council advances local and minority-owned business sourcing and contracting (including for migrant-owned businesses)

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC6.1 Addressing the barriers for migrant-owned businesses to access council contracting opportunities

#### LC7 The local council manages a community wide and cross-council plan for migrant inclusion that sets strategies in each area of this Standard

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC7.1 Regularly assessing the needs and priorities of the local migrant community and using that feedback to strengthen the Welcoming Plan (or similar)
- LC7.2 Engaging cross-sector and diverse stakeholders, including stakeholders from both migrant and receiving communities
- LC7.3 Regularly assessing migrant inclusion efforts for effectiveness including building social cohesion, inclusivity and equitability
- LC7.4 Assessing learnings to drive a process of continuous improvement

## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft

### ■ Leadership and Communications (continued)

#### LC8 The local council partners with relevant stakeholders to promote a welcoming culture through advocacy and communication activities across diverse platforms

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- LC8.1 A public proclamation or resolution declaring the local council to be a welcoming community. The local council provides information and explanation to the broader community of what this means.
- LC8.2 Advocating for the opportunity and benefit of migrant inclusion to the community and reframing the public debate about migration, where necessary
- LC8.3 Not making public statements discouraging migration or migrant inclusion or directly attacking any community on the basis of their religion, ethnicity, race, gender, orientation, or ability
- LC8.4 Prioritising messaging with partners that communicates the community-wide benefit of migrant inclusion and a welcoming culture for all residents
- LC8.5 Presenting consistent and compelling counter narratives that present positive migrant stories and contributions

- LC8.6 Supporting and promoting community events and activities for multicultural and faith-based communities
- LC8.7 Linking local issues or events to those occurring nationally or internationally, including celebration of religious festivals and national traditions

#### LC9 The local council establishes and monitors municipal benchmarks against key inclusion and cultural diversity indicators such as employment, housing, health and wellbeing, diversity in leadership, education, and access and equity.



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## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



### Equitable Access



Welcoming Cities ensure that newcomers have access to council services and cultural assets by actively removing barriers to participation and inclusion.

Welcoming Cities also recognises the importance of equity for all members of the community.

#### EA1 The local council ensures language access across council areas

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EA1.1 Addressing language access in council services and programs
- EA1.2 Provision of staff training on working with diverse migrant populations
- EA1.3 Provision of local information and community safety services, especially emergency and alert systems, in all relevant languages

#### EA2 The local council does not have policies, programs or initiatives that intentionally or unintentionally exclude or disenfranchise migrants.

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EA2.1 Not excluding or disenfranchising migrants in local council codes
- EA2.2 Ensuring local council policies, programs and initiatives are compliant with Federal and State policies for non-discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race, ability or religion and initiatives exist to support awareness of this within council, local business and broader community activities

- EA2.3 Conducting regular assessments to identify and revise any policy, program or initiative that might directly or indirectly exclude or disenfranchise migrants

#### EA3 The local council partners with local businesses and suppliers to ensure equitable access to these services

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EA3.1 Working with local businesses and suppliers to identify barriers to equitable access, defining strategies to eliminate those barriers, promoting outreach to the migrant community, and building knowledge of services within the migrant community
- EA3.2 Working with local businesses and suppliers to ensure services are provided that respond to diverse cultural practices, preferred languages, literacy levels and other communication needs
- EA3.3 Working with local health services to promote access including treatment and testing, along with access to preventative health services and mental health services
- EA3.4 Working with local housing services to promote quality and affordable housing opportunities including home ownership opportunities
- EA3.5 Working with local transport services to promote affordable transportation services or opportunities

- EA3.6 Working with local justice services to promote access to justice in court proceedings including access to legal services

#### EA4 The local council advances intersectional and broader diversity approaches to the inclusion and support of migrants across the organisation

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EA4.1 Initiatives and approaches in units, that wouldn't traditionally have a migrant or cultural diversity focus, applying a 'migrant lens' in their work

## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



### Economic Development and Education



Welcoming Cities place emphasis on helping newcomers to access and develop the skills, assets, and opportunities required to succeed in community life.

**EE1 The local council integrates migrant inclusion in its formal economic development approach**

**EE2 The local council advocates whole of community opportunity and benefit of migrant inclusion**

**EE3 The local council supports jobseekers as well as businesses looking to attract diverse talent**

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EE3.1 Provision of professional networking and mentorship opportunities
- EE3.2 Provision of information and employment counselling to jobseekers such as information on job search resources
- EE3.3 Connecting migrants to work experience opportunities such as internships or apprenticeships
- EE3.4 Supporting workplace language learning opportunities in alliance with businesses
- EE3.5 Supporting recognition of international work experience
- EE3.6 Addressing discriminatory practices in hiring and employment of council's workforce and setting a positive example for local businesses
- EE3.7 Working with employers to improve workplace conditions and culture

- EE3.8 Engaging employers, chambers of commerce, financial institutions, organisations in the workforce system, and other relevant community based organisations to identify economic development needs and opportunities for migrants
- EE3.9 Working to prepare and place migrants in jobs that earn a living wage and provide the potential for upward mobility
- EE3.10 Connecting all members of the community to employment to address unemployment or underemployment

**EE4 The local council advances migrants in starting, building and growing businesses**

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EE4.1 Provision of information on enterprise development services
- EE4.2 Improving access to contracting, financing, networking and technical assistance opportunities to migrant entrepreneurs and migrant-owned businesses

**EE5 The local council advances financial inclusion and builds the financial capacities of migrants**

**EE6 The local council provides education on workers' rights and workplace safety, improves access to legal advice on employment and workplace issues**

**EE7 The local council works with primary and secondary school systems to attain more equitable educational outcomes for migrant students**

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EE7.1 Advancing migrant parent engagement with the school systems including providing support to parents in:
  - a) enrolling students
  - b) navigating the school system
  - c) accessing information on local school options
  - d) accessing information on resources and support available to students
  - e) understanding rules and disciplinary procedures
  - f) participating in parent stakeholder bodies
- EE7.2 Facilitating migrant student access to extracurricular or enrichment activities
- EE7.3 Engaging and leveraging the community leadership role of school principals to develop co-ordinated approaches to extracurricular or enrichment activities
- EE7.4 Provision of information on services such as counselling and financial assistance that increase migrant student access to higher education
- EE7.5 Provision of career readiness support for migrant students

## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft

### ■ Economic Development and Education (continued)

- EE7.6 Addressing early learning and primary school readiness for migrant children
- EE7.7 Supporting training for educators and staff on teaching and supporting diverse student populations

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**EE8 The local council advances educational and career opportunities for migrant adults**

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- EE8.1 Facilitating access to professional development opportunities
- EE8.2 Developing migrant capacities to increase access to higher education, technical degrees, certification programs and professional licensing through access to information, services and resources
- EE8.3 Facilitating the credentialing for migrants including previous learning, qualification and skills



**Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft**



## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



### Civic Engagement



Welcoming Cities actively ensure that newcomers can fully participate in civic life, including increasing access to leadership and democratic opportunities.

#### CE1 The local council develops migrant knowledge of local council workings and advances migrant civic engagement

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- CE1.1 Provision of information on civic engagement opportunities along with general information on the responsibilities of councils
- CE1.2 Migrant participation in public council meetings
- CE1.3 Migrant participation on council committees and advisory / reference groups and advancement of migrant civic leadership

#### CE2 The local council supports citizenship attainment

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- CE2.1 Provision of information on process and eligibility, legal assistance, and testing and application support

#### CE3 The local council supports eligible migrants in voting

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- CE3.1 Working with relevant local council and state government to eliminate barriers to voting for eligible migrants

#### ● CE4 The local council engages migrants in community service activities



## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



### Safe and Connected Communities



Welcoming Cities foster trust and build relationships between new arrivals, the local community and Australian born residents.

**SC1 The local council ensures that safety services are provided in a culturally competent manner**  
*This can be demonstrated by:*

- SC1.1 Inclusion of victim services
- SC1.1 Inclusion of code enforcement

**SC2 The local council trains public safety staff in working with diverse migrant populations**  
*This can be demonstrated by:*

- SC2.1 Inclusion of staff operating emergency response systems such as 000

**SC3 The local council nurtures connections between the migrant community and receiving community**  
*This can be demonstrated by:*

- SC3.1 Building relationships between the receiving community and the migrant community, and supporting migrants in building diverse personal networks
- SC3.2 Bringing the migrant community and receiving community together to work on issues of common interest
- SC3.3 Promoting regular communication and interaction between leaders in the migrant community and leaders in the receiving community

- SC3.4 Planning activities targeted at connecting young people from migrant and receiving communities

**SC4 The local council allows all people of the community to practice their faith**  
*This can be demonstrated by:*

- SC4.1 Cultural competency training for council parking, traffic, events and emergency management staff and ensuring relevant policies and processes are culturally appropriate
- SC4.2 Encouraging businesses as well as local council spaces and facilities to accommodate the practice of different faiths
- SC4.3 Accommodation of cultural practices around birth, marriage, death and burial (within the bounds of Australian law)

**SC5 The local council nurtures connections between the migrant communities and the local police force**  
*This can be demonstrated by:*

- SC5.1 Facilitation of information sessions by the local police force on local law and legal processes to help migrant communities understand and appreciate the rights and obligations to instil confidence and a sense of a safe and connected community
- SC5.2 Training and information for police officers to understand the cultures that make up the community

- SC5.3 Presence and participation of the local police force in community settings and events
- SC5.4 Recruitment of migrants for positions within the police force and/or as community liaisons

## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



### Conflict Resolution and Mediation



Welcoming Cities actively identify sources of tension over values, behaviour or resources, and address them through mediation and other resources.

#### CM1 The local council identifies possible sources of tension

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- CM1.1 Developing a network of people and organisations through which appropriate and ongoing community engagement processes can identify possible sources of tension

#### CM2 The local council provides professional mediation and other resources to deal with identified conflicts

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- CM2.1 Access to trusted and skilled mediation resources that deal with intercultural and interreligious issues and allow migrants to safely report conflicts and discrimination

- CM3 The local council provides advice and supports people who have faced discrimination

#### CM4 The local council actively diffuses tension or conflicts before they reach a large scale

*This can be demonstrated by:*

- CM4.1 Running anti-discrimination campaigns or raising awareness in other ways
- CM4.2 Encouraging intercultural contact in order to gain a better understanding of other cultures as a strategy to prevent tensions and conflicts



## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft



### Physical Spaces and Infrastructure Planning



Welcoming Cities engage the community in making decisions regarding urban planning and built form that influences the successful integration of migrants.

- **PI1** The local council encourages intercultural mixing in local council spaces including public libraries and parks
- **PI2** Intercultural mixing is promoted in non-council spaces
- **PI3** The local council consults about new projects for physical spaces and infrastructure with a wide cross section of community  
*This can be demonstrated by:*
  - **PI3.1** New physical spaces and infrastructure that consider and account for specific cultural needs

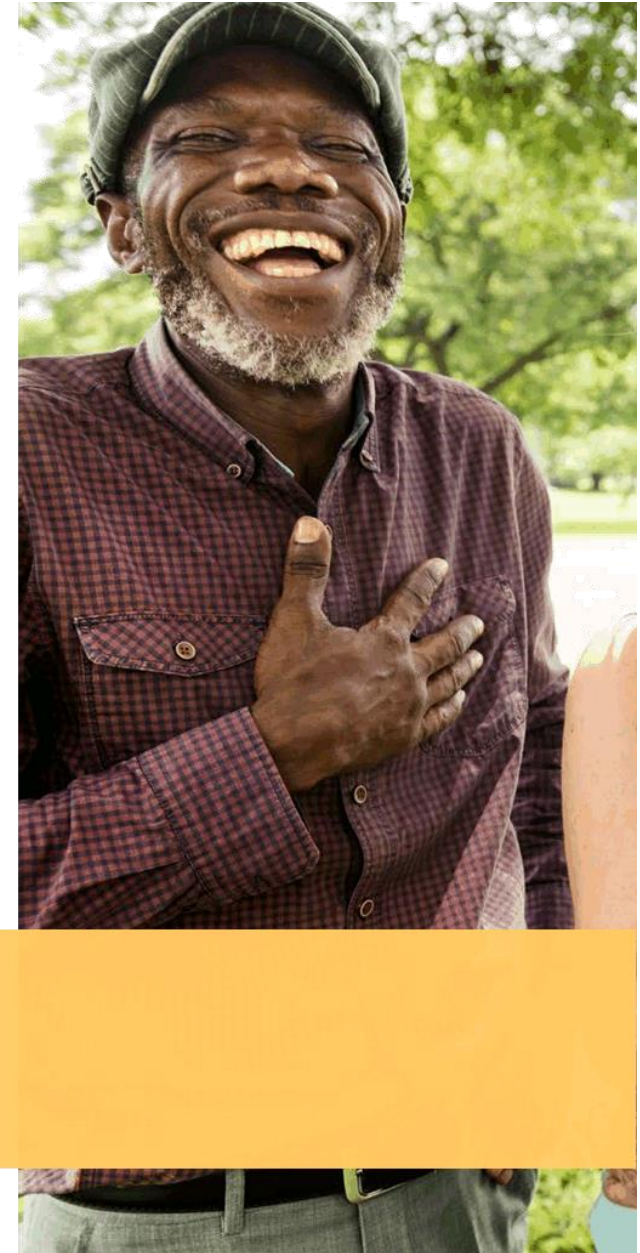


## Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft

### Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Local Council/s	Refers to the local government body being assessed against the Standard. Local councils include areas, cities, towns, municipalities, regions, shires and districts.
Migrant Inclusion Work	"Migrant inclusion work" refers to the policies, programs, and partnership programs outlined in the Standard as a whole. In other words, efforts led by either a local council or advanced by partnerships to institutionalise migrant friendly policies, programs and initiatives in the areas of leadership and communications; equitable access; economic development and education; civic engagement; safe and connected communities; conflict resolution and mediation and; physical spaces and infrastructure planning.
Migrants, Migrant Community, Newcomer	For the purposes of the Standard, the term "migrant" refers to overseas born individuals, including children. Unless otherwise specified, the term "migrant" is also used to specify overseas born individuals of any immigration status including refugees and people seeking asylum, as well as foreign-born individuals residing in the country on any visa type. Similarly, references to the "migrant community" and "newcomers" refer to all migrants, as defined above.
Receiving Community	Within this document, "receiving community" refers to all residents of a council area not covered under the definition of "migrant". This includes Indigenous communities and previous generations of migrants.
Responsibility 'Local Council' Responsibility	The local council should be the primary driver and facilitator of the guideline implementation.
Responsibility 'Local Council in Partnership' Responsibility	A varied leadership in guideline implementation possibly with: a) Local council is the primary driver of the guideline implementation, but relies heavily on content or materials developed by other partners and/or relies on funding from other sources to carry out implementation; b) Formal multi-sector collaborations where a local council is one of the institutions at the table. Examples of other institutions that should be involved include community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, chambers of commerce, businesses, federal and state governments, and schools. While the local council must play a role in the partnership, a local council does not need to be the driver or primary partner.
Responsibility 'Community Stakeholder' Responsibility	The local council is not the driver or a primary partner in the implementation. The local council may be a stakeholder, be informed or consulted by the community stakeholder.
Welcoming City	A local council that has committed, communicated, planned, built and/or sustained a welcoming community, and is assessed as such.

**Attachment 2 - The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft**



## Attachment 3 - Welcoming Cities Commitment Form



### COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING CITIES NETWORK

#### Local Councils

**“Welcoming is not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do.”**

We recognise that cities and municipalities that proactively foster an environment of belonging and participation for receiving communities, as well as new and emerging communities, increase their social cohesion and economic capability and resilience.

We therefore resolve to participate as a *member* of the *Welcoming Cities Network* and commit to taking the following initial steps toward creating an environment that unlocks the full potential of all members of the community:

- **Join, and participate in, a network of cities and communities** that are committed to becoming more welcoming.
- **Identify at least one key staff contact** for the project that will liaise directly with the *Welcoming Cities* team.
- **Communicate regularly with the Welcoming Cities team**, through at least three conference calls each year and an annual in-person meeting, to progress planning and share and learn from practices of other welcoming cities and communities.

We understand that the Welcoming Cities network involves a number of key elements.

**Knowledge Sharing.** Supporting local governments and communities to learn from each other and access resources, research, policies, and case studies.

**Partnership Development.** Brokering meaningful multi-sector partnerships that foster a sense of belonging and participation for all members of the community.

**Standard and Accreditation.** Developing and accrediting *The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities* to benchmark policy and practice in cultural diversity and inclusion.

**Celebrating Success.** Showcasing leading practice through a National Award focused on responses by local government and communities to welcoming efforts.

Local councils participate as *members* of the Welcoming Cities network, while community organisations, businesses and other agencies are involved as *supporters*. Both *members* and *supporters* can access the key elements of the network.

**The intent and commitment to participate as a member of the Welcoming Cities network is made by the following parties.**

Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



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**11.4 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Third Year Report**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a report on the third year actions of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 and endorse the proposed actions for the fourth year of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018, which includes the commencement of the development of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

### **Key Issues**

Council endorsed the Yarra City Council Multicultural Partnerships Plan (MPP) 2015-2018 in February 2015, after its development throughout 2014 via extensive community consultations.

This report outlines the progress on the implementation of the actions from Year Three, as well as proposed actions for Year Four of the MPP, taking place in 2018.

A review of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group has also been included, as well as recommendations for the year ahead.

Lastly, endorsement is sought for the commencement of planning the new MPP for the period 2019-2022.

### **Financial Implications**

All actions for Year Four are being resourced through the existing budget, and have been chosen according to what is achievable with that budget.

### **PROPOSAL**

That Council notes the progress report detailing the third year implementation of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018, endorses the actions proposed for the fourth year of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 taking place in 2018, which includes the development of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022 and endorses the recommendations put forward by the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

## 11.4 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Third Year Report

Trim Record Number: D17/203665

Responsible Officer: Community Partnerships Unit Manager

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - (a) provide Council with a progress report on the third year actions of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018;
  - (b) provide Council with a review and recommendations of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG); and
  - (c) seek endorsement for the fourth year action plan of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan, which includes the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

### Background

2. Council endorsed the Yarra City Council Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 (MPP) in February 2015, after its development throughout 2014 which included extensive community consultations.
3. The MPP contains four priority areas:
  - (a) Relationships;
  - (b) Access and Inclusion;
  - (c) Opportunities; and
  - (d) Anti-Racism.
4. The priority areas were expanded to eight broad strategies, which were further expanded into an action plan for its first, second, and third year of implementation. An action plan is developed each year in order to remain responsive and agile to emerging issues. Information is collected throughout implementation of the current action plan, including consulting with stakeholders from the Yarra Settlement Forum, the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group, and council staff. This information is fed into the development of the next year's action plan, ensuring any new initiatives are aligned with the priority areas and strategies which underpin the MPP and remain true to the original consultation undertaken in the development of the current plan.
5. Actions for each year are developed at the end of each preceding year, based on the above principles.
6. This report outlines the progress on the implementation of the third year action plan in **Attachment One**.
7. Some highlights of the third year actions include:
  - (a) the continued operation of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group, meeting four times in 2017 including a review which recommends the advisory group to continue in 2018;
  - (b) successful execution of events including Cultural Diversity Week, Taste of Harmony, Refugee Week, and various forums and workshops relating to the work of the Yarra Settlement Forum;
  - (c) continued promotion of Council Information Pack in languages other than English to Yarra 's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups and individuals;
  - (d) cultural competence training provided to Yarra Leisure staff, along with continued involvement in Council's induction training re cultural diversity and inclusion to new employees throughout 2017;

- (e) continued growth of the Yarra Interfaith Network, including broadening connections with libraries staff regarding a Yarra historical project, and organising a public event on Progressive Approaches to Faith in May 2017;
  - (f) Yarra City Council having a representative appointed to the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Regional Advisory Group (North West Metro 1);
  - (g) continued progress of the Yarra Settlement Forum as a network for service providers working in the area of migrant and refugee settlement, providing stakeholder strengthening opportunities as well as a resource for Council on emerging community issues;
  - (h) beginning process of Yarra joining the Welcoming Cities initiative, which aims to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government authorities and begin a process toward a standardised approach to creating inclusive and welcoming communities;
  - (i) joining the Council's internal LGBTIQ working group, highlighting the intersection between CALD and LGBTIQ issues; and
  - (j) successful completion of a year-long project on developing a resource to combat racial and religious vilification called "Stand Together".
8. This report also outlines the proposed actions for the fourth year of the MPP (**Attachment Two**), which have been developed from ongoing commitments from year one, two and three, and the priority areas and strategies of the MPP. The fourth year actions remain consistent to the original consultation to develop the MPP and are within the context of ongoing engagement and consultation.
9. This report also includes a review of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG) for 2017, including recommendations to continue in 2018 (**Attachment Three**).

### External Consultation

- 10. The Yarra Settlement Forum is a network of service providers working with migrants and refugees, which meets monthly and is supported by Council. Ongoing discussions with the network have provided an understanding of the emerging issues in the community and effective ways Council can respond. This understanding provided a sound basis for the formation of year four actions.
- 11. The formation of the YMAG has been useful in providing a ready source for consultation with community. Ongoing relationship building provides a more effective way of hearing about the issues that are important to community rather than one-off consultations. Having a membership which is open and diverse also ensures a diversity of voices is heard.

### Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

- 12. The role of Community Planner is one which requires partnership building across the organisation. This aspect ensures ongoing informal discussions with staff which provides information on issues occurring in the community, along with Council initiatives targeting these issues. This ensures duplication of services is avoided when developing Actions.
- 13. The formation of the Accessible Communications and Engagement working group has been a useful way of connecting staff across Council working in diverse areas (including Advocacy and Engagement, Access, Arts and Culture, Family and Children, Disability, and Community Partnerships), to explore the area of communicating with diverse communities. It is hoped this working group continues across Council to ensure a collaborative and unified approach across Council.
- 14. The YMAG meetings have also included staff from across the organisation providing updates on services and programs. This has led to partnerships developing spontaneously between YMAG and other areas of Council (e.g. allowing for collaborative opportunities between libraries and community partnerships), providing opportunities for relationship building, and opportunities for working together.

15. It is envisaged in year four of the action plan (**Attachment Two**) that an internal CALD issues Council working group will be investigated and formed. The aim is to provide an opportunity for relationship building between Council staff on the topic of cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. This could potentially be another avenue for highlighting CALD issues across Council and better serving the community with a One Yarra approach.

### **Financial Implications**

16. All actions for year four are being resourced through the existing budget and have been formulated according to what is achievable within that budget.

### **Economic Implications**

17. Council recognises that multiculturalism boosts Yarra's economic advantage by providing the municipality with a competitive edge through a diverse, innovative, highly skilled and internationally connected workforce. Strategies in the MPP which focus on opportunities, capacity building and employment diversity all contribute to positive economic contributions for Yarra, both in the municipality and within Council. For example, programs which help to develop leadership and organisational skills have led to culturally, linguistically and diverse residents finding employment or starting businesses. Sisterworks is a social enterprise with a shop front in Yarra which helps build the capacity of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, to sell the craft items they make and much more.
18. New research commissioned by insurance company, CGU Australia, challenges perceptions that migrants can be a drain on the national economy by demonstrating the economic contribution that migrants make to the country. In the 'Migrant Small Business Report' it suggests that migrants run one third of all small businesses in Australia and most had no entrepreneurial experience before setting up successful enterprises in Australia.
19. Some of the key findings from the CGU Migrant Small Business Report, based on EY Sweeney research involving more than 900 business owners are:
  - (a) 51% have a bachelor degree or higher, compared to 38% of non-migrant owners;
  - (b) 83% did not own a business before coming to Australia;
  - (c) 52% said they went into business to become more independent; and
  - (d) Annual revenue for migrant-owned businesses is 53% higher than non-migrants.

### **Sustainability Implications**

20. An engaged and informed multicultural community that participates in sustainability projects such as community education and awareness, community gardens and urban agriculture, (e.g. Community garden at Collingwood Housing Estate developed in conjunction with Urban Agriculture staff at Council) delivers positive sustainability outcomes for the municipality. Opportunities for linking in staff from Sustainability and Urban Agriculture with multicultural communities will be increased via the continuation of the YMAG.

### **Social Implications**

21. The MPP plays a key role in the development of the multicultural community through: building relationships; developing skills; increasing awareness; and building resilience within the community.
22. The MPP has been designed to continue to build on the work undertaken in strengthening partnerships and service delivery to Yarra's multicultural residents, groups, organisations and ethno-specific agencies.
23. The principles (and many actions) behind the MPP are directed to social inclusion by respecting diversity and promoting access and inclusion.

### **Human Rights Implications**

24. The MPP is driven by a human rights perspective and sits within a context of policies and legislation protecting human rights.

25. The MPP is aligned with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and other pieces of international, national and state human rights legislation, declarations and conventions. The MPP derives from (and affirms) a human rights framework.
26. The Charter protects important rights endemic to multiculturalism. In particular, freedom from discrimination, freedom of expression, the right to participate in public life and freedom of religion and cultural rights. It provides protection to people who may be marginalised or disadvantaged because of their cultural, religious or language background, and assists with these groups' sense of belonging. The MPP is a practical way of actively promoting and protecting people's human rights.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

27. The whole process of developing the MPP in 2014 has maintained as a central tenet, communicating with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and more importantly, the most efficient and accessible ways of doing so. It is vital to tailor communication methods to the diversity of language and information needs in the community. Therefore, interpreters and translation services were used widely throughout any interaction with CALD communities, e.g. interpreters at YMAG meetings, written translated surveys, etc.
28. Effective cross cultural communication and use of language services is important, however, the focus in this MPP on nurturing ongoing relationships with communities is a far more effective tool when communicating, than use of language services in sporadic consultations.
29. The implementation of several actions in year one of the MPP, in 2015, centred on accessible communications for diverse groups, including the development of the Accessible Communications Framework, formation of a working group across Council focusing on Accessible Communications, and development of the Language Policy and Guidelines. Throughout year two (2016) and three (2017), further work in these areas has consolidated the importance of accessible communications, and ensures ongoing communicating with CALD communities is a priority for Council into the future.
30. The fourth year Action Plan will include consultation with CALD communities and the development of a revised Multicultural Partnerships Plan to span 2019-2022. Again, communications with CALD communities will be a central focus of gathering information, and will be targeted and accessible.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

31. The MPP relates directly to three of the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2017-2021, namely;
  - (a) A healthy Yarra: Community health, safety and wellbeing are a focus in everything we do;
  - (b) An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated; and
  - (c) A leading Yarra: Transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.
32. The four priority areas of the MPP (Relationships, Access and Inclusion, Opportunities and Anti-Racism) all reflect strategies and actions which align with the Council Plan 2017-2021.
33. The fourth year actions ensure that these objectives continue to be addressed.

### **Legal Implications**

34. There are a number of international, national and state pieces of legislation that underpin Yarra's Multicultural Partnerships Plan. These include:
  - (a) Commonwealth policy context:
    - (i) Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986;
    - (ii) The Racial Discrimination Act 1975; and

- (iii) The People of Australia statement by Australian Multicultural Advisory Council 2017; and
- (b) State Policy context:
  - (i) Equal Opportunity Act 1995;
  - (ii) Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001;
  - (iii) Multicultural Victoria Act 2004;
  - (iv) Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006; and
  - (v) Local Government Act 1989.

35. The context of these pieces of legislation ensures Council has a legal responsibility to protect the rights of individuals, which is reflected in Council's Multicultural and many other Policies.

#### **Other Issues**

- 36. Actions proposed for year four of the MPP align with previous years', and build on these themes, responding to emerging issues.
- 37. The development of the YMAG was a direct action from the MPP, and it has proven to be highly valued by attendees. It has achieved its goals of creating opportunities for relationship building and increasing communication between Council and multicultural communities. A review of the YMAG annually was another required action which was completed at the end of 2017. The review of the YMAG confirms the value of continuing to support the YMAG to meet, and foster relationships between Council and community members.
- 38. Year four actions of the MPP have also included a significant piece of work in the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan for the period 2019-2022. It will involve a year-long consultation and development phase.

#### **Options**

- 39. There are no other options regarding the proposed fourth year actions of the MPP.

#### **Conclusion**

- 40. Yarra's Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 was endorsed in February 2015, after its development throughout 2014 via extensive community consultations. The MPP is a key commitment which reminds Council of its responsibilities to multicultural communities in Yarra.
- 41. This report provides a progress report on the third year's actions as well as proposed actions for Year Four in 2017, and recommendations for the continuation of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.
- 42. A significant piece of work for 2018 will include the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.
- 43. The achievements of 2017 highlight the Plan's relevance to the community it serves, the Council Plan 2017-21, and proves that policies can result in actions benefiting communities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) notes the progress report detailing the third year implementation of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018;
  - (b) endorses the actions proposed for the fourth year of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 taking place in 2018, including the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022; and
  - (c) notes the review and endorses the recommendations of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

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### **Attachments**

- 1 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report
- 2 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan
- 3 Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group Review & Recommendations

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

### Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018

#### PROGRESS REPORT - Year Three Actions – 2017

##### Priority Area 1 - Relationships

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	PROGRESS
1.1 Create opportunities for people from multicultural backgrounds to make connections and share traditions, encouraging a stronger sense of belonging to the broader Yarra community.	1.1.1 Create and cultivate opportunities for cultural exchange between community groups, providing opportunities for sharing of traditions and cultural practices.	Yarra's community grants program referred to: -community groups -service providers  Connect groups with each other as well as local community organisations and Neighbourhood Houses, to pool resources and interact during special events.  Connect CALD groups and individuals with Council departments, to link in to initiatives and projects, enhancing relationship and capacity building.	<b>Information regularly distributed to networks, groups and agencies, including organising speakers at network meetings.</b>  <b>Visits to community groups conducted regularly to provide information on Council resources and programs.</b>  <b>New groups and contacts provided with Community Grants information as well as connections to relevant local networks and services.</b>
	1.1.2 Explore and support programs to combat isolation, so that vulnerable, isolated residents are supported to access services and activities that meet their needs.	Connect with local agencies via the Yarra Settlement Forum and individual meetings, to explore ways of engaging with socially isolated residents.  Explore existing programs currently being offered at Council and promote to community and stakeholders. Explore potential for new initiatives and partnerships.	<b>Liaison visits made to local services; invitations to attend the Yarra Settlement Forum as well as presenting. Some examples of presentations include services for trafficked sex workers, education and training needs of CALD residents, and family and children's services.</b>  <b>A Welcome Community Lunch was organised at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House with the Welcome Dinner Project, on 1st April 2017, bringing together local residents and newly arrived</b>

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

			residents to foster social connections and sharing of traditions.
1.2 Provide opportunities for Council to build strong relationships with multicultural groups, and enable these groups to contribute to Council processes as active informed citizens who are involved in the life of their communities.	1.2.1 Continue to facilitate the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG).	Hold quarterly meetings of the YMAG in 2017, inviting Council staff to attend as well so as to provide information on services and forge relationships.	<p><b>A total of four quarterly meetings were held with the YMAG.</b></p> <p><b>YMAG meetings proved successful with a range of diverse groups being represented at each meeting and stronger relationships being forged between Council and community members. Various Council consultations were conducted with the YMAG including for the Library Draft Strategy, 26 January information sheet, and Family and Children's Services (0-25) Plan.</b></p>
	1.2.2 Establish and strengthen links with ethno-specific organisations, multicultural groups and leaders in Yarra.	Maintain and update internal database of multicultural groups and services, adding new entries and maintaining contact with established contacts.	<p><b>The CALD group directory has been maintained in Trim and updated. This directory is shared with other Council staff upon request and is a useful tool for accessing CALD communities.</b></p>
	1.2.3 Facilitate networking and collaboration between groups, service providers and Council.	<p>Hold monthly Yarra Settlement Forum meetings from February to November, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-holding a minimum of 2 special forums focussing on an emerging issue, and</li> <li>-a planning and review session in November.</li> </ul>	<p><b>YSF meetings held monthly, administrative duties (agendas and minutes) attended to, and invitations sent to new contacts and services.</b></p> <p><b>Special forums held on (1) training workshop on Advocacy Strategies for Asylum Seekers and (2) Education and Training Opportunities for CALD communities in Yarra.</b></p> <p><b>A planning and review session was held in November 2017 along with an anonymous survey to record feedback from YSF members. The review of the YSF has led to changing to bi-monthly meetings in 2018 in line with worker feedback.</b></p> <p><b>The newly established network on ESL providers for Asylum Seekers in Yarra and</b></p>

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

		<p>Assist the Yarra Interfaith Network to hold monthly meetings from February to December, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-holding special presentations on topics of community interest and open to the public, and</li> <li>-the Annual General Meeting in November.</li> </ul> <p>Visit the Neighbourhood House Network meeting a minimum of three times per year to strengthen relationships and share information.</p>	<p>inner metropolitan Melbourne has continued throughout this year, and has collaborated on advocacy initiatives together.</p> <p>The Yarra Interfaith Network has continued to meet monthly, and have made several tours to places of worship, and increased membership. A forum was held in May 2017 on “Progressive Approaches to Faith”, and the AGM in November 2017.</p> <p>YSF activities and forums were promoted to Neighbourhood Houses at Network meetings.</p> <p>Yarra Council representative appointed to the Victorian Multicultural Council’s Regional Advisory Committee North West Region.</p>
	1.2.4 Develop the “Stand Together” project in collaboration with service providers and community members.	Involve community members in the anti-vilification project “Stand Together” which will assist in the building of relationships and provide opportunities for community members to be involved in the implementation of this project.	<p>The “Stand Together” project was completed in December 2017, producing a wallet-sized fold out card for residents providing assistance in the event of being a bystander or target of racial / religious-motivated abuse. The development of the material was made in collaboration with community members and was focus group tested at various stages of the project. Training was then provided to community facilitators who presented the resource to their groups and classes. A launch was held in December 2017.</p>

