



Agenda

Council Meeting

7.00pm, Tuesday 19 October 2021

MS Teams

Council Meetings

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

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

There are two ways you can participate in the meeting.

Public Question Time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public submissions

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

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

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

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

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

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

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

Recording and Publication of Meetings

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

Order of business

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

1. Acknowledgment of Country

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

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

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

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

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

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors

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

Council officers

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

Leave of absence

•	Cr Anab Mohamud	Councillor
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3. Announcements

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

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

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

5. Confidential business reports

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020. 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 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to allow consideration of confidential information

Item

5.1 Chief Executive Officer – Determination on Performance Review for the period 2020/2021

This item is to be considered in closed session to allow consideration of personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

These grounds are applicable because the report contains private information about the personal affairs of an individual.

6. Confirmation of minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5 October 2021 be confirmed.

7. Public question time

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

8. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
8.1	Proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)	9	16	Julie Wyndham – Manager Corporate Planning and Performance
8.2	Long-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31	59	60	Wei Chen – Chief Financial Officer
8.3	Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) Adoption	84	88	Stewart Martin – Manager Compliance and Parking Services
8.4	Submission to the Inquiry into Apartment Design Standards	121	133	Mary Osman – Manager Statutory Planning
8.5	Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan - Consideration of draft submission	167	175	Althena Davidson – Manager City Strategy
8.6	Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026	213	218	Siu Chan – Business Unit Manager Arts, Culture and Venues
8.7	Yarra City Council Annual Report 2020/21	238	240	Anya Murray – Coordinator Communications and Engagement
8.8	Planning Scheme Amendment C286yara - Yarra Open Space Levy	453	466	Michael Ballock – Executive Planner Strategic Projects

9. Notices of motion

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
9.1	Notice of Motion No.13 of 2021 - Parklets	514	516	Stephen Jolly - Councillor

10. Petitions and joint letters

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

11. Questions without notice

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

12. Delegate's reports

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

13. General business

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

14. Urgent business

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

8.1 Proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)

Executive Summary

Purpose

To present the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) to Council for adoption.

Key Issues

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires Victorian Councils to prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years, by 31 October after a general election, in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* prescribes what the Council Plan must contain, this includes Strategic Objectives and related Strategies, Initiatives and Indicators.

The preparation of this proposed Council Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the Strategic Planning Principles as outlined in section 89 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. One of these principles is that the Council Plan must address the Community Vision.

Financial Implications

The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 is supported by the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31.

Projects arising out of the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 are subject to the Annual Budget process.

PROPOSAL

That Council adopt the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan).

8.1 Proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)

Reference	D21/140414
Author	Julie Wyndham - Manager Corporate Planning and Performance
Authoriser	Director Corporate, Business and Finance

Purpose

1. To present the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) to Council for adoption.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Council is required under the Local Government Act 2020 to develop and adopt a Council Plan, for at least the next 4 financial years, by 31 October after a general Council election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.
3. Furthermore, Section 89(2)(b) of the Act states that “strategic planning must address the Community Vision”. The Council Plan is a key strategic plan under this provision of The Act.
4. Under the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, local government is required to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) every four years. The Council Plan 2021-25 (attachment 1) is Yarra’s second Council Plan to incorporate the MPHWP, having exemption from the Secretary of the Department of Health.
5. The MPHWP outlines how Council will protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the City of Yarra. The MPHWP has been incorporated with the Council Plan 2021-25 to deliver a single high-level plan that can drive a focus on health and wellbeing across Council.
6. The Council Plan is a high-level umbrella document that guides and informs Council’s work. It elevates and sets out Council’s strategic priorities and direction for the next four years, working towards the community’s priorities identified in the Yarra 2036 Community Vision.
7. As such, the Council Plan does not specifically consider all of Council’s services and activities; rather seeks to inform them. Detailed planning and specific priorities and actions for services are outlined in Council’s strategies and plans. The Council Plan complements other strategies and plans and does not intend to replicate them.

Yarra 2036 Community Vision

8. Yarra 2036 Community Vision (the Vision) was adopted by Council on 20 July 2021. The Vision can be viewed on Council’s website.
9. The Vision helps us understand our community’s long-term aspirations, provides a tool for future planning and decision-making and identifies our community’s future priorities
10. It was developed and handed over to Council for adoption by a deliberative community panel. The Vision includes an overarching Vision Statement and eight Vision Themes with 30 supporting future priorities. From these future priorities, the panel identified the most important ones that they wanted Council to start work on over the life of the Council Plan 2021-25.
11. The Council Plan 2021-25, which is required to be adopted by 31 October 2021, has been staged to ensure adequate time and consideration was given to address community priorities identified in the Vision.

12. To develop the Council Plan, we looked to what the community said in the Vision. We developed our six Strategic Objectives around the Vision Themes and Future Priorities so that our work over the next four years responds and is anchored to the voices of our community.

Discussion

13. Six Strategic Objectives have been proposed in the draft Council Plan 2021-25:
- (a) Climate and environment:
Yarra urgently mitigates climate change while also adapting to its impacts and developing resilience in everything we do. The community, business and industry are supported and encouraged to do the same;
 - (b) Social equity and health:
Yarra's people have equitable access and opportunities to participate in community life. They are empowered, safe and included;
 - (c) Local economy:
Yarra's neighbourhoods and major activity centres, nightlife and employment precincts are thriving, accessible and connected. They support and inspire diverse creative communities, cultural activities, businesses and local employment;
 - (d) Place and nature:
Yarra's public places, streets and green open spaces bring our community together. They are planned to manage growth, protect our unique character and focus on people and nature;
 - (e) Transport and movement:
Yarra's transport network is sustainable and recognises that streets are important shared public spaces. Transport and movement is accessible, safe and well connected; and
 - (f) Democracy and governance:
Yarra is smart, innovative and sustainable. Our decisions and advocacy are built on evidence and meaningful engagement. Good governance is at the heart of our processes and decision-making.
14. Each Strategic Objective is detailed through:
- (a) narrative discussing Council's Strategic Direction and what is important to Yarra including the challenges and opportunities we face;
 - (b) strategies that identify how Council will achieve the Strategic Objective;
 - (c) initiatives that identify what projects and activities Council will work on; and
 - (d) indicators setting out some of the ways Council will monitor achievement of the Strategic Objective.
15. There is a total of 30 Strategies, 64 Initiatives and 62 Indicators for the Council Plan 2021-25. The below table shows how these are distributed across the Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Initiatives	Indicators
Climate and environment	4	13	12
Social equity and health	7	16	13
Local economy	5	5	5
Place and nature	5	14	14
Transport and movement	4	7	9
Democracy and governance	5	9	9
Total	30	64	62

16. Subsequent Annual Plans and Annual Budgets will operationalise the Council Plan, detailing Council actions to be delivered that year. Progress is reported to Council and our community through quarterly reports and the Annual Report.
17. The MPHWP guides how Council will promote health and wellbeing across the municipality. It is incorporated within the Council Plan 2021-25. The Council Plan indicates which Strategies, Initiatives and Indicators that contribute to the MPHWP.
18. The MPHWP has six key themes that align to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-23 and connect across the Council Plan. These themes are:
 - (a) assisting to reduce the harms from tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and gambling;
 - (b) promoting gender equality and reducing gendered violence;
 - (c) promoting physical wellbeing;
 - (d) promoting community safety;
 - (e) promoting mental wellbeing; and
 - (f) assisting to reduce the health harms from climate change.
19. Council has developed an Operational Supplement: Health and Wellbeing Activities (OSHWA) 2021-2025. The OSHWA will provide further detail on the health and wellbeing actions being delivered by Council, in line with the Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Initiatives outlined in this Council Plan, relevant to the MPHWP.

Options

20. There are no options considered in this report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

21. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 was informed by extensive community engagement as part of the Community Vision project over three stages which started with broad community engagement in November 2020, included deliberative engagement in May 2021 and ended with public exhibition of the draft Council Plan 2021-25 in September 2021.

Broad community engagement

22. The broad community engagement approach started in November 2020 and ended in January 2021, attracting 1,300 contributions which well exceeded our targets. This approach meant a reliable cross-section of Yarra took part in the conversation and the results provided a solid foundation for our community panel to understand the range of views that exist in Yarra.

Deliberative community engagement

23. The deliberative engagement process was guided by Section 56 of the Local Government Act 2020 outlining the principles of good community engagement and Section 88 (1) requiring development of the Community Vision and Council Plan in accordance with Council's deliberative practices. In particular, the following standards outlined in Yarra's Community Engagement Policy 2020, defining best practice deliberative engagement, were reflected in the process:
 - (a) Representative sample of the population or group impacted:
 - (i) The panel size was relatively large according to general industry standards due to additional recruitment component to ensure diverse representation;

- (ii) Representation was determined through a thorough stakeholder analysis identifying locations, dwelling and tenure types (including homeowners, private renters, public renters and a small number of business owners) and age groups according to Yarra's demographics and gender representation. The expression of interest invitation to 8,000 households, stratification of 360 EOI's and final recruitment of 40 participants was conducted independently of Council through Sortition Foundation to ensure transparency in the process;
 - (iii) A further 20 participants were targeted through individual EOI processes managed through council branches to ensure appropriate diversity and inclusion of groups at risk of underrepresentation including; young people aged 15-18 years, people living with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse representatives according to Yarra's demographics; and
 - (iv) A total of 61 community members registered to participate in the panel process. Of the 61 participants who originally registered, 55 participated across some or all the four sessions with an excellent attendance and retention rate;
- (b) Clear scope and remit:
 - (i) The panel was provided clear direction on the scope of the Vision at the Expression of Interest stage of recruitment; being 15 years duration and applying to the whole of the municipality, and the overarching remit; "What needs to happen to make sure Yarra is the best it can be in 2035";
 - (ii) Further clear direction on the components of the Vision document including the overarching vision statement, themes and descriptors and priorities outlining Yarra's aspirations was provided at session one and reiterated throughout the process; and
 - (iii) The panel voted for the most important priorities they wanted Council to work on to inform the Council Plan 2021-25;
- (c) Provision of timely, objective and independently sourced/verified information:
 - (i) The panel was provided with:
 - a. Pre reading information kit outlining the role of the panel and panel process, role of different levels of government, the role of Council in the Yarra context of service delivery, and information relating to key pressures and opportunities and Council's asset management and financial position;
 - b. Through the process the panel received information from the CEO on current and future operational pressures and opportunities unique to Yarra, a presentation on the strategic planning process and outputs and their relationship to the Community Vision, a detailed presentation and report on the key themes provided through broader community engagement, a detailed presentation on input from the Yarra's broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and young people aged 0-25;
 - c. Through the process the online portal facilitated responses to five requests for further information on topics ranging from housing and homelessness through to waste management and community safety; and
 - d. Support staff recruited from a range of branches provided information in their role as table and focus area hosts;
- (d) Adequate time:
 - (i) Four sessions were scheduled across four weeks (total 13 hours), outside of business hours with a gap deliberately scheduled between session two and three to seek and digest further information;
- (e) Support to participate:

- (i) Five interpreters and translated pre reading materials were provided prior to and throughout the process;
 - (ii) Key support staff were specifically charged with support responsibilities for young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants and CALD participants;
 - (iii) Transport arrangements were provided to four participants;
 - (iv) Childcare support was provided to four participants; and
 - (v) Participants were provided with catering at each session and per diem financial acknowledgements to alleviate financial hardships incurred; and
- (f) A commitment to participants on the level of influence their recommendation or decision holds:
- (i) Engagement with Councillors identified a high level of influence, appropriate to deliberative engagement; Collaborate/Empower on the IAP2 spectrum of engagement.

Public exhibition

- 24. The community were invited to provide feedback on the draft Council Plan for two weeks from 9 September until 23 September 2021.
- 25. The draft Council Plan was promoted through Yarra News, Yarra Life, electronic direct mail, a news item on the corporate website, via direct email to everyone who participated in the Community Vision engagement and via social media channels (both Instagram and Facebook).
- 26. Across the advertisements 32,000 people were reached. This resulted in 56 clicks through to the website. On social media, Instagram Stories reached 380 people and across Facebook we reached 2,490 people and around 14 clicks. The community was invited to submit their feedback to Your Say Yarra, emailing info@yarracity.vic.gov.au or writing to us.

What the community told us on the Draft Council Plan 2021-25

- 27. A total of 87 responses were received from the community. Of these, 70 feedback forms were received through Your Say Yarra and 17 responses were received through emails.
- 28. The responses from the community were analysed and we looked to section 90 (3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* for requirements of how we are to engage with the community in developing the Council Plan.
- 29. The feedback was themed by each Strategic Objective. The most commonly mentioned themes were Lack of green/open space, Climate response, Sustainable and active transport, Vegetation/tree canopy/greening, Community safety and Planning and building.
- 30. A lot of the feedback from the community wasn't directly relevant to the Council Plan and included broad statements, commentary on Council activities, localised service issues and/or at a level more consistent with a detailed policy, strategy or plan rather than a strategic plan.
- 31. This feedback is valued and will be provided to the relevant service areas to consider outside of the Council Plan process.
- 32. Each item of feedback was considered in the context of the Council Plan legislated framework. A change to the draft Council Plan to incorporate feedback has been included in the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 where the feedback:
 - (a) enhances the Council Plan;
 - (b) aligns with the legislative framework;
 - (c) importantly aligns with the Community Vision;
 - (d) not deviates significantly from the community feedback already received, including the deliberative engagement; and

- (e) is consistent and faithful to the draft Council Plan 2021-25 that was on exhibition.

33. The below provides an overview of changes to the Council Plan in response to community feedback:

- (a) Lack of green/open space:
The initiative in 'Place and nature' to create new or expanded parks has been increased from five to seven. Wording in the narrative of the Strategic Objective 'Place and nature' has been strengthened to recognise the high value placed on our open and green space and its many uses and purposes;
- (b) Climate response:
To strengthen our commitment to work towards a safer climate, several Initiatives and Indicators in the Strategic Objective 'Climate and environment' have been edited, as well as some additional Indicators included. In the Strategic Objective 'Place and nature' reference to the impact of the urban island heat effect has been made and Initiatives included that relate to Council's work to reduce and monitor the urban heat island effect in addressing climate change impacts. Note the theme 'Vegetation/tree canopy/greening' detailed below lists changes that also align with the 'Climate response' theme;
- (c) Sustainable and active transport:
Wording in the Strategic Objective 'Transport and Movement' has been strengthened to reflect Council's commitment to creating a city that is accessible to all people including those with mobility limitations; where getting to school and the shops using sustainable transport options is prioritised; and where people can move about safely and sustainably. An Initiative and Indicators have been added to 'Transport and Movement' that align with the additional wording;
- (d) Vegetation/tree canopy/greening:
Wording has been added to narrative of the Strategic Objective 'Place and nature' around the urban heat island effect, importance of vegetated landscapes, the many users of open space and parks and its importance as well as water sensitive urban design in the sustainable management of water resources. Initiatives and indicators were added to 'Place and nature' that align with the additional wording;
- (e) Community safety:
Wording in the narrative of the Strategic Objective 'Social equity and health' has been edited to better explain Council's role and level of influence in community safety, including the work we do regarding the promotion of public health, safety and amenity; and
- (f) Community engagement:
Three indicators have been added to Democracy and Governance that monitor Council's commitment to meaningful and representative community engagement.

Health and Wellbeing Project Consultative Group

34. A Health and Wellbeing Project Consultative Group (Group) was established in early 2021, comprising more than 20 members (including council officers, councillors, community health representatives, primary health network and primary care partnership representatives). The purpose of the Group was to review the evidence relating to health and wellbeing in Yarra and translate the evidence and their specialist knowledge into guidance on what Council should prioritise in the MPHWP. The Group met five times in 2021 and provided advice and context for the development of the MPHWP and associated action plan.

Internal engagement

35. Internal engagement with Councillors occurred over three facilitated workshops and numerous briefings.
36. Executive, senior managers and subject matter experts were engaged through multiple workshops and meetings.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

37. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 is Council's key strategic document. It informs all our work and decision-making and sets out what Council seeks to achieve over its four-year term. Attachment 1 is the Council Plan.
38. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 addresses Yarra 2036 Community Vision with close alignment and connection between the Vision themes and priorities and the Council Plan's Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Initiatives.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

39. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective 'Climate and environment' that includes four Strategies and thirteen Initiatives to address climate emergency and sustainability.

Community and social implications

40. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective Social Equity and Health that includes seven Strategies and sixteen Initiatives to address community and social implications.
41. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 incorporates the MHWP that guides how Council will promote health and wellbeing across the municipality.

Economic development implications

42. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective Local Economy that includes five Strategies and five Initiatives to address economic development implications.

Human rights and gender equality implications

43. The draft Council Plan 2021-25 includes a Strategic Objective Social equity and health that includes seven Strategies and sixteen Initiatives to address human rights and gender equality implications.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

44. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 is supported by the proposed Long Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31.
45. Projects arising out of the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 are subject to the Annual Budget process.

Legal Implications

46. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 has been developed in accordance with all relevant requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Conclusion

47. The proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) addresses the Yarra 2036 Community Vision and the priorities identified by the community and is presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) adopt the proposed Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan).

Attachments

1 [↓](#) Proposed Council Plan 2021-25

Attachment 1 - Proposed Council Plan 2021-25

Council Plan 2021-25



Attachment 1 - Proposed Council Plan 2021-25

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attachment 1 - Proposed Council Plan 2021-25

Welcome to the Council Plan 2021-25

The Council Plan 2021-25 is Yarra City Council's key strategic document. It informs all our work and decision-making and sets out what Council seeks to achieve over its four-year term. The Council Plan 2021-25 is informed by extensive engagement, including a deliberative community panel, and addresses the Yarra 2036 Community Vision.

The Council Plan 2021-25 (Council Plan) is our commitment to the community, outlining where we will focus our efforts as we work towards the Yarra 2036 Community Vision. It identifies six Strategic Objectives that represent our Strategic Direction, each with supporting Strategies and Initiatives that define what Council will work to achieve over the next four years. To monitor our success in achieving the Strategic Objectives, the Council Plan identifies Indicators.

In developing the Council Plan, we listened to the community's hopes, aspirations and priorities for the next fifteen years as set out in the Yarra 2036 Community Vision (Vision). The result is a Council Plan that responds to, and aligns with, the Vision and voices of our diverse and vibrant community.

The Council Plan incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) and outlines how Council will protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the City of Yarra. This plan addresses the Yarra City Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

This plan is the product of extensive community engagement, which started with broad community engagement in November 2020, included deliberative engagement in May 2021 and ended with public exhibition of the draft Council Plan allowing an opportunity for further community feedback in September 2021. We heard from over 1,300 people during the broad community engagement and the representative community panel included people from all suburbs, age groups, cultural and linguistic backgrounds and all abilities. For further information about the process followed to develop the Council Plan and integrated MPHWP please see Appendix 2.

Attachment 1 - Proposed Council Plan 2021-25



Figure 1 The Yarra 2036 Community Vision has informed the Council Plan 2021-25 and the six Strategic Objectives that represent the Strategic Direction for the next four years

Attachment 1 - Proposed Council Plan 2021-25

Message from the Mayor

I am proud to lead a plan that will help us build a climate-safe, equitable and liveable Yarra for everyone. This four-year plan guides our most important projects and activities, so that together we can build a strong foundation for the future.

For the first time, Yarra's Council Plan has drawn on the hopes, aspirations and priorities identified in the Yarra 2036 Community Vision. We have worked in partnership with the community and listened to residents to achieve the best outcomes for Yarra.

Along with my fellow Councillors we considered how this plan aligns with our community's vision for the future, as well as our responsibility to mitigate climate change, to support the social equity of our people and to sustain the Council organisation financially. Through it, we commit to investing in community infrastructure that will support the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community, especially those experiencing disadvantage, as well as projects that will enhance and protect the natural environment.

On behalf of Council I am incredibly proud of the work that has been done to bring this plan to fruition.

The Council Plan 2021-25 is the culmination of more than 10 months of community engagement between November 2020 and September 2021. We received more than 1300 contributions as part of our community engagement process and a representative deliberative community panel met four times for a total of 13 hours.

Your input has helped develop Council's first-ever Community Vision, which in turn has guided, informed and shaped our Council Plan Strategic Objectives, particularly around community building and environmental sustainability. Our goal is to build a fairer, more equal Yarra community and tackle the climate emergency.

Some highlights from the Council Plan include:

- taking a strong stand on climate action by developing and acting on a roadmap to zero to drive down Yarra's community carbon emissions
- prioritising sustainable and active transport modes to make our city easier and healthier to live in and get around, as well as drive down transport emissions
- increasing our green open space by creating seven new or expanded parks in Yarra
- reinforcing our commitment to transform our approach to waste and recycling
- planning for the Collingwood Community Hub to provide equitable access and opportunities to facilities and services for marginalised people and support public housing residents
- strengthening Yarra as a place that values Aboriginal culture and identity, embedding Aboriginal voices and aspirations in our core business
- revitalising our local retail, arts and culture, and night-time economy to build our economic capacity and prosperity.

You have entrusted me and my fellow councillors with a very important role. We are committed to listening and engaging with you to ensure transparency and accountability as we work to implement this plan.

The Council Plan provides the framework for us to monitor our progress and most importantly report back on how we are tracking.

This plan outlines an exciting future for the City of Yarra and we look forward to working with you to ensure that Yarra continues to be a wonderful place to live, work, play and visit.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this important plan. Your insights, feedback and ideas have influenced and shaped our priorities for the future and have led to the creation of a Council Plan I am incredibly proud to lead.

Councillor Gabrielle de Vietri

Mayor Yarra City Council

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Council and what we do

The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community and is defined by the *Local Government Act 2020* section 8(1).

Councils are the closest form of government to the community; they are best placed to observe community needs and respond accordingly. Councils operate in a complex environment in a broader context with State and Federal Governments. Yarra City Council functions and services include:

- Local service delivery (e.g. maternal and child health, aged and disability, libraries, childcare, waste collection and recycling)
- Infrastructure provision, improvement and maintenance (e.g. cycling infrastructure, roads, footpaths, streetscape improvements, parks and open space, community centres, recreation facilities, public toilets)
- Strategic planning that prepares plans that guide future development (e.g. land use)
- Regulation and enforcement (e.g. local laws, permits, food premises inspections)
- Facilitation (e.g. economic development, strategic planning, arts and culture events)
- Representation and advocacy (e.g. social justice issues, health outcomes, gender equality, lobbying to better public transport, working with other tiers of government and organisations)
- Community development (e.g. supporting neighbourhood houses, community grants program)
- Partnerships and funding agreement (e.g. working with service providers to assist new migrants)

Local government is uniquely situated to understand the community's needs and plays an important role in influencing health and wellbeing outcomes locally.

All councils consist of democratically elected Councillors, who form the Council, and the organisation (council employees or Yarra City Council).

Yarra City Council actively champions diversity and inclusion and is a proud leader in flexible work arrangements and gender equality. The Council's organisational values of accountability, respect and courage guide staff conduct and working relationships with colleagues and the community.

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Our Councillors

The current Council was elected in November 2020 to a four-year term. The Council is made up of nine elected Councillors, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The City of Yarra is divided into 3 geographic wards; each ward is represented by three Councillors:

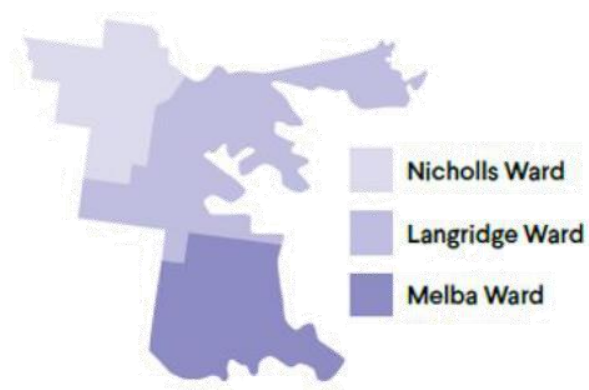


Figure 2 City of Yarra wards

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Nicholls Ward:



Cr. Amanda Stone



Cr. Bridgid O'Brien



Cr. Sophie Wade

Langridge Ward:



Mayor Gabrielle de Vietri
Ptors



Cr. Stephen Jolly



Cr. Anab Mohamud

Melba Ward:



Cr. Edward Crossland



Cr. Claudia Nguyen



Cr. Herschel Landes

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Community Vision

Yarra 2036 Community Vision (Vision) is our first-ever community vision. It sets out the community's hopes, aspirations and priorities for the next 15 years. It is an important, long term strategic document that will guide all planning and decision making for Council and the community.

The Vision includes:

- a Vision Statement describing the future state of Yarra in 2036
- Eight Vision Themes representing the key areas of focus
- Future Priorities describing the key aspirations for the future of Yarra, presented by Vision Theme.

Vision Statement

Yarra is a vibrant, safe and inclusive environment. We celebrate and embrace our diversity and connection to each other and the land. Our community is empowered to work together and support one another with respect and trust.

How we developed the Vision

The Vision is the product of a two-staged engagement approach, which started with broad community engagement in November 2020. During this stage we asked the wider community its thoughts and aspirations for Yarra's future and heard from more than 1,300 people.

The data was analysed by an independent researcher for transparency. Their report helped us identify what the broader community did and did not agree on. It also provided a foundation for the community panel to understand the range of views that exist in Yarra.

A representative community panel of 55 people met four times, in person, during May 2021 – a total of 13 hours of learning and deliberations.

They considered the views of the broader Yarra community, and the diverse perspectives of other panel participants. They discussed and debated the views of the broader Yarra community to create the final Vision. Councillors made the following commitment to the panel:

We commit to receiving this vision and adopting it as you provide it. The aspirations and priorities you identify will inform our strategic planning including, but not limited to, our four-year council plan and long-term financial and asset plans. We will continue to work in partnership with our community to see this Vision achieved.

Why we developed a Vision

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires all Victorian councils to develop and adopt a community vision before 31 October 2021. In addition to this they also have important benefits, including:

- helping us understand our community's long-term aspirations
- providing a tool for future planning and decision making in Yarra
- helping guide our community's future priorities.

How the Council Plan responds to the Vision

To develop the Council Plan, we looked to what the community said in the Vision. We developed our six Strategic Objectives around the Vision Themes and Future Priorities so that our work over the next four years responds and is anchored to the voices of our community. The below image shows the six Strategic Objectives and the Vision Themes it responds to. Each Vision Theme has its own Priorities for a future Yarra, and these are shown in Appendix 3.

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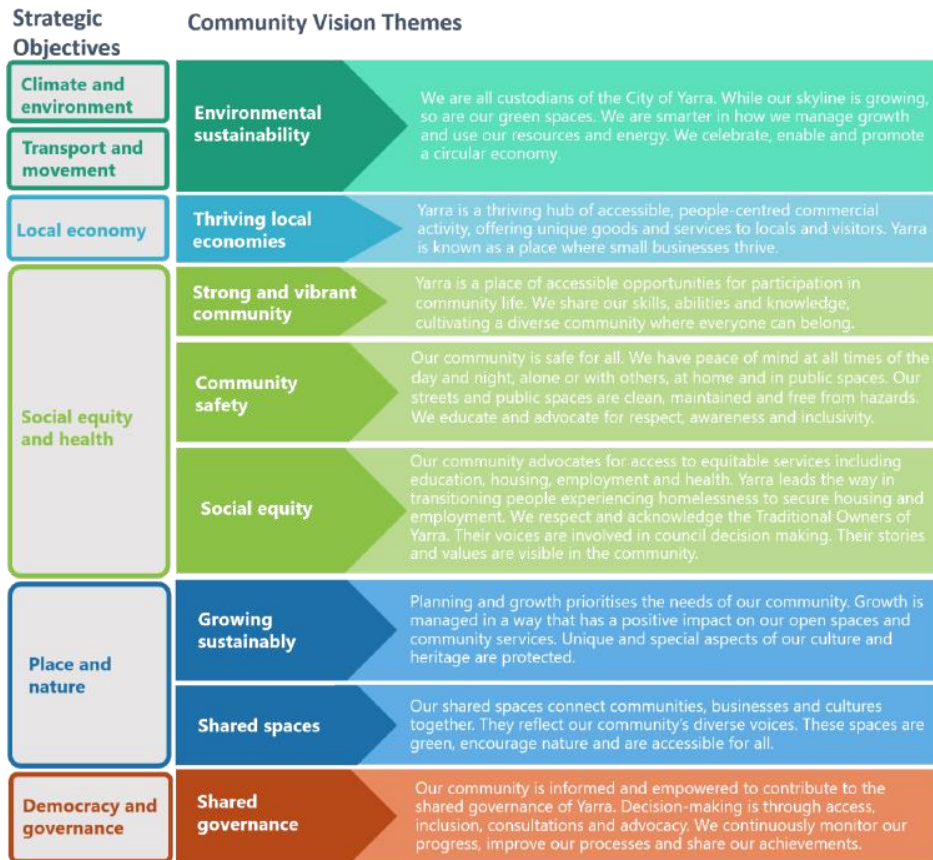


Figure 3 How the Council Plan Strategic Objectives respond to the Community Vision Themes

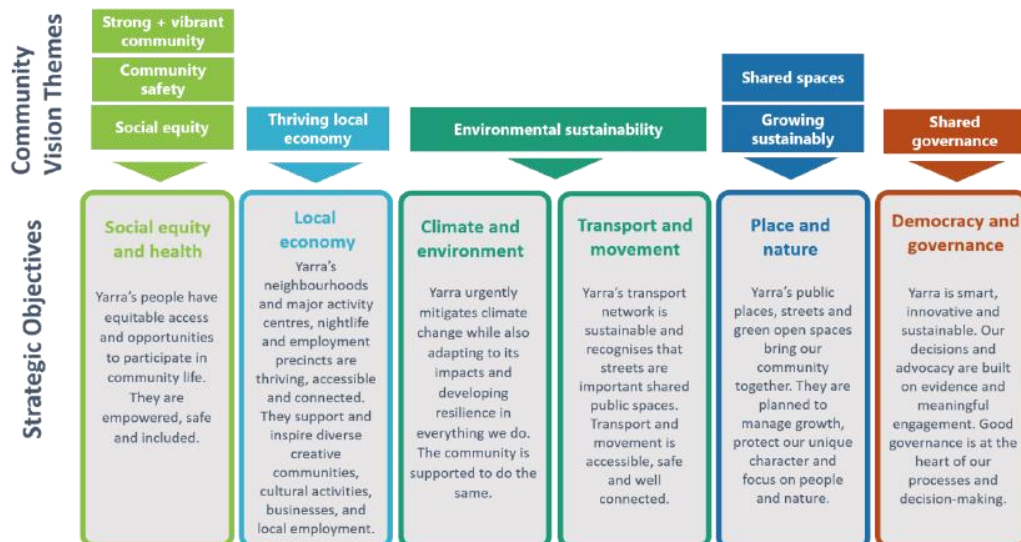


Figure 4 How the Community Vision Themes inform the Strategic Objectives

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City context

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung are the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as the City of Yarra.

An inner metropolitan municipality, Yarra is home to a diverse community of approximately 103,000 people. Covering 19.5 square kilometres, Yarra includes the suburbs of:

- Abbotsford
- Alphington
- Burnley
- Carlton North
- Clifton Hill
- Collingwood
- Cremorne
- Fairfield Fitzroy
- Fitzroy North
- Princes Hill
- Richmond



Figure 5 Map of the City of Yarra

The City of Yarra is known for being champions of social justice, leaders in climate action, custodians of our unique culture and heritage, and advocates for our vibrant creative industries.

Council celebrates its connection to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the traditional owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. Fitzroy and Collingwood are areas of special significance to Aboriginal people. These areas were a major hub of social and political activity for the Aboriginal community in the past and today remain a critical centre for Aboriginal services and organisations.

Council embraces its cultural diversity. Successive waves of refugees and migrants have made Yarra home, beginning in the post-war era with our Greek and Italian communities, our Vietnamese community in the

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1970s, followed by Chinese and East Timorese communities and in the last 15 years, our east African community.

Yarra has a range of social and demographic considerations and is host to a spectrum of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. Council operates under a social justice charter that protects the whole community's human rights, especially those of our more vulnerable residents, and those more likely to be at risk of discrimination. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people experiencing homelessness.

Our creative community includes a diverse range of artists and organisations. We are home to two of the State's major creative hubs: Collingwood Yards and Abbotsford Convent – Australia's largest multi-arts precinct and Australian Heritage site.

Yarra is an economically diverse municipality, accommodating a range of mixed employment precincts, activity centres, industrial and health precincts. The municipality is renowned for its dynamic night life spread across several precincts. With an abundance of vibrant and evolving retail and service precincts, as well as restaurants, bars and live music options providing important social, cultural and economic benefits - the City of Yarra is a key inner-city destination.

Yarra residents experience wellbeing that is relatively high by national and international standards, yet parts of Yarra's population are more vulnerable to poorer health and wellbeing outcomes. For a full report on Health and Wellbeing related data, please view [Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020](#).

The global COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we live and work. The pandemic has put pressure on our communities and businesses; it has and will continue to have serious impacts on health and wellbeing. Many of the essential measures taken to contain the virus have had negative impacts in a variety of areas, including health and wellbeing, safety, financial security, feelings of social connection and access to food, housing, technology and health services. In addition, the members of our community who are more disadvantaged and vulnerable are likely to be heavily impacted. It is expected that there will be an enduring impact on our community's health and wellbeing, and a lengthy recovery process to follow. It is unsurprising that social connection emerged as an important theme during the development of this Council Plan; it emerged as a strong theme through community engagement for the Community Vision and Council Plan and features as a key theme with numerous initiatives in the MPHWP.

We are home to Victoria's largest public housing community with 10% of our population living in public housing as well as residents living in community housing and other supported accommodation.

COVID-19 pandemic

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic. A week later, Australia's Governor-General had declared a human biosecurity emergency, resulting in the forced closure of any non-essential business, enforced social distancing measures, travel restrictions and requiring millions to work from home. These restrictions continue to be enforced into 2021 when cases rise in the community, and it is expected that restrictions and lockdowns will continue to be part of life in Australia for some time. The pandemic has impacted, and will continue to impact how we live, work and go about our daily lives. The impacts on health and wellbeing, as well as the economy, are significant and ongoing. We will continue to monitor and adjust our response to the ever-changing situation and seek to understand the impacts on our community. Council recognises our role in supporting our community and local businesses as we continue to live with and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

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Quick facts about Yarra

People

- Estimated population of 103,125 (2020)
- Nearly 33% of people are aged between 25 and 36
- The average age is 33, compared to 36 in Greater Melbourne
- 29% of people were born overseas compared to 34% in Greater Melbourne
- 22% speak a language other than English at home
- 48% of residents have a bachelor or higher degree compared to 45% in Greater Melbourne
- 382 persons identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander (0.4%)
- 10% of people identify as LGBTIQ+ (2017)

Housing

- There are nearly 40,000 households
- The average household size is 2.1 people
- 85.2% of the dwellings were medium or high density, compared to 33% in Greater Melbourne
- 50% of households rent their home compared to 29% in Greater Melbourne
- 32% live alone compared to 23% in Greater Melbourne
- 10% of Yarra's residents live in public housing, compared to 2.6% in Greater Melbourne
- Almost 2 in 5 Yarra households are in the highest income quartile earning over \$2395 per week
- 1 in 5 households are in the lowest quartile group earning up to \$740 per week

How we get around

- One in five households don't own a car, in Greater Melbourne it is one in ten
- 50% of all residents' journeys to and from work are by sustainable transport

Economic environment

- There are 84,359 jobs
- There are 16,087 businesses
- Has an annual economic output of \$27.124 billion
- Unemployment rate of 6.7% (Dec 2020)
- The three highest employing sectors (jobs) are

- Healthcare and social assistance
- Professional, scientific and technical services
- Retail trade
- 45% of Yarra's employment is concentrated in Richmond, Cremorne and Burnley, supporting almost 37,000 jobs.
- Yarra is primarily made up of small businesses but is increasingly attracting larger businesses
- Night Time Economy: 22% of businesses within the 12 retail precincts were open after 6pm, 19% after 10pm (Jan 2021)

Health and wellbeing

- 12% of Yarra residents reported high or very high levels of psychological distress (2017)
- 96 per 10,000 women in Yarra experience Family Violence and 31.1 per 10,000 women experiences alcohol-related family violence (2019)
- Only 5.2% of Yarra residents eat the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables (2017)
- 54.9% of Yarra residents do the recommended weekly amount of physical activity (2017)
- 41% of Yarra residents spend more time sitting than the Victorian average of 27% (2017)
- 16% of Yarra residents smoked tobacco compared to 17% of Victorians (2017)
- Yarra residents' perception of safety during the day was 8.17 out of a possible 10 (where 0 is very unsafe and 10 is very safe) (2020)
- Yarra residents' perception of safety at night was 6.81 (where 0 is very unsafe and 10 is very safe) (2020)
- 37% of Yarra residents exceeded two drinks per day on a weekly basis compared to 25% of Victorians (2017)

Environment

- 17% tree canopy (Yarra Urban Forest Strategy)
- 100% Council operations are powered by renewable electricity
- 69% of community carbon emissions come from electricity (Yarra Climate Emergency Plan)
- Overall waste production is 8.8kg per household per week (Council operational data)

It is important to acknowledge the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that this may have had on the above figures, which typically reflect pre-COVID-19 data. The figures for People, Housing and How we get around have been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, except the LGBTIQ+ statistic. For all data sources on this page, see Appendix 7.

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How to read this document

The Council Plan 2021-25 addresses the Yarra 2036 Community Vision and includes the four-year Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP).

The Council Plan is comprised of six Strategic Objectives that set the Strategic Direction for the next four years. The Strategic Objectives are the areas where Council will focus its efforts in working towards the Vision. Each Strategic Objective contains its own set of Strategies, Initiatives and Indicators.

Strategic Objective

The six Strategic Objectives and their descriptors describe Council's Strategic Direction

Strategies

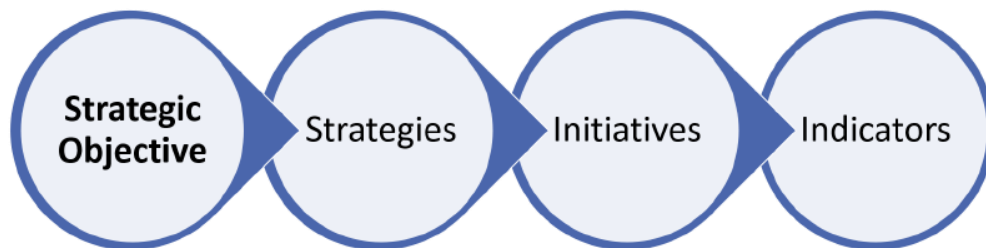
These describe how Council will implement each Strategic Objective

Initiatives

These are the projects or activities that Council will undertake to achieve the Strategies

Indicators

These monitor Council's progress in achieving the Strategic Objectives



The MPHWP guides how Council will promote health and wellbeing across the municipality. It is incorporated within the Council Plan 2021-25. The Council Plan indicates which Strategies, Initiatives and Indicators contribute to the MPHWP by noting MPHWP in parenthesis where relevant i.e. (MPHWP).

The MPHWP has six key themes that align to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-23 (VPHWP) and connect across the Council Plan.

These themes are:

- Assisting to reduce the harms from tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and gambling
- Promoting gender equality and reducing gendered violence
- Promoting physical wellbeing
- Promoting community safety
- Promoting mental wellbeing
- Assisting to reduce the health harms from climate change

Refer to Appendix 5 for more detail on these themes, how they align to the VPHWP and are incorporated in the Council Plan 2021-25.

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Climate and environment

Yarra urgently mitigates climate change while also adapting to its impacts and developing resilience in everything we do. The community, business and industry are supported and encouraged to do the same.

The climate emergency represents an unprecedented challenge – both globally and locally – with devastating consequences now and in the immediate future. Yarra City Council is renowned for being at the forefront of Local Government action on the climate emergency. We were the first Local Council in Victoria to become certified carbon neutral in 2012 and have retained our carbon-neutral status each year since.

The climate crisis is impacting people's health, wellbeing and livelihoods and our natural and built environments. We expect to see more heatwaves, droughts, bushfires, intense storms and flooding. This extreme weather will have impacts on air quality, food security, water supply and people's physical and mental health.

Our Climate Emergency Plan embeds Yarra's commitment to respond to the climate emergency - it aspires to achieve zero-net emissions across the entire Yarra community by 2030 and ensure the city is resilient to future pressures. We are committed to mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to those impacts.

We are developing a *'Road map to zero': towards achieving zero net community carbon emissions in Yarra*. The 'road map to zero' will provide us with an up-to-date greenhouse gas emissions profile for the Yarra community and set out the highest priorities to drive significant carbon emissions reductions, towards a zero net emissions target, for the whole municipality by 2030.

Council is actively working to transition to a circular economy. We recognise the potential environmental and economic benefit of minimising waste, consciously consuming and preserving resources. We are committed to creating and enabling an environment for the circular economy to progress.

We will lead the way to transformational change towards a safer climate. Over the next four years we will accelerate emissions reductions in our operations, work to enable our community to cut their carbon emissions, lead projects, and collectively push for the urgent climate action we need.

Strategies

1. Take urgent action to respond to the climate emergency and extend our impact through advocacy and partnerships
2. Lead and support the community, business and industry to take urgent climate action and transition towards net zero emissions and a circular economy
3. Enhance the resilience of our community to prepare for health-related and other impacts of climate change (MPHWP)
4. Lead, embed and promote the transition towards net zero carbon and a circular economy and extend our impact through advocacy and partnerships

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Initiatives

- a) Work with community, other Councils, partners, industry and business, and advocate for urgent climate action by other levels of government, including to rapidly move to 100% renewables, and away from fossil fuels including gas
- b) Develop and act on a 'roadmap to zero' including costed initiatives for community carbon emissions
- c) Embed climate emergency responses, circular economy approaches and conscious consumption across Council directorates and branches and promote this within the community
- d) Engage and support the community to participate in climate emergency actions, including in relation to health-related impacts (MPHWP)
- e) Complete work to introduce zero carbon standards into the planning scheme for new commercial and residential developments and seek change to the Victorian Planning Provisions via Ministerial approval
- f) Transition Council operated buildings away from using gas, continuing with small sites and Collingwood Leisure Centre by 2025, and working towards transitioning all Council buildings by 2030
- g) Transition Council's vehicles and equipment, where practical and available, to be low or zero emissions, and towards all electric vehicles by 2025, and support measures which facilitate the uptake of electric vehicles in the community
- h) Work with key partners to facilitate a rollout of community batteries across Yarra
- i) Work with community partners and other levels of government to support further roll-out of solar installations in the community in residential and commercial settings
- j) Introduce a service to separate organics from the waste stream
- k) Work with businesses and engage the community to reduce the use of single use plastics and phase out single use plastics across Council's operations
- l) Engage businesses and partners to transition towards zero-net carbon and develop circular economy approaches
- m) Advocate and partner with the waste industry and all levels of government to develop circular economy solutions, encouraging innovative and new technologies

Indicators

- i. Retain carbon neutral organisation status
- ii. Percentage reduction in Council greenhouse gas emissions
- iii. Percentage reduction in community emissions by fuel source
- iv. Number of Council buildings transitioned off gas
- v. Reduce Council gas usage
- vi. Percentage of dwellings with solar installations
- vii. Number of commercial solar installations
- viii. Number of businesses engaged in programs and activities on renewable energy power purchase agreements, plastic free campaigns, and circular economy waste initiatives
- ix. Percentage reduction of waste to landfill against 2020 levels
- x. Percentage of glass collected in the kerbside system recycled back into glass
- xi. Percentage reduction in food waste generated from the household
- xii. Percentage reduction in the overall volume of non-recyclable plastics in the system

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Social equity and health

Yarra's people have equitable access and opportunities to participate in community life. They are empowered, safe and included.

We value all ages, genders, sexualities, abilities and cultures and work to ensure that diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated. Council plays a key role in contributing to our community's health and wellbeing. We recognise the broad scope of this important work to create safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well-connected communities where quality services are accessible to everyone.

Participation in community life plays a big role in creating a healthy, socially connected and culturally rich Yarra. Community life refers to the life and activities of a community. It is about social, cultural, economic life and participation in services and activities that connect people and make them feel safe and included.

Yarra is deeply proud of its connection to the Aboriginal community. Acknowledgment of the area's rich indigenous history and increasing the opportunities to recognise Yarra's first people are important for Council; we are committed to increasing the visibility of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture, issues and achievements. Our Yana Ngargna (continuing connection) Plan is our fourth partnerships policy to strengthen and continue Yarra as a place that values Aboriginal culture and identity.

Cultural diversity and our public housing residents are fundamental to our unique social fabric. Feeling connected to the community, having social networks and being able to participate and contribute to community life are important factors that promote physical health, mental wellbeing and social inclusion.

Council delivers a wide range of inclusive and accessible services and programs. These range from childcare, recreation facilities, libraries, arts and cultural initiatives, services for older persons and people living with a disability. Council also provides a significant amount of funding to the community in the form of various grants focused on supporting local groups and initiatives, such as neighbourhood houses and community events. We support our LGBTIQ+ community and culture, and work to ensure everyone is welcomed, engaged and included equitably.

Council is committed to promoting health and wellbeing. To contribute to the social, physical and mental wellbeing of our community, Council works and partners with other tiers of government and many community organisations in addition to the delivery of our services. During times of crisis and emergency, we respond to evolving needs within our community and support those in need. We actively support our more vulnerable populations and make decisions in the best interests of our community's health and wellbeing.

Council works in partnership with other agencies including Victoria Police and State Government in responding to community safety. The issues are complex, and Council is aware of the significant impact that drug-related activity is having on the community. Council's key role, and level of influence in this space, is promotion of public health, safety and amenity. Council leads, supports

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and participates in a range of co-ordinated responses to address the breadth of complex and dynamic issues found in the community. Council also supports an approach that prioritises investment in service delivery and community development, to respond to vulnerabilities and take a strengths-based approach to community safety.

Yarra is aware of the need for our community to be digital ready. There is a real and critical need to support our vulnerable and marginalised communities to thrive in the digital age, which in turn supports the attainment of positive health and wellbeing. Council works in close collaboration with our various partners at the local, state and national level to support, facilitate and advocate for increased digital literacy in our community.

Over the next four years we will strengthen inclusion, support vulnerable communities and enhance our connection with Aboriginal culture. We will work to promote social, physical and mental wellbeing for our community, and create resilient, safe communities.

Strategies

1. Celebrate, respect and embrace Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and heritage, and reflect this in our decision-making, services and activities
2. Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental wellbeing (MPHWP)
3. Support vulnerable communities and residents of public housing to thrive in the community
4. Work to reduce the harms associated with the use of alcohol, illicit drugs, gambling and tobacco (MPHWP)
5. Celebrate and respect culturally vibrant and socially diverse communities
6. Leverage opportunities and advocate for increased access to public, social and affordable housing stock in new and significant developments
7. Work actively to prevent and respond to gendered violence and all forms of violence by addressing known contributors to violence and promoting a gender equitable, safe and respectful community (MPHWP)

Initiatives

- a. Embed, promote and enact the Yana Ngargna Plan in all our organisational activities
- b. Deliver campaigns and strategies to remove barriers and promote access and inclusion
- c. Support and provide opportunities to celebrate culturally significant days and events, bringing together diverse cultures and increasing intercultural understanding
- d. Advocate for the rights of our multicultural community and make a stand against any form of racism
- e. Support and promote LGBTIQ+ community and culture
- f. Build and leverage partnerships with stakeholders to create inclusive and welcoming places for the whole community and support the promotion of positive social connections in the community (MPHWP)
- g. Plan for and progress development of the Collingwood Town Hall precinct as a people and services focused hub
- h. Advocate to and partner with State and Federal governments, and work with industry, to increase affordable, social and public housing that provides a high quality of housing that is indistinguishable with that found in the private market
- i. Deliver a coordinated and compassionate response to people who are sleeping rough and experiencing homelessness
- j. Promote equitable and healthy food systems and local networks by investigating and supporting residents to grow and access fresh food (MPHWP)

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- k. Work in partnership with stakeholders including the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to support social and public housing communities with increased access to digital connectivity, tools and training
- l. Work with stakeholders to increase partnerships, pursue advocacy and promote education about the importance of harm minimisation for people who use illicit drugs (MPHWP)
- m. Raise awareness about and respond to violence, including gendered violence, and abuse against vulnerable cohorts¹ (MPHWP)
- n. Provide leadership for gambling policy reform in partnership with the National Alliance for Gambling Reform (MPHWP)
- o. Undertake place-based research related to alcohol cultures and harm prevention initiatives, focused on health-based responses, including investigating diversification of our night-time economy to include alcohol free options (MPHWP)
- p. Promote smoke free environments through tobacco education and enforcement activities (MPHWP)

Indicators

- i. Possible or definite alcohol related family violence incident (rate per 10,000)²
- ii. Tobacco test purchase sale rates³
- iii. Gaming machine losses per adult⁴
- iv. Stalking harassment and threatening behaviour (rate per 10,000)²
- v. Family violence (rate per 10,000)²
- vi. Number of community gardens/urban growing spaces active and maintained³
- vii. Proportion of ambulance attendances for illicit drugs⁵
- viii. Proportion of telephone services for illicit drug use⁵
- ix. Percentage of social and affordable dwellings created in new and significant developments
- x. Number of requests for homelessness assistance responded to by Council³
- xi. Importance of and satisfaction with services related to aged and disability, family youth and children services, cultural and library services and leisure services and environmental and recreation services⁶
- xii. Number of cultural and community events and festivals
- xiii. Number of community organisations supported through the community grants program

¹ Older people, people with disability, women, children and young people

² Crime Statistics Agency

³ Council data

⁴ Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

⁵ Turning Point Alcohol and Other Drug Statistics

⁶ Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

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Local economy

Yarra's neighbourhoods and major activity centres, nightlife and employment precincts are thriving, accessible and connected. They support and inspire diverse creative communities, cultural activities, businesses, and local employment.

Yarra has a thriving local economy with more than 16,600 businesses, making us home to one of the largest economies in metropolitan Melbourne. Our proximity to CBD business activity, cultural and sporting centres, road, rail and tram links makes Yarra an attractive place to do business and work. Our dynamic economy is driven by four key areas: knowledge industries, creative industries, population-driven activities and the health, education and public sectors.

Economic development is a primary focus for Council. We foster economic vitality and creativity, supporting our local businesses who form an integral part of our community. From artists and craftspeople, to the traders on our shopping strips, through to the increasing number of creative enterprises and technology businesses - the economic capacity of Yarra is diverse and growing.

We aspire to be a global hub for the small-medium arts sector, showcase our diverse cultures and champion our role as a recognised centre for LGBTIQ+ culture and business.

We deliver a range of enabling infrastructure and work to improve the amenity of the city and build our economic capacity and prosperity. This includes work around community safety such as promoting public amenity and constantly striving to improve feelings of safety in our streets and public spaces.

Our Economic Development Strategy sets out an action plan to support economic growth and business development. The action plan for the Economic Development Strategy includes providing support for COVID-19 recovery, retaining and growing employment precincts, encouraging innovative and entrepreneurial activities as well building a resilient business community.

Council is committed to achieve a Yarra where local businesses prosper, and creative and knowledge industries thrive. Over the next four years, we will leverage our economic potential to further grow our economy.

Strategies

1. Support Yarra's employment precincts and drive economic development opportunities
2. Revitalise local retail, arts and culture and night-time economy to enhance Yarra as an economic destination and extend our reach through partnerships and advocacy
3. Support and encourage innovative and entrepreneurial activities across Yarra's employment precincts
4. Facilitate local partnerships which create and promote a range of learning, employment and other pathway opportunities for businesses, workers, and residents
5. Manage access, safety and amenity to enhance people's experience when visiting Yarra (MPHWP)

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Initiatives

- a) Promote Yarra as an attractive location for economic activity for both small business and larger industries
- b) Improve our streetscapes, accessibility, safety, and amenity, including embedding outdoor dining, increase greenery and active transport infrastructure, to attract more people to visit, spend time and shop across our precincts (MPHWP)
- c) Support new businesses to locate in Yarra through fast tracking applicable permit processes and enabling them to open quicker
- d) Partner with local stakeholders and analyse available evidence to understand community attitudes towards safety to improve amenity (MPHWP)
- e) Enable opportunities, including in the planning development process, for public art, spaces for artists to work and vibrant events in indoor and outdoor settings to enhance the arts sector and everyday creative experiences

Indicators

- i. Number of businesses engaged in support programs
- ii. Vacancy rates in employment precincts
- iii. Number of spaces available for creative use
- iv. Perception of safety, day and night⁷
- v. Number of new public art installations

⁷ Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

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Place and nature

Yarra's public places, streets and green open spaces bring our community together. They are planned to manage growth, protect our unique character and focus on people and nature.

Council recognises the pressures and opportunities associated with growth and inner-city life. We are committed to expanding and improving public space and building a network of green spaces that contribute to a liveable and sustainable Yarra. Vegetated landscapes are one of the most effective mechanisms for reducing the urban heat island effect and is one of Council's many responses to address climate change impacts. We plan, manage and advocate for development, planning and urban design that is shaped by and meets our community's future needs, including mitigation of the urban heat island effect.

Shared use of public space and flexible community infrastructure is a means to manage community needs whilst the city grows and thrives. Welcoming environments that are planned to enable and promote physical activity and active living are beneficial to health and wellbeing and support community connectedness.

Our parks, reserves, urban spaces and waterways - that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy - are highly valued by our community. They accommodate many uses and purposes, including dog walkers, families, sports groups and recreational activities as well as connecting us with the natural world. As more people reside and work in Yarra, it's important that quality open space is accessible, within an easy walk and responsive to diverse needs.

Public open space makes up 13.5 per cent of the total area of our city, including areas of significant biodiversity and bushland. Core to the open space system, character and sense of place is the Yarra River, Birrarung. Important wetland habitats are critical to biodiversity and support a variety of wetland plant and animal species. Sustainable management of water resources is important for Council and our water sensitive urban design management approach is evident in many assets and projects we undertake.

We will work to protect and preserve our natural environment and biodiversity. Development and growth will be managed to maintain and enhance the city's character and heritage. Over the next four years, we will protect and enhance the places that bring our community together and closer to nature, including delivery of seven new or expanded parks.

Strategies

1. Create safe, accessible active spaces that provide diverse physical activity opportunities for the whole community (MPHWP)
2. Plan and manage community infrastructure that responds to growth and changing needs
3. Protect and enhance the biodiversity values, connectivity and resilience of Yarra's natural environment
4. Protect, promote and maintain our unique heritage and ensure development is sustainable
5. Encourage people to connect with Yarra's natural and cultural heritage and prioritise the voices of traditional owners

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Initiatives

- a) Deliver projects that enhance access to nature by finding new and novel opportunities for urban greening
- b) Plan, design, deliver and maintain high quality open spaces, parks and reserves including the creation of seven new or expanded parks
- c) Measure tree canopy cover across the municipality
- d) Deliver promotion, education, awareness and nature engagement programs and opportunities
- e) Protect, preserve and promote biodiversity across the municipality through engagement and education with community and businesses
- f) Trial innovative permeable pavement products and develop technical guidelines
- g) Advocate for, develop strategic partnerships, plan and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services
- h) Trial innovative interventions to the built environment to improve safety and inclusion in specific environments (MPHWP)
- i) Support and facilitate active recreation that is safe, inclusive and accessible for all genders (MPHWP)
- j) Work with State Government, community and relevant stakeholders to establish masterplans/precinct plans for the future of North Richmond and Collingwood public housing estates
- k) Develop and deliver programs and projects that improve understanding of built form heritage and Aboriginal culture
- l) Reduce urban heat island effect through the planting of trees and vegetation and an increase of green open space
- m) Reallocate space from on-street parking to space for nature, active and public transport, outdoor dining and placemaking
- n) Incorporate water-sensitive urban design principles into Council operations where possible

Indicators

- i. Number of new and expanded parks and open space
- ii. Percentage of green open space per suburb
- iii. Number of trees planted (replacement and new/additional trees)
- iv. Percentage increase in canopy cover
- v. Percentage increase net m² of reinstated bushland area annually
- vi. Number and diversity of indigenous ground cover, understory and trees planted annually in bushland areas
- vii. Number of 'greening' initiatives implemented including medians in roads
- viii. Number of nature engagement projects
- ix. Reduction in urban heat island effect using available agency data
- x. Community satisfaction with parks, gardens and open space⁸
- xi. Percentage reduction in Council's potable water consumption
- xii. All council building project outcomes score 100% on the Melbourne Water STORM calculator (or equivalent) for stormwater treatment
- xiii. Community satisfaction with Council's leisure facilities⁸
- xiv. Community satisfaction with aspects of planning and housing development⁸

⁸ Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

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Transport and movement

Yarra's transport network is sustainable and recognises that streets are important shared public spaces. Transport and movement is accessible, safe and well connected.

Yarra prioritises sustainable and active transport, to help people move safely and sustainably through and within our municipality. Council is committed to creating a city that is accessible to all irrespective of levels of personal mobility, to support a fulfilling life without the need for a car. It is an integral part of our climate emergency response to reduce transport emissions and towards net-zero emissions by 2030.

Living locally is important for Yarra. Giving people the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 15-20 minute walk, cycle, ride or public transport trip will make our city easier and healthier to live in and get around. This includes being able to use sustainable modes of transport to get to school and access our shopping precincts.

To remain an attractive inner-city destination to live, work and visit, Council addresses transport challenges and creates opportunities for sustainable and active transport. We improve our neighbourhoods to make walking and cycling possible as a part of everyday life, including management of our footpath capacity to support pedestrians. We work with State Government, who manage arterial roads and public transport infrastructure.

We deliver and advocate for an integrated transport network that prioritises sustainable and active transport that is safe, accessible, equitable and reduces barriers to community movement. This includes delivering, working with partners and advocating for high-quality and connected walking and cycling routes and public transport options to enable our community, including older persons and people with mobility limitations, to move about the city with ease.

We have committed to deliver a Transport Action Plan (TAP) to guide transport planning and decision-making in Yarra to make our city more sustainable, connected, inclusive and healthy. TAP will reinforce how important our transport choices are so that people can move freely and safely around our city whilst reducing transport emissions. Allocating road space to preferred transport modes, reducing traffic speeds and volumes, and introducing traffic calming measures on Yarra's streets will be some of the priorities in the TAP.

Strategies

1. Lead, promote and facilitate the transition to active transport modes for people living and working in Yarra, as well as people moving through Yarra (MPHWP)
2. Advance the transition towards zero-carbon transport by 2030 throughout the municipality
3. Foster strategic partnerships and advocate to improve sustainable and active transport options, integration and accessibility
4. Create a safe, well-connected and accessible local transport network including pedestrian and bike routes through Yarra (MPHWP)

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Initiatives

- a) Develop and deliver a Transport Action Plan that prioritises safe and connected cycling and walking infrastructure networks to facilitate an increase in active transport and reduction in car usage (MPHWP)
- b) Review and update the Parking Strategy and parking management approach (incorporating technology utilisation) with a view to reduce car dependency in Yarra and support a modal shift towards active and public transport
- c) Plan, design, deliver and maintain high-quality active and sustainable transport infrastructure (MPHWP)
- d) Advocate to State Government and agencies for increased and well-connected public transport options including DDA tram upgrades and safer cycling facilities particularly on strategic cycling corridors
- e) Support shared micro-mobility, car share and ride share schemes⁹
- f) Develop and deliver road safety studies and work with State Government for support to implement 30kms zones
- g) Deliver shared zones in local streets

Indicators

- i. Kilometres of separated cycling lanes delivered
- ii. Cycling projects delivered
- iii. Percentage increase in bicycle counts¹⁰
- iv. Percentage increase of bicycle parking hoops and corrals
- v. Number of pedestrian improvement related projects
- vi. Number of new shared zones
- vii. Number of 30km speed zones
- viii. Number of dedicated car share parking spaces
- ix. Method of travel to work¹¹

⁹ Micro-mobility refers to small lightweight vehicles such as an electric scooter

¹⁰ Agency data

¹¹ ABS

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Democracy and governance

Yarra is smart, innovative and sustainable. Our decisions and advocacy are built on evidence and meaningful engagement. Good governance is at the heart of our processes and decision-making.

Delivering outcomes for the community requires an agile and responsive organisation. We are proud of our strong advocacy on issues of community importance. We are committed to good governance, financial stewardship, championing authentic community engagement and enhancing our culture of continuous improvement.

Involving our community in decision-making is fundamental to the way Council functions. We are committed to community engagement that supports the building of respectful relationships that builds community capacity. Hearing from a range of perspectives leads to sustainable decisions and encourages ownership and belonging from all parts of our community. Importantly, it ensures transparency, integrity and trust in Council processes.

Council recognises that to deliver responsive and relevant services we need to continually adapt. We are committed to creating and delivering sustainable smart city approaches through innovation, data and connected technology. Yarra maintains an Open Data policy to provide up to date and regular information to our community.

Over the next four years, we will be future-focused, manage our finances responsibly and innovatively to respond to challenges. We will lead the way to build the capacity of our community to participate in decisions that affect them.

Strategies

1. Provide opportunities for meaningful, informed and representative community engagement to inform Council's decision-making
2. Manage our finances responsibly and improve long-term financial management planning
3. Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy
4. Practice good governance, transparency and accountable planning and decision-making
5. Progress and embed our culture of organisational continuous improvement and build resilience to adapt to changing requirements in the future

Initiatives

- a) Explore ways to amplify lesser-heard and underrepresented voices so that engagement is representative of all people and inclusive
- b) Promote and raise awareness about the role of Council and investigate ways to support equitable participation in decision-making processes
- c) Advocate and build strategic partnerships with other councils, and work collaboratively with sector groups to improve outcomes for the community
- d) Implement innovative solutions to encourage easier access and broader participation in decision making particularly through online digital tools

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- e) Employ quantitative data driven approaches generated through smart city initiatives to support decision making and planning
- f) Deliver an annual update of the Financial Plan in conjunction with annual budget process
- g) Undertake an audit of strategies and plans to consolidate and align under a strategic, holistic and long-term approach
- h) Investigate the Sustainable Development Goals and their application to planning and reporting
- i) Demonstrate gender equality in organisational processes (MPHWP)

Indicators

- i. Community satisfaction with Council decisions¹²
- ii. Overall community satisfaction with Council performance¹²
- iii. Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement¹²
- iv. Community satisfaction with responsiveness to community needs¹²
- v. Community satisfaction with Council's advocacy efforts¹²
- vi. Number of community engagements on strategies, plans and projects
- vii. Number of respondents to Your Say Yarra
- viii. Number of community engagements employing extra accessibility, communication or outreach methods to involve groups at risk of underrepresentation
- ix. Relevant Victoria Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) indicators

¹² ACSS

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Next steps

The Council Plan has outlined six Strategic Objectives that represent Council's Strategic Direction. This is our commitment to the community for the next four years as we work towards the Yarra 2036 Community Vision within the context of the Council's role and responsibilities.

The Council Plan is delivered through the Annual Plan and Budget, which reflects Council's decisions on the specific initiatives to be funded each year. Some, but not all, initiatives from the Council Plan will feature in the Annual Plan.

Progress is reported to Council and our community through quarterly reports and Annual Report. This reporting ensures key actions and projects are delivered on time and within budget, with any variations explained to maintain transparency.

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Appendices

1. About this Council Plan

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Victorian Councils to prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

What the Council Plan must contain is prescribed under section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. How this Council Plan meets these requirements is listed in the table below.

The Council Plan is the feature document in Council's suite of strategic planning documents that sets the Council's medium-term direction.

The Council Plan details Council's values, commitments and activities, and is formulated to guide the work of the Council over their elected four-year term. It includes clear goals and objectives against which Council and the organisation monitors and reports its performance against.

The preparation of this Council Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the strategic planning principles as outlined in section 89 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. One of these principles (section 89 (2)(b)) is that the Council Plan must address the Community Vision. See Appendix 3 for how this Council Plan responds to the Yarra 2036 Community Vision.

<i>Local Government Act 2020</i> s.90 requirements	Yarra City Council Plan 2021-25 terminology
(a) the strategic direction of the Council	Represented by the six Strategic Objectives
(a) strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction	Climate and environment, Social equity and health, Local economy, Place and nature, Transport and movement, Democracy and governance
(b) strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next 4 financial years	Strategies
(c) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives	Indicators
(d) a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity	Initiatives

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2. How this plan was developed

The Council Plan was developed following extensive community engagement, significant Councillor engagement, as well as research and analysis to understand context.

The organisation supports Councillors to develop the Council Plan and ensure legislative requirements are met. These include it being developed with the community through Council's deliberative engagement practices, in accordance with the Strategic Planning Principles and to ensure that it addresses the Community Vision.

Understanding context

- Consideration of state and federal government legislation, policies and priorities
- Current and previous Council priorities and decisions, including adopted plans and strategies
- Councillors' aspirations and priorities
- Consideration of advice from council staff subject matter experts
- Consideration of issues, challenges and opportunities identified through Council planning and strategy development
- Development of Yarra's Health and Wellbeing Profile, which is an examination of data about health status and health determinants in Yarra. This profile was prepared to provide the evidence base to inform the consultation and development of the MPHWP. This profile is available on Council's website.

Community engagement

The community engagement process that informed the Community Vision also sought input for the Council Plan, MPHWP, Financial Plan and Asset Plan. The community engagement was delivered in line with our Community Engagement Policy.

Broad community engagement

It included input from the wider Yarra Community between November 2020 and January 2021. We received 1,300 responses through a range of methods suitable to the diversity of our community. The campaign included in person pop up events, direct promotion to households, email, radio and social media campaigns and posters out at popular outdoor locations.

Community Panel

A deliberative engagement process was the next step to involve our community. We invited sixty-one participants, who were randomly selected, to take part in a deliberative panel process.¹³ They were supported to consider the views of the wider Yarra community (identified through our broad community engagement) and the diverse perspectives of other panel participants, request more information as needed and discuss and deliberate together to find consensus to shape Yarra's future.

The panel met four times in person during May 2021 – a total of 13 hours' worth of learning and deliberations. Their conversations were also supported by an online forum where they could access learning materials and ask questions outside the sessions.

Draft Council Plan inviting community feedback

The draft Council Plan 2021-25 was released for community feedback in September 2021.

Health and Wellbeing Project Consultative Group

A Health and Wellbeing Project Consultative Group (Group) was established in early 2021, comprising more than 20 members (including council officers, councillors, community health representatives, primary health network and primary care partnership representatives). The purpose of the Group was to review the evidence relating to health and wellbeing in Yarra and translate the evidence and their specialist knowledge into guidance on what Council should prioritise in the MPHWP. The Group met five times in 2021 and provided advice and context for the development of the MPHWP and associated action plan.

¹³ A total of 61 community members registered to participate in the panel process. Of the 61 participants who originally registered, 55 participated across some or all the four sessions with an excellent attendance and retention rate.

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3. Relationship between the Community Vision and Council Plan

Vision Theme 1: Strong and vibrant community

Vision Priorities	Strategic objective
1.1 Ensure a trusting, safe and welcoming environment to invite active participation of people from all backgrounds with tolerance and acceptance.	Social equity and Health
1.2 Create opportunities for meaningful exchange of our experiences, culture and arts.	Social equity and health
1.3 Encourage and facilitate community engagement by amplifying lesser-heard voices and addressing gaps.	Democracy and governance
1.4 Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and country.	Social equity and health

Vision Theme 2 - Shared governance

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
2.1 Ensure the Council actively engages with Yarra's diverse community at all stages of the decision-making process in an open, honest way and that aligns with the values and needs of the community.	Democracy and governance
2.2 Actively remove barriers to participation. Support and empower everyone to get involved.	Democracy and governance
2.3 Promote the role of Council more actively so people understand the decision-making process and how they can be involved.	Democracy and governance

Vision Theme 3 - Community safety

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
3.1 Council empowers community leaders, the community, law enforcement and partners to actively participate in and integrate with community safety initiatives.	Social equity and health
3.2 Lead the way in trialling, creating and implementing progressive technologies, programs and education to meet the safety needs in public and private spaces, drawing on data to guide decisions.	Social equity and health
3.3 Council advocates to State and Federal Governments to address social and health issues comprehensively to benefit community safety.	Social equity and health

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3.4 Council actively maintains, educates and implements infrastructure to ensure our streets and public spaces are free of hazards.	Place and nature
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Vision Theme 4 - Environmental sustainability

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
4.1 Work alongside Traditional Owners to set new benchmarks in maintaining and increasing natural amenities and biodiversity across Yarra and also gaining a better understanding.	Place and nature
4.2 Lead the way in climate change mitigation and resilience within Yarra and extend our impact through advocacy and innovative partnerships.	Climate and environment
4.3 Promote and facilitate a more efficient and effective waste management strategy that inclusively engages the community through education and awareness.	Climate and environment
4.4 A transport system that is innovative, efficient, sustainable and accessible.	Transport and movement

Vision Theme 5 – Social equity

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
5.1 Ensure a fair and equitable quality of life is possible, regardless of your age, ability, ethnicity, gender or religion.	Social equity and health
5.2 Ensure that there are equitable opportunities for housing and services provided to all.	Social equity and health
5.3 Ensure there are platforms for everyone to share their voices and to be heard and supported.	Social equity and health

Vision Theme 6 – Thriving local economy

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
6.1 Create broad economic and employment opportunities by utilising existing physical spaces and facilitating partnerships.	Local economy
6.2 Foster innovative and creative approaches to businesses.	Local economy
6.3 Support young people's businesses (entrepreneurs) to thrive through innovative, creative and practical initiatives, and ensure alignment to community values.	Local economy

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6.4 Preserve, celebrate and promote culturally diverse economic activities.	Local economy
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Vision Theme 7 – Shared spaces

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
7.1 All our shared spaces are made physically accessible and welcoming to people of all abilities, linguistic, cultural backgrounds and age groups.	Place and nature
7.2 Community meeting spaces, service buildings, and facilities evolve and adapt to reflect changing needs of our diverse community.	Place and nature
7.3 Create and innovate solutions to maximise the use of under or unused streets and spaces.	Local economy
7.4 Increase availability and diversify use of open spaces to address existing shortages and respond to population growth.	Place and nature

Vision Theme 8 – Growing sustainably

Vision Priorities	Strategic Objective
8.1 Advocate for development and planning design that is shaped by and meets our community's future needs.	Place and nature
8.2 Keep our heritage visible while we encourage innovative and sustainable growth.	Place and nature
8.3 Advocate for the supply of accessible and affordable housing that suits different types of people in all stages of life.	Social equity and health
8.4 Ensure that as we grow, community services and public spaces are adapted and created so that our unique lifestyle is maintained and continues to improve.	Place and nature

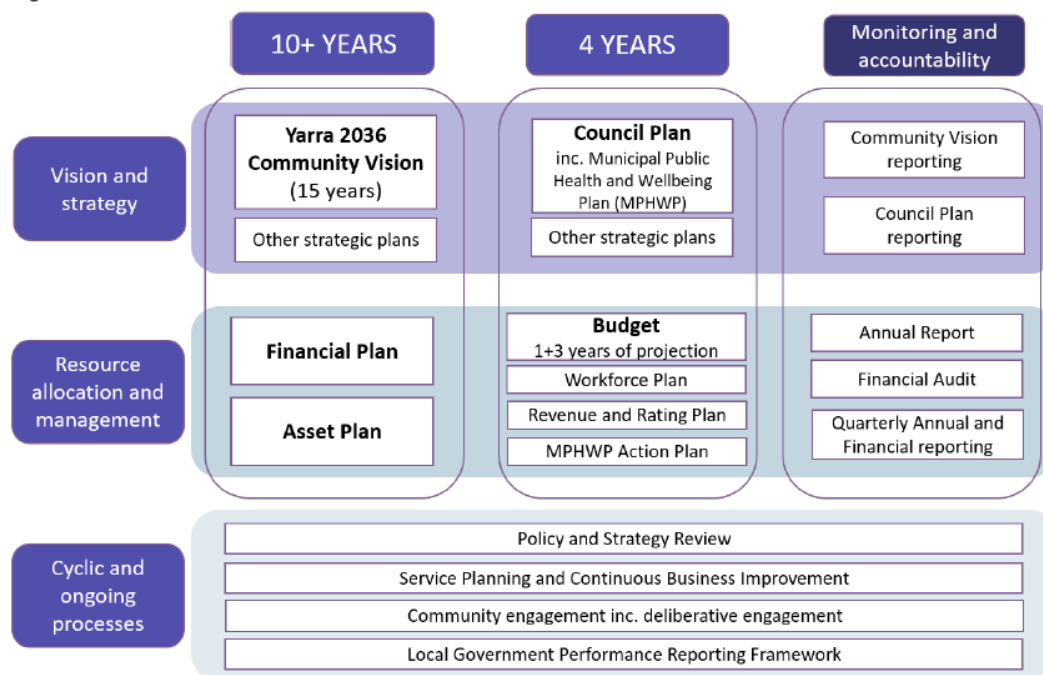
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4. Integrated planning framework

The Council Plan is part of an integrated planning framework that guides our approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting.

It includes long and medium-term strategies and plans, resourcing decisions as well as continual processes of monitoring and review.

The integrated planning framework enables us to deliver on our responsibilities to the community and work towards realising their aspirations, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and other key legislation.



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5. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, within 12 months of a general election of the Council, Council is required to develop a MPHWP. Council meets this requirement by including health and wellbeing matters in the Council Plan 2021-25. Council also has a commitment to health and wellbeing planning requirements under the *Climate Change Act 2017* and the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, which is met within the Council plan 2021-25.

Health and Wellbeing Plan themes 2021–25

Below are the themes that capture the main areas of focus for the MPHWP over the next four years, and their associated Strategies and Initiatives. These Strategies and Initiatives are indicated in the Council Plan by noting MPHWP in parenthesis where relevant i.e. (MPHWP).

Implementation, reporting and evaluation

Council has developed an Operational Supplement: Health and Wellbeing Activities (OSHWA) 2021–2025. The OSHWA will provide further detail on the health and wellbeing actions being delivered by Council, in line with the Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Initiatives outlined in this Council Plan, relevant to the MPHWP. At a minimum, the activity delivered through the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and associated OSHWA will be reported on through Council's Annual Report. The OSHWA will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

Our key partners in health and wellbeing:

All the below partners contributed to the MPHWP through the Health and Wellbeing Project Consultative Group, or through other informal methods of feedback.

Department of Health	CoHealth	Victoria Police
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	North Richmond Community Health	North West Primary Health Network
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Women's Health in the North	Inner North West Primary Care Partnership
Yarra Drug and Health Forum	Access Health and Community	Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses

In addition to the specific organisations listed above, throughout the development, implementation and evaluation of the plan, Council also partners with a variety of local community organisations, community service providers, charities, businesses, education providers, state level peak bodies and other councils.

The partnerships established through the Health and Wellbeing Project Consultative Group will be continued through regular annual meetings of the group, to monitor implementation and evaluation of the MPHWP and its associated action plans.

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Alignment to VPHWP 19–23 ¹⁴	Health and Wellbeing theme	Link to Council Plan strategy	Link to Council Plan initiative
Reducing harmful alcohol and drug use & reducing tobacco-related harm	Assist to reduce the harms from tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and gambling	Work to reduce the harms associated with the use of alcohol, illicit drugs, gambling and tobacco	Work with stakeholders to increase partnerships, pursue advocacy and promote education about the importance of harm minimization for people who use illicit drugs
			Provide leadership for gambling policy reform in partnership with the National Alliance for Gambling Reform
			Undertake place-based research related to alcohol cultures and harm prevention initiatives, focused on health-based responses, including investigating diversification of our night-time economy to include alcohol free options
			Promote smoke free environments through tobacco education and enforcement activities
Preventing all forms of violence	Promoting gender equality and reducing gendered violence	Work actively to prevent and respond to gendered violence and all forms of violence by addressing known contributors to violence and promoting a gender equitable, safe and respectful community	Raise awareness about and respond to violence, including gendered violence, and abuse against vulnerable cohorts
	Promoting community safety	Manage access, safety and amenity to enhance people's experience when visiting Yarra	Demonstrate gender equality in organisational processes
		Create safe, accessible active spaces that provide diverse physical activity opportunities for the whole community	Partner with local stakeholders and analyse available evidence to understand community attitudes towards safety to improve amenity
			Improve our streetscapes, accessibility, safety, and amenity, including embedding outdoor dining, increase greenery and active transport infrastructure, to attract more people to visit, spend time and shop across our precincts
Increasing healthy eating & increasing active living	Promoting physical wellbeing	Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental wellbeing	Trial innovative interventions to the built environment to improve safety and inclusion in specific environments
		Create safe, accessible active spaces that provide diverse physical activity opportunities for the whole community	Investigate and promote equitable and healthy food systems by conducting research and supporting residents to grow and access fresh food
			Support and facilitate active recreation that is safe, inclusive and accessible for all genders
		Create a safe, well-connected and accessible local transport network including pedestrian and bike routes through Yarra	Develop and deliver a Transport Action Plan that prioritises safe and connected cycling and walking infrastructure networks to facilitate an increase in active transport and reduction in car usage

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		Lead, promote and facilitate the transition to sustainable and active transport modes for people living and working in Yarra, as well as people moving through Yarra	Plan, design, deliver and maintain high-quality active and sustainable transport infrastructure
Improving mental wellbeing	Promoting mental wellbeing	Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes and enhances social, physical and mental wellbeing	Build and leverage partnerships with stakeholders to create inclusive and welcoming places for the whole community and support the promotion of positive social connections in the community
Tackling climate change and its impact on health	Assist in reducing health harms from climate change	Enhance the resilience of our community to prepare for health-related and other impacts of climate change	Engage and support the community to participate in climate emergency actions, including in relation to health-related impacts

¹⁴ Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-23

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6. Glossary

Annual customer satisfaction survey (ACSS)	Local Government Victoria's annual community satisfaction survey that compiles community feedback on councils in five key performance areas
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	The Australian Bureau of Statistics is the independent statutory agency of the Australian Government responsible for statistical collection and analysis, and for giving evidence-based advice to federal, state and territory governments.
City of Yarra (also city)	The local government area located in the inner eastern and northern suburbs of Melbourne that includes the suburbs of Abbotsford, Burnley, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fitzroy, North Carlton, North Fitzroy, Princes Hill and Richmond, and parts of Alphington and Fairfield.
Circular economy	The circular economy is about changing the way we design systems and products to avoid waste, conserve resources and maximise the value of all materials used at every stage of a product's life. This is far more sustainable than traditional economic production methods of take, use and throw away. It will deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.
Community	The Yarra community includes residents, ratepayers, businesses, workers, organisations and visitors
Community Vision or Yarra 2036 Community Vision	A Community Vision is prescribed by section 88 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> . Yarra 2036 Community Vision is our long-term vision that contains an overarching Vision Statement, eight Vision Themes and thirty Future Priorities. It describes the future state of Yarra by 2036 and provides a lens to guide all planning and decision making for Council and the community.
Community Vision Priorities	A set of future priorities describing the key aspirations for the future of Yarra, that link to a Vision Theme
Community Vision Themes	A set of eight themes representing the key areas of focus in the Community Vision
Council Plan	A Council Plan is prescribed by the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> section 90. It is Yarra City Council's key strategic document, which defines the Council's four-year Strategic Objectives, Strategies, Initiatives and Indicators. Integrated in this plan is the four-year Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan for the City of Yarra.
Health and wellbeing focus areas	Where Council will focus efforts to address key health and wellbeing issues over the next four years as prescribed under section 26(2)(b) of the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> . These have been informed by health and wellbeing data and extensive community engagement.
Indicators	Indicators monitor Council's progress in achieving the Strategic Objectives as required under section 90(2)(d) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
Initiatives	Initiatives are the projects or activities that Council will undertake to achieve the Strategies as required under section 90(2)(e) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF)	The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian Councils. It ensures that all Councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the Local Government sector.
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)	The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan outlines how the Council will protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing

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	within the municipality. The City of Yarra is required under section 26 and 27 of the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) every four years, or to include public health and wellbeing matters into the Council Plan.
Open data	Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone. It is available and easily accessible by everyone
Strategic Direction	The Strategic Direction of Council is what we are working towards over the next four years as required under section 90(2)(a) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> . It is represented by the six Strategic Objectives that respond to the Community Vision.
Strategic Objectives	The six Strategic Objectives and their descriptors describe Council's Strategic Direction as required under section 90(2)(b) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
Strategies	The Strategies describe how Council will achieve the Strategic Objectives as required under section 90(2)(c) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
The Council	The Council is made up of nine elected councillors, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor representing the three wards (three Councillors per ward) of the City of Yarra
Yarra City Council	The Local Government authority responsible for the City of Yarra.

Attachment 1 - Proposed Council Plan 2021-25

7. Quick facts data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, Census of Population and Housing.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, Census of Population and Housing, Place of Work Employment Data.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force, Australia, Detailed (December Quarter 2020 data was released in January 2021. March 2021 was released in April 2021).

City of Yarra, 2017, Urban Forest Strategy.

City of Yarra, 2020, Climate Emergency Plan.

Estimated resident population, City of Yarra, profile.id 2020, id.com.au, viewed July 2021.

Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by .id, the population experts, August 2018.

REMPPLAN Online 2021, Remplan.com.au, viewed July 2021.

Victorian Population Health and Survey (2014 and 2017).

8.2 Long-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31

Reference	D21/141331
Author	Wei Chen - Chief Financial Officer
Authoriser	Director Corporate, Business and Finance

Purpose

1. To adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31 (LTFP).

Critical analysis

History and background

2. The *Local Government Act 2020* introduced a new requirement for all Councils to prepare and adopt a Long-Term Financial Plan for period of at least the next 10 financial years by 31 October 2021.
3. The Long-Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of the budget preparation process. Together with the budget document, it is subject to ongoing review and may be updated during the budget year through a revised budget process.

Discussion

4. The LTFP provides financial strategy principles, strategic actions, assumptions to the financial plan statements, financial performance indicators and strategies for borrowings and reserves.
5. The LTFP provides a ten year financially sustainable projection regarding how the actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025 may be funded to achieve the aspirations in Yarra 2036 Community Vision.
6. In the first four years of the LTFP, there is no change from the adopted budget document, apart from replacing the 2020/21 forecast with actual results. The budget document published on 24 June 2021 contained 4-year budgeted financials and these have remained consistent in the LTFP.

Options

7. There are no options considered in this report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

8. The community were invited to provide feedback on the draft LTFP and draft Council Plan for two weeks from the 9 September until 23 September 2021.
9. The draft LTFP and draft Council Plan was promoted through Yarra News, Yarra Life, electronic direct mail, a news item on the corporate website, via direct email with everyone who participated in the Community Vision engagement and via social media channels (both Instagram and Facebook).
10. Across the advertisements 32,000 people were reached. This resulted in 56 clicks through to the website. On social media, Instagram Stories reached 380 people and across Facebook we reached 2,490 people and around 14 clicks. The community was invited to submit their feedback to Your Say Yarra, emailing info@yarracity.vic.gov.au or writing to us.
11. A total of 7 responses on draft LTFP were received from the community and considered. No change to the LTFP was required.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

12. The Council Plan 2021-25 is supported by the LTFP.
13. Projects arising out of the Council Plan 2021-25 are subject to the Annual Budget process.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

14. There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications.

Community and social implications

15. There are no community and social implications.

Economic development implications

16. There are no economic development implications.

Human rights and gender equality implications

17. There are no human rights and gender equality implications.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

18. The LTFP provides financial strategy principles, strategic actions, assumptions to the financial plan statements, financial performance indicators and strategies for borrowings and reserves.

Legal Implications

19. The LTFP has been developed in accordance with all relevant requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Conclusion

20. The LTFP is presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31.

Attachments

- 1 [Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31](#)



Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

City of Yarra Long Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31

1. Title Page	3
2. Financial Plan Context	4
3. Financial Plan statements	8
4. Financial Performance Indicators	20
5. Strategies and Plans	22

City of Yarra
Financial Plan for the period
2021/22 to 2030/31

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

2. Financial Plan Context

This section describes the context, principles and considerations in determining the 10 year financial projections and assumptions.

2.1 Introduction

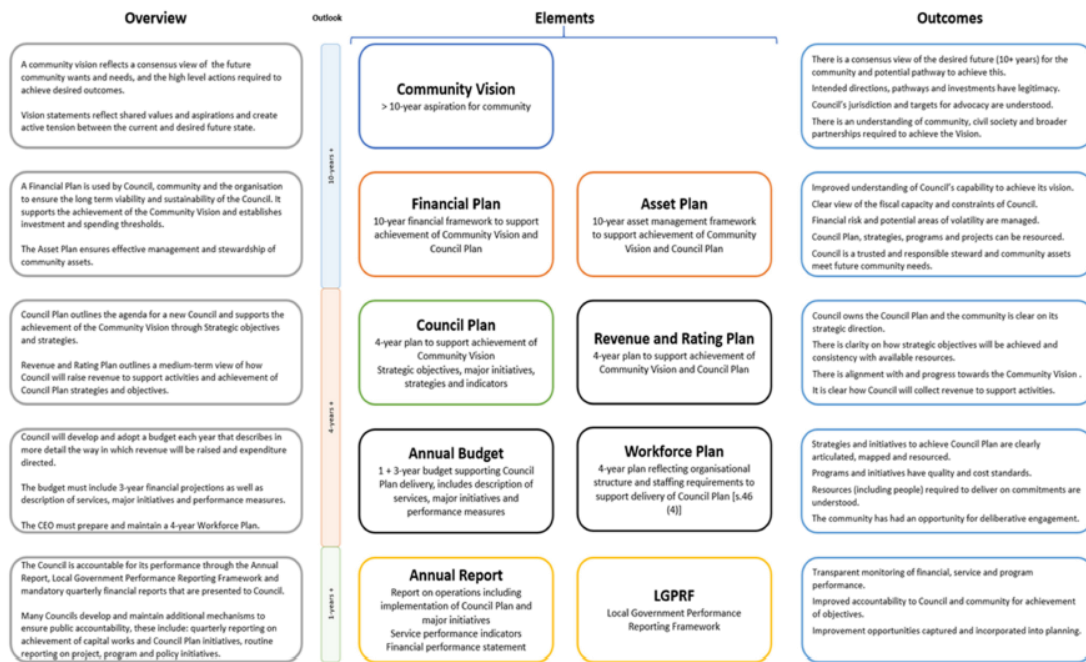
The Long Term Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2030-31 (LTFP) is a new requirement introduced through the *Local Government Act 2020* and will provide a ten year financially sustainable projection regarding how the actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025 may be funded to achieve the aspirations in Yarra 2036 Community Vision.

The LTFP document is updated annually as part of the budget preparation process. Together with the budget document, it is subject to ongoing review and may be updated during the budget year through a revised budget process.

2.2 Integrated Strategic Planning & Reporting Framework

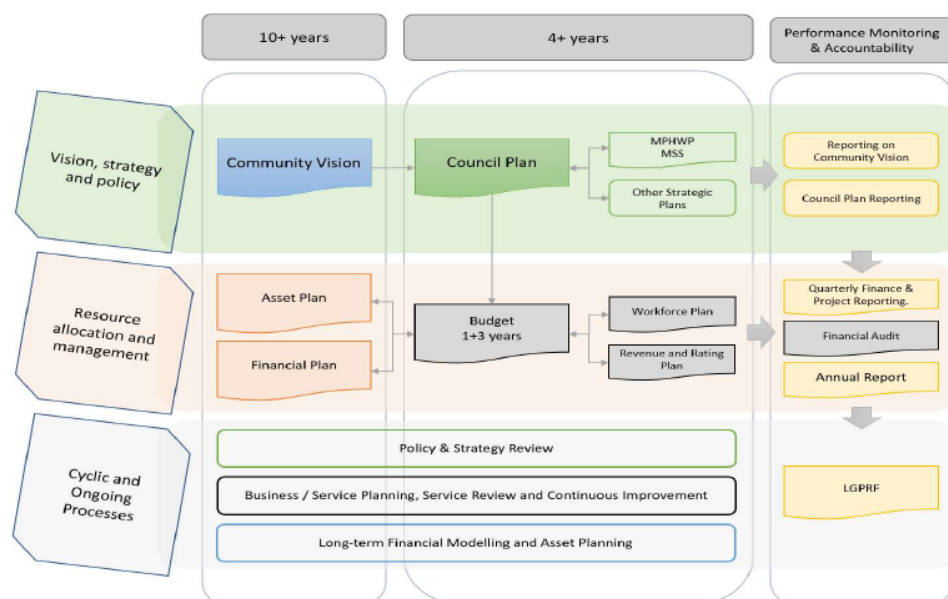
This section describes how the Financial Plan links to the achievement of the Community Vision and the Council Plan within the Integrated Strategic Planning & Reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision), medium term (Council Plan) and short term (Annual Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

The following diagram provides an overview of the core legislated elements of an integrated strategic planning and reporting framework and outcomes.



Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

The following figure demonstrates how each element might inform or be informed by other parts of the integrated framework.



2.3 Financial Policy Statements

This section defines the measures that demonstrates Council's financial sustainability in order to fund the aspirations of the Yarra 2036 Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

Policy Statement	Measure	Target	Actual											
			2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	
Generate strong surpluses to fund operations	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	> 5%	(9%)	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	
Ensure Council maintains sufficient working capital to meet its debt obligations as they fall due.	Current Assets / Current Liabilities	>1.4	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	
Allocate adequate funds towards renewal capital in order to replace assets and infrastructure as they reach the end of their service life.	Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Depreciation	>1.0	1.07	1.84	1.53	1.31	1.14	1.23	1.35	1.38	1.32	1.30	1.26	
That Council applies loan funding to new capital and maintains total non-current liabilities in line with own source revenue and growth of the municipality.	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue	<40%	7.9%	29.6%	25.5%	21.4%	17.5%	13.5%	10.6%	7.7%	5.0%	2.4%	0.0%	
Council maintains sufficient unrestricted cash to ensure ongoing liquidity as well as to address unforeseen cash imposts, if required.	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	>100%	66%	92%	88%	58%	39%	26%	16%	11%	6%	6%	9%	

2.4 Financial Strategy Principles

Financial strategy principles have been developed and provide the framework for the development of Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget. The principles enable consistent and informed decision-making by Council. The Financial Strategy Principles as outlined below aim to ensure a balanced and sustainable budget for the Council:

- o Implement a sustainable budget and conservative financial strategy that caters for short and long-term requirements;
- o Maximise the level of grants and subsidies received from Victorian and Commonwealth governments to achieve a better share of government taxes for the community;
- o Debt servicing and debt redemption will be maintained within the financial capacity of Council reflected in a cap on indebtedness of less than 40%;
- o Borrowings are directed towards funding of inter-generational growth infrastructure, special projects and major asset renewal that support growth;
- o Trust Funds and Statutory Reserves will be fully cash backed;
- o Efficiency target of \$0.5 million recurrent expenditure savings is built into the financial plan each year;
- o Liquidity ratio (Current Assets / Current Liabilities) is maintained above 1.4 over the life of the LTFP; and
- o Asset renewal ratio (Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Depreciation) is remained above or equal to 1.0.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

2.5 Strategic Actions

1. Improving Council's working capital

Council's working capital was significantly impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, Council is expecting an improvement with steady revenue growth and disciplined approach to expenditure, whilst maintaining strong levels of investment in capital works and adequate cash levels to fund reserves.

2. Rate capping

For the 2016-17 budget year a rate capping scheme (the Fair Go Rates System) was introduced by the Victorian Government, with the scheme administered by the Essential Services Commission (ESC). Under this scheme the Minister for Local Government will declare the applicable rate cap for each budget year ahead of the period in which Council must prepare and adopt its annual budget.

The Minister for Local Government has declared the rate cap level for 2021/22 at 1.5%. This follows rate caps of 2.0% in 2020/21, 2.50% in 2019/20, and 2.25% in 2018/19. If the rate cap increases are less than predicted and additional revenue sources are not available, Council may be required to cease provision of some services, reduce service levels, reduce the capital works program, or undertake some combination of these actions.

3. Loan borrowings

The introduction of rate capping as well as debt required to be repaid in the short term, has had a significant impact on the LTFP and challenged Council's financial position. Existing debt is serviced by a \$32.5 million interest only loan, due to be repaid in 2021/22 and a \$13.5 million principal and interest loan due to be repaid by 2027. The LTFP includes refinancing of the \$32.5 million interest only loan when it becomes due in 2021/22, with the refinanced loan to be on a principal and interest basis. This will allow for the retirement of this debt over 10 years. The LTFP also includes up to \$20.0m in additional borrowing capacity in 2021/22 to be repaid over 10 years on a principal and interest basis.

The Victorian Auditor-General has indicated through its recommendation on financial ratios that Indebtedness (Non-current liabilities/Own sourced revenue) above 40% places Council in the medium risk category and 60% in the high risk category. The indebtedness ratio in the LTFP is expected to be 30% at the end of the current 2021/22 budget year. It will improve steadily throughout the life to the LTFS to reduce the risk to Council.

4. Council property

In 2018, Council adopted a Property Strategy, which provides a holistic framework for the management of all Council property assets and establishes guiding principles for the alignment of Council's property portfolio with its future community and service delivery requirements. The strategy includes a classification and assessment framework to guide Council decision making with regards to property.

5. New population and development

The LTFP provides for some growth in labour costs to accommodate the increased population and dwellings being serviced. Requirements to fulfil statutory obligations or increased customer demand can no longer realistically be delivered within the existing workforce allocation, and some upwards movement will be required.

6. Asset renewal, new and upgrade expenditure

Information from Council's Asset Management Plans determines Council's capital expenditure priorities. As part of the preparation of this LTFP the cost of works has been indexed to reflect the future cost of works in years 2-10 of the LTFP. This LTFP indicates that investment in new and upgrade of capital is consistent across the 10 year period. Renewal of assets is prioritised to ensure financial sustainability. Council introduced a Developer Contribution Plan which will contribute towards capital works projects. Contribution levels will depend on land sales and the desire of developers to construct new developments within the municipality.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

2.6 Assumptions to the financial plan statements

This section presents information in regard to the assumptions to the Comprehensive Income Statement for the 10 years from 2021/22 to 2030/31. The assumptions comprise the annual escalations/movement for each line items of the Comprehensive Income Statement.

The escalation factors are the main drivers of future estimates of each revenue and expense items. Further adjustments are made for specific movements or factors when needed. CPI fluctuates through the LTFP period however, Yarra City Council has applied a consistent and conservative indicators across the 10 year period.

Escalation Factors % movement	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
CPI	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Rates and charges	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Statutory fees and fines	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
User fees	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Grants - Operating	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Grants - Capital	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Contributions - monetary	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Employee costs	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Materials and services	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m
Other expenses	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

3. Financial Plan Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Plan Statements for the 10 years from 2021/22 to 2030/31.