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

### Priority Area 2– Access and Inclusion

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	PROGRESS
2.1 Provide information and services that are accessible to multicultural communities and are appropriate to their cultural needs and language requirements.	2.1.1 Promote Council frameworks and guidelines to provide an integrated and inclusive approach to communications, as well as practical tools for Council officers to use.	<p>Promote Language Services Policy and Guidelines, to Council staff via visits to teams, via the intranet and in newsletters.</p> <p>Provide instruction and training on use of best practice approaches to language services.</p> <p>Participate in cross-organisational working group on accessible communications (ACE) that draws together the expertise of a broad range of Council staff and provides practical support to Council when communicating with the public.</p>	<p><b>The Yarra-produced desktop Guide to using Language Services has continued to be distributed to staff at Yarra, which provides step by step instructions on how to book and use interpreters and translations.</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing assistance provided to staff on request in assistance with language services.</b></p> <p><b>Participation in ACE has continued, led by Communications Unit.</b></p>
	2.1.2 Develop Council information in key community languages.	<p>Continue working with Communications to develop Council information in multiple community languages.</p> <p>Continue involvement in dissemination of Council Information Packs in multiple languages, providing advice on which languages to re-print.</p> <p>Improve website information for CALD communities, by liaising with Communications on website review.</p>	<p><b>Assistance provided to Aboriginal Partnerships staff on development of Information Sheet for CALD communities on changes to January 26.</b></p> <p><b>Council Information Packs (translations) continued to be distributed to new residents, groups and contacts.</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing liaison with Communications staff in website improvement (eg. advice on most commonly used languages of residents).</b></p>
	2.1.3 Facilitate cultural awareness training for council staff.	Provide advice and resources to Council's People and Culture, and contribute to Corporate Training	<b>Training conducted in May / June 2017 with Leisure staff on Cultural Competence.</b>

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		Calendar on topics related to cultural awareness training.	
2.2 Support programs and services that target groups from multicultural backgrounds at risk of further disadvantage (e.g. asylum seekers, women, people with disabilities, international students, GLBTI).	2.2.1 Work in collaboration with local stakeholders to identify and potentially respond to emerging issues in communities at risk of further disadvantage (e.g. asylum seekers, women, people with disabilities, international students, GLBTI).	<p>Organise a minimum of 2 workshops for service providers, based on identification of emerging issues for multicultural groups at risk of further disadvantage.</p> <p>Collaborate with Council's Community Grants team to identify potential areas for funding in CALD communities, assist with assessments of grant applications, and link services/CALD groups to Grants Program.</p> <p>Work on anti-vilification project "Stand Together", which focuses on development of a resource for Yarra residents on what racial and religious vilification is and how to report it, along with training of community leaders to disseminate the resource.</p> <p>Continue to work with Libraries to organise community information sessions aimed at CALD communities which provide capacity building opportunities, eg. computer skills, use of MyGov etc.</p>	<p><b>A training workshop was held on Effective Advocacy for Asylum Seekers in June 2017 for Council staff as well as external stakeholders.</b></p> <p><b>A Training and Education forum was held in September providing information from the major providers in Yarra on training options for CALD residents.</b></p> <p><b>Provided assistance with assessment of Annual grants, Small Projects Grants, as well as Investing in Communities grants, as well as ongoing contact for specific grant holders.</b></p> <p><b>"Stand Together" project collaboration completed December 2017.</b></p> <p><b>No specific sessions held in libraries due to funding limitations, although libraries are linked in to YMAG to promote internal courses and programs.</b></p> <p><b>Participation in LGBTIQ internal working group "Q&amp;A", including providing assistance on projects and events, lending a specific multicultural perspective to the work in this area</b></p>

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

### Priority Area 3 – Opportunities

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	PROGRESS
3.1 Support and strengthen the capacity of Yarra communities to become independent, resilient, engaged and informed.	3.1.1 Link community groups and individuals to Council's Community Grants and other programs.	<p>Inform and update new and established community groups about Council's Community Grants Program.</p> <p>Provide information about opportunities for training in applying for grants and issues related to group governance, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community groups</li> <li>-service providers</li> <li>-YMAG</li> </ul> <p>Provide opportunities for members of the YMAG to build capacity, learn skills and participate in Council initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Promotion of Grants program and governance training is ongoing at networks via attendance of meetings (YSF, YMAG, Neighbourhood Houses) as well as via email, requesting workers to share information with new and established groups. Visits to CALD community leaders and new CALD groups was another opportunity to inform of the Grants program.</b></p> <p><b>The Neighbourhood House network has also been effective in dissemination of this information.</b></p> <p><b>Began process of Yarra becoming a "Welcoming City", an initiative which seeks to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government authorities and work towards a standardised approach to creating inclusive welcoming communities.</b></p>
3.2 Build an inclusive workforce at Yarra Council by increasing cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.	3.2.1 Assist in developing an inclusive and welcoming workplace at Yarra.	<p>Review induction content and contribute to the cultural diversity module of the training. Deliver content at each induction training session (6 per year).</p> <p>Provide advice and advocate for conditions at Council which promote inclusion eg. reflection spaces.</p>	<p><b>Participated in six bimonthly Induction training sessions for new staff, providing a presentation on diversity and inclusion for CRALD communities.</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing advice provided to Council staff upon request.</b></p>

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

### Priority Area 4 – Anti-racism

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	PROGRESS
4.1 Support opportunities which promote intercultural relations, combat racism, celebrate diversity and acknowledge the multicultural heritage of Yarra.	4.1.1 Organise events in the community to highlight the richness of the cultural heritage of Yarra and promote intercultural relations.	<p>Organise event (March) to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week/Harmony Day for community members, which also highlights the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG).</p> <p>Organise event to celebrate Refugee Week (June) for community members.</p> <p>Promote and organise Taste of Harmony initiative at Council which celebrates staff cultural diversity.</p>	<p><b>Cultural Diversity Week event held at Collingwood Town Hall in March 2017 to accommodate increasing numbers of previous years. Approximately 250 people attended from various cultural backgrounds, sharing traditions and food.</b></p> <p><b>Refugee Week event held in June 2017 at Fitzroy Town Hall as a concert style event with performances and presentations including a photographic display. Many Atherton gardens residents attended the event, a first for this type of event.</b></p> <p><b>A Taste of Harmony was celebrated on a whole of Council scale, with three events being held in March at Richmond, Collingwood and the Depot.</b></p>
	4.1.2 Build relationships within the Yarra community to foster anti-racism messages.	<p>Develop and strengthen relationships by meeting a minimum of 4 times per year with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Victoria Police representatives in Yarra,</li> <li>-Neighbourhood Houses,</li> <li>-community organisations, and</li> </ul> <p>promote anti-racism campaigns and messages.</p>	<p><b>Links made in the Stand Together Project ensured regular meetings with Victoria Police and staff from the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, promoting the Stand Together resource.</b></p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Houses regularly consulted and involved in various stages of projects and events.</b></p>
	4.1.3 Highlight and support programs combating racism in the community.	<p>Develop and promote the “Stand Together” project within Council and externally with other service providers and networks.</p> <p>Support and promote programs and initiatives combating racism funded through Yarra’s Community Grants Program. Share information with:</p>	<p><b>Completion of Stand Together project which involved collaboration with partners from the Yarra Settlement Forum.</b></p> <p><b>Promotion of programs to networks and community organisations funded through Grants program which raise awareness and promote tolerance.</b></p>

## Attachment 1 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-relevant Council units,</li> <li>-community groups</li> <li>-service providers</li> </ul> <p>Link in with other governmental Anti-racism initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Continued relationship with VEOHRC, meeting regularly.</b></p>
4.2 Provide leadership at Council level by taking a stand against racist behaviour.	4.2.1 Provide advice on Council policies and procedures to promote a 'zero tolerance' stance on racist behaviour.	Provide advice on Council documents and policies where requested.	<p><b>Opportunities did not arise for this specific issue, however advice was provided to Council staff on use of language services, and general strategies for cultural competence.</b></p>
	4.2.2 Promote campaign 'Racism. It stops with me' to community and Council staff.	<p>Ensure Council's support of this campaign is promoted through many channels such as forums, conferences, online and in signs in town hall reception areas.</p> <p>Ensure campaign is also promoted in key community languages.</p>	<p><b>This campaign was promoted via email banner, and links to web page.</b></p> <p><b>The Stand Together resource was translated into Arabic, Chinese, Somali, Vietnamese and Oromo.</b></p>

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

### Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018

#### Year Four Actions – 2018

##### Priority Area 1 - Relationships

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
1.1 Create opportunities for people from multicultural backgrounds to make connections and share traditions, encouraging a stronger sense of belonging to the broader Yarra community.	1.1.1 Create and cultivate opportunities for cultural exchange between community groups, providing opportunities for sharing of traditions and cultural practices.	<p>Refer Yarra's community grants program to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-community groups</li> <li>-service providers</li> </ul> <p>Connect groups with each other as well as local community organisations and Neighbourhood Houses, to pool resources and interact during special events.</p> <p>Connect CALD groups and individuals with Council departments, to link in to initiatives and projects, enhancing relationship and capacity building.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses</p> <p>Whole of Council</p>	Ongoing
	1.1.2 Explore and support programs to combat isolation, so that vulnerable, isolated residents are supported to access services and activities that meet their needs.	<p>Connect with local agencies via the Yarra Settlement Forum and individual meetings, to explore ways of engaging with socially isolated residents.</p> <p>Organise one "Welcome Community" Lunch or Dinner in Yarra with the Welcome Dinner Project, in order to create links between newly arrived residents and established residents.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Yarra Settlement Forum</p> <p>Welcome Dinner Project</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March / April</p>

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

1.2 Provide opportunities for Council to build strong relationships with multicultural groups, and enable these groups to contribute to Council processes as active informed citizens who are involved in the life of their communities.	1.2.1 Continue to facilitate the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG).	Hold quarterly meetings of the YMAG in 2018 , inviting Council staff to attend as well so as to provide information on services and forge relationships.	Community Partnerships  Whole of Council  YMAG	Ongoing
	1.2.2 Establish and strengthen links with ethno-specific organisations, multicultural groups and leaders in Yarra.	Maintain and update internal database of multicultural groups and services, adding new entries and maintaining contact with established contacts.	Community Partnerships	Ongoing
	1.2.3 Facilitate networking and collaboration between groups, service providers and Council.	Hold bi-monthly Yarra Settlement Forum meetings from February to November, moving to a new format for 2018 based on feedback of members, including a planning and review session in November.  Assist the Yarra Interfaith Network to hold monthly meetings from February to December, including: -holding special presentations on topics of community interest and open to the public, and -the Annual General Meeting in November.	Community Partnerships  Yarra Settlement Forum  Yarra Interfaith Network	Ongoing

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

		<p>Visit the Neighbourhood House Network meeting a minimum of three times per year to strengthen relationships and share information.</p> <p>Investigate facilitating an internal Multicultural working group at Council, aiming to connect staff from CALD backgrounds or with an interest in multicultural affairs, to create stronger links and work on emerging issues within the organisation and the community.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood House Network</p> <p>Whole of Council</p>	
	1.2.4 Continue to strengthen links made with partners from the "Stand Together" project.	Broaden involvement of community members in the anti-vilification project "Stand Together" which will assist in the building of relationships and provide opportunities for community members to be involved in the implementation of this project.	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>YSF</p>	ongoing
	1.2.5 Begin the development of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022	Conduct desktop review and consult with internal and external stakeholders, to begin development of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.	Whole of Council	Completion by December 2018

### Priority Area 2– Access and Inclusion

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
2.1 Provide information and services that are accessible to multicultural communities and are appropriate to their	2.1.1 Promote Council frameworks and guidelines to provide an integrated and inclusive approach	<p>Promote Language Services Policy and Guidelines, to Council staff via visits to teams, via the intranet and in newsletters.</p> <p>Review potential re-print of desktop guide for staff and promote internally.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Communications Unit</p> <p>Whole of Council</p>	Ongoing

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

cultural needs and language requirements.	to communications, as well as practical tools for Council officers to use.	<p>Develop in-house training workshop on use of best practice approaches to language services, and deliver to Access staff.</p> <p>Develop in-house tools accessible on the intranet for staff to assist them in using language services confidently.</p> <p>Participate in cross-organisational working group on accessible communications (ACE) led by Communications Unit, that draws together the expertise of a broad range of Council staff and provides practical support to Council when communicating with the public.</p>	Access	
	2.1.2 Develop Council information in key community languages.	<p>Continue working with Communications to develop Council information in multiple community languages, upon request.</p> <p>Continue involvement in dissemination of Council Information Packs in multiple languages, providing advice on which languages to re-print.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Communications Unit</p> <p>Community Groups</p>	Ongoing
	2.1.3 Facilitate cultural awareness training for council staff.	Provide advice and resources to Council's People and Culture, and contribute to Corporate Training Calendar on topics related to cultural awareness training.	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>People and Culture</p>	Ongoing
2.2 Support programs and services that target groups from multicultural backgrounds at risk of further disadvantage	2.2.1 Work in collaboration with local stakeholders to identify and potentially respond to emerging issues	Organise a minimum of 2 workshops for service providers, based on identification of emerging issues for multicultural groups at risk of further disadvantage via the YSF.	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>External stakeholders</p> <p>Yarra Settlement Forum</p>	Ongoing

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

(e.g. asylum seekers, women, people with disabilities, international students, LGBTIQ).	in communities at risk of further disadvantage (e.g. asylum seekers, women, people with disabilities, international students, LGBTIQ).	<p>Collaborate with Council's Community Grants team to identify potential areas for funding in CALD communities, assist with assessments of grant applications, and link services/CALD groups to Grants Program.</p> <p>Broaden the reach of the anti-vilification project "Stand Together", increasing its dissemination.</p> <p>Continue to work with Libraries to organise community information sessions aimed at CALD communities which provide capacity building opportunities, eg. computer skills, use of MyGov etc.</p> <p>Continue involvement on LGBTIQ working group, highlighting the intersectionality of issues for CALD people identifying as LGBTIQ.</p>	<p>Community Grants</p> <p>Community Groups</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Q&amp;A working group</p>	
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### Priority Area 3 – Opportunities

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
3.1 Support and strengthen the capacity of Yarra communities to become independent, resilient, engaged and informed.	3.1.1 Link community groups and individuals to Council's Community Grants and other programs.	<p>Inform and update new and established community groups about Council's Community Grants Program.</p> <p>Provide information about opportunities for training in applying for grants and issues related to group governance, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community groups</li> <li>-service providers</li> <li>-YMAG</li> </ul>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Community Grants</p> <p>YMAG</p>	Ongoing

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

		Provide opportunities for members of the YMAG to build capacity, learn skills and participate in Council initiatives.		
3.2 Build an inclusive workforce at Yarra Council by increasing cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.	3.2.1 Assist in developing an inclusive and welcoming workplace at Yarra.	<p>Review induction content and contribute to the cultural diversity module of the training. Deliver content at each induction training session (6 per year).</p> <p>Provide advice and advocate for conditions at Council which promote inclusion eg. reflection spaces.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>People and Culture</p> <p>Whole of Council</p>	Ongoing

### Priority Area 4 – Anti-racism

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
4.1 Support opportunities which promote intercultural relations, combat racism, celebrate diversity and acknowledge the multicultural heritage of Yarra.	4.1.1 Organise events in the community to highlight the richness of the cultural heritage of Yarra and promote intercultural relations.	Partner in organising event (March) to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week/Harmony Day for community members, broadening the reach of participants.	Community Partnerships	March 2017
		<p>Organise event to celebrate Refugee Week (June) for community members.</p> <p>Promote and organise Taste of Harmony initiative at Council which celebrates staff cultural diversity.</p>	<p>Yarra Settlement Forum</p> <p>Whole of Council</p>	<p>June 2017</p> <p>March 2017</p>
	4.1.2 Build relationships within the Yarra	<p>Develop and strengthen relationships by meeting a minimum of 4 times per year with:</p> <p>-Victoria Police representatives in Yarra,</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Victoria Police</p>	Ongoing

## Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan

	community to foster anti-racism messages.	-Neighbourhood Houses, -community organisations, and promote anti-racism campaigns and messages.	Neighbourhood Houses Community Organisations	
	4.1.3 Highlight and support programs combating racism in the community.	Continue to promote the “Stand Together” project within Council and externally with other service providers and networks.  Hold a community forum disseminating the information from the Stand Together project, and review a potential re-print of the resources.  Support and promote programs and initiatives combating racism funded through Yarra’s Community Grants Program. Share information with: -relevant Council units, -community groups -service providers  Link in with other governmental Anti-racism initiatives.	Community Partnerships  Community Organisations  Yarra Settlement Forum	Ongoing
4.2 Provide leadership at Council level by taking a stand against racist behaviour.	4.2.1 Provide advice on Council policies and procedures to promote a 'zero tolerance' stance on racist behaviour.	Provide advice on Council documents and policies where requested.	Community Partnerships  Whole of council	Ongoing
	4.2.2 Promote campaign 'Racism. It stops	Ensure Council’s support of this campaign is promoted through various channels such as	Community Partnerships Advocacy and Engagement	Ongoing

**Attachment 2 - Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan**

	with me' to community and Council staff.	forums, conferences, online and in signs in town hall reception areas.		
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## Attachment 3 - Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group Review & Recommendations

### Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG) Review 2017

#### **Purpose:**

To review the YMAG in its second year of operating, and to make recommendations for 2017.

#### **Background:**

The YMAG was established in 2016 as a direct result of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan Action Plan, which included investigating an appropriate model for an advisory group in Yarra to represent multicultural communities.

The YMAG met four times during 2017 and was open to all community members interested in participating. Membership is open and fluid, in order to be as inclusive as possible, and to have greater and more diverse reach.

#### **YMAG Aims**

- To provide a structure for on-going communication and consultation between multicultural communities and Yarra City Council across a broad range of issues impacting on those communities.
- To provide feedback on the implementation of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018
- To provide feedback and advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact multicultural communities
- To consider and provide advice on key Government initiatives, programs and reviews
- To advocate on behalf of multicultural communities
- To share information and resources between community groups and their representatives
- To assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity within the Yarra municipality and beyond
- To provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with multicultural communities

#### **YMAG Activities and Meetings 2017**

The YMAG met four times in 2017 based on recommendations made after the first year review.

#### *Topics covered at meetings included:*

-consultations for various Council documents, (Library Draft Strategy, Youth and Family Services 0-25 Strategy, Changes to January 26 Information sheet for CALD communities);

-Council updates on budget planning, Community Grants, news, library news and communications issues;

-Updates on the Stand Together Anti vilification Project; and

## Attachment 3 - Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group Review & Recommendations

-Presentations from external service providers and stakeholders (Census data for Yarra based on 2016 Census, Neighbourhood Houses).

### Consultation:

Discussions were held during meetings on the **aims** and **scope** of the YMAG (ie the Terms of Reference) , as well as suggestions for future meetings. Ongoing informal discussions were also conducted outside of meeting times with group leaders and members.

Anecdotal analysis of participants' language and cultural backgrounds is also included.

### Results

The aspects respondents found most useful about the meetings included:

- presentations from Council staff about Council programs
- information about libraries
- information from the Census about Yarra and how its changing
- the opportunity to provide suggestions and advice to Council about improving living in Yarra
- networking
- information from other organisations
- linking with other multicultural groups

Suggestions and topics to improve future meetings:

- social inclusion activities
- learning about the history of Yarra
- sharing cultural traditions
- community safety issues
- holding meetings more frequently

Upon review of this feedback, there were no major changes to the terms of reference suggested, or to the structure or aims of the YMAG.

### Demographics

Analysis of the attendance records (and interpreters booked) has shown there was representation from the following communities: Chinese, Italian, Serbian, Croatian, Greek, Yugoslav (self-described), Vietnamese, Syrian, Eritrean, Italian, Latin American, as well as Australian born.

There was a lack of representation from younger participants, (18-25) which should be a focus for inclusion in the coming year.

## Attachment 3 - Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group Review & Recommendations

### Issues and Considerations

#### *Costs*

Holding meetings during business hours (as per last year's recommendations) has been more cost effective, as interpreter costs are nil (Council is subsidised for interpreter costs during business hours if using TIS).

Catering has been maintained at previous levels and it is recommended to continue doing so, as it is an external stakeholder meeting, and people are giving their time to be involved. It is reasonable to provide adequate and culturally appropriate refreshment to participants.

#### *Participant access*

Discussions revealed that participants indicated a preference for daytime meetings, however consideration should be made to alternate days in 2018 so that groups who meet on a Wednesday have the opportunity to attend on other days.

### Recommendations

Based on the information collected throughout the year and through discussions, these are the following recommendations:

- YMAG meetings continue to meet quarterly.
- YMAG meetings continue to be held during the day (business hours), in order to keep costs down and ensure Council staff and other service providers are able to attend meetings.
- Alternate meeting days between Wednesday and Tuesday to allow for people who meet with their groups on the days to attend the other days.
- Continue the current structure of the YMAG (open invitation to participants, Councillor as Chair).
- Continue to expand attendance to include younger members and diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Continue to provide catering to the group at meetings.
- Review Terms of reference with YMAG members at the February meeting.

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## **11.5 Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-18 Annual Report**

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### **Executive Summary**

#### **Purpose**

To provide Council with a report on the third year actions of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 and seek Council's endorsement for the fourth year action plan which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

#### **Key Issues**

There have been many highlights and some challenges during the implementation of the third year action plan.

Highlights are numerous, and include engagement with vulnerable Aboriginal community members through the Stolen Generations Marker working group and project, the Smith Street working group and Billabong BBQ program, the growing public profile of Smith Street Dreaming Festival 2017 – now in its fifth year.

The 'BlakWiz' events (both internal and external) held as part of National Reconciliation Week, Reconciliation Comedy Gala, the Celebrating Dreaming Mural, and Council's January 26 resolution are also of note.

The renewal and revitalisation of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan working group has seen improved cultural awareness across the organisation and improved coordination of Council's engagement with the local Aboriginal community.

Challenges in implementing the third year action plan have included finding an appropriate partner organisation for the next stage of development of 'Connecting with the Aboriginal History of Yarra: A Teachers Resource', and meeting Aboriginal employment targets through Murrup Ballerri (Walk Strong) – Council's employment partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Additionally, maintaining the Stolen Generations Marker project timelines when members of the project working group are sometimes unable to attend meetings due to work and family commitments or health issues has been difficult.

#### **Financial Implications**

The financial implications of implementing the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan are minimal with all actions being completed within existing budgets.

#### **PROPOSAL**

That Council notes the report on the implementation of the actions contained within year three of the Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-2018 and endorses the fourth year action plan which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

## 11.5 Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-18 Annual Report

Trim Record Number: D17/188685

Responsible Officer: Community Advocacy Team Leader

### Purpose

1. To provide Council with a report on the third year actions of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 and seek Council's endorsement for the fourth year action plan which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

### Background

2. Council endorsed the third year action plan of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 (the Plan) in February 2017.
3. The development of the Plan reflects the continuous significant growth across the organisation. The awareness and passion of Council staff from across the whole organisation continues to grow each year, with staff champions and the Reconciliation Action Group members leading the way through their direct involvement in implementing the actions contained within the Plan under the guidance of the Aboriginal Advisory Group.
4. The Plan has a strong focus on key partnerships, including Traditional Owners - the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Cultural Heritage Council Inc, Melbourne Aboriginal Sport & Recreation (MAYSAR), Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS), Aboriginal Community Elders Service (ACES), Connecting Home, Aboriginal Victoria, the community that calls themselves the Parkies, Victoria Police, cohealth, Launch Housing, Neami National, Council's Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG), Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAP), Yarra's Aboriginal Support Network (YASN), Federal and State Government Departments, Statutory Bodies, and many other Aboriginal and mainstream service providers and community groups.
5. In order to deliver on Council's commitments as outlined in Yarra's Aboriginal Recognition Statement 2015, the Plan includes five key priorities areas:
  - (a) Community Connection;
  - (b) Culture;
  - (c) Employment;
  - (d) Events; and
  - (e) Advocacy & Responsiveness.
6. Highlights from the third year implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 are as follows:
  - (a) The Reconciliation Comedy Gala, which featured some of Australia's best comedians, raised \$15,000 for the Stolen Generations Marker Project held on 26 January 2017;
  - (b) The opening of the new North Fitzroy Library named Bargoonga Nganjin, which in Woiwurrung (the Traditional language of the Wurundjeri people) means "Come gather everyone";
  - (c) Council hosted an internal and external cultural awareness event called BlakWiz during Reconciliation Week. Both events were well attended, with about 80 Yarra staff attending the internal event, and about the same number attending the external event;
  - (d) The Smith St Dreaming Festival - as part of the Leaps & Bounds Festival - was held for the fifth consecutive year, and it was said to be the best Smith St Dreaming of all years. It was well attended by the wider Yarra community with approximately 600-800 people attending. A number of the internal RAP group volunteered on the day;

- (e) A screening of the Lionel Rose 1969 boxing world title bantam weight fight was screened at MAYSAR as a part of the Gertrude St Projection Festival and was well attended by the Yarra community;
  - (f) Celebrating Dreaming - a mural by Aboriginal artist Robert Young, was commissioned on the side wall of Charcoal Lane;
  - (g) The leadership shown by Yarra City Council in unanimously passing the resolution on the January 26 report. This saw an enormous media response, attracting local, national and international media coverage, including two New York Times articles. Over one million people either heard, read or saw a media article reporting on the City of Yarra's decision around January 26;
  - (h) Aged & Disability Services were part of the Balit Narrum working group which successfully advocated for two dedicated Aboriginal positions to help bring the Aboriginal community up to speed on the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
  - (i) The Stolen Generations Marker working group has been working on this project for almost two years. Council advocated to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and was successful in securing Atherton Gardens as the site for the marker. The working group also commissioned a high profile Victorian Aboriginal artist Reko Rennie to complete the public art piece;
  - (j) The Stolen Generations Marker working group partnered with the Croxton Hotel, who donated their space to host a fundraising gig on 2 December 2017. A number of high profile Aboriginal music artists donated their time to perform at this gig, with the headline act being Dan Sultan. This was only possible through the relationship of Council and Auntie Ros Sultan, who has been a huge supporter and member of Council's AAG, YASN and the Stolen Generations Marker working group. This gig raised \$20,000 for the Stolen Generations Marker Project;
  - (k) The advocacy to the State Government and Aboriginal Victoria to successfully secure funding of \$50,000 towards the Stolen Generations Marker project. Additional funding of \$10,000 from the Myer foundation, \$2,500 from the Wurundjeri Council, and the many other donors that have contributed. The total of \$? Has been raised through the crowdfunding page;
  - (l) The successful hosting of a number of Aboriginal art exhibitions by Council's Arts, Culture and Venues branch; and
  - (m) Yarra libraries hosted a number of Aboriginal events in 2017 including:
    - (i) Bruce Pascoe's Dark Emu event at the Fitzroy Town Hall;
    - (ii) Aboriginal astronomy event held at the Richmond Library;
    - (iii) "Reconciliation on the Rooftop" an event held at Bargoonga Nganjin - a collaboration between Council, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, and the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) which was well attended; and
    - (iv) "One Million Stars" project with Council and Aboriginal Housing Victoria.
7. There have also been some challenges along the way. Over the last three Aboriginal Partnership Plans, Council has set high standards and expectations, both externally and internally. Although Council has been continuously delivering on its commitments, with many positive outcomes, it has created an internal pressure within the team to continue to deliver at a high standard. This can be increasingly difficult when resources are limited, and Aboriginal community expectations are high. Council still has a long way to go to achieve equality and a level playing field for Aboriginal people and there are so many issues to address to achieve the desired outcomes required.

8. The January 26 project also presented challenges for Council and Council officers. The internal pressure applied by the enormous media response was at times extremely difficult. Despite this, the organisation didn't falter and delivered a consistent and clear message around the decision made and why. Acknowledgement should be given to those who bore the brunt of the backlash.
9. Aboriginal employment continues to be challenging, and the search for a suitable employment partner to replace BSL continues. Attracting Aboriginal employment candidates with the confidence and capacity to successfully fill administration positions is difficult.
10. The report on the implementation of the third year actions from the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 is provided as **Attachment One**.
11. The development and strengths of the fourth year action plan draws on the many years of experience and previous learnings of working and collaborating with the local Aboriginal community. This continued positive engagement between Council, local Aboriginal community members and the many Aboriginal and mainstream organisations within the municipality has paved the way for many positive relationships and outcomes.

### **External Consultation**

12. The Plan was developed through extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community of Yarra and ongoing engagement continues with the Traditional Owners – the Wurundjeri, the AAG, the wider Aboriginal community of Yarra including Elders, Parkies, and community members, Aboriginal and mainstream service providers and their representatives, MAYSAR, VAHS, Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL), Charcoal Lane, the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC), Launch Housing, cohealth, North Richmond Community Health (NRCH), Government Departments and Statutory Bodies which included representatives from the Department of Justice (DoJ), Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Aboriginal Victoria (AV), Victoria Police, Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Department Health and Human Services, Environment Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Fitzroy Legal Service, AFL Sports Ready, St Vincent's Hospital, White Lion, Office of Housing (OoH), Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL), Indigenous Workstar, 3KND Radio, Aboriginal Community Elders Service (ACES), Talking on Tuesdays Reconciliation Group, Cooke St Kinder and the Parkies Women's group.

### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

13. In the original development of the Plan internal consultations were conducted at each of the Yarra Town Halls, with members of the following branches of Council represented: Aged and Disability Services, Arts, Culture and Venues, Economic Development, Environmental Management, Family, Youth and Children's Services, Recreation and Open Space, Strategic Planning, Urban Design, Yarra Leisure, Yarra Libraries, Local Laws, Sustainability, Strategic Transport, and City Works.
14. The ongoing engagement and consultation across Council continues throughout the implementation of the Plan and is driven by the Reconciliation Action Plan working group which meets monthly to review the progress of actions in the Plan. This group has always taken a whole of Council approach and its success is evident in the breadth and depth of commitment across Council to the Plan.
15. The internal Reconciliation Action Plan working group has been highly engaged in the development of the fourth year action plan. This group meets on a monthly basis, with members reporting on the status of their individual actions. Members were also responsible for developing their individual actions for the fourth year action plan, and have the responsibility to deliver the outcomes on these actions.

### **Financial Implications**

16. The financial implications of implementing the Plan are minimal with all actions being completed within the existing budgets.

## **Economic Implications**

17. Council understands and recognises the barriers and disadvantages facing Aboriginal community members seeking economic equality. Council also recognises the advantages in providing opportunities for self-determination for Aboriginal people. This Plan not only provides Aboriginal community members with opportunities to build capacity and access gainful employment, it also provides opportunities for self-determination, social interaction and community engagement. This ultimately provides opportunities for community engagement, better lifestyle and economic outcomes for local Aboriginal people.
18. The continued commitment from Council to identify and promote Aboriginal employment opportunities to local businesses and encourage them to employ local Aboriginal people only improves the economic outcomes for the local Aboriginal community.

## **Sustainability Implications**

19. Aboriginal people have managed their traditional lands and waterways using traditional practices for tens of thousands of years. Sustainability was crucial to the survival of Aboriginal people and their culture. The Plan contributes to the preservation of Aboriginal people and culture, and protects culturally significant sites of importance to the Wurundjeri community.

## **Social Implications**

20. This Plan is a framework for action, with its primary strength being partnerships. These partnerships have been nurtured and built over a number of years and strengthen the local Aboriginal community's participation as active members of the Yarra's community. The local Aboriginal community has direct involvement in Council's AAG, YASN, the Stolen Generations Marker steering group, the Smith Street Dreaming working group, and the Billabong BBQ. These are all opportunities for the local Aboriginal community to have their aspirations heard and be involved in the planning of projects, events and policies. This provides social harmony, inclusion and self-determination.
21. The Plan also maintains Yarra's rich Aboriginal history and culture through internally and externally promoting and educating Yarra staff and the wider Yarra community on this rich culture and history that lays within the municipality. The Plan promotes Council's acknowledgment and recognition of the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional Owners of Yarra and promotes Council's stance on self-determination as best practice within the Aboriginal community.

## **Human Rights Implications**

22. The Plan provides a strategic document to ensure Council meets its commitments and responsibilities in the *Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006* in the area of Aboriginal affairs by stating its commitment to respecting and promoting the rights of Aboriginal people.
23. One of the founding principles of the Charter is: Human rights have a special importance for Aboriginal people of Victoria, as descendants of Australia's first people with diverse social, cultural, and economic relationship with their traditional lands and waters.
24. One of the substantive rights listed in the Charter under cultural rights is that Aboriginal people must not be denied the right, with other members of their community to:
  - (a) enjoy their identity and culture;
  - (b) maintain and use their language;
  - (c) maintain their kinship ties; and
  - (d) maintain their distinctive spiritual, material, and economic relationship with the land and water and other resources with which they have a connection under traditional lore's and customs.
25. These rights are respected and promoted throughout the Plan and underpin the way Council engages with the Wurundjeri Council and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

26. A welcome booklet acknowledging the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional Owners of Yarra has been translated into nine different languages to raise awareness of the Wurundjeri people, and their rich history and culture.
27. An opportunity has presented itself to engage the Atherton Gardens residents from diverse cultural backgrounds through the Stolen Generations Marker project.
28. A January 26 information page has been developed in key community languages in partnership with the Yarra Settlement Forum and the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

29. The Council Plan 2017-2021 gives direction to the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan through the following strategic directions:
  - (a) Objective 1- A healthy Yarra, a place where community, health, safety, and wellbeing are a focus on everything we do;
  - (b) Objective 2- An inclusive Yarra, a place where inclusion, diversity, and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated;
  - (c) Objective 3 - A sustainable Yarra, council leads on sustainability and protect and enhances its natural environment; and
  - (d) Objective 4 – A liveable Yarra, development and growth are managed to maintain and enhance the character and heritage of the city.

### **Legal Implications**

30. Some of the legislation related to this area of Council's works include:
  - (a) Local Government Act 1989 (Vic);
  - (b) Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic);
  - (c) Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and 2016 amendment (Vic);
  - (d) Racial Discrimination Act 1975; and
  - (e) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.

### **Other Issues**

31. The AAG will continue to oversee the development and implementation of the Plan, with Council's RAP Group tracking the monthly progress of all actions. All new actions are cognisant of priorities identified in community consultation.
32. In developing the fourth year action plan, Council has continued to listen to the aspirations and needs of the local Aboriginal community. The fourth year action plan includes 56 actions, comprised of new and ongoing actions (see **Attachment Two**).

### **Options**

33. There are no options.

### **Conclusion**

34. The Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-2018 continues to provide positive outcomes in the local Aboriginal community.
35. Each year Council builds on the work of the previous plans, encouraging more staff to become involved and aware. The Plan highlights and reflects the value of a coordinated, collaborative and organisational approach.
36. There have been many highlights and some challenges during the implementation of the third year action plan.

37. The renewal and revitalisation of Council's RAP Group has seen improved cultural awareness across the organisation and improved coordination of Council's engagement with the local Aboriginal community. This has seen relationships between Aboriginal community members and a good number of Council staff blossom, allowing the opportunity for positive outcomes to be achieved.
38. The Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 is Council's unmistakable commitment to the Aboriginal community and provides it with an amazing vehicle to achieve great outcomes.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) notes the third year report on the implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018; and
  - (b) endorses the fourth year action plan for the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Colin Hunter  
**TITLE:** Community Planner - Aboriginal Partnerships  
**TEL:** 9205 5014

## **Attachments**

- 1 Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report
- 2 Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

## Attachment 1 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report

Year 3 report July  
2017

## ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018

### Year 3 Action Plan 2017

Priorities: COMMUNITY CONNECTION and EVENTS				
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target	Progress Comments
<p>1. Commission an Aboriginal artist to produce a Stolen Generation's marker for the City of Yarra.</p> <p>Assist the selected artist with all aspects of the project.</p> <p><i>Through the introduction of Federal Government policies aimed at assimilating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples into mainstream society, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were wrongly removed from their family, community and culture, thus creating the Stolen Generations. This project will acknowledge the pain and suffering this caused, offer a place to reflect and heal and educate wider Australia on this tragic part of Australia's history.</i></p>	<p>Public Arts Officer Aboriginal Partnerships Officer Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>January – February 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an opportunity for a Victorian Aboriginal artist to work on significant and permanent public artworks.</li> <li>• Build a Marker to pay tribute to the strength and struggles of the Stolen Generations and their families.</li> <li>• Convene Monthly steering group meetings and continue to work closely with the local community and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Secure a site for the Marker. Raise funds for the project.</li> <li>• Oversee the creation of a landscaped garden with Indigenous plants around the marker.</li> <li>• Enable an outcome of high artistic merit that fosters community ownership.</li> </ul>	<p>The Stolen Generations steering group has regrouped after issues with the artist selection process.</p> <p>As the expression of interest process didn't result in a successful proposal the steering group decided to go with a direct commission process. A number of artists were selected and approached to apply. Through this process the Aboriginal artist Reko Rennie was selected to present a concept to the group in late November 2017 for their approval. Reko Rennie presented his concept to the working group in early December and it was unanimously supported to commission the concept.</p>

## Attachment 1 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report

Year 3 report July 2017		ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018		
<p>2. Present a Reconciliation Comedy Gala fundraiser event at the Malthouse (produced and directed by Jason Tamiru).</p> <p><i>This event will promote and raise funds towards the creation of the Stolen Generations Marker within the City of Yarra.</i></p>	Arts Development Officer	26 January 2017 2.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise funds for the Stolen Generations Marker and its launch.</li><li>• Raise awareness about the Stolen Generations and the project.</li><li>• Provide a space for entertainers to offer support and Reconciliation.</li><li>• Partner with another major arts organisation (Malthouse).</li><li>• Provide a fresh performance alternative on 26<sup>th</sup> January.</li><li>• Bring a diverse group of people together to honour the Stolen Generations.</li></ul>	This event was produced by Jason Tamiru and occurred on 26 January 2017. It was a great success that was well attended and raised \$15,000 towards the completion of the Stolen Generation Marker. A number of well-known comedians gave their time and performed at the Malthouse Theatre.
<p>3. Officially launch the Stolen Generations Marker.</p> <p><i>This will provide the local Aboriginal community, the wider Yarra community and Yarra Council an opportunity to celebrate the achievement of creating a piece of public art that acknowledges the Stolen Generation's and their families.</i></p>	Arts Development Officer	October- November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Produce an event to launch the Stolen Generations Marker.</li><li>• Provide all of the community with an opportunity to come together to celebrate this new artwork.</li><li>• Meet steering group and community expectations.</li><li>• Raise awareness about the Stolen Generations.</li><li>• Acknowledge the work and contributions of the artist, project partners, steering group, community, and any financial and in-kind support.</li><li>• Celebrate Yarra's rich Aboriginal history and its current community connection,</li><li>• Promote Aboriginal histories and cultures.</li></ul>	<p>The Aboriginal partnerships officer is working with DHHS on the Atherton Gardens Estate to look at ways of engaging the wider Yarra community from the estate in this launch.</p> <p>The Stolen Generations Marker working group, in partnership with the Croxton Hotel, organised a fund raising gig with a number of high profile Aboriginal artists, including Dan Sultan.</p> <p>All funds raised (\$20,000) went towards the Stolen Generations Marker. This event was a huge success with over 700 people attending on the night.</p>
<p>4. Produce and deliver a site specific mural by a Victorian Aboriginal artist, on the exterior wall of the Charcoal Lane building on Gertrude St, Fitzroy. The mural will reflect the history and significance of this building and its surrounds for the Aboriginal community.</p>	Public Arts Officer	June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a landmark at this site that acknowledges the important Aboriginal history of this area and building.</li><li>• Add another point of reference to the Aboriginal history walking tour map.</li><li>• Create an opportunity for a Victorian Aboriginal artist.</li><li>• Counter graffiti at this site.</li><li>• Work in partnership with Charcoal Lane</li></ul>	A young Aboriginal artist, Robert Young was commissioned to produce an Aboriginal mural on the site of Charcoal Lane. The mural was completed and provided an opportunity for Robert Young to engage the young Aboriginal trainees at Charcoal Lane, and promote the Aboriginal history of this building & culture to the wider community of

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<i>To provide an employment opportunity for a Victorian Aboriginal artist to produce a mural that captures the significant Aboriginal history of this iconic Gertrude St building.</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and the Department of Justice and Regulation Graffiti Prevention.</li> <li>Promote Aboriginal histories and cultures.</li> <li>Create an opportunity for the artist to engage with young Aboriginal trainees at Charcoal Lane.</li> </ul>	Yarra.
<p>5. Support the delivery of Smith Street Dreaming – an annual festival showcasing Aboriginal music and celebrating the community of people who live, work and visit Smith Street.</p> <p><i>This event has a broad reach and provides an opportunity for local community members and others from further afield to appreciate and experience Aboriginal peoples and cultures. The event is predicated on the involvement and recognition of the whole community of Smith Street towards better relationships throughout the year.</i></p>	<p>Arts and Culture team</p> <p>Externally led:</p> <p>Charcoal Lane and the Smith Street Working Group</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	<p>Event takes place in July 2017</p> <p>Event is developed from August 2016 until delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund raise towards the delivery of Smith Street Dreaming 2017</li> <li>Support Charcoal Lane to fund raise for and deliver Smith Street Dreaming</li> <li>Provide infrastructure support, funding support and producing support to the project</li> <li>Partner with Charcoal Lane and members of the local community to deliver Smith St Dreaming including engagement across the community and promotions.</li> <li>Create an opportunity for Yarra staff to work or volunteer on an event showcasing Aboriginal culture</li> <li>Attend Smith St working group meetings.</li> <li>At least 20 officer hour/year committed to.</li> <li>Attend at least 75 % of the meetings for the year.</li> <li>Broker the relationship between Yarra Council and Charcoal lane</li> </ul>	<p>The Smith St Dreaming Festival was a great success in 2017 and was noted as the best Smith St Festival to date, after five years of producing this event. Good numbers of the local Yarra community &amp; beyond attended the event in July 2017.</p> <p>Charcoal Lane chaired the Smith Street Dreaming working group consisting of the relevant stakeholders from Smith St. Members of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group volunteered on the day. The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer attended all the Smith St Dreaming working group meetings and helped to broker the relationship between Council &amp; Charcoal Lane. City Works supplied the infrastructure support required on the day, and Council officers helped to promote the event by meeting with traders on Smith St.</p>
<p>6. Incorporate recognition of the Traditional Owners into all new signage in Yarra's parks, reserves and waterways, and – where possible – include historical details that promote Aboriginal peoples,</p>	<p>Capital Works Project Officer</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include the phrase 'Wominjeka: Welcome to Wurundjeri Country' or similar on all new signs in Yarra's parks, reserves and waterways.</li> <li>Investigate the possibility of naming a reserve after a significant Aboriginal</li> </ul>	<p>The text for acknowledging Wurundjeri Elder Simon Wonga at Dights Falls has been drafted, and an image sourced. This just needs approval from the Wurundjeri committee of Elders.</p> <p>An opportunity arose at the Burnley</p>

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<p>histories and /or cultures.</p> <p><i>The signage, signifiers and stories ascribed to our waterways and parks reinforce the cultural identities of those places.</i></p>	<p>Special Projects Officer</p>		<p>person or persons, subject to Council's naming protocols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Aboriginal peoples, histories or cultures on at least 3 signs installed in 2017.</li> <li>Identify opportunities to integrate Aboriginal stories into park signage for example Dights Falls, parks in Fitzroy &amp; Collingwood.</li> <li>Identify opportunities to locate Aboriginal specific signage into Council's Open Spaces network for example at locations along the Yarra River &amp; Merri Creek.</li> <li>Create and install signs with content created by local Aboriginal stakeholders groups, especially the Wurundjeri Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Scar tree, to enhance &amp; protect this important significant Aboriginal heritage site. A discussion occurred with Wurundjeri Elders and Council's Habitat Management Officer in September 2017. This discussion was around the potential signage that could be incorporated at this site. There was also a discussion on how the Wurundjeri Council could use the timber from a fallen tree close to this site. It was decided that this timber could be carved into seating that could be used at the Scar tree site.</p>
<p>7. Celebrate National Reconciliation Week and deliver an internal event for Yarra staff.</p> <p><i>This introduces Yarra staff into Aboriginal history and culture, and promotes cultural awareness across the organisation.</i></p>	<p>Arts and Culture Development Officer</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Communications – Advocacy, Engagement and Media team and Digital and Brand team</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>Event planning and promotion ready by April 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 -100 staff members participate in BlakWiz event.</li> <li>BlakWiz is developed on the format that was piloted in 2016.</li> <li>BlakWiz is a fun way to provide real information about Aboriginal history, culture, art &amp; community.</li> <li>Members of the RAP group will be asked to form a team and invite staff.</li> <li>Efforts will be made to encourage people from different departments and from across the organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>Blakwiz is an internal &amp; external event that was facilitated and produced by Council's Arts and Culture Development Officer in partnership with Yarra Libraries and the Ewing Trust. Both events were well attended and a great success. The internal event was attended by about 80 Council staff from across a wide diverse section of the organisation. The external event, held at Fitzroy Town Hall, was also well attended by the wider Yarra community with about the same number attending.</p> <p>The Wurundjeri Council also produced a similar cultural awareness quiz event based on Aboriginal questions, this event was held at the Richmond Bowls Club and was well attended by the Yarra</p>

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	Ewing Trust Officer, Yarra Libraries			community and a number of Yarra staff.  This event was partly funded through Council's small projects grants.
<p>8. Provide Council officer support to Aboriginal community programs funded through Council's Community Partnerships Grant Program.</p> <p><i>This will provide assistance and support to a number of Aboriginal programs, funded through Councils community grant process.</i></p>	<p>Community Partnerships Unit Manager</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support of at least 150 officer hours/year to the following 4 programs currently funded through Council's Community Partnerships Grant Program. This support may include general assistance, promoting, linking-in, brokering relationships, advocating for, and helping to navigate Council systems and processes.</li> <li>Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation Incorporated (MAYSAR)</li> </ul> <p><i>MAYSAR was initially established in the late 1970s as a positive space to combat rising drug and alcohol problems in Fitzroy. It is the last remaining Aboriginal controlled organisation in historically significant Gertrude Street.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous Therapeutic Recreation Program</li> </ul> <p><i>The Recreation Program helps the Parkies community stay healthy, active and positive.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Billabong BBQ Co-ordinator</li> </ul> <p><i>Established in 1999, Billabong BBQ provides a vital and culturally appropriate space for Parkies to have a nutritious meal and link in with services.</i></p>	<p>This action sees the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer, along with other Yarra Council staff, work on, attend and supply logistical support to a number of programs that are funded through Yarra Council's Community Partnership Grants program.</p> <p>Council provides regular support to MAYSAR through the Community Partnerships Grants program.</p> <p>Council staff regularly visit the community lunch program at MAYSAR, and recently Yarra's Youth services in partnership with Charcoal Lane &amp; MAYSAR held a successful event involving Aboriginal youth that was attended by about 60 young people.</p> <p>The Indigenous Recreation Program is also funded through the Community Partnerships Grants. This has seen the men from the Parkies group involved in a number of different events. They attended the men's camp early in the year, with good numbers attending. Another men's camp happened in November at Phillip Island. The men also play golf, go fishing, and attended the movies. The annual golf tournament was held between the Aboriginal community and Victoria Police at the Burnley golf course and was well attended.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Engagement Program <i>This program was established to work towards improving the participation, health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Yarra.</i></li> </ul> <p>Note: current funding through the Community Partnerships. Ongoing funding (July 2015 – June 2018) is dependent upon successful outcomes of the Community Partnerships Grants process.</p>	<p>The Parkies women have a women's group that meet regularly at MAYSAR with Aboriginal woman Annette Sax facilitating sessions like making Possum skin rugs, and jewellery.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer attends the Billabong BBQ on a weekly basis to supply support to the BBQ coordinator and the local Aboriginal community members. The Billabong BBQ, supported also by Foodshare, is part of the Community Partnerships Grants program.</p> <p>The Aboriginal access &amp; engagement program is also funded through the Community Partnerships Grants program. The Aboriginal access and engagement program aims to improve the health and well-being of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the City of Yarra. This is a marginalized group in the community who face significant disadvantage and have a complex range of health and well-being issues. Aboriginal Access and Engagement workers will continue to be employed and will have a role in linking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to relevant health, welfare and recreational services. The Aboriginal access and engagement worker role will include working with staff from other agencies and other cohealth staff to identify the needs of the client and to engage in deadly care planning with clients to empower them to make informed decisions about their care.</p>

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Year 3 report July 2017		ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018		
<p>9. Continue to facilitate the ongoing meetings of Yarra Aboriginal Support Network (YASN) to support services, agencies and organisations working with the Parkies and vulnerable Aboriginal community in Yarra.</p> <p><i>Established in 2004, YASN serves an invaluable role as an information-sharing and service co-ordination network that supports the wellbeing of Parkies and other vulnerable Aboriginal people in Yarra.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One officer responsible for organising group meetings (minutes, agendas, catering, room bookings etc.)</li> <li>At least 10 meetings to be held per year.</li> <li>At least 2 Council officers to regularly attend the meetings – a contribution of at least 72 officer hours per year.</li> <li>At least eight different services, agencies and/or organisations to regularly the meetings.</li> <li>Advocate to various tiers of government on behalf to disadvantaged/vulnerable Aboriginal people, but only when there is consent to do so from this community.</li> </ul>	<p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer and other Council Officers attend YASN meetings. The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer continues to organise YASN meetings each month, with logistics like setting the venue for meetings, organising catering, sending out meeting invites, agendas and previous minutes to the YASN group, and completing actions that come from the minutes each month.</p> <p>This group is also promoted to organisations within Yarra, building the group's membership.</p> <p>Recently the YASN group decided to advocate to State Government on issues including the NDIS and homelessness and will draft &amp; send letters to the relevant State Government Departments to advocate around these issues.</p>
<p>10. Convene Council's Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) as the Aboriginal community's official voice to Council and the reference group for the ongoing implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015–2018.</p> <p><i>For many years after settlement, many Aboriginal leaders fought hard to have a voice in government policy and decision making processes. The Aboriginal Advisory Group, which includes an elected Councillor co-chair, is a hard-won opportunity for Aboriginal people to influence local government policy</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	February, April, June, August, October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Council officer dedicated to organising the group (minutes, agendas, catering, room bookings etc.)</li> <li>At least 5 meetings to be held per year.</li> <li>At least 2 Council officers to regularly attend the meetings – a contribution of at least 30 officer hours per year.</li> <li>At least 1 elected Councillor to regularly attend and co-chair meetings.</li> <li>Respond to emerging issues in the community.</li> </ul>	<p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer along with other Council Officers, convenes this group on a bi-monthly basis. The venue, meeting invite, catering, agendas and previous minutes are actioned by the Aboriginal Partnerships officer.</p> <p>Invites, agendas and previous minutes are also sent to the Councillor Support Unit for attending Councillors.</p> <p>Actions that come from the AAG minutes are actioned by the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer, and emerging issues within the local Aboriginal community are taken to the AAG for</p>

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Year 3 report July 2017	ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018			
<i>and decision making.</i>				discussion and positive action.
<p>11. Continue to ensure that Aboriginal children, young people and families have access to culturally appropriate and safe services and programs that acknowledge and meet their health and wellbeing needs, challenges and aspirations.</p> <p><i>The values of this action are integral to other Council policies including the draft Yarra Early Years Plan 2014–2017, Yarra Middle Years Strategy 2014–2017 and Yarra Youth Policy 2013–2016. Each of these provide an outline of the holistic systems of services and programs across the continuum from prevention, early intervention through to more specialist and crisis support for children, young people and families who live, work and visit Yarra. These strategies are aligned with the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2014–2017.</i></p>	Manager of Family & Children's Services	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measurable participation of at least 50 Aboriginal children, young people and/or families accessing culturally appropriate and safe services and programs.</li> </ul>	<p>Yarra's childcare centres and kindergartens are now displaying the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags at individual centres.</p> <p>Staff are reading the acknowledgement of country when they have their meetings and during children's mat/group time - they would like to develop an acknowledgement for the children to use, in consultation with the Aboriginal Partnerships officer.</p> <p>Gold St CC and Keele St CC are currently working with the Wurundjeri Council to have their current room names changed to words in Woiwurrung (still in consultation) - this will include a smoking and welcome ceremony (Wurundjeri Elder) at the beginning of 2018 (yet to be confirmed).</p> <p>Gold St CC is also currently engaging an Aboriginal family and enrolling them into the centre - this is a goal within children's services to engage more Aboriginal families to use Yarra's childcare centres and kindergartens.</p> <p>Yarraberg CC engaged with Rebecca Axford from the Wurundjeri Council to teach children more about Wurundjeri culture, history, and practice – they are currently trying to organise with the</p>

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				<p>Wurundjeri Council to develop an ongoing program for all their childcare centres and kindergartens (7 centres in total).</p> <p>A Yarra Professional Development Day for the Children's Unit took place in October. Alex Splitt (formerly from Aboriginal Housing) spoke to educators about what it is like to walk in the footsteps of an Aboriginal person.</p> <p>Overall, they have been engaging children in learning more about Aboriginal culture and Wurundjeri country and respecting the land.</p>
<p>12. Provide officer support to local grass roots groups, programs and events.</p> <p><i>Aboriginal community grass roots programs, groups and events offer unparalleled support for vulnerable groups in Yarra, often running on shoestring budgets. Officer support can broker introductions, partnerships and financial support opportunities.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Arts and Cultural Development Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the following 3 local grass roots groups, programs and events in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smith Street Working group ,</li> <li>The Launch women's group, and;</li> <li>Billabong BBQ special events such as the Billabong Cup, NAIDOC in the Park, Christmas in the Park and the Parkies and Aboriginal Memorial Day.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer brokered the relationship between Yarra Council and Charcoal Lane to enable the Smith St working group to form and function in a positive way. The officer attended all meetings of the Smith St working group, and supplied support to make the Smith St Dreaming festival happen and improve relationships between the Smith St traders, Police, and the local Aboriginal community.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer also provided support to Launch Housing and the Aboriginal Women's Group, who are funded through Council's Community Grants program.</p> <p>A number of Council Officers attended and provided support to events like Billabong BBQ's NAIDOC event, Christmas in the park, the Billabong Cup and the Parkie's Memorial Day. Events</p>

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				are funded through Council's Community Grants program.
<p>13. RAP Working Group to continue to actively monitor RAP development, including implementation of actions and tracking progress.</p> <p><i>To ensure Yarra Council is committed to achieving the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community through implementing and tracking the progress of each action in the RAP document.</i></p>	Special Projects Officer	Meetings scheduled monthly from February to December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commit to a minimum of 11 RAP working group meetings in 2017 to track the implementation of the RAP.</li> <li>If necessary, renew the RAP membership and Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>	<p>The Special Projects Officer continues to facilitate the logistics of Council's RAP working group, promoting the group to all Council staff and actively sourcing new membership from across Council.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer continues to monitor the implementation of actions within the action plans and has developed a fourth year action plan.</p>

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## ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018

Priority: CULTURE				
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target	Progress comments
<p>14. Work with a respected Aboriginal artist to run Aboriginal art workshops with young people and paint an Aboriginal 'street art' mural.</p> <p><i>This will help young people understand and respect Aboriginal culture, by learning about their art and the meaning behind it. By creating something so visible, young people will have a sense of ownership over the space, and a sense of connection with the community.</i></p>	<p>Team Leader Youth Services – Programs and Engagement, and Youth Arts Development Officer.</p> <p>Arts and Culture</p> <p>Open Spaces</p>	May – July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with a respected Aboriginal artist</li> <li>Confirm site for Aboriginal street art mural (preferably around the Gertrude St precinct)</li> <li>Have up to 6 workshops dedicated to Aboriginal art and culture prior to painting of mural</li> <li>Have at least 10 young people (potentially students from Collingwood College) participating in the program</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal artists Brent Watkins &amp; Broady X were engaged to complete the TREATY mural at Youth Services.</p> <p>Youth services ran some indigenous craft workshops, however these workshops morphed into the school holiday NAIDOC celebrations at MAYSAR, which was well attended by about 60 Aboriginal young people.</p> <p>Additionally, other indigenous themed workshops ran through the holiday program (which will lead to greater awareness of Yarra's change in policy for January 26 for the school holiday program participants, this awareness will be ongoing), plus more indigenous activities at our end of year Fitzroy Summer Festival.</p>
<p>15. Yarra's Aboriginal Partnerships Officer to give talks, walking tours and advice to the organisation and the broader municipality.</p> <p><i>It is important to promote and educate people on the rich Aboriginal history and culture within Yarra and beyond. It will help people to better understand Aboriginal people, and the generational effects caused by</i></p>	The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver at least 4 schools or pre-school sessions to local schools in Yarra.</li> <li>Deliver at least 2 tours of the Fitzroy Aboriginal history tour to groups from Yarra.</li> <li>Deliver at least 1 community group talk within Yarra.</li> <li>Contribute to the development of at least 1 community group RAP in Yarra.</li> <li>Give at least 1 talk on the Aboriginal</li> </ul>	<p>Council's Aboriginal Partnerships Officer continues to work with schools, pre-schools and community groups in Yarra to educate and promote Yarra's Aboriginal history. Cooke St Child Care Centre is a good example; the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer attended this centre a number of times to help with educating the children from the centre on Yarra's Aboriginal history. Cultural advice was</p>

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Year 3 report July 2017	ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018			
<i>the colonisation of Melbourne.</i>			<p>history of Yarra to staff at Council depot Toolbox meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide strategic advice towards the development of at least 4 Council projects with Aboriginal content or concerns.</li> </ul>	<p>given for the Murrnong project at Melbourne Girls College and Richmond Primary School was attended for an education session.</p> <p>Council's RAP group members, Collingwood English Language School participants and St Vincent's Hospital staff were taken on the Aboriginal History of Gertrude St walk.</p> <p>The New York Times journalist who wrote the article on January 26 was taken on the Gertrude St Aboriginal history walk. It was also arranged through the Yarra Communications team and the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer for this journalist to meet Uncle Jack Charles to do his story for the New York Times piece. They also met the manager from Charcoal Lane, and the Aboriginal artist commissioned to do the mural at Charcoal Lane - Robert Young, and the manager of MAYSAR.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer was to attend the Depot tool box meeting in November to give staff Yarra's Aboriginal history talk. This has been rescheduled to early 2018.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer provided strategic cultural advice on the Smith St Dreaming Festival, Peel St Festival, the January 26<sup>th</sup> project, Billabong BBQ project, Stolen Generations working group, and for the New York Times piece.</p>

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<p>16. Promote Yarra's existing cultural awareness materials within the organisation and to the broader community, tourists, schools, the service sector and other interested groups.</p> <p><i>Promoting Aboriginal history and cultures to the non-Aboriginal community is vital in creating a more supportive, understanding and empowered community. It helps to fight racism and, from the Aboriginal community's point of view, strengthens pride, identity and connectedness.</i></p>	<p>Communications – Advocacy, Engagement and Media team and Digital and Brand team</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communications and community partnerships teams to promote the following material through Yarra's public website, social media channels, special events and Council's internal communications to reach the following targets in 2017:</li> <li>At least 1000 Fitzroy Aboriginal Heritage Walking Trail Map (2009) distributed.</li> <li>At least 100 copies of the Wurundjeri History of Yarra print publication (2013) distributed.</li> <li>At least 20,000 hits to the Aboriginal History of Yarra website and mobile web-app. See: <a href="http://www.aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com">www.aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com</a> (2012 – ongoing)</li> <li>At least 1000 likes (or followers) on the Celebrating Aboriginal Culture in Gertrude Street Facebook page (2012 – ongoing)</li> <li>At least one internal and one external promotion of The Wurundjeri Protocols (2011)</li> <li>At least 15 copies of Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy print publication (2002)</li> </ul>	<p>The City of Yarra's existing cultural awareness material is promoted across municipal boundaries via Council's website and Facebook page. The Fitzroy Aboriginal Heritage walking trail maps have been distributed to groups within Yarra and beyond, as have the Wurundjeri history publication, with the targets for both met.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer has advocated for the Wurundjeri Council to contribute to the cost of a reprint of the Wurundjeri History publication.</p> <p>The Aboriginal History of Yarra website continues to be a valuable resource for the municipality and beyond. The Celebrating Aboriginal Culture in Yarra Facebook page has 1210 followers as of early January 2018.</p> <p>The Wurundjeri protocols are promoted internally to Yarra staff and externally to community groups and partners in Yarra at every opportunity.</p> <p>The popular Snapshots of Fitzroy publication will shortly be out of print. It is hoped this publication can be reprinted.</p> <p>Council has been promoting the Aboriginal history walk in the Cultural Tourism Victoria Guide 2017/18.</p> <p>50,000 copies were printed for the 2017/18 year. Distribution includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Visitor Information Centre Network in Victoria and Southern New South Wales</li> <li>Melbourne Airport and Southern Cross</li> </ul>

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				<p>Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected 3 star and above accommodation partners</li> <li>Selected cafes, galleries and attractions throughout the state</li> <li>Major events</li> <li>Media kits provided to journalists visiting Victoria as part of Visit Victoria's Visiting Journalist and Influencer Program</li> <li>In digital format on culturaltourismvictoria.com.au and for distribution via cultural experience operator.</li> </ul>
<p>17. Acknowledge the Wurundjeri by reading the 'Acknowledgment of Country' statement at the beginning of Yarra Council meetings, citizenship ceremonies, Mayoral and civic receptions, openings of major events, official openings of Council buildings, and official events where the Mayor is present.</p> <p><i>Colonisation impacted heavily on the Wurundjeri causing loss of life, loss of culture and disconnection from country. Until the Mabo decision in 1992, Australia was legally regarded as Terra Nullius (land belonging to no one). Acknowledgment of Country is a small but important statement that reminds the wider community of a fact that was denied for many years.</i></p>	<p>Communications Coordinator – Digital and Brand</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Acknowledgment is read at the beginning of Yarra Council meetings, citizenship ceremonies, Mayoral and civic receptions, openings of major events, official openings of Council buildings, and official events where the Mayor is present.</li> </ul> <p>Standard Acknowledgment of Country:</p> <p>"Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange Wurundjeri Elders to give a Welcome to Country address at significant community events.</li> <li>Promote Council's publication: 'The Wurundjeri Protocol: a guide to working with your local Aboriginal community' to give Council staff and community members contextual and</li> </ul>	<p>The Wurundjeri acknowledgment is read at the beginning of Council meetings, branch &amp; internal meetings, citizenship ceremonies (when they were conducted), Mayoral and civic receptions, openings of major events, official openings of Council buildings, and official events where the Mayor is present.</p> <p>Wurundjeri Elders are booked through the Wurundjeri Council to give Welcome to Countries &amp; Smoking Ceremonies at important Yarra Council events.</p> <p>The Wurundjeri protocols are promoted to Yarra staff at corporate inductions and diversity training sessions. Internal advice is given by the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer to Yarra staff booking Elders through the Wurundjeri Council.</p>

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			practical information for engaging Wurundjeri Elders to perform Welcome to Country ceremonies.	
<p>18. Basic cultural awareness training for all new staff, and newly elected Councillors.</p> <p><i>It is vital that staff and elected Councillors have a sound understanding of local Aboriginal community peoples, histories, cultures and traditions. Cultural awareness amongst Council staff and Councillors is vital to the success of Council's work with the local Aboriginal community and to making the organisation a culturally safe for prospective Aboriginal employees.</i></p>	<p>Organisational Development Coordinator</p> <p>Councillors Office</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 3 months of commencing work, all new Yarra City Council employees complete 'Welcome to Yarra New Starter Induction' online module, which includes an Aboriginal history component.</li> <li>At least 150 employees will attend the Induction Workshop, which incorporates an Aboriginal cultural awareness element as part of the Diversity Panel Discussion.</li> <li>At least 100 leaders to take part in a one-off Diversity Panel Discussion at a 'Senior Management Team +' Meeting.</li> <li>Review induction policy for newly elected Councillors to ensure it includes cultural awareness training, and at least one meeting with Traditional owners.</li> </ul>	<p>All new employees are required to complete the online induction module which includes the Aboriginal history component and all part time and full time employees are required to attend the face to face corporate induction workshop which includes the Diversity Panel Discussion.</p> <p>Further actions will be completed in 2018.</p>
<p>19. Celebrate NAIDOC Week.</p> <p><i>NAIDOC week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal histories, cultures and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Aboriginal Australians make to our country and our society.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Plan Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to engage with their culture and community through NAIDOC Week events.</li> <li>Support all staff to participate in events in the local community.</li> <li>Promote Council affiliated NAIDOC week events (and other events happening in the local area) to the</li> </ul>	<p>Council staff were supported to attend NAIDOC WEEK events and NAIDOC events promoted internally &amp; externally.</p> <p>The "All of Government" event was held at the Fitzroy Town Hall, and was well attended by the community and Council staff. Other NAIDOC events such as the NAIDOC march, NAIDOC in the Park, NAIDOC at the Collingwood Children's</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>broader community.</li> <li>Contact the Victorian NAIDOC Week Committee to discuss mutually-beneficial opportunities.</li> </ul>	Farm, were attended by Yarra staff, supported by the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer and promoted to the wider Yarra community.	
<p>20. Support local schools to teach Aboriginal history and cultures.</p> <p><i>A teacher's resource will broaden the website's reach to local primary and high schools. It is important to continue to update the site and ensure it remains user-friendly and easy to navigate.</i></p>	Special Projects Officer	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to build relationships with the Wurundjeri, local teachers and schools.</li> <li>Seek feedback on version one of the local Aboriginal history teachers' resource. Update and publish this resource on the Aboriginal History of Yarra website and mobile web-app and promote to local schools.</li> </ul>	<p>Yarraberg Childcare Centre engaged with Rebecca Axford from the Wurundjeri Council to teach children more about Wurundjeri culture, history, and practice – they are currently trying to organise with the Wurundjeri Council to develop an ongoing program for all their childcare centres and kindergartens (7 centres in total).</p> <p>The Special Projects Officer has been in conversation with the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority regarding updating the Aboriginal teacher's resource. This is due to be completed shortly.</p> <p>Council's Special Projects Officer has started discussions with Council's communications team, who will assess the functionality of the Aboriginal History of Yarra website and provide recommendations.</p>	
<p>21. Strengthen the existing Aboriginal book, DVD and music CD collections at Yarra Libraries, particularly at the Fitzroy Library Branch.</p> <p><i>Yarra Libraries is committed to providing resources to the community on all aspects of Aboriginal culture, performing arts, history and current issues.</i></p>	Team Leader Community Programs - Fitzroy Library	November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of Yarra Libraries Aboriginal book, DVD and music CD collections at Yarra Libraries, particularly at the Fitzroy Library Branch.</li> </ul>	This action will be completed in 2018.	

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22. Purchase and display Aboriginal Languages of Victoria Map at all of our branches from Victorian Aboriginal Corporations of Languages (VCAL).  <i>To promote and educate the wider Yarra community on the different defined boundaries of the many Aboriginal tribes across Australia.</i>	Yarra Libraries	March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact VACL to purchase.</li> <li>• Assess cost, raise PO.</li> <li>• Laminate and display in prominent area across five library branches.</li> </ul>	Libraries are in the process of purchasing maps for all branches.
23. In association with Aboriginal Housing Victoria, Yarra libraries support the 1 Million Stars to end Violence Project. Two staff will receive training and bring the program to Yarra libraries to help make 1 million stars by July 2017. By working closely with Aboriginal Housing Victoria and supporting this initiative. Yarra Libraries will strengthen relationships and show commitment to working together. This will provide a foundation to build relationships further shared programs and ideas.  <i>Family violence is a huge issue within the wider community and as an Aboriginal person you're twice as likely to be effected by family violence.</i>	Community Programs Officer Community Programs Librarian  Aboriginal Housing Victoria.	July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact and connect with Aboriginal Housing Victoria.</li> <li>• Consult with Colin Hunter.</li> <li>• Participate in training to be delivered with Aboriginal Housing Victoria.</li> <li>• Conduct star making session with library staff and across a variety of programs.</li> <li>• Display stars in the libraries leading up to July.</li> <li>• Promote the collaboration with Aboriginal Housing Victoria.</li> <li>• Coordinate the collection and delivery of completed stars with Aboriginal Housing Victoria.</li> </ul>	A relationship between Aboriginal Housing Victoria & Yarra Libraries has blossomed, with a number of different team members from Yarra Libraries involved in different projects, and all consulting the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer for cultural support and advice.  Three staff visited and were trained to make stars. This training was transferred to the Community Programs & Outreach team and the star weaving sessions took place including a designated information session delivered by Jo Thitchener at Fitzroy Library as part of the Aboriginal astronomy event.
24. As part of the opening Bargoonga Nganjin, the new North Fitzroy Hub, Yarra Libraries will show a strong commitment to the Wurundjeri people by incorporating key events celebrating our first peoples. This	Communications & Engagement Officer  Children's & Youth Librarian	May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult Colin Hunter.</li> <li>• Contact Wurundjeri Council to assess opportunities and cost.</li> <li>• Organise events to be delivered as part of the opening of Bargoonga Nganjin.</li> </ul>	The opening of Bargoonga Nganjin was a great success with a large crowd of local Yarra residents in attendance at the opening. Officers from the Yarra Libraries team consulted the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer for cultural support and advice.