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works
Statement of Human Resources

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

3.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

	Actual 2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
Income											
Rates and charges	116,242	119,991	122,631	125,462	128,335	131,252	134,212	137,217	140,267	143,363	146,505
Statutory fees and fines	18,999	34,240	34,754	35,275	35,804	37,341	37,901	38,470	39,047	39,633	40,227
User fees	21,567	32,786	33,277	33,776	34,283	34,797	35,319	35,849	36,387	36,933	37,487
Grants - Operating	20,542	15,356	15,586	15,820	16,058	16,298	16,543	16,791	17,043	17,299	17,558
Grants - Capital	1,446	3,052	9,427	1,828	1,851	1,875	1,899	1,924	1,949	1,974	2,000
Contributions - monetary - open space	5,114	4,500	4,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Contributions - monetary - other	-	1,906	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,994	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Other income	1,695	2,146	2,396	2,646	2,896	3,146	3,396	3,646	3,896	4,146	4,396
Total income	188,598	214,027	224,521	225,757	230,177	235,660	240,221	244,847	249,538	254,296	259,122
Expenses											
Employee costs	95,135	96,635	98,635	100,615	102,624	104,663	106,733	108,834	110,967	113,131	114,828
Materials and services	70,541	75,720	77,711	78,877	80,006	78,921	80,105	81,307	83,126	83,773	85,030
Depreciation	23,044	24,550	25,050	25,550	26,050	26,550	27,050	27,550	28,050	28,550	29,050
Amortisation - right of use assets	1,160	1,145	1,076	152	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bad and doubtful debts	6,241	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Borrowing costs	1,870	1,387	1,245	1,096	942	785	622	479	371	262	150
Finance Costs - leases	171	119	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses	563	631	641	650	660	670	680	690	701	711	722
Total expenses	198,725	205,188	209,406	211,942	215,283	216,589	220,191	223,860	228,215	231,428	234,780
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(10,126)	8,839	15,115	13,815	14,895	19,070	20,030	20,987	21,323	22,869	24,342
Other comprehensive income											
Net asset revaluation increment /(decrement)	92,318	-	59,519	-	59,817	-	60,116	-	60,416	-	60,718
Total comprehensive result	82,192	8,839	74,634	13,815	74,711	19,070	80,146	20,987	81,739	22,869	85,060

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

3.2 Balance Sheet

	Actual 2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
Assets											
Current assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	78,930	88,425	85,704	75,960	72,793	73,553	75,446	79,908	85,334	92,880	102,067
Trade and other receivables	18,984	18,608	12,309	12,092	11,955	12,002	12,134	12,520	12,828	13,225	13,712
Other financial assets	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inventories	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
Other assets	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402	1,402
Total current assets	109,411	108,530	99,511	89,548	86,246	87,052	89,077	93,926	99,659	107,602	117,276
Non-current assets											
Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	2,025,671	2,052,178	2,129,134	2,146,157	2,217,278	2,228,492	2,299,399	2,309,979	2,380,151	2,389,535	2,459,266
Right-of-use assets	2,374	1,228	152	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-current assets	2,028,050	2,053,411	2,129,291	2,146,162	2,217,283	2,228,497	2,299,404	2,309,984	2,380,156	2,389,540	2,459,271
Total assets	2,137,461	2,161,940	2,228,802	2,235,710	2,303,528	2,315,549	2,388,482	2,403,910	2,479,814	2,497,141	2,576,547
Liabilities											
Current liabilities											
Trade and other payables	20,862	20,862	20,862	20,862	20,862	20,862	20,862	20,862	20,462	20,462	20,462
Trust funds and deposits	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432	12,432
Provisions	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139	18,139
Interest-bearing liabilities	33,818	6,189	6,338	6,492	6,650	6,812	5,327	5,434	5,544	5,655	3,961
Lease liabilities	1,165	1,182	165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities	86,416	58,804	57,936	57,925	58,082	58,245	56,759	56,867	56,576	56,688	54,993
Non-current liabilities											
Provisions	4,067	3,674	3,273	2,869	2,470	2,070	1,670	1,435	1,435	1,435	1,435
Interest-bearing liabilities	7,385	52,213	45,875	39,383	32,733	25,920	20,594	15,160	9,616	3,961	(0)
Lease liabilities	1,347	166	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	12,799	56,053	49,148	42,252	35,203	27,990	22,264	16,595	11,051	5,396	1,435
Total liabilities	99,214	114,857	107,084	100,177	93,285	86,236	79,023	73,462	67,628	62,084	56,429
Net assets	2,038,246	2,047,084	2,121,718	2,135,534	2,210,243	2,229,313	2,309,458	2,330,449	2,412,187	2,435,058	2,520,119
Equity											
Accumulated surplus	656,661	662,741	674,971	681,096	688,039	699,160	711,240	724,537	737,910	753,115	769,767
Reserves	1,381,585	1,384,344	1,446,748	1,454,439	1,522,203	1,530,152	1,598,218	1,605,911	1,674,277	1,681,944	1,750,352
Total equity	2,038,246	2,047,084	2,121,718	2,135,534	2,210,243	2,229,313	2,309,458	2,330,449	2,412,187	2,435,058	2,520,119

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

3.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2021 Actual				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	1,956,054	670,892	1,270,317	14,845
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(10,127)	(10,127)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	92,318	-	92,318	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(4,239)	-	4,239
Transfers from other reserves	-	134	-	(134)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,038,245	656,660	1,362,635	18,950
2022				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,038,245	656,660	1,362,635	18,950
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	8,839	8,839	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(4,500)	-	4,500
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,740	-	(1,740)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,047,084	662,740	1,362,635	21,710
2023				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,047,084	662,740	1,362,635	21,710
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	15,115	15,115	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	59,519	-	59,519	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(4,500)	-	4,500
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,615	-	(1,615)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,121,718	674,970	1,422,154	24,595
2024				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,121,718	674,970	1,422,154	24,595
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	13,815	13,815	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,310	-	(1,310)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,135,533	681,095	1,422,154	32,285
2025				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,135,533	681,095	1,422,154	32,285
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	14,895	14,895	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	59,817	-	59,817	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,210,245	688,039	1,481,971	40,235

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2026				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,210,245	688,039	1,481,971	40,235
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	19,070	19,070	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,229,315	699,159	1,481,971	48,185
2027				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,229,315	699,159	1,481,971	48,185
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	20,030	20,030	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	60,116	-	60,116	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,309,461	711,240	1,542,087	56,135
2028				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,309,461	711,240	1,542,087	56,135
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	20,987	20,987	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,330,448	724,276	1,542,087	64,085
2029				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,330,448	724,276	1,542,087	64,085
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	21,323	21,323	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	60,416	-	60,416	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,412,187	737,649	1,602,503	72,035
2030				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,412,187	737,649	1,602,503	72,035
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	22,869	22,869	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,435,055	752,568	1,602,503	79,985

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	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2031				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,435,055	752,568	1,602,503	79,985
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	24,342	24,342	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	60,718	-	60,718	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(9,000)	-	9,000
Transfers from other reserves	-	1,050	-	(1,050)
Balance at end of the financial year	2,520,116	768,960	1,663,222	87,935

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3.4 Statement of Cash Flows

	Actual 2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities											
Rates and charges	112,800	118,792	127,404	124,207	127,052	129,939	132,870	135,845	138,864	141,929	145,040
Statutory fees and fines	20,940	30,816	31,278	31,748	32,224	33,607	34,111	34,623	35,142	35,669	36,204
User fees	27,340	32,786	33,277	33,776	34,283	34,797	35,319	35,849	36,387	36,933	37,487
Grants - operating	20,542	15,356	15,586	15,820	16,058	16,298	16,543	16,791	17,043	17,299	17,558
Grants - capital	1,591	3,052	9,427	1,828	1,851	1,875	1,899	1,924	1,949	1,974	2,000
Contributions - monetary	5,114	4,500	4,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Interest received	358	1,906	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Other receipts	5,599	2,146	2,396	2,646	2,896	3,146	3,396	3,646	3,896	4,146	4,396
Net GST refund / payment	3,303	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employee costs	(92,347)	(96,635)	(98,635)	(100,615)	(102,624)	(104,663)	(106,733)	(108,834)	(110,967)	(113,131)	(114,828)
Materials and services	(81,988)	(76,752)	(78,752)	(79,927)	(81,066)	(79,991)	(81,185)	(82,397)	(84,227)	(84,484)	(85,752)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(2,060)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21,192	35,967	48,383	40,383	41,573	45,908	47,120	48,346	48,987	51,234	53,004
Cash flows from investing activities											
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(25,747)	(51,557)	(42,988)	(43,076)	(37,854)	(38,264)	(38,342)	(38,630)	(38,305)	(38,434)	(38,563)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3,163	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	(22,585)	(51,007)	(42,438)	(42,526)	(37,304)	(37,714)	(37,792)	(38,080)	(37,755)	(37,884)	(38,013)
Cash flows from financing activities											
Finance costs	(1,870)	(1,387)	(1,245)	(1,096)	(942)	(785)	(622)	(479)	(371)	(262)	(149)
Proceeds from borrowings	-	52,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	(1,270)	(35,294)	(6,189)	(6,338)	(6,492)	(6,650)	(6,812)	(5,327)	(5,434)	(5,544)	(5,655)
Interest paid - lease liability	(171)	(119)	(48)	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	(1,104)	(1,165)	(1,165)	(1,182)	(165)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(4,416)	14,535	(8,647)	(8,618)	(7,599)	(7,434)	(7,434)	(5,806)	(5,806)	(5,806)	(5,805)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(5,808)	(505)	(2,703)	(10,761)	(3,331)	760	1,894	4,461	5,426	7,544	9,187
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	94,738	88,930	88,425	85,704	75,960	72,793	73,553	75,446	79,908	85,334	92,880
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	88,930	88,425	85,722	74,943	72,629	73,553	75,447	79,906	85,335	92,878	102,067

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3.5 Statement of Capital Works

	Actual										
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property											
Buildings	6,790	17,232	19,557	20,072	17,783	16,996	12,064	13,171	13,721	12,657	11,994
Total buildings	6,790	17,232	19,557	20,072	17,783	16,996	12,064	13,171	13,721	12,657	11,994
Total property	6,790	17,232	19,557	20,072	17,783	16,996	12,064	13,171	13,721	12,657	11,994
Plant and equipment											
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,015	2,338	2,183	2,048	1,932	2,611	3,869	2,685	2,367	2,784	3,189
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	605	325	245	140	370	373	375	395	395	400
Computers and telecommunications	2,165	2,664	1,809	1,759	1,675	2,010	1,833	1,846	1,861	1,765	1,883
Library books	644	630	640	757	769	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total plant and equipment	4,823	6,237	4,957	4,809	4,516	4,991	6,074	4,906	4,623	4,944	5,472
Infrastructure											
Roads	5,575	6,814	6,222	6,121	6,482	10,376	10,465	11,972	12,047	12,413	12,085
Bridges	110	110	-	50	50	50	50	65	-	100	100
Footpaths and cycleways	2,486	3,356	3,175	4,323	3,403	1,856	1,950	1,619	734	885	944
Drainage	2,213	3,190	1,510	1,474	1,315	1,284	1,213	1,285	1,260	1,471	1,515
Waste management	75	75	30	80	85	85	85	85	85	90	90
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,337	10,186	4,865	4,990	3,605	2,160	4,237	3,805	4,715	4,787	4,776
Off street car parks	-	-	58	58	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	1,318	4,357	2,614	1,099	555	466	2,204	1,723	1,120	1,087	1,588
Total infrastructure	14,115	28,088	18,474	18,195	15,555	16,277	20,203	20,554	19,961	20,833	21,098
Total capital works expenditure	25,728	51,557	42,988	43,076	37,854	38,264	38,342	38,630	38,305	38,434	38,563
Represented by:											
New asset expenditure	1,012	6,496	4,685	9,486	8,076	5,671	1,901	745	200	1,342	1,875
Asset renewal expenditure	23,137	37,795	31,307	29,237	25,767	26,049	29,836	28,974	32,408	29,838	29,145
Asset expansion expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,579	7,266	6,996	4,353	4,011	6,544	6,605	8,911	4,697	7,254	7,544
Total capital works expenditure	25,728	51,557	42,988	43,076	37,854	38,264	38,342	38,630	37,305	38,434	38,563
Funding sources represented by:											
Grants	2,421	7,600	4,797	7,677	6,898	1,704	1,724	1,704	2,779	779	809
Contributions	-	2,332	1,893	1,136	1,050	5,150	150	150	1,050	1,050	1,050
Council cash	23,307	41,625	36,298	34,263	29,906	31,410	36,468	36,776	33,476	36,605	36,704
Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	25,728	51,557	42,988	43,076	37,854	38,264	38,342	38,630	37,305	38,434	38,563

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3.6 Statement of Human Resources

Staff expenditure	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total staff expenditure											
Male	36,511	38,642	39,445	40,264	41,155	42,184	43,238	44,319	45,427	46,563	47,727
Female	41,956	46,389	47,339	48,407	49,349	50,583	51,847	53,143	54,472	55,834	57,230
Self-described gender	-	-	102	104	224	230	235	241	247	253	260
Total staff expenditure	78,467	85,031	86,886	88,775	90,728	92,996	95,321	97,704	100,147	102,650	105,217
Permanent full time											
Male	32,628	34,811	35,557	36,318	37,151	38,080	39,032	40,008	41,008	42,033	43,084
Female	30,569	36,759	37,565	38,487	39,279	40,261	41,267	42,299	43,357	44,441	45,552
Self-described gender	-	-	102	104	224	230	235	241	247	253	260
Total	63,197	71,570	73,224	74,909	76,654	78,570	80,535	82,548	84,612	86,727	88,895
Permanent part time											
Male	3,883	3,831	3,888	3,946	4,004	4,104	4,207	4,312	4,420	4,530	4,643
Female	11,387	9,630	9,774	9,920	10,070	10,322	10,580	10,844	11,115	11,393	11,678
Self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15,270	13,461	13,662	13,866	14,074	14,426	14,786	15,156	15,535	15,923	16,322

Staff numbers	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Total staff numbers											
Male	327	354	356	358	360	362	365	367	370	372	375
Female	414	448	450	453	455	458	460	463	465	468	470
Self-described gender	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total staff numbers	741	802	807	812	817	822	827	832	837	842	847
Permanent full time											
Male	299	309	311	313	315	317	320	322	325	327	330
Female	334	342	344	347	349	352	354	357	359	362	364
Self-described gender	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total	633	651	656	661	666	671	676	681	686	691	696
Permanent part time											
Male	28	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Female	80	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106
Self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	108	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
Employees - casual and temporary	82.5	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4
Total staff numbers	823.3	894.3	899.3	904.3	909.3	914.3	919.3	924.3	929.3	934.3	939.3

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Department	Permanent Full Time				Permanent Part Time			
	Male	Female	Self-described	Total	Male	Female	Self-described	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CEO Division	1,448	5,006	-	6,454	412	489	-	901
Corporate, Business & Financial Services	10,430	6,431	-	16,861	542	1,005	-	1,547
Planning & Placemaking	5,090	5,362	-	10,452	158	524	-	682
Community Wellbeing	4,251	14,206	-	18,457	1,564	6,632	-	8,196
City Works & Assets	13,592	5,754	-	19,346	1,155	980	-	2,135
Total permanent staff expenditure	34,811	36,759	-	71,570	3,831	9,630	-	13,461
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	4,666	5,961	-	10,627	130	847	-	977
Capitalised labour costs	874	345	-	1,219	-	-	-	-
Total staff	40,351	43,065	-	83,416	3,961	10,477	-	14,438

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3.7 Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure For the ten years ended 30 June 2031

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CEO Division										
Permanent - Full time	6,454	6,685	6,921	7,177	7,356	7,540	7,729	7,922	8,120	8,323
Female	5,006	5,215	5,429	5,511	5,649	5,790	5,935	6,083	6,235	6,391
Male	1,448	1,470	1,492	1,666	1,708	1,750	1,794	1,839	1,885	1,932
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	901	914	927	941	965	989	1,013	1,039	1,065	1,091
Female	489	496	503	511	524	537	550	564	578	593
Male	412	418	424	430	441	452	463	475	487	499
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total CEO Division	7,355	7,599	7,848	8,118	8,321	8,529	8,742	8,961	9,185	9,414
Corporate, Business and Financial Services										
Permanent - Full time	16,861	17,232	17,611	17,993	18,443	18,904	19,376	19,861	20,357	20,866
Female	6,431	6,527	6,625	6,724	6,892	7,064	7,241	7,422	7,608	7,798
Male	10,430	10,705	10,986	11,151	11,430	11,716	12,008	12,309	12,616	12,932
Self-described gender	0	0	0	118	121	124	127	130	134	137
Permanent - Part time	1,547	1,570	1,593	1,617	1,657	1,699	1,741	1,785	1,829	1,875
Female	1,005	1,020	1,035	1,051	1,077	1,104	1,132	1,160	1,189	1,219
Male	542	550	558	566	580	595	610	625	640	656
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Corporate, Business and Financial Services	18,408	18,802	19,204	19,610	20,100	20,603	21,118	21,646	22,187	22,742
Planning and Placemaking										
Permanent - Full time	10,452	10,730	11,013	11,315	11,598	11,888	12,185	12,490	12,802	13,122
Female	5,362	5,564	5,770	5,857	6,003	6,154	6,307	6,465	6,627	6,792
Male	5,090	5,166	5,243	5,458	5,594	5,734	5,878	6,025	6,175	6,330
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	682	692	702	712	730	748	767	786	806	826
Female	524	532	540	548	562	576	590	605	620	636
Male	158	160	162	164	168	172	177	181	186	190
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Planning and Placemaking	11,134	11,422	11,715	12,027	12,328	12,636	12,952	13,276	13,607	13,948
Community Wellbeing										
Permanent - Full time	18,457	18,836	19,219	19,610	20,100	20,603	21,118	21,646	22,187	22,742
Female	14,206	14,419	14,735	15,058	15,434	15,820	16,216	16,621	17,037	17,463
Male	4,251	4,315	4,380	4,446	4,557	4,671	4,788	4,908	5,030	5,156
Self-described gender	0	102	104	106	109	111	114	117	120	123
Permanent - Part time	8,196	8,319	8,444	8,571	8,785	9,005	9,230	9,461	9,697	9,940
Female	6,632	6,731	6,832	6,935	7,108	7,286	7,468	7,655	7,846	8,042
Male	1,564	1,588	1,612	1,636	1,677	1,719	1,762	1,806	1,851	1,897
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Community Wellbeing	26,653	27,155	27,663	28,181	28,886	29,608	30,348	31,107	31,884	32,681
City Works and Assets										
Permanent - Full time	19,346	19,741	20,145	20,559	21,073	21,600	22,140	22,693	23,261	23,842
Female	5,754	5,840	5,928	6,129	6,282	6,439	6,600	6,765	6,934	7,108
Male	13,592	13,901	14,217	14,430	14,791	15,161	15,540	15,928	16,326	16,734
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	2,135	2,167	2,200	2,233	2,289	2,346	2,405	2,465	2,526	2,590
Female	980	995	1,010	1,025	1,051	1,077	1,104	1,131	1,160	1,189
Male	1,155	1,172	1,190	1,208	1,238	1,269	1,301	1,333	1,367	1,401
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total City Works and Assets	21,481	21,908	22,345	22,792	23,362	23,946	24,544	25,158	25,787	26,432
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	11,604	11,749	11,840	11,896	12,193	12,498	12,811	13,131	13,459	13,796
Capitalised labour costs	1,219	1,240	1,259	1,276	1,308	1,341	1,374	1,408	1,444	1,480
Total staff expenditure	97,854	99,875	101,874	103,900	106,498	109,160	111,889	114,686	117,553	120,492

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3.7 Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure For the ten years ended 30 June 2031

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CEO Division										
Permanent - Full time	48.0	49.0	50.0	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	55.0	56.0	57.0
Female	38.0	39.0	40.0	40.0	41.0	41.0	42.0	42.0	43.0	43.0
Male	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
Female	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Male	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total CEO Division	56.1	57.1	58.1	59.1	60.1	61.1	62.1	63.1	64.1	65.1
Corporate, Business and Financial Services										
Permanent - Full time	148.0	149.0	150.0	151.0	152.0	153.0	154.0	155.0	156.0	157.0
Female	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	60.0	60.0	61.0	61.0	62.0
Male	89.0	90.0	91.0	91.0	92.0	92.0	93.0	93.0	94.0	94.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Permanent - Part time	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0
Female	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Male	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Corporate, Business and Financial Services	167.0	168.0	169.0	170.0	171.0	172.0	173.0	174.0	175.0	176.0
Planning and Placemaking										
Permanent - Full time	84.1	85.1	86.1	87.1	88.1	89.1	90.1	91.1	92.1	93.1
Female	45.0	46.0	47.0	47.0	48.0	48.0	49.0	49.0	50.0	50.0
Male	39.1	39.1	39.1	40.1	40.1	41.1	41.1	42.1	42.1	43.1
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Female	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Male	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Planning and Placemaking	90.5	91.5	92.5	93.5	94.5	95.5	96.5	97.5	98.5	99.5
Community Wellbeing										
Permanent - Full time	187.0	188.0	189.0	190.0	191.0	192.0	193.0	194.0	195.0	196.0
Female	146.5	146.5	147.5	148.5	148.5	149.5	149.5	150.5	150.5	151.5
Male	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	41.5	41.5	42.5	42.5	43.5	43.5
Self-described gender	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Permanent - Part time	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5	89.5
Female	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8
Male	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Community Wellbeing	276.5	277.5	278.5	279.5	280.5	281.5	282.5	283.5	284.5	285.5
City Works and Assets										
Permanent - Full time	184.0	185.0	186.0	187.0	188.0	189.0	190.0	191.0	192.0	193.0
Female	53.8	53.8	53.8	54.8	55.8	55.8	56.8	56.8	57.8	57.8
Male	130.2	131.2	132.2	132.2	132.2	133.2	133.2	134.2	134.2	135.2
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8
Female	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2
Male	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total City Works and Assets	211.8	212.8	213.8	214.8	215.8	216.8	217.8	218.8	219.8	220.8
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5
Capitalised labour	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
Total staff numbers	894.3	899.3	904.3	909.3	914.3	919.3	924.3	929.3	934.3	939.3

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

4. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide an analysis of Council's 10 year financial projections and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives and financial management principles.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Trend +/-
Operating position														
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	(9.0%)	(0.2%)	(0.2%)	0.6%	1.1%	2.9%	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%	4.2%	4.8%	+
Liquidity														
Working Capital	Current assets / current liabilities	2	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	+
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities		66.2%	91.7%	88.1%	58.1%	38.8%	26.3%	16.3%	10.6%	6.2%	6.0%	8.9%	-
Obligations														
Loans and borrowings	Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	3	35.4%	48.8%	42.7%	36.6%	30.7%	25.0%	19.3%	15.0%	10.8%	6.7%	2.7%	+
Loans and borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		2.7%	30.6%	6.1%	5.9%	5.8%	5.7%	5.5%	4.2%	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%	o
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		7.9%	29.6%	25.5%	21.4%	17.5%	13.5%	10.6%	7.7%	5.0%	2.4%	0.0%	+
Asset renewal	Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	4	1.07	1.84	1.53	1.31	1.14	1.23	1.35	1.38	1.32	1.30	1.26	o
Stability														
Rates concentration	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	5	63.8%	58.5%	58.6%	58.7%	58.8%	58.7%	58.8%	59.0%	59.1%	59.2%	59.3%	o
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.20%	0.19%	0.19%	0.18%	0.18%	0.17%	0.17%	0.17%	0.16%	0.16%	0.15%	-
Efficiency														
Expenditure level	Total expenses/ no. of property assessments		\$3,486	\$3,600	\$3,610	\$3,592	\$3,588	\$3,493	\$3,495	\$3,498	\$3,511	\$3,506	\$3,453	o
Revenue level	Total rate revenue / no. of property assessments		\$2,037	\$2,101	\$2,113	\$2,125	\$2,138	\$2,116	\$2,129	\$2,143	\$2,157	\$2,172	\$2,154	o

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to indicators

1. Adjusted underlying result

An indicator of the sustainable operating result required to enable Council to continue to provide core services and meet its objectives. Improvement in financial performance expected over the period, although continued losses means reliance on Councils' cash reserves or increased debt to maintain services.

2. Working Capital

The proportion of current liabilities represented by current assets. Working capital is forecast to increase in the forward periods.

3. Debt compared to rates

Trend indicates Council's reducing reliance on debt against its annual revenue through redemption of long term debts.

4. Asset renewal

This percentage indicates the extent of Council's renewal of assets against its depreciation charge (an indication of the decline in value of its existing capital assets). A percentage greater than 100% indicates Council is maintaining its existing assets, while a percentage less than 100% means its assets are deteriorating faster than they are being renewed and future capital expenditure will be required to renew assets.

5. Rates concentration

Reflects extent of reliance on rate revenues to fund all of Councils' on-going services.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

5. Strategies and Plans

This section describes the strategies and plans that support the 10 year financial projections included to the Financial Plan.

5.1 Borrowing Strategy

Council recognises that long term borrowings can be a useful tool for funding renewal of existing and major new assets. It also recognises that while borrowings enhance the capacity of Council's short term capital program, debt repayment and borrowing costs may potentially limit the capacity of future capital programs. It is, therefore, important that the utilisation of debt as a funding tool is applied judiciously.

Council borrowed \$32.5m in 2013/2014 to settle the Vision Super unfunded defined benefit liability and fund major capital projects. This borrowing is due to be repaid in full in November 2021. Council is refinancing the debt with an aim to repay the loan over ten years. An additional loan of \$13.5 million was drawn down in 2016/17 to fund the construction of Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library. This loan is funded on a principal and interest basis and will be repaid by the end of the LTFP.

In addition to the \$32.5m refinancing, this LTFP also allows capacity for Council to borrow up to \$20 million in 2021/22. The potential additional borrowings will support Council in delivering our significant program of capital works.

This LTFP assumes Council will repay principal and interest on all borrowed funds (new and renewed) on an annual basis with a long term reduction in borrowings across the next ten years. Our principal repayments will allow us, depending on prevailing circumstances in the future, to have capacity to borrow further in later years, should that be required.

The following table highlights Council's projected loan balance, including new loans and loan repayments for the 10 years of the LTFP.

	Actual 2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
Opening balance	42,473	41,203	58,409	52,220	45,882	39,390	32,740	25,928	20,601	15,167	9,623
Plus New loans	0	52,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less Principal repayment	(1,270)	(35,294)	(6,189)	(6,338)	(6,492)	(6,650)	(6,812)	(5,327)	(5,434)	(5,544)	(5,655)
Closing balance	41,203	58,409	52,220	45,882	39,390	32,740	25,928	20,601	15,167	9,623	3,968
Interest payment	(1,870)	(1,387)	(1,245)	(1,096)	(942)	(785)	(622)	(479)	(371)	(262)	(149)

Performance Indicator	Target	Actual 2020/21 %	2021/22 %	2022/23 %	2023/24 %	2024/25 %	2025/26 %	2026/27 %	2027/28 %	2028/29 %	2029/30 %	2030/31 %
Total borrowings / Own source revenue	Below 60%	25.5%	30.9%	27.0%	23.3%	19.6%	15.8%	12.3%	9.6%	6.9%	4.3%	1.7%
Debt servicing / Rate revenue	Below 5%	2.7%	30.6%	6.1%	5.9%	5.8%	5.7%	5.5%	4.2%	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%
Debt commitment / Rate revenue	Below 10%	30.4%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%	-
Indebtedness / Own source revenue	Below 40%	7.9%	29.6%	25.5%	21.4%	17.5%	13.5%	10.6%	7.7%	5.0%	2.4%	-

Total borrowings / Own source revenue indicator measures how much of Council's own source revenue is utilised to pay for borrowings.

Debt Servicing indicator measures the cost of servicing debt by a percentage of rate revenue. Council measurement in the LTFP indicates less reliance on rates revenue to pay for debt, except for 2021-22 when the \$32.5m loan is due to be refinanced.

Debt Commitment indicator measures the proportion of rates required to pay for borrowings. Council measurement in the LTFP indicates less reliance on rates revenue to pay for debt, except for 2021-22 when the \$32.5m loan is due to be refinanced.

Indebtedness indicator measures Council's ability to pay the principal and interest on borrowings, as and when they fall due, from the funds it generates. The lower the ratio, the less revenue Council is required to use to repay its debt.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council LTFP 2021-22 to 2030-31

5.2 Reserves Strategy

5.2.1 Current Reserves

Open Space Reserve

The Open Space Reserve holds funds contributed by developers for works associated with developing and improving public open space and recreational facilities within the Municipality. Funds are contributed in accordance with section 18 of the Subdivision Act and transfers are restricted to the purpose of creating open space such as parks, playgrounds, pavilions and other such items where it is deemed that these works should occur at a later point in time than the initial development.

Movements (transfers) to the reserve (inflows) comprise contribution income from subdividers in lieu of the Open Space Requirement. Transfers from the reserve (outflows) are applied to fund Open Space capital projects on an annual basis.

The Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 was adopted by council on 1 September 2020. The strategy guides how Council manages Yarra's open space network for the next 15 years. Through the implementation of this strategy, open space projects will be identified, prioritised and funded from the Open Space Reserve. Those projects and reserve funding will be reflected in the LTFP accordingly upon the implementation of the Open Space Strategy.

5.2.2 Reserve Usage Projections

The table below discloses the balance and annual movement for each reserve over the 10-year life of the Financial Plan. Total amount of reserves, for each year, is to align with the Statement of Changes in Equity.

Reserves	2020-21 \$000's	2021-22 \$000's	2022-23 \$000's	2023-24 \$000's	2024-25 \$000's	2025-26 \$000's	2026-27 \$000's	2027-28 \$000's	2028-29 \$000's	2029-30 \$000's	2030-31 \$000's
Public Open Space Reserve											
Opening balance	14,845	18,950	21,710	24,595	32,285	39,975	47,925	55,875	63,825	71,775	79,725
Transfer to reserve	4,239	4,500	4,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Transfer from reserve	(134)	(1,740)	(1,615)	(1,310)	(1,310)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)
Closing balance	18,950	21,710	24,595	32,285	39,975	47,925	55,875	63,825	71,775	79,725	87,675
Reserves Summary											
Opening balance	14,845	18,950	21,710	24,595	32,285	39,975	47,925	55,875	63,825	71,775	79,725
Transfer to reserve	4,239	4,500	4,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Transfer from reserve	(134)	(1,740)	(1,615)	(1,310)	(1,310)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)	(1,050)
Closing balance	18,950	21,710	24,595	32,285	39,975	47,925	55,875	63,825	71,775	79,725	87,675

8.3 Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) Adoption

Reference	D21/132037
Author	Steve Alexander - Coordinator, Civic Compliance
Authoriser	Manager Compliance and Parking Services

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plan 2021 - 2024 (Attachment 1) for Council adoption.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, every Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, Section 68A states:

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

- (1) Subject to subsection (1A), each Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a domestic animal management plan on 4 December 2021 and at the end of each period of 4 years after that day.
- (1A) A Council may apply to the Secretary for an extension of time within which to prepare a domestic animal management plan.
- (1B) The Secretary may grant an extension of time under subsection (1A) if the Secretary believes that special circumstances exist that warrant the granting of an extension.
- (2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—
 - (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
 - (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
 - (c) outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
 - (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - (ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
 - (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
 - (iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
 - (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
 - (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
 - (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and

- (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
 - (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
 - (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
- (3) Every Council must—
 - (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.
- 3. The draft plan has been developed using the template provided by the Secretary and responds to the changes that have been introduced in the Act over the past four years.

Discussion

- 4. The key issue addressed by the plan is the manner in which Council will discharge its duties as prescribed in the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
- 5. The plan aims to provide a balanced approach to animal control that meets both community expectations and Councils statutory obligations.
- 6. The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021- 2024 continues to identify the key issues such as:
 - (a) training of animal management officers;
 - (b) the continued success of registration and identification initiatives;
 - (c) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
 - (d) the impact of pets not contained within the property of their owners;
 - (e) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - (f) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.
- 7. The development of the plan is to be considered in three stages, namely:
 - (a) Preparation of a draft plan for discussion and comment;
 - (b) Public and internal consultation; and
 - (c) Adoption.
- 8. The initial draft preparation involved reviewing the existing plan, reviewing data associated with animal management operational activities over the period of the previous plan and consultation with the Animal Management Team.
- 9. The DAM Plan must be reviewed each year, along with reporting against any proposed actions that were to be completed. Also, Council Officers can implement additional actions that are identified and are appropriate throughout the life of the Plan.

Options

- 10. Council must submit a Domestic Animal Plan to the Secretary Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions by 4 December 2021. However, Council can if required apply for an extension of time.

11. Any proposed amendments or alternations to the plan would require additional consultation and engagement.

Community and stakeholder engagement

External Consultation

12. A Communications Plan was developed in consultation with Council's Communications team to ensure that as many members of the community were engaged in the process as possible.
13. The external public consultation was conducted from 16 June – 15 July 2021: The table below outlines the activities undertaken and relevant statistics. See detailed Community Engagement Report (attachment 2).

Online Survey (Have Your Say)- Yarra website	848 views 78 responses
Councils' Social Media	4,978 people reached, 139 engaged with the post
In person	Gleadell Street Market Community Stall Saturday 10 July 9am-1pm- Officers were available to discuss the plan and responsible pet ownership.
Consultation information cards	500 handed out over the 28-day period in parks and were available at all Council officers including libraries etc.

14. Online Survey results (Have your Say): Of the seventy-eight (78) engaged respondents to the survey questions the following are directly relevant to the DAM plan.

Activity	% neutral and satisfied with current actions.
Promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats	65%
Ensure registration and identification of dogs and cats	94%
Respond to issues raised by the community about nuisance animals	82%
Minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals	76%
Ensure dangerous, menacing or restricted dog breeds are kept in compliance with the Domestic Animals Act and regulations	86%
Address potential over population and high euthanasia	86%
Provide for the review of other matters related to the management of dogs and cats	75%

15. The survey responses below are useful in relation to improving our service to certain aspects of our interaction with the community. However, it must be noted these activities are not directly related or required to be formally included in the DAM plan although the percentage of satisfaction with the activity is generally high except for **'fencing and off leash enclosures.**

Activity	% neutral and satisfied with current actions.
Council Officer patrols and presence in council parks	53%
Signage in parks (e.g. off leash and on leash locations)	66%
Fencing and off leash enclosures	39%
Provision of dog pick up bags	66%
Pet education and obedience programs	60%
Provision of water bowls	80%

16. The lower scores in relation Officer patrols and presence in parks maybe a reflection of lockdown restrictions where proactive patrols were reduced. With the easing of restrictions Officer patrols will increase accordingly to provide information and education to all park users. Also, the options surrounding fenced dog parks is a consideration being further examined.
17. The draft DAM Plan was accepted by the majority of the respondents; however, a number of issues were raised which included animal waste removal, introduction of cat curfews and designation of 'off-leash' areas and in particular dog only parks etc. In addition, general responsibilities of animal owners which are issues that need to be addressed with individual animal owners.
18. In addition to advertising and seeking comments from the public, the project advisors invited a range of stakeholders to participate in the consultation process such as:
 - (a) Yarra sporting clubs;
 - (b) Dog walking groups;
 - (c) Local veterinarians;
 - (d) Domestic animal businesses;
 - (e) RSPCA;
 - (f) Parks Victoria; and
 - (g) Lost Dog's Home.
19. Five hundred individual 'Have your say' cards which included information in multiple languages were handed out in parks and at the Gleadell street Market on 10 July 2021 as well as being available at all Yarra customer service centres and libraries.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

20. On 25 March 2021 a draft DAM plan inviting feedback was sent to Managers Open Space & Recreation, Family Services, Aged Services, Infrastructure & Leisure Services along with all Yarra Advisory Group Coordinators.
21. A draft DAM plan outlining the key aspects was discussed at the Councillor briefing 17 May 2021.
22. The draft plan was further sent to fifteen City of Yarra Advisory Group Coordinators on 25 March 2021 inviting feedback.

Policy analysis

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

23. The DAM Plan touches on Objective 1 – A Healthy Yarra, of the Council Plan 2017-21.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

24. There are no known sustainability implications.

Community and social implications

25. The continued development and subsequent adoption by Council of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-24 will have a positive impact on community and social wellbeing as well as exploring measures that will bring a positive impact on the natural environment and wildlife habitat within the municipality along with encouraging responsible pet ownership and dealing with companion animals that support isolated owners or those requiring assistance.

Economic development implications

26. There are no known economic implications.

Human rights and gender equality implications

27. There are no conflict of interest issues arising through the development of the Plan. The Plan has also been developed with a view to compliance with Council's obligations under Human Rights legislation.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

28. The Plan development and implementation process is envisaged to fall within the current Council adopted budget. However, the review of the Council Order may require external consultation to assist in the engagement process as well as potential education programs and desexing assistance programs that may be implemented as required through the life of the Plan.

Legal Implications

29. Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, every Council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The new four (4) year plan is due by 4 December 2021.

Conclusion

30. The DAM Plan for the City of Yarra has been developed in accordance with the legislative and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
- (a) adopt the draft City of Yarra Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2021-24; and
 - (b) authorise Officers to submit the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-24 to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions by 4 December 2021.

Attachments

- 1 [📄](#) Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan
- 2 [📄](#) Engagement Report

Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

CITY OF YARRA DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2024

(DRAFT (v.01/06/21))



Review dates:
November 2022
November 2023



Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (The Act), every Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, as follows:

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- (1A) A Council may apply to the Secretary for an extension of time within which to prepare a domestic animal management plan.
- (1B) The Secretary may grant an extension of time under subsection (1A) if the Secretary believes that special circumstances exist that warrant the granting of an extension.
- (2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—
 - (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
 - (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
 - (c) outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
 - (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - (ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
 - (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
 - (iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
 - (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
 - (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
 - (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
 - (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
 - (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
 - (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
- (3) Every Council must—
 - (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Yarra was created in June 1994 following the Victorian Government's restructure of local government. The City of Yarra is located close to Melbourne's Central Business District. Neighbouring Councils are Moreland and Darebin (to the north), Boroondara (to the east), Stonnington (to the south), and Melbourne (to the west). The City of Yarra includes the suburbs of Abbotsford, Alphington (part), Burnley, North Carlton, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fairfield (part), Fitzroy, North Fitzroy, Princes Hill and Richmond.

The traditional owners of the land are the Wurundjeri Aboriginal people who originally inhabited the area that is now known as Fitzroy, Richmond and Collingwood. Yarra continues to be an important meeting place for Aboriginal people in Victoria.

Yarra has more than 230 hectares of open space including large historical gardens particularly Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy and Darling Gardens in Clifton Hill. The Merri Creek and Yarra River, which form two of Yarra's boundaries, have adjoining linear open space reserves which are highly valued by residents of Yarra and wider metropolitan Melbourne for their recreational and nature conservation values.

The current estimated population for the municipality is more than 101,000.

The Victorian State Government amended the Domestic Animals Act 1994, to improve animal management in Victoria, by requiring that all Councils have a Domestic Animal Management Plan (referred to hereafter in this document as the DAMP). The City of Yarra supports this strategic approach and has developed its DAMP using the guidelines provided by the Department Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR)

The DAMP is required to specifically inform both the State Government and interested parties how the City of Yarra has equipped and trained its authorised officers and provided processes for them to enforce the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and associated Regulations. The DAMP is not intended to regulate how the City of Yarra investigates or enforces its Local Laws or other Policies which relate to the management of animals. These Local Laws and Policies may be referred to where they complement the DAMP and will be enforced in conjunction with the DAMP where appropriate.

The City of Yarra encourages responsible animal ownership and recognises the positive benefits associated with pets. Animal ownership can provide community members with opportunities to connect with other people and encourages greater use of open space.

Council's role in Animal Management

Council play a number of roles within the scope of animal management. In the City of Yarra responsible pet ownership will focus on:

Responsible Pet ownership

Council's key focus in the delivery of animal management services are:

- To promote responsible pet ownership in the City of Yarra;
- To respond to issues raised by the community about nuisance animals (e.g. barking dogs);
- To enforce the legislation relating to animals;
- To encourage the registration of companion animals;
- To educate the community on topics related to animal management and control.

Process applied in developing this plan

The DAMP was prepared by the Compliance and Parking branch. Other relevant areas of Council and external stakeholders and agencies have also been consulted regarding the content of this plan.



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Training of authorised officers

68(A)(2)(b) Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of Domestic Animals Act 1994 in the Council's municipal district.

Context

The purpose of this plan is to provide the City of Yarra with a strategic framework that delivers policy direction and action plans for animal control services for the next four years.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 confers a range of powers and responsibilities to Councils for the delivery of animal control services. This plan articulates how Council intends to discharge its responsibilities as prescribed in the Act.

There were 6791 dogs and 3018 cats registered within the City of Yarra in 2020 (as of 31 December 2020). In the 2016-17 registration years there were 5498 dogs and 2393 cats registered. There has been a steady increase in the registration of dogs and cats as a result of registration incentives and improved operational methods including the increase of parks patrols on the weekend and introduction of the Compliance and Education Officer (Parks).

There are currently 14 Domestic Animal Businesses registered in the City of Yarra. In addition, there are currently 3 Commercial Dog Walking permits in the City of Yarra as of 9 February 2021.

The Animal Management Team consists of two full time Animal Management Officers and one full time Compliance and Education Officer (Parks) Officer.

1. CURRENT AND PLANNED TRAINING

The City of Yarra employs three full time Officers in relation to Animal Management:

- Animal Management Officer
- Animal Management Officer
- Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)

Their primary responsibilities are to deliver animal control, education and enforcement activities in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act and the Council's General Local Law 2016.

The table below sets out the training activities currently undertaken by Animal Management Officers and those activities that are anticipated in the life of the plan.

Authorised Officer Training	Current (2020)	Planned (state when)
Industry training – animal handling, animal assessment, statement taking, prosecution, computer skills.		
Animal Management Officer	All	Continuing
Animal Management Officer	Ongoing training	Yearly internal refresher as required
Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)	Completed	

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Authorised Officer Training	Current (2020)	Planned (state when)
OH&S training- dealing with aggressive customers, introduction of body cameras Animal Management Officer Animal Management Officer Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)	Training All 3 completed	2022 refresher, yearly internal OH&S (corporate training)
Cert IV in Local Government Animal Management Officer Animal Management Officer Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)	Completed Completed Relevant Experience (over 5 years)	As required with new officers or temporary – Position description pre- requisite
<i>Department Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR)</i> – training and information days Animal Management Officer Animal Management Officer Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)	All 3 Attended every session available	As offered by the department
Hands on animal handling training – provider Lost Dogs Home Animal Management Officer Animal Management Officer Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)	All 3 completed Refresher training completed every 2 years	Refresher in 2022
Induction training with Senior Team Leader council e-learning Animal Management Officer Animal Management Officer Compliance and Education Officer (Parks)	All 3 completed	Ongoing courses and e-learning as required
Relevant Industry nominated conferences Animal Management Officer Animal Management Officer Compliance and Education Officer (Parks) Civic Compliance Co-ordinator	2016 (AIAM) No 2019 (GZI summit)	Officers to consider attending next annual conference



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OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Develop a training policy that clearly identifies minimum training requirements and any additional training needs that should be undertaken by Authorised Officers by January 2022.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify minimum industry and legislative training requirements via consultation with management and staff. Training to be documented on a register.	By March 2022	Documentation to be finalised and incorporated into the Performance Development Review Staff to complete minimum training within 6 months from date of commencement.
Identify additional training opportunities by consultation with management and staff. All Compliance officers (local laws) will maintain skills in animal handling and management	By March 2022 and as required	Documentation to be finalised and considered by Compliance and Construction Coordinator.

Objective 2: Review and update current Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) within the branch in consultation with officers and management to enable consistent enforcement and education.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Coordinator to distribute SOP's after reviewing to all officers for comment and feedback to enable best practice and confirm legislative requirements. Discuss with Officers in meetings and during Council's performance review process.	By June 2022	Regular meetings with staff and individuals, review and consult with the coordinator and management. Update and review current SOP's

Objective 3: Improve officer's ability to correctly identify dog breeds and interpret Breed Standards that may be prescribed from time to time.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Industry training as available from DJPR for Officer to attend and complete.	January 2023 as available	Completion of formal training and incorporated in the annual Performance Development Review and within budget constraints

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Objective 4: All Officers to be offered the opportunity to complete formal prosecution training.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Officers to develop the ability to prosecute in Court and gain the necessary skills in understanding the prosecution process. To be considered as appropriate.	June 2022	Review the Officers who undertook the training and provide hands on experience. Document outcomes in Performance Development Review.

Objective 5: To maintain high technical legislative knowledge within the team.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Weekly meeting with the Senior Team Leader Civic Compliance.	Weekly from 2021	Confirm the understanding of any legislative changes including amendments to the Council Order with staff at each session.

2. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Domestic Animals Act 1994, 68A (2) (c) (v) provides that Council must: "... outline programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats..."

The following data illustrates the trends in domestic animal registrations during the period of the previous Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Annual Registrations	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (31 Dec 2020)
Cats	2392	2733	2783	3081
Dogs	5521	5901	6040	6791
Total	7913	8634	8823	9872

Animal registrations have increased.

There has been over 11% increase in animal registrations over the 2020-21 animal registration period.



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Overall domestic animal registrations have increased.

There has been over 11% (figure as of 31/10/2020 annual review) net increase in pet registrations since the previous Domestic Animal Management Plan adopted by Council. During the whole of the period, Council has maintained actions from the previous plan by:

- Follow up of non-renewed registrations through a mail-out of reminder letters and SMS's, including reviewing and improving the process
- Review of the current methodology for unpaid registrations
- Review of the promotional material regarding positive benefits from registration
- Liaison with local Veterinary Practices to ensure relevant information on responsible pet ownership is available
- Increase education in parks and awareness to register by Compliance officers.
- Annual data obtained from the microchipping companies listing COY owners with follow up for registration. Since its process was implemented in 2017 there has been a 29% increase in pets registered from this

In accordance with the Plan, Animal Management Officers also provided feedback to the organisation's Communications team with a view to ensuring the message to the public about positive benefits of registration and identification remains relevant.

Registration and Identification - Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Local Laws:

City of Yarra General Local Law 2016 (which was adopted September 2016) section 60 regulates the number of cats and dogs that can be kept on a property. Unless permitted under the Planning Scheme applicable to the land, a person must not, without a permit, keep or allow to be kept on any land, any more of each species or group of animals and birds specified in the Local Law.

Council Policies and Procedures:

- Application for registration and renewal of registration of dogs and cats (form approved by Council and fixing fees)
- Procedure associated with seizure and impounding of unregistered and/or unidentified dogs and cats
- Process associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding dogs and/or cats that are not desexed
- Prescribed yearly program each June to follow up on unpaid renewals.

Cats and Compulsory Desexing

On 1 March 2010, Council introduced compulsory cat desexing with the Council Order under The Act to reduce the number of stray and feral cats in the community. Cat owners in the City of Yarra must have their cat desexed before it may be registered for the first time at three months of age.

Desexing not only reduces the population of stray, unwanted animals, but it also helps pets to live longer and healthier lives. Owners of cats already registered with Council which are not desexed must have their cat desexed prior to renewing their pet registration. Exceptions apply when a veterinarian has advised against desexing for health reasons or where a cat is being kept for recognised breeding purposes. Owners will need to provide Council with a letter from their veterinarian or a copy of their breeding certificate.

Reduced Fees

Reduced registration fees are applicable for people who hold a State Concession (must be eligible within the meaning of State Concessions Act 1986) you must supply your current Department of Social Security Pension Number, Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Number.

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In special cases where financial hardship may be proved, the Manager Compliance and Parking may waive all or part of a registration fee. For all new cats and dogs aged 6 months, registration fee is waived at initial registration.

For dogs and cats adopted through the Lost Dogs Home or any other registered foster care network we have introduced free initial registration facilitated at the time of adoption.

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

Our activities include:

- Production and dissemination of a range of information brochures relating to positive responsible pet ownership
- Display information in a range of public places and veterinary practices
- Follow-up/reminders for non-renewed registrations
- Maintain information on Council's website
- Promote private event pet days like 'dogapoolooza'
- Conduct regular park patrols and liaise with sporting clubs
- Assist Council's Open Space department in park sign audits and provide feedback and details.
- Annual letter sent to primary school encouraging them to participate in Council's primary school education program.
- Offering local schools educational assistance

Our current Compliance Activities

Activities include:

- Regular park patrols for direct engagement with pet owners and pets including random checks of registration and tag details.
- Enforcement via Infringement notices, official warnings and prosecutions as required
- Follow-up of notification from Lost Dogs Home of claimed or rehoused pets within the municipality
- Follow-up of unpaid renewals via telephone and door knocking as appropriate.
- Authorised Officer equipped with microchip scanners.
- Annual audit of all Domestic Animal Businesses.
- Annual audit of declared dangerous/menacing dogs.
- Increased number of animal transport vehicles.
- Educational activities – school talks, Yarra news and the website information

The table below details the type and number of offences that have resulted in the issue of enforcement notices. (see next page)

Enforcement Action by Offence Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020- 21(as of 9 Feb 2021)
Dog/cat not wearing ID marker	11	1	4	2	1
Dog at large daytime	124	96	211	121	23
Dog at large nighttime	56	22	77	58	17



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Enforcement Action by Offence Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020- 21(as of 9 Feb 2021)
Nuisance dog/cat	0	0	0	0	0
Dog/cat in prohibited place	94	17	36	37	26
Fail to register dog/cat	351	183	329	119	42
Fail to renew registration dog/cat	210	187	182	147	0
Dog attack - non-serious injury	4	8	11	54	5
Allow dog to rush or chase	0	0	3	12	21
Prosecutions for serious dog attacks	8	7	22	16	6
Prosecutions for non-serious dog attacks	N/A	5	4	5	3

- Please note 2020-21 enforcement figures may be impacted due to COVID restrictions.

Summary

Overall Council's strategies have resulted in an increase of registration and compliance within the municipality. The increase of park patrols and the introduction of the Compliance and Education (Parks) Officer have enabled Council to identify educational opportunities on weekends. Council will be looking at improving responsible pet ownership over the next four years. The objectives include:

- To provide a visible and proactive public relations interface with all park users.
- To proactively patrol all the major parks and gardens within the City of Yarra with a view to ensuring that there is good order within those parks and gardens and that good governance is achieved.
- Actively and positively ensure compliance with the Domestic Animal Act 1994 and Council's Local Law within the municipality and specifically within Council's parks and gardens.
- To undertake investigations, resolve requests collect and transport animals and where necessary take appropriate enforcement action in order to obtain compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994, related legislation and Council Local Laws within Council's parks and gardens.
- Educate owners of the impacts that dogs and in particular cats may have on wildlife.

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OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Improve registrations in relation to unpaid renewals annually

Activity	When	Evaluation
Mail out registrations in March and have a set plan in relation to follow up of unpaid renewals in conjunction with the administration team.	Annually in January	Monitor unpaid renewals from previous years and follow up action. Monitor total registration numbers

Objective 2: Improve registration database with correct information and reduce dogs wandering at large with follow up enforcement action.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release.	Prior to release	Review data from pound and monitor registration details
Investigate the benefits and costs of returning registered, microchipped animals home, rather than impounding pets the first time they are found at large.		Monthly pound report statistics and bi-yearly meeting with the pound

Activity	When	Evaluation
Explore the feasibility of partnering with local vets to accept dogs and cats found at large in the community and/or accept dog and cat registrations on behalf of council	March 2022	Reach out to vets and discuss benefits such as: -Increase registrations by incentivising vet practices to register their client's unregistered animals as an agent of council.

Objective 3: Improve responsible pet ownership and education in relation to registration requirements

Activity	When	Evaluation
Meet park patrol targets and increase officer presence in parks.	Weekly over four years	Monitor enforcement action and interaction with community at parks. Seek feedback from sporting clubs and general public
Research approaches to improving registration and renewal levels, and implement appropriate initiatives	June 2022 – yearly afterwards	Monitor yearly unpaid registration program and discuss new initiatives.



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Activity	When	Evaluation
All new registration from February are given an additional 2 months free registration due to issuing renewals.	yearly	Monitor registration applications and numbers - depending on budget impacts
Identify opportunities to communicate with the community about animal management activities, including the benefits of registration.	November yearly	Programmed communication opportunities.
Annual check of microchipping databases to increase registration of cats & dogs.	2021 yearly	Match data from microchipping database with COY animal registration database.
Review of animal registration process	2021	Implementing ability for online animal registrations

3. NUISANCE

68A (2) (c) (VI) Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance

- Also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f)

Cat trapping process updated

Barking Dog process updated

Cat cage service updated

CURRENT SITUATION

The data below illustrates the number of contacts received by Council from customers in relation to nuisance caused by cats and dogs:

Nature of Complaint	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of 9 Feb 2021)
Barking Dogs	97	154	312	125	69
Domestic Animal Pick-up	289	241	344	193	71
Dog Faeces	21	22	77	80	43
Excess Animal Permits	6	21	31	15	9

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Nature of Complaint	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of 9 Feb 2021)
Cat Cage Requests	37	70	97	67	23
General animal requests	991	404	480	554	77

- Please note 2020-21 complaint figures may be impacted due to COVID restrictions.

Some categories of complaint generate more than one contact with Council as part of an ongoing investigation process.

In relation to barking dog complaints an improved implemented process, such as readily available information has resulted in complainant having an understanding how to make a complaint with Council. Council has increased its focus on education and dispute resolution.

City of Yarra Council encourages dog owners to maintain adequate fencing to prevent animals wandering from their premises. Council provides services to collect wandering animals and may impound dogs, issue Infringements and prosecute pet owners when an offence is found.

Council provides a cat trapping program and any registered cat that is trapped will be identified through its registration tag and returned to its owner, who may be issued with a notice under section 23 of the Act and subject to prosecution should the cat be trapped again.

The cat trapping procedure is reviewed yearly in conjunction with the administration team and statistics obtained from the Lost Dogs Home. An improved cat cage and trapping procedure has led to improvements in officer safety.

Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

List Orders:

- Council Order (reviewed in 2015) - Order requiring dogs and/or cats to be restrained in a specific manner when in public places (s.26)
- Council Order - Order prohibiting dogs and/or cats from being present in specific areas of the municipal district (s.26)

List Local Laws:

Council's General Local Law regulates the number of cats and dogs that may be kept on private property. In addition, the local law requires dog owners to remove and dispose of any waste deposited by the dog. It's also an offence not to carry a litter device when out in public with a dog.

City of Yarra General Local Law of 2016 section 60 regulates the number of cats and dogs that can be kept on a property - A maximum of 2 dogs and 2 cats per property and a maximum of 1 dog and 1 cat per unit or flat.

List Council Policies and Procedures:

Current Standard Operating Procedures and processes:

- Brief preparation
- Statement guidelines
- Infringement notices – Animals



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- Decision to destroy or declare dangerous dog
- Dog attack - rush investigation
- Conducting proactive park patrols
- Dog at large – contained
- Summaries for investigations
- Animal handling
- Seizure protocol
- Surrender of animals
- Barking dog process/booklet on webpage.

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Primary schools encouraged to participate in Council's school's visitation program
- Periodical review of Council Orders made pursuant to s.26 Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Ongoing review of signage related to control of dogs in parks
- Education/enforcement campaign through programmed park patrols
- Review and evaluate the success of the education/enforcement campaign
- Provision of information to complainants and cat owners in relation to cat trespass on other properties
- Provision of information to dog owners and complainants in relation to issues of noise from barking dogs, including new information booklet.

Our current Compliance Activities

- Proactive patrols of Council parks and reserves, activity centres and residential areas
- Investigations of both reported and proactively detected complaints and breaches
- Ensure that notices to comply, notices of objection, infringements, warnings and prosecutions are in line with Council Policy and Procedures
- Actively work with other agencies on the broader nuisance issues, including the DJPR, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victoria Police.
- Take appropriate enforcement action in a timely manner, including the issue of notices to comply and warning notices, infringements, animal management agreements or prosecutions.
- Follow up on all unpaid registration renewals via telephone and random door knocking.
- Introduction of new Barking Dog information online.
- Temporary signage advising park users of State Government greyhound amendments in relation to muzzling.

Summary

The nuisance caused by barking dogs is a matter that requires an ongoing assessment of the levels of reasonable complaint and whether Council's activities in any way help reduce these levels. In the same way, the issue of cat trespass is affected greatly by the levels of compliance and responsible pet ownership and future actions will be aimed at reviewing and upgrading actions by Council depending on the complaint levels. Senior Officers regularly meet with management to discuss process improvements in dealing with noise and other nuisances. This will continue yearly as per the plan.

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Reduce dog nuisance complaints.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review and evaluate Council's response to complaints about barking dogs and explore best practice models to inform a revised procedure and educative materials	June 2022	Monitor complaints via yearly statistics

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Activity	When	Evaluation
Review Councils database in conjunction with City of Yarra's General Local Law clause 60 which puts permit requirements on the amount of pet's residents can have in a unit/flat and a dwelling.	Ongoing	Monitor in the influx of Excess Animal Permits that Council receives.

Objective 2: Reduce nuisance and promote responsible pet ownership in parks

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review existing Council Order and consult with internal stakeholders with a view to understanding the need for change and meeting Council's Open Space to discuss off lead areas and dog only areas.	March 2022	Complete Council Order review and implement changes (in conjunction with cat curfew report)
Participate in Council and private run events and expos. Provide advertising material and brochures.	As required	Feedback and interaction from community and organisations conducting events.
Temporary signage utilised in hotspots regarding greyhound regulations in our parks	As requested,	Feedback and interaction from community and park users

Objective 3: Reduce cat nuisance and promote responsible cat ownership.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Update Council's webpage with links to the DJPR webpage on cat containment.	June (yearly review)	Complete review and implement changes
Review existing publications about responsible cat ownership from a range of organisations and providers with the view to making such publications available at Council offices and libraries		

Activity	When	Evaluation
Explore the introduction of a night-time cat curfew and the control of cats during the day.	March 2022	Commence review and implement recommendation (in conjunction with Council Order review)

Objective 4: Assist dog owners to fully understand Yarra's General Local Law that requires owners remove faeces deposited by their animals in public places.



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Activity	When	Evaluation
With assistance from the Open Space & Infrastructure departments. Identify and understand the areas of the municipality where there is a higher prevalence of owners failing to remove faeces deposited by their dogs and in addition the impact of cats and dogs can have in wildlife sensitive areas.	January 2023	Complete review and implement changes – depending on budget implications
Design temporary signage (containing educative messages) that are highly portable and display such signs for short periods on a rotation basis at the identified parks and reserves		
Social media campaigns targeting dog owners to clean up after their dogs.	June 2022	Interaction and positive feedback from the community and park users. Ongoing

4. DOG ATTACKS

68A (2) (c) (iii) Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals

- Also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f)

CURRENT SITUATION

The table below shows a consistency in the number of dog attacks reported.

The higher number of prosecutions in 2018 can be attributed to the restructure of the Animal Management Department.

Dog Attacks & Actions Taken	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of 9 Feb 2021)
Reported Attacks & Rushes	64	83	138	108	62
Prosecutions	10	10	26	21	3
Infringement Notices Issued	3	8	13	10	6
Seized as a result of a dog attack	3	3	6	4	0

- Please note 2020-21 figures may be impacted due to COVID restrictions.

Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

List Orders:

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- Order requiring dogs to be restrained in a specific manner when in public places (s.26)
- Order requiring dogs from being present in specific areas of the municipal district (s.26)

List Local Laws:

Council's General Local Law regulates the total of animals that can be kept at a private property. In addition, the General Local Law regulates the control of dogs being walked or exercised in a public space by commercial dog walkers.

List Council Policies and Procedures:

Current Standard Operating Procedures and legislative processes:

- Statement guidelines
- Infringement notices – Animals
- Decision to destroy or declare dangerous dog
- Dog attack - rush investigation
- Conducting proactive park patrols
- Dog at large – contained
- Animal handling
- Seizure protocol
- Statutory process regarding seizure of documents (s.75 Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory process for serving notices of seizure relating to seizing of identified dogs (s.84H Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory process for owners and established practice when recovering dogs that have been seized by Council (s.84M Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory process associated with disposal of seized dogs (s.84O Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory process associated with destruction of dogs after Court order or exercising Council power to destroy a dog (s.84P Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory process associated with registration of dogs and the fee structure for registration (Schedule to the Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory process associated with seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack
- Statutory process associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution.

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Primary schools encouraged to participate in Council's school's visitation program
- Periodical review of Council Orders made pursuant to s.26 Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Ongoing review of signage related to control of dogs in parks
- Education/enforcement campaign through programmed park patrols
- Review and evaluate the success of the education/enforcement campaign
- Regular feedback in relation to Court outcomes via internal media.
- Utilisation of Council's social media tools, Facebook, Twitter, to send messages out.

Our current Compliance Activities

- The conduct of regular park patrols from all officers including local laws, animal management and education officer.
- Council offers educational presentations at schools
- Investigation of all complaints with a view to taking enforcement action where appropriate
- Issuing of Infringement notices or warnings where appropriate
- Regular updates of Council's website

Summary

Dog attacks remain a key priority in relation to enforcement planning. The data above indicates a high success rate in all matters taken to prosecution. The focus moving forward will be to educate the community with a view to reduce the number of dog attacks reported. Having highly skilled trained staff is another key to Council's success in moving forward over the next four years.



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OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Increase reporting of dog attacks in the community

Activity	When	Evaluation
Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report using media articles, website and attendance at the community stall at the Gleadell Street Market and other community events	Start June 2022 (yearly review)	Meet regularly with Council's communication department and provide feedback and articles for the website and other public advertising outlets.

Objective 2: Reduce the number of dog attacks that occur within the municipality

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide ongoing officer training in relation to public education and feedback to the community	Weekly case conferencing ongoing – to continue	Monitor community feedback and notes in park patrol notes and provide feedback at meetings
Set park patrol targets for all officers	ongoing	One on one meetings with officers to determine enforcement and education in parks

5. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

68A(2)(c)(vii) Outline programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations

- Also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f)

CURRENT SITUATION

Classification	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (29/01/2021)
Restricted Breed	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerous Dogs	1	0	0	2	2
Menacing Dogs	1	0	0	1	1

There are only 3 declared dogs (see above table) currently registered with Council. Reports of restricted breed dogs are relatively few within the City of Yarra.

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Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

List Council Policies and Procedures:

- Standard Operating Procedure associated with seizure and impounding of dangerous and restricted breed dogs
- Enforcement process associated with issuing seizure notices, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Statutory procedure regarding seizure of documents (s.75 Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory procedure for declaring a dog dangerous (s.34 Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory procedure for declaring a dog menacing (s.41A Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory procedure for providing details of dangerous dogs to the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) (s.44AE Domestic Animals Act 1994)
- Statutory procedure to provide details on VDDR of dogs destroyed in relation to s.84TA, TB and TC (s.44AEA Domestic Animals Act 1994)

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Primary schools encouraged to participate in Council's school's visitation program
- Periodical review of Council Orders made pursuant to s.26 Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Yearly inspections to meet legislative housing requirements

Our current Compliance Activities

- Investigate all complaints with a view to court proceedings or other action
- Issuing of infringement notices or warnings, depending on the case severity
- Yearly inspections of known premises which dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept
- Provide community with information on the types of declared dogs and how they are to be identified and kept in compliance with the Domestic Animals Act and Regulations, including prescribed collars, signage on premises, housing and general control
- Ensure that Council has effective declaration process to avoid declarations being overturned at VCAT and ensure that the declaration policies are specific for each type, namely Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted breeds

Summary

Restricted breed, menacing and declared dangerous dogs are not a significant problem within the City of Yarra. Low numbers mean inspections for compliance are conducted regularly and processes are thorough.

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Identify and register all Declared Dogs in the municipality annually.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Conduct unannounced audit inspections of declared Dangerous and Restricted Breed dogs annually to ensure they are identified and being kept in compliance with the Act and Regulations;	annually	Administration team to set proactive jobs for the officer to complete and record against the property



Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

Activity	When	Evaluation
Audit VDDR database	annually	Senior Team Leader to confirm and cross reference April 11 yearly

6.OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

68A (2) (c) (IV) Outline programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats - Also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f)

CURRENT SITUATION

The table below highlights the low number of dogs and cats euthanised within the City of Yarra

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of 9 February 2021)
Dogs					
Impounded	182	160	153	145	76
Returned to Owner	160	134	127	120	60
Euthanasia (feral or unsafe to be rehoused)	7	3	3	6	0
Rehoused	13	6	8	9	10
Remaining in Pound	2	16	15	8	3
Total Dogs	182	160	153	145	73
Cats					
Impounded	134	196	122	152	103
Returned to Owner	41	52	55	30	21
Euthanasia (feral or unsafe to be rehoused)	51	74	41	75	21
Rehoused	41	23	14	42	48
Remaining in Pound	1	47	0	3	5
Total Cats	134	196	110	152	95

- Please note 2020-21 figures may be impacted due to COVID restrictions.

Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

List Orders:

On 1 March 2010, Council introduced compulsory cat desexing to reduce the number of stray and feral cats in the community. Cat owners in the City of Yarra must have their cat desexed before it may be registered for the first time at three months of age.

List Council Policies and Procedures:

- Statutory process associated with seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack
- Statutory process associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution.
- Standard operating procedure in relation to cat trapping

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Cat trapping hire service available to all residents
- Run a subsidised desexing voucher program with registrations for eligible pet owners
- Promote the confinement to owners' premises of cats to prevent straying and possible euthanasia if unregistered
- Website information updated regularly
- Process associated with seizure and impounding of dogs and cats in the community
- Desexing promotion with new registration

Our current Compliance Activities

Authorised officers conduct routine trapping of feral cats.

- Investigation of reports of animal hoarding
- Limiting the numbers of permitted animals
- Ensure that impounded animals are de-sexed prior to release from the pound facility
- Conduct compliance patrols to pick up feral and stray cats and dogs to reduce unplanned breeding
- Referral to welfare groups for initial rehousing
- Regular patrols for direct engagement with pet owners and pets
- Enforcement via infringement notices
- Follow-up of notification from pet welfare agencies of claimed or rehoused pets within the municipality
- Maintain a cost-effective pound release fee in relation to actual cost to Council

Summary

There is a low number of dogs and cats euthanised within the City of Yarra. Cat trapping is a low priority in Yarra and the level of complaints about nuisance cats suggests that 'cat over population' is not a wide problem within the municipality. Cat owners in Yarra must have their cat desexed before it may be registered for the first time at three months of age. Owners of cats already registered with Council that are not desexed must have their cat desexed prior to renewing their pet registration. Councils will continue to promote responsible pet ownership and mandatory desexing.

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Raise awareness and promote the benefits of desexing.



Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

Activity	When	Evaluation
Discount desexing days and ongoing subsidised desexing for pets of low-income earners via agreements with local vet clinics with support from National Desexing Networks.	June 2022	Monitor vouchers being approved and Animal Management Officer to monitor euthanasia rates from pound reports monthly Completed monthly by Co Ordinator

Objective 2: Raise awareness about semi-owned cat population

Activity	When	Evaluation
Attend industry conferences e.g. AAMI to identify current trends and methods for raising awareness and practical applications.	Annually	Allow budget for two officers to attend conferences and provide feedback to management and staff

7. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

68A (2)(c)(ii) Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation

- Also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (d), (f)

CURRENT SITUATION

There are currently 14 registered Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB's) consisting of:

- 1 dog training establishment
- 2 pet shop establishment
- 11 boarding establishments

All DABs are audited annually as stated in the previous Domestic Animal Management Plan and only minor noncompliance issues have been detected to date. These issues have been quickly rectified.

Our Orders, Local Laws and Council Policies and Procedures

List Local Laws:

Council has not made any Orders or Local Laws specific to Domestic Animal Businesses.

List Council Policies and Procedures:

- Domestic Animal Businesses must be registered
- All Domestic Animal Businesses are audited periodically
- Standard record/audit sheets on database of registered Domestic Animal Businesses
- Any new businesses – must have planning permission and be subject to a full inspection before registration
- Non-compliance and cruelty issues are investigated accordingly.

Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Provide all Domestic Animal Businesses with relevant Code of Practice
- Domestic Animals Unit fact sheets on Domestic Animal Businesses available in Council offices and given or sent to registered Domestic Animal Businesses
- annual DAB audit and inspections for compliance with the relevant Code of Practice

Our current Compliance Activities

- register all domestic animal businesses within the municipality
- annual audit of all domestic animal businesses for compliance with the Code of Practice, and conduct random audits and inspections if complaints are received or breaches are suspected
- follow up any noncompliance with the provision of correct documentation and information, education of both management and staff and prosecution where warranted
- Regular patrols for new/non-registered Domestic Animal Businesses
- Unannounced inspections

Summary

Scheduled compliance/educational activities will continue as well as the adoption of a range of methods to identify any previously unknown Domestic Animal Business activities within the municipality. The City of Yarra will continue to educate and provide updated information to DAB proprietors.

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality by June annually.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality, using yellow pages (or similar, including online sites) identify businesses selling pets / pet products / services in the municipality. Follow up to determine whether they are and should be registered with council.	Annually in April -May	Follow up on previous Dab and establish any pattern or specific locations. Completed by Animal Management Officers annually.

Objective 2: Annually inspect and audit all registered domestic animal businesses.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Animal Management Officer to arrange annual inspections to be conducted with another officer	Annually in June	Complete audit form and register against business on Council's corporate database. Completed Annually and database maintained.



Attachment 1 - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

8. OTHER MATTERS

68A (2) (e) Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary

CURRENT SITUATION

The City of Yarra currently has set Emergency Management plans in place and regularly conducts pre-planned events. Establishing trends and addressing matters that arise is something Council will address annually during the review. Matters highlighted at any industry-based conference or by the media and general community are to be formally reviewed.

Summary

The current situation in relation to animal management appears to be healthy. Both Animal Management officers along with the additional Compliance and Education (Parks) officer has enabled an increase of park patrols and a greater presence on the weekends.

In accordance with s68A (3) of the Domestic Animals Act, Council is required to review this plan annually and if appropriate amend the plan. Council must also publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report. For enquiries regarding this plan please contact Steve Alexander – Coordinator Compliance and Construction Enforcement on 9205-5166 or steve.alexander@yarracity.vic.gov.au.

Review dates:

November 2022

November 2023

November 2024

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

68A (3) Every Council must—

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- (b) provide the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Attachment 2 - Engagement Report



Community engagement report

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-24

Engagement purpose

To seek the community's feedback on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-24.

Engagement stages and influence

Background work / internal consultation	Formal exhibition of draft plan
Consult	Consult

Engagement objectives

- Community members and key stakeholders are able to provide feedback on the draft DAMP.
- The community is informed about Council's role in animal management and promotion of responsible pet ownership.
- Participants are informed about the outcome of engagement and how their input has informed the draft plan.

What did we ask?

Participants were asked:

- What do you think is the most important part of pet ownership?
- How satisfied are you that the objectives and actions contained in our Domestic Animal Management Plan will meet our community's needs?
- Do you think pet owners in Yarra understand and act on their responsibilities? For example, picking up after their animal, or keeping them on lead when required?
- How satisfied are you with the plan's measures for managing dogs and cats in Yarra's public spaces?
- Do you have any other ideas about how we can encourage responsible pet ownership and manage issues about domestic animals in Yarra?
- If they had any other comments relating to pets and animals in Yarra.

Methods included:

- A survey – both online on Your Say Yarra and hard copy. The survey was designed to gauge community sentiment and its priorities as relating to the draft plan. The survey was open from Wednesday 16 June to Thursday 15 July 2021, and a **total of 78 responses** were received.
- In-person engagement – the project team also attended the Gleadell Street Market on Saturday 10 July 2021 from 9am to 1pm.
- Outreach to key stakeholders – sporting clubs, dog walking groups, local veterinarians, domestic animal businesses, RSPCA, Parks Victoria, the Lost Dogs Home and internal Yarra teams.

Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

Who did we hear from?

Pet ownership

Demographic groups	%	Count
Dog owners only	47.3	36
Cat owners only	7.8	6
Both dog and cat owners	5.2	4
Don't own a dog or cat	39.4	30
Total answer		76

Relationship to Yarra*

Demographic groups	%	Count
Live in Yarra	92.2	71
Work in Yarra	7.7	6
Visit Yarra	6.4%	5
Own a business in Yarra	3.9%	3
Own property in Yarra	27.2%	21

*Participants could select more than one response.

Area spent most time in

Suburb	%	Count
Abbotsford	9.1%	7
Alphington	2.6%	2
Burnley	2.6%	2
Carlton North	9.1%	7
Clifton Hill	13%	10
Collingwood	3.9%	3

Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

Suburb	%	Count
Cremorne	5.2%	4
Fairfield	2.6%	2
Fitzroy	2.6%	2
Fitzroy North	15.6%	12
Princes Hill	0%	0
Richmond	33.8%	26
Total answers		77

How did we engage?

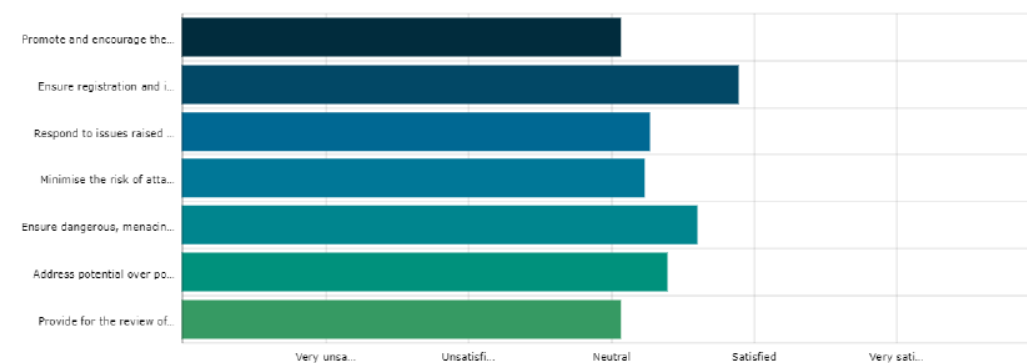
Community stakeholders	Outreach
Broad community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Say Yarra – 848 views, 595 unique visitors, 19 hours and 31 minutes of engagement time • News item on corporate website • Postcards distributed by enforcement officers/rangers • Social media posts • Digital screens • Yarra Life • Yarra News
Key stakeholders – sporting clubs, dog walking groups, local veterinarians, domestic animal businesses, RSPCA, Parks Victoria, the Lost Dogs Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct emails and outreach
CALD community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translated materials were made available at council buildings and local Neighbourhood Houses
Park users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postcards distributed by enforcement officers/rangers • Pop-up engagement event at Gleadell Street Market
Advisory committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct emails and outreach

Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

What did we hear?

Quantitative results

Question 4: How satisfied are you that the objectives and actions contained in our Domestic Animal Management Plan will meet our community's needs?



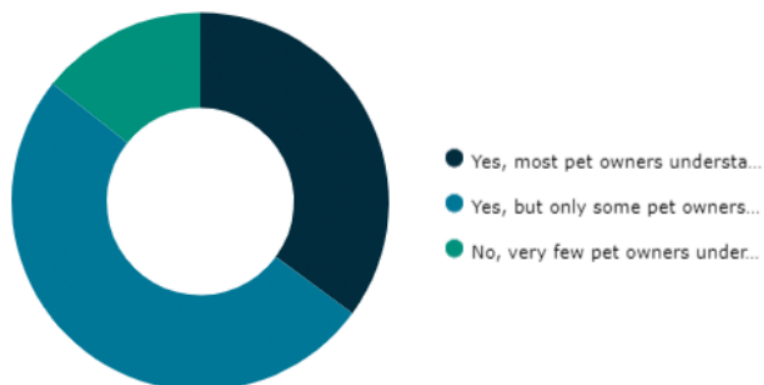
Action	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Total	Weighted score
Promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats	7	18	16	26	5	72	3.06
Ensure registration and identification of dogs and cats	1	3	14	40	15	73	3.89
Respond to issues raised by the community about nuisance animals (e.g. barking dogs)	6	7	27	27	6	73	3.27
Minimise the risk of attacks by	9	8	22	25	9	73	3.23

Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

dogs on people and animals							
Ensure dangerous, menacing or restricted dog breeds are kept in compliance with the Domestic Animals Act and regulations	6	2	20	31	13	72	3.60
Address potential over population and high euthanasia	2	8	28	25	7	70	3.39
Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats	8	10	28	20	5	71	3.06

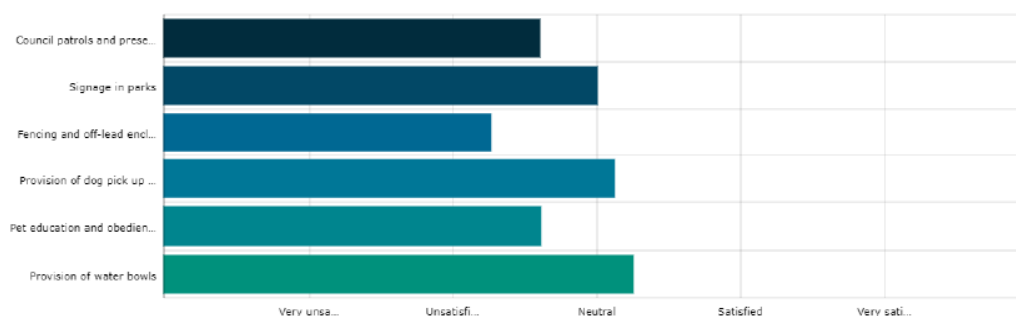
Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

Question 6: Do you think pet owners in Yarra understand and act on their responsibilities? For example, picking up after their animal, or keeping them on lead when required?



Answer	Per cent	Count
Yes, most pet owners understand and act on their responsibilities	35.06%	27
Yes, but only some pet owners understand and act on their responsibilities	50.65%	39
No, very few pet owners understand and act on their responsibilities	14.29%	11
Total answers		77

Question 8: How satisfied are you with the plan's measures for managing dogs and cats in Yarra's public spaces?



Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

Measure	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Total	Weighted score
Council patrols and presence in our parks	16	19	22	15	3	75	2.60
Signage in parks	9	16	19	26	4	74	3.00
Fencing and off-lead enclosures	28	17	14	12	3	74	2.26
Provision of dog pick up bags	6	19	16	26	7	74	3.12
Pet education and obedience programs	14	15	32	12	1	74	2.61
Provision of water bowls	6	9	27	26	7	75	3.25

Qualitative results

What do you think is the most important part of pet ownership?

- Summary of main themes in comments

Do you have any other ideas about how we can encourage responsible pet ownership and manage issues about domestic animals in Yarra?

- Summary of main themes in comments

Do you have any other comments relating to pets and animals in Yarra?

- Summary of main themes in comments

Email feedback

Six responses were also received to the draft plan via email. The feedback included the following themes:

- Increase responsible pet ownership
- Owners to pick up after their dogs
- Assisting with dog attack victims and enforcing dangerous dogs

Next steps

Council to consider and adopt the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

Attachment 2 - Engagement Report

8.4 Submission to the Inquiry into Apartment Design Standards

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for a submission to the *Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Standing Committee* in relation to the *Better Apartment Design Standards*.

The submission is to respond to the following *Terms of Reference* statements:

- (a) improvements that can be made to the liveability in apartments and apartment building developments, including communal areas; and
- (b) initiatives undertaken by other states or nations that have improved apartment design standards.

Key Issues

The officer report provides an analysis of the existing *Better Apartment Design Standards* contained within Planning Schemes and whether they are delivering liveable apartments and where the provisions can be improved.

The officer report also provides recommendations out of this analysis for the basis of suggested improvements to the apartment provisions.

The recommendations provided are intended to form the basis of a Council submission to the Inquiry.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council.

8.4 Submission to the Inquiry into Apartment Design Standards

Reference	D21/142592
Author	Amy Hodgen - Senior Coordinator Statutory Planning
Authoriser	Manager Statutory Planning

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for a submission to the Victorian Legislative Assembly *Environment and Planning Standing Committee* that are looking into the *Better Apartment Design Standards* contained within Planning Schemes.
2. The submission is to respond to the following *Terms of Reference* statements:
 - (a) improvements that can be made to the liveability in apartments and apartment building developments, including communal areas; and
 - (b) initiatives undertaken by other states or nations that have improved apartment design standards.
3. The officer report provides comments in relation to the current standards contained in the *Apartment Design Standards*, and also highlights where improvements are highly desirable.

Critical analysis

History and background

4. Some background to design standards for Apartments is useful for context.
5. In 2017, the Minister for Planning introduced the ***Better Apartments Design Standards (BADS)*** into the *Victorian Planning Provisions*. This is part of the Yarra Planning Scheme.
6. The intent for these new controls was to improve the internal design of new apartments and make them more liveable and sustainable. This was in response to general concerns that apartment developments were not providing safe, liveable and healthy environments.
7. These controls were introduced into the Yarra Planning Scheme (**the Scheme**) on 13 April 2017 via Amendment VC136 at clauses 55.07 (apartment developments up to 4 storeys) and clause 58 (apartment developments of five or more storeys).
8. Amendment VC136 also introduced the following definition for an 'Apartment' at clause 73.01 (general terms) of the Scheme:

A dwelling located above the ceiling level or below the floor level of another dwelling and is part of a building containing two or more dwellings.
9. Amendment VC139, gazetted on 29 August 2017, introduced *new* guidelines for apartment developments: *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (DELWP 2017) and subsequently deleted redundant references to the Design Guidelines for Higher Density Residential Development (DSE 2004).
10. In August 2019, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (**DELWP**) released a discussion paper on the next phase of the apartment standards for feedback. This involved a review of the following five elements:
 - (a) green space;
 - (b) high quality building facades;
 - (c) protection from wind impacts;
 - (d) attractive engage streets; and
 - (e) better managed construction impacts.

11. A report was presented to Council on 24 September 2019 (refer to attachments) with a recommended response. This was largely supported by Council subject to some minor refinements (refer to minutes in the attachments).
12. On 1 March 2021, DELWP released a soft launch of the updated standards to BADS (refer to attachments), which have been designed to address four main policy aims:
 - (a) provisions of communal green space and improving landscaping;
 - (b) use of high-quality building facades;
 - (c) protection of streets from wind impacts; and
 - (d) creation of attractive and engaging street frontages.
13. **These elements have not yet been updated within the Planning Scheme, however, DELWP indicated that this was likely to occur before the end of 2021.**
14. Recently, on 22 September 2021, Council was invited by the *Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Standing Committee* to make a submission to its Inquiry into the current Apartment Design Standards. The closing date for submissions is Sunday, 31 October 2021.

Discussion

15. The following report is an analysis of the *current* Apartment Development provisions contained within the Scheme at Clause 55.07 and Clause 58.
16. Recommendations are also identified where improvements could be made to the liveability of apartments.
17. These recommendations are based on officer experiences with previous apartment applications, and also some examples drawn from planning controls in other states such as NSW and WA as well as an international example (London).
18. The following analysis of the current Apartment Design Standards is made under specific headings; and the recommendations are collated in the Officer Recommendation to comprise the basis of a submission by Council to the Inquiry.

Integration with the street

19. Standard D5 (Integration with the street) currently lacks detail, however, this is proposed to be improved by the draft update to BADS released in March of this year.
20. Whilst the revised standard does include greater guidance, such as limiting blank walls and concealing car parking and waste from the street, it does not address building services (gas/substations/water metres), which can affect a development's integration with the street (particularly on narrow sites). These services are often not properly considered until after development has been approved and undermines the integrity of the building's relationship with the street.

Recommendation

- (a) Update Standard D5 to require services to be integrated within the development and to comprise a maximum of 10% of the frontage.

Climate comfort

21. Standard B35/D6 (Energy efficiency) includes guidelines for maximum cooling loads, however, these are calculated as an average across the entire apartment. In doing so, this fails to consider excessive heat gain to individual rooms, particularly bedrooms.
22. To improve passive energy design and reduce reliance on mechanical cooling systems, a recommendation is to require external shading devices or energy efficient glazing to all north, east and west facing habitable room windows.

Recommendation

- (a) Update Standard B35/D6 to require external shading devices or energy efficient glazing to be provided to all north, east and west facing habitable room windows.

Communal Open Space

23. Standard B36/D7 (Communal Open Space) is currently only required for developments of 40 or more dwellings and requires either 2.5sqm per dwelling or 250sqm, whichever the lesser.
24. The proposed update to the BADS released March of this year sought to amend this to require communal open space for developments of 10 or more dwellings. This amendment is supported.
25. The proposed changes to BADS would require communal open space to be provided at 30sqm for 10 dwellings and 2.5sqm for every dwelling over 12 dwellings or 220sqm, whichever the lesser. This is supported subject to the maximum area being retained at 250sqm.
26. Also, under the proposed changes to BADS, the additional area of communal open space required for developments of 13 or more dwellings, may be provided either indoors or outdoors, and may also consist of multiple separate areas of communal open space. This suggests that large developments would only need to provide 30sqm of outdoor space with the remaining requirement being provided indoors, which would be grossly insufficient for a large apartment development. Whilst there is value to good internal communal spaces, it should not be in lieu of adequate external communal open space.
27. Internal communal spaces can contribute to the amenity and liveability of apartment occupants, providing large spaces in which to entertain guests or meet other residents such as dining rooms with kitchen facilities, cinema rooms, gyms and co-working areas.
28. It is also important for there to be good connectivity between internal and external communal spaces, which improves outlook and functionality of the spaces. An example of well-connected communal open and internal spaces is provided in the image below of Planning Permit PLN16/0922 at No. 1-57 Wellington Street & 71-77 Victoria Parade, Collingwood.

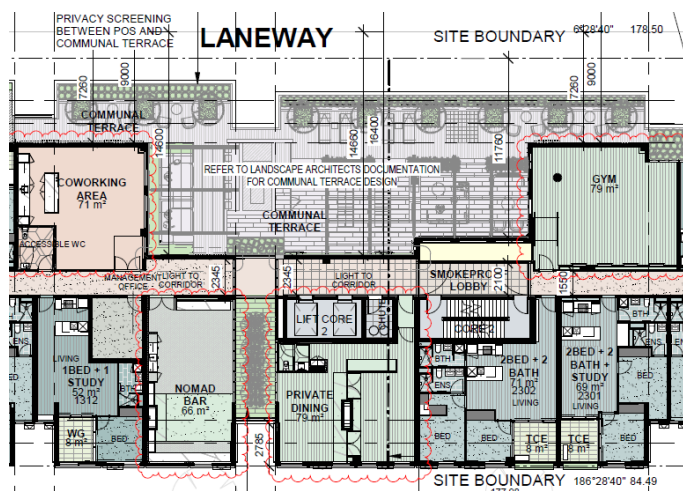


Figure 1: Communal spaces in PLN16/0922 – 1-57 Wellington Street & 71-77 Victoria Parade, Collingwood

29. It is recommended that Standards B36/D7 are amended to require internal communal spaces in addition to external open spaces at the same rate i.e. 30sqm for 10 dwellings with an additional 2.5sqm for every dwelling above 12 dwellings, or 250sqm, whichever the lesser.
30. To avoid ambiguity, it is also recommended that the standard be renamed to 'Communal Spaces'.

31. An existing standard requires communal open space to be located to minimise noise impacts on new and existing dwellings. The expectations of this standard are vague. It is recommended that this be clarified via more quantifiable criteria e.g. distance from bedrooms.

Recommendation

- (a) Standard B36/D7 to retain the maximum Communal Open Space area as 250sqm;
- (b) Support the proposed amendments to BADS released March 2021 requiring communal open space to be provided for developments of 10 or more dwellings;
- (c) Object to communal open space above 30sqm being transferable to internal communal areas;
- (d) Standard B36/D7 to require internal communal space in addition and equivalent to the revised requirements for external open space (increasing to 250sqm);
- (e) Rename Standard B36/D7 to 'Communal Spaces' to avoid ambiguity; and
- (f) Quantifiable locational criteria to minimise noise impacts on new and existing dwellings.

Overlooking/Building Separation

32. Standard D14 (Building Separation) is vague. While it seeks to avoid direct views into habitable room windows and private open space, there are no parameters e.g. such as those found within Clauses 54 & 55 leaving developers, planning officers and the community unsure of reasonable overlooking outcomes.
33. Furthermore, while Standard D14 suggests that buildings should be sited to ensure adequate daylight into new habitable room windows, it provides no protection for existing habitable room windows e.g. within existing adjacent apartment buildings, which may be impacted.
34. Assessing adequate daylight also requires daylight modelling to be provided and standards to be met. This should be stipulated to ensure new development does not unreasonably impact the amenity of existing apartments and similarly that there is a benchmark for daylight standards in new developments.
35. Standard D15 (internal views) only refers to overlooking to a lower level dwelling directly below. The standard is vague i.e. omits detail similar to that found within Clause 54/55 (ResCode) and does not require any protection for adjacent apartments.
36. The poor direction within these standards risk apartment occupants being exposed to unreasonable overlooking.

Recommendations

- (a) Update standard D14 to ensure buildings are sited to ensure adequate daylight is retained for existing habitable room windows (as well as proposed);
- (b) Require daylight modelling to be provided when certain specified separation distances are not achieved for both existing and proposed habitable room windows; and
- (c) Include more prescriptive measures for assessing overlooking e.g. similar to clause 54/55.

Noise impacts

37. Standards B40/D16 has an unreasonably high threshold for road noise, with many high-frequency roads not achieving the applicable 40,000 Annual Average Daily Traffic Volume (AADTV) threshold for acoustic protection. For example, Hoddle Street (between Langridge St & Victoria Pde) has an AADTV of 32,000 vehicles and typical main Roads such as Smith Street (Between Alexandra Pde & Johnston Street) has an AADTV of 6,200 vehicles and Johnston Street (Between Wellington St & Hoddle St) has an AADT of 7,100 vehicles.

38. Based upon acoustic reports received for applications along these streets, additional acoustic measures have been required to ensure adequate noise protection is achieved. The standard should be modified to require acoustic protection for developments abutting main roads with lower AADT volumes, such as 5,000 AADTV.
39. The noise level criteria within Standards B40/D16 is considered to provide insufficient noise protection and would not meet the recently updated EPA Noise Protocol: '*Noise limit and assessment protocol for the control of noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues*'. This is because the noise levels within the Standard are based on a whole day or night average, whereas the Noise Protocol levels are averaged over the loudest 20 minutes. The potential impact of this is that existing businesses within the industrial zone may be required to control their emissions due to a new apartment development nearby, potentially at a considerable cost. It is therefore recommended that Standard B40/D16 is updated to align with the updated EPA Noise Protocol.
40. Standards B40/D16 also need to have consideration for vibration particularly for development proximate to railways servicing freight trains. With policy support for developments along trainlines, consideration needs to be given to vibration as it can be detrimental for amenity. It is also not an issue that can necessarily be resolved via retrofitting a development.
41. The current standards do not consider potential noise sources from within apartment developments, which may be detrimental to amenity. The NSW design guidelines, for example, include consideration of noise sources such as garage doors, driveways, service areas, plant rooms, building services, mechanical equipment, active communal open spaces and circulation areas, requiring these to be located at least 3m away from bedrooms. A similar standard should be considered.

Recommendation

- (a) Revisit the threshold for roads to include sites abutting main roads of a lower order than 40,000 AADTV, i.e. 5,000 AADTV;
- (b) Revise standards to align with the updated EPA Noise Protocol: '*Noise limit and assessment protocol for the control of noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues*';
- (c) Standards to require the consideration of vibration for developments proximate to railways servicing freight trains; and
- (d) Standards to consider noise sources within apartment developments, such as garage doors, driveways, service areas, plant rooms, active communal open spaces and circulation areas, such as requiring these to be located at least 3m away from bedrooms.

Accessibility

42. Existing Standards B41/D17 relating to accessible apartments are supported to meet the needs of people with limited mobility, however, clarity is required for some of the standards.
43. The following standard is ambiguous '*a main bedroom with access to an adaptable bathroom*'. It is unclear whether 'access' an adaptable bathroom needs to be connected to the main bedroom or to demonstrate a 1.2m clear path.
44. The standard requiring a clear 1.2m wide path through the dwelling should be clarified to ensure that it is clear of usable areas e.g. minimum living room areas.
45. The current Accessibility Objective also omits Decision Guidelines, which are provided for all other objectives and standards in Clause 55.07 and 58. This would assist in understanding considerations prior to determining an application and it is recommended that they be added.

Recommendation

- (a) Standard B41/D17 to clarify whether 'access' to an adaptable bathroom needs to be directly connected i.e. ensuite to the main bedroom or otherwise provide a 1.2m clear path; and

- (b) Include Decision Guidelines into the Accessibility standard of B41 & D17.

Building entry and circulation

46. The design standards for building entry and circulation offer minimal guidance, resulting in some cases, narrow and long corridor spaces. For example, the former *Guidelines for Higher Density Residential Development*, which have since been removed from the Scheme, included the following design suggestions:
- (a) Ensure that the main entry and individual dwelling entries allow for the delivery or removal of large furniture items;
 - (b) Ensure service lifts can accommodate large furniture items to the upper levels; and
 - (c) Quality internal circulation spaces:
 - (i) have a generous height and width to maximise space and light; and
 - (ii) are articulated by small lobbies, if corridors are exceedingly long.
47. Standard D18 omits the above guidance to the detriment of circulation spaces.
48. In addition to the above design suggestions, it is recommended that minimum common corridor dimension for both width and length are specified. It is recommended that these be a minimum of 1.8m and 2.1m at lift lobbies to support comfortable passing and delivery/removal bulky furniture. It is further recommended that the length of corridors is reduced to a maximum length of 18m as borrowed from the Western Australia planning standards.
49. In the NSW design guidelines, corridors greater than 12m in length from the lift core should be articulated. Design solutions may include a series of foyer areas with windows and spaces for seating or wider areas at apartment entry doors and varied ceiling heights. These design solutions are recommended to ensure high quality internal spaces.
50. The provision for wider and articulated corridors was a concern raised within the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**the Tribunal**) decision of CP Alphington Development Pty Ltd v Yarra CC [2018] VCAT 1725, with the Tribunal making the following comments at Paragraph 55:
- (a) *Mr McGurn shared the concern of Council regarding the length of the eastern corridor at Level 2 and 3 and put that whilst it is 1.8 metres in width, it is extensive in length and has a daylight source at the southern end only. Mr McGurn recommends the provision of a break and an additional natural light source to provide 'relief' and a better level of amenity to this area. We agree with this recommendation and will require this change. We will include a condition that requires a break in the building to provide further ventilation, light and relief to a long walkway.*
51. There are also no standards to protect the amenity of dwellings abutting circulation spaces. Also, borrowing from the Western Australia planning standards, a 1.5m separation from any windows is recommended.

Recommendations

- (a) Introduce greater design guidance within the Building entry and circulation standards as previously provided within the former *Guidelines for Higher Density Residential Development*; and
- (b) Include more prescriptive criteria for corridor widths and lengths e.g. 1.8m wide and 2.1m at lift lobbies and 18m maximum corridor length, with corridors over 12m including articulation, such as foyer areas, spaces for seating, wider sections near entry doors and varied ceiling heights.

Private Open Space

52. Standard B43/D19 (Private Open Space) introduced a sliding scale for balcony areas relative to the number of bedroom within an apartment. Additional areas are also now required where cooling and heating units have been provided. These changes are supported.

53. However, the wording within the standard does not clarify that minimum areas must be met as a single usable area and achieving the minimum dimension as shown in the *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria* (see image below). It is recommended that this is integrated into the standard.

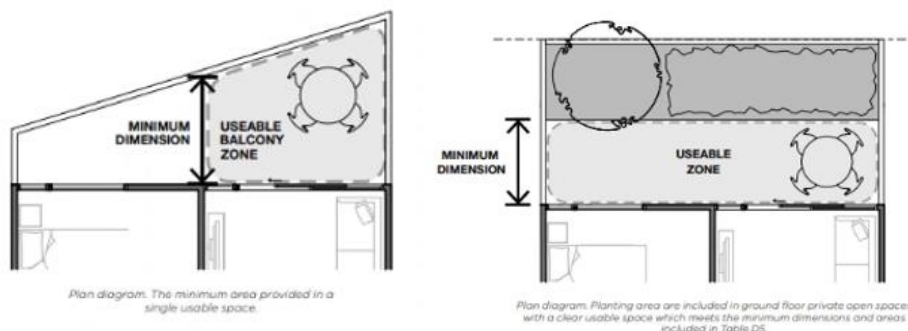


Figure 2: Images from p70 of the *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria*

54. The proposed update to the BADS standards released in March this year seeks to reduce the minimum balcony areas where orientated to the north or south (standard refers to orientation of the dwelling, but it is assumed that this is meant orientation of the balcony). To the north, balconies to apartments of all sizes would only need to be 8sqm and 1.7m in depth and to the south, balconies to apartments of all sizes would only need to be 8sqm and 1.2m in depth. The reason for this reduction is unclear, however this is strongly discouraged as it will significantly reduce the amenity of these apartments, particularly those with a southerly balcony orientation.
55. The updated BADS would not require balconies for developments above 40m, requiring instead larger living and bedroom areas. It is assumed that is due to the micro-climate at this height. Whilst few developments in Yarra would currently exceed this height, it is suggested that winter gardens should also be encouraged as an alternative.

Recommendations

- (a) Update Standards B43/D19 to show minimum floor areas to comply and include useable balcony areas to meet minimum dimensions as per practice note;
- (b) Delete proposed amendments to BADS reducing balcony sizes with a southerly or westerly orientation; and
- (c) Encourage winter gardens for developments over 40m.

Storage

56. Standard B44/D20 introduced requirements for minimum storage within the dwellings. This is supported as it has increased cupboard space provided within apartments, with apartments now providing generous built in robes for all bedrooms, bathroom and kitchen cabinetry and often linen closets.
57. However, the standard does not require a minimum consolidated area of storage, which is also important for storing bulky items such as strollers, ski equipment or surf boards. It is therefore recommended that storage volumes required in addition to the minimum internal storage is to be provided as a consolidated storage unit i.e. 3m³ for studios, 4m³ for 1 bedroom, 5m³ for 2 bedroom and 6m³ for 3 or more bedroom apartments.

Recommendation

- (a) Storage, in addition to minimum internal storage, to be provided as a consolidated storage unit i.e. 3m³ for studios, 4m³ for 1 bedroom, 5m³ for 2 bedroom and 6m³ for 3 or more bedroom apartments.

Functional layout/ Room depth

58. Standards B46/B24 (Functional layout) introduced minimum bedroom and living room sizes, which have significantly improved the amenity of apartments, however, it is recommended that living area dimensions include both a width and depth (similar to bedrooms) to avoid elongated spaces with narrow depths.
59. It is noted that the updated BADS proposes to introduce minimum areas for bedrooms, this is also supported.
60. A shortfall of the standards is that there is no requirement to allocate space in apartments for a dining table or any guidance on kitchen location. This could be addressed by introducing minimum dimensions for open plan living spaces, inclusive of kitchens and a dining area into Standard B47/B25 or/as well as minimum total apartment floor areas.
61. The NSW guidelines include a design guideline that *kitchens should not be located as part of the main circulation space in larger apartments (such as hallway or entry space)*. It is encouraged that a similar standard is introduced for all apartments into the Functional layout.
62. There is also insufficient guidance in the Scheme for studio apartments, with often these suffering from poor internal amenity, with only a 10sqm living area required to meet the standard. Studios are again becoming increasingly common as a housing option within development and more guidance is required to ensure a minimum amenity level is achieved.
63. In both the NSW and London planning guidelines, for example, minimum floor areas are nominated for various apartment sizes, including studios, as illustrated in the tables below:

Number of bedrooms (b)	Number of bed spaces (persons (p))	Minimum gross internal floor areas and storage (sqm)			
		1 storey dwellings	2 storey dwellings	3 storey dwellings	Built in storage
1b	1p	39 (37)*			1
	2p	50	2b	2b	1.5
2b	3p	61	1b	1b	2
	4p	70	1b	1b	
3b	4p	74	1b	1b	2.5
	5p	86	1b	1b	
	6p	95	1b	1b	
4b	5p	90	1b	1b	3
	6p	99	1b	1b	
	7p	108	1b	1b	
	8p	117	1b	1b	
5b	6p	103	1b	1b	3.5
	7p	112	1b	1b	
	8p	121	1b	1b	
6b	7p	116	123	129	4
	8p	125	132	138	

*Where a studio / one-bedroom one-person one-bedspace (i.e. one single bedroom) dwelling has a shower room instead of a bathroom, the floor area may be reduced from 39 sqm to 37 sqm, as shown bracketed.

Figure 3: excerpt from London planning regulations

Apartment type	Minimum internal area
Studio	35m ²
1 bedroom	50m ²
2 bedroom	70m ²
3 bedroom	90m ²

Figure 4: excerpt from NSW planning regulations

Recommendations

- (a) Introduce minimum widths for living spaces;
- (b) Introduce minimum open plan dimensions i.e. to accommodate a dining table and kitchen;
- (c) Include a standard that kitchens are not be located as part of the main circulation space (such as hallway or entry space); and
- (d) Introduce minimum apartment floor areas, particularly for studio apartments.

Windows

- 64. Standards B48/D26 (windows) introduced requirements that addressed poor internal amenity outcomes caused by “saddleback” bedroom layouts. This has resulted in a notable improvement to apartment floor layouts in recent developments. The standards also assist in discouraging bedrooms with borrowed light.
- 65. The Standards, however, do not take into consideration windows to an external wall that faces onto a covered or inset balcony. These can have significant impacts on daylight levels, particularly at lower levels. It is recommended that a standard is added to account for windows affected by covered or inset balconies. This should also require the submission of daylight modelling to assess those affected apartments.

Recommendation

- (a) Include standards to address windows facing onto a covered or inset balcony and requirements for daylight modelling to be provided.

Natural Ventilation

- 66. Standards B49/D27 requires breeze paths up to a maximum of 18m. It is recommended that this be reduced to 15m to align with the cross flow ventilation requirements of Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS).

Recommendation

- (a) Reduce the maximum breeze path for cross-ventilation from 18m to 15m to align with BESS.

Wind

- 67. Presently, there is no specific guidance on wind impacts within the *Apartment Development Standards*. The proposed updated BADS released in March of this year proposes to introduce new standards and a practice note for assessing wind. This is supported.
- 68. In Council’s submission to the draft BADS standards released in 2019, Council raised several concerns that have not been addressed in the proposed BADS released in March this year.
- 69. Including a standard stating that ‘*development should not cause unsafe wind conditions*’ suggests that there may be situations where unsafe wind conditions may be accepted. This is ambiguous and could result in dangerous outcomes. The second standard ‘*development should achieve comfortable wind conditions*’ should be applied to all situations, i.e. also to communal and private open spaces, to ensure all outdoor areas are usable at all times.
- 70. The ‘comfortable’ criteria within the Table refers to a “mean speed” rather than a “specific direction” criteria. Melbourne’s wind climate experiences strong northern and westerly wind gusts, however, other wind directions are typically milder. Using an average speed across all directions will mask more severe wind impacts from northerly and westerly winds, resulting in uncomfortable and potentially, unsafe, spaces.
- 71. Greater guidance is required to establish where sitting, standing and walking criteria is to be met. Informed by advice from various Wind Consultants, it is standard practice to apply:
 - (a) Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares;

- (b) Standing comfort for building entrances, communal terraces and open space; and
 - (c) Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating.
72. However, more recently, Council has been advocating for sitting comfort for seating areas in communal terraces and private open spaces. The requirement for sitting comfort criteria within communal open space was supported by the Tribunal in *SMA No. 17 Pty Ltd v Yarra CC [2020] VCAT 1364*, which made the following comments at paragraph 111-113 (emphasis added):
- (a) *The key concerns relating to the wind impacts are in respect of the rooftop communal open space area. The evidence is that walking criterion is an acceptable outcome for this area. The Council does not agree, arguing that sitting criterion should be achieved;*
 - (b) *The rooftop space is an important area and will make a notable contribution to residents' amenity given its size, proportions, landscaping, opportunity for views and solar access. It will provide an attractive option for occupants and their visitors as an alternative to the individual balconies; and*
 - (c) *According to the evidence, it is possible to create areas within the rooftop communal open space that achieve the sitting criteria, with reference being made to the use of vegetation and screens. We consider that an acceptable outcome would be achieved by ensuring that the designated sitting area (comprising a table and seating) is designed to meet the sitting criterion in order for occupants to experience comfortable conditions while in this part of the rooftop open space. This outcome would be conducive to the intended use and provide an acceptable level of amenity to encourage residents to occupy this area.*
73. In light of the above decision by the Tribunal, it is recommended that the standards are amended to encourage 'sitting criteria' to be met for seating areas within communal and private open space areas.
74. The proposed wind standard states that sitting areas can be supplemented by landscaping. While landscaping to further bolster microclimate amenity is supported, it should not be relied upon to achieve minimum wind requirements as it is too variable i.e. trees may fail or vegetation may otherwise not grow with the density of foliage required.
75. The proposed wind standard indicates that wind mitigation elements should be located within the site boundary, unless consistent with the preferred future development of the area. Wind mitigation measures outside the site boundary are not supported as it creates an unreasonable burden on public or adjacent private land to maintain wind mitigation element.
76. Additionally, wind mitigation measures are often an afterthought in the design of a building. It is recommended that a standard is required to also ensure that wind mitigation measures are appropriately integrated into the design of the building.
77. The proposed decision guidelines for the wind standard do not require consideration of existing conditions. There may be situations where existing conditions already exceed comfort levels and therefore it may not be possible for a proposed development to achieve the comfort criteria in these cases. This should be included as a decision guideline to consider this circumstance.

Recommendations

- (a) Within updated BADS, remove reference to '*development should not exceed safety criteria...*' and amend standard to require that in all areas '*development should not exceed comfortable criteria*' i.e. including private open space and communal open space;
- (b) Comfortable wind criteria to be based upon specific direction criteria rather than mean wind speeds from any direction;
- (c) Identify how the comfort criteria is to applied as follows:
 - (i) Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares;

- (ii) Standing comfort for building entrances, passageway areas of communal and private open space area; and
- (iii) Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating, seating areas within communal and private open space areas;
- (d) Minimum criteria for sitting areas achieved without reliance on vegetation;
- (e) Remove reference to wind mitigation measures provided outside site boundaries;
- (f) Include within the proposed standard that wind mitigation measures to be appropriately integrated into the design of the building; and
- (g) Include the consideration of existing wind conditions in the decision guidelines.

Student accommodation

78. There are presently no guidelines relating to student accommodation.
79. It is noted that some Planning Schemes, such as Melbourne, Stonnington and Monash, have individual local policies. It is recommended that a state-wide Particular Provision be introduced.

Recommendation

- (a) Introduce State-wide guidelines for student accommodation.

Sustainable Design

80. A significant part of improving liveability of apartments relies on environmentally sustainable design. Council officers acknowledge that separate work is concurrently being done in this space, with a focus toward carbon-neutral developments. Coordination between the standards is necessary to ensure an integrated outcome.

Recommendation

- (a) Coordination and integration with energy efficient and sustainable development policies and guidelines.

Community and stakeholder engagement

81. Council Officers have consulted acoustic engineers, SLR consulting and have referred to previous advice received from wind engineers MEL consultants.
82. The following planning controls have been considered in the preparation of the report:
- (a) State Policy 7.3 Residential Design Codes Volume 2 – Apartments: Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (Western Australia)- [SPP-7-3-R-Codes-Apartments \(dplh.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/spp-7-3-r-codes-apartments);
 - (b) Part 4 Design the building – *Department of Planning and Environment* (New South Wales) - [Apartment Design Guide: Part 4 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.dpe.nsw.gov.au/part-4-design-the-building); and
 - (c) Housing Design Quality and Standards – Supplementary Planning Guidance (London, UK) - [hdspg_2020_module_c.pdf \(london.gov.uk\)](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/hdspg_2020_module_c.pdf).

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

83. The proposed amendments to the apartment standards support several broad Council intents regarding amenity and liveability.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

84. The submission seeks to encourage sustainable design outcomes via improved passive environmental design encouraging increased daylight and reduced heat gain.

Community and social implications

85. The submission seeks to encourage improved apartment living standards, which include through the provision of better communal spaces within new developments.

Economic development implications

86. None anticipated.

Human rights and gender equality implications

87. Amenity of housing is important for residents.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

88. There are no financial implications in lodging a submission.

Legal Implications

89. Nil.

Conclusion

90. The submission highlights several improvements are desirable to apartment liveability from the *Better Apartments Standards* introduced in 2017.
91. However, further improvement is recommended to various standards to achieve better internal amenity, greater sustainability and liveability for residents in apartment developments.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
- (a) note the inquiry by the *Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Standing Committee* in relation to the *Better Apartment Design Standards*;
 - (b) note the officer report providing an analysis of the 'Apartment Design Standards';
 - (c) authorise officers to submit a response to the Inquiry into the Apartment Design Standards in accordance with this report, including the following key recommendations:

Integration with the street:

- (i) Update Standard D5 to require services to be integrated within the development and to comprise a maximum of 10% of the frontage.

Climate comfort:

- (i) Update Standard B35/D6 to require external shading devices or energy efficient glazing to be provided to all north, east and west facing habitable room windows.

Communal open space:

- (i) Standard B36/D7 to retain the maximum Communal Open Space area as 250sqm;
- (ii) Support the proposed amendments to BADS released March 2021 requiring communal open space to be provided for developments of 10 or more dwellings;
- (iii) Object to communal open space above 30sqm being transferable to internal communal areas;
- (iv) Standard B36/D7 to require internal communal space in addition and equivalent to the revised requirements for external open space (increasing to 250sqm);
- (v) Rename Standard B36/D7 to 'Communal Spaces' to avoid ambiguity; and

- (vi) Quantifiable locational criteria to minimise noise impacts on new and existing dwellings.

Overlooking /building separation:

- (i) Update standard D14 to ensure buildings are sited to ensure adequate daylight is retained for existing habitable room windows (as well as proposed);
- (ii) Require daylight modelling to be provided when certain specified separation distances are not achieved for both existing and proposed habitable room windows; and
- (iii) Include more prescriptive measures for assessing overlooking e.g. similar to clause 54/55.

Noise impacts:

- (i) Revisit the threshold for roads to include sites abutting main roads of a lower order than 40,000 AADTV, i.e. 5,000 AADTV;
- (ii) Revise standards to align with the updated EPA Noise Protocol: '*Noise limit and assessment protocol for the control of noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues*';
- (iii) Standards to require the consideration of vibration for developments proximate to railways servicing freight trains; and
- (iv) Standards to consider noise sources within apartment developments, such as garage doors, driveways, service areas, plant rooms, active communal open spaces and circulation areas, such as requiring these to be located at least 3m away from bedrooms.

Accessibility:

- (i) Standard B41/D17 to clarify whether 'access' to an adaptable bathroom needs to be directly connected i.e. ensuite to the main bedroom or otherwise provide a 1.2m clear path; and
- (ii) Include Decision Guidelines into the Accessibility standard of B41 & D17.

Building entry and circulation:

- (i) Introduce greater design guidance within the Building entry and circulation standards as previously provided within the former *Guidelines for Higher Density Residential Development*; and
- (ii) Include more prescriptive criteria for corridor widths and lengths e.g. 1.8m wide and 2.1m at lift lobbies and 18m maximum corridor length, with corridors over 12m including articulation, such as foyer areas, spaces for seating, wider sections near entry doors and varied ceiling heights.

Private open space:

- (i) Update Standards B43/D19 to show minimum floor areas to comply and include useable balcony areas to meet minimum dimensions as per practice note;
- (ii) Delete proposed amendments to BADS reducing balcony sizes with a southerly or westerly orientation; and
- (iii) Encourage winter gardens for developments over 40m.

Storage:

- (i) Storage, in addition to minimum internal storage, to be provided as a consolidated storage unit i.e. 3m³ for studios, 4m³ for 1 bedroom, 5m³ for 2 bedroom and 6m³ for 3 or more bedroom apartments.

Functional layout/room depth:

- (i) Introduce minimum widths for living spaces;
- (ii) Introduce minimum open plan dimensions i.e. to accommodate a dining table and kitchen;
- (iii) Include a standard that kitchens are not be located as part of the main circulation space (such as hallway or entry space); and
- (iv) Introduce minimum apartment floor areas, particularly for studio apartments.

Windows:

- (i) Include standards to address windows facing onto a covered or inset balcony and requirements for daylight modelling to be provided.

Natural Ventilation:

- (i) Reduce the maximum breeze path for cross-ventilation from 18m to 15m to align with BESS.

Wind:

- (i) Within updated BADS, remove reference to '*development should not exceed safety criteria*' and amend standard to require that in all areas '*development should not exceed comfortable criteria*' i.e. including private open space and communal open space;
- (ii) Comfortable wind criteria to be based upon specific direction criteria rather than mean wind speeds from any direction;
- (iii) Identity how the comfort criteria is to applied as follows:
 - a. Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares;
 - b. Standing comfort for building entrances, passageway areas of communal and private open space area; and
 - c. Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating, seating areas within communal and private open space areas;
- (iv) Minimum criteria for sitting areas achieved without reliance on vegetation;
- (v) Remove reference to wind mitigation measures provided outside site boundaries;
- (vi) Include within the proposed standard that wind mitigation measures to be appropriately integrated into the design of the building; and
- (vii) Include the consideration of existing wind conditions in the decision guidelines.

Student accommodation:

- (i) Introduce State-wide guidelines for student accommodation.

Sustainable design:

- (i) Coordination and integration with energy efficient and sustainable development policies and guidelines.

Attachments

- 1 [Report to Council 24 September 2019 - Review of BADS](#)
- 2 [Council meeting minutes \(Action Sheet\) 24 September 2019 - Review of BADS](#)
- 3 [Updated BADS - Soft Launch March 2021](#)

Attachment 1 - Report to Council 24 September 2019 - Review of BADS

Ordinary Council Meeting

24 September 2019

11.2 Review of Better Apartments Design Standards

Executive Summary**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) provide Council with a summary of the *Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods Discussion Paper 2019* released by Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP);
- (b) outline Council officers' position on the draft standards; and
- (c) recommend feedback on the discussion paper to be submitted to DELWP.

Key Issues

The key issue for Council in considering the *Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods Discussion Paper 2019* is whether the draft standards are appropriate for a Yarra context and any suggested improvements limited to the items for discussion only.

Financial Implications

None anticipated.

PROPOSAL

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has released a discussion paper that explores five policy elements to form part of a revised Better Apartment Design Standards, these are:

- (a) Green space;
- (b) High quality building facades;
- (c) Protection from wind impacts;
- (d) Attractive engage streets; and
- (e) Better managed construction impacts.

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Ordinary Council Meeting

24 September 2019

11.2 Review of Better Apartments Design Standards

Reference: D19/154388

Authoriser: Manager Statutory Planning

[Help](#)**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) provide Council with a summary of the *Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods Discussion Paper 2019* released by Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP);
 - (b) outline Council officers' position on the draft standards; and
 - (c) recommend feedback on the discussion paper to be submitted to DELWP.

Background

2. In 2017, the Minister for Planning (the Minister) introduced the *Better Apartments Design Standards* in the Victorian Planning Provisions. The intent for these new controls was to improve the internal design of new apartments and make them more liveable and sustainable. This was in response to concerns that apartment developments were not providing safe, liveable and healthy environments.
3. These controls were introduced into the Yarra Planning Scheme (the Scheme) on 13 April 2017 via Amendment VC136 at clauses 55.07 (apartment developments up to 4 storeys) and clause 58 (apartment developments of five or more storeys)
4. Amendment VC136 also introduced the following definition for an 'Apartment' at clause 73.01 (general terms) of the Scheme:
 - (a) *A dwelling located above the ceiling level or below the floor level of another dwelling and is part of a building containing two or more dwellings.*
5. Amendment VC139, gazetted on 29 August 2017, introduced new guidelines for apartment developments: *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (DELWP 2017) and subsequently deleted redundant references to the Design Guidelines for Higher Density Residential Development (DSE 2004)
6. DELWP has released the subject discussion paper on the next phase of the apartment standards for feedback, with all submissions required prior to Friday, 27 September 2019.
7. The Discussion Paper states that DELWP will be considering all submissions where making recommendations to the Minister. A consultation report will also be prepared by DELWP summarising the submissions and any further proposed changes in light of the submission feedback.
8. The Discussion Paper also states that DELWP will propose further changes to the *Better Apartment Design Guidelines* later in 2019 in relation to building setbacks, to improve the amenity impacts of apartment developments. Consultation regarding these will occur at a later date.

External Consultation

9. Informal discussions with MEL Consulting Wind Consultants.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

10. The following internal departments have been consulted in preparing this report:
 - (a) Strategic Planning;
 - (b) Urban Design;

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- (c) Open Space Planning and Design; and
- (d) Construction Management.

Financial Implications

- 11. None anticipated.

Economic Implications

- 12. Additional standards may impact upon development costs to the private sector.

Sustainability Implications

- 13. The proposed standards seek to have positive sustainability implications through increased landscaping and tree planting opportunities.

Social Implications

- 14. The proposed standards seek to improve the amenity for persons living in apartments.

Human Rights Implications

- 15. Nil

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

- 16. N/A

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

- 17. The proposed amendments to the apartment standards support a number of broad Council intents regarding amenity and liveability, and specifically the greening of apartments. In this respect, the proposals also support the intent of Council's *Urban Forest Strategy 2017*.

Legal Implications

- 18. Nil

Draft Apartment Standards

- 19. The follow sections provide detail and assessment on the five topics contained within the discussion paper, which are as follows:
 - (a) Green Space;
 - (b) High quality building facades;
 - (c) Protection from wind impacts;
 - (d) Attractive, engaging streets; and
 - (e) Better managed construction impacts.

Green Space

Background

- 20. The apartment guidelines currently contain objectives and standards for landscaping (Clauses 55.07-4 and 58.03-5). The guidelines for apartment developments of 5 storeys or more also contain objectives and standards for communal open space (Clause 58.03-2).
- 21. The Discussion Paper outlines three issues with the current controls:
 - (a) landscaping is often an afterthought in developments with canopy trees either too small or not provided;
 - (b) developments of less than 40 dwellings are not required to provide communal open space and therefore will often not have access to a garden; and
 - (c) apartment buildings at street level do not contribute to green streetscapes.
- 22. The proposed controls seek to respond to these issues by:
 - (a) prioritising canopy trees and clearly define the space needed for healthy trees;

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- (b) require all apartment development to include landscaped communal open space;
- (c) encourage landscaping within front setbacks; and
- (d) support landscaping, even in areas without a landscape character.

Proposed changes

23. The key changes in the proposed amended Landscape Standard D10 are summarised as follows:
 - (a) The canopy tree requirements in Table D2 are amended as follows:
 - (i) deep soil requirements to apply for all site areas (currently only applicable to sites greater than 750sqm);
 - (ii) tree provision now includes the canopy spread (current only the height); and
 - (iii) minimum planter soil volumes introduced;
 - (b) In the event that canopy trees cannot not be provided, the proposed standard removes reference to an 'equivalent canopy cover' in relation to the provision of other alternative responses such as vegetated planters, climbers over pergolas, green roof or green walls;
 - (c) Encourage landscaping to be provided within building frontages to reduce the visual impact of buildings;
 - (d) Encourage communal open space to have canopy trees;
 - (e) The following existing standards are proposed to be removed:
 - (i) protect any predominant landscape features of the area;
 - (ii) take into account the soil type and drainage patterns of the site and integrate planting and water management;
 - (iii) allow for intended vegetation growth and structural protection of buildings;
 - (iv) in locations of habitat importance, maintain existing habitat and provide for new habitat for plant and animals; and
 - (v) provide a safe, attractive and functional environment for residents.
24. The change to the communal open space Standard D7 is summarised as follows:
 - (a) Communal open space is to be provided for all apartment development (currently only applicable to developments with 40 or more dwellings). For apartment developments with less than 10 dwellings, the minimum area requirement is capped at 25sqm (rather than 2.5sqm per dwelling).

Officer Assessment

25. The provision for a greater guidance on canopy spread and soil volumes is supported.
26. The deep soil requirement for sites less than 1000sqm is 5%, with the minimum tree provision of 1 small tree per 30sqm. As a result, applying the deep soil area for sites less than 600sqm is likely to be of limited benefit given that the deep soil area would not meet the threshold for a canopy tree (i.e. 5% of site area would be less than 30sqm). Deep soil areas on smaller sites would also likely become a 'litter trap' and ongoing maintenance issue.
27. Apartment development within Yarra is largely occurring within Commercial 1 and Mixed Use Zones. In these areas, provision for deep soil is often not feasible or appropriate. Characteristically these are more robust areas where boundary to boundary construction is a contributory character of the area and as such it would not be appropriate to provide deep soil areas within setbacks. There are also very few sites that would be sufficient in area to accommodate deep soil areas central to the site and that would also achieve a reasonable level of solar access.

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28. Furthermore, due to Yarra's past industrial activity, land contamination of some sites would prevent deep soil planting opportunities. It is recommended that this is added as a decision guideline as to when deep soil planting may not be feasible or appropriate.
29. Landscaped front setbacks are not characteristic in the areas typically experiencing growth in Yarra, however landscape opportunities, such as planter boxes and climbers should be encouraged on building facades to soften buildings.
30. Where the threshold for a canopy tree is triggered, the existing standard currently enables applicants to easily provide climbers and green walls in lieu of canopy trees. This issue has not been readily addressed by the proposed standard. Climbers and green walls are not considered an acceptable substitute to canopy trees and therefore it is recommended that this flexibility is removed. In sites where deep soil planting cannot be provided, canopy tree requirements should still be met within adequately sized planters.
31. Council Officers do not support the deletion of the standards as identified as they continue to be relevant considerations and useful for the assessment of a landscape plan.
32. Council officers support the intent of communal open space requirements for all apartment developments, however communal open space areas also contribute to building upkeep costs. Shared between a number of residents, the upkeep costs are not unreasonable, however for a small number of dwellings, it is likely to be significant and impact the dwelling affordability.
33. Council officers support communal open space for apartment developments with less than 40 dwellings, however for the reasons discussed, a threshold is still considered appropriate. Given that it requires 10 dwellings (at a rate of 2.5sqm per dwelling) to achieve a 25sqm area, it is considered reasonable that the minimum threshold be increased to apartments developments with 10 dwellings.

Summary points

34. In summary, the following amendments are recommended:
 - (a) Deep soil site areas should only be triggered for sites greater than 600sqm;
 - (b) Include a decision guideline to allow for consideration of contaminated land when determining whether deep soil planting can be achieved;
 - (c) Encourage landscaping to be provided within building *facades* to reduce the visual impact of buildings where front setbacks are not a character of the area;
 - (d) Encourage alternative responses to tree planting *in addition to* rather than *in lieu of* the canopy tree requirements;
 - (e) Retain existing standards that have been deleted; and
 - (f) Communal open space to be required for 10 or more dwellings.

High quality building facades

Background

35. The current apartment guidelines do not provide any clear guidance on assessing the appearance, quality and durability of materials. The issues identified in the discussion paper are as follows:
 - (a) Some apartments do not age well;
 - (b) There are few provisions outside Central Melbourne to ensure high-quality design of building facades;
 - (c) The design of building facades may not adequately allow for maintenance; and
 - (d) The 'as constructed' quality of building facades and materials does not always match that of the original planning approval.
36. In assessing apartment developments, Yarra's planning officers rely on local urban design and built form policies within Scheme, specifically clause 21.05 and clause 22.10 (although

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not applicable in a Heritage Overlay). However, the guidance is vague and does not adequately address the issues above as identified in the discussion paper.

Proposed changes

37. The proposed new standard is to include/encourage:
 - (a) External walls of buildings to provide articulation through variation in depth, form and fixtures;
 - (b) External materials to provide visual interest through variation in material, colour and texture and be durable for the life of the building; and
 - (c) Safe and convenient access should be provided for maintenance.
38. It is proposed to include a new requirement for a design rational for external walls and selection of materials.
39. It is also proposed to update the Apartment Design Guidelines to suggest permit conditions for section details at a scale of 1:20 to illustrate the buildings external.

Officer Assessment

40. Council Officers support greater guidance regarding the design of building facades, however suggest additional standards to address the following:
 - (a) Discourage sheer unarticulated walls e.g. pre cast concrete unless abutting existing walls to the same or greater height. Due to the narrowness of sites, walls often abut side boundaries and are highly visible. If left untreated, these walls can poorly impact upon the presentation of the development;
 - (b) Articulation details should have regard to the distance that the building will be viewed. Articulation to a street level façade can be much more intricate compared to an upper level wall. Articulation to an upper level wall that is too subtle will have little benefit in improving its appearance; and
 - (c) Building design and material selection should also have regard to:
 - (i) Protection from weathering (e.g. overhangs to prevent leaching, edges to prevent drip lines); and
 - (ii) Material selection which reduces ongoing maintenance costs (e.g. graffiti resistant, materials that weather well).
41. To ensure the 'as built' conditions of major developments reflect the quality depicted on the architectural drawings, Council officers at Yarra commonly add a permit condition that requires the ongoing involvement of the architects (or an alternative architectural firm to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority) to oversee the design and construction of the development and ensure the design quality and appearance of the development as shown on the endorsed plans is realised. Council officers encourage this to be included as a recommended condition for developments of 5 or more storeys.
42. For greater certainty and assurance on building façade quality, Council Officers also suggest that a Façade Strategy is included as a recommend permit condition for more complex developments. The Façade Strategy should cover/include:
 - (a) elevation drawings at a scale of 1:20 illustrating typical podium details, entries and doors, and utilities and typical mid-level and tower facade details;
 - (b) section drawings to demonstrate façade systems, including fixing details and joints between materials or changes in form;
 - (c) information about how the façade will be maintained, including any vegetation; and
 - (d) a sample board and coloured drawings outlining colours, materials and finishes.

Summary points

43. In summary, the following amendments are recommended:

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- (a) Discourage sheer unarticulated walls unless abutting existing walls to the same or greater height;
- (b) Articulation details should have regard to the distance that the building will be viewed
- (c) Building design and material selection should also have regard to protection from weathering and reducing ongoing maintenance costs; and
- (d) Include a recommended condition for apartment developments of 5 or more storeys for ongoing involvement of the architects (or an alternative architectural firm to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority) to oversee the design and construction of the development and ensure the design quality and appearance of the development as shown on the endorsed plans is realised.
- (e) Include a recommended permit condition for a Façade Strategy on complex developments, to cover/include:
 - (i) elevation drawings at a scale of 1:20 illustrating typical podium details, entries and doors, and utilities and typical mid-level and tower facade details;
 - (ii) section drawings to demonstrate façade systems, including fixing details and joints between materials or changes in form;
 - (iii) information about how the façade will be maintained, including any vegetation; and
 - (iv) a sample board and coloured drawings outlining colours, materials and finishes.

Protection from wind impacts

Background

- 44. There are presently no standards relating to wind impacts. Tall buildings can exacerbate wind gusts that can affect pedestrian environments including the amenity and usability of open space areas.
- 45. It is proposed to introduce a new standard for apartment buildings of 5 or more storeys. While some inner city Councils (Melbourne, Port Phillip & Stonnington) have policy guidance on wind conditions and when a wind report is required, the Yarra Planning Scheme presently does not provide any specific guidance.
- 46. Current practice of Yarra's planning officers is to request a wind report for major developments of 7 or more storeys where wind impacts are a potential concern. This would usually be requested prior to public notification of an application. The wind report will typically be a 'desk top' assessment from a qualified wind consultant who will provide an opinion on the likely wind impacts from a development based on their experience. This is then peer reviewed by another qualified wind consultant. In cases where there is uncertainty as to whether wind comfort levels will be met, a wind tunnel test will be requested, typically by way of permit condition.

Proposed changes

- 47. A new objective and standard is proposed. The objective would be: *To ensure the design and layout of development does not generate unacceptable wind impacts within the site or on surrounding land.* The standard introduces wind criteria relating to unsafe and comfort wind conditions within Table W. This is to be met having regard to the following:
 - (a) Development should not cause unsafe wind conditions for public land, publically assessable areas, private open space and communal open space;
 - (b) Development should achieve comfortable wind conditions for public land and publically accessible areas;
 - (c) Trees and landscaping should not be relied upon as the primary means for achieving wind mitigation or to meet the minimum wind requirements;

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- (d) Any wind mitigation measures (e.g. canopies and screens) to be located within the subject site, unless consistent with the existing or proposed urban context; and
- (e) Assessment distance is calculated as half the total height of the building or half the longest width of the building, whichever the greater. The distance is to be measured from all facades.

48. Table W is as follows:

Wind conditions	Requirement
Unsafe	The hourly maximum 3 second gust which exceeds 20 metres per second from any wind direction considering at least 16 wind directions with the corresponding probability of exceedance percentage.
Comfortable	<p>A mean wind speed from any wind direction with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 metres per second for sitting areas, • 4 metres per second for standing areas, • 5 metres per second for walking areas. <p>Hourly mean wind speed is the maximum of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hourly mean wind speed, or • Gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85).

49. The decision guidelines make reference to a wind report submitted by a suitably qualified specialist.
- Officer Assessment
50. Council Officers support the inclusion of a wind impact assessment standard for developments of 5 storeys or greater.
51. The wording of the standard suggests that there may be situations where unsafe wind conditions caused by a development would be allowed. This is not supported by Council's planning officers. The standard also only directs public land and publically accessible areas to achieve the comfort criteria. To ensure all outdoor areas are usable, it is considered that a reasonable comfort criteria should also be achieved for communal and private open space areas.
52. The comfort criteria within Table W refers to a "mean speed" rather than a specific direction criteria. Melbourne's wind climate experiences strong northern and westerly wind gusts, however other wind directions are typically milder. Using an average speed across all directions is likely to mask more severe wind impacts from northerly and westerly winds.
53. Greater guidance is required to establish where sitting, standing and walking criteria is to be met. Informed by advice from various Wind Consultants, it is standard practice to apply:
- (a) Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares;
 - (b) Standing comfort for building entrances, communal terraces and open space; and
 - (c) Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating.
54. The above criteria has been accepted for many developments within the City of Yarra as achieving an appropriate level of wind comfort.
55. The standard suggests that trees and landscaping could be used, in conjunction with other measures, to achieve the minimum wind requirements. It is not clear whether this is in relation to safety or comfort criteria. However, in either instance, Council officers do not support any reliance on vegetation to achieve minimum wind requirements. While vegetation

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can ameliorate wind conditions, it is too variable to be relied upon i.e. trees may fail or vegetation may otherwise not grow with the density of foliage required.

56. Wind mitigation measures are often an afterthought in the design of a building. It is recommended that a standard is required to also ensure that wind mitigation measures are appropriately integrated into the design of the building.
57. The assessment distance is unclear and may result in excessive study areas, particularly within built up areas where wind impacts from developments are more immediate to the site. It is suggested that wind assessments beyond the site boundaries could be limited to the publicly accessible areas between the nearest adjacent buildings, including publically accessible areas on private land; or the proposed assessment distance, whichever the lesser.
58. The proposed decision guidelines do not require consideration of existing conditions. There may be situations where existing conditions already exceed comfort levels and therefore it may not be possible for a proposed development to achieve the comfort criteria in these cases. This should be included as a decision guideline to consider this circumstance.
59. Reference to a wind report should be contained within the standard rather than the decision guidelines. Based on current practice, Council officers would support a desktop report initially with a wind tunnel assessment to be provided in situation where further analysis is warranted to determine that the wind comfort criteria is met.

Summary points

60. Strengthen the standard by removing reference to '*should not cause*' in relation to unsafe wind conditions.
61. Nominated comfort criteria to also be met within private open space and communal open space areas.
62. Comfortable wind criteria to be based upon specific direction criteria rather than mean wind speeds from any direction.
63. Identify which comfort criteria should be used, suggest:
 - (a) Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares;
 - (b) Standing comfort for building entrances, communal and private open space area; and
 - (c) Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating.
64. Remove reference to 'primary' in regard to the relation to trees and landscaping for wind mitigation and include reference to minimum comfort criteria.
65. Include within the standard that wind mitigation measures to be appropriately integrated into the design of the building.
66. Limit wind assessment areas beyond the site boundaries to publicly accessible areas between the nearest adjacent buildings, including publically accessible areas on private land; or the proposed assessment distance, whichever the lesser.
67. Include the consideration of existing wind conditions in the decision guidelines.
68. Include reference to a desktop wind report prepared by a suitably qualified specialist within the standard, with wind tunnel testing to be undertaken in situations where further wind analysis is required to ascertain whether wind comfort criteria will be met.

Attractive, engaging streets

Background

69. The current apartment guidelines include an objective and standards for integration with the street (Clause 58.02-5), however they provided limited detail in support of active and engaging streetscapes. There are also objectives and standards for vehicle access and site services (Clauses 58.03-6 and 58.06-2), however, these provide little guidance on the visual impact that these services can have on the presentation of a building.

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70. The Discussion Paper suggests that there are issues with windowless and blank walls, prominent vehicle entrances, and visible car parking and building services that dominate the street frontage. The proposed changes seek to address this issue.

Proposed changes

71. In regard to the integration with the street, it is proposed to add a second objective to encourage active street fronts. The existing standards are proposed to be amended, with new standards added as summarised below:
 - (a) Reference to cycle links has been added with developments to now provide adequate vehicle, pedestrian and cycle links;
 - (b) Reference to 'in front of dwellings' has been deleted from the standard requiring high fencing to be avoided where practical;
 - (c) A new standard requests that buildings provide for residential, commercial, retail or other active uses at street fronts;
 - (d) A new standard requires that car parking and internal waste collection area of a building should be located behind residential, commercial, retail or other active uses along street fronts; and
 - (e) A new standard seeks to avoid blank walls along street fronts.
72. In regard to vehicle access, it is proposed to make reference to 'access points' in the objective, which seeks to minimise the impacts of vehicle crossovers on the streetscape.
73. A new standard is proposed that car parking entries should be consolidated, minimised in size and integrated within the façade and where practicable located at the side or rear of the building.
74. In regard to site services, it is proposed to amend the second objective to include reference to site services i.e. to ensure that site services and facilities are accessible, adequate and attractive. It is also proposed to add a new standard that: *metres, utility services and service cupboards should be designed as an integrated component of the façade.*
75. The Discussion Paper also indicates that principles for well located, designed and integrated services will be added to the Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria.

Officer Assessment

76. Council Officers support the expansion of the Integration with the Street objectives and standards, however advocate additional detail within the standards as follows:
 - (a) Delete reference to 'where practical' from the standard discouraging high fencing. The standard is not mandatory so in situations where high fencing is appropriate, this could be permitted. Reference to 'where practical' potentially indicates a greater acceptable on high fencing in certain situations;
 - (b) Greater guidance in relation to what is desirable for active streets such as high levels of glazing at street level. Reference should also be made to activation of upper levels through windows or balconies, which contribute to active streetscapes and security through passive surveillance; and
 - (c) Residential uses at ground level do not necessarily support an active streetscape and can result in a poor internal amenity from occupants seeking privacy through perpetually closed blinds. Layout and design should have regard to the protection of privacy whilst maximising opportunities for active frontages and integrated streetscapes.
77. Council officers support the inclusion of design principles within the Apartment Design Guidelines to provide guidance on how activation and street integration is to be achieved.
78. The first standard within 'Integration with the Street' requires adequate vehicle, pedestrian and cycle links. It is considered that this would be more suited to 'access' considerations

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under Clause 58.03-6 given that it relates to vehicle access/integration more so than street activation.

79. Council officers also encourage additional standards within Access, including:
 - (a) Separation of pedestrian and bicycle access points from vehicle access points; and
 - (b) Ensure the design and location of car parking entries minimises conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
80. Council officers support the new standard for site services, however believe that the standard should be strengthened by discouraging services facing the street or where required by the service provider, their size and prominence be reduced as much as practicable. While utility and emergency providers require some services to be accessible from the public realm, in cases where services do not be positioned along the frontage or can be reduced in size, greater policy support for this outcome is requested i.e. substations in basements.

Summary points

81. Delete reference to 'where practical' from the standard discouraging high fencing.
82. Clarify within the Standards how active streets are to be achieved e.g. high levels of glazing at street level and glazing and balconies to upper levels.
83. Include a standard that requires consideration of privacy for dwellings when designing for active frontages.
84. Include reference to the Apartment Design Guidelines in the decision guidelines and update these to provide examples on how activation and street integration can be achieved.
85. Relocate the standard on adequate vehicle, pedestrian and cycling links to the Access Standard.
86. Include additional standards for Access requiring a separation of pedestrian and bicycle access points from vehicle access points and minimise potential conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
87. Include an additional standard for site services that discourages services facing the street or where unavoidable, reduce their size and prominence as much as practicable.

Better managed construction impactsBackground

88. At Yarra City Council, a Construction Management Plan is a standard planning permit condition requirement for all large and hard to access developments prior to the commencement of the development. The Construction Management Unit reviews and authorises construction management plans, this includes input from Council's traffic engineers, civil engineers and in some cases input from other authorities such as CitiPower and VicRoads. However, many other Victorian municipalities do not have these measures in place and as such, the construction phase can cause excessive impacts on the surrounding area.
89. Presently, there are no specific standards within the Scheme that require Construction Management Plans to be prepared. The Discussion Paper proposes to create a new standard to require details of how a site will be managed prior to and during the construction period to ensure that apartment building construction is consistently managed with less disturbance on existing neighbourhoods.

Proposed changes

90. New objectives and standards are proposed. The objectives seek to protect the site and surrounding area from environmental degradation or nuisance prior to and during construction. They also seek to protect the drainage infrastructure and receiving waters from sedimentation and contamination.
91. The new standard would require applications to describe how the site will be managed prior to and during construction. A list of potential items to be managed would also be included.

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92. The Discussion Paper also outlines that it proposes to amend the apartment design guidelines to include a construction management plan before the development commences, including demolition.

Officer Assessment

93. Council officers do not support the inclusion of a construction impacts standard for apartment developments. Construction management is a vital component of development in the City of Yarra due to its built up, inner city context, however providing this information at the planning application stage is of little benefit to construction management or the assessment of apartment developments.
94. Construction Management Plans are a document prepared by the appointed builder to outline their construction methodology based on the current conditions. Preparing this information at the planning application stage would require input from a builder potentially years before the commencement of the development. This would lead to uncertainty in respect to the consideration of other developments and potential street upgrade works and service installations that may occur in the time between the planning application stage and commencement of the development.
95. The construction methodology is unrelated to the assessment of an application insofar as the construction methodology does not inform the ultimate design and quality of the proposed apartment development. It is therefore not considered a necessary ingredient for planning officers to assess the application before them, however it is likely to unnecessarily delay the assessment of plans as matters relating to construction are negotiated.
96. Furthermore, the objective as proposed is likely to unreasonably increase community expectations. It is not feasible to protect surrounding areas from any nuisance during construction, as construction does inherently cause some disruption. Furthermore, introducing a requirement to consider construction methodology for apartment developments would also create inconsistency in the assessment process for other non-residential developments, which would not be required to provide up-front construction methodology statements.
97. Council's planning officers, however, do support the recommendation for a Construction Management Plan to be included as a permit condition prior to commencement of works, including demolition, bulk excavation and site preparation works. Presently, Council officers have difficulty requiring construction management plans for demolition and site preparation works where no planning permit is required for those works i.e. on sites not protected by a heritage overlay. The requirement for a Construction Management Plan prior to demolition for all sites would be beneficial.
98. The listed items to be covered by a construction management plan is largely supported, however should also include asset protection and civil works.

Summary points

99. Do not support the inclusion of objectives and standards relating to construction impacts at the planning application stage.
100. Support the inclusion of construction management plans as a condition of permit prior to the commencement of demolition.
101. Request that Construction management plans required as a condition of permit also include details on asset protection and civil works.

Conclusion

102. Council Officers support and encourage greater guidance for apartment developments to ensure the impact on neighbourhoods and that adverse impacts are assessed and managed. However, as outlined in this report, particular changes are recommended on the proposed standards to ensure that they are relevant and useful for future developments within the City of Yarra. A summary of this feedback is contained within the recommendation below.

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1. That:

- (a) Council receive the report on the Review of Better Apartments Design Standards.
- (b) Council submit the following feedback to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in response to the Discussion Paper 2019:

Green Space

- (i) Deep soil site areas should only be triggered for sites greater than 600sqm;
- (ii) Include a decision guideline to allow for consideration of contaminated land when determining whether deep soil planting can be achieved;
- (iii) Encourage landscaping to be provided within building facades to reduce the visual impact of buildings where front setbacks are not a character of the area;
- (iv) Encourage alternative responses to tree planting in addition to, rather than in lieu of, the canopy tree requirements;
- (v) Retain existing standards that have been deleted;
- (vi) Communal open space to be required for 10 or more dwellings;

High quality building facades

- (vii) Discourage sheer unarticulated walls unless abutting existing walls to the same or greater height;
- (viii) Articulation details should have regard to the distance that the building will be viewed;
- (ix) Building design and material selection should also have regard to protection from weathering and reducing ongoing maintenance costs;
- (x) Include a recommended condition for apartment developments of 5 or more storeys for ongoing involvement of the architects (or an alternative architectural firm to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority) to oversee the design and construction of the development and ensure the design quality and appearance of the development as shown on the endorsed plans is realised;
- (xi) Include a recommended permit condition for a Façade Strategy on complex developments, to cover/include:
 - elevation drawings at a scale of 1:20 illustrating typical podium details, entries and doors, and utilities and typical mid-level and tower facade details;
 - section drawings to demonstrate façade systems, including fixing details and joints between materials or changes in form;
 - information about how the façade will be maintained, including any vegetation; and
 - a sample board and coloured drawings outlining colours, materials and finishes.

Protection from Wind Impacts

- (xii) Strengthen the standard by removing reference to '*should not cause*' in relation to unsafe wind conditions;
- (xiii) Nominated comfort criteria to also be met within private open space and communal open space areas;

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- (xiv) Comfortable wind criteria to be based upon specific direction criteria rather than mean wind speeds from any direction;
- (xv) Identity which comfort criteria should be used, suggest:
 - Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares;
 - Standing comfort for building entrances, communal and private open space area;
 - Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating;
- (xvi) Remove reference to 'primary' in regard to the relation to trees and landscaping for wind mitigation and include reference to minimum comfort criteria;
- (xvii) Include within the standard that wind mitigation measures to be appropriately integrated into the design of the building;
- (xviii) Limit wind assessment areas beyond the site boundaries to publicly accessible areas between the nearest adjacent buildings, including publically accessible areas on private land; or the proposed assessment distance, whichever the lesser;
- (xix) Include the consideration of existing wind conditions in the decision guidelines;
- (xx) Include reference to a desktop wind report prepared by a suitably qualified specialist within the standard, with wind tunnel testing to be undertaken in situations where further wind analysis is required to ascertain whether wind comfort criteria will be met;

Active engaging streets

- (xxi) Delete reference to 'where practical' from the standard discouraging high fencing;
- (xxii) Clarify within the Standards how active streets are to be achieved e.g. high levels of glazing at street level and glazing and balconies to upper levels;
- (xxiii) Include a standard that requires consideration of privacy for dwellings when designing for active frontages;
- (xxiv) Include reference to the Apartment Design Guidelines in the decision guidelines and update these to provide examples on how activation and street integration can be achieved;
- (xxv) Relocate the standard on adequate vehicle, pedestrian and cycling links to the Access Standard;
- (xxvi) Include additional standards for Access requiring a separation of pedestrian and bicycle access points from vehicle access points and minimise potential conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles;
- (xxvii) Include an additional standard for site services that discourages services facing the street or where unavoidable, reduce their size and prominence as much as practicable;

Better Managed Construction Impacts

- (xxviii) Do not support the inclusion of objectives and standards relating to construction impacts at the planning application stage;
- (xxix) Support the inclusion of construction management plans as a condition of permit prior to the commencement of demolition; and
- (xxx) Request that Construction management plans required as a condition of permit also include details on asset protection and civil works.

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CONTACT OFFICER: Amy Hodgen
TITLE: Coordinator Statutory Planning
TEL: 9205 5330

Attachments

- 1 Better Apartments Discussion Paper 2019

Attachment 2 - Council meeting minutes (Action Sheet) 24 September 2019 - Review of BADS

COUNCIL

RESOLUTION ITEM 6363

TO: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND PLACE MAKING

FOR ACTION

11.2 REVIEW OF BETTER APARTMENTS DESIGN STANDARDS

Meeting Date: 24/09/2019

Target Date: 22/10/2019

Notes:

File Number: D19/154388

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Fristacky

1. That:

- (a) Council receive the report on the Review of Better Apartments Design Standards; and
- (b) Council submit the following feedback to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in response to the Discussion Paper 2019:

Green Space

- (i) Deep soil site areas should only be triggered for sites greater than 600sqm;
- (ii) The definition of communal open space should not be amended to include indoor space;
- (iii) Include a decision guideline to allow for consideration of contaminated land when determining whether deep soil planting can be achieved;
- (iv) Encourage planting to be located so that it connects to other plantings in the neighbourhood to contribute to habitat links and corridors;
- (v) Encourage landscaping to be provided within building facades to reduce the visual impact of buildings and tagging risks;
- (vi) Encourage alternative responses to tree planting in addition to, rather than in lieu of, the canopy tree requirements;
- (vii) Retain existing standards that have been deleted;

High quality building facades

- (viii) Discourage sheer unarticulated walls unless abutting existing walls to the same or greater height;
- (ix) Provide guidelines for "visual interest" in facades which ensure there is some coherence in a streetscape;
- (x) Articulation details should have regard to the distance that the building will be viewed;
- (xi) Building design and material selection should also have regard to protection from weathering and reducing ongoing maintenance costs;

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- (xii) Include a recommended condition for apartment developments of 5 or more storeys for ongoing involvement of the architects (or an alternative architectural firm to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority) to oversee the design and construction of the development and ensure the design quality and appearance of the development as shown on the endorsed plans is realised;
- (xiii) Include a recommended permit condition for a Façade Strategy on complex developments, to cover/include: elevation drawings at a scale of 1:20 illustrating typical podium details, entries and doors, and utilities and typical mid-level and tower facade details; - section drawings to demonstrate façade systems, including fixing details and joints between materials or changes in form; - information about how the façade will be maintained, including any vegetation; and - a sample board and coloured drawings outlining colours, materials and finishes.

Protection from Wind Impacts

- (xiv) Strengthen the standard by removing reference to 'should not cause' in relation to unsafe wind conditions;
- (xv) Nominated comfort criteria to also be met within private open space and communal open space areas;
- (xvi) Comfortable wind criteria to be based upon specific direction criteria rather than mean wind speeds from any direction;
- (xvii) Identify which comfort criteria should be used, suggest: - Walking comfort for footpaths and other pedestrian thoroughfares; - Standing comfort for building entrances, communal and private open space area; - Sitting comfort for outdoor café seating; - Consideration of wind in shade vs sun;
- (xviii) Remove reference to 'primary' in regard to the relation to trees and landscaping for wind mitigation and include reference to minimum comfort criteria;
- (xix) Include within the standard that wind mitigation measures to be appropriately integrated into the design of the building;
- (xx) Limit wind assessment areas beyond the site boundaries to publicly accessible areas between the nearest adjacent buildings, including publically accessible areas on private land; or the proposed assessment distance, whichever the lesser;
- (xxi) Include the consideration of existing wind conditions in the decision guidelines;
- (xxii) Include consideration of impacts of wind on flora and fauna in streetscape;
- (xxiii) Include reference to a desktop wind report prepared by a suitably qualified specialist within the standard, with wind tunnel testing to be undertaken in situations where further wind analysis is required to ascertain whether wind comfort criteria will be met;

Active engaging streets

- (xxiv) Delete reference to 'where practical' from the standard discouraging high fencing;

Attachment 2 - Council meeting minutes (Action Sheet) 24 September 2019 - Review of BADS

- (xxv) Clarify within the Standards how active streets are to be achieved e.g. high levels of glazing at street level and glazing and balconies to upper levels;
- (xxvi) Include a standard that requires consideration of privacy for dwellings when designing for active frontages;
- (xxvii) Include reference to the Apartment Design Guidelines in the decision guidelines and update these to provide examples on how activation and street integration can be achieved;
- (xxviii) Relocate the standard on adequate vehicle, pedestrian and cycling links to the Access Standard;

- (xxix) Include additional standards for Access requiring a separation of pedestrian and bicycle access points from vehicle access points and minimise potential conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles;
- (xxx) Include an additional standard for site services that discourages services facing the street or where unavoidable, reduce their size and prominence as much as practicable;

Better Managed Construction Impacts

- (xxxi) Support the inclusion of objectives and standards relating to construction impacts at the planning application stage insofar as a design minimizes the need to use public and other private space to access a construction site;
- (xxxii) Support the inclusion of construction management plans as a condition of permit prior to the commencement of demolition; and
- (xxxiii) Request that Construction management plans required as a condition of permit also include details on asset protection and civil works.

CARRIED

Attachment 3 - Updated BADS - Soft Launch March 2021



Current standard	Updated standard
<p>Clause 55.01-2</p> <p>Design response The design response must explain how the proposed design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derives from and responds to the neighbourhood and site description. Meets the objectives of Clause 55. Responds to any neighbourhood character features for the area identified in a local planning policy or a Neighbourhood Character Overlay. <p>The design response must include correctly proportioned street elevations or photographs showing the development in the context of adjacent buildings. If in the opinion of the responsible authority this requirement is not relevant to the evaluation of an application, it may waive or reduce the requirement.</p>	<p>Design response The design response must explain how the proposed design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derives from and responds to the neighbourhood and site description. Meets the objectives of Clause 55. Responds to any neighbourhood character features for the area identified in a local planning policy or a Neighbourhood Character Overlay. <p>If the application is for an apartment development, the design response must explain how the proposed design selects materials and finishes for the external walls.</p> <p>The design response must include correctly proportioned street elevations or photographs showing the development in the context of adjacent buildings. If in the opinion of the responsible authority this requirement is not relevant to the evaluation of an application, it may waive or reduce the requirement.</p>
<p>Clause 55.07-2</p> <p>Communal open space objective To ensure that communal open space is accessible, practical, attractive, easily maintained and integrated with the layout of the development.</p> <p>Standard B36 Developments with 40 or more dwellings should provide a minimum area of communal open space of 2.5 square metres per dwelling or 250 square metres, whichever is lesser.</p> <p>Communal open space should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be located to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide passive surveillance opportunities, where appropriate. Provide outlook for as many dwellings as practicable. Avoid overlooking into habitable rooms and private open space of new dwellings. Minimise noise impacts to new and existing dwellings. Be designed to protect any natural features on the site. Maximise landscaping opportunities. Be accessible, useable and capable of efficient management. <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. The design response. The useability and amenity of the communal open space based on its size, location, accessibility and reasonable recreation needs of residents. The availability of and access to public open space. 	<p>Communal open space objective To provide communal open space that meets the recreation and amenity needs of residents. To ensure that communal open space is accessible, functional, and is easily maintained. To ensure that communal open space is integrated with the layout of the development and enhances resident amenity.</p> <p>Standard A development of 10 or more dwellings should provide a minimum area of communal outdoor open space of 30 square metres. If a development contains 13 or more dwellings, the development should also provide an additional minimum area of communal open space of 2.5 square metres per dwelling for every dwelling over 12, or 220 square metres, whichever is the lesser. This additional area may be indoors or outdoors and consist of multiple separate areas of communal open space.</p> <p>Each area of communal open space should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible to all residents. A useable size, shape and dimension. Capable of efficient management. Located to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide passive surveillance, where appropriate. Provide outlook for as many dwellings as practicable. Avoid overlooking into habitable rooms and private open space of new dwellings. Minimise noise impacts on new and existing dwellings. <p>Any area of communal outdoor open space should be landscaped and include canopy cover and trees.</p> <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this planning scheme. The design response. The availability of and access to public open space.

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Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods

Preview standards, February 2021

Clause 55.07-4

Deep soil areas and canopy trees objective

To promote climate responsive landscape design and water management in developments to support thermal comfort and reduce the urban heat island effect.

Standard B38

The landscape layout and design should:

- Be responsive to the site context.
- Consider landscaping opportunities to reduce heat absorption such as green walls, green roofs and roof top gardens and improve on-site storm water infiltration.
- Maximise deep soil areas for planting of canopy trees.
- Integrate planting and water management.

Developments should provide the deep soil areas and canopy trees specified in Table B5.

If the development cannot provide the deep soil areas and canopy trees specified in Table B5, an equivalent canopy cover should be achieved by providing either:

- Canopy trees or climbers (over a pergola) with planter pits sized appropriately for the mature tree soil volume requirements.
- Vegetated planters, green roofs or green facades.

Table B5 Deep soil areas and canopy trees

Site area	Deep soil areas	Minimum tree provision
750 – 1000 square metres	5% of site area (minimum dimension of 3 metres)	1 small tree (6-8 metres) per 30 square metres of deep soil
1001 – 1500 square metres	7.5% of site area (minimum dimension of 3 metres)	1 medium tree (8-12 metres) per 50 square metres of deep soil or 1 large tree per 90 square metres of deep soil
1501 – 2500 square metres	10% of site area (minimum dimension of 6 metres)	1 large tree (at least 12 metres) per 90 square metres of deep soil or 2 medium trees per 90 square metres of deep soil
>2500 square metres	15% of site area (minimum dimension of 6 metres)	1 large tree (at least 12 metres) per 90 square metres of deep soil or 2 medium trees per 90 square metres of deep soil

Note: Where an existing canopy tree over 8 metres can be retained on a lot greater than 1000 square metres without damage during the construction period, the minimum deep soil requirement is 7% of the site area.

Landscaping objective

To provide landscaping that supports the existing or preferred urban context of the area and reduces the visual impact of buildings on the streetscape.

To preserve existing canopy cover and support the provision of new canopy cover.

To ensure landscaping is climate responsive, supports biodiversity, wellbeing and amenity and reduces urban heat.

Standard

Development should retain existing trees and canopy cover.

Development should provide for the replacement of any significant trees that have been removed in the 12 months prior to the application being made.

Development should:

- Provide the canopy cover and deep soil areas specified in Table B5. Existing trees can be used to meet the canopy cover requirements of Table B5.
- Provide canopy cover through canopy trees that are:
 - Located in an area of deep soil specified in Table B6. Where deep soil cannot be provided trees should be provided in planters specified in Table B6.
 - Consistent with the canopy diameter and height at maturity specified in Table B7.
 - Located in communal outdoor open space or common areas or street frontages.
- Comprise smaller trees, shrubs and ground cover, including flowering native species.
- Include landscaping, such as climbing plants or smaller plants in planters, in the street frontage and in outdoor areas, including communal outdoor open space.
- Shade outdoor areas exposed to summer sun through landscaping or shade structures and use paving and surface materials that lower surface temperatures and reduce heat absorption.
- Be supported by irrigation systems which utilise alternative water sources such as rainwater, stormwater and recycled water.
- Protect any predominant landscape features of the area.
- Take into account the soil type and drainage patterns of the site.
- Provide a safe, attractive and functional environment for residents.
- Specify landscape themes, vegetation (location and species), irrigation systems, paving and lighting.

Table B5 Canopy cover and deep soil requirements

Site area	Canopy cover	Deep soil
1000 square metres or less	5% of site area Include at least 1 Type A tree	5% of site area or 12 square metres whichever is the greater
1001 – 1500 square metres	50 square metres plus 20% of site area above 1,000 square metres Include at least 1 Type B tree	7.5% of site area
1501 – 2500 square metres	150 square metres plus 20% of site area above 1,500 square metres Include at least 2 Type B trees or 1 Type C tree	10% of site area
2500 square metres or more	350 square metres plus 20% of site area above 2,500 square metres Include at least 2 Type B trees or 1 Type C tree	15% of site area

Table B6 Soil requirements for trees

Tree type	Tree in deep soil Area of deep soil	Tree in planter Volume of planter soil	Depth of planter soil
A	12 square metres	12 cubic metres	0.8 metre

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		(min. plan dimension 2.5 metres)	(min. plan dimension of 2.5 metres)	
B	49 square metres (min. plan dimension 4.5 metres)	28 cubic metres (min. plan dimension of 4.5 metres)	1 metre	
C	121 square metres (min. plan dimension 6.5 metres)	64 cubic metres (min. plan dimension of 6.5 metres)	1.5 metres	

Note: Where multiple trees share the same section of soil the total required amount of soil can be reduced by 5% for every additional tree, up to a maximum reduction of 25%.

Table B7 Tree types

Tree type	Minimum canopy diameter at maturity	Minimum height at maturity
A	4 metres	6 metres
B	8 metres	8 metres
C	12 metres	12 metres

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character, landscaping or environmental policy, objective, strategy or statement set out in this planning scheme.
- The design response.
- The health of any trees to be removed.
- The suitability of the proposed location, deep soil area and planter soil volume for canopy trees.
- The suitability of the proposed landscaping in communal outdoor open space.
- The type and quantity of canopy cover, including any alternatives to trees.
- The soil type and drainage patterns of the site.
- The ongoing management of landscaping, including any irrigation systems.

Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider: - Any relevant plan or policy for environmental sustainability in the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework. - The design response. - The suitability of the proposed location and soil volume for canopy trees. - The ongoing management of landscaping within a development. - The soil type and drainage patterns of the site.																								
Clause 55.07-9 **Private open space above ground floor objective** To provide adequate private open space for the reasonable recreation and service needs of residents. **Standard B43** A dwelling should have private open space consisting of: - An area of 15 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres at a podium or other similar base and convenient access from a living room, or - A balcony with an area and dimensions specified in Table B8 and convenient access from a living room. If a cooling or heating unit is located on a balcony, the balcony should provide an additional area of 1.5 square metres. **Table B8 Balcony size**	Dwelling type	Minimum area	Minimum dimension		------------------------------	------------------	-------------------		Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	1.8 metres		2 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	2 metres		3 or more bedroom dwelling	12 square metres	2.4 metres					
Private open space objective To provide adequate private open space for the reasonable recreation and service needs of residents. **Standard** A dwelling should have private open space consisting of at least one of the following: - An area at ground level of at least 25 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres and convenient access from a living room. - A balcony with at least the area and dimension specified in Table B8 and convenient access from a living room. If a cooling or heating unit is located on a balcony, the minimum balcony area specified in Table B8 should be increased by at least 1.5 square metres. - An area on a podium or other similar base of at least 15 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres and convenient access from a living room. - An area on a roof of at least 10 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 2 metres and convenient access from a living room. **Table B8 Balcony size**	Orientation of dwelling	Dwelling type	Minimum balcony area	Minimum balcony dimension		-------------------------	---------------	----------------------	---------------------------		-------------------------	---------------	----------------------	---------------------------										


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	<table><tr><td>North (between north 20 degrees west to north 30 degrees east)</td><td>All</td><td>8 square metres</td><td>1.7 metres</td></tr><tr><td>South (between south 30 degrees west to south 20 degrees east)</td><td>All</td><td>8 square metres</td><td>1.2 metres</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Any other orientation</td><td>Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling</td><td>8 square metres</td><td>1.8 metres</td></tr><tr><td>2 bedroom dwelling</td><td>8 square metres</td><td>2 metres</td></tr><tr><td>3 or more bedroom dwelling</td><td>12 square metres</td><td>2.4 metres</td></tr></table>	North (between north 20 degrees west to north 30 degrees east)	All	8 square metres	1.7 metres	South (between south 30 degrees west to south 20 degrees east)	All	8 square metres	1.2 metres	Any other orientation	Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	1.8 metres	2 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	2 metres	3 or more bedroom dwelling	12 square metres	2.4 metres
North (between north 20 degrees west to north 30 degrees east)	All	8 square metres	1.7 metres																
South (between south 30 degrees west to south 20 degrees east)	All	8 square metres	1.2 metres																
Any other orientation	Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	1.8 metres																
	2 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	2 metres																
	3 or more bedroom dwelling	12 square metres	2.4 metres																
<p>Decision guidelines</p> <p>Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The design response.• The useability and functionality of the private open space, including its size and accessibility.• The amenity of the private open space based on the orientation of the lot, the wind conditions and the sunlight it will receive.• The availability of and access to public or communal open space. <p>Clause 58.01-3</p> <p>Design response</p> <p>The design response must explain how the proposed design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to any relevant planning provision that applies to the land.• Meets the objectives of Clause 58.• Responds to any relevant housing, urban design and landscape plan, strategy or policy set out in this scheme.• Derives from and responds to the urban context report. <p>The design response must include correctly proportioned street elevations or photographs showing the development in the context of adjacent buildings. If in the opinion of the responsible authority this requirement is not relevant to the evaluation of an application, it may waive or reduce the requirement.</p>	<p>Decision guidelines</p> <p>Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The design response.• The useability and functionality of the private open space, including its size and accessibility.• The amenity of the private open space based on the orientation of the lot, noise exposure, the wind conditions and the sunlight it will receive.• The availability of and access to public or communal open space. <p>Design response</p> <p>The design response must explain how the proposed design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to any relevant planning provision that applies to the land.• Meets the objectives of Clause 58.• Responds to any relevant housing, urban design and landscape plan, strategy or policy set out in this scheme.• Selects materials and finishes for the external walls.• Derives from and responds to the urban context report. <p>The design response must include correctly proportioned street elevations or photographs showing the development in the context of adjacent buildings. If in the opinion of the responsible authority this requirement is not relevant to the evaluation of an application, it may waive or reduce the requirement.</p>																		
<p>Clause 58.02-5</p> <p>Integration with the street objective</p> <p>To integrate the layout of development with the street.</p> <p>Standard D5</p> <p>Developments should provide adequate vehicle and pedestrian links that maintain or enhance local accessibility. Development should be oriented to front existing and proposed streets. High fencing in front of dwellings should be avoided if practicable. Development next to existing public open space should be laid out to complement the open space.</p> <p>Decision guidelines</p> <p>Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p>	<p>Integration with the street objective</p> <p>To integrate the layout of development with the street. To support development that activates street frontages.</p> <p>Standard</p> <p>Development should be oriented to front existing and proposed streets. Along street frontages, development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate pedestrian entries, windows, balconies or other active spaces.• Limit blank walls.• Limit high front fencing, unless consistent with the existing urban context.• Provide low and visually permeable front fences, where proposed.• Conceal car parking and internal waste collection areas from the street. <p>Development next to existing public open space should be designed to complement the open space and facilitate passive surveillance.</p> <p>Decision guidelines</p> <p>Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p>																		

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<div>  <div> Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods Preview standards, February 2021 </div> </div>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. The design response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. The design response.
<p>Clause 58.03-2</p> <p>Communal open space objective To ensure that communal open space is accessible, practical, attractive, easily maintained and integrated with the layout of the development.</p> <p>Standard D7 Developments with 40 or more dwellings should provide a minimum area of communal open space of 2.5 square metres per dwelling or 250 square metres, whichever is lesser. Communal open space should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be located to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide passive surveillance opportunities, where appropriate. Provide outlook for as many dwellings as practicable. Avoid overlooking into habitable rooms and private open space of new dwellings. Minimise noise impacts to new and existing dwellings. Be designed to protect any natural features on the site. Maximise landscaping opportunities. Be accessible, useable and capable of efficient management. <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. The design response. The useability and amenity of the communal open space based on its size, location, accessibility and reasonable recreation needs of residents. The availability of and access to public open space. 	<p>Communal open space objective To provide communal open space that meets the recreation and amenity needs of residents. To ensure that communal open space is accessible, functional, and is easily maintained. To ensure that communal open space is integrated with the layout of the development and enhances resident amenity.</p> <p>Standard A development of 10 or more dwellings should provide a minimum area of communal outdoor open space of 30 square metres. If a development contains 13 or more dwellings, the development should also provide an additional minimum area of communal open space of 2.5 square metres per dwelling for every dwelling over 12, or 220 square metres, whichever is the lesser. This additional area may be indoors or outdoors and may consist of multiple separate areas of communal open space.</p> <p>Each area of communal open space should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible to all residents. A useable size, shape and dimension. Capable of efficient management. Located to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide passive surveillance, where appropriate. Provide outlook for as many dwellings as practicable. Avoid overlooking into habitable rooms and private open space of new dwellings. Minimise noise impacts on new and existing dwellings. <p>Any area of communal outdoor open space should be landscaped and include canopy cover and trees.</p> <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this planning scheme. The design response. The availability of and access to public open space.

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Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods

Preview standards, February 2021

Clause 58.03-5

Landscaping objectives

To encourage development that respects the landscape character of the area.
To encourage development that maintains and enhances habitat for plants and animals in locations of habitat importance.
To provide appropriate landscaping.
To encourage the retention of mature vegetation on the site.
To promote climate responsive landscape design and water management in developments that support thermal comfort and reduces the urban heat island effect.

Standard D10

The landscape layout and design should:

- Be responsive to the site context.
- Protect any predominant landscape features of the area.
- Take into account the soil type and drainage patterns of the site and integrate planting and water management.
- Allow for intended vegetation growth and structural protection of buildings.
- In locations of habitat importance, maintain existing habitat and provide for new habitat for plants and animals.
- Provide a safe, attractive and functional environment for residents.
- Consider landscaping opportunities to reduce heat absorption such as green walls, green roofs and roof top gardens and improve on-site stormwater infiltration.
- Maximise deep soil areas for planting of canopy trees.

Development should provide for the retention or planting of trees, where these are part of the urban context.

Development should provide for the replacement of any significant trees that have been removed in the 12 months prior to the application being made.

The landscape design should specify landscape themes, vegetation (location and species), paving and lighting.

Development should provide the deep soil areas and canopy trees specified in Table D2.

If the development cannot provide the deep soil areas and canopy trees specified in Table D2, an equivalent canopy cover should be achieved by providing either:

- Canopy trees or climbers (over a pergola) with planter pits sized appropriately for the mature tree soil volume requirements.
- Vegetated planters, green roofs or green facades.

Table D2 Deep soil areas and canopy trees

Site area	Deep soil areas	Minimum tree provision
750 – 1000 square metres	5% of site area (minimum dimension of 3 metres)	1 small tree (6-8 metres) per 30 square metres of deep soil
1001 – 1500 square metres	7.5% of site area (minimum dimension of 3 metres)	1 medium tree (8-12 metres) per 50 square metres of deep soil or 1 large tree per 90 square metres of deep soil
1501 – 2500 square metres	10% of site area (minimum dimension of 6 metres)	1 large tree (at least 12 metres) per 90 square metres of deep soil or 2 medium trees per 90 square metres of deep soil

Landscaping objectives

To provide landscaping that supports the existing or preferred urban context of the area and reduces the visual impact of buildings on the streetscape.

To preserve existing canopy cover and support the provision of new canopy cover.

To ensure landscaping is climate responsive, supports biodiversity, wellbeing and amenity and reduces urban heat.

Standard

Development should retain existing trees and canopy cover.

Development should provide for the replacement of any significant trees that have been removed in the 12 months prior to the application being made.

Development should:

- Provide the canopy cover and deep soil areas specified in Table D2. Existing trees can be used to meet the canopy cover requirements of Table D2.
- Provide canopy cover through canopy trees that are:
 - Located in an area of deep soil specified in Table D3. Where deep soil cannot be provided trees should be provided in planters specified in Table D3.
 - Consistent with the canopy diameter and height at maturity specified in Table D4.
 - Located in communal outdoor open space or common areas or street frontages.
- Comprise smaller trees, shrubs and ground cover, including flowering native species.
- Include landscaping, such as climbing plants or smaller plants in planters, in the street frontage and in outdoor areas, including communal outdoor open space.
- Shade outdoor areas exposed to summer sun through landscaping or shade structures and use paving and surface materials that lower surface temperatures and reduce heat absorption.
- Be supported by irrigation systems which utilise alternative water sources such as rainwater, stormwater and recycled water.
- Protect any predominant landscape features of the area.
- Take into account the soil type and drainage patterns of the site.
- Provide a safe, attractive and functional environment for residents.
- Specify landscape themes, vegetation (location and species), irrigation systems, paving and lighting.

Table D2: Canopy cover and deep soil requirements

Site area	Canopy cover	Deep soil
1000 square metres or less	5% of site area Include at least 1 Type A tree	5% of site area or 12 square metres whichever is the greater
1001 – 1500 square metres	50 square metres plus 20% of site area above 1,000 square metres Include at least 1 Type B tree	7.5% of site area
1501 – 2500 square metres	150 square metres plus 20% of site area above 1,500 square metres Include at least 2 Type B trees or 1 Type C tree	10% of site area
2500 square metres or more	350 square metres plus 20% of site area above 2,500 square metres Include at least 2 Type B trees or 1 Type C tree	15% of site area

Table D3: Soil requirements for trees

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>2500 square metres	15% of site area (minimum dimension of 6 metres)	1 large tree (at least 12 metres) per 90 square metres of deep soil or 2 medium trees per 90 square metres of deep soil
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Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant plan or policy for landscape character and environmental sustainability in the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The design response.
- The location and size of gardens and the predominant plant types in the area.
- The health of any trees to be removed.
- The suitability of the proposed location and soil volume for canopy trees.
- The ongoing management of landscaping within the development.
- The soil type and drainage patterns of the site.

Tree type	Tree in deep soil	Tree in planter	
	Area of deep soil	Volume of planter soil	Depth of planter soil
A	12 square metres (min. plan dimension 2.5 metres)	12 cubic metres (min. plan dimension of 2.5 metres)	0.8 metre
B	49 square metres (min. plan dimension 4.5 metres)	28 cubic metres (min. plan dimension of 4.5 metres)	1 metre
C	121 square metres (min. plan dimension 6.5 metres)	64 cubic metres (min. plan dimension of 6.5 metres)	1.5 metres

Note: Where multiple trees share the same section of soil the total required amount of soil can be reduced by 5% for every additional tree, up to a maximum reduction of 25%.

Table D4: Tree types

Tree type	Minimum canopy diameter at maturity	Minimum height at maturity
A	4 metres	6 metres
B	8 metres	8 metres
C	12 metres	12 metres

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character, landscaping or environmental policy, objective, strategy or statement set out in this planning scheme.
- The design response.
- The health of any trees to be removed.
- The suitability of the proposed location, deep soil area and planter soil volume for canopy trees.
- The suitability of the proposed landscaping in communal outdoor open space.
- The type and quantity of canopy cover, including any alternatives to trees.
- The soil type and drainage patterns of the site.
- The ongoing management of landscaping, including any irrigation systems.

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Preview standards, February 2021

Clause 58.03-6

Access objective

To ensure the number and design of vehicle crossovers respects the urban context.

Standard D11

The width of accessways or car spaces should not exceed:

- 33 per cent of the street frontage, or
- if the width of the street frontage is less than 20 metres, 40 per cent of the street frontage.

No more than one single-width crossover should be provided for each dwelling fronting a street.

The location of crossovers should maximise the retention of on-street car parking spaces.

The number of access points to a road in a Road Zone should be minimised.

Developments must provide for access for service, emergency and delivery vehicles.

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The impact on the streetscape.
- The reduction of on-street car parking spaces.
- The effect on any significant vegetation on the site and footpath.

Clause 58.05-3

Private open space objective

To provide adequate private open space for the reasonable recreation and service needs of residents.

Standard D19

A dwelling should have private open space consisting of:

- An area of 25 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres at natural ground floor level and convenient access from a living room, or
- An area of 15 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres at a podium or other similar base and convenient access from a living room, or
- A balcony with an area and dimensions specified in Table D5 and convenient access from a living room, or
- A roof-top area of 10 square metres with a minimum dimension of 2 metres and convenient access from a living room.

If a cooling or heating unit is located on a balcony, the balcony should provide an additional area of 1.5 square metres.

Table D5 Balcony size

Dwelling type	Minimum area	Minimum dimension
Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	1.8 metres
2 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	2 metres
3 or more bedroom dwelling	12 square metres	2.4 metres

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The useability and functionality of the private open space, including its size and accessibility.

Access objective

To ensure that vehicle crossovers are designed and located to provide safe access for pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles.

To ensure that vehicle crossovers are designed and located to minimise visual impact.

Standard

Vehicle crossovers should be minimised.

Car parking entries should be consolidated, minimised in size, integrated with the façade and where practicable located at the side or rear of the building.

Pedestrian and cyclist access should be clearly delineated from vehicle access.

The location of crossovers should maximise pedestrian safety and the retention of on-street car parking spaces and street trees.

Development must provide access for service, emergency and delivery vehicles.

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The impact on the street.
- The impact on the safety of pedestrians or cyclists.
- The reduction of on-street car parking spaces.
- The effect on any significant vegetation on the site and road reserve.

Private open space objective

To provide adequate private open space for the reasonable recreation and service needs of residents.

Standard

A dwelling should have private open space consisting of at least one of the following:

- An area at ground level of at least 25 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres and convenient access from a living room.
- A balcony with at least the area and dimension specified in Table D5 and convenient access from a living room.
- An area on a podium or other similar base of at least 15 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 3 metres and convenient access from a living room.
- An area on a roof of 10 square metres, with a minimum dimension of 2 metres and convenient access from a living room.

If a cooling or heating unit is located on a balcony, the minimum balcony area specified in Table D5 should be increased by at least 1.5 square metres.

If the finished floor level of a dwelling is 40 metres or more above ground level, the requirements of Table D5 do not apply if at least the area specified in Table D6 is provided as living area or bedroom area in addition to the minimum area specified in Table D7 or Table D8 in Standard D24.

Table D5 Balcony size

Orientation of dwelling	Dwelling type	Minimum balcony area	Minimum balcony dimension
North (between north 20 degrees west to north 30 degrees east)	All	8 square metres	1.7 metres

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- The amenity of the private open space based on the orientation of the lot, the wind conditions and the sunlight it will receive.
- The availability of and access to public or communal open space.

South (between south 30 degrees west to south 20 degrees east)	All	8 square metres	1.2 metres
Any other orientation	Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	1.8 metres
	2 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres	2 metres
	3 or more bedroom dwelling	12 square metres	2.4 metres

Table D6 Additional living area or bedroom area

Dwelling type	Additional area
Studio or 1 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres
2 bedroom dwelling	8 square metres
3 or more bedroom dwelling	12 square metres

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The useability and functionality of the private open space, including its size and accessibility.
- The amenity of the private open space based on the orientation of the lot, noise exposure, the wind conditions and the sunlight it will receive.
- The availability of and access to public or communal open space.
- The useability and functionality of any additional living area or bedroom area, including its size and layout.

Clause 58.06-2

Site services objectives

To ensure that site services can be installed and easily maintained.
To ensure that site facilities are accessible, adequate and attractive.

Standard D22

The design and layout of dwellings should provide sufficient space (including easements where required) and facilities for services to be installed and maintained efficiently and economically.
Mailboxes and other site facilities should be adequate in size, durable, waterproof and blend in with the development.
Mailboxes should be provided and located for convenient access as required by Australia Post.

Decision guideline

- Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider the design response.

Site services objective

To ensure that site services are accessible and can be easily installed and maintained.
To ensure that site services and facilities are visually integrated into the building design or landscape.

Standard

Development should provide adequate space (including easements where required) for site services to be installed and maintained efficiently and economically.
Meters and utility services should be designed as an integrated component of the building or landscape.
Mailboxes and other site facilities should be adequate in size, durable, weather-protected, located for convenient access and integrated into the overall design of the development.

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.

Clause 58.07-1

Functional layout objective

To ensure dwellings provide functional areas that meet the needs of residents.

Standard D24

Bedrooms should:

- Meet the minimum internal room dimensions specified in Table D7.

Functional layout objective

To ensure dwellings provide functional areas that meet the needs of residents.

Standard

Bedrooms should:

- Meet the minimum internal room dimensions and area specified in Table D7.

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- Provide an area in addition to the minimum internal room dimensions to accommodate a wardrobe.

Table D7 Bedroom dimensions

Bedroom type	Minimum width	Minimum depth
Main bedroom	3 metres	3.4 metres
All other bedrooms	3 metres	3 metres

Living areas (excluding dining and kitchen areas) should meet the minimum internal room dimensions specified in Table D8.

Table D8 Living area dimensions

Dwelling type	Minimum width	Minimum area
Studio and 1 bedroom dwelling	3.3 metres	10 sqm
2 or more bedroom dwelling	3.6 metres	12 sqm

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The useability, functionality and amenity of habitable rooms.

- Provide an area in addition to the minimum internal room dimensions and area to accommodate a wardrobe.

Table D7 Bedroom dimensions and area

Bedroom type	Minimum width	Minimum depth	Minimum area
Main bedroom	3 metres	3.4 metres	10.2 sqm
All other bedrooms	3 metres	3 metres	9 sqm

Living areas (excluding dining and kitchen areas) should meet the minimum internal room dimension and area specified in Table D8.

Table D8 Living area dimension and area

Dwelling type	Minimum width	Minimum area
Studio and 1 bedroom dwelling	3.3 metres	10 sqm
2 or more bedroom dwelling	3.6 metres	12 sqm

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The useability, functionality and amenity of habitable rooms.

New standards

Clause 55.07-X

Integration with the street objective

To integrate the layout of development with the street.

To support development that activates street frontages.

Standard

Development should be oriented to front existing and proposed streets.

Along street frontages, development should:

- Incorporate pedestrian entries, windows, balconies or other active spaces.
- Limit blank walls.
- Limit high front fencing, unless consistent with the existing urban context.
- Provide low and visually permeable front fences, where proposed.
- Conceal car parking and internal waste collection areas from the street.

Development next to existing public open space should be designed to complement the open space and facilitate passive surveillance.

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.

Note: Replaces Standard B5 for apartment developments. Existing Standard B5 will continue to apply to other forms of residential development, as applicable.

Clause 55.07-X

Access objective

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	<p>To ensure that vehicle crossovers are designed and located to provide safe access for pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles.</p> <p>To ensure that vehicle crossovers are designed and located to minimise visual impact.</p> <p>Standard</p> <p>Vehicle crossovers should be minimised.</p> <p>Car parking entries should be consolidated, minimised in size, integrated with the façade and where practicable located at the side or rear of the building.</p> <p>Pedestrian and cyclist access should be clearly delineated from vehicle access.</p> <p>The location of crossovers should maximise pedestrian safety and the retention of on-street car parking spaces and street trees.</p> <p>Development must provide access for service, emergency and delivery vehicles.</p> <p>Decision guidelines</p> <p>Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design response. • The impact on the street. • The impact on the safety of pedestrians or cyclists. • The reduction of on-street car parking spaces. • The effect on any significant vegetation on the site and road reserve. <p>Note: Replaces Standard B14 for apartment developments. Existing Standard B14 will continue to apply to other forms of residential development, as applicable.</p>
	<p>Clause 55.07-X</p> <p>Site services objective</p> <p>To ensure that site services are accessible and can be easily installed and maintained.</p> <p>To ensure that site services and facilities are visually integrated into the building design or landscape.</p> <p>Standard</p> <p>Development should provide adequate space (including easements where required) for site services to be installed and maintained efficiently and economically.</p> <p>Meters and utility services should be designed as an integrated component of the building or landscape.</p> <p>Mailboxes and other site facilities should be adequate in size, durable, weather-protected, located for convenient access and integrated into the overall design of the development.</p> <p>Decision guidelines</p> <p>Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any relevant urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. • The design response. <p>Note: Replaces Standard B34 for apartment developments. Existing Standard B34 will continue to apply to other forms of residential development, as applicable.</p>
	<p>Clause 55.07-X</p> <p>External walls and materials objective</p> <p>To ensure external walls use materials appropriate to the existing urban context or preferred future development of the area.</p>

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	<p>To ensure external walls endure and retain their attractiveness.</p> <p>Standard External walls should be finished with materials that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not easily deteriorate or stain. Weather well over time. Are resilient to the wear and tear from their intended use. <p>External wall design should facilitate safe and convenient access for maintenance.</p> <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant building design and urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. The urban context report. The design response. <p>Clause 58.XX-X</p> <p>Wind impacts objective To ensure the built form, design and layout of development does not generate unacceptable wind impacts within the site or on surrounding land.</p> <p>Standard Development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not cause unsafe wind conditions specified in Table DX in public land, publicly accessible areas on private land, private open space and communal open space; and achieve comfortable wind conditions specified in Table DX in public land and publicly accessible areas on private land <p>within a distance of half the greatest length of the building, or half the total height of the building measured outwards on the horizontal plane from the ground floor building façade, whichever is greater.</p> <p>Trees and landscaping should not be used to mitigate wind impacts. This does not apply to sitting areas, where trees and landscaping may be used to supplement fixed wind mitigation elements.</p> <p>Wind mitigation elements, such as awnings and screens should be located within the site boundary, unless consistent with the existing urban context or preferred future development of the area.</p> <p>Table DX: Wind conditions</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Unsafe</th><th>Comfortable</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual maximum 3 second gust wind speed exceeding 20 metres per second with a probability of exceedance of 0.1% considering at least 16 wind directions.</td><td>Hourly mean wind speed or gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85), from all wind directions combined with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 metres per second for sitting areas, 4 metres per second for standing areas, 5 metres per second for walking areas. </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The urban context report. The design response. 	Unsafe	Comfortable	Annual maximum 3 second gust wind speed exceeding 20 metres per second with a probability of exceedance of 0.1% considering at least 16 wind directions.	Hourly mean wind speed or gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85), from all wind directions combined with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 metres per second for sitting areas, 4 metres per second for standing areas, 5 metres per second for walking areas.
Unsafe	Comfortable				
Annual maximum 3 second gust wind speed exceeding 20 metres per second with a probability of exceedance of 0.1% considering at least 16 wind directions.	Hourly mean wind speed or gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85), from all wind directions combined with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 metres per second for sitting areas, 4 metres per second for standing areas, 5 metres per second for walking areas. 				

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The safety, functionality and amenity of public, private and communal open space areas. • Whether it has been demonstrated by a suitably qualified specialist that the development will not generate unacceptable wind impacts within the site or on surrounding land. <p>Clause 58.XX-X</p> <p>External walls and materials objective To ensure external walls use materials appropriate to the existing urban context or preferred future development of the area. To ensure external walls endure and retain their attractiveness.</p> <p>Standard External walls should be finished with materials that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not easily deteriorate or stain. • Weather well over time. • Are resilient to the wear and tear from their intended use. <p>External wall design should facilitate safe and convenient access for maintenance.</p> <p>Decision guidelines Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any relevant building design and urban design objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme. • The urban context report. • The design response.
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8.5 Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan - Consideration of draft submission

Executive Summary

Purpose

For Council to consider a draft submission to the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* (LUFP).

Key Issues

The State Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has released the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* for comment.

The *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* is one of six developed for each of Melbourne's six metropolitan regions in response to Action 1 of *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*. The Inner Metro region includes the Local Government Areas of Melbourne, Port Phillip and Yarra.

The *Land Use Framework Plan (LUFP)* is a 30-year strategic land-use and infrastructure plan that will guide future planning and growth.

The LUFP is an important strategic document which will help provide a strong framework for Inner Melbourne.

Officers have thoroughly reviewed LUFP in relation to Yarra's planning policies, strategies and strategic priorities.

A draft submission (at Attachment 1) to DELWP has been prepared which responds to the LUFP and outlines a proposed Council position on its directions, strategies and proposed actions.

Overall its directions and strategies align with Yarra's Community Vision, Council Plan, planning policy framework and other adopted strategies and are supported.

However, the draft submission does identify areas where the strategies do not align with Council priorities or where they could be improved. It also suggests additional actions that could be pursued across the inner metro region to help successfully implement the plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council in making a submission to the Inner Region Land Use Framework Plan.

PROPOSAL

To provide Council with a summary of the Government's recently released *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan*.

To outline a draft submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in response to the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan*.

To provide a draft submission for Council's consideration.

8.5 Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan - Consideration of draft submission

Reference	D21/136763
Author	Leonie Kirkwood - Project and Planning Coordinator
Authoriser	Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. To provide a summary of the Government's recently released *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan*, a 30-year strategic land-use and infrastructure plan that will guide future planning and growth.
2. To outline the contents of a proposed submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in response to the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan*.

Critical analysis

History and background

3. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has released the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan (LUFP)* for comment. Submissions close on 24 October 2021.

What is a LUFP?

4. The *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* is a 30-year strategic land-use and infrastructure plan that will guide future planning and growth.
5. It arises out of Action 1 of *Plan Melbourne's* 5-year implementation plan. A Land Use Framework Plan has been developed for each of Melbourne's six metropolitan regions. The Inner Metro region includes the City of Melbourne, Port Phillip and Yarra.
6. The LUFP will direct land use decisions and investment, provide spatial plans that translate *Plan Melbourne* to the regional level and better align state and local government planning. The plan will also ensure land use, planning and development all support the vision of *Plan Melbourne*.

What does it include?

7. The LUFP includes:
 - (a) A land use framework that identifies state and regionally significant places that will be a focus for investment, growth and planning;
 - (b) A vision and a 2050 spatial plan;
 - (c) Directions and strategies around six themes; and
 - (d) A five-year action program for state and local governments.
8. The plan is structured around the six themes in *Plan Melbourne*:
 - (a) Productivity (jobs and investments);
 - (b) Housing choice;
 - (c) Integrated transport;
 - (d) Liveability;
 - (e) Strong communities; and
 - (f) Sustainability and resilience.

9. A copy of the *Inner Region Land Use Framework Plan* can be found at: engage.vic.gov.au/mfpf/inner-metro-lufp

How was it developed?

10. The development of the LUFPP began in 2017/2018.
11. The DELWP has led the development of a LUFPP for each region, supported by six Economy and Planning Working Groups (EPWG). The EPWG included senior representatives from the region's local councils, DELWP, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and the Department of Transport (DoT).
12. Development of the plans has also involved consultant and Council officer input. Officers have provided technical input to better inform the issues and directions and ensure the document identifies the valued aspects and issues of the inner region.

Next steps

13. Following consultation, the Minister for Planning will consider feedback. It is anticipated the plans will be updated and approved by the Minister in the first half of 2022.

How will it be implemented?

14. The LUFPP identifies three key mechanisms to implement the directions and strategies:
- (a) Regional planning policies for inclusion in the planning scheme;
 - (b) A five year action plan which identifies cross-government actions; and
 - (c) Planning and investment such as infrastructure works.
15. The LUFPP forms a planning document that will be implemented primarily through the planning scheme.
16. The plan will be translated into the Planning Policy Framework of the *Victoria Planning Provisions*. Councils will be expected to give it consideration when preparing and assessing planning scheme amendments.
17. It will introduce a level of planning guidance that will sit between the State and Local policies and provide more detailed guidance for Council planning policies than the current State Government strategies.
18. A number of short to medium term actions are included in the plan which will be delivered collaboratively by State Government and Council in the Inner Metro Region.

Discussion

19. A draft submission to the LUFPP has been prepared for Council's consideration (see Attachment 1).
20. The draft submission acknowledges the LUFPP is an important strategic document which will help provide a strong framework for Inner Melbourne. The development of regional strategies and maps identifying employment and housing opportunities and transport improvements are strongly supported.
21. Overall the directions and strategies in the LUFPP generally align with the Community Vision, Council Plan, planning policy framework and other adopted strategies of Council.
22. The plan generally reflects the key elements that differentiate the Inner Region from other regions, such as heritage high streets; key natural features and icons; the Yarra River; key regional active and passive spaces (such as the Capital City Trail); the distinctive built form character; the complex mix of land uses; and evolving neighbourhoods, including places that attract creative industries and start-ups.
23. However, the draft submission does identify key elements that do not align or where they could go further. It also suggests a range of additional actions that could be pursued across the Inner Metro Region to help successfully implement the plan.

Strategic considerations addressed in the submission

24. The following are strategic considerations in the draft submission which sit across the six themes. They are considered priorities for Council and are critical for the successful delivery of *Inner Metro Region Land Use Framework Plan*.

Delivering well-located housing

25. Yarra acknowledges that the city will continue to play an important role in accommodating future housing growth, but that this must be balanced with maintaining Yarra's neighbourhood and heritage character, and important employment areas.
26. The LUPF seeks to define where new housing should be located across the Inner Region. The proposed inclusion of locations which may accommodate population growth is supported.
27. However, to maximise access to shops, services and public transport, the LUPF identifies a walkable catchment of 800 metres around the Major and Neighbourhood Activity Centres. This catchment approach is not supported.
28. Council has an adopted Housing Strategy which clearly identifies preferred locations for growth and applies a more nuanced approach. This approach has taken the extensive areas of heritage significance which abut many activity centres, broad public transport coverage across the municipality, and physical and strategic context of sites into account when determining the scale and intensity of housing which can be accommodated. Council's extensive capacity work identifies that Yarra can accommodate its projected growth. Officers consider the identification of 800m catchment would undermine this targeted approach.
29. An additional challenge in planning for growth is the need to accommodate new development in a built form that is sensitive to the context of the area which includes heritage significance, character and scale of the surrounding area. This needs to be balanced with opportunities to allow for new built form character in other areas. The valued character of Yarra needs to be retained and in this regard, the draft submission suggests additional strategies to address this.

Focus on social and affordable housing

30. Housing affordability is a key issue for Yarra. Maintaining the diversity of the municipality is very important; Council is committed to pursuing strategies that increase social and affordable housing in the municipality.
31. The plan recognises there is an insufficient supply of affordable housing in the Inner Metro Region and the housing prices are exceptionally higher than other metro regions. It includes directions and strategies to:
- 'increase the supply of social and affordable housing', and*
- 'provide greater choice and diversity of housing in the Inner Metro Region'.*
32. The directions and strategies within the plan are strongly supported, but lack specifics and actions.
33. Council continues to support the introduction of planning mechanisms such as inclusionary zoning into the Victoria Planning Provisions. Inclusionary zoning is a requirement for developers to supply a proportion of new developments as affordable housing.
34. Officers also consider the plan should address quality and ensure that development is 'tenure blind'. Affordable housing and private dwellings should not be able to be readily differentiated through their appearance, quality or amenity. Affordable housing should include high standards of accessibility and be durable and energy efficient.
35. Council also seeks to ensure community benefit from any renewal of public housing is maximised.

A balance of housing and employment growth

36. A key challenge for the inner city is the ongoing need to balance housing development with employment uses.
37. The plan generally recognises the need for this balance, particularly in the document's Strengths and Challenges sections of each theme. However, the structure of the document means that the housing and employment issues are dealt with separately.
38. The Plan provides a strong focus on housing growth and embeds the *Victoria in Future 2019* population and dwelling projections.
39. In terms of employment growth, the LUFP:
 - (a) supports employment in the Inner Region by supporting the role of the two employment / enterprise precincts – Cremorne and Gipps Street (Collingwood);
 - (b) identifies the multi-faceted roles of major activity centres;
 - (c) supports the employment role of the Abbotsford Industrial Precinct; and
 - (d) identifies the Inner Region as a location for sport, arts, culture and entertainment.
40. The draft Council submission attached supports these strategies and directions, but identifies some of the challenges in relation to workplace affordability and ensuring enterprise precincts promote quality development, provide attractive environments for businesses and workers, infrastructure and ease of access such as by public transport.
41. The draft submission supports the retention of industrial precincts, but identifies the need for a methodology to consider alternative uses in the future should things change; for example the departure of a major industry.