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<p>includes a Storytime delivered in Woiwurrung Language, Welcome to Country Ceremony and cultural performance in conjunction with the Wurundjeri Council.</p> <p><i>To acknowledge and pay respects to the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional custodians of Yarra.</i></p>					<p>The Wurundjeri Council was engaged to provide the Elder to perform the Welcome to Country &amp; smoking ceremony at this event.</p> <p>The Wurundjeri education team was engaged to provide the Aboriginal story time of the day, with good numbers of local children attending.</p>
<p>25. National Simultaneous Storytime happens May 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 and is an opportunity for all libraries to share the same story at the same time. In 2017, Yarra Libraries will deliver the story in Woiwurrung language and share the story with Alice Springs Library via Skype. This will provide a celebration of language revival and promote the importance of language to identify of Aboriginal people. May 27<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Reconciliation Week with the theme for 2017 being Language Matters.</p> <p><i>There is a huge push across the country to revive and preserve the different Aboriginal languages that have been lost due to the past Federal Government policies that prohibited the speaking of native languages.</i></p>	<p>Children's &amp; Youth Librarian</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnership Plan Officer</p>	<p>May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact Wurundjeri council to connect with Mandy Nicolson regarding translating the chosen story book for 2017 and delivering the Storytime in Woi wurrung language at Yarra libraries.</li><li>• Coordinate event location, technology needs for skype delivery, marketing and promotion of event.</li><li>• Conduct National Simultaneous Storytime in Woi wurrung language at Bargoonga Nganjin.</li><li>• Skype with Alice Springs library and record event.</li></ul>		<p>The Children's and Youth Services team were not able to engage Mandi Nicolson this year due to her very busy schedule. It is hoped this opportunity can be revisited in the future.</p>
<p>26. Indigenous Literacy Day 2017. For Indigenous Literacy Day Yarra Libraries will donate proceeds from a book sale to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Additionally, Yarra Libraries will celebrate the</p>	<p>Children's &amp; Youth Librarian</p> <p>Community Programs Officer</p> <p>Community Programs</p>	<p>September 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work closely with Colin Hunter in organising the storytelling around the campfire event.</li><li>• Coordinate books for sale.</li><li>• Register book sale with Indigenous Literacy Foundation.</li></ul>		<p>The Collections Team ran "The Mighty Mini Booksales" in September as part of the What's On program and their Reconciliation Action Plan commitment – this raised \$832.</p>

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<p>oldest tradition of storytelling around the campfire with Wurundjeri Elders. This will be held at Edinburgh Gardens or Atherton Gardens.</p> <p><i>Indigenous literacy is another big issue in the Aboriginal community, and the City of Yarra is committed to improving literacy within the local Aboriginal community.</i></p>	<p>Librarian Aboriginal Partnership Plan Officer</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schedule book sale proceeds to occur close to Indigenous Literacy Day.</li><li>• Deposit book sale proceeds into the account provided by Indigenous Literacy Foundation.</li></ul>	
<p>27. Review new guidelines for Councils regarding Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management agreements (ACHLMA's) and explore opportunities for actions in Yarra relating to these guidelines.</p> <p><i>To ensure these new changes to Aboriginal cultural heritage are adhered too.</i></p>	<p>Community Partnerships Unit Manager Sustainability Officer</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review guidelines and provide briefing on opportunities to Group Manager People, Culture and Community by May 2017.</li><li>• Undertake initial internal stakeholder consultation regarding identified opportunities if relevant by August 2017.</li><li>• Undertake initial external stakeholder consultation regarding identified opportunities if relevant by December 2017.</li></ul>	<p>The preliminary draft has been completed and sent out for comment by Aboriginal Victoria. Feedback was supplied and has been incorporated into the document. It is still a work in progress, and Councils are waiting for the completed document.</p>

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Year 3 report July  
2017

## ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018

Focus area: EMPLOYMENT, ADVOCACY & RESPONSIVENESS				
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target	
<p>28. Increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees within our organisation.</p> <p><i>Recruitment and retention of Aboriginal employees within Yarra Council and other Local Governments needs to improve to meet targets that have been set.</i></p>	<p>Community Partnerships Unit Manager</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure ongoing employment of an Aboriginal worker as the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer.</li> <li>Provide professional development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in identified roles including: encouragement to attend and speak at least 5 conferences / yarning circles per year, encouragement to have input into the development of at least 2 other organisations' RAPs per year, ongoing systems training and ongoing intensive officer support.</li> </ul>	<p>The ongoing employment of the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer attended the Indigenous Economic Development Forum in Cairns in June.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer is to speak at Yarra's Depot Tool Box meeting in early 2018.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer has supported mainstream community organisations around employment and retention of Aboriginal employees by assisting in their recruitment process and providing advice.</p>
<p>Partner with the Brotherhood of St Laurence to employ Aboriginal worker in entry level role in Council.</p>	<p>Engagement and Inclusion Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence implementation of Council's 'Murrup Ballart' Aboriginal training and employment program in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, with a target of employing 1 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by the end of 2017.</li> <li>Work with the Human Resources coordinator to identify appropriate roles as they arise</li> <li>Liaise with executive &amp; relevant line managers to attach roles to the program.</li> <li>Aim for minimum of one staff members employed by the program.</li> <li>Ensure all advertised vacant positions at Council include Council's Inclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The Murrup Ballart Aboriginal training program had one Aboriginal person apply, but it didn't work out. The support from BSL for this Aboriginal person was not what was required.</p> <p>No positions were identified by Human Resources. More work needs to be done to achieve this. The minimum of one Aboriginal staff member employed was not meet.</p> <p>All advertised positions included Council's Inclusion &amp; Diversity Statement</p>
<p><i>Employing a person with strong community connection is vital to the success of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan.</i></p>				

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<p><i>Gentrification and rising property prices are pushing the Aboriginal community further away from Melbourne's inner city areas. Increasing Aboriginal employment at Yarra is one way of strengthening Yarra's workforce and ensuring ongoing community connection to Yarra.</i></p>	<p>Coordinator Service Contracts</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Plan Officer</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<p>and Diversity Statement:</p> <p><i>"Yarra City Council is an equal opportunity employer. We draw pride and strength from our diversity. We support flexible and accessible working arrangements and we are an inclusive employer."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage Aboriginal employment in Council depot operations through the Autumn Leaves Program (up to 2 Aboriginal people employed 38 hours/week for 16 weeks in autumn, depending on workers available through partnership with Brotherhood of St Laurence).</li> <li>To support this program and future employment of Aboriginal people, run at least 1 Aboriginal cultural awareness session for depot staff through the 'Tool Box' meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer will promote the Autumn Leaves program to a wider Aboriginal audience in 2018, it was difficult to find suitable candidates in 2017.</p>
<p>29. Strengthen Aboriginal disability support networks through Balit Narrum membership.</p> <p><i>The incidence of disability is more than twice that of non-Aboriginal people and culturally responsive measures are needed within the roll-out of the NDIS in the North East Metropolitan Area to ensure that adequate resources are available to the Aboriginal community.</i></p>	<p>Aged and Disability Services Officers</p> <p>Aged and Disability Services Officers</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At tend a minimum of 6 Balit Narrum working group meetings.</li> <li>Co-planning carried out with the NDIS Community Readiness Officer for the next Yarra Yarning Circles.</li> <li>Attend Aboriginal HACC conference.</li> <li>Respond to at least one follow –up action from the conference.</li> </ul>	<p>The Aged &amp; Disability coordinator, who was attending regularly the Balit Narrum group has resigned. A new representative needs to pick up this work.</p> <p>Yarra was represented on the Balit Narrum group who advocated for a number of dedicated positions for Aboriginal support workers. This group was successful in getting one position funded.</p> <p>This Yarra representative attended the</p>

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Increase relationships with Aboriginal commonwealth Home support agencies.				<p>Aboriginal HACC conference.</p> <p>Council wrote to the DHHS to point out the impact of the decision not to support dedicated resources to Balit Narrum and Aboriginal Advancement League and requesting that funding be released. This was initiated by the DAC and the AAG.</p> <p>Communication with other North East Councils to gather local Government support for the advocacy.</p>
<p>30. Continue to offer Yarra Leisure community memberships to members of the Parkies community and other disadvantaged members of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p><i>By offering Yarra Leisure community memberships to disadvantaged Aboriginal community members, Yarra hopes to reduce some of the barriers to greater participation and health within this community.</i></p>	Community Development Officer (Yarra Leisure Services)	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 25 Yarra Leisure community memberships continue to be offered to disadvantaged/vulnerable members of the local Aboriginal community.</li> </ul>	The Yarra Leisure community memberships have been extended to the Parkies, as well as other disadvantaged members of the local Aboriginal community, with more than 25 community members taking up this offer.
<p>31. Seek opportunities to run Aboriginal history walking tours of Gertrude Street and surrounds.</p> <p><i>A business or social enterprise running regular walking tours will provide culturally appropriate employment for Aboriginal storytellers with a familial connection to Fitzroy or a passion for local</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p> <p>Arts &amp; Cultural</p>	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Aboriginal organisations establishing walking tours in Gertrude Street and surrounds.</li> <li>Council to provide promotion through existing channels and support materials in kind, e.g. Wurundjeri History of Yarra publications, Aboriginal History of Yarra Walking maps.</li> </ul>	Support was given to MAYSAR to help them establish walking tours in Gertrude St. The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer along with two Aboriginal community members were asked to help facilitate and develop a model, which would be an extension of the Aboriginal History of Gertrude St walk, and deliver this to up to 500 DHHS staff.

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<i>history. Council's consultative work has repeatedly told us that there is real community interest and demand for cultural experiences of this kind.</i>	Development Officer				<p>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer facilitated a number of the Aboriginal History of Gertrude St walking tours for a number of different organisations, and Council's RAP group.</p> <p>Promotion of this happened through a number of channels including Council's website. Council has also been promoting the Aboriginal History walks in the Cultural Tourism Victoria Guide 2017/18.</p>
<p>32. Look at ways of stimulating and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurship, business development by providing them more opportunities to participate in the economy, with a view to introducing an Aboriginal Procurement Strategy at Yarra.</p> <p><i>To promote and support equality for Aboriginal businesses to participate in the economy.</i></p>	Procurement Coordinator	June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invite relevant stakeholder to participate.</li><li>• Hold at least 4 meetings or dedicated discussions throughout the year.</li><li>• Establish or update Indigenous Business database for Yarra Council departments to use. Where appropriate liaise with other businesses to obtain these lists.</li><li>• Review current Yarra City Council Procurement Strategy and submit and implement an Aboriginal Procurement Strategy for the 2017/18 financial year.</li></ul>	More work needs to be done in this area, with internal & external engagement being the first step in the process. This will be considered in the development of the next iteration of the APP.	
<p>33. Encourage businesses to employ Aboriginal people, through inviting representatives from an Aboriginal service to the Brainfood for business networking event.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to promote</p>	<p>Economic Development Coordinator</p> <p>Project Officer Business Liaison</p>	March 2017 and October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aim to broker at least 4 relationships with external agencies to facilitate business/learning development opportunities for Aboriginal people or businesses.</li><li>• At least 1 representative from an Aboriginal service provider attends a key business networking meeting.</li></ul>	Council were only able to attract two representatives from Oxfam from an Aboriginal background to attend our International Women's Day Event this year.	

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<p>the Aboriginal History walk through the wide distribution of the IMAP cultural guide.</p> <p><i>Aboriginal employment opportunities need to improve and this provides an opportunity to Close the Gap.</i></p> <p><i>To promote and provide an insight into the rich Aboriginal history of Yarra to the wider community.</i></p>	<p>Economic Development Officer- Communications and Marketing</p>	<p>February- November 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An Aboriginal service provider is given an opportunity to provide a one minute pitch to over 100 businesses at the networking meeting.</li><li>Wide distribution of IMAP cultural guide.</li><li>The Aboriginal history walk is promoted in at least two additional marketing channels.</li><li>Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square, the arts and cultural attractions and experiences listed within the Cultural Guide, libraries across the inner Melbourne region, the arts Centre, the NGV Gallery, the Melbourne Convention Centre and at selected accommodation providers.</li></ul>	<p>The production of the 2017/18 Cultural Tourism Guide featured the Aboriginal History Walk and the art work by Robert Young with Heesco and Makatron on Gertrude Street.</p>
<p>34. Undertake a review of the self-guided Aboriginal History walk to identify opportunities for upgrade/enhancement.</p> <p>Step include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Engage digital consultant to access and develop recommendations for updating and improving the Aboriginal history walking page of the website by June 2017.</li><li>Develop and compile new content by August 2017.</li><li>Engage web developer to implement improvements, ensuring that the model can be reskinned for a</li></ul>	<p>Economic Development Coordinator</p> <p>Senior Project Officer-Retail, Tourism, Marketing</p> <p>Special Project Officer</p> <p>In consultation with</p> <p>Economic Development Officer- Communications and marketing</p>	<p>February- December 2017</p> <p>June 2017</p> <p>August 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Visitors, local residents, tourists and historians.</li></ul>	<p>This is a considerable piece of work that requires additional resourcing to happen. More thought needs to occur on how to realise this action.</p> <p>Promotion of this happened through a number of channels including Council's website.</p> <p>Also Council has been promoting the Aboriginal History walks in the Cultural Tourism Victoria Guide 2017/18.</p>

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<p>variety of walking tours by December 2017.</p> <p>The Aboriginal history walk is promoted in at least two additional marketing channels that is identified through the review of the online self-guided Aboriginal history walk.</p> <p><i>To enhance this experience of the participants.</i></p>				
<p>35. Advocate for representation of Aboriginal concerns in public space projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites.</p> <p><i>To ensure Aboriginal people's concerns are heard and considered in projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites.</i></p>	Urban Designer	December 2016-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote increased dialogue with the Wurundjeri Council on public space projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites (e.g. along the Yarra river corridor).</li> <li>Advocate for the inclusion of Aboriginal art in Gertrude St Brunswick St tram stop/streetscape upgrades.</li> <li>Develop concepts design for the public realm leading up to the Stolen Generations Marker site ( for example at the Brunswick/Gertrude St intersection near Atherton Gardens, and at King William St ( corner Brunswick St ) which leads to Condell Reserve.</li> <li>Developed concept designs for the tram stops along Brunswick St which includes Aboriginal art.</li> </ul>	<p>Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan had been put on hold last year due to resourcing issues but should be on track to deliver this in the next year. The tram stop upgrades are subject to PTV's timescales and Officers are not exactly certain on the timescales however they can be involved in discussions with them whenever there is the opportunity.</p> <p>A young Aboriginal artist, Robert Young was commissioned to produce an Aboriginal mural on the site of Charcoal Lane; the mural was completed, and provided an opportunity for Robert Young to engage the young Aboriginal trainees at Charcoal Lane, and promote the Aboriginal history of this building &amp; culture to the wider community of Yarra.</p>
<p>36. Develop best practice checklist for culturally competent housing support.</p> <p><i>As an Aboriginal person you are four times more likely to be</i></p>	Policy Advisor, Housing & Homelessness	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite relevant parties/stakeholders to workshop a draft checklist for feedback.</li> <li>Consult with local organisations support Aboriginal people around housing and other stakeholders on the draft.</li> </ul>	This action will be completed in 2018.

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<i>homeless than a non-Aboriginal person.</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult YASN on the draft.</li> <li>Promote checklist through Yarra Housing 7 Homelessness Network and other relevant organisations.</li> </ul>	
<p>37. Increase awareness of important Aboriginal community matters by promoting significant dates on the Aboriginal community calendar and promoting Aboriginal community events in Yarra.</p> <p><i>To raise awareness and the profile of the many significant dates and events on the Aboriginal calendar.</i></p>	<p>Communications – Advocacy, Engagement Advisor</p> <p>Media and Digital and Brand Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>Promote events that take place throughout 2017, especially mid-year, when Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week take place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a Aboriginal Cultural Events Calendar for 2017, including dates/events of significance to the Aboriginal community, to assist officers plan support and promote these events (for internal use only)</li> <li>Design a brand mark for Council's 'Aboriginal Cultural Events Program', to be used when promoting any community events</li> <li>Promote at least 10 important Aboriginal community calendar dates and local community events through Council's website, social media channels and publications.</li> <li>Review and update the Aboriginal Community section of Council's website to ensure information is current and all relevant resources are available.</li> </ul>	<p>Important, or significant days, and events on the Aboriginal calendar are promoted through emails, Council websites, Yarra's Aboriginal Facebook page, and Council publications including Yarra News.</p> <p>An internal Aboriginal Cultural Events calendar has not been developed, but through the internal RAP working group important and significant days &amp; events are actively promoted across Council.</p> <p>The designing of the brand mark was not developed.</p> <p>The new Council website was created and the Aboriginal section was updated.</p>
<p>38. Investigate Aboriginal community views around how Australia Day is marked by Council.</p> <p><i>There's a growing awareness in the broader community of a need for our national day to be more inclusive.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through existing networks, gather and document Aboriginal community views on how Council marks Australia Day.</li> <li>Report back to the Aboriginal Advisory Group.</li> </ul>	<p>The Council adopted a resolution in February 2017 to consult the local Aboriginal community on their current views on Australia Day, January 26<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>This led to Council consulting the local Aboriginal community on this issue; this was done through a number of ways. An Aboriginal community survey was developed and distributed through the Aboriginal community. Many Aboriginal organisations were visited by Council officers to talk through this issue, and</p>

# Attachment 1 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report

Year 3 report July 2017		ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018		
				also asked to complete the Aboriginal community survey. The Aboriginal Advisory Group discussed this, and Council officers visited the Wurundjeri Committee of Management to seek their approval for the project, which was given. The Parkies were also consulted. A report went to Council on 15 August 2017 with the results of the consultation. All 13 recommendations from the report were endorsed.

# Attachment 1 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report

Year 3 report July  
2017

## ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018

Tracking progress and reporting				
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target	
<p>39. Ensure accountability for persons responsible for completion of Aboriginal Partnerships Plan actions.</p> <p><i>This will ensure positive outcomes in the local Aboriginal community.</i></p>	Special Projects Officer	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Yarra's Aboriginal Partnerships Plan in Council's 'Interplan' system.</li> </ul>	<p>The Special Projects Officer and the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer were responsible and accountable for ensuring the completion of the Aboriginal Partnership Plans actions. This was achieved through monthly RAP working group meetings where actions were discussed and monitored. The Aboriginal Partnership Plan still needs to be integrated into Council's Interplan system, with discussions on this started with internal relevant Council officers.</p>
<p>40. Report on the year 3 action plan and write the year 4 action plan.</p> <p><i>To ensure Council's commitments to the local Aboriginal community in the third year action plan are met and that the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community are met in the fourth year action plan.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present report to Council on the successes and challenges of the year 2 action plan and present year 3 action plan to Council for adoption.</li> </ul>	<p>The report on the third year action plan was completed for Council by the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer. The fourth year action plan was developed by the Aboriginal Partnerships officer in collaboration with members of the internal RAP working group in alignment with the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan.</p>

## Attachment 1 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report

Year 3 report July  
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### ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2015-2018

<b>Contact details</b>
Uncle Colin Hunter Jnr, Aboriginal Partnerships Plan Officer / Wurundjeri Elder phone 03 9205 5038 <a href="mailto:colin.hunter@yarracity.vic.gov.au">colin.hunter@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Daniel Ducrou, Special Projects Officer phone 03 9205 5017 <a href="mailto:danielducrou@yarracity.vic.gov.au">danielducrou@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

### Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 – Year 4 Action Plan 2018

Priorities: COMMUNITY CONNECTION and EVENTS			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Activities
<p>1. Commission an Aboriginal artist to produce a Stolen Generation's marker for the City of Yarra.</p> <p>Assist the selected artist with all aspects of the project.</p> <p><i>Through the introduction of Federal Government policies aimed at assimilating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples into mainstream society, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were wrongly removed from their family, community and culture, thus creating the Stolen Generations. This project will acknowledge the pain and suffering this caused, offer a place to reflect and heal and educate wider Australia on this tragic part of Australia's history.</i></p>	<p>Public Arts Officer</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p> <p>Festivals and Events Officer</p>	Dec 2017—June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee the creation of a landscaped garden with Indigenous plants around the marker.</li> <li>Enable an outcome of high artistic merit that fosters community ownership.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Officially launch the Stolen Generations Marker.</p> <p><i>This will provide the local Aboriginal community, the wider Yarra community and Yarra Council an opportunity to celebrate the achievement of creating a piece of public art that acknowledges the Stolen Generation's and their families.</i></p>	<p>Festivals and Events Officer (with support from the Project Working Group)</p>	May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce an event to launch the Stolen Generations Marker.</li> <li>Provide all of the community with an opportunity to come together to celebrate this new artwork.</li> <li>Meet steering group and community expectations.</li> <li>Raise awareness about the Stolen Generations.</li> <li>Acknowledge the work and contributions of the artist, project partners, steering group, community, and any financial and in-kind support.</li> <li>Celebrate Yarra's rich Aboriginal history and its current community connection.</li> <li>Promote Aboriginal histories and cultures.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>3. Support the delivery of <i>Dreaming Together</i>, a series of workshops designed to empower and re-engage Indigenous youth who are disconnected from family and culture.</p> <p><i>In collaboration with City of Yarra Robert and Lyn-Al Young (and other Young family members) will partner with several Indigenous organisations to deliver these workshops. This has been made possible through a Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy Community Initiative Grant (applied for by City of Yarra).</i></p>	Arts Development Officer (with the Public Arts Officer)	Jan—June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Indigenous youth.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for Aboriginal artists.</li> <li>Strengthen Aboriginal families and community connection.</li> <li>Provide a space for these Workshops.</li> <li>Increase sense of community pride.</li> <li>Sharing knowledge, promoting leadership skills and confidence building.</li> <li>Offer an opportunity for a pilot program of these workshops.</li> <li>Strengthen cultural identity with disengaged youth.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Produce, manage, deliver and promote an exhibition at Richmond Town Hall by an Aboriginal artist.</p> <p><i>To promote &amp; showcase Aboriginal artists &amp; their artworks to the wider Yarra community.</i></p>	Public Arts Officer	May—July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an opportunity for a Victorian Aboriginal artist to exhibit at Richmond Town Hall as part of Arts and Culture's Annual Exhibition Program.</li> <li>Promote the work of Victorian Aboriginal artists.</li> <li>Promote Aboriginal histories and cultures.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Produce, manage, deliver and promote an exhibition at Bargoonga Nganjin by an Aboriginal artist,</p> <p><i>To promote &amp; showcase Aboriginal artists &amp; their artworks to the wider Yarra community.</i></p>	Public Arts Officer	December 2018—February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an opportunity for a Victorian Aboriginal Artist to exhibit at Bargoonga Nganjin as part of Arts and Culture's Annual Exhibition Program.</li> <li>Promote the work of Victorian Aboriginal artists.</li> <li>Promote Aboriginal histories and cultures.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Advocate for representation of Aboriginal concerns in public space projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites.</p> <p><i>To ensure Aboriginal people's concerns are heard and considered in projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites.</i></p>	<p>Open Space Team</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2017-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote increased dialogue with the Wurundjeri Council on public space projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites (e.g. along the Yarra river and Merri Creek corridors.)</li> <li>Actively seek input from the Wurundjeri Community in relation to the development of the Yarra Open Space Strategy, and incorporate the feedback into the Strategy.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>7. Celebrate National Reconciliation Week and deliver an internal event for Yarra staff.</p> <p><i>This introduces Yarra staff into Aboriginal history and culture, and promotes cultural awareness across the organisation.</i></p>	<p>Arts and Culture Development Officer</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Communications – Advocacy, Engagement and Media team and Digital and Brand team</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p> <p>Ewing Trust Officer, Yarra Libraries</p>	<p>Event planning and promotion ready by April 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 -100 staff members participate in BlakWiz event.</li> <li>BlakWiz is developed on the format that was piloted in 2016.</li> <li>BlakWiz is a fun way to provide real information about Aboriginal history, culture, art &amp; community.</li> <li>Members of the RAP group will be asked to form a team and invite staff.</li> <li>Efforts will be made to encourage people from different departments and from across the organisation to participate.</li> </ul>
<p>8. Provide Council officer support to Aboriginal community programs funded through Council's Community Partnerships Grant Program.</p> <p><i>This will provide assistance and support to a number of Aboriginal programs, funded through Council's community grant process.</i></p>	<p>Community Partnerships Unit Manager</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support of at least 150 officer hours/year to the following 4 programs currently funded through Council's Community Partnerships Grant Program. This support may include general assistance, promoting, linking-in, brokering relationships, advocating for, and helping to navigate Council systems and processes.</li> <li>Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation Incorporated (MAYSAR) MAYSAR was initially established in the late 1970s as a positive space to combat rising drug and alcohol problems in Fitzroy. It is the last remaining Aboriginal controlled organisation in historically significant Gertrude Street.</li> <li>Indigenous Recreation Program The Recreation Program helps the Parkies community stay healthy, active and positive.</li> <li>Billabong BBQ and Foodshare Established in 1999, Billabong BBQ provides a vital and culturally appropriate space for Parkies to have a nutritious meal and link in with services.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Access and Engagement This program was established to work towards improving the participation, health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Yarra.</li> </ul>
<p>9. Continue to facilitate the ongoing meetings of Yarra Aboriginal Support Network (YASN) to support services, agencies and organisations working with the Parkies and vulnerable Aboriginal community in Yarra.</p> <p><i>Established in 2004, YASN serves an invaluable role as an information-sharing and service co-ordination network that supports the wellbeing of Parkies and other vulnerable Aboriginal people in Yarra.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One officer responsible for organising group meetings (minutes, agendas, catering, room bookings etc.)</li> <li>At least 10 meetings to be held per year.</li> <li>At least 2 Council officers to regularly attend the meetings – a contribution of at least 72 officer hours per year.</li> <li>At least eight different services, agencies and/or organisations to regularly the meetings.</li> <li>Advocate to various tiers of government on behalf of disadvantaged/vulnerable Aboriginal people, but only when there is consent to do so from this community.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Convene Council's Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) as the Aboriginal community's official voice to Council and the reference group for the ongoing implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015–2018.</p> <p><i>For many years after settlement, many Aboriginal leaders fought hard to have a voice in government policy and decision making processes. The Aboriginal Advisory Group, which includes an elected Councillor as Co-chair, is a hard-won opportunity for Aboriginal people to influence local government policy and decision making.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	February, April, June, August, October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Council officer dedicated to organising the group (minutes, agendas, catering, room bookings etc)</li> <li>At least 5 meetings to be held per year.</li> <li>At least 2 Council officers to regularly attend the meetings – a contribution of at least 30 officer hours per year.</li> <li>At least 1 elected Councillor to regularly attend and co-chair meetings.</li> <li>Respond to emerging issues in the community.</li> </ul>
<p>11. Embedding Indigenous perspectives in our practices as educators and teachers</p> <p><i>Australia's Aboriginal history is complicated and Aboriginal perspectives need to be heard. For far too long Aboriginal peoples history &amp;</i></p>	Children's Services Officer	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflecting with educators on the benefits of including Aboriginal history and perspectives in our programming.</li> <li>Consult and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to learn more about their perspectives.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for Aboriginal persons to speak to educators and teachers about their life experiences, culture and perspectives.</li> <li>Identify opportunities for educators to incorporate</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<i>voices has been hidden &amp; not heard.</i>			<p>Indigenous perspectives in their work with children and families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging in the acknowledgement of country at meetings with our teams.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Provide officer support to local grass roots groups, programs and events.</p> <p><i>Aboriginal community grass roots programs, groups and events offer unparalleled support for vulnerable groups in Yarra, often running on shoestring budgets. Officer support can broker introductions, partnerships and financial support opportunities.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Arts and Cultural Development Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the following 3 local grass roots groups, programs and events in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smith Street Working group ,</li> <li>The Launch women's group, and;</li> <li>Billabong BBQ special events such as the Billabong Cup, NAIDOC in the Park, Christmas in the Park and the Parkies and Aboriginal Memorial Day.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>13. RAP Working Group to continue to actively monitor RAP development, including implementation of actions and tracking progress of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018.</p> <p><i>To ensure Yarra Council is committed to achieving the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community through implementing and tracking the progress of each action in the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018.</i></p>	Special Projects Officer	Meetings scheduled monthly from February to December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commit to a minimum of 11 RAP working group meetings in 2018 to track the implementation of the APP 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan.</li> <li>If necessary, renew the RAP membership and Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>
<p>14. To provide Indigenous perspectives in the children's education, care programs and curriculums.</p> <p><i>Australia's Aboriginal history has been the missing link in the Australian education system. The early education of our children will help provide the platform for Reconciliation.</i></p>	<p>Children's Services Officer and leadership team</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with the Wurundjeri Council to write education programs.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to facilitate children's learning programs.</li> <li>Work with Colin Hunter Jr to personalise acknowledgement of country at centres</li> <li>Engage in the Acknowledgement of Country with children in programs</li> <li>Develop a teaching resource targeted for educators and teachers working with children in the early years (0 – 8 years)</li> <li>Recognise days of significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including NAIDOC week, Reconciliation Week, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day etc.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>15. Continue to ensure that Aboriginal children, young people and families have access to culturally appropriate and safe services and programs that acknowledge and meet their health, education and wellbeing needs, challenges and aspirations.</p> <p><i>The values of this action are integral to other Council policies including the future Zero to 25 Plan.</i></p>	<p>Children's Services Officer and leadership team</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve services and suitability of access for Aboriginal children and families</li> <li>• Provide culturally appropriate and sensitive practices and programs for Aboriginal children and families</li> <li>• Display Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in centres and on signs</li> <li>• Develop partnerships with Aboriginal services to understand and support the health, education and wellbeing needs of Aboriginal children and families</li> <li>• Enrol Aboriginal children into education and care programs</li> </ul>
<p>16. Organise an evening discussion about Indigenous homelessness in partnership with Yarra Libraries. This event will include a presentation by an Indigenous person with lived experience.</p> <p><i>Aboriginal homelessness is on the rise, and Aboriginal people are twice as likely to experience homelessness as non-Aboriginal people.</i></p>	<p>Policy Advisor Housing and Homelessness</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting local residents and other interested people;</li> <li>• The aim is community education and awareness raising on Indigenous homelessness and the specific challenges for Indigenous organisations addressing homelessness.</li> </ul>
<p>17. Continue to foster and develop the partnership with Aboriginal Housing Victoria &amp; SNAICC.</p> <p><i>Relationships are the key to any partnership, and strong mutual trusting partnerships are the key to positive outcomes.</i></p>	<p>Community Programs Team</p> <p>Ewing trust</p>	<p>May/June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing meetings to explore opportunities.</li> <li>• Reconciliation on the Rooftop, including a Welcome to Country.</li> <li>• Three big indigenous focussed Ewing Trust events at Fitzroy Library (Blakwiz etc).</li> </ul>
<p>18. Monthly visits to the Billabong BBQ to support vulnerable members of Yarra's Aboriginal communities &amp; their families.</p> <p><i>Vulnerable members of Yarra's local Aboriginal community have limited access &amp; understanding of the digital world.</i></p>	<p>Digital Team/Community Programs Team, Yarra Library/CYS team/ Ewing Trust</p>	<p>Jan-Dec 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly visits to Billabong BBQ with the digital team, providing free Wi-Fi, digital petting zoo "come &amp; try the gadget" and ipads.</li> <li>• Provide Storytime at the Christmas lunch as well as show bags and withdraw books from the collection.</li> <li>• Provide kids activities.</li> <li>• Green Screen activities at the NAIDOC week lunch.</li> <li>• Possible book of stories and pictures from the day funded via a grant.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>19. HITNET &amp; Yarra libraries build a relationship, which extends to the local Aboriginal community</p> <p><i>Vulnerable members of Yarra's local Aboriginal community have limited access &amp; understanding of the digital world.</i></p>	Digital Team	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore a partnership with HITNET and Yarra Libraries to increase access to Indigenous community members to digital literacy.</li> </ul>
<p>20. Council, from 2018 onwards, promote and hold a small-scale, culturally-sensitive event featuring a Smoking Ceremony on January 26 that acknowledges the loss of culture, language and identity felt by Aboriginal community on January 26</p> <p><i>January 26<sup>th</sup> is an inappropriate day to celebrate Australia Day, it marks the beginning of the loss of Aboriginal culture, life and language for Aboriginal people.</i></p>	Community Partnerships Wurundjeri Council Arts, Culture and Venues	26 January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council to host a small scale culturally appropriate event at Bargoonga Nganjin featuring a Smoking Ceremony and commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian Aborigines Conference: sesquicentenary Day of mourning and Protest.</li> </ul>
<p>21. Council contact Melbourne City Council and Songlines to see how Council can support and promote Share the Spirit Festival in 2018.</p> <p><i>It's important to promote and support Aboriginal cultural events to the wider community, as it is an opportunity for education.</i></p>	Community Partnerships (Lead) Communications	January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact the City of Melbourne to see how Yarra can support and promote the Balit Narrun Festival 2018, formerly the Share the Spirit Festival.</li> <li>Contact Songlines to see how Yarra can support and promote the Balit Narrun Festival 2018.</li> </ul>
<p>22. Provide support &amp; funding to enable the Smith St working group to function and deliver the Smith St Dreaming festival. Noting that resources are limited</p>	Community Partnerships Arts & Culture Smith St Working group	July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with the Chair, lobby &amp; bring together the relevant stakeholders of the Smith St working group.</li> <li>Participate in the Smith St working group meetings.</li> <li>Engage the Council's RAP group members in the Smith St Dreaming event.</li> <li>Search for other funding opportunities.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