Revitalising activity centres

42. Yarra is home to a series of vibrant and evolving activity centres. Each centre in Yarra is unique and dynamic, with a business and land use mix that is continually changing.
43. The LUFP recognises the value of and variety of activity centres in the inner city – including their role in employment and housing, providing important community spaces and focuses for the community and transport interchanges.
44. While it recognises the changing retail sector and emerging retail vacancies in the region are key issues, officers consider the plan offers an opportunity to do more at the regional level to address this issue. One example is the consideration of nimble planning controls to support change of uses in activity centres to bring creatives industries and other industries back to activity centres to bring life to the precincts.
45. Officers note Action 6 which proposes to:

'Apply the Movement and Place Framework to the Inner Metro Region's arterial road network and allocate priorities for transport connector improvements such as improving road space allocation for public and active transport, identify priority streets for walking and cycling, and road management and use arrangements. This should include a focus on transport interchanges and transport corridors.'
46. This approach is strongly supported in Yarra's activity centres, but would require substantial funding and a very strong commitment from State Government.

Retaining Yarra's diversity and distinctiveness

47. Officers strongly support the recognition of the unique character and identity of the inner city as a key element of the city's liveability for residents and businesses and attraction for visitors in the LUFP.

48. The LUFP identifies that as urban development intensifies, a high quality public realm, and expanded and better connected public open spaces will be crucial to ensure liveability is maintained. The plan includes a number of strategies in relation to public open space which are strongly supported but further specific actions are needed in relation to public open space provision to support these strategies.
49. The diversity and distinctiveness of neighbourhoods and places across Yarra are an inherent part of its character and attraction. Importantly this creates a strong sense of place for local communities and this diversity of place must be retained. Some strengthening of this aspect of the LUFP is suggested in the draft submission.

Raising standards for environment and sustainability

50. To better manage increasing pressures on natural resources, higher levels of population growth, and the effects of climate change, there is a need to improve how environmental sustainability is incorporated into how the built environment is designed and planned.
51. Yarra has long advocated for stronger environmentally sustainable design controls in the planning and building process and has adopted its *Climate Emergency Plan* as a call to action.
52. The focus throughout the LUFP on sustainability and resilience is welcomed. The LUFP includes directions and strategies addressing urban heat, tree canopy cover and integrated water management.
53. However, officers consider it should be much stronger on commitments to a zero emissions built environment.
54. For the Victorian Government to meet its target of net-zero emissions by 2050, it needs to be clear that land-use planning to enable a zero-emissions built environment is a key part of achieving that target.
55. It would be useful to communicate the connection between the sustainability and climate change related measures in the LUFP with those in the recently released ESD Roadmap, *Built Environment Adaptation Action Plan*, along with the work underway by local councils through the Elevating ESD Targets project.
56. In addition, it is suggested the LUFP address other sustainability issues such as the circular economy and future gas usage.

Implementation

New provisions in the planning scheme

57. The LUFP identifies that the plan will in many aspects be largely implemented through planning scheme provisions.
58. Careful consideration is required as to how the plan's directions and strategies will translate into planning policy and inform decision making.
59. It also important the maps are accurate and clearly assist decision making.

Other actions

60. A number of short to medium term actions are included in the Inner Metro Region LUFP. The five- year action program summarises these actions to be delivered collaboratively by the State Government and Councils in the Inner Metro Region.
61. Officers strongly support this on-going collaborative approach. Local Councils in the Inner Metro Region are already working together to address priority issues for their region and with the State Government such as through the *Inner Metropolitan Partnership* and the *M9 Group* of Councils.
62. Many of the directions and strategies in the plan will also be implemented outside the planning scheme. Successful implementation of the plan will be dependent upon improved cross-government commitment and co-ordination.

63. The LUFP must be clear on how its strategies will be implemented – at local, regional or State levels. There needs to be more clarity around funding, timing and responsibility.
64. Given the breadth of the issues covered in the document, the LUFP has a small number of actions. The draft submission suggests a range of additional actions that could be pursued across the inner metro region to help successfully implement the plan. These include ongoing monitoring, research and data gathering and funding.
65. The LUFP identifies there are many actions under *Plan Melbourne* and other government programs and initiatives, such as the Metropolitan Partnerships, that will contribute to improving planning outcomes in the Inner Metro Region. However, it does not list these actions, leaving the impression there are gaps in the document.
66. Cross referencing actions in other documents or projects being undertaken by the Inner City Partnership would assist in understanding how aspects of the plan are being implemented.

Options

67. There are two options that Council can consider.
68. Option 1 - provide DELWP with Council's submission to the LUFP.
This option is recommended. The LUFP is 30-year strategic land-use and infrastructure plan that will guide future planning and growth. Given it will form part of the *Yarra Planning Scheme*, and also guide future cross Government projects and budget allocations, it is critical Yarra provides feedback on its directions, strategies and actions.
69. Option 2 - do not proceed with making a submission to the State Government.
A 'do nothing' approach is not recommended.

Community and stakeholder engagement

70. No external consultation has been undertaken by Council. DELWP is currently undertaking a two month long engagement process which has included on-line information and on-line forum for the inner region.
71. The attached draft submission was prepared in collaboration with staff from the Economic Development, Urban Design, Sustainability, Heritage, Social Strategy, Traffic and Strategic Transport units of Council.
72. Officers also engaged with officers from the City of Melbourne and Port Phillip to understand the potential views of the other two councils and see where the Councils might align. (noting these were the views of officers as the two Councils had not yet endorsed their submissions).

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

73. The plan is broadly aligned with the *Yarra 2036 Community Vision*. It responds in the following way:
 - (a) Theme 1 – 'Strong and vibrant community' is addressed in Chapter 8 Strong Communities of the LUFP;
 - (b) Theme 4 – 'Environmental sustainability' and Theme 8 – 'Growing Sustainability' is addressed in Chapter 9 Sustainability and Resilience of the LUFP. This chapter includes directions, strategies and actions to make communities more climate resilient; and
 - (c) Theme 6 – 'Thriving Local Economy' is addressed in Chapter 1 Productivity of the LUFP. It provides guidance on shaping employment growth.
74. It is also aligned with the draft *Council Plan 2021-2025*, particularly to the following Strategic Objectives:

- (a) Climate and environment: Yarra seeks to urgently mitigate climate change while also adapting to its impacts and developing resilience in everything we do. The community, business and industry are supported and encouraged to do the same;
- (b) Local economy: Yarra's neighbourhoods and major activity centres, nightlife and employment precincts are thriving, accessible and connected. They support and inspire diverse creative communities, cultural activities, businesses, and local employment;
- (c) Place and nature: Yarra's public places, streets and green open spaces bring our community together. They are planned to manage growth, protect our unique character and focus on people and nature; and
- (d) Transport and movement: Yarra's transport network is sustainable and recognises that streets are important shared public spaces. Transport and movement is accessible, safe and well connected.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

- 75. Chapter 9 Sustainability and Resilience of the LUFP outlines directions, strategies and actions to make communities more climate resilient.
- 76. The four relevant directions identified are:
 - (a) integrating cooling and greening initiatives with land use and infrastructure initiatives;
 - (b) increasing tree canopy cover;
 - (c) integrating water management initiatives and supporting zero emissions; and
 - (d) climate resilient urban areas and managing.

Community and social implications

- 77. The LUFP seeks to create inclusive, vibrant and healthy communities. Chapter 8 Strong Communities outlines directions, strategies and actions to build strong communities. The three directions identified are:
 - (a) plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level to meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors;
 - (b) support the region's role in delivering state-significant health and education services while providing for the local community; and
 - (c) strengthen the Inner Metro Region's network of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Economic development implications

- 78. Chapter 1 Productivity of the LUFP includes directions, strategies and actions to shape employment growth in the inner metro region. Relevant directions include:
 - (a) strengthen the Inner Metro Region as a local and international destination for sport, arts, culture and entertainment to attract investment and visitors;
 - (b) enhance the Inner Metro Region's vibrant and diverse activity centres and their contribution to the identity of the region; and
 - (c) retain existing and support emerging employment areas, including industrial and enterprise precincts, across the Inner Metro Region.
- 79. The plan identifies:
 - (a) Cremorne and Gipps Street precinct, Collingwood as enterprise precincts;
 - (b) future role/strategic opportunities for major activity centres; and
 - (c) State-significant and regionally significant health and/or education precincts in Yarra which contribute to the productivity of the Inner Metro Region.

Human rights and gender equality implications

- 80. There are no known human rights and gender equality implications.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

81. There are no financial implications in receiving this report – it has been only officer time in preparing the submission.

Legal Implications

82. There are no anticipated legal implications.
83. Once finalised and approved by Minister for Planning, it is anticipated parts of the Plan would be included in the Planning Policy Framework in the *Yarra Planning Scheme* as regional policy.

Conclusion

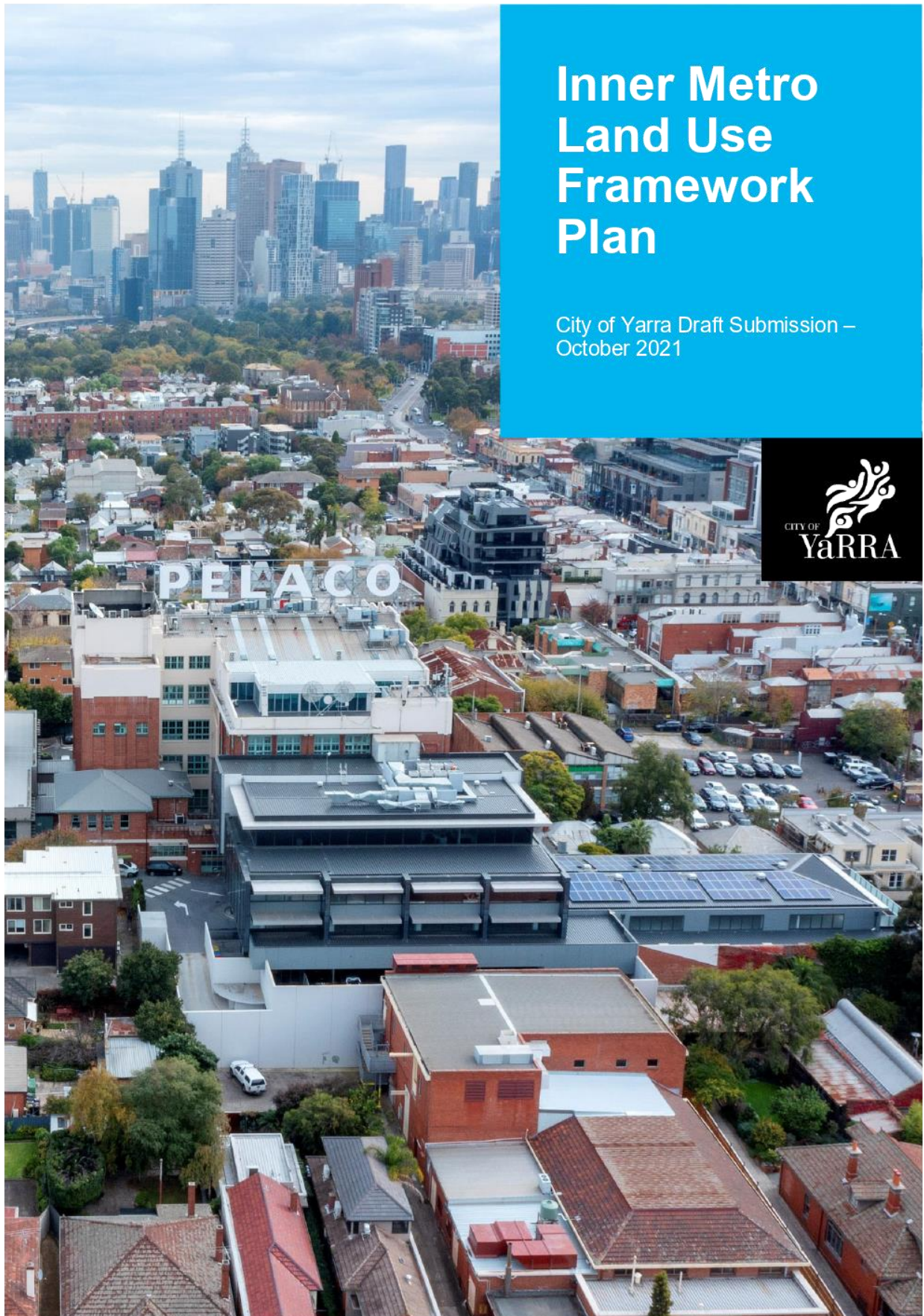
84. Council officers have thoroughly reviewed the State Government's *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* in relation to Yarra's planning policies, strategies and strategic priorities.
85. Officers note the importance of regional planning and integrating land use and transport planning for the inner region and generally support the directions and strategies included in the LUFP.
86. Officers have prepared a submission (Attachment 1) to the LUFP which provides a proposed response which seeks to ensure the LUFP provides a strong framework for the inner city area and Yarra.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council resolve to:
 - (a) note the officer report outlining the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* currently on exhibition by the State Government;
 - (b) note the broad alignment of the proposed Framework Plan with Council policies, and
 - (c) note the comments of officers where a submission to the State Government is considered necessary to reflect key aspects of Yarra City Council policies and strategic directions.
2. That Council note the draft submission provided by officers as shown in Attachment 1.
3. That Council endorse the submission in Attachment 1 to be submitted to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in response to the release of the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan*.
4. That senior officers continue to advocate on Councils behalf regarding the specific areas identified in the submission that require changes and modifications to better reflect Council policies and strategic directions.

Attachments

- 1 [↓](#) CoY Draft Submission - October 2021 - Final(2)



Executive summary

The City of Yarra welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* (LUFP).

The development of a comprehensive, long term inner metropolitan regional plan is crucial to maintaining and enhancing the sustainability and liveability of inner Melbourne.

Council notes that *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* is not intended to be a comprehensive re-write of *Plan Melbourne* but instead adds a layer of detail at the regional level.

Support for Key Directions and Strategies

Yarra considers the LUFP an important strategic document which will help provide a strong framework for Inner Melbourne. The development of regional strategies and maps identifying employment and housing opportunities and transport improvements are strongly supported.

Overall the directions and strategies in the LUFP generally align with the Community Vision, Council Plan, planning policy framework and other adopted strategies of Council.

The plan generally reflects the key elements that differentiate the Inner Region from other regions, such as heritage high streets; key natural features and icons; the Yarra River; key regional active and passive spaces (such as the Capital City Trail); the distinctive built form character; the complex mix of land uses; and evolving neighbourhoods, including places that attract creative industries and start-ups.

However, this submission does identify key elements that do not align or where they could go further. It also suggests a range of additional actions that could be pursued across the Inner Metro Region to help successfully implement the plan.

Key Considerations for Yarra

The following are strategic considerations in this submission which sit across the six themes. They are considered priorities for Council and are critical for the successful delivery of *Inner Metro Region Land Use Framework Plan*.

1. Delivering well-located housing

Yarra acknowledges that the city will continue to play an important role in accommodating future housing growth, but that this must be balanced with maintaining Yarra's neighbourhood and heritage character, and important employment areas.

The LUFP seeks to define where new housing should be located across the Inner Region. The proposed inclusion of locations which may accommodate population growth is supported.

However, to maximise access to shops, services and public transport, the LUFP identifies a walkable catchment of 800 metres around the Major and Neighbourhood Activity Centres. This catchment approach is not supported.

Council has an adopted Housing Strategy which clearly identifies preferred locations for growth and applies a more nuanced approach. This approach has taken the extensive areas of heritage significance which abut many activity centres, broad public transport coverage across the municipality, and physical and strategic context of sites into account when determining the scale and intensity of housing which can be accommodated. Council's extensive capacity work identifies that Yarra can accommodate its projected growth. The identification of 800m catchment would undermine this targeted approach.

An additional challenge in planning for growth is the need to accommodate new development in a built form that is sensitive to the context of the area which includes heritage significance, character and scale of the surrounding area. This needs to be balanced with opportunities to allow for new built form character in other areas. If not carefully managed, future development could erode Yarra's valued character. This submission suggests additional strategies to address this.

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2. Focus on social and affordable housing

Housing affordability is a key issue for Yarra. Maintaining the diversity of the municipality is critical and Council is committed to pursuing strategies that increase social and affordable housing in the municipality.

The plan recognises there is an insufficient supply of affordable housing in the Inner Metro Region and the housing prices are exceptionally higher than other metro regions. It includes directions and strategies to *'increase the supply of social and affordable housing'* and *'provide greater choice and diversity of housing in the Inner Metro Region'*.

The directions and strategies within the plan are strongly supported but lack specifics and actions.

Council continues to support the introduction of planning mechanisms such as inclusionary zoning into the Victoria Planning Provisions. Inclusionary zoning is a requirement for developers to supply a proportion of new developments as affordable housing.

The plan should also address quality and ensure that development is 'tenure blind'. Affordable housing and private dwellings should not be able to be readily differentiated through their appearance, quality or amenity. Affordable housing should include high standards of accessibility and be durable and energy efficient.

Council also seeks to ensure community benefit from any renewal of public housing is maximised.

3. A balance of housing and employment growth

A key challenge for the inner city is the ongoing need to balance housing development with employment uses.

The plan generally recognises the need for this balance particularly in the document's Strengths and Challenges sections of each theme. However, the structure of the document means that the housing and employment issues are dealt with separately.

The plan provides a strong focus on housing growth and embeds the *Victoria in Future 2019* population and dwelling projections.

In terms of employment growth, the LUPF:

- supports employment in the Inner Region by supporting the role of the two employment / enterprise precincts – Cremorne and Gipps Street (Collingwood)
- identifies the multi-faceted roles of major activity centres
- supports the employment role of the Abbotsford Industrial Precinct
- identifies the Inner Region as a location for sport, arts, culture and entertainment.

Council supports these strategies and directions but identifies some of the challenges in relation to workplace affordability and ensuring enterprise precincts promote quality development, provide attractive environments for businesses and workers, infrastructure and ease of access such as by public transport.

Council also supports the retention of industrial precincts but identifies the need for a methodology to consider alternative uses in the future should things change for example the departure of a major industry.

4. Revitalising activity centres

Yarra is home to a series of vibrant and evolving activity centres. Each centre in Yarra is unique and dynamic, with a business and land use mix that is continually changing.

The LUPF recognises the value of and variety of activity centres in the inner city – including their role in employment and housing, providing important community spaces and focuses for the community and transport interchanges.

While it recognises the changing retail sector and emerging retail vacancies in the region are key issues, the plan offers an opportunity to do more at the regional level to address this issue. One example is the consideration of nimble planning controls support change of uses in activity centres to bring creatives industries and other industries back to activity centres to bring life to the precincts.

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Council notes Action 6 which proposes to *'Apply the Movement and Place Framework to the Inner Metro Region's arterial road network and allocate priorities for transport connector improvements such as improving road space allocation for public and active transport, identify priority streets for walking and cycling, and road management and use arrangements. This should include a focus on transport interchanges and transport corridors.'* This approach is strongly supported in Yarra's activity centres but would require funding and a strong commitment from State Government.

5. Retaining Yarra's diversity and distinctiveness

Yarra strongly support the recognition of the unique character and identity of the inner city as a key element of the city's liveability for residents and businesses and attraction for visitors in the LUFP.

The LUFP identifies that as urban development intensifies, a high quality public realm, and expanded and better connected public open spaces will be crucial to ensure liveability is maintained. The plan includes a number of strategies in relation to public open space which are strongly supported but further specific actions are needed in relation to public open space provision to support these strategies.

The diversity and distinctiveness of neighbourhoods and places across Yarra are an inherent part of its character and attraction. Importantly this creates a strong sense of place for local communities and this diversity of place must be retained. Some strengthening of this aspect of the LUFP is suggested in this submission.

6. Raising standards for environment and sustainability

To better manage increasing pressures on natural resources, higher levels of population growth, and the effects of climate change, there is a need to improve how environmental sustainability is incorporated into how the built environment is designed and planned.

Yarra has long advocated for stronger environmentally sustainable design controls in the planning and building process and has adopted its *Climate Emergency Plan* as a call to action.

The focus throughout the LUFP on sustainability and resilience is welcomed. The LUFP includes directions and strategies addressing urban heat, tree canopy cover and integrated water management.

However, the plan should be much stronger on commitments to a zero emissions built environment.

For the Victorian Government to meet its target of net-zero emissions by 2050, it needs to be clear that land-use planning to enable a zero-emissions built environment is a key part of achieving that target.

It would be useful to communicate the connection between the sustainability and climate change related measures in the LUFP with those in the recently released ESD Roadmap, *Built Environment Adaptation Action Plan*, along with the work underway by local councils through the Elevating ESD Targets project.

In addition, it is suggested the LUFP address other sustainability issues such as the circular economy and future gas usage.

7. Implementation

New provisions in the planning scheme

The LUFP identifies that the plan will be largely implemented through the planning scheme.

Careful consideration is required as to how the plan's directions and strategies will translate into planning policy and inform decision making. It also important the maps are accurate and clearly assist decision making.

Other actions

A number of short to medium term actions are included in the Inner Metro Region LUFP. The five- year action program summarises these actions to be delivered collaboratively by the State Government and councils in the Inner Metro Region.

Yarra strongly supports this on-going collaborative approach. Local councils in the Inner Metro Region are already working together to address priority issues for their region and with the State Government such as through the Inner Metropolitan Partnership and the M9 group of Councils.

Many of the directions and strategies in the plan will be implemented outside the planning scheme. Successful implementation of the plan will be dependent upon improved cross-government commitment

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and co-ordination. The LUP must be clear on how its strategies will be implemented – at local, regional or State levels. There needs to be more clarity around funding, timing and responsibility.

Given the breadth of the issues covered in the document, the LUP has a small number of actions. This submission suggests a range of additional actions that could be pursued across the inner metro region to help successfully implement the plan. These include ongoing monitoring, research and data gathering and funding.

The LUP identifies there are many actions under *Plan Melbourne* and other government programs and initiatives, such as the Metropolitan Partnerships, that will contribute to improving planning outcomes in the Inner Metro Region. However, it does not list these actions, leaving the impression there are gaps in the document.

Cross referencing actions in other documents or projects being undertaken by the Inner City Partnership would assist in understanding how aspects of the plan are being implemented.

1.0 Introduction

The City of Yarra welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* (LUFP).

The development of a comprehensive, long term inner metropolitan regional plan is crucial to maintaining and enhancing the sustainability and liveability of inner Melbourne.

Council notes that *Inner Metro Land Use Framework Plan* is not intended to be a comprehensive re-write of *Plan Melbourne* but instead adds a layer of detail at the regional level.

Council reiterates its support for the key directions and strategies underpinning the Plan.

1.1 Approach of Council's submission

This submission provides both high-level and detailed comments, important in progressing the LUFP.

Yarra has only commented on parts of the LUFP relevant to the LGA. For example, no comments are provided on directions or strategies which only address the central city.

Yarra's submission focusses on seven plan's chapters:

- Productivity (jobs and investments)
- Housing choice
- Integrated transport
- Liveability
- Strong communities
- Sustainability and resilience
- Implementation.

Under each these headings, this submission outlines:

- The key directions, strategies and actions proposed in the Plan relevant to Yarra
- Considerations for Yarra – an outline of Council's broad position on each direction and its strategies
- Any changes sought by Council, including any gaps in the strategies or actions which have been identified.

Appendix 1 contains detailed comments on the maps, tables and other figures in the LUFP.

2.0 Productivity

Yarra's employment precincts and activity centres are critical economic areas that support a broad range of business and employment uses. The availability of areas of employment land in Yarra is a strength and competitive advantage and will be important in accommodating future business and employment growth.

Yarra's competitive strength as a knowledge economy is based on a clear clustering of areas where research institutions, health and education facilities, high-tech, innovative and creative firms combine to attract leading businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals.

In addition, Yarra's activity centres and areas zoned for industrial purposes that present further opportunities for additional capacity for commercial development and employment. Yarra also has an established and leading role within Victoria's creative arts industry.

2.1 Sport, arts, culture and entertainment

DIRECTION 2. Strengthen the Inner Metro Region as a local and international destination for sport, arts, culture and entertainment to attract investment and visitors

STRATEGY 5. Grow the visitor economy, night-time economy, sport and entertainment uses, and uses in the creative sector that contribute to local and international tourism in the Inner Metro Region.

STRATEGY 6. Retain existing entertainment and cultural activity spaces in the region and encourage a diversity of complementary uses to ensure the provision of venues serve industry and community needs.

STRATEGY 7. Provide affordable spaces for cultural production and performance to support the local creative and cultural industry and to attract and host international touring creatives.

Direction 2 and Strategies 5, 6 and 7 are supported.

The direction and strategies align with Council's *Economic Development Strategy*. Yarra's appeal as a destination is linked to the municipality's product strengths in the arts, hospitality, shopping, music, night-life and events. It will be important for the LUPF to reinforce the attributes that contribute to Yarra's popularity as a unique place for tourists and non-locals to visit.

Yarra has long been recognised as a creative, inclusive and sustainable municipality. Creative industries generally relate to art and cultural activities across a range of disciplines including visual arts, music, theatre, performance, literature, public art, design, fashion, filmmaking and craft.

The identification of the need for affordable spaces for production is strongly supported. There is a growing threat of unaffordability in Yarra, including rising property prices and rents for working artists, creatives and makers to live and occupy spaces and studios. (See comments below in Actions.)

2.2 Activity Centres

DIRECTION 4. Enhance the Inner Metro Region's vibrant and diverse activity centres and their contribution to the identity of the region

STRATEGY 13. Ensure the region's activity centres provide adequate jobs, services and opportunities for recreation and entertainment to service workers and visitors from across metropolitan Melbourne.

STRATEGY 14. Retain existing commercial zoned land and identify areas that can support future demand for commercial floorspace and new investment with a focus on major activity centres and major urban renewal areas.

STRATEGY 15. Encourage a diversity of employment uses in major activity centres and facilitate the provision of key services to complement other employment precincts within the Inner Metro Region.

Direction 4 does not specifically relate to productivity or employment but is strongly supported.

Yarra is home to a series of vibrant and evolving activity centres. Each centre in Yarra is unique and dynamic, with a business and land use mix that is continually changing.

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The LUFP recognises the value of and variety of activity centres in the inner city – including their role in employment and housing, providing important community spaces and focuses for the community and transport interchanges.

However, a key challenge for the inner city is the ongoing need to balance housing development with employment uses. The plan generally recognises the need for this balance particularly in the document's Strengths and Challenges sections of each theme. However, the structure of the document means that the housing and employment issues are dealt with separately. This is particularly the case in relation to activity centres.

Strategy 14 is supported however this strategy must also recognise that activity centres provide for housing opportunities, as put forward in *Plan Melbourne* and Chapter 5, Housing Choice. Their role in housing is a key feature and something Yarra relies upon.

Both Yarra's *Housing Strategy* (2018) and *Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy* (2018) (and strategies in the *Yarra Planning Scheme – Rewrite of local policies – Amendment C269*) identify Yarra's activity centres as appropriate locations for new housing and employment.

The SEES highlights the importance of identifying locations for housing that compliment (rather than disrupt) employment activity (e.g. activity centres, mixed use areas and dispersed infill in residential areas). It also recognises that demonstrating sufficient capacity to accommodate housing demand in these locations will reduce pressures for ad-hoc conversion of employment lands to residential.

Council's Housing Strategy (adopted simultaneously with the SEES) seeks to direct new housing to areas within or close to activity areas that have good access to public transport, open space, and other services and limit housing growth in established residential areas. It indicates that activity centres, alone, can supply approximately 14,300 dwellings by 2031.¹

The SEES found that Yarra's activity centres², even with substantial residential development, are likely to accommodate significant growth in retail, commercial and institutional floor space. It is anticipated that an estimated 134,000 sqm of additional floor space will be added to Yarra's larger activity centres between 2016 and 2031 for commercial, retail and institutional uses (an increase of around 10%).³

2.3 Industrial and Employment Precincts

DIRECTION 5. Retain existing and support emerging employment areas, including industrial and enterprise precincts, across the Inner Metro Region

STRATEGY 16. Support the development of enterprise precincts in Cremorne, South Melbourne, Arden and Collingwood and encourage their continued development as key locations for creative industry uses.

STRATEGY 17. Maintain a variety of uses and lot sizes in enterprise precincts to retain commercial affordability for start-ups and small businesses and ensure the agglomeration of complementary uses.

STRATEGY 18. Retain regionally-significant industrial land by managing encroachment by other uses that would cause fragmentation and may compromise the development and efficient operation of existing businesses.

STRATEGY 19. Identify and plan for areas that can support future demand for employment uses and new investment.

Yarra supports Direction 5 and Strategy 16 and 19.

The strategies around the Gipps Street Precinct and Cremorne Precinct are supported. These precincts include a diverse mix of offices, creative industries and specialised manufacturing businesses. Their

¹ Yarra Housing Strategy (page 64)

² Noting this is based on entire activity centres, not solely land in the Commercial 1 Zone.

³ The SEES assumed two floors of employment space in the Commercial 1 Zone except in the Botanica Office Park where 4 storeys were assumed. In the MUZ, 0.5-1 floor of employment space was assumed.

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proximity to the CBD, other parts of the inner Melbourne and good access to Melbourne's transport network makes them attractive for businesses seeking a location close to workers, customers, clients and other firms.

Affordability in enterprise precincts

In terms of Strategy 17, Yarra recognises that affordability is an important factor in maintaining diversity, vibrancy and creativity in enterprise precincts, all of which are critical drivers of innovation. However, lot size alone does not guarantee affordability.

This strategy could consider the factors that drive success in enterprise precincts and attract start-ups and small businesses such as quality of place; accessibility; infrastructure; collaboration; and competitive advantage.

Industrial precincts

Council supports Strategy 18 but notes that although there is no need to reconsider the role of industrial precincts at this time, it will be prudent to consider how alternative uses for these precincts might be determined.

The LUFP could be seen to 'lock up' regionally significant industrial areas with no opportunity to consider a transition to other uses where employment uses are genuinely no longer viable. The Abbotsford Industrial Precinct, identified as a regionally-significant industrial area in the draft plan, is an example of an area which may transition in the longer term.

Yarra's Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy (SEES) notes that as industrial employment continues to decline, demand for industrial zoned land is likely to contract. While the capacity analysis undertaken for the SEES suggests there is no need to reconsider the role of this and other industrial precincts at this time, a trigger to consider a change would be the departure of the major industrial land user (for example, the CUB which occupies around half the area of the Abbotsford Industrial Precinct). The SEES flags that given this, it may be prudent for Council to consider how alternative uses for these precincts might be determined.

Council flagged in its submission to the *Draft Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan* in December 2019 that detailed guidance could be developed to consider a change of use and the 'tests' that must be met, in circumstances where land is flagged as no longer viable for employment uses.

This could potentially address:

- A clear set of expectations for the precincts established early via statements of objectives and intended outcomes.
- Where appropriate, joint planning with the State Government (given its critical role in the planning and infrastructure provision process).
- A requirement for precinct plans and masterplans where sites are of sufficient scale.
- Appropriate 'tests' which must be met to demonstrate net community benefit, including:
 - Maintaining a similar level of employment or economic activity on the site
 - Likely demand for shared infrastructure that might be funded via DCPs
 - The potential for a proportion of social and affordable housing to be provided via value capture or inclusionary zoning mechanisms
 - The need for education or other social infrastructure to serve the redeveloped precinct or the wider municipality and regional community
 - Opportunities to provide public infrastructure such as open space and community facilities.

2.4 Quality medium- and higher-density environments

DIRECTION 6. Facilitate well-designed, high amenity and quality medium- and higher-density environments in major urban renewal precincts to provide employment growth

STRATEGY 24. Deliver a high-quality public realm and urban design in major urban renewal precincts, and through the region's employment precincts including activity centres and enterprise precincts.

Council considers that Direction 6 should be expanded and include enterprise precincts as well as activity centres.

Yarra's liveability and vibrancy are seen as the key strengths in attracting creative businesses. The importance of a vibrant and diverse street life; compact, distinctive and authentic neighbourhoods with a diversity of buildings; and pedestrian-friendly public spaces cannot be underestimated.

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Yarra's sustainable infrastructure (sustainable transport, green and open space) is an important attractor of creative workers. Maintaining these attributes, whilst also ensuring an availability of office and studio space will facilitate further growth in the sector.

The direction is supported with the inclusion of wording in bold:

*Direction 6. Facilitate well-designed, high amenity and quality medium- and higher-density environments in major urban renewal precincts, **enterprise precincts** and **activity centres** to provide employment growth.*

This makes a connection with Strategy 24. *Deliver a high-quality public realm and urban design in major urban renewal precincts, and through the region's employment precincts including activity centres and enterprise precincts.*

Alternatively, add a similar strategy under Direction 5.

2.5 Actions

ACTION 1. Identify precincts and opportunities where new commercial land can be supplied which can help to accommodate future needs. This may include intensification of commercial uses within existing commercial zoned land, or the rezoning of existing land for commercial uses.

ACTION 2. Implement a program of State Government-led planning projects, in partnership with local government, to ensure metropolitan and major activity centres and urban renewal areas maximise their respective strategic opportunities and contribution within the network of activity centres. Priority will be given to those which deliver significant jobs and housing, leverage investment in state infrastructure, and play an important role in the growth corridor and/or region. State-led planning for these state- and regionally-significant places will contribute to creating liveable communities and achieving more dwellings and jobs in established areas, and identify implementation and coordination actions that support growth and economic investment.

The two actions are generally supported. However, the following additional actions are suggested.

Revitalising activity centres through more nimble planning controls

While the LUPP recognises the changing retail sector and emerging retail vacancies in the region are key issues, officers consider the plan offers an opportunity to do more at the regional level to address this issue. One example is the consideration of nimble planning controls support change of uses in activity centres to bring creatives industries and other industries back to activity centres to bring life to the precincts.

Affordable work spaces / places

The plan must also define 'affordable workplaces' and 'affordability' (e.g. Strategies 7 and 17).

Council supports the concept of affordable workspaces, generally and for the arts. This is consistent with Council's *Economic Development Strategy* and also the Government's own four-year creative industries strategy, *Creative State 2025*.

Already Yarra has an established network of co-working and co-sharing facilities that are responding to the demand for diverse work preferences. In addition, they are helping to address the wider issue of work space affordability for some types of businesses and for start-ups. Affordability can have an impact on the mix of businesses (types and size) in Yarra's employment precincts.

The State Government is undertaking work that is starting to consider this issue and response measures that could be used to retain affordable work spaces. There is opportunity for Yarra to work with the Victorian Government on programs that address the issue of how to retain affordable work spaces. This work should be acknowledged in the LUPP.

2.6 Gaps

Support the actions to ensure the future supply of employment however suggested additional strategies and actions address the following:

- The Productivity Chapter should also reference the importance of regional tourist destinations. For example, the Abbotsford Convent and Collingwood Children's Farm are regional tourist destinations and support cultural and creative industries

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Direction 1 applies to the Central City. However, Strategies 3 and 4 included in this direction are also applicable to the rest of the inner metro region. Therefore, the following should be included in other directions:

- *Provide affordable and diverse workspaces to build an innovative and resilient region.*
- *Balance planning for industrial and commercial areas with pressure for ongoing residential development.*

3.0 Housing choice

Yarra acknowledges that we will continue to play an important role in accommodating future housing growth, but that this must be balanced with maintaining Yarra's neighbourhood and heritage character and important employment areas.

3.1 Housing supply

DIRECTION 8. Increase the supply of housing in the Inner Metro Region and ensure housing matches the needs of the growing and changing population

STRATEGY 28. Maximise housing development within the established areas of the Inner Metro Region to achieve the aspirational housing distribution scenario for metropolitan Melbourne.

STRATEGY 30. Increase the supply of medium and higher-density housing in appropriate locations in major activity centres, major urban renewal precincts, urban renewal areas, and in neighbourhood activity centres along tram corridors and serviced by good public transport.

STRATEGY 31. Balance employment uses with residential uses in major urban renewal precincts, major activity centres and large mixed-use developments to achieve a genuine mix of uses in locations identified for both employment uses and medium- and higher density housing.

STRATEGY 32. Support adaptive and innovative approaches in the design of new residential development that respects the heritage and neighbourhood character of the locality

Direction 8 reflects Yarra's approach in the Yarra Housing Strategy that sets a housing growth framework that demonstrates sufficient housing land availability to accommodate projected growth for the next 15 years; and guides and directs future growth in order to meet the changing needs of our community.

Strategy 28 is supported with the replacement of the word 'Maximise' with 'Facilitate'. This recognises that supply of housing does not come at the expense of creating, enhancing or protecting the identity, character and amenity of a place.

Council acknowledges the *Victoria in Future* 2019 population and dwelling projections estimate an extra 17,200 additional dwellings will be accommodated in the City of Yarra. Recent Yarra capacity work shows this can be met in growth areas in Yarra's Major and Neighbourhood Activity Centres and major rezoning sites.

Strategies 30, 31 and 32 are supported.

As noted in Productivity, the strategic directions set out in Yarra's *Housing Strategy* and *Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy* identify activity centres as primary locations for economic activity, housing, leisure and recreation, tourism, the arts and culture.

Activity centres are a focus of growth in Yarra and will continue to accommodate most of the city's growth because of their proximity to transport infrastructure, shops and services making them the most suitable locations for development.

Strategy 32 supports Yarra's strategic directions to protect, conserve and enhance the municipality's highly valued heritage places; to retain and promote Yarra's distinctive character and sense of history; and to protect and enhance the built form, character and function of streets and laneways as a feature of Yarra's urban structure and character.

Importantly for the inner region, heritage commercial streetscapes and abutting low rise residential areas means that the scale, intensity and form of additional housing supply in activity centres needs to protect highly intact heritage streetscapes and buildings; be appropriate to its role and capacity; and provide a mix of uses.

3.2 Gaps

A key challenge in planning for growth is the need to accommodate new development in a built form that is sensitive to the context of the area which includes heritage significance, character and scale of the surrounding area. This needs to be balanced with opportunities to allow for new built form character in urban renewal areas. If not carefully managed, future development could erode Yarra's valued character.

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Suggest the inclusion of a strategy to:

- *Manage the scale, intensity and form of development in activity centres to protect highly intact heritage streetscapes and buildings and responds to low rise residential neighbourhoods*

A further gap is in relation to the *quality* of the housing proposed – the focus should not only be on the quantity or ‘supply’ as referenced (although this is touched on in Direction 9).

3.3 Housing choice and diversity

DIRECTION 9. Provide greater choice and diversity of housing in the Inner Metro Region

STRATEGY 34. Support alternative and sustainable residential development formats such as co-housing or build-to-rent in appropriate locations, and car free residential development models in locations with good access to alternative transport modes.

STRATEGY 35. Facilitate the development of housing that is adaptable and flexible to cater for changing demographics and can accommodate different household types and configurations over the building's lifetime

STRATEGY 36. Optimise the opportunities for student accommodation and key worker housing within or close to Carlton-Lygon Street, Fitzroy Smith Street, and Richmond Bridge Road major activity centres and around health and/or education precincts in the Inner Metro Region.

STRATEGY 37. Ensure new residential development is well designed, durable, resilient to climate change and built to a high-quality standard.

STRATEGY 38. Adopt a place-based approach to the delivery of infill housing developments to replace ageing housing stock, ensure a high-quality of design that is appropriate for the local context and contributes to housing supply and diversity.

STRATEGY 39. Recognise the value of mixed housing tenures in the Inner Metro Region and its contribution to greater diversity in local communities.

Direction 9 is supported. Providing a diverse mix of housing options for all residents (including people with disabilities, older persons and families) helps support social inclusion and will maintain Yarra's vibrant community into the future.

However, Council also notes that any new housing should not come at the expense of creating, enhancing or protecting the identity, character and amenity of a place.

Strategies 33 to 39 reinforce Council's adopted *Housing Strategy* and *Affordable Housing and Social Housing Strategy* (2019) and are generally supported. Both strategies seek to plan for more housing choice to support Yarra's diverse community. See additional comments below.

Different housing formats

Yarra supports and seeks to stay well-informed as to the different models (such as Tiny Houses, Build-to-rent, Rent-to-Buy, Co-housing etc.) for increasing social and affordable housing stock and any implications with regards to their practical application locally.

Student accommodation

Yarra recognises that it is important to ensure that they are designed and built to meet the changing needs of occupants across their lifetime and enhance the liveability of the dwellings for the longer term.

It is recommended that the approach in this strategy could be strengthened by referencing - *The liveable and adaptable house* and relevant Australian Standards:

<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/housing/livable-and-adaptable-house>

Yarra expects that new developments will promote high accessibility standards by being in accordance with *Liveable Housing Design Guidelines* Silver level or higher. Yarra would equally expect that all new developments satisfy the minimum requirements of the Better Apartment Design Standards (BADS) of the Planning Scheme.

Student accommodation

Strategy 36 is supported subject to replacing 'Optimise the' with 'Encourage'.

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Yarra supports the tertiary institutions within the municipality and also student housing that has good access (by walking, cycling or public transport) to these institutions.

As with all development the scale of student accommodation and key worker housing would still need to be respond to the local context. This housing would not come at the expense of creating, enhancing or protecting the identity, character and amenity of a place.

Climate resilient housing

Yarra was one of the first Victorian councils to introduce an ESD Local Planning Policy raising environmental performance standards for new private developments.

Yarra's recently adopted *Climate Emergency Plan* seeks to create a city that continues to adapt to a changing climate and is ecologically healthy for all species. We are now working with other Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) member councils to pursue elevated ESD targets.

Housing tenures

Strategy 39 is supported, however this strategy should include an additional reference to this being delivered in 'tenure blind developments'.

As set out in Yarra's *Social and Affordable Housing Strategy 2019* mixed housing tenures refers to where a portion of a private market housing development is allocated to be social or affordable housing.

This strategy could be expanded to relate to 'Tenure-blind developments' where the social and/or affordable housing allocation is indistinguishable from the private housing in appearance, quality and amenity. The intent of tenure-blind development is to avoid further socio-economic marginalisation and promote community building.

Inclusionary Zoning also offers a mechanism for ensuring dwelling diversity which supports a range of housing needs in inner metro areas, including affordable housing. Further suggestions in relation to this are made under Direction 10.

3.4 Social and affordable housing

DIRECTION 10. Increase the supply of social and affordable housing

STRATEGY 40. Facilitate more affordable housing across the region, particularly in locations that have good access to jobs, services and public transport.

STRATEGY 41. Support a regional approach to determining social and affordable housing needs.

STRATEGY 42. Support the improvement and retention of existing social housing development within the Inner Metro Region.

Yarra has long supported diverse models of housing suitable for households on low incomes within its municipality, been a leader in advocating for the state government to deliver improved housing conditions for existing tenants, and to further increase the local supply of social housing.

In 2019, Yarra Council adopted its *Social and Affordable Housing Strategy*, helping to draw attention to the mechanisms within Council's control that can contribute to achieving a higher proportion of new housing being affordable to very -low, low, and moderate-income households with the municipality.

While Yarra is strongly in support of the increase in the supply of social and affordable housing, Council also recognises the important of ensuring that affordable housing dwellings be built to a high standard in terms of quality, accessibility, durability and energy-efficiency to decrease ongoing maintenance costs.

The plan recognises there is an insufficient supply of affordable housing in the Inner Metro Region and the housing prices are exceptionally higher than other metro regions. It includes directions and strategies to 'increase the supply of social and affordable housing' and 'provide greater choice and diversity of housing in the Inner Metro Region'.

The directions and strategies within the plan are strongly supported but lack specifics and actions.

Affordable housing with good access to jobs, services and public transport

Yarra recognises that geographic locations have different levels of access to employment, education, retail, recreation and services and lower income households may find themselves having to sacrifice better access to services for an affordable home.

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Social and economic disadvantages can only be addressed when people have access to transport, wraparound support services (social, health and financial) and employment options.

Any new housing however must respond to the local context: its identity, character and amenity.

Determining social and affordable housing needs

It is recommended that Strategy 41 explore initiatives focused on establishing a robust methodology to *measure* affordable housing need within regions and *assess* the regional capacity to accommodate current and projected demand

It is likely that more than 30,000 affordable rental dwellings would be needed by 2036 in the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) region⁴. Accommodation for people with special housing needs would be around 23% of new dwellings created. Of these, 68% would need to be one bedroom dwellings, 24% two bedroom, 14% three bedroom dwellings, and 4% four bedroom dwellings. Around 66% would need to be for very low income renters, and 19% for low income households (a total of 85% of projected affordable rental dwellings). The balance would be for moderate income renters (15%). (Judith Stubbs, 2020)

Retaining existing social housing development

Strategy 42 is supported, however an additional related strategy is suggested below.

3.5 Gaps

Public housing renewal

Insert a strategy to: *Ensure community benefit from any renewal of public housing is maximised.*

Yarra recognises the need for redevelopment of public housing stock that is rundown, or poor standard and lacking accessibility.

Yarra however has reservations regarding the social benefits of the 'public private partnerships' (PPP), method of redevelopment, which may generate quick wins and short-term revenue relief at the expense of gains for the community.

Inclusionary zoning

Insert a strategy that seeks to pilot Inclusionary zoning. Yarra continues to support the introduction of inclusionary zoning into the *Victorian Planning Provisions*, to be employed either at specific precincts and/or regions. Yarra recognises that this could be an action rather than a strategy.

Affordable housing

As noted above with housing in general, Yarra expects any affordable housing should:

- be tenure blind and integrated with market housing, meaning that subsidised and private dwellings should not be able to be readily differentiated through either their appearance, quality or amenity and should have equal access to all communal indoor and outdoor spaces.
- promote high accessibility standards by being in accordance with *Liveable Housing Design Guidelines* Silver level or higher.
- be built to a high standard in terms of durability and energy-efficiency to decrease ongoing maintenance cost.

3.6 Actions

ACTION 3. Update planning schemes to align with housing policies in Plan Melbourne and the Inner Metro Region Land Use Framework Plan and the implementation of the reformed residential zones. This includes providing capacity for 15 years of regional housing supply focusing on locations identified for housing growth in the LUFP.

⁴ The IMAP Region includes the Cities of Melbourne, Yarra, Port Phillip, Maribyrnong and Stonnington.

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This may require strategic planning work to support these changes such as preparing or updating local housing strategies or preparing structure plans to further investigate where increased densities can be supported, and determine specific changes required to planning schemes.

ACTION 4. Identify underutilised and surplus government land that has the potential to deliver additional social housing.

ACTION 5. In partnership with councils, identify a pipeline of sites in the Inner Metro Region for social and affordable housing.

In terms of Action 3, Council is in the process of progressing Amendment C269 which rewrite's Yarra's local policy framework. This process is well progressed with the amendment currently being considered by an independent planning panel. Council considers policy in Amendment C269 strongly aligns with LUF except the application of the 800m walking catchment. As noted above, this is not supported.

Council also notes that the amendment is being supported by capacity work which identifies that Yarra can accommodate the growth predicted in the VIF 2019.

Actions 4 and 5 are generally supported.

4.0 Integrated transport

While Yarra is well positioned to facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport, increasing car use and parking demand continues to create pressure and congestion in Yarra's streets, not just for cars but for other transport modes using the road system. The competition for the limited physical space within streets is an ongoing issue. Facilitating sustainable journeys on all transport modes will support the productivity, wellbeing and environmental values of the community. Yarra needs to reduce car dependence by promoting walking, cycling and public transport as the preferred forms of transport.

4.1 Transport connections

DIRECTION 11. Improve transport connections to support the region's competitive advantage as the economic, cultural and services hub of metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria

STRATEGY 43. Ensure major road and rail projects include public and active transport improvements and connections.

STRATEGY 44. Improve public and active transport connections to, from and through the Inner Metro Region for work, education and leisure.

STRATEGY 46. Improve public and active transport connections across the Yarra River, orbitally within the region and between major activity centres and regionally-significant places.

STRATEGY 47. Improve orbital movement corridors across the region.

STRATEGY 48. Support cycling for transport through the development of Strategic Cycling Corridors in the Inner Metro Region.

STRATEGY 49. Facilitate land use change to respond to access improvement delivered by major public transport projects.

Direction 11 and Strategies 43, 46, 48 and 49 are supported. The direction and these strategies are consistent with Council's proposed planning policy framework – being implemented through Planning Scheme Amendment C269.

Public and active transport connections

Strategy 44 is supported. However, this strategy could be expanded to outline how investment should be prioritised for example: completing missing public transport links, focus on areas with high growth.

Orbital movements

The concept of orbital movements via active and public transport in Strategy 47 is supported. However, Page 78 paragraph 3 refers to orbital movement corridors for various modes, including bicycles, and lists Victoria Parade, Alexandra Parade, Johnston Street and Hoddle Street. These corridors are not adequate for cycling and are not included in the Strategic Cycling Corridors. This paragraph could be clearer and emphasise that adequate orbital cycling access is currently limited and needs improvement/investment in accordance with the Strategic Cycling Corridors.

Page 78 paragraph 5 could be expanded to acknowledge that shared micro-mobility services (e-scooters and e-bikes) could also provide a new/innovative sustainable transport option for short/local and 'last mile' trips in Inner Melbourne. See further comments in Actions.

4.2 Active transport

DIRECTION 13. Improve active and public transport options to promote mode shift and support 20-minute neighbourhoods

STRATEGY 54. Enhance public transport coverage, frequency and capacity, improving access to destinations across the network.

STRATEGY 55. Deliver a convenient, safe and attractive pedestrian network connecting key destinations, and linking regionally-significant places and key cultural and sporting destinations.

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STRATEGY 56. Improve walking and cycling access to train stations to support medium- and higher-density housing outcomes.

STRATEGY 57. Provide walking and cycling routes and drop-off zones to health and community services, and recreation facilities.

STRATEGY 58. Plan for place in transport connector improvements.

Council is aiming to make Yarra a place where everyone can ride, walk or cycle to their destination, through an integrated network of best practice protected bike lanes, improved footpaths and support for level access tram stops.

Council strongly supports the integration of land use and development planning with public and active transport infrastructure and services to create compact, walkable, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use communities centred around train stations and other key public transport nodes.

Direction 13 and Strategies 54 to 57 are supported. However, it is noted that many of these strategies will be implemented through mechanisms outside the planning scheme and will require strong commitment from the Department of Transport, public transport providers and other government agencies.

The intent of Strategy 58 is unclear as to whether this is referring to placemaking or something else.

4.3 Transport interchanges

DIRECTION 14. Plan for transport interchanges as destinations and places for movement

STRATEGY 59. Ensure the design of transport interchanges and corridors improves active travel, public areas and their functions, and contributes to a sense of place.

STRATEGY 60. Balance movement and place when designing and upgrading the region's road network.

STRATEGY 61. Design streets that provide for sustainable transport modes and improve the public realm.

Council also wishes to create a built environment with public spaces that promote social interaction and are connected to the transport network.

Council supports this direction and its strategies, including the acknowledgment of Richmond Station as a significant transport interchange, as well as the strategies to support active transport to transport interchanges and place outcomes.

It should recognise however that Richmond Station provides access to not only the Sports Precinct but also Swan Street Major Activity Centre and the Cremorne Enterprise Precinct.

Strategy 60 could be expanded to better explain what is meant by 'movement' and 'place'. The strategy could mention aspects such as the needs of all users of this space including pedestrians, cyclists, deliveries, private vehicles and public transport, as well as people spending time in those places.

4.4 Freight movement

DIRECTION 15. Improve freight efficiency and increase capacity of gateways while managing impacts on urban amenity

STRATEGY 62. Support innovative approaches to urban deliveries, such as consolidation centres, cargo bike trials and out of hours deliveries, to reduce congestion and improve environmental outcomes.

STRATEGY 63. Ensure major land use and transport infrastructure projects appropriately consider the impacts of last kilometre freight movements while seeking to implement measures to improve the efficiency of urban freight deliveries.

Direction 15 and Strategy 63 are supported. Strategy 62 is supported with the addition to include transitioning fleet vehicles for deliveries to zero emissions, to improve amenity and environment outcomes such as noise and air quality, as per the State Government's *Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap*.

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4.5 Gaps

The strategies do not address the topic of transport innovation and technology. For example, shared micro-mobility, e-bikes, electric buses, automated vehicles etc.

4.6 Actions

ACTION 6. Apply the Movement and Place Framework to the Inner Metro Region's arterial road network and allocate priorities for transport connector improvements such as improving road space allocation for public and active transport, identify priority streets for walking and cycling, and road management and use arrangements.

Action 6 is strongly supported in Yarra's activity centres. Revitalising and reactivating our activity centres, which are currently experiencing economic changes, is an important priority for Yarra. A focus on movement and place could enhance outdoor dining, spaces to meet, active transport and allow creative interventions such as street art. The action should also reference transport interchanges and transport corridors.

Council acknowledges that balancing movement and place can be challenging and time consuming given the potentially conflicting objectives. The process would require funding and a strong commitment from State Government and its agencies.

In addition to Action 6, additional actions are required to deliver the range of strategies. Council suggests adding the following actions:

- Deliver the Strategic Cycling Corridors in a timely and prioritised approach to support this direction and mode share targets, responding to Strategy 48
- Review the public network and identify improvements for orbital movement, responding to Strategy 46 and 47
- Develop pilot and trials to deliver cycling infrastructure, responding to Strategy 48.

5.0 Liveability

Yarra is known as a place where its rich natural, Aboriginal, built and other cultural history is protected and celebrated. It helps to define the city's identity and support its diverse living culture.

The diversity and distinctiveness of neighbourhoods and places across Yarra are an inherent part of its character and attraction. Importantly this creates a strong sense of place for local communities. Enhancing our great places and precincts is fundamental to its liveability.

5.1 Cultural heritage

Direction 16. Draw on the region's culture and heritage to create a rich and layered urban environment and distinctive places

STRATEGY 64. Engage with Aboriginal communities to incorporate cultural heritage, design and stories into built and natural environment.

STRATEGY 65. Reflect the different eras, layers and aspects of the region's history in the design of contemporary buildings, public spaces, infrastructure and public artwork where appropriate.

STRATEGY 66. Ensure the ongoing identification and protection of heritage places, precincts and streetscapes and support their adaptive re-use where appropriate, particularly for creative and cultural uses.

Heritage is an important feature of Yarra's identity, which comprises historic buildings, landscapes, landmarks, streetscapes, subdivision pattern (made up of its streets, lanes and boulevards) and indigenous heritage.

Direction 16 recognises inner region's rich culture and history and is supported.

Strategy 64 is supported but should specifically reference the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung peoples. The strategy is consistent with Yarra's *Yana Ngargna Plan 2020–2023*. The idea of visible culture is an action in Yarra's *Yana Ngargna Plan 2020–2023*. The plan cites The Stolen Generations Marker, Smith Street Dreaming Festival and the use of Woiwurrung language to name Bargoonga Nganjin as good examples of Council projects that have succeeded in increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community's visibility.

Strategy 65 is also supported.

Strategy 66 references the reuse of heritage buildings particularly for cultural and creative uses. While desirable, in Yarra most adaptive re-use is for business and residential uses.

The text in '*Post-European settlement heritage*' on Page 92 states that the Royal Exhibition Building is on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a site of international cultural significance. This should be referenced as the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (REB&CG). Council suggests wording from the Draft Strategy Plan may assist. The LUPF should also recognise the World Heritage Environs Area surrounding the World Heritage site.

5.2 Open space

DIRECTION 17. Strengthen the network of open spaces and trail connections to support outdoor life, active recreation and connection to nature

STRATEGY 67. Make better use of the existing open space network through ongoing investment to ensure it meets community needs.

STRATEGY 68. Establish new open spaces within large development sites and urban renewal precincts that contribute to the regional open space network.

STRATEGY 69. Create safe and efficient links between public spaces and the shared trail network.

STRATEGY 70. Investigate opportunities to repurpose existing public land, such as easements, as part of the open space network.

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STRATEGY 71. Utilise the region's open space network to strengthen its tree canopy and urban greening, aided by water sensitive urban design and stormwater harvesting.

Open spaces within Yarra make a significant contribution to the distinctive character and amenity of neighbourhoods. They provide passive and active recreation, contribute to the city's tree canopy, and possess cultural values in places of European and indigenous heritage.

Direction 17 is supported as it recognises the need to protect and improve existing open spaces, create new open space and be creative about finding new opportunities for open space. This aligns with the *Yarra Open Space Strategy* (2020) which seeks to deliver an 'expanded and improved public open space network that contributes to a more liveable and sustainable Yarra'.

Strategies 67, 68 and 69 are supported.

Strategy 69 could be expanded to more strongly highlight the need to connect the gaps in trails / network such as along the Yarra River. This is critical in regional planning for this network.

Yarra's *Open Space Strategy* has identified there are gaps in locations where the community lacks easy walkable access to any open space. Additional open space is required to address gaps in the provision and diversity of open space especially where densities are forecast to increase. Strategy 70 is strongly supported. Yarra is investigating how existing public land can be repurposed into open space as part of the *Yarra's Open Space Strategy*. This includes road closures to create or expand open space.

Strategy 71 - Support. This aligns with Yarra's *Urban Forest Strategy 2017* and *Climate Emergency Plan 2021* which seeks to increase canopy cover despite significant development growth.

5.3 Great public streets and spaces

DIRECTION 18. Create a legacy of great streets and public spaces that serve the needs of visitors, residents and businesses

STRATEGY 72. Identify, enhance and protect existing places and spaces that have high civic or public value, and which contribute to people's understanding, interaction and enjoyment of the region.

STRATEGY 73. Ensure that future planning of the region's precincts, activity centres and urban renewal areas enhances and celebrates their distinctive assets, heritage and local character.

STRATEGY 74. Upgrade key pedestrian streets and public spaces within each activity centre to foster their civic and community role and to ensure they are accessible and inclusive. Within urban renewal precincts, create new pedestrian streets and public spaces to serve this role.

STRATEGY 75. Encourage road space allocation to prioritise pedestrian movement and spaces within key streets in activity centres and employment precincts.

STRATEGY 76. Identify opportunities to expand the network of boulevards through the region, creating high amenity, green streetscapes that prioritise sustainable and active transport modes.

STRATEGY 77. Ensure the public realm design of the Inner Metro Region's nighttime precincts promotes a high level of safety and amenity.

Great places where people want to visit and stay are dependent upon quality design outcomes – both for private development and in the public realm. Great public spaces reflect diversity, encourage interaction and invite people to be on the street. They not only benefit the community by offering spaces to comfortably and safely move through or relax and meet, but they also have the potential to boost the local economy.

Direction 18 is supported. However, in this section of the LUPF there is a significant focus on boulevards which only form a small proportion of streets in the region. While boulevards are an important part of our street network, the role other major and local streets play in the liveability of a city must also be recognised. There is also little direction of public spaces, or how *great streets and public spaces* should provide for the needs of visitors, residents and businesses. In the Inner Metro Region it is more about 'redesigning streets' as there is unlikely to be significant additions to the road network.

Strategy 73 is supported however 'enterprise precincts' should be included

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Strategy 74 - Support however acknowledgment should be given to the constraints in the existing road network, that will require significant resources to redesign and rectify.

Strategy 75 - Support. This strategy should be expanded to also encourage road space allocation to active transport consistent with other strategies in the LUFP.

Strategy 76 focusses on boulevards. Council is seeking to improve the built form character and streetscapes of Yarra's boulevards - Alexandra Parade, Hoddle Street, Victoria Parade and the south end of Queens Parade but notes these boulevards are also main roads with high traffic volumes, and not places where people are attracted to. See comments above in Direction 18.

Strategy 77 is supported. Council's *Economic Development Strategy* recognises the need to 'grow the night time economy and proactively manage safety and amenity challenges to enhance people's experience when visiting Yarra's night time precincts'.

5.4 Biodiversity

DIRECTION 19. Protect the region's landscapes and biodiversity

STRATEGY 78. Work with Traditional Owners to plan, manage and protect assets and places of high cultural, landscape and biodiversity value.

STRATEGY 79. Ensure the siting and design of new buildings and infrastructure responds to the region's significant landscape features.

STRATEGY 80. Reinvigorate and restore urban waterways, recognising their important role in providing biodiversity, open space, water management and movement corridors.

A key direction of Council is the restoration of Yarra's urban ecosystems and preserving Yarra's unique urban biodiversity. Yarra's adopted *Nature Strategy – Protecting Yarra's Unique Biodiversity 2020 - 2024* identify key areas of biodiversity within the municipality. Amongst its goals, it aims to 'increase the diversity, connectivity and resilience of Yarra's natural environment' and 'encourage people to further appreciate and actively enhance Yarra's natural landscape.'

Council's *Nature Strategy* also acknowledges that the Wurundjeri Council are key partners in the management and appreciation of natural values in the City of Yarra, as many or all of the natural values are also cultural values. Engagement and involvement of the Wurundjeri Council to ensure their values and stories are honoured and conserved is integral to the *Nature Strategy*. Council supports this strategy opportunities to work with the Wurundjeri in recognition of their heritage and custodianship of the land.

Direction 19 and its strategies are aligned with Council's *Nature Strategy* and are supported.

Strategy 79 would benefit from further clarity as 'significant landscape features' have not been defined by the LUFP.

5.5 Actions

ACTION 7. Develop and implement an Indigenous design approach to incorporate Aboriginal cultural heritage, design and stories into the region's built and natural environment. This process will involve extensive collaboration and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the region. This could be a pilot project suitable for other regions.

ACTION 8. Work with Traditional Owners and research organisations to develop specific and measurable actions to increase biodiversity and resilience of urban ecosystems, particularly those that do not have high biodiversity value.

Council supports the inclusion of Action 7.

Action 8 is also supported and, as highlighted above in Direction 19, aligns with Council's *Nature Strategy*.

5.6 Gaps

The delivery of public open space is a key issue identified in Council's *Open Space Strategy*. Council is currently pursuing a planning scheme amendment to increase the public open space contribution rate in the planning scheme as a key mechanism to secure more public open space in Yarra.

Council considers the LUFP is lacking in actions which assist in the delivery of public open space. The plan should acknowledge the State Government's '*Open Space for Everyone*' – *Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021*' and could cross-reference some important actions it contains or tailor some of its actions specifically for the inner region. For example, one of the actions noted is a 30 year investment opportunities framework. The purpose of this plan is to '*identify gaps in the network and would guide priorities, funding and responsibilities for initiatives to fill the gaps*'. Other on-going State Government programs such as the 'Local Parks Program' are also strongly supported by Council.

In addition, an action around the World Heritage Environs area is also suggested. A precinct of World Heritage status requires planning, implementation and coordination actions for maintaining, and celebrating this world heritage status.

6.0 Strong communities

Yarra's population is growing and the needs and preferences for services is changing. Flexible, well-located and maintained social and community infrastructure is a priority for Council. Social infrastructure includes the places, spaces, physical assets, services, programs and activities that are accessed by the community for social interaction, recreation and physical activity.

6.1 Planning for major social infrastructure

DIRECTION 20. Plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level to meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors

STRATEGY 81. Review the demand for, and opportunity to, upgrade and expand existing social infrastructure such as libraries or facilities for recreation, health or education, to enable them to be more flexibly and intensively used.

STRATEGY 83. Encourage planning for major social infrastructure (such as libraries, recreation facilities, cultural centres or community hubs) to be undertaken in conjunction neighbouring regions to maximise co-location of facilities.

STRATEGY 84. Locate social infrastructure near activity centres and to be accessible by walking, cycling or public transport.

STRATEGY 85. Support regional planning that will provide for a range of sporting and active recreation facilities to meet the needs of the growing population.

Council's *Community Infrastructure Framework* (2016) highlights that social / community infrastructure must recognise the changing nature of the inner city by providing flexible, accessible innovative and adaptable facilities that reflect universal design and are able to meet multiple service needs.

Direction 20 and Strategies 81, 83, 84 and 85 align with the directions in the Framework and are supported. For example, the Framework identifies opportunities for shared use and partnership opportunities with State Government and private organisations. It also seeks to deliver links to community infrastructure which enable people to meet socialise and engage formally and informally.

See comments in Gaps below in relation to recreation.

6.2 Health and education precincts

DIRECTION 21. Support the region's role in delivering state-significant health and education services while providing for the local community

STRATEGY 86. Strengthen the role of health and/or education precincts of the Inner Metro Region by co-locating new health and/or education facilities within these precincts and encouraging an agglomeration of ancillary uses such as primary healthcare, retail and accommodation.

STRATEGY 87. Expand the network of health and education facilities and precincts across the region to meet the needs of the growing population. Ensure that these facilities and precincts are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.

STRATEGY 88. Support the upgrade of existing health and education infrastructure to encourage more intensive use of those services.

Major health and education precincts across metropolitan Melbourne have been identified in *Plan Melbourne* for further services and jobs growth. These precincts are seen to stimulate innovation, create employment and are of fundamental importance to the emerging knowledge economy and surrounding communities.

The identification of regionally significant health and/or education precincts provides an additional layer to *Plan Melbourne* which only identifies precincts of State Significance.

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The LUFP identifies the following State and regionally significant health and/or education precincts in Yarra:

Health and/or Education Precinct	Location
State significant Health Precinct	Epworth Hospital (Richmond)
Regionally-significant Education Precinct	Melbourne University (Bumley) Melbourne Polytechnic (Fairfield) Melbourne Polytechnic (Collingwood) Kangan Institute of TAFE (Richmond)
State-significant Health and Education Precinct	St Vincent's and Australian Catholic University Precinct (East Melbourne/Fitzroy)

Direction 21 and Strategies 86 to 88 are supported.

Proposed strategies in the *Yarra Planning Scheme - Rewrite of local policies – Amendment C269*, which is currently before a planning panel, support the expansion of health-related employment and services in Yarra's health precincts. It notes health related employment is projected to grow substantially, and proximity to established hospitals is an important factor for the location of a large proportion of these jobs.

The SEES notes Yarra's health precincts will be under pressure to accommodate considerable growth to 2031. An additional 70,000 sqm of additional floor space would be required across Victoria Parade and Bridge Road to accommodate projected growth (a 45% increase). A total of 206,000 sqm of additional institutional floor space is projected to 2031.⁵

6.3 20 minute neighbourhoods

DIRECTION 22. Strengthen the inner Metro Region's network of 20-minute neighbourhoods

STRATEGY 90. Plan for existing and new activity centres to embed the 20-minute neighbourhood hallmarks, through a place-based, community partnership approach.

STRATEGY 91. Support a consistent designation of neighbourhood activity centres and their role in the network of activity centres across the Inner Metro Region.

STRATEGY 92. Support the role of neighbourhood activity centres to provide a range of retail, community and allied health services to their respective local catchments.

STRATEGY 93. Ensure the planning and design of urban renewal precincts and major transport infrastructure projects maximises opportunities to embed the hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

20 minute neighbourhoods

Direction 22 and Strategies 90 and 93 are supported in principle. Creating 20 minute neighbourhoods – where people can access a range of shops, local services within 20 minutes of home aligns with Council's housing, sustainability and transport policies. Historically much of the inner city already achieves a 20 minute neighbourhood with high levels of accessibility.

Both strategies use the term 'hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods' but these are not defined in LUFP. A definition of the hallmarks/characteristics would assist in implementing this strategy.

⁵ SEES, page 66

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Neighbourhood activity centres

It is unclear what issues Strategy 91 is trying to address and what a '*consistent designation of neighbourhood activity centres*' means.

Strategy 92 which supports the role of neighbourhood centres in providing a range of retail, community and allied health services is consistent with the Council's current and proposed policy framework and is supported.

6.4 Actions

ACTION 9. Develop a methodology for a social infrastructure strategy for the Inner Metro Region. This would consider social infrastructure such as libraries, multi-use community and recreation facilities, and assess how they can be used more flexibly and intensively. This could be a pilot project suitable for other regions.

Council supports this action in principle. However, the scope needs further clarification. It is unclear if it is intended to address local as well as regional services. The project also requires dedicated funding.

6.5 Gaps

Planning for health and/or education precincts

There is no action which addresses how health and education precincts will be encouraged and planned for. Like the strategies in the LUFP, Council's planning policies seek to encourage health care and uses to locate with the precincts, however there are no implementation plans to support this.

Implementation plans for Yarra and inner city should to consider opportunities / limitations on expansion, public transport access, public stop accessibility, improvements to public realm such as providing seating, and how to facilitate ancillary uses. As noted under Direction 21, amenity impacts on surrounding commercial and residential areas also need to be considered. They will need to be developed in partnership with health and education providers (State or private), State Government departments and the community.

Sport and recreation as a key land use

A major gap in the LUFP is any reference to recreation and sports grounds. The plan includes references to industry, population growth, transport infrastructure and climate, but has no meaningful mention of sport and recreation – a key land use in the inner city.

The pandemic has proved that people want to access quality sport and recreation facilities in and around their neighbourhood and municipality.

This has highlighted a number of issues, including where the new population going to recreate, who is going to fund this and what could be done to assist Councils and communities?

The focus in Directions 1 and 20, which mention recreation, is in the context of big venues in the region and economic attraction. There is nothing of note in relation to local infrastructure and access. Council considers there should be a greater focus in the plan on people being active. Consequently, it should contain more specific content addressing the lack of sportsgrounds and other sports and recreation facilities.

The plan also does not identify Yarra Bend Park as the last of the existing current sports infrastructure that could be invested in to accomplish social connection and health outcomes. It is mentioned in relation to wildlife and nature conservation, which is supported but there is no discussion about how the capacity and use of the park can be improved to cater for more people.

7.0 Sustainability and Resilience

To better manage increasing pressures on natural resources, higher levels of population growth, and the effects of climate change, there is a need to improve how environmental sustainability is incorporated into how the built environment is designed and planned.

Yarra has long advocated for stronger environmentally sustainable design controls in the planning and building process and has adopted its *Climate Emergency Plan* as a call to action.

The focus throughout the LUFP on sustainability and resilience is welcomed. However, it must stronger commitments to a zero emissions built environment.

7.1 Managing urban heat

DIRECTION 23. Integrate cooling and greening initiatives with land use and infrastructure change to assist in managing urban heat

STRATEGY 94. Design and develop outdoor spaces that are cool on hot days through materials, vegetation and water sensitive urban design particularly in and around activity centres, within the Central City, on major redevelopment sites and within urban renewal precincts.

STRATEGY 95. Encourage the greening of roofs, façades, walls or building setbacks with irrigated, climate resilient planting within apartment developments and large commercial or industrial sites.

Direction 23 is supported. This direction strongly aligns with Council's *Climate Emergency Plan* which seeks to 'create a climate-adapted city'.

Strategies 94 and 95 and the text which sits under Direction 23 would benefit from acknowledging the other measures that can and should be used for urban cooling, especially given space constraints for additional trees in highly urbanised areas: e.g. roof or façade materials in light colours with high albedo / solar reflectivity; shading structures and through orientation; passive cooling techniques; permeable paving and light coloured hard surfaces.

For example:

"Expansion of the tree canopy is the most effective measure to reduce the impact of urban heat. However, due to the compact urban form of many parts of the Inner Metro Region and lack of space for new canopy trees, other forms of cooling and greening infrastructure will need to be used. This includes vertical and rooftop greening, green façades and planting more compact forms of vegetation within laneways, streets or narrow building setbacks. Cooling and greening needs to be considered for buildings, open spaces and pedestrian connections between key destinations"

7.2 Increasing tree canopy cover

DIRECTION 24 - Increase the tree canopy cover across the Inner Metro Region to achieve 28 per cent cover by 2050.

STRATEGY 96. Support alternative siting of buildings and more compact building forms to retain mature canopy vegetation.

STRATEGY 97. Increase tree canopy along urban waterways and on streetscapes, public land, large developments within activity centres, open spaces and road reserves, and large commercial and industrial sites.

STRATEGY 98. Require revegetation within the redevelopment of key sites, activity centres and urban renewal precincts to allow for the irrigation and spatial requirements of a healthy urban forest and dense tree canopy cover.

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Direction 14 which seeks to increase the tree canopy cover across the Inner Region to 28% by 2050 is strongly supported.

Council notes that this figure is based on *Liveable Melbourne* to which Yarra was a signatory. It differs from target in Council's 2018 Urban Forest Strategy that by 2040 increase the canopy cover for the whole municipality by 25% a 17% baseline in 2014.

Council's *Climate Emergency Plan* and *Urban Forest Strategy* identify the need to enhance our urban forest to increase tree canopy, diversity and climate resilience.

Strategies 97 and 98 are supported.

Building siting to accommodate canopy trees

Strategy 96 is a worthwhile strategy. It would benefit from discussion about what is meant by alternative siting, especially when the siting of new developments can often follow the precedent that has been set by the existing building. For example, in inner urban area, many buildings are already built to the boundary with no set back from the street.

Canopy trees at the front of the property provide public benefits of shading footpaths and roads, as well as the building. Council considers that further work / guidance is required to explore options for how this could be achieved in the inner city with its small lots, pattern of front or backyards and numerous heritage buildings.

Increasing canopy trees on private land

The LUPF acknowledges that inner metro region is losing tree canopy in the private realm. Table 14 includes an aspirational distribution of tree canopy cover that shows 40% of the canopy should be met on residential, commercial, and industrial sites. This is a substantial proportion given the existing site constraints and allowable built form outcomes. The inclusion of carriageways could assist with meeting the targets through street tree planting that occur outside of private lots. As noted above, further work is needed to enhance canopy cover on private land. Noting the public realm cannot do 'all the heavy lifting' when it comes to increasing canopy, it is unclear why parks, open space and waterways have a smaller tree canopy cover target than the residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The LUPF should show what the percentage is now and what percentage change is needed from these sectors to achieve the desired canopy cover. Ongoing mapping of the different target categories needs to be undertaken to monitor how LGA are tracking.

7.3 Integrated Water Management

DIRECTION 25. Implement integrated water management initiatives to improve water quality, reduce the impacts of stormwater inundation, utilise stormwater and protect the region's key water assets

STRATEGY 99. Implement a regional approach to floodplain management and waterway drainage.

STRATEGY 100. Retain and harvest stormwater at a range of scales to achieve co-benefits that respond to urban heat, reduce runoff volume and velocity, service community infrastructure and trees, and reduce reliance on potable water for urban greening.

STRATEGY 101. Design development to provide passive irrigation to onsite vegetation and on adjacent public land not affected by industrial contamination and/or seawater infiltration.

Council adopted its *Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2030* in 2020. Its vision is to create 'A water wise city in a healthy urban environment'. Direction 25 and Strategies 99, 100 and 101 are consistent with this and are supported with some minor edits.

In the 'State of Play', the current context and issues for 'Urban heat environments' are well articulated and supported by the evidence, both existing and projected urban heat conditions.

In contrast the 'Flooding risk and waterway health' section discusses the current conditions broadly but does not clearly articulate future risks to flood and waterway health, particularly due to climate change. This section could draw on other DELWP climate change / flood management / integrated water management work to do this.

In Strategy 99, 'waterway drainage' should be replaced with 'waterway management and waterway health' as waterway drainage is narrow and is no longer a term that is used in relation to waterways. It is suggested this section is aligned with DELWP catchment management / integrated water management work.

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Strategy 100 should include the term 'treat' as well as "retain and harvest" to maintain a focus on improving water quality before it is discharged to waterways and not just on capturing and harvesting water for use.

It is suggested that stormwater is broadened to include 'rainwater and stormwater' as there is still considerable potential to intercept clean rainwater from roofs and facades before it becomes polluted stormwater.

Strategy 101 should be reworded to make it clearer. Council suggests the following:

Design buildings, precincts and the public realm to maximise opportunities for water sensitive design and address stormwater management needs. This would enhance urban cooling and greening, improving pedestrian environments.

7.4 Zero emissions

DIRECTION 26. Design urban renewal precincts and major redevelopment sites to support zero emissions and climate resilient urban areas

STRATEGY 102. Maximise the thermal efficiency and ability to support renewable and smart energy technology of the built environment through site layout and precinct design in major redevelopment sites and urban renewal precincts.

STRATEGY 103. Design buildings and the public realm with future stormwater needs and opportunities as a priority consideration to inform other precinct and building design outcomes and enhance pedestrian environments.

Strong commitment to zero emissions

Council considers Chapter 9 should be much stronger on commitments to a zero emissions built environment.

For the Victorian Government to meet its target of net-zero emissions by 2050, it needs to be clear that land-use planning to enable a zero-emissions built environment is a key part of achieving that target.

As a minimum, Direction 26 should say to 'achieve a zero emissions standard' not 'support zero emissions'. In addition, this direction should not only apply to urban renewal precincts and major redevelopment sites but across all forms of development.

7.5 Gaps

Elevating ESD standards

The 'Sustainability in the built environment' section of the chapter discusses the ESD work by local councils though planning, but should make reference to the joint Elevating ESD Targets Planning Policy Amendment project with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and 29 urban and regional Victorian councils.

The project is working towards a planning scheme amendment that builds on the existing local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Policies to deliver revised and elevated ESD targets for new development, including targets for zero carbon development.

Council recommends the LUFP should include a direction or strategy to '*strengthen and extend ESD considerations for commercial and industrial developments*.' This is not currently discussed in the LUFP and would complement a key area of reform identified in the ESD Roadmap.

Strategy 103 does not appear to be in the correct location and would better fit under Direction 25 as it appears to relate more to stormwater.

Renewable and distributed energy systems

The LUFP is currently silent on distributed and integrated energy systems (such as local renewable energy generation, networks, storage and integration of electric vehicle charging) for major new developments or urban renewal areas. The LUFP should include planning for these types of emerging systems.

Circular Economy

The LUFP mentions the Victorian Government's strategy to develop a circular economy but does not include any discussion, strategies or actions for land use planning to enable the development of a circular economy.

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Given the LUFP has a 2050 time horizon, it should include discussion of the circular economy as they relate to land use planning, such as a desire to design out waste, recirculate finite resources at local/regional scales and support land use planning for local/regional waste facilities, and avoiding the transportation of waste vast distances. For new precinct-scale developments, the LUFP should discuss the opportunities for future precinct-wide waste/resource collection, reuse and recovery systems. These may include waste energy, organic waste products and gases, and wastewater.

Decarbonisation of the gas sector

The LUFP also does not appear to acknowledge the Victorian Government's focus on decarbonisation of the gas sector and their work on the '*ESD Roadmap*'. There is a need for stronger planning policy to drive a gas-free, zero-carbon built environment.

As noted in Council's submission to the *ESD Roadmap*, there is an opportunity for the Victorian Government to accelerate gas substitution in new developments. This can be achieved by State and other Local Governments introducing consistent zero carbon (gas-free) planning provisions.

Links to other work

In finalising Chapter 9 'Sustainability and resilience' it would be useful to communicate the linkages between the sustainability and climate change related measures in the LUFP with those in the ESD Roadmap, Built Environment AAP, along with the work underway by local councils through the Elevating ESD Targets project.

7.6 Actions

ACTION 10. Identify non-residential land where additional canopy trees can be planted to offset vegetation removal.

ACTION 11. Investigate options to develop a pilot fund to underground powerlines to support expanded tree canopy cover.

ACTION 12. Undertake detailed coastal settlement planning to identify short-, medium- and long-term options to reduce risk to population, infrastructure, ecosystems and property from sea level rise, storm surges, coastal erosion, tidal inundation and saline groundwater intrusion.

Offsetting vegetation removal

Action 10 is unclear. It could expand its scope by the deletion of 'non-residential' land. This change will assist in the achieving the tree canopy cover increases across all landuse types. If the intention of this action is to propose the use of vegetation offsets, then the action needs to be made clearer.

Depending what is actually being proposed here, Council has concerns about potential offset schemes for the following reasons:

- There are competing and diminishing opportunities for additional tree planting on public land. Roles and responsibilities in an offset policy would need to be clearly identified.
- Tree planting opportunities available on public land should be taken up to maximise urban cooling. In that sense, it would not be a genuine offset.
- Tree planting for urban cooling has highly localised benefits. It is not like carbon emissions to the atmosphere which lends itself more to offset schemes. That is, our cities particularly need additional tree planting in the specific locations that are hotter (as shown by the heat vulnerability mapping in the LUFP). The same outcome is not achieved if trees are removed in an area as part of a new development but planted elsewhere as an 'offset'.

Undergrounding powerlines

Action 11 is a worthwhile action, mainly for new development precincts where it is more likely be viable. However, if the LUFP is putting forward specific funding actions around powerlines, it should consider those that may be less expensive and could be done more readily in more areas, such as bundling aerial powerlines.

Attachment 1 - CoY Draft Submission - October 2021 - Final(2)*Additional actions*

The LUFP would benefit from identifying if or how other potential actions related to the points raised above are already being progressed through other State Government strategies such as land use planning to enable a circular economy and planning measures that are in the *Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan*. A further example is the *Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan*, which includes actions that would extend spatial mapping and hazard exposure modelling to support land use and infrastructure planning, design and investment. A key part of this will be further developing and sharing spatial information and modelling risks based on future climate scenarios with local councils.

8.0 Implementation

New provisions in the planning scheme

The LUFP identifies that the plan will be largely implemented through the planning scheme.

Careful consideration is required as to how the plan's directions and strategies will translate into planning policy and inform decision making. Council officers would value the opportunity to review any proposed planning provisions before they are approved.

It is also important the maps are accurate, rather than indicative, and clearly assist decision making. Comments on the maps can be found in Appendix 1.

It is unclear how changes to policy once embedded in the Scheme would occur. Council must have the ability to propose changes / updates to regional policy which may be required over time. For example, if Council were to propose changes the boundaries of activity centres or a major rezoning is mooted.

Other actions

A number of short to medium term actions are included in the Inner Metro Region LUFP. The five- year action program summarises these actions to be delivered collaboratively by the State Government and councils in the Inner Metro Region.

Yarra strongly supports this on-going collaborative approach. Local councils in the Inner Metro Region are already working together to address priority issues for their region and with the State Government such as through the Inner Metropolitan Partnership and the M9 group of Councils.

This submission highlights that there is need for further detail on the implementation plan and actions, so it has a forward plan over 30 years, alongside appropriate monitoring and updating.

Many of the directions and strategies in the plan will be implemented outside the planning scheme. Successful implementation of the plan will be dependent upon improved cross-government commitment and co-ordination. The LUFP must be clear on how its strategies will be implemented – at local, regional or State levels. There needs to be more clarity around funding, timing and responsibility.

Given the breadth of the issues covered in the document, the LUFP has a small number of actions. This submission suggests a range of additional actions that could be pursued across the inner metro region to help successfully implement the plan. These include ongoing monitoring, research and data gathering and funding.

The LUFP identifies there are many actions under *Plan Melbourne* and other government programs and initiatives, such as the Metropolitan Partnerships, that will contribute to improving planning outcomes in the Inner Metro Region. However, it does not list these actions, leaving the impression there are gaps in the document.

Cross referencing actions in other documents or projects being undertaken by the Inner City Partnership would assist in understanding how aspects of the plan are being implemented.

Appendix 1 - Comments on Figures, Maps and Tables

Productivity

Maps and Tables	
Map 2	<p>Council is currently progressing Amendment C269 which is defining the boundaries of our Major Activity Centres. The boundaries included on Map 2 should reflect the outcomes of the Amendment once finalised.</p> <p>Use of term 'Regionally significant commercial land' is confusing. Key should also note these are Major Activity Centres.</p> <p>This plan should also show Neighbourhood Activity Centres as it is labelled Precincts and Activity Centres.</p> <p>Collingwood (including Gipps Street) and Cremorne are shown as 'regional significant industrial land'. This is not supported. Both areas are zoned Commercial 2 an identified as 'enterprise precincts' on other maps in the Plan. Naming and mapping should be consistent.</p>
Table 3	<p>Do not support the inclusion of Abbotsford Industrial Precinct as regionally significant without the opportunity to transition in the longer term. (See the comments in the body of this submission.)</p>
Table 6	<p>Delete table as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is not referenced in the Directions or strategies so its purpose and implementation are not clear it is not clear if these descriptions have had regard to the changing nature of retailing, and reflected retail vacancies (not just from COVID-19) does not foster support for creative and cultural uses to be part of changing activity centres. <p>Should the table remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all Yarra Activity Centres should include the following descriptions in column 3 to: <i>Accommodate new housing and commercial growth, while protecting heritage fabric; foster support for creative and cultural uses to be part of changing activity centres</i> (this aligns with Strategy 66) Richmond – Bridge Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future roles / strategic opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to schools, leisure centre and civic functions around the Richmond Town Hall. Increase residential development including medium- and high density while protecting heritage fabric Brunswick & Smith Streets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attributes: Foster particularly live music venues (should be mentioned specifically) To be considered: Each is part of a network of centres (proximity Smith & Brunswick St), linked by NACs (Gertrude & Johnston St) and supported by surrounding mixed use areas Future Role/Strategic Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support ability for creative/maker spaces to occupy spaces Increase public & social & affordable housing Support live music venues.

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Housing choice

Maps and Tables	
Map 3	<p>Council is currently progressing Amendment C269 which is defining the boundaries of our Major Activity Centres. The boundaries included on Map 3 should reflect the outcomes of the Amendment once finalised.</p> <p>Use of term 'Regionally significant commercial land' is confusing. Key should also note these are Major Activity Centres if that is the case.</p> <p>This plan should also show Neighbourhood Activity Centres as it is labelled Precincts and Activity Centres.</p> <p>Delete reference to walkable catchment. The 800m walkable catchment does not reflect the more nuanced context of compact urban areas in the inner metro region. The inner region is characterised by low residential areas, many with heritage significance, abutting commercial areas or industrial areas. Yarra's approach to managing growth is set out in the Yarra Housing Strategy and the application of zones implemented to protect residential neighbourhoods and heritage areas in Yarra. Yarra is not relying on the established residential neighbourhoods to contribute substantially to housing growth, although some small-scale development will add to Yarra's housing supply over the next 15 year.</p> <p>A much more tailored approach is required, identifying locations within centres where growth is expected and managing the appropriateness of scale through policy and Design and Development Overlays.</p>
Table 11	<p><i>Major Activity Centres</i></p> <p>Support subject to the deletion of the text (crossed out) to reflect earlier comments.</p> <p><i>Major activity centres are suited to medium and higher density housing and mixed-use development. Substantial housing change opportunities may extend to a walkable catchment of 800 metres around the centre (depending on the local context) based on the 20-minute neighbourhood principle of locating housing close to jobs, services, amenities and public transport.</i></p> <p><i>Neighbourhood Activity Centres</i></p> <p>Support subject to the deletion of the text (crossed out) to reflect earlier comments.</p> <p><i>Some neighbourhood activity centres may be suitable for mixed-use medium- and higher-density housing, particularly when they are serviced by good public transport. Housing opportunities may also extend to a walkable catchment of 800 metres around the centre (depending on the local context) based on the 20-minute neighbourhood principle of locating housing close to jobs, services, amenities and public transport.</i></p> <p><i>Urban renewal</i></p> <p>Support subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updated text reflecting the significant planning that has occurred for both sites. - Reference to 'Amcor Site' be placed with 'Former Amcor Site'.

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Integrated Transport

Maps, Figures and Tables	
Map 4	<p>The Strategic Cycling Corridors should be shown as existing and future. All other networks reflect existing infrastructure, whereas some of SCC do not yet exist (e.g. Bridge Rd).</p> <p>Gipps Street and Cremorne should be shown consistently across maps in the plan. In this map, they are missing the 'Enterprise Precinct' designation. (See comments on Map 2.)</p> <p>Unclear why the map shows the industrial / enterprise precincts but not the extent of activity centres. Important to show both.</p>
Figure 14	<p>This figure is based on how far people need to walk to access public transport. It appears that most of Yarra has very high access to public transport. More importantly for the inner metro region is the level of service/frequency. This figure should reflect level of service/frequency (e.g. train could be scored higher than bus) and population growth for different areas.</p> <p>This figure could also more clearly reflect the issue of poor orbital public transport options and appears to primarily consider access to the CBD. E.g. Burnley corridor is shown as having good access to public transport, however the only service available are east-west trams into CBD and no north-south public transport. The map could be improved to show these gaps more clearly.</p> <p>A methodology for this map would assist e.g. it is unclear why Burnley Station rates so low.</p>
Figure 15	<p>More detail could be shown about where the majority of trips are happening. The graphic shows trips into the Metro area / CBD, if possible further detail showing trips to key destinations/employment centres could be shown.</p>
Figure 16	<p>This figure should show links from Moreland and Darebin as they were noted in the preceding section in the report.</p> <p>This figure is difficult to understand.</p>
Map 5	<p>Consider this map could be combined with Map 4.</p> <p>If retained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The colouring of Gipps Street and Cremorne must be corrected, it is currently coloured industrial with no 'Enterprise Precinct' designation. • Bus corridors should be shown on Hoddle Street and the Eastern Freeway • Doncaster busway upgrades associated with North East link project should be noted. • See notes on Map 4 re Strategic Cycling Corridors.

Liveability

Maps, Figures and Tables	
Table 12	<p>Should separate out the Yarra River from other waterways in the Table. It is a highly significant landscape / biodiversity feature of the region.</p>
Map 6	<p>Should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gaps in the existing regional network along the Yarra River • the Corroboree Tree in Burnley Oval

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Maps, Figures and Tables	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Site and Environs Area Identify Fitzroy and Collingwood as areas of special significance – they are the cradle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in Victoria, birthplace of important Aboriginal organisation, centre for political activism and a meeting place <p>Mark extent of major and neighbourhood activity centres (rather than show with a dot) – they are important in terms of liveability</p> <p>Unclear what is meant by 'Yarra River Land'</p>
Text on page 93 & Figure 19	<p>Between the text in 'Open space and regional trails' & Figure 19, the figures are inconsistent e.g. <i>Inner Metro Region provides for an average of 44 square metres of public open space</i> and Fig 19 shows 46.1 m².</p> <p>Paragraph states <i>Yarra LGA provides 38 square metres</i> and Fig 19 shows 33.7m².</p>

Stronger Communities

Maps, Figures and Tables	
Map 7.	Suggest some of the larger parks e.g. Yarra Bend Park with bushland and walking tracks, playing fields and golf courses are major recreational facilities.

Sustainability and resilience

Maps, Figures and Tables	
Figure 25	The tree canopy cover for Yarra is stated as 13.7% in 2014 and 14.8% in 2018. Council's Urban Forest Strategy states that the tree canopy cover measured from 2014 imagery was 17% (includes public and private land).
Map 8	<p>It would be useful to note the definition of 'Yarra River land' and refer to the (currently unendorsed) Yarra Strategy Plan.</p> <p>Be helpful to note the source of the data on the map.</p> <p>Council's <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i> identifies a few more vulnerable areas.</p>
Map 9	Priority - Urban heat response is marked blue and covers the entire region. Needs to be clearer this means it's a priority for all land use planning / built form across the region to have new/additional urban heat responses. Priority – Expand tree canopy cover - The areas in Yarra indicated to expand urban tree canopy (teal colour) appear to be existing parkland and these are not prioritised in Yarra's <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i> . (See Page 59 of the Strategy for Council's priorities.)

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Maps, Figures and Tables	
Appendix 01.	'Adaption Action Plans' should be 'Adaptation Action Plans'

8.6 Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Reference	D21/137456
Author	Siu Chan - Unit Manager Arts, Culture and Venues
Authoriser	Director Community Wellbeing

Purpose

1. To seek Council approval for the Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 to be put on public exhibition to enable a new five year arts and culture strategy to be adopted for implementation.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Yarra's last arts and culture strategy (2016-2020) is due for renewal and the process in developing a new strategy has been extended as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Preparations for a new strategy began in 2019 with an environmental scan and consultation with the local community. The initial community engagement included an online survey and pop-up face-to-face consultation events.
4. Over 350 people participated in this research and discovery phase, including one hundred children, Yarra's business community, arts and culture advisory group members and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.
5. The consultation revealed that people love the diversity, accessibility and vibrancy of Yarra's arts and culture, as well as their contribution to Yarra's sense of identity.
6. In contrast, they found Yarra challenging for its lack of affordable spaces and the associated financial vulnerability of its artists. They wanted more public events, studio spaces, and artist-in-residence opportunities.
7. This feedback and information arising from the environmental scan led to the creation of priorities for the arts and culture strategy for the next five years. Council then ran a series of in depth 90 minute workshops to test the priorities and develop initiatives for Council action.
8. These were conducted in person and online as an open invitation to community members and special interest groups. Participants included artists at Abbotsford Convent and Collingwood Yards, artists in residence at Yarra Youth Services, CALD communities and the Victoria Street Traders Association, as well as Council Advisory Committees (Active Ageing Advisory Committee, Yarra Environment Advisory committee and Yarra Yana Ngargna Advisory Group) and Council staff.
9. 55 people attended 90 minute workshops across three online and two in person sessions. Further to this, special sessions were convened with the Artists in Residence at Yarra Youth Services and with community members who were able to participate online representing a culturally and linguistically diverse focus.
10. The ongoing COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions meant the format of workshops to test the priorities and develop initiatives had to be adapted to ensure we can reach all the identified stakeholders.
11. The draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 builds on the work of the previous strategy, aims to enable Council to respond to the opportunities and challenges over the next five years and reflects the community's aspirations and enthusiasm for a creative connected Yarra.

Discussion

12. Whilst Council's position with respect to its vision for arts and culture in our city remains the same, the impact of the pandemic on the arts and cultural sector has been devastating and the path to recovery is still to be charted.
13. In 2016, the greatest threat to Yarra's vitality was the combined effect of gentrification, rental unaffordability and the pressure of growing density on our public spaces. While these conditions continue to present a challenge, they are overshadowed the COVID-19 pandemic which has had a profound impact on our health, social wellbeing and economy.
14. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is unparalleled in recent history, and particularly detrimental to our creative community. This has led to an explicit focus in this strategy on initiatives and actions to revitalise the creative economy and the arts and culture sector.
15. It is expected that the reshaping of the arts and cultural landscape will unfold over the entire life of the next arts and cultural strategy and Council has the opportunity to play a critical role in supporting the recovery and optimising the opportunities. Additional efforts will be required so that arts and cultural activities can continue to be integrated into our City, as an everyday experience, enjoyed by all of our community.
16. The integrated service delivery approach for arts and culture has been in place since the previous strategy and that continues to develop and deliver good outcomes for Yarra; as demonstrated in projects that integrate public artwork into place making, supporting projects that increase participation in older and vulnerable communities and providing visibility and celebrating culture to our First Nations community to name a few.
17. The next arts and cultural strategy continues and expands on this approach and this is most clearly demonstrated in the way the draft Arts and Cultural Strategy is closely aligned with the Community Vision and the draft Council Plan 2021-2025.
18. The draft strategy also shows the leadership role Yarra continues to play as a progressive community by explicitly integrating a priority for a creative response to the challenge of climate sustainability.
19. Arts and culture can delight and inspire, but also can create health and wellbeing outcomes, generate economic benefits, create vibrant spaces but also artists can help us imagine alternative futures.
20. A thriving creative community is what makes Yarra strong and vibrant and a city that is sought after as a place to live, work, and play.
21. The draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026 builds on the values and successes of the 2016–2020 strategy, while also responding to the threats and opportunities presented by the pandemic and the climate emergency.
22. It sets out five priorities:
 - (a) Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are at the heart of Yarra;
 - (b) Artists are essential to a thriving Yarra;
 - (c) Our arts and culture shape Yarra's places and spaces;
 - (d) We celebrate and support our creative and diverse community; and
 - (e) Our arts contribute to an ecologically sustainable future.
23. To be delivered through six initiatives:
 - (a) We will increase our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competence;
 - (b) We will raise the prominence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in Yarra;
 - (c) We will safeguard our artists' future;
 - (d) We will ensure that all of Yarra benefits from our arts and culture;
 - (e) Our arts and culture will present us with alternative futures; and

- (f) Our arts and culture will advance Yarra's sustainability goals.