Priority: CULTURE			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
23. Basic cultural awareness training for all new staff, and newly elected Councillors.	Organisational Development, Engagement and Inclusion & Community Advocacy	Dec 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 3 months all staff complete both online induction and a face to face session which includes Aboriginal cultural awareness focusing on Yarra's Aboriginal history and advice on how to work effectively with Aboriginal colleagues and community</li> <li>At least 100 leaders to take part in a one-off Diversity Panel Discussion at a 'Senior Management Team +' Meeting.</li> </ul>
24. Yarra's Aboriginal Partnerships Officer to give talks, walking tours and advice to the organisation and the broader municipality.  <i>It is important to promote and educate people on the rich Aboriginal history and culture within Yarra and beyond. It will help people to better understand Aboriginal people, and the generational effects caused by the colonisation of Melbourne.</i>	Aboriginal Partnerships Officer	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver at least 4 schools or pre-school sessions to local schools in Yarra.</li> <li>Deliver at least 2 tours of the Fitzroy Aboriginal history tour to groups from Yarra.</li> <li>Deliver at least 1 community group talk within Yarra.</li> <li>Contribute to the development of at least 1 community group RAP in Yarra.</li> <li>Give at least 1 talk on the Aboriginal history of Yarra to staff at Council depot Toolbox meetings.</li> <li>Provide strategic advice towards the development of at least 4 Council projects with Aboriginal content or concerns.</li> </ul>
25. Promote Yarra's existing cultural awareness materials within the organisation and to the broader community, tourists, schools, the service sector and other interested groups.  <i>Promoting Aboriginal history and cultures to the non-Aboriginal community is vital in creating a more supportive, understanding and empowered community. It helps to fight racism and, from the Aboriginal community's point of view, strengthens pride, identity and connectedness.</i>	Communications – Advocacy, Engagement and Media team and Digital and Brand team  Special Projects Officer  Aboriginal Partnerships Officer	December 2018	The communications and community partnerships teams to promote the following material through Yarra's public website, social media channels, special events and Council's internal communications to reach the following targets in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 1000 Fitzroy Aboriginal Heritage Walking Trail Map (2009) distributed.</li> <li>At least 100 copies of the Wurundjeri History of Yarra print publication (2013) distributed.</li> <li>At least 20,000 hits to the Aboriginal History of Yarra website and mobile web-app. See: <a href="http://www.aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com">www.aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com</a> (2012 – ongoing)</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 1300 likes (or followers) on the Celebrating Aboriginal Culture in Gertrude Street Facebook page (2012 – ongoing)</li> <li>At least one internal and one external promotion of The Wurundjeri Protocols (2011)</li> <li>At least 15 copies of Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy print publication (2002)</li> </ul>
<p>26. Acknowledge the Wurundjeri by reading the 'Acknowledgment of Country' statement at the beginning of Yarra Council meetings, citizenship ceremonies, Mayoral and civic receptions, openings of major events, official openings of Council buildings, and official events where the Mayor is present.</p> <p><i>Colonisation impacted heavily on the Wurundjeri causing loss of life, loss of culture and disconnection from country. Until the Mabo decision in 1992, Australia was legally regarded as Terra Nullius (land belonging to no one). Acknowledgment of Country is a small but important statement that reminds the wider community of a fact that was denied for many years.</i></p>	Communications Coordinator – Digital and Brand	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Acknowledgment is continued to be read at the beginning of Yarra Council meetings, citizenship ceremonies, Mayoral and civic receptions, openings of major events, official openings of Council buildings, and official events where the Mayor is present.</li> </ul> <p>Standard Acknowledgment of Country:</p> <p>"Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange Wurundjeri Elders to give a Welcome to Country address at significant community events.</li> <li>Promote Council's publication: 'The Wurundjeri Protocol: a guide to working with your local Aboriginal community' to give Council staff and community members contextual and practical information for engaging Wurundjeri Elders to perform Welcome to Country ceremonies.</li> </ul>
<p>27. Cultural awareness Training</p> <p><i>It is vital that staff have a sound understanding of local Aboriginal community peoples, histories, cultures and traditions. Cultural awareness amongst Council staff and Councillors is vital to the success of Council's work with the local Aboriginal community and to making the organisation a culturally safe for prospective Aboriginal employees.</i></p>	Team Leader Customer Experience/Library Management Team	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross cultural awareness training for all permanent staff by Wurundjeri Council, BSL or other recommended training provider in consultation with Colin Hunter and the PLVN Multicultural SIG.</li> <li>Possible host for training forum for all public libraries staff across Victoria for intercultural awareness at one of our library venues.</li> <li>Distribute to all staff "Racism stops with me" supporter toolkit.</li> </ul>

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<p>28. Celebrate NAIDOC Week.</p> <p><i>NAIDOC week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal histories, cultures and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Aboriginal Australians make to our country and our society.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>July 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to engage with their culture and community through NAIDOC Week events.</li> <li>• Support all staff to participate in events in the local community.</li> <li>• Promote Council affiliated NAIDOC week events (and other events happening in the local area) to the broader community.</li> <li>• Contact the Victorian NAIDOC Week Committee to discuss mutually-beneficial opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>29. Support local schools to teach Aboriginal history and cultures.</p> <p><i>The teacher's resource located on the Aboriginal History of Yarra website is a rich resource for local primary and secondary schools. It is important to continue to update this resource and ensure it remains user-friendly.</i></p>	<p>Special Projects Officer</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to build relationships with the Wurundjeri, local teachers and schools.</li> <li>• Seek feedback on version one of the local Aboriginal history teachers' resource. Update and publish this resource on the Aboriginal History of Yarra website and mobile web-app and promote to local schools.</li> </ul>
<p>30. Strengthen Indigenous Collection</p> <p><i>Yarra Libraries is committed to providing resources to the community on all aspects of Aboriginal culture, performing arts, history and current issues.</i></p>	<p>Collections team</p>	<p>June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous book collection to be further promoted and enhanced through careful displays across all branches.</li> <li>• Designated display space at Fitzroy Library all year round for indigenous collections.</li> <li>• Interfile the indigenous collection with library's collection, with aboriginal flags on spine for ease of access and keep the "aboriginal collection" classification in library's catalogue searches.</li> </ul>
<p>31. Purchase and display Aboriginal Languages of Victoria Map at all of our branches from Victorian Aboriginal Corporations of Languages (VCAL).</p> <p><i>To promote and educate the wider Yarra community on the different defined boundaries of the many Aboriginal tribes across Australia.</i></p>	<p>Yarra Libraries</p> <p>Library Development and Projects Officer</p>	<p>July 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact VACL to purchase Aboriginal Languages Victoria Maps.</li> <li>• Laminate and display in prominent area across five library branches.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>32. Incorporate an Indigenous Themed Storytime to be incorporated into a story-tub rotation between the 5 Yarra Library branches- featuring indigenous storybooks.</p> <p><i>Yarra library knows the importance of providing Aboriginal culture into its learnings. Early education is key to developing young minds</i></p>	<p>CYS team</p> <p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p>	<p>June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Aboriginal Partnerships Officer is to be consulted as to how that kit is to be put together and delivered throughout branches.</li> </ul>
<p>33. Wurundjeri Seasons</p> <p><i>To acknowledge and pay respects to the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional custodians of Yarra.</i></p>	<p>Community Programs Team, Yarra Library</p>	<p>January 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An hour long discussion/education session on the Wurundjeri seasons with Bill Nicolson at Bargoonga Nganjin.</li> </ul>
<p>34. Stolen Generation</p> <p><i>Members of the Stolen Generations suffered huge trauma &amp; grief, losing their connection to family, identity, land, language, and culture.</i></p>	<p>Community Programs Team, Yarra Library</p>	<p>May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A cultural forum discussion and presentation in the lead up to Reconciliation week/ Sorry Day/ Yarra's Stolen Generations marker launch.</li> </ul>
<p>35. Indigenous Literacy Day 2018. For Indigenous Literacy Day, Yarra Libraries will donate proceeds from a book sale to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.</p> <p>Special events will be run across all 5 branches on this day.</p> <p>Special story times will run this week across all 5 branches</p> <p><i>Indigenous literacy is another big issue in the Aboriginal community, and the City of Yarra is committed to improving literacy within the local Aboriginal community.</i></p>	<p>Community Programs Team/ Yarra Library/CYS team</p>	<p>September 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate books for sale.</li> <li>Register book sales with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.</li> <li>Schedule book sales to occur close to Indigenous literacy Day.</li> <li>Deposit book sales proceeds into the account provided by the Indigenous literacy Foundation.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>36. Promote &amp; educate the organisation about the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management agreements (ACHLMA's) when they are released</p> <p><i>To ensure these new changes to Aboriginal cultural heritage are adhered too.</i></p>	<p>Community Partnerships Unit Manager Sustainability Officer</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review guidelines and provide advice to relevant areas of Council engaged in this process.</li> <li>Link relevant Council officers with the Wurundjeri Cultural Heritage team.</li> </ul>
<p>37. Wurundjeri week</p> <p><i>To acknowledge and pay respects to the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional custodians of Yarra.</i></p>	<p>Community Programs team, Yarra Library</p>	<p>August 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation at Bargoonga Nganjin.</li> </ul>
<p>38. NAIDOC week</p> <p><i>Yarra Council knows the importance of providing Aboriginal resources to the wider Yarra community. It educates people on Yarra's rich Aboriginal history.</i></p>	<p>Digital Team/Community Programs team Yarra Library</p> <p>Community Partnerships</p>	<p>July 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with Community Partnerships develop education packs along with Teachers Resource Packs, including packs that can be borrowed that contain books, DVDs, walking trail maps, Snapshots of Fitzroy brochures etc.</li> <li>Launch kits in NAIDOC week, and have school holiday's activities run across all 5 branches.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

Focus area: EMPLOYMENT, ADVOCACY & RESPONSIVENESS			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
<p>39. Partner with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and other local organisations to employ Aboriginal workers in entry level roles in Council.</p> <p><i>Employing a person with strong community connection is vital to the success of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Gentrification and rising property prices are pushing the Aboriginal community further away from Melbourne's inner city areas. Increasing Aboriginal employment at Yarra is one way of strengthening Yarra's workforce and ensuring ongoing community connection to Yarra.</i></p> <p><i>"Yarra City Council is an equal opportunity employer. We draw pride and strength from our diversity. We support flexible and accessible working arrangements and we are an inclusive employer."</i></p>	Organisational Development, Engagement and Inclusion & Community Advocacy	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with HR coordinator, executive and line managers to identify appropriate roles.</li> <li>• Work with Brotherhood of St Laurence, Charcoal Lane and other organisations to identify suitable Aboriginal people.</li> <li>• Support amended application process to get people into roles.</li> <li>• Encourage Aboriginal employment in Council depot operations through the Autumn Leaves Program (up to 2 Aboriginal people employed 38 hours/week for 16 weeks in autumn, depending on workers available through partnership with Brotherhood of St Laurence).</li> <li>• To support this program and future employment of Aboriginal people, run at least 1 Aboriginal cultural awareness session for depot staff through the 'Tool Box' meetings.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>40. Seek opportunities to support the local Aboriginal community to be informed about the NDIS.</p> <p><i>The incidence of disability is more than twice that of non-Aboriginal people and culturally responsive measures are needed within the roll-out of the NDIS in the North East Metropolitan Area to ensure that adequate resources are available to the Aboriginal community.</i></p>	<p>Aged and Disability Services Officers</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate where the Balit Narrum working group is still operating.</li> <li>If Balit Narrum is operating attend the working group meetings and participate in any initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p>41. Continue to offer Yarra Leisure community memberships to members of the Parkies community and other disadvantaged members of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p><i>By offering Yarra Leisure community memberships to disadvantaged Aboriginal community members, Yarra hopes to reduce some of the barriers to greater participation and health within this community.</i></p>	<p>Community Development Officer (Yarra Leisure Services)</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 25 Yarra Leisure community memberships continue to be offered to disadvantaged/vulnerable members of the local Aboriginal community.</li> </ul>
<p>42. Seek opportunities to run Aboriginal history walking tours of Gertrude Street and surrounds.</p> <p><i>A business or social enterprise running regular walking tours will provide culturally appropriate employment for Aboriginal storytellers with a familial connection to Fitzroy or a passion for local history. Council's consultative work has repeatedly told us that there is real community interest and demand for cultural experiences of this kind.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnerships Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p> <p>Arts &amp; Cultural Development Officer</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Aboriginal organisations establishing walking tours in Gertrude Street and surrounds.</li> <li>Council to provide promotion through existing channels and support materials in kind, e.g. Wurundjeri History of Yarra publications, Aboriginal History of Yarra Walking maps.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>43. Advocate for representation of Aboriginal concerns in public space projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites.</p> <p><i>To ensure Aboriginal people's concerns are heard and considered in projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites.</i></p>	<p>Urban Design</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote increased dialogue with the Wurundjeri Council on urban design projects that interface with important Aboriginal sites (e.g. Atherton Gardens Estate, Yarra River corridor).</li> <li>Advocate for the inclusion of Aboriginal art and/or promotion of the Fitzroy Aboriginal Heritage Walking Trail as part of route 96, 11 and 86 tram stop upgrades around Gertrude Street (project led by PTV).</li> <li>Prepare the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan which includes streetscape and public realm proposals at the Brunswick Street / Gertrude Street intersection, near the proposed Stolen Generations Marker in Atherton Gardens.</li> </ul>
<p>44. Increase awareness of important Aboriginal community matters by promoting significant dates on the Aboriginal community calendar and promoting Aboriginal community events in Yarra.</p> <p><i>To raise awareness and the profile of the many significant dates and events on the Aboriginal calendar.</i></p>	<p>Communications – Advocacy, Engagement Advisor</p> <p>Media and Digital and Brand Officer</p> <p>Special Projects Officer</p>	<p>Promote events that take place throughout 2018, especially mid-year, when Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week take place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an Aboriginal Cultural Events Calendar for 2018, including dates/events of significance to the Aboriginal community, to assist officers plan support and promote these events (for internal use only).</li> <li>Design a brand mark for Council's 'Aboriginal Cultural Events Program', to be used when promoting any community events.</li> <li>Promote at least 10 important Aboriginal community calendar dates and local community events through Council's website, social media channels and publications.</li> <li>Review and update the Aboriginal Community section of Council's website to ensure information is current and all relevant resources are available.</li> </ul>
<p>45. Council commit to a communications plan that focuses on broader community education to help people better understand Aboriginal community experiences of January 26 and to explain Council's position on January 26.</p>	<p>Communications (Lead)</p> <p>Community Partnerships providing content</p>	<p>Ongoing during 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communications plan that will help to educate the wider community on why Aboriginal people feel the way they do about January 26</li> </ul>
<p>46. Council to partner with Melbourne Aboriginal Youth, Sport &amp; Recreation Incorporated to run education workshops for young Aboriginal people, run by and featuring a panel of local Aboriginal Elders with a connection to Fitzroy, the establishment of important Aboriginal</p>	<p>MAYSAR (Co-lead)</p> <p>Charcoal Lane</p> <p>Youth Services</p> <p>Community Partnerships (Co-lead)</p>	<p>First half of the year 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect MAYSAR, Yarra Youth Services, and Charcoal Lane.</li> <li>Book MAYSAR for this event.</li> <li>Identify appropriate Elders from the Aboriginal community.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

<p>organisations and other achievements.</p> <p><i>It is important that Council supports the Aboriginal community to try and educate the younger Aboriginal community about their history.</i></p>			
<p>47. Council commit to translating a January 26 information sheet into the 6 most commonly spoken community languages in Yarra, and partner with the Yarra Settlement Forum and the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group to distribute and promote.</p> <p><i>It's important that all sections of the Yarra community are given the correct information to be able to make an informed decision on January 26<sup>th</sup>.</i></p>	<p>Community Partnerships (Lead)</p> <p>YMAG</p> <p>YSF</p> <p>Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres</p> <p>Communications</p>	January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translate the January information sheet into the 6 most commonly spoken languages in Yarra.</li> <li>• Partner with Yarra's settlement Forum and Yarra's Multicultural Advisory group to promote and distribute these.</li> </ul>
<p>48. Council lobby and seek partnerships with State Government departments and other interested parties to acknowledge the Aboriginal community's pain and disconnection with Australia on January 26, and seek opportunities to promote education about this in the wider community.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships</p>	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage the relevant partners.</li> <li>• Ensure the relevant partners have an informed view of why Aboriginal people feel the way they do about January 26<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to educate the wider community.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 2 - Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

Tracking progress and reporting			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
49. Begin development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022	Aboriginal Partnerships Officer Special projects Officer	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the project plan for the development of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.</li> <li>Consult the local Aboriginal community on the development of the Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2019-2022</li> </ul>
50. Report on the year three action plan and write the year four action plan.  <i>To ensure Council's commitments to the local Aboriginal community in the third year action plan are met and that the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community are met in the fourth year action plan.</i>	Aboriginal Partnerships Officer Special Projects Officer	Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present report to Council on the successes and challenges of the year three action plan and present year four action plan to Council for endorsement.</li> </ul>

### Contact details

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**11.6 Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy 2014 - 2017 Annual Progress Report**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

- (a) To provide the annual progress report for 2017 for the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
- (b) To seek the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
- (c) To seek the adoption of the Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

### **Key Issues**

The Memorandum of Understanding and Partnerships Strategy define a shared vision for Council and the Houses, where collaboration, trust and flexibility can achieve resilient and empowered communities in a rapidly changing environment. The original Memorandum of Understanding was developed following an extensive consultation process in 2007 with all Houses and various Council Units and endorsed by Council in 2008. The Memorandum of Understanding and Partnerships Strategy is reviewed every four years in line with the Council Plan. The review process of the Memorandum of Understanding and Partnerships Strategy commenced in June 2017.

All houses continue to consolidate their strengths to address the changing political, financial and demographic impacts and developing new strategies and seeking new opportunities and partnerships to respond to the changes in positive and creative ways.

In moving forward the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network continues to seek collaborative projects, develop a core message to promote neighbourhood houses, their purpose, value and community benefit to a new demographic and engage more actively in resource sharing.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications from the review of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Partnerships Strategy 2018 – 2021 or from the annual progress report of the Action Plan for 2017. In 2017/18 Council allocated \$675,939.13 to Yarra's nine Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres through the Neighbourhood House Funding Program. The funding is based on the model that was adopted by Council in February 2012 and reviewed in October 2015.

### **PROPOSAL**

That Council:

- (a) note the progress report for 2017 of the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
- (b) adopt the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
- (c) adopt the Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

## 11.6 Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy 2014 - 2017 Annual Progress Report

Trim Record Number: D17/192598

Responsible Officer: Community Partnerships Unit Manager

### Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to:
  - (a) provide the annual progress report for 2017 for the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
  - (b) seek the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
  - (c) seek the adoption of the Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

### Background

2. Neighbourhood Houses play a vital role in building vibrant local communities. They are important places of inclusion and provide valuable social, recreational, educational and training opportunities that enable people to achieve their potential. They connect people in local communities through the vast volunteering opportunities they provide and the wide range of activities on offer.
3. The Victoria government provides recurrent funding to Neighbourhood Houses in accordance with Victorian Government priorities through the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) “to support the coordination of a service that provides community development activities consistent with the aims of the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program”. (*Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Guidelines 2016–2019 and sector information*). Other sources of income include the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Local Government, the Federal Government, Philanthropic Organisations and funds generated by Neighbourhood Houses themselves.
4. Neighbourhood Houses are funded through the Department of Health and Human Services to support the provision of community development programs and activities that lead to community strengthening outcomes by:
  - (a) supporting diversity and promoting community participation and inclusion;
  - (b) facilitating community development and capacity building in support of individuals and groups within communities;
  - (c) supporting lifelong learning opportunities for people to improve their access to training and employment pathways; and
  - (d) undertake community development processes to address locally identified priorities and needs.
5. Community development practice is based on the premise that communities have strengths and assets.
6. Additionally Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres in Yarra are governed by independent and volunteer Governance Committees and run by paid, staff and volunteers.
7. In June 2013 Council formally adopted the Memorandum of Understanding 2013 – 2017 (MOU). Council also adopted the Partnerships Strategy 2014 – 2017 (the Strategy) with Yarra’s nine Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (the Houses) in March 2014. The Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan sets out three key areas with actions that support and strengthen the collaborative partnership between Council and the Houses. The nine Houses that are signatories to the MOU and the Partnerships Strategy are:
  - (a) Alphington Community Centre;
  - (b) Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House;

- (c) Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre;
  - (d) Collingwood Neighbourhood House;
  - (e) Finbar Neighbourhood House;
  - (f) Fitzroy Learning Network;
  - (g) Holden Street Neighbourhood House;
  - (h) North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House; and
  - (i) Richmond Community Learning Centre.
8. *The Strategy and Action Plan confirms and clarifies roles, relationships, partnering opportunities and mutual benefits of a more coordinated, collaborative approach between the Houses and Council. It reflects the strong working relationships of the Houses with several of Council's branches e.g., Library Services, Sustainability and Strategic Transport, Waste Minimisation, Building and Property Management, Communications, Emergency and Risk Management, Leisure Services, Open Space Management, Social Policy & Research, Aged and Disability Services and Family, Youth and Children's Services.*
9. The Strategy and Action Plan is an active document that provides a collaborative environment for the Houses to work in partnership with the various units/branches across Council to deliver appropriate and responsive programs and activities to Yarra residents. The Action Plan is reviewed annually to maintain flexibility.

#### Achievements of the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan for 2017

10. All Houses delivered on the three key areas from the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan for 2017. **(Attachment 1)**. The following are some of the highlights for 2017:
- (a) *Strategy 1: Undertake a change management process:*
    - (i) Richmond Community Learning Centre (RCLC) engaged with Council to explore the possibility of solely managing the Studio1 Community Hub on Bendigo Street in addition to Burnley Backyard on Tudor Street and Richmond Community Learning Centre on Lord Street. RCLC will continue to identify opportunities and develop strategies to respond to the changing demographic environment across the three sites;
    - (ii) Belgium Avenue continues to partner with Melbourne University Marketing and Entrepreneurial students to explore internships for the development of marketing strategies for the Neighbourhood Houses in Yarra;
    - (iii) Collingwood, Belgium Ave, Holden Street and RCLC are trialling activities and programs outside business hours: including craft markets, music performances and family events such as rollerblading in the Collingwood underground carpark;
    - (iv) Belgium Avenue continues to maintain a strong partnership with Ford Australia as part of their "good corporate citizens" program. This involves Ford staff as part of their community service program supporting the house with various projects and maintenance activities e.g. assisting with the Belgium Ave community garden;
    - (v) Alphington Community Centre (ACC) and North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House (Railway House) are strengthening partnerships with local schools to engage families, children and young people in a range of skills based and peer support activities;
    - (vi) Following several years of planning and negotiations with Council, ACC established a Men's Shed to help men maintain connections to community, for skills development and to promote health and wellbeing;

- (vii) Fitzroy Learning Network (FLN) engaged with local women to develop a “Women in Leadership” training program to provide skill development and pathways for employment participation and as an outcome established the FLN Catering Group; and
- (viii) All Houses participated in a presentation by Council’s Social Policy Unit on 2016 census data specific to the Houses to identify changing population trends in each of the neighbourhood areas. Each House was provided with data specific to their community to assist in the future planning and marketing of services, programs and activities.

(b) *Strategy 2: Marketing, Branding and Communication:*

- (i) “Music and Art from the Heart” - a special musical and art event was presented for the fourth year by Yarra’s Neighbourhood House Network (the Network) to celebrate Neighbourhood House Week 2017. With over 200 residents attending this was a collaborative event with all Houses and Council to deliver a community event showcasing choirs, folk singers, bands and arts and crafts. This has become an annual event that promotes the community development work of the Houses to the Yarra residents, Council staff, and local agencies;
- (ii) The Network in partnership with Council’s Communications Unit has developed a new brochure highlighting the diversity of projects, activities and services delivered by the nine Houses that support Council’s key strategic goals;
- (iii) The Network continues to upload information to Facebook to promote the work of the Houses in Yarra to a broader demographic and strengthen its online presence. All Houses continue to upgrade their websites and maintain an active social media presence to market their programs and activities to a broader more diverse Yarra community. Collingwood and Belgium Ave are developing short documentaries on special events and uploading to social media. FLN initiated a crowd funding platform to raise funds online for programs and activities. The process and learnings were shared with all Houses;
- (iv) All Houses continue to work with Yarra Libraries to cross promote projects, services and events to broaden community knowledge of the Houses, improve the capacity of Houses and to market programs to a changing demographic e.g., “Movies in the Park” held at the park adjacent to Holden St, Children’s Storytime at Alphington, English language conversation classes and Broadband for Seniors at Carlton Learning Centre. In addition RCLC, Belgium Ave and Carlton partnered with Yarra Libraries to deliver “Community Connections Day” to promote activities and services provided by the Libraries and the Houses. The Library Coordinator, Community Learning and Partnerships continues to meet with the Network and individual Houses to promote specific House projects via the Library newsletter;
- (v) FLN in collaboration with Yarra Libraries and Fitzroy Legal Service delivered the “Bridges to Harmony” Festival to promote diversity, celebrate multiculturalism and bring the disparate communities of Fitzroy together. This was a great success and the event is now planned to be delivered annually; and
- (vi) the “Link” newsletter produced by the Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy high-rise estates, continues to be utilised as a promotional tool for all Houses to profile and highlight specific programs, activities and events to Yarra residents.

(c) *Strategy 3: Resource Sharing and Collaboration:*

- (i) The Network continues to explore models for resource sharing and collaboration as well as joint funding opportunities to expand the capacity of Houses across the Yarra;
- (ii) All Houses continue to use the Dropbox to share resources such as policies and procedures;

- (iii) The Network has had various speakers on the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to explore how the Neighbourhood House sector can most effectively position itself in the new NDIS landscape;
  - (iv) Houses continue to identify particular skill sets to share and promote their strengths in specific areas. E.g., grant writing, catering, art and music etc. The Network continues to maintain strong relationships with various Council units, e.g., Library Services, Sustainability and Strategic Transport, Waste Management, Open Space Management, Family and Children's Services and the Community Partnerships Branch to update Houses on Council strategies and project opportunities; and
  - (v) All Houses maintain strong links with each other and share resources with their key local agencies and networks to share information, refer clients, cross promote services and respond to emerging issues for their local communities.
11. Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses are unique in creating opportunities for people to connect, learn and contribute in their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities that enable people to achieve their potential, using a unique community development approach.
  12. All the nine Houses respond to locally identified needs and priorities and each is as diverse as the community it reflects. According to the neighbourhood houses survey in 2015 by the peak body Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, approximately 2,800 people visited a Yarra Neighbourhood House in a week. This included students, volunteers, children in child care, people from other organisations for training/meetings and "drop-ins". Approximately 75% of the participants were involved in programed activities.
  13. All nine Houses provide a range of activities that meet the needs of the local community such as accredited vocational education & training, art and craft, children's activities and child care, community choirs, community events and lunches, digital literacy, English language classes, sustainability projects, health and wellbeing classes, men's shed, seniors and youth groups as well as programs for refugee and recently arrived communities.

### External Consultation

14. The MOU and the Strategy is an ongoing agreement subject to review and evaluation every four years, in line with the Council Plan. The MOU was reviewed during 2017 over a 6 month period involving all House Managers, Committees of Governance, staff and users of the Houses. There were some minor adjustments to some sections of the document. The key changes were:
  - (a) under the title *Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding*: To foster and support a working relationship between NH&LCs and Council has been changed to - *To foster and support a respectful and trusting working relationship between Neighbourhood Houses and Council*;
  - (b) under the title *Benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding*: in Section 1.11, the historical context and grass-roots nature of each NH&LC has been changed to - *That Neighbourhood Houses have a long history of grass roots engagement and are uniquely placed to respond to the evolving needs of the communities of Yarra*; and
  - (c) under the title *Benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding*: in Section 2.12, ensuring that all Council staff are made aware of NH&LC and their capacity to contribute to overall Council Plan has been changed to - *Creating opportunities to promote to all council staff on what Neighbourhood Houses do*.
15. All feedback was incorporated to produce the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses. The final document has been endorsed by all the Houses and Committees of Governance (**Attachment 2**).

16. The Strategy was also reviewed at the same time as the MOU and has also been endorsed by all Houses and Committees of Governance. Four of the objectives from the Council Plan 2018 – 2021 were chosen as the focus for the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021. (**Attachment 3**). These objectives are:
  - (a) Community Health, Safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;
  - (b) Inclusion Diversity and Uniqueness are welcomed respected and celebrated;
  - (c) Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment; and
  - (d) Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive.
17. The review process for both documents was facilitated by the Manager of the North East neighbourhood House Network (NENHN) and involved all House Managers, staff and representatives from their respective Governance Committees.

### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

18. Internal consultation for the review of the MOU and the Strategy was undertaken with Council Officers from various Branches including: Community Partnerships, Library Services, Leisure Services, Waste Management, Aged and Disability Services, Open Space Management, Property Services, Sustainability and Urban Agriculture and Family, Youth and Children's Services. The review process was coordinated by Officers from the Community Partnerships Unit who have the major responsibility for managing the relationship with the nine Houses.
19. The Action Plan is reviewed annually at a planning day facilitated by the Manager of NENHN and attended by the House Managers, staff, Governance Members and Council staff. The implementation of the annual Action Plan is monitored by the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network and Council's Community Partnerships Unit.

### **Financial Implications**

20. There are no financial implications from the annual progress report of the Action Plan for 2017 or from the review of the MOU and the Strategy 2018 – 2021.
21. In 2017/18 Council allocated \$675,939.13 to Yarra's nine Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres through the Neighbourhood House Funding Program. The funding is based on the model that was adopted by Council in February 2012 and reviewed in October 2015.
22. Further to the Neighbourhood House Funding Program, Council has a capital responsibility as it is the landlord to four of the Houses: Holden Street Neighbourhood House, North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House, Richmond Community Learning Centre, Burnley Backyard and landlord to the land adjacent to Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House on which a portable is located and used to provide a range of activities. These financial responsibilities of Council as landlord will not change.
23. In addition, Council and RCLC have been engaged in discussions around the possibility of RCLC having sole management of Studio1 Community Hub on Bendigo Street in addition to Burnley Backyard on Tudor Street and Richmond Community Learning Centre on Lord Street. Studio 1 Community Hub is currently being leased to RCLC in a unique partnership arrangement between Council and the Learning Centre. RCLC have requested Council to see if other options for management of Studio 1 Community Hub could be explored.

### **Economic Implications**

24. The direct and indirect economic implications that Yarra's Houses have on the Yarra community and businesses are primarily around the adult education that occurs within the Houses. This provides opportunities for adults to learn new skills and creates pathways for transition into the workforce, education or further training. This includes the English classes, programs and activities that assist and support newly arrived communities to participate fully in their local community and develop a better understanding of life in Australia.

25. In addition, the Houses provide a variety of full and part time employment for teachers, childcare workers, administration, project workers, community development workers, arts practitioners, financial and IT staff that are important sources of local employment.
26. Yarra's Houses have a high volunteer participation rate. This contribution to Yarra's economy is significant in terms of economic and social capital.

### **Sustainability Implications**

27. The MOU and the Strategy have an important role in continuing to strengthening the relationship between the Houses and Council's Sustainability, Waste Minimisation and Open Space Units in educating and supporting Houses in their sustainability initiatives.
28. Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre's (CNLC) multicultural food garden, workshops on the living classroom and Open Table Feasts encourage knowledge on growing food, composting, minimising landfill and provide a gathering place for sharing and learning skills for sustainable living.
29. Finbar continues to develop its Community Garden Project in collaboration with Council's Sustainability Unit. The project provides opportunities to share excess produce with the local community as well as with not for profit organisations such as Fare Share and Second Bite. It also offers organic seeds to encourage and inspire the local community to start their own gardens. The House has strong connections with local businesses to encourage compost donations used to nourish the garden and help to reduce landfill. In addition, Finbar delivered an annual "Urban Field Day" event promoting a range of sustainability activities to encourage the local community to grow their own gardens, composting, and waste minimisation and recycling.
30. Environmental and Sustainability activities continue to be an integral part of Holden Street in being a role model to the local community in reuse, recycling and limiting energy consumption. The House continues to be part of the Sustainable Living Festival with its many environmental features, such as solar panels, lights, water tanks, permaculture and rainwater gardens as well as herb gardens and worm farms. In addition the House provides gardening and preserving workshops and has a produce swap program.
31. RCLC in partnership with Council's Sustainability Unit has launched the pilot project "Burnley Fruit Squad" to harvest excess fruit from local residents, minimise food waste, promote sustainable food initiatives, share fresh fruit with the community and help improve food security for vulnerable groups in Yarra.
32. ACC continues to strengthen its composting and gardening initiatives with support from local groups to establish a new market garden and an urban orchard in addition to providing sustainability workshops, food preserving and participating in the Darebin Backyard Harvest Festival.
33. Railway House in partnership with Council's Waste Minimisation Unit has become a collection point for battery, mobile phones, camera recycling and soft plastics. The House is actively promoting recycling practices within the House and with the local community to improve knowledge on the correct disposal of rubbish and recyclable items. In addition a local group of residents have established "The Carbon Cutters" to inform the local community on ways to reduce environmental impact, and sustainable gardening. The House also provides workshops with a local artist for children using recyclable items for art activities.

### **Social Implications**

34. The Houses play a key role in community development through: building knowledge, developing skills, increasing levels of resilience, mutuality and trust within the community. The Houses have a track record in:
  - (a) community building and strengthening through cultural events and festivals celebrating and showcasing Yarra's culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD);

- (b) providing appropriate and responsive community services: for children, young people, the elderly, people with disabilities, CALD, refugee and newly arrived and disadvantaged communities;
- (c) providing opportunities to improve community health and well-being and social connectedness, through a range of exercise programs and community gym memberships; and
- (d) Offering accessible and affordable education, skills development, life-long learning and training opportunities and employment pathways.

### **Human Rights Implications**

35. The MOU and the Strategy recognises and respects the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* by actively supporting the Charter's substantive rights through the programs and activities offered by the Houses.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

36. All Houses deliver a range of programs, services and activities to CALD communities across Yarra. There are no implications for the way the Houses communicate, engage with or deliver services to their CALD communities.
37. As part of their core business, all Houses, engage with CALD, refugee and newly arrived communities through educational programs, social activities such as community lunches and cultural celebrations such as Lunar New Year.
38. Some Houses also have individuals from CALD backgrounds on Committees of Governance, acting as facilitators for specific groups such as playgroups, and leading specific community development projects such as supporting African Women's Groups. Houses also support a wide variety of ethno-specific groups by auspicing their activities.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

39. The Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 relates to the new Council Plan 2017 – 2021 via the following strategic objectives:
- (a) A healthy Yarra: Community Health, Safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;
  - (b) An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion Diversity and Uniqueness are welcomed respected and celebrated; and
  - (c) A sustainable Yarra: Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment;
  - (d) A prosperous Yarra: Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive; and
  - (e) A leading Yarra: Transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.

### **Legal Implications**

40. The MOU and the Strategy is not legally binding on either or both parties.

### **Other Issues**

41. Council continues to provide publicity and marketing support to Houses via the development of a new brochure highlighting the diversity of projects and services delivered by the Houses that support Council's Strategic goals, by including articles in Yarra News, Yarra website and social media to improve knowledge and access to more diverse groups.

## **Conclusion**

42. The MOU and the Strategy acknowledges the valuable relationship between Council and the Houses and provides a framework of trust and collaboration to deliver programs and activities that enable people to achieve their potential and benefit the Yarra community. The MOU and Strategy defines a shared vision for Council and the Houses, where collaboration, trust and flexibility can achieve healthy, creative, connected and resilient communities in a rapidly changing environment.
43. All Houses continue to build on their strengths to address the changing political, financial and demographic impacts by developing new strategies and seeking new opportunities and partnerships to respond to the changes in positive and creative ways.
44. In moving forward the Network continues to explore collaborative projects, develop a core message to promote neighbourhood houses, their purpose, value and community benefit to a new demographic and engage more actively in resource sharing.
45. The Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 is based on the strategic objectives of the Council Plan which demonstrates the level of commitment by the Houses and Learning Centres to work in partnership with Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) note the annual progress report for 2017 of the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
  - (b) adopt the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
  - (c) adopt the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Katherine Vrettas  
**TITLE:** Community Planner  
**TEL:** 9205 5174

## **Attachments**

- 1 Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017
- 2 Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021
- 3 Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017

### Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017 Year 4 Actions – 2017

STRATEGY	ACTION	WHO	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Strategy 1: Undertake a change management process to reach Yarra's new demographic.</b></p> <p>Based on the current context the partnership is operating in, continue to undertake a change process to adapt, be sustainable and viable in the changing environment and forge a new role for houses as connectors with the new communities of Yarra.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the changes that we need to respond to as NHs e.g., requests for new activities.</li> <li>Belgium Ave Neighbourhood House (BANH) and Richmond Community Learning Centre (RCLC) to share findings of research projects at a Yarra Network Meeting.</li> <li>Council Planner to do presentation for NHs on preliminary data from 2016 Census.</li> <li>Explore after hours use of houses / share results of Holden St NH 'After Dark' Project.</li> <li>Offer innovations workshop on working with Yarra's new demographic and a changing environment. etc.</li> </ul>	<p>All Neighbourhood Houses, Communities of Management, Staff Volunteers Council's Community Planning Unit</p>	<p>All Houses conducted surveys to assess current and future needs of residents. Several NHs trialling after hours activities/programs e.g., markets, music night, celebrations, family events subject to Council regulations. Several NHs continue to strengthen partnerships with corporate sector, e.g. Ford Australia, Bendigo Bank. Collingwood and Belgium Ave NHs houses are developing relationships with Philanthropic organisations to seek alternative funding sources. Alphington and Railway NHs are strengthening partnerships with local schools to engage families, children and young people in a range of skills based activities e.g., peer support/leadership. Alphington established a Men's Shed. Council's Social Policy Unit presented Census data specific to NHs and the changing trends in each of the 9 neighbourhoods. Houses to</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017

### Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017 Year 4 Actions – 2017

			use data for future planning and marketing.
<p><b>Strategy 2: Marketing, branding and communication.</b></p> <p>As a network define a key consistent message and develop strategies to market and communicate with the whole of the community, both new and established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a consistent message e.g.: “Your House, Your Community” or “Your House Our Community”.</li> <li>• Explore a new Yarra NH logo to profile the Houses and the network as a collective.</li> <li>• Explore the possibility of presenting House reports in an alternative format e.g. short film/YouTube showcasing achievements etc.</li> <li>• Continue to develop Yarra Facebook page, e.g., create a snap shot page to promote each house.</li> <li>• Connect with Melbourne Uni marketing interns to assist with marketing of houses.</li> <li>• Develop AVANT cards.</li> <li>• Develop posters to advertise houses across Yarra e.g. at Transport stops.</li> <li>• Use real estate boards to promote the work of Houses – e.g. women from different cultures and their recipes.</li> <li>• Walking groups to do letter drops promoting house activities.</li> <li>• Develop short documentaries of neighbourhood house activities/events and post on social media.</li> <li>• Develop neighbourhood house report to profile houses across Council and the broader community.</li> </ul>	<p>Yarra Network All neighbourhood houses Community Planning Unit Council Communications Unit</p>	<p>New Yarra NH network brochure produced in Partnership with Council’s Communications Unit to promote houses to a broader demographic.</p> <p>All Houses developing new marketing strategies via social media e.g., Facebook, twitter etc. to reach a broader demographic in Yarra.</p> <p>Visits to several houses by Mayor.</p> <p>Link Community newsletter used as a marketing tool for NH activities across the Yarra housing estates and across council.</p> <p>All Houses continue posting of information on Yarra Facebook page to promote houses in social media space to a broader demographic.</p> <p>Belgium Av and Collingwood Houses developing ‘in house’ short documentaries on special events and uploading to social media. E.g., “space between light” festival at Richmond estate.</p> <p>FLN worked with Yarra</p>

## Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017

### Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017 Year 4 Actions – 2017

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain connection with libraries to cross promote via the Library calendar</li> <li>• Create short film on "Music from the Heart" community event and post on social media.</li> <li>• Fitzroy Learning Network (FLN) to share crowd funding experience.</li> <li>• Continue to engage with Councillors.</li> <li>• Continue to engage with staff across Council.</li> </ul>		<p>Libraries and Fitzroy Legal Service to plan and deliver the "Bridges to Harmony" Festival. FLN initiated a crowd funding project to support key services and shared learnings with Network.</p> <p>Finbar collaborates with local real-estate providers to promote special events/celebrations. Belgium Ave, Richmond, and Carlton NHs collaborated with Yarra Libraries in "Community Connections" Day to promote services/activities etc. provided by libraries and Houses to a broader community.</p> <p>All Houses collaborated in delivering "Music and Art from the Heart" to promote Houses during NH week to the broader community.</p> <p>Ongoing collaborations with Yarra libraries across all NH e.g., children's Storytime, 'English language conversation lounges', broadband for seniors, movies in the park at Holden St and at Collingwood and Richmond Housing estates.</p>
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## Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017

### Attachment 1 - Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017 Year 4 Actions – 2017

			Individual houses maintain regular contact with their Ward Councillors. Houses engage with various council units for input into policies/projects and to link council officers to community groups for consultation purposes e.g., social policy.
<p><b>Strategy 3: Resource Sharing and Collaboration</b> Investigate the opportunities and operating models for resource sharing and collaboration e.g. IT, finance, human resources, volunteering, cleaning, office supplies, etc. specifically for the Yarra Network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network to discuss relevance of findings from Barwon Network's Shared Services Research project.</li> <li>• Develop a working group to review the feasibility of bulk purchasing, audits and cleaning equipment etc.</li> <li>• Develop a volunteer network group to explore shared volunteer services across all the houses.</li> <li>• Develop a working group to establish a casual employee data bank including policies and procedures.</li> <li>• Houses continue to use dropbox for shared resources e.g. policies/strategies.</li> <li>• Develop a shared equipment list with policies and procedures for use (e.g. laptops, sewing machines,</li> <li>• Explore formal ways to do joint funding submissions.</li> <li>• Invite Knox Learning Alliance (KLA) to present on their model of collaboration and joint tender writing.</li> </ul>	<p>The Network</p> <p>Individual Neighbourhood Houses</p>	<p>Representative from Barwon network shared findings with Yarra network</p> <p>Ongoing discussions at Network meetings on the feasibility of bulk purchasing. Manager from Alphington Community Centre established and coordinated the Yarra Volunteer Network group.</p> <p>All Houses continue to use Dropbox for shared resources, policies/procedures/strategies, promotion of activities etc.</p> <p>Network continues to investigate joint funding opportunities as they arise. The Knox Learning Alliance presented to the Network on models of collaboration.</p>

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2018-2021**

**Yarra City Council  
And  
Yarra Neighbourhood Houses**

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

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## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

### Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding

- Yarra City Council
- Yarra Neighbourhood Houses
  - Alphington Community Centre
  - Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House
  - Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
  - Collingwood Neighbourhood House
  - Finbar Neighbourhood House
  - Fitzroy Learning Network
  - Holden Street Neighbourhood House
  - North Carlton Railway Station Neighbourhood House
  - Richmond Community Learning Centre

(For the purpose of this document, the letters 'NH' will be used to describe all centres listed above, and the words 'Committees of Governance' will be used to describe their incorporated governance bodies.)

### Preamble

Yarra is made up of a diverse and dynamic population. As such it is a constant challenge ensuring that programs, services and new initiatives are relevant and responsive to the needs of our community. Yarra is home to 89 710 people. About 19% of Yarra residents were born in non-English speaking countries and 23% speak a language other than English at home. The municipality is undergoing rapid change with many new housing developments and the population is expected to grow by 30% over the next 20 years.<sup>1</sup>

The Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council have a mutual primary goal to engage with these communities in determining the provision of equitable recreational, social, vocational training, environmental and other health and well being opportunities. In order to work in a truly collaborative manner and ensure roles and respect the vision and goals of each participating organisation – Yarra City Council and Yarra Neighbourhood Houses are committed to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The original MOU was developed after an extensive consultation process of forums throughout 2007, which all parties attended. A working group of representatives from Neighbourhood Houses and Council steered the process. The MOU was reviewed in 2012 and 2017.

### Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding:

- To formally acknowledge the partnership between Council and Neighbourhood Houses;

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<sup>1</sup> ABS Census 2016

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

- To foster and support a respectful and trusting working relationship between Neighbourhood Houses and Council; and
- To provide a framework of understanding on which all other documents, agreements and partnerships between the parties can be formulated.

### Definition of Partnership

For the purpose of this document, the term 'partnership' is deemed to be the process by which local government and Neighbourhood Houses combine their capacities and resources to achieve a commonly agreed set of objectives (outlined in the MOU Annual Action Plan) that would be difficult to achieve by either organisation acting on their own behalf (edited from '*Neighbourhood Houses & Local Government - Building Communities Together*', ANHLC 2005).

(See appendix 1 for Partnership Framework diagram).

### Term & Scope of the document

- The MOU is an ongoing agreement, subject to review and evaluation every four years, in line with the Council Plan.
- The MOU does not preclude the rights of either party to engage in other partnerships and alliances.
- The MOU is deemed a public document.

### Legal Status of the Document

- This MOU is not legally binding on either or both parties.

### Benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding

- Greater levels of trust, respect and understanding between the parties.
- Enhanced planning processes for community development and the delivery of dynamic programs, activities and services involving the broader community.
- Increased knowledge, information and resource sharing between the parties.
- A vibrant, diverse and effective Neighbourhood House program for all City of Yarra residents.
- Achievement of mutually desired outcomes

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

### Key Understandings

#### 1. RECOGNITION AND RESPECT

##### Neighbourhood Houses recognise and respect:-

- 1.1 The common vision, principles and values between Council and Neighbourhood Houses (as per Council Plan 2017-2021 and Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The Council imperative to meet the social, environmental, physical and financial objectives outlined in Council planning documents, policies and the Local Government Act.
- 1.3 The diversity and competing interests of services, activities and programs which Council is required to provide, and its support and advocacy on behalf of the wider community.
- 1.4 The decision-making processes and formal practices to which Councillors and Council staff are bound.
- 1.5 The political and legislative context in which Council operates.
- 1.6 Council's commitment to be consultative about areas of its operations where the community can influence its decisions.
- 1.7 The level of accountability which applies to Council activities.

##### Council recognises and respects:-

- 1.8 The common vision and principles between Council and Neighbourhood Houses.
- 1.9 The diversity, autonomy and self-determination of individual Neighbourhood Houses.
- 1.10 The strong commitment to community development principles and practices (Appendix 2) resulting in an inclusive, flexible 'whole of community' response to community's diverse needs and interests.
- 1.11 That Neighbourhood Houses have a long history of grass roots engagement and are uniquely placed to respond to the evolving needs of the communities of Yarra.
- 1.12 The community ownership of each Neighbourhood House, through members and Committees of Governance, who represent the wider community.
- 1.13 The integral nature of community participation and volunteering in all levels of Neighbourhood House operations.
- 1.14 The responsiveness to local and emerging needs, in particular those who are disadvantaged, that each Neighbourhood House demonstrates through its programming and activities.

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

- 1.15 That Neighbourhood Houses operate under a complex mix of funding arrangements.
- 1.16 The limited resources and facilities and competitive funding environment by which Neighbourhood Houses are constrained.
- 1.17 Each Neighbourhood House needs to constantly balance competing priorities within individual strategic plans.
- 1.18 The relationship to a broader Neighbourhood House sector, both State and Federal, via the North East Neighbourhood House Network and the peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.
- 1.19 The commitment by Yarra Neighbourhood Houses to a collaborative approach in the planning and delivery of programs and services.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITY**

#### **Neighbourhood Houses accept responsibility for:**

- 2.1 The delivery of programs, referrals, activities and services according to community development principles that are responsive to local and emerging needs (appendix 2).
- 2.2 Remaining inclusive and encouraging of community participation at all levels of Neighbourhood House operations, including Committees of Governance.
- 2.3 Ensuring that good governance processes and practices are in place, including financial management, risk management and strategic planning.
- 2.4 Providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment and compliance with relevant Council, State and Federal regulations and legislative obligations.
- 2.5 Addressing disadvantage, wherever possible, and advocating with and on behalf of members of local communities.
- 2.6 Keeping Council informed about social trends, issues and opportunities which affect local communities.
- 2.7 Participating in Council planning and policy development opportunities where possible.
- 2.8 Partnering with Council in a positive, constructive and respectful manner
- 2.9 Act in the spirit of this MOU.

#### **Council accepts responsibility for:**

- 2.10 Supporting and enabling Neighbourhood House participation in all relevant planning, policy development and consultation processes.

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

- 2.11 Ongoing provision of a Neighbourhood House Funding Program and access to relevant Council funding and resources which contribute towards the financial sustainability of Neighbourhood Houses and in kind support to the Yarra Neighborhood House Network.
- 2.12 Creating opportunities to promote to all council staff on what Neighbourhood Houses do.
- 2.13 Advocating with and on behalf of Neighbourhood Houses at state and federal government levels when necessary.
- 2.14 Maintaining Council owned buildings and grounds and signs as per the Building Assets Management Plan.
- 2.15 Advising Neighbourhood Houses to enable compliance with required standards and legislative obligations
- 2.16 Partnering with Neighbourhood Houses in a positive, constructive and respectful manner.
- 2.17 Collaborating and engaging with the North East Neighbourhood House Network.
- 2.18 Act in the spirit of this MOU.

### **3. MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

#### **Neighbourhood Houses and Council will be accountable via:**

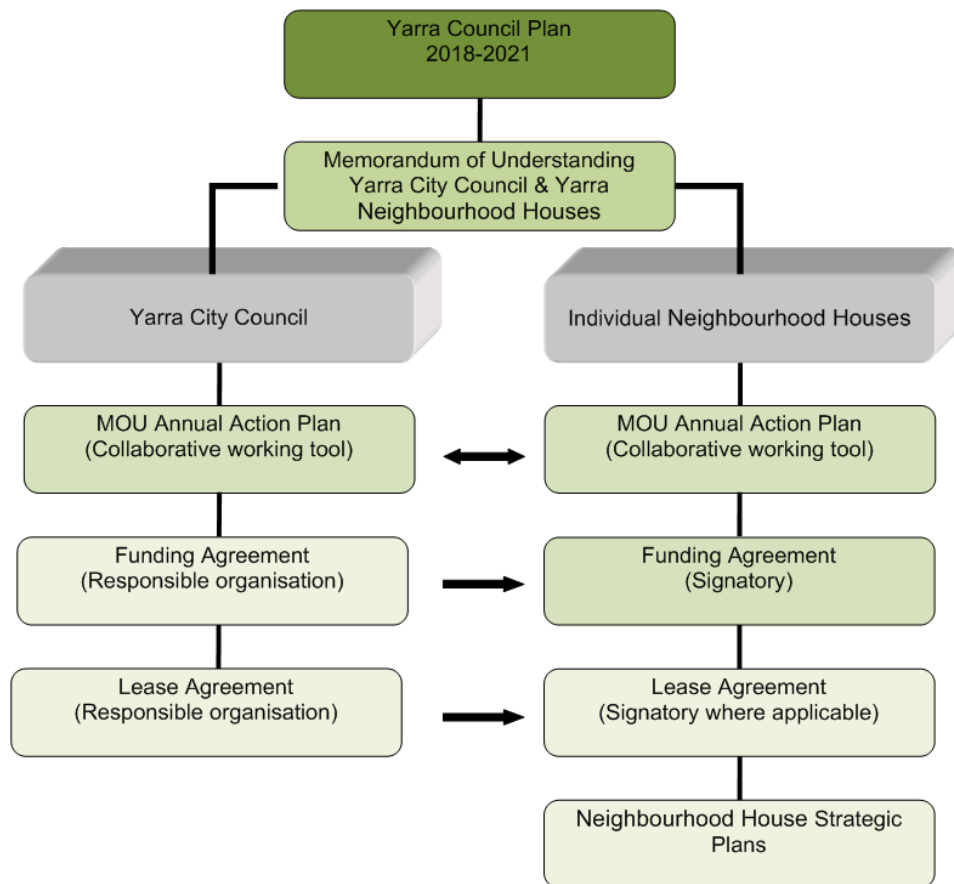
- 3.1 Timeliness and quality of agreed reports and information.
- 3.2 Participation in and implementation of the collective Yarra City Council Neighbourhood Houses MOU Action Plan.
- 3.3 An annual report by Officers to Council on the Neighbourhood House MOU Action Plan.
- 3.4 Both parties agree to abide by the dispute resolution procedure (appendix 3).

#### **Neighbourhood Houses**

- 3.5 Provision of strategic planning documents.
- 3.6 Provision of an Annual Report, including an annual financial statement.
- 3.7 Compliance with Council funding and where relevant leasing agreements.

## APPENDIX 1

### Partnership Framework



## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

### APPENDIX 2

#### Community Development Principles

The following principles are deemed to apply when reference is made to Community Development principles. (Acknowledgement to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria for reproduction of these principles.)

##### **Community Participation**

Everyone has a valuable contribution to make and community members can join in at any level. Volunteers and community members are integral to the decision-making, evaluation, provision, participation and direction setting at all levels of the organisation.

##### **Community Ownership**

Members are actively involved in decision-making and have ownership of the centre's programs and activities. A voluntary management committee comprising elected members who live, work or participate in the local community governs each centre. The governance model is developmental, working co-operatively and collaboratively with staff, volunteers, centre participants and the wider community, thus generating a range of community benefits.

##### **Empowerment**

A process that respects, values and enhances people's ability to have control over their lives is put into practice. This process encourages people to meet their needs and aspirations in a self-aware and informed way which takes advantage of their skills, experience and potential. Change and growth occurs through informing and empowering individuals and communities. Houses and centres do not seek to do for others but to empower others to do for themselves.

##### **Lifelong Learning**

Learning is integrated into all aspects of centre activities, thus building and supporting the personal skills, knowledge, abilities and resilience of people. The health, wellbeing and connection of people and their families occur through formal and informal pathways in education, employment and self-development.

##### **Inclusion**

The diverse contributions that people make are valued, no matter what their background or varying abilities. Individual and local needs are acknowledged and addressed, often through informal interaction. Identifying these needs and issues through a range of methods is instrumental to informing the planning and development of activities and programs.

##### **Access and Equity**

Centres are accessible and welcoming. They promote a fairer distribution of economic resources and power between people by aiming to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural infrastructures within their communities.

## **Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021**

### **Social Action**

Internal and external factors that impact on the local community are analysed and relationships between individuals, groups and organisations and within the community transformed through collective action.

### **Advocacy**

In meeting individual and group needs, Neighbourhood Houses act with, or on behalf of, community members.

### **Networking**

Linking, forming alliances, collaborating and working with individuals, groups, other agencies, government and business are crucial, with interaction between formal and informal methods to achieve connections within the local communities.

### **Self Help**

Individuals are supported in coming together in a caring group environment to share information, knowledge, skills and life experience in order that each participant can reach their own personal goals.

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021

### APPENDIX 3

#### Dispute Resolution Procedures

Should a dispute arise over any aspect of the Memorandum of Understanding, the parties involved will adopt the following procedures in an effort to negotiate a satisfactory resolution.

Points of references for determining whether or not the MOU has been breached will be:

- the understandings and the responsibilities contained in the MOU
- the obligations and conditions contained in the funding agreement.

In the event of a dispute between a Neighbourhood House and Council:

- Either party may request a meeting within 7 days of the disagreement to discuss the matter in dispute and negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution.

If the dispute cannot be resolved between the parties through direct communication within 28 days of the initial meeting, the parties will appoint a mediator. If no agreement can be reached about a suitable mediator, the matter will be referred to the Dispute Settlement of Victoria (DSV) to appoint a mediator. The parties must agree to equally share any fees and costs associated with the mediation process.

Both parties must agree to follow the terms of the agreement made at mediation.

## Attachment 2 - Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021



### SIGNATORIES TO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Signed by the Chairperson / President on behalf of:

Name of Neighbourhood House:

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Signature:

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Print full name:

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Date:

---

Signed on behalf of Yarra City Council.

Signature:

---

Print full name:

---

Date:

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**Attachment 3 - Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021**

## Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 - 2021

### Introduction

This partnership strategy was formulated by Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and representatives of Yarra City Council. It provides a partnership approach to addressing identified needs in the community. By working collaboratively, all parties can draw on each other's strengths and leverage resources.

Yarra is home to 89,710 people. About 19% of Yarra residents were born in non-English speaking countries and 23% speak a language other than English at home. The municipality is undergoing rapid change with many new housing developments and the population is expected to grow by 30% over the next 20 years.

The Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council have a mutual goal to engage with the Yarra community in determining the provision of equitable recreational, social, vocational training environmental and other health and well-being opportunities. In order to work in a truly collaborative manner Yarra City Council and Yarra Neighbourhood Houses signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A key element of the MOU is the Annual Action Plan. Yarra City Council and Yarra Neighbourhood Houses have developed this Action Plan based on the objectives in the Council Plan 2017 – 2021. Priorities for collaborative work were identified together and actions were developed.

The Annual Action Plan will be reviewed annually to maintain responsiveness and flexibility.

### Vision

Council and Neighbourhood Houses collaborating with trust and respect to foster a cohesive, resilient, empowered and engaged community.

### Partnership Structure

The following mechanisms are in place to support the partnership to achieve its vision.

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Neighbourhood House Funding
- Annual Planning day with Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses
- Monthly meetings of the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network

Four of the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 were chosen as a focus for the Council and Neighbourhood House Partnership Strategy. These objectives are:

- *A healthy Yarra: Community Health, Safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;*
- *An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion Diversity and Uniqueness are welcomed respected and celebrated;*
- *A sustainable Yarra: Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment; and*
- *A prosperous Yarra: Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive.*

## **Attachment 3 - Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021**

### **1. A healthy Yarra: Community Health, Safety and Well-being**

*Community well-being is the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural and political conditions that enable people to flourish and fulfil their potential.*

Neighbourhood Houses provide opportunities to connect people across cultural and socio-economic divides thus building bridges between diverse groups. However, there is scope to expand the reach of neighbourhood houses. This can be achieved by reviewing activities and events that neighbourhood houses already run and plan ways to increase participation from diverse groups.

### **2. An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated**

*Creating a safe place where people of all ages, genders, sexualities, abilities, cultures and backgrounds feel welcome and connected is a priority for Council.*

Neighbourhood houses already make a significant contribution to this objective of the Council Plan through:

- Gathering spaces
- Cultural groups
- Food sharing
- Social enterprise development
- Mentoring
- Accessible education programs
- Family violence/ elder abuse awareness campaigns
- Celebrations and events that foster cultural exchange
- Provision of safe spaces

### **3. A sustainable Yarra: Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment**

*Protecting our natural environment and supporting our community to reduce its environmental footprint will continue to be a priority for Council.*

Neighbourhood Houses actively promote sustainability through a range of programs and activities. Some neighbourhood houses are also demonstration houses showcasing strategies to improve energy efficiency. There are opportunities for neighbourhood houses to build on their role in sustainability leadership.

### **4. A prosperous Yarra: Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive**

*Supporting local businesses and creative industries not only contributes to Yarra's economy, but also increases employment opportunities, enhances street life and fosters community connectedness.*

Many neighbourhood house participants are looking for work and employment opportunities. By working closer with the Economic Development team at Council there is potential to develop a range of employment pathways and business development opportunities.

## Attachment 3 - Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

### Areas for Action - 2018

#### 1. A healthy Yarra: Community Health, Safety and Well-being

*Community well-being is the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural and political conditions that enable people to flourish and fulfil their potential.*

Area		Action	Who	Budget	Outcomes/Outputs	Timeframe
<i>NH Programs</i>	1.1	Neighbourhood houses to learn about Results Based Accountability and Collective Impact Framework	Cheryle Grey	existing	Increased awareness of how success can be measured	March 2018
<i>Partnerships</i>	1.2	Neighbourhood Houses and Libraries to work together to build and strengthen relationships and increase collaborative activities.	All houses and Yarra Libraries	existing	Yarra Library staff member to attend Yarra NH Network meetings One person from a NH to go on library advisory committee One shared activity per year with each NH Finbar – Urban Filed Day FLN – Harmony Day 23 March RCLC- Community Connections Day at Richmond Holden Street – Movies in the Park ACC – Book bike and story time Railway House – BANH -	2018

### Attachment 3 - Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

<i>Consultations</i>	1.3	Neighbourhood Houses to participate in the consultation process for the development of Council's key strategies e.g. Volunteering, open spaces, urban agriculture	Community Planner to inform Network of consultations by council	existing	NHs are represented in all relevant council consultations.	2018
<i>Open spaces</i>	1.7	Council to work with NHs to activate small scale, under-utilised open spaces to foster opportunities for local connection.	All NHs Council Open space Unit	existing	Houses to identify spaces and feedback to Council Open Spaces department	2018

## 2. An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated

*Creating a safe place where people of all ages, genders, sexualities, abilities, cultures and backgrounds feel welcome and connected is a priority for Council.*

Area		Action	Who	Budget	Outcomes/Outputs	Timeframe
<i>Gathering spaces/celebration</i>	2.1	NHs and council to actively collaborate in support, promotion and delivery of on-going celebrations and festivals e.g. Harvest Festival, Harmony Day, Sustainability Week, fetes.	All NHs and council	existing	Bringing people together Strengthening community connections Breaking down barriers that isolate	2018
	2.2	NHs and council to partner in an annual NH Network event e.g. Music from the Heart and identify opportunities to build on the success of past events.	All NHs Council	existing	A happy and inclusive event that celebrates all that the Yarra Houses can achieve	2018
<i>Skills Developing/Skills Harnessing</i>	2.3	Neighbourhood Houses to learn about Asset Based Community Development	Cheryle Grey	existing	Presentation in March 2018	March 2018
<i>Safe Spaces</i>	2.4	Identify professional development for neighbourhood staff and volunteers on how to listen and provide information about what is available in the community. Explore options for council to support professional development for example: Mental Health First Aid	All NHs NENHN	existing	One person from each neighbourhood house to have attended Identifying Family Violence	2018

### Attachment 3 - Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

		training, Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF). e.g. Link in with Council's Skills Training, Women's Health in the North or other networks			training through Northern Integrated Family Violence Services	
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### 3. A sustainable Yarra: Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment

*Protecting our natural environment and supporting our community to reduce its environmental footprint will continue to be a priority for Council.*

Area		Action	Who	Budget	Outcomes/Outputs	Timeframe
<i>Information and education</i>	3.1	Neighbourhood houses to generate list and description of all sustainability activities and share with sustainability officers at council – include information about demonstration sites e.g. low water use gardens and learning clubs and best practice compost	All houses Council Sustainability Unit	existing	Improved sharing of information More people will find out about what is available	2018
	3.2	Council's Living Sustainably pages to link to neighbourhood house sustainability initiatives and programs	Council Communications Unit All NHs	existing	Improved sharing of information More people will find out about what is available	2018
<i>Reduce waste to landfill</i>	3.3	Council to support neighbourhood houses to be recycling drop-off points (for nonorganic and no hard waste items) e.g. mobile phones and batteries	All NHs and sustainability team.	existing	Reduction in waste going to landfill More people delivering the message around reducing waste	2018
	3.4	Develop Neighbourhood Composting Education and engagement (e.g. War on Waste screening)	Council Waste Management Unit and all NHs	existing	Reduction in waste going to landfill More people delivering the message around reducing waste	2018

### Attachment 3 - Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

<i>Facilitate Urban Agriculture</i>	3.5	Continue to strengthen the relationship between neighbourhood houses and Urban Agriculture at Council and explore urban agriculture initiatives e.g. community orchard, fruit squad, food swap, seed swap	Sustainability Unit and all NHs	existing	Increased community connection Increased awareness around food production in an urban context Greater collaboration between community groups	2018
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#### 4. A prosperous Yarra: Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive

*Supporting local businesses and creative industries not only contributes to Yarra's economy, but also increases employment opportunities, enhances street life and fosters community connectedness.*

Area		Action	Who	Budget	Outcomes/Outputs	Timeframe
<i>Employment pathways and micro business and social enterprises for economically disadvantaged.</i>	4.1	<p>Meet with Economic Development Unit from council to understand what services they provide, and how neighbourhood house participants can access these resources and services.</p> <p>Explore the potential for partnership opportunities e.g. NHs to promote or host council's Lunchbox Learning series of seminars.</p>	Eco Development Unit NH Network	existing	Increased understanding by the Houses of the services provided by Council 's Economic Development Unit	April 2018

## 11.7 Family Violence Organisational Statement

Trim Record Number: D17/198176

Responsible Officer: Acting Coordinator Engagement & Inclusion

### Purpose

1. To endorse the City of Yarra Family Violence Organisational Statement actions that align with Council's Gender Equity Strategy 2016 – 2021.

### Background

2. The Family Violence Organisational statement is a commitment of Yarra's continued leadership around addressing family violence in our community. It is a pledge to continue work on effective prevention and response activities to family violence.
3. The statement articulates the City of Yarra's position on family violence, and allows a framework for describing the actions we are working on to address this issue.
4. The key, related policy documents are outlined below:

Strategy	Description	Who
Gender Equity Strategy 2016 – 2021	Council's latest Strategy which outlines actions that will lead to a gender inclusive culture for all staff.	Council
<i>Building a Respectful Community Strategy 2017 - 2021</i>	The latest northern regional preventing violence against women strategy developed by NMR PVAW Committee.	NMR PVAW Committee
<i>Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change</i> Nov 2016	Victorian Government's 10 year plan to achieve a violence free community, by implementing all of the 227 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence.	State Government
<i>Free From Violence: The Primary Prevention Strategy (May 2017)</i>	Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.	State Government
<i>Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy (Dec 2016)</i>	Victoria's first gender equality Strategy which sets out a framework for addressing gender inequality across six setting, to provide enduring and sustained action over time	State Government
<i>Change the Story (2015)</i>	A national framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children.	Our Watch

### External Consultation

5. This statement was informed by the work of leading local family violence organisations including Women's Health in the North, Berry Street services, and Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria.

### Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

6. The Family Violence Statement was developed by an internal cross-organisational working group involving staff from many areas of Council. Included in the consultations were Family, Youth and Children's Services, Social Policy and Research, City Works and Assets, People Culture and Community, and Corporate Business and Finance.

7. Social Policy and Research are also undertaking a project looking at the current intersection points between Council and community members experiencing, or concerned about, family violence. The Organisational Statement will be used as context for this work and also help position Council as a local leader in responding to this issue.

### **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications of the Family Violence Organisational Statement. The actions articulated are aligned to existing strategies across multiple branches.

### **Economic Implications**

9. There are significant economic implications if we do not take a lead around preventing and responding to family violence in our community. Family violence is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$13.6 billion each year and this figure is increasing (Our Watch, 2015). From an individual perspective, family violence has significant economic implications in terms of the impact on a person's capacity to work, to earn money and access secure and ongoing employment.

### **Sustainability Implications**

10. There are no sustainability implications.

### **Social Implications**

11. An organisational statement on family violence send a clear message to our community that we understanding the serious and enduring impact of family violence, and are committed to building a society free from violence.
12. The importance of preventing violence before it occurs and to clearly addressing the drivers of family violence, is critical to ensuring that women and children can live free of fear and harm in our community.

### **Human Rights Implications**

13. Council acknowledges that family violence breaches a wide range of human rights and that the impact on our community is significant. Human rights impeded include:
  - (a) freedom from violence, including sexual, mental, emotional, physical or financial;
  - (b) right to life for all members of the community;
  - (c) to reside safely and without fear of persecution or threats of violence;
  - (d) to move freely within the community;
  - (e) optimum physical and mental health of an individual;
  - (f) right to decent work;
  - (g) freedom of expression and the right to hold opinions without interference;
  - (h) a child or young person's right to leisure and play; and
  - (i) right to education.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

14. We will continue to partner with agencies such the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC) who are working closely with our local CALD communities on the issue of family violence. We are also guided by local networks such as Yarra's Family Violence Network on how best to communicate our statement, and associated actions, with CALD communities.
15. Publishing the statement on the City of Yarra website, along with information and referral services available our community, may allow the statement to be accessible in several languages other than English.

### **Council Plan, Strategy & Policy Implications**

16. The Family Violence Organisational Statement is aligned with the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 specifically action number 1.6 Promote a gender equitable, safe and respectful community.

## Legal Implications

17. Recommendation 94 of the Family Violence Royal Commission Report requires all Councils to 'report on the measures that they propose to take to reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims' when preparing their health and wellbeing plan.
18. This is now been incorporated as part of recent amendments to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)*. According to the state government's *Guidance Fact Sheet* (May 2017), 'The measures referred to may include strategies and/or actions councils propose to take.' This new requirement is aimed at increasing the focus on family violence prevention and response at a local level and applies to 2017 – 2021 MPHWP.
19. The organisational statement is a key element demonstrating our commitment to working in this space.

## Other Issues

20. The proposed Family Violence Organisational statement is as follows:

### Family Violence Organisational Statement

1. *The City of Yarra pledges its commitment to a future where all members of the community are protected from family violence. We understand that family violence is a significant health and human rights issue and results in major health, social and economic consequences.*
2. *The City of Yarra acknowledges that family violence can affect anyone, regardless of a person's gender, sexual orientation, age, occupation, cultural background or economic status. It can occur in all kinds of families and family-like relationships. We recognise the wide ranging and damaging impact that it has on the lives of individuals, families, and the community as a whole.*
3. *The City of Yarra is committed to addressing family violence through a whole of community approach. We are working towards a community where relationships between all members of the community are respectful, and promote the right to live free from family violence. This includes:*
  - (a) *advocating for a strong, coordinated response for those affected by family violence;*
  - (b) *increasing awareness of family violence as a key social and health issue;*
  - (c) *working in partnership with key networks and organisations involved in building respectful communities and reducing family violence;*
  - (d) *promoting an understanding of the link between gender inequity and family violence;*
  - (e) *upholding principles of gender equity in mainstream council operations, strategies, policies and service delivery;*
  - (f) *recognising the link between family violence and homelessness and advocating for sustainable housing solutions for those affected by family violence; and*
  - (g) *ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate equally in all areas of public and private life without fear or discrimination.*
4. *The City of Yarra is committed to building a culture where violence against any person is unacceptable, and where all relationships are gender equitable, respectful and non-discriminatory.*

## Conclusion

21. Councils have a key role to play in committing to address the issue of family violence in the community.
22. The organisational statement is an important public declaration of this ongoing commitment.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That:
  - (a) Council endorses the proposed Family Violence Organisational Statement.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Georgia McRae  
**TITLE:** Policy Advisor - Gender Equity  
**TEL:** 03 9205 5240

## **Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

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## 11.8 Proposed Discontinuance of Road adjacent to 2 Harding Lane, Richmond

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Trim Record Number: D17/205025

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

### Purpose

1. For Council to consider whether the road adjacent to the property known as 2 Harding Lane, Richmond shown as lot 1 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report, being part of the land contained in Memorial Book 186 Number 16 (**Road**), should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989* (**Act**) and sold to the adjoining owners at 2 Harding Lane, Richmond (**Owners**).