Options

24. Not relevant to this report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

25. Over 400 people have contributed to the development of the draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026, from the identification of opportunities and issues to the drafting of the priorities and initiatives.
26. All departments across council have had an opportunity to contribute; with additional outreach to priority areas in council such as Strategic Planning, Economic Development, Youth Services, Active Ageing Advisory Committee, Yarra Environment Advisory committee and Yarra Yana Ngargna Advisory Group.
27. Subject to Council approval, the draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 will be put on public exhibition for a period of three weeks.
28. Any additional feedback from the community will be collated and considered for the final draft.
29. The Plan will be promoted in these places:
- (a) Your Say Yarra;
 - (b) Yarracityarts website; and
 - (c) Yarracityarts social media posts and electronic direct mail.
30. Following the exhibition period, officers will bring a further report to Council, for consideration of the final draft. Officers intend to bring the report to Council on 23 November 2021.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

31. The draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 is aligned with the Community Vision. It responds strongly to:
- (a) Theme 1 – Strong and vibrant community:
 - (i) Ensure a trusting, safe and welcoming environment to invite active participation of people from all backgrounds with tolerance and acceptance;
 - (ii) Create opportunities for meaningful exchange of our experiences, culture and arts;
 - (iii) Encourage and facilitate community engagement by amplifying lesser-heard voices and addressing gaps; and
 - (iv) Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and country; and
 - (b) Theme 4 – Environmental sustainability:
 - (i) Lead the way in climate change mitigation and resilience within Yarra and extend our impact through advocacy and innovative partnership; and
 - (ii) Promote and facilitate a more efficient and effective waste management strategy that inclusively engages the community through education and awareness.
32. It is also aligned with the draft Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly to four of the six Strategic Objectives:
- (a) Climate and environment: Yarra urgently mitigate climate change while also adapting to its impacts and developing resilience in everything we do. The community, business and industry are supported and encouraged to do the same;

- (b) Social equity and health: Yarra's people have equitable access and opportunities to participate in community life. They are empowered, safe and included;
- (c) Local economy: Yarra's neighbourhoods and major activity centres, nightlife and employment precincts are thriving, accessible and connected. They support and inspire diverse creative communities, cultural activities, businesses, and local employment; and
- (d) Place and nature: Yarra's public places, streets and green open spaces bring our community together. They are planned to manage growth, protect our unique character and focus on people and nature.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

- 33. Climate emergency and sustainability is one of the five identified priorities in the draft Arts and Cultural Strategy. Artists can help us imagine alternative futures and art and culture have a major role to play in achieving Council's sustainability goals.
- 34. Yarra Council was one of the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, and it is a key priority for Council that it reduces its carbon emissions to slow climate changes such as extreme heat and reduced annual rainfall. Yarra's goals include achieving net zero emissions by 2030, as well as enabling the community to take climate action.

Community and social implications

- 35. Yarra's population is economically and culturally diverse. While our socio-economic profile is relatively high, Yarra has pockets of disadvantage characterised by high unemployment and underemployment, and low-income households. It has a younger median age than Victoria as a whole, but it has fewer children and young adults, and fewer people over the age of 50. Our older residents value their ability to independently access a range of social and cultural programs and services.
- 36. The pandemic has put pressure on Yarra's community and repeated lockdowns have increased social isolation, and exacerbated risks to the community's wellbeing. Our most vulnerable residents – the aged, the homeless, the poor and the isolated – are also the most susceptible to the disease and the economic disruption it created.
- 37. This strategy seeks to continue to ensure that all of Yarra's residents across all our neighbourhoods benefit from the presence of arts and cultural initiatives, and that all feel included. Facilitating events, activities and intergenerational dialogue to build social connectedness for older residents are some of the initiatives that are identified in the strategy.

Economic development implications

- 38. Arts and culture continue to be important to Yarra's economy and communities. They are an important subset of the creative industries, which form one of Yarra's top four sectors of economic strength.
- 39. A key theme of Yarra's Economic Development Strategy is a 'creative, inclusive and sustainable economy' and Council aims to make Yarra a global hub for the arts sector. These industries are also growing.
- 40. Jobs in the creative industries are significant in Yarra, especially in the two identified creative precincts of Cremorne and Richmond and Collingwood where there are 5,528 creative jobs (15% of all jobs in area) and 2,178 creative jobs (18.8% of all jobs in area) respectively.
- 41. Arts and culture are also important generators for tourism and visitation. In the decade to 2019, total visitation to Yarra more than doubled, until more than half a million visitors were coming to Yarra every year. Many visitors and tourists are drawn by Yarra's arts and culture, as well as the night-life to which they are connected.

Human rights and gender equality implications

42. Equal access to and participation in artistic and cultural life is recognised in international law as a human right (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 15. Further to this, the arts can help give voice to those who aren't always able to access a platform to do so or have the power to speak up.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

43. The trend in funding and supporting arts and cultural activity across the Australia has seen an increased investment by local government authorities and state governments, most sharply demonstrated in the targeted funding packages for arts and cultural sector recovery that have been made available during the pandemic.
44. Over the three year period between 2018–2021, Yarra invested \$2.3 million in grants to community groups, including annual grants, Room to Create studio grants, and small project grants.
45. The draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 initiatives include a review of the funding programs and distinct projects that will require further investments, either secured externally or by Council. There will be options for Council to consider reallocation of existing resources according to these priorities.

Legal Implications

46. Not relevant to this report.

Conclusion

47. Arts and culture is a core part of Yarra's identity and a strategy that outlines Council's vision and priorities is an important public testament of our intent.
48. Through an extensive consultation process with over 400 community members and all of Council departments over a two year period, five priorities and six initiatives have been developed to help Council achieve a vision that places arts and culture at the core of a strong and vibrant community.
49. The priorities and initiatives are critical to Yarra today in a post-pandemic, climate emergency landscape.
50. The draft strategy affirms Council's commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, celebrates the cultural diversity and rich creativity of our city, recognises the unparalleled challenges faced by the creative sector arising from the pandemic and places our faith in artists to help the community to respond to the greatest challenge of our time – the climate emergency.
51. The previous strategy provided a roadmap for the establishment of important major initiatives for our communities and demonstrate the impact arts and culture can have. Projects such as: the Stolen Generations marker, *Remember Me*, a permanent tribute to Aboriginal people taken and lost from their families; the Room to Create program has provided medium and long term homes to seven important arts organisations and short term studio space in under-utilised council properties for 20 artists since 2016, ensuring they continue to produce and present in Yarra; and the Leaps and Bounds music festival to support local venues and musicians through the traditional winter 'downtime', are some of the achievements that have contributed to the city's reputation as a creative city.
52. Yarra is well-known for its live music: prior to the pandemic, it was home to 75 music venues that presented over 16,000 gigs per year. But it is also home to numerous galleries and visual arts studios, theatre, performance, literature, public art, design, digital arts and film and craft. These creative activities happen across Yarra, from homes and childcare centres to commercial galleries and pubs.

53. As the boundaries between these different artforms blur, arts and culture also extend into new territory. The idea of digital live performance, for example, is a twenty-first century phenomenon. It is also an artform that has become an unexpected lifeline for many audiences during pandemic restrictions.
54. This arts and culture strategy supports all contributors to the creative ecology in Yarra, but it seeks to have the most impact by working closely with and for the individuals and organisations that have made creativity central to their activity.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) authorises officers to commence the public exhibition of the draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026; and
 - (b) notes that officers intend to bring a further report to Council on 23 November seeking final adoption of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026.

Attachments

- 1 [📄](#) Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026



Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

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Cover image: Kathy Holowko, *The Unsung Hero*, 2019. Temporary public artwork commissioned for the Edinburgh Gardens Plinth Program. Mild steel, wood, paint. 1300 x 1030 x 850 mm. Photo credit: J. Forsyth

Draft 30 September 2021

Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 – 2026

Introduction

Arts and cultural activities should be integrated into our City, as an everyday experience enjoyed by all of our community, whether as makers, audience members or participants.

This was the guiding vision of Yarra's last arts and culture strategy (2016–2020).

It provided a roadmap for the establishment of several major initiatives for our communities. Gamilaroi/Kamiloroi artist Reko Rennie's Stolen Generations marker, Remember Me, is a permanent tribute to Aboriginal people taken and lost from their families. It provides a quiet place in the Atherton Gardens for people to reflect and commemorate. The Room to Create program has provided medium and long term spaces for seven important arts organisations and short term studio space in under-utilised council properties for 20 residency artists since 2016, ensuring they continue to produce and present in Yarra. Council established the Leaps and Bounds music festival in 2013 to support local venues and musicians through the traditional winter 'downtime'. It continued to support this festival to adapt to new challenges and opportunities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vision that arts and culture should provide everyday experiences enjoyed by our whole community remains uppermost for Yarra today. Arts and culture are as crucial to the quality of life in Yarra as are our roads, bike paths and parks. Integrated with other policy areas, our arts and culture can also add value to the way we build our roads and parks.

Other priorities are also just as important today as they were in 2016: the value of our cultural diversity; our respect for Traditional Owners – the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung – and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; and our commitment to social and environmental sustainability. These are all key priorities for Yarra and are reflected throughout this new strategy.

But what has changed is our circumstances. In 2016, the greatest threat to Yarra's vitality was the combined effect of gentrification, rental unaffordability and the pressure of growing density on our public spaces. While these conditions continue to present a challenge, they are overshadowed by the global pandemic of the early 2020s. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our health, social wellbeing and economy. It has been a historic disruption unparalleled since the Second World War, and particularly detrimental to our creative community.

COVID-19 has put great pressure on our artists and creative producers. Throughout 2020–2021, lockdowns and restrictions have prevented arts and cultural events being presented in Yarra, and prevented Yarra's creative producers from touring. They have reduced venue capacity, making most live performances unviable. They have caused widespread unemployment and prevented interstate and overseas visitors enjoying and spending money on our arts and cultural activities. This has greatly affected our artists' livelihoods and their creative development.

The pandemic has put pressure on Yarra's broader community as well. Repeated lockdowns have been vital for the community's protection, but they have pulled at the threads of our relationships, increased social isolation, and exacerbated risks to our wellbeing. Our most vulnerable residents – the aged, the homeless, the poor and the isolated – are also the most susceptible to the disease and the economic disruption it created.

While the impact of the pandemic has been devastating in many ways, such disruption now presents the opportunity to re-think what we want our arts and culture to be and to 'build back better'. Even in the midst of a lockdown, the Council's 2021 annual customer satisfaction found that residents

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remained very satisfied with Yarra's arts and culture;¹ but our vision is for our arts and cultural activities not just to reflect who we are today, but what we can be in the future. The pandemic must not be seen as a passing phase, but as a warning about the need to take preventative action against other existential risks, particularly climate change and growing social inequality. Our arts and culture will be important in providing guiding paths through these risks.

The Yarra 2022–2026 Arts and Culture strategy builds on the values and successes of the 2016–2020 strategy, while also responding to the threats and opportunities presented by the pandemic and the climate emergency.

The purpose of this strategy is to build on Yarra's previous successes, address the crises affecting our community – both the crisis of the pandemic and the ecological crisis – and cultivate a thriving arts and cultural sector for the whole community.

This purpose is reflected in the five key priorities:

- Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are at the heart of Yarra
- Artists are essential to a thriving Yarra
- Our arts and culture shape Yarra's places and spaces
- We celebrate and support our creative and diverse community
- Our arts contribute to an ecologically sustainable future

Scope

Yarra is well-known for its live music: prior to the pandemic, it was home to 75 music venues that presented over 16,000 gigs per year, including 6 of Melbourne's 10 top music venues.² But it is also home to numerous galleries and visual arts studios, theatre, performance, literature, public art, design, digital arts and film and craft. Two areas in Yarra – Collingwood and Cremorne – hold important creative precincts. Collingwood is home to 289 creative spaces and provides 2,178 creative jobs (18.8% of all jobs in the area). Cremorne and Richmond, where there are 362 creative spaces, provides 5,528 creative jobs (15% of all jobs in the area).³ However, creative activities happen across Yarra, from homes and childcare centres to commercial galleries and pubs.

As the boundaries between these different artforms blur, arts and culture also extend into new territory. The idea of digital live performance, for example, is a twenty-first century phenomenon. It is also an artform that has become an unexpected lifeline for many audiences during pandemic restrictions.

This arts and culture strategy supports all contributors to the creative ecology in Yarra, but it seeks to have the most impact by working closely with and for the individuals and organisations that have made creativity central to their activity.

¹ Yarra City Council 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/-/media/files/ycc/about-us/annual-customer-satisfaction-survey/yarra-city-council--2021-annual-customer-satisfaction-survey-report--published.pdf?la=en>, pp 61–62.

² Music Victoria 2017, Live Music Census, <https://www.musicvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/07/MLMC-2017-Report-compressed.pdf>

³ Hodyl & Co, Victorian Creative Neighbourhoods report, 04 Collingwood, 05 Cremorne and Richmond.

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Council's role

Council plays three key roles in arts and cultural activity, including:

- Producing arts and cultural initiatives and activities. For instance, Council commissions public art for the streets, parks and buildings of Yarra. Reko Rennie's *Remember Me* is an example.
- Investing in arts and culture. Council's annual and small grants programs are an example of how Yarra invests in arts and culture.
- Cultivating arts and culture. By providing support and opportunities for artists to develop and show their work, Council's Room to Create and Exhibitions programs are examples of how Yarra cultivates arts and culture.

These three roles are evident across Yarra's strategic actions.

Consulting with our communities

This strategy is built on community consultation. In 2019, Council ran an online survey and engaged with communities in pop-up face-to-face events. Over 350 people participated in this research and discovery process.

This consultation found that people love the diversity, accessibility and vibrancy of Yarra's arts and culture, as well as the contribution they make to Yarra's sense of identity. In contrast, they found Yarra challenging for its lack of affordable spaces and the associated financial vulnerability of its artists. They wanted more public events, studio spaces, and artist-in-residence opportunities.

From this research and discovery process, Council developed the priorities for 2022 to 2026. The COVID-19 restrictions delayed the strategy's development, but in 2021, Council ran workshops in person and online with communities and special interest groups. These included artists at Abbotsford Convent and Collingwood Yards, Yarra Youth Services, CALD communities and the Victoria Street Traders Association, as well as Council staff. These workshops and meetings with approximately 100 people gave rise to the initiatives and actions that achieve our priorities.

Yarra in 2022

Arts and culture continue to be important to Yarra's economy and communities. They are an important subset of the creative industries, which form one of Yarra's top four sectors of economic strength.⁴ A key theme of Yarra's Economic Development Strategy is a 'creative, inclusive and sustainable economy' and Council aims to make Yarra a global hub for the arts sector. These industries are also growing. In the decade to 2019, total visitation to Yarra more than doubled, until more than half a million visitors were coming to Yarra every year.⁵ Many visitors and tourists are drawn by Yarra's arts and culture, as well as the night-life to which they are connected.

COVID-19 has upset this economy in Yarra and across Melbourne. By the end of August 2021, only 40% of Melbourne permanent events workers employed prior to the pandemic were still employed, and only 16% of freelancers, contractors and casual staff.⁶ Interstate and overseas visitors were prevented from coming to Melbourne, and as a result visitor spend in Melbourne fell by over 50%.⁷ In April 2020 alone, 120 people in Yarra's arts and cultural sector lost their jobs.⁸ Although they were slowly re-employed over the following year, the economic impact of the pandemic continued throughout 2021, and many – perhaps most – of Yarra artists have struggled to maintain a sustainable practice.

⁴ Yarra City Council, Yarra Economic Development Strategy 2020–2025.

⁵ Yarra City Council, Yarra Economic Development Strategy 2020–2025.

⁶ Save Victoria's Events, The State of Victoria's Events Industry, 30 August 2021.

⁷ Save Victoria's Events, The State of Victoria's Events Industry, 30 August 2021.

⁸ Yarra City Council, Yarra Economic Development Strategy 2020–2025.

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Yarra has enjoyed a dynamic gig and night-time economy that has attracted residents, businesses and tourists and it can do so again. In 2020, Yarra responded to pandemic-related lockdowns by providing \$405,000 to support the creative sector in COVID-19 arts grants. It has also worked to find 'COVID-safe' ways for artists to present their work (See Case Study: Rock Around the Block).

Case Study: Rock Around the Block



In December of 2020, Arts & Cultural Services was tasked with producing a replacement for the traditional Carols in the Park event, which could not proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The result was Rock Around the Block, a series of pop-up concerts featuring local performers in Yarra's iconic streets over the course of three weekends.

In partnership with Trucked Up Entertainment and Press Play Presents, busking-style entertainment took place throughout Yarra on the back of a truck stage, in locations selected for their prime viewing locations from either adjacent outdoor dining parklets, or public parks, for 30 minutes at each location.

What was Council's role?

Our role involved setting out the creative strategy, project scope, budget and timeline. Yarra Arts then co-produced the event series with project partners, and coordinated road closures for each performance location.

Outcomes

- 14 performances across Collingwood, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy, North Carlton, Clifton Hill and Richmond
- Seven local acts presented across three weekends after months of live music interruption
- Stimulated trade in high street shopping and dining precincts
- Media coverage, including major newspaper and TV features
- Nomination for Best Festival in 2021 Music Victoria Awards
- Positive feedback from community and participants.

Learnings

Taking a responsive approach to public health restrictions can promote great outcomes for both local artists, businesses and the wider community. Unconventional projects can deliver high value for audiences, and increased coverage from media.

Image by J Forsyth.

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Yarra's population continues to grow strongly. It is projected to grow by 57% by 2036.⁹ As a result, there is great pressure on property affordability. Yarra's two arts precincts – Abbotsford Convent and Collingwood Yards – and its artist rental scheme (Room to Create) provide production and presentation spaces for some of Yarra's creative producers who may otherwise be priced out of our region.

Abbotsford Convent is Australia's largest multi-arts precinct. This significant hub is home to over 120 studios and is a sought-after location for art projects, rehearsals, workshops, exhibitions, markets, events and festivals. In the 2018/2019 period prior to the pandemic, the precinct welcomed over 1 million visitors through its gates.

Collingwood Yards is a new, permanent and affordable home for scores of artists and independent arts organisations working across music, visual arts, performance, digital media, creative industries and beyond. Situated across the former Collingwood Technical School campus, Collingwood Yards forms the largest part of the wider Collingwood Arts Precinct which also incorporates the adjoining home of Circus Oz.

The Room to Create program has also provided low-cost rental spaces in Council and community buildings for artists (see Case Study: Room to Create Collingwood Yards Studio). These facilities help to keep our artists in Yarra in the face of cost pressures.

Case Study: Room to Create Collingwood Yards Studio



Room to Create is Yarra Council's dedicated program developed to retain artists and creatives in the City of Yarra. A key feature of the program is the Room to Create Fund, a charitable fund established under the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation which directly supports creative infrastructure and more affordable spaces.

The Room to Create fund in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, co-contributed funds to support a three-year studio program at Collingwood Yards, offering highly subsidised spaces for artists.

What was Council's role?

Council's role was to work with LMCF and Collingwood Yards to develop the opportunity; manage the Expression of Interest for the studio artists and the selection process; liaise with artists to initiate the tenancy; and promote the artists and program.

⁹ Yarra City Council, Yarra Economic Development Strategy 2020–2025.

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Outcomes

- Six artists are supported with subsidised rent making the spaces more affordable
- Artists are part of the Collingwood Yards community, providing potential for collaboration with other tenants and support of a likeminded community
- The artists gained opportunities through being part of the community, such as performance and exhibition opportunities
- The profile of the artists was raised through promotion of their work via council platforms

Learnings

Providing subsidised spaces is a proactive way to support artists to practice in Yarra and contribute to the local arts ecology. The placement of the tenancy within a creative hub adds value to the opportunity, providing the artists with a further level of engagement and potential to enrich their practices.

Room to Create Collingwood Yards studios. Image: Natalie Jurrjens

In addition to such cultural hubs, it is important that all neighbourhoods benefit from easy and very local access to arts and culture. Melbourne seeks to be a city of '20 minute neighbourhoods', in which residents need walk no further than 800 metres (or for no more than 20 minutes) to meet their daily living needs.

Yarra's pattern of development means that almost all residents are within 400m of an activity centre.¹⁰ The provision of local services is therefore important for maintaining the character of activity centres as local destinations.

Neighbourhoods such as Collingwood and Cremorne are experiencing significant development demand, because they are close to transport, the city and Yarra's creative activities. Ironically, it is attractiveness of creative activity that contributes to these development pressures, while the pressure on property affordability makes it increasingly difficult for artists to continue to practise those activities in Yarra.

Collingwood is one of Australia's most diverse, vibrant and creative inner-city neighbourhoods. In 2021, Smith Street was voted as the 'coolest' street in the world by 27,000 Melbourne residents.¹¹

Cremorne attracts design and multimedia enterprises, and offers co-working spaces. Creative organisations cluster in particular streets, such as Swan Street and Smith Street. We need to ensure that our creative hubs continue, but also that they are part of a robust network of creative practices throughout Yarra.

¹⁰ Yarra City Council, Activity Centres – Roles and Boundaries – Yarra City Council, October 2019.

¹¹ R. Russo, Smith Street has been named the coolest street in the world, TimeOut, 10 June 2021, <https://www.timeout.com/melbourne/news/smith-street-has-been-named-the-coolest-street-in-the-world-060921>

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This strategy seeks to continue to ensure that all of Yarra's neighbourhoods benefit from the presence of arts and cultural initiatives, and that all feel included. Often, this means integrating arts and culture into places that also have other purposes (see Case Study: Rose Street Shared Zone).

Case Study: Rose Street Shared Zone



In 2020–2021, Arts & Cultural Services partnered with the Traffic Engineering team to commission two major artworks along Rose Street, Fitzroy. A stunning 209-metre road mural that extends from Brunswick to Spring Street and a comical 'big' banana sculpture both contribute to making this street a more liveable urban environment. Rather than simply having a transport function, this street is alive with creativity and offers higher levels of amenity for residents and business communities.

Eye-catching *Fallen Fruit* by local artist Adam Stone stands two-metres tall on the corner of Brunswick and Rose Streets. *Giirrwaa* – which translates roughly to 'community' in the language of the Gumaynggirr people – reflects the area's significant Aboriginal history. This road mural was created by proud Gumbaynggirr/Bundjalung artist and professional surfer, Otis Hope Carey, and was installed by Council's contractor MPS Paving.

What was Council's role?

Our role included curatorial development and the setting of creative objectives. We developed a project scope i.e. technical and budget considerations, liaised with external and internal stakeholders, and consulted with the artist around production and installation.

Outcomes

- Creates awareness around the important Aboriginal history of the area
- Locals and visitors enjoy art and creativity as an everyday experience
- Improves pedestrian access, safety and the streetscape along Rose Street
- The artwork is simultaneously functional in and creatively transformative of the public realm
- Makes local streets more attractive and inviting for pedestrians
- Increases visitation to local businesses with economic benefits
- Generates positive feedback from the community
- Encouraged contact from various Councils and commercial businesses about implementing similar projects.

Learnings

Working across Council collaboratively on projects with mutually beneficial outcomes in the public realm provides a platform to integrate public artwork into the urban environment in creative and surprising ways.

Image: *Giirrwaa* road mural by Otis Hope Carey, 2021

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Yarra's population is economically and culturally diverse. While our socio-economic profile is relatively high, Yarra has pockets of disadvantage characterised by high unemployment and underemployment, and low-income households. It has a younger median age than Victoria as a whole, but it has fewer children and young adults, and fewer people over the age of 50. Our older residents value their ability to independently access a range of social and cultural programs and services. Council facilitates events, activities and intergenerational dialogue to build social connectedness for older residents.¹²

Thirty-nine per cent of Yarra's population was born overseas, and it has significant communities that speak other languages, including Vietnamese, Greek, Mandarin, Italian and Cantonese.¹³

Over more than two decades, Yarra has celebrated its cultural diversity through annual events such as the Victoria Street Lunar Festival in Richmond, and the Johnston St Fiesta in Fitzroy.

As new migrant groups move into Yarra, Council seeks to make sure that their cultures too are celebrated. Between 2018 and 2021, Yarra provided grants for a range of arts and culture events aimed at general and specific communities, including children and young people (14%), CALD communities (18%), First Nations people (8%), LGBTIQ+ (7%) and families (2%), amongst others.

The arts are particularly important after an event as socially divisive as the COVID-19 pandemic: they generate empathy that can bridge social divides and create a future in which diversity is celebrated (see Case Study: LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club).

Case study: LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club



All The Queens Men (ATQM) is one of Australia's leading arts organisations, reflecting contemporary Australian culture through art-making acclaimed for its community-committed practice. ATQM engages with communities as co-collaborators, co-designing its processes and creative experiences enabling people improved access, not only to the arts, but broader community and social services. ATQM partner with all tiers of government and cross-sectorial industry partners, working at the intersections of health, ageing, LGBTIQ+ equality, young people and physical activity; the results of which aim to inspire social transformation and change.

Since 2017, ATQM has presented LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club in the City of Yarra, offering this community a free monthly social dance event that celebrates the social, cultural and recreational rights of older LGBTIQ+ people (55+).

What is Council's role?

ATQM has received Arts and Culture funding since 2016 and a multiyear Engage 2020-2021 grant. ATQM is one of the few arts projects that engage with LGBTIQ+ Elders in Victoria, as a result Yarra Arts has worked hard to connect individuals and organisations to their activities and their methodologies, develop and maintain a volunteer program as well as promote their activities to the broader community.

¹² Yarra City Council, Active and Healthy Ageing in Yarra Strategy 2018–2024.

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2016.

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Outcomes

- Connects disparate and isolated LGBTI+ elders, through a network of community gatherings and creative workshops.
- Fosters a strong and supportive LGBTI+ elders community throughout the City of Yarra through regular contact and relationship building among individuals.
- Produces a monthly dance club honours the creative expression, storytelling, advocacy of LGBTI+ elders; an event that engages the broader community with their narratives and needs.

Learnings

Arts companies who have strong emphasis on community led and co-design of their projects have longevity and achieve their outcomes.

Image: Bryony Jackson

Australia Council surveys of the national population suggest that Australians are becoming increasingly aware of the role arts and culture play in forging social connections.¹⁴

Yarra is committed to increasing the input of our Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community in shaping our region's future.

Over the past five years, close collaboration between the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee and Yarra's Arts and Culture team, and initiatives like Smith Street Dreaming (see Case Study: Smith Street Dreaming Festival), have embedded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures into Yarra's activities.

One of the key priorities of the Yana Ngargna Plan (2020–2023) is to increase the visibility of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture, issues and achievements in Yarra. The arts and cultural strategy seeks to advance this aim.

¹⁴ Australia Council for the Arts, Creating our Future: Spotlight on Social Cohesion, Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, August 2020.

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Case study: Smith Street Dreaming Festival



Smith Street Dreaming celebrates the local community, promoting awareness of Aboriginal culture and building strong relationships between the many different people who live, work and visit Smith Street. It is about 'one street, many mobs and one community'.

The annual Smith Street Dreaming takes place on the corner of Stanley Street and Smith Street, a traditional meeting place for Aboriginal community. Established in 2013, this award-winning event (2015 HART Awards, Reconciliation Victoria) attracts new local audiences and promotes a shared sense of space between the local Aboriginal community, local traders, police and the greater community of Yarra.

What is Council's role?

City of Yarra's Arts and Cultural Services produce Smith Street Dreaming as part of Leaps and Bounds Music Festival on behalf of the Smith Street Working Group, which is chaired by Mission Australia/Charcoal Lane.

The Working Group includes Aboriginal Elders and community members, justice and outreach workers, the Parkies, Victoria Police, City of Yarra, Co Health, MAYSAR and Mission Australia's Charcoal Lane.

Outcomes

Smith Street Dreaming presents a showcase event of the best of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander emerging and established artists in addition to a Welcome to Country, ceremonial fire, traditional dancers, talks and performances by Smith Street Community members and 'the Parkies' and a free BBQ.

Previous artists have included local legend Uncle Archie Roach, Emma Donovan and The Putbacks, Frank Yamma, Uncle Dave Arden, Coloured Stone, Indigenous Hip Hop projects and many more.

Learnings

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander festivals that are self-determined and led with authentic partnerships provide true representation, opportunities for truth telling and reconciliation through engagement with the arts.

Image: Amos Roach, Smith Street Dreaming 2018. Photo by Sarah Walker.

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Yarra Council was one of the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, and it is a key priority for Council that it reduce its carbon emissions to slow climate changes such as extreme heat and reduced annual rainfall.¹⁵ Yarra's goals include achieving net zero emissions by 2030, as well as enabling the community to take climate action. The arts and culture have a major role to play in achieving these goals (See Case Study: The Big Local Arts and Climate Expo).

Case Study: The Big Local Arts and Climate Expo



In 2021, an Artist in Residence Community (AIR), Teneille Clerke, was initiated through the State Government Working for Victoria program. This six month part-time position provided a creative practitioner to develop community participation arts and cultural projects that build on and add value to Council's projects, programs, and priorities.

The Big Local Arts and Climate Expo was curated and produced by the AIR with support from Arts and Culture and the Sustainability unit. The expo was originally conceived as an in-person event but due to restrictions, the program was delivered online as a series of livestreams showcasing diverse local artists working in innovative ways to engage the public in climate action. The expo featured short films, panel discussions, interactive live chats, stand-up comedy, and live art making from discarded and recycled materials. The program was delivered as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

What was Council's role?

Council engaged the AIR and support the role with other internal units to deliver the outcome, which takes a creative lens to discussions around climate change.

Outcomes

- Four online live streams delivered during the 2021 Melbourne Fringe Festival
- Highlights and demonstrates that creatives are responding to climate change
- Provides an opportunity for community engagement centred on climate action in multiple creative ways, e.g. through panel discussions, engagement with live artmaking and performance
- Supports over 14 creatives through artist fees and opportunity to share their work with a broader audience
- Provides a different platform for Council to engage with community on climate action and reach a different demographic through the project being presented as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival

Learnings

Creative producers have an important role to play in contributing to change around climate action. Through providing different ways to discuss the issues and presenting different solutions, creatives can extend engagement and help deliver the narrative that everyone has a role to play in creating positive environmental change.

Design: Sebastian Berto

¹⁵ Yarra City Council, Climate Emergency Plan 2020–2024.

Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Priorities

1: Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are at the heart of Yarra

Yarra's goal over the next five years is to enhance our connection with Aboriginal culture. It will celebrate, respect and embrace Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and heritage.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders have clear priorities for arts and cultural development in Yarra, including sharing their culture, supporting a range of traditional and contemporary arts activity and storytelling. However, they aim to do so in ways that protect the community's principles of knowledge transfer and ownership of intellectual property. To realise these aims and to increase the prominence of Aboriginal arts and culture in Yarra, Council will ensure community leaders have input into major decision making. This input will include Aboriginal Elders, but will not be limited to them. It may also include Aboriginal artists, community workers, residents and businesses.

Yarra will celebrate and embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture by increasing the cultural competence of our creative producers, participants and audiences. It will ensure our decision-making in arts and culture reflects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and values by embedding their leadership into our decision-making processes.

2: Artists are essential to a thriving Yarra

Council recognizes the need to safeguard our artists' future by revitalising the arts, culture and night-time economy after the pandemic. Creative producers need help to adapt their work to accommodate a world in which public health restrictions may be ongoing, such as by increasing the outdoor and digital aspects of their practice.

Council will leverage support from government and private partners, to help strengthen and innovate Yarra's artistic practice for a post-COVID era. All levels of government need to coordinate their support for Australia's creative production, and Yarra can initiate and lead this coordination. Within Council too, greater coordination between different divisions will leverage support for arts and culture. Many areas across Council already have arts and culture embedded in their work – including Economic Development, Aboriginal Partnerships, Youth Services, Library Services, Sustainability and Design and Placemaking – but there are further opportunities across Council.

Community feedback has also made it clear that Council's networks and resources have the potential to provide important knowledge and skills that can help artists renew and adapt their practices to changing conditions. Council's own staff provide important networks that are valuable to our arts community, including our environmental, arts and culture, and planning units. External organisations that Council has strong relations with are also important resources for artists, including arts and culture peak bodies and community organisations.

3: Our arts and culture shape Yarra's places and spaces

Yarra's public places bring people together. As Yarra grows, opportunities to experience arts and culture will need to follow patterns of population growth and development. Rather than 'art washing', in which a public artwork is added as an adornment to a planned building or neighbourhood, Yarra's arts and culture unit will be involved in decision-making from the inception of a planning decision. They will ensure that artists' visions are central to development plans and that these visions provide ongoing opportunities for the community to engage with the arts.

Council will work with property owners, including private owners, commercial arts venues and non-profit organisations, to investigate ways in which it can expand opportunities for artists to occupy a

Draft 30 September 2021

Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

range of flexible, temporary, long-term and public-facing spaces and to use these spaces to increase engagement with the public throughout Yarra.

4: We celebrate and support our creative and diverse community

Participating in community life is the key to a healthy, socially connected and culturally rich Yarra. Council aims to enable as well as celebrate Yarra's diversity. Community feedback suggested that there is scope to ensure that Yarra's grants processes are promoted to and made accessible to diverse communities, who use different communication channels and present their work in different ways.

Council aims to strengthen inclusion and support vulnerable communities. In doing so, it recognises the need to make sure that urban development provides economic and social opportunities to our diverse community, and to address the negative impacts that COVID-19 restrictions have had on feelings of social connection.

5: Our arts contribute to an ecologically sustainable future

Collectively, we need to imagine, explore and develop ways in which we can live prosperous and fulfilling lives that are independent of fossil fuel use. The practice of imagining and exploring alternative futures is central to much arts practice. Yarra will develop strategies to encourage its artists to help us see and experience new ways of living. Council's arts and culture funding schemes, artist and public programmes, and procurement process will cultivate arts practice that assists Yarra to reach its sustainability goal.

These five priorities for our arts and culture strategy have shaped Council's initiatives and actions.

Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Initiative	Action	What will this look like?
We will increase our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competence	1. Develop resources and create opportunities for artists/organisations to increase their cultural competence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative producers will have access to resources, such as protocols for working with Yarra's Aboriginal artists and practices. • Creative producers will have new opportunities to develop competence, such as tours of significant Yarra sites, storytelling and introductory events.
We will raise the prominence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in Yarra	2. Implement a plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives to contribute to Yarra's strategic decisions and investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture expertise will be employed into the Council's Arts and Culture team, represented on the Yarra Arts Advisory Committee, and/or contracted to provide advice on art procurement.
	3. Create opportunities to increase the prominence of Aboriginal arts in all artforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra will be home to a significant new Aboriginal arts and culture initiative, such as a dedicated festival or significant public art commission.
We will safeguard our artists' future	4. Create opportunities for coordination and collaboration with the Victorian and Australian governments to advance our arts and culture priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will partner with State Government on initiatives that advance the interests of Yarra's creative producers, such as on Creative Neighbourhoods Partnership and Pilots program with Creative Victoria to improve rental affordability for creative producers. • Council will advocate to the State Government to: • adopt State-wide definitions of 'affordable workspace' and 'Creative Neighbourhoods'. • formally recognise Collingwood and Cremorne as State significant 'Creative Neighbourhoods'. • provide further planning guidance and best practice models for the delivery of affordable workspaces for arts and creative industries. • identify and repurpose vacant or underutilised publicly owned buildings for affordable workspace hubs.

Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Initiative	Action	What will this look like?
	5. Assist artists to develop new skills, build connections and increase innovations through a community of practice that gives them access to Council networks and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will regularly host events that bring Yarra's artists, communities and generations together, provide skills- and resource-sharing opportunities, and build connections between artists and representatives from other sectors.
	6. Work with areas across Council to embed arts and culture priorities and objectives into their strategies and operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council areas such as Financial Services and Planning and Development will take action to help achieve arts and culture priorities.
	7. Continue to provide a range of creative spaces for artistic practice that responds to the needs of the arts community, to ensure that Yarra remains an accessible home for artists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbish underutilised Council-owned spaces for artist residences and creative use. Continue to negotiate with planning permit applicants for space in major developments to be leased to Council at a below-market rate for its Room to Create or other similar program. Investigate drafting a 'Yarra Planning Policy Guidance Note' which sets out Council's expectations for major development to include a % of affordable creative workspace at a minimum of 20% below market rate.
We will ensure that all of Yarra benefits from our arts and culture	8. Determine investment in Yarra's arts and culture in response to development, population and density trends, providing opportunities for residents in all neighbourhoods to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate resources for the development of arts and culture initiatives for emerging communities, such as Yarra's African community.
	9. Ensure the integration of Arts and Culture into Yarra's built form and public realm design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include Arts and Culture in Structure Plans and Local Area Plans or similar. Embed, early in the process, public art into Council public realm and infrastructure projects through collaboration. Facilitate new opportunities, through negotiations with landowners, for public art to be commissioned in the private realm.

Attachment 1 - Draft Arts Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Initiative	Action	What will this look like?
	10. Review and adapt Yarra's arts and cultural grants schemes to make them equitable and improve the resilience of arts practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra's arts grants scheme will: • Encourage collaboration between applicants with shared goals. • Be strengthened by processes that are accessible to all artists, regardless of age, culture and experience. • Provide funding that supports projects to succeed. • Provide assistance to artists to develop pandemic-resistant practices.
Our arts and culture will present us with alternative futures	11. Cultivate arts practices that present us with ecologically sustainable futures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An artist-in-residence scheme will be established, in which artists work in Council teams with frontline responsibility for issues of sustainability (such as Services Contracts and Waste Management).
Our arts and culture will advance Yarra's sustainability goals	12. Yarra's ecological sustainability goals will be built into its arts and culture schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability objectives will be built into arts and culture funding criteria. • A sharing or hiring opportunity will be developed for artists that pools resources and avoids duplication, reducing cost and waste. • Arts organisations will be supported to audit and develop their own sustainability plans, drawing on Council's environmental expertise and networks.

8.7 Yarra City Council Annual Report 2020/21

Reference	D21/131157
Author	Jamie Rachcoff - Communications and Engagement Advisor
Authoriser	Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement

Purpose

1. To formally present the Yarra City Council Annual Report 2020/21 (**Attachment 1**) to Council.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Council's Annual Report is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Local Government Act 1989, and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.
3. The Annual Report was submitted to the Acting Minister for Local Government prior to the Ministerial deadline.
4. Council adopted in principle its 2020/21 Annual Financial Statements, Performance Statement and LGPRF reports at the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 7 September 2021. These documents are incorporated into the presented Annual Report.

Discussion

5. The Annual Report 2020/21 presents the fourth and final year of Council's progress delivering the Council Plan 2017-21. The report provides information about:
 - (a) progress on the seven objectives in the Council Plan 2017-21;
 - (b) the services and projects delivered through Council's 2020/21 Budget;
 - (c) our achievements for the year, including Council's response to COVID-19;
 - (d) Council's finances, performance and governance; and
 - (e) the year ahead.

Highlights and achievements

6. In 2020/21, Council's key highlights and achievements included:
 - (a) partnering with local organisations and community groups to establish Yarra Libraries' Community Wellbeing project, which is supporting more than 1,500 residents a month and addressing gaps in digital literacy, food insecurity and library access;
 - (b) development of the Yarra 2036 Community Vision. More than 1,300 people and a deliberative community panel of 55 locals created the vision;
 - (c) delivery of the Community Support, Resilience and Recovery Grants Program, with more than \$3 million in grants to support Yarra businesses and community groups through COVID-19;
 - (d) Council leading the way with its emergency management response during the year, with a focus on supporting at-risk residents through COVID-19. We also continued roll out of the Yarra COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package, providing food relief, fee waivers, artists grants and support for asylum seekers;

- (e) establishment of a rapid response team to assess and issue free, flexible, and fast-tracked outdoor dining permits. The outdoor dining program has transformed Yarra's retail and dining precincts post-lockdown, creating lively, bustling areas across the city;
- (f) the roll out of a separate purple-lidded bin for recyclable glass to all households, businesses and multi-unit developments before the end of 2020. This initiative is reducing waste sent to landfill and providing an opportunity to recycle glass into new products;
- (g) upgrades to the stormwater harvesting scheme at Edinburgh Gardens, with a new 1 million litre water tank increasing the amount of water collected on-site to 24 million litres;
- (h) Council committing to a Green New Deal to address the current health, economic, social and climate crises facing the city. Part of Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan, this commitment provides an opportunity to plan Yarra's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that builds community resilience to future social, economic and environmental shocks, including the climate emergency; and
- (i) continuing Council's work on Design and Development Overlays with the aim of improving the Yarra Planning Scheme. Council has invited the Victorian Minister for Planning to create a Standing Advisory Committee to work through planning scheme amendments in a more streamlined manner.

Options

7. Not applicable.

Community and stakeholder engagement

- 8. In accordance with the Act, Council provided 14 days' public notice of its intention to receive the Annual Report at this meeting. Public notices appeared on Council's website and in The Age on Tuesday 5 October 2021 and Monday 11 October 2021.
- 9. With Yarra's customer service centres and library branches closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, Council has provided the option of mailing hard copies to people wishing to inspect the Annual Report.
- 10. The production of the Annual Report 2020/21 was a collaborative approach, with input from Council's Corporate Planning and Performance, Finance, Governance Support, Human Resources, City Works and Assets and Communications and Engagement teams.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

11. The Annual Report covers the fourth and final year of progress towards the achievement of the strategic objectives in Yarra's Council Plan 2017-21.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

12. Limited copies of the final Annual Report will be printed on Council's preferred 100% recycled paper stock.

Community and social implications

- 13. The Annual Report includes a translation panel to assist culturally and linguistically diverse members of the Yarra community to access the document in their language.
- 14. A digital version of the Annual Report will be launched later in 2021 to make the document more accessible and engaging.

Economic development implications

15. Not applicable.

Human rights and gender equality implications

16. Not applicable.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

17. The preparation and publication of the Annual Report is funded within existing Council budgets and resources.

Legal Implications

18. Pursuant to the Act and Regulations, Council must prepare an Annual Report, submit it to the Minister for Local Government within three months of the end of the financial year, and receive the Annual Report at a Meeting of Council within one month of submission to the Minister. These requirements have been met.

Conclusion

Publication of the Annual Report

19. The final version of the report will be made available at Council's customer service centres and libraries. It will be promoted via Yarra's print and digital communications channels.
20. Large print versions of the report will be available on request for people with a vision impairment.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes and endorses the Yarra City Council Annual Report 2020/21 at **Attachment One** as submitted to the Minister for Local Government prior to 30 November 2021.

Attachments

- 1 [1](#) Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Annual Report 2020/21

October 2021



Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

This publication is available in alternative accessible formats on request.

Electronic copy

PDF versions of this report can be downloaded from yarracity.vic.gov.au

National Relay service

TTY 133 677 then (03) 9205 5555
or relayservice.gov.au

Yarra Council language line

العربية 9280 1930

中文 9280 1937

Ελληνικά 9280 1934

Italiano 9280 1931

Español 9280 1935

Tiếng Việt 9280 1939

Other 9280 1940

REF 19,063

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

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Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Introduction

Welcome to the 2020/21 Annual Report

Yarra City Council's Annual Report 2020/21 covers the fourth and final year of its Council Plan 2017-21 (incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan). This report has been prepared for submission to the Victorian Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2021.

In this report, information is provided on:

- progress made on the seven objectives in the Council Plan 2017-21
- the services and projects delivered through Council's 2020/21 Budget
- our achievements for the year, including Council's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Council's finances, performance and governance
- the year ahead.

Significant achievements in 2020/21

- Yarra Libraries established the Community Wellbeing project. Partnering with local organisations and community groups, the Community Wellbeing team helped deliver 25 programs supporting more than 1,500 residents a month, engaging in public outreach to address gaps in digital literacy, food insecurity and library access.
- More than 1,300 residents, businesses and visitors participated in the development of the Yarra 2036 Community Vision. Young people and our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities were well represented in this consultation.
- The Community Support, Resilience and Recovery Grants Program was established and provided more than \$3 million in grants to businesses and groups in Yarra to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Council led the way with its emergency management response during the year, with a focus on supporting at-risk residents through COVID-19. We also continued roll out of the Yarra COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package, providing food relief, fee waivers, artists grants and support for asylum seekers.
- Council set up a rapid response team to assess and issue free, flexible, and fast-tracked outdoor dining permits. The outdoor dining program transformed Yarra's retail and dining precincts post-lockdown, creating lively, bustling areas along Gertrude Street, Brunswick Street and Smith Street as well as creating new and innovative dining experiences in many of the municipality's neighbourhood activity centres. Due to the success of the temporary outdoor dining program Council is now looking to introduce a permanent program.
- A separate purple-lidded bin for recyclable glass was rolled out to all households, businesses and multi-unit developments before the end of 2020. This initiative is reducing waste sent to landfill and providing an opportunity to recycle glass into new products.
- The stormwater harvesting scheme at Edinburgh Gardens was upgraded with a new 1 million litre water tank, increasing the amount of water collected on-site to 24 million litres.
- Council committed to a Green New Deal to address the current health, economic, social and climate crises facing the city. Part of Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan, this commitment provides an opportunity to plan Yarra's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that builds community resilience to future social, economic and environmental shocks, including the impacts of climate change.
- We continued our work on Design and Development Overlays with the aim of improving the Yarra Planning Scheme. Council has also decided to invite the Victorian Minister for Planning to create a Standing Advisory Committee to work through planning scheme amendments in a more streamlined manner.

Copies of the Annual Report

Digital version

A digital version of this report can be downloaded from yarracity.vic.gov.au/annualreport

Printed and large print copies

Printed and large text format copies of this report are available on request by calling 9205 5555 or emailing info@yarracity.vic.gov.au.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

About Yarra

Yarra's community

The City of Yarra is home to a rapidly growing and diverse population.

It's the people of Yarra who give the community its unique personality and make it a great place to call home. Yarra has a large young workforce – nearly 33% of people are aged between 25 and 36, a multitude of ethnicities and extreme socioeconomic differences.

The community prides itself on its inclusivity and vibrant neighbourhood precincts. There is a strong culture of volunteerism in Yarra, with our community fostering support, belonging, connectivity and inclusion.

More than 48% of Yarra residents hold a tertiary qualification (Bachelor degree or higher) – which is significantly higher than the Greater Melbourne average (28%). More than 17% are employed in professional services; and nearly four in 10 Yarra households earn more than \$2,395 per week. The median house price was \$670,000 in 2009 – now it's \$1.7 million.

About 6,000 households are experiencing housing stress and 7.2% of people report going hungry compared to 3.6% state-wide. Yarra has the fourth highest homeless rate in Victoria and 9.5% of households live in social housing – the highest proportion of any Victorian municipality.

Yarra has the second largest night-time economy in Victoria.

Yarra residents are more at risk of alcohol-related harm and injury than the average Victorian.

More than 103,700 people live in Yarra (ABS 2020), and this is predicted to grow to 142,000 by 2035.

Richmond and Richmond North are home to many Vietnamese businesses and community organisations. Over the past 70 years, refugees and migrants from Italy, Greece, China, East Timor, and East Africa have made Yarra their new home.

The community by numbers

- Half of all Yarra residents rent (10% rent public housing), 37% of people live in apartments and 22% live in terraces, units, or town houses.
- 30% of Yarra residents live alone, 15% are couples with children (Greater Melbourne 22%) and 4% of people are same-sex couples who live together (Greater Melbourne 0.8%).
- One in five households don't own a car and 50% of all residents' travel to and from work using sustainable transport; the majority of these – 34% – choosing to walk.
- 58% of people work in offices and 41% of residents spend more time sitting (Victorian average 27%).
- One in five people aged over 15 years volunteer each year.
- 37% of people exceed two standard alcoholic drinks per day, compared to 25% of Victorians.
- 25% of residents have no qualification (Greater Melbourne 39%).
- 17,100 people live in North Richmond, Yarra's most populated neighbourhood.
- 6.1% unemployment rate (Greater Melbourne 5.4%)
- 12% of Yarra residents report high or very high levels of psychological distress.
- Average household size is 2.15 persons.
- 8 in 10 residents feel very safe in the community during the day.
- 22% of people in Yarra speak a language other than English at home (3.9% Vietnamese, 2.6% Greek) and 5.1% are not fluent in English.
- 24% of Yarra is zoned for public open space and community use.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra, the city

Yarra is a popular destination to live, work and visit. The area has abundant natural beauty and heritage, sustainable transport options, retail and entertainment precincts, and exciting arts and cultural attractions.

Yarra's neighbourhoods are distinct, each offering something a little different for people to enjoy.

Some of Melbourne's best shopping and dining precincts are in Yarra. These include Fitzroy's Brunswick and Gertrude streets, Collingwood's Smith Street, and Richmond's Swan and Victoria streets and Bridge Road.

Yarra is rich in beautiful parks and open spaces. We're home to the ecologically significant Yarra River corridor, famous Dights Falls, Yarra Bend Park, Alphington Park, Fitzroy's Edinburgh Gardens and Clifton Hill's Darling Gardens.

There is a significant amount of new housing being created in Yarra, especially in Richmond, Cremorne and in Alphington with ongoing urban renewal at the former AMCOR site.

Yarra has three public housing estates, each with around 2,000 dwellings – mostly in high rise buildings. The buildings are managed by the Victorian Government, but Yarra Council also supports these residents.

This support was evident during COVID-19 lockdowns when council staff worked with other community organisations to deliver food and relief packages, containing books, activities and toiletries to residents of the public housing towers. Council also continued to advocate for improved access to the National Broadband Network (NBN) for those living in social housing, with poor internet access making home schooling and working from home even more challenging for these families during prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

About 13.5% of Yarra is open space, with areas of significant biodiversity and bushland. However, in some suburbs, such as Collingwood, public open space is less than 2%.

Yarra contains more than 30 community growing spaces, an urban farm, a market garden, 15 community gardens, 10 laneway gardens, and six school gardens.

Council is committed to ensuring new developments provide a balanced mix of housing types (including affordable housing), community infrastructure and good amenity.

Heritage overlays protect about 28,000 of Yarra's 35,000 properties, particularly in Melbourne's founding suburbs of Collingwood, Abbotsford, Richmond and Fitzroy.

Fitzroy is very important to Yarra's Aboriginal community. It's been a long-time meeting place and the location of many of Victoria's first dedicated community services for Aboriginal people, including the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

Our city by numbers

- Five libraries
- 10 neighbourhood houses
- 20km² of open space and parkland
- 53 art galleries, about 70 live music venues and three community radio stations
- 19 sportsgrounds and 25 pavilions
- 30+ community growing spaces
- 96% of the local economy consists of small-to-medium businesses
- Yarra's Gross Regional Product (GRP) is estimated at \$13 billion

Grants to the community

Grants totalling \$3.2 million were provided in 2020/21 through the following programs:

- Annual Grants 2021
- Celebrate Yarra 2020-22
- Community Partnership Grants 2017-21
- Creative Yarra 2020/21
- Engage Yarra 2020/21
- Investing in Communities 2021-23
- R&C Youth Program Grant 2020-23
- Room To Create Responsive Grant

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

- Small Project Grants
- Discounted Use 2020/21
- Youth Led Grants
- COVID-19 Quick Response Grants:
 - Local Business and Precinct Support Fund COVID-19 Quick Response Grants
 - Precinct Recovery Grants Round 1
 - Precinct Recovery Grants Round 2
 - Promoting Food Security Round Two 2020/21
 - Asylum Seeker Grant
 - STIMULATE Arts Grants

Additional grants for youth-specific programs in 2020/21 included:

- Richmond and Collingwood Youth Program grants – \$180,000
- Fitzroy Adventure Playground grant – \$150,000 per year (plus CPI).

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Map of Yarra



Yarra's year in review

This was a year in which the extraordinary circumstances we found ourselves at the beginning of 2020 became commonplace. Navigating the ever-changing landscape of restrictions and repeated lockdowns became our everyday reality.

Notwithstanding this, 2020/21 was a year in which Council continued the day-to-day delivery of services and mapping out plans to drive the city, while adapting and remaining agile to support our community in new and sometimes surprising ways.

Council has worked with and for the community to protect, maintain and improve the health of residents and businesses. We committed to supporting the community's physical and emotional health and wellbeing. Council and its partners have implemented processes and policies that have allowed businesses and community groups to pivot quickly and adapt to the challenges posed by the evolving nature of restrictions while remaining viable and relevant in the mid to long-term.

Libraries change lives through Yarra's Community Wellbeing project

In February 2020, as part of the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative, Yarra Libraries established the Community Wellbeing project. Partnering with local organisations and community groups, the Community Wellbeing team helped deliver 25 programs supporting more than 1,500 residents a month, engaging in public outreach to address gaps in digital literacy, food insecurity and library access – gaps that were accentuated during the 2020/21 lockdowns.

Initially designated 'non-essential' by the Victorian Government, Yarra Libraries was soon positioned as a lynchpin in Council's COVID-19 community response. By leveraging relationships already in place and expanding services already on offer – some taking on a dramatically different appearance – Yarra Libraries was able to reach the heart of Yarra and help the community through an exceedingly difficult time.

More than 60% of the Yarra community hold a library membership, and under normal circumstances, conduct 820,000 visits and 717,000 Wi-Fi sessions across five library locations each year. This need for engagement didn't go away when COVID-19 restrictions shut the libraries doors. In fact, for many of Yarra's most vulnerable residents, the need for interaction and connection was greatly amplified.

"Our community told us what they needed – we just showed up to deliver it."

Yarra Libraries worked closely with other Council departments to redeploy staff to areas which benefited the community, including local organisations experiencing resourcing and financial stress. Yarra Libraries staff members moved on-site at COVID-19 testing stations to undertake data entry. Other Council staff prepared parcels of food and other essential material aid items, and community transport drivers became meal delivery personnel.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Project highlights

- 'Ask a librarian' – residents could call to speak to a librarian about anything. Librarians are a valuable source of current information, and through this initiative, helped to alleviate social isolation.
- Binge bundles, an individually curated package of books, tailored to match reading preferences and making sure to include only books that had not been checked out and read before (800 bundles, individually curated with 12,000 books)
- More than 30,000 used library books were rehomed within the community.
- Worked with St Mary's House of Welcome to pack and distribute 696 meals a day to members of the homeless community in hotel accommodation when they couldn't have their usual volunteer workforce on site (staff redeployed from libraries, leisure and aged and disability services).
- Fed an average of 400 households each week for 40 weeks.
- 400 food packages were delivered weekly until December 2020. These packs also included books, masks, activity packs for children and adults, as well as essential COVID-19 information, helplines and resources.
- 13,920 meals per month were distributed among the homeless community – many were housed in hotels during lockdown, but without access to food.
- Saved approximately 25 tonnes of food from landfill – the equivalent of taking 39 cars off the road for 12 months.
- Council and partners assisted with food distribution when designated community groups could not distribute the food owing to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 10-40 meals or food items were distributed each week to international students.
- Delivered meals, fresh vegetables, and fruit to 30 households along with the, ATSI Billabong BBQ crew in partnership with Mission Australia, Aboriginal Partnerships, Fareshare and CoHealth from April to December 2020.
- Food distribution and material relief work was done in partnership with Open Table, Cultivating Community, Church of all Nations, BANH, The Wellington and Collingwood Neighbourhood House. Food was sourced primarily from Moving Feast (STREAT), FareShare, OzHarvest Secondbite, Melbourne Farmers Market.

Food insecurity, already an issue in Yarra, became a major problem during periods of COVID-19 restrictions and subsequent lockdowns. Yarra Libraries was one of the first in Victoria to get involved in food relief and distribution and worked closely with community partners to address hunger among residents.

A library is an invaluable community resource and a reflection of the community itself. In responding to the needs of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, Yarra Libraries has expanded the notion of what a library is and what it can do for its community. Libraries can and do change lives!

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Environmental action through our Climate Emergency Plan

Council continued to deliver on our city's ambitious Climate Emergency Plan.

As part of the plan, one of the first in Australia when endorsed in June 2020, Council has fast-tracked initiatives such as:

- advocating for zero-carbon standards in new developments
- delivering educational events and upskilling our community to be climate champions
- refreshing Yarra's solar program in partnership with the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF)
- exploring new partnerships with renewable electricity retailers
- providing new grants for climate action and sustainability community projects
- continuing the transition away from gas in council-owned buildings
- installing new bike infrastructure to get more people to use sustainable transport
- continuing the transition of Council's vehicle fleet to all-electric options
- upgrading stormwater harvesting schemes at Edinburgh Gardens and Ramsden Reserve
- continuing advocacy to other levels of government for climate action.

These achievements follow Yarra Council's commitment to a Green New Deal in December 2020.

The Green New Deal – a collection of interconnected activities drawn from the Climate Emergency Plan – aims to address the health, economic, social and climate crises we currently face as we begin our economic recovery from COVID-19.

It acknowledges that we have an opportunity to plan our recovery in a way that builds community resilience to future social, economic and environmental shocks, including the impacts of climate change.

In February, the Victorian Government announced its circular economy strategy, Recycling Victoria, which is a 10-year plan to overhaul Victoria's recycling sector, create 3,900 jobs and reduce waste into landfill. In response to this plan and to support a cleaner, more sustainable Yarra, Council introduced a separate glass recycling collection.

During the seven-month period in 2020/21 since the separate glass service commenced, approximately 2,000 tonnes of recycled kerbside glass were recovered via fortnightly kerbside glass collections in Yarra. By separating this glass from other recyclables, approximately 90% of the recycled glass from Yarra can be used to make new glass containers and approximately 10% can be used in asphalt mix to replace virgin sand.

This year, Council delivered 24 educational events through its Take Climate Action initiative. We engaged more than 1,200 people to reduce emissions and push for urgent change. The events included training to effectively advocate for change, and behaviour change sessions on reducing individual and household carbon emissions – with a focus on a renewables-led economic recovery.

We have also worked closely with other local councils, such as Darebin and Moreland, to deliver a new Community Skills for Climate Action program and to pursue a Planning Scheme amendment that builds on the existing local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Policies held for new developments.

The Elevating ESD Targets Planning Policy Amendment project aims to raise the bar, including targets for zero carbon development, and has grown to involve 29 urban and regional Victorian councils. It demonstrates a growing understanding across the state of the need for stronger planning policy to drive a gas-free, zero-carbon built environment.

We continue to walk the talk in our own backyard. Maintaining our carbon neutral certification and transitioning the domestic-style equipment at 20 of our community-use buildings, including childcare facilities, seniors' centres and other community facilities away from gas. This transition includes replacing gas cookers with electric induction cookers, replacing gas heaters with electric reverse-cycle air conditioners and replacing gas hot water systems with efficient electric systems.

The stormwater harvesting scheme at Edinburgh Gardens was also recently upgraded with a new 1 million litre water tank, increasing the amount of water we can collect on-site to 24 million litres.

We are also installing new bike infrastructure across Yarra to encourage more people to use sustainable transport and trialling new pop-up bike lanes on Elizabeth Street, Richmond and Park Street east in the city's north.

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Developing our first-ever Community Vision

What do the people who live, work and play in Yarra want it to look and feel like in the future?

“Yarra is a vibrant, safe and inclusive environment. We celebrate and embrace our diversity and connection to each other and the land. Our community is empowered to work together and support one another with respect and trust.”

This is the future vision for Yarra articulated by our community.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires all local governments to develop a Community Vision to guide their strategic thinking for a period of at least 10 years. The Yarra community is as diverse as it is welcoming, and this was our chance to work together to decide what Yarra should look and feel like in 15 years.

The Community Vision project provided the community with a genuine and meaningful opportunity to contribute to and participate in Council planning and decision-making. The Community Vision will help shape our next Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan, and inform all strategic planning moving forward.

It was also an opportunity to challenge some traditional ideas about how we live, work and play – particularly as we move into a post-COVID-19 world.

Broad community engagement

From November 2020 to January 2021, we asked the wider community its thoughts and aspirations for Yarra's future. We reached the most diverse corners of Yarra through in-person events, mail, email, radio, social media and outdoor advertising in popular spots. We also had some big help from our fantastic youth and cultural ambassadors.

This was a once-in-a-generation opportunity for residents to leave their mark on this special place by considering three simple questions:

- Right now, what do you love about Yarra? What makes it special?
- Right now, what should Yarra stop doing? (What should we address?)
- What needs to happen for Yarra to be the best it can be in 2035?

These questions were put to our diverse community. Over 1,300 people had their say, resulting in excellent representation by suburb, age group, cultural background and ability. Of these people, 44% spoke to us in-person at one of our pop-up events held across Yarra, and 56% engaged online via our Your Say Yarra website.

We captured the voices of children, youth and older people, people experiencing housing insecurity, property owners, CALD communities, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ communities and people with disability. More 26 to 35-year-olds participated than any other age bracket. We also heard loud and clear from our CALD communities, with 20% of respondents speaking a language other than English at home.

The community panel

After this, a randomly selected community panel of 55 locals from all walks of life came together through a deliberative engagement process to consider the wider community's feedback and create the Community Vision.

The panel met four times in person during May 2021 – a total of 13 hours' worth of learning and deliberations. They were also supported by a website with learning materials and a forum for questions.

They considered the views of the broader Yarra community and the diverse perspectives of other panel participants. They were provided with more information when requested, discussed and deliberated with their fellow panel members to create the final vision.

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What we heard from our community

What do you love about Yarra?

- The two most popular responses to this question were open green spaces (over 30%) and neighbourhood and community feel (just under 20%).

What should Yarra stop doing?

- More than a quarter of all responses to this question referenced the need for addressing building, housing and planning related issues.
- Less than 5% of participants believed responding to COVID-19 was not a Council priority.
- Respondents want more to be done in terms of looking after nature, the environment and delivery of the Climate Emergency Plan.

What needs to happen for Yarra to be the best it can be in 2035?

- Although it scored highly across all age groups, "Increasing access to and addressing contestability for open space" was the most important issue for respondents aged 26-65.
- For those aged 0-25, it was continuing and improving community services and facilities.
- Addressing building, planning related issues was the key issue for those over 66.
- Private Renters were most concerned about the environment, climate change and renewable energy.
- Responding to COVID-19, more than 35% of respondents wanted improvements to response, planning, leadership and management processes.
- Moving forward, the community wants more support for people sleeping rough and better affordable and low-income housing options.
- More than 80% of people want more trees and greenery as opposed to more cars and parking spaces in their local neighbourhoods.
- More than 70% of people believe that Council has a role to play in the delivery of social and affordable housing.

The Community Vision

The Yarra 2036 Community Vision includes:

- the Vision Statement describing the future state of Yarra in 2036
- eight Vision Themes representing the key areas of focus
- a set of Future Priorities describing the key aspirations for the future of Yarra, presented by Vision Theme.

The Community Vision was formally adopted in the 2021/22 financial year. It is an important document that describes our community's long-term hopes, dreams and aspirations for Yarra. Importantly, the process provided a unique opportunity to partner with our community to build a shared vision for Yarra of which we can all be proud of.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/communityvision to read more about the Community Vision.

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Advocacy in 2020/21

Cremorne Place Implementation Plan

The 2020 Victorian Budget invested more than \$65 million in funding to projects within the City of Yarra. This included a \$40 million upgrade to Melbourne Polytechnic's Collingwood Campus and \$9 million for upgrades at Fitzroy Primary School.

The Victorian Government also committed \$12 million to establish a flagship digital hub in Cremorne to create jobs, stimulate innovation and encourage the adoption of new technologies. This follows significant advocacy by Council across government to argue for greater investment in the precinct, particularly as a premier location for digital and technology industries.

In December 2020, the Victorian Government released the Cremorne Place Implementation Plan (CPIP). The CPIP was a joint project between the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and Yarra City Council.

Cremorne is a vibrant and diverse suburb, home to more than 2,000 residents, 700 businesses and 10,000 workers. As a key destination for creative design in the tech and digital space, the precinct has an annual contribution to the Victorian economy of \$2.7 billion.

Cremorne is a special place in Yarra, and Melbourne as a whole. Over the last 10 years, it has experienced unprecedented commercial development growth, with buildings previously used for manufacturing being re-purposed for office, commercial and co-working spaces. Cremorne represents approximately 30% of Yarra's employment growth from 2011 to 2016.

The CPIP represents a shared vision for the precinct that will help guide government activity and investment and build on the strengths and unique characteristics that make Cremorne attractive to businesses and residents. It sets out a plan for Council and the Victorian Government to work together in partnership with the community to ensure that Cremorne remains a great place to live, work and visit.

Outdoor dining

The City of Yarra is widely recognised for its appeal as a destination location for the arts, hospitality, shopping, music, nightlife, and events and is celebrated for its culture and diversity.

With more than 1,100 hospitality businesses, Yarra relies heavily on its retail, food and dining and night-time economy sectors – which account for over 16,000 jobs, or 20% of Yarra's pre-COVID-19 employment. As such, Yarra's local economy was greatly impacted by COVID-19 and Victoria's lockdowns.

Council has worked with, and for, the community to mitigate the long-term effects of COVID-19 on our way of life. One practical, and hugely successful program, was the drive to increase and expand the outdoor dining capacity of Yarra's many cafés and restaurants.

Beginning in October 2020, Council worked closely with the Victorian Government, its departments and agencies like the Department of Transport, Victoria Police and Yarra Trams to design an outdoor dining program that maximised opportunity for local business to meet new density limits and COVID guidelines and restrictions.

Council set up a rapid response team to assess and issue free, flexible, and fast-tracked outdoor dining permits so that businesses in Yarra were well positioned to welcome back customers as soon as it was safe to do so. Businesses were able to apply to:

- use the footpath space in front of neighbouring properties
- use the on-street car parking bay(s) directly outside the business
- occupy space in laneways and side streets
- use Council-owned outdoor land (such as parks or gardens)
- use outdoor private property (such as a carpark on their property).

Yarra created more than 480 additional outdoor dining spaces including 150 new footpath trading areas, 200 extensions to existing footpath trading, 130 on-street parklets and eight large-scale outdoor dining spaces created through road or laneway closures.

Yarra's outdoor dining program received widespread community and business support with 94% of respondents to a Yarra survey having dined in a parklet and 95% expressing a desire for more parklets to be created.

Business also strongly supported Council's outdoor dining program with 90% of parklet operators surveyed finding it had increased their revenue and 95% saying parklets enabled them to keep staff employed during COVID-19 restrictions. A further 84% of local business surveyed cited parklets as helping keep their business open during COVID-19 restrictions.

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These outdoor dining spaces have not only helped the economic recovery of small local businesses, they have also aided social recovery by encouraging people to get outdoors and bring life back to Yarra's streets after three Melbourne lockdowns.

"The outdoor dining program was a highly successful component of Council's broad support package for businesses to help them weather the myriad impacts of the pandemic." – Yarra Mayor, Cr Gabrielle de Vietri.

The outdoor dining program has transformed Yarra's retail and dining precincts, creating lively, bustling areas along Gertrude Street, Brunswick Street and Smith Street as well as creating new and innovative dining experiences in many of the municipality's neighbourhood activity centres. All costs associated with this program were absorbed by Council.

The decision to extend outdoor dining in Yarra was a result of feedback received through extensive community consultation with more than 2,400 residents and businesses providing feedback.

A survey of residents and businesses revealed:

- 95% of people wanted to see more of parklets both short and long term
- 84% of residents thought that the parklets were a better use of public space
- 100% of parklet operators said their customers love their parklet.

In late 2020, Council also successfully argued for further funding to be made available to local government to support the cost of outdoor dining and ensure it continued.

In total, Council received \$1 million through the Victorian Government's Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package including \$500,000 made available to all metropolitan councils, and a further \$500,000 awarded through a competitive grant process.

This funding allowed us to deliver the program at no direct cost to business through to March 2021, with Council funding additional outdoor dining fee waivers from March to December 2021.

Council has provided significant funding and relief to local businesses throughout the pandemic, with almost \$2.8 million in support delivered through its quick response and precinct recovery grants and fee waivers.

Council will continue to work with local traders and parklet operators and will investigate a long-term approach to outdoor dining and policies to support this.

Other advocacy initiatives

Yarra continues to work closely with neighbouring councils to advocate for issues impacting the community. Council is also part of the Inner Metropolitan Partnership which brings together the Victorian Government, councils, business and the community to advise government on the top priorities across the region.

Through the Inner Metropolitan Partnership, Yarra has advocated strongly for greater action on climate change and sustainability, active and public transport, housing and jobs and the local economy which has been broadly supported by the Partnership and recommended to government for further action through its advice and engagement with Ministers and Victorian Government departments and agencies.

The 2021 Victorian Budget also delivered significant investment in the City of Yarra with more than \$57 million in projects, including funding for multipurpose sport centre at the Fitzroy Gasworks Precinct – a long-term advocacy priority for Council and the Yarra community – and further upgrades to digital infrastructure in Cremorne, Burnley Train Station and North Richmond Train Station.

Following a long advocacy campaign from Council, the Victorian Budget committed \$49.5 million for the new sports centre within the Gasworks precinct. Council has committed \$5 million to the project. The centre will be located adjacent to the new senior school campus and include four indoor courts, an additional rooftop court and a gym.

Council is continuing to work closely with the Victorian Government as further planning, design and consultation occurs and is committed to delivering this important piece of local and regional sporting and community infrastructure in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Council has also supported local traders via its Small Business Ambassador program.

Yarra's Small Business Ambassadors work one-on-one with local business to connect them with much-needed peer support, mentoring and training, as well as provide the latest information and advice on COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, grants and government support. The program recognises hardships faced by so many and provides very practical support for local traders and is delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government.

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Highlights and the year ahead

1 – A healthy Yarra	2 – An inclusive Yarra	3 – A sustainable Yarra	4 – A liveable Yarra	5 – A prosperous Yarra	6 – A connected Yarra	7 – A leading Yarra
Highlights of the year						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council established the Yarra Food Network. • The Yarra Homelessness Strategy was adopted. • Council approved 143 Annual Grants for \$927,518, and 11 Investing in Community grants totalling \$301,000 per annum over three years. • A construction contract was awarded for the pavilion replacement at Ryan's Reserve Netball Centre. Community consultation and design works were completed for the proposed construction of pocket parks at Gwynne street and Stephenson street in Cremorne, Citizens Park playground, Fitzy Bowl and Edinburgh Gardens. • Twenty park benches were installed along the Inner Circle Linear Park and Yarra River Trail. • The Community Wellbeing project delivered an array of programs and initiatives to support the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continued roll out of the Yarra COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package. • The Community support, resilience and recovery grants program was established to provide over \$3 million in support. • Yarra's Volunteer Strategy 2019-23 and year 1 Action Plan was adopted. • Yarra's LGBTQ+ Strategy was adopted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our glass-only bin recycling service was extended across Yarra. • Implementation started on an energy efficient streetlight replacement program (Council is spending \$200,000 on energy efficient streetlights). • The Climate Emergency Plan was adopted. • Yarra's Open Space Strategy was adopted. • Council decided to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to exhibit a planning scheme amendment for increasing the open space contribution rate from 4.5% to 10.1% – a key action from Yarra's Open Space Strategy. • Council committed to a Green New Deal to support the delivery of our Climate Emergency Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We completed a rewrite and exhibition of the Yarra Planning Scheme, following a multi-year engagement process with the community. • We developed a framework for managing Council's heritage assets. • Seven all-access open spaces projects were completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Strategy 2020-25 was adopted. • Council also supported the business community through its COVID-19 support package. • Library resources, including shelf stock, audio visual, educational and multicultural materials were improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered 94% of planned \$9.239 million road renewal program. • Council commenced innovative trials of pop-up bike lanes on Elizabeth Street, Richmond and Park Street east, Carlton North to encourage the use of active transport. • \$815,000 was spent on reconstructing bluestone laneways to retain heritage values of local neighbourhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Transparency Policy was adopted. • Council worked closely with the community through a deliberative engagement model to develop the Yarra 2036 Community Vision.

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1 – A healthy Yarra	2 – An inclusive Yarra	3 – A sustainable Yarra	4 – A liveable Yarra	5 – A prosperous Yarra	6 – A connected Yarra	7 – A leading Yarra
Looking ahead to 2021/22						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is designing two new open spaces in Cambridge Street and Otter Street in Collingwood as part of the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program. • Council will substantially complete construction of two new open spaces in Gwynne Street and Stephenson Street in Cremorne. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will extend its hardship policy by 12 months till 30 June 2022. • A traineeship for one young person within our public housing estates to participate in training and employment experience at Yarra Council. • Council will commence planning and design of a new Community Hub at the Collingwood Town Hall Precinct, which will deliver much-needed community services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1,300 new trees will be planted across the city, • Improving the energy efficiency of our Council facilities. • We will continue our transition away from gas at 20 Council owned and operated facilities. • Deliver Year 1 of the Nature Strategy Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will look to employ a heritage officer with specialist knowledge in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage to progress projects and initiatives in the Heritage Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will distribute more than \$1 million through the community grants program, including an additional \$20,000 for Youth Led Grants and increased pool of funds for community-led projects that respond to the climate emergency. • Funding will be allocated to commence consultation and design development for potential streetscape improvements on Gleadell Street. • Council will develop detailed design and deliver works to upgrade the kerb outstand on the southeast corner of Kerr Street and Brunswick Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pedestrian infrastructure will be installed in Cremorne. • Council will develop a Transport Action Plan to improve public and active transport and identify key projects to advocate for and deliver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will adopt Yarra's first Community Vision, highlighting the community's aspirations for the next 15 years.

Supporting Yarra through COVID-19

COVID-19 touched every aspect of life in Yarra in 2020/21 and impacted every Council service, program, project and event. Council did – however – respond to the best of its capability and resources to help businesses and residents get through many challenges we faced.

The breadth of Council's actions to support the community are detailed throughout this report. There is no way to isolate COVID-19 from Council's day-to-day operations during 2020/21, it affected all aspects of the organisation and our service delivery. Despite this, we continued to deliver essential services and new initiatives to meet the urgent and evolving needs of our community.

Online resources

As Victoria experienced periods of lockdowns and restrictions, and parts of the workforce were redeployed to emergency support roles, an evolving network of support and services was developed across all levels of government. Council established an easy-to-navigate, one-stop online hub to allow easy access to the most current information regarding COVID-19 and the community.

COVID-19 continues to impact all levels of our community's health – physical, emotional and economic. The Coronavirus Hub on our website provided the community with trustworthy and up-to-date information regarding current restrictions and assistance available.

The hub contained detailed information on changes to Council services, how to get vaccinated in Yarra, services to support Yarra's CALD communities, information specifically for residents over 50, emergency food relief, financial aid and support for businesses and residents. Over 1,700 people visited the hub during the year.

Supporting our local economy

COVID-19 caused significant disruption to the way the people of Yarra live, work and play. Yarra's business and retail precincts are the lifeblood of Yarra's economy. These are the places that set this community apart, and financial support was imperative to getting these areas back on their feet after months of tough restrictions.

Through Precinct Recovery Grants, up to \$20,000, eligible businesses and community members delivered projects to activate, promote, beautify and future-proof Yarra's vibrant and much-loved precincts.

Council announced \$300,000 for local economic recovery projects under two rounds of its Precinct Recovery Grants. The grants, designed to revitalise local business precincts, have been a resounding success providing much-needed activation to Yarra's iconic dining, retail and business precincts and include initiatives such as Queens Parade Christmas shopping day, Gertrude Saturdays and Smith Street Vintage Trail.

Yarra's Precinct Recovery Grants were funded through Council's \$7.46 million Community and Economic Support Package and build on Council's strong support for local business and community throughout the pandemic.

Yarra is Working for Victoria

The Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative also provided opportunities for paid employment for people whose jobs were affected by COVID-19. This strengthened the support Council could offer the community. Seventy-four temporary staff members joined Council across nine program areas. The Arts, Culture and Venues branch, for example, welcomed several officers to their team to help monitor Yarra parks and gardens for COVID-19 safety requirements, deliver food packages, provide concierge services to aged care groups, document archived Council artworks, and audit more than 55 parks for the development of an online public resource.

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Mayor's message

I am pleased to present the fourth and final Annual Report covering Yarra's Council Plan 2017-21.

In a year defined by change, I am incredibly proud of our collective achievements as a Council and community.

With the ongoing impact of COVID-19 felt strongly in Yarra, it has been heart-warming to see you unite in support of one another. From providing and delivering meals and essential supplies for those in need to managing the social impacts of the pandemic like increased family violence and homelessness, I am blown away by the selflessness of so many.

But we acknowledge this pandemic is not over yet. So, we are resolute in our commitment to support you through the months and years ahead – whether you're a resident experiencing financial hardship, a business looking to set up outdoor dining, or a community group applying for one of the many grants we offer each year.

We also took the pandemic as an opportunity to think about what sort of future we want to see for Yarra. Our Yarra 2036 Community Vision was the culmination of nearly a years' worth of engagement with our community, including a 55-person community panel that met in May to create this guiding and aspirational document. It was the highlight of my year, and a process I am very proud to have led Yarra's community through.

Since our election to Council in November 2020, we were given a clear mandate by Yarra residents to take urgent action on the climate emergency unravelling across our planet. We are already feeling the impacts right here at home, with hotter and drier summers and more frequent storm activity putting Yarra's infrastructure and our community's health and wellbeing on the line.

The endorsement of a Green New Deal to address the health, economic, social and climate crises we currently face was a landmark moment in Council's year. We have a clear path towards a recovery from COVID-19 that builds the capacity and resilience of our community to be ready for future challenges, including pandemics and the climate emergency.

So much of this change is occurring at a local level. We're pressing on with transitioning Council's facilities to 100% renewable electricity. This year also saw the launch of two trial pop-up bike lanes along Elizabeth Street in Richmond, and Park Street in Carlton North to make it safer and easier for people to get around our city with active transport. We've transformed Rose Street into a pedestrian priority zone. We've accelerated our tree-planting program. And we've boosted the vitality of our streets with our leading outdoor dining program.

Our new glass-only recycling bin has also seen 2,000 tonnes of glass recovered since its implementation. The success in separating glass from other recyclables speaks for itself – about 90% of this recovered glass will be repurposed for new containers, with the rest used to construct new local roads.

As we look to the future and delivering the year one actions of our next Council Plan, I am confident we can continue to meet these challenges and opportunities together.

I am honoured to have led Yarra City Council for its first year of this new term. Thank you to my fellow Councillors and council officers for your tireless work. I look forward to another collaborative year where we continue to build a positive future for our great city.

Cr Gabrielle de Vietri
Mayor

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Chief Executive Officer's message

Welcome to Yarra City Council's Annual Report 2020/21.

Over the last year we have witnessed the resilience and tenacity of our community, and together achieved great things.

The impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to challenge us and shape our lives. In 2020, Council wholeheartedly committed to supporting our community through this pandemic – whether it be through our emergency response, hardship policies, business support grants, the strengthening of essential services or innovative programs like outdoor dining.

In 2020, Council wholeheartedly committed to supporting our community through this pandemic – whether it be through our hardship policies, business support grants, the strengthening of essential services or innovative programs like outdoor dining.

This year's Annual Report covers the fourth and final year of the current Council Plan. Despite the challenges we've faced, I'm pleased to say that 89% of our Annual Plan Activities are complete or on-track, and we've met 87% of our strategic indicator targets for the year.

We continued to provide our essential services, support Yarra's local economy, and deliver on our promises to tackle the climate emergency, despite the impacts of lockdowns.

With such a diverse community here in Yarra, it was extremely gratifying to hear through the 2020/21 statewide Annual Community Satisfaction Survey that we received an 'excellent' rating for staff understanding our customers' language needs. We also received a rating between 'very good' and 'excellent' for our service delivery.

Unfortunately, many of the annual award programs have been streamlined, postponed or cancelled in the last 12 months due to the pandemic. Certainly, our focus at Yarra has been on service delivery and responding to the ongoing challenges of COVID-19. I am still pleased to report that we received number of awards or recognitions demonstrating Yarra's leadership and expertise across several key areas.

Awards and recognition in 2020/21

- Climate Champion Award at the Cities Power Partnership Climate Awards 2020 for our continued work in the sustainability and climate emergency space.
- Award of Excellence for Urban Design in the 2021 Australian Institute of Landscape Architect Awards for our Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan. This is one of the highest commendations that can be given to a project and recognises the expertise of Yarra staff across several disciplines.
- We received an overall rating of 'Exceeding' the National Quality Standards (NQS) in our recent Assessment and Rating report on the Keele Street Children's Centre.
- Platinum standard for all Yarra Leisure centres under the Life Saving Victoria's Platinum Pool program.
- Recognised as the Community Engagement Policy exemplar and best-practice standard by Local Government Victoria, who organised for Yarra to brief other councils on our policy and community engagement activities.

We continued to advocate on behalf of our community across the year, with major achievements on issues like outdoor dining, planning and development, climate and environment, sustainability and other local government matters.

As a result of Yarra's strategic advocacy agenda and strong partnerships, we also secured over \$9 million in grants from the Victorian and Federal governments, including funding to deliver new or improved local infrastructure, Yarra's outdoor dining program and economic recovery.

This year also saw the election of a new Council, with a mix of new and familiar faces returning to serve our community for the next four years. I have enjoyed collaborating with our Councillors to deliver positive outcomes for our community, and look forward to continuing our work into 2021/22.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the passion and commitment of our workforce, many of whom have gone above and beyond in their roles to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and support our community through the toughest of times. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making Yarra a place we can all be very proud of.

Vijaya Vaidyanath
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Chief Financial Officer's report

The Chief Financial Officer's report provides a summary of Council's financial activities and performance for the financial year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Council's financial performance focused on achieving the objectives of the Council Plan 2017-2021. Financial performance into the future is guided by both the current Council Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan.

Key considerations in financial performance are ensuring financial sustainability, maintenance and improvement of infrastructure assets, enhancing quality services and outcomes and supporting the community through coronavirus (COVID-19). Full financials are available in the Financial Statements section.

Impact of COVID-19

Council's operations and consequentially its financial results were significantly impacted by COVID-19 during the 2020/21 financial year.

Victorian Government restrictions in response to COVID-19, required Council to temporarily close recreation and leisure facilities as well as other public facilities including, libraries, halls, and golf courses. Closures along with reduced parking infringements and statutory fees significantly impacted Council's revenue levels for the 2020/21 financial year.

In addition, we continued the rollout of our \$7.4 million Community and Business Support Package to fund dedicated services and programs to support relief (includes waiving or license fees and interest), response and recovery efforts and lessen the impacts of COVID-19.

Further detail on these impacts is provided in the relevant sections of Council's 2020/21 financial statements.

Financial snapshot

- \$188.6 million income in 2020/21 compared to \$199.9 million income in 2019/20.
- \$10.1 million operating deficit compared to \$11.4 million operating surplus in 2019/20.
- \$25.7 million in capital works expenditure compared to \$29.2 million capital works expenditure in 2019/20.
- \$2.14 billion in assets in 2020/21 compared to \$2.05 billion in assets in 2019/20.
- \$116.2 million in rates and charges (62% of income) compared to \$112.2 million in rates and charges (56% of income) in 2019/20. More information on rates is included in the Income section later in this report.
- Cash and cash equivalents of \$88.9 million in 2020/21 compared to \$94.7 million in 2019/20.
- Interest bearing debt of \$41.2 million in 2020/21 compared to \$42.5 million in 2019/20.

Operating result

Net results 2016/17 to 2020/21

	2016/17 \$'000s	2017/18 \$'000s	2018/19 \$'000s	2019/20 \$'000s	2020/21 \$'000s
Income	180,679	191,451	207,354	199,904	188,599
Expenses	163,173	170,582	181,432	188,501	198,725
Surplus/Deficit	17,506	20,869	25,922	11,403	(10,126)

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

The net result is Council's operating result comprising operating income less operating expenditure. It includes non-cash items, such as depreciation, and accrual accounting items, and is therefore not a cash surplus.

Equity

Year-end balance 2020/21

	\$'000s
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	1,956,054
Deficit for the year	(10,126)
Net reserves movement (including revaluation)	92,318
Balance at the end of the financial year	2,038,246

Cash Flow

Year-end cash position 2020/21

	\$'000s
Net cash provided by operating activities	21,191
Net cash used in investing activities	(32,584)
Net cash provided by financing activities	(4,415)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(15,808)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	94,738
Cash at the end of the financial year	78,930

Balance Sheet

Summary Balance Sheet 2020/21

	\$'000s
Current assets	109,411
Non-current assets	2,028,050
Total assets	2,137,461
Current liabilities	86,416

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

	\$'000s
Non-current liabilities	12,799
Total liabilities	99,215
Net assets	2,038,246
Accumulated surplus	656,661
Reserves	1,381,585
Equity	2,038,246

Capital works program

Council allocates funding on an annual basis for the renewal of the community's assets, which are valued at over \$2.0 billion. Funding is also allocated for the new, upgrade and asset expansion, which deliver a range of works that enhance Yarra and its infrastructure.

Council continued its journey towards providing a sustainable level of asset renewal funding to ensure financial sustainability into the future.

Council successfully delivered a \$25.7 million capital works program, including: \$6.8 million on buildings, \$14.1 million on infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, drainage, and open space/recreational facilities, and \$4.8 million on plant, technology and equipment. Refer to the Capital Works and Financial Statements sections for more details.

Financial statements

Council's financial statements detail the total financial transactions and activities for the year as well as an overview of Council's financial position. The financial report includes five major financial statements: Comprehensive Income Statement, the Balance Sheet, and the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows, and the Statement of Capital Works. Refer to the Financial Statements section for full details.

Comprehensive income statement

Major categories of both income and expenditure to determine the surplus (or deficit) for the year are included in the Comprehensive Income Statement. The operating deficit for 2020/21 (income less expenditure) is (\$10.1) million. Total operating income of \$188.6 million was recognised and total operating expenditure of \$198.7 million was incurred. Major income categories include rates and charges, statutory fees and fines, user fees, government grants and contributions. The following table details the composition of Council's \$188.6 million total operating income for 2020/21.

Income by category 2020/21	\$'000s	%
Rates and charges	116,242	61.6%
Statutory fees and fines	18,999	10.1%
User fees	21,567	11.4%
Government grants	21,988	11.7%

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Income by category 2020/21	\$'000s	%
Contributions	5,114	2.7%
Net gain on disposal of non-current assets	2,994	1.6%
Other income	1,695	0.9%
Total income	188,599	100.0%

Rate cap compliance

Council complied with the Victorian Governments' cap on rates and has complied each year since the introduction of the rate capping system.

Expenditure by category

Most of Council's operating expenditure relates to direct service delivery. Major expenditure categories include employee costs, materials and services, doubtful debts, depreciation, amortisation right of use assets and borrowing costs. The following table details the allocation of Council's \$198.7 million total operating expenditure for 2020/21.

Expenditure by category 2020/21	\$'000s	%
Employee costs	95,135	47.9%
Materials and services	70,541	35.5%
Depreciation	23,044	11.6%
Amortisation – right of use assets	1,160	0.6%
Bad and doubtful debts	6,241	3.1%
Borrowing costs	1,870	0.9%
Finance – costs leases	171	0.1%
Other expenses (e.g., auditors' fees, councillors' allowances)	563	0.3%
Total expenditure	198,725	100.0%

Balance sheet

Council's Balance Sheet (see the Financial Statements section) shows what Council owns (its assets) and what it owes (its liabilities) and its net worth.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Assets

The major components of assets include property (land and buildings), infrastructure assets (roads, footpaths, drains), plant and equipment, cash and investments and debtors. As at 30 June 2021, Council held \$2,137.5 million in assets, increase on the previous year of \$86.7 million.

	2016/17 \$'000s	2017/18 \$'000s	2018/19 \$'000s	2019/20 \$'000s	2020/21 \$'000s
Assets	1,734,122	1,975,180	2,087,495	2,050,781	2,137,461

Liabilities

Council's liabilities include amounts owed to suppliers, employee leave entitlements and debt. As at 30 June 2021 Council's liabilities total \$99.2 million, which is an increase of \$4.5 million on the previous year.

	2016/17 \$'000s	2017/18 \$'000s	2018/19 \$'000s	2019/20 \$'000s	2020/21 \$'000s
Debt	46,000	44,867	43,691	42,473	41,203
Other liabilities	33,010	35,026	39,930	52,254	58,012

Statement of changes in equity

The Statement of Changes in Equity (see the Financial Statements section) details the changes in Council's retained earnings, including reserves movement, over the reporting period. Council's equity as at 30 June 2021 is \$2,038.2 billion, which is an increase of \$82.2 million during the year due to a significant increment of asset revaluation reserves.

	2016/17 \$'000s	2017/18 \$'000s	2018/19 \$'000s	2019/20 \$'000s	2020/21 \$'000s
Council equity	1,655,112	1,895,287	2,003,874	1,956,054	2,038,246

Statement of cash flows

The cash flow statement (see the Financial Statements section) details Council's cash inflows and outflows for the year. Council's cash balance as at 30 June 2021 is \$78.9 million, which will be used to fund Council's operations during the 2021/22 financial year.

	2016/17 \$'000s	2017/18 \$'000s	2018/19 \$'000s	2019/20 \$'000s	2020/21 \$'000s
Cash balance	34,152	51,086	87,653	94,738	78,930

Audit opinion

Council has received an unmodified (clear) audit opinion from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO).

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Future directions

Council's 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) outlines its future financial direction. A significant part of this future direction will focus on Council's support of the community through COVID-19 and into the recovery phase as well as the implementation of the Council Plan that supports has been made in the context of the Community Vision.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Your investment in Yarra

2020/21 breakdown	2020/21 \$'000s	% of Council spending
Infrastructure and asset management	21,232	10.7%
Waste and recycling	21,002	10.6%
Strategic and statutory planning	11,813	5.9%
Construction management	3,439	1.7%
Customer service	3,157	1.6%
Family, youth and children's services	17,417	8.8%
Aged and disability services	5,646	2.8%
Library services	5,909	3.0%
Leisure, arts, culture and venues	14,922	7.5%
Parks and recreation	9,110	4.6%
Compliance, parking and traffic	20,342	10.3%
Strategic transport and sustainability	3,826	1.9%
Advocacy, engagement and communications	7,844	3.9%
Finance, performance, systems and people	15,968	8.0%
Governance	10,852	5.5%
Interest, depreciation, amortisation	26,246	13.2%
Total	198,725	100%

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Capital works

Working for you

There were 307 projects with a total budget of \$37.61 million in the 2020/21 capital works program, consisting of \$30.54 million adopted in the 2020/21 budget and \$7.07 million of budgeted works carried forward from 2019/20.

This financial year, Council completed 239 capital works projects with a total value of \$25.73 million. This represents 68% by value of the total 2020/21 program, or 84% of the value of the 2020/21 adopted capital budget. There was significant impact on the delivery of projects as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. These included limitations on permitted workers on sites, the inability to undertake necessary public consultation, contractor unavailability and on-going delays and shortages of construction materials.

The capital works program represents a major investment in the Yarra community. It allows Council to provide new community infrastructure and renew or upgrade existing infrastructure.

Capital works summary 2020/21

Capital works	\$'000s
Buildings and facilities	6,790
Plant, machinery & equipment	2,015
Computers and telecommunications	2,165
Library resources	644
Roads	5,575
Bridges	110
Footpaths and cycleways	2,486
Drainage	2,213
Waste management	75
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,337
Other infrastructure	1,318
Total	25,728

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Capital works highlights 2020/21

Buildings and facilities	\$'000s
Richmond Town Hall toilets (ground and first floor) and kitchen renewal	1,156
Jack Dyer Pavilion (Citizens Park) reconstruction works commenced	1,052
Brunswick Street Oval Precinct redevelopment design	250
Chas Farquhar complex (Richmond Preschool) redevelopment preliminary works	268
Fitzroy Swimming Pool gym heating, ventilating, and air conditioning renewal	236
Collingwood Children's Farm public toilets refurbishment	109
Gyms energy efficiency passive thermal upgrades	111
Transitioning Council facilities from the use of natural gas	75

Plant, machinery and equipment	\$'000s
Replacement of diesel trucks with electric trucks	847
Parking pay stations and sensor replacements	252

Computers and telecommunication	\$'000s
Laptop rollout program to enable flexible and mobile workforce	898
Geographic Information System (GIS) replacement	199

Library resources	\$'000s
Books	389
e-Collection	166
Other media	59

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Footpaths and cycleways	\$'000s
Thirty footpath renewal projects	2,218
Elizabeth Street protected bicycle lanes	197

Drainage	\$'000s
Brick drain relining program	922
Ramsden Street Oval stormwater harvesting	42

Roads	\$'000s
Twenty-two kerb and channel renewal projects	2,214
Twenty-six road pavement renewal projects	2,028
Ten laneway renewal projects	742

Parks, open space and streetscapes	\$'000s
Darling Gardens main diagonal pathways renewal	366
Gahan Reserve playground, irrigation system and pathways renewal	361
Alan Bain Reserve restoration works	133
Main Yarra Trail installation of new park benches at various locations	48

Other infrastructure	\$'000s
Road safety and black spot improvements	1,015
High efficiency streetlights	132

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Capital works spotlight

Jack Dyer Pavilion (Citizens Park) redevelopment works

2020/21 expenditure: \$1,052,000

The Jack Dyer Pavilion in Citizens Park, home to local cricket, junior football and athletics clubs, is being redeveloped by Council in partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria. Yarra Council acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

The redevelopment includes four change rooms to allow for growth in female participation, upgraded umpire's facilities, an improved and expanded kitchen and kiosk facilities and club rooms. The pavilion will also include a community space with its own kitchen and amenities.

The redevelopment includes several environmentally sustainable design features such as substantial 11kW solar array, passive design efficiencies including above-standard insulation and inclusion of skylights to several rooms, and energy-efficiency lighting. Water efficiency measures include harvesting and reticulation of stormwater for the toilets in the pavilion. The pavilion will not utilise any natural gas – with the solar array and Council's use of green electricity supply, the pavilion will have no greenhouse gas emissions from operations.

The redeveloped pavilion retains the structurally sound original two-storey 1940s red brick portion of the previous pavilion, which also provides better sustainability outcomes as compared to a full demolition and rebuild.

This project commenced construction during the 2020/21 budget year and is expected to be completed in early 2022.

Replacement of diesel trucks with electric trucks

2020/21 expenditure: \$847,000

Yarra continues to take the lead in the journey to tackle climate change. We were the first council in Victoria to be accredited as carbon neutral as early as 2012. Yarra was also one of the first councils in the world to declare a climate emergency in 2017. Council recognised that one of the key influences in its carbon footprint was its fleet and plant and use of fossil fuels. As part of the Climate Emergency Plan and Yarra's commitment to transition to low emission and where possible, zero emission vehicles, Council in 2020/21 replaced three diesel engine trucks with electric powered equivalents.

These trucks are utilised as part of Council's operations, including hard waste collections and open space maintenance services. These trucks complement and add to existing Yarra's electric vehicle (EV) fleet. With the extensive solar array installed at our Clifton Hill operations depot and Council's use of green electricity supply, all EV vehicles and trucks parked at the depot are charged with zero greenhouse gas emissions.