### Background

2. At its meeting on 15 August 2017, Council:
  - (a) resolved to commence the required statutory procedures to discontinue the Road; and
  - (b) directed that a public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road be given in The Age, The Weekly Review Melbourne Times Newspapers and Council's social media, pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act.

### Discussion

#### Road

3. The Road is known to title as a 'road'.
4. The Road is therefore a 'road' for the purposes of the Act which Council has the power to consider discontinuing. If the Road is discontinued, the Road will vest in Council.
5. The Road is not listed as a road on Council's Register of Public Roads.

#### Public Notice

6. The public notice was published in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
7. Council **has not** received any submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

#### Valuation

8. The Owners have agreed to acquire the Road for its market value (plus GST) as determined by the Act.
9. Council has prepared a valuation for the Road and determined that the market value is Forty Two Thousand Dollars (**\$42,000**).
10. In addition to the market value (plus GST), the Owners have agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the Proposal.

### Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

11. Nil

### Financial Implications

12. Nil

### Economic Implications

13. Nil

### Sustainability Implications

14. Nil

### **Social Implications**

15. Nil

### **Human Rights Implications**

16. Nil

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

17. All notices and correspondence issued with respect of this report will contain referral information to Yarralink Interpreter Service.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

18. Nil

### **Legal Implications**

19. If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Owners, Council will require the Owners to:
- (a) create a sewerage easement in favour of City West Water along the length of the Road, (this can be effected as part of the transfer of land);
  - (b) agree to observe the conditions imposed by City West Water in respect of the Road; and
  - (c) consolidate the title to the former Road with the title to the Owners' Property with 6 months of the date of transfer of the Road to the Owners, at the Owner's expense.

### **Other Issues**

20. Nil

### **Options**

21. Nil

### **Conclusion**

22. It is proposed that Council should discontinue the Road pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act and sell the Road to the Owners as it is not reasonably required for public use.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council acting under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*:
  - (a) resolves that, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 233 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the Road is not reasonably required for public use, it discontinues the Road;
  - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
  - (c) directs that once discontinued, the Road be transferred to the adjoining owners of 2 Harding Lane, Richmond (**Owners**), for no less than the market value (plus GST) being the amount of \$42,000 (plus GST);
  - (d) directs that the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road and any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Owners;
  - (e) any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any authority be done so and not affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
  - (f) directs that the Owners be required to consolidate the title to the Road with the title to 2 Harding Lane, Richmond, being the Land contained in certificate of title volume 10782 folio 865, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued Road.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Bill Graham  
**TITLE:** Coordinator Valuations  
**TEL:** 9205 5270

## Attachments

- 1 Title Plan of Road

Yarra City Council – Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda – Tuesday 6 February 2018

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## 11.9 Proposed discontinuance of the road abutting 14 Lambert Street, Richmond.

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Trim Record Number: D17/205452

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

### Purpose

1. For Council to consider whether the road abutting the rear of 14 Lambert Street, Richmond, shown as lots 1 and 2 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report, being part of the land contained in Memorial Book Z No. 815 (**Road**), should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989* (**Act**) and sold to the Owners of 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners**).

### Background

2. At its meeting on 15 August 2017, Council:
  - (a) resolved to commence the statutory procedures required to discontinue the Road; and
  - (b) directed that a public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road be given in *The Age*, *The Weekly Review Melbourne Times Newspapers* and Council's social media, pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act.

### Discussion

#### Road

3. The Road is shown on title as a 'road' and historically has been used as a right of way.
4. The Road is therefore a 'road' for the purposes of the Act which Council has the power to consider discontinuing. If the Road is discontinued, the Road will vest in Council.
5. The Road is listed on Council's Register of Public Roads. It is considered that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use pursuant to section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004* as:
  - (a) the Road is fenced into the Owner's property, being the property known as 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners' Property**); and
  - (b) no properties other than the Owner's property has access to the Road.

#### Public Notice

6. The public notice was published in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
7. Council has not received any submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

#### Valuation

8. The Owner has agreed to acquire the Road for its market value (plus GST) as determined by the Act.
9. Council has prepared a valuation for the Road and determined that the market value is thirteen thousand two hundred dollars (**\$13,200**).
10. In addition to the market value of the Road (plus GST), the Owners have agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

### Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

11. Nil

**Financial Implications**

12. Nil

**Economic Implications**

13. Nil

**Sustainability Implications**

14. Nil

**Social Implications**

15. Nil

**Human Rights Implications**

16. Nil

**Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

17. All notices and correspondence issued with respect of this report will contain referral information to Yarralink Interpreter Service.

**Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

18. Nil

**Legal Implications**

19. If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Owners, Council will require the Owners to consolidate the title to the former Road with the title to the Owners' Property within 6 months of the date of the transfer of the Road to the Owners, at the Owners' expense.

**Other Issues**

20. Nil

**Options**

21. Nil

**Conclusion**

22. It is proposed that Council should discontinue the Road pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act and sell the Road to the Owners as the Road is no longer reasonably required for public use.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council, acting under section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004*, resolves that the road at the rear of 14 Lambert Street, Richmond which is shown as lots 1 and 2 on the plan contained in Attachment 1 to this Report, being part of the land contained in Memorial Book Z No. 815 (**Road**), be removed from Council's Register of Public Roads on the basis that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the following reasons:
  - (a) the Road is fenced into the adjoining owners' property, being the property known as 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners' Property**); and
  - (b) no properties other than the Owners' Property has access to the Road.
2. That Council, acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (**Act**):
  - (a) resolves that, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 233 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the Road is not reasonable required for public use, it discontinues the Road;
  - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
  - (c) directs that, once discontinued, the Road be transferred to the adjoining owners at 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners**) , for no less than the market value (plus GST), being the amount of \$13,200 (plus GST);
  - (d) directs that the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road and any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Owners; and
  - (e) directs that the Owners be required to consolidate the title to the Road with the title to 14 Lambert Street, Richmond being the land contained in certificate of title volume 6608 folio 553, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued Road.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Bill Graham  
**TITLE:** Coordinator Valuations  
**TEL:** 9205 5270

## Attachments

- 1 Title Plan of Road

Attachment 1 - Title Plan of Road

<b>TITLE PLAN</b>		<b>EDITION 1</b>		<b>TP</b>														
<b>Location of Land</b> Parish: JIKA JIKA Township: - Section: - Crown Allotment: - Crown Portion: 45 (PART) Last Plan Reference: Portion of Road in Memorial Book Z No.815				<b>Notations</b> DEPTH LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY														
<b>Easement Information</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">LEGEND</th> <th style="width: 30%;">A - Appurtenant Easement</th> <th style="width: 30%;">E - Encumbering Easement</th> <th style="width: 30%;">R - Encumbering Easement (Road)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Easement Reference</th> <th>Purpose</th> <th>Width (Metres)</th> <th>Origin</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>					LEGEND	A - Appurtenant Easement	E - Encumbering Easement	R - Encumbering Easement (Road)	Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin					THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE LAND REGISTRY.  Checked by:  Assistant Registrar of Titles  Date	
LEGEND	A - Appurtenant Easement	E - Encumbering Easement	R - Encumbering Easement (Road)															
Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin															
ORIGINAL SCALE 1:100 SHEET SIZE A4		REF: 2015-90 Road Closure																

**DML LAND SURVEYS**  

 PO Box 136, Lower Plenty 3093  
 E: enquiries@dmlsurveys.com.au  
 www.dmlsurveys.com.au  
 M: 0422 741 385  
 FOR A5 549 555 555 FOR A4 549 555

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**11.10 Proposed Discontinuance of Road abutting the rear of 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond.**

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Trim Record Number: D17/205622  
 Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

**Purpose**

1. For Council to consider whether the road abutting the rear of the property known as 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond shown as lot 1 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report, being part of the land contained in Deed of Conveyance Book 433 Number 564 (**Road**), should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* and sold to the owner of 294 Swan Street, Richmond (**Owner**).

**Background**

2. At its meeting on 15 August 2017, Council:
  - (a) resolved to commence the required statutory procedures to discontinue the Road; and
  - (b) directed that a public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road be given in the Age, The Weekly Review Melbourne Times newspapers, Council's social media and a sign to be placed on the Road, pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act.

**Discussion**

**Road**

3. The Road is known to title as a 'road'.
4. The Road is therefore a 'road' for the purposes of the Act which Council has the power to consider discontinuing. If the Road is discontinued, the Road will vest in Council.
5. The Road is listed on Council's Register of Public Roads. It is considered that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use pursuant to section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004* as the Road is currently used as a pedestrian and vehicular access way between Harvey Street and Mary Street, however alternative access paths are available for pedestrians and vehicles between Harvey Street and Mary Street.

**Public Notice**

6. The public notice was published in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 and in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
7. Council has not received any submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

**Valuation**

8. The Owner has agreed to acquire the Road for its market value plus (GST).
9. Council has prepared a valuation for the Road and determined that the market value is Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$850,000**).
10. In addition to the market value of the Road (plus GST), the Owner has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the Proposal.

**Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

11. Nil

**Financial Implications**

12. Nil

**Economic Implications**

13. Nil

**Sustainability Implications**

14. Nil

**Social Implications**

15. Nil

**Human Rights Implications**

16. Nil

**Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

17. All notices and correspondence issued with respect of this report will contain referral information to Yarralink Interpreter Service.

**Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

18. Nil

**Legal Implications**

19. If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Owner, Council will require the Owner to;
- (a) create a sewerage easement in favour of City West Water and Yarra City Council along the length of the Road (this can be effected as part of the transfer of land);
  - (b) agree to observe the conditions imposed by City West Water in respect of the Road; and
  - (c) consolidate the title to the former Road with the title to the Owner's Property within 6 months of the date of transfer of the Road to the Owner, at the Owners expense.

**Other Issues**

20. Nil

**Options**

21. Nil

**Conclusion**

22. It is proposed that Council should discontinue the Road pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act and sell the Road to the Owner, as the Road is no longer reasonably required for public use.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council, acting under section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004*, resolves that the road abutting the rear of 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond, which is shown as lot 1 on the plan contained in Attachment 1 to this Report, being part of the land contained in Deed of Conveyance Book Number 564 (**Road**), be removed from Council's Register of Public Roads on the basis that the Road is currently used as a pedestrian and vehicular access way between Harvey Street and Mary Street, however alternative access paths are available for pedestrians and vehicles between Harvey Street and Mary Street.
2. That Council, acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (**Act**):
  - (a) resolves that, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 233 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the Road is not reasonably required for public use, it discontinues the Road;
  - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
  - (c) directs that, once discontinued the Road be transferred to the Owner for no less than the market value (plus GST), being the amount of \$850,000 (plus GST);
  - (d) directs that the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road and any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Owner;
  - (e) any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
  - (f) directs that the Owner be required to consolidate the title to the Road with the title to 294 Swan Street, Richmond, being the land contained in certificate of title volume 11012 folio 961, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued Road.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Bill Graham  
**TITLE:** Coordinator Valuations  
**TEL:** 9205 5270

## Attachments

- 1 Title Plan of Road

## Attachment 1 - Title Plan of Road

TITLE PLAN		EDITION 1		TP	
<b>Location of Land</b> Parish: JIKA JIKA Township: - Section: - Crown Allotment: - Crown Portion: 8 (PART) Last Plan Reference: Road shown in Memorial Book 433 No.564				<b>Notations</b> DEPTH LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY	
Easement Information					THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE LAND REGISTRY.  Checked by:  Assistant Registrar of Titles  Date
LEGEND    A - Appurtenant Easement    E - Encumbering Easement    R - Encumbering Easement (Road)					
Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin	Land Benefited/In Favour of	
E-1	SEWERAGE	2m	THIS PLAN	CITY WEST WATER	
E-1	DRAINAGE	2m	THIS PLAN	YARRA CITY COUNCIL	

SWAN STREET

The diagram illustrates a road closure on Swan Street. It is bounded by Harvey Street to the west and Mary Street to the east. The plan shows a central road section with a width of 148m². Two easements, E-1, are shown: one for sewerage (2m wide) and one for drainage (2m wide). The road closure is indicated by a dashed line across the road. Dimensions and bearings are provided for the boundaries and the road section. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner, pointing towards the top right.

**DML LAND SURVEYS**  
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 1200 60 560 600 100 500 200 300 400 500

ORIGINAL  
 SCALE    SHEET  
 1:250    SIZE  
 A4

REF: 2016-201 Road Closure

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## 11.11 Celebrating Richmond's AFL Premiership

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Trim Record Number: D18/4713

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

### Purpose

1. To consider options for commemorating the Richmond Football Club's 2017 premiership win.

### Background

2. Richmond Football Club won the AFL Grand Final in 2017 after 37 years since their last premiership. During the lead-up to the Grand Final, the Yarra community demonstrated great enthusiasm for the Richmond Football Club which was harnessed and further encouraged through the activities of Yarra Council.
3. Following the Grand Final win on 17 October 2017, Council passed a resolution that Yarra City Council:  
*"request Officers to report back to Council, including any other options for commemorating the achievement."*
4. This report proposes four commemorative options for Council consideration.

### External Consultation

5. External consultation on the options has occurred with:
  - (a) Richmond Football Club;
  - (b) Banner companies;
  - (c) VicTrack;
  - (d) Metro Trains;
  - (e) Artist, Nick Howson; and
  - (f) The Wurdundjeri Council.

### Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

6. Council officers from a range of business units have been consulted in the development of these options and they include:
  - (a) Statutory Planning;
  - (b) Heritage Advisor;
  - (c) Building Surveyor;
  - (d) City Works and Assets;
  - (e) Construction Management;
  - (f) Arts and Culture; and
  - (g) Urban Design.

### Financial Implications

7. The proposed banner system Flagtrax will cost approximately \$9,747 and budget will need to be identified and allocated. The on-going cost of reprinting banners is \$250 and can be covered from the Advocacy and Engagement operational budget.
8. The mural on Swan Street will cost \$4000 (\$1500 for materials and \$2500 in labour costs). This can be covered by the Advocacy and Engagement operational budget.

### **Economic Implications**

9. There are no economic implications of the matters considered in this report.

### **Sustainability Implications**

10. The materials used for the prints of the banners and the mural will be sourced in accordance with Council's ethical procurement policy.

### **Social Implications**

11. There are no social implications of the matters considered in this report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

12. There are no human rights implications of the matters considered in this report.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

13. There are no CALD implications of the matters considered in this report.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

14. The options outlined in this report align with the Council Plan objective to 'promote a community that is inclusive, resilient and connected'. Recognition of a local AFL team - Richmond winning a premiership could contribute to residents feeling more connected to the community.

### **Legal Implications**

15. Richmond Football Club have given permission for Yarra Council to use its logo on the proposed banner system (if required).
16. VicTrack and Metro Trains have provided information regarding any permit requirements for the mural.

### **Other Issues**

17. Following an assessment of the Richmond Town Hall banner system, the banners were some months ago, permanently removed due to occupational health and safety issues, caused by high winds. It should be noted that on a number of occasions, the banners needed to be temporarily removed with a cherry picker due to public safety risks. The banners at the Town Hall were made of a dense vinyl, attached to chains that would create a sail like effect in high winds.
18. Since the banners were removed, officers have sought advice from a number of banner companies about different banner hanging systems, materials and banner style options.
19. Criteria for a new banner system was measured against the following:
  - (a) Safety;
  - (b) Cost of installation;
  - (c) Cost of additional banners; and
  - (d) Visibility of banners once installed.

#### About the proposed new banner system 'Flagtrax'

20. After extensive research and consultation, the recommended option for reinstating the banner system is using the Flagtrax system.
21. The Flagtrax banner system clearly met all the criteria (**Refer to Attachment 1**).
22. This option is the most cost effective out of the available options.
23. The total cost of installation and printing of the initial four banners is approximately \$9,747.10.

24. The ongoing cost to replace each banner costs \$250, and importantly, \$0 installation costs. A Council officer is able to easily swap over these banner flags without any special equipment or training. This differs from the previous system which required the expensive hiring of specialist equipment to remove for cleaning, re-hanging, etc.
25. The Flagtrax system also avoids any occupational health and safety issues as the wind will pass by the banners as opposed to catching in the large banners as it did previously.
26. The Flagtrax system would provide Council with the option to install banners on an angle so that flags were not parallel to the building. This would mean passing traffic will readily be able to see the flags when approaching from each direction along Bridge Road, giving significantly greater visibility of our messages.
27. This system will be installed using wire hoops that clamp to the circumference of the column. This ensures that the installation will not damage the structure of the pillar and does not require any drilled holes into the pillars (this method is specifically approved by each of Council's Heritage Advisor and Construction Management Unit).
28. The supplier is able to also paint the wire hoops to blend into the pillars.

## Options

### Option 1 - Recommended

29. Update a new banner system on Richmond Town Hall with Richmond Football Club Premiership 2017 winner artwork.
30. Install the Flagtrax system on Richmond Town Hall as detailed above and allocate one of the four banners to display the Richmond Football Club colours and logo with the text '2017 Premiership'.

### Option 2 – Recommended

31. Update the existing mural on Swan Street near Richmond Station. Cost \$4,000 (labour costs, forklift, permits and materials).
32. Commission artist, Nick Howson to update the mural on Swan Street near Richmond Station to reflect the Richmond AFL win.
33. Howson is supportive of the idea and could complete the work in March 2018 (***Refer to Attachment for the concept***)
34. Council has in principle support from VicTrack and Metro Trains and agreed to licence Council to update this mural, pending Council seeking permits.

### Option 3 – Not recommended

35. Install printed decal artwork on footpaths around Richmond at high traffic points. Cost: \$2000 for 8 decals.
36. This option is not as visible to traffic and people passing by. The decals also fade away over time so would not be as visually striking in the long-term.

### Option 4 – Not recommended

37. Decorate the City of Yarra entry point signs to Richmond. Cost: \$4200.
38. Officers undertook further consultation with the Wurundjeri Council and Yarra's Urban Design Branch.
39. The Wurundjeri Council felt that decorating the signs were not favourable as it would detract away from the respect given to the Aboriginal community in Yarra.

## Conclusion

40. This report recommends Council proceeds with the installation of the Flagtrax system due to its multi-purpose features and low ongoing operational costs. The Flagtrax system can be used to commemorate the Richmond Football Club's 2017 Premiership win and will present long term advocacy benefits and options for Council.

41. This report also recommends that Council proceeds with commissioning artist Nick Howson to update and extend the existing Swan Street mural to acknowledge the 2017 AFL Richmond premiership. It is envisaged the mural on Swan Street will help enliven the Swan Street precinct and attract people to the area.
42. As noted in the report concerning the costs of:
  - (a) printing of re-printing banners (\$250). This can be met from the Unit's operational budget; and
  - (b) the mural (\$4,000), This can be met from the Unit's operational budget.
43. The cost of the banner system (\$9,747) could be met from savings in the Capital works budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Council approves:
  - (a) the purchase and installation of the Flagtrax banner system for Richmond Town Hall to help celebrate the 2017 AFL Richmond premiership and assist with Council's future communications needs; and
  - (b) commissioning artist Nick Howson to update the mural on Swan Street (near Richmond Station) to acknowledge the 2017 AFL Richmond premiership.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Frances Nolan  
**TITLE:** Coordinator Communications and Engagement  
**TEL:** 9205 5177

## **Attachments**

- 1 Celebrating Richmond's Premiership

## Attachment 1 - Celebrating Richmond's Premiership



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**11.12 Residential Aged Care Facilities - proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions - Council submission in response to consultation**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

The State Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is seeking feedback on proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities (RACF). The reforms propose RACF specific particular provisions that reduce restrictions on the height and form of RACF.

This report outlines the proposed changes to all Planning Scheme provisions for RACF and seeks endorsement for a draft submission to DELWP on the proposed controls.

### **Key Issues**

General support for the proposed changes sought to be made to the Victorian Planning Provisions. The main scope and implications in the City of Yarra involves changes to the way the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) and Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) provisions control RACF.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications from this report.

### **PROPOSAL**

This report recommends Council make a submission in response to the RACF proposals suggesting changes to improve the provisions and reduce potential local impacts.

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## 11.12 Residential Aged Care Facilities - proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions - Council submission in response to consultation

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Trim Record Number: D18/20409

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

### Purpose

1. The State Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is seeking feedback on proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities (RACF). The reforms propose RACF specific particular provisions that reduce restrictions on the height and form of RACF.
2. This report outlines the proposed changes to Planning Scheme provisions for RACF and seeks endorsement for a draft submission to DELWP on the proposed controls.
3. The main scope and implications in the City of Yarra involves changes to the way the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) and Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) provisions control RACF.

### Background

#### State Government Review

4. The current RACF proposals arise from the introduction of new residential zones across Victoria in 2013 to 2015. The new zones introduced mandatory height controls, which also applied to RACF.
5. In July 2016, the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee – Residential Zones Review identified the need for residential zones to provide greater support and flexibility for RACF. The Committee concluded that:
  - (a) There is strong planning policy support at a State level to facilitate RACF development and to enable 'ageing in place';
  - (b) The maximum building height controls in the current suite of residential zones do not support State planning policy support for facilitating RACF development; and
  - (c) RACFs should be excluded from mandatory maximum building height requirements and some Res-Code requirements.
6. In March 2017, the Victorian Government released the housing strategy, *Homes for Victorians* about planning and housing supply and to coordinate cross-government issues to achieve housing affordability, access and choice. *Homes for Victorians* complements *Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050* which indicated the need to improve approvals processes for specific housing types including RACF development so future community needs are met.
7. The Minister for Planning referred the Advisory Committee issues of the RACF to a DELWP working group. The working group, with representatives from industry, peak bodies, councils and state government, was established by DELWP to provide comments and feedback in developing new RACF planning controls. Yarra City Council has a representative on the working group (Senior Strategic Planner) and provided earlier feedback on the proposals. These proposals have been prepared by DELWP staff after working group comment.
8. A major trend for RACF in the inner city, is to develop as apartment buildings, (including recently approved proposals up to ten storeys), to accommodate the operating models of RACF in the private and not-for profit sectors.
9. **Attachment 1** is the DELWP explanation supporting the proposals *Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development, Proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions, December 2017*. **Attachment 2** is the draft new Particular Provisions Proposed Clause 52.XX which would become part of all Planning Schemes if the changes are approved and gazetted.

### RACF in Yarra

10. The supply and demand for RACF in the City of Yarra can be measured in terms of projected population and Commonwealth Government funding support for RACF.
11. The percentage of people aged 70 years or over is used to allocate residential care places and community care packages under the Aged Care Act 1997 (for reporting purposes is combined with the population of Indigenous Australians aged 50–69 years). It is forecast that by 2035, 7.6% of the Yarra population will be aged 70+ years. In 2017 the proportion was around 6.7%.
12. Based on national target ratios to be met by 2021–22 (80 beds for residential care places per 1,000 people aged 70+ years) the City of Yarra should have approximately 500 beds. The supply in Yarra, however, is about 170-200 beds below that ratio, although recently approved RACF projects would add about 200 beds. Two further RACF projects are still under initial consideration.
13. ‘Ageing in place’ is also a significant issue and trend influencing the demand, supply and location of RACF. This has influenced demand for new forms of RACF and related accommodation including independent living in apartment type buildings.
14. Local community advocacy and recent research indicates that more attention should be paid in Planning Scheme provisions to the internal, shared space and open space design of RACF. This can improve the mental well-being and quality of life for residents.

### **Proposed Planning Control – Changes to the VPP**

15. This section of the report outlines the proposed changes, provides a response and where appropriate recommends changes to the provisions. The proposed changes by the State are:
  - (a) height controls not mandatory because RACF definition and land use meaning is changed;
  - (b) new Particular Provisions which guide the form and height of RACF; and
  - (c) an exemption from notice and review if the ‘requirements’ in the Particular Provisions are met.

See below for commentary and officer analysis.

### Mandatory heights do not apply in NRZ and GRZ - land use meaning for RACF changed

16. The proposed changes remove RACF from the land use definition of ‘residential building’ in clause 74 and introduces a new Particular Provisions in Clause 52, specific to RACF.
17. The main implication of the proposed change relates to the provision of application of mandatory height limits in the General Residential Zone (GRZ) and Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ). Mandatory height controls apply to ‘dwelling’ and ‘residential building’ as defined in the Planning Scheme. The mandatory height limits currently apply to RACF because the Planning Scheme includes RACF under the definition of ‘residential building’.

### Response

18. The proposed change to the definition and meaning of RACF means that the mandatory height controls in the NRZ and GRZ would not apply. This is, in broad terms, considered an acceptable change to facilitate RACF in local communities due to the community need for these facilities. It is noted that this is consistent with the findings of the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee. The proposed new Particular Provisions must, however, be sufficient to minimise adverse local impacts.

### Proposed new Particular Provisions

19. The new RACF Particular Provisions would set out a range of ‘requirements’ which ‘must be met’ (as indicated in draft VPP provisions – Attachment 2) including:
  - (a) A front fence within 3 metres of a street must not exceed 1.5 metres in height;
  - (b) The building height must not exceed 13.5 metres;

- (c) Car parking must be provided at the rate of 0.3 car spaces to each lodging room;
  - (d) The site coverage, including a driveway, pedestrian path, and an area set aside for car parking, must not exceed 80 per cent of the site area;
  - (e) The following standards found at Clause 55 of this scheme:
    - (i) B6 'Street setbacks' (does not include a porte cochere);
    - (ii) B17 'Side and rear setbacks';
    - (iii) B18 'Walls on a boundary';
    - (iv) B19 'Daylight to existing windows';
    - (v) B20 'North facing windows';
    - (vi) B21 'Overshadowing open space';
    - (vii) B22 'Overlooking';
    - (viii) B24 'Noise impacts';
    - (ix) B27 'Daylight to new windows';
  - (f) The main entry to a building (including a porte cochere) must be designed to:
    - (i) Have direct vehicle and pedestrian access from a street;
    - (ii) Be sheltered from the weather; and
    - (iii) Have convenient pedestrian and vehicle access from on-site car parking; and
  - (g) Access-ways are designed to the satisfaction of the relevant road authority.
20. The next part of the proposed provisions says '*A permit may be granted to vary any of the requirements*' in the previous clause. In effect this means that the requirements are discretionary.
21. These proposed new provisions apply to RACF development in:
- (a) Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ);
  - (b) General Residential Zone (GRZ);
  - (c) Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) (does not apply in the City of Yarra);
  - (d) Mixed Use Zone (MUZ); and
  - (e) Township Zone (TZ) (does not apply in the City of Yarra).
22. The proposed provisions explain how they relate to other provisions:
- If a zone, overlay or schedule specifies a different requirement from any requirement in this clause, the requirements in this clause apply except where a Heritage Overlay, Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Special Building Overlay or a Bushfire Management Overlay applies.*
23. Other provisions such as the Municipal Strategic Statement and local policy such the Environmentally Sustainable Design provisions would apply to the RACF.

Response

24. The proposals set requirements which do not vary by zone and seem to ignore variations in the setting for RACF. The proposal would allow a 13.5m (four storey) RACF in the NRZ and GRZ and MUZ. The residential zones, however, have a clear hierarchy of densities and building heights with the default 9m limit in the NRZ, an 11m default limit in the GRZ and no default limit in the MUZ. The proposed scale and form of new development should better relate to the setting, context and zone.
25. Although the provisions make no reference to environmentally sustainable development requirements Clause 22.17 Environmentally Sustainable Development would still apply.

26. The proposed Particular Provisions would not over-ride the Heritage Overlay and a range of other specified overlays dealing with flooding and other matters. This is considered appropriate.

Submission Recommendation

27. Consider ways the provisions could be improved to take account of the purpose of the relevant zone, the residential development densities in each zone and the potential amenity and other impacts on adjoining land.

Exemption from notice and review

28. The proposed new provisions would exempt applications from notice and review, if the 'requirements' set out above are met. This means that, for example, applications up to four storeys (13.5m) would not be advertised provided all the requirements are met.

Response

29. The current GRZ, NRZ and MUZ do not include many exemptions from notice and review. Subdivision and some small scale development under the Vic-Smart provisions are exempt. This would include, for example a ground floor extension to a dwelling or an outbuilding. The proposed exemption for RACF is a significant departure from these limited exemptions. There may be local impacts which arise from the height and scale of the RACF, despite the proposed provision requirements addressing height and amenity. In particular, the proposed provisions would allow development at a scale which exceeds the typical building heights and default mandatory building heights in the GRZ (11m) and the NRZ (9m). This could allow for development that is a significant departure from the established character of an area.
30. The proposed exemption from notice and review might also have the unintended effect of encouraging building forms which just meet the requirements, in circumstances where not meeting the requirements might result in a better development.

Submission recommendation

31. Remove the proposed exemption from notice and review. The exemption from notice and review would deny local communities from participation in processes which could have significant interface, amenity and character impacts. The exemptions are not justified and are inconsistent with the very limited exemptions in the relevant residential zones.

**Omissions from the proposals - Better internal design**

32. The proposed Particular Provisions do not address internal design and amenity or well-being issues for residents of RACF.
33. The recently approved provisions for apartment development include provisions dealing with On-site Amenity and Facilities (Clause 58.05) which deal with internal access, adaptable facilities, entry and sense of identity, access to daylight and natural ventilation, the nature of private and common space and access to open space. Recent research suggests that the quality of life and mental well-being of RACF residents can be improved if the design addresses the following:
  - (a) Connect facilities with the outdoors: views, and rooms that open up to decks/gardens;
  - (b) Use good levels of natural light and where possible natural ventilation;
  - (c) Include spaces that support social interaction such as sitting areas which open onto corridors and allow for unplanned interactions with passers-by;
  - (d) Consider locations to view activities throughout the passage of a day;
  - (e) Avoid double-loaded corridors lined with bedroom doors to ensure circulation through the facility is enjoyable;
  - (f) Provide different types of spaces, like themed sitting areas with an individualised character and feel;
  - (g) Personalise bedrooms space and fixtures;

- (h) Provide residents with richness of experience such as access and choices offered at a café, cinema or library; and
  - (i) Support community spaces that can enable all residents to gather for an event.
- (Refer "Architects, aged care providers & Mental health" by Cath Muhlebach)*

#### Submission recommendation

- 34. The proposed provisions should be modified to include provisions which are similar in scope to those in the apartment design provisions at Clause 58.05 but varied to address the needs of RACF residents and support staff. This should address internal amenity and facilities and should include:
  - (a) Views and access to outdoor space;
  - (b) Natural light and ventilation;
  - (c) Spaces to promote social interaction; and
  - (d) Shared facilities and spaces.

#### **External Consultation**

- 35. DELWP has undertaken limited notification of stakeholders, primarily local government and the RACF providers to seek comment on the proposals. Yarra City Council has not undertaken any additional consultation. Previous consultation with Council's Active Ageing Advisory Committee has highlighted the importance of focussing on good design in terms of supporting resident's mental health and well-being. This is reflected in the points made under the heading 'Better internal design' (above) regarding amenity, internal design and the relationship of the building to the local community.

#### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

- 36. Strategic Planning has sought advice from Council's statutory planning team and Aged and Disability Services Branch.

#### **Financial Implications**

- 37. There are no financial implications from this report.

#### **Economic Implications**

- 38. RACF are a local employer and contribute to the local economy. In a broader sense they are part of the housing and health services which support the local economy.

#### **Sustainability Implications**

- 39. Local RACF can help reduce travel costs by providing local services connected to the community. The design of RACF should meet the policy provisions in the Yarra Planning Scheme about ESD.

#### **Social Implications**

- 40. Local RACF can help people 'age in place' and remain connected to local communities and networks. Reducing the regulatory restrictions may help to increase the range and diversity of services and RACF building types.

#### **Human Rights Implications**

- 41. Diverse housing stock in municipalities is desirable to cater for all household formations and the ability to also 'age in place'. There are no known human rights implications.

#### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

- 42. There is no Council initiated communication proposed in this report, other than the proposed comments to DELWP.

## **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

43. Clause 21.04 in the Yarra Planning Scheme Municipal Strategic Statement includes an Objective and two relevant Strategies addressing residential aged care:

<i>Objective 2</i>	<i>To retain a diverse population and household structure.</i>
<i>Strategy 2.2</i>	<i>Encourage residential development which allows people to age in their existing homes and communities by supporting a range of housing types.</i>
<i>Strategy 2.3</i>	<i>Support the development of new residential care facilities.</i>

44. The proposals relate to the health and well-being of people in the local community and aged and disability services. This involves Commonwealth, State and Local Government funding and services. Provision of RACF is part of the wider system of support for people who are aged or disabled. Council research indicates there is a need for additional facilities, including subsidised not-for-profit facilities and specialised care for people on low incomes and with other health issues.
45. The proposals may impact on the liveability of local areas in different ways. Additional RACF may also promote ageing in place. Larger RACF may adversely impact local neighbourhood character, particularly if they are poorly designed or located.

## **Legal Implications**

46. There are no specific legal implications for Council.

## **Other Issues**

47. N/A

## **Options**

48. The two main options for Council are whether to make a submission or not. There are significant issues arising from the proposals which could impact on local communities. This report proposes making a submission to recommend changes to the current proposal.

## **Conclusion**

49. The State proposal that current mandatory height limits should not apply to RACF and new provisions are required to facilitate additional RACF in Melbourne is broadly supported. These new provisions should, however, provide an appropriate balance of flexibility and requirements which will minimise local impacts and improve the design of RACF.
50. The proposed RACF provisions are designed to facilitate additional development to meet projected demand. This is done by removing the mandatory height restrictions in the GRZ and NRZ and replacing them with discretionary requirements which would be the same for the NRZ, GRZ and MUZ. The proposals are likely to have impacts in the local NRZ and GRZ with new buildings in the range of 13.5m (four storeys) or higher with no set limit to the maximum height. Particular Design Guidelines should apply to manage draft proposals in order to best fit into the surrounding context.
51. This report addresses a number of issues the proposals may have in the City of Yarra:
- (a) The proposed provisions make no distinction between the scale or density of development allowed in different zones. There is no recognition of the typical densities allowed in the NRZ, GRZ and MUZ;
  - (b) The proposals also would exempt RACF development from notice and review including public notification, objection and appeal to VCAT, if the requirements in the provisions are all met. This is a significant departure from the current exemptions in these zones; and
  - (c) The draft provisions also make no reference to internal amenity and facilities for RACF residents.
52. Attachment 3 is a draft submission which recommends changes to the provisions.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council note the officer report relating to proposed reforms by the State Government to the Victoria Planning Provisions to facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities (RACF).
2. That Council note the officer comments in this report regarding the proposal by the State Government and suggested modifications as expressed in Attachment 3.
3. That Council authorise a submission be forwarded to the Department of Environment, Water, land and Planning in accordance with the comments in this report and in Attachment 3.
4. That the CEO be authorised to settle the submission by the due date.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Peter Mollison  
**TITLE:** Senior Strategic Planner  
**TEL:** 9205 5023

## **Attachments**

- 1 Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development - Proposed Planning Reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions - December 2017 - DELWP
- 2 Draft Particular Provisions - Proposed Clause 52.XX - DELWP
- 3 Draft submission in response to the proposals - Yarra City Council - February 2018

## Attachment 1 - Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development - Proposed Planning Reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions - December 2017 - DELWP



### Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development

Proposed reforms to the *Victoria Planning Provisions*

DECEMBER 2017

Feedback is invited on proposed changes to the *Victoria Planning Provisions* (VPP) to facilitate the development of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF).