This is in addition to the transition to EV and hybrid passenger vehicles, and complements the other electric operational vehicles, including electric excavator, electric mowers and electric hand tools used by council officers in our cleansing and open space maintenance teams.

Council will continue to be a leader in local government in the transition to low emissions and zero emission vehicles as part of our vehicle renewal program.

Gahan Reserve playground, irrigation system and pathways renewal

2020/21 expenditure: \$361,000

The new playground captures the voices of the children, carers and park users in the community. A bespoke playground built with natural Australian timbers in a garden setting respects what was there before and reflects the ideas of what great play environments in Yarra can look like.

The works in the playground were complemented by improved pathways, lighting and a water efficient irrigation system through the broader park.

Elizabeth Street protected bike lanes

2020/21 expenditure: \$197,000

This year Council delivered protected bike lanes on Elizabeth Street in Richmond North between Hoddle and Church streets.

Council used an iterative trial approach to implement the project. This meant that Council used low-cost but fit-for-purpose infrastructure, such as bollards and kerb separators, to trial the protected bike lanes so that they can easily be altered over the course of the trial or removed if the trial is not performing as it should.

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Footpath trees were also planted as part of the works to provide better shade canopy and amenity for people walking on the street.

The protected bike lanes aim to improve safety, comfort and enjoyment for existing cyclists and create an attractive environment for cycling to encourage people of all ages and abilities who wish to ride a bike in our community.

Canning St and Richardson St black spot improvements

2020/21 expenditure: \$411,000

Council secured funding from the Federal Black Spot program for the delivery of significant safety improvements to the intersection of Canning Street and Richardson Street, North Carlton.

The intersection had the highest incidence of crashes in Yarra. Between 2012-2017, a total of 19 crashes were recorded at the intersection, 18 of which involved cyclists. Canning Street is also part of Council's strategic cycling corridor and one of the busiest cycling routes in Melbourne.

The intersection was reconfigured from a conventional unsignalised intersection to a C-roundabout, which is effective in reducing the cross-traffic crashes whilst maintaining priority for cyclists. Additionally, raised zebra crossings were installed at both approaches on Richardson Street to slow down traffic before the roundabout and significantly improve pedestrian accessibility along Canning Street. The roundabout also provided opportunities for additional landscaping areas.

Brick drain relining program

2020/21 expenditure: \$922,000

Council is renewing its stormwater infrastructure network with the focus on large brick underground drains that were constructed over 100 years ago. Although largely unnoticed and unseen by residents, these drains have served the community well by preventing flooding in streets and flooding impacts to private property.

Based on structural condition assessments, drains are being relined or renewed as necessary to ensure they can continue to serve the community by mitigating the risk of flooding for many years to come.

Modern technologies such as CIPP (Cured In Place Pipe, used in York Street, Richmond) and PVC structural liners (used in Newry Street, North Carlton), along with traditional repair methods have been used to ensure the best possible outcomes including minimising disruption to residents.

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Your Council

Current Councillors

The Yarra community is represented by nine elected Councillors. While individual Councillors may consult with community members and advocate on their behalf, they can only make decisions as a collective.

Each November, Councillors elect a Mayor to chair formal meetings and speak on behalf of Council.

The current group of Councillors were elected on 6 November 2020 to serve for a four-year term.

The Mayor for 2021/22 will be elected at a meeting on 15 November 2021.

Langridge Ward

- Cr Gabrielle de Vietri (Mayor 2020/21)
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Anab Mohamud

Melba Ward

- Cr Edward Crossland
- Cr Herschel Landes
- Cr Claudia Nguyen (Deputy Mayor 2020/21)

Nicholls Ward

- Cr Bridgid O'Brien
- Cr Amanda Stone
- Cr Sophie Ward

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Council staff

Organisational structure

Chief Executive Officer Vijaya Vaidyanath						
Executive Management Team						
Director Corporate, Business and Finance Diarmuid McAlary*	Director Community Wellbeing Lucas Gosling*	Director City Works and Assets Chris Leivers*	Director Planning and Place Making Bruce Phillips*	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office Ivan Gilbert*	Group Manager People and Culture Gracie Karabinis*	Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement Brooke Colbert*
Chief Financial Officer	Manager Aged and Disability Services	Manager Building and Asset Management	Manager City Strategy	Senior Coordinator Property Services**	Manager Organisational Culture, Capability and Diversity	Senior Coordinator Digital Communications and Marketing**
Manager Compliance and Parking	Manager Family, Youth and Children's Services	Manager City Works	Manager Statutory Planning	Coordinator Office of Mayor and Councillors**	Manager Risk and Safety	Senior Coordinator Communications and Engagement**
Manager Corporate Planning and Performance	Manager Yarra Libraries	Manager Recreation and Leisure Services	Unit Manager Strategic Transport**	Senior Advisor City Heritage**	Manager Human Resource Services and Support	Special Projects Advisor**
Manager Customer Service	Unit Manager Arts, Culture, Festivals and Events**	Manager Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Traffic and Civil Engineering	Municipal Building Surveyor	Senior Governance Advisor**		Senior Advisor Strategic Advocacy**
Manager Information Services	Manager Social Strategy and Community Development	Strategy and Transformation Lead – CityLab**	Unit Manager Sustainability**			

*Member of the Executive Management Team

**Not a Senior Officer

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Executive Management Team

Vijaya Vaidyanath

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of Council's policies. Vijaya is ultimately responsible for all policies, decisions and services provided by Yarra's elected Council. As the conduit between Council and the organisation's workforce, Vijaya ensures that the organisation's day-to-day activities are aligned with its long-term strategic objectives. She provides high-level advice to councillors and acts on behalf of the organisation in a range of contexts.

Diarmuid McAlary

Director Corporate, Business and Finance

Diarmuid, as head of the Corporate, Business and Finance Division, is responsible for managing Yarra's financial performance and long-term financial sustainability. He is also responsible for key corporate planning processes, information systems and procurement. Externally, the division manages customer service, local laws compliance and parking enforcement and administration services.

Ivan Gilbert

Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

Ivan is responsible for governance, property, heritage services, Aboriginal partnerships and supporting the Mayor and Councillors. He also oversees Council meetings, legal advice, issues management, processing protected disclosures, Freedom of Information and Victorian Government Ombudsman enquiries, and instruments of delegation. He also serves as Internal Ombudsman.

Lucas Gosling

Director Community Wellbeing

Lucas is responsible for community wellbeing through policy development, service delivery, community planning and partnerships. He oversees activities focused on community participation, through services and activities related to libraries, senior citizens, children, young people and families, arts, culture, venues, and access and inclusion. Lucas also serves as project sponsor for major community infrastructure initiatives. He oversees community partnerships, community grants, housing and homelessness and community safety.

Bruce Phillips

Director Planning and Place Making

Bruce is responsible for Yarra's city planning, economic environment and policy areas of sustainability. He oversees activities related to statutory and strategic planning, building surveying, urban design, open space planning, economic development, sustainability policy and advocacy and sustainable transport. He also leads several major projects.

Chris Leivers

Director City Works and Assets

Chris is responsible for the provision, maintenance and amenity of public infrastructure. He oversees Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Traffic and Civil Engineering and the construction and maintenance of civil infrastructure such as roads, drains and footpaths. Chris is also responsible for the maintenance of open space and trees, asset management and protection, construction management, natural environment, integrated water management and recycling and waste. He is also responsible for recreation and leisure services, Yarra City Lab, and developing and implementing Yarra's capital works program.

Gracie Karabinis

Group Manager People and Culture

Gracie is responsible for organisational development, diversity and inclusion, culture and leadership, employee and industrial relations and human resources. She oversees risk management, occupational health and safety, insurance and claims management, fraud and corruption and business continuity. Since COVID-19, Gracie is also responsible for internal COVID Response and Recovery.

Brooke Colbert

Advocacy, and Engagement and Communications

Brooke is responsible for internal and external communications, public relations, media relations, consultation and engagement and strategic advocacy across a range of traditional and digital channels.

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About our workforce

Workforce positions at 30 June 2021

At 30 June 2021, Council had a total of 975 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (includes temporary, casual and vacant positions).

Workforce data by banding and gender

(includes casuals and temporary FTE, excludes vacant positions)

Structure	Band 1 FTE	Band 2 FTE	Band 3 FTE	Band 4 FTE	Band 5 FTE	Band 6 FTE	Band 7 FTE	Band 8 FTE	All other	Total
Permanent full-time – female	0	0	30	53	69	60	50	35	30	327
Permanent full-time – male	0	0	47	25.1	48	64	49.79	31	33	297.89
Permanent full-time – Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Permanent part-time – female	0	1.96	16.95	22.97	18.62	7.63	3.16	0.84	13.59	85.72
Permanent part-time – male	0	1.63	10.42	5.74	4.87	1.2	2.4	0.84	2.08	29.18
Permanent Part-time - Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary – female	0	0	3	11	13.54	5.2	0	1	0	33.74
Temporary – male	0	0	11	11.8	13	4.2	2	1	0	43
Temporary - Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casual	0	0	5.55	6.95	0.08	0	0	0	45.94	58.52
Total FTE	0	3.59	123.92	136.56	167.11	142.23	107.35	70.68	124.61	876.05

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Workforce data by division and gender

(includes casuals and temporary FTE, excludes vacant positions)

Employment type/gender	Advocacy and Engagement	Chief Executive's Office	City Works and Assets	Community Wellbeing	Corporate, Business and Finance	Executive	People and Culture	Planning and Place Making	Total
Permanent full-time – female	9	6	54	134	53	9	17	45	327
Permanent full-time – male	2	1	128.79	39.1	82	5	6	34	297.89
Permanent full-time – Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Permanent part-time – female	0	1.45	5.44	63.31	10.73	0	1	3.79	85.72
Permanent part-time – male	0.79	2.44	7.49	11.08	5.98	0	0	1.4	29.18
Permanent part-time – Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary – female	2.5	0	3	15.44	3.6	0.6	2	6.6	33.74
Temporary – male	2	0	15.6	19.8	3	0	2	0.6	43
Temporary – Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casual	0	0	29.66	18.66	9.28	0	0.12	0.8	58.52
Total FTE	16.29	10.89	243.98	301.39	167.59	14.6	28.12	93.19	876.05

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Performance report

Council is required by the Local Government Act 1989 to adopt and report against a four-year Council Plan, which sets out the medium-term direction of Council and the outcomes sought by Councillors for their term.

The Council Plan must include strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and a strategic resource plan. The following report reflects the fourth and final year of the Council Plan 2017-21.

Each year Council also produces an Annual Plan aligned to the Council Plan. It sits alongside the yearly budget and directs the projects and activities Council will undertake towards achieving the strategic objectives.

Strategic objectives

The Council Plan 2017-21 is divided into seven strategic objectives:

- A healthy Yarra
- An inclusive Yarra
- A sustainable Yarra
- A liveable Yarra
- A prosperous Yarra
- A connected Yarra
- A leading Yarra.

Strategies

Each strategic objective is supported by strategies, which identify the focus for the following four-year period.

Major initiatives

Major initiatives review the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Strategic indicators

Strategic indicators provide a framework for monitoring progress towards the achievement of each strategic objective.

Activities

Activities represent the work undertaken by Council in pursuit of the strategic objectives and strategies. Drawn from the initiatives in the Council Plan 2017-21 and actions in the Annual Plan 2020/21, Activities provide a framework for monitoring Council's progress towards each strategic objective.

Service performance indicators

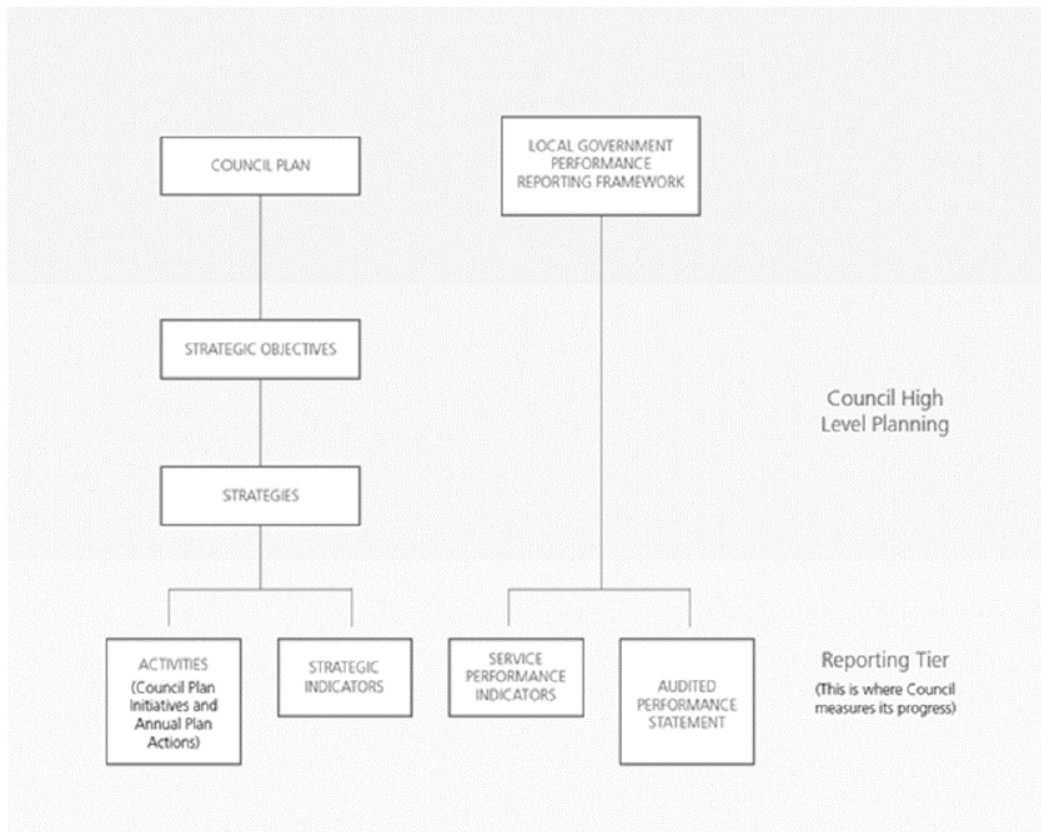
Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations require councils to report on service performance indicators. The results of these indicators, including comparisons with other councils and sector averages, will be published on the Victorian Government's *Know Your Council* website later this year. Council has reported these under its relevant strategic objectives.

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Performance statement

Council is required to publish an audited performance statement as part of its Annual Report.

The performance statement contains a selection of the service performance indicators as well as several financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators. This is provided in the performance statement section.



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Performance summary

The Council Plan 2017-21 features seven strategic objectives, a range of strategies to support each strategic objective, and strategic indicators that measure the progress of the strategic objectives.

The following table report reflects year four (2020/21) of the Council Plan 2017-21.

Strategic indicators

Performance against strategic indicators for each strategic objective 2020/21

Strategic objective	Total number of indicators	Number of indicators with a target for 2020/21	Achieved (exceeded or within 10%)	Not achieved	Result*
1. A healthy Yarra	24	12	12	-	100%
2. An inclusive Yarra	10	10	10	-	100%
3. A sustainable Yarra	8	8	8	-	100%
4. A liveable Yarra	12	11	7	4	64%
5. A prosperous Yarra	9	9	8	1	89%
6. A connected Yarra	9	9	7	2	78%
7. A leading Yarra	9	8	7	2	88%
Total	81	67	59	9	

*The result is expressed as the percentage of indicators with a target for 2020/21 that were achieved (exceeded or within 10%). This assessment is against the targets set at adoption and doesn't include an adjustment for the impacts of COVID-19.

Of 71 strategic indicators 67 had targets for 2020/21, and 59 were achieved for a result of 87%.

Council monitors and reports on a further 10 indicators of overall community health and wellbeing. Targets are not set for these measures as Council cannot directly affect the result.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

Activities

Each year Council also produces an Annual Plan based on the four-year Council Plan. It sits alongside the yearly Budget and directs the projects and activities Council will undertake towards achieving the strategic objectives.

Of the 47 Annual Plan Activities, 42 (89%) were completed or were on track.

During the year, Council realigned several priorities and deferred some milestones in response to exceptional circumstances, including:

- the need to allocate financial and/or people resources from the activity's milestone/s to COVID-19 support programs or services

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- the COVID-19 restrictions on the number of people who can gather for face-to-face community engagement sessions
- one or more milestones of an activity pending a decision by the state government or federal government
- other factors outside of Council's control.

Where Council has formally deferred milestones, the reported target and result (%) is based on the delivery of milestones as adjusted through Council resolution. This is noted in each activity where this has occurred.

Performance against Activities for each Strategic Objective 2020/21

Strategic objective	Activities		
	#	# complete or on track	% complete or on track
1. A healthy Yarra	18	15	83%
2. An inclusive Yarra	6	5	83%
3. A sustainable Yarra	5	5	100%
4. A liveable Yarra	5	5	100%
5. A prosperous Yarra	2	2	100%
6. A connected Yarra	3	3	100%
7. A leading Yarra	8	7	88%
Total	47	42	89%

Annual Plan completion rates 2016-21

(% Activities complete or on track)

Year	% Activities complete or on track
2020/21	89%
2019/20	86%
2018/19	83%
2017/18	86%
2016/17	83%

Strategic Objective 1 – A healthy Yarra

A place where community health, safety and wellbeing are a focus in everything we do.

Strategies

The following strategies guide Council's work in this area:

1. Maintain and enhance Yarra's open space network to meet the diverse range of community uses.
2. Promote a community that is inclusive, resilient, connected and enjoys strong mental and physical health and wellbeing.
3. Provide health-promoting environments that encourage healthy eating and active living.
4. Assist to reduce the harms from alcohol and drugs on individuals and the community in partnership with state agencies and key service providers.
5. Promote environments that support safe and respectful sexual practices, and reproductive choices.
6. Promote a gender equitable, safe, and respectful community.
7. Promote an effective and compassionate approach to rough sleeping and advocate for affordable, appropriate housing.
8. Provide opportunities for people to be involved in and connect with their community.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 1:

Aged and Disability Services

Services delivered in partnership with the Victorian and Federal governments to assist older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes.

City Strategy

Strategic research, planning and open space policy and urban design advice on sustainable land use and development through development of policy, strategic plans and appropriate planning controls through the Yarra Planning Scheme.

Compliance Services

Statutory enforcement services, including animal management, local laws enforcement, food safety and school crossing management.

Family, Youth and Children's Services

Services for children, young people and their families, and city-wide planning for children and young people.

Recreation and Leisure Services

Operates three major leisure and aquatic facilities, a public golf course and a community gymnasium and provides a range of high-quality facilities and programs that encourage participation from a broad cross section of the community.

Social Strategy and Community Development

Manages Yarra's response to community safety and health planning, including alcohol and other drug issues, policy and research and the night economy.

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Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Major initiatives	Progress
<p>Ryan's Reserve netball/tennis court and pavilion</p> <p>Council will complete the redevelopment of the Ryan's Reserve pavilion and public toilet facilities to comply with ESD and DDA requirements. The project also includes the resurfacing of netball courts, replacement of sports lights and alterations to boundaries and open space.</p> <p>(Actual: \$51,189 Budget: \$600,000)</p>	<p>The total value of this work is \$3 million, fully funded by the Victorian Government.</p> <p>Phase 1 works at this site to reconstruct the courts, sports lighting and associated infrastructure (value \$1.2 million) was previously completed. Phase 2 of the project involves the redevelopment of Mary Rogers Pavilion and the public toilets at Ryan's Reserve (value \$1.8 million). Project expenditure was low during 2020/21 as project high-level design and tendering activities were undertaken. The remaining budget has been carried forward into 2021/22 and fabrication and installation of the modular replacement pavilion will occur during 2021/22.</p>
<p>Brunswick Street Oval Precinct redevelopment</p> <p>Council will commence work on the redevelopment of Brunswick Street Oval sporting and community facilities including upgrading facilities to enable better participation of women and girls, fit-for-purpose meeting rooms for community use, more public toilets and improving access and safety.</p> <p>(Actual: \$249,988 Budget: \$500,000)</p>	<p>Officers have been working with consultants and stakeholders including the sports clubs, the Victorian Government and Heritage Victoria to plan and design the redevelopment of facilities in the precinct to meet the needs of all stakeholders. This work will continue in 2021/22.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has committed \$6.5 million towards the funding of this project.</p>
<p>Victorian Government Suburban Parks Program</p> <p>Council will undertake consultation, planning and design of two new open spaces within the electorate of Richmond. This project is part of the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program.</p> <p>(Actual: \$73,207 Budget: \$200,000)</p>	<p>Preliminary concept designs have been developed for community consultation which was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions around public gatherings. Community consultation is scheduled to take place early 2021/22 pending the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.</p>

Strategic indicators (measures of success)

All 12 strategic indicators had targets for 2020/21, and all were achieved for a result of 100%.

Council monitors and reports on a further 10 indicators of overall community health and wellbeing. Targets are not set for these measures as Council can't directly affect the result.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

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Strategy: 1.1 Maintain and enhance Yarra's open space network to meet the diverse range of community uses		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of new open space projects planned or completed	<p>The following open space projects were completed in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council, in partnership with CitiPower and Powercor, funded improvement works at Alan Bain Reserve, including the restoration of turf, plantings and new paths. • Twenty park benches were installed on shared paths along the Inner Circle Linear Park and Yarra River Trail. \$50K • Council prepared a draft design for the Citizens Park playground in response to Community feedback. Construction will occur in 2021/ 22. • Council worked with skate park designers and the Fitzzy Bowl skaters to design an improved skate facility at Edinburgh Gardens, (\$200K). Council took advantage of the disruptions to install a renewed water efficient irrigation system (\$65K) and renewed LED lighting and asphalt pathways (\$195K) in the reserve. • Community engagement and concept design continued for two new pocket parks for Collingwood – on Otter Street and an expansion of Cambridge Street Reserve. • Community consultation and design works were completed for the proposed construction of pocket parks at Gwynne street and Stephenson street in Cremorne. 	<p>Various open space projects delivered</p> <p>Achieved</p>
Community satisfaction with parks, gardens, and open space	<p>Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with the provision of parks, gardens, and reserves as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 7.91 is categorised as 'excellent' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 8.27 is also categorised as 'excellent'.</p>	<p>7.91</p> <p>Achieved</p>

Strategy: 1.2 Promote a community that is inclusive, resilient, connected and enjoys strong mental and physical health and wellbeing		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Key National Aged and Disability Care Reform milestones implemented	<p>The federal government has delayed its policy decision and extended funding to Council's to continue the delivery of services through to June 2022.</p>	<p>No 2020/21 target</p>
Community participation in Maternal and Child Health service	<p>Community participation in Maternal and Child Health remains a consistent and stable result compared to previous years.</p>	<p>84%</p> <p>Achieved</p>

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Strategy: 1.3 Provide health promoting environments that encourage healthy eating and active living		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Community satisfaction with Council's Leisure facilities	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with Leisure facilities includes our three pools gyms and Burnley Golf Course, as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 7.78 is categorised as 'excellent' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 8.48 is categorised as 'excellent'.	7.78 Achieved
Proportion of registered premises that are inspected annually in accordance with the Food Act 1984	Council's food safety assessment result is consistent with previous years. Council continues to undertake food safety assessments in accordance with the Food Act 1984 that requires registered class 1 and 2 food premises to receive an annual food safety assessment. Inspections continued during the COVID-19 pandemic with Council adopting a Rapid Assessment Inspection model capping the time spent on site to reduce risk. Approximately 270 additional assessments were undertaken using this model.	97% Achieved
Number of community garden initiatives implemented	<p>Yarra has over 25 community and laneway gardens and growing spaces. There are also six school gardens and an urban farm which combined have over 180 food producing planter boxes. Council joined the My Smart Garden program to provide skills-based workshops and best-practice gardening resources regarding sustainable urban gardening.</p> <p>Council, in collaboration with local artist Simon Dransfield, developed a signage package promoting the Railway Garden in Carlton North. Additional works included a table setting made from recycled plastics, storage lockers, and composting system.</p>	100% Achieved
Strategy: 1.4 Assist to reduce the harms from alcohol and drugs on individuals and the community in partnership with state agencies and key service providers		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Report on alcohol and drug harm minimisation	<p>The following alcohol and drug harm minimisation initiatives were delivered in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council facilitated four quarterly liquor forums in partnership with Victoria Police and partners to promote the public health, safety and amenity in Yarra. • Ongoing amenity improvements through the delivery of the syringe management contract. • Ongoing financial support provided to the Yarra Drug and Health Forum. • The Yarra Communities that Care Community Board voted to discontinue with 'supply monitoring' of alcohol sales with the view to identifying and trialling other evidence-based interventions that 	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 1.4 Assist to reduce the harms from alcohol and drugs on individuals and the community in partnership with state agencies and key service providers

may have a greater impact. Different evidence-based interventions were planned in partnership with Fitzroy High and Collingwood College but remain on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Strategy: 1.5 Promote environments that support safe and respectful sexual practices, and reproductive choices

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Report on delivered advocacy and health and wellbeing	<p>Several advocacy and health and wellbeing initiatives were delivered through 2020/21.</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council partnered with North Richmond Community Health and Cohealth in the development of a new Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which will be adopted as part of Council's 2021-25 Council Plan. • Participation and advocacy in quarterly North Western Primary Care Partnership Prevention Alliance. • Participation and advocacy in Local Government Gambling Alcohol and Other Drugs Issues Forum coordinated by MAV. <p>Yarra Council continues as a leadership Council in the Alliance for Gambling Reform.</p>	100% Achieved
Number of programs and initiatives focused on improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes	<p>Several programs and initiatives focused on improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes were delivered through 2020/21, including the development of the online community Health and Wellbeing Profile with 11 snapshots of the Yarra community's ranking on key health and wellbeing indicators. This included a COVID-19 impact supplement.</p> <p>Yarra Youth Services supported pregnant young women, and young mothers through their Youth Support Program.</p>	100% Achieved

Strategy: 1.6 Promote a gender equitable, safe and respectful community

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of community activities and programs supported and developed	<p>Council undertook several initiatives to support gender equity and respectful communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council developed a new Gender Equity Statement defining its position on gender equity, • Establishment of Council's Gender Equality Action Group and Family Violence response initiatives, • Gender Equality Act Workshop, 	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 1.6 Promote a gender equitable, safe and respectful community

- Gender Impact Assessment Pilot Project.
- Gender in Leadership Program.

Strategy: 1.7 Promote an effective and compassionate approach to rough sleeping and advocate for affordable, appropriate housing

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of requests for homelessness assistance responded to by Council	Council referred 90 cases for homelessness assistance to Launch Housing. Referrals are made to Launch Housing on a regular basis and Council is currently monitoring more than 30 rough sleeping sites. The number of referrals decreased in 2020/21 due to emergency accommodation being provided by the Victorian Government as part of their COVID-19 response measures.	90 requests No target
Deliver the Social and Affordable Housing Strategy	The Social and Affordable Housing Strategy was adopted by Council in November 2019 along with an updated Policy Guidance.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 1.8 Provide opportunities for people to be involved in and connect with their community

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number and breadth of community activities / programs supported	<p>Council continued to connect with its community through a range of programs and activities.</p> <p>The Community Wellbeing Project – Connecting with Community is a Yarra Libraries program delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government through Jobs Victoria. Initiatives delivered in 2020/21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating social outreach pop-ups providing books and clothing in partnership with Orange Sky. • Hosting free community lunches every Saturday when possible, giving residents and community a chance to reconnect after a challenging and isolating year. • Providing food relief through a free fruit and vegetable market every Friday with the support of Open Table and Cultivating Community. • Facilitating weekly digital drop-in sessions with residents from the Richmond Housing Estate and weekly digital mentor tutoring with CALD communities. • Supporting young people through weekly a Fitzroy Homework Club program. <p>Traditionally, Council's Neighbourhood Houses and Libraries play a fundamental role in the community. Their closures during the COVID-19 pandemic meant alternative programs, such as those listed above, and</p>	<p>100% Achieved</p> <p>A number of activities were deferred during the legislated closure of centres and facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

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Strategy: 1.8 Provide opportunities for people to be involved in and connect with their community

a transition to alternate online programs for arts and cultural events enabled many of these connections to continue. Some events were, unfortunately, cancelled.

Activities

Of the 18 activities within this strategic objective, 15 (83%) are complete or on track.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g., COVID-19 or Victorian Government or Australian Government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
Advocate for gambling reform	The Health Status Report was completed and will guide the development of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) embedded in the Council Plan 2021-25. Advocacy continued through conversations with the Alliance for Gambling Reform, who continue to support in the provision of advocacy templates and campaigns. Research into the number of 'approved' gambling venues at Yarra is underway.	100%
Population Health Planning	The Health and Wellbeing Profile was completed. The Health Status Report was completed. Council held meetings with local community agencies to inform and develop the MPHWP including integration with local agency health promotion plans.	100%
Yarra Food Network	Council established the Yarra Food Network and created guidelines to coordinate a whole of community partnership response to emergency food relief issues in the City of Yarra.	95%
Yarra Homelessness Strategy	The Yarra Homelessness Strategy was adopted by Council in August 2020. Actions undertaken included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal homelessness working group to coordinate actions and information across the organisation established. • Yarra Housing and Homelessness Network convened for peer-to-peer information sharing and guest speakers on current topics. • Updates to the website. • Training and support for Council's frontline services. 	100%
Yarra's Community Grants	Council approved 143 Annual Grants for \$927,518, and 11 Investing in Community grants totalling \$301,000 per annum over three years.	100%

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Richmond and Collingwood Youth Program Grants 2020-21	<p>Drummond Street Services Incorporated delivered a modified program due to COVID-19 but maintained excellent engagement with young people and families across both estates. This included the delivery of monthly care packs to over 100 young people, and online after-school programs.</p> <p>A restructure was proposed to resolve staffing and recruitment issues within the organisation.</p>	100%
Volunteering Strategy 2019-23	The pilot Volunteer Library program was delayed due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on use of volunteers.	90%
National Aged Care and Disability Reform	<p>Changes to Yarra's Community Transport services were made and approved by relevant government agencies.</p> <p>Additional funding provided by the Australian Government under the COVID-19 CHSP meals support program were distributed to local food support agencies and relief provided through to the community. The funding supported approximately 50,000 additional meals.</p> <p>The Australian Government delayed its policy decision and extended funding to Councils to continue the delivery of services through to June 2022.</p>	100%
Gender Equity Strategy	Council continued project work under its Gender Equity Strategy 2016-2021. This strategy is under review and will be replaced by a Statement of Commitment moving forward.	94%
Gender Equality Act 2020	The Gender Equity Act commenced on 31 March 2020 and work to address organisational obligations is underway.	100%
Yarra Open Space Strategy	Council received authorisation from the Minister for Planning for Planning Scheme Amendment C286, regarding proposed new open space contribution percentage to be placed on public exhibition. Officers are preparing material to meet the authorisation conditions and commence the public exhibition.	96%
State Government suburban parks program	<p>Council undertook consultation, planning and design of two new open spaces (Cambridge Street extension and Otter Street Park) in Richmond.</p> <p>COVID-19 restrictions impacted traffic audits and community consultation strategies.</p>	92%
Reid Street Park, North Fitzroy	Council is constructing a small local park (300sqm) in Reid Street, Fitzroy North, providing additional open space for the local community. Final design development is nearing completion.	65%
Open space improvements King William Street, Fitzroy	A functional layout for the open space improvement works at the Condell Street and Young Street Community Hub was prepared. Future funding will be required for the project to move forward to the next stage.	100%

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New open space planning and design, Cremorne	<p>Council prepared design documentation for park extension and redevelopment of the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwynne Street, Cremorne – small public space on the corner of Gwynne and Stephenson Street Stephenson Reserve, Cremorne – small public space on the corner of Dover and Stephenson Street 	70%
Ryan's Reserve Pavilion redevelopment	<p>Phase 1 works at this site to reconstruct the courts, sports lighting and associated infrastructure was previously completed.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the project involves the redevelopment of Mary Rogers Pavilion and the public toilets at Ryan's Reserve. The applicable milestones for the year were achieved which included conducting and awarding a tender in February 2021 for the design and construction of a modular redeveloped pavilion. Fabrication and installation of the modular replacement pavilion will occur in 2021/22, with works able to commence earlier than initially planned following determination that the project does not require planning approval.</p>	100%
Brunswick Street Oval Precinct Redevelopment	<p>The detailed design for the redevelopment of the sporting and community facilities in the Brunswick Street Oval Precinct is well progressed.</p> <p>The project did not meet all milestones planned for the year, including submission of heritage and town planning applications.</p> <p>Following pre-application meetings with Heritage Victoria and Yarra Statutory Planning in December 2020, it was determined that the design would require further development to gain the required heritage approvals. Officers have been working with consultants and stakeholders including the sports clubs, Victorian Government and Heritage Victoria to plan and design the redevelopment of facilities in the precinct to meet the needs of all stakeholders.</p>	52%
Jack Dyer Pavilion Redevelopment	<p>The tender for construction of the redeveloped pavilion was awarded in September 2020, the demolition works completed in November 2020 and construction commenced in January 2021. Completion is expected in early 2022.</p>	100%

Indicators of overall community health and wellbeing

Council monitors and reports on a further 10 indicators of overall community health and wellbeing. Targets are not set for these measures as Council cannot directly affect the result.

Indicators of overall community health and wellbeing

Indicator	Comment	Result
Yarra residents feel a part of their community	<p>This indicator is no longer part of the VicHealth Survey, Council now monitors the Victorian Population Health Survey (2017) question which asked: How worthwhile they find their lives. 81% or Yarra residents rated life as high or very high worth.</p>	81%

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Indicators of overall community health and wellbeing		
Percentage of adults who feel valued by society	Yarra 53.9% (Victoria 51.4%, LGA Rank 9) Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2014	53.9%
Percentage of adults who report high or very high psychological distress	Yarra 12.2% (Victoria 15.4%) Slight increase from last measurement Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017	12.20%
Percentage of children who are developmentally on track	Physical - 80.4% (72.4% 2015) Social - 79.9% (72.9% 2015) Emotional - 81.1% (74.2% 2015) Language - 86.5% (82.2% 2015) Communication - 83.5% (71.3% 2015) Source: Australian Early Development Census Community Profile 2018.	Various
Perceptions of safety, day and night	Rating 0-10 Yarra residents' rating of perceptions of safety as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021. The result of 8.51 (Day), according to the survey's satisfaction rating, is categorised as 'excellent'. Last year's result, and target, of 8.17 is also categorised as 'excellent'. The result of 6.85 (Night), according to the survey's satisfaction rating is categorised as 'good'. Last year's result, and target, of 6.81 is also categorised as 'good'.	Day 8.51 Night 6.85
Gaming machine losses per adult	Gaming machine losses per adult in 2019/20 were \$256 (in 2018/19 they were \$405) LGA Rank 29, Victorian average \$378. This is a significant reduction compared to previous years, attributed partly to closure of venues in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. Source: Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation	\$256*
Percentage of adults consuming recommended intake of vegetables	Yarra 7.8% (Victoria 5.4%) Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017	7.8%
Percentage of adults who undertook adequate physical activity	Yarra 54.9% (Victoria 50.9%) Source: Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017	54.9%
Percentage of adults with increased risk of	Yarra 51.6% (Victoria estimate 29.4%) Source: VicHealth Indicators Survey, 2015	51.6%

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Indicators of overall community health and wellbeing		
short-term alcohol-related harm		
A reduction in rates of chlamydia and teenage pregnancy	Chlamydia: 912.4 per 100,000 (2019), 63.2 per 100,000 (Jan - June 2020) Sourced from: https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/infectious-diseases-surveillance/interactive-infectious-disease-reports/local-government-areas-surveillance-report	No target

Service performance indicators

Animal management

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Timeliness Time taken to action animal management requests (Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests)	2.46 days	1.89 days	1.63 days	1.56 days	1.98 days	Time taken to action animal management requests remains under two days.
Service standard Animals reclaimed (Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected) x100	55.49%	52.25%	53.63%	61.37%	49.81%	The number of animals collected this year decreased 17% compared to 2019/20. This reduction was reflected in the number of animals reclaimed. Council had undertaken an online responsible pet ownership initiative during the year. COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and restrictions resulted in more owners being at home during the day with their animals.

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Animals rehomed (Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected) x100	New in 2020	New in 2020	New in 2020	4.67%	8.61%	While the number of animals collected decreased, the number of animals rehomed increased by 53%.
Service cost Cost of animal management service per population. (Direct cost of the animal management service / Population)	New in 2020	New in 2020	New in 2020	\$4.93	\$4.75	The cost of animal management service has continued to be consistent within the \$4-\$5. Note: This measure is replacing previous 'Cost of animal management service' which was based on cost per number of registered animals.
Health and safety Animal management prosecutions (Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions x 100)	New in 2020	New in 2020	New in 2020	100%	100%	Council continues to perform well with all prosecutions ruled in favour of Council. There were 13 prosecutions in 2020/21, compared to eight in 2019/20. The result is consistent with prior years. Note: This measure is replacing previous 'Animal management prosecutions' which was a measure of number, not proportion.

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Aquatic facilities

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Service standard Health inspections of aquatic facilities (Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities)	4.33	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	Council's pool inspection increased compared to previous years despite being closed or providing restricted access to the public for 231 days as a result of state government restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities (Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population)	11.96	9.14	9.23	7.08	3.57	The last two years has seen a significant drop in aquatic centre attendance as a result of forced facility closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020/21 attendances decreased by 72% compared to 2018/19 pre-COVID-19 attendances.
Service cost Cost of aquatic facilities (direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / number of visits to aquatic facilities)	New in 2020	New in 2020	New in 2020	\$6.39	\$19.41	In 2020/21 attendances decreased by 48% compared to 2019/20, and 72% compared to 2018/19 pre-COVID attendances. This decrease in aquatic centre attendance resulted in a significant loss of income, which would normally go to partly offset the cost of providing and running these facilities. This loss of income resulted in a 180% increase in cost per visit and 33% overall increase in cost to run the facility, compared to 2019/20.

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Food safety

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Timeliness Time taken to action food complaints (Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints)	1.88 days	1.82 days	2.24 days	1.56 days	1.78 days	Council's Health Department continues to take all necessary steps to ensure public safety and all food complaints are monitored and actioned as a priority. Response time to action food complaints remains under two days in line with the previous 2019/20 result.
Service standard Food safety assessments (Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984) x100	99.83%	100.43%	100.00%	99.91%	97%	Council's food safety assessment result is consistent with previous years. Council continues to undertake food safety assessments in accordance with the Food Act 1984 that requires registered class 1 and 2 food premises to receive an annual food safety assessment. Inspections continued during the COVID-19 pandemic with Council adopting a Rapid Assessment Inspection model capping the time spent on site to reduce risk, approximately 270 additional assessments were undertaken using this model.
Service cost Cost of food safety service (Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in	\$356.34	\$358.13	\$351.92	\$361.60	\$362.82	The cost of the service remains consistent with previous years.

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
accordance with the Food Act 1984)						
Health and safety Critical and major non-compliance notifications (Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises) x100	100.00%	99.56%	99.54%	100.00%	99.54%	Council responds to 100% of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. Results less than 100% occur where follow-up inspections are delayed due to closures and re-inspections fall in the next period.

Maternal and child health

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Service standard Infant enrolments in the MCH service (Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received) x100	101.85%	109.18%	101.77%	102.17%	101.61%	Infants are enrolled in the MCH Service by Council as part of the birth notification process. A result of >100% can occur where the birth and first home visit occur in different financial years.
Service cost Cost of MCH service (Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses)	\$84.55	\$97.56	\$77.97	\$70.40	\$68.03	There was a reduction in the cost of the MCH service due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in a reduction in staff costs.
Participation Participation in the MCH service (Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children	79.38%	80.41%	82.75%	84.20%	84.63%	Council contacts every family whose details are provided as part of the birth notification process inviting them to participate, offering a first home visit. This is a voluntary

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
enrolled in the MCH service) x100						service and some families may decline support.
Participation Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children (Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service) x100	63.41%	79.37%	78.43%	95.65%	97.34%	Council formed a partnership with Victorian Aboriginal Health Service which increased the participation of aboriginal children in the MCH service. This data includes children participating in either the Yarra City Council MCH or the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. This increased the number of registered families from 23 in 2019/20 to 93 in 2020/21.
Satisfaction Participation in four-week Key Age and Stage visit. (Number of four-week Key Age and Stage visits / Number of birth notifications received) x 100	New in 2020	New in 2020	New in 2020	91.76%	91.36%	Community participation in four-week Key Age and Stage visit remains consistent with the 2019/20 result.

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Strategic Objective 2 – An inclusive Yarra

A place where inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected, and celebrated.

Strategies

The following strategies guide Council's work in this area:

1. Build resilience by providing opportunities and places for people to meet, be involved in and connect with their community.
2. Remain a highly inclusive municipality, proactive in advancing and advocating for the rights and interests of specific groups in the community and community issues.
3. Continue to be a local government leader and innovator in acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal history and culture in partnership with Traditional Owners.
4. Acknowledge and celebrate our diversity and people from all cultural backgrounds.
5. Support community initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 2:

Arts, Culture and Venues

Provides advice on and delivers cultural festivals and events in Yarra that celebrate diversity and facilitate social inclusion.

Aged and Disability Services

Provides a range of services in partnership with the Victorian and Federal governments to assist older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes.

Social Strategy and Community Development

Leads community development in Yarra to support Council's strategic objectives through strengthening civic participation, championing social inclusion and cohesion, and supporting community groups and organisations.

Organisational Culture, Capability and Diversity

Champion's diversity and inclusion, recognition and celebration of Yarra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, delivers corporate training, leadership development, and promotes child safety and positive organisational culture.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Major initiatives	Progress
<p>Community support, resilience and recovery grants</p> <p>Council is allocating \$1.36 million from its Community Grants, Annual Grants and Small Grants streams to make a social investment to promote community resilience and recovery in response to COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>(Actual: \$3,272,874 Budget: \$1,360,000)</p>	<p>Council established the Community support, resilience and recovery grants to provide additional financial support to our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across all of Council's traditional grant programs and the COVID-19 response grants Council provided over \$3m in support to our community through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Grants 2021 • Celebrate Yarra 2020-22 • Community Partnership Grants 2017-21

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Major initiatives	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Yarra 2020/21 • Engage Yarra 2020/21 • Investing in Communities 2021-23 • R&C Youth Program Grant 2020-23 • Room To Create Responsive Grant • Small Project Grants • Discounted Use 2020/21 • Youth Led Grants • Local Business and Precinct Support Fund • COVID-19 Quick Response Grants • Precinct Recovery Grants • Promoting Food Security • Asylum Seeker Grant • STIMULATE Arts Grants

Strategic indicators (measures of success)

All 10 strategic indicators had targets for 2020/21, and all were achieved for a result of 100%.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

Strategy: 2.1 Build resilience by providing opportunities and places for people to meet, be involved in and connect with their community

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Adopt a Volunteer Strategy	Yarra's Volunteer Strategy 2019-2023 and year 1 Action Plan was formally adopted at Council in September 2020.	100% Achieved
Number and diversity of community events held	<p>Council held several events to recognise and celebrate diversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week. • Celebrating Refugee Week. • Advocacy against family violence. • Children Services for newly arrived and refugee families and health services for newly arrived, all run by the Yarra Settlement Forum. • Yarra Libraries supported the COVID-19 food relief program and health and wellbeing of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. • National Sorry Day moved to an online broadcast. • Council continued to deliver programs for new mother, children and youth both online and in person as well as initiatives on gender equity, child safety and family violence despite the COVID-19 restrictions. • An online event to celebrate IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia). • Council supported a range of LGBTIQ+ organisations and events. 	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 2.2 Remain a highly inclusive municipality, proactive in advancing and advocating for the rights and interests of specific groups in the community and community issues

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Adopt the Access and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan	<p>The Access and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan were adopted by Council in August 2018. In 2020/21, key actions delivering on the strategy included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporating Universal Design principles in schematic/concept stage of capital works projects • advocacy to the Victorian Government to address delay in achieving accessible public transport network by 2024 • piloting a decal campaign throughout identified precincts to promote traders' obligations in maintaining a continuous path through trading zones and other obstructions. • investigating opportunities to improve public infrastructure in line with public safety and DDA compliance • identifying priority precincts including open space sites for best practice universal design upgrades to improve walkability and recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. • investigating the establishment of a cross-Council working group to identify and implement opportunities for people with disability to have access to Council programs • strengthening Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disability support networks through Balit Narum membership • increasing the visible presence of people with disability from diverse backgrounds through Yarra's community engagement processes • establishment of a steering committee to promote the contribution of employees with disability to create employment opportunities for people in Yarra. 	100% Achieved
Annual report on Council's performance against the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities	<p>All reports to Council, and Council Policy development, contain a statement on the implications of the report and recommendation against the Charter of Human Rights.</p> <p>Council developed a Social Justice Charter as a means of better integrating the Charter of Human rights into Council Policies and practices.</p>	100% Achieved

Strategy: 2.3 Continue to be a local government leader and innovator in acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal history and culture in partnership with Traditional Owners

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Complete the Stolen Generations Marker project	The Stolen Generations Marker was launched in Atherton Gardens Housing Estate on Saturday 26 May 2018, the 20th anniversary of National Sorry Day, with more than 500 people in attendance.	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 2.3 Continue to be a local government leader and innovator in acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal history and culture in partnership with Traditional Owners

Number of Aboriginal cultural activities and events delivered	<p>Council delivered or supported 25 key aboriginal cultural activities as part of its 2020-30 Yana Ngargna Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising survival on 26 January 2021 by partnering with local Wurundjeri dance group the Djirri Djirri dancers, Yorta Yorta man and deadly warrior Jason Tamiru and Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter for a moving virtual ceremony. • Partnership between Yarra, VAHS and Cohealth to deliver food and essential items to vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Yarra, including the Parkies. • Council's Facebook live broadcast of National Sorry Day filmed at Yarra's Stolen Generations Marker (streamed over 7,000 times in the week afterwards). • The Smith Street Dreaming Festival moved online with a radio broadcast. 	100% Achieved
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Strategy: 2.4 Acknowledge and celebrate our diversity and people from all cultural backgrounds

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of cultural festivals	<p>Council supported and/or facilitated a range of cultural festival and events. This year, COVID-19 resulted in a number being cancelled or having to move to an alternative format. Those delivered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Street Lunar New Year Festival. • Strange spaces four-day event (replaced Gertrude street projection festival). • Smith Street Dreaming Festival moved online with a radio broadcast. • Collingwood Harvest Festival. • Drummond Street Services Real Youth Music Studios. • January 26 Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung dance troupe Djirri Djirri online. • Kulin bulok Nanga gu Qeeap Community Cooking series. • LGBTIQA+ Flag raising, Pride March, Elders Dance and other events. 	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 2.5 Support community initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of initiatives supported to promote diversity	<p>Council supported several activities to promote diversity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week. • Celebrating Refugee Week. • Pride March. • Yarra Leisure LGBTIQ+ Pride Night swim and gym event. • Flag raising and online event to celebrate IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia). • International Women's Day awards ceremony promoting gender equity. 	<p>100%</p> <p>Achieved</p>

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Activities

Of the six activities within this strategic objective, five (83%) are complete or on track.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g. COVID-19 or Victorian or Federal government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
LGBTIQ+ Strategy	<p>The LGBTIQ+ Strategy was endorsed by Council in December 2020.</p> <p>An Internal Working Group has been convened to recognise and support key events including establishment of the Rainbow Advisory group.</p>	100%
Community support, resilience, and recovery	<p>Council adopted the City of Yarra COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package on 2 April 2020.</p> <p>The package entails a mix of new Council initiatives or enhanced services, foregoing of income in various forms, and the granting of funds to community organisations and local businesses.</p> <p>Grants awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging the digital divide – small and medium-sized grants • Material Aid – two rounds of grant funding • Addressing Family Violence grants • Recovery for Our Creative Community – small-sized grants • Tackle Social Isolation and Promoting Community Connection –small and medium-sized grants • Recovery for Our Creative Community – medium-sized grants. • In September, second round of Food Security Grants, with a funding pool of \$20,000, was instigated to help support not-for-profit organisations to help address local food insecurity. Eleven organisations were awarded funding in November, with eight just receiving grant moneys and four, which service specific population cohorts, allocated a further \$72,736 from CHSP funding (including health who didn't receive a grant). • In October, 201 applications were received for the STIMULATE Creative Grant Program, a \$200,000 commitment to assist the recovery of Yarra's creative community through investing in a creative-led re-imagination of our community. Given the high level of interest in this extraordinary round, 28 applications to the total of \$220,000 have been recommended for funding. • The Local Business and Precinct Support Fund, valued at \$320k, was drawn upon for two rounds of Precinct Business Recovery Grants. These grants support groups of businesses or 	100%

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Activity	Summary	Result
	<p>community members with businesses to deliver projects which aim to activate, promote, or enhance Yarra's retail and services precincts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One application related to Bridge Road Precinct was sent to the Traders Association for assessment and potential funding of \$20,000. 	
Yarra Physical Activity Plan	A Draft Physical Activity Action Plan to support the lifelong mental and physical health of all people who live, work, learn and play in Yarra, to combat inadequate levels of physical activity is on track for presentation to Council in Quarter 1 2021/22.	76%
Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy and Action Plan	<p>Council continued to work with key stakeholders to develop the 2020-22 Active and Healthy Ageing Action Plan.</p> <p>Council continued to work with the Dementia Alliance to develop a "dementia-friendly community" and negotiated an extension with the funding agency (Australia Dementia) to 30 December 2021. The extension is in response to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Human Services acknowledged a delay in the recruitment and training of community connectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic and extended funding into the 2021/22 financial year.</p>	92%
Access and Inclusion Plan	<p>A draft Access and Inclusion Plan was presented to Executive in February 2021.</p> <p>A HACCPYP funded project, to identify and support residents who are eligible but not accessing home-based services, was completed. The findings are being analysed to inform the 2021/22 program.</p>	100%
Yana Ngargna Plan 2020-23	<p>Council completed implementation of the 52 actions in the 2020 Yana Ngargna Year 1 Action Plan within the constraints posed by COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Implementation of the 2021 Yana Ngargna Year 2 Action Plan commenced.</p>	96%

Strategic Objective 3 – A sustainable Yarra

A place where Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment.

Strategies

1. The following strategies guide Yarra's work in this area:
2. Investigate strategies and initiatives to better manage the long-term effects of climate change.
3. Support and empower a more sustainable council and community.
4. Lead in sustainable energy policy and deliver programs to promote carbon neutral initiatives for the municipality and maintain Council as a carbon neutral organisation.
5. Reduce the amount of waste-to-landfill with a focus on improved recycling and organic waste disposal.
6. Promote responsible water usage and practices.
7. Promote and facilitate urban agriculture with a focus on increasing scale and uptake in the community.
8. Investigate strategies and initiatives to improve biodiversity.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 3:

Sustainability

Focuses on the advocacy and policy areas of environment.

Waste Services

Oversees the delivery of all waste services and waste minimisation.

Infrastructure

Plans for Yarra to be an active participant in whole-of-water-cycle management and seek all available opportunities to reduce the reliance on potable water by working with water corporations to achieve cost efficient access to alternative water, including treated, and reusing stormwater, recycled water and rainwater.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Major initiatives	Progress
Energy efficient streetlight replacement Council is spending \$200K on energy efficient streetlights. (Actual: \$131,949 Budget: \$200,000)	Project is complete with some final minor tuning and adjustments to be made. Project will deliver significant reductions in energy and maintenance costs. Increased visibility and safety for road users especially cyclists on these key commuter routes. Lights are provisioned with smart controllers to enable future dimming and automated outage reporting.

Strategic indicators (measures of success)

All eight strategic indicators had targets for 2020/21, and all were achieved for a result of 100%.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

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Strategy: 3.1 Investigate strategies and initiatives to better manage the long-term effects of climate change

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Increase in the number and scale of Urban Forest Strategy initiatives implemented	<p>The Urban Forest Strategy was adopted by Council in September 2017. The Strategy guides Council's long-term work to manage Yarra's urban forest, taking into consideration the current context, and the environmental, social and economic benefits trees provide.</p> <p>In 2020/21 Council increased the number of trees in Yarra from 24,145 to 24,716.</p>	100% Achieved
Reduce the urban heat island effect by further greening of the city	This indicator is measured by the number of trees planted each year. Council planted an additional 571 trees taking the total Council tree stock to 24,716 as at 30 June 2021, following the urban forest principles to promote greening of the city and reduce the urban heat island effect.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 3.2 Support and empower a more sustainable Council and community

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Complete review of the Environment Strategy	A review of the Yarra Environment Strategy was completed identifying a wide range of issues to be addressed and resulted in the development of Council's Climate Emergency Plan, which was adopted in March 2021.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 3.3 Lead in sustainable energy policy and deliver programs to promote carbon neutral initiatives for the municipality and maintain Council as a carbon neutral organisation

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Reduce Council's carbon emissions (before offsets) and retain carbon neutral status for Council operations	<p>For the ninth consecutive year, Yarra has been awarded with gold standard carbon neutral certification.</p> <p>Yarra is one of just six Australian councils to achieve carbon neutral status through the Federal Government's National Carbon Offset Standard.</p> <p>To be considered carbon neutral Council was assessed on carbon (or greenhouse gas) emissions from all operations and resources, including electricity, fuel, gas and even paper usage. Emissions from contractors – such as garbage collectors – were also assessed.</p> <p>Council also reduced its carbon emissions through our use of 100% renewable electricity.</p>	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 3.4 Reduce the amount of waste-to-landfill with a focus on improved recycling and organic disposal

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Reduction in waste to landfill	Council continued to promote environmental sustainability and the benefits of recycling. While the percentage of waste diverted from landfill dropped slightly this year (2019/20 figure was 36%), the actual tonnage of waste going to landfill decreased this year compared to previous years.	33% Achieved

Strategy: 3.5 Promote responsible water usage and practices

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Review the Environmental Strategy to include responsible water usage practices	<p>Yarra's Climate Emergency Strategy has replaced the previous Environmental Strategy addressing a wider range of environmental issues including responsible water usage.</p> <p>Council adopted an Integrated Water Management Plan in September 2020.</p> <p>Council commenced a municipal wide Stormwater Harvesting scheme feasibility study with support from Melbourne Water.</p>	100% Achieved

Strategy: 3.6 Promote and facilitate urban agriculture with a focus on increasing scale and uptake in the community

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Increase the number of urban agriculture community initiatives supported and promoted	<p>Council was involved in a range of urban agriculture initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yarra Council partnered with RMIT University to produce an undergraduate industrial design studio, Urban Agriculture for Strange Times' Students utilised Yarra as a case study to investigate the role of industrial designers within urban agriculture, to understand the dynamic socio technical ecological systems working towards a sustainable food system and a circular economy. Yarra Council joined My Smart Garden program which provides skills-based workshops and best practice gardening resources for local residents around sustainable urban gardening. Council, in collaboration with local artist Simon Dransfield, developed a signage package promoting the Railway Garden in Carlton North. Additional works included a table setting made from recycled plastics, storage lockers, and composting system. 	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 3.6 Promote and facilitate urban agriculture with a focus on increasing scale and uptake in the community

- Involvement with the Food Relief work in partnership with libraries and community wellbeing/social planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategy: 3.7 Investigate strategies and initiatives to improve biodiversity

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Adopt a Biodiversity Strategy	Council adopted Yarra's Nature Strategy (Biodiversity) in September 2020.	100% Achieved

Activities

All five activities within this strategic objective (100%) are complete or on track.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g. COVID-19 or Victorian or Federal government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
Climate Emergency	Council continued to implement the Climate Emergency Plan programs while maintaining its carbon neutral status. A detailed report on the implementation of the Climate Emergency Plan was presented to Council in March 2021. The next update will be provided to Council before the end of 2021.	100%
Embedding Sustainability	Council continued to embed sustainability and adaptation across its strategies, policies, and decision-making processes. This involved updating the QBL Tool to include Gender Equity and Heritage factors more strongly and including sustainability as a key foundational plank in the new Council Plan and visioning process.	100%
Integrated Water Management Plan	Council adopted the Water Management Plan in September 2020.	100%
Stormwater Harvesting Schemes feasibility study and concept design	Council received a grant of \$50k from Melbourne Water to expand our investigation into the feasibility of introducing stormwater harvesting schemes at all Council-operated open spaces across the whole of the municipality. Ramsden Street Reserve was identified for the next stormwater harvesting scheme.	93%
Glass Bin Service	A new glass recycling service was put in place across Yarra.	100%

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Service performance indicators

Waste collection

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Satisfaction Kerbside bin collection requests (Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households) x1000	62.19	66.26	97.41	63.41	38.18	Council experienced an overall decrease of 40% in the total number of bin requests in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20.
Service standard Kerbside collection bins missed (Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts) x10,000	3.68	0.18	0.69	0.29	1.12	In November 2020 Council introduced a new Glass Bin collection service across the municipality which resulted in an additional bin and bin collection per residence. Missed bin collection requests increased significantly after the introduction of this additional service. In 2018/19 Council moved to a new contract service provider who made changes to the collection service and schedules resulting in requests increasing to 69 requests per 1,000 households. The following year 2019/20, requests decreased back to 29 per 1,000 households. Council considers this year's increase reflects the trend of past years when services and schedule arrangements underwent change and anticipates a reduction next year.
Service cost Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service	\$115.95	\$85.84	\$77.26	\$75.45	\$76.01	The cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service remained compatible

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
(Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins)						with the previous year with only a 0.7% variation. Council does not provide a kerbside green waste bin collection service across the municipality.
Service cost Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service (Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins)	\$71.09	\$50.25	\$48.05	\$40.77	\$40.09	The cost of kerbside recycle bin collection service remained compatible with the previous year with only a 1.6% variation. Council does not provide a kerbside green waste bin collection service across the municipality.
Waste diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill (Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins) x100	37.36%	37.73%	37.72%	36.33%	33.03%	While the ratio of waste diverted from landfill decreased statistically from 36% in 2019/20 to 33% in 20/21 the actual tonnes of waste for both recyclables and garbage decreased in 2020/21 compared with the 2019/20 results. Kerbside recyclables tonnes in 2020/21 were 7,476 compared with 8,498 in 2019/20, Garbage and recyclables tonnes in 2020/21 were 22,631 compared to 23,393 in 2019/20. Yarra residents are doing a great job in reducing the amount of waste being put in their bins.

Strategic Objective 4 – A liveable Yarra

A place where development and growth are managed to maintain and enhance the character and heritage of the city.

Strategies

The following strategies guide Council's work in this area:

1. Protect Yarra's heritage and neighbourhood character.
2. Actively plan for Yarra's projected growth and development and advocate for an increase in social and affordable housing.
3. Plan, promote and provide built form and open space that are accessible to all ages and abilities.
4. Protect Council assets through effective proactive construction management.
5. Encourage and promote environmentally sustainable building, urban design, place making and public realm outcomes.
6. Provide direction and improve decision making on infrastructure projects through the application of the Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework.
7. Encourage engagement with the community when developments are proposed.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 4:

City Strategy

Strategic research, planning and open space policy and urban design advice on sustainable land use and development through development of policy, strategic plans, and appropriate planning controls through the Yarra Planning Scheme.

Construction Management

Is responsible for ensuring that development and works being undertaken in Yarra meet agreed statutory and/or permit requirements, and that developments have minimum impact on the amenity of residents, businesses, and our infrastructure.

Heritage Services

Covers all aspects of cultural heritage and heritage places. This includes sites, buildings (including interiors), landscapes, streets, laneways, objects, collections, documents, and records in Yarra.

Statutory Planning

Is responsible for analysing, processing, and assessing planning applications to ensure that the use and development of land, which gives effect to state and local planning policies, is based on clear procedures, appropriate public participation and coordination with other branches across Yarra.

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Strategic indicators (measures of success)

Of 12 strategic indicators, 11 had targets for 2020/21, and seven were achieved for a result of 64%.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

Strategy: 4.1 Protect Yarra's heritage and neighbourhood character		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Complete actions within the Heritage Strategy 2015-18	The Heritage Strategy 2015-18 was completed. A 2018-2021 Strategy was endorsed and has subsequently been superseded by the 2019-30 Heritage Strategy.	100% Achieved
Develop a new or continuing Heritage Strategy 2018-21	The Heritage Strategy 2019- 2030 was adopted by Council in August 2019.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 4.2 Actively plan for Yarra's projected growth and development and advocate for an increase in social and affordable housing		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Prepare a planning scheme amendment to introduce new Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies	Council endorsed a draft planning scheme amendment which has been lodged with the Minister for Planning seeking authorisation to put the proposed changes to the Planning Policy Framework on public exhibition.	90% Achieved
Satisfaction with aspects of planning and housing development	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with aspects of planning and development as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 5.92 is categorised as 'solid' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.00 was categorised as 'good'.	5.92 Not achieved
Deliver the Housing Strategy	Council adopted the Housing Strategy in September 2018.	100% Achieved
Deliver the Social and Affordable Housing Strategy	The Social and Affordable Housing Strategy was adopted by Council in November 2019 along with an updated Policy Guidance.	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 4.3 Plan, promote and provide built form and open space that is accessible to all ages and abilities

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of new open space and urban design projects that are accessible to all ages and abilities	<p>All open space projects consider access for all abilities as part of their brief. The following open space projects were completed in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The redevelopment of the Gahan Reserve playground in Abbotsford, constructing a new boat playground. The project design was informed by children and parents from Collingwood P-12 College • Citizens Park Playground upgrade • Alan Bain reserve restoration works • Works were carried out at the Merri Creek Parklands Playground • Park Benches were installed (20) along our shared paths along the Inner Circle Linear Park and Yarra River Trail • Bath Street reserve furniture upgrades 	<p>7 projects Achieved</p>

Strategy: 4.4 Protect Council assets through effective proactive construction management

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Percentage of projects in adopted capital works program completed	Council completed 239 capital works projects compared to 307 total projects in the program. This is a result of 78%, compared to an organisational target of 85%. Several projects were delayed or deferred as a result of COVID-19 through lockdowns and restrictions on the number of workers allowed on sites. In total, 22 scheduled projects were deferred or not started.	<p>81% Not achieved</p>
Percentage of capital works program budget expended	The total capital works budget was \$37.610 million and an actual spend of \$25.728 million. This is a result of 68% compared to an organisational target of 85%. A number of projects in the program were delayed or deferred as a result of COVID-19.	<p>68% Not Achieved</p>

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Strategy: 4.5 Encourage and promote environmentally sustainable building, urban design, place-making and public realm outcomes

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT	VCAT upheld 58% of Council decision at hearings. This year there were a large number of complex appeals compared to the previous year. In 2020/21 44 decisions were upheld compared to 43 in 2019/20.	58% Not achieved

Strategy: 4.6 Provide direction and improve decision making on infrastructure projects through the application of the Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of major projects that demonstrate consideration of the Community Infrastructure Planning Framework	<p>All major projects undertaken demonstrated consideration of the Strategic Community Infrastructure Framework including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Circle parks and reserves project, • Main Yarra Trail works, • Citizens Park in Richmond upgrade and playground redevelopment, • Reid Street pocket park development, • Gwynne Street Stephenson's Street pocket park design works. 	100% Achieved

Strategy: 4.7 Encourage engagement with the community when developments are proposed

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of community education initiatives delivered explaining Council's role and limitations in delivering planning and development outcomes	A fact sheet about planning, Yarra's Internal Development Advisory Committee and public information sessions was made available on Council's website. Several public information sessions were held on the more complex applications Council received during 2020/21.	On-going

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Activities

All five activities within this strategic objective (100%) are complete or on track.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g. COVID-19 or Victorian or Federal government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
Progress the Yarra Planning Scheme rewrite	Councillors were briefed on more than 400 submissions received during the exhibition of the draft Planning Scheme. A report on submissions and officer responses will be presented at the Council meeting in July 2021.	96%
Built Form Analysis for Major Activity Centres	Council conducted Built Form Analysis for Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy West and Victoria Parade to inform Structure Plans for the Brunswick Street/Smith Street Major Activity Centres in Yarra and to support the future preparation of Design and Development Overlays in the Yarra Planning Scheme.	100%
Structure Planning for Major Activity Centres**	Council has accepted a ministerial invitation to create a Standing Advisory Committee, which will assist in streamlining consideration of proposed planning scheme amendments for Council.	100%
Built Form Analysis for Heidelberg Road, Alphington**	Preparation and exhibit a Local Area Plan and permanent planning controls for Heidelberg Road, Alphington has been delayed due to changes in traffic patterns due to COVID-19 restrictions.	100%
Develop a framework for management of Council's own heritage assets	A draft framework is currently under review.	95%

Service performance indicators

Statutory planning

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Timeliness Time taken to decide planning applications (The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a	118.00	117.00	127.00	120.00	132.00	Time taken to decide planning applications increased 10% compared to 2019/20 result. The service was impacted by the

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
decision on the application)						COVID-19 pandemic and having to move to working from home restriction. The time taken has fluctuated over the past four years from 117 days in 2017/18, 127 days in 2018/19 and the current result of 132 days.
Service standard Planning applications decided within required timeframes (Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made with 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made) x 100	54.44%	57.67%	46.88%	62.91%	60.66%	The current result of 60% is in line with the 2019/20 result and an improvement on the 2018/19 result.
Service cost Cost of statutory planning service (Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received)	\$3,332.87	\$3,989.54	\$3,810.36	\$3,943.17	\$5,077.19	In 2020/21 Council received a large number of complex and controversial applications, the determinations of which were subsequently appealed at VCAT. The hearings for these appeals ran over multiple days which significantly increased the costs compared to previous years.
Decision-making	74.07%	77.45%	61.04%	86.00%	58.67%	In 2020/21 the number of appeals to VCAT increased by

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT (Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications) x100						50% compared to 2019/20. A large number of these appeals related to complex and controversial applications.

Strategic Objective 5 – A prosperous Yarra

A place where local businesses prosper, and creative and knowledge industries thrive.

Strategies

The following strategies guide Council's work in this area:

1. Maintain and strengthen the vibrancy and local identity of retail and commercial precincts.
2. Strengthen and monitor land use change and economic growth including new and emerging economic clusters.
3. Create local employment opportunities by providing targeted and relevant assistance to facilitate business growth, especially for small and medium size enterprises and entrepreneurs through the attraction and retention of businesses.
4. Develop Innovative Smart City solutions in collaboration with government, industry and community that use technology to embrace a connected, informed and sustainable future.
5. Facilitate and promote creative endeavour and opportunities for the community to participate in a broad range of arts and cultural activities.
6. Attract and retain creative and knowledge industries in Yarra.
7. Ensure libraries and neighbourhood houses, support lifelong learning, wellbeing and social inclusion.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 5:

Economic Development

Responsible for developing programs to support Yarra's economy and promoting local businesses and key retail precincts.

Library Services

Develops and maintains integrated, coordinated library services comprising accessible and responsive practices that are connected to and informed by our community.

Arts, Culture and Venues

Responsible for producing and commissioning works, facilitating projects between external stakeholders, managing the art and heritage collection, and managing the use of Yarra's civic and community buildings, as well as parks and open space.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Major initiatives	Progress
New library resources Council is allocating funds to provide new resources for its Library Service. (Actual: \$643,546 Budget: \$620,000)	Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve and refresh the range of library resources including shelf stock, audio visual, educational and multicultural materials.

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Strategic indicators (measures of success)

All nine strategic indicators had targets for 2020/21, and eight were achieved for a result of 89%.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

Strategy: 5.1 Maintain and strengthen the vibrancy and local identity of retail and commercial precincts		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Prepare master plans for retail shopping strips	The Brunswick Streetscape Master Plan was adopted by Council May 2020 providing a strategic direction for future public realm projects along this street. Council completed nine digital maps promoting retail precincts across Yarra.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 5.2 Strengthen and monitor land use change and economic growth including new and emerging economic clusters		
Strategy: 5.3 Create local employment opportunities by providing targeted and relevant assistance to facilitate business growth, especially for small and medium size enterprises and entrepreneurs through the attraction and retention of businesses		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Complete the review of the Yarra Economic Development Strategy	The Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025 was adopted with 11 strategies and over 50 actions. Officers have started a number of these actions and are working with internal stakeholders to ensure they are progressing agreed actions.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 5.4 Develop Innovative Smart City solutions in collaboration with government, industry and community that use technology to embrace a connected, informed, and sustainable future		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Adopt an Open Data Policy	Council adopted the Open Data Policy in May 2018.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 5.5 Facilitate and promote creative endeavour and opportunities for the community to participate in a broad range of arts and cultural activities		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Increase participation in arts and cultural activities in Yarra	Council delivered and supported a range of arts and cultural activities to promote community participation, including:	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 5.5 Facilitate and promote creative endeavour and opportunities for the community to participate in a broad range of arts and cultural activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Street Lunar New Year Festival which included live Facebook streaming for parts of the day. • Gertrude Street Projection Festival was replaced with a four-day event, Strange Spaces, at Collingwood Yards, supported by a Stimulate Yarra Grant. • Smith Street Dreaming Festival, usually a street based event moved online with a radio broadcast event in partnership with 3CR radio. • Collingwood Harvest Festival, run by the Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee. • LGBTQIA+ Elders Dance Club, produced by All the Queen's Men, were pioneers in transitioning their project online. • Drummond Street Services Real Youth Music Studios (RYHMS) produced music sessions online creating activity packs to deliver creative projects to the homes of the youth participants. 	
Deliver the Arts and Culture annual grants program	The STIMULATE Creative Grant Program is a \$200,000 commitment to promote recovery for Yarra's creative community through investing in a creative led reimagination of our community. Applications for this program closed in October 2020, a total of 201 applications were received, requesting \$2,094,720 in funding. This is an unusually high number of applications. A total of \$220,000 in grant monies was recommended for 28 successful applicants.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 5.6 Attract and retain creative and knowledge industries in Yarra

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of grants provided by the Room to Create fund	<p>The Room to Create fund offers quick response grants, intended to help creative spaces and live music venues stay in Yarra.</p> <p>The Room to Create fund awarded seven grants during the year totalling \$23K. Council used funding from a number of grant streams to support Council's COVID-19 community grant response.</p>	7 grants Achieved

Strategy: 5.7 Ensure libraries and neighbourhood houses support lifelong learning, wellbeing and social inclusion

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Active library members	Percentage of Yarra population who used Library services. Source Local Government Performance Reporting Framework 2021. Target 16.24% based on previous year's result.	15% Not achieved

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Strategy: 5.7 Ensure libraries and neighbourhood houses support lifelong learning, wellbeing and social inclusion		
	The ongoing temporary closures of all library branches throughout 2020/21 impacted community access to facilities and the level of loans this year, which underpin this measure. While the full impact of Covid-19 related closures cannot be quantified, the number of active borrowers fell by 17% compared to pre-COVID-19 2018/19 period results.	
Standard of library collection	Percentage of the library collection that is less than five years old. The standard of the library collection remains consistent with previous years.	70.64% Achieved

Activities

Both activities within this strategic objective are complete for 100%.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g. COVID-19 or Victorian or Federal government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
Economic Development Strategy	<p>The Economic Development Strategy 2020-25 was adopted in September 2020.</p> <p>The strategy has 11 objectives and more than 50 actions designed to support economic development by fostering greater investment and jobs growth in the municipality.</p> <p>Council also supported the business community through its COVID-19 support package.</p>	100%
Develop Yarra as a Smart City	<p>Council continued to collaborate with the local community and relevant stakeholders to ensure Yarra becomes a Smart City which delivers a connected, informed and sustainable future.</p> <p>The Smart Council Working Group (SCWG) was established with representative leaders from participating inner-Melbourne and neighbouring councils including the Cities of Yarra, Stonnington, Melbourne, Maribymong, Boroondara, Darebin and Moreland. Bi-monthly sessions have been ongoing since October 2020.</p> <p>Yarra Science Play was implemented within Yarra Libraries with the launch of Yarra STEAM Labs: a new program that extends opportunities for children to engage around smart technology, computer coding, experimentation, design, creativity and the arts. It also provides access to real world smart technology learning experiences through tailored events.</p> <p>A Smart Bench Pilot was implemented to provide the community with access to free solar powered device charging and free Wi-Fi. This pilot is supporting improved digital inclusion outcomes by enabling the community with connectivity and digital access. The smart</p>	100%

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Activity	Summary	Result
	<p>benches also provide access to climate sensors for real-time environmental measurement and awareness.</p> <p>A Community Night Time Lighting Workshop was held as part of the Safe and Liveable Victoria Street Project, funded by the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program. This interactive event brought together members of the community, council, business and Victoria Police to explore how light impacts the way people experience Victoria Street at night. Community insights and data collected during the event are being used to inform an integrated lighting and smart technology concept for the project area.</p>	

Service performance indicators

Libraries

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Utilisation Physical library collection usage (Number of physical library collection item loans / Number of physical library collection items)	4.30	4.96	4.79	3.81	1.90	<p>Library collection usage has decreased significantly over the past two years as a result of restricted access and extended closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Access to the physical library collection was restricted or closed for approximately 60% of 2020/21 resulting in a similar percentage decrease in loans compared to pre-COVID-19 2018/19 activity. Loan numbers is the driver for this indicator. The ongoing disruption and temporary closure of all Libraries since March 2020 in response to COVID-19 restrictions has resulted in Library staff engaging in other activity to support Council's COVID-19 community relief efforts, including distributing book bundles and care kits to residents in need.</p> <p>Note: From 2019/20, this indicator measures the performance of physical library items as a subset of the wider library collection.</p>

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Resource standard Recently purchased library collection (Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items) x100	67.67%	69.37%	70.28%	70.98%	70.64%	The standard of the library collection has remained steady over the last four years reflecting Council's continued commitment to refreshing the library collection.
Participation Active library borrowers in municipality (Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / the sum of the population for the last three years) x100	17.82%	20.72%	19.72%	16.24%	15.10%	The temporary closure of all Libraries which commenced in March 2020 and has continued intermittently throughout 2020/21 has impacted the community's ability to access facilities and the level of loans this year, which underpin this measure. While the full impact of COVID-19 related closures cannot be quantified, the number of active borrowers has fallen by 25% compared to the pre-COVID activity levels experienced in 2018/19.
Service cost Cost of library service per population (Direct cost of the library service /population)	New in 2020	New in 2020	New in 2020	\$47.39	\$48.66	Council operates five libraries, the cost of the service remains similar to previous year, 2019/20. Temporary closure of all libraries which has taken place multiple times throughout the year in response to COVID-19 restrictions. During the closure Library officers assisted Council's COVID-19 community relief efforts by preparing and distributing food hampers and book bundles to residents in need. Note: This measure is replacing the previous 'Cost of library service' indicator which measured based on number of visits.

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Strategic Objective 6 – A connected Yarra

A place where connectivity and travel options are environmentally sustainable, integrated and well-designed.

Strategies

The following strategies guide Council's work in this area:

1. Manage traffic movement and promote road safety within local roads.
2. Work in partnership with VicRoads and influence traffic management and road safety on main roads.
3. Investigate and implement effective parking management options.
4. Improve accessibility to public transport for people with mobility needs and older people.
5. Develop and promote pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that encourages alternate modes of transport and improves safety and connectedness.
6. Advocate for increased infrastructure and performance of public transport across Melbourne.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 6:

Infrastructure, Traffic and Civil Engineering

Provides, maintains, improves and manages Yarra's infrastructure with a focus on creating an efficient, effective and safe traffic environment.

Parking Services

Responsible for a range of statutory enforcement services to maximise the safety, compliance and harmony of the city and for the management of limited parking resources.

Road Services and Fleet Management

Manages and maintains our road and footpath infrastructure, fleet, plant and equipment.

Strategic Transport

Focuses on advocacy, policy and delivering cycling infrastructure.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Major initiatives	Progress
Roads renewal program Council has allocated \$9.239M toward its road and footpath renewal program to ensure these community assets are safe and well maintained. (Actual: \$8,706,150 Budget: \$9,239,000)	Council delivered 94% of planned road renewal programmed works budget.
Reconstruct bluestone laneways Council has allocated \$815K to reconstruct bluestone laneways. (Actual: \$741,649 Budget: \$815,000)	Council's Road Materials Policy stipulates that all laneways in heritage overlay areas are to be constructed in bluestones and in some instances cut bluestones in line with Disability Discrimination Act requirements. This ensures

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Major initiatives	Progress
	that our laneways retain heritage of our local neighbourhoods.

Strategic indicators (measures of success)

All nine strategic indicators had targets for 2020/21, and seven were achieved for a result of 78%.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

Strategy: 6.1 Manage traffic movement and promote road safety within local roads		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of successful grant applications relating to road safety	<p>Council received Government funding for two road safety projects;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canning and Richardson Street Black Spot improvement - Federal Black Spot program - \$479,570 Yarra Boulevard Wombat Crossings design – TAC Local Government Grant - \$80,000 	<p>2 grants</p> <p>Achieved</p>
Community satisfaction with sealed local roads	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with sealed local roads as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 7.33 is categorised as 'very good' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.47 is also categorised as 'very good'.	<p>7.33</p> <p>Achieved</p>

Strategy: 6.2 Work in partnership with VicRoads and influence traffic management and road safety on main roads		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Reduction in the number of road fatalities and serious accidents	This indicator is measured using road trauma statistics sourced from the Transport Accident Commission. The reporting period is calendar year, 2020 result of 11 is a slight increase compared to 2019 result of 10.	<p>11</p>

Strategy: 6.3 Investigate and implement effective parking management options		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Endorsement of new parking permit policy	A review of the Parking Policy including parking meters, restrictions and permits was completed and recommendations are now being implemented.	<p>100%</p> <p>Achieved</p>

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Strategy: 6.4 Improve accessibility to public transport for people with mobility needs and older people		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Monitor progress on improving public transport accessibility and report on any advocacy initiatives	<p>Council continued to advocate to the Victorian Government for improved public transport, Disability Discrimination Act compliant train stations and tram stops and increase electric buses on routes in Yarra. Ongoing discussions with Public Transport Victoria on public transport network planning included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrades to Clifton Hill and Burnley train stations • safety improvements and DDA tram stop upgrades • new east west bus connections in the vicinity of Victoria Park • extension of the 246 bus route to Moonee Valley and its upgrade to Smart Bus • long term bus operations between the Eastern Freeway and the CBD via Yarra, and electric bus deployment. 	100% Achieved
Community satisfaction with Council's advocacy efforts	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with Council's advocacy efforts as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021. The result of 6.44 is categorised as 'solid' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.19 was categorised as 'good'.	6.44 Not achieved

Strategy: 6.5 Develop and promote pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that encourages alternate modes of transport, and improves safety and connectedness		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Community satisfaction ratings of levels of local road safety	Indicator no longer measured.	
Percentage of bicycle works completed	<p>Council undertook works valued at \$164,000 on bicycle infrastructure works, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • works related to the Elizabeth Street Protected Bike Lanes Pilot Trial • Moor Street contraflow bike lane upgrade • installation of bike hoops • design work for the protected bike lane for south bound cyclists on Brunswick Street at Victoria Parade (Department of Transport in collaboration with Council). 	100% Achieved
Complete Wellington Street Bike Lane construction	Wellington Street bike lane construction project was completed and officially opened in July 2019.	100% Achieved

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Strategy: 6.6 Advocate for increased infrastructure and performance of public transport across Melbourne		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Report on advocacy initiatives related to unsatisfactory public transport services	<p>Key advocacy for improved public transport services included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety improvements and DDA tram stop upgrades at several sites across Yarra • improved bus routes through the Chandler Highway interchange • long-term bus operations between the Eastern Freeway and the CBD via Yarra • electric bus deployment. 	100% Achieved

Activities

All three activities within this strategic objective (100%) are complete or on track.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g. COVID-19 or Victorian or Federal government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
Review parking practices and options throughout the municipality	<p>Council continued to promote and educate the community on the complexity and requirements of parking within Yarra and assess the use of appropriate data in decision making.</p> <p>Parking officers used sensor relay data on-street to improve enforcement practices in the three trial streets.</p> <p>A review of parking practices was undertaken and several initiatives to improve parking arrangements and provide greater consistency across the municipality, were proposed. These include changes in the Brunswick and Smith Street retail precincts, the use and placement of metered parking and a review of unrestricted parking arrangements across the municipality. Implementation of these initiatives will commence from September 2021.</p>	94%
Public Transport Advocacy	<p>Council continued to advocate for improved public transport services to meet the needs of significant population growth in Yarra and advocate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) tram stops in Bridge Road (east of Church St) and Swan Street • increased rollout of electric buses in routes through Yarra • improved interchanges amongst modes to better service users, • trialling changed tram stop locations in Brunswick Street to assist in improved public spaces and safer cycling opportunities • Melbourne Metro 2 (MM2) linking the Clifton Hill rail group lines with the central city • NEL-Eastern Freeway busway remedying the gap east-west along Alexandra Parade 	100%

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Activity	Summary	Result
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bus or other public transport services for the AMCOR development and linking Victoria Street East with Richmond/Burnley. <p>Current discussions with PTV on public transport network planning have included upgrades to Clifton Hill and Burnley stations.</p>	
LAPM Policy review	The LAPM review has been completed. Officers have been developing a Road Safety Study Policy, Place Making Framework and Transport Action Plan that all align, and each will be presented to Council for consideration in 2021/22.	95%

Service performance indicators

Roads

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Satisfaction of use Sealed local road requests (Number of sealed local road requests / kilometres of sealed local roads) x100	107.49	112.01	130.57	153.38	111.78	The number of requests has decreased and is now in line with our 2017/18 results. During 2018/19 and 2019/20 a number of major works were undertaken by other authorities including the M41 main drain replacement and upgrade of gas mains across the municipality which resulted in significant road work and on-going temporary patching of the local road surfaces which contributed to an increase in customer requests. The majority of these works were completed by 2020/21.
Condition Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards (Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / kilometres of sealed local roads) x100	98.75%	99.06%	98.59%	98.78%	98.31%	Council has consistently demonstrated its commitment to maintaining its local road network over the last four years with nearly 100% of its roads above its renewal intervention level. Community satisfaction with the maintenance and repair of sealed local roads scored 73 (very good) in the 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

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Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Service cost Cost of sealed local road reconstruction (Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed)	\$247.35	\$294.94	\$319.63	\$243.84	\$386.93	The majority of sealed road reconstructions in Yarra involve reconstruction of bluestone laneways. Council's Road Materials Policy stipulates that all laneways in heritage overlay areas are to be constructed in bluestones and in some instances cut bluestones in line with Disability Discrimination Act requirements, which significantly increases costs. This year, all full reconstructions were Bluestone with a combination of natural and cut stone placing the final costs higher than previous years.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road resealing (Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / square metres of sealed local roads resealed)	\$30.87	\$33.16	\$34.43	\$37.88	\$37.97	The cost of sealed local road resealing is consistent with the cost in 2019/20 and comparable with costs over the last four years, allowing for variations in individual project cost due to the size and number of projects. Undertaking a number of large-scale projects during a year can result in reduced cost per square metre due to economies of scale.
Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local roads (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads)	72.30	72.20	76.50	75.00	73.00	Council's satisfaction score of 73 is categorised as very good from the 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Strategic Objective 7 – A leading Yarra

A place where transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.

Strategies

The following strategies guide Council's work in this area:

1. Ensure Council's assets and financial resources are managed responsibly to deliver financial sustainability.
2. Continue to develop a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.
3. Maintain a culture of transparency, governance, ethical practice and management of risks that instils a high level of community respect and confidence in Council decision-making.
4. Ensure Council services are efficient, well-planned, accessible and meet community needs.
5. Provide the community with meaningful and genuine opportunities to contribute to and participate in Council planning and decision-making processes with a focus on young people, hard to reach and traditionally underrepresented communities.
6. Enable greater transparency and access to the conduct of Council Meetings.
7. Develop innovative Smart City solutions with government, industry and community that use open data technology.
8. Continue a 'customer centric' approach to all service planning and delivery.
9. Advocate for the best interests of our community.

Services

The following services have primary responsibility for delivering Strategic Objective 7:

Advocacy, Engagement and Communications

Provides communications, issues and media management, consultation and engagement, strategic advocacy, publications, civic events and digital communications.

Building and Asset Management

Provides policy, strategy, processes, procedures and systems that produce an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to asset management. Yarra's building and land assets are managed in order to maximise their ability to support delivery of services to the community.

Chief Executive's Office

Responsible for a range of professional services to internal and external clients, with an emphasis on compliance, regulation, transparency and probity. It is also responsible for managing Yarra's property portfolio including leases, licenses and management agreements.

Corporate Planning and Performance

Ensures services and projects are strategically aligned, deliver value for money, and are accountable to staff, councillors and the community.

Finance

Delivers the financial accounting, management accounting, revenue management, valuations and payroll services to the organisation. Also develops financial strategies that will ensure Yarra is a viable organisation able to continue provision of quality services into the future.

Information and Communication Technology

Facilitate the acquisition, maintenance, retirement and usage of all information systems maintained or used by the operations and staff at Council.

Internal Audit and Assurance

Ensures the organisation has policies and procedures in place to manage its risks and engender confidence in Council's corporate governance. Responsible for oversight of the organisation's internal audit program and provide the secretariat function for Council's audit committee.

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People and Culture

Promotes accountability and enhances competency, effectiveness, risk management and wellbeing as a shared responsibility of the organisation and its people. Strives to generate a positive, safe and productive work and learning environment.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2020/21 budget.

Major initiatives	Progress
Building renewal program Council is allocating \$8.085M to renew and refurbish important community facilities, including libraries, leisure centres, childcare centres and town halls, to ensure they are safe, well-maintained and fit-for-purpose. (Actual: \$6,789,688 Budget: \$8,085,000)	Council undertook works to the value of \$6.78 million during the year to renew and refurbish community facilities.

Strategic Indicators (measures of success)

Of nine strategic indicators, eight had targets for 2020/21, and seven (88%) met the assigned targets.

Achieved = Exceeded or within 10% of target

Not achieved = Did not meet target

Strategy: 7.1 Ensure Council's assets and financial resources are managed responsibly to deliver financial sustainability			
Strategic indicator	Category	Comment	Result
Council remains financially sustainable and receives a 'low risk' rating from the VAGO assessment conducted annually	Net result	Medium risk	5.4% Not achieved
	Adjusted underlying result	High risk	9.0% Not achieved
	Liquidity	Low risk	1.3 Achieved
	Internal financing	Medium risk	93.8% Not achieved
	Indebtedness	Low risk	7.9% Achieved
	Capital replacement	Medium risk	1.1 Not achieved

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Strategy: 7.1 Ensure Council's assets and financial resources are managed responsibly to deliver financial sustainability

	Renewal gap	Low risk	1.1 Achieved
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Strategy: 7.2 Continue to develop a culture of continuous improvement and innovation

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Number of staff trained in continuous improvement methodology	A series of 12 on-line training modules on process mapping and improvement skills were developed and introduced with 30 staff completing the training series.	30 staff Achieved

Strategy: 7.3 Maintain a culture of transparency, governance, ethical practice, and management of risks that instils a high level of community respect and confidence in Council decision-making

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Community satisfaction with Council decisions	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with Council's decisions as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 6.59 is categorised as 'good' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.12 is also categorised as 'good'.	6.59 Achieved

Strategy: 7.4 Ensure Council services are efficient, well-planned, accessible, and meet community needs

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Overall community satisfaction with Council performance	Yarra residents' overall rating of satisfaction with Council as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 6.85 is categorised as 'good' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result of 7.15 is categorised as 'good'.	6.85 Achieved
Adoption of a Services Policy	Work on the development of a Services Policy was suspended in 2019 after a change in direction by Council.	No target for 2020/21

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Strategy: 7.5 Provide the community with meaningful and genuine opportunities to contribute to and participate in Council planning and decision-making processes with a focus on young people, hard to reach and traditionally underrepresented communities

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with community consultation and engagement as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 6.55 is categorised as 'good' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.19 is also categorised as 'good'.	6.55 Achieved

Strategy: 7.6 Enable greater transparency and access to the conduct of Council Meetings

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Implementation of Council Meeting broadcast system	Council commenced live streaming of Council meetings from all three Council meeting sites in November 2019.	100% Achieved

Strategy: 7.7 Develop innovative smart city solutions in collaboration with government, industry and community which will use open data technology

Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Digital Directions Strategy endorsed by Council	The Digital Directions Strategy was endorsed by the Executive Management Team and progressed through a number of initiatives, including the Smart Council Working Group (SCWG).	100% Achieved

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Strategy: 7.8 Continue a 'customer centric' approach to all service planning and delivery		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Community satisfaction with responsiveness to community needs	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with Council's responsiveness to community needs as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 6.70 is categorised as 'good' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.34 was categorised as 'very good'.	6.70 Not achieved

Strategy: 7.9 Advocate for the best interests of our community		
Strategic indicator	Comment	Result
Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	Yarra residents' rating of satisfaction with community consultation and engagement as measured by the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2021. The result of 6.55 is categorised as 'good' according to the survey's satisfaction rating. Last year's result, and target, of 7.19 is also categorised as 'good'.	6.55 Achieved

Activities

Of the eight activities within this strategic objective, seven (88%) are complete or on track.

>90% On track

75-89% Monitor

<75% Off track.

** Indicates where Council has deferred a milestone that cannot be delivered due to circumstances outside Council's control (e.g. COVID-19 or Victorian or Federal government decision), and so the percentage result is based on milestones as adjusted.

Activity	Summary	Result
Develop Governance Rules	Council developed Governance Rules to, among other things, guide the conduct of Council meetings, the disclosure of conflicts of interest, and the requirements during an election period. The revised Governance Rules were adopted by Council in August 2020 after a period of public consultation.	100%
Develop a Public Transparency Policy	Council developed a policy to give effect to the public transparency principles in the Local Government Act 2020, that sets out which information is freely available and how a member of the public may request further information. The Public Transparency Policy was adopted by Council in August 2020.	100%
Develop a Community Vision	Council worked closely with the community through a deliberative engagement model to develop a Community Vision that captures the future aspirations of our community.	100%

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Activity	Summary	Result
	<p>The Yarra 2036 Community Vision will provide direction and guidance for all of Council's future strategic planning and demonstrate Council's compliance with the Victorian Local Government Act 2020 (Act).</p> <p>More than 1,300 responses were received and nearly 60 community members participated in a series of four Community Panels to shape the Vision.</p>	
Our Voice, Our Actions, Our Customer Experience (CX): CX Program 2020-22	Now in its second year, Council implemented a project to review customer payment channels. This project aims to improve current payment options to enable uniformity, accessibility, and seamless online opportunities.	100%
Mid-Year Budget Review	Council completed a detailed review of its mid-year financial performance compared to budget to ensure achievement of financial sustainability measures across Council and appropriate allocation of financial resources toward achievement of the Council Plan.	100%
Business Improvement	<p>Council's Business Improvement Framework identifies the operating context, goals, key activities, outputs, and outcomes to be delivered. It incorporates a stronger and more consistent approach to continuous quality improvement.</p> <p>A cross divisional project team was established to develop an Action Plan for customer payments.</p> <p>Delivery of online training for Introduction to Process Mapping was a key focus for the Business Improvement Unit (BIU). Process mapping offers a visual representation of business processes so they can be better understood, adapted, and improved.</p> <p>A total of 12 online training sessions were facilitated with 44 participants. Forty-one key processes have been documented for the organisation, with a significant number in draft form.</p> <p>Process maps for the COVID Response and Recovery Team illness protocol were developed to assist managers in understanding and incorporating COVID safe measures in their daily practice/ staff management.</p> <p>Support for post COVID-19 recovery and business continuity activity supported the prioritisation of approximately 300 items of hardware to ensure working from home for officers.</p>	100%
Your Say Yarra Youth Forums**	<p>Your Say Yarra youth forums were put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Other youth engagement opportunities were offered out.</p> <p>Yarra Youth @ Front was a series of youth led discussions with key executives from local and state government and the community sector to identify key issues for young people in the City of Yarra to guide future work in this area.</p> <p>In October 2020, the Yarra Youth Ambassadors hosted a Mental Health Awareness Forum focused on creating awareness on mental health in the community, culturally safe and competent responses to Mental Health issues, barriers to Mental Health and resources/supports available to assist people experiencing poor Mental Health.</p>	87%

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Activity	Summary	Result
	Also in October, The Cities People Love (a not-for-profit organisation) held a workshop with Council's Youth Ambassadors to support our young people to better articulate their vision for Yarra.	
Develop and implement the Risk Management Framework	The draft Risk Management Framework was presented to Executive in June and is undergoing minor amendments. It is scheduled to go back to Executive in early 2021/22 for adoption.	78%

Service performance indicators

Governance

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Transparency Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public (Number of Council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of Council, or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of councillors, closed to the public / number of Council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of Council or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of Councillors) x100	11.29%	11.90%	16.39%	7.13%	6.95%	Council has continued to focus on ensuring that decisions are made at a public meeting wherever possible. Ongoing low levels of confidential business have been able to be achieved due to changes in the way we manage certain reporting processes around community grants, a rigorous assessment of each proposed confidential report and changes in the definition of confidential in the Local Government Act 2020.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Consultation and engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement	68.50	69.00	72.10	72.00	65.00	Council's satisfaction score of 65 is categorised as 'good' from the 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Previous years' results are also categorised as 'good' using the same survey instrument. While the result reflects Yarra's continued commitment to consult and engage frequently and consistently on statutory and non-statutory matters that affect the community restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic did disrupt many planned community engagement opportunities forcing some to move to alternative format such as on-line alternatives or be postponed.
Attendance Councillor attendance at Council meetings (The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each ordinary and special Council Meeting / (Number of ordinary and special Council Meetings) x (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election) x100	93.00%	92.06%	91.03%	92.89%	93.98%	Councillors' attendance at meetings remains consistent.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Service / Indicator / Measure	2016/17 results	2017/18 results	2018/19 results	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	Commentary
Service cost Cost of elected representation (Direct cost of the governance service / number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)	\$41,026.22	\$42,312.33	\$42,328.44	\$41,032.00	\$38,849.87	Costs decreased in 2020/21 compared to previous years due in part to reduced opportunities for professional development and travel and the move to virtual Council meetings, a result of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Councillor allowance payments also reduced during the Council election period.
Satisfaction Satisfaction with Council decisions (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community)	67.00	67.00	72.00	71.00	66.00	Council's satisfaction score of 66 is categorised as 'good' from the 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Previous years' results are also categorised as 'good' using the same survey instrument. The result is underpinned by Council's ongoing commitment to consultation and engagement.

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Governance, management, and statutory information

Councillor allowances

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Council pays councillors allowances in recognition of the long hours and many obligations associated with their role.

These payments help to ensure that the role of councillor is not restricted to people already in receipt of significant independent incomes.

As at 30 June 2021, Yarra's mayor received \$81,204.00 plus 9.5% (being the equivalent of the Superannuation Guarantee Levy) for a total of \$88,918.38 per annum. Other councillors received \$26,245.00 plus 9.5% (being the equivalent of the Superannuation Guarantee Levy) for a total of \$28,738.28 per annum.

Councillor expenses

The Local Government Act 2020 provides that the mayor and councillors are offered appropriate tools and support to enable them to properly undertake their statutory obligations.

There are substantial time commitments required of councillors for them to properly represent their constituents and perform their significant legal responsibilities, which often require travel and late hours. To assist councillors to carry out their duties, Victorian councils provide them with efficient communication equipment and reimburse their official travel and phone expenses and (where applicable) childcare expenses.

Councillor expenses in 2020/2021 amounted to \$333,421.21. This figure includes councillor allowances.

Councillor expenses 2020/2021

Councillor	Councillor allowances	Communication costs	Travel expenses	Community representation	Professional development	Other costs
Current Councillors						
Cr Edward Crossland	\$19,729.71	\$404.19	\$149.70	-	-	-
Cr Gabrielle de Vietri	\$57,110.25	\$404.19	\$399.26	\$2,306.50	\$1,686.36	\$2,250.00
Cr Stephen Jolly	\$28,744.88	\$1,164.30	\$48.34	-	-	-
Cr Herschel Landes	\$19,729.71	\$404.19	\$50.91	-	-	-
Cr Anab Mohamud	\$19,729.71	\$404.19	\$139.32	\$20.00	\$400.00	-
Cr Claudia Nguyen	\$19,729.71	\$404.19	\$71.45	\$86.82	\$427.27	\$16.73
Cr Bridgid O'Brien	\$28,744.88	\$963.63	\$72.22	-	\$687.26	-

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Councillor	Councillor allowances	Communication costs	Travel expenses	Community representation	Professional development	Other costs
Cr Amanda Stone	\$28,744.88	\$822.75	\$96.36	-	-	-
Cr Sophie Wade	\$19,729.71	\$404.19	\$127.46	\$20.00	\$200.00	-
Former Councillors						
Danae Bosler	\$9,015.17	\$544.19	-	-	-	-
Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei	\$9,015.17	\$547.31	-	-	-	-
Misha Coleman	\$27,893.59	\$797.68	\$149.60	-	-	-
Jackie Fristacky	\$9,015.17	\$422.61	-	-	\$18.18	-
Dan Nguyen	\$9,015.17	\$793.88	-	-	-	-
James Searle	\$9,015.17	\$553.28	-	-	-	-

Freedom of Information

Council is committed to making a wide range of policy, reports, data, research and other documents available to residents without the need to lodge a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

Where the law requires that applications are necessary, Council will strive to provide all information to which applicants are entitled, while preserving the privacy of third parties.

During 2020/21, 74 Freedom of Information applications were received, a similar amount to the previous year. While the Freedom of Information Act 1982 provides Council with 30 days to respond, we were able to respond to most requests within 14 to 21 days.

Freedom of information requests 2016-2021

Year	Number of requests
2020/21	74
2019/20	71
2018/19	87

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Year	Number of requests
2017/18	84
2016/17	83

Freedom of information – application outcomes 2020/2021

Outcome	Number of requests
Access fully granted	26
Access partially granted	36
Access refused	2
No documents to provide	6
Withdrawn or not proceeded with	4
Total	74

Ministerial Directions – Food Act 1984

Under section 7E of the Food Act 1984, Council is required to detail any Ministerial Directions it has received in relation to its administration of this Act. Council did not receive any Ministerial Directions during 2020/2021.

Ministerial Directions – Road Management Act 2004

Under section 22(4) of the Road Management Act 1984, Council is required to detail any Ministerial Directions it has received in relation to its administration of this Act. Council did not receive any Ministerial Directions during 2020/2021.

Non-competitive contracts

Council did not enter into any contracts without engaging in a competitive process as required by section 186 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Carer support

Under section 11 of the Carers Recognition Act 2012, Council is required to provide information on its recognition and support of carers in its Annual Report.

Council provides paid carers' leave and offers flexible working arrangements for employees with caring responsibilities, guided by a Flexible Working Policy.

Community members with carer responsibilities are also supported through Council's Aged and Disability Services branch.

During 2020-21 this included:

- provision of a dedicated community bus service to help 20 carers manage their daily living needs. The bus service employs jockeys to assist vulnerable people to attend therapeutic activities, such as hydrotherapy (240 hours of support provided). This activity was curtailed due to COVID-19.
- roll out and promotion of a new digital equipment grant / respite care service for hard to reach carers, including younger carers (under 25 years), carers of people with Dementia and carers from CALD,

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LGBTIQA+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Yarra and neighbouring cities. The new service delivers a free digital device: laptop, iPad or tablet with 12 months free Wi-Fi and up to 10 hours per year of flexible respite care to approximately 40 people. To date 27 carers have been supported. Aged and Disability Services has worked in partnership with Library Services to procure digital equipment and provide technical support and training to carers.

- ongoing advocacy with the National Disability Insurance Scheme Brotherhood of St Laurence Manager Local Area Coordinator and Access Planning Officer
- Carers Gateway Forums held in person and online.

Disability Action Plan

The following information is provided on the work completed on the implementation of Council's Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-24 (Disability Action Plan), as required under section 38(3) of the Disability Discrimination Act 2006:

The Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-24 and Action Plan 2018-20 were endorsed by Council on 16 October 2018, after widespread consultation with the community and key service providers. Consultation was undertaken via focus groups, an online survey and internal consultation. Four overarching themes emerged: freedom, life experiences, knowledge and independence.

Key achievements

Across 2020/21, the focus of action included:

- moving the support and resourcing of the Disability Advisory Committee on-line to enable members to continue contributing advice to Council
- completion of the 10-year action plan to move accessible parking spaces from main shopping streets into adjoining side streets to improve accessibility and compliance with Standards
- development of new 2021-2023 Access and Inclusion Action Plan (sits under Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2024)
- DAC representation on the deliberative community panel for developing Yarra 2036 Community Vision.
- Diversexy online Let's talk about Sex forum
- initial stakeholder engagement for accessible live Music project in partnership with Arts and Venues and Music Victoria
- input into the Parklet Policy and Design Guidelines.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Under section 68(A) 3(c) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council is required to provide an update on implementation of its Domestic Animal Management Plan in the Annual Report.

Council continued to fulfil its ongoing commitments as outlined in the Domestic Animal Management Plan by:

- offering and promoting discounted registration fees on Council's website and on the registration renewal form. Council's customer service team also advises customers of the discount over the phone, particularly during renewal time. From February each year, Council also offers three months' free registration for all new registrations, which is given via a 15-month expiry date. In addition, all cats and dogs under the age of six months are registered free for the remaining part of their first year of registration
- raising awareness of animal overpopulation by conducting authorised officer patrols. Council also provides information to help reduce the number of stray cats and other animals being a nuisance. Council has included the issue of a cat curfew in the 2021-24 draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) as an action to be looked at in 2022
- collecting and reuniting stray domestic animals with their owners and achieving a relatively high reclaim rate
- ensuring all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release. This data was recorded monthly in the government reporting system and all targets have been met
- conducting regular reviews of the pound operation and performance, and meeting with pound operators to address any issues. Council continues to work closely with the pound operators which includes regular meetings
- reviewing the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which was submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions in November 2020. Council also internally reviewed the Council Order and its standard operating procedures
- completing an annual audit of registered domestic animal businesses as per the yearly schedule

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- investigating and responding to all animal complaints, including those related to barking dogs and dog attacks, within the internal key performance indicator timeframe, and provided results for government reporting
- completing annual inspections of declared dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs within Yarra as scheduled. Council also completed an audit of the Victorian Declared Dog Registry in April 2021
- running in-house training for officers to ensure that necessary skills are maintained. Officers attended industry-based training throughout the year to ensure they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, and further formal training is scheduled to be completed late 2021
- promoting and encouraging the responsible ownership of dogs and cats throughout the year with a direct focus during the registration renewal period. Promotion included media releases and regular park patrols to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats. Park-specific webpages were updated with information about dog restrictions. Council completed a comprehensive review of this information on its website to make it clearer, consistent and user friendly
- delivering flyers to residents near parks advising of the requirement to carry bags for their dog faeces at all times and the penalties for not cleaning up after dogs. In addition, the 2021-24 DAMP went out for public consultation mid-2021. Feedback from the consultation will form part of the plan
- conducting daily park patrols to let owners know about their responsibilities and the associated regulations to promote compliance with the Act and minimise the risk of dogs attacking other dogs, people or animals. Parks were prioritised for patrols based on any identified issues, risks, complaints and usage levels. All parks within Yarra were patrolled at some stage throughout the year. Yarra's Important Information for Dog Owners booklets were also distributed during patrols. In addition, Council has upgraded signage within high-profile parks and added permanent stencils within parks to assist with what is required from a dog owner.

Protected disclosures

Council employees have the right to report alleged unethical practices within the organisation without fear of repercussion.

Reports of this kind are treated in accordance with the Protected Disclosure Act 2012 and Council's Protected Disclosures Policy, which is available on its website or via the Governance Support Unit at Richmond Town Hall.

During 2020/21, no Protected Disclosures were notified to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) under section 21(2) of the Protected Disclosure Act 2012.

For further details contact Ivan Gilbert, Protected Disclosure Coordinator, on 9205 5110 or email Ivan.Gilbert@yarracity.vic.gov.au.

Special and Delegated committees

The following special and delegated committees were in operation during 2020/21.

Planning Decisions Committee

By resolution of Council, the Planning Decisions Committee was constituted under the Local Government Act 2020 in September 2020, with its first meeting held on 9 September 2020.

All Councillors are members of the Planning Decisions Committee, with three councillors making up each meeting on a rotational basis. This committee has the authority to make decisions on applications for planning permits that are referred to it by council officers.

The Planning Decisions Committee met 18 times during 2020/21 and made determinations on 68 separate planning matters.

Internal Development Approvals Committee

The Internal Development Approvals Committee was the predecessor to the Planning Decisions Committee, with the same composition and authority. The only difference was that the Internal Development Approvals Committee was constituted under the Local Government Act 1989.

The Internal Development Approvals Committee met five times during 2020/21 and made determinations on 10 separate planning matters.

By resolution of Council, the Committee was dissolved in August 2020.

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Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) Implementation Committee

The Inner Melbourne Action Plan Implementation Committee was a joint committee of Maribymong, Melbourne, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra councils. The committee met quarterly to oversee implementation of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan 2016-26.

By resolution of all member Councils, the Committee was dissolved in May 2021.

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[Governance and Management Checklist 2020-21](#)

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LGPRF 2020/21

Yarra City Council

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
1 Community engagement policy (policy under section 55 of the Act outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. Date of adoption: 15 September 2020
2 Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Guidelines were developed late 2020 and officially launched in July 2021.
3 Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act. Long Term Financial Strategy 2020/21-2029/30 Date of adoption: 18 August 2020
4 Asset Plan (plan under section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Council is developing a new Asset Management Plan in accordance with section 92 of the Act scheduled to be completed by June 2022. Date of adoption of current asset plans: Asset Management Policy and Strategy endorsed by Executive on 28 March 2018. Road Asset Management Plan 2016. Buildings Asset Management Plan adopted by 8 October 2013, revised in May 2017. Drainage Asset Management Plan reviewed March 2018. Open Space Asset Management Plan adopted 2005.
5 Revenue and Rating Plan (plan under section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act. 2021/22 Revenue and Rating Plan Date of adoption: 24 June 2021
6 Annual budget (plan under section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act. 2021/22 Budget Date of adoption: 24 June 2021

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

LGPRF 2020/21

Yarra City Council

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
7 Risk policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to council's operations)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 27 November 2012
8 Fraud policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 22 November 2020
9 Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 for emergency mitigation, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> . Date of preparation: 29 August 2018
10 Procurement policy (policy under section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act. Date of adoption: 02 June 2020 Council is currently developing a revised policy which will take effect 1 January 2022.
11 Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Council's current Business Continuity Plan was adopted by Council in 2015. Council undertakes Business Continuity planning as part of its Risk Management framework Date of adoption: 28 July 2015
12 Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Council's Disaster Recovery Plan was endorsed. Date of endorsement: 16 January 2020.
13 Risk management framework (framework outlining council's approach to managing risks to the council's operations)	Framework Date of commencement of current framework: 5 July 2021

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LGPRF 2020/21

Yarra City Council

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
14 Audit and Risk Committee (see sections 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act. Date of establishment: 01 September 2020
15 Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged Date of engagement of current provider: 20 January 2020 An independent internal audit function is a long standing part of Council's management framework, our current Independent accounting professionals were engaged by Council following a competitive tender process.
16 Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989)	Framework Council Plan progress is reported in the Annual Report including the performance results for the Strategic Indicators. Council also endorses an Annual Plan, linked to initiatives in the Council Plan, progress is reported to Council via the Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report. Date of adoption of current framework: 20 October 2020
17 Council Plan report (report reviewing the performance of the council against the council plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	No report Council Plan progress is reported in the Annual Report including the performance results for the Strategic Indicators. The Annual Report was presented to Council on 20 October 2020. Council also endorses an Annual Plan, linked to initiatives in the Council Plan. Progress is reported to Council via the Annual Plan Quarterly Progress Report.
18 Financial reporting (quarterly statements to the Council under section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 1989, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Reports presented to the Council in accordance with section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 1989. Date reports presented: 15 September 2020, 15 December 2020, 16 February 2021, 18 May 2021

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LGPRF 2020/21

Yarra City Council

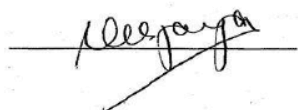
Governance and Management Items	Assessment
19 Risk reporting (6-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports Date of reports: 20 August 2020, 31 March 2021
20 Performance reporting (6-monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989)	Reports Date of reports: 15 September 2020, 15 December 2020, 16 February 2021, 18 May 2021
21 Annual report (annual report under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Local Government Act 1989 containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with section 134 of the Act. Date statements presented: 20 October 2020
22 Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)	Reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act. Date reviewed: 16 February 2021
23 Delegations (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with sections 11 and 47 of the Act))	Reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act. Date of review: Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer was reviewed 18 August 2020. Instrument of Delegation from Council to Council staff was reviewed and endorsed and executed by Council on 26 October 2020.
24 Meeting procedures (Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act. Date Governance Rules adopted: 18 August 2020

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LGPRF 2020/21

Yarra City Council

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of council's governance and management arrangements.



Vijaya Vaidyanath

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 7 September 2021



Cr Gabrielle de Vietri

Mayor

Dated: 10 September 2021

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Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2021.

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Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Wei Chen CPA

CFO and Principal Accounting Officer

7 September 2021

Richmond

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Yarra City Council for the year ended 30 June 2021 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Yarra City Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Cr Gabrielle de Vietri

Mayor

7 September 2021

Richmond



Cr Herschel Landes

Councillor

7 September 2021

Richmond



Vijaya Vaidyanath

Chief Executive Officer

7 September 2021

Richmond

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of the Yarra City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Yarra City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2021 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2021 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 6 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors • conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern. • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. <p>I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>
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MELBOURNE
17 September 2021


Sanchu Chummar
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Income			
Rates and charges	3.1	116,242	112,172
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	18,999	28,052
User fees	3.3	21,567	27,047
Grants - operating	3.4 (a)	20,542	14,219
Grants - capital	3.4 (b)	1,446	5,831
Contributions - monetary	3.5	5,114	8,148
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	2,994	1,613
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures		-	(230)
Other income	3.7	1,695	3,052
Total income		188,599	199,904
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	95,135	90,001
Materials and services	4.2	70,541	66,957
Depreciation	4.3	23,044	22,563
Amortisation - right of use assets	4.4	1,160	965
Bad and doubtful debts	4.5	6,241	5,338
Borrowing costs	4.6	1,870	1,922
Finance costs - leases	4.7	171	165
Other expenses	4.8	563	590
Total expenses		198,725	188,501
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(10,126)	11,403
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	92,318	(59,223)
Total comprehensive result		82,192	(47,820)

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial ReportBalance Sheet
As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1 (a)	78,930	94,738
Trade and other receivables	5.1 (c)	18,984	21,621
Other financial assets	5.1 (b)	10,000	-
Inventories	5.2 (a)	95	165
Other assets	5.2 (b)	1,402	1,095
Total current assets		109,411	117,619
Non-current assets			
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.3	5	5
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	2,025,671	1,930,850
Right-of-use assets	5.8	2,374	2,307
Total non-current assets		2,028,050	1,933,162
Total assets		2,137,461	2,050,781
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3 (a)	15,737	15,390
Trust funds and deposits	5.3 (b)	11,854	11,989
Unearned income	5.3 (c)	5,703	2,679
Provisions	5.5 (a)	18,139	15,520
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	33,818	1,270
Lease liabilities	5.8	1,165	851
Total current liabilities		86,416	47,699
Non-current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3 (a)	2,255	2,645
Other Liabilities	5.3 (b)	377	374
Provisions	5.5 (a)	1,435	1,267
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	7,385	41,203
Lease liabilities	5.8	1,347	1,539
Total non-current liabilities		12,799	47,028
Total liabilities		99,215	94,727
Net assets		2,038,246	1,956,054
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		656,661	670,892
Reserves	9.1	1,381,585	1,285,162
Total Equity		2,038,246	1,956,054

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial ReportStatement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2021					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,956,054	670,892	1,270,317	14,845
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(10,126)	(10,126)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	92,318	-	92,318	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1(b)	-	(4,239)	-	4,239
Transfers from other reserves	9.1(b)	-	134	-	(134)
		2,038,246	656,661	1,362,635	18,950
Balance at end of the financial year		2,038,246	656,661	1,362,635	18,950

		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2020					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,003,874	666,456	1,329,540	7,878
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		11,403	11,403	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	(59,223)	-	(59,223)	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1(b)	-	(7,558)	-	7,558
Transfers from other reserves	9.1(b)	-	591	-	(591)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,956,054	670,892	1,270,317	14,845

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		2021 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2020 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
	Note		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		112,800	107,906
Statutory fees and fines		20,940	27,170
User fees		27,340	27,465
Grants - operating		20,542	14,219
Grants - capital		1,591	6,414
Contributions - monetary		5,114	8,148
Interest received		358	1,127
Trust funds and deposits taken		2,503	3,169
Other receipts		3,096	4,644
Net GST refund/(payment)		3,303	3,054
Employee costs		(92,347)	(87,765)
Materials and services		(81,989)	(73,851)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(2,060)	(3,478)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9.2	21,191	38,222
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	(25,747)	(29,196)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	3,163	2,246
Payments for investments	5.1(b)	(10,000)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(32,584)	(26,950)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance costs		(1,870)	(1,922)
Repayment of borrowings		(1,270)	(1,217)
Interest paid - lease liability		(171)	(165)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(1,104)	(883)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(4,415)	(4,187)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(15,808)	7,085
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		94,738	87,653
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5.1(a)	78,930	94,738

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

**Statement of Capital Works
For the Year Ended 30 June 2021**

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Property		
Buildings	6,790	8,088
Total property	6,790	8,088
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,015	1,255
Computers and telecommunications	2,165	2,129
Library books	644	700
Total plant and equipment	4,824	4,084
Infrastructure		
Roads	5,575	5,831
Bridges	110	75
Footpaths and cycleways	2,486	3,077
Drainage	2,213	1,683
Waste management	75	70
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,337	3,606
Other infrastructure	1,318	2,709
Total infrastructure	14,114	17,051
Total capital works expenditure	25,728	29,223
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	1,012	1,999
Asset renewal expenditure	23,137	22,764
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,579	4,460
Total capital works expenditure	25,728	29,223

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

OVERVIEW

Introduction

The City of Yarra was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 22 June 1994 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 333 Bridge Road Richmond.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AASs that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 *Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.8)
- AASB 1059 *Service Concession Arrangements*: Grantors is not applicable.
- other areas requiring judgements.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

(b) COVID-19 impacts on Council

On 16 March 2020, a state of emergency was declared in Victoria due to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. A state of disaster was subsequently declared on 2 August 2020. While the impacts of the pandemic have abated somewhat through the 2020-21 year, Council has noted the following significant impacts on its financial operations as a result of the pandemic:

- Council implemented a \$7.4 million COVID-19 economic package to support the community which included the waiving of licence fees and interest;
- Council provided targeted community support through business, arts and community grants of \$2.1 million, supporting increased service delivery. Increased service delivery was also funded for programs such as the Working for Victoria (\$2.7 million) and Outdoor Dining (\$0.5 million) by the Victorian State Government;
- Statutory fees and fines including those relating to parking decreased by \$9.1 million and user fees decreased by \$5.5 million; and
- Capital works were impacted by construction materials shortages, supply chain delays and limitations on the number of permitted workers at sites.

Focus on the community

Despite these challenges, Council has been able to continue providing the majority of its integral services to the community, including waste and recycling and a range of community services that take on new importance during these challenging times in a sustainable manner. In addition, Council continued to provide greater levels of support through flexible payment options on rates and other fees and charges for a range of Council services, enhancing Council's support of the local community throughout the pandemic.

Through the 2020/21 financial statements we have made reference to the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic with additional disclosure where appropriate (refer to Note 1, Note 3.2, Note 3.3, Note 5.1, and Note 6.2).

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10% or \$0.5 million where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures are those adopted by Council on 4 August 2020. The Budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. The full impact of the State Government restrictions during 2020-21 in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Council's operations were not included in the Budget assumptions but are detailed in the variance explanations below. Council sets guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

1.1 Income and expenditure

	Budget 2020/21 \$'000	Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Variance \$'000 Fav/(Unfav)	Variance % Fav/(Unfav)	Ref
Income					
Rates and charges	115,869	116,242	373	0.3%	
Statutory fees and fines	25,454	18,999	(6,455)	(25.4%)	1.1
User fees	25,427	21,567	(3,860)	(15.2%)	1.2
Grants - operating	14,399	20,542	6,143	42.7%	1.3
Grants - capital	4,169	1,446	(2,723)	(65.3%)	1.4
Contributions - monetary	5,656	5,114	(542)	(9.6%)	1.5
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	160	2,994	2,834	1771.0%	1.6
Other income	2,278	1,695	(583)	(25.6%)	1.7
Total income	193,412	188,599	(4,813)	(2.5%)	
Expenses					
Employee costs	90,028	95,135	(5,107)	(5.7%)	1.8
Materials and services	75,039	70,541	4,498	6.0%	1.9
Depreciation	23,800	23,044	756	3.2%	1.10
Amortisation - Right of use assets	880	1,160	(280)	(31.8%)	1.11
Bad and doubtful debts	5,000	6,241	(1,241)	(24.8%)	1.12
Borrowing costs	1,867	1,870	(3)	(0.2%)	
Finance costs - Leases	118	171	(53)	(44.9%)	
Other expenses	624	563	61	9.8%	
Total expenses	197,356	198,725	(1,369)	(0.7%)	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(3,944)	(10,126)	(6,182)	(156.8%)	

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 1 Performance against budget (Cont'd)

1.1 Income and expenditure (Cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Ref	Item	Explanation
1.1	Statutory fees and fines	Parking Revenue was lower than budgeted by \$6.46m (25.4%) due to a decline in parking activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This reduced income from parking meters and infringements.
1.2	User fees	User Fees were lower than budgeted by \$3.86m (15.2%) due to reduced fee income in recreation and leisure and venues as a result of facility closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the user fees were waived for business and street trading permits under Yarra's COVID-19 community and economic stimulus package.
1.3	Grants - operating	Operating Grants were favourable to budget by \$6.14m (42.7%) mainly due to an unbudgeted grant received for the Working for Victoria Program (\$2.74m). Also, there were unbudgeted grants received for Kindergarten Support activities, Outdoor Dining and the Four Bin Rollout program.
1.4	Grants - capital	Capital Grants were different to budget by \$2.72m (65.3%) due to changes in the timing of the Jack Dyer Pavilion and Ryan Reserve Pavilion grants.
1.5	Contributions - monetary	Monetary contributions were less than budgeted by \$0.54m due to a reduction in open space contributions for development projects. Uncertainty caused by COVID-19 has caused some developments to be completed later than expected, affecting the timing of this income.
1.6	Net gain (loss) on disposal of non current assets	Net gain on disposal of non current assets were \$2.83m favourable mainly due to unbudgeted sales proceeds from discontinued roads.
1.7	Other income	Other income was unfavourable to budget by \$0.58m (25.6%) mainly due to construction and development reinstatements due to some developments being completed later than expected.
1.8	Employee costs	Employee costs were unfavourable to budget by \$5.1m (5.7%) due to the Working for Victoria program (offset by grant received of \$2.74m) and an increase in provision for annual leave and long service leave.
1.9	Materials and services	Materials and services costs were favourable to budget by \$4.49m (5.9%) due to a reduction in consultancy and contractor costs associated with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and an inability to progress a number of pieces of work due to restrictions in place.
1.10	Depreciation	Depreciation was favourable to budget by \$0.76m (3.2%) due to the completion of capital works being impacted by construction material shortages, supply chain delays and limitations on the number of permitted workers at sites as a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
1.11	Amortisation - Right of use assets	Amortisation - Right of use assets were not matched to budget by \$0.28m due to the introduction of a change in accounting treatment for Council's operating leases. The variance offsets against the materials and services line where operating lease costs are favourable to budget.
1.12	Bad and doubtful debts	Bad and doubtful debts were unfavourable to budget by \$1.24m (24.8%) due to a higher doubtful debts applied to parking infringements compared to budget.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 1 Performance against budget (Cont'd)

1.2 Capital works

	Adopted Budget 2020/21 \$'000	Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Variance \$'000 Fav/(Unfav)	Variance % Fav/(Unfav)	Ref
Property					
Buildings	9,423	6,790	(2,633)	(27.9%)	1
Total property	9,423	6,790	(2,633)	(27.9%)	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,947	2,015	68	3.5%	
Computers and telecommunications	1,564	2,165	601	38.4%	2
Library books	620	644	24	0.0%	
Total plant and equipment	4,131	4,824	693	16.8%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	5,741	5,575	(166)	(2.9%)	
Bridges	110	110	-	0.0%	
Footpaths and cycleways	2,374	2,486	112	4.7%	
Drainage	2,110	2,213	103	4.9%	
Waste management	75	75	-	0.0%	
Parks, open space and streetscapes	6,298	2,337	(3,961)	(62.9%)	3
Other infrastructure	485	1,318	833	171.7%	4
Total infrastructure	17,193	14,114	(3,079)	(17.9%)	
Total capital works expenditure	30,747	25,728	(5,019)	(16.3%)	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	950	1,012	62	6.5%	
Asset renewal expenditure	28,937	23,137	(5,800)	(20.0%)	
Asset upgrade expenditure	860	1,579	719	83.6%	
Total capital works expenditure	30,747	25,728	(5,019)	(16.3%)	

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council

2020/2021 Financial Report

1.2 Capital works (Cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	Building expenditure was \$2.63m (27.9%) below budget due to a number of projects being impacted by shortages of construction materials resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some projects were delayed by planning approval and heritage matters (including both existing heritage registrations and a heritage protection nomination affecting planned pavilion works at Fairfield Park).
2	Computers and telecommunications	Computers and telecommunication expenditure was \$0.61m (38.4%) above budget primarily due to additional acquisitions of computer equipment needed to enable staff to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3	Parks, open space and streetscapes	Parks, open space and streetscapes expenditure was \$3.96m (62.9%) under budget due to a number of projects being delayed or unable to proceed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes limitations on the ability to undertake the required public consultations during this period, including Burnley Golf Course (\$1.8m) whilst the strategic direction for development of the facility was considered and external funding sources explored; in addition cost savings were achieved on some delivered projects.
4	Other infrastructure	Other Infrastructure expenditure was \$0.83m (171.8%) over budget primarily due to Local Area Traffic Management and Place Making projects (budgeted in 2019/20) carried forward and delivered in 2020/21.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2 (a) Corporate, Business and Finance

The Corporate, Business and Finance division provides efficient, effective and proactive support services across council to enable the delivery of policy commitments, council vision and mission. The provision of these services includes financial services, digital information and technology, health and local laws, procurement, strategy and program delivery and program integration and development.

Planning and Placemaking

The Planning and Placemaking division is responsible for providing strategic input into the overall management of the city. It includes, City Strategy (Economic Development, Strategic Planning, Urban Design and Open Space), Statutory Planning (subdivision, heritage), Sustainability, Strategic Transport and Building Services.

Community Wellbeing

The Community Wellbeing division provides high quality community focused programs, service delivery and communication to residents. Community Wellbeing is comprised of community care, connected communities, family services, health communities and social planning and investment.

City Works and Assets

The City Works and Assets Division is responsible for asset management, maintenance and provision of a range of assets that contribute to liveability, including buildings, civil infrastructure such as drains, roads and footpaths, sporting facilities, gardens and trees. It also support the local amenity through services such as waste collection, recycling service, and street cleansing. The Division ensures safety and amenity related to development within Yarra, and seeks to manage traffic and the impact of works from external authorities. The Division also support health and wellbeing through the management of Councils Recreation and Leisure services.

Chief Executive Division

The Chief Executive Officer Division supports the provision of a range of professional services to internal and external customers, with an emphasis on Governance related issues. It is also responsible for managing Council's property portfolio including leases, licenses and management agreements. Within the CEO's division is People & Culture and Advocacy Engagement and Communications. People & Culture is responsible for people management, leadership, development, diversity and inclusion across Council. Advocacy Engagement and Communications provides strategic communications, advocacy, media relations, publications, digital communications, community consultation and engagement and civic events. The CEO's division also includes health, safety and risk.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 2 Analysis of Council results by program (Cont'd)

2 (b) Summary of revenues, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2021					
Corporate Business and Finance	144,651	62,106	82,545	2,730	117,742
Planning and Placemaking	8,731	18,013	(9,282)	788	1,442
Community Wellbeing	16,465	37,123	(20,658)	12,733	2,501
City Works and Assets	14,310	64,876	(50,566)	2,297	2,007,797
Chief Executive Division	4,442	16,607	(12,165)	3,440	7,979
	188,599	198,725	(10,126)	21,988	2,137,461

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2020					
Corporate Business and Finance	149,977	59,967	90,010	2,695	197,887
Planning and Placemaking	13,861	16,252	(2,391)	2,016	945
Community Wellbeing	14,717	37,677	(22,960)	10,610	2,552
City Works and Assets	20,166	62,455	(42,289)	4,681	1,841,045
Chief Executive Division	1,183	12,150	(10,967)	48	8,352
	199,904	188,501	11,403	20,050	2,050,781

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Yarra City Council 2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services

3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses Net Annual Value as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The NAV of a property is its imputed rental value.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2020/21 was \$2,920 million (2019/20 \$2,783 million).

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
General rates	85,405	81,363
Commercial	22,754	22,419
Industrial	7,080	6,977
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	883	929
Garbage bin charges	48	49
Interest on rates and charges	72	435
Total rates and charges	116,242	112,172

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2021, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2021. Revaluations will be performed annually in accordance with updated Valuation legislation.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Infringements and costs	8,457	12,656
Court recoveries	1,849	3,525
Fees - parking meters/ticket machines	6,910	9,992
Permits	1,783	1,879
Total statutory fees and fines	18,999	28,052

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

Statutory fees and fines income declined during the year due to a reduction in parking and parking infringement income as a result of reduced traffic flow through the municipality and the relaxing of parking restrictions to ensure the community could appropriately access essential services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (Cont'd)	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
3.3 User fees		
Leisure centres and golf course fees*	3,958	7,779
Child care/children's program fees	2,864	2,841
Town planning fees	3,653	4,022
Registration fees	1,576	1,533
Pre schools	8	179
Aged services fees	208	200
Road occupation permit fees	4,572	4,113
Library fees and fines	20	59
Footpath advertising & display	86	742
Building services fees	251	213
Valuation fees/supplementary charges	183	188
Kerb market fees	100	199
Land information certificates	135	125
Local laws fines	430	771
Rent	1,010	1,258
Permits - Bins and Skips	185	226
After School Program	160	156
Vacation Care Program	9	17
Report and Consent Fees	162	180
Road and Drainage Inspection Fees	842	900
Hall hire	145	185
Asset Protection Permits	214	238
Occupation area permit fees	300	267
Other fees and charges	496	656
Total user fees	21,567	27,047

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

*Leisure centre and golf course fee income has declined during the year as a result of a number of Council run leisure and recreation facilities closing in accordance with State Government lockdown measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (Cont'd)

3.4 Funding from other levels of government	2021	2020
Grants were received in respect of the following :	\$'000	\$'000
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	10,577	10,171
State funded grants	11,411	9,879
Total grants received	21,988	20,050
(a) Operating Grants	2021	2020
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assistance Grants - general purpose	2,392	2,078
Family and children services	4,534	4,850
Aged care services	2,385	2,262
Other	-	40
Recurrent - State Government		
Aged care services	1,153	812
School crossing supervisors	320	321
Library	720	710
Maternal and child health	708	812
Family and children services	2,891	721
Community safety	92	122
Other	18	19
Total recurrent operating grants	15,213	12,747
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Drainage maintenance	15	-
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Environmental planning	633	1,019
Community health	3	-
Family and children services	125	160
Working for Victoria	2,738	-
COVID-19 response	1,394	-
Other	421	293
Total non-recurrent operating grants	5,329	1,472
Total Operating Grants	20,542	14,219
(b) Capital Grants	2021	2020
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government	\$'000	\$'000
Roads to recovery	259	259
Recurrent - State Government		
Local roads	-	418
Total recurrent capital grants	259	677
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads - Black Spot funding	480	683
Roads LRCI program	512	-
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Buildings	109	2,158
Roads	50	915
Open space	1	1,245
Drainage	25	-
Other	10	153
Total non-recurrent capital grants	1,187	5,154
Total Capital Grants	1,446	5,831
Total Grants	21,988	20,050

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (Cont'd)

3.4 Funding from other levels of government (Cont'd)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
(c) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner		
Operating		
Balance at start of year	953	2,478
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	2,074	930
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(953)	(2,455)
Balance at year end	2,074	953
Capital		
Balance at start of year*	19,686	18,585
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	2,546	2,996
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,000)	(1,895)
Balance at year end	21,232	19,686

Grant income is recognised at the point in time when the council satisfies its performance obligations as specified in the underlying agreement.

*The major portion of the unspent capital grants at start of the year relates to the Fitzroy Depot relocation grant.

3.5 Contributions

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Monetary		
Resort and recreation fees*	4,239	7,558
Developer contributions plan levy	14	-
Road maintenance/works (other)	364	168
Open space and planning	288	120
Park rental	54	74
Other	155	228
Total contributions	5,114	8,148

Monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

*Resort and recreation fees received during the year and not spent are transferred to reserves pursuant to section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988, (Resort and Recreation Reserve) (Note 9.1).

3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Proceeds from sale of assets	3,163	2,246
Written down value of assets sold/disposed	(169)	(633)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,994	1,613

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (Cont'd)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
3.7 Other income		
Interest	358	1,127
Victorian Electoral Commission fines	41	18
Hall hire	41	63
Waste management	111	127
Venues and events	94	52
Strategic planning	6	116
Leisure services	124	46
Valuations	41	406
Reimbursements road reinstatements	272	88
Reimbursements legal fees	217	110
Reimbursements recycling	-	3
Reimbursements open space planning	-	18
Reimbursements planning development	-	150
Other	390	728
Total other income	1,695	3,052

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Note 4 The cost of delivering services

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	71,060	64,875
WorkCover	501	364
Casual staff	5,860	6,013
Superannuation	7,483	6,887
Fringe benefits tax	244	215
Agency staff (external)	2,409	3,792
Other	7,578	7,855
Total employee costs	95,135	90,001

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	353	368
	353	368
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	3,378	3,186
Employer contributions - other funds	3,752	3,333
	7,130	6,519
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-

Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 4 The cost of delivering services (Cont'd)

4.2 Materials and services	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Materials and services	22,615	22,694
Aged services contract payments	1,326	1,401
Waste services contract payments	4,857	4,363
Open space contract payments	3,110	2,847
Recycling contract payments	3,887	3,480
Bushland tree maintenance contract payments	1,615	1,451
Street cleaning services contract payments	3,234	3,076
Other contract payments	8,329	7,977
Legal settlement costs	-	79
Building maintenance	3,908	3,800
General maintenance	5,258	5,359
Utilities	3,149	3,533
Information technology	4,231	2,916
Insurance	2,011	1,372
Consultants	3,011	2,610
Total materials and services	70,541	66,957
4.3 Depreciation	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Property	2,852	2,780
Plant and equipment	5,821	5,356
Infrastructure	14,371	14,427
Total depreciation	23,044	22,563
<i>Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.</i>		
4.4 Amortisation - Right of use assets	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Equipment	1,160	965
Total Amortisation - Right of use assets	1,160	965

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 4 The cost of delivering services (Cont'd)

4.5 Bad and doubtful debts	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Parking infringement debtors	6,022	5,030
Other debtors	219	308
Total bad and doubtful debts	6,241	5,338

Movement in provisions for doubtful debts

Balance at the beginning of the year	37,934	32,641
New provisions recognised during the year	6,098	5,338
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(89)	(45)
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	-	-
Balance at end of year	43,943	37,934

Provision for doubtful debt is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.6 Borrowing costs	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest - borrowings	1,870	1,922
Total borrowing costs	1,870	1,922

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council.

4.7 Finance Costs - Leases	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest - lease liabilities	171	165
Total finance costs	171	165

4.8 Other expenses	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	76	76
Auditors' remuneration - internal	172	198
Councillors' allowances	315	316
Total other expenses	563	590

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position

5.1 Financial assets	2021	2020
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	\$'000	\$'000
Cash on hand	1,359	11,788
Cash at bank	11	10
Term deposits	77,560	82,940
Total cash and cash equivalents	78,930	94,738
 (b) Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	10,000	-
Total other financial assets	10,000	-
Total financial assets	88,930	94,738

Council's financial assets are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

Trust funds and deposits (Note 5.3)	12,231	12,677
Public open space / parking reserves (note 9.1b)	18,950	14,845
Total restricted funds	31,181	27,522
 Total unrestricted financial assets	 57,749	 67,216

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:

- Cash held to fund carried forward capital works	12,400	7,067
- Capital grant funding	21,232	19,085
- Other grant carry overs	2,074	931
Total funds subject to intended allocations	35,706	27,083

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.1 Financial assets (Cont'd)

	2021	2020
(c) Trade and other receivables	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Rates debtors*	13,268	9,826
Other debtors	2,289	5,575
Provision for doubtful debts - non-parking infringements	(2,669)	(1,068)
Infringement debtors	45,081	42,615
Provision for doubtful debts - parking infringements	(41,274)	(36,866)
Workcover	(2)	-
GST recoverable from ATO	2,291	1,539
Total trade and other receivables	18,984	21,621

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*The balance of Rates debtors outstanding has increased compared to the comparative period as a result of the ratepayers experiencing financial hardship due COVID-19 pandemic. Under the COVID-19 Hardship policy, Council is providing increased payment flexibility to support cases of hardship.

(d) Ageing of Receivables	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:		
Current (not yet due)	3,122	-
Past due by up to 30 days	202	2,980
Past due between 31 and 180 days	304	2,222
Past due between 181 and 365 days	129	1,839
Past due by more than 1 year	823	73
Total trade and other receivables	4,580	7,114

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$43.9m (2020: \$37.9m) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$6.1m (2020: \$5.3m). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date		
Current (not yet due)	239	143
Past due by up to 30 days	176	54
Past due between 31 and 180 days	567	641
Past due between 181 and 365 days	1,321	669
Past due by more than 1 year	41,640	36,427
Total trade and other receivables	43,943	37,934

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.2 Non-financial assets	2021	2020
(a) Inventories	\$'000	\$'000
Inventories held for distribution	95	165
Total inventories	95	165

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Prepayments	1,388	1,080
Accrued income	14	15
Total other assets	1,402	1,095

5.3 Payables

(a) Trade and other payables

	2021	2020
Current	\$'000	\$'000
Trade payables	11,230	11,735
Superannuation	10	-
Accrued expenses	4,497	3,655
	15,737	15,390

Non-current

Accrued expenses	2,255	2,645
Total trade and other payables	17,992	18,035

(b) Trust funds and deposits

	2021	2020
Current	\$'000	\$'000
Drainage works deposits	30	30
Leased properties	26	31
Refundable deposits	5,664	6,370
Fire services levy	6,026	5,461
Other refundable deposits	108	97
	11,854	11,989

Non-current

Other liabilities	377	374
Total trust funds and deposits	12,231	12,363

	2021	2020
(c) Unearned income	\$'000	\$'000
Income in advance*	578	314
Grants received in advance - operating	2,521	2,166
Grants received in advance - capital	2,604	199
Total unearned income	5,703	2,679

*Income in advance reclassified to unearned income in 2020/21 from trust funds and deposits in 2019/20.

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Yarra City Council 2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.3 Payables (Cont'd)

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Purpose and nature of items

Refundable deposits - deposits are taken by council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

Fire services levy - Council is the collection agent for the fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the State Government in line with that process.

Retention amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Loans - secured*	33,818	1,270
	33,818	1,270
Non-current		
Loans - secured*	7,385	41,203
	7,385	41,203
Total	41,203	42,473

* Borrowings are secured by way of mortgages over the general rates of Council.

Council has a borrowing of \$32.5 million maturing in November 2021, which Council has undertaken to refinance.

The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	33,818	1,270
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,794	38,081
Later than five years	1,591	3,122
	41,203	42,473

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.5 Provisions

	Employee	
	\$ '000	
2021		
Balance at beginning of the financial year	16,787	
Additional provisions	6,692	
Amounts used	(4,032)	
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	127	
Balance at the end of the financial year	<u>19,574</u>	
2020		
Balance at beginning of the financial year	14,551	
Additional provisions	6,392	
Amounts used	(4,536)	
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	380	
Balance at the end of the financial year	<u>16,787</u>	
	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	6,070	4,750
TOIL	116	61
Long service leave	1,240	1,139
	<u>7,426</u>	<u>5,950</u>
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	2,024	1,583
Long service leave	8,689	7,987
	<u>10,713</u>	<u>9,570</u>
Total current employee provisions	<u>18,139</u>	<u>15,520</u>
Non-current		
Long service leave	1,435	1,267
Total non-current employee provisions	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,267</u>
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	18,139	15,520
Non-current	1,435	1,267
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee	<u>19,574</u>	<u>16,787</u>

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.5 Provisions (Cont'd)

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulated sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. LSL is measured at present value. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non - current liability.

Key assumptions:

	2021	2020
Weighted average increase in employee costs	1.50%	1.50%
Weighted average discount rates	1.06%	0.67%
Weighted average settlement period	5 Years	5 Years

5.6 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2021.

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Bank overdraft	10,000	10,000
Credit card facilities	495	495
Total facilities	<u>10,495</u>	<u>10,495</u>
Used facilities	(115)	(96)
Unused facilities	<u>10,380</u>	<u>10,399</u>

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.7 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

2021	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Street cleaning services	3,215	3,270	-	-	6,485
Garbage collection and recycling	3,113	3,185	-	-	6,298
Open space management	1,517	-	-	-	1,517
Information systems & technology	2,554	-	-	-	2,554
Cleaning contracts for Council buildings	1,633	1,064	-	-	2,697
Insurances	1,321	-	-	-	1,321
Total	13,353	7,519	-	-	20,872
Capital					
Buildings	5,684	-	-	-	5,684
Total	19,037	7,519	-	-	26,556

2020	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Street cleaning services	3,161	3,215	3,270	-	9,646
Garbage collection and recycling	5,876	3,651	3,129	-	12,656
Open space management	2,494	877	-	-	3,371
Information systems & technology	3,285	-	-	-	3,285
Cleaning contracts for Council buildings	1,202	532	544	555	2,833
Insurances	2,517	-	-	-	2,517
Total	18,535	8,275	6,943	555	34,308
Capital					
Construction works	875	-	-	-	875
Total	19,410	8,275	6,943	555	35,183

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.8 Leases

At inception of a contract, all entities would assess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- The customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- The customer has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, Council uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that Council is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if Council is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless Council is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Council has elected to apply the temporary option available under AASB 16 *Leases* which allows not-for-profit entities to not measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont'd)

5.8 Leases (Cont'd)

Right-of-Use Assets	Plant and equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 July 2020	2,307	2,307
Additions	1,227	1,227
Amortisation charge	(1,160)	(1,160)
Balance at 30 June 2021	2,374	2,374
Balance at 1 July 2019	2,998	2,998
Additions	274	274
Amortisation charge	(965)	(965)
Balance at 30 June 2020	2,307	2,307
Lease Liabilities	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	1,296	1,129
One to five years	1,417	1,629
More than five years	-	-
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	2,713	2,758
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:		
Current	1,165	851
Non-current	1,347	1,539
Total lease liabilities	2,512	2,390

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of AUD\$10,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses relating to:		
Short-term leases	-	110
Leases of low value assets	3	10
Total	3	120
Variable lease payments (not included in measurement of lease liabilities)	-	-

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

Payable:

Within one year	-	3
Later than one year but not later than five	-	3
Total lease commitments	-	6

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage

6.1 Non current assets classified as held for sale

In 2020/21 and 2019/20 no non-current assets were classified as held for sale.

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	At Fair Value 30 June 2020								At Fair Value 30 June 2021
	\$'000	Additions	Contributions	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Write-off	Transfers	\$'000
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	1,115,134	3,693	-	92,318	(2,852)	-	-	1,003	1,209,296
Plant and equipment	37,127	6,788	-	-	(5,821)	(32)	-	448	38,510
Infrastructure	774,775	10,930	-	-	(14,371)	(137)	-	860	772,057
Work in progress	3,813	4,337	-	-	-	-	(31)	(2,311)	5,808
	1,930,849	25,748	-	92,318	(23,044)	(169)	(31)	-	2,025,671

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP	Additions	Write-off	Transfers	Closing WIP
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	1,657	2,914	-	(1,021)	3,550
Plant and equipment	915	797	(1)	(430)	1,281
Infrastructure	1,241	626	(30)	(860)	977
Total	3,813	4,337	(31)	(2,311)	5,808

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

(a) Property

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Land improvements	Total Land & Land Improvements	Heritage buildings	Buildings - specialised	Buildings - non- specialised	Building improvements	Leasehold improvements	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2020	742,396	168,565	12,180	923,141	-	283,858	-	-	-	283,858	1,657	1,208,656
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2020	-	-	-	-	-	(91,865)	-	-	-	(91,865)	-	(91,865)
	742,396	168,565	12,180	923,141	-	191,993	-	-	-	191,993	1,657	1,116,791
Movements in fair value												
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	3,693	-	-	-	3,693	2,914	6,607
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	75,462	16,856	-	92,318	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,318
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	39	-	-	39	-	1,002	-	-	-	1,002	(1,021)	20
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	75,501	16,856	-	92,357	-	4,695	-	-	-	4,695	1,893	98,945
Movements in accumulated depreciation												
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	(2,852)	-	-	-	(2,852)	-	(2,852)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	(38)	-	-	-	(38)	-	(38)
	-	-	-	-	-	(2,890)	-	-	-	(2,890)	-	(2,890)
At fair value 30 June 2021	817,897	185,421	12,180	1,015,498	-	288,553	-	-	-	288,553	3,550	1,307,601
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2021	-	-	-	-	-	(94,755)	-	-	-	(94,755)	-	(94,755)
	817,897	185,421	12,180	1,015,498	-	193,798	-	-	-	193,798	3,550	1,212,846

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Heritage plant and equipment	Motor Vehicles	Plant, machinery and equipment	Irrigation and sprinkler systems	Street furniture	Parks and gardens furniture and equipment	Playground equipment	Fencing	Mobile garbage bins/recycling crates	Computers and Mobile Phones	Office furniture and equipment	Library books	Work In Progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2020	4,943	6,068	7,939	4,015	18,627	16,923	3,149	2,348	3,143	21,818	12,402	9,314	915	111,604
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2020	(355)	(3,320)	(5,923)	(1,775)	(13,183)	(7,456)	(1,355)	(1,952)	(2,595)	(18,247)	(10,458)	(6,943)	-	(73,562)
	4,588	2,748	2,016	2,240	5,444	9,467	1,794	396	548	3,571	1,944	2,371	915	38,042
Movements in fair value														
Additions	-	1,692	254	115	367	1,425	279	44	-	1,853	216	542	797	7,585
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	(140)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(140)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
Transfers	-	-	18	-	-	-	248	-	-	50	-	82	(430)	(32)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1,552	272	115	367	1,425	527	44	-	1,903	216	624	366	7,412
Movements in accumulated depreciation														
Depreciation and amortisation	(49)	(788)	(543)	(247)	(518)	(562)	(287)	(51)	(94)	(1,662)	(366)	(653)	-	(5,821)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	50
	(49)	(680)	(543)	(247)	(518)	(562)	(287)	(51)	(94)	(1,612)	(366)	(653)	-	(5,663)
At fair value 30 June 2021	4,943	7,620	8,211	4,130	18,994	18,348	3,676	2,392	3,143	23,721	12,618	9,938	1,281	119,016
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2021	(405)	(4,000)	(6,466)	(2,022)	(13,701)	(8,018)	(1,642)	(2,003)	(2,689)	(19,859)	(10,824)	(7,596)	-	(79,225)
	4,538	3,620	1,745	2,108	5,293	10,330	2,034	389	454	3,862	1,794	2,342	1,281	39,791

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Kerb and channel	Bridges	Lanes	Trees and Tree Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2020	437,437	148,207	148,539	143,012	5,247	93,239	7,318	1,241	984,241
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2020	(80,269)	(21,833)	(61,238)	(25,604)	(2,654)	(16,627)	-	-	(208,225)
	357,168	126,374	87,301	117,408	2,593	76,612	7,318	1,241	776,016
Movements in fair value									
Additions	2,267	2,507	2,094	3,210	111	742	-	626	11,557
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	(119)	-	-	-	-	(44)	-	-	(163)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(30)	(30)
Transfers	660	200	-	-	-	-	-	(860)	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,808	2,707	2,094	3,210	111	698	-	(264)	11,364
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation and amortisation	(5,757)	(3,137)	(1,226)	(2,853)	(44)	(1,354)	-	-	(14,371)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	24	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	26
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(5,733)	(3,137)	(1,226)	(2,853)	(44)	(1,352)	-	-	(14,345)
At fair value 30 June 2021	440,245	150,914	150,633	146,222	5,358	93,937	7,318	977	995,605
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2021	(86,002)	(24,970)	(62,464)	(28,457)	(2,698)	(17,979)	-	-	(222,571)
	354,243	125,944	88,169	117,765	2,660	75,958	7,318	977	773,034

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		
Land & land improvements		
land	Nil	Nil
land improvements	Nil	10
Buildings		
buildings	100 years	10
building and leasehold improvements	100 years	10
Plant and Equipment		
heritage plant and equipment	100 years	Nil
plant, machinery and equipment	6 - 10 years	5*
furniture, equipment & computers	3 - 14 years	5*
library books	6 - 7 years	5*
library audio and visual	4 years	Nil
Infrastructure		
roads - substructure	120 years	50
roads - seal	20 years	15
footpaths - substructure	75 years	25
footpaths - seal	30 years	15
kerb & channel	50 years	25
drains	120 years	25
bridges	120 years	25
lanes - substructure	120 years	50
lanes - seal	50 - 100 years	15
mobile garbage bins/recycling crates	10 years	5*
irrigation & sprinkler systems	10 years	5*
street furniture	10 - 50 years	5*
parks & gardens furniture & equipment	20 years	5*
playground equipment	5 - 20 years	5*

*The threshold limits for these asset categories increase to \$5,000 in 2020/21 (2019/20 \$500) and there has been no material impact.

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

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Yarra City Council 2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuations of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer, Westlink Consulting, under the supervision of William J Graham, City Valuer, A.V.L.E (Vals), Qualified Valuer through an indices review in 2020-21. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2021 are as follows:

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Date of Valuation
Land - Non specialised	-	185,421	-	June 2021
Land - Specialised	-	-	817,897	June 2021
Buildings - Specialised	-	-	193,798	June 2020
Total	-	185,421	1,011,695	

COVID-19 impact on valuations

The COVID-19 pandemic impact on the fundamental valuation inputs was monitored throughout 2020/21. Land and building were assessed for significant movement in fair values through an independent indices review. In addition, infrastructure assets are valued according to depreciated replacement costs which are largely unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, Council believes that the valuations as disclosed in these financial statements are a true reflection of fair value as at 30 June 2021.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont'd)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets - Roads, Footpaths, Lanes, Kerb and Channel - was undertaken by Jim Vokolos, B.Eng. (Civil), Qualified Engineer. The valuations are at replacement costs less accumulated depreciation and were first applied as at 30 June 2020.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

The valuation is at fair value based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2021 are as follows:

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Date of Valuation
Roads	-	-	354,243	June 2020
Bridges	-	-	2,660	June 2013
Footpaths, Lanes and Kerb and Channel	-	-	319,667	June 2020
Drainage	-	-	88,169	June 2020
Trees	-	-	7,318	June 2004
Total	-	-	772,057	

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 15% and 30%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$600 and \$6000 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$140 to \$26,000 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and are currently at 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 20 years to 120 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land under roads	283,787	283,787
Parks and reserves	534,110	458,609
Total specialised land	817,897	742,396

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Yarra City Council
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	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries		
Municipal Association Purchasing Scheme (Procurement Australia)	5	5
Total investments	5	5

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 7 People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

Yarra City Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.3.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of key management personnel at any time during the year are:

Councillors	Cr Misha Coleman (Mayor)	1 July 2020 – 6 November 2020
	Cr Gabrielle de Vietri (Mayor)	6 November 2020 – 30 June 2021
	Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei (Deputy Mayor)	1 July 2020 – 6 November 2020
	Cr Claudia Nguyen (Deputy Mayor)	6 November 2020 – 30 June 2021
	Cr Danae Bosler	1 July 2020 – 6 November 2020
	Cr Daniel Nguyen	1 July 2020 – 6 November 2020
	Cr Jackie Fristack	1 July 2020 – 6 November 2020
	Cr James Searle	1 July 2020 – 6 November 2020
	Cr Anab Mohamud	6 November 2020 – 30 June 2021
	Cr Edward Crossland	6 November 2020 – 30 June 2021
	Cr Herschel Landes	6 November 2020 – 30 June 2021
	Cr Sophie Wade	6 November 2020 – 30 June 2021
	Cr Amanda Stone	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021
	Cr Bridgid O'Brien	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021
	Cr Stephen Jolly	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

Chief Executive Officer & other Key Management Personnel

Chief Executive Officer	Vijaya Vaidyanath
Director Corporate, Business & Finance	Diarmuid McAlary
Director City Works & Assets	Chris Leivers
Director Community Wellbeing	Lucas Gosling
Director, Planning & Placemaking	Bruce Phillips
Group Manager, CEO's Office	Ivan Gilbert
Group Manager, People and Culture	Gracie Karabinis
Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement	Brooke Colbert

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Total Number of Councillors	15	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	8	8
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	23	17
(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel	2021	2020
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term benefits*	2,355	2,342
Long-term benefits**	49	60
Post employment benefits - superannuation	179	178
Total	2,583	2,580

* Short term benefits for the purpose of this disclosure include base salary, vehicle allowances, movements in short-term accrued leave entitlements and Councillor allowances.

** Long term benefits for the purpose of this disclosure include movements in long-term accrued leave entitlements.

*** Councillors and other members of key management personnel resolved to forgo pay increases in 2020/21 in light of the economic challenges arising from the COVID pandemic that were impacting the community.

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Yarra City Council 2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 7 People and relationships (Cont'd)

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (Cont'd)

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
\$1 - \$9,999	5	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	5	-
\$20,000 - \$29,999	4	7
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	1
\$60,000 - \$69,999	-	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	-	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	1
\$230,000 - \$239,999	-	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	1	-
\$270,000 - \$279,999	1	2
\$280,000 - \$289,999	2	1
\$360,000 - \$369,999	1	-
\$380,000 - \$389,999	-	1
	23	17

Key management personnel (KMP) include the councillors, the CEO and the Executive Management Team.

(d) Senior Officer Remuneration

A Senior Officer is an officer of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$151,000

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Income Range:	2021 No.	2020 No.
\$151,000 - \$159,999	6	8
\$160,000 - \$169,999	13	9
\$170,000 - \$179,999	9	6
\$180,000 - \$189,999	3	3
\$190,000 - \$199,999	3	4
\$200,000 - \$209,999	-	-
\$220,000 - \$229,999	1	2
\$230,000 - \$239,999	-	1
	35	33

Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to: 6,136 5,991

* The reported number and remuneration for Senior Officers includes remuneration entitlements paid to officers on leaving Council or acting arrangements. As such, the above table is not an accurate reflection of officers employed by Council at such salary levels on an ongoing basis.

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 7 People and relationships (Cont'd)

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council did not enter into transactions with related parties.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There were no balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

There were no commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party.

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Yarra City Council
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Note 8 Managing uncertainties

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

(a) Contingent assets

Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on parts of its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	614	580
Later than one year and not later than five years	724	352
Later than five years	363	-
	1,701	932

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(i) arising from Public Liability

As a local authority Council manage parks, reserves, roads, and other land holdings and, as a result, receive potential claims arising from incidents which occur on land managed by Council. There are a number of outstanding claims against Council in this regard. Council carries \$300 million of public liability insurance and an excess of \$50,000 on this policy in 2020/21. Therefore, the maximum liability of Council in any single claim is the extent of its excess. The primary insurer is LMI Insurance. There are no claims of which Council is aware which would fall outside the terms of Council's policy.

(ii) arising from Professional Indemnity

As a local authority with statutory regulatory responsibilities, including the responsibility of issuing permits and approvals, Council receives potential claims for damages arising from actions of Council or its officers. Council carries \$300 million of professional indemnity insurance and an excess of \$50,000 on this policy in 2020/21. Therefore, the maximum liability of Council in any single claim is the extent of its excess. The primary insurer is LMI Insurance. There are no instances or claims of which Council is aware which would fall outside the terms of Council's policy.

(iii) Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Future superannuation contributions

In addition to the disclosed contributions, Council has not paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super during 2020/21. There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2021. At this point in time it is not known if additional contributions will be required, the timing or potential amount. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2022 are \$0.56 million.

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Yarra City Council

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont'd)

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2021 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2021 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2022 that are expected to impact Council.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1989*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

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Yarra City Council

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont'd)

8.3 Financial instruments (Cont'd)

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property. Council does however carry a level of risk associated with its parking infringement debtors, given ongoing collection issues experienced with Fines Victoria.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(c), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.4.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of -0.08% and -0.15% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Yarra City Council 2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont'd)

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 *Fair value measurement*, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

In July 2021, the Victoria State Government imposed further lockdown restrictions on the state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the significant uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and the government's response to this, it is not possible to estimate the full impact on Council's operations, financial position and cashflows at this point in time. This being the case, Council does not consider it practicable to provide a quantitative or qualitative estimate of the potential impact of restrictions on Council at this time. Accordingly, no adjustments have been made at balance date to reflect ongoing uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council will continue to monitor both the financial and non-financial impacts of COVID-19 on its operations and has put in place mitigating strategies where possible to ensure Council is well positioned to respond to future events whilst continuing as a going concern.

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 9 Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Share of increment (decrement) on revaluation by an associate \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
9.1 Reserves				
(a) Asset revaluation reserves				
2021				
Property				
Land	716,321	92,318	-	808,639
Buildings	28,892	-	-	28,892
Heritage buildings	2,860	-	-	2,860
	748,073	92,318	-	840,391
Infrastructure				
Road Substructure	202,446	-	-	202,446
Road Seal	9,850	-	-	9,850
Footpaths Substructure	61,444	-	-	61,444
Footpaths Seal	37,259	-	-	37,259
Drains	31,063	-	-	31,063
Bridges	1,000	-	-	1,000
Lane Substructure	23,266	-	-	23,266
Lane Seal	45,272	-	-	45,272
Kerb and channel	110,560	-	-	110,560
Open space	27	-	-	27
Trees	13	-	-	13
Art, Heritage and Culture	44	-	-	44
	522,244	-	-	522,244
Total asset revaluation reserves	1,270,317	92,318	-	1,362,635
2020				
Property				
Land	790,791	(74,470)	-	716,321
Buildings	39,472	(10,580)	-	28,892
Heritage buildings	2,860	-	-	2,860
	833,123	(85,050)	-	748,073
Infrastructure				
Road Substructure	194,229	8,217	-	202,446
Road Seal	12,503	(2,653)	-	9,850
Footpaths Substructure	59,871	1,573	-	61,444
Footpaths Seal	36,495	764	-	37,259
Drains	19,903	11,160	-	31,063
Bridges	1,000	-	-	1,000
Lane Substructure	21,881	1,385	-	23,266
Lane Seal	43,403	1,869	-	45,272
Kerb and channel	107,048	3,512	-	110,560
Open space	27	-	-	27
Trees	13	-	-	13
Art, Heritage and Culture	44	-	-	44
	496,417	25,827	-	522,244
Total asset revaluation reserves	1,329,540	(59,223)	-	1,270,317

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

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Yarra City Council
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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 9 Other matters (Cont'd)

9.1 Reserves (Cont'd)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
(b) Other reserves				
2021				
Statutory Reserves				
Resort and recreation (i)	14,766	(134)	4,239	18,871
Parking (ii)	79	-	-	79
Total Statutory Reserves	14,845	(134)	4,239	18,950
Total Other reserves	14,845	(134)	4,239	18,950
2020				
Statutory Reserves				
Resort and recreation (i)	7,799	(591)	7,558	14,766
Parking (ii)	79	-	-	79
Total Statutory Reserves	7,878	(591)	7,558	14,845
Total Other reserves	7,878	(591)	7,558	14,845

(i) Resort and Recreation reserve relates to contributions received as Public Open Space Levies pursuant to the provisions of Section 18 of the *Subdivision Act 1988*. The reserve will be used to fund eligible open space capital works projects. In 2020/21 the following projects and amounts were acquitted from the Public Open Space Reserve:

	\$'000
King William Street	35
Citizens Park	42
Merri Creek Parklands Quarries Park	35
Reid Street	2
Gwynne Street	5
Stephenson Reserve	15
Total	134

(ii) Parking reserve relates to contributions received in lieu of the provision of parking spaces required for property developments. This reserve will be used in the provision of additional car parking spaces as required.

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 9 Other matters (Cont'd)

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(10,126)	11,403
Depreciation	23,044	22,563
Amortisation	1,160	965
Finance costs	2,042	2,087
(Profit) on disposal of non current assets (refer to Note 3.6)	(2,994)	(1,613)
Writeoffs of property, plant & equipment	31	-
Impairment losses - Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries (refer to Note 6.3)	-	230
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	2,637	(6,782)
(Increase) in other assets	(307)	(518)
Increase in trade and other payables	2,981	5,218
Increase/(decrease) in trust funds	(136)	(309)
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	3	2,779
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	70	(37)
Increase in provisions	2,787	2,236
Net cash provided by operating activities	21,191	38,222

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently.

Accumulation

Council makes both employer and employee contributions to The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2021, this was 9.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Yarra City Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119 Employee Benefits.

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 9 Other matters (Cont'd)

9.3 Superannuation (Cont'd)

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

A triennial actuarial review for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2020 was conducted and completed by the due date of 31 December 2020. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 104.6%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.6% pa
Salary information	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI)	2.0% pa

As at 30 June 2021, an interim actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category.

Vision Super has advised that the actual VBI at 30 June 2021 was 109.7%.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2020 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2020 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2021, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2019/2020). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2020 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

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Yarra City Council

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Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 9 Other matters (Cont'd)

9.3 Superannuation (Cont'd)

The 2020 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. A full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2020 (Triennial) \$m	2019 (Interim) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	100.0	151.3
- A total service liability surplus	200.0	233.4
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	217.8	256.7

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2020.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2020.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2020.

Council was notified of the 30 June 2020 VBI during August 2020 (2019: August 2019).

The 2021 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2021 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2021.

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2021 \$,000	2020 \$,000
Vision super	Defined benefit	9.50%	353	368
Vision super	Accumulation fund	9.50%	3,378	3,186

Council has no unfunded liability payments to Vision Super during both 2020/21 and 2019/20 years.

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Yarra City Council
2020/2021 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

10 Change in accounting policy

AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Definition of Material (applies 2020/21 for LG Sector)

Council has adopted AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Definition of Material, from 1 July 2020. All Information has been disclosed where material in nature, amount and impact to ensure primary users of the general purpose financial statements are informed and can make decisions on the basis of the information disclosed regarding the entity.

AASB 2019-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - References to the Conceptual Framework (applies 2020/21 for LG Sector)

Council has adopted AASB 2019-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - References to the Conceptual Framework from 1 July 2020.

Financial statements present fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of Council. There is a fair presentation of the effects of transactions, other events and conditions in accordance with the definitions and recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, income and expenses set out in the Framework Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Performance Statement

Council has prepared the following performance statement in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

LGPRF

Yarra City Council

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Description of municipality

The City of Yarra is an inner metropolitan municipality which is home to a diverse community of people. Yarra is one of Australia's smallest inner city municipalities at 19.5 square kilometres, and features lively arts and entertainment precincts, vibrant shopping and café strips, and numerous sports and recreational facilities.

Created in June 1994, the City of Yarra merged the former municipalities of: Collingwood; Richmond; Fitzroy; (including the annexed part of Carlton North); Northcote (Alphington & Fairfield: South of Heidelberg Road only).

Yarra has a population of 103,125 (estimated residential as at 30 June 2020) and a diverse community profile. Over the previous decade, the City's population had been growing at an average rate of 3.6%, almost double the rate of growth for Victoria. It is estimated that Yarra will continue to grow, with the population predicted to reach 110,512 by 2031.

Overview of 2020/2021

On 16 March 2020 a state of emergency was declared in Victoria due to the global pandemic COVID-19 virus, known as coronavirus. A state of disaster was subsequently declared on 2 August 2020. While the impacts of the pandemic have abated somewhat through the 2020-21 year, Council has noted the following significant impacts on its financial operations:

- Council implemented a \$7.4 million COVID-19 economic package to support the community which included the waiving of various fees and interest;
- Council provided targeted community support through business, arts and community grants of \$2.1 million, supporting increased service delivery. Increased service delivery was also funded for programs such as the Working for Victoria (\$2.7 million) and Outdoor Dining (\$0.5 million) by the Victorian State Government;
- Statutory fees and fines including those relating to parking decreased by \$9.1 million and user fees decreased by \$5.5 million; and
- Capital works were impacted by construction materials shortages, supply chain delays and limitations on the number of permitted workers at sites.

Despite these challenges, Council has been able to continue providing the majority of its integral services to the community, including waste and recycling and a range of community services that take on new importance during these challenging times in a sustainable manner. In addition, Council continued to provide greater levels of support through flexible payment options on rates and other fees and charges for a range of Council services, enhancing Council's support of the local community throughout the pandemic.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

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Yarra City Council

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Population					
Expenses per head of municipal population	\$1,770.11	\$1,953.17	\$1,857.25	\$1,927.03	Result is consistent with prior years.
[Total expenses / Municipal population]					
Infrastructure per head of municipal population	\$9,355.26	\$10,012.59	\$9,928.65	\$9,913.72	Result is consistent with prior years.
[Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]					
Population density per length of road	308.41	312.88	323.23	327.48	Result is consistent with prior years and population growth.
[Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]					

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Own-source revenue					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population	\$1,780.74	\$1,770.97	\$1,691.76	\$1,566.01	Own source revenue is down compared to 2020 due to the impact COVID-19 restrictions have had on revenue from parking and user fees.
[Own-source revenue / Municipal population]					
Recurrent grants					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population	\$123.34	\$133.50	\$132.26	\$150.04	Increase in recurrent grant funding for family and children's services.
[Recurrent grants / Municipal population]					
Disadvantage					
Relative socio-economic disadvantage	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	On average, Yarra has lower levels of disadvantage with high levels of disadvantage concentrated in the main public housing areas within Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy.
[Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]					
Workforce turnover					
Percentage of staff turnover	16.1%	14.0%	10.4%	7.4%	Council's workforce turnover ratio has progressively decreased, and this trend has continued in the current year. This is the result of increasing stability in Council's structure and less turnover in staff as a result. This is a particularly favourable result for 2021 given the current impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it has enabled Council to continue to
[Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of					

Performance Statement

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

<i>Indicator / measure</i>	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
permanent staff for the financial year] x100					support the community in the delivery of both essential services and additional services as part of its COVID response.
Definitions					
"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:					
(a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and					
(b) non-monetary asset contributions; and					
(c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above					
"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land					
"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004					
"population" means the resident population estimated by council					
"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)					
"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA					
"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website					
"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.					

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

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Yarra City Council

Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Aquatic facilities					
Utilisation					
Utilisation of aquatic facilities	9.14	9.23	7.08	3.57	The last two years has seen a significant drop in aquatic centre attendance as a result of forced facility closures due to the COVID pandemic. In 2020/21 attendances decreased by 72% compared to 2018/19 pre-COVID attendances.
[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]					
Animal management					
Health and safety					
Animal management prosecutions	New in 2020	New in 2020	100%	100%	Council continues to perform well with all prosecutions ruled in favour of Council. There were 13 prosecutions in 2020/21, this is an increase over 2019/20 result of 8. The result is consistent with prior year.
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100					

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Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Food safety					
Health and safety					
Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications	99.56%	99.54%	100.00%	99.54%	Council responds to 100% of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. Results less than 100% occur where follow-up inspections are delayed due to closures and re-inspections fall in the next period.
[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100					
Governance					
Satisfaction					
Satisfaction with council decisions	67	72	71	66	Council's satisfaction score of 66 is categorised as good from the 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Previous years' results are also categorised as good using the same survey instrument. The result is underpinned by Council's ongoing commitment to consultation and engagement.
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]					

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Libraries					
Participation					
Active library borrowers in municipality	20.72%	19.72%	16.24%	15.10%	The temporary closure of all Libraries which commenced in March 2020 and has continued on and off throughout 2020/21 has impacted the community's ability to access facilities and the level of loans this year, which underpin this measure. While the full impact of Covid-19 related closures cannot be quantified, the number of active borrowers has fallen by 25% compared to the pre-covid activity levels experienced in 2018/19
[Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100					
Maternal and child health					
Participation					
Participation in the MCH service	80.41%	82.75%	84.20%	84.63%	Council contacts every family whose details are provided as part of the birth notification process inviting them to participate, offering a first home visit. Council is not in control of how many families accept the offer.
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Participation					
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children	79.37%	78.43%	95.65%	97.34%	Council formed a partnership with Victorian Aboriginal Health Service which increased the participation of aboriginal children in the MCH service. This data includes children participating in either the Yarra City Council MCH or the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal					

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Roads					
Satisfaction					
Satisfaction with sealed local roads	72	77	75	73	Council's satisfaction score of 73 is categorised as very good from the 2021 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Previous years' results are also categorised as either good (65.00-72.50) or very good (72.50-77.50) using the same survey instrument.
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]					
Statutory Planning					
Decision making					
Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT	77.45%	61.04%	86.00%	58.67%	In 2020/21 the number of appeals to VCAT increased by 50% compared to 2019/20. A large number of these appeals related to complex and controversial applications. In 2020/21 VCAT supported Council's decision on 44 appeals compared to 43 in 2019/20.
[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100					

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Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comment
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Waste Collection					
Waste diversion					While the ratio of waste diverted from landfill decreased statistically from 36% in 2019/20 to 33% in 20/21 the actual tonnes of waste for both recyclables and Garbage decreased in 2020/21 compared with the 2019/20 results. Kerbside recyclables tonnes in 2020/21 were 7,476 compared with 8,498 in 2019/20, Garbage and recyclables tonnes in 2020/21 were 22,631 compared to 23,393 in 2019/20. Our residents are doing a great job in reducing the amount of total waste they are putting in their bins.
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	37.73%	37.72%	36.33%	33.03%	
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100					
Definitions					
"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person					
"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006					
"active library borrower" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library					
"annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act					
"class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act					
"class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984 , that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act					

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

"critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

Definitions cont.

"food premises" has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*

local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Dimension / <i>indicator / measure</i>	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Efficiency									
Expenditure level									
Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,196.76	\$3,592.09	\$3,427.30	\$3,486.41	\$3,599.77	\$3,610.45	\$3,592.24	\$3,588.03	Result is consistent with prior years and forecasts for future years indicate no major variances.
Revenue level									
Average rate per property assessment [General rates and Municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	New in 2020	New in 2020	\$2,030.69	\$2,037.22	\$2,092.65	\$2,100.66	\$2,113.03	\$2,125.70	Result is consistent with prior years and forecasts for future years indicate no major variances.

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Dimension / <i>indicator / measure</i>	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Liquidity									
Working capital									
<i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i>	196.87%	282.25%	246.58%	126.61%	193.19%	179.09%	160.00%	153.20%	Decline in result mainly due to borrowings of \$33.8 million that are to be repaid in 2021/22 including \$32.5m borrowed in 2013/2014 to settle the Vision Super unfunded defined benefit liability and fund major capital projects that is due to be repaid in full in November 2021.
[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100									
Unrestricted cash									
<i>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</i>	96.61%	106.06%	84.14%	13.27%	48.05%	31.94%	8.07%	0.33%	Unrestricted cash in 2020/21 reduced due to decline in parking and user fees and classification of \$10 million as other financial assets. Current liabilities increased mainly due to \$32.5 million borrowings maturing in 2021/22. The deterioration of the ratio over the future years is due to debt reduction and increases in statutory reserves.
[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100									

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Dimension / <i>indicator / measure</i>	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Obligations									
<i>Loans and borrowings</i>									
<i>Loans and borrowings compared to rates</i>	42.80%	40.27%	37.86%	35.45%	48.73%	42.66%	36.63%	30.74%	Loan balances reduced during 2020/21 as loan payments are made. Forecast increase in 2021/22 reflects new borrowings entered into with decreases in future years as loan payments are made.
[Interest and principle repayments on Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100									
<i>Loans and borrowings</i>									
<i>Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates</i>	3.00%	3.09%	2.80%	2.70%	30.61%	6.07%	5.94%	5.80%	The forecast ratio increases significantly in 2022 due to the repayment of one of Council's loan facilities. Council intends to borrow to repay this loan, with the new loan repayment terms assumed to be on a principal and interest basis.
[Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100									

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	Results				Forecasts								
Dimension / <i>indicator / measure</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Material Variations				
Indebtedness					Decrease in result is due to \$33.8 million of borrowings that is to be paid in 2021/22 moving to current liabilities. Forecast that indicator returns to trend as further borrowings are entered into.								
<i>Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue</i>	26.41%	26.97%	27.39%	7.93%						29.53%	25.37%	21.35%	17.41%
[Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100													
Asset renewal and upgrade					Decline in result as the asset renewal and upgrade expenditure in 2020/21 was affected by COVID-19 restrictions. Delayed capital works carried forward to 2021/22 for completion and forecast to increase in line with the capital works programs in future years.								
<i>Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation</i>	New in 2020	New in 2020	120.65%	107.26%						183.55%	152.91%	131.47%	114.31%
[Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100													
Operating position					Significant reduction in this ratio due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on parking and user fees as well as Council's \$7.4 million COVID-19 package to support the community. Forecast is that this indicator returns to trend in 2021/22.								
Adjusted underlying result													
<i>Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)</i>	8.38%	1.51%	-1.02%	-9.01%						-0.14%	-0.21%	0.63%	1.11%
[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100													

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Dimension / <i>indicator</i> / <i>measure</i>	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Stability									
<i>Rates concentration</i>									
<i>Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue</i>	56.30%	55.53%	60.11%	63.77%	58.49%	58.58%	58.72%	58.85%	Ratio has increased for 2020-21 due to reduction in adjusted underlying revenue from reduced parking and user fees.
[Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100									
<i>Rates effort</i>									
<i>Rates compared to property values</i>	0.21%	0.18%	0.20%	0.20%	0.19%	0.19%	0.18%	0.18%	Result is consistent with prior years and forecasts for future years indicate no major variances.
[Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100									

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Former measures

<i>Service / indicator / measure</i>	Results 2018	Results 2019	Results 2020
Animal Management			
Health and safety			
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	13	14	Retired in 2020
Efficiency			
Revenue level			
<i>Average residential rate per residential property assessment</i> [Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]	\$1,674.29	\$1,727.98	Retired in 2020
Obligations			
Asset renewal			
<i>Asset renewal compared to depreciation</i> [Asset renewal expense / Asset depreciation] x100	102.44%	96.13%	Retired in 2020

Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

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"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Other Information

For the year ended 30 June 2021

1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (as per the transitional provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*).

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource plan. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by council in its Long Term Financial Plan on 5 October 2021 and which forms part of the council plan. The plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The Long Term Financial Plan can be obtained by contacting council.

Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (as per the transitional provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*).



Wei Chen CPA

CFO and Principal Accounting Officer

Dated: 7 September 2021

Performance Statement

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In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the (*council name*) for the year ended 30 June 2021 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (as per the transitional provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*).

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Cr Gabrielle de Vietri

Mayor

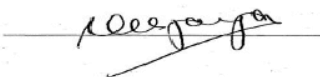
Dated: 7 September 2021



Cr Herschel Landes

Councillor

Dated: 7 September 2021



Vijaya Yaidyanath

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 7 September 2021

Performance Statement

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of the Yarra City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of the Yarra City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2021 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2021 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2021 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2021 • other information and • the certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the performance of the council for the year ended 30 June 2021 in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 6 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. I and my staff are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria and have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of performance that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.</p>

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T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

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Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
17 September 2021



Sanchu Chummar

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Development contributions

Collection of Yarra Development Contributions Plan (DCP) levies commenced on 1 February 2021 under amendment C238 to the Yarra Planning Scheme. Delivery of projects listed in the DCP commenced in financial year 2017/18.

Table 1 – Total DCP levies received in 2020/21 financial year

DCP name and year approved	Levies received in 2020/21 financial year (\$)
Yarra DCP (2021)	\$13,669
Total	\$13,669

Table 2 – DCP land, works, services or facilities accepted as works-in-kind in 2020/21 financial year

DCP name and year approved	Project ID	Project description	Item purpose	Project value (\$)
Yarra DCP (2021)		(Nil)		
Total				\$0

Table 3 – Total DCP contributions received and expended to date

DCP name and year approved	Total levies received (\$)	Total levies expended (\$)	Total works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Total DCP contributions received (levies and works-in-kind) (\$)
Yarra DCP (2021)	\$13,669	\$3,997,380	\$0	\$13,669
Total	\$13,669	\$3,997,380	\$0	\$13,669

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Table 4 – Land, works, services or facilities delivered in 2017/18 through 2020/21 financial years from DCP levies collected

Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew - Toilet Amenities Children's Farm - Capital City Trail St Helliers St	17	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$113,526	\$0	-\$4,750	\$0	\$108,776	100%
Upgrade - Pavilions, Clubrooms and Changerooms Malcolm Graham Pavilion - Kevin Bartlett Reserve FR Smith Drive off Yarra Blvd (Construct 2 additional change rooms and disability access.)	45	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$370,074	\$0	\$913,862	\$483,708	\$1,767,644	100%
Upgrade - building works - Community Halls Clifton Hill Scout Hall 95 Walker St	83	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$79,424	\$0	\$167,576	\$0	\$247,000	100%
Upgrade - Theatre Dancehouse 150-154 Princes St- Roof replacement of 200sq m. (based on 2016 quote from Lewton Plumbers)	115	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$12,715	\$0	\$52,500	\$0	\$65,215	100%
Upgrade - Senior Citizens Centres / Adult Day Care Abbotsford Senior Citizens/Willowview Centre Eddy Court	119	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$18,856	\$0	\$119,608	\$0	\$138,464	100%
Upgrade - Amenities Dights Falls - Public Toilets Trenerry Cres- Mechanical Component	128	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$14,663	\$0	\$26,108	\$0	\$40,771	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Upgrade - Building works Keele Street Child Care Centre 177 Keele St-Refurbish kitchen.	129	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$39,115	\$0	\$57,745	\$0	\$96,860	100%
Upgrade - building works Mark Street Community Hall (Inner Circle Linear Park) 11 Mark St-	131	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$30,908	\$0	\$167,293	\$0	\$198,201	100%
Upgrade - building works Yarraberg Child Care Centre 4 River St	132	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$33,284	\$0	\$146,033	\$0	\$179,317	100%
Upgrade - building works and reconfiguration Richmond Library (incl MCH, Historical Society) 415-417 Church St.	133	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$52,800	\$0	\$340,748	\$0	\$393,548	100%
Renew - RoW 2184.1 RoW 2184 End of lane- Lane Pavement Works	171	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$8,578	\$0	\$50,557	\$0	\$59,135	100%
Renew - RoW 687.1 Murphy St Highett St - Lane Pavement Works	195	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$29,437	\$0	\$57,563	\$0	\$87,000	100%
Renew - RoW 6.2 RoW 6.1 End of lane- Lane Pavement Works	200	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$1,602	\$0	\$70,818	\$0	\$72,420	100%
Renew - RoW 369 Little Nicholson St William St - Lane Pavement Works	203	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$11,938	\$0	\$39,975	\$0	\$51,913	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew - RoW 1379 Pigdon St Hughes St - Lane Pavement Works	204	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$5,611	\$0	\$62,200	\$0	\$67,811	100%
Renew - RoW 122.8 Emma St RoW 122.7- Lane Pavement Works	246	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$28,641	\$0	\$24,254	\$0	\$52,895	100%
Renew - RoW 1734 Mahoney St Fitzroy St- Lane Drainage Works	249	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$20,699	\$0	\$69,312	\$0	\$90,011	100%
Renew - RoW 1889 Cecil St Westgarth St - Lane Drainage Works	254	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$3,695	\$0	\$12,101	\$0	\$15,796	100%
Renew - RoW 1008 Stawell St Belgravia St - Lane Drainage Works	255	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,510	\$0	\$63,050	\$0	\$69,560	100%
Renew - RoW 298 Hoddle St End of lane- Lane Pavement Works	256	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$9,451	\$0	\$22,649	\$0	\$32,100	100%
Renew - RoW 3071 Federation La End of lane- Lane Pavement Works	257	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$9,817	\$0	\$51,679	\$0	\$61,496	100%
Renew - RoW 1181 West St RoW 1180- Lane Drainage Works	259	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$13,692	\$0	\$7,036	\$0	\$20,728	100%
Renew - RoW 1167 Mary St RoW 1168- Lane Pavement Works	260	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$21,922	\$0	\$18,458	\$0	\$40,380	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew - RoW 123.1 Emma St Blanche St - Lane Drainage Works	261	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$18,868	\$0	\$7,376	\$0	\$26,244	100%
Renew - RoW 123.3 Emma St Blanche St - Lane Drainage Works	262	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$18,868	\$0	\$31,132	\$0	\$50,000	100%
Renew - RoW 325 Valiant St Abbotsford St - Lane Drainage Works	264	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$20,468	\$0	\$44,821	\$0	\$65,289	100%
Renew - RoW 123.2 RoW 123.1 RoW 123.3- Lane Drainage Works	265	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$30,189	\$0	\$30,188	\$0	\$60,377	100%
Renew - RoW 2214 Rae St Dean St - Lane Pavement Works	266	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$32,057	\$0	\$56,096	\$0	\$88,153	100%
Renew - RoW 2156 Kneen St End of lane- Lane Drainage Works	267	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$37,785	\$0	\$110,346	\$0	\$148,131	100%
Renew - RoW 1386 Pigdon St RoW 1387- Lane Pavement Works	268	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$20,867	\$0	\$111,255	\$0	\$132,122	100%
Preparation and Implementation of Developer Contribution Plan	307	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$24,997	\$0	\$151,619	\$0	\$176,616	100%
New construction on separated Copenhagen bicycle lanes on Wellington St between Gipps St and Johnston St. The works will include: the removal of parking on the	312	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$229,137	\$0	\$276,358	\$1,450,000	\$1,955,495	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
western side of the street; installation of new kerb separators, green paint and upgrade								
Renew-footpath works on Freeman St from Brunswick St to Napier St	473	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$25,263	\$0	\$29,619	\$0	\$54,882	100%
Renew-pavement works on Bendigo St from Swan St to Khartoum St	478	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$65,165	\$0	\$84,052	\$0	\$149,217	100%
Renew-pavement works on Bennett St from Holden St to Park St (road resheet)	482	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$35,049	\$0	-\$8,510	\$0	\$26,539	100%
Renew-pavement works on Napier St from Kerr St to Argyle St	506	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$29,062	\$0	-\$6,472	\$0	\$22,590	100%
Renew-footpath works on Highett St from Davison St to Gardner St	527	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$14,387	\$0	\$18,558	\$0	\$32,945	100%
Renew-footpath works on Gold St from Sackville St to Keele St	540	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$28,361	\$0	\$26,631	\$0	\$54,992	100%
Renew-footpath works on Barkly St from Nicholson St to Rae St	548	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$16,454	\$0	\$18,854	\$0	\$35,308	100%
Renew-footpath works on Curtain St from Drummond St to Rathdowne St	559	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$9,406	\$0	\$10,101	\$0	\$19,507	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Abinger St from Church St to Lyndhurst St	594	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$25,719	\$0	\$22,482	\$0	\$48,201	100%
Renew-footpath works on Canning St from Pigdon St to Mary St	604	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,535	\$0	\$90,293	\$0	\$96,828	100%
Renew-pavement works on Alfred St from Rae St to End of street	610	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$15,950	\$0	\$7,635	\$0	\$23,585	100%
Renew-pavement works on Gold St from Hodgkinson St to Queens Pde	626	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$28,205	\$0	\$55,669	\$0	\$83,874	100%
Renew-pavement works on Myrtle St from Ramsden St to Roseneath St	641	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$17,499	\$0	\$36,566	\$0	\$54,065	100%
Renew-pavement works on Rathdowne St from Curtain St to Newry St	647	Yarra DCP (2021)	-\$1,609	\$0	-\$8,391	\$90,000	\$80,000	100%
Renew-pavement works on Gold St from Noone St to Page St	651	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$51,660	\$0	\$48,340	\$0	\$100,000	100%
Renew-pavement works on Kenny St from Bank St to End of street	662	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,387	\$0	\$12,360	\$0	\$18,747	100%
Renew-pavement works on Harvey St from Swan St to Lesney St	677	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$18,242	\$0	\$2,569	\$0	\$20,811	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Singleton St from Wellington St to Dight St	690	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$64,126	\$0	-\$21,225	\$0	\$42,901	100%
Renew-footpath works on Barkly St from Melville St to Pilkington St	696	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$20,457	\$0	\$20,270	\$0	\$40,727	100%
Renew-pavement works on Gold St from Page St to Hodgkinson St	731	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$83,383	\$0	\$36,617	\$0	\$120,000	100%
Renew-pavement works on Rathdowne St from Lee St to Davis St (Road resheet, both sides)	767	Yarra DCP (2021)	-\$1,141	\$0	-\$5,973	\$90,000	\$82,886	100%
Renew-pavement works on Rokeby St from Langridge St to Victoria Pde	772	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$38,483	\$0	\$23,817	\$0	\$62,300	100%
Renew-pavement works on Princess St from Abinger St to End of street	792	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$4,698	\$0	\$69,644	\$0	\$74,342	100%
Renew-pavement works on Palmer St from Johnston St to Perry St	799	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$42,543	\$0	\$81,707	\$0	\$124,250	100%
Renew-footpath works on Amess St from MacPherson St to Fenwick St	810	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$7,855	\$0	\$75,247	\$0	\$83,102	100%
Renew-pavement works on Rathdowne St from Fenwick St to Curtain St	815	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$1,751	\$0	\$9,164	\$110,000	\$120,915	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Dunn St from Stephenson St to Green St	820	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$27,612	\$0	-\$2,316	\$0	\$25,296	100%
Renew-pavement works on Gardner St from Kent St to Bennett St	838	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$53,686	\$0	\$7,689	\$0	\$61,375	100%
Renew-pavement works on St Georges Rd from Brunswick St to Church St	839	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$99,384	\$0	-\$42,357	\$0	\$57,027	100%
Renew-pavement works on Drummond St from Richardson St to Pigdon St	846	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$39,286	\$0	\$14,818	\$0	\$54,104	100%
Renew-pavement works on George St from Cecil St to Westgarth St	851	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$27,297	\$0	\$151,432	\$0	\$178,729	100%
Renew-pavement works on George St from Leicester St to Rose St	852	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$18,207	\$0	\$142,410	\$0	\$160,617	100%
Renew-pavement works on George St from Westgarth St to Leicester St	853	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$18,467	\$0	\$158,398	\$0	\$176,865	100%
Renew-footpath works on George St from Alexandra Pde to Cecil St	854	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$14,061	\$0	\$127,846	\$0	\$141,907	100%
Renew-footpath works on Belgravia St from Swan St to End of street	888	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$1,345	\$0	\$124,703	\$0	\$126,048	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-footpath works on Rose St from George St to Gore St (Resheet footpath both sides)	893	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$1,784	\$0	\$40,449	\$0	\$42,233	100%
Renew-footpath works on Condell St from Napier St to George St (Resheet footpath, both sides)	896	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$2,066	\$0	\$33,444	\$0	\$35,510	100%
Renew-footpath works on Glasshouse Rd from Wellington St to Rokeby St	900	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$13,309	\$0	\$48,384	\$0	\$61,693	100%
Renew-footpath works on Marine Pde from Nicholson St to Hunter St (Right footpath)	907	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$16,870	\$0	\$63,843	\$0	\$80,713	100%
Renew-footpath works on Curtain St from Lygon St to Drummond St (Resheet north footpath)	928	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$2,683	\$0	\$17,317	\$0	\$20,000	100%
Renew-footpath works on Darlington Pde from Waltham St to Church St	946	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,972	\$0	\$27,623	\$0	\$34,595	100%
Renew-footpath works on Station St from MacPherson St to Fenwick St	947	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$3,941	\$0	\$91,074	\$0	\$95,015	100%
Renew-footpath works on Rae St from Liverpool St to Scotchmer St (Resheet east footpath sections)	959	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$31,272	\$0	\$46,928	\$0	\$78,200	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-footpath works on Noone St from Rutland St to Groom St (Left footpath)	965	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$5,789	\$0	\$243,605	\$0	\$249,394	100%
Renew-footpath works on Batman St from Alfred St to Scotchmer St	976	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$41,526	\$0	\$115,264	\$0	\$156,790	100%
Renew-footpath works on Alexandra Pde from Groom St to Gray St	985	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$7,894	\$0	\$33,792	\$0	\$41,686	100%
Renew-footpath works on Marine Pde from Hunter St to Paterson St (Right footpath)	986	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$17,394	\$0	\$206,736	\$0	\$224,130	100%
Renew-footpath works on Burnley St from Buckingham St to Victoria St (Resheet west footpath sections)	1002	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$24,284	\$0	\$99,491	\$0	\$123,775	100%
Renew-footpath works on Council St from Reeves St to Smith St (Resheet south footpath)	1014	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$19,576	\$0	-\$8,576	\$0	\$11,000	100%
Renew-footpath works on Council St from Wellington St to Reeves St (Resheet north footpath)	1015	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$13,923	\$0	-\$2,923	\$0	\$11,000	100%
Renew-footpath works on Mary St from Swan St to Madden Gr (resheet east footpath)	1016	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$7,128	\$0	\$14,430	\$0	\$21,558	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-footpath works on Kneen St from Falconer St to Rushall Cres	1017	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$4,930	\$0	\$73,916	\$0	\$78,846	100%
Renew-footpath works on Cecil St from Gore St to Smith St	1018	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,699	\$0	\$4,697	\$0	\$11,396	100%
Renew-Road Drainage on Lord St from Bridge Rd to Abinger St	1021	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$5,059	\$0	\$15,340	\$0	\$20,399	100%
Renew-pavement works on Abbotsford St from Nicholson St to Hunter St	1022	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$86,836	\$0	\$108,182	\$0	\$195,018	100%
Renew-footpath works on Keele St from Budd St to Wellington St	1025	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$13,145	\$0	\$6,571	\$0	\$19,716	100%
Renew-footpath works on Kerr St from George St to Gore St	1027	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,371	\$0	\$23,629	\$0	\$30,000	100%
Renew-footpath works on Kerr St from Gore St to Smith St	1028	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,371	\$0	\$30,696	\$0	\$37,067	100%
Renew-footpath works on Park St from Garton St to Lang St	1030	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$3,726	\$0	\$10,353	\$0	\$14,079	100%
Renew-pavement works on Islington St from Hood St to Gipps St	1037	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$10,193	\$0	\$19,058	\$0	\$29,251	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Highett PI from Greeves St to End of street	1038	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$7,136	\$0	\$13,802	\$0	\$20,938	100%
Renew-Road Drainage on Gipps St from Park St to Nicholson St (Drainage repair works - Pit 936-34139 & Pit34139-34122)	1040	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$10,193	\$0	\$43,225	\$0	\$53,418	100%
Renew-footpath works on Park St from Station St to Nicholson St	1043	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$5,217	\$0	\$17,690	\$0	\$22,907	100%
Renew-pavement works on Trenerry Cres from Turner St to Johnston St (Left)	1044	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$11,940	\$0	\$22,705	\$0	\$34,645	100%
Renew-pavement works on Pigdon St from Drummond St to Rathdowne St	1045	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$5,213	\$0	\$8,464	\$0	\$13,677	100%
Renew-pavement works on Pigdon St from Lygon St to Drummond St	1046	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$26,638	\$0	-\$6,769	\$0	\$19,869	100%
Renew-footpath works on Keele St from Smith St to Budd St	1047	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$29,879	\$0	-\$849	\$0	\$29,030	100%
Renew-pavement works on Carroll St from Swan St to Gipps St	1049	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$26,460	\$0	\$43,880	\$0	\$70,340	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-footpath works on Johnston St from Gold St to Hoddle St (Left footpath)	1050	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$17,225	\$0	\$81,163	\$0	\$98,388	100%
Renew-footpath works on Johnston St from Wellington St to Gold St	1051	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$17,225	\$0	\$54,275	\$0	\$71,500	100%
Renew-pavement works on Blanche St from Hotham St to Mater St	1057	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$3,345	\$0	\$6,009	\$40,000	\$49,354	100%
Renew-footpath works on Rae St from Newry St to York St	1058	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$12,823	\$0	\$25,962	\$0	\$38,785	100%
Renew-footpath works on Rae St from York St to Alexandra Pde	1059	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$12,823	\$0	\$12,443	\$0	\$25,266	100%
Renew-pavement works on Garton St from Lang St to Gallagher Reserve	1063	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$12,123	\$0	\$62,544	\$0	\$74,667	100%
Renew-footpath works on Lygon St from Park St to Holtham St East	1067	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$6,707	\$0	\$36,569	\$0	\$43,276	100%
Renew-pavement works on Federation La from Trenerry Cres to Lulie St	1071	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$30,702	\$0	\$144,307	\$0	\$175,009	100%
Renew-pavement works on Smith St from Charles St to Webb St	1072	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$29,740	\$0	\$67,056	\$0	\$96,796	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Pilkington St from Holden St to Barkly St	1073	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$21,474	\$0	\$14,894	\$0	\$36,368	100%
Renew-pavement works on Mary St from Madden Gr to Barkly Ave	1074	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$22,696	\$0	\$124,914	\$0	\$147,610	100%
Renew-pavement works on Smith St from Condell St to Charles St	1077	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$32,353	\$0	\$65,988	\$0	\$98,341	100%
Renew-pavement works on Pigdon St from Amess St to Canning St Pavement	1084	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$19,037	\$0	\$31,320	\$0	\$50,357	100%
Renew-pavement works on Madden Gr from Stawell St to Gibdon St	1088	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$26,565	\$0	\$27,581	\$0	\$54,146	100%
Renew-pavement works on Stephenson St from Kelso St to Dunn St	1089	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$61,466	\$0	\$46,465	\$0	\$107,931	100%
Renew-Road Drainage on Spensley St from John St to Berry St	1091	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$8,408	\$0	\$159,623	\$0	\$168,031	100%
Renew-pavement works on Bendigo St from Hotham St to Alexandra Pde	1099	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$117,157	\$0	-\$23,504	\$0	\$93,653	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Nicholson St from Harper St to Gipps St	1101	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$51,169	\$0	\$33,265	\$0	\$84,434	100%
Renew-pavement works on Argyle St from Fitzroy St to Brunswick St	1103	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$50,411	\$0	\$92,889	\$0	\$143,300	100%
Renew-pavement works on Yorkshire St from Brighton St to Mary St	1104	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$63,894	\$0	\$35,261	\$0	\$99,155	100%
Renew-pavement works on Fergie St from Alfred Cr to Scotchmer St	1105	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$98,119	\$0	-\$24,079	\$0	\$74,040	100%
Renew-Road Drainage on Glass St from Beissel St to Newry St (Multiple pipes need to be replaced and pits constructed)	1106	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$21,018	\$0	-\$3,718	\$0	\$17,300	100%
Renew-pavement works on Madden Gr from Burnley St to Stawell St	1108	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$128,556	\$0	-\$52,660	\$0	\$75,896	100%
Renew-pavement works on Abbott St from Lulie St to Trenerry Cres	1111	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$81,362	\$0	\$162,607	\$0	\$243,969	100%
Renew-footpath works on Alfred Cr from St Georges Rd to Best St	1113	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$27,248	\$0	\$48,267	\$0	\$75,515	100%
Renew-pavement works on Lulie St from Johnston St to Turner St	1116	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$25,852	\$0	\$39,114	\$140,000	\$204,966	100%

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Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew-pavement works on Somerset St from Davison St to Burnley St	1117	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$17,877	\$0	\$36,899	\$90,000	\$144,776	100%
Renew-pavement works on Gibdon St from Madden Gr to Twickenham Cres	1128	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$53,130	\$0	\$120,219	\$0	\$173,349	100%
Renew-pavement works on Campbell St from Vere St to Gipps St (Road Resheet (Vere-McCutcheon), incl footpath and kerb and channel sections + LATMS12 @ Campbell/McCutcheon)	1129	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$44,115	\$0	\$126,467	\$0	\$170,582	100%
LATM-13 Abbotsford (area bounded by Johnston St, Hoddle St, Victoria St and the river) Planning, community consultation design and construction for area bounded by Johnston St, Hoddle St, Victoria St and the river	1147	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$3,027	\$0	\$154,909	\$134,000	\$291,936	100%
LATM 3 (Scotchmer) Planning, consultation and design work to occur in year 2 local precincts 3 (Scotchmer: Bound by Nicholson St, Alexandra Pde, Brunswick St and St Georges Rd) Planning, community consultation and design for area bounded by May Street,	1148	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$2,540	\$0	\$223,649	\$133,000	\$359,189	100%

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Renew - Smith St Webb St Gertrude St - Retail Footpath (Left footpath)	1218	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$24,118	\$0	\$206,741	\$0	\$230,859	100%
Renew - Smith St Condell St Charles St - Retail Footpath (Resheet east footpath, remove existing concrete sections.)	1220	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$22,108	\$0	\$76,242	\$0	\$98,350	100%
Renew - Smith St Moor St Condell St - Retail Footpath (Resheet east footpath, remove existing concrete sections.)	1221	Yarra DCP (2021)	\$25,123	\$0	\$88,692	\$0	\$113,815	100%
Total			\$3,997,380	\$0	\$8,575,659	\$2,760,708	\$15,333,747	

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Glossary

The following table defines key terms used in this report.