#### Purpose

The Minister for Planning has requested the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to prepare draft changes to the VPP and all planning schemes to support appropriately designed and located RACF developed in established residential areas to cater for an ageing population.

#### The need for change

By 2051 it is estimated that 27% of all Victorians will be older than 60. The middle and outer suburban areas of metropolitan Melbourne will experience the largest proportion of this projected change.

The responsibility for the planning, delivery and funding of health and ageing services is a shared responsibility between all levels of government, the private sector and the not-for-profit sector.

Victoria's primary policy objective is to ensure that access to aged care services is available for all those who need them within the communities which they live.

#### Policy context

In March 2017, the Victorian Government released the housing strategy, *Homes for Victorians* to provide certainty in planning and housing supply and to coordinate cross-government issues to achieve housing affordability, access and choice. *Homes for Victoria* complements *Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050* which focuses on the need to streamline approvals processes for specific housing types including RACF development to ensure that future community needs are met.

In July 2016, the *Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee – Residential Zones Review* identified the need for residential zones to provide greater support and flexibility. The Committee concluded that:

- There is strong planning policy support at a State level to facilitate RACF development and to enable 'ageing in place'.
- The maximum building height controls in the current suite of residential zones do not support State planning policy support for facilitating RACF development.
- RACFs should be excluded from mandatory maximum building height requirements and some ResCode requirements.
- A working group, with representatives from industry, peak bodies, councils and state government, has been established to provide advice in developing new RACF planning controls to ensure their timely and cost effective delivery.

## Attachment 1 - Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development - Proposed Planning Reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions - December 2017 - DELWP

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

### How are RACFs currently considered in the VPP?

The State Planning Policy Framework via Clause's 16.02-3 and 16.02-4 outline the following objectives with regard to RACFs:

- To facilitate the timely development of RACFs to meet existing and future need; and
- To encourage well-designed and appropriately located RACFs.

An RACF is defined at Clause 74 of the VPP as:

*"Land used to provide accommodation and personal or nursing care for the aged. It may include recreational, health or laundry facilities and services for residents of the facility"*

The RACF definition is nested under 'Residential building' and includes 'nursing home' within the overarching 'Accommodation' group of land use terms.

A RACF is also defined by the Building Code of Australia as a Class 9c building, with the following general description outlined in Practice Note 2014-30 issued by the Victorian Building Authority:

*"RACF buildings may house children, disabled or aged persons, who need physical assistance in conducting their daily activities, and help to evacuate the building during an emergency. The BCA classification will depend on the building size, population and resident characteristics."*

The use of land for a RACF does not require permit (as-of-right) within the following residential zones (the zones):

- Neighbourhood Residential Zone
- General Residential Zone
- Residential Growth Zone
- Mixed Use Zone
- Township Zone

Currently a permit is required for the building and works component of a RACF proposal due to its definitional relationship with 'Residential building' within the zones. As a result, a RACF proposal must be assessed under the full building and works requirements of the zones which include assessment against the requirements found in ResCode (Clause 55) of the VPP and any mandatory building height, minimum garden area, or any other requirement outlined within the zones.

A RACF proposal is a section 2 use (permit required) within the Low Density Residential Zone. A permit for buildings and works is required for any section 2 use.

### What changes are proposed?

The following reforms are proposed to the VPPs and all planning schemes:

1. At Clauses 74 and 75, relocate the definition of 'Residential aged care facility' from under 'Residential Building' to under 'Accommodation' and remove 'Nursing home' as a defined use.
2. Introduce a new RACF focused Particular Provision at Clause 52 (the draft provision).

### Why relocate the definition?

The current location of the RACF definition of Clause 75.01 under 'Residential building' means an assessment against Clause 55 (ResCode) is required for buildings and works within the zones.

Relocating the RACF definition to under 'Accommodation' will mean that the use will remain as-of-right and an assessment of the buildings and works component is moved from the zones to the draft provision.

### What is the scope of the draft provision?

The draft provision will apply to the use and development for a RACF:

- as defined at Clauses 74 and 75 of the VPP; and
- within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, General Residential Zone, Residential Growth Zone, Mixed Use Zone or Township Zone.

The draft provision will override other requirements in a planning scheme where a similar requirement is outlined in a zone or an overlay except where the following overlays apply:

- Heritage Overlay
- Floodway Overlay
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
- Special Building Overlay
- Bushfire Management Overlay

Other requirements outlined in a zone or overlay, such as vegetation or buffer protections etc, will continue to apply.

### How will a RACF be considered under the draft provision?

A planning permit will be required for buildings and works associated with a RACF. A RACF will be required to meet a suite of requirements which are aimed at reducing impacts on neighbouring amenity and other matters which include:

- maximum front fence height
- maximum building heights not exceeding 13.5 metres

## Attachment 1 - Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development - Proposed Planning Reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions - December 2017 - DELWP

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- car parking provided at 0.3 car spaces to each lodging room
- site area covered by buildings, including driveways, pedestrian path and area set aside for car parking, not exceeding 80 per cent of the site area
- meeting the following standards from ResCode (Clause 55):
  - B6 'Street setback' (excludes porte cochere)
  - B17 'Side and rear setbacks'
  - B18 'Walls on a boundary'
  - B19 'Daylight to existing windows'
  - B20 'North facing windows'
  - B21 'Overshadowing open space'
  - B22 'Overlooking'
  - B24 'Noise impacts'
  - B27 'Daylight to new windows'
- building entry point (including a porte cochere) to:
  - have direct access from a street
  - be sheltered from the weather
  - have convenient access from on-site car parking
- accessways designed to the satisfaction of the relevant road authority.

A permit may be granted to vary any of these requirements.

### How have these requirements been determined?

In 2012, a working group provided advice to the then Minister for Planning on the proposed requirements to streamline RACF within the VPPs.

That working group and overall process undertook a thorough assessment of the requirements contained within Clause 55 of the VPP in consultation with the RACF industry and local government to determine what requirements were needed for appropriate consideration and assessment of RACFs.

In September 2017, the project working group was reformed to reconsider those conclusions and other matters that have since emerged to inform the draft provision.

### Exemption from notice and review

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires a responsible authority to decide whether to give notice of a permit application unless the planning scheme directs otherwise.

The draft provision proposes to exempt notice of an application being given if all requirements listed in the draft provision are met.

Where a requirement is to be varied, the responsible authority will have the discretion to consider the appropriateness of the variation and determine whether notice of an application is required to be given.

### How do I provide feedback?

The Minister for Planning will consider stakeholder feedback in deciding whether to introduce the reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes.

For more information on the proposed reforms, copies of the draft provision and to provide feedback visit: [www.planning.vic.gov.au/residential-aged-care](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/residential-aged-care)

Feedback must be provided by **5:00pm Friday, 16 February 2018**.

For more information, please email: [planning.systems@delwp.vic.au](mailto:planning.systems@delwp.vic.au). Or call the Victorian Government Contact Centre: 1300 366 356.

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## 52.XX RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITY

## Purpose

To ensure Residential aged care facilities do not adversely impact on the amenity of adjoining neighbours.

## Scope

If a zone, overlay or schedule specifies a different requirement from any requirement in this clause, the requirements in this clause apply except where a Heritage Overlay, Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Special Building Overlay or a Bushfire Management Overlay applies.

## Permit requirements

A permit is required to construct a building, or construct or carry out works associated with a Residential aged care facility.

### Requirements to be met

- A front fence within 3 metres of a street must not exceed 1.5 metres in height.
- The building height must not exceed 13.5 metres.
- Car parking must be provided at the rate of 0.3 car spaces to each lodging room.
- The site coverage, including a driveway, pedestrian path, and an area set aside for car parking, must not exceed 80 per cent of the site area.
- The following standards found at Clause 55 of this scheme:
  - B6 'Street setbacks' (does not include a porte cochere.)
  - B17 'Side and rear setbacks'
  - B18 'Walls on a boundary'
  - B19 'Daylight to existing windows'
  - B20 'North facing windows'
  - B21 'Overshadowing open space'
  - B22 'Overlooking'
  - B24 'Noise impacts'
  - B27 'Daylight to new windows'
- The main entry to a building (including a porte cochere) must be designed to:
  - Have direct vehicle and pedestrian access from a street.
  - Be sheltered from the weather.

**Attachment 2 - Draft Particular Provisions - Proposed Clause 52.XX - DELWP****CONSULTATION DRAFT**

- Have convenient pedestrian and vehicle access from on-site car parking.
- Accessways are designed to the satisfaction of the relevant road authority.

**52.XX-4 Variation to a requirement**

---/---/---  
Proposed  
Provision

A permit may be granted to vary any of the requirements of Clause 52.XX-3.

**52.XX-5 Information requirements**

---/---/---  
Proposed  
Provision

An application must be accompanied by the following information as determined by the responsible authority:

- A design response which explains how the proposed development responds to the site and context description and responds to the requirements of this clause.
- A copy of title for the subject land and a copy of any registered restrictive covenant.
- A proposed site and layout plans, drawn to scale and fully dimensioned showing:
  - Site shape, size, orientation and easements.
  - Existing levels of the site and the difference in levels between the site and surrounding properties.
  - Location of existing buildings to be retained.
  - The location of buildings, secluded private open space and habitable room windows of surrounding properties which have an outlook to the site within 9 metres.
  - Proposed levels of the site and the difference in levels between the site and surrounding properties.
  - The location and layout of all proposed buildings, habitable room windows including finished floor levels and setbacks.
  - Proposed landscaping and open space areas.
  - Proposed crossovers, driveways, onsite car parking, service and delivery areas.
  - All external storage, waste areas and services.
- An elevation plan, drawn to scale showing the height, colour and materials of all buildings and structures.
- Shadow diagrams showing proposed shadows.

**52.XX-6 Exemption from notice and review**

---/---/---  
Proposed  
Provision

An application which meets all of the requirements of Clause 52.XX-3 is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1) (a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of Section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of Section 82(1) of the Act.

**52.XX-7 Decision guidelines**

---/---/---  
Proposed  
Provision

Before deciding on an application, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- Whether the permit requirements outlined in Clause 52.XX-3 have been met.
- How the proposed development responds to the site and context description.
- The impact of any building height above 13.5 metres, when viewed from the street and/or a side street.
- The impact of any reduced on-site car parking on neighbouring streets and associated traffic management.
- The impact on the amenity of existing dwellings and proposed amenity for future residents.

**Attachment 3 - Draft submission in response to the proposals - Yarra City Council - February 2018**



**Submission**

Response to the State Department of Environment Water Land and  
Environment (DELWP) proposals

**Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development, Proposed reforms  
to the Victoria Planning Provisions, December 2017**

February 2018

## **Attachment 3 - Draft submission in response to the proposals - Yarra City Council - February 2018**

### **Introduction**

This submission is to the proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs) explained in Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development, Proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions, December 2017 (DELWP).

The reforms to the VPPs are broadly supported by the City of Yarra, subject to some specific changes to minimize any adverse impacts and improve the effectiveness of the proposed provisions. Support, subject to specific changes is based on the following.

- Research undertaken by Yarra City Council which indicates that the current supply of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) in the municipality does not meet projected demand.
- The proposed provisions would apply to the General Residential Zone, the Neighbourhood Residential Zone and the Mixed Use Zone, which cover a substantial area of the municipality (approximately 31% of the municipality).

### **Comments on the proposals**

The proposed provisions need to be refined to minimise potential impacts, improve internal design and ensure that future proposals effectively respond to their local context.

#### **Proposed Requirements to be met**

The proposal sets requirements which do not vary by zone and seem to ignore variations in the setting for RACF. The proposal would allow a 13.5m (four storey) RACF in the NRZ and GRZ and MUZ. The residential zones however, have a clear hierarchy of densities and building heights with the default 9m limit in the NRZ, an 11m default limit in the GRZ and no default limit in the MUZ. The proposed scale and form of new development should better relate to the setting, context and zone. It could discourage taller development which might be appropriate in the MUZ, where such form may be more appropriate.

#### **Recommendation**

Consider ways the provisions could be improved to take account of: the purpose of the relevant zone; the clear hierarchy of residential density between the zones.

#### **Proposed Exemption from notice and review**

The new provisions exempt applications from notice and review.

The GRZ, NRZ and MUZ do not include many exemptions from notice and review. Subdivision and some small scale development under the Vic-Smart provisions are exempt. This would include, for example a ground floor extension to a dwelling or an outbuilding.

The proposed exemption for RACF is a significant departure from these limited exemptions.

There may be local impacts which arise from the height and scale of the RACF, despite the proposed provision requirements addressing height and amenity. In particular, the proposed provisions would allow development at a scale which exceeds the typical building heights and default mandatory building heights in the GRZ (11m) and the NRZ (9m). This could allow for development that is a significant departure from the established character of an area.

## Attachment 3 - Draft submission in response to the proposals - Yarra City Council - February 2018

The proposed exemption from notice and review might also have the unintended effect of encouraging building forms which just meet the requirements, in circumstances where not meeting the requirements might result in a better development.

### Recommendation

Remove the proposed exemption from notice and review.

The exemption from notice and review would deny local communities from participation in processes which could have significant interface, amenity and character impacts. The exemptions are not justified and are inconsistent with the very limited exemptions in the relevant residential zones.

### Better internal design

The proposed Particular Provisions do not address internal design and amenity or well-being issues for residents of RACF.

The recently approved provisions for apartment development include provisions dealing with On-site Amenity and Facilities (Clause 58.05) which deal with internal access, adaptable facilities, entry and sense of identity, access to daylight and natural ventilation, the nature of private and common space and access to open space. Recent research suggests that the quality of life and mental well-being of RACF residents can be improved if the design addresses:

- (a) Connect facilities with the outdoors. For example: views, and rooms that open up to decks/gardens;
- (b) Use good levels of natural light and where possible natural ventilation;
- (c) Include spaces that support social interaction such as sitting areas which open onto corridors and allow for unplanned interactions with passers-by;
- (d) Consider locations to view activities throughout the passage of a day;
- (e) Avoid double-loaded corridors lined with bedroom doors to ensure circulation through the facility is enjoyable;
- (f) Provide different types of spaces, like themed sitting areas with an individualised character and feel;
- (g) Personalise bedrooms space and fixtures;
- (h) Provide residents with richness of experience such as access and choices offered at a café, cinema or library; and
- (i) Support community spaces that can enable all residents to gather for an event.

"Architects, aged care providers & Mental health" by Cath Muhlebach

### Recommendation

The proposed provisions should be modified to include provisions which are similar in scope to those in the apartment design provisions at Clause 58.05 but varied to address the needs of RACF residents and support staff. This should address internal amenity and facilities, and should include: views and access to outdoor space; natural light and ventilation; spaces to promote social interaction; and shared facilities and spaces.

## 11.13 Planning Permit Applications and the World Heritage Environs Area

Trim Record Number: D18/14460

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

### Purpose

1. At the Council meeting of 19 December 2017, a report was requested by Council from officers considering:
  - (a) *That applications for development:*
    - (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
    - (ii) *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

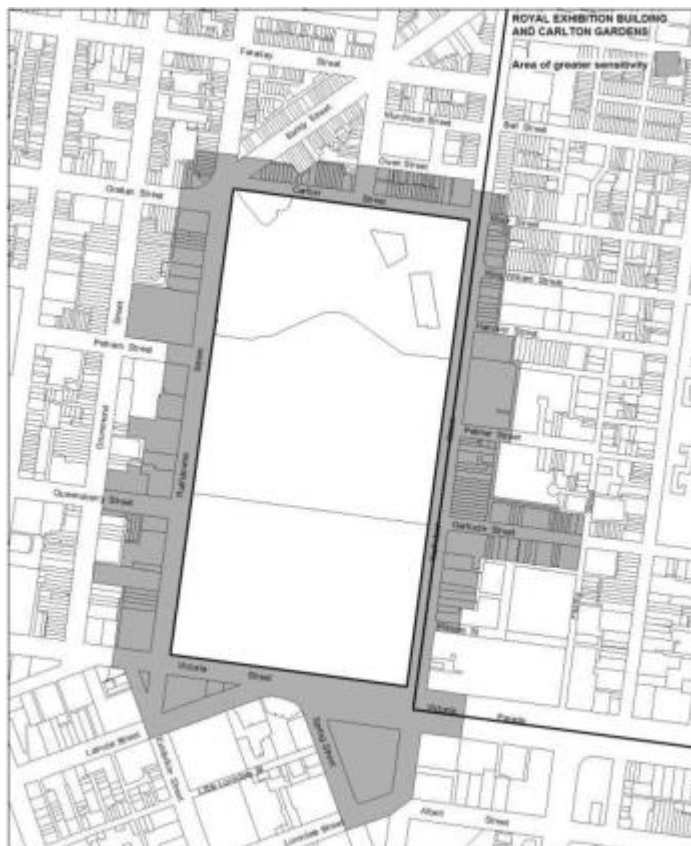
*be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building.*
2. This report outlines the implications of this and outlines options and recommendations.

### Background

3. It is understood that the request for applications within the WHEA or the broader buffer area to be determined at IDAC stems from concern raised by some community members regarding the approval of a development at 34 – 36 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).
4. The application was for part demolition and construction of a 10 storey building. Council officers refused the original application on grounds relating to the extent of demolition, excessive height and visual intrusiveness. The applicant substituted amended plans for the hearing which reduced the extent of demolition, deleted 2 levels and increased setbacks. Council officers then supported the amended plans with further design detail changes and relied on a heritage expert to give evidence at the hearing.
5. Objector parties to the hearing did not support the amended plans and relied on a heritage expert to give evidence at the hearing. The Applicant also relied on a heritage expert and photomontages in support of their amended proposal.
6. The Tribunal found the proposal to be high quality contemporary architecture using high quality but respectful and recessive materials which respond to the nineteenth century context. The Tribunal was satisfied the proposed demolition in the amended plans was limited to heavily modified parts of the heritage building (*Salisbury Place*) or original fabric not visible to the public realm.
7. In regard to the new building, the Tribunal commented that there is no mandatory or preferred height control in the World Heritage Environment Area Overlay above the Nicholson Street, street wall. The Tribunal found the generous front setbacks would ensure no material visual impact on the World Heritage Environs Area Precinct and was assisted by two heritage experts in this regard. The Tribunal found the proposal complies with the local heritage guidelines for siting upper storey additions and the level of concealment behind the retained *Osborne House* is significant.

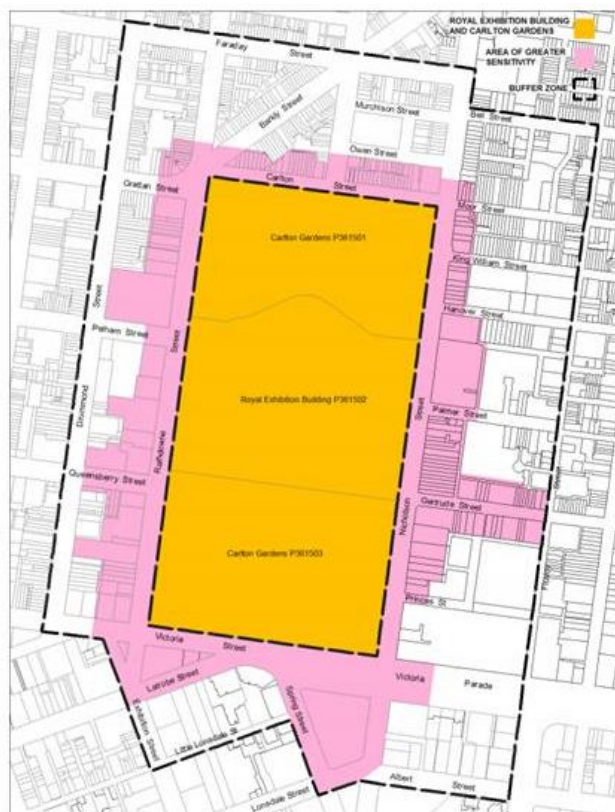
### Planning Controls

8. The World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) is illustrated below and incorporates predominantly residential areas (with some commercial) in Carlton and Fitzroy; together with properties at the north end of Melbourne's Central Business District in the area generally immediately south of Victoria Street. It encompasses properties in both City of Melbourne and City of Yarra.



**Figure 1: World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA)**

9. There is a “buffer zone”, and an “area of greater sensitivity”. The area of greater sensitivity (areas shown in grey and pink) has been captured under Clauses 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area) and Clause 22.02 (Heritage Overlay Schedule 361) of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

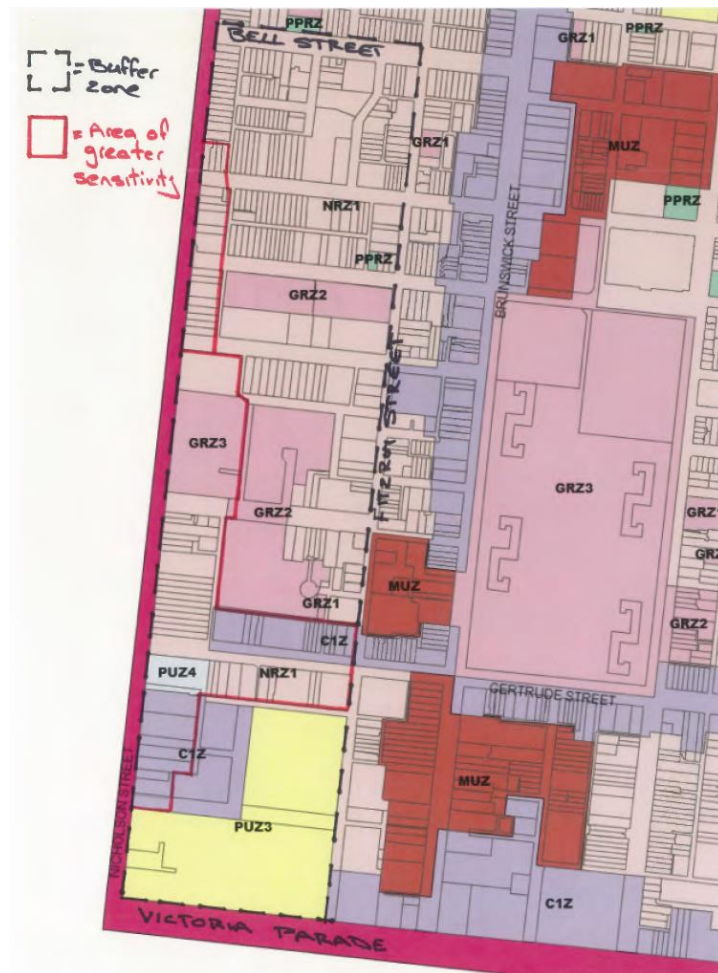


**Figure 2: World Heritage Environs Area shown in pink, dotted line showing buffer zone**

10. The buffer zone contains approximately **190** properties in the City of Yarra; while the “area of greater sensitivity” (AGS) covers an additional approximately **84** properties which includes 19 individually listed heritage properties included on the Victorian Heritage Register (Heritage Victoria). Being a total of approximately 270 affected properties in the City of Yarra.

### Zoning

11. Considering only land included within the City of Yarra, as shown in the zoning map below, land is generally included in one of 4 zones:
  - (a) Neighbourhood Residential Zone – Schedule 1;
  - (b) General Residential Zone;
    - (i) Schedule 1;
    - (ii) Schedule 2; and
    - (iii) Schedule 3;
  - (c) Commercial 1 Zone; and
  - (d) Public Use Zone 3 – Health and Community.
12. Two other parcels of land are included in this area; one being a Public Parks and Recreation Zone and the other Public Use Zone Transport.



**Figure 3:** Zoning Map showing World Heritage Environs Area of greater sensitivity in red and, dotted line showing buffer zone.

Existing height controls

13. As shown above, the majority of land is included within residentially zoned land.
14. Importantly much of this land now includes height controls, the specifics of which are outlined below:

Zone	Height Control
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	9m and the building must contain no more than 2 Storeys
General Residential Zone – 1 (Warehouse sites)	10.5m (or with a slope 11.5m)
General Residential Zone – 2 (Residential areas)	9m
General Residential Zone – 3 (Office of Housing site over 2500sqm & selected main roads)	11m and the building must contain no more than 3 Storeys

15. There are some exceptions to these heights, but in general most of the residentially zoned land is capped at heights ranging between 9 – 11.5m
16. There are no height controls applying to the remainder of the sites which are included within the Commercial 1 Zone, Public Use Zone 3 & 4 and the Public Park and Recreation zone.

Overlays - relevant

17. Multiple heritage overlays apply to the sites including:
  - (a) HO361 – World Heritage Environs Area Precinct; and
  - (b) HO334 – South Fitzroy Precinct.
18. Sites included on the State Heritage Register:
  - (a) HO149 – 40 – 48 Bell Street, Fitzroy - Former National School;
  - (b) HO171 – 35 – 39 Hanover Street, Fitzroy – Edward Wills House (residence);
  - (c) HO356 – 185 – 193 Fitzroy Street and 12 Cowell Street, Fitzroy – Christian Israelite Sanctuary;
  - (d) HO184 – 88 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy – Convent of Mercy and Academy of Mary Immaculate;
  - (e) HO185 – 98 Nicholson Street and 14 Hanover Street, Fitzroy – Cairo Apartments;
  - (f) HO186 – 122 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy - Residence;
  - (g) HO183 – 50 – 68 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy – Royal Terrace;
  - (h) HO181 – 46 – 48 Nicholson Street, Corner Gertrude Street Fitzroy – Former Cable Tram Engine House; and
  - (i) HO182 – 40 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy – Osborne House.

**Assessment**

19. As outlined at the beginning of this report, the purpose is to provide advice on:
  - (a) *That applications for development:*
    - (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
    - (ii) *Within the area designated as the “Buffer Zone” in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

*be determined by Council’s Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building.*

20. Currently, officers have delegation to determine all applications with less than 6 objections following the assessment against the Yarra Planning Scheme provisions. Note: this delegation also allows any Councillor to 'call up' any application for consideration and determination at the IDAC Committee notwithstanding how many objections, or none at all.
21. Under the existing Deed of Delegation the IDAC committee determine all applications which have 6 or more objections and where officers are supportive of the application.
22. Under the change being considered by Council, any application within either the Area of Greater Sensitivity or the Buffer Area which is taller than the highest point of the building irrespective of number of objections would be required to be determined by IDAC.

Land included within the Area of Greater Sensitivity

23. Within this area, 84 properties are included, 19 of which are included on the State Heritage Register, and therefore, Council cannot consider the heritage impacts of these properties.
24. As currently worded, planning applications for all 84 properties could also encompass such things (exempting building additions/development) as: car parking reductions, liquor licenses, signage, and change of use. Such applications do not impact the WHEA but would be required under this proposed change to be determined at IDAC.
25. Given that the majority of land within this area is zoned residential and already affected by height controls limiting developments to no more than 2 – 3 storey and between 9 – 11m in height it is suggested that there is considered to be little benefit from lengthening the planning process and adding to the workload of staff and IDAC if the concern is to protect the WHEA.
26. Land which is, however, not zoned residential is limited to 22 properties, 3 of which are included on the State Heritage Register, the remaining 19 are included in the Commercial 1 Zone and are encumbered by the heritage overlay area. It is suggested that these sites offer greater development potential as they are unencumbered by height controls.
27. While a new provision could be added to the Deed of Delegation to require all applications within this sensitive area to be determined by IDAC, Councillors already have the ability to 'call up' any planning application. Councillors are provided a list of all applications received monthly and can choose to exercise this discretion.
28. Requiring officers to prepare an IDAC report for all these 84 properties would also add to already extremely high workloads, and further impact turnaround times. This would also potentially lead to an increase in "failure to determine" appeals. The increased applications would also add to IDAC agendas.
29. Irrespective of what process is selected, applications deemed to be VicSmart applications would need to be exempt from any process as these must be determined within 10 days.

Land included within the Buffer area

30. If the IDAC process was attributed to the broader buffer area, this would affect another approximately 190 properties.
31. Again relevantly, the majority of land within this area is zoned residential and already affected by height controls limiting developments to generally no more than 2 – 3 storey and between 9 – 11.5m in height.
32. It is suggested that there is little benefit of lengthening the planning process and adding to the workload of staff and IDAC and potential for "failure to determine" appeals if the concern is to protect the WHEA.
33. Land which is, however, not zoned residential is limited to 6 properties, one is a park (excluded from the remainder of the assessment), and the other five are two sites in the Commercial 1 zone and three parcels of land associated with the St Vincent's Public Hospital site. All of these are encumbered by the South Fitzroy Heritage Precinct.

34. These five sites along with the 19 other commercially zoned sites offer the greater development potential as they are unencumbered by height controls regarding the Yarra Planning Scheme overlay provisions.
35. As outlined above, requiring officers to prepare IDAC report for all these 190 properties would also add to excessively high workloads, and further impact turnaround times. This would also potentially lead to an increase in “failure to determine” appeals. The increased applications would also add to IDAC agendas.
36. Also, irrespective of what process is selected, applications deemed to be VicSmart application would need to be exempt from any process as these must be determined within 10 days.

#### **External Consultation**

37. None.

#### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

38. Each of, the Manager Statutory Planning and the Senior Advisor, City Heritage.

#### **Financial Implications**

39. It is anticipated that increased workloads would lead to longer delays in turnaround times and could impact on budget with the potential for an increase in the number of failure to determine appeals amongst other types of appeals. (this is, representation at VCAT, costs for advocacy and witnesses).

#### **Economic Implications**

40. None

#### **Sustainability Implications**

41. None

#### **Social Implications**

42. None

#### **Human Rights Implications**

43. None

#### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

44. None

#### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

45. Heritage is an important consideration to planning applications and is one which is balanced amongst all other planning provision relevant to an application.

#### **Legal Implications**

46. As outlined above, the risk will potentially be an increase in the number of appeals and associated legal costs.

#### **Options**

47. There are 3 options:

##### **Option 1**

48. As outlined in the original motion:

(a) *That applications for development:*

- (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*

- (ii) *Within the area designated as the “Buffer Zone” in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

*be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building.*

49. This would capture all applications. If this option was to be selected, additional words must be added after *the highest point of the existing building*, "excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application".
50. If the concern is limited to the impact of additional height to buildings, additional words need to be included to clarify that this clause only applies to additions to a building and to applications for changes of use, signage and the like.

### **Option 2**

51. This option recognises that there are a total of 24 sites which are not zoned residential which may offer greater development potential:

(a) That applications for development only which are zoned either Commercial 1 or Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community):

- (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
- (ii) *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

*be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) only where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application.*

### **Option 3**

52. Make no change to the Deed of Delegation as the discretion for any Councillor to call up a matter to IDAC is already built into the delegation.

### **Conclusion**

53. That having regard to the points outlined in the report and in particular:
  - (a) the extent of existing controls on significant numbers of properties in the subject area, including:
    - (i) height controls on designated properties;
    - (ii) properties included on the State Heritage Register, and which Council cannot consider the heritage impacts of such properties;
  - (b) the potential impact to the operations of the Statutory Planning Unit and Council, including timeframes, potential additional appeals at VCAT and legal costs of the suggested changes;
  - (c) that Councillors are able to call up any planning applications to IDAC;

that Council, consider a procedure whereby those properties which are not currently impacted by existing height controls or State Heritage controls, are referred to IDAC and accordingly resolve that the Deed of Delegation be amended as follows:

(i) That applications for development only which are zoned either Commercial 1 or Public Use Zones 3 (Health and Community):

- *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
- *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

*be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) only where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application.*

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

- (a) note the officer report in relation to planning permit applications and the World Heritage Environs Area, including the analysis and the options as outlined therein;
- (b) *now resolve, that applications for development only which are zoned either Commercial 1 or Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community):*
  - (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
  - (ii) *Within the area designated as the “Buffer Zone” in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

*be determined by Council’s Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) only where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application.*

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### Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

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**12.1 Notice of Motion No.1 of 2018 - State Government Major Road Projects and Impact on the City of Yarra**

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Trim Record Number: D18/20944

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

I, Councillor Amanda Stone, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 6 February 2018:

“That:

- (a) Council note the Council resolution of 31 October 2017 authorising the Mayor to write to the Minister for Roads and Public Transport asking what the State Government plans are for increasing mass transit along the eastern corridor to Doncaster; and
- (b) the Mayor write to the Premier:
  - (i) Reiterating the previous request and requesting a commitment to Doncaster Rail as the most efficient form of mass transit along the eastern corridor;
  - (ii) Asking how the State Government plans to address any increase in congestion, delays to road-based public transport, traffic on local roads via ‘rat running’ and reduction in amenity as a result of these 3 major road projects combined; and
  - (iii) Asking the State Government for any plans for major public transport enhancements which will reduce the need for vehicle traffic through the City of Yarra.”

**Background**

The State Governments approval late in 2017 of two major projects – North East Link and Westgate Tunnel – along with the current construction of the Streamlining Hoddle Street project are all projected to induce increased volumes of vehicle traffic into and through the City of Yarra.

There has been no assessment of the direct impact these projects combined will have on congestion, traffic on local roads, delays on road based public transport and general amenity in the City of Yarra.

Both road projects have been used as a rationale by the opposition to commit to constructing East West Link, a project resoundingly rejected by the Yarra community as well as the current State Government.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That:
  - (a) Council note the Council resolution of 31 October 2017 authorising the Mayor to write to the Minister for Roads and Public Transport asking what the State Government plans are for increasing mass transit along the eastern corridor to Doncaster; and
  - (b) the Mayor write to the Premier:
    - (i) Reiterating the previous request and requesting a commitment to Doncaster Rail as the most efficient form of mass transit along the eastern corridor;
    - (ii) Asking how the State Government plans to address any increase in congestion, delays to road-based public transport, traffic on local roads via ‘rat running’ and reduction in amenity as a result of these 3 major road projects combined; and
    - (iii) Asking the State Government for any plans for major public transport enhancements which will reduce the need for vehicle traffic through the City of Yarra.