Term	Definition
2020/21	A reference to the financial year beginning 1 July 2020 and ending 30 June 2021.
Advocacy	Publicly supporting or recommending programs or services on behalf of the community to other tiers of government or service providers for community benefit.
Annual Plan	A strategic document outlining the actions Council will undertake to implement its Council Plan during a specific financial year.
Annual Plan Action	A specific Annual Plan activity designed to facilitate the achievement of a Council Plan strategic objective.
Assets	Everything owned by or owed to Council such as roads, equipment, and buildings. Assets are listed in the Financial Report.
Australian Accounting Standards	The accounting standards published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
Budget	A plan setting out the services and initiatives to be funded for the financial year and how they will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan.
Councillors	Elected representatives of Council.
Council Plan	A major strategic document outlining Council's aims and initiatives for a four-year period.
Council Plan Initiative	A specific Council Plan activity designed to facilitate the achievement of a Strategic Objective.
COVID-19	A highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus. It was named CO for coronavirus, VI for virus, D for disease, and 19 for 2019, the year it was discovered.
Financial Statements	The financial statements and notes prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report, Australian Accounting Standards and other applicable standards as they apply to the general-purpose financial reports and statement of capital works, included in the Annual Report.
Financial year	The period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year.
Freedom of Information Request	A request for Council to provide access to documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Term	Definition
Governance	Governance relates to Council's purpose, objectives, role, and functions as set out in the Local Government Act 2020
Greenhouse gas emissions	Generated from a large number of processes and from a range of sources. Key sources of greenhouse gases include energy sector, transport emissions, agricultural, land use change and forestry, industrial processes and waste.
Indicator	A measure used to assess performance.
Local Government Act	Councils worked under the both the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020 during the 2020/21 year. The 2020 Act received Royal Assent on 24 March 2020, with its provisions progressively replacing the equivalent provisions of the 1989 Act.
Local Law	The laws adopted by Council that prohibit, regulate, and control activities, events, practices, and behaviours within Yarra.
Masterplan	A high-level document outlining Council's plans for a key location within the municipality.
Measure	How an indicator will be measured and takes the form of a computation, typically including a numerator and denominator.
Minister	Refers to the Victorian Local Government Minister.
Performance Statement	A statement including the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the Annual Report.
Planning and Accountability Framework	The key statutory planning and reporting documents that are required to be prepared by councils to ensure accountability to local communities in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the Act.
Planning Scheme	Planning rules created by Council and endorsed by the Victorian Government to guide land use and development.
Regulations	The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.
Risk management	A policy and process for identifying business risks and controlling the likelihood and/or impact of a risk event occurring.
Services	Assistance, support, advice, and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community.
Service outcome indicators	The prescribed service performance indicators to be included in the Performance Statement, which measure whether the stated service objective has been achieved.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Term	Definition
Service performance indicators	A prescribed set of indicators measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of council services covering appropriateness, quality, cost and service outcomes.
Strategic Resource Plan	A plan of the financial and non-financial resources for at least the next four years required to achieve the strategic objectives in the Council Plan.
Strategy	A plan of action intended to accomplish specific objectives.
Sustainable	Meet present day needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.
Sustainable capacity indicators	A prescribed set of indicators measuring whether councils have the capacity to meet the agreed service and infrastructure needs of the local community and absorb foreseeable changes and unexpected shocks into the future covering financial performance, capacity and governance and management.
Values	Values are beliefs that underpin behaviours and processes. The values of an organisation guide its culture.
Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT)	An independent body established by the Victorian Government to determine the outcome of disputes (e.g. planning appeals).
Vision	A description of the future we aim to achieve for Yarra – our city development and our community.
Ward	Defined electoral area to which a representative is elected as councillor.
Wellbeing	A general term to encompass health, happiness, welfare, security, comfort, quality of life and a sense of belonging.

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Acronyms

Term	Definition
AAS	Australian Accounting Standards
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COVID-19	A highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus. It was named CO for coronavirus, VI for virus, and 19 for 2019, the year it was discovered.
DELWP	Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
EFT	Equivalent full-time – one EFT is equivalent to one person working 38 hours per week
IMAP	Inner Melbourne Action Plan
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual/aromantic, plus
LGPRF	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
M	Million
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
TAC	Transport Accident Commission
VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
VCAT	Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal
VPA	Victorian Planning Authority

Attachment 1 - Yarra City Council Annual Report 2021-21

Contact us

Visit us

- Richmond Town Hall, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond
- Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford
- Connie Benn Family and Children's Centre, 160 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
- Bargoonga Nganjin – North Fitzroy Library, 182–186 St Georges Road, Fitzroy North

Get in touch

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If you do not have access to the internet, you can visit our website via the computers at your local Yarra library.

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8.8 Planning Scheme Amendment C286yara - Yarra Open Space Levy

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to initially consider submissions received from the exhibition period of Amendment C 286 which seeks to increase the open space contribution from developments.

Key Issues

The Amendment (C286yara) seeks to increase the public open space contribution rate in the schedule to clause 53.01 of the *Yarra Planning Scheme* from 4.5% to 10.1%.

This change is underpinned and supported by the adopted *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020*.

During the exhibition period of the Amendment, sixty seven (67) submissions were received.

The purpose of this report is to consider and respond to submissions received following this exhibition period and to consider next steps.

Officers are recommending that the Amendment now be referred to an independent Planning Panel to consider all submissions and Amendment C286yara and then report back to Council with its report and recommendations.

Supporting submissions and opposing submissions have been received.

Key issues raised in the objecting submissions related to:

- (a) the magnitude of the increase;
- (b) the timing of the amendment in relation to the economic impact of COVID19;
- (c) the strategic justification for the increase;
- (d) the lack of transitional provisions;
- (e) the proposed rate is inconsistent with other municipalities;
- (f) the appropriateness of a flat rate for the whole municipality;
- (g) the impact on housing affordability;
- (h) justification for the inclusion of non-residential uses;
- (i) lack of bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites;
- (j) there is adequate open space in Yarra;
- (k) the impact on the economic viability of projects; need for greater flexibility;
- (l) impact on existing subdivisions;
- (m) the Amendment should address the need, nexus, accountability and equity that may be applicable to some subdivisions; and
- (n) the Open Space Strategy is based on outdated data.

Financial Implications

There are substantial costs associated with the Panel process, including panel fees, representation and other experts who provide evidence on behalf of Council which would be met by the strategic planning budget.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

- (a) note and consider all submissions made on or before the last date of exhibition of Amendment C286yara to the Yarra Planning Scheme, in accordance with section 22(1) of the of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic);
- (b) note the officer report and Attachments 1-3 in relation to the Amendment;
- (c) in relation to all submissions which were considered by Council, refer those submissions to an independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister under Part 8 of the Act in accordance with section 23 of the Act;
- (d) authorise officers to consider any further late or modified submissions received prior to the Directions Hearing by a Planning Panel appointed by the Minister under Part 8 of the Act and refer any late submissions, received prior to the Directions Hearing, to the independent Planning Panel;
- (e) authorise officers to engage counsel and appropriate experts to make submissions to the Planning Panel, adopting a position of advocacy for the Amendment, including requesting recommendations from the Planning Panel for any proposed changes or revisions to the exhibited Amendment, generally in accordance with the officer report, officer recommendations and Attachments 1-3;
- (f) authorises officers to write to all submitters to Amendment C286yara to advise of the Council resolution; and
- (g) receive a further report after the Panel Report is received from Planning Panels Victoria to enable further consideration of the Amendment by Council.

8.8 Planning Scheme Amendment C286yara - Yarra Open Space Levy

Reference	D21/148910
Author	Michael Ballock - Executive Planner Strategic Projects
Authoriser	Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to initially consider submissions received from the exhibition period of Amendment C 286 which seeks to increase the open space contribution from developments.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. The *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* (the Strategy) was adopted by Council at its Meeting on 1 September 2020.
3. The costed implementation program underpinning the adopted Strategy is focussed on Council owned and/or managed open space and includes projects that are appropriate to be funded by public open space contributions.
4. The *Planning and Environment Act* considers fairness a fundamental objective of the Victorian Planning System, and the principles of need, nexus, equity and accountability are considered when preparing a Public Open Space Contribution (POSC) rate to ensure it is derived from an appropriate basis.
5. There are long standing legislative principles with respect to a POSC rate and the Strategy is based on these principles. The Strategy:
 - (a) provides a strategic assessment of open space needs for the future population of Yarra and recommendations for expenditure of contribution funds to meet the needs of the population on whose behalf the contributions are collected;
 - (b) supports a contribution rate that is strategically justified based on the value of open space projects;
 - (c) ensures that contributions are used for land acquisition and capital works (not maintenance);
 - (d) is based on the premise that contributions should not be used to make up historical deficiencies in open space provision; and
 - (e) expects contribution funding in established urban areas will generally need to be co-funded at some level with income from grants, rates or fees.

Implementation of the POSC rate

6. Once a subdivision rate is set in the planning scheme, the rate is applied to the 'site value' of the subject site. Council determines the form of the contribution that is required from each subdivision, whether land, cash or a combination of both.

Methodology to derive the POSC rate

7. The adopted Open Space Strategy establishes the need for more open space, or open space improvements, in response to population growth and change.
8. The open space projects recommended in the Strategy are determined via the open space needs assessment process. This includes:

- (a) determining the open space needs of the existing residential and employment populations;
 - (b) an analysis of the existing Yarra open space network, and
 - (c) mapping the extent and spatial distribution of the forecast change through the population and dwelling data provided by id. Consulting for the time period, between 2016-2031, and the employment and floor space data provided in the adopted *Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy 2018 (SEES)* developed by SGS Consultants.
9. The recommendations derived from this analysis include upgrades to the existing open space network, and provision of new open space, based on the research described above.
10. The costs for each project is apportioned between the existing and forecast population, based on the anticipated need and benefit derived from each project.
11. Where a recommendation has been made to develop new open space and a land acquisition is required, the cost of purchasing land has been included in the costings (noting that Council would need to pay market value for these sites).
12. The Capital Improved Value (CIV) has been used instead of the undeveloped land value, and a 30% margin has been added on top of this to accommodate the actual cost to Council in purchasing new land for public open space.
13. The cost of purchasing new land for open space is the highest cost item when establishing the costings for the Strategy.
14. A spatial demographer, Dr Serryn Eagleson was engaged to assist in this work, to map the footprint of the growth and determine the land area requirements for the growth projections in Yarra.
15. The value of the land was determined based on Council's property rate valuations as the contribution rate is applied to site value.
16. Note: using a single citywide POSC rate will safeguard against inevitable future growth and any potential to underestimated forecast growth – that is, the single rate mechanism would mean all developments would contribute according to the 10.1% contribution rate.
17. The single 10.1% rate would serve the YCC public open space improvement program into the next decade and beyond.

Previous Council resolutions

18. On 15 September 2020 Council resolved the following:
- 1. *That Council note:*
 - (a) *the officer report outlining the proposed public open space contributions rate for the municipality;*
 - (b) *the proposed open space contribution rate is a municipal wide contribution rate applicable to all subdivisions in Yarra;*
 - (c) *the open space contribution rate proposed is derived from the methodology of the Open Space Strategy adopted by Council on 1 September 2020;*
 - 2. *That Council resolves to propose an open space contribution rate of 10.1 % as part of the Yarra Planning Scheme.*
 - 3. *That Council seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C286 to the Yarra Planning Scheme to implement the Yarra public open space contributions rate as detailed in the documents that make up Attachments 1 to 3 inclusive.*
 - 4. *That upon receipt of authorisation from the Minister for Planning, Amendment C286 be placed on public exhibition for a period of 4 weeks.*

5. *That Council authorise the CEO to make minor changes to the Amendment C286 documents, should any be necessary, prior to exhibition.*
 6. *That following the exhibition of Amendment C286 a report be provided to Council on any submissions received.*
 7. *That the Yarra Open Space Strategy, and report detailing the methodology employed and the calculations upon which the 10.1% POSC rate is based, be placed on exhibition with the amendment documents.*
19. In line with Council's resolution, 'authorisation' of Amendment C286 was sought from the Minister for Planning in December 2020.
20. By letter dated 18 June 2021 (Attachment 1), the Minister's delegate 'authorised' Amendment C286 being placed on public exhibition subject to the following conditions:
- (a) *The explanatory report must be strengthened to provide further explanation of the basis for calculating the total POS improvement cost of \$569,388,045;*
 - (b) *Clause 22.12 – Public Open Space Contribution must form part of this amendment which reflects the new OSS and which updates policy and form and content as appropriate;*
 - (c) *The OSS must form a background document for the purpose of Clause 72.08. Council should consider whether to also include any of the other associated documents in Clause 72.08 which provide supporting information to the OSS;*
 - (d) *The OSS, the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Technical Report, July 2020 and the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Public Open Contributions Report December 2020 must form part of the exhibition documents; and*
 - (e) *All amendment documents must be updated, including the amendment description, to reflect the above conditions.*
21. Given Clause 22.12 (the revised policy) was not included in Council endorsement of Amendment C286 for 'authorisation' a further report was prepared, and on 20 June 2021, Council resolved:
1. *That Council note:*
 - (a) *the officer report outlining the proposed public open space contributions rate for the municipality;*
 - (b) *the proposed open space contribution rate is a municipal wide contribution rate applicable to all subdivisions in Yarra;*
 - (c) *the open space contribution rate proposed is derived from the methodology of the Open Space Strategy adopted by Council on 1 September 2020;*
 - (d) *the changes proposed to Clause 22.12 and the Explanatory Report;*
 - (e) *The proposed notification process; and*
 - (f) *That Council endorses the revised Clause 22.12 and Explanatory Report and includes these documents as part of the exhibited documents for Amendment C286.*
 2. *That Council endorses the notification process and outlined in this report.*
 3. *That Council reiterates its resolution of 15 September 2020 that Amendment C286 be placed on public exhibition for a period of 4 weeks as outlined in this report.*
 4. *That Council authorise the CEO to make minor changes to the Amendment C286 documents, should any be necessary, prior to exhibition.*
 5. *That following the exhibition of Amendment C286 a report be provided to Council on any submissions received.*

Discussion

Exhibition period of the Amendment

22. Amendment C286yara was placed on public exhibition on 7 September 2021 to 5 October 2021.
23. Section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act* requires Council to give notice to (among others) owners and occupiers of land it believes may be materially affected by the amendment. The Act also requires Council to publish notice of the amendment in a newspaper circulating in the area (The Age) and in the Government Gazette.
24. Where the affected number of owners and occupiers makes it impractical to notify all of them individually, Sections 19 (1A) and (1B) of the Act allow a Planning Authority to:
take reasonable steps to ensure that public notice of the amendment is given in the area affected by the amendment.
25. For this amendment, it was impractical to notify all 52,000 ratepayers plus occupiers across the entire municipality.
26. Instead of individual notification, officers have prepared a community engagement strategy that formed the basis of the statutory consultation.
27. The objectives of the engagement were:
 - (a) to assist a diverse range of stakeholders understand what the planning scheme is and how it works;
 - (b) to explain the changes proposed to the planning scheme and the planning scheme process;
 - (c) to help people make informed submissions that address their areas of interest;
 - (d) to include deliberate outreach and promotion to communities who may be affected but might be underrepresented and/ or not usually engaged;
 - (e) to use plain English descriptions and messaging that assists understanding of what the planning scheme is, how it works and proposed changes;
 - (f) to present lengthy and complex information in an easily accessible format; and
 - (g) to clearly communicate the statutory requirements of the submission process.
28. The engagement process took all reasonable steps *to ensure that public notice of the amendment is given in the area affected by the amendment.* This included notification in:
 - (a) *Yarra News* which is distributed to every household in Yarra;
 - (b) *Yarra Life* fortnightly eNews which reaches 13,000 recipients;
 - (c) Economic Development Teams *Business eBulletin* which has some 11,000 subscribers, and
 - (d) eBulletins / newsletters sent from other teams across Council and Social media platforms.
29. In addition, direct emails were sent to:
 - (a) Council's Advisory Committees;
 - (b) community groups;
 - (c) organisations;
 - (d) current applicants for planning a permit;
 - (e) consultants with regular involvement in permit applications; and the
 - (f) peak development and property organisations in Victoria.
30. A purpose-built website provided material in an easily understood format.

Submissions

31. As a result of exhibition, 67 submissions were received. In summary:
 - (a) Twenty seven (27) submissions supported the Amendment;
 - (b) Thirty eight (38) submissions opposed the Amendment; and
 - (c) Two (2) submissions were unclear.
32. The key issues raised in submissions, and proposed responses to these issues, are addressed below. A detailed response to specific issues raised is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Response to Key Issues

33. A number of opposing submissions to the Amendment raised similar issues. The following is a brief discussion of the main issues raised.

Rate increase

34. Many submissions commented that the proposed rate of 10.1% is excessive.

Officer comment:

35. The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020*.
36. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 percent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.
37. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.

Strategic justification

38. Opposing submissions also raised concerns that the proposed changes are not strategically justified.

Officer comment:

39. A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.
40. For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers.
41. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.
42. The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to higher density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.

Housing affordability

43. Housing affordability will be impacted.

Officer comment:

44. The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.
45. The local community, including residents and workers, should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access.
46. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space, should contribute the cost of providing that open space.

Inclusion of non-residential uses

47. Some submissions argue that non-residential uses should not be included.

Officer Comment:

48. The forecasts of change also include the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use.
49. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, many of these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day.
50. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.

Strategic development sites

51. Some submissions request that a blanket rate is unsuitable for strategic redevelopment sites.

Officer Comment:

52. The Amendment does not propose any changes to the Planning scheme other than an increase in the Public Open Space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.

Transitional provisions

53. Some state it is unfair that transitional provisions for developments going through the permit process are not included in the amendment.

Officer Comment:

54. Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments.
55. It is likely that the amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course.
56. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary.

Recommended Changes

57. Officers do not recommend any changes to the amendment.

Options

Section 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – considering changes to Amendment C286yara

58. Where submissions have been received to an amendment, Council has three options under Section 23 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987:
 - (a) change the amendment in the manner requested; or
 - (b) refer the submissions to an independent Planning Panel to consider the submissions and to provide recommendations to Council; or
 - (c) abandon the amendment or part of the amendment.
59. Council received a total of 67 submissions to the amendment. Given the submissions present a range of different views, Council will not be able to fully resolve the amendment and change it in the manner requested by all submitters. Council must therefore refer the amendment to a Panel or abandon it.
60. Before referring the amendment to Panel, Council can recommend changes to the amendment in response to submissions for the consideration of the Panel.
61. It is recommended that Council refers all submissions, including any late submissions to the Panel and request hearings to enable all submitters to express their opinions to the Panel.

Next steps if submissions are referred to a panel

62. In accordance with Ministerial Direction No. 15, Council must request the appointment of a Panel under Part 8 of the Act within 40 business days of the closing date of submission.
63. The following dates have been pre-set, pending Council's resolution:
 - (a) a **Directions Hearing** is scheduled for the week commencing 8 November 2021; and
 - (b) a **Panel hearing** is scheduled for the week commencing 6 December 2021.
64. It is recommended that Council's position to the Panel be based on the response to the submissions outlined in this report and Attachment 1.
65. If Council resolves to request a Planning Panel, officers would write to all submitters and advise them of the Panel.
66. On receipt of the Panel report for Amendment C286yara, a further report would be brought to Council to consider the Panel's recommendations.

Community and stakeholder engagement

67. An extensive consultation and engagement program was delivered as part of the development of the new Open Space Strategy.
68. The Technical Report contains information on the method to develop a new open space contribution rate, and how it will be applied. This was made public during the consultation period from 20 January 2020 and is still available to download and view on the project's *Your Say Yarra* Page.
69. The report indicates a new POSC rate in the order of around 10% is expected in Yarra.
70. A project working group has guided the development of the Strategy since its inception. It includes members from:
 - (a) Finance;
 - (b) Statutory Planning;
 - (c) City Strategy;
 - (d) Recreation and Leisure;
 - (e) City Works;

- (f) Property;
- (g) Urban Design;
- (h) Strategic Planning;
- (i) Communications and Engagement; and
- (j) Open Space Planning and Design.

71. The working group has been supportive of a higher POSC rate and the methodology used to derive the POSC rate.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

72. The new POSC rate would enable and assist in the implementation of the adopted Open Space Strategy. This is linked to the seven priority areas of the Council Plan as detailed in the table below:

Council Plan Objective	How the Strategy will meet the objective
A healthy Yarra <i>1.1 Maintain and enhance Yarra's open space network to meet the diverse range of community uses.</i> <i>1.1.1 Increase the amount and quality of green open space through the strategic acquisition of land, the conversion of urban land to open space and/or the creation of pocket parks in high density areas.</i> <i>1.1.2 Develop an open space strategy to ensure Yarra's public open space is managed as a functional network that encourages shared use and active living.</i> <i>1.1.3 Undertake community education to promote understanding and greater acceptance of multiple use infrastructure including open space.</i>	<p>Upgrade existing open spaces to encourage the community outdoors to exercise and socialise in them.</p> <p>Provide additional public open space so that everyone lives and works within a safe and easy walk to open space.</p> <p>Encourage greening of open space so open space contributes to urban cooling.</p> <p>Protect and improve habitat and biodiversity values of open space including along the waterway corridors and across the network where appropriate.</p>
An inclusive Yarra <i>2.1 Build resilience by providing opportunities and places for people to meet, be involved in and connect with their community</i>	<p>Open space is for everyone in Yarra's diverse community, including all ages, abilities and cultures.</p> <p>Open space is accessible to everyone and requires no membership of an organisation or payment to use it.</p> <p>Everyone lives and works within a safe and easy walk of open space.</p>

Council Plan Objective	How the Strategy will meet the objective
A sustainable Yarra <i>3.1 Investigate strategies and initiatives to better manage the long term effects of climate change.</i> <i>3.5 Promote responsible water usage and practices.</i> <i>3.7 Investigate strategies and initiatives to improve biodiversity.</i>	<p>Encourage use of sustainable materials in open space.</p> <p>Maximise urban greening.</p> <p>Protect and improve habitat and biodiversity values of open space including along the waterway corridors and across the network where appropriate.</p>
A liveable Yarra <i>4.3 Plan, promote and provide built form and open space that is accessible to all ages and abilities.</i>	<p>Identify the need for and areas where new open space is required in response to the <i>Yarra Housing Strategy 2018</i> and the <i>Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy 2018</i>.</p> <p>The design guidelines require the inclusion of sustainable water re-use and urban greening including additional large canopy trees to promote the role of open space in mitigating urban heat island effect.</p>
A prosperous Yarra <i>5.2 Strengthen and monitor land use change and economic growth including new and emerging economic clusters.</i> <i>5.4 Develop Innovative Smart City solutions in collaboration with government, industry and community that use technology to embrace a connected, informed and sustainable future.</i>	<p>Open space is able to attract employees and visitors to Yarra, increasing visitation and economic activities.</p> <p>The actions in the proposed Strategy are costed and form the basis of the open space contribution rate that is included in the Strategy.</p> <p>Growth projections will be monitored over the life of the Strategy. Recommendations may shift as required depending on changes in projected growth.</p> <p>The Strategy provides certainty for Council, the community and developers regarding the location and type of new open space that is required over the 10 year timeframe of the Strategy.</p> <p>Smart City solutions (use of technology) will be considered and applied to the development of new open space and linear trails where applicable.</p>
A connected Yarra <i>6.5 Develop and promote pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that encourages alternate modes of transport, improves safety and connectedness.</i>	<p>Strengthen the linear connections and sustainable transport options to open space sites.</p> <p>Shared trails are safe and able to be used by a range of community members.</p> <p>Open space sites will be easy to walk to through a safe and amenable street network.</p> <p>Provide bike parking facilities at key open space sites.</p> <p>Enhance the biodiversity corridors in Yarra.</p>

Council Plan Objective	How the Strategy will meet the objective
<p>A leading Yarra</p> <p><i>7.4 Ensure Council services are efficient, well-planned, accessible, and meet community needs.</i></p> <p><i>7.5 Provide the community with meaningful and genuine opportunities to contribute and participate in Council planning and decision making processes with a focus on young people, hard to reach and traditionally underrepresented communities.</i></p> <p><i>7.8 Continue a 'customer centric' approach to all service planning and delivery.</i></p> <p><i>7.9 Advocate for the best interests of our community.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Strategy is based on community engagement feedback and best practice provision of open space and facilities in established areas and higher density precincts.</p> <p>The community will be engaged on a project basis during the implementation of the Strategy and their responses and experiences will form the base of future planning and design work.</p> <p>Community satisfaction standards will be measured through the <i>Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey</i>.</p>

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

73. The new POSC rate would support the implementation of the adopted Open Space Strategy.
74. Many Council strategies will achieve their sustainability actions through the open space network. This includes:
 - (a) developing biodiversity corridors;
 - (b) creating opportunities for sustainable water management; for example, through passive irrigation or storm water harvesting; and
 - (c) reducing the urban heat island effect by creating more permeable surfaces in parks which also provides the opportunity to plant larger canopy trees that cannot always be achieved through the streetscape network.

Climate Emergency Implications

75. The new POSC rate would support implementation of the Strategy and allow mitigation measures to be built into Yarra's infrastructure and provide long term positive environmental impacts.

Community and social implications

76. Yarra's open space network provides a setting where the diverse community can converge and socialise if they choose to in a free, safe and welcoming environment, in a number of different ways.
77. The open space network provides varied opportunities for childhood development and growth. Being outdoors is an important part of early years learning.
78. Measures to manage perceptions of safety and equity across the open space network needs to be managed through the ongoing implementation of the Strategy and also aligned to the directions of many other relevant Council strategies.
79. There a number of key Council strategies and policies that are important companion documents for the enhancement, safety and recreation in open space areas for the community and the environment - for instance, the Urban Forest Strategy, Climate Action Plan, draft Nature Strategy, strategies under preparation by Council's recreation team and also related community wellbeing related strategies.
80. These collective strategies and policies will be considered by the organisation when considering various matters including the planning, improvement and provision of new open spaces in the municipality.

Economic development implications

81. A new POSC rate in the Yarra Planning Scheme would apply to both commercial and residential development, but would mainly affect general residential development and provide greater funding in order to meet the community's open space needs.
82. It is noted that an increase in the contribution rate would be an additional cost on development and may affect some development proposals.
83. Overall the evidence used in developing the Strategy demonstrates the need for an increased contribution rate in order to meet the additional community needs resulting from development.

Human rights and gender equality implications

84. The upgrade and improvement of the open space network through the application of the new POSC rate would provide support to the Yarra community and enhance their quality of life and liveability of the City.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

85. A new POSC rate incorporated into the *Yarra Planning Scheme*, would provide an increased revenue stream for Council to deliver the projects listed in the Strategy in order to meet the needs of the population on whose behalf they are collected.
86. The Amendment would also allow the levy to be applied to residential and non-residential developments instead of restricting it to only residential developments.
87. Overall, the projects in the Open Space Strategy would need to be funded from a mix of general rates revenue, grants and the public open space contribution rate.

Legal Implications

88. The due process for a planning scheme amendment with multiple submissions is to for the Council to seek a Planning Panel in order to allow all submitters to be heard by the Panel and the Panel to then provide an analysis of the submissions back to Council for its consideration.

Conclusion

89. The POSC rate is strategically justified and based on the costed implementation plan in the adopted Open Space Strategy, as well as the growth projections for the residential and employment community to 2031.
90. A single citywide rate is the most appropriate for Council to apply in order to ensure an equitable POSC rate is applied when land is subdivided in Yarra.
91. Given the change in the patterns of use of open space since the development of the 2006 Strategy, the POSC rate would be used to enable and support the open space requirements of both the residential and employment community and be applied to all subdivisions in Yarra.
92. It is recommended that Council resolve to refer all submissions to an independent Planning Panel for consideration and a report back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note and consider all submissions made on or before the last date of exhibition of Amendment C286yara to the Yarra Planning Scheme, in accordance with section 22(1) of the of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic);
 - (b) note the officer report and Attachments 1-3 in relation to the Amendment;
 - (c) in relation to all submissions which were considered by Council, refer those submissions to an independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister under Part 8 of the Act in accordance with section 23 of the Act;
 - (d) authorise officers to consider any further late or modified submissions received prior to a hearing by a Planning Panel appointed by the Minister under Part 8 of the Act and determine whether to refer any late submissions to the independent Planning Panel;
 - (e) authorise officers to engage a legal team and appropriate experts to make submissions to the Planning Panel, adopting a position of advocacy for the Amendment, including requesting recommendations from the Planning Panel for any proposed changes or revisions to the exhibited Amendment, generally in accordance with the officer report, officer recommendations and Attachments 1-3;
 - (f) authorises officers to write to all submitters to Amendment C286yara to advise of the Council resolution; and
 - (g) receive a further report after the Panel Report is received from Planning Panels Victoria to enable further consideration of the Amendment by Council.

Attachments

- 1 [↓](#) Response to submissions v1.1
- 2 [↓](#) Yarra C286 Notice of Preparation of an Amendment Exhibition Final
- 3 [↓](#) Yarra C286yara - Amendment documents shortened

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Amendment C280yara – Summary and Response to Submissions

The following Table provides a summary of submissions received to Amendment C280yara and officer's response to issues raised in the submission.

Summary of Individual Submissions and Officer's Response to inform Council's submission to Panel

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Submission 1		
Support	Developers who increase the density of a city need to also make a serious contribution to increasing public open space, to cater for the additional population, and keep the city livable.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 2		
Support	There's little enough public open space as it is, and these high density developments put significant pressure on existing public spaces.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 3		
Unknown	The Vaucluse could be a very creative open space for all, not just a short cut for speeding motorists.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 4		
Support	Yes! Great idea.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 5		
Support	This will contribute to facilitating good quality medium density housing in Yarra Council.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 6		
Support	We are extremely impacted by ongoing developments that are poorly designed and planned to give developers maximum profits. In Keele St we have one small park in the corner of Keele and Gold St and we cannot even take our dog there. We deserve to have the types of green spaces enjoyed by residents in other parts of the municipality - particularly North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 7		
Support	We have seen how important open spaces are during covid 19, therefore it is crucial that we continue to grow the portfolio of well funded and equipped open spaces that support our community and native wildlife.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 8		
Support	Support more accountability on developers to support the area they develop with this open space increase.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Submission 9		
Support	I am in support of this Amendment.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 10		
Support	Support for the proposed 10.1% of new developments to include public open space. A great initiative from the Yarra Council.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 11		
Support	Supports the Amendment.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 12		
Support	Supports the Amendment.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 13		
Support	Yarra does not have enough public open space. The community needs open spaces.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 14		
Support	Supports the Amendment.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 15		
Support	Supports the Amendment. Property developers should make a 10.1% contribution.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 16		
Support	Supports the Amendment, new development should pay as much as possible into development of quality public spaces.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 17		
Support	All of the new infrastructure is making a small suburb rather cramped. We thrive due to our sense of community and public spaces need to be prioritized in order to continue the charm of this special place.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 18		
Support	The 10.1% must go to creating new or improve existing open spaces and new spaces should be distributed equally throughout the relevant suburb to avoid clusters of open spaces.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 19		

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Support	There are pockets of Yarra that do not have access to open space. The Amendment would add to the quality of life and encourage residents to stay within the City of Yarra.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 20		
Support	Public space is incredibly important is what makes living in Yarra attractive.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 21		
Opposed	<u>Open Space Levy rate increase</u>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 22		
Support	Many changes to the urban landscape has had a negative impact on the vibrancy and community oriented vibe of the streets and spaces. Asking developers to contribute to the maintenance and character of the community they wish to build in seems like a fair exchange. The health of a community is amplified by the abundance of equitable and accessible public spaces.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 23		
Support	it is important to protect and improve livability while our cities densify by ensuring we have the funding to increase the quality and quantity of open spaces.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 24		
Opposed	<u>Open Space Levy rate increase</u>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
	<u>Strategic justification for the increase</u>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<u>Need for provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it</u>	All applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme. The Amendment only proposes to change the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 53.01. No changes are proposed to the provision of Clause 53.01, so the provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it are unchanged.
	<u>Lack of transitional provisions</u>	<p>Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment.</p>
Submission 25		
Support	Public space is precious and developers should take responsibility for the increase in population brought about by their developments. Cities are becoming more unbearable in hot weather- we need as many trees as possible to mitigate the effects of climate change.	<p>Noted</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 26		
Support	Supports the Amendment.	<p>Noted</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 27		
Support	The amount of open space is very low in some parts of Yarra, with so many apartment blocks and closely built houses. This will get worse with so many new developments. Open space is so important for physical and mental health - it is used for relaxation, exercise, shared activities among families and communities.	<p>Noted</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 28		

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Opposed	<p><u>Open Space Levy rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate and increase —more than double the current rate of 4.5%.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Flat rate</u></p> <p>The municipal wide 'flat rate' is also contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne.</p>	<p>The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.</p> <p>The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate.</p> <p>The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Strategic justification</u></p> <p>The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase</p>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Strategic redevelopment sites</u></p> <p>The Amendment also does not provide the opportunity to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is flawed and should not be supported.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the Planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Transitional provisions</u></p> <p>The Amendment fails to include transitional provisions, raising issues of fairness and places an unreasonable burden on permit-holders actively looking to act on planning permits and deliver approved developments.</p>	<p>Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Submission 29		
Opposed	<p><u>Outdated data</u></p> <p>Underpinning the need for public open space and the proposed contribution rate are population, housing and employment data for the City of Yarra. The YOSS is based on population forecasts over the next 15 years. However, this is clearly incorrect. The YOSS and proposed Clause 22.12 states that the open space needs assessment and directions are based on forecasts within the Yarra Housing Strategy and Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy. Both of these documents use data from the 2016 census, and subsequently the 15 years which the YOSS is based upon begins in 2016 (not 2020).</p> <p>It is unrealistic to not consider the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on where we work and population forecasts. Most professionals have and will continue to work from home to some extent, and international migration, including international students to Australia has been paused for nearly two years. It is important that the YOSS considers how these critical issues affect worker and resident population in the future for the City of Yarra.</p>	<p>The Strategy and the Public Open Space Contributions report are based on the data available made at the time of compilation and assumes that the dwelling and employment forecasts will be met. We also understand that the timing may be extended due to COVID-19 and therefore development may occur beyond the initial timeframe. Likewise, development may occur at a faster rate over the forecast period.</p> <p>One of the most observable impacts of COVID-19 has been the significant use of open spaces, particularly in inner urban areas.</p>
	<p><u>Existing Open Space</u></p> <p>It is unclear how Council has arrived at the lesser figure of 13.5% for public open space and unlike the more accurate calculation of 24% of land zoned for public open space, it is unclear what land is included within the 13.5%. This 24% presumably includes the largest regional public open space area within the inner eastern corridor, Yarra Bend Park, which is managed by Parks Victoria.</p>	<p>The Strategy at page 2 outlines what is included as open space:</p> <p><i>Public open space in this Strategy includes areas which are managed by State Government agencies or their delegates located in the City of Yarra. This includes Yarra Bend Park and the Collingwood Children's Farm. Restricted open space is land that is only available for use on a membership or fee paying basis and examples include Burnley Golf Course and Richmond Union Bowls Club. Other public land including schools and streets complement the public open space network, however, other strategies and plans provide direction and guidance for these.</i></p>
	<p><u>Funding for Small Parks Only</u></p> <p>The Open Space Framework on page 6 of the YOSS identifies the different open spaces across the municipality. Diagram B indicates that most open space within the municipality is regional or city-wide open space. Therefore, the proposed contribution will only be going towards the upgrade or establishment of local and small neighbourhood parks.</p>	<p>Diagram B identifies gap areas in the open space network. The gap areas are locations where the community lack easy walkable access to any open space. Additional open space is required to address the gaps in the provision and diversity of open space with priorities given to gap areas where urban densities are forecast to increase. The opportunities to provide for new regional or city-wide open spaces are limited, however, ongoing improvements and upgrades of these open spaces are part of the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Inappropriate rate increase</u></p> <p>There is currently no municipality in Victoria that includes a Schedule to Clause 53.01 that requires a public open space contribution rate of 10.1% across the entire municipality. Some municipalities do require a 10% contribution or above, these rates are only applicable to site / precinct specific areas</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>A proposed blanket 10.1% contribution rate is unjustifiable as it overlooks significant site specific contextual factors, such as easements and other site constraints that may affect</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p>

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	yield of development. Without a clearer delineation between land and public open space cash contributions, this flat rate contribution may also lead to equity issues.	The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 30		
Support	Supports the Amendment	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 31		
Opposed	<p><u>Public open space under existing permits</u></p> <p>On the basis that the subject land has either met, or has Agreements in place, which satisfy the public open space contribution for the land and that the rate is set at 4.5%, are seek written confirmation from Council that the agreed public open space contribution rate is fixed at 4.5% and that no further public open space contribution will be required for the subject land.</p> <p>Reserves the right to submissions relating to the excessive nature of the public open space contribution proposed, that the municipal wide flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne, and that the Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the Planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged as does the impact on existing permits or agreements.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 32		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p> <p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p>

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	<p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 33		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The proposed increase to the public open space contribution proposed in the Amendment is an excessive and onerous tax on new development that is unjustifiable. It provides a disincentive for infill development in the City of Yarra, competing against the <i>Plan Melbourne</i> objective to encourage development in Melbourne's well-served established areas.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>his increased developer tax is likely to stall or cease new developments, at a time when the State is trying stimulate the construction sector to support the economy.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p>
	<p><u>Strategic justification</u></p> <p>Amendment C286 should be changed to ensure the required public open space contribution is determined through an evidence-based assessment of open space needs within the municipality, which considers locational need, type and scale of development, and is fair and equitable.</p>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage</p>

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		<p>areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 34		
Opposed	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>Modest off the plan purchasing concessions do remain to encourage purchasers to purchase off the plan and encourage new development. If apartment prices are driven up due to the public open space contribution being passed onto purchasers, this will disincentivise off the plan apartment purchases. This has the potential to result in stagnant development sites across Yarra if developers are unable to secure adequate pre-sales to commence construction.</p> <p>If the market does not accept the apartment price increases it will likely see purchasers turn to the established housing market for which stamp duty is applicable but open space contributions are not. There is again potential for this to impact the number of active development sites across Yarra, lower new apartments with open space payable and lower economic activity across the area.</p> <p>It is also very unlikely that land owners would accept a lower sale price for development sites if the open space increase is introduced. The land rate has been set by site acquisitions over recent times and no land owner will be open to selling for a lower rate than a comparable site.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 35		
Opposed	<p><u>Existing permits and agreements</u></p> <p>Requests that the proposed Amendment be modified to apply a site specific contribution of 4.5% to the land in the Alphington Paper Mill Development Plan area (DPO11) in the proposed Schedule to Clause 53.10 Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision. The proposed site specific contribution of 4.5% will recognise and acknowledge the agreed public open space contribution associated with the approved Alphington Paper Mill Development Plan 2016.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged as does the impact on existing permits or agreements.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 36		
Opposed	<p><u>Open Space Levy rate increase</u></p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p>

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		<p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<u>Strategic justification for the increase</u>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<u>Difficulties and inequities associated with providing land contributions over cash contributions t</u>	<p>All applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme. The Amendment only proposes to change the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 53.01. No changes are proposed to the provision of Clause 53.01, so the provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it are unchanged.</p>
	<u>Blanket rate</u>	<p>The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.</p> <p>The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate.</p> <p>The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 37		
Opposed	<p><u>Uniform Rate</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes to impose a uniform contribution rate across the whole municipality which is inequitable. Fitzroy North is already very well served by open space and it is unreasonable to impose a high contribution requirement to offset public open space upgrades for other areas within the municipality that are poorly served by public open space and that require significant upgrades.</p>	<p>The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.</p> <p>The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate.</p> <p>The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>

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	<p><u>Size of increase</u> The size of the proposed increase and overall rate is excessive and unreasonable having regard to the current rate, the 5% rate provided for in the Subdivision Act 1988, contribution rates round in other inner city municipalities and those found in growth areas of Melbourne.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Strategic Justification</u> There is a lack of strategic justification for the proposed rate, noting the Strategy's predicted demand for open space by workers and non-residential land uses. To that end, we note that the Strategy assesses demand for public space upgrades based on both residential and non-residential users and it attempts to apply a uniform contribution rate to both residential and non-residential subdivisions, both of which are unreasonable.</p>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Contribution offsets</u> The Amendment should make provisions for contribution offsets where there are particular circumstances that justify it.</p>	<p>All applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme. The Amendment only proposes to change the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 53.01. No changes are proposed to the provision of Clause 53.01, so the provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it are unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Transition provisions</u> There should be transitional provisions for subdivision of developments that have a planning permit for development in place prior to the Amendment being gazetted into the planning Scheme.</p>	<p>Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment.</p>
Submission 38		
Opposed	<p><u>Rate increase is excessive</u> A comparison to other Councils with similar contextual characteristics reveals that a 10.1% contribution rate is exorbitant and unjustified.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p>

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		<p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment.</p>
Submission 39		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p>	<p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p>
		<p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 40		

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Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p>	<p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 41		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many</p>

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		municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p>	<p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 42		
Opposed	<p><u>Existing permits and agreements</u></p> <p>Requests that the proposed Amendment be modified to apply a site specific contribution of 4.5% to the land in the Alphington Paper Mill Development Plan area (DPO11) in the proposed Schedule to Clause 53.10 Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision. The proposed site specific contribution of 4.5% will recognise and acknowledge the agreed public open space contribution associated with the approved Alphington Paper Mill Development Plan 2016.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged as does the impact on existing permits or agreements.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 43		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many</p>

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	<p>municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p> <p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p> <p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p> <p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p> <p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 44		
Opposed	<p><u>Strategic justification</u></p> <p>In the Panel Report for Amendment C148 to the Monash Planning Scheme dated 7 April 2020, the Panel considered an increase in Public Open Space Contributions from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. The Panel were critical of Council for not having an implementation plan which included the identification of precincts in which open space acquisitions are a priority with an indicative budget. It is submitted that this Amendment has the same shortcomings and more detailed work is required to properly consider the public open space contribution amount for each precinct.</p>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy</p>

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	<p><u>Substantial and unprecedented increase</u></p> <p>The proposed public open space contribution of 10.1% far exceeds the rates currently being applied in other inner city municipalities, including Boroondara (a standard 5% under section 18 of the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i>), Stonnington (5-8% - determined based on where the subdivision is located), Maribyrnong (5.7% for subdivisions of 10 lots or greater), Whitehorse (4%), Darebin (2-5% - determined based on the number of allotments proposed).</p> <p>It is submitted that the proposed 10.1% contribution is excessive and based on the analysis in the supporting documents to the Amendment, the public open space contribution for the Fairfield precinct should remain 4.5%.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 45		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p>	<p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development,</p>

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		which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 46		
Opposed	<u>Justification of rate increase</u> The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u> The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts. There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.	Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.
	<u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u> The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.	The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.
	<u>Housing affordability</u> The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.	Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted. The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements. The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 47		
Opposed	<u>Open Space Levy rate increase</u>	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space

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	The proposed contribution rate of 10.1% is excessive, noting the existing rate of 4.1%, the existing rate of 5% in the Subdivision Act 1988 and the contributions within other Councils in Metropolitan Melbourne.	contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Existing open space</u> The City of Yarra is currently very well supplied with open spaces.	A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra. For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring. The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy
	<u>Use of open space by workers</u> The Strategy includes reliance of demand for open space by workers to justify the rate, which is unreasonable and inequitable.	Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.
	<u>Strategic justification for the increase</u> The strategic justification for the increase is flawed.	A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra. For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring. The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been

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		redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.
	<u>Lack of transitional provisions</u>	Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary. Recommended Position: No change to Amendment.
Submission 48		
Opposed	<u>Justification of rate increase</u> The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u> The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts. There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.	Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.
	<u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u> The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.	The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.
	<u>Housing affordability</u> The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.	Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted. The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements. The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space
		Recommended Position: No change to Amendment

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Submission 49		
Opposed	<p><u>Strategic justification for the increase</u></p> <p>The methodology and documentation which underpins the Amendment is flawed. It lacks strategic justification.</p>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Blanket rate</u></p> <p>A blanket open space contribution for all land does not distinguish between different development typologies and concessions associated with the provision of affordable housing.</p>	<p>The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.</p> <p>The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate.</p> <p>The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Monash C148</u></p> <p>The Amendment contains a clause similar to those identified by the Panel which considered Amendment C148 to the Monash Planning Scheme and lacks an implementation plan</p>	<p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The Amendment does not distinguish between different development typologies and concessions associated with the provision of affordable housing</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development,</p>

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		<p>which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 50		
	<p><u>Open Space Levy rate increase</u></p> <p>The excessive size of the proposed increase</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Strategic justification for the increase</u></p> <p>The lack of strategic justification for the proposed increase.</p>	<p>A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra.</p> <p>For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Blanket rate</u></p> <p>The inequities associated with applying a blanket rate across the whole municipality.</p>	<p>The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.</p> <p>The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate.</p> <p>The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Site considerations</u></p> <p>The difficulties and inequities associated with providing land contributions over cash contributions on a site by site basis, as required in different areas of the municipality, including land contributions that meet the policy requirements.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged</p>

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	<p><u>Transitional provisions</u></p> <p>The inequities and unfairness associated with applying the proposed increased rate to approved developments and developments that are under construction, including in the absence of any transitional provisions.</p>	<p>Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment.</p>
Submission 51		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p> <p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p> <p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p> <p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p> <p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p> <p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 52		

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Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Opposed	<u>Rate increase</u> The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u> The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts. There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.	Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.
	<u>Arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u> The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.	The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged. Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 53		
Opposed	<u>Rate increase</u> The proposed rate and extent of the increase is excessive.	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Strategic justification for the increase</u> The lack of strategic justification for the increase	A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra. For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage

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		<p>areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring.</p> <p>The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Flat rate</u></p> <p>The municipal wide 'flat rate' is also contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne.</p>	<p>The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.</p> <p>The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate.</p> <p>The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Need for provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it</u></p>	<p>All applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme. The Amendment only proposes to change the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 53.01. No changes are proposed to the provision of Clause 53.01, so the provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it are unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Lack of transitional provisions</u></p>	<p>Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment.</p>
Submission 54		
Opposed	<p><u>Outdated data</u></p> <p>Underpinning the need for public open space and the proposed contribution rate are population, housing and employment data for the City of Yarra. The YOSS is based on population forecasts over the next 15 years. However, this is clearly incorrect. The YOSS and proposed Clause 22.12 states that the open space needs assessment and directions are based on forecasts within the Yarra Housing Strategy and Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy. Both of these documents use data from the 2016 census, and subsequently the 15 years which the YOSS is based upon begins in 2016 (not 2020).</p> <p>It is unrealistic to not consider the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on where we work and population forecasts. Most professionals have and will continue to work from home to some extent, and international migration, including international students to Australia has been paused for nearly two years. It is important that the YOSS considers how these critical issues affect worker and resident population in the future for the City of Yarra.</p>	<p>The Strategy and the Public Open Space Contributions report are based on the data available made at the time of compilation and assumes that the dwelling and employment forecasts will be met. We also understand that the timing may be extended due to COVID-19 and therefore development may occur beyond the initial timeframe. Likewise, development may occur at a faster rate over the forecast period.</p> <p>One of the most observable impacts of COVID-19 has been the significant use of open spaces, particularly in inner urban areas.</p>
	<p><u>Existing Open Space</u></p>	<p>The Strategy at page 2 outlines what is included as open space:</p>

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	<p>It is unclear how Council has arrived at the lesser figure of 13.5% for public open space and unlike the more accurate calculation of 24% of land zoned for public open space, it is unclear what land is included within the 13.5%. This 24% presumably includes the largest regional public open space area within the inner eastern corridor, Yarra Bend Park, which is managed by Parks Victoria.</p>	<p><i>Public open space in this Strategy includes areas which are managed by State Government agencies or their delegates located in the City of Yarra. This includes Yarra Bend Park and the Collingwood Children's Farm. Restricted open space is land that is only available for use on a membership or fee paying basis and examples include Burnley Golf Course and Richmond Union Bowls Club. Other public land including schools and streets complement the public open space network, however, other strategies and plans provide direction and guidance for these.</i></p>
	<p><u>Funding for Small Parks Only</u></p> <p>The Open Space Framework on page 6 of the YOSS identifies the different open spaces across the municipality. Diagram B indicates that most open space within the municipality is regional or city-wide open space. Therefore, the proposed contribution will only be going towards the upgrade or establishment of local and small neighbourhood parks.</p>	<p>Diagram B identifies gap areas in the open space network. The gap areas are locations where the community lack easy walkable access to any open space. Additional open space is required to address the gaps in the provision and diversity of open space with priorities given to gap areas where urban densities are forecast to increase. The opportunities to provide for new regional or city-wide open spaces are limited, however, ongoing improvements and upgrades of these open spaces are part of the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Inappropriate rate increase</u></p> <p>There is currently no municipality in Victoria that includes a Schedule to Clause 53.01 that requires a public open space contribution rate of 10.1% across the entire municipality. Some municipalities do require a 10% contribution or above, these rates are only applicable to site / precinct specific areas</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>A proposed blanket 10.1% contribution rate is unjustifiable as it overlooks significant site specific contextual factors, such as easements and other site constraints that may affect yield of development. Without a clearer delineation between land and public open space cash contributions, this flat rate contribution may also lead to equity issues.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 55		
Opposed	<p><u>Outdated data</u></p> <p>Underpinning the need for public open space and the proposed contribution rate are population, housing and employment data for the City of Yarra. The YOSS is based on population forecasts over the next 15 years. However, this is clearly incorrect. The YOSS and proposed Clause 22.12 states that the open space needs assessment and directions are based on forecasts within the Yarra Housing Strategy and Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy. Both of these documents use data from the 2016 census, and subsequently the 15 years which the YOSS is based upon begins in 2016 (not 2020).</p>	<p>The Strategy and the Public Open Space Contributions report are based on the data available made at the time of compilation and assumes that the dwelling and employment forecasts will be met. We also understand that the timing may be extended due to COVID-19 and therefore development may occur beyond the initial timeframe. Likewise, development may occur at a faster rate over the forecast period.</p> <p>One of the most observable impacts of COVID-19 has been the significant use of open spaces, particularly in inner urban areas.</p>

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	<p>It is unrealistic to not consider the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on where we work and population forecasts. Most professionals have and will continue to work from home to some extent, and international migration, including international students to Australia has been paused for nearly two years. It is important that the YOSS considers how these critical issues affect worker and resident population in the future for the City of Yarra.</p>	
	<p><u>Existing Open Space</u></p> <p>It is unclear how Council has arrived at the lesser figure of 13.5% for public open space and unlike the more accurate calculation of 24% of land zoned for public open space, it is unclear what land is included within the 13.5%. This 24% presumably includes the largest regional public open space area within the inner eastern corridor, Yarra Bend Park, which is managed by Parks Victoria.</p>	<p>The Strategy at page 2 outlines what is included as open space:</p> <p><i>Public open space in this Strategy includes areas which are managed by State Government agencies or their delegates located in the City of Yarra. This includes Yarra Bend Park and the Collingwood Children's Farm. Restricted open space is land that is only available for use on a membership or fee paying basis and examples include Burnley Golf Course and Richmond Union Bowls Club. Other public land including schools and streets complement the public open space network, however, other strategies and plans provide direction and guidance for these.</i></p>
	<p><u>Funding for Small Parks Only</u></p> <p>The Open Space Framework on page 6 of the YOSS identifies the different open spaces across the municipality. Diagram B indicates that most open space within the municipality is regional or city-wide open space. Therefore, the proposed contribution will only be going towards the upgrade or establishment of local and small neighbourhood parks.</p>	<p>Diagram B identifies gap areas in the open space network. The gap areas are locations where the community lack easy walkable access to any open space. Additional open space is required to address the gaps in the provision and diversity of open space with priorities given to gap areas where urban densities are forecast to increase. The opportunities to provide for new regional or city-wide open spaces are limited, however, ongoing improvements and upgrades of these open spaces are part of the Strategy.</p>
	<p><u>Inappropriate rate increase</u></p> <p>There is currently no municipality in Victoria that includes a Schedule to Clause 53.01 that requires a public open space contribution rate of 10.1% across the entire municipality. Some municipalities do require a 10% contribution or above, these rates are only applicable to site / precinct specific areas</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>A proposed blanket 10.1% contribution rate is unjustifiable as it overlooks significant site specific contextual factors, such as easements and other site constraints that may affect yield of development. Without a clearer delineation between land and public open space cash contributions, this flat rate contribution may also lead to equity issues.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 56		
Opposed	<u>Justification of rate increase</u>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate.</p>

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	The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.	This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u> The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts. There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.	Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.
	<u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u> The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.	The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.
	<u>Housing affordability</u> The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.	Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted. The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements. The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 57		
Opposed	<u>Justification of rate increase</u> The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.

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	<p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p>	<p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 58		
Opposed	<p><u>Public open space under existing controls</u></p> <p>Submits that the public open space area as defined in DPO16 and designed through the Fitzroy Gasworks Development Plan is an acceptable outcome for this significant site and no additional monetary value in addition to this land contribution is required to be made.</p> <p>Requested that land bound by DPO16 Fitzroy Gasworks be exempt from the requirements of Amendment C286yara Public Open Space Contributions and wording similar to Amendment C238yara be applied to this effect.</p>	<p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged as does the impact on existing permits or agreements.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 59		
Unknown	<p>Allocation of plots at Collingwood Children's Farm has been left and not allocated to the Community! There are many vacant plots being left to grow weeds.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 60		
Support	<p>Developers and subdividers should be held to a higher account and should have to provide a higher contribution.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 61		

Attachment 1 - Response to submissions v1.1

Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
Support	More public open space is essential for a better quality of life.	Noted Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 52		
Opposed	<p><u>Justification of rate increase</u></p> <p>The Amendment proposes an excessive rate, which is more than double the current rate of 4.5%, and as a municipal wide 'flat rate' is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne. The Amendment lacks sufficient justification for such a significant increase.</p> <p><u>Inclusion of non-residential uses</u></p> <p>The Amendment seeks to impose the obligation on <i>all</i> subdivisions, with no distinction between residential / commercial / industrial subdivisions, and no differentiation between suburbs or precincts.</p> <p>There is simply no evidence to suggest that the demand for open space generated by employment uses is equivalent to the demand from residential uses. The documents exhibited with the Amendment fail to provide sufficient analysis or justification for applying an equivalent rate to employment-related subdivisions.</p> <p><u>Bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment site</u></p> <p>The Amendment also fails to provide bespoke arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones. Applying a 'one size fits all' rate is a fundamentally flawed approach, and one which should not be further considered.</p> <p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>The flow-on effect of introducing such an exorbitant rate is that development costs are increased, which in turn undermines affordability for end users. Alternatively, it means that land which might otherwise have been developed sits dormant, and aspirations for housing density and diversity remain unachieved.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.</p> <p>Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The surveys undertaken for this Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.</p> <p>The Amendment does not propose any changes to the planning scheme other than an increase in the public open space contribution rate and a revised Open Space Policy at Clause 22.12. Consequently, any ability to agree specific arrangements for strategic redevelopment sites or land within special purpose zones remains unchanged.</p> <p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 63		
Opposed	<p><u>Population rise</u></p> <p>Would like to understand the currency of the 41% population increase between 2016 and 2031 in the context of both the COVID-19 Pandemic and the projections of the transport modelling to 2036 on Melbourne's population growth in the context of increasing the</p>	<p>The Strategy and the Public Open Space Contributions report are based on the data available made at the time of compilation and assumes that the dwelling and employment forecasts will be met. We also understand that the timing may be extended due to COVID-19 and therefore development may occur beyond the initial timeframe. Likewise, development may occur at a faster rate over the forecast period.</p>

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Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
	existing public open space contribution rate. Submitter would like to understand the currency of the 41% population increase between 2016 and 2031 in the context of both the COVID-19 Pandemic and the projections of the transport modelling to 2036 on Melbourne's population growth in the context of increasing the existing public open space contribution rate.	One of the most observable impacts of COVID-19 has been the significant use of open spaces, particularly in inner urban areas.
	<u>Need and Nexus Principles</u> The setting of public open space rates through Clause 53.01 of the planning scheme should be cognisant of section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988. Specifically, the submitter considers that given Council has proposed this Amendment, at a minimum it should be justified or tested against the 'need' and 'nexus' principles for public open space contribution	The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity. The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Housing affordability</u> Indicative case studies sourced by NHFIC show that developer contributions can ultimately amount to between \$37,000 and \$77,000 per dwelling in Victoria, which is a substantial cost levied on a new home. Increasing the open space provision from 4.5% to 10.1% in the City of Yarra would contribute to the cumulative impact of this ultimate charge and would be eroding housing affordability in the City of Yarra.	Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted. The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements. The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
	<u>Undermining urban consolidation</u> The proposed Amendment raises implications for achieving urban consolidation and reducing the housing affordability problem in inner Melbourne. Is concerned that excessive open space contribution rates will increase land development costs and be a cost disadvantage for the more intensive redevelopment of existing urban areas. This is inconsistent with State and Local Planning Policy for urban consolidation and the provision of housing that is affordable.	A key reason that the new Yarra public open space contribution rate is proposed to increase from 4.5 to 10.1 per cent is that there is a substantial level of residential and employment population growth forecast in the City of Yarra. For the period between 2016 and 2031, which is the time period for the data used in preparing the Strategy, the forecast population will increase by over 77,000 people, which represents a 41 per cent increase in the number of residents and a 47 per cent increase in the number of workers. The City of Yarra contains a mosaic of land uses and zones, with land that is available for more intensive redevelopment in all locations except for the heritage areas. However, even in the heritage areas there are newer buildings and redundant sites where redevelopment is occurring. The forecast population is planned to be accommodated in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality outside the heritage areas, including in areas that have little or no access to existing public open space. This will drive the need for an expanded open space network that will require Council to purchase new land area for public open space. As most of the larger strategic sites in the City of Yarra have already been redeveloped, the Council will not be able to rely on land contributions to create the new open spaces in all locations included in the Strategy. Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 64		
	<u>Flat rate</u>	The rate is uniform across the municipality providing consistency, policy neutrality and perceived equity.

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Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
	The Amendment introduces as municipal wide 'flat rate,' it is contrary to most comparable municipalities within Metropolitan Melbourne	The single public open space contribution rate is considered to meet the equity principle because a uniform rate provides an even benchmark, with clarity and simplicity about what the rate will be. All subdivisions are treated equally, the principles of need, nexus, accountability and equity having been established in the setting of the rate. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause 53.01 in the Glen Eira, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Whitehorse and Yarra Planning Schemes.
	<u>Rate Increase</u> The Amendment proposes an increase that is more than double the current rate of 4.5%. The size of the proposed increase is excessive and there is a lack of sufficient strategic justification for such a significant increase.	The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development. The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause
	<u>Contributable amount</u> The Amendment fails to identify any circumstances that may require special considerations and there is a need for provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it	All applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme. The Amendment only proposes to change the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 53.01. No changes are proposed to the provision of Clause 53.01, so the provisions to offset the contributable amount where the particular circumstances justify it are unchanged.
	<u>Transitional provisions</u> The Amendment, if approved, would result in a significant increase in development costs, which in turn undermines the feasibility of current projects. As such, the Amendment should include transitional provisions for any applications lodged with the Council prior to any Amendment being gazetted.	Transitional provisions are not common in planning scheme amendments. It is likely that the Amendment process will take over 12 months to run its course. In addition, on the basis that all applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme and no change is proposed to the provision of the planning scheme other than the quantum of the open space levy rate, transitional provisions are unnecessary. Recommended Position: No change to Amendment
Submission 65		
	<u>Clause 53.01</u> Clause 53.01 should recognise that not every subdivision is for development purposes and the Clause should provide an opportunity for flexibility for either applicants or councils. Without a degree of flexibility, unforeseen implications, such as a relatively simple boundary re-alignment between neighbours* requiring payment of a levy or stifling of innovation in design when a requirement cannot be varied in individual or exceptional circumstances even if all parties were to agree. The proposed Schedule to Clause 53.01 removes any ability for Council to assess an application on its merits and take into consideration how a particular development may have addressed the objectives of the open space Strategy. It includes no consideration of the current and proposed land use and existing title configuration or how that may impact on the need generated for open space. We are particularly concerned that there will be no provision for consideration of existing land parcels, where for instance a re-subdivision of four existing lots into an equal or lesser number of lots may occur but	All applications for a planning permit are considered on their own merits in light of the provisions of the planning scheme. The Amendment only proposes to change the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 53.01. No changes are proposed to the provision of Clause 53.01, so the flexibility to review requirements where the particular circumstances justify it are unchanged. Recommended Position: No change to Amendment

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Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
	would be subject to a mandatory open space contribution, when the re-subdivision may not create any need for additional open space.	
Submission 66		
	<p>Rate increase</p> <p>Opposes the very large increase proposed, more than double the current rate. The high cost of housing is a major problem in Yarra and this proposal puts an unfair burden on people wanting to live here.</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause.</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>
Submission 67		
Opposed	<p><u>Outdated data</u></p> <p>Underpinning the need for public open space and the proposed contribution rate are population, housing and employment data for the City of Yarra. The YOSS is based on population forecasts over the next 15 years. However, this is clearly incorrect. The YOSS and proposed Clause 22.12 states that the open space needs assessment and directions are based on forecasts within the Yarra Housing Strategy and Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy. Both of these documents use data from the 2016 census, and subsequently the 15 years which the YOSS is based upon begins in 2016 (not 2020).</p> <p>It is unrealistic to not consider the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on where we work and population forecasts. Most professionals have and will continue to work from home to some extent, and international migration, including international students to Australia has been paused for nearly two years. It is important that the YOSS considers how these critical issues affect worker and resident population in the future for the City of Yarra.</p> <p><u>Existing Open Space</u></p> <p>It is unclear how Council has arrived at the lesser figure of 13.5% for public open space and unlike the more accurate calculation of 24% of land zoned for public open space, it is unclear what land is included within the 13.5%. This 24% presumably includes the largest regional public open space area within the inner eastern corridor, Yarra Bend Park, which is managed by Parks Victoria.</p> <p><u>Funding for Small Parks Only</u></p> <p>The Open Space Framework on page 6 of the YOSS identifies the different open spaces across the municipality. Diagram B indicates that most open space within the municipality is regional or city-wide open space. Therefore, the proposed contribution will only be going towards the upgrade or establishment of local and small neighbourhood parks.</p>	<p>The Strategy and the Public Open Space Contributions report are based on the data available made at the time of compilation and assumes that the dwelling and employment forecasts will be met. We also understand that the timing may be extended due to COVID-19 and therefore development may occur beyond the initial timeframe. Likewise, development may occur at a faster rate over the forecast period.</p> <p>One of the most observable impacts of COVID-19h has been the significant use of open spaces, particularly in inner urban areas.</p> <p>The Strategy at page 2 outlines what is included as open space:</p> <p><i>Public open space in this Strategy includes areas which are managed by State Government agencies or their delegates located in the City of Yarra. This includes Yarra Bend Park and the Collingwood Children's Farm. Restricted open space is land that is only available for use on a membership or fee paying basis and examples include Burnley Golf Course and Richmond Union Bowls Club. Other public land including schools and streets complement the public open space network, however, other strategies and plans provide direction and guidance for these.</i></p> <p>Diagram B identifies gap areas in the open space network. The gap areas are locations where the community lack easy walkable access to any open space. Additional open space is required to address the gaps in the provision and diversity of open space with priorities given to gap areas where urban densities are forecast to increase. The opportunities to provide for new regional or city-wide open spaces are limited, however, ongoing improvements and upgrades of these open spaces are part of the Strategy.</p>

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Submission Number Interest Type of Submission	Summary of Submission	Response to inform Council's submission to Panel
	<p><u>Inappropriate rate increase</u></p> <p>There is currently no municipality in Victoria that includes a Schedule to Clause 53.01 that requires a public open space contribution rate of 10.1% across the entire municipality. Some municipalities do require a 10% contribution or above, these rates are only applicable to site / precinct specific areas</p>	<p>The size of the increase is based on the demand for improvements to existing open space and new open space identified in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Preparation of the Strategy included a review of funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Strategy, including the public open space contribution rate. This resulted in a recommendation that Council should increase the municipal wide public open space contribution rate from 4.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent and expand the rate to cover both residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>The quantum of the open space levy has been calculated as detailed in the Public Open Space Contributions (December 2020) report. The method has previously been used to calculate the contribution rate for many municipal open space strategies, including the rate/s that are now included in the schedules to Clause</p>
	<p><u>Housing affordability</u></p> <p>A proposed blanket 10.1% contribution rate is unjustifiable as it overlooks significant site specific contextual factors, such as easements and other site constraints that may affect yield of development. Without a clearer delineation between land and public open space cash contributions, this flat rate contribution may also lead to equity issues.</p>	<p>Housing affordability is impacted by many things, for example the significant growth expected in the City of Yarra may impact affordability if demand is high and supply restricted.</p> <p>The City of Yarra Open Space Strategy aims to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the financial and land contributions of developers and government to provide open space and make open space improvements.</p> <p>The local community including residents and workers should have reasonable access to public open space. This includes physical access, visual access and economic equity of access. It is reasonable that new development, which creates the need for additional or improved open space should contribute the cost of providing that open space</p> <p>Recommended Position: No change to Amendment</p>

Attachment 2 - Yarra C286 Notice of Preparation of an Amendment Exhibition Final

Planning and Environment Act 1987

YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

Notice of the preparation of an amendment

Amendment C286YARA

The Yarra City Council has prepared Amendment C286yara to the Yarra Planning Scheme.

The land affected by the amendment is all land in the City of Yarra.

The amendment proposes to increase the public open space contribution rate in the schedule to clause 53.01 from 4.5% to 10.1% to collect funds to support the implementation of the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020.

Specifically, the amendment:

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 53.01 to require that all subdivision provides a public open space contribution at a rate of 10.1% and apply it to the entire City of Yarra municipal area.
- Replaces Clause 22.12 Public Open Space Contribution with a new Clause 22.12.
- Amends Clause 72.08 to insert the following documents into the table at Clause 1.0:
 - *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd
 - *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Technical Report* Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd.

You may inspect the amendment, any documents that support the amendment and the explanatory report about the amendment, free of charge, at:

- the Yarra City Council website at yarracity.vic.gov.au/planningscheme; or
- during office hours, at the office of the planning authority, City of Yarra Richmond Town Hall, Town Planning Counter, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond 3121 VIC; or
- at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection.

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions must be made in writing giving the submitter's name and contact address, clearly stating the grounds on which the amendment is supported or opposed and indicating what changes (if any) the submitter wishes to make.

Name and contact details of submitters are required for council to consider submissions and to notify such persons of the opportunity to attend council meetings and any public hearing held to consider submissions. The closing date for submissions is 5 October 2021. A submission must be sent to the strategicplanning@yarracity.vic.gov.au with the subject line 'C286yara – Submission'.

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or:

City of Yarra
C/o Strategic Planning
PO Box 168 Richmond
Re: C286yara Submission.

The planning authority must make a copy of every submission available at its office and/or on its website for any person to inspect free of charge for two months after the amendment comes into operation or lapses.

- Directions hearing: Week of 8 November 2021
- Panel hearing: Week of 6 December 2021

Yours sincerely



Fiona van der Hoeven
Practice Leader, Strategic Planning

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Attachment 3 - Yarra C286yara - Amendment documents shortened

Planning and Environment Act 1987

YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C286

EXPLANATORY REPORT

Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by Yarra City Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Yarra City Council

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to the whole municipality.

What the amendment does

The amendment proposes to increase the public open space contribution rate in the schedule to clause 53.01 from 4.5% to 10.1% to collect funds to support the implementation of the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020. Specifically, the amendment:

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 53.01 to require that all subdivision provides a public open space contribution at a rate of 10.1%.
- Replaces Clause 22.12 Public Open Space Contribution with a new Clause 22.12.
- Amends Clause 72.08 to insert the following documents into the table at Clause 1.0.
 - *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd
 - *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Technical Report* Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd

Why is the amendment required?

The forecast development over the next 15 years is significant with a 40 per cent increase in the resident population and a 47 per cent increase in the worker population visiting and using open space, thereby increasing demand on the existing space and facilities. The extent of forecast growth changes across different parts of the City. Less than 10 per cent growth is forecast in Princes Hill-Carlton North, compared to 106 percent in Cremorne-Richmond South-Burnley and 214 per cent in Fairfield-Alphington.

Over 85 per cent of Yarra's population live in medium and high density dwellings compared to 33 per cent in Greater Melbourne. This means that residents have less private open space available to them which increases their reliance on public open space. Typically, this adds to the amount of people using public open space and increases the diversity of reasons why they use it.

In calculating an appropriate contribution rate the Yarra Open Space Strategy considered several factors including:

- The existing open space reserves, their function, location and qualities, and the improvements to open space that the City of Yarra has undertaken since the adoption of the 2006 Strategy.
- The significant population growth, demographic change and land use change that has occurred in Yarra since the adoption of the 2006 Strategy.
- The increased open space use by the employment population in Yarra.
- The substantial redevelopment that will occur in Yarra in the short and medium term, leading to the forecast increases in both residential and employment populations.

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Attachment 3 - Yarra C286yara - Amendment documents shortened

- The need for the City of Yarra to acquire land for new open space and fund capital improvements to open space based on the detailed analysis undertaken for this Strategy.
- The value of providing an updated set of open space upgrades and new open space to respond to the changes in Yarra for a 15 year period to 2031 and beyond.
- The expectation that contributions should fund a reasonable proportion of the future open space program having regard to population growth and demographic changes, so that the open space contributions levied provide for the open space needs of the population on whose behalf the contributions are collected.
- The value of land purchase for new open space is to be included in the calculation of the new contribution rate.
- The application of the rate to all eligible subdivisions in the City of Yarra irrespective of land use type.

Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. Surveys undertaken as part of the Development of the Yarra Open Space Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.

The Amendment is required to better meet the public open space needs within the City of Yarra of a growing population. The City of Yarra's Open Space Strategy (YOSS) was adopted in September 2020. The YOSS identifies the public open space needs of existing and future residents of Yarra, gaps in the provision of public open space and opportunities to address those gaps. Currently the amount, quality and accessibility of open space varies considerably across the suburbs of Yarra.

The YOSS uses the Preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost (POPC) as the basis for costing for the individual open space projects included in the Strategy (i.e. the Strategy implementation plan) for the purposes of calculating the open space contribution rate. It does not represent the total cost of providing all open space in the City of Yarra. The method used for the Strategy POPC follows the same method used to develop the 4.5 per cent open space contribution rate that is currently in Clause 53.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

The Strategy POPC only includes projects that would be fully or partially funded by an open space contribution under Clause 53.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme. These include the provision and establishment or upgrade of neighbourhood, Small neighbourhood, local and small local open space. The Strategy POPC also includes the costs of providing facilities for the local community in higher order open space including the Regional and City-wide open space.

The YOSS addresses all levels of open space provision, design and management, however only the local provision is to be funded by open space contributions using Clause 53.01. Provision of open space and facilities to meet the open space needs of the broader regional catchment of visitors and the structured sport facilities would be funded by other mechanisms such as rate revenue and grants.

The Strategy POPC does not include any costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of open space or the open space asset renewal program.

A contribution rate of 10.1 percent has been determined as necessary to deliver a reasonable standard of open space provision across the whole of Yarra and reflects the need to ensure that all residents in the future have contributed to providing an appropriate level of public open space and facilities.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The Amendment implements the objectives of planning in Victoria contained in Section 4 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, in the following ways:

- Providing an equitable method to collect contributions for public open space based on the need created by the new development.
- Providing certainty and consistency as to the required public open space contributions.
- Providing public open space to meet the needs of the future population.

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How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

Environmental Effects

The Amendment provides the opportunity for new public open space and the ability to upgrade existing open space. Open space is aesthetically pleasing, it can minimise the impacts of climate change and increase opportunities for active travel. Open space can also include areas of high value vegetation that can be conserved and provide new open space links to improve habitat corridors.

Social Effects

The Amendment will provide a strong benefit for the community through the provision of new public open space and the upgrade of existing open space. Open space provides for a range of social and community benefits by increasing social interaction, improving physical and mental health and providing for sporting pursuits and recreation.

Economic Effects

The Amendment will result in more accurate financial resources to fund public open space projects. It will also provide certainty to developers allowing improved cost planning and a more equitable means of distributing costs.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

- The Amendment does not affect any areas of identified bushfire risks and has no implications.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The Amendment complies with the requirements of Ministerial Directions on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The Amendment is affected by Ministerial Direction 9 Metropolitan Strategy. The amendment is consistent with this Ministerial Direction as it:

- Provides a greater understanding of public open space needs for the City of Yarra.
- Increases the availability, usability and access to public open space.
- Provides opportunities for social interaction.
- Greens the urban environment.

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The Amendment supports the Planning Policy Framework, in particular the following:

- Clause 12: Environmental and Landscape Values, in particular the objective in Clause 12.05-2S for Landscapes which is 'to protect and enhance significant landscapes and open spaces that contribute to character, identity and sustainable environments.' The amendment supports this objective by ensuring natural features are protected and enhanced.
- Clause 15: Built Environment, in particular the objective in Clause 15.01-3S for Subdivision Design, which aims to 'ensure the design of subdivisions achieves attractive, safe, accessible, diverse and sustainable neighbourhoods' and Clause 15.01-04S for Healthy Neighbourhoods, which aims to 'achieve neighbourhoods that foster healthy and active living and community wellbeing'. The amendment supports these objectives by promoting a diversity of public open space to support future subdivision development that foster a healthy lifestyle and achieve community benefit from well-designed neighbourhoods.
- Clause 19: Community Infrastructure, in particular the objective in Clause 19.02-6S for Open Space, which aims to 'establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community.' The amendment supports this objective by seeking to protect and expand the public open space network to address the current and future gaps of provision.

How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

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The Amendment supports Clause 22.12 of Yarra's Municipal Strategic Statement which addresses open space contributions. This includes the following objectives:

- To implement the Yarra Open Space Strategy.
- To identify when and where land contributions for public open space are preferred over cash contributions.
- To ensure that where appropriate, land suitable for public open space is set aside as part of the design of a development so that it can be transferred to or vested in Council, in satisfaction of the public open space contribution requirement.

The Amendment supports these objectives by:

- Addressing current and future gaps in the provision of public open space to support the needs of new residents.
- Ensuring that adequate public open space is provided for development, including sites that seek higher residential densities.
- Improving the diversity, functionality and inclusiveness of public open space facilities and landscape settings to meet the needs of the community.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The Schedule to Clause 53.01 is specifically provided in the Victorian Planning Provisions to allow Councils to establish open space contribution rates appropriate for their local circumstances. It is the most appropriate tool to guide decision making in determining where land and financial contributions should be sought.

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

The views of any relevant agency will be sought during the exhibition of the Amendment.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

This Amendment does not have any significant impacts on the objectives and decision making principles set out in the Transport Integration Act 2010.

Resource and administrative costs

The Amendment will not have a significant impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority as there is a process in place to gather public open space contributions under Clause 53.01 of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The Amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following place:

- the office of the planning authority, City of Yarra Richmond Town Hall, Town Planning Counter, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond 3121 VIC

and Planning website at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or on the City of Yarra website at <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/the-area/planning-for-yarras-future/yarra-planning-scheme-and-amendments/current-amendments>

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the amendment make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the amendment must be received by 30 September 2021.

A submission must be sent to:

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Strategic Planning Unit

Yarra City Council

PO Box 168

Richmond VIC 3121

Or via email: info@yarracity.vic.gov.au (please use Amendment C286 in the subject header)

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- Directions Hearing: week of 8 November, 2021.
- Panel Hearing: week of 6 December, 2021

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YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

22.12 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION

Proposed C286yara

This policy applies to all applications for development or subdivision of land.

22.12-1 Policy Basis

Proposed C286yara

As an established inner urban municipality, the City of Yarra is experiencing significant change and growth. The analysis of the distribution of public open space in the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 has identified there are areas of the City where the community does not have any adequate open space within easy walking distance of where they live or work. The Strategy has identified and prioritised a series of new open spaces, with priority given to gaps in the network and locations where higher levels of growth is forecast to occur. The need for the proposed additional open spaces is based on a range of factors including:

- Areas where the public existing open space is experiencing high levels of use or over- use. This includes providing new open space to take the pressure off existing spaces to meet everyone's needs.
- Where there is a gap in the provision of any public open space.
- Medium and high density precincts where the substantial change is forecast and the new community will create a need for additional public open space.
- In medium and high density precincts where the provision of well distributed green public open space will assist to mitigate urban heat island effect.

The forecast development over the next 15 years is significant with a 41 per cent increase in the resident population and a 47 per cent increase in the worker population. This means there will be more people visiting and using open space, thereby increasing demand on the existing space and facilities. The extent of forecast growth changes across different parts of the City. Minimal growth is forecast in Princes Hill-Carlton North and Clifton Hill, compared to high Levels in North Richmond, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Cremorne. The locations for where forecast residential growth will occur is based on the *Yarra Housing Strategy 2018*. The forecast employment growth and change is based on the *Yarra Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy 2018*.

A total of 85 per cent of Yarra's population live in medium and high density dwellings compared to 33 per cent in Greater Melbourne. This means that residents have less private open space available to them which increases their reliance on public open space. Typically, this adds to the amount of people using public open space and increases the diversity of reasons why they use it.

Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space.

With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce. The Strategy found that more than 80 per cent of workers visit public open space during the day. With increased numbers of people working and living in the former industrial precincts there is a need to provide new areas of public open space.

As urban densities increase in the future this Strategy has identified opportunities to increase the local open space network to support and sustainably meet the open space needs of the existing and future community.

Public open space contributions from developers are one of a number of potential sources of funding towards the acquisition of land for public open space and improvement of existing facilities. Because public open space contributions can only be imposed at the subdivision stage, it is important for developers to ascertain at the site analysis stage of the design process whether any part of the site might be required for public open space purposes where the site:

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YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

- is in an area where a land contribution may be required under Strategies in clause 22.12-3 or on Map1.
- fits the selection criteria for public open space in clause 22.12-4.

This will ensure that public open space requirements are identified and allowed for at the earliest possible time.

22.12-2 Objectives

Proposed C286yara

- To fund a fair proportion of the open space projects contained in the Strategy that will meet the needs of the forecast residential commercial and business population.
- To contribute to improvements to existing public open space and provide new public open space on behalf of the forecast population.
- To expand the public open space network to accommodate the growth in population predominantly in medium to high density urban development located across the municipality.

22.12-3 Policy

Proposed C286yara

22.12-4 Policy Guidelines

Proposed C286yara

Consider as relevant:

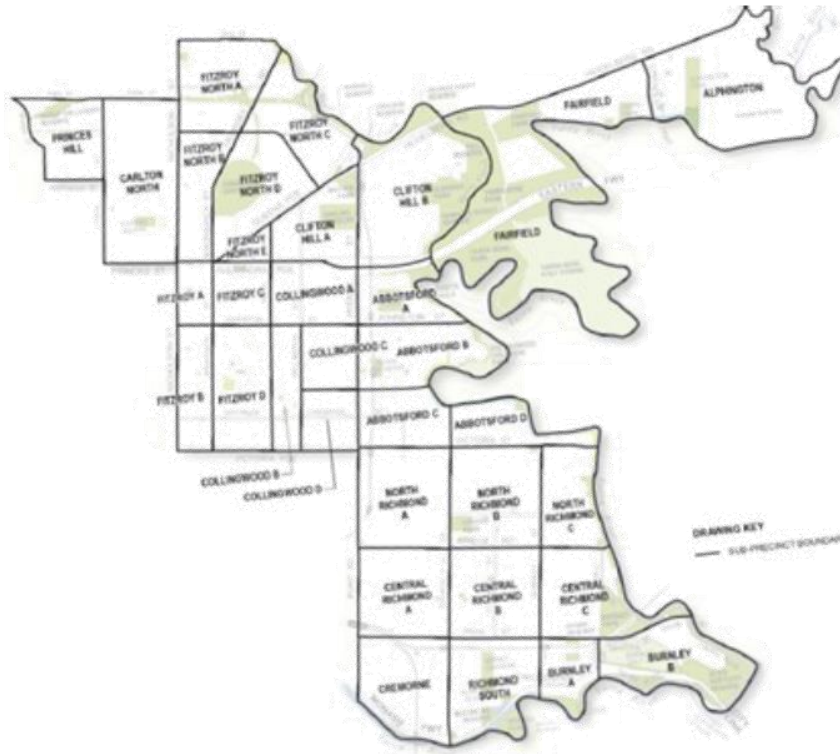
- The suitability of land to be contributed as public open space at the time of the subdivision of the land or building, should be consistent with the requirements of the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 including the following selection criteria:
- Land to be contributed:
 - Should be of a shape and size that will be adequate for the proposed use, having regard to the nature of public open space in an inner-city environment or be able to meaningfully contribute to the assembly of a parcel of land with these attributes.
 - Should be free of structures and protrusions, such as balconies or other building projections that may encroach into the public open space reserve, except for historic buildings or structures relating to the designated public open space use.
 - Should be located or be capable of being designed to provide a high degree of casual surveillance.
 - Should be physically suitable for use as public open space including that there are no inherent issues such as contamination and significant financial or safety implications, including the land being open to the sky.
 - Should contribute to the connectivity and accessibility of the open space network. This includes consideration of the other strategic planning projects including linear open space corridors, and local links to improve accessibility within the local street network and links and connections to improve accessibility into existing or proposed future open space.
 - Should be free of services and easements that affects or encumbers the development and use of the land as public open space. This includes roadways, overhead structures, underground structures (e.g. underground car parking), water supply, power supply, gas supply, telecommunications, flood mitigation and drainage.
 - Must be accessible to people of all abilities.
 - Should be visible from adjacent thoroughfares with at least two access points, local access streets to at least two sides and be provided on natural ground (not elevated or roofed structures).
 - Must have no additional overshadowing beyond any 9 metre built form height between 10am and 3pm on June 21.

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YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

- Should be located away from major or secondary arterial roads.
- Whether any building on land adjacent to public open space set aside under this clause has been designed to accommodate public open space in a manner that meets the majority of the above selection criteria.

Open Space Contribution Plan (Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 sub-precincts)



Policy references

Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd

Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Technical Report Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd

Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Public Open Space Contributions, Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd

22.12-3

Proposed C286yara

Strategies

Many of the areas in the City that are forecast to change are the former industrial and manufacturing areas. These areas are being redeveloped to mixed use precincts with a combination of residential, commercial and business use. Historically, the industrial areas did not have public open space. With the proposed changes, these areas are being redeveloped with increased building heights and a change to a predominantly office-based professional workforce.

The Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 has identified the need for new public open space and land contributions for public open space will be preferred over cash contributions in the following areas shown in the City of Yarra Open Space Sub-precincts plan to this clause.

- Alphington

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YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

- Abbotsford C and D
- Central Richmond A and B
- Collingwood A, B, C and D
- Cremorne
- Fitzroy A, B, C and D
- Fitzroy North A, B and E
- Richmond North A, B and C

In all other areas of the municipality, a cash contribution equal to the amount specified in Clause 53.01 is required.

In locations where a preference for a land contribution has been identified, set aside land for public open space early in the planning of a development or subdivision.

Design buildings adjacent to any public open space set aside under this clause and any existing open space to facilitate high quality and accessible public open space

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YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

30/07/2018
VC148**SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 53.01 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION
AND SUBDIVISION****1.0****Subdivision and public open space contribution**Proposed
C286yarr

Type or location of subdivision	Amount of contribution for public open space
All land	10.1%

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YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

31/07/2018
VC148

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 72.08 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1.0

Proposed C286yara

Background documents

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
<i>Lower Yarra River Study - Recommendations Report</i> (Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2016)	VC197 - Schedule 1 to Clause 42.03 (SLO) and Schedule 1 to Clause 43.02 (DDO)
<i>Yarra Bend Park Strategy Plan</i> (Parks Victoria, 1999)	VC197 - Schedule 1 to Clause 42.03 (SLO)
<i>The Middle Yarra Concept Plan – Dights Falls to Burke Road</i> (Melbourne Parks and Waterways, 1990)	VC197 - Schedule 1 to Clause 42.03 (SLO)
<i>The Lower Yarra Concept Plan – Dights Falls to Punt Road</i> (Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, 1986)	VC197 - Schedule 1 to Clause 42.03 (SLO)
<i>Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020</i> Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd	C286 - Schedule to Clause 53.01
<i>Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 Technical Report</i> Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in association with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd	C286 - Schedule to Clause 53.01

Attachment 3 - Yarra C286yara - Amendment documents shortened

Planning and Environment Act 1987

YARRA PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C286yara

INSTRUCTION SHEET

The planning authority for this amendment is the Yarra City Council

The Yarra Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

Planning Scheme Ordinance

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

1. In **Local Planning Policy Framework** – replace Clause 22.12 with a new Clause 22.12 in the form of the attached document.
2. In **Particular Provisions** – Clause 53.01, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.
3. In **Operational Provisions** – Clause 72.08, replace the schedule with a new schedule in the form of the attached document.

End of document

OFFICIAL

9.1 Notice of Motion No.13 of 2021 - Parklets

Reference	D21/143321
Author	Ivan Gilbert - Group Manager Chief Executive's Office
Authoriser	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

I, Councillor Stephen Jolly, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 19 October 2021:

“That in the matter of Council’s resolution of 5 October 2021 concerning the Parklet Policy and Design Guidelines, namely:

1. *“That Council notes:*
 - (a) *the current Council permission for the temporary parklets expires on 31 October 2021;*
 - (b) *that on 1 June 2021, Council requested officers to prepare a further report providing analysis of the temporary program and bring forward a recommended policy position for a more permanent outdoor dining program, and*
 - (c) *that the current waiver of any parklet fees is until end December 2020, as well as the current waiver of footpath trading fees for the same period in order to assist hospitality traders.*
2. *That Council notes:*
 - (a) *the officers report recommending a Parklet Policy and Design Guidelines for a permanent program for parklets;*
 - (b) *the proposed Parklet Policy and Guidelines as shown in Attachment 1; and*
 - (c) *that the Parklet Policy and Guidelines have had due regard to safety aspects and streetscape and amenity aspects in their formulation, and in this regard, note that officers have considered the opinions of two Road Safety Auditors for the design of a typical parklet layout.*
3. *That Council adopt the Parklet Policy and Design Guidelines as outlined in Attachment 1.*
4. *That in relation to fees for parklets, Council notes the following recommendations from officers:*
 - (a) *that the fees be structured in a three tier arrangement, on a per carspace used basis, regarding ‘Primary Streets’ (being Smith Street, Brunswick Street and Gertrude Street) , ‘Secondary Streets’ (being Langridge Street and Peel Street and similar streets) and ‘Neighbourhood’ Streets (such as Highett Street and similar streets);*
 - (b) *that an ‘annual covid recovery fee’ for a parklet (per carspace) be set against these street categories, reflecting some worth of the public land to be occupied by a local business in these streets, and then reviewed in the 23/24 budget;*
 - (c) *that the ‘annual covid recovery fee’, per carspace taken up by a parklet, be as follows:*
 - (i) *Primary Streets; \$ 5,000;*
 - (ii) *Secondary Streets; \$ 3,000; and*
 - (iii) *Neighbourhood Streets; \$ 2,250; and*
 - (d) *that fees for annual parklets in year 1 provide a discounted fee of 25 % from the covid recovery fee in recognition of the difficulty that hospitality traders are experiencing during the current pandemic;*
 - (e) *that the determined fee be also waived until 1 April 2022, due to the ongoing pandemic period for some months which will continue to impact on hospitality traders;*
 - (f) *that the summer period parklet permit behalf of an annual parklet fee; and*

- (g) that an 'application and inspection fee' of \$ 275 be applied for a parklet application processing and monitoring payable for both an annual parklet permit fee and a summer parklet permit from 1 November 2021.

5. That Council now determine that the fee for annual parklet permits, on a per carspace basis, be as follows:

Street category	1 Nov 2021 to 31 March 2022	1 April 2022 to end Sept 2022 period (that is, 6 mths fee per carspace) at a 25 % discounted rate from the 'covid recovery fee'	1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 period (the 'covid recovery fee')	For the 1 October 2023 to 30 Sept 2024 period
	Fee per carspace	Fee per carspace	Fee per carspace	Fee per carspace
Primary Streets (Smith St, Brunswick St and Gertrude St only)	No fee	\$ 1,875	\$ 5,000	To be determined by the Council 23/24 budget process
Secondary Streets (examples include Peel St and Langridge St)	No fee	\$ 1,125	\$ 3,000	To be determined by the Council 23/24 budget process
Neighbourhood Streets (example Groom St and Highett St)	No fee	\$ 844	\$ 2,250	To be determined by the Council 23/24 budget process

6. That the summer parklet permit fee be one half of the annual parklet permit fee, but fully waived for the 21 / 22 summer period.
7. That Council apply an application and inspection fee of \$ 275 per parklet application, and that it be payable from 1 November 2021 to cover the costs of administering the permissions and inspections.
8. That officers write to all existing parklet operators advising of the new Parklet Policy and Guidelines, and also of the Council determination regarding fees.
9. That if there is a further lock down prior to 1 April 2022, the Council reconsider its approach to parklet fees and waivers, as it has done multiple times in 2021.
10. That Council discontinue the funding of safety bollards by Council from 1 November 2021 and require the traders to continue to pay for the leasing of the blocks.
11. That the CEO be authorised to operationalise these determinations of Council."

1. Council note the correspondence now received from the Hon. Jaala Pulford MP, Minister for Small Business and Minister for Employment on behalf of the Victorian Government and the many struggling cafes, pubs and restaurants in the Yarra local government area:

- (a) referencing Council's resolution;
- (b) noting that small business has shouldered a heavy burden through the COVID-19 pandemic and that while governments at all levels have experienced revenue decline, this does not compare with the profound drop in turnover that has hit so many in the private sector - with hospitality particularly impacted;

- (c) noting the State Government has provided in excess of \$11 billion in support to Victorian businesses and established a commercial rent relief scheme to give them the best chance to come through the pandemic;
 - (d) noting the State has gone to great lengths to assist the hospitality sector in finding ways to trade profitably and in a COVID-safe manner and which included last year, the *\$87.5 million Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package 2020-21* and further, that the State is currently developing options to further support outdoor dining, events and trade;
 - (e) referencing that Yarra Council's decision to charge exorbitant fees for expanding outdoor dining into its car-parking spaces undermines these efforts and is also a blow to hard-working businesses, and their staff, at a time when governments at all levels should be doing everything within our power to assist them to survive and return to prosperity;
 - (f) suggesting that the opening up of Council space to small business at nominal or no cost will benefit owners, employees and their customers in so many ways, including, that:
 - (i) with less cars on the streets; and
 - (ii) more residents and visitors enjoying the sense of community that outdoor dining fosters, and businesses thriving once again,there is so much more to be gained from amending this policy than using it to extract fees from those who can least afford to pay them; and
 - (g) urging Council to reconsider its position in this matter.
2. Council, having regard to the above outlined information, now determine to review and consider all fees related to Parklets at the March Council Meeting in 2022 and to in the meantime, seek discussions with the State Government concerning assistance in the matter of Parklets.

RECOMMENDATION

That in the matter of Council's resolution of 5 October 2021 concerning the Parklet Policy and Design Guidelines, namely:

1. *That Council notes:*
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 - (e) that the determined fee be also waived until 1 April 2022, due to the ongoing pandemic period for some months which will continue to impact on hospitality traders;
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 - (i) with less cars on the streets; and
 - (ii) more residents and visitors enjoying the sense of community that outdoor dining fosters, and businesses thriving once again,there is so much more to be gained from amending this policy than using it to extract fees from those who can least afford to pay them; and
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 2. Council, having regard to the above outlined information, now determine to review and consider all fees related to Parklets at the March Council Meeting in 2022 and to in the meantime, seek discussions with the State Government concerning assistance in the matter of Parklets.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.